



Royal Netherlands Navy



Rob Kramer was born in 1962 in Kampen, the Netherlands. At the age of 19, he started his midshipman training at the Royal Netherlands Naval College. After being commissioned as an officer in 1985, he started his first posting at sea as officer of the watch on board HNLMS Tromp. This would be the start of a career largely spent at sea.

He finished his training at the Royal Netherlands Naval College in 1988. His subsequent operational career alternated with policy and support roles, primarily as an educator, trainer and personnel officer. Kramer served in the Mine Countermeasures Service, as well as on board the command frigates HNLMS Tromp, HNLMS De Ruyter and HNLMS Witte de With, on which he fulfilled various positions in both national and international contexts, including the NATO operation Sharp Guard to enforce the international trade embargo off the coast of former Yugoslavia.

From 1995 to the end of 1997, Kramer worked onshore as an instructor and, later, as head of the Navigation Department of the Navy's Operational School. After a subsequent operational post, he was appointed as Dutch Liaison Officer in the staff of the Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) in Plymouth, in the UK. In 2006, he returned to the Netherlands and took on command of the air defence and command frigate HNLMS Evertsen.

Under his leadership, the vessel was deployed under the UN flag off the Somalian coast to counter piracy and protect the vessels of the World Food Program. Many Dutch ships would follow suit in the following years. After this role, Kramer was appointed to the Defence Staff in The Hague, a period in which he also successfully completed the Advanced Defence Studies programme.

Back in Den Helder, and more importantly, back at sea, Captain Kramer took responsibility over the next few years for the implementation and consolidation of a new work-up cycle and training for all Dutch maritime units and the direction thereof from the Maritime Headquarters.

As the crowning glory of his operational career, he assumed command of the Netherlands Maritime Force on 13 March 2014 and was promoted to flag officer in the rank of commodore. Two years later, Kramer handed over command of the Netherlands Maritime Force to his successor and was promoted to rear admiral.

He was subsequently appointed as Deputy Commander of the Royal Netherlands Navy in the rank of rear admiral. Since 22 September 2017, he has held command of the Royal Netherlands Navy and Admiral Benelux in the rank of vice admiral.

Vice Admiral Rob Kramer is married to Colette. They have twin sons, born in 1993.

Curriculum Vitae

Vice Admiral
R.A. Kramer

*Commander of the
Royal Netherlands Navy*

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