

Captain James (Jim) Frederick Stewart (1945-Present)



James Frederick Stewart, who was always known as Jim, was born on the 23rd of October, 1945 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the eldest of three siblings. He came from a military family – his grandfather Sgt James Linden Stewart served in REME and his father, Capt James Warren Stewart served in the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. Known as Jim he would go on to be the longest serving unit member in its history.

After his birth his family moved to Saskatoon, then to Toronto and then to Edmonton where he enrolled in the Loyal Edmonton Regiment in January of 1962. His family next moved to North Vancouver where Jim enrolled in 6th Field Engineer Squadron on the 22nd of September 1962. He was promoted to Corporal in October of 1963 and in 1965 he graduated from Delbrook Senior Secondary School.

Jim rose rapidly through the ranks. He was promoted to Sgt in 1971 and WO in 1972. On his appointment to Squadron Sergeant Major in 1975 he was promoted to MWO. Then after serving just over a year as SSM he was commissioned in the rank of Lieutenant in 1976. Jim was promoted to Captain in 1978 the rank he held until his retirement in 2005.

In summary, Jim retired after 43 years of distinguished service, of which twenty-seven years were in the rank of Captain. Research indicates that this made him the longest serving member of the 6th - ever.

During Jim's Reserve Army service he worked for various engineering companies and government agencies. These included the B.C. Provincial Department of Highways on both the Courtenay-Campbell River By-pass and the Stewart Cassiar Highway, The District of North Vancouver as a Construction Inspector and the Federal Department of Transport and the Federal Department of Fisheries & Oceans as a draughtsman.

In 1980 he left the government and became a self-employed home renovation contractor in Victoria until his second retirement in 2003.

During the time he lived in Victoria Captain Stewart commuted by road and ferry to and from the unit in North Vancouver as often as he could. He would normally show up on the Thursday night before an exercise, attend the weekend exercise and then return to Victoria Sunday night.

Jim and his wife Caryl May Woodward have retired to Mill Bay on Vancouver Island