



Deputy Chief of Navy

Commodore David Gibbs, RNZN



Commodore David Gibbs joined the Royal New Zealand Navy in January 1982 completing a traditional early career path for Marine Engineer Officers including a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) Degree from the University of Auckland and attendance at the Royal Naval Engineering College – Manadon.

A range of engineering support and project roles followed including the introduction of new Condition Monitoring technologies and developing an 'in house' small project capability to close gaps brought about by downsizing during the Naval Dockyard commercialisation.

Commodore Gibbs acquisition and capability development career experience began with his involvement with the Anzac Ship Project as the Platform Systems Engineer in 1996. He subsequently posted to HMNZS TE KAHA (ANZAC 02) as the Marine Engineer Officer.

Promotion to Commander in 2001 and appointment as the Fleet Marine Engineer led to a range of support and project management roles culminating with Project Protector (Melbourne) as the introduction into Service Manager and later the Project Manager.

Upon return to New Zealand he took responsibility for programme management of maritime capital projects. He also worked in the 'inter-agency' participating in the development of the whole of Government Business development process. With the establishment of Capability Branch in Headquarter New Zealand Defence Force in October 2010, he was promoted to Captain to the role of Director of Programme Delivery with responsibility for the delivery phase of the Capability programmes across Defence.

In mid 2012 then, Captain Gibbs identified a requirement for improved maritime regulation and safety assurance. In 2013 he commenced establishment of the New Zealand Defence Force Seaworthiness Framework, the outline of which was delivered to the Chief of Navy in April 2014.

Following attendance at the National Defence University he returned to Naval Staff as the Assistant Chief of Navy (Strategy) in August 2015. In January 2016 Commodore Gibbs was promoted to his current rank and appointed as Deputy Chief of Navy.

Commodore Gibbs holds a MSc National Security and Resource (Strategy) with Distinction from the Eisenhower School, National Defence University, Washington DC, is a Member of the Institute of Marine Engineering Science and Technology, a Chartered Engineer, a Gateway Reviewer, and a member of the Institute of Directors.