



# Crowsnest

Vol. 4, No. 2 Summer 2010

Chief of the Maritime Staff

CANADIAN  
**NAVY**



Sailors march through the streets of Halifax during a Freedom of the City parade May 4.

## Navy celebrates 100 years of proud service

Photo: Cpl Rick Ayer

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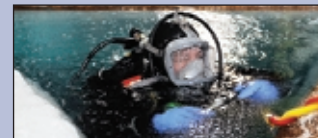
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## Committing to the next 100 years

**T**he navy is now 100 years old. Under the authority of the Naval Services Act, the Canadian Naval Service was created May 4, 1910. In August 1911 it was designated the Royal Canadian Navy by King George V until 1968 when it became Maritime Command within the Canadian Armed Forces. During the navy's first century of service, Canada sent 850 warships to sea under a naval ensign.

To mark the navy's 100th anniversary, Canadian Naval Centennial (CNC) teams in Halifax, Ottawa, Esquimalt, 24 Naval Reserve Divisions across the country, and friends of the navy created an exciting program of national, regional and local events with the goal of bringing the navy to Canadians. Many of these events culminated May 4, 100 years to the day that Canada's navy was born.

The centennial slogan, "Commemorate, Celebrate, Commit", reflects on a century of proud history, the role of the navy in a maritime nation, and its commitment to the next 100 years.

For more information on the CNC and associated events, visit: [www.navy.forces.gc.ca/centennial](http://www.navy.forces.gc.ca/centennial).



Photo: MCpl Serge Tremblay

*Chief of the Maritime Staff Vice-Admiral Dean McFadden, left; Marie Lemay, Chief Executive Officer of the National Capital Commission (NCC); and Russell Mills, Chair of the NCC's Board of Directors, participate in a sod-turning ceremony May 4 for the Canadian Navy Monument to be built at Richmond Landing behind Library and Archives Canada on the Ottawa River. The monument will pay homage to the hundreds of thousands of Canadian men and women who have served Canada in peace and war in our naval forces during the navy's first century of existence. It is expected to be built by May 2011.*



Photo: MCpl Roy MacLellan

*The Honourable John Baird, left, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities; Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Bush, Naval Centennial Staff Officer; and Vice-Admiral Dean McFadden, Chief of the Maritime Staff; unveil a set of two commemorative stamps celebrating the Canadian Navy's 100th anniversary at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa May 3. The stamps depict the past and present of Canada's naval service, featuring one of Canada's first warships, HMCS Niobe, and a modern frigate, HMCS Halifax. To purchase the Canadian Naval Centennial stamps, visit Canada Post's on-line store or a postal outlet.*

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For the PDF version of this publication and for more information about the Canadian Navy, visit [www.navy.forces.gc.ca](http://www.navy.forces.gc.ca).

Banner photo, page 1: Leading Seaman Andre Proulx-Yergeau, bos'n aboard HMCS *Edmonton*, fires the ship's 40mm gun during a live fire exercise. Photo: MCpl Chris Ward  
All articles written by Darlene Blakeley, except where otherwise noted.



## Keeping the chain of leadership strong

As the navy begins its second century of service, Vice-Admiral Dean McFadden, Chief of the Maritime Staff, is well aware of the unique responsibility he carries on his shoulders.

Acutely tuned in to both the rich tapestry of the navy's past and its potential for an exciting future, VAdm McFadden considers himself a link in the chain of naval commanders that began with Admiral Charles Edmund Kingsmill, who first took command of Canada's fledgling naval service in 1910.

"There's no doubt that I know that I am connected to Admiral Kingsmill, whom I know only by picture, by professional reading and by reputation," VAdm McFadden says. "There's a responsibility that comes as soon as you note that to yourself. Somewhere out there is a lieutenant-commander who I am accountable to, the same way Admiral Kingsmill was accountable to me, even though he didn't know who I'd be. That is what comes from being commander of the navy."

The events surrounding the navy's centennial have been emotional for many in the service, allowing them to reflect on the long journey from the navy's modest start to its well-recognized place in the world today.

"I think it is entirely appropriate for both the men and women who serve, and the families who support them, to be able to take an opportunity to recognize just how far we've come and the work that we are doing today," says VAdm McFadden. "This is a 100th birthday – you should get yourself a cake and you should take at least a few minutes to pat yourself on the back for the superb work the navy is doing. It's about commemorating, and it's about recognizing how we got to where we are and what that means to us."

VAdm McFadden draws a correlation between the birth of the naval service and the form it would take, and the type of country Canada would be as it went forward in the 20th century. "It began as a force



Admiral Charles Kingsmill



Photo: MCpl Serge Tremblay

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Vice-Admiral Dean McFadden stand together in the Senate of Canada.

doing little more than coastal defence, but by the end of the Second World War it was the third largest navy in the world," he explains. "The development of the navy reflects the development and the growth of this country, as we became more mature as a nation, as we exerted our independence, and as we decided what role Canada would play in the world. The navy was an immediate reflection of how the country was changing."

Today, as it performs an "extraordinarily diverse range of assignments", the navy is seen by Canada's allies as one of the most professionally competent and capable navies deployable in the world. "That's pretty much where you get to 100 years later from extraordinarily humble beginnings. It's about commemorating how we got here and not just the celebration of it, but the fact that we learned an awful lot of very tough lessons and lost an awful lot of capable young men and women as we figured out our craft."

And, unfortunately, the losses continue today as sailors make the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. "One of the most poignant moments of my life is that on the day we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the navy, we made the public announcement of the first death of a sailor conducting operations in Afghanistan – an awfully long way from the sea," says VAdm McFadden.

He is quick to point out however, that the navy doesn't work in isolation, and that being part of the

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The Homecoming Statue in Victoria, designed to honour the navy's centennial, was unveiled during a dedication ceremony May 4. The ceremony on Wharf Street followed Navy Day's Freedom of the City parade, which featured nearly 2,700 sailors, soldiers and air men and women who serve with Maritime Forces Pacific. Created by local sculptor Nathan Scott, the bronze statue is located on a spectacular site provided by the Provincial Capital Commission. The Homecoming Statue is inspired by public gratitude for the service of Canada's sailors and is a gift from their fellow citizens. It represents the special moment in the life of any sailor when they return from the sea to once again meet their family.



Photo: Cpl Frieda Van Putten



Photo: Penny Rogers

As part of the Canadian Naval Centennial, a special commemorative stained glass window was dedicated at St. Paul's Naval and Garrison Church in Esquimalt, B.C., May 22. Consecrated on December 12, 1866, St. Paul's has a long association with the Canadian Navy. Constructed by the glass works firm of Mercer and Schaefer Glasstudios in Victoria, the four-panel window depicts the history of Canada's navy. Over 400 donors from around the world contributed to the Naval Memorial Window Fund, as well as eight cities which donated in honour of ships named after them: Calgary, Charlottetown, Edmonton, Ottawa, Summerside, Toronto, Whitehorse and Yellowknife.



Photo: MCpl Serge Tremblay

Admiral Sir Charles Kingsmill, the first Director of the Canadian Naval Service, who served in that position from 1910-1920, was recognized by the Ontario Heritage Trust for his distinguished accomplishments with the Canadian Navy and as a significant Ontarian at a ceremony in Portland, Ont., May 15. Friends, family, historians and naval personnel led by Chief of the Maritime Staff Vice-Admiral Dean McFadden gathered at Admiral Kingsmill's resting place in the Emmanuel Anglican Cemetery to unveil a plaque that outlines the Admiral's contributions to the Canadian Navy.



## Navy presents Centennial Bell to Canada

In the hallowed hall of the Senate of Canada, 100 years to the day it was created there May 4, 1910, the navy presented a ship's bell to the people of Canada, rededicating itself to another century of service.

"[The Centennial Bell] stands as a symbol that honours the past, celebrates the Royal Canadian Navy's achievements and recognizes the navy's safeguarding of Canadian values of freedom, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law," said Minister of National Defence Peter MacKay.

During the ceremony, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that the Government of Canada is designating May 4, 2010, as Canadian Navy Centennial Day to mark the navy's 100th anniversary of service.

"In one relatively brief century, our sailors have established a mighty tradition of service and heroism, one that is second to none in the world among navies that are often far older, and in some cases, far larger," said Prime Minister Harper. "And Canadians have come to understand that our way of life, our trade, our security, our capacity to influence events elsewhere depends in significant part upon the men and women of the Canadian Navy and the ships in which they sail. It has for 100 years, and in the future that is mine to see, I expect it will continue to be so."

The Centennial Bell, presented by Chief of the Maritime Staff Vice-Admiral Dean McFadden, was christened with the waters of Canada's three oceans – Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic – as well as the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Great Lakes, and the Indian Ocean, representing the navy's international theatre of operations. These waters were collected throughout 2009 by naval ships and submarines. The bell, with its original rope made by Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class David Lowther, and a book highlighting the history of the bell and displaying the variety of artefacts from which it was made, are to be kept as a permanent reminder that Canada is a maritime nation dependent upon the oceans for its national prosperity.

"For many mariners, the ship's bell came to symbolize life at sea itself," said VAdm McFadden. "That is why even to this day, the bell is a warship's most



*Command Chief Petty Officer Robert Cleroux rings the Centennial Bell for the first time in the Senate of Canada.*

Photo: MCpl Serge Tremblay

important artefact, and why it continues to play an important role in naval routine and ceremony, even in a technically sophisticated force where operations are coordinated to the second."

In a tragic turn of events, attendees at the ceremony also mourned the loss of Petty Officer 2nd Class Craig Blake, the first Canadian sailor to die in Afghanistan. A member of Fleet Diving Unit Atlantic, PO2 Blake was killed May 3 after an improvised explosive device detonated during a dismounted operation, about 25 km southwest of Kandahar City in the Panjwayi District.

"The presentation of this bell to the people of Canada allows us – the men and women of today's navy who are but custodians of this great national institution – to do more than commemorate and reflect on the past," VAdm McFadden said. "It allows us to acknowledge our covenant with the nation and dedicate ourselves anew to the watch, that ceaseless vigil that keeps Canada safe from the perils of the world. It is a vigil that still demands effort to the last measure, and sacrifice, even far from the sea – in the dusty plains of Afghanistan where we lost one of our own yesterday, PO2 Craig Blake."



## Sailors exercise *Freedom of the City*

Photo: Duncan Ayre



Commander of Maritime Forces Pacific Rear-Admiral Tyrone Pile leads nearly 2,700 members of the Canadian Forces past the B.C. Legislature buildings in Victoria while exercising Freedom of the City.

**T**he Canadian Navy on both coasts exercised Freedom of the City May 4, marking 100 years of dedicated service to Canada.

In Halifax and Victoria thousands of sailors and other members of the Canadian Forces marched through their respective cities with drums beating, flags flying and bayonets fixed. The celebratory parades replicated a 400-year-old ceremony demonstrating good relations between the cities and their military establishments. Freedom of the City was last exercised in 1985 when the navy celebrated its 75th anniversary.

### What is Freedom of the City?

The tradition of granting Freedom of the City to a military unit goes back more than three centuries. Throughout history there has been a strong aversion against the war-like appearance of large bodies of troops in city streets disturbing the peace and appearing to be a threat to the ancient civic rights of the city fathers. The custom first took hold after the restoration of King Charles II of England in 1660.

During the winter months, military troops would

camp outside the walls of the city. While the soldiers might visit the city's taverns during the day, they would return to their camp at sunset. Over the winter, the soldiers would gain the trust of their city neighbours as the citizens became more familiar with them. They might then be conferred with Freedom of the City, particularly if they had defended the city from an attacking enemy or performed some other worthy deed.

The Freedom of the City means, in the physical sense, the granting of the privilege for all time for a specific military unit to march through the city with "drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed." This is a most prized honour, as it recognizes the honourable record of the military unit, and demonstrates the affection and esteem with which it is held by the community and the trust the citizenry has in the military to protect its democratic institution.

The granting of The Freedom of the City is therefore a private matter between civic officials and the specific unit. The decision to grant this symbolic freedom rests with the municipal authorities. While it is not unprecedented, it is rare for a city to grant the



honour to a foreign military unit.

The ceremony starts as the unit to be granted the Freedom of the City marches towards city hall, colour cased and rifles carried without bayonets fixed.

When the unit nears city hall, they are stopped by

the chief constable standing in front of a barrier in the centre of the road. The unit halts at the barrier. The chief constable challenges the unit on its identity and the commanding officer responds with the unit's title. The chief constable then calls for the unit to "advance one and be recognized."



*A young boy tries on a naval cap during Maritime Forces Pacific's Freedom of the City Parade in Victoria.*

Only the commanding officer moves closer to the barrier.

The commanding officer, accompanied by the chief constable, then marches to the door to city hall where the commanding officer knocks on the door three times with the pommel of his or her sword. The door is opened by the mayor, and the commanding officer declares his or her name and that of the unit. The mayor and councillors line up at the entrance to city hall and the mayor reads a proclamation proclaiming that Freedom of the City is bestowed on the specific unit. The commanding officer accepts the freedom and returns to the unit and chief constable orders that the barrier be removed. The unit fixes bayonets, and the colour is unfurled. The unit marches past, with the mayor taking the salute.

Once a unit has been granted Freedom of the City it may exercise its freedom on occasions arranged with the civic authority. The ceremony to exercise



*Commander of Maritime Forces Atlantic Rear-Admiral Paul Maddison knocks on the door at Halifax City Hall during the Freedom of the City ceremony.*

Freedom of the City is similar, except the unit may march directly to city hall with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed. After the unit is challenged and identified by the chief constable, the mayor proclaims the unit welcome, inspects the troops and invites the unit to exercise its freedom.

## The chain of leadership

*Continued from page 3*

Canadian Forces team, working under the purview of the Canada First Defence Strategy, is a crucial step toward ensuring the continued success of the navy as a national institution.

But even as he pushes for recruits and new ships, VAdm McFadden does not want previous sacrifices to be forgotten as the navy moves into the 21st century. As he reflects on the past and what the history of the navy has meant to him, he also knows that he must keep the chain of leadership strong and unbroken. "I know that I carry the responsibility of a national institution, and I need to make sure that that institution is viable and effective 10 and 20 years from now, not just today."



*Maritime Forces Atlantic sailors stand on parade at Halifax City Hall to request Freedom of the City.*

In Remembrance**Petty Officer 2nd Class Craig Blake****Navy diver's "strong sense of duty" took him to land-locked Afghanistan**

By Virginia Beaton

**F**lags flew at half-mast in Halifax and across Canada in a somber acknowledgement of the first Canadian Navy sailor to fall in Afghanistan.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Craig Blake, 37, a clearance diver with Fleet Diving Unit Atlantic (FDUA), died after an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated during a dismounted operation May 3, about 25 kilometres southwest of Kandahar City in the Panjwayi District. The incident occurred at approximately 4:40 p.m. Kandahar time as PO2 Blake and his team were walking back to camp after dismantling an IED near the village of Pay-e-Moluk.

PO2 Blake had been in Afghanistan for just a few weeks. According to Petty Officer 1st Class Paul (Knobby) Walsh, PO2 Blake's comrades and friends in the diving unit will remember him as a dedicated sailor whose skills as a diver and leader were beyond doubt.

"His strong sense of duty was what took him to Afghanistan," said PO1 Walsh, who also has deployed to Afghanistan to dismantle IEDs. "His country asked him to go. He was leader of a team and he had a sense of duty to that team."

A native of Simcoe, Ont., PO2 Blake joined the navy in his late teens and had been at FDU A since 2000. He and his wife Priscilla had two sons, seven-year-old Ty and 14-year-old Cain.

"Craig worked in all aspects of the diving branch," said PO1 Walsh, adding that PO2 Blake started out in underwater engineering and battle damage repair before moving into training. "That is where I first got to know Craig well. He was a great guy. He was quiet, but his actions spoke louder than his words."

The two men worked together training navy divers, combat army divers and Special Forces divers. "Craig was directly responsible for the physical training and he took great pride in that," said PO1 Walsh.

Within the diving unit, "Craig was a total professional. When we were on the side, Craig was the guy who would sit in the boat for hours and hours, dressed in all the heavy equipment as the leading seaman

standby diver.

For that instant reaction to an emergency when something could go terribly

wrong, you could

simply tap Craig on the shoulder and he would respond. His job was priority one and it was to make sure other people were safe."

PO2 Blake was well known for his dedication to physical fitness. He was an enthusiastic cyclist who would bike to work in any weather. He greatly admired Lance Armstrong, seven-time winner of the Tour de France and PO1 Walsh observed, "When the Tour de France was happening, Craig was always checking the results whenever he had a break. He loved watching that race."

In September 2008, then MS Blake participated in the Navy Fitness Challenge as the cyclist member of a triathlon team competing in the open category. His team, named Waterwings, won the category. PO1 Walsh speculated that PO2 Blake had certain characteristics in common with Armstrong, noting, "He was really committed to what he thought was right and he never quit...he was tough and he was determined to see things through."

As FDU A rallied to support the Blake family, PO1 Walsh stated, "Craig was a kind man and a good man. We in this unit will never forget him and I hope we do justice to his memory and to his family."

The repatriation ceremony for PO2 Blake took place May 6 at 8 Wing Trenton, Ont. More than 30 members of FDU A were present, as well as dignitaries including Governor General Michaëlle Jean, Minister of National Defence Peter MacKay and Chief of the Maritime Staff Vice-Admiral Dean McFadden. The repatriation was preceded by a ramp ceremony at Kandahar Airfield on Wednesday, attended by more than 1,500 personnel.

PO2 Blake was the 143rd member of the Canadian Forces to fall in Afghanistan since the mission started in 2002.



*Wreaths line the steps of the National War Memorial in Ottawa to mark Battle of the Atlantic Sunday.*



Photo: MCpl Serge Tremblay

## Canadians honour sailors who fought in the Battle of the Atlantic



Photo: Pte Michael Bastien

*Veterans salute after placing a wreath at the cenotaph in front of the B.C. Legislative buildings in Victoria.*

Canadians attended ceremonies across the country May 2, to mark the sacrifices made by the many who fought on their behalf in the epic Battle of the Atlantic during the Second World War.

The Battle of the Atlantic, the fight for supremacy of the North Atlantic, was waged from 1939 until 1945 and pitted Allied naval and air forces against German U-boats, whose primary targets were the convoys of merchant ships carrying vital life-sustaining cargo from North America to Europe.

Much of the burden of fighting the Battle of the Atlantic fell to the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN). At the outbreak of war, the RCN was comprised of only six destroyers and a handful of smaller vessels. By the end of the war, the RCN was one of the largest navies in the world. The Battle of the Atlantic ended with V-E Day on May 8, 1945.

As the Canadian Navy commemorated the sacrifices and historic accomplishments of Canada and her allies during Battle of the Atlantic services this year, it also recognized the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Navy, celebrated May 4.



Photo: Cpl Ronnie Kinnie

*With Second World War Memorial HMCS Sackville anchored offshore, a sentry stands at the Sailors Memorial in Point Pleasant Park, Halifax, for the Battle of the Atlantic ceremony.*

## HMCS *Frederickton* home from overseas mission

**A**fter more than six months at sea, HMCS *Frederickton* is now home. The ship arrived in Halifax May 4, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the navy.

As part of her deployment on Operation Saiph, a counter-piracy and counter-terrorism mission, *Frederickton* patrolled the Gulf of Oman, the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the waters off the coast of Somalia in an effort to improve regional security and promote a safe maritime environment for the tens of thousands of merchant vessels that pass through that strategic area every year.

"The last six months have been an incredible opportunity to showcase Canadian commitment to international security through our navy's flexibility, the ship's and embarked helicopter's capabilities, and most importantly, the skill-set and resourcefulness of a talented ship's company," says Commander Steve Waddell, *Frederickton's* commanding officer. "We accomplished two very distinct and important missions: one integrated with a NATO task group on a counter-piracy tasking, the other allied with coalition partners on a counter-terror mission. Both assignments were interesting and professionally rewarding."

Cdr Waddell admits the highlight of the mission for him was leading an "outstanding group of men and women" under the Canadian flag in the navy's centennial year. "I think I'm most proud of the crew's commitment to service and the excellent morale they maintained while separated from their family and friends for six months," he says. "I reflect on the fact that two-thirds of *Frederickton's* ship's company



Photo: Cpl Johanie Maheu

*HMCS Frederickton, with a Sea King helicopter hovering off the stern, arrives in Halifax to be greeted by a large crowd of family and friends.*

had never deployed on a six-month mission before. This is a success story because it shows that our recruiting efforts are working. With the experience [crew members] have gained on this varied and challenging deployment, the future navy, and maritime air, are in good hands."

During her deployment, *Frederickton's* activities included assisting the container vessel MV *Kota Wajar* immediately following its release from pirate captivity, intercepting suspected pirate skiffs and responding to terrorist threats.

People in Eastern Canada will have the opportunity see *Frederickton* this fall, as the ship is expected to deploy to the Great Lakes to promote the navy and support recruiting efforts in Ontario and Quebec.

### Fun Facts

*Total distance travelled:* 37,000 nautical miles (67,000 km)  
*Water consumed:* 3,675,000 litres  
*Mail received:* 442 bags (6,570 kg)  
*Bacon eaten:* 2,540 kg  
*Eggs eaten:* 7,600 dozen  
*Milk consumed:* 17,000 litres  
*Bread:* 10,900 loaves



*A Petty Officer 2nd Class from HMCS Frederickton holds his daughter after arriving home from an overseas counter-piracy and counter-terrorism mission.*

Photo: Cpl Johanie Maheu

## Sailors receive warm welcome in Halifax

By Virginia Beaton

As long as sailors have been going to sea there have been homecomings. When HMCS *Fredericton* crew members returned from their six-month overseas deployment, they joined the navy's biggest party of the year and possibly, of the century.

On May 4, the navy's 100th anniversary, a piper stood on *Fredericton's* deck playing "Heart of Oak" as the ship came alongside. On the jetty was the Stadacona Band of Maritime Forces Atlantic and dozens of family members and friends of the ship's company, carrying Canadian flags, balloons, flowers and posters to greet their loved ones.

One sailor dropped to one knee and proposed to his girlfriend, encouraged by a roar of approval and applause from the crowd, while another sailor met his baby son for the first time.

If that wasn't enough, there was also a white stretch limousine waiting on the jetty to take Petty Officer 1st Class Will Mandeville, his wife Honeylynn and three children home. PO1 Mandeville was the lucky winner of a local radio station's contest called "While you were out...at sea", entitling him to \$10,000 worth of landscaping, as well as the family's choice of new hardwood floors or a renovated kitchen or bathroom.

Annette Thompson-Reed, accompanied by her Bernese mountain dog Ripley, was looking forward to reuniting with her husband Corporal Peter Reed, an



Photo: Cpl Johanie Maheu

*Crowds of friends and family greet sailors returning from overseas aboard HMCS Fredericton with homemade posters, flags and flowers.*

image technician in *Fredericton*. "I've heard a lot about the places he's visited. It sounds like an exciting deployment," she said. Ripley, wearing a red *Support our Troops* T-shirt, was only six months old and weighed about 70 pounds when Cpl Reed deployed. "Now Ripley is over 100 pounds and he's a year old," she noted.

As sailors greeted their friends and family, plans were being made for some time off before *Fredericton* rejoins the Atlantic fleet for the International Fleet Review in late June.



## Sailors serve in Kabul

Sailors currently stationed in Afghanistan proudly display the navy centennial flag in Kabul. Navy personnel make up approximately one-third of the CF's contingent in Kabul. Back row, from left: PO1 Roger Payne, MS Kevin Leenders, MS Spencer Dill, Cdr Rob Watt, Cdr Mark White, Cdr Luc Morin and LCdr Pete Van Ek. Front row: PO2 Claude Normandeau, LCdr Mike Mangin, LS Helen Goldie, Lt(N) Laurel O'Neil and LCdr Gary Guymer. Absent: LCdr Shaina Leonard, CPO2 Mike Fairfax and LS Rod Carper.

# Reservists make dive history in the North

By Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Allingham

**H**istory was made earlier this year when port inspection divers from Canada's Naval Reserve conducted the longest sustained ice diving operation in Canadian Forces history. The operation took place at the northern most extreme of Canada, Canadian Forces Station Alert, during Operation Nunavut 10 from April 6-29.

Op Nunavut was a combined sovereignty exercise with a mission to demonstrate the CF's ability to go anywhere, anytime, in Canada's high Arctic. In addition to the dive team, participants included the Arctic Response Company Group from 38 and 41 Canadian Brigade Groups, 1 Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, 440 Transport Squadron and the Danish Navy Sirius Sled Dog Patrol.

A 10-person port inspection dive team made up of divers from six Naval Reserve Divisions (NRDs) conducted underwater repairs to CFS Alert's freshwater intake at Dumbell Lake, replacing one of the sub-

mersible pumps. The team also conducted diving operations through the sea ice around Alert. In all, 86 dives were conducted for a combined bottom time of over 60 hours. The longest dive was 118 minutes – the temperature at the time was -27C and the water temperature was 0C.

To penetrate the two-metre-thick ice, the team was assisted by Jim Milne of Defence Research and Development Canada in Halifax, who used a hot water drilling system to melt through the sea ice.

Once through the ice, the first ocean dive was conducted by Petty Officer 2nd Class Igor Sevic from Victoria's NRD HMCS *Malahat*. Shortly after entering the water he reported on the hardwire communications system: "You guys aren't going to believe it – under here it's absolutely amazing". As all 10 divers soon discovered, the under-ice sea was a labyrinth of ice caves and deep formations that reflected the brilliant blues and aquamarine greens of the continuous Arctic sun.

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*An inukshuk located on Oopik Island near Canadian Forces Station Alert.*



*Master Seaman Marie-Josée Martel, a member of the port inspection dive team, ascends from frigid waters after a dive under the sea ice of Dumbell Bay.*



## MCDVs put to the test

Three Kingston-class maritime coastal defence vessels (MCDVs), HMC Ships *Whitehorse*, *Brandon* and *Edmonton*, were at sea this spring for Exercise Pacific Guardian, an integrated coastal defence exercise off the west coast of Vancouver Island and in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

During the exercise, crews were put to the test, exposed to a variety of scenarios relating to the protection of Canadian domestic interests. These scenarios could include drug or immigrant smuggling, pollution detection, marine mammal sightings, shellfish poaching, illegal logging or criminal activities.

"Keeping watch over the ocean approaches to Canada and its harbours is what the navy does for Canada every day, and this exercise will further enhance our surveillance of Canada's maritime approaches," said Commodore Ron Lloyd, Commander of Canadian Fleet Pacific. "The highly manoeuvrable Kingston-class is well suited for maritime security patrols in coastal areas."

Also participating in Exercise Pacific Guardian were aircrews in CP-140 Aurora maritime patrol aircraft and CH-124 Sea King surveillance helicopters, navy divers from Fleet Diving Unit Pacific and soldiers from Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's), as well as RCMP officers and Department of Fisheries and Oceans officials.



Photo: Cpl Frieda Van Putten

*A Sea King helicopter hovers over the fo'c'sle of HMCS Whitehorse during Exercise Pacific Guardian.*



Photo: MCpl Chris Ward

*On the bridge of HMCS Edmonton, Sub-Lieutenant Christopher Shook, left, navigating officer; SLt Gregg Morris, deck officer; and Lieutenant-Commander Patrick Montgomery, commanding officer; prepare for a simulated at-sea force protection exercise.*

## Navy non-commissioned members take education to new levels

An increasingly educated non-commissioned member (NCM) corps is leading to changing roles and responsibilities within the navy, according to Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Robert Cleroux, Maritime Command's chief petty officer.

"Thirty years ago an officer could join with a grade 12 education and technically could be promoted to admiral without any further education, and our sailors could join with minimum of grade nine and easily make it to chief," CPO1 Cleroux says. "Today almost all of our recruits in the NCM corps are high school graduates, and many have college or university educations. We are also seeing more and more with master's degrees."

CPO1 Cleroux explains that over the past few years, the navy has introduced many changes to NCM professional development, including easy access to Officer Professional Military Education courses and knowledge acquisition programs. As well, the base personnel selection officer is still



Photo: Maxine Machan

*Dr. Michael Young, left, Assistant Program Head, Justice Studies, Leading Seaman Eleanor Creighton, and Dr. Erich Schellhammer, Program Head, Justice Studies, celebrate the completion of LS Creighton's degree at Royal Roads University.*

available for any NCM to seek out further education opportunities. He says that many young sailors are choosing to pursue advanced educational opportunities in an effort to improve themselves.

"In my opinion 30 years from now this will be the norm for most of our sailors," CPO1 Cleroux says. "Already we see that the senior NCO [non-commissioned officer] corps is being given more and more responsibility and with continued education and professional development, we will continue to see changing roles for the NCO corps."

Some of this is driven by quickly advancing technologies aboard ship, leading sailors to pursue technical certificates at colleges. "Thirty years ago we had a navy of grease pencils and vacuum tubes, our power plant was steam and most of our weapons systems were mechanical," says CPO1 Cleroux. "Today our ships are technologically advanced and our sailors are working with computers and complex diagnostic tools. Our engines are gas turbines and the sophistication of our weapons systems could allow the ship to fight all in automatic."

CPO1 Ken Fisher, who currently works as the professional development chief for navy NCMs at the Directorate of Maritime Training and Education, has 40 years of service with the navy and has also seen a lot of changes over the years. "It was a different environment when I first joined," he says. "It used to



Photo: Cpl Shilo Adamson

*Naval weapons technicians like Leading Seaman David Johnson are part of an NCM corps that pursues technical certificates at college to keep up with quickly advancing technologies aboard ship.*

**Interested in pursuing an education with the Canadian Navy? Visit [www.forces.ca](http://www.forces.ca)**

Photo: Cpl Shilo Adamson



*NCMs, including marine engineer technicians like Leading Seaman Troy McDonald, have increasing access to education and professional development and are taking advantage of new opportunities.*

be an 'us' versus 'them' mentality – the NCMs and the officers in the wardroom – and education had a lot to do with that because officers had to have a higher education. Now that more education is being demanded by NCMs, the gap between the two has narrowed."

In the past, there was reluctance by NCMs to further their careers through advanced educational opportunities, according to CPO1 Fisher. Now the navy sends young sailors to college and brings them out as highly skilled technicians. "This was unheard of before," he says. "We have always had very dedicated and well-trained sailors, but now, with these new educational levels, you are seeing a Canadian NCM on par with any of our allies, and capable of filling billets that used to be filled by officers."

CPO1 Fisher says all of this makes for a better navy. "We still have a ways to go, but the huge advances I've seen over my career make me proud of the foresight of my predecessors. And the increasing support shown by officers for NCMs' professional development will also help make us stronger."

Leading Seaman Eleanor Creighton, a supply technician at CF Health Services Centre Pacific in Esquimalt, is one example of an NCM who is highly motivated to achieve a higher education. She has just completed her Bachelor of Arts in Justice Studies from Royal Roads University, and is planning to apply for law school in the near future. She says that her education has enabled her to apply skills such as conflict resolution, critical thinking, policy analysis, research and the knowledge of legal terminology to her job on a regular basis.

"I think that education is important at any level in the Canadian Forces," says LS Creighton. "I do not think it should make any difference whether one is an NCM or a commissioned officer. Many of the NCM occupations require a formal college education to do the job."

Increasing education for NCMs is a tremendous asset for the navy says CPO1 Fisher. "The NCMs of the future will be highly educated and will think outside the box. By the time they make it to CPO1, they will have gone through myriad training and specialized courses. Education will allow them to absorb more and contribute more."

## Reservists make dive history in the North

*Continued from page 12*

The divers also encountered some Arctic wildlife during their excursions. A ring seal that made the dive access hole his new home often visited the team. He paid several visits to the divers both underwater and on the surface. A large wolf also ventured out onto the sea ice and visited the divers on several occasions.

Port inspection divers, a primary role of Naval Reserve sailors, will also participate in Operation Nanook this August, diving at Nanisivik, Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay. Op Nanook is a joint operation that takes place every year in the eastern Arctic, reinforcing Canada's sovereignty over its northern territory.

## Freeze frame

Photo: Cpl Roxanne Shewchuk



*HMCS Toronto arrives in the Port of Old Québec June 3 during the second Rendez-vous naval de Québec. Toronto, along with ships from Standing NATO Maritime Group One, brought more than 900 sailors into the city.*

## Rolling navy billboards hit the highway

**K**ee your eyes peeled across Canada this summer, as the navy's interactive display buses hit the highway. Designed to enhance the navy's attraction and recruitment efforts, five naval display buses (NDBs) will be on the road visiting communities from coast to coast.

The NDBs represent a joint effort between the Department of National Defence and Public Works and Government Services Canada, along with international and local industries including Daimler Mercedes-Benz of Germany, Dymech Engineering Inc. of Greely, Ont., and Southwood Graphics of

Mississauga, Ont.

"This is an entirely collaborative way for us to address a problem," said Vice-Admiral Dean McFadden, Chief of the Maritime Staff, just before he toured the new bus. "We've seen the size of the navy get smaller in the last few years. That's an understandable consequence of our focus being on Canada's most important mission in Afghanistan. We dug a hole in the size of the navy. We did it one shovelful at a time; we're going to fill that in one shovelful at a time."

The NDBs have been designed to bring the navy to Canadian communities in order to inform citizens about the employment and educational opportunities offered by the Canadian Forces and the navy. While looking to attract and recruit another 1,100 sailors this fiscal year, the navy is especially focussed on recruiting personnel into naval technical trades such as naval engineering officers, marine engineers and naval electronics technicians.

The new 13.7-metre highway coaches are rolling billboards with the interior housing a series of interactive, technologically advanced computer systems.

Photo: MCpl Serge Tremblay

