

Lieutenant Commander Keith Mabbott Royal Navy

Commanding Officer Fleet Diving Group



Keith joined the Royal Navy in 1998 having transferred from Royal Marine officer training to become a Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving Officer. He has served on Minehunters, Frigates, Destroyers and Aircraft carriers, with extensive Operational Staff experience.

Fleet training included operational experience in HMS Brecon on Northern Ireland patrols. He was OOW in HMS Exeter and also became the Diving Officer and Boarding Officer in 2001, deploying on NATO operations in a changing world in the immediate aftermath of 7/11.

He attended Mine Clearance Diving Officers Course in 2002 which included UK EOD experience in SDG before joining HMS Penzance as Operations Officer in 2004. This period included extensive mine hunting experience in Northern Europe including several live EOD tasks. An Op Tour with CTF150 preceded 2 years as XO firstly in HMS Ramsey, which led from an Arctic Winter exercise to the Arabian Gulf as part of the initial AINTREE deployment, a true adventure which embraced Mission Command and offered a very operationally focused view of MCM. Having planned and executed the first MCMV RiP from the Gulf, he completed his XO tour in HMS Pembroke.

Following selection for promotion to Lieutenant Commander and PWO course in 2008, Mabbott joined the Fleet Flagship, HMS Illustrious as PWOA for 6 months of fixed-wing flying operations in 2009 before moving to HMS Somerset as PWOA and then Operations Officer in 2010 for an Op TELIC deployment protecting the Iraqi Oil Platforms and conducting wider Maritime Security in the Gulf against the backdrop of regional high tension following the Iranian detention of British sailors.

From 2012 Mabbott served with COMUKMARFOR including many varied staff roles from Mine Warfare Battle Staff to 3* Commands, geographically from Scotland to the Pacific. It included 6 months as DSOO to UKMCC and a deployment to the Gulf with COMUKMCMFOR as COS.

Latterly, he has been COS to MCM1 Squadron in Faslane and deployed again as COS to COMUKMCMFOR, prior to assuming Command of FDG in March 2018.

A keen sportsman, Mabbott enjoys road cycling and running ultra-marathons.