



## **Rear Admiral Alex Burton**

Rear Admiral Alex Burton became Commander UK Maritime Forces in January 2016. As the Royal Navy's 2\* formation level commander he is responsible for providing a rapidly deployable maritime, amphibious, joint, coalition or national contingent headquarters and also responsible for generating the Royal Navy's two deployable 1\* commanders. He is also Rear Admiral Surface Ships (RASS), responsible for providing independent advice on the fighting prowess and moral component of the surface ship community.

The early part of his career was spent in a variety of warships in many theatres of operations including the Gulf, Far East, Falklands and Caribbean. He has enjoyed three Commands: HMS INVERNESS which included operations in the Gulf and a period clearing ex-Soviet minefields in the Baltic Sea. HMS NORTHUMBERLAND, an anti-submarine frigate, which included a seven month deployment with NATO on Operation Active Endeavour delivering Counter Terrorism Operations in the Eastern Mediterranean and through the Suez to support national operations during the invasion of Iraq. Finally, he commanded HMS BULWARK, the Fleet Flagship, between late 2010 and 2012, which culminated in the command of all maritime forces during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic sailing competitions. His operational experience beyond the maritime includes seven months in Baghdad as the Senior Advisor to the Vice Chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces, expanding his list of travel destinations to Tikrit, Fallujah and Babylon amongst others. Whilst in the UK, Alex undertook a joint appointment within the UK's Permanent Joint Headquarters leading the day to day operations for all three Services in Iraq, the Near and Middle East, counter piracy and global counter terrorism.

He has undertaken two appointments in the MOD, initially working within the policy area before being selected as the Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of State during the last Government. As a Commodore, Alex was responsible for the development and delivery to market of the majority of the Royal Navy's surface capability including the Type 26 Global Combat Ship. He was promoted to Rear Admiral in Oct 2014 and took up the appointment of Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Ships) responsible for the in-service management of all ships.

Alex is married to Helen who is a university law lecturer and they have two children at university. He is President of RNRM Rugby League and a mentor for Durham University, where he gained a degree. He plays most outdoor sports to varying degrees of success.