



Biography



Commodore Boudewijn Boots

Royal Netherlands Navy

Commander, Standing NATO Maritime Group Two



Commodore Boudewijn Boots (1964) joined the Royal Netherlands Navy in 1986 and sailed on minehunters, one of which he served on for six months in operation Octopus in the Arabian Gulf. Between 1991 and 1998 he served on several frigates and an auxiliary ship as principal warfare officer and navigator. He participated twice in Operation SHARP GUARD, several other deployments and larger exercises.

After his first year ashore in the Naval Materiel Department, Boots took his family abroad to Curacao, Netherlands Antilles to serve as head of the operations center of the Flag Officer Netherlands Forces in the Caribbean. In this post he contributed to counterdrug and hurricane relief operations.

In 2001-2002 he joined the frigates Van Speijk and Bloys van Treslong as operations officer for a NATO and a West Indies deployment. After a year in the naval staff he qualified from senior staff course in 2004 and joined the Netherlands Maritime Force as the Operations Officer. During this period he participated in several maritime and amphibious exercises and in operation Enduring Freedom where he performed as lead planner and operations officer for Commander Task Force 150.

Promoted Commander in Summer 2006, he joined the Flag Officer Sea Training in Plymouth (UK) as Netherlands Liaison Officer. Before Boots took command of the air defence command frigate Evertsen, he deployed to Afghanistan for six months as the Chief A7 Force Integration within ISAF I NTM-A. With Evertsen he served as flagship of the NATO Standing Maritime Group One in anti-piracy operation Ocean Shield.

After promotion to Captain in April 2013, he took command of the Navy's Sea Training Command. The command is responsible for the training of the fleet and supervision of the frigates and amphibious ships. In August 2015 Boots was assigned to the Ministry of Defence where he serves as branch head 15, Operational Plans, within the Directorate of Operations.

From 1 July 2018 onwards, Commodore Boots commands the Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 for the period of one year.

Boots is married to Marieke Huijgen and has a daughter and a son. They live in Alkmaar, the Netherlands. As many middle aged men do, he tries to remain in some form of shape by running and cycling and he has a broad interest in sports, reading and sailing.