Brigadier-General Richard V. Blanchette, CD
Director General Operations, Strategic Joint Staff, National Defence

Brigadier-General Blanchette enrolled in 1977 and received a First Class Honours Arts degree in Military and Strategic Studies from the Royal Military College of Kingston in Ontario.

His first posting was with the 2nd Battalion Royal 22e Régiment (R22eR) where he served as an infantry platoon commander and as the intelligence officer at La Citadelle in Quebec City. In 1984, he was posted to Beynes in France as an exchange officer with the 5e Régiment d'infanterie for a two year period. He served with 1er Commando and the Airborne Regiment for three years. During this period, he was deployed to Cyprus for peacekeeping duties as Operations Officer and came back to Kingston, this time to Fort Frontenac, to attend in 1989 the Land Forces Command and Staff Course.

In 1989, he was posted to Germany as G1 (personnel administration) in Headquarters 4 Canadian Mechanised Brigade Group. Promoted to the rank of Major in 1990 and posted to 1st Battalion R22eR, he took command of the Canadian infantry company that was deployed to Qatar during the Gulf and Kuwait War. He also assumed command of the Battalion Rear Party during the first deployment to the former Yugoslavia.

From 1992 to 1993, he attended the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College in Toronto (diploma with distinction). Promoted lieutenant-colonel, he then served for two years on the Joint Staff at the National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa as the officer responsible for international operations. He went back to the field in 1995 when posted to the UN mission in Rwanda as a Sector Commander until February 1996. He was then employed within the office of the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff in Ottawa for the monitoring of headquarters reengineering.

In June 1996, he assumed command of the 2nd Battalion, R22eR, and of La Citadelle in Quebec City. He commanded his battalion in a six week guerrilla exercise with the Special Forces in Mississippi and he led his unit in fighting the floods of April and May 1997 in Winnipeg. Back to peacekeeping duties, he assumed command of the Canadian Battalion in Haiti from September to December 1997. In January 1998, he commanded his troops in the operation to provide relief to the victims of the ice storm in the Montreal region. He relinquished his command in June 1998 and was promoted colonel shortly thereafter; on August 1st.

Brigadier-General Blanchette holds an MBA degree (management) from Laval University where he studied from 1998 to 2000. At the end of his studies, he was posted to Ottawa as Director of Land Reserve. In this role, he was closely involved in managing the Land Force Reserve Restructure. In August 2002, he was tasked with the secondary duty of Director of Infantry after having served as Regimental Colonel (officers) for the R22eR for a period of two years.

In January 2003, Brigadier-General Blanchette was appointed Commander of the National Command Element and Chief of Staff of the Canadian Joint Task Force South-West Asia which Headquarters was in Tampa (FL). In June of the same year, he moved back to Ottawa to become the Director of Peacekeeping Policy. In January 2005, he was selected to become the Military Assistant to the Chairman of the NATO Military Committee and sent

immediately to Brussels to prepare the launching of the Canadian Chairmanship in June 2005. His effective promotion date is 27 June 2006 and he was awarded the NATO Meritorious Medal at the end of his mandate. In August 2008 he was appointed as the International Security Assistance Force Spokesperson in Afghanistan where he received the National Defence Medal, Gold Echelon. In July 2009, he moved back to Ottawa to assume the position of Director General Operations with the Strategic Joint Staff.

He is a graduate of the Advanced Military Studies Course and the National Security Studies Course. Brigadier-General Blanchette enjoys marathon running, cycling, skiing, current events monitoring, reading, poetry and wine tasting.