

# RCEME GEMRC



**Colonel Devon Matsalla**

Colonel Devon Matsalla will retire on 15 May 2019 after 26.5 thoroughly enjoyable years in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Col Devon Matsalla started his career in 1992 as a musician in The Calgary Highlanders. He then transferred to the Field Artillery and completed a Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering at the Royal Military College (RMC) in Kingston. His first posting was to 5e Régiment d'artillerie légère du Canada in Valcartier, where he commanded a platoon during the Québec Ice Storms, completed two tours in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and worked at the Defence Research Establishment in Valcartier on the Ballistic Visor trials.

In 2003, he completed a Masters in Defence Engineering Management at RMC and then re-mustered to the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME). Posted to Director General Land Equipment Program Management (DGLEPM) in Gatineau, he worked as the Missile Engineer for the Anti-Tank Air Defence System (ADATS). In 2006, he returned to Valcartier, this time to 5e Bataillon des services du Canada and subsequently deployed to Afghanistan as the Operations Officer of the National Support Element. Promoted major in 2008, he returned to DGLEPM as the Field Artillery Equipment Management Team leader before deploying again to Afghanistan, this time as the Technical Liaison Officer (Tech LO).



**Arte et Marte**

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Upon completing his tour in 2009, he returned to 5e Bataillon des services du Canada to command Maintenance Company, and in 2010, he deployed to Haiti in response to the earthquake. In 2011, he completed a Masters in Defence Studies in Toronto, where he was promoted to LCol and posted to the Canadian Army Headquarters as the G4 Operations. From 2013 to 2015, he had the great honour of commanding 5e Bataillon des services as the unit mounted a Forward Logistic Group for Task Force 1-15. He was then posted to Director General Major Projects Division (DGMPD) as the Integrated Logistic Support Manager of the Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV). In July 2016, he was posted to Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM) as the J4. In 2017, he was promoted to his current rank and assumed the position of CANSOFCOM Director Force Sustainment, where he has gotten great satisfaction in supporting Canada's elite operators and leading a highly motivated team.

Col Matsalla is retiring to join his wife, Kathy, in Brisbane Australia. Although his plans are yet to solidify, he is exploring work in the mining industry and has applied to transfer to the Australian Army Reserves. Above all, he hopes that his spare bedroom will always be full of good friends looking to escape from Canadian winters.

To celebrate the occasion, he is throwing a huge party at the Heart and Crown on Preston Street (<http://heartandcrown.pub/preston/>) on 9 May 2019 from 18:30 until 22:00. Devon will be hosting his two favourite bands, the Beerfönes (<https://www.facebook.com/Beerfones/>) and the Riverthieves (<https://www.riverthieves.com/>), who will battle it out in a duel to win the crowd's hearts (and tips) with their musical talents. He hopes that all of his friends and co-workers, and their spouses, come to join him for a relaxed evening of music, fun and laughter as he rings the bell one last time. As Devon will be moving to Australia shortly after this event, he has no room left in his bursting at the seams carryon so the best farewell gift you can provide would be your presence. Please confirm your presence to [benjamin.morris@forces.gc.ca](mailto:benjamin.morris@forces.gc.ca) no later than 15 April 2019.



Arte et Marte