

HALLAM, STUART

RANK: CHAPLAIN

DECORATIONS:

YEARS OF SERVICE: 2001 - ?

SHIPS:

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: NORTH NORWAY, SIERRA LEONE, AFGHANISTAN

UNITS: 40 COMMANDO, 45 COMMANDO, THEN 40 COMMANDO AGAIN, CTCRM

As a new RN Chaplain started at RNAS Culdrose. Reasons for becoming Chaplain. Dartmouth, then CTC for Commando Course, then 40 Commando. Problems of determining his role – unused to hierarchical organisation. Early difficulties, solitary role. Death (suicide) in unit. Winter deployment. Very bad ski injury – 18 months recovery.

To 45 Commando for a year, Norway again. Unhappy unit, lack of discipline, counselling. Back to 40 Commando, need to rebuild relationships. Exercise in Sierra Leone. To Afghanistan (September 2007) – a life changing experience. Debate over carrying arms. Army chaplains. Experience of being mortared. First patrol. Visited all outlying bases. Men killed in action. Trauma Risk Management (TRIM). Effects of deaths on himself, and those close to the deceased. Present at death in operating theatre of man he knew well. Post Operation tour leave, visiting families of bereaved, helping wounded, supporting colleagues.