

Commander Matthew Marriott Royal Navy

Matt Marriott was born in London and educated at the City of London School. He joined the Royal Navy on a university cadetship in 1997, and after initial training at Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth and in HM Ships Coventry and Chatham, he went up to University College Durham to read Physics. Specialist fleet training followed in HMS Alderney.

He was appointed as Navigator and Operations Officer of the Northern Ireland patrol vessel HMS Dulverton in 2003, providing support to the civil authorities as part of the normalisation process following the Good Friday Agreement. He qualified as a Fighter Controller in 2005 and joined HMS Liverpool, deploying to the West Indies for disaster relief and counter drug operations, as well as to West Africa and the South Atlantic. In 2006 he assumed Command of the patrol boat HMS Dasher, tasked to conduct maritime security and force protection operations in support of British Forces Cyprus. After qualifying as a Marine Enforcement Officer, he joined HMS Mersey as second in command, carrying out fishery protection and maritime security operations in UK waters, and spending about half his time on board in Temporary Command under the three-watch manning system. Having completed Principal Warfare Officer Course, Marriott joined HMS Richmond in 2013 as she emerged from a docking and maintenance period. Initially the Gunnery Officer for the regeneration following the docking period, he later became Operations Officer for the pre-deployment training period and deployment to the South Atlantic. Marriott was then appointed to the Ministry of Defence, where he was responsible for providing maritime operations advice and managing a large, complex, and diverse capability programme for specialist users.

After completing the Advanced Command and Staff Course in 2017, Commander Marriott was appointed to be the UK Permanent Joint Headquarters' maritime liaison officer to the Royal Saudi Naval Forces Western Fleet in Jeddah. On return to the UK he joined Defence Operational Capability as a staff officer, conducting independent assessments of operational capability and lessons. Marriott assumed command of HMS Diamond in May 2019.

He remains a student of strategy, politics, maritime power, and the culture of organisations. When not at work, life revolves around his family, and he enjoys walking his relatives' dogs and supporting his wife's equestrian pursuits.