



CFB Halifax News

December 2025 - January 2026



BASE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

As ever, I am grateful for the outstanding work, stewardship, and dedication of our local Defence Team. And that gratitude goes up a notch when December arrives and we start reflecting on the year that was: 2025 was filled with opportunities and challenges that were met with strength, ability, and innovation that allowed CFB Halifax to advance its operational excellence as the largest military base (by population) in the country. Our ecosystem is busy, vast, and complex – and relies on your knowledge, skill sets, and collaborative spirit to keep running and thriving.

I want to congratulate those who oversaw activities that brought some light to a grey and reflective November. Bravo Zulu to all who participated in the Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building garden clean up and candlelight ceremony in support of Veterans' Week; to the Stadacona Band for their poignant Veterans' Week concert; to our ceremonial team and participating units for supporting Remembrance Day commemorations; to all units that made the annual Take Our Kids to Work Day a fun and memorable experience; to Health Promotion, PSP Halifax, and Canadian Forces Health Services Centre (Atlantic) for organizing a deeply impactful Health Expo; to the teams and volunteers who made the annual Parade of Lights and the CANEX volunteer recognition event possible; and to everyone involved in National Defence Workplace Charitable Campaign (NDWCC) initiatives last month such as EX Dirty Hands, the NDWCC Travel Party, and the Escape Room. Thank you for taking pride in what you do and for being excellent ambassadors in the local community!



CFB Halifax covers a vast geographical footprint and is home to many units that provide unique services in support of Canadian Armed Forces operations at home and abroad. To the many integral and lodger units that call CFB Halifax home: thank you for your collaboration this year, with extra gratitude to all those working across the Base over the holiday season to sustain operations, oversee properties and alongside ships, and support our members. It takes a village and a large dose of determination to keep the Base running, and I look forward to working with you in 2026 as we continue these efforts.

Looking beyond the Base footprint, I want to thank our neighbours and collaborators across the Halifax region for their cooperation and support in 2025. CFB Halifax is surrounded by residential communities, business districts, and recreational spaces that fuel our Defence Team and make living here meaningful. I deeply value your allyship and commend you all for contributing to vibrant, healthy communities.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank our Defence Team families and friends here locally and across the country who support our military and civilian workforce 365 days a year. Our loved ones are foundational to everything we do and so our success and service to our county are a shared endeavour. I hope you can connect with your communities of support as much as possible this holiday season and keep thanking them for being your champions.

Continued on page 2...

This December and January, may you carve out time to slow down and recharge while enjoying some special moments with colleagues, family, and friends. This can be a festive and joyful time but also a challenging period so please remember that 24/7 resources exist to support your health and well-being. Be safe, be well, and from the bottom of my heart, thank you for another inspiring year!

- Captain(N) Annick Fortin

BASE CHIEF'S MESSAGE



Well, it's hard to believe we're already several days into December, with snowflakes visible from my desk. It has been a busy year at CFB Halifax, so I hope you can all take some time to rest and recharge over the holiday leave period with family, friends, and – my personal favourite – animal companions! I'll echo the Base Commander's sentiments in thanking all integral and lodger units for their efforts this year, with special recognition to the folks who will be keeping the Base running throughout the holidays.

While this season brings good cheer, traditions, and togetherness for many, this period can also feel isolating for those who are struggling. To local leadership teams (including managers and supervisors at all levels) – please check in on your people this month and into the new year. Ask questions, offer support where possible/appropriate, and refamiliarize yourself with the many [mental health resources](#) available to your members, both military and civilian. To members at all ranks and qualifications, please look out for one another, and don't be afraid to reach out if you need help. We are one team, one family, and our commitment to one another doesn't expire at the end of the workday. Take care, thank you for all that you do, and we'll see you in 2026.

- CPO1 Troy Beazley

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CFB HALIFAX?

EVENTS/COMMEMORATIONS



Click [here](#) for a list of Government of Canada important and commemorative days in December and January.

December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities

- **Flag raising:** The MARLANT Defence Advisory Group of Persons with Disabilities (DAGPWD) flag will be raised during morning colours (8 a.m.) at Base HQ (S90) and Shearwater Main Gate in recognition of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. All Defence Team members are welcome to attend.
- **Discussion Panel event:** On December 9, the MARLANT DAGPWD will be hosting "Telling Our Own Stories," in the Juno Tower Ballroom Wardroom from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. All Defence Team members are welcome to attend.

December 5: St. Barbara's Day Gunnery Competition

On the morning of Friday, December 5, a Saint Barbara's Day gunnery competition will take place aboard HMCS *Sackville*, currently berthed alongside His Majesty's Canadian Dockyard. Any loud bangs or noises are a result of competition crews firing blank rounds toward the Halifax Harbour.

December 6: National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

On December 6, 1989, 14 young women lost their lives at Polytechnique Montréal which led to December 6 being marked as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

- **White Ribbons:** MARLANT, in collaboration with the Defence Women's Advisory Organization (DWAOW), invites all local Defence Team members to wear white ribbons on Friday, December 5 to honour the victims of this tragedy and commemorate this day. Units can arrange ribbon pick up by emailing Himaly.Fernando@forces.gc.ca.
- **Flag Raising:** The DWAOW flag will be raised on December 5 during morning colours (8 a.m.) at Base HQ (S90) and Shearwater Main Gate to commemorate this day. All Defence Team members are welcome to attend.

December 6: 108th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion

9 a.m. at Fort Needham Memorial Park.

December 7: Lessons & Carols at St. Brendan's Chapel

The MARLANT chaplain team invites you to its annual holiday carol service on Sunday, December 7, 3 p.m. at St. Brendan's Chapel (2710 Admirals Way). The church service will feature the Canadian Military Wives Choir Halifax, Katherine Fitch Loza (harpist), Adria Jackson (singer/harpist), and Wendell Eisener (organ).

December 8 – December 19: Dress with a Difference

Local Canadian Armed Forces members may wear civilian attire with Chain of Command approval for a \$2 donation per day or \$10 donation per week to the NDWCC. Monitor the MARLANT splash page, Base-wide emails, and HALGEN for more details. **12 Wing Shearwater's Dress with a Difference event runs from December 1 to 19.*

December 9: Stadacona Band Holiday Concert – Sleighbells in the Sun

Celebrate the season with a tropical twist at the Stadacona Band's holiday concert, Sleighbells in the Sun! This year's performance brings the warmth of the tropics to the Maritimes with Juno award nominee Jah'Mila, one of Canada's leading voices in reggae music. Blending festive favourites with island rhythms, this concert promises a joyful fusion of tradition and sunshine. 7:30 p.m. at Spatz Theatre (1855 Trollope Street). Reserve your free tickets at the Spatz Theatre.

December 15: 12 Wing Shearwater Menorah Lighting

8 a.m. at 12 Wing Shearwater headquarters. All are welcome.

December 16: End of the NDWCC Escape Room

St. Brendan's Chapel (Stadacona building S7, 2710 Admirals Way). Daily one-hour games at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1 p.m. (except no afternoon games on Fridays). Cost is \$20 per person, 8 people per team. For bookings and parking enquiries, please contact Joseph.Abando@forces.gc.ca and Leah.Coughlin@forces.gc.ca. Click [here](#) for more details.

December 25: Christmas Day (Public Holiday)**December 26: Boxing Day (Public Holiday)****January 1: New Year's Day (Public Holiday)**



SAVE THE DATE (2026)

January 21: Bell Let's Talk Day

February: Black History Month/African Heritage Month

February 9-13: Security Awareness Week

February 16: Nova Scotia Heritage Day (Provincial Holiday)

February 23: Canadian Blood Services Blood Donation Clinic

February 25: Pink Shirt Day

MISCELLANEOUS



Holiday leave period for CAF members: As per the [MARLANT INSTRUCTION - CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR S LEAVE DEC 25/JAN 26](#) and the [MARLANT INSTRUCTION - CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR S LEAVE \(AMENDMENT\)](#), the holiday leave period for local CAF members will run from 20 December 2025 to 5 January 2026 (17 days).

Holiday Base Services Directory: Please monitor CFB Halifax social media, Base-wide email, and the MARLANT splash page for a list of Base services that will be open/closed over the holiday period.

Motorcycle Parking: As of Friday, November 28, motorcycle parking has decreased to its winter levels. Please be aware of changes to the signage of parking spaces around motorcycle parking areas. Personnel without ten years of service who had use of a motorcycle pass, must return the pass to the Parking Pass Control Centre. Failure to do so will negatively affect the issuance of further seasonal passes.

NDWCC SPOTLIGHT: CAMPAIGN WRAP UP

The 2025 Halifax Region National Defence Workplace Charitable Campaign (NDWCC) wraps up on December 12 after a busy campaign season. Many thanks to United Way Maritimes and HealthPartners for their collaboration and to our NDWCC canvassers and unit OPIs for their support and dedication throughout the campaign. Bravo Zulu to everyone who donated through ePledge, volunteered for a Day of Caring, organized an event, or participated in a fundraising activity!

Defence Team members can still get involved in the campaign in the following ways:

- **Donate through ePledge:** The ePledge payroll deduction deadline for civilians ends on December 10, 2025, but members can donate via credit card at any time. Donate [here](#).
- **Volunteer for a Day of Caring activity:** Days of Caring are United Way Halifax initiatives that pair community volunteers with charitable organizations who are seeking assistance. Email NDWCCHalifax@forces.gc.ca to learn more about upcoming volunteer activities.
- **Participate in an NDWCC fundraising event or initiative:** Monitor the MARLANT splash page, Base-wide emails and CFB Halifax social media channels for NDWCC events and initiatives happening throughout December.

Sports, recreation, athletics

- Bravo Zulu to the Halifax Mooseheads Canadian Armed Forces Stars of the Game for November 2025: MCpl Rich Bickford and Cpl Chrissy Jollimore.

Awards, promotions, certificates

- MS Brian Thornhill was promoted to the rank of PO2 effective 31 October 2025.
- Avr(B) Vaughan Landon was promoted to the rank of Avr(T) effective 18 September 2025.
- S3 Yaser Al-Shakarji was promoted to the rank of S2 effective 15 September 2025.

Miscellaneous

- Bravo Zulu to all the organizers and units involved in Take Our Kids to Work Day on November 5.
- Bravo Zulu to everyone who organized and attended the Health Expo on November 6.
- Bravo Zulu to the Stadacona Band, Dalhousie Collegium Cantorum choir, Cadets, Camp Hill veterans and staff, St. Andrew's United Church, and all others involved in the Veterans' Week Concert on November 9.
- Bravo Zulu to the Base Ceremonial team, Stadacona Band, and all those who supported local Remembrance Day ceremonies on November 11.
- Bravo Zulu to the Base Logistics Transport, Electrical, Mechanical and Engineering (TEME) division for hosting the NDWCC EX Dirty Hands Tire Swap event from November 12 to 14.
- Bravo Zulu to the Base Logistics TEME division, Base Information Services, and Naval Experience Program participants for preparing our CFB Halifax Holiday Parade of Lights float and to everyone who joyfully represented CFB Halifax at the parade on November 15.
- Bravo Zulu to MARLANT Safety and Environment for educating local members about energy efficiency and greening initiatives during MARLANT Energy Awareness Week from November 17 to 21.
- Bravo Zulu to everyone who volunteered for the Day of Caring at Common Roots Urban Farm Woodside on November 19.
- Bravo Zulu to all involved in the Transgender Day of Remembrance flag raising on November 20.
- Bravo Zulu to PSP Halifax Corporate Services, Base Administration, and all involved in organizing the NDWCC Travel Party on November 27.
- Bravo Zulu to all involved in the CANEX Volunteer Recognition Event on November 27!
- Bravo Zulu to the Naval Museum of Halifax staff for organizing and hosting the NDWCC Paranormal Tours on October 31, November 7, and November 14.
- Bravo Zulu to all who supported a visit to CFB Halifax from the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence on November 14.
- Bravo Zulu to Base Information Services and all involved in planning and facilitating the NDWCC Escape Room from November 4 to December 16!
- Bravo Zulu to the Base Administration cooks and staff who have been busy preparing Holiday Appreciation Dinners from December 2 to 11!
- Bravo Zulu to the Base Public Affairs team for being the trusted voice of CFB Halifax while fostering positive relationships with the local community. Thank you for your unwavering commitment, dedication, and support!



DID YOU KNOW?

Local Defence Team members have multiple ways to find information on Base openings, closures, and delayed openings during adverse weather conditions.

This is a friendly reminder for local Defence Team members as we enter the winter storm season:

Please note that the CFB Halifax storm line (**902-721-8325**) and 12 Wing Shearwater storm line* (**902-720-1305**) can be called for information on Base and Wing openings, closures, and delays.

The storm lines as well as our CFB Halifax social media sites ([Twitter](#) (X), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#)) **will be updated by 6 a.m. (Atlantic)** in the event of a Base closure or delayed opening.

Defence Team members are encouraged to speak with their respective Chains of Command or supervisors prior to any inclement weather event if there are concerns with safe or timely arrival to work. Personnel who are unable to report to work due to weather conditions are required to contact their supervisor.

**Please note that information provided through the 12 Wing Shearwater storm line and the 12 Wing RAVE notification system is only applicable to Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) units that fall under the authority of Commander 12 Wing. All other Defence Team members who work on Shearwater property should follow instruction provided via the CFB Halifax storm line and the CFB Halifax social media channels.*

Resources

- For frequently asked questions regarding Base delayed openings and closures, please refer to our [CFB Halifax Base Closures & Delayed Openings FAQ](#) on the Trident website.
- For additional information pertaining to road conditions, emergency contact information, etc. please refer to the [provincial government's wintertime resources](#).
- For practical advice and tools to prepare yourself and your family for unforeseen emergencies, visit: <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-en.aspx>.



TOP CFB HALIFAX SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS LAST MONTH



Facebook

[Remembrance Day](#)
[EX Dirty Hands Tire Swap](#)
[Take Our Kids to Work Day](#)

Instagram

[Veterans' Week Concert](#)
[Bring Your Dog to Work Day](#)
[2025 Holiday Parade of Lights](#)

Visit our CFB Halifax social media channels for content!



[@CFB.BFC.HALIFAX](#)



[@cfb.bfc.halifax](#)



[@CFB_BFCHalifax](#)

BASE SERVICE SPOTLIGHT: PSP HALIFAX CORPORATE SERVICES



The PSP Halifax Corporate Services team supports CAF members and their families by offering programs and special events that support morale and wellness. The team works with a variety of businesses across multiple industries to raise funds through sponsorship and advertising to fund programs and special events. Read more [here](#).



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Petty Officer Cook Bert Grant (left) and his assistants preparing Christmas puddings at HMCS STADACONA, Halifax, NS. The Royal Canadian Navy has a long history of unique holiday traditions, including serving Christmas pudding while at sea.

Photo credit: Naval Museum of Halifax

RESOURCES

- [Base Services Directory](#)
- **Defence Advisory Groups**
 - [Defence Racialized Persons Advisory Group](#) (DWAN only)
 - [Defence Women's Advisory Organization](#) (DWAN only)
 - [Atlantic Defence Indigenous Advisory Group](#) (DWAN only)
 - [Defence Advisory Group for Persons with Disabilities](#) (DWAN only)
 - [Atlantic Defence Team Pride Advisory Organization](#) (DWAN only)
 - [Defence Advisory Groups - Trident Newspaper](#)
- [Mental Health & Wellness](#)
- [Base closures and delayed openings Q&A](#)
- [Lactation Spaces](#)
- [Base Student Services](#)
- [Base Executive Services Accessible via DWAN only](#)
- [Trident Newspaper](#)

QUESTIONS/SUBMISSIONS

If you have questions about this publication or would like to submit content for consideration, please email CFBHalifaxPublicAffairs@gmail.com.