



**Commander DJS Mcknight Royal Navy
Commanding Officer Fleet Diving Squadron (CO FDS)**

An inveterate nomad, 'Del' was born in Northern Ireland, educated in Portsmouth, Scotland and Sussex University. Finally he joined the Royal Navy as a Warfare Officer in 1989 to achieve his burning ambition to become a Clearance Diver. He undertook a range of junior officer appointments in HM Ships Bristol, Cornwall, Orkney, and Sheffield. Hugely varied employment included a Global deployment, crossing the Arctic Circle and Equator, Operations in the Gulf and Adriatic, and counter-drug and fishery protection work around the UK.

Achieving his dream, he qualified as a Mine Clearance Diving Officer in 1994 and appointments as Operations and Executive Officer in HMS Brocklesby and Middleton resulted. All too soon Principal Warfare Officer course beckoned. Specializing in Above Water Warfare, he qualified in 1999 and was appointed to the frigates HMS Iron Duke and Lancaster as Operations Officer, both with the current Fleet Commander as his Commanding Officer. Keen to remain at sea, Del completed a specialist Air Warfare Officer course before returning to sea in the destroyer HMS Southampton.

Shore time had to come eventually and a post in the Maritime Warfare School was cut short by a short notice "opportunity" to join PJHQ J3. Two years at the Operational cutting edge, working in the Middle East Ops Team and subsequently the SF cell saw periods in both Iraq and Afghan as well traveling more widely in the Middle East and further afield, followed by an Op Tour in Yemen.

A return to sea as the Executive Officer and Second in Command of the Type 42 destroyer HMS Manchester (2009-2011) where he and a great team coaxed the old girl through her final BOST and a busy deployment to the western Atlantic and Caribbean before paying her off.

Asked to join the Career Managers team in West Battery, initially as the FC, PWO and AWO Career Manager, and subsequently as the MCD and MWO Career Manager, the rewards for long hours and endeavoring to make sense of the most complex jigsaw puzzle in the world was a year on the Advanced Command and Staff Course, a Masters, some sleepless nights and some great friends. Promoted to Commander at the end of his time on course Del joined the Maritime Warfare Centre where he became an expert in the Estimate process and taught the Commanding and Executive Officer Courses. Most recently an Op Tour to arguably the most powerful Headquarters in the world (CENTCOM) as the J3 Maritime Branch Chief enabled a "refresher" on the problems of the Middle East during a very exciting period.

Returning to the UK Del was very pleased to be confirmed as the Command Officer of the prestigious Fleet Diving Squadron in May 2016.