

## Captain Catherine Jordan Royal Navy



Catherine Jordan joined Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth in September 1993 as a University Cadet Aviator. Graduating with a Law Degree and after qualifying as a Lynx Helicopter Observer, she became the first female Flight Commander in the Royal Navy in 2002 and has subsequently led front line operations in the Middle East, Mediterranean, Arctic Circle and the Caribbean. She has commanded the Ships HMS Severn, HMS Clyde and HMS ST Albans. Following Staff tours in Navy Command's Headquarters in Resources, Plans and Policy, she assumed command of HMS Collingwood and became Captain of the Maritime Warfare School in September 2019.

Educated at Wellfield Comprehensive School, Gordonstoun School and the University of Manchester, she completed initial fleet training in Her Majesty's Ships Broadsword, Brave and Northumberland while reading her degree before graduating in 1997.

Selected for Lynx Helicopter training Jordan operated as the Flight Observer responsible for the planning and execution of navigation, tactics and weapons every flight including two operational deployments to the Mediterranean as part of a NATO anti-terrorism operation. Selected for Military Command, she became Flight Commander of HMS ST Albans and during the build up to the Iraq War in 2003, led her team in counter-terrorism operations, operating from RAF Gibraltar, escorting shipping into the Mediterranean in the face of an increased terrorist threat before completing a deployment to the Middle East as part of a multi-national task force.

After initial staff training, Jordan attended the surface ships Principal Warfare Officer course to train her to 'fight' from the Ship rather than the helicopter cockpit. Graduating as the top student for the whole year, she was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in 2005 and joined HMS Iron Duke as Operations Officer with responsibility for Gunnery and Above Water Warfare. This assignment saw deployments to both the Arctic Circle and the Caribbean. Then, joining the UK Maritime Battlestaff in 2007, Jordan spent 6 months as the Staff Operations Officer to the Commander of the Task Force in the Northern Arabian Gulf, protecting the Iraqi Oil Platforms.

Selected for Sea Command, she commanded HMS Severn, an Offshore Patrol Vessel of the Fishery Protection Squadron, HMS Clyde, the Falkland Islands Patrol Vessel and was delighted to return to HMS ST Albans as the Commanding Officer to regenerate the Type 23 Frigate after significant technological updates in 2013. She delivered the Ship back to the Navy's front-line commencing preparations for a Gulf Deployment. Shore appointments include working in the Resources and Plans Division in Navy Command's Headquarters as the Programmer for the Surface Ships and Above Water Weapons sub-portfolio, which includes the new Queen Elizabeth Class Carriers and in May 2018 returned to her aviation roots as the Aviation Chief of Staff in the Carrier Strike & Aviation Division. She assumed Command of HMS Collingwood and the Maritime Warfare School in September 2019.

Captain Jordan is married to Andy, another Naval Officer, and they live in Hampshire with their three young children. She is a member of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers, passionate about providing opportunities through education, a Younger Brother of Trinity House, a Freeman of the City of London, and since 2018 Vice Chair of the Women's Royal Naval Service Benevolent Trust.