

By Cpl Boulay,
EO tech 1R22R

OP ZEUS 2018



Every year, electronic-optronic (EO) technicians from the 2nd Canadian Division meet to exchange information on various subjects pertinent to the EO trade. In the planning stages since April, Sgt Patrice Plourde and MCpl Martin Raymond (along with a few of their peers) worked diligently to ensure that the fifth edition of “OP ZEUS” held on the 30th of August 2018 was a success. Having occurred every year since 2013 (with the exception of 2017), the reunion is the perfect opportunity for technicians from the 2nd Cdn Div to share their experiences, collaborate, solve existing shortcomings, and get a glimpse at future projects currently in development. A more knowledgeable and informed technician is the end goal of each reunion.

Held at the Kaeble club, (Valcartier’s junior ranks mess) this year’s reunion included the participation of EO techs from all units in Valcartier as well as those from 202 Wksp Depot in Montreal. Special invitees this year included: the ETSM of 2nd Cdn Div, MWO Marc Latour, guest speakers from Ottawa, MWO Sylvain Guillemette and MWO Gaétan Dallaire, and as well M. Jean-Pierre Lemire and M. Serge Abbott, both mentors for all EO Techs who have completed their training in Valcartier in the last 20 years. Once everyone had their fill, all 68 peoples in attendance (11 more than the previous edition) took their seats as the Master of Ceremony (MC), WO Éric Savoie took the stage. After a brief introduction, he took the opportunity to introduce himself as the new Senior Tech for Valcartier while also informing all in attendance of his priorities and intentions going forward.

With this edition of OP ZEUS officially underway, MWO Guillemette now took the stage and began to relate what he knew of the upcoming mast-mounted surveillance system project for the LAV 6.0 (SSLAV RECCE). As one of the key personnel involved in the project, MWO Guillemette was able to shed some light on the capabilities of this new piece of equipment as well as provide information on its maintenance plan and the responsibilities each RCEME trade would have in maintaining the equipment once delivered.

After a short break, MWO Dallaire took the stage to share information he had on a new prototype CDA being developed which would bring back the “toggle” function for the “Gun Armed Switch”. MWO Dallaire then mentioned that a technical bulletin indicating a new software update for existing CDA’s was in effect. Many of the technicians present were not aware of this and as such, it was discussed that the current distribution method for technical bulletins was inadequate and that future equipment updates would be sent out in such a manner that all technicians would be informed.

MWO Guillemette once again took the stage to present the newly designed lithium battery system which could power the new surveillance system for the LAV 6.0. This new battery would be installed in the cavity left behind by the removal of the winch and its maintenance would require the use of an “intelligent” battery charger combined with detailed repair techniques. MWO Guillemette also briefly spoke about the TNR (Tactical Network Rover), a new communications system before continuing on with the TBMC (Tactical Battle Management Computer), a tablet which allows its operator to control the surveillance system as well as display four different live feeds simultaneously. The final portion of the presentation was dedicated to the new Turret Day Sight and Laser Range Finder (TDS-LRF) for the LAV 6.0. This new piece of equipment became the subject of great discussion since the procedure for its desiccation requires that it be back loaded 2nd line.

After lunch, certain technicians set up kiosks in order to demonstrate the various tricks they’d developed to facilitate maintenance tasks at their unit. For example, Cpl Genest from the 12RBC, adapted a manifold to his desiccator system allowing him to desiccate every sight assembly in the turret of a Coyote simultaneously. Before the closing ceremony, a picture of all the participants was taken followed by WO Savoie providing a short presentation on his experience with the MRR (Medium Range Radar).

According to the AAR, the fifth edition of “OP ZEUS” was a great success and everyone involved was enthusiastic about holding the event next year. Having one day a year that reinforces esprit de corps and where Electronic-Optronics technicians can come together to communicate and share ideas is a great asset that cannot be missed.

ARTE ET MARTE