

## BIOGRAPHY



R.J. Blok, MSc / Netherlands Coastguard

Ronald Blok was born 13 september 1963 in Den Helder (NLD). He joined the Royal Netherlands Navy in 1981. After graduation in 1985 he served on a MCM-vessel and later on at frigates. As a Principal Warfare Officer he specialized in Anti Submarine Warfare and continued to serve on board frigates.

On completion of the Staff Course he served as Staff Officer Operations at Sea Training Command, followed by three years in the Naval Staff in The Hague. Following promotion to Commander in August 2002 CDR Blok was posted as XO to the Royal Netherlands Naval College in Den Helder for two and a half years. During this period he was deployed to the North Arabian Gulf region twice.

CDR Blok assumed command of HNLMS Van Nes (multipurpose frigate) in 2005. Early 2007 he assumed command of HNLMS Karel Doorman (same class). After an onboard training period this ship was handed over to the Belgium Navy. Following promotion to Captain in April 2007 he was posted as Commander NL Sea Training Command working closely with FOST. Primarily responsible for working up RNLN and Belgian ships, he also had the pleasure of training Portuguese, Chilean and Indonesian warships.

Mid 2010 he left for Washington DC to study at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (today the Eisenhower School / component to the National Defense University). Mid 2011 he graduated and received a Master Degree in 'National Strategic Resourcing'.

September 2011 he is assigned to HQ ISAF, Kabul Afghanistan for a year, initially dealing with governance – development – rule of law, interacting with the Afghan government, Embassy's and NGO's, while in the second part being responsible for 'strategic force management' in COMISAF's office.

October 2012 he took the position of branch head for naval plans and requirements in the Ministry of Defense in The Hague. Interacting closely with the Defense Materiel Organization and R&D institutes, he spent a lot of time on the procurement plans for new submarines, ASW-frigates and MCMV's.

As of November 2015 he holds the position of Director Netherlands Coastguard in Den Helder (NLD).

Ronald Blok lives in a small town called Schagen, north of Amsterdam. He is married and the proud father of three daughters. Despite little time he enjoys soccer, squash, cycling, watersports and his motorcycle. Over dinner, a cigar and a good single malt he likes to discuss "challenges for mankind".