

Lt Cdr B J Smith

Brian (or BJ as he likes to be known) Smith was born in Mexico and brought up in Lincolnshire and Hampshire. After graduating from King's College London, where he studied English Literature, he joined Britannia Royal Naval College in September 1989; serving in Bristol, HECLA, DANAE and Cleopatra for the Dartmouth Training Squadron and Fleet Time.

He gained his Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate in Campbeltown as Officer of the Watch in 1993 deploying to the South Atlantic and the Gulf. Thereafter he was Second Navigator and Fifth Watch Manning officer in Orkney and the Fishery Protection Squadron 1994-95 and Navigator in Plover (Hong Kong Squadron) 1995- 97 witnessing the Handover to China and Liverpool 1997-99 including providing disaster relief to Montserrat following the volcanic eruption.

He was Damage Control Officer in Ark Royal 2000-02 bringing her out of refit and following Principal Warfare Officer (PWO) course PWO(A) (Gunnery Officer) in Ark Royal 2003 and York 2004-05. After Air Warfare Officer (AWO) Course he was AWO/Operations Officer in Southampton 2005-2008 which included 2 APT(S/N) deployments.

After 10 weeks at Abbey Wood with the Capital Ships Project Team as Aircraft Carrier/Type 42 Requirements Manager in 2008 he joined UK Maritime Battle Staff as an Operational Tour augmentee for all of 2009 which combined CTG Iraqi Maritime; Oil Platform Protection and CTF 151 conducting Counter-Piracy Operations embarked in USS ANZIO.

He returned to Abbey Wood to the Destroyers and Maritime Combat Systems Project Teams in Jan 2010 as part of the Requirements Team for a short period before joining Navy Command Headquarters as SO2 QECV in the Carrier Strike Team 2010-2012, responsible for the new Aircraft Carriers.

His next Operational Tour in 2012 was again to the Gulf with the UK Maritime Component Commander which saw him act as lead SO2 programmer and planner.

He returned to Navy Command as SO2 Force Development combining future capabilities delivery of Concepts and Doctrine for RT997, Sea Ceptor Missile System and the Type 26 Frigate with the capability/programme management of in-service and future Patrol Vessels.

He was appointed the 101st Commanding Officer of HMS Victory in May 2015, the oldest commissioned warship in the world and flagship of the First Sea Lord.

The RN Cricket Club Director of Community Cricket he is a keen cricketer and qualified umpire/coach who also enjoys rugby and unsuccessfully learning to play guitar, piano and speak Spanish.

When not outside in the open air, for sport, gardening or walking the dog, he likes to maintain his interests in history and defence studies.

He has 3 children, two of whom live in Scotland. BJ lives in West Sussex with his wife Ruth who teaches History and Geography.