

## Exercise SAPPER STRIKE

By Capt Eric Boulianne

CFB GAGETOWN, N.B. - Members of 4 Engineer Support Regiment (4 ESR) trained with aviation assets from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 169<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment from the Connecticut National Guard during Exercise SAPPER STRIKE in May 2012. The purpose of the exercise was to familiarize soldiers with engineer operation within the context of dedicated aviation support. One of the main opportunities was to airlift bridging assets and conduct gap crossing operations.



Cpl Pittman, Spr Sturge and Cpl Hicknell (2 RCR) hooking up a MR Interior Bay to the Chinook.



MCpl Rivest from 4 ESR marshalling Medium Girder Bridge 5 Bay Single Story load.

Helicopter Operations personnel must sling loads for helicopter rigging operations, maintain rigging equipment, control pick-up and landing points, guide and marshal helicopters, and hook up external cargo.

Call Sign NOMAD 80 successfully transported five MR bays from Day Hill in the Southern part of the Gagetown Training Area to Swan Lake, where the bays were lowered in the water and the raft assembled. Call Sign NOMAD 69 slung the MGB into location over a gap on King's Hill road and placed the bridge within 5 inches of the marked location. The training opportunity was a success and the sight of seeing 4 ESR's bridging assets moving through the air at 80 knots will remain in everyone's memory for years to come.



Chinook placing Interior Bay in water at Swan Lake.