

Battling obstacles of first year

By Julia McKay

As with many great military traditions, the Royal Military College first-year officer cadets completed their First-Year Orientation Period (FYOP) with a grueling 12-stage obstacle course during the 2012 Reunion Weekend Sept. 28 to 30.

Each flight, ranging from 12-16 first-year cadets, were expected to run, climb, crawl and carry each other through all the obstacle stages in 90 minutes.

The cadets learned during the obstacle course just how important it is to have a good team working together. Without each other, cadets wouldn't be able to scale the three-metre wooden wall on their own. If one falls down, they all fall down.

Dressed in squadron colours, their fellow second-year officer cadets run along

with their flight, cheering and offering encouragement through each obstacle.

At the end of 90 minutes, all 12 flights met back at the parade square to receive their points and to celebrate.

"When the entire obstacle course was finished, I felt so happy and accomplished. I never would have been able to finish something like that without the tough workouts from our staff and support of Warrior Flight," said Officer Cadet Sarah Kelly of 9 Squadron.

"The overall experience was like no other. I can't say I would do it all over again, but I am looking forward to a great year of meeting new people and enjoying life as a student at RMC."

The goal of the course is to instill team pride, camaraderie and working as a cohesive unit. These skills will be vital for their future in the military and life.



Photo by Sandra Kielback

Cadet Hugo Archibald Hazledine struggles to push one of his fellow 9 Squadron members up the 'Wall Challenge' during the RMC obstacle course Sept. 28.



Photo by Justin Chin

Cadets of 2 Squadron perform the obstacle at the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear defense casualty carry simulation, part of the RMC obstacle course at Royal Military College in Kingston. The obstacle course consists of 12 obstacles and first-year cadets competed on behalf of their squadron for points towards the Commandant's cup.



Photo by Sandra Kielback

Three members of 11 Squadron pull their last member up the 'Wall Challenge' at the RMC Obstacle course. This was the team's final obstacle before the end of the course.



Photo by Julia McKay

Officer Cadet Sarah Kelly, 20, struggled through the water, mud and fatigue with her fellow first-year cadets of 9 Squadron during the Royal Military College obstacle course.



Photo by Justin Chin

9 Squadron cheers before the Royal Military College obstacle course last weekend at Royal Military College, Kingston.