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## Navy light ups



Photos by Cpl Alex. W. Croskery, MARPAC Imaging Services

**Top:** On board HMCS Algonquin, Cmdre Peter Ellis and children count down to ignite the Christmas lights for the 24th annual Navy Lighting Contest. The children were invited from the Mustard Seed, ship's company and, for the first time, deserving members of the Navy League Cadet Core Admiral Rayner branch located in Esquimalt

**Above:** Cadets from Navy League Cadet Core Admiral Rayner enjoy the buffet set up in Algonquin's hangar during the kick-off festivities.

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September 30 to December 31 2011

# HMCS Ottawa changes command

**SLt Jackie Geiger**  
HMCS Ottawa

It was a crisp, sunny day when outgoing Commanding Officer, Cdr Jon Allsopp, passed command of *HMCS Ottawa* to Cdr Scott Van Will.

Commodore Peter Ellis, Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific, acted as reviewing officer and witness of the legal transfer of responsibility and command.

The Dec. 12 ceremony started at 10:30 a.m. with the arrival of Commodore Ellis, Cdr Allsopp, and Cdr Van Will. The ship's company formed up on

the flight deck, and the crowd listened intently when Commander Allsopp made his final address as Commanding Officer of *Ottawa*. He highlighted his time in *Ottawa*, thanking the crew, his family, and military colleagues for their undying support throughout his command.

Following Cdr Allsopp's address, he received the Commanding Officer's Pennant and proceeded to sign the ship over to Cdr Van Will.

Assuming command of a ship is a tremendous honour and achievement requiring a high level of profes-

sionalism, competency and leadership. As Cdr Van Will proudly stood before his new crew, his message was clear when he emphasized the importance of sustaining the high level of effort and enthusiasm that has contributed to *Ottawa's* success thus far. He was eager and fully prepared to start one of the most prestigious chapters of his career.

Following the ceremony, guests were invited to a luncheon in the hangar where guests, family and friends welcomed the opportunity to mingle with the ship's company, and meet the new command team.



Photos by Corporal Alex. W. Croskery, MARPAC Imaging Services

**Above:** Incoming ship's Captain, Cdr Scott Van Will (left), Commodore Peter Ellis (centre), and outgoing Captain, Cdr Jon Allsopp (right), sign the change of command certificates for HMCS Ottawa.

**Below:** Cdr Allsopp is rowed ashore as part of a long-standing naval tradition for outgoing captains.

**Below Left:** PO1 Lockley presents Cdr Allsopp with his commissioning pennant, marking the end of his tenure as Commanding Officer of HMCS Ottawa.



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# Human error causes submarine grounding

**Ben Green**  
Staff Writer

A Board of Inquiry (BOI) has found that human error was a key contributing factor in the grounding of *HMCS Corner Brook* in Nootka Sound June 4, prompting Commander Royal Canadian Navy to relieve LCdr Paul Sutherland of his command.

The submarine struck the south eastern wall of Zuciarde Channel, more than 500 yards from its intended position while the boat was conducting Submarine Officer Continuation Training. A military BOI formed to look into the matter, spoke to 15 witnesses prior to reaching its findings.

"The BOI concentrated on the events that happened on board, on that day, so most [who were interviewed] were members of the crew or riders at the time," says Capt(N) Luc Cassivi, Deputy Commander of Canadian Fleet Pacific.

### BOI Findings

The BOI determined the submarine's technical systems did not contribute to the incident. Submarine commanders usually give the boat a buffer zone to allow for any errors in equipment or ocean currents when submerged. The established practice of recognizing what is referred to as a "pool of errors" was not properly followed in this case.

"This grounding was avoidable," said Capt(N) Cassivi. "It was caused by a failure to properly account for the positional uncertainty of the submarine in accordance with approved dived submarine navigational practices and techniques when operating in confined waters."

Apart from human error, inadequate training and experience were also found to be contributing factors. The BOI made 19 recommendations including changes to the training system, navigation training, and supporting policies for submarines.

"The Royal Canadian Navy has learned many lessons from this incident and we are already implementing the Board's recommendations," said Capt(N) Cassivi.

The BOI also found there were several late changes to *Corner Brook's* schedule and program which led to late and incomplete briefs of the plan as developed by the officer under training. The board found this played a significant role leading to an inadequate operational plan and poor risk assessment.

### Damage

While there were no serious injuries to the crew, *Corner Brook* has a damaged bow and there is leaking in a forward ballast tank. The exact damage and cost of repairs is not known at this time.

"We have some appreciation of the damage from the investigation done with our divers," he says. "We'll not have the full assessment until the submarine is docked, which will happen next year, and the repair process will be built into the deep maintenance cycle."

Since July, *Corner Brook* has been preparing for its Victoria-class In-Service Support Contract Extended Docking Work Period. This maintenance period will be completed at Esquimalt's Victoria Shipyards Ltd.

### Outcomes

A BOI does not assign blame, and is only responsible for determining the facts; but, in some cases it may lead the chain of command to consider corrective administrative action for certain individuals.

While LCdr Sutherland has been reassigned to a position ashore, the rest of *Corner Brook's* command team is not expected to face administrative action.

Although Capt(N) Cassivi says a return to submarine command is unlikely at this time for LCdr Sutherland, he rejects the notion that the ex-commanding officer was unfairly singled out.

"The careful considerations that have been brought in to relieve this officer from command relates to the events of the day and the loss of confidence that comes from the poor risk management approach that was taken," he says. "As Commanders, we must be prepared to accept full responsibility for things that happen during our watch. This is the burden of command."

The submarine program of the Royal Canadian Navy has been dogged with controversy the past few years, but Capt(N) Cassivi says *Corner Brook's* grounding is not indicative of the submarine's next evolutions.


"Incidents such as this are unfortunate, but not unprecedented," said Capt(N) Cassivi. "They are part of the risks associated with conducting advanced submarine operations and further highlight the need for stringent adherence to established safety practices."

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# matters of OPINION

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## WHAT SAY YOU

### People Talk

Lookout asked this question:

*If you could make one suggestion to improve the Base, what would it be and why?*



I would have more base-sanctioned activities so we can raise morale, and also greater awareness of the employment equity groups to make sure they're well represented across the Canadian Forces.

**David Lin**  
MARPA Headquaters



Build a bridge from Colwood to Dockyard to help make a more efficient commute.

**Stephan Asselin**  
MARPA Headquaters



I'd improve communication from the top down and bottom up, because so often if you look at issues and problems, it comes down to communication.

**Nora Johnson**  
Employee Assistance Program Manager



More and better locker rooms so people can travel to work in means other than a vehicle and have somewhere to change into their work clothes.

**LCdr Simon Brown**  
MARPA Headquaters



A haggis restaurant for all of us with Scottish heritage. But seriously, some kind of parkade tower would be great to help with parking.

**CPO1 Class Shawn Taylor**  
MARPA Headquaters



I think what is key is communication, really getting the leaders to informally speak to people in the shops in order to effectively change policy and make a better workplace for everybody.

**Marlowe Fraser**  
Fleet Maintenance Facility Environment



**Make your suggestions known in January at Our Base. Stay tuned for more info!**

## MPCORNER

### This holiday season be aware drinking penalties

#### Sgt Benoit Rheume Military Police Community Relations

Tough drinking-driving penalties under B.C.'s Motor Vehicle Act came into effect on Sept. 20, 2010, including an immediate roadside prohibition (IRP).

Police in B.C. can issue an immediate roadside prohibition to an impaired driver with blood-alcohol content (BAC) .05 to .08 (known as the "warn" range).

The BAC is based on a breath sample into a roadside screening device.

The driver's vehicle can also be immediately taken off the road and impounded.

#### Warn range (.05 - .08 BAC)

If your breath sample is between .05 and .08 BAC, you fall into the "warn" range and you will be issued an IRP.

#### Fail range (more than .08)

If you are over .08 or refuse to provide a breath sample, you fall into the "fail" range. Therefore, you may be charged under the Criminal Code of Canada.

B.C.'s police officers can only issue an IRP if you are in the "warn" range; any reading above .08 (BAC) will have to be processed through the B.C. court system pursuant to the Criminal Code of Canada.

#### How long does the driving prohibition last?

Impaired drivers in the .05-.08 warn range are prohibited from driving for three, seven or 30 days. The prohibition escalates depending on whether it is the first, second or third time a driver is caught within a five-year period.

#### Financial costs

Costs related to these offences can add up

to an estimated \$600 to \$3,960—even if it's the first time a driver is caught.

Note: Applicable taxes and licence fees also apply.

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# Jets jersey raffle highly popular

**SLt Ellie Aminaie**  
HMCS Winnipeg

As the United Way representative for *HMCS Winnipeg*, I tried to come up with a fundraising idea that would generate maximum funds for the campaign, and at the same time offer something rewarding to a potential winner.

The prize idea came after a visit to the City of Winnipeg, where the ship was presented a Winnipeg Jets hockey jersey by the Mayor.

I was inspired by everyone's excitement for having received this official Winnipeg Jets hockey jersey, so I asked the Wardroom if I could raffle one off, not the one presented to us by the Mayor, which we proudly display in our Wardroom, but another official NHL Winnipeg Jets jersey.

We decided the funds were to be designated for the MFRC and the raffle be open to the entire Formation.

As the CF has such an efficient communication network, the word quickly got out through emails, posters, website posts and individual United Way reps at each unit.

My goal was to raise \$500, and within a week we had exceeded that goal.

I was overwhelmed by the great demand across the Formation to acquire raffle tickets for the Jets jersey. I was surprised to see non-Winnipeggers vying for it. One person told me he was being posted to *Winnipeg* and wearing a Jets jersey would be an icebreaker and help him make new friends. Another person told me that he was going home to visit his family in Winnipeg, who he hadn't seen in a year, and this would make a great Christmas present.

In the end, we managed to raise \$850.

As for the winner of the Jets jersey...we held the draw in the Master Seaman and Below mess on board *Winnipeg* Dec. 12, and the winner was OS Joshua Hardy. It is a well-deserved win for a hard-working Stoker.

However, the real winner in this raffle is the MFRC. They provide great support to CF members and their families throughout the year and it is great to be able to give back to them.

I hope to repeat the success of this raffle next year, perhaps on a larger scale.



**Above:** A very happy OS Joshua Hardy after winning the coveted Winnipeg Jets jersey.

**Below:** Fund raiser master mind, SLt Ellie Aminaie pulls the winning raffle ticket.



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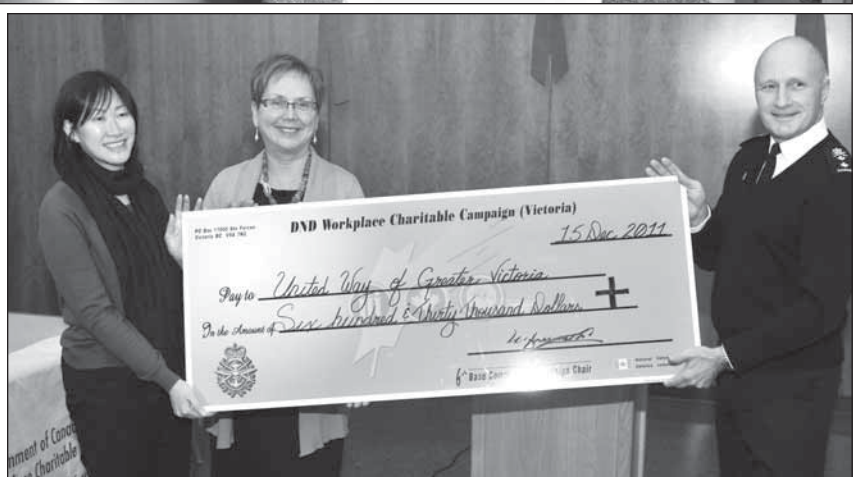
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**Above:** Bright and early on Dec. 15, RAdm Nigel Greenwood and few of his senior leaders served up breakfast for base personnel at Nelles as part of the annual Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) wrap-up breakfast.

**Right:** After everyone had their breakfast, a cheque for \$630,000 was presented to Ellen Louie (left) from Health Partners, and Linda Hughes (centre), CEO of the United Way of Greater Victoria.

Photos by Ben Green, Lookout



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HMCS Vancouver's Ship's Company in Souda Bay, Greece.

# Vancouver's power drive for United Way

**Lt(N) Matthew Mitchell**  
HMCS Vancouver

Operations kept *HMCS Vancouver* busy this year during the United Way Campaign season.

Deployed on Operation Mobile, Canada's contribution to Operation Unified Protector, NATO's mission to protect civilians in Libya, the Government of Canada's Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) was the furthest thing from many people's minds as *Vancouver* operated only miles from the coast of the war-torn country.

However, the final battle for the country ended, and Libya was declared free; thus, Operation Unified Protector ceased operations on Oct. 31. It was at this point *Vancouver's* crew realized it was behind in the GCWCC campaign and decided to "surge" its efforts over an 11-day period between port visits.

Although getting a late start, the crew kicked off its campaign Nov. 13. Less than seven days later they raised more than \$66,000 in donations; quickly surpassing the ship's goal of \$50,000.

"The generosity displayed by the ship's company is simply astounding. Once again, the *Vancouver* family has come together to support those in need," said the ship's Commanding Officer, Cdr Bradley Peats.

The ship generated more than 60 leader level contributors with donations of \$500 or more, with three sailors in particular donating more than \$2,400 each. Many of the donations went to the United Way; however, other local charities such as The Mustard Seed Street Church's food bank and the Victoria SPCA were very popular amongst the crew.

While the results are impressive, the GCWCC Campaign is not the only cause *Vancouver* supports. The ship has founded a Breakfast Program at a Victoria elementary school to help kids have a healthy breakfast to start their day.

The speed and passion in which the crew gave to their community is an example of what a small group of dedicated people can accomplish.

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# Ship repair unit updates crane emergency equipment

**Ben Green**  
Staff Writer

Last month, 15 personnel from Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Breton (FMF CB) spent a day training on a new emergency descent system that will be installed to number three crane in dockyard.

The descent system, called Miller SafEscape Elite, allows operators to escape over the side of the crane in a situation where fire prevents them from accessing the stairway or ladder.

In 2007, such an incident forced FMF CB to re-evaluate its emergency equipment training.

"Last time we did training was because there was a fire in the machinery space of number three crane on the weekend while a diesel generator was being lowered into a CPF," says Darin Thompson, a crane maintainer from Shop 135 and participant of the recent course.

That day, Thompson was tasked with manually lowering the generator onto the ship with assistance from the riggers on base; however, the crane operator was exposed to smoky air during the ordeal. This led to both crane maintenance personnel and operators being re-trained with the safety system.

In September at the CFB Esquimalt Industrial Trade Show, Bob Bridgeman, Safety and Environment Inspector for FMF CB, spotted the new Miller SafEscape Elite system and decided to update their current equipment.

"The other system works fine, but this is just completely foolproof," says Thompson.

The new system allows an individual to slip on a harness, hook onto the system, and simply step off the side of the crane. A clutch connected to gearing provides a controlled descent with a person weighing 220

pounds descending at a rate of 3.3 feet per second. With a maximum two-person load of more than 550 pounds and a maximum two-person height of more than 650 feet, the system is safe for almost any sized person on any crane. The bi-directional design of the system means as one person descends, a hook ascends on the other end in case a second person needs to be evacuated.

The Miller SafEscape Elite was procured by Ralph Adye who manages it through Trades Service Centre 3 at FMF CB. Bob Bridgeman and John Green brought in CKR Global Safety and Rescue to train designated FMF personnel in its use, which included a classroom tutorial.

"It outlined the legal stuff, fall arrest, anchorage, a video, and the system itself," says Thompson. "We then played with the system."

The group was supposed to test the system on number three crane in the afternoon, but high winds ended that possibility. Adye says this caused concern as people needed to try it in order to trust it.

Fortunately, the demonstration was transferred indoors using a large jib crane on the third floor of building 215 in dockyard. Under the watchful eyes of base firefighters, individuals were attached to the system to practice multiple descents.

"I like the device, but in my opinion we, meaning Shop 135 personnel, should be using this system on the tower cranes also," adds Thompson.

After speaking with many of the trainees, John Green, Crane Operator Supervisor at dockyard's pumphouse, says the general consensus was the system is a welcomed addition to the crane's safety equipment.

"It's a very good system; let's just hope we don't have to use it."



Dangling high above the ground, a Fleet Maintenance Facility worker practices descending on a new emergency descent system that will be used on number three crane in dockyard.

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# NEWS Nuggets

## Powerful women named

Three Canadian Forces senior officers have been named among Canada's 100 most powerful women in 2011 by the Women's Executive Network.

The list is the country's most recognizable award for Canada's highest achieving female leaders in the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors.

RAdm Jennifer Bennett, Chief Reserves and Cadets, received an award under the Public Sector Leaders category, while MGen Christine Whitecross, Chief of Staff-Assistant Deputy Minister (Infrastructure and Environment), and Col Jennie Carignan, Chief of Staff Joint Task Force Central/Land Force Central Area, both received an award under the Trailblazers and Trendsetters category.

### NAC Pool Closure

From Jan. 4-24, 2012, the pool, hot tub, and steam room at the Naden Athletic Centre will be closed. From Jan. 4-18, the Esquimalt Recreation Centre will be available to use free of charge, and from Jan. 19-24 it will cost \$3. More information on the Esquimalt Rec Centre's swimming schedule can be found at [www.esquimalt.ca/parksRecreation/schedules](http://www.esquimalt.ca/parksRecreation/schedules).

### Reduced Holiday Mail Hours

From Dec. 19-Jan. 2, 2012, the Naden Post Office will be closed. On Dec. 23, 28, 29, and 30, the working hours at the Fleet Mail Office Dockyard will be from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be no afternoon mail runs during these days.

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# Holiday cheer from the Admiral

The holiday season is fast upon us as 2011 quickly draws to a close. This time of year invites both reflection on the many accomplishments of the previous twelve months and anticipation of the coming year.

As we entered our second century as a navy, we did so with renewed awareness of our proud history. This was strikingly symbolized by the return of the name Royal Canadian Navy, a century after it was first granted. This reminds us of the incredible sacrifices and achievements of those who went before us, even as we move forward to build the navy of tomorrow.

This busy year saw many significant accomplishments for Maritime Forces Pacific. On Base, we were honoured to hear that CFB Esquimalt won the national award for comprehensive planning from the Real Property Institute of Canada.

In the community, our public engagement was at an all time high, with nearly 120 Remembrance Week speaking engagements around the region, and significant involvement with Grey Cup weekend in Vancouver. Around the globe, our ships were deployed on a number of missions and exercises; from HMCS *Ottawa's* Force Generation deployment and goodwill tour in the Asia Pacific, to HMCS *Algonquin's* multi-national exercise in the Panama Canal approaches, to HMCS *Vancouver's* continued efforts in the Mediterranean. And, very importantly, we have successfully passed a number of major milestones toward returning HMCS *Victoria* to operational status. This prosperous year truly was a team effort. Every person, whether military or civilian, proudly represented MARPAC and upheld the excellent standards we have come to expect in the perform-

ance of our duties both domestically and overseas.

As we reflect on successes of the year that was, we can be thankful for the family and friends that supported us along the way. This certainly is a time of year to share with our loved ones. While we ready ourselves for the flurry of celebrations, we should all be conscious of the fact that many of our members will not be home for the holidays. HMCS *Vancouver*, deployed to the Mediterranean in July, remains on station. Many individuals are deployed around the globe on operations, and many others will close up in the Formation to maintain our 24/7 readiness. Those who remain on duty throughout those key dates, and those who continue their critical contributions in a number of deployed operations, will all be in our thoughts and prayers this season. We gain strength from their courage and commitment to duty and are inspired by the support shown by their families.

With the New Year just around the corner, we have much to look forward to in the coming twelve months. 2012 promises to be active, with the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812, the centenary of the Township of Esquimalt, and the biennial RIMPAC exercise in Hawaii.



Certainly this year will be characterized by both change and continuity, as we adapt to various pressures while remaining committed to the Navy's purpose of matching capable people with ready platforms to deploy with pride in the interests of Canada.

Let me finish with a heartfelt thanks for all that you have done this year. Warmest wishes for a joyous holiday and a very Happy New Year from both Deborah and myself,

RAdm Nigel S. Greenwood

Ce sera très bientôt le temps des Fêtes, puisque l'année 2011 tire rapidement à sa fin. Cette période de l'année invite à la fois à la réflexion sur les nombreuses réalisations des douze derniers mois et sur ce que sera la prochaine année.

La Marine entame son deuxième siècle plus consciente que jamais de sa fière histoire. Ce passage a été remarquablement symbolisé par la reprise du nom de Marine royale canadienne qui nous avait été accordé la première fois il y a un siècle. Cela nous rappelle les sacrifices et les réalisations incroyables de ceux qui nous ont précédés, alors même que nous nous préparons à construire la Marine de demain.

Pour les Forces maritimes du Pacifique, cette année bien remplie a été riche en accomplissements significatifs. À la base, nous avons été honorés, car la BFC Esquimalt a remporté le prix national pour planification détaillée décerné par l'Institut des biens immobiliers du Canada.

Localement, nos activités publiques ont atteint un niveau sans précédent : il y a eu près de 120 allocutions pendant la semaine du Souvenir dans toute la région et nous avons participé de manière marquante à la fin de semaine de la coupe Grey à Vancouver. Dans le monde, nos navires ont été déployés pour des missions et des exercices, du déploiement de mise sur pied d'une force et de visite d'amitié

du NCSM *Ottawa* dans la région Asie-Pacifique à l'exercice multinational auquel le NCSM *Algonquin* a pris part aux abords du canal de Panama en passant par la mission en cours du NCSM *Vancouver* en Méditerranée. En outre, il est très important de signaler que nous avons réussi à franchir plusieurs grandes étapes vers le retour du NCSM *Victoria* à l'état opérationnel. L'année fructueuse qui se termine aura vraiment été le résultat d'un travail d'équipe. Chaque personne, militaire ou civile, a fièrement représenté les FMAR(P) et a respecté les normes d'excellence auxquelles nous nous attendons dans l'accomplissement de notre devoir au Canada comme à l'étranger.

Alors que nous repensons aux réalisations de l'année, nous pouvons exprimer notre reconnaissance à notre famille et à nos amis, qui nous ont soutenus en chemin. Il s'agit certainement d'une période de l'année que nous voulons passer avec nos proches. Alors que nous nous préparons pour la vague de célébrations, nous ne devons pas oublier qu'un grand nombre de nos collègues ne seront pas chez eux pour les fêtes. Les membres du NCSM *Vancouver*, déployés en Méditerranée depuis juillet, restent en poste. Beaucoup de marins en opération sont déployés autour du globe, et bien d'autres resteront à la Formation pour maintenir notre état de prépara-

tion 24/7. Ceux et celles qui seront de service ou qui continueront de contribuer de manière essentielle aux opérations en déploiement seront dans nos pensées et nos prières pendant les fêtes. Nous tirons notre force de leur courage et leur dévouement au service, et notre inspiration du soutien que leur apporte leur famille.

La nouvelle année approche à grand pas et nous avons de nombreuses raisons de nous réjouir de ce que nous réservent les douze prochains mois. L'année 2012 promet d'être pleine d'activité : le Jubilé de diamant de Sa Majesté la reine Elizabeth II, le 200<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la guerre de 1812, le centenaire du canton d'Esquimalt, et l'exercice biennal RIMPAC Hawaii. L'année sera ainsi caractérisée par le changement et la continuité, car nous continuerons de nous adapter aux diverses pressions tout en demeurant fidèles à l'objectif de la Marine qui est d'apparier des gens capables avec des plateformes opérationnelles pour qu'ils puissent se déployer fièrement dans l'intérêt du Canada.

Pour terminer, je vous adresse mes plus sincères remerciements pour tout ce que vous avez fait cette année. Mon épouse Deborah et moi-même vous souhaitons du fond du cœur de joyeuses fêtes et une bonne et heureuse année.

RAdm Nigel S. Greenwood

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# Commander RCN sends best wishes

As we look forward to a few quiet moments with loved ones over the approaching holiday period, I wish to acknowledge your tremendous accomplishments over the past year, as well as to share my perspective on what your achievements have meant to the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) as an institution.

This was a year when you—the men and women of the RCN, uniformed and civilian, full-time and part-time, as well as airmen and airwomen of the Royal Canadian Air Force's maritime air fleets with whom we work so proudly—continued to make a difference at home and abroad.

At home, you demonstrated directly to Canadians why our motto is *Ready, Aye Ready*. Citizen sailors in the Naval Reserves twice demonstrated how effective a role they are able to play in public safety, drawing on their skills as sailors and seamen and using their Naval Reserve Divisions as a springboard for domestic action in responding to floods in both Quebec and Manitoba. The response by the RCN in supporting Newfoundland following hurricane Igor likewise demonstrated to Canadians the navy's capacity to rapidly render assistance from the sea.

From the patrols you conducted in the Caribbean Basin and Eastern Pacific to help keep drugs off Canadian streets through the presence in Arctic waters you exerted during Operation Nanook, the RCN demonstrated its strategic relevance as an essential component of the domestic security of Canada.

Abroad, you supported the nation's diplomacy in the Americas and western Pacific as only navies can, investing in our most important navy-to-navy relationships while also making important contributions to our new CF training mission in Afghanistan. Throughout, you have delivered excellence in operations and exercises, proving again why the RCN is respected and admired among its sister navies around the world.

Nowhere was this more evident than in your singular contributions made to NATO's operations off Libya, a true sea-air campaign that encompassed a wide range of maritime operations in littoral waters to defend Libyan populations, all of which have shed much light on the range of future operational challenges that await the CF. Both

*Charlottetown* and *Vancouver* acquitted themselves admirably, while demonstrating why warships are among the most flexible and capable instruments of national power and influence. All of this is making a real difference in the city where I work.

The Government of Canada understands fully what a navy is for and what it can achieve, as exemplified in its recent decision to retain a frigate deployed forward in the Mediterranean through 2012. It understands what it takes to sustain a modern and effective navy through its National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy.

I can assure you that the Government is fully committed to moving forward on the RCN's major projects—the Arctic Offshore Patrol Ship, the Joint Support Ship and the Canadian Surface Combatant—and the naval and procurement staffs are working flat-out to meet its expectations.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the Government demonstrated it understands and appreciates the role the Navy plays as a national institution when it returned to us the historic and proud title Royal Canadian Navy.

There is much work ahead of us in the New Year. Our plans to move towards a functional model as part of navy renewal, based on a one-navy concept, has informed the broader DND / CF change agenda, and I look forward soon to being able to move forward, and indeed perhaps leading the way, with the full weight and support of the CF behind us. In the interim, we will continue to maintain our momentum by gathering a select group of leaders for our third Strategic Planning Meeting in the early New Year.

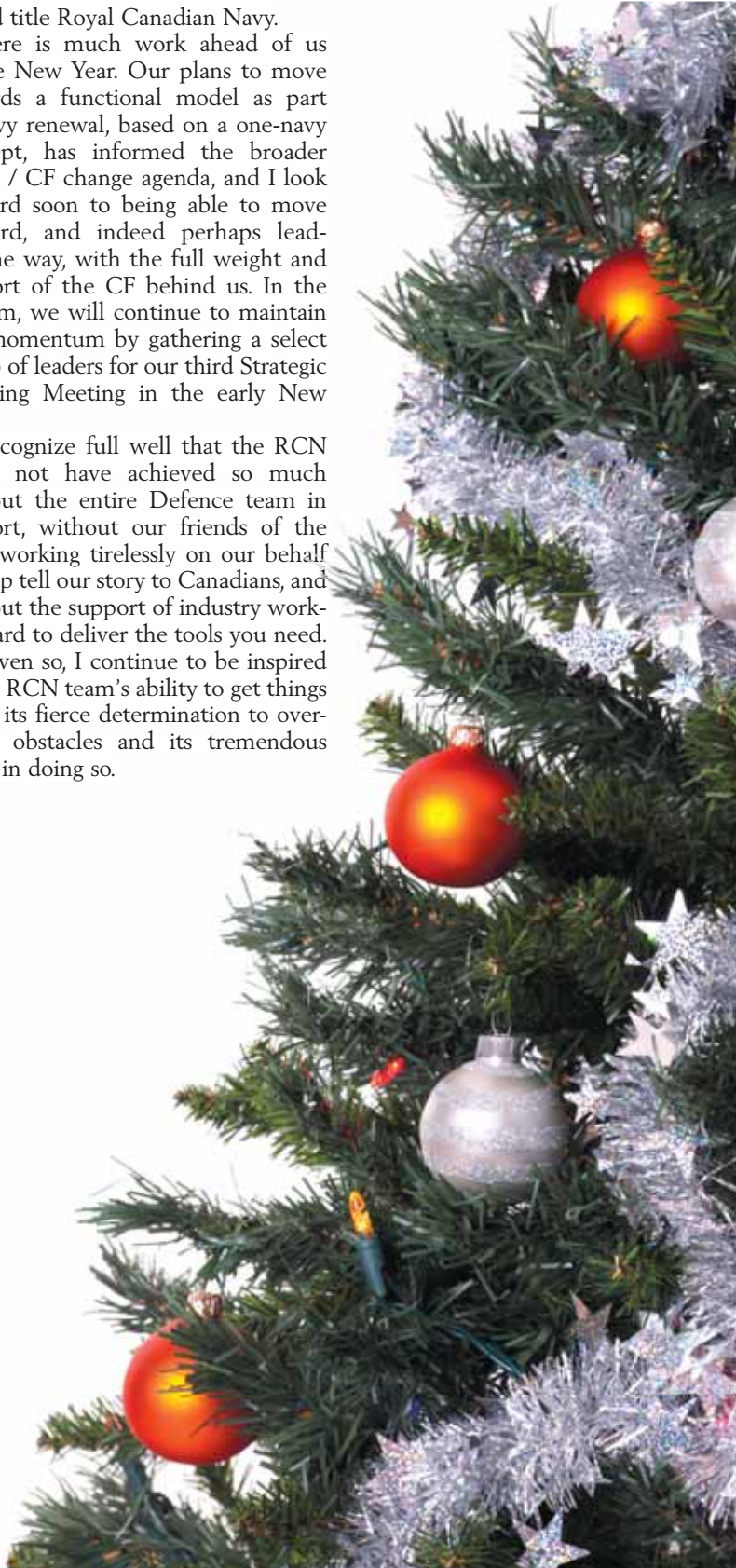
I recognize full well that the RCN could not have achieved so much without the entire Defence team in support, without our friends of the navy working tirelessly on our behalf to help tell our story to Canadians, and without the support of industry working hard to deliver the tools you need. But even so, I continue to be inspired at the RCN team's ability to get things done, its fierce determination to overcome obstacles and its tremendous pride in doing so.

So to all of you—soldiers, sailors and aviators, uniformed and civilian, part time and full time—my most heartfelt thanks and this traditional acknowledgement of naval accomplishment: Bravo Zulu.

That you were able to achieve so much this year is also testament to the tremendous support you received from loved ones and families at home. Those who awaited your return from deployment at sea or long hours ashore, foregoing the many simple but important shared moments that constitute family life, also serve the country in a very real way. I ask all of you to thank them on my behalf.

In closing, as you prepare to gather with your friends and families, I would ask that you remember those who are standing the watch for Canada both at home and abroad whose duty prevents them from sharing in the joys of the season with loved ones. Finally, whatever your faith or beliefs, please accept my most sincere best wishes for a safe and truly happy holiday season.

VAdm Paul Maddison



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# HMCS Victoria



**Above:** The Royal Canadian Navy submarine HMCS Victoria (SSK 876) is moored in the Magnetic Silencing Facility at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in Bangor, WA., for a deperming treatment. Deperming reduces a ship's electromagnetic signature as it travels through the water.

**Right:** Cdr Christopher Ellis, Victoria's Commanding Officer, guides the submarine in to the American naval base.

**Below:** Victoria transits past the Olympic Mountains.

**Bottom:** Victoria moored in the Magnetic Silencing Facility in daylight.

Photos by Lt. Ed Early, U.S. Navy





Divers from MARPAC investigate ordnance disposed at a Whitehorse dump.

## Divers investigate old ordnance

**Mike Hillian**  
Contributor

Last month, three members of Fleet Diving Unit (Pacific) (FDU (P)) were deployed to Whitehorse when military ordnance was discovered at the local dump.

PO1 Dale Durand, Sgt David Harden and LS Casey Johnson of FDU (P)'s Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit flew up Nov. 17 and travelled to the dump with the RCMP Explosive Disposal Unit to investigate.

The deployment came after a dump worker

informed the RCMP of what looked like military ordnance in a pile of junk dropped off by a 91-year-old man on Nov. 15. The man said he acquired the items as part of a lot he purchased 20 years ago at a government surplus auction.

When the divers arrived, they found more than 200 containers. All turned out to be free of explosives, including 62 spent rocket motors and practice rocket warheads.

When Sgt Harden, the ammo tech, confirmed the containers were free of explosives, they were

mechanically destroyed and returned to the landfill.

The EOD unit responds to calls involving the disposal of wartime "souvenir" ammunition or commercial explosives.

This deployment was an example of the speed and efficiency with which FDU can respond and act when called upon.

"Every situation is kind of interesting when you have to come up with a plan on short notice and put it into action," said PO1 Dale Durand. "We're well trained for these situations and we get deployed often."

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Corporal Michael Bastien, MAPAC Imaging Services LCdr (for the day) Jessi-Michel Lapierre (aka Ordinary Seaman Jessi-Michel Lapierre) performs the ceremonial carving of the turkey to start the annual Junior Ranks Christmas Dinner at Nelles Galley on Dec. 21. As part of traditional Junior Ranks Christmas Dinner festivities, the youngest members of the Base (or Unit) assumes the rank of the Base Commander (or Commanding Officer) for the day. OS Jessi-Michel Lapierre is currently training to become a Sonar Operator.

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Maj James Pierotti (right), Commanding Officer of Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, presents LCdr Scott Crawshaw (left), Commanding Officer of HMCS Yellowknife, with a certificate for their search efforts in September.

Photo by Ben Green, Lookout

## HMCS Yellowknife honoured for search efforts

**Ben Green**  
Staff Writer

Two weeks ago, the crew of *HMCS Yellowknife* was honoured by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) for their efforts searching for two missing kayakers.

On Sept. 27 and 28, the Maritime Coastal Defence Vessel joined a host of search and rescue assets in the waters off Sooke to find the two men who had been missing since late afternoon on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

"Around 8:30 p.m. on the first day, JRCC contacted us saying a fishing vessel saw two overturned kayaks and asked us to try and find them," says Lt(N) Mike Wills, Operations Officer in *Yellowknife*.

Under the direction of JRCC, the ship spent the next two and half hours searching with the assistance of two coast guard

auxiliary vessels and a CH-149 Cormorant helicopter. All they found was one kayak.

The next morning, JRCC asked *Yellowknife* to continue their search, this time as on-scene coordinator. For 10 hours the ship scoured their 150 square mile search zone as three coast guard auxiliary vessels, a Cormorant, *HMCS Brandon*, a Transport Canada Dash 8, and a CC-115 Buffalo helicopter inched along the island's western coastline.

"We basically looked at everything twice," says Lt(N) Wills. "We found one lifejacket that may or may not have been theirs. They found the other kayak eventually."

As the second day evolved, Lt(N) Wills says the initial buzz within the ship's company began to dwindle as they realized the probability of finding

the men alive reduced with every passing hour.

"Everyone was really keen when we started, people were staying up off their watches," he says. "As the day progressed, it became a little sombre."

An undermanned crew of about 35 meant *Yellowknife* only had one sailor in many positions during the two-day search. Lt(N) Wills says this, along with the ship just returning from a 24-day maritime security patrol around Prince Rupert and the Haida Gwaii Islands, meant fatigue was a big obstacle to combat. However, he says they weren't the only crew going above and beyond to find the missing men.

"The coast guard auxiliary vessels were really impressive," he adds. "They were in their small boats, with little food, not designed for sustained searches, but they were there for the entire

time we were. It was very impressive."

At the end of the second day, JRCC called off the search. The two kayakers were never found.

PO2 Ryan Gaudet, Senior Naval Combat Information Operator on *Yellowknife*, says the kayakers' deaths overshadows their recognition.

"The award is validation for our hard work, but at the same time it's discouraging because we didn't find the people we were looking for," he says.

The Dec. 8 ceremony on board *Yellowknife's* bridge saw Maj James Pierotti, Commanding Officer of JRCC, present the certificate to LCdr Scott Crawshaw, Commanding Officer of *Yellowknife*. Maj Pierotti extended his gratitude to ship's company who had gathered on the bridge for their exceptional efforts over the taxing two days.

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# Bravo ZULU

## MARPAC HQ Awards Ceremony



Photo by MCpl Angela Abbey, MARPAC Imaging Services CPO2 Pierre Cayer, Naden Band Chief, accepts a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Naden Band of Maritime Forces from RAdm Nigel Greenwood, Commander Maritime Forces Pacific and Joint Task Force (Pacific). The Bravo Zulu is in recognition of the Naden Band's exceptional services to the Royal Canadian Navy during the Canadian Naval Centennial Road show.



Photo by Cpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services Ruth Larder is awarded a certificate in honour of her 25 years service to the Government of Canada. The certificate was presented by Cdr Plaschka at the Admiral's Briefing Room in the D-100.



On Nov. 25, Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Walter Natynczyk presented PO1 Durand from Fleet Diving Unit (Pacific) with the CDS Commendation for his actions on Dec. 24, 2009, while in Afghanistan. His wife Krista and six-week-old son Jonas were in attendance.



Photo by Cpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services MCpl Abbey receives the Sacrifice Medal from RAdm Nigel Greenwood.



Photo by Cpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services Capt Lindsay receives the GSM - Rotation Bar from RAdm Nigel Greenwood.



Photo by Cpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services Captain Guerin receives the Canada Command Commendation from RAdm Nigel Greenwood.



Photo by Cpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services LCdr Godbout receives the first Clasp to CD from RAdm Nigel Greenwood.



Photo by Cpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services Cdr McCue receives the second Clasp to CD from RAdm Nigel Greenwood.



Photo by Cpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services Lt(N) Sheppard is promoted by RAdm Nigel Greenwood.



A/SLt St Louis receives his commission from Cdr Roberts, MARPACHQ N4 and Cdr Irwin.



PO1 Dale Narum, a Sea Cadet with RCSCC Esquimalt, with LGov Steven L. Point, and Stuart McDonald, Past President - Duke of Edinburgh's Award BC & Yukon Division at the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Silver Ceremony.

**Got a Bravo Zulu?**  
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**[melissa.atkinson@forces.gc.ca](mailto:melissa.atkinson@forces.gc.ca)**  
 please include a full caption and  
 include first and last names.





Photo by MCpl Dany Veillette

Capt(N) Steven Waddell receives his Meritorious Service Medal from Governor General David Johnston.

## Officer awarded prestigious medal

**Darlene Blakeley**  
Navy Public Affairs Ottawa

A senior naval officer who served overseas as Commander Task Force Saiph has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (Military Division).

Capt(N) Steven Waddell received the commendation from David Johnston, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, during a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa Dec. 13.

According to his commendation, Capt(N) Waddell "served with distinction from October 2009 to May 2010, commanding officer of HMCS *Fredericton* and commander of Task Force Saiph, deployed to the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea in support of international counter-piracy and counter-terror efforts. [He] demonstrated tactical awareness, leadership, operational focus and a humanitarian approach to operations, allowing him to successfully lead

his team through challenging missions, which brought great credit to the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) and to Canada."

"Surrounded by my Canadian Army and Royal Canadian Air Force peers, it was gratifying to be recognized for excellence in an important and truly maritime mission," says Capt(N) Waddell. "It was a tremendous honour to be decorated personally by the Governor General. In the moments following my award I reflected on the opportunity that had been given to me by the RCN, and the exceptional ship's company in HMCS *Fredericton* that made my successes possible and brought me to this point."

Capt(N) Waddell currently works at Canada Command in Ottawa as Deputy Chief of Staff Operations.

The Meritorious Service Medal (Military Division) recognizes a military deed or activity performed in a highly professional manner, according to a very high standard that brings benefit or honour to the Canadian Forces.

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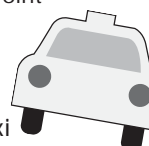
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