

Current Position: Associate

Key skills: Board level geospatial approaches to decision making
Geospatial strategy and policy making
Programme direction at international and senior governmental level
Major change programmes

Profile

John Kedar is a versatile and pragmatic director-level geospatial professional with 25 years international experience in implementing geospatial approaches to decision-making. Experience has been developed through a wide range of appointments in government, including in high-pressure environments such as Afghanistan, through major charitable Board vice-chairmanship and within Ordnance Survey, UK's national geospatial data agency. John has directed and managed a US\$35m pa government geospatial organization, developed Government geospatial policy and strategic direction and has played a key role in furthering UK global geospatial reputation. A 'geospatial' champion he advises governments across the World at ministerial and senior executive level, including land/geospatial agency chief executives. As a thought leader he stimulates new thinking, has been core to the development of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework which is being adopted globally, and regularly chairs and speaks at major international conferences.

With strong belief in the 'Power of Where?', he brings an in depth understanding on how geospatial knowledge enables social, economic and environmental benefits. His strategic advice incorporates his experience and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, providing a multi-faceted approach to realising these benefits. Working from strategic to operational, governance to delivery, his brings vision, insightfulness, commitment, consensus building and communication.

Professional Experience

Nov 2019 ongoing John Kedar Geospatial Initiatives Ltd
Director

- Senior Advisor to Governments. Global Geospatial Strategy Advisor.
- Strategic Advisor Geospatial Infrastructure to Geospatial Media and Communications Pvt Ltd (ongoing).
- Supporting a global multi-partner project to improve access to geospatial knowledge.
- Advice on a middle eastern national geospatial agency business plan.
- Chairing Europe's leading geospatial intelligence conference, DGI Europe.
- Data insights into the planning of a major UK/Brazil/Africa development programme.

2017 - 2019 Ordnance Survey
Director of International Engagement

Set the conditions for Ordnance Survey future international growth. As Ordnance Survey's 'ambassador', working at senior government level to build Ordnance Survey's global reputation through insight and support. Deliver beneficial outcomes with UK government departments (FCO, DFID, DIT). Manage partnerships with international governments and

organisations including the UN and World Bank and offer Ordnance Survey experience into geospatial agency, national and global deliberations. Advise Ordnance Survey Board and the UK Geospatial Commission on international developments. Contribute strategic insight to Ordnance Survey projects internationally, for example a World Bank open data project in Tanzania.

Key Achievements: Contributing to governments of Guyana, Ghana, Mongolia and many others thinking on values and elements of geospatial enablement. Leading the international governance of the first ever United Nations Geospatial Information Congress and a core member of the team writing the exciting new UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

2013 - 2017 **Ordnance Survey**
Director Strategic Relationships

Helping establish an entrepreneurial international 'start up' owned by Ordnance Survey, providing advisory services to Governments world-wide. Building senior relationships with government departments (FCO, DFID, DIT) and international organisations including the UN and World Bank. Programme direction of key projects, insight and guidance to project staffs and business development.

Key Achievements: Ensured successful delivery of Ordnance Survey's first strategy and policy projects, in Bahrain, Oman, Kosovo and UAE, and opened new European, Middle Eastern, African and South American markets.

1985 - 2013 **Ministry of Defence**
Army Officer, career progression to Colonel

2012 - 2013: **Ministry of Defence Branch Head (Policy director)**

- Leading the UK organisation responsible for understanding global technical developments that could impact UK Army future plans and acquisition.
- **Key Achievement:** Improving relevance of output and access to findings.

2010 - 2012 **Deputy Engineer-in-Chief Army and Chief Operating Officer of its Headquarters, Camberley**

- Managed the intellectual capital and future development of the Corps of Royal Engineers, a 10,000 strong construction, combat, bomb disposal and geospatial support organisation. Ran the 120 military and civilian person headquarters. Accountable for the coherent future development of construction and military engineering for Defence, including communications, training requirements, organisational structures, HR policies and safe practices.
- **Key Achievements:** Planned and delivered a major change programme merging two medium sized organisations. Delivered the plan for a major reduction (20%) in the Royal Engineers as part of Army restructuring, balancing increased efficiency with reduced effectiveness.

2007 - 2010 **Commander Joint Aeronautical and Geospatial Organisation**
(Managing Director), Hermitage, West Berkshire

- Directing and leading 600 military and civilian geospatial employees, many serving on operations globally. Implementing a strategic change programme whilst ensuring ongoing operational integrated geospatial support to Defence, FCO and DFID worldwide and Homeland Security (including Olympics planning). Managing dilapidated UK Defence site. Planning major change programme to relocate the business to a new site 100 miles distant. Overseeing changes to Defence geospatial, survey and navigation training. Budget holder of £25M budget.
- **Key Achievements:** Improving geospatial support outputs against reducing budget. Changing ethos from 'maps' to 'data' and 'decision-making'. Delivering fledgling 'spatial data infrastructure' on a major government network. Implemented BSc(Hons) courses for soldiers, a new concept in the Army. Successful delivery of geospatial experts, data and air charts globally to UK and allies at a time of intense operational pressure.

2006 - 2007 **Deputy Director in Ministry of Defence (Government Policy),**
London and Afghanistan

- Merged two Central Government policy branches into one and delivered geospatial and remote sensing policy in a multi-national context. Deployed to Afghanistan to turn-around growing incoherence between different UK intelligence activities.
- **Key Achievement:** Through tact and diplomacy influenced UK, US, NATO and British Ambassador decision making. For example, ensuring that the senior NATO Commander and others understood that success in Afghanistan was a regional issue not a local one.

Various

- A range of other leadership and planning appointments in a 30-year Army career, including commanding 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic), training the Royal Army of Oman, in Cyprus, Germany and Belize and leading allied geospatial support in Bosnia in 1996 and the Gulf in 2003.
- Member of team that established a new semi-autonomous Defence Geospatial Agency in 2000, a major change management project.

2006 - 2014 **National Autistic Society**
Vice Chair

- With £90 million turnover and 3000 staff, the Charity provides information, advice and specialist services to 100,000 people living with autism every year. Board governs the activities of the charity and actively helps set its Strategy. As chair Board Plans and Resources committee, was responsible for oversight of all NAS budgetary and financial aspects, staff and fundraising.
- **Key Achievements:** Society expanding during difficult times, starting the Academies Trust and launching its first free school.



Qualifications and memberships

- 2010** Chartered Geographer (GIS)
Fellow Royal Geographical Society
Fellow Institution of Royal Engineers
- 1983 - 1993** Army Command and Staff Course
Royal School of Military Survey, Hermitage
Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham
Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
- 1980 - 1983** BSc Hons, Civil Engineering, Southampton University

Outside interests

- 2013 - 2015** Founder Member and Trustee, Multi-Academies Trust for special needs education
- 2005 - 2012** Chair of West Berkshire Branch of the National Autistic Society
- To late 2010** Councillor British Schools Exploring Society, Councillor Royal Engineers Institution.
- External Examiner for Cranfield University MSc in Geospatial Intelligence (2014 to 2018).
 - Established local branch of national charity, two youth clubs for disadvantaged children and similar services, former Trustee for Institute of Royal Engineers, Berkshire Autistic Society and the British Exploring Society.
 - Member Geographical Club (for prominent explorers/geographers) and Anglo-Omani Society
 - My family, British mountain walking, learning from other cultures through travel and sub-aqua diving

CV last updated: February 2020