

RCEME GEMRC

WO Archibald Colbourne, CD2



Materials Technician

After 36 plus years of dedicated and distinguished service in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), 28 years within the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (RCEME) Corps and 7 years as a Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) soldier, Warrant Officer Archie Colbourne will retire as of July 31, 2018.

Raised in Roberts Arm Newfoundland, Arch enlisted in CAF Feb 1982, at the age of 17. After completing Battle School in Wainwright Alberta he was posted 1st Battalion PPCLI, Calgary, AB from July 1983 to July 1985. July 1985 WO Colbourne was posted to the Infantry School, Combat Training Center, CFB Gagetown New Brunswick.

Although he loved his job as an Infantry soldier, September 1989 he decided it was time for a change and remustered to Material Technician RCEME Corps. After completing his QL3 in July 1990, he was posted to 14 Wing Greenwood, Nova Scotia. In the summer of 1995 Arch was on the move again, back to CFB Gagetown with the 4th Air Defense. After 7 year stay in CFB Gagetown, he was promoted to MCpl and posted to 2 Service Battalion, CFB Petawawa, ON. During his 4 year stay in Petawawa he completed his QL6A and promoted to Sergeant in 2006. With a promotion came a posting, back to Gagetown again. In July 2006 Arch was posted to Mat Pl, Maint Coy, Tech Svc's Branch.



Arte et Marte

RCEME GEMRC

In July 2011, Arch was promoted to Warrant Officer, there was no need to post him out of Gagetown because he kept coming back. So it was over to CTC HQ as the Material Technician Qualification Standards/Training Plan Manager. In 2016, after five years as QS/TP Manager, it was time for a change once again, another inner-base posting to Canadian Army Trials and Evaluation Unit (CATEU) where he currently hangs his hat.

During his military career he was honored to participate in Three missions:

- Cyprus, April 1984 to October 1984;
- Kuwait, January 1991 to March 1991;
- Bosnia, September 2003 to April 2004.

Other key events:

- Swissair Disaster Sept 1998;
- G8 Summit Jun 1998.

Arch will retire in Oromocto, NB with his wife Janice. He has secured a position at Home Hardware in Oromocto (his dream job) and plans to work part time.

WO Colbourne is very grateful for and salutes all his colleagues and the wonderful people he met during his 36 plus years of service in the CAF. "It was a pleasure and a privilege to have had the opportunity to serve with you. Also, a huge thank you to my family for their support over these many years."

A friendly Departure luncheon will be held at Barbie & Ken & Eatery at 227 Restigouche Rd, Oromocto NB on 27 July 18 at 1200hrs. All those wishing to attend will be greatly welcomed. Please send any congratulatory retirement messages or humorous anecdotes may be sent to WO Baker, Wesley.Baker@forces.gc.ca.



Arte et Marte