

SURGEON COMMODORE R HARLAND MB ChB MRCP DObst.RCOG MIMgt
ROYAL NAVY

Surgeon Commodore Robert Harland graduated at St. Andrews University in 1962 and after House Officer posts in Cornwall and Scotland, and Senior House Officer Casualty and Obstetric posts in York, entered the Royal Navy on a 5 year Short Service Commission in 1965.

During that time he served at sea as Squadron Medical Officer for the Mediterranean Squadron, in the West Indies and in HMS BULWARK; with 43 Commando Royal Marines and as Families Medical Officer/Obstetrician in RN Hospital Mauritius for 3 years.

After leaving the Royal Navy he was a partner in General Practice in Churchdown, Gloucestershire for almost one year and re-entered the Royal Navy in 1971, gaining the MRCP qualification and transferring to a Permanent Commission.

After further shore and sea service including PMO HMS TIGER, he was promoted to Surgeon Commander in 1975 and appointed to Singapore as PMO RN Sick Quarters HMS TERROR, to the RN Supply School Chatham as PMO HMS PEMBROKE, and to Hong Kong as BMO Island Group Practice HMS TAMAR, including responsibility for training in General Practice.

Following service at Devonport in HMS DRAKE he was then appointed to the staff of MDG(N) in MOD in 1982 for medico legal work and specialist medical advice to MOD (Navy). In 1984 on acting promotion he was appointed as Chief Staff Officer to Surgeon Rear Admiral (Operational Medical Services), followed by promotion to Surgeon Captain in 1985 and appointed as Staff Medical Officer to both Major Generals Royal Marines and as President of the CRMMB at CTCRM assessing Royal Marine's fitness to carry on in service after injury or illness.

Six months were then spent on the staff of the Dean of Naval Medicine at Alverstoke writing the medical input to RN Books of Reference, followed by an appointment as the Command Medical Officer to CINC Naval Home Command in Portsmouth in 1988 for 3 years which included responsibility for the medical branch of the Royal Naval Reserve and the medical standards and practice in all UK Naval establishments.

A tri-service appointment to MOD on the staff of Director Health was followed by the tri-service appointment as Director of Clinical Services on the staff of the Surgeon General in April 1993 in the rank of Surgeon Commodore, being responsible for policy on all matters concerning primary and secondary care, pay, conditions of service and medical training.

In 1994 he was appointed as Queen's Honorary Physician, (Q.H.P.) until retirement in 1996. Surgeon Commodore Harland was also Chairman of the United Services Catholic Association, Hon Medical Advisor to the RN Boxing Association, a member of the Armed Forces Committee of the British Medical Association and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine.



Personal

Place of Birth: Darlington 26 May, 1938

Dr Harland is married to Kathleen, a medieval historian, authoress and teacher, has three children and has been happily settled in Budleigh Salterton, Devon since 1988 where he is a low handicap golfer at East Devon Golf Club, and a member of several organisations, including the Devon and Exeter Medical Society, and the Exeter Flotilla.

After retirement from the RN he became a Medical Member of the "Pensions Appeal Tribunals" (P.A.T.) for 12 years assessing and advising on the medical aspects of appeals by ex-Armed Forces Personnel against awards by relevant Service Authorities.

After final retirement Robert and Kathleen embarked on much world-wide travel and visits to the family, whilst Robert presently continues with his golf, social and gardening activities locally. He also is responsible for the annual golf/dinner day for the Flotilla and attends committee meetings.