

**BRIGADIER M.G.W.W.W.M. CHANDANA BANDARA
WICKRAMASINGHE**

Dossier
May 2020

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MUTHUKUDA GALLANDARA WIJERATHNE WICKRAMASINGHE WASALA MUDIYANSELAGE CHANDANA BANDARA WICKRAMASINGHE¹



Date of Birth: 26 Jun. 1970

Education

1977-1980 Matale Vijaya Vidyalaya².
1980-1988 Kandy Dharmaraja College.

Career

1989 Joined the Army, Infantry Officer in the Gajaba Regiment.
1989-1990 Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, Regular Intake 87.
1997 Military College of Telecommunications and Engineering Mhow, MP
India, regimental signal officers course.
1998 Infantry school Mhow, MP, India Young officers course.
2003 Army War College, Mhow, MP, India - junior command course.
After completion of his basic military training (Regular Intake
87) and Sri Lanka Military Academy (Intake 31) training ,

¹ Referenced in The Sunday Observer, 3 May 2009, <http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2009/05/03/sec10.asp>

The Nation, 26 Apr 2009.

Source on file.

"Wanni Commander Maj. Gen. Jagath Jayasuriya coordinated the entire operation. 58-1 Brigade under Col. Deshapriya Goonewardana had 9 Gemunu Watch (GW) under Lt. Col. Lal Chandrasiri, 10 & 11 SLLI under Lt. Col. Samantha Wickramasena and Lt. Col. Kithsiri Ekanayaka respectively, 8 Gajaba Regiment under Lt. Col. Vajira Welagedera and 7 Sinha Regiment under Lt. Col. Kithsiri Layanage were to go forward with the 1st Special Forces Battalion under Maj. Mahinda Ranasinghe and 2nd Commando Regiment (CR) under Maj. Shyamal Silva, as planned." <https://www.nation.lk/2009/04/26/defence.html>

² Same as Shavendra Silva,

http://www.defence.lk/Article/view_article/782

Wickramasinghe graduated as a commissioned Officer in the Rank of 2nd Lieutenant and was posted as an Infantry Officer to the Gajaba Regiment³.

2007 Oct.- Nov.2008 Senior Staff Officer in the United Nations Mission in Haiti⁴.

2008 UN Peace operations training Institute⁵.

2008 Nov. to 2010 Nov. Commander 8th Gajaba Regiment.

2013 UNDPKO training unit, Uganda.

2013 - 2015 Dean of the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies at the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka.

Unknown 511 Brigade Commander Jaffna⁶.

2019 South Korea at the National Defence University⁷

Dec.2019 Director of the Defence Ministry Media Centre⁸.

³ http://www.defence.lk/Article/view_article/782

⁴ <https://www.businessnews.lk/blog/2019/12/19/brig-chandana-wickramasinghe-new-director-of-defence-ministry-media-centre-assumed-duties/>

⁵ The training he received included restoring civil order following hostilities, The Conduct of Humanitarian Relief Operations and International humanitarian law and law of the armed conflict.

⁶ <https://www.army.lk/news/army-organized-mobile-medical-camp-treats-manipay-civilians-0>

⁷ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chandana-wickramasinghe-brigadier-찬다나-스리랑카-육군-준장-0855ab163/?originalSubdomain=kr>

⁸ <https://www.businessnews.lk/blog/2019/12/19/brig-chandana-wickramasinghe-new-director-of-defence-ministry-media-centre-assumed-duties/>

The Final War

Chandana Wickramasinghe⁹ was involved in frontline combat in 2008-9 in the war.

He was the 8th battalion Gajaba Regiment Commander from 10th Nov. 2008 to at least Nov.2010.

[Noting that this battalion when it was formed in 1992 had Shavendra Silva as its second in command¹⁰].

Media Reports to show he was 8GR Commander:

*“Army headquarters said that 6 Vijayaba Infantry Regiment (6 VIR) commanded by Major Prabhath Kodithuwakku and 8 Gajaba Regiment (8 GR) commanded by **Major Chandana Wickramasinghe** were spearheading the operation. (SF)”*

The Island, 18 Jan 2009¹¹

*“Soldiers of Army Task Force 2 advancing north from the A-34 road (Mankaulam-Mullaittivu) in the thick Muthiyankadu jungle, since this morning (Jan 17) have found 19 bodies of slain LTTE cadres along with 6 T-56 riffles, 2 light machine guns (LMG), 1 RPG launcher, 8 claymore mines and 4 grenades from the north of Muthiyankadu tank area. According to the battlefield sources, soldiers have been fighting fierce battles with the terrorists struggling to defend their last hideout. The infantrymen of 6 Vijayaba Infantry Regiment (6 VIR) led by Major Prabhath Kodithuwakku and 8 Gajaba Regiment (8 GR) led by **Major Chandana Wickramasinghe** are spearheading the battle”.*

17 Jan 2009¹²

*“Troops fought fierce battles with the terrorists struggling to defend their last hideout. The infantrymen of 6 Vijayaba Infantry Regiment (6 VIR) led by Major Prabhath Kodithuwakku and 8 Gajaba Regiment (8 GR) led by **Major Chandana Wickramasinghe** spearheaded the battle. It was on January, 14, 2009, the Army captured the well-known LTTE runway in Iranamadu, which is considered the largest air strip belonging to the Tamil Tigers. The army also succeeded in capturing the last LTTE area - Chundikulam in the Jaffna Peninsula.”*

⁹ Referenced in The Sunday Observer, 3 May 2009, <http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2009/05/03/sec10.asp>

The Nation, 26 Apr 2009

¹⁰ “Wanni Commander Maj. Gen. Jagath Jayasuriya coordinated the entire operation. 58-1 Brigade under Col. Deshapriya Goonewardana had 9 Gemunu Watch (GW) under Lt. Col. Lal Chandrasiri, 10 & 11 SLLI under Lt. Col. Samantha Wickramasena and Lt. Col. Kithsiri Ekanayaka respectively, 8 Gajaba Regiment under Lt. Col. Vajira Welagedera and 7 Sinha Regiment under Lt. Col. Kithsiri Layanage were to go forward with the 1st Special Forces Battalion under Maj. Mahinda Ranasinghe and 2nd Commando Regiment (CR) under Maj. Shyamal Silva, as planned.” <https://www.nation.lk/2009/04/26/defence.html>

¹¹ <https://alt.army.lk/gajabaregiment/8-gajaba-regiment> “Major LHSC Silva appointed as second in commander of battalion and Captain GHSEJ Werasooriya, captain MDP Sarathkumara, captain DS Ariyawansa and captain WAM Werasooriya appointed as officer commanding in order to A,B,C,D coy and Captain NR Lamahewage appointed as first adjutant of the battalion. WO2 Chandrasiri became first overlooking RSM of the battalion.”

WAM Werasooriya was in 2012 SFHQ-East commander. <https://alt.army.lk/sfhqeast/22division>

NR Lamahewage in 2018 becomes Commandant of Gajaba Regiment. <https://alt.army.lk/gajabaregiment/content/brig-nr-lamahewage-rwp-rsp-took-over-duties-new-centre-commandant>

¹² <http://www.island.lk/2009/01/18/news9.html>

¹³ <http://www.lankalibrary.com/phpBB/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=4613>

Sunday Observer, 10 Jan 2009¹³

"Task Force 11 recovers bodies of 19 Tigers

By Tissa Ravindra Perera

*The Task Force 11 advancing north on the A-34 Road (Mankulam - Mullaitivu) engaged the LTTE in the Muthiyankadu jungle yesterday. Troops found 19 bodies of LTTE cadres yesterday along with a cache of weapons including six T-56 rifles, two light machine guns (LMG), one RPG launcher, eight claymore mines and four grenades from the north of Muttiyankadu Tank area. The operation is spearheaded by the infantrymen of Sixth Vijayaba Infantry Regiment (6 VIR) led by Major Prabhath Kodithuwakku and Eighth Gajaba Regiment (8 GR) led by Major Chandana Wickramasinghe."*¹⁴

The Nation, 18 Jan 2009

Locations of the 8th Gajaba

In 2009, the 8th Gajaba was involved in attacks in Vishwamadu¹⁵, PTK¹⁶ and Putumattalan¹⁷.

¹³ <http://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2010/01/10/sec03.asp>

¹⁴ <https://www.nation.lk/2009/01/18/news30.htm>

¹⁵ Military Matters, The Nation, 18 Jan 2009

"The Eighth Sinha, Eighth Gajaba, Sixth Wijayaba, Seventh Signals and Eighth Signals Regiments were involved in operations in this sector. These troops are now within about five kilometers of Wisvamu."

Military Matters, The Nation, 2 Feb 2009.

"The 8th Sinha Regiment under Lt. Col. Priyantha Jayawardene, the 7th Signal Regiment, under Maj. Dhammika Tilakaratne, the 6th Vijayaba Regiment under Maj. Prabhath Kodithuwakku, and the 8th Gajaba Regiment under Maj. Chandana Wickremesinghe, joined the battle."

¹⁶ The Nation Newspaper, 15 Feb 2009

"57-4 Brigade comprising 8th Gajaba Regiment (GR) under Lt. Col. Chandana Wickremesinghe, 6th Vijayaba Regiment (VR) under Maj. Prabhath Kodithuwakku, the 7th Signals under Maj. Dhammika Tilakaratne, and the 18th VR under Maj. Laksiri Perera, are proceeding from Pudukudiruppu West to the East, along the South of A-35 highway." <https://www.nation.lk/2009/02/15/militarym.htm>

The Daily News, 22 Mar 2009

"Infantrymen of 11 Sri Lanka Light Infantry (11 SLLI), 7 Sinha Regiment (7 SR), 10 Gajaba Regiment (10 GR), 9 Gemunu Watch (9 GW), 12, 8 and 20 Gajaba Regiments continued the advance and strengthened their defenses in Iranapalai east amidst heavy LTTE resistance.. Infantrymen of 11 Sri Lanka Light Infantry (11 SLLI), 7 Sinha Regiment (7 SR), 10 Gajaba Regiment (10 GR), 9 Gemunu Watch (9 GW), 12, 8 and 20 Gajaba Regiments continued the advance and strengthened their defenses in Iranapalai east amidst heavy LTTE resistance.. The LTTE is strongly defending this terrain as they are aware that its loss will be the end of their journey. But the troops attached to 5 Gajaba Regiment, 5 Gemunu Watch, 6 Gajaba Regiment, 18 Gemunu Watch, 15 Sri Lanka Light Infantry Regiment and 1 Gemunu Watch Battalions are heading towards this terrain."

¹⁷India Defence Review

"Brigadier Silva was given a free hand to put together his best team for the final assault on the LTTE to free the trapped Tamil civilians. The 9th Gemunu Watch Battalion, 8th Gajaba Battalion, 11th Sri Lanka Light Infantry Battalion, the 2nd Commando Battalion under the command of Colonel Ralph Nugera and 1st Special Forces Battalion under the command of Colonel Athula Kodippili were handpicked for the rescue operation ." <http://www.indiandefencereview.com/spotlights/lessons-from-the-war-in-sri-lanka/>

The Sunday Observer, 29 Mar 2009

"The initial assault was on the 7 Sinha Regiment and the 8 Gajaba Regiment troops. Few bunkers of the 7 SR troops fell under Tiger control and troops took immediate measures to establish a U shape defence line to prevent Tiger cadres infiltrating into the cleared areas."

Video

"Troops of 11 Sri Lanka Light Infantry (11 SLLI), 9 Gemunu Watch (9 GW), 8 Gajaba Regiment (8 GR), Special Force (SF) and Army Commandos (CR) captured 2 1/2 Km long stretch of LTTE built earth bund in the Puthumattalan area early this morning destroying the terrorists' ability to attack the civilians seeking refuge with the armed force." Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46GwCFBtFs>

These locations are referenced in detail in the UN OISL report as places where alleged war crimes occurred. For the purposes of brevity those allegations are not repeated here.

Media sources and the regimental web page¹⁸ further confirm the battalion's involvement in the 2009 war:

"After re-establishment of the battalion vastly involved and accomplishes many operational task as well as North and East humanitarian operation. In the Pudemathalan operation this battalion has committed highly merging task."

Major Chandana Wickramasinghe and the 8 GR under his command played a pivotal role in the attacks on Vishwamadhu, PTK and Puttumalan, in which a UN OISL inquiry confirmed that civilians and civilian objects were attacked, in violation of international humanitarian law and the principles of distinction and proportionality for which he bears criminal responsibility.

Haiti – UN Peacekeeping

Wickramasinghe was posted to Haiti from 26 Oct. 2007 as a Staff Officer in the Sri Lankan UN peacekeeping mission. Sri Lankan peacekeepers were sent home in November 2007 after being accused of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, that was investigated by the UN¹⁹. Contrary to UN expectations that the Sri Lankan government would ensure accountability for these crimes, nobody was court martialled or held criminally accountable in Sri Lanka. As a staff officer present in Haiti at the time, it is probable that Wickramasinghe would not only have had knowledge of the allegations, but would also have known the identities of those implicated in the child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Northern Battle Front: BREAKING NEWS SLA Captures Puthumathalan, 35 000 Civilians Escape Wannu LTTE, 20 Apr 2009

Biggest hostage rescue in military history, The Nation, <https://www.nation.lk/2009/04/26/defence.html>

8 Gajaba Regiment under Lt. Col. Vajira Welagedera – says the Nation but it's wrong – it should be 8 Gemunu Watch

The Nation Newspaper, 22 Mar 2009

"The 58 Division under Brig. Shavendra Silva, liberated a six kilometre stretch of road from Putumatalan in the 'No Fire' zone, to Pudukudyiruppu junction, by Thursday. The last stretch of 300 metres on this road was liberated by the 8 Gajaba Regiment (GR)." <https://www.nation.lk/2009/03/22/militarym.htm>

The Nation Newspaper, 5 Apr 2009

"After securing the second ring in this manner, troops under the direct supervision of Brig. Shavendra Silva, were deployed on search and destroy missions to get at the trapped Tigers. 9 Gemunu Watch under Lt. Col. Lal Chandrasiri, penetrated a defensive bund of the Tigers, amidst heavy fighting. 8 Gajaba Regiment (GR), under Lt. Col. Chandana Wickramasinghe, 14 GR, under Maj. Janaka Pallekumbura, 20 GR, under Maj. Kumara Peiris and the 11 Infantry troops, following a battle on Thursday, found 31 bodies of Tiger cadres, 50 T-56 guns, 1 GPS machine, 2 RPG's, 1 M-16 gun, 2 radio communicating sets and 1 MPMG." <https://www.nation.lk/2009/04/05/defence.html>

¹⁸ <https://alt.army.lk/gajabaregiment/8-gajaba-regiment>

¹⁹ His cv. <https://www.slideshare.net/chandanawickramasinghe/cv-colonel-chandana-w-ickramasinghe-sri-lanka-65459900>

Photo from Facebook.



Major Chandana Wickramasinghe was present as a staff officer in Haiti when allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by the members of the Sri Lankan Peacekeeping were investigated resulting in them being repatriated to Sri Lanka. It is probable that he knew or ought to have known about the violations and those officers responsible. A zero tolerance policy exists in respect of SEA allegations and he had a duty to ensure that those responsible were identified and named, investigated and held accountable for these serious international crimes involving young children, by the the Sri Lankan military. His inaction and failure to address these crimes raises his own complicity in the cover up of these crimes for which he should have been subject to military disciplinary procedures as well as criminal responsibility including under Sri Lankan law given the crime and age of the children involved.

SOURCE: Below is a list of Sri Lankan officers posted to the UN mission in Haiti from a report by the Sri Lankan Army to parliament²⁰, which says he was a staff officer in Haiti from Oct 24th 2007:

a. Haiti (MINUSTAH).		<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
(1)	O/60306 Lt Col MMS Perera psc SLE Head, Civil Military Operation Centre (CIMOC/Deputy Chief CIMCORD)	02/01/2006	13/01/2007
(2)	O/62993 Maj WAJ Hemachandra RSP GR (Staff Officer – U 3)	01/03/2006	15/03/2007
(3)	O/60394 Lt Col WGL Padmakumara psc SLAGSC (Deputy Chief Ministry Personnel Officer)	14/07/2006	31/08/2007
(4)	O/63495 Maj MR Hameem SLSC (ADC to COS)	26/08/2006	26/08/2007
(5)	O/63478 Capt GTS Silva SLAOC (Staff Officer - COE)	22/09/2006	26/09/2007
(6)	O/61122 Maj BMJ Balasooriya RWP RSP psc CR (Staff Officer Personnel)	22/10/2006	30/10/2007
(7)	O/61225 Maj AKGKU Gunarathne psc CR (Staff Officer – U 2)	22/10/2006	30/10/2007
(8)	O/61472 Maj JP Salwathurearachchi psc SLSR (Staff Officer – Planning)	22/10/2006	30/10/2007
(9)	O/61446 Maj ST Fernando RSP psc GW (Staff Officer - DDR)	22/10/2006	01/11/2007
(10)	O/60449 Lt Col WA Wanniarachchi RSP psc GW (Head, Civil Military Operations Centre CIMOC/Deputy Chief CIMCORD)	29/12/2006	29/12/2007
(11)	O/64099 Capt LMS Ariyadasa CR (Staff Officer – U 3)	Since 26.02.2007	
(12)	O/61500 Maj SA Kulatunga RWP RSP psc SLE (Staff Officer – U 3)	Since 07/06/2007	
(13)	O/60407 Col DC Keppetiwala RSP psc SLSR (Staff Officer)	Since 26/08/2007	
(14)	O/61065 Maj GMCKB Ekanayake RSP psc SLLI (Staff Officer)	Since 26/08/2007	
(15)	O/61515 Maj TCL Ganepola RWP RSP psc GW (Staff Officer - COE)	Since 21/09/2007	
(16)	O/61661 Maj WGWWWMCB Wickremasinghe psc GR (Staff Officer)	Since 24/10/2007	
(17)	O/61518 Maj WTWG Ihalage RSP psc VIR (Staff Officer)	Since 24/10/2007	
(18)	O/61529 Maj S Kasthurimudali psc GW (Staff Officer)	Since 24/10/2007	
(19)	O/61886 Maj JRADS Shantha RWP RSP psc GR (Staff Officer)	Since 24/10/2007	