



RUSI

Newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island

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Suggestions are encouraged.

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New special forces uniform a throwback to Second World War Devil's Brigade

National Post by David Pugliese, 15 October 2017

The top soldiers of Canada's special forces have been issued new uniforms that harken back to those worn by the famed Devil's Brigade of the Second World War.

The new duds, officially called the Distinctive Environmental Uniform or DEU, are part of a wider effort to assign unique dress to special forces and visibly identify the command's "distinct nature" within the military, Maj. Alex Cadieux, a spokesman for the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, noted in an email.

"The distinct uniform serves to identify Canadian Special Operations Forces Command as the fourth Canadian Armed Forces environment and strengthen organizational morale and cohesion across CANSOFCOM," Cadieux said.

The uniforms will be issued to those who are considered "operators" within the command, meaning they have done unique special forces training and can take on front-line roles.

The uniforms would be worn at events such as ceremonial and routine parades, Remembrance Day, and for guards of honour.



See the RUSI Calendar of Events
on last page .

The DEU uses existing Canadian military design patterns but has the same color scheme as those uniforms worn during the Second World War by the joint U.S.-Canadian First Special Service Force. That unit has been dubbed the Devil's Brigade, and Canadian special forces say they trace their lineage back to those 1940s-era soldiers. First Special Service Force-style boots are also being worn by Canadian special forces.

The special forces command had planned to introduce the new uniforms publicly by having staff wear them at Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa on Nov. 11. But the first display turned out to be a Sept. 27 farewell parade in Ottawa for Governor General David Johnston.

Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, or CANSOFCOM, oversees Joint Task Force 2; a counterterrorism and special operations unit in Ottawa; the 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron and the Canadian Special Operations Regiment, both in Petawawa, Ont., and the Canadian Joint Incident Response Unit, a Trenton, Ont.-based organization that deals with weapons of mass destruction.

The new dress uniforms do identify special forces operators, including those from JTF2. But the special forces command is not overly concerned from a security perspective, since the uniforms will be only worn on limited occasions and most times in controlled military settings, sources say.

Second World War-style uniforms seem to be making a comeback in some circles. The U.S. Army is also examining issuing personnel dress uniforms similar to those of the 1940s.

Prototypes of the uniforms made their debut at an army equipment trade show in Washington last week, the Army Times newspaper in the U.S. reported.

All CANSOFCOM personnel, including support staff, will also be issued with another uniform for day-to-day use. The federal government recently issued a notice to industry that it was looking to buy over a five-year period more than 18,000 "multicam" uniforms. They have a distinct camouflage pattern originally developed for the U.S. Army.

A request also went out for multicam flight suits for special forces tactical helicopter crews.

Each DEU uniform costs \$1,400, but overall costs for the purchase of multicam uniforms was not released. Canada's special forces emerged as a big winner in the Liberal defence policy released earlier this year.

The ranks of the Ottawa-based special forces organization will be boosted by 605 personnel, and \$1.5 billion will be spent on new equipment ranging from surveillance aircraft to boats.

There are around 1,900 personnel in special forces. That would increase to 2,500 over the coming years. The \$1.5 billion for equipment would be spent over the next two decades.

The Liberal defence policy signalled the desire to make more use of special forces and have them integrate further into the U.S.-led global network of clandestine troops.

Crewing the Asterix

RCN was originally looking at having 2 crews, one on each coast, for MV Asterix. That is now off the table.

Defence Watch - Ottawa Citizen

Published on: October 24, 2017

MV Asterix will sail with a combined crew of civilian and military personnel, featuring 36 civilian personnel and up to 114 military personnel.

The embarked basic military specialist crew consists of 67 personnel which will provide sustained underway replenishment, aviation, medical and dental services support for CAF requirements at home and abroad. The military crew design is fully scalable and flexible to enable task-tailored capabilities in order to conduct assigned missions and tasks up to the maximum allocated military berthing.

Due to an anticipated high operational tempo of the vessel, the RCN intends to generate additional basic crew specialists from either coast as necessary to sustain the required capabilities at sea. This will help to ensure a manageable deployment tempo for sailors, aviators and soldiers, keeping families in mind.

With MV Asterix's flexibility to operate for extended periods away from CFBs Halifax and Esquimalt, the coastal origin of embarked crew members will not be predicated by the ocean of operation that the vessel has been assigned. Instead, the RCN will employ a blended crewing scheme, using personnel from either coast (including naval reservists) to meet the various deployment periods throughout the year.

For some crew, this could mean a tour of one to two months in duration, while others may be five to six months in duration, depending on the mission requirements and needs to generate trained and experienced sailors, aviators and soldiers.

The percentage of embarked east coast versus west crew will vary at any given time, dependent on personnel availability and other assigned geographic tasks and missions.

Once MV Asterix has completed operational acceptance, it is anticipated there will be approximately 40-60 additional military personnel designated from either coast to sustain the rotation scheme of the embarked military crew. When not embarked, designated personnel will either be conducting pre-deployment readiness training, other career courses, post-MV Asterix employment ashore or, depending on their individual operational tempo, in other ships to meet RCN crewing priorities.

Canadian Intelligence Corps Name Reinstated

Canadian Army, 27 October 2017, Steven Fouchard, Army Public Affairs

Ottawa, Ontario — Military intelligence is generally a highly secretive affair, of course, but the Canadian Army (CA) is very publicly celebrating a re-branding of its intelligence corps. It will now be called the Canadian Intelligence Corps (C Int C), the name it held from 1942 until 1968. C Int C is still a part of the larger Intelligence Branch, a personnel branch formed in 1982, and is the organization designation used by the members who wear the Army uniform. Lieutenant-Colonel Mathieu Boutin, Deputy Director of C Int C, noted that this puts the Corps in the unique position of celebrating two anniversaries in 2017: the 75th anniversary of the original C Int C and the 35th anniversary of the Intelligence Branch. The name change is part of a wider initiative to put the CA back in touch with its historical roots that began in 2011 when the federal government of the day re-introduced the Canadian Army name. All of Canada's military branches were unified under the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) banner in 1968.

Since 2011, a number of other CA corps have reverted back to historical names, including the Canadian Forces Medical Service, which was renamed the Royal Canadian Medical Service in 2013. The CA's Engineering and Signals branches are now

known as The Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers and Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. C Int C Director Colonel Steven Desjardins said that this reinstatement will bring Army intelligence in line with those other corps. While it does give C Int C a separate and distinct identity within the larger Intelligence Branch, he added, a strong sense of unity remains. "Our branch has a well-deserved reputation for excellence in operations, both at home and abroad," Col Desjardins said. "That could not have been achieved without a collaborative approach. Our effectiveness comes from our ability to work together seamlessly and with one voice." Reinstating the C Int C name, Col Desjardins added, will fully integrate Army Intelligence into the overall Army governance structure and strengthens the identities of both C Int C and the CAF Intelligence Branch.

Military intelligence has a long history in Canada, originating in pre-colonial times. Its precursors include cavalry units who performed scouting roles during the Northwest Rebellion of 1885. One of those was formally dubbed the Intelligence Corps. In 1903, the forerunner of the Canadian Intelligence Corps and of the Intelligence Branch, the Canadian Corps of Guides, was created. This mounted Corps' role was to gather detailed and accurate military information on the area of operations in the event of war. In the First World War, Canadian Corps of Guides members served as intelligence staff officers and in various other roles, including analysis of data gathered from ground and air observation and prisoners of war. They were also the core members of the Canadian Corps Cyclist Battalion, an organization that performed reconnaissance duties for the Canadian Corps. In the Second World War, it was quickly recognized that professional military intelligence practitioners would again be required. As such, C Int C was officially formed on 29 October 1942. Its work was vital to many of the Allies' successes in the war and since then, C Int C members have been among battle casualties and provided their expertise in every conflict in which the Canadian Army has participated. "This is an opportunity to reconnect with our historical identity, honour past achievements, and build an exciting future rooted in a proud military heritage," said LCol Boutin.

Statement - Exploring Options to Supplement Canada's CF-18 Fleet

NEWS PROVIDED BY

Public Services and Procurement Canada

Oct 09, 2017, 11:21 ET

OTTAWA, Oct. 9, 2017 /CNW/ - Canada is building a more agile, better-equipped military, while ensuring the utmost care and prudence in the handling of public funds. Getting our women and men in uniform the equipment they need to do their jobs and protect Canadians, is a priority.

In November 2016, the Government of Canada announced a plan to replace the Royal Canadian Air Force fighter jet fleet. The Canada's Defence Policy: Strong, Secure, Engaged, released in June 2017, reaffirmed the government's commitment to invest appropriately in Canada's military. Preparatory work for the competition is already underway. Until an open and transparent competition can be completed to replace Canada's legacy CF-18 fleet, Canada is exploring options to supplement the current CF-18 fleet and address an existing fighter capability gap.

In late August 2017, Canada began discussions with the Australian Government to assess the potential purchase of F/A-18 fighter aircraft and associated parts they plan to sell. On September 29, 2017, Canada submitted an Expression of Interest, formally marking Canada's interest in the Australian equipment. Canada expects to receive a response by the end of this year that will provide details regarding the availability and cost of the aircraft and associated parts that Canada is considering.

Separate discussions with Boeing related to the interim purchase of Super Hornet aircraft remain suspended. The Government of Canada continues to engage with the U.S. Government as it explores all options moving forward.

The Government of Canada will continue to provide updates and keep Canadians informed of its progress as it moves forward on replacing and supplementing Canada's fighter aircraft.

The Ride of the Mercenaries: How "Wagner" Came to Syria

The Economist, 2 November 2017

The group has come to play a key role in Russian operations in Syria. Though Russian law officially bans private military companies (PMCs), a St Petersburg-based independent news site, Fontanka.ru, reported in late 2015 that ex-soldiers were being recruited to serve in Wagner by a former special-forces officer, Dmitry Utkin. Numbering as many as 2,500 men, the group is believed to have figured heavily in operations around Palmyra in 2016, serving as "shock troops" alongside the Syrian army, says Mark Galeotti, an expert on Russian security at the Institute of International Relations in Prague. Though the Russian army has not acknowledged Wagner's existence, Mr Utkin was photographed late last year alongside President Vladimir Putin at a Kremlin reception for military officers in honour of Day of Heroes of the Fatherland. This summer America added him to its list of officials sanctioned for involvement in the Ukraine conflict of 2014, where the group is said to have got its start.

When Russia launched its intervention in Syria in September 2015, the government spoke of a short air operation. Boots on the ground were seen as taboo, especially to a population still haunted by memories of the costly Soviet war in Afghanistan. (Nearly half the population would now like to see the Syrian operation wrapped up.) But having a nominally independent cadre of fighters to deploy as ground forces gives the Russian army plausible deniability. "They serve to solve a concrete problem: have no casualties," says Alexander Golts, a military analyst. Officially Russia's armed forces have in fact reported some 41 deaths in Syria, including a general killed in shelling near Deir ez-Zor in September while commanding Syria's Fifth Corps of volunteers. However, investigative journalists and bloggers reckon scores more Wagner-linked mercenaries have died in combat. On the ground, the force functions as a "pseudo-private" military company, taking direction from the Russian army, says Alexander Khramchikhin, deputy director of the Institute for Political and Military Analysis.

The model was first tested in the war in eastern Ukraine, where a patchwork of forces operated with

differing degrees of distance from the Russian government. Alongside local separatists and regular Russian army units were groups of Russian volunteers and mercenaries, among them Mr Utkin and an early iteration of the Wagner force. “The rumours are that they fought, and fought well,” says one former senior separatist commander, with a sly smile. As fighting slowed in 2015, mercenaries and volunteers returned home or sought employment elsewhere. It is no secret that many of them have since left for Syria, says another former separatist leader.

The emergence of such groups revived talk in Russia of legalising Russian PMCs to create companies in the vein of American security contractors such as Academi (formerly called Blackwater). Mr Putin expressed tentative support for that idea back in 2011, calling it “a way of implementing national interests without the direct involvement of the state”. In late 2014 Gennady Nosovko, a lawmaker with the Just Russia party, submitted a bill that would have laid the legal groundwork, only to see Russia’s powerful Security Council snuff it out. Resistance was also strong from within the military and security services, which worried about losing their monopoly of violence. Other specialists, Mr Nosovko says, worried that powerful businessmen would ultimately seek to control their own private armies, with dreadful implications.

For now, the Wagnerians still operate in a grey zone. Fontanka.ru recently reported that their role has expanded to include seizing oil wells held by IS for a newly-formed Russian company, Evro Polis. As for the two captives, their fates are probably sealed, says an MP from the home region of one of them. “There’s a 99% chance that Roman and the second prisoner are no longer among the living.”

The Last Post

P/O Frederick Cooper - 9 Jul 2017
LCol Jack F Rowe - 3 Oct 2017 -a former CO
 & HLCol of 11 (Victoria) Service Bn.

New Members

LCol Russell Meades, CD

Message from the President RUSI VI

The year 2017 is rolling to a close as is my term as President, a position I have been honoured to fill. Over the past two years there have been several accomplishments of note, all thanks entirely to the tireless efforts of your Board members. In addition, without their work RUSI-VI would simply cease to operate – there would be no speakers, no lunches, no newsletter and no new initiatives. To all of you who served on the Board during my term my sincere thanks.

In December Roger Love will take over as President and undoubtedly will do an excellent job. Endowed with a keen interest in matters of defence and security he was one of the principal organizers of our 2016 Defence Review input. Additionally, his financial background and experience as RUSI-VI Treasurer make him ideally suited to steer RUSI-VI through the next couple of years, years that will be critical to the future success of the Institute.

To help prepare for that future, Roger and Membership Chair, Kathie Csomany, are working on an analysis of RUSI-VI’s membership and financial situation to determine how long the Institute can remain viable given the current rate of attrition. That analysis will be made available for general membership review so that a way forward can be decided at the next AGM.

Another challenge will be ensuring that the Military Oral History program continues to survive. The Department of History, University of Victoria, and the RUSI-VI team led by Director MOH, Gary Del Villano, along with the veterans and students have ensured the academic success of the program. Since its inception over 700 veteran interviews, spanning the period from WWI to the Afghanistan conflict, have been recorded for posterity creating an invaluable Canadian military historical resource. However, the long term future of the course is in doubt because the RUSI-VI MOH Endowment Fund has stagnated at just over \$40,000, significantly short of the approximately \$75,000 required to fund the program in perpetuity. While the next UVic course coming up in 2018 is fully funded, running the course in following years will become increasingly difficult unless we can build the endowment. As the end of 2017 approaches please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the MOH Endowment fund. Donation instructions are detailed on the RUSI-VI website: click on the Veterans’ Oral History tab and then, via the drop-down menu, select “Endowment”.

In closing, I hope to see you at the RUSI Christmas Reception. To all of you I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

LCol (retd) Clive Caton—President RUSI VI

Battle for Lake Tanganyika - One of the Strangest Battles of WW1

Jul 2, 2017 by Gabe Christy. Published in RUSI Vancouver News



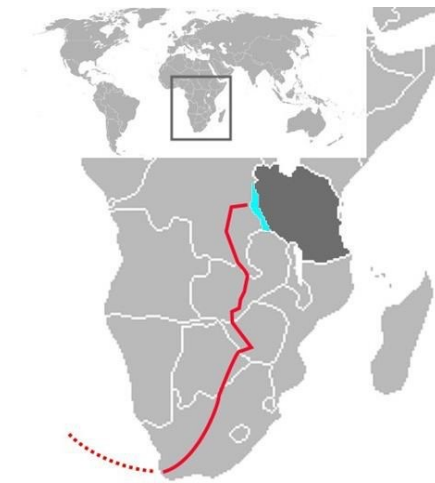
SMS Graf von Goetzen.

Lake Tanganyika is the longest freshwater lake in the world, and a natural wonder but one of the strangest battles of WWI took place on its placid waters. Lake Tanganyika sits between Tanzania (then German East Africa) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (then Belgian Congo). The Allies wanted to capture German East Africa, but they needed to control the lake to do so. The Germans, however, dominated the lake with their ship the SMS Graf von Goetzen. British troops were able to push into German territory from the sea and coast, but the great lake severely hampered their inland movements. German control of the lake meant they were able to move troops along it and redeploy behind British lines, thwarting any invasion. First Sea Lord Henry Jackson was in charge of bringing the war to Germany's colonies, but he needed ships. Germany also had two converted steamers the Hedwig von Wissmann and the Kingani on the lake. Both were small and lightly armed, but they harassed Allied positions on the shore. Jackson needed a way to bring a boat to the lake, launch it, and then fight and win against the Germans.

A big game hunter and Boer War veteran John Lee advised Jackson that he knew of a way to get boats to Lake Tanganyika. The SMS Graf von Goetzen had been built in Germany, disassembled, packed into over 5,000 crates, and shipped to Dar es Salaam in Africa. From there, it was transported overland to a

shipyard on the lake, where it was reassembled. She was then armed with two 37mm Hotchkiss Revolver Guns from a scuttled commerce raider the Moewe, making her even more dangerous. Lee believed that small motor gunboats, brought 5 to the river through inland routes would be able to defeat the larger ship, especially if given guns with a 7,000-yard range, enabling them to outmaneuver and outgun any of the German craft on the lake. They just needed a man to lead the expedition. They found one; Lieutenant Commander Geoffrey Spicer-Simson. He was known as a braggart, a liar, a hot head, and was the oldest Lieutenant Commander in the British Navy at the time. More importantly, he knew the region, spoke French and German and was both available and willing to lead the expedition.

His previous ship had been torpedoed and sunk while he was entertaining guests on shore. Simson selected two 40-foot armed motor launches named HMS Mimi and HMS Toutou and 27 men. They set out from England on board a transport ship for the voyage to Africa.



Overland Route of HMS Mimi and Toutou

Meanwhile, Lee set out north through the bush, clearing a path for Simson and his boats. Simson landed at Capetown and loaded the two boats onto a train bound for Fungurume. From there, they used oxen, steam tractors, and brute force, to pull the motor boats overland nearly 150 miles, rolling them on logs. The operation was certainly one of the most eccentric and strangest attempted during the war, but there was no better way available. They made it to another railway, at Sankisia, then to Bukama, a short river journey to Kabolo, and a final rail journey to Lukuga, where the boats

were launched into Lake Tanganyika. On December 1, 1915, the Kingani was spotted by the British vessels. They killed the commander and knocked out Kingani's only gun; all achieved in only 11 minutes. Simson had his first victory, a German ship captured, no loss of life, and without alerting German forces. The Kingani was refitted and named the Fifi. Gustav Zimmer, commander of the German vessels in the lake, did not investigate the Kingani's disappearance until mid-January. He sent the Hedwig to scout for the missing boat, but it was spotted by the Allied ships, which by then had three motor launches and a wooden whaleboat. They set out to intercept the lone German boat.

As the Hedwig approached, they opened fire. After missing several times, they scored a hit, and the Hedwig began to flood. Another direct hit blew up her boiler, and she sank. The British vessels returned to their port with German prisoners, and the 1st German Naval Ensign captured by the Royal Navy during WWI. Due to their successes on the lake, the Allies had advanced by land and established an airbase on the Western shore. In June 1916, they launched an air raid on German positions. Unknown to British forces, the Goetzen's guns had been removed to support General Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck's (AKA- The Lion of Africa) guerilla campaign in the region. She had become a deterrent, rather than a combatant. On July 26, 1916, the Goetzen was scuttled in 20 meters of water, effectively ending the Battle of Lake Tanganyika. The war might not have been fun, but it was certainly interesting.

RCAF veterans - help needed!

RUSI VI's Military Oral History (MOH) program needs one of our RCAF members to help us identify potential interviewees who served in an air element capacity.

Our MOH program at UVic can now have students carry out interviews via phone or computer video, potential interviewees do not need to be located in Victoria.

For further information, please contact Lloyd Skaalen at 250.388.7512 or by email at lsmil@shaw.ca

We need you! Please help!

The tactical armoured patrol vehicle is the new horse at the RCH stables

Royal Canadian Hussars (Montreal) Association, "The Trumpeter", Fall 2017



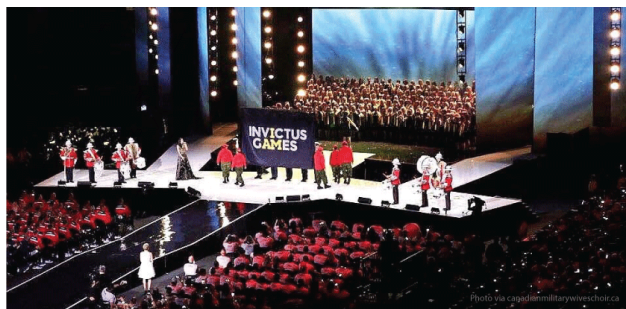
Weighing in at around 20 tons and barely getting through the garage doors of this reserve Armour Regiment, this new behemoth is going to attract a lot of attention. Being our new ride for the next 20 years or so, all members (NCM'S and officers alike) will have to do their courses on this new platform to operate it.

With state-of-the art technology such as motion cameras and a remote weapon system, all crew commanders must learn how to operate the weapons system in order to qualify to command the crew of a TAPV. After more than 15 years driving the Iltis, militarized commercial Silverado's and the Mercedes G-Wagon, the regiment will be going back to tank tactics and gunnery theory just like with the venerable Cougar AFV.

The remote weapon system can mount different weapons such as the C-16 grenade launcher, the .50 caliber machine gun and the C-6 GMPM. Since the TAPV will be integrated in each of the combat arms, two models are presently available: the reconnaissance version that sits 4 crewmen and the patrol version that sits 6 crewmen.

Reflections on Military Wives Choir performance at 2017 Invictus Games Opening Ceremony

The Canadian Military Family Magazine



When the backstage curtain parted and revealed 188 military wives and girlfriends singing words of encouragement in unison to service members from around the world, it was cherished by the crowd as one of the most inspirational moments of the 2017 Invictus Games Opening Ceremony.

The ceremony was one of the most important occasions in the four years of the Canadian Military Wives Choirs' (CMWC) existence. For this highly sought-after choir, the ceremony was an event that had never been attempted before and, says Ottawa CMWC member Debbie Goodleff, will never be replicated again.

"The impact of military wives and spouses singing those words on that stage to the competitors, and the audience, what that meant and what that represented, that was the actual impact. It wasn't that we were amazing performance and we all sing amazingly, it was the actual impact of applying those lyrics to the circumstances," said Goodleff, who also is on the National Board of the CMWC.

This was the first time in the choir's history that all ten chapters from across the country united for one performance. Members came from Comox, Edmonton, North Bay, Trenton, Kingston, Ottawa, Valcartier, and Greenwood.

The CMWC was approached earlier this year by the Invictus Games committee to perform for the Opening Ceremony, alongside British recording artist, Laura Wright.

In spring of this year, the score for Wright's single "Invincible," a moving number, was distributed amongst the choirs for practice.

The choirs then finally came together on Thursday, Sept. 21, just days before the Opening Ceremony. The first all-choir practice was held on Friday morning.

According to Goodleff, all the choirs came together in unison beautifully, even dazzling Wright.

Finally, after months of anticipation and preparation, Saturday, Sept. 24 finally arrived, and Goodleff remembers there was a whisper of nervous excitement amongst all the performers.

When the time came for the performance, the stage was first taken by Wright who opened the song leading into the choir's big reveal. "The audience wasn't expecting to find what they did on stage and the roar from the crowd was just amazing," recalled Goodleff. The choir then went on to sing their hearts out in a moving and inspirational performance alongside the British artist.

After the performance, ladies from the choir, who had been identified by their black robes, were stopped and congratulated by audience members.

"It was an honour to be part of it just because of what it represented. It's one thing to be on stage like that, an international stage, and be able to perform, any performer would like that. It's just the poignancy of what it meant and what the meaning [of the song] is. That's what was really striking," noted Goodleff.

The performance held a special meaning for the choir members as well. "Four years of a journey of the creation of the choirs culminating in this moment of being able to really support not just our service personnel but those families. It's just the most humbling and fantastic way to honour everything service families and service personnel do in the worst of circumstances," said Goodleff.

The performance at this year's Invictus Games has breathed a new life into the CMWC and has inspired growth and fervour. This fall, a number of new choirs have started up in Gagetown, Halifax, Esquimalt, and Shilo. With the rapid growth, the choir is now just looking to the future for their next big challenge.

RCMP Academy Hosts Teens to Develop Future Recruits and Community Leaders

RCMP Media Relations, 6 November 2017

This November, close to 50 teens from across Canada will have an opportunity at Depot, the RCMP's training academy in Regina, to learn what it takes to serve and protect and how to make their communities safer.

From Nov 6 to 10, 2017, 32 grade 11 and 12 students will participate in the RCMP National Youth Engagement Week, which gives them a chance to experience first-hand the work of an RCMP officer. Activities during the week will include a glimpse into cadet training, including driving and firearms simulations. Successful candidates were selected based on their academic achievement, community engagement, and a demonstrated interest in law enforcement.

The same week, the RCMP will host a Youth Leadership Workshop from November 7 to 12, 2017, for up to 16 Indigenous youth in grades 9 to 12, each accompanied by an RCMP employee from their community. Each day consists of educational workshops and featured guests, where the students will develop an action plan to combat a youth crime or victimization issue which they themselves have identified. Upon completion of the workshop, the youth will return to their communities to implement the action plan.

Quick facts

Supporting youth is a strategic priority of the RCMP.

The RCMP strives to get involved with youth to give them positive learning experiences and interactions with police officers.

Through these experiences, youth will gain skills and knowledge that they can use to become active partners in helping keep Canadian communities safe.



RCN's Supply Ship Will Alternate Between East and West Coasts

RUSI Vancouver NL 24 Oct 2017

Davie Shipbuilding announced recently that Asterix, the new supply ship being leased to the Royal Canadian Navy, has been launched. Commissioning of all onboard systems on the Resolve-class naval support ship began in Halifax in early September and on November 16, the ship will perform its sea-trials prior to achieving full operational capability, the firm noted. During the sea-trials – overseen by Lloyd's Register – the ship's safety, quality, systems and functionality will be tested against the military standards and specifications which it has been built to, Davie added.

The headquarters for the civilian crew will be in Halifax, the RCN says, but the ship itself will alternate between the east and west coasts. After its acceptance procedures at the end of this year the ship will sail for CFB Esquimalt, BC. It is expected to be based at that port in early 2018 as the RCN concentrates on expanding its presence in the Pacific, according to a RCN spokesman.

At some point in 2018 the ship will sail back to Halifax but it is unclear at this point when that would happen. And then back and forth between the two coasts as needed for operations.



[Mark Your Calendar](#)

Sunday, 10 December - 1400—1600 HOLIDAY RECEPTION

Good Food, Good Friends - Festive Season And Good Will

- * **Place:** 5th (BC) Field Regt Officers' Mess, Bay Street Armoury
 - * **Time:** 1400 Hrs to 1600 Hrs
 - * **Cost:** \$15.00 per person (pay at door) **includes tickets for draw**
-

Wednesday, 10 Jan 2017

Speaker: Dr Chris Kilford (Col Retd)

Topic: A night that shook a nation: The 2016 Turkish military coup. What happened and why it failed.

Overview: During the evening hours of 15-16 July 2016, a significant portion of the Turkish armed forces attempted, but ultimately failed, to overthrow the Turkish government and remove President Recep Tayyip Erdogan from power. According to the plotters manifesto, their aim was to reinstate constitutional order, human rights and freedoms, the rule of law and general security. As far as the Turkish government was concerned, the coup attempt was carried out by supporters of Turkish Islamic scholar Fethullah Gulen who has been living in the United States, on a 25-acre estate in Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania since 1999. If the coup had been successful, said Turkey's Justice Minister Bekir Bozdog in July 2017, Gulen "would have come to Turkey from Pennsylvania like Ayatollah Khomeini landed in Tehran." During his talk, Dr. Chris Kilford will discuss the reasons leading to the coup attempt, who was really behind it and why it failed. In particular, his talk will focus on three pivotal people that night whose individual actions changed the course of Turkish history.

- ◆ **Place:** 5th (BC) Field Regt RCA Officers' Mess, Rm 312, Bay Street Armoury
 - ◆ **Time:** 1130 for 1200 Luncheon
 - ◆ **Cost:** \$25 (pay at the door)
-

Wednesday, 14 Feb 2017

Speaker to be Confirmed

- ◆ **Place:** 5th (BC) Field Regt RCA Officers' Mess, Rm 312, Bay Street Armoury
- ◆ **Time:** 1130 for 1200 Luncheon

