

RCEME GEMIRC

RETIREMENT –WO JONATHAN HARPER CD1, 00129 VEH TECH



After completing more than 29 years in the CAF both as a Regular force Vehicle Tech and a Reserve Weapons Tech, WO Jonathan Harper retired on the 16 August 2018.

WO Jon Harper enlisted in the Army Reserves as a Weapons Technician as part of 21 Service Battalion in Windsor, Ontario on 15 Nov 1989. He spent the next five years as a reservist and completed up to the QL6A trade level for Reserve Weapons Technicians. It was at this point that he decided a full time career in the CAF was what he wanted to do. He tried to do a Component Transfer within the same trade, but due to personnel cut-backs in the forces in the mid-nineties, there were no positions available.

The recruiter called him after a few months of waiting to offer him a position as a Vehicle Technician. Seeing as this was still a part of the EME Branch, he agreed. The transfer ceremony happened on 26 January 1995, when he was 24 years old. Eight days later, he began his new trade training at the Canadian Forces School of the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (now known as the RCEME School) in CFB Borden.

After completing his QL 3 Veh Tech course in August of 1995, he was posted to CFB Calgary as a member of 1 Service Battalion (1 Svc Bn) and was employed in a variety of positions in Maintenance Company while continuing to learn his trade.



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As the base in Calgary was being downsized, he was posted to CFB Edmonton in the summer of 1996. In 1999, after finishing both his QL5A trades training and the M-109 Self-Propelled Howitzer Maintenance course, he was posted to CFB Shilo as a Corporal where he was still employed with 1 Svc Bn as part of the Second Line Detachment. After 3 years, he was posted across the road to the 1st Regiment of Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (1 RCHA). After completing a UN peacekeeping tour in the Golan Heights, he was selected for a posting with JTF 2 as a supporter. During that time, he was promoted to the rank of Master-Corporal and served with that unit for nearly three years, which included an operational tour to Afghanistan.

Upon leaving Ottawa in August 2008, he was posted to Headquarters and Signals Squadron in Edmonton and worked there for two years as the Vehicle Repair Section MCpl before being promoted to Sergeant and subsequently posted back to 1 Svc Bn. After only nine months, he was posted to 1 Combat Engineer Regiment (1 CER) as the Vehicle Production Sgt. In 2013, after 2 years at 1 CER, he was again posted back to 1 Svc Bn to work in the Control Office as a Production Planner.

In 2015, WO Harper was placed on a yearlong Second Language Training course in Edmonton, where he managed to achieve a CBB language profile in French. In the summer 2016, he was promoted to his current rank and posted to the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadian) (LdSH RC) and employed as the Control Warrant Officer for Maintenance Troop. Most recently, WO Harper was posted to CFB Wainwright in the summer of 2017 where he will finish his career as the Vehicle Platoon WO of 3 CDSB Tech Svcs.

WO Harper, his spouse, Delia and daughter, Brianna plan to remain in the Edmonton area for the foreseeable future where he has taken a position with the City of Edmonton. He would like to pass on his thanks and appreciation to all of the incredible people he has worked with over the course of his career.

The DWD function will be held Mid-September in the Edmonton area. Please send any congratulatory messages or stories to WO Rob Kubiak at Robert.Kubiak@forces.gc.ca as he will be the DWD coordinator.



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