

Lieutenant Commander Stuart Yates joined the Royal Navy in 1997 after gaining a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Studies at Queen Mary and Westfield College, London University.

After initial officer training and Fleet time in HM Ships Brocklesby and Birmingham, Stuart joined HMS Liverpool as an Officer of the Watch in 1999 deploying with NATO's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean.

Sub-specialising as a Fleet Navigating Officer, he joined HMS Leeds Castle in 2001, deployed to the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. In 2002 he was selected for an exchange appointment to the US Navy serving as Navigation Officer of the Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill. He enjoyed a challenging and varied appointment with deployments to Canada, the US and to the Mediterranean in support of Op Iraqi Freedom.

Following three months in HMS Cornwall, he attended the Initial Command and Staff Course (Maritime) and Principal Warfare Officers' Course, qualifying in December 2005. Specialising in Above Water Warfare, he joined the Amphibious Flagship HMS Albion as the Gunnery Officer seeing service in West Africa (Op Vela) and the Baltic.

In 2007 Stuart completed further specialist training as an Air Warfare Officer before becoming the Operations Officer of HMS Nottingham on deployment to the South Atlantic. After 12 months he moved over to HMS Edinburgh as the Senior Warfare Officer conducting operations in the lead up to her refit.

In 2009 he assumed the appointment of Senior Warfare Officer in the Carrier Strike Group Flagship, HMS Ark Royal, conducting Task Group and Carrier Strike operations in the Eastern Seaboard for the UK-led multinational AURIGA 10 deployment.

Following Ark Royal, Stuart was appointed as N5 (Future Plans) to the Commander of the United Kingdom Task Group (COMUKTG) and was the lead planner for the Responsive Force Task Group (RFTG) COUGAR 11 deployment. Deployed in HMS Albion, COMUKTG planned and executed operations both in the Middle East and in the Mediterranean in support of Op Ellamy off Libya.

Selected for Command in 2012, he joined the Second Mine Countermeasures Squadron in Command of Crew 3 in January 2013. Following a short period in HMS Middleton, he commanded HMS Brocklesby during a period of UK training and operations culminating in Operational Sea Training. He took Command of HMS Quorn, deployed on operations, in January 2014.

Stuart lives in Worcestershire with his wife and young family.