

## COMMANDER OF THE SRI LANKA NAVY



### **VICE ADMIRAL KKVPH DE SILVA, WWV\*, RWP, RSP, VSV, USP, ndu**

His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, appointed Rear Admiral Piyal De Silva as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy and promoted him to the 3-star rank of Vice Admiral with effect from 01<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

Vice Admiral Piyal De Silva is a proud product of Dharmasoka College in Ambalangoda and joined the Sri Lanka Navy in the Executive Branch as an Officer Cadet of the 12<sup>th</sup> Intake in 1984. On successful completion of basic training, he was commissioned as a Sub Lieutenant in the Navy on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1986. After being elevated to subsequent ranks in the Navy over the years, he was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral on 01<sup>st</sup> November 2012. Vice Admiral Piyal De Silva has received specialized training on Deep Sea Salvage Diving and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Diving from the US Navy and used his knowledge and skills extensively in salvage and mine clearance operations in the past. Further, the senior officer has rendered an unparalleled service to the organization in particular and motherland in general, during his exemplary career in the Navy. Vice Admiral Piyal De Silva is well versed in Disaster Management activities and has always rendered his unwavering contribution to the nation when it is faced with calamities of different capacity.

In recognition of his noble service rendered for the motherland, Vice Admiral Silva has been awarded the Weera Wickrama Vibushanaya (WWV) twice, Rana Wikrama Padakkama (RWP) and Rana Sura Padakkama (RSP) for gallantry, Vishishta Seva Vibhushanaya (VSV) and Uttama Seva Padakkama (USP) for exemplary conduct, and a tally of medals. He has graduated with a Master's Degree of Business Administration in Human Resource Management and also, in Master of Defence and Strategic Studies. Further, he followed his National Defence Course at the National Defence University in China. He is a Diploma holder in Human Resource Management at the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management.

The senior officer held office as the Chief of Staff the Navy from 02<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, prior taking the helm of the Sri Lanka Navy. Besides, he also held a number of notable appointments including the Director General Operations, Flag Officer Commanding Naval Fleet, Commander Eastern, Southern, North-western and Northern Naval areas and Commanding Officer of a number of ships, craft and establishments during his naval career. Moreover, he took much pride in commanding the elite Special Boat Squadron (SBS) and Diving Unit of the Sri Lanka Navy on crucial occasions.

Vice Admiral Piyal De Silva has excelled in Basketball, Rugby, Athletics, Swimming, Water Polo and other water borne adventure sports. He has represented Sri Lanka Navy in six sports disciplines and was adjudged the best all round sportsman of the Sri Lanka Navy twice in his illustrious career. In addition, he has been awarded Navy colours in 29 occasions and National colours for Basketball a number of years as he has represented the National Basketball team for SAF Games and Asian Championships in several occasions. Also he is a Diploma holder in Sports Administration.

Vice Admiral Piyal De Silva is married to Mrs. Arundathi Jayaneththi and they are blessed with two sons; Yehan and Dulina.