

**Air Marshal SK Pathirana, WWV and Bar, RWP & Bar, RSP & Three Bars, VSV, USP, MSc (MOA) USA, MSc (Def Stu) in Mgt, M Phil (Ind), MIM (SL), ndc (Ind), psc, qfi**

**Commander of Sri Lanka Air Force**



Air Marshal Sudarshana Karagoda Pathirana took over as the 18<sup>th</sup> Commander of Sri Lanka Air Force on 02 Nov 2020. He was born on 30 Dec 65 and is a proud product of Dharmaraja College Kandy. He joined Sri Lanka Air Force on 02 Jul 85. He completed his Basic Ground Training and secured the award for Best Cadet at the Ground Combat and Recruit Training Wing, SLAF Diyatalawa. **He has also followed advance flying training in Pakistan Air Force and graduated from PAF Academy, Risalpur, Pakistan.** He received his commission on 02 Jan 87 in the General duties (Pilot) Branch. He started his pilot career at No 3 Maritime Squadron, China Bay and flew Cessna 337 aircraft. In 1989 he was posted to No 2 Heavy Transport Wing, Ratmalana and flew the Chinese made Y 12 aircraft.

In 1990, he was selected to the first batch of F-7 pilots to undergo training with Chinese instructors and served at No 05 Jet Squadron as an operational fighter pilot. Later he served at the No 10 Fighter Squadron operating the Kfir C2 and rose to become its Commanding Officer from 2007 to 2012 and as the Commandant, Sri Lanka Air Force Academy, China Bay in 2012. During his tenure as a fighter pilot, he has been awarded gallantry awards on several occasions for his bravery. He has also been the Base Commander at SLAF Base Katunayake. He was the Director Air Operations at SLAF HQ. Prior taking over his current assignment he served as Chief of Staff.

He graduated from Air Command and Staff Collage, Air University USAF, Alabama, USA in the year 2002 and in the year 2004 he successfully read for his 2nd Masters' degree (Defence Studies) in Management awarded by the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. **In 2011 he attended the National Defence College, New Delhi.**

Air Marshal Sudarshana is married to Charmini and they are blessed with a daughter Bhashini and a son Vinura. He is a keen sportsman who devotes his evenings to Golf, Tennis and Squash. His hobbies are reading books, watching movies and cricket.