

## **Keynote Speaker**

### **Ann Fitz-Gerald**

Dr Ann Fitz-Gerald is an Associate Professor in Cranfield University's Department of Management and Security at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom. She is currently Director of the Cranfield Centre for Security Sector Management. She holds degrees in Commerce, International Relations, War Studies and Security & Defence Management. Her Ph.D. examined the impact national disparities with multinational military forces could have on sustainable development programmes running simultaneously with peace support operations in post-conflict states. Following an initial career in the financial sector, she worked for the Government of Canada, including posts at the Pearson International Peacekeeping Training Centre and NATO Headquarters. Before assuming an academic post at Cranfield University, Dr Fitz-Gerald worked at King's College, London University where she was Co-Director for the Complex Emergencies Unit in the Centre for Defence Studies. At Cranfield University, she was the Associate Dean (Research) between 2006 and 2009.

Dr Fitz-Gerald currently serves on the Boards of the Institute for Research on Public Policy, Saferworld, the Canadian International Council (CIC), and the Security Sector Advisory Group for UK Trade and Investment. She also chairs the International Working Group on National Security.

Dr Fitz-Gerald has worked on national security, stabilisation interventions and security sector reform for 19 years, has worked for a wide range of bilateral and multilateral organisations, and is widely published in her field. Her work has included the facilitation of national security strategy processes in post-conflict, developing and developed states. She helped advise on national security processes in Botswana, Lebanon, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and Afghanistan. Her most recent book is an edited volume entitled *From Conflict to Community: A Combatant's Return to Citizenship*. Dr Fitz-Gerald has worked in both research and practitioner capacities in Africa, Asia, South-East Europe and the Caribbean. She led the Global Facilitation Network for Security Sector Reform (GFN-SSR) between 2002 and 2006. She is academic leader of the MSc Security Sector Management and leads Cranfield University's research programmes in Security Sector Management, Stabilisation and National Security.

Dr Fitz-Gerald was recently appointed by the UN High Level Panel to facilitate the post-referendum peace talks on the issue related to the Common Border Zone (CBZ) between North and South Sudan.

Dr Fitz-Gerald is regularly invited to contribute to curriculum at international and UK-based universities. She has also presents to a number of national defence staff colleges, including Kuwait, Canada, Indonesia, the United States, Ethiopia, the Netherlands, Ireland and Ethiopia.

From January 2011 to January 2012, Dr Fitz-Gerald is undertaking a one-year sabbatical as the McNaughton-Vanier Visiting chair at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMCC). This Canada-based research post will allow her to continue her research, teaching and consultation on matters related to national security and security sector management.

## **Armed Forces Speaker**

### **Sergeant Lizette Angel LeBlanc**

Sergeant Lizette LeBlanc is the first female Regular Force Sergeant in the history of the Canadian Infantry.

Sgt LeBlanc was born in Moncton, New Brunswick and raised in a very large Acadian family. In 1991, she joined the 580 Salisbury Air Cadets and remained a member for seven years, graduating as Master Warrant Officer First Class. During her time as a cadet, she had the pleasure of taking her band masters, junior instructors and senior leaders courses. She also got the opportunity to be a staff cadet for three summers in Cold Lake, Alberta and Greenwood, Nova Scotia.

While in the cadets, Sgt LeBlanc got a taste of the military life and learned to love it. In 1998, she graduated from Mathieu-Martin in Dieppe, New Brunswick and filled out her application for the Canadian Forces. She was enrolled in the summer of 1999. She chose the Infantry because of the small ratio between men and women, wanting to see if she was capable of accomplishing something so difficult. She did her basic training in St-Jean, Québec and then was sent to Wainwright, Alberta for her Infantry Battle School course. She graduated in February 2000 and was posted to the Second Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI) in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In 2003, the base in Winnipeg closed and 2 PPCLI was relocated to Shilo, Manitoba. She was recently posted to Oromocto, New Brunswick, where she is currently teaching on the Common Army Phase for the new officers enrolling into the Canadian Forces.

Since joining the Infantry in 1999, she has been to more places and done more in her life then she ever imagined. Upon arrival to the battalion in 2000, she was deployed to the Mohave Desert to help train the United States Army for three

months. Following this experience, she was deployed to Bosnia for seven months. In January 2006, she deployed to Afghanistan as the Second in Command of a section of eight soldiers. In 2008, she returned to Afghanistan for seven months as a Section Commander. When she arrived home from Afghanistan, she successfully completed her Sergeant course. She became the first female Regular Force Sergeant in the Canadian Infantry's history.