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Lt(N) Moors embarks on Antarctic voyage aboard L'Astrolabe

Par RCN

For Lieutenant (Navy) Cameron

Moors, Navigating Officer aboard His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Frédérick Rolette, a recent exchange with the French Navy offered a rare opportunity to gain hands-on polar operations experience while strengthening international naval cooperation.

Originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Lt(N) Moors has served in the Royal Cana-dian Navy (RCN) for 10 years. With a background in polar navigation and international deployments, he was selected for this exchange to build first-hand knowledge of French operations in ice-covered waters.

In March 2025, Lt(N) Moors embarked on a two-week voyage aboard L'Astrolabe, a French Navy ship operated on behalf of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands Administration (TAAF). The ship was completing its final logistic support mission of the season to the French Antarctic research station at Dumont d'Urville (DDU). Departing from Hobart, Australia, the crew crossed the "Roaring Forties", a notoriously rough stretch of the Southern Ocean, before reaching the ice-covered coast of Antarctica.

During the mission, Lt(N) Moors



The French Navy ship L'Astrolabe is seen at Dumont d'Urville Station earlier this year.

MARINE NATIONALE

served as a trainee Bridge Watchkeeper, joining a small French Navy crew that worked alongside embarked researchers and station support personnel. The ship's responsibilities included delivering food, spare parts and equipment to the station via helicopter while patrolling near the coast. When poor weather made the station's jetty inaccessible, the ship continued further south, fulfilling its motto Toujours Plus Sud ("Always Further South") by reaching its southernmost point to date.

Throughout the exchange, Lt(N) Moors was impressed by the professionalism and hospitality of the French Navy crew.

"They welcomed me as one of their own and included me in everything from cargo handling to daily bridge operations, to their crossing the line ceremony, where I was dressed up as a very lost polar bear."

He also noted several operational takeaways, including the French Navy's practice of compiling satellite imagery, photographs and videos from each voyage to inform future navigation and build long-term polar knowledge.

"The French Navy does after action reports after every trip to DDU, so they have comprehensive records of how the ship got through the ice and the conditions they've faced before," said Lt(N) Moors.

"Both reading their doctrine on ice operations and these AARs will provide the RCN some insight into modern icebreaking operations with a comparable ship."

L'Astrolabe is equipped for heavy polar resupply, with a cargo hold capable of carrying up to 1,200 tonnes of equipment. This includes two helicopters, more than 10 sea containers, and various vehicles to support the station.

The vessel typically sails with a core crew of 22 French Navy personnel, which allows space to embark scientists from the Paul-Émile Victor Polar Institute along with other support staff. Its dual-crew rotation system enables near-continuous operations. During the



Lieutenant (N) Cameron Moors alongside L'Astrolabe during a resupply mission to Dumont d'Urville Station.

RCN

Antarctic off-season, the ship conducts fisheries and sovereignty patrols in the Indian Ocean near La Réunion and other French territories.

Lt(N) Moors said one of the most significant challenges was navigating the language barrier in a technical environment.

"I'd say the biggest difficulty is re-learning all the navy-specific terminology in French," he noted. "There were a lot of technical terms that I knew but didn't know how to translate into my second language. The crew helped by either translating it themselves or using charades to bridge the gap."

As the RCN expands its polar presence, exchanges like this one will continue to enhance operational readiness, build expertise, and foster the close international partnerships that define Canada's role on the global stage.



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Courier address: Canadian Forces Base Halifax Building S-90 Suite 329, P.O. Box 99000 Halifax, N.S., B3K 5X5



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The new tridents in town

August 22 marked the official delivery of the future His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Robert Hampton Gray, the sixth and final Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV) built by Irving Shipbuilding for the Royal Canadian Navy. The ship arrived with a unique accent in the form of two large crimson tridents painted on the hull, a tribute to its namesake and his service in the Second World War.

Lieutenant Robert Hampton Gray flew with 1841 Squadron from His Majesty's Ship (HMS) Formidable, whose badge featured five tridents. HMCS Robert Hampton Gray's badge reflects that history, with the squadron's eagle clutching a crimson trident, linking Gray to Formi-dable while using the deep red of the Victoria Cross he was awarded posthumously.

With the Royal Navy now building a new HMS Formidable, two large tridents were cut from its steel and presented to HMCS Robert Hampton Gray. Too delicate to mount on the hull, they will be preserved aboard, while the painted tridents ensure Gray's legacy and the connection to Formidable are carried proudly to sea.

CPL BRIAN LEVESQUE





Allies integrate undersea infrastructure monitoring into Exercise Sandy Coasts 25

By Allied Maritime Command

Allied mine countermeasures ships and dive teams shifted focus to monitoring Critical Underwater Infrastructure (CUI) while sharpening their skills in maritime security during Exercise Sandy Coasts 25.

The annual exercise challenges allied navies in key areas such as naval mine warfare, harbour protection, and naval cooperation and guidance for shipping. This year, the addition of CUI monitoring and protection enhanced the scope of training, allowing these capabilities to be tested and refined throughout the two-week exercise, which began on August 15, 2025.

The ships of NATO Mine Countermeasures Group 1 (SNMCMG1), which includes His Majesty's Canadian Ships (HMCS) *Edmonton* and *Yellowknife*, along with flagship Latvian Navy Ship (LVNS) Virsaitis, all took part in the exercise, in addition to allies from the Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Estonia. The NATO task group was reinforced by Dutch minehunter Willemstad and Belgium's BNS Lobelia.

Sandy Coasts is an annual exercise, hosted on a rotational basis by Belgium and the Netherlands. This year the exercise was led by the Royal Netherlands Navy off the port of Delfzijl, and in the North Sea above the Dutch Wadden Islands of Terschelling, Vlieland, and Schiermonnikoog.

There was additional focus on Groningen's Eemshaven, which serves as a vital logistical hub for Host Nation Support to NATO allies. In the event of a military deployment, the port would play a crucial role in the reception, staging, and onward movement of equipment and personnel. Ensuring the security of this harbour is essential, making its protection a key part of Sandy Coasts 25. The exercise continues to play a crucial role in strengthening partnerships and enhancing the capabilities necessary to ensure safe and secure seas.

HMCS *Edmonton* and HMCS *Yellowknife* left Halifax on July 7 to join SNMCMG1 and are expected to return in October.



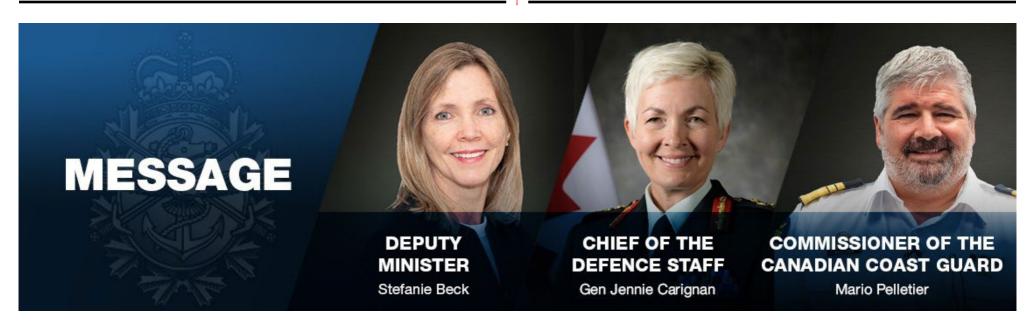
RCN ships, Latvian allies visit Stavanger

Ships of Standing NATO Mine Countermeasure Group 1 (SNMCMG1), including HMC ships Edmonton and Yellowknife and LVNS Virsaitis, came alongside in Stavanger, Norway from August 8 to 11, 2025. Despite environmental challenges brought on by Storm Floris enroute to Stavanger, the task group stood on, conducted operational activities, and arrived in port as previously scheduled.

Once in Stavanger, the ships' crews led targeted tours to onboard guests, took in some Norwegian culture, and dressed the ships overall with strings of international maritime signal flags along the masts to commemorate Latvia's 106th Navy Day. The port visit also provided the task force with the opportunity to replenish the vessels before heading back to sea.

ALLIED MARITIME COMMAND





Welcoming the Canadian Coast Guard to the Defence Team

September 2, 2025 marked an important milestone: the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) and key employees from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) officially joined the Defence Team, as a Special Operating Agency reporting through the Department of National Defence (DND).

This historic step will strengthen our collaboration, enhance our capabilities,

and improve Canada's ability to respond to challenges at home and abroad. Together, we are laying the foundation for greater effectiveness, resilience, and readiness in our service to Canadians.

The CCG has long been a source of national pride, and its integration into the Defence Team as a civilian Special Operating Agency represents a generational opportunity to build an even

more unified and capable team. With the Canadian Armed Forces, the CCG will help the Defence Team deliver on its vital mandate to protect and defend Canada's security and sovereignty while continuing to deliver essential maritime programs and services on which Canadians rely.

For now, the CCG will carry on its important work with minimal changes while detailed planning for the full transition into the Defence Team progresses. Over the coming months, teams across Defence, the CCG, and DFO will work diligently on fully integrating the CCG and key employees and systems from DFO into the Defence Team.

Our priority is enabling a smooth and transparent transition. For some, a change of this scale brings questions and, for others, uncertainty. We are committed to keeping you informed and providing you with <u>up-to-date information</u> throughout this transition.

We encourage you to speak with your managers and to continue to support one another through this period. Additional supports and <u>resources are available to help you.</u>

Thank you for your professionalism, dedication, and agility as we take this important and exciting step forward as a unified Defence Team in service to Canada and Canadians.

Thank you, Stefanie Beck.

Deputy Minister of National Defence General Jennie Carignan,

Chief of the Defence Staff Mario Pelletier

 $Commissioner, \ Canadian \ Coast \ Guard$







CFB Halifax Base Logistics conducted a Change of Command ceremony on August 22 for outgoing Commanding Officer, Cdr Galeung Lau (left), and incoming Commanding Officer, Cdr Audrey Rivera (right), at a ceremony presided over by CFB Halifax Base Commander, Captain (Navy) Annick Fortin.



Outgoing CO Cdr Galeung Lau (left) received a framed photo of the 2025 BLog team as part of his sendoff.

CPL GREGORY COLE

New BLog CO at CFB Halifax as preparation for future fleet continues

By Nathan Stone, Trident Staff

The Base Logistics (BLog) team has had a busy year preparing for the future of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) while providing critical support to operations at home and abroad.

Amidst the bustle, a new Commanding Officer (CO) is stepping in to lead the BLog team through the next phase of prepara-tions to supply Canada's future fleet of River-class destroyers. Commander (Cdr) Audrey Rivera was appointed as BLog's new CO at a Change of Command ceremony in the heart of the department's operations inside the main BLog warehouse at His Majesty's Cana-dian Dockyard on August 22.

"Logistics may not always be visible, but it is indispensable. Without your tireless work, ships would not sail, aircraft would not launch, and our forces would not endure," Cdr Rivera told her new staff during an opening address.

CPL GREGORY COLE

The task of overseeing BLog at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Halifax, Canada's largest military base, is complex. The BLog team oversees numerous vital functions that keep the base and fleet operational, including ship maintenance, inventory and supply management, and procurement.

On top of the day-to-day responsibilities, Cdr Rivera will be working with her team to prepare for the RCN's transition from its current fleet of Halifax-class frigates to the future River-class destroyers.

The outgoing BLog head, Cdr Galeung Lau, began that transitional work.

Cdr Lau made special mention of the accomplishments of his team in preparing for the future.

"As I reflect over the last year and the things we accomplished, in partic-ular the warehouse optimization and the great work we've been doing to get ready for the future fleet, it's been wonderful."

He thanked the BLog staff for their hard work and said that the progress they made together was a foundation for future success.

"The seeds are planted, and they're going to take root."

The River-class is expected to enter service in the early 2030s, and though much work remains to be done in preparation, Cdr Rivera stressed that those responsibilities would not distract from BLog's commitment to maintaining the Navy's current readiness.

"Everything we do must be focused on enabling operations with reliability and responsiveness. Whether supporting daily activities on base, responding to emergencies at home, or preparing for international deployments, our organization must always be ready to deliver," the new CO said.





Cdr Audrey Rivera spoke to the CFB Halifax BLog team after taking command.



Ville de Québec joins training exercise with Australian and Philippine navies

By Trident Staff

His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS)

Ville de Québec has been deployed since April supporting Operation Horizon in the Indo-Pacific region, and the ship isn't slowing down. The team on board recently welcomed new crew members and took part in a large multinational exercise near the Philippines as it moves into the second half of a seven-month mission.

The ship joined partner navies and other military personnel for Exercise Alon 25, marking the first time a Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) ship has participated in the event, which ran from August 15 to 29. Though primarily designed as a bilateral Australian–Philippine initiative, the exercise also included contributions from the United States in addition to Canada's participation with HMCS *Ville de Québec*.

Exercise Alon brought a series of demanding naval warfare and seamanship evolutions. The ship's company conducted Combined Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercises (CASEXs), simulating undersea threats with mobile training targets in the water. Air Defence Exercises (ADEXs) followed, with Royal Australian Air Force F-18s launching mock "attacks" against the formation, testing the readiness of ships' combat systems.

The embarked helicopter detachment and CH-148 Cyclone helicopter, call sign "Avalanche," also played an active role. Technicians and aircrew completed cross-deck training, performing hoists aboard HMAS *Brisbane* while also hosting their Australian counterparts for hoists on *Ville de Québec*. Helicopters from Canada and Australia also flew together during the exercise in a demonstration of the flexibility of embarked aviation and air-maritime integration.

Sailors transferred between ships for cross-pollination activities, with *Ville de Québec* welcoming visitors from the Philippine Navy's BRP *Jose Rizal* and the Royal Australian Navy's HMAS *Brisbane*, and Canadian sailors stepping aboard partner vessels for a look at how

other navies work at sea.

Additional activities focused on interoperability. *Ville de Québec* took part in Officer of the Watch manoeuvres with HMAS *Brisbane*, BRP *Jose Rizal*, BRP *Gener Tinangag*, and BRP *Domingo Deluana*, sharpening ship handling and coordination skills across multiple navies.

Launched in 2023 by Australia and the Philippines, Exercise Alon has expanded in scope. This year's edition brought together more than 3,600 personnel, including 1,600 from the Australian Defence Force and 1,525 from the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The U.S. Marine Rotation Force–Darwin added about 350 personnel, while Canada contributed HMCS *Ville de Québec* and her roughly

180 sailors and aviators.

The exercise also came amid a busy period for the ship's company. A significant crew turnover occurred in Manila, with about 35 sailors rotating out and replacements joining the ship. The influx of new personnel meant that, alongside multinational training, *Ville de Québec* conducted a program of emergency drills to ensure the new sailors met the ship's high standards.

The ship also recently completed a Rest and Maintenance Period — a somewhat misleading title. With many crew members away on leave, new sailors arriving and technicians engaged in essential upkeep, the work alongside remained just as demanding as the exercise itself.



The Fleet Corrosion Support Team is here to help!

By Cameron Walker

In partnership with the Major Surface Combatant 8 section of the Directorate of Maritime Equipment Program Management (DMEPM (MSC) 8), Fleetway, and ICE Dragon Corrosion, we're proud to introduce the contracted Halifax-class Fleet Corrosion Support (FCS) Teams as part of the Corrosion Management Program (CMP). Active on both coasts, the FCS teams provide practical, hands-on support to ship staff (SS) assisting with the completion of first line corrosion-related maintenance. They are also available to support other coastal stakeholders upon request.

In Halifax, the FCS Team works alongside SS, Fleet Maintenance Facility (FMF) Cape Scott, life-cycle material managers (LCMMs), and other dockyard stakeholders to deliver tailored support, including:

- Hands-on coaching for corrosion-related preventative maintenance (PM) tasks.
- Gap analyses for paint repairs & cathodic protection systems.
- Paint locker management and support.
- QA/QC planning and support.
- · And more!

Recently, the East Coast FCS Team conducted their first coaching session with HMCS *Charlottetown*'s SS, focusing on cathodic protection and protective coatings. During this session, SS members engaged in hands-on coating repairs and assessed the operation of the impressed current cathodic protection system using over-the-side readings.

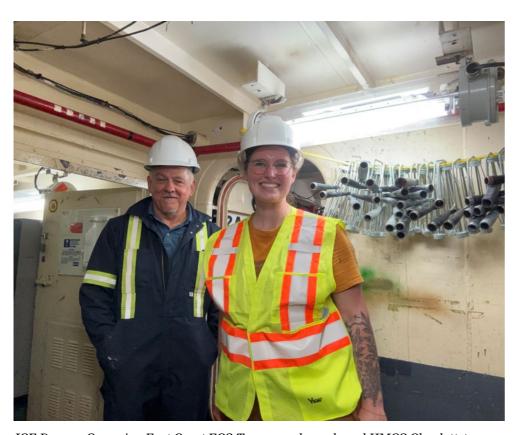
Based on feedback from coastal stake-

holders, the FCS team is also establishing the Asset Support HQ (ASH-Q). This facility will stock and manage essential corrosion-related maintenance tools, equipment, and materials readily available to SS. The ASH-Q will also feature a coaching space for both class and practical coaching sessions for SS and other stakeholders.

To learn more about FCS Team initiatives, reach out to Joe Fitzharris and Courtney Smith at Joseph.Fitzharris@forces.gc.ca and Courtney.Smith19@forces.gc.ca. You can also visit them on the 3rd floor in D200; drop by for support today!

Joe Fitzharris has over 35 years of experience in shipbuilding, repair, energy, construction, offshore oil, and gas industries. He specializes in Quality Management, Project Management, Third-Party Inspections and hold certifications as an AMPP Senior Inspector & CSA 47.1 Welding Level II. Joe joined ICE Dragon Corrosion as part of the FCS team in December 2024 and is using his expertise to enhance the FCS program and support SS and FM-FCS in maintaining mission readiness.

Courtney Smith has a degree in Chemical Engineering from Dalhousie University and joined the FCS Team in May 2025. With 3 years of quality control experience, she is excited to serve as a primary corrosion resource, supporting SS and FMFCS while building strong relationships with ship staff and leadership!



 $ICE\ Dragon\ Corrosion\ East\ Coast\ FCS\ Team\ members\ aboard\ HMCS\ Charlottetown\ reviewing\ their\ paint\ locker:\ Joe\ Fitzharris\ (left)\ \&\ Courtney\ Smith\ (right).$

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Joe Fitzharris (second from right) and Brycklin Wilson (far right) coaching ship staff on surface preparation techniques required for coating repairs..



From futsal to bingo nights: Boosting morale on Op Horizon

By Ryan Melanson, Trident Staff

The ship's company of His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Ville de Québec*, though in the midst of a busy Indo-Pacific deployment, are still finding ways to stay active and have a little bit of fun during downtime.

While in Australia for Exercise Talisman Sabre earlier this summer, sailors from *Ville de Québec* connected with peers for a day of futsal, a soccer-based game played with smaller teams, and

beach volleyball. There was enough interest aboard to fill multiple teams for matches against both Australian counterparts and Royal Navy sailors attached to HMS *Prince of Wales*.

The sports opportunities were organized by the Australians, with *Ville de Québec*'s embarked Personnel Support Programs (PSP) Fitness, Sports and Recreation Instructor, Tianna Pietrowski, acting as liaison to help coordinate

rosters and transportation.

The matches not only offered a chance to break a sweat, but also to build camaraderie with sailors from partner nations, creating memories outside the high-tempo exercise schedule. For *Ville de Québec*'s crew, those kinds of outlets can make a long deployment feel more balanced, and ensuring they happen is part of the job for the ship's recreation staff.

In addition to her full-time role running fitness classes and creating tailored workout plans on board, Pietrowski has also taken the lead on morale-boosting recreation activities. This can mean organized events during port visits, or simpler initiatives like bingo nights, trivia or painting, all of which have been popular with the ship's company.

"She took the 'morale' intent and ran with it, which has made my job easier," said Lieutenant-Commander Pierre-Luc Dessureault-Beaulieu, the ship's Executive Officer.

To learn more about the different deployment support roles offered by PSP, including fitness, sports and recreation positions, visit https://cfmws.ca/about-us/cfmws-careers/our-team/deployment-support.



The sports day offered a chance to build relationships with international partners outside of exercises and operations.



Sporting opportunities like these are coordinated by the ship's embarked PSP Fitness, Sports and Recreation instructor.

CPL BRENDAN GAMACHE



CPL BRENDAN GAMACHE

Members of HMCS Ville de Québec took part in a futsal tournament against counterparts from Australia and the United Kingdom in July.

Mooseheads make preseason stop aboard HMCS Frédérick Rolette

Players and staff from the Halifax Mooseheads hockey club were at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Halifax for a tour on August 26 ahead of this year's Quebec Maritimes Junior Hockey League season. The stop included a visit aboard one of the RCN's newest ships, His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Frédérick Rolette.

The Mooseheads and CFB Halifax have enjoyed a long relationship centred around military appreciation activities and fundraisers in support of the Camp Hill Veterans Memorial Building. That relation-ship continues this fall with the next Mooseheads DND Appreciation Night, scheduled for Saturday, October 25.

CPL GREGORY COLE









