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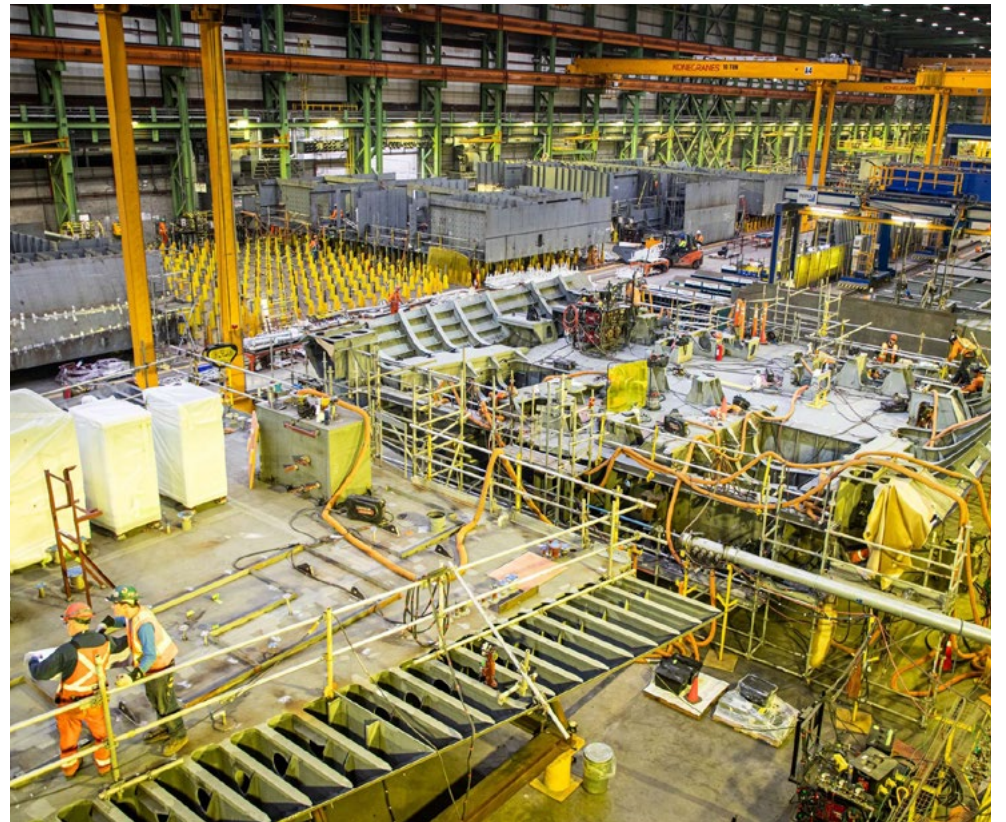
## Fleet Run kicks off the spring

*The weather wasn't cooperative, but members of Maritime Forces Atlantic still showed out on April 15 for the first Fleet Run of the season across HMC Dockyard and onto the Halifax waterfront.*

CPL BRENDAN GAMACHE



RAdm Dan Charlebois (left) and Capt(N) Tremblay unveiled the new model at National Defence HQ in Ottawa.



The future HMCS Fraser under construction at Irving Shipbuilding in Halifax.

IRVING SHIPBUILDING

RCN

# RCN unveils River-class destroyer model as construction advances on future fleet

By Trident Staff

The Royal Canadian Navy has offered a new glimpse into the future of Canada's surface fleet, unveiling a newly updated scale model of its upcoming River-class destroyer at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa.

The model was presented on March 23 by Rear-Admiral Dan Charlebois, Depu-

ty Commander RCN, alongside Captain (N) Tremblay, Director of Naval Major Crown Projects – Combatant. According to the RCN, the display is intended to provide a tangible look at the next-generation surface combatant program and help raise public awareness of one of the country's most ambitious defence efforts.

The River-class destroyer project is part of Canada's National Shipbuilding Strategy, described as the largest and most complex shipbuilding program in the country's history. The program is set to deliver 15 advanced warships to replace both the aging Halifax-class frigates and the now-retired Iroquois-class destroyers.

Construction of the lead vessel, the future His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Fraser, is underway at Irving Shipbuilding in Halifax. First steel was cut in April 2025 and the ship is expected to be delivered in the early 2030s, with the broader class entering service over the following decade.

Work at the Halifax shipyard has moved into the assembly phase, Irving has said, including the integration of key structural sections at the stern that will house propulsion and steering systems.

Based on the Type 26 frigate design developed by BAE Systems, the River-class ships are expected to measure approximately 151 metres in length and displace around 7,800 tonnes, with a range of roughly 7,000 nautical miles and a top speed of 27 knots, according to program specifications.

Each vessel is planned to be crewed by about 210 sailors. The RCN says the ships will carry a vertical launch system capable of supporting long, medium, and short-range missile defence, as well as anti-ship and land-attack roles, along with a 127mm main gun and two 30mm gun mounts.

The River-class is being designed to operate across a broad range of missions, from high-end combat operations including anti-air, anti-submarine, and surface warfare to humanitarian assistance, search and rescue, and maritime security.

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# H&R MFRC is recruiting new Board Members

By the Halifax & Region Military Family Resource Centre

The Halifax & Region Military Family Resource Centre (H&R MFRC) is inviting applications for new Board Members to serve a two-year term (September 2026 to June 2028).

The H&R MFRC Board of Directors operates under a governance model with a commitment to the growth and financial well-being of the organization and its mission to strengthen the well-being of all those who share the unique experience of military life.

The Board consists of at least 51 percent military family members. We may also include representation from veterans/veteran family members; supporters of the military community; or parents of children enrolled in the Provincially

licensed and funded Shearwater Children's Centre.

We are a welcoming and supportive organization, and we encourage applicants that reflect our diverse community, including BIPOC, persons with disabilities, and the 2SLGBTQ+ community to self-identify when applying.

We encourage all interested applicants to apply and let us know why you think you'd be a great fit for our Board, however we are particularly interested in individuals who have experience/expertise in the following areas:

- Finance
- Legal
- Governance
- Human Resources

- Public Relations & Communications
- Additionally, we are actively seeking representation from family members associated with the Royal Canadian Air Force and Canadian Army.

## Roles and Responsibilities

- Develop & monitor progress of the H&R MFRC's strategic plan
- Participate in monthly meetings of the Board of Directors, Board sub-committees, and the Annual General Meeting.
- Approve the annual budget, funding agreements, & monitor financial performance of the organization
- Governance oversight, including development & regular review of all governing policies, terms of reference,

& bylaws of the organization, make unified decisions in the best interest of the organization

- Hire, evaluate, and manage performance of the Executive Director
- Support & participate in community events when requested by the Chair or Executive Director

Applications will be accepted starting April 13th until May 12th, 2026. Candidates who are selected for an interview will be contacted the week of May 18th.

For further information or to apply, call 902-427-7788 or visit <https://cfmws.ca/halifax/halifax-region-military-family-resource-centre/h-r-mfrc-about-us/h-r-mfrc-board-of-directors>

## Statement from the Commander and Command Chief of the Royal Canadian Navy

On April 15, 2026 we received the news that charges have been laid against two of our personnel related to the death of Petty Officer Second Class Gregory Applin. There is no doubt that this is difficult news for all of us, and it highlights the challenging realities of our service in the Royal Canadian Navy. We operate in a demanding environment where mistakes and errors can have fatal consequences, and we must be accountable for our actions and our inactions.

There will be a fair, independent and impartial process to determine the outcome of these charges and those accused deserve every opportunity to defend

themselves. We are also extremely mindful that an incident like this almost never results from a single cause or single error, and it is most likely the outcome of a combination of factors.

Accountability is not limited to legal proceedings; it is a principle that guides our profession and maintains the trust placed in us by Canadians. The expectations of all members of the Royal Canadian Navy are clear. We must:

- Uphold the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and safety in all that we do;
- Foster a culture of accountability at every level;

- Look out for one another, speak up when we see risks, and take action to prevent harm; and
- Continually learn and improve from every experience, especially our most difficult ones.

To command teams at all levels: you are entrusted with the responsibility of leadership, oversight, and stewardship of your people and your operations. We expect you to lead with clarity, compassion, and resolve. You must be vigilant, proactive, and uncompromising in enforcing safety standards and operational discipline. The lives of your sailors

depend on it.

The loss of one of our own weighs heavily on us all. Let us honour Petty Officer Applin's memory by committing ourselves to the highest ideals of naval service and ensuring that every sailor returns home safely.

*Vice-Admiral Angus Topshee, Commander Royal Canadian Navy*

*Chief Petty Officer First Class Pascal Harel, Command Chief Petty Officer Royal Canadian Navy*

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## Naval Experience Program marks three years

The Royal Canadian Navy recently celebrated the three-year mark of its innovative program designed to boost recruitment and interest in naval careers among young Canadians.

The Naval Experience Program (NEP) was launched in March 2023, offering participants the chance to join the Navy on a one-year, commitment-free contract. Recruits complete basic training and experience a range of naval trades throughout their NEP year, gaining sea

time and often taking part in international exercises and port visits abroad.

Officials say the program has welcomed hundreds of sailors and exceeded its recruiting goals each year. In Halifax, NEP participants have served aboard ships across the Atlantic Fleet, trained with Naval Fleet School (Atlantic), and taken part in important ceremonial events, among other taskings.

Plans are for the program to continue in the coming years.



Naval Experience Program participants outside Tribute Tower in Halifax.

FORMATION IMAGING SERVICES



A recent Naval Fleet School (Atlantic) visit saw recruits get familiarized with the Submarine Trainer at CFB Halifax.

FORMATION IMAGING SERVICES

NEP sailors joined HMCS Charlottetown during NATO exercises in the Atlantic.

FORMATION IMAGING SERVICES



# Republic of Korea Navy visit to CFB Esquimalt highlights growing relationship

By Archana Cini,  
The Lookout

A Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) port visit to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Esquimalt is planned for later this spring, highlighting Canada's continued focus on enhancing maritime interoperability and collaboration with allied navies.

The visit, scheduled from May 23 to June 2, will see two ROKN vessels arrive in Esquimalt: ROKS Daejeon (FFG-823), a Daegu-class frigate, and ROKS Dosan Ahn Chang-ho (SS-083), a KSS-III class submarine. Both ROKN vessels are currently sailing on a 14,000-kilometre trans-Pacific voyage from Jinhae, South Korea, to Canada's West Coast. During the port visit, sailors from both navies will take part in a series of professional engagements, aimed at strengthening the growing maritime partnerships between the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN)

and ROKN. These interactions will build mutual understanding and enhance interoperability between both parties while also reinforcing their joint shared commitment to regional stability.

A key component of the engagement will be a personnel exchange conducted through the RCN's REGULUS program, which provides members with opportunities to operate alongside allied and partner navies, exposing them to different tactics, techniques, and operational environments in the process. As such, two Canadian sailors will sail aboard ROKS Dosan Ahn Chang-ho for the final leg of its journey from Hawaii to CFB Esquimalt.

Near the conclusion of the ROKN port visit, both ROKN and RCN assets will depart from Esquimalt Harbour to



*ROKS Dosan Ahn Chang-ho and ROKS Daejeon set sail from Jinhae Naval Base on March 25 to participate in naval exercises with the RCN in June.*

ROKN PHOTO

conduct combined exercises within the Maritime Forces Pacific (MARPAF) area of operations. This will include both anti-submarine warfare exercises and integration exercises conducted with Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) maritime patrol aircrafts.

Ultimately, these joint exercises will strengthen the partnership between the ROKN and RCN through their shared

priorities of force generation, knowledge sharing, and warfighting proficiency. As global maritime challenges continue to evolve, engagements such as the ROKN's upcoming visit underscore the importance of strong international partnerships.

- With files from the Government of Canada



## Replenishment at sea during Op HORIZON

*HMCS Charlottetown MV Asterix recently met up to conduct a replenishment at sea in the Pacific, with Charlottetown taking on fuel as it gets set to continue its ongoing deployment on Operations HORIZON and NEON. The ship left Halifax in February for the six-month Indo-Pacific mission.*

MS ALEXANDRE HEAGLE





## All aboard AOPVs !

The RCN's two latest Harry DeWolf-class Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessels opened their gangways throughout March, welcoming a range of partners and stakeholders on board for a closer look at the Royal Canadian Navy's newest class of ship. From Halifax to Sydney, these outreach and education visits offered a hands-on introduction to the capabilities, missions, and day-to-day life associated with the AOPV fleet.

Among them, HMCS Frédéric Rolette hosted an especially active schedule of engagements, welcoming representatives from the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, the Engineering Support Regiment, and the Canadian Defence Academy for guided tours alongside members of the ship's company. Each visit provided an opportunity to highlight the vessel's operational role while fostering stronger connections across the Canadian Armed Forces and the broader community.

Meanwhile, HMCS Robert Hampton Gray welcomed approximately 80 staff and cadets from the Canadian Coast Guard College during a visit to Sydney, Nova Scotia. With the Canadian Coast Guard set for delivery of its own AOPVs, the tour offered a timely and practical preview for future operators; particularly as the organization has recently been integrated into Canada's Defence Team.



HMCS FRÉDÉRIC ROLETTE



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# Battle of the Atlantic Gala Dinner Anchors Halifax Naval Events

By Trident Staff

The legacy of the Battle of the Atlantic will be honoured in Halifax this spring, as the Naval Association of Canada (NAC), the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust (CNMT), and the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) have partnered to host the 2026 Battle of the Atlantic (BOA) Gala Dinner.

Set for the evening of April 30 at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Halifax, the event marks the first time the NAC BOA Gala Dinner will be held in the city. The event will pay tribute to those who served in the RCN, the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, the Naval Air Arm, and the Canadian Merchant Navy during the longest campaign of the Second World War.

Organized by the NAC's Nova Scotia Branch, the gala brings together veterans, serving Canadian Armed Forces members, government representatives,

and industry leaders in a formal setting for remembrance and connection. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m., with dinner served at 7:30 p.m., and will be emceed by Vice-Admiral (Ret'd) Dean McFadden.

A welcome reception will take place the evening prior, on April 29 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Bluenose Room, offering guests an opportunity to gather ahead of the main events.

## Gala Dinner Details and Registration

The BOA Gala Dinner will be held in the Baronet Room (8th floor) of the Delta Hotel Halifax.

**Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2026

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. for 7:00 p.m. (Dinner at 7:30 p.m.)

**Tickets:** \$150 per person

Registration, including menu selection, must be completed by April 23,

2026. Individual tickets are available through the Naval Association of Canada's online registration portal: <https://nac-o.wildapricot.org/event-6540723>

## Maritime Security Conference

Complementing the Battle of the Atlantic event, the NAC will host a one-day conference earlier on April 30 titled *Canada in Alliance: Maritime Partnerships in a Changing World*.

The conference will bring together defence experts, Canadian Armed Forces personnel, policymakers, and industry representatives to explore Canada's role in allied maritime operations. Discussions will focus on strengthening partnerships, supporting collective defence, and advancing innovation and readiness at sea.

Key sessions are expected to include keynote remarks by Rear-Admiral

Josée Kurtz (TBC), a luncheon address by Admiral Angus Topshee (TBC), and panel discussions featuring senior naval leaders, academics, and international partners.

## Conference Details and Registration

The conference will also take place at the Delta Hotel Halifax.

**Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2026

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**NAC Members:** \$50

**Military Members:** No cost

Advance registration is required through a separate Naval Association of Canada conference registration page: <https://nac-o.wildapricot.org/event-6546295>

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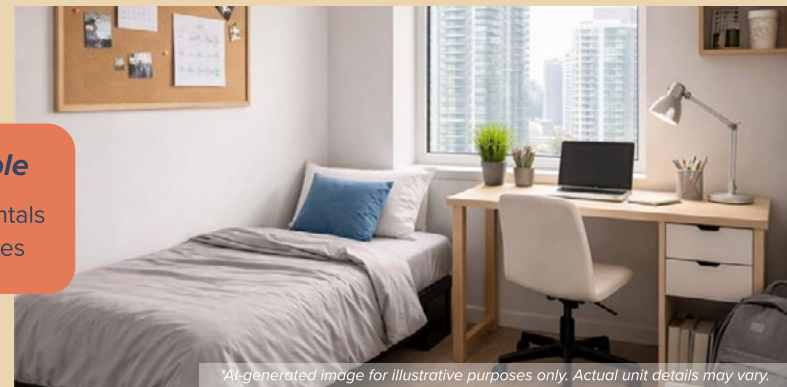


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CAF members at Juno Tower during an IDERD event on March 25.

AVR GUILLAUME ROY



Imam Mohammed Yaffa of the Atlantic Muslim Resource Center (AMRC) and Ummah Society spoke to members of the Defence community.

AVR GUILLAUME ROY

# DRPAG hosts IDERD event to discuss Islamophobia and antisemitism

By Griffin Bjerke-Clarke,  
Trident Staff

A large, engaged crowd of uniformed and civilian attendees flocked into Juno Tower on Wednesday to observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDERD).

The Defence Racialized Persons Advisory Group (DRPAG) hosted Major Riaz Ingwar and Imam Mohamed Yaffa. Their presentations covered the ongoing struggle to eliminate anti-Black racism, Islamophobia and antisemitism from both the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and broader Canadian society.

This is the first IDERD since the CAF's formal national apology in October 2025 for a history of racial discrimination and harassment.

"This apology is not the end of our work; it is the beginning of renewed and unwavering action" said DRPAG

civilian co-chair Sera Delacruz. "Today's discussion builds on that broader commitment and it also reflects the direction set out in Canada's anti-racism strategy, which calls for action to fight all forms of racism including, but not limited to, anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Asian racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia."

The event detailed both the personal realities of Muslim and Jewish CAF members and the statistical realities of their broader experiences in Canada. Maj Ingwar shared statistics indicating that hate crimes targeting both Muslim and Jewish individuals have increased sharply in recent years.

"We need to establish boundaries; we need to really understand what is acceptable and what is hateful speech,"

said Maj Ingwar. He acknowledged that some observers have raised questions about how certain incidents are interpreted or classified, but emphasized that any increase in hate-related incidents is unacceptable.

The presentations were followed by a question-and-answer period that highlighted a range of diverse opinions and backgrounds that exist within the CAF. Discussion topics included religious accommodation, such as access to halal food at sea, as well as broader and more complex issues tied to global events, politics, and their impact on perceptions of antisemitism and Islamophobia.

Rear-Admiral Josée Kurtz, Commander of Maritime Forces Atlantic and Joint Task Force Atlantic, who attended the event, acknowledged the complexity of

these discussions and the importance of maintaining focus within the CAF's mandate.

"These are important and often challenging societal questions," she said. "It's important that we understand what is happening more broadly, but the Canadian Armed Forces do not engage in political discourse. Our role is to support the direction set by the Government of Canada, while ensuring that our own institution remains respectful, inclusive, and supportive of all members."

Maj Ingwar noted that May marks Jewish History month and plans are in place to host an event to commemorate the contributions of Jewish people to the CAF.

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Members of Fleet Diving Unit (Atlantic) and U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit TWELVE together in Shearwater.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO

# Fleet Diving Unit (Atlantic) Hosts U.S. Navy EOD Counterparts

By Trident Staff

For one week in March, Fleet Diving Unit (Atlantic) headquarters in Shearwater became the hub for a productive bilateral exchange between the Royal Canadian Navy and its American counterparts. Technicians from U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit TWELVE (EODMU-12) travelled to CFB Halifax for a Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE) running March 14–21, 2026, with joint operations extending across and off of Halifax Harbour.

The training centered on two interconnected priorities: advanced Mine Countermeasures and the use

of unmanned systems in a demanding cold-water environment. Working side by side, Canadian divers and American EOD technicians shared tactics and procedures, putting a range of specialized diving and detection equipment through its paces under realistic harbour conditions.

Unmanned underwater vehicles and remotely operated vehicles also played a central role in the week's exercises. Mixed teams used these platforms alongside trained divers to rehearse new approaches to locating and assessing underwater hazards.

In a recap published by the U.S. Navy, EODMU-12 company commander Lieutenant Cassie Dooley captured what makes exchanges like this worthwhile: "When you operate in these challenging conditions, you build a level of trust that can't be replicated in a classroom."

She went on to emphasize that the professionalism displayed by FDU(A) personnel throughout the exchange elevated the readiness of both units, describing the partnership as a force multiplier whose effects extend well beyond Halifax Harbour. Every evolution completed together, in her view, sharp-

ened the collective warfighting edge of both teams and made the two navies more capable of responding to threats anywhere in the maritime domain.

For FDU(A), hosting EODMU-12 at Shearwater reinforced the unit's role as a key hub in Allied undersea capability development. The relationships built and the procedures refined over those eight days contribute directly to the kind of seamless interoperability that coalition operations in the maritime domain demand, organizers said.

# Get in the game! Try out for the CAF Esports Game Force

By PSP

Originally launched during the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Centennial campaign as the RCAF Game Force, the recreational and competitive Esports and Gaming program now represents all elements of the CAF community as the CAF Esports Game Force.

Moderate gaming can be a positive way to connect with others and create a virtual community while action games can enhance the ability to learn new cognitive tasks. Our Esports events provide a forum to build leadership, cooperation and resiliency.

If you are up to the challenge, join us, and put your skills to the test at an upcoming event. You may just have the opportunity to earn some unique rewards.

**2026 Game Force Team Tryouts**  
Qualifying events will begin late April 2026 to select members of our 2026 Game Force teams who will represent the CAF at upcoming events. There are many exciting military gaming tournaments in 2026 that we are tracking, some of which include the Call of Duty Endowment

Bowl (C.O.D.E. Bowl), the Allied Forces Esports Invitational, and the inaugural International Defence Esports Games (IDEG).

We will be evaluating and selecting players to participate under all of the following titles:

- Call of Duty: Warzone
- Counter-Strike 2
- iRacing
- Rocket League
- VelociDrone  
(Virtual Drone Racing)

Be sure to [register](#) and follow our [Discord](#) so that you'll be the first to know when and how to compete for your chance to showcase your gaming skills on an international stage! It will only take a few minutes to let us know how you game, where you game, what you're playing and how. All of this information will help us continue to build the best possible esports and gaming program exclusively for CAF members.