

Lieutenant General Seán Clancy

Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces

Lt Gen Seán Clancy has 37 years' service in the Irish Defence Forces. He is the first Airman in the Irish State to serve as Chief of Staff, having previously served as Deputy Chief of Staff (Support) and General Officer Commanding Irish Air Corps and Director of Military Aviation.



Lt Gen Clancy joined the Irish Defence Forces in 1984 as a cadet and commenced his flight training in 1986. He has flown both fixed and rotary wing aircraft and has accumulated nearly 5,000 flight hours. He is a qualified type and instrument-rating examiner, a qualified flight simulator instructor and he last held type, instrument and NVG ratings on the AW139.

Lt Gen Clancy has been a driver of change and a champion for innovation within the Defence Forces. He played a central role in the development of the Ireland's first Emergency Aeromedical Service established in 2012. He has been a strong advocate for Leadership and was the co-author of the Defence Forces Leadership Doctrine published in 2016. He also led the team who developed the current vision and values-based strategy for the Defence Forces post the publication of the White Paper on Defence.

Lt Gen Clancy served in appointments including Squadron Commander, Wing Commander, Senior Staff Officer Operations, Senior Staff Officer Personnel, Chief of Air Staff Support in Air Corps Headquarters, Director of Strategic Planning Branch and Deputy Chief of Staff (Support) in Defence Forces Headquarters. Prior to promotion to Deputy Chief of Staff (Support) he served as General Officer Commanding, Irish Air Corps and Director of Military Aviation.

Lt Gen Clancy has spent a considerable period of his career as a Search and Rescue pilot and was the Commander of the crew who received the Marine Medal for Meritorious Service in 2002.

Lt Gen Clancy has served for a year with the European Union Force in Bosnia as the Military Advisor to the Force Commander and spent two years as air advisor to the permanent element of SHIRBRIG, the UN standby Brigade.

He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Trinity College, Dublin and a Masters in Military Leadership and Defence Studies from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. He is a graduate of the Defence Forces Command and Staff College where he was the recipient of the Lt Gen Tadhg O'Neill Award. In 2017 he completed a Diploma in Advanced Management Performance with Smurfit Business School.

Lt Gen Seán Clancy is married to Caroline. They have three children and live in Dublin.