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RAVEN ROAR

A candidate from the Raven Program crosses a suspended bridge during Confidence Course training at Camp Albert Head on July 16.

The six-week Raven Aboriginal Youth Employment Program is an outreach endeavor designed to build bridges into Aboriginal communities in Canada, and to make Aboriginal youth aware of potential military or civilian careers with the Department of National Defence. The Raven Program runs from July 4 to Aug 14. Read more on page 5.

Photo by Leading Seaman David Gariepy



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CITY OF VICTORIA HAILS

WARRIOR GAMES ATHLETES

Peter Mallett
Staff Writer

Four Victoria-based athletes from Canada's 2019 Warrior Games team were presented Letters of Appreciation by Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps.

Leading Seaman Desi Cozier, Petty Officer Second Class Lisa Nilsson, and Captain (Retired) Jennifer Sizer were the guests of honour in the July 15 ceremony at Victoria City Hall. During the ceremony, the athletes also accepted a Letter of Appreciation on behalf of their teammate, Master Corporal (Retired) Frieda Van Putten, who was unable to attend.

They were among the 36 ill and injured veterans and currently serving military who represented Team Canada at the United States' Department of Defense Warrior Games, June 21 to 30 in Tampa, Fla.

Mayor Helps congratulated the participants for their service to Canada's military and also for their determination to compete at the games despite their physical or mental injuries.

"That is so powerful, and I think the three of you are role models for others serving, those considering serving, and to show you can still be injured and still be a warrior," said Helps prior to presenting the framed certificates.

The Warrior Games were established in 2010 and were the inspiration for His Royal Highness Prince Harry to create the

Invictus Games. Approximately 300 veterans and armed forces members from the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Denmark, and the Netherlands competed in this year's Warrior Games.

Capt(Ret'd) Sizer was one of two Canadians who participated in the Ultimate Warrior Category at the Games, competing in eight events and capturing a bronze medal in women's power lifting. Capt (Ret'd) Sizer, a former logistics officer, served more than 14 years in the Canadian Armed Forces but released in 2015 due to mental and physical injuries. She and her teammates said they greatly appreciated the show of support from Mayor Helps and the City of Victoria.

"It was fantastic to be recognized," she said. "Recognition such as this helps promote this program for future Warrior Games athletes, enabling others to take advantage of it, which is very important."

Canada's 2019 team won 21 medals: 10 gold, five silver and six bronze. But most of the Games' participants emphasize the participatory and healing aspects of the Games as far more important than topping the podium.

PO2 Nilsson, who suffers from permanent neck, shoulder, and spine injuries, participated in power lifting, wheelchair basketball, and archery. She was unable to compete in the women's swimming relay. This was due to an accident on June 26, which aggravated her injuries, requiring admittance to hospital for six days. She described receiv-

ing recognition from Mayor Helps and her entire Games' experience as "truly gratifying and humbling."

She says the experience of getting to meet other "incredible" athletes during the games meant more to her than any medal. One competitor who had lost both of his legs was particularly inspiring, she said, and he fully backed up her personal belief that "being broken is not the end but a new beginning and that's what it is all about."

"This gentleman had spirit, hope, and a purpose, and that's the feeling these games give you," said PO2 Nilsson. "Because many of us have been lost in our own lives and our own heads, these games give us hope and purpose, making things better and giving us something to look forward to."

PO2 Nilsson, a sonar operator, is currently posted to the Esquimalt branch of the Canadian Armed Forces Transition Group. The newly created formation delivers casualty support and transition services to Canadian Armed Forces members and their families, including the Soldier On program. The participation of Team Canada in the Warrior Games, as well as the Invictus Games, is made possible through



City of Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps presents PO2 Lisa Nilsson, LS Desi Cozier and Capt (Retired) Jennifer Sizer with Letters of Appreciation prior to a ceremony at Victoria City Hall, July 15.

Photo by CFB Esquimalt Base Public Affairs

the Soldier On program. The program also organizes numerous regional sports camps throughout the year.

Transition Centre Esquimalt Regional Unit Chief, Chief Petty Officer Second Class Matthew Goodwin was also in attendance at the Mayor's office. He assisted in Team Canada's training camp in Victoria last March. He didn't travel to Tampa for the Games but says he closely tracked the progress of PO2 Nilsson and other athletes on the Games' website and via the Soldier On Facebook account.

"It was very important for me to be here today to show my support for Lisa and our other athletes," said CPO2 Goodwin. "It was awesome following the games and getting inside information by chatting with Nilsson every day."

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New leave without pay policy allows CAF members more parental home time



Courtesy the Maple Leaf

Canadian Armed Forces members may now request a new type of leave to take advantage of changes to the Employment Insurance (EI) parental benefits.

In March 2019, EI benefits changed to allow parents to share either 40 weeks of standard parental benefits or 69 weeks of extended parental benefits.

The new leave without pay and allowances (LWOP) for personal reasons for parental purposes allows members of the Regular Force and Reserve Force members on Class B or C periods of service, who live outside Quebec, to benefit from the EI changes more fully.

Reserve Force members on Class A Reserve service need to request an exemption from duty and training for personal reasons to get the time off; there is no allowance associated with this leave.

Because the Province of Quebec administers its own Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP), Canadian Armed Forces members who are residents of Quebec are not eligible for maternity or parental benefits, including the extended benefits, offered through the Employment Insurance program.

EI and QPIP maternity benefits, which are separate from parental benefits and are intended for recovery from childbirth, are still up to 15 or 18 weeks, respectively.

Maternity and parental benefits to top up salaries to 93 per cent of pay and eligible allowances remain at a combined maximum of 364 days. During the additional weeks, Canadian Armed Forces members who live outside of Quebec can receive EI benefits of 33 per cent of their salaries to a maximum amount set by the Government of Canada each year, but not an additional top-up to their salaries.

Frequently Asked Questions – parental benefits for CAF members

Q1. What types of benefits and leave are available for Canadian Armed Forces members who are parents of newborns or newly adopted children?

A1. The Canadian Armed Forces

provides maternity and parental leave for Regular Force members and Reserve Force members on Class B or Class C periods of Reserve service. Class A Reserve Force members receive Exemption from Duty and Training (ED&T) for maternity or parental purposes. The Canadian Armed Forces provides an allowance that will top up EI maternity and parental benefits, or QPIP benefits in Quebec, to 93 percent of a member's regular pay and eligible allowances, for up to 364 days total benefits for members on parental or maternity leave, or ED&T for maternity or parental purposes.

Q2. What is the difference between maternity and parental leave and allowances?

A2. Maternity leave and allowance is an entitlement for members (including surrogates) who are pregnant for at least 19 weeks, to recover from childbirth. Parental leave and allowance is an entitlement for biological, adoptive, or legally-recognized parents to bond with and care for their newborn or newly adopted child.

Q3. Now that federal EI parental benefits can be received over a longer period of time – up to an additional 26 weeks – what is the Canadian Armed Forces offering its members?

A3. As of June 24, 2019, Canadian Armed Forces members who are parents may request additional time off. This is done through leave without pay and allowances (LWOP) for personal reasons for parental purposes, for up to 61 weeks of leave in total. In addition to parental leave, members who are pregnant for at least 19 weeks are entitled to up to 18 weeks of maternity leave and benefits.

During the additional weeks of leave, members who live outside of Quebec can receive EI benefits but will not get the additional top-up to their salaries. It should be noted that the EI benefit for the additional weeks is 33 percent of a member's salary, to a maximum amount set by the Government of Canada. For 2019, the maximum was set at \$337 per week. For more details on EI maternity and parental benefits offered by the Government of Canada, visit the EI maternity and parental benefits web page: www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-maternity-

parental/benefit-amount.html

Q4. How does this affect Canadian Armed Forces members living in Quebec?

A4. All Regular Force members and reservists on Class B or C periods of service can request this new type parental leave without pay and allowances. However, residents of Quebec cannot access the extended federal EI benefits. Because the Province of Quebec administers its own Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP), its residents do not receive benefits through the federal Employment Insurance program. Canadian Armed Forces members residing in Quebec are not eligible for the extended parental benefits as the QPIP has not made amendments to an Act Respecting Parental Insurance. For more information on the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP) benefits offered by the Province of Quebec, visit the QPIP web page: www.rqap.gouv.qc.ca/en/home

Q5. What effect does taking this new leave without pay and allowances (LWOP) for personal reasons for parental purposes have on a member's pension benefits?

A5. These new and extended leave provisions for parental purposes will affect pensions. Members should contact the Government of Canada Pension Centre at 1-800-267-0325 to find out how the changes will affect individual pension plan entitlements. The Canadian Forces Superannuation Act (CFSA), which governs Canadian Armed Forces pensions, has not changed. Members should note that the total time they can use LWOP for pension purposes under the Income Tax Act rules remains five years, plus up to an additional three years for periods of parenting.

Q6. What effect will it have on other benefits?

A6. This new leave without pay and allowances provision for parents will affect calculations for annual leave, Canadian Forces Decoration (CD), promotion, pay incentives, and obligatory service. Members should contact their Orderly Rooms for more information prior to deciding to take any type of leave without pay.

www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-maternity-parental/benefit-amount.html

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WHAT SAY YOU

People Talk

Lookout asked museum staff:

What is something unique or intriguing about the museum that might surprise visitors?



We have a minesweeper mess deck scene. When I first came to the museum earlier this year. I realized this building has several really cool and elaborate dioramas and displays. As a student of history, this exhibit really helps put me in the moment and understand what sailors might have experienced in their day-to-day lives.

Isaiah Johnson,
University of Victoria
Co-op Program



I think the museum setting itself, in these beautiful historic buildings, is a unique feature. There's just so much history represented by these buildings that were once a hospital and a school for example. The museum really is a hidden gem that's very worthy of a visit.

Capt(N) (Ret'd) Kevin Carlé,
CFB Esquimalt Naval and
Military Museum Volunteer



The museum's expansive archives. We are currently in the process of entering items into a digital cataloguing system. This includes thousands and thousands of photos dating back to the beginning of the Royal Canadian Navy and even some from the days of the Royal Navy. I have currently catalogued over 7,000 photos and I haven't even scratched the surface and it will continue on after I retire in two years.

Debbie Towell,
CFB Esquimalt Naval and
Military Museum Curator



When you walk into the first room at the museum there is a skylight that is covered over. That skylight was used for medical operations because the museum used to be a hospital at one time. It's neat to be in that room and realize you are standing in a place where years of military history have happened.

David Weaver,
University of Victoria
Co-op Program

WHAT SAY WE

Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces statement Class action lawsuit settlement reached

Deputy Minister Jody Thomas and Chief of the Defence Staff, General Jonathan Vance, issued the following statement:

"Today, the Government of Canada announced that a settlement has been reached between the Canadian Armed Forces/Department of National Defence/Staff of the Non-Public Funds and the plaintiffs in class action lawsuits initiated by seven former members of the CAF.

"The proposed settlement sets out financial compensation, the option to participate in a restorative engagement program, and several other measures aimed at addressing sexual misconduct in the CAF.

"We are pleased that the government and the plaintiffs have been able to reach a comprehensive settlement which will advance the project of real and lasting cultural change.

"We recognize our obligation to ensure a safe work environment for all women and men in the Canadian Armed Forces, employees of the Department of National Defence and Staff of the Non-Public Funds, Canadian Forces, who experienced sexual misconduct - including sexual harassment, sexual assault or discrimination based on sex, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation - in connection with their military service or civilian employment.

"To all those who have had the cour-

age to come forward as part of these class actions - and to those who will come forward - we offer our sincere regret that you experienced sexual misconduct in our workplace.

"We recognize that it takes a lot of courage to come forward to share difficult and painful experiences, and press for change.

"We hope the settlement will help bring closure, healing, and acknowledgement to the victims and survivors of sexual assault, harassment, and discrimination. The settlement includes several measures that are aimed at ensuring the CAF and DND will continue to take the necessary steps to achieve lasting, positive change."



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RAVEN RECRUIT PROFILE

OS Reed Eady



A/SLt Michelle Scott
MARPAC Public Affairs

The taste of salty air and the ocean landscape vista are one of many firsts for OS Reed Eady.

The young man is in Victoria this summer as one of 42 Raven recruits on a six-week basic training program designed for Indigenous youth.

While he's very familiar with the freshwater lakes and rivers of Jasper, Alberta, having moonlighted as a life-guard, paddleboard instructor and white-water kayaker, it was his first time seeing the ocean.

Despite having a grandfather and great-uncle in the navy, OS Eady had never considered a career in the military until a friend suggested it.

"He asked me if I'd ever considered joining the navy and said he thought I'd be really good at it."

From there he applied for the Canadian Forces Aboriginal Entry Program to see if the military was indeed for him. He attended the three-week introductory Indigenous program in Québec in December, and it was there he learned about Raven. It was the perfect response to

his questions about a career in the navy and opportunity to further explore his Métis culture.

Raven began on July 4 and since the start it has been a jam-packed program for the recruits.

The course started with an intense three-day Culture Camp, which took place at Canadian Forces Maritime Experimental and Test Ranges in Nanoose Bay, B.C. The camp taught and integrated different cultural components to bind the students together through shared experiences. It was during a sweat at culture camp that OS Eady had his favourite moment on the course thus far.

"Being taught by an elder to build a sweat lodge and sharing it with people I was just getting to know, it was a really intense moment for me. It was something I was missing in my life back home."

While the Métis culture isn't an established part of his life back in Jasper, he feels it in the way his family lives. They hunt and fish, and make preserves and bannock, and live off the land as much as possible.

It was a bit of a shock when he arrived at Work Point, he says.

"Military life is fairly different. There are a lot of short timings. You've got to be running around a lot and you've got to be sure you're always attentive and keeping track of things. There's always a good shot of adrenaline when there's a group of people yelling at you."

After Raven, OS Eady is moving to Ladysmith to attend Vancouver Island University where he plans to pursue a degree in biology. He hopes to join the Naval Reserves as either a boatswain or port inspection diver.

In the meantime, his focus is on the remaining four weeks of Raven and the milestones ahead.

"I'm nervous about looking good on parade day for my family. But I'm really enjoying Raven and being able to learn about the navy. It's been a lot of work so far, but I'm super excited going forward."

To follow OS Eady's journey visit Maritime Forces Pacific's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/maritime.forces.pacific for video and images and all things Raven.

Photo by SLt M.X. Déry





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Image courtesy Sharkz Coins

LS Darcy Quick, Cdr Dale Turetski and LS Moorhouse with their unit's morale patch.

Morale patch honours PCC work

SLt M.X. Déry
 MARPAC PA Office

Members of the Personnel Coordination Centre (PCC) have a new morale patch to wear on their naval combats. While some morale and operations patches harken back to the First and Second World War in style, featuring missiles, torpedoes and other weapons of war, PCC set out to distinguish themselves.

"Since we fall under MARPAC (Maritime Forces Pacific), we wanted a distinguishing patch," said Chief Petty Officer First Class Nelson Lemieux, PCC Coxswain. "Something you could see at a distance."

The call went out to PCC members to come up with something that would fit the bill.

"We had a lot of rough drafts," said CPO1 Lemieux.

Despite not being a graphic artist, incremental tasker LS Darcy Quick, a naval communicator by trade, was one of the sailors that tried his hand at creating the patch.

"I was on my lunch break and I started going through some ideas in my head," said LS Quick.

He drew inspiration from the view from his window at DY70, which literally and figuratively looks over the fleet.

"I was thinking how PCC is responsible for assigning people, making sure jobs get filled all around Canada, all over the world," explained LS Quick, and how sailors departed and returned as if guided by a lighthouse.

Armed with a good draft, the command team brought it to Sharkz Coins in Esquimalt to refine the concept; a splash of red and a white border made the lighthouse pop.

The bottom of the black and white lighthouse has "PCC Pacific" written at its base. The words "domestic" and "international" sit atop and below the lighthouse.

The final printed patch has a sleek modern look and easily identifies the wearer as being part of PCC.

"I'm very proud of the PCC team and the professionalism with which they quietly manage a very complex personnel picture on a day-to-day basis," said Cdr Dale Turetski, PCC Commanding Officer. "The morale patch will serve two purposes. First, it will re-inforce that PCC is an integral part of the RCN and MARPAC's ability to sustain international and domestic operations. Second, and most importantly, will be an easily recognizable symbol that will identify those who work tirelessly and are behind that effort."

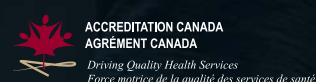
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Photos by LCdr RCN (Ret'd) Paul Seguna



CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum OPEN HOUSE

The CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum held its Open House on July 13. Over 200 visitors attended this year's free event, which included dozens of exhibits and activities in museum square.



Tony Austin of the Victoria-Esquimalt Military Re-enactor Association in an authentic uniform portraying a Royal Naval Commander of the late 19th century.



Two military jeeps were part of the vintage military vehicle display at the Open House. The jeep in the foreground is from the LGen E.C Ashton Armoury Museum collection in Canadian Army colours as a Provost Corps (Military Police) vehicle, while the Jeep in the background belongs to CFB Esquimalt and is in navy colours depicting the days when these vehicles were used in navy service.



Victoria-Esquimalt Military Re-enactor Association member Perry Chow dressed in the uniform of the Second World War Special Operations Executive (SOE) seen at a display of weapons and equipment used by this group during war. Chinese Canadian volunteers served in Force 136 of SOE and received specialized commando training at camps in the Okanagan Valley for dangerous missions behind enemy lines in Asia during the later part of the war.



Members of the Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society, Mike Bush, Bill Andrews, Ron Hillsden, Ken Lockley and Bob Rainsford, pictured at their model display table.

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MS Hickford-Kulak inspects a .50 calibre machine gun.

Photos by Corporal Stuart Evans, Borden Imaging Services



LS Jeremy Howick acts as a lookout.



MS Brodie Bunnell (left) and AB Jopp Koerten deploy the ship's Canadian Towed Array Sonar System.



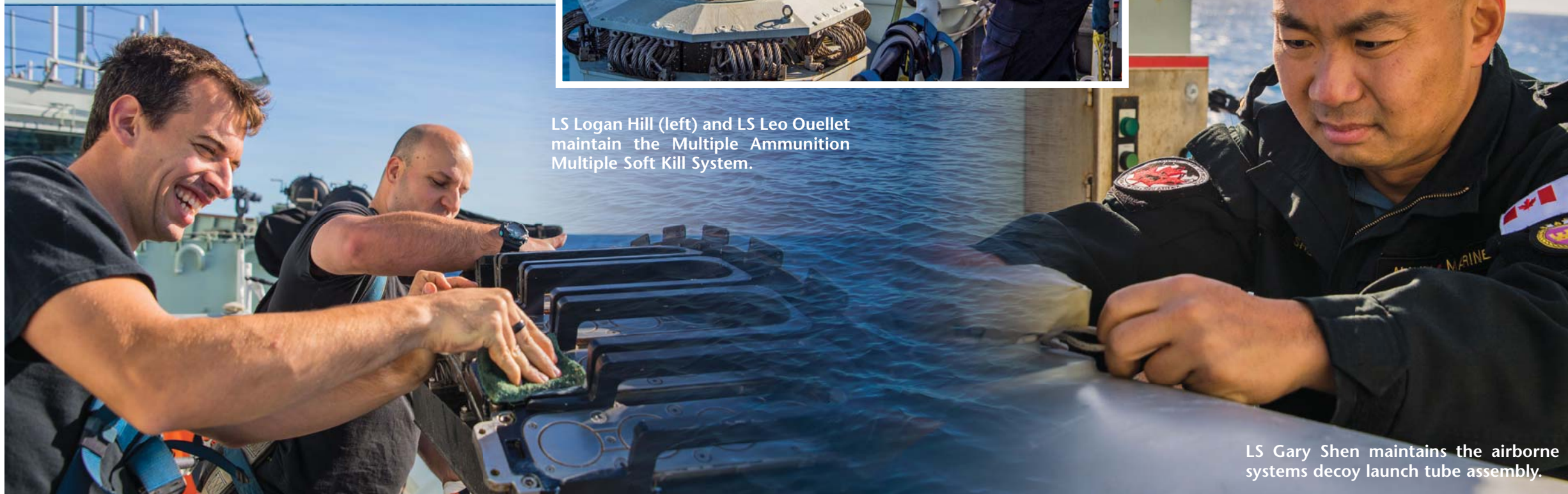
HMCS REGINA *at Work*



AB Jordan Khayat (right) and LS Justin Grant deploy the ship's sonar tail.



LS Kevin Allan maintains the Multiple Ammunition Multiple Soft Kill System.



LS Logan Hill (left) and LS Leo Ouellet maintain the Multiple Ammunition Multiple Soft Kill System.

LS Gary Shen maintains the airborne systems decoy launch tube assembly.



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Sailors' canoe journey

Lt Cameron Park
HMCS Discovery

Since 2007, *HMCS Discovery* has supported the annual Pulling Together Canoe Journey by providing safety boats, planning and logistical support.

This year marked the first time Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) members crewed a canoe during the entire 10-day event.

The Pulling Together Canoe Journey is a coming together of groups representing First Nations communities, Indigenous youth groups, government agencies and community groups. The purpose of the journey is to deepen relationships and create cultural understanding and connections.

The involvement of the RCN in the Pulling Together Canoe Journey highlighted the commitment of the navy to foster respectful and meaningful relationships with First Nations' communities.

Participants were exposed to a wide swath of First Nations language and culture by participating in cultural events, traditional teachings, and visiting culturally significant locations.

"I saw how big the journey was; how many different agencies were involved; how everybody was working together - literally pulling together - and having a great time," Chief Petty Officer Second Class (CPO2) Rod Tulett, steersman of the RCN canoe, who visited the event four years ago. "At that point, I decided I wanted to get involved."

CPO2 Tulett and the members of the RCN Pulling Together Canoe family were exposed to the language, teachings, and cultural traditions of the Tla'amin Nation, near Powell River, British Columbia.

Before the new canoe entered the water for the first time, community elders "brushed" it and its crew with cedar branches in a traditional ceremony designed to ensure safe travels. RCN members acknowledged the elders with gifts and by raising their hands to them and community members in a traditional gesture of thanks.

The continued involvement of members from *HMCS Discovery* and other RCN units in the Pulling Together Canoe Journey will continue to honour and value the importance of reconciliation in the years to come.

The Royal Canadian Navy canoe family embarks on a leg of the Pulling Together 2019 Canoe Journey at Willingdon Beach near Powell River.

Photos by LS Brendan Gibson, MARPAC Imaging Services



Tla'amin First Nation elder Bev Dixon accepts the gift of a small paddle from OS Seaman Neil Parulan after a traditional brushing off ceremony.

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CFB Halifax: New leader for Canadian Fleet Atlantic

Ryan Melanson
Trident Newspaper

Acceptance for first of the Royal Canadian Navy's (RCN) fleet of Canadian Surface Combatant ships won't be until the mid-2020s, and while that may seem like a far-off date, Cmdre Craig Skjerpen doesn't see it that way.

"In reality it will be just the blink of an eye," he said, highlighting the importance of the many changes that have taken place in the Atlantic Fleet in recent years as the RCN begins looking ahead to the new fleet of ships.

"We're on a path to change the culture of the navy, and to continue to be adaptive in a world that is changing," he said in his final address as Commander of Canadian Fleet Atlantic on the newly opened Jetty NJ at HMC Dockyard July 11, before officially handing over command to incoming Cmdre Richard Feltham.

While joking that his exit marked the unfortunate end of the position being held by "Craigs from Saskatchewan" – referring to himself and his predecessor RAdm Craig Baines – he said he was happy to hand over the job to his longtime colleague.

Cmdre Skjerpen got technical in describing some of the many changes and new initiatives undertaken by the Fleet during his time in command, mentioning changes to watch rotations, leadership, and mentorship structures, crew flexibility, attack-team size reduction, the introduction of Asterix, and more. He also talked about new technologies such as land-attack missiles, low-frequency active sonars and UAVs that are being adopted.

"I'm heartened by the fact there are terms and ideas that are new to me but will soon be in the everyday vernacular of every sailor here," he said. "The level of ingenuity, flexibility, change initiative and change management has been nothing short of fantastic. The Fleet and readiness team has astonished me with how much they've been able to accomplish."

RAdm Craig Baines, Commander Maritime Forces

Atlantic, presided over the ceremony, and credited Cmdre Skjerpen for excelling in a demanding job while being an agent of positive change for the Fleet and the Formation.

The Commander of Canadian Fleet Atlantic role requires strategic communication, planning and networking skills, along with the ability to command multiple ships at sea in austere environments, he said.

"Craig has done this multiple times with incredible success, as particularly evidenced during his time commanding numerous ships during Trident Juncture 18 last year."

RAdm Baines noted that Cmdre Feltham will soon have a similar opportunity as he steps into the command role, set to command a multinational task group at sea during Cutlass Fury 19 off Halifax this September.

A new Fleet Commander will also mean new perspectives and fresh ideas among the senior leadership of the formation, he said.

"I absolutely look forward to having his counsel and advice as part of the team."

Cmdre Feltham is a former Commander of MOG 5, and is being welcomed back to the east coast after a posting in Ottawa, serving most recently as Director General Naval Force Development. This is the third time in his career that he and Cmdre Skjerpen have exchanged command responsibilities, and he said he was humbled to be taking over from a good friend.

"It's hard for me to express how I feel and how honoured I am to be coming back to the fleet in this role," he said, adding the special connection he feels to the city

where he met his wife Michelle and started his family.

"No matter how far away I've been from Halifax, my heart has always remained here."

Cmdre Feltham added he was looking forward to the next two years, beginning with the excitement of Cutlass Fury 19, then heading into delivery of the first Harry DeWolf-Class ship, and continuing with further changes aimed at preparing for the future while maintaining the reliability that east coast ships and crews have become known for.

"There's change coming, and we have to put all our energy and attention on making sure we give our sailors the tools to succeed. That's my number one priority."



Photo by Cpl David Veldman, FIS

From left, outgoing Commander Canadian Fleet Atlantic, Cmdre Skjerpen; RAdm Craig Baines, Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic, with incoming Commander Cmdre Richard Feltham at the Change of Command ceremony July 11.

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CFHA pilots mobile workstation

Peter Mallett
Staff Writer

Staff at the Esquimalt Canadian Forces Housing Agency (CFHA) are piloting a mobile workstation (tablet) initiative so they can work in the field and stay connected to the office.

The Esquimalt Housing Service Centre manages 710 Residential Housing Units (RHUs), homes for currently serving members and their families.

Their technical team is responsible to keep the houses in good order, which often means being on site to liaise with the occupants or the contractors assigned to do certain maintenance work.

Having access to information and the ability to create work orders on location is a game-changer for the staff, says Anne Corkery, CFHA HSC Manager.

"We are able to get our technical team and contractors on site quicker and get updated information to our office staff and customer service representatives instantly," she says.

The mobile workstation is a large tablet that allows staff to tether it through their Blackberry so they can be connected to the CFHA server.

This new way of doing business has changed how they handle hard copy paperwork. Gone are the hard copy documents with the copious updates and filing of them in cabinets. Everything is now held electronically.

"This initiative has helped streamline a number of day-to-day activities and have allowed us to skip a lot of unnecessary steps such as scanning documents and sending them, and then acknowledging receipt," said Peter Churcher, Chief of Technical Services.

In using the mobile workstation, Technical Service Officers have access to interactive maps of all 27 CFHAs across the country. With a click on the map, CFHA employees can find detailed information on any RHU, including the address building type, number of rooms, square footage and also gauge the overall condition of the property and any problem spots.

This new service further enhances the CFHA's ability to improve customer service experience, said Corkery.

For more information about the CFHA, tips and updates related to on-base living and RHUs follow them on Twitter at @CFHA_ALFC



Seaspan's big dollar contract

Seaspan's Victoria Shipyards has signed a contract to perform docking maintenance work on the Royal Canadian Navy's (RCN) fleet of Halifax-class frigates.

This work has been executed by Victoria Shipyards for the last decade under the Frigate Life Extension (FELEX) modernization program.

The maintenance support for Canada's frigates will see Seaspan provide docking work periods for Canada's five Halifax-class frigates stationed on the West Coast.

The Government of Canada also announced similar work would be conducted by two other Canadian shipyards for Canada's seven East Coast-based Halifax-class frigates.

The initial phase of the contract awarded for Seaspan's work is valued at \$500 million and, with contractual extensions, will provide long-term stability for Seaspan's workforce over the next several decades.

Work will be conducted at Seaspan's Victoria Shipyards, which operates out of the federally owned Esquimalt Graving Dock.



The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Public Services and Procurement and Accessibility, greets trades workers with Joe O'Rourke, Vice President and General Manager, Seaspan Victoria Shipyards.



Naval Fleet School Pacific Certificates, Awards and Promotions

Lieutenant Commander Daniel O'Regan, Commandant of Naval Fleet School Pacific, presented certificates during the Weapons Engineering Technician Maintenance Manager course ceremony on July 11.



PO2 Beaudet received his certificate of completion.



PO2 Benedict received his certificate of completion.



PO2 Cantwell received his certificate of completion.



PO2 Ferraro received his certificate of completion.



PO2 Firth received his certificate of completion.



PO2 Larson received his certificate of completion.



PO1 Tarso received his certificate of completion.



PO2 Wamboldt received his certificate of completion.



PO2 Warford received his certificate of completion.



PO1 Zweers received his certificate of completion.



PO2 Warford received the Top Student Award.



PO1 Tarso was promoted to his current rank.

Bravo ZULU

Naval Fleet School Pacific Awards, Medals and Promotions

by LCdr Daniel O'Regan, Commandant



PO2 Troy Robins receives his Canadian Forces' Decoration Second Clasp from LCdr O'Regan.



CPO2 John Penner receives his Canadian Forces' Decoration Second Clasp from LCdr O'Regan.



LCdr Robert Freistadt receives his Canadian Forces' Decoration First Clasp from LCdr O'Regan.



LCdr Kevin Laycraft receives his Canadian Forces' Decoration First Clasp from LCdr O'Regan.



MS Miriam Searle receives a Bravo Zulu from LCdr O'Regan and from her fiancé PO2 Ben Critchlow.



PO2 Brian Rae is promoted to his current rank by LCdr O'Regan and Lt(N) Cousins.



MS Jordan Goundry is promoted to his current rank by LCdr O'Regan and CPO2 Calhoun.



LS Scott Steeves receives a Bravo Zulu from LCdr O'Regan.



PO2 Amber Oldland is promoted to her current rank by LCdr O'Regan and CPO2 Calhoun.



PO2 Martin Couture is promoted to his current rank by LCdr O'Regan and PO2 Couture's wife.



MS Alexander Brasche is promoted to his current rank by MCpl Brasche and LCdr O'Regan.



CPO2 Timothy Maybury is promoted to his current rank by LCdr O'Regan, accompanied by Chief Maybury's family.



MS Christopher Henrion is promoted to his current rank by LCdr O'Regan, accompanied by MS Henrion's family.



PO2 Dale Armstrong is promoted to his current rank by LCdr O'Regan, accompanied by PO2 Armstrong's family.

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