

# COMSNMCMG1



## Commander Yvo Jaenen

Commander Standing NATO  
Mine Counter Measures Group 1  
(COM SNMCMG1)

A native of Lommel near the German-Dutch border in the eastern part of Belgium, Commander Jaenen graduated from St. Peters College (Latin & Sciences) and studied Germanic philology at the Catholic University of Louvain before performing his military service as a tank platoon commander at the 4th Lances Armoured Regiment in Soest (former Federal Republic of Germany). He finally joined the Belgian Navy in 1984.

Commander Jaenen's sea assignments include duties as 'Weapons, Navigation and Operations Officer on-board Mine Sweepers and Mine Hunters BNS Heist, Dufour, Vanhaeverbeke, Iris and MCSC Zinnia, the BEL-NLD Task group command vessel during Operation Octopus in 1988 and Operation Southern Breeze / Desert Storm in 1991. After advanced training and shore appointments, Commander Jaenen served 4 years as executive officer of the Mine Hunters BNS Aster, Myosotis, Bellis and Crocus with NATO tours in STANAVFORCHAN and MCMFORCEMED. He has also served on HSWMS Uto as MCM tactical advisor of 4th SWE MW SQN during MCOPEST 2001 and as NLO for MCMFORCENORTH onboard SPS Castilla (the NRF SPMARFOR command ship) during Exercise Maritime Commitment 2004. After being selected in 2003 by NATO to serve for a year as PSO to the UK CDR and Danish CDR of the NATO Standing MCM Group 1, Commander Jaenen became the commanding officer of BNS Primula, the first Belgian-Dutch upgraded Mine Hunter where he performed all sea trials and lead the ship to its full operational capability and qualification as ready for action from 2005 to 2007.

Ashore, he has served in a variety of billets including staff operations officer at the Naval Logistic Command Base and three years as a NMW, NCAGS and AWNIS instructor at the BEL-NLD Mine Warfare School (EGUERMIN) in Ostend. Afterwards he took up the duty of staff officer NMW of the Belgian Maritime Command in Zeebruges. From 2003 to 2004 he was appointed as naval systems manager and deputy procurement officer in the Directorate Material Resources of the BE Joint Defence Staff in Brussels. He then became the head of the naval NMW Gaming System at the BEL-NLD Mine Warfare School where he taught staff officers from all over NATO. His last shore duty before being stationed in the ABNL NMW Knowledge Centre as senior analyst was a three years PEP billet as doctrine advisor to the commander of NMAWC (Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command) in San Diego, California from 2008 to 2011.

Commander Jaenen attended the School for Maritime Operations (HMS Dryad) in the United Kingdom for their Maritime Warfare Course and also attended their NCAGS and AWNIS staff officer courses. Additionally, he is a qualified NMW staff officer of the Belgian-Netherlands Naval Mine Warfare School (class of 93) and a graduate of the 2004 Senior Officer Basic Command Course at the Joint Forces Staff College (the Royal Higher Defence Institute in Brussels). He then got promoted to Commander in December 2007.

His awards include Officer in the Order of the Crown (OOC), Officer in the Order of King Leopold (OOKL), the Military Cross 1st class, the Meritorious Service Medal (USA), the Medal of National Military Merit (Persian Gulf, 2 honourings), the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait) and Liberation of Kuwait Medal (3rd degree, Saudi Arabia).

Commander Jaenen is married to the former Katelyn T'Jaecx of Brussels, Belgium. They are living with their two dogs on the Belgian coast in Bredene-les-Dunes where he is trying to improve his golf handicap on the windy links of Ostend and Den Haan.