



Commander Paul Hammond Royal Navy

Born and educated in London, Paul Hammond joined the Royal Navy as a Midshipman in 1991. Following initial officer training at Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC), Officer of the Watch Training and the Ship's Diving Officer's Course, he joined the Type 22 frigate HMS Battleaxe for bridge watch-keeping and diving duties. His first deployment was to the Adriatic with a NATO Task Group in support of operations in Former Yugoslavia. Another seagoing appointment followed, this time as the Communications Officer and Diving Officer of the Type 23 frigate HMS Norfolk, during which the ship conducted a fascinating deployment to the South Atlantic and South America. On return to the UK, he completed the Frigate Navigating Officer course and joined HMS Iron Duke. As the ship's navigator, he returned to the Adriatic, but this time in support of operations in Kosovo.

A break from sea came next; he returned to BRNC where he spent a rewarding period as a staff officer. His roles here included Head of the Navigation and Seamanship department and duties as a New Entry Divisional Officer, responsible for the day to day training of Officer Cadets. He then commanded the P2000 class patrol boat HMS Archer and Aberdeen University Royal Naval Unit, prior to a short tour as the Commanding Officer of HMS Pursuer, based in Cyprus.

In 2004 he qualified as a Principal Warfare Officer (PWO) specialising in Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and became the PWO and Operations Officer of HMS Montrose. In Montrose he deployed to the Northern Arabian Gulf in support of the Iraq campaign. Another training role then followed; this time to the staff of Flag Officer Sea Training where he was responsible for teaching ASW to a wide range of Royal Navy and foreign ships.

He then enjoyed two short appointments back at sea as an Executive Officer; in 2009 he joined HMS Lancaster and sailed for the Indian Ocean to conduct anti-piracy operations, where the ship was successful in the apprehension, prosecution and suppression of Somali pirates. On return from this deployment he joined the new Type 45 destroyer HMS Dauntless, taking her through final sea trials, the first ever Sea Viper missile firing and her first period of Operational Sea Training.

In 2011 he was promoted to Commander, initially undertaking an operational tour to ISAF Joint Command in Kabul, Afghanistan. A short spell in the Ministry of Defence during the 2012 Olympic Games preceded a year at the Defence Academy, where he successfully completed the Advanced Command and Staff Course. During this period he also attained an MSc in Leadership and Management and an MA in Defence Studies.

Paul Hammond assumed Command of HMS Argyll in December 2013.