



Sir Chris Deverell KCB MBE

Sir Chris Deverell founded Deverell Innovation Ventures to help complex organisations to innovate, after a first career in the British Army. He is a Venture Partner in NightDragon Security, a San Francisco Cybersecurity Platform; an Advisor to Dataminr, a real-time event and risk detection business; an Associate, (ie Mentor) of Creative Destruction Lab - Oxford, a seed-stage programme for science-based start-ups; and an External Member (ie Non-Executive Director) of the Council of Oxford University.

Graduating from Oxford with a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Chris joined the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, stationed on the Inner German Border during the Cold War between NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Chris spent the first half of his Army service at regimental duty in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Belize, and Germany, interspersed with staff appointments in the Head Office of the Ministry of Defence and education at Staff College and the Royal Military College of Science. This period included serving as a Private Secretary to George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence (now Lord Robertson of Port Ellen), and as the Commanding Officer of the Joint Nuclear Biological and Chemical Regiment.

From 2002 to 2007, Chris served in operational roles in the Permanent Joint Headquarters, in HQ US Central Command in Florida and Qatar, and in command of 4 Armoured Brigade, initially in Iraq and then in Germany.

From 2007 to 2016, Chris was employed in a range of capability development and acquisition appointments. In 2011, he joined the Board of Defence Equipment and Support, initially as Strategy Director, and then, on promotion to Lieutenant General in 2013, as Chief of Materiel (Land). In parallel, he served on the Army Board as the Quartermaster General.

Promoted General in 2016, Chris became one of the UK Chiefs of Staff, as Commander Joint Forces Command, with responsibility for Special Forces, Intelligence, Cyber, UK Defence use of Space, Information Systems and Services, Operational Command and Control, Education, Medical Services, and our joint operating bases overseas.

Chris was awarded Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1990 and appointed Knight Commander of the Order of Bath in 2015. He also has a Diploma from the International Olympic Committee for services to Winter Sports (Bobsleigh and Skeleton).

Chris spent his first decade in Kenya and Fiji, and his teenage years in Northern Ireland, during the Troubles. He is proud to describe himself as having been a third generation public servant. His father, John, was in the Overseas Civil Service in Kenya and Fiji, and then in the Security Service, and his grandfather, Sir Colville, spent the bulk of his career as a colonial administrator, including as Governor of the Windward Islands, and of Mauritius. Chris is married to Alex, and they have two adult sons.