

Engineers build a training tower for the firefighters

By Philippe Brassard, ADSUM newspaper

The Valcartier garrison firefighters will soon have their multipurpose training tower built by the 5^e Régiment du génie de combat (5 RGC - 5 Combat Engineer Regiment) Construction Troop and the 3-10 Engineer Support Unit (ESU).

With a height of about 11.5 meters, this four-story tower will have a steel frame, a concrete base and sheet metal walls. Provided with windows and a roof trapdoor, this tower will have a fire chamber with fire resistant material, padgenite, an attic, a water intake for hoses and a fan system to evacuate smoke.

According to the Fire Service Deputy Chief, Yan Brassard, the tower will become a useful complement to train all firefighters. They will be able to practice fighting fire in the fire chamber where flammable material will be set alight. "We already had machines to practice with smoke. The advantage with real fire is that we will have the heat," he explained, insisting that firefighters will need to adopt a low position where heat is less intense.

The different levels will allow practice in smoke or enclosed space. The tower will also be used to conduct search and organize scenarios with portable ladders or a ladder-truck.



The new firefighter training tower is being built behind the Valcartier garrison Fire Hall.

Photo : Philippe Brassard, ADSUM

Cross training

But the firefighters will not be the only one to benefit from this tower: for the engineers building it, it is a training aid project. In fact, all the construction engineering trades from 5 RGC and ESU – carpenters, electricians, plumbers, generator specialists or mechanical refrigeration – will be able to expend their skills by exposition to other trades. So when the time will come to do plumbing for the building, a plumber will teach his/her techniques to the other trades.

This “cross training” will allow ESU members deploying to Afghanistan in November to prepare to face the full spectrum of situations they may face in their work. “We are giving an idea of the other trades tasks. This way, even if an individual has a problem outside his/her trade, he/she may be useful and does not necessarily need someone to coach him/her,” insists Warrant Officer Ghyslain Pépin, project manager and member of 3-10 ESU. On a Forward Operation Base in Afghanistan, for example, a carpenter will be better equipped to evaluate an air conditioning system or a plumping problem due to the new knowledge acquired.

This training will also be useful to the 5 RGC Construction Troop managing diverse projects and solving many problems with the Valcartier garrison infrastructure.

Furthermore, all involved will learn a lot about structures and may also receive help from a civilian expert specialized with this type of project and hired to supervise the works.

If all goes well, the tower will be finalized around mid-July.



5^e Régiment du génie de combat Construction Troop and 3-10 Engineer Support Unit members are building a 4-story training tower for the Valcartier garrison firefighters behind the Fire Hall. As of 7 June, engineers had two stories built.

Photo : Philippe Brassard, ADSUM