



Commodore Martin Connell ADC Royal Navy

Martin Connell was born in Yorkshire in 1968 and joined Britannia Royal Naval College in 1987, graduating as a Naval College Entrant (Aviator).

Following flying training, his early career was spent at sea in various frigates and destroyers first as a Lynx Observer and then as an Officer of the Watch.

In the early 1990s he qualified as an Observer Instructor (QOI) at 702 Naval Air Squadron, followed by time as Flight Commander in HM Ships Coventry and Manchester as well as instructing front line aircrew in 815 Naval Air Squadron.

After training as an anti-submarine warfare officer, he joined the frigate HMS Lancaster as the Operations Officer.

This was followed by an appointment on the Maritime Battle Staff as the COS COORD/DSOO for the Commander United Kingdom Maritime Forces (COMUKMARFOR) which included Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, establishing the UK Maritime Headquarters (UKMCC) in Bahrain, and a number of periods embarked in each aircraft carrier.

Command of the Offshore Patrol Vessel HMS Severn followed in 2003 taking her from commissioning through to operational patrols.

He completed an International Fellow Masters Programme on International Security and Joint Operations at the United States Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, USA (04-05).

On return he took up an appointment in the Ministry of Defence working in the Directorate of Operational Capability, responsible for advising chiefs of staff and ministers on defence wide operational capability.

He took command of the Type 22 Frigate HMS Chatham in 2006 and deployed to the Middle East on Operation TELIC as the 1* Command Ship in the Northern Gulf, as well as conducting wider maritime security operations in the Near and Middle East.

He returned to the MoD Central Staff working in the Strategy area in Navy Resources and Plans (09-10) which included SDSR 2010, advising on all aspects of defence wide rotary and fixed wing aviation.

Following promotion to captain he worked in the personnel area of the Navy Command Headquarters advising on the future structure of the Fleet Air Arm.

He commanded the helicopter and commando carrier HMS Illustrious (12-13) which included maritime security and contingent operations in the Mediterranean with a mixed air group of RN, Army and RAF helicopters embarked.

He recently served as the Deputy Principal Staff Officer to the Chief of the Defence Staff and assumed Command of the United Kingdom Task Group in February 2015.

He is a graduate of the Higher Command and Staff Course (2011) and a Younger Brother of the Corporation of Trinity House.

Aside from a busy family life, his interests include mountain biking and being an eternally optimistic Chelsea season ticket holder.