



**Lieutenant Colonel Oliver Denning RM**  
**Commanding Officer 40 Commando Royal Marines**

Olly Denning joined the Royal Marines in 2004, and has enjoyed an operationally-focused career of command appointments in 3 Commando Brigade, and Staff positions across Defence.

Following Young Officer training, he completed an initial Troop command with Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines, protecting the UK's nuclear deterrent and deploying to the Middle East on Operation CALASH. Promoted to Captain he specialised as a Mortar Officer, first with 45 Cdo – including an operational tour of Helmand Province, Afghanistan – and then 42 Cdo RM. He experienced his first Staff appointment as Flag Lieutenant to Commander Maritime Operations, a fascinating time that coincided with the Arab Spring, prior to returning to Afghanistan as a tactical planner with a Joint Task Force.

As a Major, he completed a broadening appointment in the Army Directorate for Operations and Contingencies, prior to the privilege of returning to 3 Cdo Bde in command of Surveillance and Reconnaissance Squadron – a hugely rewarding two years that included collective deployments to Norway, Oman, the US and across the Mediterranean – as the Advance Force for the Lead Commando Group. Prior to promotion to OF4, he was responsible for Royal Marines Initial Officer Training at CTCRM.

Selected for promotion to Lt Col, he attended the Advanced Command and Staff Course at the UK Defence Academy, earning a Master's Degree. He was then selected as the Military Assistant to Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Military Strategy & Operations), a hugely rewarding appointment that included insight to the cross-Government response to a number of global crises, including COVID-19. He then returned to 3 Cdo Bde RM as Chief of Staff to the 1\* Headquarters, implementing organisational transformation of the Royal Marines return to a Commando Force, including the amalgamation of the HQ with the Maritime Staff to form a single Joint Task Force Headquarters. He assumed command of 40 Cdo RM on 5 Jan 2023.

Married to Jules, they have two children: William (8) and Annabelle (6). His spare time is spent outside as a family or engaged in overly ambitious home improvement projects.