

Commanders – Royal Canadian Air Force

2011 to Current

Chief of the Air Forces Staff and Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force

2011 to 2012	Lieutenant-General André Deschamps, CMM, CD
2012 to 2015	Lieutenant-General Yvan Blondin, CMM, CD
2015 to 2018	Lieutenant-General Michael John Hood, CMM, CD
2018 to present	Lieutenant-General <u>A</u> lexander Donald Meinzinger, CMM, MSM, CD



Lieutenant-General Joseph Paul André Deschamps, CMM, CD
Commander – Royal Canadian Air Force
2011 to 2012
Chief of the Air Staff
2009 to 2011

Born:

Honours

22/05/2010 CMM Commander of the Order of Military Merit

Military

1977	Officer Cadet	Joined the Canadian Forces
1978	Lieutenant	Completed Pilot Training – Instructor on Musketeer at CFB Moose Jaw
1982	Captain	Flew CF-104 Starfighter aircraft in Europe
1983	Major	Flying and Staff Officer Positions
2002	Colonel	Commanding Officer 2 Squadron NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany
2004	Colonel	8 Wing Canadian Forces Base Trenton
2005	Colonel	Commanded Theatre Support Element (Camp Mirage) Op Athena (Afghanistan)
2006	Brigadier-General	Chief of Staff (Operations) Canadian Expeditionary Force Command Ottawa
06/2008	Major-General	Assistant Chief of the Air Staff
10/2009	Lieutenant-General	Chief of the Air Staff, Air Command
15/08/2011	Lieutenant-General	Commander of the newly renamed Royal Canadian Air Force
27/09/2012	Lieutenant-General	Retires – replaced as Commander of the RCAF by LGen Yvan Blondin

Medals

CMM
 Gulf and Kuwait War with Bar
 General Campaign Medal with SWA ribbon
 Special Service Medal with bar NATO
 Peacekeeping Medal
 NATO with bar former Yugoslavia
 NATO with bar Kosovo
 Canadian Forces Decoration and 2 bars

Flying Hours and Aircraft

7,500 flying hours +
 CT-134 Musketeer
 CF-104 Starfighter
 CC-130 Hercules



Lieutenant-General Joseph Aimé Jean Yvan Blondin, CMM, CD
Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force
2012 to 2015

Born: Aylmer, Quebec
 Married: Jinny Lamoureux

Honours

09/02/2013	CMM	Commander of the Order of Military Merit
02/03/2008	OMM	Officer of the Order of Military Merit
31/08/2013	Officer	Legion of Honour (France)
21/05/2014a	Grand Commander	Air Force Cross for Aeronautical Merit (Columbia)

Military

1980	Lieutenant	Joined Canadian Forces – commenced Pilot Training
1982	Lieutenant	Completed Pilot Training – Wings
1982	Lieutenant	VU-32 Squadron Shearwater flying T-33
1983	Lieutenant	433 Tactical Fighter Squadron Bagotville training on CF-18 Hornet
1986	Captain	Bachelor of Arts in Geography from University of Manitoba (1983 to 1986)
1988	Captain	Flew CF-5 with 433 Squadron in Bagotville
1991	Major	Canadian Forces Command and Staff College
1993	Major	NDHQ as a Staff Officer
1999	Major	United States Air Force Air War College
2000	Lieutenant-Colonel	Commanding Officer 425 Tactical Squadron, Bagotville, Quebec
2000	Lieutenant-Colonel	Commander Cdn CF-18 Operational Force, Aviano NATO in former Yugoslavia
2001	Lieutenant-Colonel	Commanding Officer 425 Tactical Squadron, Bagotville, Quebec
2002	Lieutenant-Colonel	NORAD Headquarters in Colorado Springs
2004	Colonel	Commander 3 Wing CFB Bagotville, PQ / MBA University of Phoenix 2005
2006	Colonel	Director of Staff at NATO ISAF Headquarters, Kabul, Afghanistan
2007	Colonel	Deputy Commander Force Generation at 1 Cdn Air Division Winnipeg
03/01/2008	Colonel	Space Operations Course for Senior Leaders National Security Space Institute
09/07/2009	Brigadier-General	Commander 1 Canadian Air Division and Commander Cdn NORAD Region
07/2011	Major-General	Deputy Commander – Royal Canadian Air Force
27/09/2012	Lieutenant-General	Commander – Royal Canadian Air Force
2015	Lieutenant-General	Retires – replaced by LGen Michael Hood
2015	Lieutenant-General	3,000 hours+ CF-18, CF-5 and T-33



Medals

CMM
 General Campaign Star with SWA Ribbon
 Peacekeeping
 NATO with Bar Former Yugoslavia
 EIIR Diamond Jubilee
 Canadian Forces Decoration and 2 bars
 Officer of the Legion of Honour (France)
 Grand Commander Air Force Cross for Aeronautical Merit (Columbia)



Lieutenant-General Michael John Hood, CMM, CD
Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force
2015 to 2018

Born:

Honours

04/06/2016 CMM Commander of the Order of Military Merit

Military

1987	Guardsman	Canadian Grenadier Guards, Montreal, Reserves
1988	Lieutenant	Air Combat Systems Officer Wings
1989	Captain	Flying the CC-130 Hercules
1990	Captain	Flying the Electronic Warfare T-33 and Electronic Warfare CE-144 Challenger
	Major	Aide-de-Camp to the Governor General of Canada
	Major	Directing Staff at the USAF Command and Staff College
	Major	J3 International in the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff Group
08/08/2003	Lieutenant-Colonel	Commanding Officer 429 Transport Squadron
	Lieutenant-Colonel	Commanding Officer 436 Transport Squadron
01/2006	Lieutenant-Colonel	J5 Plans at the start of the Cdn Expeditionary Force Command HQ
06/2007	Colonel	Commander of 8 Wing Trenton
07/2009	Brigadier-General	Director General Air Force Development
07/2011	Brigadier-General	Deputy Director General of International Security Policy
09/2012	Major-General	Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force
06/2013	Major-General	Director of Staff, Strategic Joint Staff
09/07/2015	Lieutenant-General	Commander Royal Canadian Air Forces

Graduate of Canada's National Security Program
 Graduate of the USAF Command and Staff College
 Masters Degree in International Relations from Auburn University, Alabama



Medals:

CMM
 Gulf and Kuwait Medal with Bar
 General Service Medal with SWA ribbon
 SSM with 2 bars
 Peacekeeping Medal
 NATO Medal with bar former Yugoslavia
 CD and bar



**Major-General Alexander (‘Al’) Donald Meinzinger, CMM, MSM, CD
Commander – Royal Canadian Air Force
2018 to present**

Born:

Honours

02/06/2018	CMM	Commander of the Order of Military Merit
09/02/2013	OMM	Officer of the Order of Military Merit
27/04/2013	MSM	Meritorious Service Medal
22/02/2014	Officer	Legion of Merit (USA)



Military

09/1985	Officer Cadet	Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston
05/1989	Lieutenant	Graduates from RMC with a BA Honours in Economics and Commerce
09/1989	Lieutenant	Attends Queen’s University
06/1990	Lieutenant	Graduates from Queen’s University with MA in Economics
07/1990	Lieutenant	Begins his flying training at CFB Moose Jaw
1992	Lieutenant	Obtains his Pilot’s Wings at CFB Moose Jaw
1993	Lieutenant	Completes his Helicopter Training
1994	Lieutenant	Flies CH-135 Twin Huey and CH-146 Griffon
1995	Captain	Deploys with 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron United Nations Mission in Haiti
1996	Captain	Instructor Pilot & Flight Commander 403 (Helicopter) Operational Training Sqd
2000	Major	A3 Tactical Aviation Systems at 1 Canadian Air Division
2001	Major	Attended the Land Forces Command and Staff College in Kingston
2002	Major	Flight Leader with the 408 (Tactical Helicopter) Squadron
2004	Major	Executive Assistant to the Chief of the Air Staff
08/2006	Lieutenant-Colonel	Commanding Officer 403 (Helicopter) Operational Training Squadron
2008	Lieutenant-Colonel	Canadian Forces College inaugural National Security Programme
2009	Lieutenant-Colonel	Graduated from CF College with an MA in Security and Defence Management
2011	Colonel	Deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan Commanding the Canadian Air Wing 5 Mos
06/2012	Brigadier-General	NORAD/NORTHCOM Deputy Director of Strategy, Policy and Plans
07/2013	Brigadier-General	Commandant Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston
05/2015	Major-General	Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force
03/2017	Major-General	Director of Staff, Strategic Joint Staff
20/04/2018	Lieutenant-General	Promoted to Lieutenant-General
04/05/2018	Lieutenant-General	Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force

Medals:

CMM
MSM
General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon
Peacekeeping Medal
United Nations Haiti Medal
EIIR Diamond Jubilee Medal
CD and Bar
Officer of the Legion of Merit (USA)



**Major-General Alexander ('Al') Donald Meinzinger, CMM, MSM, CD
Commander – Royal Canadian Air Force
2018 to present**

