

Colonel Robin C Smith OBE

Colonel Robin Smith joined the British Army in 1987 and served for five years as an electronic engineer before being commissioned into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1992, the Corps later became the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC). He spent six years as a Troop Commander in Canada, UK and Germany. He completed Captain's appointment in HQ 4 Armoured Brigade in Germany before becoming Adjutant at 151 Logistic Support Regiment, including a deployment to Sierra Leone. He attained a Masters degree in Defence Technology at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham in 2002 and then attended the Advanced Command and Staff course at the Joint Service Command and Staff College. He spent time as Squadron Commander of 105 Logistic Support Squadron in Canada. He returned to the UK in July 2006 and took up a Joint logistic planning appointment at the Permanent Joint HQ (UK) in Northwood responsible for support to operations in Afghanistan. Following this he was appointed as the Deputy Chief of Staff of 101 Logistic Brigade in Aldershot. During this appointment he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and deployed to Afghanistan as the lead logistics staff officer for all UK forces deployed in Afghanistan and Middle East.

Upon return, he took up a new role as SO1 Logistic Plans, in the Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) organisation. In this role he redesigned DE&S support to planning for Joint operations and, with his small team, provided planning input into UK, worldwide and Afghanistan operations. This included support the London Olympic Games, operations in Libya and the drawdown of the UK commitment to Afghanistan. He was subsequently appointed OBE. He assumed command of 24 Regiment RLC in Jan 2012 and commanded the Regiment until its disbandment in April 2014. At that stage he undertook an exchange appointment at the Australian Command and Staff College as a Directing Staff. He returned briefly to the UK on promotion as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army Recruiting and Training Division. In November 2017 he returned to Australia and assumed the role of SO1 Robotic and Autonomous Systems at Land Force Design within Future Land Warfare responsible for writing Army's Robotic and Autonomous Systems strategy and now its implementation. He is currently the Director of Land Force Design directorate responsible for the design of the future Army over the next 20 plus years. In January he will assume the role as the inaugural Director of the Robotic and Autonomous Systems Implementation and coordination Office (RICO).

He is married to Jill and has two children aged 12 and 10. His hobbies include camping, being at the coast and home renovation. He also enjoys running, at an ever decreasing speed and paddleboarding.