



BRIDLINGTON

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

AIRCRAFT ENGINEER TECHNICIAN VICKY BARTON

I joined the navy on the 6th January 2008 aged 19. Before the navy I did 3 years at Headlands 6th form but instead of going to university I decided to join the navy as my grandad was a radio officer in the merchant navy. A few months before I joined I went to Dartmouth and did a one week course to see if I wanted to be an officer, but I decided to join as a rating. After my initial training I went to HMS Collingwood to train as a Warfare Specialist. One week before I passed out of phase 2 I decided to branch transfer to an Aircraft Engineering Technician. This resulted in me having to do phase 2 again at HMS Sultan. I successfully passed my course and I opted to work on fixed wing aircraft. I was then sent to RAF Wittering to complete Phase 2B on the Harrier GR9's and T10's. My first draft was 800 Naval Strike Wing at RAF Cottesmore. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there, the 'crabs' were great people to work with and I have lots of amazing memories of my time there My job title was Plane Captain as I had my own jet that I looked after and was responsible for along with a buddy..

I never got to go on any detachments but I did get a chance to go to Bavaria for a 1 week intense leadership course. I worked on the Harriers until they were decommissioned and I feel privileged to be one of the last people to ever maintain one. After our squadrons disbanded and the base slowly shut down I decided the time was right for me to leave and pursue my next career in civvy street. After leaving I got a job as an assistant bar manager at a local pub, then I was a crematorium operative and now I am currently a Funeral Director at Ernest Brigham's.

