



# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



*10 Years Experience -  
A Decade of Competence*

**Centre of Excellence  
for  
Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters**





Thumbs up for ten years COE CSW!

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## Rear Admiral Christian Bock

**Director Centre of Excellence for  
Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters**



Distinguished guests,

Welcome to the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Center of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters (COE CSW).

For me it is a huge honour and a great pleasure to welcome such a distinguished group of guests in the State Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein to commemorate this very important milestone for our think-tank here in Kiel.

Looking back, for what reason was the COE CSW incorporated here in Germany and why particularly in Kiel? Well, for decades the German Navy and especially the Flotilla 1 in Kiel has accumulated a high and specific maritime warfare competence by operating in coastal waters, especially in the Baltic and the North Sea. With the aim to make these tactical and operational skills available to NATO allies, and to ensure state-of-the-art operational concepts, the COE CSW was established in 2006 with the formal inauguration in 2007. In October 2008, Greece, the Netherlands, Turkey, and Germany signed a "Memorandum of Understanding", which defined the function, organisation, staffing and funding. This date symbolises the beginning of our COE CSW. Half a year later, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2009, a ceremony right here in the parliament of Schleswig-Holstein in Kiel was held to celebrate this occasion and from that day onward, this think hub has worked in its area of competence continuously while enjoying a legal status comparable to any other NATO headquarters.

I would like to emphasise that we as members of the COE CSW serve proudly in Kiel, as this location highlights the international nature and the strong maritime link to the state of Schleswig-Holstein. Let me express my sincere gratitude to Minister-President Daniel Günther for marking this important milestone and also for honouring our Centre of Excellence by awarding a Campaign Streamer to us, thus recognising our achievements not only for the Alliance but also for the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein during the past decade.

Over the past ten years, the COE CSW has grown intensively in its scope of work and in its importance for the maritime domain.

The COE started with just four nations and is currently represented by a staff of 45 from ten different nations. We have earned a reputation based on expertise and professionalism that reaches across multiple continents. The success of the COE was primarily achieved by the quality of contributions to NATO transformation and by support to all NATO and participating nations. Evidence of this also includes the impressive and increasing output of the COE as well as the multitude of partners that span across academia, civil maritime organisations, and a range of national military entities.

To the COE CSW staff and guests here today, thank you for the hard work and dedication over the last ten years! Getting to the point we are at today has been challenging indeed. It bears testimony to the team dynamics, excellent leadership and international efforts that have developed the COE CSW to the current level.

While this ten-year anniversary highlights the past successes and development of the COE CSW, we must also focus on the future. We are currently growing, with more nations expressing interest in joining. Increased international participation enhances the level of expertise and allows for an even deeper understanding of the common challenges inherent to operations in Confined and Shallow Waters.

As the Director of this COE CSW, I am looking forward to a promising future of this superb multinational organisation. Looking back I can proudly say:  
10 years - 10 nations - a decade of success!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'C. Bock'.

**Christian Bock,**  
Rear Admiral DEU Navy

# Daniel Günther

Minister President of Schleswig-Holstein



A warm welcome on behalf of the citizens of Schleswig-Holstein, and our sincere congratulations to the crew of the COE CSW on their success during the last ten years!

Schleswig-Holstein, and in particular the city of Kiel, is a maritime region with a naval presence since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Today, that history continues as Kiel is honoured to host the German Navy's Flotilla 1, several shipyards supporting Germany's industrial base, and the daily visits of numerous cruise ships and ferries. This is in addition to the Kiel Canal with more than 30.000 ship transits every year. Such conditions are only possible through the effort of navies working hard to preserve the freedom of the seas and through the work of organisations such as the COE CSW.

The event today not only marks an important anniversary, but also serves as an opportunity for Schleswig-Holstein to honour the achievements of the COE CSW by presenting a campaign banner.

Historically, banners like this were awarded to troop elements for victory in battle. Today and in this particular case it symbolises the acknowledgement of the depth of contribution, service and dedication of the COE CSW to the state of Schleswig-Holstein, to Germany and to NATO. Please accept my thanks on behalf of Schleswig-Holstein.

It has been an extreme honour to host such an important element of NATO here in Kiel and Schleswig-Holstein for the last ten years. We are looking forward to further intensifying the great relationship between Schleswig-Holstein and the COE CSW.



Daniel Günther,  
Minister President of  
Schleswig-Holstein





## Vice Admiral Andreas Krause

**Chief of Naval Staff,  
German Navy**



Beginning with the Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters' founding in 2007, it has developed into an organisation that engages in and communicates with the highest strategic levels, both political and military, to address maritime topics.

With ten nations represented, the COE CSW helps facilitate cooperation and collaboration among navies and NATO allies and contributes to NATO's transformation process as well as to the advancement of concepts and arrangements with other maritime organisations.

Officially accredited as an international military organisation by NATO in 2009, the COE CSW has developed into one of the primary naval think-tanks within the alliance. Since then, the COE CSW has been involved in NATO's efforts in the development of force protection concepts, focusing on the particular challenges of naval operations.

In 2012 the COE CSW was tasked by Allied Command Transformation to spearhead its efforts in establishing a "Community of Interest" for issues related to C-IED in the maritime environment.

In 2013 the COE CSW founded the annual conference on legal challenges in operational maritime law, which developed into NATO's largest legal conference.

The cooperation agreement signed with the Munich Security Conference in 2017 is another recent example of the COE CSW's regularly requested input on maritime issues, such as the developing situations in the Arctic Region or South China Sea. These discussions are extremely pertinent for NATO and help promote constant engagement and understanding among allies and partner nations.

The COE CSW has built up an international reputation, bringing together the best and brightest players in order to tackle some of the most difficult questions of our time.

The last ten years have proven to be very successful. Since the initial signing of the Memorandum of Understanding the work has been both impressive and profound. It was my honour and privilege to be the first Director COE CSW and I have enjoyed watching this COE grow in relevance and magnitude, bringing the benefits of its work to the German Navy as well as to NATO and its partners. The continuation of this work is not only essential, but absolutely necessary in order to develop answers to the increasingly complex questions of today's geopolitical environment.



**Andreas Krause,**  
Vice Admiral DEU Navy

## Rear Admiral R.P. (René) Tas

**ACOS Capabilities, NATO Headquarters  
Supreme Allied Commander Transformation**



It is with great pleasure that I can write an introduction for this jubilee event. First and foremost I would like to congratulate the “Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters” (COE CSW) on their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In 2007/2008, the COE CSW was established as a unique think-tank by the German armed forces in Kiel, co-located with the German Navy Flotilla 1. The mission is to contribute to NATO warfighting development and transformation, and promote interoperability amongst Allies, Partners, and other stakeholders by providing joint and combined subject-matter expertise across the range of operations in confined and shallow waters.

For several reasons the maritime environment is a challenging one. One of the reasons is the character of confined and shallow waters. During the last decade the COE CSW has made very important contributions to strengthen the ability of NATO and its partners to operate in this difficult environment. Often this was done by pioneering work. The COE CSW successfully drew international attention to maritime challenges in a broad sense by participating in the annual Conferences on Operational Maritime Law and the Munich Security Conference.

After ten years of intensive and successful work, the COE CSW is firmly established within NATO and outside NATO. This has been confirmed in the latest periodic re-assessment conducted by Allied Command Transformation in the beginning of 2018. The COE CSW can most certainly be very proud of the outcome of this assessment.

The COE CSW consists of 45 international staff. These experts are supported by a small team for administrative, technical, and financial matters. Starting with only four nations in 2008, today ten nations are providing personnel to the COE CSW. Other nations have expressed serious interest in joining, making the COE even stronger.

The co-location of the international COE CSW staff with the staff of Flotilla 1 creates significant synergy. Additionally, the Baltic Sea provides an ideal “test range” and results can be used to inform operations in various regions around the globe. The portfolio of the COE CSW’s topics is diverse. Work on the deployment and operation of submarines in shallow waters, amphibious and Maritime Special Forces, and use of maritime mines and drones in all three dimensions are just as much a part of the day-to-day work as dealing with asymmetric threats and international maritime law.

I would like to thank all NATO- and Partner nations participating in the COE CSW. Your important work is crucial to Warfare Development and strengthens the Alliance capability to be ready for the future.



**R.F. (René) Tas**  
Rear Admiral RNL Navy

# COE CSW at a glance



The COE CSW staff-building at Kiel Naval Base

NATO-wide there are a total of 25 Centres of Excellence working on various areas of concern for NATO. The “Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters” is one of three within this group dealing with maritime topics. It was established in 2007 in Kiel. By the end of 2008, it received the status of an international office and promptly obtained its accreditation by NATO half a year later. In the beginning, the crew consisted of four nations, and one decade later, they have already increased to ten. Along with Germany as “Host nation”, there are Greece, Turkey, the Netherlands, Italy and Poland as so called “Sponsoring Nations” and Finland, Lithuania and Denmark as “Contributing Nations”. Finally, the United States participate with an officer in the framework of the bilateral “Personnel Exchange Programme”. Additional nations have expressed their interest to participate in the future as well.

With a personnel strength of 45 posts, a quarter of which is internationally manned, a maritime expert team has been created. This team deals with all aspects of security and mission control of naval forces in “Confined and Shallow Waters”, consisting of bordering seas, coastal waters and areas of low depth – and this all related to the

three-dimensional space. The portfolio of topics ranges from a comprehensive maritime picture via deployment of and defence against submarines, divers and naval special forces, deployment of and defence against mines, protection of ships and maritime infrastructure such as harbour installations, handling of risks and dangers from the spectrum of asymmetric threats like improvised explosive devices and drones above and under water as well as airborne, up to matters of international maritime law, and several other topics. In various aspects, there have already been visible results for some time. For example, some years ago NATO had identified a deficit in the capability of protecting harbours, which is absolutely essential for naval forces in operation. After that, with decisive assistance of the COE CSW, a corresponding doctrine was developed and published. At the same time, a technical solution was developed and tested, which in future will significantly facilitate the deployment and control of forces for harbour protection.

After ten years of intensive activities in the maritime environment, the COE CSW has become a solid and recognised organisation with an excellent international reputation. An expression of this is the organising of and participation in several large-scale conferences with a high-ranking international presence, as well as eight cooperation agreements with prominent and internationally acting bodies such as universities, academies and committees. This recognition and high esteem is particularly evident in the fact that the globally known annual Munich Security Conference has asked the COE CSW for advice in matters of maritime safety and security. From a regional perspective, the award of an individual Campaign Streamer of the state of Schleswig-Holstein, bestowed by the Minister-President to the flag of the COE CSW, is an additional expression of recognition and high regard, as the small team of the COE CSW, with its actions in the large international space has moved the small “Land between the Seas” a bit more into international focus.



Unit Banner of the COE CSW

# Milestones



Handover of the dedicated Unit Banner by the Commander in Chief German Fleet

- 24.04.2007**      Ceremonial Commissioning of the COE CSW as a national office; handover of the dedicated Unit Banner.
- 25.08. –  
01.09.2008**      Participation in the Harbour Protection Trials 08, a testing of technical and organisational means with the purpose of protecting harbour installations and sensitive infrastructure.
- 03.10.2008**      Ceremonial signing of the inauguration of the COE CSW as an international office in Norfolk, Virginia. Participating nations of the “very first moment” are Turkey, Greece and the Netherlands as “Sponsoring Nations”, and Germany as “Host Nation”.
- 20.10. –  
23.10.2008**      First “Kiel Conference” with international participation; start of a series of similar annual conferences.

- 17.12.2008** First meeting of the Steering Committee. This committee consists of representatives of all “Sponsoring Nations” and the “Host Nation”. Like a supervisory body it decides on general tasking and financing of the COE CSW and meets twice a year.
- 03.03.2009** Signing of the NATO-accreditation.
- 26.05.2009** Festive introduction ceremony of the NATO-accreditation in the Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein in Kiel.
- 02.07.2009** Poland joins the COE CSW as fourth “Sponsoring Nation” and is permanently represented by a staff officer.
- September 2009** Participation in exercise NORTHERN COASTS 2009 in Germany.
- September 2010** Participation in exercise NORTHERN COASTS 2010 in Finland.
- 02.05. –  
05.05.2011** Maritime Security Conference in Kiel with a wide international participation and presence. Starting point of a series of similar conferences with the purpose of dealing with all aspects of maritime safety and security.
- August 2011** Moving into the new staff building inside the Kiel Naval Base.
- September 2011** Participation in exercise NORTHERN COASTS 2011 in Denmark.
- 21.11.2011** Finland joins the COE CSW as “Contributing Nation” and is permanently represented by a staff officer.
- 04.06. –  
07.06.2012** Participation in the “Maritime Security Conference” in Halifax, Canada.
- October 2012** The COE CSW becomes member of a Specialist Team working on a new NATO-Doctrine for protection of harbours and other critical infrastructure, the “Specialist Team on Harbour Protection”.
- 14.06. –  
17.05.2013** First Legal Conference on Maritime Law in London, United Kingdom.
- 14.06.2013** COE CSW’s own website goes online: [www.coecsw.org](http://www.coecsw.org)



- September 2013** Participation in the exercise NORTHERN COASTS 2013 in Sweden with main emphasis on Harbour Protection.
- 06.02.2014** Italy joins the COE CSW as fifth “Sponsoring Nation” and is permanently represented by a staff officer.
- 24.03.2014** The 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NATO-Accreditation is celebrated with a birthday party.
- 19.04. –  
23.04.2014** Second Legal Conference in Rome, Italy. The International Maritime Law becomes a core topic; further conferences in changing places are to follow.
- September 2014** Participation in the exercise NORTHERN COASTS 2014 in Finland with main emphasis on Harbour Protection.
- September 2015** Participation in the exercise NORTHERN COASTS 2015 in Denmark with main emphasis on Harbour Protection.
- 08.12.2016** Signing of a cooperation with the Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Centre of Excellence (CJOS COE) in Norfolk, Virginia, for annual meetings “Maritime Security Institutions Round Table”. The first Round Table meets in Norfolk.
- 14.07.2017** Lithuania joins the COE CSW as second “Contributing Nation” and is permanently represented by a staff officer.
- 06.10.2017** Denmark joins the COE CSW as third “Contributing Nation” and is temporarily represented by a staff officer.
- 09.10.2017** The NATO-instruction ATP 94 “Harbour Protection” comes into force. It draws on significant contributions by the COE CSW.
- 16.02. –  
18.02.2018** Participation of a COE CSW-delegation in the Munich Security Conference for the first time.
- 15.11.2018** Official ceremony on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the COE CSW as an international office, including the donation of an individual campaign banner of the state of Schleswig-Holstein by Minister of the Interior Hans-Joachim Grote.

# Directors of the COE CSW



**01.02.2007**

Begin of forming up the staff  
**Rear Admiral Andreas Krause**  
(01.02.2007 – 30.09.2008)

**30.09.2008**

First change of command:  
**Rear Admiral Rainer Brinkmann**  
(30.09.2008 – 26.04.2010)



**26.04.2010**

Second change of command:  
**Rear Admiral Thomas Jugel**  
(26.04.2010 – 17.04.2013)

**17.04.2013**

Third change of command:  
**Rear Admiral Jean Martens**  
(17.04.2013 – 23.04.2015)



**23.04.2015**

Fourth change of command:  
**Rear Admiral Jan C. Kaack**  
(23.04.2015 – 19.04.2018)

**19.04.2018**

Fifth change of command:  
**Rear Admiral Christian Bock**  
(since 19.04.2018)



## International Partners of the COE CSW

- 21.04.2009** Signing of a cooperation with the faculty for informatics of the **German Armed Forces University in Munich** with the purpose of a cooperation in matters of Operations Research.
- 03.03.2010** Signing of a cooperation with the **NATO Undersea Research Centre in La Spezia**, Italy, with the purpose of a cooperation in matters of underwater-warfare in confined and shallow waters.
- 23.01.2014** Signing of a cooperation with the faculty for jurisprudence of the **Europe-University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder)**, Germany, with the aim of a cooperation in questions of International Maritime Law.
- 12.12.2016** Signing of a cooperation with the **US Naval War College in Newport**, Rhode Island, with the aim of a cooperation in matters of International Maritime Law in the core area, however all other concerns of Maritime Security as well.
- 11.04.2017** Signing of a cooperation with the **Polish Naval Academy in Gdynia** with the purpose of a future cooperation in research and teaching in topical concerns of Maritime Security.
- 03.07.2017** Signing of a cooperation with the **Munich Security Conference**; the COE CSW becomes partner for cooperation and advice in questions of Maritime Security.
- 19.04.2018** Signing of a cooperation with the **METIS-Institute** of the chair for International Politics of the German Armed Forces University in Munich with the aim of a cooperation in strategic questions of International Security Policy.
- 08.05.2018** Signing of a cooperation with the **World Maritime University in Malmö**, Sweden, with the purpose of a cooperation in general and particular questions and concerns of the Maritime Domain.



**Centre of Excellence**  
for  
**Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters**

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