



# Commanding Officer HMNZS TE MANA



## Commander Mike Peebles, RNZN



Commander Mike Peebles was born in New Plymouth, New Zealand and joined the Royal New Zealand Navy in 2001, as a Midshipman on the General List of Officers Warfare specialisation.

After successfully completing Junior Officer Common Training, Mike began his specialist Warfare Officer Training at sea in HMNZ Ships KAHU, ENDEAVOUR and TE MANA before qualifying as a Bridge Watchkeeping Officer in 2003.

Highlights of this period were operational tours to the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea where he was awarded the New Zealand Operational Service Medal and the New Zealand General Service Medal (Afghanistan) for Maritime Interception Operations.

On promotion to Lieutenant in 2005, Mike served as the Commanding Officer of the Inshore Patrol Craft HMNZS MOA. He conducted extensive patrols around the New Zealand coast in support of Fisheries, Customs and Police activities. He also had the privilege of decommissioning MOA in January 2007.

After eighteen months as the Navigating Officer in HMNZS TE KAHA, Mike posted to the United Kingdom to complete the Royal Navy Principal Warfare Officer Course at HMS COLLINGWOOD.

Following completion of this training in 2009, Mike was posted as the Operations Officer of HMNZS CANTERBURY. He played a pivotal role in releasing capability in amphibious operations as the Navy gained experience through Integration Training with the Royal Australian Navy and the French Armed Forces during Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercises.

Mike returned to HMNZS TE MANA to consolidate his warfare skills fulfilling both the Principal Warfare Officer and Operations Officer roles whilst conducting two operational assessments and deployments to South East Asia. His first shore posting occurred in 2011, as the Operations Training Officer within the Fleet Personnel and Training Organisation. He was responsible for providing training for all Operations Branch non-commissioned ranks as well as leadership and command training for Officers.

Returning to sea in 2013 as the Executive Officer of HMNZS TE KAHA, Mike was awarded the Defence Meritorious Service Medal for his performance and contribution for the enhancement of the ship's capability post a disruptive 19 month upgrade. Highlights of this posting were his attendance at the 2015 Anzac Day centenary commemorations at Gallipoli, and the successful interception and confiscation of almost 260 kg of heroin when operating as part of a Combined Task Force for Maritime Security Operations off the coast of Africa.

In 2016, Mike completed the New Zealand Advanced Command and Staff Course, graduating with a Masters Degree in International Security from Massey University. He recently became an

alumni of the Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies (ASC 17-1), before taking up the role as Current Operations Planner at the Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand.

Mike enjoys spending time with his family and getting involved in outdoor activities, especially swimming and running.

Mike assumed Command of HMNZS TE MANA on 22 March 2019.