

39 COMBAT ENGINEER REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION



Date 30 April 2026
54 (#2/2026)

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Report
Honours And Awards
Presentations
Deployments
Exercises
D-Day Dinner
Op Granite II
Veteran Affairs
Membership
39 CER Association Contacts

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi all, this newsletter covers a very interesting article about **Op AMARNA** by Maj Andrew Gower. It is very good read. 6 FES Day Dinner is just around the corner. Save the date!

Chimo,

Bill Wenman
President

HONOURS AND AWARDS



OC 6 ES Maj Kwok presented regimental coins to the following pers on March 5 (L-R): Capt Benson, Cpl Gourdine, Cpl Krafczyk, Cpl Shariati, Cpl Siemen

PRESENTATIONS





DCO Maj Gower presented a gift to the unit from OP AMARNA on March 5



DCO Maj Gower and MWO Izawa (retired) presented the new SSM plaque to 6ES on Mar 5. The SSM plaque will complement the current OC plaque and list all of the unit's SSMs. While the OC plaque has a sword the SSM plaque has a scale drill cane.

DEPLOYMENTS

Op AMARNA - 1 October 2025 – 3 January 2006

by Maj Andrew Gower

I deployed under Op AMARNA, Roto 26-01 from October 1, 2025, to January 3, 2026. Op AMARNA replaced Ops ARTEMIS and IMPACT as part of Canada's contribution to strengthening peace and security in the Middle East. The main operational outputs are the Canadian Training Assistance Teams in Jordan and Lebanon. These teams work with the Jordanian and Lebanese armed forces to provide training and capacity building. The operation also contributes to the Combined Maritime Force that provides training in the gulf region. The op also includes the Operational Supply Hub – Southwest Asia located in Kuwait, which provides a base for logistics support for missions in the region. Finally, the mission also includes a contribution to NATO Mission Iraq based out of Baghdad.

I was employed as the J1 in the Task Force – Middle East Headquarters which supports both Op AMARNA and Op FOUNDATION. OP FOUNDATION includes members of the CAF working

with US headquarters including the Combined Air Operations Centre in Qatar that controls all US and allied combat missions in the Middle East.

As J1 I led a team of four clerks including the HR Manager, a PO1, the HR Supervisor, a Sgt, and two HRA Cpls. The team was responsible for pay, including all theatre allowances, ordering of medals, and calculating and processing all leave for all TF members. As J1 I was also responsible for the administration of the HLTA program, military justice, remedial measures, and honours and awards. I found the role both challenging and rewarding as it was an area of military policy that I had never operated in previously. I learned something new at least 3 times a day for the duration of the deployment.

I was lucky enough to conduct one very “combat engineer” task while deployed. It came to light that many of the deployed members had not completed their Explosive Threat Awareness and Hazard Recognition pre-deployment training, having only completed the online portion and not the practical portion. Working with another combat engineer in the TF headquarters, we gathered training aids and conducted a PD session including practice for self-extraction drills from a mined area. CHIMO!

The highlight of the deployment was the country itself, Jordan. Due to the security environment at the time, TF members were able to travel all over Jordan on our one day a week off. I was fortunate enough to visit Petra, Wadi Rumm, Aqaba, Jerash (ruined Roman City) and many other locations throughout the country. In addition, we were located in Amman, which is an amazing city to visit.



The photo was taken outside the OSH in Kuwait. I’m sitting on top of the T-wall second from the right. All other members pictured are still deployed so while I won’t name them, they are all from the 39 CBG AO.

EXERCISES

Ex Sapper Summit 7-8 March 2006

39CER Command Team met in Cranbrook BC on March 7-8 for Ex Sapper Summit. Ex Sapper Summit is where the regimental command team comes together to plan for the upcoming training year, discuss "victories, insights, and puzzles" in addition to building camaraderie which is challenging due to the multiple geographic locations. Representatives from 6ES, 54ES, 44ES, RHQ, in addition to the Chaplain and HCol were present. Participants also had the time to tour the 44ES det Cranbrook building and compound.



The photo is taken in front of the Cranbrook Wall of Honour which was constructed in 1990, in memory of people who served in various conflicts (Boer War, First and Second World Wars, Korean Conflict, Vietnam War and Peace Keeping). It is located in Rotary Park near the Cranbrook cenotaph.



YOU ARE CORDIALLY
INVITED TO THE

**D-DAY
MEMORIAL
DINNER**

MILITARY MESS DRESS &
FORMAL EVENING WEAR

1630 JUNE 6TH, 2026

JP FELL ARMOURY | NORTH VANCOUVER

PRICE PER PLATE TO FOLLOW

The organizing committee aims to reconnect thousands of people who served in Chilliwack, honour their history, and pay homage to those who have passed. The event has received financial support from the CMEA to help launch the event.

Operation GRANITE II is a significant military heritage reunion and commemorative event centred on the Canadian Military Engineers' legacy in Chilliwack, planned for mid-July 2026.

VETERAN AFFAIRS

Our Board member David Blake-Knox Maj (Ret'd) (blake_knoxd@hotmail.com) has offered his services to assist individuals in submitting claims to Veterans Affairs. David has had success in navigating the bureaucracy in submitting his own claims and those of others.

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

President: Bill Wenman LCol (Ret'd)	wenman_39@telus.net
Past-President – Bill White Col (Ret'd)	president@39cer.ca
Vice-President – Bill Diamond	Bill@39cer.ca
Treasurer – Roli Krueger Capt (Ret'd)	roland_krueger@telus.net
Secretary – Grant Acheson Maj (Ret'd)	secretary@39cer.ca
Membership – Grant Acheson Maj (Ret'd)	secretary@39cer.ca
Veteran Affairs Advisor – David Blake-Knox Maj (Ret'd)	blake_knoxd@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor – Achim von Wiedner Maj (Ret'd) avonwiedner@shaw.ca

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

Recent editions of the 39 CER Newsletter can be accessed at: [39 CER Association \(39cer-museum.net\)](http://www.39cer-museum.net/). Earlier editions can be obtained from the Secretary or Editor.

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