

DEFENCE SECRETARY OF SRI LANKA



1. Gen Kamal Gunaratne (retd) was born in a family of teachers wherein his father was a School Principal. He was educated at Dharmapala Vidyalaya and Ananda College, Colombo. He subsequently joined the Sri Lanka Army in 1981 as a cadet officer and underwent his training at the Sri Lanka Military Academy.
2. After completing his basic training and commando course, he was Commissioned into the erstwhile Rajarata Rifles as a second Lieutenant. Following the disbandment of the Rajarata Rifles, he joined the newly raised Gajaba Regiment. He served as a Platoon Commander and subsequently as a Company Commander in the regiment. After a short stint in Colombo for internal security duties he took over as 2i/c and thereafter as Commanding Officer of 6th battalion of Gajaba Regiment which was engaged in anti-LTTE operations. Gen Kamal Gunaratne (retd) was also a Bridge Commander of the air mobile brigade at the onset of the Eelam War IV. During the last stages of the LTTE conflict he Commanded the 53rd Division that is believed to have killed the LTTE leader Prabhakaran. Post the LTTE conflict he was Commander Security Forces Headquarters – Wannu and Master General Ordnance at the Army Headquarters before his retirement in 2016. He also did a diplomatic tenure as Deputy Ambassador to Brazil in 2012-13.
3. Gen Kamal Gunaratne (retd) has done a number of training courses in India. He attended the Army War College, Mhow, the Defence Service Staff College and the National Defence College, New Delhi (Course 51/2011) courses.
4. For his bravery in action against the LTTE he has been awarded the Weera Wickrama Vibhushanya (WWV), the Rana Wickrama Padakkama (RWP) and the Rana Sura Padakkama (RSP) Medals.
5. Gen Kamal Gunaratne has authored the famous book '*Road to Nandikadal-True Story of defeating the Tamil Tigers*' which was on the war against LTTE. Post retirement, Gen Kamal Gunaratne had been active in supporting former Defence Secretary and current President Gotabhaya Rajapaksa.