

## **Commander C R Ballantyne RN**

Born in Kingston upon Hull, East Yorkshire in 1971, Craig attended Sydney Smith High School prior to joining the Royal Navy in 1988. On completion of initial training he volunteered for submarines, joining his first boat, HMS Repulse in 1989. Tours in submarines Ocelot, Victorious, Trenchant and HMS Turbulent followed prior to selection to attend BRNC Dartmouth in 2000.

Upon completion of BRNC and sea training in HMS Westminster, Craig returned to the submarine service, joining HMS Triumph as the casing officer. A short ride in Talent to re-qualify followed, prior to deploying to the Mediterranean in HMS Triumph.

On his return to the UK, he successfully completed Intermediate Warfare Course and was appointed Navigating Officer, HMS Turbulent in 2002. This 2 year assignment included Sea Trials, Operational Work Up and a Deployment to the Far East, which included a number of Training War Patrols. Port calls in Singapore, Fremantle and Simonstown made this an extremely rewarding deployment as Navigator.

Advanced Warfare Course in 2004 was his reward, and a subsequent appointment to HMS Talent as a Watch Leader. Operational Work Up quickly followed, with subsequent Operations in the Atlantic and East of Suez. During this time he was selected for Submarine Command Course 'Perisher', which he attended on his return to the UK.

Appointed to HMS Sceptre as the Executive Officer in 2008, this appointment again included Operational Work Up and a Deployment East of Suez. This was particularly rewarding as the Ship's Company successfully achieved this deployment whilst in the 'oldest' operational nuclear submarine in the world, decommissioning her on their return.

A challenging and extremely rewarding appointment in Fleet Operations as the submarine Special Operations Officer followed in 2010. Responsible for planning a number of special operations this time also allowed him to liaise closely with fellow submariners from a number of other countries. Most recently he has been appointed to Defence Intelligence in the Old War Office, working in Intelligence Policy, which included all source intelligence and submarine operations. Craig was selected for promotion in 2013, prior to assuming Command of HMS Talent in February 2014.

Spare time is spent with his young family in the West Country and if extremely lucky he sometimes gets some free time to enjoy sailing, golf and rugby.