



Commanding Officer HMNZS TAUPO



Lieutenant Benjamin Flight, RNZN

Lieutenant Benjamin Flight was born in Auckland, New Zealand. After attending Rotorua Lakes High School he joined the Royal New Zealand Navy in 2009 as a General List Executive Officer.

On completion of his Junior Officer Training, he undertook a period of training ashore and at sea completing his Officer of the Watch Bravo, Alpha and Warfare courses. This period included an Asia Pacific deployment on HMNZS TE KAHA, and a South West Pacific deployment on HMNZS ENDEAVOUR.

In 2012 he posted to HMNZS NGAPONA to undertake study at the University of Auckland and participate in competitive rowing. This was rewarded in 2014 when he and his Men's Under-23 team from Piha Surf Life Saving Club won their division of the 2014 World Surf Championships in Montpellier, France.

In early 2014 he posted to HMNZS TE MANA for the second half of her deployment to the Gulf of Africa in support of anti-piracy operations. On completion of this trip, and his return to New Zealand, he was awarded his Officer of the Watch Alpha ticket. This was followed by a short posting as the Officer in Charge of the Inshore Patrol Vessels alongside in mid-2014.

In late 2014 he posted to HMNZS HAWEA as the Navigating Officer for eight months and in June 2015 he posted to HMAS WATSON to gain his Officer of the Watch Warfare certificate as part of the Royal Australian Navy Junior Officer Warfare Application Course. This course was followed by a year-long exchange with the Royal Australian Navy with HMAS BALLARAT as the Specials Officer of the Watch and deputy Navigating Officer.

LT Flight returned to New Zealand in late November 2016 and commenced Command Course. Following completion of Command Course he deployed to Fiji in March 2017 as the Military Liaison Officer for Operation WASAWASA.

LT Flight enjoys spending his spare time with friends and family and is continuing his university studies part time. His other interests include travel, remaining active with sports, and skiing. He lives in Auckland while his partner, Alice, lives in Canberra, Australia.