

Roads and Waterways for Afghanistan

14 CES continues to prepare to take a major role in the Construction Management Organization (CMO) for Task Force 1-09 in Afghanistan. The CMO provides project management (supervision, material control, quality assurance/control and finances) for Canadian funded infrastructure and development projects in Afghanistan. The CF maximizes the utilization of local labour and material resources for these projects. Road construction has been the primary focus of the CMO during the past 18 months. The focus for the future will be on waterways and irrigation systems.

During the first week of February members of the CMO from 14 CES HQ, 143 CEF Lunenburg, 144 CEF Pictou, 91 CEF Gander, 14 Wing Greenwood, CFB Borden and the Jamaican Defence Force joined with other members of the Canadian Military Engineers (both construction and combat) from Edmonton, North Bay, Moncton, Valcartier and Wainwright to attend a week long "Design, Planning and Constructing Access Roads" course. The course was presented at 14 CES HQ by Mr. Hugh Hambly on behalf of the Maritime College of Forest Technology. The course content covers the essential demands of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and DND for the safe design and construction of water crossings in austere areas.

Hugh Hambly presented a plethora of practical and technical knowledge for the military engineers. His practical knowledge spans over 40 years of "hands on" experience as a diesel and automotive technologist, claims adjustor with International Harvester Co. Ltd., mechanical superintendant with Churchill Forest Industries Ltd in The Pas MB, and 28 years as manager of equipment and roads with St Anne-Nackawic Pulp Co Ltd in Nackawic NB. Hugh's technical knowledge is evident with his numerous industry innovations such as extensive preventive maintenance procedures for wood harvesting equipment in the forest industry. Hugh received the University of New Brunswick's Award for Quality in Maintenance Management in 1989. Mr. Hambly "retired" from the forest industry in 2001, but soon found retirement too boring and easily "folded" to industry pressure to return in a training role; consequently Hugh started his own company - Hugh H. Hambly & Associates Inc. He now works as a project management consultant in the forest industry specializing in equipment, roads and waterways. Hugh recently retired from the position of Chairman of the CWF Logging Operations Group and is a past-member of the CSA Forestry Equipment Standards Committee.

Hugh's wife, Lucia, is a vice-president of the company. Lucia accompanied Hugh to 14 CES in her role as the on-site administration, standards and IT expert during the presentations.

The poor design and installation of water crossings, in the Kandahar region, have recently become evident with the melt-waters coming down from the mountains in the spring of the year. This has resulted in some water crossings being washed away while other have become dams that block water flow resulting in flooded fields and villages. The CF is striving to ensure that future waterway crossings and irrigation projects are designed to meet Canadian standards. Well designed and installed culverts, arches, and bridges will

help in assuring a better transportation systems for the Afghan people, as will irrigation systems that will not be susceptible to erosion or mass-wasting due to saturation.

Mr Hambly's decades of hands-on experience, coupled with his ability to clearly un-ravel the mysteries of drainage, water flow, environmental concerns and capabilities of heavy equipment, was a key factor in the success of this course. The military engineers of the CMO are now be able design and construct road and irrigation systems based upon the parameters set by NB and NS, as well as other parts of Canada, in an arid environment. Since no federally mandated design specifications exist in Afghanistan for this sort of construction, the CMO folks will use their training, experience and common sense, to come up with some reasonable calculations and solutions. It is hoped that during the construction of these projects, some of the information delivered by Hugh Hambly will be passed onto the Afghan counterparts, so that some national capacity development can be realized.

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