

Biography – Commander Chris Knowlton



Commander Chris Knowlton began his career in the Canadian Armed Forces as a Naval Reserve Officer in 1992, joining HMCS Discovery, Vancouver. Since that point, his military and civilian careers have intertwined.

He completed his formal Naval Warfare Officer (NWO) training while attending the University of British Columbia where he received a Bachelor of Science in 1995. He served in various shipboard positions prior to pursuing a civilian career in the field of environmental science. He returned to school at the Royal Military College in Kingston to obtain a Master's of Science Degree (2000) and Environmental Health Diploma from

McMaster's University (2001). During this time, he deployed as the scientific lead for Op CONTACT, a DCDS investigation supporting the Croatia Board of Inquiry.

Upon completing his Master's degree, he accepted a full time Reserve contract in the DCDS Group (J3 International) where he developed the Environmental Health Risk Management framework and lead scientific technical assistance teams in a number of operational theatres such as Bosnia, Kuwait, and Eritrea.

He transitioned to a public service position within DND in support of the newly formed Operational Commands and rejoined the Naval Reserve on a part time basis at HMCS CARLETON as the Ship's Diving Officer. While he occupied various positions within CARLETON (Deck, Operations, and Executive Officer), he participated in Domestic Operations (Op LOBOS, Op LENTUS), planned and executed numerous exercises training at the unit and regional levels over the last several years. Appointed as Senior Staff Officer Dive at Naval Reserve HQ in July 2019, he attended Joint Command and Staff programme at CFC Toronto JCSP prior to assuming Command of HMCS CARLETON in July 2021. Cdr Knowlton continues to work in NDHQ as a public servant within ADM(IE) leading the development of strategic infrastructure plans and the evolution of IE's business intelligence solution.

Cdr Knowlton is supported by his understanding and amazing family: his patient and dynamic wife and two rapidly growing, vivacious kids.