

RCEME GEMRC

RETIREMENT MESSAGE



CWO Richard J Thompson, CD

After 30 years of loyal and dedicated service to the RCEME Corps and the CAF, Chief Warrant Officer Richard (Rick) J Thompson will retire on 26 June 2019.

CWO RJ Thompson was born in Summerside, PEI, where he spent 5 years in the Air Cadets as Sqn CWO for 53 Sqn and spent a short time in the Armoured Reserves as a trooper with the PEI Regiment before enrolling in the CAF on 26 June 1990. Upon completing his basic training in Cornwallis, NS, he was posted to the Performance-Oriented Electronics Training School (POET) at Canadian Forces School of Communications and Electronics in Kingston, ON, and then on to Canadian Forces School of Electrical Mechanical Engineers for his QL3 Fire Control Systems trade.

From 1992 to 1996 at CFB Gagetown, CWO Thompson was posted to C Sqn, Royal Canadian Dragoons, and A Sqn, 8th Canadian Hussars, as a technician on the C1 Leopard tanks. During this time he was advance promoted to Cpl and completed his OJT QL4 training and his QL5 at CFSEME Borden.

In July 1996, CWO Thompson was posted to 2 CMBG Petawawa for 11 years and employed in various Brigade units. In 1996, he supported E Bty of 2 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery in servicing their M109s and deployed to the Winnipeg floods in 1997. From July 1997 to 2000, he served with 1 RCR in F Coy and deployed both to Bosnia in 1998 under SFOR, servicing AVGPs and TUAs, and Kosovo in 1999 to May 2000 under KFOR, maintaining Recce Coyotes and Leopard tanks. He was then promoted to MCpl and posted to 2 CMBG HQ & Sigs in July 2000 as IC Ancillary Section. In July 2003 to Feb 2004, he deployed with the Bde HQ to Kabul Multinational Brigade Headquarters in Afghanistan as the Maintenance Det IC at Camp Warehouse. In 2006, CWO Thompson was promoted to Sgt and posted back to 2 RCHA HQ Bty as IC EO Section implementing the new M777 with Digital Gun Management System.



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In 2007, CWO Thompson was posted to CFB Kingston Base Maintenance as IC EO Section and Acting Ancillary WO. In 2009, he was promoted to Warrant Officer and posted to DGLEPM. Shortly after arriving in Ottawa he deployed to Montevideo, Uruguay, for the international sale of the AVGP fleet to the Uruguayan Army which involved training and inspections of vehicles, turrets and 50Cal Browning MGs. While under DAVPM 10 he was responsible for the LAV RWS and APV RWS deployed in Ops, which led to a Survey TAV to Kandahar, Afghanistan, in May 2011.

In 2012, CWO Thompson was promoted to MWO and posted back to Kingston as the ETQMS of Base Maintenance. In July 2015, he was appointed as the Support Squadron Sergeant Major of the Canadian Forces Joint Signal Regiment.

In 2017, CWO Thompson was promoted to his current rank and posted to 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters A4 Log in Winnipeg as the senior RCEME advisor in the RCAF.

CWO Thompson's last day in uniform will be 7 June 2019. He is planning on moving back to Kingston, ON, to be with his wonderful wife Melinda, and boys, Joel and Dean that have turned into two incredible young men where he can take care of his family for a change. He would like to thank all of the military and civilian personnel that he has worked with throughout his career. CWO Thompson is extremely proud of all his accomplishments and thoroughly enjoyed each and every position he was posted to.

A DWD function in celebration of his career will be held in Winnipeg on Thursday, 6 June 2019. RSVP, retirement messages, stories and anecdotes can be sent by email to the OPI at: MWO Claude Lascelle @ claude.lascelle@forces.gc.ca



Arte et Marte