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NATIONAL DEFENCE AND INDUSTRY WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT MARINE MAMMALS



Photo: MCpl Nathan Spence, MARPAC Imaging Services, Esquimalt

MARPAC Public Affairs Office Royal Canadian Navy

Testing of the surf-board shaped Data Xplorer, a solar powered ocean drone, continued March 10 in the waters by Canadian Forces Maritime Experimental and Test Ranges near Nanoose Bay.

Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) and Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) researchers conducted a second field trial of the unmanned surface vessel (USV) that may eventually be used to mitigate harm to whales and other marine mammals during military operations. The first testing under this collaboration took place off

Cattle Point in December.

As it bobbed along the waves, the USV harvested ocean data through a towed passive hydrophone array, and sent processed data via satellite to a command centre. The field trial was to validate the drone's ability to detect and identify marine mammals, and estimate the location using the acoustic recordings of their unique calls.

DRDC researchers played simulated whale calls from a fixed point in the Test Range. As the Data Xplorer navigated the water, the data sent back demonstrated it was able to accurately detect and classify the sounds, and estimate where they came from in real time.

While the analysis took place at the

Test Range in Nanoose, approximately 110 kilometres away from Victoria, the movement of the Data Xplorer was remotely controlled by Open Ocean Robotics staff in their Victoria office. The solar-powered drone was piloted remotely for the testing, and is capable of safe autonomous transit along a predetermined course using Automated Identification System data, a radar reflector, and maps to avoid collisions. It can also right itself in rough seas – up to sea state five.

This second trial brought the reality of a marine mammals risk mitigation decision-making tool one step closer to fruition.

Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada worked with

DRDC through the Innovative Solutions Canada program to enable this research. Technology was co-developed with locally based JASCO Applied Sciences, and a Victoria-based startup called Open Ocean Robotics, which provides a clean-tech solution to collecting data through solar-powered un-crewed surface vessels.

DND and the CAF are committed to environmental stewardship and mitigating the impact of active sonar on the marine environment, as part of the Government of Canada's Oceans Protection Plan. DRDC, the science and technology organization of DND, is pursuing multiple, interconnected avenues of research to develop solutions to support this commitment.



Ari Robinson, Open Oceans Robotics mechanical engineering lead, controls the Data Xplorer USV (Un-crewed Service Vessel) from their headquarters in Victoria. The vessel being controlled is at Canadian Forces Maritime Experimental and Testing Ranges at Nanoose Bay.



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Newly hired Museum Curator Tatiana Robinson.

Changing of the guard at base museum

Peter Mallett
Staff Writer

Two of CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum's longest-serving employees, with over a half-century of combined experience, have stepped down from their posts.

Museum Curator Debbie Towell retired in November 2021, ending a 30-year career at Department of National Defence museums. Exhibit designer Clare Sharpe retired Feb. 25 after 22 years at the museum. Sharpe will stay on part-time for a period.

Stepping up as the new Curator is Tatiana Robinson, former museum registrar.

"I knew it would be a big responsibility because a curator is a caretaker and custodian, not only of the museum and its archival collection, but also the history and legacy of so many people, and presenting it in a respectful way," says Robinson. "It is a privilege to be in such a position and share those stories with others."

A Dynamic Duo

Towell and Sharpe worked closely to revitalize the museum for over 20 years.

"We managed to become a first-class museum for visitors and researchers alike," says Towell. "I will really miss my co-workers and the museum's volunteers as they are such a great crew."

Towell worked as the Curator at the Canadian Military Engineers Museum at CFB Chilliwack before arriving in Esquimalt in 1996. She oversaw the transformation and centralization of the museum. This involved moving its artefacts and archive to one central location in Naden, collection had previously been stored in multiple locations around the base.

Sharpe began in 1999, after graduating from the University of Victoria, as the museum's Exhibit Designer, creating displays from start to finish.

She says her affection for the museum and its beauty was a big reason for staying on as a part-time contractor.

"I've always loved Naden and the historic buildings that house the museum in Museum Square," says Sharpe. "This is one of the most scenic, interesting, and beautiful sites in B.C."

New management

Both women agree that Robinson has the right stuff to do the job.

"Tatiana has a wealth of experience and professional expertise working in museums and cultural organizations," says Sharpe. "She is extremely well-qualified to lead the museum forward into the future."

Towell says Robinson has an unparalleled passion for the museum and is well-suited for the job. She noted that Robinson has a very strong resume in museum work, specializing in naval and military history.

Robinson's previous job as museum Registrar involved registering donations of objects and archival items into the museum's collection, documenting their history of ownership (provenance), researching the historical significance of artefacts, managing the collection, and keeping track of loans to other museums.

She worked closely with Towell to purchase a purpose-designed Cloud-based database to catalogue and record the museum's collection, which helped make the collection more accessible to staff and researchers.

Robinson was first recruited by the museum after taking courses with Sharpe in the University of Victoria's Cultural Management program. Sharpe asked Robinson to work on cataloguing the collection and updating the museum's records and she instantly said yes.

Robinson earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Victoria in Art History and Visual Studies. She has worked at the Maritime Museum of B.C. as Collections Manager and for a time as Acting Curator, Helmcken House as a historic interpreter, and with the B.C. Archives.

To be successful at her new post, she says she will be relying on the museum's mandate: "To collect, preserve, interpret, and display the history and heritage of naval presence on Canada's West Coast and of the military on Southern Vancouver Island."



"I've always loved Naden and the historic buildings that house the museum in Museum Square"

Exhibit designer Claire Sharpe retired in February but will stay on for a period as a contractor.

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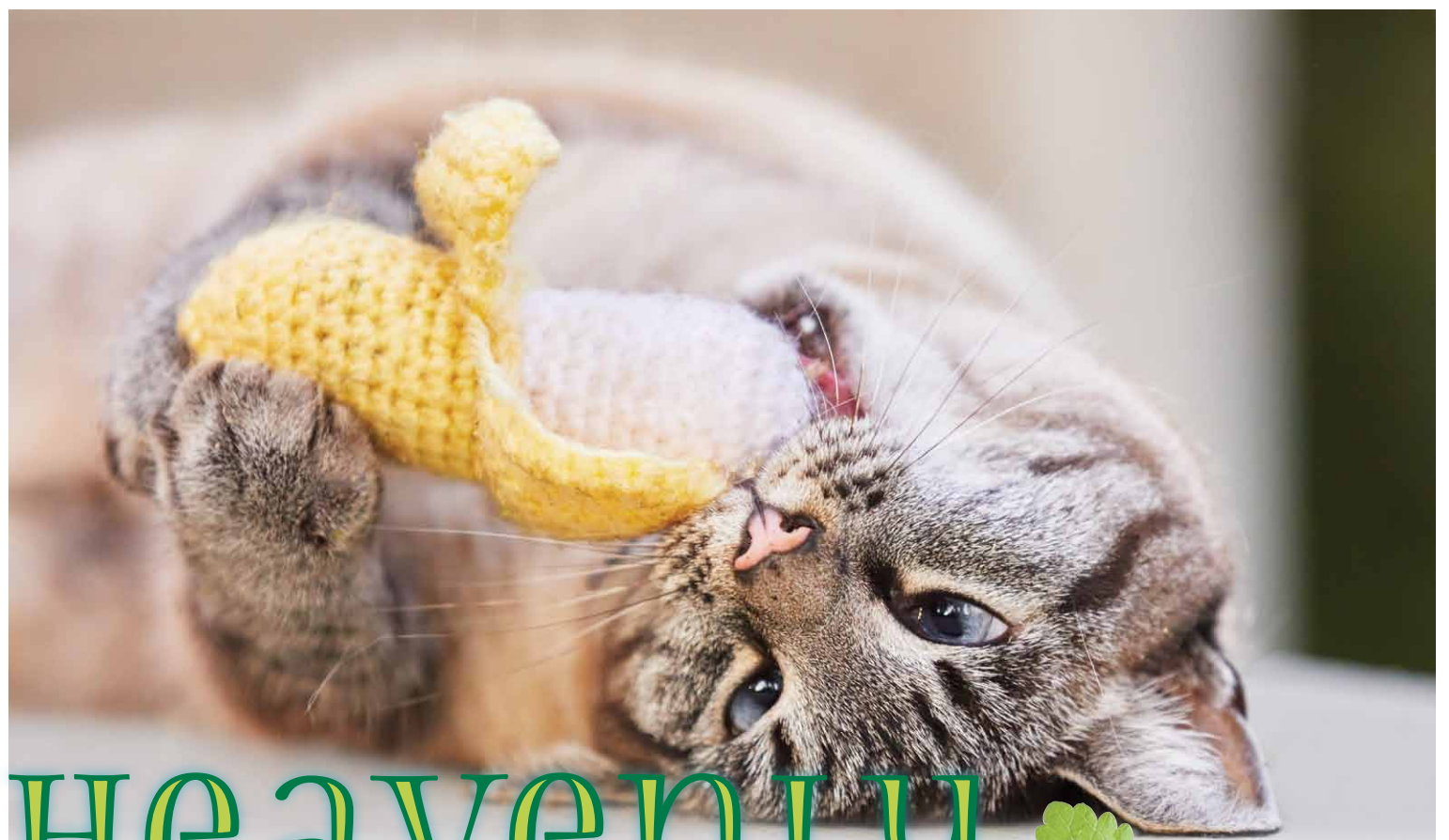
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Heavenly CATNIP!

Words From The Cat Lady Joanne Kimm

My three cats love their catnip toys, but each of them reacts differently to the messy weed.

One of our cats, Felix snaps to attention when he hears the shake of the catnip container. Eyes alert, he runs over to get his weedy mouse toy. He clutches it with both front paws and chews it to bits. If any of our other two cats try to sniff it or come close, he turns his back to them and continues the conquest of his possession. Once he's had his fill, he stretches, rolls onto his back with legs splayed wide open, closes his eyes slightly, and just lays there. I swear he almost has a smile on his face.

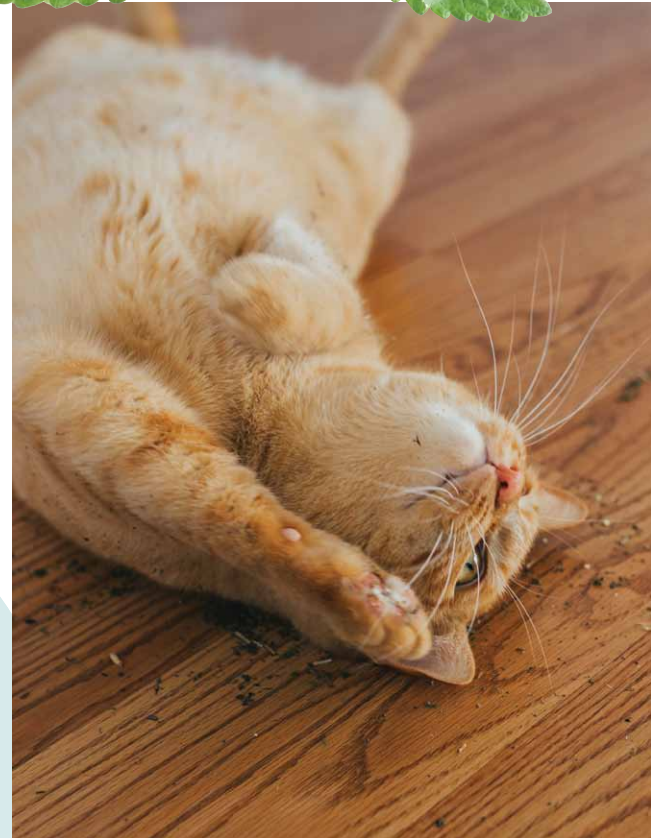
Our oldest cat, Tabi has a different reaction. Instead of that instant joy exhibited by Felix, she looks up at me, then smells the mouse, and may either walk away or lick it. That's it; nothing more and nothing less.

Our third cat, Tia loves the smelly toys. Like Felix, she gets excited when she hears the shake of the catnip container. But, instead of running over to get her share of the bounty, she sits straight up with tail curled around her. She looks intently at me as if to say it is my duty to bring her the mouse for her amusement.

And indeed, I do oblige her in that role. Once the toy is put in front of her, her demeanour changes. She rolls onto the toy, making sure the catnip gets all caught up in her long hair. Then, she picks it up with her mouth and walks around the house with it like a trophy. Once she displays it to everyone, she drops it, bats it about for a bit, then lays on it and rolls around the floor. Like Felix, once she's finished having fun, she rolls over with her legs splayed, and flicks her tail back and forth as if to sweep the floor of all evidence of the messy weed.

But why do cats react in such different ways to catnip? Is it similar to a potential marijuana reaction for humans? The response can look similar to a human's reaction, but there is no scientific information that shows it operates the same as catnip. Catnip has an oil called nepetalactone, which is produced in the leaves and flowers of the plant. Most felines (domestic and wild) are attracted to the smell, which produces a reaction that seems euphoric.

I don't give my kitties catnip a lot, but when I do, I know it will be entertaining for everyone. And a happy kitty means a happy household.



Read more from Joanne Kimm at
www.exclusivelyjk.com



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Engineering Education in Democratic Republic of Congo

Peter Mallett
Staff Writer

Electronics Technician Nzolantima Swasisa has his sight set on boosting education in his homeland.

Using his invention – a tiny black box called a Lokole that can provide web and email access in a 25-metre radius for up to 100 users – he is establishing a library in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It will house books, desks, and android tablets for users to access the Internet.

The 63-year-old employee with Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Breton recently launched a Go Fund Me campaign to help pay the costs of the library in DRC's capital city Kinshasa.

"I am reaching out to any individual or organization that supports education for vulnerable populations for help," he says. "Donations of computer tablets and the services of software engineers would also be greatly welcomed."

The need for access to information and digital edu-

cational materials through the Internet or offline is dire in this third world country, says Swasisa. With a population of approximately 90 million, less than 18 per cent have Internet access. The primary reason for this, he says, is poverty. Most Congolese people live on less than \$2 per day; one gigabyte of data costs \$1 and is limited to 48 hours.

"It is easy to see they cannot afford this, so the only solution is to use offline applications. The is where a digital library fits in."

His digital library will be called Bibliothèque Lokole Numérique Zéro Méga, a nod to his invention.

The name Lokole is derived from a Congolese drum used in pre-colonial times as a means of imparting vital communication between villages.

While developing his invention, he received technical assistance from Microsoft software engineer Clemens Wolf. Wolf was so enthused by Swasisa's project that he got the attention of company executives who

provided access to a professional, high-volume cloud server for Lokole.

Then his co-workers in the shipyard, Shawn Bathgate, Gerald Risma, and Joel Pineau helped him create a physical case to house the tiny digital server. In 2017 Forbes Magazine named Swasisa a finalist for the Innovation Africa Awards.

He launched his Box Lokole Numerique fundraising campaign on Feb. 6 with a goal of \$12,000 by April.

The money will stock the library with the entire curriculum taught in DRC schools from kindergarten to Grade 12. Adults and children can use the offline materials to advance their education in math, geography, science, history, physics, French, and English.

The initial goal is to have 11 desks and chairs equipped with headphones and android tablets in a building powered by solar energy and its own Wi-Fi to access online educational materials. Guiding the users will be a paid librarian.



Nzolantima Swasisa with his internet connecting invention is preparing to open a library in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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Vancouver Island Canadian Rangers training for Light Urban Search and Rescue capability

"If we can band together a group of people ... then we can ... expand our capabilities even more."



Canadian Ranger Curtis Smecher of the Ucluelet Canadian Ranger Patrol looks for survivors during a mock scenario as part of the Light Urban Search and Rescue disaster response training at the Urban Search and Rescue Training Site at CFB Esquimalt.

Photos by Captain Natasha Tersigni, 4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group

Canadian Ranger Lindsay Chung 4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group

4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group is developing a new capability in disaster response, starting with the Ucluelet Canadian Ranger Patrol learning Light Urban Search and Rescue skills. Members of the Ucluelet Canadian Ranger Patrol conducted a three-day introduction to Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) March 4 to 6 at CFB Esquimalt's Urban Search and Rescue School. The skills learned will help them assist local authorities in responding to disasters such as earthquakes or tsunamis. "There are three different categories of USAR, and that's to do with the equipment and person-

nel you have available; so, you have light, medium, and heavy," explained Warrant Officer (WO) Evan Laplante, Canadian Ranger Instructor. "We focused more on the light aspects, so Light Urban Search and Rescue, which is typically a 16-member team." Training was through a combination of hands-on and classroom learning to understand the levels of Assessment, Search, and Rescue (ASR). "ASR 1 (first level) is like an area recce," explained WO Laplante. "ASR 2 is more in-depth; it's more looking and doing a 360 of each of the buildings, and when you get to ASR 3, that would be getting in and potentially extracting people from bad situations."



The Rangers also learned rapid damage assessment to determine which buildings would be unsafe to re-occupy, and the hands-on skill of shoring, which is building a vertical support structure that could hold up a doorway to keep LUSAR team members safe as they do their work. They also learned about cribbing and how to lift and potentially move large pieces of material such as concrete slabs. "The training went very well," said WO Laplante. "It opened our eyes to what USAR has to offer, as well as it opened our eyes to what we don't know. It's very relevant training,

especially for where a patrol like Ucluelet is located, and how we can better integrate with emergency management systems throughout B.C." Eleven Canadian Rangers took part in the training. "The reality is we're going to be on our own for weeks before any kind of help arrives in terms of USAR," said Sergeant Emily Coombs, Patrol Commander for the Ucluelet CRP. "There really isn't that capability within our communities to do that sort of thing, and with what we learned, even though there were only 11 of us, if we can band together a group of people who can swing a hammer and pry a pry bar or something, then we can lead those teams and expand our capabilities even more."



Members of the Ucluelet Canadian Ranger Patrol extract a victim during a mock training scenario.



Canadian Ranger Master Corporal Sam Morrison, pictured left, and Canadian Ranger Master Corporal Aura Gouweleeuw work on a scene assessment.



Canadian Ranger Master Corporal Alison Harle stabilizes a victim's head during a mock training scenario.

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Tritons return, undeterred by volleyball loss

Peter Mallett
Staff Writer

After a two-year pause on volleyball competition, men's players from CFB Esquimalt and Comox stepped back on the Naden Athletic Centre court for a best-of-three tournament.

The end result wasn't what the Esquimalt Tritons had hoped for though. After the blocks, bumps, and spikes were registered, the blue and gold were swept away 2-0 by their air force opponents from 19 Wing. The lop-sided result on the score sheet was a disappointing 25-13, 25-15, 25-20 in favour of Comox in Game 1, and 25-14, 25-11, 25-11 in Game 2.

But the end result isn't a major concern, says team manager and outside hitter, S3 James Watt. Canadian Armed Forces sport competitions have been making a slow return in recent weeks following the lifting of COVID-19 health and safety measures, which gave the Tritons only two weeks practice prior to the series. The entire team is new, including S3 Watt who last played volleyball in high

school.

"Hearing the referee's whistle blow and signaling the team to serve certainly brought back a level of excitement I had definitely forgotten since high school," he says. "The whole team had a lot of fun and loved the competition that we have been missing since COVID-19 happened, and we have high hopes we will be together again on the court later this year."

On the other side of the net, one of their opponents, Maj Lewis Williams was also enthused to return to action. He says the competition in the series was important to give players on both teams a "mental break" from their jobs.

Maj Lewis has six years of experience in CAF volleyball play and noted his navy opponents are often hamstrung due to deployments.

"With navy teams, due to the nature of their jobs it's often a case of hit or miss," he says. "While today they just didn't have the formidable play we have grown accustomed to with the Tritons, in another posting season they could be kicking our butts just as easily."

Despite the outcome,

S3 Watt noted some great individual efforts from Tritons players including S3 Christopher Coombes, who proved his worth at the hitter or middle position, ASLt Liam Gilchrist an outstanding blocker, and S3 Enrico Esteban, also an outside hitter who had some powerful spikes in the series.

"Our opponents were very good and we knew it was going to be very difficult for our team to get into the groove," says ASLt Gilchrist. "With more time I think our positioning, defence, and blocking are areas we will improve."

S3 Watt agreed with ASLt Gilchrist and added that rotations, chemistry, and timing are other key areas the team needs to focus on going forward.

"We are confident that if we have more practise time, get to know each other, and even our names for that matter, the outcome of future series and competitions will be a lot different," he says.

There are no competitive matches on the horizon for his team, with the next CAF volleyball series likely not coming until later this fall.

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International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Defence Visible Minority Advisory Group

On March 21, 1960, police officers in a black township in South Africa opened fire on a group of people peacefully protesting oppressive pass laws, killing 69. The anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre is remembered the world over every March 21 as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Racism, discrimination, and hateful conduct in the workplace damages an individual's dignity and undermines the organization's operational effectiveness. The Defence Team is committed to addressing hateful conduct with the goal of one day eliminating it from the organization.

Defence Visible Minority Advisory Group

The Defence Visible Minority Advisory Group (DVMAG) represents both military and civilian members of the Defence Team. Its mandate is to:

Take a supportive role and apply a unique perspective to the job of building, nurturing, and retaining a talented and diverse DND/CAF civilian and military workforce; and help leaders at all levels by:

- communicating employment equity and related matters;
- helping to identify and recommend ways to eliminate systemic barriers; and
- providing advice to DND/CAF on the preparation, implementation, monitoring, and revision of its employment equity plan

DVMAG establishes a productive dialogue among members of the defence visible minority community, and between those members and DND/CAF as a whole. The DVMAG is empowered by the Employment Equity Act to engage itself

proactively in the implementation of Employment Equity throughout the DND/CAF.

Your Voices at Maritime Forces Pacific

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What is the relationship between racism and discrimination, and sexual misconduct and the need for culture change?

Racial prejudice and discrimination based on gender culminate, and are expressed, in the form of racism, sexism, and misogyny. Both are complex and interconnected. Both are forms of oppression.

Racism and sexism and misogyny intersect with oppression and toxic masculinity being at the core of both. They are the root

cause that have undergirded the existing culture and systems in the Defence Team.

Racism and discrimination within DND/CAF extend beyond hateful, racist, and discriminatory behaviours of individuals. They are embedded – to varying extents – in our everyday policies, programs, directives, and practices. This has, in turn, created systems of barriers.

These systems – constructed over time either unconsciously or through design – exclude or discriminate against people based on their gender, skin colour, heritage, and many other factors that have no bearing on an individual's capability to excel in its work.

Individual and systemic racism are impediments to an open, safe, respectful, and equitable Defence Team. Addressing anti-Indigenous, anti-Black, and other racialized forms of discrimination, along with other identity factors such as gender is the driving force behind the culture change underway in the Defence Team.

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A visit to Operation Palaci



Sub-Lieutenant Wilson Ho
MARPAC Public Affairs

Last week, Captain(N) Alex Kooiman, MARPAC Chief of Staff Operations, accompanied Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, on a site visit to Rogers Pass.

The two met with Royal Canadian Artillery troops on March 16 who are deployed on Operation Palaci. They were also greeted by Parks Canada staff.

Operation Palaci is the Canadian Armed Forces' support for the Parks Canada program to control avalanches in Rogers Pass. If uncontrolled avalanches were to take place, they can block the essential road and railway linking British Columbia to the rest of Canada. Operation Palaci is run under a Memorandum of Understanding between

the Department of National Defence and Parks Canada.

The visit began with a tour of the firing site, followed by a live firing using a 105mm Howitzer. Coordinating with Parks Canada staff, the Howitzer gun crew were given coordinates to locations where avalanches would most likely occur. There were five fire missions in total and both Capt(N) Kooiman and the Lieutenant Governor were given the opportunity to fire the Howitzer.

Following the live firing, Capt(N) Kooiman and LGov Austin were given a tour of the Rogers Pass Discovery Center. There, the Lieutenant Governor spoke to the troops and thanked them for the work they were doing to help ensure the highway and railway were unencumbered and flowing freely. She also presented a few awards to deserving members of the troop.



Capt(N) Alex Kooiman (left), and the Honourable Janet Austin (centre), speak with Lt Andrew Casey, Troop Commander before the live firing at Rogers Pass.



LGov Austin prepares to fire the 105mm Howitzer while a member of the troop acts as safety.



A Sergeant explains the firing to Capt(N) Alex Kooiman and LGov Austin.

Photos by: SLT Wilson Ho

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