

The RCEME School – Leading the charge on the development of technicians and leaders of tomorrow

Implementing DRMIS into Training

Author: MCpl D.A.P. Randall, RCEME School, HQ

Innovative and motivated technicians and leaders need a way to manage their maintenance activities to ensure they provide outstanding support to the CAF as well as have the skills necessary to utilize this tracking system. After years of technicians using paper ledgers like the Job Progress Reports, paper time cards and programs like PlanExpert, DRMIS was rolled out to replace these in the CA in 2009. DRMIS, used to strike fear into the hearts and minds of the RCEME technician but as the training and experience improves this is no longer the case. Currently the program is being introduced into the training plans at the RCEME School for all Developmental Period (DP) levels. This will ensure RCEME technicians are exposed to DRMIS at the start of their training during their Common RCEME Training (CRT) course and throughout their career to ensure that the technicians understand how to use DRMIS and are learning best practices. During CRT, technicians will learn the basics of the information system and what it is capable of achieving. All DP1 RCEME technicians will be taught notifications, work orders and how time accounting is recorded. They will be taught what a task sheet is and how to extract all pertinent information from it and they will also begin learning about Problem Reporting, which was formally called the Technical Failure Report and the Unsatisfactory Condition Report.

Once the technicians have completed their DP1.1 trades training at the RCEME School, they are posted to an On-the-Job-Training (OJT) facility where they will be able to see DRMIS in a practical environment and will be exposed to DRMIS capabilities such as finding Canadian Forces Technical Orders, modification requests, and parts ordering. On completion of their OJT package, technicians will return for DP2 training where during DP2 CRT where they will be taught more in-depth lessons in regards to how DRMIS is used in RCEME technical administration. This

includes such things as local procurement, performing estimates, repair completion times and how to find a shop labour rate. The technician will also learn about storage locations and how to search for a repair part within work centers across the country.



Figure 1 – DRMIS

Upon completion of the DP2 trades training, the technician will be granted rights and access that pertain to their position and continue on with their career. Upon completion of DP3, members are expected to be familiar with, and have a working knowledge of DRMIS. The students are expected to know how to create L1 notifications, return an accountable parts report, view equipment history, process a work order, find work centers, release work orders, create an Annual Technical Inspection orders, create problem reporting notifications, as well as many other functions within the program that they will use in the day to day workings in their shop. DRMIS is only one of the many innovations that modern technology has provided the Corps of RCEME in its quest of technological advancement.

UAVs on the Battlefield: EO technicians will answer the call

Author: MCpl M.L. Laevens, RCEMES, Artisan Coy

On the modern battlefield, forces around the world must adapt to the ever changing and often unconventional tactics of their enemies. Now more than ever, forces are looking to the latest technology in order to exploit any advantage,

trying to gain the upper hand against a resourceful and resilient adversary. Gathering information on the enemy's composition, location and intent has been important since the dawn of time in order to plan and execute military operations. With the advancement of aviation technology, optics and surveillance technology, the options for commanders to gathering such information has never been greater and one such piece of equipment is the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). UAVs of various sizes can be used for a multitude of tasks such as the surveillance of the enemy, investigating a hard to reach or dangerous location or potentially the delivery of items or parts.

Of concern to the RCEME technician is that UAVs are generally complex, containing sophisticated equipment such as thermal imagery, night vision and high resolution cameras. As they are unmanned and remotely operated, they rely on GPS navigation and encrypted control signals sent by satellite and conventional radio waves.

As these UAV systems (also known as Small Unmanned Aircraft System (SUAS) in our context) enter Army usage, Electronic-Optronic (EO) technicians will have the responsibility to maintain SUAS both at home and abroad. With restricted and congested airspace, the accuracy and reliability of the SUAS is paramount and the exceptional technical skills of EO technicians will be relied upon to ensure that these SUAS continue to provide real-time information to commanders. The technicians and operators assigned will require extensive training on regulations and complete air worthiness checks before SUAS can leave the ground. The RCEME School will be involved in this training, while hoisting on new concepts such as flight safety technical and administrative requirements.