

## GENERAL Sir JOHN McCOLL KCB CBE DSO



General Sir John McColl was commissioned into the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment in Cyprus in 1973. His early career included the usual Regimental appointments before attending the Army Staff Course in 1984.

On completing the staff course he served as a staff officer in Germany. He joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion as a rifle company commander in 1987, serving in Colchester and Celle. In 1989 he was posted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Royal Tank Regiment to command an armoured squadron, followed by a tour at the Staff College as a member of the Directing Staff.

In 1992 he assumed command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, based in Celle. His command included deployments to East Tyrone and Bosnia with UNPROFOR. On leaving command in 1995 he was appointed Chief of Staff 1<sup>st</sup> (UK) Armoured Division, returning to Bosnia as part of NATO's Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) in 1996.

From 1997 to 1999, he commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> Mechanized Brigade based in Tidworth, followed by a posting to HQ Land Command as ACOS Commitments until 2000, a period which included the Kosovo and Sierra Leone deployments. Promoted to Major General, he was appointed to command 3<sup>rd</sup> (UK) Division in 2000.

As GOC of 3<sup>rd</sup> (UK) Division, he commanded the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF 1) in 2002. In 2003, General McColl was appointed Commandant of the Joint Services Command and Staff College in Watchfield. After a year he moved to Baghdad as the Deputy Commander of the Multi National Force Iraq. On return he was appointed Commander Regional Forces within Headquarters Land Command in Wilton. In early 2005 he took on the additional appointment of the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to Afghanistan, which ended with the deployment of HQ ARRC in April 2006.

In October 2007 he assumed his current appointment as DSACEUR, and as Operation Commander of Operation ALTHEA, the EU's military operation in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

General Sir John McColl is the Colonel Commandant of the Queen's Division and Colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment. He is a Governor of Dean Close School Cheltenham. His interests include reading, golf and running very slowly. He is married to Gene and has three children.