

**Commander Philip Harper AFNI AFRIN Royal Navy
Commanding Officer of HMS Enterprise**



Following an in-service degree in Russian, and after a short time in the Submarine Service, I navigated HMS Northumberland, was PWO(U) and OPS of HMS Richmond and qualified as a specialist navigator.

I was selected as the trials navigator of HMS Daring, working on behalf of BAE Systems to safely deliver a new platform with a functioning navigation system, effective SOPs and an initial cadre of trained operators.

When the H branch ran short of command-qualified officers, I was selected as the XO of HMS Scott. After a short tour as SWO(N) I attended ACSC, then commanded the Navigation Training Unit at the Maritime Warfare School.

Promotion to commander and a 14-month tour in MOD as the Military Strategic Plans desk officer with responsibility for defence engagement policy was followed by 18 months as directing staff on the Advanced Command and Staff Course.

I took command of HMS Enterprise in November 2016.

An associate fellow of both the Royal Institute of Navigation and the Nautical Institute, I am a member of the NI's professional development committee, reflecting a strong interest in both continuous professional development and developing strong links between the Merchant Navy and Royal Navy. I am a freeman of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners.

Helen and I were married in 1995, and have 6 children. When time allows, I have an eclectic range of hobbies, including collecting wild mushrooms, a permanently broken classic car and traditional nautical music.