

## COLONEL (RET) JOHN J. MCMANUS, OMM, CD



Colonel (Ret) John McManus enrolled in the CAF ROTP in 1972. After graduating from the RMC in 1976 with a B.Eng. (Mech), he completed Air Navigator Training in Winnipeg receiving his wings in 1977.

Colonel McManus' first assignment after training was as a Tactical Coordinator at HS 443 Shearwater flying the Sea King helicopter. During this tour of duty, Colonel McManus served with helicopter air detachments onboard HMC Ships HURON and IROQUOIS. In 1980, he was posted to VT 406 Shearwater as an instructor on the Sea King helicopter and also served as the Sea Survival Training Officer.

In 1983, Colonel McManus was selected for postgraduate training and attended the USN Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Upon graduation in 1985 with an M.Sc. in Oceanography, he returned to HT 406 Squadron to instruct Oceanography and Acoustics. In 1988, Colonel McManus was posted to the Helicopter Operational Test and Evaluation Facility (HOTEF) to conduct testing in preparation for the selection of the acoustic system for the New Shipborne Aircraft.

When the Canadian Space Agency conducted a competition to select Astronauts in 1992, they received 5300 qualified applicants. As the selection process continued, the field was reduced to 100, then 50, and finally 20 candidates. Colonel McManus was one of the 'Final 20' and participated in the selection process to choose the Canadians that would fly in future Space Shuttle and Space Station missions.

Colonel McManus assumed command of HOTEF in July 1994. He was selected as 1997 Canadian Exchange Officer on Command and Staff Course 50 at the Royal Australian Air Force Staff College in Canberra, Australia. Upon completion, he was awarded a Graduate Diploma in Management Studies, promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, and returned to Canada to assume the position of A6 Information Management at 1 CAD/CANR HQ.

In July 2000, Colonel McManus took command of 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron flying the Sea King from Patricia Bay, British Columbia. During this tour, his 443 Squadron provided the West Coast Navy four helicopter air detachments for employment in the Arabian Gulf during OP APOLLO. In 2002, he became the Director of Operations with the Maritime Air Component Pacific (MACP) in Esquimalt. Following this tour, he was promoted to Colonel and appointed Commander MACP.

At the conclusion of his third command tour in 2008, he completed a component transfer to the Primary Air Reserve. During summer 2008, he deployed to Hawaii and served as CAOC Director during EX RIMPAC 2008. He then was appointed Chief of Staff/Deputy Air Component Commander for OP PODIUM, the Vancouver/Whistler Olympics. After the Olympics in 2010, he again served in Hawaii as CF CAOC Director during EX RIMPAC 2010. He retired from the Air Reserve in 2014 after almost 42 years of CAF service to focus on fitness and volunteering. A serious masters swimmer and triathlete, he has served on the Board of Masters Swimming Association of BC since 2008 and is currently Vice President. A strong supporter of the Canadian Military College system, he has served on the Board of the Royal Military Colleges Club of Canada since 2013 and is currently the President.