

Vice Admiral Nick Hine CB

Second Sea Lord and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff



Nick Hine was commissioned in 1985. A warfare officer with a predominantly submarine background, he has served in a variety of diesel and nuclear submarines, as well as undertaking a number of surface vessel and Staff appointments.

He was the first submariner to have completed the inaugural Specialist Navigation course, was awarded the Howard-Johnston Memorial Sword in 1993 and was the top student of his Submarine Command Course ("Perisher") in 1998. He was selected for promotion a year early to Lieutenant Commander in 1996, to Commander in 1999 and to Captain in 2007. He was promoted in post to Commodore in 2014, a year later to Rear Admiral and in 2019 to Vice Admiral.

He has a wide range of operational experience from tours in Northern Ireland, Kosovo and most recently Iraq in 2009, where as an Acting Commodore he was responsible for the reconstruction of the Iraqi Navy. He was awarded the US Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal in recognition of his efforts.

He previously commanded the patrol vessel HMS BLACKWATER during the period immediately prior to the Northern Ireland ceasefire in 1995, the first submariner to do so. As the Executive Officer of HMS SPLENDID he fired the first Tomahawk missiles from a Royal Navy submarine during operations in Kosovo in 1999, and in Command of the nuclear attack submarine HMS TALENT he conducted several specialist patrols throughout 1999-2000. His most recent Command appointment was in HMS WESTMINSTER where he conducted patrols in support of maritime security in the Middle East in early 2012. He has completed tours in Equipment Capability procurement in the MOD, on the Directing Staff of the Defence Academy responsible for the delivery of the Advanced Command and Staff Course, as the Assistant Director of the Maritime Change Programme in DE&S and within Navy Command HQ where he was the personnel lead for all Warfare Officers and Ratings. This was followed by appointment as the Defence Policy Advisor to the Chancellor in HM Treasury and most recently as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff Policy.

A graduate of the in-service degree programme, Advanced Command and Staff Course and the Royal College of Defence Studies, where he was awarded the Seaford House prize for his dissertation, he took up his present appointment in Apr 2019.