



### **CV FOR CDR G SIMMONITE DFC RN**

Commander Gavin Simmonite was born in Yorkshire and educated in Bristol. He joined the Royal Navy in 1996 and, after initial officer training at Britannia Royal Naval College, he completed flying training, specialising as a Commando helicopter pilot.

He joined 846 Naval Air Squadron (NAS) in 1999 where he undertook a number of amphibious deployments and saw operational service in Sierra Leone on Operation PALLISER.

In 2001 he began an exchange tour with the Royal Air Force on 33 Squadron flying the Puma helicopter and saw further operations, including support to the NATO Stabilisation Force in Bosnia on Operation PALATINE and deployments as part of NATO's multinational quick reaction Allied Mobile Force (Land) (AMF(L)).

Returning to 846 NAS in 2004 as a Flight Commander he conducted further operations as Detachment Commander (Det Cdr), including Operation ALTHEA/OCULUS in Bosnia in support of the European Union Force (EUFOR) and on a number of tours to Iraq on Operation TELIC.

In 2006 he joined HMS ALBION as the Aviation Officer, responsible for embarked aviation operations, sailing on numerous deployments including the west coast of Africa and winter exercises in the Arctic region.

On promotion to Lieutenant Commander he returned to 846 NAS as the Operations Officer in 2008. He participated in a number of deployments as Det Cdr to Afghanistan on Operations HERRICK and KINDLE, where was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Subsequently he served as Executive Assistant to Chief of Staff (Aviation and Carriers) during the busy and demanding Strategic Defence and Security Review 2010 period. On completion he attended Advanced Command and Staff Course and completed his Masters Degree in Defence Studies.

Following a short tour beginning 2012 to the Joint Helicopter Command as the Chinook Capability Manager, he returned to the Commando Helicopter Force in 2013 ahead of his appointment as Commanding Officer 845 NAS.