



**Major General Sujeewa Senarath Yapa RWP RSP ndu
Commandant NDC**

Maj Gen DGS Senarath Yapa RWP RSP ndu joined the Sri Lanka Army as an Officer Cadet on 16th March 1987 under the Intake 27. Upon successful completion of the basic military training at the Sri Lanka Army Military Academy, Diyatalawa, he was commissioned in the rank of Second Lieutenant and was posted to the Gajaba Regiment (GR) which is an elite infantry regiment of the Sri Lanka Army in 1988.

He assumed duties and responsibilities as the Platoon Commander of 3rd Battalion of Gajaba Regiment on 10th December 1988. In view of accomplishing the assignments of a true serviceman, young Keterian afterwards joined the Sri Lanka Army Special Forces (SF) which is ready to undertake contingency tasks as a force of deterrence for the defence of the nation, dedicating his whole life voluntarily on behalf of this soil. Accordingly, he successfully completed the Special Forces Basic Course No. 06 and was blessed to be a member of the great lineage of successors of the Sri Lanka Army Special Forces on 10th October 1989.

Throughout his military career, he has served in Command, Staff, and Instructional appointments exemplifying his extraordinary capacities in respective appointments in the Sri Lanka Army. He intensively pledged exceptional dedication over his assignments of combat duties during the humanitarian operation in the North and East of the country for over 22 years before May 2009. His command appointments include the Platoon Commander in 3rd Battalion of Gajaba Regiment, Group Commander in 1st Regiment of Special Forces, Squadron Second in Command, Bravo Squadron Commander, Senior Instructor of Special Forces Training School, Brigade Major of Special Forces Brigade, Second in Command of 3rd Regiment of Special Forces, Commanding Officer of 1st and 3rd Regiments of Special Forces, Commandant of Special Forces Training School, Commander of 593 Brigade, Center Commandant of the Regimental Headquarters Special Forces, Commander of Special Forces Brigade, and Brigadier General Staff of the Security Forces Headquarters (Kilinochchi). Further, he has held the appointment of the General Officer Commanding of 57 and 14 Infantry Divisions in Kilinochchi and Colombo respectively. He served as the Commander of Security Forces - West, and Jaffna before he took over as the Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force, prior to his assumption as the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army.

Major General Senarath Yapa had the opportunity of participating in military training programmes, such as Defence and Strategic Studies Course and Leadership Programmes under the Army Headquarters in Sri Lanka in 2010, Basic Parachute Course (1991) in India, Commando Course (1992) in India, Young Officers' Course (1996) in India, Mid-Career Course (1996) in Pakistan, Military Observer Course (2012) in India, and Battalion Commanders' Course (2013) in China in order to gather an array of foreign experiences.

To his credit, he has attended many career-related programmes, workshops, seminars, etc, inclusive of the Executive Combating Terrorism Seminar (2007) at the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA) in the US, Indo - Sri Lanka Joint Military Training Exercise 'Mithra Shakthi' Planning Conference (2012) in India, China - Sri Lanka Special Joint Operations Exercise (Coordination and Planning Conference) (2015) in China, 1st International Seminar on "Operations in the Jungle" (2015) in Brazil, Trilateral Counter Terrorism Exercise by Special Forces of Sri Lanka (2015) in Maldives and Pakistan, Tri Lateral Exercise Eagle Dash - 1 (2016) in Pakistan, Physical Agility and Combat Efficiency System (2016) in Pakistan, and Land Force Talks United States Army (Pacific Command) (2017) in Hawaii, USA, Army to Army Staff Talks (2022) in India ,and Annual Senior Officers Seminar (2022) in Geneva.

He is also an alumnus of the National Defence University of Beijing in China, where he earned his second Master of Science in Strategic Military Studies. He obtained his initial Master of Science in Management (Defence) from the Kotalawala Defence University, Sri Lanka.

The senior officer has been adorned with gallantry awards of Rana Wickrama Padakkama (RWP) three times for individual or associated acts of bravery in the face of the enemy for voluntary performance. He was also decorated with Rana Sura Padakkama (RSP) four times for his distinguished conduct in the face of the enemy. He is a recipient of Campaign Medals of East Humanitarian Operation Medal, North Humanitarian Operation Medal, Purna Bhumi Padakkama, North and East Operations Medal, and Riviresa Campaign Service Medal. Further, he received 50th Independence Anniversary Medal in 1998, Sri Lanka Army 50th Anniversary Medal in 1999, Sri Lanka Armed Services Long Service Medal, Sewabhimani Medal, Service Medal and 75th Independence Anniversary Medal in 2023 in recognition of his distinguished service to the organization. He is also a keen enthusiast in environment conservation. At present, the senior officer is performing duties as the Colonel of the Regiment of the Army Special Forces, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army whilst serving as the Commandant National Defence College.

He is a proud product of Piliyandala Central College. During his schooling, he excelled in studies and athletics earning honour and fame of his Alma Mater.

Major General Sujeewa Senarath Yapa is married to Mrs Nayani Samanthi and blessed with two sons.