



THE ROYAL MONTREAL REGIMENT

# INTERCOM

VOL 3 - WINTER 2007



## CO's SITREP

**H**appy New Year to everyone. The Regiment had an action-packed 2006 and 2007 is shaping up to be even more of a challenge. While things move very quickly, we often forget how much we've accomplished together in a year. Some fun numbers from 2006:

- a. One former RMR CO was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM). Bravo, Colonel Petrolekas.
- b. One former RMR CO was awarded the USA Bronze Star. Bravo, Colonel Hamel.
- c. 2 issues of the Intercom were published after more than a decade's absence.
- d. Six RMR members served in Afghanistan and made us quite proud.
- e. 29 RMR soldiers graduated their Basic Infantry Qualification (BIQ). Bravo, Private Duma for being the Top Candidate.
- f. 53 civilians "saw the light" and joined the RMR. Naturally, their lives have been improved forever. Captain Talarico is aiming to save 80 more civilians this year.
- g. 71 RMR's completed our 13 km Ex BACK BREAKER in September. Private Weremko's blisters even made it onto the forum on [www.royalmontrealregiment.com](http://www.royalmontrealregiment.com)
- h. 87% of the RMR qualified for their annual NIAC refresher; the best in the Brigade.
- i. 80 RMR's rose to the challenge and qualified for a "RMR Fitness Challenge" pin. We're aiming for 100 to qualify for the new pin in 2007!
- j. 100 (+) shots of Dark Rum were consumed in front of the plaque when we made it our official Regimental drink on 16 December 2006. 2007 will keep us equally busy; what with Ex POLAR STRIKE, B Coy's fighting patrol competition in Fort Drum, more NIAC, another BACK BREAKER, learning new skills for conducting Domestic Operations (DOMOPS), winning the Montreal Military Hockey League, and of course continuing to Set the Standard for the rest of the Brigade. I'm proud to serve with such dedicated, keen and aggressive soldiers that make up the RMR: Keep up the good work in 2007! Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense.

LCol Colin Robinson  
CO RMR



Capt. Siket in Afghanistan

## SPECIAL AFGHANISTAN ISSUE! ARTICLES ON PAGES 2,8, & 10

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A foreunner of the RMR Intercom, the 14th Battalion Bugler, was published in October 1914 aboard the SS Andania carrying the First Canadian contingent overseas.

## LETTERS FROM AFGHANISTAN

### "A VIEW FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE"

CAPT NEIL STOCKER

KANDAHAR PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM

The Canadian public is seeing a lot of images of Afghanistan. Most of these images are associated with the fighting between the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), in which the Canadian Army plays a key role, and the anti-coalition militias (ACM including the remnants of the Taliban) in the PANJWAYI area, just to the west of Kandahar City. While this is the highly-visible and exciting part of the operations in the Province, there is another part with more less-glamorous, but more durable effects. This is the reconstruction role of the mission. Key to this role is the CIMIC (civil-military cooperation) detachment. The purpose of CIMIC is to facilitate military operations and mitigate the impacts of those operations on the local population. CIMIC acts as a lubricating (a grease gun) and a clean-up (a vacuum cleaner) agency for the army. I am a project officer with CIMIC.

How did I get into CIMIC? I am a combat arms officer. I started with the infantry (beginning with the RMR – Pte to WO, 1968 to 1977) and after various transfers, moved to the Artillery in 1999 (49th Field Regiment, RCA). There was an annual selection weekend for the Land Forces Central Area CIMIC detachment in Toronto in September 2004. I went through the selection process, applied and was accepted. My position was transferred to the LFCA CIMIC detachment. I undertook a two-week CIMIC operators course in Kingston in the summer of 2005, and various weekend exercises thereafter. I went for six months of pre-deployment training in Petawawa in February of 2006, and deployed to Kandahsar, Afghanistan in August of 2006. I will be returning to Canada at the end of this six month tour this month and I intend to return to the 49th after my assignment to CIMIC is concluded.

CIMIC's goals in Kandahar Province are simple. We want to make the social environment more stable. This can be done by repairing the damage of operations, stimulating the local economy, and providing aid to rebuild and repair the educational, medical, social and security infrastructure in the province. In practice, this means:

- repairing and refurbishing local schools
- reequipping the hospital,
- providing medical treatment to rural areas,
- helping to clean up the city,

- organizing repairs to the Afghan National Police (ANP) sub-stations in the province, and
- reequipping and training the ANP.

The cause for the need to rebuild and repair this infrastructure is the last thirty years of Afghan history. Starting with the coup-d'état in 1973, and followed by a communist takeover in 1978, a Soviet invasion in 1979, ten years of resistance, a three year civil war, the rise and dominance of an extremist and isolationist Islamic movement (the Taliban), and an Allied invasion in 2001, the development of the nation and its population was thrown back and stalled. Only the removal of the Taliban regime, and its replacement with a more stable, democratically elected government has allowed a more normal development to resume, albeit with a legacy of problems from the previous generation to be overcome. The net effect is a primitive (by western standards) economy with relatively high costs, and low wages, limited and (largely uncollectible) taxes. The infrastructure (medicine, education, policing, etc.) has been severely damaged as a consequence. The social environment has also been grossly affected. From a fairly well-educated, reasonably affluent, tolerant and stable society with equal rights for all of its members, Afghan culture, especially in the south (around Kandahar, Hellmand, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces), has regressed to a fragmented, xenophobic, largely misogynistic, tribal structure dominated by warlords and/or drug dealers. This area qualifies as a "failed state" due its instability, severely diminished government influence, and failure of the rule of law.

This is the situation in which the ISAF finds itself. Notwithstanding the hurdles, the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (KPRT) of which the CIMIC detachment forms a key element, has achieved a considerable amount of reconstructive work. This has included:

- repairing or building several police sub stations;
- reequipping the ANP with uniforms, fire fighting equipment, first aid kits;
- delivering a substantial amount of modern medical supplies and equipment donated by the North Edmonton Christian Fellowship to Mir Weis Hospital – the principal hospital in the Province;
- conducting seven Village Medical Outreach clinics in various parts of the Province;
- restoring the Kandahar Technical School to a functional condition;
- repairing fourteen schools in the province;
- cleaning out many miles of sewers in the city;
- digging wells in the rural areas and providing them





**PRT on patrol in Afghanistan.**

- with pumps;
- supporting several projects to give women greater representation in Afghan society;
- distributing humanitarian assistance in recently stabilized areas; and
- many other similar projects.

Much of this work is the type that normally would have been carried out by non-governmental organizations. Unfortunately, these NGOs have found the relatively insecure conditions in parts of the Province an obstacle to their work. KPRT's CIMIC detachment ended up doing many of these necessary tasks.

What are the remaining challenges to CIMIC in Kandahar? Under the secure umbrella provided by the Canadian battle group in the province, CIMIC has to provide even more infrastructure repair and development projects to the local population. A new area that has not been addressed yet is the pressing need to remediate the environmental problems in southern Afghanistan. This means mainly water, soil and trees. Clean water is scarce in this

country. The productivity of the soil and the sustenance of the population depends on clean and abundant water. Substantial forest cover is vital in filtering water and protecting the soil from erosion. There are virtually no forests left in Afghanistan. Without sufficient forest cover, soil and water quality are degraded. With insufficiently arable soil and water, rural unrest will resume. Instability will ensue. CIMIC must consider this. It, in partnership with various NGOs, will have to develop and implement projects to reestablish sustainable forests, protect the soil, and ensure a continuous supply of clean water. These projects must be instituted to provide local Afghans with hope for themselves and for their children.

The objective of all these efforts is to show to the local Afghans that there are much greater benefits from supporting the stabilizing efforts of ISAF than from opposing them. The objective of these efforts is also to promise them a sustainable future of peace and hope. KPRT's CIMIC det has been, and will continue to be, instrumental in reaching that goal.

## **REGIMENTAL HISTORY**

### **THE ROYAL MONTREAL REGIMENT**

**MICHAEL GRAVEL**

In September of 1914, the 16th Infantry Battalion (Canadian Scottish), sailed from Québec City for England on-board the steamer Andania. The vessel was part of a large armada carrying the first contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, destined for the battlefields of France and Flanders. The kilted men of the Canadian Scottish, following Highland tradition, had great expectations of being accompanied into eventual battle to the skirl of bagpipes. In the mean time, while onboard ship, the battalion's Pipers contented themselves by playing reveille at 05:30, every morning.

Unfortunately, all the ship's company did not share the enthusiasm for the skirl of the pipes. Sharing space with the Canadian Scottish was half of the 14th Battalion (Royal Montreal Regiment), a composite unit recruited from Montreal's prewar unkilted militia (the Victoria Rifles, the Grenadier Guards and the French-Canadian Fusillier Mont Royal). With these regimental roots to draw upon, the Royal Montreal Regiment was the antithesis of a Highland regiment. This said, the RMR's Protestant Chaplain, Frederick Scott, attempted to understand the Piper's music:

...Not being a Scotsman, the music always woke me up. At such moments I considered it my duty to try to understand the music of the pipes. But in the early hours of the morning I made what I thought were discoveries. First I found out that all pipe melodies have the same bass. Secondly I found out that all pipe melodies have the same treble...

Not all were as open minded and the playing of the bagpipes almost brought the two battalions to blows. It was alleged by the Canadian Scottish historian that, at one point, men of the Royal Montreal Regiment interfered with Piper Jimmy Richardson's rehearsals. (Richardson was a Scottish-born resident of Chilliwack, British Columbia.) According to the 16th Battalion historian, the men of the Canadian Scottish reacted swiftly to this interference by the unkilted men from Montreal:

The news spread that around and the 16th men...gathered together, called out the complete Pipe Band, escorted them to the 14th Battalion quarters and stood guard there whilst the pipers played to their hearts content.

Frederick Scott recorded his version of the incident. It seems the Royal Montreal Regiment improvised an effective weapon to counter the Highlander invasion:

On one occasion the pipers left the security of the Highlander's quarters and invaded the precinct of the 14th Battalion, who retaliated by turning the hose on them. A genuine battle between the contending factions was only avoided by the diplomacy of the O.C. (Officer Commanding.)

No casualties were reported in what was the first battle of the Great War for these two Battalions. The Royal Montreal Regiment and the Canadian Scottish fought side-by-side for the rest of the war, as part of the Canadian Highland Brigade, which also included a battalion each of the Royal Highlanders from Montreal and the 48th Highlanders of Toronto. Despite this arrangement, the Royal Montreal Regiment never adopted the kilt or the bagpipe.

Two years later, Piper Jimmy Richardson gained immortal fame at Regina Trench, near the village of Le Sars on the Somme, in October 1916. His battalion struggled with uncut barbed wire in front of the German trench, from which accurate fire was directed against his battalion. Seeing the desperate situation of his battalion-mates, Richardson turned to Company Sergeant Major Mackie and asked Wull I gie them wund? (Will I give them wind?)

Permission was given. This quote from the London Gazette, tells the rest of Richardson's story that day:

Piper Richardson strode up and down outside the wire, playing his pipes with the greatest coolness. The effect was instantaneous. Inspired by his splendid example, the company rushed the wire with such fury and determination that the obstacle was overcome and the position captured. (According to the 16th Battalion historian, different men stated that he played up and down in front of the wire for fully 10 minutes.) Later, after participating in bombing operations, he was detailed to take back a wounded comrade and prisoners. After proceeding about 200 yards, Piper Richardson remembered that he had left his pipes behind. Although strongly encouraged not to do so, he insisted on returning to recover his pipes. He has never been seen since, and death has been presumed accordingly, owing to the lapse of time.

Richardson's body was recovered from the battlefield after the war. He was laid to rest in Adanac Cemetery, located in Courcellette, a few kilometres from where he fell. What are believed to be Richardson's pipes, which had offended the men of the Royal Montreal Regiment on Andania in 1914, were recovered from the battlefield in 1917 and brought to Scotland and remained in the care of the Ardvreck School



in the Scottish Highlands for many decades. Pipe Major Roger McGuire of the Canadian Scottish Regiment identified them in 2003 as those of Jimmy Richardson. In November of 2006, the pipes, which had caused a commotion onboard Andania in 1914, were deposited in the British Columbia Legislature.

Frederick Scott, who served on the Somme with the 1st Canadian Division in 1916 recalled the deed of the Piper at Regina Trench.

Wonderful deeds were done; some were known and received well-merited rewards, others were noted only by the Recording Angel. A piper won the V.C. for his gallantry in marching up and down in front of the wire playing his pipes while the men were struggling through it in their attack upon Regina Trench. He was killed going back to hunt for his pipes which he had left in helping a wounded man to a place of safety. One cannot write of that awful time unmoved, for there come up before the mind faces of friends that one will see no more, faces of men who were strong, brave and even joyous in the midst of that burning fiery furnace, from which their lives

passed, we trust into regions where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, and where the sound of war is hushed forever.

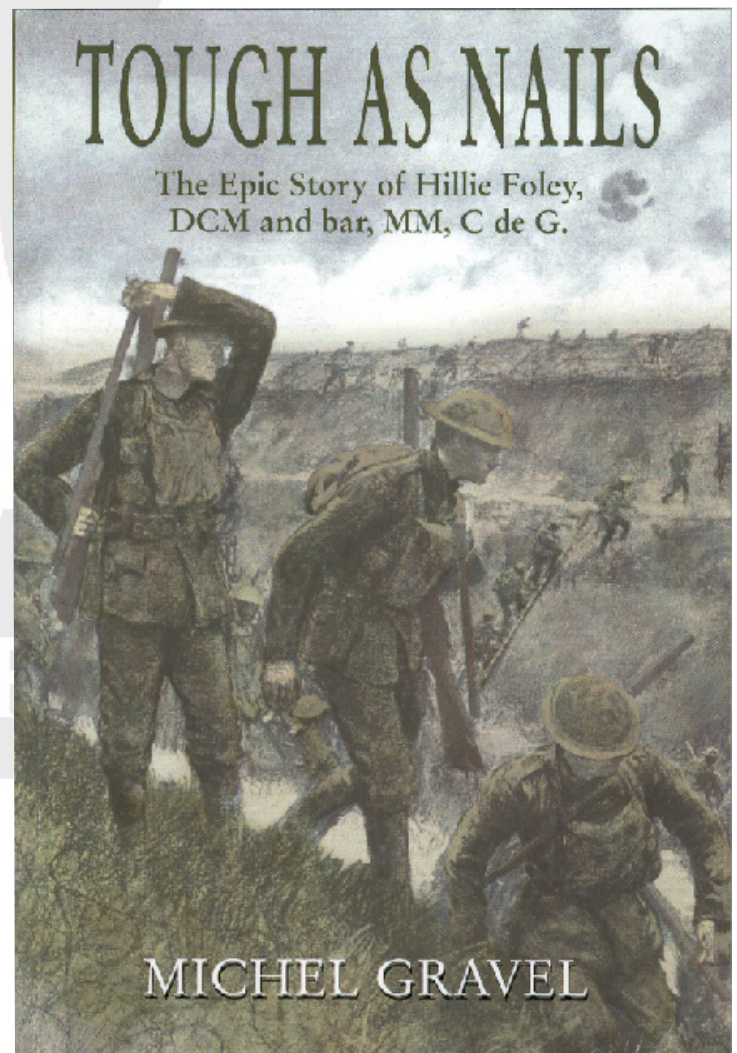
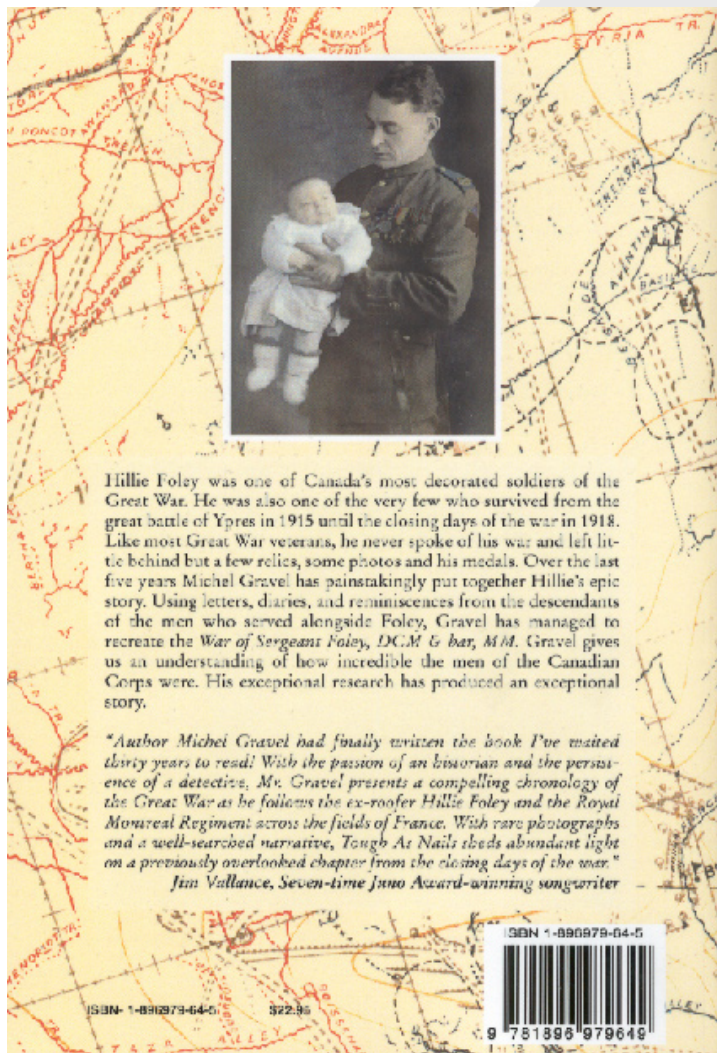
I doubt Frederick Scott knew that this was the same piper who used to wake him on the Andania, back in 1914.

The 16th Battalion (Canadian Scottish) is perpetuated by the Canadian Scottish Regiment of Victoria, BC. The 14th Battalion (Royal Montreal Regiment) is perpetuated by The Royal Montreal Regiment of Westmount, Qc.

Frederick Scott served on the Western Front for the duration of the war, and became the senior Chaplain of the 1st Canadian Division. He was the most beloved member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He died in 1944. His classic memoir *The Great War as I Saw It* was recently republished by Norm Christie's CEF Books of Ottawa. [www.cefbooks.ca](http://www.cefbooks.ca) Piper Jimmy Richardson was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his action at Regina Trench.

Michel GRAVEL January 2007

[Michel's book is available [www.chapters.indigo.ca](http://www.chapters.indigo.ca) - Ed.]





## THE ENEMY POINT OF VIEW

2LT NATHALIE GAREAU

BRAVO COY

We were the enemy, all 25 of us, up against an entire company. We took up camp in the main FIBUA site at Fort Drum, NY. Our “enemy”, the friendly force, took up camp about a kilometre south west of us in a secondary FIBUA site.

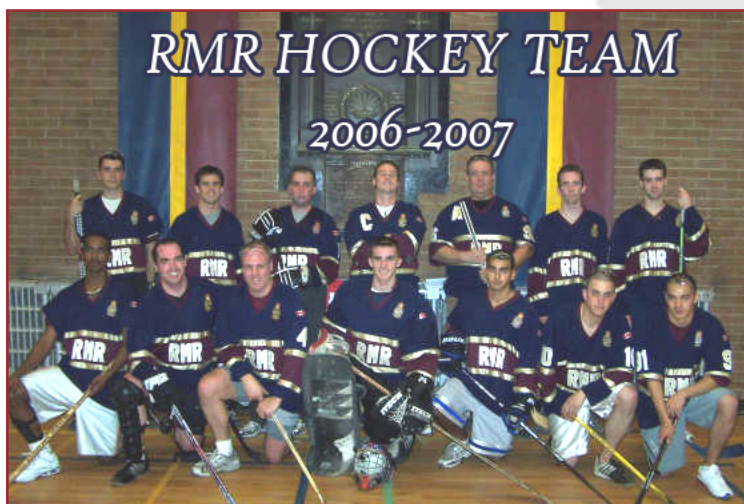
All considered I think we had the more comfortable of the two sites, since from what I understand the friendly camp became quite muddy and we had electricity, well no heat but we did have lights. During the friendly patrols we conducted a routine in the enemy camp, which included simulated hostage escapes, PT sessions and we also conducted perimeter patrols

Unfortunately for the friendly force the weather was in our favour as it was a clear and very quiet night, which made it easy for us to hear patrols and on occasion capture personnel. In fact we captured several members of patrols and fired upon nearly all of them. All in all a good weekend we had the weather on our side and num-



A section from The RMR is practicing their Recce Drills

bers against us. It's always interesting to see things from a different perspective and being the enemy is certainly different, and you get to see and learn from the work of others. Another interesting experience I gained from the weekend was to taste American rations, though most people aren't fans of the MRE's, I personally



The RMR 2006-7 Hockey Team

## BLEU ET OR

SGT. CASTONGUAY

COACH

Vêtu de leurs nouveaux gilets Bleu et Or, le RMR fait maintenant partie de la classe des équipes à battre. L'édition 06/07 est à la hauteur des attentes laissées l'an dernier. C'est pourquoi maintenant les autres formations veulent absolument se payer une victoire face à notre organisation.

Le RMR a compilé, jusqu'à maintenant un dossier de 11 victoires et 3 défaites, une fiche qui le place en tête du classement avec les trois autres formations qui domine la LHMM. Deux de ces défaites ont été cumulées depuis l'absence du défenseur étoile, Capt

Pierre Leroux, qui est sur un cours à Kingston de janvier à mars. Avant son départ, celui-ci s'affichait seul, en tête des marqueurs du circuit.

Mais notre nouveau magicien à la défense, n'est pas la seule explication des performances de l'équipe. Les solides prestations de notre gardien, Cpl Mike Talarico y sont pour beaucoup. Sans compter, l'éclosion du Cpl Sean Masson à l'attaque, ce qui lui permet de frapper à la porte du "Top 5" des meilleurs marqueurs de la ligue.

La venue des nouvelles recrues, Sdt Noé Chartier-Chapdelaine à la défense et du Sdt Daniel Hanna à l'offensive apporte une plus grande profondeur et encore un meilleur soutien au jeunes loups de l'équipe tels que les, Sdt Anatoly Jakhovets, Sdt David Kumar et Sdt Brent McNair.

La moitié du calendrier est déjà derrière nous et il ne reste que trois parties à l'horaire 06/07. Avec la venue d'avril et du printemps nous en serons aux confrontations des séries, où la vraie saison commencera, celle que l'équipe du RMR attend avec impatience. Lors de ces séries, nous risquons fort bien de retrouver sur notre route, nos très chers voisins du 712e Comms, qui auront certainement les mêmes objectifs que nous.

Rendez-vous en finale !

Sgt Bruce Castonguay  
Capitaine de l'équipe



## LOOKING BACK ON OP ARCHER, FEB-AUG 2006 CAPT GEORGE SIKET

Since my return from Task Force Afghanistan on OP ARCHER last August I've had some time to sit back and think about my deployment overseas. Looking back at it there were some things that I was fortunate enough to miss and others that I probably could have benefited more from.

My deployment came almost out of the blue as I was asked in mid-December 2005 to deploy with the task force in early February 2006 as the Ops O for the PsyOps Support Element. As an Ops O some OJT addressed any shortcomings and previous experience at the unit level was to my advantage, however having never been exposed to PsyOps posed a slight problem for me.

Over the Holiday period I had to immerse myself in self-teaching by reading the American TTPs and familiarizing myself with Canadian Doctrine. By 11 Jan 06 I was working at the PsyOps Directorate and participated in four days worth of training on the disseminator's course. I had received an additional week's worth of cultural sensitivity training with the troops I would be deploying with and some range workups in Farnham. Afterwards it would be off to Edmonton, 1CMBG HQ and over to Kandahar Airfield (KAF).

What I had missed out on was the lengthy pre-deployment training that the majority of the troops had been on. In some respects much of the training is essential to a deployment of this nature, it's the length of time which is the topic of much debate. To my advantage was the fact that I had already completed my IBTS (NIAC as we refer to it in Quebec) earlier in 2005 and that as part of my own personal ethos I strive to always remain in good physical condition. This allowed me to be "DAG'ed" green with ease.

Once in theatre we could not settle into any type of routine until the brigade HQ was fully set-up and operational, which took some time as we had to conduct a relief in place (RIP) and then the transfer of authority (TOA) with the Americans. This time allowed me to

conduct some routine, and not so much routine Ops O duties and to continue learning about PsyOps. My mentor in the field was our American Liaison Officer, Sgt 1st Class Paul Mills, a career PsyOp-er. The multi-national environment of the PsyOps Support Element provided me with a unique opportunity to learn about the trade from various perspectives.

As time went on the challenges grew and I was not only executing the plans put forth by our unit planner and 2IC, Capt N. Gauthier (RMR), but I found myself participating in, and leading patrols "outside the wire". One such patrol had Capt Gauthier and I integrated with a Romanian section conducting advance to contact, clearing fields in search of mortar base plates and weapons caches. This was a compromise with the Romanians in order to hitch a ride in their vehicles enabling us to conduct a PsyOps mission in a nearby vil-

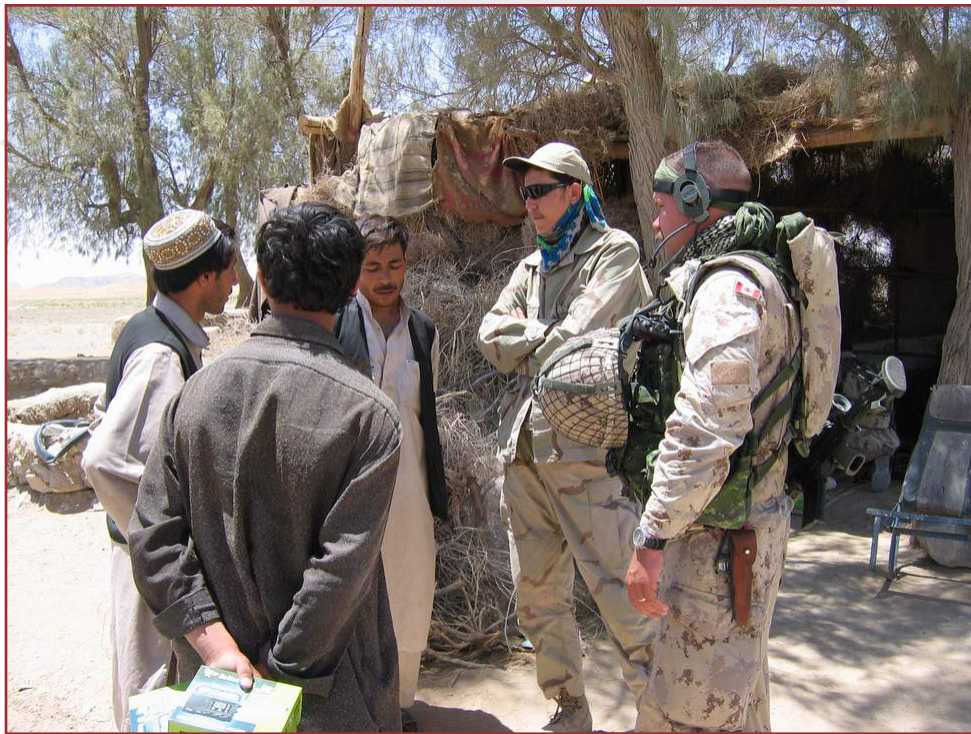
lage. Another very interesting mission was down on the Pakistan boarder where I led several patrols in order to gather pertinent information on future PsyOps requirements in the area. The highlight was the planning and conduct of leaflet drops. There's something exhilarating about hanging your legs out the back of a Chinook and then littering the countryside with pro-coalition messages in support of Canadian Troops on the ground.

While I may of lacked certain skills before the deployment, I was very fortunate

to be able to learn "on the fly", which is not the case for the majority of members deploying on operations. I do have some words of advise to all who intend on participating on an overseas mission, they are:

- 1) Stay In Shape! You never know...
- 2) Do your IBTS (NIAC) religiously!
- 3) Keep abreast of current events; knowledge of areas especially of Canadian interest will only be to your advantage.
- 4) Take as many trade courses/career courses as you can in order to build up your knowledge and experience base – this is to your personal advantage and can help you adapt to changing environment and requirements.

To all of you who are deploying in the near future – God Speed – we will be thinking and praying for your safe return.



**Capt. Siket in Afghanistan**

## THE BEST WEAPON IN A COUNTER INSURGENCY IS A JOB – THE PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM (PRT) EXPERIENCE

CAPT TONY PETRILLI

This article is a condensed version of a chapter that will appear in a book called “Canadians in Afghanistan – The War So Far”. It will be in bookstores by spring 2007.

The operation being conducted in Afghanistan is referred to as a counter insurgency (COIN) operation. This is an operation where an armed group(s) actively challenges the legitimate authority of the government. The operation not only features kinetic (military) activity but also includes non-kinetic operations often referred to as “hearts and minds”.

Canada’s contribution to Operation Enduring Freedom was referred to as Operation (OP) Archer Rotation (Roto) 1. It was to become the most significant military action that Canada had participated in since the Korean War. Although I carried a rifle and a pistol, my contribution was to wield another type of weapon that if used with skill could have a more decisive effect than ordinance.

As a reservist, I not only volunteer for general military service, as do my regular army colleagues but also volunteer for a specific mission when positions are open to reservists. My personal reason for accepting this challenge was that I could combine my 20 plus years of civilian experience as an engineer with my 18 years of military experience. This blend of skill sets could be used to support and further the mission as a member of the Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Detachment (Det).

The CIMIC Team at the PRT was one of four teams of the CIMIC Det deployed to Afghanistan with Task Force Orion. Three four-person teams were under the operational command of each of the rifle company’s. The PRT is located at Camp Nathan Smith (CNS) in Kandahar City and is separate from the main force that operated out of Kandahar Airfield (KAF).

The Kandahar PRT (KPRT) provides a location, infrastructure and the skilled personnel to assist in the task of extending the authority of the central government. We strive to create conditions to host any organization that would like to assist in securing the future of this part of Afghanistan. Getting the security situation right gives OGDs (Other Government Departments), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and International Organizations (IOs) confidence that they can do their work. This creates a multiplier effect and accelerates the effort to rebuild.

The challenge that the PRT has is to spread prosperity over a large area quickly with limited resources and all within an uncertain and

difficult security situation. The aim of CIMIC is to support the mission through three core functions; liaison with civil actors, coordination of civil support to the military force and coordination of military support to civil actors.

My primary duty, as the CIMIC Projects Officer, was to carry out projects using public money and any no cost initiative that furthered the mission. Projects are not a core function for CIMIC but it was certainly my focus as an adjunct to the CIMIC aims of civil support to the military force and coordination of military support to civil actors.

The need for reconstruction and development was apparent from the outset of the mission. Although projects are not considered a core function of CIMIC, it was clear that in the insurgency environment of Kandahar, CIMIC was the only agency capable of delivering projects in the short-term.

Much of the focus of the CCF was on Security Sector Reform such as new Police stations, renovations to existing stations and police equipment. Time and time again when we engaged leaders at the various levels, they wanted to see “concrete” results that bettered the lives of the average Afghan. Small projects were targeted at the communities surrounding the KPRT but this was the proverbial drop in the bucket.

The PRT would support military operations. This included using our Quick Reaction Force (QRF) to assist where needed. Our mechanics would go out and recover vehicles if they were close to us. We were a secure area that patrols could come to if they needed a place to stretch. Our Military Police would pick up Persons Under Custody (PUCs) for further processing. One PUC that came to us struck me as being no different from any of the contractors that I would meet daily. He was well dressed and clean. They had obviously taken him into custody for reason and it drove home the point that in an insurgency anyone that you shook hands with could be the enemy.

The Taliban are an oppressive group that uses a variety of coercive means to further their cause. This is a documented truth that we must not lose sight of. Night letters are letters posted on the door of someone they wish to warn. They arrive in the middle of the night and are as a result called “night letters”. Kandahar University got one among others while I was in Afghanistan. General threats are commonplace.

Villages are coerced, as are individuals into cooperating with them. Some of our camp employees quit high paying jobs because they were threatened. Schools are burnt. Women are repressed. Young men are indoctrinated into thinking that they can blow themselves up along with others who are perceived to be against Islam. This they are told will please Allah and that he will view their martyrdom favourably. Innocent bystanders that





**Different vehicles in Afghanistan used by the CF. From back to front: LAV 3, Nyala, G-Wagon**

die as a result of a martyr doing his work die for the cause. The work of a tyrant is endless. It's unfortunate that this zeal and energy exhibited by the Taliban can't be channelled into doing good.

Did we make a difference? These are the early days and one can only hope that as we continue to put effort into the mission and be willing to pay the price so that Afghanistan can be a success.

Can we as a nation pull the comforter over our heads and ignore the world around us? I view our involvement as no different as offering a hand to a neighbour. There is a moral obligation to help when one can. Sometimes we have to pay a high price but that should not deter us. The world grows and progresses, as do individuals in it by taking risks. Canada would not exist if the early explorers did not risk falling off the edge of the Earth. We have great bounty that we should be willing to share with those less fortunate.

Two of my CIMIC colleagues became casualties during the operation. Lt. Bill Turner lost his life on April 22, 2006 when an IED exploded under his G Wagon. He along with three others in the vehicle was returning to KAF from Gumbad. Bill had given up

his seat in the helicopter that was to take him to KAF the prior day to a soldier who was going on leave. Such was Bill's generosity. Lt. (later Capt.) Trevor Greene was struck by an axe-wielding attacker in the town of Shinkay in Shah Wali Kot District while attending a Shura on March 4, 2006. The three of us had been a team while doing work up training in Wainright AB. Trevor and Bill went to A Coy and I went to the PRT. I came back unhurt. Such is the randomness of life.

The medal that we wear after having been in Afghanistan has no intrinsic value. Its true value comes as a symbol of the fight for right. Sometimes one has to give up comfortable surroundings, be ready to give it all up and fight for what is right. It is also memorializes those who never came home and those who did come home but were broken of body and/or mind. Those of us who wear this medal do so in honour of those who gave selflessly to bring light where darkness rules. I am thankful that I was there to do my part.

Capt Tony Petrilli  
Kandahar

## RMR MUSEUM

### THE 40TH ANNUAL MUSEUM COURSE OF THE OMMC (ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY MUSEUMS OF CANADA INC)

(HON LT) NINO LAMBERTUCCI

Ron Zemancik and I attended the course on the 18th. June to the 24th. June/06 which was held in Calgary, Alberta.

We were housed in the residence at the SAIT (Southern Institute of Technology). The residence featured suites with 4 bedrooms, two shared bathrooms and a living room. We shared the area with LCol. Pierre Coutoure CD, (FMR) and Capt. Vern Murray. His son drove him from Edmonton to Calgary.

Arriving on the 18th. June, Sunday, and as we do every year we start with a Meet & Greet BarBeque, this was held at MEWATA Armoury where we were all made "Honorary Calgarians"

On Monday 19th. June 06 - Breakfast at 06:30 - Lecture on Radiation Safety everyone had to attend this lecture which lasted till lunch time. At 13:30 CFAMS (Canadian Artifacts Management System). This continued at 19:00 hrs. with a hands on session This was introducing the new CFAMS system which all CF Museums are obliged to be on it

On Tuesday 20th. Breakfast at 06:00 for trip to the Museum of the Regiment. Where our OMMC President laid a wreath and the Reverend Eric. V. Haffended conducted the service. Our group photo was taken after the service. We had lecture and hands on instructions relating to tours and public programming. The museum of the Regiments is a very interesting museum to visit

21st. June/O6. Depart for the Glenbow Museum downtown Calgary. lectures by Rory Corrie and staff of Glenbow

We were broken-up into groups and taken in the back areas and shown the amount of artifacts that they have and also how they store and preserve them. They have as you can imagine thousands of artifacts. One area shown was ladies dresses and how they preserve them. Some were quite very old. Shown also was a section of armour worn by Knights of old. They also showed us a short sword which



Entrance to the museum of the Regiments

they said belonged to Capt. James Cook. Were there all afternoon and I am sure we only scratched the surface of the artifacts. The Glenbow Museum is considered one of the best in Canada. In visiting the museums I always enjoy going to the rear areas to see how they operate and the thousands of artifacts not on display.

22nd June 06 Thursday - depart for "Nanton" Lancaster Society Air Museum, Honouring all those associated Bomber Command during WW11. Our formal dinner was held on Thursday 22nd June at 1900 hrs.

23rd. Friday- June 06 - 09:00 - DHH meeting lecture on Military History in Calgary, Course Evaluations. Bus tour to Banff.

The Museum of the Regiments will soon be changing its name to: Museums of the Military. They are in the process of building another area attached to the present one which will be the Naval Building, and later on the Air force will also have its own building in the area. I find it hard to believe this is my sixteen year with OMMC and I sure got to know Canada from coast to coast.



On the 25th. Sept. 06 the Legion 14th. Branch (RMR) visited the Veterans Hospital on our monthly visit. Our President J. McConachie donated on behalf of the 14th. Branch a cheque of \$5,000.00 to Micheline St. Germain (Liaison Rep.) of the Veterans Hospital.

Front Row: Micheline St.Germain (Liaison Rep),  
J. McConachie, President of 14th. Br.

Back Row: P. Turner, S. Brambell, N. Lambertucci, G. Maass.



## **D COY, HOLDING AND RIC PL 2LT CARL OLIVIERI**

**T**here is nothing like new blood to keep the RMR strong. This year, our aim in Depot Company was focusing on personal development, getting troops ready for their courses and creating ties within the Regimental family. The year to date has been a great success; with a steady flow of new recruits all becoming well rounded soldiers in preparation for their full time courses in the summer.

Depot Company is made up of two platoons, one called the "holding platoon" for those who have yet to begin or complete their BMQ course, the other is called the Recruit Indoctrination Course (RIC) platoon, for those who have completed at least their BMQ course, but who are not yet fully qualified in their trade. As most of our members are on part time courses throughout the year, training is kept to Tuesday evenings for the most part.

Training days serve to introduce interesting material to the soldiers such as operational tour briefings from our experienced staff, Regimental history lessons, unarmed combat lectures, weapons lectures, marches and some pretty intense PT sessions. We're not done either; we have a whole lot to follow, including pugil stick training and more! The idea is to set the pace of our military careers at a quick and productive tempo in hopes to realize our potential at being great infantry soldiers in future years to come.

Many members have already risen to whatever challenges face them. Most of our members have all taken the PT challenge; nearly all qualifying on their first try of 2007. Many of our members will be going on Polar Strike or on Kodiak Strike

as well, getting their first taste of real training experience. Notable performances within the company include efforts from soldiers like Private El Khoury who attained the Gold Pin on the CO's Fitness challenge and Private Lachapelle-Carle who volunteered for both Polar Strike and Kodiak Strike this year.

With a great staff, motivated troops and the budget to make things happen, anything is possible. If the year keeps up as well as it has so far, I am convinced we will be sending many soldiers of great quality and value into B Coy within the year. If the infantry is going to lead the way, then the RMR is going to set the pace. OOORAH!



## **WANT TO HELP?**

**We are looking for article contributions,  
photos and anything else you think could  
contribute to The Intercom. Also, don't  
forget to visit The RMR website at:  
[www.royalmontrealregiment.com](http://www.royalmontrealregiment.com)**

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MSM - Col G. Petrolekas

### PROMOTIONS

Sgt. Langlois  
Cpl Belley  
Cpl Delplace  
Cpl McGillivray  
Cpl Dinh  
Cpl Rajabi  
Cpl Rutkowski  
Cpl Hanna

### WINNING SECTION!

#### RECCE PATROL COMPETITION

Cpl M. Talarico (Sect Comd)  
Mcpl P. Nguyen  
Cpl M. Belley  
Cpl J. Tobas  
Pte M. Weremko  
Cpl K. Rutkowski  
Pte M. Filiatrault  
Cpl D. Hanna  
Pte R. Duma  
Pte R. Vescio  
Pte K. Zerkler  
Pte V. Partamian

### FITNESS CHALLENGE GOLD PIN

2Lt Olivieri (30 Jan 07)  
Pte El-Khoury (30 Jan 07)  
Pte Hannah (6 Mar 07)



## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

### OFFICERS' MESS

Fri 10 Apr 07 - Vimy Ridge Professional Development  
Sat 05 May 07 - Spring Mixed Dining-In

### SERGEANTS AND WO'S MESS

TBC

### JUNIOR RANKS MESS

TBC - 70's or 80's or disco party.  
TBC - Charity Poker Tournament  
TBC - IIHF World Championship Hockey game Final  
TBC - Toronto Maple Leafs vs. Montreal Canadians Conference Final Game 7 (Let's hope!)



### RMR WEBSITE

<http://www.royalmontrealregiment.com>

A great resource for all things related to the Royal Montreal Regiment from mess events to an interactive web forum where everyone can join the discussions. Visit us today!

Editor: Maj Marc Lacroix  
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