

# Female General and Flag Officers in the Canadian Armed Forces

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Lieutenant-General Frances Allen



Lieutenant-General Christine Whitecross



General Jennie Carignan



Rear-Admiral, The Honourable Rebecca Patterson, PC, OMM, MSM, CD  
Member of the Senate of Canada

## Index to Female General and Flag Officers in the Canadian Armed Forces

01	Title Page
02	Index
03	2023 and 2024
04	2022, 2021, 2020
05	2019
06	2018, 2017
07	Royal Canadian Air Force
08	Royal Canadian Navy
09	Canadian Army
10	<b>Royal Canadian Air Force Female General Officers</b>
10	Lieutenant-General Frances Allen, RCAF
11	Lieutenant-General Lise Bourgon, RCAF, Deputy Chief of Personnel
13	Lieutenant-General Christine Whitecross, RCAF
15	Major-General Wendy Clay, RCAF, Surgeon General
17	Major-General Tammy Harris, RCAF, Deputy Commander RCAF
18	Major-General Lise Mathieu, RCAF, Chief CFHS
19	Major-General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet, RCAF, Deputy Commander RCAF
21	Major-General Nancy Tremblay, RCAF, Chief Material Program
22	Brigadier-General Dominique Brais, RCAF, Director-General Cadets and Junior Rangers
24	Brigadier-General Patricia Brennan, RCAF, COS 1 Canadian Air Division
25	Brigadier-General Linda Colwell, RCAF, Director-General Military Human Resources Policy and Planning
26	Brigadier-General Stephanie M.M. Godin, CD, RCAF, Director-General Issues
27	Brigadier-General Sheila Hellstrom, RCAF, Director-General Officer's Careers
28	Brigadier-General Darlene Quinn, RCAF, Chief of Staff to the Chief of the Defence Staff
29	Brigadier-General Yve Thomson, RCAF, Director General Military Careers
30	<b>Canadian Army Female General Officer</b>
30	General Jennie Carignan, Chief of the Defence Staff
32	Brigadier-General Guinevere ('Gwen') Mae Bourque, OMM, CD
33	Brigadier-General Krista Brodie, CMM, CD, Canadian Army, VP Logistics and Operations Public Health Agency Canada
34	Brigadier-General Marily S. Chenette, Cdr CF Health Services Group and Deputy Surgeon General
35	Brigadier-General Colleen Forester, OMM, MSC, CD
36	Brigadier-General Vanessa Maria Hanrahan, OMM, CD
37	Brigadier-General Carla Harding, Canadian Army, A/COS, J4, Supreme HQ Allied Power Europe, Belgium
38	Brigadier-General Marie-Christine Harvey, OMM, CD, Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery
37	Brigadier-General Corinna Heilman, Canadian Army, Strategic J4 at NDHQ
38	Brigadier-General Hilary Jaeger, Canadian Army, Surgeon General
42	Brigadier-General Heather Suzane Morrison, OMM, CD, Canadian Army, Chief of Staff, Canadian Army Operations
43	Brigadier-General Josée Robidoux, Canadian Army, Deputy Commander 2 <sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division
45	Brigadier-General Patricia Samson, Canadian Army, Provost Marshal
46	Brigadier-General Danielle Savard, Project Leader, Military Personnel Management Capability Transformation
47	Brigadier-General Virginia Tattersall, Deputy Commander Military Personnel Generation
39	Brigadier-General Corinna Heilman, Canadian Army, Strategic J4 at NDHQ
40	Brigadier-General Hilary Jaeger, Canadian Army, Surgeon General
42	Brigadier-General Heather Suzane Morrison, OMM, CD, Canadian Army, Chief of Staff, Canadian Army Operations
43	Brigadier-General Josée Robidoux, Canadian Army, Deputy Commander 2 <sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division
45	Brigadier-General Patricia Samson, Canadian Army, Provost Marshal
46	Brigadier-General Danielle Savard, Project Leader, Military Personnel Management Capability Transformation
47	Brigadier-General Virginia Tattersall, Deputy Commander Military Personnel Generation
48	<b>Royal Canadian Navy Female Flag Officers</b>
48	Rear-Admiral Jennifer Bennett, CMM, CD, RCN, Chief of Reserves and Cadets
49	Rear-Admiral Geneviève Bernatchez, RCN, Judge Advocate General (JAG)
50	Rear-Admiral Josée Kurtz, RCN, Commander, MARLANT
52	Rear-Admiral Rebecca Patterson, RCN, COS to the Chief of Professional Conduct and Culture
54	Rear-Admiral Elizabeth Stuart, RCN, Seconded to the Treasury Board
55	Commodore Lynn Bisson, RCN, Assistant Chief of Military Personnel
56	Commodore Ruth Dagenais, CD, RCN, Director-General, Financial Management
57	Commodore Margaret Kavanagh, RCN, Chief of the Canadian Forces Medical Services

- 58 Commodore Marta Mulkins, RCN, Commander Naval Reserve Divisions (COND)
- 59 Commodore Christine Newburn-Cook, RCN, Consultant and Senior Advisor Naval Reserve
- 60 Commodore Lorraine Orthlieb, RCN, Senior Naval Reserve Advisor
- 62 Commodore Andrea Siew, RCN, Director General Military Signals and Intelligence
- 62 Colonel Nora Naaman, RCAF, to be Project Leader Military Personnel Management Capability Transformation
- 63 **United States Navy and United States Air Force First Female Admiral and General**
- 63 Admiral Michaelle Janine Howard, USN, 38<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chief of Naval Operations
- 64 General Ann Dunwoody, United States Army Materiel Command, Commanding General

## Female General and Flag Officers in the Canadian Armed Forces

In the history of the Canadian Forces, only 37 women have risen to General or Flag Officer rank. In the summer of 2015, Christine Whitecross was promoted to Lieutenant-General and become the Chief of Military Personnel, the first female to be promoted to that rank. On 27 July 1994 Dr. Wendy Clay became the first woman in the Canadian Forces promoted to the rank of Major-General when she became the Surgeon General. Sheila Hellstrom was the first female to achieve the rank of Brigadier-General on 27 January 1987. Lorraine Frances Orthlieb was the first female reserve officer to reach flag officer status in the Canadian Forces when promoted to the rank of Commodore in 1989. Rear-Admiral Jennifer Bennett was the first female reserve officer promoted to Rear-Admiral (in April 2011) when she was appointed as Chief Reserves and Cadets in May 2011.

In April 2023, Lise Bourgon was promoted to Lieutenant-General marking the first time that 3 female Lieutenant-Generals has served at the same time. In June 2023, Jamie Speiser-Blanchet was promoted to Major-General and made the Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Rear-Admiral Rebecca Patterson was on retirement leave in January 2023 and took up her seat as a Canadian Senator reducing the number of active female General and Flag Officer to 12. In June, RAdm Bernachez retired as the JAG. Brigadier-General Dominique Brais, RCAF, Director-General Cadets and Junior Rangers, was promoted in July and Brigadier-General Stephanie Godin was promoted in October making 13 General/Flag Officers. However, BGen Heilman retired in October 2013 leaving 12 Generals/Flag Officers at the end of 2023.

In February 2024, Brigadier-General Colleen Forester, OMM, MSC, CD was promoted and in March 2024 Brigadier-General Marilyn S. Chenette was promoted to Brigadier-General. Both are members of the Royal Canadian Health Services Group. On 01 June 2024, Brigadier-General Marie-Christine Harvey, RCA, was promoted to BGen. In July 2024, Brigadier-General Heather Suzane Morrison was promoted to General Officer rank.

At the start of 2024 there were 12 Female General and Flag Officers serving in the **Canadian Forces**. Two additional Brigadier-Generals were added in February/March 2024 and one in June 2024 and another in July 2024 bringing the total to 16 Female General Officers. BGen Carla Harding and Commodore Ruth Dagenais retired in July 2024. In August 2024, LGen Frances Allen retired reducing the number of Female General Officers to 13. The year 2024 also saw Brigadier-General Vanessa Maria Hanrahan, OMM, CD appointed to the rank of Brigadier-General on 04 December 2024 and as the Canadian Forces Provost Marshal on 10 December 2024 making 14 Female General and Flag Officers.

On 28 June 2024, it was announced that General Jennie Carignan would be the new **Chief of the Defence Staff**.

<b>General Jennie Carignan, OMM, MSM, CD</b>	Canadian Army
Lieutenant-General Frances Allen, CMM, CD	RCAF           retired August 2024
Lieutenant-General Lise Bourgon, OMM, MSC, CD	RCAF
Major-General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet, CD	RCAF
Brigadier-General Dominique Brais, CD	RCAF
Brigadier-General Stephanie M.M. Godin, CD	RCAF
Brigadier-General Guinevere ("Gwen") Mae Bourque, OMM, CD	Canadian Army
Brigadier-General Krista Dawn Brodie, CMM, CD	Canadian Army
Brigadier-General Marilyn S. Chenette, CD	Canadian Army   added March 2024
Brigadier-General Colleen Forester, OMM, MSC, CD	Canadian Army   added February 2024

Brigadier-General Vanessa Maria Hanrahan, OMM, CD	Canadian Army	added December 2024
Brigadier-General Carla Harding, OMM, CD	Canadian Army	retired July 2024
Brigadier-General Marie-Christine Harvey, OMM, CD	Canadian Army	added June 2024
Brigadier-General Heather Suzanne Morrison, OMM, CD	Canadian Army	added July 2024
Brigadier-General Virginia Tattersall, CMM, CD	Canadian Army	
Rear-Admiral M.J. José Kurtz, OMM, MSC, CD	RCN	
Commodore Ruth Dagenais, CD	RCN	retired July 2024

At the start of 2023 there were 13 Female General and Flag Officers serving in the **Canadian Forces** with 12 remaining by the end of the year.

Lieutenant-General Frances Allen, CMM, CD	RCAF	
Lieutenant-General Jennie Carignan, OMM, MSM, CD	Canadian Army	
Lieutenant-General Lise Bourgon, OMM, MSC, CD	RCAF	(promoted LGen 2023)
Major-General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet, CD	RCAF	(promoted MGen 2023)
Brigadier-General Dominique Brais, CD	RCAF	(promoted BGen 2023)
Brigadier-General Stephanie M.M. Godin, CD	RCAF	
Brigadier-General Virginia Tattersall, CMM, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Carla Harding, OMM, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Krista Dawn Brodie, CMM, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Corinna A. Heilman, CD	Canadian Army	Retired in October 2023
Brigadier-General Guinevere ('Gwen') Mae Bourque, OMM, CD	Canadian Army	
Rear-Admiral Geneviève Bernachez, OMM, CD	RCN	Retired in June 2023
Rear-Admiral Rebecca L. Patterson, OMM, MSM, CD	RCN	Retired January - to the Senate
Rear-Admiral M.J. José Kurtz, OMM, MSC, CD	RCN	
Commodore Ruth Dagenais, CD	RCN	

In June 2022 Major-General Nancy Tremblay retired as did Brigadier-General Darlene Quinn. One RCN Officer, Commodore Ruth Dagenais, was promoted to Flag Officer. Later in the year, Brigadier-General Gwen Bourque was promoted and made Deputy Commander of 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division. That meant that 15 Female General and Flag Officers served in the **Canadian Forces in 2022** with 13 remaining by the end of the year.

Lieutenant-General Frances Allen, CMM, CD	RCAF	
Lieutenant-General Jennie Carignan, OMM, MSM, CD	Canadian Army	
Major-General Lise Bourgon, OMM, MSC, CD	RCAF	
Major-General M.I. Nancy Tremblay, CD, RCAF	RCAF	(Retired June 2022)
Brigadier-General Darlene Quinn, OMM, CD	RCAF	(Retired June 2022)
Brigadier-General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet, CD	RCAF	
Brigadier-General Virginia Tattersall, CMM, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Carla Harding, OMM, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Krista Dawn Brodie, CMM, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Corinna A. Heilman, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Guinevere ('Gwen') Mae Bourque, OMM, CD	Canadian Army	
Rear-Admiral Geneviève Bernachez, OMM, CD	RCN	
Rear-Admiral Rebecca L. Patterson, OMM, MSM, CD	RCN	
Commodore M.J. José Kurtz, OMM, MSC, CD	RCN	
Commodore Ruth Dagenais, CD	RCN	(promoted 2022)

In **June 2021** Brigadier-General Krista Dawn Brodie was promoted to Brigadier-General as was Corinna A. Heilman and Jamie Speiser-Blanchet. Lise Bourgon and Nancy Tremblay were both promoted to Major-General. Brigadier Yve Thomson retired from the RCAF and Brigadier Danielle Savard retired from the Canadian Army. That meant that 16 Female General and Flag Officers served in the **Canadian Forces in 2021** with 13 remaining by the end of the year.

Lieutenant-General Frances Allen, CMM, CD	RCAF
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Lieutenant-General Jennie Carignan, OMM, MSM, CD	Canadian Army	
Major-General Lise Bourgon, OMM, MSC, CD	RCAF	(promoted MGen 2022)
Major-General M.I. Nancy Tremblay, CD, RCAF	RCAF	(promoted MGen 2022)
Brigadier-General Darlene Quinn, OMM, CD	RCAF	
Brigadier-General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet, CD	RCAF	(promoted 2022)
Brigadier-General Yve Thomson, CD	RCAF	(retired in June 2021)
Brigadier-General Marie Céline <u>Danielle</u> Savard, OMM, MSM, CD	Canadian Army	(retired 2021)
Brigadier-General Virginia Tattersall, CMM, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Carla Harding, OMM, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Krista Dawn Brodie, CMM, CD	Canadian Army	(promoted 2022)
Brigadier-General Corinna A. Heilman, CD	Canadian Army	(promoted 2022)
Rear-Admiral Geneviève Bernachez, OMM, CD	RCN	
Rear-Admiral Rebecca L. Patterson, OMM, MSM, CD	RCN	
Commodore M.J. José Kurtz, OMM, MSC, CD	RCN	

In **2020**, there were 13 Female General and Flag Officers who served in the Canadian Forces.

Lieutenant-General Chris Whitecross, CMM, MSM, CD	RCAF	(retired in July)
Lieutenant-General Frances Allen, CMM, CD	RCAF	(promoted in July)
Major-General Jennie Carignan, OMM, MSM, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Lise Bourgon, OMM, MSC, CD	RCAF	
Brigadier-General Darlene Quinn, OMM, CD	RCAF	
Brigadier-General Yve Thomson, CD	RCAF	
Brigadier-General M.I. Nancy Tremblay, CD	RCAF	
Brigadier-General Marie Céline <u>Danielle</u> , Savard, OMM, MSM, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Virginia Tattersall, CMM, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Carla Harding, OMM, CD	Canadian Army	
Rear-Admiral Geneviève Bernachez, OMM, CD	RCN	
Rear-Admiral Rebecca L. Patterson, OMM, MSM, CD	RCN	
Commodore M.J. José Kurtz, OMM, MSC, CD	RCN	

In **2019**, there were 14 Female General and Flag Officers who served in the Canadian Forces:

Lieutenant-General Chris Whitecross, CMM, MSM, CD	RCAF	
Major-General Frances Allen, CMM, CD	RCAF	
Brigadier-General Lise Bourgon, OMM, MSC, CD	RCAF	
Brigadier-General Darlene Quinn, OMM, CD	RCAF	
Brigadier-General Yve Thomson, CD	RCAF	
Brigadier-General M.I. Nancy Tremblay, CD	RCAF	
Major-General Jennie Carignan, OMM, MSM, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Danielle Savard, OMM, MSM, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Virginia Tattersall, CMM, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Carla Harding, OMM, CD	Canadian Army	
Brigadier-General Josée Robidoux, OMM, CD	Canadian Army	(Retired October 2019)
Commodore Geneviève Bernachez, OMM, CD	RCN	
Commodore Rebecca L. Patterson, OMM, MSM, CD	RCN	
Commodore M.J. José Kurtz, OMM, MSC, CD	RCN	

**In 2018**, there was 13 female General and Flag Officers serving in the Canadian Forces:

Lieutenant-General Chris Whitecross, CMM, MSM, CD	RCAF
Rear-Admiral Jennifer Bennett, CMM, CD	RCN
Major-General Frances Allen, CMM, CD	RCAF
Brigadier-General Lise Bourgon, OMM, MSC, CD	RCAF
Brigadier-General Darlene Quinn, OMM, CD	RCAF
Brigadier-General Jennie Carignan, OMM, MSM, CD	Canadian Army
Brigadier-General Danielle Savard, OMM, MSM, CD	Canadian Army
Brigadier-General Virginia Tattersall, CMM, CD	Canadian Army
Brigadier-General Josée Robidoux, OMM, CD	Canadian Army
Commodore Marta Mulkins, OMM, CD	RCN
Commodore Geneviève Bernachez, OMM, CD	RCN
Commodore Rebecca L. Patterson, OMM, MSM, CD	RCN
Commodore M.J. José Kurtz, OMM, MSC, CD	RCN

**In 2017**, there were 11 female General and Flag Officers serving in the Canadian Forces:

Lieutenant-General Chris Whitecross, CMM, CD	RCAF
Major-General Tammy Harris, CD	RCAF
Rear-Admiral Jennifer Bennett, CMM, CD	RCN
Brigadier-General Frances Allen, CMM, CD	RCAF
Brigadier-General Lise Bourgon, OMM, MSC, CD	RCAF
Brigadier-General Jennie Carignan, OMM, MSM, CD	Canadian Army
Brigadier-General Danielle Savard, OMM, MSM, CD	Canadian Army
Brigadier-General Virginia Tattersall, CMM, CD	Canadian Army
Brigadier-General Josée Robidoux, OMM, CD	Canadian Army
Commodore Marta Mulkins, OMM, CD	RCN
Commodore Geneviève Bernachez, OMM, CD	RCN

## Royal Canadian Air Force

Lieutenant-General Frances J. ALLEN, CMM, CD, RCAF	Vice Chief of the Defence Staff
Lieutenant-General Marie H��l��ne <u>Lise</u> BOURGON, OMM, MSC, CD	Acting Commander Military Personnel
Lieutenant-General Christine (‘Chris’) WHITECROSS, CMM, MSM, CD	Commander Military Personnel Command Commander NATO Military College
Major-General Wendy CLAY, CMM, CD, QHP, RCAF	Surgeon General
Major-General Tammy L. HARRIS, CD, RCAF	Deputy Commander RCAF
Major-General Marie Juliette <u>Lise</u> MATHIEU, CMM, CD, RCAF	Chief Medical Services
Major-General Jamie SPEISER-BLANCHET, CD, RCAF	Deputy Commander RCAF
Major-General M.I. Nancy TREMBLAY, CD, RCAF	Chief Material Program
Brigadier-General Dominique Brais, RCAF	Director-General Cadets and Junior Rangers
Brigadier-General Patricia (‘Pat’) L. BRENNAN, CD, RCAF	COS Reserves 1 CAD
Brigadier-General Linda Juanita COLWELL, OMM, CD, RCAF	Personnel Management
Brigadier-General Stephanie M.M. GODIN, CD, RCAF	Director-General Issues
Brigadier-General Sheila A. HELLSTROM, CD, RCAF	DG Postings & Careers
Brigadier-General Darlene QUINN, OMM, CD, RCAF	Cdn Mil Rep – SHAPE (Casteau Belgium)
Brigadier-General Yve THOMSON, CD, RCAF	DG Military Careers

### To be promoted but wasn’t

Colonel Nora NAAMAN, CD, RCAF She was to be promoted but didn’t want to move to Ottawa so took a civilian position before she was promoted to Brigadier-General.	Mil Personnel
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## Female General and Flag Officers in the Canadian Forces

### Royal Canadian Navy

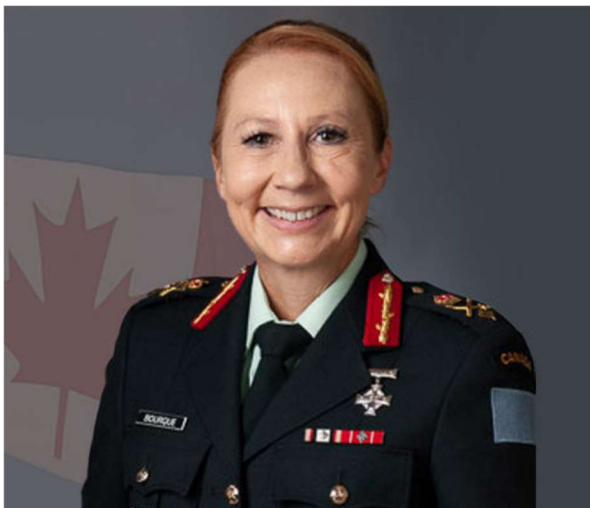
Rear-Admiral Jennifer Jane BENNETT, CMM, CD	Chief of Reserves
Rear-Admiral Geneviève BERNACHEZ, OMM, CD	Judge Advocate General
Rear-Admiral Josée KURTZ, OMM, MSC, CD	Commander MARLANT
Rear-Admiral Rebecca PATTERSON, OMM, MSM, CD *	COS - Professional Conduct & Culture
Rear-Admiral Elizabeth M. STEELE, OMM, CD (Changed her name to RAdm Elizabeth M. Stuart, OMM, CD)	Seconded Treasury Board
Commodore Lynn M.-P.C. BISSON, OMM, CD	A/Chief Mil Personnel
Commodore Ruth DAGENAIS, CD	Director General – Financial Management
Commodore Margaret Frances KAVANAGH, OMM, CD	Chief of Medical Services
Commodore Marta MULKINS, OMM, CD	Commander, Naval Divisions
Commodore Christine (“Chris”) NEWBURN, CD	Senior Advisor to the Naval Reserves
Commodore Lorraine Frances ORTHLIEB, CMM, CD	Senior Naval Reserve Advisor 1989-92
Commodore Andrea Louise SIEW, CD	DG Military Signals Intelligence

\* Retired from the Royal Canadian Navy and took a seat in the Senate of Canada



**Canadian Army**

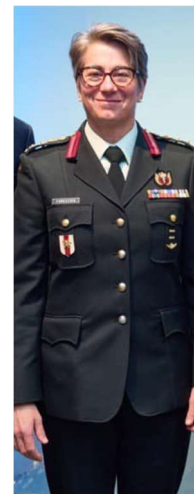
General Jennie CARIGNAN, OMM, MSM, CD	Chief of the Defence Staff
Brigadier-General Guinevere (“Gwen”) Mae Bourque, OMM, CD	Deputy Commander Army Training Center
Brigadier-General Krista Dawn BRODIE, CMM, CD, Canadian Army	Military Personnel Generation VP Logistics & Operations PHAC
Brigadier-General Marilyn S. CHENNETTE, CD, Canadian Army	Cdr CF Health Services Group / Dep Surg Gen
Brigadier-General Colleen FORESTER, OMM, MSC, CD	Canadian Army
Brigadier-General Carla HARDING, OMM, CD, Canadian Army	COS Canadian Army Operations Assistant COS, J4, Supreme HQ Allied Power Europe, in Casteau, Belgium.
Brigadier-General Vanessa Maria HANRAHAN, OMM, CD	Provost Marshal
Brigadier-General Marie-Christine HARVEY, OMM, CD	Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery
Brigadier-General Corinna A. HEILMAN, CD, Canadian Army	Strategic J4 – National Defence HQ COS - Chief Professional Conduct & Culture
Brigadier-General Hiliary Frances JAEGER, OMM, MSM, CD, QHP	Surgeon General
Brigadier-General Heather Suzanne MORRISON, OMM, CD	Chief of Staff Operations, Canadian Army
Brigadier-General Josée ROBIDOUX, OMM, CD, Canadian Army	D/Cdr 2 <sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division
Brigadier-General Patricia Maude SAMSON, OMM, CD	Provost Marshal
Brigadier-General Marie Céline Danielle SAVARD, OMM, MSM, CD	Director-General Military Personnel Mil Per Management Capability Transformation
Brigadier-General Virginia C. TATTERSALL, CMM, CD, Canadian Army	Director General, Compensation and Benefits



Brigadier-General Gwen Bourque, CD and Memorial Cross



BGen Virginia Tattersall, CMM, CD



BGen Colleen Forester, OMM MSC CD

## Royal Canadian Air Force Female General Officers

### Lieutenant-General Frances Jennifer ALLEN, CMM (OMM), CD Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff



Lieutenant-General Allen is from Barrie, Ontario, and both her mother and father were in the RCAF. Brigadier-General Frances Allen enrolled in the Canadian Forces in 1983, subsequently completing an Honors Degree in Statistics from Queens University in 1987. She became a Communications and Electronics Engineering (Air) Officer (CELE)

She has been the commanding officer for the Canadian Forces Network Operations Centre at Canadian Forces Station Leitrim [near Ottawa] (2002-2005), Officer Commanding the National Systems Management Centre, and from 2005 to 2008 Director of the Aerospace and Telecommunications Engineering Support Squadron (ATESS) at 8 Wing Trenton, Ontario. She then served as the Director of support operations with the Strategic Joint Staff in Ottawa in 2011. In June 2012 she was posted as the Commander of the Canadian Forces Information Operations Group (CFIOG) until 2014.

She represented the Canadian Armed Forces' women's volleyball team as an athlete (1989-2004) and team manager (2004-2008) at the Conseil international du sport militaire (CISM) [International Military Sports Council]. She is currently a board member for the CISM. The opportunities to travel and play around the globe has been a wonderful experience throughout her career.

In June 2014 she was promoted to Brigadier-General and appointed Director General Defence Security / Departmental Security Officer, at NDHQ, in Ottawa. In June 2015, she became the Director General, Cyber at NDHQ in Ottawa.

In 2017, she became the Director General Information Management Operations at NDHQ, Ottawa. On Promotion to Major-General in June 2018, she became the Deputy Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff.

She was promoted to **Lieutenant-General** in July 2020 and went to NATO Headquarters in Brussels as the **Canada's Military Representative** to NATO.

In March 2021, she was appointed as the **Vice-Chief of the Defence staff**.

She holds a Master Degree in Defence Studies from the Royal Military College in Kingston and is working to complete a Master in Public Administration. Her husband, also a service member, was killed in a flying training accident. She has been a single parent since then.



She retired in August 2024.



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**Lieutenant-General Marie H  l  ne Lise BOURGON, OMM, MSC, CD, RCAF**  
**Acting Commander of Military Personnel Command**

Born in Gatineau, Quebec, Lis Bourgon is a Royal Canadian Air Force Maritime helicopter pilot. She joined the Canadian Forces in 1987 as part of the Regular Officer Training Program (ROTP) and was accepted at the Royal Military College of St. John where she received her Bachelor's degree in Public Administration in 1992.

After receiving her pilot wings at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, in 1994 she was transferred to 423 Maritime Helicopter Squadron in Shearwater where she served on the HMCS Preserver, HMCS Toronto and HMCS Ville de Qu  bec. In 1998, she was assigned to the 406 Squadron training in the role of pilot instructor. After being promoted to the rank of Major in 2001, she was posted to the Maritime Air Requirements Directorate in Ottawa as Director of projects such as the Maritime Helicopter Program and the Electronic Defense Program.

Mutated again at 423 Maritime Helicopter Squadron in 2004, she was the Commanding Officer of the HMCS Montreal Air Detachment. As a result of OP TRANSFORM, she was assigned as a task and planning officer for 12 Wing. She is a graduate of the Canadian Forces College Combined Command and Staff Program in 2007.



Following her promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in June 2007, she was appointed Commanding Officer of the 406 Maritime Operational Training Squadron in Shearwater, Nova Scotia. Following her turn as commander in July 2009, she was chosen as Chief of Staff for the Chief of the Air Force General Andr   Deschamps. Promoted to the rank of Colonel in June 2011, she was transferred to NATO Headquarters in Ramstein, Germany as liaison officer. After two years in Germany, she returned to Canada as the Commander of 12 Wing Shearwater in 2013.

On 23 April 2015, she became the commander of the second rotation of Operation IMPACT personnel as part of the Middle East Stabilization Force at Camp Canada in Kuwait. As commander of JTF-I, Brigadier-General Bourgon will command approximately 600 Canadian Armed Forces personnel deployed on Operation Impact – Canada's military contribution to the Middle East Stabilization Force, which is the multinational coalition aimed at degrading and ultimately defeating the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The JTF-I includes the Air Task Force-Iraq (ATF-I) as well as planning teams and liaison officers working alongside counterparts. She was awarded the **Meritorious Service Cross (MSC)** by the Governor General for her leadership of Op IMPACT.

Following her tour as Commander of Op IMPACT, she returned to Canada as Chief of Staff Operations at Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC) in Ottawa and was promoted to Brigadier-General in June 2016. In June 2018 she became the Chief of Staff Readiness at NDHQ, Ottawa.

In the summer of 2021, she was designated to take over as Commandant of the Royal Military College Kingston. However, instead, she **was promoted to Major-General in April 2021** and appointed as Deputy Commander Military Personnel Command and Assistant Chief of Military Personnel. In **April 2023 she was promoted to Lieutenant-General** and was the Acting Commander of Personnel Command.



She is proud to have served on five deployments with the Royal Canadian Navy in *HMCS Preserver*, *HMCS Ville de* *HMCS Quebec*, *HMCS Toronto* and *HMCS Montreal*. She also deployed on several missions including Operation Sharp Guard in the Adriatic Sea, Op Active Endeavour in the Eastern Mediterranean, Op Sharp Guard in the former Yugoslavia, Op Determination in the Arabian Gulf and Op Impact in Iraq.

She attended Queen's University in Kingston Ontario in 2020 to 2021 working on a Fellowship. Following this year, she was appointed as the Commandant, Royal Military College. Colonel Bourgon is married to Captain Martin Roy and they have two children, Jeremy and Megan. She was made an **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 01 June 2019.

**Lieutenant-General Christine ('Chris') T. WHITECROSS, OMM, MSM, CD**  
**Chief of Military Personnel and Commander Military Personnel Command**

Lieutenant-General Chris Whitecross enrolled in the Canadian Forces while at Queen's University, in Kingston, Ontario when she was nineteen in 1982. She joined the Canadian Military Engineers after spending 4 years in the Cadet program.

After completing her phase training at the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering in the spring of 1986, she received her first posting to the Construction Engineering section at CFB Baden-Soellingen, Germany. She was promoted to Captain in 1988.

After a posting to Canadian Forces Base Edmonton, in 1989, she was promoted to Major in 1992 and appointed Requirements Officer for Foreign Military Training at 5 Wing Goose Bay. In 1995, she was selected for a one-year tour as the G1/G4 for the Force Engineers, United Nations Protection Force, in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. Her tour in the FRY culminated in her selection as the Force Engineer upon the arrival of NATO forces, and the closure of the UNPROFOR mission.



Upon return to Canada, Brigadier-General Whitecross was posted to 14 Wing Greenwood, as the Wing Construction Engineering Officer where she remained for two years until her selection to attend the Canadian Forces College, Toronto, in 1998. On promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in the fall of that year, she was posted to 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters, Winnipeg and while at 1 CAD, held the position of A4 Airfield Engineering Operations.

From 2001 to 2003, she was the Commanding Officer, 1 Construction Engineering Unit, Moncton, after which she was selected as Executive Assistant to the Chief of the Air Staff at National Defense Headquarters, Ottawa. Upon promotion to Colonel in 2004, she assumed the duties of Director of Infrastructure and Environment Corporate Services for the Assistant Deputy Minister (Infrastructure and Environment) and in 2006 the duties of Joint Engineer of the newly established Canada Command. She was made an **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 25 June 2005.

In July 2006, she became the first female Commander, Joint Task Force (North), Yellowknife, NWT. In March 2007, she was promoted to Brigadier-General and continued at the Commander, Joint Task Force (North).

In 2009, she became the Deputy Commander, Canadian Operational Support Command, Ottawa. In June 2010, she became the Deputy DCOS Comms, ISAF HQ, Kabul Afghanistan.

She was promoted to the rank of Major-General at the end of her one-year tour with ISAF HQ on 30 June 2011. MGen Whitecross was posted into the position of Chief of Staff for Assistant Deputy Minister (Infrastructure and Environment) and appointed Chief Military Engineer of the Canadian Forces at National Defence Headquarters on 9 August, 2011.

She received the **Meritorious Service Medal (USA)** as per the Canada Gazette of 09 June 2012 and the Canadian **Meritorious Service Medal (MSM)** as per the Government House 24 June 2015 (not gazetted) for her role as Secretary General of the International Military Sports Council. Both awards were when she was a Major-General.

In the summer of 2015, Chris was the first female promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General in the Canadian Forces as the Chief of Military Personnel and Commander of the Military Personnel Command. She was promoted in the

Order of Military Merit to a **Commander of the Order of Military Merit (CMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 04 June 2016 in the rank of Major-General.

Lieutenant-General Whitecross received a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering from Queen's University in 1984 and a Master's Degree in Defence Studies from the Royal Military College. She is a graduate of both the Command and Staff College and the Advanced Military Studies Course, both conducted at the Canadian Forces College.

In December 2016 she was appointed as the Commander of the NATO Military College in Rome. She **retired** from that position and the Canadian Forces in **July 2020**.



\* \* \* \* \*

**Major-General Wendy Arlene CLAY, CMM, OstJ, CD, QHP, MD, FRCP(C)  
Surgeon General**

Wendy Clay was born in Fort St. John, B.C. and raised on Canada's west coast she earned her medical degree in 1967 through the Medical Officer training Plan of the Canadian Armed Forces. Dr. Clay was the first woman officer cadet in the Royal Canadian Navy.

She was the first Canadian woman to receive her degree in aviation medicine. Then, after promotion to Major in 1970 she became the Base Medical Officer at CFB Moose Jaw. While there, she was the first woman to graduate from the military's basic pilot training in 1972 and earn her military wings in 1974 - she qualified for her pilot wings six years before the pilot classification was opened to all women. She also did a United Nations tour in the Middle East.

Wendy became a Lieutenant-Colonel in 1977 and a Colonel in 1982. She was posted to National Defence Headquarters in 1982, where she was Director of Preventive Medicine. In 1988, as Air Command Surgeon, she was the highest-ranking physician at Air Command Headquarters. In 1989 she was promoted to Brigadier-General and named deputy surgeon general at National Defence Headquarters in 1992. On 27 July 1994 she became the first woman in the Canadian Forces promoted to the rank of Major-General. She was Surgeon General until June 1998. She was also the first female Regular Force member made a **Commander of the Order of Military Merit (CMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 30 June 1996 (Commodore Lorraine Orthleib was the first naval reservist in 1991).



She retired from the Canadian Forces in July 1999 and now resides in Victoria. Since retirement she has been active in the community, serving on the Board of Victoria Hospice Society from 2002 to 2008. She became a member of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires in 2001 and served until 2010, including terms as Chair and Past Chair. Major-General Clay also served on the St. John Ambulance Branch Executive Committee until May 2012 following completion of a six-year term, during which she served as Chair for the final four years. She is currently the Secretary of the Vancouver Island Aircrew Association, a position she has held since 2003, and is an active member of Christ Church Cathedral where she continues to serve in a number of volunteer positions. Wendy was elected to the Board of Directors of Victoria's Broadmead Care Centre in June 2013 and is a member of the Board Finance and Board Quality Improvement Committees.

**UBC THE TITLE AND DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE, (*honoris causa*) CONFERRED AT CONGREGATION,  
November 23, 1995  
WENDY ARLENE CLAY**

Mr. Chancellor, we are honoured to have in our presence today a woman whose dedication, ability and pioneering spirit have lifted her to the height of her profession. Surgeon General Wendy Arlene Clay is a doctor, pilot and flight surgeon who has risen through the ranks of the Canadian Forces and has consistently demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to medicine and to her country. Born in Fort St. John, Dr. Clay began her military career in the Navy ROTP Program at UBC, where she graduated with a medical degree in 1967. She completed an internship at Toronto General Hospital and was assigned to Canadian Forces Base Trenton, where she became the first woman to receive training as a flight surgeon. Her next posting was to CFB Moose Jaw, where in 1974 she was the first woman to earn pilot's wings in the Canadian Forces. Dr. Clay was posted to National Defence Headquarters in 1982, where she was Director of Preventive Medicine. In 1988, as command surgeon, she was the highest-ranking physician at Air Command Headquarters. A year later, she achieved the rank of brigadier-general and was made Commandant of the National Defence Medical Centre. In 1994, Dr. Clay was promoted to the rank of Major-General and the position of Surgeon General for the Canadian Forces. She is the first woman to achieve both of those positions. Mr. Chancellor, we are recognizing Dr. Clay not only for these achievements, but also for her commitment to her

profession. In her 27 years with the Canadian Forces, Dr. Clay has served her country in medical, administrative, and leadership positions, including a six-month peacekeeping tour in the Middle East. She has completed further studies in advanced aviation medicine and earned a Master's Degree in Health Sciences from the University of Toronto. Dr. Clay's leadership in military medicine has made her an exceptional role model. In recognition of her achievements, she has received awards from the UBC Medical Division and the UBC Alumni Association. Mr. Chancellor, I would ask that you now confer the Degree Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, upon WENDY ARLENE CLAY.

I had the pleasure of passing Wendy when she did her Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons specialty examinations in Community Medicine when I served as chair of the specialty examining board. One day I was in the lounge waiting for a service flight on the old Boeing 707s and I heard a couple of senior officers commenting on that female officer wearing pilot's wings. They were thinking about going over and telling her she shouldn't be wearing them so I stepped into the conversation and said, "I wouldn't do that – she was the first female in the Canadian Forces to earn her wings and she is very proud of them". And then I stepped away!



\* \* \* \* \*



**Major-General Tammy L. HARRIS, CD**  
**Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force**

Tammy Harris graduated from Acadia University in 1987 and joined the Canadian Forces as an air traffic controller. She finished her air traffic control course in 1989, and was posted to Lahr, Germany, where she was appointed Tower Chief Controller.

In 1993, Harris was posted to Sault Ste Marie, Ont., where she became detachment commander and then deputy commanding officer of Northern Ontario Recruiting. In 1996, she was posted to 12 Wing Shearwater as the Chief Controller of the tower. During that time, she was involved in the aftermath of the Swiss Air 111 disaster.

She was promoted to Major in 2000 and posted to 15 Wing Moose Jaw for the commencement of the NATO Flying Training in Canada (NFTC) program. There, she became Wing Air Traffic Controller Officer then later, Wing Operations Officer.

In 2003, she became Commandant of the Air Command Academy at 16 Wing Borden.

The next year, she attended the Canadian Forces Staff Course in Toronto. In 2007, she was appointed the Commander of 9 Wing Gander. In June 2009, she was deployed in Afghanistan, where she was a chief planner for NATO on the Kandahar Airfield and Base.

Then Colonel Tammy Harris took command of Canadian Forces Base Borden on 06 July 2012. She assumed responsibility for Canada's largest training base, a sprawling enterprise that employs 3,250 military members and 1,500 civilians and trains 15,000 military personnel per year. Colonel Harris was a 45-year-old grandmother at the time of assuming this command, the first female to command a major Canadian Forces Base.

A year later, she was promoted to Brigadier-General and seconded to the Privy Council Office (PCO). In 2016, she was promoted Acting While So Employed to the rank of **Major-General** was the Chief of Staff to the Chief of Defence Staff, in Ottawa (a position she had taken up in 2015).

In January 2017 she became the **Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force**. **She retired from the RCAF in the summer of 2017**. She is **married to Brig-Gen Shane Brennan, MSM\*\*** (below right) and has three stepchildren, ages 17, 20 and 22 (in 2017).



\* \* \* \* \*

**Major-General Marie Juliette Lise MATHIEU, CMM, CD**  
**Commander Canadian Forces Medical Group**  
**and Director General Health Services**



Lise Mathieu joined the military after a newspaper advertisement caught her eye as a Grade 12 student. The Armed Forces were offering university tuition in exchange for four years of service after graduation. She joined the Air Force in 1973 and in 1978 graduated with a bachelor of business administration from the Université du Québec à Montréal and began her meteoric rise through the ranks.

Throughout her career, Major-General Mathieu held various command, staff officer and health care management positions in Canada and abroad. She was the Deputy Commanding Officer of 5e Ambulance de campagne du Canada. During the Oka crisis, she was the Liaison Officer between military and civilian health authorities.

Along the way she earned a master's degree in Health Administration from the Université de Montréal at the end of the 1980s.

In 1990 she coordinated the deployment of 1 Canadian Field Hospital to Saudi Arabia and was the Operations Officer of 1 Canadian Field Hospital during the Gulf war. She served in the Directorate of Personnel Policy Conditions of Service, where she became the advocate for gender integration in the Canadian Forces. She followed this assignment as the Executive Assistant to the Assistant Deputy Minister (Personnel). In 1998 she was the Executive Assistant to the Chief of the Defense Staff (General Joseph Maurice Baril).

In January 2000, having completed two years as Executive Assistant to the Chief of the Defence Staff, she was promoted to Brigadier-General. She was assigned the leadership of the Canadian Forces Medical Group and Director General Health Services. She was the first non-physician to head the CFMS. With the war in Afghanistan underway, she spent the next five years orchestrating the transformation of the CFHS into a top-notch medical service after years of neglect by the military. She was promoted to Major-General in 2004 and continued in her current assignment from which she retired in April 2005.

Major-General Mathieu faced years of neglect of the CFHS when she took command and changes had to be made. At the start of the war in Afghanistan, the morale of the medical officers and other members of the health care team were at an all-time low. Years of neglect, poor recruiting, poor salaries and commanders who did not value their services left the CFHS ill prepared for what Afghanistan would mean to the CFHS. However, having lived through the late 90's, what I saw when I returned in 2006 was an outstanding medical service including an outstanding group of people in the reserves.



Lise was made and **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 01 July 2000 in the rank of Colonel and was the third woman made a **Commander of the Order of Military Merit (CMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 25 March 2006 in the rank of Major-General. She earned the certification of Certified Health Executive (CHE™).

<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Then Brigadier-General Mathieu and Commodore Kavanagh

**Major-General Jamie SPEISER-BLANCHET, CD, RCAF**  
**Deputy Commander – Royal Canadian Air Force**

BGen Jamie Speiser-Blanchet was born in Chicoutimi but grew up moving around with her father's career as a fighter pilot. BGen Jamie Speiser-Blanchet joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1990 at age 17 and graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) Kingston, in 1994 with a Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Engineering. It was a happy coincidence that Col Speiser-Blanchet became a pilot as she initially thought that since she wanted to study engineering that she would have to be an engineer. She went on to complete her pilot training in Moose Jaw, SK and Portage La Prairie, MB where she had the honour of having her father present her with her wings in March 1996. Col Speiser-Blanchet joined the Tactical Helicopter community on the Griffon Helicopter with 430e Escadron Tactique d'hélicoptères (ETAH) at CFB Valcartier, QC where she was the first female pilot.



In 2001, BGen Speiser-Blanchet was employed at 1 Wing Headquarters, Kingston, as the A3 Operations Task Officer before her posting to 403 (Helicopter) Operational Training Squadron (403 (Hel) OTS), in Gagetown, New Brunswick, in 2003. There, she was employed as a line pilot and Aviation Tactics Flight Project Officer prior to her appointment as Squadron Operations Officer. Operational deployments include UN and NATO peacekeeping tours in Haiti (Op STABLE) and Bosnia (Op PALLADIUM), and domestic missions in response to forest fires, floods and other regional emergencies.

Moving on to National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa in 2007, she served as a Military Assistant to the Minister of National Defence until 2010. At the Canadian Forces College in Toronto, she completed the Joint Command and Staff Program (JCSP 37) and earned a Masters in Defence Studies in 2011 before proceeding to 1 Canadian Air Division (1 CAD) Headquarters in Winnipeg, Manitoba. As the Senior Staff Officer Tactical Aviation, she coordinated operational level support for the generation of the Canadian Armed Forces' tactical aviation capability and was the operational airworthiness authority responsible for the CH146 Griffon and CH147F Chinook fleets.



BGen Speiser-Blanchet assumed command of 403 Helicopter Operational Training Sqn in July 2014 and remained in Gagetown until 2016. As the Commanding Officer of 403 Sqn, she oversaw all CH146 Griffon operational aircrew training (pilots and flight engineers) for 1 Wing and other RCAF units while personally contributing to flying instruction and other training missions. She subsequently worked as a Senior Staff Officer for the Canadian Forces Aerospace Warfare Centre prior to selection for the Defence and Strategic Studies Course (DSSC) at the Australian Defence College in Canberra, Australia. She graduated from DSSC in December 2017 with a Masters in Politics and Policy from Deakin University.

BGen Speiser-Blanchet served as special advisor to the chief of the defence staff at NDHQ before deploying to Kuwait in the autumn of 2019 as the Deputy Commander (Operations), Joint Task Force – IMPACT which is Canada's training and capacity building mission in the Middle East.



**Colonel Jamie Speiser-Blanchet** was promoted **Brigadier-General** in July 2021 and appointed Commander National Cadet and Junior Canadian Rangers Support Group Headquarters.

On 01 July 2023, she was promoted to **Major-General** and became the Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Her impressive career has not stopped her from building a wonderful family. Her husband, Major (ret'd) Janin Blanchet also served as a Griffon pilot and the two of them have three children Emma (19), Zachary (17), and Samuel (14)<sup>2</sup>. Building a family in a demanding career that takes you across the country and on operational missions abroad takes a strong team at home.



**Major-General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet, CD, RCAF  
Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force**

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<sup>2</sup> Ages as of June 2023

**Major-General M.I. Nancy TREMBLAY, CD  
Chief Material Program**

Major-General Nancy Tremblay was born in Normandin, Lac St-Jean, QC and enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1987. She served as an Aerospace Engineer in the Royal Canadian Air Force in the following positions: Squadron Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Officer of 438 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, St-Hubert QC; Deputy Commanding Officer of 3 Air Maintenance Squadron, Bagotville QC and Aircraft Maintenance Standards at 1 Canadian Air Division, Winnipeg.

Major-General Tremblay commanded 3 Air Maintenance Squadron and worked with the Canadian Special Operations Forces in Ottawa as the Command Headquarters Commanding Officer. During her posting with the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command Headquarters, she had the opportunity to deploy to Jordan to support the capacity building activities with the Jordanian Armed Forces.

She held numerous positions within the Aerospace Equipment Program Management Division of the Materiel Group in the National Capital Region: Integrated Logistics Support Officer within the Utility Tactical Transport Helicopter Project; Aircraft Engineering Officer for the CH-146 Griffon; Director of Fighters and Trainers; Chief of Staff and Acting Director General for a continuous period of 14 months.

Major-General Tremblay held other staff appointments, including Analyst for the Director of Force Planning and Program Coordination within the Chief of Program organization; and Executive Assistant to the Chief of the Air Staff at National Defence Headquarters.

In January 2019, Nancy Tremblay was promoted to Brigadier-General and attended the Canadian Armed Forces College in Toronto. She graduated on 21 June 2019 and assumed the position of **Director General of Aerospace Equipment Project Management**. She had been the Deputy Commander of 3 Air Maintenance Squadron (CF-188 Hornets) prior to her promotion.

In June 2021, she was promoted to Major-General and appointed to a new temporary position **Chief Material Program**.

She holds a Bachelor degree in Physics and Mathematics from the Collège militaire royal de St-Jean-sur-Richelieu and a Masters of Defence Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston. She is a graduate of the Joint Command and Staff Program and the National Security Program, both conducted at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto.

She did a Master's degree in Defence Studies at Royal Military College from 2008 to 2009 and also did her Canadian Forces College Joint Command and Staff Program 35 in that period.

She did her Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Technology and Engineering Aerospace Officer Basic Course in 1992 to 1993. Prior to that, she attended Collège militaire royal de St-Jean from 1987 to 1992 completing her BSc degree in mathematics. She **retired in June 2022**.

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**Brigadier-General Dominique N. BRAIS, CD, RCAF**  
Commander of the Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers Group



Brigadier-General Dominique Brais enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1991 through the Regular Officer Training Plan at the Collège militaire royal de St-Jean. Following completion of the Bachelor of Administration in 1995, she was commissioned as an Air Combat Systems Officer and completed training at the Canadian Forces Air Navigation School in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Upon receiving her Navigator's Wings in 1996, she was posted to 14 Wing's 405 Long Range Patrol Squadron in Greenwood, Nova Scotia, where she served in CP-140 Aurora flying positions as an Acoustic Sensor Operator and Squadron Deputy Flight Commander. In 2001, she was posted to 404 Long Range Patrol and Training Squadron as an Instructor, Simulator Operator, and Squadron Deputy Operations Officer.

Following a transfer from the Regular Force to the Supplementary Reserve in 2004, BGen Brais moved to Ottawa and returned to full-time service, this time as a reservist in 2008. She served within the Military Personnel Command's (MILPERSCOM) Director Reserve Support Management in a variety of roles supporting the administration and career

management of the members of the National Defence Headquarters and MILPERSCOM Primary Reserve.

In 2014, she was selected to attend the Joint Command and Staff Programme following which she was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and selected for employment within the Directorate Force Management of the Canadian Special Operations Command (CANSOFCOM). She held three simultaneous roles, appointed as the Commanding Officer of the CANSOFCOM Primary Reserves, and responsible for both the CANSOFCOM Selection program, occupation management, and during which she led the creation of a SOF occupation.

Promoted to Colonel in 2019, BGen Brais was appointed to the position of CANSOFCOM's Director Force Management, where she assumed the wide portfolio and responsibilities for the Command's military and civilian personnel management.

BGen Brais was promoted to her current rank in 2023 upon completion of the National Security Programme at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto.

BGen Brais is from Chapleau and Sudbury Ontario. She currently resides in Ottawa with her spouse where they enjoy spending time with their blended family of five adult children and two granddaughters.

Appointed to the position of Commander of the Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers Group, BGen Brais is honoured to be entrusted with the leadership of one of Canada's foremost youth programs.

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Brigadier-General  
Dominique Naomi Brais, CD  
Commander Cadets and  
Junior Canadian Rangers

**Brigadier-General Patricia ('Pat') L. BRENNAN, CD  
Chief of Staff (Reserves) – 1 Canadian Air Division**



Brigadier-General Patricia Brennan was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General in July 2001 and appointed the Chief of Staff (Reserves) and Chief of Personnel (A1) at 1 Canadian Air Division's Headquarters in Winnipeg.

She remained in these positions until July 2004 when she was replaced as Chief of Staff (Reserves) by Brigadier-General Robert Clark. However, she remained as the A1 Personnel Chief of Staff until **July 2006**.

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**Brigadier-General Linda Juanita COLWELL, OMM, CD**  
**Director General Military Human Resources Policy and Planning**

In June 2006, then Colonel Linda Colwell was promoted to Brigadier-General and appointed Director General Military Human Resources Policy and Planning at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. She was one of only three women out of 73 people with the rank of general in the Canadian Forces at this time, she commanded a staff of 250 as director general of personnel generation policy.



While a Brigadier-General, every Sunday morning she attended the Ottawa Citadel, where she was the corps sergeant-major, the senior lay position in a Salvation Army church. She also put in many hours of service with the Salvation Army from wiping down tables to leading bible studies. She wears a uniform during the week and a different one during the weekends and many evenings of volunteering.

While a member of the Canadian Forces, Brigadier-General Linda Colwell served on bases and wings across Canada, at National Defence Headquarters, on secondment with the Treasury Board Secretariat and on deployments with the United Nations and the Multinational Force and Observers in the Middle-East. She is an Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM), awarded as per the Canada Gazette of 16 March 1997 in the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Linda holds a Bachelor of Science from Mount Allison University, an MBA from the University of Western Ontario and the designation Certified Human Resources Professional (CHRP). Upon retirement from the Canadian Forces, she established L J COLWELL & ASSOCIATES LTD, and has since undertaken private and public sector contracts related to governance, strategic review, business planning and change management.

She is currently serving as President of the Friends of the Canadian War Museum, the first woman to hold the post. She is a member of the Pensioners' Dental Services Plan Board (the dental plan for retired members of the Public Service, the Canadian Forces and the RCMP), the Commissionaires Ottawa Council of Governors and the Board of Trustees of Booth University College. She is single.

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**Brigadier-General Stephanie M.M. GODIN, CD, RCAF**  
**Director General Issues**

Stephanie joined the RCAF as a Public Affairs Officer. In 2011, she was a Major working in Public Affairs for Land Forces Quebec Area. In early 2021, Colonel Godin was put on the Advanced Training List to attend the Developmental Phase Four Programme, at Canadian Forces College in Toronto. In July 2022, she was appointed Director Personnel Support Programs in Ottawa in the rank of Colonel.

In October 2023, she was promoted to Brigadier-General and appointed as Director-General Issues in Ottawa.



**Brigadier-General Sheila HELLSTROM, CD**  
**Director General Officer's Careers**

Sheila Hellstrom was born in 1935 and is a native of Bridgewater (or Lunenburg), Nova Scotia. She joined the Royal Canadian Air force in 1954 while attending Mount Allison University.

In 1956, Sheila was promoted to the rank of Flying Officer and started off her RCAF career in Manitoba as Gimli Station Services Officer.

In 1973, then Major Hellstrom became the first military woman to attend the Canadian Forces Staff College in Toronto.

Her career included administrative appointments at military establishments in Gimli, Winnipeg and Rivers, Manitoba, Senneterre and Montreal, Quebec, North Bay and Toronto, Ontario as well as Baden-Soellingen, Germany and Metz, France.

In 1975 she went to the National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. In 1980, she became the Deputy Director Women Personnel and supported and monitored the Service Women in Non-Traditional Employment and Roles (SWINTER) trials. In 1986, she was the Personnel Officer in charge of female staff in the Canadian Forces.

In 1988, then Colonel Sheila Hellstrom, was the first woman to graduate from Canada's National Defence College.

On 27 January 1987 she became the first female Regular Force member to achieve the rank of Brigadier-General. Her new job was Director-General of officers' careers. At age 52, she joined 115 Male Generals, Admirals and Commodores. At that time women made up 8.8% (7,400) of the Canadian Forces 84,000 members.

Described as a "gutsy broad" in an official performance evaluation (you certainly wouldn't get away with that today).

After **retirement from the Canadian Forces in 1990**, Brigadier-General Hellstrom resided in Ottawa where she was the former chair of the Board of Governors of the Ottawa Division Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, and a member of a number of defence related organizations.

She died on 07 December 2020 in Ottawa at the age of 85. An Interment Service was also held in Lunenburg, NS on 16 October 2021.



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**Brigadier-General Darlene Olga QUINN, OMM, CD, RCAF**  
**Chief of Staff to the Chief of the Defence Staff**



Brigadier-General Darlene Quinn graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) Kingston, in 1988 with a Bachelors of Engineering in Civil Engineering. She has served in the Construction Engineering section in Winnipeg, and as Base Construction Engineering Officer in Chilliwack, 14 Wing Greenwood and CFB Esquimalt. Early in her career she deployed to Pakistan to teach mine awareness to Afghan women and children, later with UNDOF in the Golan Heights as Troop Commander, and then to Indonesia with the interdepartmental team from DND, DFAIT and CIDA following an earthquake there. She has been the Facilities Engineer on a major Crown project, the Engineer Advisor for the Disaster Assistance Response Team at the Joint Headquarters, Engineer Operations Officer on the Strategic Joint Staff in Ottawa and Director of Defence Force Planning with Chief of Programme. Colonel Quinn has commanded at every rank from Captain to Colonel, culminating in her appointment as the first Commander of the Canadian Forces Real Property Operations Group in 2014.

Brigadier-General Quinn has a Masters in Defence Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) Kingston and is a graduate of the Joint Command and Staff Course in Toronto, as well as the Senior Course of the NATO Defense College, finishing DP 4 with her colleagues at the Canadian

Forces College. Then Colonel Quinn was appointed to the Order of Military Merit, and was awarded the Deputy Minister/Chief of the Defence Staff Innovation Award for her work on the Manley projects team that saw the acquisition and deployment of helicopters and UAVs to Afghanistan. She was awarded a Chief of Defence Staff Commendation for her work in the effort to centralize Real Property Management in the DND/CAF.

In June 2017, then Colonel Quinn was posted to the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy as the Military Assistant to the Commandant.

On 07 June 2018 at the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy, LGen Whitecross promoted Colonel Darlene Quinn to the rank of Brigadier-General.



At a ceremony at NATO's operational headquarters in Belgium on 07 September 2018, Brigadier-General Darlene Quinn assumed command of Canada's Formation Europe – an appointment that includes the accompanying duty of National Military Representative to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE).

In the Summer of 2021, BGen Quinn was appointed as Chief of Staff for the Chief of the Defence Staff.

Brigadier-General Quinn **retired on 30 November 2022** but left the RCAF in June 2022. BGen Quinn is retiring at the same time as her husband Pete, a consulting engineer and former military Construction Engineer; they plan to travel extensively for as long as health and savings will allow, carrying with them the spirit of their son John, deceased in 2016 at the age of 25.

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**Brigadier-General Yve N. THOMSON, CD, RCAF**  
**Director General Military Careers**

In July 2019, Brigadier-General Yve Thomson was promoted to that rank and took over the role of Director General of Military Careers at NDHQ in Ottawa.

Colonel Thomson hails from Manitouwadge, a small mining community in Northern Ontario. She joined the Canadian Forces under the Direct Entry Officer program and received her Commission on completion of Basic Officer Training in 1989. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from McMaster University and a Masters of Defence Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) Kingston.



She joined the Canadian Armed Forces in December 1988. As a junior Logistics Officer, Yve was employed in a variety of positions including Mobile Support Equipment Officer, Operations Desk Officer, Transportation Officer for the United Nations Disengagement and Observation Force Golan Heights, and Deputy Commanding Officer 2 Air Movement Squadron. On promotion to Major, she continued to broaden her tactical, operational and command experience with employment opportunities as Deputy Wing Logistics and Engineering Officer at 8 Wing Trenton, as Chief Theatre Assets Manager Stabilization Force Bosnia, as Commanding Officer Joint Headquarters Canadian Forces Joint Operations Group Kingston, and then, returned to supporting international operations at Canadian Expeditionary Force Command.

While attending the Joint Command and Staff Programme in 2008, she was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Colonel Thomson has served with the Logistics Branch Integrator, was Executive Assistant to Commander, Canadian Expeditionary Force Command from June 2010 to June 2011 at NDHQ in Ottawa.

She was appointed Commandant of the Canadian Forces Logistics Training Centre from June 2011 to June 2013. A graduate of the NATO Defence College Senior Course, she then attended the National Security Programme at the Canadian Forces College. On 26 June 2014 she was promoted to Colonel and assumed command of the Air Force Training Centre (AFTC) from Colonel Joel Roy at 17 Wing in Winnipeg. Her job was to amalgamate the AFTC with 16 Wing Borden prior to summer 2015. Since AFTC's inception in 2009, the organization had performed its HQ functions within 17 Wing lines. However, as AFTC and 16 Wing commenced their preliminary steps to merge, it became evident to 2 Canadian Air Division (2 CAD) that Col Thomson was the ideal candidate to lead this initiative. AFTC is comprised of five units. Four of the units are located at 17 Wing and include the Canadian Forces School of Survival and Aeromedical Training (CFSSAT), the Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Studies (CFSAS), 1 Canadian Forces Flying Training School (1 CFFTS), and 402 Squadron. Lastly, AFTC also includes the Canadian Forces School of Search and Rescue (CFSSAR), located at 19 Wing Comox. All five units will continue to reside in their current operating and training locations, and, will remain so following the eventual amalgamation of AFTC and 16 Wing.



Following her time in CFB Borden amalgamating the AFTC with 16 Wing Borden, she took a year of academic studies.

She then had the honour to serve as Commander 16 Wing. In July 2016, she assumed responsibility for A4 Logistics/Director Air Force Logistics, 1 Canadian Air Division. She became the Director of Senior appointments in Ottawa in January 2018. In July 2019, she was promoted to Brigadier-General and appointed Director General Military Careers. **She retired in June 2021.**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Female General Officers in the Canadian Army

### General Marie Annabelle Jennie Carignan, CMM, MSM, CD

#### Chief of the Defence Staff 2021



General Jennie Carignan enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1986. She obtained a degree in Fuels and Materials engineering from the Royal Military College of Canada and was commissioned as an officer in the Engineer Branch of the CAF in 1990. She held various positions related to Military Engineering in Chilliwack and Valcartier. In 1999, she was promoted to the rank of major and started an MBA degree program at Laval University.

She returned to 5 Combat Engineer Regiment in 2003, holding the positions of Deputy Commanding Officer and Acting Commanding Officer before being promoted to lieutenant-colonel in 2005. In 2007, she served as an instructor at the Canadian Land Force Command and Staff College in Kingston before being transferred to 5 Combat Engineer Regiment as its 21<sup>st</sup> Commanding Officer in 2008. She then took command of the Task Force Kandahar Engineer Regiment in Afghanistan. Upon her return from overseas, she took up the position of

Deputy Commander 5 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group. Promoted to colonel in June 2011, she was appointed to the position of Chief of Staff of Land Force Central Area/Joint Task Force Central.

General Carignan has degrees from the United States Army Command and General Staff College and the School of Advanced Military Studies, where she earned a master's degree in Military Arts and Science. She has also received the Major-General Hans Schlup Award for excellence in international relations as well as being ranked amongst Canada's 2011 Top 100 Most Powerful Women by the Women's Executive Network. General Carignan is a recipient of the 2013 Hermès Award that recognizes the achievements of Laval graduates who have had a significant impact in the Administration field either through their exceptional career or their social or academic contribution. She was deployed to the Golan Heights, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Afghanistan.



Then Colonel Carignan held the position of Commandant Royal Military College Saint-Jean from July 2013 to July 2015. She then took extra training and on 15 June 2016 was promoted to Brigadier-General and assumed the role of Chief of Staff, Army Operations at Army Headquarters in Ottawa. In the summer of 2018, she was appointed the Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division, Quebec Area. She is the first woman to be promoted to General rank as a combat officer. She was promoted to the rank of **Major-General** on 15 August 2019 ahead of taking command of the Land Component of Iraq CFLCG-1 (Coalition Force Land Component Command) in October 2019. She returned to Canada in November 2020. In December 2020, she was made a **Commander of the Order of Military Merit (CMM)**.

In early 2021, she was promoted to **Lieutenant-General**, the first woman in the army to reach that rank and only the second woman in the Canadian Armed Forces to reach that rank, and appointed Chief Professional Conduct and Culture, tasked with the job to sort out the misconduct of General and Flag Officers.

Lieutenant-General Jennie Carignan is married to a former RMC Classmate and is the **mother of four children**.

On 28 June 2024, she was promoted to the rank of **General** and made the **Chief of the Defence Staff on 18 July 2024**.

**General Marie Annabelle Jennie Carignan, CMM, MSM, CD**



Below she is shown with CWO Robert McCann, MGen Eric Tremblay, now BGen Carignan, daughter Camille, husband Eric Lefrançois, son Ian and daughter Amelie on 15 June 2016 when promoted to Brigadier-General



**Brigadier-General Guinevere (“Gwen”) Mae Bourque, OMM, CD**  
**Deputy Commander – 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division**  
**Director of IT Operations – Saskatchewan Polytechnic**



Gwen Bourque currently is a part time Army Reserve Brigadier-General and works full time at Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

In the military she was selected for deployment to Afghanistan on Operation Archer Roto 1 in January 2006. Colonel Bourque was presented with the CEFCOM Commanders Citation for her accomplishments with advancing a more effects-based approach to CIMIC operations.

In 2017 she was appointed Commander of a Multi-National Task Force comprised of troops from 3 NATO Countries during Exercise Golden Coyote conducted in the United States.

On 06 May 2019, Lieutenant Colonel (LCol) Gwen Bourque, Commanding Officer of 38 Service Battalion, handed command of her unit over to LCol Darla Oja at a Change of Command ceremony at the Sergeant Hugh Cairns VC Armoury in Saskatoon on May 4, 2019. The ceremony was officiated by Colonel Geoff Abthorpe, Commander, 38 Canadian Brigade Group, with members present from four 38 CBG Service Battalion Unit locations: Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, and Thunder Bay.

After promotion to Brigadier-General in 2023, she was appointed as **Deputy Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division** while continuing to work full time at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. In July 2024, she was appointed as the **Deputy Commander of the Canadian Army Training Center in Kingston.**

Brigadier-General Bourque is a graduate of the Joint Command and Staff College through Canadian Forces College Toronto. In addition, she has completed her Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies at Royal Roads University specializing in Leadership and Digital Transformation. BGen Bourque attended college and graduated with a Computer Systems Technology Associates Degree in 1997.

After college she was hired at Saskatchewan Polytechnic the Provincial Community College in Saskatchewan in the Information Technology Services division advancing in both responsibility and leadership positions. She is currently the Director of IT Operations leading a cross functional technology team responsible for the delivery of all IT operations for all campuses and over 17,000 students. Her husband, a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, died in 2012 and thus she wears the Memorial Cross on her uniform.

She was made an **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** in December 2021.





**Brigadier-General Krista Dawn Brodie, CMM, CD (Canadian Army)**  
**Vice-President of Logistics and Operations Public Health Agency of Canada**

Brigadier-General Krista Brodie is an Army Logistics officer with 30 years of leadership experience in diverse and challenging appointments in Canada and Internationally. She has deployed to floods, ice storms, forest fires and served in Croatia, Bosnia and Afghanistan.



She has been the Quartermaster of the Third Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. She was the first woman to command 1 Service Battalion, the largest unit in the Canadian Field Force.

After this assignment, she has shifted from strategic logistics to strategic leadership. Colonel Brodie has served in Washington DC where she was on the faculty of the Strategic Leadership Department at the Eisenhower School of National Security and Resource Strategy, National Defence University. She returned to Ottawa to work for the Chief of Military Personnel.

In 2013, then Colonel Brodie was named to the WFN Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 list. She is married to Dr. Dennis Filips, a trauma surgeon, innovator and entrepreneur. They have three young children

In February 2020, she served briefly as the Commander of Military Personnel Generation Group. In November 2020, she was promoted to Brigadier-General and seconded to the Public Health Agency of Canada to work with Major-General Fortin on the COVID-19 vaccine distribution system for Canada. On 17 May 2021, she replaced MGen Fortin and became the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) vice president of logistics and operations leading the federal government's COVID-19 vaccination distribution program.

After ending her secondment to the Public Health Agency of Canada, she was appointed as the Commander of Military Personnel Generation at NDHQ in Ottawa in February 2022.

Brigadier-General Brodie is an aerial delivery specialist, basic parachutist, military freefall parachute specialist, and earned her American jump wings on exchange with the 2nd/75th Ranger Battalion.

She holds degrees in Military Strategic Studies, Defence Studies, National Resource Strategy and a certificate in Global Supply Chain Management.

In December 2023, she was made a **Commander of the Order of Military Merit (CMM)**.



**Brigadier-General Marilyn S. Chenette, CD**  
**Commander Canadian Forces Health Services Group and Deputy Surgeon General**



Marilyn started her military career at the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston in 1993. She graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree in 1993 and was commissioned into the Canadian Armed Forces.

She was trained as Health Administrator in the CF Health Services Group. From September 2006 to October 2009, she was made the Commanding Officer of the 41e Centre des Services de Santé at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu & Montreal.

She joined the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM) as the SOF Medical Operations Planner from June 2014 to July 2016. After this she became the Deputy

Chief of Staff CANSOFCOM until December 2017.

In January 2018, she was made the Executive Assistant (EA) to The Commander Military Personnel Command and in June 2018 became the Commanding Officer of the Canadian Forces Health Service Centre in Ottawa.

Marilyn moved to the position of Director Casualty Support Management in June 2020. She then became the Deputy Commanding (Acting Commanding) in July 2022.

In March 2024, she was promoted to Brigadier-General and appointed the Commander of the Canadian Forces Health Services Group and Deputy Surgeon General.



Brigadier-General Marilyn Chenette's education includes Canadian College of Health Leaders (CCHL) and Certified Health Executive (CHE) in 2004; the NATO Defense College Senior Course in National Security in 2017; and the Canadian Forces College National Securities Program 2018 to 2019.

**Brigadier General Colleen Forestier, OMM, MSC, CD**  
**Director Health Services Strategic Concepts Canadian Forces Health Services**

Brigadier-General Forestier enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in 2003 as a direct entry medical officer after working as a rural family physician in southern Alberta. She was first posted to 1 Field Ambulance and in 2006 to the Canadian Special Operations Regiment as a Medical Officer. She has been employed in a number of medical advisory and staff positions including Command Surgeon for the Canadian Special Operations Command, senior Staff Officer for Medical Policy and Standards, Regional Surgeon for Joint Task Force Atlantic in Halifax, and Canadian Joint Operations Command Surgeon.



She was promoted to Colonel in 2017 and has had the pleasure of serving as the Director of Mental Health (2017-2019), as the Director of Health Services Operations (2020- 2022), and most recently as Director Health Services Strategic Concepts. Her deployment experience includes a tour in Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2005/06 as part of the Provincial Reconstruction Team during Op ARCHER, and in March 2015 she served as the Task Force Commander for Op SIRONA in Sierra Leone, the Canadian Armed Forces contribution to the fight against the Ebola Virus in West Africa.

She was promoted to Brigadier-General on 29 February 2024. She will become the Director General of Health Services.

Brigadier-General Forestier completed her medical degree at the University of Western Ontario in 1996 and a Family Medicine Residency at the University of Calgary in 1998. In 2014 she earned the Certificate of Special Competence Emergency Medicine (CCFP (EM)). She is a graduate of the Canadian Forces College National Security Program (2020) and holds both a Masters of Public Health and a Masters of Public Administration. Committed to lifelong learning, she has recently taken up fly-fishing and guitar lessons. According to her husband and daughter, she excels at neither of them.



**Brigadier-General Vanessa Maria Hanrahan, OMM, CD  
Provost Marshal**



Brigadier-General Vanessa Hanrahan was promoted to Brigadier-General on 04 December 2024 and became the Provost Marshal of the Canadian Armed Forces on 10 December 2024. The Provost Marshal is an advisor to the CDS on policing matters and is also the Commander of the Canadian Forces Military Police Group. She had been serving in the rank of Colonel as the Deputy Provost Marshal before this appointment, February 2022 to 04 December 2024. She has 30 years of service in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Colonel Hanrahan deployed in November 2019 to UNMISS<sup>3</sup> to assume the role of Provost Marshal of Task Force South Sudan, advising the Task Force Commander on all aspects of military policing in South Sudan. Upon reporting to Task Force South Sudan, Colonel Vanessa Hanrahan was informed



that she was the most senior female within the Task Force composed of 17% females. She ended this deployment in February 2022, after 2 years, 8 months.

In 2017 to 2018, LCol Vanessa Hanrahan, a native of Newfoundland, marked her first year in the role of Commander, Army Military Police Group – a first for a female Military Police Member.

From June 2016 to June 2022, she was the Commander of the Canadian Army Military Police Group. During this period July 2018 to June 2022, she was the Special Advisor to the CFPM. Prior to this, she was the Regional Departmental Security Officer, Pacific Regional Department based in Victoria, BC from June 2014 to June 2016.



From August 2013 to June 2014, she was a student at the Canadian Force CCFC.

She was the Commanding Officer of the Military Police Group in Toronto from August 2011 to August 2013.

She did a tour in the RTC Kandahar from August 2010 to July 2011. She commanded a team responsible for the mentorship of the ANP institutional training in Southern Afghanistan.



She graduated from St. Mary's University with a BA in Sociology from 1994 to 1998.

She received the **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 06 June 2020 in the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

<sup>3</sup> UNMISS stands for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan created in 2011

**Brigadier-General Carla Harding, OMM, CD**  
**Assistant chief of Staff, J4, Supreme Headquarters Allied Power Europe, in Casteau, Belgium**

Brigadier General Harding joined the military out of high school in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, in June 1990. She graduated from the Royal Military College in Kingston in 1994. After graduation, she was posted to 2 Service Battalion in Petawawa, where throughout the years, she is proud to have served alongside the exceptional soldiers of 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group and the Army writ large, both at home and abroad.



In 2001, Brigadier-General Harding was posted to the National Defence Logistics Coordination Centre, which was the start of many joint logistics opportunities throughout her career. In addition to supporting deployed operations as both J3 and J4 desk officer, she also has operational experience with NATO in Bosnia, two tours in Afghanistan and a year long posting to Israel and Palestine as a member of the United States Security Cooperation team. Key highlights of her career include postings as the Army Logistics Career Management, Army G4 Operations and Commander of the Canadian Forces Joint Operational Support Group. Her passion for tactical and technical excellence is a driving factor for demanding the best from the soldiers, sailors and aviators who serve within the greater operational support community.

While at 2 Service Battalion, Brigadier-General Harding had the privilege of leading the superb technicians and soldiers of the unit as a platoon commander, company commander and culminating as the 24th Commanding Officer of the Battalion from 2013 - 2015. Following that appointment, she was promoted to Colonel and became the Commander of the Canadian Forces Joint Operational Support Group (CFJOSG).

She was appointed the Chief of Staff – Canadian Joint Operations Command in July 2019, the **youngest female Brigadier-General promoted to date**. Her brother Major Warren Hruska, 17 RCAF Reserve Flight Commanding in Winnipeg, presented her with her new jacket. Her title was changed to Director General Support – Canadian Joint Operations Command in Ottawa.

Brigadier-General Harding has a Masters of Arts in Defence Management, Security and Policy, a Masters in Defence Studies and a Masters of Science in National Resource Strategy. She is a graduate of the Canadian Forces College and a Distinguished Graduate of the Eisenhower School. She was awarded the Order of Military Merit in 2015. Attending the ceremony was her Mom, Lois and Jim Bulbeck, sisters Paula Holmberg and Joanne Leach and brother Major Warren Hruska, a 17 RCAF Reserve Flight Commander in Winnipeg. She is the daughter of the late Ed Hruska who would have been so proud of her. She has two step-sons, Brian and Jamie, and a stepdaughter, Patricia.

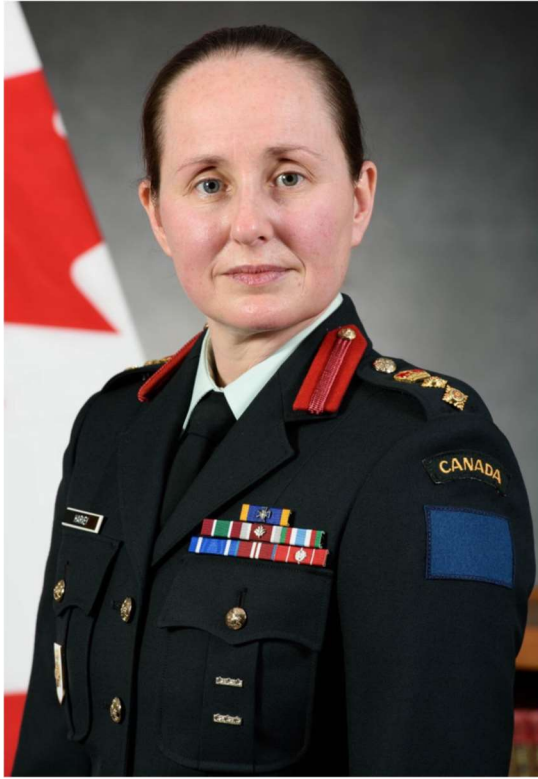


BGen Carla Harding gained experience in strategic and operational logistics with tours to Bosnia, Kabul and Kandahar. In 2004, she was posted to the Joint Operations Group in Kingston where she led the logistics cell. She has previously commanded the battalion's Administration Company and served in Canadian Forces Expeditionary Force Command (CEFCOM) when it first stood up in 2006. She also spent a term as the Army Logistics Career Manager in Ottawa. Last year, she deployed on Operation: Proteus to Jerusalem.

In June 2021, she was appointed to a new position as Assistant chief of Staff, J4, Supreme Headquarters Allied Power Europe, in Casteau, Belgium. She **retired in July 2024**.

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**Brigadier-General Marie-Christine HARVEY, OMM, CD**  
**Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery**



BGen Harvey grew up in a military family into her own rich military career. Her career has been full of dedication and opportunities that have allowed her to channel her high energy. She describes the reason why she made the choice to join the Regular Force after only one year in the Reserves. "Being a high energy individual, I was afraid of spending my life in an office doing paperwork. I needed an action-packed life." In addition to her military career, she is also a mother of two and a service spouse.

In 2020, she worked as the Canadian Army G3/Director of Army Force Readiness in Ottawa. In this role, she worked with a team to ensure primarily that Canadian Army personnel, but also the equipment and vehicles, are ready for any overseas or domestic operations.

As a Lieutenant-Colonel, she was the Commanding Officer of the 5e Régiment d'artillerie légère du Canada in Valcartier.

She showed herself to be a superior leader while acting for 5 months as the Commander of 5 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group while responding to the Quebec floods in 2019.

After one year as a Reserve infantry member, she joined the Regular force as a Field Artillery officer. She completed Royal

Military College with a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistic studies in 2001. Her education continued in 2012 with a Masters in Military and Defence Studies at Australian National University as part of an Army Officer Exchange Program.

She has received the **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)**, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and a Command Commendation in her career.

BGen Marie-Christine Harvey, RMC Class of 2001, and the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery was the first woman in the RCA promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General on 01 June 2024. She was seconded as the Senior Military Advisor to the Privy Council Office

**Brigadier-General Corinna A. Heilman, CD**  
**Strategic J4 – National Defence Headquarters**

In 1994, after completing a three-year Business Administration Program at St Lawrence College in Kingston, Colonel Heilman enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces. She attended the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) Kingston, graduating in 1997 with a Bachelor of Arts. Upon completion of Logistics Officer training in Borden, BGen Heilman served in 2 Svc Bn, 2 GS Bn, 2 Field Ambulance, and 1 Service Battalion.

Brigadier-General Heilman deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan as part of Operation ATHENA in 2003/2004. As a staff officer, Brigadier-General Heilman has been employed with the Canadian Army HQ as G4 Ops 3 from July 2006 to July 2008; G4 Systems and DAS 4, with CEFCOM as J4 Plans, with ADM(Mat) as COS DGMSSC, and with the Strategic Joint Staff as Director Sustainment Strategy and Readiness.

She was the Army G4 Systems at Canadian Army Headquarters from June 2012 to April 2014 and then the Army Strategic Planner at Canadian Army Headquarters from April 2014 to June 2015. She then became the Commanding Officer of 2 Service Battalion from June 2015 to June 2017 at Garrison Petawawa.



For the next year, she was a Graduate Student at the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy from August 2017 to June 2018 (National Security Programme completed). She is also a graduate of the Canadian Forces College (Joint Command and Staff Programme, 2011) and holds a Master of Defence Studies and a Master of Science (National Resource Strategy).

Then Colonel Heilman was the Director of Sustainment Strategy and Readiness from July 2018 to June 2019.

She was the Director of Cadets at the Royal Military College in Kingston from June 2019 to June 2021.



In June 2021, she was promoted to Brigadier-General and appointed as Strategic J4 at National Defence Headquarters. In July 2022, she was appointed to a new position as Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, Chief Professional Conduct and Culture at National Defence Headquarters.

In June 2023, she was appointed to a new Position as Military Representative to the Military Colleges Review Board in Ottawa as part of the National Defence Executive.

She **retired** from the Canadian Armed Forces in October 2023 and took the position of Senior Vice President Personnel Support Programs, Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services.

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**Brigadier-General Hilary JAEGER, OMM, MSM, CD, QHP**  
**Surgeon General 2004 - 2010**



Born in England in 1959 BGen Jaeger began her career in the Militia, joining the West Nova Scotia Regiment (West NSR) in 1976 at the age of 17. She was offered her commission as a Logistics Officer within the West Novies while she was attending Acadia University in Wolfville, NS. Even with her commitments to the Militia she was able to achieve the academic focus required to graduate as the Mounce Medal recipient – awarded to the top graduate in the Engineering Program, as well as receiving a Bachelor of Mathematics.

Following her graduation from Acadia, BGen Jaeger went south to study aerospace engineering at Iowa State University and, rather than leave the militia, commenced training with the Pershing Rifles – a military/fraternal organization that boasts several American general officers amongst its membership including former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Generals (Retired) Colin Powell and Hugh Shelton. Even as a foreign student, BGen Jaeger managed to distinguish herself further by garnering a U.S. Presidential Citation.

Upon returning to Canada BGen Jaeger went in an entirely different direction and enrolled in the University of Toronto Medical School and graduated in 1986 as a MD and as an officer in the Regular Force.

Since graduating from medical school 27 years ago BGen Jaeger has set a blistering pace serving in 1, 2 and 4 Field Ambulance as well as 1 and 4 Service Battalion in Canada and Europe. Jaeger served as the Senior Medical Officer and Officer Commanding the National Support Element (NSE) in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina during the initial deployment of the United Nations mission in the former Yugoslavia in 1992 deploying with Major-General Lewis Mackenzie to Sarajevo. Two years later, she returned to Bosnia in command of the Forward Surgical Team. While Commanding Officer of 2 Field Ambulance, she had the privilege of leading the unit in support of the 1997 Manitoba flood and the 1998 ice storm

In Canada, having completed all levels of the Canadian professional military education, she was both the first woman and the only medical officer posted to teach at the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College, known as “Foxhole U”, in Kingston, Ontario.

With her promotion to Colonel in 2000 she was given the lead in national planning and coordination for medical operations – a job that took on greater significance following the attacks of September 11, 2001. She was the medical advisor to the then Chief of the Land Staff and later, in 2004, was promoted to Brigadier-General and appointed Surgeon General of the Canadian Forces – a job she held for almost 7 years. In 2007 she took over additional duties as Commander of the Canadian Forces Health Services Group and Director General Health Services.

After finishing the Surgeon General’s job, she deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan in October 2009 to be the NATO medical advisor to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) where she was awarded the **U.S. Meritorious Service Medal (MSM)**.

Following her return from Kabul BGen Jaeger was seconded to Veteran’s Affairs Canada (VAC) where she has been working tirelessly to assess the needs of whole new generation of veterans and bringing her vast experience to bear on helping transform programs. She is often quoted or interviewed about veteran’s programs and CF medical training and is a ubiquitous presence amongst the lists of Canadian women of influence and signal achievement. **She retired in June 2013** from the Canadian Forces and Veterans Affairs Canada.

One of BGen Jaeger’s unique accomplishment is one that might be best suited to Trivial Pursuit. BGen Jaeger was the first serving General Officer in the Canadian Forces to be married to another serving General Officer: Brigadier



General Christopher C. Thurrott, OMM, MSM, CD – himself another West Novie alumnus and at the time of BGen Jaeger’s retirement, the Commander of Land Force Atlantic Area. They both hold the OMM and the MSM, and both received the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal in February 2013.

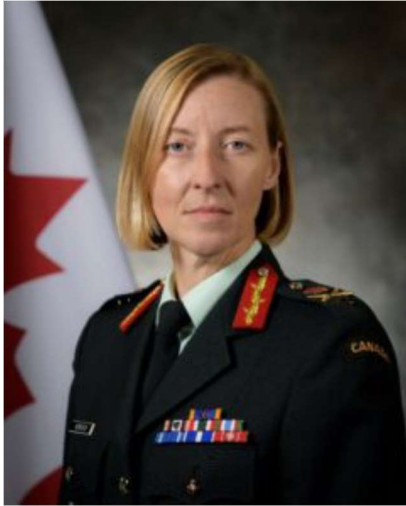
With BGen Jaeger’s retirement the CF will be losing an officer of unique and global experiences, vast and varied technical abilities and a truly interesting life story that demonstrates the vast opportunities available to those who choose a career in the CF. From being a teenage Private in a Reserve infantry unit to an Army doctor to Surgeon General of the Canadian Forces, BGen Jaeger’s long and illustrious career truly has set the benchmark for professional achievement.

Her obsession outside of work is golf and she also enjoys travel, cooking, gardening, reading, and the occasional Scotch.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup> Hiliary with her husband Christopher Thurrott; her Surgeon General photo; a young Major at a mess dinner at CFB Borden.

**Brigadier General Heather Suzanne Morrison, OMM, CD**  
**Chief of Staff Army Operations**



Born and raised in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia, BGen Heather Morrison joined the Canadian Army in 1994 as an Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (EME) officer. After obtaining a mechanical engineering degree at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) Kingston, and completing her occupational training at the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineer (RCEME) School, she had the good fortune of serving two years with the British Army in Germany.

On return to Canada in 2001, BGen Morrison did several command and staff jobs within 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG) in Edmonton, including her maintenance officer tour with 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (1 PPCLI). After a number of staff posts in Ottawa from 2006-2009 in both the Materiel Group and the Canadian Expeditionary Force Command (CEFCOM), she returned to Edmonton to command Administration Company, 1 Service Battalion (1 Svc Bn), followed by a tour as the G4, 1 CMBG.

Between 2011 and 2016, BGen Morrison completed the Joint Command and Staff Program in Toronto, served as project staff for the Medium-Range Radar and the Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle, and worked as a planner at the newly-formed Strategic J4 within the Strategic Joint Staff (SJS). Following a year as G4, 5th Canadian Division in Halifax, she assumed command of 1 Svc Bn in June 2017. On promotion to colonel, she served as Director of Force Sustainment (DFS) in Canadian Special Operations Force Command (CANSOFCOM) before transitioning to Commander of the Canadian Forces Joint Operational Support Group (CFJOSG). She was appointed as an **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 06 June 2020 in the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

From July 2023-2024 Colonel Morrison completed her DP4 at the Royal Collage of Defense Studies in London, England. Upon returning to Canada, she was **promoted to Brigadier General on 7 July 2024** and currently holds the position Chief of Staff Army Operations. She was also appointed General Officer the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (GO RCEME) in 2024.

BGen Morrison holds a Masters of Defence Studies from the Canadian Force College and a Masters of Business Administration from Athabasca University. Her operational deployments include tours to Kosovo, Bosnia and Kandahar, Afghanistan. She is proud and honored to have the support of her husband and their two strong boys.

**Brigadier-General Josée ROBIDOUX, OMM, CD**  
**Deputy Commander 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division**

She was born in a small village called Omerville, PQ, just outside of Sherbrooke. She started in Air Cadets and then joined the Reserves with 714 Communication Squadron. Her first mentor was Louise Bisson (later Commodore) from 714 Squadron in Sherbrooke.

Brigadier-General Robidoux has spent 30 exceptional years in the Communication Reserve and the Canadian Army Reserve, including a deployment to Afghanistan in 2011/2012 where she served as a senior advisor to the Afghan National Army. During her deployment, her role was to act as Senior Advisor to an Afghan General.



There was a lot of negotiation before one of the Afghan generals reluctantly accepted her because in that culture women are not the equal of men. He didn't have a problem with her being there with him, personally. The issue was, "What are people going to think? People are not going to think I am not an important Afghan general if my senior advisor is a female Canadian." But he got over that although it took about two or three months before she was accepted and that she was actually helping him be more efficient in his organization and in the eyes of the Chief of the General Staff of the Afghan Army. After that, she felt that he really adopted her and was very protective of her and very respectful and he would actually listen to the advice that she was giving him.

One of her roles was to help ensure the provisions were in place for women to be accepted into the Afghan Army. Culturally it was not as simple as in Canada where 18 per cent of the military are women - 14 per cent in the Army. In Afghanistan, in any Muslim country, when you have women in an organization, they have to have their own washroom. But they also have to have a separate place to eat and to pray and thus there is a lot of infrastructure that was needed to be built in order to have those women join an organization. She described one Afghan female officer, a Lieutenant Colonel, who was quite amazing. She was not afraid of anybody. She would walk into my Afghan general's office as if she owned it. He was so impressed by her that whenever she walked in, he stopped what he was doing, listened to her and she was really the one person who was devoted to getting more women into the Afghan army. Then Colonel Robidoux worked very closely with her and they did make some headway. When Colonel Robidoux left, the Afghan army was at four per cent women, which is not bad, especially since it was less than one percent in the past.

In June of 2015, Colonel Robidoux became the first woman commander of 35 Canadian Brigade Group and the first woman brigade commander in the province of Quebec. 35 CBG is headquartered in Québec City and is made up of more than 2,200 Reservists and 60 Regular Force members who make up 12 units stationed in Shawinigan, Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières, Québec City, Chicoutimi, Lévis, the Beauce and the lower St. Lawrence. She was also studying for her Master's in Public Administration at the time.

She lives near Ottawa with her husband of 20 years, Major Shaun Funk, a staff officer at Army Headquarters in Ottawa and the Deputy Commanding Officer of The Royal Canadian Hussars (Montreal). On 26 November 2015, Colonel Josée Robidoux was named one of Canada's top 100 most powerful women of the year by the Women's Executive Network (WXN).



Brigadier-General Josée Robidoux handed over command of 35 Brigade Group (35 CBG) to Colonel Richard Garon at a ceremony at the Saint-Malo Armory in Quebec City on Saturday, 10 June 2017, presided by Brigadier-General Hercule Gosselin, Commanding Officer The 2nd Division of Canada and Joint Task Force (East).

She was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General on 08 June 2017 and appointed the Deputy Commander of the 2nd Canadian Division (and Joint Task Force East) on 10 June 2017, where she will be particularly involved with the Reserves. She was concurrently appointed Director-General Reserves and Employer Support on 16 October 2017.

Brigadier-General Robidoux is a graduate of the Land Force Command and Staff College and has completed the Joint Command and Staff Course and the National Security Program at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto.

She was appointed as an **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 02 June 2018.

Brigadier-General Robidoux **retired** from the Canadian Armed Forces in **October 2019** and is now the Director of Integration of Gender Perspective and the Chief of Defense Staff Gender Advisor.



She was appointed as **the Colonel Commandant of Canadian Military Communications and Electronics Network (CMCEN)** in 2023.

**Brigadier-General Patricia Maude SAMSON, OMM, CD  
Provost Marshal**

Patricia Samson was born in 1946 and joined the Canadian Forces as a Military Police Officer in 1977. Twenty years later, on 01 July 1997, Colonel Samson was appointed Canadian Forces Provost Marshal. On 08 February 1999, she was promoted to **Brigadier-General** and remained the Provost Marshal.

BGen Samson was the Canadian Forces Provost Marshal from 01 July 1997 until July 2001. From July 2001 to July 2002, she was the Director General Intelligence (J2) for the Canadian Forces. **She retired in July 2002.** after 24 years of distinguished service.

Her replacement, LCol Dorothy ('Dot') A. Cooper, was promoted to Colonel in August 2000 and took over at the Provost Marshal in July 2001.

BGen Samson was awarded the **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 20 June 1998 in the rank of Colonel.



**Brigadier-General Marie Céline Danielle SAVARD, OMM, MSM, CD**  
**Project Leader – Military Personnel Management Capability Transformation**



Danielle graduated from Cegep de Chicoutimi with a Science degree in 1985 and from the University of Laval with a degree in Pharmacy in 1989 and joined the Canadian Forces.

She did a tour of duty with UNPROFOR and in Afghanistan. She served as Commanding Officer of the Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit in Afghanistan from April to October 2009 as a Colonel in the Canadian Forces Health Services and received the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) as per the Canada Gazette of 13 August 2011 with the following citation:

“As commanding officer of the Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit in Afghanistan from April to October 2009, Colonel Savard’s notable leadership ensured the provision of world-class care to Canadian, coalition and Afghan personnel. In addition to ensuring her multinational team had the necessary

equipment and training to treat patients under any circumstance, she helped develop mentoring programs that improved the capacity and capability of the Afghan National Army Medical Corps. Colonel Savard’s outstanding professionalism and medical skills were critical to preserving the fighting strength of coalition forces in Afghanistan and brought great credit to the Canadian Forces.”

She served as a pharmacist in the Canadian Forces ultimately reaching the rank of Colonel and becoming the Director of Military Career and Administration (DMCA) from July 2012 to February 2016. This Directorate directs and controls all conduct administrative reviews of members whose conduct or medical status no longer meet CF standards; coordinates the CF Drug Control Program; coordinates DWD program; and administer CF release and Transfer off Strength administration including audit of files for both Regular and Reserve Members, and audit files of members that have requested the PIL of Severance pay, and provide post-release support to retired CF personnel such as issuance of NDI 75 and certification of former service. As the SME in releases give guidelines to the DMCPG in regards of policies.

She then attended the **NATO Defence College in Rome, Italy** from February 2016 to July 2016 as a graduate student. Following completion of this program, she returned to National Defence



Headquarters in Ottawa at the Director of Military Careers, Policy and Grievances from August 2016 to January 2017.



In November 2016, she was promoted to Brigadier-General (Acting While So Employed) and became the Project Leader of the Military Personnel Management Capability Transformation. She was promoted substantive to the rank of Brigadier-General in July 2017 and continued to serve in her current appointment as Director General Military Personnel Management Capability Transformation Project, at NDHQ in Ottawa. Brigadier-General Savard **retired in June 2021.**<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> With Governor General Michaele Jean in 2009

**Brigadier-General Virginia TATTERSALL, CMM, CD**  
**Deputy Commander at the Military Personnel Generation/Canadian Defence Academy in Kingston**

Brigadier-General Virginia Tattersall was promoted to Brigadier-General (acting while so employed) in June 2017 and was the Deputy Commander at the Military Personnel Generation/Canadian Defence Academy in Kingston. She was made a substantive Brigadier-General in 2018. She was appointed Director General, Compensation and Benefits, at Military Personnel Command, in Ottawa in June 2019.



Brigadier-General Tattersall joined the Forces in 1985 and graduated from the Royal Military College with a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and History). She later earned a Master's degree in Defence Science from RMC. Brigadier-General Tattersall is also a graduate of the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy in Washington D.C where she earned a Master's of Science in National Resource Strategy.

Positions held included Platoon Commander with 5 Service Battalion (1989-1992), Materiel Control Officer CFB Kingston Base Supply (1992-1994), Quartermaster to 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (1994-1997), served on the Army Staff (1999-2002), with the Materiel Acquisition and Support Optimization (2003-2004), OC Supply 2 General Support Battalion Petawawa (2004-06), with CANOSCOM HQ (2008-2010) and as the Commanding Officer of the Mission Closure Unit/Op ATHENA Mission Transition Task Force (2010-2011). She then served on the Strategic Joint Staff (2012-2014). Prior to her promotion to Brigadier-General, she was the Commander of the Canadian Materiel Support Group. Staff appointments have included J3 CANOSCOM HQ and J-34 Strategic Joint Staff.



Her operational tours include the United Nations Transitional Authority in Phnom Penh Cambodia, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force Camp Faouar Syria and commanded the Mission Closure Unit/Op ATHENA Mission Transition Task Force in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Brigadier-General Tattersall has served overseas with the United Nations Transitional Authority Cambodia and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force Golan Heights (at Camp Faouar, Syria).

She described her tour in Afghanistan as follows: "I started the planning in September 2009, was nominated as commanding officer in 2010, so I did all the planning at the Ottawa level, and then got to repeat all the planning at the unit level to actually get ready to deploy soldiers in mid-April 2011. For me the tour was over like a snap of the fingers but for the soldiers, they'll tell you it was like Groundhog Day every single day in Afghanistan because they did the same tasks over and over." She had a team of 1,600 under her command who not only counted every item "once, twice, thrice", but sorted and checked all items to ensure their condition was such that they could be re-used, and therefore worth returning to Canada. Although they're not conventional measurements by any means, her staff calculated they had 132 football fields of equipment to ship back, and that they applied 51km of barcodes to the returning items. They repatriated 245 aircraft loads by CC-177 (C-17 Globemaster IIIs), 62 aircraft loads by CC-130Js (Hercules) and 184 aircraft loads by ANTONOVs sent through both Cyprus and Kuwait. The Forces also shipped 2,700 sea containers, some of which became part of a national news story, as they were found to have been pilfered and returned to Canada carrying rocks and sand. In December 2022, she was made a **Commander of the Order of Military Merit (CMM)**.



## Royal Canadian Navy Female Flag Officers

### Rear-Admiral Jennifer BENNETT, CMM, CD Chief of Reserves and Cadets



Jennifer Bennett, affectionately known in the naval reserve as “JenBen”, was born in Hamilton, Ontario. Jennifer earned her BA in Physical Education at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario and her Bachelor in Education at Queen’s University, Kingston Ontario. She has also earned an MA in Leadership and Training at Royal Roads University. She is also a graduate of the Canadian Forces Staff School, Canadian Forces Staff College, NATO School and NATO Defence College.

Her father was a long serving member of the Reserves in the Canadian Forces so it was natural for her to enroll in the naval reserve as a Naval Cadet in 1975 at HMCS Star as a Naval Communicator. In 1977 she transferred to the Naval Reserve Officer and Cadet Program for training as a logistics Officer. She was commissioned as a Sub-Lieutenant in August 1979.

Since then, she has served with the Reserve Force in a variety of training, staff and command positions across Canada. Rear-Admiral Bennett commanded HMCS MALAHAT, Victoria, British Columbia from 1995 to 1998 and the Naval Reserve Basic Recruit Training Detachment, Borden, Ontario in the summer of 1999.

Promoted to Captain (Navy) in January 2000, Rear-Admiral Bennett was appointed Director Reserves within the Chief Reserves and Cadets Division in National Defence Headquarters. Other national appointments include Director Professional Development and Director of the Ottawa Detachment of the Canadian Defence Academy, Director of Training and Education Policy and Project Director (Military) for the Defence Learning Network.

Rear-Admiral Bennett was promoted to Commodore on 01 December 2007, upon appointment as the Commander Naval Reserve and served as the Formation Commander until January 2011. She was promoted to her current rank in April 2011 and appointed Chief Reserves and Cadets in May 2011. Her position advises the Chief of Defence Staff on Primary Reserves, the Cadets Organization Administration and training Service as well as the Supplementary Reserve. In October 2015, she took on the position of Director-General for the Response on Sexual Misconduct. She held this position in 2016 as well. She retired in the summer of 2018.



In her civilian career, Rear-Admiral Bennett has been a teacher and administrator in elementary and secondary schools in Ontario and British Columbia. In the Naval Reserve she was affectionately known as “JenBen”.

She was appointed an **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 25 March 2006 in the rank of Captain(N) and was elevated to **Commander of the Order of Military Merit (CMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 09 February 2013 in the rank of Rear-Admiral.

Rear-Admiral Bennett's family has amassed over a century of service in the Naval Reserve. Her father Commodore, The Honourable Mr. Justice Ross Taylor Bennett, CMM, CD, was the Senior Naval Reserve Advisor retiring in January 1977. Her sister and brother also joined the naval reserve in HMCS Star.<sup>6</sup> **Retired 2018.**

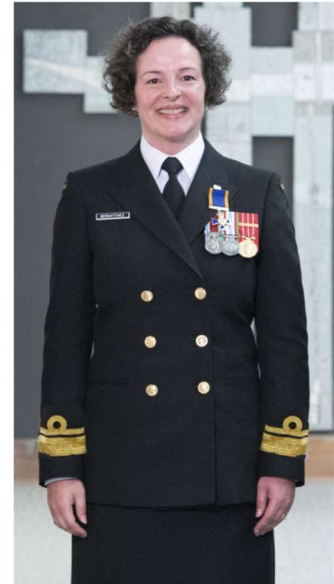
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<sup>6</sup> With Lt(N) Jim Blatherwick at HMCS Discovery



**Rear-Admiral Geneviève BERNATCHEZ, OMM, CD**  
**Judge Advocate General of the Canadian Armed Forces**

A native of Gaspé (Québec), Commodore Bernatchez enrolled in the Canadian Naval Reserve in 1987 at Her Majesty's Canadian Ship DONNACONA (Montréal). She was awarded her Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate as a Maritime Surface Officer at a time when the Navy was introducing women to combat arms. During her ten years with the Naval Reserve, she proudly served in a variety of command, training and staff positions.



In 1997, Commodore Bernatchez transferred to the Regular Force and joined the Office of the Judge Advocate General. Her career with the Office reflects diverse appointments and responsibilities involving the provision of legal advice and services in the areas of operational, military justice and administrative law. She has also been the Special Assistant to two successive Judge Advocate General and has worked with the Department of Justice Canada as Deputy Legal Advisor (Military) and Director of Legal Advisory Services.

Commodore Bernatchez deployed with the Canadian Forces Air Component during the Kosovo conflict in 1999 (22 March to 20 June – Op Echo – received General Service Medal), and was involved in the oversight, coordination and provision of legal services to Canadian Armed Forces expeditionary and domestic operations from 2000 to 2005. Upon promotion to the rank of Captain (Navy) in 2010, she was the Deputy Judge Advocate General for Operations. As such, she was the senior legal officer responsible for the provision of operational and international legal advice and services to the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces during a period of exceptionally high operational tempo that included contributing to international peace and security through missions in Afghanistan and Libya, defending North America in conjunction with the United States, supporting major national events such as the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver as well as responding to natural disasters in Canada and abroad. It is also during that time that she co-authored the “Tallinn Manual on the International Law Applicable to Cyber Warfare”, the first published manual on the legal framework supporting cyber conflicts.

From 2012 to 2014, Commodore Bernatchez was the Chief of Staff to the Judge Advocate General and led the delivery of corporate services and policy development in a challenging time of change and renewal. In the summer of 2014, she took on the responsibilities of Deputy Judge Advocate General for Regional Services where she oversaw the delivery of legal advisory services across the full spectrum of military law in support of the Canadian Armed Forces’ chain of command in North America and Europe. On 30 June 2020, she was promoted to Rear-admiral. She was appointed an **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 01 June 2019.



Rear-Admiral Bernatchez holds a Masters of International Legal Studies degree, with a specialization in National Security Law, from Georgetown University (Washington D.C.), a Bachelor of Laws from the Université de Montréal and a Diplôme d’Études Collégiales in Administration from the Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf (Montréal). She has been a member of the Barreau du Québec since 1993.

She is married to Jean, who has also chosen a career dedicated to the service of Canada. Geneviève and her husband are proud parents to Guillaume and Charlotte. As Geneviève’s professional responsibilities have increased over the years, so as her appreciation for simple things like spending time with her family and friends and giving back to the community through her volunteer work. She took a leave of absence in November 2022 and **retired in June 2023**.

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**Rear-Admiral Marie Thérèse Josée KURTZ, OMM, CD**  
**First woman to command a major Canadian warship**  
**Commandant – Royal Military College of Canada**  
**Commander – Maritime Command Atlantic (MARLANT)**



Commander Josée Kurtz was born in Joliette, Québec. She joined the Canadian Forces in 1988 under the Officer Candidate Training Program after earning a college diploma in the humanities.

Following her initial naval training, Commander Kurtz was posted to HMCS Provider where she received her bridge watch-keeping certificate in 1991. She subsequently specialized in navigation and navigated HMC Ships Nipigon, Ville de Québec and the deep-draught Protecteur. She also had the privilege of being able to share her interest in and knowledge of navigation during two separate postings to the naval officer training centre, Venture.

After graduating from the year-long operations room officer course in 1997, Commander Kurtz served on HMCS Vancouver as weapons officer and combat officer. She gained her staff experience during her time in positions including analyst in the grievance's directorate, desk officer for international operations with the Chief of Maritime Staff at National Defence Headquarters and chief of staff to the Canadian Fleet Atlantic commander.

Commander Kurtz was executive officer on HMCS Ville de Québec from 2007 to 2009. During this time, the ship deployed with the Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 and was diverted on short notice for an anti-piracy escort mission with the United Nations World Food Programme to deliver much-needed food aid to Somalia. Immediately following her tour as second-in-command, she was appointed commanding officer of HMCS Halifax from 2009 until 2011, fulfilling a career-long dream of commanding a ship during the Canadian Naval Centennial. The highlight of her command, however, was during the ship was deployed as part of the Canadian Forces humanitarian assistance and disaster relief mission in Haiti following the devastating January 2010 earthquake.

She was appointed commandant of the Canadian Forces naval operations school on June 30, 2011. She was appointed as Director General Security at NDHQ in 2018 and promoted to the substantive rank of **Commodore**.

On 17 June 2019, she became the Commander of standing NATO Marine Group 2. She ended this command on 15 December 2019. She then became the Commander of the Cadet and Junior Rangers Support Group based at NDHQ.

In August 2021 she became the **Commandant of Royal Military College Kingston**.

On 20 June 2023, she was **promoted to Rear-Admiral** and appointed the **Commander of Maritime Command (Atlantic)**.

Commander Kurtz holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Ottawa (2005) and a master's degree in defence studies from the Royal Military College of Canada (2007). She is a graduate of the Joint Command and Staff Programme at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto.



During her free time, Commander Kurtz enjoys family activities with her husband John, a retired naval officer with 20 years of service, their daughter, Dominique, and their dog, Morgan. All members of the Kurtz family are adept campers and enthusiastic Toronto Blue Jays fans.

She was awarded the **Officer, Order of Military Merit (OMM)** as per the Canada Gazette of 03 June 2017 in the rank of Captain(N). She was awarded the **NATO Meritorious Service Medal** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 27 February 2021 and the **Meritorious Service Cross (MSC)** in 2021.



**Rear-Admiral, The Honourable Rebecca PATTERSON, PC, OMM, MSM, CD**  
**Commander - Royal Canadian Health Care Services**  
**Chief of Staff - Chief of Staff, Chief Professional Conduct and Culture**



Royal Canadian Health Care Services Rear-Admiral Rebecca Patterson has always loved the sea. The daughter of a Canadian submariner and a British Royal Navy nurse, she joined the Navy League at age 12. She was a cadet throughout her teenage years until going overseas as a Rotary exchange student at age 17. Born in 1965, she also loved the popular television series, *M\*A\*S\*H*, a comedy about an American medical unit in the Korean war. So, when it came time to do something with her life, she didn't see any other path but the family tradition.

She joined the Canadian Armed Forces as a navy nurse and became part of the Royal Canadian Medical Service. In 1991, she was posted to Saudi Arabia as a member of the 1 Canadian Field Hospital during the Gulf War. Shortly after, she was sent to Somalia with the airborne regiment.

"Over six months, I was exposed to what I would say was the true military. I was the only critical care nurse in a very small medical team. I could never have imagined the conditions we found ourselves in. It was harsh. I mean, you didn't shower for six weeks and you had soldiers suffering from things like

diarrhea and vomiting because it wasn't easy to wash your hands." She was also chosen to testify at the Somalia Inquiry.

"I came out as a leader who certainly understood how to protect my patients," says Patterson. "How to protect my subordinates, how to get the very best from them from a chain of command who may not have had that as their first priority at the time and how to speak for myself."

Patterson rose through the ranks. In 2000, she was appointed commandant of the Canadian Forces Medical Services School in Borden and then, in 2003, assumed the position of commanding officer of the Canadian Forces Health Services Centre for the Atlantic. She was the first non-physician naval officer to serve in Halifax. Two years ago, she was promoted to captain, one rank below admiral, and served as medical team lead and command advisor to the Afghan National Army as part of the Canadian contribution to the NATO medical training mission in Afghanistan.

"I have been fortunate to have had a variety of operational experiences, none of them under the blue beret by the way," she says. "I planned the medical mission and then executed it on the ground. Our ultimate goal was leaving our Afghan military colleagues with a sustainable medical education and training system, so they are left with something they are proud of."

She then became the Commander of 1 Health Services Group (Western Canada Military Health Services). As Commander, she was responsible for the delivery of all military medical care of the army, navy and air force bases and wings between Thunder Bay, Ont. and Esquimalt, B.C. as well as the Arctic. They include about 1,500 medical staff and civilians, the public service and even third-party medical contractors. "One of the hardest things about my jobs is constant change. That is my job," says Patterson in the face of cutbacks. "Because the Canadian Armed Forces has its own healthcare system, the challenge for me is how we continue to provide quality health care to our stakeholders and get our uniformed medical people ready to deploy wherever they may go with the right skills and the right ability, while at the same time reducing and creating efficiencies. "If I keep cutting your budget and cutting your budget and asking for returns, it's very hard to motivate people to want to stay in an organization. So, for

recruitment and retention, I look at how I can make that vision of desire to serve as a motivating factor for people to remain in the organization.”

In June 2018, she was promoted to Commodore (while so serving) and appointed the Director General of Response on Sexual Misconduct. She was promoted to the substantive rank of Commodore on 30 June 2019.

She was promoted to Rear-Admiral on 21 July 2020 and appointed to Command the Royal Canadian Health Care Services.

In July 2021, she was appointed to a new position as Chief of Staff to the Chief Professional Conduct & Culture.

She **retired in early January 2023** to take up her appointment to the **Canadian Senate**. She is now Senator Rebecca Patterson.



As one of the most senior women in Canada’s military and one of the few raising a family, Patterson was asked by National Defence to be a local champion for women. Her husband is based in Cold Lake, so during the week, she is essentially a single parent to the couple’s two children, both under age 15. She spends a lot her time trying to balance the needs of her family with the needs of the military. “About 15 per cent of our ranks are female, and most of what we do is very tough stuff, so it’s not a draw for everybody no matter what your gender is,” says Patterson, one of the few military women also raising a family. “The challenge is balancing the military needs of the ‘we’ with what you need as an ‘I.’ So, as a mentor, especially to women, I try to help them work through the challenges that come with trying to have a family and a career.”

Her most prized possession is a tie pin her father made from spoons when he was working on submarines. It’s her good luck charm and, since he passed away in 2005, she has worn it every single day. What it symbolizes for her is not only her relationship with her father, but also her sense of duty in service. “The thing that hasn’t changed for me is why I joined and it is service to Canada. If Canadians are going to terrible places, they deserve the best care possible, and I can give them that. That’s what drives me. It helps me to understand why I spend 13 months away from my children. It gives me speaking points for them to talk to them about service and duty. I know it sounds really corny, but that’s what my personal vision is and I shape everything else around that in my life.”



Rebecca and John Blatherwick Halifax 2019

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**Rear-Admiral Elizabeth M. (STEELE) STUART, OMM, CD, BSc, MSc**  
**Seconded Treasury Board**



Elizabeth (Steele) Stuart attended university at Dalhousie and receiving her Bachelor of Science degree. She was enrolled as a Reservist at *HMCS Scotian* in 1983 before joining the Regular Force in 1986 as a Sub-Lieutenant in the Sea Logistics Officer career path.

She did a United Nations tour with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

She was the Supply Officer in HMCS Cormorant and HMCS Iroquois. She also served as the Senior Staff Officer Personnel at Royal Military College.

Rear-Admiral (Steele) Stuart was the MARLANT Formation Comptroller from 2003 until 2004.

From 2004 to 2006, she was the Commander of the Maritime Forces Atlantic Formation Logistics, (FLOG). She left this position in July 2006 for post graduate training in Washington, D.C. On return to Ottawa in 2007, she became the Maritime Command Comptroller in the Director General Finance

Officer at NDHQ.

In July 2009, she became the Commander of the Canadian Materiel Support Group in the Canadian Operational Support Command. She added the appointment as the Logistics Branch Naval Co-Advisor in 2010. She held this appointment until May 2011.

In July 2011 she was promoted to Commodore and served as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Assistant Deputy Minister (Material) at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. This position carried the duties and responsibilities of an Officer Commanding a Command.

In July 2013, she was appointed as Military Advisor to the Treasury Board on special assignment and in 2014 was promoted to Rear-Admiral.

She was appointed an **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** as per the Canada Gazette of 27 January 2007 the rank of Commander. She holds a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy with a core qualification in Supply Chain Management (National Defence University, Washington, DC). She graduated from the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College in Toronto and qualified as a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) in October 2012.

She changed her name from Steele to Stuart in 2016 just before she **retired from the Canadian Forces in 2016**.

Following retirement from the Canadian Armed Forces in February 2016, Elizabeth Stuart was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Services, Veterans Affairs Canada. She holds that position as we enter 2020.

**Commodore Lynn M.-P.C. BISSON, OMM, CD**  
**Assistant Chief of Military Personnel**

Commodore Lynn Bisson joined the Canadian Forces in September 1988 as a Direct Entry Officer, after completing her Bachelor of Science in Biology at the University of Ottawa.

In February 1990, Commodore Bisson was posted to her first job as the Assistant Supply Officer at the First Canadian Submarine Squadron in Halifax. In 1991, she commenced the sea going portion of her Sea Logistics training as the Assistant Supply Officer onboard *HMCS CORMORANT* and then subsequently on board *HMCS GATINEAU*. Upon receiving her D6 qualification, she was posted to CFB Halifax Base Supply as the Material Supply Group Officer and then as the Supply Administrative Control Officer.



In the summer of 1994, Commodore Bisson was posted to *HMCS VILLE DE QUEBEC* as the Supply Officer. During her tour on board, she participated in numerous operations and exercises, including Operation Sharp Guard in the Adriatic. Upon the completion of her tour, she was posted to the Director of Financial Operations - NATO Financial Arrangements. In 1998, on promotion to Lieutenant-Commander, she was posted to the J4 Financial Coordination Centre.

In June 2000, she joined *HMCS ALGONQUIN* in Esquimalt as the Supply Officer. During this time, she was involved in a number of Task Group exercises and operations, including OP APOLLO. In 2003, after graduating from the Canadian Forces College where she obtained a Masters of Defence Studies degree from the Royal Military College, and was posted to Ottawa in the J4 Logistics International Planning Cell.

On promotion to Commander in June 2004, she assumed the post of Executive Assistant to the Assistant Deputy Minister (Finance and Corporate Services). In June 2006, she assumed command of Formation Logistics (FLOGO) in Halifax.

She was appointed an **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** as per the Canada Gazette of 27 January 2007 in the rank of Commander. In December 2007, she assumed Command of the Canadian Forces Support Unit Ottawa and was subsequently promoted to Captain(N). In 2012, she served as Director General Compensation and Benefits at NDHQ. She was promoted to Commodore in July 2013 and appointed Assistant Chief of Military Personnel at NDHQ. **She retired in September 2014.**<sup>7</sup>



<sup>7</sup>Cdr Lynn Bisson, left, signs a change of command certificate during the change of command for Formation Logistics. Cdr Elizabeth Steele, right, is the outgoing commanding officer. Canadian Forces Base Halifax Commanding Officer Captain Marc St-Jean, RCN officiated the ceremony.

**Commodore Ruth Melody DAGENAIS, CMM, CD**  
**Director General – Financial Management**



A native of Bjorkdale, Saskatchewan, Commodore Ruth Dagenais enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1994, and commenced her Bachelor's degree as an Officer Cadet at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario. Graduating four years later in 1998, she commenced her career in Esquimalt, BC as a Sea Log Officer onboard *HMCS Winnipeg*. It was during this time that she deployed to the Persian Gulf and experienced her first taste of operational logistics. Upon completing her shipboard training, she landed her first finance position within Maritime Pacific Headquarters (MARPAQ HQ).

In 2003, Cmdre Dagenais was posted to 17 Wing Detachment Dundurn, in Saskatchewan, a return to Saskatchewan that she never thought possible joining the Navy from the Prairies. During the next four years, she worked as the Deputy Commanding Officer and Logistics Officer and learned everything she could about supporting the users of the Detachment and the various Reserve Units within the province.

In 2003, Cmdre Dagenais was posted to 17 Wing Detachment Dundurn, in Saskatchewan, a return to Saskatchewan that she never thought possible

Upon promotion in 2007, she was posted to the Judge Advocate General as the JAG Comptroller and Administration Officer. She returned to the navy in 2008 working in support of the RCN Comptroller. Subsequently, in 2010, she was posted to *HMCS Athabaskan* as the ship's Logistics Officer where she was able to experience the East Coast and all the Atlantic Ocean could offer including a deployment as part of OPERATION CARIBBE.

Two years later, Cmdre Dagenais was again promoted and posted to Maritime Atlantic Headquarters as the Formation Comptroller. Subsequent postings included the Senior Administration Officer position at Canadian Forces Support Unit, Military Personnel Command Comptroller, and Director Budget at Assistant Deputy Minister (Finance). She was made an **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** in 2021



Commodore Ruth Dagenais

Promoted to her present rank in 2022, she was employed as Director General Financial Management in Assistant Deputy Minister (Finance).

A recent graduate of the National Security Programme, she has completed a Master's in Business Administration and a CPA certificate in Executive Public Financial Accounting. Appointed as an **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** in December 2021.

She is supported by her loving husband and two children. She **retired in July 2024**.

**Medals:** OMM - General Campaign Medal ribbon Expeditionary – SSM – Peacekeeping – EIRR Diamond Jubilee – CD and Bar – Saskatchewan Centennial.

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**Commodore Margaret Frances KAVANAGH, OMM, CD**  
**Chief of Canadian Forces Medical Services**

Margaret's initial attempts to join the Canadian Forces were thwarted because she was a physical education major at university and she was not allowed to become a physical education officer as this occupation was open only to men in the early 1970s. She did get into the forces under the Medical Officers' Training Program while a medical student at the University of Western Ontario.

Commodore Margaret Kavanagh started her military service in 1979 as a general duty officer. She was not allowed to serve in an army field unit, fly aircraft or go to sea so this was not going to be a long military career. By chance, she sat beside a senior naval officer at a mess dinner, who suggested she put on a naval uniform and serve as a medical officer on HMCS Cormorant, the navy's diving ship. She became the first woman to serve at sea aboard a ship. She already had her Ship's Diving Medical Officer training but she pursued her Ship's Diver qualification after leaving the ship. She thus became one of only a handful of women qualified as Ship's Diver.

Her career covered seven different geographical locations in Canada from Calgary, Alberta to Halifax, Nova Scotia plus Lahr, Germany. She served as the Senior Medical Advisor (J1 Med) at the Canadian Forces Headquarters in Bahrain during the 1990 Persian Gulf Conflict. Her duties included clinical general practice, operational medicine in the land, sea and air environments, human physiological research following the completion of her master's degree and Medical administration. She was the Senior physician in clinic/hospital at Borden, Halifax and Lahr and a staff officer in several headquarters (Trenton, Bahrain and Ottawa) and has command experience as the Commanding Officer of 1 Field Ambulance and 1 Canadian Field Hospital in Calgary in 1994. Since 1998, she held four different senior staff officer appointments and was the Deputy Commander for the Canadian Forces Health Services Group. In April 2005, she was promoted to Commodore (first Regular Force Commodore) and became the Director-General / Commander of the Canadian Forces Health Services Group. **She retired in July 2007.**



She is a graduate of the NATO Defence College and a Certified Health Executive (CHE). She is an avid (semi-skilled golfer) and partakes in a wide variety of sporting activities. She was appointed **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 25 June 2005 in the rank of navy Captain. <sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Taken from "Women and Leadership in the Canadian Forces" edited by Karen D. Davis.

**Commodore Marta Mulkins, CD  
Commander Naval Reserve Divisions (COND)**



Commodore Mulkins was born on 24 April 1967 in Brockville, Ontario. She started as a Naval Reservist at 18 when she took a summer job as a mechanic in 1995. While on land she took a diploma in Pure and Applied Sciences from John Abbott College followed by landscape architecture degrees from Carleton and the University of Toronto. Mulkins is first and foremost a landscape architect. It's a vocation she learned as a student at The University of Carleton's School of Industrial Design before moving on to a job as an architect in the Urban Design Department of Public Works and Government Services of Canada. Mulkins took an 18-month leave from the government to carry out duties as a Lieutenant-Commander in the Canadian Naval Reserves to command *HMCS Kingston* in August 2004, the first female to command a Canadian warship.

Other notables in her work portfolio include head of Strategic Communications at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa and a six-month deployment to Afghanistan in 2006 as a member of the strategic advisory team on Operation Argus.

In command of HMCS Carleton since 2013, Capt(N) Mulkins was promoted to the rank of Navy Captain and appointed Central Regional Captain. Not only has the unit lost a commanding officer of such a rank, the first time in 25 years, but has also lost the honour of being led by the first woman to have ever commanded a warship, namely the HMCS KINGSTON, in 2003. Capt(N) Mulkins was to have taken command of the CARLETON in 2011, but she was admitted to the Naval War College in Rhode Island at that same time.

In June 2015, 48 years old Mulkins was promoted to Commodore and become the Commander of Naval Reserve Divisions. She relinquished this appointment in **June 2018** and "transitioned to Class 'A' Service". She continued in the Naval Reserve as a Special Advisor to the Commander of the RCN through 2024.

She is married to Rear-Admiral Jeffrey Zwick (shown below at right with Marta's head just in photo).



**Commodore Christine NEWBURN-COOK, CD  
Consultant and Senior Advisor (Naval Reserve)**

Dr. Newburn-Cook received her MScN in 1979 from the University of British Columbia and her PhD in 1996 from the University of British Columbia in Interdisciplinary Studies: Epidemiology, Research Design and Measurement, Biostatistics. In 1999, she completed her Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Alberta in the Perinatal Research Centre under the supervision of Dr. David Olson. She joined the Faculty of Nursing as an Assistant Professor in 1996 and progressed through the ranks to Professor. In 2006, she assumed the role of Associate Dean (Research), a position that she held until her death.



Commodore Newburn-Cook joined the Naval Reserve in 1974. She served the last ten years as Consultant and Senior Advisor (Naval Reserve) and for 17 years as a Member of the Naval Reserve Council. Christine served as Officer-in-Charge of the HMCS STAR, Engineering & Boatswain Division from 1980 to 1987. After moving to Vancouver to attend UBC, she served as Commanding Officer of the HMCS Discovery from 1993 to 1996. During this period, in 1994, she was promoted to Captain (Navy). She received the Canada 125 medal and the EIRR Golden Jubilee Medal as well as the Canadian Forces Decoration with two Clasps. She and Brian Cook, a former Commanding Officer of HMCS Discovery, were married.

Christine passed away suddenly on **15 August 2011**. On 14 April 2015, Rear-Admiral Jennifer Bennett, Commander Reserves and Cadets, presented her husband, Commander Brian Cook, CD with her Flag Officer Certificate and her Commodore shoulder boards. While most people believe that the promotion was posthumous, the date of her promotion on her Flag Officer scroll is actually 14 August 2011, one day before she died. The background to this is a long-standing grievance that Christine had regarding the actions of a senior officer that blocked her promotion to Commodore. After working the way through the system, it was decided that she should have been promoted to Commodore and this promotion was approved. However, her sudden death precluded doing this while she was alive. She was thus promoted effective when she was still alive.

Commodore Christine Newburn-Cook **died on 15 August 2011** in Edmonton where she was a Professor in the School of Nursing and Associate Dean (Research) at the University of Alberta.

I had the privilege of serving with both Christine and Brian when they commanded HMCS Discovery. (John Blatherwick)



**Commodore Lorraine Frances ORTHLIEB, CMM, CD  
Senior Naval Reserve Advisor**



Lorraine Frances Orthlieb was the first woman to reach flag officer status in the Canadian Forces when promoted to the rank of Commodore in 1989.

Commodore Orthlieb was commissioned as a Sub-Lieutenant in the naval reserve at HMCS Tecumseh in Calgary and subsequently promoted to Lieutenant effective 29 April 1974. She was again promoted to Lieutenant-Commander on 01 January 1977. Lorraine took the Senior Officer's Study Course at Royal Roads Military College 1977. She served on the Naval Control of Shipping (NCS) Standard Course at ASW School Norfolk VA (USA) 1977 and served on NCS Exercise Bell Buoy NCSO Seattle as Liaison Officer MARPAC 1979.

Lorraine was promoted to Commander effective 01 January 1980 and appointed as an Aide-de-Camp (AdC) to the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta that year. She took the Naval Control of Shipping (NCS) Advanced Course at Norfolk VA (USA). She served in NCS Exercise Sea Supply and Expanded Sea COMCANLANT Halifax 1982 and served on the NCS Exercise Wintex-Cimex at Norfolk VA (USA) 1983.

From 1983 to 1987, then Commander Orthlieb served as the Commanding Officer of HMCS Tecumseh. Tecumseh was awarded the Silver Destroyer Award as Best Naval Reserve Division in Canada while she was commanding officer in 1985.

She took the Naval Reserve Officer's Course at NATO Defence College Course (Rome) in 1984. She was also appointed an Hon AdC to Governor General. She was appointed as a Captain with seniority dated 01 January 1985. She served on the National Defence College of Canada (Course 41) 1987.

Lorraine was appointed as a Commodore with seniority dated 17 August 1989. She served as Senior Naval Reserve Advisor to Commander Maritime Commander from August 1989 to **15 August 1992 when she retired.**

Along with being the first female Senior Naval Reserve Advisor and first female in the Canadian Forces promoted to Commodore, she was made a **Commander of the Order of Military Merit (CMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 06 July 1991 in the rank of Commodore, the first female other than Governor Generals Sauvé, to be made a Commander of the Order. She was first appointed as an **Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 20 December 1986 in the navy rank of Captain.

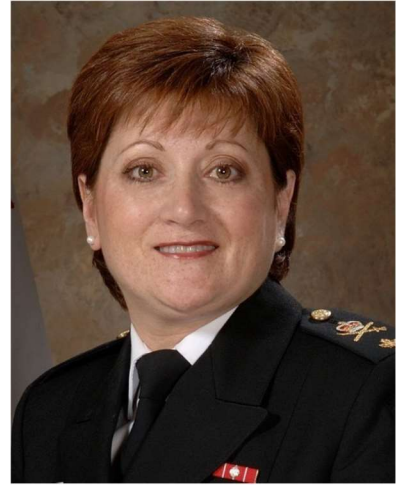
In civilian life she was the Vice-President of Orthlieb Associates Ltd., Calgary AB (international investment and management consulting company.) Lorraine was one of the founders of Naval Museum of Alberta. She was elected as the President Maritime Defence Association of Canada 1987.

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**Commodore Andrea Louise SIEW, CD  
Director-General Military Signals Intelligence**

Andrea served in the Regular Force for 24 years. She was a member of the INT 82 occupation and presented a paper entitled "Maritime C4I and Surveillance: The National Perspective" at the 2001 conference of the Canadian Association of Security and Intelligence Studies. She held the rank of Commander at this time. She served as Director Quality of Life from 2002 to 2003 and retired from the Regular Force in October 2003. She then joined the Supplementary Reserve.



In September 2006, Captain(N) Andrea Siew, as a reservist, was promoted to Commodore AWSE (Acting While So Employed) and appointed Director General Military Signals Intelligence at the Communication and Security Establishment. In this capacity, she also served as Intelligence Branch Advisor. She replaced BGen Glenn Nordick, who was the first to hold the position of DG Military SIGINT, who had been appointed to the newly created position in July 2004. She was replaced in that position in 2008 by BGen John Turnbull.

In 2008, she became the First Female to command a Canadian Forces Formation when she became the commander of the Canadian Material Support Group (CMSG).

She reverted to her rank of Captain and **retired in 2010** as the Director-General of Coordination of the Strategic Joint Staff at NDHQ.

After retiring from the Canadian Forces Reserves, she became the Director of the Service Bureau, The Royal Canadian Legion in Kanata, Ontario. She joined the management team of the Royal Canadian Legion to help with advocacy for veterans.

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**Colonel Nora NAAMAN, CD**  
**To be Project Leader Military Personnel Management Capability Transformation**



In a News Release from Ottawa on 25 March 2011, Project number NR-11.036, The Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence, “Is pleased to announce additional senior Canadian Forces (CF) promotions and appointments for 2011: Col. Nora Naaman will be promoted to Brigadier-General and appointed Project Leader Military Personnel Management Capability Transformation at NDHQ, in Ottawa.”

However, in a similar announcement in June 2011, Colonel K.R. Cotton was announced as being promoted to Brigadier-General and appointed Project Leader Military Personnel Management Capability Transformation at NDHQ, in Ottawa, which he did. To follow this train of thought, in a similar announcement in December 2013, Colonel J.S. Sirois was promoted Brigadier-General and appointed Project Leader – Military Personnel Management Capability Transformation Project, at NDHQ, in Ottawa, replacing Brigadier-General K.R. Cotton.

Colonel Nora Naaman never took up her position and was not promoted to Brigadier-General. My sources tell me that she did not want to move to Ottawa and thus took a job in industry rather than be promoted.

In 2001 she was on the NATO Staff in Brussels as a PLog (Logistics Officer).

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## UNITED STATES MILITARY Female Admiral and General

### Admiral Michelle Janine HOWARD, USN 38th Vice Chief of Naval Operations

The US Navy has its first female four-star admiral. She is Michelle Janine Howard, promoted on Tuesday 01 July 2014 to the service's highest rank. The ceremony was held at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at the Arlington National Cemetery, near the Pentagon.

Admiral Howard is a 1978 graduate of Gateway High School in Aurora, Colorado. She graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1982 and from the Army's Command and General Staff College in 1998, with a Masters in Military Arts and Sciences.

Howard's initial sea tours were aboard USS Hunley (AS 31) and USS Lexington (AVT 16). While serving on board Lexington, she received the secretary of the Navy/Navy League Captain Winifred Collins award in May 1987. This award is given to one-woman officer a year for outstanding leadership. She reported to USS Mount Hood (AE 29) as chief engineer in 1990 and served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. She assumed duties as first lieutenant on board the USS Flint (AE 32) in July 1992. In January 1996, she became the executive officer of USS Tortuga (LSD 46) and deployed to the Adriatic in support of Operation Joint Endeavor, a peacekeeping effort in the former Republic of Yugoslavia. Sixty days after returning from the Mediterranean deployment, Tortuga departed on a West African training cruise, where the ship's Sailors, with embarked Marines and U.S. Coast Guard detachment, operated with the naval services of seven African nations.



She took command of USS Rushmore (LSD 47) on March 12, 1999, becoming the first African American woman to command a ship in the U.S. Navy. Howard was the commander of Amphibious Squadron Seven from May 2004 to September 2005. Deploying with Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 5, operations included tsunami relief efforts in Indonesia and maritime security operations in the North Arabian Gulf. She commanded Expeditionary Strike Group Two from April 2009 to July 2010. In 2009, she deployed to CENTCOM Theater, where she commanded Task Force 151, Multi-national Counter-piracy effort, and Task Force 51, Expeditionary Forces. In 2010, she was the Maritime Task Force commander for BALTOPS, under 6th Fleet.

Her shore assignments include: J-3, Global Operations, Readiness and executive assistant to the Joint Staff director of Operations; deputy director N3 on the OPNAV staff; deputy director, Expeditionary Warfare Division, OPNAV staff; senior military assistant to the secretary of the Navy; Chief of Staff to the director for Strategic Plans and Policy, J-5, Joint Staff, deputy commander, US Fleet Forces Command, and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans & Strategy (N3/N5). She served as the 38th Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

After Howard retired from the navy on December 1, 2017, she became the J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Visiting Professor of International Affairs at George Washington University, teaching cybersecurity and international policy. International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) announced that it appointed Howard to its board, effective March 1, 2019. She retired on 01 December 2017 after nearly 36 years of service in the United States Navy.

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**General Ann Elizabeth DUNWOODY**  
**Commanding General – United States Army Materiel Command**



**Ann Elizabeth Dunwoody** was born on 14 January 1953). She was the first woman in the United States military to reach four-star officer rank when she was promoted to full general on 14 November 2008. At Fort Belvoir, Virginia to Elizabeth and Harold Dunwoody. Her father was a career army officer, and the family lived in Germany and Belgium while she was growing up. She graduated from Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) American High School in 1971. After high school Dunwoody attended State University of New York College at Cortland. During her junior year of college, Dunwoody attended a four-week Army introductory program that could be continued, if interested, with an eleven-week Women's Officer Orientation Course, which then led to a two-year commitment. In 1975 she committed and became a 2nd lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps where she learned to jump from airplanes. After graduation, she accepted a direct Commission into the Women's Army Corps.

In 2005, she had become the United States Army's top-ranking female when she received the promotion to Lieutenant-General (three stars) and became the army's Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4 (logistics). She was nominated as Commanding General, United States Army Materiel Command, by President George W. Bush on June 23, 2008, and confirmed by the Senate one month later. She served in that capacity until August 7, 2012, and retired from the army on 15 August 2012.

Dunwoody's first assignment was as a platoon leader with the 226th Maintenance Company, 100th Supply and Services Battalion, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. During her 30 years as a Quartermaster Corps officer she commanded the 226th Maintenance Company Fort Sill, Oklahoma; 5th Quartermaster Detachment (Airborne) Kaiserslautern, Germany; the 407<sup>th</sup> Supply and Service Battalion/ 782d Main Support Battalion (MSB), Fort Bragg, North Carolina; the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Support Command (DISCOM), Fort Drum, New York; the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps Support Command (1st COSCOM), Fort Bragg, North Carolina; the Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC)/Military surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), Alexandria, Virginia; and the Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM), Fort Lee, Virginia.

Dunwoody's major staff assignments include service as the Parachute Officer, 82nd Airborne Division; strategic planner for the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA); Executive Officer to the Director, Defense Logistics Agency; and Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics G-4.



















From May 1989 to May 1991, Dunwoody served as executive officer and later division parachute officer for the 407th Supply and Transportation Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, at Fort Bragg and deployed to Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Shield/Operation Desert Storm.<sup>[11]</sup> in 2001, As the 1st Corps Support Command Commander she deployed the Logistics Task Force in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 1 and stood up the Joint Logistics Command in Uzbekistan in support of Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF)-180. As Commander of Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), she supported the largest deployment and redeployment of United States forces since World War II.

She **retired** from the army on 15 August 2012.

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**General Ann Elizabeth DUNWOODY**  
**Commanding General – United States Army Materiel Command**  
Honours

	Army Distinguished Service Medal (with one bronze oak leaf cluster)
	Defense Superior Service Medal
	Legion of Merit (with two bronze oak leaf clusters)
	Defense Meritorious Service Medal
	Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters
	Army Commendation Medal
	Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters
	Joint Meritorious Unit Award
	Meritorious Unit Commendation with four oak leaf clusters
	National Defense Service Medal (with one service star)
	Southwest Asia Service Medal (with two service stars)
	Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
	Armed Forces Reserve Medal
	Army Service Ribbon
	Army Overseas Service Ribbon
	French National Order of Merit ( <i>degree unknown</i> )
	Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia)
	Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)

**Other honors**

- 1998 Recipient of the Military Distinguished Order of Saint Martin (Army Quartermaster Corps).
- 2001 Distinguished Alumna for Cortland State SUNY.
- 2002 Inducted as a Distinguished Member of the Quartermaster Regiment.
- 2004 Recipient of the National Defense Transportation Association's DoD Distinguished Service Award.
- 2007 Recipient of Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) Distinguished Service Award.
- 2008 First female four-star general in the United States Armed Services.
- 2012 Inducted into the Quartermaster Hall of Fame
- 2012 Recipient Ancient Order of Saint Martin (Army Quartermaster Corps)

- 2009 recipient of the Association of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces Eisenhower Award
- 2011 recipient of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Theodore Roosevelt Award
- 2011 recipient of the French National Order of Merit
- 2013 Inducted into the U.S. Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame
- Keys to: Madison County, Huntsville city and Madison city
- USO Woman of the Year
- 2018 Honorary Doctorate of Humanities. Michigan State University
- 2019 recipient of the Sylvanus Thayer Award

