

THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



ACLC BC Branch The Major Sam Meckbach Outstanding Para Award in the Pacific Region

Background

This award was created in memory of Major Sam Meckbach. Sam began his military career in 1956 with the High School Cadet Corps #109 in Ontario. He attended cadet leadership and communication courses in London, Ipperwash, and Blackdown, and participated in the Banff National Cadet Camp in 1960.

Sam joined the Canadian Armed Forces, 3rd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR), in 1959 and attended Officer Training in Borden. After graduating from College in Kingston, Ontario, Sam's military education continued with the US Ranger Course, the Australian Jungle Warfare Course, and the Royal Marine UK High Angle Training, amongst others. Sam served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Canadian Guards, 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), in Northwest Europe; the Combat Training Center (CTC) in Gagetown, NB; the 2nd Airborne Commando in Edmonton; and the 3rd Battalion, PPCLI, in Victoria.

In 1985, Sam retired from the Regular Force and then served in the Reserve Force and the Cadet Instructor Cadre (CIC). He served as the C Company commander and Deputy Commanding Officer (DCO) at the Vernon Cadet Training Center (CTC), and as the Commanding Officer of 3005 RCACC in Victoria. In 2011, Sam was privileged to take the National Rifle Team to Bisley in the UK. Sam also commanded CTC Whitehorse in 2005 and 2006. Sam retired in 2007 after 48 years of Regular and Reserve Force Service. Sam began volunteering with the Army Cadet League of Canada, British Columbia Branch, and served as the Executive Director. This award was created to recognize the many years Sam dedicated to the Army Cadet Program. Sam passed away on January 31, 2012.

Scope

The Army Cadet League of Canada, British Columbia Branch, will annually recognize one deserving cadet in the Pacific Region who has graduated from the Canadian Armed Forces Basic Parachute Course. The award is called the Major Sam Meckbach Outstanding Para Award.

Eligibility

The recipient of this award must have completed the Pre-para course and successfully completed the Basic Parachute Course at the Canadian Armed Forces Parachute School. The following criteria shall be used as a basis for selecting the top cadet:

- Dress & Deportment
- Willingness to accept duties & responsibilities

- Demonstration of leadership qualities
- Participation in off-duty programs & activities
- Exceptional physical fitness and endurance
- Course activity
- Support his/her peers
- Embodies the spirit of teamwork

Nominations

Nominations for this award will be provided with the assistance of RCSU(P). RCSU(P) will provide the name and Cadet Corps of the Outstanding Cadet in the Pacific Region who has completed the Basic Parachute Course. This name is due to the ACLC BC Branch by 01 October of the nomination year.

Presentation

The ACLC(BC) Major Sam Meckbach Outstanding Para Award will be presented to the winner at a function arranged by the ACLC(BC). During the presentation, the award recipient will receive a commemorative trophy.

Recipients

CWO Kelden Edwards 2012
 WO Jordan Wilkstrom 2013
 CWO Hugh Park 2014
 MWO Aaron Giesbrecht 2015
 MWO Shawn Lu 2016
 MWO Jesse Robinson 2017
 MWO Austin Deakin 2018
 MWO Oliver Cole 2019
 WO Adams 2023
 MWO Jordan Baldwin 2024
 CWO Mateo Sison 2025

