

Lieutenant Colonel Will Norcott Royal Marines



Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) Norcott joined the Royal Marines in 2002 and was appointed to 40 Commando as a Troop Commander in 2003. In this role, he deployed to Iraq on Operation (Op) TELIC IV. On returning from Iraq in 2004, he was assigned to the Directorate of Naval Recruiting, and in early 2005 deployed to Afghanistan as a junior Operations (Ops) Officer working for UK Preliminary Ops HQ in Kandahar. He then specialised as a Javelin Troop Commander and was appointed back to 40 Commando as the Anti-Tanks Officer.

In late 2007, Lt Col Norcott was deployed to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK VII, where he served in Nowzad as 40 Commando's Liaison Officer to the Battle Group's Estonian Company. On returning to the UK, he was assigned to the Commando Training Centre as second-in-command of the 2008 Royal Marines Young Officer (RMYO) batch, then Batch Officer of the 2009 RMYO batch.

Having promoted to Major in 2010, he attended the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Land) in early 2011. In the summer of 2011, he was appointed to the Permanent Joint HQ (PJHQ) planning division, where he served as the East Africa Desk Officer. After a year at PJHQ, he was assigned to the Ops Directorate of MOD Main Building, where he worked as an Ops Officer in the Afghanistan Current Commitments Team.

He was selected for sub-unit command in late 2012 and deployed back to Afghanistan as the Officer Commanding of a Task Force responsible for mentoring an Afghan National Mission Unit, disrupting insurgent safe havens, and closing down its mission ahead of the coalition redeployment at the end of 2014.

On completion of sub-unit command in the summer of 2015, Lt Col Norcott was appointed to Navy Command HQ, where he served as a Plans Officer in Navy Commitments, planning UK amphibious deployments.

He was selected for promotion to Lt Col in the spring of 2016 and attended the US Marine Corps Command and Staff College (CSC) from the summer of 2016. Having graduated from CSC in the summer of 2017, he was assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force HQ where he spent two years as the Deputy Force Development and Future Ops Officer.

He has just completed another year at PJHQ as one of the Ops Team (OT) leaders; this saw him lead the Op SHADER OT in the aftermath of Qasem Soleimani's death, and the response to COVID-19 for operations in Africa.

Lt Col Norcott took command of 30 Commando Information Exploitation Group Royal Marines on 3 August 2020. He is married with three young children, and his interests include running, rugby, and natural history.