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RETIREMENT MESSAGE



Col Nishika Jardine, CD2

Colonel Nishika Jardine will retire from the Canadian Armed Forces on 16 May 2019, after 36 + years of loyal service as an officer in the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Colonel Nishika Jardine was born in Chandigarh, India and immigrated to Canada with her mother in November 1963. Her childhood was spent in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and she counts her five years as a cadet in 155 Borden Gray Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron as an initial highlight among her 40-plus years in uniform. Her application to attend Royal Military College was spontaneous, inspired by a best friend who had decided to do the same, and to her great surprise she was enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1982, graduating four years later from RMC with a Bachelor of Science (Math and Physics).

Upon completion of occupation training in Borden, her first posting was to Gagetown where she began her army career as an officer in the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (RCEME). She considers herself privileged to have served and commanded in Base Maintenance organizations in all three environments: with the Army at CFB Gagetown, with the Navy at CFB Esquimalt and with the Air Force at 19 Wing Comox.



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Above all however, she remains deeply honoured to have been appointed Commandant of the RCEME School in Borden from 2008 to 2010. Her staff experience spanned the spectrum from tactical to strategic, including notable postings as the Staff Officer to the Vice Chief of Defence Staff, Programme Officer for the National Security Studies Programme, Deputy Project Manager for the Medium Support Vehicle System Project, as well as almost a year on OP ATHENA as the J4 Rear.

Promoted to Colonel in 2014, she was appointed the Director of Armament Sustainment, a job she believes is one of the best to which a RCEME officer can aspire. Her last posting was spent in the genteel atmosphere of the Canadian Forces College in Toronto, where on a lovely summer day in early August 2018, in the space of one heartbeat, she went from being Deputy Commandant to Colonel-without-portfolio on the road to transition out of her military career.

Now as she leaves her army boots, duly hole-punched, to gather dust in the closet, her focus is on seeing her son through secondary school while taking on contract work with her new company, Helm's A'Lee Consulting, Inc., and giving back to the Air Cadets, where it all started, as a recently-elected Governor on the Board of the Air Cadet League, Ontario Provincial Council.

A retirement function in her honor will be held at Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston in the Senior Staff Mess on 03 May 2019 at 1400 hrs.

RSVPs, as well as messages of congratulations and anecdotes, can be sent to Maj Tanya Grodzinski at tanya.grodzinski@rmc.ca or text to 613-530-6734 not later than 19 April 2019.



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