

## Canadian Military Engineers Celebrate the Appointment of a new Colonel Commandant

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, MGen Benjamin, in his capacity as Canadian Forces Chief Military Engineer, supervised a ceremony to celebrate the appointment of BGen Des Lauriers (Ret'd) as Colonel Commandant of the Canadian Military Engineering Branch. The ceremony was held at the CF School of Military Engineering (CFSME), CFB Gagetown and was carried out in an outstanding manner by the members of CFSME and 4 Engineer Support Regiment (4 ESR). Also, the Canadian Military Engineer Association (CMEA) provided financial support to this important event.

BGen DesLauriers joined the Army and the Royal Canadian Engineers as a Sapper Apprentice in 1964, first serving as a non-commissioned member. He rose rapidly to the rank of Master Warrant Officer before accepting his commission as an Officer. BGen DesLauriers had equal success as an Engineers Officer, rising to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Regular Force before transferring to the Primary Reserve. As a Reserve Officer, he commanded at the Brigade Group and Area Support Group level and was promoted to his current rank. In his new position, BGen DesLauriers succeeds Col Roger St. John (Ret'd) who tragically passed away in September of 2009, halfway through his tour as Colonel Commandant. (see BGen DesLauriers' official biography on page 4 & 5)



Left to right: Col Moore (Branch Advisor), MGen Benjamin, BGen DesLauriers and CWO Clot (Branch CWO)

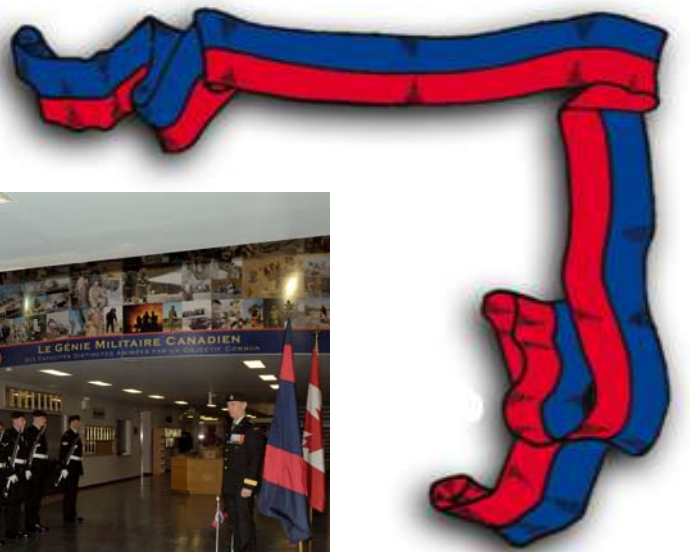
The Colonel Commandant position is an honorary one and is bestowed for a nominal period of three years on a retired senior officer who has served with distinction. Colonel Commandant duties include fostering Branch spirit as well as advocating for the Branch within the Department, the Government, and professional associations and institutions.



**BGen DesLauriers, CME Branch's new Colonel Commandant**

The Appointment Ceremony was held during the School's Exercise UBIQUE, an annual professional development exercise for the graduating classes of new Officers, Troop Warrant Officers and Construction Engineer Superintendents. The theme for this year's exercise was Infrastructure and lectures were delivered from the strategic level to the tactical one. Speakers included COS(IE), DCPD, A4 CE, Commander OS Engr Group, CO 1 Engineering Support Unit, 8 Wing CEO, an Area Engineer, a Base Commander, and a recent returnee from Joint Task Force Afghanistan. Representatives from all elements of the Branch, serving and retired, civilian and military, were in attendance at the ceremony.





# CHIMO

**CANADIAN MILITARY ENGINEER BRANCH COLONEL COMMANDANT  
COLONEL COMMANDANT DE LA BRANCHE DU GÉNIE MILITAIRE CANADIEN**



**BRIGADIER-GENERAL / BRIGADIER-GÉNÉRAL R.W. DESLAURIERS, OMM, CD (RETIRED/RETRAITÉ)**

Brigadier-General DesLauriers enlisted as a soldier apprentice in 1964 and attended Basic Sapper training at the Royal Canadian School of Military Engineers (RCSME) in Chilliwack, British Columbia. On graduation from the two-year program, Sapper DesLauriers was posted to 2 Field Squadron, Gaagetown, New Brunswick. In 1970 Corporal DesLauriers moved back to Chilliwack to 3 Field Squadron where he remained until his promotion to Sergeant in 1973. He was selected as a member of the International Commission for Control and Supervision (ICCS) in Vietnam. On his return to Canada he returned to 3 Field Squadron.

In 1976 Warrant Officer DesLauriers was posted to Valcartier, but immediately moved to Bromont, Quebec, as part of the 5e RGC security forces for the Olympic Games. He served as the second in command of security forces for the equestrian events and was heavily involved in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) operations. On completion of this task he returned to Valcartier as the 2 Troop Warrant Officer and then Unit Training NCO until his promotion in 1979 to Master Warrant Officer. He remained in Valcartier as the Regimental Headquarter Sergeant-Major until 1980 when he accepted his commission, was promoted to the rank of captain, and returned to Chilliwack as the Chief Standards Officer for the Engineer School. In 1982 he became the commander of the Mine Warfare and Demolitions Section and 24 EOD units. In 1984 he moved to METS as a tactics instructor.

In 1985 Captain DesLauriers was appointed Deputy Commanding Officer of 22 Field Squadron, where he served until his promotion to Major in 1986 at which time he was appointed as the Senior Engineer Tactics Instructor at the

Le Brigadier-général DesLauriers s'enrôle comme apprenti soldat en 1964 et suit la formation élémentaire de sapeur à la Royal Canadian School of Military Engineering (RCSME), à Chilliwack, en Colombie-Britannique. Après avoir obtenu son diplôme au terme du programme de deux ans, le sapeur DesLauriers est affecté au 2e Escadron de campagne, à Gaagetown, au Nouveau-Brunswick. En 1970, le Caporal DesLauriers revient à Chilliwack, cette fois au sein du 3e Escadron de campagne, où il reste jusqu'à sa promotion au grade de Sergent en 1973. Il est nommé membre de la Commission internationale de contrôle et de surveillance (CICS), au Vietnam. À son retour au Canada, il reprend son service au sein du 3e Escadron de campagne.

En 1976, l'Adjudant DesLauriers est muté à Valcartier, puis est affecté peu de temps après à Bromont, Québec, au sein des forces de sécurité du 5<sup>e</sup> RGC dans le cadre des Jeux olympiques. Il sert comme responsable adjoint des forces de sécurité pour les épreuves équestres et participe activement aux opérations de neutralisation des explosifs et munitions (NEM). Une fois cette tâche terminée, il retourne à Valcartier et occupe le poste d'adjudant de la 2e troupe, puis de sous-officier d'instruction d'unité, jusqu'à ce qu'il soit promu Adjudant-maître, en 1979. Il demeure à Valcartier, où il occupe le poste de sergent-major du poste de commandement régimentaire, jusqu'à ce qu'il accepte sa commission d'officier, en 1980. Il est alors promu Capitaine et retourne à Chilliwack pour occuper le poste de chef – Normes à l'École de génie. En 1982, il devient commandant de la section de la Guerre des mines et démolition et de la 24e unité NEM. En 1984, il est affecté à l'ÉPAM (École de pilotage d'appareils multi moteurs) à titre d'instructeur de tactique.

En 1985, le Capitaine DesLauriers est nommé commandant adjoint du 22e Escadron de campagne; il occupe ce poste jusqu'à sa promotion au grade de Major, en 1986, moment où il est nommé instructeur-chef de tactique du génie au Centre

Combat Training Centre. In August 1986 Major DesLauriers took command of 45 Field Squadron in Sydney, Nova Scotia, becoming the first Regular Force Commanding Officer of a Militia unit since the Second World War. During this period he also served in Turkey with the Allied Mobile Force (Land). In 1989 he moved to 1 Canadian Division Engineer Group Headquarters at CFB Kingston as G2 (Intelligence) and subsequently as G3 (Operations).

In 1991 he was posted to 4 Combat Engineer Regiment as the Deputy Commanding Officer and participated in the Canadian Forces' first six-month tour in the former Yugoslavia. On the unit's return to Germany, Major DesLauriers held command of 4 Combat Engineer Regiment until its closure in summer 1993. He then moved to Heidelberg, Germany as the Engineer Operations Officer in HQ Land Cent (NATO). In this capacity he participated in many of the Partnership for Peace initiatives with former Warsaw Pact countries and in several LandCent exercises involving multiple Corps formations.

On promotion, Lieutenant-Colonel DesLauriers returned to Canada in July 1995 as the Chief of Staff, Toronto Militia District, later renamed 32 Canadian Brigade Group. He served in this position until his retirement from the Regular Force in 1999 after 35 years of service. He then transferred to the Active Reserve Force and became the Deputy Commander of 32 Canadian Brigade Group. He was promoted Colonel in August 2000 and assumed command of 32 Canadian Brigade Group on 12 September of that same year. On relinquishing command of 32 Canadian Brigade Group in 2003, he assumed command of 2 Area Support Group. He held that command until January 2005. He was subsequently appointed Assistant Chief of Staff (Operations) and Deputy Commander for Land Forces Central Area.

Brigadier-General DesLauriers was promoted to his current rank in October 2006 on his appointment at Deputy Commander Land Force Doctrine and Training System. In September 2008, he retired from the Canadian Forces after 44 years of service. His awards include being invested as an Officer in the Order of Military Merit, the Canadian Decoration with three clasps and the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal, along with the UN Medal for the former Yugoslavia and the ICCS Medal for Vietnam.

Brigadier-General DesLauriers became the Canadian Military Engineer Branch Colonel Commandant on 28 January 2010. He resides in Havelock, Ontario with his wife Judy.

d'instruction au combat. En août 1986, le Major DesLauriers est nommé commandant du 45e Escadron de campagne de Sydney, en Nouvelle-Écosse. Il devient alors le premier membre de la Force régulière à commander une unité de milice depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Au cours de cette période, il sert également en Turquie dans la Force mobile alliée (Terre). En 1989, il est affecté au Quartier général du groupe du génie de la 1re Division du Canada à la BFC Kingston comme G2 (Renseignement), puis comme G3 (Opérations).

En 1991, il est muté au 4e Régiment du génie comme commandant adjoint et participe à la première période d'affectation de six mois des Forces canadiennes en ex-Yougoslavie. Au retour de l'unité en Allemagne, le Major DesLauriers devient commandant du 4e Régiment du génie et le demeure jusqu'à la cessation des activités de cette unité à l'été 1993. Il se rend ensuite à Heidelberg, en Allemagne, où il occupe le poste d'officier des opérations du génie au QG LANDCENT (OTAN). En cette qualité, il participe à de nombreuses initiatives de Partenariat pour la paix avec d'anciens pays du pacte de Varsovie et à plusieurs exercices LANDCENT comprenant des formations de corps multiples.

Lorsqu'il est promu Lieutenant-colonel en juillet 1995, il revient au Canada à titre de chef d'état-major du district de la milice de Toronto, renommé plus tard le 32e Groupe-brigade du Canada. Il occupe ce poste jusqu'à sa retraite de la Force régulière, en 1999, après 35 ans de service. Il est ensuite transféré dans la Force de réserve active et devient commandant adjoint du 32e Groupe-brigade du Canada. Il est promu Colonel en août 2000, puis devient commandant du 32e Groupe-brigade du Canada le 12 septembre de cette même année. Après avoir quitté le 32e Groupe-brigade du Canada, en 2003, il prend le commandement du 2e Groupe de soutien de secteur. Il demeure à ce poste jusqu'en janvier 2005. Le Colonel DesLauriers est par la suite nommé Chef d'état-major adjoint (Opérations) et commandant adjoint du Secteur du Centre de la Force terrestre.

Le Brigadier-général DesLauriers est promu à son grade actuel en octobre 2006 lorsqu'il est nommé commandant adjoint du Système de la doctrine et de l'instruction de la Force terrestre. En septembre 2008, il quitte les Forces canadiennes après 44 années de service. Au cours de sa carrière, il s'est vu décerner de nombreuses distinctions : il est nommé Officier de l'Ordre du mérite militaire et reçoit la Décoration canadienne avec trois agrafes, la Médaille canadienne du maintien de la paix, la médaille de l'OTAN pour sa mission en ex-Yougoslavie et la médaille de la CICS pour sa mission au Vietnam.

Le 28 Janvier 2010, le Brigadier-général DesLauriers est devenu Colonel commandant de la Branche du Génie militaire canadien. Il demeure à Havelock, en Ontario, avec sa conjointe Judy.