

RCEME ODP 1.1 2018

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The Officer Development Period 1.1 course for Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Officers is a five-week course based entirely on RCEME doctrine and the role of the Commissioned Officers of the RCEME Corps within the Canadian Armed Forces.

In the first two weeks of the course, we got the opportunity to visit, interact with and see the jobs and roles of the technicians that serve in the non-commissioned ranks of the RCEME Corps. To quickly summarize, the RCEME Corps has four non-commissioned trades: vehicle techs, who are the military's land based mechanics; weapons techs who serve as the maintainers of the Army's individual and vehicular weaponry; electronic-optronic techs who work as electricians and optic maintainers at various levels of technicalities; and finally, the materials technicians who are skilled workers in material repair ranging from sewing to welding. Seeing what the technicians are trained for gave us all a good perspective of the capabilities, responsibilities and necessity of the technicians within the RCEME Corps.

Work talk aside, on the second weekend of course, the ODP 1.1 candidates were responsible for the preparation and execution of an attraction for the Borden airshow. The attraction we were responsible for was named Kiddie Commando and consisted of an obstacle course and similar activities for children to partake in while traversing the airshow with their parents. The kids would first arrive and be directed to a photo booth where they could have fun and smile trying on all the kit that makes us cry in the field... Next, they would run through a series of small obstacles including wall vaults, a maze and a zipline. This would lead them to the end where some would come back through the course and some would go enjoy the rest of the airshow. At first it was assumed that this was going to be a weekend of work, taking away from our time off, but once the kids showed up and Kiddie Commando kicked off, its debatable that some of us had more fun than the kids.



2Lt Kochanowski, 2Lt MacDonald, 2Lt Lee, 2Lt Hutchison and 2Lt Doris at the Kiddie Commando event

During the fourth week of our course, we conducted a virtual exercise in which we took on the roles of unit Maintenance Officers as well Brigade Level Maintenance Coordinators known as G4 Maint. Throughout the full day exercise, we received emails that were staged as if being from various internal and external unit personnel requesting and reporting various situations and responses to events throughout the brigade maintenance organizations. This was another day, we as a course, were dreading as it seemed as if it would be stressful and boring to sit at a computer all day, but in the end was both intriguing and designed in a way that was enjoyable as it gave us a tangible idea of what our jobs will be like as RCEME Officers.

With the great staff that we had on this course, what truly made this course a unique experience was the fact that we had some very experienced candidates, who used to be technicians within the RCEME Corps, to share their knowledge and experiences with us. With that I would like to give three shout outs to these individuals for their invaluable contribution to our learning experience on this course: Lt Lochrie who was a veh tech CWO in the UK REME Corps, then a veh tech Sgt in the far superior Canadian RCEME Corps before commissioning; Lt Strickland who was a veh tech Sgt with the RCEME Corps, but truly an officer at heart from the beginning; and Lt Roy who was also a veh tech Sgt with the RCEME Corps, he's Franco, I'm not, I don't know a lot about him other than his help was invaluable.



Candidates of RCEME ODP 1.1 on a ruck march for morning PT

In the end, this course was certainly one that introduced us to the RCEME Corps effectively and with a positive attitude. With the mentorship of our CSO, Capt Arsenault, later filled in by Capt Pratt, and section commanders: Major Wong, ma'am, Capt Mellow who loves to share tank stories, Capt Cadieux-Langevien who is Franco and Capt Park who joined us later and enjoys giving 2Lt Lee a hard time, this course was certainly one with experience and knowledge that we all will take with us into ODP 1.2 and our careers to come, be it reserve or reg force paths that lie ahead.

On behalf of all RCEME ODP 1.1 Candidates:

- 2Lt V.M. Kochanowski

