

Commander Derek Swannick

I was originally inspired to follow a meteorological career by the accounts of how the weather, and trying to make the most of it, had played their part in conflicts across the globe throughout history. The opportunities provided by the Royal Navy have enabled me to apply my qualifications to forecasting meteorology and oceanography in contemporary operations all over the world. From the very start of my career, first hand experience of being at sea during periods of heavy weather, not least the 1987 storm, as well as trying to safely use, and gain advantage for ships, aircraft and submarines from the climate, weather and atmospheric or ocean structures have affirmed for me the enduring impact of the elements on maritime and Defence interests.



Early in my career I served in frigates, survey vessels, aircraft carriers and auxiliaries as well as at air stations ashore. I then commanded both the CinC Fleet's Weather and Oceanography Centre at Northwood and the Royal Navy's Hydrographic, Meteorological and Oceanographic Training Group in Plymouth before moving to work in London. I am responsible for the day to day management of the Ministry of Defence programmes to provide hydrographic, meteorological and oceanographic information from both the Meteorological Office and the UK Hydrographic Office. I am also the Royal Navy representative on the [RMetS Accreditation Board](#).

Qualifications

WMO Meteorologist

Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society

MA Defence Studies (2002) (King's College London)

Royal Navy's Hydrographic Surveying Course (1996) (IHO Cat B Surveyor)

Royal Navy's Meteorological and Oceanographic Officer's Qualifying Course (1992) (Now recognised as PGDip in Applied Meteorology and Oceanography and fulfilling RMetS requirements for CMet and WMO Meteorologist)

BSc Applied Physics and Solid State Electronics (Heriot Watt) (1989)

A Levels, Physics, Maths, French, General Studies