

Volume 59 Number 13 | March 31, 2014

# LOOKOUT

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## Base wins Spirit Award

Photo courtesy of United Way

The fund raising efforts of CFB Esquimalt were acknowledged last Wednesday at the 2013 United Way Spirit Awards. Pictured here, Capt(N) Bradley Peats, Mark Miller, Keith Campbell, and Capt(N) Luc Cassivi hold the Half Million Dollar Spirit Award given to an organization that raised over \$500,000 in one United Way campaign.

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# HMCS Regina crew members aid accident victim

**Lt(N) Mark Fifield**  
Op Artemis Roto 4 PAO

While on leave in Tanzania March 18, members of *HMCS Regina* rendered assistance to an injured driver at the scene of a motor vehicle accident on a major highway.

The crew members were travelling on Tanzania's major east-west highway back to the port city of Dar es Salaam when they came upon the accident. A tractor trailer had collided with another vehicle. Damage was so severe the cab of the tractor trailer was crushed, pinning the injured driver in the vehicle.

"The situation was chaotic when we first arrived on scene as the injured driver was in significant pain and distress," said Cpl Wade McAllister.

Military members took immediate action to control the scene, direct the rescue effort, provide first aid, and extract the injured driver from the vehicle.

Some crewmembers assisted the injured driver, while the others pried the cab open so they could extract the driver. Once the driver was safely out of the vehicle, an individual, who identified himself as a physician, took over his care.

Members directed everybody at the scene to return to their vehicles, and then resumed their trip back to their ship.

"I am very proud of how they performed as a team under these difficult circumstances and their actions are a credit to *HMCS Regina* and the Royal Canadian Navy at large," said Cdr Dan Charlebois, Commanding Officer of Regina. "The Tanzanians watching us on the highway that day will always remember how the Canadians helped a total stranger in his most desperate hour of need."

*Regina* is currently at sea conducting maritime security and counter-terrorism operations off the east coast of Africa as part of Operation Artemis. Operation Artemis is Canada's contribution to Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150), a multinational maritime task force combating terrorism across the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean, and the Gulf of Oman.



SLt Sean Mulligan, HMCS Regina

Members of HMCS Regina assist an injured motorist during a traffic accident on a major highway in Tanzania on March 18 during a port visit.



SLt Sean Mulligan, HMCS Regina



PO1 John Paul Jones, HMCS Regina



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Members of 3rd Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI) await instructions for the dismount entry exercise where they roll off simultaneously into the water and swim to shore.

# Soldiers train in the sea environment

**Kara Tibbel**  
Staff Writer

Edmonton-based soldiers spent three weeks on the island jumping from helicopters, zipping around the ocean in rigid hull inflatable boats (RHIB), and earning their sea legs on Orca patrol training vessels.

More than 300 soldiers from the 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI) were at Albert Head, March 9 to 28 for Exercise Spartan Trident.

The joint training exercise, which included naval and air assets, helps prepare the army's light infantry to operate within a joint construct in littoral areas and rugged terrain.

"Light infantry is all about mobility and our ability to adapt," explained WO Todd McKee. "These training exercises give our soldiers a wider understanding on integrating navy, air force and army tactics into one."

This exercise had platoons rotating through vari-



Kara Tibbel, Lookout

Edmonton's Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battalion undergo a briefing for the air, land and sea exercise.

ous naval and air force platforms, such as helo casting from a Sea King helicopter, and recovery skills of a capsized inflatable boat, as well as numerous small boat operations in conjunction with the Orca training vessels.

"This exercise has proven to be very successful with

the comprehensive integration with both the navy and air force. It has exposed our soldiers to new skill sets within a Maritime environment. Being from Edmonton, we are used to operating within a prairie or mountain environment and have limited experience with maritime operations. This has been a

great learning opportunity for these men and women," said WO McKee.

Such training exercises enable the Canadian Armed Forces to display their capability and preparedness to undertake operations quickly and effectively in any and all regions of Canada or the world.



Soldiers familiarize themselves with the frigid water at Albert Head.

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*Published each Monday, under the authority of Capt(N) Luc Cassivi, Base Commander.*

*Le LOOKOUT est publié tous les lundis, sous l'égide du Capt(N) Luc Cassivi, Commandant de la Base.*

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Circulation - 4,800  
plus 1,000 pdf downloads per week

One year subscription - \$66.94

Six month subscription - \$33.47  
Prices include tax.

A Division of Personnel Support Programs  
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Lt(N) Escobedo Bonilla

## HMCS Nanaimo sailors rescue tangled turtles

### HMCS Nanaimo

Sailors from *HMCS Nanaimo* rescued four sea turtles found

tangled in abandoned fishing nets in the eastern Pacific. The ship launched a zodiac after spotting the distressed creatures, and the

crew worked fast to free them.

*Nanaimo* is currently participating in Operation Caribbe, the Canadian contribution to

Operation Martillo, a Joint Inter-Agency Task Force-South mission to combat Trans-national Criminal Organizations.

## People Talk

Lookout asked this question:

*What has been your near-death experience?*



I had three heart attacks in three days. After the third one my wife took me back to the hospital and told the doctor 'You keep him here until he's fixed!' She saved my life more than once.

Chris Vanier



I had plans to raft down Hell's Gate, and everything was going according to plan. At the last possible second, just before we got on the water someone stopped us and told us the water was too high. When the water gets too high at Hell's Gate you're almost always sucked into the whirlpool. Glad they were there.

Kyle Rix



I was on HMCS Algonquin when it collided with Protecteur. I was very close to where the bow came through the ship. I ended up being in a very safe spot but it was still really scary seeing that happen in front of you.

Sylvain Verrier



When I was two years old I contracted osteomyelitis, which is a very serious bone disease. Luckily they found it in time, but I had to spend three weeks in hospital.

Maryse Neilson



I nearly went over a 150 foot waterfall trying to take a photo. I was crouched on a wet rock a few metres upstream and didn't notice I was slowly sliding into the water. By the time I realized what was happening, it was too late to stop myself. I dropped my camera and started grasping for handholds. I managed to grab a gnarly rock and pulled myself up.

Carmel Ecker

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# Diversity on board HMCS Nanaimo

**MS Daniel Robinson**  
HMCS Nanaimo

Earlier this month, *HMCS Nanaimo* departed Esquimalt Harbour bound for Central America to combat narcotics smuggling in the Eastern Pacific as a participant in Operation Caribbe.

Op Caribbe is Canada's contribution to Op Martillo, a U.S. Joint Interagency Task Force-South effort to counter Transnational Criminal Organizations.

This is an interagency and multinational mission, with the ship's company comprised of a Regular and Reserve Force, and U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement personnel.

While the Kingston-class is primarily manned by Class "C" Reservists, *Nanaimo* embarked members from many walks of the Canadian Armed Forces in order to provide the most capability and flexibility while deployed.

These include *Nanaimo's* core

crew, and members from: *HMCS Ottawa*, *HMCS Algonquin*, *HMCS Brandon*, *HMCS Yellowknife*, *HMCS Star*, FMF Cape Breton and the Canadian Forces Health Services Centre (Pacific).

Key members of the team include: a Regular Force army physician's assistant, who joined the crew first as a member of Sea Training for pre-mission work ups and later as medical support for the ship. When not attending to the myriad minor health issues that pop up, she enjoys assisting the cooks in the galley and searching for her sea legs, which, she has been assured, will show up somewhere.

Also joining the ship's company is a reserve force naval combat information operator who is attached posted to *Nanaimo* after recently completing his Bachelor's Degree with a major in biology from the University of Toronto. He decided to take a break from school and parading at his home unit of *HMCS*

*York* before he writes the MCATs and pursues his dream of becoming a doctor.

Reconnecting with his roots is a Regular Force Maritime Surface and Sub-surface Officer, who came to the ship having sailed previously in Kingston-class ships while on MARS IV and as a member of the Primary Reserve. Since his component transfer to the Regular Force, he has been promoted to his current rank of Lt(N) and is performing the role of *Nanaimo's* navigating officer prior to undertaking Fleet Navigating Officer training later in 2014.

These sailors and soldiers and many more make up the crew of *HMCS Nanaimo*. While it may seem like an eclectic mix, the diversity of this ship's company and the breadth of experience and abilities brought forth by all members, combine to make a crew that is capable of overcoming any obstacle and stands ready to achieve success on her current mission.

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Shawn O'Hara, Lookout  
 Liliane Lucarevski, Human Resources Assistant with Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Breton's Records Management Office, was connected with her position through the Federal Internship for Newcomers Program.

## New Canadians get work experience at CFB Esquimalt

**Shawn O'Hara**  
Staff Writer

Friends and co-workers gathered at the Wardroom March 19 to bid farewell to five participants of the Federal Internship for Newcomers program, (FIN) who found temporary employment at CFB Esquimalt.

The FIN program is a pilot project between Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Emploi et Développement social Canada (EDSC), which connects newcomers to Canada with employers in the Canadian job market related to their job experience.

"When I was coming to Canada I wasn't sure where I was going to work, if I would be able to find work in my field," says Liliane Lucarevski, one of five FIN program applicants who worked at CFB Esquimalt over the past six months.

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Lucarevski has been working as a Human Resources Administrative Assistant with FMF Cape Breton's Records Management Office since September 2013.

"When I heard about the FIN program I signed up right away. I had all these job search boards and resources at my fingertips. After a while I was able to

*With the FIN program it was a lot easier than I thought it would be to find a workplace that fit so well.*

-Liliane Lucarevski  
FIN Program applicant

find administrative work, which was what I did in Brazil. It was perfect."

To be eligible for the FIN program local applications must first be screened by the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre to test their experience and English aptitude. Following the application, participants are screened, and if they're found to be suitable for government work they are invited to a panel interview. From there, managers screen pools of resumes, and offer suitable applicant positions.

"I applied for the program in May and was offered a job in September," says Lucarevski. "I was surprised but excited at how easy it ended up being. The interview process was the most difficult, but after that it all fell into place."

Currently the FIN program applies to employers in the National Capital

Region, Toronto, Vancouver, and Victoria. According to Sonia Lesage of CIC, the program has ambitions of expanding to other regions.

"The Government of Canada leads by example in the integration of newcomers to Canada's labour market," she says. "Though we've begun the pilot program in a few key regions as time goes on other locations will be identified for future work as interest demands."

Lesage says the program was created as a reflection of Canada's commitment to giving new Canadians a leg up when it comes to finding new work, but also utilizing any skills and past work experience they may already have.

"Newcomers may lack relevant Canadian work experience, networking opportunity, or may not be familiar with the market," she says. "With the FIN program we hope to make it easier for members to enter the workforce and find employment which suits their skills best."

Lucarevski is thankful for the help afforded by the FIN program, and would encourage anyone coming to Canada to pursue it.

"I loved my job, and my co-workers were all very kind and supportive," she says. "With the FIN program it was a lot easier than I thought it would be to find a workplace that fit so well."

# Spring Break Cadet Style



**Cadets in B.C. did not waste time during Spring Break this year! They were busy and had fun with their new friends!**

**Top left:** The Army Cadet Regional Expedition returned home after a very positive and exhilarating week. Cadets felt challenged and had a good sense of accomplishment.

**Above:** Capt Graham Brunskill of Vancouver gives advice to cadet Thomas Jones of Victoria during a session on the outdoor range at Salmon Arm. Cadets spent the week improving their marksmanship skills, and competing for places at the national rifle centre at Connaught, Ontario.

**Left:** Sea Cadets from the northern part of the province get ready for a full week of sailing during Spring Break North Sail in Victoria.

Photos courtesy of the Regional Cadet Support Unit (Pacific)



Lt(N) Carl Mclean conducts the Honour Band during its performance in Vernon. Cadet Honour Band exposes cadets to a variety of opportunities, including travel, performing at high profile community events, and receiving instruction from professional musicians.

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# The very model of a Regimental Major

**Shawn O'Hara**  
Staff Writer

When 12-year-old Slade Lerch joined the 2483 Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) cadets in March of 1982, he never dreamed he would one day be at the head of it all.

Three decades later Maj Lerch, now Regimental Major for the PPCLI, is just as enthusiastic about cadets.

"I'm humbled by my position, that's the best way to describe it," he says. "I never thought I would make it this far when I put on my cadet uniform for the first time, and to be here now feels truly incredible."

The Victoria-raised solider says he was initially drawn to the cadets after watching his older cousin make his way through the ranks of the PPCLI cadet corps. After years of seeing him suit up and head off to drill practice his curiosity got the better of him.

"I followed him down one day, signed up, and fell in love with it immediately," he says. "The discipline, the history, the drill, the fieldcraft, I loved it all. I couldn't get enough and from that day on I knew I didn't want anything else."

Five years later Maj Lerch upgraded, moving to Vancouver to join the Army Reserves, and then the Regular Forces, gaining a commission as an Army Officer in 1998. He says without cadets he wouldn't have gained many of the skills that helped him achieve the position he has attained.

*I never thought I would make it this far when I put on my cadet uniform for the first time, and to be here now feels truly incredible.*

-Maj Slade Lerch  
PPCLI Regimental Major



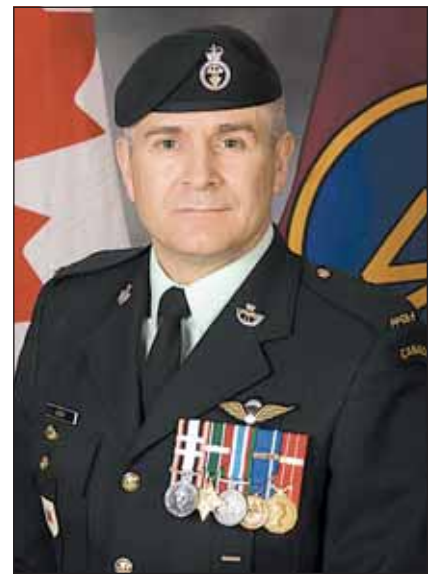
Maj Slade Lerch chats with Cadet Cpl Herle during inspection.

"I learned discipline, leadership, and accountability, which are all vital skills as an officer," he says. "When you make a call you have to be ready to accept the consequences of your team's actions, and I got that- at least in some way- through cadets. It was integral."

During his career Maj Lerch's childhood dream of soldiering around the world has become a reality several times over, with one deployment to Bosnia and three to Afghanistan.

"Ever since I was young I wanted to put on the uniform, be recognized as a Patricia, and serve my country around the world," he says. "Having an ambition like that come true in such a real and profound way was an amazing experience, and is responsible for a multitude of experiences and people I'll never forget."

As the Regimental Major of the PPCLI, Maj Lerch is responsible for maintaining and promoting the history of the regiment, which includes the Regimental Museum in Calgary. He says history is an important aspect of the Regiment, and is proud to be a part of it as the Regiment enters its 100th year of service to Canada.



Maj Slade Lerch.

"I learned all about the regiment when I was in cadets and have continued to learn about it all through my career," he says. "Now I'm a part of the history, and it feels incredible. What happens in the past is the foundation of what we do in the future, and with 100 years to build on, the future is looking very bright for the PPCLI."

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# Unassuming building has rich history

**Cpl Morgan Lewington**  
MP Unit Esquimalt

If you work on base, you may have passed a small wooden house in Naden – an unassuming single-story structure just down the road from Nelles Block, next door to the Drill Shed.

The building is unlike the rest of the structures at CFB Esquimalt; for one thing, it is without any official building sign.

It is known informally by those who frequent it as the “Thunderbird Club”, the social gathering place for members of Esquimalt’s Military Police (MP) Unit and their guests.

The building dates back to the early 20th century, and has an impressive history of various uses in peacetime and war.

Most remarkable, however, is that the building was the boyhood home for LCol (Ret’d) George Wilkinson, having been hand-built by his father and a neighbourhood friend in 1921.

This is why the building has yet another informal name: “The George Wilkinson Room”, or “GWR”.

George Wilkinson celebrated his 96th birthday Feb. 25 and this milestone did not go unnoticed by the Military Police. In honour of this event, Wilkinson attended an informal party in his honour at the GWR on Feb. 14.

Wilkinson was born in Esquimalt in 1918. He joined the Canadian Army, following in the footsteps of his father, who had served during the First World War. Although many of his friends chose the navy and a promise of setting sail for exotic locations, Wilkinson joined the Militia as a member of the 17th Fortress Company Royal Canadian Engineers.

He was quickly transferred to Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) thanks in part to the Regiment’s soccer team captain, who noticed his exceptional ability on the pitch.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, it wasn’t long before Wilkinson’s weapon-handling skills earned him a position as a machine-gunner aboard the SS Sheaf Water, a merchant ship operating in the North Atlantic amid the constant threat of U-Boat attack. He was quick to inform all his friends in the navy, who were still landlocked and awaiting their sea training, that he had beaten them to the punch in getting to sea.

Unfortunately, SS Sheaf Water would be later torpedoed by a German E-Boat on Oct. 7, 1942.

In 1941, then-Private Wilkinson transferred to the Canadian Provost Corps. He rose to the rank of Sergeant, and earned a Lieutenant’s commission with the Corps in 1943. A year later, he was posted to 9 Battalion Canadian Reinforcements, then to 13 Battalion and sent to Normandy shortly after the D-Day invasion.

He was attached with the Provost Corps, 4th Canadian Armoured Division before amassing enough points to return home. He arrived in Canada May 8, 1945, coincidentally VE Day. Just two weeks later, with the horrors of war behind him, he married his pre-war sweetheart, Isobel Cockburn. In time, he and Isobel would have two children, Patrick and Diane. Wilkinson remained married for 65 years, until Isobel passing at age 90, in 2010.

While he had been overseas, the military had been growing exponentially. The Royal Canadian



In front of George Wilkinson Room, from left to right: Maj M.J. Lemire, Sgt J.Y. Forget, LCol (Ret’d) George Wilkinson, Cpl L.E. Wilson, MWO D.R. Menard and Pat Wilkinson.

Navy had appropriated land surrounding Naden to expand the base’s territory. One of the properties absorbed in the appropriation was his childhood home. The little house that his father had built had been press-ganged into joining the Royal Canadian Navy.

The versatile structure served as a gunnery school, and then later on a rehabilitation centre attached to the Base Hospital.

Wilkinson visited the base shortly after the war and was at first disappointed to see the property, formerly known as 1342 Liverpool Street, sitting vacant and houseless. Moments later, he discovered the sturdy house had been relocated further down the road.

During the War, the navy had, for logistical reasons, lifted it from its foundations and repositioned it intact to its current location.

In a decision with significance, no one at the time could possibly

know, the utilitarian portal to the MP Branch’s living history had been spared the wrecking ball. Of the six residences appropriated, this was the only one to survive.

Wilkinson remained with the Provost Corps following the Second World War, re-enrolling at the rank of Regimental Sergeant-Major. In the course of his service, he rose to the rank of Major and was, in 1961, appointed Force Provost Marshall to the United Nations Emergency Force in Gaza.

Then Major Wilkinson was soon appointed Provost Marshall to the Royal 22e Regiment in Quebec City, shortly thereafter attaining the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1962. In 1965 he travelled to Cyprus to assume the duties of local Provost Marshall. LCol Wilkinson retired from the military in November 1967, following 33 years of loyal service.

But as a man not content to rest on his laurels, he continued to offer his expertise in security and intelligence, first with the Security Intelligence Division of the Department of External Affairs, then as the Director of Security Planning to the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

Having seen much of the world and giving immeasurable expertise to this country, Wilkinson retired for the last time in August 1976.

The “Thunderbird Club,” or the “George Wilkinson Room,” is a unique landmark in Naden and an invaluable metaphorical bridge between the serving members and the very origins of the MP trade.

The Commanding Officer, Unit Sergeant Major, officers and members of Military Police Unit Esquimalt were honoured to host George Wilkinson on the occasion of his 96 birthday.



Above: Now known as the “Thunderbird Club,” this Naden building was once the boyhood home of George Wilkinson, who recently celebrated his 96th birthday.

Right: George Wilkinson and wife-to-be Isobel outside the house.



George Wilkinson in front of the house on Liverpool St circa 1928.

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photos by Cpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services  
Capt Darlene Sych fires a C7 assault rifle under the supervision of PO2 Timothy Rose on the flight deck, off the coast of Africa.

# MISSION BEGINS FOR REGINA



Above: LCdr Gordon Roy, Executive Officer of HMCS Regina, welcomes the Canadian Defence Attaché, Col Barry Southern, on board the ship for a meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



Above: The Naval Boarding Party boards a dhow while the ship's Sea King helicopter provides over-watch support during routine Operation Artemis maritime security and counter-terrorism operations off the coast of Africa.



Left: PO2 Lance Ingeberg instructs the force protection duty watch on how to safely operate a Sig Sauer 9mm pistol.

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# Wounded vet sets sights on marathon

**Shawn O'Hara**  
Staff Writer

With the Antarctic ice barely melted off his boots, MCpl Chris Downey is suiting up for another adventure.

The CF-188 Technician stationed in Cold Lake, Alberta, having just completed a two-week-long trek to the South Pole last December as part of Walking with the Wounded, has plans to conquer the April 13 Virgin Money London Marathon.

This is his first full marathon, and with just a month left to train, he says he is now at the mercy of Northern Alberta's harsh winter.

"Yesterday was the first time I was even able to run outside," he says. "I've been doing all my training on the treadmill, or taking my dog for a walk as far as I can, but it's rough up here. I'm taking it where I can get it."

MCpl Downey suffered grievous,

life-threatening injuries in an improvised explosive device explosion in Afghanistan in 2010, an event that took the life of his friend and colleague PO2 Douglas Craig Blake. Walking with the Wounded was a natural fit for him, as it is a non-profit organization that provides wounded service members and veterans with opportunities to get their life back in order.

"I'll never forget the lessons I learned on that Antarctic trip, and the connections I made. There was no way I would say no to another adventure."

He isn't entirely without running experience. MCpl Downey has competed in a multitude of half-marathons in the past and undergone extensive training, but he doesn't mince words about his thoughts on the sport.

"I hate it. I really do. I understand some people have a genuine passion for it and that's great but I can't stand it," he says. "I love the camaraderie of

marathons, and the feeling of achieving a goal and everything associated with it, but the actual physical act of running is a nightmare for me."

While in London, he plans to re-unite with his fellow South Pole trekkers.

"When you go through something like the South Pole with a group of people they become like family," he says. "I'm thrilled to get to see them all again, it can't come soon enough."

His ambitions don't end at the London marathon finish line. When he gets back to Canada, MCpl Downey will begin training to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in September, another Walking with the Wounded expedition.

"They've given me so much," he says. "They've given me chances to show myself and the world that you can come back from the things I've been through. I'm honoured to be a part of anything they do. I look forward to more adventures in the future."

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# Museum presents annual garage sale

The Maritime Museum of B.C. presents its annual fundraiser, the Massive Marine Garage Sale on Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Pier A warehouse building at Ogden Point (the cruise ship terminal) on Dallas Road.

**Set-up time:** Bring your items on Friday, April 11, from 3 to 6 p.m. or on Saturday, April 12, from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Table or display must be completed before 9 a.m. Saturday.

Sellers, inside, includes table rental (individuals) and outside space Car toppers (kayaks, dinghies, masts, outboards etc.) and boats on trailers



\$35 (\$25 for early birds before April 1)

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**What to buy and sell:** All marine-related and outdoor items.

• Marine: lines, fenders, charts, winches, marine

tools, paddles, boat clothing, unopened paint, outboard engines, outdated inventory, fishing gear, sails, books, electronics, anchors, dishes, tableware, cushions, etc.

• Recreational: tents, sleeping bags, paddles,

kayaks, life jackets, tarps, RVs, rafts, trailers, camping accessories, hiking gear, sports equipment, skis, snowboards, etc.

• Selling Boats: An outside area will be available for selling small crafts, boats on trailers, Zodiacs, marine motors, masts, and RVs, etc.

**Do not bring:** furniture, hydrocarbons, engines with fuel, open paint cans, solvents, and hazardous materials.

**Entrance:** \$5 for adults. Children 12 and under are FREE. Parking is free.

There will be an ATM near the site.

To Register or for more information: ajones@mmbc.bc.ca or 385-4222 ext. 102

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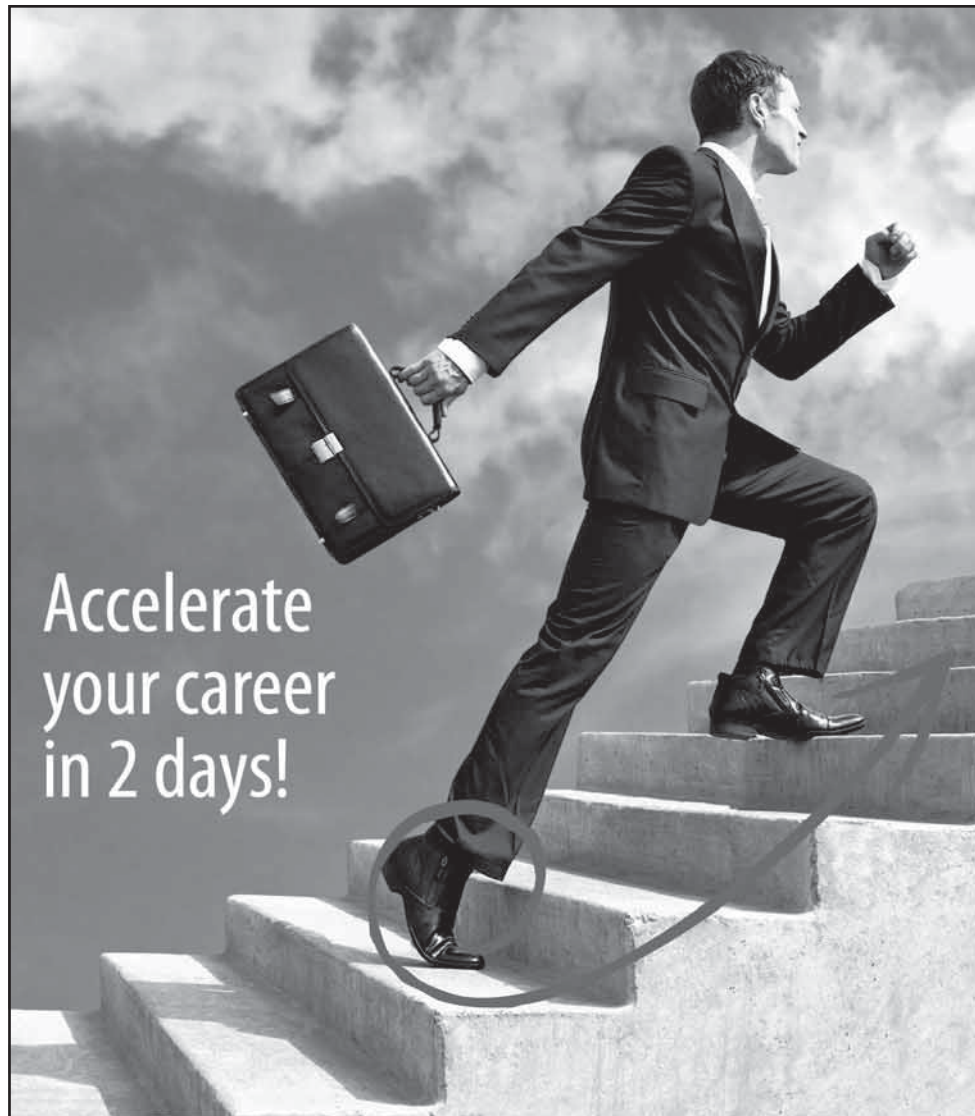
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**Bravo ZULU**

Base Commander, Capt (N) Luc Cassivi made several presentations to deserving members during the CFB Esquimalt Ceremonial Divisions, held in the Naden Drill Shed on March 20.

Cpl Blaine Sewell, MARPAC Imaging Services



PO2 D. Aubut is awarded with the second clasp to his Canadian Forces Decoration for 32 years of dedicated service.



PO1 (Ret'd) Ferguson is awarded with the first clasp to his Canadian Forces Decoration for 22 years of dedicated service.



MS Melancon is awarded with the Canadian Forces Decoration for 12 years of dedicated service.



MS Olejniczak is awarded with the Canadian Forces Decoration for 12 years of dedicated service.



MS Piercy is awarded with the Canadian Forces Decoration for 12 years of dedicated service.



MS Timmons is awarded with the Canadian Forces Decoration for 12 years of dedicated service.



Cpl Wells is awarded with the Canadian Forces Decoration for 12 years of dedicated service.



LS Breadner is presented with an Award for Aerobic Excellence.

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**Congratulations to Linda Scott from the MFRC and OS Janice Duncan from BADM for being active every day for a full month!**

# A new MARS IV class graduates

Commander Maritime Forces Pacific RAdm Bill Truelove presented awards and medals to students during the Maritime Surface Officer (MARS) IV graduation ceremony at the Naval Officer Training Centre.

photos by Cpl Brandon O'Connell, MARPAC Imaging Services



A/SLt Sean Catteral receives the Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy Award (Top Overall Student).



A/SLt Kristopher Hicks receives the Venture Association Award and Admiral Pullen Cup.



A/SLt Francis Holken receives the David W. Groos Memorial Shield (Top Student At Sea).



A/SLt Juho Bang is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant.



A/SLt Sean Catteral is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant.



A/SLt Kristopher Hicks is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant.



A/SLt Terence Kazimierzak is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant.



A/SLt Andrew Lauzon is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant.



A/SLt Gino St-Gelais is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant.



A/SLt Christopher Sulyma is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant.



Naval Cadet Eric Mullen is promoted to Acting Sub-Lieutenant.



Naval Cadet Andrew Quong is promoted to Acting Sub-Lieutenant.



SLt Jean-Olivier Clement-Lesperance receives the Canadian Forces Decoration medal.



Lt(N) Wil MacLeod receives the first clasp of the Canadian Forces Decoration medal.



Lt(N) Michael Wills receives the Canadian Forces Decoration medal.



Lt(N) Geoffrey Pye receives the top instructor award.

## Go the extra mile with your recognition!

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Be sure to include the full names and titles of the people in the photo, as well as the award being presented.



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Chris Weissenborn, Navy Photographic Manager  
Ships return to Auckland at the end of the Western Pacific Naval Symposium's Mine Countermeasures and Diving Exercise 2014.

## RCN tackles international exercise

**Cdr Pat Montgomery**  
MARPAAC

Twelve MARPAAC personnel recently took part in the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) Mine Countermeasures and Diving Exercise 2014 (MCMEX14) in New Zealand, Feb. 17 to March 7.

The focus of MCMEX14 was to practice and refine mine countermeasure and dive skills in a multi-national environment.

The Royal New Zealand Navy hosted the exercise out of their home base of Devonport.

Fourteen countries contributed personnel – totalling 635 personnel, with five ships taking part and 15 dive and Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) teams working out of the Amphibious ship HMNZS Canterbury.

The scenario was an advance force operation prior to a post-tsunami humanitarian aid and disaster relief effort by a coalition force, complicated by the existence of some misplaced explosive remnants of war, and a renegade group seeking to stall the arrival of aid.

A team of seven Clearance Divers from Fleet Diving Unit Pacific, led by Lt(N) Alex Delorey, participated in mine countermeasures and explosive ordnance serials in the water, in the very shallow water zone, and on dry land at the Whangaparaoa Tamaki Leadership Centre.

Additional RCN staff supported safety, and command and control. Three personnel from Canadian Fleet Pacific participated as members of the Canadian Task Group staff located in HMNZS Canterbury's Joint Operations Room.

Cdr Pat Montgomery was the N3 for the exercise, and directed the daily activities of all task group assets.

LCdr Larry Moraal, the Commanding Officer of HMCS Brandon, took a few weeks off from the ship to work in the N5 planning cell, and PO1 John Wood was seconded from FDU(P) to join the C2 cell working with the Australian



LS Joel Charpentier and Lt(N) Alex Delorcy, from Fleet Diving Unit (Pacific) conduct Pincer Operations, where they jump out of an aircraft and swim towards a moored mine to neutralize it.

software MINTACS.

Lt(N) Mike St-Pierre worked with the EXCON cell, and Lt(N) Lucy Gijzen was one of the Diving Medical Officers responsible for emergency response and the general health of all participants.

The exercise started with Force Integration Training alongside. During this phase, teams oriented themselves to the ships, and worked through basic drills needed for the exercise.

Participants also experienced a unique welcoming to the host country – a Powhiri, which is a traditional native Maori greeting to visitors. The entire village, led by the warrior chief, aggressively challenges the visitors to declare their peaceful intent.

During the second week, ships sailed to the nearby Hauraki Gulf to continue the Force Integration Training at sea. Throughout this phase, the Canadian task group operated a 24 hour tempo and directed all ship and team activities.

Ships HMAS Huon and HMAS Gascoyne conducted mine hunting operations, as well as seamanship with the mine layer ROKS Wonson. The RNZN ship HMNZS Manawanui conducted mine laying of exercise shapes, as well as underwater battle damage repair and surface supply diving. The dive and AUV team rotated through a variety of serials: MCM diving, AUV

missions, small arms firing, confidence (obstacle) course, demolitions, IED/EOD, leadership challenges, and Pincer operations (Helo inserted divers).

At the end of the phase, all were ready for the final tactical phase.

The final phase was a free play of MCM operations in advance of amphibious operations. Essentially, the task group was tasked to provide a safe transit area for the notional disaster relief effort, and they had a few days to achieve this task. Despite some delays due to high winds and seas, the task group located 16 exercise mines and were able to lower the risk to the follow on shipping.

The RCN dive team was chosen to perform the last task of the exercise: covertly receive a letter of surrender from the antagonists ashore.

Following the free play, the task group spent the final two days at sea hosting distinguished visitors and VIPs from the nations involved, while packing up their sea containers for shipment back home.


The task group finally sailed back into harbour on the evening of March 6. The following day was busy with post-exercise hot wash-up and final closing activities, during which the RNZN conducted a traditional formal sunset ceremony at their naval museum.

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