

Brigadier PCL Gunawardana



Brigadier PCL Gunawardana RWP RSP Psc is presently serving as the Chief Instructor of the Army wing, at Defence Services Command and Staff College-Sapugaskanda. He is a proud product of Rahula College – Matara and he joined Sri Lanka Army as an Officer Cadet with Intake 35 on 02 January 1991.

After successful completion of military training, he was commissioned on 28th August 1992 and was posted to the 6th Battalion the Gemunu Watch. He has served as a platoon commander, company commander and operation and training officer with his battalion mainly in North and East until he got his first ERE appointment in 2002.

During his 31 years of illustrious military career, he held a number of staff, instructional, command and United Nations Peace Operations appointments in various capacities. Some of the key appointments he held as a staff officer included General Staff Officer -2 (GSO 2) (Operations/Training) at 52 Infantry Division Headquarters, General Staff Officer -1 (GSO 1) (Operations/Training) at Security Forces Headquarters (East), Staff Officer-2 (Career planning) at Military Secretary's Branch of the Army Headquarters, Staff Officer-1 (Grievances) at Military Secretary's Branch of the Army Headquarters and Colonel General Staff at 68 Infantry Division Headquarters.

In his instructional appointments, he served as an Officer Instructor of the Sri Lanka Military Academy and a Directing Staff of the prestigious Defence Services Command and Staff College and has groomed officer cadets and several hundred middle grade officers to the Sri Lanka Military.

In command assignments, he was the 2nd in Command of 7th Battalion the Gemunu Watch during the last phase of humanitarian operations in 2009 and later he became the Commanding Officer of 7th Battalion the Gemunu Watch in 2011. Thereafter, he commanded 622 Infantry Brigade before he assumed duties as the Chief Instructor (Army) at Defence Services Command and Staff College.

In 2008, he was assigned as the operation and CIMIC officer of 8th Sri Lankan Contingent to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and also he served as the Deputy Chief of Military Personnel Officer at Force Headquarters, MINUSTAH from 2014 to 2015. Further, he was fortunate to serve at United Nations Headquarters in New York as the Military Planning Officer in the Department of Peace Operations from 2017 to 2020.

Apart from local training, he has also followed few training courses in overseas such as Infantry Young Officers' Course in Pakistan, Battalion Support weapon Course in India, Junior Command and Staff Course in Bangladesh, UK MOD sponsored Joint Operation Planning Course and Defence Services Staff Course in India. Further, he holds a master's degree in Defence Studies from University of Kelaniya, a master's degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from University of Madras, India and a Diploma in International Relations.

Brigadier PCL Gunawardana is decorated military officer with two different types of gallantry medals, namely Rana Wickrama Padakkama (RWP) and Rana Soora Padakkama (RSP) for his distinguished service.

He is married to Athula and blessed with a daughter and a son.