



### **Captain Stuart Finn Royal Navy**

Stuart was educated at the Royal Hospital School, Suffolk, before being sponsored by the Royal Navy through Bristol University and subsequently joining Britannia Royal Naval College in 1999 as a Warfare Officer. Fleet training in HMS CUMBERLAND, CHATHAM and EXETER included service on Operation PALLISER (Sierra Leone) and qualification as a Ship's Diver. Following further Navigation training at HMS DRYAD in Southwick, he was assigned as the Navigating Officer in the minesweeper HMS CATTISTOCK.

In 2003 he transferred to flying duties as an Observer and was subsequently trained and qualified on the Merlin Maritime Patrol Helicopter. His first front line flying appointment was with 814 Naval Air Squadron (NAS) during which he embarked in the aircraft carrier HMS ILLUSTRIOUS and the fleet auxiliary RFA FORT VICTORIA for operational deployments to the Mediterranean, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman and Indian Ocean.

In 2008 he joined 824 NAS where he qualified as an instructor, teaching student aircrew how to fly and fight the Merlin helicopter in all its mission roles, from ashore and at sea. During this time, he was briefly loaned to 820 NAS in 2010 as the Counter Piracy Flight Commander to establish and deploy a Merlin flight as part of the UK Enhanced Boarding Capability on OP CAPRI off the Somali coastline. Upon return to 824 NAS he gained award of his advanced instructor qualification before joining 820 NAS as the Senior Observer and Executive Officer deployed on maritime security ops in the Middle East.

Selected for Squadron Command in 2013, his final flying tour was in command of 814 NAS, which was deployed on maritime security operations in the Middle East. This also included Operation WEALD in 2015, conducting Search and Rescue operations in the Mediterranean embarked in HMS BULWARK where the Ship and Squadron rescued nearly 5000 people from the sea and for which he was awarded a Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service.

Staff tours have included Executive Assistant to Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm and in MOD as a Commander in the Navy Plans area of Financial Military Capability, where he was heavily involved in the National Security Capability Review and Modernising Defence Programme. He spent six months in London on a professional placement with Ernst & Young (EY) where he worked as a consultant business analyst with a digital innovation team delivering a software platform for a government department.

He is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers, a Freeman of the City of London and a Fellow of the Westminster Abbey Institute.