

Curriculum Vitae of Vice Admiral (ret) Matthieu J.M. Borsboom



Matthieu J.M. Borsboom was commissioned into the Royal Netherlands Navy as a midshipman in 1978 and became an officer in 1981. His first assignment was to HNLMS *Tromp*, followed by a posting to minesweeper HNLMS *Naaldwijk* and service as executive officer of HNLMS *Veere*, another minesweeper.

He studied at the University of Groningen in Groningen before being sent to patrol vessel HNLMS *Hadda* as executive officer in 1983. He qualified as a Principal Warfare Officer in 1986, having studied at the Operational School in Den Helder, before being assigned to the frigate HNLMS *Witte de With* and then HNLMS *De Ruyter*. He went on to qualify as an anti-submarine warfare officer and was posted to HNLMS *Piet Hein* as head of the operations department at the height of the Cold War.

As a lieutenant commander in 1991, Borsboom transferred to the Centre for Automation of Weapon and Command Systems before returning to sea duty aboard HNLMS *Willem van der Zaan*, which was involved in supporting United Nations operations in the Caribbean, later serving aboard HNLMS *Philips van Almonde*.

He attended the Defense Staff College in 1996 and was promoted to the rank of commander and took charge of the bureau for underwater sensors at the Ministry of Defense in The Hague, the city of his birth, for two years.

He commanded the frigates HNLMS *Tjerk Hiddes* and HNLMS *Van Speijk* between 1999 and 2001. After commanding ships, he took up a staff position in The Hague. After promotion to captain in 2002 he became Director of the Navy's Softwarehouse. He then attended the Advanced Defense Course in 2004 before promotion to commodore in

2005 and was assigned as the first Director of the Joint Requirements branche.

With the promotion to Rear admiral in 2007 he was appointed Director of Operational Policy, Requirements and Plans. In November 2008, he was deployed to Afghanistan to become Deputy Chief of Staff for Stability in Kabul as part of the International Security Assistance Force. He reported directly to the commander of ISAF, then General Stanley A. McChrystal, and had responsibility for supporting elections in the country. He returned to the Netherlands in November 2009 and was promoted to Vice Admiral on 4 January 2010, assuming the appointment of Commander, Royal Netherlands Navy till 26 September 2014. His last position was Director of the Joint Defense Material Organization; on 1 March 2016 he retired.

Borsboom was born in The Hague in 1959. He is married to Ernie Borsboom-Miga and lives in Den Helder. The couple has three children, all of whom joined the Royal Netherlands Navy and two grandchildren.

From a young age besides being in the military he was actively involved in civil society. He conducted voluntary positions for example; in a home for the elderly, sports associations (climbing, rugby), cooking clubs, association for seafarers and the Roman Catholic Church. In the RK parish in Den Helder, he was chairman of the board, member of several committees (liturgy, diocese, organization), and still serves as Lector (over 30 years).

In the Navy he was actively supporting the military ordinariate, participating and organizing (if no chaplain present) services at sea and in the field (Afghanistan). Several times he made the military pilgrimage to Lourdes to meet fellow Catholics comrades from around the world.