

Reserve soldiers come from all walks of life

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consisting of more than 2,400 soldiers in 12 reserve units based in Toronto, Aurora, Barrie, Brampton, Georgetown, Oakville, Mississauga, Owen Sound, Brantford, Simcoe, St. Catharines and CFB Borden. It also has two reconnaissance regiments, two field artillery regiments, a field engineer regiment, six infantry battalions and a communication (signals) unit.

Banks, who did tours in Afghanistan and Bosnia, drives us down a pothole-riddled dirt road. I recognize the road. It's where I jogged every day between seven and 10 kilometres at 5 a.m. while on basic training.

Banks is taking me to a Forward Operating Base (FOB) where approximately 266 infantry reservists are camped out.

We are doing raids. Offensive training. When they (soldiers) arrived last night there was no rest. We pushed them across that line



Army tradition dictates that senior ranks serve the junior ranks. Here Lorne Scot Warrant Officer Colbeck serves lunch. Colbeck is the Peel Company's Sergeant Major.

of departure at 5 a.m., said Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Mair from inside a command post tent where

officers are milling about and looking over maps.

Reservists are part-time soldiers

who serve generally one night a week, one weekend a month and a few weeks in the summer. Mair has

Photo by Chris Vernon

been a reservist for 29 years and in the civilian world serves as a police officer.

Reserve units primarily respond to domestic situations, like ice storms or blackouts. However, they are trained for combat and many members have gone overseas to serve with the regular force in Bosnia and Afghanistan.

Outside the command post, a barren snow-covered field and an adjacent forest are filled with armed troops and green arctic tents. Some soldiers stand idle awaiting orders, others work on tasks or equipment, while some eat Swedish Berries candy and joke with pals.

However, Lorne Scot Warrant Officer (WO) Mike Kase isn't horsing around. It's his job to lead a group of soldiers during an attack on an enemy position and although today's attack is pretend, Kase takes his orders seriously.

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Let's exchange ideas NOW for OUR Caledon tomorrow!

September 22, 2016 6 -7:30 pm
The Exchange Collaborative invites you to a community meeting to provide input into the issues that matter most to you living in Caledon.

Two locations! Refreshments will be available
The Exchange 55 Healey Road, Bolton
Alton Library 35 Station Street, Alton

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