

RCEME GEMRC

RETIREMENT MESSAGE



LCol Réjean Gagnon, CD

LCol Réjean Gagnon will retire from the Canadian Armed Forces on 28 July 2019, after 27+ years of loyal service as an officer in the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

LCol Gagnon was born in Victoria, BC on 22 May 1974. Completing high school in Sylvan Lake AB, he promptly spurned his family's naval tradition and signed up in Calgary, AB for the Army in June 1992. His time at Royal Roads Military College in BC, and the Royal Military College (RMC) in Kingston, ON, saw him complete a Bachelor's degree in chemical and materials engineering, graduating in 1996.

Upon completion of occupational training, LCol Gagnon was posted to Petawawa for nine years, where he served with 2 Service Battalion, 3rd Battalion of The Royal Canadian Regiment and 2 General Support Battalion. During his service in Petawawa, he rose in rank from Second Lieutenant to Major, deployed on several domestic operations and twice to Bosnia on Operation PALLADIUM (2001, 2003), while occupying a variety of roles, including: Maintenance Officer, Company 2IC and Operations Officer.



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LCol Gagnon returned to RMC in Kingston, ON to pursue a master's degree in nuclear engineering in 2005 for a change of pace. He began with Director General Nuclear Safety in 2007, where among his varied responsibilities, he was a member of a deployable multi-agency team that supported the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at the Francophonie Summit in Quebec City, the Olympic Games in Whistler, and the Toronto G20 Summit. To conclude this wonderful assignment, he was deployed as J3 Drawdown with the Mission Transition Task Force headquarters on Operation ATHENA, to close the Canadian mission in Kandahar, Afghanistan (2011).

Posted to the Canadian Army Command and Staff College in Kingston, ON in 2012, he instructed the distance learning portion of the Army Operations Course for two years, and completed his last year on school staff as the Operations Officer. He was posted to Valcartier, QC in 2015 and was fortunate to serve as OC Maintenance Coy and Deputy Commanding Officer of 5 Service Battalion. Also during this time, he completed a deployment as J4 of the Joint Task Force at Yavoriv, Ukraine, in support of capacity-building of Ukrainian military forces on Operation UNIFIER (2016).

LCol Gagnon's last geographical posting in uniform was to Director General Land Equipment Program Management. He supported the pre-definition phase team staffing for the Enhanced Recovery Capability and the Common Heavy Equipment Replacement acquisition projects, all while completing Command and Staff College with the United States Marine Corps out of Camp Lejeune, NC. Promoted to his present rank in summer 2018, LCol Gagnon took on the role of Director Land Equipment Program Support 1, and learned all he ever wanted to know about infrastructure, administration and human resources over the next year.

LCol Gagnon lives in Ottawa with his wife Meghan and their twins, Henri and Amelia, and also has two children moving out into the greater world of university, Stephane and Celeste. He will be accepting a position in the public service in the near future.

A Depart with Dignity will be held at Buffets de Continents of Gatineau on Monday 19 August 2019 at 1130 hrs (4 Impasse de la Gare Talon, J8T 0B1) <http://lebuffetdescontinents.com/>. Please confirm your presence and send your anecdotes, messages and photos NLT COB 13 August 2019 to Capt Khaled Jarrah at khaled.jarrah@forces.gc.ca.



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