

## Commanding Officer: **Captain Dan Stembridge ADC Royal Navy**



Captain Danny Stembridge is an experienced naval aviator who has flown helicopters from destroyers and frigates, Sea Harriers from Royal Navy carriers and F-18E Strike-fighters from US Navy carriers. A practiced strategic advisor, he attained a Masters in Defence Studies from Kings College London and has twice worked in The Ministry of Defence at the heart of Government.

Captain Stembridge was commissioned into the Royal Navy in 1989 and appointed to 815 Naval Air Squadron as a Maritime Attack Lynx pilot supporting the NATO Mission in the Bosnia and operations in Somalia and the Persian Gulf. Following a further tour as an instructor, he successfully transitioned to the Sea Harrier Strike-Fighter, joining 801 Naval Air Squadron in 1999. Embarked in the carrier HMS Illustrious, he flew missions in support of OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH over Iraq and OPERATION PALLISER in Sierra Leone.

In 2002 he completed an Air Warfare Instructors (AWI) Course, joining 899 NAS as an instructor, before returning to 801 NAS as Squadron AWI embarked in HMS Ark Royal, HMS Illustrious and HMS Invincible, where he twice deployed to the Persian Gulf.

An exchange appointment with the United States Navy in the Mojave Desert followed, flying the FA-18E/F Super Hornet and Harrier AV8-B to conduct Operational Test missions in support to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Selected as the Executive Officer for the US Navy's Strike Fighter Test Division, he embarked in the USS Ronald Reagan and became the first foreign national to day/night Carrier Qualify in the Super Hornet.

In 2007 he attended the Advanced Command and Staff Course, earning a Masters in Defence Studies from Kings College London, before promotion to Commander and an F-35B Joint Strike Fighter appointment to the Ministry of Defence.

Selected for Command of 800 NAS, he took the position of Executive Officer RNAS Yeovilton following the SDSR Defence Review in 2010 and the decision to disband Joint Force Harrier and decommission HMS Ark Royal.

After presiding over an 18 month Service Inquiry he was selected to stand-up and Command the Royal Navy's Fixed Wing Force, spanning 3 aircraft types at 2 Air Stations. On promotion to Captain, he was again appointed to London as Chief of Staff, Carrier Enabled Power Projection, co-ordinating the delivery of the Carriers with its Air Group and advising ministers during SDSR 15.

Captain Stembridge assumed command in Aug 2016. Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose operates 24/7 365 days a year, generating Royal Navy air power to protect the strategic nuclear deterrent, defend our nations aircraft carriers, support counter-terrorism and protect British interests worldwide. The Air Station is the largest single-site employer in Cornwall with some 3000 personnel, 8 Naval Air Squadrons, the Maritime Aviation Support Force, engineer training and School of Flight Deck Operations.

