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Decades old mortar at Fort Rodd Hill removed by military

Peter Mallett Staff Writer

A Second World Warera mortar found at Fort Rodd Hill has been safely destroyed by two Clearance Divers of Fleet Diving Unit Pacific.

The item was discovered by a ground-skeeper while clearing underbrush near the perimeter of the Parks Canada facility on the morning of June 28. The explosive device was in a wooded area near Fort Rodd Hill Road.

PO2 Benoît Leonard and S1
Andy O'Brien, Explosive Ordnance
Disposal Technicians of the Maritime
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit, were dispatched by
the Canadian Joint Operations Command. Members of
Military Police Unit (Esquimalt) had cordoned off the
area.

The item was later identified as a British 2-inch-high explosive mortar. It was half buried in soil when PO2 Léonard and S1 O'Brien came upon it.

"It looked like it may have been [accidentally] dropped there a long time ago, long before the site was a tourist attraction," said PO2 Léonard.

Today, Fort Rodd Hill is a Parks Canada site, but it once served as a coastal defence system during the First and Second World War. The artillery

> the 1890s by the Royal Navy to protect the area from Spanish and Russian navy attack.

battery was originally built in

It took PO2 Leonard and S1 O'Brien about 30 minutes to identify the mortar.

"It's sometimes difficult when dealing with old ordnance," said PO2 Léonard. "When all the markings are gone, we resort to different means like key features to identify an item."

A closer inspection of the mortar revealed it was fitted with high explosives but had no fuse attached.

"It's a smaller type of mortar, used against personnel and light vehicles," said PO2 Léonard. "The main danger would be fragmentation from the steel casing."

After determining the item was safe for transport, it was taken to the Canadian Forces Ammunition Depot destruction range.

It is the mandate of FDU(P) and its Maritime Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit to provide safe disposal of any military ordnance. Their area of responsibility includes all DND and Government of Canada property in the Province of British Columbia.



It is the people that ensure CFB Esquimalt acheives mission success, says Capt(N) Sam Sader as he prepares to leave his post as Base Commander this week. These images celebrate a few of the Defence Team units and their employees.

Above: Capt(N) Sam Sader joined cookbook author Ruwan Samarakoon and formation cooks for a special tutorial on Sri Lankan meals during Food Diversity Week in October 2020.

Right: Members of Base Logistics and Transport Electrical and Mechanical Engineering celebrated the arrival of two new 60-tonne cranes to CFB Esquimalt in March 2020.

Below: Base Logistics Branch celebrated an anniversary pre-COVID19.



EQUIMAL

Farewell Message from the Base Commander

IT'S STILL HARD FOR ME TO BELIEVE, but this will be my last update as Base Commander before my Change of Command on July 15. It has been an honour to serve in this role and to work alongside so many talented professionals here at the base and within the local community and I would like to express my thanks for your support over the last two years.

I've always felt a strong sense of purpose throughout my numerous postings at CFB Esquimalt. There is something special about being part of a dedicated team, responsible for sustaining regular operations and capable of surging its support in times of global crisis or natural disaster response.

Over the last year and a half, you have all demonstrated just how important that surge capacity is and I have been consistently impressed with the professionalism and dedication of the base team throughout the challenges of COVID-19 and beyond.

Despite the unpredictability of the global pandemic, there are many accomplishments to be proud of. A high-tempo fleet schedule of international and domestic deployments kept us busy, while we also worked to modernize our processes through numerous digitalization initatives to ensure our people have the right tools for their job.

Significant progress has been made on our major infrastructure projects in preparation for welcoming the future fleet to our harbour in the coming years. We have also taken steps to address historic industrial contamination within Esquimalt Harbour, helping to restore the local shared ecosystem for future generations as part of the Esquimalt Harbour Remediation Project. The base joined together in support of those in need during events such as the Tug-of-War Challenge, chili cook-offs, Bring Your Dog to Work Day and countless other events that raised over \$440,000 for the National Defence Workplace Charitable Campaign over the last two years. These are just a few examples of the many achievements I've witnessed during my time as Base Commander and I couldn't be more proud of the team's success.

I can say without a doubt that the best part of my

time as Base Commander was the people. With every challenge we faced, I was consistently impressed by the dedicated military and civilian members whose skill and experience ensured that we continue to meet support demands and achieve mission success, no matter the obstacle. I am especially thankful to the members of our Defence Advisory Groups, whose guidance has been essential in our efforts to build a more inclusive, respectful workplace for everone. There is still much work to be done, but I am proud of the progress we've made towards building a modern, respectful, and professional environment for all.

Over the years, CFB Esquimalt has truly become home for my family and saying good-bye isn't easy, but I know the base will be in good hands under the leadership of Capt(N) Jeff Hutchinson.

Thanks for an awesome two years, team! It's been an honour to serve alongside you.

Yours Aye, Captain (N) S. Sader



matters of OPINION

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Two sailors aboard HMCS Winnipeg describe their experiences during Intermediate Multiship Readiness Training as a Bridge Watch Keeper under training.

Photos by Lt(N) Zachary Elliott

An Unusual Alarm Clock

SLt Nic Bell

HMCS Winnipeg

Being awoken by the general alarm at 0400 coming through the PA is certainly an unusual alarm clock.

I hop out of my rack, lit by red light, in a space shared with five others, three of whom are casualty clearers and two rescue swimmers (including myself).

Everyone dresses as fast as possible while the ship rolls 15 degrees - makes dominos on a seesaw look steady com-

We move as fast as possible to the upper decks to don a dry suit labeled "RESCUE" and hop into a little boat that will shortly be suspended two to three stories over the water. All this to recover our friend Oscar, a human-sized dummy who was thrown overboard for training. That's my alarm clock some days.

Life during Intermediate Multiship Readiness Training (IMSRTs) is a con-



SLt Nic Bell in HMCS Winnipeg.

stantly changing, chaotic event consisting of trying to stay ahead of the ship's program. Being a Bridge Watch Keeper under training just adds to the chaos. Attending briefings, running serials from the bridge, and responding to emergencies, every day is a change from the last and tomorrow will be different.

A moment that stands out was being the Second Officer of the Watch on the bridge for the first landing of our helicopter. Bringing the ship to emergency flying stations, putting on action dress, and trying to find a flying course to safely land the helicopter while working with a helicopter for the first time was a nerve-racking, yet confidence-building evolution.

A sense of anxiety was felt through the bridge as we watched the flight deck through the CCTV system, with the sound of rotor blades chopping in the background while the aircraft landed. We waited anxiously to hear "Trapped on Deck" over the net. Every time a novel and stressful moment ends, you go back to thinking "Okay what's next?"

Needless to say, the life of a Bridge Watch Keeper under training during an IMSRT program is definitely not routine.

Learning as a team

SLt Luc Steele HMCS Winnipeg

Heading back to my mess after rescue stations feels like heading home. I'm exhausted, but these emergency drills are as fun as they are necessary, and they ensure our readiness for deployment. I might be weary, but the pain is worth the gain. Plus, I hear the mess might have cake for dessert tonight, so what's a little soreness when there is chocolate frosting at the finish line?

This is my first posting to a frigate, and I am lucky to be learning with this crew. A good team is at the core of this experience. The welcome from the crew and their genuine desire to foster learning creates an ideal environment for training. With considerable patience, the crew has helped me adapt to life at sea. Learning on the frigate adds an important dimension to what we have learned in the classroom. It cements the theory that we have been taught while introducing us to the variability of real-world situations.

The most important "real world lesson" so far is the only consistency on a frigate

Training each day varies from launching and recovering the helicopter, driving the ship, taking safety precautions for electromagnetic radiation hazards, all interspersed with emergency drills and weapon firings to keeps us on our toes.

This being my first posting on a frigate and my first exposure to many of these drills, the support of the crew is immensely impactful. Learning is not an individual effort in Winnipeg. The crew takes you in as one of their own and enthusiastically offers their experience and knowledge to help you continuously improve. Every little detail matters. Something as simple as how to effectively drain and store a fire hose to maximize the efficiency of rapid deployment contributes to the smooth operation of the vessel, and the crew is dedicated and eager to pass on this hard-won knowledge.

We work hard, but always as part of a team. Through exercises, mealtimes, and



SLt Luc Steele in HMCS Winnipeg.

never quite enough moments of sleep, we are united in our common drive to work harder and be better so that we can be stronger for each other and for those at home. As part of this team, I am motivated to excitedly run towards new experiences and to conquer them.

Which is why, with the wind whipping past as the zodiac picks up speed, and with the silhouette of Winnipeg growing larger by the second, I look up and see the helicopter out on the flight deck and think to myself, "I can't wait until I can get a ride in that."









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Aviation, aerospace scholarships up for grabs

Deadline July 16

Peter Mallett

Staff Writer

The Royal Canadian Air Force Foundation is currently offering 20 scholarships for youth aiming for careers in the aviation or aerospace sectors.

Scholarships are valued at \$1,000 each and are designed to encourage students towards careers in science, technology, engineering, and math studies (STEM) or the aviation or aerospace industry. Deadline to apply is July 16.

Canadian youth who are 25 years or younger by Sept. 1 and are entering or studying in a post-secondary institution or flight school are eligible to apply. Awards are broken into three categories of eligibility: 10 scholarships have been set aside for eligible dependents and current and former RCAF members, five for young women, and five scholarships for students who identify as Indigenous, visible minority, persons with disability or LGBTQQIP2SAA.

The RCAF Foundation was launched in March 2021 with a mission to recognize, foster, and celebrate the Royal Canadian Air Force through community engagement, education programs, and commemorative activities.

"These scholarships are to inspire students and meet the rapidly growing demand for skilled people in the private defence sectors to be leaders in Canada and the world and there are few areas more exciting than science and flight," said Lieutenant-General (Retired) Michael Hood, foundation member and Commander, RCAF.

In order qualify for the scholarship applicants are required to contribute an essay of 500 words or video clip of at least two minutes answering one of two questions that can be found on the website: https://rcaffoundation.ca/portfolio-items/student-scholarship/





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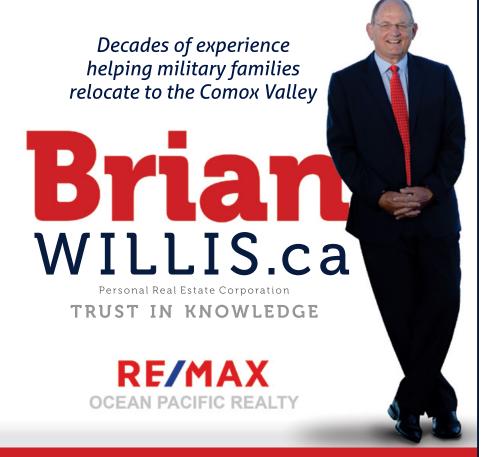
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SAILOR 1ST CLASS JESSE GISBORNE

Sailor 1st Class (S1) Jesse Gisborne, a Clearance Diver from Fleet Diving Unit (Pacific), is deployed on Operation Unifier supporting Exercise Sea Breeze 21 in Odesa, Ukraine.

Raised in Abbotsford, B.C., and a local of Victoria, S1 Gisborne, has always dreamt about travelling the world and living a life of adventure.

"I was a young man searching for adventure on the high seas. It turns out the adventure happens in port," he said.

Clearance divers such as S1 Gisborne are the Royal Canadian Navy's explosive ordnance disposal experts in both surface and sub-surface environments, with specialties in underwater demolitions, conventional and advanced unexploded ordnance, and improvised explosive device disposal. They are also experts in salvage, inspections, training, search and survey, hyperbaric medicine, submarine rescue, fleet maintenance, and dockyard support. They also provide support to Fleet Force Protection and other government agencies.

Among the many memorable diving missions for S1 Gisborne was his tasking in Tofino, B.C.

"A challenging experience that I can never forget was sailing our dive tender to Tofino to recover ordnance from a First World War wreck," he said. "The tow rope for our rigid-hulled inflatable boat (RHIB) parted in the middle of the night in rough seas. I remember the jump from the deck of our boat to the RHIB in three-metre swells was dicey. Sometimes getting to the job is the most dangerous part."

He has also been deployed off the coast of Libya during the Arab Spring in 2011 aboard HMCS Vancouver, as well as in numerous domestic and international exercises.

The experiences you share with your team will form friendships that last the rest of your life."

The Clearance Diver Team deployed in support of Exercise Sea Breeze 21 is comprised of members from both the Pacific and Atlantic Fleet Diving Units. During the exercise, S1 Gisborne is sharing best practices with partner navies in mine-countermeasures.

"We're in Ukraine to share our diving expertise with our partner nations and to become better divers ourselves. We're here to improve our interoperability with our global partners and support the Ukrainian Navy's dive capability. I look forward to making connections with divers from other nations. It's a small world."

CAF deploys 24 military personnel to support Exercise Sea Breeze 21

Major Christopher Daniel

RCN Public Affairs

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) has deployed 24 military personnel to Odesa, Ukraine, to participate in Exercise Sea Breeze 21 from June 28 to July 13.

This annual exercise is co-hosted by the United States Navy and the Ukrainian Navy, with the support of NATO's Partnership for Peace program. The CAF delegation supporting this exercise is comprised of Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) clearance divers from Fleet Diving Units (FDU) Pacific and

Atlantic, members from the Naval Tactical Operations Group (NTOG) and staff officer mentors.

"Sea Breeze focuses on the interoperability of maritime, ground, and air forces of the participating nations, and improves our combined capabilities to execute maritime security operations," said Captain(Navy) Robert Taylor, the CAF Contingent Commander.

The RCN's participation in Exercise Sea Breeze 21 is part of Operation Unifier, the CAF military training and capacity-building mission in Ukraine.

"Operation Unifier is Canada's contribution to assist the Security Forces of Ukraine through capability and capacity building in coordination with the other countries providing similar types of assistance," said Lieutenant-Colonel Melanie Lake, Commander Joint Task Force-Ukraine.

"We believe that Ukraine's security is our security, and we remain a steadfast friend and ally to the Security Forces of Ukraine.'

This exercise has 33 participating countries, 32 ships, 40 aircraft, approximately 5,000 troops with 18 special operations and dive teams.

As a part of the exercise, Canadian military members are sharing their best practices with the Ukrainian Navy. RCN clearance divers are sharing their expertsise in salvage, inspections, training, search and survey, hyperbaric medicine, submarine rescue, fleet maintenance, and dockyard support.

NTOG is sharing their techniques in advanced boarding operations at sea. NTOG is a dedicated unit within the RCN whose expertise includes intercepting suspect vessels to prevent the movement of illicit cargo and materiel at sea, called Maritime Interdiction

> Operations, and protecting navy ships, infrastructure, and personnel.

All CAF personnel deployed in support of Exercise Sea Breeze 21 have been inoculated with

the Health Canada-approved Moderna vaccine. They also underwent COVID testing prior to departure as a preventative measure, and are required to comply with local health protocols, wear a mask, observe physical distancing, and regularly sanitize

Exercise Sea Breeze has been conducted in Ukraine since 1997, in accordance with a memorandum of understanding and cooperation

between the U.S. Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Defence of Ukraine of 1993. Co-hosted by the United States and Ukraine, other participating countries in this year's exercise include Algeria, Austria, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Photo by Lt(N) Igor Polosin, CAF Photo

Above: Royal Canadian Navy Clearance Divers conduct a force integration training dive on July 1.







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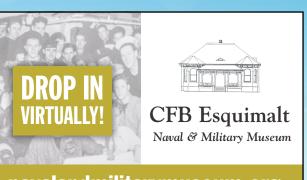


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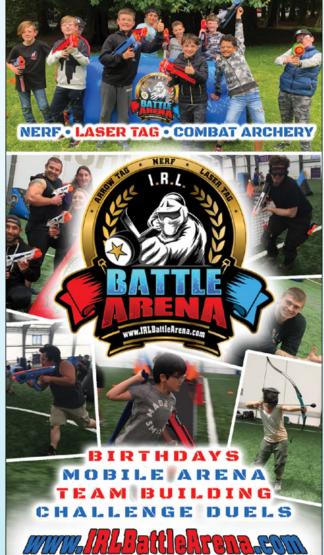
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Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth presented a Royal Banner to the Canadian Armed Forces Legal Branch

DND

It was a banner day for members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Legal Branch as they virtually engaged with Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Colonel-in-Chief of the CAF Legal Branch on June 22 for a formal presentation of a Royal Banner by the Queen.

"It was my honour and pleasure to have received this Royal Banner from Her Majesty on behalf of all members of the Legal Branch, past and present, who, for more than one hundred years, have served Canada with professionalism, expertise and honour," said Rear-Admiral Geneviève Bernatchez, the Judge Advocate General, after the event.

Royal banners are unique flags presented as special marks of Royal favour to commemorate specific services. The Queen hosted the virtual audience from Windsor Castle. Rear-Admiral Bernatchez attended from Ottawa, with her Chief of Staff and CAF Legal Branch Advisor, Colonel Robin Holman. Lieutenant-Colonel Noor Ahmed, Assistant Judge Advocate General for the Prairie Region, joined them from Winnipeg

and Major Angela Orme, Legal Advisor to the

Commander, Combined Maritime Forces Combined

Task Force 150, connected from Bahrain.

Following the formalities, the Queen spoke with each participant about their service to country, commitment to justice, and to family.

Col Holman discussed his responsibilities as both Chief of Staff and Branch Advisor to manage effective recruiting, professional development, assignment, and career progression of legal officers.

LCol Ahmed had the opportunity to mention

that he first met the Queen while serving as a Boy Scout during the Royal Visit to Stratford, ON, in 1973, which Her Majesty appreciated. He also discussed his official duties focusing on domestic operations, particularly his legal support to requests for assistance during the pandemic in long-term care homes in the Prairie region and to

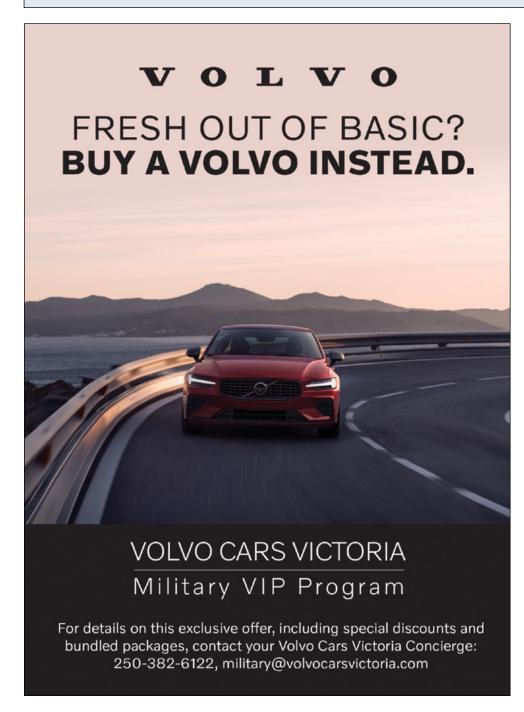
remote northern First Nations communities. He also spoke about his role advising on air security issues under the NORAD agreement.

Maj Orme provided background information about her deployment in Manama, Bahrain, headquarters of the 34-nation coalition Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). Canada took command of CMF's Combined



Task Force 150 (CTF 150) in January 2021. As the legal advisor to Commander CTF 150, Maj Orme supports every boarding operation to ensure they are proceeding with the proper legal basis and in accordance with the law of the sea. The Queen was interested in how Maj Orme managed her deployments with her young family at home and both agreed technology makes separation somewhat easier.

Her Majesty has graciously served as the Colonel-in-Chief of the CAF Legal Branch since 2013.







HMCS CALGARY HELPS PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT DURING MUCH-APPRECIATED VISIT TO DIEGO GARCIA



Photos by Cpl Lynette Ai Dang, HMCS Calgary Imagery Technician

After five months of being in a COVID-free social bubble, the crew of *HMCS Calgary* finally got a real port visit when they visited the small British Indian Ocean Territory Island of Diego Garcia, home to United States Navy Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia.

The crew had visited a few foreign countries throughout the deployment, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic port visits were considered technical visits and the ship's company could not leave a cordened off area on the jetty.

In Diego Garcia it was a time to relax, interact with crewmates and others off ship, and for some of the ship's company it was an opportunity to help the British Forces and United States Navy protect the environment.

Diego Garcia is an isolated atoll rarely visited by outsiders. It is known for its natural beauty that includes fine white-sanded beaches, with sea turtles, coconut crabs, and a diverse and vibrant sea life surrounding it. However, plastic from the ocean ends up on its shores and can create problems for the local sea turtle population. *Calgary's* crew stepped in to help clean up.

"The plastic breaks down into microplastics in the sand where sea turtles tend to nest," explained Lieutenant Commander (LCdr) John Quay, Command Chaplain for Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia. "For marine turtle eggs, incubation temperature is destiny. Sea turtles have temperature dependent sex determination, which means their sex is determined by the sand temperature. Changes in incubation

In an activity organized by Calgary's embarked chaplain Lieutenant (Navy) Wilson Gonese and LCdr Quay, 31 members of the ship got up at the break of dawn, drove out to the island's Oceanside R-site Beach, and cleared washed up debris from a one-kilometre stretch. They gathered about 80 bags of trash weighing 640 lbs.

"We are very grateful for the sacrifice and hard work of the 30-plus crew of *HMCS Calgary* that gave up several hours of a very short liberty call on a tropical island to help beautify our beaches, and more importantly, to significantly help our sea turtle population," said LCdr Quay.

The island of Diego Garcia provided a great rest for the ship's company after sussessfully completing Operation Artemis where the crew set the record for the most successful interdictions by any ship on a single rotation in the history of the operation. The ship is now on Operation Projection and their next major activity will be participation in Exercise Talisman Sabre, a major biennial international exercise off the coast of Australia.

"We are very thankful to our British and American partners for providing us the opportunity to take a much-needed rest in Diego Garcia. The fact that we were also able to contribute to maintaining the island's natural beauty is just an amazing bonus for us," said Commander Mark O'Donohue, Calgary's Commanding Officer.





Photo by S1 Kendric C.W. Grasby, Canadian Armed Forces Photo

Commander Jonathan Audy took command of Base Logistics June 29 following a change of command ceremoney. Pictured here: Captain (Navy) Sam Sader (centre), Base Commander; Captain (Navy) Cynthia Smith, Outgoing Commanding Officer Base Logistics (left); and Cdr Audy sign the Change of Command certificates.





Photo by S1 Kendric C.W. Grasby, Canadian Armed Forces Photo

Commodore Patrick Montgomery was promoted to his current rank on June 30. Rear-Admiral Angus Topshee, Commander Maritime Forces Pacific / Joint Task Force Pacific, shared the promotion opportunity with Cmdre Montgomery's father Jim and his wife Kelly. On July 9, Cmdre Montgomery became the Commander of the Naval Reserves.





COMMANDER RCN COMMENDATIONS

Vice-Admiral Craig Baines, Commander Royal Canadian Navy, presented commendations at a ceremony held in the Collier Building in Work Point on June 9.

Photos by S1 Mike Goluboff, MARPAC Imaging Services, Esquimalt



Lieutenant-Commander Chris Maier, Commandant Naval Fleet School (Pacific), receives a Commander Royal Canadian Navy Commendation.



Retired Captain (Navy) Kevin Greenwood receives a Commander Royal Canadian Navy Commendation.



Lieutenant Lucas Aubin receives a Commander Royal Canadian Navy Commendation.



Chief Petty Officer Second Class Malcolm Johnston receives a Commander Royal Canadian Navy Commendation.



Major Guillaume Bégin receives a Commander Royal Canadian Navy Commendation.



Brian Costello receives a Commander Royal Canadian Navy Commendation.



Commander Colleen O'Brien receives a Commander Royal Canadian Navy Commendation.



Ryan Solomon receives a Commander Royal Canadian Navy Commendation.



Commander Simon Summers receives a Commander Royal Canadian Navy Commendation.



Commander Lawrence Trim receives a Commander Royal Canadian Navy Commendation.



Sailor First Class Andrew Tyler receives a Commander Royal Canadian Navy Commendation.



Vice-Admiral Baines speaks to the audience following the awards presentation.



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR GRADUATION

Lieutenant-Commander Christopher Maier, Commandant Naval Fleet School (Pacific), presented certificates of Military Achievement during the Information Management Director / Officer Course session 0032 graduation ceremony on June 17.



Petty Officer Second Class Michael Dunn receives a certificate of Military Achievement.



Lieutenant (Navy) Serge Sabourin receives a certificate of Military Achievement.



Photos by S1 Mike Goluboff,

MARPAC Imaging Services, Esquimalt

Lieutenant (Navy) Nicholas Miller receives a certificate of Military Achievement.



Petty Officer Second Class Kent Fox receives a certificate of Military Achievement.



Petty Officer Second Class Dustin Mansfield receives a certificate of Military Achievement.



Lieutenant (Navy) Severn Mozer receives a certificate of Military Achievement.





Lt(N) Severn Mozer is promoted to his current rank



HMCS WINNIPEG



Lt(N) Warner Moczulski is promoted to his current rank by Cdr Doug Layton, HMCS Winnipeg Commanding Officer, and Lt(N) Juliana Currie.



TRANSITION UNIT



WO Philip Hird is presented his CD2 by Cdr Colleen O'Brien, Commanding Officer of CAF Transition Unit BC.



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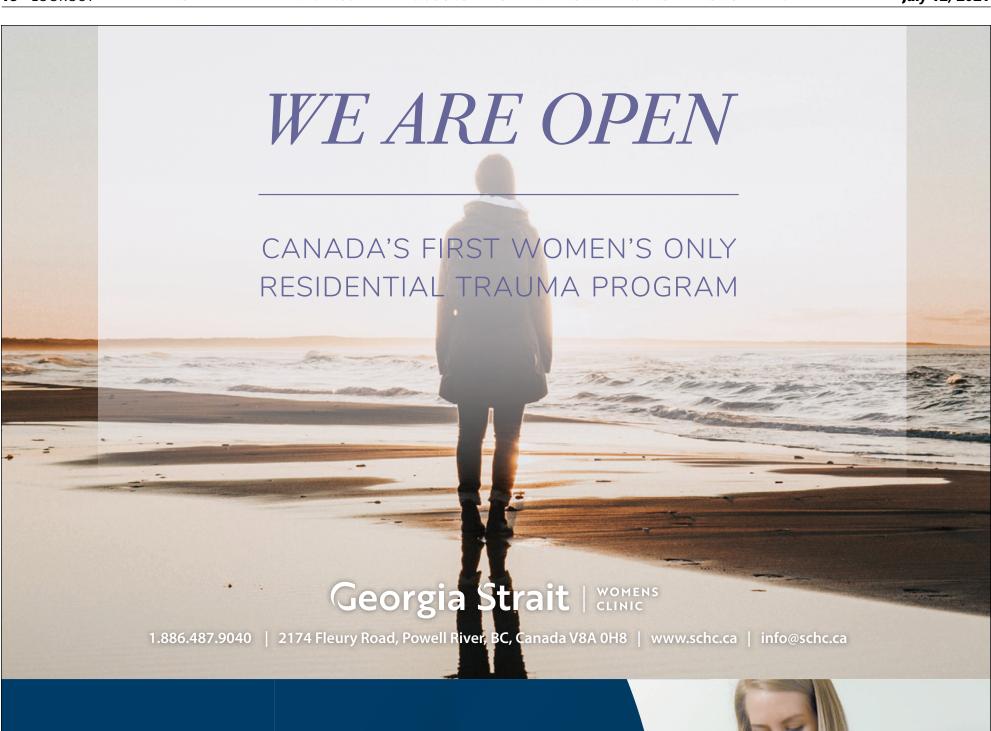
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