

Lieutenant Commander Chris Stephenson Royal Navy

After joining the Royal Navy as a Direct Graduated Entrant in 1999, Chris Stephenson completed Common Fleet Time in HMS NORFOLK and Specialist Fleet Time in HMS SHEFFIELD, including deployment to APT(N). On completion of initial training served as Gunnery Officer in HMS QUORN conducting Fishery Protection and UK MCM Duties. In 2003 whilst awaiting selection for Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving (MCDO) Course he completed a Joint Operations Tour to the Falklands as a watch keeper in the CBFSAI Joint operations centre.

On successful completion of MCDO Course in 2004, Stephenson completed tours as Operations Officer and Executive Officer in HMS CHIDDINGFOLD regenerating the unit from refit then deploying to the Gulf to conduct OP TECATE (Mine Clearance operation of IRAQI waterways). On completion he was appointed Officer in Charge of Fleet Diving Unit 2 conducting Very Shallow Water operations as part of Brigade Reconnaissance Force including deployment as the diving element of OP TAURUS conducting amphibious Exercises in Turkey and Brunei.

In 2007 he was assigned to 16 Air Assault Brigade as an IED (destroy) Operator deploying on OP HERRICK 13, conducting EOD duties to provide intimate support in all areas of Helmand Province rendering safe multiple IED/EOD devices and conducting post incident investigation. On returning to the UK in 2008 he was appointed Officer in charge of FDU3 prior to conducting Pre-PWO time on HMS IRON DUKE.

In March 2012 he commenced the Principal Warfare Officers' course at MWS COLLINGWOOD and on completion was initially required to join COMUKMCMFOR deployed in the Gulf to support the N3/5 cell. Returning to the UK in October 2013 he joined HMS OCEAN as the PWO(A), involved in her re-generation process and BOST. Leaving HMS OCEAN in January 2015 he was initially appointed Chief of Staff (COS) to Commander 1st MCM Squadron prior to commencing duties as the Chief of Staff to Mine Warfare Battle staff, generating this staff to deploy as COMUKMCMFOR in November 15. This deployment encompassed various high profile exercises (IMCMEX, Ex KUNJAAR HAAD) incorporating multi-national MCM forces. On returning from the Gulf he returned to duties as COS 1st MCM Squadron and then for a short period as COS to 2nd MCM Squadron prior to assuming his next appointment at the UK Maritime Battle Staff as SO2 Future Operations (MW).