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THE NEWSPAPER OF MARITIME FORCES ATLANTIC SINCE 1966 • LE JOURNAL DES FORCES MARITIMES DE L'ATLANTIQUE DEPUIS 1966

Welcome to Halifax, HMCS *Nanaimo*!

His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Nanaimo arrived in Halifax on November 26, marking the ship's transition to its new home port. Nanaimo sailed from the West coast in October and transited the Panama Canal while making its way east. The ship will operate alongside the other remaining Kingston-class vessels; HMC ships Moncton, Yellowknife, and Edmonton, which are now all based in Halifax.

CPL ANTONIO GARCIA ALVAREZ





'Quiet strength' of Stewards honoured during commemoration

By Nathan Stone,
Trident Staff

Stewards past and present gathered on October 30 to share stories and receive honours as they celebrated the legacy of their occupation during a commemorative event at Juno Tower.

The Steward occupation is being retired, as first announced in 2022, following a three-year occupational analysis that considered the expected roles and functions required in future Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) ships.

The gathering served as a final sendoff to an occupation that has supported the RCN since its founding in 1910.

Maritime Forces Atlantic's (MARLANT) last serving Stewards were in attendance and received certificates and coins from Rear-Admiral (RAdm) Josée Kurtz, Commander MARLANT and Joint Task Force Atlantic, in recognition of their service.

"It's a trade that has been integral to the structure of the RCN for decades," said RAdm Kurtz. "They have been a quiet strength behind the scenes."

Much of the event centred on socializing, with slideshows of photos from generations of Stewards playing in the background. Attendees caught up with one another, shared memories from

deployments past, and celebrated with toasts following the honours presentation.

For Petty Officer 1st Class (PO1) Chuck Bray and his son, Sailor 1st Class (S1) Jeremy Bray, the day brought a mix of emotions. Both were among the last serving Stewards and were acknowledged together during the presentation.

Though he was "sad to see the trade go," PO1 Bray said that standing beside his son to be recognized for their careers was a joyful moment.

"It feels fantastic. I'm very proud."

PO1 Bray began his career as a Steward in 1984. He recommended the trade to his son, who followed in his footsteps.

S1 Bray echoed his father's sentiments and said he was grateful for the chance to serve as a Steward. He is now in the process of selecting a new occupation within the RCN.

The final sendoff also brought out former Stewards, including Corporal (Ret'd) Edward Dawson.

He began his career in the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps before transferring to Maritime Command in 1976.

"Steward skills were more applicable to civilian life, and I always felt the best at sea. The Navy gave me the most purpose."

Cpl (Ret'd) Dawson served as a Steward until 1996 and sailed on numerous deployments, including a UN peacekeeping mission in the Golan Heights in 1994.

He shared a fond memory of serving dinner and drinks to then-Prime Minister Jean Chrétien aboard HMCS Halifax during a Great Lakes tour.

Cpl (Ret'd) Dawson said there was no occupation quite like being a Steward, and that serving both his country and his crewmates brought him happiness.

"It was a good time in my life."

Though their work often took place behind the scenes, Stewards carried out

a wide range of duties at sea and ashore; from food service and accommodations support to logistics, inventory, first aid and ceremonial tasks.

The certificate presented to Stewards at the commemorative event reads: "For generations, Stewards have served with professionalism, pride, and unwavering dedication to their duties. As they adapted to changing times, their roles became as diverse as their members, but their legacy will remain one of dignity and quiet devotion to the morale and well-being of the service personnel with whom they served."



PO1 Chuck Bray and his son S1 Jeremy Bray are among the last of the Stewards serving with MARLANT.

NATHAN STONE

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Editor:
Ryan Melanson
ryan.melanson2@forces.gc.ca
902-721-8358

Editorial Advisor:
Margaret Conway
margaret.conway@forces.gc.ca
902-721-0560

Editorial Advisor:
Ariane Guay-Jadah
ariane.guay-jadah@forces.gc.ca
902-721-8341

Journalist:
Nathan Stone
stone.nathan@cfmws.com
902-721-8624

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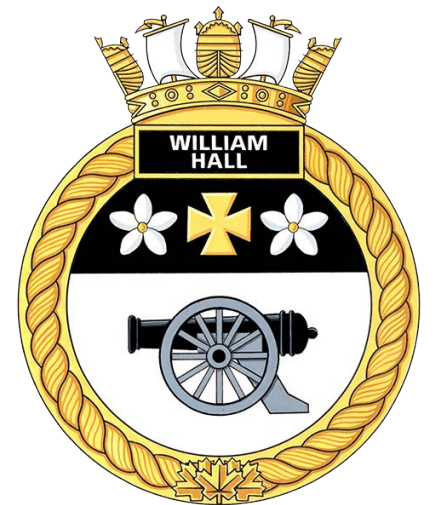
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Participants from Canada as well as international allies and defence partners engage in submarine search and rescue (SUBSAR) medical training aboard HMCS William Hall during Exercise VIPERFISH MERCY 2025, held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from 22 to 29 October.

CPL BRIAN LEVESQUE



Saving lives below the surface

RCN leads Multinational Submarine Medical Training Exercise in Halifax

Lt(N) Christopher Lyons,
Maritime Forces Atlantic Public Affairs

In late October, the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) transformed His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *William Hall*, a Harry DeWolf-class Arctic Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV), into the centrepiece of one of the most complex and collaborative medical training exercises in its history.

Moored alongside at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Halifax, the ship hosted Exercise VIPERFISH MERCY 2025, a fully simulated submarine medical and mass casualty exercise that brought together Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel, NATO allies, and international defence partners for a week of intensive scenario-based training. The exercise, recognized as the RCN's largest annual medical training event, showcased Canada's leadership in submarine medicine and the unwavering commitment to global maritime safety.

VIPERFISH MERCY was designed to replicate the high-stakes environment of a distressed submarine emergency, where medical personnel must respond quickly and effectively in confined, high-risk conditions. Integrating the Submarine Medical Course with realistic rescue simulations, the exercise tested everything from casualty movement and triage to onboard treatment and coordination with multinational support teams. The entire exercise was conducted aboard HMCS *William Hall*, simulating both surface and submersible rescue phases without ever leaving the jetty, an innovative approach that allowed full immersion while maintaining logistical control.

What set this year's exercise apart was its truly international scope. Nine medical candidates from six countries - Singapore, Australia, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Israel, and Malaysia - joined their Canadian counterparts, supported by staff from Germany, the UK, and the United States Navy. This level of multinational participation underscored Canada's role as a trusted partner in submarine search and rescue (SUBSAR) operations and reinforced the importance of interoperability in responding to emergencies at sea. The collaboration was not only a testament to shared readiness but also a reflection of the trust and respect Canada commands within the global defence community.

Medical teams were tasked with managing simulated mass casualty events, including the rescue of dozens of personnel from a disabled submarine. These exercises demanded not only technical skill but also adaptability, teamwork, and resilience. SubMed students and CAF clinicians worked side-by-side, navigating the challenges of confined spaces, limited resources, and time-sensitive decision-making. The result was a powerful demonstration of human-centred training, where innovation meets compassion, and where every action is driven by the imperative to save lives.

The success of VIPERFISH MERCY 2025 was not only measured in the precision of its simulations but in the depth of collaboration and innovation it fostered. The exercise brought together a diverse cohort of medical professionals

and naval personnel, each contributing unique expertise to a shared mission: saving lives in the most unforgiving environments. The realism of the scenarios - confined spaces, simulated pressure conditions, and mass casualty dynamics - pushed participants to adapt quickly, communicate clearly, and perform under stress. These conditions mirrored the challenges of actual submarine emergencies, where every second counts and coordination is critical.

Adding to the impact of the exercise was its use of modern naval platforms like HMCS *William Hall*, which was outfitted with modular medical facilities to support onboard triage and treatment. The ship's versatility allowed for seamless transitions between surface and submersible rescue simulations, creating a dynamic training environment that tested both individual skill and team cohesion. The integration of advanced medical protocols with naval operations highlights the RCN's ability to innovate and evolve, ensuring that its personnel are equipped not only with technical proficiency but with the adaptability required in real-world crises.

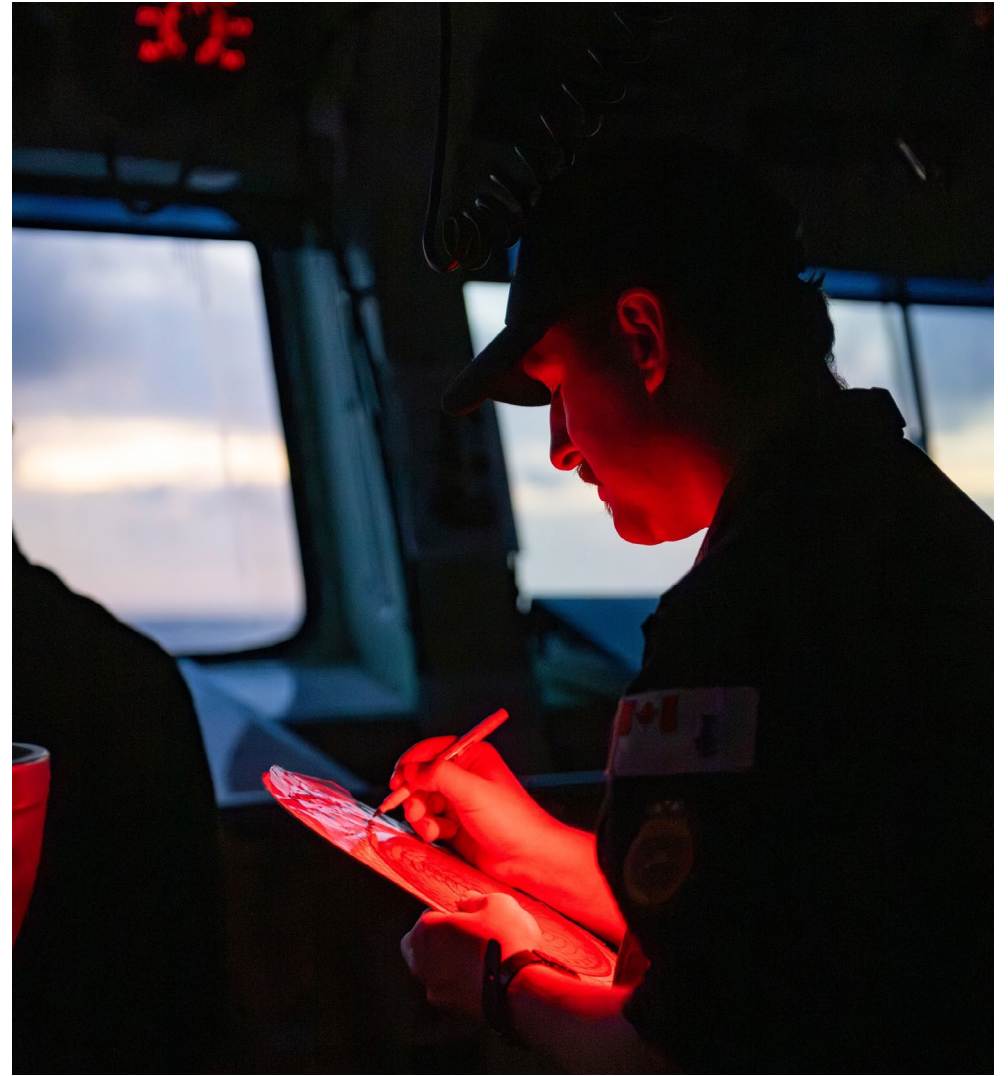
The presence of international participants added a vital layer of complexity and authenticity. This multinational collaboration was more than symbolic; it was operational. It demonstrated how allied forces can come together to share knowledge, synchronize procedures, and build trust in preparation for joint missions. In doing so, VIPERFISH MERCY reinforced Canada's role as a

leader in submarine medical readiness and a reliable partner in global maritime safety.

Leadership also played a key role in shaping the exercise's success. Commodore Jacob French, Commander Canadian Fleet Atlantic, emphasized the strategic value of the training, noting that Exercise VIPERFISH MERCY 2025 reflects the RCN's dedication to operational excellence and Canada's leadership in submarine medical readiness. Captain(N) Preston McIntosh, Chief of Staff to the Maritime Component Commander, echoed this sentiment, highlighting the importance of rehearsing mass casualty protocols in realistic conditions and the strength of Canada's global partnerships.

In a single week, VIPERFISH MERCY achieved what few exercises can: it brought together nations, tested critical capabilities, and reaffirmed the values that define Canada's military: professionalism, preparedness, and partnership. The exercise was more than a training event. It was a demonstration that Canada is ready to lead, ready to collaborate, and ready to respond when lives are at stake beneath the surface of the sea.

From the confined corridors of a simulated submarine to the broader stage of international defence cooperation, VIPERFISH MERCY 2025 was a resounding success. It reminded us that in the face of uncertainty, preparation is paramount, and that when the distress call comes, Canada will be ready.



HMCS St. John's wraps Mediterranean mission, heads North

His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) St. John's recently transferred from one NATO task group to another as the ship wraps up its Operation REASSURANCE deployment. HMCS St. John's completed its duties in the Mediterranean with Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2) on November 16, then shifted to the North Atlantic to join SNMG1 alongside ships from the German Navy (FHS Hamburg) and Royal Netherlands Navy (HNLMS Van Amstel).

The group has since completed live fire exercising and various training scenarios at sea. NATO Maritime Command says SNMG1 is operating in the High North to demonstrate the Alliance's ability in demanding environments, and this type of routine deployment helps maintain domain awareness and ensure freedom of navigation in the region.

HMCS St. John's left Halifax in July; the ship is currently on track to return just before the holiday season.

PHOTO 1 - NATO MARITIME COMMAND, PHOTO 2 - CPL ANNABELLE MARCOUX

CAF members: Fertility medications coverage update

By DND

For some, the road to parenthood can be filled with challenges along the way. Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members wishing to grow their families can now

benefit from improved coverage related to [fertility services](#).

As of September 26, 2025, all eligible Regular and Full-time Reserve Force

members (Class C or Class B on a period of service of 181 consecutive days or more) are now entitled to reimbursement for fertility medications for 1 IVF cycle in a lifetime and artificial insemination procedures (unlimited). Previously, CAF members could be reimbursed for fertility procedures, however associated medications were not covered.

CAF members considering fertility services must first visit their primary care provider at a Canadian Forces Health Services Centre (CF H Svcs C) where if approved, they will be referred to a fertility clinic. Prior to a CAF member initiating any fertility services, this referral must take place and pre-approval of the procedures granted.

Fertility medications are approximately \$5,000 per IVF cycle and \$1,000-\$2,000 per artificial insemination procedure in Canada. The reimbursement process will be managed by local base pharmacies. Since additions to the Spectrum of Care (SoC) are not applied

retroactively, no retroactive payments will be granted. Additionally, the *Financial Administration Act* (FAA) does not permit reimbursement for benefits that were not in effect at the time the service was rendered, this long-standing approach has been consistently applied to all SoC decisions.

Additional details regarding which specific IVF and artificial insemination services are covered can be found on the [fertility services](#) section of the supplemental health care benefits webpage.

The additional fertility services coverage reflects the CAF's responsibility to provide comprehensive health care to all members. It is broadly in line with, and in some cases exceeds the public funding available for fertility treatments in Canada.

Learn more about additional Government of Canada resources that are available for the [financial support of fertility treatment and surrogacy](#).





New leadership aboard HMCS Ville de Québec following Op HORIZON

The ship's company of HMCS Ville de Québec welcomed new leadership shortly after their recent return from a seven-month Indo-Pacific deployment on Operation HORIZON. Ceremonies saw outgoing Commanding Officer Cdr Peter MacNeil (left) and Coxswain CPO1 Paul Greene complete their appointments, while the new command team of Cdr Jason Knowles (right) and CPO1 Dan Dagenais stepped into their roles. Cmdre Jacob French (centre), Commander Canadian Fleet Atlantic, and Fleet Chief CPO1 Patrick Mackey were on hand to thank Cdr MacNeil and CPO1 Greene for their leadership on Operation HORIZON, while wishing the new CO and Coxswain well as Ville de Québec gets set for the year ahead.

FORMATION IMAGING SERVICES

Missile rearmament highlights CAF logistical reach in the Indo-Pacific

By Lt(N) Patricia Summers

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) demonstrated its ability to project logistical support into the Indo-Pacific with a forward Harpoon missile rearmament of a Halifax-class frigate this past summer. The rearmament took place on HMCS Ville de Québec during Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 2025 as part of a live-fire exercise off the coast of Australia, over 16,000 kilometers away from the ship's home port of Halifax. Such extreme distances drive the need for forward rearmament capabilities. This is especially true in the Indo-Pacific region where the CAF does not have extensive joint logistics support like it has in the Euro-Atlantic region with NATO. Forward rearmaments are generally conducted by airlifting ammunition to a third location for storage to await the arrival of a ship. Historically, in the Indo-Pacific region, rearmaments have happened almost exclusively in Hawaii immediately following the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC). However, with

Canada's renewed emphasis on security and freedom of movement across the Indo-Pacific region, there is a necessity for rearmament operations to be conducted in new locations. Such operations demonstrate the CAF's ability to shorten strategic lines of communication and provide efficient logistic support for distant missions, especially in cases of highly specialized commodities like ammunition. The rearmament was conducted by the Canadian Material Support Group in coordination with the Canadian Joint Operations Command and the Australian Defence Force (ADF). This operation displayed the CAF's interoperability with the ADF and reinforced our commitment to working with allies in the region. Forward rearmaments have become the norm for Canadian ships deployed to the Indo-Pacific in recent years and are expected to remain so into the foreseeable future.



Members of Canadian Forces Ammunition Depots Rocky Point, Bedford, Dundurn, and Angus, with the assistance of Joint Explosive Ordnance Support and 8 Operational Support Unit of the Australian Defence Force, crane over a Harpoon Block II missile for rearmament of HMCS Ville de Québec in the Port of Darwin, Australia, on July 9 as part of Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 2025.

CPL BRENDAN GAMACHE

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Gordon Stirrett
WEALTH MANAGEMENT



Flag raisings honour Transgender Day of Remembrance

The Transgender Pride Flag was raised on November 20 during morning colours at CFB Halifax headquarters and the 12 Wing Shearwater Main Gate in recognition of Transgender Day of Remembrance.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance is an opportunity to honour the memory of transgender, Two-Spirit, and non-binary individuals whose lives have been tragically lost to acts of anti-transgender violence. It is also a time to reflect and take meaningful steps in support of our transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse colleagues, as well as all members of the 2SLGBTQI+ communities – on this day and every day.

S3 MORGAN JAMES QUINTIN

CAF Social League revs up for Mario Kart night

By Trident Staff

The CAF Social League returns on Thursday, December 11, with a Mario Kart tournament taking over Mr. Mac's at Tribute Tower from 6 - 11 p.m. Whether you're a seasoned racer or just want to take the game for a test drive, everyone is invited to come out and play.

The event is free for Regular participants (Regular Force, Reserve Force, and Veterans), \$5 for Ordinary participants (DND, RCMP, and Canadian Coast Guard), and \$10 for Associates (civilians accompanied by a military member).

[Register online](https://halifaxrec-creation@cfmws.com) or contact Halifaxrec-creation@cfmws.com for details on this and future Social League outings, which in recent months have included hikes, surf days, ghost walks, and more.



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Showcasing MARLANT's sustainability efforts

By Nathan Stone,
Trident Staff

From 12 Wing Shearwater's new solar panel farm to energy saving upgrades on more than 100 buildings throughout Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Halifax, Maritime Forces Atlantic (MARLANT) has been working to reduce its carbon footprint and wants Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members to join in.

During Energy Awareness Week (November 17 – 23), the MARLANT Safety and Environment team manned information booths at locations around CFB Halifax and 12 Wing Shearwater to raise awareness of the environmentally friendly upgrades to DND facilities and to educate CAF members on how they can reduce their own energy footprints on and off base.

"Small actions can lead to big changes," said Yvonne Chabassol, who led the outreach team. They advocate simple actions, like turning off computers and monitors when not in use, which can save a half ton of carbon dioxide per person per year.

MARLANT's infrastructure has been undergoing big changes since 2021, when a \$54 million Energy Performance Contract (EPC) was announced to improve energy efficiency at CFB Halifax and 12 Wing.

The currently under construction 1,428 panel solar farm in Shearwater is a major component of the EPC and is expected to generate 900,000 Kilowatts of energy annually, or enough to power 90 homes.

The EPC has also led to building improvements like energy-efficient lighting, upgraded HVAC systems and new glazing on windows and doors.

MARLANT Safety and Environment promotes energy saving efforts as a community, stressing that local members have an important role to play in addition to the ongoing infrastructure upgrades.

"It's not just about buildings. You can make a building more efficient, but sometimes it's the people that make things work more efficiently as well," Chabassol added.

Ru Yap, a contractor for Johnson Controls, the company managing the EPC, was at the booth alongside the MARLANT team, helping to educate passers-by on energy saving strategies.

"We've done a lot of these events," said Yap, "Everyone responds to these environmental and educational initiatives positively. I feel like there's community support for this."

She said visitors are often surprised to learn about the efforts being made and curious about what they can do to reduce their own emissions.

The MARLANT Safety and Environment office invites anyone interested in learning more about how they can help minimize their carbon footprint on base to reach out or visit them at halifax.mil.ca/safetyenvironment/ (DWAN only).

The push to lower emissions is a CAF wide initiative, which also includes The Royal Canadian Navy pursuing a fleet decarbonization strategy. The goal is to lower ship emissions through a variety of means, including a future switch to lower carbon fuel.

Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the CAF are part of a long-term effort by the Government of Canada to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.



Des représentants de la sécurité et de l'environnement des FMAR(A) et de Johnson Controls ont tenu des kiosques d'information sur différents sites de la base pendant la Semaine de sensibilisation à l'énergie.

NATHAN STONE

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Recipients at the latest MARLANT/JTFA/MCC Honours and Awards Ceremony, pictured with RAdm Josée Kurtz and Formation Chief CPO1 Derek Godin.

CPL ANTONIO GARCIA ALVAREZ



RCN excellence on display: RAdm Kurtz hosts honours and awards

Par l'équipe du Trident

Cyber defence, operational excellence on deployment, and decades of dutiful service were the themes of the latest Commander MARLANT/JTFA/MCC Honours and Awards Ceremony.

Held to recognize important achievements among Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) members serving with Maritime Forces Atlantic, the ceremony took place in the Juno Tower Ballroom on October 28.

Rear Admiral (RAdm) Josée Kurtz presented 13 honours to recipients for a variety of accomplishments.

Three Commander RCN Commendations were awarded to recognize deeds or activities beyond the demands of normal duty.

The Fleet Cyber Team received a commendation as a unit. Founded in 2019, the team has become a major asset in Canada's cyber defence efforts and earned international accolades for placing first among 18 nations in the CYBER FLAG 21 exercise. In 2022, they were selected to showcase their abilities at a multinational meeting of Flag Officers.

RAdm Kurtz praised the team for helping Canada build out its cyber warfare capabilities.

"The cyber world is emerging. Our ability to start taking our full place in that domain is critical to our success

going forward," she said.

The other two Commander RCN Commendations were awarded to individuals.

Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class (CPO2) Nick Boran was recognized for his work in crew mustering and training prior to His Majesty's Canadian Ship *Montréal*'s deployment to the Indo-Pacific in 2024.

CPO2 Brad Saunders earned a commendation for his actions as Operations Chief for Standing NATO Maritime Group 2, including providing valuable information on the area of operations that assisted in deterring Russian naval activities.

A single Canadian Forces Decoration was awarded to Lieutenant-Commander Pierre Auger, who received a third clasp marking 42 years of service.

Two Commander of Maritime Forces Atlantic Certificates of Achievement were issued.

Ms. Jessie Castle was recognized for her professionalism, competence, and dedication, which were said to have greatly enhanced the support provided by the Assistant Judge Advocate General Atlantic office to Maritime Forces Atlantic.

Petty Officer 1st Class (PO1) Lucas Linfield was honoured for taking on the roles of Mechanical Manager, Marine Systems Engineering Chief and Acting Coxswain aboard HMCS *Montréal*, and for his efforts in restoring the ship's pro-

pulsion diesel engine prior to its deployment on Operation HORIZON in 2024.

Maritime Component Commander Certificates of Achievement were awarded to seven individuals:

- PO1 Chris Batten, for his actions as lead planner aboard HMCS *William Hall* during Operation CARIBBE from May to June 2025, including providing high-level care to seven Safety of Life at Sea survivors.
- Sailor 1st Class (S1) Jaxson Quaid Boyd, for his efforts to rectify catastrophic satellite communication errors aboard Naval Replenishment Unit *Asterix* during Operation REASSURANCE from May to June 2025.
- Lieutenant(N) (Lt(N)) Brigid Hart, for expert leadership as Above Water Warfare Officer aboard HMCS *Montréal* on Operation REASSURANCE 25-2 from April to June 2025, including leading her team through a successful missile test alongside NATO allies.
- S1 Wayne Hopkins, for his guidance and work within the Naval Technical Department in carrying out critical repairs to HMCS *William Hall*'s propulsion system during Operation CARIBBE from May to June 2025.

- Lt(N) Brendon Alexander McLean, for his work as Operations Officer aboard Naval Replenishment Unit *Asterix* on Operation REASSURANCE from April to June 2025, including creating new procedures for replenishment after the loss of the ship's lone military communication link.
- Petty Officer 2nd Class (PO2) Matt Sheppard, for exhibiting exceptional culinary skill as Chief Cook aboard HMCS *William Hall* during Operation CARIBBE from May to June 2025, including leading two high-profile international receptions that highlighted the best of Canadian cuisine.
- Master Sailor (MS) Ryan Smith, for resolving numerous technical difficulties aboard HMCS *Harry DeWolf* during Operation CARIBBE from January to March 2025, efforts that were instrumental in allowing the ship to continue its mission.

RAdm Kurtz said the recipients demonstrated the breadth of excellence within the RCN and encouraged them to take pride in their achievements.

"For all of you being recognized, thank you for going above and beyond expectations. Go own it, celebrate it with your teams... family, friends, and loved ones."



Members of CANSOFCOM drive a rigid-hulled inflatable boat (RHIB) through Resolute Bay in Nunavut in August 2025.

CANSOFCOM

CANSOFCOM in the Arctic – Exercising in pursuit of excellence

By CANSOFCOM Public Affairs

The past years have presented the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM) with both challenges and opportunities through a series of exercises in the icy waters and vast landscapes of the Arctic. These exercises, and our members who participated in them, are a testament to Canada's enduring commitment to one of the most unforgiving environments on the planet, and a demonstration of our ability to work hand in hand with other elements of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), local communities, and international allies.

Each exercise presented complexities requiring collaborative efforts, reinforcing our capacity to operate effectively alongside other Canadian organizations, regional allies and partners, as well as NATO allies. Activities included the CAF's Op LATITUDE and Op NANOOK, training in Resolute Bay, as well as NATO's Nordic Response 2024, held in Norway. These activities demonstrated CANSOFCOM's role in maintaining the intricate relationship of diplomacy and defence that defines international military cooperation in the Arctic.

Local knowledge is essential to these operations. Working in partnership with Inuit and Northern Indigenous governments and communities, CANSOFCOM continues to have a routine presence in the Canadian Arctic and plays a critical role in fostering essential partnerships with them. Through the Canadian Rangers, the invaluable ancestral expertise of the Inuit, combined with CANSOFCOM's effectiveness, military strategy is transformed into community-informed

operations, providing the Government of Canada with a unique set of capabilities.

Our success in Arctic operations would not be possible without the respective expertise of the other elements of the CAF. Beyond the added physical hardship to northern operations, the challenges of logistics and operating equipment under extreme Arctic temperature fluctuations are daunting. The Arctic landscape exponentially amplifies the difficulty of securing food, fuel, and shelter. Equipment can falter in conditions that test even the most advanced technologies. This teamwork and these environmental conditions proved to be an excellent training opportunity for our new airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) platform, the CE-145C Vigilance, and their crew, further enabling better detection, deterrence, and defence against threats to the Canadian Arctic region.

At the core of it all, our members consistently pushed their limits, meeting the challenges by engaging in land, air, and sea operations in often harsh environmental conditions while demonstrating great ability to work as a team with a growing number of partners at all levels. To operate successfully, safely, and regularly in the Arctic underscores the spirit, creativity, and resilience of CANSOFCOM, while highlighting a leading role in the defence of the sovereignty of Canada's northern territories, setting the standard for operational excellence and interoperability. We look forward to next year's challenges to further test and demonstrate our abilities and our agility; we will find a way.



Members of CANSOFCOM working with Canadian Rangers during an arctic patrol within northern Canada as part of Operation NANOOK NUNALIVUT on March 4.

CANSOFCOM

65
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ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY MARINE ROYALE CANADIENNE Canada

Sleighbells in the Sun holiday concert

The Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy is going on the road again for its annual holiday concert tour! This year's performance will bring the warmth of the tropics to the Maritimes with guest artist, Juno award nominee Jah'Mila, one of Canada's leading voices in reggae music. Blending festive favourites with island rhythms, this concert promises to be a joyful celebration.



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SPORTS & FITNESS



CAF grapplers from across the Atlantic Region convened at 12 Wing Shearwater from November 19-21 for a three-day development camp, featuring professional-led seminars and a mini-tournament for participants.

RYAN MELANSON

Grapplers gather at 12 Wing for high-energy CAF development camp

By Ryan Melanson,
Trident Staff

Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) grappling and Brazilian jiu-jitsu enthusiasts from across the Atlantic region hit the mats at 12 Wing Shearwater for three action-packed days of training and competition from November 19–21.

It marked the third consecutive year that Shearwater has hosted an Atlantic Grappling Regional Development Camp. Major James Locke, who serves as the CAF Chief Grappling Official for the Atlantic region and helped organize the week, said it's been encouraging to see momentum grow each year for this event and for grappling/close-quarter combat training across the CAF as a whole.

The camp included well-attended seminars from former Ultimate Fighting Championship professional TJ Grant, now the proprietor of Grant's Martial Arts Academy in Halifax, as well as Halifax Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Society co-founder Josh Whalen, a black belt and high-level competitor in his own right.

The final day saw participants break off into weight classes for a series of friendly bouts.

"We had Army, Navy and Air Force all represented; we had some NTOG (Naval Tactical Operations Group) members rolling; it was a great week," added Sail- or 1st Class Atlas Del Mar, an instructor with the CFB Halifax-based HERO Grappling Program.

"The movement is growing, but it's very much still in its infancy," he said, offering special thanks to Personnel Support Programs staff in Halifax and Shearwater for their support to this annual event and to the local grappling clubs that run year-round.

CAF members interested in the sport are encouraged to check out the HERO Grappling Program, which meets at Stadacona Building S-120, or the 12 Wing Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Club at the Shearwater Fitness, Sports and Recreation Centre. Both clubs are open to all skill levels and newcomers.



Navy Divers surface across HRM for Christmas Daddies

Members of Fleet Diving Unit (Atlantic) (FDU(A)) are ready to canvas the community in support of the annual Christmas Daddies telethon. After fundraising through the Navy Divers 50K Run earlier this fall, the campaign continues with fundraising "hotspots" planned for the day of the telethon itself — Saturday, December 6.

"We have eight different hotspot locations throughout HRM, where you will see our members from Fleet Diving Unit (Atlantic). We will be there with our water jugs and signs, collecting donations. You can come by and donate. If you can't make it out, you can donate on our [GoFundMe page](#)," says S1 Sam Phillips, FDU(A)'s coordinator for this year's run and fundraising initiative. "We want to give back to the community, and the Christmas Daddies Telethon allows us to do that, by raising funds for less fortunate families and children in the Maritimes. That's why we love this; 43 years now, and hopefully many more years to come."

Find the Navy Divers at the following hotspots from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. on December 6.

- The Agency Real Estate Brokerage - 5546 Kaye St, Halifax
- Lululemon Halifax - 5445 Spring Garden Rd, Halifax
- Chebucto Landing, Halifax Waterfront
- Alderney Landing, Dartmouth
- Mic Mac Mall, Dartmouth
- Sobeys Fall River - 3290 Highway #2
- Sobeys - 60 Tacoma Drive, Dartmouth
- Sunnyside Mall (near Pete's Frootique), Bedford