

OC 6 ES - Maj Andrew Gower, CD



Maj Gower joined the regular force in 1991 with the full intention of becoming a fighter pilot. However, due to being classified V2 (not perfect vision) he was enrolled as an air navigator. He attended College Militaire Royale de St. Jean for three years, and was commissioned out of Royal Military College in Kingston in 1996 with a degree in civil engineering. The immense effort required to complete the degree program led to a voluntary occupational transfer to Combat Engineer in fourth year. Upon being commissioned, Maj Gower was posted to Chilliwack to complete engineer office training, and then to 1 Combat Engineer Regiment as the Regimental Intelligence Officer. Maj Gower completed the jump course in 1997, deployed on Op ASSISTANCE to Winnipeg also in 1997 and Op RECUPERATION in Quebec in 1998. Maj Gower was Heavy Equipment Troop Commander at 1 Combat Engineer Regiment, Second in Command, Base Engineering, CFB Suffield, and Planning Officer, Works Company, Garrison Edmonton.

Maj Gower released from the regular force in 2002 after 11 years of service to pursue a career in civil engineering consulting. He has worked in California, Ireland, and as of 2005, British Columbia. Maj Gower is currently a partner and the branch manager of the Courtenay office of Wedler Engineering LLP. Maj Gower is registered as a Professional Engineer (P.Eng.) in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nunavut and both the Yukon and North West Territories. He also holds the US Professional Engineer designation (PE) in Washington State and California. Maj Gower was inducted as a Fellow of Engineers Canada in 2017.

After a 14 year “strategic pause” in his military career, Maj Gower re-enrolled in the primary reserve in 2016, joining 39 CER in the regimental ops cell. Maj Gower started his second try at an army career in the same position as his first attempt serving as Regimental Intelligence Officer. He also assisted with the planning of Regimental exercises, and in 2017 was the lead planner for Ex PALADIN RESPONSE. This exercise is a nation-wide primary reserve combat engineer concentration held in Chilliwack from the 26th to the 31st of December every year. The 2017 ex included Sappers from every reserve CER in Canada, with a total attendance over 250. Maj Gower completed the Army Tactical Operations Course in June of 2018, and the Army Operations Course in July of 2019. Major Gower became 2IC of 6 ES in September 2019, and OC in August of 2020. He was promoted to his current rank in September 2020.

Maj Gower lives in Courtenay with his wife, Camille Douglas. In their spare time, they downhill and back-country ski, produce medium scale music festivals, and try to keep their 15 year old son, Cole, on the right track.