

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

Chief of the Defence Staff 2024



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 21st 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 2nd 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**. Two of their children now serve in the Canadian Armed Forces.

On 28 June 2024, she was announced as the new Chief of the Defence staff. She was promoted to the rank of **General** and became the **Chief of the Defence Staff on 18 July 2024**.

Medals of General Marie Annabelle Jennie Carignan, CMM, MSC, MSM, CD

- CMM – CanForGen 11 December 2020
- OMM – LG 04 June 2016 (later elevated to CMM)¹
- MSC – LG 30 March 2024
- MSM – LG 11 February 2012
- General Campaign Star with SWA Ribbon and extra tour bar
- General Campaign Star with Expeditionary Ribbon and extra tour bar
- Canadian Peacekeeping
- United Nations Disengagement Observation Force (UNDOF)
- NATO with Bar Former Yugoslavia
- EIRR Diamond Jubilee
- Canadian Forces Decoration and 2 bars
- Officer of the Legion of Merit (USA) – LG 26 June 2020



¹ DOD Photo by Benjamin Applebaum)

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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

