

HMS VIGILANT Commanding Officer

Commander Stuart M Armstrong Royal Navy



Stuart Armstrong grew up in Kirkcudbright in south west Scotland and read Geology and Applied Geology at the University of Glasgow as a Royal Navy Bursar.

Following initial training at Britannia Royal Naval College and in HM Ships LONDON, BRIDPORT and CHATHAM he was selected for Submarine Service and earned his dolphins in HMS VIGILANT (Port). Several SSBN assignments followed before he assumed command of HMS ARCHER and Aberdeen Universities' Royal Naval Unit.

He returned to the Submarine Service on completion of Advanced Warfare Course and, after one cycle as the Tactics and Sonar Officer in HMS VANGUARD (Stbd) he joined HMS TRENCHANT as the Operations Officer for a demanding period of regeneration and operations which included the first successful UK firing of a Tomahawk Block IV Land Attack Missile in the Gulf of Mexico. He successfully completed the Submarine Command Course ("Perisher") in 2008 before a brief assignment to HMS TURBULENT as the Executive Officer for operations in early 2009 prior to moving to HMS TRIUMPH in order to generate her from refit. The highlight of this period was TRIUMPH's strike and reconnaissance activity in support of Operations ELLAMY and UNIFIED PROTECTOR.

Stuart joined the staff of the US Sixth Fleet in Naples, Italy as their Theatre Antisubmarine Warfare Officer in 2012 and spent a thoroughly enjoyable 18 months as the sole UK exchange officer in their HQ responsible for the allied response to submarine activity in the EUCOM Area of Responsibility.

On returning to the UK he completed the Advanced Command and Staff Course at Shrivenham before taking up an assignment in Navy Command HQ in the Sustainable Submarine Manning Programme. He assumed command of HMS ARTFUL in December 2015 where he led her through sea trials, commissioning and her maiden deployment before transferring to Command HMS VIGILANT in February 2017.

Stuart lives in Rhu, near Helensburgh is a keen kayaker, runner and hill walker.