

**AIR VICE-MARSHAL SIMON ROBERT CHARLES DOUGHERTY MBE MSc MBBS  
FFOM FRCP DAvMed DObstRCOG FCMI FRAeS RAF Retd (G60-67)**



Air Vice-Marshal Simon Dougherty was born in Colchester. Educated at Framlingham College, Suffolk and The London Hospital Medical College, he joined the Royal Air Force in 1969 as a Medical Cadet during his undergraduate training. His initial postings in the Service were in Lincolnshire and at NATO Support Units in Holland and Germany as a General Medical Practitioner. After attending the Diploma in Aviation Medicine Course at the RAF Institute of Aviation Medicine, Farnborough, he was appointed Chief Instructor at the RAF Aviation Medicine Training Centre, RAF North Luffenham and then Senior Medical Officer at RAF Cottesmore. After completing training in Occupational Medicine, he commenced a series of non-clinical appointments (with responsibilities for strategic planning, clinical policy, delivery, governance and medical training) which would continue throughout the remainder of his career. These included posts at HQ RAF Support Command, HQ RAF Germany and the RAF Institute of Health and Medical Training at RAF Halton. On promotion to group captain in 1994, he assumed command of the Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Hospital Halton, before moving to HQ Personnel & Training Command to implement 'Options for Change' in the RAF Medical Services. From 1996-99, he commanded The Princess Mary's Hospital, RAF Akrotiri and was Command Medical Adviser to HQ British Forces Cyprus. He was Taylor Professor of Occupational Medicine (RAF) from 1990-96 and RAF Consultant Adviser in Occupational Medicine from 1996-2002. Promoted to air commodore in 1999, he returned to HQ Personnel & Training Command as Director Health Services (RAF) and then, in 2001, Director Medical Personnel, Policy and Plans (RAF). In 2002, he moved to the Ministry of Defence as the Director of Medical Policy. In September 2004, he was promoted to air-vice marshal and appointed as Director-General Medical Services (RAF). He retired in April 2009.

From 2009 to 2019, he was Honorary Air Commodore of No 4626 (County of Wiltshire) Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

He is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, a Freeman of the Honorary Company of Air Pilots and a Freeman of the City of London.

He was appointed an Officer Brother of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in 1991. He served as Honorary Physician to Her Majesty the Queen from 2002 to 2009. He was appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 2020 in recognition of his voluntary service to RAF Personnel and Veterans as a Trustee of the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Currently, he is a Governor of The Royal Star and Garter Homes, a Trustee of The Royal Star and Garter Home Pension Fund, a Governor of Framlingham College and a Trustee of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund. He is a Parish Councillor. He was President of the Society of Old Framlinghamians from 2011-13 and was elected again for a second term in 2019.

Air Vice-Marshal Dougherty has been married to Margaret for many years and they live in a village near Colchester in the house where his grandparents lived when he was born. They have 3 adult children – all of whom attended Framlingham College. His interests include alpine skiing, travelling, gardening and exploring local coastal waters afloat.