



Lieutenant James A H Wallington-Smith BSc(Hons) Royal Navy

Commanding Officer HMS CHARGER

James joined the Royal Navy in September 2004 under the University Cadet Entry scheme. Passing out from Britannia Royal Naval College in April 2005 he completed Common Fleet Time training in HMS Campbeltown during her OP TELIC deployment to the Gulf. He then studied at the University of York reading Chemistry and graduating with a First Class Honours degree in June 2008. Returning to the Royal Navy in September 2008, he completed Specialist Fleet Time training first in HMS Kent on her OP VOLANS deployment before joining HMS York during post-refit workup.

After attending the Initial Warfare Officers' Course and the Preliminary Navigating Officers' Course in 2009 he was appointed to Mine Countermeasures Squadron 1 Crew 6 as Navigating Officer in December 2009; serving first in HMS Ramsey before crew swapping to HMS Penzance. He navigated HMS Penzance during her NATO deployment to the Baltic and Northern Europe; working with eight other nations during the six month deployment as part of the NATO mine-hunting force, activities included clearing WWII munitions in the Baltic and North Sea and numerous multinational mine-hunting exercises.

After completing the Fleet Navigating Officers' Course in February 2011 he was appointed to HMS Diamond as Navigating Officer just after she had been accepted under white ensign. The Ship completed a full training package in UK waters before sailing for her maiden deployment to the Arabian Gulf on OP KIPION. During the seven months deployed, HMS Diamond spent much time working with three United States' Navy carrier strike groups developing Type 45 in preparation for working with the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers and building on UK – US interoperability.

Having completed his time at sea navigating, James moved to the Initial Warfare Officers' Training Element of the Navigation Training Unit in March 2013. During his time at the school, he was responsible for the Initial Warfare Officers' Course and trained every warfare officer who completed initial training during 2013 and 2014. Having been selected for command in early 2014, James assumed command of HMS Charger in November 2014.

James is recently married to Catherine and lives on the edge of the Meon Valley in Hampshire. In his spare time he enjoys diving, sailing, kayaking, mountain biking, walking, and generally being outside. He keeps his brain ticking-over by continuing to study with The Open University and is currently writing a dissertation on HIV and HCV Directly Acting Anti-virals.