



Kristof Van Belleghem was born in Bruges on May 1st 1972. In 1988, he joins the Military at the Royal Cadets School in Brussels. In 1991 he was admitted to the 131st promotion “Alle Wapens” at the Royal Military Academy in Brussels, where he was promoted to the rank of Ensign on September 26th 1993. In 1995 he obtains the degree of Master of Nautical and Military Sciences (MSc).

After completing his professional training at the Navy Officers School in Bruges and aboard the French helicopter carrier “FS Jeanne d’Arc”, Lieutenant j.g. Van Belleghem is first appointed on board of the minehunter “BELLIS” in 1997. Two years later, he is appointed on board of the frigate “WIELINGEN” as Deck Officer, deployed as a part of the “NATO Standing Naval Force Atlantic”.

In 2000-2001, Lieutenant j.g. Van Belleghem successfully completes the Gunnery and Air Defence Officers course (PWO-A) at Den Helder (The Netherlands). Afterwards he becomes the Gunnery and Above Water Warfare Officer on board of the frigate “WESTDIEP”, which participates in autumn 2001 at the NATO Operation “Active Endeavour” as a part of the “NATO Standing Naval Force Atlantic”.

From 2003 till 2005, Lieutenant s.g. Van Belleghem is part of the bi-national Staff Organization “Admiral Benelux (ABNL)” at Den Helder, where he is responsible for the tactical development of Belgian weapon systems within the “Analysis and Tactical Centre (ANTAC)”. In 2005, Lieutenant s.g. Van Belleghem is appointed as Executive Officer of the minehunter “NARCIS” for a one year period.

After successfully completing the Joint Staff Course in 2006-2007, Lieutenant s.g. Van Belleghem is appointed as Head of the Operations Department on board of the frigate “LEOPOLD I”, newly in service within the Belgian Navy. After a “maiden trip” in the Horn Of Africa, the frigate participates at the UN Operation “UNIFIL Maritime Taskforce” in front of the Lebanese coastline in 2008. From December 2008 onwards, Lieutenant-Commander Van Belleghem is appointed as Staff Assistant at the Office of the Chief of Defence (CHOD) in Brussels.

From January 2011 until June 2012, Lieutenant-Commander Kristof Van Belleghem was the Commanding Officer of the minehunter “PRIMULA”. After an initial work-up period, the ship was part of the SNMCMG1, which deployed in Norwegian waters and conducted Historical Ordnance Disposal Operations in Latvia and Estonia. On completion of this command period, Commander Van Belleghem is admitted to the Advanced Staff Course at The Hague, where in 2013 he obtains the degree of Executive Master of Security and Defence.

From September 2013 until 2017, Commander (GS) Kristof Van Belleghem is the Head of the National Operations Branch in Zeebruges, where he is in charge of the Coastal Security capacity, comprising two Coastal Patrol Vessels and the Maritime Security Center. In 2017 he also acted as Staff Officer Operations of the Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 for two periods of three months, under Norwegian Command. On January 17th 2018, Commander s.g. (GS) Kristof Van Belleghem took over command of BNS LOUISE-MARIE.

Kristof Van Belleghem lives together with Barbara Watelle and their three daughters Stiene (21y), Fiebe (18y) and Kato (12y) at Oostkamp near Bruges.