



CANADIAN MILITARY ENGINEERS CHIEF ENGINEER CHANGE OF APPOINTMENT CEREMONY

Col R.P. Testa, OMM, CD has been appointed the new Canadian Military Engineers Chief Engineer. He has assumed his new responsibilities during the Change of Appointment ceremony that was presided over by MGen J.P.Y.D. Gosselin, CMM, CD (Acting Senior Serving Engineer) held Monday 9 June 2008 at NDHQ, Ottawa. The CME Chief Engineer is the senior CF Advisor and technical authority over all military engineering issues. As such, he is responsible for the provision of strategic-level military engineering advice for the CF, including strategic-level force development, and for the provision of overall coordination of engineering activities with the environments and operational commands.



(from left to right)
Col R.P. Testa, (Incoming CME Chief Engr),
MGen J.P.Y.D. Gosselin (Acting Senior Serving Engr),
BGen P.F. Wynnyk, OMM, CD (Outgoing CME Chief Engr)
signing the change of appointment certificate.



BGen Wynnyk's last address as CME Chief Engr



Col Testa's first address as the new CME Chief Engr

Biographical Notes

COLONEL R.P. TESTA, OMM, CD

Colonel Robert Testa enrolled in the Canadian Forces in August 1972. He attended Collège Militaire Royal (Saint-Jean, QC) and Royal Military College (Kingston, ON) graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical - Nuclear) in May 1977.

Upon completion of his military engineering training in December 1977, he was posted to 5e Régiment du Génie de Combat in Valcartier, QC, where he was employed as a Field Troop Commander and Squadron 2 IC.

In July 1980, he was posted to CFB Lahr, Germany in the Construction Engineering Section as the Special Projects Officer and Production Officer for two years. He was heavily involved with both National & NATO Tactical Evaluations, and subsequently worked as SO2 Works at Canadian Forces Europe HQ.

Upon returning to Canada in July 1983, Colonel Testa was posted to the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering in Chilliwack, BC where he taught both tactics and military leadership and management for two years.

He subsequently attended the Long Survey Course at the Royal School of Military Survey in Hermitage, England until July 1986 when he was posted to the Mapping and Charting Establishment (MCE) in Ottawa. He commanded two of the three Squadrons before being posted to Director Military Geomatics as SO2 Topographic Ops and subsequently became Assistant Director.

In 1991, a nine-month tour at Mobile Command HQ in Saint Hubert, QC as SO2 Engineer Operations and Training, was followed by Belgian Command & Staff College in Brussels. He returned to Land Forces Command HQ (LFCHQ) in Saint-Hubert as SO2 Land Forces Support and Infrastructure Adjustment dealing with base reductions and closures during the 1994 and 95 Federal Budget reductions. He then spent one year as G3 Ops and Plans at LFCHQ before being posted as Commanding Officer MCE in July 1996.

Post command, Colonel Testa was selected as the Executive Assistant to Chief of the Land Staff, during which he completed his MBA degree at the University of Ottawa after six years of part-time study. In July 2001, he was posted to Director General Strategic Planning as a Section Head and later, the Acting Director Defence Management as the DND and CF team leader for Performance Measurement and Management. His team was awarded the Deputy Minister's Commendation for their efforts towards improving Strategic Performance Management. Promoted to his current rank in May 2004, he was the Director Geospatial Intelligence at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. He has served as Director Defence Strategy Management since 2007 and has recently assumed the duties of Director General Military Engineering. He was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM) and awarded the "NGA Medallion for Excellence" from the US National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.