

Commander Charles Collins Royal Navy

Commanding Officer
HMS MONTROSE
[Starboard Crew]



Commander Charles Collins was appointed Commanding Officer of HMS Montrose (Starboard) in November 2019.

Sponsored through University and commissioned in 2004, Charlie spent his early fleet time appointments in HMS Exeter, HMS Pembroke and HMS Gloucester; deploying to the Arctic, Africa and the Mediterranean. After specialising in Navigation, Charlie went on to serve in HMS Mersey conducting operations around the UK, HMS Clyde in the South Atlantic and HMS Sutherland when she deployed to America with the UK Carrier Strike Group.

After completing Staff Course in Shrivenham, Charlie took command of HMS Raider, HMS Dasher and Bristol University Royal Naval Unit, seeing through the Ship Swap to Op Imperious and HQ move to HMS Flying Fox. He graduated as top student from the Principal Warfare Officer Course and joined HMS Iron Duke as the Operations Officer and Head of Department. Charlie was involved in a diverse programme spanning the Pacific, Caribbean and Baltic; this included a SNMG1 deployment where he was awarded a Fleet Commander's commendation.

In April 2016 he joined COMPORFLOT as the inaugural Staff Warfare Officer, a highly rewarding role in which he implemented a variety of new initiatives which included the Warfare Training Squadron (WTS). Selected to Command MCM2 Crew 5, Charlie had the honour to serve as the CO of HMS Hurworth, HMS Cattistock and HMS Ledbury, which included an array of DT1 National Tasking and Defence Engagement activities prior to an 8-month deployment to the Gulf in 2018.

In his first assignment to NCHQ, Charlie acted as the Warfare primus inter pares across several capability areas within Ships Division; covering the NATO Readiness Initiative (NRI), munitions stockpile management and working to CSF as secretary to the RASSEB. Promoted to Commander and selected for SASB2 Command, Charlie assumed the role as SO1 Transformation, working on the HQ review and Support Transformation pillars under 2SL.

Charlie lives in Hampshire with his wife and three sons (born between 2008 and 2013). In his spare time, he enjoys being with his young family and getting involved in any sport particularly Rugby, Squash, Golf and following Formula 1.