

COMMODORE ANDREW BURNS OBE ROYAL NAVY

COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS TASK GROUP



Andrew Burns took command of the Amphibious Task Group on 3 May 16.

Educated at the Portsmouth Grammar and Sherborne Schools, he completed initial training at Britannia Royal Naval College and at sea in HMS Bristol in 1989 as a University Cadet. He graduated from the University of Durham with a BA Hons in Geography in 1992. He has subsequently enjoyed a wide variety of command and staff appointments throughout a 27 year career in the Royal Navy. After university he undertook Fleet Training in HMS Peacock of the Hong Kong Squadron and in home waters in HMS Cornwall. His first complement appointment was as a Bridge Watchkeeper in HMS Glasgow, which took him to the Persian Gulf and the Baltic. He then qualified as a Fighter Controller serving in HMS Exeter, again in the Persian Gulf, and then in HMS Invincible during the Iraq crisis of 1997. He later qualified as a Principal Warfare Officer and was appointed as the Operations Officer of HMS St Albans.

He has commanded HMS Berkeley from 1998 to 2000, involved in Mine Countermeasures Operations and Fishery Protection Duties; the frigate HMS Somerset conducting two deployments to the Middle East, firstly with the UK Amphibious Task Group and then to provide maritime security in the Persian Gulf and specifically to Iraq's oil terminals; and in 2012, HMS Bulwark, the Fleet Flagship, leading a Task Group deployment to the Mediterranean and then to the Middle East. He was subsequently appointed OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2015. Between his most recent sea commands he was Commander Sea Training, responsible for the training and operational preparation of Royal Navy and a number of NATO warships.

Between seagoing appointments Andrew Burns gained headquarters experience, in the National Contingent Headquarters, Qatar for the intervention in Iraq of 2003, twice in the Ministry of Defence, firstly responsible for Royal Navy/Special Forces integration and then in the Directorate of Strategic Plans conducting strategic planning for crisis and contingent operations as well as Counter Terrorism and Counter Piracy. In 2004, he deployed to Baghdad, Iraq and within the Multinational Force Headquarters, as a Director for Communications and Information Systems, he led the planning and delivery of military and civil communications throughout Iraq. Most recently he was the Principal Staff Officer to Commander Joint Forces Command from 2013 to 2015.

He has attended the Royal College of Defence Studies as an Associate Member and is a graduate of the Advanced Command and Staff Course (gaining an MA in Defence Studies from King's College London) and of the Higher Command and Staff Course. In 2016 he was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Changing Character of War Programme, Pembroke College, University of Oxford. Andrew Burns is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Managers, a Younger Brother of Trinity House and a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers. He is a mentor for the University of Durham Leadership Academy. He has a wide range of other interests and has maintained his enthusiasm for team sports, albeit now as a spectator. He is married to Wendy and they have a 9 year old son, Samuel; their home is on Dartmoor, which they share with two Jack Russell terriers.