

BGen (Red't) THM. (Jerry) Silva CD



BGen Silva entered the Militia in 1958 by enrolling as a sapper in 6 Field Engineer Squadron at North Vancouver British Columbia. A few months later he left his unit to join the Regular Force. After recruit training at the Royal Canadian School of Military Engineering at Chilliwack, B.C., he was posted to 3 Field Squadron RCE (1 CER). In 1961 he completed trades training at RCSME and was posted to 11 Works Company RCE in Vancouver where he took his release from the Regular Force in 1964 and rejoined his former militia unit as a sergeant.

After serving in various capacities from Troop sergeant to Sergeant Major, BGen Silva was Commissioned From the Ranks in 1970. After Commissioning, he continued to serve in 6 Field Engineer Squadron in various capacities from Troop Officer to DCO until he assumed command of the unit in 1974. He continued to command the unit until 1979 when he was promoted to LCol and moved to the Area Headquarters in Vancouver.

At the Area Headquarters BGen Silva served first as the SSO Ops and Trg then as SSO Log and Adm. From 1982 to 1986 he was responsible for senior officer development in Pacific Militia Area and served four terms as a member of the Directing Staff at the Militia Command Staff Course at Kingston. Promoted to Colonel in 1986, he was appointed Deputy Commander and in 1988 was promoted again to become Commander of Pacific Militia Area. Upon completion of this appointment in 1990, BGen Silva retired.

His employment has included consulting in occupational health & safety as well as several years as a training consultant specializing in preparing and presenting courses in diamond drilling and explosives/blasting. He was also employed for many years with a large Vancouver Consulting Engineering firm where he was a civil project engineer.

While living in the Shuswap for twenty years BGen Silva was heavily involved in Emergency Management. He was with the Shuswap Emergency Program and for several years was the Emergency Program Coordinator for the City of Revelstoke. Also, he and his wife Carla played a pivotal role in establishing the Shuswap station of Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue.

From November, 2000 to January, 2005 BGen Silva held the appointment of Colonel Commandant of the Canadian Military Engineers. In this role he traveled across Canada and to many points overseas to visit with engineer troops and witness engineer training.

In March, 2005 BGen Silva was appointed Honorary Colonel of the Rocky Mountain Rangers and served in that role until 2012. Upon returning to the lower mainland in 2016 he took a more active role in 6 Field Engineer Squadron Museum Association and became president of 6 FESMA in 2017.

BGen Silva and wife Carla Krens reside in New Westminster, B.C. He is the former Chairman of the Conference of Defence Associations, a former Vice President of the Military Engineers Association of Canada and past president of Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver. He has two adult sons living in Grand Forks and Bowen Island and eleven grandchildren