



Captain Kristen Watts, RAN, joined the Royal Australian Navy as a Midshipman at the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1992, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Oceanography. Over a career spanning more than three decades, she has qualified as a Maritime Warfare Officer, a Meteorology and Oceanography specialist, and a Human Resources Officer. She served in various ships including patrol boats HMAS *Gladstone* and *Wollongong*, hydrographic ship *Benalla* and the tanker *Westralia*. A returned veteran, she provided meteorological support to INTERFET Forces during operations in East Timor.

Across her career, Kristen has held key roles in career management, training, and strategic workforce design, including serving as the Executive Officer of HMAS Harman, Navy's only shore base in Canberra. She holds two postgraduate degrees: a Master of Science in Physical Oceanography and a Master of Business in Human Resources. Kristen is currently the Director of Force Structure Operations, leading work that shapes future capability. In 2025, she was honoured with the Australian Defence Magazine Women in Defence Award for Executive Management. A long-standing Girl Guide leader, mentor, and community volunteer, Kristen is recognised for empowering women and developing future leaders. She is married to a retired Navy officer who suffers from PTSD and is mother to two teenagers and three energetic beagles.