

## EXERCISE BOLD ALLIGATOR NLD FACT SHEET

The Bold Alligator exercise showcases the advantages of seabasing and the full range of amphibious operations with coalition forces. The Netherlands Royal Navy (RNLN) and Royal Netherlands Marine Corps (RNLMC) will use this exercise to train and enforce their role conducting "safety from the sea" in a spectrum of military operations conducting crisis response. This training serves as a preparation of the RNLN for participation in the NATO Response Force (NRF) in 2016.

### Exercise Objectives

- Naval amphibious core competency
- Cooperation with coalition, NATO, allied and partner nations
- Current and future readiness
- Preparation for NRF 2016

### BA14

This year's exercise will take place Oct. 29 – Nov. 10, 2014. Multiple ground exercise events will occur in Indiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, and at-sea events will occur along the eastern seaboard. The focus will be crisis response across the range of military operations. Improving amphibious core competencies along with coalition, NATO, allied, and partner nations is a necessary investment in the current and future readiness of our forces.

### 19 Countries participating in the exercise

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| - Australia* | - Mexico           |
| - Belgium*   | - The Netherlands* |
| - Brazil     | - Norway*          |
| - Canada*    | - Peru             |
| - Chile      | - Spain*           |
| - Denmark*   | - Sweden*          |
| - France*    | - Turkey           |
| - Germany    | - United Kingdom*  |
| - Italy*     | - United States*   |
| - Japan      |                    |

### **Netherlands led Amphibious Task Group**

The Netherlands Maritime Force Battle Staff will take command of one of the three amphibious task groups during exercise Bold Alligator.

The amphibious task group consists of:

- an international maritime battle staff consisting of 12 different nations (marked with \*) on board the Dutch amphibious transport ship HNLMS Johan de Witt;
- 1 Marine Combat Group (1MCG Battalion) of the Royal Netherlands Marines Corps;
- one company marines from Spain;
- one Royal Marines company from the United Kingdom;
- one company Army troops and a Battalion HQ from Canada;
- one Norwegian platoon;
- navy ships from the United States (USS Arlington and USS Laboon);
- navy ship from Denmark (HDMS Niels Juel);
- a national and several US helicopters, including the Cougar helicopter of the Royal Netherlands Air Force.

### **Enablers on board HNLMS Johan de Witt and on land during BA14**

There are several enablers participating in the exercise which are embarked onboard amphibious transport ship HNLMS Johan de Witt and there are teams operating on land as well. These enablers make it possible to perform crisis response operations in a broad variety.

- Landing Craft Control Team
- Maritime Explosive Ordinance Disposal
- Very Shallow Water Team
- Riverine Group
- 120 mm mortars team
- Hydrographic operations team
- Civilian-military cooperation (CIVMIC) specialists
- Role 2 medical team for exercise purposes

# Factsheet HNLMS Johan de Witt

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Operational since 2008

## **Landing Platform Dock**

Length: 176 metres

Width: 29 metres

Draught: 7,0 metres  
(sailing conditions)

Crew: 155 up to 200

1240 lane metres

## **Johan de Witt capabilities**

- Harbor (floating dock)
- Airport (helicopter deck)
- Command post (staff facilities)
- Warehouse (storage)
- Car park (vehicle deck)
- Hospital (Role II facility)
- Hotel (450 spare bunks)

## **Deployments**

- 2008 operational
- 2009 – Africa Partnership Station (West Africa)
- 2010 – Operation Atalanta (EU) escort World Food Program/ counterpiracy (26 pirates arrested)
- 2011 – West Indian Guard Ship (Caribbean) counterdrugs (caught 1300 kg cocaine)
- 2013 – Operation Atalanta (EU) staff ship command Netherlands Maritime Force
- Multiple amphibious and multinational exercises (Cold Response, Joint Warrior, Emerald Move)



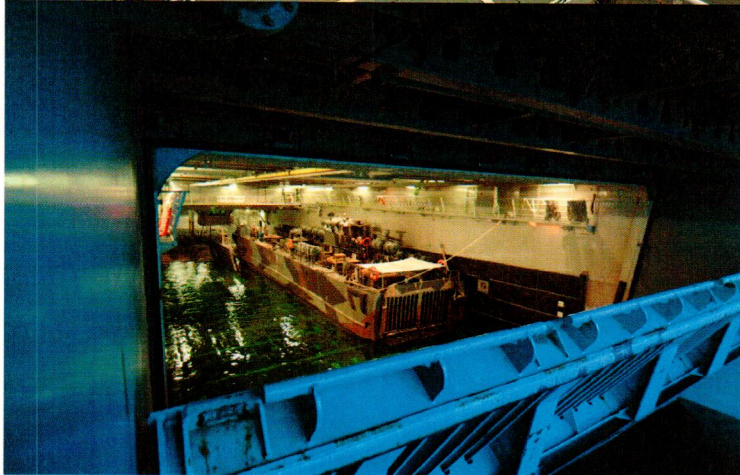
**Joint Operations Room –  
staff facilities**



**Transportation**



**Landing craft facilities**





## Enablers

- Landing Craft Control Team – 4 Landing crafts (transportation of vehicles and personnel), 4 FRISC (fast raid interceptive special forces craft)



- 300 SQN – cougar crew



- Role II - medical crew







Royal Netherlands Navy

## Captain René Luyckx Commanding Officer HNLMS Johan de Witt

Captain René Luyckx was born in 1962 in Den Helder and grew up in this town as well. In 1981 he was admitted to the Royal Netherlands Naval Academy in Den Helder as a Midshipman. After receiving his commission in 1984, he served as a Watch keeping officer and Mine warfare officer on board the mine hunter HNLMS Maassluis.

He attended the University of Groningen in 1987 to complete his supplementary study Business Administration at the Naval Academy and afterwards served as a Watch keeping officer on board the frigate HNLMS Abraham Crijnsen. In 1989 he attended the principal warfare course at the Naval School of Operations and specialized in communications. He served as principal warfare officer and communications officer on board the oiler HNLMS Zuiderkruis and the air defence frigate HNLMS Jacob van Heemskerck. HNLMS Jacob van Heemskerck was deployed to the Persian Gulf during the Second Gulf War. She took part in operation Desert Storm and operation Desert Shield from November 1990 until April 1991. After a two year tour as an instructor in Electronic warfare at the Naval School of Operations, he served as Head of Operations on board the frigate HNLMS Bloys van Treslong. This ship was involved in embargo operations off the coast of the former Yugoslavian Republic in 1995.

From 1997 until 1999 he was assigned to the Department of Personnel as a detailee. Afterwards he attended the Advanced Military Staff Course at the Netherlands



Defence College in Rijswijk and served as Executive Officer on board various frigates. Following promotion to Commander in 2002, he was assigned as Head of the Naval Recruitment Department in Amsterdam. In this job he was responsible for the recruitment and assignment of new naval personnel. After a period of two years as Human Resources Manager in the staff of the Commander Royal Netherlands Navy, he served as the commanding officer aboard the frigate HNLMS Van Amstel, from the beginning of 2008 until the beginning of 2010. After that, he served as Department head Personnel and Organization RNLN.

On the 21st of August 2014, he accepted the command of HNLMS Johan de Witt.

Captain Luyckx lives with his partner Anita Wigman in Groet. Together they have four daughters.







Royal Netherlands Navy

## Commodore R.A. Kramer Commander Netherlands Maritime Force

Rob Kramer was born in 1962. He joined the Royal Netherlands Navy as a midshipman in 1982. He was commissioned as a naval officer in 1985 and was trained as officer of the watch on the former flagship HNLMS Tromp. He completed his academic education in 1988 with a business administration course at the University of Groningen.

He then first served as a watchofficer on HNLMS De Tromp, after which he got assigned as Executive Officer of the minehunter HNLMS Vlaardingen. In 1991 he qualified as a Principle Warfare Officer with a specialization in Navigation and Action Information. As such, he joined HNLMS the Ruyter and served consecutively on HNLMS Witte de With. In 1993 this ship was deployed to the Adriatic Sea as participant to NATO-operation Sharp Guard, which enforced the trade embargo against the former Yugoslavia.

On completion of these assignments in 1995 he was appointed as instructor and head of the navigation and seamanship department of the Navy's Operational School, which made him responsible for training and qualification of the Navy's navigators.

In 1998 he returned to sea as head of the operational department of Multipurpose-frigate HNLMS van Galen. Two years later he was transferred to become the personnel officer responsible for career management of the Navy's lieutenants, after which he was selected as Staff Officer Operations of Sea Training Command.

Promoted commander in 2003, he took his family to the United Kingdom to join the staff of Flag Officer Sea Train in Plymouth as the Netherlands' Liaison Officer.



Returning to the Netherlands in 2006, he assumed command of Air Defense and Command frigate HNLMS Evertsen. After successful completion of an intense training period, the ship was deployed to protect United Nations World Food Program shipping along the coast of Somalia in 2008.

After completion of the Netherlands Defense Staff Course and a short period at the Ministry of Defence's operational planning department, he got appointed as Commander Sea Training Command from April 2010 until April 2013.

Serving as Head Maritime Headquarters Admiralty Benelux for one year, he was promoted to commodore and assumed command of the Netherlands Maritime Force on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2014.

Commodore Rob Kramer is married to Colette. They have twin sons, born in 1993. The family lives in Den Helder. Rob Kramer likes outdoor activities, especially sailing, mountain biking, running and hiking.