

Commander Simon J L Turnbull MA Royal Navy

Simon Turnbull joined Britannia Royal Naval College in 1981 following education in Cornwall, Kent and at Pangbourne College, Berkshire. He gained widespread operational experience while a junior Seaman Officer in HM Ships *Fearless*, *Guernsey*, *Broadsword*, *Cattistock*, *Scylla* and *Brave*, which included active engagements during the 1st Iran-Iraq Tanker War.



As a Lieutenant, he was appointed In Command of the patrol ship HMS *Redpole* conducting joint security operations in Northern Ireland. Following initial staff training and specialist anti-submarine warfare training, he served as the Operations Officer in the frigate HMS *Iron Duke*. Staff appointments followed, including an exchange tour with the US Navy's Third Fleet Flagship, USS *Coronado*, based in San Diego, California. During this tour he was awarded the US Secretary of the Navy's Special Commendation.

Returning to the UK, he completed the Advanced Command and Staff Course, gaining a Master's degree in Defence Studies before joining HMS *Cardiff* as Executive Officer to the Captain of the Fifth Destroyer Squadron. While Lieutenant Commander Turnbull was in temporary Command of *Cardiff*, he led disaster relief operations in Belize following a major hurricane. On promotion, Commander Turnbull joined the Ministry of Defence in London on the staff of the Director of Policy Planning, authoring capstone Defence policy papers.

Operationally deployed as Chief of Staff to the UK Maritime Component Commander in Bahrain, he subsequently joined the then Commander-in-Chief Fleet's Headquarters in Portsmouth as the Surface Fleet Programmer. Selected for major Sea Command, he served as Executive Officer in the Amphibious Flagship, HMS *Albion*. Thereafter, he joined the Directing Staff at the Joint Services Command and Staff College before returning to the Ministry of Defence, focussing on cross-Whitehall strategic operations. Commander Turnbull was then appointed as the Chief of Staff at the Maritime Warfare Centre in HMS *Collingwood*, until joining HMS *Excellent* in Portsmouth as Commanding Officer in January 2020.