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LS Ogle Henry, MARPAC Imaging Services
Dolly Pratt carves the ceremonial turkey at the Veterans' Yuletide Luncheon held at Nelles Block Pacific Galley, Dec. 7 with acting Base Commander Trevor Ridley and Capt(N) Steve Waddell, Private for the day, looking on. See more photos on page 5.

www.forces.gc.ca/en/write-to-the-troops/index.page

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Wishing you the best of the holiday season

It's that time of year again when we look forward to the Christmas season and the opportunity to take some well-deserved holidays with family and friends.

As we reflect on the past year and the accomplishments of our Formation, you should be very proud of what you have accomplished. Throughout the year our Navy has continually demonstrated excellence at sea on operations and activities, whether it is deploying *HMCS Winnipeg* on Operation Reassurance, numerous vessels on Operation Caribbe, or on Operation Nanook where we sailed MCDVs further north than ever before.

Excellence also applies to our domestic operations to protect Canadians. We successfully carried out Operation Palaci again this year, providing avalanche control support that kept the major economic artery of Rogers Pass open throughout the winter season. As always, the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre tracked more than 3,000 cases and tasked resources to assist those in need. Whether it was responding

to SAR operations for the Russian vessel *Simushir*, the *Leviathan II* or any number of other SAR events, all those involved demonstrated to Canadians that we are on watch and ready to respond.

The Fleet continues to operate at a high pace, readying for the future. This year was no exception as we carried out a number of successful activities, including selecting the first Command team for *Harry De Wolf*, paying off *Protecteur* and *Algonquin*, and commissioning *Chicoutimi*. As always, supporting these activities locally were the Base and FMF; however, support was drawn from right across the country, including schools, PCCs and the NRDs. You have done a yeoman's work to ensure we continue to deliver operational excellence. None of this could have been done without the extraordinary effort from our team at home composed of regular, reserve and civilian members.

The biggest part of our team, the "Strength behind the Uniform" is our families. Their love and support keep us

focused, restful, and confident so that we have the tools and the wherewithal to fulfill our duty and mission to the Formation and to Canada. To our wonderful families – thank you for everything you do.

If you are travelling over the holidays, do so safely and remain responsible in your holiday celebrations. Don't forget to take a minute to think of our extended military family – those who are deployed or on duty and not home for the holidays. For our friends and colleagues who will be alone this year, consider including them in your holiday celebrations.

Please enjoy the holidays; you deserve this break to spend some time with your friends and loved ones. I look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year. It is certainly a privilege for the Chief and I to be part of such a great MARPAC/JTFP Team.

Rear-Admiral Gilles Couturier,
OMM, CD
Commander Maritime Forces Pacific



Mes meilleurs voeux du temps des fêtes

Une fois de plus, c'est la période de l'année où nous avons hâte de célébrer Noël et de saisir l'occasion bien méritée de passer le temps des Fêtes avec parents et amis.

Au moment où nous réfléchissons à l'année qui s'achève et aux réalisations de notre Formation, vous pouvez être très fier de ce que vous avez accompli. Tout au long de l'année, notre Marine a inlassablement fait preuve d'excellence en mer, lors d'opérations et d'activités, que ce soit le *NCSM Winnipeg* qui participe à l'opération Reassurance ou les nombreux navires qui ont pris part à l'opération Caribbe ou à l'opéra-

tion Nanook, dans le cadre de laquelle nos NDC se sont rendus plus au nord que jamais auparavant.

L'excellence s'applique aussi à nos opérations nationales visant à protéger les Canadiens et les Canadiennes. Une fois de plus cette année, nous avons mené avec succès l'opération Palaci, qui nous a permis d'offrir du soutien au contrôle des avalanches et de garder ouverte l'artère économique importante du col Rogers tout au long de la saison hivernale. Comme toujours, le Centre conjoint de coordination des opérations de sauvetage a suivi plus de 3000 cas et a chargé des ressources d'aider les

personnes dans le besoin. Que ce soit en réponse aux opérations SAR relativement au navire russe *Simushir*, au *Leviathan II* ou à toute autre activité SAR, toutes les personnes qui y ont participé ont montré à la population canadienne que nous assurons une surveillance et que nous sommes prêts à intervenir.

La Flotte continue de mener ses activités à un rythme soutenu, se préparant en vue de l'avenir. Cette année n'en a pas fait exception, car nous avons exécuté un certain nombre d'activités couronnées de succès, notamment la sélection de la première équipe de commandement du *Harry De Wolf*, le désarmement du *Protecteur* et du *Algonquin*, ainsi que la mise en service du *Chicoutimi*. Comme toujours, la Base et l'IMF ont assuré l'appui local de ces activités; cependant, le soutien général est venu d'un bout à l'autre du pays, y compris des écoles, des CCP et des DRN. Vous avez achevé du bon travail pour veiller à ce que nous continuions de faire preuve d'excellence opérationnelle. Sans les efforts extraordinaires déployés par notre équipe à domicile, composée de civils et de membres de la Force régulière et de la Réserve, rien de cela n'aurait été possible.

Mais la composante la plus importante de notre équipe, la « force conjointe », c'est nos familles. Leur amour et leur

soutien nous permettent de maintenir notre concentration et de demeurer reposés et confiants, afin que nous ayons les outils et les moyens nécessaires pour nous acquitter de nos fonctions et réaliser notre mission au nom de la formation et du Canada. À nos merveilleuses familles, merci pour tout ce que vous faites.

Si vous voyagez pendant le temps des Fêtes, faites-le de façon sécuritaire, et soyez responsables durant vos fêtes de fin d'année. N'oubliez pas de prendre un moment pour penser à notre famille militaire élargie – à toutes les personnes en déploiement ou en service qui ne seront pas à la maison durant le temps des Fêtes. Pour nos amis et nos collègues qui seront seuls cette année, songez à les inviter à prendre part à vos fêtes de fin d'année.

Profiter pleinement du temps des Fêtes; vous méritez cette pause pour passer du temps avec vos amis et vos êtres chers. J'ai hâte de vous revoir au cours de la nouvelle année. Il va sans dire que c'est un privilège pour le premier maître et moi de faire partie d'une équipe aussi remarquable que celle des FMAR(P) et de la FOIP.

Contre-amiral Gilles Couturier,
OMM, CD
Commandant des Forces maritimes
du Pacifique



Seasons greetings from the Base Commander

As Christmas and the holidays approach, we turn our focus toward family and friends while making festive preparations. Who won't be busy decorating, baking, shopping or travelling?

Looking back on 2015 it has been a busy and challenging one for the base. We have made some significant headway on major projects that are modernizing the Dockyard for the 21st century. Work continues on the FMF project, while the completion of the utility corridor has improved not only the ease of navigating Dockyard, but has positioned the base to take the next step with the planned recapitalization of the 70-year-old A and B jetties.

Linked to this work is our ongoing obligation for environmental stewardship of the harbour, enabled through the Harbour Remediation project expected to get underway in March 2016. In April of this year, CFB Esquimalt became the first base to transfer custodianship of all base infrastructure to the newly created Real Property Operations Unit (Pacific) within ADM Infrastructure and Environment. The transfer required a lot of planning and preparation to ensure operational support would continue uninterrupted, and I am pleased that folks in Real Property Operations continue to provide excellent support to CFB Esquimalt through their new organizational construct.

Ever mindful of our requirement to balance security needs with the impact on our people, I must express my appreciation for all those military personnel who took their turn over the past year by manning the gates, supplementing our valued Commissionaires; your positive attitude was noted by staff and visitors alike. We continue to make adjustments that make sense for the base, and the Base Chief has some further refinements that will be implemented in the new year.

A large part of my job as "Mayor" of CFB Esquimalt is representing the Base at a wide variety of ceremonies, events and parades, from the fun Superhero Day, to the Victoria Day parade, to the more solemn occasions like the commemoration of the sinking of HMCS Esquimalt. Each time I am heartened to see interest, enthusiasm and support for the CAF and DND and in particular the local Defence Team. I can confidently say that you are respected and appreciated by the local community, due to what each and every one of you does in support of CFB Esquimalt.

To return the favour, we will reintroduce a Base Open House in June next year with an exciting event that will provide an opportunity for you to show off your



MCpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services
Christmas portrait of Captain (Navy) Steve Waddell, Base Commander, with children Nate and Bekah and his wife Shauna.

capabilities to friends and neighbours as they meet members of the Defence Team. I know that I can count on all of you to work together to make it a success.

In closing, my family and I extend our best wishes for the Christmas season. Take some time to slow down a little over the holidays. Reach out to, and connect with, family and friends. Finally, let us not forget to extend our prayers to the families of those who have served this great country and are no longer with us.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday and all the best in 2016!

**Steve Waddell
Capt(N)
Base Commander**

Alors que Noël et le temps des fêtes approchent, nous pensons à notre famille et à nos amis pendant que nous préparons les célébrations. Qui ne sera pas occupé à décorer, à faire la cuisine, à magasiner ou à voyager?

Avec le recul, on peut dire que l'année 2015 a été très occupée et remplie de défis pour la Base. Nous avons fait des progrès importants dans de grands projets touchant la modernisation de l'arsenal maritime pour le XXI^e siècle. Le travail se poursuit pour ce qui est du projet de l'IMF : l'achèvement du corridor des services a non seulement facilité la navigation dans l'arsenal maritime, mais a également permis à la Base de se positionner pour la prochaine étape de réfection prévue des vieilles jetées A et B qui ont 70

ans. Associée à ce travail est notre obligation continue pour la gérance environnementale qui repose sur le projet d'assainissement du port qui devrait débuter en mars 2016. En avril dernier, la BFC Esquimalt est devenue la première base à transférer la garde de toute son infrastructure à la nouvelle Unité des opérations immobilières (Pacifique) du groupe du SMA (Infrastructure et environnement). Le transfert a exigé beaucoup de planification et de préparation afin de veiller à ne pas interrompre le soutien opérationnel et, je suis heureux que le personnel de l'Unité continue de fournir de l'excellent soutien à la BFC Esquimalt dans le cadre de sa nouvelle structure organisationnelle.

Toujours soucieux d'atteindre un équilibre entre les besoins en matière de sécurité et l'impact sur nos gens, j'aimerais remercier tous les membres du personnel militaire qui se sont relayés au cours de l'année dernière pour surveiller les barrières, en renfort à nos commissionnaires fort estimés : votre attitude positive a été remarquée autant par le personnel que par les visiteurs. Nous continuons de faire des ajustements sensés pour la Base et le chef de la Base mettra en œuvre d'autres améliorations au cours de la prochaine année.

Une bonne partie de mon travail à titre de « maire » de la BFC Esquimalt consiste à représenter la Base lors de la tenue de divers événements, cérémonies et parades : de l'amusante journée du superhéros, en passant par le défilé de la fête de la Reine, jusqu'à des occasions plus solennelles comme la commémoration du naufrage du NCSM ESQUIMALT. Chaque fois, je suis heureux de voir l'intérêt, l'enthousiasme et le soutien que l'on démontre à l'endroit des FAC et du MDN et, plus particulièrement à l'endroit de l'Équipe locale de la défense. Je peux dire en toute confiance que vous êtes respectés et appréciés par les membres de la collectivité locale en raison de ce que chacun d'entre vous faites à l'appui de la BFC Esquimalt. Pour les remercier, nous allons refaire, en juin de l'année prochaine, une Journée portes ouvertes de la Base, où vous aurez l'occasion de démontrer vos compétences devant vos amis et voisins lors d'une rencontre avec les membres de l'Équipe de la Défense. Je sais que je peux compter sur vous tous pour en assurer la réussite.

En terminant, ma famille et moi vous offrons nos meilleurs vœux pour la période des fêtes. Prenez du temps pour vous détendre; rapprochez-vous de votre famille et de vos amis. Mais n'oublions pas d'offrir nos prières aux familles qui ont perdu un être cher au service de notre grand pays.

Je vous souhaite de passer une agréable période des fêtes en toute sécurité et je vous offre mes meilleurs vœux pour l'année 2016!

**Capv Steve Waddell
Commandant de la Base**



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WHO WE ARE

MANAGING EDITOR

Melissa Atkinson 250-363-3372
melissa.atkinson@forces.gc.ca

STAFF WRITERS

Rachel Lallouz 250-363-3672
rachel.lallouz@forces.gc.ca
Peter Mallett 250-363-3130
peter.mallett@forces.gc.ca

PRODUCTION

Carmel Ecker 250-363-8033
production@lookoutnewspaper.com
Shelley Fox 250-363-8033
projects@lookoutnewspaper.com

RECEPTION

250-363-3127

ACCOUNTS/CLASSIFIEDS

Heather Catte 250-363-3127
heather.catte@forces.gc.ca

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Ivan Groth 250-363-3133
ivan.groth@forces.gc.ca

Joshua Buck 250-363-8602
joshua.buck@forces.gc.ca

EDITORIAL ADVISOR

Lt(N) Nicole Murillo 250-363-4006
Sara Helmecci 250-363-7060

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CFB Esquimalt, PO Box 17000 Stn. Forces,
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Web: www.lookoutnewspaper.com

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People Talk

Lookout asked those attending the B.C./Yukon Legion Foundation's Christmas Luncheon: *What was the most meaningful Christmas gift you have ever received and why?*



Best gift is getting together with my family for the holidays since we are all spread across Western Canada. The last time that happened in our family was five years ago and it was a moment I truly cherished.

Andrew Gates



We came to Victoria from Saskatchewan in 1947 and my sister and I wanted a doll-sized baby carriage very badly. My parents didn't have a lot of money in those days, so they went to Maynard's Auction House and bought us a real baby carriage and put an adorable puppy in it. We pushed that puppy around in that baby carriage for years.

Astrid Doidge



I grew up during the Great Depression in Northern Saskatchewan and I never had enough money for real hockey shin pads, so we used the Eaton's catalogue instead. One Christmas my parents ended up using that catalogue to order me a set of real shin pads and I was overcome with joy.

Bob Sears



My most meaningful gift was being able to spend one last Christmas dinner with my father, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Bob Clark prior to his death in 2012. It was so incredible that he was there for me one more time and we could share that moment together.

Brenda Parkinson



A gold watch that I found unwrapped after Christmas had passed that my husband had bought and hidden away before he died on Dec. 21, 2006. I'll never forget finding that watch. It made me so happy.

Loretta Boerkamp

Education key to understanding First Nations culture

The editorial below was provided by Sgt Moogly Tetrault-Hamel, elected Regional Military Co-Chair for the Defence Aboriginal Advisory Group for Pacific Region (British-Columbia) and Aboriginal Champion for 39 Canadian Brigade Group.

NDPAO (Pacific) invited him to act as a cultural liaison on a day sail for Aboriginal stakeholders from the Lower Mainland. He sailed from CFB Esquimalt with the crew of patrol craft Orca 55. Unfortunately the vessel encountered a brutal winter storm that forced the cancellation of the day sail and caused the vessel to seek a safe harbor in Washington State. Sgt Moogly made the best of a daunting 48-hour naval experience by conducting Aboriginal awareness training for the crew and even conducting a smudging ceremony at sea for the vessel's Aboriginal crewmembers.

On the Nov. 16 to 18, I was invited onboard Patrol Craft Training Orca 55 by its commanding officer LCdr Preston McIntosh to bring further Aboriginal awareness to the ship's crew.

After literally navigating through the eye of a storm, we laid anchor in Holmes, Washington, US.

The military lifestyle often

requires us to ground ourselves back to our roots. Conducting traditional ceremonies helps us to stay calm and focussed while blessing our path to come.

Following the severe storm, I found an appropriate moment to bring Master Seaman Graham Williams (Namgis First-Nation) and Leading Seaman Jarett Brumsey (Mi'kmaq First-Nation) to a private area of the vessel. There I offered to teach them how to conduct a "Smudge", a cleansing ceremony with sage. Afterwards the entire crew listened as I briefed them on Aboriginal awareness.

The cultural and historical acknowledgment was most welcomed by the audience and many pertinent questions were asked and answered.

I find it sad how little most Canadians know about our culture and history. Facts are too often replaced by presumptions. I believe these types of presentations where all questions can be asked – in a respectful manner – are the key to abolishing stereotypes and misconceptions.

When I am asked to host military information sessions on Aboriginal topics, I seek to inspire our military members and DND civilian employees to better their cultural and historical heredi-

tary knowledge. Contrary to the common belief, many Aboriginal people in Canada grew up without having a firm grasp of their culture and history. This is one of the many reasons why the Defence Aboriginal Advisory Group (DAAG) exists.

The DAAG network has the power to bring back these traditional teachings to our Aboriginal serving members and to better the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginals.

As such, I would like to encourage all those serving in the CAF with Aboriginal ancestry to join us and to get involved with the DAAG. Reach out to your Elders, read books, join our ceremonies and help us restore the connection. Perhaps you did not have the blessing as a child to learn your traditional ways, but only you can ensure that your children will be more culturally fortunate.

Gitchi-Meegwetch!



Sgt Moogly Tetrault-Hamel, Aboriginal champion for 39 Canadian Brigade Group, conducted a smudging ceremony at sea while Orca 55 waited out a severe storm Nov. 17.

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Holiday cheer at Nelles Block Pacific Galley Dec. 7 and 8



PO2 Geraldine Cooper serves up a plate to a guest.

MS Brett Poulin and LS Marc-Andre Pasquarelli converse with their guests.

Photos by LS Ogle Henry, MARPAC Imaging Services

Above: Trevor Ridley (currently the youngest member on base) was temporarily promoted to Capt(N) by CPO1 Robert Spinelli, Base Chief Petty Officer, and MS Brandon Ensom, Formation Master Seaman, at the Base Commander's office. He presided as Temporary Base Commander over the Veterans' Yuletide Luncheon at Nelles Galley Dec. 7.



MCpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services Invited guests enjoy a tradition turkey meal during the Canadian Force Base Esquimalt Annual Veterans Luncheon at the Nelles' Galley on Dec. 8.



MCpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services "Capt(N)" Ford Miller, Acting Base Commander on day two, prepares to carve the ceremonial turkey with a guest.



Lt(N) Lucy Gijzen serves up a plate to a guest.



Cpl Camonie Morris engages in animated conversation with Sandy Peden.



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Skate and Swim with Santa was a huge success with over 200 people attending this dual event, and 30 people staying for the entire afternoon. Santa arrived at the Wurtele arena by Zamboni, played games, took pictures, and skated with families. Later in the afternoon Scuba Santa arrived in the pool, which was at maximum capacity.

Families had an opportunity to swim and take underwater pictures next to the sunken Christmas tree with Santa. Event sponsor SISIP had staff members at both events handing out popcorn and a free lunch. Special thanks to LS Ryan Burrell, Bob Vanderford, Judith Coleman, Chris Pease, and SISIP for supporting this event.

Santa Skate or Swim

SUNDAY, DEC. 6



Underwater photos by Bob Vanderford Photography



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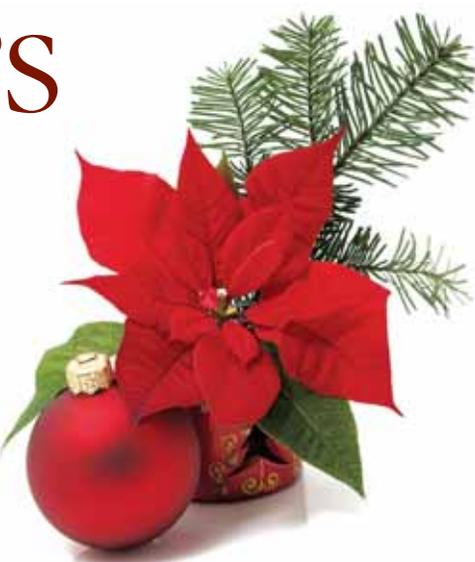
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Firefighter's legacy shines at holiday parade

Peter Mallett
Staff Writer

Base firefighters continued the holiday legacy of a fallen comrade this year by entering Pumper No. 450 into this year's annual Esquimalt Celebration of Lights parade.

The backup pumper for CFB Esquimalt's Fire and Rescue Services was adorned with over 1,000 Christmas lights and took home top prize for Best Decorated Vehicle at the Dec. 6 holiday event hosted by the Township of Esquimalt.

"Winning the prize was very much a team effort," said fire department chief, Steve Mullen. "But the whole reason behind our involvement is to do something festive within the community. It makes the guys and girls in this unit feel good and they always make a big effort to do it up right."

A big part of the unit's past success was the enthu-

siastic involvement of veteran firefighter Dave Hill. Mullen says Hill took it upon himself to spearhead the annual tradition of lighting up the truck for the holidays throughout his 22 years at the station.

But on Nov. 19, 2011, 54-year-old Hill was diagnosed with terminal lung and esophageal cancer after a routine trip to the family doctor. His co-workers rallied around Hill and his family, raising enough money for them to visit Hawaii in January 2012. Hill died seven months later and was honoured at the 11th annual Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial in August 2014.

Mullen says Hill's legacy lives on each year when they flick the switch and the fire truck is set aglow.

"Decorating the fire truck was a labour of love for Dave, I know he'd be smiling if he found out we kept his winning tradition alive," said Mullen. "He was always at the epicentre of taking

the bull by the horns and ensuring our truck would shine brightly. He would dress up as Santa Claus and buy candy to distribute to the children during the parade."

Mullen noted that Hill's understudy for many years - co-worker Bryce Patey - quickly assumed the lead role in decorating the truck, and did an "admirable job" again this year.

Hill's grown daughter Courtney was able to attend the event on his behalf.

"It was a personal touch to acknowledge the Hill family," Mullen said. "Getting her involved in this year's event was simply the right thing to do and I know she was touched by the gesture."

Despite blustery and wet weather conditions, a large crowd lined the parade route that ran along Esquimalt Road. The parade featured trucks and other large vehicles from various community organizations and businesses, all adorned with Christmas lights. Mullen

said his unit did not participate in Esquimalt's Celebration of Lights last year, but have won the top prize at previous events on more than one occasion.

"I was so pleased to hear Esquimalt Mayor Barbara Desjardins announce our Fire Hall had won the award for the exceptional job they did decorating the truck," said Base Commander Capt(N) Steve Waddell. "Events such as these provide an excellent informal opportunity for us to meet with residents in the community we work in. Bravo Zulu not only to the Fire Hall for their win, but also to the Military Police team who decorated their RHIB, and members of the Formation who participated in the parade."

Pumper No. 450 also appeared in a similar event in Metchosin on Dec. 13. Mullen concluded his unit is already looking to keeping Hill's tradition "shining brightly" next holiday season.



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Holiday best wishes!

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Operation Caribe - Brandon, Whitehorse at-sea success

Lt(N) Greg Menzies,
MARPAC Public Affairs

When *HMC Ships Brandon* and *Whitehorse* reached their area of responsibility during Operation Caribe, they were ready to work with partners and make a difference in the fight against illicit narcotics in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

During the long transit south, both ships conducted sea training that was necessary to familiarize every sailor about ship procedures, routines and emergency drills. This training confirmed the ships' ability to conduct a wide range of operations at sea, and achieve the standard readiness needed on Operation Caribe.

Operation Caribe is Canada's contribution to Operation Martillo, a U.S. Joint Interagency Task Force South-led interagency and multinational effort among Western Hemisphere and European nations, designed to improve regional security and deter criminal activity.

"Weather and sea states during mission workups were rough, but despite this

every member overcame adversity and persevered as they knew they had to complete their assigned duties," said Lieutenant-Commander Landon Creasy, *Brandon's* Commanding Officer. "Sailors on both ships were well trained and qualified in everything they did to prepare them for this deployment."

The operation began as the ships left San Diego, California, with embarked United States Coast Guard (USCG) Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) teams. The mission for *Brandon* and *Whitehorse* was to support the LEDET teams, who conduct the boarding and seizures of suspect vessels in accordance with bilateral agreements signed between the United States and Central American nations.

During the deployment, the ships also conducted two passenger exchanges (PASSEX) that were organized between *Brandon*, *Whitehorse*, the USCG, United States Navy (USN) and the Mexican Navy.

The Royal Canadian Navy has a long standing tradition of conducting

PASSEXs with its allied partners. It allows members from each nation to visit other allied ships while in a theatre of operation. The PASSEX gives naval members the opportunity to familiarize themselves with other ships, receive mutual training, interact with crew members, and exchange information and ideas. These exchanges serve to strengthen relationships and forge new ones which contribute to operational effectiveness for current and future operations at home and abroad.

The recent successes and friendships made during this deployment can be attributed to one thing - teamwork. Keeping a minor war vessel fully operational at sea requires hard work, long hours, and determination from every department and member on board.

"It takes teamwork to address challenges at sea," said Petty Officer Second Class Luc Trudeau, an electrician onboard *Brandon*. "There is nothing more satisfying than operating in this type of environment knowing that teamwork keeps our ships mission capable."

Since leaving their home port of Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt on Oct. 23, the Royal Canadian Navy ships assisted the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) in the seizure and disruption of cocaine in international waters of the Eastern Pacific Ocean off the coast of Central and South America.

- Since deploying in late October each ship with 38 crew aboard have patrolled waters in joint operations involving ships from the USCG and various

Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

- A total of seven disruptions were accomplished during the deployment resulting in approximately 9,800 kg of cocaine being seized or disrupted.
- HMC Ships *Brandon* and *Whitehorse*, each with a U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment aboard, worked jointly on four of the seven cases.
- HMCS *Brandon* is credited with two additional interdic-

tions, and HMCS *Whitehorse* with one, during the deployment.

- Counter-smuggling operations involved coordinated patrols and interdictions involving U.S. military and law enforcement agencies as well as partner nations in the region.
- Additional details on individual interdictions are not available at this time due to ongoing investigations, law enforcement activity, or legal proceedings.

Engineers keep

Lt(N) Greg Menzies
MARPAC Public Affairs

Keeping a minor war vessel fully operational at sea requires hard work, long hours and determination.

In climates with extreme heat and humidity, the demands placed on a ship's mechanical, hydraulic and electrical systems could result in systems malfunctioning from continuously operating in these environments.

The engineering department onboard *HMCS Brandon* is all too familiar with the challenges of operating in a sweltering climate. The largest and busiest section on the ship has six Reserve Marine Engineering System Operators, a Regular Force Marine Engineer, an Electrical Engineer and a Weapons Engineer.

"The warmer weather definitely keeps us busy as it has the greatest impact on our operations," said Petty Officer Second Class Luc Trudeau, an electrical engineer onboard *Brandon*. "It's not only the air temperature and humidity that affect our mechanical and electrical systems, but the ocean temperature and salinity as well."

Despite working long hours in confined spaces with increased heat and noise, the ensure the needs of the crew and all the ship's systems are well looked after.

The Central Alarm Monitoring System (CAMS), in the Machinery Control Room, monitors all mechanical, hydraulic and electrical control systems throughout the ship. These systems include the propulsion system, hot and cold fresh water systems, refrigeration and air conditioning equipment, as well as the ships steering system.

"In this type of environment, we need to check the CAMS every 15 minutes compared to

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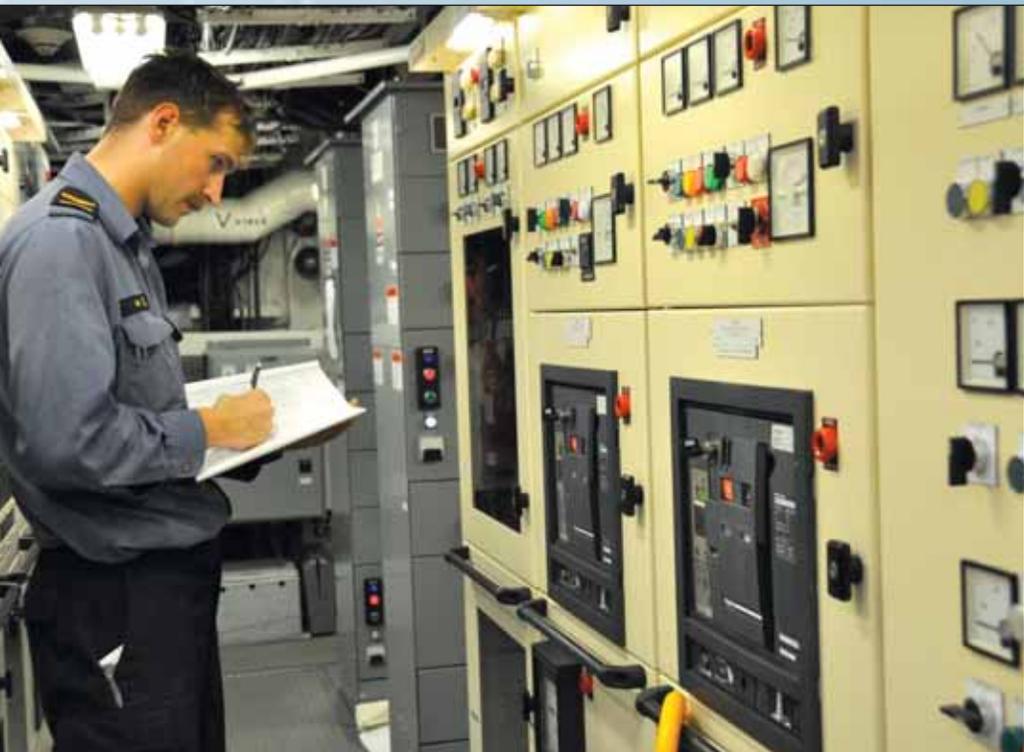
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HMCS Brandon mission capable

hour in more northern
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da," said Master Seaman
erine Van Blyderveen, a
ne Engineering System
ators onboard *Brandon*.
routinely conduct visual
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me a little more thor-
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ss pumps that are need-
o pump salt water into
system used to make fresh
while at sea.
e ship's air conditioning

system also requires constant
monitoring. In more temperate
climates, the air conditioning
system keeps the ship at a com-
fortable 20 degrees Celsius.
While deployed to warmer cli-
mates, the ship's air condition-
ing system operates at maxi-
mum capacity keeping the ship
at 25 degrees Celsius. To help
ease the stress on the system,
portable air conditioning units
are used throughout the ship to
help keep the ship's equipment
crew cool.
Additionally, most major
equipment aboard the ship,
including the ship's main pro-
pulsion system, diesel alterna-
tors, main port and starboard
motors, hydraulic and lube oil
system, shaft lines, and refriger-
eration system, are all cooled
using the salt water the ship is
floating on.
In warmer climates, the
ocean's surface temperature is
almost the same temperature

as the outside air. Warmer
water does not cool these sys-
tems fast enough so more fre-
quent monitoring is needed to
ensure mechanical and electri-
cal systems are operating prop-
erly. The warmer water used to
cool these systems can cause
an increase the compartment
temperature in all associated
compartments by an average of
10 degrees Celsius.
Before sailing to warmer
climates, engineers stock up
on extra parts and equipment
to mitigate certain challenges
while at sea.
"Teamwork is all it takes to
prevent, diagnose and fix any
problem at sea. There is noth-
ing more satisfying than know-
ing that, despite all the chal-
lenges of operating in a warmer
climate, a little teamwork is
all that is needed to keep any
ship mission capable anywhere
around the world," said PO2
Trudeau.



Master Seaman Kyle Uhlig, a Marine Engineering System Operator, conducts his daily rounds in the Main Switchboard Room in HMCS Brandon while deployed to the northern Pacific on Operation Caribbe.

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Operation brings holiday cheer

RCAF Public Affairs

Operation Ho Ho Ho took flight from Canadian Forces Base Borden, Ontario, Dec. 2, headed for Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto.

Santa's elves, who, rumour has it might be

members of 400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron on other days of the year, loaded up one of the squadron's CH-146 Griffon helicopters with toys, books and other gifts for the children at the hospital. The gifts were donated by residents of the Greater Toronto and

Simcoe County areas. The elves then flew by helicopter to the hospital where they delivered the gifts and spent time with the children – doing crafts, playing games and spreading some Christmas cheer.

"I had so much fun," tweeted Jess, a patient at

the hospital. "Made my day so much better. XOXO."

This was the 12th year for Operation Ho Ho Ho. 400 Squadron is located at Borden, but reports to the Royal Canadian Air Force's 1 Wing, which is headquartered in Kingston, Ontario.



Photo Corporal Michael Terry

Ready to launch. "Elves" from 400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, located at Canadian Forces Base Borden, Ontario, show off some of the gifts donated by area residents for children hospitalized at Toronto's Sick Kids Hospital over the holiday season.

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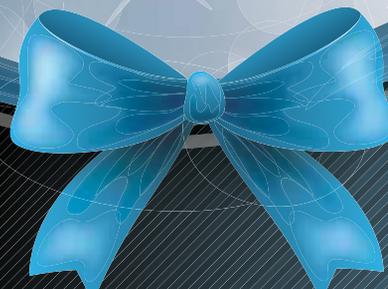
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HMCS Winnipeg team donates shore-time to worthwhile cause

Slt Jamie Tobin
HMCS Winnipeg

Eight members of HMCS Winnipeg assisted a local not-for-profit organization in Toulon, France, Nov. 19. The team went to Résidence solidaire les Favières, a local rehabilitation centre that provides a stable living environment for people in Toulon that require support. While they were there, the team painted living areas and took on landscaping jobs that provided the grounds with a much needed facelift. "The group did a lot of great work out there," said PO1 Timothy Hobson, one of the team leads. "We were able to accomplish as much in one day that their one maintenance employee could have accomplished in several weeks, and he was very pleased

with the result." The work party took on this community relations initiative during the ship's rest and maintenance period, a time that is set aside from major deployments to conduct maintenance on the ship and give the crew a brief reprieve from operations. Those involved in the event were more than willing to take time away from this period to lend a hand in support of the community. "We really appreciated the team's work, willing spirit and openness to help out," said Tim Rawls, the Director of Résidence solidaire les Favières. One team took on two painting projects in rooms inside the facility, while the other leveled ground for a functional clothes line and cleared brush, weeds and shrubs out of the facility's

large hillside property. "It felt really good to get out into the community and get my hands dirty," said LS Jose Villano, a Combat Systems Engineering Technician. "Volunteer opportunities are certainly deployment highlights for me and I was really glad that I could participate in this one." The event was organized by the ship's Chaplain, Lt(N) Matthew Squires, with support from Winnipeg's Forward Logistics Support. "Community relations events are meaningful events that impact ship's morale by contributing to esprit de corps and at the same time, are lot of fun," said Padre Squires. "We are fortunate to have a great team of individuals in Winnipeg eager to serve the communities we visit."



Photos by Slt Jamie Tobin, HMCS Winnipeg
LS Jose Villano, LS Andrew Drake and AS Matthew White from HMCS Winnipeg help with renovations at the Résidence solidaire les Favières in Toulon, France, during a break from Operation Reassurance Nov. 18.



Crew members of HMCS Winnipeg make up the work party that donated people hours to fixing a French rehabilitation centre.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

In the Spirit of the Season, we want to express our sincere appreciation for your longstanding partnership, dedicated support and valued contributions to the Canadian Armed Forces community.

We wish you and yours a Happy Holiday Season and prosperous New Year!

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Photographers shine at contest awards

Pascale Lalonde
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In a delightful twist, winning photographers were the subject of photos, standing in front of the camera with guests, the spotlight shining on them.

Photographers were joined by distinguished guests Nov. 25 at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa to celebrate the winners of the 2015 Canadian Armed Forces Photography Contest.

Over 1,700 entries were submitted by 280 of the Forces' leading snapshot artists. Winning photographs were chosen by a jury who did not have an easy task given the quality of images received.

Winners included LCol (Ret) Jean Lapointe of Gatineau and Paul McKeen of Winnipeg as Photographer of the Year in the Advanced and Novice categories, respectively. The Vice Chief of the Defence Staff Award

Winner went to Maj Jean-François Dupont of CFB Comox; Best in Show was awarded to Sgt Yannick Bedard, ADM(PA), in the Advanced category, while the National Capital's François Lourette won in the Novice category.

Recently transferred to the Combat Camera Section, Sgt Bedard was deployed on operations around the world during the year, from England to Kuwait, via Nepal and Jordan.

"Opportunities for pictures were everywhere," he said. "It was finally after being encouraged by the photo editor of Combat Camera that I decided to take part in the photo contest. Like the proverbial poorly shod shoemaker, I rarely showcase my own pictures for lack of time. The photo contest gives good visibility to our pictures."

For the fifth year in a row, LS Rommel Billanes left the evening with the People's Choice Award, a well-deserved honour given his great passion for the art

of photography.

"Photography uplifts the morale of military members and their families. New to the competition is the Military Photographer Achievement Award, which is designed to recognize military photographers for their sacrifices, achievements and efforts. MCpl Michael Bastien travelled from CFB Esquimalt to receive the first edition of the Award.

"This contest is truly a great way to share CAF personnel's talent," remarked MCpl Bastien. "A picture can capture a thousand words, and is one of the most efficient ways to communicate with Canadians and members' family. More than simply communicating, Image Techs have a mandate to capture and archive military histories through their lenses as they could be used in later years in museums and books to tell our stories. How awesome is that?"

To see all of this year's winning images, visit the photo gallery at www.CAFPhotoContest.ca.

Cpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services

The photo below called "Flares of Grandeur" shows HMCS Regina's Sea King helicopter deploying defensive flares, which spout out from either side in a cloud of smoke and flame reminiscent of the wings of a massive bird. The picture was part of a collection of work that netted MCpl Michael Bastien the Military Photographer Achievement Award.




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MS Gordon receives his promotion to Petty Officer Second Class from Cdr Alex Barlow, Commanding Officer, MOG 4 headquarters, and Alita Marie Gordon, PO2 Gordon's wife.



PO1 Mann is promoted by Cdr Ed Hooper, Fleet School Commandant, and CPO2 Balcombe.



Lt(N) Kirby receives his Canadian Decoration First Clasp from LCol Peckham, Commanding Officer of CF H Svcs C (P).



A



B



C

SISIP winners:

To promote Financial Literacy month, SISIP Financial held a Scavenger Hunt during the month of November. Members were encouraged to navigate through websites, collect brochures and analyze their current bank statements. The contest educated members about SISIP Life Insurance, the new CAF savings plan and free tax preparation software as well as their own finances.

Congratulations to winners:

- A) Sgt Christine Gatherum won an iPod shuffle
- B) MCpl Darlene Svendsen won a \$100 Lee Valley gift card
- C) OS Marjolaine Plante won a Tassimo coffee maker



Bravo
ZULU



MCpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services Capt(N) Steve Waddell, Base Commander, presents Lt(N) Amanda Kihn with her Sea Service Insignia "gunmetal" with her spouse Naval Cadet Clayton Kihn in the Base Commander's Office Dec. 8.



HMCS Saskatoon's Commanding Officer, LCdr Todd Bacon cuts the cake celebrating the ship's 17th anniversary of its commissioning on Dec. 5. Saskatoon was commissioned Dec. 5, 1998, and is the second ship of that name; the first being a Corvette that deployed to the North Atlantic during the Second World War. Recently Saskatoon has deployed to the Canadian Arctic on Operation Nanook and Quimmiq and conducted acceptance trials for the Royal Canadian Navy's newest Route Survey system.



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Christmas and New Year mass schedule 2015/2016
Dec. 24
Christ The Redeemer Chapel Naden
7:00hrs- vigil mass of Christmas
Our Lady Star Of The Sea Chapel Belmont Park
19:00 hrs - children's Christmas pageant
19:30 hrs- vigil mass of Christmas
23:00 hrs - midnight mass of Christmas
Dec. 25 - Belmont Park
10:30hrs- Christmas Day mass
Jan. 1, 2016 - Belmont Park
10:30hrs- New Year mass
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Philanthropic beacon for Broadmead

Peter Mallett
Staff Writer

Rudi Hoenson, 92, is playing Santa this year to the veterans at the Veterans Memorial Lodge at Broadmead operated by the Broadmead Care Society.

The Second World War veteran, ex-prisoner-of-war, and survivor of the Nagasaki atomic bomb recently upped his dollar-matching contribution to the Saanich senior center's Overhead Lifts Campaign for the second time this year, from \$200,000 to \$250,000.

Jennifer Jasechko, Acting Chief Development Officer at Broadmead, says the overhead lifts will be installed in 229 rooms at a cost of \$5,300 each, and will "greatly improve" the quality of life for the residents, many of whom require the assistance of health

care workers to get in and out of their beds.

"Rudi's gift is an amazing Christmas present for the residents and staff," said Jasechko. "He has given the gifts of comfort, dignity, care and safety."

Hoenson was by no means a wealthy man when he immigrated from Holland to Canada in 1951, and says he and his wife Sylvia Mae (Hoenson) had very little money and "were close to broke." But the couple's investment in a small portfolio of Alberta oil-patch stocks gradually increased to \$40,000 and then eventually ballooned into a small fortune he says.

So far Hoenson has given away over \$3 million of his fortune to various community organizations in Victoria.

Last year, he started a \$100,000 dollar-matching drive to help reno-

vate resident's rooms; this year he upped the ante not once but twice.

"The money from other donors was still coming in and we surpassed \$200,000 so I said why don't I up the ante and make the total contribution a half million just for the fun of it," Hoenson said.

Some of the money raised this year will also be used to replace worn furniture and draperies in many of the rooms that are now 20 years old. Jasechko concluded there is still an opportunity for others to donate and their gifts will be matched. If donation cheques payable to Broadmead Care are postmarked before Dec. 31 they will receive a 2015 tax receipt. Donations can also be made online at www.broadmeadcare.com or by telephone to Shannon at 250-658-3274.



Photo Peter Mallett, Lookout

LCdr Simon Brown, honorary Aide-de-Camp; Rudi Hoenson; David Cheperdak, CEO Broadmead Care, share a jovial embrace during the annual B.C./Yukon Legion Foundation Christmas Luncheon at the Trafalgar/Pro Patricia Legion Dec. 3.

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