

39 COMBAT ENGINEER REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION



Date 7 April 2021
15 (#4/2021)

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Report
Honours And Awards
D-Day Commemoration
Courses
Retirements
Engineer Crested Clothing
Annual General Meeting
Membership
39 CER Association Contacts

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello all, I would like to pay tribute to a couple of long serving individuals, whom I am told will receive a formal send off when time and circumstance permit. They both served with 6 Field. So I would like to recognise the loyal and dedicated years of service of WO McLeod. You will see more details in the article in this edition of the newsletter.

I would also like to recognise the loyal and dedicated service of Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Roli Krueger, whose last renewal of appointment ended on the 6th March. That was the bad news. The good news; is that he has been persuaded to continue on, at the same level of "pay" until his replacement is officially announced.

We are planning for another commemoration of D-Day scheduled for Saturday 05 June and the Annual General Meeting will be held on 27 April.

By the time you read this, I should be able to say; "have shot – will travel"

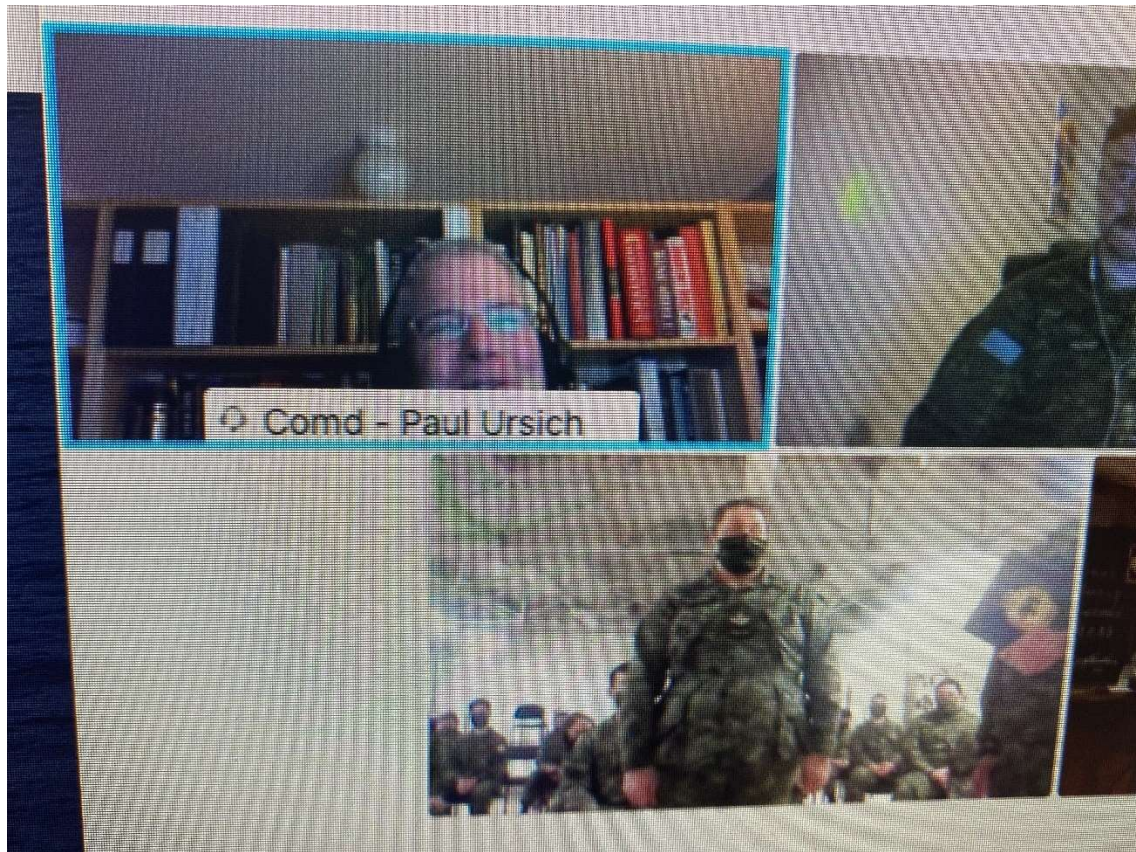
Chimo

Bill White
President

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Brigade Commander's Commendation

On 21 January 2021 Col Paul Ursich, via teleconference, presented MCpl Jennifer Hartmann his Commendation for her dedication and leadership for her service to 39 CER and 44 ES. As one of the few full time staff, her tireless commitment and broad range of skills have been crucial to the continued success of the squadron and the regiment.



Col Paul Ursich, Brigade Commander, presenting his commendation to MCpl Jennifer Hartmann

Promotions

Ref: CANFORGEN 022/21 PROMOTIONS AND SENIOR APPOINTMENTS 2021 – GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS

Brigadier-General D.D. Basinger will be promoted Major-General and appointed Chief of Staff Materiel. BGen Basinger and his wife spent two lovely years in Trail when he was the RSSO for 44 Fd Sqn in Trail 1995-1997.

Brigadier-General D.D. Basinger, CD

Director General Capability and Structure Integration

Brigadier-General Basinger joined the Canadian Army as a Reservist in December 1985. Upon finishing high school he



entered the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) Kingston graduating in 1991 with a Civil Engineering degree.

He has served with 1 Combat Engineer Regiment (Chilliwack, Edmonton and Croatia), with 2 Combat Engineer Regiment (Petawawa and Bosnia), and commanded 4 Engineer Support Regiment in Gagetown. He also deployed to Kandahar as Task Force Engineer and Chief of Staff for Task Force Afghanistan. Between Regimental postings Brigadier-General Basinger has instructed at the Army Tactics School, the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering, coordinated exercises for the National Strategic Studies Program at the Canadian Forces College and led a seminar at the United States Army School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS). He was Commandant of the Canadian Army Command and Staff College in Fort Frontenac, Kingston from 2016 until 2018.

Brigadier-General Basinger is a graduate of the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College, the Canadian Forces College, and SAMS. Since receiving a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering, he has received a Masters in Defence Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) Kingston, a Masters of Military Art and Science in Strategic Studies from the United States Army Command and General Staff College and is a member in good standing of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of New Brunswick.

Posted to Ottawa in 2012, Brigadier-General Basinger has worked in the Strategic Joint Staff on Force Posture and Readiness, in Chief Force Development as Director Capability Integration, and in the Army Staff as Director Army Staff. From 2015 until 2018 he was appointed Director of the Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers. In March 2018, Brigadier-General Basinger was promoted to his current rank and assumed the duties of Director-General Capability and Structure Integration within Chief Force Development.

None of this would have been possible without the loving and steadfast support provided by his wife and their two awesome kids.

54 Engineer Squadron Promotions 10 December 2020

Written by and photographs provided by 2i/c 54 ES, Capt T. Middelveen

As the year 2020 wound down, at the end of the last training night of the calendar year for 54 Engineer Squadron (ES), Christmas came early for a couple of engineers with promotions just before the holidays:



Officer Commanding 54 ES, Major Vicki Ferg promoted Corporal M. Randhawa to that rank.



Officer Commanding 54 ES, Major Vicki Ferg promoted Corporal R.K. Grasby to Master Corporal.

We are all looking forward to an opportunity to “ring in the new year” and celebrate their promotions with a suitable toast sometime in the future when the pandemic situation will permit us to gather in the mess once again. Congratulations Cpl Randhawa and MCpl Grasby, and all the best in the New Year!

Medals

On 11 March the CO, LCol James Julien presented 2Lt Othmane Lahrach his CD.



2Lt Othmane Lahrach being presented his CD by LCol James Julien (L-R: Maj Andrew Gower OC 6 ES, LCol Julien, 2Lt Lahrach, CWO Charles Rochlow RSM)

D-DAY VIRTUAL COMMEMORATION AND SOCIAL – 05 JUNE 2021

This year 39 CER will commemorate 6 Field Company RCE's involvement in D-Day via a virtual event. The intent is to have a formal portion with some toasts to recognise and commemorate the actions on that day and then an opportunity to socialize. We are going to invite some representatives from the units that 6 Field were supporting to come and join us. For scheduling we are looking at holding this event in the evening of the 5th June. There will be more details in the next edition.

COURSES

Trail Driver Wheeled - MILCOTS Silverado - 05 December 2020 – 21 March 2021

Submitted by MWO Shane Batch

A big thank you to the staff on this course, our Full Time Staff (FTS) are very busy individuals with their day to day squadron and regimental duties. Their participation in this course was instrumental for the successful completion of this course. The course had a 100% pass rate, graduating all 8 students



Pictured from Left to right are: WO Hill (Course WO), MCpl Hartmann (Instructor), Pte Redding, Pte Dorner, MCpl Horney, Pte Mark, Pte Meyer, Cpl French, MCpl Hunt (Instructor), MWO Batch (Course O). Missing from the picture are: Cpl Carmichael & Cpl Krenz.

RETIREMENTS

Retirement – Warrant Officer Craig MacLeod

After more than 43 years of loyal and dedicated service to the Canadian Armed Forces, serving with the Royal Canadian Engineers as a Combat Engineer, Warrant Officer (WO) Craig MacLeod will retire on 12 April 2021.

Prior to joining 6th Field Engineer Squadron (6 FES), WO MacLeod served in the Royal Canadian Army Cadets where he received his Basic Parachutist Certification and was granted his jump wings. He also rose to the appointment of Squadron Sergeant Major for the 2573 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, the 6 FES affiliated Corps. At the young age of 17, WO MacLeod joined 6 FES, completing his basic training in May of 1978. WO MacLeod achieved the all important rank of Sapper in August of 1978 after completing his combat engineer training that summer. This was quickly followed by promotion to Corporal in November of the same year.

During his first few years, WO MacLeod was a section member with 6 FES, and was notably Sapper of the Year in 1978. He continued his climb through the ranks and was promoted Master Corporal (MCpl) in November 1980, having completed the Junior Leaders Course earlier that year. Four years later he was promoted to Sergeant, and four years after that to his current rank of Warrant Officer in 1988.

In January 1993, WO MacLeod was attached to 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry to deploy as a member of CANBAT 1 – Op HARMONY in Croatia. The deployment was from March to October 1993, and included the action known as “The Medak Pocket”.



During those early years in March 1983 whilst training with 1 CER, a young MCpl MacLeod was described in a letter of appreciation, as an industrious, conscientious, and effective supervisor with a high sense of personal responsibility for the quality of his work. A statement that would define his career and be echoed by every Officer Commanding that had the privilege of having him supervise a task.

Upon return to Canada, WO MacLeod continued to serve with 6 FES, including support to the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering on numerous occasions. Present for the stand-up of 39 Combat Engineer Regiment in 2008, WO MacLeod helped propel the now 6 Engineer Squadron (6 ES) to new heights, while also solidifying his legendary status in the unit.

WO MacLeod has served as Troop Warrant, Operations Warrant, Squadron Quarter Master and since September 2015, has held the position of Squadron Sergeant Major (SSM) 6 ES. In April 2020, WO MacLeod volunteered to serve on Operation LASER as part of the Canadian Armed Forces response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. While serving, initially as a Platoon WO and most recently as a Company Sergeant Major, WO MacLeod continued to fill the role of SSM 6 ES as well as take the opportunity to fill the role of Course Warrant on one last basic training course as lead instructor.

The halls of the J.P. Fell Armoury will be a little quieter upon his departure, and the work he does for the unit will have to be shared amongst many hands. WO MacLeod resides in North Vancouver where he plans to remain with his daughter and family as he moves on to his next bound. Chimo!

Congratulatory messages, anecdotes, and best wishes may be sent to andrew.gower@forces.gc.ca

39 CER GOLF SHIRTS

Former CWO Sharman Thomas still has some 39 CER golf shirts. Here is the photo.



He still has some and sizes available are;

- 9 – Small
- 2 – Medium
- 1 - 2XL

The cost is \$55. If you would like one please contact Sharman directly at sharman@trailtransit.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the evening of 27 April at 1930. An announcement will be sent out with connection details to the virtual meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

For those wishing to become members of 39 CER Association, a membership form can be acquired from: membership@39cer.ca

39 CER Association Contacts

President: Bill White Col (Ret'd)	president@39cer.ca
Vice-President – Roli Krueger HLCol 39 CER	roland_krueger@telus.net
Treasurer – Roli Krueger HLCol 39 CER	roland_krueger@telus.net
Secretary – Grant Acheson Maj (Ret'd)	secretary@39cer.ca
Newsletter Editor – Achim von Wiedner Maj (Ret'd)	avonwiedner@shaw.ca

The 39 CER website can be accessed at: <http://www.39cer-museum.net/>

For more Engineer news please visit the Canadian Military Engineer Association website at: <https://cmea-agmc.ca>