

Lieutenant Commander Adam Riddett Royal Navy



Commanding Officer HMS CHIDDINGFOLD (MCM2 Crew 4)

Lt Cdr Riddett joined the Royal Navy as a Warfare Officer in September 2000 after completing a degree in Geological Sciences at the University of Leeds. After initial training, he completed seagoing appointments as Gunnery Officer HMS RAMSEY, OOW1/Signal Communications Officer of HMS ST ALBANS and Navigating Officer of HMS ST ALBANS and HMS IRON DUKE. Highlights included several overseas deployments to the Middle East, Mediterranean and Baltic including Op TELIC, the evacuation of UK Entitled Persons from Lebanon in 2006 (Op Highbrow), patrols in the Northern Arabian Gulf around Iraqi offshore oil infrastructure, three visits to London and the 2005 International Fleet Review. He took command of HMS RAIDER and Cambridge Universities Royal Naval Unit in 2008 and spent two years taking successive generations of promising undergraduates to sea to better expose them to the need for and role of the Royal Navy.

Following this appointment he conducted a 6-month OPTOUR to the joint UK-US Iraqi Training and Assistance Mission (Navy) (ITAM(N)) in Umm Qasr, Iraq. This challenging role included the development and implementation of a training programme for Iraqi small boat crews and the introduction into service of the Iraqi's newest patrol boat, the 35m Swiftship. Operating towards the end of the British mission in Iraq, the role saw close relations being established between Iraqi officers and UK training personnel and contributed to the lasting legacy of success.

He completed the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Maritime) and Principal Warfare Officer's Course in 2012 before being appointed to HMS RICHMOND as her Underwater Warfare Officer, undertaking regeneration and training following her refit, and support to wider UK interests including a strong contribution towards Underwater Warfare Tactical Development. He assumed the role of Operations Officer for the ship's APT(S) deployment, contributing to successful engagement opportunities in South Africa, the British South Atlantic Overseas Territories, Falkland Islands, Chile, Panama and Colombia.

He joined the Permanent Joint Headquarters in April 2014 as the PJHQ staff officer for Rules of Engagement, and held additional duties as a standby targeteer for UK strikes, SO2 Information Operations and eventually Chief of Staff for Joint Effects. This grounding in Joint operations served as an ideal platform for his subsequent appointment as Operations Officer of HMS OCEAN, Fleet Flagship, deploying to the Gulf in 2016 as the flagship for COMATG as Commander Task Force 50, the first command of a US Task Force by the Royal Navy. OCEAN's programme also took her to the Caribbean in 2017 for Op RUMAN, and the Mediterranean as flagship for COMSNMG2, two major NATO exercises and significant Defence Engagement in Israel. He joined FOST (South) as SWO(UW)4 and SWO(Littoral Manoeuvre) in 2018 and oversaw the safety training package for OCEAN as she became PHM ATLANTICO in Brazilian service, before being selected to command MCM2 Crew 4.

Adam lives in Plymouth with his wife Lynsey and two boys William (5) and Alex (2) who absorb the majority of their time. When able, his interests include hiking, diving, open-water swimming (completing the Drake's Island and Plymouth Breakwater charity swims in 2018) and classic car engineering.