

From Lieutenant Commander Richard "Soapy" Watson MSc Royal Navy



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10 Sep 12

Sirs, Fellow Members,

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER 2012 60th ANNIVERSARY

This year's Association Dinner will be held in the Wardroom HMS EXCELLENT, on Thursday 22 November, with the kind support of the Mess President Col Mark Maddick RM. Many of you will ask the question "why Thursday?", the answer to which is that with it being our 60th Anniversary the Committee felt that it remained a priority, that a serving Senior Officer with a MW/Diving connection be invited to be the Guest of Honour to mark this milestone occasion. Following extensive enquiries we have been very fortunate to have Rear Admiral Simon B Charlier who is currently the Director Operating Group of the newly formed Military Aviation Authority as our Guest of Honour. Admiral Simon is a former Commanding Officer HMS SHERATON (1989) and Gunnery Officer HMS STUBBINGTON (1979). His biography is attached for information.

The cost of the dinner remains at a very reasonable £40 per head (£45 for Guests). The dinner will follow the traditional format, commencing with pre-dinner drinks in the bar at 1930, followed by good food and refreshments, a hearty sing song to the musical accompaniment of the HMS Nelson Volunteer Band, before retiring for a nightcap, or two.

As well as toasting the 25th anniversary of the 1987 Long Courses, it will also be a great opportunity to meet-up with many old friends and acquaintances. Get your bids early to avoid disappointment.

Those of you who wish to come to the Annual Operational Update Brief and AGM (there is an application form attached). This will be held on the Thursday forenoon/afternoon with Lunch. This is an ideal forum to catch up on current operations with guest speakers CO FDS, SO1 MCD Navy Command and SofD.

Unfortunately, the Mess is full and HMS BRISTOL is not an option this year (it has only been confirmed recently that the ship will be in dockyard hands / dead ship from 13 Nov until Feb 13 as they re-develop the waterfront and move her to her new berth 75 yards east of the current one!). The very few spare cabins that were available in EXCELLENT Wardroom have already been allocated but there are a few cabins in the Junior Rates accommodation block which are suitable for an overnight stay. First come first served but I need the requirements by Mon 12th Nov.

I have contacted several local hotels regarding group discounts; the rates provided are however nowhere near as competitive as the advance booking price offered through the Internet: Premier Inn, Solent Port currently offering Double/Twin Rooms for £49 per night; Market House Tavern £45/night; and Inn Lodge £50/night. I would therefore strongly encourage travellers to make an advance Internet booking, or impose on the hospitality of any friends in the local area.

To ensure that you do not miss out on this great evening please complete and return the attached application, ensuring that it reaches me before **16 November 2012**.

Kindest Regards

Soapy

MCDOA ANNUAL DINNER - 22 NOVEMBER 2012

Time: 1930 for 2000 - 22 November 2012

Venue: Wardroom, HMS EXCELLENT

Dress/Rig: Mess Undress/Black Tie with Miniature Medals

Guest of Honour: Rear Admiral Simon SB Charlier FRAeS

25th Anniversary Courses: 1987A & 1987B

I (name) will attend the 2012 MCD Dinner

I would also like to bring (name/s) as my guest/s

I will be arriving by Car/Taxi (delete as appropriate)

Car Registration.....

Car Make & Model.....

Passengers Name(s)/Arriving With.....

Any Special Dietary Requirements..... (Vegetarian/Nut Allergy/etc)

Cheque Number @ £40/£45 per head is enclosed

Cheques to be made payable to 'MCDOA' (note: non-Association members rate is £45)

PLEASE RETURN TO MCDOA HON SEC BEFORE 16 NOVEMBER 2012
(APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED):

Richard "Soapy" Watson
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**MCDOA ANNUAL OPERATIONAL UPDATE BRIEF/
LUNCH/AGM - 22 NOVEMBER 2012**

Time: 1000 (Seated)-1500 - 22 November 2012

Venue: FLEET DIVING SQUADRON HQ-HORSEA

Dress/Rig: Daily Working Rig/ Shirt and Tie

I (name) will attend the 2012 Update Brief and AGM

I would also like to bring (name/s) as my guest/s

I will be arriving by Car/Taxi (delete as appropriate)

Car Registration.....

Car Make & Model.....

Passengers Name(s)/Arriving With.....

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Venue:

1000-1200	Operational Briefs
1200-1300	Lunch
1300-1500	AGM

REAR ADMIRAL SIMON CHARLIER ROYAL NAVY



Rear Admiral Simon Charlier was educated at Dover College and joined the Royal Navy in 1978 at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. His appointments as a Midshipman were spent in Her Majesty's Ships SIRIUS, BRINTON and BRISTOL.

In 1979 he joined HMS STUBBINGTON assigned to Fishery protection duties followed by a further sea appointment in HMS APOLLO. Awarded his pilot's wings in 1983 he subsequently joined 829 Naval Air Squadron to fly the WASP and LYNX helicopters. His flying posts included serving as Flight Commander in HMS AJAX (the Falklands), HMS ROTHESAY, HMS GALATEA and finally, in 1986, HMS NEWCASTLE.

In 1989 he took command of HMS SHERATON deploying to the Mediterranean and Northern Europe followed by promotion to Lieutenant Commander to work in the Ministry of Defence for VCDS, Admiral Sir Benjamin Bathurst.

Rear Admiral Charlier returned to flying the Lynx helicopter in 1992, as Senior Pilot of 815 Squadron, at Royal Naval Air Station Portland, He was responsible for merging 829 Sqn with 815 Sqn to form the largest operational RW squadron in

Europe. During this period he led the special forces element of the squadron engaged on a number of operational call outs. After completing the Royal Naval Staff course at Greenwich in 1995, he took command of the Frigate HMS NORTHUMBERLAND, deploying to the South Atlantic, followed by 7 months in NATO's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean.

After a short spell as a programmer on the HQ Staff of Flag Officer Naval Aviation, Rear Admiral Charlier returned to the Ministry of Defence when he joined the Directorate of Naval Plans and Programme in October 1998 managing Naval flying policy and the funded programme. This was followed by a post as Assistant Director in the NATO and European Policy Group in May 2000 on promotion to Captain and was the MOD rep for HQ ARRC. In 2002 Rear Admiral Charlier took command of HMS CORNWALL as Flag ship to NATO's Standing Naval Force Atlantic with deployments to the Mediterranean, Baltic, Russia and the USA. Following this period of Command he returned to his flying roots in the post of Commodore Fleet Air Arm and Assistant Chief of Staff (Aviation) and Naval AOA in CINCFleet headquarters in 2004. This was followed by the position of Fleet ACOS(Resources & Plans) and Aide de Camp in November 2006. He became CINC Fleet's Chief of Staff (Aviation & Carriers) and 2 star Naval AOA with operational command of all Air Stations and Squadrons, on promotion to Rear Admiral in February 2008. His current appointment is as the first Director (Operations) of the newly formed Military Aviation Authority. He remains keenly involved in flying operations and keeps current as a military and civil light aircraft pilot.

Simon Charlier is a Freeman of the City of London, a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical society and a member of the Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators. He is married to Anna with three children, Nicholas 21, Alexandra 19, and Harry 17. He is President of RN Winter Sports, the Combined Services Equestrian Association and the RNRM Equestrian association as well as being a keen competitor himself, along with his wife and daughter. When time permits his recreations are flying, spectator rugby, golf, sailing, Mountain Biking, and he occasionally tinkers with a clarinet.