

Office of Director RCEME
National Defense Headquarters
Ottawa ON K1A 0K2



3350-1 (SO RCEME)

February 2021

Distribution List

EXERCISE BLUEBELL 2021

References: A. Treasury Board Directive on Travel, Hospitality, Conferences and Event expenditures – amendment, 1 July 2017;
B. Commander Canadian Army Travel / Event Request Policy; and
C. ADM (Mat) Travel / Event Request Policy

SITUATION

1. The dispersion of RCEME expertise across all environments of the CAF in all geographical regions of Canada causes some unique challenges with respect to the application of consistent Land Equipment Management System (LEMS) policy and practises to sustain domestic and deployed operations. Exercise (Ex) BLUEBELL strongly reinforces LEMS consistency through the sharing of ideas from all environments and from the holistic LEMS family in order to empower LEMS effectiveness.
2. The COVID-19 pandemic has imposed restrictions on travelling and gathering in large groups, which greatly limit the traditional delivery of this exercise. Although, it is possible to use virtual means to replace in-person interaction. The Corps will continuously update directives in consideration to the newest regional or inter-provincial regulations in order to execute Ex BLUEBELL with success.

MISSION

3. The Corps of RCEME will conduct a decentralised Ex BLUEBELL 2021 from 7 May to 18 June 2021 addressing target RCEME audiences employed in each of the Regional Network areas in order to provide operational guidance and technical updates.

EXECUTION

4. Concept of Operations
 - a. Intent. The aim of Ex BLUEBELL 2021 is to provide officers, senior technicians, and junior non-commissioned members of the Corps relevant, timely and synchronized operational guidance and technical updates. Communicating with RCEME personnel in Reserve units and with Light Aid Detachments (LADs) is also essential with a view to creating an all-informed net across the entire Corps family.
 - b. Scheme of Manoeuvre. Ex BLUEBELL 2021 will see a group of five subject matter experts travel to Valcartier, Edmonton, the National Capital Region (NCR), Borden, Petawawa, Gagetown, and Wainwright to provide information and presentations on key LEMS matters. The Corps will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and the

restrictions on travelling and gathering in large groups. In the event that restrictions have not been lifted, Ex BLUEBELL 2021 will be conducted via virtual means in order to allow interactions and give the troops the opportunity to communicate with RCEME senior leadership. Ex BLUEBELL 2021 will be conducted in three phases:

- (1) Phase One (now – 6 May 2021) – Planning and Preparation. This phase will include venue and travel booking, agenda finalisation and presentation preparation;
 - (2) Phase Two (7 May– 18 June 2021) – Execution. All decentralised regional BLUEBELL activities will be conducted (either physically or virtually) during this phase; and
 - (3) Phase Three (19 June – 5 July 2021) – Feedback. Feedback and after-action reporting points consolidated and sent to the SO RCEME.
- c. Endstate. Improved understanding of LEMS policies and practices delivered through regional activities, and an increased Esprit de Corps.

5. Groupings and Tasks

a. Corps Secretariat

(1) Tasks

- (a) Prepare TD requests for five main presenters and coordinate their travel and bookings;
- (b) Conduct D RCEME awards boards and coordinate awards presentations;
- (c) Gather presentations (En and Fr) from presenters;
- (d) Ensure presentations are available on website and SharePoint NLT 26 April 2021; and
- (e) Gather and consolidate feedback.

b. Senior Regional Representatives (Sr Reg Reps)

(1) Tasks common to all

- (a) Provide names of regional Ex BLUEBELL OPIs to SO RCEME NLT 1 March 2021;
- (b) Prepare and distribute regional BLUEBELL instruction;
- (c) Provide regional BLUEBELL agenda to the Corps Secretariat NLT 1 March 2021;
- (d) Coordinate local activities and event details with attendees and participants; and

- (e) Communicate regional BLUEBELL information to local Reserve units and members of the LADs.

6. Coordinating Instructions

a. Timings

- (1) 1 March 2021: Regional BLUEBELL instructions distributed;
- (2) 31 March 2021: D RCEME Awards nominations submitted by regions;
- (3) 7 April 2021: National D RCEME Awards Board;
- (4) 19 April 2021: Presenters travel booked;
- (5) 26 April 2021: Presentations available on SharePoint;
- (6) 7 May 2021: BLUEBELL - Gagetown;
- (7) 13 May 2021: BLUEBELL – Borden;
- (8) 19 May 2021: BLUEBELL – NCR;
- (9) 4 June 2021: BLUEBELL – Petawawa;
- (10) 11 June 2021: BLUEBELL – Valcartier;
- (11) 17 June 2021: BLUEBELL – Wainwright;
- (12) 18 June 2021: BLUEBELL – Edmonton; and
- (13) 5 July 2021: Feedback points and photos submitted.

b. Theme. The theme of Ex BLUEBELL 2021 will be “Evolution through Adversity”.

c. Presenters. Presenters will include D RCEME, Corps SM, Col Cndt, DLEPS 3-2, and DLEPS 3-5. Regions are to appoint their own presenters as applicable to their agenda. If need be, you can find the 3 main presenters’ Bio on the RCEME Corps website at: <http://rcemecorpsgemrc.ca/headquarters/corps-governance/> .

d. Agenda. Regions will be responsible for preparing an agenda for the day, however time for the presentations in Annex A must be incorporated. Note that due to time restrictions, agenda content and times for the NCR are adjusted. Proposed agendas are outlined at Annex A.

e. D RCEME Awards. The awards board will be conducted well in advance to ensure time to prepare certificates prior to the first regional BLUEBELL. Instructions for the awards will be published separately.

f. Presentations. Presentations will be placed on the Corps SharePoint site for access by

Regional OPIs NLT 26 April 2021. Regions to provide a POC to the SO RCEME for access to site. All presentations will remain on the SharePoint after the conclusion of BLUEBELL.

- g. Additional Activities. To maximize attendance and reduce unit downtime, regions are encouraged to organise additional activities such as mess dinners or RCEME day events around regional BLUEBELLS provided these activities respect local and provincial health guidelines. Coordinating details for such events must be included in the regional BLUEBELL instructions.
- h. Venues. Venues facilitating power point presentations to a large audience as well as separate venues for PI Comd Hour style events are required.
- i. Local Guests. Regional BLUEBELL OPIs are responsible for inviting any local guests as well as local Reserve units and LADs. The attendance of any local guests must be communicated to the Corps Secretariat ahead of the event.
- j. Feedback. Feedback is essential to ensuring improvement of subsequent exercises. Each Region is to send feedback to SO RCEME via email in a bullet format.
- k. Photos. Pictures are great to share with all the RCEME community. Submitted pictures will be used in RCEME social media pages. OPIs from each region are to contact the Secretariat for instructions on uploading to Smugmug.
- l. Funding. Temporary Duty (TD) expenses for the five presenters from the NCR will be paid for by Corps Secretariat. Mess dinners will be paid by all attendees, and they will require receipts. All other local expenses to be paid by home unit.

SERVICE SUPPORT

- 7. Transport. DND vehicles are to be used wherever possible.
- 8. R&Q. To be used by all travelling participants and attendees wherever possible.
- 9. Dress. Combats unless otherwise directed.

COMMAND AND SIGNALS

- 10. Command and Key Staff
 - a. D RCEME. Col J.C.H. Spitzig;
 - b. Corps SM. CWO K.S. Northorp;
 - c. Col Cmdt. BGen (ret'd) B. Brewer;
 - d. COS RCEME. LCol I. Miedema;
 - e. DLEPS 3-2. Maj J.A. Legendre;
 - f. DLEPS 3-5. Maj F. Beauvais-Beaudry;

- g. SO RCEME. Capt A.G. MacLean; and
- h. A/SO RCEME. 2Lt D. Zhao.

Arte et Marte

J.C.H. Spitzig
Colonel
Director RCEME

K.S. Northorp
Chief Warrant Officer
RCEME Corps SM

Annexes

Annex A – Draft agenda

Distribution List

Action

RCEME Sr Reg Reps
Corps Secretariat

Information

RCEME Council