

**FLAG OFFICER NETHERLANDS  
FORCES IN THE CARIBBEAN**

**COMMANDANT COASTGUARD  
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND ARUBA**

**COMMANDER TASK GROUP 4.4**



**CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY  
4 JULY 2001  
WILLEMSTAD  
CURAÇAO**

**CHANGE OF COMMAND**

**AT WHICH**

**BRIGADIER-GENERAL W.A.J. PRINS RNLMC**

**WILL BE RELIEVED BY**

**BRIGADIER-GENERAL R.L. ZUIDERWIJK RNLMC**





**CEREMONY SEQUENCE OF EVENTS  
4 JULY 2001**

**ARRIVAL HONORS GOVERNOR OF THE  
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND ARUBA**

**ARRIVAL HONORS FONLFORCARIB/  
COMCOGUARD/CTG 4.4**

**INSPECTION OF TROOPS**

**ADDRESS BY BRIGADIER-GENERAL  
W.A.J. PRINS RNLMC**

**GUN SALUTE**

**ADDRESS BY BRIGADIER-GENERAL  
R.L. ZUIDERWIJK RNLMC**

**GUN SALUTE AND FLY-BY**

**MEDAL AWARDED BY GENERAL  
P. PACE USMC**

**PRESENTATION OF THE COMMAND FLAG**

**NATIONAL HYMNES OF ARUBA, THE NETHERLANDS  
ANTILLES AND THE NETHERLANDS**

**DEPARTURE OF AUTHORITIES**

**RECEPTION**





#### **FONLFORCARIB - COMCOGUARD NA&A - CTG 4.4**

The Netherlands Antilles and Aruba are autonomous parts of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The external defense though is still the responsibility of the Kingdom. The Royal Netherlands Navy contingent is responsible for carrying out these tasks in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

The Flagofficer Netherlands Forces in the Caribbean (FONLFORCARIB) is the Kingdom's senior military representative in the region. He and his staff are headquartered at Parera Naval Base on Curaçao. Parera Naval Base is the homeport to the West Indies Guardship, HNLMS Pelikaan and the 41st Infantry Company. In addition to Parera Naval Base, Curaçao is home to the Suffisant Navy Barracks and the Hato Military Naval Air Station where were P3C-Orion and two Coast Guard helicopters are stationed. In addition to these forces, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Company is stationed at the Marines Barracks Savaneta in Aruba. Altogether more than 1100 men and women are stationed in the Antilles and Aruba under the command of FONLFORCARIB.



Since 1996 FONLFORCARIB has also been assigned duties as Commandant COAST GUARD for the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba (COMCOGUARD NA&A). The Coast Guard's main tasks are maritime law enforcement (including general police and customs tasks), border control and fishery inspections as well as search and rescue and maritime safety missions. The Coast Guard headquarters, with its Rescue Coordination center (RCC) is located at Parera Naval Base. Coast Guard Substations are located in Aruba , Curaçao and Saint Martin. Besides the organic assets the Coastguard uses defense assets on a regular base to fulfill its tasks.

The FONLFORCARIB organization is part of the Joint Inter Agency Task Force East (JIATFE). This international counter narcotics organization is under command and control of the Director of the U.S. Joint Inter Agency Task Force, in Key West, Florida. FONLFORCARIB serves as Commander Task Group 4.4 within the JIATFE organization.





## **BRIGADIER-GENERAL W.A.J. PRINS RNLMC**



Brigadier-General Willem A.J. Prins, a native of The Hague, graduated from the Royal Netherlands Naval Academy in 1970 as Second Lieutenant of the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps. Following graduation he served as an instructor at the Marine Barracks in Rotterdam. After completion of flight training, he was designated a Naval Aviator and flew the S-2F Grumman Tracker in the Netherlands Antilles. After returning to the Netherlands he completed Special Forces training and later qualified as a helicopter pilot. Between 1975 and 1980, he flew several types of helicopters and served on board frigates flying the Westland WASP AH-12A helicopter. In between two flying billets he attended the Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Virginia.

In 1980, following several promotions, Brigadier-General Prins became Company Commander of a Marine Battalion serving in Scotland and Norway. After two years of service in the Personnel Department of the Headquarters Royal Netherlands Marine Corps (HQRNLMC), he assumed the duties of Aide de Camp to the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (SACLANT) in Norfolk, Virginia at the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. In 1991 he was assigned duties as Head of the Personnel Department of the HQRNLMC. Brigadier-General Prins was promoted to Colonel in May 1992 and was appointed as Commanding Officer of the Operational Marine Units in the Netherlands. In this position he also served as Deputy Brigade Commander of the United Kingdom/Netherlands Landing Force and completed various exercises in the Mediterranean and Norway.

In 1995 he was the first Marine Officer appointed as Head of the Operations Department of the Royal Netherlands Navy. In January 1997, he assumed duties as Chief of Staff to the Flag Officer Netherlands Forces in the Caribbean/CTG 4.4/Deputy Commandant Coast Guard Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. Promoted to his present rank on 13 July 1998, Brigadier-General Prins was appointed as Flag Officer Netherlands Forces in the Caribbean/CTG 4.4/Commandant Coast Guard Netherlands Antilles and Aruba on 7 August 1998.

Brigadier-General Prins has been nominated for Commandant of the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps and will be promoted to the rank of Major General on assumption of those duties in September of this year.

Brigadier-General Prins is married to the former H el ene Johanna van Balen from Rotterdam. They have one son who lives in the Netherlands.



## **BRIGADIER-GENERAL R.L. ZUIDERWIJK RNLMC**



On July 4 Brigadier-General Robertus Leonardus Zuiderwijk (Rob) will assume command as Flagofficer Netherlands Forces in the Caribbean, Commandant Coast Guard for the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba and Commander Task Group 4.4, a subordinate command of the U.S. led Joint Interagency Task Force East (JIATFE).

Brigadier-General Zuiderwijk joined the RNLMC in August 1968. Upon completion of Marine Officers Training at the Royal Naval Institute he received his commission in 1971 and served as an instructor at the RNLMC Recruit Training Center. In 1973, he entered Naval Flight School and, following completion of RNLAFF helicopter pilot training in 1974, he served in several Naval Aviation billets including SAR-pilot and Operations Officer of Naval Air Squadron 7. Following completion of Commando and Parachutist training, he was awarded his green beret and para-wings in 1976. In 1978 he attended the USMC Amphibious Warfare Course at MCDEC Quantico. Brigadier-General Zuiderwijk is also a graduate of the Naval Staff College.

During his career he has served as Officer-Instructor at the Royal Naval Institute and as the Operations Officer of a Marine Infantry Battalion. He has also held various staff billets in both the Operations Branch of FONLFORCARIB and the Personnel Branch at HQRNLMC.

He was Commandant of Marine Barracks Savaneta, Aruba from 1991 to 1994 after which he served as Head of Policy Development in the Plans and Policy Department of the Directorate of Personnel, Royal Netherlands Navy. Subsequently he was appointed Chief of Staff HQRNLMC, a position he held from 1995 to 1998. In 1998 he assumed duties as Commanding Officer of the Operational Marine Units. In July 1999 he returned to HQRNLMC as Chief of Staff. He remained in that position until his present appointment as FONLFORCARIB/CTG 4.4 and Commandant Coastguard Netherlands Antilles en Aruba. He was promoted to Brigadier-General on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June.

Brigadier-General Zuiderwijk was born January 13, 1951, in The Hague, and is married to the former Bonita Koopman (Bonnie). They have two daughters, Renee (1983) and Michele (1986).



