

# BG Edmund E. Dillon

Chief of the Defence Staff, Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force



BG Dillon has been a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force for the past 35 years, enlisting in the Coast Guard 1974 for four years before accepting a Commission in the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment. His initial service included all the various line appointments in a regular infantry unit, including Platoon, Company, and Battalion Commanding Officer, as well as various staff functions such as Adjutant, company and battalion Executive Officer, Staff Officer Finance & Logistics, and Chief Staff Officer at Force Headquarters. He was also the Battalion Executive Officer of the First CARICOM Battalion, part of the multinational force operating alongside U.S. forces in Operation Restore Democracy in Haiti, 1994.

Brigadier Dillon's professional education and training includes several military courses, international seminars and conferences. He completed basic officer cadet training at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst; staff training at the Canadian Forces Staff School Course, and the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff Course. He completed the Legal Framework of Peacekeeping at the Lester Pearson Peacekeeping Institute in Canada, and the Command and General Staff Officer Course at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He completed both the basic and advanced course in Alternative Dispute Resolution with the Stitt Feld Handy Group and the University of Windsor.

Brigadier Dillon academic achievements are both civilian and military. Following primary and secondary schooling, he received a Certificate in Management Studies from the University of West Indies (UWI), Trinidad. He holds a double major Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Government with Honours from UWI and a Master of Military Arts and Science from the US Army Command and General Staff College. His main area of studies is Caribbean security and Regional security cooperation. His first publication was recently release in a book edited by Dr. Ivelaw Griffith titled "*Caribbean Security in the Age of Terror*" 2004. His chapter is "Regional Security Cooperation: Traditional and Non-Traditional Areas".

Brigadier Dillon has attended several conferences and seminars throughout the hemisphere, including Argentina, Panama, Guatemala, Miami, Brazil, Chile and Canada. In 2004, he presented a paper on the "Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons: CARICOMS Initiatives" at an OAS conference in Nicaragua, and represented Trinidad and Tobago at a 2005 United Nations Summit on a "Mine Free World" in Nairobi. He is the present Chairman of the Standing Committee of Military Chiefs, CARICOM.

Brigadier Dillon is married to Ava Dillon and they have three children, Cleavon, Adeisha and Toni.