

Lieutenant Commander
Joel Roberts
Royal Navy
Commanding Officer
MCM1 Crew 6



Roberts began his career in 2006 with the Royal Naval Reserve in HMS SCOTIA before joining Britannia Royal Naval College in 2007 as a Warfare Officer. He conducted training appointments in HMS EDINBURGH on Atlantic Patrol Task (South), and HMS ALBION on humanitarian operations and regional naval training around West Africa. His Specialist Fleet time was spent in UK waters in HMS PENZANCE and HMS SHOREHAM.

In 2009 he became the Navigating Officer of MCM2 Crew 3 navigating HMS CATTISTOCK in UK waters, HMS CHIDDINGFOLD on Operation TELIC in the Arabian Gulf, and HMS BROCKLESBY on NATO and UK mine disposal operations in support of Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR and Operation ELLAMY in response to the Libyan conflict in 2011. He then joined HMS KENT in 2011 as the Navigating Officer and navigated her through generation from refit and Operation KIPION deployment to the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean.

His first Command assignment was in the Fishery Protection Squadron as an Executive Officer. He completed a 6-month tour in HMS CLYDE in 2014 as the Falklands Islands Patrol Vessel before joining HMS SEVERN in 2015 for her first-of-class Atlantic Patrol Task (North) deployment to the Caribbean supporting UK Overseas Territories and conducting counter narcotics operations with an embarked US Coastguard law enforcement detachment. SEVERN then returned to UK waters for national tasking, marine enforcement operations on behalf of the Marine Management Organisation, and law enforcement tasking as part of the National Maritime Asset Co-ordination trial alongside embarked Border Force agents.

Following Initial Staff training and Principle Warfare Officer (PWO) course he joined HMS DRAGON as a PWO in 2017 and served as the Operations Officer for her Operation KIPION deployment to the Arabian Gulf which included significant regional engagement and narcotics seizures totalling in excess of 18 tonnes. He joined the United Kingdom Carrier Strike Group battlestaff in 2019 as the Chief of Staff Coord for WESTLANT 19, the QUEEN ELIZABETH Carrier Strike Group deployment to the East Coast of the United States to develop UK sovereign carrier strike capability and conduct F-35B operational testing.

He assumed Command of MCM1 Crew 6 in HMS RAMSEY in April 2020 conducting a NATO SNMCMG1 deployment to the Baltic as her final Commanding Officer prior to decommissioning. He then assumed Command of HMS GRIMSBY in October 2020 on UK operations, and HMS BANGOR in October 2021 deployed on Operation KIPION. Awarded a MBE in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours List, he is a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Security Professionals, holds a BA in Humanities from the University of Edinburgh (2006), and a MA in Modern Warfare from King's College London (2020).