

Resume – Ron Coleman, Col, RCAF/CF (Ret) CD2, BComm

Col (ret) Ron Coleman joined the RCAF in 1963 after graduating from Grade 13 in Iroquois, ON. He received his pilot wings in Apr 1965 at Gimli, MB, and returned there to instruct on T-33s after Flight Instructor School in Portage-la-Prarie, MB. He was instructing at 19 and at 21 received his A1 instructors category.

In 1968 he attended the Sabre Transition Unit in Chatham, NB and later moved to Cold Lake, AB, for the CF-104 R training. He married his first and current wife, Linda, in Feb 69 and moved to Lahr, West Germany on 439 Sqn.

As part of the Trudeau cuts in 1970 Ron moved to Laredo, TX, USA to instruct on the T-37. He was awarded his Master of Instructor category in the USAF. Three years later he was transferred to NDHQ where he spent two years working in the “Conditions of Service” Directorate. In 1975 he was transferred to UNTSO in Damascus as a military observer.

Upon return to Canada, Ron went through the CF101 OTU in Bagotville, PQ, and then on to 409 Sqn in Comox, BC. While there he flew Hawk One in the Airshow circuit in 1978 as #4 and the next year led the team. In 1979 he was selected to attend Royal Military College under the University Training Plan Officer plan to complete his university degree. During his summers there he worked in Goose Bay as the operations officer for the German flying program. Upon graduation he attended French training (1 yr) and then CFCSC in Toronto.

In 1983 he was assigned to 880 Sqn in Summerside, PEI, on the Tracker aircraft. In 1985 he left the Regular Force and joined the Air Reserve in order to Command 420 Sqn, also at Summerside. After two years in which he brought the squadron to full operational status he moved to Ottawa in the Air Reserve Directorate as deputy where he was the project director for the KC-130 aircraft. Shortly thereafter he took up employment with the Transportation Safety Board. He worked there for the following ten years as an investigator and manager primarily in the international operations area. While living in Ottawa he attended night school at Carleton U working on a Master’s Degree in Public Administration.

While employed with the TSB he worked in NDHQ as a reservist as the Air Reserve Group Flight Safety Officer, also in the Directorate Reserves as the Air Reserve Desk Officer, and later as the Deputy Air Reserve Commander. He retired from the TSB in 1998 and the military in 1999. Since then he has been writing (3 books and two more in the works), working with the Air Force Association of Canada Wing in Smiths Falls where he is currently the past President, and trying to work his golf handicap into the single figures. He and Linda live on Bass Lake, near Rideau Ferry. They have two sons and two grandchildren. He is a member of the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame. He has recently agreed to serve as the financial advisor to the President of the Air Force Association of Canada. He recently took over as chairman of the RCAFA Trust.