



Educated at Portsmouth Grammar School, Simon Pressdee joined Britannia Royal Naval College in 1994 as a Naval College Entrant and completed his Young Officer training onboard HM Ships Battleaxe, Cottesmore and Montrose.

Initially a submariner, he served in HM Submarines Splendid and Triumph where he experienced the full envelope of SSN(T) operations. After selection and specialist training he qualified as a Mine Clearance Diving Officer in 2001. Between 2001 and 2004 he was the Operations Officer of HMS Grimsby and Executive Officer of HMS Inverness, which included operations in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Baltic and UK waters. Further Clearance Diving and EOD specialist appointments followed, during which time he completed the All Arms Commando Course and Joint Service IED Disposal Course. He subsequently joined the Fleet Diving Squadron as Officer in Charge of Fleet Diving Unit Three, where he led and contributed to the development of combined expeditionary maritime EOD operations across Europe and as part of OP TELIC in the Gulf. In 2008, he joined the staff of the UK Maritime Component Commander in Bahrain. Particular highlights during this period were deploying as the lead EOD and Diving advisor as part of Op TECATE during the clearance of legacy minefields in Iraqi territorial waters and subsequently a secondment to the US Navy and Commander DESRON 50, tasked with the protection of Iraqi strategic maritime infrastructure where he was responsible for integrating Iraqi Maritime forces to the operation.

Intermediate staff course and Principal Warfare Officer training followed, completing in 2010. Appointed to HMS Liverpool as the PWO(U) and latterly the Operations Officer, responsible for the regeneration of HMS Liverpool and maintenance of the high readiness required within the Response Force Task Group. In March 2011 Liverpool was activated and sailed at short notice as the spearhead of the UK's contribution to enforce UNSCRs against the Gaddafi regime in Libya - OP ELLAMY. Following over seven months of live operations and engagements along the Libyan coast, which included the direction of Naval Fires and Surface Action he was awarded a Joint Commanders Commendation.

In January 2012 he was assigned to Navy Command HQ where he was charged with the smooth transfer of MCM and Diving Force Generation to the waterfront and the establishment of the Surface Ships Coordination Cell. From April 2012 he moved to PORFLOT and became responsible to Captain MFP for the force generation of Minewarfare and Patrol ships, Mine Warfare Battlestaffs and the Fleet Diving Squadron units.

Assuming command of MCM2 Crew 6 on 2 September 2013, he initially commanded Ledbury deploying to the Baltic in support of standing NATO commitments prior to regenerating Crew 6 for Op KIPION. Deploying to the Middle East in June 14, he took command of Atherstone and embarked on seven months of Maritime Security and MCM operations in the Gulf. On returning to the UK he assumed command of HMS Cattistock in February 2015.