Speaker Biographies

General Sir Richard Barrons KCB CBE ADC Gen

General Sir Richard Barrons is a Senior Associate Fellow at RUSI. Previously he served as Commander Joint Forces Command, one of the six ‘Chiefs of Staff” leading the UK Armed Forces until April 2016. He was responsible for 23000 people worldwide and a budget of £4.3Bn, delivering intelligence, Special Forces, operational command and control, information systems and communications, logistics, medical support, and advanced education and training across the Armed Forces. His military career includes leadership from Captain to General on military operations in Bosnia, Kosovo, Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan – often as part of US-led coalitions.

His ambitions now are to be at forefront of applying disruptive technology as it revolutionizes business, society and government, to find a leading part in addressing the causes of instability, tension and conflict in a rapidly changing world, and to contribute to the continuing evolution of defence and security thinking worldwide.

Professor David Betz

Dr David Betz is Professor of War in the Modern World at King’s College London. He obtained his BA and MA at Carleton University and his PhD at the University of Glasgow. He joined the department of War Studies immediately after the completion of his PhD in 2002. Professor Betz’s main research interests are insurgency and counterinsurgency, information warfare and cyberwar, propaganda, also civil-military relations and strategy and especially fortifications both historic and contemporary. He is head of the Insurgency Research Group and was the academic director of the War Studies Online MA for its first five years. Professor Betz writes on a diverse range of subjects including information warfare, the future of land forces, the virtual dimension of insurgency, propaganda of the deed, cyberspace and insurgency, and British counterinsurgency in journals such as the Journal of Strategic Studies, the Journal of Contemporary Security Studies, and Orbis. His book written with PhD student Tim Stevens, Cyberspace and the State was published by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in 2012.

Elisabeth Braw

Elisabeth Braw is a nonresident senior fellow with the Atlantic Council’s Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security and a nonresident associate fellow at the European Leadership Network.

Elisabeth is a senior consultant at the London headquarters of Control Risks, the global risk consulting firm. She was previously a correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor and Newsweek, and is also a contributor to The Times, The Wall Street Journal, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy and Politico, focusing on European security. She is especially interested in European armed forces equipment and manpower issues.

Elisabeth has also been a visiting fellow at the University of Oxford, and frequently moderates
sessions at security conferences. Elisabeth is a native of Sweden and attended university in Germany, finishing her Magister Artium degree in political science and German literature with a dissertation on nuclear weapons reduction in Europe. She speaks German, Swedish, and English.

**Air Commodore Brian Edwards**

Air Commodore Edwards immigrated to Australia from Zimbabwe in 1990. He instructed on piston and jet aircraft, and flew several operational missions during his time in the Air Force of Zimbabwe. Air Commodore Edwards spent most of his active flying career in the Royal Australian Air Force flying the F/A-18 Hornet. He is a graduate of the Advanced Command and Staff College in the UK and has an MA in Defence studies from Kings College, London.

Air Commodore Edwards staff appointments include a year with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and a tour as Australia’s Defence Adviser to Singapore and Brunei from 2010 to 2012. He has commanded: No 77 Squadron (F/A-18); 78 Wing, responsible for Hawk lead-in-fighter training and Air Combat Group technical training; Air Training Wing, responsible for Basic Flying Training School, No 2 Flying Training School, Central Flying School, School of Air Warfare, School of Air Traffic, Combat Survival Training School, No 32 Squadron and the RAAF Museum; and Air Force Training Group, responsible for Air Training Wing, Ground Training Wing and RAAF College.

Air Commodore Edwards assumed the position of Defence Adviser and Head of Defence Staff London in January 2016. He is also Australia’s Defence Attaché to The Netherlands and Ireland.

**Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP**

Tobias Ellwood was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence on 14 June 2017. Previously Tobias served as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from July 2014 to June 2017. He was elected Conservative MP for Bournemouth East in May 2005.

Tobias was educated in Bonn and Vienna when his parents were overseas as members of the United Nations. He returned to attend Loughborough University and subsequently completed an MBA at City University Business School. He also completed the senior executive course in National and International Studies at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Tobias was in the Royal Green Jackets from 1991 to 1996, and served in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Kuwait, Germany, Gibraltar and Bosnia. He left the Army at the rank of Captain and is a current Army Reservist. After leaving the Army, Tobias was a senior business development manager with the London Stock Exchange for two years, and then with Allen and Overy in a senior role.
Johanna Hooper

Johanna Hooper is a management consultant specialising in talent management with a focus on leadership development, workforce planning and capability development. She has worked with public and private sector clients with particular emphasis on the Defence and Security sectors. Her passion is helping organisations get the workforce they want for both today and the future. She is also keen to help organisations get the most from that workforce in terms of productivity, commitment and loyalty.

Prior to joining PA Consulting, Johanna served in the Royal Navy for over twenty years as a Logistics Officer with responsibilities that spanned: logistics – including supply chain management and service delivery; and Human Resources – with expertise across the employee lifecycle in both policy and practitioner roles.

During her time in the Royal Navy, Johanna served in a number of diverse operational theatres including Afghanistan and the Antarctic. As a result, one of Johanna’s other favourite topics is building personal resilience both at an individual and organisational level.

Ewan Lawson

Ewan Lawson is Senior Research Fellow for Military Influence at the Royal United Services Institute.

He researches a range of subjects including strategy and cross-government working, military influence and information operations, law of armed conflict and war crimes, conflict in Africa and cybersecurity. He also oversees conferences, meetings and lectures in these areas.

He was previously a Royal Air Force officer, initially as a policing and security specialist but in more recent years in a range of joint warfare appointments.

Since graduating from the UK Advanced Command and Staff Course, his experience has included tours as a joint operational planner, as the commanding officer of the UK Psychological Operations Group, as military faculty at both the UK and Kuwait Staff Colleges and as the first Defence Attaché at the British Embassy in South Sudan.

His most recent experience was within Joint Forces Command with responsibility for the development of cyber warfare capabilities.

Group Captain Clive Montellier OBE FCIPD FCMI RAF

After a short career as a bank clerk in central London, Clive joined the RAF as an Administrative (Secretarial) officer in 1985. Since then, he has served predominantly in personnel-related appointments at stations and headquarters throughout the UK and Germany, and has deployed on operations to Iraq, Afghanistan and Northern Ireland.

Beyond the challenge of operations, highlights of his career have included command of the Support Wing at RAF Wittering as it grew from the ‘Home of the Harrier’ to become the RAF’s Expeditionary Logistics Hub, and as Commandant of the Defence School of Personnel Administration, providing training to personnel specialists from both the RAF and Army. He is currently serving at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall, developing the personnel policies for the next generation of Armed Forces personnel; a role for which he was awarded an OBE in the 2017 New Year’s Honours List.
Clive is a student of and writer on 20th Century culture, and Secretary of the Terence Rattigan and Tewkesbury Battlefield Societies.

Dr Peter Roberts

Peter is Director of Military Sciences at the Royal United Services Institute, having been the Senior Research Fellow for Sea Power and C4ISR since 2014. He researches and publishes on a range of subjects from strategy and philosophy, Sea Power, Military doctrine, Command and Control, Maritime Studies and Naval Weapons Systems, ISR, Military Education and Military use of Cyber Warfare. He regularly provides advice for both UK and foreign governments on these subjects.

Previously, Peter was a career Warfare Officer in the Royal Navy, serving as both a Commanding Officer, National Military Representative and in a variety of roles with all three branches of the British Armed forces, the US Coast Guard, US Navy, US Marine Corps and intelligence services from a variety of other nations. He served as chairman for several NATO working groups and 5 Eyes Maritime tactics symposia. Whilst the latter part of his career was spent advising foreign governments on strategy and contemporary warfare, his most recent military experience was within Defence Management and Procurement with responsibility for Military Cyber Warfare (the UK National Offensive Cyber Programme), Information Operations, Human and Signals Intelligence, and Maritime ISTAR Collection. His military career included service in Hong Kong, the Baltic, Kenya, the Former Republic of Yugoslavia, Iraq, South Africa, Pakistan and Oman, interspersed with deployments in the GIUK gap and the Persian Gulf. He was the UK national representative at Joint Inter Agency Task Force (South), responsible for countering cocaine and nefarious trade coming from South America to Europe between 2010-2012.

Peter has a Master’s degree in Defence Studies and a doctorate in politics and modern history. He is a Visiting Lecturer in Strategy at the Portsmouth Business School at the University of Portsmouth and is a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute.

Group Captain Wendy Rothery

Group Captain Wendy Rothery joined the Royal Air Force in 1991 as a personnel administrator and has served in a wide range of roles both in UK and overseas, including a number of operational deployments.

On promotion to group captain in 2012 she was assigned to the MOD’s Permanent Joint Headquarters, where she was responsible for managing media activity across all joint overseas operational theatres. Her next appointment was as Head of MOD Welfare, with responsibility for leading the development and implementation of welfare policy for Armed Forces personnel, veterans and families, including casualty and compassionate policy. Since 2016 she has been Group Captain Recruiting and Selection, responsible for the recruitment of the 3300 Regular and Reserve personnel that the RAF requires each year, including the requirement to improve recruiting from a more diverse population.

She is a history graduate of the University of York and holds Masters degrees in Business Administration, Defence Studies, and Strategic Human Resource Management.
Dr Gabriela Thompson

Gabriela is a research fellow with the Defence, Industries and Societies Programme. To date, her research has centered on the UK defence decision-making community and the culture which informs the defence policy which is put into practice. Today, her research focus has expanded to the analysis of the impact of defence policy and the implications of proposed policies on a variety of communities. These communities include local, military, political and business communities, both national and international.

Having graduated with an MA(Hons) in Legal Studies and Politics at the University of Aberdeen and an LLM in Law and Politics of International Security at Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, she went on to be awarded a PhD on the managerialisation of UK defence policy as part of the RUSI/ University of Roehampton Business School PhD programme.