

COMMANDER  
CHARLES J D WHEEN  
Royal Navy

Commanding Officer  
HMS ARGYLL



Commander Charlie Wheen was educated at Wells Cathedral School and spent three years working in Peru before joining the Royal Navy in 2002.

Highlights of his early career as a junior Warfare Officer include participation in the initial phases of Operation TELIC (Gulf War 2) in HMS CHATHAM, a short-term exchange and regional deployment in the Republic of Singapore Ship RESOLUTION, and NATO exercises in northern Norway as the Gunnery Officer in HMS BANGOR. Specialising as a Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving Officer in 2006, he spent the following years supporting Operation KIPION MCM main effort: the protection of critical sea lanes in the Arabian Gulf. During this time he served as the Operations Officer in HM Ships BROCKLESBY, MIDDLETON and CHIDDINGFOLD, before joining the FOST (MPV) staff with responsibility for delivering mine warfare, diving and demolitions training to ships' teams generating for operations.

Charlie completed the Principal Warfare Officer course in 2013 and was appointed to HMS ARGYLL, joining her on maritime security operations in the eastern Pacific. The following year, as the Operations Officer, he guided the ship through regeneration and Fleet Ready Escort duties, before deploying to the Caribbean on counter-narcotics tasking under the US-led Joint Inter-Agency Task Force, and on disaster relief tasking in support of the UK Overseas Territories.

On leaving HMS ARGYLL in 2015, he took a seven-month career break, sailing with his young family around France and travelling in Peru.

Back in uniform in 2016, he spent two highly enjoyable years in Command of MCM2 Crew 8 in minehunters HMS MIDDLETON and HMS CATTISTOCK. During this time he returned to Operation KIPION in the Middle-East, conducted tasking in support of Homeland Defence, and deployed with the Standing NATO MCM Task Group in the Norwegian fjords and Baltic Sea.

He is a graduate of the Advanced Command and Staff Course (2018/19) and has completed staff assignments in Navy Command Headquarters and the Surface Flotilla Headquarters.

He assumed Command of HMS ARGYLL in April 2021.

Charlie lives in London with his wife Victoria and three children.