

## TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL

**By Maj Mau Arsenault, Eng.,**

**OC GES Sqn, Ex TH 08-01 / OC 11 Engr Sqn** (*my day job*)

True to our hosts' motto, the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) Engr Regt, Canadian Military Engineers deployed in Jamaica for Exercise Tropical Hammer 08-01 are getting a good taste of "Technical and Tactical". Deployed on a month-or-so-long FTX, the General Engr Sp (GES) Sqn, is composed of most Construction Engr elms deploying to JTF AFG on ROTO 6.

In deed, GES Sqn is comprised of the next Task Force Engineer Support Unit (ESU); the PRT Engr; and the newly formed Construction Management Organization (CMO), which brought 1 ESU's 11 Engr Sqn HQ and 81 CEF together to train for construction projects "outside the wire". Together, with 192 CEF(R) from Aldergrove, they are structured in a 125 strong Sqn elm, augmented by a Troop (-) of JDF Engrs. The GES Sqn is fully established for business and has launched on the largest Construction Engr FTX in living memory.

ADM Pol's Military Training Assistance Program (MTAP) has historically provided an outstanding construction Engr training venue, with several ACTs having deployed in Jamaica in the last few years. Having validated the concept of deploying Engr to Jamaica in the past, Comd OS Engr Gp decided to increase the scope and scale of the exercise to maximize the unique training opportunities Jamaica can provide. In conjunction with DMTAP personnel, OS Engr staff developed an exercise that employs a Sqn level elm in the construction of facilities that can be designed, built, furnished, and turned over to the JDF. This is not only mutually beneficial, but also represents a significant increase in support to the JDF's operational capability.

Exercise Tropical Hammer 0801 is 5 weeks long, and is embedded in a five-phase program (Design, Set-up, Exercise, Closure, Handover) to deliver key facilities to the JDF.

The FTX, also been referred to a "Op-cersise", is not only providing Engr some excellent level 2, 3 and 4 Tac and Tech trg, but is also providing considerable support to DMTAP branch by enhancing the JDF's operational capability, which fuel other strategic objectives. The tactical training thus far has been second to none, thanks to the combination of pairs live fire and movement training provided by a team of seasoned infantry "thugs" from Connaught Ranges, a \$3.0M construction budget, and a fantastic training venue laid out by CANOSCOM.

The construction effort, which began with reces in Sept 07 and will extend until the end of June 08, will provide the JDF with a new Caribbean Junior Staff College at JDF Base Moneague, a Counter-Terrorism and an Aircraft-Technician schools at the Jamaican Military Air School, and an accommodation barracks for 25 sailors in support of the JDF Coast Guard.

But mere paragraphs cannot fully describe the work being done here, so I have once more established a page (still as a squatter) on A4 CE's FTP site (thanks, Sirs...). I posted some of the most recent construction pictures, a six-minute clip taken on the pairs-live fire range, as well as a presentation I prepared for the upcoming VIP visit, to give a full appreciation of the exercise. Details can be perused at <ftp://1cadftp.winnipeg.mil.ca/a4ae/OC%2011%20Engr/>. (*note that the clip may be very long to download but is well worth it*).

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the fantastic support received by the Real Life Support Team, or RLST, that deployed in sp of the Engr effort. Engineers are fed, housed and supported by a team of approximately 60 logisticians and signallers, provide mainly from the JSG and the JSR, but also composed of several augmentees that came from the four corners of the country. Without their support, we would be but a bunch of mean, dirty and hungry sappers.

Chimo.