

RCEME GEMRC



Retirement Message – Captain Byron Watson, CD

Capt Watson will be ending his Military career on 27 August 2018 after serving for 30+ years. His career began on 1 October 1987 at the Hamilton, Ontario recruiting office. On 3 October 1987 he was shipped off to Cornwallis and was greeted by a MCpl yelling at him to get off the bus (and the fun begins); nothing like the nice folks he was dealing with at the recruiting center. In 1988 he began his basic driver training in CFSAL. After that, he moved over to CFSEME to begin his QL3 Vehicle Technician training. Upon graduating, he was posted to CFB Winnipeg where he was employed in various locations; initially with the heavy equipment section in building 87, MSS Minto and his first Divisional field exercise, RV 89 (attached to 2PPCLI).

In 1990 he was posted to 2PPCLI and went on his first operational tour with TF Cyprus (OP SNOWGOOSE). Upon his return he worked for Adm Coy and later on as a MRT Commander with BRAVO Coy. In 1992 he was attached posted to 1CER and deployed with them to Yugoslavia on ROTO 1 as part of OP HARMONY (UNPROFOR) where he was employed as 2IC of the workshop. After the tour ended he returned back to 2PPCLI in Winnipeg and three months later he found himself back in Yugoslavia (with 2PPCLI) replacing an ill technician who had to return back to Canada.

In February 1994 Capt Watson was posted to 4ESR in Gagetown; he really wanted to work on Armoured Engineer Vehicles (AEV) and Armoured Vehicle Laying Bridge (AVLB). He was quickly loaded on his Leopard MBT and ARV course followed by the AEV/AVLB course and employed as IC of Armoured Engineers Maintenance Section. During his tenure with 4ESR he deployed with them for the WINNIPEG FLOOD and the Quebec ICE STORM.



Arte et Marte

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In 2000 he was posted to 3 ASU Gagetown and employed as IC Leopard 2nd line workshop. One year later he was posted to CFB Borden as an instructor with CFSEME; instructing in Vehicle & Explosive Coy, Regimental Coy and finishing off as the RSM's Assistant. In 2005 he was posted to ASU London as the Production Sergeant working out of the old Highbury complex. Later on that year he took his commission; his officer training had begun. In November 2005 he began his BMOQ in St Jean, followed by an eight month French course (don't ask him to speak French). After that he returned to CFB Borden and completed his Phase 4 Officer's course.

In 2007 he was loaded on the Base Training List in CFB Borden (waiting for his Phase 3 Officer's course) and returned back to ASU London as the Acting Ops O. He completed his Phase 3 Officer's Course in the summer of 2007 and was immediately posted to DGGLEPM, working on the Leopard Tank Replacement Project. The project sent him to the Netherlands to inspect the first 20 Leopard 2A6's that Canada would purchase and multiple trips to Germany (working with KMV) to conduct Leopard 2 training to the technicians that would be deploying on the next Afghanistan rotation.

In 2009 he was posted to CFB Borden where he enjoyed his time as the Base Maintenance Officer. In 2010 he was posted back to CFSEME as the CSO for the Phase 4 Officer's Course. Later employed as the Course Development Officer for the Officer's DP 1.2 Course. Capt Watson then completed his Army Operations Course out of Kingston (Fort Frontenac). He finished of his time with CFSEME as the CSO for the Officer DP1.1. In 2012 he was posted to 31 Svc Bn as the Ops O and later, the Technical Services Officer. Capt Watson finished off his RCEME Officer's training with the EME Advanced Officer's Course in October 2012. In 2014 he was posted to 5 CDSB Detachment Aldershot as the Technical Services Officer and additionally given the position of Detachment 2IC.

Capt Watson will be remaining in the Annapolis Valley with his fiancée Elizabeth. He will spend his retirement golfing, shooting, travelling, riding his motorcycle and tinkering in the workshop. Capt Watson's DWD will be held at Detachment Aldershot combined mess (BHCM) on 21 Jun 18 at 1400 hrs. All those wishing to attend will be greatly welcomed. Please send any anecdotes to Capt Hamilton CAMERON.HAMILTON@forces.gc.ca at 902-678-7930 local 2130.



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