



## **REAR ADMIRAL ROBERT G PEDRE**

### **Commander United Kingdom Strike Forces**

Rear Admiral Robert Pedre was born in Taunton, Somerset and selected for Royal Navy university sponsorship in 1993, reading Physics at Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine. His initial career saw service in various Destroyers conducting operations in the South Atlantic and Eastern Pacific.

He assumed Command of the Mine Countermeasures Vessel HMS Cottesmore in 2003, tasked with counter-terrorist operations in the Irish Sea. Following staff and warfare training, he was appointed to HMS Northumberland and as Operations Officer conducted NATO's first counter-piracy deployment to the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden in 2007. He joined the staff of Commander United Kingdom Carrier Strike Group in 2008 as the lead N5 Maritime Planner, embarking in the Fleet Flagship HMS Illustrious for the ORION deployment to the Indian Ocean. This appointment also included a period serving with the US Navy on the staff of Carrier Strike Group 8 embarked in the USS Dwight D Eisenhower conducting Operation Enduring Freedom strike operations into Afghanistan.

Selected for promotion to Commander in 2009, he joined HMS Cumberland as the Executive Officer and Second in Command. This period included a 7 month operational deployment to the Middle East culminating in the successful evacuation of 454 personnel from Benghazi, Libya during 3 successive non-combatant evacuations and the subsequent embargo operations under Operation Ellamy.

He assumed Command of HMS Richmond in 2012 and an immensely rewarding 27 months included an operational deployment to the South Atlantic and Defence Engagement visits to 5 continents. Thereafter, he joined the Directing Staff of the Joint Services Advanced Command and Staff Course in 2014 and undertook a Master of Arts degree in Defence Studies.

He assumed Command of the Royal Navy's Fleet Flagship HMS Ocean in 2016. A high tempo operational period ensued with an Arabian Gulf deployment including CTF50 Flagship duties, followed by an Eastern Mediterranean deployment as the Flagship for Standing NATO Maritime Group 2. This latter period saw HMS Ocean activated for contingent HADR operations under Operation Ruman, rendering urgent humanitarian assistance across 4 Caribbean territories.

Following 2 stimulating years as the Assistant Head Defence Strategy in the Ministry of Defence, Rear Admiral Pedre completed the Higher Command and Staff Course before assuming Command of the UK's amphibious forces as Commander Littoral Strike Group in May 2020. A busy 2 years followed with extensive operational tasking including the inaugural Littoral Response Group deployment to the Mediterranean, Black Sea and North Africa, command of Op TRELAWNY, the military support to the G7 summit in Cornwall and command of post-BREXIT maritime security.

Rear Admiral Pedre assumed command of United Kingdom Strike Forces and became the Royal Navy's Race Advocate in September 2022.