

## Commander Hannah MacKenzie Royal Naval Reserve



Commander Hannah MacKenzie joined the Royal Naval Reserve (RNR) as a Communications Rating (SM) at HMS CALLIOPE whilst a student at the University of Durham. She transferred to the regular service following graduation, joining BRNC Dartmouth in January 2000. Unfortunately, a knee injury caused her to be medically discharged after only four months service. Following a successful return from injury she re-joined the RNR in June 2002 at HMS WILDFIRE and completed Junior Officer training passing Fleetboard in August 2005. As a JO she completed sea-time on HMS ALBION building on previous sea-time spent onboard HMS FEARLESS and HMS LIVERPOOL as an Officer Candidate.

On promotion to Lieutenant she joined the AWNIS sub-specialisation focussing on operational navigational safety. She participated in numerous exercises in the UK and further afield as an AWNIS specialist providing support to UK and NATO commands on navigational safety matters. Hannah was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in October 2012 and was immediately appointed Executive Officer of HMS WILDFIRE. She mobilised to UK Maritime Trade Operations, Dubai as Officer in Charge for 6 months from July 2013 – January 2014, the first AWNIS specialist to be deployed in a role more traditionally occupied by an NCAGS officer. On her return from mobilisation she was appointed Head of Engagement, HMS WILDFIRE and SO2 Maritime Trade Operations. That year she was also awarded the Greater London “Reservist of the Year” accolade. In April 2016 she returned to the role of Executive Officer, HMS WILDFIRE and passed the Advanced Command Staff Course (R) in July of the same year.

In November 2016 she was appointed SO2 Specialist Engagement for Eastern England on Full Time Reserve Service. In this role she headed up a Royal Navy Specialist Engagement Team focussed on engaging with young people to raise awareness of the Royal Navy. In early 2018 she was selected to attend the Regular Advanced Command and Staff Course at the Joint Services Command and Staff College and promoted to Commander in June the same year. She completed ACSC 23 in July 2019, graduating with a MA in Defence Studies from King’s College London and received a Commandant’s Commendation for her overall contribution to the course. Since graduating, she has remained at the Defence Academy as a member of the ACSC Directing Staff and held the role of SO1 Command and Staff Training for the Maritime Reserve. More recently she temporarily deployed in an operational planning role to the UK’s Standing Joint Force Headquarters in support of Op BROADSHARE, the UK’s response to COVID-19 in the British Overseas Territories. She took command of HMS WILDFIRE on 8 July 2020.

Her career outside the Royal Navy has seen her work as a specialist web and content designer in the Charity Sector and for 13 years in financial services in the City of London. Initially at the London Metal Exchange she was part of a busy marketing team promoting the activities of the Exchange as well as developing the business. She joined a major European Investment Bank in 2007 where she worked in Commodities Operations in a variety of roles including project management, Head of Operations and more recently as a Business Analyst focussing on the merger of two commodities business units. In November 2016, she decided to take a career break from the City to focus on her Navy career.

As well as her recent Masters qualification from King’s College London, Hannah holds a LLB(Hons) Law from the University of Durham and a MSc (IT) from the University of Liverpool. She was shortlisted as a “Corporate Rising Star” in the 2014 British LGBT Awards and was placed 79 in the Diva Power List in 2016. In her “spare time” she likes to keep herself busy by occasionally moonlighting as a DJ, playing tennis, singing in the ACSC band and braving the London roads on her bike.