

Commander
Dave Mason
Royal Navy



Commanding Officer
HMS SOMERSET

Commander Dave Mason joined the Royal Navy as a Warfare Officer in 2004 after gaining a BSc in Sports Science at the University of Southampton. Following initial training at BRNC and in HM Ships ILLUSTRIOUS and CATTISTOCK he was appointed to the Fishery Protection Vessel, HMS SEVERN as the Gunnery Officer.

In 2008, Dave completed the Mine Warfare Course before deployments as the Operations Officer of MCM 2 CREW 4, and subsequently Executive Officer of MCM 2 CREW 2. During both tours he played a key role in their busy generation before deploying as part of the standing MCMFOR on Op KIPION.

Dave completed Principal Warfare Officer Course in 2015 before joining HMS ST ALBANS as the Principal Warfare Officer (Under Water Warfare). Here he enjoyed a diverse programme spanning BOST, DCT and a 9 month deployment on Op KIPION as the Operations Officer. The deployment itself included prolonged periods of support to USS Harry S Truman and FS Charles de Gaulle, Counter-Narcotics Operations and ASW Patrols in the Gulf of Aden.

He joined FOST in Nov 2016 as SWO (UW) where he was responsible for the training and development of ASW techniques and procedures to many Royal Navy and multi-national units. As a member of the Towed Array Response Team he played a major role in their award of a Fleet Commander's Commendation in 2019.

Assigned as the Executive Officer of HMS LANCASTER in Aug 2019, as SNO he led her delivery from refit before a busy generation as FRE. Subsequent operations across the EA2 JOA resulted in an extremely varied programme in support of maritime security operations as far as the High North and Baltic. Appointed as the Commanding Officer for his final few months onboard, he completed his time with 'The Queen's Frigate' continuing to deliver operations in support of DT1 as well as Carrier Escort Duties alongside HMS PRINCE OF WALES.

He assumed Command of HMS SOMERSET in Jan 22.

Dave lives in Hampshire with his wife and three young children. In his spare time he is the President of the RN Real Tennis and Rackets Association, enjoys playing squash and walking his lively Springer Spaniel Fred.