

Captain Simon Booth, RFA

Captain Simon Booth joined the Royal Fleet Auxiliary as an Officer Cadet straight from school in 1981, undertaking initial training at Warsash College of Maritime Studies.

Qualifying in 1985 he took on the traditional roles of an RFA watch-keeping Officer in a wide variety of RFA vessels, attaining his Class 1 Master Mariners Certificate of Competency in 1992.

Simon attained the rank of First Officer serving as both Navigator and Operations Officer, but with a young family decided to try pastures new and left the RFA in 1998 after being accepted as a Marine Pilot on the River Humber.

Simon gained three and a half years unparalleled experience in ship handling before returning to the RFA in 2002, regaining his First Officer rank during his first appointment.

This practical and sea going experience was then put to good use in shore appointments initially with the Defence Procurement Agency as a Technical Officer on the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Programme.

Following promotion to Chief Officer he was appointed to Whitehall as a Capability Manager for the Director of Expeditionary and Logistics Support where, amongst the maritime aspects, he also had responsibility for Defence Rail.

Simon was then permitted a short period at sea before being once more taken ashore to fulfil the demanding post of SO1 Capability for Commodore RFA in Naval Command HQ as part of the Afloat Support Fleet Capability Integration Group.

This post included all aspects of the day to day and future management of RFA vessels as well as the User input to the TIDE Class Tanker project (having been Deliverer and Sponsor in his previous shore appointments).

Before returning to sea once more he spent a short appointment acting as SO1 Performance Management, dealing with Fleet Lessons Management System and the Risk Register amongst many other things.

The reward for all the hard work ashore saw him appointed as owner Executive Officer of RFA Fort Victoria during her deployment to the Middle East in Sept 2010.

During the subsequent two and a half years Simon was involved in all aspects of the ship's operational programme from the traditional RFA Tanker support role to enhanced Counter Piracy operations.

His actions during this latter role resulted in the award of a Joint Commander's Commendation and the RFA Prize from the Honourable Company of Master Mariners.

Promoted Captain in February 2013 his first command was RFA Fort Austin as she prepared and then deployed on exercise and operations with the Response Force Task Group.

He is now appointed as owner Captain of RFA Diligence in her Forward Repair Ship role. Captain Booth enjoys dinghy sailing and walking and has almost completed the renovation of an 18th century farmhouse.

Married, Captain Booth has two daughters and a Dalmatian.