

Major General R A Magowan CBE **Operation Commander – EU NAVFOR Op ATALANTA**

Major General Rob Magowan CBE joined the Royal Marines in 1989 after reading Chemistry at Southampton University. On completion of Young Officer training he conducted a number of Troop Command jobs, including a tour of Northern Ireland for a short period. He then commanded R Company, Comacchio Group and went on to be the Naval Assistant to Commander in Chief Fleet. He was then posted to Quantico where he attended the USMC Command and Staff Course, also gaining a Masters degree.



On returning from the US, he was posted to HQ 3 UK Division as a Plans Officer, during which time he deployed to Afghanistan on Operation FINGAL, the first ISAF deployment to Kabul. On promotion to Lt Col in 2002, he returned to 42 Commando as Second in Command, deploying to Kuwait and Iraq for Operation TELIC 1.

In late 2003 he began a three-year stint in London, beginning in the Cabinet Office Assessments Staff, working to the Joint Intelligence Committee. In 2005 he was promoted Acting Col, assuming the Deputy Head position in the Afghan Drugs Inter-Departmental Unit, based in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He assumed command of 30 Commando Information Exploitation Group Royal Marines in late 2006, deploying immediately on Operation HERRICK 5 to Helmand province. He was promoted to Col in early 2009 to take up a Deputy Head post in Defence Intelligence. He completed Higher Command and Staff Course in Jan 2011 and on promotion to Brigadier became Chief of Staff to the National Contingent Commander in Kabul for a year. He took up the post of Commodore Naval Personnel Strategy in early 2013 before becoming Commander Joint Forces Intelligence Group in Jan 2015.

On promotion to Major General in Jun 2016 he became Commandant General Royal Marines (CGRM) and Commander United Kingdom Amphibious Forces (COMUKAMPHIBFOR). He also took over as the Operation Commander of the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) Somalia.

Married to Charlotte, he has two young daughters and is an active mountaineer who continues to lead expeditions across the world. He is also an avid reader of European political history and a keen, albeit amateur, cook.