

Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher L. Swallow - CD1, P Eng

Lieutenant-Colonel Swallow enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces on 27 June, 1989. He proceeded directly to his Basic Officer Training Course, in Chilliwack British Columbia, and commenced an undergraduate degree at the Royal Military College of Canada in the fall of 1989. LCol Swallow graduated in 1994 with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree and was subsequently commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Canadian Military Engineers. Upon graduation from the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering in May 1995, he was promoted to Lieutenant and remained in Chilliwack to commence his first Regimental tour at 1 Combat Engineer Regiment (1 CER).

During his first Regimental tour at 1 CER, LCol Swallow commanded the Support Troop, and later 2 Troop during 1 CER's transfer to Edmonton, Alberta. In 1997, as 2 Troop Commander, he deployed on Operation ASSISTANCE for the Manitoba floods during which he was promoted to Captain. Immediately upon completion of the domestic disaster assistance, LCol Swallow deployed to the Balkans (NATO's Stabilization Force or SFOR) as the 11 Field Squadron Operations Officer and returned to Canada in 1998 to become the Reserve Support Staff Officer at 8 Field Engineer Regiment (8 FER) in Edmonton.

Upon completion of his tour of duty in 8 FER, LCol Swallow returned to 1 CER for his second Regimental tour in 2001 and was initially employed as 2nd In Command 11 Field Squadron. After completion of the Canadian Land Force Command and Staff College in 2002, he returned to 1 CER to become the Regimental Operations Officer. In the spring of 2003, he completed the Advanced Field Engineer Officer's Course and was promoted to Major. He immediately assumed command of 15 Support Squadron within 1 CER and deployed on his second domestic disaster assistance operation, Operation PEREGRINE. During this operation, LCol Swallow was awarded an Area Commander's commendation for leadership and professionalism under extremely demanding conditions while combating the devastating forest fires that threatened the City of Kelowna, British Columbia. One year later, he was appointed Officer Commanding the Administration Squadron until the completion of his second 1 CER tour in June 2005.

In the summer of 2005, LCol Swallow was posted to the Allied Land Component Command HQ in Heidelberg, Germany as the Chief of Engineer Intelligence. After just three short months in Heidelberg, he was deployed as the first ISAF Liaison Officer to Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Upon return from the ISAF mission, LCol Swallow received a Commanding General's commendation for his work teaching and establishing C-IED doctrine within the greater NATO HQ structure as well as a number of member/partner nations. In July, 2007, he completed his NATO employment and returned to 1 CER for a third time. He was the Regiment's Deputy Commanding Officer from May 2007 until May 2010.

Following this tour in 1 CER, LCol Swallow attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. While attending Staff College, he successfully challenged the Canadian National Practice Exam and became a licensed Professional Engineer in the Province of Alberta. In June 2011, LCol Swallow completed Staff College and began the Advanced Military Studies Program at the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS). He graduated from the AMSP program, receiving a Masters of Military Arts and Sciences degree, in May 2012. Subsequently, Lieutenant-Colonel Swallow was promoted to his current rank and assumed the position of Canadian Liaison Officer to the Combined Arms Centre, Fort Leavenworth. In June 2013, LCol Swallow was posted to his current position as Commanding Officer 3 CDSG Engineer Services/3rd Cdn Div-JTFW Engineer in Edmonton, Alberta.

Lieutenant-Colonel Swallow left the Canadian Armed Forces this past fall to be a Project Director with NOREX Ice Engineering. He will enjoy working from home with his lovely wife Jennifer and their three children: Evan, Abby, and Tom. The Swallow's can be found alongside the Broadmoor Golf Course in Sherwood Park for one more year until they relocate to a yet undetermined large rural property in the Ottawa Valley summer 2015. CHIMO!