



**Cdr Alex Kelley, Royal Navy**  
**Commanding Officer 824 Naval Air Squadron**  
**Ministry of Defence**

Commander Alex Kelley joined the Royal Navy in 2005 as an Observer after achieving a Geology with Geophysics Degree at Southampton University. As an ASW Merlin Mk1 observer she completed tours with 814NAS, 820NAS and 829NAS deploying globally including in support of Op CHOBDAHAR in Oman, the Far East and East Coast of the US in RFA Fort George, HMS ILLUSTRIOUS, HMS ARK ROYAL and HMS OCEAN.

Alex joined 824 NAS during the initial transition from Merlin Mk1 to Mk2 and was one of the first instructors to complete the course, training both the front line and Ab-Initio students. She took over as HMS PORTLAND Flight Commander under Capt ASW leading the Flight during various international ASW Exercises operating off the coast of Norway plus Ex Joint Warrior and SMCC.

She left the cockpit and assumed Command of Wales University Royal Naval Unit responsible for the delivery of training to students from Cardiff and Swansea Universities. Promotion to Lt Cdr saw her move to NCHQ as SO2 Flying Training working with 22Gp RAF managing the pipeline through the transition to UKMFTS and from there selected for Senior Observer 824NAS.

Alex was selected for promotion and assumes Command of 824NAS after her role working within StratCom advising on aviation in support of UK counter terrorism and global contingency operations.

She was extremely fortunate to be selected as an Olympic Flag Bearer for London 2012 and as the Royal Navy Guard of Honour Commander for the Coronation of King Charles. Alex has represented the Royal Navy in indoor rowing, snowboarding, bobsleigh, luge, hockey, weightlifting and tennis and now steps away from athlete to campaign manager of HMS Oardacious Valkyries, the first all-female military team to row the Atlantic raising awareness of mental health and Women in STEM.