

Lieutenant Commander
James Mitchell
Royal Navy

Commanding Officer
HMS MERSEY



Born in Redditch, Worcestershire James joined BRNC as a Naval College Entrant in October 2006 completing his professional training in HM Ships NOTTINGHAM, ILLUSTRIOUS and MERSEY.

After passing Initial Warfare Officers' course in May 2009 James completed his Junior Officer appointments serving as the Ship's Intelligence Officer in HMS CHATHAM, Signals and Communications Officer in HMS DAUNTLESS, Navigating Officer in HMS IRON DUKE before qualifying as a Specialist Navigator in 2015.

His early appointments saw him complete a number of Operational Deployments; as INTO he deployed to the Indian Ocean as the Flagship to SNMG2 conducting Anti Piracy Operations at the peak of activity off the coast of Somalia. He has subsequently deployed twice to the South Atlantic conducting operations off the West Coast of Africa, the Falkland Islands and the Caribbean. As the Force Navigator to a British led SNMG2 task group he has also deployed to the Black Sea and Mediterranean.

He has had the privilege to Command HMS TRACKER and later the Faslane Patrol Boat Squadron protecting strategic assets on the Firth of Clyde from 2015 – 2017, during which assignment he was selected for promotion to Lieutenant Commander.

Completing PWO course in 2018 he was awarded the BAE Systems Gunnery award for the top gunnery student for the year before joining HMS SUTHERLAND, the UK's high readiness Anti-Submarine Frigate, as a Principal Warfare Officer and later Operations Officer. During this period he managed the demands of an FRE/TAPS programme combined with Lightweight Modula Missile Trials and despite the decommissioning of the SEA WOLF missile system, saw the Ship awarded the Gritvicken Trophy for their achievements in AWW throughout 2019.

James joined HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH in March 2020 as the Navigating Officer. Deploying on Op FORTIS in 2021 as the Force Navigator and Screen Commander, the largest UK Carrier Strike Group deployment in a generation, he saw operations in the Eastern Mediterranean and South China Sea. He was later awarded the Navigator and Director's Association award for contribution to Navigation for his efforts on deployment. On return to the UK James assumed Command of HMS MERSEY in April 2022 protecting British Interest around home waters.

James lives in Birmingham and is a passionate Arsenal FC fan and when not supporting his much-loved team enjoys spending time outdoors dog walking with his family.