

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES – DOUG MEIN - VA3DM



Mr. Mein retired from Transport Canada in Ottawa as Director of Air Navigation Services (ANS) & Airspace, in May 2005. In this position, he was responsible for the safety regulation and oversight of all of NAV CANADA's operations across Canada, including air traffic control (ATC), flight service station (FSS) operations, aviation weather services and the operation of all electronic communications, navigation, radar and ATC computer systems from coast to coast to coast. He was also responsible for the structure, classification and use of all civil airspace in Canada plus oceanic airspace under Canadian jurisdiction over the North Atlantic.

Doug played a leading role in directing Transport Canada's operations in cooperation with NAV CANADA, the FAA and NORAD in response to the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001. This coordinated effort (aka Operation Yellow Ribbon) enabled some 224 commercial passenger aircraft operating over the North Atlantic and Pacific Oceans to land safely and expeditiously at Canadian airports. Mr. Mein received a Ministerial Commendation for the role he played during 9/11 and he has kindly agreed to share with us some of his personal experiences in dealing with these unforgettable events.

Doug began his career with Transport Canada in 1972 as a professional radio operator, trained in both marine and aeronautical communications (R/T and CW). His field experience includes work as an aviation weather briefer and with electronics systems (Nav/Com) maintenance. Since his days as a professional radio operator in the field, he pursued a successful career of increasingly more senior duties up until his retirement.

He served as Canada's member of the Air Navigation Commission (ANC) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal where he became Vice President of the ANC. Toward the end of his tenure at ICAO, he was awarded a Governor General's Medal for significant contributions to Canada. Prior to this, Doug served as Chief of Telecommunications and Electronics Training and Acting Director of the Transport Canada Training Institute in Cornwall, Ontario (a total of seven years).

Up until his retirement, Mr. Mein served as an honorary aviation consultant to Oxford University (UK) and is a long serving member of Georgian College's Aviation Management Advisory Committee, including several years as Chair.

Mr. Mein and his wife Susan (high school sweetheart) grew up in the Tottenham area and now live on a small acreage along the Niagara Escarpment, west of Alliston, Ontario.