



Royal Netherlands Navy

Vice Admiral H.H. (Harold) Liebregs Commander Royal Netherlands Navy and Admiral Benelux

In 1987, Vice Admiral Harold Liebregs (Velsen, 1968) joins the Royal Netherlands Navy as a midshipman. After being commissioned as officer 1990, he serves in various operational positions on submarines and is involved in operations in the Adriatic Sea. In 2001 he completes the Submarine Command Course, after which he becomes commanding officer (CO) of HNLMS Walrus for three years. During this command he conducts several operations around the Arab Peninsula.

From 2006 to 2007, he is appointed CO of the submarine HNLMS Zeeleeuw. During this period the ship was involved in various exercises and trainings. Between 2004 and 2011, Liebregs holds a number of positions with the Defence Staff, both in the field of operational requirements and planning., including material exploitation and plans related to ICT. He passes the Advanced Command & Staff Course in 2008.

From 2011, Liebregs serves as Executive Officer on board the air defence frigate HNLMS Tromp. With this ship, he conducts counter-narcotics operations in the Caribbean. In December 2012, he took command of HNLMS De Ruyter. During counter-piracy operations near Somalia, nine pirates were arrested and delivered to the Seychelles for prosecution. During 2014 and 2015, he serves as a senior policy advisor to the Policy Directorate, responsible for parliamentary support on budget and operational readiness.

On October 12, 2015, Liebregs is appointed CO of HNLMS Rotterdam and is promoted to Captain. In addition to various of amphibious exercises, he conducts operations to train members of the Libyan Coast Guard and counter-piracy operations off Somalia.



From 2018 to 2020, Liebregs works at the Defense Staff as head of the maritime plans department, overseeing maritime operational requirements. In November 2020, Liebregs is promoted to Commodore and appointed Director Materiel, Real Estate and Sustainability at the Directorate-General of Policy. In November 2022 he is promoted Rear Admiral and appointed Deputy Commander Royal Netherlands Navy. In this position, his main focus is to develop the Royal Netherlands Navy to achieve a higher level of combat readiness. Since 18 September 2025, he commands the Royal Netherlands Navy and Admiral Benelux in the rank of Vice Admiral.