

# RCEME GEMRC

## RETIREMENT MESSAGE



### MWO Stephen McDougall, CD

After 33 years in uniform, MWO Stephen McDougall is retiring from the Canadian Armed Forces with his last day in uniform being 18 March, 2020.

On March 26 1987, Stephen joined the Brockville Rifles as an Infanteer, he progressed quickly through TQ1 Infantry training, TQ2 Mortarman (81mm) and ISCC (Infantry Section Commander Course) followed by a summer of training recruits and new Infanteers. April 4 1989, he travelled to the Recruiting Centre in Kingston, ON, got sworn in and transferred to the Regular Force to be a Weapons Tech (L) – MOC421.

After TQ3, he lost the coin toss and his first posting was to 2 Service Battalion Petawawa in Dec 1989. These were some interesting years which included an attached posting to 2 CER, attachment to the Airborne in the run-up to the Somalia mission followed later by the pay-freeze and Force Reduction Plan period. During this period, he also completed his QL5 and had fun completing a Tracked Recce Driving Course (Lynx, M113 etc) at the RCD.



Arte et Marte

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In 1993, he met his Career Manager and they agreed that he should follow his interests in armour and in July, 1994, he moved to the Royal Canadian Dragoons. After completing his C1 Leopard Course that fall, he moved over to B Squadron to maintain the Regiment's tanks in the spring of '95. Just before Christmas, he was offered a deployment to Bosnia as part of the NATO implementation force (IFOR) following the Dayton peace accords. Just after New Year's, he reported for a few days of whirlwind training on mine awareness, AFV recognition, First aid and IV insertion practice we were ready to go. A few days later, he was on a Herc with a stripped-down Bison MRT and a full one day driver qualification on the way to Split, Croatia on Advanced Party. Early February, the Squadron moved from Velika Kladusa to Ljubija for a short Relief in Place of the Brits, followed by a move to the carpet factory at Zgon for the remainder of the tour in. After returning from Bosnia, he remained with A Squadron (Cougars) for the remainder of his time with the Regiment rounding it out with a road trip to Winnipeg in support of the Red River flood relief.

In July 1997, despite all the warnings of the horror of a Base Posting in the city, he moved to the Canadian Forces Support Unit (Ottawa). The next three years passed quickly as most of the day to day was on the road supporting approx. 1100 security containers, performing combo changes and safe cracking on a daily basis and completing a rigorous ATI schedule all over Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec. This period also included an ATI of CFSU Europe and an introduction and attached posting to Dwyer Hill Training Centre.

In 2000, he applied to become and was accepted as a Weapons Tech / Armourer at Dwyer Hill Training Centre in support of Joint Task Force 2. In 2001, he was promoted to MCpl and after dodging the "you must go back to Petawawa" bullet, he spent the busiest, longest work-day, hardest training and most fulfilling and rewarding 10 years of his career. He met and worked with many of the hardest charging, dedicated professional soldiers, operators and supporter/technicians alike, you could ever hope to encounter and it was an honour he cherish.

July 2010, he left DHTC as a WO and moved to Maintenance Techniques Detachment / Land Engineering Support Centre located at the old CFB Uplands. At the time, MTD/LESC had just arrived in this new location (having moved from the CSTT complex – Centre for Surface Transportation Technology) and the first year was spent with no phones or network access, operating solely on Blackberry – a fate worse than hell. This period did provide opportunity for much practice in his fabrication skills and for him to collaborate with the QETE Weapons Lab, METC Valcartier and a part-time temporary gig as LCMM Mortars and Rocket Launchers.



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In mid-March 2014, he was promoted to MWO and at the beginning of April he was posted over to DSSPM 4-5 as LCMM Bolt Action and Sniper Rifles (& Security Containers). While responsibilities have changed some over the years, he has retained the role of LCMM /TA for CAF Sniper/full-bore rifles and Shotguns. This position has been challenging at times yet surprisingly rewarding as he is proud to have been able to help push along files like the upgrade of the C15 Sniper Rifles, the development and introduction of the new rifles and shotguns for the Search and Rescue Techs and helping maintain our other struggling sniper rifle fleets. He is also proud to have helped wherever possible in assisting our technicians and trade in addressing shortfalls in training and equipment. During this last and final posting he has been gifted to work alongside other knowledgeable and dedicated senior technicians / officers and public servants equally committed to providing the highest level of support and equipment to CAF technicians/personnel.

It's been a long enjoyable (mostly) road and as he near the end of his employability in the CAF, he has taken the opportunity and accepted a position as a Public Servant within DSSPM 4, continuing to support our CAF Sniper Rifles and Technicians as a civilian.

*Arte et Marte*



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