

Colonel Ben F. Klappe
Army Legal Service

**National Liaison Representative of the Netherlands
to HQ Supreme Allied Command Transformation
as of July 2015**



After his commission in 1981, Colonel Klappe commanded logistic and training units and served in staff positions at HQ Dutch Army. In 1993 he was deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina (UNPROFOR) as a company commander.

Following award of a Masters of Law degree from Leiden University and upon returning from the Balkans, he joined the Army Legal Service in November 1993. Subsequently, he has served as legal advisor at Division and Corps level in the Netherlands and Germany, respectively, and attended the Judge Advocate Officers Course at the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's School (1997) in Charlottesville, Virginia.

From 1999 to 2002, he was acting Director at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy where he was responsible for the organization, development and management of courses and seminars on the Law of Armed Conflict.

Thereafter, he served at the United Nations' Headquarters in New York as the Special Assistant to the UN Military Adviser from December 2002 to July 2006.

On returning from the U.S. in August 2006, he was appointed as a Criminal Court Judge and Military Judge in the Criminal Law Division of the District Court Arnhem. He also served as a visiting senior lecturer on international law, criminal law and criminal procedure law at the Netherlands Defense Academy.

From October 2011 to October 2012 he was deployed to Afghanistan and served in Kabul as Chief of Staff of the NATO Rule of Law Field Support Mission, supporting the development of the Afghan judiciary.

Upon his return from Afghanistan he was appointed Director Administrative Law Department, Ministry of Defense from November 2012 to July 2015 and he continued to serve as a visiting judge in the Criminal Law Division, Provincial Court Gelderland.

He is Director of Seminars of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War, member of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law and member of the editorial board of the Journal of International Peacekeeping. He writes on international legal issues and contributes frequently to seminars and training sessions on peacekeeping and international law.

He and his wife Godelieve have two daughters.