



## Brigadier J Ridge



### Chief of Joint Force Operations

Brigadier John Ridge joined the Regular Army in 1995 having previously served as a Sapper in the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia). As a junior officer he completed tours at 59 Independent Commando Squadron and 69 Gurkha Field Squadron, including deployments to Norway, France, Spain, Oman, Bosnia and Kosovo. His squadron command was with 49 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron, during which time he completed two tours of Afghanistan, one with 16 Air Assault Brigade and the other with 12 Mechanised Brigade. From sub unit command, he moved into a staff appointment in the Ministry of Defence as MA to ACDS (Operations). This was followed by a short tour as the Military Liaison Officer to the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre. As an SO1, he was employed as the UK lead for Offensive Counter-IED, a tour which included drafting the UK's Attack the Network policy and contributing to Pakistani and NATO Counter-IED strategies.

Brigadier Ridge then returned to 12th Mechanised Brigade to command 26 Engineer Regiment. Day 1 of command was also Day 1 of Mission Specific Training for Operation HERRICK 16, a tour which included the drawdown of UK bases and the development of a long-term laydown for the Afghan forces. After the tour, the Regiment was then reset for contingency, which included it taking on the Lead Armoured Task Force commitment and exercises in Canada, Kenya and Australia.

On promotion, Brigadier Ridge was appointed as the Army Pay Colonel, responsible for helping to shape MoD policy on pay, pensions, allowances and compensation. After attending HCSC in early 2015, he was appointed as the Team Leader for the remuneration aspects of the MoD People Project, a post he held until taking over command of 8 Engineer Brigade in October 2015. During Brigade command, he oversaw a large construction project in the Falkland Islands and the Brigade's first deployments to South Sudan and Estonia. In September 2017 he was posted to Northwood as Chief Joint Force Operations.

Brigadier Ridge is married to Nina, a maths teacher and broadcast meteorologist. They have four children: Freya, Isaac, Eliot and Tessa, ranging from thirteen to eight years old. When not carrying out minor DIY tasks on their home in Royal Tunbridge Wells, he enjoys watching films, cooking and reading. He is President of Army Athletics, Cross Country and Surfing, competes as a veteran for Tonbridge Athletics Club, races in triathlons and coaches U10 rugby at Tunbridge Wells Rugby Club.