

Commander Philip Edward Dennis MBE MA Royal Navy

HMS DARING

Born in Henley, Oxfordshire, and educated at Sir William Borlase Grammar School, Marlow and University College Swansea, Philip Dennis joined the Royal Navy in April 1995. Early appointments included HM Ships Leeds Castle, Newcastle and Illustrious, and then as the Staff FC to FOST.

Completing PWO course in 2004 he joined HMS Lancaster as Gunnery Officer and then Operations Officer. The later period saw the ship operate as ASW escort to the French Charles De Gaulle carrier group for the AGAPANTHE 06 deployment to the Middle East. On completion of the Air Warfare Officer (AWO) course, where he was awarded the St Barbara Association/BAE Systems prize for Air Warfare, he returned to HMS Illustrious as the AWO and then Senior Warfare Officer. This period included embarkations of US Marine Corps, Italian, Spanish and Joint Force Harrier squadrons along with the privilege of being head of the Warfare Department for the ORION 08 capability deployment to the Middle and Near East.

Returning to the Gulf in 2009 he spent six months as the Deputy Staff Officer Operations to the UKMCC in Bahrain supporting the 11 Royal Navy units in theatre. On return to the UK he joined the Fleet Operations staff at Northwood in the Ops Policy division responsible for liaison with the MOD. He joined MCM2 Crew 7 in April 2010 and shortly afterwards deployed to the Gulf in command of HMS Middleton for seven months on Operation TELIC-MCM.

Returning to the UK with Crew 7 in January, he assumed Command of HMS Ledbury in February 2011. In April 2011 he joined Crew 1, then in HMS QUORN, and deployed back to the Gulf for the inaugural Operation KIPION-MCM. Returning to the UK as part of the crew swap process he completed his Command assignment in HMS Hurworth in early 2012. He was made an Ordinary Member of the Order of the British Empire in the September 2012 Operational Honours and Awards List.

After a short appointment to the Air Warfare Capability area at Navy Command Headquarters he completed the Advanced Command and Staff Course in 2013 and then worked on the Middle East Operations Team at the Northwood Joint Headquarters.

He assumed command of HMS Daring in May 2014.