

Engineering work at the forefront of theatre activation

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By: Joint Task Force Ukraine

What do the Canadian Armed Forces engineers do while tucked into a remote military training area in western Ukraine? Simply put, they do anything and everything.

For the past few weeks they have been building, renovating, constructing, grading, plumbing, wiring and labouring. Construction and field engineers alike have been working throughout the last month at the International Peacekeeping and Security Centre in Yavoriv, Ukraine preparing for the deployment of Canadian soldiers on Operation UNIFIER, Canada's military training mission to the Ukraine.



Construction engineers rarely receive recognition for their work, but here in Ukraine, they worked and worked hard. With temperatures frequently reaching into the mid 30's with high humidity these soldiers deployed on the Op UNIFIER Theatre Activation Team (TAT) have erected a dining hall, a Tactical Operations Centre, a supply warehouse, an orderly room and vehicle maintenance bays to house the roughly 40 vehicles to be used by Joint Task Force Ukraine (JTF-Ukraine) during the training mission. In addition, the Canadian construction engineers worked hand in hand with Ukrainian soldiers in order to renovate two separate living quarters that involved upgrading the living spaces, electrical wiring, and washroom facilities in both buildings.



“The tasks we encountered were unique, diverse, and challenged our engineers to apply their specialized technical skills” said an Engineering Officer. “I’m immensely proud of what we’ve accomplished in a very short amount of time.”

However, construction tasks were not the only labours completed by the engineers in order to create a space that will provide a sustainable solution in the coming months for the Combat Service Support for JTF-Ukraine. The engineers also created a vehicle and storage compound of 40 sea containers, where almost 1000 cubic metres of gravel was laid, graded and compacted. In the end JTF-Ukraine will have an area of nearly 3000 square metres, roughly the size of a two NHL hockey rinks.

In its short time in Ukraine, the work done by the highly skilled TAT has set the foundation for the success of Operation UNIFIER.

