

Warrant Officer Richard Hudon
00149 Firefighter



After 29 years of loyal and dedicated service to the CF, the Navy and the Engineer Branch, WO Hudon has decided to change career path.

Rick joined the Navy in November 1981 as a Firecontrolman and on completion of Basic Training in St-Jean, QC he was on his way to language training. After a nice relaxing spring in St-Jean, Rick was posted to the Fleet school in Halifax to attend QL3 training followed by TSQAB (NETP). In the fall of 1982 he was posted to HMCS Algonquin, then at the tender age of 10, happened to be the youngest ship of the fleet.

During his 4 year stint on the Algonquin, Rick participated in 2 x 6 month NATO Deployments plus numerous naval exercises amassing an average of 300 + sea days a year. As he was sailing back from his second NATO deployment, he found out he was getting posted to the oldest ship of the fleet, HMCS Assiniboine. Rick enjoyed a 2 month shore posting at the Damage Control School while he was awaiting the return of the Assiniboine from a 2 month exercise. As he was working with 2 Firefighters, it is then that he finally saw the light and got convinced to apply for a voluntary occupational transfer to the firefighting trade. 2 years later and 1 more NATO deployment under his belt, he finally got accepted. Before he left for his QL3 training, Rick had the privilege of being part of HMCS Assiniboine's decommissioning crew.

Upon completion of his firefighter's apprentice training in September 1989, Rick got posted to 12 Wg Shearwater where he spent the next 5 years. In 1994 and after numerous attempts to get posted back to a ship, Rick figured his chances were pretty good as out of 8 Corporals within the same unit that were getting posted that same year, he was the only one asking for a sea posting but, to no avail. As the darts didn't hit in his favour, it is then, that he got posted to 3 Wg Bagotville for his first tour as the remaining 7 other Corporals got sea postings, go figure. During the next 5 years in Bagotville, Rick participated in a 6 month deployment to Haïti (Op Pivot) which was one of the highlights of his career. He also took part in the emergency efforts during the 1996 major catastrophic flood events in the Saguenay region.

In 1999, Rick finally got his wish and got a sea posting to NCSM Ville de Québec. During his 4 year stay on board, he participated in numerous fisheries patrols and minor trips as the ship was at a low readiness level and was mostly stripped of all essential equipments but a few radars. During that period of time and at the discomfort of some hard sea trade sailors onboard, he was voted "Sailor of the quarter" as well as "Sailor of the year" for 2002 and was awarded the prestigious "Gabrielle Bertrand Award" for his outstanding efforts during a 4 month refit period in Québec City.

In the summer of 2003, Rick was posted back to 12 Wg Shearwater. It is during his 6A training in September of that same year that he learned he was to deploy to Camp Mirage in January 2004 for a 6 month period. Upon his return from his deployment and

having only worked 6 shifts in Shearwater, he once again got posted to 3 Wg Bagotville in the summer of 2004. In the summer of 2006, Rick assumed the duties of Chief Fire Inspector in Bagotville, only to be hit by a CFFM's audit 2 weeks later, that went well... In January 2009, he made his way to Ottawa to eventually get promoted to WO and assumed his current and final position as the CFSU Ottawa Chief Fire Inspector.

WO Hudon is the proud recipient of the Canadian Forces Decoration 1st clasp, Special Service Medal (NATO), United Nation Mission in Haiti Medal, Canadian Peace Keeping Medal and the General Service Medal (ISAF).

His last day will be 21 February 2011 and he will be remaining in the National Capital Region as he has accepted a position as the Building Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for CFSU Ottawa. Anecdotes and congratulatory messages may be sent to Sgt John Proulx @ john.proulx@forces.gc.ca