

## Commander Michael Proudman Royal Navy



Proudman joined the navy in 2003, and after a year at Britannia Royal Naval College, commenced his Warfare training at sea. Time spent in Mine Countermeasures Vessels was followed by his inaugural deployment embarked in HMS DUMBARTON CASTLE, as the Falkland Islands Patrol Vessel. Following qualification as an Officer Of the Watch, Proudman subsequently decided to pursue the sub-specialisation of Fighter Controller (FC). Upon qualifying in 2006, he completed his first FC appointment in HMS YORK, a Type 42 Destroyer, which included time deployed to the Baltic and Mediterranean.

This was followed by a second front-line FC appointment, to HMS ILLUSTRIOUS, operating Harrier GR7/9 in the Carrier Strike role. Proudman was then fortunate enough to be selected to undertake French Language training followed by a 2 year exchange posting onboard the French CVN Charles de Gaulle. This challenging and interesting appointment saw Proudman deploy to the Gulf and Indian Ocean, supporting operations in Afghanistan and inside the Gulf, followed by a second operational deployment as part of Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR, in Libya.

An instructional tour followed upon return to the UK, as Course Officer for the Tactical phase of FC course at the Maritime Warfare School, HMS COLLINGWOOD.

Upon successful completion of Principle Warfare Officer course, Proudman joined HMS DEFENDER as the Operations Officer. This period included a deployment to the Gulf as part of Operation KIPION, as an integrated escort to both FS Charles de Gaulle and USS Harry S Truman.

Proudman was then selected to join the Staff of Commander UK Carrier Strike Group (UKCSG), as Future Operations Officer. Highlights included being the lead planner for the highly successful inaugural trials of UK F-35B onboard HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH, off the Eastern seaboard of the US, liaison visit to the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force and US 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet and participation in a USAF Wargame in Hawaii.

Proudman joined HMS DRAGON as the Executive Officer in 2019, which saw an immediate deployment as part of UKCSG, to conduct the second phase of UK F-35B trials and develop CONOPS for Air and Missile Defence Commander duties. Upon return to the UK, Proudman spent a short period as XO HMS DIAMOND, before joining HMS DUNCAN in May 2020, during a major refit. Following a brief spell as SXO(W) to SURFLOT, he joins HMS SPEY as the Commanding Officer in Dec 21.