

Lt Cdr Rob Taylor Royal Navy – Commanding Officer 700(W) NAS

Rob Taylor was born in Humberside in 1971 and joined the Royal Navy as Direct Entry Aircrew in September 1989. After successfully completing Basic Observer Training he was selected to fly the Lynx Helicopter and appointed to 702 Squadron at RNAS Portland for Advanced and Operational Flying Training on the Lynx Mk3. After frontline tours in HMS Battleaxe and HMS Broadsword he was selected for instructional duties on 702 Squadron where he specialised in secondary roles. After completing the Mk8 conversion course he returned to the front line, initially as the Flight Observer and subsequently as the Flight Commander to Captain F6 in HMS Montrose. During this time he saw a deployment to the Falklands, embarked in the USS Cape St George and spent time in HMS Somerset deployed in the Adriatic during the Kosovo conflict. Following these appointments he returned to instructional duties as the Training Officer at the Lynx Simulators, contributing to the development and introduction of the Mk8 DSP upgrade, in the UK and Montreal. It was during this time that he completed his Masters of Business Administration (MBA) with the Open University. A tour on the Lynx Operational Evaluation Unit followed, which included the first Trial Aftershock, at the time the largest single Sea Skua firings, and a high seas firing, helping to sink HMS Brave and Boxer in the Atlantic Ocean. He also completed the Initial Command and Staff Course at Shrivenham. During this time he was selected to attend the GD Aerosystems Course at RAF Cranwell, graduating with his second Masters degree in 2005, a Masters of Science (MSc) in Aerospace Systems from Kingston University. A tour at Boscombe Down followed as the Mission Systems Trials Officer for Future Lynx, before a staff tour at Navy Command HQ as the Deputy Staff Aviation Officer. A return to Yeovilton beckoned and he joined 700W NAS (Wildcat fielding Squadron) in February 2010 before assuming Command on 23 September. A keen winter sports enthusiast, he is currently the Championships Director for the Royal Navy Alpine Championships where he is a reasonable skier and novice snowboarder. He also likes to play golf where possible, enjoying a 14 handicap. He lives just outside Salisbury with his wife Joanna, a doctor, and their 2 sons.