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TRIDENT

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A special arrival

His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Charlottetown arrived in Auckland, New Zealand on March 9, a welcome change for the ship's company after weeks at sea during Operation HORIZON. The piping of "A Grateful Prayer" added to the ceremonial occasion as the ship came alongside a crowd of onlookers.

MS ALEX HEAGLE





CPO1 Lynn Cassidy, military co-chair with the local DWAO, speaks to attendees.

CPL ANNABELLE MARCOUX



Members gathered for a screening of the film *Out Standing* on March 5 at Juno Tower.

CPL ANNABELLE MARCOUX

Film screening highlights Canada's first female infantry officer

By Griffin Bjerke-Clarke,
Trident Staff

Major (ret'd) Sandra Perron was the first woman to serve in the Canadian infantry. She completed two tours in Yugoslavia and received an exceptional service commendation for her command of a platoon in Croatia.

That is only the beginning of Perron's complex legacy.

Her experiences helped bring attention to the troubling culture that existed within the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) at the time.

Today, Perron is widely regarded as a pioneer for women in the CAF and an initial driver of the shift that has taken place throughout the CAF.

On March 5, a large crowd gathered at Juno Tower for a screening of the recent film *Out Standing*, based on Perron's memoir *Out Standing* in the Field. The screening was held as part of events marking this year's International Women's Day, which was observed on

Sunday, March 8.

The screening was hosted by the Defence Women's Advisory Organization (DWAO), one of several advisory groups dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion within the CAF, both locally and nationally.

"This year's International Women's Day theme, Give to Gain, highlights that when we take meaningful steps to support women's equality and inclusion, we strengthen our people, our teams, and the institution as a whole," said DWAO Military Co-chair, Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Lynn Cassidy.

Fleet Maintenance Facility (FMF) Cape Scott Commanding Officer and DWAO champion, Captain (N) (Capt(N) Eric McCallum, also invited those in attendance to recognize the foundational contributions of women across the country.

"When we look to the horizon, no-

where is the transformation of women's role more visible than in the Royal Canadian Navy," said Capt(N) McCallum. "For the RCN, this day is an opportunity to reflect on a legacy that began with the Wrens of the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service... Today, the RCN continues this effort with a commitment to reach 25 per cent women's representation by 2026. Clearly, we have more work to do, and together we will get there."

The film recounts Perron's experiences as the first woman in the Canada's first female infantry officer. She also addressed Maritime Forces Atlantic in a recorded video played prior to the screening.

During her service, Perron faced excessively harsh training, as well as harassment and abuse. The film also examines the controversy that followed the public revelation of her mistreat-

ment, including the release of a photo depicting her bound to a tree and severely beaten during a prisoner-of-war exercise.

A central theme is Perron's internal struggle to both prove to misogynistic leadership that she was fit to serve, and to confront gender-based discrimination within the CAF.

"Watching the film, I hope you will be reminded of how far we've come and how far we still have to go," said Perron. "When I first served, conversations about gender equality and inclusion were often uncomfortable or avoided altogether. There was an unspoken expectation to adapt, to endure, to prove oneself over and over again. Today, we see more open dialogue, stronger policies, and clearer commitments from leadership. Progress matters, but policy alone does not create belonging — culture does, and people like you do."

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A MARLANT staff member looks through the periscope while onboard HMCS Windsor in Halifax.

SGT ALEXANDRE PAQUIN

Contract awarded for modernized submarine periscopes

By the CAF/DND Materiel Group

On February 19, 2026, the Government of Canada awarded a contract to Safran Trusted 4D Canada Inc. to deliver advanced digital periscopes to the Royal Canadian Navy's (RCN) *Victoria*-class submarines. The contract also includes performance-based sustainment, under which Safran will provide second- and third-level maintenance.

The Periscope Modernization Project will replace the legacy search and attack periscope systems designed half a century ago with fully modernized periscope systems.

The modernized periscopes will significantly expand the surveillance capabilities of the *Victoria*-class submarines and reduce the time needed to collect visual imagery, thereby enhance overall platform survivability. They will contribute meaningfully to Canadian Armed Forces joint operations, including intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance support. In addition, sustainment costs are expected to be

substantially reduced.

This project will enhance a key RCN capability before the new Canadian Patrol Submarine fleet is introduced. It will allow the submarine crew and technicians to get accustomed to the new technology, leading to faster adaptation when the future fleet is delivered.

Before awarding the contract, the Department of National Defence (DND), Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) prepared the requirements package through several rounds of industry engagement. Safran's proposal was selected for its performance and low implementation risk while meeting the RCN's strategic requirements.

This accomplishment exemplifies the Government of Canada's commitment to investing in submarines for the RCN, thereby strengthening Canada's maritime security.



CANSOFCOM training in Halifax until April 3

The Department of National Defence (DND) is advising residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality that special forces training will be taking place in several local areas this month.

According to the department, members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM) will be conducting routine exercises in the vicinity of Shearwater, Eastern Passage, and Halifax Harbour between March 23 and April 3, 2026. Training activities are expected to occur daily during that period, primarily between 2:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m.

The exercises will largely be focused on the water and in the air, and residents may notice increased military activity as a result. This includes aircraft, watercraft, and a cargo vessel operating in the area, as well as the possible presence of military personnel on shore.

DND officials say steps will be taken to limit impacts on surrounding communities, adding that the training is considered an important part of operational readiness.

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Stargazing in the Pacific

Members of the ship's company assembled on the flight deck of HMCS Charlottetown for a stargazing event with the milky way in view while sailing as part of Operation HORIZON on March 6. Recent highlights for the ship included crossing the equator in late February and a port visit to New Zealand.

MS ALEXANDRE HEAGLE

MNMIWEX 25: Canadian Clearance Divers Strengthen Global Partnerships in South Korea

By Lt(N) Alycia Vachon

Members of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) clearance diver community deployed to Busan, South Korea in Oct. 2025 to participate in Multinational Mine Warfare Exercise 25 (MNMIWEX 25) under Operation (Op) HORIZON. Hosted by the Republic of Korea Navy, the exercise brought together naval forces from across the Indo-Pacific, including the United States Navy, Royal Australian Navy, and Philippine Navy.

The training focused on enhancing collective readiness in mine warfare, a critical capability for ensuring safe maritime operations and protecting global trade routes.

One of the specialized techniques practiced during the exercise was

pouncer operations. This demanding mine countermeasure method involves clearance divers deploying directly from a helicopter into the water at a suspected mine site. Once in position, divers conduct underwater explosive ordnance disposal, inspecting the mine, confirming its type, and applying safe disposal procedures. The technique requires precision, discipline, and seamless coordination between air, sea, and underwater assets.

Canadian clearance divers, drawn from Fleet Diving Unit (Pacific), showcased their expertise in these operations by leaping from a helicopter onto a designated training mine site. They carried out a simulated neutralization of the de-



MNMIWEX 25 involved divers from Canada, the United States, Australia, and the Philippines.

U.S. INDO-PACIFIC COMMAND

vice before being extracted by a support vessel. While the mine was a dormant training mine, the exercise tested the divers' ability to conduct demolition procedures with live explosives to simulate operating under realistic, challenging conditions.

Participation in MNMIWEX 25 allowed divers to refine their ability to locate, identify, and safely neutralize explosive devices such as mines, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and other underwater hazards. These exercises are vital to maintaining the RCN's operational excellence and ensuring its members remain ready to respond to

real-world threats.

Clearance divers are among the most highly trained specialists in the RCN, capable of operating in difficult underwater environments where precision and resilience are paramount. By contributing to MNMIWEX 25, the RCN reinforced its reputation as a trusted partner and demonstrated Canada's ongoing commitment to the region.

Op HORIZON highlighted the importance of collaboration, interoperability, and readiness, key pillars of the RCN's mission to protect Canada's interests at home and abroad.

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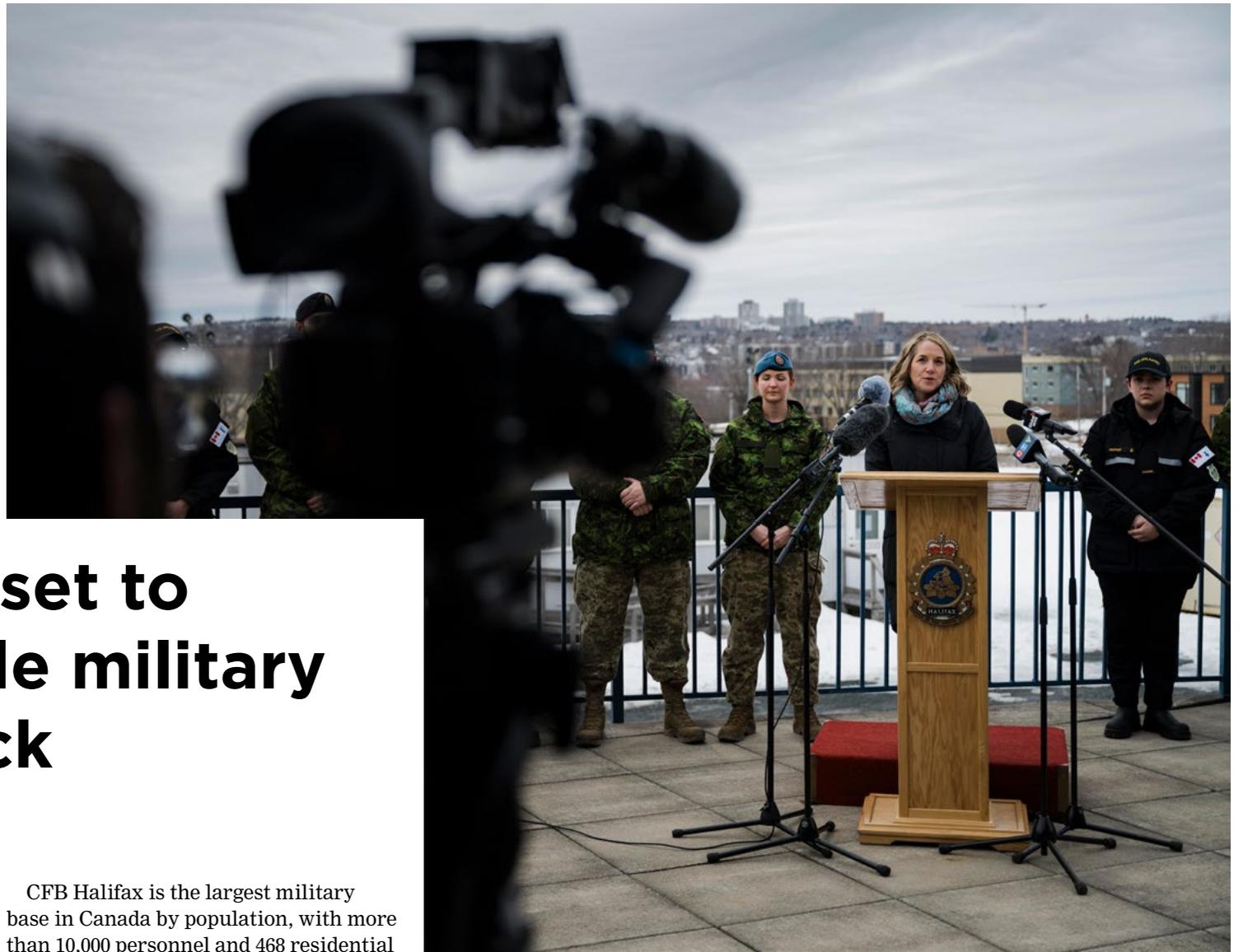
une décennie de progrès entravé pour la Première réserve





MP Shannon Miedema was flanked by CAF members as she made the housing announcement outside the Piers Military Community Centre at Windsor Park on March 5.

CPL ANTONIO GARCIA ALVAREZ



CFB Halifax set to nearly double military housing stock

By Nathan Stone
Trident Staff

Hundreds of new homes are to be constructed for Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members and their families, as the federal government announced a major expansion of residential housing at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Halifax.

The announcement was made March 5 at Windsor Park by Shannon Miedema, Member of Parliament for Halifax, on behalf of Minister of National Defence David McGuinty. The CFB Halifax project is part of a larger \$3.74-billion program funding up to 7,500 new units across 25 bases nationwide.

In a press release regarding the national housing announcement, McGuinty said CAF members and their families deserve safe, modern and affordable housing, calling the initiative one of the most significant investments in military housing in decades. “By building at speed and scale across the country, we are strengthening operational readiness, supporting recruitment and retention, and giving military families the stability they need to thrive.”

The project will deliver approximately 400 new residential units at the base, nearly doubling the current military housing stock in the area. An additional 48 units in Windsor Park were also recently announced.

“Bases and wings are not just places of work,” said Miedema. “They’re places where people build lives and where families grow and thrive. They’re neighbourhoods that provide essential services for members and where members can build invaluable connections with others who understand the realities of life in a uniform.”

CFB Halifax is the largest military base in Canada by population, with more than 10,000 personnel and 468 residential housing units spread across its properties, primarily in Windsor Park and 12 Wing Shearwater.

The new units will consist mainly of one and two-bedroom apartments in mid-rise buildings, constructed on CFB Halifax property. Locations for the new units are currently being assessed.

Miedema said the construction approach will prioritize efficiency, using existing designs where possible and potentially purchasing existing houses. The project also aims to use Canadian materials — including steel, lumber and concrete — while planning to award more than five percent of the total contracting value to Indigenous businesses.

She linked the housing investment to broader CAF objectives, particularly the recruitment and retention of members.

“We know that when our members are supported, they can build lasting and rewarding careers in the military.”

Beyond providing homes for military families, Miedema said the project would also bring broader community benefits, including easing pressure on the local housing market and creating jobs for tradespeople, engineers and architects.

While detailed construction timelines are not yet available, Miedema emphasized the need to move fast.

“We do need to do this quickly and with urgency, so the sooner the better.”

The Halifax announcement was part of a national rollout, with similar events taking place at bases across the country.

Liz Hoffman Memorial Commendation: Nominations now open

By the Office of the Ombudsman

The Liz Hoffman Memorial Commendation is awarded annually to CAF members, civilian employees, family members, and other members of the Defence community* who go above and beyond in helping their colleagues resolve difficult problems or who bring about positive and lasting change within the Defence community.

Liz Hoffman was an investigator with the Ombudsman’s Office who had a deeply rooted sense of fairness and was a tremendous force for positive change. This commendation allows the Office to recognize those in the Defence community who, like Liz, are dedicated to helping others and making a difference.

**Including the Canadian Coast Guard as of September 2025.*

Nominations are open until April 9

Nominations for the Liz Hoffman Memorial Commendation may be submitted for members or groups of the Defence

community whose actions have made a significant and positive impact on the community.

Nominees should exemplify one or more of the following principles:

- Proactive Conflict Resolution
- Courage and Ethical Leadership
- Commitment to Fairness and Inclusion
- Systemic Problem Solving
- Impact and Positive Change

Members of the Ombudsman’s Advisory Council, along with Liz Hoffman’s daughter, review all submissions and recommend nominations to the Ombudsman. With this input, the Ombudsman selects a maximum of four recipients for the Liz Hoffman Memorial Commendation.

For more information, please contact: ombudsman-communications@forces.gc.ca



The Italian Navy frigate ITS Alpino arrived in Halifax on March 10.

MONA GHIZ



Cdr Jason Knowles, Commanding Officer of HMCS Ville de Québec, with a maple syrup gift exchange for his counterpart Cdr Sara Vinci, Commanding Officer of ITS Alpino.

MONA GHIZ



Junior RCN officers participating in Op REGULUS are seen alongside their Italian Navy shipmates.

MONA GHIZ

RCN officers return home aboard Italian warship

By Trident Staff

The Italian Navy frigate ITS *Alpino* (F 594) visited Halifax on March 10, bringing with it eight Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) sailors currently deployed as part of Operation REGULUS, an international exchange program for junior officers.

The embarked sailors, four from each coast, joined *Alpino* in Rota, Spain, in mid-January and have since been fully integrated into the ship's company, gaining hands-on experience across a wide range of naval operations.

Their deployment included a transatlantic crossing to Norfolk, Virginia, where they met with U.S. Navy leader-

ship and received insights into interoperability and future opportunities as naval warfare officers. From there, *Alpino* sailed with the USS *George H.W. Bush* Carrier Strike Group to take part in COMPTUEX, a major pre-deployment exercise.

Throughout the exercise, the Canadians say they contributed on the bridge and in the operations room, supporting communications and coordination during key evolutions such as replenishment at sea and passing exercises. At sea, they also built experience by delivering daily meteorological briefs,

understudying officers of the watch, and participating in flight deck operations training.

Port visits to Boston and New York offered further opportunities to support public outreach, assist duty watches, and experience life ashore while strengthening ties with their Italian shipmates and the public.

During *Alpino*'s visit to Halifax, Commander (Cdr) Sara Vinci, the ship's commanding officer, was welcomed aboard HMCS *Ville de Québec* by its commanding officer, Cdr Jason Knowles. The visit included a gift exchange, with

maple syrup presented as a symbol of the relationship between Canada and its NATO allies.

Operation REGULUS, established in 2010, enables RCN personnel to sail with partner navies around the world, fostering professional development and strengthening international partnerships. The program has engaged with countries including Australia, Chile, France, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.



RCN and CCG train in icy waters

His Majesty's Canadian Ship Frédéric Rolette and Canadian Coast Guard Ship Jean Goodwill conducted coordinated ice-breakout manoeuvres in the Northumberland Strait on February 26, training to enhance joint operations in icy conditions. According to Maritime Forces Atlantic, the activity supports improved coordination between the Canadian Coast Guard and Royal Canadian Navy, and contributes to ongoing efforts to strengthen Arctic-capable operations and safe performance in northern waters.

MONA GHIZ



Canada advances defence innovation through NATO DIANA

By DND

On February 23, the Chief of the Defence Staff, General (Gen) Jennie Carignan visited the NATO Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) office in Halifax, Nova Scotia which opened in October 2024. The goal of her visit was to learn more about how the Alliance is speeding up the delivery of new technologies.

Founded in 2021, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) DIANA is designed to strengthen the Alliance's technological edge by finding, accelerating, and delivering new defence capability solutions.

The visit highlighted Canada's growing role in NATO innovation efforts. Each year, DIANA issues a challenge call that invites companies to propose solutions to real and emerging issues facing Allied forces.

After an intense three phase selection process, innovators enter a six-month accelerator program that helps mature their business and technology and align their efforts with the needs of the defence industry. In some cases, solutions can move into production in as little as 12 months.

"By clearly defining our challenges, inviting non-traditional innovators to propose solutions, rigorously selecting the best, and equipping them with a purpose-built curriculum, test centres, resources, and direct access to defence end

users, DIANA is accelerating the path from ideas to prototypes and into operational capability," said Major-General (MGen) Paul Peyton, Military Deputy Director for NATO DIANA – North America. He noted that this speed is critical to maintaining NATO's collective defence and technological advantage.

Some innovators also take part in military operations and exercises. Working directly with end users allows them to refine their technologies and move closer to adoption by an Allied nation.

Through DIANA's Rapid Adoption Service, Allied nations can enter research, prototype, or production contracts with innovators without the need for lengthy and resource intensive competitive processes.

Canada's engagement includes strong participation from industry, academia, and defence end users. Canadian innovators led the Alliance with the number of program applications submitted this year and 22 of the 150 companies selected for NATO DIANA's 2026 cohort are Canadian.

Innovators follow the accelerator curriculum at one of 16 sites across NATO, including COVE in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. For testing and validation, they can also access more than 200 test centres across the Alliance, 16 of which are in Canada.

The Canadian Armed Forces and the

Department of National Defence continue to work with NATO DIANA to support trials, validation, and adoption of new technologies.

To learn more about NATO DIANA,

visit www.diana.nato.int. To learn more about how NATO DIANA innovators can meet your capability needs, email adoption@diana.nato.int.



The Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Jennie Carignan (centre) met with MGen Paul Peyton, Military Deputy Director for NATO DIANA North America (right), and Christine Hanson, Regional Director, NATO DIANA North America (left) in Halifax on February 23.



Naval Reserve and Whitehorse community leaders posed for a photo outside the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

MS BRYAN UNDERWOOD



Port Inspection Divers preparing to conduct diving operations at Schwatka Lake, Yukon.

MS BRYAN UNDERWOOD

Naval Reserve explores future presence in Whitehorse

By RCN

The Naval Reserve is exploring the possibility of establishing a future Naval Reserve Division in Whitehorse, Y.T., as part of the Royal Canadian Navy's (RCN) efforts to strengthen its presence in Canada's North.

A multi-phase feasibility study led by Naval Reserve Western Region (NAVRES WR) is assessing how a small, community-based unit could operate in the Yukon while supporting the Navy's role in northern defence and engagement, building on longstanding ties with the territory and its communities.

The study follows a letter of intent signed in December 2024 by Defence Minister Bill Blair and Yukon Premier Ranj Pillai outlining plans to explore a Naval Reserve presence in Whitehorse and reflecting the Government of Canada's commitment to northern defence in partnership with the territory.

The Navy's relationship with the Yukon is longstanding. Two Canadian warships have carried the territory's name: HMCS *Yukon*, a Mackenzie-class destroyer that served from 1963 to 1998 and was named after the Yukon River, and HMCS *Whitehorse*, a Kingston-class maritime coastal defence vessel commissioned in 1998 in honour of the territorial capital. Together, they symbolize a historic bond between the Navy and the North.

Direction to examine an enhanced presence was issued by the Commander

of the Royal Canadian Navy in early 2025. NAVRES WR conducted initial analysis from January to April 2025 to evaluate how a reserve unit could operate in the region and support both operations and community engagement. Beginning in April, NAVRES WR launched consultations with community leaders and stakeholders while identifying personnel to advance the initiative locally. By June 2025, two Naval Reservists were working in Whitehorse, meeting with community leaders, government representatives and local organizations. NAVRES WR leadership also took part in the Arctic Security Working Group in Whitehorse in May 2025, reinforcing collaboration with northern partners.

From June through December 2025, Lieutenant-Commander (LCdr) Eric Salter and Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class (CPO2) Harry Godwin led outreach across the Yukon, meeting with First Nations, territorial and municipal leaders, local youth, and participating in community events.

Training activities also assessed how Naval Reserve capabilities could operate in a northern environment. In September 2025, NAVRES WR conducted command team training, dive exercises and community engagement in Whitehorse. From September 27 to 29, Naval Reserve Port Inspection Divers carried out dive

training at Marsh Lake and Schwatka Lake, demonstrating the professionalism and adaptability of Canada's citizen sailors while providing observations to support the assessment.

Community engagement remained central. On September 27, NAVRES WR hosted a VIP event in Whitehorse with representatives from the Yukon government, local communities and First Nations to discuss partnerships and the Canadian Armed Forces' presence in the North. The following day, a public event outside the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre invited residents to meet sailors, learn about Canadian Armed Forces

career opportunities and paid education programs, and view diving equipment used in operations.

As the feasibility study continues, the Naval Reserve will further assess how a sustained presence in Whitehorse could support northern defence objectives while remaining closely connected to the community it would serve. Through continued analysis, engagement and training, the RCN is exploring how a future Naval Reserve Division in the Yukon could strengthen partnerships, enhance operational readiness and ensure the Navy remains present and prepared across Canada.

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SPORTS & FITNESS



Members of the Canadian Armed Forces International Women's Basketball Team ahead of the SHAPE International Basketball Tournament in fall 2025.

PATRICK FERRIOL

CAF International Women's Basketball Team celebrates 10 years of competition

By SLt Taylor Rhuland

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) International Women's Basketball Team is celebrating its 10th anniversary, marking a decade of international

growth for women's sport within the military.

Formed in 2016, the team brings together Regular and Reserve Force

members from across the CAF. Over the past 10 years, the program has competed in major military sporting events around the world, including the Basketball World Military Championships in San Diego (2016) and Germany (2018), the World Military Games in China (2019), and the 3x3 World Military Championships in Germany (2022), Lithuania (2023), and Serbia (2024).

More recently, the team competed in the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) International Basketball Tournament in 2025 in Belgium, finishing fifth among NATO and allied teams.

Among the athletes representing Canada was Sailor First Class (S1) Tamara Timm, #20, who travelled with the team to Belgium. Growing up in Vaughan, Ont., she fell in love with basketball at age 11 and continued her career at Crandall University and the University of Prince Edward Island. She currently serves as a Human Resources Administrator at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Halifax.

Reflecting on her experience with the program, S1 Timm said "Returning to the sport has been especially meaningful and basketball has given me the opportunity to travel, compete and be part of a team environment again."

Encouraged by friends to join the program, she says the experience has been one of her favourite aspects of military service. Her advice to young athletes is

simple: "Be mentally tough. Mistakes will happen, pressure will come, but how you respond matters."

Looking ahead, she sees a bright future for basketball in the CAF, with growing visibility and support for women's programs. She added her belief that international military sport demonstrates how CAF members can excel in athletics while continuing to serve their country.

The CAF International Women's Basketball Team is now preparing for the 2026 Basketball World Military Championships this summer in France, and is already looking ahead to the 2027 World Military Games in Charlotte, North Carolina. Team Manager Major Heather Smith says the program continues to develop and welcomes players who have a passion for the game.



S1 Tamara Timm.

PATRICK FERRIOL



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Saint Mary's Huskies step aboard HMCS Margaret Brooke

The crew of HMCS Margaret Brooke welcomed the Saint Mary's Huskies men's hockey team aboard for a behind-the-scenes tour on March 13, offering players a close-up look at life in the Royal Canadian Navy and the range of career paths it offers. As hosts of this year's U SPORTS Men's University Cup, the Huskies took a break from preparation to experience a different kind of teamwork at sea. The ship's company extended its best wishes as the team headed into tournament play.

Photo: Left to right, Huskies captain Charlie Da Fonseca and head coach Tyler Naugler present SLt Julian Shuker with a team jersey in appreciation of the tour.

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