

RCEME GEMRC



Captain Gary M. Cousineau
RCEME 00187

Capt Gary M. Cousineau will be taking his retirement from the Canadian Armed Forces on 1 February, 2018, after seven years of loyal service. Gary was born in 1973, Windsor, Ontario, where he grew up, attended school, and worked as a civilian until 2008. During those years he became a Certified Financial Councillor, obtained an Associate's Degree in Automotive Design, and a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. In 2009, he moved to Edmonton, Alberta, and acquired a Fourth Class Power Engineering certificate. As a civilian, he built an expansive skill set, working across various industries including, banking, gaming & hospitality, acting, foundry maintenance, industrial dredging, oil drilling, and industrial safety.

In 2011, he returned to Windsor, Ontario, where he enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces, under the DEO category, as an Electrical Mechanical Engineering officer. He attended basic training in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and graduated as a Second Lieutenant. He was then posted BTL to the RCEME School in CFB Borden.

In 2012, while awaiting ODP training, he was tasked to 1 Svc Bn for OJT. There, he spent a month learning from the RCEME troops by getting his hands dirty and developing a feel for the work they perform.

The following three months, during Maple Resolve 2012, he transferred over to first-line RCEME; serving with LdSH(RC). As a parting gift to the troops, in appreciation of their support to his learning, he utilized some scrap steel to weld together a field-worthy hose stand for their tool crib. In May of that year, he returned to CFB Borden and completed ODP 1.1.



Arte et Marte

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Following ODP 1.1, while awaiting ODP 1.2, he was appointed Assistant 2IC for Art Coy. As A/2IC, he had the valuable opportunity to gain in-depth exposure to the administrative world, and the pleasure of interacting with numerous troops under the RCEME trade. This was where he planted the seed that would define his leadership style for the remainder of his career. He took the need of taking care of the troops to heart.

In 2013, he attended ODP 1.2 and tirelessly gave of himself to assist his course mates. At the end of training, he received a Selfless Peer award. The students voted for the recipient, and Gary won by a landslide. He graduated ODP 1.2 as a qualified RCEME officer and received promotion to Lieutenant. He requested his first posting as 4 Wing Cold Lake; and he couldn't have made a better choice.

He arrived in October, 2013, originally meant to fill the position of Production Officer; however, with the Maint O on deployment, he was assigned Acting Maint O. He opened up to the staff at every rank to learn from their experience, and strived to address the needs of the staff, the workshop, and the Wing. He devoted himself to turning Cold Lake Maintenance into a great place to work. He is openly thankful to the staff there for all their support and wishes them well. In January 2014, he was promoted to Captain, and following APS of that year, he was officially appointed as the Cold Lake Maint O.

In 2015, he was posted to the NCR as the ILS Coord for the MSVS project under ADM(Mat). While there, he led the final transition of the MSVS Shelters from PMO MSVS to DCSEM, and also developed a new fielding guidebook for the MSVS SMP trucks. Throughout this time, he had been in pursuit of the PMCD1 certification, and is currently preparing his submission of application.

In 2017, he took a pause from the project world to complete AOC 35 in Kingston, Ontario. He was very appreciative of the opportunity to attend the course, and took away numerous lessons. There, he had the privilege of meeting military members from around the globe, and has remained in contact with many of them.

Following his military retirement, he will remain with the MSVS project as an Engineer under the Public Service. His plan is to stay with the MSVS project through close-out. Following that, watch and shoot.

Captain Gary M. Cousineau will be receiving a private luncheon hosted by his present colleagues. Anyone wishing to send anecdotes or best wishes, please submit them to Major John Optis at: JONATHAN.OPTIS@forces.gc.ca.



Arte et Marte