

Commander Rich Atkinson Royal Navy

Commander Rich Atkinson was born in Leeds and joined the Royal Navy in 1991. Following initial training at Dartmouth, he navigated HMS Chiddingfold before completing the Fighter Controller course in 1995, serving in HM Ships York and Invincible for nearly 3 years during Far East and successive Op Armilla deployments.

Two years on the sea-riding staff of Flag Officer Sea Training followed before completing Principal Warfare Officers' Course in 2002.

Post course, he joined HMS Cardiff as the Gunnery Officer during the outset of Op Telic and later assumed the role of Operations Officer during the follow on Atlantic Patrol Task (South) deployment.

Briefly returning to HMS Invincible following specialist training in Air Warfare, he was later assigned as Senior Warfare Officer of HMS Ark Royal as she generated from refit.

Appointed as the first Operations Officer of HMS DARING emerging from build in 2008, he participated in First of Class Sea Trials and drafted the genesis T45 Class Concept of Operations.

In 2009, he returned to HMS York as Executive Officer and second in command, conducting back to back South Atlantic deployments which included short notice tasking to conduct Non Combatant Evacuation Operations out of Benghazi during Op Deference.

Twelve months as the Warfare Officer's Career Manager followed before promotion to Commander when he assumed the role as Force Protection Capability Manager in Navy Command Headquarters. He joined HMS Duncan as the Commanding Officer in August 2014.

Rich is married and lives with their 2 school age children. He enjoys running, playing golf (badly), fishing and thrashing their boat in the Solent.