



FLEET AIR ARM AWARDS

Including the Supersession of

REAR ADMIRAL FLEET AIR ARM

&

**COMMAND WARRANT OFFICER
FLEET AIR ARM**

20 February 2019





Welcome to Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton for the Fleet Air Arm Awards Ceremony and the supersession of Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm and Command Warrant Officer Fleet Air Arm. This event is the Fleet Air Arm's opportunity to recognise team and individual efforts and achievement across all aspects of UK naval aviation and to mark the supersession of the Head of the Fleet Air Arm.

Fleet Air Arm Awards

Recognition of the exceptional contribution of an individual or team to UK naval aviation.

Supersession of Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm

The Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Aviation, Amphibious Capability and Carriers) and Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm, is the professional head of the Fighting Arm. Today, Rear Admiral Keith E Blount CB OBE FRAeS hands over the role to Rear Admiral Martin Connell.

Supersession of Command Warrant Officer Fleet Air Arm

A central point of focus for all personnel, the Command Warrant Officer acts as an independent and autonomous Command Advisor, specifically responsible for the development of the Moral Component of Operational Capability. Today, WO1 Paul Stevenson hands over the role to WO1 Chris Boucher.



Parade Programme

- 0915 Refreshments available in 14 Hangar.
- 1010 All guests to be seated in 14 Hangar.
- 1030 Guest of Honour arrives to open the ceremony.
- Opening Address by
Commanding Officer RNAS Yeovilton.
- Presentation of Fleet Air Arm Awards.
- Prayers of thanksgiving.
- Supersession of
Command Warrant Officer Fleet Air Arm.
- Supersession of Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm.
- Address by Rear Admiral Keith Blount.
- Address by Rear Admiral Martin Connell.
- c1135 Departure of Rear Admiral Keith Blount.
- c1145 Buffet Luncheon in 14 Hangar. Static display
aircraft open for guest viewing on 825 Dispersal.
- 1300 Rear Admiral Connell departs.
- O/C Guests depart 825 NAS.



Fleet Air Arm Awards

Gold Valedictory

Awarded to personnel on completion of 35 years service.

CPOAET (AV) Michael Evans

Green Endorsement

These awards are made personally by ACNS(A&C). They are granted in recognition of exceptional professional skill or judgement in the handling of an aircraft emergency or rescue situation by aircrew, or a praiseworthy act by anyone involved in aviation support which makes a significant contribution to aircraft accident prevention.

1700NAS Albatross Flight:

PO (AH) Ready
LA (AH) Marley
LA (AH) Hill
NA (AH) Jacobs

RNAS Culdrose Flight Test:

PO Culshaw
Mr Morgan



ACNS Commendation

849 Engineering Team:

Lt Falconbridge	CPO Henry
PO Cullum	LH Stringer
AET Law	

Bambara Flight Safety Trophy

Awarded annually by ACNS(A&C) to the unit with the best flight safety record.

To be announced during the Awards Ceremony

Bambara Flight Safety Shield

A shield for the runner-up, awarded annually by ACNS(A&C) to the unit with the best flight safety record.

To be announced during the Awards Ceremony

Sopwith Pup Trophy

Awarded annually by ACNS(A&C) to the ship whose flight achieves and maintains the highest degree of Operational Capability throughout the previous year.

To be announced during the Awards Ceremony



**Assistant Chief of Naval Staff
(Aviation, Amphibious Capability & Carriers)
and Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm**



Rear Admiral Keith E Blount CB OBE FRAeS

Keith Blount joined the Royal Navy in 1984 as a helicopter pilot. He received his wings in 1986, and was awarded the Bell Davies trophy as the top student pilot of his year. He was a front line aviator at the age of 20. Through a varied flying career, he qualified as an instructor and flew in the Royal Navy Helicopter Display Team.

Blount has blended his aviation experience with a broad span of Command. He has commanded three warships, including the helicopter carrier HMS OCEAN and was the Iraqi Maritime Task Group Commander during Operation TELIC. Most recently, he was the United Kingdom's Maritime Component Commander, based in Bahrain. The period spanned Operations in Syria and Iraq.

His staff appointments have included three periods in the Ministry of Defence and his last London assignment was as Military Assistant to the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Defence Studies, was appointed OBE in 2012, CB in 2018 and is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. He is the President of the Royal Navy Winter Sports Association and the Royal Navy Hang gliding and Paragliding Association.

He assumed duties as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Aviation, Amphibious Capability and Carriers) and Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm in May 2015.

**Assistant Chief of Naval Staff
(Aviation, Amphibious Capability & Carriers)
and Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm
DESIGNATE**



Rear Admiral Martin Connell

Martin Connell will be appointed Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Aircraft, Amphibious Capability and Carriers) and Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm in February 2019.

Commissioned in 1987, he qualified as a front line Lynx Observer and his early RN career was spent at sea in various frigate and destroyer Lynx Flights and as an Officer of the Watch.

In the early 1990s he became a Qualified Observer Instructor at 702 Naval Air Squadron, followed by time as a Flight Commander in HM Ships COVENTRY and MANCHESTER as well as instructing front line aircrew in 815 Naval Air Squadron. In 1998 he specialised as an anti-submarine warfare officer (PWO(U)) for which he was awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Honour.

He has had the privilege of commanding at sea in every rank from lieutenant to commodore, including HM Ships SEVERN (2003-04), CHATHAM (2006-09) and the aircraft carrier ILLUSTRIOUS (2012-13). As the Commander of the United Kingdom's Task Group in 2015 he was the Joint Task Force Commander for two operations in the Central Mediterranean (Op WEALD and Op ALVIN), which included tackling the worsening migrant crisis.

Ashore he has completed three tours in the central staff of the Ministry of Defence, including being the Deputy Principal Staff Officer to the Chief of the Defence Staff. Most recently he was the British Naval Attaché in Washington D.C. responsible for overseeing and advancing the vital UK/US defence relationship. He is a graduate of the US Naval War College (2004-05), the Higher Command and Staff Course (2011) and the US CAPSTONE Course (2017). He is a Younger Brother of the Corporation of Trinity House and in 2018/19 he attended the inaugural Institute of Directors' Defence Strategic Business Programme.

Command Warrant Officer Fleet Air Arm WO1AET Paul Stevenson MSM



After studying A Levels at The Kingsway School in Manchester, Paul joined the Royal Navy in 1988 as an Artificer Apprentice. Training as a Weapons Electrical Aircraft Technician he spent 12 months in the Sea King 'Junglie' circuit at RNAS Yeovilton before graduating to complete his Certificate of Competence on 810 NAS at RNAS Culdrose. After a short period of employment in Sea King Workshops he completed a 3 year assignment on the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Naval Support Unit (Now known as MASF) managing embarked workshops on various RFAs deployed primarily in support of NATO during the Balkans conflict and also deploying on exercise Ocean Wave to the Far East in 1997.

Re-training to Merlin Mk1 in 1998 he served on 814 NAS as Watch CPO during the first Merlin Squadron embarkation into a CVS and also the first operational deployment of the aircraft during Operation TELIC. Promoted WO2 in 2004, he spent 12 months as the Merlin Avionics Workshops Manager where he successfully introduced the Active Dipping Sonar test facility working closely with industry. Assigned as Senior Maintenance Rating to 829 NAS 04 Flight on its formation in 2005 he was responsible for the generation of all engineering management systems, before deploying in HMS Northumberland for various ASW trials and later HMS Monmouth in support of Operations East of Suez.

Further employment in the Merlin arena saw him assigned to Navy Command Head Quarters as the Merlin Mk1 Release to Service Desk Officer in 2009 where he over saw the introduction of Urgent Operational Requirements for Defensive Aids Suite, Bowman Radio and Full Motion Video. Returning to RNAS Culdrose as 829 NAS HQ Squadron Senior Maintenance Rating he was selected for promotion to WO1 in 2010. Assigned to the Merlin Helicopter Force, Integrated Logistics Operation Cell he was primarily responsible for Force engineering standards and practices, in addition to overseeing the induction of Mk1 aircraft into the Merlin Capability Sustainment Programme for conversion to Mk2. A move back to 829 Squadron saw him appointed 829 NAS Flight Parenting and Squadron Warrant Officer.

Returning to NCHQ in 2014, he was assigned as Deputy Branch Manager for the AE & SE Branch responsible for strategic manpower planning and where he was key in the creation of the Merlin Forward Support Units based in RNAS Culdrose and Yeovilton. After a short but thoroughly enjoyable stint as BWO HMS Raleigh he was selected as the Command Warrant Officer for the Fleet Air Arm (CWO (FAA)) assuming the role in December 2016.

Paul lives in Helston, Cornwall with his wife Rachael and has two daughters. He enjoys running and cycling but his real passion is scuba diving, he is the Treasurer of the Royal Navy Royal Marines Sub Aqua Association.

Command Warrant Officer Fleet Air Arm DESIGNATE WO1AET Chris Boucher IEng MIET GCGI



WO1 Chris Boucher is an Air Engineering Technician with over 30 years' Service which includes a breadth of employment in CVS, Squadrons (Sea Harrier and Merlin Mk1), Project Teams, Training and Personnel assignments (Career and Branch Management).

Born in Pontypool, South Wales, Chris joined the Royal Navy in 1988, aged 16, as an Artificer Apprentice, passing out of HMS Daedalus as an LAEA(L) in 1992. He completed supervisor training on 899 NAS at RNAS YEOVILTON and was then promoted to POAEA(WL) and assigned to 801 NAS where he spent most of his assignment embarked on HMS

ILLUSTRIOUS in support of the Balkans conflict.

Promoted to CPOAEA(L) in Jan 1997 whilst on the 9-month OCEAN WAVE deployment which included the Hong Kong handover. In 1998 he was assigned to the Sea Harrier Project Team at RAF WYTON as the In-Service Support Manager and completed the Aircraft Charge Certificate in 2002 prior to being reassigned back to 801 NAS as the Watch CPO.

In 2005 he became the Sea Skua Project Manager in the Air Launched Munitions Project Team during which time he was promoted to WO2AET in 2007.

As a WO2 he was employed within Joint Force Harrier firstly as the Engineering Support Team WO, then as the Engineering Training Officer of the Harrier Training School and finally as the Pegasus Engine Depth Facility Manager when JFH was disbanded as part of SDSR.

In 2011 he became the Senior Maintenance Rating on 814 NAS, at RNAS CULDROSE, where he had his first encounter with rotary wing aircraft. During this period, he deployed to Oman in support of OP CHOBDAR and HMS BULWARK in support of OP OLYMPICS.

Promoted to WO1 in 2012 he was assigned as the Career Management Cell WO at RNAS Culdrose. In 2014 he became the Repair Warrant Officer in 1710 NAS, HMNB Portsmouth, where he worked on various helicopter types designing repair schemes to ensure the aircraft were expediently returned to the Front Line.

In 2016 he became the Deputy Branch Manager for the AE and SE Branch responsible for strategic manpower planning and where he was key in the creation of the Survival Equipment Technician specialisation within the FAA Engineering Branch.

In Nov 2018 he was selected as the Command Warrant Officer of the Fleet Air Arm (CWO(FAA)), taking up the role on 20 Feb 2019.

Chris lives in Titchfield, Hampshire with his wife Linda, a Civil Servant in the Office for National Statistics. A keen follower of various sports, he plays golf badly and enjoys walking and exploring the coast and countryside.



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