



Commanding Officer HMNZS TE KAHA



Commander Steve Lenik, RNZN

Commander Stephen (Steve) Lenik was born in Twickenham, London, England on 24 April 1972. Having completed secondary education in 1988 Commander Lenik emigrated to New Zealand in 1993 and joined the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) in January 1995 at the rank of Midshipman in the Executive branch on the General List of Officers and was awarded the Minister of Defence Sword of Honour as the top overall graduate of the Junior Officer Common Training course.

Commander Lenik's sea service has included postings as a Bridge Watchkeeping Officer on HMNZ Ships CANTERBURY (FFH), WELLINGTON (FFH), TE KAHA (FFH) and TE MANA (FFH). He has also served as the Officer-in-Command of the Inshore Patrol Craft HMNZS KAHU.

During his separate postings to HMNZS TE KAHA he also served as the Boarding Officer, Navigating Officer, Principal Warfare Officer, Executive Officer and, in his current post, as the Commanding Officer. Commander Lenik has also served as the Operations Officer of HMNZS TE MANA. His sea service has included two operational tours to the North Arabian Gulf, East Timor, the Solomon Islands and the Sub-Antarctic.

In 2005 Commander Lenik served ashore in a staff appointment at Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand (HQ JFNZ) as the Staff Officer Current Operations (Maritime) where he was responsible for the day-to-day running of the RNZN Fleet. He has also served at the shore establishment HMNZS PHILOMEL as the Operations Training Officer within the Fleet Personnel and Training Organisation. His shore time was punctuated with a six-month operational tour as the Senior National Officer and Commander Task Group for the inaugural deployment of a Battlefield Area Clearance team to Southern Lebanon in 2007. The mission was part of a multi-national effort to clear Southern Lebanon of unexploded ordnance left over from the 'July War' pitted by the Israeli Defence Force against the Hezbollah organisation in 2006.

He is a graduate of the 2003 Royal Australian Navy Principal Warfare Officer course where he sub-specialised in Above Water Warfare and completed the course with a Graduate Diploma in Information Management. In 2012-13 Commander Lenik completed the Advanced Command and Staff Course at the United Kingdom Joint Services Command and Staff College, graduating as a Master of the Arts in Defence Studies from King's College, London.

On return from the UK in 2013 Commander Lenik took up the role of Fleet Warfare Officer with the Maritime Operational Evaluation Team. This was followed by a posting as the Commander Leadership Development. During his two years at the Leadership Development Group Commander Lenik has been responsible for providing induction training for all personnel joining the RNZN, as well as leadership development and administrative training for all non-commissioned ranks in the Navy.

Commander Lenik took up his current post as Commanding Officer HMNZS TE KAHA in April 2016.