



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SEAN ANTHONY HACKETT, CD

After 38 years of service to Canada and 34 years with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), LCol Sean Hackett will retire from the Canadian Armed Forces on 27 March 2025.

Following an initial few months serving with 30th Field Regiment, RCA, LCol Hackett enrolled into the Regular Officer Training Plan in Ottawa, Ontario in June 1986, attending Royal Roads Military College in Victoria B.C. from 1986-1991. Upon commissioning into the PPCLI in May 1991, he joined the Third Battalion at Workpoint Barracks as a Pl Comd in B Coy, later serving as the Bn Intelligence Officer. From 1994-2004, he served in: 2 Commando, Canadian Airborne Regiment; the PPCLI Parachute Company (Coy 2IC); 3 PPCLI (OC Mortar Pl); HQ 1 CMBG (G3 Operations); and 3 PPCLI (OC A (Para), OC Admin). In 1998, he had the distinct honour of serving as the Tower of London Guard Commander for the PPCLI Queen's Guard during OP PARAPET.

LCol Hackett enjoyed a number of operational deployments from 1992-2010: Croatia in 1992-1993 (Pl Comd, 3PPCLI BG, UNPROFOR) and Afghanistan in 2002 (Coy Comd (Para), 3 PPCLI BG, 3 (US) BCT 101ST AB Division (Air Aslt)). He returned to Afghanistan in 2009-2010 as J5 Plans, Afghan National Police Force Development, first with the Afghanistan Regional Security Integration Command (ARSIC) - SOUTH, then with 4th (US) BCT 82nd AB Division, and finally with 6th (UK) Division, HQ RC SOUTH), receiving a CDS Commendation for his efforts.

Memorably, he is most grateful for the privilege of commanding Canadian Forces Base Suffield from 2013-2015. There was no better day than out on the Prairie with the dedicated civilian defence team and soldiers of this exceptional Base. EXIMUS ORDO.

Over much of the past 20 years (2004-2024), he has filled multiple staff appointments in Kingston with: the Directorate of Army Training (Collective and Operational Training), Land Force Doctrine and Training System; HQ 1st Canadian Division (J7 Ex/Trg, J35 Op Plans); CA Doctrine and Training Centre (DCOS); the CA Command and Staff College (Deputy Cmdt); the Canadian Defence Academy (SSO Professional Development, and Director PD from 2021-2022). In his final year, he provided remote curriculum development support to the Canadian Forces College.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Military and Strategic Studies) from Royal Roads Military College, and a Masters in Defence Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada.

The Profession of Arms has been a calling; affording unforgettable opportunities to learn, grow, and soldier with the best. He thanks all for their comradeship, mentorship, support and good humour through fair winds and hard days.

Sean is indebted to his wife Iana for her deep reserves of patience in tolerating this shared life of service. Their remarkable daughters, Jayne and Rachel, have enriched life beyond measure and shaped Sean into a far better officer along the way. The plan for retirement is to truly “ease springs,” make time for family, rediscover outdoor passions, and find a country property near Kingston where dogs can exhaust themselves.

A farewell gathering of friends and colleagues may be held in Kingston this April.

Congratulatory retirement messages and anecdotes can be sent to s.hackett.8675@gmail.com.

First in the Field - By Whatever Means.