



PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MINUTES

Kevin R. Junor, Chief Warrant Officer, the International Military Advisory Team in Sierra Leone 2007

Born in Birmingham, UK and raised in Jamaica, Kevin began his military career with the Toronto Scottish Regiment at the age of 17. A CF recruiter at his high school promised Kevin he'd not have to wear a kilt. After that, there was no looking back. Kevin's distinguished 30 year military career saw him rise to rank of the Regimental Sergeant-Major, Army Reserves.



Chief Warrant Officer, Military
Diversity Advisor, Canadian Forces
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After a theology degree and a diploma as a civil engineer, Kevin began his "other" professional life as a Senior Business and Policy Advisor at the Ministry of Transportation. For 24 years Kevin provided advice on strategic planning issues. He developed and delivered a number of innovative MTO programs to enhance change management for which he earned accolades from co-workers and supervisors.

In 2007 Chief Warrant Officer Junor deployed to Sierra Leone as one of 11 Canadians with Operation Sculpture—Canada's contribution to the UN's International Military Advisory and Training Team (IMATT). Their task was to strengthen the skills and professionalism of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces at the time their military establishment was being reduced to a sustainable 8,500 personnel. Kevin's leadership and change management advice displayed in the programs he developed earned him a Chief of Defence Staff Commendation.

In northern Sierra Leone, Junor, an Assistant Minister at the North Peel Community Church, lectured with the passion of a preacher to soldiers who had no oil or blanks for their guns, shared boots and were partly paid with three cups of rice a day—when available.

RSLAF Lance Corporal Kadijatu Kamara said of Junor, "He can do everything you can think of. He is everything. He makes us feel like we are all Canadians." Grateful RSFAF soldiers gave Junor the honorary title of Konkor Marah, a legendary Sierra Leone military leader.

Kevin Junor learned from his pupils as well. "They taught me what it was like to be a black man in Africa. The people of Sierra Leone were warm and welcoming, and they gave continuously from what little they had. They did their very best and had personal pride." When Junor walked up the steps used by former slaves who returned from North America to Freetown he was touched. "To realize that not just Africans but my ancestors walked up those stairs to freedom ... I had to walk it myself."

The peacemaking efforts Kevin and his UN colleagues contributed took root. The RSLAF reform program advanced to such a degree that in July 2009 RSLAF deployed a sector reconnaissance company to serve with the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur. Sierra Leone's UNAMID contingent is now in its second rotation

In 2011 Kevin Junor won the Harry Jerome Professional Excellence Award for outstanding military, professional and voluntary contributions.

See video of CWO Junor, receiving the Order of Military Merit and in an interview, www.whoswhoin-blackcanada.com/2011/02/04/kevin-junor/