

ADMIRAL SIR ALAN WEST KCB DSC



Commander-in-Chief Fleet
(CINCFLEET)



Commander-in-Chief East Atlantic
(CINCEASTLANT)
Commander Allied Naval Forces North
(COMNAVNORTH)

Born 1948, Admiral Sir Alan West joined the Navy in 1965. He has spent the majority of his career at sea serving in fourteen different ships and commanding three of them. He qualified as a Principal Warfare Officer in 1975 and Advanced Warfare Officer (Above Water Weapons) in 1978 and is also a Fighter Controller. He is a graduate of the Royal Naval Staff Course, the Higher Command and Staff Course and the Royal College of Defence Studies.

In 1980 promoted to Commander, he took command of the frigate HMS ARDENT taking the ship south to the Falkland Islands in 1982 where she was sunk in the successful retaking of the Islands. He was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his part in the action and led the Victory Parade through the City of London.

He has held several appointments in the Ministry of Defence and played a prominent role in the re-organisation of the MOD, the initiation of a new budgetary system (NMS) within the Services and he headed the study into women's integration and their service at sea. Promoted to Rear Admiral in February 1994 he was responsible for naval manning, numbers and structures as well as career management and deployment. He moved the department from London to Portsmouth, set up the new organisation and prepared it for agency status. In February 1996 he became Commander United Kingdom Task Group and was almost permanently deployed in one of the CVSs leading the two largest and longest UK deployments since the Gulf and Falkland wars. The only European seaborne principal subordinate commander in NATO he was also a UK designated Joint Force Commander. He was promoted to Vice Admiral in October 1997 and appointed as Chief of Defence Intelligence.

He was created KCB in the Millennium New Years Honours List and promoted to Admiral in November 2000 when he took up his current position as Commander-in-Chief Fleet, Commander-in-Chief East Atlantic and Commander Allied Naval Forces North.