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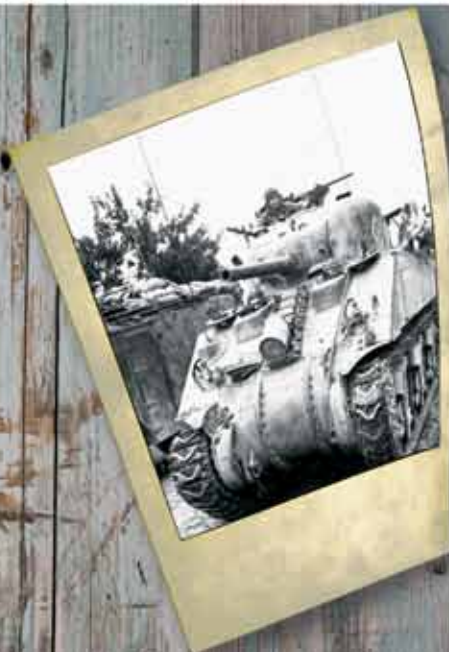
RCEME Journal



THE MAGAZINE OF THE CORPS OF
ROYAL CANADIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

2-2014

RCEME 2021



Defense
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Canada

THE RCEME SOLDIER'S STORY 1994-2019



CORPS OF RCEME 75TH ANNIVERSARY FILM PROJECT

SERVING and RETIRED members are called upon to submit VIDEOS, PHOTOS and STORIES from DOMESTIC or EXPEDITIONARY operations, TRAINING exercises or significant events that highlight the Corps of RCEME pride and traditions.

SUBMISSIONS

Images under 25 MB and stories can be submitted via e-mail to the following address: RCEME75thVideo@gmail.com. Files larger than 25 MB can be submitted via Google drive. Individuals can e-mail the address above for instructions on how to upload to the Google drive account. All media submissions must include contact information, names of individuals in the photo or video, date taken, as well as the location, operation or exercise where the photo or video was taken.





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Director RCEME's Message

Transition to the Army of Tomorrow

Colonel K.J. Hamilton, Director RCEME

The importance of history and heritage within our great country ensures the lessons of our past persevere and help guide us through the challenges which will be faced in the years that follow. The same is true for The Corps of RCEME as we capture, promote, and acknowledge the sacrifice and dedication of the many RCEME technicians and officers who have served and continue to serve, celebrating their achievements and capturing the essence of what it is to be RCEME. The Corps of RCEME faces every challenge with pride and distinction, using these opportunities to foster our esprit de corps and demonstrate our capacity and competence to lead. Leadership is the cornerstone of The Corps of RCEME, it is what makes us who we are and why the values of our Corps resonate within the Canadian Armed Forces leadership.

On 9 July 14, the responsibility to continue the important work of the many previous Corps Directors was passed to me. I am humbled at having been selected and entrusted to be your Corps Director. I have had the pleasure and honour of commanding within our Corps, taught many valuable lessons by our soldier-technicians, and gained indispensable knowledge from our senior NCOs. The weight of this responsibility is difficult to put into words, but know that I will continue to foster all things RCEME and leverage the efforts of so many

dedicated and devoted Corps members to ensure RCEME remains strong, proud, and relevant as we transition to the Army of Tomorrow, focused on Adaptive Dispersed Operations (ADO). This is not a responsibility that is executed alone and without the indispensable council of the Corps SM and Corps Staff, whose tireless efforts ensure that the Corps remains engaged in all strategic level issues and at the forefront of change, the Corps of RCEME's indisputable reputation as leaders within the CAF would not be achievable. I would like to thank Col Bouchard for his leadership as your Corps Director during the past year. His personal sacrifice to foster and advance many Corps of RCEME initiatives and activities across Canada demonstrated, yet again, the strength of our Corps. I know that you will join me in thanking him and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

This year also marks another significant transition for the Corps, as we bid farewell to our long-standing Colonel Commandant, BGen (ret'd) Peter Holt, who after six very busy years as our Colonel Commandant will hand the reins to Colonel (ret'd) Andrew Nellestyn. BGen (ret'd) Holt has crisscrossed Canada many times during his tenure as Col Cmdt, never shying away from an opportunity to foster our rich traditions with the Corps family and greater community. His personal connection with so many of our young soldier-technicians has been inspirational and a true hallmark

of his contributions to our Corps. I have had the pleasure of working with BGen (ret'd) Holt many times throughout my career and have experienced firsthand his heartfelt pride and admiration for each of you. His dedication and undaunting RCEME spirit have touched many of you and on behalf of The Corps of RCEME and all its members I would like to thank him for his service to the Corps. He will be sincerely missed. I would also like to welcome Colonel (ret'd) Andrew Nellestyn, who I have had the distinct honour and pleasure of working with Col (ret'd) Nellestyn in the past and know that he is overwhelmingly devoted to the Corps. A historian, author, devoted officer to the Corps and a consummate professional, Col (ret'd) Nellestyn will continue the great work accomplished by those before him. He is eager to commence his role as your Col Cmdt and I know that you will join me in welcoming Col (ret'd) Nellestyn.

Over the past month as your Director of RCEME, I have been truly inspired by the dedication and drive of so many within our Corps. We are unified in our intent and purpose and we are recognized for our professionalism and skill within the Army, but also within the greater Canadian Armed Forces community. We may be smaller than other Corps, but we are deeply respected for our tenacity, competence, and leadership. These traits will guide me through my tenure as your Director.

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The Journal of The Corps of RCEME

Corps Formation	May 15, 1944
Corps Motto	<i>Arte et Marte</i>
Corps Patron Saint	Saint Jean de Bréboeuf
Corps Colonel Cmdt	Col (Ret'd) A. Nellestyn, OStJ, PhD, BEng, PEng, CD
Corps Director	Col K.J. Hamilton, CD
Corps Sergeant Major	CWO J.G.R. Gilbert, CD



RCEME Corps Sergeant Major's Message

RCEME 2021: Let's Continue Moving Forward Together With New Technologies!

CWO J.G.R. Gilbert, RCEME Corps Sergeant Major

We can all see that new technologies are advancing very rapidly and it's becoming more and more difficult for our technicians to keep all this sophisticated equipment in operational condition.

Just think of all the gadgets we have nowadays from modern cell phones, to powerful computers that give you information and references in a few seconds with next to no effort, to ultra-detailed navigation systems. Where will we be in 2021, or in 2030? In my opinion, even further ahead than we are today with new technologies. Technicians of The Corps of RCEME will have to stay well-informed and abreast of these new technologies if they want to continue serving the CAF as technicians. Since 1944, with our multiple talents, our dedication and our perseverance, we have been able to honour our motto, By Skill and By Fighting, by keeping all these pieces of equipment operational. We've never given up in the past, and even with these new technologies we'll keep on doing it right. And who knows, perhaps in 10 years time we'll have super technicians with amazing qualifications in our trades. Time isn't going to slow down for us; we simply have to adjust to this reality and do what it takes to be ready for these future challenges.

2014 was a pretty busy year for The Corps of RCEME. We celebrated our 70th anniversary on 15 May and we also launched the project for our museum in Kingston. Many of you have been posted or promoted in new positions, and you've had to adjust. I hope that as you're reading these lines you've already settled into your new

rouines. As always, I've had the privilege this year again of seeing a great many of you during our visits to your positions. I would like to thank you for the excellent work you do on a daily basis, and I can guarantee you that our Corps of RCEME is very highly regarded within the CAF. Keep up the good work: you are all top-notch ambassadors, and the success we're enjoying is largely because of you.

The Corps of RCEME presented to Col Bouchard the commander's pennant on 9 July, emphasizing the excellent work he did during his year as Director of the Corps of RCEME. We have made further strides under his leadership, and his contribution to the Corps has been greatly appreciated. On behalf of all members of The Corps of RCEME, I would like to thank him and also wish him good luck in the coming year at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto. By the same token, I would like to

welcome Col Hamilton, who was selected to become our next Director of The Corps of RCEME. With his experience and in-depth knowledge, he will continue the excellent work already begun to keep the Corps of RCEME moving straight ahead.



ON 9 JULY 2014, RCEME OFFICERS, SR NCOs, RETIRED MEMBERS AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FROM AROUND THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR) GATHERED AT THE ARMY OFFICERS MESS IN OTTAWA TO WITNESS THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF DIRECTOR RCEME RESPONSIBILITIES FROM COL SÉBASTIEN BOUCHARD TO COL KELBY HAMILTON. THIS CEREMONY WAS OVERSEEN BY THE CORPS COL CMDT, BGEN (RET'D) PETER HOLT, AND WAS FOLLOWED BY LUNCHEON WHERE MEMBERS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE BOTH THE OUTGOING AND INCOMING DIRECTOR RCEME

Call for Articles, 1st Edition 2015

THEME FOR NEXT EDITION : TRAINING

We invite you to send your articles and photos relating to the above mentioned theme or categories (maximum of 500 words). Please send your photos in a distinct JPEG file format rather than directly in the "MS Word" document used for the text. **THE PHOTOS MUST BE AT LEAST 300 DPI (dot per inch), and 5"x7" of size or more to qualify for the cover page. The author of the article and people portrayed in the photos must be identified at the end of the article as follows: Rank, initials, last name, trade and unit. DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING YOUR ARTICLE IS JANUARY 16, 2015.** We reserve the right to select articles and to modify the texts according to the space available.

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Colonel Commandant's Adieu

BGen (ret'd) Peter Holt, OMM, CD

I would like to take this opportunity to say farewell and thank you to

a strong foundation – and an excellent esprit de corps.

RCEME's performance and high esprit de corps have been highly praised by the many unit, Brigade and Wing/Base commanders I have met. For example, here are the words of my old friend MGen (ret'd) Cam Ross, Col of the Regt, in the recent LdSH Spring 2014 Regimental Newsletter: "Strathconas have always had a special place in their heart for the Regimental Maintenance Troop. Without their skill and dedication, armoured troops could not do their job. And on the battlefield, a gun that doesn't fire accurately, a radio that goes down, or a tank that stops due to poor maintenance can cost lives". He goes on to say: "While crewmen rest, the maintainers slug away until the tank, recce vehicle, or vital echelon truck is fixed. We call them

'wrench benders', 'grease monkeys' or 'parts changers', but we do so with great respect because they are very valued members of our team. So valued, we encourage them to wear our coveted black beret."

This is what has made my job as your Col Cmdt so easy: our work is known and appreciated everywhere. What Gen Ross has said for the Strathconas I have heard echoed across the Army, on RCAF Wings, and even in Halifax and Esquimalt. So if I have any parting words of wisdom after 45 years of service to the Corps, they would be the following: "Our true strength lies in the skill, determination and "let's get it done" attitude of everyone in The Corps of RCEME, from Craftsman to General."

all members of The Corps of RCEME as I prepare to step down as your Colonel Commandant. It has been a busy and eventful six years since I was appointed on 1 September 2008 – for a three year term! As often happens in the Army, the plan changed in 2011 and I was fortunate to extend for another three years.

The most important part of this appointment for me has been the opportunity to meet so many of you in my travels around Canada and abroad. And as we prepare for the future with RCEME 2021, let us not forget the past 70 years of proud history that have given us such

Theme: RCEME 2021

Summary of RCEME 2021 Concept Paper

Maj Kevin Ramsay, SSO RCEME, DGLPEM

With the Canadian Army (CA) adopting Land Ops 2021 doctrine, The Corps of RCEME will need to change our doctrine to remain relevant. Below is a summary of the RCEME 2021 Concept Paper, which was distributed this summer.

Combat operations in Afghanistan clearly demonstrated that the Army now relies on, is surrounded by and must defend itself against increasingly complex and diverse weapon systems. In order to fully adapt to the strengths and weaknesses of technology and allow commanders at all levels to make maximum use of the technological advances of their equipment, the CA will have to adapt culturally to the new technological reality and the Corps of RCEME will have to reposition itself. To this end, the CA must adopt an equipment culture. Moreover, the introduction of new responsibilities, authorities and technological expertise

and engineering amongst RCEME officers and senior technicians serving within the army's operational units and formations has become inevitable.

The changing nature of conflicts and weapon systems

The changing nature of conflicts and weapon systems sheds light on the existence of an ever-growing level of technological complexity and increased reliance on the technology for operational success.

This new concept, the trend toward increasingly advanced technologies,

and the emergence of new threats have led to the identification of a need for an integrated family of future combat vehicles. The Land Ops 2021 force employment concept calls for weapon systems that are fewer in number but technologically complex and capable of adapting to changing threats.

Emergence of an Army equipment culture

Figure 1 is a graphic representation of the relationship between technological complexity and dependence on technology for each element of the Canadian Armed

Forces. The equipment used by today's army is based on systems that are not only technologically comparable with the most sophisticated systems used by the other elements but will also become increasingly similar as a result of joint needs and interoperability.

Although some units and regiments place particular importance on their weapon systems, the Army as a whole does not have a strong equipment culture.

The equipment culture principles that apply to RCEME are:

- senior RCEME staff must have extensive knowledge of the weapon systems used in the units they serve;
- senior RCEME staff must be able to advise the chain of command on the capabilities of and risks associated with the unit's equipment, and contribute on a technical level to mission operational planning; and
- RCEME staff must be able to adapt and maximize the effectiveness of the unit's equipment for the next mission.

New tactical responsibilities for The Corps of RCEME

Senior RCEME personnel within the maintenance organizations of the Army's tactical units will need to apply new focus to the following six tasks:

- **Advise** - Provide expertise and advanced technical advice within the unit. In addition to the advice currently provided with regard to maintenance services, this duty will involve providing expertise and engineering and technological advice from the perspective of the mobility, lethality and survivability of systems and weapon systems.
- **Plan** - Prepare equipment combat capability evaluations (ECCEs). This evaluation is a sub-product of the operational planning process (OPP). As is the case with preparation of

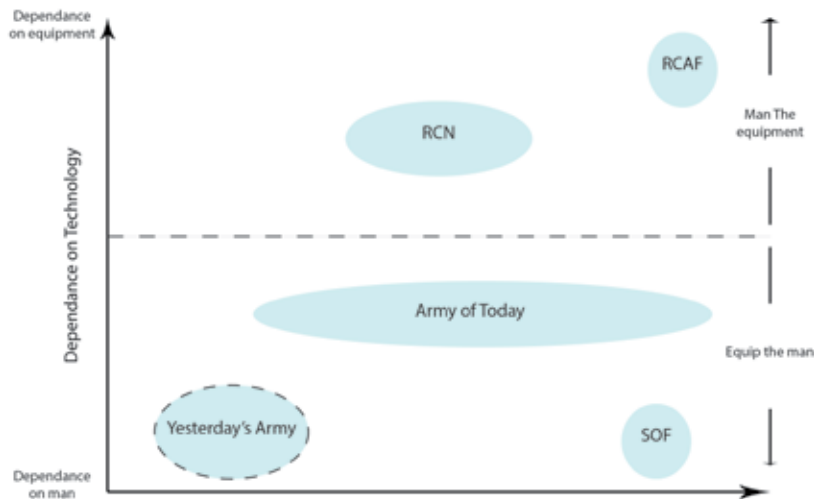


Figure 1 - Positioning of CAF elements based on complexity of and dependence on technology

battlespace intelligence, the terrain estimate and the administrative estimate, the ECCE makes it possible to formulate an effective tactical and operational plan that is better adapted to the operations that are underway.

- **Adapt and customize** - Lead equipment modification and reconfiguration from a tactical perspective to ensure optimal operational readiness for the next mission. With the advent of Adaptive Dispersed Operations (ADO), senior technicians and officers will have to ensure that their commanders are able to exploit the full spectrum of technological advancement of their systems and weapon systems.
- **Investigate** - Conduct technical investigations (forensic) and prepare technical reports. Upon a technical failure, the current technical investigation procedures focus almost solely on the details of the incident to identify ways to mitigate the problem in the future. What is lacking, in many cases, is an in-depth look at the various system components in order to identify the primary causes of the breakdown or defect.
- **Test** - Analyze equipment performance. Just as preparing post-exercise reports after each training exercise allows us to thoroughly review the event and fine-tune techniques and procedures, conducting a performance analysis

will allow us to review equipment performance to understand its capabilities and limitations.

- **Design** - Contribute to the design of future developments. Given a context in which the tactical experience of RCEME leaders will include more engineering experience, it will be increasingly essential to implement a process for gathering and analysing technical observations, and assimilating and sharing the lessons learned.

The transformation in question will be more cultural than technical in nature. In fact, it will involve building on the already very high level of knowledge that our senior vehicle, weapons, electronic/optronic and materials technicians possess, in order to foster a general understanding of the technical capabilities of the equipment from the perspective of mobility, lethality and survivability.

What will RCEME of tomorrow look like organizationally? The new approach should not involve a change to the organizational structure.

Conclusion

The importance of equipment is evident in the army's operational readiness strategy. In order to prepare its soldiers for this new reality, the army must ensure that they are well-led, well-trained, well-equipped, and focused. The Corps of RCEME must adapt to the current and future battlespace reality to support the preparation and conduct of army operations in an era of Adaptive Dispersed Operations. By increasing the level of knowledge, responsibility and authority of RCEME personnel within the unit, The Corps of RCEME will be able to better support the chain of command with regard to equipment capabilities and adapt equipment to the unit's mission requirements.

RCEME 2021 and the Ammunition Engineer

Maj Colin Smith, MEng , DGLEPM, DAEME 4-2

I have recently been appointed as the Ammunition Qualification Advisor for The Corps of RCEME. I have been given a unique and privileged opportunity to help shape the direction of how our Corps provides support to the armed forces. The two ammunition qualifications I will advise on are Advanced Ammunition Engineering and Ammunition Technical Officer.

There are two driving forces that will guide and shape how ammunition qualifications within The Corps of RCEME will evolve. First, the Corps is reviewing all trades under the Military Employment Structure (MES). The MES Review is at the problem definition stage and addresses specific issues identified by the Corps. Second, RCEME 2021 provides guidance with the vision of the "RCEME Corps introducing an operationally focused Land Equipment Engineering capability at the tactical level in order to provide a tactical advantage to commanders by allowing them to properly exploit the technological advancements of their equipment in operations." as presented during Bluebell 2014.

One of the key conditions for the

RCEME 2021 concept is a need to institute a greater focus on knowledge of the technological capabilities of the equipment. The MES Review will assist in providing the framework to institute this focus.

Education and training in Advanced Ammunition Engineering under the master's program at RMCC develops EME officers with the knowledge and understanding of weapons, ammunition, explosives, and armour protection that can be leveraged by tactical commanders. To fulfill an advisory role, ammunition engineers will need a practical knowledge component to provide effective support to tactical commanders. With only a small number of ammunition

engineers qualified to date it is essential that The Corps of RCEME continues to develop officers with advanced technical and applied knowledge in the ammunition field through RMCC.

As the Qualification Advisor, I will be working on clearly defining how the Advance Ammunition Engineering program will evolve to meet the intent of RCEME 2021 with a view of having these officers better integrated in the EME Officer DP and career advancement models. I encourage officers interested in the challenging field of ammunition and explosives to consider advanced ammunition engineering as an option in their career plan.

RCEME Common Course 0022- Sault Ste. Marie

WO R.F. Garson, Veh Tech, 33 Svc Bn

It's already July and the RCEME Common Course has begun in the far North of 4 Division.

33 Service Battalion in Sault Ste. Marie is running this summer's Reserve RCEME Common Course for Ontario. We welcomed 15 future Craftsmen from Ottawa, Toronto, London, Windsor, and a couple of hometown boys.

The RCEME Common Course is the basis for the RCEME trade and the ground work for the future Vehicle and Weapons Technicians. During 4 weeks, we put the candidates through their paces. They learned to work with a variety of hand tools and shop equipment. Filing, sanding, grinding, drilling, as well as using taps and dies are just some of the skills they will learn. These skills were all used to craft the course project of a "brass hammer". The students also learned LEMS, MRT drills, welding, hydraulic equipment, and much, much more!



RCEME Common Course Students working in the shop putting to practice the skills taught on filing and grinding.

On top of all that, the candidates also got to experience scenic Sault Ste. Marie and its unique attractions (because it's just a cool place to live, actually sometimes downright cold). Things like our Bushplane Museum (float and ski planes sometimes made out of bush/wood), Riverfront Boardwalk, Hub Trail and

Locks Tours to only name a few. Then most of the candidates will continue on to a Driver Wheel Course here in sunny Sault Ste. Marie. As we used to say in 26 Maint Coy: "When we do something right, no one remembers. When we do something wrong, no one forgets!"



Back Row (left to right) : Brd O'Leary, Sgt Buffett, WO Garson, Privates: McIntyre, Bhatnagar, Burlock, Prupes, Ramjahn, Christie, Huang, Johanson, Lee, and MCpl Richard, MCpl Watson. Front Row (left to right): Pte Lau, Pte Escamilla, Pte Pickard, Pte Kwan

Ex MAINT WANDERER

Lt Dan Maguire, Veh Pl AO, 1 Svc Bn, Lt Nathan Leung, Trg O, 1 Svc Bn, and Capt Nick Caroppi, AO Maint, 1 Svc Bn

As the remainder of RCEME technicians from 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group have returned from Task Force 2-13, and soldiers in the Edmonton area are returning to a state of reconstitution, Maintenance Company of 1 Service Battalion is returning to an emphasis on basic soldiering skills and the fundamentals of being a RCEME technician in the field.



Lt Maguire performs a map brief on the changing scenario.

Skills that have not been exercised for many since RCEME Common Training, or Officers' DP 1 were recently put to the test on Ex MAINT WANDERER in the Buffalo Annex of the Wainwright Training Area, 13-17 April 2014.

Technicians of Maintenance Company were deployed to the field in, what for many was an unfamiliar scheme of manoeuvre. Opposed to a recent inclination of deploying out of Forward Operating Bases, platoons were deployed forward in a decentralized manner, forcing junior officers and NCO's to exercise their command and control. Junior RCEME technicians' basic soldiering skills were tested as they manned defensive locations, unsupported by the remainder of the company.

Once road move orders were given by the three Platoon Commanders, each platoon separated. Sergeants, acting as Platoon Warrants deployed in advance parties and sited defensive locations. Once in location, rusty occupation drills were exercised and platoons were ready to perform operations from their location. When communications were established,

and the first Repair Recovery Requests were sent over the radio, the spirit of 'Arte et Marte' was embraced by all.

On Ex MAINT WANDERER, Platoon Commanders were drawn from various positions throughout Maintenance Company; the Platoon Warrants were drawn exclusively from Artisan Platoon. For them, this had been their first opportunity to be exposed to certain RCEME functions in the field. When requests over the radio came, requiring Equipment

Collection Points to be established, the sergeants reflected on their trades training as Weapons, Electronics-Optronics and Materials Technicians, which did not cover recovery tasks. It was this type of opportunity which allowed for cross-training throughout the trades of The Corps of RCEME. A dialogue was opened where technicians could benefit from each other's skills.

It would not be a 1 Service Battalion exercise if there weren't some element of the well-practiced "Dig-and-Move". Harbour drills were put to test, and Craftsmen learned first-hand the type of tree that prevent a LSVW from parking in its location within a hide. Later, officers would experience the limitations of the 3-foot-whip of the 522

Radio during a road move. The road moves went long into the night, and had convoy navigators restless for the sun to rise, as they learned about the drawbacks of blackout driving.

By the end of the short exercise, RCEME soldiers walked away from the exercise with a greater understanding of their trades. Skills, once rusty, had been well-greased, and many had an opportunity to observe the capabilities of the equipment that we otherwise maintain in garrison. Even the Officer Commanding and the Equipment Technical Sergeant Major were reminded of the limitations of their own equipment, but it nonetheless offered them the opportunity to observe RCEME Vehicle Technicians expertise at recovering when the first Triple-R during Ex MAINT WANDERER was a request to recover C/S 39 from a deceptively sizable puddle.



A Maintenance Company soldier poses at the out route of the Forward Repair Group

Craftsman's Cup Competition 2014

MCpl P.S. Levesque, Mat Tech, 5 CDSG, Tech Svcs Br

On 21 May 2014, in celebration of the 70th Birthday of The Corps of RCEME, all candidates undergoing training at the Gagetown RCEME OJT Centre assembled to complete in the first annual Craftsman's Cup Competition.



Col Cmdt, BGen (ret'd) Holt addresses the troops.



EO Tech Skills Task - Cfn Bernard and Cfn Mailhot-Landry

The Craftsman's Cup Competition is a newly established event and competition that is designed to test the soldier and technical skills of RCEME Cfn and Cpls undergoing OJT at Maint Coy within Tech Svcs Br at 5 CDSB Gagetown. This year's competition was a timed event challenging a wide variety of core soldier and technical skills. In addition to the testing of skills, the competition generated a competitive atmosphere while fostering teamwork and esprit de corps amongst the OJTs and Maint Coy as a whole.

Teams of 8-10 OJT students were matched with volunteer MCpls as Sect Comds and they were separated into 3 platoons, each with a Sgt Mentor/Pl Comd. Work-up training lasted for 2 months while the Sect Comds prepared their sections for the potential tasks they would face in the competition.

The day prior to the competition the MCpls took their sections to the range for



Small Party Task - Left to Right: Cfn Mailhot-Landry, Cfn Boudreau, Cfn Ferrier, Cfn Bernard, Cfn Roy, and Cfn Chabassol.



Back Row: MCpl Thorburn, Cfn Colburne, Cpl MacKenzie, Cpl Orr. Front Row: Cfn Allard, Cpl Bryden, Cpl Legault, Cfn Strong

the live-fire portion of the competition and delivered orders to their sections as part of their battle procedure. On competition day the teams rotated through 9 different stands where they were required to display and utilize the soldier and technical skills they had fine-tuned during their training.



Table Top Obstacle - Cpl Fizzard and Cfn Espino.

Stands included RCEME History, navigation, technical skills, first aid, obstacle course, drill, CBRN, and a



First Aid Stand - Cpl Feader, Cpl Mah, Sgt Pruski, MCpl Pickett, and Cpl McSheffery.

survivor style team-building stand with a RCEME twist. Though the sections enjoyed each stand, the team building stand was enjoyed the most. Sections were required to navigate through a series of obstacles to collect water jerry cans and pulley items by moving only on 2x8 planks and not touching the ground. The water would later be used as a counter-balance to help lift an HLVW tire and reveal a key that could be used to raise the Corps flag.

The event was a great success and gave all the OJT students and junior leaders the opportunity to practice some skills that they do not get use as often. The event will definitely be held each year and the cup will remain proudly on display within the OJT Centre.



Winning Craftsman's Cup Team at RCEME Day - Left to Right: CWO Gilbert, Col Bouchard, Cpl Victory, Cfn Knight, Cfn Darling, Cpl Mah, Cpl McSheffery, Cfn Gagnon, Cpl Feader, MCpl Levesque, BGen (ret'd) Holt.

Op Distinction – Normandy

WO Marc Lavoie, Con O, 1 CMBG, 1 RCHA

June 6th 2014 marked the 70th anniversary to what some have named the longest day. Both myself, from 1 RCHA in Shilo, and Cpl Marinutti, with 1 CER in Edmonton, had the great honour of having been selected as members of OP DISTINCTION- NORMANDY.

Op DISTINCTION had two phases, with the first phase consisting of a multi-national mass air drop into Normandy, France on 5 June 2014. The jump chinks consisted of Canadian, British, American, and French soldiers. Altogether, we totaled just over 350 paratroopers jumping from six aircraft. Phase two consisted of commemorative activities at Juno Beach.



WO Lavoie just before his jump with Cpl Marinuttie

Before either of the two events, we had the opportunity to break up into smaller groups and visit the country's amazing war history.

On the first day, many of us visited Pegasus Bridge, an important objective during the original operation. While visiting the museum, I got to meet a retired REME brother from the British Army, Mr Dave



WO Lavoie with a veteran.

Bashford. He shared many stories from his time in uniform and his love for the Corps. Later that afternoon, our group made our way to Juno Beach. I found myself standing in the water where the Royal Winnipeg Rifles landed. Turning to face inland, I could only imagine what it would have been like for the brave men who landed and charged up the sandy beach. To this point, I had only experienced it through books and pictures, but to see it with my own eyes and to feel the sand under my boots gave me a great sense of Canadian pride. On the second day, I found myself in the small French town of St-Maire Glise, where I found two more REME brothers. They had crossed the channel by ferry in a Land Rover wheeled MRT. John Rebbeck and Bob Lane, who were both retired members, quickly showed me all the great modifications they completed on



WO Lavoie holding the RCME flag with two REME members.

the MRT, which included an ammo can mounted CD player which pumped the music full blast, blaring out the sounds of pipes and drums. We quickly drew a great crowd around the vehicle and it was an opportunity to show the RCME pride.

That afternoon, I had the opportunity to tour the Canadian war cemetery in Beny-Sur-Mer. I found the grave markers

for six of our RCME Brothers. Before I left Canada, I was able to secure some of our 70th anniversary pins from 1 Service Battalion's ETSM. I handed them out to the locals but also placed one on each of the markers of our fallen comrades.

The next day was jump day. We made our way to a small French air force base where we conducted conversion training on the British parachute rig and aircraft drills. After all the training was completed, we boarded our assigned aircrafts. After takeoff the planes headed north to a rally point over the channel before turning to start the jump. Every paratrooper on board was ready and could not wait for the green light. I cannot explain the thrill and excitement I was feeling. For a brief moment, I thought about what the troops back in 1944 might have been thinking; did they experience a mixture of fear, courage and pride?

As we stood in the aircraft, static lines ready with all eyes on the jump master and the light over his shoulder, we knew it was almost time. The sound of the wind blowing in as the jump doors opened could not muffle the cheers of the paratroopers ready to go. When the green light lit, the cheers started to fade as the plane started to empty. The emotions and experience of looking at the Normandy's landscape as I drifted down is something I will never forget. It was the best jump in my career.

On 6 June, we got into our DEU and joined in the commemorative ceremonies at Juno Beach. Many veterans spoke of their experiences during the war, but they mostly spoke of this particular day 70 years ago, where many found themselves charging up this great beach. The sites, the jump and great stories shared with us during this incredible adventure I'm sure will never be forgotten. I will never forget what those many men accomplished and sacrificed 70 years ago.

In the Land of Winter

MCpl W.H. Vannest, Veh Tech, 1 RCHA

In March, I had the opportunity to go into a remote area of northern Manitoba with George Lenard and the Meagen Search and Rescue (MSAR) for two weeks. The areas that I visited were Garden Hill, St Teresa's Point, Wasagamack and Stevenson Island, Manitoba.

When I first arrived as an outsider, it was difficult to find people willing to have a conversation with me, but once they learned I was a soldier things changed right away. As one of the elders said, and was echoed by many others throughout my visit, "you are a warrior, welcome." I had learned in school and heard stories through the years about the special status that a warrior holds within the culture of Anishinabe (one definition – people of the land and of God) but to experience it was both a privilege and an eye opener. While visiting the schools and band offices, as well as when talking with the elders, students and staff, I was always greeted like an old and respected friend. The hardships, logistics and costs that are required to supply the communities were more immense than I had ever imagined. If they don't get supplies brought up on the winter roads, it has to be flown in then transported by ferry to their community. This meant that every little detail had to be calculated and planned, right down to the maintenance and upkeep of their emergency vehicles' spare tires, parts, and paint for the upkeep and renovations.

Now it's time for the vehicle technician side of me to come out. When most of us think of winter roads, we think of ice roads. Even though we did travel on ice roads, most of the trip there and back was spent on winter roads. I had not fully comprehended the difference; I was thinking that it would be a lot like traveling on trails in the training area but I learned there are many differences. The roads are not made straight. Every couple hundred meters, there was a 45 degree bend that minimized the amount of time the sun was hitting the road. It may not seem to be that important, but with the roads traveling through swamps, muskeg and forests, even in the -20 degree and below weather, there were a few places where tires sunk due to the sun thawing the road. The nature of the ground under the road also made for a bumpy ride over the roots and bumps created by the frost heaves. The use of tire chains on these roads can be counterproductive as they tear up the road and expose the ground underneath, making them more vulnerable to thawing. I am very quick to use tire chains on vehicles in the training area but would be hesitant to use

them on these roads. Speeds need to be watched carefully as it is easy to fall into a false sense of security, just as you have to watch your speeds on trails in the training area to prevent head on collisions. The same problem exists here but on a much larger scale and with bigger equipment coming at you. To try and use these roads too late in the season would be a mistake as it thaws quickly and the road would be impassable once thawed.

This was a wonderful experience for me and one that I hope to be able to repeat next year. The experience and knowledge that was passed on to me on this short trip has allowed me to better understand the difficulties that we would face deploying into these areas and how to prepare for them. I also appreciated seeing and receiving their respect and thanks to not just me, but to the entire CAF. All this support despite their own difficulties was a refreshing reminder of why we wear the uniform and why we carry on the proud tradition of being warriors.

2014 Army Run



For the 7th annual Army Run, on 21 September, 2014, with more than 25,000 runners from all over Canada, The Corps of RCME was once again well represented. Despite unfavorable temperature for a long run, we all crossed the finish line, showing our strong determination. Congratulations to all who participated in the race and continue your training program to get ready for next year!

RCAF Celebrates RCEME Day

CWO Pierre Dionne, A4 EME 3, 1 Cdn Air Div Headquarters

From coast to coast, RCEME Corps members in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) recently celebrated the 70th birthday of the Corps.



4 Wing Commander, Col Kenny, accompanied by Capt Cousineau and MWO Woolsey, inspect members of RCEME flights.

Technicians at various Wings and Detachments downed their tools and replaced them with either golf clubs, cards or BBQ utensils to commemorate this day in true *Arte et Marte* fashion.

At 4 Wing Cold Lake, the day started with a formal parade which was reviewed by the Wing Commander, Col E.J. Kenny, and was followed up with issuing of the new RCEME DEU slip-ons. Wing Logistics and Engineering senior staff attended the parade and expressed support and congratulations to the RCEME members. A number of special guests attended the reception including the Maple Resolve Mission Support Squadron and former RCEME members spanning several decades past. Current and past members had a wonderful opportunity to share stories, build memories, and solidify what it means to be RCEME.

In Winnipeg, events were kicked off with the traditional Fly Wheel toss, which saw the introduction of several new and creative throwing techniques. Shortly after, many military, civilian, and retired members participated in a 9-hole golf

tournament. Afterward, the Senior Regional RCEME Officer, Maj Hingwala, spoke of history and contribution of the Corps leading up to and on D-Day, 6 June 1944. The day capped off with 'blind' gator races, water balloon slingshot launch, and 'friendly' pie throwing.

Similarly, in Trenton, 8 Wing followed tradition with euchre, golf and soccer tournaments where everyone was way too busy to keep score (or was

a few festive drinks.

In Greenwood, 14 Wing technicians were joined by previous service members and after enjoying breakfast in the AMSE hanger, participated in a planned route rally or a quick nine holes round of golf. They demonstrated their ingenuity by submitting various push carts for the afternoon "Show & Shine" along with a few quick races where the only injuries were to some of the participants' pride. The turnout for our event was fantastic, playing host to serving members from 14 Wing Greenwood and Camp Aldershot (with both Regular Force and Reserves present) as well as several past members of the Corps joining in activities.



Each and every day, members of The Corps of RCEME proudly work within and support RCAF Wings across the country. These members, both military and civilian, continue to depict the old adage of 'work hard and play even harder'. This year marked a very special RCEME day for our great family across the country.

afraid to) and fun ended up being the overall winner. During the golf tournament, more time was spent searching for golf balls than actually playing, and it was noted that some needed more help than others. The cake cutting was done by the wisest, Mr. Mack Smith, and the youngest, Cpl Derek Deraiche.

Bagotville used the opportunity to make RCEME Day a family oriented event. Spouses, significant others, and children took part in the unique festivities at lac Ha-Ha. Their activities ranged from fishing to ATV rides through the wilderness. This was of course followed by a sumptuous BBQ and



MCpl Carr helps out Mr. Parks with a raised tee

A Joyful Return

Leighsah Millward, DGPFS, CFSTG PSP , Reporter

On Friday, June 27, during a beautiful sunny morning, we said farewell to our colleague and welcomed to another. The Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME) School gathered at Sicily Parade Square to bid farewell to LCol James Bower, and to welcome the incoming Commandant, LCol Lindsay Dencsak.



Left to right: LCol Bower, Colonel Nixon, and LCol Dencsak.

Photograph: MCpl Mary Mechalko, CFSTG HQ

The troops were in fine form as they paid their respect to their former leader, all spit and polish and moving as one, they paraded for the last time under Bower's command. "Coming back to the RCEME School two years ago was more of a coming home, so leaving here is like leaving home to an extent," commented LCol Bower. "It's somewhat upsetting, but I know at the same time the team is ready



LCol Lindsay Dencsak leads the RCEME School in Parade for the first time, in his new role as Commandant.

Photograph: MCpl Mary Mechalko, CFSTG HQ

to carry on with the challenges and the new Commandant is set up for success."

LCol Bower is off to his new posting in Kingston where he will be directing staff at the Canadian Army Staff College, and

molding the minds of young Captains. The new Commandant, LCol Dencsak is no stranger to the RCEME School. In fact, he has served the School before in a number of instructional and staff positions, including Chief Instructor and Deputy Commandant.

"It's a place I consider to be home, and it's an exceptional unit that's got a great responsibility," commented Dencsak. "I bring a lot of experience to the School and it's really a place that I want to be, that means passion and commitment. I am very happy about this posting, so is my family."

Welcome to LCol Dencsak, the RCEME School will continue to stand strong and move the yardstick forward under his leadership.

March for Valcartier's 100th Anniversary

Cpl Lafond, EO Tech, Maint Coy, 5 Cdn Svc Bn, 2nd Cdn Div

This past 15 June, to mark the centenary of the Valcartier Garrison, precisely 317 military members took part in a 30-km march from Valcartier to the Port of Quebec City to commemorate the departure of Canadian troops for Europe in 1914.



The Corps of RCEME held their own in this company, with seven of us from 5 Cdn Svc Bn (Capt Larose, Lt Bigonnesse (OPI), MWO Drouin, WO Pellizzari, MCpl Moreau, Cpl Duris and I, Cpl Lafond) who covered this distance. We left 3 R22eR early in the morning, at walking pace and in sweltering heat. Although we were marching to show

the 5 Cdn Svc Bn colours, it was quite obvious that, for MWO Drouin, we were taking this opportunity to mark the 70th anniversary of the creation of The Corps of RCEME. As you can imagine, our flag flew proudly the whole way.

During the First World War, there was nothing about this journey that was easy, pleasant or to be happy about. But now, on 15 June 2014, I could see the dedication of today's soldiers who, to remind themselves of the sacrifices of our veterans, had decided to retrace their steps. During the march, I could see the sense of honour in the eyes of my fellow soldiers and the smiles that never left their faces from the start to the finish,

showing everyone's sense of pride.

We then split into two groups, one boarding the US Navy ship USS OAK HILL and the other the HMCS ATHABASKAN, a Canadian destroyer. To add to our incredible adventure, a CF-18 made two flybys while we were formed up on the ships, facing the crowd, which gave us another ovation. When we disembarked at the end of the closing ceremony, all the participants received a marcher's coin, minted specially for the occasion.

We will all certainly keep very warm memories of this experience, and we count ourselves lucky to have been part of it.

The 10th Annual Western Area RCEME Hockey Tournament

Cpl McGann, Veh Tech and Cpl Shannon, Veh Tech, CFB Shilo

The 10th Annual Western Area RCEME Hockey Tournament took place at CFB Shilo from March 6th to 8th.



Base Maintenance Team

The tournament featured a Team from British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS), made up of British REME soldiers most of whom have not even played hockey until their posting to CFB Suffield. 17 Wing Winnipeg, 2 PPCLI Maint Pl and Base Maintenance CFB Shilo compiled the remainder of the teams.

The tournament has been highly successful in promoting morale and esprit de corps of the 3 CDSG RCEME Corps

for the past 10 years. LCol B.A. Davidson, the Western Senior Maintenance Officer, was again there to drop the ceremonial puck and present the trophies.

The Western Area RCEME Tournament commenced at the Jr. Ranks in CFB Shilo on Thursday evening for the meet and greet with pizza

and a beverage of their choice. Players and tournament staff got to see old acquaintances and make some new ones before the games started on Friday. Each team played 3 games on the first day in a round-robin format. Saturday saw intense playoff matches as well as a skills competition. The BATUS Lions grabbed first in the fastest skater, top goalie, and the accuracy shoot. Cpl Evan Paul of Base Maintenance managed to stop the streak by winning the hardest shot with a 119 km/h slap shot. This year team

BATUS took home the gold against 17 Wing TEME, and Base Maintenance took the consolation match up over 2PPCLI Maint Pl who were awarded the "most sportsman-like team". Cfn Matt Reid from the Base Maintenance team took home the tournament MVP with 9 goals and 3 assists in his first RCEME tournament showing. The tournament also featured Tom Foster, a retired RCEME Sergeant with 30 years military service, followed by 15 years of work for DND as a mechanic. Tom has played in nine of the ten tournaments.

OPI Lt Ben Park with his tournament committee, Sgt Hamel and MCpl Lalonde, made this tournament a success. This allowed each team the chance to play hard, have fun, and make this RCEME tournament a morale lifting experience for players, RCEME family, and spectators alike.

The Iltis Project

MCpl J. Beausoleil and Cpl S. Isabelle, Veh Tech, 4 wing, CFB Cold Lake



During summer 2013, Cpl Beausoleil, I/C of the Primrose Lake Evaluation Range (PLER) Detachment, had as a task to ready and prep different targets ranging from the old 2 ½ gassers to school busses when something caught his eye. Buried in the tree line were six Iltis' that had served their time and were ready to end their career with the Cdn Armed Forces as targets for the CF-18 Hornets.

The RCEME Iltis saw its first official parade on May 15 2014, RCEME

Day. It seemed only fitting that a piece of our past be present for our re-badging ceremony to The Corps of RCEME. Its second opportunity to shine was at the 6th annual RCEME Car Show held at CFB Edmonton. Our presence with the Iltis allowed us to represent Cold Lake and raise money throughout WLE and 42 Rdr and make donation along with the proceeds of the car show to the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation. Special thanks to all the members of RCEME and Transport who made this project possible.

Regimental Dinner in Ottawa on the 70th Anniversary of The Corps of RCEME

CWO J.G.R. Gilbert, RCEME Corps Sergeant Major

On 15 May 2014, the RCEME Corps celebrated its 70th anniversary. To mark the occasion, the NCMs offered an evening of activities during a regimental dinner in Ottawa with CWO Kevin West, CWO of the Canadian Armed Forces, as its guest of honour.

Also in attendance at this special evening were several members

of the old guard of RCEME. We enjoyed good food and, even more importantly, exchanged great stories that have marked our Corps. Of the old guard, we had 2

members who had been present at the first RCEME Corps parade in 1944, Sgt(ret'd) Cateline and CWO (ret'd) Thompson. We were truly honoured to have the opportunity to salute them.



From left to right, standing these CWOs : Gilbert, Bergeron, Froment, (ret'd) Roome, (ret'd) Tuepah, (ret'd) Roy, (ret'd) Breton, (ret'd) L'Italien, (ret'd) Dalcourt, West, Tremblay, Moreau, Godbout. Seated: (ret'd) Roy, (ret'd) Slominski, Sgt (ret'd) Cateline, CWO (ret'd) Thompson and CWO (ret'd) Clackett.

Visit to the North Bay Maintenance Section

CWO J.G.R. Gilbert, RCEME Corps Sergeant Major



From left to right, Sgt Rumbolt, Cpl Douglas, MCpl St-Aubin, Cpl Spry, Cpl Pelletier, CWO Gilbert and Cpl Morosetich

ON 12 JUNE, CWO GILBERT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE NORTH BAY MAINTENANCE SECTION. THIS VISIT BY THE CORPS SERGEANT-MAJOR WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED BY ALL, AND WE EVEN PROFITED FROM THE OCCASION TO TAKE A PHOTO. ALTHOUGH THIS IS A SMALL SECTION, IT HAS A LOT OF EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT IN ORDER TO KEEP 22 WING OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE BASE AND THE COMMUNITY OF NORTH BAY.

RCEME Corps Members Stationed at St. John, Newfoundland

CWO J.G.R. Gilbert, RCEME Corps Sergeant Major



Front row, from left to right, front : MCpl Small, MCpl Tarrant, Cpl Cooper. Back row: Mr. Locke, CWO Gilbert, MCpl Ryan, WO Parsons.

LAST JULY 25TH, I HAD THE CHANCE TO VISIT THE CORPS OF RCEME MEMBERS STATIONED AT ST. JOHN NEWFOUNDLAND. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE VERY FEW IN NUMBER IN THIS WONDERFUL WORKSHOP IN THE HEART OF THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF ST. JOHN, THEY REPRESENT VERY WELL THE CORPS OF RCEME. THE MAINTENANCE MEMBERS ARE VERY INVOLVED IN THE STATION AND THE COMMUNITY AND THEIR WORK IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

5 Svc Bn Wins Gold in Hockey at the 5 CMBG Winter Games

Lt François Beauvais-Beaudry, 5 CMBG, 5 Svc Bn, Maint Coy, Veh A Pl Comd

5 Service Battalion's hockey team surprised the whole Brigade on 27 February 2014, when they won gold in a discipline where the R22eR is the favourite.



The team, powered predominantly by maintenance specialists, attributes its success to rigorous practice, the cohesion of its members and the passion of its coaches. The victory was won by an outstanding performance from the goalkeeper, Cpl Thibault-Dubuc, and by the decisive moment in the shoot-out, when Cpl Ouellet and MCpl Desbiens both skilfully faked out the 3 R22eR goalie to rack up a final 2-1 victory.

The Strength of the Coaching Team

For the players, one of the crucial elements in pulling off this feat was the strict training. CWO Rodrigue, the team's head coach, knew his ultimate goal – “winning the gold medal” – and this meant he had to build a strong team. Cpl Laforge, winger, said:

and cardio, and this was the key to their success, according to Cpl Laforge, where the 5 Svc Bn team was able to maintain consistency and a high intensity throughout the tournament.

Cohesion

Craftsman Thibodeau, a winger on the team, also talked about the chemistry created between members taking part in off-season tournaments, particularly the tournament in November. As Cpl Laforge put it, “The players were really pumped up after the WO Muise tournament.” During the training phase, the team and staff had to deal with problems with the arena on base, where the rinks were being repaired, and pitched in to rent ice time in town. They came through them stronger, more bonded

“As soon as the training started, the guys could see that it was intense.” Each of the lines had a role to play, the staff worked on each player and they in turn accepted criticisms and worked on the weaknesses that were identified. The team trained professionally, with emphasis on speed

and determined to strive even more to be competitive. Similarly, the intensity of the training, the support of their peers, and the pride felt by each member of the Corps has served to strengthen the bonds between them.

Accomplishment

CWO Rodrigue (“Toe Blake”) and his assistant, WO (MOMO) Morissette, were well aware that the 5 Svc Bn team has always been underestimated. For military members whose occupation is to be a technician first and foremost, they are proud to have proved once again that the members of the Corps and of 5 Svc Bn can beat the Brigade's combat units on top of providing the service. You could just feel the emotions on the ice after the winning goals: some were crying tears of joy, feeling an immense pride toward their fellow countrymen and a powerful sense of belonging to 5 Svc Bn.

The maintenance specialists continue to wow us in the 5 CMBG and stand out at every event. Bravo Zulu to all the players and member of the 5 Svc Bn hockey team! You make us proud of our colours and of the excellence that our technicians of 5 Svc Bn and The Corps of RCME can achieve in the garage and on the ice.

RCEME School Apprentice Platoon Attend Annual Colonel Karen Ritchie Memorial Curling Bonspiel



Private Zeyang Zhang (seated), enjoying his very first time stepping foot on ice. Despite the lack of experience, the Apprentice team managed to finish fourth in the “B” division



The Apprentice curling team being presented with the trophy for Top Craftsman Team during the 6th Annual Curling Bonspiel held in Petawawa Ontario 27 - 30 March 2014. Left to right: Private Liam Doherty; Private Kevin Sheals; the Corps Colonel Commandant, BGen (ret'd) Holt; Pte Dwayne Conlon and Pte Zeyang Zhang



**Electronics
and Optronics
Technician**

History of the Electronic Optronics Technician – Land

CWO Andrew Rose, ADM(Mat), DGLEPM, DSSPM

From the earliest of times, weaponry has been used to put food on the table, conquer rulers as well as defend lands from invasions. Even before the Roman Empire existed, skilled labourers built, tested and maintained weapons from that era.

As time went by, so did the evolution of Warfare. Rapid advances in technology, weaponry and equipment demanded more specialized technicians to maintain them.

During WWI, long before the birth of The Corps of RCEME, some of the technicians within the Canadian Ordnance Corps (COC) were busy maintaining gun mounts, sights and instruments of all kinds to ensure the success of the Allied war machine. These Craftsmen, at times, would have to repair equipment in the front lines in difficult, dirty and dangerous conditions often under fire.

After the war, the COC was renamed to the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps (RCOC). Focus at this time was to create and develop professional and educated craftsmen to maintain Canada's Army equipment.

In 1940 Europe was once again cast into War and Canada was called upon to do



Lance-Corporal W.E. Skitteral, an Instrument Mechanic, Optical, at 208 Base Workshop, RCEME, in Ottawa, uses an engraving machine closely watched by Staff Sergeant M. Kittely.



Staff Sergeant Byng and Corporal Switzer aligning the axis of the base with the carriage sighting equipment.

its part. Workshops moved forward with the pace of battle, and with it, Canada's Craftsmen. On 15 May 1944, RCOC was then renamed to RCEME. At that time, the EO trade within the original RCEME Corps consisted of over 25 trades specializing in electrical, instruments or precision mechanical repairs.

In the late 1960's, as part of the unification of the Armed Forces, these specialized land technical trades were replaced by a single Electro-Mechanical Technician (ELM Tech) occupation. Jokingly, to the Craftsmen at the time, the acronym ELM, also stood for "Evil Little Men".

In the late 1970's, there was a rapid advancement of technology as well as a tremendous increase in the scope of repair assigned to the trade, especially in electronic systems. During 1978-80, to conduct adequate training and maintain the required expertise for modern Electro-Optic Systems, the single-occupation structure was replaced by four occupation career fields. These comprised of an apprentice level occupation (ELM Tech MOC 431) which then fed two Journeyman/Supervisor occupations: the Fire Control Technician (Electronic) (MOC 432) and the Fire Control Technician (Optronics) (MOC 433). At the Manager level those two

sub-occupations merged and became the Fire Control Systems Technician (MOC 435).

During the 1996 Occupational Analysis it was determined that the FCS Tech trade was to be restructured once again. It was proposed that the four sub-occupations be amalgamated into one occupation (FCS Tech MOC 434). This took place, effective 1 January 1999.

On 26 Apr 2005, The EME Branch Advisor proposed to change the name of the FCS Technician occupation to Electronic Optronics Technician – Land. The reason for which this was done was a simple one. The Fire Control Systems occupation name did not convey the right image to external audiences and that this contributed to recruiting challenges. Potential recruits at job fairs or Recruiting Centres confused Fire Control Systems with Fire Fighting. The Corps of RCEME at the time believed that a change of name was crucial to increase attraction and improve marketing of the trade. It set out to clearly identify that the focus of the occupation was on the popular fields of electronics and high technology. This enabled the trade to be relevant to a dynamic workforce, to help restore the health of the occupation and to contribute to the success of Army Transformation.

Without any further structural changes within the trade, as of 2006, the FCS Tech became an EO Tech and has remained that way until present.¹

¹ Information was retrieved from "Canada's Craftmen at 50" and "50 Years of Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering", and 2184-5000-1 (DLEPS 4-5) OCCUPATION NAME CHANGE -FIRE CONTROL SYSTEMS (FCS) TECHNICIAN - MOSID 00327



Machine Gun Swing Mount Project Contract Award

Vu Nguyen, ADM(Mat), DGLEPM, DAVPM 10

In mid-May 2014, the Machine Gun Swing Mount (MGSM) Project was award to PLATT USA (W&E PLATT Australia) after 3 months of extensive bid evaluation activities.

The \$12.4M contract will procure 2000 mounts along with associated spares, training material, and technical support. Swing mounts will be installed on each turret of the Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) III with the remainder available to other platforms.

The equipment purchased through the project will dramatically improve the ability of vehicle crews to operate machine guns effectively and safely from vehicle hatches. Along with Wheeled Light Armoured Vehicles (WLAV) family of vehicles, the MGSM will also be operated in small numbers by the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) for force protection purposes and as well as other interested platforms.

The original machine gun mounts (pintle mount) on the LAVs are fixed in place and prevented the effective use of the machine gun over a wide range of arcs and angles. This is exacerbated when the vehicle is in motion, where the Exposed Crew Protection Kits (ECPK) does not provide a stable or safe firing platform from which to engage the enemy

The MGSM plays a key role in dispersed operations. It provides armoured fighting vehicle crews with a heightened ability to effectively engage targets in a variety of directions and elevations, from both static locations and while on the move, leveraging the protection offered by the vehicle and its ECPK.

Most Canadian Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFV) are not currently equipped with machine gun mounts for the turret crews and rear sentries. With the addition of the ECPK, protection of the turret crews and sentries has increased, however the addition of a swing mount is required to ensure the soldiers' ability to defend themselves.

Prior to the start of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, the initial draft Statement of Work (SOW) was written to include integration of the swing mount for numerous other platforms (tracked vehicles, WLAV, RCN, etc.). This greatly increased complexity and extended timelines well beyond reasonable expectations. The SOW was therefore rewritten and simplified to only account for the LAV III which was available for project validation at the time. This took into account that the mount's base would be universal for a post-delivery integration on any other interested platform. The broad specifications called out in the initial SOW were refined and better detailed in the new SOW; this provided the project with enhanced guidance and direction to develop assessment and testing criteria. Lastly, the number of contractual deliverables was also reduced and streamlined to only include what was needed for DND to properly manage the equipment based on the complexity and level of effort to maintain the kit.

The evaluation process assessed each MGSM bidders' samples against dimensional requirements as well as testing in accordance with select MIL-STD 810G environmental conditions. Only select "High Risk" criteria from the SOW, as determined by the Project and with technical consultation with QETE, were fully tested during the bid evaluation process. These tested included simulation of 1st Line repair demonstration and simulated WLAV vehicle vibration profile testing. The final validation step consisted of mounting the samples onto a LAV III Turret and conducting gunner drills using the C6 and C9A2 machine gun. The MSGM Project was supported by QETE throughout the bid evaluation process, from consultation to the actual conduct of the tests and metrological measurements.

Initial Operational Capability (IOC) is

expected in fall 2014, with Full Operational Capability (FOC) by summer 2015.



Platt MGSM without base



Platt MGSM being deployed



Platt MGSM on horizontal vibration table at QETE



Platt MGSM on vertical vibration table at QETE



Platt MGSM on vertical vibration table at QETE (different angle)



Materials Technician

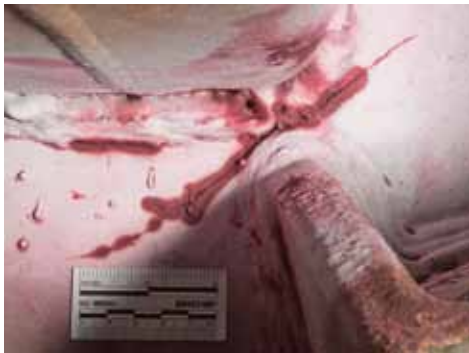
Cracks, Cracks, and More Cracks

Lt G.L. MacDonald, 5 CDSG, Tech Svcs Br

Being one of two bases to support the Leopard fleet, the Mat Techs at 5 CDSB

Gagetown needed to work fast to get both Armoured Recovery Vehicles (ARV) back into service after the discovery of several cracks in their hulls.

At first glance the Armoured Recovery Vehicle (ARV) at C Sqn of the RCDs looked serviceable and ready to fulfill its requirements at 5 CDSB Gagetown. On 16 September 2013 it became evident that this was not the case after an inspection by MCpl Levesque, from Mat Sect at Maint Coy,



Initial Crack discovered in C Sqn's ARV

revealed that the ARV had a major crack in its hull decreasing its structural integrity. At this point CTC Maint Pl was made aware of the issue and an inspection of their ARV revealed cracks in the same location.

Upon this realization both ARVs were taken to Maint Coy and CTC Maint Pl stripped them down and moved them to Mat Sect so the Mat Techs could conduct a more thorough investigation of the cracks. At this point a Liquid Penetrant Inspection (LPI) was conducted to determine the extent of the damage. The LPI resulted in the discovery of 6 cracks in C Sqn's ARV and 5 cracks in Maint Coy's. With this information Mat Sect was able to predict estimated repair times of 260 and 150 man hours for C Sqn and Maint Coy's ARVs respectively. It became evident that these repairs would heavily tax the highly productive Mat Sect. The Chain of Command, with insight from the Life Cycle Material Manager, began working on a course of action to repair the vehicles.

After considering the impact to production, and the necessity to have the capability to recover the Leopard fleet, the decision was

made to EMO an ARV from Montreal to support the Leopard fleet in Gagetown, while the ARVs were repaired on site. This was done with personnel from Mat Sect and additional personnel on a Technical Assistance Visit (TAV) from Petawawa. The TAV was scheduled for 20 January 2014 to 7 February 2014, and the ARV from Montreal was picked up on 9 January 2014. With all the planning complete, and the replacement ARV in place, the crack repairs commenced on 20 January 2014.

The repair team was comprised of Cpl Arbuckle from 2 Svc Bn and MCpl Vallaincourt from the RCDs along with Cpl Gale, Cpl Currie, and Mr. Crowell from Mat Sect in Gagetown. The Welding Shop was locked down so the bays where the ARV repairs were being conducted

continued until completion on 5 February 2014. Throughout the duration of the repairs the team had to overcome several issues.

The first issue arose during the first few days, when the repair team noticed that the temperature in the shop was dropping to about 17°C. This posed a risk to the project if not addressed, so the base Construction Engineers were called and they provided a portable heater to bring the temperature in the shop up to a more optimal 24°C. The second issue faced by the repair team was during the final days of the repair when the two technicians from Petawawa discovered another crack on the ARV they were repairing. It was discovered after they were forced to remove the idler wheel bracket to properly grind out another crack. In doing

so they found a hidden crack lying behind the mount which ended up extending the project by a couple of days.

In conclusion, the project was extremely successful and gave the Mat Techs from Gagetown a chance to work on a project usually outside the scope of a Second Line shop. In addition to the Mat Techs from Gagetown, the project relied on the support from other units and could not have been completed without the support from all involved.



ARV repair team from left to right: Cpl Arbuckle, Cpl Gale, Mr. Crowell, Cpl Currie, and MCpl Vallaincourt.

could be utilized the entire day without outside interference. This was to ensure that the hot welds would not be subjected to temperature changes that could crack them further.

The largest portion of the repair consisted of grinding out all the original cracks. Once all the grinding was completed another LPI was conducted to ensure that all the cracks had been removed. Once this was completed the process of welding and peening each weld began. The repairs



Repaired ARV



Vehicle Technician

10 Years of OWSS

Major Trevor Bourgeois, ADM(Mat) DGLPEM, DAVPM, OWSS Program Manager

The Wheeled LAV (WLAV) fleet, the workhorse of the Canadian Army, has proved extremely capable while deployed on operations, during training and in garrison.



MCpl Matthew McGregor, Image Tech, JTFK Afghanistan, Roto 8

The WLAV Fleet, consisting of the LAV III, Bison, Coyote and the now-divested RG-31, has seen use since the mid-1990s in Canada. With the variety of generations and the newly upgraded LAV 6.0, the fleet will remain one of the core vehicles used by the Army well beyond 2021. The success of the fleet is not only due to the capability of the platforms themselves, but through the extensive In Service Support (ISS) arrangements in place. 2014 represents the 10 year anniversary of the Optimized Weapons Service Support (OWSS) contract, the mechanism from which 97% of the support to the fleet is drawn.

Conceived in 2004, the result of many years of policy changes with regards to In Service Support contracting throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, Phase I of the OWSS contract was signed signifying a new approach to how a major platform is supported in the Army. Phase II was signed in 2008, finalizing the performance based agreements and established the framework of In Service Support out to 2034 with the OEM.

The application of performance measures has produced significant results. Among the WLAV user community, Canada receives unparalleled performance where >95% of Spares and R&O is received within agreed upon timelines. Ultimately, the Army has the

parts available within the Canadian Forces Supply System and the R&O mechanisms in place tailored to the varying demands on the WLAV fleet.

A proven highly flexible In Service Support contract, OWSS is responsive to the tempo of the Canadian Army.

Whether involved in an international deployment or staying closer to home, the Equipment Management Team can “dial-up” or “dial-down” the flow of parts based on operational and training requirements. When required, Platform Level Programs have been planned, developed and executed within the OWSS contract. In particular, the Major Vehicle Repair Program brought significantly damaged vehicles back to fully serviceable condition, and the LAV III Reconstitution Program fully reconstituted theatre equipment and spares within a year – a significant accomplishment after years of operations.

The WLAV fleet will support the Canadian Army around the globe for many years to come, and supporting the fleet is OWSS – a flexible and proven support contract for Army equipment.



Sgt Matthew McGregor, CAF Combat Camera, IS2014-1009-01

TLAV Updates

Ian Somerville, DGLPEM, DASPM 2-3, TMS TLAV

The new aluminum armour of the Tracked Light Armoured Vehicle (TLAV) continues to provide good ballistic protection without rusting.

Brake Testing

The Mobile Tactical Vehicle Engineer (MTVE) equipped with full armour originally had a combat weight of more than 46,000 lbs, in excess of proven TLAV brake tests. To deal with this shortcoming, a team from DASPM 2 and the National Research Council's Surface Technology tested the MTVE braking capabilities at various ballasted weights up to 48,000 lbs and at different speeds up to 40 kilometres per hour. After three days and a great many panic stops, the TLAV braking system was proved to be extremely robust and capable of stopping any TLAV, even if overloaded. Confidence in the transmission and braking system for the TLAV, using synthetic transmission fluid, is now higher than ever.



MTVE ballasted with bar armour and sandbags undergoing high speed brake testing.

TLAV Fleet Reduction

The TLAV fleet is being cut, thereby reducing the number of TLAV variants and reducing the number of idle TLAVs at the Depot. Following on the heels of the retirement of the Army's .50 cal machine gun, both turreted MTVL and M113A3 Infantry Section Carriers will be retired, leaving a dozen MTVEs with the old Grizzly turret. Other members of the TLAV fleet will also be reduced. Exploiting the fleet reduction, the remaining TLAVs will be standardized on the operationally equipped standard, with impact seating and the ability to



VEHICLE SPECIAL

accept all other operational equipment and armour. These leaner and meaner TLAVs will mostly be held at units where they can be used, maintained and cared for. This is a good thing. Plans continue to evolve, but divestment, redistribution and standardization of the TLAV fleet is well underway.

TLAV RWS Reductions

Remote Weapon Systems (RWS) on the TLAV and ELAV are becoming difficult to support. To keep enough spares past the year 2020, all Level of Operations 3 TLAVs and ELAVs will retain their RWS while the remainder (outside of a couple needed for technician training in RCME School) will be converted to pintle mounted C6 machine guns. As to the future, past 2020, the Replacement RWS Project has not yet been initiated, but the ELAV team has started some rumours.

Conclusion

The TLAV fleet of today is far superior and much upgraded from its humble roots in the old M113A1 fleet of the Vietnam era. The new armour system and new hull construction has been proven in the lab and in Afghanistan as being more survivable than any other light armoured vehicle. The rubber track and synthetic transmission fluid assures a greatly improved reliability anywhere between minus 50° to plus 50° Celsius. The new TLAV will soon approach the midpoint of its life, but as this utilitarian aluminum armoured platform has often demonstrated, rust-out continues to be a long way off.



QETE RAMD Trials of TAPV

Capt F.W. Hawes, ADM(Mat), DGLEPM, QETE, Vehicle Engineer

The Quality Engineering Test Establishment (QETE) is a unit under Director General Land Equipment Program Management (DGLPEM). QETE is a tri-service organization serving all elements of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) providing investigation, evaluation, advice, and representation for Department of National Defence and the CAF throughout the life cycle of equipment, from a technology versus platform perspective, to ensure performance requirements are met, and issues of safety, reliability and operational readiness are addressed.

The Project Management Office – Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (PMO TAPV) approached QETE in 2009 with a tasking to provide technical support. Since that time QETE has provided support in the areas of test plan writing, technical bid evaluation, test witnessing and technical support in the form of data gathering and analysis. In the summer of 2012, the TAPV contract was awarded to Textron Systems Canada Incorporated. In the summer of 2013 PMO TAPV began their Qualification Test program to verify the vehicle requirements. Testing was conducted at the US Army Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland USA as well as CFB Valcartier.

QETE was involved in the Reliability, Availability, Maintainability and Durability (RAMD) trials being held at CFB Valcartier where personnel worked closely with PMO TAPV staff and members of 5 CMBG. The RAMD trial was held over a period of approximately 8 months and was subjected the five TAPV Pre-Production Vehicles (PPV) to realistic Army usage conditions. The trial was the PPV vehicles operate over various road surfaces and conditions ranging from paved to gravel to cross country. The trial also exercised the weapon systems consisting of a 40 mm grenade launcher and C6 machine gun mounted on a Remote Weapon System. QETE assisted in choosing the various off road routes that the vehicles drove over and conjointly developed the test plan with the PMO.

QETE personnel on site of this high operational tempo trial provided direct and immediate support. Data collection equipment installed on board each RAMD vehicle by the QETE team prior to the start of the RAMD trial. The data collection suite was transparent to the vehicle crew and consists of approximately 20 sensors located throughout the vehicle recording vehicle vibrations and temperatures, vehicle bus data and GPS information. The suite included a data collection system which was mounted inside a ballasted dummy occupying the rear sentry seat of the TAPV. The collected data was analyzed by an on-site QETE staff member and used to provide timely mileage accumulation reports to the PMO. The data was also used to help shed light on any test incidents that occurred during the trial. The instrumentation suite also provided some flexibility to allow for any special investigations to take place.

Despite our knowledgeable engineers and technicians, The Corps of RCME still require the assistance of organizations, such as QETE to provide sound scientific advice to DGLEPM for equipment projects, failure analysis, RAMD trials and many other technical problems that the Army will face in the future.



Data Collection Suite

RCEME Officers in Camp Bordon, Hampshire, United Kingdom

Major Robert. D. Hardwick, RCEME

Before I close up shop and board the plane for home, I would like to share a bit of Corps history with you in the form of a photo of the presentation pieces that were gifted to REME and the Defence School of Electronic and Mechanical Engineering (DSEME) on behalf of the Corps of RCEME.



The above photo shows three items, two of which have been presented and one which will be presented upon my return to Canada.

The first item, the Canadian flag, was presented to the Commandant of DSEME (Col Mike Pendlington) on behalf of all past RCEME Exchange Officers and The Corps of RCEME. The flag is mounted in a protective glass frame with black and white images of 1 Canadian Base Workshop visible in the background. In the centre is mounted a double relief maple leaf in red and white with the three RCEME hat badges worn by the Exchange Officers superimposed on it. The words «EXCHANGE» «OFFICERS» are engraved at the base of the Red Maple Leaf and mounted to either side of the centre plaque is the list of all RCEME Exchange Officers since 1964.

My intent behind the design of this presentation piece was to highlight the memory of those past Exchange Officers while still showing the strong bond between our two Corps that dates back to WWII. This presentation piece expanded upon an earlier piece that was gifted to the school many years before. Inscribed on the plaque

are names of RCEME Officers in Camp Bordon since 1945.

The second item to the left of the Canadian Flag is an Anvil that was presented to the Havannah (REME) Officers Mess again on behalf of all RCEME Exchange Officers and the Corps. This anvil was constructed entirely by RCEME hands to ensure the gift was truly a gift from our Corps. These are the three significances of the

anvil:

- First this anvil was built from a piece of original 1905 Bullhead rail. It was cut from the only piece still known to exist. The rail line that it was part of was torn up to make way for the new wide flange rail that was laid during and after the time 1 Canadian Base workshop was being built;
- Second the anvil is a symbol associated with the patron saints of both our Corps; and
- Third it brings together the common bond our two Corps have with Camp Bordon and the Canadian Army's connection with the Camp that spans from 1914 until my departure in Jul 2014 (100 years). Bordon has been a major staging base for the Canadians during both World Wars.

Inscribed on the base of the anvil are the following words:

This Anvil was forged from the last known piece of original 1905 Bullhead rail that formed part of the early Bordon Military Light Railway. Over this very piece of rail passed every

single British and Canadian soldier that served in Bordon during both World Wars. And it was during the Second World War that this railway bore witness to the construction of the largest Allied Workshop ever built: 1 Canadian Base Workshop, a workshop built by the Royal Canadian Engineers and manned by the newly formed Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

After the War this vital workshop was destined to become home to the British School of Electrical Mechanical Engineering and served in this capacity from 1946 until the Camp's final closure in 2014. May this Anvil remind us of our common roots and the history that we share together.

*Arte et Marte
RCEME and REME
Lest we forget*

This anvil was presented to the Officers Mess and the response was overwhelming. The bond between our two Corps remains steadfast and will remain so even without a Canadian presence at the school. The REME Corps has expressed their deep disappointment in the cancellation of the exchange position and will seek to reinstate it. The «Bordon Anvil» immediately received superstar status and is being locked away in the silver vault each night until work to modify the secure display cabinet is complete. Their actions demonstrates the strength of the bond between our two Corps.

The third item in the picture is a second identical «Bordon Anvil» that will be brought home to Canada for presentation to The Corps of RCEME. With these final words, I will close the Exchange Post and RCEME's ties with Camp Bordon, Hampshire.

The Kingsmill Bridge: RCEME at War in Italy Daring Innovative Exploits Under Fire

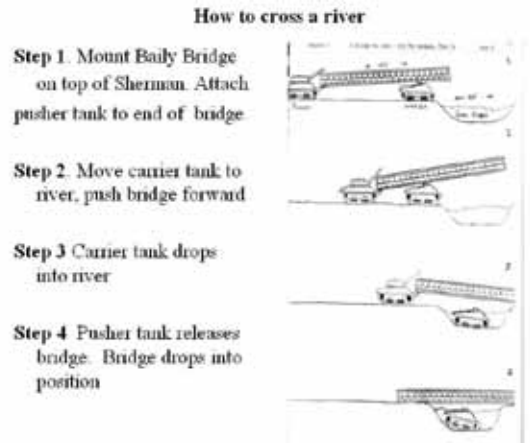
Colonel (Ret'd) Andrew Nellestyn and Honourary Captain Al Judson

Few people have a bridge named after them, fewer still actually had a hand in the design and building thereof and rarer still are those who accomplished this in the heat of battle.



decisive in the Allied battle plan.

Captain Kingsmill was the Officer Commanding the 61st Light Aid Detachment attached to the Canadian Armoured Regiment (Calgary Regiment), 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade, 8th British Army. He was approached by the Royal Engineers to devise a solution to cross the Gari River: a strategic crossing point which had been denied to the Allied forces by a deadly and highly concentrated German Army. Five tank-bearing bridges were to be constructed to span the Gari River. The first, a trial bridge, was to be built near the village of Sant'Angelo about five kilometers south of Cassino. It was to be code-named the Plymouth bridge and serve as the model for river crossings in other operations. The bridge proper was constructed by the Royal Sikh Engineers. The task of the placement of the bridge and the modification of the Sherman tanks to



accomplish this were assigned to Captain Kingsmill's 61st LAD.

The construction of this bridge which spanned the Gari River in the Liri Valley southeast of Rome, has been characterized by many historians and senior commanders of the time as a key turning point in the Allied thrust to drive the Germans out of Italy. This unparalleled and ingenious initiative resulted in the utter destruction of and breakout through the Gustav and Cassino-Hitler Lines and, ultimately, the defeat of Nazi forces in Italy. Thus was the course of history changed. Not surprisingly, it could be concluded that this is a story about the Royal Canadian Engineers. The reality is that a highly decorated member of The Corps of RCEME, Captain Tony Kingsmill, was the author of this extraordinary feat for which he was awarded the Military Cross. Captain Kingsmill seized the moment: necessity being the mother of invention. Arte et Marte reigned supreme and

As depicted in the schematic, the ingenious method employed by Captain Kingsmill was to use two Sherman tanks: one with the turret removed to which was attached rails to support and roll the Bailey bridge forward (the carrier tank); and the other with retaining brackets attached (the pusher) to move the bridge across the Gari River. Staging trials proved successful and on 12 May 1944 the bridge was in place allowing the Allied crossing and advance to contact to begin. Tanks from the Calgary Regiment dashed across the river. German counter-fire was heavy and while Captain Kingsmill was wounded his perseverance under fire assured the success of the mission. The Gustav Line collapsed ensuring the subsequent destruction of the Cassino-Hitler Line and the defeat of the German Army in Italy.



The Kingsmill Bridge and the model which is in the King's Own Calgary Regiment Museum, Military Museums of Canada

On 15 May 1944, three days after the crossing of Plymouth

Bridge (by then unofficially known as the Kingsmill Bridge), the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was formed. Captain Kingsmill rebadged from the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps and joined the ranks of a distinguished and proud new member of the Allied Order of Battle and the Canadian Army.



Captain Kingsmill received the Military Cross for his actions at Plymouth Bridge. An excerpt from the citation notes: "His courage and determination were at all times beyond praise. His most gallant action contributed directly in the smashing of the Gustav Line." On 12 May 2007, his actions were celebrated by the unveiling of a commemorative plaque on the Gari River near the town of Sant'Angelo officially renaming the bridge the Kingsmill Bridge to recognize his pivotal contributions to the defeat of the German Army in Italy.

The Corps of RCEME is replete with men and women who served and continue so to do with distinction. The Corps' lineage is long, deep, proud and honourable reflecting service above all and exemplifying the Corps' motto *Arte et Marte*.

Honourary Captain Al Judson is the curator and archivist for the King's Own Calgary Regiment, Military Museums of Calgary. He is an advisor to and friend of the RCEME Museum. Additional information about the Kingsmill Bridge can be obtained by contacting ajudson@ucalgary.ca.

Highlighting RCEME's Heritage

Capt M.J.L. St-Maurice, RCEME School

In order to increase the visibility of the artefacts kept in the RCEME heritage room, which was inaugurated in 2004, a number of the objects have been moved along with their display cases, into the hallways of the RCEME School's Regimental Company.

This reorganization is also a way of preparing ourselves for the move to the new building, with the classification of the various sections being re-imagined and the types of possible object groupings being re-evaluated.

In the meantime, we have taken care to group the objects together by era and type, which has made it easier to see how our equipment has evolved over time.

Many people are now stopping to look at our artefacts, and all the members of our Corps, young and old, are now exposed on a daily basis to these objects from our history.

The next step of the project will involve better cataloguing the items in preparation for the move and for a potential transfer to the museum project in Kingston.

The mission of the Heritage Room is to "serve as a training platform for teaching EME history through the collection, preservation and presentation of military artefacts, photos, books, documents and equipment related to the EME Branch and the Corps."

The work that has been done to date brings us much closer to fulfilling that mission.



LEO 2 ARV CAN Commissioning Ceremony

MCpl Adam Roberts, Vehicle Tech, Maint Coy, 5 CDSG

The CAF's first Leopard 2 ARV CAN arrived in Gagetown, 4 Mar 14. With its arrival, it provided long overdue relief to its predecessor, the Leopard Taurus ARV.

After a week of tool checks and commissioning, it was handed over to Tech Svcs, Maint Coy, of 5 CDSG. It was then decided that this 64 Tonne 1500 hp brute of an ARV should be named accordingly.

The Corps of RCME has a longstanding tradition of naming their ARVs. Usually they are named using the first letter of the squadron they support, however, this time Maint Coy decided to change it up and have a competition throughout the Coy to come up with the name. Fourteen names were submitted and a selection board was held to decide the winner. The name was kept top secret until 15 May 2014, RCME Day, when Maint Coy held the ARV Commissioning Parade.



BGen Eldaoud and MCpl Burton reveal the name of the CAF's first Leo2 AVR CAN: TRAPPER.

name. As BGen Eldaoud cut the ribbon the RCME flag quickly rose to the sky flying proudly and revealing the name, TRAPPER.

Trapper is a familiar name amongst The Corps of RCME. WO (Ret'd) Trevor "TRAPPER" Allen MM, CD retired in 1972 after serving 27 years in the military and passed away on 17 October 2003. He was mentioned in the King's Dispatch for distinguished service and received the Medal of Military Merit for a heroic recovery with a Sherman ARV in Korea. The ARV commanded by Sgt (at the time) Allen was called forward and on arrival at the site, enemy artillery began to rain down on the vehicles. The vehicles were hit several times and the crews were ordered to take cover but Trapper refused to take cover and continued working to ensure that the tank dozer was recovered intact and returned to safety, which happened later that night.

To finish off the parade BGen Eldaoud crew commanded Trapper's first official

recovery. It was out with the old and in with the new as the Leopard 2 ARV CAN proudly pulled its predecessor, the Taurus ARV off the parade square with great respect for the old ARV, after serving almost 30 years of grueling service and protection to The Corps of RCME. Now is the time for TRAPPER to have its day and as it has proven in Afghanistan, it is up for the challenge.

Unfortunately Trapper's family was not able to attend the parade, however, a plaque was sent to his daughter in memory of her father and his

contributions to the Corps. This piece of RCME history is one that is now proudly displayed on the side of the CAF's first Leopard 2 ARV CAN and will remain there for future Craftsmen to learn the history of TRAPPER.

In December 2014, there will be a second Leopard 2 ARV CAN arriving in Gagetown and because of the great contributions and unwavering dedication to The Corps of RCME it was decided that this ARV will be named MURRAY in honour of Colonel (retired) Murray Johnston.



General salute to BGen Eldaoud as TRAPPER pulls the old Taurus off the parade square

What better way to name the ARV then to roll onto the parade square crew commanded by the commander of 5th Cdn Div, BGen Eldaoud. The winner of the competition, MCpl Steve Burton, was called up to assist in the revealing of the



Close-up on the left side of the chassis.



Gathering of Friends - In Memory of Ann-Marie Sturgess

Helene Rowen, RCME School, HQ, Admin Asst



A unit gathering took place on Friday 4 July 2014 in memory of Ann-Marie Sturgess who passed away on Monday 23 June 2014.

Ann-Marie arrived at the RCME School in 1999 and held the position of Administrative Assistant to the RCME Corps Adjutant. She was involved in many of the Corps activities such as the RCME National Golf Tournament, RCME Day, WO Muise Memorial Hockey Tournament, "Bluebell" Mess Dinners, etc.

She was well known and appreciated by all who knew her.

Director RCEME's National, Regional and Cadet Award Winners

D RCEME NATIONAL AWARD AND REGIONAL AWARD FOR WESTERN



MCpl Sara Boland is receiving the D RCEME National award from the CFB Shilo Base Comd, LCol Stephen Joudrey and the CFB Shilo Base RSM, CWO James Doppler.

For her outstanding mentorship, critical thinking ability, determination to achieve success and her "can-do" attitude. She undertakes all tasks with great enthusiasm, focus and professionalism, making her a model soldier within the CAF. MCpl Sara Boland has said a large part of her success is due to establishing a professional and mutual relationship of trust and respect with her subordinates. Congratulations Sara on your awards!

NCR/Northern/CANSOFCOM Region – Cpl Gagné

Cpl Martin Gagné was awarded D RCEME's Regional Award. His unparalleled technical skills and strong work ethic have enabled him to provide remarkable support to the assaulters and specialists of the unit. His commitment to providing outstanding technical instruction and guidance had a significant impact on the success of multiple courses within the unit, and his input helped develop the standard for future training packages. External to CANSOFCOM, Cpl Gagné provided assistance to the LCMM for Optical Sighting Systems in the Development of Technical Orders for the mounting and operation of Sniper Scopes. His technical skills and dedication to this project will contribute greatly to the CAF sniper community and the overall technical

acumen of the forces.

Central Region – MCpl Scali

MCpl Ronald Scali was awarded D RCEME's Regional Award for exceptional and outstanding work ethic and dedication while employed as the Admin Coy Maint Sect Comd, 2 Svc Bn. MCpl Scali is a highly dedicated soldier and leader who continually provides outstanding results in the completion of all tasks. He demonstrates a tireless work ethic and outstanding attitude regardless of his workload. He conducts himself in a manner that exemplifies the values of The Corps of RCEME because of this unparalleled leadership and dedication to 2 Svc Bn, the CAF, and the Corps.

Training Systems Region – 50th Annual RCEME Golf Tournament Committee

The 50th Annual RCEME Golf Tournament Committee is awarded the Regional Award for their great efforts in organising this tournament. RCEME School and CFB Borden staff have been successfully organizing and hosting the RCEME Golf Tournament every year. Given the significance of this event, the team faced extraordinary pressure to produce a memorable event above and beyond the previous 49 tournaments. Demonstrating their pride in The Corps of RCEME and their skill as a professional team, the tournament was exceptional and worthy of being called the "Golden 50th".

Atlantic Region – Cpl Murphy

Corporal Myles Murphy was awarded D RCEME's Regional Award for his leadership and professionalism in supporting 4 ESR's EROC fleet during Theatre Opening Exercises and National EROC Courses.

RCAF/RCN Region – Cpl Thompson

Cpl Brent Thompson was awarded D RCEME's Regional Award for his exemplary service to The Corps of RCEME as an outstanding Vehicle Technician for

the 17 Wing SMP section. His dedicated efforts have enabled RCEME Flight to consistently supply well maintained equipment to 38 Canadian Brigade. In addition, Cpl Thompson is a true advocate for cultural awareness; He sits on the CF National Aboriginal Advisory Board and volunteers at the Manito Ahbee Festival (Gathering of First Nations People).

Quebec Region - Sgt Bouffard

Sgt Pierre-Luc Bouffard was awarded D RCEME's Regional Award in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments, commitment and exceptional leadership within 5 Service Battalion and, more specifically, within the Commercial Vehicles Platoon of the Transport Company as assistant manager of the commercial vehicles fleet. On many different levels, he showed unparalleled dedication and unbounded team spirit and ensured that The Corps of RCEME played a key role within 5 CMBG. He repeatedly volunteers for community activities such as the latest edition of the United Way tire clinic, where he supervised the volunteers.

D RCEME's NATIONAL CADET AWARD

- WO Albert Le 2332 Maj EJG Holland VC Armoury
- CWO Lee-Anne Lesage 2698 Sieur de Beaujeu

Erratum:

In the article of the French version titled : «L'École du GEMRC accueille le 50^e tournoi de golf annuel du Corps du GEMRC » édition 1-2014, it was mentioned : (...) le prix du plus bas pointage brut chez les hommes a été attribué au Cplc Marc Poulin (...). It should have read : « (...) le prix du plus bas pointage brut chez les hommes a été attribué au **Cplc Marc Dumoulin** (...). »



Director RCEME's Coin of Excellence

EME COIN #26 – MWO R. WAUGH



For demonstrating exceptional leadership, dedication, and craftsmanship towards not only the Canadian Armed Forces, but also the Corps of RCEME throughout his storied career. His consistent esprit-de-corps within our trade is an inspiration to us all.

EME COIN #47 – J.P. LEMIRE

Mr. Lemire has consistently maintained an exemplary professional attitude and been extremely rigorous in monitoring



candidates in training. Mr Lemire's work has unquestionably contributed to the success of the EOTL training program. Moreover, his high level of technical expertise and his enormous dedication have made him an acknowledged authority in the field of optics and optronics and a model for division technicians, LCMMs and project managers.

EME COIN #48 – S. ABBOTT

Mr. Abbott has shown exemplary professionalism and unbounded



enthusiasm coaching young candidates in training and offering them sound advice. In doing so, he has helped develop their skills and their ability to do the work required and required them to achieve technical excellence in these areas.

EME COIN #49 – D. WALSH

For for his huge contribution to the development of future Weapon Technicians. Mr Walsh is a



prime asset to The Corps of RCEME. He has been an incredible help for 5 Svc Bn and for the units of the 2nd Cdn Div. His exceptional technical capacities and innovative teaching methods perfectly exemplify his pride to be part of the RCEME Corps and the Corps' Arte motto.

EME COIN #50 – WO C. HANRAHAN

For WO Hanrahan's outstanding contribution to the essence of what The Corps of RCEME represents, his relentless efforts to promote and demonstrate the Corps values and for his continuous dedication and excellence in the achievements of his duties. While being subjected to the standing down of the Optimized Battle Group and transition from Coyote to Leopard fleets, his leadership and dedication ensured the creation of the Leopard Detachment in CFB Gagetown supporting C Squadron (Sq) RCD withstanding continuous pressures and challenges.

EME COIN #51 – MWO E. DALLOW

In recognition for his contributions as CSM of RCEME OJT Coy in 2 Svc Bn. MWO Dallow has lent invaluable support to The Corps of RCEME by providing leadership and mentorship for DP1.2 OJT technicians. His continued guidance and assistance has ensured



the highest quality of training, and the establishment of RCEME OJT Coy as an independent Coy within 2 Svc Bn.

EME COIN #52 – CPL E. McNIVEN



For outstanding dedication to the effectiveness and quality of training provided to Vehicle Technician apprentices within The Corps of RCEME, Cpl McNiven's efforts contributed directly to the future success of the students and the Corps at large. It is for his incredible hard work, passion and dedication that Cpl McNiven is receiving this honour and recognition.

EME COIN #53 – MWO J. TURCOTTE



In recognition of his ceaseless dedication to both the military and The Corps of RCEME regarding the training of DP1.2 RCEME technicians. His role as the Senior Technical Advisor saw him prepare for the IT RCEME Working Group by defining the future role and employment of the RCEME OJT training with the intent to provide high standard of DP1.2 training within 4th Canadian Division.

Awards and Recognitions

EME COIN #54 – MCPL S. ST-LAURENT

For the remarkable dedication he constantly demonstrates, which is making an invaluable contribution to the advancement of our corps. Working tirelessly, he played a major role in instituting a new structure for the technicians associated with PeopleSoft and DRMS which, in future, will give us a clearer picture of the efforts being made by our members.



EME COIN #55 – MAJ J. MOTL

Maj Motl's outstanding contributions to The Corps of RCME have been remarkable. With her corporate knowledge and her attention to details she is guiding with a strong and steady hand the administration of The RCME Corps like no others. She promotes team spirit within and outside the Corps. She formulates opinions based on an ability to anticipate their potential impacts in the context of wider trends and developments. She truly exemplifies The RCME Corps motto, Arte et Marte.

EME COIN #56 – ADJ D. FERLAND



WO Ferland's outstanding contribution to the Corps' heritage and history, particularly his extraordinary work in the creation of the Heritage Room and its

Corps Heritage Collections at the RCME School in Borden. He accomplished that achievement through hard work, displaying altruism to the Corps and a passion to preserve its heritage.

EME COIN #57 – MAJ A. MCQUILLAN



For his outstanding initiative, his continuous dedication and excellence in the achievement of his duties. Also for his integrity and team work supporting the Canadian Wheeled Light Armoured Vehicle program.

EME COIN #58 – A. BERESFORD



Mr Anthony Beresford's outstanding contribution to the Corps' heritage and history, particularly his extraordinary work in the creation of the Heritage Room and its Corps Heritage Collections at the RCME School in Borden. He accomplished that achievement through hard work, displaying altruism to the Corps and a passion to preserve its heritage.

COMMANDER CANADIAN ARMY COMMENDATION

LCol F. Lavoie



ORDER OF MILITARY MERIT

WO J.C.E. Drouin

Order of Military
Merit - 64th List



MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

CWO R.J. Thompson

For remarkable performance and mentorship as the RSM of the training advisory group and CDN RSM for national issues at the Kabul military training centre, Jul 12 to Jun 13

CONGRATULATION!

MAJOR BOLAND WON THE 1500M EVENT GOLD MEDAL WITH A TIME OF 4:05.55 AT THE CANADIAN MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS OF OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD. HE PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MILITARY WORLD GAMES CISM TAKING PLACE IN KOREA IN THE SUMMER OF 2015.

Columns

Last Call



Cpl (ret'd) Richard Willmore	18 Dec. 2013
Peter Lewis	18 Jan. 2014
MCpl (ret'd) Luc Lavergne	14 Feb. 2014
Sgt (ret'd) Rob Cosgrove	15 Feb. 2014
Edison 'Bud' Roy Cooke	17 Mar. 2014
MWO (ret'd) John Robinson	2 Apr. 2014

Walter Ernest Ruggles	10 Apr. 2014
MWO Lloyd Celester	15 May 2014
Rev. Albert James Beveridge	10 Jun. 2014
Orley 'Wayne' Potter	28 Jun. 2014
Capt (ret'd) William C. Baird	1 Jul. 2014
MCpl Samuel Boivin	2 Jul. 2014

Afghanistan

A CANADIAN STORY

2001-2014



AS TOLD BY MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

INTRODUCTION BY DR. JACK GRANATSTEIN, OC, FRSC

MESSAGE FROM THE RIGHT HONOURABLE STEPHEN HARPER, P.C., M.P., PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

Afghanistan A Canadian Story 2001-2014 is a Canadian Afghan mission legacy album which offers readers a chronological compilation of the personal stories and photos of some 150 men and women who served in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2014. The anecdotes include accounts from members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the RCMP, Corrections Canada and the many civilians who participated in the mission in their capacity as Canada whole-of-government contributors. The stories are accompanied by a brief history of Afghanistan and the roles of the Canadian mission, the various service elements and other departments of Canadian government. Messages from Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the CDS General Tom Lawson, the service commanders, the Royal Canadian Legion and others, as well as an introduction by Jack Granatstein, compliment the album.

The project, a wholly private volunteer effort, was the initiative of a number CAF Public Affairs Officers, some of whom served in Afghanistan, and wanted to provide the valiant men and women who participated in the Afghan mission a broader venue to share their personal reminiscences with their families, colleagues and Canadians at large. The editorial team consists of Lt (N) (Retd) Melanie Graham, Capt Susan Magill, LCol Kimberly Unterganschnigg, WO Daniel Ferland and Col (Retd) Andrew Nellestyn. Many individuals gave of their time to make the publication of the album a reality as did the sponsors of which the principal contributor was the Power Workers Union. Proceeds from the sale of the album will be donated to the Edmonton Military Family Resource Centre, the Boomers Legacy Foundation, the Military Families Fund, Operation Dignity St Anne de Bellevue Veterans Hospital Foundation and the Soldier On Fund. The families of those who gave their lives during the mission will each be presented a commemorative copy. The book will be launched in Ottawa in November 2014 as well as across the country.

The legacy album, to be released by November 2014 and priced at \$50, can be purchased from Chapters Indigo. Additional details about the project can be found at www.afghanistanacanadianstory.ca.

RCEME Regiment Governance

RCEME COUNCIL



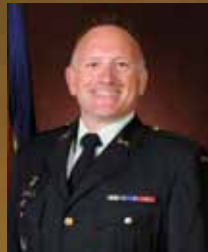
BGen S. Kennedy



BGen A. Patch



Col (ret'd) A. Nellestyn
Colonel Commandant



Col KJ. Hamilton
Corps Director
Directeur du Corps



CWO R. Gilbert
Corps SM
SM du Corps



BGen N. Eldaoud



Col S. Myers



Col T. Endicott



Col S. Bouchard



Col A. Benson
Heritage Committee
Comité héritage



Col R. Elvish



Col J.F. Prévost



Col K. Moore



Col R. Dundon



Col N. Jardine



CWO A. Bergeron



CWO G. Godbout



CWO J-P Savoie



CWO R. Thompson

