

Commander Mark Rowbotham CEng CMarEng MIMarEST Royal Navy

Senior Naval Officer HMS BULWARK



Mark joined the Royal Navy as an apprentice in 1990 and was commissioned in 2007. His career has centred around delivering or supporting others in delivering operations; more recently this included conducting operations in the Red Sea region where the crew of HMS DARING were awarded the General Service Medal with Gulf of Aden clasp. Promoted Commander in June 2020, Mark took charge of HMS BULWARK in December 2020.

Joining HMS RALEIGH in 1990 as a Marine Engineering Apprentice, Mark served on board HMS CARDIFF and IRON DUKE before completing 7 years of training when he was promoted to Chief Petty Officer. Shore roles followed within Director Fleet Time Engineering (Portsmouth) and a sea assignment, as Deputy Marine Engineering Officer on board HMS SHOREHAM, bringing her out of build, through sea trials and deploying on a 4-month deployment to the Gulf of Arabia. Having completed Warrant Officer 2 Qualifying Course, Mark was selected to join Britannia Royal Naval College as a Senior Upper Yardman in 2007. His first compliment role was as a Section Officer on board HMS ILLUSTRIOUS, which included the filming of the Channel 5 series *Warship* and the successful deployment on Operation Orion 08; a multinational task group that operated from the Mediterranean to south-east Asia. A thoroughly rewarding shore assignment followed with Maritime, Commissioning, Trials and Assessment, which consisted of providing independent oversight for the build of Type 45 Destroyers and Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers in Glasgow. Professional Command followed as the Engineering Officer in HMS ECHO; this challenging and rewarding job saw the ship operating, at reach, for prolonged periods and conducting survey tasking undertaken in India, off of the Horn of Africa and in Tripoli, just after the regime change.

Promoted to Lieutenant Commander in 2016, Mark was selected for his second professional Command role as Marine Engineering Officer in HMS DAUGHTLESS and subsequently HMS DARING. Both proved extremely challenging and rewarding; the former saw the successful delivery of the multi-national *At Sea Demonstration* and the latter saw a tough period of force generation followed by a 9-month operational deployment to the Gulf of Arabia. This planned deployment, in 2016, changed after the attack on MV Swift and DARING was re-tasked to undertake maritime escort duties through the Bab Al Mendab Strait. Mark was awarded a Fleet Commander's Commendation for time on board DARING and the General Service Medal, with Gulf of Aden clasp, in recognition of the Ship's Company efforts in the region. A role within Defence Equipment and Support, delivering marine engineering safety and operations management, to Type 45 Destroyers and Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers followed, and Mark was promoted to Commander in June 2020 and took over the reins of HMS BULWARK the following December, in his third (and final) Professional Command assignment.

Mark lives in Cornwall with his young family and enjoys cycling, walking, sea kayaking and all things Land Rover.