

Contact

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Top Skills

Venture Capital
Technological Innovation
Business Transformation

Honors-Awards

CBE
FInstRE

John Ridge

Chief Adoption Officer, NATO Innovation Fund
Royal Tunbridge Wells, England, United Kingdom

Summary

I am a proven senior leader, with 24 years' experience in the Armed Forces and a further nearly five years as a Senior Civil Servant. I am comfortable working under time and political pressure, in complex, uncertain and often dangerous situations. My background in engineering and project management allows me to develop robust plans and to provide clear direction. Over my career, I have led organisations ranging from four people to ten thousand, including military and civilian staff. I have extensive experience working in a cross-Government environment including direct engagement with Cabinet-level decision makers. Having left Government after nearly 30 years, I am now working at the intersection of defence, security and venture capital, helping get emerging and disruptive technologies into the hands of end users across the NATO Alliance.

Experience

NATO Innovation Fund (NIF)
Chief Adoption Officer
November 2024 - Present (1 year 2 months)
London Area, United Kingdom

UK Ministry of Defence
Director of Innovation
September 2022 - November 2024 (2 years 3 months)
London, England, United Kingdom

UK Civil Service
Transformation Director
March 2020 - September 2022 (2 years 7 months)
London, England Metropolitan Area

UK Ministry of Defence
14 years 8 months
Preparing to take over as GOC ARITC and Commandant RMAS

September 2019 - March 2020 (7 months)

Chief Joint Force Operations, Joint Force Headquarters

September 2017 - September 2019 (2 years 1 month)

Responsible for overseas crisis contingency planning for UK Defence.

Commander 8 Engineer Brigade

October 2015 - September 2017 (2 years)

Command and leadership of the Army's largest brigade. Circa 10,000 personnel. Responsible for delivering engineer and specialist support to UK Defence and other Government departments.

Remuneration Project Team Leader

May 2015 - October 2015 (6 months)

Higher Command and Staff College

January 2015 - May 2015 (5 months)

AD PS10 - Army Pay Colonel

November 2013 - December 2014 (1 year 2 months)

Main Building

Army policy lead for military pay, pensions and allowances.

Commanding Officer 26 Engineer Regiment

August 2011 - November 2013 (2 years 4 months)

Tidworth

Staff Officer: Offensive CIED Policy

October 2009 - August 2011 (1 year 11 months)

Lead Staff Officer for Offensive CIED Policy (Attack the Network) within CIED Branch, Joint Capability, MoD

Military Assistant to Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Operations)

September 2007 - October 2009 (2 years 2 months)

London, United Kingdom

Officer Commanding 49 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)

August 2005 - September 2007 (2 years 2 months)

Wimbish, Cambridgeshire

British Army

British Army Officer

September 1995 - March 2020 (24 years 7 months)

Education

Saïd Business School, University of Oxford

Major Projects Leadership Academy · (2019)

King's College London

Master of Arts - MA, Defence Studies · (2004 - 2005)

Cranfield School of Management

Master of Science - MS, Defence Management · (2003 - 2004)

University of Leeds

Master of Engineering - MEng, Architectural Engineering · (1991 - 1995)