

REAR-ADMIRAL B.W.N. SANTARPIA, CD

CHIEF OF STAFF OPERATIONS, CANADIAN JOINT OPERATIONS COMMAND



Rear-Admiral Brian Santarpia enrolled in Canadian Forces in 1986 as a Maritime Surface Officer.

After completion of his training, he served in a succession of operational postings as a bridge watchkeeper, navigator, combat officer and executive officer in several ships including HMCS RESTIGIOUCHE, CORMORANT, VANCOUVER, HURON, CHALEUR and HALIFAX, and then most recently as the Commanding Officer of HMCS ST JOHN'S from January 2007 until July 2008.

He has also been posted to numerous training billets, including Navigation Instructor at the Naval Officer Training Centre, Head of the Warfare Training Division at the Canadian Forces Fleet School (Esquimalt), Operations Officer of Sea Training Pacific, and in 2008, Commanding Officer of Sea Training Atlantic.

Following his promotion to Captain(N) in 2009, he was appointed as the Special Advisor to the Vice Chief of Defence Staff. In 2010, he assumed command of Canadian Forces Base Halifax until his departure to attend the National Security Programme in 2012.

In addition to being a graduate of the National Security Programme, RAdm Santarpia holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Royal Roads Military College (RRMC) Victoria, and a Masters of Defence Studies from Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) Kingston.

RAdm Santarpia was promoted to Commodore in July 2013 and appointed Director General Naval Personnel. He led the transformation of that organization and assumed the duties of the first Director General Navy Strategic Readiness in April 2014. From December 2014 until April 2015 he was deployed to Bahrain where he commanded Combined Task Force 150, a multinational group of ships and aircraft conducting counter-terrorism operations. Upon his return to Canada, he was appointed to Chief of Staff to the Vice Chief of Defence Staff and later appointed Director General Plans at the Strategic Joint Staff in July 2016.

Effective May 2018, RAdm Santarpia joined the Canadian Joint Operations Command as the Chief of Staff Operations.