

PETER AVIS - Biographical Note

Born in Kingston, Ontario, Peter grew up on the shores of the St Lawrence River and went to RMC to complete an Honours BA in English and Philosophy. After graduating from RMC, he carried out the many duties of a junior Naval officer in both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. In 1991, he was favoured with a wonderful Staff College posting to Paris, France at the Ecole Militaire. The exposure to the cultures and professional methods of officers from fifty-five nations, most of whom were francophone and non-NATO, was truly one of the high-points in his military career.

After Staff College, in 1996, he returned to sea as Executive Officer of NCSM VILLE DE QUEBEC, the East Coast's only francophone, mixed gender ship. Following this, he was appointed as Executive Officer of the Sea Training Unit in Halifax. He was promoted to Commander on completion of the Sea Training appointment. He assumed the position Commanding Officer of HMCS FREDERICTON in May 1999. Over a two-and-a-half year period of command, he took part in two SNFL deployments and several major NATO exercises. After Sept 11, 2001, Captain(N) Avis took over the position of Director Maritime Policy, Operations and Readiness for the Chief of the Maritime Staff in the National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. During this posting, he was the strategic level Operations Officer during Operation APOLLO and became a member of the original Interdepartmental Maritime Security Working Group in Ottawa.

In August 2003, Capt(N) Avis took his Masters degree in International Affairs at NPSIA at Carleton. He published his Masters Thesis as a book: "Comparing National Security Approaches to maritime Security in the Post 9/11 Era." which is available from the Dalhousie Centre for Foreign Studies website. In July 2004, he was appointed to the Privy Council Office in Ottawa as Senior Policy Advisor in the Transportation and Public Safety files. In January 2006, he was appointed Director-General Requirements - Strategic Joint Staff at NDHQ in the tumultuous period of Transformation and the move south of our forces in Afghanistan. In the final part of that posting (February 2007), he was appointed as a member of the Board of Inquiry for Detainees in Afghanistan. He was awarded the national-level Hendy Award for significant contribution to Maritime Security in the summer of 2007. Capt(N) Avis was appointed as Commander of the Fourth Maritime Operations Group in Esquimalt, B.C. in 2007 and carried out the duties of maritime Component Commander for the planning of Security for the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.

In July 2008, Peter retired from the CF and joined as a civilian senior consultant with the Ottawa-based consulting firm Lansdowne Technologies. He has been with Lansdowne for five years now and, as a full partner in the business, enjoys mentoring middle-level leaders across several departments. His focus as a consultant is his business line called Professional Development and Exercises. He is currently writing reports on Capability Assessment for DND and co-authoring a chapter called "The Operationalization of Lessons Learned" for a DRDC publication soon to be published. He will be working with the DRDC Centre for Security Science and other consulting firms to develop Exercises for major events such as the Pan Am Games of 2015.