

Sir: I accept these tokens of my time at the FFOM and ARMY Doctrine. I know that I am turning 60 and therefore selected for forced retirement. I feel like Michael York in the movie of LOGAN's RUN where they have an idyllic future except for one major drawback: life must end at 30. And sticking with the topic of movies,

I am sure if we were to have this discussion between Tom Cruise and Jack Nicolson in "A FEW GOOD MEN", it could have gone something like this:

If Jack were me he could have stated:

There is only one thing that stands out in my mind and that is the question as to why I have to retire? I know we follow orders or people die. Still I ask.. Why do I have to retire? There are good reasons for me staying on....

Tom the lawyer would have stated:

I think I'm entitled to know the reasons.

Jack stating:

Reasons why I should not have to retire?

Tom:

I want the truth!

Jack:

You can't handle the truth!?! Sir, we live in a world that has sustainment doctrine, and this doctrine has to be written by men with pens. Who's gonna do it? You? You, Capt Wheland/Col Wall/Rankin? I had a greater responsibility than most could possibly fathom. You weep because of budget cuts, and you curse the cost of writing this doctrine. You have that luxury. You have the luxury of not knowing what I know must be written. That sustainment doctrine, while boring, probably saves lives. And my employment, while costly and a manning burden to you, saves lives. You don't want the truth because deep down in doctrine you don't talk about it at DAD forums, you want me in that cubical, you need me in that cubical. We use words like convoy, terminology and combat service support.

WE use these words as the backbone of a life spent supporting operations.

You use CSS as a punch-line. I have neither the time left nor the authority to write CSS doctrine for men who eat and sleep under the blanket of the very support doctrine that I provided, and then question the manner in which I wrote it. I would rather you just said thank you, and went on your way--confident in your support. Otherwise, I suggest you pick up a pen, and sit in my cubical or here is my business card--give me a call.

Either way I give a damn-- Army sustainment doctrine needs to be written.

It is hard to understand how a cemetery raised its burial cost and blamed it on the cost of living.

Dad, I heard that in ancient China, a man doesn't know his wife until he marries.

That happens everywhere, son, everywhere!

An employee approached his boss regarding a dispute on his pay-check...

Employee: Sir, this is \$100 less than my salary.

Boss: I know. But last month, when you were overpaid \$100, by mistake, you didn't complain!

Employee: Well, I don't mind an occasional mistake, sir, but it seems to be becoming an habit, now!

Ladies, Gentlemen and family members and to my extended military family representing 39 years of service. I hope none of you have come here using Corporate Jets. Thank you all for gathering here to help me make a successful transition to retirement.

What is so special about the retirement age?

"It is the time when one acquires sufficient experience to lose one's job."

It is great to see such a cross section from work, friends and family.

In 1972 I joined the military as a VANDOO under the guidance of my parents (read – my mother) who said to take it. My dad, an RCOC would have preferred me doing something more along the lines of what I saw when I went in at nights or weekends to see him at his work.

I enjoyed my time as a VANDOO though I spent the first year as a BATMAN which in military terms means that I was a butler for a young officer. Once I was able to remuster, I rebadged to a Supply Technician.

After coming first in my junior leaders course and completing 1st year university on my own, I entered the UTPM program.

I had a fulfilling career and though I always asked for deployments and overseas postings I was never really able to do any of this. My career is really highlighted by two tours-one in 1974 to Ismailia and the Golan Heights which I remark was at the same time my dad was deployed to Ismailia. In Oct 2001 I deployed as part of the Canadian support to the operation against Al-Qaida.

I had two good jobs during my career (1) Log O for JTF2 and (2) my job in doctrine. I loved those two jobs. I just wish I could have said that for my whole career.

Also I look around and want to thank that portion of the military and retired military that are here today to mark my departure from the only life I really have known. As the CAN military is small, there is no double that part of this group is military, civilian and I am pleased to say thanks to international representation.

I do not want to belabour the thank you to all of you in this forum but to signal out

Col Wall ???

Abe Anthony (wore both Army and Air Force uniform) and I have known him since 1976. Thank you for your friendship.

Richard Mollar, who is here today regardless that he is also celebrating his birthday-happy birthday to you Richard.

David Mushard and family. Though we have known each other for a short time, I feel this is one friendship that will flourish.

Personal thanks and gratitude to John and Betty – coming from Virginia. A friend I made through NATO. Thank you so much all of you for your attendance.

Many people from my immediate boss to other NATO supporters were not able to come here this weekend as they are on their way to a location just outside of Vienna, Austria.

JM who has come from Ottawa. Thanks JM, our early morning conversations and your work ethic were always appreciated.

From a family perspective, we have many family members and I am so blessed to have such a representation. From my two sisters and their family to extended siblings of Liette and her family. Be nice to Liette, she is now a Google Employee.

Retirement is not an easy word nor is it expected to be an easy transition. I intend to do some contract work (I'll pass out my business card afterwards) and I also intend to learn more about photography under the tutelage of Deb whom you might see taking pictures throughout this event.

I know what some of you are thinking-Rob, Dave-I will try and improve my golf and offer more competition. With this new hip and Dave, I have asked-it is not a tennis hip-I should be able to swing better.

As you all may be aware, I am not finishing my career the way that I would have liked to. A foot operation in June and a total hip replacement in August leaves me more under the watchful eye of physio and doctors than closing the loop on the many on-going military projects that I was working on.

Some military stories when you think that you have it hard today.

In the Golan Heights I was on a garbage truck but within the camp the truck really went from emptying outdoor latrines to other outdoor garbage locations. Where was Rob's magical touch when all this was going on?

A small insert here for those who do not know why the Golan Heights is so imp to me. I was in my third month deployment when I went to the Golan heights. My girl friend in CAN had sent me a “Dear Pierre” letter and in those days, there was no email, facebook, twitter etc – just letters. My friend at the time said that his wife had a friend back home who had offered to write to soldiers. I gave him my name, she wrote me and two years after I returned to Canada, in 1976, we got married.

One reason I was able to accomplish so much within my profession is I had the incredible support from my wife. As my mother helped my dad advance, doing homework with him at the kitchen table-Sharon helped me and was always positive in her approach. My three kids were great and made coming home from work that much more rewarding.

Good memories when I joined is having to run 1 ½ miles each year

Smoking in our offices

Rusty, remember the jeep rides in Norway as we went from Schold to Bardufoss for the Log Briefs?

JM, the conference in Monterey California?

Lucas and Annita-so many ABCA memories, thanks for helping me get the “senior rates”.

Therese , merci pour avoir pris le temps de venir me supporter dans cette period de transition.

George, you are not just a brother in law...I consider you something different.. we could have used you in the military with your Masters of Mathematics--Algebra: A weapon of math destruction.

Having my neighbours here makes me feel right at home.

So many kind and friendly faces around me today that I want to thank you all for your trip down here.

Enough though about the past and my career. It was fun rewarding and fulfilling.

To begin I would like to thank Sharon and my daughter Kathryn for their organizing of this party for me. For those others who also had a hand in shaping the events leading to this party, I thank you.

Life is so short yet so rewarding as we had a few newer member to our extended family in NOHA and SOPHIA. As a dabbler in genealogy I find it amazing how the circle of life is more than a Disney movie.