



## **Commanding Officer 30 Cdo IX Gp Royal Marines**

### **Lieutenant Colonel Simon Cox RM**

Lieutenant Colonel Simon Cox joined the Royal Marines in 2004. Awarded the Sword of Honour on completion of training, his initial assignment was to K Company, 42 Commando Royal Marines where he completed cold weather warfare training in Norway before deploying on Op HERRICK 5.

In 2008 Lt Col Cox started flying training and completed the Basic and Advanced Fast Jet courses alongside Fleet Air Arm and Royal Air Force colleagues. Unable to complete the tactical weapons course at RAF Valley before the Harrier GR-9 was taken out of service in 2010, he had a short spell flying at the Defence Helicopter Flying School before returning to his close combat roots in 2011 as an instructor at the Army's Land Warfare Centre.

Promoted to Major in 2013, he joined Striking and Support Forces NATO in Portugal where he was involved in the headquarters' contribution to the NATO Readiness Action Plan and the Alliance's response to Russia's illegal occupation of Crimea. Returning to 3 Commando Brigade in 2016 as Officer Commanding X-Ray Company at 45 Commando RM, he continued to train alongside Allies and partners across Europe, from the Bay of Biscay to the High North.

Following sub-unit command, Lt Col Cox was appointed to the Ops Directorate in the Ministry of Defence as the lead SO2 for planning and policy of NATO operations and force commitments. Selected for promotion in 2019, he completed the UK's Advanced Command and Staff Course before returning to MoD Main Building as the Chief of Staff for the International Security Directorate. In this role, he helped to cohere the output from multiple teams with a span of responsibility for defence policy across Africa, the Middle East, the Indo-Asia Pacific, and South America.

In 2021, Lt Col Cox was selected as the Military Assistance to the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff for Military Strategy and Operations where he was at the heart of the Department's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in early 2022.

Lt Col Cox took command of 30 Commando IX Group in August 2022. He is married to Mary; they have two children (Bertie and Freddie) and an energetic spaniel.