

Vice-Admiral Robert ('Bob') Earl Douglas George, CMM, CD
Commander – Maritime Command
01 August 1989 to 12 July 1991

Born: 06 October 1940 Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

Honours

17/12/1988 CMM Commander of the Order of Military Merit

Military

31/01/1961	Naval Cadet	ROTP at UBC and in HMCS Discovery
01/06/1961	Naval Cadet	<i>HMCS New Glasgow</i> for Training
01/05/1962	A/Sub-Lt	<i>HMCS Therese</i> for Sea Training
1962	A/Sub-Lt	<i>HMCS Ottawa</i> for Sea Training
1962	A/Sub-Lt	<i>HMCS Saguenay</i> for Sea Training
1963	A/Sub-Lt	HMCS Stadacona for Pre-Fleet (Kilo) Course
01/05/1963	Sub-Lt	<i>HMCS Saskatchewan</i>
1963	Sub-Lt	<i>HMCS Mackenzie</i>
19/08/1965	Lieutenant	HMCS Stadacona for 4 th Long Operations Course
1966	Lieutenant	Operations Officer <i>HMCS Saguenay</i>
1967	Lieutenant	Acting Executive Officer in <i>HMCS Saguenay</i>
1967	Lieutenant	Operations Officer in <i>HMCS Nipigon</i>
1968	Lieutenant	USN (Norfolk VA USA) Programming Course
1968	Lieutenant	NDHQ for DDH-280 Programme Generation Centre
05/05/1969	LCdr (MARS)	Promoted while at NDHQ
01/01/1971	LCdr (MARS)	Executive Officer in HMCS Skeena
1972	LCdr	CFB Toronto for Canadian Forces Command and Staff Course
1973	LCdr	CFB Halifax for Cdn Forces Fleet School on Staff of Combined Support Division
04/01/1974	Commander	Commanding Officer <i>HMCS Margaree (II)</i> to 18 December 1975
1976	Commander	Maritime Command HQ as Senior staff Officer (Combat Systems Readiness)
04/05/1977	Commander	Commanding Officer <i>HMCS Iroquois (II)</i> to 30 June 1979
01/07/1979	Captain (MARS)	Japanese Language Training
1980	Captain	Canadian Forces Attaché Tokyo
1982	Captain	Commander Second Canadian Destroyer Squadron
01/07/1984	Commodore	Promoted
01/08/1984	Commodore	NDHQ as Director-General Maritime Doctrine and Operations
1986	Commodore	French Language Training
01/07/1987	Rear-Admiral	Commander Maritime Forces Pacific and Commander Pacific Region
01/07/1989	Vice-Admiral	Commander Maritime Command and Commander Atlantic Region
12/07/1991	Vice-Admiral	Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff
1992	Vice-Admiral	Canadian Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee at Brussels
06/10/1995	Vice-Admiral	Retires



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On a personal note about Bob George. Bob started as an Officer Cadet at HMCS Discovery, the naval reserve unit in Vancouver and always had a soft spot for the naval reserves. I was the Principal Medical Officer at HMCS Discovery for 25 of the 29 years that I served with the naval reserve (except for one year at HMCS York). When the navy switched back to Navy blue uniforms from the green uniforms, Commander David Carpenter, Command Medical Officer, Maritime Command Pacific, and I went to see Bob George. We explained that as medical Officers, we were no longer allowed to wear the red stripe between our rank markings and thus could not be identified as medical officers when our hats were removed. Even wearing our hats, you could not identify us as medical officers, only officers in the medical branch. He told us that he would see what he could do. Bob left Esquimalt and went to Ottawa as the Commander of Maritime Command and nothing happened about the red stripes during this period. He then became the Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff. One day the message came out that medical officers and nursing officer should wear their medical markings. I took my uniform to the tailor and had RCMP serge red put between the stripes – it looked classy.

I next met up with Bob George at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. I knew he had to be the one who had had the red stripes put back and thanked him and asked him how it occurred. He told me. “I went down to the section that dealt with military dress and asked who was in charge of making directives on military uniforms.” An army major said it was him. “I told him that the navy medical officers and nursing sisters would be putting the red stripe back between their rank stripes and that I wanted that directive to be sent out to all units.” He said that that would need staffing and that it would take some time to get out. Bob replied, “No, I didn’t ask for you to staff it, I want that directive to go out tomorrow. Have it on my desk by 0900 hours tomorrow morning or enjoy your stay in Alert.” And he left – and the directive was on his desk the next morning and he sent it out. Got to love Discovery Officers. ¹



¹ Vice-Admiral Robert George, CMM, CD

Commander David Carpenter, CD, MD
When I met VAdm George at NATO HQ,
David’s brother was a Colonel there