

To deliver courageous leaders  
with the spirit to fight and win

**E**uropean  
**N**aval  
**A**cademies  
**S**uperintendents  
**C**onference

Royal Navy: Britannia Royal Naval College

May 18-19 2021

Attendee CVs



# Facilitators



# Syndicate 1

# Cdre Herber Ackland RN



Heber Ackland is Assistant Commandant (Maritime) and Director of the Advanced Command and Staff Course (ACSC) at the Joint Services Command and Staff College (JSCSC), part of the UK Defence Academy at Shrivenham, Wiltshire. He is a graduate of ACSC and the Higher Command and Staff Course (HCSC), Kings College London (MA in Defence Studies) and Keble College Oxford (MA and BA in Modern History). He has also undertaken the Defence Strategic Leadership Programme (DSLPP) and is a graduate of the Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) 'Catalyst' Senior Leadership Programme.

His operational experience has been as a Logistics Officer at sea in: the coastal survey vessel HMS BEAGLE; the Type 23 frigate HMS MONTROSE; the Type 42 destroyer HMS SOUTHAMPTON and HMS ARK ROYAL, the UK's last operational strike carrier. In the latter appointment, he was the Group Logistics Commander for a multi-national task group during the Operation AURIGA 10 deployment operating Royal Navy, RAF and US Marine Corps Harrier jets from the deck and subsequently Army Apache attack helicopters.

When ashore, his career has been focused on joint logistics, support to operations and defence modernisation. Notably, as a Captain, he was Assistant Head Plans in Defence Support Chain Operations and Movements (DSCOM) in the DE&S where he led DE&S planning for Op HERRICK re-deployment; Op GRITROCK (Ebola) and the NATO Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF).

Additionally, he has wide experience as a Military Assistant. As a Lieutenant Commander, to the 2\* Capability Manager (Precision Attack) in the MOD Equipment Capability Customer covering capabilities such as Future Carrier, Joint Strike Fighter and UOR planning for Op TELIC. As a Commander, to the Second Sea Lord and the Fleet Commander in succession. Between 2004 and 2007, he had the privilege of being Equerry to HM The Queen.

Married with a young daughter, he lives in Bath. His hobbies include: hockey, history and travel.

## Syndicate 2

## Capt Chris O'Flaherty RN



Captain Chris O'Flaherty was born in Dunfermline, Scotland, and educated at Plymouth College, joining the Royal Navy in 1987. His early career centred on minewarfare and clearance diving, serving as a watchkeeper, Navigator, Operations Officer and Executive Officer in three different classes of minesweeper/hunter before three years on the staff of Flag Officer Sea Training. He then qualified as Principle Warfare Officer (Underwater), receiving the Boniwell Trophy as the top student on his course. Service in frigates, aircraft carrier and the United Kingdom Maritime Battlestaff including leading the maritime planning

for the UK's amphibious assault into Iraq, carrier task group operations supporting missions in Afghanistan, counter drugs operations in the Caribbean, counter terrorism activities in the Arabian Sea, and numerous anti-submarine patrols in the North Atlantic and Norwegian Basin. He has Commanded: the frigate HMS NORTHUMBERLAND as she emerged from refit; the Warfare Support Training Group at the Maritime Warfare School; the Fleet Diving Squadron; and most recently the United Kingdom's Maritime Warfare Centre, where he was the development and release authority for the Royal Navy's warfighting tactics. In 2005 he was awarded the Chief of Joint Operations' Commendation for his service in the Iraq theatre of operations. In 2013 he was awarded the United States Army's Meritorious Service Medal for his work developing stability on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. And in 2019 the President of the United States awarded him the US Legion of Merit (Degree of Legionnaire) for his leadership of a sequence of minewarfare operations in the Middle East and Southern Red Sea. In September 2017 he was elected as Hudson Fellow at St Antony's College, University of Oxford, researching the use of naval mines as instruments of statecraft. In addition to journal articles on the law of naval minewarfare, and the theory of enemy surrender in maritime battle, he has published two books: *Naval Minewarfare: Politics to Practicalities*; and *Crash Start* (a biography of Lt Guy Hudson DSC RNVR). He is presently serving at the United Kingdom Defence Academy where he is researching International Relations of the Middle East and Maghreb.

## Syndicate 3

## Cdre Phil Nash RN



Philip Nash joined the Royal Navy in 1994 as a Fleet Air Arm Observer. On completion of flying training he joined 815 Naval Air Squadron as a front-line Lynx Observer in 1997. His early career as a Lynx Flight Observer and Flight Commander was dominated by operational deployments at sea with NATO, coalition and UN forces in the Mediterranean and Adriatic, in the Arabian Gulf, the Indian Ocean and in the Far East, including as part of the UN force deployed to East Timor in 1999.

After subsequently qualifying as a Principle Warfare Officer in 2003 he saw further deployed service, predominantly in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf regions, as a Type 23 Frigate operations officer supporting coalition operations in and around the Iraqi oil terminals in the aftermath of the 2003 war. His most recent operational experience has been in the introduction to service of the Navy's Type 45 destroyers; he was the second in command of the first of these (HMS Daring) and commanded the fifth (HMS Defender). During his three years in command he oversaw Defender's emergence from build in Glasgow, Scotland, through sea trials and training, to operations, whether at high readiness escorting Russian warships through UK waters, or as a fully integrated member of the George H W Bush and Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Groups in the Arabian Gulf in 2014.

In addition to operational appointments he has served twice on the staff in Royal Navy Command HQ in Portsmouth in capability and force generation posts, and twice in the UK Ministry of Defence in London. In his most recent staff appointment on the Naval Staff he acted as the First Sea Lord's strategy lead, responsible for both longer term strategy formulation and also shorter term defence review activity, including close liaison with partner nation strategy team counterparts. Immediately prior to that he served on the staff of the Portsmouth Flotilla, responsible for the force generation, safety and long-term care of two thirds of the Navy's frigates and destroyers and their people. During this time, he was also responsible for the force generation of HMS Queen Elizabeth as she completed build and prepared for trials. Nash takes up his duties with the British Defence Staff as the Naval Attaché after a successful year at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London.

# Syndicate 1

# Admiral Boyan Mednikarov

## Bulgaria



Flotilla Admiral Boyan Mednikarov was born in 1961 in Varna, Bulgaria. He graduated from Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy (NVNA) in Varna in 1984 as a leader of his year. Throughout his career his positions included: division officer of a missile craft, executive officer and commanding officer of a ship, commander of a tactical group of ships, chief of staff of a squadron of ships, senior assistant chief of the operations department at the Navy HQ, deputy head of the chair of operations and tactics of the Postgraduate Training Department at NVNA, head of the Naval Forces Department at “G.S

Rakovski” National Defence College, Vice Rector for Academics and Scientific Research at NVNA, Commandant-Rector of NVNA (since May 2011). In 1992 he graduated from the Naval Staff College “Admiral Kuznetsov” in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, with distinction - gold medal. In 1999 he received his Doctor’s degree, and in 2000 he became Associate Professor of “Armed Forces Organization and Management” discipline. In 2006 he graduated from the “Defence and Armed Forces’ Strategic Leadership” Master’s degree programme at “G.S Rakovski” National Defence College in Sofia as a leader of the class. He is a member of several national and international scientific organizations and editorial boards. Some of his scientific and academic positions include: President of the Union of Scientists, Varna branch; member of the executive board of IAMU (International Association of Maritime Universities); President of BSAMI (Black Sea Association of Maritime Institutions). His major fields of scientific research are Naval Operations Research, Force Structure Analysis, Model Building, Protection of Maritime Sovereignty and Environmental Protection. Prof. DSc Boyan Mednikarov is an author of more than 230 scientific publications, including 4 monographs, 78 studies and articles and 128 scientific papers. He took part in drafting 17 textbooks and reference handbooks. He is a guest professor in universities not only in Bulgaria, but also in Romania, Poland and the UAE.. In 2014-2016, the Naval Academy in Varna, led by its Commandant - Rector Prof. DSc B. Mednikarov, performed as a beneficiary two major projects: “Innovative eco and energy-saving solutions at Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy” and “Integrated Informational System in Support of Coastal Zone Management - IISCCZM”. He is married and has a son and a daughter.

# Captain Jens Bjørnsteen

## Denmark



### **RMilitary/Civilian Education:**

**1980-1982 Master Mariner Course**

**1982-1983 Training as Officer of the Reserve**

**1986-1989 Officers Training, Danish Naval Academy**

**1993-1994 Junior Staff Course, Danish Defence College**

**1994-1995 Operations Officer Course, Norway**

**2001-2002 Senior Staff Course, Danish Defence College**

### **Duty:**

**1983-1986 Navigations Officer / Minesweeper**

**1989-1990 Executive Officer / Minesweeper**

**1990-1993 Commanding Officer / Minesweeper**

**1995-1996 Executive Officer / Standard Flex 300 Patrol Vessel**

**1996-1998 Commanding Officer / Standard Flex 300 Patrol Vessel**

**1999-2001 Staff Officer / Danish Defence Command**

**2002-2003 Staff Officer / Danish Naval Material Command**

**2004-2007 Staff Officer / Danish Ministry of Defence**

**2007-2009 Assisting Defence Advisor / Denmark's Permanent Representation to NATO, Belgium**

**2009-2012 Chief of Staff / Danish Task Group**

**2012-2014 Commanding Officer / Frigate NIELS JUEL**

**2014-2015 Chief of Staff / Standing NATO Maritime Group One (SMNG1)**

**2015-2016 Commanding Officer / Frigate IVER HUITFELDT**

**2016-2017 Chief of Staff 2 Squad**

**2017- Commandant Danish Naval Academy**

### **Decorations:**

**Knight 1st Class of the Order of Dannebrog**

**The Navy Long Service Decoration, 25 years**

**The Danish Defence Medal for International Service**

**NATO Medal for participation in Operation OCEAN SHIELD.**

**Capt Bjørnsteen lives in Virum, Demark with his wife and has two adult daughters**



# Captain Juhapekka Rautava

## Finland



Captain (Navy) Juhapekka Rautava was born in 1967. After his military service in Pori Brigade in 1987 - 1988, he joined the Naval Academy and graduated in 1991 as Lieutenant. He served on board FACs FNS RAAHE and FNS NAANTALI as Gunnery, Principal Warfare and Executive Officers. He was appointed as Commanding Officer to FNS RAUMA in 1996 and as the Chief of the Missile Unit, Patrol Squadron in 1997. In 1998 Captain (N) Juhapekka Rautava attended the Joint General Staff Officer Course, Finnish National Defence University, graduating in 2000, where

after he was assigned to serve as Staff Officer Anti-Submarine Warfare in the Finnish Naval Headquarters. In 2003 Captain (N) Rautava was assigned to serve in Joint Defence Command as Senior Staff Officer to the Material Division J10. His duties concentrated in the coordination of the Defence Forces R&T programme planning and management as well as the coordination of the long-term technology forecast report. In 2012 he was assigned to be the Commander of 7th Missile Squadron in Gulf of Finland Naval Command. In 2014 he was assigned to take the lead in the Navy Combat Centre in the national Naval Academy, where he together with his team was developing navy tactics and operations. In 2016 Captain (N) Rautava was assigned to serve again in the Joint Defence Command, now as the Head of Branch for the Capability Development (J5, Plans and Policy Division) and after a short period was appointed to serve as the Representative of the Commander-in-Chief Navy in the Defence Command. In 2017 he was assigned to be the Head of International Relations Section in the Plans and Policy Division, Defence Command Finland.

In 2019 he was assigned to his current post as the Commandant of Naval Academy in the historical Suomenlinna (Sveaborg) fortress in Helsinki.

Captain (N) Rautava was promoted to his current rank in 2017. He has been awarded as the Commander of the Order of the Lion of Finland and the Medal for Military Merits. Captain (N) Juhapekka Rautava is married to Mia; they have two grown-up children.

# **Rear Adm Tomasz Szubrycht Poland**

CV to Follow

# Captain Wilko Van Zanten

## Nederlands



Captain W.L. (Wilko) van Zanten was born in Den Helder, the Netherlands, in 1965. He joined the Royal Netherlands Naval College in Den Helder in 1983. After promotion to Junior Lieutenant, he studied further at the Delft University of Technology in Maritime Business Studies from 1988 until 1989.

He served aboard frigates as Officer of the Watch, Principal Warfare Officer and Anti-Air Warfare Officer. From 2007 to 2008, he was the Commanding Officer of the multi-purpose

frigate HNLMS Van Galen. During his last job at sea, from June 2017 until December 2019, he was the Commanding Officer of the Lpd HNLMS Johan de Witt. Under his command, the ship underwent a work-up period in preparation for operational duties. This was followed by several amphibious deployments and, in September 2019, the ship was deployed to the Bahamas, providing humanitarian aid and disaster relief after the devastating passage of Hurricane Dorian.

Van Zanten served in various jobs in Den Helder: as Instructor at the Netherlands Navy Operational School and as Staff Officer at the Netherlands Navy Staff. He also served as Staff Officer at the Defence Staff, a department of the Ministry Of Defence in The Hague.

He was appointed twice to foreign posts. From 2000 until 2003, he was appointed to the Royal Navy School of Maritime Operations, HMS Dryad, for exchange duties as Instructor Above Water Warfare at the Principal Warfare Officers Section. His three-year appointment in the United Kingdom was a part of the instructor exchange programme of the Royal Navy and the Royal Netherlands Navy. From 2012 until 2015, he was posted on Curaçao Island in the Caribbean, starting in 2012 as Head of Operations with the Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard. He was promoted to captain in 2013 and was appointed Deputy Flag Officer Netherlands Forces in the Caribbean until 2015. On 24 January 2020, he assumed command of the Royal Netherlands Naval College in Den Helder.

Captain Van Zanten is married to Vivian and they have two children: Max (2000) and Tom (2002).

# Rear Admiral Erhan Aydin

## Turkey



Rear Admiral Erhan AYDIN was born in İstanbul in 1972. He graduated from Naval High School in 1990 and from Turkish Naval Academy in 1994, having the rank of Ensign.

After having served as Branch Officer and Division Officer onboard TCG TURGUTREİS, TCG ADATEPE, TCG YAVUZ and TCG SALİHREİS frigates from 1994 to 2007; he was assigned as the Executive Officer between 2008-2010 and as the Commanding Officer in 2012-2013 onboard TCG SALİHREİS.

He earned his MA degree on Operations Analysis in 2000 at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey/CA and graduated from Naval War College/İstanbul in 2004.

After being assigned as Staff Public Affairs Officer (SPA0) in Standing NATO Standing Maritime Group-2 (SNMG-2) between 2007-2008, he served as Exercise and Preparation Section Head in NATO Joint Force Command (JFC) Naples/ITALY between 2010-2012, as Branch Head in Tactical Development, Doctrine and Analysis Center/Gölcük between 2013-2016 and as the Commander in the same Analysis Center between 2016-2017.

Rear Admiral AYDIN served as Commandant of the Cadets at the Turkish Naval Academy between 2017-2019 and he was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral (LH) in August 2019.

Rear Admiral Erhan AYDIN has been assigned as the Commander of Turkish Naval Academy on 02 September 2019.

Rear Admiral AYDIN is married to Mrs. Zeynep AYDIN with two daughters Selin and Nil Petek.

# Captain Roger Readwin RN

## United Kingdom



Captain Roger Readwin assumed the post of Captain Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC) in September 2019. He is responsible to Director of Personnel and Training for the delivery of the 5 BRNC outputs: Initial Officer Training, Phase 2 Warfare Officer Training, Defence Engagement, the 15 University Royal Naval Units (URNU) and the RN Leadership Academy (RNLA). Captain Readwin was born in 1972, educated at Seaford College West Sussex, and joined the Royal Navy as a Warfare Officer in 1991. Specialising as a Mine Clearance Diving Officer and then as a Principal

Warfare Officer in 2004, he served in Mine Countermeasures Vessels, Britannia Royal Naval College, the 2\* Maritime Battle Staff, and Type 23 Frigates. His seagoing career completed with Command of the Type 23 frigate HMS SUTHERLAND, with operational experience in the Mediterranean and Gulf. Post Sea Command he attended the US Naval War College, reading a Masters in International Relations, followed by two years in the Pentagon as the Liaison Officer to the US Chief of Navy Operations. On return he Commanded the Fleet Diving Squadron, and was then promoted to Captain in 2016, assuming Command as Captain Mine Warfare and Patrol Vessels, Diving and Fishery Protection for 2.5 years. Thereafter, he was a member at the prestigious Royal College of Defence Studies, prior to assuming Command as Captain Britannia Royal Naval College. Captain Readwin is married and has three children. A former Navy Rugby player, with 6 Inter-Service Caps, and Director of Navy Rugby (2016-19), he is currently the Chairman of Western Rugby. He maintains close links with the merchant navy as a Freeman of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners.



# **Syndicate 2**



# Rear Admiral Yves Dupont

## Belgium



RADM Dupont joined the Royal Military Academy in 1983 and was graduated as civil engineer in telecommunications (master degree) in 1988. After several years of experience as Weapon Engineer Officer on board of the frigates and in the shore facilities of the Belgian Navy, and a short period as head of Technical training for Weapon Engineering Warrant Officers, he became technical manager for the coastal minesweeper program from 1995 until 2000.

After the discontinuation of the Mine Sweeper program, he was appointed as Program Manager for the modernization of the Belgian mine hunters. He left the program in 2009 when the development phase was completed, and four out of six ships were modernized. During that period, he fulfilled the position of both deputy and head of the MCM Branch at the Joint Directorate General Material Resources. In his next position, he was chief of staff and deputy director of the Directorate Operational Support of the Navy. This Directorate is in charge of the logistic support, the crew training and direct fleet support. As a consequence of the cooperation agreement with the Dutch Navy, the group cares for the support of the MCMV of both fleets, whereas part of the support of the frigates is outsourced to the Dutch Navy. From June 2013 to September 2014, RADM Dupont was appointed as Director of the Operational Support Directorate. In September he returned to the Belgian Defence Staff. Up to the end of March 2017, he was appointed as Head of the Naval Section of the Directorate General Material Resources, in charge of all aspects of the weapons system management of the whole range of Naval Systems. From March 2017 until December 2020, he lead the Divisions Systems of the Directorate General Material Resources in charge of the integral weapon system management for the Belgian Defence. The Division comprises support units for the maintenance of all platforms, weapons and support systems and the distribution of spare parts. The Belgian Piping organization belongs to the System Division, who is also in charge of the supply and the specification of fuels for the Armed Forces. RADM Dupont was the Belgian representative to the Agency Supervisory Board, position he left by the end of 2020. Since the 17th of December 2020, RADM Dupont is the Commanding Officer and Rector of the Royal Military Academy.

# Rear Adm Ioannis Kalogeropoulos

## Greece



### EDUCATION:

2014: LEICESTER UNIVERSITY- BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

2005: PFPCC (MASS MEDIA)-SPIEZ SWITZERLAND

2004: HELLENIC NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE

2004: UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS -POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC

ADMINISTRATION (EUROPEAN STUDIES)

2001: JOINT STAFF OFFICERS COLLEGE

2001: NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

998: NAVAL STAFF OFFICERS COLLEGE

### CAREER:

DD TOMPAZIS-OFFICER

FPB XENOS-OFFICER

AEGEAN NAVAL COMMAND- STAFF OFFICER

FPB XENOS- COMMANDING OFFICER

HELLENIC FLEET HQ-STAFF OFFICER

USCENTCOM-OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (FLORIDA, USA)

FAST PATROL BOATS 1ST SQUADRON-COMMANDER

SPOKESMAN OF THE HELLENIC NAVY (HNCS)

EUROMARFOR (ROME-ITALY)

FFG KANARIS - COMMANDING OFFICER

HELLENIC NAVY GENERAL INSPECTION- STAFF OFFICER

HELLENIC NAVY TRAINING COMMAND - DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL BRANCH

PETTY OFFICERS' ACADEMY-COMMANDER

HELLENIC FLEET HQ-DIRECTOR OF PERSONEL BRANCH

FAST PATROL BOATS COMMAND - COMMANDER

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE - COMMANDER

HELLENIC FLEET HQ- DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL BRANCH

HNDGS - DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

HNDGS - DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATION DIRECTORATE

HNDGS - DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTORATE

HELLENIC FLEET HQ - CHIEF OF STAFF

HELLENIC NAVAL ACADEMY - SUPERINTENDENT (PRESENT POST)

### FOREIGN LANGUAGES:

ENGLISH



# Commander Darragh Kirwan Ireland



Commander Darragh Kirwan joined the Irish Naval Service in 1993. Darragh is currently the Officer Commanding and Commandant of the Naval College. In addition, he is also the Associate Head of the National Maritime College of Ireland, a constituent college of Munster Technological University.

Darragh is qualified as an Operations Officer and specialised as a Clearance Diving Officer. He has served in both Command and Staff appointments in the Naval Service.

He has served in operational appointments at sea and within naval diving, and staff appointments in Naval Headquarters, Naval Operations Command and the Naval College. His postings include Command at sea on two occasions – L.É. EMER and L.É. SAMUEL BECKETT.

Darragh completed the Senior Command and Staff Course in 2015 in the Irish Military College and holds an MSc in Human Resource Leadership (2014) and an MA in Leadership, Management and Defence Studies (2015). He served overseas with NATO in 2013 as part of the Force Headquarters, Kosovo Force (KFOR). He was in command of L.É. SAMUEL BECKETT for her deployment in late 2016 on a humanitarian mission in response to the migrant crisis in the Central Mediterranean.

Darragh is married with four children and lives in Cork. He is a keen sports enthusiast.

# Captain Alecu Toma

## Romania



Commissioned in 1995, he served on his first assignment as head of underwater weapons department on board the minesweeper ship “Ensign Alexandru Axente” (30) MCM squadron, being further promoted in the same unit, from 1999 to 2003, as deputy Commanding Officer on the ship. From 2004 to 2007 he performed duties as staff officer of the ROU Navy Fleet HQ, expert in naval operations and EOD branch, being appointed in April 2006 to serve as staff officer for the Black Sea Naval Cooperation Task Group (BLACKSEAFOR), when Romania assumed

rotational command. In August 2006 and April 2007, he served as liaison officer during the BLACKSEAFOR, Novorossiysk, when Russian Federation assumed rotational command.

Starting on 2007 he has been assigned in training field of Navy personnel, being successively appointed on the positions of head of education office, senior instructor, chief instructor and Head of Navy Weapons Department in the Navy Training School Center, teaching the courses of Maritime Security and EOD, Undersea warfare and Methodic of Instruction.

In 2013 he had passed the exam for lecturer position in the Navigation and Naval Transport Department of the Romanian Naval Academy and in 2014 he had been elected as Head of this department. Further, following up the academic awarding stages, in 2017 he has passed the national exam for Associate Professor position in the Navigation and Naval Transport Department of the Romanian Naval Academy, being appointed from 2018 as Vice-rector (Deputy) for Education. Starting on January 2020 he has been empowered as CO proxy of the position of Commandant (Rector) of the Romanian Naval Academy, for which position he has been fully appointed in September 2020.

He has graduated Romanian Naval Academy in 1995 and he earned his Ph.D. degree in mechanical engineering from the Military Technical Academy in 2010 in mechanical engineering field, with the thesis entitled “Numerical modeling of interaction between underwater shock wave and underwater explosive devices”. He is born on the 11th of February 1972. Is married and has two sons.

# Captain Ignacio Cuartero

## Spain



Captain Ignacio Cuartero was born in Ferrol in May 1967. He followed the family tradition and joined the Spanish Navy in 1986. He was promoted Lieutenant JG in 1991.

As Lt. he specialized as Electronic Warfare and Tactical Action Officer and served at sea onboard a wide range of surface combatants, from minesweepers to amphibious transports and frigates. He also served in the NATO High Readiness Forces Maritime HQ onboard LPD “Castilla”.

As LtCDR he commanded an Offshore Patrol Vessel based in the Canary Islands (2007-2008). On September 18th 2005. As CDR he assumed command of the AEGIS Destroyer F-105 “Cristóbal Colón” (2015-2017).

During his tour in command he deployed to the USA for the “Combat System Ship Qualification Trials” in 2016 and to Australia in 2017.

Ashore, Captain Cuartero’s assignments include the NATO Naval HQ’s in Naples (Italy), the Spanish Navy HQ’s (Strategic Planning Directorate), and the Spanish Defense Minister Personal Staff.

He also worked on temporary duties at the US EUCOM HQ’s (2004) as part of the Operation Enduring Freedom Staff; at the Spanish Embassy in Lebanon (2006) during the deployment of the Spanish reinforcement to UNIFIL; and at the EUNAVFOR ATALANTA Operation HQ’s (2009).

Captain Cuartero is a graduate from the NATO Defense College in Rome, the US Naval War College (College of Distance Education) and the Spanish Joint Staff College. He has also attended national senior courses on Logistics and Strategic Communications. He obtained a Bachelor Degree in Economics and has attended Executive Education Courses in Leadership both at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and at the University of Navarra Business School (IESE). He speaks English, French and Italian.

Captain Cuartero is married to Marta since 1994 and they both are proud parents of four children (Marta, Ignacio, Pilar and Jaime).

# Captain Jonas Källestedt

## Sweden



**RSep 2019 - -Commanding Officer, Naval Warfare Centre**

**Jun 2018 – Jan 2019**

**Acting Head of Section International Relations, Policy and plans Dep., Defence Staff, Armed Forces HQ**

**Dec 2017—Sep 2019**

**Project lead FM 2025, Change Management Swedish Armed Forces, Policy and plans Dep., Defence Staff, Armed Forces HQ**

**2014-2017**

**Head of section M5 Plans, Maritime Component Command, Armed Forces HQ**

**2010-2014**

**Commanding Officer 42nd MCM Squadron, 4th Naval Warfare Flotilla.**

**2008**

**Staff officer, Naval section, Armed Forces Training and Procurement Department, Armed Forces HQ**

**2007-2008**

**Staff officer Mine Warfare & EOD, Flotilla staff – N3, 4th Naval Flotilla.**

**2006-2007**

**Chief of Staff, 42nd MCM squadron, 4th Naval Warfare Flotilla**

**2004-2005 - Senior Instructor Mine Warfare, Naval Warfare Centre**

**2002-2003**

**Commanding Officer, MCMV HSwMS Styrsö, 4th Mine Warfare Flotilla.**

**1994-2002 - Various officer positions on board warships**

**Navy Captain Källestedt was born in 1971 in Kolbäck, Sweden. Since 2008 he is married to Eija. Together they have two kids, Hanna (13y) and Ville (10y), and live currently in Karlskrona.**



# **Syndicate 3**



# Rear Admiral Benoît Baudonnière

## France



### Education

**1989-1992 French Naval Academy, Lanvéoc-Poulmic**

**2005-2006 French War College, Paris**

**2016-2017 Auditor at the Institute of Advanced Studies in National Defence, Paris**

### Air-Sea operations

**1992-1995 Surveillance frigate Vendémiaire – In charge of the navigation**

**1995-1996 Aircraft carriers Foch then Clémenceau – Operations Officer**

**1996-1997 Anti-air destroyer Suffren – Operations Officer**

**1999-2000 Patrol ship La Rieuse – Commanding Officer**

**2000-2002 Aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle – Operations Officer**

**2002-2004 Aviso Premier Maître L'Her – Commanding Officer**

**2009-2011 Anti-air destroyer Jean Bart – Executive Officer**

**2011-2012 Operational cell of the Mediterranean Sea Prefecture – In charge of the conduct of operations**

**2012-2014 Anti-air destroyer Jean Bart – Commanding Officer**

### Human resources management

**2004-2005 French Navy Office for Personnel Management – In charge of the modernization of the sailors and quarter-masters training scheme.**

**2006-2009 French Navy Headquarter – In charge of human resource management policy, organization and numbers.**

**2014-2016 French Navy Office for Personnel Management – Head of the "fleet crews" committee (careers and skills management).**

### Political-military affairs

**2017-2019 Minister of the Armed Forces military cabinet – Maritime advisor in charge of national territory operations.**

**2019-2020 Chef de cabinet to the Chief of Staff of the French Navy.**

# **Rear Admiral Wilhelm Tobias Abry**

## **Germany**



**1988** Joined the Navy as officer candidate, Naval Academy, Mürwik (Flensburg)

**1989-1994** Studies and training

**1994-1997** Operations Officer, 2 Fast Patrol Boat Squadron

**1997-1999** Adjutant (personal staff officer) to the Head of Naval Office

**1999-2000** Principal Warfare Officer Course at Naval Operations School

**2000-2002** Commanding Officer, fast patrol boat PUMA

**2002-2004** General/Admiral Staff Officer Course at Bundeswehr Command and Staff College, Hamburg

**2004-2006** Executive Officer, Frigate FGS KARLSRUHE

**2006-2008** Desk Officer, Operations Division, NATO HQ

**2008-2010** Personnel Manager, Federal Office of Bundeswehr

**2010-2012** Commanding Officer, Frigate FGS NIEDERSACHSEN

**2012-2014** Deputy Branch Chief, Directorate-General for Military Policy

**2014-2016** Head Maritime Battle Staff Flotilla 2, Wilhelmshaven

**2016** Assistant Chief of Staff Joint Assessment

**2016-2018** Branch Chief Central Affairs, Office of the Chief of Defence

**18 May 2018** Commandant Naval Academy Mürwik

# Rear Admiral Flavio Biaggi

## Italy



Rear Admiral (LH) Flavio BIAGGI was born in Milan on the 17th July 1966 and graduated from the naval academy with the rank of Ensign, in 1989. He then attended the U.S. Navy flight school, becoming a naval aviator in 1991 and achieving Combat Readiness in AB212 ASW/ASuW helicopter.

He earned a master's degree in maritime and naval sciences and attended the Italian Naval War College in Livorno (1997) and the NATO Defense College in Rome (2004).

In 2001 he attended the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School , becoming Experimental Test Pilot. He has logged over 2300 flight hours in various planes, jets and helicopters.

He was promoted to Rear Admiral (LH) on 1st of July 2015.

With the rank of Rear Admiral (LH) he held the duty of Head of Plans, Operations and Maritime Strategy Department of the Italian Navy General Staff (May 2015 – May 2016).

From May to Sep 2016 he was the Head of the Ship Design & Combat Systems Department of the Italian Navy General Staff.

From Sep 2016 to Sep 2017, he has been appointed as Italian Senior National Representative and Chief of the Italian Joint Cell c/o US CENTOM, Tampa (Florida-USA).

From the 7th November 2017 to the 18th July 2019, he has been the Flag Officer of Naval Division 3 (COMDINAV 3).

From the 24th July 2019 the Rear Admiral Biaggi is the Superintendent of the Italian Naval Academy. During his military career he participated to the NATO and EU missions in former Jugoslavia, to the NATO operation Endeavour in the Eastern Mediterranean and, as IT SNR c/o US CENTCOM, to the Inherent Resolve Operation. He also carried out the duty of Tactical Command at sea during Mare Sicuro Operation of the Italian Navy.

Rear Admiral Biaggi is married with Paola and has two children, Gabriele and Anna. His interests include family, reading, walking, skiing, travelling, golf and tennis.



# **Captain Bard Eriksen**

## **Norway**

CV to Follow

**XXX**  
**Portugal**

CV to Follow- Change of Command

# Captain Kiriakidi Maksym Ukraine



**RJuly 1998–November 1998**

**Commander of missile and artillery battery on the escort ship “Dnipropetrovsk”;**

**November 1998– December 2000**

**Combat commander of anti-aircraft artillery battery on the frigate “Getman Sagaydachnyi”;**

**December 2000– April 2002**

**Combat commander of missile and artillery battery on the frigate “Getman Sagaydachnyi”;**

**April 2002 – February 2005**

**Senior assistant commander of the ship frigate “Getman Sagaidachnyi”;**

**February 2005 – December 2008**

**Commander on the corvette “Khmelnyskyi”;**

**December 2008– November 2011**

**Commander on the ships control “Slavutich”;**

**November 2011– February 2013**

**Chief of Staff of the Naval Operations Center;**

**February 2013– August 2014**

**Chief duty officer of the command center of command headquarters;**

**August 2014– August 2016**

**Chief operational duty officer of the command center of command headquarters;**

**June 2018– February 2021**

**Deputy Commander of the Naval Command;**

# Vice Admiral Sean Buck

## United States



Vice Adm. Sean Buck is a native of Indianapolis, Indiana. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and received his commission in 1983. He was designated a naval flight officer in 1985. He earned a Master of Arts in International Security Policy from George Washington University and has completed studies at the College of Naval Command and Staff, U.S. Naval War College, and the Armed Forces Staff College; a fellowship with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Seminar XXI: Foreign Politics, International Relations, and National Interest; and executive

certificate programs at both the Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Graduate School of Education. As a flag officer, Buck has served as commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force with U.S. 5th and 7th Fleets, Fleet Air Forward, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group; chief of staff, Strategy, Plans and Policy (J5), the Joint Staff; Director, 21st Century Sailor Officer, where his portfolio included the Navy's programs on sexual assault prevention and response, suicide prevention, alcohol abuse, and other destructive behaviors; and most recently he served as commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet. Flying the P-3C Orion, Buck's early at-sea operational tours were with the "Fighting Marlins" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 40; a disassociated sea tour aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) as the catapult and arresting gear division officer; and a department head tour with the "Tridents" of VP-26. He subsequently commanded VP-26 and Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11. His shore and staff assignments include Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 1; Bureau of Naval Personnel; Joint Staff J3; Office of the Chief of Naval Operations staff as executive assistant to the deputy chief of Naval Operations (CNO) for Warfare Requirements and Programs (N6/N7); and as the deputy director for operations in the Strategy and Policy Directorate (J5), U.S. Joint Forces Command. Prior to major command, Buck completed an interim assignment with the National Reconnaissance Officer; he is a member of the Navy's Space Cadre.

Buck became the 63rd superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy on July 26, 2011. Buck's personal awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit and various other personal, unit and service awards. He is most proud of his various unit awards that reflect credit on the successful teams he has served with and the many skilled professionals he has been privileged to work alongside.