

MAJOR GENERAL N A W POPE CBE

Director General Capability



Educated in rural Berkshire (where he became a passable bridge player but forgot to learn to write legibly), Nick Pope joined the Army in 1981 prior to going up to Cambridge to read Economics.

He spent his formative military years on an extended global holiday, serving with the Colours in the Far East with the Gurkhas on several occasions, and in Germany and Cyprus. Speculation about the impact of his efforts at international diplomacy is probably exaggerated; the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the transfer of sovereignty of Hong Kong from the United Kingdom to China are more likely to have been coincidental events rather than through any deliberate action on his part.

After 'mandatory' staff college training in 1993, Nick's 'black-bag' job was as a military programmer in London. At its most basic level, his job was to try and make the bottom right hand corner of a financial spread-sheet equal zero. He has spent much of the past two decades continuing to inflict the consequence of such soul crushing negativity on the Army in particular and the Department in general. On rare occasions he has been let out of the Whitehall Ministry of Magic for good behaviour. He took his squadron to Bosnia; deployed elements of his satellite communications regiment to ten separate countries in the immediate aftermath of 9/11 and took his brigade to Afghanistan for an extended ten-month tour in support of HQ ARRC.

He is an itinerant 2-star. In the last two years he has closed four posts: CDS Strategic Communications Officers (after 5 months); Director General Change Programmes (he lasted for a mere 3 hours); Director Battlespace Manoeuvre (a long tour of 16 months) and Director Military Capability Transformation (6 months). He is currently employed as Director General Capability in Andover and fervently hopes that the ink dries on his door-sign before he plots his next move.

Nick is married to Jo. He has great hopes for his four children – not least that they will support him financially in his dotage. He is Colonel of the Regiment of Queen's Gurkha Signals and is a passionate but creaking gardener.