

**General Jonathan ('Jon') Holbert VANCE, CMM, MSC\*, CD  
Chief of Defence Staff 2015 to 2019**

Born: 03 January 1964 Kingston, Ontario  
 Father: LGen John Elwood ("Jack") Vance, CMM, CD  
 Married: Jennifer  
 Married: 13 February 2016 LCol Kerry Wheelehan, USAF JAG  
 Served on LGen Vance's Staff in Naples



**Honours:**

Canada Gazette

17/07/2015	CMM	Principal Commander of the Order of Military Merit
22/03/2014	CMM	Commander of the Order of Military Merit
13/06/2009	OMM	Officer of the Order of Military Merit
13/08/2011	MSC	Meritorious Service Cross
11/02/2012	MSC*	Bar to Meritorious Service Cross
10/02/1996	MID	Mentioned in Despatches (20 December 1994 in Croatia)
01/09/1994	CD	Canadian Forces Decoration plus 2 bars
30/09/2017	Commander	Legion of Honour (France)



**Military**

09/1982	Officer Cadet	Royal Military College Kingston
06/1986	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant	Royal Canadian Regiment
06/1986	Lieutenant	Royal Canadian Regiment
06/1990	Captain	Royal Canadian Regiment
06/1995	Major	Royal Canadian Regiment - Service in UNPROFOR MID
2001	Lieutenant-Colonel	CO 2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment, Gaagetown
2003	Lieutenant-Colonel	End Command RCR
06/2006	Colonel	Command 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group
09/2008	Brigadier-General	Prepares for Roto 9 JTF Afghanistan
2009	Brigadier-General	Commander JTF Afghanistan (Roto 9) and TF Kandahar
15/06/2010	Brigadier-General	Commander JTF Afghanistan and TF Kandahar
15/09/2010	Brigadier-General	Chief of Staff Land Strategy
2011	Major-General	Director of Staff, Strategic Joint Staff NDHQ
07/2013	Lieutenant-General	Deputy Commander Allied Joint Force Command Naples
07/2014	Lieutenant-General	Commander Canadian Joint Operations Command
17/07/2015	General	Chief of Staff Canadian Armed Forces

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**Chief of Defence Staff 2015 to 2019**



General Jonathan Holbert ('Jon') Vance was born on 3 January 1964 in Kingston, Ontario and grew up in a military family (his father was LGen Jack Vance). He started uniformed life at the age of 13 as an army cadet in Lahr, Germany. General Vance joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1982 and was commissioned as an infantry officer into The Royal Canadian Regiment in 1986 following his graduation from Royal Roads Military College (RRMC). General Vance has served in Canada, Germany and on UN Peacekeeping operations with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, The Royal Canadian Regiment, and has commanded at all levels within the field force from platoon commander to brigade commander and in combat operations as a Joint Task Force Commander.

His early command and staff experiences included commanding Combat Support Company and The Duke's Company in 1RCR and serving on the VCDS strategic planning staff as a major and lieutenant-colonel.

From 2001 until 2003 General Vance commanded Second Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment in Gagetown, New Brunswick. He commanded 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group in Edmonton from 2006 to 2008 and subsequently deployed as Commander Joint Task Force Afghanistan and Task Force Kandahar in 2009. He returned to Canada but and experienced Brigadier-General was needed in the summer of 2010 and he returned to Command JTF Afghanistan and Task Force Kandahar.



Following his tour(s) in Afghanistan, General Vance served on the Army Staff as Chief of Staff Land Strategy, and as Director of Staff, Strategic Joint Staff in National Defence Headquarters. He assumed his duties as Deputy Commander, Allied Joint Force Command Naples in July 2013. In July 2014, he became the Commander of the Canadian Joint Operations Command.

On 17 July 2015 he was promoted to General and made the Chief of Defence Staff.

General Vance is a graduate of the Canadian Forces Staff School, the UK Combined Arms Tactics Course, the Canadian Army Staff College, the Canadian Forces Command and Staff Course, the Advanced Military Studies Course and the Coalition Forces Land Component Command Course. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Military and Strategic Studies from Royal Roads Military College, and a Master of Arts Degree in War Studies from RMC. His

decorations include the Order of Military Merit, the Meritorious Service Cross with bar and a Mentioned-in-Dispatches. In 2011, he was awarded the Vimy Award for his contributions to Canadian defence and security.