



# Commanding Officer

## No. 6 SQUADRON



### Commander Owen Rodger, RNZN

Commander Owen Rodger was educated in Darfield Canterbury before joining the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) in 1994 as a General Duties Pilot. After graduating from Wings Course in 1995 Commander Rodger was posted to No 3 Squadron, RNZAF Base Auckland and commenced an operational tour operating UH-1H Iroquois Helicopters.

In 2002 Commander Rodger completed his Flying Instructor Course before taking up an instructor position at Pilot Training Squadron, RNZAF Base Ohakea. In 2003 Commander Rodger was posted back to No 3 Squadron as an instructor and then Flight Commander on the Iroquois.

In 2005 Commander Rodger was selected for an exchange to instruct on the SH-2G(NZ) Seasprite operated by the newly formed No 6 Squadron. On realisation that he was a sailor at heart, Commander Rodger successfully applied for a service transfer and joined the ranks of the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) 01 June 2007 at the rank of Lieutenant Commander. During the next six years Commander Rodger was an embarked Flight Commander, No 6 Squadron Pilot Training Officer and No 6 Squadron Training Officer/Executive Officer. During this time he saw service on HMNZS TE MANA, TE KAHA, CANTERBURY and OTAGO; managed the introduction of Night Vision Goggle capability to the Seasprite; and was the project lead and RNZN aircraft captain for the Seasprite First of Class Flight Trials with HMNZS OTAGO.

Commander Rodger has conducted multiple deployments to locations including Antarctica, Bougainville, East Timor, Solomon Islands and the Persian Gulf.

In 2013, Commander Rodger was posted to Capability Branch, Wellington and subsequently Hartford Connecticut as the Senior New Zealand Defence Force Officer on the Resident Project Team (RPT) for the recently acquired SH-2G(I). Commander Rodger was responsible for oversight of the SH-2G(I) acquisition, specifically the operational elements. On completion of RPTs tasks in Connecticut, Commander Rodger was posted to Seasprite Transition Unit (STU), responsible for the Introduction into Service of the SH-2G(I).

Commander Rodger took up his current position as Commanding Officer No 6 Squadron RNZAF on 15 April 2016 on the retirement of the SH-2G(NZ) and the amalgamation of No 6 Squadron and STU back into one unit. Apart from flying, his greatest passion is spending time with his family.