

# COMMAR AIR NORTH



**Commodore**  
**Niels Friis, Royal Danish Navy**  
Commander Maritime Air  
Northwood

Commodore Niels Friis joined the Royal Danish Navy in 1971 and was commissioned in 1976. He has commanded a variety of ships such as inspection vessels, fast patrol boats and frigates. In addition to his national sea duties, Commodore Friis was assigned to the former Standing Naval Force Atlantic as Staff Operations Officer.

He has served three tours in the Joint Headquarters of Defence Command Denmark. From 1989 to 1991, he acted as appointer in the personnel department, followed by an assignment as Defence Attaché to Sweden and Finland from 1991 to 1995 as well as Estonia and Latvia for two years. He commanded the Naval Training Squadron before returning to the Joint Headquarters as Head of the Management Branch in 1996. Commodore Friis served in the dual-hatted capacity as Chief of Joint Requirements and Deputy Branch Chief in the Defence Planning arena on joining Supreme Headquarters Allied Power Europe as a captain in 2001. He continued as Deputy of Defence Planning in the newly formed Allied Command Transformation Staff Element Europe when it stood up in 2003 and was subsequently promoted to commodore in 2004 and assumed the position of DACOS Defence Planning. In 2005 he resumed duty in the national operational division and later the policy division in Defence Command Denmark.

In addition to his staff tours he conducted overseas operational tours in the Kosovo Campaign and, latterly, in Operation Iraqi freedom.

Commodore Friis took up his current appointment as Commander Maritime Air Northwood in August 2007 providing advice to the Commander Allied Maritime Component Command Northwood on maritime air matters.

His awards include the Commander of the Order of Dannebrog, Commander of the Northern Star Order, Legion of Merit and NATO Meritorious Service Medal.

He is married to Pernille, a Human Resources Consultant, and they have 2 children, Caroline and Jacob.

