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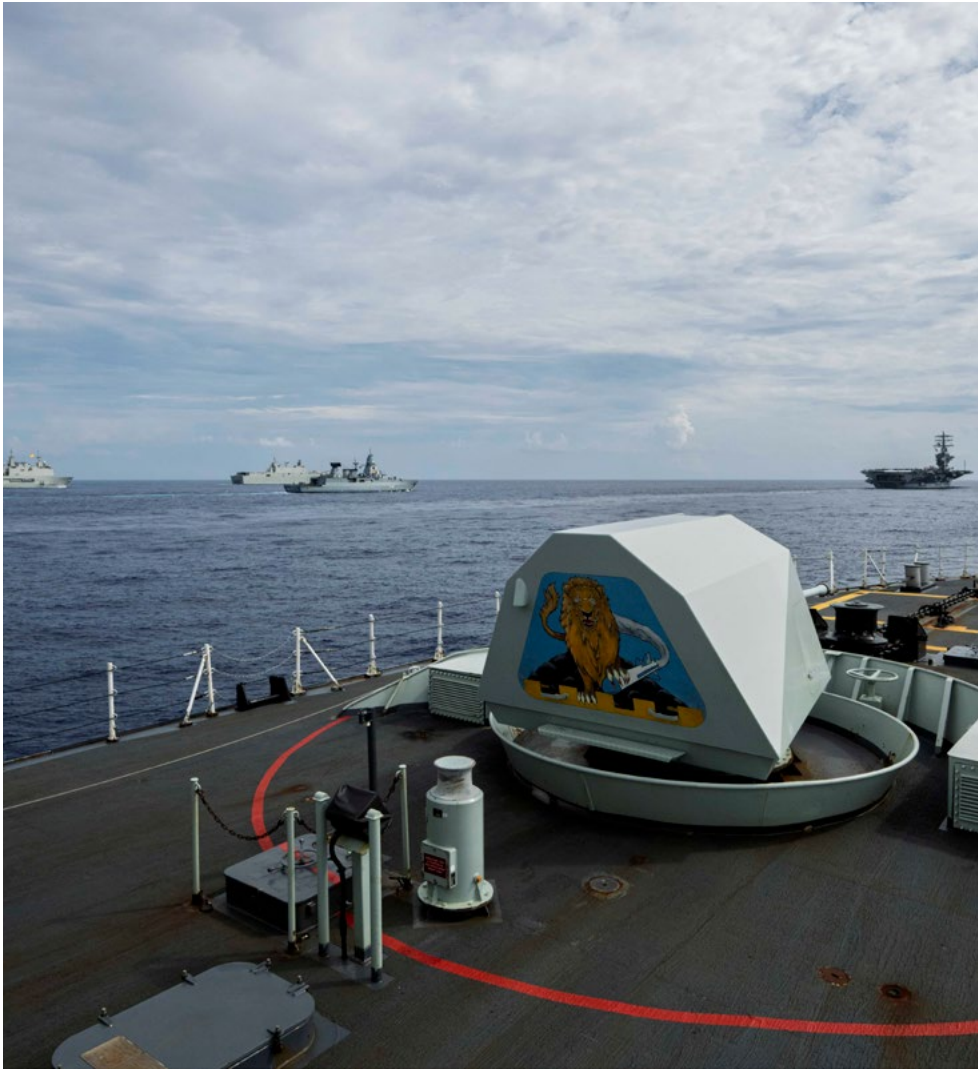
THE NEWSPAPER OF MARITIME FORCES ATLANTIC SINCE 1966 • LE JOURNAL DES FORCES MARITIMES DE L'ATLANTIQUE DEPUIS 1966



Mission ready

LCdr Justin Wong, Commanding Officer of HMCS Moncton, speaks to members of the media prior to departing for an Operation REASSURANCE deployment on July 7. HMCS Moncton and HMCS Edmonton are set to join Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group One (SNMCMG1) for four months in the North Atlantic and Baltic regions.

CPL ANTONIO GARCIA ALVAREZ



Allied ships in formation for a photo exercise in the Atlantic Ocean during FLEETEX 250.

CPL BRENDAN GAMACHE



A United States Naval aircraft carrier leads the formation as part of FLEETEX 250 on June 25.

LCPL BRENDAN GAMACHE



CH-148 Cyclone Helicopter BLACKHORSE, embarked on HMCS St. John's, takes off from the ship's flight deck during FLEETEX 250 on June 24.

CPL BRENDAN GAMACHE

HMCS St. John's participates in US FLEETEX 250

By Trident Staff

After a week sailing in the Mid-Atlantic, His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *St. John's* recently concluded its participation in the US Navy's FLEETEX 250.

The ship represented Canada, under the command of Commander (Cdr) Kyle Aubrey, throughout the two-week event. The Halifax-class frigate engaged in activities ranging from communications drills to simulated warfare and gunnery tactics. *St. John's* operated alongside aircraft carriers, amphibious ships, destroyers, replenishment vessels, and submarines.

"The crew demonstrated exceptional proficiency and teamwork throughout a demanding training exercise," says Cdr Aubrey. "These types of high-end exercises provide valuable training for our sailors, while increasing our ship's readiness and our ability to integrate effectively with partner navies for future missions."

The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) says the exercise gave ships a chance to work alongside a wide range of allied and partner navies, a practice that supports their shared goal of keeping the Atlantic secure and stable.

A highlight of the exercise for HMCS *St. John's* saw the ship's CH 148 Cyclone helicopter, call sign BLACKHORSE, successfully land on the flight deck of the German Navy frigate FGS Sachsen (F219).

"Exercises like this strengthen our interoperability and ensure the RCN remains ready to contribute to collective defence and maritime security," added Commodore Jacob French, Commander of Canadian Fleet Atlantic, in a news release issued following the exercise.

Tied to ongoing events marking the 250th birthday of the United States, the

American exercise was organized by the US 2nd Fleet and allies. FLEETEX began at the Cherry Point and Virginia Capes operating areas and concluded with a harbour phase in Norfolk, Virginia. Often considered the 'beating heart' of the US Navy, Virginia's Norfolk Naval Base is the largest in the country.

FLEETEX 250 brought together 20 countries, with contributions from Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, Denmark, France, Germany, Ghana, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Spain, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Following the exercise, HMCS *St. John's* continued to New York City, where the ship took part in public outreach activities during New York Fleet Week 2026.



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Prime Minister Mark Carney speaks during an announcement held aboard HMCS Robert Hampton Gray on July 6.

MONA GHIZ



Prime Minister Mark Carney was back in Halifax on July 6, stepping aboard a Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) ship for the second time this year, this time to announce a major decision regarding the Canadian Patrol Submarine Project (CPSP) and the future of the Canadian Submarine Force.

Speaking on the flight deck of His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Robert Hampton Gray*, the Prime Minister said the Government of Canada has selected Germany's Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) as the preferred supplier to deliver Canada's next fleet of submarines to the RCN. This means Canada will now enter negotiations with TKMS, with a goal of finalizing contracting by the end of 2027 and delivery of the first four (of up to 12) submarines by 2034.

The RCN's current fleet of Victoria-class submarines, though aging, will remain operational in the meantime, with the class scheduled for retirement in the mid-to-late 2030s.

With ultra-low acoustic and magnetic signatures, TKMS' 212CD submarine is

designed to be one of the stealthiest submarines in the world. The same design is currently in development for the navies of Germany and Norway.

"It is capable of Arctic patrol, under-sea surveillance, special forces deployment, and it is fully NATO-interoperable. These submarines provide an unparalleled combination of advanced technology and lethality that will enable the RCN to detect, track, deter and, if necessary, defeat adversaries in all three oceans bordering Canada," reads a statement issued following the announcement.

"These are among the most advanced submarines ever built," added Prime Minister Carney, speaking in Halifax.

He said the CPSP is set to be the largest defence procurement project in Canadian history, part of an overall boosting of Canada's defence, which also includes the recent delivery of Arctic and Off-shore Patrol Vessels and the ongoing construction of River Class Destroyers for the RCN.

"We face numerous and growing

threats, from incursions in our Arctic to attacks in our cyberspace. The nature of warfare is changing rapidly... The world has changed and Canada must change with it. Nowhere is that more evident than on our seas and in our Arctic."

The Department of National Defence says the CPSP, by delivering new subma-

lines for Canada, will advance the country's broader commitments to sovereignty, continental defence, and collective security with allies, including through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).

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CAF members with children aged 12 and under: Help improve child care in your community

By DND

Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members with children aged 12 and under have an opportunity to help inform child care services in their local communities. By completing the Child Care Needs Assessment, you can share your experience and help identify gaps in access to reliable, quality child care for CAF families.

Your input will inform future planning, improvements, and investment decisions so that services better reflect the

needs of CAF families. Supporting CAF families remains important to operational readiness and overall well-being.

This survey is your opportunity to share your views on topics such as:

- your use of child care services and any challenges experienced
- your satisfaction with available options, including quality, access, and reliability
- how child care affects your work, career, readiness, and work-life balance

- the types of services you would like to see in the future

The survey has been sent to Regular Force and Primary Reserve members with children aged 12 and under. If you received a survey link, we encourage you to complete it by 31 July. If you believe you should have received a link but did not, please contact: ChildCare-ServicesDeGarde@forces.gc.ca

This research is being conducted by

Director General Military Personnel Research and Analysis (DGMPRA) on behalf of the CAF. It has been approved by the Department of National Defence/Canadian Armed Forces Social Science Research Review Board (SSRRB), in accordance with [DAOD 5062-0](#) and [DAOD 5062-1](#). The SSRRB approval number is 2289/25N.

Questions? Please contact DGMPRA at: ChildCare-ServicesDeGarde@forces.gc.ca

MARL SE hosts info booths, photo showcase for Environment Week

By Alexandra DeCoste,
Environmental Engineering Co-op Student
MARLANT Safety and Environment

Créée en 1971, la Semaine de l'environnement au Canada célèbre les avancées en matière d'environnement et encourage les particuliers et les organisations à contribuer à la préservation et à la protection de notre environnement naturel. Coïncidant avec la Journée mondiale de l'environnement, le 5 juin, la Semaine de l'environnement offre l'occasion de mettre en avant des thèmes environnementaux clés et de réfléchir aux actions que nous pouvons tous mener pour favoriser un avenir plus durable. Les célébrations de cette année coïncidaient également avec la Journée de l'air pur, le 3 juin, soulignant ainsi davantage l'importance de protéger l'air, la terre et l'eau qui nous font vivre.

This year, Maritime Forces Atlantic Safety and Environment (MARL SE) marked Environment Week by highlighting the importance of environmental stewardship, sustainability, and education. Throughout the week, MARL SE shared daily communications and resources focused on a range of topics. These included the impacts of invasive species on local ecosystems and practical ways to help prevent their spread, the importance of clean air, the benefits of green spaces in our communities, and the mission behind World Environment Day. Each theme reinforced the collective role we all play in supporting meaningful and lasting environmental change.

Prior to Environment Week, Defence Team members were invited to participate in the MARL SE Nature Photo Showcase. This initiative encouraged

individuals to capture and share the beauty and diversity of the natural environment around them. Randomly selected photos were featured in daily Environment Week communications, with additional submissions to be included in the MARL SE 2027 calendar. Members are encouraged to revisit the Environment Week communications to

view the featured images and learn more about the topics highlighted throughout the week.

During Environment Week, MARL SE also hosted information booths at several locations, including Willow Park, Stadacona, and His Majesty's Canadian Dockyard. These booths provided Defence Team members with the opportunity to engage with MARL SE personnel, ask questions, and learn more about how MARLANT works to support environmental stewardship, sustainability objectives, and the protection of species at risk. Thank you to everyone who visited the booths and shared their experiences, as well as the actions they and their communities are taking to help protect the environment.

At the Dockyard location, MARL SE was pleased to welcome Ru Yap, the

Sustainability Awareness Coordinator with CFB Halifax's Energy Performance Contract, which began in 2021. Ru provided updates on the project's progress and highlighted one of its most exciting initiatives: the solar array at 12 Wing Shearwater. This project will include 1,428 solar panels and is expected to generate enough electricity to power approximately 90 average Nova Scotia homes each year.

While Environment Week 2026 has come to a close, its values and objectives remain relevant year-round. Environmental protection requires a collective effort, and each of us has a role to play. Whether through large initiatives or small changes in our daily routines, every action contributes to protecting our environment and building a more sustainable future.



From left, Amanda Facey, Alexandra DeCoste, and Ru Yap at the MARL SE Environment Week booth at HMC Dockyard on June 4.



VAdm Topshee welcomed as new VCDS

Vice-Admiral (VAdm) Angus Topshee is now Canada’s Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (VCDS). He officially began his new role on July 3, taking over from outgoing VCDS Lieutenant-General Steve Kelsey.

VAdm Topshee most recently served as Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy from May 2022 until June of this year, when he was replaced by successor VAdm Dan Charlebois. Other highlights from his career include serving as Commanding Officer as HMCS Algonquin in 2009, as Base Commander at Canadian Forces Base Halifax from 2012-2015, and as Commander of Maritime Forces Pacific from 2021-2022.

“VAdm Topshee is an experienced senior leader with over three decades of distinguished service in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). He brings a diverse background to the role, with proven experience leading at sea and ashore in key positions where he has advanced Canada’s interests in close collaboration with our Allies and partners around the world. His appointment as VCDS comes at an exciting time as the Government of Canada continues to rebuild, rearm, and reinvest in the CAF amid an evolving and increasingly complex international defence and security environment,” reads a message from Chief of the Defence Staff General Jennie Carignan and Deputy Minister of National Defence Christiane Fox.”

DND

Defence Advisory Groups seek new local co-chairs

By Trident Staff

The dynamic season of summer has left three Defence Advisory Groups (DAGs) in search of new co-chairs in the Atlantic region.

The advisory groups play a vital role in the cultural change efforts of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) with volunteers meeting on a monthly basis to advise military leadership on Employment Equity (EE) policy issues relevant to the groups they represent.

The role of the co-chairs is to facilitate and advise, to lead by example and provide mentorship and guidance across

their DAG membership. DAG meetings are facilitated by both a military and civilian co-chair.

The Defence Women’s Advisory Organization (DWAO) and the Atlantic Defence Indigenous Advisory Group (ADIAG) seek civilian co-chairs, while the Atlantic Defence Team Pride Advisory Organization (ADTPAO) seeks both a military and civilian co-chair.

Committee duties are on a volunteer basis with functions often occurring during work hours. The defence advisory teams are the primary point of

contact between underrepresented CAF members/employees and the chain of command, implementing policy reviews and changes directly alongside senior staff.

For more information contact:
Halifax.DWAO@forces.gc.ca — Defence Women’s Advisory Organization (DWAO)

HFXADTPAO@forces.gc.ca — Atlantic Defence Team Pride Advisory Organization (ADTPAO)
Halifax.ADIAG@forces.gc.ca — Atlantic Defence Indigenous Advisory Group (ADIAG)

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PROUDLY CANADIAN



CAF members take centre stage with Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo

More than 200 Canadian Armed Forces members from across the country proudly represented the Canadian Armed Forces during the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo from July 1 to 5, performing as part of the Massed Pipes and Drums, Brass and Reed bands, Naval Display Team, ceremonial flag party, guard, and in numerous backstage support roles. The CAF contingent also took part in the Tattoo's annual Canada Day Parade through downtown Halifax on July 1, helping celebrate Canada's birthday before thousands of spectators.

FORMATION IMAGING SERVICES



MCDV deployment to focus on mine countermeasures

By Trident Staff

His Majesty's Canadian Ships (HMCS) Moncton and Edmonton will spend the next four months putting their advanced mine countermeasure capabilities to use while sailing alongside NATO allies.

After departing from Halifax on July 7, the two Kingston-class Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels (MCDVs) are deploying on Operation REASSURANCE to join Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group One (SNMCMG1) in European waters.

The ships are equipped with a suite of mine countermeasure tools and specialists, including the REMUS 100 Autonomous Underwater Vehicles and teams of Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) clearance divers.

"Our ship will be part of a multinational force comprised of minehunters and minesweepers that primarily engage in search and explosive ordnance disposal tasks to minimize the threat from sea mines, thereby contributing to global navigation safety," said Lieu-

tenant-Commander (LCdr) Justin Wong, Commanding Officer of HMCS Moncton and Canadian task force commander for the deployment.

"The group's other tasks also include the protection of critical undersea infrastructure, from pipelines to data and energy cables."

RCN leadership highlighted the importance of NATO's collective defence and maritime security to Canada, describing the mission as a showcase of Canada's commitment to allies as well as the professionalism and capability of RCN sailors.

"Every sailor brings a unique skill set, and it's their collective effort, discipline, and trust in one another that enable us to succeed. As we deploy with Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group One, our team is ready to contribute meaningfully alongside our Allies and uphold the high standards expected of the Royal Canadian Navy," added LCdr Wong.



Friends and family members were on the jetty as HMCS Moncton and HMCS Edmonton departed from Halifax on July 7.

CPL ANTONIO GARCIA ALVAREZ



A parade of first responders and CAF members marked the 110th anniversary of the No. 2 Construction Battalion in Pictou, NS on July 4.

NS RCMP

The No. 2 Construction Battalion

DND



Anti-racism committee announced during No. 2 Construction Battalion commemoration

By Griffin Bjerke-Clarke,
Trident Staff

Members of the defence team joined local community and government officials for an annual remembrance ceremony at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Pictou on July 4. The event honoured the contributions of the No. 2 Construction Battalion, Canada's only all-Black military unit.

The ceremony was followed by a parade to recognize the sacrifice and dedication of the men who served in the battalion during the First World War, where they played a significant role in the Canadian war effort during the height of the conflict.

The No. 2 Construction Battalion was a segregated, non-combatant unit that served from 1916 to 1920.

July 5 marked the 110th anniversary of the battalion's formation in Truro, Nova Scotia.

During the event, Minister of National Defence David McGuinty announced the establishment of a new federal Anti-Racism Advisory Committee, reflecting a commitment to address historical racism and ongoing systemic issues.

"The members of this Advisory Committee bring a wealth of experience, expertise, and perspectives that reflect

the diversity and strength of Black communities across Canada," said McGuinty. "This Committee represents an important step in our ongoing commitment to building a stronger, more inclusive institution—one where every member can serve, contribute, and succeed in a workplace free from harassment, racism, discrimination, and bias."

The committee will provide independent guidance to defence team members and leaders to address anti-Black racism within the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF).

The ceremony was attended by descendants of the No. 2 Construction Battalion.

The history of the unit was omitted from official Canadian accounts for decades, with the absence of a war diary often cited as an explanation. Keynote guest speaker and Black Nova Scotian historian Sean Foyn, also a member of the newly established Advisory Committee, challenged the narrative during his remarks. He argued that the experiences of the men themselves should have been enough to preserve the battalion's place in Canadian history.

"This history must have been living with the men of the No. 2 Construction Battalion. People come back from all kinds of experiences, and they talk about those experiences," he said.

The battalion endured turbulent weather, frequent disease outbreaks, and rampant racism while completing demanding forestry work under harsh conditions during their deployment. Twenty-nine men from the unit lost their lives in these conditions.

Speakers at the ceremony also spoke to the indignities the battalion endured, including a racially motivated incident within the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1919. More broadly, the men received little recognition when they returned home, and the battalion was quietly disbanded in 1920 as the Canadian Expeditionary Force itself was dissolved.

Foyn said family stories and photographs hidden in drawers and attics were central to the eventual recognition of the history.

"The pictures and the stories that started coming off the mantelpieces and people associating them with names—it's just absolutely remarkable," he said.

The first official event commemorating the contributions of the No. 2 Construction Battalion was held in 1982—a reunion of surviving Black First World War veterans. The reunion was organized by Calvin Ruck, a Nova Scotia human rights activist who spent years researching the battalion's history and later wrote the definitive book on its story, *The Black Battalion: 1916-1920, Canada's Best-Kept Military Secret*.

Since then, several dedications have been made to the battalion and the members who lost their lives, including a new building at Camp Aldershot named the Private Frederick L. Landsay and Private James E. Landsay Building, in memory of two brothers who served in the unit.

In July of 2022, the federal government formally apologized to family members for the battalion's mistreatment before, during and after the war.

"By learning from our history and listening to the voices and experiences of Black communities, we can help build institutions that are more inclusive, equitable, and reflective of the values Canadians aspire to uphold," said Russell Grosse, Chief Executive Officer of the BCCNS.



Cdr Jonathan Maurice speaks with Col Cannon of the US Army while alongside Kwajalein, Marshall Islands on July 3.

MS ALEX HEAGLE



Kwajalein, Marshall Islands visible from the starboard side of HMCS Charlottetown while sailing during Operation HORIZON on July 3.

MS ALEX HEAGLE



HMCS Charlottetown alongside Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.

MS ALEX HEAGLE



HMCS *Charlottetown* makes rare visit to the Kwajalein Atoll

By Lt(N) Rosa Gutierrez

As members of the Royal Canadian Navy, we have the privilege of sailing around the world and experiencing places few Canadians will ever see. One such opportunity came on July 3, 2026, when His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Charlottetown* became the first Canadian warship to enter the Kwajalein Atoll since HMCS *Athabaskan's* visit in July 1951. The historic event provided an opportunity to conduct a port assessment, helping inform future planning and operations in the Pacific region.

Located in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kwajalein has long served as a strategically significant site for U.S. missile defence testing and space

operations. Opportunities to visit are uncommon, making this an important milestone for future operational planning and regional engagement.

The visit was a whole-ship effort, with the Operations, Marine Systems Engineering, Deck and Logistics departments working together to evaluate the atoll's infrastructure and support capabilities. The goal? To assess the practical considerations of operating from Kwajalein.

"Planning is only the first half of an evolution like this," says Lieutenant-Commander Cody Wylie, HMCS *Charlottetown's* Operations Officer. "Being here gives us a level of understanding that simply isn't possible from

charts or reports alone. Seeing the port and its capabilities firsthand allows us to provide the planners back home with the information they need to prepare future ships and crews for success."

The visit also allowed the ship to strengthen relationships with regional partners. HMCS *Charlottetown* welcomed military and civilian personnel from US Army Garrison Kwajalein aboard for a ship tour, fostering connections and reinforcing the strong partnerships that support cooperation in the Pacific.

While operational planning remained the primary focus, the Command Team did offer the crew a chance to experience the unique character of the atoll. Sur-

rounded by turquoise waters and a rich maritime history, Kwajalein offered a glimpse into a part of the Pacific that few Canadian sailors have had the opportunity to visit.

Commander Jonathan Maurice, Commanding Officer of HMCS *Charlottetown*, said the value of the mission extends well beyond its operational assessment.

"Every visit like this expands our understanding of the region while strengthening relationships with our allies and partners," he says. "As the Royal Canadian Navy continues to increase its presence throughout the Indo-Pacific, opportunities like this help ensure we're ready to operate wherever we're needed."



SPORTS & FITNESS



CAF sailors return to the Northwest Arm

Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) sailors enjoyed two days of close competition and camaraderie during a PSP Halifax-supported recreational regatta at the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron (RNSYS) on June 23-24. Six crews competed aboard the club's J/22 sailboats, completing a full schedule of races despite wet weather on the opening day and into the morning of Day 2 before sunshine broke through for the afternoon's final races.

Lieutenant-Commander (LCdr) Kevin Pallard and LCdr Samantha Jamieson helped put together the event, with support from PSP Halifax and RNSYS staff. Organizers said strong interest once again filled the six-boat fleet, allowing for two full days of competitive racing while bringing together CAF sailors from across the Halifax defence community. They also praised participants for their positive attitudes and outstanding sportsmanship throughout the regatta, and thanked the RNSYS race officials, volunteers and staff for their support in making another successful regatta possible.

RYAN MELANSON



Register now for Base Commander's Golf Tournament

By PSP Halifax

The always-popular Base Commander's Golf Tournament is back for another year, inviting CFB Halifax military and civilian personnel to enjoy a day of friendly competition on the links.

Organized by Personnel Support Programs (PSP) Halifax with the support of generous sponsors, the tournament will take place on July 29 at Hartlen Point Golf Club, with an 8:30 a.m. start. The

event features an 18-hole, four-person scramble, along with food, prizes and plenty of opportunities for camaraderie.

Registration is limited to the first 20 teams of four, so participants are encouraged to secure their spot early. The registration fee is \$110 per player for non-members of Hartlen Point Golf Club, or \$60 per player for members (membership number required at registration).

To register or obtain more information, call 902-721-7805. Registration is

only considered complete once payment has been made in full for the entire team. Team payments must be made in a single transaction, and cash is not accepted. Debit and credit payments can be made in person at Building S-90, Suite 130, or by credit card over the phone. Golf cart and club rentals can be booked separately by calling 902-465-3038.