

## **2013 Historical Analysis for Defence and Security Symposium**

### **Keynote Speaker**

#### **COLONEL R W WOODDISSE MBE MC**

Colonel Wooddisse joined the Army in 1991 after completing a degree at University College London. His first posting was to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, an armoured infantry battalion based in Germany. In the first part of his career he served in a number of junior officer appointments, saw operational service in Northern Ireland and Bosnia, and trained extensively in Canada, Norway, France and Brunei.

In 2000 he was selected to command a rifle company before attending Staff College for 2 years. Post Staff College, he returned to sub-unit command where he deployed on a number of operations of varying length and intensity, including to Iraq. His first staff job was as the Military Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, a post which included a 9 month tour to Kabul as part of HQ ISAF. On completion of his staff tour he served as a member of the Directing Staff at the Advanced Command and Staff Course from where he returned to Iraq on a short-notice operational tour. He assumed command of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment in March 2009, first in Germany and then in Cyprus from where he commanded the Theatre Reserve Battalion. After completing the Higher Command and Staff Course he served in the Ministry of Defence where he was responsible for military planning for a variety of operations and contingencies.

Col Wooddisse is married to Louise and has 3 daughters aged 11, 9 and 7. When the demands of military and family life allow, he enjoys running, hill-walking, cycling and reading.