



Major Nicholas John “Nick” Bateson

Nick was born on 9th November 1957 at Chislehurst, Kent.

He graduated from Southampton University, before being commissioned from RMA Sandhurst into R Signals in 1981. He then had a typically varied career, serving initially in BAOR as a Tp Comd in 7 Sig Regt, and then training Junior Soldiers at Ouston.

Subsequently, he completed ‘P’ Coy and parachute training, and carried out a tour with 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (216). This was followed by a tour as an instructor at the School of Signals, and then a Grade 3 Staff appointment in an RA Branch in Germany.

Nick was promoted Major to command a Sqn in 7 Sig Regt, before carrying out subsequent tours with 216 Para Sig Sqn, Aldershot, and in Bulford. After completion of a demanding technical course, he served in HQ, SO-in-C (Army). When he died Nick was serving as an SO2 within Defence IPT, part of the ISS Directorate of the DESO. He was on detached duty from ISS filling the post SO2 ISS (Middle East), acting as the forward SO2 of the GOSCC, working within the deployed Div HQ. Nick deployed to Iraq on 21 Jan 2007, and his tour was due to end on 21 May 2007.

Tragically, Nick was killed in a traffic accident, while fitness training on his bike, on the base in Iraq, on 1st May 2007.

Like many who join the Army, Nick was never wholly comfortable sat behind a desk. Indeed, his life, as all of those who knew him will testify, was dominated by sport. For many years he concentrated on running, typically cross country and orienteering, but as the need to preserve his well worn knees grew more important, he turned to cycling and triathlon, whilst still competing at civilian and military orienteering events. He competed at the highest level in the Army, and before deploying on Op Telic, he took leave to help train a top Adventure Racing Team. During his time in ISS, he would combine training with work travel; e.g., to get to a meeting in Catterick, he would cycle to the railway station at Chippenham, and then get on his bike again to travel the hill miles from Darlington station to Catterick Garrison.

All in the IPT were very much looking forward to Nick’s return from Iraq in a few weeks, not just for the jam smothered hot toast he was sure to give out, but also for his humility in sporting triumphs, ever present smile, wicked sense of humour, and refreshingly eccentric version of uniform.

Nick will be missed by all of those who have worked with him, or who knew him through sport. He was a great sportsman, and a thoroughly professional officer.

Nick met his wife, Angie, whilst serving in the UK at Blandford, where he eventually put down roots with her in their house at Pimperne, Dorset. Our deepest sympathies go to Angie, and all of Nick’s family.

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