



**Lieutenant Commander Tony Hampshire Royal Navy
Commanding Officer Northern Diving Group**

Tony was born in West Yorkshire in 1977, and joined the Royal Navy as a Warfare Officer (Naval College Entrant) in 1997. On completion of initial officer training, which included sea training on HMS London and HMS Somerset, he qualified as a Ship's Diving Officer before joining his first complement appointment as OOW/Diving Officer on HMS Campbeltown.

Upon achieving his Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate and Ocean Navigation Certificate, he was appointed to MWS DRYAD to complete the Long Minewarfare and Clearance Diving Officer's Course in 2002, where he received the Superintendent of Diving Trophy for best student.

Appointments to HMS Atherstone as the Operations Officer and HMS Quorn as the Executive Officer followed, before he was assigned to a broadening appointment on the staff at Britannia Royal Navy College, Dartmouth, responsible for initial officer training.

On promotion to Lieutenant Commander, Tony spent a short period acting as Course Officer to the PO(D) PQC at the Defence Diving School before deploying to the Mediterranean as the Staff MCDO to Commander SNMCMG2 embarked on HMS Roebuck, during which he was responsible for the N3 planning of a multinational NATO MCM task group.

This was followed by an appointment to FOST(MPV) as SWO(MCD) responsible for the delivery of Minewarfare and Clearance Diving training to MCMVs, along with a period deployed to Bahrain acting as the MW lead on the SEAFOX MDT trials.

Tony then deployed to Oman for a 3 year period of Loan Service seconded to the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) as the Commanding Officer of the RNO Diving Unit. This fulfilling appointment saw the RNO begin a MCM capability implementation, during which a full trials process was instigated for MCM diving equipment, UUVs and RCCs.

On return to the UK, he spent 2 years as the MCM Staff Officer to FASFL0T, responsible for the coordination and conduct of Operation ROCOCO and Operation PIKE, before assuming Command of Northern Diving Group in Jan 16.