



Commodore Hans Jung
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Commodore Hans Jung, Surgeon General (retired)

“He is a true role model, not only for all immigrants but for all those who proudly serve our nation.”

The Honorable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence

Born in Korea, Commodore Hans Jung, assumed the office of Canada’s Surgeon

General in 2009. After an impressive three years in that position during a time that included Canadian medical involvement in Afghanistan and medical and humanitarian assistance in Haiti, Dr. Jung stepped down in July 2012. He had served for 31 years in the Canadian Forces and had attained the highest position available for a doctor in the country’s military services. His legacy speaks to his sense of duty. He was the primary mover for the Physician Assistants Program that recently graduated its first class of “physician extenders”. He was a driving force in the creation of the Canadian Institute for Military and Veterans Health Research, a network of university researchers focussed on military and veterans’ issues. As the keynote speaker at the 2010 forum that led to the document *Shaping the Future: Military and Veterans Health Research*, Jung stated, “By creating a national agenda that is open and transparent, I hope to break down the traditional boundaries that limited our ability to take a holistic approach to health research related to military service.” Jung also established the Mental Health and Rehabilitation Program for Canadian Forces personnel who were ill and/or injured due to their involvement in Afghanistan. As Head of the Canadian Forces Dr. Jung oversaw 6,300 military and civilian health personnel; he also supervised the 200 CFHS personnel deployed on 13 missions across the globe.

The youngster who could speak no English when he came to Canada from war-torn Korea rose through extensive education and true dedication to assume all this responsibility and to instigate positive changes for the Canadian Forces in the field of technology and record-keeping—as well as all the other programs noted. Dr. Jung stated in an interview that he felt it was the duty of the military to protect and promote Canadian values. “And to my mind that’s what all Canadians must be doing, particularly, for all immigrants that should resonate more so Because after all, it’s the Canadian society that has allowed the recent immigrants in particular to come to Canada ...”

Retired Commodore Hans Jung, OMM, CD, OStJ, MD, MA