

**Commander Andrew Ainsley Royal Navy  
Commanding Officer, HMS ARGYLL**



Andrew Ainsley joined the Royal Navy in 1997 and spent his early career almost exclusively at sea in watchkeeping and navigation roles in destroyers and mine-hunters. This culminated with back to back Command appointments initially on loan service to the Royal Norwegian Navy Fast Patrol Boat Flotilla, and then in HMS SEVERN conducting fishery protection and maritime security patrols around the UK mainland.

Following staff and specialist warfare training, he served in a number of Type 23 frigates as both the Above Water Warfare and Operations Officer during which period he deployed to the Mediterranean, Middle East and Atlantic. Moving ashore in 2012, he spent two years at the UK Permanent Joint Headquarters within the Operations and Plans area specialising in Targeting and Rules of Engagement; he also deployed to Afghanistan serving within the Command Group of Task Force Helmand on Op HERRICK.

He joined the Type 23 frigate HMS MONMOUTH in 2014 as Executive Officer to return the Ship to the Fleet following a mid-life upgrade. Thereafter he served ashore with responsibility for Command and Executive matters for 49 ships ranging from Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers to Archer Class patrol vessels. He completed a short notice assignment to the Type 45 destroyer HMS DARING in 2016 as Executive Officer during a period of high-intensity operations in the Southern Red Sea and Bab El Mandeb.

On promotion to Commander, he was appointed as Chief of Staff to the UK Maritime Very High Readiness Task Group where he planned and delivered operations globally for both national and multinational activities. He assumed Command of HMS ARGYLL in May 2019.

Andrew Ainsley lives in the south of England with his young family. In his younger days he represented the Royal Navy and Combined Services at hockey and cricket and also found time to play representative rugby; he has recently served as the Director of Representative Cricket for the Royal Navy.

