

EX TOTAL HARMONY – CAMP MAPLE LEAF

By Capt Kim Marchand, 1 Tp Comd, 2 CER

1 Tp, 23 Fd Sqn and attachments (Hvy equipment, MRT crew, Wrecker crew, LPO clerk and a Medic) for a total of 42 pers deployed for Ex Total Harmony on Jacob's Island to build and operate a Medium Floating Raft (MFR) and assist PCL Constructors Canada Inc with the construction of a new dining facility for CAMP MAPLE LEAF. The main body departed on 03 Sep 13 with Recce leaving on 02 Sep 13 to pre-position half of the Bridge Train. Ex Total Harmony was successfully completed and all pers returned back to 2 CER on 13 Sep 13.

This task served as a great opportunity to practice MFR skills in a different operational environment such as transporting 8 axles, 50T civilian transport trucks and basic field engineering skills by using hand tools and concrete training. The MFR built was 7 bays for a total length of 44.7 m and a capability to transport up to 55 Tons (T). It gave a great venue for all the operators to increase their proficiency on the Bridge Boat Erection (BBE) while dealing with natural obstacles such as the current and wind. It just so happen that on the day of the ground breaking ceremony, there was a demonstration of the MFR and where all the military guests had a chance to cross on the raft. The guest of honour was Commodore Mark Watson whose naval experience seemed to have influenced the boat operators as it took 3 attempts to land the raft properly. There were a total of 124 crossings and 2064 T of materials / equipments transported with the MFR. Each crossing was approximately 10 minutes in length, giving the BBE operators 40 hrs of operating time each which greatly increased their abilities and self-confidence. The heavy equipment operators removed 10 stumps and excavated and hauled 490 m³ of dirt. They operated for a total of 60 hours and, as a result, aided the contractor in progressing 16 days ahead of schedule.



Heavy Equipment Operations – Ex Total Harmony



Early morning 7 bay Raft – Ex Total Harmony

In conclusion, the mission was successful even with an ever changing plan and mechanical delays inherent to any operation. All participants profited from this experience and were able to hone a number of basic engineering skills. I highly recommend that 2 CER seek to take on this task again, should the opportunity present itself. This was a tremendous and satisfying experience to be able to support such a worthy organisation while conducting essential training for future operations, becoming more proficient in doing so.