

COLONEL MOHAMED SALEEM

Coast Guard Commandant

Maldives National Defence Force



Colonel Mohamed Saleem assumed the duties and responsibilities as the 10th Commandant of Maldives National Defence Force Coast Guard on September 2019. Colonel Saleem undertook the responsibilities as Coast Guard Commandant after completing a five-year tenure as the Principal Director of Coast Guard. As the Commandant of Coast Guard, he is the principal advisor to the Chief of Defence Force of MNDF on ensuring the security and safety of both the maritime and air domain of the Maldives. He is also responsible to train, equip and utilise a mission capable maritime force for the extensive combat, humanitarian and law enforcement roles of the Coast Guard.

Colonel Saleem has held prominent appointments in the Coast Guard, both afloat and ashore. He is the Commissioning Commanding Officer of CGS Shaheed Ali, which is an OPV class vessel commissioned in 2007. He is also the commissioning Executive Officer of CGS Huravee, commissioned in 2006. After completing a distinguished term at sea on-board various Coast Guard platforms, he has held strategic appointments in the Coast Guard Headquarters. He has served as the Coast Guard Deputy Director and Director, which are strategic leadership roles of the Coast Guard. Colonel Saleem has also held a leadership appointment at an operational Area Commands of MNDF, serving as the Deputy Commander, MNDF Southern Area.

In his illustrious 24 years of service, Colonel Saleem has been a pioneer in several maritime policies and strategies for the modernisation of the maritime force of MNDF, some of which include; accession of Coast Guard vessels to Naval traditions and customs carried onboard ships, restructure the training of Coast Guard sailors and officers, pioneered the process to identify and structure the military occupational specialities (MOS) of CG officers and sailors, revision and introduction of a National Sea Ambulance Standard Operating Procedure, and he played a key role in, making the Maldives a member state of HACGAM. Furthermore, he personally oversaw and supervised the training and acclimatization of crew during the induction of Fast Interceptor crafts into Coast Guard, and he is the chief architect for the first ever tactical operating procedure for the MNDF Coast Guard. In addition, he is on several national and MNDF level advisory committees and works closely with the President's Office in enacting new policies and strategies relating to the security and safety of the maritime domain.

Colonel Saleem has followed naval training at the Indian Naval Academy INS Mandovi. He is also a graduate of the prestigious Indian Defence Services Staff College, and holds an MSc in Defence and Strategic Studies from Madras University. He is a graduate of the USCG's International Maritime Officer School, Diving & Salvage Course with the Chinese PLA Navy, USCG's Search and Rescue course and Junior Command Course in Malaysia. Colonel Saleem is also a fellow from the US Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. He has also represented the Coast Guard and Maldives at a number of seminars and workshops related to maritime security abroad. A few of the Commandant's international engagements include the Civil Response to Terrorism at Naval Post Graduate School Monterey and Small Craft Combatting Terrorism at NAVSCIATS Mississippi.

As the Commandant of the Coast Guard, it is his priority to continue the ongoing modernisation of the Coast Guard with six strategic goals for the organisation's

development. These include the Empowerment of the Coast Guard, Manpower Development of the Coast Guard, Legal Empowerment of Coast Guard, Enhancement of Coast Guard's MDA Capabilities, Upgrade Existing Coast Guard Resources and Development of Support Infrastructure for Coast Guard. Further to these, it is of paramount importance for him to augment the existing local, sub-regional, regional and international engagements of the Coast Guard to continue to strengthen its inter-operability and strategic reach during his tenure as Commandant.

Colonel Mohamed Saleem has been awarded the SAARC Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Distinguished Service Medal and the Republic Medal. He is also decorated for his service with the Presidential Ribbon, Ribbon for Bravery and Ribbon for Exceptional Skill. He has also been handed the Chief of Defence Force's Commendations on his operational service to the Coast Guard and MNDF.

Colonel Saleem currently resides in Male' with his wife and three children.