

**Jocelyn (“Joe”) J.M.J. PAUL, CMM, MSC, CD**  
**Commander – Canadian Army**  
**2022 -**



As the highest-ranking Aboriginal member of the Canadian Armed Forces, Lieutenant-General Jocelyn Paul has taken full advantage of the ‘limitless opportunities the Forces have to offer’ throughout his distinguished career. He served in Croatia in 1993-1994 as a platoon leader, and in 2009 as a battle group commander in Kandahar.

When asked about his success, he claims, “I never planned to make it to the rank of Lieutenant-General and I never thought that one day I would be involved in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.”

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Lieutenant-General Paul’s interest in a military career was sparked at a young age by his cousin who was serving in the Forces, and by his parents who saw the benefits of joining. “My parents knew that the [Forces] was a great career opportunity and they were very encouraging in my decision to serve.” In 1988, he took the plunge and joined the Reserve Force as an Infantry Soldier while completing a bachelor’s degree. He then transferred to the Regular Forces in 1991 while finishing a master’s program.

Lieutenant-General Paul is an Infantry Officer and was a member of the Royal 22nd Regiment. He says that the challenge of leading men and women in difficult situations is what pushed him towards pursuing that trade. His favourite part of the job is, “interacting with people and leading the best soldiers in the world.” He also finds globetrotting and having a positive impact on hard-hit communities and people’s lives to be very rewarding experiences.

After returning from his deployment to Afghanistan, from April to October 2009 where he commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment Battle Group, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel and was made the Commander Counter Improvised Explosive Device Task Force at the Land Staff in Ottawa from 2009 to 2011. He then proceeded on Advanced Training to undertake the National Security Programme at Canadian Forces College in Toronto.

In December 2013, he was promoted to Acting Brigadier-General (While so Employed) and was deployed in Israel for Operation PROTEUS as the Commander of Task Force Jerusalem. He was made substantive Brigadier-General the following summer.

After commanding Task Force Jerusalem, he was seconded to as the Senior Military Advisor to the Privy Council in 2016. Following that assignment, he was appointed to a new position, the Chief of

Staff for the Defence Intelligence Command, from March 2017 to the Summer of 2018. He then commanded the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division (Central Area), Canadian Army's largest division, from its headquarters in Toronto.

He was promoted to Major-General in the summer of 2019 and made the Head of the Canadian Forces International Security Policy. In June 2021, he was appointed as the Deputy Commander, Allied Joint Force Command in Naples and promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General.

In his spare time, he enjoys travelling with his family, as well as boating, hunting, and fishing. He also likes to read quite a bit about military, Canadian, and Aboriginal history. When it comes to balancing personal and professional commitments, he says, "I like to keep work issues at work as much as possible. When I go home, I focus on my family."

According to Lieutenant-General Paul, the ideal candidate for the Forces is, "A young man or woman willing to take any challenges and [is] eager to surpass him or herself." He goes on to say that it's important to follow your instincts, expand personal and professional networks, and listen to those who offer you a piece of advice.

Having already served for 31 years (in 2022), when asked where he sees himself in five years, he responds by proudly saying, "Despite the fact that I will then be 53 years old, I will likely still be in uniform and ready to serve where my country needs me."

He is married to an Innu (Montagnais) from the Betsiamites First Nation.

He was appointed as a **Commander of the Order of Military Merit (CMM)** on 19 December 2019 in the rank of Major-General.

He was awarded the **Meritorious Service Cross (MSC)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 13 August 2011 for his service as the Commanding Officer of the R22eR Battle Group in Afghanistan in the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. His citation read:

"As commanding officer of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment Battle Group, from April to October 2009, Lieutenant-Colonel Paul displayed outstanding leadership and tactical brilliance as he planned and conducted highly successful counter-insurgency operations that significantly degraded the enemy's combat capability. Through his innovative, bold and focused approach, he disrupted the insurgency's ability to gain tactical initiative during the traditional fighting season, and strengthened the Afghan government's authority within Kandahar province. His superb command of his unit ensured its success, advanced international efforts in Afghanistan, and brought great credit to Canada and to the Canadian Forces."

He was awarded the **Legion of Merit (Officer)** by the USA as per the **Canada Gazette** of 29 June 2019 in the rank of Brigadier-General.