



Commodore Jim Higham OBE ADC

Commodore Higham joined Britannia Royal Naval College as a University Cadet in 1988 and subsequently studied engineering at the University of Warwick. In his early career as a Naval Weapon Engineer, he enjoyed deployments to Africa, the Middle East, South Atlantic and Indian Ocean serving in Her Majesty's Ships Euryalus, Coventry, Boxer and Marlborough. Having then gained an MSc in Guided Weapon Systems, he worked on the acquisition of the Anglo-French & Italian Sea Viper weapon system in Paris before Sea Charge in HMS Portland. A return to the DE&S saw him become the combat system lead for the Type 45 Destroyer programme during Daring and Dauntless' build and sea trials.

Having graduated from ACSC, he completed a fascinating tour in the Directorate of Joint Capability, sponsoring numerous Urgent Operational Requirements needed in Iraq and Afghanistan before focusing on cross-Government, inter-agency and international efforts to counter the IED threat. This led to him being appointed the Military Assistant to the Minister of State for the Armed Forces during a period spanning a change of Government and the Strategic Defence Review of 2010. After a 12 month deployment to Kabul managing ISAF's 3 and 4* engagement with the Afghan Government, he was awarded an OBE on the 2013 operational list.

Several short but challenging roles at DE&S followed, including work for the Finance Director on the renegotiation of the QEC contract and for CDM and COMF on the T26 project Vector review. He completed HCSC in 2015. In Jan 2016 he assumed the role of Head of Warship Support, holding responsibility for the through-life and worldwide support of all in-service classes of Complex Warship in the Royal Navy.

Commodore Higham assumed Command of HM Naval Base Portsmouth in Jan 2018.

He is married with 2 children and a VW campervan. A keen sportsman, his current involvement is limited to middle-aged road cycling and his role as President of RN Basketball.