

## James de Labillière

### Speaker at the M4 Business Network breakfast

Tuesday 6 March 2012



Lieutenant Colonel James de Labillière attended Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and on completion in 1994 was awarded the Sword of Honour. He joined his Battalion, The Light Infantry, on operations in Northern Ireland as a platoon commander in County Fermanagh.

He subsequently gained a broad variety of operational and training experience in Central

America, the Former Soviet Union, South East Asia, West and East Africa, Saudi Arabia, Kosovo and Bosnia, the latter for which he was appointed MBE.

In 2002 he took command of a Gurkha Rifle Company in Brunei but his command was interrupted by a 6 month deployment to US Central Command Air Force HQ to develop air to ground integration procedures in the run up to the Iraq invasion.

During two years of formal staff training at the Defence Academy in Shrivenham he completed a Masters in Defence Administration and then a Masters in Defence Studies for which he obtained a Distinction. In a subsequent command tour he deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, alongside US Forces for a 6 month operation for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

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## James de Labillière

As a Lieutenant Colonel he worked in the Ministry of Defence in the Operations Directorate providing advice to Ministers on ground based military operations and helped shape emerging strategic and operational direction for ongoing operations.

He took command of 1 RIFLES in April 2010 as they assumed a role as Defence's Overseas Contingent Force and then commanded them on a demanding 7 month tour of Afghanistan from which the Battalion returned in November 2011. Their tour was marked by being the first after the announcement of the UK's drawdown plans, and was focussed on transfer of security responsibility to the Afghan National Security Forces.

James is the son of a Fleet Air Arm officer and has a brother also serving in the Army. He married Susie in 2001 and they have two boys, Charlie and Nicko. He enjoys offshore sailing, agriculture and remote countryside.

He will speak on perspectives of command of an infantry battalion conducting counter-insurgency on the front line in Afghanistan.

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