

CME Col Commandant Visits CFB Shilo

By Cpl B. White, Str Tech

On April 22, 2008 CFB ASU Shilo Engineering Services had a couple of honoured guests, the Canadian Military Engineer (CME) Col Cmdt Col RK St. John (Ret'd) and the CME Branch CWO, CWO JLLD Gratton. They came in to visit and talk to the military and civilian engineers of Engineering Services Branch, the Fire Hall and the Sappers from other Base Branches.

Col St. John and CWO Gratton had a tour of the Base Engineer facilities meeting with key personnel. They took time to chat with several employees including Brian Molsberry, Works Officer and Michael Markmann, Controls Tech in the communications room joined by Base Engineer Maj Steve Lane.



After sampling doughnuts and a couple of cups of coffee, they headed to the Fire Hall where they took the opportunity to address the personnel on shift. The Fire Chief entertained the Col Cmdt by giving a tour of the Fire Hall and also explaining the status board comprising of four platoons of seven active members per crew. After a fine lunch at one of the most favourite spots on Base, the Mess Hall; Col St. John returned to the engineer offices where he recorded a video message for the contestants and teams participating in the 2008 Beaver cup.



The visitors carried on to tour projects in the Range and Training Area. The first project area visited was the Forward Operating Base (FOB) where Mr. Rob Riesz, Eng Officer and Cpl Nicholls, a Sapper from SPV, explained to the Col Cmdt the work being undertaken. Afterwards they proceeded to the Operations in Built Up Areas (OBUA) village which is made up of sea containers to simulate a built up town for training purposes. They also visited King OP which is a lookout for the armoured vehicle track during training exercises. The Col Cmdt and his escort party returned to Base Engineering where they discussed the active work program at CFB Shilo with the Base Engineer.



Maj Lane thanked Col St. John and CWO Gratton for meeting with the CFB Shilo engineers, especially on the eve of the 29 April CME Birthday and for his video guest appearance leading into the upcoming 2008 Beaver Cup hockey tournament for the following week. All in all, it was a most excellent visit. Col St. John and CWO Gratton carried on to 17 Wing, Winnipeg, where they attended a conference and a Mess Dinner.