

Lieutenant-General Alexander D. Meinzinger, OMM, MSM, CD

Commander, Royal Canadian Air Force



The son of a retired RCAF CWO, Lieutenant-General Alexander D. Meinzinger enrolled in the Canadian Forces in 1985 under the Regular Officer Training Plan. He earned a BA Honours in Economics and Commerce from Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) Kingston, and was awarded the Governor General's Medal for academic excellence. Immediately following graduation, he attended Queen's University, earning an MA in Economics in 1990, before obtaining his pilot's wings in 1992.

He has flown the CH-135 Twin-Huey and CH-146 Griffon during his flying career. In the course of four flying tours, he deployed with 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron as a member of the first contingent in support of the United Nations Mission in Haiti, served as an instructor pilot and Flight Commander, before assuming command of 403 (Helicopter) Operational Training Squadron in August 2006. In 2011 he deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan to command Canada's Joint Task Force Afghanistan Air Wing during which he oversaw the final phase of Air Wing support to combat operations.

His staff tours include service with 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters, Executive Assistant to the Chief of the Air Staff, and Chief of Staff for the Canadian NORAD staff in Colorado Springs. He is a graduate of the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College in Kingston, and the Canadian Forces College Command and Staff Course. He attended the inaugural National Security Programme, graduating with an MA in Security and Defence Management and Policy. LGen Meinzinger is also a graduate of the USAF Combined Force Air Component Commander Course.

Promoted to Brigadier-General in June 2012, he was appointed NORAD/NORTHCOM Deputy Director of Strategy, Policy and Plans. In 2013, he took command of the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) Kingston. In 2015, he was promoted to Major-General and appointed Deputy Commander, Royal Canadian Air Force and in March 2017, he was appointed as Director of Staff, Strategic Joint Staff.

In April 2018, he was promoted to Lieutenant-General and subsequently appointed to his current position as Commander Royal Canadian Air Force.