



# TRIDENT

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## Welcoming new leadership

*The ship's company of His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Edmonton kicked off the year by welcoming a new commanding officer, Lieutenant-Commander (LCdr) Michael Ronaldson. The new CO is seen here addressing his crew, friends and family during a ceremony aboard the ship on January 16. LCdr Ronaldson succeeds outgoing commanding officer LCdr Jason Pike, who recently led the ship on an Operation REASSURANCE deployment focused on mine countermeasures in Eastern Europe.*

CPL CONNOR BENNETT





Submariners from HMCS Windsor volunteered at Coastal Action's "Happy Landing" site in Brooklyn, NS on December 12 as part of the organization's marine rope and net recycling initiative.

SUBMITTED



S1 Hailey Imeson led the effort to organize the volunteer opportunity, helping connect HMCS Windsor members with meaningful community outreach work in support of Coastal Action's environmental initiatives.

SUBMITTED

# Submariners step ashore to support Coastal Action

By Trident Staff

As 2025 drew to a close, a small group of submariners from His Majesty's Canadian Submarine (HMCS) *Windsor* took time away from the dockyard to give back to the local community. In December, three members spent a day ashore supporting Coastal Action, a South Shore-based environmental organization focused on research, education, and hands-on restoration work.

Sailor 1st Class (S1) Hailey Imeson, Lieutenant (Navy) René De Haitre, and Master Sailor Kiefer Frenette volunteered at the organization's "Happy Landing" site in Brooklyn, NS, assisting with its marine rope and net recycling initiative.

During the visit, the *Windsor* members helped sort and prepare end-of-life fishing rope and netting collected from local fishing communities. The material

was separated into recyclable categories and placed into large supersacks to make handling and processing easier before being shredded for recycling. These efforts help divert plastic waste from landfills and marine environments while supporting circular-economy goals. The visit also gave the crew an opportunity to learn about the different types of plastics used in fishing gear and the environmental impacts associated with discarded materials.

Coastal Action Associate Director Rodrigo Menafrá said the contribution from *Windsor* personnel was both timely and valuable.

"Coastal Action is grateful to HMCS *Windsor* personnel and their support with our marine rope and net recycling initiative," said Menafrá. "The Canadian Armed Forces values of community

involvement, teamwork, and environmental responsibility align perfectly with Coastal Action's ideals. The Navy personnel's experience working in hazardous conditions while managing risk and safety was an exceptional example to Coastal Action. We welcome their support again anytime!"

Beyond completing the physical work, the sailors' experience with risk assessment and safety procedures also proved beneficial to the organization's operations. "Having a group of volunteers that are well trained, highly qualified and works hard is key for our project since it depends heavily on manual labour," Menafrá added.

Coastal Action is a non-profit organization based in Mahone Bay that has worked for more than 30 years to protect and restore the environment

across Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada. Its work spans five main focus areas: Species at Risk and Biodiversity, Environmental Education, Watersheds and Water Quality, Coastal and Marine, and Climate Change.

The volunteer effort took place while HMCS *Windsor* is undergoing an extended docking work period, creating opportunities for crew members remaining in Halifax to take part in meaningful community outreach initiatives. While the timing of the visit close to the holiday season limited participation, both sides viewed the day as a strong starting point.

The initial collaboration, led by S1 Imeson, has helped establish a relationship between HMCS *Windsor* and Coastal Action, with potential for future involvement in ongoing rope recycling efforts, as well as beach cleanups and habitat restoration projects throughout the spring and summer months.

"It was a great experience and we're 100 percent looking forward to helping out again, and hopefully with even more people," S1 Imeson added.

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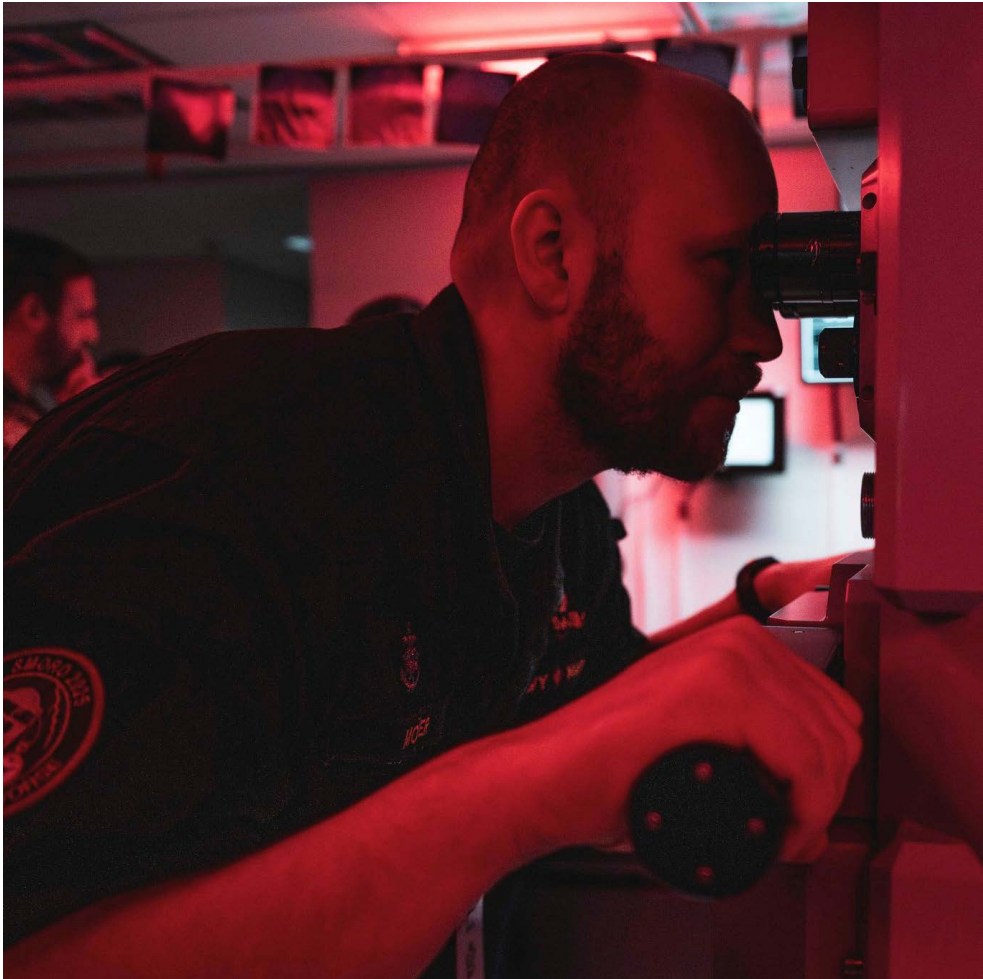
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## Exercise FLINTLOCK connects crews across province

Submariners, sailors, and air crews from units across Nova Scotia participated in Exercise FLINTLOCK 25-2, held December 8 to December 12. FLINTLOCK is a Canadian Fleet Synthetic Training exercise that links Victoria-Class Submarine, Halifax-Class Frigate, Cyclone Maritime Helicopter, and Aurora Maritime Patrol Aircraft simulators to test participants in complex theatre warfare scenarios. During the exercise, simulators at CFB Halifax, 12 Wing Shearwater, and 14 Wing Greenwood were digitally connected, allowing naval and air forces across the province to train together in a shared, high-fidelity environment.

CPL BRENDAN GAMACHE



## Patience is a virtue: The transition to the Canadian Royal Crown for CAF identifiers

By DND

In April 2023, His Majesty King Charles III approved the design of the Canadian Royal Crown, a new heraldic symbol representing the Sovereign's authority in Canada. As a result, the Royal Crown which represented the reign of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, will be updated on all CAF identifiers.

The Canadian Royal Crown was created at the request of the Government of Canada to serve in perpetuity, regardless of the reigning monarch, meaning no similar redesign process will be required in the future. As described in an [earlier article](#), the Canadian Royal Crown honours many traditional features while also introducing uniquely Canadian motifs.

Soon, CAF members will notice the gradual transition to identifiers displaying the Canadian Royal Crown. Historically, similar transitions have taken years. After King George VI's death in 1952, it was not until the early 1960s that all military identifiers had been updated to the St. Edward's

Crown. While today's process is expected to be faster, it will still take several years due to the volume of identifiers across the CAF.

Units are not required to submit a request to have their identifiers updated as this will be done automatically by the Directorate of History and Heritage (DHH). CAF units are not permitted to modify their identifiers independently, as all designs must be approved by the Inspector of CAF Colours and Badges.

Typically, any new primary badges are hand painted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority (CHA), authorized by the Governor General (GG) and stored at DHH. The process for designing and approving new badges takes, on average, 12-18 months. Fortunately, the transition to the Canadian Royal Crown will not require the same design and approval steps, as the updates will be completed electronically by DHH's graphic artist. Once approved, DHH will distribute digital images of the updated and approved artwork for all unit identifiers (primary badge, Colours, flags,

etc.). The original hand-painted artwork will continue to be stored at DHH.

In 2024, all primary badge frames were modified to include the updated Crown, an important first step in the transition process. The CAF primary badge and all Command/Assistant Deputy Minister badges have also been updated and will

be distributed accordingly in early 2026. DHH will gradually update the remaining identifiers (Group, Branch, Corps, and Units) throughout 2026 and 2027.

Artwork with the St. Edward's Crown remain valid until it is officially updated with the Canadian Royal Crown. Existing insignia with the St. Edward's Crown will be replaced on an attrition basis; old stock must be depleted prior to purchasing any new items.

Units may not contact CHA directly as their requests will not be answered. All unit requests are to be sent via their Chain of Command. General inquiries may be directed to [DHH6Heritage-DHP-6patrimoine@forces.gc.ca](mailto:DHH6Heritage-DHP-6patrimoine@forces.gc.ca).

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# German Navy set to utilize Canadian Combat Management System

By Trident Staff

The German Navy is planning to adopt a key piece of Canadian naval technology, marking a milestone in the growing defence partnership between the two countries. Under a new \$1 billion agreement, Germany will integrate Lockheed Martin's Canadian-developed Combat Management System 330 (CMS 330) into its fleet.

The CMS 330 was first developed for the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) Halifax-class frigates and has been in service with Canada and allied navies for more than 25 years.

CMS 330 provides real-time situational awareness by integrating shipboard sensors, weapons and communications, delivering what Lockheed Martin calls "an ecosystem that integrates best-in-industry capabilities, through our open architecture and integration approach to delivering performance aligned with our Customers' requirements."

Germany recently entered a \$1 billion contract with Lockheed Martin for use of the CMS 330, facilitated by the Canadian

Commercial Corporation (CCC).

The federal government states that the collaboration between the German and Canadian navies through the use of this system will help both countries by strengthening security and providing opportunities for economic innovation and growth.

In a Global Affairs Canada press release, International Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu called the deal a "landmark agreement between Canada and Germany [showcasing] the strength of Canadian innovation, as well as our commitment to global security."

"(The agreement) is a testament to our world-class defence technologies and the value of government-to-government partnerships," he said.

Lockheed Martin General Manager, Glenn Copeland also expressed pride "that our combat management system CMS 330 has been selected by the German Navy."

"This decision underscores the global relevance of Canadian defence innova-

tion and our commitment to delivering cutting-edge solutions that enhance interoperability and mission effectiveness," the press release reads.

The news follows a previous agreement on maritime security cooperation between Canada, Norway and Germany in July 2024, which The Hague, Netherlands and Denmark joined at the NATO Summit a month later.

In October 2024, the federal government signed onto a contract with Lockheed Martin that renewed the Combat

System Integration In-Service Support (CSI ISS) for the Halifax-class. The contract ensures that CMS 330 will continue to be in use on Halifax-class frigates until March 2034, with additional 1-year option periods up to 2047.

As a workhorse of the RCN, the Halifax-class frigates continue to serve a vital role on both coasts as they age, and are set to remain in service through the 2030s and the introduction of the new River-class Destroyers.



The German frigate Hessen is seen during NATO patrols in the Baltic Sea in late 2024.

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*The latest rendering of the Land-Based Test Facility at Hartlen Point in Eastern Passage.*  
DND

# Construction underway on Land-Based Test Facility in Eastern Passage

By Trident Staff

Construction is underway on a new Land-Based Test Facility (LBTF) at Hartlen Point in Eastern Passage that will support the introduction of the Royal Canadian Navy’s future River-class destroyers.

The facility is being built on Department of National Defence (DND) property and will be used to integrate, test, and

commission combat systems before they are installed on the ships themselves. Construction began in November 2025 and is scheduled to conclude in early 2028. In a press release announcing the start of construction, the LBTF is described as a key component of the River-class destroyer project, providing a shore-based environment where systems can

be brought online and validated ahead of shipboard installation. “Having the right infrastructure in place to support a modern naval fleet is mission critical,” stated Minister of National Defence David J. McGuinty in the press release. “This facility represents an important step in the River-class destroyer project. Once completed, it

will play a vital role in bringing the new ships into service and preparing our personnel to work with the incoming ship systems.” Canada is procuring 15 River-class destroyers to replace the Royal Canadian Navy’s (RCN) Halifax-class frigates and the retired Iroquois-class destroyers. The new ships are expected to form the backbone of the RCN surface combatant fleet for decades to come, supporting domestic operations and international deployments. Because of the complexity of the destroyers’ combat systems, those systems must be integrated and commissioned ashore before being installed on board the ships. The LBTF is intended to support that work. Officials have noted the facility will not be used for weapons testing. The LBTF project footprint covers approximately 10 hectares and includes the main facility site, an access roadway, security clearances beyond the fence line, and a stormwater outfall control trench. The main building will span two floors and a topside, covering more than 12,500 square metres, with additional gate and guard houses on site. While the LBTF is the first major infrastructure project tied to the River-class destroyers, DND notes that additional facilities, including jetties, warehouses, and training infrastructure, will be required as the new fleet enters service.

## Rolling into the holiday break

Members of TRINITY and CFB Halifax Base Administration both hit the lanes at Bowlarama on December 12 to take a break from the office and gather with colleagues ahead of the holidays. On top of some friendly bowling competition, attendees enjoyed lunch and stuck around for prize draws and lighthearted awards to wrap up the day.

FORMATION IMAGING SERVICES







# Defence Team takes a moment for mental health on Bell Let’s Talk Day

Members of Maritime Forces Atlantic and Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Halifax marked Bell Let’s Talk Day on January 21 by taking a moment to reflect on the importance of mental health and well-being, both in the workplace and beyond. The annual day serves as an opportunity to pause, raise awareness, and encourage open and respectful conversations about mental health.

The morning began with a special flag raising ceremony at CFB Halifax, providing members of the Defence Team with a quiet moment to reflect and recognize the importance of supporting positive mental health. Following the flag raising, PSP Halifax hosted a coffee break event designed to bring Defence Team members together in an informal and welcoming setting. The gathering offered an opportunity for conversation and connection over a cup of coffee, supported by music from The Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy and the Canadian Military Wives Choir Halifax.

By taking time to reflect, connect, and engage with one another, Defence Team members contribute to ongoing efforts to reduce stigma and promote mental wellness in the workplace and in daily life.

Mental Health Resources (Trident online): <https://tridentnewspaper.com/mental-health-resources>

Mental Health Resources (Canada.ca): <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/mental-health-services.html>

PHOTOS: AVR GUILLAUME ROY







## HMCS Yellowknife departs for Op CARIBBE

*After wrapping up a European deployment less than three months ago, His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Yellowknife is back at it. The ship departed from Halifax on January 21 en route to Operation CARIBBE.*

*Even as the Kingston-class Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels move toward full decommissioning in the coming years, the class continues to contribute to Royal Canadian Navy operations, with ships like HMCS Yellowknife remaining actively engaged in missions at home and abroad.*

CPL BRENDAN GAMACHE



## Welcoming Griffin Bjerke-Clarke

By Trident Staff

**Editor's note:** *Trident is pleased to welcome Griffin Bjerke-Clarke to the team this winter. Griffin is joining the Trident through the Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP), where he will be contributing as he completes the final year of his studies.*

**Griffin Bjerke-Clarke is a Red River Métis** (Chouinard, Bell, Lizotte) born in Regina, Saskatchewan, with roots in Manitoba and northern Alberta.

Griffin is currently in his final year of a Double Honours Degree in English and Contemporary Studies at the University of King's College. He has worked for the Department of National Defence since

2021, developing a strong professional background in data entry and logistics.

In 2019, Griffin participated in a Rotary youth exchange to Brumunddal, Norway, where he lived for seven months and became fluent in Norwegian. The exchange was cut short in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following summer, he worked with Parks Canada's archaeology department during an excavation at Glen Rouge Campground in Scarborough, Ontario. He began his university studies in 2021 while continuing his employment with the Department of National Defence.

In 2023, Griffin took a break from his studies to participate in Katimavik.

During the program, he interned with Inn From the Cold in Calgary and with l'Armée du Salut in Québec City.

An avid reader and lifelong writer, Griffin released his debut novel, *He Who Would Walk the Earth*, with Fernwood/Roseway in 2025. He is currently developing two additional novels.

As he prepares to graduate, Griffin hopes his time at the *Trident* will broaden his skillset and introduce him to the world of journalism. Upon graduation, he aims to return to the prairies to work as a Cree and Michif youth language educator in his community.

Griffin is a registered citizen of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF).



Griffin Bjerke-Clarke

SOU MIS





# SPORTS & FITNESS



Members of the CFB Halifax HERO Grappling Club following a meeting and training session on January 7.

RYAN MELANSON

## HERO Grappling Club celebrates milestones with first-ever promotions

By Ryan Melanson,  
Trident Staff

The HERO Grappling Club reached an important milestone at Canadian Forces Base Halifax on January 7, hosting its first-ever belt promotion and recognizing

the progress of members from across the Defence Team.

The promotion ceremony was led by Sailor 1st Class (S1) Atlas Del Mar,

founder of the HERO Grappling Club and a newly promoted black belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu in his own right. S1 Del Mar awarded stripe promotions to several students, acknowledging their technical development, dedication, and time spent training on the mats over the past year.

While full belt promotions mark major achievements in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, stripe promotions serve as progress markers within each belt level. These small horizontal bars reflect consistent improvement. For S1 Del Mar, the ceremony carried added significance as the first time he has been able to formally recognize his students' progress through the HERO club.

Students from a wide range of ranks, trades, and experience levels took part in the promotion. Some arrived at the club with previous grappling backgrounds, while others were introduced to Brazilian jiu-jitsu through the HERO Grappling Club itself. S1 Del Mar said that range of experience has been one of the club's strengths as it has grown.

"I chose to hold this Team Day in the first week of the year because I want us to start 2026 the right way: by acknowledging effort, discipline, and growth," S1 Del Mar told students prior to the ceremony. "Progress in jiu-jitsu is earned over time, and today is about recognizing those who have shown up, put in the work, and continued to move forward."

S1 Del Mar often describes Brazilian jiu-jitsu as a kind of "superpower," emphasizing that no two practitioners develop the same strengths. He encouraged students to focus on discovering what

works best for them, whether speed, flexibility, endurance, or resilience, while also confronting their weaknesses with honesty, noting that meaningful progress comes from both sharpening strengths and addressing areas that need improvement.

A member of His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Frédéric Rolette*, S1 Del Mar noted that maintaining consistent training can be especially challenging in a military environment, where operational requirements and deployments often disrupt schedules. He added that the strong community built within the HERO Grappling Club, and the support of its more experienced members, will help ensure the club remains active during his own deployments later this year.

Members of the HERO Grappling Club regularly train alongside participants from the 12 Wing Shearwater Jiu-Jitsu Club, as well as members of the civilian Halifax BJJ Society, strengthening connections across the local grappling community.

The HERO Grappling Club plans to hold promotion ceremonies twice a year and welcomes new members of all experience levels. Training sessions are held in the hand-to-hand combat training room on the third floor of building S120 at Stadacona. More information is available through the club's [Facebook page](#).

## Register for fourth annual Martock ski trip

Par l'équipe du Trident

The CAF Social League will host its fourth annual ski trip on February 7, offering Defence Team members an organized day trip to the slopes at Ski Martock.

Transportation will be provided by bus, departing Tribute Tower at 7:45 a.m. and returning no later than 3:30 p.m. The bus is reserved for military members, with military participants receiving priority for available spots. Participants

who plan to drive themselves are asked to meet the group at the main lodge at 8:50 a.m.

The trip includes lift tickets and equipment rental, with optional instructional sessions also available. Participants are encouraged to bring a packed lunch or plan to purchase food at the ski hill.

Pricing for the trip is \$35 (tax included) for Regular Force and Reserve Force members, as well as veterans. The cost

is \$55 (tax included) for DND, RCMP, and Canadian Coast Guard members, and \$65 (tax included) for civilians, who must be accompanied by a military member. While civilians may attend, military members will receive priority for registration, and bus transportation is available to military participants only.

The CAF Social League is a PSP-led initiative focused on creating recreational and social opportunities for junior

CAF members, while remaining open to all Defence Team personnel.

Registration is required and can be completed at:

<https://bkk.cfmws.com/halifaxpub/courses/index.asp>

For more information or assistance with registration, participants can contact [HalifaxRecreation@cfmws.com](mailto:HalifaxRecreation@cfmws.com)