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RETIREMENT MESSAGE

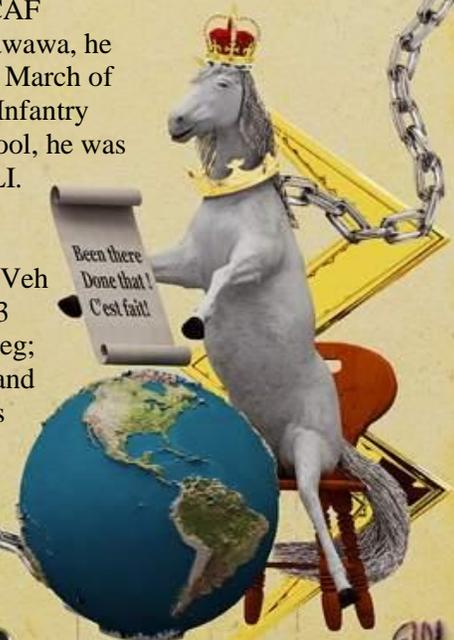


Sgt Jay Lajoie, CD

After 25 years of loyal and dedicated service to the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), Sgt Jay Lajoie will be retiring 15 March 2019.

Sgt. Lajoie was born in Windsor ON on 5 Dec 72. He joined the CAF Reserves in May of 1993. After a summer of basic training in Petawawa, he decided the Army life was for him and joined the Regular force in March of 1994. Off to Cornwallis NS for Basic training, followed by Basic Infantry training in sunny Wainwright, Ab. Upon completion of Battle school, he was off to Winnipeg as a member of "Charlie" Coy 2nd Battalion PPCLI.

After a tour to Bosnia in 1997, and marrying his partner in crime Michelle in Nov of 1997, Sgt Lajoie occupationally transferred to Veh Tech and found himself in CFB Borden on March of 1998 for QL3 Veh tech training. Once completed, he was posted back to Winnipeg; this time to 17 Wing Base Maint. Where he was promoted to Cpl and embarked on his OJT package. Once his OJT was complete, it was back to CFB Borden for QL5 Training in July of 2000.



Arte et Marte

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After QL5 training, Sgt Lajoie was back to CFB Winnipeg where he honed his new skills in SPV and Light Commercial. In July 2002, Sgt Lajoie deployed to the UAE as part of Op APOLLO Roto 1 supporting the AMSE equipment for the Air Force's mission over the Gulf. It was here that he got to fly in an Aurora aircraft on the 100th mission over the Gulf in the War on Terror. After a very short stint at home in May 2003, Sgt Lajoie was off to Thule Greenland for Op BOXTOP the resupply mission for Alert, where all that time repairing ground power units in the desert came in handy and got him a trip to CFS Alert for what was supposed to be a day trip. A week later, he returned to Thule just in time to pack up and return to CFB Winnipeg.

In May of 2004, Sgt. Lajoie was fortunate enough to deploy to Dallas, Texas for 16 days on an Airfield Engineer exchange or as the CSM put it "the Swan of a lifetime". Fresh back from Texas, Sgt Lajoie was tasked to deploy back to Bosnia for Roto 15 Mission Closure Team (MCT). September of the same year, Sgt Lajoie found himself on the sunny beaches of Split Croatia for 4 months and not in Bosnia. Seems the mission required him to be part of the recovery crew for the ship loading of all the equipment returning to Canada.

After his PLQ in 2006 and the appointment to MCpl, Sgt Lajoie and his growing family packed their bags and where off to CFB Wainwright in July 2006. In June 2007, Sgt Lajoie joined the NSE and began pre-deployment training for Afghanistan TF 1-08, this would be the first Roto with AHSVS Wreckers.

After his rotation home in Sept 08, Sgt Lajoie hung around the A vehicle shop until an opportunity to try out for the LFWA shooting team arouse and he was off to Chilliwack BC in May of 2009 to compete for a spot on the team. Making the team and then representing LFWA at the Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Concentration (CAFSAC), where the LFWA team dominated the other commands and was crowned "CF Team of the Year". For the next 5 years, he represented the West at CAFSAC shooting against the best shooters in the CAF.

Jay and Michelle plan on staying in the Wainwright Area upon retirement. Jay would like to thank all the people, military and civilian that he has had the honour of working with and learning from over the years.

There will be a relaxed DWD at Buffalo Park Hall in Wainwright 01 March at 1200 hrs. Please send congratulatory messages to MWO Peters, jeremy.peters@forces.gc.ca. Food will be hamburgers and salads for a minimal cost. If you wish to attend please RSVP NLT 15 Feb to Sgt Boivin pierre.boivin4@forces.gc.ca.



Arte et Marte