

Commander Giles Palin Royal Navy



Giles Palin was educated at Ryde School on the Isle of Wight before reading law at Brunel University, joining BRNC Dartmouth in 1996. After Junior Warfare Officer training, which saw service in the Hong Kong Patrol Vessel HMS Plover (covering the hand over of Hong Kong to China) and HMS Birmingham, Palin undertook a number of watchkeeping and Navigating appointments in a variety of HM Ships including deployments to the Arabian Gulf, Far East, Falklands and Caribbean.

Palin took command of Cambridge University's Royal Naval Unit and the attached patrol boat HMS Raider in 2004. Initial Staff Course and Principal Warfare Officer's (PWO) course followed, from which he qualified as a PWO (Above Water Warfare) and was appointed to the Amphibious Assault Ship HMS Albion for his initial PWO tour, deploying to the Arctic Circle and West Africa.

Having passed the Specialist Navigating Officer's course in 2009, where he was awarded the Captain Farmer Memorial Prize, Palin completed a short tour on the staff of Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST)(South), delivering navigation training to ships preparing for operations. Subsequently assigned to HMS Ark Royal as her last Navigating Officer, the Ship lead a Carrier Strike Task Group deployment to the east coast of the United States and Canada, the last deployment with the Harrier GR9 Aircraft, before being decommissioned in 2011.

Palin was selected for his second sea command in July 2011, assuming responsibility for Crew 5 of the 1st Mine Counter-Measures Squadron. These two years in post included commands of HM Ships Pembroke, Grimsby and Ramsey, the latter being deployed to the Arabian Gulf in 2012. A two-year staff assignment as the PWO's Career Manager followed prior to promotion to Commander and assignment to HMS Queen Elizabeth as her first Commander Navigation. This privileged, three-year assignment encompassed the Ship's emergence from build through initial sea trials and culminated in her first deployment away from UK waters and initial embarkation of the F35B Lightning II aircraft. Selected for further sea command, Palin assumed command of HMS Dragon in May 2019.

When not at sea, Giles enjoys maximising time with his family and fitting in opportunities for sailing and golf.