



### **Rear Admiral D L Potts**

Duncan Potts was born in Malta in 1961 and was educated at Wellington School, Somerset before joining the Navy in 1979. After initial training at Britannia Royal Naval College, and at sea, he studied Systems and Management at the City University, London. Returning to sea in 1983, he served as the Navigating Officer of HMS BILDESTON and BRILLIANT.

Qualifying as a Principal Warfare Officer (Underwater) in 1988, he served in HMSs AMBUSCADE and NORFOLK, on exchange with the United States Navy in Norfolk, Virginia and on the Staff of the Commander United Kingdom Task Group (COMUKTG)/ Commander Anti-Submarine Warfare Strike Force.

On Promotion to Commander in 1996 he assumed command of HMS BRILLIANT, to oversee her sale to Brazil, and then commanded HMS SOUTHAMPTON during which he deployed to the Gulf. In 1998 he was appointed to the Policy and Programmes Cell at the Permanent Joint Headquarters (UK) before becoming Commander Sea Training to Flag Officer Sea Training. On promotion to Captain in 2000 he commanded HMS MARLBOROUGH and the 4<sup>th</sup> Frigate Squadron; he once again deployed to the Middle East.

Subsequently, he spent 4 years in the Ministry of Defence. Initially as Captain Navy Plans, responsible for the size and structure of the Royal Navy, and latterly as the MA to the Vice Chief of Defence Staff. On promotion to Commodore in 2007 he was appointed COMUKTG, during which time he deployed to Iraq as CTF 158, responsible for security in the Northern Gulf. He was appointed ACOS J5 at PJHQ in January 2009.

On promotion to Rear Admiral in January 2011, he became Commander UK Maritime Force the UK's contingent 2 Star Maritime Component Commander, during which time he served as the MCC for NATO Reaction Force 16. More recently, in July 2011 he took on the duties of Rear Admiral Surface Ships and in August 2011 he assumed Command of the EUNAVFOR counter piracy Operation ATALANTA. In January 2013 he assumed the new role of Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Capability), a position which also includes responsibility as Chief of Staff to the Navy Command Headquarters (COS HQ).

He is a graduate of the Higher Command and Staff Course and Royal College of Defence Studies, is a fellow of the Windsor Leadership Trust and a Younger Brother of Trinity House.