

## **Commodore Peter Coulson ADC BEng MSc MA CEng FIET**

Peter's last appointment in Devonport Dockyard was as Captain of Engineering, 2013-2015, when he was responsible for the material generation and sustainment of ships of the Devonport Flotilla, and leadership of the flotilla's engineers. He is thrilled to be returning to HMNB Devonport as the Naval Base Commander and is greatly looking forward to the opportunities and challenges it will bring.

Peter joined the Royal Navy in 1986, with early years training in HM Ships Fife, Brave and Invincible and subsequently studying at the Royal Naval Engineering College, Manadon. Early appointments included HMS Campbeltown as the Deputy Weapon Engineer Officer; a return to Britannia Royal Naval College as a Divisional Officer; the University of Surrey where he was awarded an MSc in Satellite Communications Engineering; followed by three years in the space department of a defence research establishment.

After promotion to Lieutenant Commander he served as the Weapon Engineer Officer in HMS Cumberland from 2000 to 2002. This was followed by 18 months as Deputy Senior Weapon Engineer Officer to Flag Officer Sea Training. Selected for commander in 2003, Peter conducted staff officer training at the Joint Service Command and Staff College, earning an MA in Defence Studies from King's College London.

More recent appointments have included the Directorate of Equipment Capability (Above Water Effects) in the MOD, Whitehall, when he was responsible for combat system integration and maritime strategic acquisition policy. Next was a return to sea as Commander Weapon Engineering in the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious. From 2008 to 2010 he was the military assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Defence, a fascinating period that included the 2010 general election and the formation of a coalition government. Next came a year working for Defence Equipment and Support in Bristol, as the Combat System Assurance Authority.

Upon promotion to Captain he led a team responsible for welfare and accommodation policy in the MOD. This remit included accommodation provision for the three services, operational welfare, mental health and wellbeing of the armed forces and veterans, and recovery policy for the wounded and injured; he was also the department's primary policy lead for charitable engagement.

His most recent appointment was as ACOS(Ships) in Navy Command, responsible for sustaining the capability of QEC, T45 destroyers, T23 frigates, hydrographic vessels, patrol ships, mine counter measures and all small craft.

Peter is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineering and Technology and an Alumnus of the Windsor Leadership Trust having completed both Emerging and Developing Strategic Leader consultations. Married with two children, he lives in Devon and his hobbies include music, clay pigeon shooting, and skiing. He is chairman of ice sports for the RN Winter Sports Association and a trustee of the charity the Britannia Association.