

Looking into the Horizon – 4 Engineer Support Regiment Conducts Theatre Activation Training

CFB GAGETOWN, NEW BRUNSWICK--(Nov 25, 2012) – On 1 November 2012, 4 Engineer Support Regiment deployed to the field for Exercise TYRO SAPPER in support of the Basic Engineer Officer Course (BEOC) and Construction Engineer Officer Course (CEOC). This year's scenario called for us to once again re-visit the precarious island of WEST ISLE in order to exercise the Regiment's theatre activation capability.

45 Support Squadron faced a unique challenge. Faced with a tight deadline, the squadron was tasked with the construction of a 250 man temporary standard camp at Air Strip 6 only known as FOB TUBORG. Concurrently, squadron assets such as heavy equipment and specialized tradesmen were detached to support a diverse array of tasks throughout the regiment including route denial and breaching. Faced with difficulties in ground preparation due to a deluge in rain water along with a lack of proper construction materiel, the troops greeted the exercise with a determination to get the job done.



51 Heavy Equipment Troop and 53 Construction Troop with student of Construction Engineer Officer Course constructing HESCO Entry Control Point at FOB TUBOUUG (AS-6).

Photo by Maj Kurt Grimsrud.

The value of heavy equipment was quickly apparent in the construction of an austere camp at COOTES Bivouac. Over a period of 6 days, Sergeant M.A. Regier and his small detachment of three personnel were able to quickly make this position defensible through the construction of type C Light Armored Vehicle (LAVIII) vehicle pits and the excavation of C6 Machine Gun Trenches. Heavy equipment also proved to be invaluable in the setup of hasty vehicle checkpoints, stockpiling of resources and site remediation.

Meanwhile, the construction of FOB TUBORG was taking shape. An impressive HESCO Bastion outer wall along with an Entry Control Point, Type One Concertina Wire fencing and elevated observation posts dared all but the bravest of enemies to approach the fortification. With improvements to the camp road and other necessities such as an accommodation pad, a kitchen area, a generator farm, a Mobile

Laundry and Ablutions Unit, and a Fuel Supply Distribution System, FOB TUBORG was truly beginning to look like our home away from home. Workers and planners alike worked long into the night in collaboration on methods of construction and preparations for the next day's tasks. The exercise was a valuable learning experience not only for the officer candidates but for everyone in the squadron as it afforded the time on kit and equipment rarely seen outside of deployed operations.

Overall, the experience was memorable with our soldiers able to efficiently practice the skills required for the Regiment to play a theatre activation role. Sergeant Regier described the exercise as, "Engaging. We were able to exercise our facilities and knowledge to the fullest extent while facing constraints in resources forcing us to develop unique solutions to our problems. Overall, it was a satisfying experience". With exercises such as these, 4 Engineer Support Regiment will stand prepared for any future tasking, as it always has. CHIMO!



Wooden Helipad constructed by 53 Construction Troop and Construction Engineer Officer Course at AS-7.
Photo by Maj Kurt Grimsrud.