

Major D.E. Turner, MMM, CD



Major Darren Turner is retiring from the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) on the 25 April 2016 after 28 years of continuous and dedicated service.

He served with the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM); engineer units in the Canadian Army (CA); procurements; and attended military educational institutions. Darren and his family will leave the CAF for St. Andrews, NB, where they will operate their family business.

Darren grew up and attended school in the Eastern Townships in the Province of Quebec. He attended Bishops College School and after he graduated he joined the CAF as an Engineer. He completed his initial training at the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering, which at the time was held at Chilliwack, BC. It was at Chilliwack where he also received his first posting, which was to 2 Combat Engineer Regiment (2 CER). At 2 CER, Darren earned his jump wings, his first and second operational tours, and he heard and answered the call to 'try-out' for the newly formed unit called Joint Task Force 2 (JTF2).

Upon his successful completion of JTF2 selection, Darren learned new skills and gained the qualification of assault, sniper, diver, bodyguard, and climber. He also continued his educational commitments to the Royal Canadian Engineers (RCE). It was at JTF2 where Darren saw and experienced additional domestic and international training opportunities with Canada's allies. Darren ended his first tour at JTF2 in 2000, as a commissioned officer.

As a newly commissioned officer, Darren was sent to various schools and colleges and was subsequently posted between 2 CER and JTF2. He was a troop commander at both 2 CER and JTF2. As well, he obtained additional command and staff experiences that ranged from Squadron Commander, to the Liaison Officer between CANSOFCOM and the Canadian Expeditionary Force Command (CEFCOM). When Darren turned over his squadron, he went to Ottawa where he received the Order of the Military Merit and then to the Royal Military College of Canada (RMCC) where he completed the Technical Staff Officer Programme (2011).

After graduating from RMCC, Darren spent a number of years at the Directorate of Land Requirements (DLR) in Ottawa. He was employed at the Infantry Cell at DLR and given 'Special' projects. During his tenure at DLR, he assisted in the furtherance of a number of projects that included Sniper Systems, the Parachute Replacement, and supporting staff inputs and research that shaped future CAF procurements. Darren left DLR in 2013 to be the Deputy Commanding Officer at 4 Engineer Support Regiment (4 ESR).

At 4 ESR, Darren completed the Joint Command and Staff Programme (JCSP), from the Canadian Forces College, and embarked on his last tour with the CAF. Darren has recently returned from the Middle East, where he spent six months at the U.S Central Command Forward headquarters in Amman, Jordan. He was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel (WSE), and employed as the Canadian Liaison Officer. He spent the time in Jordan supporting the U.S-led coalition against international terrorism and imparting Canadian values and ethics. For his efforts, he was awarded the Military Meritorious Service Medal from the President of the United States.

The Turners would like to express their sincere thanks to those that have befriended, supported, directed, and shared in the aforementioned experiences with the family over the past 28 years. None of what has happened could have happened alone – or was worth doing alone – thank you. In final, Darren and his wife Shelley wish their friends and the military community the very best success and a continued relationship in the future.

