

Major (Ret's) John McKay



John began his military career in Petawawa in Jan 1969 where he joined Lanark & Renfrew Scottish Regiment as an infantryman. He served with L & R Scot R until Aug 70 when he enrolled and attended Royal Roads in Victoria then Royal Military College (RMC), Kingston from 1970 until 1974, graduating with BSc(applied).

Upon graduation from RMC John was posted to Cornwallis NS as Production Officer in the Construction Engineer section from 1974 to 1976.

He was posted to 1Construction Engineer Unit (1 CEU) in Moncton during 1977-1979 doing engineering jobs across Canada and internationally. Projects included Project Commander for Operation Trelar in 1977 at 1978 at Alert in the high arctic.

John also worked on Operation Morning Light and Operation Mondial in 1979 and was Commander, Arctic Airfield Ops at 1 CEU for 1979, finishing Spence Bay Airfield. Other interesting projects also included Summerside Airfield evaluation, Chilliwack Range Development Feasibility and Gagetown road rehabilitation.

In December, 1979 John's secondment to External Affairs in Ottawa for work on Op Mondial, led to 5 years in External Affairs taking care of embassies all around the world.

John transferred to the Primary Reserves in 1983 as DCO for 3 Fd Eng Sqn, Ottawa, and in 1985 he moved to Vancouver where, in July 1985, he joined 6 Field Engineer Squadron as a Troop Commander.

John assumed command of 6FES from Oct 1987 until Nov 1990. Attended Militia Command and Staff course in Kingston in 1988. In 1990 John commanded the combined Engineer unit for MILCON 90 in Wainwright.

In 1990 John transferred to Supplementary Ready Reserve in Vancouver. In 1990-2001 he was assigned to BC Domestic Ops. He also commanded the Reserve Engineer School in Chilliwack for several summers.

His last assignment was as Liaison Officer to 9/11 Command Centre at the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre in Surrey. John retired after 33 years service when BC Domestic Ops disbanded in 2002

Major McKay has also had many interesting assignments on his civilian side during and after his military life including quarry ops in Alert, blasting out his mountaintop retreat in Chilliwack and being in Chilliwack to stand up the reserve engineer presence after the 1990 base closure.