

**Commander
Ben Martin
MBE Royal Navy**

**Commanding Officer
HMS DUNCAN**



Ben Martin joined the Royal Navy in 2005 as a surface warfare officer. Trained in HM Ships CHATHAM, EDINBURGH and MERSEY, his first complement appointment was as an OOW in the Type 23 frigate HMS LANCASTER. Upon qualification as a Fighter Controller, he served in the Type 45 destroyer HMS DIAMOND from build and the Type 42 destroyer HMS MANCHESTER for a deployment to the Caribbean.

Qualifying as a Principal Warfare Officer in 2013 he returned to DIAMOND as the Principal Warfare Officer (Above Water) and Operations Officer as the ship generated for Operation KIPION and subsequently carried out maritime force protection operations for the combined Danish, Norwegian and British task group during Operation RECSYR.

Promotion to Lieutenant Commander followed and he specialised as an Air Warfare Officer (AWO) being presented the AWO Student of the Year prize in 2014. Subsequently assigned to HMS DARING he served as the Senior Warfare Officer during operations protecting maritime trade during a period of heightened tension off the coast of Yemen in 2016. A period of service for which he was awarded the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service (QCVS).

On departing DARING he spent 18 months as the Plans Officer to Commander United Kingdom Carrier Strike Group where he garnered insight into the regeneration of the UK's carrier strike capability, embarking in HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH and the US aircraft carrier USS GEORGE HW BUSH whilst taking part in planning and executing multi-national exercises.

Selected for sea command in 2018 he spent almost 3 enjoyable years in command of MCM1 Crew 8 and subsequently MCM1 Crew 4 serving in the Sandown Class minehunters HMS BANGOR, BLYTH and PEMBROKE for generation and operations in the UK, the Baltic Sea and the Gulf. He was honoured to be made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) for his service in command of MCM1 Crew 8 and HMS BLYTH during high tempo operations within the Gulf in 2019-2020.

Ben Martin assumed command of HMS DUNCAN in January 2022.