

Lieutenant Commander Dave Starkey Royal Navy

Commanding Officer
Delta/Echo Sqn



Dave Starkey was born in Harrow but made in the Royal Navy. On completing training as a Warfare Officer, Dave was appointed as an Officer of the Watch on the Type 23 Frigate HMS KENT. A busy operational programme saw KENT deployed throughout the Middle East and India including OP TELIC Maritime in the Arabian Gulf.

Dave then followed his heart and specialised early as a Mine Clearance Diving Officer. He was appointed as Operations and Diving Officer on board HUNT Class MCMVs during which he was deployed for long periods in the Arabian Gulf.

Thereafter, a period outside of his specialisation included training such as All Arms Commando Course and Intermediate Staff Course (Maritime). Returning to branch, Dave assumed the post of Executive Officer MCM2 Crew2. Once again, deployed for lengthy periods, first to the Mediterranean as the Flagship of SNMCMG2 and then to the Arabian Gulf for OP KIPION MCM, forming part of the UK's contribution to regional coalition MCM Forces.

Following another period out of specialisation, Dave trained as a Principle Warfare Officer. Quickly promoted to the role of Operations Officer of the UK's Fleet Flagship and Helicopter Carrier, HMS OCEAN, he was directly involved in the Command and Control of CTF 50 (Strike Carrier), high profile Defence Engagement and multi-environment exercises across the Middle East and Mediterranean. OCEAN was then assigned as Flagship to the Standing NATO Maritime Group in the Mediterranean. Demonstrating the flexibility of maritime manoeuvre, OCEAN swiftly re-rolled to support Humanitarian and Disaster Relief. A rewarding endeavour, Dave was responsible for the planning and execution of life saving assistance to the islands of the Caribbean devastated by hurricanes Irma and Maria. After OCEAN, Dave once again returned to his specialisation and was appointed as Chief of Staff to COMUKMCMFOR on OP KIPION in May 2018.

With MWBS as part of the wider Commander UK Strike Forces enterprise, Dave joined the central staff as N35 MW SO2 in Jan 2019. Other than conducting Task Force level planning, Dave was solely responsible for the training, Force Generation and validation of MWBS on behalf of CSF. Working on a 2* operational staff afforded numerous opportunities across the spectrum of maritime operations, including a period of secondment to US 2nd Fleet as N3 during BALTOPS 19, responsible for current operations of a Task Force of 49 ships from 18 nations.

Dave was then appointed as Chief of Staff to a nascent planning team at MAB6 during which time he was selected for Military Diving Command. Dave assumed command of the Expeditionary Diving Group in Aug 21.

When not countering explosive ordnance or conducting estimates, Dave lives in St Albans and spends most of his time with his two children, cycling, running, skiing, playing rugby and above all – sailing.