



Lieutenant Alex Kelley BSc (Hons) Royal Navy

Lieutenant Alex Kelley was born in Surrey, educated in Hampshire and completed a Geology with Geophysics Degree at Southampton University. After a year travelling to Australia, South East Asia and South Africa she joined the Royal Navy in 2005 as an Observer in the Fleet Air Arm. Post Britannia Royal Naval College she moved to 750 Naval Air Squadron (NAS) at RNAS Culdrose for Basic Observer Course and, on successful completion, joined 824 NAS, the Merlin Mk1 training Squadron for the Advanced and Operational phases of training. Awarded her "Wings" in 2008 she joined her first frontline unit, 814 NAS in Jul the same year. Whilst working towards achieving her Certificate of Competence she completed 3 tours in Oman, Ex Joint Warrior in HMS Illustrious, SMCC from RNAS Prestwick and Taurus 09 in the Far East in HMS Ocean.

Taking over as the Squadron Operations Officer in 2010 she deployed to the Eastern Coast of Canada and the U.S where 814 NAS were split between HMS Ark Royal and RFA Fort George. Responsible for organising and executing the operational programme for 6 aircraft, both on board and whilst based at various U.S airbases, Lt Kelley liaised with international agencies and military units. Completing her Intermediate Command and Staff Course at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham in 2010, she also attended the Junior Officer Tactical Awareness Course at the Land Warfare Centre, Warminster and the Joint Tactical Estimate Course, before undertaking a period as a Type 23 Flight Observer on 829 NAS. In 2011 she joined 820 NAS and completed a further 2 tours in Oman. In 2012 she was selected to lead the Flag Bearers team for the Welcome Ceremonies at the Athletes Village and the Victory Ceremonies at the Aquatics Centre for the London 2012 Olympics and also represented the Royal Navy at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year.

Receiving an Instructor recommend in 2013, Lt Kelley joined 824 NAS as a Qualified Observer Instructor during the initial transition from the Merlin Mk1 to the Merlin Mk2 mission system and was one of the first instructors to complete the factory training at Lockheed Martin in Yeovil. Leading both the front line Observers through their conversion and the Merlin Mk2 Ab-Initio Observer students through their advanced and Operational training, she was also the Operations Officer and the Merlin Force lead for the transfer of MCT from Sea King to Merlin Mk2. In Dec 14, Lt Kelley joined 829 NAS as the Flight Commander in HMS Portland under Capt ASW. She led the Flight during various international ASW Exercises operating off the west coast of Norway plus Ex Joint Warrior, SMCC and Advanced Phase PWO weeks in UK waters. She now leaves the cockpit for her position as Commanding Officer of Wales University Royal Naval Unit in May 16, a role she is delighted to have the opportunity to undertake.

She has represented the Royal Navy in snowboarding, bobsleigh and luge during the winter seasons and hockey and tennis in the warmer months. She spends many hours working on her Strength and Conditioning ready for the next challenge and she has recently agreed to commit to the RN Indoor Rowing team and is training for the World Championships in Boston 2017.