



4 Engineer Support Regiment RCEME



Maint Tp EX NhS Sydney Cape Breton (2017).

2017 has marked an exciting year for the members of 4 ESR Maintenance troop. It started with the response to the ice storm in northern New Brunswick in January. Members of the troop were deployed in support of the Regiment's fleet being utilized for route clearing, trimming downed trees and aiding the Canadians of the area. The maintainers were diligent in their responsibilities keeping the equipment running in order to accomplish this very important task.

Next came the tireless hours of ensuring the regiment's equipment was available for the multitude of driver courses such as driver wheeled courses, ELAV driver courses, EROC fleet driver courses as well as crew commander courses. With the regiment continuously responsible for Division level tasks, such as the IRU, there is never a respite to the work required.

During the work up to Ex NIHILO SAPPER 2017 (NhS 17), led by MCpl Henry,

a Communications System Technician (CST), Maintenance troop was able to raise \$9108.00 for United Way with donations from its 45 members alone. MCpl Aitcheson (CST) and Cpl Peters (Veh Tech) volunteered to have their heads shaved as an incentive to raise an outstanding contribution to the charitable organization. A huge accomplishment!



MCpl Buck cutting MCpl Aitcheson's hair and MCpl Henry cutting Cpl Peters' hair (2017).

Then came the long hours of preparing the fleet for the annual EX NIHILO SAPPER (NhS) in Sydney, Cape Breton. The exercise, whose purpose was to confirm the regiment's readiness for any theatre opening tasks, took place during most of the month of November. Technicians worked long extended hours for seven weeks prior in order to ensure a successful four phase road move of some 167 pieces of equipment and vehicles. The road move went much better than expected with only the last convoy having any serious breakdowns requiring recovery support.

During Ex NhS 17, Maintenance Troop worked diligently completing running repairs and recoveries, performing gate guard duties, providing force protection personnel and administration runs, all the while, representing the Corps' Arte Et Marte moto.



MCpl Godin and Cfn Heroux (OJT) guiding Cpl White driving Bison from Tru-Hitch (2017).

It also provided opportunities to give some of our new RCEME members some experience by employing many OJTs (one Wpns tech, one EO tech, one Mat tech and six Veh techs) as well as several CFTPOs and Reserve technicians encapsulating the Esprit de Corps and teamwork which is so well

known in the RCEME Corps. This will prove to be a valuable experience for our future technicians.

The Regt had several tasks to accomplish while in Cape Breton. The repairing of a historical church in Victoria Mines, the construction of a suspension bridge in Ingonish, the remediation of an archeological siege trail near Fort Louisbourg, and dive clearance by the 4 ESR dive team in conjunction with the local Canadian Coast Guard College.

All of these tasks were supported by the Maintenance Troop ensuring their success. The bridge construction task was extensively supported by the Maintenance troop's Mat techs, MCpl Funk, Cpl Dixon and Cfn Szustakowski (OJT), most of whom, remained at the austere satellite camp for the majority of the EX.



Cfn Szustakowski (OJT) involved in the suspension bridge construction in Ingonish (2017).



Stone church in Victoria Mines (2017).



Siege trail remediation near Fort Louisburg (2017).

November 11, Remembrance Day, the regiment had the honor of attending Sydney's ceremony after which Maintenance Troop spent some time at the local Legion Branch 138 where we spoke to veterans about their experiences during their time in the military.



Cfn Szustakowski (OJT) in the flag party during Remembrance day (2017).

On November 12, the Regt held an open house for citizens in the area to have the opportunity to visit the Main Operating Base (MOB) and see exactly what the Regt does. Maintenance troop demonstrated mock roll over recoveries and well as the capabilities of the Tru-Hitch recovery system. Several stands and displays were made available to the public representing all trades of the Corps.



Crowds of civilians gather to the Maint lines as part of the Open House (2017).



MCpl Scott orchestrating 2 wrecker crews during rollover demo of complex recovery during open house. [Crews: Cpl Webb-Brown, Cpl Melvin, Cfn Bailey (OJT), Cfn Burton (OJT)] (2017).

With saddened and heavy hearts, we received news of one of our RCEME brother's death, Sgt Ryan McLean. By request of the family, we provided a RCEME escort comprised of the Bison MRV and Sgt McLean's unit wrecker. The regiment also provided an EROC Cougar to show their support to his family during the funeral procession from Glace Bay, NS to the garrison in Sydney, NS. Sgt McLean was an integral part of the success of the exercise assisting the Maintenance troop with any requirements we needed. Rest in peace Ryan, you will be missed.



Sgt Bertrand and Sgt MacDougall preparing the Bison MRV for Sgt McLean's funeral procession escort (2017).

As a show of support to one of the Tp member's uncle, recently diagnosed with prostate cancer, Troop members all grew mustaches as part of the "Movember" campaign for support to cancer victims. It was one of the uncle's wishes to have a picture taken of the Maintenance troop in the field so we thought it would be fitting to participate in the campaign to show our support. "We got your six".



4 ESR Maintenance troop 'Movember', Cape Breton, NS (2017).

As EX NhS finishes up, the year is coming to a close. Christmas "silly week", Christmas leave on the horizon, followed by the ATI in January, the whole training cycle will start again.

I could not be more pleased with the performance of the troop. Morale was high, VOR was low, and production was elevated. The technicians at 4 ESR Maintenance troop are an awesome crew, capable of achieving anything that comes our way. We accept all challenges on the horizon as we start planning our next year's EX NhS which has potential to be even further from Gagetown than this year.

Representing the epitome of the Corps, 4 ESR Maintenance troop technicians are a tight knit, highly motivated and professional group of soldier technicians. It has been my privilege to serve them as their ETQMS. The maintenance officer and I are proud of every one of you and appreciate all your dedication and hard work. Keep up the outstanding work troops!

ARTE ET MARTE

MWO Paul J Roy
ETQMS
4 ESR, Maintenance troop

CHIMO