

BRIGADIER WILLIAM O'LEARY TD ADC DL
(BILL O'LEARY)

The final two years of Bill's schooling was in the Training Ship Indefatigable boarding school on Anglesey, North Wales from whence he joined the Royal Navy.

After 2 years, he left the Navy and was sponsored by the Ford Motor Company to study for an HTC in Automotive Engineering. Having obtained the HTC, he joined Ford as a Senior Engineer at their research and engineering centre, remaining with the company until 1992.

During the period with Ford, Bill attended the TA Commissioning Course at Sandhurst after which he held a number of appointments within REME TA. Just before leaving Ford he was appointed Officer Commanding of 100 Regiment RA Workshop with its HQ in London, in the rank of Major.

In 1992 Bill joined Combined Technologies Ltd – an Automotive Consultancy – where he worked as an Engineering and Sales Consultant responsible for the Ford, Jaguar, Land Rover, Volvo and Aston Martin accounts.

In 1996 he became Officer Commanding of 150 Recovery Company REME, based in Redhill. After 2 years he moved on to become Second in Command of 103 Battalion REME, based throughout the South Of England and with the headquarters in Crawley. In 1999, on promotion to Lieutenant colonel, Bill took command of 103 Battalion.

While commanding 103 Battalion, Bill moved from Combined Technologies to MGI Coutier (an automotive systems manufacture) where he became the International Development Manager for the Ford account. In 2015, he remains with MGI Coutier.

After handing over command of 103 Battalion in 2002, Bill moved to Headquarters Land Command at Wilton, near Salisbury, to become Colonel Regional Forces. He remained in this appointment until summer 2005 when he became Colonel TA Recruiting, based at Upavon on Salisbury Plain. His next appointment was as Deputy Brigade Commander of 145 (South) Brigade based in Aldershot.

Bill, in the rank of Brigadier, was until recently, Assistant Commander of Force Troops Command located in Upavon. Formed as a result of the Army 2020 study, Force Troops Command is the largest 2* (major general's) Command in the British Army. All the Army's units providing Combat Support, Command Support, as well as certain Combat Service Support units (which includes REME), will be commanded by Force Troops Command.

Since May 2015, Bill's current post is Assistant Deputy Military Secretary. This is a new Army Reserve 1 star post created to lead on the Career Management integration of Regular and Reserve Forces.

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