



Commander Sarah E Oakley Royal Navy
Commander Fishery Protection Squadron

Sarah joined the Royal Navy in September 1995 after completing a Modern History degree at Trinity College, Oxford. A full career warfare officer, the majority of her time has been spent at sea or on operational tours overseas. She followed a traditional route to Command, with early experience in the Fishery Protection Squadron as the Gunnery Officer and British Seas Fisheries Officer in HMS Alderney.

Thereafter she progressed to Officer of the Watch/Signal Communications Officer in HMS Kent before joining HMS Norfolk as the Navigating Officer. On completion of further warfare training Sarah joined HMS Chatham as the Principle Warfare Officer responsible for Above Water Warfare, and then became Operations Officer during the ship's OP TELIC deployment in 2008 to protect the Iraqi Oil Platforms in the Northern Gulf.

Operational tours on the staffs of the Commander of the Iraqi Maritime Task Force and Commander of the Combined Task Force responsible for Counter Terrorism and Counter Narcotics (CTF 150) were interspersed with a brief period on the Maritime Battle Staff before Sarah was selected to command HMS Mersey in 2012 and then HMS Clyde in 2014.

Her shore time has been very varied; including a training appointment as Head of Navigation at Britannia Royal Naval College, twelve months as a Trials Officer on the Maritime Commissioning, Trials and Assessment organisation in Portsmouth, a year at the Joint Services Command and Staff College as a student on Advanced Command and Staff Course 2014/2015 and, most recently, working in the Finance and Military Capability area of the Ministry of Defence during the strategic defence and security review.

Sarah's home is in Alverstoke. A gin aficionado, she enjoys living by the sea with her fiancé, an engineering officer in the Royal Air Force. When her professional commitments allow she likes to spend time with family and friends, trying to keep fit and active and she can also be found on the touch line, supporting the Royal Navy Rugby Union.