



## Colonel Meaghan Setter

Colonel Meaghan Setter started her career in 1988 as an officer cadet at Royal Roads Military College, and after four years completed the newly offered Bachelor of Science in Space Science and Oceanography. In 1993 she completed her air navigation training in Winnipeg and was posted to 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron in Pat Bay, BC. After sailing with HMCS *Algonquin* for her first tour, she opted for the Force Reduction Plan to release from the CAF in 1995 and moved to Chilliwack, BC to live with her spouse, a combat engineer.

Her second career was with an aerospace research and development firm that put a payload on the International Space Station (ISS), conducting various experiments using acoustic technology. Col Setter was both the Operations and the Training Manager for the program, which was partnered with NASA and ESA as well as American and European engineers and scientists. An ISS launch delay allowed her to join the Primary Reserves in 2004, while still working part-time for the R&D firm. At the time, Col Setter was completing her Masters in Education, focused on distance learning for adults, and her first position upon rejoining the CAF was with the Defence Learning Network.

In 2005, she volunteered as a UN Military Observer for the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)/Op SAFARI Roto 1. Once back in Canada, she returned briefly to the civilian aerospace training sector at ADGA Group before committing full-time to the Primary Reserve in 2006. Between 2006 and 2013, she alternated between strategic and operational positions, working at various L1 and L0 organizations and other governmental departments. To support the whole of government approach to Afghanistan, the CDS set up two Primary Reserve positions at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Afghanistan Task Force in 2008, one of which Col Setter held. While embedded at CIDA, she took on the role as a senior development officer within the results and accountability team, which included setting up a governmental position at the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kandahar. When her spouse deployed to Afghanistan in 2009, she shifted roles to Chief Force Development, then Canada Command, followed by Director Reserves before transferring to the RCAF Reserve in 2013 and a position within the Directorate Air Reserve (D Air Res). After 10 months of Exemption from Duty and Training to travel with her family around the Mediterranean and Europe, she was promoted to take on a section head role within Directorate Air Personnel Strategy (Pers Strat). In 2016 she went to Canadian Special Operations Forces Command to lead an initiative developing a pan-command, multi-dimensional, performance optimization function.

Returning to the RCAF and D Air Res, Col Setter was a section head to support, where required, the sustainment and change of the RCAF Reserve Strategy roll-out in its next phases. During this period, Col Setter had the opportunity to deploy to Norway with the Air Task Force for Exercise Trident Juncture. She briefly acted as the VCDS liaison officer to the Conference of Defence Associations and its Institute before returning as the Director of Air Pers Strat in 2021.