

NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND and UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND

Biography



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Commodore James A Clarke CANADIAN ARMED FORCES



Commodore James Clarke is the Deputy Director of the Strategy, Policy and Plans Directorate North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), Peterson AFB, Colorado.

He is a native of Sarnia Ontario, the grandson of a First World War Army Officer and a third generation Canadian Armed Forces member.

He qualified as a Bridge Watchkeeping Officer during Operation FRICTION, Canada's naval contribution to the first Gulf War and went on to specialize in navigation.

During his appointment as a Navigating Officer, Commodore Clarke saw the light and volunteered for the Submarine Service earning his dolphins in the fall of 1994.

Commodore Clarke was appointed as the Operations Officer of HMCS WINDSOR and while under training in the United Kingdom was selected to attend the Operations Room Officer course. Commodore Clarke was awarded the Captain J. Eric W. Oland and Captain Richard H. Oland Memorial Award upon graduating and was subsequently appointed as Executive Officer of HMCS VICTORIA. During his time in VICTORIA, he saw the submarine undergo Canadianization and transfer from Canada's Atlantic Fleet to Maritime Forces Pacific.

In the fall of 2003, Commodore Clarke became the first Canadian and only second foreign student on the United States Navy's Submarine Perspective Commanding Officer's course. In the fall of 2004, he became the first Canadian to attend the Norwegian Submarine Command Course and was fortunate to enjoy an extended, split command tour that saw him command submarines on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

After completion of the Joint Command and Staff program, Commodore Clarke was appointed as the Commander of Submarine Division in Halifax while concurrently fulfilling the duties as Commander Submarine Sea Training. He then enjoyed a tremendously busy appointment as the Commanding Officer of the HALIFAX Class Frigate HMCS ST. JOHN'S, a tour that included two counter narcotic missions in the Caribbean, a patrol in the Canadian Arctic as well as participation in exercises in Europe and on the US Eastern Seaboard. Commodore Clarke then completed second language training and was subsequently promoted and appointed to Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters as Assistant Chief of Staff Operations as well as the Commander of the Canadian Submarine Force. In August 2014, he assumed the additional role as Commander of the Fourth Maritime Operations Group.

Commodore Clarke is a 2008 graduate of the Canadian Forces College and a 2018 graduate of the United States Naval War College's international Naval Command College. Along with those diplomas, he holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Western Ontario where he majored in mathematics and Master's degrees from the University of New Brunswick (engineering) and the Royal Military College of Canada (Defence Studies).

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