

Lieutenant Commander Richard Kemp Royal Navy

Richard Kemp was born in Essex and joined the Royal Navy in 2002 after reading International Relations and Politics at the University of Portsmouth.

Following initial officer training at Britannia Royal Naval College and Fleet Time onboard HMS EDINBURGH in the Mediterranean, he was appointed as a Gunnery Officer and British Sea Fisheries Officer in HMS MERSEY, boarding and inspecting fishing vessels operating in UK waters. Subsequently, he was appointed to HMS CHATHAM as the Signal Communications Officer and Officer of the Watch 1. This was a busy and demanding appointment which culminated with an Op TELIC deployment to the Northern Arabian Gulf, where CHATHAM acted as the flagship for the RN Command of CTF 158, responsible for the protection of Iraqi waters and oil infrastructure. During this time CHATHAM was also involved in a major narcotics interdiction in the Arabian Sea.

Returning to the UK, Richard undertook navigation training prior to being appointed to HMS YORK as the Navigating Officer. The next two years saw YORK return to the Fleet following a major refit, participate in multi-national exercises, and then conduct a challenging seven month deployment on Atlantic Patrol Task (South), which was mainly spent in and around the Falkland Islands. The highlight of this time was the chance to navigate through the Antarctic ice to the remote South Sandwich Islands before visiting the stunning wilderness of South Georgia. He was then selected to serve on the staff of Flag Officer Sea Training as a navigation sea-rider, responsible for the training and development of bridge teams within the small ship community.

Richard joined the Faslane Patrol Boat Squadron in September 2012, assuming Command of first HMS DASHER and then HMS RAIDER. In July 2013 he was promoted and assumed Command of the Faslane Patrol Boat Squadron, being responsible for the military force protection of high value units within the Firth of Clyde. During this time, he and his crew spent two months reinforcing the Royal Navy Gibraltar Squadron during a period of increased tension with Spain.

Post Command, Richard undertook Initial Staff Training at the Joint Services Command and Staff College in Shrivenham followed by attendance on Principal Warfare Officer Course. Upon completing the course, he was appointed to HMS RICHMOND, joining her for migrant and ASW operations in the Mediterranean. After RICHMOND's return to the UK she conducted a transition to the Adaptive Force, conducting a wide range of training and trials in home waters. During this period Richard was seconded to the staff of COMATG, for the first part of a deployment to the Mediterranean and Middle East, conducting amphibious exercises in the Adriatic and the Gulf of Oman.

In April 2017 Richard joined the staff of COMUKMARFOR and completed the Advanced ASW Course. Participating in a number of large scale multi-national exercises with NATO partners, he also completed an OPTOUR at the UK Maritime Component Commander's HQ in Bahrain as the Deputy Staff Operations Officer, which included the opening of the UK Naval Support Facility. Upon his return to the UK he assumed Command of MCM1C5 and HMS PEMBROKE in July 2019