



Admiral Pierre Vandier is the Chief of the Naval Staff for the Marine Nationale since the 1st September 2020.

After studying at the Ecole navale he began his career on the escort and patrol vessel *Commandant Bory*, involved in operations during the First Gulf War in 1991. In 2001, he took command of the *Flotille 12F*, the first squadron of naval Rafale.

Following training at the Joint Defence College, he served as Deputy Commander of Operations of the aircraft carrier "*Charles de Gaulle*" (2005-2007) and he took command of the aircraft carrier in 2013. After which he became coordinating authority for international relations (ALRI) at the Marine Nationale headquarters and was subsequently promoted to Rear-Admiral on the 1st September 2017. Appointed as Principal Staff Officer of the Secretary of State for Defence on the 1st September 2020 he was promoted to Vice-Admiral on 1st January 2020 and he took the rank of Admiral the same year.



Jens-Otto Horslund is the Ambassador of Denmark to the Netherlands since 2017 and Special Representative for the Maritime Security since 2021. He was previously Ambassador and Head of the Middle East and North Africa Department (2013-2017). He began his diplomatic career as a Head of Section of various departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has held several embassy positions such as at the Royal Danish embassy in Riyadh, in Washington DC and was Ambassador of Denmark to Finland.

He studied Political Science at the University of Aarhus.



Frank Bekkers is Director of the Security Programme of the international security policy Think-Tank HCSS (The Hague centre for strategic Studies) since 2010. He has spent most of his career as a security and defence strategy analyst, often in combination with managerial responsibilities in particular at TNO Defence, Security and Safety. His field of expertise include all aspects of the comprehensive security domain.

He holds a Master in Mathematics from the University of Amsterdam.



Han Ten Broeke is Director Political Affairs of the international security policy Think-Tank HCSS (The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies). He served four terms as a member of the Dutch House of Representatives for the leading conservative liberal VVD political party (2006–2018). During his terms he held post as the senior member of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and acted as Chair of the Armed Services Committee. He also led the Dutch delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Prior to that, he worked for KPN from 1996 to 2004 as a communications consultant and public affairs manager. In 2004, he created his own consulting firm, Quinten Consulting BVBA. He holds a Master's Degree Political Science and International Relations at Leiden University.



Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Mirjam Grandia Mantas joined the military in 1998 after obtaining her bachelor's degree in Journalism at the Academy for Journalism in Utrecht. She served in Germany, Bosnia and Afghanistan. After the completion of her PhD, Ms. Grandia Mantas took up the position of CIMIC planner at NATO's Joint Forces Command in Naples (Italy). During this posting she deployed to Ethiopia as NATO advisor to the Peace and Security Operations Department (PSOD) of the African Union. She joined after this posting the International Military Cooperation Department at the Ministry of Defence as the country officer for the Middle East and North Africa. Besides her work at the Defence Academy, she is one of the founders of and working on an a joint project on Military Diplomacy for the Ministry of Defence. She recently published the book (Inescapable Entrapments? The Civil-Military Decision Paths to Uruzgan and Helmand, Leiden University Press <https://www.lup.nl/product/inescapable-entrapments/>).