

Commander SNMCMG2



Educated in Chichester, Justin Hains joined the Royal Navy in January 1992.

As a Principal Warfare Officer and Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving Officer, he has broad operational experience from a succession of sea appointments in Mine Countermeasures Vessels, Frigates and Destroyers. He has served in both NATO Mine Countermeasures Groups from the Arctic Circle to the Red Sea and in the Far East and North Arabian Sea in support of national, bilateral and coalition operations. He completed an exchange appointment as Operations and Diving Officer of FS PERSEE (a French Tripartite Class Mine Countermeasures Vessel) from 2002 to 2004. He has Commanded two Hunt Class Mine Countermeasures Vessels: HMS ATHERSTONE, which he deployed to the Arabian Gulf, before returning to the UK; and HMS LEDBURY, again deployed to the eastern Mediterranean and Red Sea, this time with Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group Two (SNMCMG2), which he initially Commanded in the absence of the Task Force Commander.

Ashore, he Commanded Southern Diving Unit Two (2004-2006): providing 24/7 response for both explosive ordnance disposal and improvised explosive device disposal. He served in the United Kingdom Maritime Component Command Headquarters at Bahrain as Staff Officer Plans (Mine Warfare). At the same time he acted as the forward deployed representative of the Mine Warfare Commander, while appointed as Chief of Staff to the Commander Second Mine Countermeasures Squadron. While Chief of Staff of the UK Mine Warfare Battle Staff in the Gulf, he managed its transformation from a permanently deployed, shore-based Staff to a more agile, capability embarked in RFA LYME BAY. He served as Military Assistant to the 2* Chief of Staff, Joint Forces Command (2104) and most recently was a Team Leader in the Joint Warfare Directorate of Joint Forces Command responsible for designing and delivering operational capability assurance of the UK's sole 2* deployable Joint Task Force Headquarters (2015).

A graduate of the United Kingdom Advanced Command and Staff Course, he holds a Bachelor of Sciences (with Honours) Degree in Geological Sciences from Oxford Brookes University (1995) and a Master of Arts Degree in Defence Studies from Kings College London (2014).

A keen runner and triathlete when time allows for training, he enjoys most sports, but remains too young to play golf with any degree of skill.