

Durham Global Security Institute

Conflict Lecture Series

- Title:** *“Planning to the Finish - Managing the Political/Military Interface.”
Perspectives from Lt Gen Robin Brims.*
- Speaker:** Lieutenant General Robin Brims CB CBE DSO DL
- Date:** Wednesday 17th October 2018
- Time:** 17.00 – 18.30
- Venue:** Al-Qasimi IM201



Lieutenant General Robin Brims will share his insights on processes of military interventions in a diverse range of countries. The focus of the lecture is on exploring the reality of ‘planning to the finish’ and managing the political/military interface in three very different conflicts: Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Iraq. His assessment will consider the different perspectives of politicians, military, commentators and nations in each case. His main conclusion is that theory seldom is given a chance in practice, highlighting the importance of better linkages between academic and practical input in the planning of interventions.

Biography

Lieutenant General Robin Brims joined the British Army in 1970, commissioned into The Light Infantry. He commanded the 24th Airmobile Brigade in Bosnia in 1995 as part of the UK/FR Rapid Reaction Force. He also served as Chief of Staff in Northern Ireland covering ceasefires and Good Friday Agreement. He commanded Multinational Division South West in Bosnia in 2000. He then commanded the (UK) Armoured Division in the invasion of Iraq in 2003. As Chief of Staff at UK’s Permanent Joint Headquarter he dealt with the deteriorating situation in Iraq and early planning for the wider role that UK undertook in Afghanistan as part of the expanding NATO Mission. In 2005 he returned to Iraq as Deputy Commanding General and Senior British Military Representative. He completed his Army service as Commander Field Army retiring in 2007. He was then appointed Vice-Chancellor University of Kurdistan-Hawler in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. After 2 years working at the University and living in Erbil he returned to the North East of England where he is involved in a number of projects. He is Chairman of Council of the Reserve Forces and Cadets, and he is also involved in consultancies in education and security, including the UK Defence Academy.

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