

SAFE Symposium 2024

Keynote Speaker – Wednesday 20th March

**Captain Niall Whitehouse Royal Navy BEng(Hons) MA CEng MIET
FCMI SIIRSM,**

Air Capability Delivery Assistant Head - Air Enablers



Joining the Royal Navy as an Air Engineer in 1992, the first part of his career was spent flying the Sea King Mk 4, with the Commando Helicopter Force, initially as a line pilot then as a Helicopter Warfare Instructor and finally a Senior Flight Commander; gaining operational experience in the former Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone, Iraq and Afghanistan and completing 4 years as the Maintenance Test Pilot at RNAS YEOVILTON. Returning to Air Engineering in 2011 he completed his Professional Command assignment as the Air Engineering Officer of 771 Naval Air Squadron at RNAS CULDROSE, before completing two roles in the Sea King Project

Team in Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) as a Capability Manager and the Mechanical Engineering Authority.

Promoted to Cdr and completing the Advanced Command and Staff Course in 2017, he completed a short assignment in Navy Command's Carrier Strike Ship Air Integration Team before returning to DE&S as the Engineering Authority for Merlin, Sea King and the Royal Navy Historic Flight. As Officer Commanding the Royal Naval Air Engineering and Survival Equipment School he led the school's response to COVID, increasing the training output, and completed a short tour as HMS SULTAN's Executive Officer. He was assigned from HMS SULTAN to Navy Command's Personnel and Training Directorate as the Air Engineer Career Manager, leading the team responsible for career managing 2800 Air Engineers and Survival Equipment technicians.

On promotion to OF5, he took up the role of Assistant Head Air Enablers in the Royal Air Force's Air Command Capability Delivery Pillar. In this role he is Senior Responsible Owner for the Youth Aviation Programme and Programme Director for Hawk Capability Sustainment, UK Military Flying Training Service changes, Aircrew Systems Capability Upgrade and RAFCAM Relocation.

Procurement Agility and Optimising Aircrew Performance: The UK MoD Perspective

The Ukraine conflict has highlighted the importance of warfighting agility – including rapidly changing tactics, locations and equipment. This agility requires robust and plentiful 'enablers' such as flight equipment, and the ability to spirally upgrade equipment, or completely change it, quickly. Capt Niall Whitehouse RN will discuss how the UK MoD is tackling this challenge in the air environment, focussing on flight equipment and aircrew performance, and what this means for industry, the science community and the UK's international military partners.