

RCEME GEMRC

RETIREMENT MESSAGE



WO Erik Poelzer, MMV, CD

After 20 years of service with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME), Erik has decided to retire and his last day in a military uniform will be on 17 Jan 2020.

Erik joined the CAF in Edmonton as a Vehicle Technician in January of 2000 and has had an exciting and adventurous career. After QL3 trades training in Borden he was posted back to Edmonton in May of 2001.

Erik has spent almost his entire career in Edmonton. First at 1 General Support Battalion from 2001 to 2003. Then at the LdSH (RC) from 2003 to 2008. Erik was then posted to 1 Combat Engineer Regiment, as a MCpl from 2008 until 2013, then as a Sgt from 2013 to 2016. Erik will finish his career as the Maintenance Platoon Warrant at 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Erik has deployed overseas four times. First to Bosnia on Op PALLADIUM in the summer of 2003. He then deployed to Afghanistan twice. First on Op ENDURING FREEDOM in the summer of 2006 then again on Op ATHENA from the fall of



Arte et Marte

RCEME GEMRC

2007 to spring of 2008. His last deployment was to Latvia for Op REASSURANCE from June 2017 to January 2018.

Erik has done lots of other exciting training during his career. He was a member of the LdSH (RC) Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL team in 2005. He went back to Borden to get his Leopard 1 OSQ in 2005, and was then lucky enough to go on the Leopard 2 pilot course in Germany in 2007. He coached and participated in the 1 CER Maintenance Troop Logger Sports-Day for five years and started competing in Ex MOUNTAIN MAN in 2014. In the summer of 2016 he completed the Great Canadian Death Race in Grande Cache, AB, and finally won a gold medal in Ex MOUNTAIN MAN in 2019 as part of the 1 PPCLI team.

Erik is also a recipient of the Medal of Military Valour which he received for recovering a Leopard Tank under fire on the 24th of September, 2007. His ARV crew, Cpl Dan Dulong (WIA) and Cpl Nathan Hornburg (KIA), also received Mention in Dispatches.

Erik is joined in retirement by his awesome and supportive wife Kymberlee, and their three kids, Emmett (10), Evelyn-Rose (7), and Elleanor (4). He plans on retiring in Edmonton and trying out a second career in Law-Enforcement with the Edmonton Police Service.

A Departure with Dignity (DWD) Ceremony will take place in January with time and location to be confirmed at a later date. Congratulatory messages or anecdotes can be sent to MWO Sean Kaiser at Sean.Kaiser@forces.gc.ca.



Arte et Marte