



Commanding Officer HMNZS AOTEAROA



Captain Garin Golding, RNZN

Captain Garin Golding, currently the Commander of the Deployable Joint Inter-Agency Task Force, will be the Commanding Officer of HMNZS AOTEAROA.

CAPT Golding, who was spoken to in May last year about the potential command opportunity, says he is excited about the opportunity and the challenges it presents. “Naval command is an honour. I’m humbled and I look forward to the challenge.”

His last ship command was HMNZS MANAWANUI in 2002, which involved two deployments to the South Pacific and south-east Asia. CAPT Golding has served on WAIKATO, TAMAKI, MONOWAI, SOUTHLAND, WELLINGTON and ENDEAVOUR, particularly as navigating officer. “It’s a privilege to have two commands,” he says, noting he has gone from one of the Navy’s smallest vessels, to its largest.

“I enjoyed my time as CO of MANAWANUI, and she was my trade. But I’m looking forward to the broader challenges a larger ship will have. With my current job, Joint Interagency, I will take that forward, finding the balance with naval command and Joint culture. It’s great that AOTEAROA is not seen as a flasher, newer ENDEAVOUR, but an enabler of Joint culture and logistics.”

At the end of the year CAPT Golding will join the AOTEAROA team running alongside the construction of the ship in South Korea. “The project team have done a fabulous job in getting to where we are. There will be some professional courses, and I’ll get experience on a ship going to Antarctica. In mid-2019, the crew starts to form, and start undertaking the full range of ship-related courses. We’ll take the ship in 2020 for operational testing.”

Chief of Navy Rear Admiral John Martin says CAPT Golding’s experience in a broad range of Defence operations makes him ideally suited to build up the type of vessel the Defence Force wants in AOTEAROA. “One that supports not only the needs of the fleet, but also the needs of the wider operational framework. CAPT Golding is a person who is able to readily appreciate and anticipate Joint requirements in the field, and I am confident he will develop the ship’s approach, culture and organisation to meet these operational objectives. He is an experienced mariner who has the competencies to lead our newest ship in combined coalition operations, supporting the fleets of both New Zealand, Australia and our regional partners.”

CAPT Golding is the first RNZN Captain rank to become a Commanding Officer since 1984. According to RNZN Bridge Cards, Captain IA Hunter commanded HMNZS SOUTHLAND from December 1983 to December 1984. When our four frigates made up the 11th Frigate Squadron (in tandem with the Royal Navy frigate squadrons) the ship’s commander of that squadron was a Captain and referred to as “F11”.