

39 COMBAT ENGINEER REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello all and I hope all is well for you and your family during this continuing COVID 19 pandemic. Despite the restrictions, the Regiment and Cadets have managed to continue to run courses and train personnel and we have some details regarding top candidates in this newsletter.

The wearing of masks and personal protective equipment brings to mind the wearing of NBCW suits during the NATO Fallex in Germany and decontamination drills that we were taught.

I was saddened to hear that our friend and colleague, Captain Jim Stewart passed away on 31 August. I am pleased that we have an article to pay tribute to the contribution that Jim made to the Engineers and in particular to 6 Field Squadron by means of his loyal and many dedicated years of service.

Sadly we also have an untimely death of MCpl Rust, a member of 39 CER, and we have included a tribute to him.

Please help us grow the membership by reaching out to fellow Sappers you know in BC.

To all, exercise physical distancing, wear a mask when needed, and stay safe and healthy.

Chimo

Bill White
President

SUMMER TRAINING

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions recruiting was severely curtailed, and CFSME reduced the number of courses conducted. With ingenuity and perseverance, 39 CER personnel were still able to achieve a number of qualifications. Below are the courses that 39 CER personnel attended and supported with instructors:

BMQ 0867 (Vernon) - 12-Jul-20 - 13-Aug-20

Pte Zejer (6ES)
Pte Lancry (44ES)
Pte Meyer (44ES)
Pte Redding (44ES)
Pte Burton (6ES)

Pte Krafczyk (6ES)
Pte Dias (54ES)

BMOQ Part 2 (Vernon) - 19-Aug-20 - 29-Aug-20
2Lt Lancry

BMQ-L 0348 (Chilliwack) - 05-Jul-20 - 20-Jul-20
Pte Corlies (6ES)
Pte Hudec (6ES)
Pte Hutton (6ES)
Pte Janssen (54ES)
Pte Laing (44ES)
Pte Turcotte (44ES)

BMQ-L 0356 (Chilliwack) - 14-Aug-20 - 29-Aug-20
Pte Spyker (54ES)
Pte Robinson (6ES)
Pte Dias (54ES)
Pte Burton (6ES)
Pte Zejer (6ES)
Pte Krafczyk (6ES)

DP1 BMOQ-A (ICFSME) - 02-Jul-20 - 04-Sep-20
2Lt Sidhu (6ES)
2Lt Turcios (6ES)

PLQ MOD 2, 3, AJLC (Wainwright) - 21-Jun-20 - 27-Jun-20
MCpl Carney (54ES)
Cpl Kenacan (6ES)

DP1 MOD's 1, 4, 5 (CFSME) - 19-Jul-2020 - 31-Aug-2020
Pte Dorner (44ES)
Pte Hockridge (54ES)
Pte Jones (54ES)
Pte Mark (44ES)

DP1 MOD's 2, 3 (CFSME) - 13-Oct-20 - 26-Nov-2020
Pte Hockridge (54ES)
Pte Jones (54ES)

DWC / MILCOT Silverado / 39 CER Lead course - 17-Aug-20 - 27-Aug-20
Cpl Janssen (54ES)
Cpl Hyra-Woodman (6ES)
Spr Sturm (54ES)
Cpl Brent (54ES)
Pte Chamberlin (6ES)
Pte Giesbrecht (6ES)
Cpl Lane (54ES)
Cpl Mah (6ES)
Cpl Kalongo (54ES)

MSVS Operator / CFB Edmonton - 17-Aug-20 - 27-Aug-20

Pte Hudec (6ES)

Cpl O'Sullivan (6ES)

Cpl Au (6ES)

PLQ/AJLC During COVID-19

MCpl Steven Carney, 54 ES Chilliwack

In the CAF the Army Leadership courses are a daunting and overwhelming idea. At least that is how I felt about them. I have been in leadership roles over the past few years within 54 ES, and the time had come to take the next step towards becoming a leader. I got on the bus to head to Wainwright, because due to COVID-19 flying was quite restricted, and with multiple floods and road closures we arrived 38 hours later. Within 6 hours of being there we were already in full course mode, being inspected and realizing all the rumours of PLQ/AJLC may be true. Once getting acclimated to our new environment, including sanitizing everything we touched, wearing masks everywhere we went, being confined to base, and adding the COVID measures into the daily military routine, we got stuck into the course. It did not take long to realize that this was not going to be an easy experience. The standards that we were held to, and in turn held each other to became increasingly higher and higher throughout.

The impressive work load seemed like an impossible task at first, but as a team we began to figure our way around this information overload. The tests came at a furious pace, but we were there to meet the challenge each time. The thing you realize quickly on PLQ/AJLC is that to succeed you must work as a team. Once we got into the field for Stability Operations I began to find my feet. It was in the struggles of living in the field, leading missions, receiving orders, formulating plans, giving those orders to your sections, and completing the missions that it all started to click.

Onto AJLC we went. The first week of AJLC is mostly classroom, and learning to call in Fire Missions (which is a lot of fun). Then we went into the field. That is where you really realize how far you can push yourself, and how much you must rely on each other to keep going. When you are on Recce number five (30 hours of missions) and you are trying to figure out if you are awake or asleep, that is when you find your resolve for being there. It is a funny thing pushing your body and mind to limits most people never consider, and to see that you are still able to not only function but succeed at completing tasks only weeks before you thought you could not do on your best day. This field exercise was one of the toughest and most rewarding challenges of my life. Especially when I was put into the Platoon Commander position half way through, and led Platoon Level tactics, and took part in the final recce and platoon attack to close out the Ex.

I am certain that not all PLQ/AJLCs are run the exact same, nor are the challenges perfectly aligned, but I am certain that anyone who endeavors to take this course will be challenged in many more ways than one. There is no exact science to completing the course, or even to be considered the Top Candidate, but understanding the reason that you want to be there is a good start. For me, my goal was always to make it to a position in the military where I would be able to train our future soldiers, and that still remains a big goal for me. I love challenges, and I found many on this course. Being under a COVID environment for the whole course amplified those challenges, but at the same time exemplified what it means to "Adapt and Overcome".

While I am proud and honoured to be considered the Top Candidate, I am even more proud of everyone on my course for pushing through these strange times and completing the course. Especially my section, 1 Section, who had the top three candidates in it (All Combat Engineers), one of which was awarded with the Corey Graham award. Always aim to be the one that those who may be struggling are able to turn to for help, not the one who is so far in front that no one can reach them.



MCpl Steven Carney, 54 ES Chilliwack was the Top Candidate of his course. Well Done!!

Cpl Kenecan

by Sgt Michael Scoretz

While serving full time with Op LASER Cpl Michael Kenecan of 6 ES was able to attend the PPCLI Battle School at CFB Wainwright where he completed his junior leadership training which will qualify him for a promotion to the appointment of Master Corporal. Cpl Kenecan is well known to the soldiers of the Regiment as he joined the Canadian Forces with 6 Field Squadron in 2003. Cpl Kenecan has served in the Field Troop, in the SQMS, and in the Training Troop. He is one of the more senior Corporals in the Regiment and is relied on for his sense of humour, calm demeanour, and his regular attendance on parade and in the field. Cpl Kenecan is happily married and works in the security field as his civilian employment. It is to be hoped that Cpl Kenecan is promoted quickly so that he no longer has the opportunity to back vehicles again, this being his only and a notorious unsolved issue in his service. Beep Beep! Congratulations to Mike Kenecan on his recent completion of PLQ/AJLC.

1725 ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADETS

LGen Quinn Music Awards

Lieutenant-General J. W. Quinn, CD, Colonel Commandant Royal Canadian Army Cadets from 1979 to 1989, as a legacy to his desire to promote music in the Army Cadet movement has established annual awards for outstanding Army Cadet Musicians, known as “The Lieutenant-General J.W. Quinn Annual Music Awards for Excellence”.

The Army Cadet League of Canada is proud to announce the runner up winner of the Army Cadet Pipe Band Musician is CWO Andrew Lee from the 1725 RCACC in Chilliwack

The CO of 1725 RCE Cadet Corps, Robert Schell, also said that the newly minted OCdt Lee was recently sworn in to the CF and will be attending CMR St Jean this fall.

Within minutes of the award announcement congratulatory messages were sent by the Honourary Colonel; the Association President, the RSM and the CO who wrote to the CO of the Cadet Corp:

That is fantastic news. The congrats you pass can be from the entire Regiment. The recognition on the music front is one thing but it is also no small feat to be accepted to military college. OCdt Lee should be proud of himself.

Well done.

JP (Jim) Julien
LCol
CO 39 CER



Cadet Chief Warrant Officer Lee holding a plaque
for when the cadet Regimental Sergeant-Major ages out at 19

Chilliwack Army Cadet Accepted Into Royal Military College

By Cadet Sergeant Stanley Fu

Cadet Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Andrew Lee, from 1725 Royal Canadian Army Cadets (located in Chilliwack BC) was accepted into The Royal Military College (RMC) earlier this year. He knew what he wanted to do at a young age. CWO Lee saw his first armoured vehicle at the age of six, instantly, he understood that that is what he wanted: to join the Army.

CWO Lee reached the age of 12 and joined the Cadet Program and stayed in the program for 6 years. CWO Lee said: “Cadets helped me get accepted into RMC and camp gets you used to standards.” So unlike the other students at the college, CWO Lee was easily adjusted to the army training lifestyle and he devoted himself to helping others adjust to military life.

In his cadet career, CWO Lee participated in marksmanship, pipe band (snare drum), and flag party. Notably, he was a talented musician who competed in the Nova Scotia Tattoo and won runner up for the National Army Cadet Pipe Band Musician Award in 2020. Lee was a model cadet and leader. As a senior cadet, he always tried to lead by example and established inspirational connections with younger cadets.

For all the cadets who are thinking about joining the military CWO Lee has some tips:

- Be a good follower and work together as a team with others, understanding how to be a good follower will turn you into a good leader.
- Keep grades up, train hard, work out, maintain fitness, and most importantly develop healthy habits as the military will force you into healthy habits.
- Be mature and professional and apply early.

All these tips from CWO Lee will help a lot going into RMC.

The following article has been included with the kind permission of The Rush newspaper.

Hiker Recalls Ordeal North of Dawson

By Tim Kucharuk @TimKucharuk - 96.1 The Rush

Tuesday, September 1st, 2020 11:23am



Cook at the Ogilvie River Bridge with Sapper Hill in the background.

Photo:Laura Cook/Instagram.

Laura Cook is expressing her thanks to rescue personnel after she injured her ankle on the Sapper Hill Trail on August 22nd. A woman from Vancouver who had to be rescued from a trail north of Dawson City is recovering from an ankle injury. Laura Cook tells the RUSH she was an hour into a day hike on the Sapper Hill Trail when her foot hit a rock she thought was embedded. Instead, it took her for a tumble leaving her unable to walk.

Thankfully, the dual Canadian/Australian citizen had both a satellite phone and inReach tracking device on her. After trying to tough it out, she had to call for help. "At the point where after about an hour of scrambling, I had not gotten very far," Cook said. "I thought it probably time to call in some assistance given how remote I was I knew it would probably take quite a bit of time for someone to get to me, so it was probably time to make the call."

Four rescuers arrived at the trailhead about 9 p.m. via helicopter and hiked an hour in to reach her. Cook says it took over two hours for rescuers to help her down the steep and narrow trail, as she used human crunches or scooted down on her hands and knees.

The rescuers included two RCMP officers, a physician, and a member of Dawson Search and Rescue. After a three-hour drive, Cook was treated for a sprained ankle at the hospital in Dawson at 4:30 a.m. She says further x-rays are needed to determine if there's a break.

Cook said she's grateful to the people who helped her down the trail, and to staff at the Dawson Hospital. She says people should not be afraid to hike trails in the north, but cautions you should be prepared.

Hike With A Purpose



(The view from the top. Photo: Laura Cook/Instagram.)

The Sapper Hill Trail has some special meaning for Cook. She says before coming to Canada, she had served with Australia's Army Reserve. Under an agreement between the two countries, she was able to continue her training in Canada from 2014 to 2018.

That training included time with the Royal Canadian Engineers for whom the Sapper Hill Trail and nearby Engineer Creek Campground are named for. She learned the corps built a bridge crossing the Ogilvie River on the Dempster Highway in 1971, and she wanted to get a photo of the bridge.

"That's certainly the reason I was up there doing it to take a few photos and send to the units back home (to) show them what the engineers had done a few decades ago up in the north."

The Immunologist has now returned to Vancouver where she is doing post-doctoral research at UBC. She says this was her fourth trip to the Yukon and it will not be her last as the territory is an amazing place with lots to explore.

<http://www.ckrw.com/news/local-news/hiker-recalls-ordeal-north-of-dawson/?MvBriefArticleId=45232>

(Audio: Senior Reporter Tim Kucharuk in conversation with Laura Cook.)

Capt Laura Cook was the Sqn 2IC for 6ES and was lead planner for EX PALADIN RESPONSE 2018.

DEATHS

It is with regret and sadness that we announce the passing of two fellow sappers.

Captain James (Jim) Frederick Stewart (1945-2020)



James Frederick Stewart, who was always known as Jim, was born on the 23rd of October, 1945 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the eldest of three siblings. He came from a military family – his grandfather Sgt James Linden Stewart served in REME and his father, Capt James Warren Stewart served in the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. Known as Jim he would go on to be the longest serving unit member in its history.

After his birth his family moved to Saskatoon, then to Toronto and then to Edmonton where he enrolled in the Loyal Edmonton Regiment in January of 1962. His family next moved to North Vancouver where Jim enrolled in 6th Field Engineer Squadron on the 22nd of September 1962. He was promoted to Corporal in October of 1963 and in 1965 he graduated from Delbrook Senior Secondary School.

Jim rose rapidly through the ranks. He was promoted to Sgt in 1971 and WO in 1972. On his appointment to Squadron Sergeant Major in 1975 he was promoted to MWO. Then after serving just over a year as SSM he was commissioned in the rank of Lieutenant in 1976. Jim was promoted to Captain in 1978 the rank he held until his retirement in 2005.

In summary, Jim retired after 43 years of distinguished service, of which twenty-seven years were in the rank of Captain. Research indicates that this made him the longest serving member of the 6th - ever.

During Jim's Reserve Army service he worked for various engineering companies and government agencies. These included the B.C. Provincial Department of Highways on both the Courtenay-Campbell River By-pass and the Stewart Cassiar Highway, The District of North Vancouver as a Construction Inspector and the Federal Department of Transport and the Federal Department of Fisheries & Oceans as a draughtsman.

In 1980 he left the government and became a self-employed home renovation contractor in Victoria until his second retirement in 2003.

During the time he lived in Victoria Captain Stewart commuted by road and ferry to and from the unit in North Vancouver as often as he could. He would normally show up on the Thursday night before an exercise, attend the weekend exercise and then return to Victoria Sunday night.

Jim and his wife Caryl May Woodward have retired to Mill Bay on Vancouver Island.



<https://www.arbormemorial.ca/sands-duncan/obituaries/capt-james-jim-f-stewart-cd-retired/54992/>

Master Corporal Michael “Mike” Rust, CD



We regret to advise of the sudden passing of Master Corporal Michael “Mike” Rust, CD, of Chilliwack, BC, on Sunday, 30 August 2020 at age 31.

Mike Rust truly was one of a kind. For a man whose appearance was large and intimidating, his nature was filled with compassion and understanding. He was a gentle soul, in the body of a Viking. Mike was a true friend, to the highest volume. There was no “I’m too busy” with him, and he always had time for anyone who needed it and for whatever they needed - help moving, a late night phone call, or as a confidante. You could also always be certain that if you needed any type of leather work done - a knife sheath, a dip tin holster, he was your guy, and had probably already mentioned that he would make you one. Mike was incredibly motivated, capable, intelligent and strong, the ideal soldier. More than that though, he was a tireless friend, a loving father, and a devoted husband.

Mike enrolled into the Canadian Armed Forces on the 14 of June 2005 starting his career in Chilliwack, with 39 Combat Engineer Regiment. In September 2009 Mike was attached to Joint Task Force Afghanistan (roto 8) as a Husky Operator. Upon returning from Afghanistan in April 2010, he put in for a transfer to the Regular Force and was posted to 1 Combat Engineer

Regiment, Edmonton, on 4 Oct 2011. In June of 2013, while at 1 CER, he was tasked on Operation LENTUS to battle the floods in the Province of Alberta. Mike then went on to complete his Primary Leadership Qualification in Shilo, MB in April 2014 and in July of the same year he was promoted to Master Corporal.



In October of 2015 he transferred back to the Primary Reserves and returned home to Chilliwack, where he continued to serve in the roles of Section Second in Command and Section Commander. Mike was always keen to learn, and went on to complete his Heavy Equipment Course.

Mike was a true leader. One who led by example. Whether it was his uncanny ability to smile through the tough times and keep everyone's morale up, or his willingness to take new troops under his wing and teach them the ropes. His devotion and love for the Engineer Corps did not end there though, he really was a master of his trade. He may not have known it all... but it sure seemed like it. If there was something he did not know, he would be the first to admit it, but would also be the first to go and learn it. He never stopped learning, or searching for ways for self improvement. Leadership came naturally to Mike, and his enthusiasm was contagious for all those lucky enough to be around him. There is a quote by John Quincy Adams "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader", and Mike Rust was the embodiment of this.

Soldiering was only one of Mike's passions though, and he recently graduated with his Power Engineer ticket from BCIT. He took his new found skills to Beaver Plastics, where he was employed most recently.

Mike had the ability to get a crowd in stitches with his way of taking such simple things and explaining it in a hilariously drawn out way. He would do this just to get a rise out of people, and it always worked. His friends would often joke with him that you could play a movie on his back or use his t-shirt as a half shelter, due to his immense stature.

Mike Rust was an irreplaceable part of the 54 family, and he will be missed beyond measure. We will carry on his memory, and ensure that all the lessons he taught us will not be forgotten.

Mike is survived by his cherished wife Kayla, son Mason aged 9 and daughter Violet aged 4 months.

CHIMO Brother.

Donations can be made via GO FUND ME to assist Kayla and her young children as they go through this transitional period.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-the-family-of-mike-rust>

MEMBERSHIP

For those wishing to become members of 39 CER Association, a membership form is sent along with this letter or can be acquired from: membership@39cer.ca

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For more Engineer news please visit the Canadian Military Engineer Association website at:

<https://cmea-agmc.ca>