

Surgeon Commander Richard Bateman

Richard is a doctor who joined the Royal Navy in 1999, having transferred across from the Royal Army Medical Corps. During his career he has undertaken a variety of operational tours from Northern Ireland and Bosnia to Iraq and Afghanistan. After leaving the Royal Navy, Richard joined the RNR in 2016.

Richard grew up in West Sussex. He was educated at Whitgift school and the University of Bristol. His military career began with a cadetship in the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) where he undertook parachute selection and parachute training with 144 Parachute Squadron RAMC(V) as a medical student.

After graduation, he went on to serve with 5 Airborne Brigade as a General Duties Medical Officer. During this time he completed his diploma in the medical care of catastrophes.

In 1998, Richard began higher professional training in anaesthesia at the Royal Hospital Haslar. It was as a result of this that he determined to transfer from the RAMC to the Royal Navy Medical Service (RNMS) in 1999.

Richard deployed to Basra on OP TELIC IV, following which he spent a year in Australia developing specialist skills in critical care retrieval medicine. On completion of his specialist training, Richard deployed back to Iraq on OP TELIC IX.

In 2007, Richard moved back to Bristol to pursue an interest in anaesthesia for cardiac surgery and intensive care. He then deployed on OP HERRICK IX to Camp Bastion where his duties necessitated involvement in a range of clinical areas including the emergency room, operating department, intensive care unit and on board the MERT helicopter.

Richard left the regular RNMS in 2010 but joined the RNR in 2016 and was appointed Head of Department – Warfare Seaman branch at HMS FLYING FOX.

Having completed ACSC(R) in 2018, he has assumed command of HMS FLYING FOX at a time when the unit has been re-invigorated through a process of refurbishment and development.

Richard lives with his wife and two daughters just outside Bristol. He works as a consultant in cardiac anaesthesia at the Bristol Heart Institute and enjoys country pursuits including deer stalking, skiing and swimming.