

'TIS THE SEASON

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After swapping ranks - an age old military holiday season tradition – Pte Dan Saunders and Commander Patricia Brillante carve the ceremonial roasted turkey during the annual Junior Ranks Yuletide Dinner at the Venture Galley last week. See more photos on page 10.

Photo by Ed Dixon, MARPAC Imaging Services





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Base golfers donate toys to sick kids

Peter Mallett Staff Writer

The Dave Barber Golf Tournament has scored another hole-in-one for the children's ward at Victoria General Hospital.

The annual charitable event organized by HMCS Regina is in its 22nd year. Members of the ship's company delivered a large cache of toys and gift cards on Nov. 24 to benefit young patients in the hospital's Child Life Department.

The tournament is named in memory of MS Dave Barber, a Fire Control Radar Technician who worked on board Regina before dying of leukemia in 1997.

This year's nine-hole golf tournament raised \$3,500 from the \$60 player registration fees, private donations, and a healthy dose of assistance from the ship's charitable fund, says tournament organizer, MS Russell Blackburn.

The golf tournament was held Sept. 23 at the Metchosin Golf Club and approximately 50 golfers took part.

"MS Barber loved golf, helping children in

need and donating money to local charities. He made a tremendous impact on all the people he touched," says MS Blackburn. "Since he thoroughly enjoyed the game of golf, it seemed fitting to conduct an annual tournament to keep his memory alive."

The tournament was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but MS Blackburn and supporters were still able to make a smallersized donation to the hospital.

"It's the expression of joy on the faces of the hospital staff at the Pediatric Ward when we deliver the toys," he says of the toy delivery. "Realizing our efforts have brightened people's lives who need it the most is so cool."

MS Blackburn's unwavering commitment to convening the tournament each year was cemented when his son was born in 2016. While visiting the hospital that year, he had a revelation.

"Delivering the toys to the hospital made me realize that having a new child going through tough times there would be unimaginable," he says. "I just feel obligated to help them."



It's the expression of joy on the faces of the hospital staff at the Pediatric Ward when we deliver the toys. Realizing our efforts have brightened people's lives who need it the most is so cool."

 MS Russell Blackburn, organizer of the Dave Barber Golf Tournament



Wishing you health and happiness this holiday season



Shipmates across the MARPAC/JTFP Defence Team, the Formation Chief Petty Officer, CPO1 Tim Blonde, and I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season.

As 2021 draws to a close, we look forward to spending some quality time with friends and family as we've all earned a bit of a break. It is also an opportune moment to look back with pride at our accomplishments over the past year.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 continues to impact our daily routines at work and at home. However, we have adapted and our operational successes reflect the tenacity and determination to succeed despite the ongoing challenges.

Chief Blonde and I are very proud of

the way the MARPAC/JTFP Defence Team continues to adapt our work environments to remain safe and effective in delivering operational effectiveness for the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) and the Canadian Armed Forces.

As always, we deployed ships and personnel to meet the objectives of the Government of Canada: HMC Ships Brandon and Saskatoon on Operation Caribbe to conduct counter-narcotics operations, HMCS Calgary on Operation Artemis to interdict drug trafficking that supports terrorist networks, and HMCS Winnipeg on Operations Projection/Neon to support United Nations Security Council Sanctions and dem-



Rear-Admiral Angus Topshee

onstrate Canada's ongoing commitment to rules based international order.

CPO1 Tim Blonde

During these deployments, our ships participated in operations and exercises, but more importantly forged strong bonds with partner nations and allies around the globe. Notably, we also welcomed the RCN's newest Arctic Offshore Patrol Vessel, HMCS Harry DeWolf, in October as it circumnavigated North America.

At home, we have also made a difference in everything from rescues at sea to assisting the province and our fellow citizens of B.C. through wildfires and floods.

As we start planning for the challenges that lie

ahead for next year, we acknowledge our friends, families, and loved ones for the love and commitment they show us every day. Their support keeps us grounded, energized, and motivated to serve Canada to the best of our abilities.

To each and every one of our Canadian Armed Forces members and civilian employees, thank you for the work that you put in, this year and every year, to uphold our standard of excellence - a standard that, through your hard work, we routinely exceed. Bravo Zulu!

Even without the impact of a global pandemic upon our plans and desires, the holidays can be a

significant stressor. Please take the time to reach out and reconnect with your past and present shipmates as they may be struggling this holiday season

Tim and I wish you all the best of health and happiness for the holiday season. Please take this opportunity to relax, rest, and reset for what will undoubtedly be another busy and demanding year in 2022!

Rear-Admiral Angus Topshee, Commander Maritime Forces Pacific/ Joint Task Force Pacific CPO1 Tim Blonde, Formation Chief Petty Officer

Happy holidays from the Base Command

Valued Defence Team members, The holiday season is upon us and we hope it finds you filled with cheer and celebration, generosity and joy.

It has been another difficult, unusual year as we continued to grapple with a pandemic that has touched every part of our lives and every corner of the globe. Together we have faced many challenges, both personal and professional, and we know weathering these storms has not been easy for many.

Your resiliency and dedication as members of the Defence Team of CFB Esquimalt amaze and inspire us. They are among the many reasons why it is an honour to serve you as Base Commander and Base Chief Petty Officer.

We see how hard all of you work every day to keep the Base running and we deeply appreciate it. Your efforts not only helped us fulfil our motto of 'Support for All' but directly contributed to aiding the Fleet in efforts ranging from HMCS Calgary's deployment on Operations Projection and Artemis; HMC Ships Brandon and *Saskatoon* who deployed in support of Operation Caribbe; and HMCS Winnipeg, returning home



Capt(N) Jeff Hutchinson

later this week after deploying on Operations Neon and Projection.

Your hard work also enabled the Base to support Operation Lentus as teams aided in forest fire and flood responses right here at home and across the Province.

We would also like to particularly acknowledge our teammates who maintained the Base's core functions in-person throughout 2021 and during the holiday season including: the doctors, nurses, and staff of Canadian Forces



CPO1 Al Darragh

the Commissionaires; Military Police Unit (Esquimalt); the Port **Operations and Emergency Services** Branch, Base Foods staff; and everyone else who performs those vital duties that allowed the Base to deliver critical support to the RCN and JTFP. Thank you, your contributions do not go unnoticed.

leave period, we urge everyone to spend some quality time with family and friends. Look after yourself, take time to rest and recharge; and take care of each other - check in with your colleagues and shipmates.

Whatever holiday you celebrate, in whichever way you choose, to all of you from our families to yours, have a Happy Holiday and a safe and bright New Year.

Yours Aye,

Capt(N) Jeff Hutchinson, Base Commander CPO1 Al Darragh, Base Chief Petty Officer

Health Services Centre (Pacific);

As we move into our holiday

matters of OPINION

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Steward work in the Royal Canadian Navy

S3 Lorraine Cléroux HMCS Winnipeg

I joined the Royal Canadian Navy for several reasons. Taking up a career challenge I had in my youth, which is to serve my country, and my passion for everything that happens on and in the water.

Also, to experience the culture of unfamiliar countries and the benefit of long-term financial security.

I chose the job of steward because it intertwines many of my previous jobs such as restaurant and hotel services, school bus driver, and first responder.

In the Canadian Armed Forces, the job of steward can be performed on board submarines or

ships (all types) and on board airplanes. On military bases we work in accommodations and as drivers for higher ranking officers.

Aboard a frigate such as *HMCS Winnipeg*, where I am currently posted, the job includes tasks for various departments, such as food, finance, first aid and, of course, being a sailor, first and foremost.

A Steward is part of the Logistics department. We take care of the inventory and supplying the various messes

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S3 Lorraine Cléroux serves up a dish.

with soft drinks, alcohol, sweets, ship's paraphernalia and other items. The accounting is done by the supervisor of the canteen, and that person works alongside other members of the Logistics department.

In terms of food, we serve meals to the Officers, due to the configuration of the dining rooms. At events or just for fun, a carved fruit may appear in the middle of the table. I can confirm that food sculpture is a skill that requires a lot of practice and tape (depending on the sea state).

Being a mom helps me plan the prepa-

ration of the "touski", a French expression for "tout-ce-qui-reste", or all that remains of leftovers from the morning or the day before in order to avoid waste.

Secondary duties include being certified in advanced first aid. On board a frigate, we are the ones who answer the call with the ship's physician when a crew member is injured. We are also called to assist in qualifying exercises, which involve practicing casualty scenarios and providing first aid such as CPR.

So what does it take to be the Commanding Officer's Steward? Passion for the job, paying attention to detail, having a sense of professional organization, flexibility, and resourcefulness.

It takes good interpersonal skills and a love of socializing. Being in good physical shape is an asset because you are constantly going up and down the different decks with your hands loaded with hot food when the ship is pitching from port to starboard. So you require good balance.

I do not regret having enlisted a little later in life because within this military family age no longer counts, only the solidarity of living fully each day guides us like a beacon until our return.

Photos by: Master Corporal Andre Maillet, MARPAC Imaging Services/HMCS Winnipeg







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HMCS Winnipeg homecoming this week

Peter Mallett Staff Writer

There will be heartfelt embraces, hugs, and maybe some kisses under the mistletoe as *HMCS Winnipeg* returns to Dockyard later this week.

Warship and crew of 257 are scheduled to arrive at Dockyard's C2 Jetty on the morning of Dec. 16. Their arrival will mark the conclusion of a four-month deployment to the Indo-Pacific region where they participated in Operations Neon and Projection.

This Christmas-themed homecoming event is being organized by the Esquimalt Military Family Resource Centre. It includes Christmas music, candy canes, and many other festive surprises.

Lisa Church, MFRC Esquimalt Community Engagement Manager, says the MFRC team always look forward to homecoming day to celebrate alongside military families.

The event will be live streamed on the RCN and *HMCS Winnipeg* Facebook pages.

Only *HMCS Winnipeg's* friends and family members that are part of special access list for the event are permitted to attend in person, along with members of the Defence Team.





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SCAN CODE TO LEARN MORE

Canadian lab aids special USS Arizona medal creation

Peter Mallett Staff Writer

Natural Resource Canada's CanmetMATERIALS' pilot-scale rolling mill was pressed into action Dec. 7 for an extraordinary task: to help complete the last run of the USS Arizona Medal of Freedom for the Lauren F. Bruner USS Arizona Memorial Foundation.

At precisely at 8:05 a.m. Hawaiin Standard Time the machine was switched on. The time and day were purposeful as it marked the precise moment 80 years ago when a single armor-piercing bomb hit at the heart of USS Arizona. It blew up its munitions magazine and fuel tanks, sinking the U.S. Navy Battleship and killing 1,177 of its 1,512 crew members. Eight USS Arizona crew members were Canadians with only one surviving.

"While the main focus of our lab is to develop solutions for Canadian industry, it is also important to take stock of historic events that happened before us," says Philippe Dauphin, CMAT Director General. "The people who work in

our laboratory are excited to have a connection to this horrific but important moment in history."

CMAT is dedicated to the fabricating, processing, and evaluating of metals and materials. It's scientific and technical staff at locations in Hamilton, and a satellite lab in Calgary, find answers and solutions for Canadian industry in the energy, transportation, and metal-manufacturing sectors.

Creating the medals

The Pilot Scale Rolling Mill is unique, says Dauphin, because it can accommodate testing of various metals in small sized runs and can be configured to roll hot steel



Philippe Dauphin, Director General of CanmetMATERIALS, holds a piece of steel ingot from the USS Arizona.

at temperatures up to 1,200 degrees Celsius.

The metal ingots the mill is producing for the USS Arizona commemorative medals are steel salvaged from the ship's superstructure after the attack.

Thermo mechanical processing uses several different hot and cold rolling steps to make the medals.

USS Arizona metal ingots will be heated in an oven to its maximum

temperature, then taken from the oven and rolled on its Pilot Scale Rolling Mill. Seconds later they will be sprayed in cold water to quench the medal and preserve its metallic composition. In January, the ship's steel will be rolled to

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a thickness of 1.6mm before they are sent back to the U.S. to complete the medals.

When the finished product is complete, the medal will include the ship's name and a stylized letter 'A' on the top face, a ribbon, and pin bar.

In February, the medal will be offered for sale in Canada and the United States, says Ed McGrath, Executive Director of the Lauren F. Bruner USS Arizona Memorial Foundation. Proceeds from sales will be used to create hand-drawn portraits of each USS Arizona crew member and to fund the foundation's educational programs, including an app for high school students in Canada and the United States.

Intriguing Request

The Lauren F. Bruner USS Arizona Memorial Foundation was established by Lauren F. Bruner, Fire Controlman Third Class and the second to last to leave USS Arizona following the attack.

He suffered burns to 73 per cent of his body when the battleship exploded and sank, and was wounded twice in his left leg from machine gun rounds fired by an attacking Japanese Zero. Throughout the rest of his life and prior to his death in 2019, Bruner worked tirelessly to preserve and educate people about the history of the attack and to support other survivors and their families.

A steel mill in Alabama was initially tasked with melting the steel extracted from Arizona to create the ingots. But it lacked a smallscale rolling mill to complete the job,

f

Lauren F. Bruner.

especially affixing the stylized 'A' to the medal's front. In mid-October, the Lauren F. Bruner USS Arizona Memorial Foundation sought out CMAT's help to finish the project.

"I can't say enough good things about Canada and all they have done for us, and what a relief it was to find someone who has the technology available and was willing to help us complete this job," says McGrath.

A special Canadian edition of the medal will also be struck to commemorate the eight Canadians who served aboard the battleship when it was attacked.

"Their request was very intriguing and at first I wasn't certain how we could justify doing this job, but the amount of interest it has generated in our facility by far exceeds our commitment to the project," says Dauphin.

Interestingly, CMAT was established by the Government of Canada shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1942. Many of its projects were associated with Canada's part in the final years of the war effort.

USS Arizona Canadian Crew Members on board Dec. 7, 1941

Roger J. Bergin – Killed In Action (Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan)

Howard A. Bowman – Killed In Action (Lang, Saskatchewan)

George W. Doherty – Killed In Action (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

John Albert Doherty – Killed In Action (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

Francis A. Ellis, Jr. – Killed In Action (Winnipeg, Manitoba)

Anthony J. Hessdorfer – Killed In Action (St. Benedict, Saskatchewan)

William F. Ross – Killed In Action (Montreal, Quebec)

Guy D. Kirk – Survivor (Ponoka, Alberta)

USS Arizona in full dress.

The USS Arizona Medal of Freedom (front and back).

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FMF Cape Scott's Honorary Captain visits West Coast

Ashley Evans FMFCB/CS

Jeanette Southwood was inducted as Honorary Captain (Navy) for Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Scott in April. She is the first Honorary Captain affiliated with the naval engineering community.

In her civilian life she is the Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Strategic Partnerships for Engineers Canada, the national organization that represents the 12 provincial and territorial engineering regulators that license the more than 300,000 members of the engineering profession in Canada.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has streamlined many of her duties, she has been busy immersing herself in the complex world of naval engineering.

Her Honorary Captain activities began at the beginning of the year with orientation sessions led by LCdr Melissa Desjardins, MARPAC Senior Staff Officer Strategic Outreach (Western Canada). From there she participated in meetings with the Naval Engineering Council led by Cmdre Lou Carosielli and Naval Technical Officers, and presented her experiences as a woman engineer to the Women Naval Technical Officers in a session led by Capt(N) Seana Routledge.

During her visit to CFB Esquimalt in November, HCapt(N) Southwood toured HMC Ships Nanaimo and Vancouver to learn about the work of the engineering teams on each ship. She visited Victoria Shipyards to look at a Halifax-class frigate in the process of modernization and a submarine in the drydock.

During her visit to FMF Cape Breton production floor and the Engineering department, she was given a warm welcome by Capt(N) Sebastien Richard and his colleagues. Her tour continued at in Work Point to visit the construction of iNExTT modular centre and the Damage Control Training Facility in Colwood. She also met the Naval Engineering Council and participated in the Naval Technical Officers seminar.

"I have learned a great deal about the RCN and met many wonderful people," she says of her experience thus far. "I have also had opportunities to share my experiences as an engineer with others facing similar technical and professional challenges that I've tackled during my career."

Naval Honorary Captains are leaders in their respective fields, appointed by the Minister of National Defence to take on the role of Royal Canadian Navy ambassadors to Canadians nationwide.



HCapt(N) Jeanette Southwood at Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Breton with Cmdre Carosielli.





PRINCE EDWARD BRANCH #91

December 13, 2021



Military flood response winds down

2Lt Vatsal Shah MARPAC Public Affairs

It has been nearly a month since Operation Lentus 21-06 began helping British Columbians following an atmospheric river that brought an unprecedented amount of rainfall and flooding.

The military is preparing to wind down the operation now that the atmospheric river has come and gone.

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) were officially called in Nov. 17 - initiated by Joint Task Force Pacific (JTFP) to deploy Land and Air Task Forces with units from British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec.

This is not the first time JTFP has responded to a crisis in British Columbia. It's not even the first time this year. Op Lentus 21-03 was the military's response to B.C. wildfires in the summer.

Even before Op Lentus 21-06 stood up, 442 Transport and Rescue Squadron members, using Cormorant helicopters, responded to a request to evacuate motorists stranded on Highway 7 between Hope and Agassiz. Mudslides had closed the roadway on both ends. By the end of Nov. 15, 300 people, 26 dogs, and one cat had been evacuated.

Forces assigned from 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron and Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) from Edmonton, and 430e Escadron tactique d'hélicoptères from Valcartier, began moving into B.C. on Nov. 17 to assist with flood relief efforts. A large contingent was deployed to Abbotsford, an area hit quite hard, and the surrounding areas. They also worked throughout B.C.'s interior and on Vancouver Island.

Working around the clock, military members sandbagged critical infrastructure, conducted rapid damage assessments, cleared culverts, evacuated livestock, and moved critical supplies and personnel around the province.

They worked hand-in-hand with Emergency Management British Columbia

and those most affected.

The support was reciprocated by B.C. residents on Nov. 23 when a CH-146 Griffon from 430e Escadron tactique d'hélicoptères, on a medical mission, was forced to make an emergency landing on the banks of the Fraser River near Yale due to bad weather. Nearby community members cleared trees to make a in a more secure area for the helicopter to wait out the weather, and hosted the aircrew in their homes overnight.

At its peak, Operation Lentus 21-06 had over 700 CAF personnel. Chinook, Griffon, Cyclone, and Cormorant helicopters, as well as Twin Otter, Hercules, and Globemaster fixed-wing aircraft all supported the Air Task Force. Members of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), 1 Combat Engineer Regiment, Reservists from 39 Canadian Brigade Group, and sailors from CFB Esquimalt made up the Land Task Force. Members of 39 Canadian Brigade Group (Domestic Response Company) sandbag a retirement community in Chilliwack, B.C. on Nov. 29.

Photo by Private Daniel Pereira, 39 CBG Public Affairs, Canadian Armed Forces photo





HMCS HARRY DEWOLF **MAKES TWO DRUG BUSTS**

Lt(N) Lisa Tubbs HMCS Harry DeWolf

The following story details HMCS Harry DeWolf's first two drug busts while in the Pacific Ocean on Operation Caribbe, Canada's contribution to the multinational campaign targeting drug trafficking in the region. Sailors quoted cannot be named for operational security reasons.

For two days in early November, intelligence reports provided HMCS Harry DeWolf with images of a vessel of interest and its coordinates, and so began the hunt for its first drug bust.

On Nov. 8, the morning mist covered the ship as it moved through the ocean with Tropical Storm Terry closing in. The bridge team had just turned over, but their objective remained the same – to scour the horizon for the vessel of interest suspected of carrying contraband.

A vessel of interest, commonly referred to as a 'go-fast', is usually a sleek, small boat that is difficult to spot.

Although the duty watch had just been relieved, one naval warfare officer returned to the bridge to aid with lookout duties.

"One of the experienced sailors on my watch gave me some useful advice for when you're a lookout: birds always mean something," says the officer. "Usually they mean whales, a submerged log or other hazards, but they also follow boats. I was scanning the horizon when I saw several birds about four miles out. Sure enough, directly beneath them was the wake of a small contact."

After the sighting, Harry DeWolf immediately went into action.

Both Multi-Role Rescue Boats were rapidly



launched, each carrying a team of United States Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (USCG LEDET) members to board the vessel.

Although this vessel was not the primary target of interest Harry DeWolf had been tracking, it turned out to be a logistic support vessel for 'go-fasts' operating in the area. The trail was hot, and Harry DeWolf continued onwards, following the last known position of the primary vessel of interest.

With the last rays of daylight well behind the horizon, Harry DeWolf slowly approached the last known co-ordinates of their target. The team then shifted to Electro-Optical/Infra-Red cameras and radar.

"Sir, I got it!" the lookout yelled out and a faint outline of a small ship appeared about 1,100 yards out.

> Again the two Multi-Role Rescue Boats were launched, and within moments the bridge was illuminated by their blue and white LED patrol lights as they closed in on the target of interest.

What the LEDET found on board was nothing short of spectacular - 1,300 kg of cocaine, intelligence leading them to a transnational criminal organization, and confirmation the bust had disrupted an identified smuggling route.

It was 10 days later on Nov. 18 at 4:30 a.m. when a second 'go-fast' was detected 26 nautical miles away. Following their well-rehearsed procedures, the Multi-Role Rescue Boats crews again calmly prepared themselves to launch under the red glow of the ship's lighting. They launched at 5 a.m., with the portside Multi-Role Rescue Boat tactically maneuvering around the long moon ray stretching out over the water.

"After leaving the ship, we travelled about half an hour before we spotted them in the distance," recalled the C6 gunner on the lead boat.

The gunner is responsible for the C6 gun mount located at the bow of the boat.

"As the sun had just begun to light everything up, we took off our night vision goggles and there they were. Our driver went full tilt after the vessel of interest."

At first the vessel believed the boats were runners

like them.

"Because when they saw us, originally they turned to meet us, but when we flipped our blue and white LED lights on they realized what was happening and attempted to bolt," said the boat driver.

Both Multi-Role Rescue Boats pursued the vessel at over 30 knots, quickly exceeding the vessel of interest's speed, coming alongside on either flank of the vessel.

"The people in the vessel of interest were definitely anticipating a longer chase, or were thinking that we wouldn't be able to catch them - but our boats are so fast, the crew on the vessel of interest didn't even have a chance to jettison anything," said the C6 gunner.

The USCG LEDET tried hailing the people in the vessel of interest in both English and Spanish, trying to get them to stop, but the driver ignored their calls, attempting to swerve and break away from them.

"When one member attempted to reach the 'kill switch' on the vessel of interest to slow the vessel down to allow for safe boarding with a boat hook, the driver of the vessel took the boat hook, snapped it in half and tried to slash at our boat," said the C6 gunner.

At that moment, a USCG LEDET was able to jump aboard safely during this attempt to get away, and soon was joined by another. Only then did they get control of the vessel of interest, ending the chase so the boat could safely be searched.

Harry DeWolf's second successful interdiction resulted in a seizure of 1,289 kg of cocaine.

As the sun had just begun to light everything up, we took off our night vision goggles and there they were. Our driver went full tilt after the vessel of interest."



operational security.

The ship's company from HMCS Harry Dewolf and members of the United States Coast Guard stand on the ship's flight deck with illegal drugs seized on a drug trafficking interdiction operation during Operation Caribbe in the East Pacific Ocean. Photo has been digitally altered for



Top 3 reasons to use a mortgage broker:

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Annual Junior Ranks Yuletide Dinner



Senior officers exchanged ranks with the most junior members in their command. From left: Cdr (Pte) Patricia Brillante with Pte (Cdr) Dan Saunders, CPO1 (MCpl) Bernard Filiatrault, MCpl (CPO1) Alden Darragh, and Padre Moley Mangana as they perform the changing of ranks at the 2021 Annual Junior Ranks Yuletide Dinner, held at the Venture Galley.

Photos by Ed Dixon, MARPAC Imaging Services



CPO1 Susan Frisby and Cdr Jason Bergen hand out the salad course.

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Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt Junior Ranks members enjoy the Annual Yuletide Dinner.

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SUBMARINER Spotlight

GO SUBS Allez Sous-Marins

CPO2 JASON THOMPSON MARINE ELECTRICIAN, COXSWAIN, HMCS WINDSOR

Valerie Braunschweig

Submariners Association of Canada West, Saocwest.ca

What motivated you to join the Royal Canadian Navy and in particular you're chosen trade?

I joined the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) as an electrician due to the fact I was taking a residential electrical course at Nova Scotia Community College and decided it would be more beneficial to have the navy pay for my training than myself.

When did you join the Navy?

I joined the RCN in January 1997.

What submarines have you served in?

I have sailed in HMCS Ojibwa, HMCS Onondaga, HMCS Windsor, HMCS Corner Brook, and have worked on board all of the above vessels as well as HMCS Okanagan and HMCS Victoria.

What bases have you served at?

Being in the Navy I have served on both coasts during my career - CFB Halifax and CFB Esquimalt.

Describe your present role and duties as Coxswain of *HMCS Windsor*.

My duties and responsibilities as part of the command team are the crew, training, and discipline. As well, I am responsible for the readiness and material state of the submarine escape stores and equipment on board.

What prepared you for this position?

I feel it is having a good relationship with the

coxswains who came before me, seeing how they operated, and asking questions of them to get a better understanding of why they were doing things a certain way. I leaned on their job experience, which I now hope junior members can do with me.

What is your favorite part of the job?

That would have to be dealing with the crew. I enjoy interacting with the other departments. Originally, as an electrician I would spend the majority of my time with the MSE department and therefore wouldn't have the pleasure of interacting with the whole submarine team on a day-to-day basis.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Administration. Coming from an engineering background I was definitely a hands-on person. I enjoyed dismantling machinery, troubleshooting, and then reassembling. Paperwork was always an afterthought.

What is the craziest moment that has happened on a submarine?

I have been on board for many crazy



moments, but the one that comes to mind happened on a recent trip to Newfoundland. *Windsor* pulled into a bay off of the coast of Cape Breton and we had a swim ex in some mildly cold water, to say the least. To my knowledge we haven't had a swim ex in quite some time, and never near the Cape Breton coastline.

Tell me what it's like spending weeks in an enclosed container? Can you describe that?

I have been in submarines for almost 25 years and have never had a problem with the enclosed part of the submarine. If anything I would rather be under the water where the seas are calm than on the surface when they are angry. The one thing I do miss while being underwater though is the sunshine. You can never have too much Vitamin D.

Is there a shortfall of specific trades within the submarine service?

We definitely have certain trades that are under staffed, but this isn't just a submarine problem as the whole RCN faces similar challenges.

If you had an opportunity to tour any submarine in the world, what country's submarine would you choose?

As I have been on a number of American submarines for tours, I would choose something I have not seen. I believe it would be interesting to see something from the Russian Navy.

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JOINT RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRE

Captain (Navy) Alex Kooiman, Chief of Staff and Operations Maritime Forces (Pacific), and Major Kevin Howe, Officer in Charge of Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC), presented awards on Dec. 2.

Photos by S1 Mike Goluboff, MARPAC Imaging Services, Esquimalt



Captain Stu Robertson (center) receives the Second Clasp to the Canadian Forces' Decoration.



Captain Erik Niemi (center) receives the Canadian Forces' Decoration.



2nd Lieutenant Brendan Morton (center) receives the Canadian Forces' Decoration.

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NAVAL WARFARE OFFICER IV GRADUATION

Honorary Captain (Navy) Nik Nanos presented awards during the New Glasgow Division, Naval Warfare Officer IV Graduation Parade on Dec. 2.



Acting Sub-Lieutenant Stephen Makarucha receives The David W. Groos Memorial Shield.



Acting Sub-Lieutenant Michael Mitchell receives The Rear-Admiral H.F. Pullen Cup

Photos by S1 Victoria loganov, MARPAC Imaging Services



Acting Sub-Lieutenant Tania Cadoret is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and receives a Certificate of Military Achievement.



Acting Sub-Lieutenant Henry Cheng is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and receives a Certificate of Military Achievement.



Acting Sub-Lieutenant Joshua Clayton is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and receives a Certificate of Military Achievement.



Acting Sub-Lieutenant Gian-Luca Filippone is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and receives a Certificate of Military Achievement.



Acting Sub-Lieutenant ZiXuan Gan is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and receives a Certificate of Military Achievement.



Acting Sub-Lieutenant Bradlee Gray is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and receives a Certificate of Military Achievement.



Acting Sub-Lieutenant Connor Jenkins is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and receives a Certificate of Military Achievement.



Acting Sub-Lieutenant Rene Lachapelle is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and receives a Certificate of Military Achievement.



Acting Sub-Lieutenant Stacey MacTaggart is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and receives a Certificate of Military Achievement.



Acting Sub-Lieutenant Stephen Makarucha is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and receives a Certificate of Military Achievement.



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Acting Sub-Lieutenant Brandon Rodier is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and receives a Certificate of Military Achievement.



Acting Sub-Lieutenant James Nanos is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and receives a Certificate of Military Achievement.



Acting Sub-Lieutenant Johnathan Tucker is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and receives a Certificate of Military Achievement.

Photos by S1 Victoria loganov, MARPAC Imaging Services



Acting Sub-Lieutenant Mathieu Pelletier is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and receives a Certificate of Military Achievement.



Acting Sub-Lieutenant Brandon Yen is promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and receives a Certificate of Military Achievement.



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