

MAJOR-GENERAL R.D.C. SCHMIDT, OMM, MSC, MSM, CD

CHIEF OF FORCE DEVELOPMENT

MGen Richard (Dick) Schmidt enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1998 with the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada and subsequently transferred to the Regular Force where he attended the Royal Military College of Canada (RMCC). After commissioning in 2002, he joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

In 2006, MGen Schmidt completed the Special Operations Assaulter Course. Since, he's held numerous command and staff appointments within Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM), the Canadian Army Headquarters, National Defence Headquarters, and on operations. His notable commands include Special Operations Task Forces and Joint Task Force 2. Most recently he was the Deputy Commander of CANSOFCOM. His service includes deployments to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, and Iraq, alongside numerous smaller missions and domestic operations.



MGen Schmidt is a graduate of the Joint Command and Staff Programme, the National Security Programme, and the US Combined Joint Special Operations Component Commander's Course. He holds a B.A. in Military and Strategic Studies and a Master of Defence Studies from RMCC as well as a Master of Letters in Terrorism and Political Violence from the University of St. Andrews.

MGen Schmidt was promoted to his current rank and assumed the appointment of Chief of Force Development in May 2026. When he is not spending time with his amazing partner or their dogs, MGen Schmidt can be found on the pitch coaching or playing rugby.

Date biography modified: 2026-06-05