

General Information

OBITUARY

Commander Kulwant Bir Singh Wadhera



Commander Kulwant Bir Singh Wadhera was commissioned as a Sub-Lieutenant in the Indian Navy in October 1959 and underwent the Hydrographic Surveying Officers Course at the Hydrographic School in December 1961. During his 24 year-long Professional Naval Career, Cdr. Wadhera participated in several challenging Hydrographic Surveys, off either coast of India and outlying Islands, first as Officer-in-charge of the Survey Teams on board IN surveying ships Sutlej, Jamuna and Investigator, and subsequently, as Charge Hydrographer, when he was in Command of IN Surveying ship Jamuna from 1979-80.

Cdr. Wadhera was heading the Naval Hydrographic School at Kochi since 1977, when the School was relocated to the present location at Vasco Da Gamma Goa, where Cdr. Wadhera continued to head the Hydrographic School, now known as National Institute of Hydrography (NIH). It was due to the dedicated efforts and professional approach of Cdr. Wadhera and his successors that the Hydrographic School has risen to its present stature. The foundation of UNDP Assistance for Augmentation of Training facilities in India was laid during his tenure as Officer In-Charge of the Hydrographic School.

Cdr. Wadhera also served on the staff of Chief Hydrographer to the Government of India twice, between 1967-68 and later during 1973-76, where he was coordinating and overseeing the issuance of Maritime Safety Services and Notices to Mariners in addition to being responsible for setting up of QA/QC processes of Hydrographic Data acquired by the surveying ships prior to its incorporation in Indian Hydrographic Charts.

Post premature retirement from active services in 1982, Cdr. Wadhera briefly sailed as a Master Mariner before returning to Delhi where he worked as Manager in the most reputed Indian Offshore Survey Company Elcome Surveys for nearly a decade, before finally calling it a day as an active Hydrographer.

Cdr. Wadhera was married to late Mrs. Surjit Wadhera and is survived by his daughter Mrs. Pamita Oberoi (pamitakauroberoi@yahoo.in)

The Hydrographic community will always remember and recall Cdr. Wadhera as a professional par excellence, and a gentleman to the core, who was always willing to contribute to professional and social cause. His contribution to the growth of the Hydrographic profession in India during his various appointments with the Indian Hydrographic Surveying service in the Indian Navy shall always be remembered.