

Lt Cdr Phil Crompton – CO 705 Naval Air Squadron

Phil joined the Royal Navy as a Midshipman in 1996 and has flown the Sea King Mk6 and the Lynx Mk8 on operations around the world, from the Gulf to the South Atlantic. A Qualified Helicopter Instructor (QHI), he has taught at RAF Shawbury and RNAS Yeovilton. Phil assumed Squadron Command in January 2020.

Lt Cdr Phil Crompton joined the Royal Navy as a Midshipman in 1996. Following flying training at RAF Cranwell and RAF Shawbury, Phil was streamed to the Sea King Mk 6 Anti-Submarine Warfare role, gaining his Wings in 2000. Appointed to 810 NAS B Flight, he embarked in the Type 22 Frigates HMS Campbeltown and Cornwall, operating in UK waters. Joining 820 NAS in 2001, he embarked in RFA Fort Victoria and took part in Op Oracle, operating in the Indian Ocean before embarking in HMS Ark Royal in 2002 to support UK and Mediterranean based deployments. Embarked in RFAs Fort Austin and Argus for Op Telic in 2003, Phil was heavily involved moving casualties from shore to ship as well as supporting troops on the ground.

Converting to the Lynx Mk8 in 2004, Phil then embarked in HMS Portland to the South Atlantic and HMS Sutherland to the Gulf. An Op Tour to Iraq in 2007 with CTF 158 as Ops 3 saw Phil tasking ship and aviation units in the North Gulf, ensuring peace was maintained and traffic flowed smoothly in the area. The QHI Course followed and he joined 705 NAS at RAF Shawbury flying the Squirrel.

Completing his time as the Ops Officer, Phil was responsible for training foreign pilots in UK aviation techniques and regulations as well as ensuring 660 Sqn AAC pilots were fully prepared to teach the 705 NAS syllabus as the School prepared to transition to “parallel Sqns”.

Joining 702 NAS at RNAS Yeovilton in 2010, he requalified to fly the Lynx Mk3 and Mk 8 and assumed the role of Pilot Training Officer before successfully upgrading to A2 QHI. After 5 years of instruction, Phil moved out of the cockpit to the Force HQ in the Plans role where he was responsible for future Force infrastructure and Squadron organisation as the Lynx was phased out of service and replaced by the Wildcat. Promoted to Lt Cdr in 2015, he assumed the role of Force Ops ensuring Sqn aircraft and personnel were programmed appropriately whilst ensuring the Force continued towards its new form.

A move to West Battery followed in 2015 as the Aviation Branch Manager where he was responsible for the structure and manning balance of the Officer cadre within the Fleet Air Arm.

Phil joined the Rotary Wing Fielding Team in July 2016, part of the small and specialist Military team aligned with Ascent who had taken on responsibility for all flying training. Assisting with courseware, Phil was the User Authenticator for the H145 Jupiter aircraft, writing the Flight Reference Cards and developing operating techniques so the aircraft was ready to be introduced to student flying. Assigned as Senior Pilot 705 NAS in 2018, he continued to develop flying techniques and restructured the Sqn to make it more efficient under the new Defence Helicopter Flying School organisation. A strong advocate of RN ethos, he continues to highlight the RN in a Tri-Service environment.

He assumed the role of CO 705 NAS in Jan 2020, with the School continuing to go through a period of significant change.