

# COMMANDER LAURA HARRISON VR

## Commanding Officer



Cdr Laura Harrison joined the RNR in 2003 at HMS WILDFIRE. After passing out of HMS RALEIGH, she joined the Maritime Trade Operations branch before commissioning in 2004 and passing out of BRNC DARTMOUTH in 2006. After a stint in HMS CHATHAM, Cdr Harrison passed Fleet Board in 2007 and joined the Logistics branch. She transferred to the Media Operations Specialisation (MOS) in 2009.

Whilst serving with the MOS, Cdr Harrison held a variety of roles in HMS WILDFIRE, including as Junior Officer Training Officer, Unit Training Officer, Recruiting Officer, Unit Engagement Officer and Treasurer of the Welfare Fund. She became HMS WILDFIRE's Executive Officer in 2021, and was promoted to Commander and appointed the Commanding Officer of HMS PRESIDENT in 2023.

Cdr Harrison has a breadth of experience from across the RNR in branch, in unit and on operations, having deployed to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK in 2014 and to Bahrain on Op KIPION in 2019/20, where she worked with coalition headquarters, defence press offices and journalists at home and abroad. She has also had a national role with the Maritime Reserves in Communications and Engagement and been the Media representative on the RN Snowsports Festival Committee.

Cdr Harrison supported the media effort for Op LONDON BRIDGE and Op GOLDEN ORB and has covered the Royal Navy Spokesperson role in the Defence Directorate of Communications (MOD Press Office) on multiple occasions. She has augmented the Joint Force Headquarters and Maritime Battle Staff to support major national and international exercises, Ex Joint Horizon, Ex Joint Venture and Ex Trident Juncture. Cdr Harrison has served in HMS ILLUSTRIOUS, HMS OCEAN and HMS BULWARK. She completed the Reserves Advanced Command and Staff Course in 2021.

In her civilian life, Cdr Harrison is a communications professional with a wealth of public sector experience in internal and external communications and marketing. She has managed campaigns on issues that affect the lives of the UK population, from health and education to benefits, rights and welfare, and has been the communications lead for a large cross-government estates and business change programme, bringing together four distinct but aligned departments.

In her spare time, Cdr Harrison is an avid traveller, reader and skier, keen walker, fair weather cyclist and less enthusiastic runner.

