



Lieutenant Thomas AH Reed Royal Navy

Commanding Officer HMS TRACKER

Thomas Reed was born in Salisbury, raised in Devon and educated in North Dorset at Clayesmore School. In January 2010 he followed two generations of his family into the Fleet Air Arm as an Air Engineering Technician where following training in HM Ships RALEIGH and SULTAN, he joined 702NAS specialising in Lynx Mk3 and Mk8. During a subsequent front-line tour with 815NAS embarked in HMS DIAMOND he stumbled onto the Bridge during a 'GUZ IN' and fell in love with the idea of driving Ships and set his heart on Command. Following success at AIB, and a short spell back at 702NAS having been promoted to LAET, he joined BRNC in the Autumn of 2013.

Fleet training in HM Ships BULWARK, GRIMSBY, and MONMOUTH gave him a breadth of experience and on completion of his NWC he was appointed to HMS LEDBURY as Navigation Officer. This first complement assignment saw the Ship emerge from an extensive upkeep, generate through a period of UK homeland tasking including OP ROCOCO and PIKE before sailing out to the Persian Gulf in support of the UK's forward deployed MCM Force on OP KIPION.

Moving directly from PNO to FNO, he left the oldest minehunter in service and joined the oldest frigate in service, HMS ARGYLL, as Navigation Officer in early 2018. There was no let-up in tempo as the Ship completed a period of Operational Sea Training and then deployed for nine months to the Indo-Asia Pacific region on Op CODELIGHT, a highlight of which was acting as force Navigator for 14 Ships during FPDA Exercise Bersama Lima 18. Recovering to the UK, ARGYLL conducted a period of UK and European Defence Engagement, including DSEI London interspersed with support to Op AUTOMA before a rapid re-generation (BOST) and an Op KIPION deployment in response to heightened tensions and threats to commerce in the Middle East. He departed HMS ARGYLL in the summer of 2020 to take up the position of PNO Course Instructor within the Navigational Training Unit at MWS Collingwood. A very rewarding 9 months of instruction followed where he was able impart his recent operational experience into the next generation of Small Ship Navigators. Selected for CQ1 Sea Command, he had the honour of assuming Command of HMS TRACKER of the Faslane Patrol Boat Squadron in July 2021.

A keen sailor and RYA/MCA Yachtmaster Offshore, he is a former RN Offshore Sailing Team Captain and active member of the Royal Naval Sailing Association. When on terra-firma he devotes great pursuit to all things DIY in and around his home in Southsea including tinkering with his beloved Ford Focus estate, improving his cooking abilities and gardening.