

Wing Commander Darrell Jacobs, Air Analyst at the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre

Wing Commander Jacobs began his career in the Royal Air Force as a C130 Hercules pilot. Following a tour as a flying instructor on the Shorts Tucano aircraft he returned to the Hercules as a training captain. Subsequently selected for exchange officer duties, he flew the C17 aircraft with the USAF at Charleston Air Force Base. He returned to the UK in 2001 to be part of the team that stood up the RAF's first C17 unit – 99 Squadron – and, as with his US squadron, was Chief of Training. Staff tours followed at the Permanent Joint Headquarters, where he served on both the Afghanistan and Balkans teams, and at the RAF's Personnel Management Agency. He then became the RAF's Chief of Aviation Safety before being appointed to the position of Chief Instructor at RAF Cranwell. In 2010 he joined the Military Aviation Authority which, acting on the findings of the Nimrod Review, formed the independent regulator for UK military aviation. He was then deployed to Afghanistan as the Chief of Air Operations at Bastion Airfield. He assumed his current post in 2012.