

Brigadier Dr J R Thomson QVRM TD DL



It is with great regret that we must inform all Members of the NAA that our Vice President Brigadier Dr John R Thomson QVRM TD DL passed away on 23rd February 2024.

A short synopsis of his life is as follows:

- He was raised in North Ayrshire
- He was commissioned into the Royal Regiment in 1974 and undertook Regular Service for 3 years.
- He joined 289 Commando Battery RA(V) in 1977 as an Officer and served with the Battery until 1984.
- He settled in Edinburgh c.1989
- He took command of 105 Regt RA c.1991
- He served as a Colonel at HQ Scotland
- He was appointed as Deputy Inspector General Territorial Army, about the only Brigadier rank appointment in the Territorial Army in the 90s.
- He was chair of the Royal Artillery Council of Scotland
- He was a Member of the Edinburgh Branch RAA for over 30 years
- He was chair a member of the National Artillery Association (NAA) for over 30 years and Chair for 10 years until 2006
- He was an Honorary Col Comdt of the Royal Regiment of Artillery
- He was a Deputy Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh
- He was a Trustee of Poppy Scotland
- He was a senior lecturer at Edinburgh Napier University
- He moved back from Edinburgh to his family area in North Ayrshire last year

He had worked for Edinburgh Napier University for 30 years who have since written:

It is with regret that we tell you about the sudden death of our colleague Dr John Thomson. John was a well-respected and popular academic who gave freely of his time and expertise to both students and colleagues alike. Recognised for his gentlemanly and pleasant approach to all staff John had a great sense of humour which he used regularly to place people at their ease and this was evident in many of his interactions. A man of honour with a distinguished military career John rose to the rank of Brigadier. He attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1972 and was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1973. He joined the Ecole Militaire in Paris (1988) and the NATO Defence College in Rome (1999). He also attended the Defence Strategic Leaders' Programme at the Defence Academy near Swindon (2003). He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh in 2008 to represent HM The Queen.

Brigadier John was a constant promoter of the RA, the NAA and the Reserve Forces. He was a very considerate and kind man who would always do whatever he could to help others.

Brigadier John's wish was to have a private family funeral; he wanted no fuss.

We will update this notification, as appropriate, as we receive further information.