

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

In the history of the Canadian Forces, only 16 women have risen to General or Flag Officer rank. In the summer of 2015, Christine Whitecross will be 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) and appointed Chief Reserves and Cadets in May 2011.

## Female General and Flag Officers in the Canadian Forces

### Royal Canadian Navy

Rear-Admiral Jennifer Jane BENNETT, CMM, CD	Chief of Reserves
Rear-Admiral Elizabeth M. STEELE, OMM, CD <b>Changed her name to RAdm Elizabeth M. Stuart, OMM, CD</b>	Seconded Treasury Board
Commodore Lorraine Frances ORTHLIEB, CMM, CD	Senior Naval Reserve Advisor 1989-1992
Commodore Margaret Frances KAVENAGH, OMM, CD	Chief Medical Services
Commodore Lynn M.-P.C. BISSON, CD	A/Chief Mil Personnel
Commodore Andrea Louise SIEW, CD	DG Military Signals \ Intelligence

### Canadian Army

Brigadier-General Hiliary Frances JAEGER, OMM, MSM, CD, QHP	Surgeon General
Brigadier-General Patricia Maude SAMSON, OMM, CD	Provost Marshal

### Royal Canadian Air Force

Lieutenant-General Christine ('Chris') WHITECROSS, OMM, CD	Chief of Military Personnel & Commander Military Personnel Command
Major-General Wendy CLAY, CMM, CD, QHP	Surgeon General
Major-General Marie Juliette <u>Lise</u> MATHIEU, CMM, CD	Chief Medical Services
Major-General Tammy L. HARRIS, CD	COS to CDS
Brigadier-General Linda Juanita COLWELL, OMM, CD	Personnel Management
Brigadier-General Sheila A. HELLSTROM, CD	DG Postings & Careers
Brigadier-General Frances J. ALLEN, CD	DG Defence Security
Brigadier-General Patricia ('Pat') L. BRENNAN, CD	COS Reserves 1 CAD

### To be promoted but wasn't

Colonel Nora NAAMAN, CD She was to be promoted but didn't want to move to Ottawa so took a civilian position before being promoted to Brigadier-General.	Mil Personnel
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**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.

In her civilian career, Rear-Admiral Bennett has been a teacher and administrator in elementary and secondary schools in Ontario and British Columbia.

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.

**Major-General Wendy Arlene CLAY, CMM, OStJ, CD, QHP  
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.

**Lieutenant-General Christine ('Chris') T. Whitecross, OMM, CD**  
**Chief Military Engineer**  
**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 joining 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 with both awards 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.

**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 Defence 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 an **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™).





**Major-General Tammy L. HARRIS, CD  
Seconded to the Privy Council**

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 and will remain as Chief of Staff to the Chief of Defence Staff, in Ottawa (a position she had taken up in 2015)..



She is married to Brig.-Gen Shane Brennan and has three stepchildren, aged 17, 20 and 22.



**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 after graduating from Mount Allison University.

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 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 woman Regular Force member to achieve the rank of Brigadier-General. Her new job was as 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.

**Brigadier-General Patricia 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 Marshall. 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 after 24 years of distinguished service. From July 2001 to July 2002 when she retired she was the Director General Intelligence (J2) for the Canadian Forces.

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



**Brigadier-General Hilary JAEGER, OMM, MSM, CD**  
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 Chairmans of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Generals (Retired) Colin Powel 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, 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.



**Brigadier-General Frances J. ALLEN, CD**  
**Director General Defence Security**



Brigadier-General Frances Allen enrolled in the Canadian Forces in 1983, subsequently completing an Honors Degree in Statistics from Queens University in 1987.

She was the Director of support operations with the Strategic Joint Staff in Ottawa in 2011. She also has held numerous positions with the Canadian Forces Information Management Group in the past, including Officer Commanding the National Systems Management Centre and the Commanding Officer of the Canadian Forces Network Operations Centre and was Commanding Officer of ATESS.



In June 2012 she was posted as the Commander of the Canadian Forces Information Operations Group (CFIOG).

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.

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.

**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.



**Commodore Lynn M.-P.C. BISSON, 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 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>1</sup>



<sup>1</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.



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

Elizabeth Steele attended university at Dalhousie and receiving her Bachelor of Science degree. She was enrolled as a Reservist at *HMCS Scotian* before joining the Regular Force in 1986 as a Sub-Lieutenant.

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

Rear-Admiral Steele 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 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 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.

**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.

**Commodore Margaret Frances KAVENAGH, OMM, CD**  
**Chief 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 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>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Taken from "Women and Leadership in the Canadian Forces" edited by Karen D. Davis.

**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.

**Colonel Nora NAAMAN, CD**

**To be Project Leader Military Personnel Management Capability Transformation**

In a News Release from Ottawa on 25 March 2001, 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. N. 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).

**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 currently serves as the 38th Vice Chief of Naval Operations.