

Interview with Captain Geordie Klein, Netherlands Defence Attaché for India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh



Geordie Klein was born on 25 February 1970 in Heemskerk, the Netherlands. His military career commenced at the Royal Netherlands Naval College in Den Helder in 1988. In 1991, the submarine service was joined, where an almost uninterrupted posting was maintained until 2003. During that period, command was held for three years over a Dutch diesel electric Walrus class submarine. An MSc degree in navigation technology was also obtained from the University of Nottingham (UK) in 1997.

Two foreign postings followed. The first was conducted in Scotland at the UK's submarine training facility; the second was carried out in London at the NATO Maritime Headquarters (HQ). In between, in 2011, the Advanced Military Studies Course at the Netherlands Defence Academy was completed, and the role of 'Teacher' for the Netherlands Submarine Command Course (NLSMCC) was assumed. For three years, both Dutch and foreign students seeking to qualify as commanding officers of conventional submarines were trained and assessed.

After the London posting, a transition was made toward military diplomacy. Based at the Directorate of International Military Cooperation at the Netherlands Ministry of Defence in The Hague, the function of Desk Officer for Asia and Oceania was fulfilled. In that capacity, a pivotal liaison role was performed between the Dutch Defence Attachés in the Indo-Pacific region and the Defence Attachés from that region accredited to the Netherlands.

Multiple short and longer courses were followed to deepen knowledge of international relations (IR), including a three month programme at the Netherlands Clingendael Institute – an independent think tank and diplomatic academy.

From 2022 to 2025, the appointment as Netherlands Defence Attaché for Suriname and Guyana was held, with Paramaribo as the place of residence. The personal and professional enrichment gained during those years is now being brought to bear in the function of Netherlands Defence Attaché for India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh — a role in which bilateral military relationships are sought to be strengthened and deepened in a respectful manner.



India on the World Stage. Can you tell us more about Vksit Bharat 2047 – India's ambition to be self-supporting, including militarily, by 2047? And about India's growing role in the Asian region and globally, both economically and militarily? What about India's desire to connect with Europe and the Netherlands?

India's vision is essentially about becoming a fully developed nation by 2047 – one where its people have been