

**REAR ADMIRAL**  
**RAVINDRA CHANDRASIRI WIJEGUNARATNE – SRI LANKA NAVY**

Ravindra Chandrasiri Wijegunaratne (Ravi) studied at prestigious Public School in Sri Lanka, Royal College, Colombo 7 and joined Sri Lanka Navy on 01<sup>st</sup> November 1980 at the age of 18 years.

He had done his basic training at Naval and Maritime Academy Trincomalee and Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth, UK. He is the recipient of “Best International Midshipman” award in International Midshipmen Course 1982 at Britannia Royal Naval College. He has done Sub Lieutenant Technical Course in India, specialized in Anti Submarine Warfare in India and Staff Course at Pakistan Naval Staff College, Karachi. He is the first Sri Lankan Naval Officer to obtain BSc (Hons) (War Studies) degree from Karachi University, Pakistan in 1996. He is also alumni of National Defence University, Washington DC, USA (NESA Centre) and prestigious National Defence College, New Delhi, India (50<sup>th</sup> NDC Course - 2010). He is presently awaiting results on successful completion of MPhil (Defence and Strategic Studies) degree programme from Madras University, Chennai, India last year.

He has done most important senior Staff, Command and Diplomatic appointments of Sri Lanka Navy such as Director Naval Operations, Director Naval Weapon Systems, Director Special Forces, Director Maritime Surveillance, The Commandant Naval and Maritime Academy, The Commanding Officer SLNS Sayura (Flag Ship), Flag Officer Commanding Naval Fleet, Director General Services, Commander Southern Naval Area and Commander Western Naval Area. He was the First Secretary (Defence Adviser) of Sri Lanka High Commission, New Delhi, India from November 2001 to March 2005. As First Secretary in Sri Lanka High Commission in New Delhi, his outstanding effort to coordinate Indian Military assistance to Sri Lanka during Tsunami disaster in December 2004 was highly appreciated by both the governments. He was the Director Naval Operations (DNO) in 2007 when SLN launched the famous “Hunter – Killer Operations” to destroy last four LTTE floating warehouses (ships) thousands of miles away from Sri Lanka.

He raised the Sri Lanka Navy Special Forces (Marine Commando) Unit; known as Special Boats Squadron (SBS) in 1993 and led them in Poonaryn Amphibious Landing in November 1993. He has commanded this elite unit twice in his career in 1993/94 and 1999/2000. He is a qualified diver, Special Forces/Commando and parachute jumper. He has led SBS in number of operations against LTTE terrorists and also led SBS in various training exercises with US Navy SEAL commandos and Indian Navy Marine Commandos (MARCOS) in Sri Lanka and abroad.

He is a recipient of four gallantry medals for his bravery and valour in battle field. The four gallantry medals are; Wirodhara Vibushana (highest Medal awarded to living Sri Lanka Military personnel; equal to St George Cross in UK or Ashok Chakra in India), Rana Wickrama medal twice (for individual bravery) and Ranasoora medal (for collective bravery). He was awarded with Uttama Seva Padakkama (Medal) for unblemished and dedicated service.

He is also a keen sportsman who has represented Sri Lanka Navy in Rugby Football, Sailing, Rowing and Musketry at highest level. He is a Sri Lanka Navy Coloursman in Rugby Football, Sailing and Rowing. He has also represented Britannia Royal Naval College, UK in Hockey in 1982. He is the current President of National Rifle Association of Sri Lanka.

He is married to Yamuna (Nee- De Saram - Miss Sri Lanka 1989 and model / Tele Drama Actress) and father of a 18 years old son; Satyajith. He was promoted present rank of Rear Admiral on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and youngest Rear Admiral in the Sri Lanka Navy. He is presently holding the appointment of the Commander Northern Naval Area.