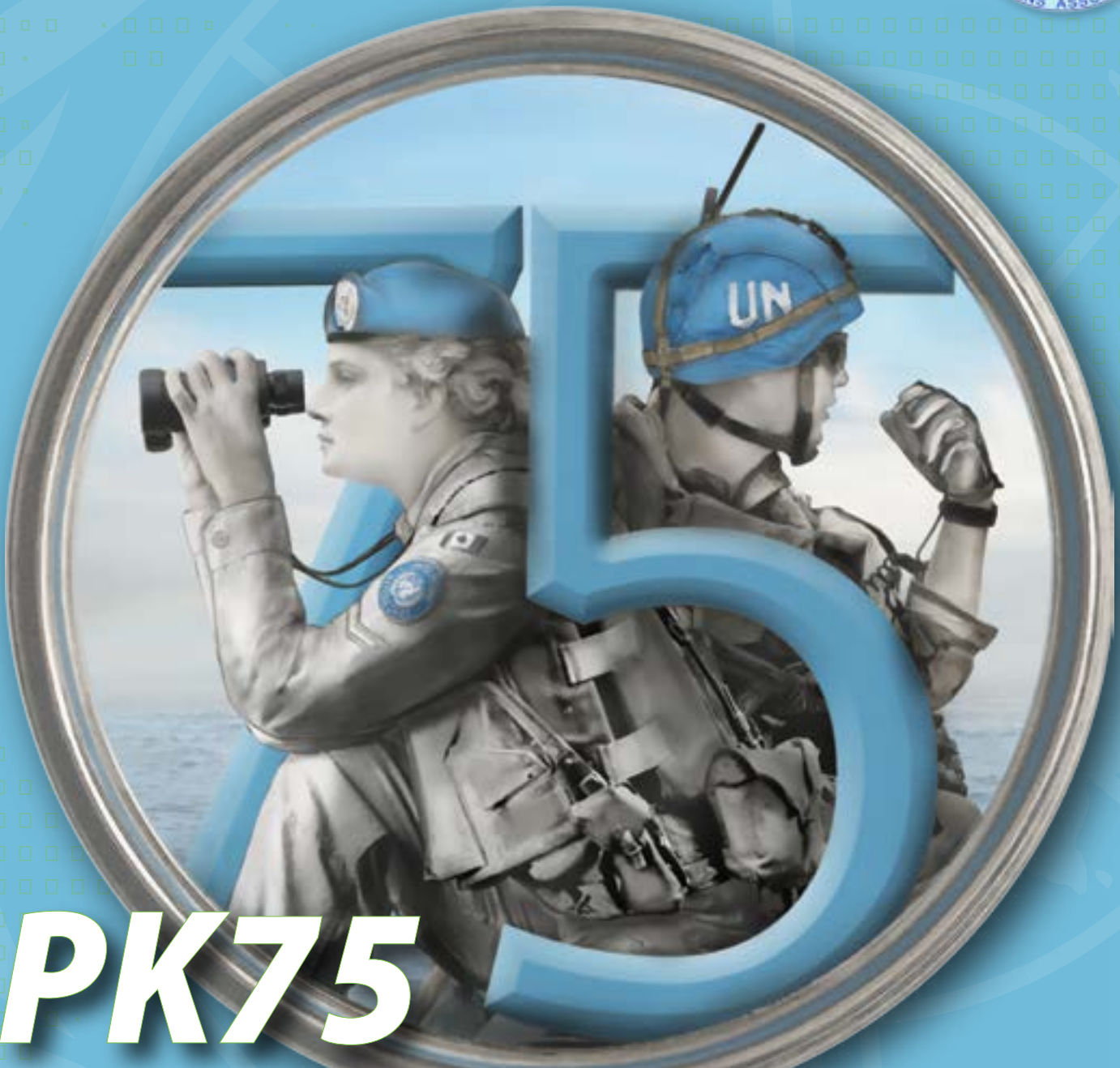


PK75

Stories of Canadian Peacekeepers
Histoires de Casques bleus canadiens

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Produced by the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association of Canada, May 2023
Produit par l'Association canadienne des vétérans pour le maintien de la paix du Canada, mai 2023

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Message from the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada

On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the first United Nations Peacekeeping Mission and the 35th Anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize for UN Peacekeepers

As commander-in-chief of Canada, I have a tremendous amount of respect for the Canadian military, police and civilians who choose to serve under the United Nations (UN) flag as peacekeepers.

This year, we are celebrating two significant milestones: the 75th anniversary of the first UN peacekeeping operation (UNTSO) and the 35th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize for UN Peacekeepers.

These two occasions are an opportunity for us to not only recognize the achievements and courage of more than 125,000 Canadians who have served in peacekeeping operations, but also pay tribute to the people who made the ultimate sacrifice in missions.

Their personal stories remind us of the commitment and dedication of peacekeepers, and of the heavy price they pay to safeguard peace, security and the rule of law around the world.

Lest we forget.

Mary Simon



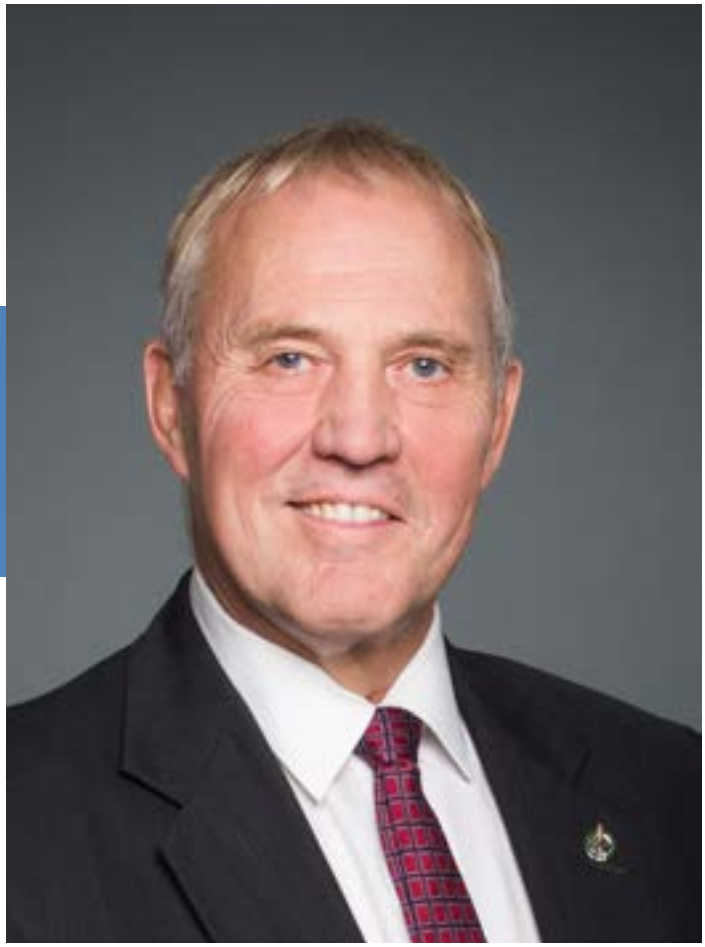
Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., O.Q., C.D., Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada
Photo credit: Sgt Johanie Maheu, Rideau Hall © OSGG-BSGG, 2021
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Canada

Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

Message from the Minister of National Defence

for the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association Publication: "PK75, Personal Stories of Canadians in Peacekeeping"



The year 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the first United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operation, a history in which Canada is deeply rooted. Since 1948, more than 125,000 Canadian Armed Forces members, 4,000 RCMP members, and numerous municipal and provincial police officers have served on numerous international peacekeeping missions in dozens of countries. Today, Canada continues to serve along UN-led multilateral forces such as MINUSMA, MONUSCO, UNFICYP, UNMISS and UNTSO, in addition to contributing $199 million for peacekeeping.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my deepest appreciation to all those who have served and continue to serve on missions of peace, contributing to the international affirmation of Canada's values through the honourable tradition of peacekeeping. It is also my honour and my duty to acknowledge the sacrifice of the 130 Canadians who have lost their lives on such missions. I commend the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association for sharing these inspirational stories of Canadians who have bravely served in the pursuit of peace across the globe.

Bill Blair

The Honourable Bill Blair, P.C., C.O.M., M.P.
Minister of National Defence
Photo credit: Uncredited

Canada

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Message from the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence

For the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association 2nd Edition publication: "PK75, Personal Stories of Canadians in Peacekeeping"

For decades, members of our Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP and other police services—many of them now new Veterans—served in conflict areas under the United Nations banner to help countries navigate the difficult path to peace.

From Lester B. Pearson's trailblazing work to help devise the peacekeeping mission that would bring the Suez Crisis to an end, to the groundbreaking Elsie Initiative and Vancouver Principles that Canada introduced at the 2017 UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial, our country's contributions to global peace efforts have been numerous.

More than 125,000 Canadian Armed Forces members and 4,000 officers from the RCMP and other police forces have served in international peacekeeping operations in dozens of countries.

Their stories are important and deserve widespread recognition.

Thank you to the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association for your dedication in compiling these personal reflections from our peacekeepers in this second edition of the PK75 publication.

Ginette Petitpas Taylor



The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, MP
Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence
Photo credit: Uncredited
Photo source: https://www.canada.ca/en/government/ministers/ginette-petitpas-taylor.html

Message from the Chief of the Defence Staff



Since 1948, more than 125,000 members of the Canadian Armed Forces have served with distinction and courage on peacekeeping missions in dozens of countries around the world, making valuable contributions that have enabled peace and stability.

I am honoured to count myself among them, having spent my first two operational deployments as a young officer wearing the blue beret alongside my Canadian flag. Indeed, I have experienced, firsthand, pivotal moments in the evolution of peacekeeping. For example, it was in September of 1993 when I realized, in the aftermath of the Battle of Medak Pocket, that our notion of peacekeeping had changed. Amid that bitter violence, considered by many at the time to be the largest scale action faced by Canadian troops since the Korean Conflict, we had to use force to ensure a broader, more lasting peace.

Nearly thirty years have passed since that battle, and as I contemplate that chapter in Canada's proud military history, against the backdrop of an even more dangerous and complex world, it is undeniable that peacekeeping is still evolving, and will continue to do so.

As we look back at the past 75 years — as we reflect on a legacy of incredible service and sacrifice in the name peace and stability — we must also think about the next 75 years and beyond. What will the peacekeeping operations of the future look like?

It is difficult to predict. But this much is clear: Military intervention is often required to achieve stability, and I am certain that, in the decades to come, peacekeepers from all over the world, deployed all around the world, will continue to play a vital role in preserving peace, protecting human rights, upholding the rule of law, and promoting the democratic values we all hold so dear. It is also clear to me that there will be Canadians among them, continuing to serve with that same courage and distinction.

I am grateful to the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association for its tremendous work in producing this anthology relating the personal experiences of Canadian peacekeepers, thus ensuring our stories are remembered for generations to come.

General Wayne Eyre

General W.D. EYRE, CMM, MSC, CD
Chief of the Defence Staff
Photo credit: Uncredited
Photo source: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/organizational-structure/chief-defence-staff/cds-bio.html

Message from the Commissioner Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Working for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has certainly changed the course of my life, offering me countless opportunities to learn new skills and grow in my career.

Peacekeeping in Kosovo taught me about the realities of life in a war-torn country and the importance of restoring democracy in the context of law enforcement. It also reinforced that when serving communities, the objectives are constant regardless of location. Whether I was serving in provinces across Canada or taking part in a peacekeeping mission abroad, the goal was still the same: to keep people safe. This starts with building understanding and trust, and recognizing that you're only one small part of a much bigger picture.

The RCMP partners with community services, police organizations, provincial and territorial governments, national Indigenous organizations, and many others. We're also part of a global community, co-operating with the United Nations and other allies to build a safer world, which in turn helps us enjoy a safer Canada. Peacekeepers are an essential part of our international efforts, and their work is recognized and appreciated all over the world.

Mike Duheme



Mike Duheme, COM
Commissioner of the RCMP
Photo credit: Uncredited
Photo source: https://rcmp.ca/en/corporate-information/senior-executive-committee#s3-1

Message from the National President Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association



The Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association (CPVA) was founded in 1991 to be a strong and leading advocate for all Canadian Veterans and our objectives include helping to educate young people and promoting public awareness of Canadian Peacekeeping activities. The year 2023 offers the ideal opportunity to advance those objectives by marking two significant peacekeeping milestones — the 75th anniversary of the first United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping operation (UNTSO), and the 35th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to UN Peacekeepers.

CPVA has therefore developed this Peacekeeping Anthology to celebrate Canada's historic contributions to world peace through its deployment of over 130,000 Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans to serve on multinational missions with the United Nations (UN), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and other peacekeeping organizations. The Anthology also provides a sobering reminder that Peacekeeping can be a dangerous undertaking, by commemorating the more than 130 Canadians who died while serving on such missions.

The concept of Peacekeeping has become deeply ingrained in the psyche of Canadian society. Although the world's multinational Peacekeeping efforts have had varying results, the professionalism, dedication, drive, and energy of Canadian Peacekeepers has never wavered. As a result, public support for our Peacekeepers has remained steadfast and true. We at CPVA wish to express our thanks by offering, through this Anthology, a unique perspective of our nation's Peacekeeping — through the eyes of individual Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans, whether they be Military, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, from other Police services, or Civilians.

We invite you to read the stories of those who brought light to the darkest of places, pushed hope and promise into the divide between combating forces, and aided the victims of conflict — all in the service of peace.

Donald MacPherson

Donald MacPherson, CD
Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association
Photo credit: D. MacPherson
Photo source: https://www.cpva.ca/Staff

United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

Message from the President and CEO United Nations Association in Canada

For 75 years, the United Nations has mobilized committed people from around the world to achieve extraordinary outcomes for peace. The cause of peace has not been without sacrifice—more than 4,100 peacekeepers have lost their lives under the flag of UN Peacekeeping.

Canada has long played an important role in UN Peacekeeping ranking first in the number of peacekeepers provided during the Cold War. Canada reflects the values of the UN—leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest first—in the initiatives it supports including partnerships for the advancement of gender equality and the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda through the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations. Canada also supports international implementation of the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers as a contribution to protecting the rights of the child in conflict zones.

I am honoured to provide some remarks for this anthology which celebrates and commemorates the lives and work of Canadians who, in the words of UN Peacekeeping are "people striving to achieve extraordinary outcomes in difficult and often dangerous conditions".

Ms. Jaime Webbe



Jaime Webb
United Nations Association in Canada
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Photo source: https://www.unac.org/staff

Foreword
Ambassador Bob Rae



In my role as Canada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, it is my distinct honour to congratulate you on the production of this Anthology. With 2023 marking the 75th anniversary of peacekeeping, and the 35th anniversary of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to United Nations Peacekeepers, I can think of no better time for its publication.

The experience of the United Nations with peacekeeping is absolutely foundational to what we do here at the UN, and why the UN was created. You will all be familiar with the famous words at the beginning of the charter, where it talks about saving future generations from the scourge of war, and that is exactly how UN peacekeeping was, in effect, invented and created.

The UN was created in order to stop aggression. It was created in order to stop war and to stop conflict, and it was also created to prevent war and conflict. I think these are critical steps that were taken, and they are perhaps more necessary today than ever before. This is a chance for me as your ambassador, to thank all of the men and women for the great courage and the great commitment that they have shown to making peacekeeping an integral part of Canada's defence policy and Canada's efforts at responding to world crises.

There are dozens of missions that have taken place since 1948. Canada has been involved in so many of them and played a creative role in urging the UN to take action. Canada has been an integral part of all of the work that the United Nations has been doing in this critical area. It is an honour for me to thank you for your work, sacrifice, efforts that you have made in person and that our country has made to prevent war and to end conflicts.

We still live in a dangerous world. We still live in a world where this kind of sacrifice, this kind of commitment and courage and effort is required, and we still live in a world where Canada stands for the right things, for bringing an end to conflict, for finding the peace, and then keeping the peace and maintaining the peace.

That is something that we can all be very, very proud of as Canadians. I commend the military, police, corrections and civilian personnel for your service to peacekeeping, past and present. I commend the association. I commend all of you for the tremendous work that you are doing. It is an important moment for all of us to recognize the significance of these dates, these anniversaries. They should be emblazoned in all of our hearts and our memories as we realize the incredible sacrifice, effort, work, courage and comradeship that has marked Canada's experience in peacekeeping.

Bob Rae is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in New York. He served as Premier of Ontario from 1990–1995, interim Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada from 2011–2013 and was appointed as Canada's Special Envoy to Myanmar (2017) and Canada's Special Envoy on Humanitarian and Refugee Issues (2020). From 1996 to 2008, he was a partner at Goodmans LLP and wrote government reports on the Air India bombing and higher education in Ontario. He also served as Chair of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Conservatory of Music, the Institute for Research in Public Policy and the Forum of Federations. Mr. Rae taught law and public policy at the University of Toronto and in the VicOne programme at Victoria College, and was a partner and senior counsel to the law firm OKT LLP from 2014 to 2020, specializing in indigenous law and constitutional issues. Bob Rae is a Privy Councillor, a Companion of the Order of Canada, and a member of the Order of Ontario.

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Canada and UN Peacekeeping: From Leader to Reluctant Spectator



Dr. Alastair D. Edgar

INTRODUCTION

Canada's engagement in UN-authorized peacekeeping missions since the creation of the international organization in 1945 has become part of a national mythology and constitutes a broadly-based and deep-seated belief, held at least amongst 'older generations' of Canadians, that peacekeeping is part of Canada's national identity as a global good citizen. However, since the turn of the millennium, that engagement has become more about our history than our present. This article reflects on the history, while noting the rapid decline since the latter half of the 1990s, and subsequent governments' rejection or reluctance to re-engage with peacekeeping.

FROM 'GOLDEN AGE' TO PIVOT AWAY FROM PEACEKEEPING

On 7 November 1956, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution A/RES/1001(ES-I) authorizing the Secretary-General to establish a peacekeeping force to send to the Suez Canal, where it would replace the Israeli, British and French military forces that had invaded Egypt in response to President Gamal Abdel Nasser's announcement in late July of the nationalization of the Suez Canal Company. The Force Commander of the newly established United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) would be a Canadian — Major-General E. L. M. ('Tommy') Burns, then serving as Chief of Staff of the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). Canada also agreed to provide a contingent of troops to UNEF for its supply and logistics functions.

The popular notion of Canada as a UN peacekeeper came to the fore with this so-called 'Suez crisis' and Secretary of State for External Affairs Lester B. Pearson's proposal to the UN Secretary-General and the member states of the General Assembly for the creation of a new, armed intermediary force - the beginning of UN peacekeeping. For his efforts in promoting the peaceful resolution of the Suez crisis, Pearson was awarded the 1957 Nobel Peace Prize.

In fact, Canada's history of engagement with UN peace missions, as the mention of Tommy Burns and UNTSO suggests, predated 1956 and Suez by almost a decade. The UN Truce Supervision Organization was established in May 1948, meaning that 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of UN peacekeeping. In addition to UNTSO, Canadian military personnel serving

as unarmed observers had been part of the UN Temporary Commission on Korea in 1947, and the UN Military Observer Group in India and Kashmir, established in 1949 — the latter marred by the death of Brigadier-General Harry Angle in a plane crash in the Himalayas, the highest-ranking Canadian soldier to be killed in a UN peace operation.

After 1956, and through the Cold War years into the early 1990s, Canada remained a steadfast troop contributor to UN peacekeeping operations. By the time the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to UN peacekeepers in 1988, Canada had provided approximately 80,000 out of the total of 800,000 'blue helmets' who had served in UN peacekeeping missions around the world. Canada thus provided 10 percent of all peacekeepers deployed during those decades, in diverse locations including Lebanon, Yemen, Palestine, Cyprus, Congo, Namibia, West New Guinea, India-Pakistan, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Iran-Iraq, and (in the early 1990s) in Central America, El Salvador, Cambodia, and on the Iraq-Kuwait border with UNIKOM following the 1990–1991 Gulf War.

The end of the Cold War saw rapid growth in the number of UN peacekeeping operations, with sixteen new missions being established during 1989–1993 — as many as had been authorized during the previous forty years. 1993 saw the peak (in numerical terms) of Canadian commitments, with 3,300 Canadian uniformed personnel engaged in United Nations operations. However, following several UN peacekeeping missions in the first half of the 1990s — in Somalia, Croatia and then Bosnia, and Rwanda — which ended with disasters, the scale and scope of UN peacekeeping shrank significantly. Canadian military contributions to UN peacekeeping followed suit, for domestic economic and political reasons as much as being in direct response to those disasters. By the end of the decade (and millennium), Canada's contribution to UN peacekeeping was limited to 250 uniformed personnel, with the majority — almost 200 — of these being logisticians serving with UNDOF, the observer mission in the Golan Heights. That commitment (called Op DANACA for the Canadian Forces) would be reduced to four, and then to two, Canadian uniformed personnel serving in staff positions by 2006.

More positively, Canada did provide the force commander for the UN Transitional Mission in Haiti in 1997, and for the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in 1999–2000. Canada also partnered with the Netherlands and several other countries in 1996 to establish the Standby High Readiness Brigade for UN Peace Operations (SHIRBRIG). In that latter context, Canada provided a Canadian Forces mechanized infantry company along with engineers and logisticians to the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) for a six-month rotation in 2000–2001, and DND also later provided a SHIRBRIG Brigade Commander who served as the Senior Military Advisor in the UN Advance Mission in Sudan (UNAMIS), and as Deputy Force Commander in the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), although the staffing support provided by Canada for this initiative remained small.

A pivot away from engagement in UN peacekeeping and towards NATO operations could be seen already in 1999, in Canada's support for — and leadership in — conducting the NATO-led (and without UN Security Council authorization) bombing campaign against Serbia during the Kosovo crisis; and subsequently in Canadian Forces participation in the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR), even though the latter took place under the auspices of a UN operation, UNMIK. Then, following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 against the United States, the Canadian Forces were committed increasingly to warfighting with its NATO allies in Afghanistan, rather than peacekeeping through the UN. Between 2001 and the withdrawal of Canadian Forces from combat operations in 2014, the war cost 165 Canadian military and civilian fatalities, approximately 2,000 wounded or otherwise physically injured, and left numerous other Canadian veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder — with more than 70 suicides amongst veterans subsequently reported as related to serving in Afghanistan — as well as costing between $10 billion and $18 billion.

Canada's rank as a contributor of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping fell to 70th out of 120 'troop contributing states' (TCCs). In 2011, Canada did contribute to the UN Security Council-authorized, U.S.- and NATO-led air and maritime operations against the Libyan regime of Moammar Gadhafi. Canadian CF-18s flew numerous combat sorties against Gadhafi's forces, and a Canadian frigate conducted maritime patrols enforcing an arms embargo.

CANADA AND PEACEKEEPING TODAY: HESITANT, LIMITED, AND UNCERTAIN

Rhetorical announcements in 2015 of Canada being 'back' as an active multilateralist raised expectations at home, and also internationally, that Canada might maintain its existing NATO commitments — with several hundred Canadian troops based in Ukraine and Latvia supporting those states against Russian aggression, and in Iraq assisting with training Iraqi government forces and conducting operations against ISIS — while providing additional resources to UN peacekeeping operations. In mid-2016 the new government announced that Canada would provide 'up to' 750 personnel (600 uniformed and 150 civilian) to UN peace operations, presumably in addition to existing personnel. In March 2018, the government announced Canada's commitment: an air task force deployment to provide tactical transport and medical evacuation support to the UN Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), consisting of the provision of eight helicopters and a total of 250 Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members for a one-year deployment.

As Walter Dorn informs in his regularly updated "*Tracking the Promises*" website report, as of June 2021 Canada had never deployed more than 300 of the "up to" 750 (or 862) uniformed personnel, and that higher figure included the 250 CAF personnel of the Mali mission as a one-time deployment. In fact, with that exception aside, the number of Canadian uniformed personnel who contributed to UN peacekeeping was at a historic record low. On a positive note, Canada contributes 2.7% of the UN peacekeeping budget — making it the 9th largest financial contributor to that budget — and consistently pays its UN assessed dues on time, in full, and without conditions. Overall, however, Dorn concludes that "the rhetoric remains lofty on paper and in speeches, but the Canadian government has yet to match its words with deeds."

East Timor 1999: Tragedy and Triumph. Experiences of a UN Electoral Officer.

A. Walter Dorn, Professor of Defence Studies, Royal Military College & Canadian Forces College

I was fortunate to serve as a UN electoral officer in East Timor in 1999, when that half-island was still "unborn" and in dispute. For twenty-four years, Indonesia had occupied it, after Portugal loosened its three-hundred-year colonial grip in 1974. Then, in May 1999, the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) was created to administer a referendum to allow the Timorese people to determine their future: whether to remain part of Indonesia (under an autonomy agreement) or become an independent nation. The referendum had to be organized within three months!



The heart-warming banner that greeted us at the airport on arrival in Dili. If only things were so loving and simple! Standing below the banner is my friend and college Gongloe from Liberia.

The World University Services Canada (WUSC) put forward my name and sent my resumé to UN Volunteers, a UN programme based in Bonn, Germany, that was to provide electoral officers. After the rapid selection process, I flew to Australia for a few days of pre-deployment training at the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) base in Darwin, which is on the other side of the Timor Sea (Timor Gap). In "Tin City" the incoming civilian peacekeepers received several days of lectures, including from the UNAMET leadership, on the background of the mission and our expected tasks. We were given blue UN vests to wear during our official duties.

When I arrived at the Dili Airport, I was delighted to see a heart-warming banner for those arriving: "WELCOME. If you love East Timorese, LOVE BOTH the pro-integration and the pro-independence." Then we were sent to our respective regions aboard Puma helicopters. I was deployed to the Suai region that borders West Timor, which had been part of Indonesia since that country's independence from The Netherlands.

We were tasked to register the East Timorese people — and not Indonesian settlers — for the referendum or "popular consultation," as the Indonesian authorities insisted it be called, given that the Indonesian parliament reserved the right to make the final decision. We were also tasked to do voter education, teaching people who had never voted in secret before what it meant to cast a ballot. We also promised the Timorese that no matter what the result of the referendum, the United Nations will not leave East Timor.

Visiting an impoverished village near Suai, I spoke with the elders. When I asked how the crop was going that year, the chief told me that they had not planted seeds that year. I was shocked because the people were subsistence farmers. Without a crop, they would starve. But he explained that if they planted, the militiamen would come and take the crop by force, so they decided not to plant.

In another town called Zumalai, I saw the church door was boarded up. My translator explained that the local priest, Padre Francisco, had been threatened by the local militia, that if he preached there anymore, he would be killed. So, he took refuge in the church complex at the regional capital Suai.



In the Suai Church complex, I am conducting voter education, telling about 500 Timorese how the popular consultation (referendum) will be conducted.

After I chose the Zumalai Catholic School as a registration and polling site, the same local militia leaders threatened me. They said "they could no longer guarantee my security and that of my team." I was called a "spy." (For whom, they did not say, but it was a strong, punishable accusation.) I was particularly worried for the locals who were on my team. Fortunately, a few days later, one of the mission's military advisers (all unarmed) pressured the Indonesian military to instruct the militia leaders to withdraw the threat. I was much relieved when the militia leaders said it had been a "mistake." I was not a spy after all!

The mission decided, for my safety, to assign me to a new district and I was given the Suai church complex. To get to know the locals better, and for my own spiritual needs, I decided to go to a Catholic mass. The Ave Maria church was full to the brim. After the mass, Padre Francisco invited me to conduct a voter education session. So, I told the crowd of some 500 people, that no one, especially the Indonesian authorities, would find out how they voted, or how their community voted. Only the final vote for all of Timor would be announced.



Voter education extended to remote villages, like the one here where I and another electoral officer, who was from Zambia, interact with the village leaders on the referendum process.

The vote was held on 30 August 1999, and it went much better than I had feared. Having finished the registration work, I was then back in New York City, watching from UN headquarters. The results were announced in New York City and Dili (Timor's capital) on September 6. The people had courageously rejected integration and voted 78.5% for independence.

Within hours, the Indonesian forces and their militia started their revenge attacks. They burned some 90% of the buildings in the capital. My translator's mother and family were forced at gunpoint to vacate her home and board a ship to West Timor. She felt compelled to kiss the militia leaders' feet to get permission to bring a bag of rice to feed her family!

In Suai, things were even worse. The Indonesian-led militia stormed the Suai Church complex and slaughtered about 100 of the people who had taken refuge there. Padre Francisco was the first to be shot, as he pleaded for the safety of the people inside the church. The bodies of the dead were put on trucks and dumped in a swamp in West Timor, only to be discovered much later.

Fortunately, Australia was ready for the worst-case scenario that was unfolding. The international community, especially U.S. President Bill Clinton, put heavy pressure on Indonesia, including by threatening the withdrawal of IMF bank loans, and insisting that the Australian-led International Force East Timor (INTERFET) be accepted. It entered unopposed into Timor. The reign of terror ended less than two weeks after it started and only a thousand lives were lost, including those slaughtered in the Suai Church complex. Sadly, among the dead was a member of my electoral team, Frederico, who had taken refuge at the church after militiamen saw him informing me of their attempts to falsely register Indonesians.

Shortly after the reign of terror started on 6 September 1999, the UN evacuated all its personnel (except a dozen uniformed personnel holed up in the Australian consulate in Dili). Back in North America, I could not help but feel that I had betrayed the people in Suai who were massacred without UN protection. In my anguish, I wrote a poem, tribute of a Timor Lover, to express my appreciation and empathy for the brave Timorese. (Refer to poem on next page.)

Canada contributed forces to INTERFET, and they were placed in Zumalai, where I had been serving and where Padre Francisco had been preaching before the militia first threatened his life. The Canadian peacekeepers helped bring the militia under control and end the threats and massacres.

On October 25, the UN Security Council created a new mission UNTAET (UN Transitional Administration in East Timor) to govern the territory during a period of transition to independence. Thus, the United Nations actually held executive power in the territory for two years. The transitional administration helped develop the war-ravaged economy, build a new police force, and organized parliamentary and presidential elections.



When traveling to remote villages, Indonesia provided an armed escort. The Indonesian escort is photographed behind my team, which consisted of my fellow electoral officer, a UN police (UNPOL) officer from Ireland, our translator and driver (kneeling).

When I was leaving Timor in August 1999, I promised the local staff in my electoral team that I would return to East Timor. In 2001, I was able to keep my promise, though only as a tourist. It was such a relief to come off the airplane in Dili and see benevolent UN guards in blue uniforms instead of Indonesian soldier-occupiers.

This return was very helpful for my personal psyche. Instead of keeping images in my mind of the killings on the streets and at the church, I could now watch children playing in the streets and people still enjoying worship. I also took a photo of a large truck that had on its license plate the words "Love

Peace." Having known war, these people had learned to truly appreciate peace, something we take so much for granted in Canada and North America. From this experience, I emphasize to others who deployed to war zones "the importance of going back" in peacetime. I think the visit helped me avoid Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

During this return visit, I could see a new nation arising out of a very traumatic birth. I felt some pride that I had helped bring into existence the 191st member of the United Nations, and I was so happy when the Timorese flag — previously banned in Timor by Indonesian authorities as a resistance flag — was now flying alongside the flags of the other nations of the world in front of the UN headquarters on 1st Avenue in New York City.

In hindsight, I see that my experience had the components of a Greek tragedy: starting with great promise, suffering great tragedy, and ending with catharsis and a new beginning. This was true for me as a civilian peacekeeper who gained so much from the experience. But it was also true of the international community. It had proven its commitment during the Timor test. Timor was saved and could now contribute to the international community. The new Timor Leste could even send its own peacekeepers — military, police, and civilians — to other war-torn areas of the world to help those peoples find the peace that the Timorese had finally found.

Tribute of a Timor Lover

O Timor, how great has been your suffering!
How many sons and daughters you have lost in your struggle!
How many fruits you have been denied through the centuries!
Still, the fairest fruit is soon to be yours: independence.
You have paid the price with the sweat of your brow,
with the blood of your people,
under the whip of foreign taskmasters.
Struggle, cry and work — all these you did.
Finally, the world heard your cry and recognized your struggle.

We, the United Nations, came to help you determine your future.
We said: "Your choice, your vote, your future. We are with you."
But we were wrong. We allowed ourselves to believe that your
oppressor would become your protector.
We led you to the pasture but forgot that it was the location of a slaughterhouse.
It WAS your vote. It WAS your choice, but it WAS NOT your
future all together.
We stood by and then left you as the forces of darkness and prejudice
enveloped your land.
Now we return to count the dead and to help the living.
Still, many of your people remain in the jaws of terror, in another
land under the control of another power. May they return
quickly to be embraced by you, O Timor.

Through the darkest hours, you have kept the flame of hope alive in your heart.
You dared against fate and foreign oppression to believe in your future.
Now from the spirits of your fallen and the hearts of your living will
surely spring the goal supreme: freedom.

Those of your admirers who love your natural beauty, cherish your humility,
will pledge to do what we can to make your independence dream a reality,
your freedom a celebration and your security a matter of our own.
May God give us the strength never to fail you again!
Viva Timor Leste!

A. Walter Dorn, 20 September 1999



Mine Awareness Training Area Named for Sergeant Ivan Stark

Colonel Ken Holmes (Retired)

For the seventh year in a row, Landmine Monitor 2022 reports a high number of casualties caused by landmines worldwide — including improvised mines and explosive remnants of war. The Monitor recorded 5,544 casualties in 2021.

Over the years of United Nations landmine clearing, Canada has contributed significantly to missions that involved landmine clearance and landmine awareness training. We were also one of the leaders in an initiative that led to the signing of the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. Known informally as the Ottawa Treaty, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, or often simply the Mine Ban Treaty, it is a legally binding, international agreement that bans the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of antipersonnel mines and places obligations on countries to clear affected areas, assist victims, and destroy stockpiles.

Canada's Centre of Excellence for peace support operations is the Peace Support Training Center in Kingston, ON. Students include foreign military participants, as well as Canadians from the military, and civilians on an international standby list. Here, students are instructed in traditional peacekeeping skills, such as observing and reporting, manning observation posts, patrolling, and negotiating/mediating. They are also given skills in landmine awareness, first aid, and ethics. The centre's Mine Awareness Training Area was dedicated on 26 May 2000 to Royal Canadian Engineer Sergeant Ivan Stark, The first Canadian soldier landmine fatality since the end of WW II.





Ivan Lethbridge Stark was born on 9 April 1928 in Ocean Falls, BC. During World War II, he joined the Canadian Army in London, ON in February of 1945. He served in Canada and, although he had volunteered for the Pacific Theatre, the war ended before he could be deployed. Private Ian Stark was honorably discharged on 19 October 1945 in London, ON. For his wartime service, he received the Canadian Volunteer Medal and the 1939–45 Medal. Ivan had left school at the age of 15 with only a Grade VIII education and, in trying to find employment after the war, completed a vocational course in drafting. During this

time, he met his wife, Marie Yvette, and they were married on 14 August 1946.

In January 1952, Ivan Stark decided to return to military life, and he enlisted with the Royal Canadian Engineers. He became a Bricklayer in the 57th Canadian Independent Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers (RCE), but was transferred to the 23rd Field Squadron RCE by the end of the month. Rising through the junior ranks, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant in February 1957.

Later that year, Sergeant Stark was assigned to the Canadian contingent of the United Nations Emergency Force and embarked for Egypt on 20 September 1957. Only seven days later he was killed when the jeep he was in struck an anti-tank mine.

On that day, Sergeant Taylor was preparing to transfer his responsibilities to Sergeant Stark and was showing Sergeant Stark the location of known minefields in the area. Sergeant Taylor was driving the jeep and Stark was in the passenger seat when the jeep hit a mine along the edge of the road, which was known to be cleared. Sergeant Stark was killed instantly. Although Sergeant Taylor was thrown from the jeep with few physical injuries; the blast knocked him unconscious. Sergeant Stark was the first Canadian soldier killed by a landmine since the end of World War II. His body lies in the Moascar Military Cemetery in Ismailia, Egypt. The Sergeant Ivan Stark Mine Awareness Training Area in Kingston, ON was dedicated in his name on 26 May 2000. Among many others who attended the ceremony was his widow, Mrs. Yvette Stark, and his siblings. Retired Master Warrant Officer Bob Taylor, the driver of the jeep in which Sergeant Stark was killed, was also in attendance.





The Canadian Military Engineers presented Mrs. Stark with a framed portrait of the cairn erected in memory of her husband, Sergeant Ivan Lethbridge Stark.

Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC), Kingston

BACKGROUND

Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC) is a Joint, Inter-agency, and Multinational training establishment located in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. PSTC supports the intellectual development and training of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members from Other Government Departments, and international audiences. PSTC's activities fall into two overall lines of operation:

- Delivering training; and,
- Fulfilling Centre of Excellence responsibilities.

With training capabilities varying from civil-military cooperation, headquarters and military observation, and psychological operations, the centre is fully oriented towards training for operational deployements. As part of its effort to keep pace with the contemporary operating environment, PSTC stays connected with deployed personnel to obtain first-hand feedback from operational settings. Moreover, it consults with organizations that identify shortcomings in peacekeeping practices and provide evidenced-based recommendations for strategic improvements. PSTC also maintains active relationships with other international training establishments in the fields of Peace Support Operations, Civil-Military Cooperation, and Information Operations. By maintaining currency and relevance, PSTC maintains a formidable intellectual base and delivers the highest quality of training.

PSTC is also engaged in the development of capacity building training, such as security force assistance and provincial reconstruction teams. These are designed to strengthen the military contribution to a comprehensive approach that sees a whole-of-government team protecting national interests.

HISTORY

PSTC was set up in July 1996 and was formally established as a unit in December 2000. The original role of PSTC was to deliver pre-deployment training for CAF personnel and others selected for Peace Support Operations and to provide Peace Support Operations training assistance to Canadian and foreign organizations.

In 2004, PSTC was assigned the Centre of Excellence and Individual training responsibilities for:

- Information Operations;
- Civil-Military Cooperation; and
- Accredited United Nations (UN) Military Observer Course.

The majority of personnel who receive training at PSTC are CAF personnel preparing to deploy on operations. This includes personnel on the UNMO Course who deploy on UN missions to Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. PSTC trainees have also deployed as staff officers and technical advisors to South Sudan (UNMISS), Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), and Mali (MINUSMA). Over the years, the trainee pool has evolved to include a greater percentage of students who are civilians from Other Government Departments. With a staff of 60 personnel, PSTC has come a long way from its humble beginnings. Its annual throughput of students is approximately 1 000 people and it continues to develop its capabilities to prepare personnel for any future operations.

The International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres

By Col David Lightburn (Retired)

INTRODUCTION

The International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centers (IAPTC) is a worldwide organization that meets once a year in a different host country. Today it is highly valued by the UN and by many participating countries and organizations. Membership is open to any institution involved in the education and training of military, police, or a wide range of civilians, in order to prepare them for peace or stability operations. It is also open to individuals with an official interest or involvement in such operations. The Association is a voluntary and informal organization with no membership costs — participants in the annual conference pay their own expenses each year.



The IAPTC is a Canadian initiative. In 1995 the founding President of Canada's Pearson Peacekeeping Centre (PPC) developed an idea to bring together a number of peacekeeping training centers and share expertise and, potentially, programs and instructors. PPC at the time already held a wider understanding of peacekeeping — a so-called 'peacekeeping umbrella'. This umbrella concept meant that peacekeeping was far more than traditional missions and included, in parallel with security aspects, humanitarian, development, refugee, law and order, and other matters contributing to stability and peace in a country/region. As such it involved police, other law and order officials, and a very diverse range of civilian organizations and officials, in addition to the traditional military.

The first annual gathering of volunteer Centres from around the world took place in Cornwallis, NS in July 1995 and included 22 officials from 14 countries. Canada was represented by the PPC president and senior military and civilian staff, as well as the RCMP. In early 1995, the PPC President tried in vain to interest the UN in participating and contributing to such a conference. In order to gain some international interest, recognition, and credibility, he approached me while I was still a member of NATO's international staff. He asked me to bring NATO's training concept to the Cornwallis meeting, as well as the training aspects of NATO's relatively new "Partnership-for-Peace Program" (PfP). I was able to do so, in part as an opportunity to promote PfP, but also to present a NATO understanding of new training challenges based on early experiences in Bosnia.

The annual conference now attracts more than 200 participants from some 50 plus countries and over 100 organizations. Its primary objectives are education and training for peace operations, and the sharing of personal experiences (rather than government policies). Through planned and informal discussions amongst participants, a further objective is for people from the various contributing functions to better understand each other's roles, concepts, characteristics, timelines, strengths, and limitations.

EARLY CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENT

Development of the IAPTC has gone through a number of phases, starting with challenges to stay alive in the late nineties. Following annual conferences hosted in 1996–1998 in Italy, Malta and Norway, there was no volunteer host for 1999, so PPC hosted again. South Africa and Japan hosted in 2000 and 2001, but participation remained low — below 75 attendees. During these first seven years, PPC managed the programs through the President and a one-person Secretariat. I became that Secretariat in late 2000 and continued through to 2004. The annual conferences in Argentina in 2002 and in Germany in 2003, saw a steady rise in participation, to over 100 at a police academy in Germany. It was also established that an organization hosting the annual conference would assume the role of Association Presidency the following year and engage in the detailed planning of the annual conference program.

By accident more than design, initially it was realized that the hosting between 2000 and 2004 actually changed continents

— Africa, Asia, Americas, then Europe. Thus, starting in Ghana in 2005, it was decided to make that a hosting policy, in the main to make it easier (and less costly) for more local Centres and officials to participate. Over the period 2005 until 2019, it became an honour to host and countries/organizations competed for the privilege. The years 2020 and 2021 had only virtual conferences due to the Covid pandemic, but in 2022 Bangladesh, for the third time, offered to host. Past hosts have included the aforementioned Canada (twice), Italy, Norway, Japan, Bangladesh (3 times), Germany and Argentina, as well as India, Chile, Sweden, Nigeria, Australia, USA, Finland, Indonesia, Brazil, Bosnia, Egypt, New Zealand and Peru. In 2023, the host will be Kenya.

The actual annual conference is not a traditional subject-oriented meeting of experts. Rather it seeks to create dialogue amongst the participants through short presentations and discussions with experts, small multi-functional group discussions, as well as lunch and dinner, and post-dinner discussions and exchanges. The program platform has a broad theme related to peacekeeping education and training. In the early days, participants used to simply exchange paper copies of their institution's programs but, because of a combined Canadian initiative (an RCMP Superintendent and I), we made a half-day available in the program for all participants to share their programs, pedagogical concepts, training technologies, and other information in a large separate or adjoining location.

MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

Today, the affairs of the IAPTC are managed by an Executive Committee comprising some 11 individuals: the President (past host), the Host, the past Presidency, the Host designate, the Secretariat, four expert functional chairs (military, police, civilian and pedagogical), the UN, the Chair of the Consolidation and Development group, and a senior advisor (honorary member — Lightburn). The four-person Presidency group normally provides for representation from the four regions, as do the four functional chairs. In addition to regional balance, the Committee strives for both gender and experience balance. It is important to note that each post and associated costs, with the exception of the senior advisor, are the responsibility of an organization and not any individual. My costs were all paid initially by PPC and, for 11 years (2005–2016), by Sweden. Canada declined to support and, for two years (2017–2018), I was unable to contribute. At one point, in 2015, I was actually asked to draft three or four paragraphs on Swedish support to IAPTC, including covering my costs to contribute each year, for the peacekeeping part of their proposal to be a Security Council member in 2017. In addition to Swedish recognition, I was also proud to be specially honored by Australia, in 2010, for 15 years of service to IAPTC and then again in Peru at the 25th conference for 25 years of service.

The key Secretariat role has, since 2017, been held by Egypt's 'Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding' (CCCPA). For the first ten years, the Secretariat was based in Canada's PPC, and for the next eleven years by India's Centre for UN Peacekeeping. Membership in the IAPTC is voluntary and comprises all participants in the current annual conference, plus those attending the past two conferences. The Secretariat maintains the membership list.

In 1999, PPC developed a set of policies for governing the IAPTC — the 'Articles of Association'. These have been amended three times and remain open for adjustments by the membership during the annual conference, as required.

UN support for IAPTC has grown from zero, to providing a speaker or two, to associate membership on the Executive Committee, to full key membership. For UN officials, IAPTC is now 'one-stop shopping' and according to many "if it didn't exist it would have to be created".

STRENGTHENING THE IAPTC CONCEPT THROUGH REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The networking opportunities and the valuable sharing of information in the field of education and training for peace operations in the IAPTC, that were so obvious and effective over the first six or seven years of its existence, led some ten institutions in Africa to build on their IAPTC success by generating even closer links in forming their own 'chapter' of the Association. In 2003/04 a regional chapter of the IAPTC was born — the African Peace Support Trainers Association, or APSTA. Today, APSTA has grown to 19 members and, like the IAPTC, has an annual conference.

In December 2007, seven countries in Latin America and the Caribbean also formed a regional chapter of the IAPTC, the Latin American Association of Peacekeeping Operations Training Centres ALCOPAZ, although different in nature from its African counterpart. ALCOPAZ now has nine centers, as well as observers from Canada, the USA, France, and Russia. Later, in 2010, following a most successful IAPTC in Australia, the Association of Asia-Pacific Peace Operations Training Centres, or AAPTC was founded. It has some 15 members. Finally, in 2013, I had the privilege of being asked by German police and military authorities to draft a concept for a European association of peace operations training centres (EAPTC). I was able to take the best characteristics of the IAPTC and the three existing regional associations and draft not only a concept, but also the objectives and a proposed set of Articles of Association. The EAPTC was born at the Federal Police Academy in Lubeck Germany in 2013.

Each of these regional groupings, while adopting some of the structure and concept of the IAPTC itself, is different in several ways. Some have a Presidency, some have Articles of Association, there are varying forms of a Secretariat, objectives have some commonalities but also differences, and the hosting and annual conferences also have dissimilarities.

The modest cooperation that began with some 14 countries (and NATO) in 1995, at a former military base on the shores of the Annapolis Basin in Nova Scotia, Canada, has now transformed so that today the cooperation in the important field of education and training for peace operations reaches all corners of the world.

Canadian Missions in Haiti

Dr. Magali Deleuze

Canadian interest in Haiti is not new. After the Second World War, French-speaking Canadians became interested in this small Caribbean island that shares its territory to the east with the Dominican Republic. Indeed, a long dictatorship from 1957 to 1986 forced many Haitians to go into exile and to choose Canada, and in particular Québec, as a place to settle. As Haitians speak Creole and French, Canada was an attractive destination for them. Today, more than 160,000 Canadians are of Haitian origin.

Canada was quick to respond when the UN sent its first peacekeeping missions to help the young Haitian democracy, which was struggling with many problems after years of dictatorship: corruption, poverty, and crime. In 1989, for the first time, Canada authorised 426 Squadron to send several large transport aircraft (Hercules) to bring supplies to Port-au-Prince. This was a humanitarian operation that would be followed by other Canadian involvement from 1990 to 2017. A dozen Canadian peacekeepers were sent as members of the Haitian election observation group (ONUVEH) in 1990; this was Operation Héritage (each Canadian military operation bears a specific name). In 1993, the situation in Haiti worsened and a coup d'état threatened the entire population. The UN decided to send the first peacekeeping mission to Haiti: UNMIH (United Nations Mission in Haiti) from 1993 to 1996. The mission's first goal was to help the country modernise its army and police. Nearly 500 Canadian peacekeepers, civilian police, and military engineers were sent for Operation Cauldron. The operation was halted when armed civilians refused to allow the peacekeepers and UN ships into Port-au-Prince. The mission was dangerous, and the Canadians participated in a new temporary international force set up by the UN to impose peace and the presence of peacekeepers in Haiti (Operation Forward Action). By 1995, the situation had stabilized and UNMIH was able to resume its original work. An additional 500 Canadian peacekeepers were sent to Haiti to help rebuild the country (units and training for the Canadian air command). Operation Pivot provided important logistical support for the mission. Encouraged by the results of the mission, Canada sent 750 new peacekeepers in 1996 (Operation Standard). The participation of infantry, military police and intelligence personnel, engineers and even helicopters was a major effort for Canada. Canada's role was recognised with the appointment of Neil Pouliot (of the RCMP) as head of the mission's police force and Brigadier-General Pierre Daigle as the last Commander of UNAMAH and the subsequent one-year UNSMIH (United Nations Support Mission in Haiti).



This photo, taken in 2013, shows Corporal Marc-Daniel Benoit (left) and Sergeant David Lapalme (right) of the 2nd Battalion, Royal 22e Régiment, distributing supplies to children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Source: https://www.museedelaguerre.ca/apprendre/operation-hamlet/

For four years, the supervision, training, and instruction of the Haitian police became the main tasks of the Canadian peacekeepers. Following this, in July 1997, the UN transformed UNSMIH into a transitional mission because the situation had to be stabilised and the professionalization of the Haitian police force had to be accelerated in the face of the criminality still present in Haiti. The UNTMIH (United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti) marked a turning point for Canadian aid: 230 civilian police officers (from the RCMP) were sent to Haiti, and 1200 Canadian peacekeepers accompanied them. The Canadian contingent was the largest in the mission and once again, the

commander was a Canadian: Brigadier-General Robin Gagnon. From 1997 to 2000, it was within the framework of a police mission, the MIPONUH (United Nations Civilian Police Mission), that 300 Canadian police officers continued their work, supported by the Canadian army's Operation Compliment (with military vehicles, instructors, etc.).

The Canadian peacekeepers had just spent 10 years on the ground helping Haiti fight crime, training the police, and supporting the suffering Haitian population. In 2004, the government was overthrown, the President went into exile, and the violence led the UN to agree to send a major stabilization mission: MINUSTAH (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti) until 2017. Initially, 500 Canadians participated in the interim emergency force sent a few months before the start of the mission to restore security and stability in Haiti (Operation Halo). They did not wear the blue helmet or beret because it was not a peacekeeping operation. However, in June 2004, they became blue helmets when they participated in MINUSTAH. The Canadian participation (Operation Hamlet) was important. Nearly 1,400 Canadian peacekeepers, RCMP, Québec, and French-speaking municipal police forces made a difference in the mission. Canadian troops from Operation Hamlet were also deployed and working to secure and stabilise various cities in Haiti. Although the situation remained dangerous and difficult, five years after the start of the mission, the Haitian police could count on 9,000 trained Haitian police officers, thanks to MINUSTAH (compared to 2,400 in 2004). Public security had improved, and kidnappings and murders decreased. Unfortunately, just as the work of the peacekeepers was beginning to show results, a terrible earthquake struck Haiti in January 2010. More than 230,000 people died, 300,000 were injured, cities were destroyed, and in the capital city of Port-au-Prince, three million people were affected out of four million inhabitants. The MINUSTAH headquarters was destroyed and a member of the RCMP; the acting commissioner of MINUSTAH operations, Superintendent Doug Coates, lost his life as did Sergeant Mark Gallagher, along with 25 international peacekeepers.



Canadian and Argentinean peacekeepers patrol in Les Gonaïves, Haiti. (Courtesy of Department of National Defence/ Veterans Affairs Canada) Source: https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/fr/article/casque-bleus-canadiens-en-haiti

The mission was transformed into an emergency and humanitarian aid mission. Canada once again responded and launched Operation Hestia. More than 2,000 Canadian troops were mobilised to help the Haitian government, develop medical services, and provide engineering and security support. This was a joint task force, so our soldiers were not peacekeepers on this mission. MINUSTAH resumed in the spring of 2010, with Canadian police still very much involved. The environment became difficult, and the Canadian peacekeepers worked from 2013 with the Brazilian battalion. They had to patrol the hot spots, ensure crime control, and restore the confidence of the Haitian population, which was shocked by the sexual violence by some members of MINUSTAH and the spread of cholera by one of the MINUSTAH contingents. The knowledge of French, particularly by the 5th Mechanised Brigade of Valcartier and the Royal 22nd Regiment, is an asset for Canadian peacekeepers in this environment, one that is improving but still dangerous and criminalised. Making a difference is difficult. Yet, democratic elections took place in Haiti in 2017, the Haitian police have acquired better expertise, partly due to Canadian police officers, beginning in 2014–2015, providing training on sexual and gender-based violence and creating specific programmes with the Haitian police. After 13 years of effort, the UN closed MINUSTAH and decided to maintain a mission focused on improving Haitian justice, one of the weak points of local institutions. MINUJUSTH (United Nations Mission for Justice in Haiti) includes 25 Canadians working among the 1,725 international police officers to improve human rights and the judicial and penitentiary system. In 2019, as the political situation deteriorated and part of the Haitian population demanded the departure of the UN peacekeepers, the UN withdrew, leaving only a small political office in place (UNIHRO : United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti) in which Canadian police officers are still involved. The record of peacekeeping missions in Haiti is very mixed, but Canadian expertise and the desire to help and participate, one piece at a time, with the Haitian population in the reconstruction of their country, are constant values of the men and women who have served for over 30 years in Haiti.

Ontario Provincial Police

Inspector Bob Walli

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has been responsible for policing in the Province of Ontario since 1909 and is the second largest police service in Canada. It currently has over 5,800 uniformed officers supported by 2,600 civilian employees and approximately 600 Auxiliary members. Together they provide policing in 329 municipalities, spanning more than 1 million square kilometres, including over 130,000 kilometres of roadways and 99,000 square kilometers of trails and waterways.

The involvement of Canadian police officers in international missions goes back to 1989, starting with the RCMP. The current Canadian Policing Arrangement is a partnership between Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Public Safety Canada, and the RCMP. These partners manage the program that deploys its own members as well as various other police partners from across Canada. The OPP joined the program in 1995 and saw its first officers deployed on the ground in Haiti in 1996. Since that time, over 100 members of the OPP have deployed to 17 separate theatres of operation around the world including Bosnia, Palestine, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Cambodia, Ukraine and the criminal courts in the Hague. OPP officers have served in a variety of roles including investigations, community policing advisors, leadership mentoring and training. The international deployments include working with the United Nations, European Union and some direct bi-lateral arrangements between Canada and host nations. Some deployments are armed while others are not.



When the OPP first began deployments, the duration was six months, which later turned into nine months. Since 2010, the typical deployment duration is one year plus pre-deployment training and post-deployment leave. The one-year term allows members to build the trust and relationships that are key to success. Typically, an OPP officer will have seven or more years of policing experience and participate in a selection process that could take months or years from application to deployment. The length of the process often depends upon demands and on matching the officer's skill set with those desired for a particular mission. Factors taken into account could include rank, language(s) spoken, previous experience and specific skills such as criminal investigations, instructor qualifications or forensic identification. Once selected, the members go through physical fitness, psychological and medical evaluations accompanied by varying vaccinations before being cleared by the RCMP to attend pre-deployment training where they meet the other Canadian officers with whom they will deploy.

Similar to any job away from home, life goes on. Officers may have to make arrangements for everything from home maintenance to pet care. They put in place communication plans so they can stay in regular contact with family and friends, far easier in the days of cell phones and internet compared to the original deployments which relied on access to land line telephones. There are regular trips home or opportunities to meet with family in other locations.

These officers return after a year having worked with police officers from other services in Canada and around the world while helping to bring a civilian policing perspective to rule of law in the host nation. They provide their policing expertise delivered with a Canadian smile often working in challenging

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Canadian Police Peacekeeping and Peace Operations Program

Ms. Sabrina Cornwall

When people think of peacekeepers, they almost always think of the military. But many are not aware that Canada also deploys police officers around the world.

Canada deploys personnel to peace and stabilization missions through the Canadian Police Arrangement (CPA). That is a partnership between the RCMP, Public Safety Canada and Global Affairs Canada. The goal of the CPA is to support the Government of Canada's commitment to building a more secure world.

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

Since 1989, more than 4,000 Canadian police officers have participated in over 60 peacekeeping operations abroad. They have established an excellent reputation through their expertise, leadership, professionalism and dedication.

Canadian police officers work closely with host nations and international partners. They help rebuild and strengthen police services and related public institutions in nations experiencing conflict or instability.

These police officers come not only from the RCMP, but from partner police agencies across the country. In fact, approximately 60% of deployed police officers are from partner agencies. There are currently 33 partners from provincial, regional, municipal and Indigenous police agencies across Canada.

Having professional, well-trained and well-equipped police services is key to:

- making people and communities feel more secure;
- building trust in government;
- fostering stability; and
- enhancing the rule of law in fragile and conflict-affected states.



DOMESTIC BENEFITS

Serving in a mission can be the experience of a lifetime. It's an exciting opportunity to work abroad in support of peace and security. Police officers can make a tangible difference for people who live in conflict-affected nations. It can also be a time of great personal and professional growth.

Participating in a mission serves as accelerated training. The experience gained during a one-year deployment is equal to approximately two to three years of working at the home agency. Responsibilities are generally at a higher level than at home.

And it's not just the individual who benefits from this growth. Police agencies have a unique opportunity to represent Canada on the international stage. They provide developmental opportunities to their members. The communities they serve get back police officers with a more global perspective. They have an improved ability to engage with people from different cultures.

WOMEN IN PEACE OPERATIONS

Deployed Canadian police officers play a critical role in implementing Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. They contribute to the development of professional and effective law enforcement institutions, which are responsible for supporting the safety of local populations. These institutions are entrusted to protect the rights of women, girls, and marginalised communities, and protect civilians from violence, including sexual violence.

Increasing the meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping operations is not only the right thing to do, but its is also the smart thing to do.

The CPA partners recognize the importance of ensuring women work in all capacities within peacekeeping operations. This includes in senior and leadership positions. The CPA actively looks to deploy Canadian women police officers to senior roles within missions.

The CPA also seeks opportunities to train women police officers in foreign countries to take part in peace and stabilization missions.

Most recently, Canada renewed its participation in Pre-Selection Assistance and Assessment Team (Pre-SAAT) training. This training for Francophone women police officers helps them succeed in deploying to UN missions. The UN's SAAT program travels to police-contributing countries to test applicants for UN missions. As part of its effort to increase the meaningful participation of women in missions, the UN launched all-women Pre-SAATs.

AT THE END OF THE DAY

The Canadian policing community understands that a safer world means a safer Canada. Unstable societies offer opportunities for crime to flourish. By helping host-nation police to fight crime in their communities, our police officers help reduce the spread of crime to our own communities.

... continued on page 14

RCMP, from page 13

LINKS

Canadian police in peacekeeping missions: domestic benefits https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqmY5Tc5Lbk

RCMP Peace Operations : https ://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/peace-operations

Women Peace and Security : https ://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/gender_equality-egalite_des_genres/women_peace_security-femmes_paix_securite.aspx ?lang=eng

OPP, from page 12

environments that could include language barriers, literacy levels, ensuring that the basic necessities of food and water are available, health concerns such as malaria, lack of modern policing tools like radios or computers, working in politically sensitive post-conflict zones and dealing with divergent perspectives on human rights. Some days the training might be showing a group of police officers the proper deployment and use of a portable radio, or it could be teaching basic movements by drawing diagrams in the dirt and students using wooden sticks to simulate firearms. The day might even be spent ensuring there is enough food and water for students so they can concentrate on learning. Investigations take on a very different perspective depending upon actual laws that are in place and what are acceptable norms or practices in a particular community or culture; patience is key. Some of the most important pre-deployment training can be educating yourself on where you will be deployed and paying close attention to those briefings from GAC, all combined with what is offered in-country when you arrive.

OPP members return having experienced personal and professional growth, although sometimes it can be difficult to make direct competency comparisons from some deployment environments to policing back in Ontario. It is often said that Canadian police officers demonstrate leadership well above their rank class from back home. One thing is for sure, everyone returns having experienced policing in a totally different context and with a much broader perspective of the world we live in.



Canadian Participation in Future UN Peace Operations

Major Gen Terry Liston (Retired)

INITIAL UN PEACEKEEPING

The raison d'être of the United Nations, that Canada helped create in 1945, is stated in the first chapter of its charter:

The purposes of the United Nations are as follows:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustments or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.

Subsequently, Chapter VII describes the actions that may be taken against threats to the peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression. Its Article 43 states:

1. All members of the United Nations, in order to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, undertake to make available to the Security Council, on its call … armed forces … necessary for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security.



This need for capable armed forces to maintain international peace and security, generated multiple proposals to provide a workable process. These have ranged from the creation of a UN army to the assembly of national contingents.

As a founding member of the UN, Canada has been at the heart of these collective peace efforts. In 1947, Canadians were already on a UN commission supervising an election in Korea. Between 1950 and 1954, Canada provided a brigade group to the UN "police action" that stopped North Korean and Chinese invaders. Lester Pearson proposed the UN Emergency Force in 1956 to deal with the Suez Crisis. Secretary-general Dag Hammarskjöld, accepted the plan for the first UN peacekeeping force, using military units to interposition between opposing armies. Canadian General ELM Burns was appointed commander of that UNEF "peacekeeping" force. This was the Golden Age of Canadian Diplomacy where Canada and the UN undertook a new role that has been a prevalent part of its foreign and defence policy ever since.

Canadians continued to support UN peace missions during the Cold War, taking continued pride in doing their duty! Subsequent missions included the Congo, 1960 to 1964, where Canada provided the communications network, bilingual liaison officers and several key leaders (Berthiaume, Dextraze) for the 20,000-man UN force; the Cyprus crisis in 1964 where Canada provided successive infantry battalions and stopped the Turk invasion of Nicosia; the new UNEF II in Egypt, after the 1973 Yom Kippur war; and the UN Disengagement Force on the Golan. Then the Namibia mission created a precedent, becoming a "multidimensional" civil-military operation, UNTAG, in 1978. In 1990, Namibia celebrated its independence.

POST COLD WAR PEACE OPERATIONS

Following the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, UN peacekeeping was discredited by a series of failed missions. These included the Somali civil war, the Rwanda genocide, the Srebrenica massacre, the Darfur conflict, and the Congo wars where six million people died since 1996.

Within the Security Council, UN mandates became more complex and ambitious, dealing with these internal conflicts rather than more simple issues of sovereignty and cease-fires. They tasked UN peacekeepers to ensure security, protect civilians, neutralize militias, deter threats, re-establish state authority, rebuild the security sector, and protect human rights. To do this, they directed UN troops to use "robust" peacekeeping and, at times, "all necessary measures".

UN force commanders were asked to outline their challenges. They highlighted the ineffectiveness of many national

contingents that were unable to defend the mission, apply "all necessary means" or protect civilians. Others have instructions from their country that prohibit such robust defence. The UN Internal Oversight Service reported a persistent failure to intervene with force when civilians were under attack. A second critical issue was that UN force mobilisation and deployment to the mission area is too slow.

In response to such criticism by force commanders and observers, Security Council mandates became less constrained, and force structures were made more capable. Some UN missions were reinforced with quick reaction, robust contingents, ready for the more difficult tasks of protecting civilians, dealing with "spoilers", and "peace imposition".

Troop providing countries (TCC) also submitted proposals. In 1995, Canada argued for UN rapid reaction forces. This resulted in the "Standby High-Readiness Brigade" (SHIRBRIG), created by Denmark and a dozen countries of the developed world, including Canada. It provided well-prepared troops on stand-by for a rapid deployment when requested by the Security Council. It was first deployed to monitor the ceasefire and border demarcation between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Canadian BGen Gregory Mitchell commanded the brigade from 2004 until 2006. However, the brigade was larger than required for most UN missions and was closed in 2009.

In the Congo, the UN "Force Intervention Brigade", created by concerned African nations, was authorized by a UN resolution in 2013. Its mission was to conduct highly mobile "targeted offensive operations" to neutralize and disarm designated armed rebel groups such as M23. This African brigade was most successful in its first operations and is widely mooted as a model that could be adopted for other difficult UN missions.

In South Sudan, Resolution 2304 in 2016, directed the creation of a 4,000-man Regional Protection Force to assure security and freedom of movement in Juba, the capital. It has a separate and more robust mandate than the parent peacekeeping force, UNMISS. It is authorised to use all necessary means, and to promptly and effectively engage any actor that is credibly found to be preparing attacks. As we write, it appears to have succeeded.

In 2015, in response to the recommendation of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO), the Secretary-General authorized the creation of the Vanguard Capability. It is a standby 4,000-man force that would allow the UN to quickly insert a military capability into a new mission area or reinforce an existing mission. It is an integrated military and police brigade comprised of infantry units, attack helicopters, enablers and other support units. It has a permanent core command element, but its units remain at their home base until deployed by the Security Council. The first elements deploy within 10 days, while the rest of the force is deployed in phases of 30 to 90 days. This force is now fully manned (pledged) but has not yet been used. It has no Canadian component.

THE 2023 MINISTERIALS

The capacity of UN peace operations depends on the voluntary contribution of troops, police, and other resources by UN Member States. Heads of government and ministers meet at "Ministerials" every one or two years to voice their support for UN peacekeeping and pledge troop contributions. The agenda has broadened since 2014 to now include issues such as gender, and training needs. The Secretary General has issued a plan, "Action for Peacekeeping", that addresses such concerns. However, the UN Secretariat emphasizes that "the generation of high-performing and specialized capabilities and other pledges to meet UN needs" is critical.

Meeting this requirement requires that countries make significant commitments of their military and police resources, using the UN's Peacekeeping Capability Requirement System (PCRS). His system allows discussion between the UN and contributing countries resulting in the registration of military, police and civil defence pledges of units.

The next biennial "ministerial" meeting will be in Accra, Ghana on 5–6 December 2023. A list of the gaps in filling UN needs has been published along with requests to make national pledges early. It includes infantry battalions, attack helicopter units, force protection units, utility helicopter units, quick reaction companies, engineer demining units, reconnaissance units, and different logistics and enabling units. The requirements that are "in high demand and low supply" are helicopters, fixed wing aircraft, infantry battalions, explosive ordnance disposal units, and quick reaction force companies.

Canada's current contribution to UN peacekeeping capability is embarrassing. As of February 2023, it consists of 5 mission experts, 22 staff officers, 31 police, and no troops. The last pledge made by Canada was six years ago at the 2017 UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial conference in Vancouver, BC. It consisted of tactical airlift, a helicopter task force, and a Quick Reaction Force of 200 personnel. The helicopters, which assisted with medical evacuations, were much appreciated. However, the pledge of a Quick Reaction Force was never registered, despite discussions with the UN. The author's contact in May with National Defence indicates that our Embassy at the UN in New York fully supports the UN process of troop pledges, and is currently in discussions with the UN Department of Peace Operations regarding our future contributions.

The United Nations, with all its weaknesses, remains the only institution the world has to engage in diplomacy and to settle conflicts and disputes without resorting to war. The effectiveness of the UN requires highly capable military and police resources that the Secretary General can deploy in support of his interventions. Without such a capability the Secretary General is just another voice in the wilderness. Current polling indicates that the Canadian population continues to support our participation in peace operations. Canada has provided 125,000 Armed Forces members and police officers to such operations over the past 75 years, making an admirable contribution to peace in the world. We have lost 123 of these peacekeepers, who have given their lives for this cause. It is now incumbent on Canada to return to its support of UN peace operations. The world will be watching Canada's delegation at Accra in December.

What we Teach or How we Think? Reflecting on Peacekeeping and Peace Operations

By Sarah Jane Meharg, PhD

I have never served on a peacekeeping mission, so why does my reflection on peacekeeping matter? Since 1996, I have served my country in a civilian way, training and educating military learners to contribute to global peace and security in an ever-increasing complex environment of conflict and calamity.

This is my personal reflection as an educator of military learners — both Canadian and international — about shifting away from what we teach about peacekeeping to how we think about peace and security.



Sarah is pictured here at the destroyed Mostar University campus during a 2008 research trip. Her research, funded by the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, focused on local impressions about peacekeeping, stabilization, and reconstruction of Mostar and Sarajevo, two of the major cities destroyed during sieges in the former Yugoslavia between 1991–1993 and where Canadian peacekeepers served during and after the conflicts. Source: Meharg, 2008.

In 1996, I was 24 years old and fresh out of the University of Guelph with a professional degree in Landscape Architecture. My application to become an intern at the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre (PPC) in Cornwallis, NS was accepted, and I arrived there knowing nothing about peacekeeping. I was a creative sort and sought to apply my education to territory-based peace negotiations because armed conflict occurs in places, and I had deep knowledge about the importance of places to people. The other interns and staff, I learned, had Master's degrees in political science, international relations, and security studies. Uh-oh. I had to prove myself in an environment in which some of my civilian peers ridiculed my education and my value to the organization.

The PPC hosted one-week, two-week, and six-week courses. In those days, the Department of Defence had formal agreements to (re)train militaries of former Warsaw Pact countries. This was accomplished in a series of different programs and ways, and one of them was the PPC. Courses had participants from these countries, from African nations, as well as from what we now refer to as the 'five-eyes'. The interns had a similar national make-up, and this world-class program was made up of young professionals from Canada, Britain, United States, France, Kenya, Germany, and Ghana, among many others. After the daily grind of classroom studies — this is before the PPC adopted a learning-by-doing education philosophy in 2003 — the course participants, staff, and interns organized ourselves into soccer teams that we called 'Canada vs The World'. All the other national representatives would pit themselves against the Canadians in these all-out soccer matches on the pitch in front of the Officer's Mess at the former CFB Cornwallis. Suffice it to say, Canada always lost, and it was always in good fun. We'd then convene at the Officer's Mess for a post-game drink, culminating in dinner, where friendships and conversation took hold and lasted beyond the end of each course. Concerns for geopolitics, differences in command, the utility of peacekeeping and the United Nations, and emerging security threats became common ground, rather than contentious divisions.

Under the mentorship and tutelage of the PPC's founders Lt-Colonel Alex Morrison (Retired) and Brigadier-General Don MacNamara (Retired), I became aware of Canada's identity as a peacekeeping nation and the professional ethical responsibility of military trainers and educators. I learned to bring value to the organization and to be confident in my education that had prepared me to understand military culture, identity, and human behaviour.

What I came to realize in 1996, and then between 2003–2009 as the PPCs Senior Researcher, was that peacekeeping and peace operations outcomes at the strategic, operational and tactical levels, are fundamentally based on human behaviour. It appeared that military training and education had less to do with political science degrees, or the ability to discern liberalism from realism, but the keen observation of human behaviour as a lynchpin for success in the field. Further, to train and educate in a certain way emancipated the military learner from preconceived ways of thinking, and allowed for exploration and creativity in their approach to security. In this case, the PPC was the perfect environment for national representatives to listen, learn, and forge new ideas about the nature of conflict and how they thought about peacekeeping, peace operations, and wider peace and security.

As I matured and delved into my own Masters degree in War Studies, followed by a Ph.D. in Cultural Geography with a focus on post-war reconstruction, I observed some of the successes and failures of Canada's expeditionary missions relying on the quality and depth of the relationships between States, between organizations, between government departments, between Armed Forces, between local stakeholders, and between military actors. Mountains could be moved and peaceful outcomes bolstered when friendships forged in training programs like those at the PPC allowed a person to pick up the phone or have a meeting to communicate interests. It was extraordinary to see human relationships save the day, or the absence of them result in brittle, short-term success for war-affected populations around the world.

In 2005, I embarked on the journey of university educator, teaching at the Royal Military College in Kingston and later at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto. I developed graduate level courses on peacekeeping and peace operations, and complex operations. I moved away from training and focused on educating officers. I was exposed to the thinking of young cadets at the beginning of their careers, as well as the thinking styles of mature officers groomed for command.



Sarah is pictured here with her colleague, MGen Daniel Gosselin (Ret'd), former Chair of the Board of Directors of the CDA Institute and Senior Mentor, National Security Program at the Canadian Forces College. From 2018-2022, Meharg worked closely with the mentors and professors at the College to advance reflective thinking opportunities within professional military education. Source: Meharg, 2019.

What really caught my attention was observing how military actors adapted to new and complex thinking challenges in the classroom. As Canada's military grows away from traditional peacekeeping operations, to counter-insurgency operations, and humanitarian and disaster response operations, this has significantly expanded the list of topics that military personnel are required to learn about. The list is too long for the training and education time available. Successfully responding to changing operations requires not only deep operational knowledge, but also intellectual flexibility to think differently about the operating environment. What shall we teach our military learners when there is not enough time available to cover all the topics?

Since 2016, I have sought to better understand not only what is being taught to Canada's military officers but, more significantly, how we teach military learners. As a civilian military educator, how can I, in fact, help military learners be better at peace operations? And, how can I prepare military learners to face the most daunting security challenges of our time? I've been approached by students in the Joint Command and Staff Program and the National Security Program who have worked to shift how they think. Some have lauded the techniques and strategies to adopt more open and reflective approaches to learning about the complex emerging security environment in which they must lead. Some students are excited about learning how to think differently, while others discuss how painful and uncomfortable the process is. Others comment on how fundamental the relationship between educator and military learner was to enable openness and curiosity in the classroom.

As I observed in my early days at the PPC, human behaviour — especially our relationships with one another — is fundamental to educational outcomes, including how military learners think about operations.

Perhaps the days of peacekeeping training are behind us — along with the remnants of Canada's peacekeeping identity — but what remains are adaptable and smart military learners able to think differently about resolving conflicts and creating secure environments. I know from personal experience that they are ready for the challenge. As a military educator, I need to meet learners where they are at, and enhance the educator-learner relationship by developing a classroom that emancipates thinking. Because, resolving conflict and shaping the environment for sustainable peace and security is based on human relationships. It is by trusting one another that, together, we will meet the challenges of this ever-increasing complex environment of conflict and calamity.

I want to thank the thousands of military learners that I have had the privilege of working with since 1996. Your dedication to peace and security has made a difference to Canada and to local populations around the world.

Dr. Sarah Jane Meharg is a leading authority on social, cultural and economic reconstruction after war and natural disaster. A recipient of the Top Women in Defence award in 2020, Sarah is a military educator, researcher, and consultant frequently called upon by the Department of National Defence to assist the Forces on issues related to identity, culture, and economic reconstruction in conflict environments such as Afghanistan, Mali, Haiti, Iraq, and the Balkans. Sarah is currently working at the Dallaire Centre of Excellence for Peace & Security as an Engagements Officer and co-Editor of their new book Evolving Human Security : Frameworks and Considerations for Canada's Military.

The Dallaire Institute

Lieutenant-General, The Honourable Roméo Antonius Dallaire, OC, CMM, GOQ, MSC, CD (Retired) was the former Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda from 1993 to 1994. Lt. General (retired) Dallaire confronted the unthinkable during the genocide in Rwanda: children recruited and used to commit atrocities. Due to this experience, General Dallaire suffered moral and operational stress injuries which ultimately led to his life-long commitment to destigmatize post-traumatic stress disorders among veterans and end the recruitment and use of children worldwide. The Dallaire Institute was created with the unique premise that preventing violence against children requires a dual lens approach. We are focused on prioritizing the protection of children, as well as understanding the significant operational impacts upon security sector actors. Our research on moral injury as result of these encounters is pivotal to improving operational effectiveness.

General Dallaire founded the Child Soldiers Initiative in 2007 and Dalhousie University, located in Halifax, Nova Scotia, provided a home to the initiative in 2010. Since those early days, the organization has evolved extensively from a training development initiative to one that has applied research and learning that guides operational concepts and, at its core, contributes to a key gap in the peace and security architecture. In 2020, the Initiative became the ***Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security***, an international repository of expertise, research and advocacy to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed violence.

Through innovative approaches to knowledge creation and dissemination, we bridge security and humanitarian perspectives and responses to create a holistic approach to the issues of children affected by armed violence. Drawing on our vast expertise and the breadth of perspectives of those with lived experience, we provide policy guidance, work to increase awareness and political will, build operational effectiveness in security institutions and engage communities.

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ACCELERATING ACTION ON THE VANCOUVER PRINCIPLES

The Vancouver Principles aim to prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers as critical to achieving lasting peace and security. These principles operationalize child protection within UN peacekeeping by taking a more proactive and preventative stance on child recruitment in the context of peacekeeping operations. By endorsing and implementing the Vancouver Principles, Member States ensure that their peacekeepers are prepared to

As co-developers and custodians of The Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers, we advise governments and multilateral partners on integrating the Principles into security sector governance. Through academic and practitioner training, and community engagement, the Dallaire Institute's interdisciplinary and applied research advances innovative strategies for preventing the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts and violence. The Dallaire Institute is supported through private, public, and international contributions.

STRENGTHENING AND BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF THE SECURITY SECTOR TO PREVENT THE RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILDREN.

The recruitment and use of children in violence is a tactical and strategic element of current conflicts that must be addressed through proactive, prevention-oriented training. Peacekeepers are often the first point of contact for children recruited and used in violence, therefore, any meaningful efforts to prevent violations against children must include a focus on security sector preparedness. The Dallaire Institute is the only organization in the world that adopts a dual lens approach to preventing the recruitment and use of children. Our unique dual lens approach to prevention focuses on prioritizing the protection of children from factors that make them susceptible to recruitment, as well as understanding the significant distressing psychological impacts and operational challenges faced by security sector actors who come face to face with children who have been recruited.

INTEGRATING COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES TO PREVENT THE RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILDREN.

The recruitment and use of children in armed violence has devastating effects for children and their communities. The Dallaire Institute believes that strategies to prevent children's recruitment and use must be community-based and context-specific. Collaboration between communities and peacekeepers is key to developing effective prevention strategies and to increasing the accountability and responsiveness of security actors to the community. By prioritizing the needs of children and championing their roles as key agents of change and

... continued on page 21



Every November, a sea of red poppies decorates the lapels of Canadians, a powerful tribute to the sacrifices made by veterans. However, a different emblem stands out for some—the beaded poppy. These handcrafted symbols offer a vivid connection to history. They represent the bravery and the unique challenges of First Nations veterans, whose contributions to the Canadian military have often been overshadowed.

Assembly of First Nations
A Shared History, A Shared Responsibility

THE STORIES OF FIRST NATIONS VETERANS

First Nations people have a long and proud tradition of military service. They fought for Canada and a future of equal rights and freedom. While over 7,000 First Nations individuals are recorded to have served in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War, the actual number is likely more significant. This discrepancy is due to incomplete historical records, inconsistent record-keeping, and the marginalized status that these soldiers faced.

While some First Nations volunteered for service, motivated by a sense of duty or the pursuit of opportunities, others faced coercive measures such as status revocation or the promise of land and rights upon their return—promises that often went unfulfilled.

Upon returning home, these veterans commonly faced systemic discrimination, further compounded by the broader challenges facing their communities, such as the lingering effects of colonization and the painful legacy of residential schools. They were also often denied the benefits and support available to other Canadian veterans.

The legacy of First Nations contributions extends beyond traditional war efforts into global peacekeeping. First Nations have been an integral part of Canada's peacekeeping missions worldwide, from the Sinai Peninsula to Bosnia and Rwanda, and served in Afghanistan as well. They have consistently brought unique perspectives rooted in traditional knowledge and values—such as respect, honour, and fairness—to conflict resolution, thereby enriching Canada's peacekeeping efforts. These values are deeply ingrained in First Nations cultures and traditions, making their contributions to global peacekeeping unique and invaluable.



Northern Ranger Charles 'Chuck' Hume addresses the AFN Annual General Assembly as Knowledge Keeper Council co-chair.

THE CRITICAL ROLE OF THE AFN VETERANS COUNCIL

In a landscape of complex challenges, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Veterans Council (the Council) has played a vital role in advocating for justice, recognition, and support. The Council comprises veterans from various First Nations communities, and their advocacy extends beyond ceremonial tributes, focusing on concrete issues like post-service healthcare, culturally relevant services, and rights for First Nations veterans.

The Council maintains an ongoing dialogue with First Nations Chiefs and communities, ensuring that First Nations veterans' unique needs and challenges are addressed. A significant achievement of the Council is the Letter of Understanding (LOU) with Veterans Affairs Canada, which aims to redress historical injustices and the unique challenges faced by First Nations veterans today.

UNFORGETTABLE LEGACIES: THE EAGLE BROTHERS

Legacies like that of Sergeant Thomas Eagle and Sergeant James Eagle underscore the invaluable contributions of First Nations veterans. Hailing from Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve in western Manitoba, Canada, these brothers were survivors of residential institutions and proud service members in the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Regiment.

Thomas became a Platoon Commander and Sergeant in Germany, as part of Canada's contribution to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). James, too, distinguished himself in South Korea and Germany, retiring as a Sergeant. Both contributed significantly to various organizations, including Friendship Centers, Veterans Associations, Human Rights Commissions, and the AFN Veterans Council.

Though the brothers have joined the Spirit World, their legacy is far from forgotten. They remind us of the untold sacrifices and invaluable contributions First Nations veterans have made during conflict and the continued fight for equality and recognition. The AFN Veterans Council works to carry on their legacy and advocacy for equality, recognition, and justice for First Nations veterans.

A SHARED HISTORY, A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

As we approach Remembrance Day on 11 November and National Indigenous Veterans' Day on 8 November, let us remember the sacrifices of those who have served, and honour those who continue to serve. Lest we forget First Nations veterans and peacekeepers whose courage, skills, and wisdom enrich not only our collective history and national heritage, but also Canada's future.

The beaded poppy signifies a profound legacy of service, sacrifice, and an ongoing struggle for justice. It serves as a reminder that our shared history demands a shared responsibility to build a more inclusive, more equitable future that duly honours the contributions and sacrifices of all who have served.



Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Veteran's Council sign the Letter of Understanding with Veterans Affairs Canada in April 2023.

The Dallaire Institute, from page 19

advocates of peace, we can further strengthen a global peace and security agenda. The Dallaire Institute's research on community perspectives is central to how we understand and analyze how community engagement helps shape prevention strategies. We work with local partners to create platforms that build trust between communities and the security sector actors charged with their protection.

Our staff includes senior researchers, military experts and trainers, adult learning specialists, and child protection and gender experts. Our critical research helps leaders around the world address policy gaps and understand the current and evolving risk factors that precede recruitment and the impacts of the use of children in violence. This research informs the development and delivery of scenario-based, prevention-oriented training to prepare military, police, and civilian personnel to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed violence.

PK 75 || An Anthology of Personal Peacekeeping Experiences

BACKGROUND

The year 2023 marks two peacekeeping milestones — the 75th anniversary of the first United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operation (UNTSO), and the 35th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize for UN Peacekeepers. Both anniversaries offer an ideal opportunity to recognize and celebrate Canada's amazing contributions to world peace, and especially the personal contributions of the thousands of Canadians who participated in peacekeeping operations around the globe.

THE PROJECT

To that end, the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association (CPVA) has developed this Anthology of the personal experiences of representative Canadian peacekeepers. It focuses on Canada's historic contributions to peacekeeping through the eyes of individual Canadian peacekeepers and those who have significantly impacted and enabled their efforts.

The Anthology contains short biographies, photographs and experiential anecdotes written by, or about, ordinary Canadians with peacekeeping experience, whether they be military, police, or civilian. We have also included folks who helped set the environment for peacekeeping success without ever completing a mission themselves. This includes those who have worked within Foreign Affairs, at National Defence HQ, on theatre activation teams, or outside of traditional intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations. Many of their contributions had a huge impact on peacekeeping, and their stories deserve to be recognized too.

This Anthology is being distributed freely with the intent to educate young people as well as to enhance public awareness of Canada's longstanding contribution to peacekeeping. As such, schools and universities will be the primary recipients of the anthology, but it will also be distributed widely to institutions, media outlets, government Departments, military and police organizations, relevant humanitarian organizations, public figures of influence, and industries with a connection to peacekeeping.

We invite you to read the stories of those who brought light to the darkest of places, pushed hope and promise into the divide between combating forces, and aided the victims of conflict — all in the service of peace.

And special thanks to Silvia Pecota for creating the commemorative artwork (shown below) used for this anniversary.



South-Western Ontario, Canada



Joe Aitchison

Cyprus || 1967, 1973–1974, 1983–1984

Current Residence: South-Eastern Ontario || Contact: joe.aitchison@pk75.ca

At the time of my first posting to Cyprus in January 1967, the mission was still quite new, and the notion of UN service was very exciting to me. I deployed to United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) Headquarters (HQ) with no pre-deployment training or introduction to the country, the mission, the UN or the military and social situations on-island. While I had no pre-conceptions, I was probably less effective initially than I might have been, because I had no conceptions of any kind.

On my arrival in Cyprus, I likely had a greater sympathy for the Turkish Cypriot community than for the Greek Cypriot community. The Turkish Cypriots were subject to restrictions on their access to such things as farming and building supplies and general goods. They were the underdogs, and Canadians love to side with underdogs. Over time, dealing with both communities, I became truly impartial.

Initially, I found the HQ environment chaotic, partly because of its multi-national character and partly because I did not understand the more complex relationships between and among the senior military and UN appointments. Staff procedures were different from those I had been taught in training. It seemed to me that the real work of the HQ was being done by the "professional" officers from the UK and Canada, with some notable exceptions. Accommodation was spartan — a lean-to style building constructed of galvanized sheeting that featured neither heating nor air conditioning. We had a decent Officers' Mess — run by the British — at which we took our meals and socialized.

The principal staff branch of the HQ was the Operations (Ops) Branch, to which I was assigned as an Ops Centre Duty Officer. We worked a three-day cycle — 24 hours on duty, 24 hours on stand-by and 24 hours off. This, along with access to the Ops Room vehicle gave opportunities to travel the island as a (semi) tourist. I saw a great deal of the island during my tour and learned a good deal about the history and culture of the region.

Our main ongoing concerns were with UN freedom of movement and maintenance of the "status quo". The former led to constant, wide-spread patrolling both on foot and in vehicles to establish the UN right to go anywhere on the island, and the latter included such mundane activities as counting the number of sand-bags on positions to ensure that the positions had not been improved by either the TCF (Turk-Cypriot Fighters) or (Greek) National Guard. Most restrictions to freedom of movement or changes to the "status quo" were dealt with locally by the lowest-level commander involved, and only relatively major breaches were referred to Force HQ. The most common occurrences were random, or sometimes targeted shots fired, either intentionally or accidently by one or the other belligerent. "SHOTREPS" received a great deal of attention – mainly because they were one indicator that could be captured, reported, counted, plotted, and analysed.

The Canadian unit on-island was assigned to Kyrenia District in the north central part of the island. The other national contingents included Austrian, Irish, Danish, Finnish, Swedish and British units, which were distributed about the island, all of which I visited at some time during my tour.

The only major incident I recall during my tour was a conflict at a small village crossroads called Kophinou. A minor confrontation devolved into Greek Cypriot National Guard armoured cars shooting into the Turkish Cypriot Police Station with their small-calibre cannon, rifles, and machine guns, which conflict led to the Force Reserve being called out and a tactical element of the HQ being deployed. I was with the deployed tactical HQ, which was led by the Chief of Staff . My most salient memory of the event was him telling me to "get up there and make them stop shooting"— a tall order for an unarmed UN staff officer, which I nevertheless carried out.

I was permitted one leave period of 14 days during my tour, but was not permitted to return to Canada on this leave, and

chose to spend it in Germany. My leave was extended as my return flight to Cyprus was prevented from landing because of the June War of 1967 (the Six-Day War) and had to be diverted back to Germany. I returned to Canada in July, 1967, having largely missed Canada's Centennial celebrations, and packed up my small family to move from Rivers, MB to London, ON for my next employment. Little did I anticipate that I would serve two more tours in Cyprus over the next 17 years, but such was the nature of that long-lived mission, which saw thousands of Canadian Forces members "visit" and re-visit Aphrodite's Isle as "Blue-Beret tourists".

Biography

Colonel W.J. (Joe) Aitchison was a member of the Royal Canadian Regiment (The RCR) throughout his 38 years of Regular Force service and served as Colonel of The Regiment for four years post-retirement. Commissioned on graduation from the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) in 1963, he served in all three Regular battalions in appointments from Platoon Commander to Commanding Officer. He is a veteran of three peacekeeping tours, all of them in Cyprus, in 1967 as a member of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) Force Headquarters Operations "A" staff, in 1973–74 as the 2 RCR Operations Officer in UNFICYP Sector 4 (Nicosia), and in 1983–84 as the Commanding Officer 2 RCR and Commander Sector 4.

In addition to his three tours in Cyprus, Col Aitchison served two tours of NATO duty in Germany and in 11 other locations in Canada. Col Aitchison is a qualified parachutist and parachute instructor and has completed several other military and professional development courses, including the prestigious U.S. Army Special Forces Officer course. In addition to battalion command, Colonel Aitchison commanded the Infantry School and Canadian Forces Base London. His last appointment before his retirement was Chief of Staff of the Canadian Forces Training System.

Colonel Aitchison wears the insignia of the Order of Military Merit in the grade of Officer (OMM), the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem in the grade of Member (MStJ), the Special Service Medal with NATO bar, the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal, the United Nations Cyprus Medal with the numeral "3", the 125 Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada Medal, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, and the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) with three clasps, indicating more than 42 years' service.

Originally from South-Western Ontario, Colonel Aitchison now resides with his wife, Elva, in South-Eastern Ontario, the couple have three children, two of whom are serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces.



FLESHERTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

Brian Akitt

Sinai, Egypt

NATO Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE)

Current Residence: Kanata, Ontario || Contact: brian.akitt@pk75.ca

In 1981, Following the Camp David Accords of 1978 and the signing of the 1979 Treat of Peace between Egypt and Israel, in which the Treaty Parties failed to obtain the UN Security Council approval, the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) was established. The MFO was and remains to supervise the implementation of the security provisions of the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty of Peace and employ best efforts to prevent any violation of its terms, including freedom of navigation through the Strait of Tiran. It has become a classic "maintaining the peace" operation. During its years of operation, the MFO has faithfully served Egypt and Israel in managing their security relationship according to the terms of the Treaty of Peace and other agreed arrangements.

In 2002, I was posted to the MFO and appointed Chief of Liaison for the MFO while also serving as the Commander of the Canadian Contingent. Through the Liaison System, the MFO fosters and facilitates dialogue between the Parties and successfully serves as an intermediary between them. Constant dialogue takes place among the Force Commander and the Chiefs of the Egyptian and Israeli Liaison Systems. At the working level, military officers from the Force Commander's staff meet daily with their counterparts in the Egyptian Liaison Agency with International Organizations (LAWIO) and the Israel Defense Force International Cooperation Division (IDFICD). During my tenure, the countries with troops serving in the MFO included: Australia, Canada, Colombia, Fiji, France, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Uruguay.

In "plain speak", it was truly 24hr a day, 7 days a week and 365 day a year job. As Liaison, we were the MFO point of contact and attended each and every incident or action that was reported by either of the two parties or our own force and observers. From tunnels being constructed under the international border between the Gaza Strip and the North Sinai and then when



MFO Canadian Contingent, 19 June 2003

found, being blown up, to incursions into the restricted areas by either of the signatories to the treaty, to illicit drug trafficking in the restricted zones, we provided staff to investigate, record and report on the occurrence to both nations. Resolution, frequently required meetings in Cairo or Tel Aviv. Living in North Camp, North Sinai on an old Israeli air base constructed following the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, responsible for an extremely large area of coverage of the Sinai, travel was never ending. Proudly, we can claim that no instances of armed conflict in the MFO's area of responsibility (AOR) occurred during our tenure. However, that does not mean, that there were not incidents, some significant, that demanded immediate attention and frequently incredible patience, in order to complete the action to achieve peaceful resolution.

My experience, while serving outside Canada, had been that the Canadian military is seen as a well trained, highly respected force, professional in our approach and delivery. The team that accompanied me into the Sinai was that and more. Also, considering that this was a predominately Moslem country, it was reassuring to see that our Canadian values were not compromised and the assignments went to qualified individuals, regardless of gender. The Contingent Sergeant

Major (CSM) was MWO Pauline Fortin and she was outstanding in the conduct of her responsibilities.

On any given day, I or my staff could be called upon to address a potential violation resulting from tanks and armoured bulldozers leveling dwellings in the restricted area of the Gaza Strip or strikes by helicopter gunships which were also not an uncommon occurrence. There were also border incursions by the Bedouins. Then, that same day, we would be required to negotiate and resolve damages resulting from MFO operations. That could be, as simple as a chicken struck and killed (reimbursed at 10 Egyptian pounds) or a goat (reimbursed at 150 Egyptian pounds) by an MFO vehicle. The poverty of the locals was readily evident and therefore the importance of these few possessions that individuals held became of greater significance. Rarely a day went by without a meeting for some issue or reason. Fairness and respect were the drivers of the meetings and gradually, issues could be resolved.

In Mar 2003, the Iraq War (sometimes referred to as the 2nd Gulf War) commenced. The overflights and the proximity of MFO AOR to the Beersheba nuclear facilities (a potential Iraqi target) created more tension and increased the security requirements. Our team persevered and we completed a very successful year "in maintaining the peace".

Biography

Brian Akitt is married to Dorothy McGuire of Vinton, QC and they have two children, Melanie and Aaron. They currently reside in Ottawa, ON. Brian was raised on a farm near Flesherton, ON and attended Grey Highlands Secondary School. He is a graduate of Royal Roads and the Royal Military Colleges of Canada, the Canadian Forces Aerospace Systems Course, Winnipeg, MB, the Royal Air Force Command and Staff College in Bracknell, Berkshire England, and the Canadian Forces National Security Studies Course, Toronto, ON.

His flying assignments were as a navigator and deployed as a Tactical Coordinator (TACCO) with HS 423 Squadron flying the CH 124 Sea King helicopter from on board HMC Ships PROTECTEUR, IROQUOIS, OTTAWA, MARGAREE, SKEENA and ATHABASKAN and also as an instructor at VT 406 Training Squadron Shearwater. He has served in a number of staff positions at the Operational and National Headquarters level, as a requirements and project manager, with his final staff position being the Project Director (PD) for the Maritime Helicopter Project and the PD for the Aurora Incremental Modernization Program. In 2002 during Operation Iraqi Freedom, he served as the Commanding Officer -Task Force El Gorah and Chief of Liaison for the Multinational Force and Observers, in Sinai Egypt. His command appointments have included Commanding Officer HT 406 Sqn, Wing Commander 12 Wing and prior to his retirement from the Canadian Forces, as the Canadian National Military Representative to the NATO Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE), Mons, Belgium.



MFO Liaison Branch, 2002-2003


Firefly Recovery, Asmara, Eritrea, September 2003


Destroyed Tanks, Asmara, Eritrea, September 2003

Moving to Industry in 2004, Brian joined General Dynamics Canada, as the Director of Integration Programs, and in 2010 appointed Senior Director, Air and Naval Systems, responsible for the Business Area. At the national level, he served on the Board of Directors, Unmanned Systems Canada. Upon retiring from General Dynamics, he has remained actively engaged in the aerospace and defence sectors through his consultancy business.

His military awards include the Commander's Commendation - Royal Canadian Navy for his contribution to the SWISSAIR recovery action and the Director General's Commendation and Award for Excellence - Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), Rome, Italy for his contributions in support of the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty of Peace following the Camp David Accords. He is an Officer in the Order of Military Merit.

A strong supporter of the Royal Canadian Legion and related Veterans' associations, Brian has been very active within the community. Supporting the maintenance and promoting our military and naval air heritage, Brian has served as the Director of the Shearwater Aviation Museum and Executive Director of the Shearwater International Airshow, the forerunner to the Nova Scotia International Airshow. In providing support of the National Aviation Museum, Brian led an aircraft recovery team into Asmara, Eritrea immediately following their 1993 civil war in order to return two Canadian built Fairey Firefly aircraft to Canada.

It was during the Fairey Firefly recovery mission from Eritrea that he was introduced, firsthand, to some of the challenges facing Africa, the many issues arising from civil war and the damage that results, the importance of creating and maintaining a stable environment and the valuable contribution that a credible stabilizing force can provide. Turn the clock ahead almost ten years and he was very pleased to have the opportunity to participate in the MFO mission, an operation essential to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.



OTTAWA, ON, CANADA

Anthony (Tony) Anderson

Cyprus || 1974, 1988

Gulf Region, Cambodia, Western Sahara, Balkans, Somalia, Rwanda || 1990-1993

Contact: tony.anderson@pk75.ca

My experience spanning over 40 years in peacekeeping in field operations, diplomacy, academics, and capacity building has taught me that not only is peacekeeping complex and important, but that Canada is very good at it. I attribute Canada's success to an amazing confluence of diverse groups of Canadians working very hard together to the common aim of international peace and security. This occasion is an opportunity to reflect on my experience with these groups of fine Canadians.

As a career army officer, my respect for Canadian soldiers of all ranks is, of course, unbounded. Their skill, courage and dedication form the bedrock upon which Canadian peacekeeping success is founded, and they are truly respected around the world.

My transition to the world of diplomacy was a surprise to me. I learned very quickly about the sense of urgency which is paramount in the minds and actions of our diplomats as they serve Ministers and the Prime Minister and speak for Canada internationally. They have great respect for their military colleagues and will do everything in their power to support them. Canada is incredibly well served by our diplomats, including the younger cohort who are so talented and dedicated, and who work often in difficult and dangerous situations.

I also had the privilege of working closely with Canadian civilian police peacekeepers and have been very impressed at how they approach the job. Our police peacekeepers represent Canada incredibly well and make a tremendous contribution wherever they are assigned, in such places as Afghanistan, Haiti, and East Timor. Experts from other government departments such as Correctional Services and Justice also deploy to post-conflict regions to assist in recovery and reform.

My experience in managing a fund to help build the capacity of developing countries to contribute meaningfully to international peacekeeping put me in close contact with Canada's non-government organizations (NGOs). The dedication of the Canadian NGO community who tirelessly enhance Canadian efforts for international peace and security in conflict affected situations is truly impressive, as they work in areas such as the respect for human rights, building police capacity and justice reform, support for peace processes, and the promotion of meaningful roles for women.



Tony Anderson on duty in the Cyprus Command Post, 1974.

Over the years of my involvement, the Canadian multi-disciplinary approach to peacekeeping was led by a succession of committed and dedicated Ministers and Prime Ministers and their political staffs. Ministers are very aware of the stakes involved for Canada on the world stage, and the possible risks involved in their decisions on peacekeeping deployments. Canada's stellar reputation in peacekeeping would not be possible without the active support of our Ministers and politicians.

Underpinning the arduous and often dangerous work of Canadian peacekeepers is the tremendous support provided from home by families, our communities, and the Canadian public at large. This support, which has been rock-solid in my experience, is so very important to the morale of peacekeepers.

Finally, while mostly not Canadian nationals, I consider the UN international staff, with whom I worked closely over the years, as an important peacekeeping partner for Canada. They are highly professional and dedicated and consider Canada to be a good friend of peacekeeping. I am grateful for their commitment to the service of peace.

My peacekeeping career in its various dimensions has been a tremendously rewarding personal experience for me. I am proud of the many Canadian successes where I have been privileged to play a part, and I worry about areas where things might have gone better. I cherish the contacts I have made with Canadian and international colleagues and I mourn for colleagues who have been lost. Ever in my thoughts, even in my retirement, are the many local people I have met in conflict-affected situations such as in Cyprus, the Balkans and Sri Lanka who do not want war, but wish only to get on with their lives in peace and security for their families and communities. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have been a Canadian peacekeeper.

Biography

Tony Anderson's peacekeeping experience spans some 40 years including Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) peacekeeping operations, independent international consulting and writing, and diplomatic service with what is now Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

Tony had three tours with the UN Force in Cyprus including during the 1974 Greek coup d'etat and subsequent Greek-Turkish war, and in 1988 as a battalion commander and UN Commander of Nicosia District. As the CAF exchange officer with GAC from 1990 to 1993, Tony led diplomatic support to Canadian contributions to: the first Gulf war and subsequent peacekeeping operations; UN operations in Cambodia and the Western Sahara; the European Union Monitoring Mission and the UN Protection Forces in the Balkans; and the missions in Somalia and Rwanda. At National Defence Headquarters between 1993 and 1999, Tony was the staff officer responsible for the provision of specialized equipment for CAF operations including the in-theatre upgrading of the armoured vehicle fleets in the Balkans, where he visited the contingent.



Upon retirement from the Canadian Forces in 1999, Tony consulted internationally on peacekeeping matters. He conducted a mission for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to report on humanitarian operations in militarized and peacekeeping situations in Sri Lanka, and the Balkans. He joined the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres and contributed to its annual meetings in South Africa, Germany, Chile, Bangladesh and Japan. Tony completed several contracts in residence at the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre at the Cornwallis campus in Nova Scotia to deliver peacekeeping training and simulation exercises for organizations involved in international peace support operations, including NATO. He was employed as a peacekeeping expert by the UN Office of the High Commission for Human Rights to deliver training on the Laws of War as applied to peacekeeping.



In 2005, Tony was recruited into GAC to work on Canadian peacekeeping priorities. In this work, he led the Canadian delegations to the annual G8 Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Experts Group and Africa Clearing House meetings. He coordinated the deployment of Canadian civilian police peacekeepers to Iraq, East Timor and Afghanistan, and coordinated the deployment of Canadian civilian officials to the CAF-led Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kandahar. In 2006–10 he managed Canada's Global Peace Operations Program (GPOP), a fund to assist in building international military and civilian police peacekeeping capacity primarily in Africa, but also in Latin America and at the UN. In 2010, he coordinated the peacekeeping dimension of Canada's G8 Presidency agenda visiting the capitals all G8 partners to coordinate collective G8 action on peacekeeping.

Tony's last GAC assignment from 2011 to 2017 was to coordinate the government-wide implementation of the international Women Peace and Security agenda (WPS), which seeks to promote the protection of women in conflict situations, including from sexual violence, and to promote their meaningful participation in peace processes and peacekeeping operations.

Tony holds a BA from Queen's University in Kingston and an MBA from the University of Ottawa. He was invested as a member of the Order of the British Empire by the Queen at Buckingham Palace in 1984 in recognition for his work on exchange at Headquarters 1st British Corps in Bielefeld, Germany. Tony is retired in Ottawa with Barbara, his wife of some 51 years, and also a retired senior civil servant. They enjoy visiting with their three children and five grandchildren in the Yukon, England, and Switzerland.



Pinawa, MB, Canada

Bryan Bailey

Croatia || 1992–1993

Kosovo || 1999
Democratic Republic of the Congo || 2008
Afghanistan || 2009

Current Residence: Kingston, ON || Contact: bryan.bailey@pk75.com

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was established in February 1992, ostensibly to provide immediate security for the settlement of the Yugoslavian crisis. I recall being very excited to deploy with 3 PPCLI as this was my first UN mission. I returned to 2 PPCLI in Winnipeg in January to assume command of a newly formed, reserve-heavy, rifle company (Coy). We underwent a whirlwind three months of intensive pre-deployment training which included three weeks of predominantly live fire training in California. I then deployed back to Croatia in late March of 1993 as an Acting Major in command of C Coy.

In early August, much to everyone's surprise, C and D Coys were deployed to Sector South (Krajina) which later led to the decision that the entirety of the Canadian Battalion would relieve a French Battalion in Sector South. Little did we know that soon, on 9 September the Croat forces would launch a major operation into the Medak Pocket. The Croat advance was eventually blunted at the outskirts of Medak by the Krajina Serb forces. On 14 September, the Canadian Battalion was given orders to implement a cease-fire agreement in the Medak Pocket and was allocated two additional French companies. C Coy was tasked to interpose itself between the combatants, and to open the Highway to Gospić, thereby permitting the remainder of the unit to push the Croats back to the previous line. Upon completion of that task, the unit was to collectively create a buffer zone and conduct a sweep to document suspected Croat ethnic cleansing.

Early in the morning of 15 September, following very abbreviated battle procedure and reconnaissance, C Company deployed to three platoon locations between the Croat and the Serb frontlines. Our rapid deployment evidently caught the Croats by surprise, and we were greeted with weapons fire. After digging in, C Company weathered multiple Croat attacks and indirect fire for fifteen hours. Seven Platoon narrowly avoided



Lady Patricia presents the UNPROFOR medal to Bryan, September 1993, Sveti Rok.

an Anti-tank minefield as it secured the near Serb side of the highway. C Company's next task was to cross no man's land to open the highway. The highway itself was rendered impassable due to a belt of anti-tank mines. My Commanding Officer (CO) had prudently reconstituted the Anti-Armour platoon and grouped a Section of TOW anti-tank guided missiles under my command, which provided us much needed overwatch. After giving it some thought, I decided that my M113 armoured personnel carrier would lead across no man's land. My guidance to the crew was clear — we would approach the Croats at a slow and steady pace. I ensured that our heavy machine gun would be trained over the Croats in a ready, but less threatening, manner.

We set off precisely at 1200 hours. During our advance, we watched the Croats remove the tarps from their SAGGER anti-tank missile systems and ready their weapons. Stopping short of the anti-tank mines, I dismounted and initiated discussions with the senior officer present who refused passage.

Events took a surprising but fleeting turn as the Croats picked up their mines and started to clear the highway. The order to carry out this activity was almost immediately countermanded with the arrival of a Croat General. My CO arrived and attempted to negotiate passage. Having no success, he convened a hasty press conference which compelled the Croat General to direct the removal of the mines, thereby permitting D Coy to cross into the Croat-dominated side of the pocket, followed by the French companies. In the end, the battalion successfully expelled the Croats from the pocket and established a buffer zone. It was abundantly evident that the Croats had conducted an ethnic cleansing and scorched earth operation which was documented in the UN special assessment that eventually led to the ICC indictment of a Croat General.

Sadly, the unit returned to Canada with little fanfare and the hundreds of reserve soldiers who had answered the call returned home. Nearly a decade later, 2 PPCLI was awarded one of the first two Commander-in-Chief unit commendations for its distinguished conduct in Medak. Today, the operation has become synonymous with the reality that contemporary peacekeeping operations have become much more complex and dangerous. It is also remembered for its incredible display of the steadfastness of our soldiers, both Regular and Reserve, while under fire. Separating Croat and Serb forces in contact, without loss of life, is a feat worthy of admiration. That said, far too many suffered invisible wounds from the exposure to danger, stress, and the inhumanity of ethnic cleansing.

Biography

Hailing from Pinawa, MB, I commenced my military career as a soldier with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles in 1978. In 1979, I transferred to the Regular Force and attended both Royal Roads and Royal Military College, graduating with a Bachelors Degree in Political and Economic Science in 1983. I was fortunate to continue my studies at Queen's University on scholarship receiving a Masters in Political Studies in 1984.



Major-General Herb Pitts, Colonel of the Regiment, PPCLI, with Bryan Bailey, OC C Company, Medak House, Sector South.

I was commissioned into the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) and commenced regimental duty with the First Battalion in Calgary. From 1984 to 1987, I served as a rifle platoon commander, Assistant Adjutant, and as Second-in-Command of a rifle company. Following that, I was posted to Belleville, ON where I served three years as the Adjutant of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment.

In 1990, I was posted to 2 PPCLI in Winnipeg as a Captain, where I served as Second-in-Command of Administration Company and as the Battalion Adjutant. I also had the pleasure of commanding Combat Support Company, C Company, and Administration Company. During this posting, I deployed twice to Croatia as part of UNPROFOR. I volunteered to be attached to 3 PPCLI in 1992 and served as the Senior Liaison Officer for the Canadian Battalion. After three months back in Canada, I returned to Croatia in 1993 as Officer Commanding C Company. The highlight of this tour was the Medak operation for which 2 PPCLI was awarded the Governor-General's unit commendation.

In 1994, I was posted to Toronto where I served two years as G3 (Operations Officer) of 32 Canadian Brigade Group. Remaining in Toronto, I attended the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College, graduating in 1997. Upon graduation, I was posted to Land Force Atlantic Area Headquarters in Halifax where I served as G3 Operations until promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1999. Following promotion, I served as G3, G5, and Chief of Staff of the Headquarters while concurrently commanding the 5th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group which is based in Newfoundland and Labrador. I had the privilege of coordinating several domestic operations and I received a Deputy Chief of Defence Commendation for Operation PARASOL which involved the support to Kosovar refugees in response to an appeal from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

In 2002, I assumed command of Western Area Training Centre in Wainwright which also included Base Commander responsibilities. During my tenure, I oversaw significant growth and organizational change resulting in the doubling of military personnel and the separation of the School from the Base on my departure in 2005. From 2005 to 2008, I served as the Assistant Director of Army Training within the Land Force Doctrine and Training System Headquarters in Kingston, ON.

In 2008, I deployed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a one-year UN tour as an Acting Colonel. I commanded the Canadian Task Force while simultaneously serving in the Force Headquarters as the Deputy Chief of Staff Operations and Plans of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC). In this capacity, I directed operations during a period marked by considerable crisis and instability. I was fortunate to be awarded a Force Commander's Commendation for my efforts.

On return to Kingston in 2009, I was posted to the Canadian Army Staff College as an instructor and for two years was the Deputy Commandant. I was deployed again as an Acting Colonel to Kabul, Afghanistan where I served as the Senior Advisor to the Vice Chief of the Afghan National Army as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Training Mission.

After 35 years in uniform, I retired from the Canadian Forces in 2013 and accepted a position as the Executive Director of the Royal Military Colleges Club of Canada which was the Alumni Association for Canada's military colleges. Departing there in 2017, I continue to work part-time as a Calian contractor supporting the design and delivery of Army exercises. I am married to an incredibly wonderful and supportive wife Jennifer, and we are proud parents of Laura, Karyn, and Steven, and grandparents to William and Graham. I am passionate about golf, curling, and hockey and together with Jennifer we enjoy travel and spending time at the cottage.



TORONTO, ON, CANADA

Allan Bainbridge

Belgian Congo || 1962

Cyprus || 1970, 1976

Current Residence: Durham Region, ON || Contact: allan.bainbridge@pk75.ca

It was late February 1962 and I was the radio technician for the 3rd Battalion Royal 22nd Regiment in CFB Valcartier, QC. The Signals officer told me I'd been selected to do a Peacekeeping tour in the Congo from March–September, and I would be going to 57 Canadian Signals Squadron in Leopoldville.

I was nervous because the first Canadian Signals personnel that went were captured by the Congolese army and assaulted. They had sent bilingual paratroopers and the Congolese army had mistaken these Canadians for Belgian paratroopers and attacked them.



Al Bainbridge, Message Centre, Leopoldville.

The trip to Leopoldville was my first time on an airplane. We left Trenton on a Comet Airliner and flew to Shannon, Ireland and then on to Pisa, Italy. On day two of our journey, we boarded an aircraft called a NorthStar. It was extremely noisy and was probably older than I was. At the end of the runway was a huge church with a tall steeple. The captain revved the engine to maximum, released the brakes and away we went. We were hurtling down the runway and I was pushed back into my seat, but the plane was not lifting off. We were headed towards the church at a rapid speed and, at the last second, we rose up, banked right and headed out across the Mediterranean Sea to Africa. What a relief!

We hopscotched across Africa taking another two days to arrive in Leopoldville. We were glad to land as we had eaten enough eggs, bangers, and beans to last a lifetime.

The city of Leopoldville was a modern place with many great buildings. Unfortunately, the infrastructure was starting to fall apart as they didn't have anyone to do repairs. We lived in a seven-storey apartment building and each apartment had about ten soldiers in it. At one end of the building there was a large hole in the wall. Every evening at dusk, about a thousand bats flew out of this hole. The entire top floor was unusable due to the bat infestation. The kitchen was in the garage under the building and the mess hall was a large tent in the parking lot. There were two small monkeys in the trees around the kitchen and we used to feed them which did not impress the cooks. On my first day I was told to keep my knife, fork and spoon in my mail slot. This turned out to be a rookie mistake and when I returned at noon my knife and fork were gone. For the rest of

my tour I kept my remaining spoon in my pocket. I was thankful it was a spoon as you can't eat soup with a fork!

The job of our squadron was to send messages to all the cities in the country. We transmitted and received signals using AM transmitters with teletype on radio signals. Our site was at a local high school and the grounds were our antennae park. At the end of June, I was sent to Elizabethville, 1000 miles from Leopoldville in the rebel province of Katanga. We were on full alert and had to carry weapons with 90 rounds of ammunition. My job was to maintain the equipment. The teletype technician and I also had to go to the airport three times a week to pick up rations for the detachment. This kept us busy. While working one night I broke my glasses. The army policy was not to issue spare glasses and I couldn't find anywhere to get mine fixed, so I had to go two months without glasses. This certainly made driving interesting.

At the end of August, I returned to Leopoldville to prepare to go home but the interesting events weren't over yet. The Friday before I returned home, Moe Wickett and I got stuck in the elevator for three hours and wound up missing our supper. We did take a nap while everyone worked to get the doors open and get us out. On the Monday before heading home, a lineman told me of a place downtown that could fix my glasses, and it was great to be able to see again. On Tuesday, we left Leopoldville, flew to Pisa, Italy and stayed for 2 days for plane repairs, and then flew home to Canada.

Biography

Allan was born on Friday, 13 September 1940, to Evered and Irene Bainbridge a stationary engineer and a secretary. The oldest of three boys, Allan grew up in the city of Toronto and on a farm in Durham Region. He learned the value of hard work as a teenager by helping his father on the farm and working for other local farmers.



Al Bainbridge sur le site de l'émetteur, Léopoldville.

After graduating from high school, Allan taught grades one to eight for a year in a rural community in Northern Ontario, then joined the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in Toronto and started basic training at the Royal Canadian Regiment Depot in London, ON from January–June, 1960.

Allan was then posted to Kingston, ON in September of 1960, for training as a Radio Technician at the Royal Canadian School of Signals. He subsequently had postings to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Gagetown and CFB Valcartier. His first United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping tour was from March–September 1962 in the Congo. He was then posted to the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School in Camp Borden in 1962.

Allan married his beautiful wife, Karen, in July 1964 and they had two daughters in 1967 and 1970. Two months after his youngest daughter was born, Allan did his second UN Peacekeeping tour, this time in Cyprus from April–October, 1970. Shortly after this tour, he and his family were posted to Lahr, Germany where they lived from 1971 to 1974. Allan was then posted to HQ and Signals Squadron in Calgary at which time they decided to expand their family and became foster parents to two brothers. During their stay in Calgary, Allan did his third UN Peacekeeping tour, again in Cyprus, from April–October, 1976.

When Allan was posted to Petawawa in July 1978, he and his wife petitioned the foster care system to allow them to bring their sons with them to another province. Thankfully, they were successful, and the family remained united through this posting and the next which was to Downsview in July 1981.

In 1982, after serving in the army for 23 years, Allan decided to retire from the CAF and pursue a career with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), working downtown Toronto in the satellite room of the CN Tower and at the CBC Building on Front Street. Allan worked for the CBC until his retirement in 2002. He now resides with his wife in Durham Region, ON and has enjoyed helping to raise his four grandchildren, traveling, attending car shows in his 1956 Chevrolet, participating in UN Peacekeeping events, speaking at schools about his experiences, and being an active member of the Uxbridge Legion.



NEEPAWA, MB, CANADA

Lynda Bartel

Golan Heights, Israel || 1990

Current Residence: Winnipeg, MB || Contact: lynda.bartel@pk75.ca

I was deployed to the Golan Heights from June to December of 1990. We were only the second draft to include females. Golan Heights is at the Area of Separation between Israel and Syria. Although they are only a few miles apart, culturally they are years apart. As women, we had a very strict code of dress when we crossed the Area of Separation into Syria. As we were in the Middle East, our uniform came with shorts, but when going to Syria we were not allowed to wear shorts, we had to wear the long pants.

When at the Market Place in Syria, we would be accompanied by men and most speaking would be done by the men. There were some scary moments when you could see some of the men looking at you with what felt like hatred. One great exception was a gentleman who was walking with a young girl who appeared to be around seven. He was pushing her towards me, encouraging her to talk to me. I went to her and gave her a Canada pin.

Once I was tasked to take four trucks close to the Area of Separation as there was a piece of heavy equipment digging a ditch there. The Observers had been told it was an irrigation ditch, but the dimensions suggested an anti tank ditch. This was in contravention of the 1974 agreement to not make a certain area on either side of the Area of Separation any more Militarily ready. We went out and surrounded the piece of heavy equipment so he couldn't continue to dig. At this point there were Syrian and UN soldiers in attendance. As I got out of the truck and reached back for my flack jacket and then my weapon, the Syrian soldier remarked "holy (expletive), women and weapons." For the duration of the time there I had to call on a male Private to pass on everything I said, even though the Syrian soldier was standing right in front of me.

There also were a few instances of this on the Israeli side, but for the most part we were treated with respect. I did get asked why my husband would allow me to come here. Once I had a man ask me if he could back up my truck as he didn't think a woman could back up a big truck.



UNDOF, 1990

One of my fondest memories was when I was in Haifa. I was stopped in a residential area, and I saw, coming towards me, three young boys. One was riding a bike, one a horse and one a donkey. That pretty much summed up life in Israel for me.

Biography

I am originally from Neepawa, MB. My father worked for Canadian National Railway, and as a result, we lived in several small towns in southern Manitoba as I was growing up. I currently reside in Winnipeg, MB. I moved to Ottawa, ON in 1977 and from there, at the age of 24, as a single parent, I joined the Military. My trade was Mobile Support Equipment Operator. I served proudly from 1977 to 2011. My first posting was to Winnipeg, MB. As a Mobile Support Equipment Operator, I operated staff cars, buses, tractor trailers, heavy equipment such as snow plows and snow blowers, and aircraft refueling equipment.

I was posted to Ottawa, ON in 1986. In Ottawa I worked as a driver in General Purpose Vehicles and Heavy Cargo, and as a dispatcher. I also worked as an assistant to the Career Managers at National Defence Headquarters. In August of 1988 I was on a Continuous French Course for a year, and I was promoted to the rank of Master Corporal in early 1991. It was in Ottawa where I was selected for a Peacekeeping Mission in the Golan Heights, Israel with the United Nations Disengagement Observation Force (UNDOF).

In 1991, I was posted to CFB Winnipeg, MB, and retired from the Regular Force in 1996. From there I joined the Reserves, was promoted to Sergeant in 2008, and was employed at 1 Canadian Air Division as Assistant to the Air Force Fleet manager. I retired at the age of 60 in 2011.



Receiving my UNDOF medal from the UN Force Commander, Major-General Günther Greindl of Austria



GRAND-MÈRE (SHAWINIGAN), QC, CANADA

André Beauséjour

Gaza || 1960

Current Residence: Québec, QC || Contact: andre.beausejour@pk75.ca

In May 1960, while stationed at the Valcartier Hospital as a Captain Medical Officer, I received orders from the Director General of the Medical Service (DGMS) to go to Gaza to serve in the United Nations Emergency Force.

Having been married for three years and having a two year old child, it goes without saying that my wife and I were disappointed, especially since the departure for Trenton was on our wedding anniversary, June 7. Departure by train. Arrived in Trenton the next day. Paperwork. Vaccines. Will. Then travel from Trenton to Gander in an uncomfortable, unsound DC3. Stopovers in Gander, Lisbon, Pisa, Athens, Cairo and finally arrival at the United Nations airport in El Arish. The noise and lack of pressure in the plane had deafened us for 48 hours to the point where we were getting out of the plane with our mouths open and looking stupid.



Canadian Hospital, Gaza, 1960.

A doctor from Rafah was waiting for me with a Citroën 2hp and driver and we made the 25 km trip from El Arish to Rafah where the Canadian hospital was located. In fact, this tented hospital was more of an infirmary with 20 beds and the real hospital of that name in solid walls was run by the Norwegians. The main activity of the Canadian medical post run by Major Babineau at the time was the outpatient clinic (MIR) for the Canadian military and Palestinian personnel in the camp, for which reason we had the services of a permanent interpreter. The resources and medical equipment were adequate and I have good memories of working there.

So Rafah camp was in the middle of the desert. Surrounded by barbed wire and watchtowers. Armed Swedes were guarding it. The officers' quarters were comfortable being those of a former British garrison. Pleasant and very socially useful officers' mess, shared between Canadian and Indian officers. During my stay I had three weeks holiday in Beirut, Cairo and Jerusalem. And as a doctor, two consulting trips to Tel Aviv. In addition, I spent three weeks in Sharm El Sheikh as a doctor in the Norwegian army garrison; very friendly and good company.

The Canadian regiment Fort Garry Horse had the task of patrolling the Israeli/Egyptian border to prevent any conflict. In fact during my 6 months of service I was not aware of any conflict. At that time the belligerents were very respectful of the blue berets. The Palestinian support staff did their job very well as cooks, orderlies



André Beauséjour in the Sinai Desert, 1960.

and helpers of all kinds. And, in general, the respect was mutual between us and them. Relations were relatively good between the Egyptian government, the Egyptian army and us. But Nasser didn't want a regiment with the word 'Royal' on it, or the display of the Canadian flag where the British flag was then.

For health reasons, I had to leave Egypt in December 1960, leaving great friends and good memories behind, to resume my post at Valcartier. Before my departure, I was presented with the United Nations Emergency Force medal.

Biography

Born in 1932 in the small industrial town of Grand-Mère (Shawinigan), QC to a family of 10 children. Father was a city accountant, mother a journalist and writer. After my primary education, I did my classical Latin-Greek course at the seminaries of Trois-Rivières and Joliette. It was there that I heard about the COTC (Canadian Officer Training Corps) and joined. I spent the summer of 1952 at the Citadel in Québec City for basic training at the Royal Canadian Infantry School (RCS of I). Hard training but in a magnificent place. Then in 53 I went to Shilo in the field artillery (RCA). I received my commission as an artillery officer in November 1953.

As I entered medicine at Laval University in Québec in September 1953, I became a member of the Medical Corps (RCAMC) while remaining in the COTC. In 1957 I joined the active army as a captain medical officer. I was stationed at Valcartier, the military hospital in Québec City, the Covefield in Québec City, Gaza and Churchill. I passed my exams from Captain to Major in September 1962 in Borden and was promoted to A/Major a month later. I ended my military career as Officer Commanding (OIC) of the Valcartier Hospital in May 1963. Later I specialized as a child psychiatrist and practiced mainly in Québec City for 27 years without having left a small corner for general medicine and keeping good memories of my military activities.



André Beauséjour with Bedouins in the Sinai Desert, 1960.



WINNIPEG, MB, CANADA

David Beer

Iraq || 2003

Haiti || 1996–1999, 2004–2005

Current Residence: Chatham, ON || Contact: david.beer@pk75.ca

THE SIX BILLION DOLLAR MAN — A FOREIGN POLICY OPPORTUNITY IN IRAQ

On March 20th, 2003, the U.S.-led "coalition of the willing" invaded Iraq, with the dual aim of searching for weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and removing Saddam Hussein from power. As evidence of WMDs was inconclusive, Operation Iraqi Freedom was controversial. Canada was unconvinced by the intelligence, and declined to support combat operations. It was a bold decision from a usually like-minded partner of America and Britain, a partner in the Gulf War (1990–1991) and the post 9–11 global War on Terror. Nonetheless, political, economic, and diplomatic stars aligned in a foreign policy opportunity.

The American dominated invasion overwhelmed Iraqi defenses and democratization plans rolled out. High among priorities was justice sector peacebuilding, a linchpin of internal security. Coalition justice experts were deployed as war morphed into insurgency. Canada had rejected the rationale for invasion but was to play a role in post conflict reconstruction.

Mustering at Fort Bliss, Texas, four Canadian experts joined hundreds of Americans deploying in support of reconstruction. Preparations included briefings, medicals, and drawing kit. Included was a regime of preventive vaccinations and instruction and protective equipment against exposures to nuclear, biological, or chemical agents (WMDs). Next, Canadians met other justice professionals in Kuwait, for advanced briefings, convoy preparations, and a group equipment issue. With preparations complete, the group convoyed to Baghdad. Unfortunately, increasing insurgent activity soon restricted the freedom of movement in country, and ultimately the effectiveness of the planning mission was impaired.

While combat operations had ended, there was still no evidence of WMDs. Nonetheless, and in an evolving security environment, ORHA moved ahead with redevelopment plans. Six billion dollars was earmarked for contracting by coalition partners.



Iraq 2003 - Kuwait to Baghdad - Justice team, lightly armed civilian convoy waiting for highway access.

Canada, though not a coalition partner, was asked to follow up its planning contribution by deploying a senior police officer. I was selected and deployed to Baghdad and the Green Zone. The responsibilities were diverse: de facto liaison officer, advisor to Iraqi officials, tactical and investigative consultant, and senior official for intelligence of kidnapping cases. It was peacebuilding in the midst of insurgency. The professional challenges were extraordinary, but the professional relationships were strong. The memories, good and bad, will be lifelong.

As the only Canadian working at ORHA, I was conspicuous in the RCMP's uniform. White shirt, RCMP epaulets, Canadian flags, blue trousers with cavalry stripe, and rank insignia like a British army Lt/Col was distinctive in a sea of disruptive pattern materials.

One day early in my deployment, I was with colleagues on morning coffee break. As usual we congregated at the rear loading dock of ORHA HQ (former Republican Guard Palace). A service road ran below and parallel to the loading dock but was off limits to vehicle traffic because of the risk of explosive devices. People

deploying to Baghdad traveled by bus from the airport, then for security reasons disembarked 200 meters or more from the palace. In diverse groups, people walked to the palace for in-processing, past our coffee-perch.

Normally there was little communication with new arrivals. We were on break, and they were exhausted from a journey. Today was different. Making their way past us was a group of professional looking people, distinctive in business suits and high-end luggage, passed. One man stopped as the group continued. Staring at me above him on the dock, he pointed at my uniform and proclaimed. "You're him! You're the Six Billion Dollar Man!" Taken aback I asked, "what do you mean?" "I apologize" he said. "I just arrived from Washington, from the White House." "Earlier this week we met with the President discussing reconstruction and the availability of six billion dollars for contracting. The President said he wanted Canada included among contracting countries, though it was not a coalition partner. He said, "find a way, just make it happen". Researching, we discovered a Canadian police officer attached to ORHA. That's it, we said, that's rationale to include Canada with the partners. "He's the Six Billion Dollar Man". And here you are.

While Canada rejected "evidence" rationalizing invasion and occupation of Iraq, diplomatic, political, and economic realities aligned to present an important foreign policy opportunity that emerged as a Canadian role in reconstructive peacebuilding.

Biography

David Beer served thirty-five years with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in a variety of operational and command roles. He acquired a unique depth and breadth of operational and international policing experience that included counter terrorism, intelligence, major crime, organized crime, and proceeds of crime investigation. At the time of retirement in 2009, he served as the RCMP's Director General of International Policing for Canada, with responsibility for International Operations, Interpol Canada, Peacekeeping Operations, and International Policy Development.



Iraq 2003. Republican Guard Palace, ORHA HQ (Coalition), inside the Green Zone.

C/Supt. Beer deployed to conflict and post conflict areas representing Canada, other governments, and international agencies in a variety of command, evaluation, assessment, and development roles. This experience included deployments of varying duration and executive responsibilities to Iraq, Central African Republic, Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and extensive experience in Haiti, including bilateral deployments dating back to the 1990's. His program experience includes development and evaluation projects with the African Union, NATO, European Union, UN DPKO Police Division, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and training programs for the U.S. Institute of Peace.

In 1996–1997, in a development and capacity building role, Beer deployed to Haiti, leading Canada's first international, police-led, justice capacity building mission. Representing CIDA/ACDI (Canadian International Development Agency), the peace development project focused on the newly established civilian police in Haiti, and on reforming an archaic and corrupted justice system. Profiting from a close working relationship with a widely respected, international business development expert Tom Body, and the Honorable Rene J. Marin, a visionary of international justice and human rights, Beer established and managed highly successful partnerships with the Haitian Government, the U.S. Department of Justice (ICITAP: International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program), and the U.S. State Department (INL: International Narcotics and Law Enforcement). He returned to Haiti in 1998–1999, growing the mission four-fold, and increasing the capacity and the complexity of a project that evolved to include executive and mid-level management, forensic laboratory and investigation, criminal intelligence analysis, police trainers, and establishing a police academy library.

In 2003 Beer deployed to Iraq as Operation Iraqi Freedom ended. The partnership established with the U.S. agencies ICITAP and INL held him in good stead, as these agencies played important roles in Iraq. Representing Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAIT) this Mission had distinctive stages. Beer deployed with Canadian experts joining international partners from the U.S., UK, and Denmark, in a nationwide needs assessment for police and justice programs. Beer then deployed as a senior police advisor. His designated role in a complex and evolving security environment was diverse, from executive consultant to tactical advisor, to intelligence-led police operations.

In 2004–2005, Beer deployed to Haiti and MINUSTAH as UN Police Commissioner, commanding an authorized policing component of over 1600 with a complex mission mandate. The complexity of the mission was compounded by the fact police contingents came from some 40 different countries, spoke a dozen different primary languages, and represented a wide variety of policing capacities, capabilities, and methodologies.

C/Supt. Beer is a past Vice President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and Chair of the International Division. He continues to serve the IACP's International Steering Committee (www.iacp.com), and the Executive Committee of International Managers of Police Academy and College Training (IMPACT). Beer also served as Senior Policing Advisor and Africa Programs Director for the Pearson Peacekeeping Center, and served the Global Policing Policy Community for the United Nations Police Division (UNPOL).

Today C/Supt. Beer is Senior Advisor of International Policing at The ALRM Group, a Canadian security sector developer (www.thealrmgroup.com), and as Director at Confidion Inc., a Nova Scotia/UK based research and analysis consultancy (www.confidion.com).

Chief Supt. Beer holds a Master of Arts in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Windsor (Windsor, Canada), and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology, from Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada).



MONTRÉAL, QC, CANADA

Jane Boissonneault

East Timor

Democratic Republic of the Congo || 2011

Current Residence: Ottawa, ON || Contact: jane.boissonneault@pk75.ca

I was just 10 years old when I decided I wanted to be a Mountie. I knew my career could take me far from my home in Montréal, QC. I just didn't realize how far from home!

I heard lots of stories about what to expect on a peacekeeping mission. Luckily, I had a friend who had participated in a couple of UN missions, and he helped convince me to take the plunge and deploy to East Timor. Sure, I probably wouldn't change the world, but I might improve the lives of a few individuals. In my mind, that would be well worth it.

So, when I arrived in Southeast Asia, it was my goal to make a positive impact at the personal level. It was an amazing experience working within a culture so different from my own, alongside police officers from all over the world! Our goal as police trainers in East Timor was not much different from that of police trainers in our own home countries. We were there to mentor new members of the East Timor Police Services (ETPS) as they learned the basics of policing in their communities.



Staff Sergeant Jane Boissonneault (left) and a UN Police colleague from Chad share a laugh during the International Women's Day parade in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2011.

During my deployment, I patrolled numerous mountain villages. It was on these patrols that I got to know Maria, a recent graduate of the ETPS. She was just four foot nine, but what she lacked in height, she made up in heart and determination. Maria wanted to change the way the local communities felt about police, and women police officers in particular. I was honoured to mentor her.

I was transferred to the Investigations Unit to set up a Missing Persons Unit and Vulnerable Persons Unit. Maria was assigned to the unit as well. Together, we investigated sexual assaults, domestic assaults and even an attempted murder. Maria was always very good at interviewing victims, especially women and children. She had a natural skill and never appeared intimidated when dealing with suspects. I was transferred again, and Maria continued to work in the Investigations Unit. I was able to see her one more time in East Timor, on my last day. She was starting a course on Vulnerable Persons Investigations. I knew I would never see her again. But during the years that followed my mission, I often thought of her. I knew she was there making a difference in her community.

Five years later, I attended a UN-sponsored conference in Italy about gender-sensitive police reform in post conflict societies. I represented Canada. Guess who the delegate from East Timor was? None other than Maria! She had been promoted several

times and was now a Sub-Inspector (a rank between a staff sergeant and inspector in the RCMP). She outranked me! Maria thanked me. She told me I had shown her what a woman police officer can be and do. She said my example had helped her get to where she was. I had always felt I had done some good in East Timor. But there it was: affirmation at the personal level that I had indeed made a difference.

I carried this affirmation with me as I embarked on my second UN mission in 2011, this time to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I monitored the building of police stations, and personnel deployment. One day, I attended the official inauguration of a newly constructed station. I saw the hope on the faces of both the local villagers and police officers sworn to serve them. It was overwhelming. Would one of these be the next Maria, tirelessly working to build up their community from within?

The RCMP has given me the opportunity to work all over Canada and around the world. What have I learned? We all want the same things: We want our families to be safe and healthy; we want to be able to provide the basic necessities of life; we want our communities to live in peace and security; we want to raise our children in a world that has a future. Protecting these values is what made me become a police officer in the first place. The opportunity to mentor others as they pursue these goals within their own communities is what made my time serving in UN missions so fulfilling.

Biography

Staff Sergeant Jane Boissonneault has been a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for 30 years. After several years of general policing duty at various detachments in the province of Saskatchewan, she was assigned to the Federal Commercial Crime unit in Regina, Saskatchewan where she was promoted to Corporal at 10 years' service. From there, she was deployed to assist with major fraud and anti-corruption investigations in Ottawa and Montréal.

From Montréal she was promoted to Sergeant in the RCMP's Internal Audit, Evaluation and Review Branch at National Headquarters in Ottawa.

She has participated in two United Nations Peacekeeping missions, the first in the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor. Her duties there included building a Missing Persons Unit in Ermera District and heading up the National Vulnerable Persons Unit at UN Civilian Police HQ in Dili. Her second deployment was to the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) where she was Focal Point for Gender and Sexual Violence, as well as the Stabilization Coordinator for Security Sector Reform, posted in Goma, North Kivu province in Eastern Congo.

Upon her return from the DRC in January 2012, she was selected as Non-commissioned Officer in Charge of the RCMP's National Missing Children Operations (NMCO), part of the National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains.

As NCOi/c of NMCO, she was the Missing Persons Clearinghouse Manager for Canada, and the chair of the National AMBER Alert Working Group. She was also the RCMP's representative for the Our Missing Children Program, an organization of several federal government departments and agencies who work collaboratively to recover missing children and return them home.

During Jane's years in Ottawa, she volunteered numerous times to represent the RCMP at ceremonial events around the National Capital Region, as well as overseas. She also led the Ceremonial Troop for the Canada Day festivities on Parliament Hill for several years. She was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her dedication and commitment to representing the RCMP at ceremonial events.



Staff Sergeant Jane Boissonneault received her United Nations Medal during her deployment to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In February 2017, Jane was promoted to S/Sgt. and was posted to Sr. Reviewer/Analyst in Criminal Operations at M-Division Headquarters in Whitehorse, YT. In addition to her regular duties, she was Aide-de-Camp to the Yukon Commissioner, for which she was awarded the Vice-Regal and Commissioners' Commendation.

In February 2020, Jane transferred to RCMP National Headquarters in Ottawa to take on the position of Advisory NCO in International Peace Operations, the unit that manages the deployment of Canadian police officers and civilian experts to peace operations around the world.



YARMOUTH, NS, CANADA

Andre Boudreau

Egypt || 1975–1976

Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1995
Kosovo
Southern United States || 2004

Current Residence: South Ohio, Yarmouth County, NS || Contact: andre.boudreau@pk75.ca

My United Nations Tour was from Nov 1975 to May 1976 with the United Nations Emergency Force Middle East (UNEFME), and was stationed in Ismailia, Egypt situated on the west bank of the Suez Canal.

In the spring of 1975, the military was looking for Reservists to fill positions on UN Tours to alleviate the pressure on the Regular Force. Our unit, the 84th Independent Field Battery in Yarmouth, NS, was asked for members to volunteer. I was chosen and began the screening process which included medical, dental and immunizations.

Because we were Reservists, we had to complete training before deploying. In September, I traveled to CFB Gagetown to be trained with the other Reservists from the Maritimes who would be on the tour. The training involved weapons training, First Aid, and refresher training. Canada provided the Logistics Battalion for UNEFME, so training also included supply procedures, and I had to work in all the different supply sections on the Base.



Christmas Day 1975.

After the training was completed, we were sent home for leave and, in early November, we started the long trip to Ismailia, first from home to CFB Trenton, ON, then on to CFB Lahr, West Germany by Canadian Forces aircraft, a Boeing 707. The final leg was from Lahr to Cairo, then by UN bus to Ismailia.

My job when I arrived was the clerk for the Company Sergeant-Major, and the Commanding Officer's driver. I was responsible for maintaining the duties and Leave Records for the Company, and I also preformed general duties in the Supply Compound. For the second part of my tour, I was the second in charge of the Ration Section where I had the opportunity to go into the markets to issue fresh rations to the different contingents.

For a young soldier from a small fishing village this was a great experience and a eye opener on how poor some people are. It gave me the opportunity to see Israel, Lebanon, Syria, the Holy Land, the Pyramids, the Sphinx, sail on the Suez Canal and cross it on an Egyptian Army Pontoon Bridge.

Some of the things I remember are Remembrance Day, standing in front of the headstone of a British Air Force Sgt buried in a British War Cemetery; taking a camel ride at the Pyramids and the attendant wanting me to pay to get off when the ride was over; and watching workers building a road by moving gravel in baskets on their heads.

One day we had to destroy expired and contaminated rations. Soldiers from the Polish Contingent first dug a hole in the desert before we could start unloading the rations. A large group of Egyptians started to gather and come towards us, and by the time we started driving away, they were starting to

climb onto the truck, so we had to go get some armed security guards. When we returned, the crowd started to return, but they held back once they saw the Armed Guards. We unloaded and burned the rations and canned goods. Once this was done, we had it buried. The next day we went to look at it and the locals had dug up and taken what they could. When you have very little, you will eat what you can.

This was my only UN Tour in my 40-year military career, and the only Christmas I spent away from home. It was a positive experience and convinced me to join the Regular Army. On this tour I made lifelong friends that I am still in contact with today.

Biography

André was born in Yarmouth, NS. He grew up in a small Acadian Village where Fishing was the main industry. He didn't want to be a fisherman, so he joined the Canadian Forces on 3 July 1972 as an Artilleryman in the Reserves and transferred to the Regular Force in May 1977

During his time with the Artillery, he completed tours in Germany and a United Nations (UN) peacekeeping tour in Egypt. He was posted to the Artillery School, then to Range Control in Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Gagetown, and while there he completed his Combat Leaders Course and Sergeant qualifying course. Posted to CFB Shilo in 1981, he served with the Royal Canadian Artillery Battle School and with 3rd Regiment of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery.



Enjoying the sun after work, 1976.

In January 1985, André left the Guns to join the Engineers as a Construction Engineer (CE) Technician (Survey and Drafting). He completed his new trade's training in July 1985, and reverted to Corporal from Sergeant. His first posting was to 1 Construction Engineering Unit (1 CEU) at CFB Winnipeg. There he applied his new trade working on drawings for large projects in Canadian Forces Station Alert and around the world. When not in the office he was away from home surveying runways and Radar Sites throughout Canada, including the Arctic.

In September 1987, he was off to Canadian Forces School of Mechanical Engineering (CFSME) for his next level of trades training and, in the summer of 1988, was posted to CFB Baden Soellingen, West Germany. In 1989, he was promoted to Master Corporal, but was then over ranked for his position, so in 1990 he was posted to the CE Section in CFB Cornwallis. In 1991 he was promoted Sgt and posted to CE CFB Gagetown, where he supervised the Drafting Office. In 1993, and again in 1995, he attended his next level qualification courses.

In 1995 he was posted to 1 CEU Moncton, where he spent the next five years on survey jobs in locations like Dundurn, Borden, Petawawa, Valcartier, Alert, and Eureka, to mention a few. During this five-year period, he also completed two six-month tours of Bosnia with the Works and Design Company in Sarajevo and as a member Technical Assistance Visit to Macedonia in support of the first rotation of Canadian troops to Kosovo (KFOR).

Promoted to Warrant Officer in 1999, he was posted to CE at 14 Wing Greenwood in 2000 and deployed to Alert as the Production Superintendent from Feb to Aug 2000. In 2002, he was promoted to Master Warrant Officer (MWO) and posted to CE CFB Halifax where he held several jobs such as Operations MWO, Contacts Officer, and the Naval Construction Troop Officer. In the fall of 2004, he deployed on OP UNISON to the Southern U.S. after Hurricane Katrina. Getting there was the big adventure with a six-day sail on HMCS Toronto.

André was posted to CFSME as the Construction Engineering Training Squadron Sergeant-Major in July 2006. On promotion to Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) in 2008, he was posted to Ottawa working for the Assistant Deputy Minister (Infrastructure and Environment).

In July 2009, he became the first Chaplain Branch CWO and, in 2011, he moved to Canadian Operational Support Command, Engineer Group. André and his wife Beverly retired to South Ohio, Yarmouth County in 2012.



Sorel, QC, Canada

Danielle Boudreau

Golan Heights, Israel || 1987–1988

Current Residence: Calgary, AB || Contact: danielle.boudreau@pk75.ca

My UN tour in the Canadian Contingent, United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (CCUNDOF), the Golan Heights, was from December 1987 to June 1988, the year that all UN Peacekeepers were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize!

The day we did our pre-deployment training in Montréal, we all lined up for our vaccinations. Some of us couldn't sit down for hours. When we arrived at Golan Heights, we were rushed out of the bus and formed up outside, where we were introduced to the Adjutant and the Commanding Officer. From then on, we were the new PINKIES. As the Senior PERI, I was also asked to be the President of the Mess Committee (PMC) of the Junior Ranks Club. As part of the PMC's job, I was to ensure that we had proper stock and to be involved with organizing evening entertainment which could include poker night, bingo night, and other activities. One of the very popular entertainments was the PINKIES night, where the departing group gets all dressed up in local attire to welcome their replacements.

Other than the regular fitness classes and PT tests, monitoring all clubs' activities in Camp was on my plate. Since the swimming pool was closed for repairs, it freed up some of my time to organize ball hockey games and other after-hours activities. The Sailing Club was not active, so the sailing boats were not in very good shape and scheduled for write-off, but a new club was formed, the computer club. We had a couple of Apple computers which were very popular with everyone. People used them to do Certificates of Appreciation, posters, and many other computer activities. Two of the other very popular activities were floor hockey and softball.



SCUBA Diving in Eilat.

One very busy club was our Scuba Diving Club, and we took many diving trips to Eilat. We had a previous arrangement with a local building owner for us to stay in an apartment when we went there for diving. I remember very well during one of our dives, there was a huge rock that was named MOSES ROCK. This was a bright Red gigantic rock and when you got close to it, the rock seemed to be moving, but as we got closer to it, we realized it was covered with small red fish which gave it that bright red colour. My UN tour was an experience that I will never forget.

Biography

Born in Sorel, QC, I joined the Royal Canadian Navy in Oct 1973 and drove to Base de forces Canadienne (BFC) St-Jean for my Basic training, thus starting my Military Career. I retired in 1993 at the rank of Petty Officer 2nd Class, after 20 years of loyal and dedicated service to Canada and the Queen

My posting history included CFB St-Jean; CF Leadership School St-Jean; CF Fleet School (CFFS) Halifax; HMCS Assiniboine; NATO Deployment; CFFS Esquimalt; HMCS Restigouche; HMCS Okanagan (submarine); HMCS Ojibwa (submarine); CFB Halifax; HMCS Preserver; CFB Greenwood; CCUNDOF (Golan Heights) as Senior Physical Education and Recreation Instructor (PERI), where I received a Commanding Officer's Commendation; CFS Shelburne; CFB Cornwallis. When I retired from the Regular Force at CFB Cornwallis, I transferred to the Supplementary Ready Reserve.

I was awarded the following medals: The Special Service Medal (SSM) with NATO bar, the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal (CPSM), the United Nations medal for service in UNDOF, the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD), and the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires Long Service medal (two bars), and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal.



In December that year, the padre arranged for us to host an orphanage for a Christmas Dinner, and they honored us with a dance. This was a very nice evening arranged by the padre.



Montréal, QC, Canada

Sylvain Boulian

Egypt || 1978

Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1995

Croatia || 1995

Current Residence: Dieppe, NB || Contact: sylvain.boulian@pk75.ca

In 1978, while I was with the CCUNEFME group in Egypt, from May to November, we were in Camp El Gala, Ismailia, approximately 115 km, south of Cairo. Our Commanding Officer tasked our Engineering group to head out to a Canadian Telecommunication post in the desert. This post was in Wadi Reina, Egypt, which was only 50 minutes from our Canadian camp, in the Sinai Peninsula.

To get there from the camp, we took a ferry that took us across the Suez Canal, under the surveillance and protection from the UN Polish Police. After crossing the canal, we arrived on the Sinai Peninsula. The desert temperature was horrid with gust of winds. Once we got to the post, our mission was to construct washroom facilities for our Canadian military members. Approximately halfway to the destination, we overheard on the military communication radio that a terrible sandstorm was coming very rapidly towards us. A few minutes later, we could hardly see the asphalt on the road as it was rapidly being covered by sand. We could see the bigger sandstorm arriving rapidly. We made a quick decision to get out of our small jeep and cover all crevasses, nooks and crannies with duct/gun tape, where sand could affect our air intakes and covered all cracks with tape to prevent sand to get in.



Sandstorm.

The storm lasted approximately 10 minutes, sometimes at a very violent speed. After the storm passed, we radio to the camp to advise that we were ok, but no connection was made. As we were waiting for the storm to pass, we looked around our vehicle as mounds of sand formed around our vehicle. After removing the tape from the inside of the jeep, we went outside the vehicle and noticed that because the sand was moved around, we could see piles of military mines close to the road. We again tried to contact our camp to check in, when suddenly we heard a very loud noise coming from the front of our jeep. There was a sand plow clearing the road of sand. We stopped the vehicle and told the driver that we were close to a land mine field. He then contacted someone by radio.

After clearing out our jeep from sand, we continued to the post station safely. The following day, our team met with the reminder of our team and started building the shower facility. On the first couple of shovels in the sand, we came across a nest of scorpions. Hundreds came out of that nest. We were certainly scared of these little but deadly beasts and did not know what to do as we didn't receive any training when faced in this situation.

We continued with our construction project. While we were at that post, we had the opportunity to meet other UN Soldiers. Most of them were from Indonesia but some came from Ghana. Luckily, I had brought my guitar and got together with the foreign UN soldier, singing songs from Canadian singers. A few days later, once our project was completed, we returned to the camp, bypassing the area where we saw the military mines and saw that they had been picked up. During that time in that project, the temperature reached +40°C, of which we were getting used to. We were all glad to return to our camp.

Biography

I was born in Montréal, QC. My career in uniform started when I joined the Sea Cadets at age 13, until I joined the CAF when I turned 17 years old. My dad had to vouch for me at that young age. He was very proud, as he was himself an RCAF World War II veteran. It was easy for me to adapt to this new life in uniform with my experience in cadets, when I arrived at basic training in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC. After graduation, I had to join the Basic English language course at the Language School for two months, and then English language advance training for another two months, in preparation for my trade course, which started in September 1973, lasting for six months. My original trade was Structural Technician and later became a Construction Manager. I was then posted to CFB Cold Lake for five and a half years. During that time, I went to CFS Alert for a major construction project, followed by more courses.

After getting married in 1977, I received a tasking for my first UN mission. The location was Egypt, under the UNEFME, Operation Danaca. Other postings were, CFB Montréal, CFB Edmonton and CFB Lahr. I was then selected a second time to be part of a UN deployment in Croatia/Bosnia Op Harmony in 1995. I retired in 1997 from the CAF after 25 years of service.

During my life, on a couple of occasions, I was back in uniform as a Canadian Corps of Commissioners security agent, deployed to the Canadian Space Agency, Revenue Canada, CSIS and Calgary Police Services.

I continued with my trade experience with the Calgary Catholic School District for 15 years as a Project Manager and retired for a second time. At the same time, I rejoined the CAF as a Cadet Instructor Cadre with the RCN for another 10 years, reaching the Commanding Officer's position.

We moved to Ottawa in 2015, where I continued working as a project manager for the Francophone School district for a year and then later worked for the Museum of Nature as the Facility Officer for the next 4 years. Looking for retirement, as I never went to the east cost provinces, we moved to Dieppe, NB, where I recently reside, to continue exploring our beautiful Canada.

During my life, the CAF helped me to become a full knowledgeable Canadian, having traveled across our country and gained excellent experience in becoming a good leader.

I have joined numerous groups as volunteer, with participations such as, a hockey coach, a soccer coach, a PTA President, webmaster for veterans' organizations, presenter with The Memory Project and still connected and glad to be with helping the multiple veterans' associations. My recent projects are now as a guitar instructor with the VETS organization and a member of the Care and Support Advocacy Group and the Veterans Affair Canada.



Me in Camp El Gala, Ismailia, Egypt, May 1978.



Mistassini, Lac-St-Jean, QC, Canada

Jean-Guy Boulianne

Croatia || 1993

Cyprus || 1971–1972
Bermuda

Current Residence: Franklin, QC || Contact: jean-guy.boulianne@pk75.ca

In 1993 when participating in the mission with the Peacekeeping Forces in Croatia. This mission was to protect the Serbian enclave against the Croats. Deployed with the 1st Battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment as a Master-Corporal, Construction Engineering Tradesman/Carpenter. Our mission was to patrol the forward lines of our troops to provide them with logistical building materials and other needs. This mission was a highlight of my career in every respect.

Having served the first part of my career as an infantryman. In 1982 I requested a change of trade and was transferred to the Construction Engineers. Our mission in the former Yugoslavia was to defend the Serbs against Croatian attacks in the area known as "Medack Pocket".

The strongest moment and what really marked and moved me of this mission was the distress of the children abandoned in an indescribable misery. These women alone are supporting their children and family with pain and misery, because the father is on duty and fighting at the front. This misery of his children really touched my heart.

On 22 December 1993, a message arrived from the administrative office telling me that my father was dying and I had to go to his bedside in Québec, Canada. During my holiday after my father's funeral. While thinking about the situation in Croatia on his mothers and their children. I asked myself why not bring back shoes for children in the former Yugoslavia. I began to tour the aid associations in the town of Loretteville and the surrounding area. Such as the St-Vincent-de-Paul Society and other aid centres. I asked them to give me children's shoes for a humanitarian cause, and the response was very generous.

Being on a special vacation in Canada due to the death of my father. I had to go back alone, I had more than fifty pairs of shoes in my large military bag (Duffel Bag). I thought to myself what a unique opportunity I have! Being the direct link to provide shoes to children without intermediaries.



Photo of me, in former Yugoslavia "somewhere in Croatia", Op-Harmony 1993. UN. Peacekeeping Mission

On my return to Croatia, I gathered several mothers who were mostly working on maintenance or other household tasks for the Canadians to give the shoes to the children. It was one of the most memorable moments of my life to hand over these beautiful gifts and to see the look in the children's eyes when they took their shoes.

At the end of my journey, my mission had taken on a meaning and a semblance of humanity in this great conflict in which we were involved and witnessed as a member of the United Nations with the Peacekeeping Forces in the former Yugoslavia.

Biography

In 1970 at the age of 18, influenced by the October crisis when Québec was under martial law and war measures. I applied to join the Canadian Forces during the recruitment tour at the Armed Forces Mobile Trailer passing through Mistassini. In January 1971 I received the call from the recruiting centre to report to the recruit course at CFB St-Jean-sur-Richelieu on February 7. I had to adjust quickly from civilian life to the military life of the Armed Forces, a huge contrast.

After six weeks of very intense recruit training, marching and military dress, especially learning to live in a group and socialize in barracks with other recruits who will be your friends for life. Following my recruit course, I reported to the Citadel of Québec of the 2nd battalion of the R22R to follow the combat training at CFB Valcartier for the handling of firearms and combat. After a very intense summer of training, my first peacekeeping mission came quickly in the fall of that year at the age of nineteen.

The 2nd Battalion was deployed for six months to Cyprus in the autumn of 1971–1972. I was very young, impressed and surrounded by soldiers who served in WW2 1939–1945 and Korea 1953. We were a bit mortified to be around all these R22R veterans. Six months service in Cyprus with the Peacekeepers on the line between Turkey and Greece. Having so little experience we had to show a lot of professionalism despite our young age.

Back in Canada, I was selected for the red guard at the Citadel of Québec (dressed in red and wearing a bear hair helmet weighing 11 lbs). It was a once in a lifetime experience to wear this uniform. After two years of service in the red guard.

In the spring of 1973, I received a message for a deployment with NATO to CFB Lahr in Germany Europe from 1973–1976 and 1979–1982. Cold War period, NATO military exercise on the Eastern Bloc border. Unforgettable moment; in 1979 visit of the wall and the famous "Charly Point" in Berlin, Germany.

In 1975, participated with 750 veterans "from Canada" of the 2nd war, parade for the 30th anniversary of the liberation of Italy (See photo General Triquet RIP). Parade about 100 active Canadian military in several Canadian cemeteries in Italy. Ortona, Monte Casino, Casa Baradi, and Vimy.

In 1978 my marriage to Sylvia Himmelsbach, my son Michel was born in Lahr, Germany. Our union will soon be 49 years old. In 1980 I applied for a change of profession and left Germany. On my return to Canada 1982 at the rank of Sergeant Infantryman at CFB St-Hubert, first stage of trade Carpenter Construction Engineering. Fall 1982 trade change course at CFB Chilliwack B.C. for the next 7 months.

On my return to CFB St-Hubert, from 1982 to 1988 to perfect my trade. (And demoted from Infantry Sergeant to Corporal in Construction Engineering). In October 1986, I was deployed to CFS Alert for six months to maintain the station, five months at night, the lunar landscape and the intense cold of the North Pole are still among the most beautiful memories of my career.

Another departure, in the summer of 1988, transferred to CFB Valcartier, base maintenance section, construction engineering section, carpentry workshop. Two years later transfer to the 5th Field Engineer Regiment in the carpentry workshop for two years. From 1988 to 1997 I participated in several major projects,

SFC Bermuda ; construction of a community centre and many other projects. In 1993, my deployment to Ex-Yugoslavia as a Battalion Carpenter see (anthology attached) on my United Nations Peacekeeping mission. In 1995 trade qualification to level 5/6A in Chilliwack. I retired from the Canadian Forces on 07 April 1997 for medical reasons



Photo of me, 19 years old, on UN Peacekeeping Mission Cyprus 1971



LANCASHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

Kevin Bracewell

Afghanistan

Iraq || 2005–2006

Current Residence: North Vancouver, BC || Contact: kevin.bracewell@pk75.ca

A COPPER IN KANDAHAR

It was 05:00; the sun was just coming up as I stood in the morning chill waiting for the patrol briefing before venturing "outside the wire". I was in Afghanistan. I would be there for nearly a year. For the first part of my tour, I was attached to a US POMLT, (Police Operational Mentor Liaison Team). This was part of the Raider Brigade out of Camp Nathan Smith before moving to Panjwa'i, and a Canadian POMLT for my last 6 months. Coming from the UK originally, I was a "Tea man", not a coffee aficionado, but the mug of Nescafe 3-in-1 instant coffee in my hand lent itself to a more contemplative view than what lay before us once we left the security of the fort gates.

The sunrise that day was striking, a ripple of deep red, against a clear awakening sky. To be honest I don't think I saw a cloud in the sky for months. Each country has its own beauty, and Afghanistan, despite being somewhat impoverished and in the grip of a terrible conflict, certainly laid on a stunning show that morning.



Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV).

Having served with both the British and Canadian Forces, prior to being an RCMP Officer, I was no stranger to overseas missions. The Afghan tour I was deployed on was not part of a UN Mission, or (technically) Peacekeeping, but the elements were the same; to assist in the development of the Afghanistan Government in its transition away from the conflict and mistrust fostered by years of occupation and disruption. A huge part of this lay in proving to Afghans that a Police Service was there to serve and protect its citizens, and not be an instrument of the state to control the population. My particular role was to mentor the Afghan National Police (ANP), in the field, after they had completed their "basic training". I will always remember one of my Afghan Coppers telling me, "We like the Canadians, you don't just train us, you walk (outside the wire) with us.

The Afghan Situation was, and is, a very complex issue. The current conflict and history have been written on at length, so I will not cover the historical, political aspects in any depth. However, what I did notice on my deployment was the fierce loyalty and acceptance of Afghans, who wanted a better future for their country and children. Once you had earned their trust, they were the best of people to work alongside. Unfortunately, there were still Afghans who did not embrace the western mission, and masqueraded as trainees in the ANP, with the sole intent of disrupting the training process, and killing recruits

and trainers. I was familiar with these issues, having been on the Iraqi Police Training Mission several years before. It was life on a knife edge, with every day being constantly on the alert for signs of threats not from just the normal issues posed by an operational Afghan tour, but also from threats within the Afghan unit you were working with.

The tour was challenging, a dichotomy, between Western and Afghan culture and beliefs. Right and wrong is simple and accepted by all cultures and countries. It is the interpretation of this by individuals and States for their own benefit that leads to the mistrust and confusion, but then to quote the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera, "A policeman's lot is not a happy one."

When I reflect back on the Mission, I think two things will jump to the fore: Afghan children, old and wise beyond their years, but missing out on the privileges afforded to their counterparts in Canada; and Afghan Women, strong and resilient, but not afforded the protection received by their Canadian sisters under the Charter of Rights. Trying to bring that field of fair play into Afghanistan was challenging, yes, but definitely important.

We've done well Canada!

Biography

Born in Lancashire in the UK. Served with the British Army, and immigrated to Canada in 1983. Served with the Canadian Forces, prior to joining the RCMP. Currently serving in the RCMP with 32 years of operational service, serving in Surrey, Sea to Sky, and North Vancouver where he is the City Response Sgt. He was with National Security Enforcement Teams during the 9–11 crisis and has served on two overseas missions; Training the Iraqi Police in 2005–2006 (Received International Instructor Certification), and a ten-month operational tour in Afghanistan. He is a Tactical Team Instructor, Use of Force Instructor, Public and Police Safety Instructor, Firearms Instructor, Tactical Communications / Non Violent Crisis Intervention Instructor, Taser Instructor, Initial Critical Incident Response Instructor and a Team Commander on the Lower Mainland Tactical Support Group. He has been the President of the North Shore Veterans Council Canada for four years. Currently living and stationed in North Vancouver, BC.



Traffic.



CALGARY, AB, CANADA

Karen Breeck

Golan Heights, Israel || 1994

Current Residence: Ottawa, ON

When I arrived at my post with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in 1994, I must admit it came as a wee bit of a surprise to find out that I was the only woman military officer in a joint force of over 1500 peacekeepers!

At that time, Canada, Poland, and Austria shared the responsibilities of UNDOF. The Canadian and Polish forces were stationed in the Israeli-occupied Syrian territory on one side of the disengagement zone and the Austrian forces were located on the Syrian side.

Part of my job description was to be ready "for anything." Although military people on peacekeeping operations are usually fit and healthy, terrible things can happen. A prominently placed plaque in the Canadian camp served as a reminder of the very real possibility of such tragic events. On 9 August 1974, a Canadian Buffalo aircraft on a scheduled flight from Lebanon to Damascus was shot down by Syrian surface-to-air missiles killing 9 Canadian crew and passengers. This date, August 9th, is formally recognized in Canada as our "National Peacekeepers Day."



Capt Breeck on medical patrol in Syria.

To be ready for anything, I had to travel to Syria and Israel to build relationships with, and gather information from, the local civilian medical communities. I needed to understand their capabilities to support us in case of emergency. As the only Canadian military doctor in the Middle East, I was also asked to help other Canadian military members working in the area, including United Nations Military Observers.

At the time, the political situation in Syria was relatively calm. As the Canadian camp was located on the Israeli side, our opportunities to travel on days off through the disengagement zone to the Syrian side still required special planning and permissions. Whenever it was possible to coordinate a day off, many of the available Canadian officers would go together to explore Syria.

One of my favorite memories of Syria was visiting Palmyra. This ancient oasis lies just over two hundred and fifty kilometres from Damascus. It used to be a commonly used rest spot for the weary travellers travelling along the Silk Trade Route. At one point in Palmyra's long and fascinating history, it was ruled by the Queen Regent Zenobia who singlehandedly held the Romans off against their initial take-over attempts.

But it wasn't just the incredible geography and history of Syria that caught my heart. Wherever we went — border crossing, road stops, local markets — the reaction felt the same. In Syria, unlike in Israel, all eyes were on me.

Many Syrian men were curious about the presence of a uniformed woman in their midst, especially when I was driving. The English-speaking male shop owners would often try to entice me to join them for a sit-down chat, always promising hot sweet "chai" tea as my reward. I admit I initially assumed, through Western eyes, these offers were veiled sales tactics, attempts to convince me to buy one of their products at several

times its normal price. Although that was the correct assessment in a few cases, for the most part I was wrong. Many of these men just wanted to know more about a woman's life in Canada and in the military. These conversations inevitably resulted in their sharing of well-loved photographs of their wives and daughters followed by enthusiastic invitations to come to their homes. These men not only wanted me to meet the women in their lives but to allow those women to hear all these stories of Canadian life first-hand.

One of the things my peacekeeping experience taught me is that parents are parents worldwide. They all love their children. I have no words that could ever express my heartbreak for the suffering that Syria and its people have endured in the years since my tour. I wish them, and the world, more peace.

Biography

As a child, growing up in Calgary, AB I knew very little about the Canadian military. The first time I remember meeting a real live member of the Canadian Armed Forces was in 1983. I was studying marine biology at Memorial University of Newfoundland and my assigned university roommate was another "come from away". She had joined the Army Reserves in Winnipeg before starting university and she transferred to a new Reserve unit in St. John's. I watched her all year — shining shoes and ironing uniforms for her part-time job. She always seemed to be doing fun things, she liked the people she was working with, and the pay seemed really good, especially for those times.



Capt Breeck visiting a patrol in Syria.

I never seriously thought about joining the military until several years later. I had started medical school and a recruiter came to speak to our class. One of the biggest appeals about joining up, besides having all my school costs paid for, was the potential of becoming a Canadian peacekeeper.

I had already been lucky enough to have done a fair amount of travelling, including to fragile and conflict-affected areas of the world. I saw first-hand that diplomacy couldn't be the only tool in your toolkit to keep the world safe. There are times and places where a neutral third-party force, such as UN peacekeepers, is needed. I instinctively understood what an important role any respected impartial country could play in support of peace operations. Peacekeeping seemed to me like a natural fit for Canada and Canadian values and ideals. There is a reason that it was a Canadian who came up with the idea of UN peacekeepers in the first place! Shout out to Lester B. Pearson!

Most Canadian soldiers on UN missions belong to army units and come from army trades. As an Air Force medical officer, it took some time to finally convince my career manager to assign me to a UN peacekeeping mission. Finally in 1994, I got to serve six months with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) which monitors the 1973 Yom Kippur War ceasefire between Syria and Israel.

That was only one of the many amazing things that I got to do in my twenty years of service in the Canadian Armed Forces. I was lucky enough to receive additional postgraduate training in aerospace and occupational medicine. I participated in search and rescue missions on CH-133 Labrador helicopters along the east coast of Canada, Arctic patrol missions on CP-140 Aurora maritime surveillance aircraft, humanitarian missions on CP-130 Hercules transport aircraft, disaster relief missions on CH-146 Griffon tactical helicopters, and aeromedical evacuations, including from UN mission sites, on CC-144 Challenger jets. I also got to serve as the flight surgeon (aviation doctor) at the Canadian Space Agency in Montréal, QC and the Snowbirds 431 Air Demonstration Squadron in Moose Jaw, SK.

By the end of my career, I had worked as a military physician in every province of Canada and in well over 20 countries. However, my career wasn't all travelling and flying around. I also completed administrative postings where I had the opportunity to help develop medical and Air Force policies, do research, and help develop enhanced medical training and support packages for UN Military Observers.

Even though my personal military peacekeeping days are long over, my interest in the UN and the ideals of peace operations remain. I have stayed involved in this area by volunteering with the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, and the Women, Peace and Security Network. The Network represents over 80 different individuals and groups that encourage the Canadian government to support the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. Two of the goals of these resolutions is to promote and support women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution, and to promote and safeguard the human rights of women and girls. Through programs like the "Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations" Canada helps to ensure equality, empowerment, respect, and inclusion of all sexes and genders, especially in fragile or conflict-affected populations.

As I look back, my military career seems like two decades of a breathtaking and exhilarating roller coaster ride. Despite the many highs during my military career, my greatest moment of pride remains that of being a UN peacekeeper, blue beret on my head and Canadian flag on my shoulder.



River Hebert, NS, Canada

Tom Brown

Sudan || 2009

Standing Naval Force Atlantic || 1983
Croatia || 1994
Golan Heights, Israel || 2000–2001
Afghanistan || 2004, 2012

Current Residence: Cambridge, NS || Contact: tom.brown@pk75.ca

In 2009 I deployed to the Sudan, Africa, for a six-month tour, serving as one of the United Nations Military Observers (UNMO) who are the proverbial "eyes and ears" of a UN mission. We are "unarmed" peacekeepers, an approach intended to convey a presence of neutrality. I had been on previous deployments, but this was my first mission being unarmed, and it took some getting used to. While flying to Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, our plane had to be turned back to Beirut, Lebanon for an overnight stay due to a massive sandstorm at our destination that made it too dangerous to land in Khartoum. It was my first experience with a "Haboob" the Arabic name for such storms, and they are as ferocious as any snowstorm.

I deployed to Kadugli, a remote village nestled in the foothills of the Nuba mountains. Kadugli looked like a town from the old West, replete with rutted dirt roads, overcrowded markets, and livestock everywhere. Our team site consisted of UNMOs from many nations including Nepal, India, Pakistan, Egypt, South Korea, Uganda, and Australia. During downtime, I taught them how to play "Pass the Ace" a game that grew to be a tremendous hit with the UNMOs. Part of our daily ritual was to proceed into Kadugli to the local baker for "Dinka bread" which was a staple with most meals. I got to experience eating goat and camel meat, the latter being very tough and chewy.

A major part of our mission pertained to the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process whereby members of the former combatants would lay down their weapons, leave their military units, and return to civilian life. We were responsible to monitor the collection and control of weapons, as well as their disposal. It was an eye-opener to witness the combatants turning in weapons, as they ranged in ages from child to adult. Though most places we patrolled were safe, due to the volatile nature of other locations, ensuring our safety necessitated an armed security detail provided by members of the Egyptian UN forces.



My wife, family, and friends sent numerous gifts and candy for the children.

Part of the role of being an UNMO was to patrol through the various villages and interact with the inhabitants. I delivered numerous gifts of toys, sandals, candy, etc. that were sent to me from family and friends. This helped in winning "hearts and minds" within the communities. Most of the villages consisted of small mud and thatch roofed houses called "Tukuls." They live a truly spartan lifestyle. In one instance I had provided a young child with a frisbee. My interpreter had to explain to the villagers what a frisbee was, as most thought it was a dinner plate. Children are children everywhere, so you could just imagine the sheer joy of receiving candy, jump ropes, Dollar store sandals, etc. They were very appreciative.

My favorite village was a leprosy colony located in South Murta. I had befriended a Dutch nurse from the leprosy mission who put me in contact with a representative of the village. The villagers were extremely welcoming and hospitable. With the help of a Dutch UNMO we collected monies to purchase mosquito nets for the tukuls, as well as plastic tarps to cover the roofs. We also purchased farming tools to assist with their

harvesting of sorghum. Malaria is rampant in the Sudan, so the mosquito nets were most welcomed.

Being an UNMO was an honour. I'm fortunate to have a loving wife and family, and their support to me, while deployed, was a real morale booster. My care packages were received and enjoyed by all the UNMOs. The Sudan was my favorite tour of duty, and I cherish memories from my time there.

Biography

I served in the Canadian Armed Forces for 38 years. For the first 28 of those, I served as a Senior Non-Commissioned Member (NCM) and was commissioned to the rank of Captain in 2008. My role as an NCM was a Resource Management Support Clerk (RMS Clk), and as a Captain I was an Army Logistics Officer (Log O).

The RMS Clk profession is known as a "purple" trade meaning that you can serve in all elements — Army, Navy, and Air Force. My first posting was onboard HMCS NIPIGON. During my time onboard I had the opportunity to deploy on a six-month Standing Naval Force Atlantic (STANAVFORLANT) tour, sailing with a multi-national force. While serving onboard, in 1982, I was involved in a severe storm at sea that sank the oil rig, Ocean Ranger, off the coast of Newfoundland. All 84 crew members aboard the Ocean Ranger were lost.



Some patrol areas were remote and inhospitable

I spent four years onboard ship and then, in 1984, was posted to Canadian Forces Base Lahr, West Germany to serve with the 1st Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (1 RCHA) where I was one of two Naval service members serving with the Regiment. Transferring from a naval environment to a field unit was somewhat of a culture shock but I thoroughly enjoyed both postings. While serving with the Navy, I had travelled to various countries, and while stationed with the Army in Germany, my family and I were also able to visit numerous countries.

In 1988, I was posted to Canadian Forces Base Uplands (Ottawa). I missed serving in an operational environment, so I was subsequently posted to the Canadian Airborne Regiment (CAR) in Petawawa, ON. With the downsizing of the Regiment the following year I was transferred to 2 Service Battalion (2 Svc Bn), a service support unit, also in Petawawa. In 1994, I deployed with the Battalion to Croatia, part of the former Yugoslavia. It was my first deployment as a United Nations peacekeeper. I was later posted to a Naval Reserve unit in PEI following my deployment, and a year later I was posted to Canadian Forces Base Halifax where I remained for the next 10 years. While in Halifax, I got to serve again onboard HMC Ships CHARLOTTETOWN and TORONTO.

Following these postings, I served with two reserve Brigade units, one in Moncton and the other in Halifax. My final posting was to National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa where I was a staff officer with Strategic Joint Staff (SJS). Upon retirement in 2018, my wife and I moved to Cambridge, NS in the Annapolis Valley where we enjoy spending time with our children and grandchildren. During my lengthy career I participated in the following UN and NATO missions:

- Standing Naval Force Atlantic (STANAVFORLANT), 1983;
- United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Croatia, 1994;
- United Nations Disengagement Force (UNDOF), Golan Heights, 2000-2001 (1 year tour);
- International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), Afghanistan, 2004;
- United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), Sudan, 2009; and
- Canadian Contribution to the Training Mission in Afghanistan (CCTM(A)), Afghanistan, 2012.



SAINT JOHN, NB, CANADA

Wayne J. Buck

Western Sahara || 1992–1993

Great Lakes Africa || 1996

Y2K Preparation, Canada || 1997–1999

Current Residence: Norfolk, VA || Contact : wayne.buck@pk75.ca

The Sahara Desert is a remarkably interesting place. If you have never been there you would think it empty and barren. Nothing could be further from the truth. At one time the desert was at the bottom of the ocean which makes for remarkably thought-provoking geographical features including lava outcrops, sinkholes, and low mountains. The people who live there are very tribal and usually live in tents in family units. Sahrawis are composed of many tribes and are largely speakers of Arabic. Interestingly, many also speak French due to Moroccan influence, and Spanish due to the influence of Cuba. It was Cuba who taught the Saharawi to fight, and from where they got their weapons.

In Peacekeeping Operations, it is somewhat normal for Canada to send formed units to the conflict. For the Sahara, Canada chose to send up to 35 individuals who would support the mission as required. I was one of those who deployed for a year. The disputed area is divided by a tall berm. Morocco is on one side and the Saharawi on the other. My first job was as a teamsite leader of 15 multinational military members on the Saharawi side in a place called Dougaj. My boss was a Chinese Colonel who was in Dakla about a five to six-hour vehicle ride away. That was also where the closest telephone was located. All our work was done by radio and that included calling home once a week through a civilian operator. We lived in tents and patrolled the area looking for either side not adhering to the agreed cease-fire. In the team were several nationalities including Columbian, Polish, Canadian, Brazilian, British, and Argentinian. This was a dual-language mission with English and French as the working languages. The funny thing is when Argentina volunteered to be part of the mission, they chose to teach their Spanish speaking officers French. That was fine except everyone else only spoke their native language and English. Only I had a clue what the Argentinian was saying. So, I became an impromptu English language teacher for a few months.



The Russian Mi-8 (Hip) did extremely well in the desert and is now used by over 50 countries around the world for a variety of roles. This shot shows Wayne guiding his helicopter to its resting location. Taken in 1993 at Awsard by unknown photographer.

As you may expect, the desert is hot. The temperature never really got below 30°C and usually was around 35°C. Once it was 60°C for three days in a row. It was so hot that the oil in our aircraft got so thin that the electronics would not allow the aircraft to start. It thought that there was no oil. We needed to spray water on the engines to cool them down. Even in the heat there is still wildlife and domestic animals. I was told that there were fox and rabbits, but I never saw any. I did see lots of scorpions and snakes. The most dangerous snake was the horned viper whose bite would kill a child and certainly make an adult extremely uncomfortable.

The local people were nomadic and frequently moved from place to place. Certainly, a family was considered rich if they had more than two camels and a few goats. Sometimes we would borrow the camels if we had to go into especially soft sand areas where our Toyotas could not go without sinking. While

on patrol looking for ceasefire infractions, we often visited the locals. In the tents while talking (through a translator) we would be offered camel milk. It came in a large bowl which everyone drank from. It was very sour so if we knew that we would be visiting a tent, we would bring five pounds of sugar as a gift. The locals knew that meant to put the sugar in the drink and that made the drink edible for us.

After about four months in Dougaj, the sector commander asked me to become teamsite leader of a camp called Awsard. This camp was much larger and on the Moroccan side. I took the job and essentially administered the Southern Sector. I had my own medical airplane and resupply helicopter along with about 40 staff for patrolling and administration. I kept that job until I went home eight months later.

Biography

I genuinely enjoyed my 29 years in the Canadian Forces. I started at age 12 in Air Cadets which is not actually a part of the Canadian Forces, but it surely exposes you to a lot of military related experiences. Later I joined the Signals reserves and enjoyed that experience even more. As a member of 722 Communication Squadron in Saint John, NB, I trained as a radio operator and teletype operator. Teletype was like an old-fashioned Internet without pictures. While attending the University of New Brunswick, the military asked me to join the regular force as a Signal Officer. In 1983, with a computer science degree and having finished my signal officer training, I took command of a signal troop within 1st Canadian Signal Regiment in Kingston, ON that specialised in microwave transmission. A true highlight of my career. I was surrounded by exceptional young men and women who performed well during operations and exercises and gave their all to the job. I was to find out that this was only normal in the Canadian military.

A year later I was the Signal Officer for 3rd Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery in Shilo, MB. There I also commanded a troop and was Signals advisor to the Commanding Officer. It is also where I took my new wife in 1986 and we had a heck of a good time in the middle of the prairies. Military postings are what you make of them. We square danced, did woodworking, curled, golfed, and took part in a highly active mess life. We also travelled locally while seeing many things that most Canadians do not even know exist; for example, the Boissevain, MB turtle races or the snowmobile swamp skimming championships.

In 1992, I was selected to be a peacekeeper in the Western Sahara Desert as part of MINURSO, the United Nations Mission for The Referendum in Western Sahara. This was a great experience but more of that on the previous page.

After receiving a master's degree from the Royal Military College in 1996, I was posted to National Defence Headquarters. Soon after arriving there, Canada was asked to lead a mission in the Great Lakes Region of Africa where there was a fear that several hundred thousand refugees had gone missing and were in danger. Operation Assurance was launched and I was sent to be a member of the Signals team. We staged out of Stuttgart, Germany from the U.S. base there. Once ready, we deployed to Uganda and set up initially at the Entebbe airport. After a short time, we moved to an unused fairground which had enough room for vehicles, satellite dishes, and so on. Eventually, the lost refugees were found, and the mission wrapped up much earlier than expected.



Camels were used for patrolling when the sand was too soft for motor vehicles. Taken 1992 by unknown photographer.

After Ottawa, I commanded 2 Area Support Group Signal Squadron in Petawawa, ON. We were responsible for all strategic military communications in Ontario and heavily involved in Operation ABACUS, the name given to the possible Y2K disruption. For more than two years we tested equipment, re-wrote software, and did all that we could to ensure that all systems, military and civilian, would keep working past 31 December 1999. In Petawawa, we were essentially in lockdown on New Year's Eve. No parties, be prepared to move to where and when needed, and ensure personal and family safety. In the end, our work paid off. The country prepared well and Y2K was a non-event.

After a year at Staff College in Toronto, my family and I moved to the NATO headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia. My Canadian military training and experiences prepared me well for this assignment. The work was in some ways technical, in some ways managerial, and in many ways innovative. In 2005, after being in Norfolk in uniform for four years, I became a NATO International Civilian (essentially a civil servant) as a specialist in modelling and simulation. We have now been here for 20 years and have formed strong friendships with many international colleagues and I enjoy every day when I go to work.

The military tradition continues in the Buck household. Son Alex is a Major in The Royal Canadian Regiment and has deployed to Afghanistan twice and to the Ukraine, as well as having been an exchange officer with the U.S. Army.



North Delta, BC, Canada

John Buis

East Timor || 2003–2004

Turkish Embassy Crisis, Canada || 1985
Oka Crisis, Canada || 1990
Croatia || 1994

Current Residence: Delta, BC || Contact: john.buis@pk75.ca

My first introduction to the United Nations Civilian Police (CIVPOL) deployments was in the summer of 1989 when one hundred members of the RCMP departed from Montréal for peacekeeping duties in Namibia to monitor the election process set to take place in three weeks-time. This unique group of members of the RCMP from across Canada were the first RCMP Officers ever to be deployed on a UN Peacekeeping Mission.

My own first mission came in 1994, when I was selected as one of 45 RCMP members deploying to the Former Yugoslavia to work as unarmed, civilian police monitors for six months. I arrived in Zagreb, Croatia on June 1, 1994, and from there was sent to Ilok, Croatia. My mission went well until November 20, 1994, when we were forced to evacuate to a nearby UN military base. UN peacekeepers throughout the theatre were being threatened and taken hostage. We were able to leave the compound and Sector East a week later. I left the mission area and returned to Canada on December 3, 1994. I returned to Canada with only the uniform I was wearing and a small kit bag with a few pieces of clothing and toiletries. We left in such a hurry there had not been an opportunity to properly present each of us with our UN Peacekeeping medals. Instead, our medals were dropped in our lap as we flew home. The biggest disappointment I had with my first UN Mission was my unexpected evacuation. I did not have an opportunity to say goodbye to the many local people I had gotten to know during my mission. My mission in 1994 ended on a very sour note, and it saddened me to think about the people we left behind.

In 2003, I was selected for deployment to East Timor as a CIVPOL Monitor. On August 30, 2003, after ten days of pre-deployment training sessions in Ottawa, we began our journey to East Timor via Vancouver, Honolulu, Sydney and Darwin. After landing in Darwin, we learned someone had cancelled our plane ticket from Darwin to East Timor, a distance of almost 700 kilometers. The next morning, we chartered a small aircraft and flew to Dili, East Timor to start our mission. The six members of our contingent were from a number of city police services in Canada and the RCMP. We were senior police officers each with 20 or more years of service at the sergeant or staff sergeant rank with a wide variety of experience.



Buis with unknown members of the ETPS on the road to Dili, East Timor (March 2004).

After the first week of indoctrination, testing and lectures we were assigned to the various units within the CIVPOL headquarters building in Dili. I was first assigned to the Professional Standards Unit investigating CIVPOL officers in the mission. The offences we investigated included using the services of a sex trade worker, internet porn, and impaired driving. Punishment was usually repatriation to their home country.

In December 2003, I was transferred to the Deputy Commissioner's Office and became his Project Officer/Aide. For most of the next six months, I worked with the second-in-command of the CIVPOL Mission in East Timor. We conducted numerous meetings, visits, and inspections of UN police

stations throughout the country, and I had a great view of the mission from the vantage point of leaders of the mission.

As the scheduled date for handover of equipment and policing duties to the East Timor Police Service (ETPS) approached, there was an observable lessening of the interaction between CIVPOL and the ETPS. Meetings were missed, combined patrols were cancelled, and ETPS's lack of presence around the CIVPOL HQ was noticeable. Time passed slowly with less and less to do. It was time for us to leave. On May 23, 2004, we boarded our flight for home. With stops in Bali and Hong Kong, I arrived home one hour earlier than when I departed Hong Kong. I finally got back the day I lost crossing the International Date Line the previous year. I was pleased and happy that I was able to complete a UN mission after the unpleasant, sudden, and emotional evacuation from Ilok Croatia, Sector East in November of 1994.

Did I have a positive impact on the citizens of East Timor during my nine-month mission? It is difficult to measure what impact I had. I do know that, together with all the UN personnel in East Timor, the country had become relatively peaceful, the children and young people were attending school, and the economy was beginning to improve. The people of East Timor appeared to be content, but I am sure they were ready for the UN to leave their country when we did.

Biography

I was born in Winnipeg, MB in 1954, soon after my parents arrived in Canada from The Netherlands. Several years later, we moved to Vancouver, BC. In 1960, my parents bought a home in North Delta, BC, and I have lived in this area ever since. I have been married to my high school sweetheart for over 45 years, and we have three adult children, one of whom is a member of the RCMP.



Buis with unknown UN pilot and MI-8 helicopter, September 2003.

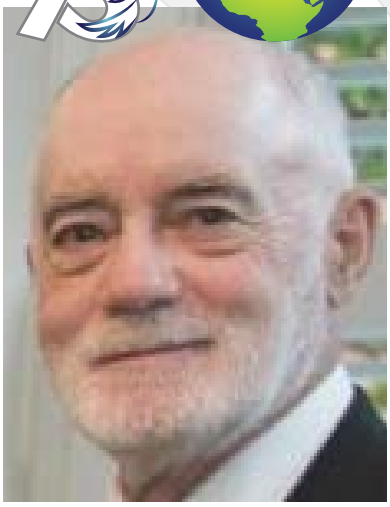
I joined the RCMP at Surrey Detachment on October 4, 1976 and after 45 years of continuous service, I retired on Wednesday 6 October 2021. I have had an interesting and personally fulfilling career in the RCMP with over 30 years of my service serving in the City of Burnaby. During my career, I have served as a uniformed police officer, plain clothes investigator, Tactical Troop and Emergency Response Team (ERT) member; Policy Writer; Media Relations Officer; Firearms Instructor, VIP Security instructor, United Nations (UN) Police Monitor; Watch Commander; District Commander, and for the last 12 years of my service, as the Executive Non-Commissioned Officer to the Officer in Charge of Burnaby Detachment.

Early in my career, I was seriously injured while on duty, investigating a stolen car. On 22 April 1979, I was in plain clothes in Burnaby, BC. My partner and I stopped a speeding car that was determined to be stolen from the USA. While attempting to arrest one of the seven passengers, I was shot at point-blank range by one of the passengers who was armed with a sawed-off shotgun hidden under his jacket. The two other police officers with me shot and wounded the shooter. The gunman collapsed because of his wounds but was able take my service revolver from my holster and fire it once at one of the police officers, fortunately missing its intended target. The shooter then turned my revolver on me, took me hostage and threatened to kill me. The attending police officers convinced the shooter to give himself up and the hostage taking ended after a four-minute standoff. I was taken to hospital and remained there for 26 days to repair the severe damage to both legs caused by the close-range, shotgun blast. Since the shooting almost 44 years ago, I have returned to fulltime, active duty, but also underwent a total of 15 operations to reconstruct my legs and repair my knees due to the injuries I received from the shooting.

In addition to my regular policing duties, I was the lead RCMP Media Relations Officer for a number of high-profile, national media events including: the RCMP's "Pulling Together" Journey's 1997 Canoe Trip; security for the 1997 Asia Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) in Vancouver, and the police response to the November 2014 Kinder Morgan Pipeline protests in Burnaby, BC. I was also a member of the Burnaby Detachment ERT for six years in the 1980s during which I deployed on two emergency deployments to Ottawa, ON, for the Turkish Embassy Crisis in 1985, and to Montréal, QC for the Oka Crisis in 1990.

Notable volunteer accomplishments during my service include co-founding of the Burnaby Task Force on Homelessness in 2004. I was the Director of Security for the Burnaby 2012 BC Seniors Games, and Manager of Security for the 2016 World Junior Tai Kwon Do Championships. Both events were hosted by the City of Burnaby. I am a two-time rider (2006, 2008), on the Canadian Cancer Society's Cops for Cancer (C4C) "Tour de Coast." I personally raised more than $35,000 for C4C and I continued to be a coach and mentor for C4C for over 10 years afterwards. In 2019, I received the Canadian Cancer Society BC/Yukon Region, "Achievement in Volunteer Leadership Award."

I have organized youth basketball in BC, specifically the BC High School Boys' Basketball Championship Tournament and Basketball BC. I was involved with the high school basketball championships for 43 years and, from 1992 until 2014, I was the Tournament Director. I have been on the Board of Directors at Basketball BC since 1996 and served as the President for nine years in the 2000s. In 2007 I was voted "President of the Year" by Canada Basketball for my leadership in Basketball BC. Also, while at Basketball BC, I was one of the Canadian representatives on the Board of Directors of Fédération Internationale de Basketball (FIBA) of the Americas from 2006 to 2011.



Montréal, QC, Canada

Marc Caron

Cyprus || 1974

Olympic Security, Canada || 1976
Oka Crisis, Canada || 1990
Kosovo || 1998–1999
Democratic Republic of the Congo || 2008

Current Residence: Orléans, ON || Contact: marc.caron@pk75.ca

My experience in peacekeeping operations is varied from the beginning of my career with the mission to Cyprus in 1974, a pivotal year, with the coup d'état followed by the invasion by Turkish forces that divided the island and gave it its present disposition. I also took part in an Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) mission to Kosovo in 1998–99. This was a special mission for this organisation, which preceded the NATO intervention in Kosovo. I could even have used my experience as a UN official following my retirement from the Canadian Army, where I served in Africa, particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2009 and Guinea Conakry, 2012–13. Experiences full of lessons. But I have chosen to present my experiences in Cyprus in 1974. My aim is to present the Canadian contribution which, in my opinion, greatly countered the strategic objectives of the Turkish forces and in the process probably saved many thousands of lives.

BACKGROUND, COUP D'ÉTAT

The pressure exploded in July 1974, when Greek Cypriots led a coup to finally unite Cyprus with Greece. Turkey was against it and quickly intervened with force.

THE TURKISH INVASION

On 20 July 1974, 40,000 Turkish troops began to invade Cyprus. Turkey said it only wanted to restore the situation and protect the Turkish minority population. Canadians and other UN soldiers suddenly found themselves in the middle of a war zone.

The UN forces, including the Canadian contingent based on elements of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, were surrounded by many perilous situations. In a battle near Nicosia airport, the Canadians negotiated a local cease-fire. Greek and Turkish forces agreed to withdraw from the area. Our peacekeepers then occupied the airport, but the Turkish threat was still present. The Canadian military had only a few anti-tank weapons and heavy machine guns. They cleverly moved from place to place around the airport under the cover of night to make it look like there were more of them defending the place. The strategy paid off! Our peacekeepers held a strategic location.



My platoon in Cyprus in August 1974, taken at Ledra Palace, our residence. I am the one wearing the beret.

Open combat raged in Cyprus for several weeks in the summer of 1974. During this fighting, three Canadian peacekeepers were killed and 17 others were wounded. The Canadians also proved their great courage. On July 23, 1974, members of our troops came under fire during a patrol. Several soldiers were hit, including the officer, Captain Blaquière, who was leading the patrol. Private Joseph Plouffe rushed to give first aid to Captain Blaquière but was hit in turn. Machine-gun fire threatened the lives of these two wounded Canadians. However, Captain Forand organised the evacuation of the wounded and Corporal Joseph Whelan, Private Joseph Belley and Private Joseph Pelletier braved the bullets to save them. Several medals for bravery were earned in this action.

As the fighting continued in Cyprus, a diplomatic solution was sought. A series of ceasefires were negotiated, and formal peace talks began. Finally, a plan to divide the island into two

territories was implemented. A 180 km long buffer zone from the east coast to the west coast, crossing Nicosia, was created. This zone was called the Green Line. It was a demilitarised zone with Turkish forces in the north and Greek forces in the south. The solution was not perfect, but it put an end to open warfare.

However, this approach was adopted at the expense of the people of the island. Many Greek and Turkish Cypriots became refugees in their own country, as they had to be deported due to the division of the island. The only place where the green line remained in the same place as before the events of 1974 was the Canadian sector in the old town of Nicosia.

There are many lessons to be learned from the events of 1974, but the one that I believe must be highlighted is the courage, determination and resilience shown by these Canadian soldiers. In the absence of a clear mandate from the Security Council, and guided by exemplary leadership at all levels, their courageous actions certainly prevented greater loss of life and succeeded in stabilising the situation. These actions, in particular the defence of Nicosia International Airport and the Green Line within the walls of the old city of Nicosia, had an impact at the strategic level. These actions were not necessarily recognized in 1974 but we all have a duty of memory to remind all Canadians of the brave acts of our soldiers.

Biography

Lieutenant-General Marc Caron (Retired) joined the Canadian Forces in October 1971. During his military service, he held the following command positions. He served with the 3rd Battalion Royal 22e Régiment from 1972 to 1974 as a platoon commander, with 1 Commando du Régiment Aéroporté from 1974 to 1976 as a parachute platoon commander and regimental reconnaissance platoon commander and company deputy, then with 1st Battalion Royal 22e Régiment from 1976 to 1978 as Mechanised Platoon Commander and Mortar Platoon Deputy, then with the Royal Welch Fusiliers, as Exchange Officer from 1978 to 1981, in the positions of Assistant Adjutant and Commander of the first MILAN-equipped anti-tank platoon in I British Corps. He commanded B Company and Service Support Company in the 3rd Battalion from 1982 to 1984. He commanded the 3rd Battalion from 1988 to 1990, Land Force Québec Area (now 2nd Division) from 2000 to 2003, and finally, was Commander of the Army from 2003 to 2006.



Duty Officer, Cyprus, 1974.

He graduated from the following training institutions: the Royal Military College of Science in the United Kingdom in 1981, the Canadian Army Command and Staff College in 1982, the Canadian Forces College in Toronto in 1985 and the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania in 1994.

He was engaged in the following operations:

- In Cyprus with the Canadian Airborne Regiment from April to December 1974 during the invasion by Turkish forces;
- Providing support to the 1976 Olympics in Montréal;
- Chief of Army Operations during Operation Salon during the Oka events in 1990; and
- In Kosovo from October 1998 to June 1999 as Chief of Staff of the Kosovo Verification Operation (KVM) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

He held several important staff positions, including Chief of Operations, Land Force Command from 1990 to 1993 and Deputy Chief of Staff, Army (2003–2004). During this period, he also served as Acting Commander of the Canadian Army (2003–2005) and then Commander of the Canadian Army (2005–2006).

He retired in February 2007 after 35 years of loyal service to his country.

Since his retirement, he has embarked on a second career as an international civil servant. His first assignment, from April to November 2008, was as Senior Security Sector Reform Advisor to the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO).

From November 2009 to May 2011, he joined the International Security Sector Advisory Team of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). There he assumed the role of adviser on security sector reform projects for several national programmes and international and regional organisations, mainly in Africa. He remained involved with this organisation until 2019.

In 2012–2013, in Conakry, Guinea, he was a strategic policy and strategy advisor to the President of Guinea, Alpha Condé, an appointment he received from the UN Secretary General.

He was involved with the Canadian Armed Forces as a senior mentor with the National Security Program at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto for the 2019–2020 academic years.

In addition to sports activities such as hockey, skiing, running, and camping, his priorities remain his family, especially his eight grandchildren, and the regimental family of the Royal 22e Régiment. He became the 16th Colonel of the Royal 22e Régiment on 13 July 2019, a position he held until 14 July 2022.



London, ON, Canada

Stanley Carr

Cyprus || 1977–1978, 1984–1985

Afghanistan || 2005

Current Residence: London, ON || Contact: stanley.carr@pk75.ca

In 1977, I was deployed as part of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) as a platoon commander in H Company, Second Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (2RCR). My Company Commander was Major Larry Bowen. As platoon commander, I was understandably quite junior, having only graduated from my final phase of Infantry Training that summer. I was quite close to my soldiers, like most young junior Lieutenants, and often went out on the lines in the United Nations buffer zone between the Greeks and the Turks, inspecting and watching for ceasefire violations. Two anecdotes are worth recalling.

MOUSTACHE STORY. One evening in a moment of weakness, to show my cohesion with the platoon, off-duty and drinking, if I recall, we had a bet that I lost. The result was that my driver and I had to shave off half of our moustaches for 24 hours. Not wanting to lose face, I did follow through and let the guys shave half my moustache off; they did the same to my driver, only on the opposite side to mine. We were supposed to keep it that way — they all suspected we wouldn't and would return the next morning cleanly shaven. My fellow Company officers had a great chuckle, especially Captain Tom Geburt, who fashioned a great bushy 'stache. Much to the platoon's surprise, I insisted my driver and I maintain the half moustache for the agreed-to 24 hours. However, the next morning I had an important meeting with the local Greek National Guard Colonel on a UN buffer zone issue. Not wanting to display any sign of weakness, and despite feeling very awkward, I attended the meeting with half a moustache — which of course caught the Greek officers completely off-guard and bewildered. When they saw me with half of a moustache on one side of my face matched by my driver, also with one half of a moustache, they had a good chuckle. They must have thought "those crazy Canadians". To make matters even more comical, the Greek Colonel and most of his staff all wore full bushy moustaches.



In 1985, while serving as the Force Minefield Recording Officer (FMRO) for the second time, I had the occasion to present my brother, Private Edward Carr, his UNFICYP medal. H was serving with 1 RCR under Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Thompson and Regimental Sergeant Major Marv MacDonald. My brother went on to serve 35 years in the Canadian Forces, achieving the rank of Master Warrant Officer.

DANGER ON THE LINE. The next anecdote involved a more serious lapse in judgment. One day at our Company Commander briefing, we received a directive to watch for Turkish officers (and others on the line) carrying weapons with magazines in the weapon. This was a violation. So that day, whilst patrolling the line, I had occasion to dismount to meet a young Turkish officer about an issue in my sector. During the conversation, and in full view of his soldiers and mine, I noticed his pistol was loaded with a magazine, contrary to the agreed upon protocol. I told him in English no magazines and pointed to his pistol. He didn't acknowledge the comment and remained steadfast. So, I repeated in what I thought was the Turkish equivalent word...No "chargers". He ignored me again. So in a moment of frustration (and stupidity), I reached for his pistol and loudly shouted "No Chargers'. At that moment, all I heard were various weapons on their side of the line cocking. In response, my soldiers cocked their weapons as well. The heat of the moment was short, as the Turkish officer removed his magazine and ordered his troops to stand down. The moment was scary, in retrospect; however, I was pleased by my soldiers' immediate reaction to hearing the Turkish soldiers arming their weapons. However, it easily could have escalated into a dangerous if not deadly incident, predominantly of my making.



June 2021. Me visiting my grandfather's gravesite — Cecil Carr, he was a WW II veteran.

Biography

I come from a military family. I joined the Primary Reserves in 1970 and transferred to the Regular Force in 1975. Eventually, I landed in the Infantry as platoon commander with 2 RCR in August 1976. I served in Cyprus in the period Dec 77–April 78. In 1980, I transferred to the Intelligence Branch, serving most of my career there, including a posting in Electronic Warfare, with 1 Canadian Signals Regiment. In 1984–85, I served two tours in Cyprus, as the Force Minefield Recording Officer (FMRO), then was posted to the Canadian Forces School of Intelligence and Security. In 1991, I attended Norwegian Army Staff College and spent three additional years in Allied Forces Northern Europe, (AFNORTH). In 1995, I reverted to the Primary Reserve, ultimately served as Commanding Officer of 22 Service Battalion in London, ON as well as other posts in NDHQ, including J9 CIMIC (Civil-Military Cooperation) and J2 international and Domestic Criminal Tribunals. I reverted back to the Regular Force in 2004 and served in Afghanistan in the Spring of 2005, earning a U.S. Army Bronze Star. I retired in June 2006.



Me in Afghanistan in 2005 with CFC HQ.



Montréal, QC, Canada

Robert Chaloux

Sudan || 2005

Golan Heights, Israel
Bosnia-Herzegovina

Current Residence: Ottawa, ON

Contact: robert.chaloux@pk75.ca

From my earliest memories, I always knew what I wanted to do for a living: become a Canadian Army Officer to serve our country at home and abroad. The thought of leading soldiers, living, and working throughout Canada and the world, and doing exciting, worthwhile work was my great passion. To achieve my aims, I studied hard at school, was active in Army Cadets, participated in sports and prepared diligently for my Military College application. All went well and I graduated from Le College Militaire Royal in 1984 with a university degree and a Queen's Commission as an officer in the Canadian Armed Forces. I've had many memorable and rewarding experiences during my career, but for this story I will cover my United Nations (UN) mission in Sudan in 2005.



Bob and some south Sudanese people on their way to church in Rumbeck. The man in uniform is a South Sudanese Officer who is there for the transition to peace. 19 April 2005 in Rumbeck, Sudan

I was serving with a special UN Brigade HQ in Denmark at the time, so I flew out of Copenhagen on Sunday 10 April for a six-month tour in Khartoum, Sudan with the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) as the Senior Staff Officer for the Joint Logistics Operations Centre. Basically, I would be working as part of the team that would control and coordinate the logistics for the mission, both military and civilian. I am a highly skilled logistics officer, at one point commanding the Logistics School, and this mission was to prove to be a true test of my capabilities as an officer and logistician.

We flew in at about 2230 hrs local time and the temperature was in the 30's °C. During the day it goes up to 45°C. The smell was also something. It brought back strong memories of other Arab cities such as Damascus and Cairo. The country is extremely poor and underdeveloped. Chaos reigns everywhere. Everything is beat up and neglected, and there is trash EVERYWHERE. People literally sleep on the streets between traffic (which is something to behold; Montréal is not too bad!). There are over 2 million refugees from the south living throughout the city in appalling conditions. Needless to say, we were no longer in Scandinavia.

Our job was to be ready to receive military contingents from around the world into places that had absolutely no infrastructure. It was also the start of the rainy season, and the roads were soon impassable. Most equipment, people and supplies had to be brought in by air. The UN had a few planes and helicopters, but making this work was very complicated. The actual job was very exciting and challenging, as we were conducting real life logistics to accomplish an extremely complex operation. It is rare to get such an opportunity and we made the best of it and achieved our mission.

At one stage I went for a trip to the south to view the UN Logistics Base in El Obeid and the Kenyan Team site in Rumbek (ex-rebel held area and provisional capital of the South). El Obeid was fascinating as it was the hub for the World Food Program's effort to feed the Sudanese. Food arrived from Port Sudan by road (tractor trailers) where it was stored in big warehouses. From there, the food was bagged five times by locals and put onto air droppable pallets. It was then loaded onto big Russian planes (flown by Bulgarians) and dropped to the people who needed the food (no parachutes). It is estimated that over 1 million would have died if this effort were to cease. The food was almost all from the USA, which is interesting when you see all the "Down with America" signs and banners in Khartoum. Makes me think about the expression: "Don't bite the hand that feeds you"! This effort was truly the UN at its best.

We also participated in some social activities. The last thing I did on my day of departure was to visit the site of the Battle of Omdurman. Very interesting place, still with a monument to the 21st Lancers of the British Cavalry who led the famous charge there. Winston Churchill took part in it and wrote about it in his book "*The River War*". This was where the Brits defeated the Sudanese with the help of machine guns and artillery. The Sudanese lost over 20,000 dead while the Brits suffered fewer than 40 casualties. This was the beginning of the British rule, which lasted until 1956.

This mission was an excellent adventure that tested all my professional competencies. This was one of the worst places in the world and we were able to get the mission up and running, within the UN system. The cause was just, and the Sudanese people were worthy of our efforts. They were wonderful to us; I have made many good friends here that I will keep in contact with. This was my favourite deployment.

Biography

I was born and grew up in Montréal, QC until I went to le College Militaire Royal de St-Jean, where I completed a degree in Business Administration in 1984 and was immediately posted to 1 Service Battalion as a Transportation Platoon Commander. As a Logistics officer, I have served in various logistics and command positions in Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montréal, Borden, Golan Heights, Washington DC., Copenhagen and Germany. I retired as a Lieutenant-Colonel in 2005. Upon retirement, I went to work as a public servant for the Government of Canada, at the Department of National Defence, as a Senior Advisor in the IDEaS Program at ADM (DRDC), which is an innovation program designed to help the armed forces resolve difficult technical and organizational challenges. (https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/programs/defence-ideas.html)

My operational tours were 12 months in the Golan Heights (UNDOF), six months with SFOR in Bosnia (NATO Tour) and six months in the Sudan with UNMIS.

I have served as the Commandant of the Canadian Forces School of Administration (CFSAL) and had three out of Canada postings (not including operational tours):

- Exchange officer with the U.S. Army at the 1st Theatre Movements Control Agency (1st TMCA);
- Deputy G4 with the Standby-High Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG) in Copenhagen; and
- Liaison officer with the Quadrilateral Logistics Forum on the J4 Staff in the Pentagon in Washington DC.



Bob in Malakai, Sudan, along the Nile on 15 May 2005.

I am a graduate of the Canadian Forces College, the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College, College Militaire Royal de St-Jean (Bachelor of Business Administration), and the Royal Military College, Kingston (Master of Defence Studies). For the past 23 years, I have been married to Susan Gudas. We have a son, Zachary, who is studying Engineering at the University of Ottawa. We live in our nation's capital.



OTTAWA, ON, CANADA

Christopher Chance

Cyprus || 1977, 1983

Current Residence: Comox, BC

CYPRUS 1977 AND 1983

Before leaving the Army in 1983 (immediately after my 2nd tour with UNFICYP), I had completed two tours of Cyprus, in 1977 and again in 1983. My first tour was probably the most interesting, as I was the Economics Officer for the Canadian Contingent which was based in Sector Four, which encompassed all the city of Nicosia.

The military situation was very quiet, and there was a ceasefire in place that was holding, unlike Canada's subsequent peacekeeping tours in the Balkans, Somalia, and beyond. What made my job particularly interesting was that I liaised with the Greek and Turkish civilian communities, which despite the Green Line had vital interdependencies. As an example, the wells that supplied the city of Nicosia were in the Turkish part of the Danish Sector in Morphou. The reservoir that served all of Nicosia was located on the Greek side and was connected by underground pipeline back to the wells in Morphou.

Consequently, one of our tasks was to pick up broken water pumps from the Turkish side, transport them across the Green Line to the maintenance shop on the Greek side and, once repaired, return them to the Turkish side for reinstallation down the wells. One can imagine a 10-foot-long downhole electric water pump weighing several hundred pounds hanging out the back of our UN Dodge One Ton Power Wagon.

We also used our Power Wagon to transport bodies of Turkish civilians who had been taken to the main hospital in Nicosia for medical care, but who had subsequently died in the hospital. The hospital was located on the Greek side, and we were provided with a "coffin" in which to place the body of the Turkish-Cypriot citizen, but this "coffin" was more like an old wooden ammo crate, and with no top. A white bed sheet stamped "DND" was subsequently commandeered from the Ledra Palace laundry, with which to at least cover the body. We did two of these runs during the 1977 tour, which was rather "interesting", given the 100+ ° F heat while trying to find the Turk medical center in the old part of the city of Nicosia.



Our UNFICYP Swim Team. Canada won. I am seated at the far right, and you may recognize Michel Maisonneuve in the center (seated).

Perhaps the most interesting challenge that I had to address was the threat by the local Turkish liaison officer who handled the area east of Nicosia, to put a 106mm round through the next Greek sewage truck (Honey Wagon) that dumped its load in the grove of trees in the buffer zone, immediately next to the highway that led from Nicosia to Larnaca. In the heat of the summer, the ground had dried up, and the daily parade of Greek honey wagons all dumping their contents in the same location, and the subsequent lake of sewage that had formed, was making its way towards the Turkish lines. In the week that I was given by the Turks to "resolve the situation."

I was able to convene a meeting in the Buffer Zone with Turkish Cypriot public works director, Mr. Ali Haydar and his Greek Cypriot opposite number, Mr. George Charalambous. Mr. Charalambous' initial response had been to respond that there was no solution, but when offered the opportunity to "Ride

Shotgun" on the next Greek sewage truck, he came around and agreed to the meeting. The solution was pretty simple, which was to spread out the dumping of the raw sewage so that it could soak into the ground vs. contribute to the growing lake. While still not ideal, the "Battle of Shit Creek" was peacefully resolved with no shots fired. One could never tell what challenges one was going to receive when the office phone rang, which made this tour notably enjoyable particularly for me as a Junior Captain, and for my faithful driver, Cpl Claudel Dery.



My faithful driver, Trooper Claudel Dery, an intellectual in uniform, and me, Captain Chris Chance, Nicosia, Cyprus, 1977.

Biography

Captain Chris Chance (Retired) enrolled in the militia in 1968 as a Private in the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, ON. In 1970, he was accepted into the Canadian Military College system, attending Royal Roads Military College and the Royal Military College of Canada. Upon graduation and commissioning in 1974, he joined his Regiment, the Douzième Regiment Blindé du Canada (12e RBC) in Valcartier. He attended the Canadian Forces Language School for French language training prior to becoming a Troop Leader and subsequent leadership roles. The Regiment deployed to Cyprus in 1977 and, upon his return, Capt Chance was posted to St. John's, NL as the Area Cadet Officer for Army Cadets. This was followed by his return to Valcartier in 1980 and then Leave Without Pay from 1981 to 1983 interspersed with summers spent in CFB Gagetown as an Instructor in Tactics at the Armour School. In 1983, he returned to Cyprus with the Regiment as the Senior Duty Officer in the Joint Operations Center in Sector Four, and upon returning from Cyprus, left the military for a career in industry, notably in Defence Marketing roles in Toronto, and then, Ottawa. He is now retired and resides in Comox, BC.



MONTRÉAL, QC, CANADA

Tai Chang

Haiti || 2012

Selection Assistance Assessment Team

Current Residence: United Kingdom || Contact: tai.chang@pk75.ca

One of the biggest regrets during my time with the Infantry Reserve was not having participated on a peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. So, when I saw that the RCMP was looking for officers for a United Nations (UN) mission in Haiti, I decided that was my chance to "check that off". After some discussion with my spouse, I submitted my name for MINUSTAH.

I arrived in Haiti in February of 2012. I was the only RCMP in my contingent, which was made up mostly of Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM), Sûreté du Québec (SQ), and Service de police de la Ville de Québec (Québec City Police). I was initially posted in Hinche, in the central plateau area. We patrolled to remote villages of the region, checking on their local police stations, and monitoring their arrest procedures, documentation, and treatment of detainees. I was also providing guidance on their investigations. I worked with UN Police officers (UNPOLs) from the USA, Argentina, Ivory Coast, China, and Sri Lanka. Sometimes it was difficult for them to comprehend each other due to language barriers. Because I speak French, English and Mandarin, during our meetings I was given an unconventional role of being a translator for other UNPOLs.

Every UNPOL coming into the mission must go through Induction Training, which includes topics such as radio communications, gender-based violence, field security, etc. Some UNPOLs also required to be assessed for mission service in which they must pass language and shooting tests. I worked as course coordinator before being appointed to be the Chief of Human Resources Development Unit. I had a team of 11 UNPOLs from 9 different countries: USA, France, Romania, Chile, The Philippines, Rwanda, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and Niger. The multinational makeup of the team posed some unique challenges, most of them due to cultural differences, and I learned to adapt my managerial style based on those differences.

I was also selected to be part of the Selection Assistance Assessment Team (SAAT) and was responsible for administration of the Assessment for Mission Service (AMS) test for all UNPOLs entering the mission area. In November 2012, I was sent to Romania to assess Romanian police officers wishing to participate in a UN mission. This tenure turned out to be crucial in the Pre-SAAT deployments, where pre-training for the AMS is focussed on women police officers.



January 2013: North Vancouver Football Club was gracious enough to donate a dozen soccer balls. I donated these soccer balls to children at one of the Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps. These people have been living in the camp since the devastating earthquake of 2010.

I'm glad that Canada is continuing its support to Pre-SAAT training. Our work directly contributes to the increase of female officers in peacekeeping operations. We often take for granted the resources that are available to us in Canada. Trips like these really reshape one's priority and perspective. I'm grateful for this opportunity and honoured to serve.

These Pre-SAAT deployments provided unique opportunities to develop many of my organizational competencies such as developing others, flexibility, and leadership, among others.

Knowing our work is directly supporting the involvement of uniformed women in the peace building, peace keeping and humanitarian work across the globe really gives me a sense of accomplishment and pride.

In my most recent Pre-SAAT deployment to Zambia, I was assigned the role of the Team Leader. This Pre-SAAT training helped the women of Zambian police to prepare for the upcoming AMS. We saw the progress firsthand. We conducted the language portion of the AMS on the first day of the training to assess the class. Had the AMS occurred without our assistance, the pass rate would have been approximately 48% for the language portion. Many more would probably be eliminated in the driving assessment. By the end of week one, we saw the pass rate for language assessment increased to 90%!

I encourage members to participate on a mission if possible. It was the highlight of my career. It has been rewarding, both on a professional and personal level. Just make sure it is for the right reason and the timing is right. One year can be long and the mission has a "magnifying" effect on everything: emotions, issues, problems at home. I was fortunate that my spouse supports me for all these deployments. My peacekeeping mission experience led me to opportunities I never knew existed, including the Pre-SAAT deployments, as well as my upcoming deployment to the International Anti Corruption Coordination Center (IACCC) in the United Kingdom.

Biography

Sergeant Tai Chang joined the RCMP out of Montréal in 1998, while working towards a degree in Mechanical Engineering at McGill University. He didn't like the field of study he was in and was yearning for adventure. A friend told him that he applied for the RCMP and invited Tai to do the same. Growing up in Montréal, he didn't have much exposure to the RCMP and didn't know much about the organization. After learning that he could be posted anywhere in Canada, he was sold. Within a couple of weeks, Tai was at a recruiting office and about 15 months later, he was in the RCMP Training Depot, Troop 22, of 1998.



2022 Zambia: I am helping a Zambian candidate properly grip her pistol.

His first posting was to Banff, AB working in General Duty (GD) and as a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program instructor. In 2002, Tai was given the chance to transfer to Richmond, BC, where he worked GD in the city for a year, spent one year at the airport, and one year as Crime Prevention Victim Services coordinator. In 2005, he joined the Integrated Illegal Gaming Enforcement Team, and in 2008, he was promoted to Corporal and assigned to the E Division (BC) Human Source Unit and spent the next three years as a Witness Protection Coordinator.

In 2012, Tai was deployed to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). He was initially posted in Hinche, central plateau area. His job was monitoring, mentoring, and patrolling with the PNH (Police National D'Haiti). About one month into the mission, he was transferred to Port Au Prince to be a course coordinator at the Induction Training Unit. He worked as course coordinator for approximately three months before he was appointed to be the Chief of Human Resources Development Unit. He was also selected to be part of the Selection Assistance Assessment Team (SAAT) and was responsible for the administration of the Assessment for Mission Service (AMS) tests for all UN police entering the mission area. In November 2012, he was sent to Romania to assess Romania police officers wishing to participate on a UN mission. This tenure turned out to be crucial in the Pre-SAAT deployments that he would do later on in his career.

Tai returned to Canada and was assigned to the Federal Serious Organized Crime. In 2014, the UN and Canada launched a pilot project in which SAAT instructors from Canada and the UN would train and prepare female police officers for the AMS. The goal of the project was to increase the number of successful female candidates at the AMS so they could be deployed to missions. This, in turn, supports United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 to increase women's participation in peacekeeping and post conflict reconstruction.

Tai believed his experience as a SAAT trainer would definitely be an asset to the team, and to candidates, so he put his name forward. He was among the first group of Pre SAAT trainers from Canada. In August 2014, he was sent to Rwanda and Burkina Faso to deliver the first Pre SAAT training. He participated in two other Pre SAAT deployments, one in Colombia in 2015 under a bilateral cooperation agreement, and one more in Conakry, Guinea, in 2016.

In 2014, Colombia experienced a low passing rate for their AMS. Their Permanent Mission to the UN heard about the success in Rwanda, so they approached Canada's permanent mission to see if similar assistance can be provided to Colombia. However, at the time there was only a French version of the Pre SAAT manual but no English version, so the Canadian team was tasked to create one. Tai, along with two other Canadian police officers, went to Colombia and spent one week creating lesson plans with input from the Colombia National Police. They were later joined by three other instructors from Canada and together delivered the course. That year, Colombia experienced a much higher success rate, and they were extremely happy.

Upon his return to Canada, Tai was placed in E Division's Federal Serious and Organized Crime (FSOC) Intelligence Unit and was later promoted to the Money Laundering Team. In 2022, Tai participated in a requalification course for Pre-SAAT instructor and later deployed to Zambia for another Pre-SAAT deployment.



OTTAWA, ON, CANADA

Tom Charette

Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1999, Haiti || 2004

Afghanistan || 2007

Current Residence: Stratford, ON || Contact: tom.charette@pk75.ca

I was deployed to Bosnia in 1999 as a young infantry Private, having only served 5 years, so my experience level was at a fairly low level. The main war in Bosnia had ended, but the country still needed to be stabilized, so we were sent in as Peacekeepers. My role as a Private in an infantry section was mostly Air Sentry, which was a position looking out of the back of our infantry vehicle, as we manoeuvred throughout the country. My other roles included Gate Security and a C9 Machine Gunner on dismounted patrols throughout different locations.

We conducted a lot of mounted patrols, stopping at small villages along the way to talk to the locals, with an interpreter. We visited weapon containment sites for weekly inspections to ensure the main weapons used during the war were secured there. It was a peace agreement. The range of weaponry was impressive, from small arms to sniper rifles, to mortars. The Uno River was on our route and from what we were told, it was filled with bodies of the dead during the war. A lot of interpreters had horrible stories from that time where neighbours would kill neighbours depending on their religion. Apparently, whoever had the most numbers, Croatians, Serbians, or Muslim killed the others in their village. Mines littered the entire country. We visited a school where there were only two rooms the kids were being taught in because the rest of the school was mined. These kids were tough as nails because there was no heat, and it was very cold. Seeing that was my first experience of how good we have it back home and reminded me of my own kids.

The tour wasn't all work for six months. We had two four-day R&Rs that allowed me to see more of the world. Budapest, Hungary was an amazing city, and the train ride was a good start, having a beer with a 90 year old woman at 8 a.m. with my buddies. The next R&R was in Croatia at a town along the Mediterranean Sea, and that was a amazing place to visit. There were no issues walking around the town with Heinekens all day long.



Sniper security for CIMIC Haiti.

The positive takeaway from my time in Bosnia was that the younger generation was tired of war. They didn't care as much as the older generation about what religion you were, they just wanted to enjoy life and move on. They went through a horrific time and moved on.

My second Peacekeeping tour was in 2004, when the gangs decided to take over the country of Haiti. With the unrest and rioting, the President escaped to the Dominican Republic. I was a sniper in Reconnaissance Platoon at the time, and four of us were tasked to go to Haiti along with a small component of infantry and support. We landed at the airport in Port-au-Prince and secured the airport first. We set up a camp from scratch, with modular tents and sea containers stacked on top of each other for a sniper overwatch. The first few weeks weren't much fun, with centipedes and tarantulas climbing all over our cots, until we built floorboards to get off the ground.

We started dismounted patrols in force to secure the city. Partnered with the U.S. Scout Snipers, we went on small operations to rout out the gangs. The gangs quickly withdrew with our strong presence and negotiations to reinstate the government happened. Some experiences weren't for the soft hearted. A section was on a patrol and found a dead person in the ditch and called the ambulance. They showed up, put the body on a stretcher, then took it off and threw it back in the ditch. When questioned about it, they said they only take live people, and they drove away. The streets were littered with garbage because there was no garbage removal. We did an operation called clean streets on a main route into the city and when we were done, we turned a two lane road into six. Less then two weeks later it was back to the same as before.

Some positives were that the people were very receptive to our presence, wanting peace from the gangs. Although most had nothing, they still found a way to smile and wave when we went by. During our patrols, we handed out a lot of our rations to the kids. After serving six months in Haiti, I realized, upon my return, how lucky we have it here in Canada. I wish Haiti luck, but until they can even out the rich and poor, nothing will change.

Biography

The military, in a nutshell, saved my butt from going down a bad path in life. I was 23 and my days consisted of sleeping till noon because I worked at a bar till midnight, then partied all night, woke up and did it all over again. I enrolled in the Army and two years later was off to basic training in Cornwallis NS in April of 94. My buddies all said, "see ya in a week", because I had zero discipline and was quite the troublemaker. I had to prove them wrong, because I knew I was meant to do more in my life than party.



Hockey night in Canada in Afghanistan, 2007.

Day 1, the instructors were made of up of mostly infantry and were pretty much the scariest SOBs I'd ever seen. They had one volume, and that was loud, so getting yelled at was constant from 0600hrs on. We had morning fitness, then breakfast, inspection, and then training, then lunch, then training, then fitness, then supper, then training, and sleep and repeat for a month straight before we were granted our first night out. For a civilian, this was a difficult transition, but there was a sense of purpose, and we were getting really fit. After two months, we graduated.

Battle School was next, a four month, very difficult infantry course in Gagetown, NB, a very large military base, and we would get to know every inch of it. Battle School taught us multiple weapons training, (machine guns, grenades, mortars) mixed in with patrolling, orienteering, and winter warfare. We graduated and became part of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, staying in Gagetown. During those years, I served on three operational tours, Bosnia 1999, Haiti 2004, and Afghanistan in 2007. I also participated in the G7 Summit in Halifax in 1995, tasked as a driver for a Member of Parliament, and was part of President Clinton's motorcade. The security level was incredible, snipers on roof tops, the entire downtown core on lock down, and the secret service agents packing two MP5s down either side of their trench coats. I played Base hockey and soccer that was fairly competitive, close to a Jr. B level, with numerous games and tournaments. We had a lot of good times at those events. Gagetown was a good place to raise kids, having two daughters myself, as the community was tight and supportive. and the facilities were top notch for all sports.

If I wasn't on a tour or operation, I was taking multiple military courses. They included Driver Wheel, Machine Gun, Communications, Reconnaissance, Winter Warfare, Parachutist, Mountain Operations, Leadership courses, Tactical Combat Casualty Care, Chemical, Biological, Radiation, and Nuclear Defence, Suicide Awareness, Harassment Advisor, Tactical Questioner, Hazard/Dangerous Goods, Light Armoured Vehicle Gunner/Crew Commander, and Sniper Detachment Commander, but my most difficult was Basic Sniper.

The pass rate on Basic Sniper was about 10%, so I was very proud when I completed it. The challenge of you against an enemy had a certain feel that's hard to describe, even though it wasn't in a 'could be killed' scenario. Only issue was the time of year, December, so crawling up streams during stalks to get your target, with icicles hanging off your ears, wasn't much fun, but by that point it didn't matter, because you would do anything to pass.

I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant after my tour in Afghanistan in '07. Not long after we returned from Afghanistan, it was decided that a lot of us would be posted out to spread our Battle knowledge from there, as most of us saw severe action. We lost 22 soldiers in the 7 months I was there. On two occasions we lost six soldiers at once. It affected everyone and no one came back the same.

I was posted to Base Trenton at a special unit for a couple years before ending up at my last stop, where my career would finish helping run a reserve unit, 4th Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (4RCR). I had a certain stigma about reserves, but after serving with them for six years, it's about the soldier, and there's good and bad everywhere. 4RCR had a lot of professional soldiers and I enjoyed my time with them before being medically released, due to my time in Afghanistan. It caught up.



Trinidad & Toronto, ON, Canada

Allan Chin

Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1998

South-West Asia || 2005
Afghanistan || 2005

Current Residence: Milton, ON || Contact: allan.chin@pk75.ca

The former Republic of Yugoslavia fell into war in 1991, as different republics sought autonomy and independence. Thousands died and the world stepped in to bring Peace. One of those republics, Bosnia & Herzegovina, saw intense fighting and bloodshed. Peace was brought about with the United States-brokered Dayton Peace Accord in 1995. This agreement paved the way for a NATO-led peace mission. This was a dramatic shift from the previous United Nations missions in Yugoslavia.

As I entered my second year of my B.A. at the University of Toronto in 1995, little did I know that the Dayton Peace Accord at that time would be put to the test and scrutiny of the world in April of 1998, with me and 120 soldiers at the centre of it. I was an infantry reservist with the 48th Highlanders of Canada and augmented the 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (1RCR) based out of Petawawa, ON. The 1 RCR Battle Group deployed to Bosnia in January 1998 on Op Palladium. The Battle Group was approximately 1,250 Canadian soldiers stationed in the region as part of NATO's 32,000-strong Stabilization Force (SFOR) in the Former Yugoslavia.

I was with Charles Company, 8 platoon, and the Company assigned Area of Responsibility (AOR) was the town of Drvar, which was located in a narrow valley near the Croatian Border in northwestern Bosnia. My first impressions coming into Drvar were how steep the mountains were and how close the roads were to the edges. Second, was the location of the camp, which was a grain mill located at the bottom of the valley, not the best spot to defend.

The town of Drvar was composed primarily of Bosnian Serbs however, during the war, Bosnian Serbs were displaced by the Croatian Army supported by Bosnian Croats. Part of the Peace agreement was to allow displaced citizens (refugees) to return to their homes. Charles Company prepared for the return of approximately 200 Bosnian Serbs back into Drvar. During the war, the Bosnian-Croatian army, known as HVO, took over an apartment building in Drvar as their base. The HVO was given



Drvar front gate.

notice to move out, as displaced Bosnian Serbs were returning to their apartments, but this was not taken well. As small numbers of Bosnian Serbs returned to their homes in the surrounding areas, tensions started to mount with the burning of these homes.

Vehicle and foot patrols were increased 24/7 with the rising tensions. Charles Company had increased air support with a British helicopter equipped with state-of-the-art day and night optics. The primary vehicle used for patrols was the Grizzly, a six-wheeled armoured vehicle with a gun turret with two mounted guns, the 7.62 mm Machine Gun and the .50 calibre Heavy Machine Gun. I was primarily the turret gunner for the tour. Patrolling for 12 hours on a daily rotation, in cold and wet weather, definitely wore on the body.

Sadly, the tensions mounted to the point, where an elderly Bosnian-Serb couple were murdered by being burnt alive in their house. The tensions between the two ethnic groups exploded figuratively and physically on the morning of 24 April 1998. Croatians, along with other complainants, protested the move of

Bosnian Serbs back into the apartments, and stormed the municipal building in downtown Drvar. The mayor was beaten, and buildings burnt, including International Offices, International Police Force Offices, and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Offices.

I had finished a 12-hour night patrol and was soon awakened to go back out, as NGOs needed to be extracted from the area. This was it, the culmination of all the training I ever did, was now to be used. The day rolled into night and back into day, as other platoons from the Battalion were redeployed to Drvar to assist Charles Company. The camp went from 140 to 400 overnight. We knew it was a big deal as it got international media coverage and, when the Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Devlin rolled into town with the Supreme Allied Commander-Europe, General Clarke, it was definitely a big deal.

With the increased show of force, things quickly settled back down in Drvar. All eyes were on Drvar as this was the most violent incident since the signing of the Peace Agreement, and the stability of the surrounding regions was very much dependent on the outcome of Drvar. The Croatians in Drvar did not trust Canadian soldiers because of who we were helping, but in other towns it was just the opposite. Canadians were loved and hated by all sides; it was just dependent on who you were helping locally. This was frustrating, but I had to step back and look at the big picture of helping an entire nation, which was hard for a young soldier to do.

I knew things were getting better but slowly, and the tangible for me was seven years later, as I deployed to Afghanistan. I saw Croatian soldiers at the Kandahar Airfield as part of the NATO contingent. This resonated with me as it showed how far a country and its people had come.

Biography

My name is Allan Chin, and I was born in Trinidad, a small island in the Caribbean. I immigrated to Canada at the age of 13 and settled with my family in the City of Mississauga, ON where I still live today. I soon got involved with the Royal Canadian Army Cadet program and joined the 2824 Cadet Corps sponsored by both the Department of National Defense and Peel Regional Police. It was here the foundation was laid for my future endeavours. I made the most of my cadet time and went away every summer, from Ipperwash to Banff to Petawawa to the United Kingdom.



Drvar, Bosnia.

In 1994, I joined the 48th Highlanders of Canada which is an Infantry Reserve Unit based out of Toronto. I completed my Infantry Course in the summer of 1995, which was an interesting time. The Airborne Regiment had been recently disbanded and members of 3 Commando were tasked with the running and training of the Reserve Infantry course in Petawawa. It would be an understatement that, for seven weeks, I ran everywhere. I completed my Communications course and Machine Gunner course in 1996. I deployed with the Regiment in 1997 on a Small Unit Exchange to Scotland attached to the Highlanders (Gordon, Seaforth, and Cameron Highlanders). In the summer of 1997, I was tasked as a Section Commander to the Land Force Central Area Training Centre in Meaford.

I redeployed to Canadian Forces Base Petawawa for pre-deployment training with 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (1RCR) as a section gunner. The 1 RCR Battle Group deployed to Bosnia in January 1998 on Op Palladium, Rotation (Roto) 2. In 1999, I was back in Petawawa and completed my Junior Leadership Command course and Junior Non-Commissioned Officer Infantry course. As the army transitioned to updated courses, I also completed another leadership course (DP3A) at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown in 2001. One of the highlights from my military career was the completion of my Basic Parachutist course at Canadian Forces Base Trenton in 2004.

In 2005, I initially deployed to South-West Asia on OP Athena Roto 4 as an Infantry Section Commander, with the Defense & Security platoon for the Theater Support Element (TSE), which was responsible for the security of Camp Mirage and the Airfield. However, upon arrival in theater, the platoon, which was comprised of four sections, was split up, with two sections in Camp Mirage and two sections in Afghanistan. These sections would rotate throughout the tour. The sections in Afghanistan were attached to Golf Company 2 RCR, which fell under Task Force Kabul (TFK). Those sections augmented the company, staffing multiple roles which primarily consisted of force protection of Camp Julien; however, we also undertook mounted and dismounted patrols in Kabul.

In August 2005, during the latter half of the tour, the Government of Canada formed the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (KPRT) at Camp Nathan Smith in Kandahar City. My section and I were deployed to Kandahar and were attached to B Coy, 3 PPCLI at the KPRT under OP Archer, which was part of Regional Command South, under U.S. command by the 173rd (U.S.) Airborne Brigade. Like Kabul, the sections augmented the company, staffing multiple roles, primarily force protection of Camp Nathan Smith, and conducted mounted and dismounted patrols in Kandahar. I definitely racked up the air miles on the CC130 Hercules.

I retired from the military in 2019 at the rank of Sergeant, after 24 years of service with the Reserves. Outside the military, I am a police officer with Peel Regional Police, with 23 years of service. I have worked uniform patrol, Criminal Investigations at the Divisional level, and with the Intimate Partner Violence Unit. I was a member of the Emergency Response Team for Pearson International Airport, and I had the opportunity to be a member of the Tactical Hostage Rescue Unit for 10 years, holding specialty roles as a Breacher, Rappel Master, Sniper, and Team Leader. I am currently assigned to 12 Division as a Uniform Front line Patrol Sergeant. I am also currently a member of the Chief's Ceremonial Unit and had the honour to train and prepare the Bearer Party for the State Funeral for former Mayor Hazel McCallion.



ROLAND, MB, CANADA

Erin Coates

Iraq || 2018–2019

Current Residence: Saskatoon, SK || Contact: erin.coates@pk75.ca

I was the first Canadian woman law enforcement officer deployed to Iraq in a police peace operations capacity. I made new friendships with people from around the world. Team teaching with other nations with different perspectives and experiences makes us so much stronger. I worked alongside police instructors from the Italian Carabinieri, the Czech Republic State Police, the Czech Republic Military Police, the Slovakian Military Police, and the Finland Civilian Police. The training instructors provided key training to the Government of Iraq civilian sector entities, including federal, provincial, local and specialty police forces from within Iraq. I believe we made a difference just based on the interaction we had with our students and the connections we made with them. We listened and learned just as much as we taught.

Early in my mission, I was given a nickname by some students. This happened when I was teaching one of the big Law & Order classes and I was instructing on crime scene investigations and basic investigation techniques. I had a kidnapping scenario to use and had a Canadian name for the victim. But in order to make the scenario more authentic and relatable, it needed to be an Iraqi name. So the class pitched in and offered up some suggested names. I chose Selema. From that moment on, for the entire 8-week Law & Order class, my name was Selema.

After the Law & Order class, the best students are chosen to take the Basic Police Procedures Train-the-Trainer (T3) course to become instructors themselves. As it turned out, some of the students from the Law & Order course returned for the T3 course and they kept on calling me Selema. The Iraqi school also had Federal Police officers who worked at the school and managed the students and facilities outside the classrooms. Well, they heard me being called Selema and they picked right up on it. It spread quickly and it stuck to me!

And, I liked it! I really believe that the students, even in that large class, truly accepted me and welcomed me into their



I had to leave prior to the end of the Female Policing Course and had just said thank you and goodbye. A number of the students teared up. One, in particular, was the most upset. She was one of my favourite students and had a huge impact on me.

community. And this can be a real point of concern for a foreign woman coming to teach in an Arabic environment with some of the very traditional attitudes and sentiments still present in Iraqi society. Plus, any time I heard the word Selema, I knew they were chatting about me. And I would give them a quick look and would get a laugh every time!

Participating in this mission and teaching a variety of topics to a multitude of students, all while living in a very different

environment among an international coalition of police and military personnel, can be enormously challenging and rewarding. But above it all, I cannot emphasize enough the profound experience I gained from instructing on the Female Policing course. I was part of a team comprised of Canadian and Italian police officers. Everyone's contribution made the course a high-quality training experience for the Iraqi female police officers. I am very proud to have been part of that team. Our interpreter played an important role, as well. She helped us understand the culture and answered all the questions we had for her, which was a lot. She made sure to understand the concepts from us prior to delivering them to the class so she could help them understand the messages we were relaying.

Because the class size was smaller, and we taught this off-site at a location exclusively set aside for an all-female class with all-female instructors, we had an opportunity not just to teach but to share our experiences with each other. Everyone knows that storytelling is a powerful method to convey meaning from one person to another, and the stories that I heard from these Iraqi women were altogether heartbreaking and empowering. I can't overstate the degree of respect I have for these women who have committed themselves to taking on such a non-traditional vocation for females in Iraq because they believe in the importance of the work they need to do.

And through this all, I kept comparing what I was hearing and seeing from them with my own experience as a police officer in Canada, noting both the shared and unique victories and difficulties that we could relate to each other. It is absolutely impossible not to come away with a new perspective of this region of the world, and a renewed insight into life in Canada. And I risk sounding cliché when I describe it as simply amazing and life-altering. But truly, it was exactly that. I can't imagine gaining that type of experience which I can carry back to my workplace and my family without having committed the time, effort, and emotional investment into the opportunity I had on this mission. If there was ever a justification I had in going to Iraq, it was right there in the room with those brave Iraqi women.

With this experience, I learned what kind of leader I want to be. I learned that we as Canadians are very lucky where we live. I knew that before from all the traveling I have done. But in Iraq, it became so obvious on a different level. We are all human — we all want safety security and to be loved, whatever that looks like.

Biography

Inspector Erin Coates is a 22-year member of the Saskatoon Police Service. Her education includes a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology. In the course of her law enforcement career, she has worked with the Integrated Drug Unit, Integrated Proceeds of Crime Unit, Sex Crimes Unit, Divisional Section within Patrol, the Major Crime Unit, Specialized Uniform Operations, and Watch Commander. Inspector Coates was promoted in July 2022 and currently serves as the Inspector overseeing the Specialized Uniform Operations Division. Erin loves to travel, both abroad and in Canada, play and coach volleyball and softball and spend time with friends and family.

In 2018–2019, she served a one-year deployment with the Canadian police contribution to the coalition mission in Iraq, as part of Operation Inherent Resolve, Police Task Force — Iraq. This assignment saw Inspector Coates, and other Canadian police embedded within a multinational coalition of police trainers from Italy, Finland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, where training was delivered to Iraq Federal Police and other Iraqi agencies at the Federal Police academy in Baghdad. Inspector Coates provided instruction on topics including Human Rights, International Law, Police Code of Conduct, Values and Ethics, Community Policing, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Based Violence, and Train-the-Trainer Programs. She brought her investigative background to enhance training on specific subjects such as Domestic Violence and Conflict Related Sexual Assault, as well as criminal investigation techniques, and specialized interviewing techniques, especially where victims are from vulnerable groups.



The Czechs in-mission made me one of their own and treated me like family.



TORONTO, ON, CANADA

James S. Cox

Somalia || 1992–1993

Cyprus || 1967–1968, 1981, 1986
British Army of the Rhine || 1972–1974
ACE Mobile Force || 1979–1980
Central Africa || 1997
SHAPE || 1988–2001

Current Residence: Ottawa, ON || Contact: james.cox@pk75.ca

In June 1993 I was a recently promoted Brigadier-General serving as the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). I had served in that role during UNOSOM I, as a Colonel, beginning September 1992. UNOSOM I ended when U.S. Marines, of the U.S.-led Unified Task Force (UNITAF), came ashore in the early morning of 9 December 1992. I spent the first few months of 1993 doing transition planning in Mogadishu and at United Nations Headquarters in New York (UNNY), for the eventual hand-over from UNITAF. On 4 May, UNOSOM II was established in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, with a Turkish Lieutenant General as Force Commander, a U.S. Army Major General as Deputy Commander, me as Chief of Staff, and a 28,000 strong international military force authorized to operate under Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter. Our mission was to establish a secure environment throughout Somalia.

Planning for UNOSOM II military operations attracted some serious attention from troop contributing countries, as evidenced in a visit by General Colin Powell, then Chairman of the U.S. Combined Joint Chiefs of Staff, in April 1993.

The following anecdote is taken from a situation report I sent to National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ) on 6 June 1993.

There were two major incidents on 5 June 1993. Early that morning, a platoon of Pakistani soldiers (1 officer and 19 soldiers) was assisting in the distribution of food to hungry Somalis at a well-established city feeding point in Mogadishu. This platoon had routinely provided such assistance at this location on previous occasions, as was readily known by local inhabitants.

On this particular morning, the young platoon officer's attention was diverted by two or three Somali males who appeared agitated for some reason. As the officer and some of his troops turned their attention to these men, the crowd closed in around the troops. The officer's radio was snatched from his hands by someone in the crowd and he was shot at close range. He fell and the crowd set upon him with knives and clubs hidden in their clothing. The officer's body was stabbed, hacked and largely dismembered.



Visit of Visit of General Colin Powell, to UNSOM II Military HQ, Mogadishu, 4 April 1993. Standing (from left) U.S. Army staff officer, General Powell, Turkish Army Lt. Gen. General Cevik Bir, UNOSOM II Force Commander, Canadian Army BGen Jim Cox, UNOSOM II Force Chief of Staff

Nearby soldiers were similarly overwhelmed so fast they were unable to open fire in self-defence. Eleven more soldiers were killed in short order, being stabbed by knives, beaten with clubs or hacked with machetes. Most bodies were grossly mutilated and left in the street. None died a simple death. Eight soldiers were taken away, seven of whom were recovered by the end of the day. One remained missing.

The attack on the Pakistani platoon was thought to be retaliation for a larger UNOSOM II operation conducted earlier that morning when UNOSOM troops forcibly entered a compound, controlled by one of the larger, more belligerent

clans, to inspect weapons stocks stored in that location. Subsequently, there had been sporadic shooting across eastern Mogadishu that morning, that built up as the day went on. Two U.S. Army truck drivers had been wounded, but Pakistani forces bore the brunt of the attacks. Near the city outskirts, Pakistani and American troops, supported by attack helicopters fought an hours-long skirmish to clear a Somali clan strongpoint. U.S. attack helicopters also destroyed Somali artillery spotted 15 kilometres west of the city. By the end of the day 24 Pakistani troops had been killed and another 44 wounded. U.S. Forces suffered three wounded. Somali dead and wounded were difficult to calculate, but reasonable estimates place Somali KIA (killed in action) at about 60, with over two hundred wounded.

On 6 June, UN staff were brought into the UNOSOM II Force Headquarters compound for added security. Militarily, UNOSOM troops increased patrolling throughout Mogadishu and the UNOSOM military staff continued to plan further offensive action against the more troublesome clans. The situation did not get any easier. In the months to come, UNOSOM troops, supported by substantial capabilities of the U.S. conventional forces, engaged the more belligerent Somali clans in more complex attacks.

By the time I deployed home to Canada in July, UNOSOM had executed three such operations against clan weapons storage sites. More of these attacks would come over the summer and early fall of 1993. Some were successful. Some were not. The last one, in October, became the basis of a book and a blockbuster movie — *Blackhawk Down*.

Biography

Brigadier-General Dr. James (Jim) S. Cox (Retired) completed a 35-year military career, mainly in operational command and staff positions across Canada and on four continents. He last served as Deputy Chief of Staff Intelligence at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium, from 1998–2001.

Along the way Jim completed three operational tours of duty with the United Nations in Cyprus (1967–1968, 1981, 1986), one in Central Africa (1997), two (consecutive) in Somalia (1992–1993), and three operational NATO missions in Europe, with the British Army of the Rhine (1972–1974), the ACE Mobile Force (1979–1980), and in SHAPE (1998–2001) including the 1999 bombing of Serbia and occupation of Kosovo. He trained with the United States Army, The United States Army Green Berets, The United States Marine Corps, the British Army, the British Army Special Air Service and the British Royal Marines.



Visit of Visit of General Colin Powell, to UNSOM II Military HQ, Mogadishu, 4 April 1993. (from left) U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Thomas Montgomery, UNOSOM II Force Deputy Commander, General Powell, Turkish Army Lt. Gen. Cevik Bir, UNOSOM II Force Commander, Canadian Army BGen Jim Cox, UNOSOM II Force Chief of Staff

Jim has commanded at all levels in the field army. He commanded Duke's Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (The RCR, 1978–1979), 3rd Battalion, The RCR (1985–1987), and 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG 1993–1995). He also served as Deputy Commander of the Canadian Airborne Regiment in Cyprus (1981), and Deputy Commander of the Special Service Force (1991–1992).

After retiring from the Canadian Forces, Jim was an analyst in the Library of Parliament, from 2005–2011, supporting the House of Commons Special Committee on the Canadian Mission in Afghanistan, the House of Commons Standing Committees on National Defence and Veterans Affairs, the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence, the Senate Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs and the Canadian delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He also served as the Vice-President Academic Affairs with the Canadian Military Intelligence Association from 2012–2015.

In 1993, Jim was awarded the Order of Military Merit in the grade of Officer, by the Governor General of Canada. In 2013, he received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Senate of Canada, for his continuing service to Canada.

In recent years, Jim taught graduate courses in conflict management, civil-military relations, and national security intelligence at Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs and in Canadian foreign policy at the University of Ottawa. He also served as a Fellow at the Conference of Defence Associations Institute.

Today, Jim teaches graduate courses in Intelligence and Analytics in Public Safety for Wilfrid Laurier University, serves as Patron of The Royal Canadian Regiment Association, as a member of the Council of Governors for Commissionaires Ottawa, and as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Intelligence Network (CIN).

Dr. Cox studied at the NATO Defence College in Rome, is a graduate of the University of Manitoba, the Canadian Army Command and Staff College, and the Canadian Forces College. He holds an MA and PhD in War Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada.



Neepawa, MB, Canada

Ray Crabbe

Croatia || 1994–1995

Cyprus || 1967
SHIRBRIG || 2003

Current Residence: St. Paul, MB || Contact: ray.crabbe@pk75.ca

I arrived in the theater of operations on a bright warm day in early May 1994 and, as the Croatia Airlines flight approached Zagreb, I had a bird's eye view of beautiful, lush land and rolling hills below. My immediate thought was how such a tranquil looking land could be the setting for such a brutal war. Once on the ground, I quickly came to realize the magnitude of the destruction and devastation of the infrastructure and how deep-seated the hatred was between the factions.

I was appointed Deputy Force Commander (DFC) and Commander Canadian Contingent for UNPROFOR. As the DFC, I was responsible for UN operations and liaison in Croatia (although I was fortunate to be very involved with operations in Bosnia and the Former Republic of Macedonia), as well as for coordinating the work of the NGOs and contingents, UN logistic support across the entire Balkans, and a myriad of other tasks. One important task was to put an end to the extensive corruption and misuse of UN assets by several contingents and nations; this turned out to be an almost impossible task, despite devoting a great deal of time and effort to it. As Commander of the Canadian Contingent, I was responsible for purely Canadian matters related to the 2,500 Canadians deployed in the Balkans and was blessed with an outstanding staff specifically for this appointment. My office was located in a former Yugoslav Army barracks in Zagreb.

Despite many briefings and personal preparations prior to deploying, the greatest initial challenge was gaining an understanding of the numerous factions and their goals. It was only after several visits to the operational sectors and holding several meetings that I came to realize the true purpose of the countries involved in the war and of the factions within the countries. This was an extremely complex mission with a variety of challenges, not the least of which was inept units deployed in the Balkans as part of UNPROFOR, and the international support being provided to the various countries, adding to the intrigue.



Lt RR Crabbe serving with 2 QOR of C in Cyprus July 1967 at Bellapais Abbey.

Shortly after arriving in theatre, Croatia imposed a total restriction on the road movement of UN logistic and other support into the four United Nations Protected Areas (UNPA). The Croatia government accused the UN of importing arms and other equipment into the UNPAs that were then supposedly given to the Serbs, and that this had to stop before the restrictions would be lifted. I was tasked by the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) and Force Commander to resolve the situation and to get the logistics flowing immediately, as it was having a severe detrimental impact on operations.

The Croatian government representative in charge was the Minister of the Interior and in my first meeting with him, it was very evident that this was not going to be settled quickly, and that the Croatian government was using this as yet another ploy to discredit the UN. The meetings with the Interior Minister were painful and totally non-productive, and usually lapsed into history lessons by the Croat representatives about how Croatia had been hard done by over its history and that it was now flexing its muscles to show the world they 'controlled' their own destiny. I kept asking myself how a country that itself was a member of the UN, could impose such nonsensical restrictions on a UN force in their country, and lie to the world about the realities of what was going on. It took over a month of negotiations to get the movement restrictions lifted and only after the UN agreed to further checks and balances to ensure that only goods and commodities required in the UNPAs for UN personnel were allowed.

This is only one example of many frustrations imposed by the 'host' country that further frustrated the troops who were deployed to keep the peace, and far too often had to put their lives on the line to do so. It is one illustration of the frustrations of peacekeeping in the Balkans; there were many more. But the success of keeping over two million people alive each day by delivering the necessities of life, by preventing a major recurrence of fighting, and by ensuring the war did not spread beyond the borders of the Balkans, all outweighed the frustrations in an area of the world that was, at the time, stuck in an ethnic and political quagmire.

Biography

Lieutenant-General Ray Crabbe was born in Neepawa MB and joined the Canadian Army in Sep 1963. On graduation from the University of Manitoba, he served in a variety of command and staff appointments including tours of duty with the United Nations in Cyprus and the Balkans, and NATO in Germany.

His command appointments include Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Calgary AB, Commander of the Special Service Force in Petawawa ON, Deputy Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force and Commander of the Canadian Contingent in the Balkans, Commander Land Force Atlantic Area in Halifax, NS, and Commander 1 Canadian Division in Kingston, ON.

His senior staff appointments included Regimental Major, Canadian Airborne Regiment, Chief of Staff (COS) of the Army Staff College, COS Prairie Militia Area, and Director-General Personnel Careers Other Ranks at National Defence Headquarters. In September 1997, Lieutenant-General Crabbe was appointed Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (DCDS) at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa, where he was responsible for Canadian Forces operations and intelligence worldwide.

He is a graduate of the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College, Kingston, ON, the Canadian Forces Staff College, Toronto, ON, and the United States Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA.

His involvement in peacekeeping includes a tour in Cyprus with UNFICYP as a platoon commander in the Kyrenia area in 1967, and as the Deputy Commander and Commander Canadian Contingent in UNPROFOR 1994–95. In various command appointments he was also responsible for training individuals and contingents for UN operations. As DCDS, he was responsible for all Canadian operations with the UN. In 2003, he was appointed for one year as Chair of the Multinational Standby High Readiness Brigade for UN Operations (SHIRBRIG)



Lt RR Crabbe serving with 2 QOR of C in Cyprus October 1967 at Camp Maple Leaf.

He retired from the Canadian Forces in October 1998. In May 2010, Lieutenant-General Crabbe was appointed Colonel of the Regiment of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and held that appointment until June 2015. On retirement, he managed his own company, providing mentorship and assistance to small businesses in Canada and the USA, and was active in defence and foreign affairs with the Canadian Government. He served on several Boards in Manitoba and federally.

He is married to the former Brenda Freeman of Killarney, MB. They have two children, Lia, and Derek, and four grandchildren. He and Brenda currently reside in East St Paul, MB.



VALLEYFIELD, QC, CANADA

Kim Deniger

Haiti || 2015–2016, Mali || 2019–2020

In 2015, I was a constable with 12 years' service and a single mother of three children. I had the desire to prove to myself and others that there is always a way to overcome challenges and to pursue a dream. I applied to a peace operation and was successfully selected to the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). My experience with RCMP human resource planning led me to be hand-selected to assist the UN personnel office.

In Haiti, I was eager to be in the field. A new opportunity opened up for me to join the West Department (Province) field operations. I was able to spend much of my time involved in daily interactions with the local population in the displacement camps and Croix de Bouquets.

Those experiences, combined with my previous police service gave me the experience to earn my first promotion soon after returning to Canada.

In 2019, the urge to live a new adventure timed well with the opportunity to join the new UN mission in Mali. As the fourth member to deploy to MINUSMA, I knew immediately that I wanted to capitalize on the experience and became part of the first Canadian pair to be deployed to Mopti. I shared duties that permitted me to partake in long patrols which included camping in outposts, while also acting as the joint operations' center liaison.

My participation and first steps have opened the door to nearly a dozen other Canadians being deployed to the regions now.

My experiences on both missions have been very rewarding and enriching. I found my soulmate (Stephen Dibblee) during my first mission in Haiti. Today, we are happily married.

We, as Canadians, are extremely fortunate. We have access to proper education. Women can be in leadership roles. In these countries, women do not have the same opportunities. During my patrols in Mali, I went to some remote communities. Most of the people had never seen a white woman before and they all wanted to touch me. To some women over there, I was an inspiration. They had never seen a female in uniform before.



Kim Deniger and Stephen Dibblee in Port-au-Prince, Haiti about to board the UN helicopter to conduct a post-Hurricane Matthew damage assessment in the Grande Anse region of Haiti.

It gave them a goal to achieve what they didn't think possible before. It gave them hope.

I was able to gather some women from the communities and have them listen in during the meetings. Usually, it is only men that are present. I would try to encourage them to participate in the negotiations. They listened and they showed us what was going on. They felt included. It may seem like a small achievement, but it's a huge opportunity for them.

In mission, you arrive and you want to change everything! It's important to remember that you need to take time to learn the culture and see what's going on. They have their own solutions but may not have the resources to do it. You need to respect the community.

Since my first mission, I was able to recruit several women police officers. I shared my own experiences. I explained how I managed to leave for one year with three kids of my own. I always tried to find the best ways to involve my kids in my experiences. For example, during my first mission to Haiti I

wrote a letter every day and had them open a small gift every week to remember good times together.

Today, I'm sponsoring a girl from Mali with World Vision. With this support, she can continue to go to school. Sometimes, these small actions on our side can make a big difference in someone else's life.

The UN is always looking for more women to go overseas, as are other agencies. I want to encourage all women police officers who may have an interest to go and apply. Even if you have kids, you can do it. It is typically a year long deployment. But you have leave/vacation. You can come back home for quality time with kids. Or you can plan vacation. I want my kids to be proud that their mom went on mission. They shared it at school. They got involved and shared toys with kids in Mali. I made my kids a part of my mission. They will gain an independence and learn from that. It takes guts to deploy. But we are so fortunate to have a country that has our backs. I would go back but I am giving myself a couple of years first.

Biography



Kim Deniger on regional patrols outside of Mopti, Mali meeting with village children.

When Corporal Kim Deniger joined the RCMP, she spent the first five years in the Northwest Territories. Her postings included Yellowknife, Holman Island, and Inuvik. Afterwards, she moved to Ottawa to work in Protection for the following five years. This included positions in General Duty Protection Policing and the Supreme Court. Next, Cpl Deniger spent two years in Recruiting.

It was in 2015 when she was selected to go on her first peace operation to Haiti. As part of the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Cpl Deniger worked in the UN Personnel Office. She also had the opportunity to join the West Department (Province) field operations and the election security planning team, which took her to Jérémie, Haiti, as part of the post-Hurricane Matthew assessment team.

Upon return to Canada, Cpl Deniger was posted to the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre before she was promoted.

In 2019, she was selected for her second peace operation to the newly started mission in Mali. Cpl Deniger deployed to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) as the fourth Canadian police officer, and part of the first Canadian pair to deploy to the regions, in particular Mopti. She conducted long patrols, which included camping in outposts. She also acted as the joint operations' centre liaison.

Since her return, she has been working at the Parliamentary Protective Service Satellite Unit doing risk interviews. She is also an active member of the tactical troop.



Kim Deniger conducting one of her many visits to the orphanage that was sponsored by the National Capital Region RCMP members.



London, United Kingdom

Jasteena Dhillon

Reflections of a Civilian in a Peacekeeping Context

Afghanistan
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Iraq
Sudan

Current Residence: North York, ON || Contact: jasteena.dhillon@pk75.ca

Saving lives is what I want to do when I am working in the field. It is the real motivator that drove me to want to go work in a war zone or disaster area. Saving someone's life is more than actually ensuring they do not die. It is making sure that they stay alive and thrive in the face of forces that are trying to defeat them. In all of my roles, I have striven to ensure survival for all. When I am investigating human rights violations, I needed to ensure that there was justice for the victim. If I exposed corruption, I had to set up accountability mechanisms to prevent it happening again. If someone was dying right there, I needed to do everything to save his or her life!

When it was realized, during the ethnic conflict of Bosnia, that rape had been used as a weapon in the war, or that barbaric punishments were imposed on those who did not comply in Afghanistan, or that children were forced to kill their own families as initiation to become child soldiers in Sudan, I realized that saving the physical life of a person in war must go hand in hand with saving their minds. To me, that meant helping them find the tools in peace to be able to process the atrocities they endured.

I always knew that, in order to maintain safety and security for people who lived in a place turned upside down by conflict or disaster, "rule of law" was the key to ensuring what happened never happened again. Whether providing medical assistance, or food and shelter to save lives, or supporting the development of governance and legal systems, my aim always was to ensure that institutions and systems were strong enough, after we left the conflict, to protect people in danger of suffering hunger, sickness or death.

An epiphany for me was realizing that to save a life, you cannot judge that person and cannot let it affect your goal to save their life. I learned by working closely with the military on the ground that when you are forced to make a choice to kill, or not to kill, that using the lens of dichotomy between who is good and who is bad becomes irrelevant, as anyone can become a victim in war or a survivor in peace. And this task challenges the very essence of our core to be empathic.



Jasteena in Erbil, Iraq, 2007.

I was amazed by the resilience of people to emerge from the horrors and to rebuild their lives. I learned that the core of peace building is the strength of humans to endure and to forgive others. I suppose, what other choice is there but to get up and continue towards a semblance of normalcy? Surviving rape, torture and terror was necessary to have any chance to create peace and security. The question for me was always, "What can I do to support the journey of the brave survivors?"

Biography

Jasteena Dhillon is a professor of law and international development who, with over 20 years' experience, advises and consults on issues of justice, human rights, humanitarian, governance, development, and security. She began her work in South Africa working on developing law and policy on constitutional protection of children's rights, and contributed as a civilian in peace operations, directly within the United Nations



Jasteena in Bagram, Afghanistan, 2004–05.

(UN) and also as an implementing partner of UN agencies, in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Sudan. As a Legal Officer for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), she advised the UN agency on positions to be taken on borders and constraints, and privileges and immunities in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As a human rights lawyer in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), she managed programs that facilitated the return of refugees and displaced persons to Prijedor and Posavina in Northern Bosnia after the end of the 1992–1995 Yugoslav's ethnic conflict.

In Afghanistan, she implemented programs for the Norwegian Refugee Council in collaboration with United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) to support Afghan lawyers in their successful resolution of complex legal issues within both the informal and formal justice systems in Northern Afghanistan. As a Human Rights officer for the United Nations, she facilitated the implementation of human rights programs for women and children in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Duhok in Northern Iraq for United Nations Assistance Mission to Iraq (UNAMI), and as a legal development expert, she developed and implemented a road map to re-establishing the Supreme Court of South Sudan with United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNAMIS). In addition, Jasteena worked closely with UN missions and agencies as a legal and development expert in conflict affected areas, including Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Bosnia, Macedonia, Albania, Jordan and Palestine.

In 2019, while on sabbatical from her academic job, Jasteena was the Legal Advisor for the Ambassador for the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine focusing on legal issues of privileges and immunities of the diplomatic personnel, international humanitarian law, and internal legal matters for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

After leaving the field in 2009, Jasteena managed a project for Allied Command Transformation — North Atlantic Treaty Organization (ACT — NATO) in Norfolk, Virginia, the aim of which was to design more effective and safe systems for civilian-military interaction in conflict zones; it is now called the Civil-Military Fusion Centre which brings together UN and military actors to effectively share information in conflict, post conflict and peacebuilding operations.

In 2010, she spent a year at Harvard Kennedy School as a Fellow at the Carr Centre for Human Rights' Policy, working on the Human Rights in Afghanistan project, where she provided policy advice to the U. S administration on their foreign policy in South Asia. For the last 10 years, Jasteena has been a frequent subject matter expert for military exercises and courses run by the Canadian Armed Forces, the United States military, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Her expertise is sought to encourage the importance of cooperation among all stakeholders, at all levels, as key to ensuring successful operations and peace building. She taught in these courses



Jasteena in Eastern Sri Lanka, 2006.

in Canada at the Canadian Forces College, Canadian Forces Base Trenton, in the U.S. at the National Defence University, with NATO School in Germany, in the Joint Warfare Centre in Norway, and at the Rapid Reaction Corps in France. When it was functioning, Jasteena was a regular facilitator with the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre on the UN Senior Management Course, and on the UN Integrated Mission Special Operations Course, both attended by military and police officers from all over the world (sponsored by the Canadian Armed Forces) who came to learn how to work effectively in military and police peacekeeping roles in UN operations.



Saint John, NB, Canada

Stephen Dibblee

Haiti || 2010–2011, 2015–2016, Mali || 2020–2021

Current Residence: Rockland, ON || Contact: stephen.dibblee@pk75.ca

Inspired as a child by Canada's contributions to United Nations peacekeeping, I have always had a passion for the UN. As a young member in C Division (Québec), I worked with several members who partook in the initial missions to Haiti. This further planted the seed in my head. Then in 2010, Haiti was devastated by an earthquake that killed over 200,000 people, including two RCMP members. I was posted in Woodstock, NB at the time. It was also the home of Sergeant Mark Gallagher, one of our deceased members. I did not hesitate to forward my name and be part of Canada's humanitarian surge to the MINUSTAH mission. I was initially assigned to the major crimes section in Fort Liberté, before being re-assigned to the Joint Operations and Tasking Center at the UN HQ base, where I acted as a liaison officer between the mission and UN HQ in New York.



Stephen Dibblee with his now wife Kim Deniger at the Haitian orphanage that was sponsored for many years by members of the National Capital Region RCMP.

A few years after returning to Canada, I sought a new challenge. It was not long before my sights were set back at the UN mission in Haiti. In 2015, I began my second mission where I was very fortunate to have found my beautiful wife (Kim Deniger). I have three children from a previous relationship, as does Kim. This has made us the instant Brady bunch of six kids when we are all together.

Doing these missions in these periods of our lives comes with challenges. At the time of writing this, our kids are early to mid teens. So, during our earlier missions, the children were very young. It was our vacation leave from missions where we tried to make each moment count with them so they, too, could see some benefit. As those who have deployed know, leaving for a mission isn't just a sacrifice for the member, it is a full family commitment for it to be a success. I was glad to be able to support Kim during her second mission. We were able to coordinate with the father of her children to still be able to maintain part of the sharing of custody. This allowed us to spend time Facetiming with Kim during her mission.

In 2020, I was provided a new opportunity to represent Canada, this time with the European Union's Civilian and Security mission in Mali. My work with the EU has focused on providing strategic advice to the Malian government departments and I developed a series of programs focused on improving border management and security with the various Malian security forces.

I think the resounding thing that hits everyone in mission is how lucky we are to live in Canada. While we know we are fortunate, we don't fully appreciate how fortunate we are until

we experience a deployment to a fragile and conflict-affected state. You see the standard of living based on ones' birthplace and how it can affect the outcome of ones' life.

We, as Canadians, are most definitely blessed. Just by the virtue of being born here, we have so many opportunities: education, healthcare, etc. Every day during my last deployment when I walked outside of my house in Bamako, this same thought returned to me. The Haitians and Malians may not fully feel it, as they make the best of their situation in which they are raised. It is actually our presence in their lives that makes them feel limited in what they may be able to attain in their lives. And for the short periods that we are there in their lives, we, too, are limited in how we can make a difference. After all, we are only there for a year. But whether it's bringing back items from Canada for their families or helping to pay for the school registration of their children, I tried to make some impact in the direct lives of those I know personally. And I hope that some part of the larger mission projects I helped develop can contribute to some level of legacy and growth for the greater population over the long term.

Biography

Staff Sergeant Stephen Dibblee obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Brock University in 1996. He joined the RCMP in 2000 and was posted in Québec, working in the Federal Enforcement section and Customs and Excise section. He moved to Fort McPherson in 2002 to work in Northern Aboriginal Policing, which included being a lead investigator on an apprehension of an American citizen wanted in relation to a triple homicide in Virginia and North Carolina. He then moved to the Integrated Proceeds of Crime unit in Newmarket and London, ON.

In 2006, S/Sgt Dibblee started a new position in the Marine Security Enforcement Team and Integrated Border Security, which included consulting with many partners like U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Coast Guard, and Intelligence units. In 2008, S/Sgt Dibblee moved to Woodstock, NB into the Team Leader position for the District 7/Southwest District. His duties included being the First Nations Liaison with the Chief and Council of Woodstock First Nation.

S/Sgt Dibblee applied to his first peace operation after the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti. After his nine-month deployment, he returned to his position as Team Leader. S/Sgt Dibblee then moved over to District 9/Northeast district in Campbellton for a two-year posting as the detachment commander. Afterwards, S/Sgt Dibblee spent a year in internal investigations before he left on his second deployment, as part of the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).



Stephen Dibblee facilitating a border management needs assessment conference with the International Organization for Migration and security forces of Kaye, Mali.

S/Sgt Dibblee held several different leadership positions throughout his deployment, including Commanding Officer of the South-East Department (Province) and Chief of the Electoral Cell. In these roles, he provided advice and guidance to the Police Commissioner, Force Commander, Director General of the Haitian National Police, and Special Representative of the Secretary General.

Upon his return to Canada, S/Sgt Dibblee obtained a position in International Deployment Services, taking on the role of desk officer for missions and logistics for deploying police officers. As part of the Capacity Building team, he deployed to Tanzania Africa to coordinate and facilitate a two-week marine vessel interdiction operator course for their national police and drug enforcement agency.

In 2018, S/Sgt Dibblee transferred to Federal Policing Criminal Operations in the position of non-commissioned officer in charge of the Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Corruption team. He facilitated multiple courses on Proceeds of Crime and money Laundering. During the last year of this two-year posting, he also acted as Officer in Charge of Financial Crime.

In late 2020, S/Sgt Dibblee accepted his third peace operation deployment to the European Union civilian training mission Sahel in Mali. In this role, he became the first Canadian advisor for border management.



North Vancouver, BC, Canada

Bruce Docherty

Egypt || 1974–1975

Puerto Rico || 1993

Current Residence: Surrey, BC || Contact: 11063 Oriole Dr., Surrey, BC V3R 5A7

The anti-aircraft nests surrounding the Airport in Cairo told us that we were really there. After a long, hot day, my coworkers and I went to Junior Ranks Mess to relax over a couple of beer. Out of the blue, some guy I had never met before started berating me, he had found out that I was a Reservist. I started pushing my chair back, when I felt a hand on each shoulder pushing me back down into my chair, hearing, "Sit down Bruce, we've got this". With that, the entire table stood up. That is the first of many moments I vividly recall from my tour in Egypt.

As a certified driver of the 2½ ton Troop Transport trucks (Deuce and a half), I drove to Cairo every second week to pick up rations from our supply base. I regularly saw the American helicopters taking off for patrols of the Suez Canal, and asked if I could catch a ride as a tourist. "I'd really like to help you, but… with the required authorizations, protocols, paperwork and red tape, my hands are tied". The very next day, this same U.S. Officer requested coffee, tea, cream, sugar, cookies etc., for his crews. My Sgt said that he would have to "Speak to Corporal Docherty." So, even though I had previously received instructions to assist the American crews whenever possible, when the Officer made his request, I replied, "I'd really like to help you Sir but…with the required authorizations, protocols, paperwork and red tape, my hands are tied as to who I am authorized to issue rations to."

We were allowed to purchase two open beer, and borrow a chair from the mess, to watch the movies. I eventually finished my first beer, reached down to pick up the second, took a mouthful, an immediately spit it out, to a chorus of "Pinky". The area was infested with ants, and if a beer was left uncovered, the ants would go for a swim. I very quickly joined the chorus of "Pinky".

I was the only Canadian Diver to participate in clearance operations of the Suez Canal during my tour of duty. I was in the Dive Chief's quarters discussing diving with his team, when someone burst into the room, and was just as quickly removed. It turns out the American Divers had just completed their assigned Canal sweeps for the day and this diver was excited to show his Diving Chief what he had recovered. The Chief let out the divers universal all clear, "It's ok, he's a Diver" after which the Diver was right back in to display his trophy. He had recovered a Russian AK-47 in mint condition. My big find the next day was a capstan that had been blown off one of scuttled ships.



UN ration run

When we left for Israel, we all had our cameras out when we saw a "destroyed tank", by the roadside, but we then also noticed that the turret was following us. The Israeli Officer in charge of the outpost told us that we could take as many pictures as we wanted, but must point our cameras toward the UN buffer zone and Egypt. I found a fully operational Israeli Halftrack and set up the camera for the shot.

It was common to see meteors in the night, but on one occasion it just seemed to hang there, and soon after it disappearing there was a burst of light. Soon there were lights in the night sky, traveling in both directions. I would never say

we were afraid, but I knew the closest, and safest place for cover within ten feet of anywhere I went.

A group of volunteers was building an FM radio station, and I started to help out. We all wrote to our local area radio stations, asking for records. I was asked to pick some music I liked, the station manager said "Good, these are for your show. When the Polish heard that we were going to transmit live, all FM capable radios were confiscated. After listening to the station for a week, they brought in FM radios, and distributed them to their troops. The Poles were amazed that we were able to find so many Officers that were available to be our radio announcers. They were even more amazed to find out that we were Privates and Corporals.

After my UN leave ran out, I returned to working at the Fleet Diving Unit. The Coxswain, Chief (Red) Larson, ordered me to cut off my handlebar moustache. I replied that it was legal and conformed to current regulations. Red scowled and walked off. After checking on one of the trainee divers, Red came back and greeted me as I surfaced from a dive with my handlebar moustache now dripping, saying, "It's not legal now, Cut It Off!".

Biography

Bruce qualified as a Navy Diver in 1972 working extensively at the Fleet Diving Unit (Pacific) (FDU(P)), sailing on the HMCS Fraser as a member of her Diving Team, and on HMCS Qu'Appelle as her senior Diver. While in Panama City aboard the HMCS Qu'Appelle, Bruce, as senior Diver, supervised the recovery and attempts to revive a drowning victim, a member of his own ships company.



The Israeli Officer in charge of the outpost told us that we could take as many pictures as we wanted, but only toward the UN buffer zone and Egypt. I found a fully operational Israeli Halftrack, so I set up the camera for the shot.

Bruce was deployed overseas in 1974 to serve with the Second United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF II) in Egypt, returning home in 1975. While in Egypt, he was the only Canadian Diver to participate in clearance operations of the Suez Canal with the United Nations in Egypt 1974–1975. He returned to Canada to study at Capilano College in North Vancouver in the fall of 1975, and upon completion of two semesters, he was once again returned to active service, diving at FDU(P). In the fall of 1977, Bruce was accepted to Study Marine Engineering at the Canadian Coast Guard College in Sydney, NS, as an Officer Cadet. After two years of study, he joined the Heavy Ice Breaker, the Canadian Coast Guard Ship (CCGS) John A McDonald as a Junior Engineer, patrolling and sailing through the Northwest Passage.

In January of 1980, Bruce returned to the West Coast, once again sailing on HMCS Port De La Rein (PDLR) as a Petty Officer of the watch and senior Diver. He left the PDLR on the 1st of April to join the CCGS Quadra, a Weather Ship stationed at "Ocean Station Papa" about 950 miles off the BC Coast.

While working as a Marine Engineering Officer aboard some of the smaller Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) patrol vessels Bruce recognized a real need for qualified First Aid Attendants, so he obtained certification as one. He then volunteered to serve as the only First Aid Attendant on numerous Department of Fisheries and Oceans/Coast Guard vessels over the next 30 plus years and was frequently the only First Aid Attendant aboard. These First Aid duties were in addition to his paid duties as an Engineering Officer, but at no time during his years as a qualified First Aid Attendant, did he receive any additional pay to hold the qualification, or for the responsibility that went with it.

While working full time on the Department of Fisheries/Coast Guard Ships for 35 years Bruce continued to serve with the Naval Reserves using almost all his holiday time and saved overtime to train and serve with the Navy, accumulating well over twelve years of active Naval service. In 1993, he lead a ten member diving team, comprising members selected from Naval Reserve Diving teams from across Canada, on a foreign deployment to Porto Rico.

After successfully reviving a near fatal drowning patient, Bruce joined the Surrey St. John Ambulance Division in the fall of 1993 to improve his abilities and attempt to maintain a standard with which he was satisfied. After the unexpected passing of one of the Officers of Surrey's St John Ambulance Cadet Division, Bruce was asked to help out. He did so for several years as an Officer in the Adult Division, eventually transferring to the Cadet Division as their Administration Officer, a position he held for eight years. For six years he served the Divisional Superintendent for the Surrey St. John Ambulance Cadet Division 336C, the maximum amount of time allowed. Bruce also completed 30+ Years of Voluntary First Aid Community Service with St John Ambulance Brigade from 1993 to present.

In May of 2011, Bruce retired as a Lieutenant-Commander from the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG), having served his last ten years as Chief Engineer on the Search and Rescue Cutter CCGC Point Henry. During his service with the Coast Guard, in recognition for his service, he received the Coast Guards Exemplary Service Medal and, several years, later received a Bar to the medal for continuing service.

Bruce joined the Canadian Lifeboat Institute (CLI) in 2011 as a Marine Engineer and primary First Aid Attendant, serving aboard their two all volunteer Search and Rescue Lifeboats, 2011 to present. With his retirement from the Royal Canadian Naval Reserves (RCNR) he was presented with the Beaver Medal recognizing his service to the marine community on the Pacific coast. Bruce is currently working as a part time, senior watchkeeping Engineer aboard the BC ferries Queen of Coquitlam, a 456 foot "C" class ferry.



TOTTENHAM, ON, CANADA

Vincent Eagan

Kosovo || 2000–2001

Current Residence: Tottenham, ON || Contact: vincent.eagan@pk75.ca

York Regional Police seconded me to the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) for a civilian policing role. My mission lasted from 11 November 2000, to 11 August 2001. RCMP International Policing managed this deployment, which was a separate, but complementary role to the NATO troops on the ground. My deployment was preceded by two weeks of training in Ottawa, where I qualified in RCMP use of force, mine awareness, and cultural competencies. We were a contingent of 21 Canadian police officers. My field working uniform was my home agency's, with RCMP use of force gear, and UN blue beret. Core UN peacekeeping mandates applied, such as consent of parties, impartiality, and minimal force.



Klina area of Kosovo, April 2001.

Our Canadian contingent arrived in Pristina, Kosovo where we had another week of preparation. An officer from Saskatoon PD and I were deployed to Klina, Kosovo, a rural area in Pec/Peja region. Officers lived in the community, renting, or boarding under their own personal arrangements. The other Canadian moved elsewhere after a few months, but I stayed at Klina. Here there was a predominately Albanian population, as Serbs had fled the area. We arrived at Klina on 21 November 2000. NATO had a KFOR military base outside town, then staffed manned at that time by a Portuguese army unit, mainly in an aid to the civil powers' role, doing searches, patrols, road checkpoints, and our tactical resource (KFOR was the Kosovo Force, a NATO-led international peacekeeping force in Kosovo).

UNMIK and our local Kosovo police service recruits (KPS) processed weapons seized by KFOR and we processed offenders through the justice system. We were patrol officers 24/7 in teams of international and KPS. Over time, the KPS staffing increased, while international staffing was gradually reduced. By UNMIK mandate, many of the KPS police were former rebel combatants and, although their policing seemed effective, their mixed allegiances were evident. Police radios were good, but most calls for service filtered into the station by any means possible, and rural calls often attended after the fact.

Most of my mission was spent in investigations, following up, and making arrests. One big difference from Canadian common law, is that Kosovo was a continental law/civil code jurisdiction with Investigating Judges and Prosecutors. That meant we took a suspect to the Prosecutor promptly and they (theoretically) wanted shared agency of witness interviews and

examination of crime scenes, completely different from the Canadian approach.

Calls were quite varied, and included traffic matters, missing persons, thefts, damages, illegal logging, disputes, shootings, illegal weapons, other munitions, and mental illness. One even involved a reneged payment of a bride purchase of 20,000 deutsche marks (DM) resulting in threats and charges. One call was a neighbour running over the other neighbour's foot with a tractor.

There were minimal criminal records and fingerprint databases, but all that would come later. Some of the more problematic armed threats resulted from land and property occupations, and even an inter-family water-well dispute. Land registry records had been destroyed in the civil war, as well as much cultural and religious property. Even today, this is a problem, as a draft civil code was declined in the Kosovo Assembly in March, 2022. If it had passed, it would have better addressed family rights, property rights, inheritance (war widows), and other torts.

A colleague told me of one dispute he resolved via a 'swearing' before a village elder. I also had an intractable dispute call involving death threats over 80,000 DM that were owed on a dump truck, a debt incurred prior to Kosovo's economic collapse. I also facilitated a 'swearing' resolution for this, relying on a KPS as lead officer. We located a high stature Kosovo Protection Corps member from Prekaj village who agreed to act as the mediator. A meeting was held at the Klina town office in the Albanian language with some time-extension resolution. The literature then was minimal, but since my UN time, more literature exists on this centuries old Kanun, or honour code, that existed underground throughout Ottoman and Yugoslavia rule, known for its hospitality, honour 'Besa' or swearing, and the problematic blood feuds.

My successes in retrospect were in taking the time to listen to the KPS officers at roadside memorials and at residences to follow the hospitality protocols, meet with the men of an extended family compound, drink Turkish coffee, and show mutual respect. We stated our business, and any wanted party would show up later at the police station. I was firm, without capitulating at many times. I really dialled down any command-and-control demeanor as my uniform presence at rural households made children cry. When I repatriated, I pushed hard to get into police forensics as this was one absent resource in my mission timeframe, coupled with Kosovars afraid to be witnesses.

Biography

Vincent Eagan was born in Guelph, ON in 1957 and grew up on a dairy farm near Tottenham, ON. He worked at construction jobs until joined York Regional Police in Newmarket in the fall 1978. The Ontario Police College Part A & B, two-part Basic Constable 16 weeks were completed in 1979. He married his wife Kelly in June 1979, and they are still together and are now grandparents. He served in Newmarket, ON at general police duties. The next police service joined on the 14th of April 1981, was the RCMP where he attended Depot Division Regina, SK for six months basic training, then on to Saskatchewan postings at Kelvington and Buffalo Narrows.

These rural and northern duties helped prepare him for the rigours of a UN mission due to more self-reliance with backup officers often distant, as well as dead police radio spots that we used to experience in the 1980's. Vincent returned to York Regional Police in August 1988 and served at Markham, then Richmond Hill stations. This afforded training as a Scenes of Crime Officer (SOCO) which was a preferred duty of Constable Eagan and a skill he passed on to some Kosovo Police officers in his Klina, UNMIK policing mission as he took some fingerprint dusting supplies on mission.

On his return to Canada in August 2001 his assignment was still as patrol at Richmond Hill station. The opportunity for police Forensic Identification roles as an FIS officer began in 2003 after graduating from the Ontario Police College Forensic Identification Course. This duty was for a total of 10 years in two different time periods and provided a lot of ancillary FIS specialty short courses he attended. He also spent the last part of his career as a patrol Sgt until retiring in January 2018.



Italian and German police officers with Vince, working together at an investigation site.

Vincent also has a BA Hons in Policing from Wilfrid Laurier University, an MA in Interdisciplinary Studies from Royal Roads University, Sooke BC, and a Bachelor of Forensic Identification from Laurentian University. He will be starting a graduate diploma in Canadian law part time at Osgoode, York University in fall 2023. Vince also has a Peace Operations Specialized Training Certificate in Police Studies from the Peace Operations Training Institute that was a post-mission endeavor to understand evolving best practices in UN peace operations.



TORONTO, ON, CANADA

R.G. (Geordie) Elms

Lebanon || 1983–1985

Cypus || 1976–1977
Afghanistan and Pakistan || 1988–1989, 2003–2006, 2006–2007
Kosovo || 1992–1993
Israel || 2008–2010

Current Residence: Hamilton, ON || Contact: geordie.elms@pk75.ca

In the Canadian Army of the 1970s, opportunities for overseas service were generally limited to either deployment on UN peacekeeping duty in Cyprus, or with our contribution to NATO forces in Germany. I had been fortunate to experience both when, in July 1983, I was posted to the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) as a UN Military Observer (UNMO) with Observer Group Beirut (OGB). It was created following Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. When I arrived, it included four Canadians.

OGB HQ was located in the Hazmieh area of East Beirut. Three patrol routes covered the areas of the city during the day, and one at night covered the entire city between midnight and 0800 Hrs. By September 1983, maintaining patrols in the western and southern areas of the city became problematic, as the security situation deteriorated. Checkpoints along the "Green Line" split the city in half and could be thrown up without notice, forcing our patrols to negotiate through checkpoints, or to find an alternate way back to Hazmieh. On 31 August, the Israelis departed.



Shirley Elms with Palestinian refugee children inside the stadium adjacent to the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps (October 1983).

On 19 September 1983, ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet arrived off the coast of Beirut to provide supporting fire to the Lebanese Armed Forces brigade fighting in the Chouf mountains. On the morning of the 25th, I went out onto my apartment balcony in West Beirut to find the USS New Jersey had arrived off the coast with her 16 inch guns ready to fire into the Chouf, if needed; they were not brought into action until 14 December.

On the night of 22 October, having completed the night patrol, my French colleague and I returned to OGB HQ as the standby team. At 0622 hrs we were awakened by a large rolling boom that shook Beirut. A huge black cloud began billowing up over the area of Beirut International Airport (BIA). About three minutes later, a second blast hit. It was in the area of the old racecourse where the French MNF contingent was based. It was bedlam. The two blasts killed 258 U.S. Marines and 41 French Parachutists.

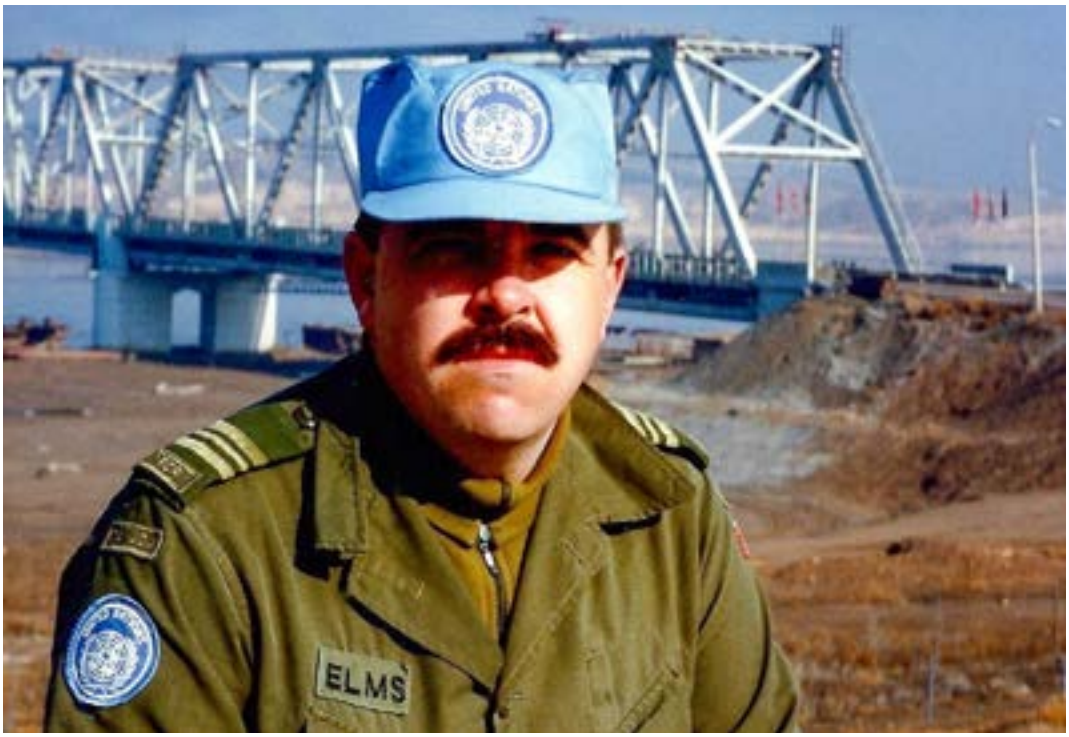
On the evening of 5 February 1984, several UNMOs had dinner in our apartment in the Bain-Militaire area of West Beirut. By this time tensions had increased to where people no longer went out after dark unless on patrol. In the local area for a few days, we observed small groups of young Druze men. Canadian

UNMO, Major Leo O'Donovan, went downstairs where a number of them were leaning on his car and asked them to keep an eye on it. They said they would. The next morning it was gone. My wife Shirley and I left Beirut for holidays in Egypt with an Australian UNMO and his wife. As it turned out, we left on the last plane out of BIA, as rounds began to land on the outer perimeter and taxiway. The "6 February Intifada" that saw the Shia Amal and Druze forces defeat the LAF and take control of West Beirut had begun. Eventually, we ended up in Cyprus. By then it had been decided that I would be extended for a second year, so I returned to OGB in the third week of February and Shirley remained in Damascus until my next station was confirmed. OGB began a brief reconstitution to replace vehicles and equipment lost and damaged. Its personnel complement would also be reduced and our Chief OGB, who was a French Foreign Legion officer, made that a priority ensuring that those who were exhausted and in need of a change were sent on leave and to other posts. He was fearless, led from the front, and was very loyal to those who served under him during the "dark days" in Beirut. When he returned to France in 1985, he took the seven of us still serving with UNTSO to dinner and presented each with a personal memento.

In May 1984, I was posted to UNTSO HQ to be the Mission Information Officer. On arrival, I met our new Senior Canadian Observer, Lieutenant-Colonel Don Ethell. Over the next twenty-five years, I worked for him three times and he became a mentor and friend. A soldiers' soldier, I have never worked with or for a finer man. Of 19 awards of the Chief of Defence Staff Commendations in 1985, seven were to the Canadian UNMOs who served with OGB in 1983–1984. I frequently think of those times in Beirut.

Biography

Geordie Elms was born in Toronto. In 1967, he followed his grandfather and father into the 48th Highlanders of Canada, as a piper. In 1972, he was commissioned under the Reserve Officer University Training Plan (ROUTP) and, on 13 December 1974, Lieutenant Elms joined 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment. For the next 36 years, he went on to serve on regimental duty in Petawawa, Germany, Winnipeg, and Gagetown, and on operations/peacekeeping duties in Cyprus (1976–1977), Lebanon and Israel (1983–1985), Afghanistan and Pakistan (1988–1989) and the Former-Yugoslavia (1992–1993). He served at NDHQ in the Directorate of Peacekeeping Operations (1989 to 92) and as the Infantry Officers Career Manager (1997–2000). In 2000, he was appointed Commanding Officer, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada. He served as the Canadian Defence Advisor/Attaché to Pakistan and Afghanistan (2003–2006), and then established Canadian Defence Attaché Office Kabul (2006–2007). His service in Southwest Asia was recognized with the award of the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM). Colonel Elms' final appointment was as Canadian Defence Attaché to Israel (2008–10). On 13 December 2010 he retired and, with his wife Shirley, returned to Hamilton. In retirement, he is active with the Last Post Fund, Commissionaires Hamilton Division, and several charities that aid veterans.



Maj Geordie Elms on UNGOMAP OP Hayratan (January 1989).



St. Louis, PE, Canada

Ray Gaudet

Cyprus || 1982

Iraq || 1990

Current Residence: Cornwall, PE || Contact: ray.gaudet@pk75.ca

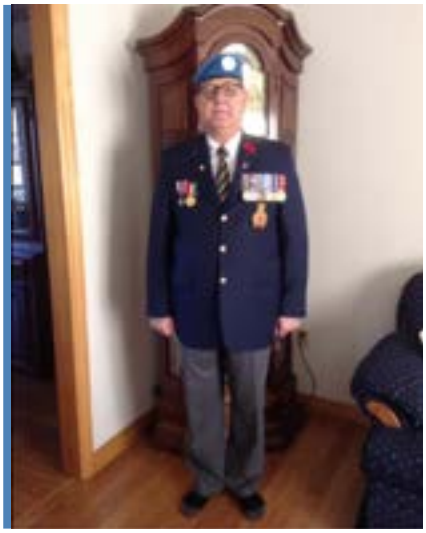
In November of 1981, a tasking was received at Base Supply Gagetown for a special project undertaking in Cyprus. This project was not your traditional Peacekeeping mission. I was a Master Corporal at the time and the project team was to consist of a Master Warrant Officer, a Sergeant, a Master Corporal and a Corporal. I immediately told my superiors that I would be willing to go, and a short time later a message was received that I was chosen.

I had to go to National Defence Headquarters to meet the remainder of the team and find out what this special project was all about. Well, little did I know how important this project was to the overall effectiveness of the UN mission. Also, little did I know until then and once in Cyprus, how important Master Corporal Gaudet was going to be to the team.

The Canadian Forces Supply System was a completely manual system up until 1974 when we received our first computers to manage all the materials required in the Canadian Forces. Now this project in Cyprus you have to remember was in 1982, so all the material in theater was still manually accounted for. This meant that no one other than the military staff in Cyprus knew exactly what was, or what wasn't, in theater. This was not a good scenario for military planners or the Canadian Forces Supply system.

When we four arrived in Cyprus in January of 1982, what we discovered was that all the Supply equipment was in square cardboard boxes about four feet by four feet with a lid on them. There was everything from small packages of screws for rifles in plastic bags to spare parts in greased and waxed packages for armoured vehicles. All these boxes had overhead shelter but had tons of dust and debris on top and within them. To secure all this equipment was a fenced, locked compound under the control of the Supply Technicians who had preceded us.

What we found was that, in preparation for us and our special project, a Warehouse had been built within the compound, and all shelving had been secured and was ready for us to erect. Also, we were given a pickup truck for our use. What was quickly discovered when the question arose, was that I was the only one of the team qualified to drive this military vehicle.



Ok, lets build a Supply Warehouse. Shelving was brought inside and erected. Then lines had to be painted on the floor to establish our location system. If we were going to take everything out of those cardboard boxes and put them on shelving, it was important that a location system be developed and the location of each item be recorded for ease of access, or counting, if necessary. One after the other, each big box was brought to our new warehouse and emptied, the contents cleaned, counted, and placed strategically on the shelving. Each item was given a new location and, for now, a new manual card was made up and the item's location noted on it. As the boxes emptied, garbage had to be carted away. Thus, the requirement for our pickup truck. There was a dump at the Nicosia Airport on the opposite side of the bombed-out runway and this is where I had to drive to offload all this garbage. We were within the area of UN control but I was within eyesight of the Turkish guard posts. I for sure did not waste much time offloading!! I must admit, there was a lot of cleaning, counting, and warehousing to be done. As we emptied those big boxes, we often found more of the same and thus had to continuously revise our count.

You have to remember, there were only four of us for this project, so it was definitely a time consuming job. Once all the stock was moved into the new warehouse, locations verified, and all the counts determined to be 100% correct, it was now time to build everything into the Canadian Forces Supply System computers. We had to make two identical stock record cards for each item warehoused. Problem was that the computers were not the little desktop or laptop computers we recognize today, but rather large mainframe computers with card readers; plus, the computers were on our NATO base in Lahr Germany. Master Corporal Gaudet to the rescue once more. None of the team except me had been posted to Lahr, so they were not familiar with the Base or the personnel there. I was sent to Lahr with a box full of stock record cards and ordered to build our complete inventory on computer. Once completed, I was to report to the Master Warrant Officer in Cyprus, who was to contact the project manager in Ottawa, who would then "Throw the switch" and the Cyprus inventory would be visible online and part of the National inventory.

I was presented my UN peacekeeping medal at the plane just before leaving Cyprus, because I would be going directly back to Canada from Lahr once my mission there was completed there. As I said in the beginning, this mission was not your typical UN Peacekeeping mission, but it was a very necessary tasking to ensure that future missions were successful logistically!

Biography

Captain Gaudet began his career in uniform as an Air Cadet in his hometown of St. Louis, PE. He joined the Canadian Armed Forces as a Supply Technician in August 1972. Boot camp in Cornwallis NS was a breeze, mainly because of his previous cadet training.

His first posting was to CFB Gagetown as part of 3 Service Battalion then to Base Supply from 1974 to 1977. In May 1977, then Corporal Gaudet, was posted to Lahr Germany as a member of 4 Service Battalion. He returned to Gagetown in 1981 and four months later was sent to Cyprus on Peacekeeping mission. Master Corporal Gaudet was promoted to Sergeant in May of 1982 and in 1984 he was posted to CFB Borden, ON as a Supply instructor at the Canadian Forces School of Administration and Logistics (CFSAL) In 1985, Sergeant Gaudet was promoted to Warrant Officer and, in 1987, he was posted once again to Lahr Germany, this time as Regimental Quarter Master (RQ) of 4 Combat Engineer Regiment. Warrant Officer Gaudet was promoted to Master Warrant Officer in June of 1988. Master Warrant Officer Gaudet was then seconded to the Umpire Unit as Quartermaster of the unit for Exercise REFORGER 1988. Once this tasking was completed, Master Warrant Officer Gaudet was posted to Forward Mobile Support Unit (FMSU) as RQ.



Captain Ray Gaudet receiving the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal

In August of 1990, Master Warrant Officer Gaudet was chosen to lead the Supply Support mission for Operation Scimitar (Canada's contribution to Operation Desert Storm). In January 1991, he was commissioned to Captain and, after a couple of courses, he and family were posted to Charlottetown, PE. Captain Gaudet was the first Detachment Commander of the newly formed support Detachment when CFB Summerside closed its doors in 1991.

Captain Gaudet retired from the Regular force in 1996 and then joined the Reserves as a Cadet Instructor Cadre (CIC) officer with 60 Confederation Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron and did this for 15 years (eight of those as Commanding Officer).

Captain Gaudet was Aide de Camp for two Lieutenant Governors, Her Honour, Barbara Hagerman, and His Honour, Frank Lewis. He was on the Executive of the Knights of Columbus at his Church for 24 years, a Charter member and Chair of Citizens on Patrol in Cornwall, PEI for 10 years, and is now on the Executive of his local Legion for the past five years, where he currently serves as Membership Chair.

He has been married to his Wife Beverly for 47 years and they have three Children, Melanie, Ashley, and Brendan. Melanie is Commanding Officer of an Air Cadet Squadron in Dartmouth NS, Ashley is a full time Reserve Force Captain at Air Command HQ in Winnipeg, MB, and Brendan is a Corporal Lineman in CFB Gagetown, NB.



WINNIPEG, MB, CANADA

Bob George

Egypt || 1960

Gaza || 1960–1961, 1965–1966
Democratic Republic of the Congo || 1963

The summer of 1959 found me stationed at 3 Sigs Squadron in Camp Gagetown, NB — a 19-year-old fresh out of basic and trades training (driver, mechanical transport). I received my orders for the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) deployment in the Gaza Strip. By September, I was airborne on a noisy, slow, North Star with stops in Gander, the Azores, Gibraltar, Pisa, and finally El Arish, Egypt, near the Gaza Strip border. Ground transport from there to Rafah, where I would stay for most of my tour that was cut short to six months when I came down with Infectious Hepatitis.

My stay in Sharm-el-Sheikh was for one month in December of 1960. Talk about a desolate area!! It hadn't rained in over twenty years, the heat could be unbearable (no air conditioning), and we only had power during the daytime. I oversaw the PE 95 generator responsible to provide power to meet the Signals establishment requirements. We maintained contact with Gaza HQ by radio and the weekly incoming aircraft from El Arish. This was our only means of supply and rotation of personnel. There was also a small group of Canadian Contingent Engineers who maintained the buildings — such as they were — and operated a water desalination plant for drinking water.



The well Moses reportedly drank from. Saudi Arabia in the background.

This was the biggest experience of my young life. There were no people or roads in the area. The water and the beaches were untouched. There were millions of shells to find. There was one Bedouin family of three, and a few goats, that passed by one day. Heaven knows what they lived on. There wasn't a blade of grass to be found. The UN Guard Company was from the Swedish Battalion, and they were a super bunch of people. We were able to learn about people from another country and some of their customs. There was a small detachment north of Sharm, where a group of the Swedes recorded and reported shipping that passed by that narrow spot close to Saudi Arabia. On the way there, there was a well that Moses was supposed to have drunk from on his voyage from Mount Victoria, where he received the Ten Commandments. I didn't drink from it.

It sounds so desolate — which it was — but it was all so fascinating to a young kid, to be able to explore an area once touched by war in 1948 but virtually untouched since then. There were graveyards, mine fields and no maps. We had to be careful where we went.

I was sorry to leave there, not knowing that, exactly five years later, I would return to basically the same place I had

left. No improvements, no additions, same generator for me to maintain. But it was still an equally exciting place to visit again. This UNEF deployment ended in 1967, when the UN were told by Israel to leave the Gaza Strip in forty-eight hours.

Sharm today has a modern airport where a reported six and a half million people arrive and depart each year. It has at least twenty 'five-star' hotels catering to divers. It has an International Convention Centre that just recently hosted thirty-thousand people to an Environmental Conference. Numerous world conferences have been held there.

Biography

I was born in 1941 in Winnipeg, MB. My childhood took me from Winnipeg to Regina, back to Winnipeg, to Ottawa where I served 2 years with the Governor General's Foot Guards, and then back to Winnipeg where I joined the Royal Canadian Corp of Signals and was posted to Kingston for basic and trades training. While waiting for training, I was employed as the bar steward for the Sgt's Mess, not a good place for a seventeen-year-old. That was quite an experience.

My postings took me to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Gagetown, NB (1959–1960), Gaza (1960–1961), CFB Petawawa (1961–1962), CFB Shilo, MB (1962–1963), Democratic Republic of the Congo (1963), Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Carp, ON (1964–1965), Gaza (1965–1966), and 1 Signals Squadron (1966–1968). I then transferred to Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME) and trained as a Vehicle Technician. This new trade took me from CFB Kingston to CFB Borden for six years, then to CFB Winnipeg where I completed my 20th year and took my discharge.

After my release from the Forces, I spent 30 years in the ambulance business in Barrie, Richmond Hill, and Toronto, ON, retiring in 2001. I loved the two careers in which I had the privilege to serve.



Sharm airport, 1960, such as it was. Look for the windsock and land accordingly.

At the time, I didn't realize the importance the United Nations plays in the world. I do now. I just wish they could do more.



Saint John, NB, Canada

Bruce Given

Croatia || 1992–1993, Haiti || 1995

Germany || 1980–1985
Croatia || 1992–1993
Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1998

Current Residence: Edmonton, AB || Contact: bruce.given@pk75.ca

As with all tours, there is an education and awareness attached that changes people and perspectives of things outside the natural realm of our home environment. We are amongst the most fortunate in the world here in Canada. No country is without its own problems, but our involvement in so many peacekeeping deployments has led to Canadians being well respected for our professionalism and determination to complete all taskings. It has been my privilege to be a Canadian peacekeeper, and I sincerely cherish the international exposure to foreign countries, armies, and people.



Preparing to depart from Port-De-Paix and return to the capital, saving hours on the ground getting to and from our destinations and to multiple locations in the same day. It was the best in air conditioning while battling the heat of the tropical island. I believe it was 408 Squadron from Edmonton providing the Huey helicopter transportation.

In 1992, I volunteered for a position vacancy message to a United Nations posting to Croatia. With 15 years in the regular forces at the time, and trades transfer several years earlier, I retained the desire for adventure — and for helping others — that we trained for throughout our careers. Always reminded of being a soldier first and a tradesman second, both offered desirable benefits for units seeking to provide enhanced operational capabilities. Personally, both added to my own ongoing awareness and education. A September to March winter tour in a war zone was no picnic, and this one was also an eye opener to the cruelty and inhumanity of ethnic intolerance. We required interpreters for our interpreters as reports and translations were often intentionally misinterpreted between warring sides. We were fortunate that no loss of life occurred during our deployment, but there were some prior and subsequent Canadian losses. We owe our respect and gratitude for their service and sacrifice. Incidents, there were plenty. Lessons learned are in the archives. Medals and memories remain with those who served within.

Just two years later I was deployed to Haiti, from March-September 1995 where the intent was to aid in developing a democratic election for the people in a third world country. We simultaneously provided aid to repair infrastructure damage and establish polling stations across the country. Two base stations had been established, and we were there to build eight more. These were in addition to the side projects to assist the general population in road and bridge improvements, market and school enhancements, and well and water distribution. Ripe with National Geographic type content were the people and landscape of the country. Acclimatization took about three weeks, and as a fair haired, fair skinned person who had never been to a tropical environment, I baked in the heat but reveled in the environment whenever I could. Wherever I went, people pulled strands of my hair, many not having seen a redhead before. Within UNMIH we had approximately 100 civilian police personnel, mostly RCMP, and many Haitians had never before seen women in uniform and in positions of authority. I again felt privileged to be part of something that provided hope and assistance to a poor but very proud people in need, fellow people indeed.

This was the first such unification of Canadian and American Engineering units since the development of the Alaska Highway in 1943. We were attached with the 92nd Engineering Combat Battalion from Fort Stewart, Georgia. We Canadians were strong in the vertical construction and light on the horizontal capabilities, while our counterparts were heavy on horizontal

construction and light on the vertical side, which blended us together nicely.

At the end of the tour, I received the U.S. Department of the Army Achievement Medal for exceptional meritorious service while assigned during Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti. It stated that my hard work and dedication to duty reflects great credit upon myself, my unit and the UNMIH. I am asked about it by Canadians and it is recognized by Americans. It helped make my tour even more memorable and relatable today.

My final tour came along in 1999 with a promotion to Sergeant and a posting to Sarajevo with 1 Construction Engineering Unit out of Moncton, NB, deploying as part of SFOR. I was an augmentee to their unit, but I knew many of its members as it is a small engineering world. Again, this was a huge international deployment and there were 12 countries gathered involved in its operations. The projects we undertook took place all over the country and even back into Croatia. For me, to witness in person the difference during and after the war was indeed memorable, especially to know conclusively that we had a positive influence.

Biography



Retired Sergeant Bruce Given joined the Regular Canadian Forces in 1977 at the age of 18. From basic training in Cornwallis, NS, he was sent on his infantry training with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Winnipeg, MB. This posting happened to include security for the Pope's visit there in 1978. Desiring the east coast, he transferred to The Royal Canadian Regiment in Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Gagetown, NB in 1979. His training continued beyond a basic rifleman to include driver wheeled and radio signaler. With a helicopter unit on the base, there was plenty of training for rappelling from the choppers and surrounding cliffsides and towers. Gagetown was a large Base with a very big training area, so was prime for live and dry fire exercises, experiences we often repeated and drilled into perfection.

Bruce's first tour was with NATO to Germany for four and a half years, beginning in 1980. This was still the Cold War Era, and the Berlin wall separated the east from the west and the stand off on both sides remained. The Soviet empire was still strong, intimidating, and united. The mission then was to prevent the type of thing going on now with Ukraine. Huge international forces were stationed throughout Europe until the 1990's, and the training amongst them was educational, interesting, and beneficial towards development and understanding beyond borders and between nations.

Returning from Germany, Bruce had applied for and had been accepted into a trades transfer. Looking potentially to a career after service in the construction industry, he remustered to the Construction Engineers. His trades training took place in Chilliwack, BC, from 1985-1987. Interestingly it was then a combination of two trades, one being a draughtsman and the other a surveyor. Outside the military, the two disciplines are separate, so training on both together offered a unique capability to gather data in the field, from which technical drawings were then produced. At first, this was done by hand and note taking, but later evolved to highly technical instruments and AutoCAD computer works. This unique combination of qualifications, held by only a few in the Forces, led to his participation in three United Nation deployments.

With bilingualism being encouraged within the Forces, Bruce took a year-long French course in Ottawa in 1991, and subsequently remained within the Construction Engineering unit there. In 1992, he heard of a position for someone of his qualifications in Croatia and volunteered for the tour. As the submission went up - and back down - the chain of command, it ended up with the Commanding Officer volunteering the entire unit, and thus they were deployed to United Nations Protective Force (Croatia) 1992–1993. Fortunately, they left no one behind and had a successful deployment. The physical war itself was from 1991–1995. Tens of thousands of Canadians were deployed to the former Balkans of Bosnia and Croatia, and later Kosovo.

Two years later, in 1995, Corporal Given was deployed with the advance party to the United Nations Mission in Haiti. An impoverished country with a history of government failures and previous dictatorships, it was often hit with tropical storms, hurricanes, and earthquakes, while infighting amongst gangs was rampant throughout the country. It is still making the news with the current and ongoing unrest within the population across a varying and difficult terrain. Those of us Canadians with some French capability were able to assist in communications, due to the similarities with Creole that is spoken there.

In 1996, Master Corporal Given was posted to Edmonton where he remains today. In 1998 he was promoted to Sergeant and sent on a tour to Bosnia for six months with 1 Construction Engineering Unit Company in Sarajevo, within the Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR), a NATO-led, multinational peacekeeping force. We tended to do such things as base expansions/improvements, checkpoint and outlying position enhancements, route clearances and checking weight tolerances for equipment such as tanks to cross bridges. Most bridges were replacements or had been repaired due to war damage. My job was made more challenging due to the infrastructure drawings and details being available only in Serbo-Croat. However, the symbols used were identifiable and math is math, regardless of language, whenever calculations were needed.

Within his 25th year of service, Bruce retired, and then was rehired as a civilian in the Base Construction Unit. Fully retired now, he remains active and volunteering as a veterans advocate on multiple fronts such as the Veterans Association Food Bank, spearheading as the initial Operations Manager Edmonton, and as Quilts of Valour representative and presenter. You may hear of him again.



TORONTO, ON, CANADA

Michael Goodspeed

South Sudan || 2005–2006

Cyprus || 1982–1983
Balkans

Current Residence: Toronto, ON || Contact: michael.goodspeed@pk75.ca

The job I found myself in the earliest days of the UN mission in South Sudan was an absorbing one. There was lots to do, and it allowed for plenty of travel and daily interaction with the two belligerent armies. It was without question the most interesting and rewarding professional work I've ever done.

I was the Deputy Chief of Staff and worked with twelve other officers in The Joint Monitoring & Coordination Office (JMCO). The JMCO did the groundwork for the development and coordination of overall ceasefire policy as well as hammered out with the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and Sudanese Armed Forces all those military issues that could not be resolved regionally. The JMCO was wisely positioned well forward, in the heart of the most southerly state. We were connected across the country by satellite links with mobile phones, radios and the Internet. Unfortunately, the SAF and the SPLA did not have the kinds of communication capabilities we had, and it made quite a difference in their ability to react and to pass on information to their more remotely deployed troops. This was particularly true of the SPLA who were quite literally moving from being a hardscrabble guerrilla movement to something resembling a modern army, and although they were trying their hardest, the problems they faced were enormous.

From an operational viewpoint the mission was extremely complex. Both sides were highly factionalized and there were numerous competing interests within the theatre — not all of which were immediately evident to us. Tribalism, oil, religion, ethnicity, dozens of different local languages, established power groups such as the police and intelligence services, private militias as well as the influence of border states and other neighbouring insurgencies all combined to make the simplest issue complex. There were also numerous factors within the UN mission itself that complicated things. Over seventy-five nations were deployed there, each with different cultures, different perceptions of time, different ideas on hygiene, different views on how urgent things should be, different thinking on hierarchy, authority and dignity, different ideas as to what constitutes good manners — and not the least, radically different abilities in English, the common mission language. It all added up to make for some interesting moments.



In Sudan in 2005, in addition to his job as a military observer, LCol Goodspeed voluntarily initiated a project to help orphaned children. The photo shows Michael in front of an orphanage in Juba with crippled and undernourished boys. On his own initiative Michael adopted the orphanage and succeeded in getting it registered as a "UN Quick Impact Project." In war torn Sudan, orphaned boys were considered an unwelcome social burden and were rarely adopted and routinely overlooked by the country's over-stressed and inadequate social services. Goodspeed organized UN engineers to repair their building and coordinated with NGOs and UN agencies to ensure these children were housed, fed, clothed, given medical care and rudimentary schooling.

The JMCO, the group I worked in, was responsible for keeping three levels of inter-factional meetings going and so we worked seven days a week. We convened a meeting each morning with both SAF and SPLA officers. It was a busy pace and we spent about twelve to thirteen hours each day working on a comprehensive range of issues such as monitoring troop movements, troop withdrawals, de-mining operations, disarming militias, demobilization of ex-soldiers, the formation of a new joint and integrated army as well as more narrowly focused things such as child soldiers, deserters, disarming the nomads, helping Non-Governmental Organizations and UN agencies set up programs for disabled ex combatants and setting up joint SPLA and Govt of Sudan monitoring teams. The work was totally absorbing and in retrospect the days merged into a long blur.

From the Internet it was apparent that very little of what went on down there ever made it into the press as there were no foreign reporters within several hundred kilometres of us. It was uncertain at the time if the peace between the two factions would hold, and it was obvious to us that, for the reasons listed above, the future of South Sudan was going to be a perilous one. But we could see signs of improvement. As the tour wore on little roadside stands popped up here and there. People sitting on the verge of dirt roads selling a few bottles of soft drinks, soap and other simple luxuries. A small bus service began that wasn't around in the first months of the mission. NGOs that had been driven out by the fighting began to return. Small things, but they added up in the aggregate. At the end of the tour UN engineers and World Bank administrators with plans for much larger international aid projects started to arrive making plans for things like a working electrical grid, a clean water supply and sewage lines. It was an exhilarating time watching the armies move back from one another, roads opening, minefields lifted and watching the economy starting up again and people being allowed to resume something close to normal lives.

Biography

During the period 1968–2011, Michael Goodspeed served with broken service for 33 years in the Canadian Forces. He began his military career as a soldier and NCO in the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa. As an Army officer, he has served in all three battalions of the PPCLI, in the PPCLI Battle School and in Regimental Headquarters. He has been an instructor at the Infantry School, served in a reserve force headquarters, National Defence Headquarters and with the Canadian Defence Academy. He has had numerous foreign deployments to Germany and Norway. He has served peacekeeping tours with the United Nations in both Cyprus and South Sudan as well as with NATO in the Balkans. He has received Commander's Commendations for his service in the Sudan and for his contributions to officer professional development in the Forces.

LCol Michael Goodspeed has an Honours BA in English and History from Carleton University and an MBA from the University of Calgary. He is a graduate of the Canadian Army Command and Staff College, the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College and he received a master's degree in Strategic Studies upon graduation from the U.S. Army War College.

In addition to a lengthy and varied career as an Army officer, Michael has written, produced and directed video productions and worked as a program manager in the telecommunications industry. Over the span of his civilian and military careers he has lived and worked across the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Africa.



In front of the AMU in Trenton departing for Goodspeed's first tour in Cyprus.



Cyprus 1982–83, where Goodspeed served as the SO2 Operations in Nicosia.

In retirement Michael is an author and has had four books published: two social histories and two historical novels. His most recent history *How Different It Was: Canadians at the Time of Confederation* examines the lifestyles, attitudes and values of the generation that formed Canada. His first history *When Reason Fails: Portraits of Armies at War: America, Britain, Israel, and the Future* examined the institutional character of modern armies at war. His two published works of historical fiction, *Three to a Loaf: A Novel of the Great War*, and *Our Only Shield* are espionage novels set in the two world wars.

Michael is married, has three adult children and four grandchildren. He lists his hobbies as reading, writing, music, a variety of fitness pursuits and travel. He spends his summers camping in Northern Ontario and lives the rest of the time in the wilds of Toronto.



Rainy River, ON, Canada

Lynne Gouliquer

Egypt || 1989–1990

Current Residence: Sudbury, ON and Fredericton, NB || Contact: lynne.gouliquer@pk75.ca

MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVER PEACEKEEPING MISSION

Following my posting to 403 (Helicopter) Squadron of Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Gagetown in July 1989, I barely had time to get to know my fellow aviators - and shortly thereafter, about 150 of us left for the Sinai Peninsula in mid-September. It was a whirlwind for me as everything went into storage, including my car. It was 403 Squadron's turn to take part in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) peacekeeping mission. Established in 1981, this peacekeeping mission was comprised of an international force from 13 countries who oversee that Egypt and Israel are respecting their 1979 treaty agreement. We wore a distinctive terracotta-coloured beret and tan-beige uniform as the MFO was a separate peacekeeping organisation and not under the United Nations' jurisdiction. Canada supported the mission with its rotary-helicopter units (408, 427 and 430 Tactical Helicopter Squadrons and 403 Operational Training & Helicopter Squadron) from 1985 to 1990 (see https://mfo.org/). We were the last helicopter squadron to contribute to the MFO.

There were two MFO military camps, El Gorah or the North Camp, and Sharm El Sheikh, the South Camp. We were located in the North Camp, minutes from the Mediterranean Sea. I was an air weapons technician by trade and provided the related mechanical support for the white painted CH135 Twin Huey helicopters. Given the French air transport contingent and our helicopters flew quite regularly to the South Camp, it was relatively easy for me to hitch a ride and go down for the weekend. South Camp had a small beach carved in the rocks on the tip of the Gulf of Aqaba and it was there that I first enjoyed snorkelling and experiencing the marine life of the Red Sea/Gulf of Aqaba.

Given that all members of the LGBTQ community were being kicked out of the Canadian military prior to 1991, like many others, as a lesbian, I went as an officially single soldier to protect my career. Consequently, it was a rather lonely and isolating mission as I had to always be on guard and pretend that I was heterosexual. I only knew of one other lesbian on that tour. She was from another base, a different trade, and our paths did not cross often. What I do remember is the fear of being discovered and that my heterosexual colleagues often talked about their wives, husbands and family back home, and I dared not. Thus, I lost out on sharing an important part of my life and receiving support from my colleagues.





The mission at that time was relatively peaceful in nature and luckily, in our downtime, we could travel. Maybe that is why Canada left the MFO at that time as it foresaw the need to contribute shortly thereafter to the Gulf War. Given El Gorah was literally only a few hours away from Jerusalem, I was able to visit it on numerous occasions. The views from walking the tops of its ramparts overlooking the old city remain with me to this day. I also explored Cairo and its Egyptian museum with King Tutankhamen's gold ornate artifacts and the famous Egyptian pyramids. I ventured into Jordan for four days of car travel alone as a woman. Today, I marvel at either my bravery or naivety. The squadron hiked up Mount Sinai at night to see the sun rise and then on the way down, we picked up garbage as a contribution to keeping the landscape clean.

I also ran in the Tiberias Marathon in January 1990 finishing

in 4 hours and 35 minutes. It was my one and only marathon. For this 42-kilometre international race, we ran out along the southern shores of the Sea of Galilee and shortly after crossing the River Jordan we turned around and ran back. I was the only MFO Canadian, though other contingent countries' members ran such as from Holland and the United States.

While Egypt and Israel were relatively at peace for the duration of our peacekeeping mission, the gender violence I experienced as a woman was traumatic: to this day, I am still challenged by PTSD symptoms and triggers. Peacekeeping missions like this one are full of gender violence but not necessarily from the outside forces as one might expect. It was perpetrated primarily from the guys on the inside; in this case, the MFO members. The violence was directed at me simply because of my gender. Some of my own male colleagues and members of the other peacekeeping nations could not be trusted and did do harm. While I like to highlight the positive aspects, I want to acknowledge and honour all of my memories of the mission.

Biography

I am Métis from the North-West Triangle, Treaty Three Territory (e.g., Lake of the Woods area) of Northwestern Ontario. While three quadrants of my heritage are Métis, Margaret Smith (née Mathieson) is my Métis root ancestor of the Goodwin-Mistigoose lineage. I first joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1976: I turned 19 while in Boot Camp in Cornwallis, NS. I joined as an Air Weapons Technician, my second choice given the Infantry was closed to women as were many other military trades and postings at the time. Farm life prepared me well for the military; CFB Cornwallis and basic trades training in CFB Borden were challenging, but only because I was learning something entirely outside of any relatable experiences in my life.

It was in both of these places that I began to understand that liking and loving someone of the same gender was not accepted and should be hidden. Women friends and acquaintances simply disappeared from my life. It was only the rumours that informed me that they were discharged due to "homosexuality" in accordance with the official policy at the time, articulated in the infamous Canadian Forces Administrative Order (CFAO) 19-20, which declared homosexuality a sexual abnormality and was grounds for discharging soldiers.

Although I requested CFB Bagotville so that I could learn French, my first posting was to CFB Comox, 407 Maritime Squadron. Vancouver Island and military work were fabulous. I went on short missions with the 407 Squadron to places such as Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories and Honolulu, Oahu (Hawaii). As part of the ground crew, we were required to maintain the aircraft during these exercises. While in Comox, I enjoyed swimming in the military's outdoor pool year-round. In the late 70s, I completed the next higher level of my trades training at two different bases: CFB Kingston for electronics training and CFB Borden for Air Weapons Technician. In 1980, I applied and was accepted for the UTPM program (University Training Program for Members) to become an officer. I went to Chilliwack for basic officer training and after successfully passing it I subsequently started university at CMR (i.e., Royal Military College in St Jean, QC).

In January 1981, I released from the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and returned to farming, but only for three years. In 1984, I rejoined the CAF and again as an Air Weapons Technician and was posted to CFB Cold Lake. Upon receiving my appointment to Master Corporal in 1988, the military cut a message posting me to a ship. Upon learning of my gender; however, they cut a new message and posted me to 403 Squadron, CFB Gagetown. It was not until post 1989 that women could be posted to military ships. During the early 90s, I also met and fell in love with my present spouse (Carmen Poulin). It was the summer of 1991. She thus became part of the clandestine group of women hiding their sexuality and lives due to military law. Though the military officially had to stop discriminating against the LGBTQ community the end of 1992, we did not feel comfortable or safe coming out: this did not start to happen till about 2000.

I left the military for good at the end of 1995. Originally, I referred to my departure as a friendly divorce in which both parties separated on amicable terms; however, I have come to realise that I was like a pit in a lemon. I was squeezed out because I was no longer a good fit as a woman and a lesbian.

Upon leaving the military, I completed my graduate education (MA & PhD) in Sociology at McGill University. My BA, MA, and PhD research focussed on different aspects of the Canadian military. During my time as a PhD student, my life partner (Dr Carmen Poulin) and I received national funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to study the effects on LGBTQ military members of the rescinded CAF policy (CFAO 19-20) on homosexuality (https://p-sec.org/en/project/the-purge-lgbt-soldiers-partners/). We interviewed 160 CAF members and some of their partners and wrote numerous articles about their struggles and lives (https://p-sec.org/en/). This research also allowed us to provide advice concerning the wording of Prime Minister Trudeau's 2017 historic apology to the LGBTQ community and military Purge veterans of Canada (https://www.youtube.com/live/wM0yZP-g3a4?si=5qSPPQt3nRpVoJn9).

Drawing on our landmark research, we also wrote an evidence-based report detailing what happened to military members during the Purge era. Our research was effectively leveraged in the successful 2018 "Purge Class Action Settlement" with the Government of Canada, worth up to $145 million toward individual compensation for survivors and special projects toward reconciliation and memorialization. As part of another nationally funded study, we are currently redoing a very similar study: we are recruiting and interviewing 2SLGBTQIA+ currently serving military members and their partners to tells their stories about their military lives and experiences (https://p-sec.org/en/project/lgbtqia2s-in-canadian-military-25-years-anti-homosexuality/).

Amazingly this study is funded by the Sciences and Humanities Research Council and Defence Research and Development Canada (Department of National Defence Research Initiative; DNDRI). After successfully garnering a two-year Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2012, which I held at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick, I applied and was offered a position in 2015 to teach sociology at Laurentian University where I have been ever since.



HALIFAX, NS, CANADA

Gordon D. Grant

Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1995–1996

Current Residence: Mono, ON || Contact: gordon.grant@pk75.ca

Canada calls on its Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members to exercise good judgment, show discipline, and be consummate professionals. Peacekeeping is never easy. Often the factions harbour hostile sentiments based on decades or centuries of real or perceived trespasses. Tensions can quickly escalate. Frequently, CAF members are placed in these situations and asked to mediate or enforce the peace. There is no playbook to follow.

Such was the case for Operation ENDEAVOUR — the NATO multi-national contingent sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina to end the bloody war and re-establish peace. The country had three factions — the Croats, the Serbs, and the Bosnians. All three violated the Dayton Accord and a United Nations Force, with restrained rules of engagement, could not stop the violence. NATO sent in an Implementation Force (IFOR) with robust rules of engagement to enforce the peace.

I commanded the IFOR Service Battalion. In December 1995, I was one of four members of the strategic reconnaissance party. All sides repeatedly violated the Accord — illegal checkpoints, people carrying weapons, harassments, and restrictions on freedom of movements. The country's infrastructure and economy were destroyed. No utilities were operating (night driving was particularly hazardous as the towns were in black-out and people wore black clothes — we referred to it as the Bosnian fashion statement). They walked on the paved roads to avoid mines planted on the soft shoulders.

I had convinced my General to include 4 Canadian Engineer Regiment in the contingent and was pleased to have Colonel McLeod with us. The Contingent Commander assigned me an area of operation in addition to my support tasks. I had a confirmed Rear Area Security task. This meant I must conduct patrols, inspect weapon containment sites, and intervene in conflicts. I had to strike a balance to provide support and maintain security in my Area of Operation (AO).



IFOR Service Battalion providing close protection to Bosnians visiting family grave sites.

We had trained hard to prepare. I was hugely impressed with the resiliency and innovation of our Canadian troops. The factions had closed the border and mined areas over which our convoys needed to travel. It was winter and our fuel supplies were dwindling. My Operations Officer called in the transport sergeant, thrust $100,000 in his hands with orders to "Find us some fuel!" He did. Similarly, the Finance Officer had to negotiate with some very surly characters to secure food and other contracted items. Each morning, she took her sidearm and a cashbox with $1,000,000 to meet with suppliers. One gentleman (the Kingpin) controlled much of the commerce. A half-dozen bodyguards always accompanied him. Our Finance Officer arranged a meeting. The bodyguards insisted she give up her pistol. She refused to their great consternation. Eventually, the Kingpin was impressed with her courage and conducted the meeting while permitting her to keep her weapon.

The Dayton Accord required the factions to disarm and consolidate their weapons in containment sites. We had to inspect

these sites for compliance. A Master-Corporal commanding our armored vehicle response group identified several armed locals attending a soccer match. He advised the men they violated the Accord and proceeded to demand they turn over their weapons. The audience became hostile, yet the Canadians held their ground and were determined to return the weapons to the containment site. The Master-Corporal struck a compromise that the armed men would be escorted to the site and turn their weapons in. This diffused the situation thanks to the Master-Corporal's courage and ability to think under pressure.

The Bosnians celebrated a holiday where they traditionally visited family grave plots. Before we arrived, there was an internal war among two groups of Bosnians, resulting in having the defeated pushed back across the border into Croatia. Corps intelligence reported these people were determined to return to the cemeteries and honour their deceased families. Others were going to attack them at the grave sites. This was a flashpoint. We recced our AO, found two dozen cemeteries, and deployed detachments to each. The soldiers welcomed visitors from both sides with grace and compassion, backed up by a second team with machine guns at the ready. There was no trouble.

Numerous incidents required our intervention. I was impressed with the soldiers' abilities to compromise, innovate and persevere. They did Canada proud.

Biography

I was born in Halifax, NS but was brought up on the Army bases of Petawawa, ON, and Soest, Germany. While at Queen's University at Kingston, I joined the Canadian Armed Forces.

I completed a degree in economics (although I still can't balance a chequebook). I could now pursue my two ambitions — to command troops and marry Janet Crombie, my high school sweetheart. It helped (more than I realized at the time) that Janet was an army sergeant-major's daughter. She was familiar with the demands and challenges of army life.



Lieutenant-Colonel Grant presenting IFOR medals to the Czech Contingent .



IFOR Service Battalion Immediate Reaction Force.

First, I had to take a career detour and serve 18 months as the supply officer at the Royal Military College in Kingston. Go figure, for the past four years I participated in an intense rivalry against my alma mater's mortal enemy — the RMC cadets — and now I was in their midst. I came to appreciate their commitment to duty. Many cadets became life-long friends. I even named my son, Douglas, after one of them. General de Chastelain overlooked my past trespasses against RMC and promised early promotion to Captain if I would stay on another year. I told him I loved the job but it wasn't commanding field troops. He supported me with an immediate posting to the Special Service Force (SSF) Brigade in Petawawa. I was going to the home of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. My next ambition was to become a paratrooper!

Life in the SSF was hard, demanding, exhausting, challenging, and fun! The Brigadier introduced innovative and exciting exercises and competitions. It suited me nicely. I spent my first two years in 2 Service Battalion as a Platoon commander and Company second-in-command. Then I was sent to SSF Headquarters as a staff officer. Here I helped plan operations and training. And I became a paratrooper — jumping out of planes and getting paid for it — life was good.

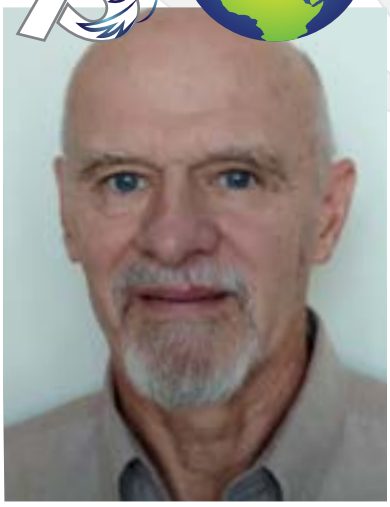
The SSF was good to me. I arrived a lieutenant and left five years later a major. All that good living required I do penance in Army Headquarters in Montréal. I arrived with some trepidation, convinced I was going to be bored to death. Au contraire, it was an exciting place to work — but not as exciting as five years in Europe! I held several appointments in Germany: Officer Commanding Supply and Transport Company (4 Service Battalion), Battalion Deputy Commander, G4 of 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group and, on promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel, Senior Staff Officer Logistics in Canadian Forces Europe Headquarters.

On return to Canada, I completed the one-year French Course in Ottawa. It was a relaxing pace and a good break.

From there, I was posted back to Montréal as J4 Operations, primarily responsible to plan the support to Divisional training and missions abroad. It was a busy, exciting time — just the way I like it. Then I was appointed the Commanding Officer, 2 Service Battalion. The unit provides supply, transport, and maintenance support to the brigade's 4,000 members. Finances were tight but we managed several battalion and brigade exercises as well as two combat competitions. During my first year, I deployed part of the unit to Bosnia for six months on Operation ENDEAVOUR, NATO Implementation Force — a multi-national peace enforcement campaign. On completion of my appointment as Commanding Officer, I was posted to the Base Petawawa Headquarters as the Base Administration Officer.

The subsequent year I attended the United States Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C., earning a Master of Science in Resource Management. On return to Canada, I was appointed the Director of Military Human Resource Requirements. The Canadian Forces Military personnel numbers were in a death spiral and I was directed to fix it.

For the past 44 years, I have been married to Janet Crombie. As her reward for putting up with me, we followed her dream and bought a horse farm in Mono, ON. It keeps us poor, but happy.



HAMILTON, ON, CANADA

Gordon Greavette

Golan Heights, Israel || 1983

Current Residence: Waterloo, ON || Contact: gordon.greavette@pk75.ca

The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) is one of the classic-style Pearsonian peacekeeping missions. It was created in 1973, following the Yom Kippur War, to maintain the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Syria, and is still in operation today in the Golan Heights region buffering Israel and Syria.

As a newly promoted Captain in 1978, I was seconded from my Canadian military assignment at CFB North Bay to serve a six-month, UN deployment as the Military Personnel Administration Officer for the 1200-person military force consisting of a contingent from Austria, Finland, Poland, and Canada. Consequently, I worked at the UNDOF Headquarters in Damascus, Syria. This was my first deployment outside of Canada, as well as my first operational working interaction with members of foreign military forces. Despite the complexity of my work responsibilities and the unique living experience that awaited me, no pre-deployment training was provided prior to departing Canada. Therefore, upon my arrival in Damascus, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to spend several days with my predecessor before he left to return to Canada, and he provided a crash course in working and living abroad.

As a novice to UN deployments, it proved to be a steep learning curve from both a job expectation and a personal integration aspect. In particular, the adjustment to our living arrangements in a large Arabic city like Damascus, ruled by a military dictator, Hafez Al-Assad, was a challenging adaptation experience. There was a total of seven Canadian officers serving at the UNDOF HQ, of which I was the most junior. Two Lieutenant-Colonels, who were on year-long deployments and had brought their wives with them, were housed in UN leased apartments elsewhere within the city. The remaining five of us lived on the third floor of a low-rise, four-story apartment building which had only two, three-bedroom apartments per floor. The three most senior officers lived in one of those apartments, while another



Sinai. It is late Spring 1983, and I am standing by the ferry boat crossing which is situated about half-way along the length of the Suez Canal, on the Asian continent (in the Sinai Desert), with the African continent in the background on the other side of the Suez Canal. The canal acts as the dividing line between the two continents. The ship in the background is heading northward towards the Mediterranean Sea.

Canadian captain and I shared a bedroom in the apartment across the hall. The other two bedrooms were occupied by Polish officers, two Captains who also shared a room, and a Lieutenant Colonel who had his own bedroom.

While the living conditions were relatively comfortable, it was a very new and interesting experience living in an apartment with three officers from Poland, which was then a Warsaw Pact nation. The Cold War between the West, as embodied primarily by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on one side and Soviet-led Warsaw Pact nations on the other, was still a major irritant to world order. From my educational experience and military training, the Warsaw Pact and its military personnel were considered to be the enemy. Fortunately, we four Captains quickly developed a reasonable friendship.

Unfortunately, the Polish Lieutenant-Colonel, while cordial, kept his distance from us. I initially believed that this was because of his rank. Interestingly, he also seemed to react more like a subordinate to one of the two Polish captains, a very outgoing individual who sported relatively long hair for a junior military officer. It did not take me long to learn that this individual was the political officer who was assigned to accompany the Polish military force. As the senior representative of the Polish Communist Party in the Polish contingent, it was his responsibility to ensure that all the Polish military personnel did not deviate from the party line.

The lease on our first two apartments expired after four months, so the UN secured a new, larger apartment that could accommodate all five Canadian officers. This new apartment, which was about half the distance to the UNDOF Headquarters building, was on the ground floor of a similar low-rise building. The amenities were similar to the first apartments, but this one had a shallow 10×12-foot outdoor pool with a nice patio and small garden area directly attached to our apartment: quite a hardship!

Interestingly, across the street and half block away was the residence housing members of a rebel faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) opposed to the leadership of Yasser Arafat. Therefore, for me, my first and only UN peacekeeping tour was a practical, hands-on introduction to the real world of east-west relations.

Biography

Following graduation from the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, ON in 1977, I undertook three different sessions of classification training opportunities over the next few years. The first one was for pilot training at CFB Moose Jaw, where I was medically grounded from active aircrew status. I then proceeded to CFB North Bay in 1978 for Air Weapons controller training, which, although I successfully completed the training, did not suit my abilities. Finally, I qualified as a Personnel Administration Officer and, for my first active posting, I remained at CFB North Bay from 1980–83.



Gordon Greavette, standing by the cenotaph in Waterloo, ON, 2022.

Into the second year in this position and on the same day that I brought my wife, Marguerite, home from the hospital following the birth of our first child, I received notice that I would be departing in three months for a six-month Peacekeeping tour (February–August 1983) with United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights. I was assigned to the mission's headquarters in Damascus, Syria. Upon my return to Canada, I was posted as the Station Administration Officer (or the Executive Officer in Naval terminology) at CFS St. John's, NL from 1983–86.

Upon completion of this tour and after a one-year French language course in Ottawa, I was posted to a three-year tour at Portage la Prairie, MB as the Base Administration Office from 1987–90, whereupon I was selected to attend the one-year Canadian Forces Command and Staff College course in Toronto. I then remained at the College, first as a Junior Officer Staff School instructor and then as the College's Senior Administration Officer from 1991–1994.

I then proceeded on a four-year diplomatic assignment as the Senior Staff Officer for Administration, Training, and Visits with the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC, from 1994–1998. After that posting, I returned to the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College, once again as the Senior Administration Officer and then, upon promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel as the Deputy Chief of Staff. Following this position, I moved to the academic side of the College working with the six-month Colonel's National Security Studies Course as the planner for the National Security and International Relations program of study. I was also inducted into the Order of Military Merit in the rank of Officer in 2004.

Partially because of my peacekeeping activities related to the geopolitical situations, and especially because of what I was able to experience and observe because of the freedom of movement permitted throughout the Middle East region (including Syria, Jordan, Israel, and Egypt) as a member of the UNDOF Headquarters staff, I became a proponent of life-long learning. As a result, while in the Canadian Forces, I completed an Honours Bachelor of Arts in History, a Master of Arts in War Studies, and a Master of Defence Studies, all awarded through the Royal Military College, as well as a Bachelor of Education specializing in Adult Education from Brock University. While still serving at the Canadian Forces College, I also commenced my studies for a PhD through Wilfrid Laurier University.

For the next decade following retirement from the Canadian Forces in 2006, after 35-years of military service, I worked as the Chair of the School of Communications and Liberal Studies at Conestoga College in Kitchener, ON. During this period, in 2014, I completed my Doctorate, specializing in Canadian History, with two minor areas of studies: one in the History of Military and International Relations, and the other in American History.

Following my second retirement in 2015, I moved with my wife to Waterloo, ON, where we still reside. I walk, swim, and cycle regularly, and whenever weather permits during the winter months, engage in Nordic skiing. I also remain active in the community as a member of the Old Salts Seniors Canoe Club and the Waterloo Region's Branch of the Canadian International Council. I have recently been appointed for the next four years as a member representing Waterloo Region on the Board of Directors for the Grand River Conservation Authority, and I am also the current Chair of the City of Waterloo's Waterloo Park Advisory Committee. In the 2022 fall municipal elections in Ontario, I stood, unsuccessfully, as a candidate for Regional Council representing the City of Waterloo. Finally, my wife and I consider ourselves fortunate to have both of our children and grandchildren also living in the Waterloo Region, so that we can practice being doting grandparents.



Winnipeg, MB, Canada

Kent Griffiths

Egypt || 1978–1979

Afghanistan || 2007

Current Residence: Rockyview, AB || Contact: kent.griffiths@pk75.ca

After graduating from high school in 1977, I was troubled with my future career choices. I had been employed as a part-time Army Reservist since April of 1976, completing my recruit course and basic infantry training that summer and qualifying as a Machine Gunner the following winter. I had been promoted to the rank of corporal and was considering joining the full-time Regular Force.

At that time, there were opportunities for Reservists to deploy with the Regular Force on United Nations Missions in Cyprus, Egypt, and the Golan Heights. These missions were six months in duration, preceded by some orientation training prior to leaving Canada. I was intrigued with the possibility of trying out the full-time army while seeing another part of the world, so in September I submitted my name and awaited approval. To fill the time over the winter, I continued to train with the Reserves as a driver. Having heard nothing by April, I volunteered to attend a training exercise in Wainwright, AB to be followed by two summer courses in Dundurn, SK.



Regimental Police – CCUNEFME – Ismailia Egypt, 1978 (Griffiths front centre).

Just before the exercise I got the news; I was going to Egypt in October! But only at the rank of Private.

I completed my orientation in Montréal and flew off to Cairo (via Germany) to join the United Nations Emergency Force II.

What a culture shock. Seeing the pyramids and Sahara Desert bordering on the massive city next to the famous Nile River was amazing. The people; the traffic; the heat; and the smells. We drove a couple hours east to Camp El Gala in Ismailia and I was met by another corporal who took me to my accommodations—a back room in an old, condemned building called "the guard house".

I awoke the next morning at sunrise, noticing that there was no glass in my window opening and that the curtains were nothing more than rags nailed to the frame. A scorpion ran across the stone floor as I scratched my itchy chest, speckled with red dots. My roommate stared at me, ignoring the scorpion, and said, "Bed bugs. You need to get a new mattress."

My job was camp security as part of the Regimental Police (RPs). I was trained to conduct patrols after dark and to monitor access at the front gate during the day. I was issued a pistol and a submachine gun, a blue beret, and an official armband. The camp provided supplies and support for the outposts in the

Sinai Desert "buffer zone". The outposts were operated by UN observers who monitored the local Bedouins and watched out for any military build-ups on either of the Israeli or Egyptian sides. The risk to the peacekeepers was the possibility of being caught in the middle of another major attack.

During my tour of duty, I escorted supply convoys across the buffer zone and participated in a relief exchange with the Swedish contingent where I worked as an observer at "Position 556 — the Devil's Hole". I also had the privilege of meeting people from many cultures. There were Polish, Australian, Swedish, Finnish, and Ghanian peacekeepers as well as the local soldiers and civilians. I discovered that not a single Egyptian or Israeli that I met wanted war. Even their soldiers only wanted peace. It was the governments and religious leaders that forced their citizens into combat. The most important lesson that I learned was that both sides only wanted to live in safety, raise their families, and enjoy life. Fortunately, there was no escalation in armed conflict while I was there, and a peace treaty was signed — the United Nations did their job.

I returned to Canada in April of 1979 with some incredible experience and amazing stories, but with a different view of full-time army service. I had decided not to join the Regular Force. I realized that I could get the best of both the military and civilian worlds by staying in the Reserves and attending community college (trade school). Even though I only worked in my Diesel Mechanic trade for a couple years, prior to becoming a Customs Officer at Calgary Airport, I remained in the Reserves for 43 years.

Biography

Kent was born and raised in Winnipeg MB. In 1976, at the age of sixteen, he joined the Canadian Forces (CF) Reserves after serving as an Army Cadet. In 1978 he voluntarily deployed to serve with the United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt. He then moved to Calgary, AB and joined The Calgary Highlanders where he served until he was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) in 2002 upon becoming the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM).

In 2004, he became the 41 Canadian Brigade Group Sergeant Major, finishing in 2007 upon return from Kandahar Afghanistan. He was then chosen to become the Army Reserve Sergeant Major. This job required commuting to Ottawa and many trips to liaise with foreign armies, most particularly the U.S. Army Reserves and National Guard as well as the British Territorial Army. The Governor of Kentucky commissioned him as a "Kentucky Colonel".



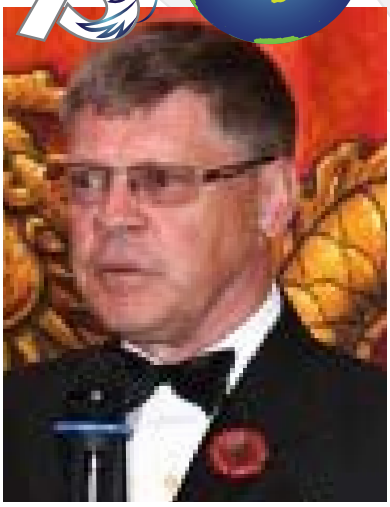
Griffiths and The Queen, Calgary 2005.

Subsequently, in May of 2009, he was appointed as the CWO responsible for all Canadian Forces Navy, Army, Airforce, and Special Forces Reserves as well as the Cadet Programs and their staff for Canada. In 2010 he was the first Reserve CWO to complete the Canadian Security Studies Programme at the CF College in Toronto and received the Canadian Forces CWO Award of Excellence in 2011. After that, CWO Griffiths served as the RSM of The Algonquin Regiment from 2013–2016. He then returned to Calgary and was promoted directly to the rank of Major in 2019 prior to his retirement.

Over his career, he has completed much military training including Paratrooper, Machine-gunner, Anti-tank Gunner, Radio Operator, Driver, Mortarman, Intelligence Operator, and even Musician and Military Policeman. He has been a leader at all levels and has instructed many courses. He has also been fortunate to have travelled all over the world in military service — USA, England, Scotland, Holland, France Belgium, Germany, Bulgaria, Italy, Egypt, Israel, Afghanistan, Australia, New Zealand, and across Canada. He has met so many amazing people, but the highlights were his meetings with Queen Elizabeth including a personal audience in Buckingham Palace for almost an hour.

In addition to his eight medals, Kent was awarded the Head of the Public Service Award, the National Defence Ombudsman's Award for Ethics, and the 2022 Veterans Affairs Ombudsman's Commendation.

After retiring, Kent continues to reside in the Calgary area and volunteers as a curator for The Military Museums, in addition to actively supporting several charities and non-profit organizations, participating as an executive member of two or three associations at a time, as well two Regimental Senates and multiple committees.



TIMMONS, ON, CANADA

Paul Hale

Angola || 1991–1992

Former Republic of Yugoslavia || 1992, 2003–2004
South Africa || 1994
Afghanistan || 2005–2006, 2012

Current Residence: Brampton, ON || Contact: paul.hale@pk75.ca



Inspecting UNITA soldiers accommodations.

Canadian participation in UNAVEM II (United Nations Angola Verification Mission II) or Op PASTEL commenced on 17 June 1991, when 15 Canadian Officers met in Ottawa for a week in preparation for a one-year deployment to Angola as unarmed UN observers. The week was primarily spent on administrative preparations. The Foreign Affairs briefer advised us they were pleased we were going to Angola, since at that time UNAVEM was the only UN mission in which Canada had not participated. This did not go over with us. Simply put, we were being deployed for a check in the box and a political speaking point.

The Angolan Civil War began in 1975 after independence from Portugal. It was a power struggle between former anti-colonial guerrilla movements. The communist People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) was an urban-based movement from the Luanda region largely composed of Mbundu people, while the anti-communist National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) was composed of Ovimbundu people from the Central highlands. A third movement, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), having fought the MPLA with UNITA during the Angolan War of Independence, played almost no role in the Civil War. The Angolan Civil War was a Cold War proxy conflict as Russia and the United States, with their respective allies Cuba and South Africa, assisted the MPLA and UNITA.

On 29 June 1991, myself, Ron Carson, a Strathcona, Peter Williams, a Gunner, and Pierre Rivest, a Van Doo arrived in Luanda. We stayed in downtown Luanda about 15 km from the UN Headquarters. The hotel did not have working elevators and the water was intermittent to put it mildly. Don't even think about room service. The working language was Portuguese which we had all started learning using a distributed learning package consisting of cassettes and a study manual. We quickly realized that we were on our own and started to explore the local area to find a place to eat. We did not have transport and eventually found restaurants within 2 hours walking distance.

On 10 July, I was transferred to Lobito for two months, before finally deploying, on 4 September, to a UNITA Assembly Area called Chingongo about 120 kms inland. I was in charge of a five-man team responsible for monitoring the Assembly Area, counting troops every Wednesday, and weapons on Saturday, ensuring that weapons were secured and guarded, and investigating any violations of the UNAVEM Accord. The counting of troops was done on Wednesday across the country since both sides accused the other of moving in and out of the Assembly Areas. The troop count in Chingongo ranged from 561 for our first count on 28

September to 960 on 23 October. The counting and storage of weapons was another issue. Our first weapon count was 592 AK47s, a number of Light MGs, 60mm, 81mm and 82 mm Mortars with 200 60 mm mortar rounds, 60 for 81 and 82 mm mortars, 9 anti-tank mines and approximately 100,000 rounds of small arms ammunition. A couple of weeks later UNITA gave us a gym bag which contained a mix of explosives and detonators. From memory, it had at least 20 detonators with 8 to 10 kg of explosives and a charge for blowing railway tracks. We soon had a new grass hut built so that we could ensure separation between the ammo and explosives.

In December I was transferred to Funda, which was an MPLA training area about 30 km from Luanda. There were four MPLA Brigades in the camp and the highest count they had was over 10,000. My first count was 7,503 on 4 December and 6,895 on 11 December. The 11th was an interesting day. Everyone formed up in blocks of 20 by 20 or 400 all ranks. You checked to ensure that there were no blank files and proceeded from block to block. As I went by one block the right marker had a dog beside him. The next thing I knew the dog was trying to bite my ankle. My knife was under my shirt so I could not easily access it. However, the dog was pulled off and I carried on with the count as if nothing had happened. Next week no dog on parade. I have no doubt that the dog was just trying to protect its owner, since I was different from everyone else.

Counting weapons was a challenge. Three of the brigades each had one central armoury and the weapons were in poor shape. While 101 Tank Brigade had at least 16 different weapon vaults with well maintained weapons, they also had about 40 T54s. All of them were movers except one. I used to run through the tank park every second or third day and only one never had fresh track marks in front of it. They would not let us check the tanks until the day a New Zealand Officer and his wife asked if they could observe the count. I said yes on the condition that his wife ask if she could look inside the tanks. As I hoped, they agreed, and we were able to confirm that every tank was combat loaded.

It is more than 32 years since I served in Angola. I learned a great deal on that mission. It was my first exposure as leader and member of a truly International Team from multiple nations. I came to appreciate the Canadian training and education system. I quickly realized that officers from many other countries were not as well trained, as professional, or as dedicated.

Biography

Paul began his military career as a reservist with the Algonquin Regiment in July 1970 and subsequently joined the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa while attending Carleton University. He completed Reserve Entry Scheme Officers Phase 1 and 2 in the summer of 1975 and transferred to the Regular Force in January 1976. He served nine years with 3 PPCLI which included two tours with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. He also served as Adjutant of the PPCLI Battle School Adjutant for three years. In June 1991, he was deployed to Angola as an observer on United Nations Angola Verification Mission II.



Counting at MPLA soldiers at Funda Assembly Area.

On 11 February 1992, he was transferred to United Nations Military Liaison Officer Yugoslavia (UNMLOY) which was the precursor for United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). UNMLOY consisted of observers from existing missions who were transferred to Yugoslavia in early 1992 prior to the arrival of UNPROFOR.

In March 1994, Paul was tasked as one of two military officers to support the Commonwealth Observer Mission to South Africa. The initial tasking was as a Liaison Officer with South African National Peacekeeping Force in Pretoria. He was subsequently transferred to Canadian Embassy in order to support the Canadian Election Observer Mission in South Africa, where was tasked as personal escort and security for Christine Stewart, Secretary of State for Latin America and South Africa. Being as observer to the first democratic elections in South Africa was an historic and rewarding tasking.

Maj Paul Hale served as Chief of Staff and Commanding Officer of the National Command Element for Op Palladium Roto from September 2003 to April 2004. He was awarded a DCDS Commendation for his work and leadership. During the mission, 396 vehicles and 154 Sea Containers of equipment and ammunition were returned to Canada. He deployed to Afghanistan as part of Op ATHENA Roto 4 from August 2005 to March 2006 where he was employed as a Staff Officer for Commander ISAF.

In June 2006, he transferred to the Reserves and joined the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada where he served as Deputy Commanding Officer. He subsequently joined the Lorne Scots Regiment and deployed a second time to Afghanistan as a WSE LCol from February to October 2012 on Op Attention Roto 2. He was awarded a Commander CJOC Commendation for leadership and dedication. He retired on 15 June 2014 after 41 years and 9 months of service within the Canadian Armed Forces.

He has been actively involved with the PPCLI Association since 2010, serving as Southwest Ontario Branch President, multiple positions on the National Board of Directors, and was National President from June 2017 to May 2021. Paul has been instrumental in promoting Mental Health, Suicide Awareness and Peer Support within the PPCLI Association and the veteran community.



Military Family

Michael Hanrahan

Rwanda || 1994–1995, Darfur, Sudan || 2007–2008, Somalia || 2009–2013, Central African Republic || 2014–2015

Egypt || 1976
Cyprus
Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1998

Current Residence: Victoria, BC

United Nations start-up missions usually operate in austere, volatile, and remote environments. There is a significant lack of information on the local political, security, infrastructure, and population conditions. A new UN mission needs to deploy thousands of military, police and civilians along with their equipment from around the world; commence humanitarian activities to relieve suffering; commence political dialogue between all parties; protect human rights as well as women and children; secure contracts for camp construction, rations, fuel, maintenance, ground and air transportation, communication/IT and medical support services; and other mandated tasks as directed by the UN Security Council.

I had the privilege to participate in four start-up UN missions Rwanda, Darfur, Somalia, and Central African Republic. Standing up a new mission is much more an art than a science. Each mission faces unique issues be they a lack of local resources such as fuel, food and drinking water; lack of transportation infrastructure such as airports, roads, and seaports; slow deployment of military, police, and civilian personnel; political interference from national, regional and/or local actors; poor weather; violence directed at mission activities; etc. Below are a few examples where creativity, urgency, and a "can do attitude" saved lives.

For UNAMIR in Rwanda, after the genocide, it was essential to deploy new infantry battalions to their sectors even before the arrival of their vehicles. The Ethiopian battalion needed to move from Kigali to Cyangugu, over a mountainous 270 km route. There were no passenger vehicles or buses to move them. A couple of commercial flatbed trucks and a few dump trucks were secured in Kigali. The 600 soldiers stood on/in these vehicles for the whole trip. All agreed it was better than marching.

In Darfur, over 120 UN police were on the ground in El Fashir. Seventy newly arrived UN police patrol vehicles were stuck in Port Sudan, 1800 kms away, as no commercial transport was available to ship them. Rather than wait for the vehicles to be commercially delivered, the police were flown to Port Sudan on UN aircraft. They then drove for three days across the desert to El Fashir so they could start their patrolling tasks.

From mid-February to early March 2011 in Somalia, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) suffered over 200 serious casualties as they fought to retake the city of Mogadishu. The United Nations Support Office AMISOM (UNSOA) was responsible for providing medical support to AMISOM. The number of AMISOM casualties was not normal for a UN mission. UNSOA quickly secured additional commercial contracts, help from donor Member States, as well as borrowed UN medically equipped aircraft from other UN peacekeeping missions to evacuate the injured to hospitals. UNSOA also secured medical services in civilian hospitals in Kampala, Djibouti, Nairobi (six different hospitals), Mombasa, and South Africa. At one point, every Intensive Care Unit bed in East Africa was being used by an AMISOM soldier. UNSOA's evacuation efforts resulted in a casualty evacuee survival rate of over 98 percent.



UNSOA Medical Evacuation of AMISOM soldiers, Feb/Mar 2011. AMISOM patients were usually evacuated to Nairobi as it had the most ICU beds. Those with serious head or eye issues were sent onward to South Africa. During the heaviest fighting the U.S. and France sent medical aircraft directly into Mogadishu to evacuate patients to Djibouti and Kampala.

The start-up for MINUSCA commenced just as the rainy season began. The roads were muddy rivers. Both local officials and the French Army forces stationed in CAR stated that all movement had to be by air because roads were impassable. MINUSCA needed to immediately deploy an infantry battalion to the east of the country. A newly arrived engineer unit was tasked to escort the infantry battalion to its sector. A

5–10 km section of the road was rapidly repaired by the engineers. The battalion's 100 vehicles and 300 sea containers immediately followed on the repaired road as it became impassable in less than a day. The convoy "inched-wormed" for 3 weeks to complete the 200 kms trip. The battalion was able to set up its camps and commence patrolling long before the rainy season ended.

I would like to make the following point about Canadians deployed on peacekeeping activities, be they military, police or civilian. Canadians have a synergetic positive impact on mission success. We are used to operating in diverse cultural and social environments, have a "can do" attitude, promote cooperation and communication as well as work long hours/days. The senior mission leadership teams, from each of the missions I served, constantly asked if Canada could provide more personnel because every unit, section, detachment, patrol with a Canadian in it was motivated and effective. Keep this tradition alive should you deploy on a peacekeeping mission.

Biography

Colonel Mike Hanrahan (Retired) served 37 years with the Canadian Army as a Signals Officer. During his military career Mike commanded at each rank level; did operational and technical staff assignments; instructed at the army staff college; did exchange tours with the UK and a diplomatic tour with the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations. This biography is focused on his peacekeeping activities which included Egypt, Cyprus, Rwanda, Bosnia, Darfur, Somalia, and Central Africa Republic.

As a young Lieutenant, Mike deployed, in 1976, to United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II) in Egypt with 73 Canadian Signal Squadron, and was responsible for Radio Troop. His troops were deployed in small detachments supporting UN units deployed in the Sinai buffer zone as well as at UN offices in Alexandria, Cairo, Ismailia, Port Said, Suez, Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem, Tiberius, and Damascus. All operational and administration reports required by UNEF Headquarters were sent by these Canadian detachments. He spent weeks driving in the desert in an open jeep visiting each detachment, paying them, bringing mail and supplies, replacing equipment, and rotating personnel.

Two years later, he deployed with the 1st Battalion Princess Patricias Canadian Light Infantry to UNIFCYP in Cyprus as the Regimental Signals Officer. The signals troop was responsible for ensuring effective communications to observation posts along the buffer zone. This mission was well established, so significant time was spent installing permanent communication cables and towers replacing years of temporary solutions.

In 1994, Mike deployed as the Canadian Contingent Commander to support Major-General Dallaire, who was commanding the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR). The Canadian contingent was responsible for supporting the mission headquarters, providing communications to all UN deployed units, providing logistic support to newly arriving units, as well as operating Kigali International Airport. The contingent adopted nine orphanages. At Christmas, 50 tons of clothes and toys, received from Canada, were distributed to the children.

In 1998, Mike deployed to Bosnia with the NATO Stabilization Force (SFOR) as the senior Signals Officer. His international staff and units were responsible for ensuring NATO and SFOR national military communications systems interoperated effectively. During the tour, SFOR provided communications to thousands of polling stations to ensure security during the national elections.

From 2002–2006, Mike was the Military Adviser to the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in New York. Canada chairs the UN Special Committee for Peacekeeping Operations Working Group for 130 Member States. Mike spent most of his time coordinating new UN peacekeeping policy reform measures for the working group. He also designed and validated the UN Senior Mission Leaders Training Program for new UN mission leaders.

Mike retired from the army in 2007 and immediately deployed as a UN civilian staff member to the United Nations — African Union Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). He managed the implementation of construction, transportation, fuel, and rations contracts, and oversaw the construction of three super camps with transit camps, hospitals, fuel depots, warehouses and training facilities for the 17,000 mission personnel.

From 2009 to 2013, as a member of the United Nations Support Office AMISOM (UNSOA) staff, Mike provided logistical support facilities and services across Somalia to permit the UN Political Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to carry out their mandated tasks. He led a multi-disciplined civilian/military logistical support team, based in Mogadishu, that supported the 18,000 AMISOM troops and 600 UN staff with rations, fuel, air transportation, camp construction, vehicle and equipment maintenance, medical services, communications, and IT.



Rwanda 1994 Xmas. Canadian contingent soldiers distributing the clothing, toys, etc., at one of the orphanages. The regimental wives club collected donations for the orphanages from across Canada. They had various air carriers ship the 50 tons of stuff to Nairobi, Kenya. I sent a route recce team from Kigali to Nairobi to test the route and secure places for unit to stay when driving to Mombasa where our vehicles would be shipped by sea back to Canada, as all our vehicles were returning to Canada.

In 2014, Mike was appointed Director of Mission Support for the start-up of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). He planned and implemented the mission deployment, support, and sustainment requirements for 10,000 troops, 2000 police and 1400 civilian staff. Central African Republic had one international airport ; was 1400 kms away from seaports ; and the rainy season washed out most in-country roads for months. Every day his international team had to solve complex support issues.

On retirement from the United Nations, he set up a consultancy service, which was leveraged by the UNHQ and UN peacekeeping missions to assist them develop and implement their supply chain management policies, processes, and procedures.

Mike is now fully retired in Victoria with Ellen, his wife of 47 years. They enjoy travelling with friends and family, encouraging their grandchildren's athletic and artistic pursuits, as well as road cycling and other fitness activities with their 90-pound Labrador.



MILITARY FAMILY, CANADA

David Harries

Bosnia

Cyprus

Current Residence: Kingston, ON || Contact: david.harries@pk75.ca

TRAVELS FOR UNPROFOR

I was Force Engineer of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) from September 1992 to October 1993. As a long-time operational field engineer, I knew my remit would include issues of mobility, mines, water, accommodation, and force protection. I also knew that Canada had deployed, for mission-level tasks, a Combat Engineer Regiment (CER) and Finland a Combat Engineer Brigade (CEB), both very capable and experienced units. I also knew that all troop-contributing countries (TCC), as part of their mission-commitment, were supposed to include sufficient engineering capability to meet their own needs. Not incidentally, for what was to come, I knew from previous professional and personal visits to the Balkans that the combination of the winters and the terrain frequently produced brutal, even destructive conditions.

But my "knowledge" on Day 1 quickly proved very fragile in the face of realities in place and to come; realities frequently apart from what the main combatants in the break-up of Yugoslavia provoked in terms of engineer operations. First, Canada announced the withdrawal of the CER, and then Finland announced the withdrawal of the CEB. The engineering competence of most of the TCCs proved varied, from very little to none. And the UN? It was totally unprepared for a four-season mission, so out of touch with its demands that when officials finally awoke to the fact that UNPROFOR was to have winters, they "knew" that tents were sufficient, "as always", and military peacekeepers did not need as much space and warmth as civilian ones. In addition, none of the three Force Commanders (FC) during my tour (Indian, Swedish, and French) were engineers, and so were little interested in engineering matters unless one of their nationals called for help. But the most telling early lesson was that the "governor" of what could and would happen in UNPROFOR was not the FC, but the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Together with his loyal team of lesser "chiefs" (i.e., Accommodation (his wife), Procurement, Finance and Logistics), he made the decisions on everything tangible.

My time assigned to UNPROFOR quickly became one of almost continuous travel - in-country, in Europe, and further afield. The reasons for the trips were almost as varied and diverse as the destinations, with most provoked by the steady "drum-beat" of new UN Security Council Resolutions, at least 18 of which were promulgated only for UNPROFOR and in only the 16 months I was preparing for or in the mission. This unprecedented pace of change guaranteed continuous confusion, contradictions, and mission-internal conflict.



The Force Commander of UNPROFOR, General Nambiar, and me on a Canadian Armoured Personnel Carrier belonging to 1 Combat Engineer Regiment (1CER), as we made the first crossing of a bridge over the Sava built by 1CER.

The following lists indicate my travel destinations and reasons for the visits. Most destinations I visited on more than one occasion.

TRAVELS IN THE UNRAVELLING YUGOSLAVIA. Dubrovnik for damage assessments. Neum to inspect B-H's only access to the Adriatic. Prevlaka to confirm demilitarization and inspect mines complex. Knin to visit Prevlaka Dam before and after its deliberate destruction, Rovinj to inspect port of entry for Canadian containers, Belgrade to represent UNPROFOR at meetings and Christmas with Attachés. Skopje for preparations for UNPROFOR-Macedonia and meetings on post-traumatic stress disorder. Sarajevo to advise on force protection and to attend UN HQ meetings.





Bihac to visit French contingent on order of French FC. Banja Luca on contraband and smuggling issues. Slavonski Brod for border incursions and unregulated refugees. Komanovo to observe sanctions-busting truck convoys into Serbia. Osijek for evaluation visits to the Belgian and the (tragic) Soviet contingents. Vukovar for human losses due to destruction of cathedral, Danube smuggling, mass graves search, and breaches of UN-ordered storage of heavy weapons. Srebrenica for route reconnaissance and force protection.

TRAVELS IN EUROPE AND SCANDINAVIA. Slovakia was the focal point of many visits between February and June 1993 when I was tasked to lead the creation, design, manning, equipment, and training of a combat engineer battalion to replace the departing Finns and Canadians in Croatia. Austria for UNPROFOR banking, and UN policy meetings. Switzerland for meetings on plans and policies to deconflict the many UN Security Council Resolutions. Finland to teach peacekeeping operations. Italy to meet with HQ of Allied Forces South on how to rescue UNPROFOR if threats materialized and how to respond to the failure of the No-Fly Zone. Hungary to confirm the approved route for Slovak battalion convoys.

TRAVELS IN ASIA AND NORTH AMERICA. Malaysia for seven days with two Danish mine-warfare instructors to Kuala Lumpur and Butterworth to prepare the battalion committed to UNPROFOR. USA at the UN HQ in New York to arrange for winter accommodation, and in Canada to assess a formal offer of winter accommodation structures.

To cap the travelogue, very early on the day before I returned to Canada, an order came to lead a team inspecting the remains of a Danish UN truck that had been fired on and destroyed on a booby-trapped bridge.

Biography

A Canadian citizen since birth, he has lived in 20 countries and paid between one and 20 working visits to another 94.

After Canadian military college and English education as a nuclear engineer, he has worked for 63 years in the public and private sectors as a military officer, as a consultant on personal and corporate security, and as a senior advisor and professor in heavy engineering, national development, humanitarian aid, post-conflict and post-disaster response and recovery, executive development in strategic foresight, and post-graduate university education.

He became committed to the practise of Foresight in 1974 when, as a commander in the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, his experiences, in the run-up to an increasingly plausible threat of Turkish intervention, during the invasion on 19 July with its still-evolving aftermath proved that much of what happened in 1974 might have been significantly less severe, and the scope of the consequences until 2023 much reduced, had the UN exercised any foresight.



Briefing Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General, on the state of invasion affairs from the roof of the remains of the Nicosia International Airport in early September 1974.



Me shaking hands with members of the Slovak Engineer Battalion to recognize the completion of their first project for UNPROFOR - an improvised bridge.

Education. Schooling in eastern Canada was followed by the UK equivalent of Junior Matriculation at Embley Park (boarding) School in Romsey. University education was received (Dipl Ing) at College Militaire Royal de St Jean, QC, (B Eng Physics) at the Royal Military College, Kingston, ON, and U of London, England (MSc and PhD in Nuclear Engineering).

Committed to life-long learning, Harries achieved tertiary-level qualifications at several Canadian and non-Canadian institutions. These include the Online Interactive Distributive Course from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California; the Executive Seminar from the Management Centre Europe, Amsterdam; the Canadian Army Staff College, Kingston, Canada; the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, USA; the Command and Staff College, Toronto, Canada; and the National Defence College of Canada, Kingston.

While in uniform, beginning in 1960, he was Cadet Wing Commander at both CMR de St Jean and RMC Kingston; the personal Military Escort to Lucy Baines Johnson for a NATO Azealia Festival, Norfolk; Deputy and then Troop Commander of Canada's only Armoured Engineer Troop RCE, in 4CMBG, West Germany; Senior Analyst and Program Designer for the Close-Out Control Centre, Soest; Commanding Officer, 1 AB Field Squadron, Canadian Airborne Regiment, Edmonton; Commander, UN Nicosia International Airport Task Force, Cyprus; Coordinator, FMC HQ Operations Centre; SSO Joint and Combined Operations at the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College; Deputy Commander and Acting Regimental Commander, Canadian Airborne Regiment, Petawawa; Director Military Engineer Operations, NDHQ; Director, then Director Curriculum Planning and Coordination, then Deputy Commandant of the National Defence College; Military Assistant to the DG Nuclear Safety for the Nuclear Submarine Program, Ottawa; Founding Director of The Centre for National Security Studies, Kingston; Senior Analyst for DGPE Evaluation of CF Peacekeeping, NDHQ; Force Engineer, UNPROFOR; Senior Analyst in the Morton Study of CF Professional Development. He left the military in 1995.

As a civilian, most activity over nearly three decades has been in the fields of civil-military relations, Human Security development and resilience, and executive professional development. Significant positions included: CANCAPS coordinator of Human Security Research and Outreach, Canada, International Fellow (the first) at the Indonesian National Resilience Institute (LEMHANAS – Suharto's school for very senior military and civilian officials) in Jakarta; International Fellow (the first) at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta, responsible for developing a Proposal for an ASEAN Peacekeeping program and centre; Strategy Analyst for Placer Dome Inc. operations in Indonesia (with involvement on the Bre-X scandal); Director, Human Security Engineering for Maccaferri Asia (involving liaison, marketing, branding and sales in 12 countries between the UAE and Pacific USA (Hawaii); (Acting) Managing Director, Tingey and Associates Management Consultants, Singapore; Executive Director/Associate Professor of the Royal Military College Master of Arts Program - Security and Defence Management and Policy; Contractor to the Canadian Defence Academy for design and delivery of Seminars on Civil-Military relations and Security Foresight in Canada and seven other countries; Associate Executive Director, Foresight Canada, Canmore, AB; Head, Canadian Node of the-then 40+ Nodes of the global Millennium Project, Washington; Chair (2013-17), Investment Committee member and contributor to the Arctic security and sovereignty project of the Canadian Pugwash Group and, since 2005, Assistant Coach – Forwards of the RMC Men's Varsity Rugby team.

Currently, as a Fellow of the World Academy of Arts and Science, he promotes the use of Foresight as a member of the ER4H project and a contributor to another: E4HS.

He is the lead for Foresight activity in support of the NIWEE, based in the U of Ottawa, and President, Proteus Canada.

Opposite page, L-R: A road leading to Srebrenica. The remains of the interior of Vukovar Cathedral.



CALGARY, AB, CANADA

Bruce Henwood

Croatia || 1995

Current Residence: Calgary, AB || Contact: bruce.henwood@pk75.ca

In early 1995, I was seconded to the United Nations (UN) as a Military Observer (UNMO) in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), on a year-long deployment. I was one of just 15 Canadian officers joining the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation (UNCRO) in the FRY. Pre-deployment training included communications, first aid, mine action, and cultural awareness. My family prepared for this extended absence not knowing exactly when we would see each other again. I departed on Canada Day for Zagreb with all my gear for one year. Most of the 15 of us arrived within a couple of days of each other, so our rented accommodation was very crowded, with our kit stacked everywhere.

We completed one week of UNMO training specific to the FRY, and were assigned to specific sectors, four in Croatia, four in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and several scattered elsewhere in the FRY. I was assigned to Sector North in Croatia, a large area comprising part of the rebel Serbian held region called the Krajinas. We were unarmed so as not to present a threat to anyone we encountered, but for us, this was a bit unnerving.

Divided into four teams and a HQ, I was sent to the town of Ogulin. We were 16 UNMOs, all from different countries, one interpreter and two vehicles. We lived on the economy in a large, rented house with six bedrooms, and were responsible for our own food, cleaning, etc. The house also served as our team base from which we provided daily reports to our HQ by secure and unsecure phones in our operations room at the house. Thrice daily, we conducted vehicle patrols equipped only with unsecure Motorola radios, to watch for unauthorized military activity and ceasefire violations in the zone of separation (ZOS), which straddled the unofficial border separating the warring factions, approximately 5–10 kilometres wide.

Shortly thereafter, I was pulled into the Sector HQ in Topusko to be a duty officer. Although displeased, I was told I would eventually return as the team leader. The HQ was in the Krajinas



Major Henwood with some of his UNMO colleagues after duty shifts were over.

and accessed by crossing the ZOS into an area where things were completely different. Many houses were destroyed, clear evidence of the ethnic fighting between the Croats and the rebel Serbs. By the end of July the situation worsened. Curfews were imposed, electricity and water became intermittent, the sound of shelling and gunfire got closer, alert levels increased, and more military traffic was observed. By early August, things were very tense. Troops on both sides of the ZOS were fully mobilized, all ZOS crossing sites were closed, and we were essentially trapped in the Krajinas! As a precaution, we destroyed all unnecessary classified documents because neither side trusted UNMOs, and our intelligence indicated that both sides considered us as targets.

On 4 August, all hell broke loose as full-scale fighting exploded all along the ZOS. The Croatian Army entered the Krajinas intent on destroying the rebel Serb army, along with the Serbian civilian population. Fighting was intense. Topusko was overrun with thousands of desperate Serb refugees intermingled with fighting units as they all attempted to flee the Croatian advance. The fighting was over by 9 August, the rebel Serb

army surrendered, and I was one of the UN representatives at the surrender talks.

Thereafter, UNMO roles shifted, and our patrols now supported the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), preventing atrocities and further ethnic cleansing. At the end of August, I was sent back to Ogulin as the Team Leader. We continued our daily patrols and worked our way into areas from which the UN had previously been excluded. Daily, we encountered Serbs who were unaware that they had lost the Krajinas and were in mortal danger.

My tour ended abruptly on 27 September 1995. I was on patrol in an area that we had never before accessed, heading towards some small hamlets to warn the Serbs to leave, when my vehicle struck an anti-tank mine in an unmarked minefield. It took over two hours to get me to a UN field hospital in Zagreb where my legs, which took the brunt of the explosion, had to be amputated. I was immediately flown to a large American hospital in Landstuhl Germany, finally returning to Canada two weeks later to start a new chapter in my life as a double amputee.

My tour, despite the life altering outcome, was exhilarating, exciting, rewarding and put all my professional training to use.

Biography

Major Bruce Henwood (Ret'd) was born in Exeter, ON; the son of an RCAF pilot. After five years in the army cadets and three years in the army reserves, he enrolled in the Regular Officer Training Program at the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, ON. After graduating in 1980 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Honours History, he served in various capacities with the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) in Calgary, the South Alberta Light Horse in Medicine Hat, the Royal Canadian Dragoons, and the 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's) in Lahr, Germany and across Canada.



Major Henwood during the Croatian offensive Operation STORM prior to the arrival of thousands of refugees.

In 1995, Maj Henwood was posted to the United Nations in Croatia (part of the Former Republic of Yugoslavia) as a United Nations Military Observer, or UNMO, with the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation (UNCRO) . Stationed in Sector North in Croatia, Maj Henwood was a staff officer in the UNMO HQ in Tupsoko, in the rebel Serbian controlled Krajina region prior to and during Operation STORM when the Croatians reclaimed the rebel Serbian held regions by force. He then went on to be the UNMO Team Leader of an UNMO team comprising 16 UNMOs from many nations, in the town of Ogulin, in northwest Croatia. Duties were primarily monitoring Croatian military activity, cease fire violations and humanitarian support. It was while he was on patrol in the former no-man's land in the northern Krajina region on 27 September 1995, that Maj Henwood was very severely wounded after his vehicle struck an anti-tank mine in an unmarked minefield. After six months in hospital, followed by 12 months as an out-patient, he underwent multiple surgeries, extensive therapy and rehabilitation in order to regain his independence, mobility and adapt to the "new normal" of being a double leg amputee. In 1996, Maj Henwood was awarded the Land Force Commander's Commendation for his actions in Croatia, and for his determination in his recovery. He was subsequently medically released from the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in 1998 after 24 years of service.

In 2003, after a seven-year struggle with the Department of National Defence, Maj Henwood was instrumental in having the CAF disability insurance program overhauled, providing tangible compensation to all soldiers severely injured in the line of duty. Maj Henwood was presented with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in recognition of this activity in support of seriously disabled soldiers. In 2003 he was honoured by having a street named after him in the new community of Garrison Green in Calgary, AB. In 2004, Maj Henwood was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by the Governor General for his actions in changing the military's compensation plan. He was made a Rotary Club of Canada Paul Harris Fellow in 2005 for his contributions towards supporting seriously disabled soldiers.

In the summer of 2009, Maj Henwood retired from a second career as a project manager in the defence industry. He is actively involved in various organizations and institutes; notably he is a Past President and Life Member of the Royal Alberta United Services Institute. From 2005 to 2010 he was the Chair of the Special Needs Advisory Group, which provided advice to Veterans Affairs Canada on the New Veterans Charter, as it pertained to the needs of seriously disabled veterans. Maj Henwood continues to provide advice on the needs of seriously disabled veterans to the War Amps of Canada and the National Council of Veterans Associations in Canada. He was awarded the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation in 2011 for his work with seriously disabled CAF members and veterans. He continues to support the needs of disabled soldiers by providing advice and guidance on a regular basis through a network of contacts he has developed, and for this citizenship activity he is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. Maj Henwood currently co-chairs a Veterans Affairs Canada advisory group providing advice to the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada on care and support of our Veterans.

Maj Henwood resides in Calgary, is married to Judy, and they have three adult sons and one granddaughter. He has a passion for travelling, model N scale trains, jigsaw and sudoku puzzles, Canadian military history and reading.



John Heymans

Cyprus || 1966, 1974–1975, Egypt || 1978–1979

Current Residence: Arnprior, ON || Contact: john.heymans@pk75.ca

I was a Peacekeeper, completing two rewarding tours in Cyprus and one in Egypt.

My first Cyprus tour was as a Lieutenant Troop Leader of a Reconnaissance Troop of five Ferret Scout Cars during the Summer of 1966. We had three operational missions: First was to escort convoys of Greek Cypriot civilians through the Turkish Cypriot enclave between Nicosia, the capital, and Kyrenia on the Northern Coast. We made two trips a day, morning and afternoon, seven days a week. Second was long range patrols into the area Northwest of Nicosia and to meet with the Village Headman in several Turkish villages among the Greek population. Our task was to determine if there were any problems between the villages and their neighbours. Third was a standby task. Our Squadron was the Force Reserve which meant that we could be called upon to go anywhere on the island to assist other UN units. We had to be prepared to move out of our camp within an hour of notification, 24 hours a day for a week.

My second Cyprus tour was as a Major, an Infantry Company Commander during the Winter of 1974–75. My Company was in Nicosia International Airport, and I was responsible for protection of the airport and surrounding area, and protection of the UN Protected Area which comprised the UN Force Headquarters and support units. My Company was the Battalion Support Company and in addition to manning roadblocks and observation posts in my area, we were equipped with anti-tank weapons and mortars which could be used in the event of an operation. Every month we traveled to ranges in Dhekelia, Southeast of Nicosia, to fire the weapons as part of our ongoing training.

My third tour of UN duty was as a Major in the Headquarters of the Canadian Contingent of UNEF2, the UN Force established in 1973 after Arab Israeli War. I was the Contingent Operations Officer, and my tour was from August 1978 to March 1979. We were in Ismailia, an hour south of Port Said. I was the Staff Officer responsible for Operational Planning within the Canadian Contingent, and for security of our immediate compound using Military Police and a platoon of soldiers who worked with the Military Police. I also maintained a liaison contact with the local Egyptian Army authorities for coordination of local



Official photo, Cyprus 1974.

civil law enforcement. We had a fenced compound enclosing vehicle spare parts and other attractive items. My security team would regularly apprehend local civilians who had broken into the fenced area and turn them over to the local police. We worked closely with the local authorities to ensure that they didn't return.

Biography

I was commissioned into the 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's), an armoured regiment, in 1962, and posted to Camp Petawawa, ON. My early years were spent training on tanks and reconnaissance vehicles as a junior officer. We spent the summers of 1963 and 1964 in Gagetown, NB training with other units from Petawawa and Gagetown. My early years involved learning my job as an Armour officer through attending training courses at schools, or during periods of collective training in the field with my soldiers. As a young Reconnaissance Troop Leader, I spent six months in Cyprus from April to October of 1966. It was my first operational deployment, and I enjoyed the opportunity to put into use the skills I had learned the previous years. In 1967 I was posted to the Combat Arms School in Base Borden.



Ismailia, Egypt, 11 Nov 1978.

My middle years, as a Captain, were spent initially as an instructor and a Training Development Officer while in Borden. In 1970 I was returned to my Regiment and was Operations Officer and Adjutant. I also attended schools including a year at the U.S. Army Armor School in Fort Knox, Kentucky, where I was a student on their Advanced Armor Officers' Course from 1972–1973. I was fortunate to have my family with me and we had a busy, but fun filled year.

On return from Kentucky, I spent a year as a student at the Canadian Forces Staff College in Toronto and was promoted to Major while on course. Following Staff College, I returned to my Regiment in Petawawa as a Squadron Commander. Shortly after returning I was attached to 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, along with most of my B Squadron soldiers, and spent a second six months in Cyprus. This was a great tour and one of the highlights of my career. Back to Petawawa from Cyprus, I was assigned command of our unit's Headquarters Squadron. We were responsible for all aspects of logistics support for the Regiment. During the Summer of 1976, we were deployed to Montréal to support the Olympics. We were billeted in a high school in Montréal and, as my last job at the Regiment, I became a hotel manager for the summer.

Subsequent jobs included headquarters staff appointments and instructor duties again, but the highlight of that time was three years from 1981 to 1984 as the Canadian Forces Liaison Officer at the U.S. Army Armor Center in Fort Knox. On return to Canada, I was posted to National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa where I retired in 1995. I currently reside in Arnprior, ON having spent 25 years as a Snowbird traveling to a Florida home in Inverness, an hour North of Tampa.



London, ON, Canada

Walter Holmes

Egypt || 1978

Cyprus

Current Residence: Kingston, ON || Contact: walter.holmes@pk75.ca

I arrived in Ismailia Egypt in January 1978 to serve a six-month tour as the Staff Officer Administration with the Canadian Contingent Headquarters. Canada was responsible for service support, communications support, and air support to the four deployed United Nations Battalions in the Sinai and the wider UN and Canadian Forces in the Near East.

UNEF II was the first deployment where Canadian servicewomen served in significant numbers. There were approximately 75 women on strength in Ismailia and they were accommodated in separate quarters that came to be known as 'Bra Batt' or 'Bra Battalion'. It was all in good fun at the time, however today this would not be tolerated. The civilian employees working in the women's quarters were all Egyptian females.

My primary task was to manage the Egyptian civilian workforce. There were approximately 260 civilians who came into our camp daily to perform a number of necessary functions. The Contingent employed two Egyptian civilian personnel managers who did all the hiring for us. We had to place an enormous amount of trust in these two individuals as cultural and language issues meant we couldn't get as close to the process as we would have normally.

I was assigned the duty of Escort Officer for the visit of the CDS Admiral Falls, a trip that would take him to Egypt, Israel, and Syria. It was rightly decided that it would not do for the CDS to have to drive across the Sinai with his entourage, so the plan was to fly him from Cairo to Jerusalem in his VIP aircraft. This meant that I had to take his vehicle convoy of five vehicles across the Sinai at night to arrive at the Jerusalem airport in time for his arrival the next morning at 0900. It is not an impossible drive as the distances are short, however, one must cross the Suez Canal before heading into the desert. The Egyptian Army was responsible for putting bridges in across the canal at three points on a timed schedule daily, but one could never count on them being on time.



The Civilian Personal managers in Ismailia, both named Mohamed.

It just so happened that they didn't put the bridge in at our chosen crossing site on the day of our journey until almost dark. Our hope was to get halfway across the desert before darkness descended but it wasn't to be. Once we had crossed the Suez Canal, we had to move through Egyptian Army positions, then UN positions in the heart of the desert and lastly Israeli positions. I led the convoy with one driver and each of the following four cars had just a driver in them. We all had UN identification cards that were our passport into most countries in the region.

In the dark, we approached an Egyptian check point and were stopped by a young conscript soldier who was terrified. He immediately stuck his AK 47 assault rifle through my driver's window and started to mutter away in Arabic which of course we couldn't understand. We got him settled down, but he wouldn't let us through the barrier despite us having shown him our UN ID. I tapped my rank badges and said to him a few times "Officer, Officer, Officer". He finally understood and called his Officer on a field telephone. The Officer arrived, he did speak some English, and he was obviously aware of the protocol with respect to UN personnel having freedom of movement, and he let us through. I have to admit there were a few scary moments

when that AK was thrust through the window into our faces, but it ended well.

We made quick time through the UN zone and as we were entering the Israeli sector the road disappeared into a sand dune. A few days prior, a monster sandstorm had whipped through the Sinai, including Ismailia, and the Israelis had yet to open up the road in their sector. After being stopped for a few minutes with our headlights on, we were approached by two Israeli Armoured Personal Carriers (APCs). We explained our plight to the occupants, and they immediately offered to help. In the pitch black they hooked our vehicles up to a tow chain on the APCs and they literally dragged each of our vehicles, in turn, through the sand. Without a doubt they saved our bacon as we would still be sitting on the wrong side of the sand dune if they hadn't come to our rescue. For their efforts we gave them all the soft drinks and cigarettes that we could spare, and they were pleased.

Unknown to us as we approached the Israeli border, was that the afternoon before the Palestinians had ambushed an Israeli bus on the Haifa Highway with considerable loss of life. The Israelis had placed a ring of steel on their borders, and we were greeted by several halftrack vehicles with .50 calibre machine guns mounted on them. It was first light, so getting through the border was not an issue, but it was the first time we had seen some of the might of the Israeli Defence Forces. (A couple of months later I was on the Golan Heights visiting the Canadians there on the night the Israelis invaded Southern Lebanon. Masses of armoured vehicles were strung out on all roads in advance of the invasion. A battery of six 175-millimetre Artillery pieces was positioned across the road from our UN camp, so we knew precisely when the operation kicked off; the earth did move!)

We arrived at our Hotel in Jerusalem in time for a quick shower, shave, and change of uniforms and we managed to get to the airport with 30 minutes to spare. The remainder of the CDS' trip went as planned and I had an opportunity to spend some time with an old Airborne buddy from Edmonton, Pierre Lamontagne (RIP), who was the CDS' aide de camp. Thankfully, the journey back to Ismailia was comparatively swift and uneventful, while the outbound trip gave the six of us a lifetime memory.

Biography

Walter Holmes is a career soldier with 56 plus years in uniform. After service with the Army Cadets and Militia in his hometown of London, ON, he applied and was accepted into the Canadian Army Officer Candidate Program as an Officer Cadet. After a year of tough training at the Royal Canadian Infantry School in Camp Borden, he was commissioned into The Royal Canadian Regiment in September 1967 as a 2nd Lieutenant.



The CDS' Quarter Guard, Admiral Falls, Camp El Gala, Ismailia. As Guard Commander, I am escorting the CDS.

What followed was a career with most of the time spent in command. Command at Platoon, Company, Battalion, Regiment, Base, Brigade, Land Area and Division levels, the latter a NATO Multi-National command as Commander Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land), provided challenges but equal measures of fun with the highlights being the opportunity to work and serve with the very best soldiers in the world. Staff positions at Battalion, Army, and Corps levels, a tour as the Canadian Military Attaché in the Canadian Embassy in Washington D.C., and a three-year teaching task at the Canadian Army Staff College in Kingston rounded out the balance of his 37 years of Regular Force service. Walter is a graduate of the Canadian Army Staff College, the Canadian Forces College, and the United States Army War College. One of his claims to fame is he has visited or exercised in North Norway 22 times, only once in summer.

Walter retired from the Regular Army in late 2002 and commenced a second career as a security/military consultant working with a variety of organizations in Canada, the Balkans, and Eastern Europe.

A five-year tour as Colonel of The Regiment, The Royal Canadian Regiment, is considered by Walter to be the highlight of his post service years. He followed four regimental battle groups in preparation for, and during their deployments to the Kandahar region of Afghanistan, including visits to the region on three occasions. He was appointed Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Infantry Corps in August of 2013, providing him with another opportunity to be engaged in the business of soldiers and soldiering. He left this post in August 2016 and took up duties as Honorary Colonel of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, the Regiment his father fought with during WW II in October 2016. He finally hung up his uniform for the final time in November 2021.

Walter is currently the co-chair of a committee that is organizing a reunion in Cyprus in 2024 to commemorate Canada's 60-year commitment to UN Peacekeeping in Cyprus and the 50th Anniversary of the 1974 Cypriot War.

Walter was inducted into the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire as a Member (MBE) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 1986, and into the Order of St John of Jerusalem as a Serving Brother in 1999. He was awarded the United States Army Legion of Merit in the grade of Officer (LOM) in 1995, and the Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg in 2002. He was honoured to receive the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) for his work as Colonel of The Regiment from the Governor General of Canada. He has Peace Keeping Medals for service in Cyprus and the Sinai, the Canadian Peacekeeping Medal and the Special Service Medal for NATO service and the Canadian Forces Decoration with four Bars.

Walter and his wife Lana are retired and live in Kingston, ON. They enjoy their family, friends, and every opportunity for an adventure.



ALBERTA, CANADA

James Holsworth

Cyprus || 1974

Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1999

Current Residence: Kingston, ON || Contact: james.holsworth@pk75.ca

Canada's long-standing commitment to peace in the Middle East, and indeed its legacy as a peacekeeping nation, was reinforced in 1964 with the stand-up of the UN Force in Cyprus. Since then, thousands of Canadian soldiers served there, and 28 died. Indeed, a forgotten war in our nation's history is the 1974 conflict that saw a Greek Cypriot coup d'état and Turkish invasion turn the island into a warzone. Peacekeeping became peacemaking, as two NATO allies were at war with the Canadian Airborne Regiment in the middle (the year 1974 was a deadly time for our military, with casualties in Cyprus and the loss of UN Flight 51 over Syria). Much is written on the heroic actions of our soldiers in 1974; this anecdote looks at Signals and the 'moxy' needed to get communications through during that war.

1 Commando Group, about 500 all ranks, with a signal troop of 20 signallers, was in theatre when the Turkish did an amphibious landing near Kyrenia and an airborne assault by the Nicosia Airport. They took the north side of the island, and the Green Line was established, resulting in a wave of displaced persons and village enclaves across the island. The rest of the Regiment deployed from Edmonton, within 96 hours, via Lahr, to Limassol. The Canadian contingent was now 1200 all ranks, reinforced with a mechanized company, a reconnaissance troop, theatre logistics and signals.

Communications for the UN Force, both tactical links to contingents and off-island UN and national rear links, were provided by the UN signal squadron, using primarily British sovereign and Cypriot commercial circuits, most of which were cut when hostilities started.

Signals augmentation from Canada's 73 Signal Squadron in Egypt included CRATTZ (HF radio, 66 word-per-minute teletype) detachments to provide a national rear link. I remember ordering a 100-foot mast from the NATO supply chain, and incredibly it arrived. British helicopters lifted sections in place as our Linemen rigged the mast and cut long-wire antennae



Lt Jim Holsworth, Cyprus 1974.

to 'shoot back' to Lahr. One day, BGen Beatty, UN HQ Chief of Staff, knocking on the CRATTZ door, demanded to speak to Commander Canadian Forces Europe. The signaller calmly got a radio link and phone patch into the Commander's office in Lahr.

The Regiment was in the core of Nicosia, at the Airport, patrolling the Green Line and manning UN observation posts (Ops) throughout the sector, sadly taking several casualties, including the loss of Para Berger and Para Perron. From the Ledra Palace Hotel, we watched Turkish 104 jet aircraft bombing east Nicosia, and often took cover behind sandbagged windows from fire fights below. At one point, our barracks at the Ledra Palace and Wolseley Barracks were evacuated under fire.

For Signals, our challenge was huge. The entire fleet of old C11 (HF) and C42 (VHF) sets was being replaced by the 'new' AN-PRC 12 family. Renewed hostilities saw OPs overrun and communication equipment lost. A mortar round hit the Signals stores, destroying radios, line, installation kits, antennae and

switching equipment. This, along with the influx of radios from Edmonton and Lahr, created a nightmare to sort out kit for repair or wartime strike-off. Helicopter rappel training was essential to deploy and to re-supply our radio rebroadcast sites in the Troodos Mountains. To get communications to a 1 Commando platoon protecting a Turk enclave in the Greek sector, we laid WD1 line over a mile of 'no-man's land' with a Greek machine gun and Turk perimeter guards tracking every move. With the relocation of Canadian troops, a major telephone switched network was put in place. The Linemen earned their hazard pay, fixing lines dug-up or cut by fighting, and repairs done atop poles, often attracting pot shots from nervous combatants.

The 1974 Cyprus war slipped into history as 'another peacekeeping mission' during a Cold War era when Canadians had no idea that troops were engaged in combat, taking casualties, and showing the same resolve as at any time in our military history. For the Canadian Airborne Regiment, it was the battle honour that was never awarded. For Signals, it was a remarkable feat of bravery and ingenuity. As a new subaltern, seven months out of training, it was an introduction to action that shaped my ethos as an officer ... train hard, plan for the worse, and take care of the troops ... Shoot, Move and Communicate!

Biography

From Alberta, James Holsworth joined the Canadian Forces in 1969, attending Royal Roads and Royal Military Colleges to graduate in electrical engineering. His first posting to the Canadian Airborne Regiment included a tour in Cyprus during the 1974 war. James served as a signal officer in Germany 1976 to 1981, with 3 Mechanized Commando, The Royal Canadian Regiment and 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (CMBG) Headquarters & Signal Squadron.

He studied French, then worked in Army Headquarters (HQ) in Montréal and attended the Army Staff College in Kingston. As a major, he remained at Army HQ to write electronic warfare doctrine and coordinate signal operations, later attending Staff College Toronto. James returned to Germany to command 4 CMBG HQ & Signal Squadron and was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel to work in Ottawa on the Army staff in command information systems. From 1991 to 1996, he commanded the 1st Division HQ & Signal Regiment and then instructed at the Army Staff College.

Upon promotion, Colonel Holsworth was appointed Director of Signals in Ottawa, then Director of the Technical Staff Programme at RMC. In 1999, he went to Bosnia as Chief of Signals in the NATO HQ. In 2004, James completed three years as Canadian Military Attaché, and Director with the America, Britain, Canada, Australia (ABCA) Programme, in Washington, DC. He returned to the Joint Staff as Director J6, responsible for information operations and strategic communications, before retiring in 2005, ending 36 years service.

James worked as a defence consultant, directing an advance military command and control course, completed his master's degree in Defence Management & Policy, and was appointed Colonel of the Regiment for the Joint Signal Regiment. He has served on the Board of Directors of Kingston General Hospital (KGH), University Hospitals Kingston Foundation, Military Communication & Electronics (C&E) Museum Foundation, and Hospice Kingston, and was Chair of the KGH Foundation, Kingston Commissionaires, and C&E Heritage & Museum Committee. He organized battlefield studies to Vimy, Normandy, The Netherlands, and a reunion of comrades in Cyprus in 2024.

James is married to Anne St-Pierre, a retired military and career labour & delivery nurse. They have three children: David a military engineer, Julie a teacher, and Jonathan a signal officer ; and six grandchildren. He is an avid skier, traveller, historian, and grandfather.



Lt Jim Holsworth, Edmonton 1975.



TORONTO, ON, CANADA

Joseph Howard

Democratic Republic of the Congo || 2000

Bosnia-Herzegovina|| 2003

Sudan || 2005

Current Residence: Calgary, AB || Contact: joe.howard@pk75.ca

Talking my way out of armed confrontations and police shakedowns in Congo and leaping away from a vehicle trying to run me down in Sudan are nostalgic. Such events pale in gravity and scale to notable issues in DRC which deserve analytical reflection.

Champions of peacekeeping cite successes in places such as Bosnia-Hercegovina (BiH), Cambodia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mozambique, Namibia, and Tajikistan together with Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Sudan, but seldom state their reasoning. Critics of peacekeeping cite failures in Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and throughout the Middle-East, noting such issues as host-nation corruption, insufficient political will, institutionalized inefficiency, and self-service, all symptoms of systemic challenges. Yet, neither viewpoint assesses root issues shaping missions' outputs and outcomes, and both overlook one rule of geopolitics: 'in the land of diplomacy, context is king.' To inform future peace operations, the following diagnostic analysis of DRC identifies impacts and constraints of two context-shaping root issues - law, and politics. They become even clearer when contrasting DRC with BiH and Sudan.

Legally, treaty-based international organizations (IOs), such as the African Union (AU), International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), International Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), OHR and UN, exercise powers only as delegated or implied by Member States. Procedurally, the UN Charter provides its aspirational object and purpose, "…maintain international peace and security…" The Charter does not provide for 'how' peace and security is to be gained and sustained, save Chapter VII Security Council 'binding decisions.' Preambular and operative clauses of Council Resolutions provide for programs and practices to enable parties to the dispute to conclude and sustain peace. UN organs and agencies and humanitarian organizations infer operational guidance from resolutions and undertake to provide the 'how' on a best-efforts-basis. Yet, these bodies only enable principal parties to the dispute to settle that dispute. Interpreting this process as any obligation of the UN et al to deliver international peace and security as a fait accompli outcome has no basis either legally or politically. As enablers of peace operations, these bodies collaborate iteratively with parties to the disputes, but the parties themselves retain prima facie responsibility for establishing framework conditions in which enabling peace operations may succeed.



Canada's Minister for international Cooperation, Susan Whelan, PC, MP, being welcomed to Drvar, BiH by Chief CIMIC and Senior Liaison Officer. Second Battalion PPCLI Battle Group 10 May 2003, accompanied by Colonel Greg Gillespie, Commander Task Force Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Within constraints of treaty and international institutional law and fact-based realpolitik, the Dayton Peace Accords (1995) provided for the OHR to successfully facilitate their execution in BiH, supported by the 55-Member-State Peace Implementation Council. The IGAD successfully mediated the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (2005) between parties to the dispute in Sudan.

Disputes in the DRC were settled through several peace agreements: Lusaka Ceasefire (1999), Sun City (2002), Pretoria (2002), Luanda (2002) and Global and Inclusive (2002). The agreements were secured with the assistance of the AU and ICGLR. Yet, context sabotaged sustainable peace. Context comprised (i) dissatisfied regional ethnic/clan-based militias excluded from peace processes; (ii) inadequate Security Sector Reform within the DRC enabling break-away military factions to gain standing as Other Armed Groups; (iii) armed incursions by neighboring states across undefended/able borders to advance ethnic and regionally political agendas inside DRC during its formative years of stabilization; (iv) third-party states' rampant exploitation of DRC's natural resources; (v) international donor fatigue. Diagnostic analysis suggests the context of regional socio-political anarchy sabotaged sustainable settlement of DRC-centric disputes. Prescriptive analysis suggests Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda must substantively respect the sovereignty of DRC's borders and implement effective Security Sector Reforms.

Politically, three centers of gravity of successful peace operations must be extant. First is possession by parties to the dispute of bona-fide wills to invoke sustainable peace, whether arising from war fatigue or political opportunism. This subjective element symbiotically empowers the objective element of a (tentatively) negotiated peace agreement. Second is the belief of the host nation's populace—governors and governed—that IOs have sufficient capacity to enable parties to the dispute and the host nation's civil society to sustain peace. Third is the belief of the IOs that their capacity to enable same is sufficient. Together, the second and third centers of gravity synthesize a mutually inclusive confidence. Conditions precedent for the latter are (i) full comprehension by IOs of the host nation's socio-cultural norms; (ii) realistic understanding by the host nation of IOs' capacities.

In sum, future success in peace operations rests on appreciation of three issues. Firstly, abuse of sovereign power by, and neglected reforms within adjacent and regional states elevated the DRC' crisis to a supra-regional if not global matter. IOs lack legal and political resources to fill such power vacuums at scale. If left unsettled, ensuing issues will gravitate beyond, viz., current unlawful migration from African to European states. Secondly, such abuse, if repeated, will heighten the intractability of complex emergencies and increase demand on limited pacific means to settle same. This invites use of 'countermeasures employing lethal force to restore the status quo,' leading to humanitarian tragedy but not internationally wrongful acts. Thirdly, IOs, agencies, and implementing partners must incorporate fulsome coherence of local socio-political norms in planning, risk-assessing and executing peace operations; anything less guarantees mission failure.

Biography

Joe Howard's experience in peacekeeping began later in life. It succeeded a Calgary-based twenty-five-year practice in Chartered Accountancy concurrent with seventeen years as a commissioned officer with the King's Own Calgary Regiment (Royal Canadian Armoured Corps), Canadian Armed Forces Primary Reserve.



Engaging Sudanese People's Liberation Army Brigade & Battalion Commanders, Kirmuk, Sudan, July 2005.

It started in 1999, with an invitation to attend the UN Military Observer Course at the Peace Support Training Centre, Kingston. An offer followed in 2000 to be one of the first two deployed under OPERATION CROCODILE. This orchestrates Canada's deployments to the United Nations' (UN) peacekeeping mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo, (DRC), Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies en répubique démocratique du Congo, (MONUC). MONUC and its successors feature among the UN's repertoire of larger peace operations under Security Council Chapter VII Resolutions. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees classifies DRC's situation a 'complex emergency.' Appointed Deputy Chief Plans while headquartered in Kinshasa, the position required country-wide reconnaissance and planning of initial deployments of battalions and Military Observers from e.g., India, Nepal, Pakistan.

Returning from DRC, a short-notice request came from National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa, to serve as Balkans Theatre Desk Officer, J-3 International Operations (Tim Grant, Chief of Staff) immediately following 9-11. This facilitated a deeper appreciation of NATO peacekeeping and of the Operational Planning Process concerning OPERATION APOLLO.

In 2001, training began in Civil Military Cooperation. 'CIMIC' is a military-led function influencing cooperation of civilians and humanitarian organizations with peacekeeping forces in conflict zones. Being 'hearts-and-minds military diplomacy,' it leverages formed bodies of armed troops in facilitating dispute settlement and post-conflict socio-economic development.

In September 2002, secondment to the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Second Battalion Battle Group (Mike Day, Commanding Officer) preceded 2003 deployment to Bosnia-Hercegovina (BiH), the twelfth rotation in Canada's OPERATION PALLADIUM supporting NATO's Stabilization Force (SFOR). The Office of the High Representative (OHR), a multilaterally supported political structure emanating from the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords, partnered with SFOR in co-managing national civil-military programs.

Appointed Chief CIMIC and Senior Liaison Officer while headquartered at Zgon, 97 km southeast of Bihać, the position included sourcing opportunities for the Battle Group's assisting local government and humanitarian agencies, advancing rule of law and civic reform, and disbursing Canadian funding on infrastructure projects.

Returning from Bosnia, invitations to attend the UN's Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Staff Course, Geneva, and U.S. Naval Post Graduate School's Civil-Military Relations Course, Monterey, as a private citizen expanded peacekeeping skillsets. These facilitated civilian consultancies in 2004 with U.S.' Defense Security Coordination Agency introducing CIMIC to Albanian and Romanian armed forces.

Returning to military venues, a 2004 invitation to join the Standing High Readiness Brigade for UN Operations, (SHIRBRIG), (Greg Mitchell, Commander), led to deployment in 2005 to the UN Mission in Sudan, (UNMIS), under Canada's OPERATION SAFARI. Under multilateral political leadership, SHIRBRIG as a military headquarters collaborated with the UN Secretariat to hasten deployment of peacekeeping troops through advancing operational planning.

Training with multinational staff officers at SHIRBRIG Headquarters, Høvelte Barracks, Birkerød, Denmark and UN Headquarters New York emphasized Civil-Military Coordination, (CMCoord). Unlike robust 'cooperation' in CIMIC, OCHA's CMCoord tempers 'coordination' to separate humanitarian from military operations. Humanitarians must be (seen) as 'neutral and impartial.' Hence, cooperation with any military may undermine this perspective as military forces are often (perceived as) root sources of humanitarian crises.

Appointed Deputy Chief CMCoord and acting Chief Military Plans while headquartered in Khartoum, the position required deconflicting jurisdictional claims of UNMIS' humanitarian and military components, sourcing opportunities to collaborate with civic organizations, and planning initial deployments of battalions and Military Observers.

Returning from Sudan, a 2006 offer of a civilian consultancy at UN Headquarters New York concluded with assessing peace operations in Ghana and Liberia. Subsequently, an academic appreciation of peacekeeping within geopolitical frameworks begged an MA in international studies and diplomacy at the School for Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Civilian consultancies at UN headquarters followed in 2008–09, leading to assessing peacekeeping in Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Liberia and Sudan.

To appreciate peacekeeping with sharper discipline, an LL.M. (Advanced) in international criminal law at Universiteit Leiden, Netherlands, followed in 2009–10. In 2012, competence in geopolitical legality begged a six-year PhD at China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing, researching international humanitarian law framing peace operations. Currently, research and lecturing on international law and peacekeeping informs Canadian and Chinese audiences pending further consultancies.



LETHBRIDGE, AB, CANADA

Keith Hunt

Croatia || 1993–1994

Current Residence: Calgary, AB || Contact: keith.hunt@pk75.ca

The basis of my selection for assignment to UNPROFOR was operational experience in Joint Warfare, Airspace Coordination, and Command and Control. Big in the news at the time was OPERATION DENY FLIGHT — NATO policing of a no-fly zone over Bosnia. Naturally, I assumed that with my operational fighter background, I would have some connection to this mission. I couldn't have been more mistaken.

I arrived in Zagreb to learn that I, as a Major, and a Canadian Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, were to take charge of UNPROFOR Air Operations. Our assets were a unique outfit of contracted helicopters and transport aircraft, supporting 38,000 UN troops from many nations, throughout the Balkans. Our first place of business was a small office in UNPROFOR Headquarters, a communist era casern in downtown Zagreb, nowhere near the airport, nor our aircraft, nor our pilots. It was staffed with a handful of international officers who had only a vague idea of what they should be doing. My Boss assigned me the task of establishing an Operations Centre at the former Yugoslav Air Force Base "Pleso", where our aircraft were stationed. Within a few weeks, with the help of imaginative UN Supply Technicians and Swedish Army Pioneers (builders and fabricators) the Ops Centre was up and running with satellite communications, multiple telephone lines, computers, a library of maps and publications, direct communication and visuals with aircraft dispatchers and the operating ramps, and duty officer sleeping quarters for a truly 24/7 operation. With two Canadians at the helm, we had additional operations officers from Argentina, Belgium, Denmark, France, Kenya, Norway, Poland, Russia, the U.S., and Canada. Truly a United Nations effort.



The lifeline to Sarajevo. The massive Russian-built IL-76 transport flew twice daily to Sarajevo as well as missions to Western Sahara and Georgia, carrying up to 40 tons of supplies, ammunition, and troops.

The nature of the operation was supporting UN ground forces throughout the Balkan Peninsula. To accomplish this, we had a fleet of civilian contracted tactical and heavy lift helicopters, and various sizes of fixed wing aircraft including the massive IL-76, which was the lifeline to Sarajevo, carrying up to 40 tons of supplies, ammunition, and troops. Sarajevo missions were challenging, with aggressive flight approach and departure profiles to minimize exposure to ground fire, and on one occasion, one of our aircraft encountered mortar fire either side of the runway during takeoff. Helicopter missions ranged from daily logistic shuttles between the UN Protection Areas, Command and Control, reconnaissance, search and rescue, and medevac. As a fighter pilot, I consider myself fortunate to have gotten many hours of hands-on flying in one of our Bell-206 "Long Rangers" helicopters. As Operations Officers our biggest

role was liaison with all the warring factions to establish safe passage for our flights. This ranged from field level with domestic air defence units, to high level government representatives of all the factions of the former Yugoslavia.

One of my interesting roles was maintaining liaison with, and supplying intelligence to, our "cavalry to the rescue". This was a U.S. Marine Corps attack helicopter squadron and a battalion of infantry based on the USS Guadalcanal "Landing Platform Helicopter". I had the opportunity to visit the ship from time-to-time by flying out from Split, Croatia, but thankfully never had to call on their services. The other operational role I had as the Senior Operations Officer was to crew several operational missions, sometimes with the elation of saving lives, and others with the profound sadness of witnessing the horror of war. Far from home, and aching from missing family, we relished opportunities to raise our spirits, whether it was participating in a Christmas party for orphans, mingling with locals who didn't always have the highest regard for the UN owing to suspicion that we were on one side or another, or observing the exploits of our entertaining collection of Russian transport pilots. With the senior UNPROFOR leadership, the representatives of the various factions, and our aircrews and maintainers, our Canadian flavoured Air Operations was held in high regard.

Biography

Originally from Lethbridge, AB, I launched in the direction of a military career through Air Cadets. I spent a summer of Senior Leaders' training at CFB Borden, ON, and earned my gliding and power flight wings at CFB Penhold, AB. In my small Canadian Forces enrolment cohort for the Regular Officer Training Plan at CFB Calgary in 1974, there was one girl. Little did I know that, although she was off to Queen's University in Kingston, and I to Royal Roads Military College in Victoria, she would one day be my partner for life! Incidentally, she became the first female commissioned Military Engineer in the Canadian Forces.

Following graduation from RMC in 1978, it was off to pilot training at CFB Moose Jaw, SK, where I was selected to stay on as an instructor after earning my wings. In 1983, I was thrilled to be assigned to 409 Nighthawk Squadron — the first operational CF-18 Squadron, based at Cold Lake, AB, where our two daughters were born. The 4th Allied Tactical Airforce in West Germany was desperate to add CF-18s to the order of battle as soon as possible, so 409 was relocated to Baden-Soellingen in 1985, and off we went with a one and one-half year old and a newborn. Following Europe, I was then posted to 410 Squadron back in Cold Lake as a CF-18 instructor, then to the year-long French course in Ottawa.

I then served three years at National Defence Headquarters on the Joint Staff in Planning. In April 1993, I was assigned to Peacekeeping duties with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia, at the height of the 1993–94 hostilities. Following my year in the Balkans, I was then off to the USAF Command and Staff College (Class of '95) in Montgomery Alabama, followed by a reprise Hornet posting to 410 Squadron Cold Lake. In 1997 I left the military. Following two years of commercial flying, I became a civilian contractor embedded back in NDHQ as a Project Support Specialist for CF-18 modernization — a ten-year engagement which led to various follow-on challenges in the aerospace industry. We lived in Canmore, AB, loving the mountains for 19 years, and now enjoy our retired life in Calgary to facilitate our Grandparenting priorities, and my volunteer work on the Board of Governors of the Corps of Commissionaires. I am also a docent at the Air Force Museum of Alberta. I am happily married to Major Dawn (Wakelam) Hunt (Retired), with whom I have two daughters and two granddaughters.



Fighter pilot takes on new role of "crewing" helicopters in support of varied UNPROFOR air operations. Shown here is the Bell 206 Long-Ranger used for logistic shuttles, liaison, Command and Control, reconnaissance, and medevac, based at Pleso Airfield Croatia.



SUMMERSIDE, PE, CANADA

Roxanne Hurley

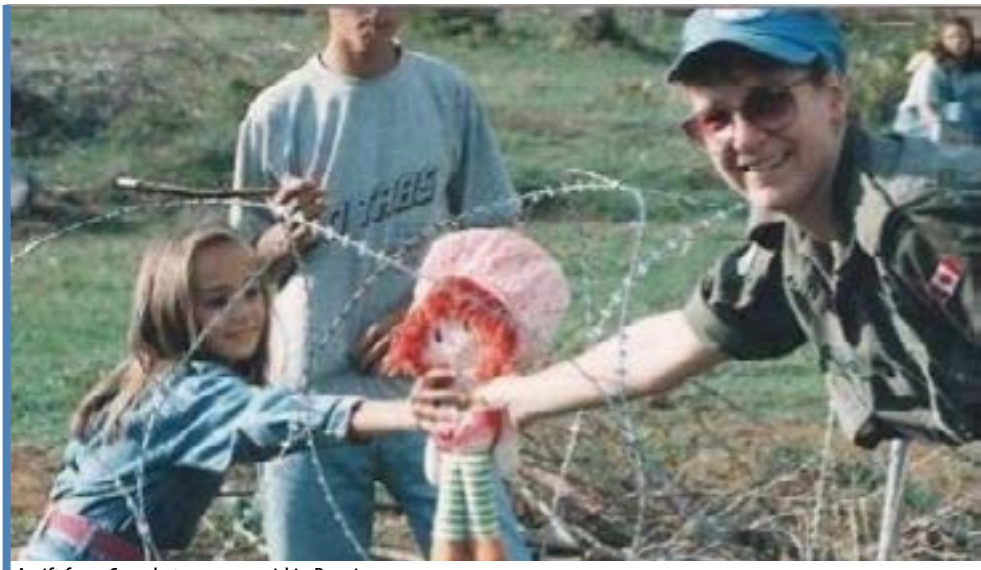
Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1993–1994

Current Residence: Goulds, NL || Contact: roxanne.hurley@pk75.ca

To say I was honored and excited to serve on a United Nations Peacekeeping Tour while serving in the Reserves would be an understatement.

After enrolling in the Reserves in Halifax in 1989, I was proud to be wearing the uniform of our country. I worked as an Administration Clerk for 33 Service Battalion based in Halifax, while working for Base Telecommunications in Halifax Dockyard.

I took a full-time job at Land Force Atlantic Area Headquarters in Halifax, which was the headquarters for the East coast reserve units. There I worked as an Administration Clerk in the Orderly room, also compiling and finalizing travel claims. This is where I came across a message that came from Land Force Central Area looking for reservists to volunteer to join the Second Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battalion, based in Winnipeg, MB. The process to join this battalion was intense and consisted of passing the Battle Fitness Test, learning to fire many types of weapons (the .50-caliber machine gun was a favorite of mine), and learning to drive military vehicles. I was so determined to work hard to get through the grueling process.



A gift from Canada to a young girl in Bosnia.

The time came and we were off to Yugoslavia. I had no idea what to expect. When on the bus driving to our camp (Camp Polom) it was devastating to see the damage done from all the fighting. Buildings were bombed and you could see bullet holes in the concrete. I thought to myself, what in the world have I gotten myself into. But then I stopped to think we are on a United Nations mission to help the people who lived here, and I soon thought about all the good we were going to be doing.

As a clerk in Camp Polom, life was good, and the routine was the same day in and day out. As a Clerk we still had other duties outside of our jobs inside the office, so I did my job during the day working in the Orderly room, and at night when I was on duty, I would have to do security patrols around the camp with another person.

On 28 July word came that the Battalion, minus two companies, would move out of Camp Polom and move South. This was considered the RED zone of the tour. This was totally 100 percent different from the first three months of our tour. This place was surrounded by razor wire and was a far cry from what we had in Camp Polom. Working in the Orderly Room, I was doing even more typing than before because of my skills. One day while typing I asked what the loud noise was in the distance and was told those were the sounds of mortars going off on the other side of the mountain. Our camp was set up in a valley type area, which really made me feel uneasy, but we were there to do a job and we were doing it.

I recall one night while I was on duty in an Observation post, a family was walking down the dark road with all their belongings they could carry. It was such a sad sight knowing what was going on in this country. On another night, off in the distance I could see tracer rounds as another skirmish was under way.

On 3 July 2002, the battalion was recognized for their actions during this battle that took place in Medak Pocket. It states in part "Members of the Second Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battalion Group received the commendation for their actions during the Medak Pocket operation when members of the Battle Group held their ground while facing enemy fire, forcing the halt of "ethnic cleansing" in their sector".

Being back in Canada, after this tour, I started looking at things differently, realizing how blessed we as Canadians live with such a diverse community of people. To wear the uniform of our country with our country's flag is a privilege and an honour, one I will always cherish. I am so proud of what we did during our tour and of being a Canadian.

Biography

Corporal Roxanne Hurley (Retired) was born in Summerside, PEI in 1961. Being a child of a Military father, she lived in various parts of Canada, such as Brisitsh Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Ontario. After graduating from High School in 1978, Roxanne moved to Halifax, NS where she went to Business College. After completing her program there, she went to work with the Public Service Alliance of Canada working at CFB Halifax, NS.

In 1988, while working at CFB Halifax, Roxanne decided to join the Reserves as an Administration Clerk at 33 Service Battalion in Halifax, while continuing her employment with the Public Service.

After several years in the Reserves, and while working with Land Forces Atlantic Area Headquarters in Halifax, NS, Roxanne decided to volunteer for a UN Peacekeeping Tour with the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry unit based out of Winnipeg from 1993–94. Roxanne wears the Governor General Unit Commendation Pin she received at a parade in December 1, 2002, when the Governor General Adrienne Clarkson presented 2PPCLI with the Unit Commendation for their actions during a battle that occurred in what is called the "Medak Pocket".

After returning from Yugoslavia, Roxanne decided to join the Regular Force and fulfill her dream of being a longtime member of the Canadian Military. Unfortunately, during her training she was injured and was medically released from the Military in 1997.

Roxanne has also taken on the role of Family Contact within 1 Royal Newfoundland Regiment, when members are deployed. Her previous experience as a soldier and wife whose husband has deployed on many occasions, enables her to assist family members greatly. For this she received the Commanding Officers Commendation for support to the Unit. In recognition of her volunteer work and support to the Military Family, Roxanne was presented with the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal on the 22 Jan 2013 by then Lieutenant Governor John Crosbie.



In front of a Canadian Armoured Personnel Carrier painted in United Nations markings.

Roxanne is also a member of the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association, and she volunteers to go out with the members of the association to various activities they perform. During Remembrance week, she goes to local schools with some of the members to partake in school assemblies. On November 20th, 2008, Roxanne received a thank you certificate from the Independent Group of Duke of Edinburgh Awards for a talk she gave at the Peacekeeping Monument in St. John's. Roxanne was asked to give a talk to the group about women in the Military and her experiences during her tour in the Former Yugoslavia in 1993–94. She actively promotes the role of women in the Canadian Forces on all occasions.

Even though Roxanne is no longer in the Canadian Forces, she is proud of the Men and Women of the Military for their work and efforts home and on the various missions they are involved with today. With her background in the Military and her continued support for the Military Community, she was asked to be the model for the female statue (depicting a woman in combat) as part of the Monument of Honor in Conception Bay South, NL, which we believe to be a first in Canada.



St. John's, NL, Canada

Terrence Hurley

Egypt || 1975, Cyprus || 1976–1977, 1983, 1991

West Germany || 1988–1992
Oka Crisis, Canada || 1990
Bosnia-Herzegovina|| 1993
Sierra Leone || 2006

Current Residence: Goulds, NL || Contact: terrence.hurley@pk75.ca

It was with both apprehension and excitement I awoke on May 26, 1975, for the start of what would be my first UN Mission to Egypt with the United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II). A week in Montréal going through what we call the Sausage Machine (Medical, dental needles, lectures etc. and our first supply of anti-malaria drugs and salt tablets). We departed Montréal on 3 June 1975, destination Cairo.

Although Canada's role in this mission was one of logistics, there were approximately 20 of us from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (Infanteers) enroute to Egypt. Although we had specific tasks within the scope of the mission, I believe our secondary role was one of security as a "just in case" scenario arose. I remember when the doors of the Plane opened, and we were hit with a wall of heat. One of the pilots said it was 117°F on the tarmac.



Sergeant Terrence Hurley (right) as a member of the Regimental Colour Guard, Nicosia, Cyprus, 1978. Sergeant Danny Dupuis is on the left, and Lieutenant Don Haisell bears the Colour in the centre.

We were all glad we were travelling in summer dress order but would have been much more comfortable had we been able to be issued the clothing we were to wear in-country. We had been told they would be issuing us with UN Blue Berets during our week in Montréal, but they told us that they too would be issued in country. Imagine, 20 or more soldiers in Green Berets wearing the 8-point star of the Royal Canadian Regiment, quite similar to the Star of David. To say we caused a commotion was an understatement. With head dress removed, we were escorted to our waiting busses and off to our final destination of Ismailia, Egypt.

We had various jobs while employed there — communicators, dispatch drivers, Regimental Police. Mine was that of a communicator during my tour and I had the pleasure of working with the Ghanaian Battalion, situated on the Suez Canal at Great Bitter Lake. The only drawback to this was we (the four of us) were fed by them, and everything they ate was curry this, or curry that. After two weeks of this I arranged for our own food to be delivered. The camp we stayed at was rat infested. Combined with the snakes, scorpions, spiders etc., we slept with one eye open. Although we had no serious injuries during our tour, we had some people returned to Canada due to what we called the "Gypo Gut" an intestinal bug. One friend lost 60 pounds in 3 weeks.

It is hard to describe a six-month tour in a short paragraph, but bottom line is it was a memorable one. I must add one incident which took place in Cairo. We were visiting the largest of the great Pyramids of Giza, built for the Pharoah Khufu. Once entering, I decided I wanted a picture laying in the Pharaoh's Sarcophagus. It did not go well, and I was almost arrested. A few $5.00 US bills and a couple packs of cigarettes resolved the

problem. I got my picture though. I returned home to Canada in December 1975 for a much-needed vacation.

It wasn't eight months later, from October 1976 to April 1977, that I deployed on my second peacekeeping tour with the United Nations, this time to Cyprus. Our mission was to patrol and observe the Greenline between the Turkish and Greek Forces. The tour was uneventful other than the sporadic shots being fired by one or the other side trying to provoke an incident. On posting to Second Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment in 1978, I was once again on the ground about six months when I was off to Egypt for a double tour this time, March to October 1979. I was part of the second last group to leave before the mission ended entirely.

In 1983 and 1991, I deployed again to Cyprus. The 1991 tour was interesting because it was the first time an entire company of Reserves deployed with us. There were only six Regular Force members attached to them. There were a few growing pains but all in all they all performed admirably. A little over a year later I (with 2RCR) deployed to Bosnia in what would be my final United Nations Tour as a member of the Regular Force. With the Reserves, I later completed a UN tour of duty in December 2006 in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

To sum up, I wouldn't change a thing that I've been part of. Although it was stressful at times and many hardships were overcome, to be part of an organization which was there to HELP countries and the people was awesome.

Biography



Chief Warrant Officer Hurley was born in St. John's NL on November 21, 1952, to the late Arthur and Catherine Hurley. He is the middle of 15 brothers and sisters of which there are nine brothers and six sisters. He attended Holy Cross School up to grade 9 and then proceeded to Gonzaga High School when Holy Cross was destroyed by fire. He left school at the completion of grade 10 to join the military.

Chief Warrant Officer Hurley joined the Canadian Forces on 2 February 1971. After successfully completing Recruit Training at Canadian Forces Recruit School Cornwallis, NS, he proceeded to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Gagetown, NB, for his trades training, that of an Infantryman. He was posted to 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment at CFB Petawawa, ON, in November 1971. In November 1975, he was promoted to Corporal. While serving with this unit, he completed tours of duty in Cyprus and Egypt. As well, he was part of the Ace Mobile Force (Land) and partook in several exercises in Norway, during the Cold War.

In 1978 he was posted to 2nd Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment at CFB Gagetown, NB. In April of 1980, he was promoted to the rank Master Corporal, and during the next six years with this unit, he served on two more tours of duty to Egypt, and another one to Cyprus. In April 1983, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He participated in every major exercise the Army ran during these years including an exchange program where he underwent training with the Second/Thirty Forth (2/34) Infantry Division in Fort Stewart, Georgia, USA.

In 1984, he was once again posted to CFB Petawawa to the Regimental Battle School, where for the next two years he trained new recruits. In 1986 he was posted to CFB Winnipeg, again with 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, where he was selected to head up the "Pipes and Drums" of the Regimental Band in the prestigious position of Drum Major. The year 1988 saw him posted to a four-year tour of duty in Baden-Baden, West Germany, during which he was promoted Warrant Officer in 1990. He participated in all the major European NATO exercises during this time. Unfortunately, his tour was cut short due to the OKA Crisis, and the need for his past experiences, and he was posted back to 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, CFB Gagetown, NB. After the OKA situation was resolved, he once again served another tour of duty in Cyprus and one in the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

In 1993, he was posted to CFB Halifax, NS, to a Reserve unit as their Training Warrant Officer. It was here he met his future wife Roxanne, who was also serving in the Military. He remained there until a position became available in his hometown of St. John's, where he and Roxanne moved in April 2000. He assumed the Training Warrant Officer's position for the First Battalion Royal Newfoundland Regiment until his retirement from the Regular Force in April 2004, at which point he had completed 33 years of service. He immediately switched over to the Reserve Force with the First Battalion Royal Newfoundland Regiment. Chief Warrant Officer Hurley was promoted in his present rank in December 2008, and assumed the duties of the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

Chief Warrant Officer Hurley completed his most recent UN tour of duty in December 2006 in Sierra Leone, West Africa. He retired from the Reserves in November 2012 and transferred to the Cadet Organizations Administration and Training Service. He was awarded the Chief of Defence Staff Commendation from General Hillier. Both he and his wife Roxanne also received the Chief of Defence Staff's Coin, a personal memento from General Hillier for their dedicated service. His greatest honour was when he was chosen to be the model for a statue of a Royal Newfoundland Soldier at the Conception Bay South Monument of Honour.

Chief Warrant Officer Hurley and his wife Roxanne, who is also retired from the military, enjoy gardening, golfing and snowshoeing in the winter and currently reside in Goulds, NL. Both children are grown and moved away from home, with one in British Columbia and the other in New Brunswick.



SASKATOON, SK, CANADA

Linda Jardine

Golan Heights, Israel || 1994–1995

Current Residence: Winnipeg, MB || Contact: linda.jardine@pk75.ca

Two years after serving with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), I went on a United Nations (UN) peacekeeping tour. With these two similar acronyms there were times when I forgot who I was serving with and would say I was with NATO when I meant the UN. Being in the Middle East was such an eye-opener but it is not a posting that I will ever regret. It was wonderful, educational, and scary all at the same time.

Our contingent arrived in Tel Aviv on 27 November 1994. The two-to-three-hour drive to our Camp from the airport seemed never-ending. We were all tired since we had been travelling for about 24 hours at this point. Our welcome to the camp was amazing. Everyone was out waiting for us to arrive and to welcome us. They carried our luggage to our barrack rooms and trailers. They made us feel like family. Three months later it was our turn to welcome new arrivals the same way.

Other than dealing with different currencies such as Israeli, Syrian, American, and Canadian, my job as a Finance Clerk was no different in the Golan than in Canada. Of course, the different exchange rates could mess you up, just like when I was working in Europe. It was the secondary duties that were so different. I was part of the Auxiliary Fire Department. In late February 1995, we were called out to assist with a fire in an open field. This field had unexploded mines so we could only surround it to ensure that it did not spread. That was a concern as it was relatively close to a storage location that contained fuel and other flammable items. The only fun time of this duty was when we gave our Camp a demonstration of how a fire truck works. I messed up with the force of the water spray tap, and the members holding the hose had difficulty controlling it at first. This cost me a few coffees.

For a reason that I no longer remember, I had made a bet with one of the Corporals in the mess hall. I won the bet and to honour it he arranged for a very special meal for me, complete with wine, something that had to be approved by the Camp Regimental Sergeant-Major (RSM). It was specifically made just for me, and I had my own table. On his day off, this young man cooked the meal, dressed in a suit and served me my lunch. The picture does not show all the laughs we had that day. To my shame and regret, I cannot remember his name as I did not write it down, but the wonderful memory still makes me smile.



My special lunch.

Another great memory was going to a civilian hairdresser in Tiberius. What a night that first visit was. Four of us had booked appointments. The first one was at 4pm and we did not leave that salon until midnight. The owner only spoke a few words of English. Fortunately, his wife was more fluent. They ordered pizzas for us. It was my first party in a hair salon. He gave me what he called my "Marine hair-cut". It was definitely shorter than quite a few of the men's cuts. I loved it and it was the easiest haircut to care for that I have ever had, but I was concerned about what the RSM would say when he saw it. At that time females could not have haircuts "so short as to give a male appearance". His only comment was on the colour.

I have always considered myself fortunate to be on this tour as I was not originally slated to go. I filled in for a coworker who was unable to leave Canada. I will never forget the sights of Israel and Syria, the friendliness of some Syrian business owners, the difficulties of being a Western woman in a Muslim country, and most of all how fabulous Canada is. I no longer take for granted the little things of being a Canadian.

Biography

I was born in Saskatoon, SK. In early 1967, I was talking with a friend's father about joining the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). He suggested I join the Reserves to see if it was what I really wanted and then I could always transfer to the Regular Force. So, in September 1967 I joined the Naval Reserves — specifically Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Unicorn. By December 1968 I did a component transfer to the Regular Force. Basic Training started in January 1969 at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Cornwallis. That was the start of my journey across Canada.

After completing Finance Clerk trade training, off I went to CFB Esquimalt for my first posting. Canadi-an Forces Supply Depot (CFSD) Toronto was next and gave me experience in another aspect of my trade. I went on to National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ) in Ottawa before returning to CFB Cornwallis as an instructor at the Recruit School. I couldn't neglect the Prairies, so I went to both CFB Edmonton and CFB Winnipeg. I started my international experience with a posting to CFB Baden in Germany. Coming home from Europe meant being posted to CFB Winnipeg again. During this second time in Winnipeg, I was given the opportunity to go on a tour as a Peacekeeper in the Golan Heights.

I have always maintained that my posting to the Recruit School in Cornwallis was the one where I learned the most. I learned the techniques of classroom instruction, teaching drill, plus so many other skills and, most importantly to me, how much I loved being on the ranges firing the old FNC1 rifle (but I am convinced that pistols have teeth). Experiences in Germany and surrounding European countries were wonderful. In 1991, I participated in the International Four Day Marches in Nijmegan in the Netherlands. I was part of a team of 21 women, all of us wives of Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR) members. It was unforgettable. I still have the medal.



Ribbons.

During my career, I received the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) with 2 clasps; the Special Service Medal (SSM) for service with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); the United Nations Peacekeeping medal for service with United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights; and the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal (CPSM).

I retired from the Regular Force as a Petty Officer 2nd Class but continued with the Supplementary Ready Reserve List. Once again, I joined a Reserve Unit at 1 Canadian Air Division until reaching Compulsory Retirement Age (CRA) when I finally hung up my boots. I ended my career in the Reserves, the same way I started it, but with a lifetime of priceless memories. My husband and I stayed in Winnipeg upon my retirement. My career in the Canadian Armed Forces allowed me to travel all over Canada, to live overseas, to see the Middle East, and to make lifelong friends. I wore the Canadian Armed Forces uniform for 34 years and now I am a proud Canadian Veteran.

ZEBALLOS, BC, CANADA

Al Jones

Lebanon || 1981–1982



Current Residence: Almonte, ON || Contact: al.jones@pk75.ca

After my arrival and briefing in Damascus I proceeded to Jerusalem for orientation training before reporting to Nahariya, Israel, for duty in South Lebanon. Arriving in Nahariya, I reported to the Reception and Evacuation Centre (REC), received my duty schedule, and was advised UNMO's reported for duty through UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Naqoura, Lebanon.

Memories of my duty tour are of a unique, enjoyable, and humorous posting. When I deployed, I left at home two young daughters and, unknown to either of us, a pregnant wife. A few weeks after arrival, I received a telephone call from home, at the REC. I took the call in a private office, with apparently very thin walls, as I learned my wife was expecting our third child. I was delighted and, after speaking with my wife, opened the office door to the loud and boisterous applause of all who heard the good news at the same time as myself.

Residing in Nahariya necessitated crossing the Lebanon/Israeli border for each tour of duty. Such crossings could pose problems as, for example, when a Lebanese national, offended at the driver of a UN vehicle, stopped, exited his vehicle, and opened fire over the other vehicle to vent his frustration.

Observation Posts (OPs) had a four-man, unarmed, international team with the primary duty of observing and reporting, to UNIFIL HQ, any activity by the Israel Defence Force (IDF) or Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) within our Area of Responsibility (AOR). We served one week on duty and one week off duty. I served at OPs Ras, Mar, Lab, Hin, Khiam, and with Teams Metulla and Tyre. In addition to observation duties, we completed vehicle patrols of our AOR. My first tour of duty was at OP Hin. The two-story OPs were normally a small walled compound with a generator building, a two-story OP building containing living quarters on the ground floor and an observation area on the top floor. Using Jeep Cherokee vehicles, we departed Nahariya, crossed the Lebanon border, reported to Naqoura, and then proceeded to our assigned OP. The roads were in poor condition and there was much war damage to the areas through which we drove.



OP Khiam, Lebanon, July 2006

While rarely threatened by the PLO or by local factions, UNMOs were occasionally harassed, hijacked, or their OP was physically entered by armed intruders with vehicle and equipment being stolen. UNIFIL HQ was notified by radio after the event, but unarmed UNMOs never offered resistance and allowed the intruders to depart, hopefully without incident.

During my tour I served with many different UNMOs, all of whom were commissioned officers. Many of my humorous memories harken back to the requirement of UNMOs having to prepare a dinner meal, including dinner drinks (alcohol was permitted), appetizers, and dessert for their fellow team members during our five days on duty. One lucky soul had the thrill of cooking two dinner meals during the five-day rotation. UNMOs provided their own food and refreshments, including that for their four-member dinner. OP kitchens were often rudimentary, consisting of a gas stove, with or without a working temperature gauge, sundry pots and pan, dishes and utensils. I was comfortable cooking, but my first meal truly

was an adventure. I prepared a tasty 'Chinese chicken' recipe which I had made many times at home. My first problem was discovering there was no oven temperature gauge, plus I had never cooked with gas. Additionally, there were no metal trays or racks on which to place the chicken. Using the limited utensils available, I prepared the chicken as best I could and placed it in the oven before going upstairs to offer Canadian whiskey drinks and some small appetizer snacks before supper. After several minutes, I returned to the kitchen to find smoke pouring from the oven. Opening the oven, I saw chicken grease furiously smoking and small flames burning under the pans. Ultimately the chicken was finished through a process of cooking and smoking. My other meals improved as I adapted to the limited resources.

There was a French Major who always arrived for OP duty with a minimum of a dozen bottles of wine, shared none, and finished the tour with an equal number of empty wine bottles. There was also a Swedish Captain who asked how to make a green salad. I advised him and that night he just put all the ingredients on the table and told us to make our own. I also served with an Argentine Major who was very proud of his sardine pizza. After we ate the first, unfortunately he advised a second was just finishing in the oven. Oh boy! We did not want to offend a fellow UNMO, so we finished the second pizza, with a few extra drinks. During one tour, a young Danish UNMO, who listened to too many UNMO tales in Nahariya, brought a bottle of Canadian whisky. Seated at the dinner table, he opened the bottle and threw the cap out the OP door, believing we would consume the bottle that evening. During a trip to a Beirut market, I walked past a meat market with a skinned pig hanging outside, covered in flies and with a large sprig of fresh greenery protruding from its hind quarters. Not so appetizing.

Invited to visit Team Metulla by a Swedish UNMO, Nils, who was not military but rather a TV personality who volunteered for UNMO duties, something apparently permissible and not uncommon in Sweden. Myself and a group of others accepted and upon arrival were greeted by Nils, wearing a chef's cap, standing behind a seven-foot sandbag wall preparing to open a can of Surstromming. Surstromming is fermented herring and provides vitamin D in areas with very limited sunlight. The can was distended showing the fermentation, but Nils assured us the Swedish medical officer had confirmed it was safe to consume. Placing the can atop the sandbag wall he began opening it and with a hiss a most noxious odour was released, which one guest described as far worse than any privy he had encountered. However, we all tried a small piece, once! None were ill but it was certainly a once in a lifetime experience.

Scheduled to complete my duty tour in February 1982 it was extended until March as my replacement was unable to arrive as planned. On 19 March at OP Hin, I completed my only UN duty tour and returned home.

On 25 July 2006, during hostilities with the Hezbollah, the Israeli air force bombed OP Khiam killing all four UNMOs, including Major Paeta Hess-von Kruedener, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Biography

Born in Victoria BC, I grew up in Zeballos, BC and, on 9 October 1963, at age 18, joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in Vancouver, BC as an Aircraftsman 2nd class. Basic training was completed at RCAF Station St. Jean, QC before trade training as an Air Force Policeman (AFP) in 1964 at RCAF Station Borden, ON. Transferred thereafter to RCAF Station, Val D'Or, QC for two years, I was then transferred in 1966 to 3 Fighter Wing, Zweibrucken, Germany where I served one year on general security duties and two years as a Sentry Dog Handler.



OP Khiam, Lebanon, 1981

In 1969 I was accepted into the "University Training Plan-Men", returned to Canada, attended the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB, and earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1973. I was posted to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Chatham, NB as a logistics officer, married in 1974 to a woman I had met at UNB, reclassified in 1975 to Security, and completed my Military Police officer training at CFB Borden, ON in 1976.

Following a posting CFB Greenwood, NS from 1976–1980, I was posted to the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) Headquarters, Ottawa, ON in 1980 where I applied for a United Nations Military Observer (UNMO) tour of duty. Accepted, I arrived in Damascus, Syria in September 1981 for a six-month tour as an UNMO with Observer Group Lebanon. After my UNMO posting, I returned to the Ottawa SIU and was posted as Base Security Officer (BSecurO) to CFB Borden. In 1983, I retired and accepted a position with the Bank of Nova Scotia in Toronto as the Manager, Physical Security and Protective Services. Requested by the MP career manager to re-enlist in 1985, I did so and was posted as BSecurO to CFB Edmonton. In 1987 I was promoted Major and posted to Ottawa as Detachment Commander, SIU Capital Detachment, followed in 1990 with two postings to National Defence Headquarters. In 1996 I was posted as Commanding Officer to the Military Security Guard Unit (MSGU), Department of Foreign Affairs, Ottawa. I designed the MSG Unit Badge and Motto which was approved by Governor General Romeo Leblanc in1997, the year I retired.

Upon retirement I worked for five years at the Communication Security Establishment before accepting the position of Company Security Officer with Lockheed Martin Canada, Ottawa. In 2007 I retired to Almonte, ON.



JORDANVILLE, NS, CANADA

Milton Jordan

Egypt || 1975

Current Residence: Liscomb, NS

While stationed in Petawawa, ON in 1975, Sgt Jordan received his orders to go to Egypt for a six-month UN peace keeping mission. Leaving his wife at home with five children, he left in May to carry out his orders. When he left Petawawa, there were still patches of snow on the ground, and when they arrived in Egypt, temperatures were in excess of 40°C.

His job while in Egypt was to oversee food supplies. Including the Canadian contingency that he was part of, there were seven different countries participating in the mission. He soon learned that each country had their own preferences as far as food was concerned and he learned what to order for each contingent. He still smiles when he talks about how happy the Polish contingent was the day their sausages arrived.

For the first few months, their camps consisted of tents set up next to a racetrack outside of Cairo. They were then moved to Port Said where they set up in bombed-out buildings. After their tents in Cairo, they felt like they were living in luxury. The average temperature in Egypt is 35°C so their workday was from 6:00 am until noon. Sgt Jordan's first job of the day was to check the supply building. One morning he walked in to find that a barrel of molasses had exploded from the heat. Sgt Jordan, along with Major Murphy, would regularly drive out into the desert to check what was required for the other camps. Despite language barriers, they managed to keep everyone fed.

The thing that hit hardest (besides the heat) was witnessing the poverty of the local people. Entire families would gather on the sidewalk to eat meager meals. Very few people could afford to pay for buses. Once the paying customers had been loaded and the bus started moving, people would start jumping on the outside and hold on for a free ride. When the UN supply ships were being unloaded, there were armed guards posted to prevent looting.



Egyptian garbage truck.

Sgt Jordan did manage to get some "tourist" activities in during his stay. He visited the Great Pyramids and got to ride a camel. He also made a trip to King Farouk's palace and was stunned by the size and luxury. It was hard to imagine that, in a country with so much poverty, there was also this kind of wealth.

Sgt Jordan was proud to be in Egypt serving his country and the United Nations, but it was a long time away from home and family. He looked forward to the letters from home written on tissue thin "airmail" paper/envelope combination. By the time his tour was over in November, he was happy to get back to the snow in Petawawa but will always remember with pride his service with the peacekeeping forces.

Biography

Milton Jordan (Miltie) was born Dec 15, 1935, in Antigonish NS, and grew up in Jordanville with five older siblings, a half sister, and a younger brother. Miltie went to school in Indian Harbour Lake until the age of 14. He left school in grade 8 to go work in the woods to help support the family.

With few opportunities in rural NS during the 1950's, he took his older sister's advice and joined the army following in her footsteps, and those of his father and older brother. On Aug 4, 1954, he joined the army and began Basic Training in Petawawa, ON. That began his 25-year career in the army with 3rd Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (3RCHA) which included postings to Debert, NS (1954–1957), Gagetown NB (1957–1960), Iserlohn, Germany (1960–1964), Winnipeg MB (Jan 1964–Oct 1964), back to Gagetown, NB (Oct 1964–Aug 1971), Petawawa ON (1971–1976), and his final posting to Gagetown (1976–1978). While serving in Germany, he was transferred to the Ordinance Corps, and then in 1971 he was again transferred to the Royal Canadian Engineers. In 1975, while stationed in Petawawa, Miltie did a six-month peacekeeping tour in Egypt. He was honorably discharged on April 18, 1979.

On May 18, 1957, Miltie married Pauline Lorena Rudolph and they had five children. Being away from family in strange new places was sometimes challenging, but the kids all have fond memories of family activities, including camping and fishing in the summer, and backyard skating rinks and mile-long toboggan hills in the winter.

After retiring from the army in 1979, Miltie and Pauline returned to their roots. They moved to Liscomb, NS to build their retirement home. Miltie enjoyed several more careers over next 30 years but has always been most proud of his military service.

In 1979 he took a truck driving course and drove pulp trucks until 1981. The job was very demanding and kept him away from home a lot, so he decided to make another change. His next job was manager of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 86 in Liscomb (Spanish Ship Bay) NS. He held that position from 1981-1986. Miltie took it upon himself to spend most of his free time organizing fund raising events and collecting money and prizes from local businesses, and securing government grants for community projects such as a ball field and playground. Even after leaving as manager, Miltie has remained a dedicated member. Over the years he has been honored with numerous volunteer awards, and in 2013 was awarded a lifetime membership.

From 1986 to 2000, Miltie managed the municipal dump and transfer station. With military precision, he soon had the place looking more like a picnic park than a dump. His outgoing personality and infectious sense of humor made a trip to the dump an adventure to look forward to.



At the pyramids.

Miltie's commitment to his community did not go unnoticed. While preparing to retire at 65, he was urged to run for municipal council. He then embarked on his political career. In Oct 2000, he was elected as a municipal councillor, and soon after became Deputy Warden and then Warden. During his term, he was instrumental in securing money for the smaller communities in the municipality for activities such as Christmas Tree Lighting and other community events. In 2004, Miltie retired for the last time.

After retiring, Miltie had more time to focus on personal activities, but continued to serve the community and his Legion branch, and still holds a flag for Remembrance Day Ceremonies. At 87, Miltie has slowed down some, but you will still see him mowing his yard and plowing his driveway. He also acts as the self-appointed flag police for the community. He once stopped at the local RCMP office to tell them that their ragged flag was a disgrace and should be changed. A couple days later, it was. He has also been seen putting a new flag (from his personal supply) up at the local senior's apartment complex. He and Pauline currently live on 6th lake in Stillwater NS, and enjoy frequent visits from their four remaining children, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



KITCHENER, ON, CANADA

Michael Jorgensen

Croatia || 1994–1995

Cyprus
Ice Storm and Floods, Canada || 1997, 1998
Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1998–1999
Afghanistan || 2012

Current Residence: Kingston, ON || Contact: 613-876-8228

AN OPERATIONAL INITIATIVE WITH CONSEQUENCES

I returned from UN leave prior to New Year's Eve, 1994, to hear my two-week period as acting Battle Group Commander would kick off with a tactical initiative on the last day of the year. The actual Battle Group Commander had left for his UN leave but had set in motion this initiative entailing the removal of three illegally established Krajina-Serb Observation Posts (OPs) from the UN protected area. The UN Protection Force Headquarters had tasked our nearly 800-member Battle Group from the 1st Battalion of The Royal Canadian Regiment to accomplish this task. I was thrilled to be in overall command of the Battle Group's operations that day, and planned to be present at one of these sites 31 December 1994.

The operation involved the simultaneous, forcible removal of the OPs — each consisting of a 40-foot white accommodations trailer, minor entrenchments, and a 10-member section of armed, irregular military personnel. The operation was scheduled for first light, with cold conditions and a bit of fog to assist our covert approach. We first isolated each OP by cutting communications wires and employing other technical means. At each OP, Combat Engineers cleared an approach route of potential mines for a 30-member Infantry Platoon to use to approach the position. The Platoons deployed in Armoured Personnel Carriers but dismounted to surround the position and force the Krajina-Serbs — who had mainly remained inside the warm accommodation trailers — to exit unarmed and with their hands over their head.

Once these soldiers had been searched and secured, our troops secured the trailer and seized weapons and equipment found therein. Our soldiers cleared the trailers so quickly that they had to hand-carry out a wood-burning stove — still lit and smoking heavily, before the trailer could be prepared for transport. Our Military Police then documented our detainees and their weapons, while yet other Combat Engineers lifted the 40-foot trailers onto flatbed trucks for transport to our base compound, while additional heavy equipment restored the area to its natural state. The detained Krajina-Serb soldiers were delivered to their side of the DMZ, and their command structure advised of their location to ensure they were safely and quickly returned. This transpired quickly, and our troops were clear of the sites within an hour of the start of the operation — reflecting their tremendous professionalism and courage.



Croatia, 1994–95.

The operation's success reflected careful planning and rehearsals. Our plans had remained secret, and surprise had been complete. Following the operation, we directed all elements of the Battle Group to return to their camps, given that we expected some reaction from the Krajina-Serb forces. Once we believed everyone to have safely returned to their bases, we completed our reports and proceeded to celebrate New Year's Eve.

At the Battle Group HQ dining facility, I joined the two senior officers in our Camp — our anesthetist and surgeon. We had just finished loading our plates, filling our glasses, and moving to a table to propose a toast and start our meal, when a duty

officer arrived to whisper in the ear of the surgeon that we had wounded personnel arriving. We ditched dinner and I sprinted to the Command Post (CP) to be brought up to speed — spotting en route an Iltis (4x4 wheeled vehicle) sitting at an odd angle by the Advanced Surgical Center, and clearly suffering from damage, including flat tires.

At the CP I learned that a group of Krajina-Serb soldiers had ambushed two of our soldiers as they drove through the Krajina-Serb-held town of Kolarina. These brave soldiers had suffered multiple gunshot wounds as they crashed through the ambush and had then driven approximately 13 kilometers on two flat tires, while bleeding and in pain! They were processed at the Advanced Surgical Center where I spoke with one of them shortly after passing orders to the various sub-units of the Battle Group over the command net radio. We notified their next of kin — no mean feat, given that it was New Year's Eve back in Canada. We focused on accounting for all personnel, and adopted the appropriate tactical posture in response to this serious attack — including meeting with the senior "Corps Commanders" of the forces we knew to be responsible.

Both soldiers recovered from their wounds, including Master-Corporal John Tescione who was airlifted for further medical treatment in the following days. The driver, Private Phillip Badani, received the Meritorious Service Medal, and was recognized as Peacekeeper of the Year by the UN. Both continued to serve the Canadian Armed Forces. The vehicle, bearing nearly 60 bullet holes, was displayed in the Canadian War Museum as testimony to the risks of Peacekeeping Operations.

Biography

Brigadier-General Mike Jorgensen (Retired) has served 37 years in the Canadian Armed Forces. An Infantry officer with The Royal Canadian Regiment, he served with all three battalions of the Regiment as well as the Canadian Airborne Regiment. He has completed the U.S. Army Ranger Course. He commanded at every rank level — including command of P Company (a mechanized infantry company) in Germany, as a Major; the 3rd Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment as a Lieutenant-Colonel; the Army's Combat Training Center as a Colonel; and, the Canadian Army's Land Force Western Area (one of the Army's four Regional Commands) as a General Officer.



Mike Jorgensen, Croatia, 1994–95.

Mike served in various Headquarters and training posts — including G3 (Senior Operations Officer) of the 2nd Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group; Directing Staff at the Canadian Land Force Command and Staff College; Director Army Training; Director Professional Development at the Canadian Defence Academy; Assistant Chief of Staff J5 Plans at NATO's Allied Joint Force Command in Brunssum (the Netherlands); and Chief of Staff to the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff of the Canadian Armed Forces. He also completed the National Security Studies Program at the Canadian Forces College.

BGen Jorgensen (Ret'd) has served on operational tours in Cyprus (UN Peacekeeping), Croatia (UN Peacekeeping) and Bosnia (NATO). He has participated in two major domestic operations: Operation Recuperation (Ice Storm) and Operation Assistance (Winnipeg Floods). He is an officer of the Order of Military Merit, he has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (Bosnia), and he is the recipient of the NATO Meritorious Service Medal for his leadership of a 2012 NATO investigation team in Afghanistan. He has completed a Master of Business Administration degree.

Following retirement from the Canadian Armed Forces, Mike served two years with Veterans Affairs Canada. In 2016–17, he worked as the Director-General Overseas Commemorative Events for the events and activities marking Canada's Centennial Commemoration of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, the 75th Anniversary of the Raid on Dieppe, and the Centennial Commemorations for the Battle of Passchendaele. In 2018, he worked as a Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister within Veterans Affairs Canada in support of initiatives aimed at streamlining and enhancing services available to military Veterans as they transition from active duty into retirement. BGen Jorgensen (Ret'd) retired fully in 2018, and lives with his wife, Marlene, in Kingston, ON, Canada.



MILITARY FAMILY, CANADA

Serge Labbé

Somalia || 1992–1993

Cyprus || 1974
Kosovo || 1996–2008
Afghanistan || 2004

Current Residence: Kingston, ON || Contact: serge.labbe@pk75.ca

OUR LEGACY IN SOMALIA

Through our presence in the Belet Uen Humanitarian Relief Sector (Somali Province of Hiran), Canadian sailors, soldiers, and airmen and women helped save hundreds of thousands of lives. I was blessed by excellent, progressive, and visionary headquarters staff and subordinate commanders who understood from the outset that, to bring lasting peace and security to the country we needed to do more than secure a peaceful environment during our six-month mission. We needed to work with the emerging legitimate Somali leadership and humanitarians in our area of operations to regenerate traditional tribal governance institutions, re-establish credible local security forces, and stimulate the economy.

Whilst imposing the secure environment necessary for the humanitarians to undertake their work, we engaged with the local tribal kings and convinced them to put their differences aside and establish credible governance committees focussed on improving the plight of the local poor; at their request, we de-mobilised the illegal militias and left it to the tribal leaders to re-integrate the young men back into society; we helped former police officers re-establish police forces in the various communities in our area of operations, training them and conducting joint patrols with them — day and night; and, we suggested to the elders we were prepared the help them re-open schools which had been closed during the preceding months of violence. We facilitated; we didn't dictate; it was about helping Somalis to implement their own plans to redress Somali problems.

I reached out to the Canadian High Commission in Nairobi, Kenya, and was able to access money from the Canada Fund, as well as contributions from the World Food Programme in Mogadishu, to pay for the restoration of former school buildings and to provide a stipend for the demobilised militias to undertake the work. In typical Canadian fashion, without being told to do so, our doctors and nurses visited what had once been a hospital, and discovered nothing but destitution — we sent troops in to clean and repair the building and our medical staff spent weeks refreshing former Somali doctors and nurses to look after their own. We used every opportunity to employ members of the communities to support our work, always conscious of the need for the tribal elders to ensure equitable employment opportunities amongst the 16 tribes of the region.



May 1993 — The final school opening in Belet Uen prior our departure, presided by the community elders and Canadian High Commissioner Lucie Edwards, who had provided the Canadian Joint Force Somalia so much support — morally and financially — during our tour in the Horn of Africa. The elders gave me a Somali spear and a cane?

With Somali elders seen as providing credible results, to include empowering women, Somali police officers ensuring genuine security, and children back in school, the economy began to grow, and communities became stronger. In time. when troublemakers entered our area of operations, it was the Somalis who turned them away … not us.

Near the end of our tour, U.S. Presidential Envoy to Somalia, Ambassador Robert Oakley, remarked in a letter to then Minister of National Defence Kim Campbell: "Canada has every reason to be extremely pleased and proud of its military forces in Somalia… our military has a lot to learn from yours about this sort of activity."

But ultimately, it is those we deployed to serve, in this case, the Somali people, who must be the final arbiters of

our performance. Notorious warlord Abdi Osman Farah, Vice Chairman of the United Somali Congress, had a letter dropped off at my headquarters during my last days in the country. Given his role in the extreme violence which had resulted in the famine in Somalia, I was sceptical… but his words were flattering: "… the people of Hiran were truly satisfied with your stay in the region and the humanitarian assistance you extended to them. In other parts of Somalia where foreign troops were operating, we did not receive from the natives anything rather than complaints. I want to assure you that you and your troops have left an undying love in the hearts of the Hiran people." Whilst he and his militias were attacking and killing foreign troops throughout the country, he allowed us to redeploy to Canada untouched.

As I left Belet Uen for the last time in late June of 1993, General Hubero, the Chief of Police, was at the dirt airstrip to shake my hand and say goodbye. Looking me in the eye, he said, through our interpreter: "The Canadian Armed Forces have done more for our region in five months than the previous two regimes in 30 years." To those 1,500 Canadian heroes who achieved 30 years of work in five months, I salute you.

Biography

As the eldest of three sons to a Royal Canadian Air Force officer and a Québécoise mother, I very quickly got used to living overseas in the U.S., the Middle East, and Europe, changing schools every two years, making new friends, and adapting to new societies, cultures and languages... and enjoying it. That's why, at 16 years of age, whilst in Grade 12 at the Canadian High School in Lahr, Germany, I decided to apply to join the Collège militaire royal de Saint Jean and make a career of serving my country in uniform — not because of a particular penchant for violence but, rather, to help contribute to a more peaceful world in uniform.



May 2011 — It took a lot of convincing to get Ismael Khan (on the right), Afghan Minister of Energy and Water, to travel to Kandahar to visit one of Canada's signature projects in Afghanistan — the Dahla Dam. A Tajik warlord from the northwest of the country, he was captured and imprisoned by the Taliban in Kandahar for three and a half years. But he eventually acquiesced. Seen here with the Governor of Shah Wali Khot District at the top of the dam.

I was eventually accepted and reported to Saint Jean in September 1969, switching to the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, ON, in 1972 and graduating with 1st Class Honours in Chemical Engineering (Nuclear Option) in May of 1974. I was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Royal 22ième Régiment (Canada's only Regular Force, French-speaking infantry regiment), but was immediately assigned to 1 Commando in the Canadian Airborne Regiment, and sent to Cyprus to assume my first command — 20 hardened paratroopers who had been there since April and had attempted to keep the peace, despite a Greek Cypriot National Guard coup d'état and subsequent Turkish intervention. It was a tough initiation for a young officer but, as I had been advised in advance, I listened to my platoon sergeant and led from the front.

The end of my tour with the Airborne Regiment occurred in the Summer of 1976 in Montréal where, together with most of the Canadian Army, we had deployed to help provide a secure environment for the conduct of the Olympic Games — they took place impeccably, without incident. Immediately thereafter, I was assigned to the 1st Battalion of the Royal 22ième Régiment in Lahr, Germany. I subsequently served with my Régiment in various command and staff positions, taking command of the 3rd Battalion — 950 soldiers, non-commissioned officers and officers — in August of 1986 at the age of 34.

Thereafter, I assumed the responsibilities of Chief of Staff at the 1st Canadian Division. Whilst there, I was selected to command the Canadian Joint Force Somalia which deployed to the Horn of Africa, from December 1992 to June 1993 — some 1,500 soldiers, sailors and airmen and women — operating as part of a U.S.-led coalition of the willing under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. As such, we were part of a UN-mandated peace enforcement operation with more robust rules of engagement than those normally associated with peacekeeping.

I would eventually be sent overseas once again to serve in a series of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) headquarters — NATO being the organisation created, in 1949, by some European nations, as well as the U.S. and Canada, to keep the Euro-Atlantic area safe against possible Soviet and Warsaw Pact aggression. During this 1996–2008 timeframe, I served as part the NATO Kosovo Force Joint Implementation Commission, trying to bring peace between Serbs and Kosovar Albanians in the besieged Province of Kosovo and, in the process, helping stem the Albanian insurgency in southwest Serbia in early 2001. I would also complete two tours in Afghanistan — one as Deputy Chief of Staff for the UN-mandated, NATO-led International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan in 2004; the other as Commander of the Canadian Strategic Advisory Team — a small team of Canadian Armed Forces senior officers and civil servants focussed on enhancing the human and institutional capacity of Afghan non-security ministries. All this was part of a massive international effort to bring peace and security to a nation then ravaged by nearly three decades of war.

My commitment to the Afghan nation and people was such that, upon retiring from the Army in 2008, I returned as a civilian consultant, working for both the Afghan Government and the international community for several years, trying to set the conditions for a lasting peace which, tragically, was not to be. I continue to seek every opportunity to help those in need, having worked for the charity Lionhearts here in Kingston, and as Chief of Staff of the Ontario COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force in the 2020–2021 timeframe. I currently live in Kingston, ON, with my spouse of 48 years — Hope née Turner — and continue to consult for NATO.



Québec, QC, Canada

Joseph Louis Laplante

Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1993–1994

Haiti || 1996-1997

Ice Storm, Canada || 2000

Current Residence: Barrie, ON || Contact: louis.laplante@pk75.ca

I was working as a Corporal Vehicle Technician assigned to maintain the armoured vehicle in Valcartier QC, when my Warrant Officer came to meet me to discuss and tell me that I was leaving for a Mission soon and that I had to start training in Weapons, Grenades, Communication, Logistics, Medical, and Administration etc. Also, to complete a mandate in case of incapacity and to learn the rules of engagement for our own protection and the protection of others. The pre-deployment training lasted about three months. During an administrative training day, I had a meeting with the Chaplain (Regimental Priest) as my wife was two months pregnant with our second child and he wanted to know if there was a problem with me going on a six-month mission. My wife and I talked it over and she said yes and put up with it straight away knowing what she was expecting. She is wonderful.

As an Armoured Vehicle Mechanic Corporal, you must know a lot of things other than mechanics. I was the Head of the Armoured Vehicle called the Husky of the AVGP family. The various mechanical maintenance tasks that awaited us were engine adjustments, brake maintenance more often than usual as the wheels get filled with mud and dirt. Also, the hydraulics like the winch and the crane to get the vehicles out of the mud and to tow them back if necessary. My huge toolbox with an inventory of spare parts and special tools and lubricants and chain drives on the wheels. Our inventory of ammunition and weaponry was quite sufficient as well as a rail mounted machine gun and grenades and smoke and M-72's placed in order inside the Husky as well as our C-7 assault rifle which we had to always keep clean. We were well equipped to succeed in our mission.

The military vehicles of the convoy were often several on the road to carry supplies to the camps such as food, fuel, and various equipment and it was then that my Husky vehicle joined the ranks of the convoy at the rear of the convoy with the ambulance. And off we went on an adventure for several days



Feb 1994 Near Sarajevo Airport

on the sometimes icy and muddy roads towards the Adriatic coast to bail out. Problems encountered on the dangerous roads were commonplace like contaminated fuel filters, overheating brakes in the mountains, battery charging system, fluid leaks, flat tires, and I could name many more. In fact, the smell of diesel fuel was part of the daily routine and on our clothes too and the cold. The fighting forces installed mine bypasses to make it more difficult for us in convoy and the fatigue that came into play. We had to make do with it and repair to leave as quickly as possible despite the presence of the sometimes-aggressive belligerents. The whole days driving in convoy, one had to rest and sleep on the way. When the convoy vehicles were stopped for the night sometimes it was during this time that we completed the repairs and maintenance of the vehicles so that we were always ready, this was our job and our responsibility. One evening we stopped at a British camp, and we all slept in the gym for a few hours. There must have been over 300 men and women from the British, Dutch, and other UN contingents sharing space in the local gym. Sometimes the same gym was used as a temporary prison. Early the next morning we set off on the road with our Armoured Vehicle Husky and our machine gun ready to go.

Most of the maintenance and repair of the Canadian vehicles was done at Camp VISOKO in Bosnia-Herzegovina, about a 40-minute drive from the City of Sarajevo, which was mostly destroyed by Serbian artillery and mortar fire. The residents of Sarajevo were as terrified as others anywhere else.

One evening in January 1994 while we were working on the vehicles at Camp Visoko our supervisors came running to us and there was an emergency because one of our 12 RBC armoured vehicles (Cougar) had turned upside down and maybe there were casualties we didn't know about. So by the time I got my tool box in the Husky we were off and running to get there as quickly as possible to deploy our winch and also the Tow Truck was there and several civilians.

During the recovery procedure, out of nowhere a T-54 Armoured vehicle of the warring parties passed by our parked HUSKY vehicle and drove on without stopping then smashing part of the back of the Husky and luckily for us, we were in the clear. Inside the damaged Cougar vehicle, the batteries were damaged, and the battery acid was everywhere, and on my clothes, because I had to go inside to make adjustments. The acid in contact with the clothes makes holes in your clothes. However, no one was hurt, and we returned to Camp Visoko with the damaged vehicles which we would repair shortly.

The various Peacekeeping Units such as the French and British Troops, also the Dutch forces and of course the Canadians, had all worked well as a team and supported each other. A fact known to all was the excellent reputation of the Kitchens in our camp in Visoko. On a well-deserved break during our six-month mission, we went to St. Peter's in Italy in March 1994 and had a private audience with the Holy Father John Paul 2. There were about 70 of us Soldiers in front of the Holy Father and our Colonel Moore Commanding Officer of 12 RBC said afterwards that he had never experienced us being so quiet and you could have heard a fly flying as the Holy Father entered our meeting. Shortly after completing the Mission and returning to Canada my wife gave birth to a lovely daughter whom we named Jessika the little sister of our son Simon. Arte & Marte.

Biography

Born in Québec City, Master Corporal Joseph Louis Laplante (Retired) was a member of the Regular Force of the Canadian Armed Forces as a Private and Vehicle Electrical and Mechanical Engineer from September 1986 to September 2005. He served in NB at Base Gagetown in Base Maintenance and the Armour School, and later transferred to Valcartier, QC with the 5e Régiment d'Artillerie légère du Canada (Canadian Light Infantry). Serving with the Close Support Battery, he had two deployments. The first was to the former Yugoslavia, 1993–1994, and the second to Haiti, Port au Prince, Camp Maple Leaf, in 1996–1997.

Upon his return from the former Yugoslavia, his wife Jo-Anne gave birth to their second child. He deployed with the 55 Service Battalion during and after the winter ice storm that affected most of Québec in 2000. Subsequently, the family was transferred to Borden ON and Master Corporal Laplante worked at the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering School, as well as for the Regimental School as a Chief Instructor. Called upon to become highly qualified to teach the brand-new Armoured Vehicle LAV 3, he underwent training courses in London ON, on the brand new LAV 111 and subsequently taught many military personnel from across Canada, as well as the civilian technicians employed at DND. During his time teaching at Borden, he created a special study system for some academically challenged students. This special study system was a great success and it is still in operation today.

After his military career, Louis took a course as a Beneficiary Attendant at the Adult School in Barrie, ON and then worked at



a Residential and long-term care centre in Québec City, called St-Bridgid's Home. He did so for two years, during which he also completed the full provincial certification course. Then in late 2006, Louis started a new job, as a civilian with the public sector and returned to Base Supply back in ON; his return to Québec had been short lived.

Louis worked for the next 13 years for the Department of National Defence as a kitchen equipment supply and maintenance technician, handling and maintaining cleaning equipment in Borden.

He enjoys riding his motorbike, playing guitar, volunteering at the local food bank, and supporting the Royal Canadian Legion and the Canadian Association of Veterans of United Nations Peacekeeping.



KINGSTON, ON, CANADA

John G. Leech

Egypt UNEF II

Current Residence: Ottawa, ON || Contact: john.leech@pk75.ca

OP DANACA: THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE FIRST CANADIAN CONTINGENT TO UNEF 2

In October 1973, I was a Major, Deputy Commander of 1st Canadian Signal Regiment. We were deployed to CFB Penhold on a major Canada/U.S. exercise and on TV watched the beginnings of the Yom Kippur/October War in the Sinai desert. Little did we know what awaited us…

Shortly after our return to Kingston, ON, I joined a planning conference at Mobile Command HQ working on a contingency plan for Canadian participation in a UN Force to supervise the cease-fire in the Middle East. After working away on a proposed Signals contribution to such a force, I was abruptly deployed to Egypt as the Signals member of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Team. This multi-discipline team (Logistics, Engineer, Signals, Air Transport, Medical, etc.), commanded by BGen D.S. Nicholson, traveled to Cairo on 5 November to report on the resources needed to support a force of up to two brigades! I was accompanied by four operators from the Regiment to act as driver/secretarial support to the Team. Travelling by Hercules aircraft, we stopped in Cyprus to pick up three jeeps from our UN contingent there and pressed on to Cairo to begin our work. We were quartered in the Cairo Sheraton, the city still in wartime blackout, a surreal environment.

No sooner had we submitted our report and plan to UN HQ when we learned that the USSR had objected to this action by a NATO member and sent a similar team from Poland to provide political balance. With the benefit of the work we had already done, the UN Security Council decided to allot the force communications task to Canada (as well as supply, air transport and movement control). Poland was tasked to provide ground transport, engineers, and medical.

The Canadian Contingent was to be based on the Signal Regiment (for the HQ and Signal Squadron), a newly formed Service Unit and an Air Transport Unit, all augmented by



Coffee Break at Contingent HQ, Camp Shams Maj Mel MacLeod, Capt Chris Wellwood, Col George Simpson, Capt Tony Stasieciwiz, Maj John Leech.

significant engineering, logistic, medical, and other elements, all deployed through CFB Kingston.

My job as Advisory Team signals advisor complete, the Regiment's operators and I converted into the ad hoc reconnaissance party for the Canadian Contingent. Exploring the teeming streets of Cairo, we soon got to know our way around and looked at several sites for the contingent, but most were unsuitable. On 11 Nov, we led the Advance Party to Shams racetrack in Heliopolis, a suburb of Cairo. It was the best location offered, with lots of room to camp, hard standing, water, etc.

Over the next three weeks, the remainder of our contingent (over 1000) deployed, and along with the Poles and the administrative support elements of all the units providing disengagement patrols in the Sinai, Camps Shams filled up quickly. I was reincarnated as the Canadian Camp Commandant dealing with the administrative support for our units and the daily life of a bustling camp.

Life on the outskirts of Cairo was never dull. Many of us were lucky enough to get to know local authorities and explore this teeming metropolis. After years of association with the

USSR which had provided funding for such huge projects as the Aswan High Dam, the Egyptians we met were happy to re-encounter Canadians, as many had good memories of our service in UNEF I after the Suez Crisis. We met a hospitable group of US Presbyterians who welcomed us to their church at Christmas (I joined the choir after that!) and soon learned the warmth of true Arab hospitality. Occasional trips into Israel and Upper Egypt only whetted my appetite to learn more about this troubled part of the world.

The multi-national campground at Shams remained in place for almost four months. Then the support base moved to Ismailia (my last reconnaissance job before returning to Canada in Feb 1974). The HQ of UNEF II remained in Ismailia until its disbandment in 1979.

There is obviously much more to tell, and many others who could add to the saga. Suffice it to say that it was a unique and learning experience for a young Major and one for which I have many good memories.



Canadian and Polish Lines at Shams Camp.



The stadium at Shams Camp.

Biography

I was born in Kingston, ON, in late 1942. My father was in the Army, and back in Canada for a year away from his only foreign posting: WW II. Growing up in Kingston and Ottawa, it seemed natural, after high school, to apply for Queen's University, but also to the Royal Military College. I got two messages of acceptance: one from Queen's asking for my first tuition payment and the other saying I should pick up a train ticket and head off for Royal Roads on the West coast! That train ride to Esquimalt began a military career of 37 years after I was commissioned in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals in 1964.

As luck would have it, I never succeeded in landing a posting I asked for, but I wouldn't change any place I've been. I was fortunate enough to spend all my time in the Army, until the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, mostly in operating units, including an exchange posting with the British Army in Northern Germany and command of the Headquarters and Signal Squadron in Valcartier (QGET 5 GBC) during the October Crisis in 1970.

I married my high school sweetheart who sacrificed a promising career herself to join me in Cold War travels from Valcartier to Kingston to Northern Germany to Brussels. We have two children born in Hanover and Kingston.

The UN operation I was involved in occurred when I was a Major (most Signal Officers had at least one, as Canada was always in demand to provide communications for the peacekeeping forces: a tribute to the outstanding professionalism of our soldiers).

My military education included Army Command and Staff College in Kingston, and the National Defence College. I spent most of the 1980s in Brussels, Belgium at NATO Headquarters, returning to command Canadian Forces Communication Command.

In June 1997, while serving in Ottawa, I retired from the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) as a Major General after a satisfying career in Army operations, personnel policy, and communications-electronics, including service with UN, U.S., UK and NATO forces. I was appointed to the Order of Military Merit at the Grade of Commander (CMM) in 1993, and elected President of the CAF Communications-Electronics Association in 2020.

For several years after my retirement, I worked as a consultant, mainly for AFCEA Canada, an international association for information technology professionals. I was widowed after almost 50 years of marriage to Anne (Fletcher). I now do volunteer work in environmental protection, and our local church now occupies my time. My current hobbies include skiing, learning golf, and singing in the church choir.



HALIFAX, NS, CANADA

Maureen Levy

Iraq || 2018–2019

Current Residence: Surrey, BC || Contact: maureen.levy@pk75.ca

I am originally from Halifax, NS. Although I did not come from an affluent family, I fondly remember just how generous people were with their time when I was growing up. This remains a huge influence on me to this day. I am an introvert. My mom, knowing this, told me to remain authentic and be kind to others. She taught me to reach for the stars and challenge myself. Never give up on my dreams, no matter the obstacles that may present themselves along the way.

One of the ways my mom helped me with my introversion was by finding a basketball team for me to play on when I was 14 years old. This wasn't easy for her, as I was truly apprehensive to venture out on my own. She understood this and was with me every step of the way. A few months later, I was on a plane heading to an International Basketball Tournament in Regina. The day before our flight home, we had a tour of the RCMP Training Academy in Regina (Depot). We spent the entire day there and I was in awe. I decided right then and there that I was going to be a "Mountie" when I grew up. I never wavered in this regard despite several challenges/obstacles along the way. My mom always told me to go around the "obstacles" and never give up. She said if you challenge yourself, then you will grow as a person no matter the outcome. She used to tell me that adversity builds character, and this continues to resonate with me to this day. It is my humble belief that I would not be where I am today, helping others to the best of my ability if my mom was not the remarkable and formidable person that she was.

I have had numerous postings throughout my career. However, the pinnacle of my career was having the privilege to represent both the RCMP and Canada as a Canadian Peacekeeper in Baghdad, Iraq for a one-year period. This was truly a humbling experience for me. The highlight of my deployment was traveling to Rome, Italy where I was invited to speak at an International Women, Peace and Security Conference celebrating International Women's Day on March 6th, 2019. It was absolutely surreal, and I wouldn't have been able to get there if it weren't for the support of my mom for all those years. She paved the way for me so that I could chase and realize my dream of helping others. My mom was one of the focal points of my speech. She epitomized the inherent good. When you give your time and energy in the service of others, then there is nothing that is insurmountable.



Maureen Levy avec trois femmes policières irakiennes à l'Institut d'apprentissage féminin au ministère de l'Intérieur du gouvernement irakien, en 2019.

As luck would have it, I met another formidable and incredible woman at that conference. Ms. Lamiya Haji Bashar was the keynote speaker. She was born in Iraq and is a Yezidi survivor of ISIS slavery. She is a women's rights activist, and the recipient of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought for 2016. As a survivor of ISIS slavery, she was held for 20 months in the captivity of ISIS. She survived the ISIS captivity and a land mine explosion during her escape. Hearing her story was a profound moment for me. It was humbling to hear Lamiya talk candidly about her captivity. The fact that she had no malice in her heart and all that she wanted was justice versus revenge was inspiring. I was privileged to spend two days with both Lamiya and Mr. Mirza Dinnayi. Mr. Dinnayi is a Yezidi human rights activist and the Director of the German NGO Air Bridge Iraq. I remain in touch with both of them to this day.

All too often we get caught up in things that have little

consequence. We all need to remind ourselves that if we truly care about what we do and how we should treat people, then there is nothing that we cannot achieve together. Kindness and generosity of spirit goes a long way! My mom, Lamiya and Mirza have all left indelible fingerprints on my heart and the world is a better place because of them.

Biography

Originating from Halifax, NS, Assistant Commissioner Maureen Levy has been a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) for over 33 years and is currently the District Commander for "E" Division's Lower Mainland District.

Assistant Commissioner Levy began her career in law enforcement in 1988 after graduating from Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS, with a Bachelor of Commerce Degree. The first seven years of her service were in Alberta, where Assistant Commissioner Levy carried out a variety of general duty policing functions. Assistant Commissioner Levy then went on to spend five years in the Canadian Arctic. There, she continued to perform general duty policing functions in Rankin Inlet and Pangnirtung in Nunavut Territory and Aklavik in the Northwest Territories.



Maureen Levy speaking at a medal presentation ceremony in Iraq.

In June of 2000, Assistant Commissioner Levy transferred back to Alberta, carrying out plainclothes duties in Commercial Crime. During this timeframe, Assistant Commissioner Levy worked with international partners, gaining valuable skills and experience related to ongoing commercial crime investigations.

While in Alberta, Assistant Commissioner Levy also carried out the role of Senior Career Development and Resourcing Advisor in the Human Resources Sector. In 2003, she obtained her Chartered Professional Human Resources Designation (CPHR). She also holds a Diploma, with Distinction, in Human Resources from Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton, AB. In 2005, she was awarded the Alberta Centennial Medal as formal recognition of her significant contributions and outstanding achievements for her service to others in Alberta.

Assistant Commissioner Levy then transferred to Saskatchewan where she performed a variety of duties including human resources and detachment command. In 2008, Assistant Commissioner Levy was Commissioned to the rank of Inspector and assigned to the position of Staffing Support Officer for British Columbia. Assistant Commissioner Levy then took on the role of Officer in Charge of Occupational Health and Safety for both British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. Also, 2008 marked Assistant Commissioner Levy's 20-year anniversary in the RCMP and she was awarded the RCMP Long Service Medal for irreproachable character in her service with the RCMP. In 2010, she became the Career Development and Resourcing Officer for British Columbia.

On promotion to the rank of Superintendent in 2013, Assistant Commissioner Levy was appointed as the Officer in Charge of Criminal Operations for Nunavut Territory also acting as the Commanding Officer for the RCMP in Nunavut for a period of seven months. During this timeframe, Assistant Commissioner Levy also completed the RCMP International Executive Development Program, offered by both the Canadian Police College and the Hong Kong Police College. Promoted to the rank of Chief Superintendent in 2016, she became the Officer in Charge of Criminal Operations for the RCMP in Saskatchewan.

On September 28th, 2018, Assistant Commissioner Levy was deployed to Iraq for a one-year period as part of the Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR). This international Coalition was U.S.-led and was comprised of seventy-four member states and five international partners with the goal to defeat Daesh.

Assistant Commissioner Levy performed in a dual capacity as both the Canadian Police Contingent Commander and was also the inaugural Chief Gender Advisor for CJTF-OIR. One of her roles was to focus on an inclusive approach with the ultimate goal of improving safety and security for all Iraqi communities through gender mainstreaming. She routinely interfaced with the Senior Command Structure of the Coalition, the United Nations, the European Union, numerous international embassies, NGO's, NATO, the Ministry of Interior (MOI) for the Government of Iraq which oversees all policing services, and numerous civil society stakeholders.

As a result of her dedication and service in Iraq, Assistant Commissioner Levy was awarded three medals: the Canadian Armed Forces General Service Medal; the French National Defence Medal and U.S. Legion of Merit Medal.

Upon return from Iraq in 2019, Assistant Commissioner Levy was awarded the Silver Clasp to add to her Long Service medal for 30 years of service of good conduct in the RCMP. During this timeframe, Assistant Commissioner Levy took on the role of Assistant District Commander and Operations Officer for the Lower Mainland District. In 2021, she was promoted to Assistant Commissioner as the Lower Mainland District Commander.

Assistant Commissioner Levy has had the privilege to sit on several national and international committees on behalf of the RCMP. Examples include the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police International Policing Committee, and she was also sought out and subsequently selected to become the RCMP Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security and has held this role since 2020.



COBOURG, ON, CANADA

David Lightburn

Golan Heights, Israel || 1971–1972

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Brussels

Current Residence: Hasselt, Belgium || Contact: david.lightburn@pk75.ca

UNTSO (AND BEYOND)

My sole traditional UN peacekeeping mission in a 30-year military career was as an observer with UNTSO on the Golan Heights; six months each on the Israeli and Syrian sides of the border.

After some 10 years in the army, when officials decided to send me out as a peacekeeper, the system suddenly realised that I was not a 'real Canadian'; rather the immigrant who was still 'a British subject resident in Canada'. Consequently, within a week, my citizenship was fast-tracked and paid for by the government. Moreover, in order to become a UN observer, one had to be able to drive a 'stick-shift' and my sole experience for that was driving a Centurion tank during basic armour training. Accordingly, I spent a few days in the Petawawa training area as an 8CH major learning to drive, in order to be an observer.

A memorable Observation Post (OP) experience was on one of the two out of four days that I was responsible for all cooking for me and my OP partner. I roasted a whole chicken and forgot to remove the plastic bag containing the giblets. To this day, there is an Italian army officer who still believes that that is the way Canadians roast chickens! I think, however, if there was one serious experience and takeaway memory it was on the Syrian side, whereby when one drove to the OP and, along the way passed through Palestinian areas, some very young boys with older boys holding their hands tossed stones at our vehicles — nothing serious and no damages or injuries, just a token signal. But, it taught me that education systems can be the root cause of bigger problems later.

Since my early UNTSO days the world's peacekeeping has significantly expanded, engaging multiple and diverse international partners and local authorities. I have benefited from a wide range of practical experiences as a member of the Alliance's Bosnia/Balkans Task Force, including diverse operational challenges on the ground, as well as informed and educational discussions and cooperation with key players in Brussels, Vienna, Geneva, Zagreb, Sarajevo, Skopje, New York and Washington. In Bosnia itself, understanding and working with the operations of the UN, several UN Agencies, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), European Union, Bosnian government authorities, the international High Representative in Bosnia, the Bosnian Contact Group, and many non-government organisations and roving national Ambassadors have been critical to my understanding of the complex world today of 'peacekeeping'.



Such experiences also enabled me, over several years, to put pen to paper. I have been published in several editions of the NATO Review, two editions of the Canadian Defence Quarterly and a book (*After Rwanda*), on matters related to Bosnia and to cooperation, coordination, and partnerships in peace operations. Subsequently I authored an '*Exercise Whitebook*' on behalf of Swedish authorities. It is a guide for developing international civilian/military/police education and training based mainly on my experiences in Bosnia and Kosovo and with Swedish training exercise Viking.

Finally, my reflections on my peacekeeping experiences would be incomplete if I did not mention my personal time engaging one-on-one with the face of UN Peacekeeping — Kofi Annan. On

six separate occasions I worked with him. The first two occasions in 1995 and 1996 I was part of a small NATO team visiting the UN when he was Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping, to discuss NATO and civilian peace plan implementation, and another visit concerning the NATO air cap over Bosnia. When he was appointed a special representative of the Secretary-General to the former Yugoslavia in November 1995, I and my Bosnia Task Force Director were with him and his small staff, standing over a fax machine in Zagreb, Croatia receiving the Dayton Peace Agreement for Bosnia page by page. Later, when he was UN Secretary General visiting NATO Brussels, I had the honour twice (1997 and 1999) to brief him and his team over breakfast on the latest NATO and Bosnia news and anticipated discussion topics at the NATO Council meeting later that day. I escorted the UN team to NATO and enjoyed a peacekeeping lunch with Mr. Annan on both occasions. The sixth occasion was to personally brief him and others in Dublin at a UN police donor conference on NATO's special multinational force (police).

Biography



As a former Canadian army Colonel, currently residing in 'near-retirement' in Hasselt Belgium, I have enjoyed more than 66 working years in five different careers. Each career had a significant and evolving peacekeeping dimension, and I remain 'peacekeeping-active' today.

During a 30-year military career (1957–1987) as an Armoured Corps officer with the Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD) and 8th Canadian Hussars (8CH), highlights included: four tours of duty with the regiments including 8CH regimental command (1975–77); nine months at the U.S. Armour school in Fort Knox; a year on the Golan Heights as a military observer with the UN's original mission, UNTSO (1971–72); first operations officer on National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ) Pay Study Team; three years as Canada's Defence Counsellor at the Canadian mission in the Headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in Brussels; Director and author of a six-month study on 'Senior Officer Professional Development' (1986); Director of the Centre for Studies in Defence Resource Management at the Royal Military College in Kingston; and retired from the military as Director Operational Readiness for the Armed Forces in NDHQ Ottawa in 1987.

Civilian life began with a second career, as a civilian official with NATO's international staff (1987–2000). Initially, I was responsible for drafting the annual report to Defence Ministers on 'Coordination of NATO Defence Planning'. For two years I also managed and authored the Alliance's 'burden-sharing study' and its 1988 report to Ministers ("Shared Roles, Risks and Responsibilities in the Alliance"), and its progress report a year later (1989).

I then became deeply involved with NATO's efforts in support of the Dayton peace plan implementation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Bosnia was a significant 'experiment' in peace operations for the international community, engaging multiple partners in working together in the interests of peace. As a founding member of NATO's Bosnia Task Force (later Balkans Task Force) my role was to monitor (and influence where possible) civilian implementation of the Bosnia peace plan, as well as track and promote relations between NATO's military and the other principal contributors in Bosnia, including the UN and its principal agencies. Based on this and other experiences, I was a regular briefer on Bosnia for diverse groups in NATO's visits program; speaker in NATO's external speakers' program; and drafter of Bosnia speaking notes for the NATO Secretary General.

During my NATO career, I initiated and managed a 'NATO Security Cooperation Course' in support of peace plan implementation; some eight separate courses over three years 1997–2000, each bringing 45 Bosnian military officers together (15 each from the 3 principal cultures) at our NATO school in Oberammergau, Germany. The objective was to build relations within the Bosnian military. On short notice, I also developed a related course in Oberammergau for senior Croatian military and foreign affairs officials, in support of U.S. efforts to fast-track Croatia into NATO's Partnership for Peace Program. In late 1999, I was appointed acting-head of NATO's new peacekeeping section.

After NATO, my third career was with Canada's Pearson Peacekeeping Centre (2000–2003) where I engaged in teaching various aspects of the expanded understanding of peacekeeping, and later (2005–2008) as a guest facilitator on PPC's courses on peacekeeping for senior managers. As a part of my PPC responsibilities, in 2001 I became Secretariat of the new (Canadian and PPC initiative) International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC). When PPC created IAPTC in 1995, I had the privilege of being one of twenty-two 'founding members' by participating in its first annual conference and by bringing NATO (and its Partnership for Peace Program) to the membership, as the first international organisation to contribute to IAPTC.

In late 2003, and until 2016, for a fourth career I became an advisor to Sweden's new Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) in three dimensions — the one using PPC experience to support the creation of a Swedish peacekeeping centre at FBA, a second in supporting Swedish particular interest and involvement in IAPTC, and a third using NATO Bosnia experience with civilian peace plan implementation and civilian/military/police relations as the Director of Civilian Implementation in Sweden's Viking international training exercises.

Finally, as a fifth career, I include a long experience with the aforementioned IAPTC and its fundamental peacekeeping objectives, overlapping all of the three aforementioned 'civilian careers' (NATO, PPC & FBA), and starting with its founding in 1995 and 28 years later through to today. Please see the separate article on the IAPTC in this anthology for details of this most significant Canadian peacekeeping initiative, extremely highly valued by the UN and many countries and organisations today.



RICHMOND, VA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Scott Lingamfelter

Golan Heights, Israel || 1981–1982

Lebanon || 1981
Gulf War
South Korea || 1993-1994

Current Residence: Woodbridge, Virginia, USA || Contact: scott.lingamfelter@pk75.ca

In 1978, the U.S. Army selected me to be a foreign area officer in addition to my primary duty as an artilleryman. The following year, the Army dispatched me to the University of Virginia to obtain a graduate degree in Comparative Governments of the Middle East and Soviet Foreign Policy. I specialized in U.S.-Iranian relations and was programmed to be part of the military attaché office in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran as my "utilization tour." However, when the Iranian revolution erupted and the American Embassy was overrun, the Army revoked my assignment to Iran and, in 1981, sent me to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization headquartered in Jerusalem. When people would ask why the Army picked UNTSO for my utilization experience, I would jokingly say "Well, Israel was the next country on their alphabetical list after Iran." In truth, my assignment to UNTSO was most relevant to my academic studies.

My first assignment in UNTSO was with Observer Group Golan-Damascus in the Syrian capital that supported the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights. Inside OGG-D, I was sub-assigned to Observer Detachment Damascus (ODD). Indeed, it was "odd." There I would be one of two U.S. officers working side-by-side with 18 Russians. Nowhere on the globe would you find U.S. and Russian officers working in such proximity during the Cold War. Yet I would find it a fascinating learning laboratory and gained much insight into how Russian officers thought and acted on a very personal basis. I make this observation in my new book, Yanks in Blue Berets: American UN Peacekeepers in the Middle East.

"I knew the U.S.-Russian relationship would be watched closely by many people in and outside of the UN irrespective of the seemingly minor practical role both countries played in keeping peace in the Golan Heights. In reality, our contribution was more strategic than operational."

Yet it affirmed the legitimacy of UNDOF to have the superpowers configured as we were in Damascus. When I was reassigned to Observer Group Jerusalem (OGJ) four months later, I would reflect on my time with the Russians in Damascus.



Lingamfelters and Gwythers in Syria, 1980.

In the final analysis, while I would have no frontline peacekeeping duties in Damascus, my relationship with the Russians turned out to be beneficial. It demonstrated that avowed adversaries could engage amicably.

However, in OGJ, not only would I work in UNTSO's Operation Center, but also perform observer duty in southern Lebanon as part of Observer Group Lebanon (OGL) supporting the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Duty in southern Lebanon, as I say in my book, was like serving in the "the Wild West without a good saloon." That became quite evident on my first tour at OP Khiam in mid-June 1981. Australian LTC Pat Marshall-Cormack, who was a fellow artilleryman, Canadian infantryman CPT Jean Lefebvre, and our designated team leader, MAJ Edwardo Laciar, an Argentine Army signal corps officer and I took up duties that were quite eye-opening.

On our first day, Lefebvre and I were dispatched to evaluate what could be observed from UNIFIL positions in our area. Their observations had been suspect, and we were to validate what could reliably be observed from those positions. In the process

of climbing and cresting a steep hill in our UN vehicle, Jean and I ran headlong into—inches from our windshield—the barrel of a tank manned by the hostile militia forces of Major Saad Haddad. The Canadian whipped our vehicle into reverse and we cascaded down the hill, only to be held hostage at the bottom for a short while until Jean and I convinced the 16-year-old gunslinger hijacking us that the U.S. and Canada were "really big countries" and hurting us would be a "really bad idea." He eventually agreed. It was a memorable first experience for both of us and included three flat tires that happened while we inspected UNIFIL positions. Jean would reflect on the tire changing at dinner that night: "We changed the tire without dispute—an amazing thing when you consider that we were two officers! Yes, we had no argument. I sat back and Scott changed the tire!"

My UNTSO experience was a significant career highlight.

Biography

L. Scott Lingamfelter was raised in Richmond, Virginia, where he attended public and parochial schools. He then attended the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in Lexington, VA, where he earned a B.A. in History in 1973. After graduating from VMI as a Distinguished Military Graduate (DMG), he was commissioned in the Regular Army of the United States and began a career as a Field Artilleryman and a Middle East Foreign Area Officer (FAO).

In 1979, the U.S. Army awarded him a full academic scholarship to the University of Virginia (UVa), where, in 1981, he earned a Master of Arts in Government and Foreign Affairs (Comparative Governments of the Middle East and Soviet Foreign Policy). After many assignments around the world, including Germany, South Korea, and the Middle East (Egypt, Israel, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria), he rose to the rank of Colonel.



Captain Scott Lingamfelter receiving the United Nations medal for service in UNTSO.

Following his service in numerous combat units, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), as a Political Military Officer in the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (Department of State), and as a senior advisor on Special Access Programs (SAP) to the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, he concluded his military career as Military Assistant to the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the U.S. Joint Forces Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College where he served as class president. He retired in 2001 after 28 years of active-duty service.

In particular, Colonel Lingamfelter has had significant experience in the war-torn Middle East as a U.S. Army Military Observer with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, working with both Observer Group Syria and Observer Group Lebanon in the midst of armed turmoil. He has witnessed the Middle East conflict "up close and personally," not only as a military observer, but as a combat artilleryman with the 1st Infantry Division during Operation Desert Storm. In that war, he served as the executive officer in the Division Artillery and helped plan and execute the largest field artillery assault on enemy forces since World War II.

He then was selected to command the Army's largest field artillery Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) battalion, the 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, in the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea. During the 1993–1994 crisis with North Korea, Colonel Lingamfelter was one of the architects of the complex and detailed system that the U.S. would use to defeat North Korean artillery systems threatening South Korea. He has a detailed understanding of how this will unfold if hostilities erupt on the Korean peninsula.

Among his numerous awards and decorations are the Defense Superior Service Medal; two Legions of Merit; the Bronze Star Medal; two Defense Meritorious Service Medals; four Meritorious Service Medals; two Joint Service Commendation Medals; the Army Commendation Medal; the National Defense Service Medal with service star; the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three battle stars; the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Overseas Service Ribbon, the Kuwait Liberation Medal; the Saudi-Kuwaiti Liberation Medal; and the United Nations Service Medal.

After retiring from the military, he worked for the private sector focusing on strategic planning in support of the senior leadership for the U.S. Missile Defense Agency in Washington, D.C. Additionally, he has worked in the emergency management, homeland security, and border security arena in support of Federal agencies, states, and localities.

Elected to the Virginia House of Delegates from 2002 to 2018 representing Prince William and Fauquier Counties, then Delegate Lingamfelter was an adherent to the Founders' vision of constitutional and limited government. He was a prominent voice for both fiscal and social conservatism in the General Assembly.

Since retiring from the General Assembly, he authored his first book, Desert Redleg: Artillery Warfare in the First Gulf War (University Press of Kentucky, 2020) and a second book Yanks in Blue Berets: American UN Peacekeepers in the Middle East that will be released on 4 July 2023 (University Press of Kentucky). He has started another book on reviving the revolutionary spirit of America's founding fathers in today's culture. Colonel Lingamfelter routinely contributes to the commentary page of The Washington Times on a range of political and national security topics.

Colonel Lingamfelter and the former Shelley Glick of Bridgewater, VA have been married for the past 43 years. They have three children and five grandchildren and are active members of All Saints Church in Woodbridge, VA.



Outremont, QC, Canada

Terry Liston

Congo || 1962–1963

Current Residence: Montréal, QC || Contact: terry.liston@pk75.ca

In 1962, as a 23-year-old lieutenant, I was looking forward to my posting to the Belgian Congo. It was in a state of chaos after a hasty, unplanned independence, followed by the illegal return of Belgian forces that made matters worse. The central government had collapsed, and Prime Minister Lumumba was murdered. Mineral-rich Katanga separated, militarizing its Gendarmerie with Belgian and French officers, an air force, and murderous, mercenary groupes mobiles.

When I arrived at Kamina as the UN Liaison officer to a Congolese battalion, the UN "peace enforcement" mission (ONUC), was now the largest and most robust UN mission in history. This Katanga separation was its main issue.

However, two major ONUC operations against the Katangese forces had already been halted by political considerations in UN New York. UN Secretary-general Dag Hammarskjöld set out to negotiate a cease-fire with Moïse Tshombe of Katanga but was killed by a very suspicious plane crash on the way to the meeting in September 1961.

U Thant replaced Hammarskjöld as Secretary-General, taking a much more forceful approach. A new UN Security Council resolution authorized clearly "the use of force". Major General Prem Chand launched Operation Grandslam on 28 December 1962, with U Thant's approval, using a division-size UN force. He successfully seized downtown Elisabethville, capital of rebellious Katanga.

I was involved in the next phase of Grandslam, that sought to remove the remaining Gendarmerie and mercenary strongholds in Southern Katanga. On New Year's Eve, I moved with a company of the 2nd Congolese Battalion. Our objective was Kabongo, a Groupe Mobile D base. There was no road, only a rail line — and that is what we used! It worked well until the train rolled over an explosive booby-trap that broke the rails. Dozens of soldiers had to push the box cars back into their place, after fixing the rails.



Lt Liston and Maj Yossa, CO 2nd Congolese Battalion, check the field of fire of his anti-tank recoilless rifles. Kamina, 1962.

When we reached Kabongo, the population had fled into the bush and there was no sign of the mercenaries. Unfortunately, before leaving they had created a thoroughly camouflaged anti-personnel minefield that surrounded the village water well. One of our men was killed immediately. His sergeant was lying unconscious further in the minefield. We managed to get him out, but the shrapnel in his head was obviously fatal. We were unable to do anything for him. The Swedes were too far away for medical evacuation; the Congolese medic had nothing in his kit that could help; and all I could do was hold him while he died on the floor of a bombed out shed. I will never forget that frustration of not being able to do something.

The Kamina UN contingent continued over the next weeks to search for mercenaries. In the meantime, the Congolese battalion dealt with the villages where tribal militias were known to reside. These groups liked formality. They formed up in three ranks when the trucks of the Congolese battalion rolled into their village in the early morning. Then their leader made a declaration of loyalty to the central government. They all seemed genuinely pleased that the Katanga regime had been overthrown in ONUC's third and last offensive.

After six months with the Congolese battalion, I returned to Leopoldville for another six months in the Intelligence branch of UNOC headquarters (called "military information" by the UN). The bilingual Canadian "military information" team facilitated American support of the Congolese army, by acting as intermediary. Gen Mobutu and his staff enjoyed and trusted Canadian officers. My role was to visit occasionally my former battalion, now moving North in Katanga, getting updates on the Congolese army's impact on the population.

I returned home, 13 months after my arrival, saddened by the international political intrigue that continued to frustrate peace and development, and which continued for many decades. At the same time, I was also impressed by the ability of robust, peace enforcement operations to put an end to such conflicts, if provided with intelligent political direction and support. These views remained etched in my mind during my subsequent 40 years of participation in peace missions.

Biography

Terry was raised in Outremont (Montréal). He has a BA from Queens U., a master's in public administration from ENAP, has passed Staff College, and attended the National Defence College one-year course.

Terry joined the Regular Army in 1957 as an officer cadet and was commissioned into the Royal 22e Régiment in Valcartier in 1958. He served 15 years in command positions, mostly within his Regiment. As a 2nd Lieutenant, he commanded a parachute platoon in the 2nd Battalion. Then, as a lieutenant, he was detached for 13 months to a UN peacekeeping mission in the ex-Belgian Congo, where he was awarded the medal of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for "gallantry". In 1965, Terry served two years as a Captain in his battalion in Germany. Promoted major, he commanded an infantry company in the 2nd battalion, at the Citadel in Québec City, and then for another two years in the 1st Battalion in Lahr, Germany. Finally, in 1975, Terry commanded the 1st battalion in Germany as a lieutenant colonel.



Lt Liston, liaison officer to the 2nd Congolese Battalion. Kamina, 1962.

In 1983, as a brigadier general, Terry took command of the French-speaking brigade group in Valcartier for two years. The mission of his 5,000 soldiers and helicopter crews was to reinforce Norway, in case of a demand by this NATO country. He initiated a trans-Atlantic exercise to show the willingness and capability of Canada to respond. It was successfully executed by his replacement in 1986. In the interim, Terry provided troops to meet peacekeeping tasks. In particular, he conducted two rotations to replace the Canadian battalions in Cyprus. In 1987, as a major general, Terry was tasked to support the Secretary General of the United Nations in New York. As head of an international military "Technical Team", he produced a military plan for a peace force that would supervise a future referendum on the independence of the Western Sahara, should a ceasefire be agreed by the parties.

Between command positions, Terry served 13 years in a succession of demanding staff mandates. In 1967, he was a staff captain in the Headquarters of the new French-speaking brigade created in Valcartier. As a major, he was on the operations staff of Mobile Command in St. Hubert, QC, which was, in reality, the headquarters of the Army. There, in 1974, he dealt with the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey in response to a Greek Cypriot coup d'état. He was at the heart of the staff effort that moved the rest of the Canadian Airborne Regiment from Edmonton to Cyprus, along with its supplies and combat equipment. As well, M113 armoured vehicles were borrowed from the Canadian brigade in Germany and rushed to Cyprus.

Terry subsequently returned to Mobile Command in 1977 as a lieutenant colonel, and then colonel, in the position of Director of Doctrine and Training. Amongst other tasks, he was secretary for the Army "combat development" process. Terry was then posted to the National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa as a "Senior Policy Analyst" in the division responsible for the Government's defence policy. In 1985, as a brigadier general, Terry returned to National Defence HQ in Ottawa, as head of the Public Affairs branch. Then, as a major general, he became Chief, Operational Planning and Force Development, under the Deputy Chief, Defence Staff (DCDS). Amongst other tasks, he oversaw the conduct of Canada's ongoing peacekeeping operations as well as plans for new operations. One of the new Canadian missions was the urgent communications support of a rapidly created international observer mission created in 1988 by the UN to oversee the ceasefire in the war between Iran and Iraq.

On retirement from the Army in 1988, Terry served for 13 years as a senior executive at Davie Shipbuilding, and then with Canadian Pacific Railway. Subsequently, he was a frequent commentator on Radio-Canada current affairs programmes and was named a research fellow at the Université du Québec à Montréal.

Terry also serves in volunteer positions helping veterans. He has been a governor in the Québec Division of the Corps of Commissionaires since 2001, as well as being a member of the Commissionaires' National Public Affairs committee for six years.

Terry served in the honorary position of Colonel of the Royal 22e Régiment, from 2001 to 2006. He visited the regiment's units on operations in Bosnia (ex-Yugoslavia) and, in 2004, in Afghanistan. He then played a key role in organizing the regiment's centennial celebrations.

In 1965 he married Louisette Desrosiers of Québec City. They have two daughters and four grandchildren.



EDMONTON, AB, CANADA

Brenda Lucki

Former Republic of Yugoslavia || 1993–1994

Throughout my career with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, I've always sought to encourage positive change.

Early in my career I was fortunate to participate in two deployments in the former Yugoslavia through the United Nations Protection Force peacekeeping mission in 1993 and 1994. These experiences were not only life-changing but they also served to solidify my commitment to making every community better than what it was when I got there. Obviously, it was in many ways easier to do so in a war-torn country because the smallest act of kindness made the biggest of differences.



Commissioner Brenda Lucki spoke at the Canadian Police Arrangement Annual General Meeting in 2019, the year marking the Program's 30th Anniversary of police peace operations. Her challenge to police: 1. develop future leaders by sending police officers on missions, and 2. spread the word and get others to apply.

I learned during my deployment to Slunj that it never hurts to be of Polish descent in an area patrolled by a Polish Battalion. POLBAT, as they were referred to, made sure not only my house was connected to their generator, but that I had access to basic necessities such as food and clean drinking water. Electricity and hot water are something I no longer take for granted. Canadian peacekeepers are well known for their commitment to community. This was best exemplified when the Canadian Battalion was redeployed. Before leaving Daravar, they donated the equipment they could not bring with them to create a kindergarten in a town that had their school blown up. I was so fortunate to be part of such an impactful gesture. I also had the privilege of working with Battalion doctors to provide local residents in very vulnerable communities with necessary medical care, medicine and much needed supplies such as verrucous vein nylons and bandages to name a few.

At the time of my first deployment in 1993, I was one of two Canadian women police officers deployed on that mission, working alongside 43 male officers. I was proud to help lay the path and break down barriers for the women who followed in my footsteps. Over the years, I've seen so many examples of women with the skills, knowledge and networks to lead effectively. Women bring different experiences and perspectives to the table, which bring valuable contributions to decision-making processes, policies and laws that work better for us all.

As the Commanding Officer of the RCMP Training Academy, I was able to see first hand the positive effects of sharing our training curriculum and deploying simulation equipment to Ukraine. And as the Commissioner of the RCMP, I continued to be so very proud of the work that we did along with other Canadian police deployed to missions abroad. Approximately

60% of deployed police officers come from provincial, regional, municipal, or Indigenous partner agencies and their participation allows us to help rebuild and strengthen police agencies in fragile and conflict-affected states. On a mission, an officer often faces greater responsibilities than they would in their duties at home, so when they return, they are able to share these competencies and skills with others.

I know how powerful these experiences can be and I will never forget my deployments which were certainly life-changing! It has had a lasting impact on me and has helped me to become not only a better leader but a better person. I know my work overseas in support of peace and security has made a tangible difference to those most in need. And that's what it's all about; helping people even when you know they can't help you back.

Biography

Brenda Lucki was born in Edmonton, AB, and joined the RCMP in 1986. Throughout her career, she's served in Québec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, at the RCMP Academy (Depot Division), as well as internationally.

Her first posting was in Granby, QC, in federal policing. In 1993 and 1994, she served on a peacekeeping mission in the former Yugoslavia, overseeing investigations and monitoring aid delivery.



Commissioner Brenda Lucki deployed to the former Yugoslavia in 1993–1994. She oversaw investigations and monitored aid delivery, among other tasks.

In 1995, she transferred to the RCMP's peacekeeping program in Ottawa. Following that role, she advanced through the non-commissioned officer ranks, first as an instructor at the RCMP Academy, then as an acting Detachment Commander in Manitoba.

In 2003, she was promoted to Inspector, working as the Traffic Services Officer for Saskatchewan, followed by the Community and Contract Policing and District Operations Officer.

In 2009, she rose to the rank of Superintendent, and became a District Commander in Manitoba. In 2012, she was promoted to Chief Superintendent, and became a District Commander in Alberta.

In 2016, she was named Commanding Officer of the RCMP Academy, and on March 9, 2018, she was announced as the RCMP's 24th Commissioner.

As RCMP Commissioner, Brenda Lucki, under the RCMP Act, and direction of the Minister of Public Safety, has the control and management of the RCMP. This includes overseeing the delivery of front-line policing services in most provinces (except Ontario and Québec) and all territories, law enforcement and investigative services to enforce federal laws, technology and support services to the broader policing community, and international policing duties.

Commissioner Lucki has a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and sociology from the University of Alberta. She is married and has two stepdaughters and three grandchildren.



SYDNEY, NS, CANADA

Wayne MacCulloch

Haiti || 1996

Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1994–1995, 2000, 2001–2002

Current Residence: Orléans, ON || Contact : wayne.macculloch@pk75.ca

It was Monday, 13 January 1996 and the telephone in my office cubicle in National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa, was ringing. When I answered it, a voice asked, "Can you be in Haiti within two days?" And so began my second United Nations peacekeeping tour.

Usually, warning for such missions came months in advance, but this time the matter was urgent, as a replacement for the American officer currently in Haiti was overdue. The selected Canadian Military Engineers officer needed to be fluently bilingual, have construction experience, and preferably some prior involvement with United Nations peacekeeping missions. I met all the prerequisites and also had a reputation for speedily accomplishing challenging tasks.

I responded to my caller that it would take a few minutes to get my boss' agreement, and I was asked to make it quick. The first call was to my wife, who readily agreed, and then I walked next door to my boss, Lieutenant-Colonel Al Johnson, whose first words were, "What did your wife say?" He, too, gave permission for me to go to Haiti, and I so informed the officer who had first called me.

The next challenge was compressing at least two weeks of preparation into 1½ days. Getting the necessary clothing and equipment was a snap, as was arranging air travel, but a medical issue posed a problem: the anti-malarial medication required at least two weeks to take effect. Thankfully, the medical staff accepted my promise to take every available precaution against being bitten by mosquitoes, and signed off my clearance to deploy to Haiti the next day.

The flight down was uneventful, but I was unprepared for the blast of heat that greeted me as soon as the aircraft cabin door was opened. The difference between mid-winter Ottawa and sultry Port-au-Prince was stunning; however, I collected my bags and was soon on my way to my new residence with my American guide.



After a whirlwind handover, the American officer was winging his way home, while I was discovering my duties as United Nations Power Liaison Officer to Électricité d'Haïti, the national electrical utility. These duties involved modernizing the power company and making it profitable, along with reducing its workforce from 4,000 people to 750. While my American predecessor noted that 750 was comparable to American practice, he had overlooked Haitian culture and tradition, so a more realistic figure was 1,500, with which Électricité d'Haïti readily agreed.

The next challenge was providing the utility with usable equipment. The United States donated 250 cargo trucks, but their maintenance manuals were only in English. Canadian manuals were bilingually printed side-by-side in English and French, and I managed to acquire a complete set from a friend in Ottawa. These five manuals were received like gold by the utility officials, since with them they could keep the donated trucks running.

Another interesting issue was the physical security of the power plants themselves. In Haiti, there was only one hydro-electric dam, and it was needed primarily for irrigation of croplands during the dry season. Electricity generation was a secondary use and it was connected only to the capital city of Port-au-Prince. Even there, giant marine diesels provided most of the power, but these were all located in the city slums, where street gangs frequently staged damaging attacks. The American solution was to reinforce the concrete walls surrounding the plants, heavily infest the wall tops with razor wire and place machine gun towers at the compound corners. These measures alienated the local population.

The Canadian answer was to hire the street gang leaders as security guards, pay them well and inform them that any attacks on or damage to the plant would result in their being fired. As a result, the street gang leaders were quickly transformed into respectable citizens of the community, with enough cash to look after their neighbourhoods. The gates to the power plants stood wide open, and residents cheerfully stopped by daily to get the news on repair work. Picking a solution suited to the Haitian way of life not only succeeded in the short term, but became a long-term habit.

There were many other interesting and amazing aspects to this tour, such as international negotiations for fuel and equipment, but those are tales for another time and, oh yeah, I never contracted malaria, either!

Biography

Major Wayne R. MacCulloch, CD (Retired), B.Eng., M.Sc., P.Eng. was a member of the Regular Force in the Canadian Military Engineers as a Military Engineering Officer from 5 January 1968 to 28 October 2008. He served in all provinces and territories of Canada and was deployed overseas six times: 1990-1991: Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, United Kingdom, with the British Army; 1994-1995: United Nations Bosnia-Hercegovina Command Operations Officer, United Nations Protection Force in the Former Yugoslavia, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Hercegovina; 1996: United Nations Power Liaison Officer, United Nations Mission in Haiti, Port-au-Prince, Haiti; 2000: Division Engineer, Multi-National Division South-West, Banja Luka, Bosnia-Hercegovina; 2001: Entity Armed Forces Restructuring Negotiator, Headquarters North Atlantic Treaty Organization Peace Stabilization Force, Butmir, Bosnia-Hercegovina; and 2002: Board of Inquiry Technical Specialist, Tritium Radiation Exposure Board of Inquiry, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Peace Stabilization Force, Velika Kladusa, Bosnia-Hercegovina.

As a military engineer he has constructed an airfield in Canada's High Arctic; bridges in British Columbia, Québec, and Nova Scotia; numerous military installations across the country; and base realignments and closures in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

After attending school in Québec, he studied civil engineering at the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, ON, before being posted to the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering in Chilliwack, BC, in 1976, as a French language engineering instructor. From there he was transferred to 5e Escadron du Génie de Campagne (later 5e Régiment du Génie de Combat) in Valcartier, QC, where he served as Troop Commander, Regimental Operations Officer and Squadron Commander. In 1979, he moved to Sydney, NS, as Regular Force Support to 45 Field Engineer Squadron, and two years later onwards to National Defence Headquarters. During this period, he also completed Canadian Forces Staff School in Toronto, ON.

In 1983, Wayne attended the Engineers Advanced Field Operations Course and Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College before joining 1 Combat Engineer Regiment in Chilliwack, BC, as Regimental Operations Officer. His most remarkable task there was the completely successful planning



and execution of a totally secret exercise PANDA BEAR — a first in the Canadian Forces in 11 years. Traversing the country to his next position in Halifax, NS, he was appointed Division Construction Engineering Officer, responsible for National Defence facilities spread across 20,000 square kilometres of the province. From there, it was a move to a staff job in Land Force Command Headquarters in St. Hubert, QC for 2½ years before his first overseas jaunt, to England.

Repatriation to Canada from the United Kingdom saw a return to National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa, performing duties in a number of staff positions, including planning the Canadian Army's Year 2000 preparations and the transfer of the Second Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry from Winnipeg to Shilo, MB. It was also during this time frame that he served on his five peace support operations.

Turned down for a sixth mission, to Afghanistan this time, in 2003, he was offered command of 45 Field Squadron in Sydney, NS, as a consolation prize. Leaping at the opportunity to return to the home of his heart, he led Squadron cleanup efforts in Halifax after Hurricane Juan in September 2003 and the construction of 11 bridges for the Trans Canada Trail before handing over command to his successor and returning to further staff jobs in Ottawa, where he retired from the Canadian Armed Forces on 24 October 2008.

Wayne has not been idle in retirement, dedicating his time and efforts to furthering Veterans' issues. He is the Past National President of the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping and its current Central Region Director, as well as the Curator of "Reconciliation", Canada's National Peacekeeping Monument in Ottawa. No stranger to writing, he has authored the following projects: "Y2K the Army Way" for the Emergency Preparedness Magazine in August 1999; Chapter 18 of John Gardam's "Canadians in War and Peace", 1999; and the substantiation for re-designation of Nova Scotia Highway 125 on Cape Breton Island to "Peacekeepers Way" in 2008. He further assisted in the authoring of Volume 4 of the Official History of the Canadian Military Engineers, 1973–2003.



TORONTO, ON, CANADA

J.R. (Digger) MacDougall

Cyprus || 1966–1967

Current Residence: Rockland, ON || Contact: digger.macdougall@pk75.ca

The story of my deployment with the first Reconnaissance Squadron of the Fort Garry Horse (FGH) to serve in Cyprus begins with my appointment, in 1966, as Acting Officer Commanding. Joining the Squadron in Calgary, from where I was serving in Germany, my training plan included: equipment take-over and maintenance; individual skills and weapons training; driver, crew, and troop training; shakeout and reestablishment as an independent unit; communications training and exercises in the nearby mountains; mine warfare, booby-trap and demolitions training at Camp Chilliwack; two months summer concentration in Camp Wainwright; live firing training and exercises on local ranges and in Wainwright; annual leave and UN leave; training in history, culture, and languages of Cyprus; and, other routine training and duties

Due to time limitations, the entire squadron's shakeout and crew/unit development took place in -40° weather in Camp Wainwright, in Jan 1966. We trained in reconnaissance, communications, and troop and squadron operations on three, often off-road, routes. Officers and NCOs worked diligently with their troops, vehicles, and equipment; in minimal time, they became highly competent and well-led teams.

Following annual, individual, and crew training in March 1966, we conducted a major communications exercise in mountainous terrain and moved the Squadron to the School of Military Engineering in Chilliwack, for demolitions and mine warfare training. The new squadron commander (OC), Major Jack Smith, took over at that time. I had been trained earlier as a demolitions and mine warfare instructor, so I commanded the squadron in Chilliwack, and returned to Calgary to get married.

During May 1966, the squadron command team flew to London, ON, to meet with first Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (1RCR) and coordinate planning that would allow us to be fully operational on arrival. In the summer, the squadron led the Battle Group on a multi-axis advance for the normally



A major mission of the squadron was "long-range patrol". A Canadian troop of scout cars performed reconnaissance duties and visited remote villages and hamlets to ascertain safety, health, and security of residents. This photo shows Cpl. Rudy Jodoin sharing goodies with the village children.

four-hour trip to the camp. Training began in earnest under the new Sqn OC. Then tragedy struck. On the 22 Km Battle P.T. test, Jack suffered heatstroke. He died two weeks later. I again was acting OC of the squadron which returned early to Calgary for the funeral. In September, I turned over command to Major Gord Kitchen, one of the finest officers that I ever met. He was a technical staff specialist who had trained at the Royal Military College of Science in Shrivenham, UK. For weeks, Gord picked my brains, and those of the troop leaders and operations officer. He wanted to know everything about the Squadron. Then, he ordered everyone to take all their annual and pre-deployment leave. I took a job as a forklift operator during my six weeks off so I would have enough money to bring my wife to Cyprus.

The Squadron advanced party joined with 1RCR in London, ON, on 14 October 1966 and flew to Cyprus. On arrival, we were met by those we would replace and began an intensive week of operational briefings and training. As second-in-command of an "independent unit" I had additional operational, administrative, technical and social responsibilities.

To meet our operational mission, the Squadron had to achieve efficiency in many areas, including operations and response; vehicle serviceability; safety and security; personnel fitness and morale; and diplomacy. Just as importantly we needed to eliminate possible inactivity and boredom. Once our predecessors left for Canada, operational planning meetings began apace.

Operationally, the Squadron's 27 scout cars were divided into groups of five with two spares. Four Troops fulfilled the operational roles of convoy escort, long-range patrol, emergency ready force, and maintenance/rest/leave/training. An additional five scout cars were included in the monthly rotation for third-line maintenance and repair. This rotation plan ensured 90+% operational efficiency, the highest known efficiency rate in Cyprus.

Our OC commanded the Reserve Ready Force of UNFICYP which was frequently exercised during our deployment. One of my tasks as his second-in-command was to plan for and, if required, execute an evacuation plan for all Squadron and attached personnel to the safety of the RAF airbase in Akrotiri.

I was granted permission for my wife to visit for six weeks, and I arranged to house sit the home of the Deputy Canadian High Commissioner. We lived on Embassy Row and participated in many social events.

I am proud to add that the Squadron which I commanded in Canada and served in Cyprus made an impact on peacekeeping operations in Cyprus. Everyone earned the United Nations Cyprus Medal that, as veterans, we now wear. The Fort Garry Horse motto is "FACTA NON VERBA": "Deeds not words". We lived that motto every day and made the Regiment, the Corps and Canada proud.

Biography

Digger served in the Royal Canadian Army Cadets and the Canadian Army Reserve (RC Sigs) before graduation from the Royal Roads and Royal Military College of Canada with a BA (Hist/French). He served in the Fort Garry Horse and the RCAC School for 13 years in a variety of regimental positions including commanding both tank and reconnaissance squadrons and serving as an instructor in Tactics and commanding Driving and Maintenance Squadron. Digger trained and was employed briefly as an Army Pilot. He served with NATO in Europe and on United Nations peacekeeping duties in Cyprus. In 1970 Digger became a Personnel Selection Officer (PSO) and Military Psychologist for his final 20 years of service and was the senior military psychologist of the Canadian Army, NDHQ/AU, Communications Command, and Canadian Forces Training Systems. He developed and introduced significant input into leadership training, officer and aircrew selection, stress management in combat operations, counselling for post-traumatic stress, second career assistance, substance abuse education, and leadership.



Civilian vehicles, often containing Greek Cypriot passengers, were guarded by one Canadian Troop of Ferret Scout Cars, for the one our trip between Nicosia and Kyrenia. Safe passage under armed escort through the Turkish Sector several times daily. Finnish outriders lead as Lt Doug Taylor commands his troop and the operation after marshalling vehicles at the check point.

Following retirement Digger was employed as a Certified Human Resources Professional in Career Counselling, Change Management, Management Development, Leadership Training and not-for-profit governance and operations because of his extensive Senior Management, Human Resources and Training Development achievement in both the public and private sectors. He successfully conceptualized, developed, and executed national and international multi-million-dollar programs and projects in these areas of expertise. He was selected as one of Canada's top six interviewers and consulted with various departments of Federal and Provincial Governments as well as business, industrial and government environments around the globe. In recent years he developed and managed, as the only Canadian of an international team for the Bangladesh Open University overseas training project in Dhaka; provided consultation and training as a Senior Consultant to the largest human resources and career transition company in the world; recruited for the United Nations; and implemented the largest personal financial planning contract ever awarded in Canada.

Digger holds two master's Degrees: Counselling Psychology, and Education from The University of Western Ontario and two bachelor's degrees. In 1988, while serving as the senior military psychologist of the Canadian Army, he received the Freeman Anderson Award for outstanding achievement in Career Programs.

Digger MacDougall is the Founding Chair of Sing Canada Harmony, President of the 2400 member Ottawa Branch of The Royal Military College Club of Canada, former Chair of The Saint-Vincent Hospital Foundation, and has been Past Chairman, Founding Director and trustee of numerous Charity and not-for-profit Boards of Directors since 1968. He also served the business community as a mentor for members of the Ottawa-Carleton Junior Board of Trade. His professional memberships have included: Certified Human Resources Professional Associations of Ontario and Ottawa; Royal Canadian Military Institute (Toronto) and numerous others including military associations.

At the Canadian War Museum, as a key interviewer for the Museum's Oral History Project he completed over 70 documented interviews of Military Personnel who served as Canadian Army Pilots prior to 1968, and who served in Canada's NATO Brigades North (to 1973) and South (after 1973). Digger proudly served as a Volunteer Interpreter in Gallery 4 of the Canadian War Museum where he regaled visitors with tank and army knowledge, experiences, and interesting stories.



Pictou, NS, Canada

Donald MacPherson

Golan Heights, Israel || 1985–1986

Baden-Soellingen || 1986
Qatar || 1990
Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1992–1993

Current Residence: Kingston, ON || Contact: donald.macpherson@pk75.ca

My first UN posting was to a base in the Golan Heights on the Israel/Syria border with the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). At the time, the Canadians shared a base on the Israeli side with the Finns, while the Austrians and Poles shared a base on the Syrian side. We provided mostly logistical services to UNDOF, in my case the repair of radio systems along the border from Lebanon to Jordan.

I found the tour to be fascinating, practicing my trade in a deployed environment, working with people from differing countries, and learning about a complex part of the world through my travels on both sides of the border. The ability to interact with all kinds of people on all sides of a problem has served me well over my subsequent tours and tasks.



Then-Cpl MacPherson in Israel overlooking the Dead Sea, 1985

It wasn't always hard work, though. In the early part of the summer of 1986, we received several M113 armoured personnel carriers that had returned from refurbishment. It fell to me to re-install the internal intercom and radio systems which had been stored in dusty and unlabeled boxes in our shop for years. Once installed, a mechanic and I would take each APC for an hour-long drive to shake out the systems and ensure they worked properly.

Our testing route went along some back roads in the Golan Heights, eventually returning along the paved road along the border below an Israeli military observation post on a hill overlooking the border crossing into Syria. This was also a favoured location for tour buses to stop, debarking loads of tourists to look out at the demilitarized border zone and the ruined town of Al Qunaitra.

As we approached this area on one occasion, crowds from three or four buses forced us to slow to a stop, drawing interest from the tourists who swarmed around our vehicle for photos, many asking us to come out so they could pose with the UN peacekeepers. We managed to convince them to stay back from the vehicle for their own safety and make do with photos of us in our uniform shirts, berets and headsets sticking out of the upper hatches. I'm sure that had nothing to do with us wearing only swimsuits and sandals below the hatch in the hot summer's heat.

Biography

I joined the military right out of high school in 1980, originally posted to Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, ON, as a Radio Technician, where I learned the benefits of volunteering my time by helping out the local Army Cadet Corps. In 1985, I went to my first United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Golan Heights, on the Israel/Syria border.

Next, it was on to Baden-Soellingen, West Germany in 1986, serving through the end of the Cold War and the reunification of the Germanys. While there, I spent time on-air with CFNS, the base's FM radio station, and found a place in community theatre with the Baden Playmakers.

I did a stint in Doha, Qatar, during the first Gulf War in 1990, after which I was posted back to one of Canada's underground bunkers at Debert, NS, in 1991. Living in Truro, I found a place with the Truro Fire Brigade as a volunteer firefighter. This period also included six months with UNPROFOR in the Former Yugoslavia in 1992–1993, working in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.



Sitting on the Great Pyramid of Giza during a trip to Egypt, Easter weekend, 1985.

My final posting was to Kingston, ON, in 1995, where I set up a graphic design and print shop for the Canadian Forces School of Communications and Electronics (CFSCE) and was lucky enough to lead a team of instructors to Trinidad in 1997 to teach computer skills to local police and military.

Retiring from the military at the 20-year point, I spent a couple of years working in the software industry in Montréal, QC, and Silicon Valley (Santa Clara, CA) before returning to Kingston and resuming work managing the CFSCE print shop, but this time as a public servant working for the Department of National Defence (DND). I guided the shop through some service improvements and managed to get my staff sent to software conferences in Los Angeles and Orlando to learn new skills. I also worked to get reclassifications for my staff, boosting us from Clerical (CR) to Drafting & Design (DD) to General Technical (GT) over a 12-year period, until retiring again in the summer of 2022.

I resumed volunteer firefighting, eventually coming to Kingston Fire & Rescue in 2006, where I now serve as a Captain and enjoy teaching our own recruits and firefighters as well as helping the public whenever they need us. This work also drives me to continue my fitness program into my 60s, as I still go into fires with firefighters a third my age and am determined not to be the one they're pulling out at the end.



GLACE BAY, NS, CANADA

Ian MacVicar

Darfur, Sudan || 2008–2009

Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1996
Honduras || 1998
Horn of Africa

Current Residence: Hammonds Plains, NS || Contact: ian.macvicar@pk75.ca

Like many Canadians growing up in the 1960s and 1970s, I believed that Canada was "the" world leader in peacekeeping, and anticipated that, like previous generations, I would patrol the Green Line in Cyprus as a member of a regiment. My experience was much different, as I was the only Canadian, i.e. a "one-off," on most of my peacekeeping/peace support missions. This circumstance can leave you feeling quite exposed.

I was a Senior Military Liaison Officer in the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur 2008–2009. I was on a 190 km patrol with a nation that will remain nameless, driving from El Fashir, North Darfur to Nyala, South Darfur. I asked the company commander how they navigated in such terrain, figuring someone had a map — as he did not. He replied that none of the 20 armoured and soft-skinned vehicles had a map or a GPS, but that the driver of the lead APC had made the same trip a week ago. He knew to drive due west until he saw a solitary tree, and then to turn left and to drive south for 100 kilometres until there was another tree. Shocked, I timed our trip, noted the position of the sun, and watched the odometer over the driver's shoulder. This patrol became, as Rabbit said to Winnie the Pooh, "A long explore."

We got stuck in a muddy wadi after two hours. We then changed course by 90 degrees — and got lost after 15 minutes. The Company commander and his second-in-command were in a quandary. As I had been watching my watch and the odometer, I did a little "dead reckoning" to send them back along their original path, turning 90 degrees south at the tree where they had last turned west. "How did you do that?' asked the company commander. I explained that I had timed the speed for 16 minutes at 40 kph and I knew that we had made a 90-degree turn from the initial direction of travel. I asked him what training his soldiers had in navigation. "The best," he replied, "they are members of our Special Forces and the Presidential Guard." My jaw dropped. On the way back from Nyala we saw a couple of



MacVicar with Rwandan company commander and his Sergeant Major before setting out on a night patrol.

huts burning approximately 250–300 meters away. I asked the company commander to investigate. He refused to do so, saying that it was not his mandate to interfere. I was dumbfounded. "Weren't we there as peacekeepers?" Apparently not.

I participated in the first Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Arms Control Verification mission in May 1996. We were investigating reports of Dayton Accord violations on a mountain top near Zenica, Boznia-Herzegovina, i.e. a belligerent had deployed a Ground Surveillance Radar. I had to photograph the violation. Although we ensured that the National Escort Team leader was not in my vicinity, he saw me take the photo. Within seconds I was held at gunpoint as he yelled "Spion" (Spy)! Your senses become hyper-alert in these circumstances. I saw six tiny black hairs sticking out of a small brown mole on his chin from three metres away. My first thoughts were "We got this, what an ugly f***er." As I saw his pupils dilate, he started to squeeze the trigger. This became

"Think good thoughts" as they could be my last — and I pictured my three-week old daughter. Obviously, someone intervened.

Two days later I was seated between two Serb officers in our van in the market square of Novi Travnik. The other team members were delayed. A crowd gathered around the van, including numerous armed men. The van was rocked back and forth by the crowd as they yelled "Chetnik" (Serb). I thought "A bullet that gets either one gets me too." My senses focused on the red Converse sneakers worn by one of the irregular AK-47 toting soldiers in the crowd. Whistles blew as police beat a path through the crowd with truncheons, sparing only an elderly woman with a string shopping bag.

Years later, I recounted these incidents during an Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing treatment for PTSD. I screamed, then sobbed, "I've waited 22 years to let out that scream."

Biography



Lieutenant-Colonel Dr. Ian MacVicar (Retired) is the Director and Principal Analyst of Ian MacVicar Universal Security Intelligence Cognitive Solutions (I-MUSICS) Consulting, Inc., which hosts 16 consultants from across Canada with military, police, business, legal, and healthcare backgrounds.

MacVicar served in the Canadian Armed Forces for 42 years. His last Regular Force post was as Assistant Chief of Staff and J3 of Joint Task Force Atlantic. His last Reserve post was Senior Reserve Advisor (Operations & Training) in 5th Canadian Division where he contributed to exercise design, validation, and doctrine training. Of note, he served five years in J3 Arms Control Verification, employed as a Russian interpreter, photographer, Team Deputy, and Team Leader of multi-national, on-site verification teams. He participated in over 50 on-site inspections of military forces of the former Warsaw Pact and of each of the belligerents in the Former Yugoslavia.

MacVicar served in a wide variety of Army and joint command and staff positions, including as Commanding Officer (CO) of the Disaster Assistance Response Team Company in Honduras, as CO of the Joint Nuclear Biological Chemical Defence Company (now Canadian Joint Incident Response Unit — CBRN), as Director CBRN Defence, as Battery Commander E Battery, and as Acting 2IC of 2nd Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. He served with 1st Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery in Lahr, Germany in the late 1980s.

MacVicar served almost two years in eastern Africa with the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and with the U.S. led Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. He is a graduate of the 2017 Dalhousie University/Veteran Trainers to Eradicate the Use of Child Soldiers program under the auspices of the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative.

Dr. MacVicar is the principal writer for doctrine revisions for the Canadian Army Tactics School Combat Team Commander's Handbook revision project under the auspices of a Calian Group, Ltd. multi-year contract. He is a Royal United Services Institute Nova Scotia Research Fellow, where he specializes in intelligence and veteran's health issues. His 2015 doctoral dissertation, entitled *Applying Foresight: On Anticipating Unintended Consequences in Internal Security*, examined internal security law and executive measures in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States between 1914 and 2015. Dr. MacVicar has presented his research on cognitive traps (i.e. distorted thinking) in security planning at conferences in the United Kingdom and Canada.

His popular Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia (SCANS) courses include Spy School 101 and 201, which address the history of intelligence, espionage, and associated legal oversight regimes; and Spy School 301, which addresses the psychology of intelligence. Dr. MacVicar advises on developing psychological resilience in government and business audiences, drawing on his academic training, operational experience, and practical qualifications as a Trauma Informed Yoga Teacher (CYT, TIYT).

Dr. MacVicar has published articles on leadership, human security, the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine, and the psychological challenges facing the non-combatant women and children of the former Islamic State. He has two book chapters and several articles in pre-publication concerning intelligence history, the psychology of intelligence analysis, and child soldier intelligence in Canada and in the United Kingdom. His current research focuses on the psycho-social challenges in reintegrating ISIS family members in their countries of origin.

Dr. MacVicar's professional associations include the Association of Canadian Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosives Technicians and the Canadian Military Intelligence Association, where he is the Director of Academic Outreach for CMIA Halifax Chapter. He is a Life Member of the Canadian Armed Forces Dragon Soldier Society, the U.S. National Honor Society Omicron Sigma Sigma Order of the Sword & Shield, Delta Epsilon Tau International Honor Society, and the International Association For Intelligence Education, where he is on the planning board for the activation of a IAFIE-Canada Chapter. He is also a member of Trauma Informed Yoga Therapy (Canada).



St. Jérôme, QC, Canada

Michel Maisonneuve

Kosovo || 1993, 1998–1999

Cyprus || 1977, 1983, 1990–1991
Albania || 1999

Current Residence: Port Dalhousie, ON || Contact: michel.maisonneuve@pk75.ca

THE KOSOVO VERIFICATION MISSION

One day in November 1998, I was minding my own business as Director-General of the Army Staff in Ottawa when I was called into the office of the Commander of the Canadian Army, Lieutenant-General Bill Leach. He explained that someone was needed in the HQ of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna to support the mission in Kosovo and that he was sending me … and he needed me to deploy … now!

The OSCE is the world's largest regional security organization; it is a political alliance of 57 nations, including Canada, usually involved in election monitoring.

After months of combat in the Kosovo province of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (FRY) between the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and the forces of FRY, pressure on FRY President Milosevic finally forced him to sign an agreement on 16 October 1998. In this agreement, he agreed to a cease-fire, reduce FRY forces to pre-hostilities levels, and to protect the human rights of all peoples of Kosovo. The provisions of the agreement stipulated that it was to be verified by a mission of some 2000 unarmed civilian personnel provided by the nations of the OSCE, to be known as the Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM).

At the time of the agreement, ethnic Albanians made up 90 percent of the population of Kosovo. It was nearly ten years since the autonomous status of the province had been revoked. Since then, all civil administration, police, boards of education and state company positions were held by Serbs. Albanians essentially had no voice in any of their own administration. For ten years, the Albanian majority had attempted to use mostly non-violent means to change the situation. This period had yielded little, so elements formed their own rebel army known as the KLA and proceeded to employ more violent means to achieve their political goals. In return, President Milosevic reinforced the Serb police and armed forces in the province and began to suppress the KLA uprising, creating a humanitarian crisis which was seen on television screens around the world in the summer and fall of 1998.



A view of Kosovo, with OSCE-KVM orange vehicle.

The operational concept of the KVM split the province geographically into five Regional Centres (RCs) commanded by a HQ in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo. The mandate was to verify the agreement and report any violations to the OSCE, while trying to make a difference in the lives of the people of Kosovo. The mission was unarmed; 'Verifiers' wore civilian clothing and patrolled in contracted armoured 4x4 vehicles.

My deployment was going to be to Vienna for six weeks where I would support the deployed mission; except that after three weeks, I was appointed to lead the first RC to be set up in theatre. After a quick return to Canada to get more clean underwear, I arrived in Prizren where my first task was to oversee the transfer, to their families, of 35 Albanian Kosovars killed by Serbian border guards; a sad welcome to Kosovo.

The mission turned out to be the most demanding and pressure-filled operation I ever participated in. I spent three weeks in Vienna supporting the mission, then four months in Kosovo commanding an RC with 200 Verifiers, then being evacuated out of Kosovo by OSCE HQ due to the fear we would be taken hostage. I finished off with six weeks in Albania

supporting their government receiving the 400,000 refugees being forced out of Kosovo by Milosevic.

While in Kosovo, I tried to use one of my personal principles of peacekeeping, "Seizing and Maintaining the Initiative". The two sides were constantly keeping us on our toes and forcing us to respond to emergencies — real or imagined. So, at one point, I decided to seize the initiative from them. We were to have freedom of movement throughout the province on our patrols and verify MUP (Ministry of the Interior police) stations strengths, but were always hampered in both tasks. I then set up Operation Flood where ALL my patrols would depart on the same day at the same hour and "hit" all the MUP stations in the RC, even moving to the border with Albania which was always restricted.

This caused a furor as the Serbian authorities were forced to respond to our initiative all at the same time and they could not control our movement. I was asked to meet with my Serb MUP counterparts to hear their protests and responded we were only exercising the tenets of the agreement. For those few days, we had wrested the initiative from the belligerents and gained much credibility, not to mention that our mission members truly enjoyed being in the driver's seat and forcing others to react.

Biography

Michel Maisonneuve was born in St. Jérôme, QC and at the age of 14, moved to western Canada where he learned English. He attended the Royal Military College of Canada where he graduated as the Cadet Wing Commander of the Centennial Class of 1976. Maisonneuve was posted to the 12e Régiment blindé du Canada (12e RBC) at Base Valcartier, Québec. He served his Regiment at all rank levels as an armoured Troop Leader, Squadron Commander and finally as Commanding Officer. He also served on exchange with the 12e Régiment de Chasseurs in Sedan, France, for two years, commanding a conscript troop of French Chasseurs, then as a regimental operations officer. He was Director of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps from 1994 to 1996.



Colonel Michel Maisonneuve, Chief Operations Officer of UNPROFOR during the Medak Pocket Crisis, Sept 1993.

Maisonneuve taught Tactics at the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School in 1980 at which time he was also appointed Principal Aide-de-Camp to the Lieutenant Governor of the province. He attended the U.S. Advanced Officer Armour Course in Fort Knox, KY, in 1984 where he was named a member of the Commandant's List. In 1987, he attended the year-long Canadian Forces Command and Staff College course in Toronto.

He completed three operational tours with the United Nations in Cyprus, in 1977, in 1983, and in 1990/1991, as Commander of the Nicosia Sector; in his last deployment there, he was also appointed Commander of the Canadian Contingent to the United Nations in Cyprus. On that occasion, he generated, trained, and deployed for the first time, a complete militia (reserve) squadron as part of the unit.

As a Colonel in 1993, Maisonneuve served for one year in the HQ of the United Nations Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia as Chief Operations Officer and was awarded the Force Commander's Commendation for his service. At that time, he coordinated the Medak Pocket operation for the UN. Later, he was appointed Executive Assistant to the Chief of Defence Staff.

In 1995, he completed the Senior Joint and Combined Warfighting course at the Armed Forces Staff College in the U.S., where he received the Douglas MacArthur Foundation Award. On his return to Norfolk eight years later as a 3-star general, he was inducted into the College Hall of Fame. In 1997, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Military Merit by the Governor General of Canada. He was promoted to Commander of the Order in 2003. He was appointed an Officer of the French Legion of Honor in May 2003 by President Jacques Chirac.

In 1998, Maisonneuve was seconded to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and served with the civilian Kosovo Verification Mission, then headed the OSCE-KVM Refugee Task Force in Albania. For his service in this mission, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross by the Governor General of Canada. He subsequently testified at the trial of Slobodan Milosevic and on two other occasions at the International Crime Tribunal for Yugoslavia in The Hague.

In May 2000, Maisonneuve had the honour of commanding the funeral ceremony for Canada's Unknown Soldier on its repatriation to Canada from France.

In March 2003, he was promoted to Lieutenant-General and appointed Chief of Staff of NATO's Supreme Allied Command Atlantic HQ until its decommissioning and then he with his staff, stood up Supreme Allied Command Transformation HQ in Norfolk, VA, U.S.A. The Secretary-General of NATO recognized his service by awarding him the NATO Meritorious Service Medal in 2006. In addition, the President of the United States presented Maisonneuve with the U.S. Legion of Merit (degree of Officer) in recognition of his service to the U.S. while in Norfolk. He served with NATO until he retired from the Canadian Armed Forces in May 2007.

The Minister of National Defence appointed Maisonneuve as Academic Director (Principal) of Royal Military College Saint-Jean on 3 December 2007 after the re-opening of the College was announced. His efforts enabled the return of university status to the College. He retired from this post in June 2018, after ten and a half years and after a total of more than 45 years in the service of his country.

In September 2020, Maisonneuve was announced as the laureate of the 30th annual Vimy Award which "celebrates an individual's significant and outstanding lifetime contribution to Canadian security and defence and the preservation of our democratic values."

Lieutenant General Maisonneuve resides in Port Dalhousie (Niagara), ON with his wife Major Barbara Krasij (retired) and their canine companion and all-around good boy Kevin.



VICTORIA, BC, CANADA

David Marshall

Western Sahara || 1992–1993

Cyprus || 1986
Croatia || 1994
Afghanistan
Bosnia-Herzegovina

Current Residence: Ottawa, ON || Contact: david.marshall@pk75.ca

"I'LL EAT THE TESTICLE." BUT PLEASE, LET ME PROVIDE CONTEXT.

In the summer of 1992, I was posted to the Mission Nations Unies Pour un Référendum au Sahara Occidental (MINURSO), in Western Sahara. It was a mission that involved monitoring a ceasefire line. The Canadian Armed Forces named its contribution "Operation PYTHON". This was an interesting name choice, given that it was really the horn-rimmed vipers that we had to be constantly wary of.

Monitoring the line was made relatively easy by its 2,700km-long berm that delineated and separated the two factions: Moroccans on one side, Sarahwis on the other. It was made relatively difficult by the lack of marked roads and the estimated 9 million land mines strewn throughout the region. These mines were known to move under the shifting sands and so one could never be truly certain of where they might lay. This point became all too clear to me as one Moroccan officer was killed when his jeep struck an anti-tank mine one month before my arrival, and as my new American and Italian colleagues were sent home after sustaining injuries when hitting one less than two weeks after my arrival. I was to have been on that fateful patrol but was blessed with a bout of diarrhea, a gift I imagine, of adjusting to the new food. "Don't worry," I was told as I ran again to the outhouse, "you have a whole year ahead of you for patrolling!"



On patrol in the aptly named "Nissan Patrol" vehicle.

Despite these two mine strikes, I would learn that habit breeds complacency. There were countless trails throughout the desert, and we were always to stay on them. Some were clearly well-used, while many others had faded. To guide us we used the, then rudimentary and relatively new, Global Positioning System (GPS). So, when we headed off on a patrol, we would choose a trail and hope for the best. We always traveled in pairs. If the first vehicle hit a mine, the second would be able to call for help. As we traveled down the trails, the GPS would eventually indicate whether we were veering too far to the left or too far to the right of our selected waypoint. If the navigator — almost always me because I learned how to use it well — decided we hadn't selected the best trail, we were supposed to stop, back up and then pick a better trail. But this was time consuming and irritating. More often the driver — on seeing me point and hearing me say, "It looks like we should have taken that trail more to the left" — would just break trail and veer to the left across open ground to get onto the other trail. When this happened, I would immediately pull my feet and arms into my sides and hope that the blast blanket lying on the Nissan Patrol vehicle floor would protect me. Then, as we reached the new trail, I would breathe a small sigh of relief and then put my right arm back on the open window and stretch my legs out again.

I spent most of my year at Team Site Mahbas, on the Moroccan side of the berm and about 700kms inland from the coast, near the Algerian border. Patrolling was occasionally done by air, aboard a Russian-built, Ukrainian-crewed Mi-17. More often though, patrolling was done by vehicle. On one patrol (this one with my Russian, Irish, and Chinese Teammates), we stopped at a Brigade encampment and were invited for lunch. It was on this occasion that the commander held out his hand holding two white, veiny, billiard-sized globes and offered them to us with an eager grin. We all looked at each other, with hard to conceal horror, and each in turn declined the offer. Noting that a culturally insensitive offence was about to be committed, I said, "I would love to try one!" Mercifully, the veiny coverings were removed, and the commander popped one into his mouth while I took the other. Also mercifully, I discovered a goat's testicle tastes pretty bland, is smooth in texture, and not all that difficult to swallow. I would later also be introduced to another food: fresh, roasted artichoke. Delicious! I came to love the desert, my colleagues, and the Moroccans I met.

Biography

Though born in Lachine QC, David considers himself a native of Victoria, BC. After five years in Air Cadets, he crossed the Bay Street Armoury floor and joined the Canadian Scottish Regiment as a private soldier. It was here that he learned what being in the infantry was like; fun in small doses. But he had his sights set on becoming a pilot so he joined the Regular Force and in 1982, endured one horribly unsuccessful year at Royal Roads Military College. Having failed, he transferred to the Officer Candidate Training Program. Here, he was ultimately rejected by the Air Force — killing the dream to become a pilot — and then by the Navy — hurting his love for the eponymous song by the Village People. The Army begrudgingly gave him a shot based, apparently, on little else other than his honesty. In 1984, he was commissioned and posted to the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), then located in Esquimalt BC, where he served as a Rifle Platoon Commander. Thus began one of the most ill-fitting though ultimately satisfying professional careers imaginable. Within four months, he was posted onto a year-long French Language Course following which he was posted to 2 Commando of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. For the next three and a half years, he served as a Rifle Platoon Commander (including a UN tour in Cyprus), Biathlon Team Captain, Regimental Assistant Adjutant, and finally, Adjutant of 2 Commando.



In 1986, while serving with the Canadian Airborne Regiment in Cyprus, I was Quarter Guard Commander for the visit of his then Royal Highness Prince Charles. A career highlight to be sure!

After leaving the Airborne Regiment, he was posted to Canadian Forces Base Calgary. Not yet 30 years old, Major Marshall was then sent to the Western Sahara as a United Nations Military Observer and Deputy Team Site Leader. As Deputy to his British Team Site Leader, he often found himself in charge of the Team Site that included, at various times, Americans, French, Irish, Kenyan, Italian, and senior-ranking Russians, Chinese, and Venezuelan cohorts. Posted back to the PPCLI, this time with the 1st Battalion, he served as the Administration Officer during the Battalion's 1994 tour in Croatia with UNPROFOR. He was then posted to the PPCLI Battle School at Camp Wainwright, AB where he served for two years as the unit's Adjutant. In 1997, the school was amalgamated with the Camp and became the Western Area Training Centre (WATC). He served as the WATC Operations Officer for two years.

In 1999, he was promoted to major and re-enrolled in university. This time, he was much more successful. Since then, he has held staff positions at National Defence Headquarters that include Desk Officer for Humanitarian Affairs and Rules of Engagement, Desk Officer for the Naval Task Group operating under Operation APOLLO, Desk Officer for the Africa missions, Staff Officer to the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, Desk Officer for Psychological Operations, Desk Officer for Information Operations and Plans for the Canadian Expeditionary Force Command, and Desk Officer within Military Capability Management under the Chief of Force Development. From September 2008 through March 2009, he was deployed to NATO HQ Sarajevo where he served as that HQ's last Advisory Team Coordination Officer. In 2010 he was posted to the Strategic Joint Staff and serves to this day in the Arms Control Verification Directorate. In this capacity he has inspected, numerous times, units in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Finland, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia (pre-NATO), Serbia, and Ukraine. He regularly represents Canada on NATO's conventional arms Verification Coordinating Committee. At the time of publication, he was preparing to support, for three months, the Canadian Delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), based in Vienna, Austria. Canada will Chair the OSCE's Forum for Security Cooperation from September until December 2023, a once every 18 year occurrence.

Major Marshall is a graduate of the Canadian Forces Staff School, the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College, and the Lester B. Pearson Peacekeeping Centre's Command and Staff Course. He holds a baccalaureate in Political Science from the University of Ottawa. He is a father of five (one a Combat Engineer Officer in the CAF, another a Non-commissioned Officer in the French Foreign Legion), a grandfather of three, and lives in Ottawa with his partner, Martin.



Montréal, QC, Canada

George Mayer

Yemen || 1963, Egypt || 1963–1964

Current Residence: Ottawa, ON || Contact: george.mayer@pk75.ca

The UN compound at El Arish, Egypt was located on the south shore of the Mediterranean, 12 km from the airport. We had approximately 15 pilots flying Caribou and Otter aircraft, and our primary task was to patrol the border between Egypt and Israel. We also flew UN passengers and freight to various locations throughout the Middle East, including scheduled flights to Cairo, Beirut, and Cyprus. As an officer, I had a single room in the Officers' Quarters which were adjacent to the Officers' Mess where we had our meals and social gatherings. On base was a tailor shop, beach house, small base exchange, and the post office, which was a popular spot when the weekly mail arrived. Although our compound had beach access, it was seldom used, as it was littered with clumps of tar from ships that had discharged bunker oil after exiting the Suez Canal.



Flight planning, Yemen, 1963.

Shortly after my arrival, I was alone on a patrol of the Egypt/Israel border in the Otter, when I observed a convoy of UN vehicles travelling along the border. I decided to investigate by doing a very low high-speed pass directly over them. During my pass, I heard a metallic sound like "PLINK"! After checking all the instruments and finding no problems, I remained low (20 feet) and sped back to base where I learned I had amputated the top six feet of the communication jeep's antenna with my propeller and forced the UN crews, which included a guest Israeli General (OOPS), to take cover under the jeeps. They were not amused, having had their clean UN uniforms covered with dirt and grease. The following Friday we were all invited to the army's beer call at Rafah where I was awarded a "Distinguished F***ing Around Cross" and presented with the jeep's antenna as a souvenir.

In 1963, a civil war had broken out in Yemen and the UN established the Yemen Observation Mission, based in the capital, Sanaa, an ancient walled city at 7400 feet elevation. Headquarters was about seven km from the airport, inside the city, and guarded by local Yemeni hired by the UN. We were housed in an historical stone building that had previously been occupied by the prince's harem. Medical repatriation was high, as many personnel became ill from the water, which was infected with parasites.

Two pilots, a mechanic, and a UN radio officer spent alternate weeks rotating between Sanaa and one of three outposts located at Gazan (on the shore of the Red Sea), Nazran (at the edge of the Rub-al-Kali desert), and Uqd. At the outposts, the desert sand served as our runway, and two Otters were always sent on patrol in case one had an emergency. Living conditions were less than ideal with us sleeping on camp cots outside our tents to avoid scorpions, and eating boxed survival rations. When the medical officer visited, he stated "No human being should ever be subjected to the living conditions experienced by the personnel at 134 ATU Yemen mission."

Back in Egypt, I had an unforgettable flight from Gaza to Beirut. These flights were generally quiet, as we were required to fly 30 miles off the Israeli coast until we arrived at the Lebanon border. With persistent low cloud and no navigation aids, it was challenging. On this flight, I asked my newly arrived co-pilot why he kept nervously looking out his window. He replied, "Take a look!" To my surprise, there was an Israeli Mystère fighter on our wing signalling us to head toward Tel Aviv. This was not good, as we had a full load of Arab passengers. I asked the co-pilot to observe the Mystère and report. Meanwhile, I surreptitiously reached up and slowly pulled back the Caribou's throttles. Within a few seconds there was a very loud bang that sounded like a fighter jet's afterburner. The co-pilot reported that the Israeli fighter had disappeared straight up, never to be seen again! The Mystère could not match the slow speed of our Caribou and had obviously entered a stall. The pilot had powered his way out of it and probably needed to change his shorts after landing!

Biography

I always wanted to fly! I was born in Montréal October 5, 1940, and from an early age showed a keen interest in aviation, making countless paper airplanes and gradually progressing to models. As a young teen, I would take the streetcar out to Cartierville airport to stand by the fence and watch the aircraft. A high school friend mentioned Air Cadets, and I joined No.1 West Montréal Squadron in 1956.



Flying Officer Mayer with DeHavilland Otter, Egypt, 1964.

The following summer, I signed up with the RCAF Auxiliary and qualified as an air frame technician. A year later, I was awarded the Air Cadet Power Flying Scholarship and earned my private pilot licence in a Cessna 172. In 1959, I was selected for the Air Cadet International Exchange visit to the UK, and later that year I was accepted by the RCAF for pilot training. After completing courses at Centralia, ON, Penhold, AB, and Portage la Prairie, MB, I received my pilot's wings in 1961. My first job was as a pilot with the Air Navigation School in Winnipeg. It was a great job for a young pilot to gain valuable experience and flying time.

Since I was looking for adventure, I volunteered to serve with United Nations in the Middle East. The spring of 1963 found me at Trenton, ON, training on the DeHavilland Caribou and Otter aircraft in preparation for my posting to El Arish, Egypt. I began flying there in June 1963 and after three months was sent to the UN Observation Mission Sana, Yemen, on a six-month posting before returning to El Arish to complete my required time there. Thus, with back-to- back postings, I was awarded medals for both the UN Emergency Force (Egypt) and UN Yemen Observation Mission.

Before returning to Canada, I used my leave to travel and visit relatives and friends in Germany, Switzerland, and Norway. I returned to Trenton after a year out of the country and spent the summer flying there before transferring to 412 Squadron in Ottawa in September,1964. My three plus years in Ottawa proved to be an interesting time. Our task was to fly VIPs and visiting Heads of State, quite a change from my UN experience! While in Ottawa I met my wife, Joy Hartley, a teacher at RCAF Rockcliffe and we married in August 1967.

After completing courses to become a flying instructor in 1968, I was posted to CFB Borden, ON, to instruct at the Primary Flying School and in 1970, the school and I relocated to Portage la Prairie. Another two years and I was back to CFB Borden as Executive Assistant to the Base Commander. My duties included serving as President of the Borden Flying Club and instructing Air Cadets on the flying scholarship program. This required me to upgrade my civilian flying and instructor licences, which would come in handy later in my career.

In September 1974, I was posted to Greenwood, NS, to fly the Argus (CP07). This was a challenge as the Argus was the largest aircraft I had flown, and I was not used to flying as low as 200 ft over water searching for and tracking submarines. I came to love this kind of flying and being a Crew Commander responsible for a crew of 17.

In 1980, the Argus was retired, and it was time to move my family back to the Ottawa area. Unfortunately, this meant I would be flying a desk at DND Headquarters, which was not nearly as exciting or rewarding as flying the Argus. In 1982, I accepted a position at Transport Canada in Ottawa as a Civil Aviation Inspector. I left the RCAF after 24 wonderful years and continued flying in my new position. At Transport Canada I completed inspections for Canadian pilot efficiency in Canada, the Middle East, and Africa for 13 years until I retired in 1995.

At retirement, I had flown for 37 years logging 10,865 hours in 26 types of aircraft. Since then, I have enjoyed restoring vintage motorcycles, RV camping, fishing trips, photography, and spending time with our two daughters, their spouses, and our four grandchildren. My wife and I still like to travel and between us have visited six continents and 69 countries. At time of writing, I am living in Ottawa, and am active in several Veterans' organizations, and as a tour guide at Vintage Wings of Canada.



Cochrane, AB, Canada

William (Bill) McAuley

Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1994, 2000

Afghanistan || 2004, 2008

Current Residence: Calgary, AB || Contact: bill.mcauley@pk75.ca

One of the certainties of all peacekeeping operations is the persistent need for engineering services. Humanitarian convoys can't move unless destroyed bridges are replaced and mountain tracks are turned into highways to bypass active fighting. Hospitals, power grids, and water systems supporting civilian populations all suffer collateral damage or break down from neglect. Peacekeepers also need to build and sustain the equivalent of small towns for their own contingents. Observation posts situated between warring factions need to be cleared of landmines and fortified to protect against artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire. Images of peacekeeping missions rarely portray the shovels, hammers, chainsaws, sandbags, mine detectors, dump trucks, bulldozers, cranes, and rockdrills that enable the daily wizardry of engineering units. Engineer contingents are the humble workhorses of every peacekeeping mission.



Corporal Greg Purcell stands next to the M113 Dozer Call Sign Echo-13-Echo (E13E) during construction of Observation Post Kilo-Hotel (OP KH). Kiseljak Pocket. August 1994.

From May to October 1994, I was part of a sub-unit of 1 Combat Engineer Regiment (1 CER) supporting the Lord Strathcona Horse (Royal Canadians) Battle Group of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia Herzegovina. With just 74 members, our sub-unit made a disproportionate impact from our base in Visoko. Key accomplishments of 17 Engineer Squadron included: over 65 km of roads repaired or constructed; over 22,000 cubic metres of gravel hauled; 1.3 million litres of water purified; 25 observation posts (OPs) and road checkpoints (CPs) constructed or improved; over 70,000 sandbags placed; and approximately 27 km of minefields in mountainous terrain cleared.

At 19-years-old, I was probably the youngest member of the Battle Group and one of only five army reservists within the engineer contingent. I was the junior sapper (the traditional rank of an engineer private) of a field engineer section and was often the 'preferred volunteer' for any dirty jobs, such as sandbagging the exposed roof of an OP while being harassed by bemused snipers of the warring factions. My days generally involved endless hours of hard manual labour, but there was fulfillment in knowing this work was helping humanitarian convoys move supplies and restore lifeline services to civilians. There was also the noticeable respect that our hard work garnered within the Battle Group as our grimy M113 Section Engineer Vehicle (SEV) — a mobile workshop that looks like a Swiss army knife on tracks because it bristles with an earth auger, hydraulic tools, innumerable tool boxes, and a dozer blade — arrived at remote mountain outposts to build literal castles out of sea containers, 12×12 timbers, sandbags, and Hesco bastion blast

walls. Interspersed were unique tasks such as midnight blasting of rockfaces on mountain switchbacks with C4 explosives to enable aid convoys destined for the besieged Sarajevo to traverse a former goat track dubbed Route PACMAN.

One of the more dangerous tasks we did during the summer of 1994 was monitoring the removal of landmines in the densely forested hills around the town of Kiseljak. Each day we would wind our way through trench systems alongside engineers from the warring factions. With an unfathomable lack of concern for safety, and without interruption to chain-smoking habits, these local engineers would crash through the undergrowth into no-mans-land to a location indicated on their dubious mine records and proceed to disarm and remove various improvised fragmentation mines. In many cases the mines had already been detonated during fighting or had at some point been clandestinely stolen by the opposing warring faction. Our job was to verify the clearance and provide immediate rescue and medical support should something go wrong.

While our rescue services were luckily never required, the deadly significance of mine clearance operations had resonance for us. Master Corporal Mark "Izzy" Isfeld, a member of our sister engineer contingent deployed in nearby Croatia, had been killed in June 1994 during a mine clearance operation. While unknown to me at the time, mines would become a core focus of my subsequent peacekeeping mission to Sarajevo in 2000, where I worked coordinating post-war mine threat information and assisting with developing Bosnia's mine and unexploded ordinance clearance capabilities. The legacy of my 1994 tour in the Former Yugoslavia would also visibly touch my subsequent deployments to Afghanistan, where we would give "Izzy Dolls" to children in honour of the sacrifice of Canadian peacekeepers.

Biography

Bill McAuley joined the Canadian Armed Forces as a part-time soldier (a.k.a. reservist) in Calgary on 10 October 1992 at the age of 17. After initial training as a sapper (a.k.a. combat engineer) in Chilliwack B.C., he quickly volunteered for United Nations' peacekeeping duties in Bosnia Herzegovina as a reserve augmentee. In 1994, Bill deployed to Camp Visoko in Bosnia with 1 Combat Engineer Regiment as part of the Lord Strathcona Horse (Royal Canadians) Battle Group. This mission placed a young sapper in his element, with rewarding days of honest physical labour fortifying remote observation posts, repairing critical humanitarian supply routes, assisting with landmine clearance, and maintaining essential camp services. Bill subsequently returned to his civilian university studies, paying for his entire education through his part-time military service by attending military qualification courses and eventually instructing at the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering (CFSME) during summer breaks.



Sapper Bill McAuley prepares C4 explosives charges for nighttime rock blasting on main supply route PACMAN between Blinje to Kresevo. 14 September 1994. Engineer work occurred from 2000-0530 hrs to allow vital humanitarian convoy traffic to use PACMAN during daylight hours.

Bill returned to peace enforcement duties in Bosnia in 2000, this time with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Stabilization Force (SFOR) that was helping maintain the peace so that reconstruction efforts could proceed. While the war had ended, landmines and unexploded ammunition still littered much of the country. Now a Sergeant, Bill worked in downtown Sarajevo with the Mines Information Coordination Cell (MICC) focussing on preventing casualties from landmines and supporting the development of local capabilities to clear the extensive landmine and explosive threat to civilians.

Bill's army reserve training and peacekeeping experience in Bosnia set him up nicely for an initial civilian career as an Explosives Inspector with the Government of Canada. Having also progressed quickly through the ranks of Calgary's reserve engineer unit, 33 Field Engineer Squadron, Bill also sought out additional challenges through specialized training in military intelligence and a graduate degree in military and strategic studies. In 2004, now holding the rank of Warrant Officer, Bill volunteered to deploy to Kabul, Afghanistan in a specialized intelligence role. While Afghanistan was not a peacekeeping mission, Bill's experiences in Bosnia still provided a strategic advantage. Becoming a commissioned officer in 2005, Bill would return to Afghanistan in 2008 in command of a specialized intelligence team in Kandahar.

In 2010, Bill was inducted as a Member of the Order of Military Merit (MMM) and was convinced by distinguished Canadian military historian Dr. David Bercuson, to pursue a doctorate degree in strategic studies at the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies (CMSS) in Calgary, which he completed while working fulltime, maintaining army reserve duties, and starting a family. Bill's multi-disciplinary background in military engineering, military intelligence, and strategic studies eventually led him to transition to a second civilian career in public security with the Government of Alberta. Having gained priceless skills and experience during his 22 years of army reserve service, Bill retired from the Canadian Armed Forces in 2015 to focus on his growing family and increasing pressures of his civilian career.

Bill lives in Calgary with his wife and two children.



CALGARY, AB, CANADA

Dave McCracken

Kuwait || 1991, Cambodia || 1995, Egypt || 1997

Pakistan || 1989

Thailand, Iraq, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, East Timor

Current Residence: Thailand || Contact: dave.mccracken@pk75.ca

The paradox of my Peacekeeper experience is that I was deployed to combat an enemy who signed no peace treaty, who continued relentlessly to kill and maim innocent victims 24 hours a day, in all seasons. My job was clearing landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) in war zones.

Deployed in 1977 to UN Emergency Force (UNEFII) in Egypt, I served as a radio operator and dispatch rider with 73 Signals Squadron. I was based in El Tasa, in the Sinai Desert in the UN Buffer Zone between the Egyptian and Israeli Armies. These duties including the satisfying job of driving a jeep all over the Sinai Desert buffer zone delivering supplies and messages. Negotiating narrow sand tracks, though heavily mined areas I experienced my first encounters with landmines in the Sinai desert.

Operation SALOM was a UN Development Program created to train Afghan refugees to clear explosive remnants of war (ERW). I deployed in 1989 with a Training Team to Peshawar and Risalpur, Pakistan, in anticipation of a million refugees returning to war-torn Afghanistan. It was a challenge teaching illiterate Afghan tribesman the dangerous skills of locating and destroying landmines, included integrating Mine Dog Teams and Demining Platoons. Our Canadian instructors unique "Can-do" approach adapted highly technical training by successfully working through cultural, and unique language challenges. It was particularly difficult convincing Afghan deminers to trust that dogs are friendly and can smell landmines.

In 1991, 1 Combat Engineer Regiment deployed as part of the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) following the first Gulf War. The mission involved developing a buffer zone between Kuwait and Iraq, building observation posts, safe routes and clearing UXO. My role was supporting our troops in the desert with daily resupply and maintenance. The professionalism of our Canadian Combat Engineers performing their duties, including the clearing of highly dangerous UXO, was inspiring, and a credit to Canada.

Returning from Kuwait, I was immediately redeployed, in 1992, with a quickly assembled team of Engineer experts to the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) to prepare safe conditions for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to implement a national election. I was assigned as Senior Mine (Landmine) Technical Advisor to the Cambodia Mine Action Center (CMAC). Our task was to locate and document all known mined areas and deploy trained deminers. This critical mission enabled landmine-incident-free deployment of peacekeepers, and the return of one million refugees into heavily mined, former battlefield areas so they could vote.



Demonstrating how to probe for mines

I remained in Cambodia with the Canadian Team for two and a half years, deploying over 2500 deminers in teams throughout the country. This mission was my most rewarding experience in Peacekeeping. I witnessed the unceasing bravery of Cambodians laying down their weapons and taking up mine detectors to free their country of this deadly curse. To this day, CMAC deminers continue to free land from landmines for families to make a living.

Following the Cambodia mission, I returned to Chilliwack, BC, having completed 20 years of proud military service to Canada

and the UN. Retiring my uniform, I was recruited by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) to serve as the Mine Survey Officer for Angola. My primary role was reconnaissance of potential (landmine free) Cantonment sites for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) guerilla forces to demobilize under UN supervision. The most lasting memory for me is the untreated landmine victims suffering from gangrenous, open wounds in remote towns all over Angola, a situation that continued whilst an endless state of war and negotiations lingered on.

As the peace stalled in Angola, I was recruited to lead a Handicap International project to create an additional Demining Unit for CMAC. Back amongst old friends in Cambodia, I set to the task training, equipping and fielding a Battalion sized unit in Kompong Thom province, the former home of Pol Pot, and still partially occupied by the genocidal Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge put a price on my head (it was only 6000 Thai Baht, the equivalent paltry sum of 240 Canadian Dollars), but thankfully, due to our reputation of freeing up land, local people always informed us of the Khmer Rouge whereabouts, and we kept one step ahead of them.

The U.S. State Department consecutively asked me to set up the Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC) in 1999 and Iraqi Mine Action Center (IMAC) in 2003. The TMAC program included upgrade training for the Mine Dog School in Pak Chong and deploying Mine Dog teams alongside four border units engaged in Humanitarian Demining. It was rewarding to work with Thai professionals dedicated to removing landmines in border communities.

Arriving in Iraq in June 2003, soon after Baghdad's liberation, I assisted in setting up IMAC. An insurgency war started, and my mission was to re-employ Kurdish former UN Deminers in Northern Iraq and to develop new Demining Teams from the former Iraqi Army. My lasting memory of this mission is the steadfast courage of Iraqis braving car bombs, mortar, and rocket attacks to come to work every day, without fail, to learn humanitarian demining. Which was a high-risk job in itself.

I am proud to say that, through 20 years of Military service and 25 years of civilian, high-risk, Humanitarian Mine Action missions, no one was killed, wounded, or maimed on my watch. I attribute this to the skills I learned as a Canadian Combat Engineer, from great leadership examples I encountered along the way, and from the good advice received from my comrades in arms and thousands of dedicated Deminers. I'm indebted to those brave men and women who don Deminer uniforms and risk their lives every day. They are my heroes; bless them all.

Biography

My Dad, William (Bill) McCracken, was a veteran of the United Nations (UN) Korean War serving with "C" Squadron, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) in 1951. He fought North Korean and Chinese Communist forces who invaded South Korea, then continued his service in the Armoured (Tank) Corps for 25 years. My Mom, Mary (nee Crane) was a young English girl who survived the German bombing of her city Coventry in England, before immigrating to Canada as a Stenographer after World War II.



NE Cambodia minefield survey operations.

Born in Calgary, AB on 28 Feb 1956, I lived the nomadic, military family lifestyle, as we were posted around Canada, and overseas to West Germany on two occasions. Growing up in a military family in the 1960's and 1970's, one is keenly aware of the menacing Cold War and the possibility of nuclear war.

Following my conscience and father's footsteps, in 1975 I joined the Army at Canadian Forces Base Lahr, West Germany, completing trades training at CFB Chilliwack, BC at the rank of Sapper. As a Field Engineer, now called Combat Engineer, I embarked on a 20-year adventure. My Canada-based postings included 3 Field Squadron, 1 Combat Engineer Regiment, Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering (all in Chilliwack, BC), and 22 Field Squadron in Gagetown, NB.

I enjoyed an exciting military career involving four rewarding UN Peacekeeping and Development missions in the Sinai Desert Egypt, Peshawar Pakistan, Kuwait, and Cambodia. As a Sapper, my intense training brought unique skill sets in Combat Engineering, Combat Diver, landmine warfare, demolitions and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD). Eventually, I taught and mastered all these skills as an instructor. Fortuitously these skills would eventually save my life and others many times over.

After retiring from the Canadian Armed Forces, I was recruited by the UN, Governments, NGO's, and commercial companies over a period of another 25 years to work in the Humanitarian Mine Action sector, with projects all over the world, including Angola, Cambodia, Laos, Washington, DC, Thailand, Iraq, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and East Timor.

My hometown is Chilliwack, BC, where my family resides. My son Blake, with grandson Maxwell, is living in Grapevine, Texas, and my daughter Heather, with granddaughter Nora, is living in Saint John's, NL. Currently, I'm living in Nakon Ratchasima, Thailand with my wife Tui and continue to engage in Humanitarian Mine Action projects. As of writing this biography Feb 2023, I am participating in a Chemical Weapons Survey in the eastern Provinces of Cambodia, an explosive, toxic remnant of the Vietnam War. Chimo



VALLEYFIELD, QC, CANADA

Mario Miller

Cyprus || 1988, Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1993

Norway || 1986
Germany || 1989
Oka Crisis, Canada || 1990

Current Residence: Repentigny, QC || Contact: mario.miller@pk75.ca

My first peacekeeping tour was with the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry (3PPCLI) stationed in Esquimalt, Victoria, BC in 1988 in Cyprus. Capt. Sylvain Beausejour participated in the parade into the LEDRA PALACE for the ceremony to receive our dignitary LGen Vance and LCol Anderson, Commanding Officer 3rd PPCLI. In the early evening of 15 May 1988, the word went out among the Canadian contingent that Sector One was on fire! A full platoon of soldiers was sent to the Danish UN contingent to fight the fire, while several additional platoons were deployed. After 24 hours, the fire covering more than 50 square kilometres was still out of control. The order was given to deploy the rest of the force.

The helicopter flight of the Danish Army Air Corps and the United Nations provided an invaluable service in locating the hot spots of the fire and directing the water bombing operation. The most notable enemy was the extreme heat combined with the smoke.

The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was established in 1964 to prevent any resumption of fighting between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. Following the events of 1974, the mission's responsibilities were expanded by the UN Security Council, so UNFICYP remained on the island to monitor the ceasefire lines and the buffer zone through observation posts along the 180 km long and 7 km wide line in rural areas. Only 21 Observation Posts (Ops) remained permanently occupied, three others were occupied during the day only and 19 others periodically. All of these posts were used for overnight accommodation for UNFICYP military personnel, to undertake humanitarian activities and support the mission.

In Yugoslavia in particular, the situation degenerated into ethnic conflict. The UN sent an international peacekeeping force to the Croatian region (Zagreb) in addition to having a base camp for supplies at the Split airport, in my passport this airport was called at the time (MAYBE AIRLINE) where several former Yugoslav republics were in the middle of a civil war. Canadians became a big part of this force. Operation Cavalier 2e R22eR Battle Group"1993 — Battle Group Commander LCol JGP Desjardins, CD, ADC.



Mario repairing a Cougar Armoured Vehicle.

We went on a pilgrimage Medjugorje is the place of conversion of the heart. Fr Slavko, Franciscan and Padre Maj. JP Guay and Capt Y. Pichette; told us: "On pilgrimage, try to live humbly. To follow up on the death of a brother in arms Daniel Gunter on 18 June 1993."

The great beauty of the landscape made us see from the road the city Mostar in Bosnia and its oldest bridge of 1566 about 150 km after leaving the airport of Slit. On the way to Gradac town from where we saw some military lodges before taking the road to the town of Visoko, where there was a Serbian and Croatian observation post to continue for more than 200km in five hours of driving along the beautiful mountain. What awaited us for certain on this long journey, sections were deployed to the town

of Srebrenica over 200km and 4.5 hours of travel on a rotational basis. The memories of these trips are marked by images of a country ravaged by a conflict often incomprehensible to our typical Canadian consciousness, of seeing razed villages, intransigent belligerents and masses of refugees.

We have other camps around Kiseljak which is a mere 20 minutes away, and our numerous escort patrols for the personnel working on maintenance of vehicles and weapons became an established rotation. With the pace of the vehicles the M113 Tow, Cougars, iltis, and heavy vehicles. We were also present for the Parade with dignitaries from Camp Visoko with Major General JMR Gaudreault on 14 June 1993, Deputy Commander United Nations Protection Force and Contingent Commander. Major-General Macinnis, FORPRONU GCmdt command with Lt-General Morillon a renowned commander (French).

Biography

Mario Miller was born in Valleyfield on May 15, 1966. He has two children: Cindy and Jonathan. He is the proud grandfather of Mia, 12 years old. Now a resident of Repentigny since 2006, Mr. Miller started his career as a cadet at the Corps de Cadets 2637 Falaise Longue-Pointe in 1976. In 1984, at the age of 17, he joined the Fusiliers du Mont-Royal as an infantry reservist. In 1986, Mr. Miller obtained a transfer to the 2nd Battalion of the Royal 22e Régiment, still in the Infantry and a 1988 transfer to the P.P.C.L.I. Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry. During this period, he attended various training courses in Leadership 5B & 6A for the Sergeant Rank, as well as other training in communications, combat vehicles, and land weapons. He then became a weapons technician with the Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineering, commonly known as the RCEME.



M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier, with Anti-Armour TOW Weapon system.

During his career in the Canadian Army, Mr. Miller participated in various missions: Norway in 1986, Cyprus in 1987, Germany in 1989, Oka Crisis in 1990, Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1993. Mr. Miller holds several military decorations from the United Nations for his dedication to Cyprus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Peacekeeping. In 1996, he received an honourable discharge from the Canadian Armed Forces.

He is also decorated by the Allied Volunteer Combatants in Europe as a veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces. In 2012, he joined the Royal Canadian Legion Terrebonne Heights in Mascouche as an Officer in the position of 3rd Vice President and as Chairman of the Poppy Campaign. He was awarded the 150th Anniversary of Confederation Medal, which was followed, in 2013, by a Certificate of Appreciation for the installation of a certain level security system for a building. In 2017, he became the Legion Service Officer, Branch 120, and was of great service to local veterans. In 2018, he became the 24th President of Legion Branch 120, Terrebonne Heights, and was awarded the Branch Service Medal as well as the President's Medal. He was re-elected for his second term. Since 1995, he has been working for Dormakaba, Canada Inc. and is still the Director of Distribution Development for the province of Québec. We must not forget that throughout these years, family and friends have supported and accompanied him in his endeavours.



St. Anne de Sorel, QC, Canada

Mario Millette

Golan Heights, Israel || 1999

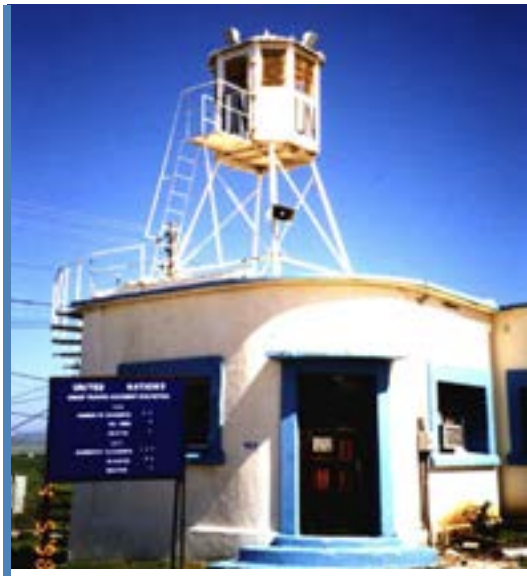
Current Residence: St. Anne de Sorel, QC || Contact: mario.millette@pk75.ca

I was overwhelmed with emotion as I was told I was going on a United Nations peacekeeping tour for six months. I had always wanted to wear the Blue Beret at least once in my career. It was to be on the Golan Heights in northern Israel, very near the Syrian border. I started to learn all I could about the UN mission there, to know and understand my exact role and why we were there. I went, because of my trade, to be the chief dispatcher for all passenger vehicles on the camp, which was about 35 plus four buses and eight drivers. There were a few pictures on the internet showing a bit about how Camp Ziouani was set up, and it looked like a great place to do a tour.

I also learned that the Barracks are shared with the Japanese Contingent. They were on their 7th UN Tour directly from Japan with little to no English language skills whatsoever. This really intrigued me and that led to many friendships along the way. I had brought my guitar over and I would play in the barracks. Occasionally we would all gather and drink a little SAKE and play some Johnny Cash and other tunes. I had also brought over some close-up magic tricks that I had been working on. I had spent a great number of years in barracks life before, which is similar to living in university dorms, so there is aways a game of cards or whatever going on.

The Japanese fellas were catching scorpions and at lunch time they would put them in a small cardboard enclosure, like a boxing ring, the betting would start, and the scorpions would fight to the death. Over in our Canadian canteen, people played cribbage and other card games. In between, we did training and practiced going to the bunkers with our full gear, until we got it right; good old military.

On some weekends, we could cross the border through various checkpoints to visit Syria. Driving into Syria there is a section of no-mans-land where the buildings are demolished flat with cars still in the garage, crushed by the house — reminders of past suffering. The first time I went, it felt like turning back time 500 years. We drove to Damascus, Syria avoiding the manholes in the road because there were no covers, having been stolen, sold, whatever. Going for a visit to see the Souk to purchase all kinds of neat things, first the smell of spices would overwhelm, then perfumes, then spicy foods. All were beautiful scents. The shops were filled with Syrians but zero tourists, just us Blue Beret soldiers with a bit of cash. Everyone offers you tea, but we soon learned never to drink one, as it would cause severe, sudden, explosions in your pants, a lesson one Japanese soldier learned as he ran down the hall screaming at three in the morning.



Watch tower at the main gate.

Another element that made it a great tour for me was the presence of wonderful people around me who were so proud and happy to make it all the well-oiled machine that it is. It was a successful tour for all of us but mind you it was also calm. Of course word got around that I played guitar, so my Commanding Officer hooked me up for a show for the Austrians at position 22 in the desert, a machine gun outpost. So, Saturday morning they came and got me, along with another guy who also played guitar, and off we went to entertain.

Another adventure involved a courtesy visit of our commanding officer to Mount Hermon on the Syrian side. He asked me to be his driver and told me to bring tire chains. We went with another

Toyota UN white vehicle and headed to the border crossing from Israel to enter Syria. With the Colonel in the jump seat, he explained where we were heading, to visit the Austrian Mountain Infantry unit that was posted there. After a couple of checkpoints, they recommended to put the tire chains on as we were coming into snow covered roads. We continued to climb for a while, then we came upon our final checkpoint where we parked just outside a big garage door. Everyone was shaking hands, and we were offered a quick visit. All I can say is, it was very similar to a James Bond movie when he is being chased by guys on white skis, white suits, goggles, and a machine gun. When my commanding officer was finished, we headed back down the mountain, took the chains off, and headed back, but to our surprise the Syrian border was closed. Plan B was go sleep at Camp Fouar, another UN Camp much like ours, occupied by Poles, Canadians, and a few other Blue Beret Peacekeepers.

My days were filled with keeping the vehicle fleet going, trying to maintain peace amongst the troops, full action, if need be, and of course adding fun and playing jokes on each other. Japanese people are downright funny. Along with my guitar and magic tricks, I had packed a rubber snake, rubber tarantula, and a couple of other bugs. Every morning we would all shave at the same time as the Japanese soldiers. I told my roommate about my devious plan, and he was all-in. I put the rubber snake in my towel and right after I was all lathered up, I reached down and started screaming 'snake.' I had it by the head and was shaking this thing, meanwhile heading towards the exit (still screaming), went outside, and tossed it under the wood stairs. Then I walked in, all relaxed, and continued to shave. An hour later, the Colonel was looking for me, and came around to congratulate me for taking the snake out. That's when he informed me that the Japanese Colonel wanted to have tea with him and I. Just go with the story and get back up now, eh?

I saw some awesome sites on this tour including Damascus, Egypt, and most sites in Israel. Being a Peacekeeper in the Middle East during the time I was there, from Jun–Nov 99, things were peaceful on both sides, thankfully. I retired from the CF in 2004 as a Transportation Platoon Warrant Officer at Edmonton, AB, and moved back to my hometown of Sorel, QC.

Biography

In 1984 as a young adult, I knew I was headed to the Forces somehow. At eighteen I signed up for what would be the very best 20 years of my life. I have served as a Logistician, Transport trade. I was first sent to Cornwallis, NS, then off to Borden, ON for trades training. My first posting was Calgary, AB for five years, then off to Germany we went, and spent two wonderful years there. I was then transferred back to Borden for a five-year posting. My first experience with the Air Force was when we were transferred to Trenton, ON where the heavy equipment snow removal and the refueling of aircraft was priority.



Transport Section on Syrian tank in the Golan, myself at top right.

It was at this time, in 1999, that a United Nations Tour was offered to me in the Golan Heights for six months as the Transport Chief Dispatcher. It was always one of my top wishes to someday wear a Blue Beret. My next posting was to North Bay, an area with the most beautiful scenery. During the summer of 2002, while in North Bay, I spearheaded a project in Eureka, Inuvik replacing culverts with an excellent team of Engineers and heavy equipment operators. In the summer of 2003, I was posted to Edmonton, AB to the very unit, One Service Battalion, that I had been a member of on my first posting. In 2004, I ended my career after 20 adventurous years.



PETERBOROUGH, ON, CANADA

Gregory B. Mitchell

Cyprus || 1977–1978, 1983–1984, 1986–1987, Sudan || 2004, 2005

Oka Crisis, Canada || 1990

Current Residence: Kingston, ON || Contact: greg.mitchell@pk75.ca

Having devoted many years to its study and practice, I am a steadfast believer in the intrinsic value of peacekeeping. When done well, it can secure peace and offer hope for people in war-torn areas of the world who would otherwise continue to suffer from violence and the horrible consequences that war inevitably creates - disease, famine, and displacement. Some of my most vivid recollections of peacekeeping involve individual conversations and encounters with local civilians, former combatants, and fellow peacekeepers. During my first of three tours in UNFICYP, Cyprus, only three years after the Turkish invasion that had cost the lives of two Canadian soldiers, I met an elderly Greek-Cypriot lady. Now forced to start her life over in Nicosia, she had forever been displaced from her home in Kyrenia, where now only Turkish-Cypriots were permitted. When accompanying a Canadian patrol deployed in UNMEE, we bypassed one of many uncleared and deadly minefields between the armies of Ethiopia and Eritrea, where the skeletal remains of young soldiers were left unidentified, and unclaimed. I could only imagine the pain and suffering of the families who would forever wonder what had happened to their beloved sons. In Sudan, while serving with UNMIS, we were negotiating between former combatants in the recently ended civil war, and I was shocked and saddened by the statements of their senior commanders. When questioned, they calmly declared that, after 20 years of fighting, they had no prisoners to release, a casual admission of the war crime of executing prisoners. Both sides also refused to acknowledge their use of children as soldiers, something we in the peacekeeping mission knew to be untrue.

While in Haiti, I was fortunate to see firsthand the good work being accomplished by MINUSTAH to help one of the world's poorest nations. Unfortunately, many of my UN colleagues were later killed in a devastating earthquake that also claimed hundreds of thousands of Haitian lives. Two RCMP Officers and six Canadian civilians working with the UN were among the dead. In Bosnia, with Canadian soldiers of UNPROFOR, we visited a couple in their 80's who had recently chosen to return to their small village, rather than remain safely with their extended family in Oakville, ON, where they had fled the war years before. With a Canadian-donated tarpaulin for a roof, no electricity or running water, a meagre garden for food, and no health, sanitation, or medical services to call upon. Yet, they seemed content, for this was their home where they had chosen to return to live out the rest of their days, despite the ravages of war so evident around them. I was worried about their vulnerability and the unlikelihood of their survival, but was also in awe of their faith, resilience, and determination, and was honoured to be entrusted by them with a letter I later delivered in person to their extended family in Canada.



Greg with Eritrean children, 2001.

Over the years, finding common ground and mutual respect between us, I developed many friendships with devoted international humanitarians, police, and diplomats, and with other military peacekeepers from around the globe.

I also occasionally bonded with soldiers who were former combatants whom we were there to separate and with whom we nurtured and enforced ceasefire agreements. However, the very best memories I have are of those fine Canadian men and women, military, police, and civilians, with whom I deployed in far-off lands. In the service of peace, we worked together, sacrificed together, broke bread together, and shared the bonds of comradeship that come from overcoming challenges, living in austere and dangerous environments, and bringing some semblance of peace to a previously war-torn corner of the world. In our own way, one positive way, we willingly gave of ourselves, selflessly and often with tremendous personal sacrifice, for the benefit of others who are less fortunate. We in Canada are indeed blessed not to experience war within our own country; yet, in this world we Canadians are in the minority. That is why peacekeeping is so important, and why I am its steadfast supporter.

Biography

The son of an honourable and dedicated Father who was a WW II RCAF aircrew Veteran, and an amazing Mother who, together raised five children, Greg Mitchell was raised in Peterborough, ON, where he attended Highland Heights Elementary and Adam Scott Collegiate and Vocational School. He was a member of the local Boy Scout Troop, 534 Air Cadet Squadron, and the Air Force Reserve. He and his wife currently reside in Kingston, ON. Together, they have three grown sons, two of whom are serving in the Army.



Greg (far right) meeting with Prince Charles (now King Charles III), in Nicosia, Cyprus, 1986.

A graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada, Greg earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, and was the Cadet Wing Commander, winning academic and military prizes, including the prestigious Sword of Honour. After a brief and unsuccessful stint as a student pilot, he became an Infantry Officer who eventually served three tours of duty with 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (2RCR) within 5e Groupe-brigade mécanisé du Canada, and two with the Canadian Airborne Regiment, a unit of the Special Service Force. As Commanding Officer of 2RCR, he commanded a 1200-person Battle Group during the Oka Crisis

Greg served in senior staff positions at the Combat Training Centre, Land Force Central Area, and Army HQ. He was the founder and first Commandant of the Army's Tactics School, and Base Commander of Canadian Forces Base Petawawa. As Commander of Land Force Atlantic Area, he was responsible for preparing the military response in the four Atlantic Provinces for Y2K and led the military support effort in Atlantic Canada on 9/11 when 24,000 passengers and crew, originally destined for the USA, were diverted to land in Eastern Canada.

As well as being a graduate of Canadian Forces Staff School, Army Staff College, Canadian Forces Command and Staff College, and Canada's National Defence College, he earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Queen's University and a Master of Public Safety degree from Wilfrid Laurier University. Additional peacekeeping studies were pursued in Italy, Sweden, Kenya, and the USA. Greg served on three United Nations (UN) peacekeeping tours in Cyprus as Contingent Welfare Officer, Company Commander, and Deputy Contingent Commander. He also had occasion to visit Canadian troops deployed to UN missions in Ethiopia-Eritrea, Lebanon, Haiti, and Bosnia, as well as the African Union (AU) Mission in Darfur.

Greg's final military posting was in Denmark where he was the only Canadian ever to command the Multinational Stand-by High Readiness Brigade for United Nations Operations (SHIRBRIG). He served as a UN Military Advisor to the Sudanese ceasefire negotiations ending the 20-year civil war, helped the UN to plan and establish its political and peacekeeping missions in Sudan, leading deployment of SHIRBRIG's HQ and serving both missions as, respectively, the first Military Advisor, and the first Deputy Force Commander. At the time, the UN's integrated North-South Sudan mission was the largest, most complex, and most expensive in the history of UN peacekeeping, comprising 10,000 military troops from 25 nations, an annual budget of one billion U.S. dollars, and covering an area the size of Western Europe. While there, Greg also participated in training and planning for the hybrid UN-AU mission in Darfur.

After retirement, Greg moved with his family from Copenhagen, Denmark to Scottsdale, Arizona and obtained his Permanent Residency (Green Card) to continue his work as an expert in military peacekeeping, initially in New York on behalf of the United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, where he led development of a guide on how to start up new peacekeeping missions. Later, he was Director of the Honourable Roméo Dallaire's Child Soldiers Initiative, dedicated to the eradication of the use of children as soldiers. He was then employed by the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre in Ottawa as Director of Exercises and Simulations. Partnering with Foreign Affairs and the European Union (EURORECAMP), he worked primarily in Ethiopia with the African Union's Peacekeeping Standby Force, providing operational-level training exercises for senior diplomats, military, police, and humanitarians.

For a period of eight years, Greg instructed on the Canadian Forces College Joint Command and Staff Program on subjects ranging from ethics and leadership to peacekeeping and counterterrorism. He was also Executive Director of the Royal Military Colleges Club of Canada, serving the alumni of three Military Colleges. Currently, Greg is Executive Director of a company he founded, Peace Operations Consulting, as well as Special Advisor on Peacekeeping to the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association, on whose behalf he is helping to create this anthology of Canadian peacekeeping experiences.



SCARBOROUGH, ON, CANADA

Ryan Mitchell

Bosnia-Herzegovina || 2004

Canada || 1998, 1999

Current Residence: Markham, ON || Contact: ryan.mitchell@pk75.ca

During my peacekeeping tour in Bosnia-Herzegovina, I was selected to work on a Special Operation to find a person indicted for war crimes. One of the ways that our superiors trained us to recognize their faces was through a set of playing cards, which had the names and pictures of people indicted for war crimes. Six English-speaking combat troops were seconded to the headquarters base with a Multinational Task Force.

As seconded troops, we were told that we were to act "normal." However, because we were confined to barracks and locked down from communications, we were not able to call or do anything "normal." (This usually only makes sense if you were, or are in uniform.)

During those couple of weeks, I was "off the grid" and my own unit and family did not know what was happening with me. I was the group's Warrant Officer and, at the time, we took over the headquarter base and it felt so cool. That is, until the Special Forces (SF) unit came in. They were incredible and during our training together, they did not even want me to have a gun. This experience was very grounding, as the SF soldiers knew and trusted one another extremely well; they knew their tactics and they did not trust those of us in the non-special forces, since we didn't have the opportunity to prove ourselves. We had to earn their trust. Through special training and support, the SF unit learned enough to trust us, the Canadian combat troops.

Our unit never executed the mission, but we learned how we can all work together as a multi-national force, which included 12 countries and units with many different languages. Together, we united to help a war-torn country and, hopefully secure it for the next future generation.



Aftermath of a landmine strike.

During my tour, I was never prouder to be a Canadian. We were the lead because of our training, diversity, and bilingualism (some of our troops were trilingual). Everyone loves working with Canadians as we work hard, and carry out peacekeeping above our weight class, equipment and numbers. We are a small, but mighty military.

In my spare time, I was able to deliver the medical supplies I received (three full 40-foot sea containers) from local St John Ambulance groups, my church connections, and hospital, who donated first aid, medical aides, crutches, and clothing. Many other soldiers and members did their part to go above and beyond our long days and nights to give back locally.

Biography

Warrant Officer Ryan Mitchell, CD (Retired) is a proud Father, Husband, Volunteer, Entrepreneur and Business Coach. Ryan spent 18.5 years in the Canadian Armed Forces in the Army Armoured Corps as a Tank and Armoured Crew Commander. Over his years of service, Ryan worked with three different regiments and was deployed to the Balkans (Former Yugoslavia) as a Quick Reaction Force commander with Recce Squadron during Operation PALLADIUM. Ryan also participated in two domestic operations within Canada, the 1998 Québec Ice Storm (Operation RECUPERATION), and the Major Winter Snowstorm in Toronto in 1999 (Operation PREAMBLE).

In addition to spending time with the Regular Force, Ryan was a proud Primary Reservist for most of his military career and, while still in the military, he also worked in the financial and banking industry for 10 plus years. Ryan loves helping. To date, he has had the opportunity to visit 52 countries, lived and worked in 12, in addition to his participation in over 12 global humanitarian missions, building homes, schools, and churches.

His greatest pride is in his three beautiful young children. He volunteers as a coach and is always willing to give back to his community through his participation in various charities and volunteer roles. He especially finds it rewarding to support military families, veterans, and their families through mental health first aid courses, camps, fun activities, and sports.



Delivering donations.



OTTAWA, ON, CANADA

Greg Munz

Cyprus || 1965–1966

Current Residence: Oakville, ON || Contact: greg.munz@pk75.ca

In October 1965 I arrived at Troodos Camp just outside of Nicosia, Cyprus. My heart swelled with pride when I saw the newly minted Canadian Flags at the gate and was comforted by the presence of the Canadian Guards Battalion manning the base. That same day I found myself to be one of four Canadian Signalers attached to Finnish Battalion Headquarters in Nicosia.

This was all new to me. I had no briefings on what to expect or guidance on how to deal with difficult situations except that I was not allowed to fire my weapon even if fired upon; seemed unfair to me.

Driving through Greek and Turkish road-blocks and check-points under the muzzles of machine guns was unnerving at first. It soon became normal. (This was a feeling I experienced again while doing mission work in Nicaragua.)

Canada provided communication services to non-English speaking U.N. contingents. I was a 19 year old Group One Signalman barely qualified in Morse Code with teletype and telephone switchboard skills. Four of us manned the com-centre 24 hours a day. Twelve-hour shift rotations gave us freedom to socialize with the Finns and explore Nicosia and the rest of the island in our Land Rover radio vehicle.

My time in Cyprus was easy. We seldom saw our Signals Officer and we were always forewarned so we could at least be properly turned-out. Our Finnish Signals Officer didn't much bother with us either. I was quite often out of uniform wearing civilian beige shorts, a British Army Signals stable belt, a Finnish army camouflage jacket and dessert boots with strings instead of laces. But I did my job as best as I could.

The Finnish army units prepared their own rations. Every soldier learned to cook a nourishing but very basic meal, which was the same every day, potato soup. We preferred to drive to our evening meals with the Royal Canadian Dragoons, feasting on meals prepared in their field-kitchen by real cooks.

There were times that I felt threatened. Three of us went across



Signalman Munz. One last picture before flying home. April 1966.

town on bicycles to enjoy a movie and a few beers with the Dragoons. Returning to our billets we were held at gun point by an over-zealous Turkish soldier with a very big rifle and a desire to impress his superiors by extracting information from us. Our Lance Corporal drew himself up to his full height and we bluffed our way out of what could have been a nasty circumstance.

During an off-duty trip to Mount Olympus we were harassed by villagers hurling epitaphs and projectiles at our vehicle. Avoiding eye contact we drove slowly down the road. One never felt completely safe driving through the country-side because, as signalers we were privy to all reports of shots fired or increased tensions between Greeks and Turks.

Reports of incidents peaked when the United Nations mandate came up for renewal. We surmised that neither side was serious about an all out conflict at the time and that U.N. troops were putting too much money into the local economy to allow them to leave.

While in Cyprus I visited relatives posted to Germany and went to Beirut and Jerusalem. Cyprus was a personal growth experience, challenging my preconceived notions and instilling

a yearn to travel. (Canada coast to coast, the Arctic, 40 other countries and still counting). While in the far-east my wife and I met a couple from Australia. The fellow, Frank, was a 10 year old living close to Finnish Battalion HQ in Cyprus when I was there. I believed in what we were doing and feel his life was better because of it.

We didn't fraternize with the Greeks or Turks but those that I met seemed to me, politics aside, to be decent people just trying to do the best for their families.

The Finns treated us very well, drank straight vodka, sang, exchanged stories of home and gave us gifts. We Canadian signalers put on a special Christmas Eve party with care-packages from home. We shared a house and sauna and a com-centre. Working and living together we got to know them quite well. After five months with the Finns I was like a fish out of water during my month with the Swedes.

Biography

I was born in Ottawa in 1945, a War Baby; Germany had surrendered unconditionally and Japan had yet to experience the horrors of the atomic bomb. I watched British and American war movies and listened to the stories of the men who served; two of which survived the Dieppe Raid debacle.

My road to peacekeeping: Cub Scouts, Sea Scouts, and the Governor General's Foot Guards where I learned about Nuclear Chemical Biological Warfare, how to survive an atomic blast or gas attack and how to extricate victims from collapsed buildings. Ever more powerful bombs, the space race, siren tests, air raid drills and films of nuclear explosions fed public fear that the Cold War would become Hot.



Signalman Munz. Formal portrait for the family archives.

In 1962, at age 16, I joined the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals Soldier Apprentices, Vimy Barracks, at Kingston, ON. With parental permission I signed a five year contract with an optional additional two years. The program's goal was to prepare young men for senior non-commissioned ranks. The program included; recruit and basic training, two years of high school academic classes, physical education, and two signal corps trades.

After graduation I worked in the base training aids unit with the hope of transferring to the Royal Canadian Engineers and an artistic career. My application was denied and I was posted to 2 Signals Squadron, Camp Petawawa, ON, Where I worked in the base training aids shop before being assigned to the squadron's field message centre.

In the summer of 1965 we convoyed to Camp Gagetown, NB for field exercises in anti-insurgency warfare in preparation for possible deployment to Viet Nam. In September I was told I was going to be joining the United Nations Peacekeepers in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

As a 'group one' signalman I served five months in Nicosia at Finnish Battalion Headquarters and one month in Famagusta at Swedish Battalion Headquarters.

It was rumoured that all posting requests on returning to Canada would be granted. My desire to become an artist had not waned and I again applied for a transfer to the engineers. I was offered a two week assessment at the Engineer's Mapping and Charting Establishment in Ottawa. This resulted in a complete career change. I became a Cartographic Draftsman and worked as a Photomechanical Technician. While I still wasn't an artist at least I was working in a related field. Promotions came quickly as the working rank in the unit was sergeant but because we were a small and highly specialized unit the career ladder was short.

I completed my junior non-commissioned officer training at the Combat Arms School in Camp Borden in 1967 and with my Commanding Officer's permission was married a few months later.

At age 24 in 1969, after serving seven years, I left the army to attend Sheridan College School of Visual Arts. In 1971 Ontario's Ministry of Transportation was expanding its reprographic office and hiring college graduates. I quickly moved from the production floor to production planning and then to research and development and then to quality control.

Downsizing saw me move to a job in staff training and development. Later I became a training and organization development consultant in the Civil Service Commission and moved on to work on government human resources policy. I returned to the Ministry of Transportation as manager responsible for management, supervisory, interpersonal and technical training. Then I became a line manager in the Driver and Vehicle Branch responsible for driver review and control with a ten month assignment managing 11 Driver Examination Centres. Upon my return I was tasked with the installation of equipment for digital licence processing in approximately 230 locations across the province. My last assignment before retiring in 1997 was to the office responsible for personalized and graphic licence plates.

Somewhere along the way I found time to acquire a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Toronto, to play hockey, do volunteer work and help my wife Lois raise two fine sons.

I have worked on mission assignments in Nicaragua and have served 10 years on the Board of the Oakville Historical Society as treasurer and currently as curator of exhibits. I finally got to work as and with artists. Special thanks to my wife Lois for her support through it all.

My military experiences have served me well in my career and personal life. A cadre of ex-apprentices has maintained contact since 1962 and agree that the Apprentice Plan was one of the best things for us and might likewise serve some of today's youth.



St. Marys, ON, Canada

Robert Nash

Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1998

Iraq || 1990
Qatar || 1991
Canada || 2002

Current Residence: Winnipeg, MB || Contact: robert.nash@pk75.ca

In June 1998, I departed AIRCENT Headquarters at Ramstein Air Base in Germany for a four-month deployment with the NATO Stabilisation Force (SFOR) Headquarters (HQ) in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Hercegovina. At the end of September, I returned to my normal duties in Ramstein. In my 30 years of service with the Canadian Forces, this was my only peacekeeping mission.

The deployment to Sarajevo started with a trip to the Peace Support Training Centre in Kingston ON for pre-deployment training. In May 1998, the damage from the ice storm that ravaged sections of the St. Lawrence Valley from Kingston to Québec's Eastern Townships in January was still evident. Refreshed in basic weapons handling and emergency first aid, educated about the culture of the Balkans, trained in the dangers of mines, unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices, and admonished not to wander off the beaten path, I returned to Ramstein to complete my preparations for deployment.

When I departed Ramstein on 1 June, our first stop was Vicenza, Italy, where we were briefed about the situation in the Balkans and the issues confronting SFOR in its mission to deter violence and provide the safe, secure environment needed for the consolidation of peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. My next stop, after a couple of days in Sarajevo, was Camp Black Bear in Velika Kladusa (known as 'VK'), a town in north-western Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Command Element of the 1200-strong Canadian Contingent in SFOR was located at Camp Black Bear and all Canadian officers deployed to Bosnia had to check-in with the Commander of the Canadian Contingent. In 1998, this was Walter Natynczyk, a future Chief of the Defence Staff. The round trip between Sarajevo and VK was an eye-opening, all-day introduction to Bosnia-Hercegovina.

During the four months that I was in Sarajevo, I served as the Executive Officer (XO) to the CJ2, the senior Intelligence Officer in SFOR. SFOR HQ was a multinational organisation and



Sarajevo airport tour with André.

the CJ2 Branch comprised personnel from every country in Western Europe.

Towards the end of June, Patricia, a French Sergeant, took me to visit a new, not-yet-occupied orphanage in Sarajevo. It was obvious that this haven of security for Bosnia's youngest victims suffered from a serious deficiency in toys. A week later, I returned to Ramstein on a 96-hour furlough, where I spoke to our children, Theodore (4) and Victoria (almost 2), about the orphans in Bosnia. When I returned to Sarajevo, my luggage had swelled by two duffle bags full of their toys for the orphanage. I could not have been prouder of my kids for their compassion and generosity.

On another occasion, Jean, a French Colonel, invited me to accompany him on a trip to the Serbian refugee camp at Pale, the ski resort that had hosted the Winter Olympics in 1984. The Pale resort and its many hotels housed hundreds of displaced Serbian families. After distributing donated food, clothes and toiletries,

Jean and I visited a Serbian family. Despite their limited means, they insisted on serving us tea and cookies. It was another eye-opening experience.

My last memory involved a tour of the 1995 battlefield that prompted NATO intervention in the siege of Sarajevo in 1995. Andre was a French Lieutenant Colonel who had served as an observer during those troubled days in 1995. He took me on a tour of several vantage points on the hills south of the Sarajevo airport, to familiarise me with the battlefield that had dominated international headlines for 1,425 days during the Siege of Sarajevo. We then visited a Bosnian family who lived near the airport who had an access point on their property to one of the tunnels that ran beneath the airport. Those tunnels provided a vital lifeline for the Bosnians who were besieged in Sarajevo. Again, without regard for their circumstances, the family insisted that we join them for coffee and sweets.

My first and only peacekeeping mission was a career-affirming experience that confirmed for me, in a way that no amount of work in Canada supporting operations at home and abroad operations ever could, the importance of the work we performed while wearing the uniform of the Canadian Forces.

Biography

Robert Glyn Nash was born in Stratford ON in 1960 and grew up in the nearby town of St Marys. He joined the Canadian Forces in 1979. In 1983, Second Lieutenant Nash graduated with a BSc in Honours Mathematics and Physics at the Royal Military College (RMC). After training as an Aerospace Engineering Officer, Lieutenant Nash was posted to 403 (Helicopter) Operational Training Squadron at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Gagetown, NB. In 1985, he participated in Exercise RENDEZVOUS 85.



SOS Childrens' Village.

Robert was posted to National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa 1986, where he managed engineering support for the air-to-air missiles on the CF-18 HORNET. During this posting, his duties involved his first official trip to Europe and trips to Washington DC, Norfolk VA, and Tampa, FL.

In 1988, Captain Nash retrained as an Intelligence Officer and was posted to 4 (Fighter) Wing at CFB Baden in Germany. Following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in 1990, Robert contributed to the deployment of CF-18s during Operation FRICTION. Robert deployed for four weeks to Qatar with Canadian Air Task Group Middle East in February 1991. During his time in Baden, Robert served as a volunteer disc jockey for the Canadian Forces Network radio station and as a host for the Canadian Club of Southern Germany.

Robert was posted to Headquarters Fighter Group/Canadian NORAD Region in North Bay, ON in 1992. He served as a Cadet Liaison Officer during this posting. Promoted Major in 1994, Robert was next posted to the Canadian Forces School of Intelligence and Security (CFSIS) at CFB Borden, ON. At CFSIS, Robert led a major rewrite of training for Intelligence Operators and Officers and chaired a successful United Way campaign.

In 1997, Major Nash was posted to NATO's AIRCENT Headquarters at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. In Ramstein, Robert served as an analyst and exercise planner, and as a Team Leader in the NATO Tactical Evaluation (Tac Eval) program. In 1998, Robert deployed to Sarajevo, Bosnia-Hercegovina, where he served with the Headquarters of the NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR). In 1999, Robert participated in a Partnership for Peace (PfP) exercise in Slovakia.

Major Nash was posted to Headquarters, 1 Canadian Air Division/Canadian NORAD Region Headquarters in Winnipeg MB in 2000. Robert was in the Operations Centre on the morning of 11 September 2001 and watched United Airlines Flight 175 crash into the South Tower of the World Trade Center on the big screen. Suddenly, years of training became reality for NORAD. Robert received a Commander's Commendation for his contribution during Operation GRIZZLY, the security operation to secure the G8 conference in Kananaskis AB in 2002. In Winnipeg, Robert completed a Master of Arts degree in War Studies through RMC that he started while in Borden.

In 2003, the Nash family moved to Ottawa when Robert was posted to the Chief of the Air Staff organisation. Responsibilities for Canada's contribution to allied interoperability programs provided Robert opportunities for travel to Australia, San Diego CA, the United Kingdom, and Belgium.

Major Nash's last posting with the Canadian Forces was to London UK, where he served as the Deputy Canadian Forces Intelligence Liaison Officer. This was a representational position where Robert supported the travel of Canadians to the UK and of Brits to Canada, and the exchange of information between Canada and the United Kingdom. Robert reached the pinnacle of his career when he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel in 2008. In 2009, Robert resigned from the Canadian Forces.

In September 2009, the Nash family emigrated to New Zealand, where Squadron Leader Nash served for six years with the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) in Wellington. Robert was first assigned to the Headquarters, Joint Forces New Zealand, where he supported operations in Afghanistan, East Africa, and Oceania, and participated in a Five Powers Defence Arrangements (FPDA) exercise in Singapore. Following Command and Staff College, where Robert was named the top student and earned a master's degree in international security, Robert served as the National Program Manager for the Air and Space Interoperability Council (ASIC) at Headquarters RNZAF. Robert ended his military career as the NZDF Teaching Fellow at Massey University.

Robert married Alice van Saarloos in 1985. They had four children during four consecutive postings: Caitlin (1992), Theodore (1993), Victoria (1996) and Jennifer (1999). In December 2015, they moved to Winnipeg where Robert works as a military contractor, volunteers with the Canadian International Council and the Canadian Military Intelligence Association, and, fancying himself an amateur historian, pursues his many interests in Canadian military history.



Barrington Passage, NS, Canada

Rick Nickerson

Croatia || 1993

Current Residence: Qualicum Beach, BC || Contact: rick.nickerson@pk75.ca

My team and I landed at the airport in Zagreb, Croatia on 1 May 1993 in the bright sunshine and approximately 95 degrees Fahrenheit. As we were getting off the aircraft, a Russian built Mig-21 did a "touch-and-go" on the runway and, although there was no immediate sign that we were in a war zone, it was obvious things were different.

We were sent to Camp Polom, a former Yugoslavian Army Base near Daruvar in UN Sector West. On the air-conditioned, double decked bus ride from the Zagreb Airport there had been little sign of the war. A few flattened houses and some large holes in some other buildings were all that we initially saw. That first night our section was housed in a concrete building and the obvious sign of where we were was a six-inch hole through one wall and a matching 10-inch hole in the opposite wall in the room. This wasn't Camp Wainwright, AB!

Much went on through the six months we were working there, including the Medak Pocket incident. My experience on a re-supply trip into the surrounded town of Srebrenica in the summer of 1993 is the story I want to relate to you here.

At the time, the Royal 22nd Regiment (VanDoos) were providing UN security for the surrounded town of Srebrenica within Bosnia-Herzegovina. Srebrenica was a Bosnian-Muslim enclave that had been surrounded during the war by the Serbian Army. I accompanied seven large trucks carrying fuel, rations, and water to the Vandoos. The trip should have taken a day but with many checkpoints, not having the "correct" paperwork and "Serbian inspections" to make sure we were carrying what we said we were, it took two long, hot days. We stayed for the night, both ways, at a large, paved area near the border between Croatia and Serbia. The highlight was that south of us—about 10 kms away—we could see and hear the artillery duals going on in Bosnia. We crossed bridges that were build by the Romans, hung ballistic blankets in the windows of the trucks, and put metal screens down over the windscreens. Through the towns our trucks were pelted with rocks by the Serbians who thought we were supplying the Bosnian Muslims.



Major-General MacInnis and WO Nickerson receiving UN scroll at Camp Polom 1993.

Entering the Srebrenica area, the hills were bare. There were signs indicating a war had been fought there recently—houses demolished, burned out hulks of vehicles, bomb craters, and, when we got into town, utter destruction. The high rises had chimneys sticking out of window openings on all levels—the town had not had electricity for a year, and everyone was burning wood to keep warm in the winter. People were wandering around the town and almost everyone was begging. The bank in town had been hit by a mortar round and everyone had money, but there was nothing to buy. Cigarettes were currency—you could barter for anything with cigarettes. At night, the UN conducted food drops on a field outside of town. The people were being shot at for trying to get the packages that were dropped. The Canadian armoured personnel

carriers of the Vandoos, scarred and looking "weary", were the only thing moving in town on a regular basis. The Vandoos were the only reason that Srebrenica still had Muslim inhabitants. At night, the town resembled a scene from the movie "*Escape from New York*". Fires here and there and people moving around in the dark. Ironically, the only thing in town that moved around other than the Vandoos was a brand-new armoured land rover, painted white and carrying the CNN news crew around.

This experience stayed with me. The utter hopelessness of the people in Srebrenica, men, women, and children, and the impossibility of us or anyone else to effectively do anything about it was disheartening. We now know that there was a massacre there of more than 8000 men and boys in 1995 that was designated as an act of genocide by the International Court of Justice.

At home in Kingston, my garage had burned down. No-one hurt but its importance was difficult to sort out in my own mind.

Biography

Richard Nickerson was born to World War II veterans Kathleen and Charles Nickerson and grew up in Barrington Passage, NS. After Barrington Municipal High School, he got married and decided to sign up for the Canadian Armed Forces. Basic Training in Cornwallis, NS, in January of 1975, was followed by trades training in Kingston, ON as a Communications Research Operator. Rick got his first posting to CFS Leitrim in Ottawa, ON, and the next three years were shared between Leitrim, CFB Kingston, ON, and a six-month stint in CFS Alert, NT. In 1978, Rick applied for a remuster to Intelligence Operator (MOC111) and was accepted.,



Unknown Canadian liaison Captain, Captain Nick Ward, Warrant Officer Rick Nickerson, vicinity Bihac, Bosnia-Herzegovina, 1993.

That fall, Rick started school again in CFB Borden, ON at the Canadian Forces School of Intelligence and Security. In April 1979, Rick further volunteered for parachute training, received the training at CFB Edmonton, AB, and was posted to the Canadian Airborne Regiment at CFB Petawawa, ON. During three years with the Airborne Regiment, Rick completed 61 parachute descents, worked on exercises at CFB Petawawa, in northern Norway, CFB Borden, the United States (Fort Bragg, North Carolina and a special forces base in West Virginia), Earlton, in Northern ON, and a parachute drop and mock attack of a Pine Tree Line Radar Station in Northern ON in January!

In 1982, Master Corporal Nickerson was posted to CFB Greenwood's Defence Intelligence Analysis Centre (DIAC). The DIAC supported three squadrons of Aurora Anti-Submarine aircraft. During Rick's posting there, he utilized his imagery training in processing the imagery produced by the Aurora. Rick was also sent to the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto to showcase the imagery display at the Armed Forces Exhibit. Rick saw experience on many of the Aurora patrols, logging over 100 hours as a "part-time" aircrew.

In 1985, Sergeant (Sgt) Nickerson was posted to CFB Shearwater, Dartmouth, NS. Working in Base Operations as part of a small Intelligence office, Rick briefed base personnel and Sea King Helicopter squadron personnel primarily on Soviet Equipment. Rick was fortunate to accompany the Sea King crews as "part time" aircrew, logging over 60 hours flying in that aircraft. At CFB Shearwater, Rick got to experience Air Force exercises with the American Navy and American National Guard squadrons, as well as weekly briefings to the Base Commander and Squadron Commanders, and regular liaison with Navy HQ in Halifax on Intelligence matters.

In 1988, Sgt Nickerson was posted to Yellowknife, NT and joined Northern Region Headquarters (NRHQ) in Yellowknife as the Headquarters G2 (Intelligence Officer). Promoted to Warrant Officer, Rick was involved in Imagery, and provided many briefings, both to his own HQ personnel and all sorts of visiting personnel. Rick's job involved "running" the briefing area, working as headquarters Security Officer, and providing the Intelligence function to the HQ. Rick saw much of the Northwest Territories in support of the Canadian Rangers, and on search and rescue training (as a qualified Ground Search Team Leader and a Search Manager) During this time, Rick completed his Senior Leadership qualification, and was involved in ground searches in the north in conjunction with the RCMP. At one point, Rick accompanied the Commander of Northern Region when he visited a Russian Ice Station that had wandered into Canadian waters west of Mould Bay, NT.

In 1992, Warrant Officer Nickerson was posted back to CFB Kingston, ON, and the Intelligence Company of the First Canadian Division. Supervising an Intelligence Analysis cell that, among other tasks, worked on country orders of battle and terrain analysis of areas where the Canadian Armed Forces might be involved. One of these was the Former Yugoslavia. In March 1993, Rick joined about 60 other support personnel for training at CFB Wainwright, AB, prior to being deployed as the second rotation (roto) of Canadian Forces to United Nations Protection Force Former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) We arrived in the Former Yugoslavia on the 1st of May 1993.

After the UNPROFOR tour, Rick returned to 1 Div until 1995 when he was fortunate to be posted back to Yellowknife and Northern Region HQ. In 1997, Rick resigned and retired to Yellowknife after 23 years with the Canadian Armed Forces. Rick presently lives in Qualicum Bay on Vancouver Island with his wife of 52 years. Rick and Trish have a son in Yellowknife, a daughter in Winnipeg, and a total of eight grandchildren.



DESLISLE, SK, CANADA

David Nicolle

Egypt || 1978

Current Residence: Milton, ON

Contact: david.nicolle@pk75.ca

I travelled from Ottawa to Cairo, Egypt on a military 707 in March 1978, wearing the dress uniform of the time, as we had to wear it on almost all Canadian Forces flights. This was OK in Ottawa at about 2°C, but we were soaked in sweat after travelling by bus from Cairo airport to Ismailia in the 35°C heat. We arrived at about 8 p.m. and found the camp watching a movie projected on a whitewashed wall outside. They were all in sleeping bags or blankets as the temperature had dropped to 25°C when the sun had set. The days were usually 44–45°C. After we had acclimatized for a few weeks, we also watched movies bundled up! I remember it rained once for about 90 seconds the whole six months I was there.

I worked in the heavy vehicle repair section of the Canadian Logistics Contingent (CanLog) repairing heavy trucks and construction equipment used by all UN contingents. CanLog was part of United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II), located in Camp Ismailia on the Suez Canal. It was quite amazing to see a huge freighter seemingly floating through the desert when seen moving through the canal at a distance! We worked along with the Polish Logistics Unit to support contingents from Austria, Finland, Ghana, Indonesia, Ireland, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Senegal, and Sweden. All were part of UNEF II overseeing the buffer zone between Israel and Egypt, which was established by the UN in 1975, two years after the Yom Kippur war of 1973.

We had an advance post in the Sinai at El Tasa, which provided vehicle recovery and first line repair and staging for supply. I worked there a couple of times, and it was truly beautiful at night, especially the sky. I went on a resupply convoy from Ismailia, across the Suez Canal by ferry and through the Sinai to Tel Aviv. During our run, we had put a jeep that had broken down on a tow bar behind a ¾ ton truck. At this point, the road was paved, but mostly covered in sand, so we tried to travel in the middle of it. The tow bar broke one arm and the jeep swerved off the road. I went to help re-rig the tow and, on the



Canadian logistics transport section, Ismailia in background.

way, spotted what looked like a green dinner plate between the jeep tracks in the sand. I picked it up and showed it to one of the Field Engineers who was also traveling in the convoy. He went very quiet and carefully took it from me, then tossed it as far he could into the desert, saying it was a landmine, not sure whether from recent wars or WWII. I never touched anything in the desert after that and always walked on rocks or pavement.

Once, on a day off, I volunteered to go fix a water truck that belonged to a Bedouin tribe close to the Finnish camp. We realigned the water-tank on the truck chassis and repaired the pump. For payment, they invited my fellow tech and I to dinner. They had strong sweet tea, a mutton stew, and some kind of sour soup made from camel milk I think, in a small bowl. My buddy and I each had what looked like a small meatball in ours, but nobody else did. I tried mine, it was tasty, a bit chewy and slightly gelatinous. My buddy loved his and asked for another. "Sorry sheep only have two eyes" was the answer. I still don't know if they were kidding or not, but I can honestly say I have not tried that delicacy since!

We were able to have some recreation; we had pools with

plastic roofs to keep the sun off the water, so they were a cool 27ºC. I also had a couple of shows on our camp FM radio Station, CFNI. We had a pretty good record library and broadcast music and the latest news from Canada on a booming 10-watt transmitter to our camp and parts of the buffer zone. We had trips too. I went on a Holy Land tour of Israel and to Greece as well. Of course, we went for tours near Cairo to the pyramids and the sphinx, where I got to ride a camel!

Biography

Born in North Vancouver and raised in Saskatchewan, I recall visits to Camp Dundurn several times when I was 10 to 15 years old, visiting friends of my parents. I remember their friend was an Ammunition Technician as well as the Base Sergeant Major. He would give us tours of the Camp, explaining what was kept there and what activities the military carried out there! When I was around 15, I remember seeing a flight of two Hercules C-130s flying low over our town with the ramps open and found out from our friend at Dundurn that the Airborne Regiment had carried out a jump there. This most likely influenced me, as I joined the North Saskatchewan Regiment, (Reserves) in Saskatoon as soon as I was able — and I loved it. I joined the Regular Force and completed Basic Training in Cornwallis, NS, then headed to CFB Borden, ON, for Vehicle Technician and driving courses, becoming a Vehicle Technician in the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME). My first posting was to 2 Service Battalion (2 SVC BN) in CFB Petawawa, ON. This was a great experience with great training, both as a technician and as a soldier. I was attached to 8th Canadian Hussars for a few months as well, then back to 2 SVC BN. During my time there, I did my first UN tour with UNEF II — Ismailia, Egypt, and was part of the Special Service Force inauguration in Petawawa.

I also served in BC with 3 PPCLI; six years in Germany with CFB Lahr airfield and 4th Brigade Headquarters and Signals. During this time, with classes sponsored by the Forces, I took classes with the University of Manitoba and Seneca College at the Lahr "campus" getting my Certificate in Communications and Business Management. I also toured a lot of Europe, skied, Volksmarched, got my Royal Yachting Offshore Skipper rating, and learned to enjoy wine! I was posted back to Canada to Ecole de Lang St Hubert for the one-year French course; Ecole Technique St Jean, QC as an instructor; CFB St Hubert (Montréal); 3e Battalion, Le Royal 22e Régiment (in Bosnia 1995); then Hamilton, ON with 23 Service Battalion as a Training Advisor; CFB Borden, ON, and finally ASU Toronto, ON, as the Maintenance Officer.

It was in 2008, while I was in Toronto, that I retired from the Regular Force as a Master Warrant Officer and worked in trucking as a Director of Maintenance. During this time, I joined the Reserves at 31 Service Battalion and took my commission to Captain. I retired from the Reserves in 2014. I then moved from trucking to Mississauga Transit as a Manager, Vehicle Repair. I retired completely in 2022, after 38 years in the military and 14 years as a civilian professional. I am currently living in Milton, ON with my wife Carmen, enjoying our family, grandkids, our local Hiking Clubs, Curling Club, fishing, camping, travel, perfecting BBQ techniques, and I am a member of the Legion.



Canadian Forces Middle East, 92.5 FM, Ismailia, Dave Nicolle, DJ.



Rimouski, QC, Canada

Daniel Parenteau

Croatia || 1995

Somalia || 1993
Floods and Ice Storm, Canada || 1997, 1998
Afghanistan || 2001–2004, 2006–2007
Ukraine || 2016

Current Residence: Drummondville, QC || Contact: daniel.parenteau@pk75.ca

On April 3, 1995, I was deployed with 2nd Battalion Royal 22e Régiment Battle Group (2R22eR BG), this time to the United Nations Confidence Building Operations (UNCBO) on Operation Harmony (Canadian designation, rotation 6). The mission of the operation was to replace the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the country, which was smaller and therefore had less peacekeeping authority. In accordance with the tasks set out in the ceasefire agreement, ONURC was to monitor the area between the forward military deployment lines, verify that the weapons systems were installed according to the terms of the agreement, occupy the border traffic control posts designated by the agreement, and carry out liaison activities for the implementation of the agreement.



Aeriel photo, OP-SC-52, Croatia.

When I arrived, we did the handover of the various observation posts with 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment. I was a young master-corporal at the time, and we were given the SC-51 observation post. The observation post was nicknamed the Moon Base since we were on top of a mountain on the Croatian side of the border, and 800 metres from our position, we had a Croatian observation post that served to keep an eye on the Serbs on the other side.

I give you a brief description of what you can see on the picture: from left to right: first, the black spot on the ground (1) is the point to burn our waste. Then our makeshift shower (2) that we made with the water pump of the troop carrier, on the other side of the protective wall, it was our gym (3). Then our Bunker for 5 soldiers (4). On the right we have our observation post with a trap door in the floor to take refuge in case of bombing (5). Ahead was our petroleum warehouse (6). Isolated from everyone, in austere conditions, we had to go down with our armoured personnel carrier once a week for supplies.

In early April, the Krajina region that 2R22eR had inherited was quiet, but the Croats believed that the presence of UN troops in their country complicated the integration of the Serbian Krajina region. After the Croatian government's announcement earlier in the year that it would end UNPROFOR's mandate, tensions between the Croatian government and the Serbs quickly escalated, until the Croatian army launched an offensive against

Serbian forces in Western Slavonia in May 1995. The Croats easily defeated the Serbs and regained possession of Croatian territory, which consequently ended the mission in that region.

At the beginning of our rotation, we soon saw tensions between the Serbs and Croats increase in the area. However, clashes did not break out immediately, and in July we helped to adjust the borders of the territory we had to patrol and monitor. In early August, the Croatian army attacked the Krajina area and quickly defeated the Serbs. The 2R22eR BG was put on high alert, but there was little we could do. For my part, from our observation post, we saw the Croatian soldiers coming up the mountain towards us. It was about one o'clock in the morning. Since we were too far from the main camp, no one could come and help us out of this impasse. After several negotiations, around 9.30 a.m. we had to leave our post and were escorted to Zadar where we were detained for seven days.

The Croatian government, whose permission was needed for the ONURC soldiers to stay in the country, asked the UN forces to withdraw. The flights from Split, Croatia, continued until 17 October 1995, when I left Croatia. Despite the outcome of my mission, I have fond memories of my participation in UN forces operations and consider it a formative, exciting, and beneficial experience.

I remember/Honour and Duty.

Biography

Born in Rimouski in 1968, Major Daniel Parenteau joined the Royal Canadian Army Cadets CC 2394 in Drummondville in 1984, enrolled in the Primary Reserve with the 6th Battalion Royal 22e Régiment on 17 December 1985, and then transferred to the Regular Force in 1987. He was then posted to 2nd Battalion Royal 22e Régiment where he served as a rifleman. In 1988, he was transferred to 1 Commando of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, deployed with the Pathfinder Platoon to Somalia (Operation Deliverance) in 1993 and upon his return was transferred back to the 2nd Battalion Royal 22e Régiment. Promoted to Master Corporal, he deployed to Croatia (Operation Harmony) in 1995 for his first United Nations peacekeeping operation. Upon his return to Canada, he participated in domestic operations during the Winnipeg floods in 1997 and the ice storm in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu in 1998.

Major Parenteau was then transferred as an instructor to the Canadian Armed Forces Leadership and Recruit School where he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2000 and then transferred to the 3rd Battalion Royal 22e Régiment in 2001 where he was part of the Task Force deployed in Kabul (Operation Athena). Upon his return in the summer of 2004, he was transferred to the 6th Battalion Royal 22e Régiment where he was promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer. In the summer of 2006, he returned to the 3rd Battalion Royal 22e Régiment and deployed for a second time to Afghanistan (Operation Athena) as part of the Operational Mentor and Liaison Team where he received the Commander's Commendation for his leadership. In the summer of 2007, he was transferred to the Land Force Québec Area Training Centre and worked on the modernization of the basic infantry course. He was deployed to Cyprus for the troop decompression centre before returning to Canada. Promoted to Master Warrant Officer in 2010, he was transferred to 2nd Battalion Royal 22e Régiment as Company Sergeant Major. In January 2011, he was transferred to Ottawa to the Army G1 staff before being posted to the Directorate of History and Heritage. From August 2013 to November 2014, he returned to the 1st Battalion Royal 22e Régiment as Training Sergeant Major. Promoted to Chief Warrant Officer in December 2014, he became the 28th Regimental Sergeant Major of the 3rd Battalion Royal 22e Régiment. On 10 January 2016, he was appointed as the Sergeant Major of Joint Task Force Ukraine (Operation Unify).

In October 2016, he was promoted to Captain and transferred to the Fusiliers de Sherbrooke as Adjutant. On November 14, 2019, he transferred to the Primary Reserve within the 6th Battalion Royal 22e Régiment as A Company Commander. Promoted to Major, he commanded the Command & Service Company and then became Deputy Commander of the 6th Battalion Royal 22e Régiment, a position he still holds today.

Major Daniel Parenteau is a member of the Order of Military Merit and an officer of the Order of the Cross of the Sherbrooke Fusiliers. He is married to Marie Couture and has two extraordinary children, Marjorie, and Vincent.



Lévis, QC, Canada

Pierre Paul-Hus

Cyprus || 1992

Current Residence: Québec, QC || Contact: pierre.paul-hus@pk75.ca

The stories I am about to tell you took place during my deployment to Cyprus in 1992 as part of the United Nations (UN) Operation Snowgoose 57. This operation was essentially a peacekeeping operation between the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots since the Turkish army invaded Northern Cyprus in 1974. To do this, a 180-kilometre long "buffer zone" cuts the island of Cyprus in two, and this zone is controlled by UN peacekeepers. So, I was sent there on a peacekeeping mission with the 3rd Battalion of the Royal 22e Régiment. I was a lieutenant at the time and was deployed as an infantry platoon commander with Rural Company, as well as to company headquarters as an administrative officer.



With Warrant Officer Martel (right), near an observation post in the buffer zone in Cyprus.

After spending nine months in Labrador under the NATO umbrella, I was happy to be able to go on a UN mission and proud to wear the blue helmet abroad. What's more, the Cyprus operation was the only major Canadian Forces operation at the time. But as soon as I arrived, I became disillusioned. Many of the rules set by the top decision makers at the UN in New York did not make sense to me. First, as members of the UN, we should have had complete freedom of movement within the buffer zone. However, there were roads that we were not allowed to use, even though we could access them from the Greek side, dressed in civilian clothes. Inside the buffer zone, everything was frozen in time, so we were not allowed to touch anything, not even a brick that had been there since 1974.

There were also rules that were too restrictive and that put the lives of the soldiers on the ground at risk. I personally experienced a direct threat to my life during this operation, despite the fact that it was considered "quiet". Together with my platoon second-in-command, Sergeant Fournier, we had approached a Greek military post at around 1 a.m. We disembarked from our vehicle and went to the front. On seeing us, the soldier drew his weapon and pointed it at us. We saw that he was intoxicated. The soldier started shouting in Greek, and of course we couldn't understand him. We answered him: "U-N, U-N", to make it clear that we were members of the UN, avoiding of course any false move, which could have triggered a shot. In the end, we managed to retreat. But if we had to defend ourselves against an attack, we were not equipped to do so. Indeed, the United Nations prohibited us from carrying a loaded weapon. Another 'nonsense' in my eyes.

During this operation, we also had to adjust to the great differences in behaviour between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot soldiers. On the one hand, an army with little discipline (as the drunken soldier testifies), and on the other, an army that fears reprisals from its superiors. When we approached the Turkish posts, the soldiers, often young, were afraid of us, until we told

them that we were Canadians and present in Cyprus to keep the peace. Then it was possible for us to fraternise with them.

In summary, I still believe, despite my mixed experience in Cyprus, that the purpose of the United Nations remains positive and laudable. But are the rules and decrees dictated by the UN's top leadership always appropriate to the reality on the ground? Several colleagues experienced similar frustrations in Bosnia when they had to comply with no less than 26 rules of engagement. Keeping the peace, yes. But at what cost. And above all, in what context. The military need support in their often difficult and complex missions. Putting unjustified obstacles in their way is certainly the best way to provoke their disengagement.

Biography

I joined the Canadian Armed Forces after graduating from high school in 1987, as an infantryman with the Régiment de la Chaudière. My reserve regiment is part of the 35th Canadian Brigade Group and is recognized for, among other things, its outstanding participation in "D-Day" on June 6, 1944, during the Normandy Landings in France. I have always been proud to be part of the Régiment de la Chaudière, which I had the honour of commanding for four years, from 2003 to 2007. In June 2004, I participated in the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of D-Day, where four monuments in as many towns and cities in Normandy were inaugurated to pay tribute to the courage of the "Chaudières" who helped liberate France from the enemy. In many ways, these were moving celebrations that reminded everyone how essential the military presence is in the outcome of conflicts.



At the front: Corporals Patrick Raymond, Alain Desrochers and Yoland Maheux. On the vehicle: Corporals Luc Lemay and Brian McDougall, and Lieutenant Pierre Paul-Hus.

Before becoming commander of the Régiment de la Chaudière, I obviously trained as an infantry officer and progressed to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. I am also a graduate of the Canadian Armed Forces Command and Staff College, as well as the École militaire de Paris. In 2002, France asked Canada to send me as an instructor on a specialist staff officers' course; a first in the history of the French reserve. During this course in Paris, I had the honour of training French, British, German, Swiss, and Canadian reservists.

In May 2006, as part of my duties as Commander, I was granted a private audience with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace. This audience gave me the opportunity to hand her the reprint of a book on the history of the Régiment de la Chaudière and to speak with the Colonel-in-Chief about her regiment.

During my 22 years of military service, I carried out two operational missions: the first in Goose Bay, NL, under the aegis of NATO, and the second in Cyprus, for the United Nations, with the 3rd Battalion of the Royal 22e Régiment. I served as a platoon commander for the rural company and as an administrative officer at company headquarters.

I retired from the Canadian Armed Forces in 2009. In parallel to my military career, I obtained a degree in political science from Laval University. I then worked in the business world. In 2015, I was elected Member of Parliament for the riding of Charlesbourg-Haute-Saint-Charles (Québec City). In this capacity, I was appointed Associate Critic for National Defence in the Official Opposition Shadow Cabinet (2015–2017) and Shadow Cabinet Minister for Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness (2017–2020). I also served as Vice-Chair of the Defence and Security Committee of the NATO Parliamentary Association (2016–2019). Thanks to my experience in the military world, I am regularly consulted on all issues related to defence and national security.



BRANTFORD, ON, CANADA

Michael Pearson

Cyprus || 1984–1985

Oka Crisis, Canada || 1990
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Israel & Palestine

Current Residence: New Maryland, NB || Contact: michael.pearson@pk75.ca

In October 1984, I was fortunate to be stationed in London, ON as a Platoon Commander in the 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment. We were callsign 11, number one Platoon in the Duke of Edinburgh Company. The Battalion was heading to the Mediterranean on what was, for me, my first Peacekeeping operation, known officially as Operation SNOWGOOSE.

By then, the Canadian Army had been in on the island working as part of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for twenty years. During the preparatory training, the very experienced Warrant Officers and Sergeants in the company had given all of us young officers the distinct impression that, operationally speaking, it was a dead zone, and that nothing serious had happened for years.



Duke's Company Commander, Major Rick Reid.

On arrival, and after an easy handover with our Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry colleagues, we settled down to what was in fact a very quiet winter tour. We were serving a basic routine of four weeks on the Green Line then two weeks doing general duties from the headquarters, the old Ledra Palace Hotel. The life of a Platoon Commander was pretty good. I walked the line twice per day, did lots of PT, and we had a good inter-Company sports program. I even found the time to do some skiing with the Brits. That, and lots of good times in the mess as well as periodic trips and tours around the island with the whole platoon, all made for a great overall experience.

Operationally, those Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) who had led me to believe that nothing ever happened were exaggerating, but only a little. We had a flare up at the Beaver Lodge and the occasional report of shots fired (SHOTREP) which were usually truck backfires near the wall in Nicosia. Then one day … one of our section commanders had what could be best described as an unquenchable level of energy. He always did more than required, much to the dismay of his soldiers and the platoon HQ alike. As one of several examples, asked to repaint an OP, he 'scrounged up' some aluminum and redid the roof too. Turns out the aluminum was stolen from the Swedes, and one of the soldiers fell off the ladder.

The platoon was living in a line house, and we had the responsibility to man three Observation Posts (Ops), one of which was OP BASTION, situated as the name suggests, on one of the bastions built into the wall surrounding the old city of Nicosia. My Section Commander was annoyed that for a fifty metre stretch of the patrol route, OP BASTION was obscured from view by a line of small trees that had grown up undisturbed in the last fifteen years since the green line had been in place. He

had repeatedly asked us to do something about it, but a wise old Company 2IC advised me to let it go. Undeterred by my direction to do nothing, the Sergeant waited until after midnight, then went out alone with a chain saw and dropped the trees. With a straight face, he reported early the next morning that the trees had fallen down! Soon thereafter, our Greek Cypriot friends let us know by screaming at the Duty Officer first, then the Battalion Commander next, that we had put their troops in great peril now that the Turks had a clean line of fire into their lines.

By noon I was standing next to a long line of clearly cut trees attempting to explain myself to the Colonel, while the section commander and a most unfortunate Platoon 2IC were on the receiving end of a heroic tirade from the RSM. No sign of the Company Commander. Four hours later, the word came down, and the Section Commander was out on the line, with his whole section of course, re-erecting each tree and tying them back to their stumps as best as could be done. It was an extraordinary spectacle. For the rest of that tour, and I am sure for many thereafter, it was customary for every line tour to make a stop just short of OP BASTION to see the famous trees. I wonder if they are still standing.

Biography

After graduating from The Royal Military College in 1983, Colonel Pearson joined The Royal Canadian Regiment, a defining moment for the rest of his career. Beside this Cyprus Peacekeeping tour in 1984–1985, he served in the Second Battalion for many years which included a Peacekeeping tour in Bosnia as well as domestically during the Oka crisis.

After Regimental service, he served as Commandant of The Infantry School, spent some time on the Army Operations staff during the war, was Base Commander at Gagetown and Defense Attaché at the Canadian Embassy at UN New York. In between these appointments, he was twice appointed Task Force Commander to Operation PROTEUS, Canada's contribution to the United States Security Coordinator mission in Israel and Palestine, for a total of four years in Jerusalem, the last two as an Acting Brigadier General.

Colonel Pearson left the Army in 2014 after 35 years and is currently serving in Veterans Affairs Canada.



Some soldiers from 1 Platoon, Duke's Company on a R&R trip in Northern Cyprus.



OTTAWA, ON, CANADA

David Pittfield

Cyprus || 1978, 1984

Angola || 1990

Western Sahara || 1991

Albania, Jordan, Iraq, Liberia, Indonesia, Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Syria

Current Residence: Paris, France || Contact: david.pittfield@pk75.ca

I had two UN tours in Cyprus — United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP); 1977 and 1984. The UN has been Peacekeeping (PK) there since 1964. A quiet, sleepy place, the Canadians had been rotating units on six-month tours. The Canadian contingent of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (2RCR) was based in the once magnificent and well-known Ledra Palace Hotel, in the center of the old city of Nicosia. The buffer zone, or the Green Line as it was called, ran through the center of Nicosia. The name Green Line was apparently derived from the grease pencil a senior Canadian officer had used to delineate the buffer zone when hostilities between the Turks in the north and the Greeks in the south ended.

During my first Cyprus tour in 1979 with 2RCR, I was a Lieutenant and second in command of the Reconnaissance Platoon ; my boss was Captain Murray Swan. Reconnaissance platoon was a great job, because we had free rein to travel anywhere in our Canadian Sector to see what was going on, and to keep our finger on the pulse, as it were.

One day, Captain Swan received news that the road to one of the Canadian Sector's observation posts (OPs) was blocked by Turkish forces. We were tasked to go and find out what the problem was. Prior to departing, I was puzzled to see Captain Swan pass by the kitchen and ask a cook to provide him with a thermos of coffee. We drove out to the OP in a jeep, and were stopped by the Turkish roadblock. I noted that a machine gun and recoilless rifle were covering the roadblock and were pointed at our vehicle. A Turkish non-commissioned officer (NCO) arrived and told us that we could go no further. Captain Swan told him we would wait until a Turkish officer comes to our vehicle to discuss the matter. As we waited, Murray poured us a coffee. The appearance we conveyed in doing this was that we were not in a hurry, and quite cool about the situation. Eventually, an officer showed up, and Murray offered him a coffee. That act broke the officer agreed to "coffee diplomacy"

In 1984, I was again Commander, in was the Old City. It entire Green Line and Turks were the only a few meters between both sides between the two adversaries was too narrow for a vehicle to pass.



Visit to Goma.

One evening during a mess dinner, I was told there was a problem between the Greeks and Turks in my Sector. I contacted my Company Sergeant Major (CSM) Bob Hodgson and my driver and changed into my combat fatigues. I met the CSM and told him I first needed to pass by the kitchen to get a thermos of coffee. He had a puzzled look about why I would waste time in this emergency by stopping to get a thermos of coffee. We departed in the jeep to the Green Line, Old City. The separating buffer zone between the Greeks and Turks was so narrow that vehicles could not pass. The jeep stopped at the beginning of the sector, and we began to walk, in the dark, to the incident area. As the CSM and I approached the area, we saw there was a face-off between the two sides. In the distance we saw dozens of weapons on both sides aimed at each other — just meters apart. I decided to walk to the Turkish side first because they were the strongest military force on the island. I walked up to the wall and shortly, a Turkish Lieutenant Colonel whom I knew, approached me walking on the wall. I greeted him, and opened my thermos and poured a coffee and reached up and offered it to him. After a short pause, he reached down and took it. As we both sipped coffees, he began to relax and calm down. We

discussed the situation, and I agreed with him that probably the Greeks had caused the issue but that I will talk to them next and hopefully the issue could be resolved. I then turned around and walked a few meters and met a Greek Lieutenant Colonel whom I also knew. I followed the same procedure as with the Turkish officer and offered a coffee — which the Greek Lieutenant Colonel accepted. He complained and asked why I had gone to the Turks first. I told him that I knew they (the Turks) had caused this problem and wanted to talk them down first. The Greek officer and I discussed and resolved the matter, and both sides backed down and the situation went back to normal. The CSM was impressed with the coffee diplomacy. I told him it was not my idea, but something that Captain Murray Swan had shown me seven years previously.

Biography

I began my military career in my hometown of Ottawa at the age of 16, eventually completing over 38 years of combined military and United Nations (UN) service. I joined the Cameron Highlander Cadet Corps, and learned all about wearing a kilt, battle dress, and putties, and using the old WWII weapons we had — the 303 Enfield rifle and the Bren Gun. Life with the Cameron Highlander Cadets revolved around that venerable old building — Cartier Square Drill Hall, in the center of Ottawa, beside the Rideau Canal and not far from the Parliament buildings. After two years, I moved across the Drill Hall to a Militia unit — the Governor General's Foot Guards (GGFGs). In that unit, we paraded once a week during the school year, and in the summer, I earned university tuition money by working in the Guards Public Duties Detachment, which performed the daily Changing of the Guard on Parliament Hill. My first year on the Hill, I was a private soldier or guardsman, and then I became an officer, and for 2 years was a platoon commander during the Changing of the Guard.



Major David Pittfield, Officer Commanding N Company, with Company Sergeant Major Bob Hodgson, Nicosia, Cyprus, 1984.

After graduating from Carlton University in Political Science (I admit I did not know what kind of job I could get with this degree), I decided — against the advice of my entire family — to join the military; I was planning for two or three years, until I could figure out what I wanted to do in life. That initial, short-term plan extended to 28 years as an infantry Officer in The Royal Canadian Regiment. From my initial posting to Gagetown, NB, I subsequently worked, or as the military likes to say — served — in Montréal, Baden-Baden, Germany, Toronto, Heidelberg, Germany, NATO Defence College in Rome, Yellowknife, Petawawa, Ottawa, Mons, Belgium, and Kingston. I was a military Peacekeeper in Cyprus twice (1978 and 1984), and in Angola 1990, and the Western Sahara 1991. As a Regular Force infantry officer, I routinely deployed on various training exercises or exchanges in the U.S. and Europe. Some of the highlights of my military career included Command of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment in Petawawa, and Intelligence and plans officer at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium, during which time I was the SHAPE liaison to the Albanian Prime Minister's office during the Kosovo crisis. I was also Chief Operations Planner for Norway and Turkey — Allied Mobile Forces HQ, Heidelberg, Germany. For my last military job, I was a Visiting Defence Fellow, School of Policy Studies, Queen's University, Kingston.

I left the military in 2000 and joined the UN, first as a consultant and subsequently as a member of the full-time Professional Staff, and I worked in, or alongside, UN missions all over Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

After my departure from the Canadian Forces, I had UN experiences in Jordan, Iraq, Liberia, Indonesia, Sudan, South Sudan, Aghanistan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Currently, I am living in Paris, France, and I am a consultant in Operations, Security, and Logistics. Since I moved to Paris, I have consulted on a variety of projects; however, the following are related to Peacekeeping (PK):

- Lead Consultant at UN Office of Program Support (UNOPS) New York, for Japanese funded Project for the establishment of a rapidly deployable engineer capacity for UN PK missions in Africa and the Middle East;
- Advised the Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO) in Bamako, Mali, on the overall Peacekeeping mission support structure, supply chain and support arrangements required for the start-up of the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali; and
- Head of Logistics and acting Security Officer for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the UN mission in Damascus, Syria during the height of the civil war.



Rouyn-Noranda, QC, Canada

Jean Paul Presley

Cyprus || 1969

Current Residence: Chatham, ON || Contact: jean.paul.presley@pk75.ca

Three months after completing Boot Camp, about 150 of us were given our orders that we were going to Cyprus on a Peacekeeping Mission. I was unsure if I was prepared to do my duty representing Canada, but I relied on my training. In February of 1969, we landed in Cyprus experiencing for the first-time temperatures of over 110 F in the shade. My station was in the Capital city of Cyprus, Nicosia, where we set up quarters in an abandoned Schoolhouse. I later found out that our accommodations were luxurious compared to our comrades staying in the hills.

First order of business was to set up round-the-clock shifts on six-hour rotations. We had at least 20 to 30 outposts on the Green Line, which is Nicosia's urban no-man's land, forming the de facto border between the Greek-majority Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Our purpose was to keep the Turks and Greeks separated. Each side has their own bunkers to stop entry into their territory. By installing the Canadian Peacekeeping forces between them, it ensured that there was no chance of starting a conflict. Part of our duties was to report any changes we saw to the bunkers or barricades. Not only did we have soldiers posted at these posts, but there were also soldiers that did constant patrolling of the perimeters. It wasn't hard to notice the different lifestyle between the Greeks and the Turks. In Cyprus, back then, the Greeks were quite advanced in technology where the Turks held on strong to the old ways.



Heading out for a tour of Nicosia.

One particular outpost was on the roof of a six-story apartment building, where I would walk and keep check using binoculars on the situation on both sides. One day, as I was doing my rounds, on the Greek side where their building was many stories taller than where I was, I spotted a Greek soldier looking down at me from the top of his building pointing his rifle directly at me. So here I am wondering if he was going to shoot at me or what? We always carry a magazine of live ammunition. So, I pretended to cock my rifle and pointed it directly at him just in case he started to shoot. He eventually put his rifle down and I followed suit. Being 18 years old, I don't know if I would have fired back if he did shoot at me. Thankfully, I didn't have to find out. I called in the incident to the officer of the day and reported the close call.

Another time, around midnight, my comrade and I were patrolling between the outposts, when we heard two people yelling at each other, one from the Greek side and one from the Turk side. We quickly approached the noise to try to defuse the situation. My comrade and I split-up and we each took a side to find out what was going on. To our surprise, these two men were friends and were yelling in order to hear each other.

Six soldiers and I were given orders to do an exchange with six Danish Peacekeepers. Their quarters were situated up in the hills. It was very different out in the open where the post is directly between the Greeks and Turks. We constantly checked their position on both sides because of the danger of crossfire, which happened from time to time. The Danish lifestyle was very different than ours and I'm glad that my comrades and I got to experience it.

Biography

In 1950, I was born in Rouyn-Noranda, QC. By the age of five, my father packed up my mother, myself, brother and sister to move to Vancouver, BC. Because of my interest in the Military, at age 12 I joined the Cadets for three years, then the Militia as an Engineer at 15, until I joined the regular forces at 18. the Summer of 1968, I traveled from Vancouver, BC to the first Army/Air Force contingents in Cornwallis, NS for boot camp. There, I spent two months in vigorous training where out of 200 enlistees, only 60 of us completed. I was sent to CFB Borden in Barrie for further training, then posted in London to the 1st Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment (1RCR).

Years ago, in the news I read that the United Nations were discussing the possibility of pulling all the military out of Cyprus. The reason this hasn't happened is that both the Greeks and Turks strongly opposed the withdrawal because they realize the importance of Peacekeeping, so the UN voted on keeping things as is.

Ending my Military Career in the summer of 1971, I settled down in North Bay, ON were I met and married my wife of almost 44 years. Together, we raised our daughter and son. After 35 years in the retail food industry, I retired and moved to Sudbury with my wife and teenage son. Around that time, I joined the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 79. Wanting to keep busy, I worked at Canadian Tire for a couple of years and then changed career as a school bus driver for five years. During the Covid pandemic, my wife and I decided to move to what we consider "down South" to Chatham, ON, and I am now fully retired. This gives my wife and I the time to be involved with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 642 in Chatham.



The commander and me at one of the outposts.

Being part of the Canadian Forces was an experience that I will never forget and forever be proud of. Our Military Regular Forces have and still without hesitation will guard this free country as long as it is needed.



L'Assomption, QC, Canada

Chantal Provost

NATO || 1985

Current Residence: L'Assomption, QC

When I was in Belgium in 1985, we were invited to take part in the festivities in honour of the Canadians who liberated the town of Veurne, if I remember correctly, during the Second World War.

For this purpose, a unit from Lahr in Germany, two officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and our contingent came together to parade and attend the ceremony. For a change, I was the only Canadian woman in uniform.

As we marched through the streets of the city, we had pins with the Canadian flag on them and we threw them into the crowd. I saw an elderly lady trying to pick up a pin that had gotten stuck between two stones on the street pavement; I used my woman's privilege to step out of line, and I helped her by offering her another one. She refused it and said, "No thanks! I want this one on the pavement, because this little flag to me represents a soldier and he chose me by falling at my feet. So, I picked up the pin, pinned it to her coat collar and hugged her. She told me it was the first time in her life she had seen a Canadian woman in an army uniform.

When we arrived at the main square, the dignitaries met at the Town Hall and while they were there we were invited to relax and have a drink in the small bistros nearby. But the fact that I was still the only woman in the military stimulated the women in the square to want to have their photo taken with me and the gendarmes in front of the Hôtel de Ville (City Hall). The line of women grew longer and longer, as did their husbands, because they were the ones taking the photos. Then there was another ceremony in the main square, ending with rose petals falling from the sky.



For me, this was a true consecration of love and gratitude from a people who will never forget the horrors of war and who will be eternally grateful to the Canadians. I hope that one day our military will receive the same admiring look from their own people. Let's put an end to prejudice of all kinds from a people who know nothing about the determination and devotion of these men and women who chose to serve their country by risking their lives in the name of peace and freedom.

Biography

Imagine, Montréal November 1979, a very wet day, I am walking between Place Ville-Marie and the Armed Forces recruiting centre. This will become the path between my past and my future. The path that leaves behind a 22-year-old woman with a diploma as an accounting clerk, a failed interview because I didn't speak English, a divorce, no children and a lot of potential on the horizon. Come on! Don't start crying, because I'm very interested in life and if I can't beat the system, I'll join it. These were the words I spoke in my head before I joined the Canadian Armed Forces.

It wasn't until October 1980 that I was asked to join this great family. I had only ten days to quit my job and change course for a military career, so I figured why not? The benefits were very satisfying for me, as there was not only office work, but challenges of all kinds. After all the basic and trade training, my first posting in the military was with the Navy in Western Canada on Vancouver Island where I learned the basics of the Navy and my trade as a financial clerk.

In 1984, I was promoted to Corporal and transferred to NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium as the first Canadian military woman to hold a logistical support position for the Canadian military representation to NATO. What a CHALLENGE! The three years I spent abroad taught me a lot about my adaptability and endurance. We were responsible for doing all the logistical tasks such as finance clerk, administration, driver, hostess, postman, and responding to all kinds of unexpected events.

It is important to know that women and men have the same salary in the armed forces and that we have a saying for that (equal pay = equal work). And that we as women have to fully accept. To think that for 38 months every Thursday, I was the only woman in the Canadian uniform among all these people and I was very proud of that. I had to prove that women had a place in the organization, and it must be said that it paid off, because some thirty years later the position of Lieutenant General at the Canadian military representation to NATO was filled by a woman.

In the end, NATO's security guardians got what they wanted in 1984 — a Canadian general. (That was the title I was given on Thursdays when I came to work in the morning; Good morning my best-looking NATO general.) SHUT was our secret. To think that only three years before I had seen the film "Private Benjamin" and I thought that only in films do you see that, a beautiful girl transferred to a foreign HQ and here I am three years later in the same situation, not to say the same HQ.

During this period, we had terrorism in Brussels, a lawless war. On a few occasions I had to face ambushes, because they thought I was a terrorist and they didn't intend to laugh, thanks to my training which allowed me to keep calm and wait for the event to unfold. Each time I came through it unscathed. But all of this puts a constant pressure on all of us and we support each other.

The Canadians we work with when we are abroad become our family, sometimes friendships are born never to die, because not everyone has the same difficulties to overcome. There are families, couples and singles who have all had their moments of difficulty. Last September, I had the chance to see some of my colleagues again. It had been more than 34 years since we had shared a weekend all together, but one was missing, and yes it happens, it was my spouse, the one everyone called "Papou". He passed away 15 years ago, I had time to get used to it, a little, but I noticed that the others had just realized that the group was incomplete, but that our friendship was intact.

Then, a few promotions later, I worked at Mobile Command HQ and Base Montréal in St-Hubert, QC. My career ended at the Bagotville base in Saguenay. I had the chance to work with the three Forces, Sea, Land, Air, and an international organization, NATO, which gave me an experience of all this great organization that is constantly mobilizing in order to protect us and to answer the need of humanity to live in peace and freedom.

I retired in October 1998 in the kingdom of Saguenay in the middle of nature, the time to recover my health while enjoying life and by the same token to take care of my spouse until his death in 2007. It was not until 2009 that I returned to my hometown of L'Assomption. In 2011, just before Christmas, a serious car accident put my coping skills to the test, I got through it, but with new limitations.

Today, at the age of 65, I am involved in the community with the Cercle des fermières (Circle of Women Farmers) or in any other project that needs volunteers. With all these opportunities, I am never bored. The important thing in life is to earn it by doing a job that you love and to always feel useful. I had this chance... I trusted the path that was unfolding before me and still today, despite the trials, there is always a solution, adapting and loving ourselves enough to respect our new limits in order to share our experience and pass on our knowledge.



OTTAWA, ON, CANADA

Cameron Ross

Cyprus || 1974, Angola || 1992–1993

Golan Heights, Israel || 1998–2000
UNHQ, Africa || 1993

Current Residence: Victoria, BC || Contact: cameron.ross@pk75.ca

CYPRUS

It was late July 1974 in Calgary when I received three-day's notice to deploy. I would have the privilege of commanding the Lord Strathcona's Horse Armoured Recce Troop attached to the Canadian Airborne Regiment Battle Group. Imagine getting a call, as a first-year Lieutenant, to hustle off to the Commanding Officer's (CO) office. I quickly found out that the CO had entrusted me to muster a troop of 27 and report to Edmonton and the Airborne; we were off to war-torn Cyprus to reinforce 1 Commando (Cdo) that had already been there since the Spring.

The deployment was an extraordinary experience. Having free-reign to select those Strathconas who would deploy, my first stop on exiting the CO's office was to see the Regimental Sergeant-Major who simply said something like "I'm on it …" He picked an amazing troop of soldiers for me. Off we went with 2 Commando and the rest of the Airborne Regiment to join 1 Cdo in Cyprus. Our Lynxs (small, three-person crew, tracked reconnaissance vehicles) arrived from 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group in Lahr, West Germany. In short order, we were patrolling the Nicosia Green Line which was the dividing line between the two opposing sides, Greek Cypriot and Turkish, 24/7. We were fired on from both sides, strafed by Turkish jets, napalmed, and even had the joys of getting blown up in a minefield. Exciting times indeed!

Although the Airborne Regiment fell on difficult times years later, the unit we joined was extremely professional, well led, and well trained. But home bases being in the rival cities of Calgary and Edmonton, we had to have some friendly competition. First, we were very well supported by the Calgary Inn (now Westin) who sent us memorabilia from home. Prized were the glue-on decals of the Stampeders mustang at full charge; of course, they had to go on the sides of the Lynx's .50 calibre mount. Secondly, the Strathconas deployed with old USAF flying suits which were de rigueur in the Strathconas. 2 Cdo's mechanized company was instantly jealous and ordered the same. Shortly after they got their new kit, we got the new armoured corps khaki crew suit with lots of zippers; the game was on.



August 1974, UNFYCP Cyprus. My Lynx and crew on the Green Line in downtown Nicosia. Firefights between the opposing sides occurred frequently at night. Patrolling, broadside to both, ensured adrenalin was produced in great quantities.

Although we did have this rivalry, we were truly brothers-in-arms. Firefights between the warring factions were constant and frequently occurred at night. We would deploy between the Greeks and Turks and try and get them to settle down. We did so, knowing that 2 Cdo's Quick Reaction Force had our backs with more powerful weaponry.

ANGOLA

Another short-notice deployment occurred in the summer of 1992. Posted as a Lieutenant-Colonel at Army HQ in St. Hubert, QC, a phone call shook me out of my afternoon musings about militia exercises. I was to be promoted and be in Angola within a month. Re-locating my family to Calgary, I started a year's unaccompanied posting as a UN Military Observer (UNMO). After a three-day indoctrination at the UNAVEM HQ, several hours in a C-130 Hercules had me arriving at my new home, Mavinga, as

the new Regional Commander. The dirt runway was surrounded by minefields.

Living in a tent in a fenced compound, literally in the bush, for five months was quite an experience. Surrounding the 50 members of my HQ was a collection of poisonous snakes (black and green mambas, cobras, etc.) and scorpions. The greatest scare however was malaria. My region was known for cerebral malaria which, without prophylactics, would be deadly within approximately 48 hours. The Canadians had been prescribed mefloquine which, taken weekly, resulted in horrific sleeps and vivid dreams. But it kept you alive.

The first time I got malaria, I was taken by a Brazilian doctor, serving with Médecins Sans Frontières, to a UNITA (guerilla faction) 'hospital' which was a thatched hut with one gap in the wall that provided light for the microscope. A grizzled-up guerrilla fighter had a microscope, the likes of which one would see in a museum. The Brazilian told me that if the Angolan, after viewing my blood sample, turned to me without a smile, I did not have malaria. After staring through the lens, he turned to me and started laughing. He beckoned to the Brazilian and me and sure enough, you could see the very small black dots moving outside of the blood cells. I survived that and two more bouts of that vile disease. Sadly, the country reverted to war in December, as I arrived in Luanda as the Chief of Staff. The mandate of UNAVEM became untenable and Canada withdrew its officers in March 1993. As my UN tour of duty was for one year, I continued to Uganda and Rwanda to develop plans for potential deployments and then to UN HQ until June as the African military senior staff officer.

Biography

Major-General Cam Ross (Retired) has 40 years of military service with the Canadian Armed Forces and 12 years in the private sector. His 35-years of active service was primarily in command and operational appointments.



An UNDOF APC on the Syrian side in Quneitra. The hill in the background is occupied by Jewish troops of the Israeli Defence Force. The church to the right is Christian. The town was mostly Muslim. Typical for the UN to operate in the vortex of religions.

As a United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and senior UN official in Syria, he was Force Commander of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights from 1998 until 2000. He was also Senior Military Advisor to the UN Secretary-General's Special Coordinator for peace negotiations in the Middle East. He served with the UN in Cyprus during the 1974 war and in Angola, initially in the bush for five months and then as the Chief of Staff during the 1993 war. In April 1993, he was seconded to UN HQ in New York as the Africa desk officer overseeing aspects of UN peacekeeping operations in Africa; he has been to Africa frequently providing peacekeeping advice.

Senior military command appointments were at the Regiment, Formation, Division and Multi-national levels including Commander of Land Forces Atlantic Area (now 5th Canadian Division), Commander of the Combat Training Centre and CFB Gagetown NB, Base Commander of CFB Edmonton when the Army took over the Base from the Air Force to absorb units from Calgary and Chilliwack, and Commanding Officer of his armoured regiment, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) in Calgary. He served in West Germany during the Cold War with the Royal Canadian Dragoons in tank, reconnaissance, and HQ squadrons. He has held staff appointments at brigade, army, and national joint staff levels including Canadian Forces Director of Operations (J3 Ops) and Director-General International Security Policy where he oversaw multi and bi-lateral security relations and was the Senior Military Representative on the Canada-United States Permanent Joint Board on Defence. From 2010 until 2015, he proudly held the honorary appointment of Colonel of the Regiment of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians).

After leaving active service, MGen Ross was President of Emergo Security and Vice-President of International Relations of Emergo Canada Ltd in Calgary, Senior Military Advisor EnCana, and President of HCR Security International Ltd which provided strategic security advice to governments and the private sector, including leading strategic multi-phase security reviews of nine Caribbean countries.

His governance undertakings have included: Chairman of the Board of the Strathcona Society; Director of the Calgary Military Museums Society; Director Canada West Military Museums; Director of the Canadian Battlefields Foundation; Military Advisor and Director for 'No Stone Left Alone'; Governor on the Board of the Victoria Corps of Commissionaires; President of the Victoria Branch of the Canadian International Council; military advisor to 'forces@ work' and to the Lacuna Group; and currently Director of General Magnetic International Inc. With published peer-reviewed articles, his involvement in academia has included: Executive Fellow of the School of Public Policy, University of Calgary; Fellow of the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute; and a member of the Selection Committee of DND's Security Defence Forum.

MGen Ross (Ret'd) started his military career at Royal Roads Military College in Victoria and graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston in 1973. A Commander in the Order of Military Merit, he was awarded the 125th Confederation of Canada Medal, the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of Poland, the Queen Elizabeth II Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals, and the Alberta Centennial Medal, amongst other Canadian and foreign service medals and decorations. To date, MGen Ross has lived in seven countries and six Canadian provinces plus he has visited over 75 countries on military or civilian business.

Cam and his wife Patti live in Oak Bay, BC, the third generation of the Ross clan to do so. They are the very proud parents of two married sons, Angus, and Hamish.



Toronto, ON, Canada

James Simiana

Croatia || 1995, Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1995, 1999, Sudan || 2004–2005

Italy
Belgium
Kuwait

Current Residence: Ottawa, ON || Contact: james.simiana@pk75.ca

My first exposure to United Nations peacekeeping came in late-1995 when I deployed to Primosten, Croatia, as the Public Affairs Officer (PAO) for the Canadian Logistics Battalion (CANLOGBAT) supporting two battle groups in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY).

This was during the UN Protection Force's operations in the strife-torn Balkans, a period when the protracted peace implementation Dayton Accords were being thrashed over, before being signed in December 1995. Although this agreement formally doused several years of inter-ethnic conflict, the scars from the fighting remained all too fresh.

As a PAO, one of my functions was to tell Canadians through news media about the activities of their Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), wherever they were sent, and the Balkans was still a near-top-of-mind story. At the time, the CAF sponsored media visits to our operational theatres, and during my Croatian deployment the CANLOGBAT hosted a visiting broadcast news and radio group.

Members of the media are always seeking content, and so the Battalion's senior logistics officer and I escorted them to a vacant industrial site in the town of Kistanje, one being considered as a future Canadian base. Despite our van's UN markings, however, there's nothing like the sight of a news camera to provoke unwanted interest, the result of which was our vehicle being chased by Croatian paramilitaries down into the battered town's centre. Thankfully, we were stopped on the main road — and visible to all passing traffic — but our vehicle was blocked as the upset locals demanded our video tape.

This incident went on for most of that day, with us refusing to provide the requested recording, and the paramilitaries becoming increasingly frustrated. In the end, what got us out of that jam was that our Austrian-born TV cameraman smoked through umpteen cigarettes and chatted idly in German with the locals, so much so that they eventually tired of jerking us around. We also finally coughed up a tape — albeit a blank one that we'd furtively swapped out for the actual recording in the field camera. I have no idea whether the locals had a Beta tape player to view it with but, no matter, we were allowed to return to our base.



A Canadian soldier points out an anti-personnel minefield to Global News reporter Claude Adams during a presence patrol in Bosnia, in March 1999.

Subsequently, I redeployed to the Balkans from January through August 1999, this time as the Senior PAO to the Canadian Contingent HQ located in Velika-Kladusa, Bosnia-Herzegovina (our battle group elements were located in Coralici and Zgon, meanwhile, in what was dubbed Operation Palladium).

This time, the conflicts within Croatia and Bosnia were no longer front-page news, so our deployment was a harder 'sell' to audiences back home (during this period the international military presence in the FRY would transition from being under UN auspices to the more robust peace enforcement regime of the NATO's Implementation Force, or IFOR).

Nevertheless, we managed one large, CAF-sponsored media visit into theatre, and succeeded in showcasing our Battle Group's efforts to patrol and enforce the peace throughout the Canadian Area of Responsibility. Then, one day, the conflict between Serbians and ethnic Albanians in Kosovo to the south turned decidedly hot, and

NATO's priority and focus shifted accordingly. The result was that our story in Bosnia effectively disappeared from public consciousness.

Getting bumped would become a theme again during my next UN deployment. From July 2004 through January 2005, along with the late-Warrant Officer Robert Moug, I served in the military contingent of an advanced UN Mission in Khartoum, the capital of the then-one nation of Sudan.

Much of a PAO's work is as headquarters-bound staff, and working within a full-blown UN mission, as we did, was fascinating because it featured the full breadth of civilian capabilities and staff functions. It also revealed to me the sheer variety, experience and dedication of individuals, military and civilian alike, committed to the peacekeeping cause.

Getting to work with personnel from other nations is one of the rewards of military service and, in our military contingent, this fine bunch was an even mix from Asian nations and Westerners or 'Europeans'. Their professionalism and personalities were welcome to witness.

Unfortunately, while our focus was to pave the way for a follow-on mission to implement peace between the Islamist military regime in the North and the African/animist rebels in the South, that would be sidetracked by more newsworthy developments in the country's West — the humanitarian suffering unfolding in Darfur.

Biography

Major James Simiana (Retired) was born in Oshawa, ON, but grew up in Toronto, the hometown of his mother. He is the son of a native dispatch runner working for British forces on the island of Malta, someone who, like most of that country's population, managed to survive three years of bombing and strafing by the German and Italian air forces during the Second World War (James credits his existence today to their poor marksmanship back then).



Major James Simiana in Khartoum, Sudan in January 2005, with the Nile River in the background.

As a Toronto youth, the first uniform he put on in the early-1970s was as an avid member of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, specifically with 246 Progress Squadron, which paraded then at the former Canadian Forces Staff School at 1107 Avenue Road. The opportunities provided in that national program led him to his first exposure to Canada's North, a summer camp course in Whitehorse, Yukon, as well as to earning gliders and private pilot's licenses. In a nod to his future, he also served as editor of the squadron's newsletter.

That experience inspired him to seek out employment with the Canadian Armed Forces in 1978, aspiring to be an aircraft navigator. That attempt foundered at Canadian Forces Base Downsview, however, when his visual acuity was found to be just off the required standard. Undaunted, and on the advice of a good friend, he enrolled instead in the journalism undergraduate program at Toronto's Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, graduating in 1983. From that he went on to a variety of writing stints with the Thomson News organization's Midland Free Press, Cinema Canada magazine, the Tempus Communications public relations agency, TV Ontario, and the Environment portfolio within the provincial Cabinet Office at Queen's Park.

It was while in that last position, and because of a two-year-old application, that James was then accepted for enrolment as a Direct Entry Officer into the Public Affairs Officer (PAO) occupation within the Canadian Armed Forces. After passing through Basic Training at the age of 30 as the 'old guy' in his platoon, his sundry postings within the military PA world would see him involved in internal communications, media relations, public outreach and stakeholder engagement, executive assistant duties, issues management, PA doctrine and planning, support to Joint Task Force 2 special operations, and advice to senior leadership.

Over a 29.5-year Regular Force career in the CAF, all of it as a PAO wearing the uniform of the RCAF, his postings would take him in and out of National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa, to Yellowknife, NT (and throughout Canada's Arctic), Moncton, NB, and Halifax, NS. In that span, he would also deploy to: Croatia; Bosnia-Herzegovina; Sudan (on Operation Safari); Naples, Italy (on Op Mobile-NATO Unified Protector, for the Libyan mission); Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe HQ in Mons, Belgium (on Op Reassurance), and to Camp Canada at Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait (on Op Impact).

Given the ever-evolving nature of the Information Environment since the 1990s, James was fortunate enough to benefit from several relevant courses: the Information Warfare Operations course at the Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia; and, at the NATO Staff School in Oberammergau, Bavaria, the Command-and-Control Warfare as well as the Information Operations courses.

For his efforts in uniform, James was recognized with the following medals/decorations: the General Service Medal — Expeditionary; the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal; the United Nations Special Service Medal; the NATO Medal for the Former Yugoslavia; the Non-Article 5 NATO Medal for Service on Op Unified Protector — Libya; the Canadian Forces Decoration; and the RCAF Commander's Commendation.

Upon reaching the Canadian military's compulsory retirement age of 60 in 2020, James doffed his uniform on a Friday and the following Monday appeared in civilian mufti, to continue working in Public Affairs at the Canadian Joint Operations Command HQ in Ottawa. Still a communicator, and still good to go, James is an avid follower of military and civilian aviation, as well as a keen reader of military history.



WOODSTOCK, NB, CANADA

Harold A. Skaarup

Cyprus || 1986–1987

Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1997

Afghanistan || 2004

Current Residence: Fredericton, NB || Contact: harold.skaarup@pk75.ca

Shortly after his arrival in Petawawa, I was handed a message which read, in part, "you are hereby warned for United Nations Duty, OP SNOWGOOSE, Cyprus, etc." The notice was short, as I was flown out of Ottawa to Germany within a few weeks and arrived in Larnaca, Cyprus on 19 Aug 1986. I replaced the RCR Int O who had to return to Canada early, and remained in theatre when the RCR was rotated out and replaced by the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

Nicosia was a one-hour drive north of Larnaca and, since it was August, I found the ancient city to be hot, congested and very interesting, much like Athens. I was billeted in the Ledra Palace, a partially damaged hotel located in the centre of the green line downtown and between the Turkish and Greek belligerent factions. The tour stated off with an abrupt "stand-to" as there was a flare-up over movement of flags and markers at a site called "Beaver Lodge." One side moved markers forward, the Canadians moved them back, guns were pointed, and people became agitated. The situation was resolved after some tense interaction between RCR officers and their counterparts to the north.

The UN was intensely adverse to the use of anything having to do with military intelligence, therefore, I was designated "the Ops B Information Officer" at CCUNFICYP. During my handover with the members of the RCR Ops B Information Section, I visited the "Blue Beret Camp" (BBC), and was shown the ground from West to East on the island in the buffer zone between the Greeks and the Turks. The enormous waste and destruction of buildings and property in the zone had changed little since the war following the Turkish invasion of the northern part of the island in response to Greek declarations in 1974.

I took part in routine morning briefings to the CO and his staff, and participated in meetings with other UN Ops B Information representatives. In August, WO Gilmore took me south through the Sovereign Base Area (SBA) that belongs to the UK, and on down to Larnaca along the coast, passing through several Greek, UN, and Turkish checkpoints. The Swedish guards at these checkpoints put on a spectacular salute twirling their rifles high in the air as we drove back to Nicosia.



Ops B Information Section (Canadian Airborne Regiment Intelligence Section), Cyprus, 1986–87. WO Dean J. Dunlop, MCpl Chuck J. Spillane, Capt Harold Skaarup, and MCpl Rick G. Oliver, Camp HQ on the grounds of the former Ledra Palace Hotel, Nicosia.

During the Turk-Canadian confrontation, later referred to as the "Beaver Lodge" incident which took place on 22 Aug 1986, I was flown on a reconnaissance flight over Sector 4, Nicosia, in a British Alouette helicopter to get an overhead view of the situation. The CO expected an interesting and perhaps difficult day, with a crisis on the line over a change to the status quo boundaries. The situation calmed down after a great deal of discussion. The following day, we went on a patrol with a Recce team to Kyrenia via the NW route through the mountains. Several Turk sentries waved, some saluted, but one pointed his rifle at us, which was interesting.

In spite of a great deal of negotiation and talk, the confrontation on the Green Line in the Canadian Sector continued to fester, forcing the RCR's Col James Cox to put the Turks on the defensive again after they decided to push their luck on 28 Aug. Armed Canadian soldiers reoccupied the Beaver Lodge site, and shortly afterwards the Turkish Commander agreed to remove the Turk flags from the Canadian position. Shortly afterwards, the vanguard of the CAR began to arrive in theatre even while tension was still high on the Greek side of the line.

In December, the Ops/Info conference was held at BBC. Afterwards the group visited FINCON with the Finlanders and Austrians, and were invited to enjoy their sauna. While relaxing in the heat, members of the Swedish contingent swiped everyone's clothing, then had their UN police order us out of the hut by loudhailer for not having our identification cards. There were a few unhappy campers over the incident.

On 6 Dec 86, BGen Ford from the UK Int Corps visited the CAR for a line tour. Unfortunately, this day the Regiment lost a soldier when MCpl Mark MacRae was killed in a climbing accident while touring St Hilarion castle. The evening was a sombre one for the contingent, as every soldier is well known to each other. The Regimental Chaplain, Capt Reg Gilbert, spoke to everyone in the HQ and Signals Sqn about the accident.

Although the end of the tour seemed to take its time in coming, I turned in my pistol at BBC on 24 Feb 1987, then I and my chalk cleared customs and boarded a bus for the trip to Larnaca and marched straight onto the B-707. As the aircraft lifted off the island from Larnaca headed for Lahr, everyone onboard cheered. After a 1½-hour stop in Lahr, the cheer was even louder when the aircraft lifted off for the second time and headed back to Canada, and home.

Biography

Harold "Hal" Aage Skaarup joined the Reserve 56th Field Squadron, RCE in St. John's, Newfoundland in Feb 1972, then transferred to 723 Communications Squadron in Halifax while attending the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design, graduating in 1974. He enrolled as a ROUTP cadet in the fall of 1972. From 1977 to 1979 he was a member of the Canadian Forces Parachute Team, the Sky Hawks, in Edmonton, Alberta. From 1979 to 1981 he served with the HQ Northern Alberta Militia District Intelligence Section, while working in Edmonton as a Cartography Supervisor with the NorthWest Aerial Survey firm. From 1981 to 1983 he was on Class C Reserve service as the SO3 Intelligence Officer at HQ Canadian Forces Europe in Lahr, Germany.



Skaarup, jumping with the "Red Devils" into the British Medals parade at Blue Beret Camp, Cyprus, Sep 1986.

In July 1983, he transferred to the Regular Force Intelligence Branch and attended the Canadian Forces School of Intelligence and Security (CFSIS) at CFB Borden, remaining on staff as an instructor after graduation. In March 1984 he was posted to Ottawa, where he was a CF Attaché trainer and Intelligence Analyst in the Directorate of Defence Intelligence Section 6. From 1986 to 1989, he was the Regimental Int O for the Canadian Airborne Regiment at CFB Petawawa, and took part in a 7-month United Nations deployment to Cyprus from Aug 1986 to Feb 1987. From 1989 to 1992, he served with the HQ and Signals Squadron, 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group in Lahr, as the G2 Operations Officer. He completed the Arms Verification Control course and took part in verification taskings and training in Germany and Iceland. He also completed courses in Advanced Electronic Warfare in Germany, as well as Interrogation and Conduct after Capture training at Ashford in the UK.

In 1992 he returned to CFSIS as an Instructor then, as a Major, he became the OC Int Trg Coy, then OC Distance Learning Coy. In 1994, he was posted to the Tactics School at the Combat Training Centre, CFB Gagetown, serving as the Intelligence Directing Staff officer. In May 1997, he completed his Master's degree in War Studies at the Royal Military College. From June to Dec 1997, he served as the CO of the Canadian National Intelligence Centre with the NATO-led Peace Stabilization Force in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

From 1998 to 1999 he attended the Land Forces Technical Staff Officer's Course at RMC, then was then posted to North American Aerospace Defence HQ in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In 2003, he was posted to Land Forces Atlantic Area, Halifax, as the Area G2. From January to July 2004, he was the Deputy G2 and Chief Assessments Officer in the Kabul Multinational Brigade, Kabul, Afghanistan, returning to LFAA in August 2004. In 2006 he was posted to 3 Area Support Group, CFB Gagetown, where he served as the G3 Operations Deputy Commanding Officer. He retired after serving 40 years with the Canadian Forces in August 2015.



Skaarup in Kabul, Afghanistan.

In 2015 Harold was appointed Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel for 3 Intelligence Company, Halifax, NS, serving until 2018.

Harold is a volunteer tour guide at the New Brunswick Military History Museum in Oromocto and serves on the Board of Directors of the Fredericton Region Museum. He is the author of several books including four volumes of "*Out of Darkness — Light, a History of Canadian Military Intelligence*", and continues to write with a focus on military history.



PENTICTON, BC, CANADA

Sean Smith

Cyprus || 1988–1989

Gulf War || 1991

Current Residence: Campbell River, BC || Contact: sean.smith@pk75.ca

YOU'RE NOT TURKISH, ARE YOU?

In January 1989, while serving with the Lord Strathcona's Horse (RC) on Op Snowgoose 50 in Cyprus, a windstorm tore through the Ortona Sector of the Buffer Zone, damaging the defensive positions on both sides of the Green Line. As a result, a long schedule of UN escorts had to be set up to ensure that when the Greek and Turkish Forces conducted repairs to their positions, nothing new was added or improved on the line. And that was why I was standing on the patrol track when a head popped out of one of the gun ports.

"Y'all waiting to do the escort for us?" It took me a minute to process what I just heard. A very distinctive Kentucky drawl came from someone dressed in a Turkish Army uniform of the 17th Wolf Battalion, that moved into the line back in October 1988. Everything about him looked like every other Turk on the line, but when he spoke, he sounded like a good ol' boy from the South. It was, to say the least, weird.

"Um. Yeah. Sorry, but you don't sound Turkish." "Hell, son. I was born in Turkey, but my family moved to the U.S. when I was 3. I was raised in Kentucky. I don't even speak Turkish good. I'm not Muslim, I like booze, and I can't stand the food. I would kill for a bowl of grits.

"So how the heck did you end up here?""After I graduated, I went to visit my grandparents in Turkey for the Summer. Next thing I know, someone is knocking on my door and telling me that I was a Turkish citizen, and I was 17, so I got conscripted into the Turkish Army! Before I know it, I'm doing basic training and then I end up here. Six months ago, I was drinkin' beers with the guys on the football field and now I am here, standing on a tower looking at you guys and a bunch of soldiers that I am supposed to be mad at!"

I couldn't help it. I started to laugh. It was the funniest thing I had ever heard! He was a little mad at first, but then he started to laugh, too. It was just that absurd. "Well, everyone should be here in about 10 or 20 minutes. At least I think it will be 10 or 20 minutes. I'm still trying to learn the language and I miss about half of what the Sergeant says to me. You take it easy, man."

Man, wait until I tell the guys in the Section House, I thought. A Kentuckian in the Wolf Battalion.



On CS-79 Pegasus Gate, Ortona Sector, looking towards the Old City Wall, Nicosia, Cyprus January 1989.

Biography

Lieutenant Sean Smith, CD, was born in Penticton, BC, in September 1968. His Father had served with the Royal Canadian Signals Corps from 1960 until 1966 when he left the Army and joined GMAC. His mother was a Registered Nurse, and his family moved around quite a bit until settling in Vernon, his parents' hometown, in 1974. Sean was raised around Veterans, with his grandfather and his great uncles having all served in WWII. Sean had a fascination with all things military. He joined the Navy League Cadets in 1979, then Air Cadets in 1981.

When he turned 17, he joined the Army Primary Reserves with 'A' Squadron, British Columbia Dragoons, in 1986. Sean completed Basic Training, Armoured Recce Course, and AVGP Course, taking every opportunity to work with the unit when the chance arose. In early 1988, the opportunity to do a UN Tour overseas came up, when the Lord Strathcona Horse was looking for Reservists to augment the Regiment when they were to deploy to Cyprus in September of that year. Sean jumped at the chance to serve with the Regiment that his Great-Grandfather served with in South Africa. After completing pre-deployment training with the Regiment in Calgary, Sean shipped out to Cyprus on 12 September 1988, exactly 25 years to the day that his father had shipped out for his UN duty in the Belgian Congo in 1963. Sean was attached to 4 Troop, Rural Squadron, standing duty at Observation Posts from the Louroujina Pocket to Nicosia.

Following his return to Canada in March of 1989, Sean went back to training with his unit, completing his Combat Leadership Course at the PPCLI Battle School, until an opportunity to fill a position at FMCHQ in St-Hubert, QC, came up. In December 1989, Sean arrived in Montréal to work in the Graphic Department at Mobile Command HQ. While working at FMCHQ, he accepted a tasking to support 4th Air Defence in Lahr, West Germany, but a funny thing happened on his way to Europe. Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. Not long after arriving, Sean found himself supporting the MCE shop at 4 CMBG HQ, until the end of the Gulf War and his return back to FMC. In 1992 Sean left FMCHQ and returned to his unit to work as an Instructor at the Vernon Battle School.

In January 1993, Sean took a tasking in support of the Public Affairs Office at Land Force Western Area HQ, where he would work for the next 7 years in positions ranging from Support NCO for the Western Area Militia Command and Staff College to his final position as the Intra and Internet Coordinator for Western Area. In 2000, Sean had moved his position to 19 Wing Comox so he could be with his new wife in Campbell River, until his position was returned to Edmonton in 2001. At that time, Sean decided to call it a career and left the Canadian Forces. Six months after setting his departure date, Sean served his last day in uniform 11 September 2001.



Medals Ceremony at Ledra Palace, Nicosia, Cyprus in December 1988.

In 2018, Sean returned to uniform as a Cadet Instructor Cadre officer, working with 363 Captain Brian Barker Squadron in Campbell River, BC, as their Training Officer. In 2022, Sean moved over to 2943 PPCLI Army Cadet Corps as their Training Officer, tasked with assisting in rebuilding the Corps, post-COVID. Sean will be taking over the Commanding Officer role in 2024.

Sean has been married to Andrea, a Principal in the Campbell River School District, since 2000 and has two sons, Ian, and Benjamin.



HAMILTON, ON, CANADA

Michael Snell

UNHQ || 1995–2000

Current Residence: Kanata, ON || Contact: michael.snell@pk75.ca

I am not a peacekeeper. I have not served on a peacekeeping mission. But peacekeeping was a key part of my life for over two decades. And all of this happened thanks to the Soviet Union. There are not many things for which I would thank the Soviet Union, but this is probably the only one.

In the summer of 1988, I was promoted to lieutenant-colonel. The plan was six months at the NATO Defence College in Rome, followed by a French course, and then an army job in the summer of 1989. But then the Soviet Union stepped in. As part of a NATO tit for tat, Canada's newly posted defence attaché in Moscow was declared persona non grata (a person who is unacceptable or unwelcome) and expelled. Long story short, he took my place in Rome and a shuffle of officers resulted in my short notice posting to the Directorate of International Policy (DIPol) in the Assistant Deputy Minister (Policy) (ADM Pol) group at National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ). Fortunately, I was already serving in Ottawa, but I really had no idea of what the Policy Group did, let alone the role of DIPol. I quickly learned that I was to be the policy focal point for all Canadian peacekeeping.



While many worried about Y2K, the United Nations welcomed the new millennium.

I arrived at the Directorate for my first day at work after two weeks of leave, having had about an hour of handover before I went on holidays. My Director was away and the new Director General had yet to arrive, so I spent some time with our secretary Barb getting to learn about DIPol and meeting the other members of the team. So far, so good. Then the phone rang! It was an officer from the Department of Foreign Affairs asking me what we were going to do about this telegram (being in the pre-email era) from PRMNY. I determined who he was and promised to phone him back and then panicked. The first task was to find out who or what PRMNY was and then to find that mysterious telegram. Barb became my first hero of the day as she patiently explained that PRMNY was the acronym for the Canadian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. Then we found the telegram.

The United Nations, through our Military Adviser at PRMNY (who knew!) was asking Canada to contribute a small number of communications folks to support the newly mandated UN Mission Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG). With no Director or Director General (DG) in place, I clutched the telegram with sweaty hands and paraded myself in front of the Associate Assistant Deputy Minister in the Policy Group. In those days, ADM (Pol) had a two-star as the Associate. So, I introduced myself to Major-General David Huddleston, saying how delighted I was to be in the Policy Group. After some introductory chit chat, he asked me if there was anything he could do, and I screamed "Help"! And over the next two weeks, MGen Huddleston fronted for me (his term, not mine) as we put together the package that saw a significant contribution to that mission.

And from there, it was off and running for the next four years. It was a period of almost unprecedented peacekeeping activities with operations ranging from the Good Offices mission to oversee the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan to the independence of Namibia, to missions in Central America, and more missions in Africa including Somalia, and then the deployment into Croatia and further into the Balkans. It was an exciting time to be a policy officer and I had to develop an extensive network with the operations staff at NDHQ as well as with the international staff at Foreign Affairs and our military adviser (Milad) at PRMNY. As well, I quickly learned about the workings of the officer of the Minister of National Defence (MND) as I was frequently asked to brief the Minister or his senior policy advisers. Ministers were easy to brief; the staff was another dimension.

One of the many highlights of these four years was being tasked as the military adviser to Canada's Special Envoy for Cambodia, Ambassador Alan

Sullivan. As such, I was part of the Canadian delegation to the Cambodia Peace Talks in Paris in August 1989. Talk about a learning experience! I then traveled to the region with Ambassador Sullivan and was invited to be part of the Canadian delegation at the signing ceremony in Paris in October 1991. I accompanied the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Barbara McDougall, and her team to the ceremony. There was a mix-up with cars to transport us to the signing site, so I suggested to the Minister that she and a couple of others take the car while I would round up the remainder of the gaggle and walk the few blocks to the site. We, the walkers, arrived before the Minister which triggered the French hosts into playing 'O Canada' and presenting arms. The political staffers started to panic but I said keep smiling and told them to follow me. So, up we marched to the steps of the site, saluted the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, and entered the salon where the ceremony was to be held. It was a great entrance!

After four years in the Policy Group, I was posted to the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff (CDLS) in London, England as the Assistant Army Adviser. However, because of my policy background, the Commander tasked me to handle defence policy issues including the ongoing peace operations in the Balkans. As part of this, the Army section was asked to provide a weekly update to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Canadian participation in the UN missions in the Balkans, particularly the activities of the Royal 22e Regiment, of which she was Colonel-in-Chief. These reports were very well received and began to be requested by other members of the Royal Family, especially those who served as Colonels-in-Chief. The distribution included Lady Patricia, Countess of Burma, who was serving as the Colonel-in Chief of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI). After receiving one update, Lady Patricia picked up the phone and called the Regimental HQ to express her dismay that she had been informed of a Patricia's death by the Canadian High Commission and not by "her Regiment". Lady Patricia had not noticed the time difference to Canada and the Regimental officer was surprised to say the least to be awoken in the middle of the night.

All good things must come to an end and after three years in London, I had a posting order back to the Policy Group in Ottawa. A week before my wife was setting out on a house hunting trip, I was suddenly promoted and posted to PRMNY as the Canadian Military Adviser. It was a two-year posting which eventually turned into seven years in New York. And peacekeeping was at the centre of my portfolio. My staff and I worked closely with the UN Military Adviser and the staff in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to coordinate Canadian military and police participation in UN Missions. We also were part of the Canadian delegation, under the direction of the Canadian Deputy Permanent Adviser (the number two at PRMNY), to the UN General Assembly's 'Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations'. This was both a frustrating and rewarding experience but prepared me for the next milestone.

In 1998, Canada was elected to a two-year term as a Non-Permanent Member of the UN Security Council for the two years 1999-2000 and I was to be the Military Adviser to the Canadian Security Council Team. Not only did I have to advise the Ambassador and the other team members, but I had to become a translator and interpreter. In basic terms, this meant taking 'military speak' and translating it into a language that diplomats understood. It was a wonderful experience and I do wonder if Canada will ever again be elected to the Security Council. The first six years in New York passed very quickly but as Canada started to withdraw from UN peacekeeping, the events of 9/11 came into play. For most of the year following the attack on New York City, I worked with the Deputy Permanent Representative to improve safety and security for the Canadian delegation in New York. A year of that was enough and it was time to come back to Canada and to think about retirement.

However, an old friend phoned and asked me to return to the Policy Group and take over as Director of NATO Policy. Having started as a NATO soldier in the Cold War, I thought that this would be a nice way to round out my career. I remember thinking that this would be the end of my involvement with peacekeeping. Wrong! I was nicely settled into the job when the decision was made that NATO would take over the peace operations in Afghanistan under a United Nations mandate. It was a nice way to end a career tying the two threads of it together. I would also continue to be involved in peacekeeping in retirement. Over the next 10 years, I worked on and off for the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre (later the Pearson Centre) running a variety of peacekeeping programs for them. My favourite was a three-week course which I devised to introduce military officers to how the policy side of peacekeeping functioned within a UN framework. With the closure of the Pearson Centre, it was time for me to fully retire.

Little did I think that because of the Soviet Union, I would spend over 20 years not being a peacekeeper! It did turn out to be quite a gig.

Biography

Colonel Michael (Mike) Snell (Retired) joined the Canadian Army Militia in 1965 and then, in 1967, he enrolled in the Regular Officer Training Plan with the Canadian Army and was commissioned in 1972. He has served on Regimental duty in Calgary, AB, Gagetown, NB, and Germany. He is a 1980 graduate of the Advanced Armour Officers' Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky, USA and a graduate of the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College at Toronto, ON. Regimentally, he served two tours in Calgary, as well as a tour in Germany, with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

On promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he served from 1988 to 1992 in the Directorate of International Policy, NDHQ, with primary responsibility for United Nations Operations. During this period, he was the Military Adviser to the Canadian Special Envoy for Cambodia and to the Canadian delegation to the Paris Peace Conference on Cambodia. In August 1992, he was posted as the Assistant Army Adviser at the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff, London, England.

Colonel Snell was promoted to colonel on 1 July 1995, at which time he assumed the appointment as the Military Adviser at Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. During this time, until late 2000, he was also responsible for disarmament issues in the Canadian Delegation. He became Director NATO Policy at National Defence Headquarters in August 2002 until he retired from the Canadian Forces on 15 January 2004. He joined the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre as the Director, Defence Diplomacy Program, on 3 October 2005. On 1 April 2007, he became the Executive Director for the Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas 2008 (CDMA 08) held in Banff, AB in September 2008. As of February 2009, Colonel Snell returned to the Pearson Centre and remained there until he retired in 2013.

Colonel Snell graduated in 1972 from McMaster University, Hamilton, ON with an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. In 1973 he was awarded a Master of Arts in Political Science from Carleton University, Ottawa, ON.



VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA

George Somerwill

Liberia || 2007–2011

Angola || 1996
Ethiopia & Eritrea || 2003
Sudan || 2004–2007

Current Residence: Vancouver, BC || Contact: george.somerwill@pk75.ca

In August 2003 Liberia's brutal 19-year civil war officially ended with a Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Following Security Council Resolution 1497 (2003) a stabilization force deployed known as the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The country was in ruins with little functioning infrastructure, no functioning government and a complete breakdown of law and order. Close to 250,000 Liberians had died since the early 1990s. Worse, a generation of the nation's best and the brightest had fled either as refugees to other parts of West Africa or to the USA. UNMIL was faced with several major tasks. At its highest staffing levels up to 15,000 military and more than 1100 police officers as well as up to 700 civilians, ensured security, helped to heal the wounds of conflict, prepared for elections and supported the new government.

Since the mid-nineties the UN DPKO had recognized the importance of developing robust civil-society communications and outreach policies, using Mission Public Information Offices, to reach out to conflict-affected communities. The goal was to use modern communications methods to counter propaganda, foster reconciliation and provide unifying messages targeting former combatants and youth. Right from the start, UNMIL leadership prioritized messaging promoting peace and reconciliation and encouraging a strong political role for women in the new Liberia, which, after the 2005 election, was led by Africa's first democratically elected woman president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

UNMIL in 2003 was one of the earlier missions where, from its inception, a policy of social engagement and outreach was rapidly implemented using a number of communications channels. The key to its success was UNMIL Radio. Led by a veteran Ghanaian broadcaster and a small team of international managers, it was staffed mostly by young Liberians. It reached most of the Liberian population with an eclectic mix of music, news, and messages fostering peace and reducing the culture of war.

Liberia has a strong oral tradition of community engagement and early in UNMIL's roll-out, the Public Information Office staffed up a



UN Peacekeepers Day 2009 Open Day at UNMIL HQ Monrovia.

Community Outreach section. Led by a Nigerian, and mostly staffed by a group of talented young Liberians, the Outreach Section was a creative dynamo. Graphic artists, photographers, musicians and a side-splitting comedian, known as Boutini, who wove serious UNMIL messages into his jokes, all combined to present many memorable events to enthusiastic audiences! The international amputee soccer championship match between Liberia and Sierra Leone was as fast as any European Premier League game. The annual Peacekeepers Day when several hundred Monrovia high school students attended an Open Day at UNMIL HQ led to demands from young women for an all female Liberian Formed Police Unit like UNMIL's own Indian all-female FPU. The UN's annual worldwide 16 Days of Activism against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence encouraged all young Liberians to fight this scourge together. This was especially important after a conflict that had seen an epidemic of sexual and gender-based violence.

But the most popular UNMIL outreach event by far was an annual nationwide talent contest known as "A Star is Born Under-20 Talent Hunt." The most coveted award each year was a recording contract with a well-known Liberian record producer. For the early rounds of each contest UNMIL PIO worked closely with military colleagues to identify the best regional talent. Other contestants came from Monrovia and in some cases had

already performed elsewhere such as UNMIL Radio. Excitement ran high from Harper in the south-east to Voinjama in the north-west of the country. Performers and young audiences enthusiastically embraced UNMIL's peace and reconciliation messaging. Instruments were polished. UNMIL amplifiers were borrowed and talented young Liberians practiced until they lost their voices.

The night of the annual "Star Is Born" final held in Monrovia was a glittering affair. Word got around that it was one of the year's "must see" events. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the UN Special Representative attended and presented the awards. Some of the winners, most notably Moses Swaray, not only went on to achieve success throughout West Africa but personally helped improve attitudes towards Liberia's albino population. In her 2009 State of the Nation address, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf singled out the annual UNMIL "Star Is Born" event as an example of how the UN was helping develop Liberian youth.

UNMIL left Liberia in 2018. Over 15 years it had been one of the UN's most successful missions. The mission was always popular with Liberians, but it also had broad international political support, strong military and civilian leadership and enthusiastic cooperation and camaraderie between military and civilian colleagues.

Biography

George Somerwill grew up and was educated in Britain and Africa. After graduation from the University of Cape Town in 1973 he worked as a journalist in London for the BBC African Service. Immigrating to Canada in 1976, George joined the CBC where he worked for 13 years in As It Happens, CBC Paris, and CBC Radio News.



High School students UN Day visit to UNMIL HQ, Monrovia.

Following a year as a communications specialist with what was then called the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), in 1991, George joined CARE Canada based in Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe. Later based in Nairobi, he frequently escorted journalists into Somalia and Angola. The former was then dominated by a warlord, the self-styled 'General' Aidid, while the latter was in the midst of a bloody but stalemated Cold War-era civil war.

In 1994, as Africa's Great Lakes region started its descent into genocidal chaos, George found himself supporting CARE's activities in Burundi and the DRC. The Rwandan population was on the move. The Hutu majority turned on the Tutsi minority and their moderate Hutu allies. Hundreds of thousands were murdered across the country. The soundtrack to this genocide were racist radio broadcasts emanating from the Hutu-owned and operated Radio Mille Collines (Radio A Thousand Hills). Day and night, across much of the region Hutu nationalists exhorted their compatriots to "kill the [Tutsi] cockroaches." A Tutsi-led army, bent on revenge advanced, eventually successfully, on Kigali. As Hutu genocidaires and their families fled from the advancing army into Eastern Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) George helped CARE to keep world media and donor attention focussed on the humanitarian disaster.

George worked in emergency programming with CARE in Angola from late 1994 to 1996. In March that year he was recruited to join UNAVEM III by the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). He managed two demobilization Quartering Areas (QA) as a Demobilization and Reintegration Technical Officer. One, Ntuco, was close to the border of Zaire (now DRC) and the other was in southern Angola at Licua close to the Namibia border. Each QA was made up of UN civilians, a small UN military contingent for security, and up to 5,000 UNITA fighters accompanied by their families.

In 1998, while taking up a humanitarian post with the UN Oil-For-Food Programme (OFFP) in Saddam Hussein's Iraq, George was asked to take over as Baghdad spokesperson and Head of Public Information for the OFFP. It was a difficult three years not least because of the high media interest in the Iraq story. Trying to deal with the world's media while the Security Council was irrevocably split on how to deal with Iraq, meant that the Baghdad spokesperson supported by New York, had to walk a tightrope between powerful and opposing political interests.

In early 2002, as Afghan refugees poured into Pakistan following the events of 9/11, George served in a communications role with UNICEF Pakistan. In mid-2003, he returned to United Nations peace operations and to the Horn of Africa, to serve in the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) as Deputy Chief of PIO based in Addis Ababa. From late 2004 to 2007, as the UN struggled to bring the warring parties of North and South Sudan together, George joined the fledgling UN peacekeeping mission based in Khartoum to set up a Public Information (Communications) unit for the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

George ended his UN career with the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), where he served as Chief of Communications from 2007 to 2011. The UN had brought an end to fourteen years of brutal civil conflict in 2003. In January 2006 Ellen Johnson Sirleaf became Africa's first democratically elected woman president ensuring that UNMIL was widely accepted within the country and within the international community. Backed by a supportive UN Security Council, and a successful peacekeeping mission, President Johnson Sirleaf led Liberia until January 2018.

George Somerwill continued to do consulting work until 2016, as part of a Global Peace Operations Initiative team training mid-level Asian military officers to be UN contingent commanders. He currently serves as a past-President on the Vancouver Board of the UN Association in Canada (UNAC) and is Vice-Chair of the Board of MOSAIC, a Vancouver-based immigrant services organization.

George Somerwill has an MA in Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, from the University of York (UK).



GUELPH, ON, CANADA

Shelagh Stevens

Namibia || 1989–1990

Egypt
Former Republic of Yugoslavia
Ivory Coast || 2004–2006

Current Residence: Perth, ON || Contact: shelagh.stevens@pk75.ca

United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) was an unusual mission, as the UN assumed responsibility for the German Southwest Africa (Namibia) territory — about the size of Saskatchewan — which had been administered by South Africa, and were now willing to allow it to gain independence. Unlike other UN missions where the UN posted troops to monitor a ceasefire line, this mission involved a territory transitioning into a country. The UN authorities assumed responsibility for administering the territory from the departing South African Defence Force, and actually governed it. Launching this mission was in the planning stage at the UN for some years awaiting all of the approvals necessary. Each time it appeared that approval was imminent, the plans were reviewed, amended, and perfected, then placed on hold when the approval was not granted. As a result, unlike other missions that were launched in short timeframes, UNTAG was very well-planned. Each UN mission has a unique ribbon adorning the UN peacekeeping medal. For the UNTAG one, in the centre were five coloured lines representing the five continents engaged in the mission. To the left and right of centre, were two wider bands to represent the sands of the Namib and Kalahari deserts within the territory, and on each edge was a similarly wide band of UN blue.

Unlike the MFO mission on which I had previously served, UNTAG's senior leader was the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG). I did not expect to have civilian leadership in a peacekeeping mission, yes, based upon my vast experience of one. However, this different focus was the beginning of more multidimensional modern peacekeeping. It was especially important in a place such as Namibia, as many of the inhabitants were never allowed to vote. If we were to govern the territory, enumerate all of the citizens to enable them to vote, encourage the rise of political parties, ensure free and fair elections, and supervise the transition of power to these elected officials, we needed special skills and expertise.



Shelagh in Kuwait.

In fact, it was decided that formed police units were required and Canada agreed to send a contingent of RCMP. While members of other countries had heard of the famed Mounties, they expected them to emerge from the airplane on their trusted horses and wearing red serge. That was not to be, as the Mounties, unaccustomed to peacekeeping in warm weather, wore military tropical tan uniforms with their insignia.

There were many other key experts, aside from military and police, such as those who were tasked with governing the territory. Also, some very important officials were those with expertise in elections. The UN wanted to ensure that these elections were certified to be free and fair, so it was imperative that everything be done properly from the beginning. As Canada provided a Logistics Unit, our drivers were tasked with transporting election officials to every corner of the territory to enumerate anyone of voting age. Of course, they also had to divide the territory into voting districts, establish voting rules, create voting lists, identify polling stations, and all of the other complex arrangements necessary to ensure these free and fair elections. I was excited to be a part of history and volunteered to be deployed to a polling station. What a great opportunity to

support these elections. Alas, just before the elections occurred, however, election officials determined that military — even though we were to wear civilian attire — were not allowed at polling stations. They did not want there to be any possibility, or even the appearance of, intimidation to vote.

Still, I was able to witness election day in Windhoek, the capital city. People who had never been allowed to vote in their lives formed a queue at the polling stations, and the lines went on for blocks. They brought food and cool drinks and music. It was a party! Imagine finally being granted the right to vote for the future of your country. The elections happened, victories were declared, the elections were determined to be free and fair, and the UN then commenced the procedures to transition the territory to become the country of Namibia under its newly elected leaders. As a measure of success, Namibia quickly joined the UN and a few years later sent peacekeepers to another UN mission. We participated in a celebration at the rugby stadium in Windhoek which was such a cause for joy. However, my most poignant memory was of the crowds queued to vote, enjoying their first taste of democracy, and thus why I appreciate my opportunity to live in a democracy and to exercise my right and obligation to vote in every election, municipal, provincial, or federal. It is something I took for granted prior to this peacekeeping experience.

Biography

"Join the Forces, See the World" was the advertisement I read whilst in high school and pondering my future. My education. My career. I enrolled in the Regular Officer Training Plan (ROTP), attended the University of Guelph, graduated with honours, was commissioned as a logistics officer, and served in the typical roles at unit, base and at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. As a young Captain, I had a great posting as a career manager. These 'lucky' people decide, in conjunction with outside Canada, promotion and other boards, where those in their classification are posted. This job was stressful; as a reward, one normally received a desired posting upon tour completion. I chose peacekeeping and followed a unique career path.



Sarajevo.

My first peacekeeping mission was as Adjutant of the Canadian Contingent Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) based in the Sinai, Egypt. This mission, although configured like a United Nations (UN) mission, was not UN. The headquarters was in Rome, the Force Commander from Norway, with contingents from Colombia, Fiji, the Netherlands, UK, New Zealand, France, Canada, the U.S. and more. The structure was like a classic UN mission with the Force Commander as Head of Mission; it was the structure with which I was familiar and one I figured was the norm for all missions. After sixteen months plus in mission, I returned to Canada, but was given an opportunity for a peacekeeping mission less than a year later. I returned to Africa and to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) mission, in Namibia.

Next, a posting to headquarters in Ottawa, but then, an opportunity for another peacekeeping mission, now with the UN Protection Force, in the Former Yugoslavia. This was a different mission — in a cold weather country. We lived in a former Yugoslav army base, but the buildings didn't have sufficient heat and we were lodged in tents. Living in a tent in the winter is okay for a weekend or an exercise, but for a deployment, these were difficult conditions. Upon my return from a seven-month tour, I was posted to the Joint Staff at headquarters in Ottawa where our main focus was on peacekeeping and operations.

Many thought that, at the end of the Cold War, there would be a reduction in the need for military troops, however, the reality was quite different, and the UN launched an unprecedented number of peacekeeping missions in the 1980s and 1990s. They were so busy planning missions, that they asked countries with military forces who had peacekeeping experience, to be seconded to the UN headquarters in New York. In 1995, I was seconded for three years to UN Headquarters Department of Peacekeeping Operations. I had the honour to be a representative of Canada and worked with other seconded officers from the Netherlands, Brazil, Turkey, Sweden, France, Belgium and more. I was exposed to people from more countries than any UN peacekeeping mission. Upon my return to Ottawa, I was responsible for United Nations arrangements (negotiating arrangements between the Canadian military and the UN for deployments of Canadian peacekeepers to UN missions) and then for North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) arrangements.

I left the military in mid-July 2004, and immediately started working for the UN as a civilian logistics Section Chief at the UN mission in Côte d'Ivoire for two years.

Back home in Canada, I was recruited to instruct and be a role player with the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, to staff the UN Integrated Mission Staff Officers Course which was delivered in Canada, and to develop an Operational Peacekeeping Logistics Course which was delivered at various overseas locations, including the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra Ghana, and the Kenyan peacekeeping centre in Nairobi.

On the basis of my experience and expertise, I was also contracted by the U.S. State Department to give UN instructor, staff officer, and logistics courses and exercises from Mongolia to Nepal to Tunisia, from Malaysia to Morocco to Ukraine, and more. Moreover, as I am bilingual (thanks to my military training), I also worked for the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie delivering courses and training in French in Mali, Sénégal, Burkina Faso, and Chad. In Nepal, I recall seeing a sign on the side of a school — 'Education is the future of our nation'. I am honoured to have taught a future generation of peacekeepers.



SASKATOON, SK, CANADA

Terrance Swan

Cyprus || 1974

FLQ Crisis and Millhaven Penitentiary, Canada || 1970, 1972

Current Residence: Victoria, BC || Contact: terrance.swan@pk75.ca

On that August night in 1974 I stepped off a Canadian Forces 707 at Akrotiri airbase onto Cyprus—the Island of Saints, I was met by the warm Mediterranean breeze and the odour of perfumed Cypriot flowers. As a captain, I had been deployed to Cyprus as part of F Company, 2nd Airborne Commando, Canadian Airborne Regiment, in response to the first phase of the Turkish invasion of that island.

We were issued live ammunition and began our long coach journey to our new home, a former U.S. Naval facility on the outskirts of Nicosia. We were here to do a job—IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE. On arrival, we received our orders, colloquially referred to as an O group; (Synchronize watches, Situation…, Mission…, Execution…, Administration and logistics…, Command & signals…), all to be passed down the line in military fashion so that all soldiers in the regiment, including every rookie private, understood their role and knew their duty.

Initially, we were to keep the Greeks and the Turks, as well as the Greek and Turk Cypriots from engaging in full-fledged fighting. This meant establishing observation posts, patrolling the Green Line in the centre of Nicosia and other designated areas, controlling sniping, catcalling, organizing refugee control, and general maintenance of law and order. Then came phase two of the invasion which saw more Turkish troops and equipment arriving along with an offensive air war. Canadians were reinforced with Lynx tracked vehicles, and 106-millimetre recoilless rifles mounted on our armoured personnel carriers (APCs). The regiment was working at a frenetic pace. Concurrent with the operational phase, ammunition, accommodations, maps, bedding, vehicles, cleaning facilities, dehydration prevention, and all other necessary administrative matters had to be dealt with. We were working 24/7 and humour kept many of us going strong:

- How do you expect us to drive on the wrong side of the road?
- This place looks like the trailer park I grew up in.
- Why is yoghurt so warm that we have to drink it?
- Why do the Brits colour code our bread to show us the date that it was made?



Damage to the Ledra Palace Hotel, where we were billeted in Nicosia, Cyprus.

- How many times do I have to be asked by the locals "Do you know my cousin in Toronto?
- Why is it hotter in a moving Jeep than when it is sitting still?
- Where do we get the puppy pounders?

Even Routine Orders had humour "SMILE, Running is good for you … if you disagree with this, discuss it with your friendly CSM."

While on our way to the seaport in Limassol to arrange for offloading of our vehicles from HMCS Provider, I witnessed goats on top of the branches of fig trees, and grapes, being harvested by real Cypriots. Life carried on in Cyprus. In the middle of our tour, I was transferred from F Coy to United Nations Headquarters at Blue Beret Camp. My new job was the Assistant Operations/Information officer. In reality, it was the intelligence section with a British major as my boss and two excellent, highly trained British NCOs, one of whom I keep in touch with to this day. One of my first social interactions with my new boss was him saying to me: "cricket pitch—1400 hours—do wear white."

As hard as it may be to believe, I was issued a Ford compact car license number UN 144. That opened up a whole new world—unbridled

freedom of movement! My job was extremely interesting and challenging, as we were required to brief the UN commander, on a daily basis, on disposition of all troops on the island, including UN troops, Turkish and Greek Cypriots, as well as any changes in strength, location, casualties, or firefights. UN forces included Canadian, British, Danish, Austrian, Swedish, and Finnish contingents.

As you can imagine, significant travel was required, including meeting with all the other contingents' intelligence staffs. This often translated into long lunches after our meetings, most of which took place in their locations. The Finnish contingent explained to me the rules for having "two fingers of vodka" followed by a sauna. The Austrian contingent showed me the detailed workings of their new Mercedes G wagons. The Danes always provided wonderful, open faced sandwiches at lunch along with their mandatory Tuborg or Carlsberg beer. The British were in a class of their own. It was always pleasant to chat with members of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. On a visit to RAF Nicosia, I noticed a sign in the officers mess that read as follows: "If God had wanted the army to fly, he would've painted the sky brown."

As it happened, there was a flight of British Army Sioux helicopters, to which I had regular access for flight reconnaissance. One of my most unpleasant helicopter visits was to Famagusta, a coastal city and former port and resort destination. In August 1974, Famagusta was turned into a ghost town as its Greek Cypriot residents fled in response to the Turkish invasion and the associated air bombardment. Our visit demonstrated to me the nastiness of war as the city was no more than a series of crumbling houses and hotels awash with feral dogs and loose and hungry domestic animals. The city is still abandoned to this day.

My role took me to many parts of the island in search of necessary military intelligence, information, and contacts with UN contingents and local Cypriots. Throughout my travels, I always marvelled at the sights I beheld on this centuries old island.

I saw thousands of flamingoes on the salt lakes of Larnaca, a centuries-old monastery in the Troodos mountains, the ancient amphitheatre of Kourion, and I enjoyed the Amathus Beach Hotel where, incidentally, I enjoyed my first Nescafé after removing a large sliver from the foot of a young Cypriot lad. My tour in Cyprus helped me open my eyes to the world.

Biography

Life for me began in Saskatoon, SK. As a youngster, I was very lucky as I had already set my professional goals:

1. To obtain a commission in the Canadian army.
2. To become a paratrooper.
3. To become a lawyer.


Me and Pete Bradley.

My journey began as a cadet with the Saskatoon Light Infantry and progressed to the North Saskatchewan Regiment, then onward to the Regular Officer Training Plan (ROTP) at the University of Saskatchewan. On graduation, and newly commissioned, I was sent to 2 Canadian Guards in Petawawa, ON, a place I had never heard of. I was fortunate to join the fully mechanized Allied Command Europe, Land [AMF(L)] battalion. The regiment was rebadged to 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (3RCR) during exercise Green Express in Denmark, my first deployment to Europe. I was fortunate to be chosen to attend the Australian jungle warfare course as well as the mountain warfare course in Kananaskis AB. While serving with the Regiment, we were also deployed to Montréal and Ottawa during the FLQ Crisis, and to Kingston during the Millhaven penitentiary disturbance.

My next goal was the jump course, and being successfully qualified I was posted "back west" to Edmonton, with the Canadian Airborne Regiment. It is with that unit that I deployed, in 1974, to the Island of Saints — Cyprus, in response to the Turkish invasion.

Post Cyprus I took my release and attended law school. Upon graduation, I was fortunate to be hired by a Victoria, BC, law firm of which I ultimately became the managing partner. I immensely enjoyed my 38 years of law practice, all the while remaining with the primary reserve as a legal officer. I was appointed as the Area Legal Advisor (Pacific) right here in Victoria. With a staff of four legal officers, our job was to advise the Area commander of changes in military law, assist with summary trials, boards of inquiry, and conduct courts martial as well as instruction on the Law of War and any other pertinent legal matter.

While attending the U.S. Army law school in Virginia, I was asked by a southern U.S. officer "Do y'all serve catfish burgers at McDonald's?" I was not quite sure how to respond to that question. I was also somewhat taken aback when some Southerners kept referring to the U.S. Civil War as the War of Northern Aggression. Old grudges remain.

Back to private practice, which I did concurrently with my reserve activities, I was fortunate to have a wonderful clientele, great partners and lawyers, dedicated staff, and a real sense of community. My partners were so generous that they supported me and my family's three-month deployment to West Germany as one of the lawyers serving with SLAE — Senior Legal Adviser Europe.

My main areas of practice were corporate law, real estate law and trust law. Our firm had — and still has — approximately 15 lawyers, one of the oldest and largest firms in the city. I have also had the privilege of serving on a number of boards including Mount Saint Mary Hospital, the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, Broadmead Lodge for Veterans, Victoria Estate Planning council, Union Club in British Columbia, Victoria Hospital Foundation, and the Canadian Scottish Regiment Heritage Foundation.

I am also the military member of the Canadian Forces Liaison Council.

I currently reside in Oak Bay, BC, along with my wife Elaine, our three adult children, and their children. In retirement I keep fit and spend oodles of time at our Saltspring Island property, Woodpecker Hollow, chopping wood, building decks, painting rocks white, and generally tidying up, often with an unlit cigar in hand. I have indeed, been fortunate.



North Bay, ON, Canada

Fern Taillefer

Egypt || 1977–1978

Current Residence: Oro-Medonte, ON || Contact: fern.taillefer@pk75.ca

I joined the reserve forces in North Bay in 1974 serving with the Algonquin Regiment until 1980. While in the Reserves, I volunteered for a tour of duty with the United Nations Emergency Forces (UNEF II) in Egypt, from 12 Oct 1977 to 12 April 1978. I was ready for a trip full of adventure and fun, and I probably thought I was going on an all-expense paid trip for a six-month holiday. This could not have been further from the truth. My trip to Egypt was very eventful, and it left me with some very disturbing memories. When we landed in Cairo, we were told to stay in our seats while I watched a deceased Canadian soldier being loaded into the belly of the aircraft. This soldier had been killed while on the same UN mission I was being sent on. This was a very sobering moment for me, and I wondered what lay ahead in the next few months. This was not going to be a vacation. This was for real. My whole mindset totally changed in that instant. That moment has never left my mind. I think of it often.



Me getting into the jeep getting ready to go on patrol

At one point during my mission, while driving a jeep with another Canadian soldier, we were stopped at a check point where the barrel of a rifle was pressed against the left side of my temple. This was a very tense moment for me as I did not know if the Egyptian soldier holding the rifle was intent on pulling the trigger. At that moment I got very angry and pushed the rifle away from my temple and swore at the guard. I pointed out that we were with the United Nations (UN) in a UN marked jeep and that he had no right to point his weapon at me, let alone press it against my head. Only after I did this did I realize that I could have caused the guard to pull the trigger. Till this very day, I can feel the location where the rifle was held against my temple, and I sometime feel pressure to the side of the temple as if something is pressing against it. Every day we had to check our boots in the morning before we put them on because we were told that poisonous snakes and scorpions loved to curl up inside them at night. I checked every single day. Some evenings I slept with my boots on just in case!! I still find myself checking my boots and shaking them to make sure there is nothing in them. Old habits die hard!!

When I was not guarding the camp, one of my duties was to drive supplies from Egypt to Israel via the Golan Heights. We were very short of drivers, so I volunteered on my days off. We had to cross many check points and were always fearful of being ambushed. We also had to watch out for landmines that were strewn about and had to drive in the middle of the road

just in case. We lost two Canadians to that very issue when they pulled off the road and hit a land mine. On one of these trips to Israel, someone along the route shot at my truck. There were bullet holes in the canvas, but we had no idea when and where along the route it occurred, as we were driving 5-ton multi-fuellers which were very loud inside the cab.

I also witnessed several beatings, by the Egyptian National Police, of prisoners we had turned over to them. Even though handcuffed, the prisoners suffered serious beatings at the hands of the police, and we could do nothing to stop it. I tried to interfere once but was stopped by my immediate supervisor and told it's their way of life and that we were not to get involved, as the prisoners were Egyptian Nationals. That really bothered me.

Biography



Fern Taillefer started his military career as an Army Cadet with the 204 Algonquin Cadet Corps in North Bay, ON. He spent four years with the cadets, attaining the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major. In 1974 he joined the Infantry Reserve unit the Algonquin Regiment in North Bay and served with the Regiment for six years. In 1977, while serving in the Reserves, he volunteered for a tour of duty with the United Nations Emergency Forces in Egypt. He celebrated his 20th birthday in Ismailia, Egypt.

In February of 1980 he joined the Regular Forces as a Military Policeman, serving for three years in Petawawa, working in various sections of the Military Police Detachment. Because of his previous experience as an Infantryman, he completed a tour with the Military Police Field Section, then worked as a patrolman. Eventually he worked his way up to the Criminal Investigation Section. While in Petawawa, in September of 1980, he was sent to the Airborne School in Edmonton, and became a qualified military parachutist.

In 1983, he was part of a pre-selection team that was sent to CFB Borden to determine if he would be suited for Close Protection (bodyguard) duties. Fourteen of the 79 personnel who attended the pre-selection were chosen to attend a gruelling, 10-week course in London, England to undergo Close Protection training.

Having successfully completed this training he was posted to CFB Baden-Soellingen Germany, where he was sent to Heidelberg to become the personal bodyguard of the Commander of Ace Mobile Force (Land). During his four years in Europe, he was also assigned to guard numerous high ranking dignitaries with threats on their lives, including members of the Royal family such as Countess Mountbatten, Lord Brabourne, Prince Charles, and Princess Anne, to mention a few. He also provided security for the Queen Mother and the Queen.

In 1987, he was promoted to Sgt and posted to CFB Ottawa where he was placed in charge of VIP operations. He was responsible for planning the ground security of many dignitaries from around the world and was responsible for the Prime Minister of Canada's aircraft security.

In 1990, he was posted as an instructor to the Canadian School of Intelligence and Security in CFB Borden, and subsequently promoted to Warrant Officer. He served as an instructor in all aspects of criminal law, investigations and patrol procedures, VIP security, firearms, and Defensive Tactics.

He retired in 1996 and commenced a second career with the Toronto Transit Commission's Special Constable Services where he served as a Security Specialist in charge of security planning as the intelligence officer responsible for the Anti-Terrorism plan for the subway and transportation system. While there, he also attended Toronto Police College,

He is a founding member of the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping, Central Ontario Chapter, and is presently the President of the Association. For the past 18 years, he was Chief Organizer of Peacekeepers parades and ceremonies in the village of Angus, an event attracting large numbers of participants.

He is the Parade Marshall for the Barrie Legion, and leads the parade in downtown Barrie every November 11th and on the anniversary of D Day parades. With the Legion he also serves as the Veteran Services Officer, 1st Vice President, and Poppy Chairman Fern is also a member of the Barrie Veterans Club, and serves on the executive for the Canadian Airborne Forces Association as the Second Vice President. He is a life-time member of the NATO Association, and the Algonquin Regiment Association.

He volunteered as a coach for Young Bowlers of Canada (8–12 years old) and volunteers as a coach for ball hockey (12–14 years old). For six years he coordinated fundraising for children with severe disabilities, cancer, dying, and severe mental illness, with the funds used to send children to Disney World. Fern also coordinated the building and erecting of the Memorial Wall at Peacekeepers Park in Angus on 9 Aug 2011. The wall has the inscription of 288 names of Canadian Peacekeepers who gave their lives in the service of peace and includes the 158 Canadian soldiers that were killed in Afghanistan.

Fern is the recipient of the following medals, decorations, and awards, including: Canadian Forces Decoration, United Nations Emergency Forces Medal, Special Service Medal, Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal, Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal, Sovereign Medal for Volunteers, Queen's Platinum Jubilee Volunteer Award, Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation, and the Veterans Ombudsman's Commendation.

He is a graduate of the Law Enforcement and Security Program at Seneca College.

St. Lawrence, NL, Canada

Tom Tarrant



Haiti || 2006–2007

Cyprus || 1977
Floods, Canada || 1997
Sierra Leone || 2001

Current Residence: Kingston, ON || Contact: tom.tarrant@pk75.ca

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) ran from 2004 to 2017. I was deployed there for a year to be Chief of Staff to the Force Commander, a three-star general from Brazil. It was a fascinating way to end my military career.

The military mission was staffed by about 8,000 soldiers from all over the world including Central and South America, Jordan, Nepal, and the Philippines. The mixture of cultures, religions, customs, and traditions was very interesting to someone like me who had worked mostly with militaries from North America, Europe, and Africa during my career. Also deployed on the mission were United Nations Civilian Police Forces from around the world, including from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The most interesting part of my job was my weekly visit, on behalf of the Force Commander, to one or more of the UN military units deployed throughout Haiti. It usually meant a ride in a UN helicopter to a different part of the island to check in with the commanders of the various troop contributing nations to confirm that they were aware of what the Force Commander expected of them and to listen to their concerns about their unit's mission, accommodations, or the level of support they were receiving from the Force Headquarters.

The pride each unit took in representing its country on the mission was obvious the moment you arrived in each unit location. Never was it more obvious than if you were lucky enough to be invited to a unit on their National Day, a celebration of their country's founding. The excitement in each military encampment was palpable as the national flags, dishes, music, and culture were on full display throughout the day. Each unit tried to outdo the other, so it seemed that the celebrations got more intricate as the year progressed.

There was a serious side to the mission as well. Gang violence, which had gripped Haiti for so many years, made the country almost ungovernable. Kidnapping and extortion had become rampant. In December 2006, the Force Commander decided that he needed to clear the criminal gangs out of the Cite Soleil area near the international airport in the capital, Port-au-Prince. In January 2007, in a series of night raids, some involving up to 1,000 UN troops, along with UN and Haitian National Police forces, the UN managed to eliminate or capture many of the gang leaders. These actions brought peace to that area of the capital city for the first time in many years.



Col (Ret) Thomas Tarrant and Maj Mark Sullivan inspecting an armoured personnel carrier on security detail in Cité Soleil. PHOTOS: MINUSTAH MILITARY PAO

On 15 July 2007, the day before I left Haiti, I was invited by my Brazilian and Argentine colleagues to watch the Copa America Final between Argentina and Brazil. Would this be my most dangerous mission in Haiti? The passion for football (soccer) in each of these countries is legendary and it was on full display as we watched the match together. Brazil won 3–0 in a fast paced and thrilling encounter. The respect that each group of officers had for one another transcended their great football rivalry and they all returned to work the next morning ready to continue the mission together.

A catastrophic magnitude 7.0 Mw earthquake struck Haiti at 16:53 local time on 12 January 2010, killing thousands of Haitians and 102 UN staff officers — the single greatest loss of life in the UN's history. The reminiscence of the UN personnel that I worked with during my year in Haiti, some of whom lost their lives during the earthquake and the memories of the amazing soldiers I worked with in Canada and around the world are some of the most cherished memories of my military career.

Biography

I was born and raised in St. Lawrence, a small fishing/mining community on the southeast coast of Newfoundland. Being the second youngest of 12 children, I knew that the only way I would get to university was if it was somehow paid for by an outside agency. So, in 1971, at the age of 16, I joined the military under the Regular Officer Training Program and graduated in 1976 from Memorial University of Newfoundland with a Bachelor of Physical Education degree. While at university, I played Soccer for the Varsity team and was lucky enough to be selected to play for the NL Soccer team at the Canada Summer Games in 1973 in BC, and the Canadian National Soccer Team at the Pan American Games in Mexico City in 1974. The immense pride with which athletes from across the Americas represented their countries in Mexico City became mirrored in the faces of soldiers I served with on various missions throughout my career.



COS and a Brazilian platoon commander during a CIMIC visit with children playing soccer in Port-au-Prince.

While at university, I was very fortunate to meet my lovely wife, Florence. We have been together through 46 years of marriage, two children, four grand children and thirteen postings during my 31 years of regimental duty (including three one-year postings) and three moves since our retirement. It takes a strong, dedicated woman to do that, and she has done so much more consistently over the years. The dedication and determination of my Army wife has always impressed and amazed me throughout our time together.

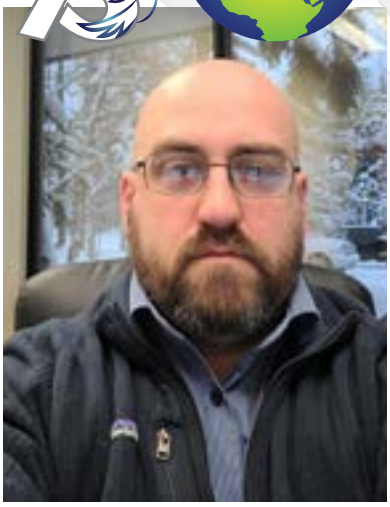
My Army career included postings to all three units of The Royal Canadian Regiment. I am proud of the fact that I spent seventeen of the thirty-one years of my military career in infantry battalions. I consider myself very lucky to have served eight years with the 3rd Battalion at Canadian Forces Base Baden, Germany. The opportunity to live and work in Europe with the Canadian Army and to train with the German and U.S. Forces on many high-level exercises was a highlight of my career. Travelling around Western Europe while exploring its culture and history was certainly a bonus. Our unit tours to World War I and II battlefield sites with Canadian veterans and historians were at the top of the list. When the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, I think anyone who had ever served with the Canadian Armed Forces in Europe felt happy to have played a small part in bringing it down. Being part of the team that closed out the Canadian Army's commitment to NATO in 1993 was also a bittersweet moment.

One of my more interesting assignments in Canada was helping Canadians from Winnipeg and the surrounding area deal with the "Flood of the Century" in April and May of 1997. It felt good to help fellow Canadians recover from a major natural disaster after assignments to other parts of the world.

My first United Nations posting came in my first year in the Army when I was deployed with 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment to Cyprus in the fall of 1977. It was my first tour of duty, while some of my Non-Commissioned Officers were on their second or third tours to that Mediterranean island. I learned a lot about the dedication of Canadian soldiers to keeping the peace between two factions of citizens who share the same island, but not the same views on how it should be governed. Our interactions with our fellow United Nations contingents and United Nations Civilian Police forces were an early lesson on cooperation between soldiers and police forces from various troop contributing countries.

In 2001, I was the only one in the conference room at the Directorate of Army Training who could not raise his hand when the general asked who had been on a deployment abroad in the previous five years. The military works that way sometimes. So, I "volunteered" to lead a team of 12 Canadian military personnel to work with the British Army in their former colony of Sierra Leone in West Africa as part of the International Military Assistance and Training Team (IMATT). Its job was to help train the newly formed Royal Sierra Leone Armed Forces to fight the Rebel United Front and hand the country back to civilian leadership. When we arrived, the British and Sierra Leonean soldiers controlled the capital of Freetown and the military training centre located 20 kms north of the city. When we left six months later, the RSLAF had control of nine of the country's ten provinces and the people were getting ready to go to the polls to elect a government.

When I returned from a year long United Nations tour in Haiti in 2007, I joined a company in Kingston, ON which designs and delivers training exercises for the Canadian Armed Forces and the Government of Canada. I worked for seven years as a full-time member of the team and a further five years as an independent contractor helping the full-time team design exercises. The last exercise we worked on for the Public Health Agency of Canada was a scenario based on a global pandemic that originated in China. Maybe that is why they never called us back…?



Burnaby, BC, Canada

Travis Trussler

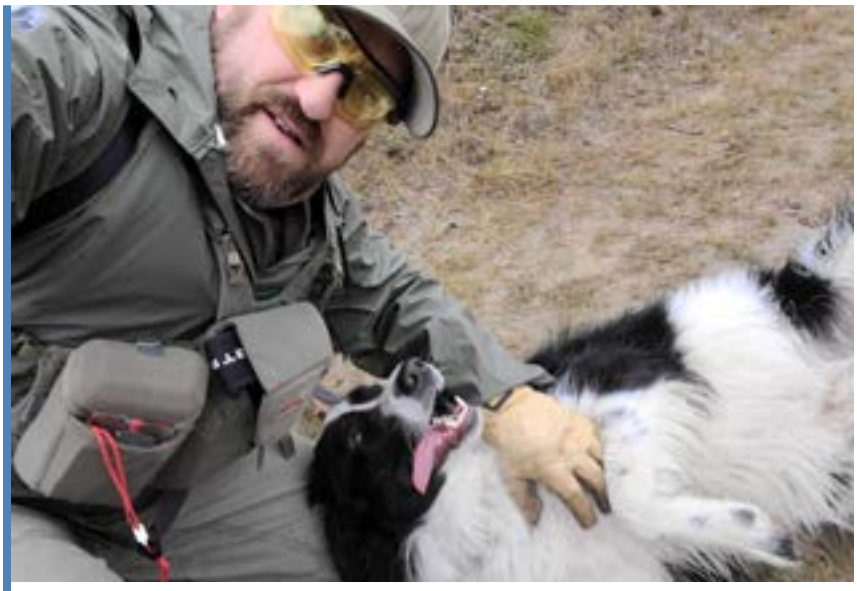
Bosnia-Herzegovina || 2003

Iraq || 2019–2020

Current Residence: Prince George, BC || Contact: travis.trussler@pk75.ca

When I deployed to Bosnia in 2003, I was really a 23-year-old kid with no real-world perspective having never been outside of Canada. During work up training, I spent some extra time researching the country, its history, and the conflict, but it did nothing to prepare me for the real time sights and sounds of the post-war country. It is one thing to read about the poverty and it is quite another to actually see it.

One memory I clearly recall is visiting a small, two-story house made of cinder blocks where an elderly couple lived with their cow. We were in the neighborhood conducting a task for weapons and munitions collection; I think they called it Op Harvest. The house was small, with two floors, and the elderly couple lived upstairs as the ground floor was for a cow. The cow lived in the house along with a couple of chickens. Me, being a young lad from Canada, was thoroughly confused by why they lived with the cow inside the house, and it was not until our interpreter explained that the cow was the source of the building's warmth, did I fully understand how little I understood of the region's poverty. My tour in Bosnia was full of moments like this, where my version of the world was constantly challenged, and it re-shaped the way I saw my own life and the world. I had really won a cosmic lottery being born in Canada. I was extremely proud of the work we did, and how everywhere we went, we tried to leave the area in better shape and bring up the quality of life for the citizens. On our tour, the team built a new pedestrian bridge, cleared old ranges to return them to farmland, destroyed munitions, and helped support local law enforcement in dealing with organized crime. In essence, we were doing good; Canada was doing good. We were slowly, one day at time, one task at a time, taking the war-torn country of Bosnia and transforming it into what we have in Canada.



Travis and Pete.

On my return to Canada, I had a really hard time hearing complaints or opinions on what our country was lacking. I remember once getting into a heated argument in a grocery store because a gentleman complained about the length of time it took for him to get a doctor's appointment. This man, who drove a car, lived in a house with heat, was able to buy all the food he wanted, with no concerns about landmines or crime, had the audacity to complain about waiting for a doctor? Did he have any idea what people in other countries considered normal and how he had everything at his fingertips?

While my personal impact on the country of Bosnia may have been small, it left a huge impact on me and reshaped how I looked upon the world. On my return from this deployment, I became much more active with volunteering; it really tempered my outlook with much-needed perspective for a young man of 23.

Biography

Chief Warrant Officer Travis Trussler was born in Burnaby, BC in 1980 and spent his early years on Vancouver Island before moving to the Kootenay region of BC. In June 1997, while in Grade 11, he enrolled in the CAF Primary Reserve, 44 Field Engineer Squadron (44 FES), and completed basic training at the Western Area Training Center (WATC), Wainwright, AB. After graduating from Grand Forks Secondary School in 1998, Travis moved to Trail, BC where he worked in the construction trades while completing additional military training courses and periods of full-time military service. Travis completed his initial military Trades Training at the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering, CFB Gagetown, NB, in 1999, and was advance promoted to the rank of Corporal on his return to the Squadron. He returned the next year to attend his Qualification Level 5A (Field Engineer) course and was awarded both the Top Candidate and the Esprit de Corps Award for his efforts.

Travis continued to serve with 44 FES while working the construction trades and was part of several military teams building permanent bridges along sections of the Trans Canada Trail through the Kootenay Region. Travis went on to complete his leadership training back at WATC over the summer of 2002, and was promoted to the rank of Master Corporal the following fall and took over as field section commander within the squadron. The following year, Travis was selected to augment Roto 12, Op Palladium and became part of 1 Section, 3 Troop, 13 Field Squadron, 1 Combat Engineer Regiment and deployed to the former Yugoslavia in March 2003. On his return to Canada, Travis relocated to Vancouver, BC, and enrolled at the University of British Columbia, subsequently finishing his degree in Integrated Engineering in May 2010. During his time in Vancouver, Travis continued to serve with 6 Field Engineer Squadron, where he completed the required training to be promoted to Sergeant and held various roles from Section Commander to Reconnaissance Sergeant, and finally Troop Warrant. During this period, Travis was present on the stand-up parade of 39 Combat Engineer Regiment when 44 FES, 6 FES, and 54 FES merged thereby unifying the reserve engineers of BC under one banner. Over the summer of 2006, Travis deployed to Canadian Forces Station Alert to support the rock quarry and station support tasks and, in 2007, he graduated as the top Candidate on the Mountain Operations Instructor Course at the Advanced Warfare Centre, Trenton ON.

In the fall of 2011, Travis moved to Prince George, BC, to take a Project Management role with Ruskin Construction, a bridge-building company, and become a part of the return, to the City of Prince George, of The Rocky Mountain Rangers, a primary reserve, light infantry regiment. As Bravo Company, The Rocky Mountain Rangers re-established themselves in the city, Travis held key leadership and instructor positions as the company grew from five members to sixty-five. In 2019, Travis was able to deploy on a second mission, this time as part of Operation Impact to Taji, Iraq with the Explosive Threat Training Team in the role of Operations Sergeant-Major from August 2019 through to February 2020.

In December 2019 Master Warrant Officer Trussler was named to the Order of Military Merit on the 70th List and was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer in the fall of 2020, assuming the appointment of Regimental Sergeant-Major for The Rocky Mountain Rangers. He currently lives in Prince George, BC with his wife and two sons where he works as a Senior Project Manager and Professional Engineer. When not at work, Travis is an active volunteer with Scouts Canada and several other community groups.



1 Section, Bosnia, 2003. Travis is second from the right.



SUTTON, QC, CANADA

Claude Vadeboncoeur

Nicaragua || 1991

El Salvador || 1991–1992
Bosnia-Herzegovina|| 1995
Guatemala || 1997–1999

Current Residence: Sutton, QC || Contact: claude.vadeboncoeur@pk75.ca

ONE BECAME FOUR

It all started quite innocently in the fall of 1990. After several discussions with some colleagues about their experience in serving as United Nations Military Observers (UNMO) on the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), a UN mission encompassing several countries in the Middle East, I decided to put my name as a volunteer for a peacekeeping operation.

My superior had just come back from an operation in Central America that covered five countries, aptly named the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA). He told me that's where I should go for my next posting and, although I nodded in the affirmative, I thought that my chances were slim. Come mid-January of 1991, I was surprised to receive my posting message stating I was posted to Operation SULTAN, the ONUCA mission.

The decisions and actions I took following this would be, unbeknownst to me, crucial in being deployed and redeployed on other Central American missions. First, as it was tradition in those days, or so I taught, I sent an introduction letter to the Commanding Officer, Major General Lewis Mackenzie. Secondly, although it was deemed an "English-speaking mission" I decided to start learning Spanish, thinking that, since I will be living and working in Central America, it best would be to learn the language.

In May, I went to Longue-Pointe (Montréal), to receive the weeklong pre-deployment training with all the others going as UNMOs to this, or to other peacekeeping missions. It is also during that week that we learned Canada was decreasing its contributions to ONUCA and that some of us would not be deploying. My name was among them, so I immediately called my career manager who assured me I was going, as it had been requested by MGen Mackenzie himself. I attributed that to the introduction letter I had sent to him, something not everybody had done.



Vehicular patrol in Nicaragua with some volcanos in the background, 1991.

Arriving in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in June, I was sent a few days after, to Chinandega, Nicaragua. I would learn later it was a place nobody wanted to go to, being remote and requiring learning the language, fast.

In January of 1991, we all learned that our mission, ONUCA would end by February. Soon after, we were told to move to another mission, next door, into El Salvador. So, we packed everything, and, before the end of January, I left Chinandega on the advance party, and drove to San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador. I was now posted to Operation MATCH, the United Nations Observer Group in El Salvador (ONUSAL). At first, we received several Canadians to help with the start-up of the mission, but after several weeks they had to return. Some fourteen other officers that had transferred from the ONUCA mission to ONUSAL also left early in March, primarily because

this new mission was now being established as a Spanish-speaking mission. Thankfully, I had learned enough to allow me to stay on, which I did until August 1992.

In 1996, I was preparing, with 3R22eR, for a deployment to Haiti for the spring of 1997. Unexpectedly, a message arrived for me over the holiday season. They needed Spanish-speaking officers for a new mission in Guatemala, and it had precedence over other missions. In early January 1997, over 20 officers from different elements congregated in Kingston to receive pre-deployment training and to be tested by the Commanding Officer of the Canadian Contingent, Lieutenant-Colonel Alex Fieglar. The fact that he and I knew each other from our prior mission in El Salvador, and that I spoke Spanish, certainly contributed to my being posted to Operation VISION, the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala, MINUGUA. This mission was to deploy the first Canadian female officer as Military Observer, Capt. Eva Martinez, an excellent and well-respected officer. It was the first time that the Canadian contingent, 15 strong, move at once, transported by C-130 Hercules, initially to Eglin Air Force Base in the USA, then early next morning to Guatemala City.

Upon arrival on that mission, we had to prove, via an oral test, that we could speak Spanish. At first, it was somewhat insulting, but then we realised that the Spanish contingent had brough more officers than approved. Each and everyone of them were scurrying amongst other, non-Spanish-speaking contingents to find someone that could not speak the language, in order to replace them. No one from the Canadian contingent was booted out. That mission did not last very long, and by June1997 we were all back in Canada.

However, it was not to be the end of that mission. As we were leaving, the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. Dan Livermore, requested that Canada send a military Officer to join the five members of the RCMP already deployed with MINUGUA. A few months after being sent to Canada, I received a tasking message containing strict criteria to be adhere to. The officer was to be a Spanish-speaker, with past experience in Central America, past experience with the MINUGUA operation and, finally, on the last page, the names of three officers recommended for deployment. My name was there, along with two of my colleagues, Maj. P. Van Doesburg and Capt. C. Beltram. We all went but at different times. I was lucky to be the first one deployed in 1998.

Coming back in 1999, I was tasked to teach peacekeeping and United Nations Military Observer work at the Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC), in Kingston, ON, and soon thereafter I was posted to PSTC full time. In addition to those four UN missions, I had the opportunity in 1995 to serve with UNPROFOR. Finally, it was from Kingston that I left the military after 23 years and started working for the United Nations, here, there, and everywhere.

Biography

Claude Vadeboncoeur served 23 years in the Canadian Armed Forces as an Infantry Officer with the Royal 22ième Régiment. Besides serving with the Canadian Airborne Regiment, the R22eR, and various HQs he also served, in the 1990s, on five different peacekeeping operations, mainly in Central America, but also in Europe. After those, he was fortunate to transmit his experience and knowledge when posted as an instructor at the Peace Support Training Centre, in Kingston, ON. While there he was involved in teaching and training Canadian and foreign United Nations Military Observers (UNMOs) prior to their own deployment. He was also sent to Argentina and Poland to train Officers and troops.

Retiring in 2002, he has served with different United Nations agencies, funds, programs, and other organizations around the world, in the areas of safety and security. When not working, he was sailing in the Caribbean. His last deployment was in Guinea, Western Africa, where he was the Senior Advisor to the President of the country. He was responsible for the reform of the governance of five different ministerial Departments namely: Defence, Public Safety, Justice, Budget, and Environment. At the end of his tour, he received the National Order of Merit at the rank of Officer.



On November 11, 1991, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Canadian Officers reunited for the traditional Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

Claude has a Bachelor of Military Arts & Sciences, and a Master of International Negotiation and Policymaking. When not travelling or surfing, he lives in Sutton, QC.



CALGARY, AB, CANADA

Anita Vandenbeld

Kosovo || 2008

Bosnia-Herzegovina || 2000

Current Residence: Ottawa, ON || Contact: anita.vandenbeld@pk75.ca

I was in Pristina, Kosovo on February 17, 2008. This was the day that the Assembly of Kosovo declared independence. People had waited a long time for that day, through the ethnic cleansing and horrors of war in 1998/99, the NATO operation and bombing that ended the war, and then many years under executive authority of a UN Peacekeeping Mission (United Nations Mission in Kosovo, or UNMIK), Kosovars held on to the hope of someday being a free and sovereign country.

I was working with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo which was considered part of UNMIK, making us civilian peacekeepers. We carried no weapons, wore no body armour and we were not in any military force. Our security depended on the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) troops present, but our jobs were to help establish democratic institutions and rebuild the country for a sustainable peace. We did not live on a military base but in apartments in the city where, every day, we interacted with the local population, who became friends and colleagues.

I sometimes wish that Canadian Armed Forces members who participated in the war in Kosovo could have seen what I saw on Independence Day. People were out in the streets all day and late into the night, on one of the coldest nights of the year, cheering and dancing and singing and crying and thanking us. Calling out "Gezuar Pavarsine" meaning Happy Independence. If you were from a NATO country, including Canada, the people would clasp our hands in theirs and thank us, trying to give us gifts. My American neighbour had someone try to give him his bicycle. The level of gratitude and emotion is something I will never forget.

One image is forever etched in my memory — that of an old man, tears streaming down his aged and wrinkled face, holding the hand of his five-year-old grandson, telling him "now you will be free". Old and young alike were out in the streets that day, holding red Albanian flags (the Kosovo flag was not yet created), colourful signs, many of them with American, British,



In Kosovo with the OSCE vehicle.

or Canadian flags on them, and setting off explosives. People had waited years, collecting anything that could go boom, to set them off on Independence Day.

We were warned by UNMIK to be careful of "happy shooting" — people shooting into the air in celebration, which also happened during weddings and sporting events. My office was on the seventh floor of the OSCE building and my Kosovar colleagues wisely advised that it was better to be on the street beside the person shooting than up high. We went through the streets, all the way to the NEWBORN statue that was in front of the stadium, which people were climbing on and signing. When we got home, we could see and hear the celebrations from our balcony, until tracer fire started to come from the building beside us and we decided indoors was safer.

My parents are from the Netherlands, and I grew up hearing stories about the Dutch liberation. My father got his first candy from a Canadian soldier when he was five years old. But I don't

think I truly understood the depth of emotion of a newly liberated country until that night in Kosovo. An entire country full of hope, relief, joy. A communal exhaling of held breath. A giddiness that comes from the lifting of the weight of tears unshed for years for all that was lost, and giving themselves permission to finally dream about a future they didn't dare think would ever happen.

There are moments in life where it doesn't matter who you are, what has happened in the past or what might happen in the future. Moments of shared feeling and emotion that stay with you forever. That was Pristina on that cold winter night in February 15 years ago. I am fortunate to have been a witness to it.

Biography

Anita Vandenbeld has been committed to democracy promotion and to the women, peace, and security agenda throughout her career, whether as a Member of Parliament or prior to that in working with multinational institutions like the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and UN Women, or with international democracy NGOs like the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the Parliamentary Centre.



At a polling station during the 2007 elections.

Anita studied constitutional and political history at the University of Calgary (BA 1995) and York University (MA 1996). Being from Calgary, after graduation she found work in the oil and gas industry with a mergers and acquisitions firm. But this was not what she wanted to do with her life and, in June 2000, she had an opportunity to go to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) as a Junior Professional Consultant. She worked as coordinator of an anti-corruption campaign with the OSCE Mission in BiH. Working in a post-conflict zone where her safety and security depended on 20,000 NATO troops, then under Canadian command. That experience was life-altering. Anita had always thought of war as something of her parent's generation (she is the daughter of Dutch immigrants), but in Bosnia it was her peers who had been on the front lines. She heard first-hand accounts from friends and colleagues of terrible war crimes, sexual violence, and ethnic cleansing. While she was in Bosnia, women from around the world came together to push for the passage of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (SC1325). Anita was profoundly influenced by this, to the point where, when she was elected to the Canadian House of Commons in 2015, she spoke about SC1325 in her maiden speech in Parliament.

Following several years gaining experience by working in the Canadian Parliament, including as Director of Parliamentary Affairs for the first-ever Minister of Democratic Reform, and also with the Parliamentary Centre, Anita returned to international work in 2007 as senior advisor and deputy chief of the Central Assembly and Political Parties section of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, which was part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Anita was in Kosovo during the year that Kosovo declared independence, helping the Assembly of Kosovo to evolve from a rubber-stamp assembly under the Provisional Institutions of Self-Governance of UNMIK, to a National Parliament literally overnight. As a civilian peacekeeper, Anita was awarded the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal for her work in Kosovo.

In 2008 Anita moved to Norway and then New York with UNDP to manage a multi-partner, global network promoting women's political participation (iKNOWPolitics.org), with staff on five continents. In 2010, she left that position to run for Parliament in Canada, running unsuccessfully as the Liberal candidate against then foreign minister John Baird, in 2011. For the next several years, Anita continued her international work, as resident director of NDI in the Democratic Republic of Congo, senior advisor to the Parliament of Bangladesh with UNDP, leading an NDI women's leadership academy in Haiti, publishing a UNDP report on women's participation in Vietnam, and more.

In 2015 Anita ran for office again and was elected as the Member of Parliament for Ottawa West-Nepean. She was re-elected in 2019 and again in 2021. Anita has served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence (2019–2021) and as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development (2021 to present). Anita was chair of the Subcommittee on International Human Rights, the Special Committee on Pay Equity, the Parliamentary Women's Caucus, and is founding chair of the all-party Democracy caucus.

Anita is a contributing author to the '*Oxford Handbook on Transnational Feminist Movements*' and '*Turning Parliament Inside Out*'. Anita is on the Steering Committee of the World Movement for Democracy, she is a member of the Parliamentary Rapid Response Team of Parliamentarians for Global Action, she is a founding member of the International Parliamentary Network for Education, and she has recently founded the Women Legislators in Defence, Security and Peace portfolios global network. Anita was recognized by *Esprit de Corps* magazine as one of the Top Women in Defence in 2021. She lives in Ottawa with her spouse Don Dransfield and two cats.



Montréal, QC, Canada

Joseph Waitkus

Cyprus || 1974

Current Residence: Yarmouth, NS

My United Nations Tour was from July to December 1974 with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), I was one of the Infantry Soldiers from Third Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) sent as an augmentee to the Canadian Airborne Regiment for their tour in Cyprus. We were integrated into one of their Platoons.

My first impression of Cyprus was that the island was absolutely magnificent. As we drove from Nicosia Airport north of our HQ, I saw my first evidence of the ethnic tension that was tearing the island apart. Windows were sandbagged and, along some streets, manned defensive positions squared off against each other as close as 20 meters apart. From May to October, Cyprus baked in the Mediterranean sun under blue skies. There were thick forests covering much of the island's centre. We Canadian Soldiers soon learned that the beauty of Cyprus had a recent past of murder and atrocities. We also learned that the island's warring communities had a hair trigger, literally meters and seconds away from renewing their bloody vendetta.

We in the Patricia's were responsible for the part of the Green Line (United Nations Buffer Zone) that divided Nicosia between North and South. Our duty on Cyprus could be described as sun, sand, and beer, punctuated by moments of sheer terror. Most of the time we wore our UN Blue Ballcaps and Flack Jackets and patrolled the Green Line on foot, or we just sat tight in our Observation Posts for long hours in the hot sun. Some would dream of going water-skiing, boating, or just sun tanning and drinking on the nearby beaches. Any commotion along the Green Line was generally nothing more dangerous than one side or the other mounting a political demonstration over some incident, real or imagined. I found that Cyprus demonstrated both the strength and weakness of the traditional type of UN Blue Helmets Peacekeeping operations.

I mentioned Sheer Terror earlier. This terror occurred in July when Turkish Troops invaded the Northern part of the island.



The Lynx armoured reconnaissance vehicle I patrolled in in Cyprus, 1974.

Canadian troops in Observation Posts along the Green Line were caught in the crossfire between and were forced to evacuate. By the time there was an end to the hostilities, and a

Cease Fire put in place, there were two dead and 17 wounded Canadian Soldiers. The memories of the invasion and loss of Canadian lives have stayed with me all these years. I don't think I will never forget what I witnessed, and I never want to forget the ones who were lost.

Biography

I was born in Montréal, QC on 9 August 1955. I now live in Yarmouth, NS. I joined the Black Watch "E" Company Reserves in Montréal on 2 May 1970, and released from them 28 November 1972. I joined the Regular Force on 6 January 1973 and went to CFB Cornwallis, NS for basic military training from 12 February to 29 June 1973. After graduation, I was off to 3 PPCLI in Esquimalt BC, and was with them from 30 June 1973 until my release 28 July 1975.

When I released from the military, I pursued a career in Health Care and stayed in Victoria, BC, working with senior citizens in a nursing home. After seven years, I decided to move to Ontario, still working in health care. After 25 years of health care, my wife and I decided to move to Nova Scotia and retire. We now live in Sand Beach, NS, and I am working as a housekeeper in a home for special care, in Yarmouth, NS.

My medals and decorations include the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal, United Nation Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP), and the Service Medal of the Most Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem. I have been a Legion member since 2007, first in Lindsay ON, then in Yarmouth, NS and now belong to the Wedgeport, NS Legion.



The Platoon of 3 PPCLI I served with in Cyprus, 1974.



CFB Borden, ON, Canada

Butch Waldrum

Golan Heights, Israel || 1990–1991

Current Residence: Guelph, ON || Contact: (519) 824-6955

In 1990, when I was the Commander of the military facility in North Bay, ON, a decision was made to promote me to Brigadier-General and post me to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Middle East, as the Chief of Staff and the Canadian Commander of all the Canadians in the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in the Middle East. It was an interesting time in the region for a couple of reasons. First, Canada had the UN Command Position in Cyprus, in the Former Yugoslavia, and now the senior military position in UNDOF. As well, while on route to Syria with my wife Judy, the Iraqi Forces invaded Kuwait. My mother-in-law was not particularly impressed.

The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) was established to maintain the agreement that ended the Arab-Israeli war in 1973, and was a ceasefire between Syria and Israel, which supervise the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian military forces and monitor the areas of separation in the Golan Heights. A third party involved was Lebanon, which not part of the treaty, but had easy illegal access to both Syria and Israel over the Golan Heights. So they were a player in the area, and had their own Palestinian conflict in progress at this time.

Up until my time of arrival in the force, times were relatively peaceful with minor incursions, but generally both sides honoured the agreement. With the Iraqi/Kuwait war and the fact that Syria was on the side of the Allies against Iraq which Borders Syria, the situation in Syria became tense. When that was developed into a combat area, the decision from Canada was to evacuate all Canadian civilians associated with the Peacekeeping Missions in the Area, as well as the nonessential staff in the Canadian Embassy in Damascus. This kept our attention until they were all out of the region, and the military settled into the region which was now at war with cruise missiles flying over Syria to explode in Israel. Really not much of a threat, to the Golan Heights, but sufficiently of concern that it had us in shelters when the missiles were launched from Iraq toward Israel.



Me with three Syria junior officers who manned the check point to enter the Golan Heights area from the Syrian side.

In February 1991, the First Gulf War ground to a halt and a cease fire declared. To keep things interesting at the time, the United Nations was working with Iran and Syria to release the Western hostages held in Lebanon, some since 1985.

Although Iran was involved, the direct negotiating entities were the Hezbollah groups in Syria and Lebanon. Israeli interests were also involved, but through the United Nations. On a very late evening at the end of the Iraqi conflict I received a note from the Secretary General of the United Nations, Janvier Perez de Cuellar, indicating that a UN representative, Giandomenico (Gianni) Picco would arrive in Damascus. I was to meet him and assist as necessary. End of the Message.

In speaking with Gianni, the mission was to facilitate the release of eleven live foreign hostages and the bodies of two U.S. members who had been killed in Lebanon. The most famous

names in the effort were of course British church envoy Terry Wait and American Terry Anderson. But other names, such as Americans Thomas Sutherland and Joseph Cicippio, and British journalist John McCarthy, were also important. Should you wish to read the whole story, it is in Gianni's book: *Man Without a Gun*.

The simpler story is that each refugee was obtained in a turnover from the hostage-takers by a Canadian or Australian peacekeeper in Beirut, and delivered to Damascus by a Syrian envoy, met by their respective Ambassador, and flown out of Syria immediately. My job was to keep Picco from becoming a hostage to fill the void as the others left, since he was travelling to Lebanon for negotiations. The two American bodies of CIA member William Buckley, who died in captivity of a heart attack, and Colonel William Higgins, who had been a UN Peacekeeper in Lebanon but was captured and, a year and a half later, was hung in Beirut.

A little-known part of the mission was to recover Israeli Captain Ron Arad's body. Arad had been shot down over Lebanon in 1986. The longer story is that, to get the foreign hostages out of Lebanon, after the release of John McCarthy the hostage takers were insisting on the release of Arabs being held in Israel. Israel agreed only if they got a clear accounting of what happened to their seven men who disappeared in Lebanon between 1982 and 1986. The return of Arad's body was a clear requirement, and nobody would be released until it was in Israel. So, with assurances from Lebanon that it was indeed Arad, and since I had diplomatic clearance to cross the ceasefire line without search, I took the satchel with the bones to the Israeli's who confirmed it was Arad. At that time the Arabs were released, and the foreign hostage releases continued.

Remembering that our real job was the supervision of the Peace Treaty between Israeli and Syria, how was that going? In a word, perfectly. With all the other activities in progress, both countries had agreed to follow the treaty to the word. Therefore, our job was to report to the United Nations Headquarters that all was well. To my knowledge, this was the only time since 1973 that the job had been so easy.

Biography

Butch Waldrum is currently retired, but until April 2014, he operated an independent consulting services company, working within the international aviation, logistics, and transportation sectors, with several Canadian and International Companies. He was a technical member of the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA). Other primary clients have been American, French, Italian, Israeli, Icelandic, Bulgarian, Slovakian, Romanian, and Canadian companies. In the commercial aviation field, he operated mainly with Russian Helicopter and Fixed Winged Assets in the maintenance, logistics, support, and operations of internationally leased fleets. As a Certified Air Safety officer, he was involved in safety inspections and audits of both Eastern and Western Fleet operators and, in recent years, with concentration on the Safety Management System and Regulatory compliance.

In June 1996, he concluded three years' service with the United Nations Headquarters, where he was the Chief of Logistics and Communications, responsible for the Engineering, Supply, Transportation, Logistic, and Communication requirements of the twenty-four Peacekeeping Missions. Before that appointment, he was responsible for the Transportation Section.

Butch had thirty-two years of service with the Canadian Armed Forces, retiring as a Brigadier-General. He commanded Canada's Tactical Air Force Resources and was the Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (Syria/Israel). During this time, he was involved in the release of the Western hostages from Lebanon (Terry Waite/Terry Anderson), and was the Commander of Canada's North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD) Base. At Canada's National Defence Headquarters, he was responsible for the Military Planning Desk involving Canada's participation in the United Nations, NATO, and NORAD. He is the recipient of multiple awards, including the Meritorious Service Cross, Officer in the Order of Military Merit, The Canadian Forces Decoration, and is a Paul Harris Fellow — Rotary International.



One of me actually doing my job on the mission. This one involved climbing Mount Herman. A 10,000-foot mountain between Israel, Lebanon, and Syria. All three countries touch on the top.



YUKON, ALBERTA, AND NORTHERN ONTARIO, CANADA

Robert (Bob) Walli

South Sudan || 2010

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Current Residence: Severn, ON || Contact: bob.walli@pk75.ca

I was riding my motorcycle on the picturesque Cabot Trail, in June 2010, when my helmet comms rang, "How soon can you give us an answer on being able to deploy to South Sudan?" Within 48 hours I was back in Smiths Falls, ON, making preparations for deployment with my partner, RCMP Staff Sergeant Walt Boogaard, to work within the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in South Sudan. Then it was two months of medicals, training, briefings and putting everything in place to be away from home, family, and my Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) career for one year.

In September 2010, the country of South Sudan was not officially independent, however various United Nations and NGOs were engaged supporting the upcoming independence from Sudan after a long civil war that had ended five years before. This included a commitment of up to 25 Canadian police officers to United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and UNDP South Sudan. Due to unrelated political issues, there was difficulty transitioning through Khartoum, Sudan, without visas, so the two of us landed first in Nairobi, Kenya where we spent several days arranging travel documents from the transitional government of South Sudan, before flying into Juba, South Sudan. We were the only two Canadian police officers for four months before the arrival of the remainder of our contingent that was assigned to UNMIS.

Being assigned to UNDP was much different than being assigned to UNMIS as we were expected to live off the local economy and were not afforded accommodations on the UNMIS base. We were able to obtain rooms in a secure compound where the other occupants came from various countries with various skill sets working for UNDP. This would prove very beneficial, as much was learned, and informal work got done during our times eating and relaxing together.

My position with UNDP was of Coordinator, Community Security & Small Arms Control (CSSAC) where I worked side by side with civilian specialists including engineers, communications, social services, and development. The goal was to work with various



Meeting Eastern Equatoria State in 2010 with Colonel Ben of SSPS to discuss police post locations and radio training.

counties in four states on projects that would increase community security and reduce the incidence of violence and use of small arms, as they struggled with the transition from over 20 years of civil war. This included working with our police partners at UNMIS, state/county/local officials, and the South Sudan Police Service (SSPS).

Through the year spent with UNDP, I saw completion of projects started by my predecessor, planned and executed several more, and started others that would continue with the next contingent. These included seeing the establishment of a Livestock Patrol Unit that was needed to bring security to rural areas that were plagued by cattle thefts. This is a serious problem in communities where wealth, status, and ability to provide for family, including traditional wedding dowries, is measured in the number of cows that one owns. We also established small police outposts in areas that had never before had a police presence, a task that included digging wells for clean water, providing radios, and training

SSPS officers. One unique project was the acquisition of farm tractors. After consultation with a particular county, providing mechanised farming to their youth seemed a viable alternative to taking up arms, as it would provide young people with a stable income as well as food security for their community.

The mission was not without risk due to the prevalence of malaria and numerous other health issues, not to mention the continued north-south dispute over borders, and violence between rival communities, all exacerbated by the presence of arms left over from the war, primarily AK47's. It is interesting how you can adjust from carrying a side arm daily in one of the safest countries in the world, to working unarmed in one where it was not uncommon to encounter a 12-year-old with an AK47. At one point, we were caught in Malakal for several days while rival militias fought for the area using artillery and small arms. After such experiences, I came home with an appreciation for the power of a UN blue beret, combined with a Canadian flag on your shoulder.

Biography

Bob Walli grew up across Canada, in the Yukon, Alberta, and Northern Ontario, attending Cambrian College in Sudbury, ON before going to work in the uranium mines in Elliot Lake, ON. There he worked in security, fire, and medical response.

In 1985, after several years in the mining industry, he joined the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and was originally posted to Dowling Detachment, patrolling the highways and townships north of the Region of Sudbury. This was followed by five years in Killarney Detachment on the north shore of Georgian Bay, where patrol included marine in the summer and snowmobile in the winter. Being involved in the community included being a volunteer firefighter and an on-call ambulance driver for this busy summer, sleepy winter location. A transfer in 1992 to Cobourg Detachment on Hwy 401 came with a promotion to Sergeant. It was during this time that the OPP first began participation in international policing, and Bob applied to serve in Bosnia. By 1999 it was back to rural Ontario as the Detachment Commander and Staff Sergeant of Haliburton Highlands Detachment. He had to withdraw from the international policing pool after transferring a young family to a new town.

The year 2005 brought about significant change, as Bob was promoted to Inspector with the OPP and became involved in the Critical Incident Command program. From 2008 until retirement, he was involved in responses to major critical incidents across Ontario, including barricaded persons, protests, and high-risk warrant execution. This was indeed a full-time commitment. There were calls at all hours requiring immediate response that took him away from home for days at a time. When not responding to calls, it was ongoing training with other police services from across Ontario and Canada, all of which was great preparation for re-entry into the international policing program in 2010.

Participating under the guidance of the RCMP in the Canadian Police Arrangement, the OPP has been a police partner since 1995, sending Canadian police officers on a variety of missions across the globe. The OPP has deployed over 100 officers to 17 different theatres ranging from the Criminal Courts in the Hague, to combat zones in Afghanistan. They assist in bringing civilian police perspective, investigative expertise, and training to those in need of assistance.

Bob served with the United Nations Development Programme in South Sudan from Aug 2010 to Aug 2011, working with many international partners and other Canadians from Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). For that service he was awarded the Operational Service Medal-Sudan.



Malakal during period of fighting between rival militias in 2011.

One of the most special projects he participated in while in South Sudan was one where off-duty Canadian police officers and civilians from DFAIT and CIDA donated time, resources, and energy to Confident Children out of Conflict (CCC). CCC was originally started with seed money from CIDA but needed more help to complete a home for orphaned girls in Juba. The Canadians got together to do things such as dig latrines, raise funds, and assist with administration. As Bob's year in South Sudan was ending, CCC had a functional facility to house 24 orphans.

Bob Walli is now retired from the OPP but continues as a volunteer firefighter for the township where he lives with his wife and son. They enjoy time together with their children and grand children. The tradition of service in emergency response continues, as between children and their spouses there are three serving police officers in the family.



Cree Nation of Chisasibi, QC, Canada

Kelly Willis

Mali || 2019–2020

Current Residence: Ottawa, ON || Contact: kelly.willis@pk75.ca

In 2018, I was working at RCMP National Headquarters in Ottawa, ON as a Corporal with just over 20 years of service. I was excited to see the job advertisement for International Job opportunities in peacekeeping with the words "Female candidates are encouraged to apply." I selected "Anywhere" as my top choice but only the "Armed" missions. I figured if I was going to be away from my three children for a year-long mission, then I was going to make the most of my experience. Shortly after, I received a call asking if I was interested in going to Mali, Africa to be among the first two, and the first Canadian woman police, to start up the Canadian Contingent.

I knew that I could make the best of any situation due to my background and my career. I'm part Cree from Chisasibi, Québec on my mother's side and a third generation Residential School attendee, so my resiliency training started early. We didn't have much growing up and we moved around a few times, so I was used to packing up, leaving friends and things behind, and starting over fresh. The variety of RCMP job and location opportunities was perfect for me and my itchy feet. I've served in British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, been an "Air Marshal" flying all over, worked relief in Nunavut, and now, I finally got to realize my dream of going International!

In January 2019, my colleague Corporal Guy Lacroix and I left minus 36-degree weather in Ottawa to arrive in plus 36-degree weather in Bamako, Mali. During training, we were the two Canadians sitting the closest to the Air Conditioning while everyone else was complaining that it was too cold.

Being the first two Canadian police in the mission, we relied on the guidance and support offered by other police, military, and civilian staff from over 50 countries within MINUSMA. I worked in the Projects Section with the Development Pillar responsible for reporting on the status of various stabilization projects for the Malian Security Forces (MSF). I figured I would maximize my time in mission and volunteered for a variety of experiences. I handled logistics for the growing Canadian Contingent. I delivered Conflict Management training at the Police College for the MSF. I served as the police representative for a Board of Inquiry into a mass casualty incident. I was part of the UNPOL Women's Network and a larger Woman's network for all personnel. I also enjoyed being part of the Social Welfare Committee for event planning, such as social events and a sports day competition.



In October 2019, Kelly Willis waits at the airport in Gao, Mali, for the return flight to Bamako after the Police Commissioner's regional visit to Menaka and Gao

In October, I got to accompany the Police Commissioner for the launch of the Community Policing Project in Menaka and the grand opening of a Police Commissariat in Gao. At the end of a Q&A session with the community, I signalled to the Police Commissioner that I wanted to hear from the women in the audience. With a smile in his eyes, he told the audience that the Canadian police officer came from far to hear the women of Menaka but that she would first introduce herself. So, I spoke about my Cree heritage and how we too were nomadic traditionally and how everyone played a role in decision making:

women, the youth, and Elders. This encouraged several women in the audience to raise their hands and provide their feedback. Later, I was selected by the Chief of Gender Unit to be a panelist to discuss my experience in the UN and to assist with the application and interview practice sessions for a FRANCOPOL workshop that encouraged the recruitment of women for peacekeeping missions in French speaking African countries.

Participating in a UN mission was life changing. I formed many friendships with people from all over the world. I returned home with a new-found confidence and a passion for cultural change within the RCMP. Inspired by my deployment experience and Canada's work towards reconciliation, I started the Women's Indigenous Network (WIN) in March 2021. I collaborate with other RCMP employee networks to advance Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. I'm grateful for the long line of strong Indigenous women in my family, for the amazing women in this organization, and those in mission who inspire and encourage each other, and most especially for my children, who are proud of their "Girl Boss" mom.

Biography

Sergeant Kelly Willis is a 25-year RCMP police officer who is currently posted at National Headquarters in Ottawa. She is part Cree from her mother's side and is a third generation Residential School attendee. She grew up in Québec in the towns of Val d'Or, Montréal, and her home reserve of Chisasibi before moving to Ottawa for high school. Attracted to the idea of joining the RCMP to be able to work anywhere in Canada or internationally, and that everyday would be a new adventure, she obtained a bachelor's degree in criminology from Ottawa University. Encouraged by an RCMP recruiter, she got Lasik eye surgery and applied for the RCMP. Constable Kelly Willis graduated from Depot in 1997, surrounded by family, which included her mother and Kokum (grandmother). Kelly's Kokum was 12 when she went to Residential school and now found herself at the age of 78, surrounded by "Red Coats" fearful that she was going to be taken away. She overcame her fear and was proud to see her grand daughter be the first in the family and community to be an RCMP member.



On June 21, 2019, Kelly Willis poses with the successful female candidates from the Malian Security Forces instructed on the Conflict Management Skills course in Bamako.

In 1997, Kelly worked in a General Duty capacity at her first two detachments in 100 Mile House and University of British Columbia. In 2003, Kelly became one of the few women to join the Canadian Air Carrier Protective Program (CACPP) as an "Air Marshall" in Toronto. With CACPP, Kelly got to enjoy her love for travel and adventure, both locally and internationally.

In 2006, Kelly transferred to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and worked in General Duty and Recruiting. In 2007, Kelly was promoted to Corporal and received a Human Resource Officer's Certificate of Appreciation for her "Outstanding contribution to the National Recruiting Program and the development of the Regional Recruiting Model in the Northwest Region". In 2011, Kelly worked at National Headquarters in Ottawa in RCMP Indigenous Relations Services (RIRS). Kelly worked on a number of high-profile files in their early stages such as: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Restorative Justice, and the RCMP response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action. Kelly's main project in RIRS was in developing, coordinating, and delivering a five-day national Community Conflict Management Group (CCMG) Course, to standardize the RCMP response to protests that has improved relations with demonstrators and the public.

In 2019, Kelly was selected as one of the first two officers, and the first Canadian woman, to start the Canadian Police Contingent for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSMA) in Mali, Africa. Kelly would earn Certificates of Appreciation from both the UN Police Commissioner and Pillar Chief for her "professionalism, proven skills, constant availability, and significant contributions to the implementation of the UN mandate". Kelly worked in the Projects Section in the Development Pillar but also trained Malian Security Forces on Conflict Management. Kelly volunteered as Contingent Logistician, was active with the UNPOL Women's Network, the Welfare/Social Committee, and served on a Board of Inquiry for a major UN incident resulting in mass casualties of UN Personnel. In addition to the RCMP Long Service Medal, Kelly received the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal and the UN Mali MINUSMA medal.

Upon returning to National Headquarters in Ottawa in 2020, Kelly worked in International Strategic Operations (ISO) on RCMP Reconciliation Strategies, the Action, Innovation and Modernization (AIM) Unit to advance Indigenous cultural representation in Ceremonial uniform, RIRS as part of the RCMP Reconciliation Working Group, and Federal Policing Assessment Unit (FPAU). In 2022, Kelly was promoted to Sergeant as a reviewer for the National Public Complaints Directorate where she is working on a new Bias/Discrimination allegation for the Public Complaints Process.

In March 2021, Kelly identified a need to unify the voices of fellow RCMP Indigenous women and Two- Spirit employees by forming the Women's Indigenous Network (WIN). The WIN is used as an RCMP consultative stakeholder who brings a Reconciliation, Indigenous and Gender-based lens to changes in policy, processes, training, and programs. The WIN also identifies and addresses barriers to Indigenous recruiting, retention, promotion, developmental opportunities, and concerns with systemic racism. Kelly started a monthly publication called the WIN Update/Newsletter that highlights both WIN and WIN ally contributions to advance Reconciliation in the RCMP. The success of the WIN has assisted in forming other employee networks which Kelly is engaged with to further unify and advance the underrepresented groups within the organization.



SAINT JOHN, NB, CANADA

Carolyn Wishart

Egypt || 1976

Current Residence: Saint John, NB || Contact: carrie.wishart@pk75.ca

Serving with NATO and being new in the Military did not seem like a Peacekeeping Mission. Later in my career I realized it was but not as intense as the Middle East. I met many interesting people of many backgrounds. The people that appreciated the Canadians most were the Dutch and Austrians. They could not do enough to help when you needed assistance of any kind. They are very friendly and kind people.

My tour in the Middle East was very educational. I went with the attitude of seeing and learning all I could about Egypt, and I met many interesting people from the country as well as from the many other troop contributing countries on the peacekeeping mission. Many of the Egyptian people liked having us there, but a few others shot at us while we were in our Camp. Luckily no one got hurt.

There were fun times and tense times. On one occasion, the dentist went to pull a tooth one day and there was not one instrument in the drawer, so he had to improvise with pliers. Another fun time was riding a young camel in Aswan. This was my second time on a camel, but this one took off on the run and wasn't caught for a mile. It was the first time he had run off and it took the camel driver by surprise. I guess my yelling to stop him didn't help.

Another time, four of us from the medical unit went to Cairo for the day. On the way back we had a flat tire on the jeep. Unfortunately, this just happened to be at dusk in front of an Egyptian Army Camp and the soldiers were getting restless. By the time Corporal Karen Klassen had the tire changed, we were getting a bit tense, as the time was getting close to when we should be back at camp, but we arrived just as the search patrol was getting ready to come and look for us. All turned out well.

On another occasion, we flew into Tel Aviv and waited and waited for our transport. We found out later, at the hotel, that we were the last ones out of the airport before it was locked down. There had been suitcase bomber and both he and the



Gen Rose presenting UN Medals to homebound Troops.

guard were blown up. We never heard a thing. So close and so fortunate!

There was the time a few of us went to Port Said and guards at a checkpoint would not let us out of the City. It was lunchtime and everything was closed. I remembered one of the shop owners had said his brother-in-law was a high-ranking official on the Port Police, so we went back to see "Johnny". The guys went with him and I was left to look after the store. We got the papers the guards wanted and then were invited to see the Contingent Security Officer at our base camp when we got back "home".

By the time I returned to Canada, after my peacekeeping tour was finished, it felt like we were making a bit of a difference and it made one feel good. There have been many positive changes since that time.

Since my retirement I have been a Beaver Leader, a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern New Brunswick Branch of the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association. I was personally awarded the CPVA Canadian Peacekeeper of the Year Award for 2020, and our Chapter was presented with the Best Recruiting Chapter of the Year Award for the sixth year in a row.

Our Chapter is being recognized by the Province of New Brunswick and Premier Blaine Higgs for offering a helping hand to low-income seniors and single parents, and for the help we provide Military and RCMP Veterans with obtaining Veteran benefits.

Bravo Zulu to those who have Served and those still Serving.

Biography

I was born in Saint John, NB and joined the Royal Canadian Navy on 4 July 1966, and sailed to Digby, NS the next day to start my Basic Training at HMCS Cornwallis, thus starting my Military Career.

My postings took me to HMCS Stadacona, Halifax, NS; CFB Borden, ON; RCAF 3 Wing Zweibrucken, West Germany; HMCS NADEN, Esquimalt, BC; CFS Holberg, BC; CFS Shelbourne, NS; Canadian Contingent, United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East (UNEFME), Ismailia, Egypt; and National Defence Headquarters, Surgeon General Branch, Ottawa.

During my career, I received my Wings for Medical Air Evacuation at CFB Trenton, ON and my Hospital Record Technician Qualification at CFB Halifax in Halifax, NS. I was also awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) with clasp, the United Nations peacekeeping medal for service in UNEFME, the Special Service Medal (SSM) for my service with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal (CPSM).

I retired from the Regular Force at CFB Halifax with the rank of Petty Officer, 2nd Class, Medical Assistant Level 3, transferring to the Supplementary Ready Reserve, and returning home to Saint John, NB, where I currently reside.







SARNIA, ON, CANADA

Peter Wonderham

Cyprus || 1972, 1989

Bosnia-Herzegovina || 1993

Current Residence: Calgary, AB || Contact: peter.wonderham@pk75.ca

In 1989, 500 soldiers emotionally bid farewell to their families, boarded buses, and left Petawawa en route to Ottawa, intending to carry on to Cyprus. On arrival at the Canadian Forces Air Movement Unit (AMU) in Ottawa, we were informed that the plane was broken. This was followed by a two-hour decision-making process, after which we returned to Petawawa for 48 hrs to await another flight. Goodbyes and tears once shed (not forgetting that cell phones did not exist at that time), young soldiers and old soldiers enjoyed another few days off. Many Non-Commissioned Officers, however, felt that saying goodbye once was tough enough on themselves and on their families, so they chose to stay on Base in the men's quarters for those extra days, instead of going home. It took about one hour for word to get out, and the men's quarters quickly resembled the storming of the Bastille by irate wives.

During another Cyprus tour, my wife Susan came to visit. On an excursion across the United Nations-controlled buffer zone, she insisted on having her passport stamped upon entering the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The guard reluctantly stamped it. A week later, on departure from Larnaca airport on the Greek-Cypriot side, we were informed by customs at the AMU that, because we had not re-entered Greek-Cypriot borders, she must now fly to Ankara, Turkey for her return trip to Canada. Confusion and worry were the order of the day, with no diplomatic assistance in sight, until a Canadian Corporal at the AMU scratched Cancelled through the



Cyprus 1972 with then MWO Latin and Major-General Milroy.

stamp with a ball point pen. The Greek-Cypriot authorities were then satisfied, and my wife Susan departed to Germany in her Canadian C-130 aircraft, as originally planned.

Searching my memory many times, I attempted to recall a humorous anecdote from my United Nations tour of 1993–1994 in the former Yugoslavia but came up with nothing but hurt and sadness for soldiers and their leaders on that UN tour. I sometimes wonder if we were too early in employing a United Nations peacekeeping mission there, before there was any peace to keep, but it will have to be our government leaders answering that question.

Biography

Trooper Wonderham joined the Canadian Army in 1966 and, after basic training with the Black Watch in Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, NB, joined the Royal Canadian Dragoons and was quickly posted to a four-year tour of duty with NATO in northern and then southern Germany. He broadly understood his mission with NATO, but except for tank training, knew little of the big picture. On return to Canada in 1972, he would soon be deployed to a United Nations mission in Cyprus. His unit, the Calgary-based Lord Strathcona's horse, trained in depth for UN duty, including the history of the upcoming mission as well as the background and culture of the area and conflicting people. On deployment, it was immediately apparent to him the impact and usefulness of this UN mission and the good it was doing, which reflected positively on the organization and our country.

Following his initial UN deployment, Trooper Wonderham advanced through the ranks of Corporal, Master Corporal, Sergeant, Warrant Officer, and later Master Warrant Officer. He served on the Regular support staff in Winnipeg, as an instructor at the Armour school in CFB Gagetown, and on exchange duties at the U.S. Army Armour Centre in Fort Knox, Kentucky. He also fulfilled Sergeant-Major duties In Petawawa, ON, again with the Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD), and another UN deployment to Cyprus in 1989, this time as a Squadron Sergeant Major, where again he marvelled at the role and importance of the United Nations. Master Warrant Officer Wonderham continued soldiering on a one-year, French language course in Victoria, BC, followed by a Squadron Sergeant Major appointment in a fully manned tank squadron in Gagetown, again with the RCD, and a one year tour of duty as Base Chief Warrant Officer of Base Suffield, AB.

Although personally rewarding, multiple postings and UN deployments make it very challenging on families. Peter now had a military and duty commitment as well as a young wife and two sons.

Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Wonderham's next UN tour was in the former Yugoslavia (Bosnia) during their war in 1993. During this troubling time, CWO Wonderham's duties were as the task force Sergeant-Major. This United Nations tour was very stressful on both the leadership as well as the soldiers. He quickly learned that the trials our soldiers faced were enforced by strict Rules of Engagement requiring soldiers to defend themselves only under those very strict rules. This made caring for each other's welfare very demanding and, later in life, we learned that this affected many by creating mental health challenges. Following this UN tour, CWO Wonderham carried on as a Regimental Sergeant Major of his Regiment, followed by a three-year commitment as Faculty Advisor in Fort Bliss, USA, then back to Edmonton as Brigade Sergeant major of I Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group and then as Sergeant Major of Land Force Western Area (now 3 Canadian Division).



In 1994 in Bakovici the infamous mental hospital.

After 35 years in the Regular Force, CWO Wonderham retired (sort of) but took on the role of Brigade Sergeant Major, 41 Canadian Brigade. This Reserve Force position took him for yet another tour in Bosnia, this time with a NATO commanded task force, once again as the Task Force Sergeant Major. Peter Wonderham completed 44 years in uniform and is now fully retired as a grandfather in Calgary, AB.

Despatches from Sudan

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Chaloux (Retired)

BACKGROUND

My name is Bob Chaloux and I served for 35 years as an Army Logistics Officer in Canada and abroad. This included three UN and one NATO tour. On my NATO tour to Bosnia in 2000, I began a tradition of emailing home a periodic summary of my experiences to my friends and family to keep them up to date on my experiences. This would cover a mixture of the work and social aspects, with accompanying photographs to provide visuals. I continued this tradition in 2005 during my UN Mission to Sudan (UNMIS) and I titled the letters the "Sudan Despatches" with the date of their issue. When asked to participate in the PK75 Anthology, I pulled up those emails to remind me of the tour and was awestruck by all the activities and experiences I lived through as a UN Peacekeeper in Africa. Too often, when reading about a mission, we only see the work-related portions explained, totally omitting the social aspect of the experience. Military life is a combination of work and social, which is what makes it a remarkable profession. This section of the anthology is a reproduction of my letters home during my Sudan tour, and it will provide a good overview of what we experienced on an operation.

SUDAN DESPATCHES: 14 APRIL 2005

Well, you can say I joined the Army for travel and adventure…. I am sure getting lots of that right now! When I was in Bosnia, I started e-mailing family and friends with updates on my tour, I will do this again as it is a good way to pass information and keep in touch.

I flew out of Copenhagen on Sunday 10 April for a six-month tour with the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) as the Senior Staff Officer for the Joint Logistics Operations Centre. Basically, I will be working as part of the team that will control and coordinate the logistics for the mission, both military and civilian.



It was extremely difficult leaving Susan and Zachary. Things are completely different when you have a little one at home, I just dread missing out on such things as the first steps, first words…. It will be hard for Susan as she will be a single parent for the next half year. I think I will have a much easier time than she will. We are planning two leave periods (June and August) to try to ease the pain of separation.

We flew in at about 2230 local time and the temperature was in the 30's °C. During the day it goes up to 45°C. The smell was also something. It brought back strong memories of other Arab cities such as Damascus and Cairo. The country is extremely poor and underdeveloped. Chaos reigns everywhere. Everything is beat up and neglected and there is trash EVERYWHERE.



People literally sleep on the streets between traffic (which is something to behold, Montréal is not too bad!). There are over 2 million refugees from the south living throughout the city in appalling conditions. Women with starving babies are seen begging throughout the city. I saw one with two kids, one who was Zach's age, who was malnourished and had flies all over the eyes and mouth. The poor kid did not have the energy to shoo them away, just heartbreaking. Sudan ranks almost last on the UN Human Development Index, and it is not a stretch to see why. Maybe if the government was more interested in looking after its own people instead of waging war with itself (over 2 million killed in the fighting) it would be in a better state. Yesterday there was an anti-U.S.A. demonstration downtown near our hotel. I saw people running from everywhere going to the same direction, all at once. It was orchestrated by the government through alarms and SMS messages. Luckily it was not violent, and things went back to normal after a couple of hours. The people are happy to have the UN here as they see that as a step in the right direction to an improved quality of life. It is a small consolation to know that we will be making a difference in their lives.

The working conditions are good as the UN has set up the headquarters earlier. The hotel we are staying at for the time

being is ratty but acceptable. Things are generally unclean and let go. The food is safe and relatively good, we can't complain about the living and working conditions. Well, that's it for now. Hope you are all well. A la prochaine!

SUDAN DESPATCHES: 22 APRIL 2005

Greetings to all family and friends! Hope you are all well and enjoying the beginning of spring. Here it is the SUMMER, and the temperature is always in the mid-40's °C in the day and mid-30's °C at night. It's a good thing I don't have to wear my flack jacket and helmet for work!



We are very busy, and time is flying. We are getting ready to receive contingents from around the world into places which have absolutely no infrastructure. It will also be the start of the rainy season in a few weeks and the roads will be impassable. Most equipment, people and supplies will have to be brought in by air. The UN has a few planes but making this work will be very complicated. The actual job is very exciting and challenging. We are conducting real life logistics to accomplish an extremely complex operation. It is rare to get such an opportunity and I will make the best of it.



Last Saturday we had a Sudan cultural tour where we went to visit the Sudan National Museum and finished it with a BBQ at the Blue Nile Sailing Club. The museum was quite fascinating with displays and items dating back to the beginning of time. Many artifacts were found while they were digging the Aswan Dam and they are prominently displayed. The BNSC was really fun with good food and people singing along on a guitar. It is right on the Blue Nile and holds one of Lord Kitchener's gunboats, the Melik, which were used in the British punitive expedition against Sudan in the late 1800's. (For more on the Melik: https://www.melik.org.uk/discover/nile-gunboats.) Unfortunately, it is let go and falling apart, like everything else in this country. There is a bar at the Joint Military Commission building in Khartoum and all the UN western people gather there on Saturday nights. A lot of fun with such a mix of people, from soldiers to diplomats to aid workers.

I went for a trip to the south to view the UN Logistics Base in El Obeid and the Kenyan team site in Rumbek (ex-rebel held area and provisional capital of the South). El Obeid was fascinating as it is the hub for the World Food Program's effort to feed the Sudanese. Food arrives from Port Sudan by road (tractor trailers) where it is stored into big warehouses. From there the food is bagged 5 times by locals and put onto air droppable pallets. It is then loaded onto big Russian planes (flown by Bulgarians) and dropped to the people who need the food (no parachutes). It is estimated that over 1 million would die if this effort were to cease. The food is almost all from the USA, which is interesting when you see all the "Down with America" signs and banners in Khartoum. Makes me think about the expression: "Don't bite the hand that feeds you"! This effort is truly the UN at its best.



Rumbek is a town that was devastated in the war. All the buildings are blown up and burned down, leaving people to live in straw huts. There is no work there and people are very thin and unhealthy. The education system broke down and now, 98% of females have had no schooling and are illiterate. The figure is similar for the males but not as bad. UNICEF is working hard to try to establish schools with teachers to try to begin remedying this catastrophe. Everyone we met was very friendly and very happy to see the UN in there. People who think

the UN is useless should visit these places to see the positive impact the agency is having. The UN is doing everything from establishing the schools, re-building houses, feeding, providing medical care and keeping the peace. I can say without a doubt that this is a good mission and will make a significant impact on the lives of millions. Makes you proud to wear the blue beret.



We had a meeting with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) leadership (ex-rebels) about the upcoming deployment and what they could expect from us. These people have been fighting for 21 years straight and have lost most of their families (over 2 million dead and many more millions wounded). Was interesting talking to them about the war and the guerilla campaign they waged. I asked the Brigade Commander what they did when they had casualties, he responded by saying if they couldn't be cured with herbs they would die. They also explained their culture and beliefs. Women are property and considered as part of the family's wealth.



I attended a reception at the Canadian Charge D'Affaires home last night, in the honour of Robert Fowler (remember "Teflon Bob" from the Somalia days) who is one of our senior diplomats at the UN. Was a lot of fun with great food and interesting people. So far, this tour has definitely not been boring!

SUDAN DESPATCHES: 8 MAY 2005

A great deal has happened since my last Despatches. We had a visit from the Canadian Chief of Defence Staff, General Rick Hillier at the end of April. I was the Senior Cdn Officer on the ground and had a chance to talk to him. Very intelligent man and an exceptional leader. He had a meeting with the SRSG, Mr. Pronk where he felt out options for Canadian participation in Darfur. I have just seen the results of that on the CBC website where it looks like we will be sending 150 troops to Darfur to help assist the African Union over there.



I flew to Darfur on 6 May and visited the UN facilities in El Fashir. Truly horrible place with hundreds of thousands of IDPs (internally displaced persons). The Nyala camp alone is over 200,000 strong. The UN is in there providing the people with basic living standards of food and water. Many villagers have moved into the camps to escape the government attacks and starvation, it will be a challenge to get them back to their original villages. While traveling we stopped for a re-fuelling halt at the hub of El Obeid and were parked next to two Sudanese Air Force attack helicopters. The ground crews were loading them up with rockets and chain-gun ammunition, which is still being used to target the civilians in Darfur. A bit farther down the apron there were transport planes from the World Food Program being loaded with food for the people of Darfur. Was very ironic to see the UN preparing to feed the IDPs and the Govt of Sudan preparing to kill them. Our helicopter pilots routinely see the results of such actions after the fact.

We have changed hotels and are now staying at the Palace Hotel. Much improved over the last place. Rooms are clean and the food is good.

Truly a great work experience, we are making decisions and making things happen. Very different with what I was expecting in a UN setting. Have much more freedom of action than on a Canadian operation.

SUDAN DESPATCHES: 28 MAY 2005

Lots going on in old Sudan now. The rainy season has set in, slowly beginning in the South, and has worked its way up to Khartoum this week. It was quite a sight to see. We have had no clouds or rain since my arrival seven weeks ago and then suddenly this week we started seeing little clouds form. This progressed into bigger clouds and then terrific sandstorms with very high winds. Any temporary dwellings were all destroyed, including the Nepalese Battalion Camp in Kassala, south of Khartoum. Reports back said the boys were just huddling together trying to hold on, in the open with no protection. All their tents and shelters were blown down. This was happening at the same time as meters of rain were falling in 75–100 km winds. This was a very unhappy group of soldiers! The sandstorm also brought a little surprise — a whole hockey-sock



of weird germs. Within 24 hrs, 90% of the western soldiers were sick, including yours truly. None of the Africans or Asians were affected, just the Europeans, Australians, and North Americans. About 10 of the guys had to spend days in the hospital getting re-hydrated. For me it was a couple of unpleasant days with stomach cramps and the other usual side effects. Then the rains hit, and I mean cats-and-dogs kind of rain, for hours. The ground does not absorb the water and the sewers are almost non-existent. Deep pools of water are everywhere, and the mud is like gumbo. This water has also brought a Montréal-in-July kind of crushing humidity, and lots of bugs! What a great place to live! This is supposed to last until October!

On the wildlife side, our guys in Juba (South Sudan) reported that the great killer crocodile was finally captured. This reptile was responsible for eating approximately 45 people and had been on the loose for years. The whole town erupted in celebrations after the capture. At the Juba Camp, our Finnish UN Civilian Police Officer woke up to find a very large and very poisonous snake slithering around in his tent, under his cot. He fought it with a stick and killed it, something I prefer not thinking about! Lots of cases of malaria down there with our guys, it is just crawling with mosquitoes and other nasty bugs.

Here in Khartoum last week, the Sudanese Government decided to start clearing out the Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camp in Sida Abba, a "suburb" to the south of the city. The police started shooting up the IDPs, who eventually turned on them and chased them back to the police station. The IDPs stormed the building while the police just fired wildly into the crowd, eventually running out of ammunition. The crowd literally ripped 14 cops to pieces, by hand. The IDPs suffered 39 killed and hundreds wounded. I find it hard to believe the Government of Sudan would undertake such an action while the eyes of the world are on them. You can imagine what they are doing in the countryside away from the media.

We had a very interesting visit by the Secretary General, Kofi Annan, yesterday. He is here to meet with the Government of Sudan officials and UN big wigs, and to tour Darfur. He held a town hall meeting yesterday for all UN personnel at the Hilton. He gave a very good speech which was inspirational, short and sweet. He then answered any questions from the floor. He was frank and honest in his answers, which was nice to see. Very impressive individual. It felt like he was a rock star!



I will finally be going on leave next week for nine days. I will rendezvous with Susan and Zachary in Tuscany where we will spend a nice family vacation in a villa. I am counting the minutes!

SUDAN DESPATCHES: 31 JULY 2005

Hello everyone! Sorry for not writing earlier but I have been a bit busy holding down three jobs at the same time for a few weeks. My boss, Dennis Cameron's Father-in-Law passed away in Australia and he went home for two weeks. At the same time, I was covering off as the Canadian Task Force Commander for three weeks as he was away on leave.

We started the month with a proper Canada Day celebration on a Nile Cruise boat sailing around the forks of the White and Blue Niles, courtesy of the Canadian Government! The weather was perfect, and the Nile was very high. We had excellent food, cold beer, and Canadian music. Everyone had a real nice time, not as good as being in Canada, but a nice stand-in none-the-less.



Took a quick trip to Kenya with two other Canadians last week for some R&R. Started with a Safari in Masa Marai for three days followed by three days at a resort south of Mombasa. The Safari was extremely interesting, quite an experience to see the wild animals in their natural state. We saw lions, zebras, wildebeest, elephants, giraffes, crocodiles, hippos, cheetahs, vultures, gazelles, and many more I cannot name. The whole "circle of life" thing was on constant display as the food chain asserted itself. The only relaxed animals were the lions, hippos, and crocodiles. We observed a cheetah devouring a wildebeest, lions eating zebras, and water buffaloes and vultures fighting for leftovers. Did not want to get out of the safety of the vehicle!



We stayed at a nice, tented camp just outside of the park which was clean and comfortable. It is an experience I would highly recommend. After the Safari we went back to Nairobi for an overnight stay before proceeding to Mombasa. It felt like an armed camp with police and soldiers everywhere. The crime rate in Kenya is unbelievably high and we had to be on our guard constantly. We did not take any foolish chances and had a nice time none-the-less. Had supper at the world-famous Carnivore restaurant where you can imagine what is served! Next day we flew to Mombasa and took a taxi to Diani Beach. Mombasa was a dump, very dirty and poor. The resort was like an armed camp, poverty, and squalor outside and paradise inside. It is on the Indian Ocean which is stunning (water was 27C) with miles of beautiful beaches. Unfortunately, the locals are on the prowl for tourists and just descend on them in a swarm. The only place you are left alone is on the heavily guarded resort grounds.

Quite a shame, really. There are so few jobs in Kenya that people do what they can to survive. The poverty in general was



much worse than I thought. You always hear stories that Kenya is one of the best places in Africa, but it is still very badly off. Most people live in shacks with no electricity, water, or sewage. The basic daily wage is approximately $1.00 US and most people I talked to did not even receive that. The years of graft and corruption under President Moi have crippled the nation. It will take them a very long time to get back to something like they had after their independence from the UK. Exploitation and corruption are just rampant. A good example is at the resort. We were paying European rates of 64 Euros per day for an all-inclusive package. The staff was paid between $1 and $2 while the staff undergoing "training", are not paid at all. This training period lasts for 6 months. I do not understand how they can live for half a year without a salary.

Now I am back in Khartoum and anxiously awaiting the 9th of August which is when I am back in Copenhagen with the family for 2.5 weeks.

SUDAN DESPATCHES: 29 SEP 2005

Greetings to all of you from sunny Sudan, where it is still in the 40Cs in the day, and 35C at night.

This will most probably be my last despatch from here as my Tour is almost over. I will be repatriating on 10 Oct to Copenhagen to resume a normal life with my loved ones. I have missed out on too many aspects of Zach's growing up, when I came here in April he was not walking or talking, now he gets around like he is running the 100 Meter dash and is talking more and more.

Since my last correspondence, I have enjoyed 2.5 weeks off with the family in Copenhagen in August when we were blessed with a wonderful holiday. Lots of day trips in and around Copenhagen in truly exceptional weather. Went to the beach, a Safari Park where we saw tigers and other wild animals

(Zach loved the giraffes!), the Copenhagen Zoo, the white cliffs of Clint in Southern Denmark, and a whole bunch of other things. Susan and I enjoyed one of the best meals of our lives for our Fourth Wedding anniversary in a very special Scandinavian restaurant across the river overlooking downtown. It all passed too quickly!



Since my return to Sudan, I have participated in two very important cultural events — Nubian wrestling and the Whirling Dervishes. The wrestling was in a town to the north of Khartoum where the wrestlers from different towns and neighbourhoods gather every Friday at Sundown to face off. They are almost naked except for brightly coloured chalk which they cover themselves with. They put on quite a show before the wrestling trying to psych out their opponents by dancing and chanting. The actual wrestling was real (no WWF) and very exciting. The crowds would just go wild at the end. The Whirling Dervishes were also on a Friday night at sundown in a cemetery in the south of Khartoum where their spiritual leader is buried. People assemble at the mosque and form a large circle. Men in brightly coloured clothing begin chanting African chants and start pumping themselves up. Selected Dervishes get into the middle of the ring and begin a wild whirl for up to 30 minutes, which is



when they achieve a form of ecstasy. More and more Dervishes jump into the ring and join in. All of this as the sun slowly descends — very dramatic. We (UN people) were made to feel very welcome at both events and encouraged to ask questions and engage in conversation. Quite a life experience — this is one of the reasons I joined up! This weekend we are off to visit the pyramids at Meroe, should be a great adventure.

Work has been extremely busy since my return from Copenhagen. We are scrambling trying to establish the camps before the troops arrive. The deployment timeline has been pushed to the right about three times as things are not coming together as well as we hoped for. The rainy season has caused most of the camp areas to be under water and impossible to work on. Civilian Contractors have reneged on all their contracts and have NEVER met a timing. Ramadan is starting on 4 Oct and that will slow things down even more if that is possible. Very frustrating, but professionally challenging. The people I work with are fantastic, will be sad to say goodbye to them. The Canadians have all been key personnel throughout the mission and have been a credit to the flag, without exception. It is easy to criticize aspects of the way we do things back home, but you quickly discover that in an international arena, we are superstars. By far, and I mean BY FAR, the best and most competent personnel are from the U.S., Britain, Australia, NZ, and Canada (kind of sounds like the ABCA alliance, doesn't it?), Denmark and Sweden. The Indians have also impressed me with their high level of skill and dedication to the task at hand.



I must say that this has been an excellent adventure that has tested all my professional competencies. This is one of the worst places in the world and we were able to get the mission up and running with the UN system (all you military guys know exactly what I mean by that). The cause is just, and these people are worthy of our efforts. The Sudanese have been wonderful to us; I have made many good friends here that I will keep in contact with. The UN will provide them with some safety and security so they can start rebuilding their lives. They have had many peace treaties in the past that have failed due to the absence of outside monitors. Now they have found a large supply of oil which may bring some prosperity if it is managed properly, and with the UN as an outside observer. I am leaving here feeling optimistic for the future. It has been difficult being away from my loved ones for so long but if my efforts help in some small way with letting someone have a better life free from war, then it was worth it.

I will be seeing most of you in the next few months, until then, au revoir! Also, I want to thank all of you for keeping in contact and writing back to me. It was very important for my morale to keep in touch with all of you.

SUDAN DESPATCHES: 13 OCT 2005 (FROM COPENHAGEN)

Finally arrived home in Copenhagen at lunchtime on 10 Oct after a very long flight North. Was so good to come home after such a long absence from the family. There is a very satisfying feeling coming off a tour on a high note knowing you have done a good job and the family is awaiting you. The tour was one of the best experiences in my professional life and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Also met so many amazing people from the UN, both civilian and military alike, and Sudanese nationals. They have become true friends after sharing some intense times together. Will miss all of them.

The return was fantastic. Fritz, my Austrian Boss, picked me up at the airport and brought me home to Sue, Zach, and Jasper. Zach was just beside himself with happiness when he saw me. Sue did a great job of showing him photos of me and reminding him about his dad. Sue had prepared a full Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings, which was just what I was craving. Was not easy doing that with Lil 'Zach around keeping her "company"! Have spent three great days together and Sue is off to Paris for a few days for a well-deserved break. Will just be the "Boys" back in Copenhagen trying to cope without her.

Before leaving Sudan, I participated in some very interesting adventures. A fun bunch of us have been on several guided trips. Two weekends ago we went to the Meroe Pyramids, a few hours north of Khartoum, on the way to the border with Egypt. This two-day, overnight trip included the Pyramids of the Royal Cemetery of Meroe, the Meroitic temples of Naqa and Musawwarat es Sufra, the old market town of Shendi.



Two cars-full of mixed military-civilian UN staff embarked on the fun road trip on Friday morning, led by Asaad, our trusty guide. On the way from Khartoum to Port Sudan, about 200 km north-east of Khartoum, near Bagrawiya, we went to the area of the ancient Meroe, where we found a group of a few dozens of pyramids spread over a small hill about one quarter square kilometer in size. The pyramids, much smaller than their well-known counterparts in Egypt, are the remains of a royal cemetery from the Meroitic kingdom (between 300 BCE and 300 CE).

We arrived at the pyramids at sunset and set up camp in the middle of the desert. Our guide provided tents and foam mattresses. We had a bonfire, ate delicious meat and salad, smoked shisha (flavoured tobacco common in the Middle East, smoked out of a bong-like pipe) and drank wine. It was heaven and I didn't think about work once. I did not put the fly up on the tent and was able to see an unbelievable sky. The stars were amazingly clear and many, I forgot that I can't really see them in Khartoum.



The next morning, we spent the day exploring the gorgeous pyramids, several of them partially reconstructed by a team of German archaeologists who have been working in Sudan for many decades. We also went into a freaky bat cave — I've never been so close to so many bats. Thank goodness I had my rabies shots before coming to Sudan (not that the bats were interested in us at all). Our guide Asaad stood in the middle of the cave and called the bats. They all swarmed him and from thereon in he was referred to as "The Bat Man". Quite a sight.

The pyramids were quite a dramatic sight, and with virtually no other tourists we had the place to ourselves. Quite different from my experience to Cairo, in which tourists must scrabble over one another just to catch a glimpse of the Sphinx. The most dramatic was the South Cemetery, dating to around 8th century BC, where kings and queens continued to be buried until the fall of the Kushite rule (aka Nubians) in the 4th century AD (thank you Brandt Guide, the only available recent tour book on Sudan). A particularly neat feature of the hieroglyphics was the mixture between Egyptian and African influences. For example, the drawings depict plump and meaty women with J-Lo asses, as well as headdresses obviously of African origin. Quite different from images depicted in the Egyptian hieroglyphics.



On the way back towards Khartoum the next day we stopped in Shendi, a quaint and remote-from-the-world town, which used to be a central slave-trading town in the 18th century. There we sat near the Nile and had some delicious Cardamom coffee, while locals came over and examined us out of curiosity (I don't think they get many tourists through those parts). A particular highlight was a delicious juicy grapefruit that we bought at the local market. The children there were amazingly beautiful, with innocent wide-eyes and genuine friendly interest. We stopped for a traditional Sudanese meal of ful (a bean mix), pita and tomato and cucumber salad.



The final stop before heading home was the 6th cataract of the Nile, located in a gorge called Sabaluqa. It was at this location where our guide Asaad met his wife several years earlier and proposed within half an hour of meeting the geologist beauty. We lounged under a thatch shelter for a few minutes, drinking tea, relaxing, and shooting the breeze. Paradise, I tell you.

Two other fantastic events, which took place last week, were a Ramadan Break the Fast dinner and a Nile Cruise. For Ramadan, Muslims fast for a full month. Ramadan is a time when Muslims concentrate on their faith and spend less time on the concerns of their everyday lives. During the Fast of Ramadan strict restraints are placed on the daily lives of Muslims. They are not allowed to eat or drink during the daylight hours. Smoking and sexual relations are also forbidden during fasting. At the end of the day the fast is broken with prayer and a meal called the iftar. In the evening following the iftar it is customary for Muslims to go out visiting family and friends. The fast is then resumed the next morning. For the dinner, Asaad (the same tour guide who brought us to Omdurman and the pyramids) invited us to his home in a suburb of Khartoum. We had a wide selection of amazing juices including from Baobab Tree, apricot, karkadeh (hibiscus) and some sweet and sour juice tasting kind of like dates and shockingly delicious. We ate lots of traditional Sudanese dishes, and we talked for hours with Asaad, his wife, their gorgeous 9-month-old girl, and much of the wife's family. It was an amazing experience.

The final event to share with you friends is the Nile cruise I went on a few nights ago, also organized by … you guessed it … Asaad. He's cornered the tourist market in these parts. The cruise lasted about four hours, through sunset. We lounged on pillows on the top deck of the boat with a shockingly beautiful sunset, a cool breeze and good company. It was incredibly relaxing, and a great way to see the edges of Khartoum. At sundown we had a large buffet dinner and danced on the lower deck to DJ-ed music.



The last thing I did on my day of departure was to go and visit the site of the Battle of Omdurman with Asaad. Very interesting place, still with a monument to the 21st Lancers of the British Cavalry who led the famous charge there. Winston Churchill took part in it and wrote about it in his book "*The River War*". This was where the Brits defeated the Sudanese with the help of machine guns and artillery. The Sudanese lost over 20,000 dead while the Brits suffered fewer than 40 casualties. This was the beginning of the British rule, which lasted until 1956.

I will be off until 31 October when I must return to work at SHIRBRIG. We will be leaving for Training in Kingston, ON on 16 November followed by an After-Action Review for the Sudan Mission on 1 December for one week. Both should be great, and I will see many of you during that time.

EPILOGUE : 4 APRIL 2023

It's hard to believe it's been 18 years since that pivotal deployment to Sudan, it feels like it was yesterday. My son Zachary is now studying Mechanical Engineering at the University of Ottawa and I am retired from the Army and working as a public servant at National Defence, still supporting the CAF. I hope, with these letters home, I was able to paint a full picture of what it was like to serve as a UN Peacekeeper on a mission to Africa. The important and complex work aspects, trying to achieve an impossible logistics mission along with the fun side such as safaris and visits to cultural events, were all part of this unique and satisfying experience. I consider it one of the best times of my life.



Peacekeeper's Lament

Were you there when the flames scorched the heavens
And the screams of mortally wounded curdled blood
Did the crashing of the glass upon the gravel
Halt you heart and tear the tears from your eyes

Were you there when your neighbours fled in terror
And drunk madmen threw grenades into their house
And the thump-thump of mortars on the roadway
Was the drumbeat of the devil s deadly march

Were you there with machine guns hateful chortle
small children stumbling by in pools of blood
Did the rumble of the tank across the cobbles
Make futile any hope of future life

Were you there when the sputtering hot cannon
Spewed the altar of the church across the nave
Did the wailing hail of rockets from the hillside
Turn the hospital into a gruesome morgue

Were you there when the darkness claimed the ruins
And the savagery lurched on to victims new
Did you crawl from the ruins of your history
Swearing you would not forgive, forget

Did you then dig up your rifles and their ammo
And swear to carry on the fight
Were you happy when you first took real revenge
And tore apart his face with three quick shots

Did you tremble when they strapped your arms behind you
And tied you legs together with rough chain
Were you shocked when the hatchet cracked your cheekbone
And the bullets splashed your heart against your spine

Have your children pledged to carry on your fight
Devoting all their youth to settling scores
Will they too foster hate and ethnic chaos
To guarantee more years of human hell

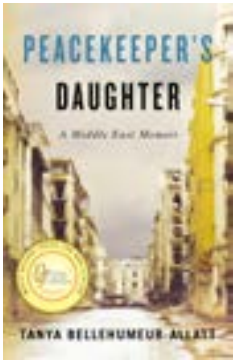
If so, I can not help you find a peace
Your goals too locked in fire and blood and death
Until, some day, this mandate s laid to rest
We re helpless to arrest your tragic waste.

David Harries, UNPROFOR Force Engineer
12 October 1993
Zagreb, Croatia

Photo: A monument in Zagreb that I call Music and Mayhem, as it illustrates the poem of that name.

Peacekeeper's Daughter

Tanya Bellehumeur-Allatt



I had two small children and was pregnant with our third when my husband called to tell me that a Boeing 767 had crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center. We were still trying to make sense of it when another plane hit the south tower. My children built castles in their sandbox while the world tipped sideways and slipped off its axis. Nearly three thousand people died; six thousand were injured. The president of the United States launched a war on terror.

Suddenly the Middle East—where I'd spent a year with my family at age twelve—became enemy territory. My mind spiralled back to Israel and Lebanon in 1982-83 and my father's mission as a United Nations peacekeeper. In the twenty years since I'd returned, I hadn't written a word about it. The story was too ugly. But in the aftermath of 9/11, memories surfaced—as vivid as if they'd just happened—and refused to be pushed down.

Until then, in my family's mythology, our year in the Middle East had been my father's story. He was the hero, with the rest of us—my mother, my brother and I— revolving around him as his dependents. I'd never dared to betray the traditional narrative and make the story mine. But in those haunting days after 9/11, I wrote in my twelve-year-old voice about the far-reaching effects of war. This became the scaffolding of my memoir, *Peacekeeper's Daughter*. Unable to name myself or my fourteen-year-old brother, I wrote with compressed, impressionistic strokes—barely a paragraph for each main event. It felt transgressive and frightening; both an exorcism and a catharsis. Years later, I learned this is a common approach to writing about trauma. We can't delve into it in detail—it threatens to crush us—but we can jump in and out of the story as if leaping through fire.


Bellehumeur family, Beirut headquarters, 1983

In the summer of 1982, my family left Yellowknife, where we'd been living for three years, and moved to Tiberius, in northern Israel. This had been decided months before, in the darkness of an Arctic winter, during a time of relative peace in the Middle East. But Israel was now at war with Lebanon and Syria. After repeated attacks between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Israeli Defense Force, Israel's goal was to expel the PLO from Beirut. Israelis called the war Operation Peace for Galilee. In Lebanon, it was called "the invasion."

Soon after our arrival in Israel, the president of Lebanon, Bashir Gemayel, was assassinated. In retaliation, thousands of Palestinians were murdered in the Sabra/Shatila refugee camps in Israeli-occupied southern Beirut. The conflict between Israel and Lebanon intensified, as did the Lebanese Civil War. The United Nations called for more peacekeepers in Beirut. My father volunteered. He assumed we would return to Canada or remain in Israel, but my mother refused to be separated from him. "We followed you this far," she said. "We're not turning back."

Over the next seven months, the city fell to ruins around us. My brother and I were students at the American Community School of Beirut, on the campus of the American University and embassy, when a man with two thousand pounds of explosives drove a delivery truck through the embassy gates, killing sixty-three people. An additional one hundred and twenty people were wounded. It was the deadliest attack on an American diplomatic mission since WWII and the first suicide bombing in the Middle East.

On our walk home from school that day, my brother and I detoured around the red Danger tape, picking our way through the rubble.

Peacekeeper's Daughter: A Middle East Memoir took me twenty years to complete. It's serendipitous that its release coincides with the twentieth anniversary of 9/11, when the world takes a courageous look back to count its losses and celebrate its heroes. As Margaret Atwood says in *The Robber Bride*, "War is what happens when language fails." With violence in Afghanistan increasing and the threat to women and children spiraling out of control, it's crucial to bear witness; to chronicle the darkness, and any pinpoints of redemptive light, however faint; to use words instead of weapons.

Previously published in *The Toronto Star*, 2 September 2021.

Tanya Bellehumeur-Allatt is the author of the critically acclaimed *Peacekeeper's Daughter: A Middle East Memoir* (Thistledown, 2021), which was a finalist for the Quebec Writer's Federation Mavis Gallant Award for Nonfiction. Her debut poetry collection *Chaos Theories of Goodness* was released with Shoreline Press in June 2022. Read more about Tanya's writing at https://tanyaallattbellehumeur.com/


Lt. Col. JED Bellehumeur (retired) and Tanya Bellehumeur

Fatalities

CPVA CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING FATALITIES 1950 – 2023

This list of Canadian Peacekeeping fatalities was compiled by CPVA to include every Canadian military, police, and civilian peacekeeping fatality, regardless of their employment status (e.g., United Nations employees are included, whereas Canadian government fatality lists do not include them). As a result, this is the most comprehensive and up to date list in existence.

Name	Incident Date	Mission	Casualty Personnel Type	Cause of Death
A/Brig H.H. Angle, DSO, ED Royal Canadian Armoured Corps (RCAC)	July 17, 1950	United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)	Military	Accident
Field Service Officer, J.H. Thurrott External Affairs Canada	December 24, 1954	International Commission for Supervision and Control (ICSC), IndoChina	Civilian	Accident
Spr R.H. Vézina Royal Canadian Engineers (RCE)	March 9, 1957	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Illness
Field Service Officer, A.E. Cannon External Affairs Canada	April 12, 1957	International Commission for Supervision and Control (ICSC), IndoChina	Civilian	Unknown
Lt C.C. Van Straubenzee Royal Canadian Armoured Corps (RCAC)	May 10, 1957	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Cpl K.E. Pennell Royal Canadian Corps of Signals (RC Sigs)	September 15, 1957	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Pte B.O. Adams RCASC	September 21, 1957	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Sgt I.L. Stark RCE	September 27, 1957	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Malicious Act
Tpr G.E. McDavid Royal Canadian Armoured Corps (RCAC)	November 29, 1957	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Pte I.A. Sawyer RCASC	April 22, 1958	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Sig N.E. Mason Royal Canadian Corps of Signals (RC Sigs)	May 15, 1958	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
LCol G.A. Flint, CD PPCLI	May 26, 1958	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)	Military	Malicious Act

Name	Incident Date	Mission	Casualty Personnel Type	Cause of Death
Cpl J.T. Roberts RCASC	June 10, 1958	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Leading Aircraftman Clarence Reginald Burlock No. 2 (Fighter) Wing	December 21, 1958	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Leading Aircraftman Samuel Robert Gray 109 Communication Flight	December 21, 1958	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Flight Lieutenant James Hutchins Haugh No. 1 Air Division Headquarters	December 21, 1958	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Flying Officer Herbert Leah 109 Communication Flight	December 21, 1958	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Flying Officer Joseph Michael James Sullivan No. 2 (Fighter) Wing	December 21, 1958	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Cpl G.S. Porter C Pro C	April 23, 1959	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Maj H. Morewood, CD Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps (RCOC)	July 26, 1959	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Illness
Tpr R.H. Allan Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD)	November 28, 1959	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Malicious Act
Pte A.T. Hurst Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (RCASC)	February 4, 1960	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Illness
Cpl G.A. Gauthier Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (RCASC)	February 20, 1960	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Illness
Tpr R.J. Wiley LdSH(RC)	September 7, 1961	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Illness
Sgt R.H. Moore, CD Royal Canadian Corps of Signals (RC Sigs)	October 6, 1961	Opération des Nations unies au Congo (ONUC)	Military	Illness
Cpl J.M. Albert Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME)	November 19, 1961	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident

Name	Incident Date	Mission	Casualty Personnel Type	Cause of Death
Cfn D.S. Roster Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME)	November 19, 1961	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Cpl E. Olivier Royal Canadian Corps of Signals (RC Sigs)	December 9, 1961	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Illness
S/Sgt J.P. Marquis, CD Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps (RCOC)	February 6, 1962	Opération des Nations unies au Congo (ONUC)	Military	Illness
Spr G.G. Thompson Royal Canadian Engineers (RCE)	May 18, 1962	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Illness
Cpl E.G. Groom Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps (RCOC)	October 2, 1963	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Illness
W/C E.D. Harper, DFC, CD Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF)	November 2, 1963	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Sgt J.K. Hermann Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF)	December 26, 1963	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Pte L.R. Morin Canadian Provost Corps (CPC)	May 29, 1964	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Tpr J.H. Campbell Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD)	July 31, 1964	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Accident
Tpr A.A. Bons 8th Princess' Louise Hussars, Royal Canadian Armoured Corps (RCAC)	November 27, 1964	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Malicious Act
Cpl P.R. Wallace 8th Princess' Louise Hussars, Canadian Armoured Corps (RCAC)	November 27, 1964	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Malicious Act
Lt K.E. Edmonds, CD Canadian Intelligence Corps (C Int C)	December 25, 1964	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Illness
Rfn P.J. Hoare 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (1 QOR of C)	August 14, 1965	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Accident
Field Service Officer J.D. Turner External Affairs Canada	October 18, 1965	International Commission for Supervision and Control (ICSC)	Civilian	Accident
Sgt J.S. Byrne, CD Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (RCASC)	October 18, 1965	International Commission for Supervision and Control (ICSC)	Military	Accident

Name	Incident Date	Mission	Casualty Personnel Type	Cause of Death
Cpl V.J. Perkin Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada	October 18, 1965	International Commission for Supervision and Control (ICSC)	Military	Accident
Gdn J.J.P. Chartier 2nd Battalion, Regiment of Canadian Guards (2 Cdn Gds)	March 14, 1966	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Illness
Pte D.A.J. Lamothe Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (RCASC)	March 18, 1966	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
F/O R.V. Edwards Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF)	April 28, 1966	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
F/O P.M.L. Picard Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF)	April 30, 1966	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Pte J.P.E. Bernard 2 Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada	July 9, 1966	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Accident
Spr J.G. Lorienz Royal Canadian Engineers (RCE)	July 12, 1966	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Sig P.M. Crouse Royal Canadian Corps of Signals (RC Sigs)	August 19, 1966	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Accident
Tpr L.W. Nass 8th Princess' Louise Hussars, Royal Canadian Armoured Corps (RCAC)	September 27, 1966	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Illness
Pte E.J. Fickling Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (RCASC)	October 17, 1966	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Illness
Cpl O.J. Redmond 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (1 RCR)	March 10, 1967	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Accident
Cpl K.A. Salmon Canadian Provost Corps (CPC)	September 24, 1967	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Illness
Pte J.A. Lerue 2 Black Watch (RHR) of C	February 9, 1970	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Accident
Pte T.J. Hall, CD 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (1 RCR)	July 31, 1970	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Accident

Name	Incident Date	Mission	Casualty Personnel Type	Cause of Death
Cpl P.C. Isenor Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (RCASC)	October 25, 1970	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Accident
MCpl J.R.M.J. Lessard 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI)	December 1, 1972	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Illness
LS N.W.M. Memnook Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Terra Nova	March 15, 1973	International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS)	Military	Accident
Capt C.E. Laviolette, CD Le 12e Régiment blindé du Canada (12 RBC)	April 7, 1973	International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS)	Military	Accident
WO D.M. Henderson CD, Air Operations Branch	November 21, 1973	United Nations Emergency Force 1 (UNEF 1)	Military	Illness
Cpl A. Roach, CD 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (2 RCR)	February 17, 1974	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Illness
Petty Officer, 2nd Class Charles Alexander Herbin Wamback Canadian Forces Photographic Unit	June 30, 1974	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Accident
Pte J.L.G. Perron Canadian Airborne Regiment (CAR)	August 6, 1974	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Malicious Act
Capt G.G. Foster, CD 116 Air Transport Unit (ATU)	August 9, 1974	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Malicious Act
Cpl M.H.T. Kennington, CD Canadian Contingent Administrative Unit	August 9, 1974	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Malicious Act
A/MWO C.B. Korejwo, CD 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (1 RCR)	August 9, 1974	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Malicious Act
MWO G. Landry, CD 3e Bataillon Royal 22e Régiment (3 R22eR)	August 9, 1974	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Malicious Act
Capt K.B. Mirau 116 Air Transport Unit (ATU)	August 9, 1974	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Malicious Act
Cpl M.W. Simpson 116 Air Transport Unit (ATU)	August 9, 1974	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Malicious Act
MCpl R.C. Spencer, CD 116 Air Transport Unit (ATU)	August 9, 1974	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Malicious Act

Name	Incident Date	Mission	Casualty Personnel Type	Cause of Death
Cpl B.K. Stringer 116 Air Transport Unit (ATU)	August 9, 1974	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Malicious Act
Capt R.B. Wicks, CD 116 Air Transport Unit (ATU)	August 9, 1974	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Malicious Act
Pte J.J.C. Berger Canadian Airborne Regiment (CAR)	September 10, 1974	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Malicious Act
Cpl J.P.C. Blais R22eR, 73 Canadian Signals Squadron	December 24, 1974	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Accident
Cpl N. Edwards 73 Canadian Service Battalion	December 24, 1974	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Accident
Cpl R.W. Miller Royal Canadian Horse Artillerey (RCHA), 73 Canadian Service Battalion	December 24, 1974	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Accident
Capt I.E. Patten 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (1 RCR)	April 1, 1975	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Accident
Pte S.J. Kohlman 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (1 RCR)	April 11, 1975	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Accident
Pte T.E. Abbott Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), 73 Canadian Signals Squadron	June 14, 1975	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Accident
Capt K.C. Crawford, CD 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI)	December 20, 1975	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Illness
Pte D.R. Krieger 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI)	August 17, 1976	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Accident
Sgt(R) A.R.J. Dupont 8 Medical Company, attached to 12e Régiment blindé du Canada (12 RBC)	April 24, 1977	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Accident
Sgt L.W. Daily Canadian Military Engineers	November 10, 1977	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Accident
Sgt F.B. Demers 73 Canadian Service Battalion	December 5, 1977	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Self-Inflicted

Name	Incident Date	Mission	Casualty Personnel Type	Cause of Death
Cpl D.C. Ross Canadian Military Enghineers, Canadian Logistics Company	March 3, 1978	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)	Military	Accident
Pte C.A. Dodge 73 Canadian Signals Squadron	July 2, 1979	United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II)	Military	Accident
MCpl J.D.G. McInnis 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (1 PPCLI)	March 30, 1980	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Illness
Pte P.K. Porter Canadian Signals Troop	November 6, 1980	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)	Military	Accident
Pte J.E.R Archambault 2e Bataillon Royal 22e Régiment (2 R22eR)	November 30, 1981	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Accident
Pte A.J. Prins 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI)	September 26, 1982	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Self-Inflicted
Pte M.D. Wilson 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI)	January 22, 1983	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Self-Inflicted
Cpl J.P.R. Hudon Canadian Logistics Company	December 26, 1985	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)	Military	Accident
MCpl M. MacRae Canadian Airborne Regiment Headquarters & Signals Squadron	December 6, 1986	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Accident
Pte T.J. Trottier 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI)	April 25, 1988	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Illness
Pte W.C. Symons 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (2 RCR)	July 12, 1992	United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)	Military	Self-Inflicted
Sgt C.M. Ralph, CD 1 Combat Engineer Regiment (1CER)	August 17, 1992	United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	Military	Malicious Act
MCpl J.W. Ternapolski 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment (2 RCR)	March 25, 1993	United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	Military	Accident
Sgt D.L. Kloss 2nd Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (2 RCHA)	April 8, 1993	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Military	Self-Inflicted

Name	Incident Date	Mission	Casualty Personnel Type	Cause of Death
Cpl M.D. Abel Canadian Airborne Regiment	May 3, 1993	United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM)	Military	Accident
Cpl G.J. Larose, CD Canadian Logistics Company	May 8, 1993	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)	Military	Illness
Cpl D. Gunther 2e Bataillon Royal 22e Régiment (2 R22eR)	June 18, 1993	United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	Military	Malicious Act
Cpl J.M.H. Béchard 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI)	August 6, 1993	United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	Military	Accident
Sgt J.D.A. Gareau, CD Cdn Contingent Support Unit	August 17, 1993	United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	Military	Illness
Capt J.P. Decoste, CD 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI)	September 18, 1993	United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	Military	Accident
MCpl S.L.P. Langevin 12e Régiment blindé du Canada (12 RBC)	November 29, 1993	United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	Military	Accident
Cpl(R) D. Galvin Sherbrooke Hussars (att 12 RBC)	November 29, 1993	United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	Military	Accident
Pte K.D. Cooper 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI)	June 6, 1994	United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	Military	Self-Inflicted
MCpl M.R. Isfeld 1 Combat Engineer Regiment (1 CER)	June 21, 1994	United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	Military	Malicious Act
Cpl S.F. Smith Canadian Airborne Regiment	December 25, 1994	United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR)	Military	Self-Inflicted
Cpl J.F.Y. Rousseau 12e Régiment blindé du Canada (12 RBC)	September 25, 1995	United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	Military	Self-Inflicted
Spr C. Holopina 2 Combat Engineer Regiment (2 CER)	July 4, 1996	Implementation Force (IFOR)	Military	Malicious Act
Civilian Pilot John Camphuis	February 1, 1997	United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP)	Civilian	Accident
Pte J.L.M.B. Doucet 3e Bataillon Royal 22e Régiment (3 R22eR)	July 12, 1997	United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH)	Military	Unknown

Name	Incident Date	Mission	Casualty Personnel Type	Cause of Death
Cpl R.D. Vialette 1st Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (1 RCHA)	July 21, 1997	Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR)	Military	Malicious Act
MCpl T.S. McCrea, CD 1st Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment	March 25, 1998	Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR)	Military	Unknown
Cpl J. Ogilvie Royal Canadian Dragoons	August 30, 1998	Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR)	Military	Unknown
Spr G. Desmarais 2 Combat Engineer Regiment	September 25, 1998	Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR)	Military	Unknown
Sgt H.J. Squires, CD 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (1 PPCLI)	August 25, 1999	Kosovo Force (KFOR)	Military	Malicious Act
Daniel Rowan Correctional Services Canada	November 12, 1999	United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)	Civilian	Accident
Sgt V. Joubert 1 R22eR	December 13, 1999	Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR)	Military	Unknown
Unknown	April 30, 2000	United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)	Unknown	Illness
Cpl R.T. Pollard, CD 2 PPCLI	September 28, 2000	Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR)	Military	Unknown
WO J.M. Peace, CD 403 (Helicopter) Operational Training Squadron	October 6, 2000	United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	Military	Malicious Act
Bdr G.K. Bailey, CD 1 RCHA	October 27, 2000	United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC)	Military	Illness
Cpl J.D. Vermeulen	July 6, 2003	Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR)	Military	Unknown
Gillian Clark	August 19, 2003	United Nations Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq (UNOHCI)	International Civilian	Malicious Act
Christopher Klein-Beekman United Nations International Childrens Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	August 19, 2003	United Nations Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq (UNOHCI)	International Civilian	Malicious Act
Mark Bourque United Nations Police	December 20, 2005	Mission des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en Haïti (MINUSTAH)	Police	Malicious Act

Name	Incident Date	Mission	Casualty Personnel Type	Cause of Death
Maj P. Hess-von Kruedener, CD Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI)	July 25, 2006	United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO)	Military Observer	Malicious Act
Cpl J.M.D.B. Chevalier 3 Wing	May 6, 2007	Mulitnational Force and Observers (MFO)	Military	Accident
Major Luc Racine Royal 22e Régiment	September 9, 2008	Canadian Forces Military Training Assistance Program in Bamako, Mali	Military	Accident
Ms. Renée Carrier Personal Assistant to the Special Representative	January 12, 2010	Mission des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en Haïti (MINUSTAH)	Military	Accident
Mr. James Coates Administrative Assistant	January 12, 2010	Mission des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en Haïti (MINUSTAH)	International Civilian	Accident
Ms. Alexandra Duguay Public Information Assistant	January 12, 2010	Mission des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en Haïti (MINUSTAH)	International Civilian	Accident
Jean-Philippe Laberge Civil/Military Coordination Officer	January 12, 2010	Mission des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en Haïti (MINUSTAH)	International Civilian	Accident
Guillaume Siemienski Political Affairs Officer	January 12, 2010	Mission des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en Haïti (MINUSTAH)	International Civilian	Accident
Sergeant Mark Charles Gallagher RCMP, J Division, International Peace Operations	January 12, 2010	Mission des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en Haïti (MINUSTAH)	Police	Accident
Chief Superintendent Douglas Edward Coates International Peace Operations	January 12, 2010	Mission des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en Haïti (MINUSTAH)	Police	Accident
Michel Bonnardeaux UNFICYP Spokesperson and Chief of the Public Information Office	November 26, 2014	United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	International Civilian	Illness
Unknown	August 3, 2019	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)	International Civilian	Illness

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