

39 COMBAT ENGINEER REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi all, well I am back for a second time as President of the Association. I would like to extend a special thank you to the Outgoing President. Bill White has done an excellent job during these demanding times. COVID19 sucks! There will be a time that we will get back together but until then it is what it is.

I'm looking forward to zooming the D-Day Commemoration!

Chimo

Bill Wenman
President

HONORARY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ROLAND KRUEGER, CD



Roland (Roli) Krueger has completed an appointment and two extensions as the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of 39 Combat Engineer Regiment, from 2012 to 2021. At the moment, until his replacement (recommended by Roli) is confirmed he has agreed to continue to act as the HLCol.

Roli, while at high school in Trail, joined 44 Field Engineer Squadron, in 1976. He transferred to 6 Field Engineer Squadron, North Vancouver when he started his undergraduate studies at the University of British Columbia (UBC). At 6 Field he became an Officer Cadet, and completed RESO (Reserve Entry Scheme Officers) phase I and II Infantry at CFB Gagetown and was subsequently commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1977. In 1978 he completed RESO Phase III and IV, Military Engineering at CFB Chilliwack. He graduated from UBC in 1981 with a Bachelor of Commerce Finance degree. Following qualifying courses he was promoted to Captain in 1984. He served with 6 Field until his job took him to Prince George.

Throughout his civilian career he has been a chartered financial planner and financial advisor. He has held a number of positions on Boards within the Province. These have included Chambers of Commerce, the Executive Committee of the Law Society of BC, Chartered Accountants and Chartered Professional Accountants of BC, and a Kinsmen Club. He has also been a Scout Leader.

As Roli puts it he has now migrated from the unpaid position of HLCol to unpaid director of Scout Properties (B.C./Yukon), which owns or leases about 30 campgrounds and other facilities in BC with a value of about \$40,000,000.

Some of his recent military highlights are;

- Had his first overnight in the field with 44 ES in a tent near the Paulson summit on Highway 3 during a February tactical Ex and then went Cat Skiing the next morning with a commercial operator somewhat close to the location of the Ex.
- Was awarded his Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) while the HLCol, which included time served with 44 Field and 6 Field.
- Was instrumental in the construction of the Chimo Cabin with members of 44 ES, who all donated their time working as civilian volunteers with privately owned equipment. The Chimo Cabin is a day use warming cabin near the Strawberry Summit on Highway 3B in a provincially approved recreation area.
- Was involved in the organization, funding and material acquisition of three Rails to Trails trestle projects near Christina Lake prior to his selection as HLCol. One project included over 100 Royal Engineers on a tour after their rotation in Afghanistan, who arrived on very short notice.

He and wife Shelly live at Christina Lake.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Roland Krueger for his loyal and dedicated service to 39 Combat Engineer Regiment. However we are pleased that he continues to support the Regiment family by serving as the Treasurer of the 39 CER Association.

EXERCISES

Ex SAPPER FORGE - 20-21 March 2021 in Trail BC

By Lt Henry Smith

Combat engineer soldiers must retain currency in explosive threat, search, Mini-RABS, and booby-traps. To meet these requirements, 44 Engineer Squadron (including both Trail and Cranbrook-based members) conducted a squadron exercise from 19-21 March at Kemball Armoury in Trail, BC. Exercise SAPPER FORGE focused on a range of explosive threat training, to include the F1A1 booby-trap device, within an urban or indoor environment at the section level.

Members conducted refresher training on both quick and detailed body search training on the Friday evening. Saturday morning consisted of safety training and usage of the F1A1 booby-trap device and Fuse Blasting, Instantaneous to increase the tactical aspect of the training. Troops then spent Saturday afternoon practicing the safe preparation and placement of the devices in an outdoor setting. 44 ES members were also given a practical demonstration on the use of Mini-RABS, which are radio-controlled initiation systems used within the Canadian Armed Forces. Saturday concluded with detailed vehicle search training and a professional development lesson, focused on explosive threat and improvised explosive device detection training led by Major Nils French, Officer Commanding 44 ES, from his deployment experiences in Afghanistan. A professional development lesson focused on mine clearance and recognition was also taught by Master Warrant Officer Shane Batch, Squadron Sergeant Major 44 ES, based on his experiences deployed as a Combat Engineer in Bosnia. Finally, Sunday training consisted of a tactical

scenario whereby sections alternated placing F1A1 devices and subsequently searched for, detected, and neutralized the devices.

The exercise was successfully conducted and all participating members received valuable training on explosive threat awareness, booby-trap, and search capabilities that are important Combat Engineer skills. COVID-19 protocols were adhered too throughout the weekend exercise.



Corporal Derek Shiell conducts Room Clearance training by means of a pulling kit for members of 44 Engineer Squadron at Kemball Armoury, Trail B.C.



Private David Mark and Private Judah Redding practice placing a F1A1 booby-trap device in an indoor environment at Kemball Armoury, Trail B.C. during Exercise SAPPER FORGE

1725 RCACC REPORT

Capt Robert Schell

The cadet program in the COVID 19 environment can be summed up in one word...."challenging." With activities highly restricted and for the most part conducted in a virtual environment for most of a year ingenuity and creativity have been the cornerstone of the past year. Initially we conducted our virtual program similar to what we did when we paraded in person with troop warrants conducting inspections of their troops via the internet and then virtual lessons but as COVID 19 continued to haunt our communities our cadet grew tired of screen time and like most youth grew out of their uniforms. To keep our cadets engaged we shifted our emphasis from mandatory training and turned up the fun factor. Our senior cadets let by the RSM, CWO Nelson Gidney came up with one idea to engage the cadets an at least one officer. Combining fun, competition, and Sapper skills, the Popsicle Stick Bridge Challenge was born. Cadets were challenged to build a bridge using popsicle sticks. Success was judged by the maximum load with a secondary category for creativity.



MWO Hayden Epp's bridge (above) using popsicle sticks, glue and electrical tape held just over 243 pounds putting him in first place for maximum load. Sgt Levi Goodwin's popsicle sticks and glue bridge (below) placed second for load at 241 pounds but took the prize for creativity.



An honorable mention goes out to brothers MCpl Joey Johnson and Cdt Trevor Johnson who using popsicle sticks alone, no adhesives of any type built a bridge that held just over 5 pounds (see below).



With a reduction of restrictions recently, we have been authorized to conduct outdoor training for groups of 10 or less on a case-by-case basis. To date we have conducted training for drill instructors, biathlon roller skiing, and orienteering. This has brought new light and raised spirits among 1725's cadets. With some light at the end of the tunnel the cadets are looking forward getting back to the training that made cadets challenging and fun. From the officers and cadets of 1725, Chimo!

D-DAY VIRTUAL COMMEMORATION AND SOCIAL – 05 JUNE 2021

This year 39 CER will commemorate 6 Field Company RCE's involvement in D-Day via a virtual event. Below is the draft agenda. Further details will be promulgated as how to attend this virtual event.

1. Welcome and brief Association update - President- 5 minutes
2. 39 CER Update from 39 CER - CO 5 minutes
3. Introduction of CO & RSM of Regina Rifles - 3 minutes
 - a. Reply from CO/RSM – 3 minutes
4. Introduction of CO & RSM of Royal Winnipeg Rifles – 3 minutes
 - a. Reply from CO/RSM – 3 minutes
5. Presentation on Rifles and 6 Fd objectives and progress for D+1 to D+2 – Historian – 15 minutes
6. Questions and Answers – 10 minutes
7. Toasts – 10 minutes
 - a. D-Day and 6 Fd Coy RCE – TBA
 - b. The Corps – HCol Diamond
 - c. The Royal Winnipeg Rifles – CO Winnipeg Rifles
 - d. The Royal Regina Rifles – CO Regina Rifles
 - e. The Regt – LCol Julien, CO
8. Thank you to speakers – President – 3 minutes
9. break - this is when people can depart if desired
10. Social (Part 2) - for those that want to stay on

Time for Part 1 – 60 minutes

MEMBERSHIP

For those wishing to become members of 39 CER Association, a membership form can be acquired from: membership@39cer.ca

39 CER Association Contacts

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The 39 CER website can be accessed at: <http://www.39cer-museum.net/>

For more Engineer news please visit the Canadian Military Engineer Association website at: <https://cmea-agmc.ca>