

RCEME



Journal

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

1-2014

Recovering our RCEME Heritage

RCEME Museum to Open Late
2015

RCEME to Leave Bordon, U.K.

123 LAD 1 CACR 1944-1945

RCEME Technicians in the Philippines –
Versatility at its Best

And more!



National Défense
Defence nationale

Canada

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
OTTAWA

Office of the Secretary
to the Governor General

3rd April, 1944.



My dear Mr. Minister,

Referring to your letter of the 16th ultimo, I wish to inform you that a letter has been received to-day from the Private Secretary to the King, informing us that His Majesty is glad to approve the grant of the designation "Royal" to the new Corps of Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. This information was communicated to your Private Secretary by telephone to-day.

Yours sincerely,

L. G. Keenan

Assistant Secretary to the
Governor General.

*Notified M.G.O. by
tel 1245 hrs. today
DHL*

The Honourable **APR 7 1944**
The Minister of National Defence,
Ottawa.

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This letter shows the granting of the Royal designation to the Corps of Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers on 3 April 1944

Recovering our RCEME Heritage



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Director RCEME's Message

What will you contribute to the Corps' legacy?

Col S. Bouchard, Director RCEME

This past year, the Canadian government authorized us to once again use our royal designation, which stands at the very heart of the Corps' creation in 1944. Minister Peter MacKay's statement referred not only to a simple change of name for the RCEME Corps but also to an opportunity to rediscover our heritage. This edition will use this occasion to recognize and promote our legacy and heritage as a Corps.

When we say the word "heritage", the first word that may spring to mind is "museum". In fact, our future museum will be an expression of this heritage. This initiative will become a tangible and living exhibit of objects and documents that recounts one aspect of our history that must be preserved if we are to remember our roots and origins. This large-scale project would not be viable without tremendous support from the Corps Heritage Committee, and in particular, the Friends of the RCEME Museum. This committee, consisting of active and retired Corps members, has done an amazing job thus far ensuring that all Corps members, along with the general public within a few months, will be able to enjoy this rich heritage forged by the Corps over its 70 years of existence.

But our heritage is more than this. Our esprit de corps, our traditions, the events surrounding the Corps's anniversary, our Buggy races, our golf tournaments, curling bonspiels and hockey tournaments, our culture of resourcefulness and innovation... these are but a few of the examples of

RCEME's heritage. Did you know that we have some fifteen buildings and maintenance workshops named after officers and NCOs who, through their

the verbs "give", "transmit", "bequeath" or "leave". Therefore, it is our duty not only to help preserve this living legacy but to pass it on to our craftsmen and young officers.

Thus we inherit this legacy on the day we receive our cap badge. And as our careers progress, we assist in its development and one day leave our successors a heritage that each one of us has forged, enriched and helped keep alive.

In 5 years, we will be celebrating our 75th anniversary as a Corps of the Canadian Armed Forces. This event will be a unique opportunity to celebrate a heritage marked with success on the battlefield and technological innovations. Make sure that our new craftsmen and officers are witness to our proud

spirit by celebrating the Corps as it deserves to be honoured. Eventually, it will be their turn to do the same thing when they stage our 100th anniversary!

For my part, it has been a great honour to serve you as Corps director. I hope that in my small way I have helped enrich our heritage.. *Arte et Marte*.



14 Coy RCEME 1944

actions, have left their mark on the Corps. Even the RCEME Corps Fund demonstrates our contributions to our heritage. One of the goals of the fund is to help preserve the traditions, memories, and customs of the Corps. In this way, all fund members help enrich and maintain this living legacy.

The word "heritage" is often associated with

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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 | BGen (Ret'd) P.J. Holt, OMM, CD |
| Corps Director | Col S. Bouchard, MSM, CD |
| Corps Sergeant Major | CWO J.G.R. Gilbert, CD |
| Special thanks for the contribution | Sgt Steve McIntyre, Doug Knight, Capt Gary Dzeoba, Lt Sébastien Royal |



RCEME Corps Sergeant Major's Message

RCEME 1944-2014: Going Back to Our Roots

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

In April 2013, we heard the good news from the CDS himself that the Corps would be getting its old name back: the RCEME, the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Since 15 May 1944, we've gone around with various insignia on our shoulders, starting with RCEME (1944), then LORE (1968), then LEME (1984), then EME (1994), and finally returning to our roots with RCEME (2013). There are very few among us who wore the letters RCEME back then, but we should be very grateful to those who have guided us to this point. Our big RCEME family has always been successful in the CAF and especially in the Army. Over the years, we've had members of the Corps at every level, and that's still true today, whether for a sports competition, a tournament or another commander's challenge. We the members of the RCEME are always ready to meet challenges with flying colours, and we'll often see one or more members representing the Corps on the winners' podium. Even though our name has changed several times, our values, our determination, our esprit de corps and sense of duty have never changed, and our motto *Arte et Marte*, By Skill and By Fighting, has never been more true. Let's continue our good work together.

As I have already said in the last edition of the Journal, for almost 70 years, the legacy passed down to us by the Old Guard, our predecessors, has allowed us to distinguish ourselves from other

organizations and be respected by everyone. And now 2014 will usher in the 70th anniversary of the creation of this magnificent Corps of ours. At present, we have members of the RCEME Corps in 168 different units across Canada in all environments, and every day, our technicians distinguish themselves in keeping the equipment operational. Our exceptional technical skills and our keen sense of leadership make us top-flight soldiers and technicians, very much in demand in the CAF.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our past, but we need to keep our heads up to see what the future holds for us in the next few years. With the rapid advance of new technologies, we're bound to face challenges. We shall all have to rise to these challenges while continuing to provide exemplary service to keep all this equipment operational.

In closing, I would like to say that it continues to be a real privilege for me to work with you and be inspired by your work ethic, your unwavering professionalism, your compassion and your desire to help build a better Army. Be proud!

Arte et Marte.

Pride In The RCEME Corps

Craftsman William Pearson 968
DP1 Crse 0404, Vehicle Company
RCEME School

Pride is defined as "a feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements, the achievements of those with whom one is closely associated, or from qualities or possessions that are widely admired."

In the RCEME Corps, all is one, one is all. We share our triumphs and achievements, but also our defeats. To the civilian eye, and even the eyes of other units and elements of the Canadian Armed Forces, each individual craftsman is "RCEME." When we succeed it is viewed as RCEME's success, and when we fail, it is RCEME failing.

Pride is everything and now, more than ever, it is of the utmost importance to be proud because we are once again the Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers; our heritage, the name under which we became what we are, a name that our brothers fought for and died for in World War II. *Arte et Marte*

Call for Articles, 1st Edition 2014

THEME FOR NEXT EDITION : RCEME 2021

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 JULY 11, 2014.** We reserve the right to select articles and to modify the texts according to the space available.

Internal email: +EME.Journal@202DA@Montreal

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RCEME Museum to Open Late 2015

Colonel (Ret'd) Andrew Nellestyn OStJ PhD PEng, Co-Chair RCEME Heritage Committee, Interim Executive Director RCEME Museum

The RCEME Museum has a new home! After a long absence occasioned by the closing of the RCEME School at Barriefield, Ontario, members of the Corps, past, present and future, now have a place to reminisce and reflect on their manifold accomplishments. It will also provide an exceptional venue to share our proud history with the Canadian public.

The pieces are now in place to begin the construction process of the RCEME Museum Phase I, to be located at CFB Kingston. The official opening is scheduled for late 2015.

One of the guiding principles in developing the RCEME Museum's design concept is illustrated by a recent Special Report: Museums, which appeared in the 21 December 2013 edition of The Economist; "...the more successful ones [museums] have changed out of all recognition. The range [of subjects] they cover has broadened spectacularly and now goes well beyond traditional subjects such as art and artefacts, science and history...The Museums work with digital experts to enable visitors to participate [interact] as well as watch and listen, and create innovative public programmes [community outreach] to bring in the young and inexperienced." The impact of the digital age is upon us and is here to stay; developing ever more sophisticated applications to enlarge and enhance our social, entertainment, and educational environment.

The RCEME museum project is managed by the RCEME Heritage Committee (HC). The project has two phases. Phase I, which consists of shared space in the new extension (completion date late 2014) of the Military Communications and Electronics Museum (MC&E Museum) and Phase II which will consist of a stand-alone RCEME Museum adjacent to the MC&E Museum. It is envisioned that Phase II will be completed in 2019 in time for the RCEME 75th Anniversary or shortly thereafter. The combination of the stand-alone RCEME Museum and the MC&E Museum will constitute a Military Technology Park to showcase RCEME's and C&E's history and heritage. The complex also serves to illustrate the role of technology in the CAF and its beneficial

and extensive impact on readiness and operations and Canada's science and



Museum CFB Kingston

technology leadership at home and abroad.

Phase I of the RCEME Museum is an outstanding example of the common interests and strong partnership which exist between the Communications and Electronics Branch and the Corps of RCEME. Both organizations epitomize the critical role played by engineering, technology, and combat support in the CAF. The marriage is thus most fitting and complimentary.

The leadership and untiring support provided by the C&E community (MGen Dave Neasmith, BGen (Ret'd) Pep Fraser, BGen (Ret'd) Michel Charron and Maj (Ret'd) Mike DeNoble) combined with that of the Corps of RCEME (MGen Ian Poulter, BGen (Ret'd) Peter Holt, BGen Nicolas Eldaoud, BGen Alex Patch, BGen Scott Kennedy, Col Sebastien Bouchard, Col Jean-Francois Prévost, Col Al Benson, LCol James Bower, LCol Yves Turgeon, LCol (Ret'd) Ken Jones and Capt Gary Dzeoba) made this a reality. The support and guidance provided by DHH's Michel Litalien and Capt (Ret'd) Yves Lesieur were, and continue to be, invaluable and

greatly appreciated.

Mention must also be made of the indefatigable effort and creative work that Col (Ret'd) Gilles Nappert and Col (Ret'd) Tom Temple are dedicating to the statement of work (SOW) for the interior layout, exhibit concept, and design for Phase I of the RCEME Museum. They have recently been joined by Maj (Ret'd) Gord Goddard and Capt (Ret'd) Yves Lesieur, both of whom bring many years of experience in museum design and operation to the project. Many others have assisted in the project. To them we also owe a great debt of gratitude.



Exhibits MC&E Museum, CFB Kingston

Examples of the excellence and relevance of the collection of artefacts and their arrangement can be seen on the MC&E Museum website <http://www.c-and-e-museum.org>.

The RCEME Museum project is indeed a timely celebration of the re-institution of the designation ROYAL to the Corps' name. The RCEME Museum will serve as a tribute to our proud history and heritage and as a bridge between the past, present and future.

Arte et Marte

Arte et Marte: A New Museum for RCME

Charles Méthé and Roland Lajeunesse, Museologists Groupe GID

The Corps of RCME will soon be celebrating its 75th anniversary. This ambitious project should give cause for pride and much more. It will be a bridge that joins the Corps' history and traditions to its future. It will also be a way to show the key contribution that "engineering craftsmen" have made to the capacity for action of modern armies.

Celebrating expertise and esprit de corps

A museum should maintain a dynamic balance between three aims: preserving the past, conducting research, and disseminating knowledge. A regiment's museum has a fourth aim: to be a rallying point. It's a place of pride for anyone who has been associated with the regiment. It should express the values on which an esprit de corps is built.

Why is RCME so special?

For centuries, army technical expertise was used to make and maintain equipment like firearms, horse-drawn vehicles, and gun carriages. Armies were successful to the degree they could mobilize the strength and courage of their soldiers. The early 20th century brought mass production and the technological revolution, thus heralding an era of great change in all areas of life, including warfare.

Armed forces initially began to mechanize during the First World War, thereby beginning a radical transformation of their fighting ability. The pace of change picked up during the Second World War. Mass production helped spread and standardize technological advances. The war of movement required tanks, artillery, and vehicles of all sorts in huge numbers. It is no accident that The Corps of RCME came into being in 1944. The Italian and Normandy campaigns showed that military hardware had to be kept in good working order all the way to the front. Since then, the different technologies have continued to develop, becoming more advanced, more important, and ever more sophisticated; the corollary being an ever-growing need for people who can keep the equipment running.

RCME's history can thus provide insight into the history of technologies and how they have been applied in a military context. These same applications have

often ended up being put to civilian use. Those who have created RCME since its inception, and those who will lead it into the future, have been and will continue to be part of the technological revolution. They have been and will keep on being forces for change.

The museum should reflect The Corps of RCME's raison d'être

The RCME museum should pay tribute to the soldiers and technicians who have come and gone over the years. It should also show how technical innovation has affected military and civilian areas of life, and how equipment has been kept operational.

The RCME museum should define the fields of interest of its collections — "Playing with big toys"

A museum is also defined by its collection. The museum preserves military technologies so that visitors can see and explore how they have evolved. The museum needs to develop the collection to show just how complex a piece of technical equipment can be and how challenging it is to maintain it, especially in the heat of battle.

As much as possible, the collection should likewise provide a hands-on experience of the different battlefields where the Corps has fought and the site-specific problems it has had to resolve.

The RCME museum should reach out to a variety of audiences

Museums are now expected to be dynamic places that can create memorable experiences. They should attract a

variety of audiences and create interactive and mutually enriching encounters. They should be fun and educational for our fellow citizens, who rely on similar technologies in their daily lives. Also, with the growing popularity of social media, staff need to rethink the museum experience and create new dimensions that go beyond the traditional physical framework of a museum.

An innovative museum — "For all to envy"

Many military museums are built around a classic concept—the look and feel of a sanctum. The challenge, here, is to create a different kind of museum for a different kind of regiment—one whose work has been highly technical. It will need a museum concept that will use the latest communication technologies and other means to enhance the regiment's collection and history. The exhibits should also speak to the visitor in a style of language that can appeal to diverse audiences while also paying homage to our craftsmen's skills. The museum should make a distinct contribution to the military museum community.



Exhibits MC&E Museum, CFB Kingston

Administration Company, 2 Service Battalion Commemorates Remembrance Day 2013

Colonel (Ret'd) Andrew Nellestyn OStJ PhD PEng, Co-Chair RCME Heritage Committee, and Maj S. Cahill, OC Admin Coy, 2 Svc Bn

Remembrance Day in historic Almonte, Ontario, was a blustery, cold, rainy day; much like the conditions endured by WWI veterans in the trenches of Europe. It was here on the banks of the town's fast-running Mississippi River where stands the magnificent Old Town Hall and the celebrated and moving cenotaph, The Volunteer, that members of Admin Coy, 2 Service Battalion, Petawawa, came to commemorate the town's veterans and to participate in the events of this day of reflection.

The 2 Service Battalion fans out across the Ottawa Valley each year to add a military presence to community Remembrance Day ceremonies. The Ottawa Valley outreach program was devised by Garrison Petawawa over a decade ago and was appropriately named Operation Valley Connection. One of its goals was to bring a military dimension to Remembrance Day activities to communities throughout the Valley and to provide both Canadians and the military with a more meaningful occasion to commemorate fallen comrades.

Almonte (population some 5,000) was named after General Juan Almonte; a Mexican general who fought honourably and with distinction in the border wars between Mexico and the United States during the 1830s. Considering that this period was seen by Canadians of the day as one of American territorial ambitions, to wit the War of 1812, it was not surprising that Almonte, then known as Waterford, thought it fitting to adopt the General's name as he was seen to be a "principled David fighting a Goliath interested in swallowing up all North America."ⁱ [1] It was the establishment in 1855 of a Post Office in the town which necessitated the name change as there already existed a town known as Waterford in Ontario.

Almonte's military history predates Confederation and continues to this day and exemplifies a proud tradition of volunteers who contributed honourably and gallantly to the defence of Canada and its friends and allies abroad. Additionally, the town was a principal centre for the

milling of wool as attested by its extensive array of textile mills; many of which produced textiles for military clothing and other military applications. Although the last mill closed in the early 1980s, the town's Mississippi Valley Textile Museum reflects the once prosperous industry which gave Almonte a prominent place in Ontario's industrial landscape. And then there was the December 27, 1942 train wreck in which a troop train collided with a passenger train standing in the station; 39 people were killed and in excess of 150 were injured.

The town is also the home of James Naismith who is acclaimed as the founder of basketball. A bronze sculpture sits along the main street to honour his role in introducing basketball.

Thus is the town of Almonte and the historical, economic and military setting in which Admin Coy, 2 Service Battalion participated in the local 2013 Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Branch 240 Royal Canadian Legion Almonte under the leadership of its

President John Souter staged the ceremonies and did so most admirably and movingly. The colour party advanced up the street with colours flying proudly in the wind. The veterans marched impressively. The pipe and drum band's music was stirring and brought many a tear to the eyes of those who came to commemorate those who had fallen and sacrificed so much. The parade also included vintage military pattern vehicles and a motorcycle with a sidecar. The ceremony at the cenotaph was moving and reflective of the solemnity of the occasion.

Admin Coy's forty soldier marching contingent and firing party represented both 2 Service Battalion and Garrison Petawawa and did so in a manner befitting the Battalion's motto NULLI SECUNDUS. The soldiers marched sharply and were visibly impressed by the town's involvement, respect and admiration. It was a pleasure to have been part of such a ceremony.

In fact this was one of the most memorable commemorative ceremonies which we have witnessed. The location on the bank of the Mississippi River flanked

by the Old Town Hall and centered by the cenotaph, and most importantly, the many town and surrounding area residents who attended and whose sympathies, respect and sadness were everywhere evident, made for a much more intimate and meaningful commemoration of and tribute to our veterans.



Photo: Kelly Kent, Canadian Gazette. Thus is the charming,

ⁱ Cosentino, Frank. Almonte: The Life of Juan Nepomuceno



Photo: Kelly Kent, Canadian Gazette.

generous and inviting community character of small town, rural Ontario.

It was a day that made us all proud of our military men and women in uniform and appreciative of Admin Coy's (many of them RCEME) participation. It could be said that it was a gathering of the RCEME clan which included also BGen Scott Kennedy (DGLEPM), Col (Ret'd) Alex Gillis (a local town councillor), Col (Ret'd) Andrew Nellestyn (laid wreath on behalf of the Government and people of Canada) and several other RCEME veterans.

Yes it was a cold, rainy, blustery day but it was all rewarded by an invitation by the



Photo: Kelly Kent, Canadian Gazette.
Silver Cross Mother representative Lorna Merrithew places wreath at Cenotaph.



Photo: Kelly Kent, Canadian Gazette.

local Legion Branch to imbibe a cup of hot cheer, a beverage or two and partake of some snacks.



Back Row (L-R): Maj Steve Cahill, Col (Ret'd) Andrew Nellestyn, BGen Scott Kennedy, Col (Ret'd) Alex Gillis, CWO Mark German, MWO Scott Wilson

Admin Coy's participation is a manifestation of and tribute to the community outreach program instituted so many years ago. It brings the military to the community thereby establishing a bond of understanding and mutual respect between Canadians and the troops who serve and defend Canada. It is heartily applauded! Our military history and heritage are thus preserved, relived and promoted.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.
Arte et Marte Nulli Secundus

The RCEME Heritage Committee

2Lt Alexandre Levesque, O Projet, 202 Workshop Depot

The RCEME Heritage Committee, presided over by Colonel Allan Benson, is made up of a number of dynamic members, both retired and serving, for whom seeing the heritage of The Corps of RCEME passed on to future generations is a major priority. These devoted individuals participate actively in a number of projects that all share the goal of helping members of The Corps to remember where they came from.

The members of the RCEME Heritage Committee are currently working on two very important projects; the first one is the 75th Anniversary of The Corps of RCEME. The year 2019 will mark the 75th Anniversary of the founding of The Corps, and the committee would like to make sure that all of our Corps members are given the opportunity to celebrate together. With this in mind heritage committee members are organizing a number of activities that are to be held both regionally and nationally in order to demonstrate that, once again, The Corps of RCEME knows how to party when the time is right.

Committee members are also devoting a lot of time to another big project; the creation

of a RCEME museum in Kingston. The Heritage Room at Regimental Company in Borden is an effective tool to teach the history of The Corps to new members, but it offers no real opportunity for the general public to learn about us. Thanks primarily to the strong commitment of the Heritage Committee members and through a partnership with the Communications & Electronics Branch Museum in Kingston; in a few short years The RCEME Corps will be able to proudly display its history to the general public. As a follow-up to the project plans are currently taking shape to build a stand-alone RCEME museum in the city of Kingston.

While much of the day to day work of the RCEME Heritage Committee happens outside of the public eye until it is time for one of their initiatives to be delivered, we all benefit from their efforts. The committee's members are all well known throughout The Corps, and most of you will have heard of them. The co-president of the committee is Col (Ret'd) A. Nellestyn, he serves alongside the RCEME Corps colonel-commandant Brigadier-General(Ret'd) P.J. Holt, Col (Ret'd) M.C. Johnston, Col (Ret'd) G. Nappert, Col (Ret'd) T. Temple, Maj (Ret'd) D. Knight, Captain G. Dzeoba, Warrant Officer E. Johnson, Corps Padre Reverend D. Chisholm and the CO 5 Service Battalion, Lieutenant-colonel D.P. Matsalla.

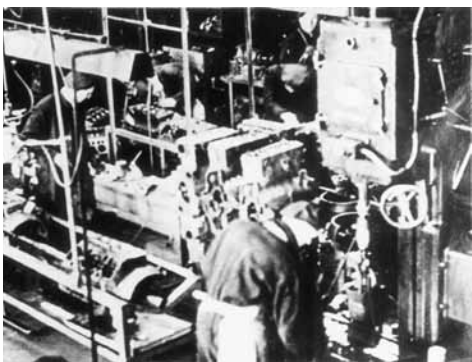
RCEME to Leave Bordon, U.K.

Maj Robert Hardwick, CFSU (E) Det UK

It is with great sadness that I must announce that the RCEME Corps must leave Bordon, U.K. and our links with the camp must come to an end.

The UK Government has announced the closure of Bordon and have further directed that all units must vacate the Camp, in Hampshire, UK, by January 2016. These announcements come as the Government attempts to reduce military spending in these times of fiscal restraint. The REME School however, will survive, but it is slated for relocation as part of these government cost cutting initiatives. In addition to closing the camp, the British MOD has decided to scale back a significant number of exchange positions as well. Unfortunately, the exchange posts between our two schools did not survive contact. Therefore this summer, Major Hardwick, RCEME, will officially become the last exchange officer between our two Schools. It truly will be a sad day for our two Corps when the Canadian flag is lowered in Bordon for the last time, thus closing a significant chapter of Canadian and more specifically RCEME history.

The Canadian connection with Camp Bordon dates back to the outbreak of WWI. Following the declaration of War with Germany, troops of the Canadian



Inside 1 Canadian Base Workshop - around 1944. The photo was part of the annual report from Col Secord, but the name of the photographer is lost to time.

Expeditionary Force began to arrive in the United Kingdom en masse. Camp Bordon became the major staging base for Canadian troops undergoing final preparations for the landings in France. In those early years our Canadian soldiers worked feverishly

to build the camps, hospitals and rail lines needed to feed and maintain the massive war machine. Their efforts left a lasting impact on the local communities. The rail lines laid by the Canadian Overseas Railway Construction Corps are still visible today, and some are still in use. The roads and foundations of the original Canadian camps can still be seen in Bordon, Longmoor, and Headley to name but a few of the local towns. The local forests that were harvested for their raw materials by the 118th and 137th Companies of the Canadian Forestry Corps stand tall today but if one looks close enough you can see the marks left behind by those Canadian veterans.

For the RCEME Corps, our connection with Bordon truly began during the Second World War. At the outbreak of the War, Canadians once again answered the call, and once again Canadian units flooded into Bordon and the surrounding areas. This time however the camp was transformed into a major logistics hub of the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps. In 1941, Colonel G.A. Secord was given the task of building Canada's first overseas workshop and most of what was achieved in the completion of this task still stands today as the main buildings of the Technical Training Area of the Defence School of Electronic and Mechanical Engineering (The REME School in Bordon). So important was the work of the RCOC in Bordon, that in 1942 Gen McNaughton, GOC of C, First Canadian Army, unveiled the corner stone of the 1st Canadian Base Workshop (1st CBW). This Workshop was destined to become the largest military workshop in the entire British Empire during the war. It was capable of sharpening hypodermic needles or rebuilding war damaged tanks. At its height of production in 1944, the workshop was expending 5.7 million man-hours annually on equipment repair and overhaul! It was during this height of activity that the RCEME Corps was born. On 15 May 1944, Colonel Gordon A. Secord, OBE, Commanding Officer 1st CBW,



photo from the 1944 report by Col Secord. This photo shows the track vehicles outside 1 Canadian Base Workshop

presided over a ceremony which saw the unit change from RCOC(E) to RCEME.

As a serving RCEME Officer it has been an honour to walk the hallowed halls of our Corps' past. The honour however is bitter sweet, as I know I will be the last. The last RCEME member to walk through these old buildings, the ones that used to be the tank shops, the "B" engine reconditioning shops, and the wireless shops of the 1st CBW, to name but a few. On this, the final year of our OUTCAN posting, my wife and I have accepted that this will be our year of lasts: Our last Remembrance Services on the Camp; our last Remembrance Services in the local communities; our last chance to speak with local residents who knew and remembered the Canadians; our last chance to walk through the living history that shaped our Corps; and, our last chance to visit and put Canadian flags on the graves of our fallen, those who's final resting places are in Bordon and the surrounding area.

It will be sad to leave Bordon, but we will remember our fallen, we will remember our Corps' connection to this place, but most important of all, I will return home knowing that the RCEME Corps remains second to none. I am happy to have served with REME, but I am fiercely proud to be RCEME! We are the best at what we do and we do keep the punch in the Army!

Arte et Marte.

123 LAD 1 CACR 1944-1945

Col Cmdt, BGen (Ret'd) Holt

Last October your Col Cmdt had the pleasure of interviewing Capt (ret'd) Erskine (Dunc) Duncan, MBE, a 92 year-old WWII RCEME Veteran and the commander of 123 Light Aid Detachment of the 1st Canadian Armoured Carrier Regiment (1 CACR) from its formation near Caen in August 1944 to the end of the war. 1 CACR was the brainchild of LGen GG Simonds, and he called upon the newly formed Corps of RCEME to make this concept a reality.

The Canadian Army's challenge in July 1944 was simple but deadly: Canadian Infantry units were being decimated by accurate German fire as they advanced on foot through the broken landscape of Normandy. Then our armoured units, stripped of their infantry support, were easy prey for the German 88 anti-tank guns. So something was needed to protect our soldiers as they tried to breakthrough the German lines. The answer? A new idea: mount the infantry in armoured vehicles that could keep up with the tanks.



Captain Duncan in a Staff Car acquired from the German Panzer Division.

Early in August, BGen Grant, the Canadian Army's senior RCEME officer, was challenged to produce this new vehicle. Starting with surplus US Army 105 mm SP guns, called Priests, 76 of the new armoured carriers, nicknamed Kangaroos because they carried soldiers in a protected "pouch", were designed, modified, up-armoured and made ready by RCEME for Operation TOTALIZE. Op TOTALIZE was LGen Simonds plan to close the Falaise gap and capture or destroy the German 7th Army. BGen Grant had asked for a week to do the job: he was given four days, and the hard-working RCEME craftsmen did it just a bit more than three!

This is where Capt Duncan enters the story. Until end-July 1944, he commanded one of the LADs attached to the 3rd Div Field Artillery units. When all of 3 Div's 105 mm Priests were sent for their "make-over" to APC's, Capt Duncan was ordered to take as many RCEME troops as he needed from the 32nd, 33rd and 34th LADs in 3 Div, and form an "ad hoc" LAD to support these vehicles for Operation TOTALIZE.

The amazing success of Op TOTALIZE, and the subsequent destruction of the German 7th Army, meant that the armoured carrier (later APC) was now officially a new Canadian combat capability. So too was

Capt Duncan's ad hoc group of RCEME craftsmen: it was now to be known as 123 LAD, 1 CACR. Unfortunately, this innovative regiment with its very large RCEME contingent (starting with 60, then growing to 80, or twice the size of a normal LAD, by the end of the war), had to scrounge for everything from rations and tents to spare parts! For the remainder of the war 1 CACR was basically sent to wherever the need was greatest; that meant frequent switching between different Divisions, Corps and even Armies (Canadian and British). Needless to say, resupply was a nightmare.

Luckily, Capt Duncan and his troops became experts at what one could call "acquisition by liberation". The destruction of Field-Marshal Von Kluge's 7th Army had serious strategic implications, of course, but for 123 LAD, it was a chance to "acquire" some useful equipment that otherwise would have taken a long time to come through the over-extended supply system. Among the items

liberated were field kitchen equipment, assorted canvas and even a German SS Division Commander's staff car – complete with the usual ominous insignia. Within a very short while the resourceful 123 LAD RCEME techs had repainted this car with Allied colours and (fake) registration numbers. This luxury convertible was to provide Capt Duncan with the best transportation of any RCEME Captain in WWII, as he drove it through France, Belgium, Holland and into Germany over the next 10 months.

In a similar fashion, a captured German 88 mm anti-tank gun proved to have been a very useful ammunition trailer, which, with minor modification, could be used to transport spare tank engines. Of course, 123 LAD was not authorized to carry spare engines; however the independent nature of 1 CACR meant that access to second line workshop support was both rare and fleeting. So, as we continue to do to this very day, RCEME improvised – and got the job done.

At one point in Holland, a senior RCEME LCol, the Commander of 4 Cdn Armoured Troops Workshop, asked Capt Duncan



Winter '44-'45, Sgt Bill Heil (Left), Cpl Griffiths (Right)



German Anti-Tank Gun, Sgt Heil (on the Motorcycle), Cpl Griffiths (standing on Right), unknown (standing on Left)

how long it took his craftsmen to replace an engine. On being told a time that was considerably shorter than the time his own soldiers took in their large second-line shop, he quickly lost interest in taking on the work. In fact, he then arranged to loan 123 LAD a much-needed “KL” field welding vehicle to help him out – as it

turned out, for the remainder of the war!

Of course, Capt Duncan also recalls the less pleasant side of the war. Since these new armoured carriers reduced infantry casualties so significantly, 1 CACR and 123 LAD were always in the thick of the worst fighting. In fact, they were the first RCEME soldiers to operate on German soil in January of 1945, while 1 CACR was attached to the British Second Army for Operation BLACKCOCK. Then, once that operation succeeded, back they went to join the First Canadian

Army for Operation VERITABLE, another thrust into the Third Reich. As attested in the unit war diary, 1 CACR and 123 LAD were in action continuously for 29 days in the cold, wet weather of that winter – operating over muddy, flooded fields in the worst tank country imaginable. Recovery and repair under fire in the

worst possible weather became routine. In fact, Capt Duncan’s troops used the ice fog and “white-out” conditions to their advantage, recovering 7 of 8 Kangaroos from a minefield only 400 yards in front of a strong German position one particularly terrible night without incurring any casualties. Capt Duncan recalls that the occasional incoming mortar round made things a bit “lively” that night; so once the recovery operation was complete, he authorized a tot of rum for his wet, cold but happy Craftsmen!

And that is where we will leave them. Celebrating the use of their skill in the presence of danger, under fire from a determined enemy. Capt Duncan and the one soldier remaining from his unit, 95 year old Sgt Bill Heil, could tell us many more of their exploits, I’m sure. But the theme is one that we all recognize and honour: 123 LAD RCEME always got the job done, they did it well, and they did it by skill and by fighting.

School History In Review

Lt Dustin Lebel, Officer Development Period 1.2, RCEME School

Following the renaming of the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (EME) Branch to the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME) on 19 April 2013, the Canadian Forces School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (CFSEME) was restored to the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers School (RCEME School) on 18 July 2013. The inclusion of that one small but meaningful word has tremendous significance to the history of the Corps. This illustrious heritage reminds soldiers who they are and guides them to where they are going.

The Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) was formed in October 1942. Canada followed suit and on 15 May 1944, the Corps of RCEME was born. Prior to and during this period, training was conducted at the Canadian Ordnance and Electrical and Mechanical Engineering School in Kingston. On 1 October 1946, this facility was officially redesignated The RCEME School.

Following numerous changes such as the Canadian Forces School of Communications and Land Ordnance Engineering, the Canadian Forces School of Aerospace and Ordnance Engineering and the Canadian Forces School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, the school has returned to its original name. Though

the location and organization have changes since 1946, the common goal of providing trained soldier-technicians remains and the instructors of today show the same enthusiasm as their forbearers. Whether members of the RCEME Corps (formerly the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Branch), the ammunition occupation or members of the Explosives Ordnance profession, the School motto reflects the professionalism of the staff and students, “Novam Scientiam Quaere/Seek New Knowledge”.



The Commandant of the RCEME School, Lcol J.D. Bower with the RSM, CWO J.L.A. Moreau, cut the RCEME birthday cake in celebration of the first anniversary of the RCEME School.

Canada's Strategic Contribution to its UN Allies

Capt Enoch Lee, RCEME O (Maint O), 17 Wing

During my time as a Liaison Officer in JOINTEX 13 Stage 5, in Wainwright, I was recruited to be the Cultural Advisor (CULAD) for the 1st Canadian Division (1st Cdn Div) deploying to Seoul, Republic of Korea (ROK), for Ex ULCHI-FREEDOM GUARDIAN 2013 (Ex UFG 13) from 19-30 Aug 2013.

Ex UFG 13 was the world's largest computerized command and control implementation exercise and was aimed at validating the ROK-US alliance's operational readiness in response to threats across a range of potential conflicts, including North Korean provocations.

Approximately 50,000 South Korean soldiers and 30,000 US soldiers were involved. Although seven other UN contributing countries were involved as observers, Canada became the first contributing country to participate in the exercise. Our contribution was 48 Canadian soldiers represented the 1st Canadian Division under the command of the 1st Cdn Div Comd, MGen Jim Ferron. Canadian affiliation with its allies was greatly reinforced through Ex UFG 13 in planning and conducting a divisional level mission under the 1st US Corps Comd, LGen Robert Brown. The heart of Ex UFG 13 was about military-to-military integration and synchronization, moving and fighting as one, and maintaining momentum in a complex battle space.



Capt Lee with the Comd of 3rd Army of Republic of Korea, Gen Kwon

From an exercise perspective, it achieved 1st Cdn Div's training objective of improving interoperability, specifically with the ROK-US alliance. One of the most rewarding aspects of Ex UFG 13 was the privilege of planning and executing a mission based on real threats, real intelligence, and real terrain. During Ex UFG 13, MGen Ferron received numerous office calls for Canada's notable contribution from many flag officers such as Gen Thurman (Comd of United Nations Command), Gen Kwon (Third ROK Army Comd), and Gen Jung

(Chairman of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff) just to name a few.

From a personal point of view, it was very exciting to observe and learn from how MGen Ferron led his team, especially the J3 and the COS. Also due to a shortage of translators, I ended up translating for MGen Ferron during the daily Commander's Update Briefs and LGen Brown's fireside discussions. It was not long before Canadian soldiers were recognized and favoured for their competence and decisiveness in operations, creating a synergy in the alliance. This was evident at the victory celebrations as many American and Korean soldiers rushed towards Canadians to exchange their flags and unit badges. At Ex UFG 13, Canadians were few in number, but their presence was both welcomed and respected by the ROK-US alliance as per their motto, "We go together." I was proud to represent the CAF and also the RCEME Corps during this unique exercise.

Arte et Marte!

Exercises ROUGH RIDER and HADES RAM

Lt I. Zymberi, Capt C.J. Bosche, and Capt P.R. Theroux, 1 Svc Bn

On 15 October 2013, 1 Service Battalion deployed to the Wainwright Training Area with over 200 soldiers and 90 vehicles to participate in a level 5 training event part of High Readiness Continuation Training for Task Force 1-13. This training took the form of a brigade dry exercise where 1 Service Battalion's Forward Support Group (FSG) provided effective CSS support to all deployed units of 1 CMBG throughout all phases of the training.

These two exercises saw the FSG deploy to Wainwright from 15 October 2013 to 26 October 2013.

Ex ROUGH RIDER

Ex ROUGH RIDER (Ex RR) consisted of two stages, ending with the transition to Exercise HADES RAM (Ex HR) on 23 October 2013. The initial stage focused on the completion Individual

Battle Task Standards (IBTS). The IBTS training focused on covering a number of weapons systems including the browning pistol, C-7 rifle, C-9 light machine gun, and C-6 general purpose machine gun. Concurrent and supplemental training focused on completing navigation and communication training, convoy drills, and blackout driving. For many soldiers it was the first time they had experienced

this level of training outside of the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (RCEME) School. Upon completion of the IBTS training, the exercise transitioned into its second stage, the confirmation exercise. This exercise kicked-off with a general situation update and a warning order, transporting the FSG to the fictitious country of Cariga as an element of TF Steel Ram. TF Steel Ram



Soldiers preparing for the exercise

was sent to assist the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) in regaining control of the local area. The threat consisted of a near peer enemy, the Redharan Defence Force (RDF), and an insurgent type threat with the Mouvement du 23 Mars (M23). The principal threat to the FSG was posed by the M23, who were a group of trained soldiers which separated from

government forces over broken promises. The M23 worked in small groups and used IEDs, chemical weapons, and exploited targets of opportunity to achieve their goals. As it was believed that 1 Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (1 PPCLI) would sustain heavy vehicle losses pushing the RDF to the south east, the first task given to the FSG was to recce and establish an equipment collection point

(ECP). The ECP remained in location for 24 hours, where they repelled an M23 attack. The confirmation exercise culminated with a Maint Pl heavy quick reaction force being launched against a key M23 bomb making camp to eliminate the threat in the rear area. This exercise challenged and demonstrated the excellent soldier-technician aptitude

that men and women who compose the RCEME Corps embody. Maint Coy deployed approximately 60 soldiers on this exercise, who formed parts of the Main Repair Group, Forward Repair Group, and Logistics Operations Centre.

Ex HADES RAM

Ex HR was a level 5/6 dry exercise directed by 1 CMBG. This exercise saw Maint Pl, as part of the FSG, continue to provide CSS to Bde units and establish another ECP. This ECP was much closer in order to facilitate more rapid collection of casualties. This exercise was much shorter in duration than Ex RR, and the CSS elements strictly played a supporting role. Maint Pl was responsible for, and provided, on-going maintenance support to the 1 CMBG units until the redeployment to Edmonton on 26 October 2013.

Ex NIHILO SAPPER

2Lt Joel Benotto, 5 CDSG Tech Svcs Maint Coy

Maintenance Company Technicians of the 5th Canadian Division Support Group Technical Services Branch (5 CDSG Tech Svcs Br), with 4 Engineer Support Regiment (4 ESR), recently took part in Ex NIHILO SAPPER, which was of a river crossing exercise by Medium Raft (MR).



MCpl Trevor Guitard, Cpl Myles McKenney, Cpl Skye Feader and engineers of 4 ESR with a Wrecker – the last vehicle of the convoy – crossing the Oromocto River at dusk

This exercise provided a great opportunity to achieve training synergies among 4 ESR, Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering (CFSME) and Tech Svcs Br. The intent of Maintenance Company's

participation was to provide our junior leaders with an opportunity to practice battle procedure in the context of convoy operations while doing some really cool army training at the same time.

The convoy Comd, MCpl Charles Underhill, received road move orders from Log Ops on the morning of 8 Nov and immediately commenced battle procedure. On the morning of 12 Nov, the

convoy departed Maintenance Company lines and proceeded to the Fast Water Site to link-up with the engineers from 4 ESR to commence the river-crossing. From there the convoy learned that it

was the engineers' first time transporting vehicles using the rafts. Our soldiers were greatly impressed with the fluid, confident execution of the river-crossing. Without further delay the convoy safely crossed the river, continued along the designated route, and returned to Log Ops for a debrief.

As the sole maintenance organization responsible for 3rd line support to engineer bridging equipment, it was an added bonus for our technicians to witness this equipment being put to use. It reminds us all of the importance and the direct impact we have on supporting training and operations.

Wreckers on rafts - another prime example of RCEME keeping its head above the water!

Ambushes, Assaults, and Explosions: CFJSR Support Squadron Stays Vigilant

Cpl Johannes Hofland, CFJOSG

Exercise READY SUPPORT, 28 October to 7 November 2013, aimed to be a stark reminder that every soldier must always remain vigilant and maintain important soldier skills and tactics.



Photo taken by MCpl R.T. McLean

Photo of Cpl S. Vincent explaining recovery duties to non-RCME personnel.

The focus of Exercise READY SUPPORT, held at CFB Borden, was to emphasize important soldier training, but in a real-world context. The enemies and explosions were no longer imaginary or power-point based, but instead replicated with blank rounds, IED simulations, and the confused chorus of attacks and ambushes. The training began in a step-by-step manner; first, the troops were given a series of lectures; second, the troops were given walkthroughs; and lastly, the troops performed scenarios which acted as a skills confirmation.

Recovery demonstrations also took place, in which RGs and LAVIIs were righted. All soldiers (under RCME Supervision)

were given the chance to use the wrecker controls, an opportunity they relished. Other demos that were given by the Directing Staff included multiple IED simulations, t-flashes, smoke grenades, and arty sims.

The lectures and presentations contained information that time in garrison does not allow. The lectures were useful, but the way that soldiers really learn is by doing and performing. That came next in the “walkthrough” portion of the training. The Directing Staff set up a series of scenarios in which troops were tested on their response, knowledge, and “actions on” drills. Scenarios included broken down vehicles, IED attacks, and roadblocks. Soldiers then performed “5s and 20s”, assessed the situation, and used the appropriate radio procedure. This benefitted soldiers by providing immediate feedback, and instilling confidence.

Finally the confirmation phase of the training began. The troops were given a tactical briefing on the situation, and were expected to perform in a real-time hostile environment. This environment included “insurgents” in the local area who were using guerilla type tactics such as ambushes and IED attacks. Using their prior training, soldiers were no longer given any support

during the scenarios, and could be “killed” (simulated) if they made wrong decisions. Soldiers moved to important tactical locations in the Borden Training Area only to be blown up by unseen IEDs, be ambushed by insurgents, and interrupted by unhappy, rifle wielding, locals.

Other highlights of the exercise included a vehicle night-navigation; a day spent at the ranges which finished with a C6/C9 shoot; and a recce patrol led by two teams in order to gather information on the enemy at Camp Bravo. Needless to say, one recce team may have been more successful than the other (*cough*, RCME Seals, *cough*). To finish the exercise, the “Delta Viper Assault Team” was assembled. Equipped heavily with ammo, and in FFO with gas masks, the Delta Vipers went to Camp Bravo expecting the worst. Needless to say, the exercise was ended in spectacular fashion amongst yellow and red smoke, bullets flying, and the constant bang of t-flashes.

By the 7th of November 2013, Support Squadron was ready to return to Kingston. Overall, Exercise READY SUPPORT was very successful in reminding Support Squadron soldiers of the importance of soldier skills and the paramount need for constant vigilance.

Mission Closure Team (MCT), Intermediate Staging Terminal, Kuwait

Cpl Rebecca Barron, EO Tech, Maint Det, Mission Closure Team Kuwait

As a RCME soldier, it has been a learning experience to be immersed in the Logistics world, to say the least. Ensuring thorough inspections of all items (including BOLTS!!) and verifying a sea of NATO stock codes and checklist items is not the usual tour experience for most technicians, but that's

what the MCT IST Kuwait is all about. Our technical inspector stamps have become our tools and our ability to perform technical inspections with limited resources has become our daily routine. Even with all the hurdles a tour can bring, our RCME esprit de corps has never wavered.

Being Maintainers, we all support each other regardless of trade. That was made apparent when we first met each other at CFB Kingston for our pre-deployment training. What was our role and how do we fit into this supply puzzle? Would logistics be the focus? We decided that whatever our



Left to right; MCpl Cassidy, Sgt Slocum, Cpl Adams. All 3 pers are Veh Tech's

role would be, we would face them together as a team. Even completing the 13km Battle Fitness Test was a team effort as we supported each other for its entirety. With that attitude, we left our training with a sense of camaraderie that has kept us motivated and driven even now as the tour progresses.

The mission started slowly at first, but being RCEME, we made sure we were never idle. The Vehicle Technicians did their usual maintenance checks, taking it upon themselves to offer their services for any of the vehicles and equipment that needed repairs, regardless of whether it was located at the camp or on the flight line. The

Materials Technicians utilized his skills to make a washstand area, and also helped morale and welfare by building various workout equipment for our Crossfit gym. The EO Tech kept busy by helping the Camp Services RM Tech install AC units throughout the camp. The Maintenance IC was always keeping us informed, so that when flights started arriving, all inspections and verifications were started immediately so as not to slow the flow of the production line. We continue to work together to ensure mission success.

Remembrance Day was also part of the RCEME contribution to the IST. Sgt Greenlaw volunteered to be the Vigil Commander for the Vigil Party which



Left to right; Senior Airman Hopson, Sgt Greenlaw, MBdr Barnard. This picture is of the Vigil Guard for the Remembrance Day ceremonies held at Camp Canada, Ali Al Salem airbase. Sgt Greenlaw was the Vigil guard commander



Left to right; Sgt Greenlaw, Cpl Barron, MCpl Cormier, MCpl Cassidy, Sgt Slocum and Cpl Adams. The picture was taken at the Ali Al Salem airbase

consisted of both Canadian and American soldiers. With his dedication and leadership, the Vigil Party executed their drill flawlessly and the parade was an astounding success.

Both American and attendees from other nations commented on the professionalism of the ceremony.

It is an excellent experience to be a part of a close-out mission. Afghanistan has been part of our military lives for over a decade and to be given the opportunity to go to Kuwait and be part of the MCT is an absolute honour. As a technician, to be able to watch the mission come full circle, and to experience it with such a dedicated team is the best reward of all.

Ex BUSH MAN

WO H.T. Greening, Artisan Company, RCEME School

After two and a half months of training it all came together for CWO Luc Moreau and WO Todd Greening as they competed as the RCEME School team in the 2013 Ex BUSH MAN.

The exercise was held at Canadian Forces Base Galetown on 25 July 2013. The aim of EX BUSH MAN was to foster a competitive atmosphere, build morale and focus on core soldiering skills, while providing a sense of accomplishment for everyone who participates.

Ex BUSH MAN was a team endurance race hosted by 2 Royal Canadian Regiment which totals a distance of 33.5 kms. The competition was broken down into four phases:

- Phase 1 is a 14.4 km march with a 35 lb rucksack;
- Phase 2 is a 3.6 km march with a 35 lb rucksack, as well as canoeing and

portaging;

- Phase 3 is a 12.5 km canoe around Oromocto Island; and
- Phase 4 is a 3 km march with a 35 lb rucksack to the finish line.

The competition was broken down into five categories:

- Open - the combined age of competitors must be below 75;
- Masters - the combined age of the competitor must be over 75;
- Mixed - at least one of the team members must be female;
- Female - both competitors must be female; and
- Grand Masters - the combined age of

the competitors must be 90 or above.

Chief Warrant Officer Moreau and Warrant Officer Greening competed in the Grand Master event and won the Grand Master Title with an overall time of 5:20:42. Their overall standing placed them 51 of 93 teams with the 27th fastest time through the canoe portion.

They returned back to the RCEME School where they are taking some recovery time before they commence training for their next event, Ex IRONMAN, scheduled at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa on 11 September 2013.

A Day in the Life of an Aspiring RCEME Officer

Lt A.G. MacLean, Graduate, RCEME ODP 1.2 Serial 002

This was the second iteration of the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME) Officer Developmental Period (ODP) 1.2 course. It is a 59 training day course that prepares students for basic employment in maintenance units and static workshops, with a course load of 33 candidates.

Topics covered included field activities of Combat Service Support (CSS) organizations, management of maintenance infrastructures and technical responsibilities as a Land Equipment Management System Advisor. There were five exercises - Ex SHOOTING HANDS, Ex WISHBONE, Ex PRACTICE HANDS, and Ex CLEAN HANDS with the final culmination of the material taught on Ex DIRTY HANDS, a daunting 16 day field exercise. Prior to ODP 1.2, most students had spent, at most, five continuous days in the field.

On Ex SHOOTING HANDS, students had the opportunity to fire the C6 General Purpose Machine Gun and the 84mm Carl Gustav at the Meaford Range. This was an excellent opportunity for the students to see the capabilities of the weapons that are used in the defence of a maintenance platoon. Ex WISHBONE was a one day in class exercise designed to introduce the students to the responsibilities of a Duty Officer in a Command Post (CP). Students learned how to respond to a Repair/Recovery Request (RRR) and how to manage Mobile Repair Team (MRT) resources.

On Ex PRACTICE HANDS, the students deployed to the field for 12 days to learn the fundamentals of how to site a CSS organization, operate a CSS CP and move a CSS organization. Each of these operations presented distinct challenges. As the Equipment Technical Quartermaster Sergeant, students sited new locations for the maintenance platoon trenches. As the Maintenance Officer, they coordinated the movement of a packet (6 - 10 vehicles, grouped within a convoy) and as a Duty Officer, they were required to respond to creative Opposing Force (OPFOR) scenarios.

Ex DIRTY HANDS pushed students to their physical and mental limits during their formal evaluations of the topics learned during Ex PRACTICE HANDS. Students found ways to cope with the added stress by creating call signs for fellow students and with the introduction of cam paint theme days. Every day, the students would have to dig up to six shell scrapes and six stage two trenches. We were fortunate enough to have a student on course that just so happened to be the precise length of a shell scrape and depth of a stage two trench required in the Canadian Armed Forces. The students also had secondary duties that would include a

feral animal. During the night, the student who was being assessed had to respond to a MRT call, which was first practiced on Ex WISHBONE. The students also quickly discovered that the most likely and most dangerous threat was not dismounted infantry or high speed recce, but poison ivy.

Our time in the field culminated with a platoon attack against a Tracked Light Armoured Vehicle. Capping off the field training was Ex CLEAN HANDS which was a brief introduction into siting a Maintenance Company which involved visualizing where over 90 vehicles would be placed. The time in the field provided the opportunity to create lasting bonds with fellow officers and develop relationships that will remain throughout our careers.



Photo taken by : Lt Dustin Lebel
Students loading the 84mm Carl Gustav under the supervision of Meaford staff, 4 Jul 13. Left to right : 2Lt Daniel Maguire, 2Lt Shawn Miller.

shift at the observation post or being part of the Quick Reaction Force. The students had to remain alert or they would wake up to the sound of an artillery simulator, or worse, their weapon would be in the hands of one of the staff.

During the night, while students were busy digging their trenches, they were required to respond to various OPFOR scenarios. These were usually artillery attacks or small arms fire, but there were also occasional gas attacks. On one occasion, our creative staff orchestrated an assault led by a large

Following the field portion of the course, students learned to plan the requirements of a maintenance workshop, act as technical advisors and execute Land Equipment Management System processes. The students also received several guest lectures from the Director General Land Equipment Program Management staff which gave great insight into what some of the positions in Ottawa are all about. It was beneficial to learn some of the considerations going into the procurement of Canadian Armed Forces equipment that we as future RCEME officers will be responsible for maintaining.

Overall, the course was very challenging and has certainly prepared the students for the challenges ahead. Students have since received their posting messages and have headed off to different areas of the country, RCEME ODP 1.2 will be an experience they will not soon forget.

Arte et Marte!

RCEME Technicians in the Philippines – Versatility at its Best

Cpl Jeremy Krob, 2 Svc Bn, Maintenance Company, EO tech

On November 7, 2013, typhoon Haiyan slammed into the Filipino island of Samar causing widespread destruction and devastation. As part of Canada's contribution, ten RCEME technicians deployed with the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). They assisted in projects such as road clearance, school rebuilding, and water distribution.



From left to right: Cpl Bernaquez, MCpl Rilliet, MCpl Doucet, Cpl Eldridge.

The Vehicle Technicians' key responsibility was the upkeep of the Multi-Purpose Engineering Vehicles (MPEV) which were critical assets to the mission. These vehicles were used extensively in road clearing operations, as well as, to dig latrines for refugee camps.

The cross-trade cooperation was a persistent theme throughout the mission. While EO, Vehicle and ACISS Technicians rarely work together in garrison, they became a very tight knit group on deployment.

MCpl Don Rilliet, is a talented EO Technician, replied with the following statement: "I have never worked much with Vehicle Technicians. I tried to help them whenever I could, and learned lots from them and made great friends."

Vehicle Technician Cpl Thomas Wighton applied his diverse skill set to build a bug shelter for a homeless elderly couple to sleep in. Another selfless project particularly stood out for him: "I saw this elderly man with his dilapidated bicycle. I thought it would be really nice to fix it for him, but after taking a look at it I realized it was beyond repair. Cpl Eldridge and I chipped in and bought him a brand new bike. I will never forget when we gave it to him. [...] that might have been the

happiest I've ever seen a person."

Maintenance Section was based in Roxas City in the province of Capiz. Here, technicians jumped on the opportunity to drop tools and venture across Panay Island to assist with relief efforts. At one site, Cpl Cote helped a crew dig a trench for running a water line, and at another he helped clear debris off a demolished building. He was visibly proud of the help he provided to the people of the Philippines.

Cpl CJ Eldridge was involved with the building of a semi-permanent elementary school building. "It was unbelievably hot. We were a team of six from different sections on camp. We drove out to the site and started work and it took us seven hours to build the shelter with no protection from the elements, but we were all happy to do it. [...] it was the first time since I had arrived in the Philippines that I felt I was doing what I came here to do."

The lone Communications and Information Systems (ACISS) Technician to deploy was a busy bee. MCpl Mike Doucet fondly recounted the five days he spent in FOB Zombie helping engineers cut trees, clear debris, and move downed power lines. He laughed when he talked about the pesky fire ants; "those little buggers get into everything!"

On a previous deployment, I worked with Padre Roy Laudenorio, who was born and raised in the Philippines. Deployed as a Liaison Officer in the municipality of Sigma (pop. 30,000), Padre Laudenorio reached out and asked me to join him as an Assistant

Liaison Officer. This proved to be the most significant and rewarding five days of my life. I lived among the locals where I have coordinated Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and military relief efforts for the area. I cannot possibly explain the torrent of emotions; sadness, pride, anger, and happiness, but the memories from there will stay with me forever.

A note goes out to the last man standing in the Philippines, Sgt Luc Sevigny. Luc's heavy machinery qualifications and his steadfast dedication to the mission earned him the job of loading the ships with DART equipment. At the time of writing, Sgt Sevigny began his return trip to Canada, approximately one month after the rest of Maintenance Section.

Each member of the team had their own share of experiences which contributed to the overall mission success. Thanks in part to their work, life goes on for the Filipino people. Time will slowly heal the wounds inflicted by Mother Nature and eventually the people of Panay Island may come to forget the 300 soldiers who came to their aid, but those ten technicians will never forget their time in the Philippines.



From left to right, rear, Pte Griffith (Supply), Cpl Bernaquez, MCpl Doucet, MCpl Rilliet, Cpl Cote, Cpl Krob, Cpl Wright, MCpl Hynes, Sgt Sevigny. Front: Cpl Eldridge, displaced Filipino, Cpl Wighton.

RCEME Represented at the NATO Chess Championship

Cpl Daniel Lord, EO Tech, 12 RBC

From 11 to 17 August 2013, I had the opportunity to represent Canada and the RCEME Corps at the 24th NATO Chess Championship held in Rynia, a small city near Warsaw in Poland. This year, twelve countries sent representatives to the competition, which consisted of seven games over five days.



Photograph Jan Cheung

Cpl Daniel Lord

A full schedule awaited us; seven matches, each lasting three to five hours: opening and closing ceremonies, a parade, a museum visit, and not to mention a speed chess tournament.

My five colleagues and I began by attending a reception in our honour at the Canadian Embassy to mark the occasion.

Our National Champion, MCpl Philippe Léveillé, took the opportunity to play on six boards simultaneously against embassy members.

On Monday morning we attended the opening ceremonies at the Warsaw Military Museum with our counterparts from other nations. In the afternoon, the 82 players in the tournament began the first round of the championship. Morale was at its highest when the participants were trying to blaze a path to their first victory (personally, I had to wait until the third round to chalk up my first win). The matches continued until Wednesday evening, when we were treated to a barbecue and a concert. On Thursday we were the guests of honour at a parade in the streets of Warsaw marking the Polish Army's national day.

Once again, this year Germany took the team championship, while the international master, Drabke Lorenz, also from Germany, was proclaimed the new NATO champion at the individual level. The Canadian team performed well this year with a final result of 11 points, a new record since its return to the competition in 2008.

The week ended with a closing ceremony accompanied by a banquet and an excellent stage show; a kind of musical review. After the medals were awarded, Canada was honoured to receive the "Spirit of Denmark", the first trophy of this championship to symbolize the transfer of responsibility between host countries. Canada, in fact, will be hosting the 25th NATO Chess Championship at the Citadelle de Québec in September 2014.

12th Annual WO J.R. Muise Memorial Hockey Tournament

Sergeant N.L. Barrett, Artisan Company, RCEME School

Yet another successful WO J.R. Muise Memorial Hockey Tournament has come and gone. This year, over 240 hockey players were housed. With 15 hockey teams participating in the tournament, including our British counterparts - REME and BATUS, there were over 29 games played.

The tournament was officially opened with the singing of the National Anthem, God Save the Queen, and a heartfelt rendition of Highway of Heroes by 16 year old Naomi Bristow, a local recording artist. Among the weekend's special guests: Marilyn Muise and her daughter Christa made it out for this year's tournament; Base Borden's

Chief Warrant Officer, Chief Warrant Officer Godbout, was there for the official puck drop at the Opening Ceremonies;



and The Colonel Commandant, Brigadier-General (retired) Holt, was the Guest of Honour for the Closing Ceremonies and also joined us for a weekend of hockey and entertainment.

Throughout the weekend, there were many hard fought games in all three divisions. Petawawa were the winners of both the Arte and the Sadie divisions, and the RCEME School 1 was the winner of the Marte division. Marilyn Muise presented the Heart Trophy to Corporal Haines, the goaltender from 1 Royal Canadian Regiment, who demonstrated true spirit and character throughout the tournament even though his team was outmatched in every game they played.

A big thanks to all the units that participated making the 12th Annual WO J.R. Muise Memorial Hockey Tournament a huge success!

5th Annual RCEME Car Show

MCpl Mark Lewis, I/C EO Sect, 1 CER

The 5th Annual RCEME Car Show was held at CFB Edmonton on the 8th of June this year and became the most successful show in its history! Over 65 cars, trucks, and bikes were on hand to support the event, with the proceeds going to support the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation.



Left to right: LCol Davidson, MCpl Pat Blount, Paula Gibson Griffith and Matt Hewson

Event organizers MCpl Pat Blount (then Cpl) and I have been the main organizers of the event for the last few years. The Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation were excited to come on board as the beneficiaries of our fundraising event. What great people! The Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation gave us promotional material and event planning support to help ensure our success. Most of all, however, they gave us a high profile charity that drew supporters everywhere we went!

Next, Pat and I began calling on business sponsors from previous years' Car Shows. Walking in the door of a business in CADPAT and merely mentioning the words "Stollery" and "RCEME Car Show" had chequebooks flying open! The response and support was incredible! In just a few days we had surpassed all previous years' fundraising efforts! We had set a goal to raise over \$2000 for charity this year, and we had already exceeded that....wow! Sponsors from previous years eagerly signed on again, along with dozens of new sponsors. We were blown away! The generosity of our sponsors was incredible.

We were also hard at work planning the logistics of the event. We also learnt

that sometimes asking permission to do something can create a maelstrom of red tape! The RCEME Car Show had been operating as part of RCEME Day for years without any issue, but as it was being held on a weekend, we were required to get authorizations, insurance coverage, porta potties, PAFOs, and permission from all relevant authorities.

This year I wanted to do something different with the trophies. We found a local engine shop that was happy to donate used engine pistons, camshafts, oil pumps, connecting rods, and the like to our event. Pat put his Mat Tech skills to good use and came up with a plan to mount the parts onto laser engraved cherry wood plaques as awards. Each category event winner took home a unique and beautiful prize! We kept a few 'special' parts as well for next year's show where we hope to unveil the annual award trophies for each category. These will remain at 1 Svc Bn with the names of each year's winners inscribed.

We are very grateful to the many volunteers that came out and helped us run the event on the day itself. When we canvassed for volunteers to get up early on a Saturday to put on army boots and work, we were amazed at the positive response! Thanks again to all the people who helped make this event the success it was!

Saturday morning we had a beautiful sunrise and clear skies – perfect for a car show! Cars began rolling in at 7am

and sponsors were setting up booths and displays all morning. Lots of great custom cars, classics, tuners, muscle cars and more showed up to show off. 1CER also provided us with a TLAV Fitter and an EOD Cougar with "tEODor" robot for display vehicles!

A big surprise for us was when Paula showed up from the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation in a WWII Army Uniform driving a Rat Rod! Who knew she was an army brat herself! Paula made a huge impression on the crowd with her uniform and custom truck, taking time to pose with tEODor the robot too! We couldn't have asked for a better charity to work with!

At the end of the day, totalling up all the registration fees, donations, auction donations, and sponsor donations, we were thrilled to discover that we had raised over \$7500 for the Stollery. Thanks to the CN Miracle Match Charitable program, all money we raised



was matched for a total donation to the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation of over \$15000!! We are so grateful to all of the local sponsors and participants who helped make this happen. Pat and I are already making plans for next year's event and judging by the response from this year's sponsors and participants, it should be even bigger!

Arte et Marte!

Barrie Dragon Boat Festival

Sergeant Robert M. Serre, RCEME School , 1 Sect Comd, APP PL

The Barrie Public Library hosted its annual Barrie Dragon Boat Festival on 24 August 2013.



Four of the competing teams cross the finish line after a 500m heat

The festival is a fun way for different organizations to build team spirit and raise money for the charity of their choice. Canadian Force Base (CFB) Borden entered six teams this year, one

presented to the military team who posted the fastest race time of the festival.

This year's team did not disappoint, as they not only finished first amongst the

of which was the RCEME School's 'Crimson Wave'. The Crimson Wave were the returning Calian Challenge Cup winners from the previous two years, a trophy

other teams from CFB Borden, they also managed to finish second overall, the highest finish by a military team in the festival's ten year history.

The Crimson Wave raised over \$2,500 for their charity of choice, the Corps of RCEME Guild Charitable Trust, through car washes, donations and various school wide events. The event was considered a huge success and many of the team members look forward to participating again in the years to come.

A Career Remembered: Ray Leclerc

Capt G.A. Pudlowski, Directorate of Armoured Vehicles Program Management 10 (DAVPM 10)

Back when he was a 5'2", 110 lb streak of misery, young Ray Leclerc saw a 2R22^{ER} recruiting caravan coming through town. Seeing the beaver, Ray was inspired. The army was for him.

Off to the Citadel in Quebec City! And back then there was no such thing as a weekend pass, so it was ten weeks of drill and training without a break.

When it was time for the ranges in January, it was off to Wainwright in a "bus". The only difference was the bus was the back of a deuce and a half – and firm advice: "You'd better dress warm, 'cause we ain't stopping!"

A few years later, after his posting to Valcartier he was posted to Germany with 4 Svc Bn. The young Lt Holt (later Col Cmdt) was his Pl Comd. At 5' 2" Ray was too short to reach the pedals in his circa 1950s deuce and a half. He easily rectified

that with a little ingenuity by installing the RED driver's seat out of a 1957 Buick!

Ray wanted to work on tanks, but was a Veh Tech Wheeled, so he had to come back to Canada for his Centurion course. Being a school superstar, he was chosen to instruct on the newly acquired Leopard.



Having worked with Anglo tankers for long enough, he then went to 12^e RBC as the ET; then it was back to Germany where he was Maj Poulter's (yes, that Poulter) CSM.

In 2000, after 35 years, and a pension that stopped growing, it was time to retire – from the Forces at least but not really from the Corps. Ray picked up some contract work with various headhunter organizations working with AVGPs and the Bison re-role. After he decided to work a few more years, he came over to the Equipment Management Team responsible for the in-service support of the LAV III.

His career has spanned almost a half century and he has seen the RCEME Corps go full circle - transitioning from RCEME to LORE to LEME to EME and back to RCEME. He saw uniforms come and go, is seeing old rank insignia coming back, and has worked on equipment ranging from Ferrets to LAV IIIs. Remaining involved with the RCEME Corps for almost a half century is quite an accomplishment and Ray is a living, breathing (barely) link to our past. Feel free to drop him an email at any time for LAV III issues, or if you just have some questions about life in the CAF back in the day.



The Monument Honouring Those Who Fell During the War in Afghanistan

Denis Bélanger, Production Planner, 202 WD

It all began on 30 May 2013 with a visit from the 21 Electronic Warfare Regiment Kingston delegation headed by WO Renay Groves, the project sponsor. The delegation had identified a Leopard (Badger) assault tank that had served in Afghanistan and sustained damage in the theatre of operations. The vehicle, parked on the tarmac on the east side of Building 3 at 202 WS, could be used for raw materials for building a monument.



Top Row: MCpl Fortin, Legion Uniform MCpl Phil Kitchen, MCpl Lachance, Cpl Ryan Doell, Cpl Larry Wilkonson, MCpl Ryan Kitchen. **Middle Row:** Cpl Flurey, MCpl Pressling, MCpl Russ Gray, Sgt Greg Huizinga. **Ground:** WO Renay Groves

An initial joint team was formed that same day consisting of our visitors from Kingston, Éric Sheikh from DASPM Ottawa and members of 202 WD, notably Henrique Santana, Bruno Gagnon, Gilles Besner, Yves Charland and Denis Bélanger. In the course of this initial visit, some parts were identified as possibly useful in building the monument.

We had to use pieces of the damaged vehicle to create a monument with enough presence and grandeur to pay homage to our Canadians who fell in Afghanistan. The mechanics and welders from Bldg 3 were already at work removing the

selected parts from the hull. Workers from the Bldg 3 support section also got to work and sandblasted clean a number of parts.

The challenge was not limited to creating a monument, there were also certain requests from the client that complicated the design. The maple leaf had to turn on its axis, and the monument had to be designed so it could be taken apart and placed in transit cases both in trucks and aircraft. The weight also had to be taken into consideration since it would be handled by military personnel using a minimum amount of equipment. One abiding concern haunted our clients, namely, its stability. We had to create a solid work that could handle anything thrown at it. Also, the monument had a scheduled rendez-vous on 25 October in Kingston with Princess Anne of the United Kingdom.

The job of describing the monument's general appearance for the client was given to Denis Bélanger. As with most projects, moving from the virtual to the actual brings with it its own set of challenges. We drew on the expertise of the various aforementioned trades from Bldg 3 and Bldg 10.

The monument was to be delivered during

a special ceremony on 17 October 2013. In the end, the client seemed overjoyed with the final product. The people there were aware of the importance of this monument to the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and, even more, to the CAF members who had lost friends and even family members.

The success of this project is a shining example of collaboration between the different workshops in Building 3 and Building 10 involved in this project and of the use of all the military and civilian resources of 202 WD.



Rear, left to right: CWO S. Mailhot, Col A. Benson, Denis Bélanger, Gilles Besner, Stéphane Geoffroy, Sylvain Pitre, MCpl Jason Fortin, Eric Sheikh. **Front, left to right:** Yves Charland, Maj D. Fontaine, Normand Desrochers

Flag Party at Hockey Night in Barrie

Helene Rowen, Admin Asst, RCEME School

On 15 August 2013, the RCEME School Flag Party assisted with the Opening Ceremonies of the Hockey Night held at the Barrie Molson Centre in Barrie, Ontario. Flag Party members are (left to right): Canadian Flag - Sgt J.A.M.A Royer, Flag

Commander - WO Todd Greening and Canadian Armed Forces Flag - Sgt Nicole Barrett. All three are members of Artisan Company at the RCEME.



Presentation of RCEME Flag (Alert)

Helene Rowen, Admin Asst,
RCEME School



Courtesy of Corporal Daren Lunn, Master Warrant Officer Dan Hrycyk and Corporal James Smith present a RCEME Flag to the Corps to RCEME Colonel Commandant, Brigadier-General (Ret'd) Peter Holt. On 17 January 2013 this flag was flown over the most northerly permanently inhabited settlement in the world, being at 82 degrees 30' 20" north latitude and 62 degrees 21' 0" west longitude (Alert). This flag will be displayed in the Corps of RCEME Heritage Room located at Regimental Company, RCEME School.

Alert

Cpl Daren Lunn, CANOSCOM

Only a fool would volunteer to go to the Arctic. Well call me a fool, because I did volunteer and I went to CFS Alert as "Kitchen GD." My northern tour was from 15 August 2012 to 26 February 2013. My cold winter just made spring feel just that much warmer. People in Kingston thought they had a cold spring, but I say it was nice.



I not only flew our flag but had a certificate made for it. The certificate is dated with the date our flag flew, 17 January 2013, and signed by the station Commanding Officer. The flag and certificate were both given to the RCEME School in Borden to be kept at the Heritage Room in Regimental Company.

So there I was as the SWO (Station Warrant Officer) Assistant. My duties entailed handing out rooms as the "Bellhop", raising and lowering the flags, and whatever administrative needs the SWO needed to be completed. One task I was given was to go through all the flags on the station to see if they were serviceable and not out-dated. While completing this task, I found it: the flag of flags, the Holy Grail if you will, the last RCEME flag located in the most northern populated location on Earth. Since I was responsible for making the flag certificates for all of the flags that flew over the

Currently, all of the maintenance positions in Alert are filled by civilian contractors. This means that the only way for RCEME Corps members to deploy to Alert is to volunteer as a Kitchen GD. I would encourage any Corporal/Craftsman to volunteer, the experience is worth it. I was there for both winters, the cold winter in August when I got there, and the really cold winter the rest of the time.

By the way, the only time I saw the kitchen was for meals, or maybe a cookie or two after hours. I'm not saying that Kitchen GD is a bad job; I'm just saying that SWO Assistant is a way better one.

RCEME School Hosts 50th Annual Corps of RCEME Golf Tournaments

Helene Rowen, Admin Asst, RCEME School

The 50th Annual Corps of RCEME Golf Tournament was held at Circled Pine Golf Club, Canadian Forces Base Borden, from 7 to 9 August 2013. The Tournament consisted of a Meet and Greet held at Circled Pine Golf Course on 7 August, a Banquet on 9 August, and two days of golfing on 8 and 9 August. Approximately 144 golfers – RCEME personnel, retired RCEME members, and corporate sponsors – were in attendance, as well as a RCEME member from Scotland.

The following prizes were awarded

during the tournament: Low Gross Male - MCpl Marc Dumoulin; and Low Gross Female - Mrs. Kim McAllister. In addition, golf balls were awarded to the Most Honest players - Mr. Doug Earle and Miss Jennifer Eveleigh. In order to protect the innocent, we will not publicize Most Honest Scores. Mr. Barry Code and Mr. Bill Laird were tied for this year's WWII Vets Seniors Trophy and Shirley Purdy was the Women's Senior winner. The Committee would like to thank Mr. Gary Corriveau and all the staff of Circled Pine Golf Course for their support of this

event. Without the assistance of the many sponsors, this event would not have been as successful. As in previous years, the Corps of RCEME Golf Tournament was a success. Dates for the 51st tournament are: Meet & Greet on **6 AUGUST 2014** followed by two days of golf from **7 TO 8 AUGUST 2014**.



We Are Lumberjacks... too

Cpl Colin Cook, Veh Tech, 3 RCR

When the snow starts to fly at Garrison Petawawa one thing is certain, 3 RCR Maint Pl will trade in their running shoes for cross country skis. As the foundation of our winter training program, 3 RCR

Maint Pl piles up the kilometers on the base ski trails, with many members competing in the Brigade annual ski and shoot competition.

The use of the ski trails however, was put into jeopardy this past July due to a savage storm that ripped through the Upper Ottawa Valley, as well as Garrison Petawawa. Well documented across the news, the storm damaged the local area, leaving businesses



and homes without roofs and many people without power. With hundreds of trees ripped out of the ground or broken, the Garrison roads and grounds crew were working hard to keep the base and training area operational. With these resources stretched to their limit, 3 RCR Maint Pl volunteered to clean their beloved ski trails.

Fortunately, Maint Pl happened to be home to many experienced lumberjacks. With MWO Will Smith, Sgt Alex Bailey and MCpl Jim Mitchell running the saws, the Pl was able to make a morning's work of a massive job. From Craftsman to Captain, every member of the Pl contributed their time and

effort clearing kilometers of fallen trees and debris. Since the initial estimates were for several days, the rapid success came with great satisfaction. After a quick inspection by the ETQMS, we were able to drive our ATV's down the entire trail and back to the ski lodge in order to happily report to the lodge coordinator that the trails were once again ready to be enjoyed by units and patrons alike.

At 3 RCR Maint Pl, we pride ourselves on being a cohesive brotherhood of maintainers. This is always displayed, whether on the sports field, the shop floor, or in the woods. With the sound of chainsaws still in our heads and the kilometers of cleared trails behind us, 3 RCR Maint Pl can now day dream of snowy mornings gliding down the trails. Or... of what running shoes to buy for next summer's running season.

Reliability, Availability, Maintainability and Durability of Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicles

Lt V. Léonard, TAPV Projet Assistant 5 Service Battalion, MWO J.E.S. Desrosiers, Sergent-major RAMD of the TAPV



The main purpose of the Reliability, Availability, Maintainability and Durability (RAMD) is to fulfill the contractual standards of reliability, maintainability and performance of a piece of equipment being acquired. RAMD is an effective tool for identifying problems associated with the design of a piece of equipment like the Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicles (TAPV). Such issues should be address before initiating the full production of a new vehicle fleet. RAMD makes it possible to identify and test equipment under real environmental and climatic conditions. RAMDs are

necessary because they make it possible to reduce the long-term costs and efforts associated with keeping an equipment fleet in service, and they boost the required level of reliability of vehicles relative to their expected use. The maintainability of these new vehicles ensures they are available to commanding officers when needed for operational reasons. This maintainability was validated during the RAMD to reduce the efforts required of technicians.

Within the next few months, as part of the acquisition by the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) of a new fleet of TAPV, production will begin on a total of 500 vehicles, of which 307 are utility type and 193 reconnaissance. The TAPV project is currently using 5 initial production vehicles for reliability and durability tests at Canadian Forces Base Valcartier. The trials, which began in September 2013, will last 8 months. The crews and technicians report any observed problems, which are subsequently assessed

each month by the RAMD committee. The analysis and decisions on the amount of breakage enables the RAMD committee to prioritize any observed problems with the TAPVs. Then the committee can work with the prime contractor to effectively resolve these issues and retest the equipment to ensure compliance with contractual standards. The Quality Engineering Test Establishment (QETE) is also contributing to the project, conducting scientific analyses to identify, if necessary, the causes of problems through the collection of technical data like the distance, speed and routes taken by each vehicle.

It is important to take a long-term view of any issues because we will soon be operating and maintaining 500 Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicles (TAPV). So completing a proper RAMD during this qualification phase will make things easier for the CAF in the future.



Ammunition Engineer

The Origins of Ammunition Expertise

LCol M.J. Landry, DAEME, DGLEPM

The RCEME Corps has always been involved in the field of ammunition. As a specialty, ammunition is not only a logistical commodity, it is also very technical. It touches the areas of chemistry, ballistics, metallurgy, aerodynamics, as well as many other disciplines. In order to manage ammunition within the Canadian Armed Forces, the requirement to remain technically competent and current in this field has, and always will remain important.

There are close linkages throughout history between the RCEME Corps and the Ordnance Corps (in all forms) in the management of ammunition. The Corps was born out of the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps in 1944, but there is very little historical information on the ammunition trade itself.



Early History

Even before the inception of British fighting forces instituted by Edward I (1272-1327), Ordnance Services were responsible for the manufacture and supply of the essential tools of war. The "Keeper", first appointed in 1299, acted as Treasurer and Accountant for Military Expenditure as well as procurer and supplier of arms. In effect the "Keeper" was the first Ordnance officer. In 1414, this title became known as the "Master of the Ordnance".

With the beginning of gunpowder production in England around the early 14th Century, the casting of cannons, and the manufacture of gunpowder were new techniques that needed to be developed and managed as a vital war winning capability. With these new tools came more administration and supply responsibilities for the Crown.

In 1518, a Board of Ordnance office was established in the Tower of London and was the principle arsenal. Specific to ammunition, the Board took charge of all ammunition, ensured that all camps had sufficient munitions in war, issued munitions as required and also was responsible to site artillery in the most advantageous positions during battle.

In the 17th century, due to the increased use

of cannon, the Board's responsibilities grew extensively. In 1683, the Board became a civil department of the State, responsible for the supply and custody of ordnance stores. It is worth mentioning, that although now a civil department,

the Board was lead by distinguished field commanders such as the Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Wellington, and Lord Raglan. They all held the title of "Master General of the Ordnance"

Recent History

In 1903 the Ordnance Stores Corps was formed. In order to have a more "satisfactory and systemic" basis for the care, issue of arms, clothing, equipment and military stores of all descriptions (including ammunition), responsibility was transferred from the civil to the military branch of the Department of Militia and Defence. The Ordnance and Stores Corps, which fell under the General Officer Commanding the militia, was commanded by the Director General of Ordnance (Colonel).

With the repatriation of British Forces from the colonies starting in 1904, Canada became responsible for its own defences. This also meant that Canadian officers needed to be trained and available to take over the technical duties of those on loan from the UK. To qualify as an Inspecting Ordnance Officer (IOO), now known as the Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO), a candidate needed to pass a mathematical

entrance exam. The actual training was conducted at the Ordnance College in Woolwich in UK. At the time, just prior to WWI, Canada badly lacked an Inspection Department. They proved their worth in 1913 by inspecting ordnance production in a company, where prior, inspection was left to the manufacturer itself. Initial findings at the manufacturer by IOOs showed a 100% failure rate.

Unification in the late 1960's combined trades from all services, mostly along functional and technological lines. For example, electro-mechanical technicians were drawn from RCEME and the RCAF. Ammunition Technicians were brought into the Land Ordnance Engineering (LORE) Branch, now RCEME, from the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps (RCOC) in 1970.

In the early years after unification, the Ordnance Engineering System was plagued with multiple issues within LORE. Under unification, ammunition management as a single trade, especially within the officer corps, became very difficult. With multiple branch representation, conflicting environmental employment, different training requirements

and unique operational commitments, there was a reluctance to make further changes to manage ammunition because of the organizational trauma created under unification. As a result, in 1978, the Ammunition Technicians were transferred to the Logistics Branch (renamed from the RCOC). Nevertheless, RCEME continued to provide officers to be qualified as ATOs in the UK.



Today and in the Future

What is interesting to note today, is that many of the problems within ammunition that existed after unification still exist. There are still multiple trades involved with their own unique employment requirements. However, there have been recent changes within the Ammunition Program itself which better align ammunition functions under ADM(Mat). While the ATOs are primarily trained and employed by the Logistics Branch, RCEME has recognized ammunition as technical. As a result, a plan ahead is being developed within the RCEME Corps that will allow its officers to be trained and employed within ammunition, while progressing on the same career path as non-specialized officers.

Also, Ammunition Engineers are employed within the Directorate of Ammunition and Explosives Management and Engineering (DAEME) in support of both capital and in-service projects. Separate from ATOs, Ammunition Engineers are typically employed, upon receipt of a Master's Degree from RMC, in Ammunition Engineering.

Conclusion

If we consider the production of gunpowder in England in the early 14th Century, expertise in the care and management of ammunition and explosives has been around for a very long time. As time moved on, so did technology and the complexity of managing these vital tools of war. The creation of the Board of Ordnance in 1518, the creation of RCEME from RCOC

in 1944, and unification have all added significant challenges in the realm of ammunition.

Although the ammunition trade was moved under LORE in 1970 after unification then returned to the Logistics Branch in 1978, ammunition still remained an area of little investment by the RCEME Corps.

The future outlook is positive with recognition that there is value added in having RCEME Officers trained in ammunition with a proper career path set. It is hoped that the turmoil created under unification can eventually be corrected with a better understanding of the RCEME role in ammunition and the recognition that it is truly a technical area of expertise.



**Electronics
and Optronics
Technician**

Integrating Expert Systems with Army Equipment: The Next Bound in Technician-System Interface

2Lt Valery Kravtsov and MWO Rob Hausman, DGMPD

This article has been abridged for publication in the RCEME Journal. The complete text, including a more detailed description of the subject matter and all applicable references, is available at the following website: <http://www.embranchgem.ca/francais/view.asp?x=857>

Today, the Electronic-Optronics Technician (EO Tech) trade is filled with highly motivated, confident, and well trained soldiers whose primary responsibility is the maintenance and repair of complex weapon systems in order to ensure the reliable delivery of a group of combat capabilities collectively labeled Effects. Tomorrow, weapons systems will be different: they will be more technologically complex and highly integrated at the sub-system level, making it impractical to continue applying the current approach of leveraging only human expertise to sustain capability. It will be difficult to differentiate that part of the system that delivers the effect from that which enables it, in terms of form and in some cases function (UAVs and exoskeletons are classic examples). These differences demand study so that the EO Tech trade is prepared to exploit opportunities that are already becoming evident and is poised for the future. The

foundation is already being laid. Weapon systems currently being procured, such as the Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle, incorporate Health and Usage Monitoring Systems (HUMS) and first-generation on-board information and decision support systems (TAPV Information System (TIS)), the maintenance of which is an EO Tech responsibility. However, these systems are either passive (HUMS) or "dumb" (TIS). The next generation of the Family of Land Combat Systems will require an amended approach that incorporates Expert Systems which are ideal for capturing diagnostic and repair knowledge in order to provide detailed, situation-specific advice comparable to talking to a group of experts, each with a specific area of expertise.

An Expert System is a computer system used to solve problems normally done by an expert in their field. Expert Systems

are designed to solve complex problems by reasoning about knowledge, like a Subject Matter Expert (SME), and not by following the procedure of a developer as is the case in conventional programming. The first Expert Systems, created in the 1970s, were among the first truly successful forms of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

An Expert System has a unique structure (Fig.1), different from traditional computer programming. It is divided into two parts. One is fixed, independent of the expert system: the Inference Engine. The other is variable: the Knowledge Base. To run an Expert System, the Inference Engine reasons about the Knowledge Base like a human. In the 1980s, a third part appeared: a Dialog (or User) Interface to communicate with users as though conducting a conversation.



The User Interface

The User Interface allows a non-expert to use or query the Expert System and to receive advice. The User Interface is designed to be as simple to use as possible. Overriding the Expert System

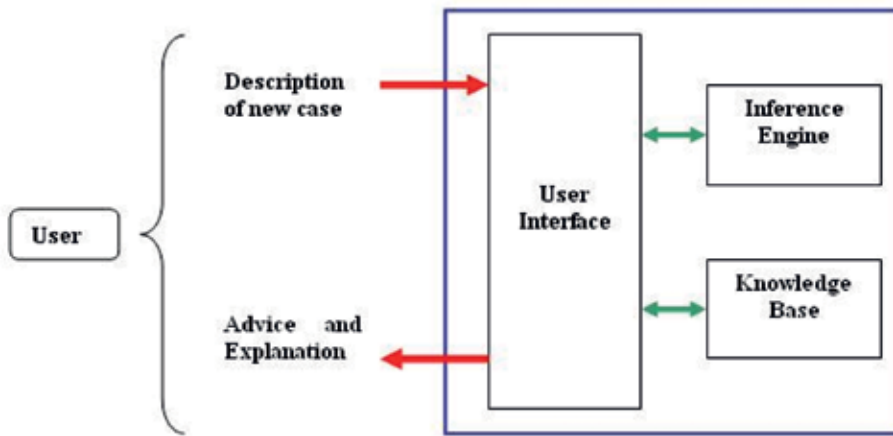


Fig.1: Expert System structure.

The Knowledge Base

This is a collection of facts and rules. The Knowledge Base is created from information provided by SMEs. The Knowledge Base is independent from all other components of the Expert System which makes it flexible enough to accept changes without affecting the whole system. It is the role of the SMEs in a particular field to research and compile data to populate a Knowledge Base for use in an Expert System and to meet the demand for expert ideas. As the system matures, information may be added, amended or deleted from the Knowledge Base.

The Inference Engine

The Inference Engine is a computer program designed to derive answers from a Knowledge Base. It is the “brain” that the Expert Systems use to reason about the information in the Knowledge Base for the ultimate purpose of formulating new conclusions. Inference Engines are considered to be a special case of reasoning engines, which can use more general methods of reasoning. The Inference Engine can be described as a mathematical model of computation with a cycle consisting of three action states: match rules, select rules, and execute rules.

is done by asking a question or by answering questions asked by the Expert System. The User Interface is equipped with unique features that allow users to dialogue with the system – to ask questions on how and why and not just what.

The User

Typically, every unit has a few highly talented SMEs that can very quickly diagnose the cause of a problem and fix it. They have the ability to rapidly recognize those various possible causes and subtle differences that enable them to identify the underlying problem. However, this level of knowledge is scarce since it is based on accumulating many years of experience. The SME knows that a particular combination of symptoms indicates one cause, but slightly different symptoms might indicate an entirely different cause. It is very difficult to teach this type of reasoning to a novice since it is based on so many independent factors that have to be combined to reach a conclusion. However, if you ask experts “How did you know that was the cause?” they can explain it in detail and you will likely get a series of rules: “If you see ... generally it is..., but if you also see ... then it is likely ...”

With Expert Systems, it is possible to capture this type of knowledge and deliver it to a user, and Diagnostic Expert Systems are one of the most common applications. The processes human experts use to diagnose a problem are easily converted into rule-based representation which has special features for handling both probabilistic and deterministic diagnostic approaches. Networked, interactive or web-based Expert Systems provide users with access to SME knowledge and reasoning to help resolve problems 24/7. Expert Systems can also interface with sensors, databases, and test equipment that provide complementary information to that being recorded by on-board systems that automatically monitor processes and watch for developing problems (the TAPV’s HUMS for example).

Advantages and Disadvantages

Advantages include: Quick initial availability and a rapid improvement cycle; ability to exploit a considerable amount of knowledge; reliability; scalability; pedagogy; Preservation and improvement of knowledge; and ability to expand to new areas.

Disadvantages include: The “Knowledge Engineering Bottleneck”, The “Programming Bottleneck”, The Learning Problem, and The Judgment Problem.

Despite these disadvantages, Expert Systems are currently being exploited in situations as diverse as financial decision-making, diagnosing human illness, and control systems. The integration of Expert Systems in future Land Combat System projects is a natural evolutionary bound to existing systems such as the TAPV’s HUMS and TIS. The anticipated complexity and integration of identified projects such as Armoured Combat Support Vehicles (2025) and Soldier Systems (2030) will render the incorporation of Expert Systems an essential enabler in their role as decision support and diagnostic tools. The EO Tech trade must continue to evolve with the rapid pace of technological advancement in order to maintain the Corps’ position of expertise on the subject of on-board information systems, thereby reinforcing our relevance to Army operations well into the future.



Reconstitution at 202 Workshop Depot (202 WD)

Capt JF Fournier, Project Officer, 202 Workshop Depot

The reconstitution period is coming to an end at 202 Workshop Depot (202 WD) in Montreal, the field unit responsible for the repair and overhaul of land equipment. Thousands of pieces of equipment have been repaired so that the Canadian Army will have the necessary equipment ready to be deployed for overseas operations.

202 WD overcame an enormous challenge during this period while demonstrating technical expertise, knowledge and perseverance. Much as it has in the past, the organization was able to support the Canadian Army in its operations by performing the major maintenance and repairs required while seeing to a number of other tasks at the same time.

In September 2009, the M113 refurbishment project, which a number of 202 WD members had participated in, came to an end. While 202 WD continued to support Canadian operations in Afghanistan, the depot's bread and butter was, for a number of years prior, the refurbishment of M113 tracked vehicles and Leopard 1 tanks.



A 202 Workshop Depot technician working on one of the 46 heavy armored support vehicles reconstituted at the Unit.

It was then that 202 WD set out its new vision, "Ready to act, no matter the weapon system", which would be diligently followed throughout the reconstitution process.

When OP ATHENA ended a number of weapon systems were brought back from Afghanistan through Montreal and the 202 WD. The aim of the reconstitution was to conduct the necessary repairs on the equipment in order to render them



One of the four Husky vehicles reconstituted at 202 Workshop Depot.

operational for Army Line of Operation 3 (LoO 3) in the event of a potential redeployment. This proved to be a monumental task for 202 WD.

By applying the expertise and skills that the unit has acquired over the years, 202 WD was able to put an impressive number of vehicles into operational condition for LoO 3 in record time. Of those vehicles, there were no fewer than 40 M113 A3s, 7 Leopard 1C2s, 3 Leopard 1C2s (Armoured Engineer Vehicle (AEV) variant) as well as 2 Leopard 1C2s (Armoured Recovery Vehicle (ARV) variant).

202 WD also took on the task of repairing the Armoured Heavy Support Vehicle System (AHSVS) fleet, vehicles that were acquired specifically for Afghanistan. The AHSVS presented 202 WD technicians with entirely new technology, as they were used to working on the Leopard and the M113. Two service representatives from Mercedes Benz (the Original Equipment Manufacturer) were sent to Montreal to train the unit technicians to perform the vehicle repairs and provide technical support to 202 WD during this huge task. Despite a number of challenges, such as problems related to part availability, 46

AHSVSs were brought up to operational condition in time for LoO 3.

One of the vehicle fleets the CAF employed in the mission in Afghanistan was the Expedient Route Opening Capability (EROC) suite. The new technology of these vehicles was a challenge for our technicians. Nevertheless, 202 WD repaired four Huskies and five Cougars to meet LoO 3 needs.

Other vehicle fleets restored to pristine operational order during the reconstitution period were 20 Coyote reconnaissance vehicles, 4 engineer-type Light Armoured Vehicles (LAV IIIs), as well as a number of other vehicles that were used by combat engineers during the mission in Afghanistan.

Thanks to 202 WD's development team and the expertise gathered on the Leopard 1, this reconstitution period was also a learning opportunity for 202 WD with respect to developing and preparing work instructions, acquiring special tools and increasing ties with industry to begin major repairs on the Leopard 2A6Ms. There are currently 13 Leopard 2A6Ms in production for LoO 3.

In addition, a lot of communication equipment was repaired at 202 WD as part of reconstitution, including RT-5121A/U radios, MK2 and MK3 computers, and amplifiers, amounting to over 5,114 items.

The reconstitution of vehicles and equipment was a success, bringing the 202 WD's capabilities to the forefront and helping provide the CAF with several vehicle fleets and equipment that are ready for operations wherever and whenever they may be required.



Adieu, Farewell & Au Revoir to the RG-31

Lt(N) Hiscock, MDT BAF LO, and MWO Turmel, MDT Disposal Officer

The conflict in Afghanistan cemented the resolve and reputation of the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) sailors, soldiers, airmen and airwomen as amongst the finest in the world. The operations in Afghanistan saw the rapid procurement and deployment of a vast arsenal of equipment in order to protect and enable the CAF throughout those operations. One of those pieces of equipment procured specifically for the war in Afghanistan was the RG-31 Armoured Patrol Vehicle (APV).

One of the primary roles of the RG-31 APV was to provide enhanced soldier protection and survivability from mines, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and small arms fire in the context of full-spectrum operations. This enhanced protection and survivability was directly attributable to the RG-31's innovative armoured hull design.

With the end of the Afghanistan Mission in March 2014, and the introduction of the Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV) in 2015, the RG-31 APV will no longer be sustained by the CAF and has been designated for divestment. That is except for the Kongsberg Protector Remote Weapon System (RWS), which is being retained for use on other future platforms, such as the Expedient Route Opening Capability (EROC) and Force Mobility Enhancements.

What is interesting about the divestment of the RG-31 APV is the method in which it is being conducted. With the August 2013 deployment of the Material Disposal Team (MDT), a very specialized element of the Mission Closure Team (MCT), the task of developing a process that would meet the requirements for disposing of the RG-31 APV and spares fell onto their shoulders. The initial disposal concept was to simply transport the RG-31 APVs to Bagram Airfield (BAF) where the US Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) would demilitarize them by dismantling them with plasma cutting torches.

The demilitarization process began with the receipt of the RG-31 APVs from the mission elements and processing them through the MCT Vehicle Production Line. The first task was to remove the RWS which entailed Electronic-Optronic and Weapons

Technicians working together to remove and prepare the system for return to depot. The vehicles were then purged of all fluids and inspected by an Ammunition Technician to ensure that all ammunition had been removed. Major Dwayne Atkinson, a Radiation Safety Officer, assisted in both the conduct of the tests as well as in the training of one of our Electronic-Optronic Technicians on the procedures to confirm that the RG-31s were free of radiation. Finally, a Preventative Medicine Technician certified that the vehicles were free of any biohazardous material.

At this point, the RG-31 APVs were ready for shipment to BAF and it was at this juncture that the MDT encountered its initial challenge with the process. As the first shipment was being loaded for delivery to BAF, the MDT was contacted by DLA, asking for confirmation that the RG-31's spall liners were removed prior to delivery to their facility. The spall liner is a Kevlar layer, mounted on the inside of the RG-31 hull that enhances the vehicle's armoured protection. DLA advised that the spall liners had to be removed prior to delivery to their facility because the glue used to affix the spall liner to the hull is highly flammable. Given that the removal of the spall liner could not be conducted by the MCT, an alternate plan was formulated. Turning once again to our NATO ISAF allies in theatre, the MDT sought the assistance of the US Military's Parts Control Point (PCP), also located in BAF. Following some discussions and negotiations, PCP agreed to remove the spall liner from all 45 RG-31 APVs prior to their delivery to DLA.

Once the RG-31 APVs left the Canadian MCT camp located in Kabul, they were transported on flatbeds by civilian



The maintenance production line removed the Remote Weapons System, purged all fluids and inspected to ensure that all ammunition, potential radiation sources, and any biological material had been removed.

contractors directly to PCP, where the spall liners were removed. The process to remove the spall liner took 6-8 hours, on average, per RG-31 APV. Once removed, the RG-31 APVs were delivered to DLA for final demilitarization. The demilitarization process required that all major components be rendered completely inoperable. Specific parts were intentionally critically damaged and the hull was cut up into pieces not exceeding 60cm x 60cm. This was a



Contracted transportation was a large component of the disposal process. The CMTT section was intimately involved in the task.

very labour intensive task and required 10-12 hours per vehicle to complete.

Overall, one of the most significant challenges faced throughout the disposal process was the concurrent drawdown of



The demilitarization process required that all major components be rendered completely inoperable.

US Forces in Afghanistan. DLA and PCP are both US DoD organizations and were intensely busy executing demilitarization processes of their own equipment, in particular their Mine Resistance Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles. For every RG-31 APV that Canada sent to BAF for destruction, the US Forces were sending 40 MRAPs for destruction. This entailed a significant degree of coordination and liaison with both PCP and DLA by the MDT BAF Liaison Officer (LO), Lieutenant

(Navy) Dave Hiscock, who worked diligently to ensure that the Canadian RG-31 APV disposal process was not sidelined due to competing US demands for demilitarization.



The final stage of demilitarization specified that the armoured hull and chassis be cut up into pieces not to exceed 60cm x 60cm.

The RG-31 APV has served its intended purpose for the CAF during its operational employment in Afghanistan. It was widely considered to be an exceptional tactical armoured vehicle which offered superb protection for CAF personnel.

Commanders relied on it to conduct a multitude mission types in support of Canadian Operations. The legacy of the RG-31 includes the inclusion of some of its design elements and capabilities in newer platforms. For example, the V-shaped hull of the Light Armoured Vehicle Up as well as the proposed concept and employment of the TAPV.



The last of 45 RG-31s leaving Camp Souter for BAF (MDT left to right: MWO Fenton; MWO Turmel; Lt(N) Luecke; and Maj Watson)



Weapons Technician

Possible, Final End to the ADATS Legacy, Maybe

MCpl Mathes 2 I/C Wpns Sect, 4AD Regt

We all welcome the introduction of new weapon systems into the CAF and the retirement of older systems. Since the last missile was fired in 2011, the fleet has been cut down to only six fully maintained systems split between the batteries of the 4th Air Defence Regiment (4AD Regt).

The duty to keep these maintenance hungry systems serviceable has fallen to a small number of RCME Technicians at 4 AD Regt.

For the last two years we have watched this group of Techs keep the heart beating on these aging patients with the hope that they may one day come back into full service. But last summer an email from the LCMM put an end to their primary mission. The orders were to end the ADATS ability to act as a weapons platform. Two years of maintaining the ADATS up to mission capability with no missiles to perform its mission, was now coming to a complete end.

In September 2013, we started the end mission. Vech Techs removed the starters on the PPU's, which killed the ADATS from self powering its own systems. The next step was for Cpl Green from Wpns Sect to remove the Hydraulic Power Systems (HPS) and to drain all the hydraulic fluid and nitrogen so as to not allow the turret to operate under mechanical power. On 27 September 2013, the last ADATS was drained of its nitrogen and Cpl Green became the last Wpns Tech ever to work on them. At that time, the Mat Techs got into the game. Without hydraulics, the travel lock on the turret could no longer be engaged. The Mat Tech crew of MCpl Eastman, MCpl Ingram, and Cpl Paulin set forth and welded the turrets to the hulls so that the vehicles could be moved safely with no hazard of the turret moving.

Last to get a kick at the can were the EO Techs. They were tasked to remove the Electrical Optical Modules (EO Mods) and the Electrical Cooling Units (ECU). The

EO Mods, once removed, were sent to 202 Workshop where they will be emptied of their components and be put back onto the turrets at a later time. The only system on the ADATS that was not made inoperable was the radar system. They will be kept in service as a radar trainer until a replacement radar system is fielded in the future. The responsibility to maintain the radar falls upon the shoulders of the LCIS Section at 4 AD Regt.

So after 24 years serving as a weapons platform, the ADATS has been "Frankensteined" into an airspace surveillance training platform by the combined efforts of the four RCME trades. The six remaining ADATS will still grace the maintenance bays at 4AD Regt until a new radar system is fielded. Hopefully, they will find their way onto some concrete pads at a few museums or to meet the same fate as some of the M109s.



EME Branch Advisor's Coin of Excellence

COIN #24 - CPL R. MOUNTENAY

For exemplifying RCME esprit de corps and Material Technician skill by completely restoring the Jiffy Jeep. Cpl Mountenay did a particularly outstanding job in freehand airbrushing the RCME Flag and Crest on the Jiffy Jeep. The LFWA RCME Jiffy Jeep is a key community relations tool used throughout Western Canada. The restoration exemplifies Corps pride and is an excellent vehicle in the community that represents the CAF in a positive manner.

COIN #25 - CPL E. MACDONALD

For demonstrating outstanding Material Technician skill and true RCME esprit de corps. Cpl MacDonald passionately contributed to the restoration of the Jiffy Jeep. Cpl MacDonald demonstrated exemplary work ethic on this project which is on display throughout Western Canada and carries great impact on the community relations front. It represents his professionalism and pride in true RCME fashion.



COIN #40 - MCPL S.M. BELLEY

For MCpl Belley's outstanding contribution to the RCME Corps and to the JTF(N) for his continuous dedication and excellence in the achievements of his duties and his relentless efforts to promote and demonstrate the RCME Core values: *Arte et Marte*.

COIN #41 - MCPL S. FORTIN

For his outstanding performance as a technician soldier within the maintenance troop of 12 RBC. In the context of a vision aimed at restoring a culture of equipment within the regiment, he was able to re-establish, thanks to a remarkable professionalism, a strong team spirit between the operator and the technician. MCpl Fortin is a proud representative of the RCME Corps and he deserves to be recognized for his exemplary conduct.



COIN #42 - SGT A. MURRAY

In recognition of his outstanding devotion to the RCME Corp, he displayed outstanding trade knowledge, initiative and dedication as the Regimental Planner, showing exceptional skills with DRMS, resolving maintenance issues at the Regiment, Base, and National level. Sgt Murray brings to the Corp an enthusiastic level of technical expertise and esprit de corps. He is an all-around exceptional RCME Leader.

COIN #43 - CAPT J.U.Y. LESIEUR

Capt Lesieur's extraordinary contributions to RCME's heritage and history, particularly his outstanding work on the accreditation of and funding for the RCME Museum in Kingston, have verily brought the Corps' many contributions and the sacrifices of its members, serving and retired, to light and accessible to all Canadians.

COIN #44 - SGT (RET'D) J. PAGE

For his outstanding dedication and efforts in support of The Corps of RCME, the Canadian Armed Forces, and its retired members. His exceptional individual efforts contribute to the well being of past and present serving members, as well as, greatly assist in putting The Corps of RCME in the public eye in a very positive effective manner.

COIN #45 - CPL J. BLOIS

For his outstanding devotion to his community, the Canadian Forces Joint Signal Regiment and The Corps of RCME. An avid volunteer with the Limestone District School Board and Scouts Canada, as well as, professionally fulfilling his role in the Regiment. He is seen as a role model in his community and an example for his peers to emulate. Cpl Blois has proven to be an invaluable asset to his Regiment and the Corps.

COIN #46 - CAPT J.C. NOËL

He is playing a key role in developing the Leopard 2 fleet strategic repair capability at 202 WD. Through his proactive and innovative approach, determination, leadership, dedication and incredible energy, he has not only met all the challenges but has extended his influence to the point of improving the support capacity for the Leopard 2 fleet in the CAF. RCME Corps recognizes his critical contribution in supporting this new equipment fleet within the CAF.





Left to right: **LCol J.D. Bower**, **Cmdt RCEME School**, **MCpl G.A.M.E. Walton**, **Col M.A. Nixon**, **Cmdt CTC**, **CWO S.E. Croucher**, **Formation CWO CTC**, **CWO L.J.A. Moreau**, **RSM RCEME School**

On 24 September 2013, **MASTER CORPORAL G.A.M.E. (MARIE) WALTON** of the RCEME School was presented the Canadian Army Doctrine and Training Centre Headquarters (formerly Land Forces Doctrine Training System) **SOLDIER OF THE YEAR AWARD** by the Commander of the Combat Training Centre. This award was established to recognize and reward that soldier, between the ranks Pte to MCpl, who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, dedication and soldiering ability during the previous year and is based on the following criteria - loyalty, initiative, teamwork, leadership, dress and deportment, job knowledge, fitness and support to the enhancement of CAF and Army image. The Commandant and staff of the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers School would like to congratulate MCpl Walton on receipt of this prestigious award.



From left to right - **Lgen J.M.M. Hainse (COMD CA)**, **Sgt J.B.G. Lapratte**, **Cpl L. Guerin**, **CCWO M.R. Hornbrook (Army SM)**

Showing exceptional organizational skills, Sergeant Lapratte quickly assessed the diverse resource needs of the project in order to ensure the success of his assigned mission. Through his work, he did honour to the Canadian Army.

This commendation is in recognition of the outstanding professionalism and leadership shown by **SERGEANT LAPRATTE** (Master-Corporal at the time) as supervisor of the Pan-Army technical assistance visit in the summer of 2008. This team was tasked with returning to working order the fleet of sixty armoured vehicles transferred

outside Land Force Quebec Area in support of Task Force 1-09 training.



COL (RET'D) ANDREW NELLESTYN presented a plaque to the CDS **GENERAL T.J. LAWSON** in appreciation of the CAF's contributions to the documentary series The Veterans. The CAF's assistance in making possible access to serving men and women across Canada and in Afghanistan as well as the logistical support were vital to the project and made the documentary a resounding success.



MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

LCol D.D. Ross

For Outstanding leadership as ACOS Ops with the mission transitions task Force In Afghanistan, July to December 11

CDS COMMENDATION

Maj J.G. Coleman

For outstanding professionalism as so, LOG OPS within the UN - African union hybrid mission in Darfur, Sudan, September 2011 to April 2012



ORDER OF MILITARY MERIT

Capt Lesieur, J.U.Y.

Order of military merit - 64th List

CDS COMMENDATION

LCol R.B. Dundon

For Outstanding leadership and vision as CO of the national command and support element in Afghanistan, Jul 11 to Feb 12

Last Call



| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Maj Gary Theodore Umyrsh | June 2, 2013 |
| Sgt Wesley H. Kirkby | June 9, 2013 |
| Henry Dennis Dowling | July 27, 2013 |
| Capt Ken Goodbody | August 3, 2013 |
| Oliver Thomas Hiscock | August 30, 2013 |
| CWO Larry Phipps | Sept. 10, 2013 |

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Ron Annala | Oct. 9, 2013 |
| Maj Kevin Kennelly | Nov. 14, 2013 |
| Ralph Edward MacKay | Nov. 19, 2013 |
| Mcpl Sylvain Lelièvre | Dec. 2, 2013 |
| Maj John Graham Wilkin, MC | Dec. 9, 2013 |
| CWO R  al Desgagn  s | Dec. 30, 2013 |