

## Commander Rich Sturman

Cdr Rich Sturman assumed Command of 845 NAS in Apr 2020. Prior to this appointment he was selected for promotion, Air Command and Advanced Command Staff College (ACSC) in 2018 and in 2019 successfully completed his Masters during ACSC22.

Commissioned into the Royal Navy in January 1999, he qualified as a Sea King HC Mk4 pilot in 2003. Appointed to 846 NAS he conducted amphibious deployments including Ex AURORA along the East Coast of the USA and trained in Joint Personnel Recovery as part of the UK standby. Operational deployments included Op OCULUS (NATO) which handed over to Op ALTHEA (EUFOR) within the FYR Bosnia and Herzegovina and Op TELIC including the initial introduction of the MX15 for the BROADSWORD surveillance role.

In 2006 he qualified as an Aviation Warfare Officer at the Maritime Warfare School, prior to rejoining the CHF as AvWO(M) within 848 NAS' Maritime Counter Terrorism Flight. During his tenure he volunteered to undertake flying training on a second type prior to two subsequent deployments supporting UK SF Counter Narcotics and Counter Terrorism activity in Afghanistan. He returned to 846 NAS as D Flight Commander in 2008 and deployed multiple times with his Flight to Op HERRICK Afghanistan where he was awarded a Green Endorsement.

Promoted to Lt Cdr in 2010 he joined COMUKAMPHIBFOR, the UK's 2\* amphibious battle staff, as SO2J5 Aviation. Based in the Seychelles as the LNO to Op ATALANTA (EUNAVFOR), supporting counter piracy operations off the Horn of Africa, he became the focal point for EU, NATO and Combined Maritime Forces. Other deployments during his tour ranged from Germany to Jordan, Pakistan and the USA, conducting training for other national Operational Headquarters and contributing to UK Future Force Development with DSTL.

In 2013, he was seconded to RAF Benson for conversion to the Merlin Mk3/3A with 28 (AC) Sqn, before assignment to 78 Sqn as OC B Flight, this was to be the last RAF Merlin flight held at R2. He also contributed to the formal transfer of authority of the RAF Merlin to the RN, and the disbandment of 78 Sqn. Becoming Senior Flight Commander to 846 NAS on its reformation in 2014, he assisted with the transfer of the Squadron back to RNAS Yeovilton in 2015. On return to Somerset he was appointed Force Warfare Officer to CHF Hq, responsible for all warfare areas, capturing Force requirements and Commando Merlin/ Wildcat Capability Development management. He also assisted with redeveloping UK JPR policy."