

Chief Warrant Officer Lawrence Victor James Surridge MMM.CD. Canadian Armed Forces

Family Life:

CWO Surridge was born and raised in Owen Sound, Ontario. As a teenager, he soldiered with the Grey and Simcoe Foresters growing up just one block from the armories. He enrolled in the regular force in 1973, whereupon he was posted to Cornwallis for recruit training. On completion, he was posted to the Second Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry where he became a trained infantry soldier. He subsequently remained in 2nd Battalion until 1977 at which time he took his release from the CF. Following a 2 year absence CWO Surridge married and enrolled once again in the CF returning to 2PPCLI in Winnipeg in 1979. 2PPCLI has always been "home" to CWO Surridge. Only one year in 23 years of regimental duty has been spent out-side the 2nd Battalion when in 1992 he was posted to 3PPCLI Victoria.

His wife of 44 years Carla is also from Owen Sound. They have one daughter Nicole and two granddaughters Brittany and Amy. Mr. Surridge is very active in sports and fitness however; soldiering and golf are his true passions.

Military Service:

Other extra-regimental duties have included instructor at Canadian Forces Leadership Academy Borden (1989-1992) and CSM of the Canadian Forces Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical School in Borden (1993-1995).



Decorations:

Member of the Order of Military Merit
Special Service Medal
Peace Keeper Medal
Cyprus (x 2) UNFICYP
Croatia UNPROFOR
Multinational Force and Observers Sinai
Former Yugoslavia Medal and Bar
Balkan Medal
Commendation for Leadership
Order of Military Merit from Columbia

Military Service:

Other highlights in a career spanning 34-years include two tours in Cyprus (1976, 1982), four years in Germany (1984-1988), Croatia (1992) and three deployments to Bosnia in 1997, 2000, and most recently in 2003. Mr. Surridge's final two deployments to Bosnia where in the capacity of Regimental Sergeant Major the position he was appointed to in 2000 following one year of French Language Training in 1999. From September 2003 to July 2004, he served in NDHQ Director of Land Force Readiness. One of his duties during this time was developing the Contingency Operating Plan (COP Valour) for Canada's last surviving Victoria Cross Winner, Ernest Alvia (Smokey) Smith. From 2004-2007 Mr. Surridge was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major at Land Forces Central Area Training Centre. In June of 2006, he was appointed a Member of the Military Merit (MMM). He has also received the CLS commendation for his efforts in developing and implementing the Army's Diversity Training Program. From July 2007 until July 2008, CWO Surridge was appointed as Force Sergeant Major for the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai. He was posted to Land Forces Doctrine and Training System in Kingston in the capacity of Non Commissioned Member Professional Development CWO for Director Army Training.

Lessons Learned:

"You cannot change what you do not acknowledge and what you fail to acknowledge will get worse until you do. You did what you knew how to do and when you knew better you did better. When you choose the behavior you choose the consequences. There ain't no had badge on your helmet."