

PHILIP NASH



RANK: COMMANDER

JOINED: 1994

SPECIALISATION: WARFARE

PREVIOUS UNITS: HMS COVENTRY, HMS GLASGOW, HMS NOTTINGHAM, HMS NORTHUMBERLAND, HMS GRAFTON, HMS DARING

Military experience

Philip Nash was educated at Banbury Comprehensive School and read Physics at Bristol University. After a year travelling and working around the world, including a short period working for a London firm of patent agents, he joined the Royal Navy in 1994 as a Fleet Air Arm Observer. After initial training at BRNC Dartmouth, where he was awarded the Queen's Binoculars on passing out in 1995, he completed the Basic Observer Course in the Jetstream T2 and Gazelle aircraft at RNAS Culdrose. Selected to specialise as a Lynx Observer, he went on to complete Advanced and Operational Flying training in the Lynx Mk3 helicopter at RNAS Portland in 1997.

His initial appointments at sea were as the Lynx Mk3 Flight Observer in HMS Coventry, on operations in the Adriatic and on ARMILLA Patrol in the Gulf, and thereafter to HMS Glasgow as Flight Commander. Deployed to the Far East, South Pacific and Australasia for most of 1999 to participate in Five Powers Defence Arrangement (FPDA) exercises, Glasgow was engaged on operations during that time as part of the United Nations force assisting East Timor with transition to democratic independence. On return to the UK, and after a short spell on the HQ staff of 815 Naval Air Squadron, he served at sea again as Flight Commander, this time in HMS Nottingham, deploying to the Gulf in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks of 2001 and in 2002 returned to the Far East and Australasia on FPDA duties.

Having qualified for bridge watchkeeping duties whilst serving in HMS Nottingham he completed the Principal Warfare Officer course at HMS Dryad in 2003 and served thereafter as an Above Water Warfare specialist in HMS Northumberland. Duties as Operations Officer in HMS Grafton followed, deploying twice more to the Gulf, first on OPERATION TELIC, ensuring the security of key Iraqi infrastructure in the Northern Arabian Gulf, and a year later as part of the MARSTRIKE 05 Task Group. After a period as a staff officer ashore in the Naval Command HQ in Portsmouth in 2006-7, dealing with the generation of frigates and destroyers for operations, he was selected to serve as Executive Officer and Second in Command of HMS Daring. His appointment in this First of Class ship spanned emergence from build in Glasgow, through acceptance trials and commissioning, to completion of Basic Operational Sea Training. In his last appointment prior to assuming command of HMS Defender he completed the Advanced Command and Staff Course

at the Joint Services Staff College, Shrivenham, gaining a Masters degree in Defence Studies.

Philip Nash is married, has 2 children and lives in Portsmouth.