



Commodore Peter James Sparkes BSC(HONS) Royal Navy
Commander Portsmouth Flotilla

Born and educated in Liverpool, Peter Sparkes joined the RN as a Warfare Officer in 1990. He undertook a range of junior officer appointments in HM Ships Edinburgh, Gloucester, Southampton and Monmouth. Deployments included Operation Armilla in the Gulf, Operation Sharpguard in the Adriatic, and counter-drug and disaster relief operations in the Western Atlantic.

He qualified as a Principal Warfare Officer in 1998, winning the Jackson-Everett prize for the top Communications and Electronic Warfare student. Peter was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and subsequently served as the Operations Officer of the amphibious flagship, HMS Fearless. Appointed to the MOD in 2000, he led on the development and acquisition of Offensive Information Operations capability and the delivery of associated support to Operation Veritas (Afghanistan). As the Executive Officer and Second in Command of the frigate HMS Norfolk (2002-2003) he deployed to the Gulf on Operation Telic (Iraq).

Peter returned to the MOD as a Commander in 2004 as the lead for naval communication and information systems and, of particular note, the introduction into service of the RN's Warship Electronic Charting Capability (WECDIS) and the Warship Automatic Identification System (W-AIS). After a short tour at the Maritime Warfare School, as Commander Resources and Plans, he commanded the Type 22 frigate HMS Cumberland (2007 – 2009) on counter-piracy operations off Somalia, where the Ship interdicted several pirate action groups and was rewarded with a notably successful prosecution in Kenya. Post command Peter was assigned to the Directorate of Naval Personnel, where he was responsible for the career management of some 1,200 Warfare Officers.

Promoted to Captain in November 2010, Peter led the Ice Patrol Ship (Replacement) project prior to assuming command of HMS Protector in 2011. Thereafter, he oversaw the rapid transformation and challenging force generation of the Ship, which he subsequently commanded on two very rewarding Austral summer patrols of the British Antarctic Territory. Upon his return to the UK's marginally warmer climes, he was appointed to Permanent Joint Head Quarters J5 Plans, with regional responsibility for Africa and the Americas. He re-joined Navy Command Personnel Division as the Head of Career Management in 2014, charged with the assignment and professional development of all RN / RM officers and other ranks below the rank of Captain / Colonel. Peter was promoted to Commodore and assumed Command of the Portsmouth Flotilla on 1 June 2015.

Peter Sparkes lives in Hampshire with his wife and his son is thoroughly enjoying University. Peter is a Younger Brother of Trinity House, a Freeman of the City of London, and an Honorary Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers. He enjoys keeping fit by running and cycling, and he participates in a variety of other outdoor pursuits, including skiing.