

General Walter ('Walt') John NATYNCZYK, CMM, MSC, CD
Chief of the Defence Staff
02 July 2008 to October 2012

Born: 29 October 1957 Winnipeg, Manitoba
 Married: Leslie
 Children: Margaret (RCN), William (RCAF), John (Canadian Army – RCHS)

Honours

02 July 2008a	CMM	Chief Commander of the Order of Military Merit	General
27 July 2007	CMM	Commander of the Order of Military Merit	Major-General
04 February 2006	MSC	Meritorious Service Cross	Major-General
01 September 2001	OMM	Officer of the Order of Military Merit	Colonel
26 March 2011	Commander	Legion of Honour (France)	General
29 September 2012	Commander	Legion of Merit (USA)	General
12 November 2005	Officer	Legion of Merit (USA)	Brigadier-General
29 June 2013	Commander	Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit (Poland)	General
30 October 2010	Medal	Medal of Merit in Gold (Netherlands)	General

Military

30 August 1975	Officer Cadet	Collège Militaire Royal
01 September 1977	Officer Cadet	Royal Military College Kingston
29 June 1979	2 nd Lieutenant	Royal Canadian Dragoons
30 June 1979	Lieutenant	Royal Canadian Dragoons
1980 to 1983	Lieutenant	Royal Canadian Dragoons in Germany
1983	Captain	Squadron Commander RMC Kingston
1984	Captain	Regimental Duties with RCN in Petawawa including UN Cyprus
1991	Major	Canadian Forces Command and Staff College
1992	Major	Army Staff at St. Hubert, Quebec
May 1994	Lieutenant-Colonel	Year with UNPROFOR Sector South-West COS Bosnia Herzegovina
January 1995	Lieutenant-Colonel	Chief of Ops UNPROFOR in Zagreb, Croatia \ HQ 7 (UK) Armoured
June 1995	Lieutenant-Colonel	VCDS Staff at NDHQ
July 1996	Lieutenant-Colonel	Commanding Officer RCD
July 1998	Colonel	Cdn Contingent Commander in Bosnia (NATO)
March 1999	Colonel	J3 Plans and Operations planning Kosovo, Bosnia, East Timor,
2001	BGen	US Army War College \ Eritrea
June 2002	BGen	Deputy Commanding General, III Corps, Fort Hood
January 2004	BGen	Deputy Director of Strategy, Policy and Plans III Corps in Iraq
June 2004	BGen	Deputy Commanding General Multi-National Corps (Iraq)
January 2005	BGen	Command Land Force Doctrine and Training System
2006	MGen	Chief of Transformation
28 June 2006	LGen	Vice-Chief of Defence Staff
06 June 2008	General	Chief of Defence Staff
June 2012	General	On Retirement leave from the Canadian Forces
December 2012	General	Retire from the Canadian Forces
06 August 2013	President	Canadian Space Agency
03 November 2014	Deputy Minister	Veterans Affairs

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General Walter Natynczyk was born in Winnipeg and joined the Canadian Forces in 1975 after spending 5 years as an Air Cadet. He has served in numerous regimental command positions at all levels from tank troop leader up to commanding officer of the Royal Canadian Dragoons.

General Natynczyk's operational experience consists of 4 years on NATO duty in Germany; six months of UN peacekeeping duties in Cyprus (1984); a one-year-long mission with the United Nations in the Former Yugoslavia as Sector South-West Chief of Operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1994) with British forces, then as the Chief of Land Operations, UNPROFOR HQ in Zagreb, Croatia. He commanded the Royal Canadian Dragoons in domestic operations during the Winnipeg floods of 1997 as well as in the Ottawa region during the 1998 Ice Storm, and he served as the Canadian Contingent Commander in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1998.

On promotion to Brigadier-General, he became the third Canadian to serve as Deputy Commanding General, III Corps and Fort Hood, Texas in June 2002 and deployed with III Corps to Baghdad, Iraq in January 2004 serving first as the Deputy Director of Strategy, Policy and Plans and subsequently as the Deputy Commanding General of the Multi-National Corps. The Multinational Corps (Iraq) during *Operation Iraqi Freedom* consisted of 34,000 soldiers consisting of 10 separate brigades stationed throughout the Iraq Theatre of Operations.

Upon his return to Canada in January 2005, he assumed command of the Land Force Doctrine and Training System. He was subsequently appointed Chief of Transformation in 2006 where he was responsible for implementation of the force restructuring and the enabling processes and policies. On 28 June 2006 he was promoted to Lieutenant-General and became Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff with General Rick Hillier as the Chief of Defence Staff.



He has fulfilled various staff appointments including serving as Squadron Commander at the Royal Military College (Kingston, Ont.), on the Army Headquarters staff (St. Hubert, Quebec), and in Ottawa as Assistant Director to the National Defence Headquarters Secretariat, J3 Plans and Operations during the period of CF deployments to Kosovo, Bosnia, East Timor and Ethiopia-Eritrea, and then as the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff to General Rick Hillier.

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General Natynczyk was promoted to General on 2 July 2008, when he assumed his duties as Chief of the Defence Staff. He retired in late October 2012.

General Natynczyk holds a Business Administration Degree from Royal Roads Military College and Collège militaire royal and is a graduate of the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College, the U.K. All Arms Tactics Course and the U.S. Army War College. He enjoys jogging and sailing.

After retirement, he On August 6, 2013, he was appointed president of the Canadian Space Agency. He was appointed Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs, effective 03 November 2014 and continues in that position in November 2017.

Medals

- Principal Commander ORMM
- CMM
- MSC (military)
- General Campaign Star with Expedition Ribbon
And one extra tour bar
- Special Service Medal Bar NATO
- Peacekeeping
- UN Cyprus
- UN UNPROFOR (2 tours)
- NATO bar Former Yugoslavia
- EIIR Diamond Jubilee
- CD and two bars
- Legion of Merit (USA) - Officer and Commander
- Commander, Legion of Honour (France)
- Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit (Poland)
- Medal of Merit in Gold (Netherlands)



**General Walter ('Walt') John NATYNCZYK, CMM, MSC, CD
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Honours**

Chief Commander ORMM (CMM)

02/07/08a **NATYNCZYK, Walter John** General Army – Chief of Defence Staff
CMM MSC CD

Commander of the Order of Military Merit (CMM)

27/01/07 **NATYNCZYK, Walter John** Major-General Army – Vice-Chief of Defence
CMM MSC CD

Meritorious Service Cross (MSC)

04/02/06 **NATYNCZYK, Walter John** Major-General Army – with US Army
OMM MSC CD

Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)

01/09/01 **NATYNCZYK, Walter John** Colonel Army OMM CD

Commander – Legion of Honour (France)

26/03/11 **NATYNCZYK, Walter** General Army – Chief of Defence staff
CMM MSC CD

Commander – Legion of Merit (USA)

29/09/12 **NATYNCZYK, Walter** General Army – Chief of Defence staff
CMM MSC CD

Officer – Legion of Merit (USA)

12/11/05 **NATYNCZYK, Walter John** BGen Army – US Army Iraq CMM MSC CD

