

CME Branch CWO Activity Report

13 Nov 2013

I sat on the board for CMEA bursaries. The board was chaired by Ken Homes and consisted of the CME Branch Adjt Capt Landry, LCol Gasparotto, CWO Rousseau, Rolly Dusseault, Capt JP Harvey and myself. We read and scored 18 files sponsored by officers, 2 files sponsored my Sr NCMs and 6 files sponsored by Jr NCMs.

The program consists of six individual educational bursaries of \$1000, awarded annually, for the year of study starting in Sept. Applicants may receive bursaries in more than one year of study, however annual application must be submitted. Priority is given to those applicants who have not previously received a bursary through this program.

To be eligible for the Bursary Program the applicant shall be a regular CMEA member or a dependent of a regular CMEA member and the applicant shall have completed secondary education and be in the process of entering or continuing a program at a certified post-secondary educational institution.

Bursary recipients were chosen on the basis of scholastic achievement and extra curricula activities. Consideration for individual's financial need was also taken into account.

The committee was challenged by the small number of submissions in the Senior NCO grouping of only two. Unfortunately, one of the files was both incomplete and weak to such a degree that the Board considered it to be below a cut-off line.

There was a third high quality file among the Junior NCO grouping so it was the recommendation of the Board that only one Bursary be awarded to the Senior NCO grouping and that the freed-up funds were used to award a third, deserving, bursary to the Junior NCO grouping.

I encourage you all to start planning and preparing early if you are going to apply for a bursary this year. Ensure that your file is complete and into the Branch Adjt on time.

For a list of recipients and full details see CHIMO Communiqué at CMEA Web Site

http://www.cmea-agmc.ca/documents/CMEA_2013_Bursary_Winners_e.pdf

16 Nov 2013

In Mid November the Chief Military Engineer MGen Whitecross and I visited EX NIHILO SAPPER in CFB Gagetown. This was a combined Ex that is unique in its scope and conduct as it included participants from 4 ESR, CFSME, 1 ESU, CJOC Engrs, Tactics School, Tech Svcs, Armd Sch and 2 RCR. The combined and joint nature of the Ex was also underlined by the funding of the 900k Ex. Funding was shared between 5 Cdn Div, CFSME, Canadian Joint Operations Command Engrs, and the CAF Joint Counter

Explosive Threat Task Force. As part of 4ESR's Theatre Opening Training Exercise, CFSME was provided a venue to assess the Basic Engineer Officer Course (BEOC) and Construction Engineer Officer Course (CEOC) students' ability to plan and employ Command and Control (C2) for an Engr task at the Tp/Flt level. 4 ESR also provided HICON, LOCON, EXCON and resources to accomplish and remediate full spectrum of combat and construction engineer tasks.

4 ESR's goal was to execute a level five training event in the Gagetown training area that was focused on theatre opening tasks. Concurrently CFSME BEOC and CEOC 1.2 students were assessed in command positions to allow for the development of the next generation of engineer officers for the Branch, and 43 Counter IED Sqn's Final Operating Capacity was validated.

(For those of you not familiar)

Level I	Individual
Level II	Section
Level III	Platoon/Troop
Level IV	Company/Squadron
Level V	Combat Team
Level VI	Battle group
Level VII	Brigade Group

The scope of the Ex covered the following:

- 192 Battle Task Standards from 50 assigned tasks;
- 26 trades being trained;
- 54 students being evaluated;
- FOC complete for 43 CIED Sqn;
- Re-locatable Tented Camp training and employment; and
- NRCan power usage study.

BEOC students completed a number of Engineer tasks including mobility with the construction of MGB, MR, route opening and a minefield breach. Counter mobility tasks included minefield laying, route denial and a bridge demolition. Survivability tasks incorporated FOB construction, an elevated/Ground Op and the building of fortifications.



MGen Whitecross watches as an IED operator carefully inspects a device



MGen Whitecross receives a briefing on the ROWPU

CEOC students completed a beddown at HINCHE bivouac with the erection of accommodation and dining tents and the pouring of concrete for tent pads. More advanced tasks were done at FOB TOMASSIQUE with the erection of accommodation and dining tents the construction of a ground OP, the erection of a Hesco Bastion Wall and Fencing. Weatherhaven Re-locatable Tented Camp was used for the erection of specialized units such as a Mobile Laundry and Bath Unit, ablutions units, accommodations, Deployable Fire Fighting Unit, and a MEX 26 shelter.

They also constructed a steel girder NSB at Lindsay Valley and 2 helicopter landing sites. An austere camp at CAMP PLAISANCE was built to accommodate 80 pers complete with concrete pads and a classroom with steel frame foundation (10' x 18').



Completed Force Protection Task



Excavation for concrete pads



WO Lefort receives a Ch Mil Engr coin

MGen Whitecross also presented her Chief Military Engineer coin to MCpl Dunnett, Capt Cooper, WO Leduc from 4 ESR as well as Capt LeGresley, Cpl Trojand and WO Lefort from CFSME.

21 Nov 2013

The CME Branch Council met during the day and was followed by the NCR Mess Dinner in the evening. At Branch council it was announced that the Branch Advisor Col MacIsaac was posted to Australia in Dec and that LCol Gasparotto would take over the duties of Branch Advisor until APS 2014. Updates were presented on ADM(IE) Transformation, the "Way Ahead" for Geospatial Engineering, CMEA and RCE.

29 Nov 2013

I had the distinct pleasure of attending the Geomatics Tech 6B graduation at MCE on Booth Street. I had the opportunity to address the course and then speak with the graduates of the course.

11 Dec 2013

I accompanied MGen Whitecross for a visit to 1 ESU in their new and temporary lines in CFB Kingston. We received a unit briefing and managed to meet almost everyone in the unit. The move from Moncton has not been without its challenges however CFB Kingston has been very helpful and is seen as a much more appropriate location for the unit to reside. From a personnel stand point it does not appear that the move has been that bad. There were great concerns about leaving Moncton and the challenges of selling houses in the Moncton market. Although some have faced some adversity most have been able to sell homes and make the transition as smoothly as possible.

MGen Whitecross presented her Ch Mil Engr coins to MWO Leblanc, Maj Contois and WO Hall. This added to the festivities around the unit as they were preparing for their Christmas dinner that day.

15 Feb 2014

The Col Cmdt BGen (Retd) DesLauriers, MGen Whitecross and I paid a visit to Goose Bay to Visit with 4 ESR in the field. Ex Northern Sapper is an annual Ex and this year was focused on building on the successes that the unit had last year.

Very much a low level basic Ex the first part was spent qualifying soldiers in Basic Winter Warfare (BWW) and Land Over Snow Vehicle (LOSV) qualifications. Upon completion of the initial Trg the Sqns were rotated with one Sqn going on a five day long range patrol and the other Sqn conducting stands Trg which included small arms, demolitions, construction of snow and ice defences, ice bridging and advanced survival skills taught by the 25 Canadian Rangers who supported the Ex.



Flooding the Ice Road

After an Ex brief and a LOSV refresher the Col Cmdt, Ch Mil Engr and I spent the day visiting with the soldiers on the Ex. We went to the ice road stand where they had constructed about 800 m of ice road. Interestingly they broke the road down into three sections. All three sections were cleared of snow and treated a little differently. One section was continually flooded while the



Moving Out

second section wasn't flooded but went through an aggressive maint program repairing any cracks to the ice and the third section was just cleared of snow and left to the elements. From there we went out to the ranges where the soldiers were busily building snow and ice field defences. Upon completion of the defences they were going to fire on them and then destroy them by using demolitions.

In the afternoon we went to the German Spec Ops bivouac where one of the Sqns was staying. After

having a chance to chat with the soldiers we were treated to an amazing fish supper that was cooked by one of the Sprs of the unit.

The next morning we had breakfast with the CO of 5 Wing, the Wing Chief, MWO Lori White a CE Supt and Capt Tremblay the WCEO. After some discussion about 5 Wing Goose Bay, ADM(IE) transformation and the possible future of 5 Wing MGen Whitecross presented one of her coins to Capt Tremblay.

20 Feb 2014

On 20 Feb during the Conference of Defence Associations Institute held in Ottawa the CMEA turned over the newly published CME Book of Remembrance to the Col Cmdt of the CME.

Taking part in the handover of this book and representing the CMEA was the President CMEA Col John Lesperance (Ret'd),



Our Chef, Spr Christopher Cole

Executive Director Col Dave Carney (Ret'd) and the man behind the research LCol Ken Holmes (Ret'd). Accepting the book on behalf of all ranks of the CME was our Col Cmdt BGen DesLauriers (Ret'd), with LCol Mark Gasparotto and Myself in attendance.



Handover of the CME Book of Remembrance from President CMEA to Col Cmdt of the CME. L to R, LCol Gasparotto, Dave Carney, Col Cmdt BGen DesLauriers (Ret'd), John Lesperance, Ken Holmes, CWO Patterson.

Ken Holmes started the research into the deaths that are recorded in the Book of Remembrance more than a decade ago (Please see full story in upcoming Chimo Communiqué). This new Book of Remembrance is comprehensive in that it has all of the names of all CME members and predecessors to the CME (RCE, RCN, & RCAF) whose death has been attributed to service reasons since 01 October 1947 (this is the last date that names were entered into the WW II Book of Remembrance). In all there are 98 names currently in the book and has been specifically constructed to allow for names to be added when

the time comes.

The book is a very high quality production that was printed in Arnprior and was bound by a small world renowned book binder from Smith Falls. The CMEA researched this project, saw it through from start to finish and funded the whole undertaking. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the CMEA and all of its volunteers for the exceptional work that was done to produce this high quality product.

26 Feb 2014



CME Col Cmdt presents the CME Book of Remembrance to MGen Whitecross, Ch Mil Engr

The Col Cmdt, Ch Mil Engr and I attended Ex Ubique. Ex Ubique is a PD Ex run by CFSME for the PH IV officers of the Combat Engineers and the Construction Engineers as well as the Cbt Engr 6B and the Const Engr Superintendent courses.

This year's Ex Ubique was kicked off with a presentation from our Col Cmdt BGen DesLauriers who gave a presentation about the Canadian Military Engineer family of today. Other speakers included LCol Gasparotto on "Learning How to Learn", Col Horgan on Construction Engineers, Col Quinn on ADM (IE) transformation, Capt Laplante on the last DART deployment, Maj Bidal on the RCAF Expeditionary Capability, LCol Saunders on an Army CE organization, Maj Blanchette on 3 Wing Bagotville WCE and LCol MacEwen &

CWO Hatfield on 1 ESU. I spoke about the Officer NCO relationship.



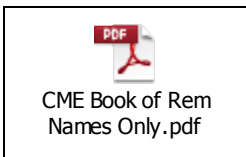
MGen Whitecross hands the Book of Remembrance over to LCol Dubois



LCol Dubois and CWO Swift place the Book of Remembrance into its final resting place after it was brought to CFSME by the Col Cmdt

In the afternoon of the second day of Ubique the Col Cmdt BGen DesLauriers (Ret'd) presented the CME Book of Remembrance to MGen Whitecross

who in turn gave it to LCol Dubois the Cmdt of CFSME. CFSME will hold the new book in a case in Memorial Hall of Remembrance Lane at CFSME adjacent to the CME Museum. The museum staff will turn the pages monthly but if you are visiting CFSME the Museum staff will open the book to any page that you may want to view. The case that houses the new Book of Remembrance was hand custom built by WO Garrett from CEMS.



In addition to Ex Ubique I attended the CME Museum meeting. The curator Sandra Johnson-Penny continues to do outstanding work at our museum and we are well served by her. The museum is always updating and reworking its displays, it is truly one of the best museums in the county and it worth a visit if you are near CFSME where the CME Museum is quartered. Of course the museum is always looking for donations of artefacts or money to help obtain, refurbish and display new artefacts. To make a United Way Campaign donation to the CME Museum through MEMAC (Military Engineers Museum Association of Canada), provide the name and address below and this Revenue Canada **registration number: 11924 5321 RR001** Outside of the United Way, cheques or artefacts can be sent directly to the CME Museum to this address:

Canadian Military Engineers Museum
Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering
J-10 Mitchell Building
Canadian Forces Base / Area Support Group Gagetown
PO Box CP 17000, Station Forces
Oromocto, NB E2V 4J5

In the evening all of the students of the four courses as well as the staff of CFSME held a mess dinner with the Col Cmdt as the guest of honour. The next morning was the graduation ceremony for the Construction Engineer Officer Course. I accompanied MGen Whitecross who was the Reviewing Officer for the graduation ceremony. As well as presenting top the student award and individual certificate MGen Whitecross gave her Ch Mil Engr coin to WO Garrett (for the cabinet he made for the Book of Remembrance), and to Capt Blaise Lapointe for his performance and leadership at last years CISM event (See CHIMO Communiqué at the CMEA Web Site)
http://www.cmea-agmc.ca/documents/CHIMO_580_Capt_Lapointe_CISM_e.pdf

and Lt Stevens (Top Student on CEOC).



Visit the CME Museum and get an up close and personal look at LCol Mitchell's Medals

06 Mar 2014

MGen Whitecross and I attended a CME Mess dinner at Fort Frontenac in Kingston. This is an annual event hosted and run by the local chapter of the CMEA. The aim of the dinner is to bring together Engineers from the Kingston area. CMEA President John Lesperance was at the dinner as well as the President of the Kingston Chapter Steve Kelly. In all there were 55 guests which included 18 OCdts from RMC, 6 Ret'd members, 1 civilian, and Regular Force members from Kingston representing BCE, 1 ESU, PSTC, CADTC, RMC , CALWC, and CACSC to name a few. OCdt Jeremy Jobin and OCdt Daniela Moyano sat at the head table with MGen Whitecross who was the guest of honour.

Branch CWO Points

Support to the Museum

The CME museum is the repository of all CME information. The CANFORGEN (024/14) http://vcds.mil.ca/vcds-exec/pubs/canforgen/2014/024-14_e.asp call for unit histories has recently gone out. In addition to forwarding your annual historical report to DHH an electronic copy should go to the CME Museum (CMEMUSEUM@forces.gc.ca) In addition to annual historical reports you are also encouraged to send copies of articles and pictures to the museum.

Retirements

I distribute retirement messages via email throughout the whole Military Engineering Branch. For the most part I forward the information that is given to me but at a minimum I need to know when and where the retirement ceremony will be, who is the OPI for messages and a biography of the retiring Engineer should be included. It has been requested many times and it is preferable if a picture of the retiring Engineer can be attached to the biography.

Branch Certificates are available to anyone who has completed their Variable Initial Engagement in the Regular Force and to anyone who has reached the rank of MCpl in the Reserve Force. All of the applicable information is in the application that should be sent to the CME Branch Adjt.

I find it a disturbing trend that we have a number of retiring Engineers who are refusing to have a Depart with Dignity ceremony. I find this quite sad and a unique missed opportunity. Retirement is a time of celebration and an important step in the closure of one's career.

I understand the time to arrange a DwD may be short and depending on the circumstances leading to the decision to retire, there might be some dissatisfaction and or personal shyness to have a DwD. Some equate it with planning your own funeral or wish to leave anonymously, the same way that they joined. I do understand those sentiments but I would also like to point out that a DwD is not just about the person who is retiring. It is also for the retiree's friends, colleagues and anyone that they have influenced over their careers. It offers those people a chance to extend their best wishes and say good bye.

Although I will respect those who choose not to have a DwD ceremony I would like leadership to engage with those individuals and explain to them why they should have a retirement ceremony no matter how small it may be. I suspect that when many of those people look back at it they would be glad that they did have a ceremony and for those that didn't I would suspect that they may regret their decision not to have a DwD.