

# RCEME GEMRC

## RETIREMENT MESSAGE



### CWO Dave Thompson, CD

After more than 35 years of dedicated and loyal service to the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and to the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME), CWO David Thompson will retire on 27 November 2020.

Born in London ON, CWO Thompson enrolled in the CAF on September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1983, under the Youth Temporary Employment Plan (YTEP) as a Weapons Technician Land 421. Following his basic training course, he completed his trade qualification QL3 Wpns Tech at Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Ordnance and Engineering (CFSAOE) in Borden. Although a qualified QL3 Wpns Tech, the YTEP program did not allow CWO Thompson an opportunity to stay within the Wpns Tech trade, rather he opted out of the CAF.

On June 25<sup>th</sup> 1986, he rejoined the CAF as a QL3 trained Wpns Tech L and was posted to the 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Hussars (8CH) in Petawawa and in July 1987, posted to the Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD) in Petawawa where he completed his QL4 training.



Arte et Marte

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In September 1988, he was posted to Germany, 4 Svc Bn Maint Coy. Shortly after arriving in Germany, he returned back to CFSAOE in Borden to complete his QL5 training and promoted to Cpl in March 1989. In October of 1989, he returned to CFSAOE for his Leopard 1 Wpns Turret Maintenance Course. In July 1991, he was posted to "C" Sqn 8CH. In July 1992, he was posted back to Canada to CFB Toronto, Base Maintenance for the next four years.

Promoted to MCpl in June 1996, he was posted back to the RCD in Petawawa for the next 7 years, working within "HQ" Sqn, "A" Sqn on Cougars and Coyotes and in "B" Sqn with the Leopards. While with the RCD he deployed with "A" Sqn in 1997 to the Manitoba floods, the Ice Storm in Ottawa / Quebec 1998 and to Bosnia July 1998 – Feb 1999. He completed a tour to the Golan Heights as a WSE Sgt from March – September 2000.

In July 2003, he was promoted to Sgt and posted CFSEME Wpns Pl where completed his QL6A in December 2003 and spent 4 years as an instructor and in 2007 moved into the Wpns Standards Cell until 2008.

In July 2008, he was promoted to WO and posted back to the RCD in Petawawa as the Maint TP Ancillary WO this time on IR. In September 2009, he moved over to the National Support Element (NSE) in Petawawa as the Ancil Platoon Commander for TF 1-10. In October, he was sent to Germany on the Leopard 2A6M Course as an observer. Further workup training continued in January – February 2010 at Fort Irwin, California, deploying to Afghanistan in April - November 2010.

In July 2011, he was promoted to MWO, and posted to DGLEPM in Ottawa as the Wpns LCMM Leopard 1 C2 Turret. During his tenure as the LCMM he completed his DP4 RCEME Common Course in April 2011, again he went back to Germany in November 2011 as a student on the Leopard 2A6M Course and completed his ALP in July 2012.

In July 2013, he was again posted back to the RCEME School as the Wpns Pl Comdr and in December 2015, he became the Wpns STI.

In July 2017, CWO Thompson was promoted to his current rank and posted back to DGLEPM in Ottawa, as the Director Sergeant Major in Director Armament Sustainment Program Management (DASPM).



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In late November 2019, CWO Thompson was posted back to Borden, this time to the Transition Centre to start his VocRehab at the Base Borden Military Museum. He was originally to release from the CAF on 6 July 2020 but COVID19 came about and CWO Thompson was able to extend his time until 27 November 2020.

CWO Thompson lives with his wife Julie, in Barrie, Ontario, where he will retire. They have three adult children, Brittany, Kyle and Brandon that live in Barrie as well.

Although retiring, CWO Thompson will stay busy as he has decided to give back by transferring over to the COATS. He is also volunteering full time at the Borden Military Museum and continuing his involvement with the Flakpanzer restoration project. As well, he is currently enrolled in the Museum and Gallery Studies course at Georgian College in Barrie.

A Depart with Dignity (DWD) ceremony will be held on Thursday, 19 Nov 20 at the Angus Legion from 11:30 - 1400hrs. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there is a maximum of 50 people allowed to attend. If you wish to attend, please contact Andrew Gregory by email [Andrew.gregory@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Andrew.gregory@forces.gc.ca) or [17agregory@gmail.com](mailto:17agregory@gmail.com) or by phone at 1-795-424-1200 ext: 1334. Please feel free to send your anecdotes, stories, congratulations and well wishes to Andrew Gregory at the email provided above.



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