



DONALD TURNBULL

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Defence aviation specialist with extensive expertise in capability development and stakeholder engagement. 31 yrs in the RAF, 6 yrs with NATO and 3 yrs consultancy.



PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

- National & multi-National Defence planning, capability development, strategic planning, project management and bi/multi-lateral global stakeholder engagement.
- Large worldwide professional network.
- Thorough knowledge of NATO and EU structures and mechanisms.
- Former UK Defence Attaché to Sweden and Finland.

KEY SKILLS

- Conceptual and creative thinker who seeks natural synergy in all solutions.
- Strong analytical and methodical approach to problem solving.
- Team builder and project manager with a pro-active and resilient approach.
- International Relations and stakeholder engagement.

CAREER SUMMARY

Managing Director, Melora Consultancy Limited

2021-Present

Aerospace Capabilities Consultancy delivering advice on engagement with NATO, Alliance nations and the EU/EDA with a focus on:

- Military Flying Training; Distributed Synthetic Training; Air Mobility (Air-to-Air Refuelling, Strategic & Tactical Air Transport, Airborne Delivery and Deployed Air Bases); Air Traffic Management; Airworthiness & Certification.

NATO International Staff - Defence Investment

2015 – 2021

Aerospace Capabilities Section with responsibility for capability development of Joint Air Power and promoting cross-domain interoperability and coherence:

- NATO Air Armaments programmes (Weapon Effectiveness, Mission Survivability, Air Mobility, Joint ISR, Joint C2, Joint Vertical Lift and Joint UAS).
- Emerging Disruptive Technologies: innovation, rapid acquisition and smart procurement.
- Climate Change (Operational Energy & Resilience).
- Air-to-Air Refuelling (AAR) – Global AAR Strategy Team; NATO Representative to the global Aerial Refuelling Systems Advisory Group (ARSAG); NATO/EDA engagement.
- Multi-National Initiatives: MN Multi-Role Tanker Transport Fleet (MMF); Next Generation Rotorcraft Capability (NGRC) project; NATO Flying Training Europe (NFTE) project; Distributed Synthetic Training (DST) initiative.
- Rapid Air Mobility (RAM); NATO Deployable Air Bases (NDAB/DAAM).
- Airworthiness (Total System Approach to Aviation (TSAA)) and Airspace Management.

NATO Allied Command Transformation – Defence Planning

2013 – 2015

Development of NATO capability requirements and assignments to Alliance members and Partners through the NATO Defence Planning Process (NDPP).

- Analysis of Alliance and Partner forces, national plans and infrastructure.
- Assessment of suitability of national contributions set against Alliance minimum requirements.
- Development of business processes and structures for NATO Defence Planning.

UK Defence Attaché to Sweden & Finland

2010 – 2013

Representative of the UK MOD at senior political and military level to further the UK military relationship with Sweden and Finland.

- Negotiated signature of the UK/Sweden Exercises & Training MOU.
- Enabled UK and Nordic contributions to the EU Battle Group.
- Facilitated training for operational pre-deployment and exercises (Air, Land and Maritime).
- Enabled UK participation in the Surveillance Cooperation Baltic Sea (SUCBAS) agreement.
- Influenced industry engagement and enabled export licences for military equipment (€150m).
- Promoted and enabled training using distributed mission simulation.

UK Ministry of Defence – Royal Air Force International Relations

2008 – 2010

Management of bi-lateral international engagement and multi-lateral relations with NATO and the EU.

Previous Military Experience

1984 – 2008

- Squadron Commander. Directed and managed day-to-day worldwide operations with a fleet of 25 C130J Hercules aircraft and 150 staff, including conversion, role and continuation training.
- Capability Development and Airworthiness of RAF Air Transport and Air-to-Air Refuelling fleets, including the development of capability for airlift and airborne operations.
- Member of UK MOD Operations Planning Team.
- Officer Commanding Forward Mounting Base in Pakistan and Theatre Airlift Commander.
- Air Battle Staff – participation in Ex BLUE FLAG as a JFAC Planner.
- Developed concepts, training and exercise plans for UK airborne forces.

QUALIFICATIONS

- UK security clearance up to NATO SECRET (valid until Oct 2029).
- Qualified Air Battle Staff (QAB).
- Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI CFS) – A2 QFI and Instrument Rating Examiner (IRE).
- Graduate of Joint Advanced Staff College (India).
- MSc (Distinction) Defence & Strategic Studies, University of Madras (2005).
- BSc Computer Science, Paisley College of Technology (1984).
- Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) (2014).
- Fellow of the Institute of Leadership & Management (FInstLM) (2014).
- Swedish & French language skills – café survival level.

LEISURE INTERESTS

- Cycling, trekking, skiing, sailing, tennis, music, cooking, wine and the art of sabrage.