

COMMANDER MICHAEL WOOD ROYAL NAVY



Michael Wood joined the Royal Navy in 1991 as a University Cadet Entry. After training at BRNC Dartmouth, he studied International Relations at the London School of Economics (BSc) and Cambridge (MPhil). Training time afloat in HM Ships BEAVER, BROADSWORD, PLOVER, LEEDS CASTLE and CUMBERLAND was followed by a first complement tour as the Gunnery Officer in the Northern Ireland patrol boat SPEY. Cdr Wood's junior appointments included the frigates MONTROSE, CAMPBELTOWN and CHATHAM – the last as Operations Officer during the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami relief effort.

A PWO(U) and PWO(N), Cdr Wood was awarded the Royal Institute of Navigation and Captain Farmer Memorial prizes for Specialist Navigators in 2006. He then served at FOST, where he was responsible for the introduction of electronic navigation doctrine, training and accreditation as the Fleet transitioned to 'paperless' navigation. Between 2008 and 2010, Cdr Wood served in the dual role of Navigating Officer of HMS ILLUSTRIOUS and as Flag Navigator to COMUKCSG - a period which included the Orion '08 Task Group deployment. His subsequent tour as the Executive Officer of the frigate ARGYLL spanned the full cycle of generation from refit to deployment and back and earned a COM(F) commendation. In all, he has undertaken 5 operational deployments to the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean. In 2012 he served ashore in Northwood at the Fleet Operations Division as the lead planner to CTF 320 (Maritime Special Operations). This appointment encompassed the end of OP OLYMPIC, Theatre ASW and Maritime Counter Terrorism contingency planning, and joint and combined operations in support of UK integrity during a period of exceptional Russian naval activity.

Selected for promotion and command in 2013, Cdr Wood recently attended staff course at the US Joint Advanced Warfare School in Norfolk, Virginia. There he achieved 'Distinguished Graduate' status, completing an MSc in Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy and publishing on lessons from the US experience of carrier-led crisis response operations. He assumed Command of the frigate HMS SOMERSET in November 2014. Cdr Wood lives on Dartmoor with his wife and two boys – he enjoys skiing, sailing and horse riding.