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# Generate Forward

*Enabling deployed RCN assets to provide strategic capability abroad*

*HMCS Vancouver sails near Kaikoura, New Zealand during earthquake relief operations.*

Photo: New Zealand Defence Force



By Darlene Blakeley

It began as a multinational exercise in the Norwegian Sea, but soon turned into an unanticipated real-world operational patrol in support of NATO.

Her Majesty's Canadian Submarine *Windsor* had been participating in Exercise Dynamic Mongoose with over 3,000 sailors and air personnel from eight allied countries last summer when the call came to support a classified NATO operation. With the concurrence of the Government of Canada (GoC), *Windsor* was rapidly re-tasked and able to remain in theatre for an additional two weeks before returning home.

"This request, and *Windsor's* quick response, highlights the value that having a submarine already deployed brings to Canada and its allies," says Vice-Admiral Ron Lloyd, Commander Royal Canadian Navy (RCN).

VAdm Lloyd was impressed with *Windsor's* contribution to the major exercise and the ease with which it transitioned to the new operation.

"HMCS *Windsor's* deployment proves once again the tremendous capability and agility of Canada's navy operating forward," he says.

The RCN calls the concept "Generate Forward", and it maximizes the operational use of limited personnel and materiel assets, conducting force generation abroad in order to also be readily available in strategic operations. A driving force behind current and future planning, it allows RCN assets away from home waters to work with partners in developing relationships, friendships and ultimately trust. It also allows the RCN to be geographically close and therefore much more quickly responsive to any GoC directive to re-task an RCN asset as a first responder in areas of the world where it might be needed.

"The mission success of *Windsor* was directly attributable to the broad, balanced skill sets of our sailors, combined with the geographic positioning of the submarine while it was conducting other activities," says Captain (Navy) Jamie Clarke, Commander Canadian Submarine Group.

The RCN is a globally deployable, multi-mission capable enterprise readily available to meet the strategic priorities of the GoC both at home and abroad. However, producing mission-ready force elements is a complex process. The inherent nature of force generating personnel, equipment and training into combat-capable teams requires significant resources and extended time at sea in order to be operationally ready.

"Generating forward will leverage the unique capabilities of our sailors and ships to conduct much more force generation further offshore than we have done in recent years, while concurrently providing a readily available RCN capability for achieving strategic GoC priorities, from a demonstration of military resolve to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief," adds Capt(N) Josée Kurtz, Director Naval Operations and Plans at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa.

## **Strategic pre-positioning of assets**

As to where RCN assets will deploy at any given point in time, the GoC provides overarching strategic



direction through the Global Engagement Strategy (GES), which defines planning for priority regions and countries based on Global Affairs Canada advice. The Department of National Defence then executes operational command of assets and personnel congruent to the GES, and finally the RCN provides assets to meet these strategic objectives. The exact location and nature of employment for RCN resides with the Commander of the RCN, based on the advice of the RCN Global Engagement team on his staff. When urgent events occur, RCN assets will respond under the direction of the appropriate operational authority.

Many of the RCN's forces are capable of generating forward, depending upon the area of operations and the potential missions and tasks. While it will primarily apply to Halifax-class warships and Victoria-class submarines, specialized elements including clearance divers, the Maritime Tactical Operations Group, and Naval Security Teams all have a role to play in creating opportunities for capacity building and maintaining readiness while deployed in strategically important regions of the world.

"The strategic pre-positioning of RCN assets provides options in response to any emerging crisis," explains Capt(N) Kurtz. "The availability of RCN ships as they conduct their tasks throughout the world can often be leveraged to support developing emergency situations."

For example, Her Majesty's Canadian Ship *Vancouver* was available at short notice to assist New Zealand following a 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck the South Island on November 14. *Vancouver* was in the vicinity of Auckland, NZ, at the time of the earthquake, preparing for a goodwill visit to celebrate the 75th anniversary of New Zealand's naval forces with other allied naval forces. At the request of the Government of New Zealand, the ship diverted to the region affected by the earthquake to

contribute to relief operations.

As part of a multinational naval task group, *Vancouver* contributed to the evacuation of approximately 900 people and the delivery of more than 216 tonnes of food and emergency supplies such as generators, portable pumps and portable chemical toilets. The ship's involvement in earthquake relief efforts fell under Operation Renaissance, which is the rapid deployment of the Canadian Armed Forces to the scene of a disaster overseas, as directed by the GoC.

As another example, an RCN submarine pre-positioned off the coast of South America can provide the government with strategic response options to intercept illicit trafficking.

"Time and space considerations are often detrimental to timely response of naval forces and strategic response options for the government," says Capt(N) Kurtz. "The RCN concept of Generate Forward will help to mitigate these concerns should the need arise."

### **Professional development opportunities**

Forward-deployed RCN assets also provide an opportunity to integrate with global partners, facilitating

unit and individual training objectives through mutually beneficial training and exchange opportunities. Professional development opportunities for naval personnel are achieved through bilateral training and exchanges during all Generate Forward activities.

"Training and exchange opportunities maintain institutional credibility by ensuring that naval personnel acquire valuable at-sea operational experience and advance training and qualifications at all levels," says Capt(N) Mike Knippel, Commander Naval Personnel and Training Group in Esquimalt, B.C.

In the future, RCN strategic global engagement, through the concept of Generate Forward, will continue to expand and leverage the production of mission-ready forces while facilitating Canada's diplomatic relations and regional partnerships in support of higher GoC strategic intent. And while deployments such as *Windsor's* can change on a dime, others are planned. HMC Ships *Ottawa* and *Winnipeg* will be conducting an Indo-Asia-Pacific deployment in 2017 employing the Generate Forward concept with anticipated engagements in numerous locations.

*HMCS Windsor* returns to Halifax after being re-tasked during a NATO exercise.



# Canadian sailor commands counter-terrorism task force

By Darlene Blakeley

**F**or the second time in two years a Canadian naval officer has taken command of Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150), a counter-terrorism task force headquartered in Manama, Bahrain.

Commodore Haydn C. Edmundson officially assumed command of CTF 150 on behalf of Canada during a change of command ceremony in December, taking over from Cmdre Bilal Abdul Nasir of the Pakistan Navy.

CTF 150 is one of three task forces under Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), a multinational naval partnership that promotes security, stability and prosperity across approximately 3.2 million square miles of international waters, encompassing some of the world's most important shipping lanes. All 31 partner nations participate voluntarily.

The deployment is part of Operation Artemis, the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) ongoing contribution to counter-terrorism and maritime security operations across

the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman.

"I am honoured and privileged to command this task force and to work alongside our maritime security partners in the wider region over the next four months," says Cmdre Edmundson. "During Canada's command of CTF 150 we will contribute to broader efforts in the region by suppressing terrorist activity through denying terrorist organizations the use of maritime routes to smuggle illicit cargo. This will be accomplished by commanding the ships and personnel of partner nations

assigned to CTF 150."

Canada has commanded CTF 150 on two other occasions: once in 2008 and most recently from December 2014 to April 2015. In addition to these command periods, Canada has provided contingents in support of other countries. Recently, from December 2015 to April 2016, a Canadian contingent consisting of five officers and two non-commissioned members of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) was deployed as part of CTF 150, and five members of the RCN deployed to Bahrain to support CTF 150 from April to August 2016.

Working with Cmdre Edmundson in Bahrain are 28 CAF members and two civilians from the Department of National Defence (DND). In addition, there are eight personnel from the Royal Australian Navy working on the headquarters team, including the Deputy Commander, Captain (Navy) Paul Scott.

According to Cmdre Edmundson, Canada has a responsibility to its citizens, allies and partners to help safeguard the high seas. "This is why the CAF assists in the protection of international waters – to ensure that the legitimate global trade that we depend on for the



*Commander CTF 150, Commodore Haydn Edmundson, right, welcomes Commander Cameron Steil of the Royal Australian Navy to Bahrain.*

Photo: DND



*Ships of CTF 150 promote security and stability across 3.2 million square miles of international waters.*

Photo: Cpl Blaine Sewell



global economy can proceed without the threat of terrorist activities,” he explains.

“Command of CTF 150 is also important as it demonstrates our willingness and ability to lead important missions with key allies and a range of regional partners. Partnering with like-minded countries provides an opportunity for the CAF to participate in multinational operations that further enhance interoperability and enables Canada to remain engaged in, and aware of, regional activities and challenges.”

Over the course of his four-month deployment, Cmdre Edmundson will be leading international teams conducting maritime security operations, including the boarding of vessels and, where appropriate, seizing illicit cargo such as narcotics and weapons that is used to fund terrorist activities globally. “Our goal is to deter and deny these organizations the ability to enable their activities through the trafficking of illicit cargo,” he says.

In addition, DND/CAF is bringing a new capability to CMF that will allow it to share near real-time unclassified maritime domain awareness information with CMF partner nations. With this capability, CMF members will benefit from an improved

understanding of the regional maritime traffic picture and the overall pattern of life on the high seas, thereby enhancing operations.

The new capability, called URSA, or Unclassified Remote-Sensing Situational Awareness, is a mobile, deployable unit that allows for the download of information directly from commercial satellites to a ground station located in Bahrain.

Additionally, Operation Artemis will conduct regional leader engagements and capacity building events alongside maritime security partners with a goal of enabling long-term security and stability in the region through enhanced maritime security capabilities that will address the challenge posed by terrorist networks.

Cmdre Edmundson brings a wealth of experience to his new position as Commander CTF 150. With over 30 years in the RCN, he has served in many ships throughout the world. He spent three years working with the U.S. Navy in San Diego, Calif., and also worked as second-in-command of Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Calgary* when it deployed to the Arabian Sea in support of Operation Apollo in 2003. In 2008, as Captain

of HMCS *Regina*, he deployed to the Far East in support of U.S. Navy 7th Fleet and Global Affairs Canada engagements in the Asia-Pacific Region.

“In July 2011, I hung up my dress blues and donned desert tan camouflaged combats and deployed to Afghanistan for a year as part of Canada's Operation Attention,” he says. “I am once again wearing desert tan camouflaged combats here in Bahrain, where I am proudly serving with my team of Canadians and Australians to counter terrorist organizations and their enablers.”

Like most sailors who must balance work and home life, Cmdre Edmundson is well aware of the load that families must bear while loved ones are deployed, especially over the holiday season.


“My family is very supportive of my career as a naval officer and understands the important work being done by the Government of Canada and members of the CAF in this important region of the world,” he says. “I am so very thankful for the amazing support from my entire family, who deserve much credit for their own dedication to our mission.”

Cmdre Edmundson will command CTF 150 until April.



*CTF 150 conducts maritime security operations, including the boarding of vessels and, where appropriate, seizing illicit cargo such as narcotics and weapons.*

Photo: DND



# Naval Reserve evolving into more strategic role

By Darlene Blakeley

**T**he Naval Reserve is evolving in order to fulfill a more modern, strategic role based on augmenting the regular component of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). An integral part of this process will include an opportunity for those currently serving in Class C (full-time) positions, or those who have served in Class C in the past five years, to transfer to the Regular Force more easily.

In keeping with the Chief of the Defence Staff's (CDS) direction for the Reserve component of the CAF to be primarily a part-time organization, and Commander Royal Canadian Navy's (RCN) vision of the Naval Reserve, all reservists Lieutenant-Commander and below (officers) and Petty Officer 1st Class and below (non-commissioned members) who are currently on Class C service or have had Class C service in the past five years, will be invited to component transfer (CT) to the Regular Force.

"The transfer of these personnel

will take place over the next several months," explains Lieutenant-Commander Victoria DeVita, who works in the Naval Personnel and Training Directorate at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. "Once the transition is complete, further CTs will take place through the CAF CT process with the expectation that the opportunity to transfer will be more open than it has been in the past."

Within the RCN, the intent to take on a more strategic role continues to be the *raison d'être* of the ongoing modernization of the Naval Reserve structural review. Concurrent with this review is a change in the crewing model for Kingston-class maritime coastal defence vessels.

Since the introduction of this class in 1995, the Naval Reserve has been tasked with the crewing of these ships. This led to the development of a cadre of full-time Class C reservists who, for several years, were able to meet manning requirements. However, in the long term, this force generation model proved to be unsustainable.

The immediate goal is to transition the current crewing model as expeditiously and seamlessly as possible, so that by 2019 the Kingston Class will be crewed primarily by Regular Force personnel, with Naval Reserve personnel augmenting the entire RCN surface fleet at a minimum of five per cent per unit.

Further, the new Naval Security Team will be a focus for which a reservist can participate in-venue throughout the world. It will be composed primarily of naval reservists and will include a full-time command team to ensure personnel, training and equipment are available for deployment. The team's task will include port force protection and host nation liaison, along with support and intelligence requirements in foreign ports.

The benefit to the Naval Reserve includes a definitive role in which to augment the Regular Force. As such, training for all occupations has been realigned to Regular Force training where possible, and new policies are being put into place to ensure that every ship at sea will



deploy with reservists onboard.

The past demand for the Naval Reserve to crew 10 ships, which was unsustainable without full-time personnel, is now gone and has been replaced with manageable short-term engagements on all platforms and in various deployable units throughout the surface fleet. As well, the CT process is being updated and streamlined to acknowledge and accommodate the training and commitment of reservists when and if they decide to continue with full-time service in the Regular Force.

### **Expedited enrollment**

With the advent of a more streamlined CT process, there is renewed focus on making changes to the Naval Reserve recruitment process. These potential changes mean that future recruits could be enrolled more quickly by shortening process-

ing timelines. The overall goal will be to enroll an applicant into the Naval Reserve within three weeks.

"The aim of expedited enrollment is to accelerate the process so that enthusiasm is maintained and training can begin sooner," explains LCdr DeVita. "The current process can be time consuming, sometimes taking up to several months to complete for many good reasons. As such, recruitment suffers and potential applicants may look to other options for employment."

She adds that a quick, efficient and effective recruiting process is crucial at this time as the Naval Reserve is actively expanding its strength, as directed by the CDS and Commander RCN.

For those people interested in joining the Naval Reserve in the future, it will mean a quicker enrollment process, which streamlines the basic

requirement to become a reservist. Once enrolled, further processes will be required to determine the optimal occupation for them, and to allow training to commence.

"For example," says LCdr DeVita, "a sailor may be enrolled with an enhanced reliability screening – a relatively quick process – and then be subject to a full security screening for their occupation after enrollment."

While she acknowledges there may be some risk involved in recruiting more quickly, such as applicants found unacceptable medically post-enrollment, LCdr DeVita says that further investigation is under way to determine how best to overcome and manage these challenges.

"It is hoped that these new initiatives will enhance the capability of the RCN, while meeting the priorities of today's fleet and preparing for the future fleet," she says.

***New policies are being put into place to ensure that every ship at sea will deploy with reservists onboard.***



Photos: DND

*The new Naval Security Team will be a focus for naval reservists.*

# RCN prepares to celebrate **Canada 150**

By Darlene Blakeley

**A** regatta of tall ships. An international tattoo. Naval boarding party demonstrations. A navy bike ride.

These are just some of the events that will take place as the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) celebrates the 150th anniversary of Confederation this year. Focussing on exciting events from coast to coast, community involvement will be a special part of the festivities.

"The RCN is proud to commemorate Canada's strong naval heritage with Canadians from all backgrounds as part of this year's celebrations," says Vice-Admiral Ron Lloyd, Commander RCN. "As we mark this special year, we remember and honour the bravery of generations of sailors who fought to defend Canadian values at home and abroad."

## **Rendez-vous 2017**

A signature event marking celebrations will be Rendez-vous 2017 (RDV 2017), when more than 40 tall ships will be sailing Canadian

waters from June 30 until August 20.

Québec City, home of Canada's Naval Reserve Headquarters, will be the main rallying point on the tour. The tall ship fleet, along with over 3,000 crew members and youth trainees, will be in the Port of Québec for a grand celebration from July 18 to 23. A host of free activities is planned for families and visitors, showcasing local and national culture as well as Canada's proud maritime heritage.

"RDV 2017 will bring Canadians to cities, towns and villages along the St. Lawrence River and help to promote a greater understanding of these communities and the vital role this iconic Canadian waterway played in the creation and development of our country," says Lieutenant-Commander Kevin Jutras, Naval Reserve Coordinator for RDV 2017.

The Québec City rallying point is one stop along a transatlantic race of 7,000 nautical miles taking place over the course of five months in 2017. The race starts at the port of Royal Greenwich in Great Britain on April 13 and finishes in the port of



**1867-2017**

Le Havre, France. There will be stops in Portugal, Bermuda, the United States and Canada along the way.

The tall ships are scheduled to stop at 30 different ports in Ontario, Québec and the Maritimes during the tour, giving thousands of Canadians the opportunity to admire the majestic beauty of these cathedrals of the seas.

## **Canada Day at Canada Place**

2017 marks the 10th consecutive year that Joint Task Force Pacific and Maritime Forces Pacific have participated in Canada Day at Canada Place in Vancouver, the largest Canada Day celebration outside the nation's capital.

This year, a keepsake photo postcard of visitors with Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members will provide a lasting memory, with the wording, "I'm celebrating Canada 150 with the Canadian Forces."

The CAF Zone will consist of 17 unit displays, a Halifax-class frigate and two Orca Patrol Craft Training ships. A Fun Force Fitness Test will challenge participants to test themselves to see if they have the right stuff for the CAF. A fog-filled tent will allow participants to use a thermal imaging camera to find hidden personnel. Visitors over 19 years of age can try the firearms training simulator.

Live demonstrations will include the rarely seen naval boarding party demonstrations, performed on three custom-painted, stacked sea

*Forty tall ships will sail Canadian waters this summer.*



Photo: Sail Training International



containers. Visitors will be able to try on a bomb suit and equipment used by the Maritime Tactical Operations Group – the specialized unit designed to manage high-risk threats at sea.

The Canadian Army will provide a selection of vehicles as well as a forward operating base with a “selfie station” for guests. The Royal Canadian Air Force will invite visitors to learn about search and rescue, and airframe maintenance. Overhead, two parachuting SkyHawks will appear to be making their approach over the CAF Zone.

Visitors can attend one of several live performances by the Naden Band of Maritime Forces Pacific, one of which will provide musical support for the live broadcast of a citizenship ceremony, presided over by Rear-Admiral Art McDonald, Commander Joint Task Force Pacific.

### **Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo**

The 2017 Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo (RNSIT), held in Halifax from June 29 to July 6, will also be a signature event in support of the Canada 150 celebrations. Approximately 295 personnel, including 50 cadets, will be employed in support of this year’s event.

“The RNSIT is a public spectacle which provides the CAF the opportunity to showcase personnel and their specialized skills,” says LCdr Sidney Green, Executive Officer RNSIT. “As this is a multinational event, it also provides the opportunity to build upon already established relationships with not only the community, but with other nations as well.”

This year’s Tattoo will be one of the biggest yet as it celebrates how Canada’s diverse landscape and culture define the nation on its 150th birthday. “From the moment the opening note rings out and until the final note fades, the Tattoo will recognize Canada as the strong nation it is,” says LCdr Green.

The 100th anniversaries of Vimy



*The Naden Band will be part of Canada 150 celebrations at Canada Place in Vancouver.*

Ridge and the Halifax Explosion will also be commemorated. From the bravery and courage exhibited by soldiers at the battle of Vimy Ridge to the military personnel and first responders rushing to help after the Halifax Explosion, Canadian history and honour will be on full display.

The RCN will have a strong presence at the Tattoo with the Stadacona and Naval Reserve bands on hand, and will proudly showcase its Maritime Tactical Operations Group. The navy will also compete in the ever popular CAF Obstacle Race.

### **Navy Bike Ride**

As part of its Canada 150 celebrations in the National Capital Region, the RCN will be hosting the inaugural Navy Bike Ride. It will take place May 20 with the option of doing either a 10km ride or 30km ride around downtown Ottawa and in Gatineau Park. Registration is open to both avid and recreational cyclists of all ages.

“There are many avid cyclists within the navy community, myself included, and I look forward to leading the first-ever Navy Bike Ride through Canada’s Capital Region during our nation’s 150th birthday,” says VAdm Lloyd.

### **MacKenzie River Run**

In the North, the RCN will operate small boats on Great Slave Lake in July. Two boats will potentially circumnavigate Great Slave Lake,

while an additional two boats will proceed from Hay River up the MacKenzie River to Tuktoyaktuk.

Using Joint Task Force North’s Operation Nunakput, an annual surveillance and presence operation, as a backdrop, the RCN will gain valuable insight into small boat internal water operations and Canadian Ranger cooperation. Sailors will celebrate Canada 150 as modern-day voyageurs of Canada’s internal waters.

These signature events are just a sample of what the RCN has planned for the year, as a host of other events will be held in communities across the country from ships’ visits to maritime galas to participation in the Invictus Games.

“This is an exciting time to be a Canadian and part of the navy,” says VAdm Lloyd. “We have many wonderful activities planned for this special year, and I hope that all Canadians will have the chance to celebrate this milestone alongside members of the RCN.”

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*Attendees join Vice-Admiral Ron Lloyd, Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, at the Honorary Captain (Navy) Symposium, held recently in Ottawa.*

## Honorary Naval Captains bring the navy to Canadians

By Lieutenant-Commander Kathleen Casby

**D**rawn from the ranks of Canadians who have distinguished themselves in private or public life, Honorary Naval Captains (HCapt(N)) are the ambassadors of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN).

HCapt(N) support the RCN's ongoing outreach and engagement efforts to educate and inform Canadians about their navy, its roles and contributions to national security, and, through their personal influence and networks, help reinforce the RCN's key stakeholder relationships.

The last 30 years have seen many distinguished Canadians appointed as HCapt(N), including television personalities, prominent academics, community leaders, and executives from all manner of business and industry. The visibility they bring to the RCN and the pride that the men and woman of the navy feel in their HCapt(N) provide an important link between the RCN and the communities in which they are based. The HCapt(N) continue a century-long tradition of service and are just as important today as when the program first began.

Every HCapt(N) across Canada

brings to the RCN a set of unique talents and skills, a keen desire to contribute, and specific goals that he or she may wish to achieve in support of the RCN's outreach and public engagement objectives. They work to establish and maintain connections between the RCN and community leaders – links that the RCN may not have been able to forge on its own. These connections can help broaden the RCN's influence among opinion leaders and influencers at a variety of local, regional and national levels.

HCapt(N) can assist with outreach into diverse communities and create opportunities for, and attend, special events, community projects and celebrations (receptions onboard ships, parades and inspections) related to the RCN, including those that support sailors and their families. They also work to support the community relations efforts of local and regional Naval Reserve Divisions and Sea Cadet Corps across the country. They proudly wear an RCN uniform at these events.

Each HCapt(N) is assigned an RCN affiliated formation or unit, with which they develop an important strategic relationship.

Given the importance and visibility

of the HCapt(N) program, candidates are appointed by the Minister of National Defence (MND). This process requires each candidate to be formally nominated, complete with background and social media checks and finally, endorsement by the Commander of the RCN prior to consideration by the MND. The duration of an HCapt(N) appointment is normally three years; however, extensions are granted on a case-by-case basis.

It is an experience unlike any other, according to HCapt(N) Colin Robertson, who was appointed in 2010 but had already come to realize the value of the RCN through his 33 years as a diplomat in the foreign service.

"I had served in port cities – New York, Hong Kong, Los Angeles and then Washington – and I had developed a keen appreciation of the RCN through port visits. The deck of a warship is a superb place to entertain key contacts and to underline that Canada is a reliable ally and trusted partner," says HCapt(N) Robertson.

"While I could not sail a ship or run an engine, I realized I had a useful skill – strategic communications – that served the RCN," he continues. "A day touring the base



at Halifax made me realize that everyone in the RCN has a skill and that the culmination of these skills is greater than the individual talents. Put together you have a powerful capacity. I am continually impressed by the camaraderie, professionalism and pride in service of all who serve."

The RCN's four newest HCapt(N)s recently joined this esteemed cadre of Canadians, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience with them.

Vancouver Island-based hotelier Mandy Farmer is the current President and CEO of Accent Inns Inc., a family-run hospitality company. Her well-established position as an entrepreneur has also enabled her to become a leader and community advocate for sports, the environment and tourism in British Columbia. In only six months as an HCapt(N), she has already sailed in HMCS *Ottawa* and aided in promoting both the RCN and Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, B.C., (her affiliated unit) to Canadians.

HCapt(N) Nik Nanos is another recent addition to the Honorary roster. The current President and CEO of Nanos Research, the market research company he founded while still an undergraduate student at Queen's University in 1987, his drive and dedication led him to become an HCapt(N) affiliated with HMCS

*Carleton*, the Naval Reserve Division in Ottawa.

"The two things that have struck me most since becoming an HCapt(N) are the professionalism and sense of family in the Canadian Navy," says HCapt(N) Nanos. "Being assigned to HMCS *Carleton* has been a great introduction and welcome into the navy family and to see the commitment and positive atmosphere in the Reserve ranks has been really rewarding. In my field we measure and gauge the opinions of Canadians on a daily basis, so I'm proud to bring that skillset to the RCN, in order to promote and champion the navy. Our sailors from top to bottom stand tall in my eyes and it is a privilege to be part of the RCN."

HCapt(N) Tom Paddon was appointed in September 2016, affiliated with Canadian Fleet Atlantic. The current chairman of Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation, he is recognized in the north as an entrepreneur, leader and community advocate. Highly active with organizations that benefit northern activities and economic development, HCapt(N) Paddon is widely acknowledged as being a subject matter expert on Canada's Arctic foreign policy. He recently sailed in HMCS *Ville de Québec* as part of the Canadian Leaders at Sea program, where he was able to experience

daily life at sea and get a glimpse into how the RCN defends Canada.

"It was a phenomenal experience, to not only see but to participate in shipboard exercises, specifically the battle damage scenario that included firefighting and casualty clearing, as well the weapons shoots," says HCapt(N) Paddon. "Experiencing the sheer power of the ship and its capacity to defend our borders is surpassed only by the leadership and professionalism shown by the officers and sailors on board. I could not have been more proud to wear the uniform as an HCapt(N) that week."

The most recent HCapt(N), appointed just before Christmas 2016, is David Labistour, the current CEO of Mountain Equipment Co-op, Canada's specialty retailer of outdoor lifestyle, travel gear and sporting goods.

Each Honorary appointee is up to the challenge of helping bring the RCN's message to Canadians. This highly successful program has proven to be one of the RCN's best tools in ensuring that even those living far from a coast have the opportunity to learn more about Canada's navy and its role in maintaining peace and security for all Canadians.

A full list of currently serving HCapt(N)s can be found at [navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/about/in-depth-hcpts.page](http://navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/about/in-depth-hcpts.page)

*Honorary Captain (Navy) Tom Paddon departs Halifax Harbour aboard HMCS Ville de Québec.*



Photos: DND

# RCN adopts redesigned command badge

By Darlene Blakeley

**T**he Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) has adopted a redesigned command badge that better reflects both the current RCN makeup and its traditional identity.

The original badge was adopted in 1968 with the stand-up of Maritime Command after unification. It has been out of date since 2011 when the historic names of the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) three services – the RCN, the Canadian Army (CA) and the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) – were restored.

“Like the return to our historic name, the redesigned command

## What is a badge?

A badge is a distinctive sign, symbol or emblem used to visually identify a military organization and foster the pride and cohesiveness necessary for operational effectiveness. Official badges formally identify an individual branch, formation or unit, and the primary badge of each organization is personally approved by the Governor General as the Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Navy primary badges evolved from ship figureheads and unofficial insignia. In Canadian service, they were centrally regulated based on the use of common badge frames and ship livery colours beginning in the middle of the 20th century.



The redesigned command badge, left, alongside the original badge.

***“The redesigned command badge recognizes our heritage and many years of proud RCN service.”***

badge recognizes our heritage and many years of proud RCN service,” says Dr. Rich Gimblett, the RCN’s Command Historian. “It takes its core inspiration from the pre-unification command badge.”

The redesigned command badge incorporates the following modifications:

- ◆ The background light “air force” blue has been replaced with dark navy blue, which matches the pre-unification badge and better reflects the RCN’s traditional blue;

- ◆ The central device (anchor) has been flattened to reflect the device found on the pre-unification badge and for consistency with the anchor found on the CAF badge. Also, the eagle has been removed to better reflect the RCN’s current makeup; and

- ◆ The motto, “Ready Aye Ready”, already translated for common use in French as “Toujours là, toujours prêts”, has been translated to the Latin “Parati Vero Parati” for consistency with the army and air force badges. The English and French translations will be used below the badge where appropriate.

For uniformity within the CAF, the redesigned command badge retains the standard CAF command badge style with a central circular rope surround and maple leaves clustered at the bottom.

And while the RCAF design element of the eagle has been removed from the new RCN command badge, Dr. Gimblett says it will continue to be a central part of the Canadian Naval Ensign (flag) flown aboard warships.

“The eagle is inappropriate on the command badge as the RCN does not maintain an air branch within the command anymore,” explains Dr. Gimblett. “However, continued incorporation of the eagle on the Canadian Naval Ensign is entirely appropriate because our warships are CAF assets and the embarked RCAF air detachments historically have been, and are expected to remain, critical elements of their combat capability.”

The introduction of a redesigned command badge follows a number of other important changes in recent years that recognize the importance of the RCN’s history and origins. These include restoring the Executive Curl for naval officers in 2010; reinstating the command’s historic name in 2011; and in 2013 authorizing warships to fly a distinctive Canadian Naval Ensign, consistent with standard Commonwealth naval practices.

“These changes have not only been well received, but have quickly become part of our core identity and pride of service,” says Dr. Gimblett.



# Lifelong friends sail the seas together

By Captain Rick Donnelly

**H**ad you asked friends Master Seaman Donald Merlo or Leading Seaman Zachery Warwick as children what they would be when they grew up, you might have received the standard answer: police officer, firefighter, or perhaps even professional athlete.

Never would either have guessed that they would find themselves sailing on the high seas as crew members aboard a Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) warship. Even less likely would they have believed they would end up doing it together.

Throughout this past autumn, both MS Merlo and LS Warwick sailed aboard Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Brandon* on a lengthy operational tour in foreign waters.

Lifelong friends and athletic rivals, it was LS Warwick who first found himself in a navy uniform.

"I joined the navy first in 2006. I was looking for a job, something different," he says. "I had originally decided I wanted to be a Naval Combat Information Operator. My mom actually talked me out of that. She thought the best thing for me would be to learn how to cook. She said 'mama's not going to be able to feed you forever, so you've got to learn how to cook it yourself.'"

It took a while for life in the



*Master Seaman Donald Merlo, right, and Leading Seaman Zachery Warwick stand together aboard HMCS Brandon while deployed on an operational tour.*

military to grow on LS Warwick, as he recalls it. "I went to basic training in the summer of 2006, and I hated it. It was tough," he says. "The thing I liked about it was the people I met. I met people from all over the place, many of whom are still really good friends today. The bonds you create through difficult times together are really strong."

It was LS Warwick's passion for the bonds of service that convinced MS Merlo that a life in the navy was for him as well.

"Zach easily convinced me to join the navy after telling me about

everything that was involved and the people that he met," says MS Merlo. "I knew then that I wanted to do it. I'm sure Zach didn't expect me to do it, and I'm certain he didn't expect we'd be serving on the same ship 10 years later, but here we are."

So convinced was MS Merlo that a life in the navy was the way to go, he convinced a large circle of friends to join along with him, or so he thought. His friends, a group of 10, made a pact to join the navy together. The end result, as MS Merlo remembers it, was somewhat different.

"The plan was for me and nine of my friends to go away for basic training that summer, but I was the only one who did," says MS Merlo. "But it worked out for the best for me, it really did. It got me to where I am today. I couldn't thank Zach more for introducing me to that type of work. The military has been good to me."

Fast forward 10 years, and while MS Merlo and LS Warwick never lost touch, they also never had the opportunity to work together. They would see each other on the jetty occasionally, and had a number of



*Master Seaman Donald Merlo, Chief Bosswain's Mate aboard HMCS Brandon, directs work around the ship's rigid-hulled inflatable boat.*

common friends throughout the collection of ships harboured at CFB Esquimalt, the navy base near Victoria, B.C. Being able to serve together on the same ship, however, just didn't seem to be in the cards.

That all changed in autumn 2016.

Both were selected to hold key positions aboard the same ship during an operational tour, and despite the odds, with three ships being tasked to sail on the mission (the others being HMC Ships *Edmonton* and *Kingston*, the latter based out of Halifax), fate would finally reunite the friends. They would sail together aboard HMCS *Brandon*.

MS Merlo had just completed training that would prepare him to take on a Chief Boatswain's Mate position aboard a ship sometime in the future when he learned that "sometime" had just become "immediately".

"I expected to be shadowing my previous Chief Boatswain's Mate in a mentoring kind of scenario," says MS Merlo. "That's not the deck of cards I was dealt. I was dealt right into an operational mission. When they said 'Congratulations MS Merlo, you're going to be the Chief Boatswain's Mate in HMCS *Brandon*', my stomach dropped. I walked out, called home, and then immediately started preparing for the mission."

The Chief Boatswain's Mate position on a ship can best be described as the deck quarterback. They run the show, from launching Zodiac boats from the ship to coordinating weapons shoots. When they talk, people listen.

LS Warwick's preparation time for the mission was also brief, as he



*Leading Seaman Zachery Warwick, Chief Cook aboard HMCS Brandon, prepares a barbecue for the crew.*

learned just shortly before departing that he would be thrust into the top position for his profession aboard a ship.

"Shortly before this trip, my command team asked me how I felt about being the chief cook for this mission," says LS Warwick. "I felt pretty confident in myself, both in my cooking skills and my leadership abilities. It's been a unique challenge leading a team that includes members who have served longer or have perhaps experienced more than I have."

With the mission now behind them, both LS Warwick and MS Merlo reflect positively on their experience together. While both are proud of what the mission accomplished, both spoke from a more personal perspective.

"It was comforting knowing that I had someone there with me who I knew would always have my back," says LS Warwick. "I never thought we'd find ourselves in these positions

when we joined the navy, but there we were, as Chief Cook and Chief Boatswain's Mate. Now that the trip is done, I still have a hard time believing it. I keep thinking 'did that actually happen?' Donny was always right there for me. At the end of the day, it was a great feeling knowing I had someone there with me that I had known for years."

As for MS Merlo, while the goal of the mission was the driving factor behind his work, at least on a personal level, it was about something more.

"He's my best friend. We're not just friends in uniform, we're friends in life," he says. "There are times during the mission where you are pushed really hard. You feel like you are on your knees. To have your best buddy there to pick you up... there aren't really words to explain that kind of bond. He believed in me, and I believed in him. What more can you ask for in a friend?"



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Cover page: HMCS *Kingston* sails in the Caribbean Sea. Photo: 12 Wing Shearwater

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