



Commander Richard Bartram Royal Navy

Rich Bartram joined the Royal Navy in September 1998. Awarded wings on the Lynx Mk3 in 2002, he was appointed to 815 NAS and served in HMS CARDIFF patrolling the Northern Arabian Gulf during the build-up of coalition forces prior to the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Qualifying on the Lynx Mk8 he then served in HMS EXETER, with highlights including an 8 month deployment to the Far East in 2004 and a short notice secondment in HMS CHATHAM off Sri Lanka on Op GARRON, assisting with the disaster relief effort in Sri Lanka following the Boxing Day Tsunami.

On completion of Intermediate Command & Staff Course in 2005, he joined the staff of the Multi-National Brigade Headquarters in Kandahar in early 2006 on Op HERRICK 4, where he headed the air operations team responsible for the planning of coalition aircraft missions in support of 16 AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE, 10 MOUNTAIN DIVISION (US ARMY) and Canadian, Dutch and Romanian battle groups.

Qualifying on the Lynx Mk7 in 2007, he served with 847 NAS in HMS ARK ROYAL, HMS OCEAN and HMS ALBION as part of the Tailored Air Group prior to deploying to Iraq on Op TELIC 11, equipped with the Lynx Mk9.

Following completion of the Aviation Warfare Officer (AVWO) Course in 2008, he returned to 847 NAS and deployed once again to Afghanistan in 2009 on Op HERRICK 9, supporting 3 COMMANDO BRIGADE. A specialist in aerial warfare, weapons and tactics, he is a Qualified Helicopter Tactics Instructor, an Airborne Forward Air Controller, an Electronic Warfare Instructor and a Principal Warfare Officer (Aviation).

In 2011 he joined the staff at Britannia Royal Naval College, initially as Flight Training Officer and later as Cunningham Squadron Senior Officer. Following a brief appointment to Joint Helicopter Command on the strategy and plans staff in 2013, he converted to the Merlin Mk3/3a on 28 Sqn at RAF Benson.

Joining the re-formed 846 NAS in 2014 as Operations Officer, he oversaw the relocation of the squadron to RNAS Yeovilton prior to his selection as Senior Pilot of 846 NAS from June 2015. Joining the Air Manoeuvre Capability directorate at Army HQ in 2017, he was responsible for conducting capability and force development of future UK battlefield aviation platforms.

Graduating from the Advanced Command & Staff Course in 2020 he joined the staff of the Land Littoral Strike (LLS) division at NCHQ, overseeing the capability management and future development of air and aviation platforms in support of the Royal Marines.

He assumed command on 846 Naval Air Squadron in July 2021.