

## David Bentley, MSc

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A versatile **senior defence & security executive** possessing excellent leadership and managerial skills, and with a proven record of problem solving and working under pressure to deliver results. Possessing an exceptional ability to motivate and communicate, and able to generate strong teamwork and instil a sense of purpose. Proven ability to manage budgets, allocate resources efficiently and drive financial performance.

### Key Skills

- Extensive senior leadership experience in both the military environment and industry.
- Collaborative – builds focused, motivated, and highly effective teams.
- An innovative solution finder who cuts through complexity to deliver results.
- An unrivalled knowledge of the UK military flying training system, individual aircrew and instructor training, and air domain collective training.
- Exceptional understanding of the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD), the defence procurement process, and the UK defence industry.

### Recent Career History

#### Managing Director CAE UK Plc (Apr 22 - Mar 24)

- Developed new strategy for both CAE UK Plc & CAE's Medium Support Helicopter Aircrew Training Facility (Chinook, Puma, and Merlin synthetic training at RAF Benson). Endorsed by CAE Senior Leadership and communicated extensively to UK workforce to encourage an open dialogue. Employee feedback and external audit reports demonstrated an excellent understanding of the company's vision, and a unity of purpose to achieve our common goals.
- Developed and delivered comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan in support of new strategy. Enhanced CAE's profile and reputation across the MOD, the UK defence industry and with UK parliamentary audience. As a result, CAE UKs pipeline of opportunities increased by 100% in 18 months, and significant contracts pending for FY23/24.
- Oversaw daily operations and delivery of new programmes, with customer satisfaction extremely high.
- Developed a vision to provide student-centric, competency-based aircrew training utilising digitally immersive technologies and adaptive learning environments, which would drive efficiency and capacity into our training systems.
- Profit & Loss account responsibility – oversaw budget management and resource provision to deliver excellent financial results.

#### Business Development (BD) Director, CAE UK (Defence & Security) (Jun 19 – Jun 22)

- Consistently exceeded sales targets, securing significant long-term contracts for CAE.
- Directed all activity to win new business (business development, stakeholder management, bid management, proposal writing, commercial, finance, et al).
- My performance recognised by 'Special Award' (financial) endorsed by CAE CEO & President.
- Graduate of CAE Senior Leadership Development Programme (biennial programme, I was one of 25 personnel selected from a global workforce of 13,000).

#### Director Flying Training (Air Commodore – 1\*), Royal Air Force (2015-2018)

- Led three RAF stations, five Flying Training Schools, the RAF Aerobatic Display Team (Red Arrows), and the Defence College of Airspace Control. Delivered all flying training for UK Defence (RAF, Army Air Corps and Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm) and supported the RAF Engagement Strategy through International Defence Training and Red Arrows overseas tours.

- Led the Directorate through a period of significant and complex change. Successfully transitioned from the legacy flying training system to the Military Flying Training System, a £3Bn recapitalisation, introducing five new aircraft types and new synthetic training devices.
- Safely and effectively drew down the legacy flying training system, withdrawing six aircraft types from service, whilst maintaining the flow of trained aircrew to the frontline.
- Managed significant commercial interface with Industry for programmes valued at £400M.
- Actively managed a diverse and complex stakeholder base.
- Managed £90M operating budget. All training targets delivered on budget.

### **Commandant, Central Flying School (CFS) (Group Captain), Royal Air Force (2012-14)**

- Led 200 military and civilian personnel across five stations. Responsible for training 120 flying instructors annually for UK Defence, and for upholding the standards of flying instruction and pure flying through biennial visits to all flying units by the CFS Exam Wing.

### **Elements of Interest and Royal Air Force Additional Career Summary**

- Qualified Flying Instructor and Qualified Weapons Instructor (Hawk). Extensive instructional experience. Commanded Hawk squadron in flying training role.
- Conducted three flying tours based in Germany (RAF Bruggen).
- Graduate of NATO Tactical Leadership Programme.
- Operated alongside NATO allies on numerous exercises, and during tours of duty within Combined Air Operations Centres. Commanded all UK personnel and senior national representative at ISAF air base Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2011.
- As Group Captain Operations, Air Warfare Centre, responsible for delivering the RAFs Large Force Employment Exercises. Additionally, as the Deputy Commander for Exercise RED FLAG, Nellis Air Force Base in 2011, safely integrated 100+ aircraft during 10 separate missions.
- As a graduate of the Indian Advanced Command & Staff College, I demonstrated the ability to operate within a multi-cultural environment and integrate with other nations armed forces.
- As Officer Commanding, Flying Training Development Wing, I was responsible for conducting Training Needs Analyses and in-depth studies into flying training related matters.
- 2014 - Senior Air Staff Officer, Headquarters No 1 Group, Headquarters Air Command.
- 2011 - Commanding Officer, 904 Expeditionary Air Wing, Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan.
- 2008-2011 - Group Captain Operations Division, Air Warfare Centre.
- 2007-2008 – Indian Advanced Command & Staff College, Tamil Nadu, South India.
- 2006-2007 – Chief of Staff Operations, 83 Expeditionary Air Group, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.
- 2004-2006 – Officer Commanding, 19 Squadron, RAF Valley.
- 2001-2003 – Officer Commanding, Flying Training Development Wing, RAF Halton.
- Prior – 3,000 flying hours fast jet, extensive instructional experience, and aircraft technician.

### **Education and Professional Development**

#### **Academic**

- 2008 – MSc in Defence and Strategic Studies, University of Madras (First Class)

#### **Professional Highlights**

- 2022 – CAE Senior Leadership Development Programme
- 2018 – Defence Strategic Finance Programme
- 2018 – Enrolled in Level 7 Certificate in Company Direction (Finance, Strategy and Leadership modules all passed with Distinction)
- 2015 – Defence Strategic Leadership Programme
- 2015 – Duty Holder Air Safety Course (Military Aviation Authority delivered)
- 2014 – Commercial Skills for Leaders
- 2012 – RAF Senior Leadership Development Programme
- 2012 – RAF Media and Interview Techniques course