

THE STRATHCONIAN



Lord Strathcona's Horse
(Royal Canadians)

1900 ~ 2015



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CSI 5★
June 8-12, 2016

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CSI 5★
June 15-19, 2016


ROLEX
'Pan American'

CSI 5★
June 28 - July 3, 2016


ROLEX
'North American'

CSI 5★
July 6-10, 2016

'MASTERS'

CSIO 5★
Sept. 7-11, 2016



Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

Battle Honours

South Africa

South Africa, 1900 - 1901

First World War

Festubert 1915, Somme 1916, '18; Brazentin, Pozières, Flers-Courcelette,

Cambrai 1917, '18; St. Quentin, Amiens, Hindenberg Line,

St. Quentin Canal, Beaurevoir, Pursuit to Mons,

France and Flanders 1915 - 1918

Second World War

Liri Valley, Melfa Crossing, Torrice Crossroads, Gothic Line,

Pozzo Alto Ridge, Coriano, Lamone Crossing, Misano Ridge, Casale,

Naviglio Canal, Fosso Munio, Italy 1944-1945, Ijsselmeer

North-West Europe 1945

Korea

Korea 1951–1953

Afghanistan

(Battle Honours approved for emblazonment are in heavy type)





The Strathconian

Is the annual journal of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)
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Lieutenant-Colonel J. Major, MSM, CD
Commanding Officer

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Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

Colonel Greg Hug

The Strathconian is a record of the Regiment's achievements over the past year. It is also a chance to reflect on the challenges met and the sacrifices made by all members of the Regimental family. In gathering my thoughts to write my first message as your Colonel of the Regiment, I refreshed my memory by reviewing last year's Strathconian.

I was struck by the breadth and depth of the activities successfully completed. This year, that torrid pace continues; indeed it may have been even busier as the Regiment conducts extensive high readiness training. Despite the hectic training schedule, the myriad of other activities that are the life blood of the Regiment continue concurrently. I cannot recall such a tempo during my Regimental duty. The time away from home is extensive with exercises, small unit exchanges, competitions and courses yet morale is incredibly high. The spouses and families deserve kudos for their outstanding encouragement. Read on to get a sense of life in the Regiment today; I suspect that like me, you will be thoroughly impressed by their accomplishments.

Those serving on extra regimental employment also deserve mention. We have Strathconas serving around the world, many in very challenging circumstances. Their contributions are noteworthy and reflect highly on our Regiment.

The Strathconian also captures the notable events of our Regimental Society and the Association. Our new Society Board of Directors met for the first time in November. The inclusion of civilian members proved to be very positive and will be beneficial going forward. The health of the Association is sound today. The national executive, based mainly in Calgary, continues to provide leadership while the various Branches across the country are creating opportunities for the serving, retired and extended family members to meet socially.

In June, **Major-General (Ret'd) Cam Ross** completed his tour as Colonel of the Regiment. **Cam** provided leadership and mentorship for the complete Regimental family for the past five years. He established a pace of activity through visits to the Regiment, the dispersed Regimental family, and our dedicated friends that will be a challenge to match. We owe him our sincerest thanks for his significant contribution over 42 years as a Strathcona.

Returning to the Regiment after 22 years has been exciting and rewarding. My visits have confirmed that the Regiment's spirit is undaunted and our motto "Perseverance" continues to be the cornerstone of their deeds. The opportunity to meet with so many members of the family over the past seven months has been rewarding personally and allows me to state unequivocally that the Regiment continues to meet the highest standards.

The year ahead will be very busy with high readiness training, potential operational deployments, changes in leadership, as well as the day-to-day life in the Regiment. Nevertheless, these challenges will be taken in stride and met through the dedication and professionalism of every soldier.





A Word From the Senior Serving Strathcona

Brigadier-General Derek Macaulay

After ten months of being at what was once the center of the ancient Babylonian and Assyrian empires, I continue to be struck by how far humanity has advanced, and yet how far we have to go. Today, much like the Mongols in 1258, Iraq is being pillaged, yet this time by vermin known as ISIS or DA'ISH (Dawlat al-Islamiyah f'al-Iraq w Belaad al-Sham, which is the full Arabic term for what English speakers translate as the Islamic State). DA'ISH terrorize all those who refuse to recognize their perverted form of Islam and submit to their tyrannical ambitions of a bloody Islamic Caliphate. Although initially successful in 2014, their quest to gain significant territory and resources for their caliphate has met a Coalition of Nations, at the request of the Republic of Iraq, focused on advising, assisting and training Iraq Security Forces so that stability can be restored.

As Chief of Staff for the Coalition Joint Force Land Component Command Iraq (CJFLCC-I), I have had the privilege to be part of a 17 Nations team that has halted DA'ISH's advance, retaken Ramadi and enabled over 20,000 Iraqi Security Forces to be trained and equipped with a committed 1.6 billion dollars' worth of equipment.

Watching the Jinood (Iraqi soldiers) that enter one of the five Coalition Building Partner Capability sites reminds me that the strength of any Army is its soldiers. It is their warrior spirit that defines the unit they represent and certainly watching our great Regiment over the past year from thousands of miles away, I could still clearly see that our soldiers exemplify what it means to be a Canadian soldier who stands amongst the best in the world.

The Regiment's continued success is no accident and much like the Iraqi units we see battling DA'ISH on a daily basis, it is the units with inspirational and committed leaders who are a crucial ingredient of a winning team.

I must "tip my sabre" to the Commanding Officer and the Regimental Sergeants Major for their unmatched leadership. I know as you read through the pages of this edition of the Strathconian you will be struck by just how strong the Regiment remains and undoubtedly you will be proud to be a Strathcona...Perseverance.





Commanding Officer's Message

Lieutenant-Colonel Josh Major

Publishing my last Strathconian article as the CO is another reminder some things remain the same in a sea of change. While leaders are posted, people change positions, training evolves to face future crises and technology improves, the exceptional performance and remarkable achievements of Strathcona soldiers remains constant. I will be brief because this publication is about recognizing the entire team for what they have accomplished over the past year, and quite honestly, their articles are way better and more interesting than mine.

Where to begin? Since the last edition of the Strathconian the Regiment has maintained a robust tempo with an emphasis on continuing to hone its warfighting skills. Strathconas have deployed domestically to help Canadians in need, conducted training at home and abroad, and have earned the honour of training as an Armoured Battle Group for 1 CMBG's Road to High Readiness Training. From Texas, to Chile, to Gagetown, and all points in between, the Regiment's successes speak loudly to the skill, competence, and perseverance of our soldiers. What is perhaps most impressive however is the way the Regiment quietly goes about its business, never seeking recognition or glory, yet always earning it.

That said, I would like to highlight some significant achievements that should make us all proud: we conducted a tremendously successful BG exercise at Ft Hood with our American allies, provided an extremely effective OPFOR Battle Group for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, said thank you to **Major-General Ross** and welcomed **Colonel Hug**, placed 3rd as a team during Ex Mountain Man, won the Worthington Cup Challenge, executed a tremendous Ex STEELE SABRE day and night live fire, and participated in several community relation events such as the Calgary Stampede, Spruce Meadows, and No Stone Left Alone.

As I write this article, the Regiment is finalizing preparations for our Battle Group's deployment to Texas, coordinating an exchange with the Brazilian Army, and preparing for the entire Regiment's deployment for high readiness training in Wainwright with the Brigade Recce Squadron, the Strathcona Battle Group, and A Squadron detached to the 2 PPCLI Battle Group, culminating with our level 6 confirmation exercise, Ex MAPLE RESOLVE. While we do not know what the future holds, we will undoubtedly have Strathconas serving overseas over the next year in some capacity and they will continue our proud history of amazing service.

We could not accomplish our tasks without the unconditional support of our families. I know that it is not easy and I would like to personally thank you for the strength and support you provide us every day. As I speak of family, I would be remiss to not mention the support of the greater Regimental Family. Our veterans, friends, and supporters allow us to provide unparalleled care for our soldiers and their families and for that I thank you.

As we continue living the 1 CMBG Way of War, I am comforted with the knowledge that I will be handing over the reins to a superb leader who is well known to the Regimental Family, **Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Lubiniecki**. I have no doubt that he will lead the Regiment to even greater accomplishments and successes. In an uncertain world, I know that one thing remains without doubt, and that is the excellence of the Regiment.

Be proud of this team. I certainly am.



Regimental Sergeant-Major's Observations

Chief Warrant Officer Tony Batty

In June 2016, I will have had the privilege of serving as Regimental Sergeant Major for three years. I will leave the Regiment with a rollercoaster of emotions, sad to leave but with a feeling of satisfaction that a great deal has been achieved.

I have consistently been amazed how regardless of cap badge and affiliation all serving soldiers in the Regiment have contributed to the reputation and esprit de corps that enables the "Strathconas" to be the envy of all units not only in 1 Brigade but across the Canadian Armed Forces. I have met in the last 3 years a multitude of maintainers, clerks, supply techs and signalers who are visibly saddened to leave and change their UIC.

During the past three years the Regiment has undergone an amazing array of changes in the orbat and in the way in which we train to fight. The Regiment and its soldiers are now at the forefront of CAF operations, leading the way for the rest of the Army.

The Regiment's success can be attributed to the all ranks of the Regiment and to our Strathcona families and supporters alike, that all share in our success. By "soldiers" I mean those who, at **all** rank levels continue to put "service before self." Being a Strathcona is more than wearing the capbadge, more than serving in the Regiment; it encompasses a way of life that involves professionalism, pride, family, duty and honour. I can think of no higher praise than to say they are soldiers and Strathconas.

I would be wrong if I did not mention the key role played by the Regiment's corps of senior non-commissioned officers. One of the mainstays of the Regiment has been the unique relationship shared between the sergeants, warrant officers and officers of the Regiment; in no other unit is the command team concept stronger. I want to personally thank all the Sergeants and Warrant Officers and in particular the Master Warrant Officers of the Regiment for their resolute support throughout my three-year tenure as RSM.

I would save my last mention to the **families** of the soldiers who serve in the Regiment who time and again have risen to the challenge of long separation and made it possible for the Regiment to have continued success in all our challenges faced in a three year period. Without your dedication to the cause, we would not have succeeded in our myriad of tasks...I would also like to take the time to mention my own family in particular my long suffering and very understanding wife **Kathy**, without your unwavering support my vocation would have been much more difficult.

I wish to welcome **Rob Clarke** and his wife **Kim** back to the Regiment..... I have no doubt that the next three years will only enhance the Regiments stellar reputation and will ensure the Regiment's continued success.

In closing I will ask you to do the same I have always asked. **Be technically and tactically sound. Be the masters of our Corps and core competencies – Move – Shoot – Communicate. Lead so that others may follow the example of self-improvement both physically and mentally. Remember who you are and why you are here.**

It has truly been an honour – Thank you for all you do.





Editor-in-Chief's Forward

Major Darryn Gray

It is hard to imagine that a year has passed since we published the 2014 edition of the Strathconian. We received great reviews last year after tying it to the original edition from 1914 and it allowed us to reflect on what it was like to be a Strathcona during that period of time.

Similar to all other years, 2015 has been a non-stop marathon full of domestic and international exercises coupled with fantastic training opportunities as the Regiment supported the 5 CMBG Road to High Readiness, and commenced our own readiness training as part of TF NEMESIS with 1 CMBG.

It truly is amazing to see what our Regiment has been able to achieve in a twelve month period. The sheer volume of activities, physical and mental challenges, aggressiveness for victory, and perseverance through adversity are what make this unit second to none. There is no task too big, and no task too difficult for the Strathcona's. As a wise man once said, "good work leads to more work" and if you want something done right, let the Strathcona's handle it. When you read the enclosed articles I am sure you will agree with me that it is quite remarkable to see what we have accomplished throughout the year. Special thanks go out to **Corporal David Olaes**, who seems to always be at the right time and place to capture some incredible pictures. Many of the photos used in the Strathconian are his and it makes visually representing the exercises and training, quite easy.

This year marked a change in how sponsorship for the Strathconian was conducted. Due to recent CAF directives the Subalterns were no longer charged with soliciting for advertising, and the "Strathcona Guild" has taken on this responsibility. I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to **Mr. Josh Bilyk** for spearheading the initiative and creating closer ties to our community while reinforcing the relationships with the friends and supporters of the Regiment.

As articles typically are submitted, in a "just in time delivery" manner, it places a heavy burden on the editorial staff of the Strathconian. The editor, **Captain Dave "Great Cavalry Flow" Williams** spent countless hours cracking the whip on the article authors and revising the edition for publication. So Laurel, I apologize if we have made Dave start to show signs of hair loss or go pre-maturely grey while finalizing this edition... **Dave**, you did a tremendous job while balancing a myriad of other things!

Working with **Mrs. Kathy Batty** to compile the Strathconian for the second year has continued to be a pleasure. We truly established a great rhythm to produce the Strathconian and your dedication and artistic eye have allowed for this publication to become better and better each year. We are quite fortunate to have you and your expertise to relay on for the Strathconian production. As it came down to crunch time this year, it is a shame that **Captain Dave "Last Man Standing" Wright** isn't still with the Sqn as he was the week before the 2014 compilation; being thrown into the breach when the editor and I were away...and was outright jacked-up by **Kathy** and **Major Mike Onieu** (Regt 2IC) for a practical joke of which many within the Regiment were in on ...weird that he never mentioned it to me at all...

Well that is enough from me, have a read of the articles for yourself and see just how amazing the year has been!!



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*Sgt Joe Gushue and A Sqn Crew
Commanders review actions on
the objective with members of 2
PPCLI.*



*New Comms: **Tpr Tom "Lauterbacher, Tom Lauterbacher"** Lauterbacher tests out the new
headset/helmet*



*Just another normal fire for a Recce Sqn on
Ex RECCE RELOAD.*

Year in Review



*Left: RHQ Everyone
exhausted from the
Regimental March & Shoot.*



*Right: **MCpl Kriag Shields** teaches
Alan Nursall how to remove a
Leopard 2 power-pack.*



Births and Marriages

Capt Reiten's daughter Katrina Jean born 25 January 2015
MCpl Vallerand' daughter Alexia born 28 January 2015
Lt Peterson's son Wyatt Antonius born 07 February 2015
Capt Tam's daughter Chelsea Nadine born 20 February 2015
MCpl Heisz' son Lawson Russel born 22 February 2015
MCpl Valenzuela's daughter Jose Gabriella born 27 March 2015
Capt Elliot's son Owen born 30 March 2015
MS Brassard's daughter Melodie born 02 April 2015
Capt Rickard's daughter Alexis Victoria born 14 April 2015
MCpl Underwood married Leah Reykdal 14 April 2015
Sgt Bustard's son Colin Walter born 02 May 2015
Lt Rice's daughter Violet Marie born 06 May 2015
Sgt Johnston's son Remi Jonaton born 06 May 2015
MCpl Romkey's son James John born 20 May 2015
Cpl Feenstra's son Knox Richard Gleason Patlock born 22 May 2015
Lt Aguis' son Daxton David born 05 June 2015
MCpl Alwani's son Karim born 06 June 2015
Capt Cam Meikle married Isabelle Cyr 06 June 2015
Tpr Smith's daughter Emersyn Jade Smith born 26 June 2015
Tpr Lauterbacher married Lindsay Wells 29 June 2015
Capt Williams married Laurel Pruden 04 July 2015
Cpl Shields' daughter Alyson Marie born 10 July 2015
MCpl Norman's Addisyn born 01 August 2015
Cpl Hall's son born 10 August 2015
Tpr Davidson's son Carmine born 11 August 2015
Capt Theroux married Kaitlyn DeWitt 12 August 2015
Cpl Ellis' daughter Audrey Cadence born 16 August 2015
MCpl Collier and Cpl Collier's son Gordon John born 16 August 2015
Tpr Bourke's daughter Dilila born 27 August 2015
Cpl Lachance-Webster married Danielle Mackenzie 29 August 2015
Cpl Germann married Naomi 29 August 2015
Cpl Ben Kroker's son Arthur James born 01 September 2015
Cpl McDougall's daughter Autumn born 03 September 2015
Cpl Richard's daughter Jade Lily born 02 October 2015
MCpl McKenzie's son Brycen born 18 November 2015



Honours and Awards

Order of Military Merit

BGen Macaulay
Capt McMurachy

Meritorious Service Medal

CWO Crabb

Canadian Forces Decoration First Clasp

Maj Onieu
CWO Batty
Sgt Truchon
Sgt Cooke
Sgt Kruklak
MCpl Neil
Cpl Graham

Canadian Forces Decoration

Capt Collings
Capt Raju
Sgt Pirie
MCpl Van Heerden
MCpl Mowatt
MCpl Chuback
Cpl Lewis
MCpl Graham
Capt Gray
Capt Jackson
Capt Williams
Sgt Gushue
Sgt Netik
Sgt Shah
MCpl Dean
MCpl Dunphy
MCpl Gaudreault
MCpl Hayes 461
MCpl Romkey
MS Golbourn

USCG Commandant's Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service

Maj Senft

Brigade Commander's Coin

Maj Gray
Capt Anderson
Lt Young

CO 2PPCLI BG Coin

WO McDougall
Sgt Covey

CO 3PPCLI Coin

Tpr Deringer

CO's Coin

Col Macaulay
LCol Croucher
LCol Rockefeller
Capt Truesdale
Capt Sollers
Capt Nyguen
2Lt Blackall
Sgt Messina
Close Combat Tac Trainer
MCpl MacKenzie
MCpl Vogt 1VP
Cpl Bolzan
Cpl Campbell
Cpl Langlands
Cpl Matchett
MCpl Ford
MCpl Russell
MCpl Brown

Commander CMTC Commendation

Capt Hoffart
WO Forbes

Colonel of the Regiment Commendation

Mr Ken Raychert

Prince of Wales Trophy

B Squadron

Hessian Memorial Sword

Capt Rogozinski

Neatby Pace Stick

WO Brown

Milroy Cross Belt

Sgt Vigar

Colonel of the Regiment Silver Stick

MCpl Davidson

Fox Bugle

Cpl Collier

Olympic Torch Trophy

Capt John Kim

Ross Gear

Sgt Hasson

WO Forbes being presented Commander CMTC Commendation





Promotions



MCpl Miliare being promoted

Maj Mercurio
 Capt Agius
 Capt Carter-Wright
 Capt Hoffart
 Capt Jung
 Capt Labrecque
 Capt Tardiff
 Lt Clubine
 Lt Forestell
 Lt Giajnorio
 Lt Yang
 MWO Baglole
 MWO Boland
 MWO Brown
 WO Cimon
 WO McDougall
 Sgt Bennet
 Sgt Davidson, C.
 Sgt Dickey
 Sgt Hasson
 Sgt Hume
 Sgt Kearns
 Sgt McLaughlin
 Sgt Murdoch
 Sgt Murdoch
 Sgt Neil
 Sgt Patterson
 Sgt Van Heerden

MCpl Balfour
 MCpl Barrett
 MCpl Bazinet
 MCpl Bolzan
 MCpl Boucher
 MCpl Campbell
 MCpl Chase
 MCpl Cheng
 MCpl Collier (Skinner)
 MCpl Crocker
 MCpl Croxall
 MCpl Dunford
 MCpl Dunphy
 MCpl Eveleigh
 MCpl Hayes 972
 MCpl Hunt
 MCpl Lewis
 MCpl Loft
 MCpl MacLeod
 MCpl Mijares
 MCpl Myers
 MCpl Ouellet
 MCpl Owens
 MCpl Popoff
 MCpl Russell
 MCpl Schafer
 MCpl Shields

MCpl Stewart
 MCpl Talty
 MCpl Weir
 MCpl Weir
 MCpl Wilson
 MCpl Wry
 Cpl Ford
 Cpl Grubber
 Cpl Harding
 Cpl Hodge
 Cpl Matchett
 Cpl McKenzie
 Cpl Michaud
 Cpl Murray
 Cpl Watson
 Cpl Wilson
 Tpr Davidson
 Sig Emery
 Sig Vantongerren
 Cfn Yarn

MWO Brown and family upon promotion



Regimental Roll 2015

Colonel-in-Chief

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

Colonel-of-the-Regiment

Col Hug

Commanding Officer

LCol Major

Regimental Second-in-Command

Maj Gardner

Regimental Sergeant Major

CWO Batty

Commanding Officer's Secretary

Kathy Batty

Adjutant

Capt Anderson

Operations Officer

Capt Selberg

Regimental Headquarters

Regimental Orderly Room

Capt Hoffart
WO Posluns
Sgt Pirie
MCpl Howse
Cpl Doyle
Cpl Ross
LS Baker
Tpr Kerr

Command/Operations Cell

Capt Salter
Capt Raju
WO Thomas
WO Shiells
MCpl Patterson
MCpl Hume
Cpl Symington
Cpl Monge
Cpl Sherlock Hubbard
Cpl Olaes
Cpl Langlands
Cpl Guy

Signals Troop

Capt Diering
WO McQuhae
Sgt Mansfield
MCpl Agnew
MCpl Gaudreault

Cpl MacLennan

Cpl Carrier

Cpl Parlee

Cpl Murray

Sig Whitney

Sig Vantongerren

Sig Emery

Training Cell

Capt Jung
Lt Young
WO Barker
WO Barker
MCpl Burke
Tpr Tanner
Cpl Stratford
Cpl Richardson

ISTAR/Intelligence Cell

Capt Moffat
WO Clarke
Cpl Dugdale
Cpl Kroker

Prince of Wales (B Squadron)

Officer Commanding

Maj Cooper

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Brown

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Hevenor
Sgt Murphy
Sgt Chuback
MCpl Popoff
MCpl Kent
Cpl Dillon
Cpl Ell
Cpl Goodwin
Cpl Maw
Cpl Park
Cpl Sandhu
Tpr Brown
Tpr Zimmerman

Administration Troop

Capt Timms
Sgt Bustard
MCpl Balfour
MCpl Clegg
MS Willis
Cpl Chaperon
Cpl Doan
Cpl Green
Cpl Schiffner
Cpl Shields
Cpl Skibinsky
Cpl Smith
Cpl Steeves
Tpr Bourke
Tpr Carriere

Tpr Contrino
Tpr Gallagher
Tpr Helgeson
Tpr Messecar
Tpr Rawson
Tpr Shipston
Tpr VanBeek
Tpr Young

First Troop

Lt Ross
WO Troop
MCpl Chase
Cpl Coughlan
Cpl Gordon
Cpl Hall
Cpl McNeil
Cpl Nicholson
Cpl Rayment
Cpl Tomayer
Cpl Valenzuela
Tpr MacKinnon
Tpr Mercier
Tpr Parkes
Tpr Proctor

Second Troop

Lt Peterson
Sgt Vigar
MCpl Collier M.F.C
MCpl Collins
Cpl MacLeod
Cpl Chen
Cpl Maxwell
Cpl Lonegren
Cpl Mullens
Cpl Meany
Cpl Freeman
Cpl Kearns
Cpl Buell
Tpr Morin
Tpr Vanthournout
Tpr Poitras
Tpr Johnston
Tpr Crackle Skulason

Third Troop

Lt Casey
WO Zubkowski
MCpl Droogers
MCpl McKenzie
MCpl Romkey
Cpl Allard

Cpl Brown
Cpl Gibbons
Cpl Hogan
Cpl Larcher Pelland
Cpl Martin
Cpl Partridge R.B.
Cpl Pecarskie
Tpr Bryk
Tpr Bursey
Tpr Choquette
Tpr Guay
Tpr Maisonneuve

Maintenance

Sgt Paille
MCpl Thompson
MCpl Wiscombe
MCpl Lussier
MCpl Shields
Cpl Gordon
Cpl Moceton-Velasquez
Cpl Dicaire
Cpl Raymakers
Cpl Yarn
Cpl Breton

SQMS

WO Englehart
MCpl Foster
Cpl Schijns

A Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Gray

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Boland

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Dullege
Sgt Gushue
MCpl Croxall
MCpl Dickey
Cpl Blacklock
Cpl Dunford
Cpl George
Cpl Matchett
Cpl Watson
Tpr King-McAuslan
Tpr Paterson

Administration Troop

Capt Williams
Sgt McMurtry
MCpl Bolduc
MCpl Cheng
Cpl Collier
Cpl Myers
Cpl Venoit
Cpl Young
Tpr Burles
Tpr Gillis
Tpr Kokoszka
Tpr Langboun
Tpr Milwain
Tpr Munro
Tpr Neufeld
Tpr Rourke
Tpr Shute
Tpr Tsui

First Troop

Lt Coughlan
Sgt Davidson
Sgt Gibson
MCpl Bolzan
Cpl Marshall
Cpl Smith
Cpl Weir
Tpr Armstrong
Tpr Hornby
Tpr Lauterbacher
Tpr McKenzie
Tpr Ouellet
Tpr Smith
Tpr Snowden

Second Troop

Lt Aguis
WO McDougall
Sgt Paterson
MCpl Dunphy
MCpl Loft
Cpl Dunne
Cpl Fong
Cpl Hodge
Cpl New
Cpl Stender
Cpl Taborowski
Tpr Bergevin
Tpr Gilbert
Tpr Grubber
Tpr Marcotte

Third Troop

2Lt Giajnorio
WO Koestlmaier
Sgt Davidson
MCpl Campbell
Cpl Cook
Cpl Feenstra
Cpl Kozack
Cpl Nieuwhof
Cpl Warren
Tpr Cassar
Tpr Hill
Tpr Jones
Tpr Sauerzopf
Tpr Wilson

Maintenance

Sgt Covey
MCpl Dobson
MCpl Eveleigh
MCpl Smith
MCpl Wilson
Cpl Breton
Cpl Ellis
Cpl McDonald
Cpl Snyder
Cfn Choquette
Tpr Michaud

SQMS

WO Shiells
MCpl Murdoch
Cpl Tobin

Recce Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Beitz

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Baglole

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Elliot
Capt Labreque
WO Pargeter
Sgt Netik
MCpl Livingstone
MCpl Cheng
Cpl Gauthier
Cpl Job
Cpl Talty
Cpl Kewley
Cpl McNair
Tpr Thompson

Administration Troop

Capt Gray
WO Mills
MCpl Hessel
MCpl Alwani
Cpl Matthews
Cpl Schafer
Cpl Broome
Cpl Wheeler
Cpl Leblanc
Cpl Graham
Cpl Bazinet
Tpr Hibbert

First Troop

Lt Clubine
WO Levis
Sgt Barsotta
MCpl Silcox
MCpl Howarth-Harrison
Cpl Wry
Cpl Danczak
Tpr Fulljames
Tpr Williams
Tpr Norring
Tpr Bursey
Tpr Brenton
Tpr Mann
Tpr Lang
Tpr Steinke
Tpr Landry
Tpr Wall
Tpr Roy

Second Troop

Lt Yang
Sgt Johnson
Sgt McAtasney
MCpl Ford
Cpl Talty
Cpl Skaarup
Cpl Maddison
Tpr Whitson
Tpr MacKenzie
Tpr Wurech
Tpr Deringer
Tpr Klettli
Tpr Benedicic
Tpr Williston
Tpr Grant

Third Troop

Lt Forestell
WO Jones
Sgt Van Heerden
MCpl Hayes
MCpl Van Der Born
Cpl Young
Cpl Grant
Tpr Arseneau
Tpr Oaten
Tpr Breau
Tpr Nancekivel
Tpr Grewal
Tpr Hartman
Tpr Diebolt
Tpr Fox
Tpr Cowan
Tpr Silverman

Maintenance

Sgt Shah
MCpl MacDonald
MCpl Jesseau
MCpl Graham
Cpl Lavoie
Cpl Richard
Cpl Lachappelle
Tpr Martin

SQMS

WO Parent
MCpl Koolman
Cpl McDougall

Headquarters Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Wong

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO King

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Meikle
Capt Carter-Wright
Capt Couture
Sgt Kentfield
MCpl Banman
MCpl Hunt
Cpl Gutscher
Cpl Hayes
Cpl Banting
Cpl Fettes
Sig Fuchs Perry

Transport Troop

Capt Rogozinski
WO Holmes
Sgt Jahn
MCpl Brown
MCpl Jesse
MCpl Keller
MCpl Oulette
MCpl Bondy
Cpl Charles
Cpl Poitras
Cpl Morin
Cpl Radford
Cpl Wood
Cpl Shepherd
Cpl Mijares
Cpl Smith
Cpl Gaona
Cpl Fountain
Cpl Atwood
Cpl Townsend
Tpr Pfeiffer
Tpr Snowdon
Tpr Demille

Maintenance Troop

Capt Theroux
MWO Wood
WO MacKinnon
WO Banks
Sgt McKie
Sgt Cooke
MCpl Dean
MCpl Harzing
MCpl Russell
MCpl Valad
MCpl Golmohammadi
MCpl Doyle
Cpl Sullivan
Cpl Simpson
Cpl Pleau
Cpl Mogg
Cpl Champagne
Cpl Wellicome
Cpl Rimpilainen
Cpl Timmons
Cpl Kipot
Cpl Snyder
Cpl Sutton
Cpl Mastalerz
Cpl Stephen
Cfn Willis

QM Troop

Capt Jackson
MWO Clarke
MWO Clayson
Sgt Near
Sgt Thomas
Cpl Clendenin
Cpl Girling
Cpl Campbell
Cpl Sawyer
Cpl Cavers
Cpl Fraser
Cpl Forest
Cpl Grieves
Cpl Rose
Cpl Winchester
Cpl Harder

Regimental Cooks

WO Woroniuk
Sgt Doody
MS Goldbourn
MS Brassard
Cpl Reid
Cpl Lucas
Pte Sayyeau
Pte O'Leary

Strathcona Mounted Troop

Capt Tardiff
Sgt Kruhlak
MCpl Davidson
Cpl Hughes
Cpl Lachance-Webster
Cpl Paquette
Cpl Houston
Cpl Dobson
Cpl Maendel
Cpl Roberts
Cpl Southern
Cpl Germann
Cpl Senff
Cpl Ford
Cpl Martel
Cpl Aguila
Cpl Crozier
Cpl Thibodeau
Cpl Hall
Cpl Dunne
Cpl Maddison
Cpl Hopper
Cpl Prosser
Cpl Younger

Cpl Lawrence
Cpl Fong
Cpl Marion

Accounts

Capt McLean
Sgt Jones
MCpl Lister
Cpl White
Cpl Bond
Cpl Naylor
Cpl Martin

Family Support Troop

Capt Kim

Stables

MCpl Korensowski

Museum

WO MacLeod
Sgt Giberson

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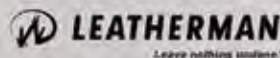
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The Year in Review

January

- 5 – 17 Feb** – Exported DP1
- 12-16** – Ex STRONG CONTENDER (1 CMBG Winter Sports Competition)
- 15** – 1 CMBG Mess Dinner
- 19-23** – Ex STEELE VIRTUAL (Virtual Simulator Training)

February

- 6** – Command Team Challenge
- 8-13** – Ex NORDIC RAM (Banff)
- 18-20** – Ex STEELE MARTIAL (Regimental Taekwondo)

MCpl Kevin Crowe reads about the Battle of Moreuil Wood while dressed in the uniform of the soldiers who fought there in 1918.



Tpr Jeffrey MacKinnon receives the Cpl Jamie Steeves Comradeship Award from RSM Kevin Mathers after completing the LdSH(RC) run DP1.

March

- 1-14** – Ex STEELE BEASTS (Simulation Exercise in Fort Hood, Texas)
- 6** – Command Team Challenge
- 23-26** – Moreuil Wood Commemoration
- 27-12 Apr** – March Break

April

- 16** – Ex HERAKLES RAM

May

- 18 Apr-21 May** – Ex MAPLE RESOLVE (Force on Force in Wainwright, AB)
- 23** – Canadians for Veterans Horse Ride across Canada (Edmonton)
- 21 – 29** – Ex REFLEXE RAPIDE (5 CMBG and B Sqn live fire Exercise, in Wainwright, AB)

June

- 4-5** – Ex TEMPEST RAM (1 CMBG Motorcycle Ride)
- 5** – Strathcona Business Lunch
- 12** – All Ranks Dinner and Dance
- 15 – 19** – 1 CMBG Ex VIDAR RAM (Computer Assisted Exercise)
- 20** – Change of Colonel of the Regiment Parade



LdSH(RC)100 soldier Honour guard awaits the command to commence firing the "Feu de Joie"

July

3-5 – Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows
100-soldier guard

5-22 – Op LENTUS (Firefighting in Northern Saskatchewan)

13-31 – Regimental Summer Block Leave

August

6 – 22 – 1 CMBG Ex JUPITER RAM – Simulation Exercise with USMC in California

29 – Regimental Family Day

30-3 Sep – Ex RECCE RELOAD (Wainwright, AB)



Op LENTUS: The end of a hard day's work

Tpr Calvin Tsui, Lt Sean Coughlan and Cpl Spencer Richardson showing off their tank.





*Cpl Richard Wagner says to Cpl Anthony Cook...
Davy Crockett wants his hat back...*

October

9-13 – Thanksgiving

4-30 – Ex STEELE SABRE (Regimental Exercise in Wainwright, AB)

25-30 – Ex NIMBLE KAPYONG (2 PPCLI BG Planning Exercise Shilo, MB)



No Stone Left Alone

December

1-13 – Ex STEELE CASCADE (Chilean Reciprocal Unit Exchange)

5 – Kids' Christmas Party

9 – Men's Christmas Dinner

12-4 Jan 16 – Christmas Block Leave

September

8-11 – Ex TOUGH CONTENDER (1 CMBG Summer Sports Competition)

10 – Ex MOUNTAIN MAN 15

14-25 – Annual Regimental IBTS concentration

14-5 Oct – Ex KAPYONG MACE (A Sqn with 2 PPCLI BG in Shilo, MB)

26 – CAFB Edmonton Army Cadet Challenge

27-2 Oct – Worthington Cup Challenge (Gagetown, NB)



*Ex STEELE SABRE:
2nd Troop excited to go home after a long month's work.*

November

5 – Regimental "March and Shoot" Competition

10 – "No Stone Left Alone"

11 – Remembrance Day

13 – Ex GORDIAN RAM

16-20 – Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE Part 1 (Computer Assisted Exercise in Edmonton)

18-22 – Canadian Patrol Concentration

23-27 – "Black Hat" Week

*Cpl "RSM" Tony Batty looking shocked and the
CO's Secretary Kathy Batty absolutely loving it at
the Men's Christmas Dinner.*



Squadron



L to R WO Mike Koestlmaier, WO Chuck McDougall and Sgt Jeff Gibson show the Troop Leaders Lt Sean Coughlan, Lt Joe Agius and 2Lt Eric Giajnorio where the blue rockets are.



MCpl Rob Kearns and MCpl Matt Burke pass on their knowledge of pack maintenance to the next generation.

*Cpl Curtis Schafer and Cpl Ian Harding
of Recce Squadron passing No Men's Land
during Spruce Meadows' Heroes Behind
the Heroes 5km Obstacle Course.*



Caught him! Gotcha, Gary!

Articles

*Cpl Ryan "Watch how it's done, I got
this" Blacklock ground guides the Battle
Captain's tank off the rail car in Shilo, MB*



B Squadron



Satellite Tank Crop Circles...



by Cpl Dave Olaes - B Squadron poses with their Asahi beers during some professional development on the Korean War.



Prince of Wales Squadron

Captain Mike Timms

It was another exciting year for B Squadron. For the third year in a row, we earned the right to call ourselves the Prince of Wales Squadron; dominating most of the Command Team Challenges, the March and Shoot Competition, a number of inspections, and various other trials showed that the Squadron was lucky enough to have many of the best soldiers in the Regiment. The year presented numerous training opportunities as the Squadron was both attached to 5 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (5 GBMC) for the Task Force 1-15 high readiness cycle, and was part of the 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG) Task Force NEMESIS high readiness cycle. The training included Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE, Ex SUPERSLAM, Ex STEELE BEASTS, Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, Ex REFLEXE RAPIDE, Combat First Aid training, Ex VIDAR RAM, PCF courses, Ex STEELE SABRE, Ex PATRICIA STEELE, Individual Battle Task Standard training, and many more; the list is endless.

In addition to the mandated training, Prince of Wales Squadron sought out opportunities to better ourselves. This included taking advantage of the fact that **Lieutenant Colonel Jason Adair**, the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, comes from family of Strathcona heritage. His father, **Lieutenant Bruce Rutherford**, commanded a tank troop in the Korean War, and his great grandfather, **Lieutenant Tom Rutherford**, commanded a platoon in the First World War and an armoured Regiment in the Second World War. **Lieutenant Colonel Adair** was kind enough to provide B Squadron with an hour long professional development session on what B Squadron did during the Korean War, based on his father's account. Other unique training events were less cerebral. The brain child of **Lieutenant TJ Casey**, Ex SUPERSLAM was the first of its kind for the Squadron. It pitted soldiers against one another in a series of capture the flag matches while armed with simunition, ammunition much like paintball but more solid and painful. Not only was this exciting, it was fantastic training. The event served as battle indoctrination for many soldiers which had never before been shot at, and reinforced the competitive warrior spirit of the Squadron!

Prince of Wales Squadron also experienced one of the best training events ever put on by the Regiment, Ex STEELE BEASTS. Leaving snowy Edmonton for slightly warmer Texas, the Squadron spent a week on the United States Army's Close Combat Tactical Trainer (CCTT). The CCTT is a simulation system which very realistically replicates the driver, gunner, loader, and commander positions within a tank in a simulation system that networks several tanks and other fighting vehicles together in a large virtual battlefield. The system allowed the Squadron to tackle challenging and realistic enemy forces in cooperation with one of our Regiment's reconnaissance troops and a company of American mechanized infantry. The frustrations of death, an excellent after action review system, and dollar beers at Rudy's made it a valuable training event we will not soon forget.

During the spring, Prince of Wales Squadron deployed to Wainwright, Alberta, for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE and Ex REFLEXE RAPIDE. These exercises were the culmination of the Road to High Readiness training for Task Force 1-15. B Squadron participated in Brigade Group level force-on-

by Cpl Carter Dillon -

The majestic crew of 29B taking a breath before rolling out.





force training and Combat Team level live fire ranges with complex obstacles, challenging objectives, and a language barrier. The Squadron was very successful, leading the way for 5 GBMC throughout and achieving the required validation. We returned to Edmonton to assume the high readiness torch and be prepared to deploy with 5 GBMC, should the Canadian Government call. Concurrently, Prince of Wales Squadron began a second road to high readiness with Task Force NEMESIS, the 1 CMBG high readiness group which would relieve 5 GBMC in the Summer of 2016.

The Summer of 2015 saw the usual Primary Combat Function (PCF) training and some changes to the Squadron's manning for the commencement of the next high readiness cycle. **Major Sandy Cooper** remained at the helm, but **Master Warrant Officer Kevin King** departed and was replaced by **Master Warrant Officer Scott Brown** as Squadron Sergeant Major. A number of other soldiers, including some senior non-commissioned-officers and officers also changed within the Squadron. Though sad to see great soldiers and friends leave, the team remained strong and gained very capable warriors. This was evident when the Squadron deployed once again to Wainwright in the fall for Ex STEELE SABRE 15 and Ex PATRICIA STEELE. These exercises served as both continuation training for Task Force 1-15 and an initial shake out for Task Force NEMESIS. Some lessons were relearned and others were solidified. The Squadron had the privilege of training with the 1st and 3rd Battalions of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and as part of the Strathcona Battle Group. The exercises consisted of troop level live fire and Battle Group level dry training. The major focus of the exercise was tank-infantry cooperation, which included dusting off the old pages of B-GL-381 and learning how to safely carry Infanteers on tanks.

Following these exercises, the Squadron returned to conduct post-ex drills, win the Regimental March and Shoot competition, enjoy a fantastic Black Hat professional development week, and have some much needed fun during the wind down for Christmas Break. 2015 brought with it many fun and exciting challenges, and Prince of Wales Squadron looks forward to another exciting year with another trip to Texas and two more wonderful months in Wainwright!

by MCpl Ryan Chase -

B Squadron enjoys combat first aid... a bit too much perhaps.



by Capt Mike Timms -

B Squadron letting off some steam during Ex STEELE SABRE 15



by Cpl Sean Coughlan -

B Squadron soldiers preparing for the next round of simulation training.





EMPOWERING

New PX3 Bite Regulator (BR) breathing orthotics offer unparalleled performance gains

PX3 Brain Science CEO Brad Layzell (Right) during visit to Wainwright. PX3 is a Calgary-based company that works directly with military service members to provide evidence-based solutions for enhanced performance and brain health.

Research conducted by the U.S. Military discovered that by using the PX3 BR subjects had significant instant gains in both aerobic and anaerobic capacity, which translates into greater strength, endurance and ability to think under pressure.

The PX3 BR is designed to properly align and stabilize the jaw. The alignment expands the airway and increases the flow of oxygen to the brain. The soft thermoplastic bite area cushions the teeth to prevent clenching of the jaw, common in high stress combat operations.

Like any machine, when you add more fuel, and create a bigger intake and exhaust system, the engine's performance will increase dramatically.

The PX3 BR is quickly becoming one of the most essential tools for any

military operator. Breathing and oxygen directly impact brain function, physical effort, sensory awareness and rapid decision-making, which are critical factors in overall success and survivability.

The PX3 BR is the only product that is scientifically proven and combat-tested to instantly increase human performance in real-time.

Over the last five years, the PX3 research division has been testing the BR with Military Special Forces Operators worldwide, including members of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians).

"We have tested the PX3 BR with the most extreme warriors in the world, in live-environments under the most extreme conditions in the world and continue to get same positive feedback." Said Dr. David Karli, PX3 Chief Medical Officer.

"I train and sleep every night with mine, the difference it has made for me has been amazing..." U.S. Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell (Ret'd), author of *The Lone Survivor*.



PX3 Bite Regulator™

To order yours, please visit:
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*Top: Capt Ali Raju and Capt Brandon Frizzell
have secured the RRB...I don't think this is what
the Signals Troop had in mind.*

*Bottom: MCpl Nick "Never
at Work" Patterson trying to
find his way through Training
Area D of CFB Edmonton*

Regimental Headquarters



Tip of the spear: Regimental Headquarters

Corporal Dave Symington

2015 has been a busy year for Regimental Headquarters (RHQ). We have had elements contribute to every regimental event. There was Ex STEELE BEASTS in Fort Hood, Texas, where RHQ played an integral role in supporting the Ex through intensive co-ordination with our hosts, the 1st Cavalry Division. RHQ coordinated the transportation of three Squadrons from Edmonton to Texas; which was no easy feat! Additionally, RHQ provided command and control to the Battle Group within the simulators and some of our personnel were able to participate in the simulation itself by driving, gunning, or loading where needed.

Shortly afterwards, RHQ deployed to Ex MAPLE RESOLVE (MR) 15 in order to act as the near-peer enemy force. The CO, **Lieutenant Colonel Josh “Diego Montoya” Major**, filled the role as enemy task-force commander and **Captain Tim “Supreme Leader” Day** demonstrated his sub-par acting skills in multiple public relations programs, propaganda videos, and other presentations during the exercise. The Regiment played the West Isle Forces, where despite fighting like the gallant Spartan warriors of the movie “300”, we were eventually “defeated” by the Canadians of “Joint Task Force – Isle” (5 CMBG and LdSH(RC)’s own B Sqn).

After Ex MR 15, the Regiment had a well-deserved Family Day where **Corporal Jon “I’m Getting Out, Leave Me Alone” Langlands** and other members of RHQ were employed in static displays of armoured fighting vehicles (AFVs) and other events such as tank rides, petting zoos, and a very popular dunk tank. Not only did the young “future Strathcona’s” get the opportunity to dunk several of the subalterns, a few of the NCM’s could not resist putting their bosses into the tank. 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron even graciously provided use of a helicopter for the event.

RHQ then deployed to Ex STEELE SABRE (SS) 15 in beautiful Wainwright, where we threw ourselves whole-heartedly into running the austere Command Post known as “Callsign Zero”. Gone are the days of lounging in P9: cam nets, cam paint, and continuous patrolling characterized this Ex. During Ex SS 15, we had Friends of the Regiment come to visit us in the field during our Community Outreach day, where they were able to experience many aspects of soldiering: cam paint (of course), MUAV presentations,

*99er Tac...first rule of
Zombieland is to limber up!*





Enjoying a beer on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 15.

firing small arms like the C7, seeing a Recce Observation Post in action, and even firing the main gun of the Leopard C2 Main Battle Tank.

To round out a solid year of activity, RHQ participated alongside Headquarters Squadron in the Regimental March & Shoot competition, where teams from each Squadron were randomly selected and tested in basic soldiering skills such as weapons assembly, vehicle maintenance, camp routine, and CBRN Drills. Most teams did well when it came to avoiding the mine field, which gave **Corporal Dave** “*I wrote this so I’m not getting a nickname*” **Symington** and **Corporal Jon** “*Bird Whisperer*” **Langlands** some spare time to make a new friend in the tree line. **Garry the Grouse** was very thankful to be escorted by hand through the simulated minefield. After the teams had completed all of the stands, they marched to the range and began the marksmanship part of the competition. RHQ performed well, but may be running a few extra ranges next year for completely unrelated reasons. All in all, RHQ anxiously awaited Christmas and all that 2016 may offer.

OPFOR Battle Group Planning on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE





Cpl Kelton "Rodeo Star" Watson, Lt Sean "Rainjacket" Coughlan, and Capt James "Arms are too big for my shirt" Anderson participate in the Edmonton leg of the Ride Across Canada with Communities for Veterans Foundation.

A hazy sunset as the Combat Team prepares for an assault on the Objective on Ex KAPYONG MACE



Maj Darryn Gray presents WO Ken Shiells with an A Sqn certificate and new A Sqn coin



A Squadron

*All is quiet as the Sqn waits for H Hour...
destruction will soon follow*





The SHQ boys having a brief rest between attacks. Cpl Justin "Under the Stars" Matchett having a laugh with Tpr Calvin "It's Choy" Tsui.

Adaptable A

Captain Mike Dullege

*One night I had a dream A Squadron was walking on a beach.
Many scenes from the past year flashed across the sky.
In each one I saw footprints in the sand;
sometimes two sets, but mostly one.
This bothered me because mostly the single set of footprints
was during the high tempo periods.
These were periods where I was suffering from loneliness,
exhaustion, gastro, or poison ivy.
As I looked back, I could see the silhouette of HQ Sqn;
They addressed my hardships and ensured that I was able to achieve my objectives
As I regained my momentum and advanced further;
I could hear the echoing requests from B Sqn
"Hey, can you take care of our lowbed plan?"*

Chirps are free. As with every squadron of the Regiment, this year saw a series of changes and challenges met by the soldiers of A Squadron - and met well. The Soldiers and Officers of the Squadron always lived up to their mantra of "work hard, play hard" and rocked the year yet again. Led by our fearless command team of **Major Darryn "Frank the Tank" Gray** and **Master Warrant Officer Cordell "Entrepreneur" Boland**, the Squadron completed all of its tasks, of which there were plenty, and still had fun doing it. Supporting the command team for the first half of the year were the **2IC Captain James "Wanna Wrestle" Anderson** and **BC Captain Dave "Why do I keep getting a Coyote?" Williams**. Support was also, allegedly, available from the SQ staff **Warrant Officer Ken "I am a Trooper today" Shiells**, **Master Corporal Derek "Crack the whip on Trooper Shiells" Murdoch** and **Corporal Matthew Tobin** - "You're Welcome".

After a blistering cold season in Edmonton, the soldiers of A Squadron departed familiar territory to conduct Exercise STEELE BEASTS on the US Army's Close Combat Tactical Trainer (M1A1 and M1A2 Abrams Simulators) in Fort Hood, Texas. During the trip the Squadron conducted a series of training - both practical and simulation based, with everyone taking something different away from the experience. Killeen, Texas offered many sights and local establishments of high repute, including Rudy's BBQ House where every \$1 Lone Star beer was quickly annihilated. In hindsight, there were also many nice army things which took place on this adventure. 3rd Cavalry Division put on a pretty impressive dog and pony for us, and facilitated a tour of their museum. The sheer volume of armoured fighting vehicles and firepower we saw was worth the trip. At the end of the exercise, the Squadron certainly left its mark on Texas, perhaps more so than they had left on us.

MAPLE RESOLVE saw the Squadron employed both as friendly and enemy tanks. On the enemy side, **Lieutenant Sean "Tiny Dancer" Coughlin** led 1st Troop, under the command of **Lieutenant Colonel Josh "Diego Montoya" Major** against the invading infidels of 5th Brigade. 1st Troop executed two weeks of workup training after combining with Recce Squadron, to form a "Cavalry Squadron" that would mercilessly punish the French Battlegroups over and over and over. Demonstrating outstanding

ability to adapt and overcome, 1st Troop created and refined a series of tactics that would prove fatal to the invading Force. Concurrently, the remainder of the Squadron was split in all other possible directions. The Squadron, always ready and able, covered off tasks throughout the operating area as COEFOR villagers, observer controllers, supported the command and control in C/S 0 and sustainment in C/S 8, as well as augmenting the primary training audience of B Squadron. Acting as COEFOR, several A Squadron soldiers watched as American forces invaded their territorial land. In the northern villages, skirmishes broke out here and there, the villagers paid the heaviest toll. In the south, villagers like **Corporals Lukas "Consuela" McKenzie** and **Kelton "Chipa" Watson** made their way to the northern townships to pay their respects to the unarmed villagers killed by both American and 5th Brigade forces.



A Squadron took the lead at Spruce Meadows during the Calgary Stampede, an event that is always a welcome busy period for Strathcona soldiers. Starting preparations in June, The Squadron was augmented with members from throughout the Regiment, ultimately creating an exceptional 100-man guard. Two guards of honour - one each under **Sergeants Ryan "Touch of Grey" Vigar** and **Dave "Show me your War face" McMurtry** - spent hours practicing and refining their movements. The practice was well worth it. During the Calgary Stampede, no matter how long spectators had been out in the hot sun they always rose up a roar when the Squadron walked by.

Exercise KAPYONG MACE saw the return of the Leopard tank to Shilo, Manitoba, for Road to High Readiness training with 2nd Battalion, PPCLI. Deploying its tanks by rail, lowbed, crane, pirate, illegally chartered bi-plane, and seagull, the Squadron was able to field its full complement. The Battalion was excited to work with us and continually showed us nothing but love. Under the leadership of their command team **Lieutenant-Colonel Wayne Niven** and **Chief Warrant Officer James Smith**, the Squadron seamlessly incorporated into the overall team. As is usually the case, the Panzers needed a little stretch before the main exercise and our Vehicle Outstanding Repair list quickly exploded. With the support of our sleepless maintainers led by **Sergeant Gary Covey** we were able to field the team required to reach Battle Group level training before summing up the Ex. The Squadron demonstrated tremendous professionalism throughout, not to mention the pinnacle of beer pong skills...funnily enough "Pisco Pong" was taken back to Chile following the RUE in Wainwright with us the previous year...

Cpls Edward "The Red" Snoek and Ryan "I think I Took Too Much Pre" Blacklock discuss Troop tactics with SHQ during Ex KAPYONG MACE.



Exercise STEELE CASCADE saw 1st Troop deploy from wintery Edmonton to Iquiqu, Chile, to continue our ongoing relationship with the Chilean Army Armour Cavalry School – also known as the Centro de Entrenamiento de Combate Acorazado Del Ejercito (CECOMBAC). Wrangling this expedition independently, **Lieutenant Sean "Black Swan" Coughlin** took his Troop, without adult supervision, to the warmer pastures of the south. The Troop participated in simulation drills, WES style ranges, and subsequently a live fire and tactical component within a Battle Group context out in the Chilean desert. The team did exactly as expected – they represented the Squadron, the Regiment, and Canada to the highest level. After action report collected, high-fives and loot trophies amassed, the Troop had some more beach time to bronze up before returning to Edmonton to suffer winter with the rest of us.

Throughout the year, the Squadron gave up soldiers in droves to the Canadian Patrol Competition, Worthington Challenge, and primary combat function courses, yet eagerly tackled every challenge presented. The most agreeable, adaptable, and aggressive Squadron in the Regiment, "To Work or Fight, We are Ready."



3 Troop Recce Sqn with soldiers from Longknife Sqn of the 3rd US Cavalry Sqn.
From left to right: Cpl Nieuwhof, Tpr Maddison, Cpl Grant, Tpr Martin, MCpl Alwani, Lt Labrecque,
Tpr Oaten, Sgt Johnston, Cpl Danczak, Cpl Bazinet, Tpr Hibbert, WO Ross.

Live Fire at dusk on Ex RECCE RELOAD



Recce Squadron

Recce Leads the Way!

Major Peter Beitz

2015 proved to be another busy and exciting year for Reconnaissance Squadron (Recce Sqn) and its soldiers. Kicking off the year with a deployment to Fort Hood, Texas, in late February, two troops from Recce Sqn participated in Exercise STEELE BEASTS – a joint training exercise, using state-of-the-art Bradley simulators, with our American allies. Recce Sqn soldiers not only got to practice combat team operations, foster working relations with our US Cavalry brethren, but they also enjoyed experiencing traditional Texan BBQs!

Augmented with a tank troop from A Squadron, Recce Sqn deployed to Wainwright, AB, in April to play enemy force during Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE. This tank/recce hybrid became the testing ground for the LdSH(RC) Calvary Squadron (Cav Sqn), demonstrating true Strathcona aggression and war-fighting spirit against 5 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (5 CMBG). At the onset of the exercise, the Cav Sqn conducted numerous rehearsals aimed at stopping the enemy's advance. These rehearsals proved worthwhile, as its guard actions took the advancing enemy by surprise, decimating its lead forces. Once 5 CMBG transitioned into defensive operations, our Cav Sqn was able to conduct raid operations in depth, using recce tactics and stealth to our advantage. Ending mid-May, Ex MAPLE RESOLVE proved to be a challenging experience for 5 CMBG soldiers, thanks to the sound tactics and relentless spirit of the LdSH(RC) OPFOR Battle Group.

The summer months showcased the annual barrage of community outreach events, to include equipment demonstrations and static displays during Canada Day, Spruce Meadows, and the Calgary Stampede. This year, Recce Sqn was tasked to design, build, and run the Spruce Meadows "Heroes Behind the Heroes" run. This aim of this run, which incorporated various obstacles throughout, was to raise money for the Military Families Fund. Creative Recce Sqn soldiers put together challenging obstacles, including a 20-ft climbing wall, "Ambush Alley," tire roll, "Hamburger Hill," and the polar dip water obstacle at the finish. A great experience for all, Recce Sqn ventured to Calgary to prove the course and visit The Military Museums.

Just when everyone was ready to begin a well-deserved summer leave, uncontrollable fires broke out across northern Saskatchewan. Western Canada's Immediate Reaction Unit (IRU) was mobilized to support provincial firefighters. Recce Sqn's IRU Patrol was dispatched immediately to support, and a



*Recce Sqn in Spruce Meadows
"proving" the obstacle course.*





*Regimental Canadian Patrolling
Concentration Team gets a shout-out from the
Brigade Commander and the Regiment.*

number of other Recce soldiers soon followed. The IRU Patrol conducted tireless route classification patrols while the remaining Recce soldiers supported local firefighting efforts on foot. Gladly, after a few long, tiring weeks, the fires subsided, and Recce Sqn soldiers were able to safely return to their families for their remaining summer leave.

Numerous manning changes after summer leave gave Recce Sqn a considerable facelift, with new Armoured soldiers arriving from Gagetown, NB, ready to commence Brigade Road to High Readiness

Training. As the Brigade Recce Sqn, we kicked off the fall training serial with numerous courses, including the 25mm gunnery course, and a Coyote driver course. The entire Sqn deployed to Wainwright, AB, at the end of August to finish off the gunnery course at the range and conduct Exercise RECCE RELOAD (Ex RR), an exercise focused on refreshing and refining basic soldier and field-craft skills in a comfortable, administrative posture conducive to maximising learning. After firing off countless 25mm rounds at the range and conducting exciting field-craft training, Ex RR ended with a memorable smoker and bonfire.

At the onset of October, Recce Sqn was ready to deploy on its first field exercise of the training year – Exercise STEELE SABRE. This exercise showcased Recce Sqn skills and capabilities during the 25mm gun camp, calling in live indirect-fire after troop zone recces, force-on-force training with augmentation from the primary reserves, dismounted operations behind enemy lines with helicopter insertions, masterful use and integration of the Multi-mission Unmanned Aerial System, manning mounted and dismounted observation posts, and the successful conduct of numerous mounted reconnaissance tasks. For the final training event, Recce Sqn was tasked to perform the role of the enemy force against the LdSH(RC) Battle Group (BG). Although the first few waves of our final attack were pre-planned, to support the BG's training objectives, Recce Sqn's cunning and unorthodox methods reaped success when half of Recce Sqn outflanked the BG's defensive position, using Wainwright's bluffs to cover our approach. Throughout this exercise the Regiment's Canadian Patrol Concentration (CPC) Team, led by Recce Sqn junior officers and soldiers, trained day and night for their gruelling competition. After a short, but high-tempo exercise, the soldiers were able to relax and reminisce about their training experiences over a few beers at the Sqn smoker.

The annual year wound down with some much deserved short training weeks in November, coupled with a memorable Remembrance Day, March and Shoot, and Prince of Wales sports day. The CPC demonstrated steadfast determination, perseverance, and resilience throughout their multi-day competition in unfavourable weather conditions, and all team members ended their patrol with a strong finish and their heads high. The very act of completing the CPC event is something that very few soldiers could ever brag about. The Sqn entered December with the traditional Holiday Festivities, including a nail-biting CO's challenge (with a close finish), holiday sports day, and the soldiers Christmas dinner. The outstanding skill and professionalism showcased by Recce Sqn soldiers throughout 2015 continuously demonstrated why Recce Sqn Leads the Way!

*WO Jason Pargeter prepping the RAVEN
MUAV for flight.*





12:08PM

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Cpl Richard Wagner has named his own wheels...or does it belong to someone else already...I suppose possession is 9/10 of the law...?



*Top: Sgt Mike Doody and Sgt Sebastien Paille
firin' up some steaks!*



*WO Holmes, Corporal Smith, and Tpr Snowdon
defend B Sqn's rations prior to resupply.*



*CDUC is prepared for the Zombie
Apocalypse...that is comforting*

Headquarters Squadron



*Hornburg doing some heavy lifting during Op
STEELE TORQUE*



Headquarters Squadron

“You Call, We Haul!”

Captain Stephen Couture

Headquarters Squadron is an extremely diverse organization. We are a combination of maintainers, cooks, medical technicians, armoured soldiers and all sorts of other trades. We all come together to create a cohesive team, with a mission to provide the Regiment with seamless, continuous support to operations. 2015 was a very busy year for Headquarters Squadron. We took on new challenges and successfully implemented some major changes.

The other Squadrons within the Regiment began 2015 in the usual fashion; qualifying soldiers as tank drivers and gunners, conducting their winter adventure training and catching up on some Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS). In stark contrast, the soldiers of Headquarters Squadron spent the first few months of 2015 using air tools, removing and replacing tank armour and turning wrenches. Operation STEELE TORQUE was a Regimental maintenance concentration. Maintenance personnel from all Squadrons and from throughout the Brigade centralized under HQ Squadron leadership to tackle the major task of completing overdue annual inspections and preparing these tanks to deploy in time for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 15. Bringing the Regiment up to operational capacity was no small task; however through the determination of our maintenance team under the leadership of HQ Squadron, the Regiment deployed with the tanks and trucks needed... and most of them were fixed!

As a much needed break from tank maintenance, Headquarters Squadron was tasked with planning and executing the final Command Team Challenge of the fiscal year on the 23rd of March. It was the last chance to gain the points needed to win the Prince of Wales competition. The challenge was designed to emphasise HQ Squadron centric tasks. It included Combat Service Support Millionaire, track build/tire chain install, HAZMAT clean-up, First Aid, Ranger Rodeo, a Command Post Challenge, a Mobile Kitchen Trailer set-up, and a finally a cook-off. **Sergeant Conway Eady** and **Master Corporal Leon VanHeerden** acted as MCs for this event, producing some hilarious commentary, which was broadcast to the entire Regiment on a big screen. The CO, RSM and Regimental Second in Command were the final judges to determine which Squadron produced the best tasting food. Despite the fact that the HQ Squadron cooks didn't win the cook-off, we still placed first and second overall in the Command Team

*Transport Troop preparing for a Delivery Point
during Ex STEELE SABRE*

*Maj Al Wong marking
the In Route into the
Battle Group Support
Area during Ex STEELE
SABRE*





Challenge – a feat not seen in some time!

This year the Regiment was given a mandate to command an OPFOR (Opposing Force) Battle Group on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE. We were tasked to give 5 Brigade a realistic and dynamic enemy (aka a walloping). This was a huge opportunity for HQ Squadron to prove itself as the Combat Service Support element in support of a Battle Group of approximately 500 soldiers. While the Battle Group was ruining 5 Brigade's morale through a series of crushing defeats, HQ Squadron was facing the everyday challenges of transporting soldiers and supplies to the battlefield, obtaining commodities and services, repairing and recovering vehicles, and feeding the Battle Group. HQ Squadron, led by **Major Clayton Gardner** and acting Camp Sergeant Major **Master Warrant Officer Tony Mayfield** was up to the task. Regimental Transport, under the guidance of **Captain Mathew Hoffart** and **Warrant Officer Harry Delaney** was extremely busy this exercise, as they took on the task of resupplying such a large force. Maintenance, under the direction of **Captain Pat Theroux**, **Master Warrant Officer Greg Hawkins**, and **Warrant Officer Gerald Lefebvre** had their hands full repairing the aged Leopard C2 main battle tanks. Most impressively, however, despite the fact that Second in Command HQ, **Captain John "JK" Kim** was always up to his waist in Battle Group level coordination, **Captain Laurel "The One and Only" Frizzell** seemed to have the time to knit "tacticool" toques for many members of the Regiment. In all seriousness though, her toques were awesome, and **Lieutenant Colonel Josh Major** proudly wore his throughout the entire exercise. After the conclusion of six weeks in Wainwright on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, every member of HQ Squadron was happy to go home (except maybe **Corporal Nicholas "Bob" Morin** who could not remember where he placed his keys!)

On Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 15 we re-learned how to resupply a Battle Group in operations. Ex STEELE SABRE 15 gave us a brand new team of soldiers and leaders, and an opportunity to continue to rejuvenate the way HQ Squadron operates. **Major Al "The Right Way" Wong** and **Squadron Sergeant Major Kevin "Blackout Drive" King** set out to guide HQ Sqn the right way forward. Doctrinally, a HQ Squadron needs to be capable of moving. We need to be able to maintain our support to the Regiment during the advance by advancing with them! Unfortunately, over the last 20 years or so, the Regiment has employed HQ Squadron in a much more comfortable, static role. We produced a much more agile version of C/S 8. Fueled by delicious field coffee, the 2IC, **Captain Cam "No" Meikle** and Administration Officer **Captain Darren "MCpl" Carter-Wright** worked to develop Standard Operating Procedures that we will pass on to the next generation of C/S 8. Transport Troop was very busy throughout Ex STEELE SABRE 15. **Captain Shaun "DB" Rogozinski** and his Alpha, **Warrant Officer Ben Holmes** developed a Transport Troop capable of conducting tactical resupply of the Battle Group. **Captain Matt "I'm glad I'm not the Transport O" Hoffart**, the ROR, even the cooks (To **Sergeant Mike "You can't see me" Doody's** delight) were even covered in cam paint and playing tactically. Overall, the top highlight of Ex STEELE SABRE 15 was when **Warrant Officer Leah "Minnie" Posluns**, Chief Clerk, woke up at 0300 with a mouse in her sleeping bag!

HQ Sqn is a big team. We have a lot of players, and we achieve a lot of diverse functions. This year we proved that we can do our job while wearing cam-paint and conducting our operations tactically. That's something that we can be proud of.

German MND Visit in Calgary





A Sqn personnel relax under the full moon at the Sqn smoker



*Setting up camp as **Maj Brian Roach** supervises...man who owns this tent anyway??*



***Cpl Robert Gordon** making the best possible use of cam paint during the smoker.*



***LCol Diego Montoya** declares a ransom on the head of **Col Fortin**.*



***Sgt Colin "Puppies!!!!" Davidson** finds a new friend.*

Training

***Sgt Conway Eady** showing off his new head gear during the meet and greet.*



***Cpl Lukas McKenzie** blowing out the cleaning bays of **Chusca**.*



Ex STEELE BEASTS

Corporal Derrick Popoff



Cpl Derrick Popoff intensely trying to figure out how to make the simulator function before being destroyed by the virtual enemy.

Normally the thought of coming into work at 0300 hrs on a Saturday would give anybody the blahs. But this Saturday was different, this Saturday brought something else; it brought a promise of freedom. In all seriousness, the word “freedom” was uttered an astonishing four thousand six hundred and thirty three times before we boarded our flight. B Squadron was on its way to Fort Hood, Texas to engage in some exceptional training and A Squadron would also get this same opportunity the following week.

After we landed and found our way to our home for the week, we settled in and started getting hyped for the training ahead, but that all had to wait for Monday because the Strathcona's were hungry! We immediately took over the Fort Hood Chili's and in classic fashion, overwhelmed the establishment with enthusiasm and savvy. A whirlwind weekend filled with BBQ and \$1 Lone Star beers (Texas' national beer) came to a close and the week's forecast of 0600 hrs PT was imminent. The proud black swarm rumbled down the streets, drawing stares of admiration and most likely

confusion but the Strathcona's looked good and now everyone knew they were there.

Down to business now as the Squadrons had the opportunity to use simulators for the M1A1 & A2 Abrams and see how other tank operating systems ran in comparison to their own. Along with adapting to the new turret and drivers station of the foreign tank, the Squadrons also got to experience what it was like to fight along our American brothers and sisters. We honed our skills as a Squadron and gained valuable know-how through the week but it wasn't all work. Mid-week, the gunners and drivers had the chance to take in some of the many monuments scattered throughout the base featuring historic vehicles of all types and a VIP tour through 1st Cavalry Division's museum. The next day, commanders were invited to be guests at the Regiment for a meet and greet which turned into a giant hat exchange. So like I said, after business was done, there was plenty of let-loose time and fun was had by all. That is, until the morning of the great storm!

We awoke to snow on Thursday. Now I'm not sure how much you know about Texas, but the icy roads delayed report time by three hours. Do you think that would delay the Canadians? HA! Not at all! B Squadron was up at 0600 hrs ready for some isolated PT. In my opinion, we shook it up and now the Americans will thank us for leading the way for winter weather PT for themselves; you're welcome America! As the week drew to an end, we all were thankful for our experience. Missing our homes and chalk full of souvenirs for our loved ones, sweet patches, and Stetsons for ourselves, we packed up and left Texas just as fast as we arrived. Until next time Texas, the Regiment will never forget you!

B Sqn along with the American counterparts posing for a group photo in Fort Hood, Texas.



Ex MAPLE RESOLVE and Ex REFLEXE RAPIDE

Captain Mike Timms

Prince of Wales (B) Squadron spent the spring of 2015 in the beautiful training grounds that are Wainwright, Alberta. The Squadron was to hone their collective fighting skills as part of Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 15 and Ex REFLEXE RAPIDE 15. Together, these exercises would be the culmination of the road to high readiness with the 1st Battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment (1 R22eR) as part of Task Force 1-15. The first exercise, MAPLE RESOLVE 15, would be a force-on-force training event pitting 5 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (5 GBMC) with B Squadron attached to them against the smaller but more agile Strathcona Battle Group opposing force (OPFOR). The second exercise, REFLEXE RAPIDE 15, would confirm 1 R22eR's ability to fight with combined arms groupings and live ammunition.

The Squadron departed for Wainwright in mid-April for Exercises MAPLE RESOLVE 15. It was a slow start, with the first week of nothing but maintenance, rehearsals, and briefings. This turned out to be quite necessary, as the majority of 1 R22eR soldiers and leaders had never before worked with tanks. And, much needed tank parts would be ordered early enough to make it from their home in Montreal to us out in Wainwright. With much hard work, B Squadron rolled out of the staging area in the northwest of training area with most of its tanks to the start point for the force-on-force training, which was in the far southeast. In early May, the force-on-force training kicked off, though again, rather slowly. The first three days of the two week battle were spent hiding in a wood line conducting battle procedure, and waiting to be unleashed! Some soldiers found this wait agonizing, and took up some interesting hobbies. The tools whittled by 1st Troop while in that harbour would fetch them a good price from the Regiment's previous maintenance officer!

Eventually, the Squadron was thrown into the mix and begun leading the 5 GBMC advance west. Despite the determined attempts by the OPFOR to disrupt us, the Squadron advance was initially very effective. Though, it was eventually held back for the brigade reconnaissance elements to better define the enemy situation. When the advance resumed, 1 R22eR was to destroy a series of enemy positions.

21C renames itself Pillbox after day three of being stranded in the badlands.

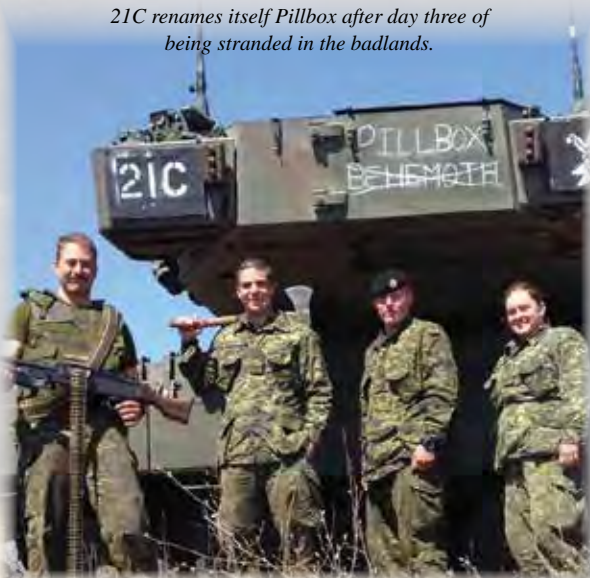
It would learn several very hard lessons from a skilled Strathcona OPFOR battlegroup. Most significantly, it would learn that not bringing tanks along on the assault results in unimaginably high casualty rates! Eventually, the 1 R22eR battlegroup took back the initiative and begun using manoeuvre to force the OPFOR west of the Battle River. During this, B Squadron conducted large sweeping manoeuvres supported by aviation reconnaissance to hunt down and destroy OPFOR armoured forces. One such manoeuvre, dubbed the Battle of the 009, saw half of the Squadron enveloping the OPFOR tanks by chasing them through the scorched badlands into a trap.

The final act for the 5 GBMC training would be a deliberate crossing of the Battle River to quash the OPFOR once and for all. But, before this could happen



These are the best idea ever!"

SSM Kevin King, WO Steve Churchill, WO Cari-An Barker



the brigade would need to adopt a defence to head off a resurgence of enemy. Massive effort was put into the creations of dozens of kilometers of dug-in defensive works. When the enemy did come, they pushed through a small gap in the north, bypassing much of this defensive. But, B Squadron was there to come to the rescue! 1st Troop headed off the initial penetration, and played cat and mouse with the enemy Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel Josh Major**. The Squadron Officer Commanding, **Major Sandy Cooper**, soon arrived with 2nd and 4th Troops to destroy the remaining enemy penetrating forces and plug the gap. The following day, 5 GBMC crossed the river, fought a difficult uphill battle, and secured the far bank. The force-on-force was complete, with many invaluable lessons having been learned.

The next exercise, REFLEXE RAPIDE, began just a few days after the force-on-force. Initially, some were concerned that the objective which had been designed for the live fire training was not suitable for tanks. After the first run led by B Squadron, they were reminded that any country is tank country, and tanks are the best tool for any enemy objective. The Squadron set the standard, demonstrating to 1 R22eR and 5 GBMC what a combined arms assault should look like. It was a beautiful symphony of artillery, helicopter machinegun fire, tank fire and manoeuvre, synchronized breaching by tanks and engineers, and sweeping destruction by intimate support tanks and dismounted infantry. B Squadron completed in about an hour what took the subsequent combat teams at least three hours. The range would be repeated several times by day and night with each of the 1 R22eR companies. Tired and proud of a successful trip to Wainwright, the Squadron was validated for the high readiness cycle and returned to Edmonton for some much needed post-exercises drills.



The ambulance crew having popsicles during a brief moment of peace.



Ex MAPLE RESOLVE – OPFOR BG

Captain Darren Carter-Wright

On 18 Apr 15, Recce Sqn LdSH(RC) deployed to Wainwright, Alberta augmented with a tank Troop from A Sqn to form the LdSH(RC) Cavalry Sqn for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 2015 (Ex MR 15) as part of the Port-Au-Prince OPFOR Battle Group (BG). Over the next five weeks, Cav Sqn would show 5 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (CMBG) the aggression and war fighting spirit required to face Canada's Army of the West. The exercise's high operational tempo and full spectrum training tested soldiers from both Brigades and honed their war fighting skills, confirming 5 GBMC as Canada's high readiness Brigade.

The first two weeks in Wainwright saw Cav Sqn stage out of Camp RICHARDSON, the OPFOR BG's home for the duration of the task. During this initial two weeks, Cav Sqn was afforded the time to conduct Troop and Sqn level manoeuvre before moving into the BG rehearsals. During this time the Recce troops dusted off the cob-webs and brought their basic Recce skills up to par while the tankers conducted maintenance on their well-used Leopard C2s. **Master Corporal Jordan "Camp RICHARDSON is my home" Churchill** did at one point manage to get his Leopard running for half a day's training. This time allowed the Recce troops to learn the ground on which they would operate during the fight with 5 Brigade and to sight a number of Observation Posts (OPs) from which they would eventually bring the enemy's advance to a grinding halt. **Warrant Officer Pete "old man" Jones** managed to find all of the sweet spots in the Badlands of Wainwright and sight OPs that offered excellent fields of view and standoff.

BG rehearsals allowed Cav Sqn to get a feel for what 5 Bde's advance would look like and close the gaps in our screen line that the CO, acting as OPFOR DIV Recce, managed to sneak through. Prior to commencing BG rehearsals, the BG was fortunate enough to receive three inches of snow, which cancelled the BG sports day and pushed us right into the first smoker of the Ex. It is unclear who had the better time: **Trooper Gunny "your 'ol dad" Grewal**, who made friends with his new "homie," **Squadron Sergeant Major Robert Bagole** or **Master Corporal Mark "broken glasses" Peachy**, who completed an obstacle course made out of barrack boxes and cots.

On the 2nd of May, the Op Box closed and the force on force kicked off with Cav Sqn set in a screen line, poised and ready to bring the fight to 5 Bde. Over the next 48 hrs, Cav Sqn conducted "Phase Zero" of the operation, allowing 5 GBMC to utilize its ISTAR assets to gather intelligence on a fake screen line before Cav Sqn adopted their real guard positions and awaited first contact. When enemy Recce began their advance, they were taken by surprise by our guard, now located 1500 meters forward of what their intelligence had reported. This element of surprise allowed Cav Sqn to decimate the enemy Recce and

OPFOR Tank Troop





Supreme Leader
Tim Day



pushed some elements of 5 Bde into reconstitution before they could even cross the Line of Departure (LD) with their main body. Reporting was accurate for the most part but as sleep became scarcer the soldiers were obviously feeling the effects. At one point, C/S 4 received a report from **Master Corporal Travis** “*the RSM wants my eyes checked*” **Silcox**, “CONTACT LAV... wait no that’s a deer...” The next nine days would see many sleepless nights for Cav Sqn, as they conducted their Guard task of fighting the counter-reconnaissance battle and falling back to subsequent OPs as the enemy inched forward towards their objectives.

As 5 GBMC transitioned from offence to defence, Cav Sqn was given the opportunity to conduct raiding tasks. They attacked the enemy in its depth and constantly disrupted its battle rhythm. This transition allowed Cav Sqn to take a brief pause, to get a hot meal and shower before resuming its Screen task along the Battle River. The remainder of the exercise saw Cav Sqn defining the enemy’s Main Defensive Area (MDA) and reporting on their advance as they began their final offensive push. A highlight of this was when **Corporal Curtis** “*no FFO*” **Schafer** had the opportunity to go and enjoy some poutine in 5 GBMC’s mess after being

captured by enemy snipers while sighting an OP.

5 GBMC conducted an impressive bridging operation to cross the Battle River; sustaining few casualties (as 1 Bde remained handcuffed on the Western bank). When they finally managed to reach the Western bank, with Cav Sqn given the green light, the enemy experienced the fight 1 CMBG was waiting to bring. As the enemy’s advance was slowed by 1 PPCLI’s defensive positions and accurate fire from 1 RCHA’s guns, Cav Sqn launched a counter attack on Sebert Ford with its remaining call signs.

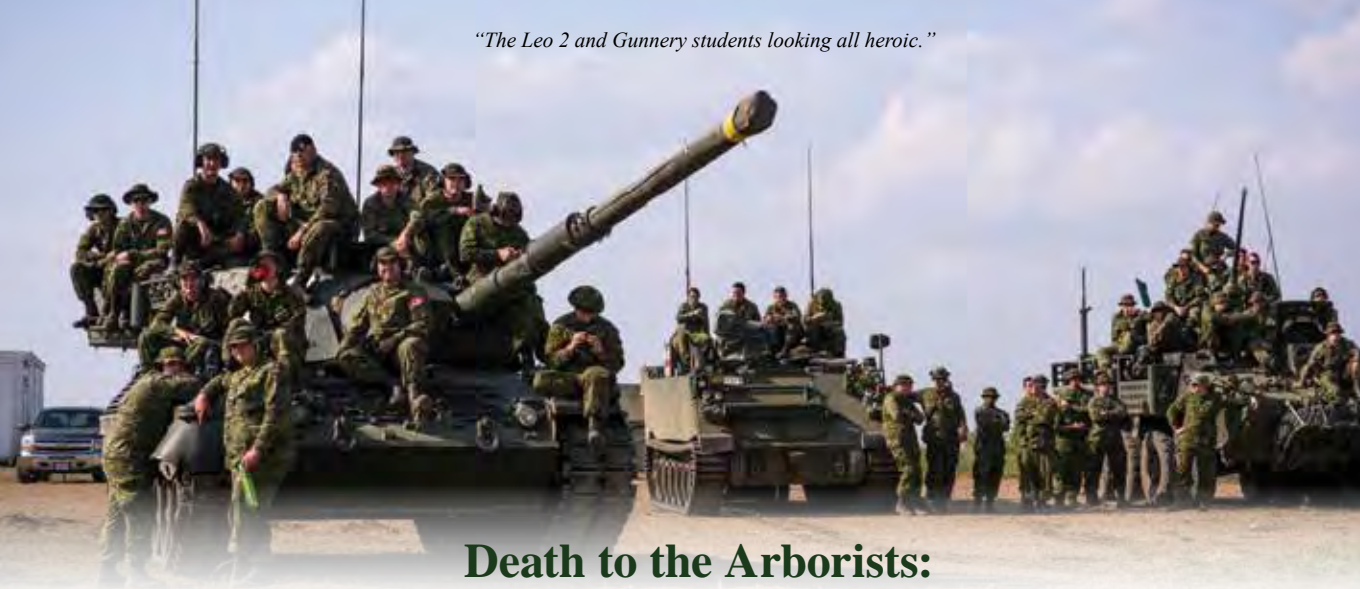
The exercise ended on 16 May, with 5 GBMC licking their wounds after learning some hard lessons over the duration of the exercise. Cav Sqn reconstituted one last time in Camp RICHARDSON for beers, awards, promotions and remediation before a well-deserved redeployment on 20 May. The soldiers of Cav Sqn fought hard throughout and earned some well-deserved recognition for the fight they brought to 5 Bde, knowing they will face similar challenges as they adopt the high readiness role in the coming year.



LCol Diego Montoya gives aid to the local villagers.

IIA ready for battle





Death to the Arborists: Strathconas Destroy Their Wooded Foes

Lieutenant Cam "Where did I leave those Course Reports?" Ross

During the first week of September the students of the Leopard 2 Gunnery courses, the TOC course, and the crews of B Squadron faced off against their timeless and most hated enemy on the range – rectangular wooden targets. The gunnery courses began with students from all modules conducting static shoots during the day and at night, destroying those dastardly wooden rectangles at range before pushing the carnage and wood chips up close and personal during the firing-on-the-move exercises. Although some were nervous at the prospect of firing service HEAT rounds for the first time, by the time these new turret crews mounted their tanks on the night of the 1st of September, the confidence of each new gunner, loader, and crew commander had grown noticeably. Each crew displayed the culmination of their skills by conducting their final night moving shoots with fantastic speed and violence.

This is of course thanks to the dedicated effort of instructors who spent many hours with students, hammering in the theory of gunnery under the watchful eyes of our resident gunnery Subject Matter Expert, **Sergeant Kyle Chuback**. After hammering their students with theory, the instructors brought them into the simulators and began the arduous task of driving home the drills and aggressive mentality required of turret crews. Their success was obvious to all, as the gunnery drills were heard in all their violent glory throughout the Regiment. Without doubt the instructors of the Leopard and 25mm gunnery courses successfully bred a new generation of loaders, gunners, and crew commanders. These former students proved their readiness to join the turret crews of their respective Squadrons and fight tonight if called upon.

Following the courses and under the watchful and pre-workout crazed eyes of **Lieutenant TJ "Fail me and you're dead!" Casey** and **Sergeant Ryan "Harder than Christmas candy" Vigar**, the Regiment's Worthington Cup Team attempted to set a record for how fast they can blast 120mm rounds down range. The team was pushed to the limits of human gunnery skill. If they didn't beat the rounds-per-minute record, they surely got close; no one remembered them being there any longer than 15 minutes after they arrived, but a significant amount of ammo was missing and a few fires were raging down range.

Following the Worthington Cup Team shoots, the crews of B Squadron got the opportunity to refresh their skills and break in some new crews. There are few things more fun in this world than blowing stuff up, and it showed on the faces of the soldiers of B Squadron as they thoroughly dismantled a range that took **Sergeant Kyle "I'll swear on the radio all I want" Chuback** the better part of a week to set up in 18 hours. Though, there was some overzealous gunnery. Particularly, by **Master Corporal Cam "What do you mean 'not observed?'" Davidson** when he effectively jumpstarted Canada's space program by successfully launching a 120mm service HEAT round into orbit. Many staff officers at NORAD and the CAF Space Cadre were jealous and defeated by the interstellar accomplishments of **Master Corporal Cam "The artillery man" Davidson's** crew. In all, I think the piles of wooden splinters and grass fires are a good indication of the gun camp's success.



Ex TEMPEST RAM 2015

Corporal Sean Coughlan

In June 2015, 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG) held an exciting training opportunity for motorcycle enthusiast soldiers. Ex TEMPEST RAM was planned to enhance motorcycle safety, while exploring the diverse landscape of Western Canada and fostering esprit-de-corps. Ex TEMPEST RAM also doubled as a memorial ride for **Sergeant Ginette Gauthier**, who was killed in a single-vehicle motorcycle crash at 2000hrs on June 16, 2014.

This was the second year Ex TEMPEST RAM was run, and it was a well organised adventure training opportunity for members of 1 CMBG and 3rd Canadian Division. Due to the motorcycle crash in 2014, as a safety precaution the requirements for participants were tightened. Riders in Ex TEMPEST RAM were required to have a full motorcycle licence and participate in a motorcycle safety refresher course. All packets had one Track 4, one GPS, and one emergency communication device in case an incident arose.

Personally, there are few things as enjoyable and relaxing as riding with friends, and to do it as adventure training was a win-win scenario. Ex TEMPEST RAM consisted of motorcycle safety training on the 2nd and 3rd of June and a ride from CFB Edmonton to Aspen Beach lake view camp ground for a BBQ on 4 June 2015. Secondary highways were used, and on 5 June 2015 we returned to CFB Edmonton.

My Ex TEMPEST RAM 2015 ride began early, but not very bright at 0700hrs on 4 June 2015. There was a nip in the air and it was overcast on my way to 1 CMBG Headquarters as I desperately hoped that it wasn't going to rain. At 0730hrs we assembled for the opening remarks, remembrance ceremony, and pre-ride prayer. Then the waiting game, as we needed to break-up the Brigade's riders into smaller packets and have time between packets for safety. My packet, led by **Sergeant Colin Davidson**, left at 1045hrs. This was good as the temperature had increased significantly and it was only somewhat cloudy at this point. As relaxing as it was to be on two wheels going through the beautiful Alberta countryside, I have to admit there were more than a few points where I was praying to Our Lord and Father Sam Steele himself beseeching Him to "please not let it rain." Little by little we worked our way to Aspen Beach and although there were a few wet sections of road, Sam Steele smiled upon us and my prayers were heeded as we managed to stay dry for the most part. Arriving at the campsite we set up our tents and assembled for dinner, which was amazing and consisted of steak, baked potatoes, corn, and many varieties of beverage. Let the party begin!

The next day I rode to Edmonton in a separate three person fast pack along Highway 2 because a friend's family member was hospitalized. Thankfully it turned out to not be a serious incident and I checked in at 1 CMBG Headquarters later that day. The fact that the Brigade let us travel home separately shows that the army family cares and will look out for members.

Bikers have a bond to begin with and it's always nice to see bikes of all styles together. But it is especially awesome to have a chance like Ex TEMPEST RAM where the people that gather are not just connected through the love of riding but also by the fact that we are all soldiers, an extended family assembling for a common goal. All in all, Ex TEMPEST RAM was a very enjoyable time and I hope we get the opportunity to do it again next year.



Ex STEELE SUMMER

Captain Patrick Theroux

From 22 to 26 June 2015, Headquarters Squadron along with the Regiment's other Clerks and Maintainers headed to Spruce Point Park near Slave lake Alberta. This was an opportunity for the "supporters" of the Regiment to have their chance to unwind and build esprit-de-corps after an exhausting year of completing the administration and repairs needed for the Squadrons to accomplish their tasks. The green field sited for group camping was quickly filled up as collections of tents were set and trailers were parked. The campground had access to a ball diamond, horseshoe pits, mini putt, a marina and even a cookhouse. The overall goal of this "adventure" training was to relax, explore trails, canoe, swim, fish, bike and relax some more! There were no set schedules although there were some key timings, mostly for the Officers and Senior NCOs on breakfast duty to feed the masses.

Days normally started with a hearty breakfast with some particular early risers dying to get on the lake and catch some massive fish. **Master Warrant Officer Greg Hawkins** could normally be found behind the griddle flipping eggs like a pro, while others piled plates full of bacon and hash browns. Lunch normally consisted of a full sandwich bar and supper a well-received BBQ. The ante on fishing was raised when it was announced that cash prizes would be awarded to the person with the largest Pike and Walleye which were won by **Corporal Alexander Rimpilainen** and **Sergeant Mike Doody** respectively. The week culminated into a Squadron

*Sgt Mike Doody
considers
sashimi for the
Squadron*



farewell party with surf and turf on the menu, drinks, draw prizes and a giant cake for dessert. Post supper there was soft ball, games of horseshoes and a bon fire for people to enjoy and socialize around. The entire event was a success; soldiers were relaxed, spirits were high and the Squadron grew closer as a team. HQ Sqn is looking forward to next STEELE SUMMER!

*Capt John Kim realizing there are more candles on
that cake than he'd like!*



Capt Dave Williams and Capt Dan Gray consider an occupational transfer to the enemy 'Dakotian' 12th Armour Division.



Ex JUPITER RAM

Captains Dave Williams, Dave Jung, and Nathan Hevenor

From 6 – 21 August 2015, marines and sailors of 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (2 MEB), 3 Commando Brigade (3 CDO), Royal Marines and soldiers of 1st Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group, participated in Large Scale Exercise 15. The Ex took place at Twentynine Palms California, and focused on Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) integration and core capabilities. The Strathcona's were represented at all levels of command from Corps Liaison Officers (LNOs), Brigade Staff Officers, as well as Lower Control Commanding Officers (LOCON).

From a LOCON perspective, our role was to provide the Brigade Staff and Commander with a responsive, thinking subordinate cell, able to receive unit orders and provide realistic input during execution. To facilitate this, MAGTF Tactical Warfare Simulation (MTWS) was used providing real time engagement and movement down to sub-unit level, plus event recording for after-action review. Providing unit input via Battleview and Combat Net Radio were **Captain Dave Williams** (Acting CO LdSH(RC) Battle Group), **Captain Cam Meikle** (Acting OC HQ Sqn) and **Captain Dan Gray** (Acting OC Recce Sqn). The exercise was a unique opportunity to work within a Joint, Multi-national Division setting with US and UK Marines as flanking formations. The integration of Joint and Corps level fires with manoeuvre was an additional enabler not often seen in Canadian training. Although 1 CMBG was not initially the main effort in the fight to push the Dakotian enemy out of the simulated region, by the final assault the Brigade had 3 CDO and 2 MEB Battle Groups attached for our assumed task of clearing the enemy stronghold. This provided a further chance to compare playbooks with our allies for the complex urban assault and was a great opportunity for the Canadians to lead the way.

From inside the 1 CMBG HQ, **Captain Ahmad Jaradat** (Senior Duty Officer) led the way in collecting and disseminating proper information to the units and coalition partners. He worked closely with **Captain Dave Jung** (Duty Officer) in order to manage all aspects of operational information from managing Combat Net Radio traffic, updating the situational awareness software BattleView, and briefing the G3 and the Chief of Staff (COS) for their constant situational awareness. **Captain Mike Labrecque** represented the Regiment in the Brigade ISTAR Cell directing ISTAR assets to provide further definition on the enemy and marking suitable targets for destruction. The G3 Cell was well represented by Strathcona officers as well with **Major Dave MacIntyre** (G3) and **Captain Alex Nitu** (G3 Ops). The combination of all the above personnel aided the Bde Comd, then **Col Trevor Cadieu** to make his tactical decisions as the battle progressed.



At the Coalition Forces Land Component Command Head Quarters (CFLCC) in Quantico, VA, the LNO team of **Major Darryn Gray** and **Captain Nathan Hevenor** worked tirelessly to ensure the information delta was mitigated between 1 CMBG and the CFLCC HQ. This saw the LNOs included in every briefing and working group within the CFLCC HQ and daily conference calls with 1 CMBG to facilitate the proper communications. A rare opportunity for Canadian Army Officers to work at this level of HQ, it presented a sensational professional development opportunity to glance inside the coordination of battlefield effects and battlespace management at the corps level as well as mentoring opportunities from USMC **Lieutenant General Natonsky** the CFLCC HQ Commanding General who took every opportunity to mentor his staff (us included) from his vast experience.

Overall, Large Scale Exercise 15 was a fantastic opportunity for Strathconas to demonstrate the Regiment's ability to contribute at all levels of command with our coalition partners.



Capt Dan "Gain and Maintain" Gray is thrilled to have finally found the enemy while Capt Cam Meikle ponders scavenging this BRDM for parts.

Ex KAPYONG MACE

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles...

Second Lieutenant Erik Giajnorio


This fall, A Sqn travelled to CFB Shilo to participate in Exercise KAPYONG MACE (Ex KM). Under the leadership of **Major Darryn "Shotgun" Gray**, A Sqn was provided the opportunity to work with our new team, the 2 PPCLI Battle Group, while the Sqn moves forward on the Road to High Readiness. A Sqn successfully progressed to the Enhanced Troop live fire ranges, and conducted Battle Group level dry training in three intensive weeks.

In the week leading up to Ex KM, A Sqn personnel worked tirelessly preparing all integral Sqn tanks for the move to Shilo, Manitoba. All the hard work paid off and using planes, trains, and automobiles, all A Sqn tanks and personnel successfully arrived to the friendly confines of Shilo. Spirits were high, as A Sqn moved out to the training area and prepared for three weeks of living in austere conditions. The exercise began with A Sqn breaking up and conducting Troop level training.

The time allowed the troops to work on hammering out troop Standard Operating Procedures, and conduct some much needed maintenance prior to linking up with the remainder of the Battle Group (BG).

Following our condensed timeframe of Troop training, A Sqn came back together to begin live fire training. After zeroing of our tanks, A Sqn conducted fire team level live fire training and successfully decimated the enemy objective. The next day A Sqn moved to the troop level range, which consisted of a live fire trace to be validated by the CO. With the CO watching, all three troops successfully destroyed the enemy positions allowing the traces to go on.

The next portion of the exercise saw the Sqn troops break off and support their respective 2 PPCLI Company and attachments over



11B decimates our wooden foes during enhanced level (Troop/Platoon) Live Fire



Tpr Mike "Hero Shot" Cassar and Tpr Sean "Italian Stallion" Marcotte stand guard in Romeo Biv.

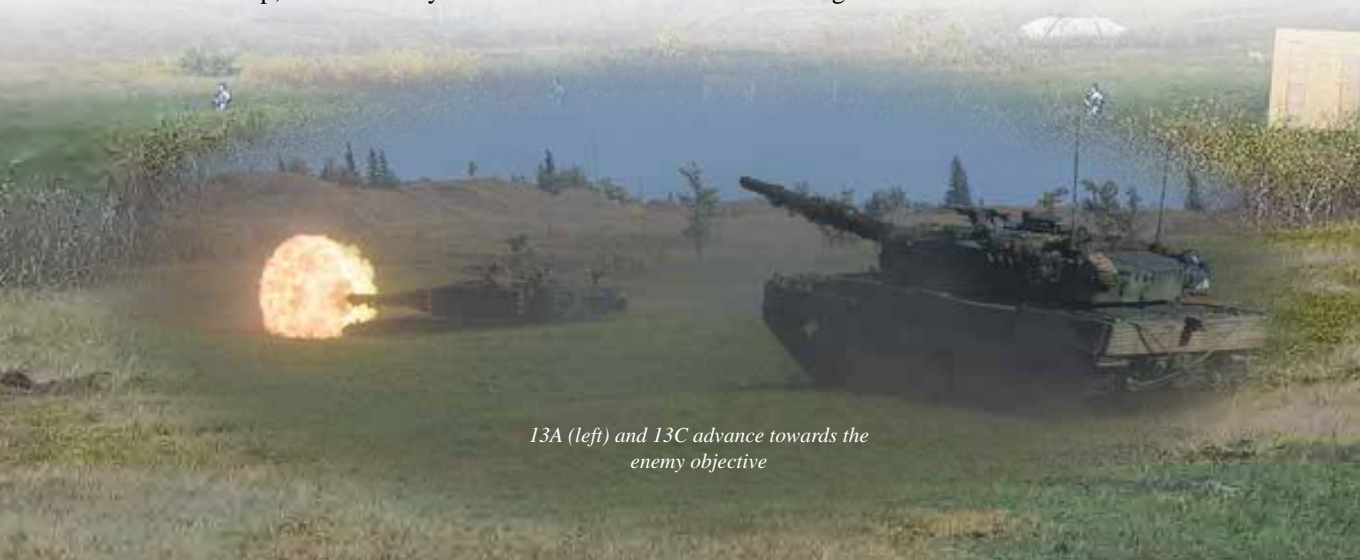
three consecutive days. The days consisted of three traces for the Troops as they supported individual platoons from their respective Companies. For many within in the Sqn it was the first time working not only in a combined arms formation, but also the first time doing it live. Rapid and aggressive manoeuvre was required towards the first objective, while the guns provided artillery support. Once reaching the objective, the tanks were used to secure the area, providing suppressing fire down the objective. This allowed engineer assets to be pushed forward, creating a breach in the enemy wire entanglement. Once complete, the tanks were employed as per the platoon commander's plan, either providing the infantry with close intimate support, or pushing through the objective as an assault force.

Over the duration of the Enhanced Troop ranges, A Sqn demonstrated the overwhelming firepower of our tanks. For three straight days the troops pummeled the enemy objectives, leaving little remaining for our infantry companions. **Lieutenant Sean "I need an Uber to get to work" Coughlan** stepped up to the plate, and filled in for an absent platoon commander to lead the quickest and most effective range iteration. With 1st Troop leading and A Coy in support, the enemy objectives were utterly destroyed with the fastest time of all the ranges. The completion of the ranges marked the end of the live fire portion of Ex KM 15. The next step for A Sqn was the Combat Team dry training, but prior to this the Battle Group came together to celebrate our successes

over a few cold ones. The Battle Group smoker afforded a day to relax, reset, and enjoy some delicious BBQ before getting back into the game.

The Battle Group traces for their Combat Team training were set up similarly to the Enhanced Troop. Over three days, A Sqn worked individually with each Coy conducting combat team attacks on various objectives. The dry training allowed the 2 PPCLI BG to conduct various types of attacks on different objects of varying difficulty. A Sqn improved tremendously over the three days of level 5 training, and our lessons learned will be tested again in the spring when we conduct level 5 training live.

Although it was the first time the Leopard was heard in CFB Shilo in decades, Ex KM was a true accomplishment for A Sqn and the 2 PPCLI Battle Group. In just three weeks, the Battle Group took a great leap forward. A strong relationship was forged between A Sqn and the remainder of the 2 PPCLI Battle Group; as collectively we move forward on the Road to High Readiness.



13A (left) and 13C advance towards the enemy objective



Ex STEELE CASCADE

Southbound Strathconas

Master Corporal Mark Weir

1st Troop, A Sqn was selected to go to Iquique, Chile as part of the Strathcona's annual exchange with the Chilean Army. Prior to leaving, the troop underwent familiarization training on Chilean army ranks, equipment and Spanish; though the effectiveness of Spanish lessons with **Corporal Carlos "The Regimental Latino" Gaona** may be disputed. The Troop departed Edmonton in high spirits with thoughts of free spirits on their international flights. The only major snag was that due to a flight delay the majority of the Troop had to spend nine hours sitting in a bar in Santiago. I doubt even the harshest field exercise compared to the privations they faced there!

Eventually, everyone made it to Iquique and the next day a tour was given of the Centro de Entrenamiento de Combate Acorazado del Ejercito (CECOMBAC) facility. The Troop, along with the CO and RSM, gave presentations to the Chileans on the CAF training system and command team relationships. That night the Chileans had a party for us where everyone was introduced and familiarized with Chilean beer, wine and pisco. Some people had more fun than others though... The next day we bused to the desert where the training base was located. Most of the boys were quite jealous of the Chilean setup for maintenance which combined 1st, 2nd and some 3rd line maintenance into one location co-located with the tanks. Many soldiers saw a pack with the transmission and block separated for the first time.

For the next several days the Troop started training on the simulators. Each position needed to accomplish a standard before advancing further. The training went all the way up to the fire team level in the simulators. Everyone thought that it seemed like an effective system and several lessons were learned on how to improve our own gateway shoots on the simulators back home. It wasn't all work and no play for 1st Troop though. The Chileans organized many excursions around Iquique. The first of which was Humberstone which is an abandoned nitrate and saltpeter mining town, now a UNESCO world heritage site. Quite a sight to see how well preserved everything was. We also went to see the replica of the Esmeralda, which was sunk during The War of the Pacific. That particular battle was pivotal as the sacrifice of the ship galvanized support for the war in Chile.

The Troop also sampled the night life including the Disco, where as per, **Lieutenant Sean "Three Piece" Coughlan** proceeded to shame every other male in the building with his dance moves. After a hard night at the Disco, the troops spent the day being tossed by the waves at the beach with the inevitable sunburns that followed.

When it was finally time to go and train in the desert the synergy that was developed during Ex KAPYONG MACE was quite evident. Despite the unique challenges presented by the Atacama Desert (THE GOGGLES, THEY DO NOTHING!) the Troop was able to adapt and overcome quickly. During the force on force portion, 1st Troop was the first foreign group to defeat OPFOR in five years! The live fire portion allowed some friendly competition between call-signs in the troop as well. After returning from the field there was a great After Action Review that really helped drive home the lessons learned.

The last couple days flowed by quickly with many members of the troop having to be reminded they could not bring home any of the many stray dogs that roamed Iquique. When it finally came time to leave it was a bittersweet moment for many of the men. Though they were excited to get back to their loved ones and families they were also sad to be leaving one of the best goes of their career. I think it's safe to say every one of them would leap at the chance to go back.... No one wants to be posted to the Atacama though (UGH THE DUST!)





*When you look this good,
they call you Mister!*

Ex STEELE SABRE & PATRICIA STEELE

HEAT, Frost, and DEU Pants, A Shakespearian Comedy

Corporal William Rayment

It was cold yesterday, and it was cold today; it'll probably be cold tomorrow. There aren't words that exist in the English language to accurately describe the sensation of waking up in a tent full of frost, but then again, it wouldn't be fair to express the joy of it to those less fortunate.

The fall ex of 2015 was filled to the brim with hard rolling tank crews, cross unit training, and least surprisingly of all, DEU pants. The live ranges kicked off with a literal and figurative bang, practicing complex obstacles with the engineers and moving into intimate support roles with the infantry while participating on a live range. 1st Troop tanks in particular, wasted no time dispatching their fearsome foes. Menacing plywood targets gazed back with hollow eyes only to be met with 120mm of service HEAT. Needless to say, they soon rued the day they decided to mess with the tangos. 2x4s and dirt flew in all directions and with them any chance of a second wind for the audacious lumber aggressors. Next came the night runs, which were cut rather short. **Lieutenant TJ "23 Texas" Casey** managed to throw his track under the hull, turning the night range into a maintenance range. For a brief reprieve we humbly invited distinguished guests and other VIPs to our own personal wonderland. The guests took part in harrowing tank rides, mind-blowing ranges (small and large), and last but not least the rather decadent IMP tasting.

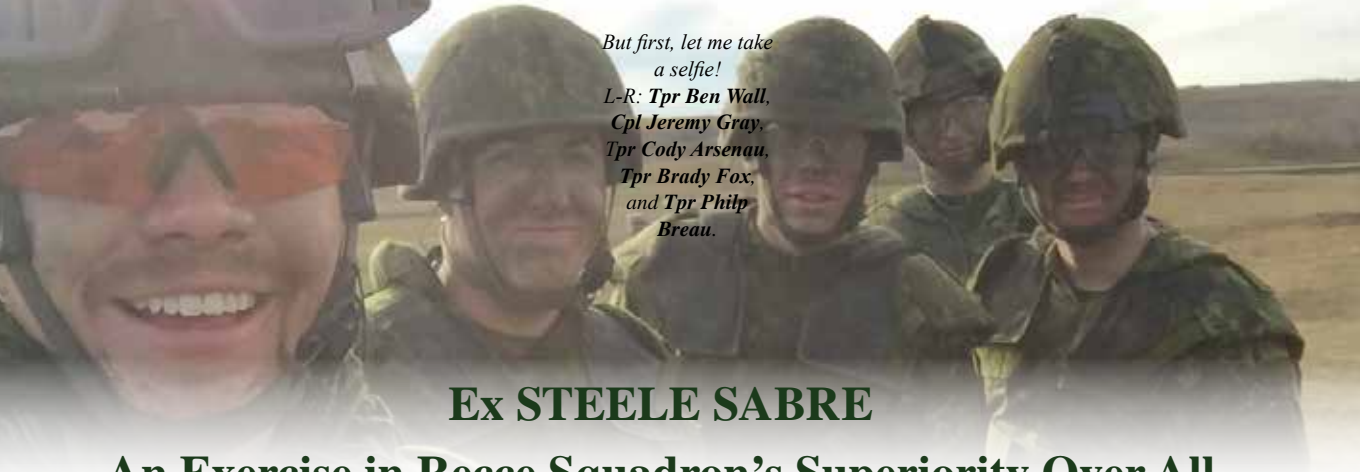
For **Squadron Sergeant Major Scott Brown's** departure, a small gathering took place. The men were merry and many a tales were told as the drinks flowed. The story of **Corporal Alistair "Yeah the tank's on fire guys" Gordon** and his profoundly smooth brain cover (which in good time was completely covered with an artist's rendering of Tom Hanks' Wilson; among other tasteful works) was born on this night. With the help of his comrades he even came out of it cleaner with the exception of his inner ear, which inexplicably appeared to be one individual's only desired place to cram cam paint.

For 21Chell, morale couldn't have been higher. Under the cool leadership of **Master Corporal Cam "prepare to halt....target stop" Davidson**, the crew flourished. Miraculously, their ride ran the entire Ex despite **Trooper Owen "What's a torque wrench?" Parkes'** best efforts. With two days remaining 21's tank went down and **Corporal Cal "hydraulics off??" McNeil** was bumped out by **Lieutenant Cameron "Swirl my brandy, gunner!" Ross**. This new arrangement was short lived. The very next day the Battle Captain would also need a car and that was effectively the end of 21C. Needless to say, the more nuanced job demands of the loader went unfulfilled with **Lieutenant Cameron Ross** and **Captain Nathan Hevenor** in the turret. Bread remained spread-less, IMPs long forgotten and the driver deceased still sitting and waiting for the order to shut down.

With the last enemy attack successfully repelled, the war was over. It wasn't all hugs and butterflies though. Many a tank was lost with only five pulling through. For the good men of B Squadron, this promised more maintenance in the coming month than they could have ever hoped. Carrying with tradition, a final smoker was held before the long awaited trip home at the end of yet another incredible fall exercise.

*Cpl Paul Nicholson (the roughest
meanest man in NATO) loading up for
some killing.*





*But first, let me take
a selfie!*

*L-R: Tpr Ben Wall,
Cpl Jeremy Gray,
Tpr Cody Arsenau,
Tpr Brady Fox,
and Tpr Philp
Breau.*

Ex STEELE SABRE

An Exercise in Recce Squadron's Superiority Over All

Lieutenant Stephanie Clubine and Lieutenant Mike Forestell

Ex STEELE SABRE began with a chilly October morning and a long drive to Wainwright. After spending the first night back in Fort Recce, the squadron deployed forward into a Squadron Harbour at Range 25 in order to knock the rust off our gunnery skills and destroy some chance close contacts. Starting with crew-level shoots, the Squadron culminated the week with troop level live fire traces. When we weren't shooting, we were practicing our Harbour routines and conducting link-ups with 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron to practice infiltration and exfiltration to conduct Point Recces, and to do some contour flying. We're still not sure if **Master Corporal Simeon "Man of Steel" Howarth-Harrison** is welcome back after his display of strength. While gently closing the door of the Griffon after our contour flying, the handle broke off in his hand, and the pilot took off with a Griffon that was two ounces lighter. Vehicle maintenance, as always, took up the lion's share of the concerns, but **Sergeant Danny Shah** and his team tackled the vehicle issues like a fat kid on a Smartie and we were able to maintain a pretty good ratio of working vehicles. The Canadian Patrol Concentration team also enjoyed a day on the range, conducting Personal Weapons Test 1-3 for C8 and C9, and even had some "spare" ammo to do some gunfighter to finish off the week.

After Thanksgiving, the squadron returned to Fort Recce with a different mindset: Reconnaissance Tactics. Starting with crew-level movement, we steadily increased our proficiency in tactical cross-country movement and Mini Unmanned Air Systems operations. Each troop conducted a Level Three Enhanced live-fire trace, which involved a Zone Reconnaissance and a fire mission with live artillery. The troops also conducted Force-on-Force training with augmented patrols from the South Alberta Light Horse, conducting Zone Reconnaissance tasks towards the other troop and meeting in the middle with chance close contacts. During this time, there was also a two-day dismounted patrol where troops had to tactically bushwhack five kilometers to set up dismounted observation posts for the night, while members of Squadron Headquarters and the Commanding Officer were relentlessly hunting the dismounted patrols. Most of the troops were able to make it to their destination safely without enemy contact and began setting up patrol bases and observation posts. It is during this time that **Corporal Andrew "Finger" Kewley**, riding with the Officer Commanding, **Major Peter "EMCON 1" Beitz**, found part of 1st Troop, though it was only by nearly driving through the wood line they were all hidden in. The patrols exfiltrated the next morning and were extracted by helicopter back to Fort Recce.

Recce Squadron finished the exercise performing the role of enemy force for the LdSH(RC) Battle Group. In a daring attack against the Battle Group defensive position, Recce Squadron successfully conducted a Feint and Left Flanking, showcasing all the training conducted during Ex STEELE SABRE 15. The Battle Group had been prepared to accept some risk on their right flank, but they were not prepared for the wave of destruction brought by Recce Squadron's highly motivated shock troops. After concluding the attack was so effective that Recce must have been cheating (we were not) and vocalizing their concerns at such, the Battle Group begrudgingly conceded defeat. All is well though, as lessons learned were committed to memory and the Battle Group will be much more difficult to defeat next time.

The exercise culminated in a smoker in Fort Recce, with soldiers enjoying a few beers while playing Euchre and discussing the morning's attack (and the physics of what wind would do to an ascot). Happy, well-fed, and tired, we gathered around the fire before heading to bed to rest up for the long drive back home the next day.



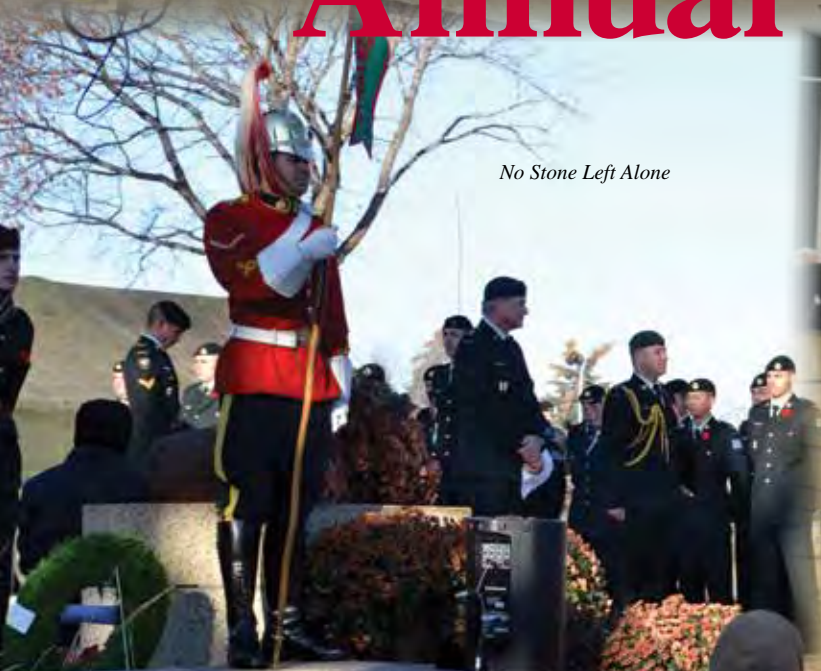
CWO Tony Batty and LCol Josh Major
*"Come, gentlemen, I hope we shall drink
 down all unkindness" -William Shakespeare*

**LCol (Ret'd) John Stuckart, LCol (Ret'd)
 "Bear" Moffat, and Col (Ret'd) Greg Hug**
sharing anecdotes at Black Hat



**MWO Rob Clarke demonstrates his
 dislike of constant complaining with the
 Waaaaaambulance**

Annual Events



No Stone Left Alone



Sgt Bryson Murphy
*about to make a big
 catch.*



Moreuil Wood

Captain Matthew Hoffart

The Battle of Moreuil Wood is one of the most historically significant moments in our Regiment's history, and it represents the very best of what anyone wearing the Strathcona badge could aspire to be. Paying tribute to the deeds of the past during the annual Moreuil Wood event is a sombre and respectful affair, though it is also not without the energy and esprit-de-corps that accompanies all Regimental activities.

Kicking off the week was the Regimental Sports Day on March 25th with a round-robin style competition featuring four events - ball hockey (a sports day favourite) and new additions of European handball, dodgeball, and lacrosse. With the Regiment split into their respective messes, competition was fierce to prove who was best. Final results saw 1st place awarded to the Track Pad (Troopers and Corporals) with the Mariner Room (Officers), Sarcee Room (Non Commissioned Officers), and Green Point Lounge (Master Corporals) finishing in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place respectively.

The Regiment was well turned out on the parade square on the following day for all spectators to behold. Our Colonel of the Regiment, **Major-General (Ret'd) Cam Ross** took advantage of the parade to speak to everyone present and to talk not just about the illustrious past of the Regiment but also of the progress the Regiment has seen. Soldiers were marched on in the various uniforms the Regiment has worn through the decades, from the Great War to modern day, showcasing the Regiment's proud history.

One of the more anticipated parts of the parade was the Honours and Awards segment, rewarding soldiers' hard work. B Squadron was awarded the Prince of Wales trophy for top overall Squadron, which extended their winning streak by another year. **Squadron Sergeant Major Rob Baglole** was promoted to the rank of Master Warrant Officer. Perhaps the most anticipated part of the parade are the awards handed out to the top soldier of each rank group, recognizing them for going above and beyond expectations. This year the Fox Bugle was awarded to **Corporal Corina Collier**, the Colonel of the Regiment's Silver Stick went to **Master Corporal Cameron Davidson**, and the Milroy Crossbelt was presented to **Sergeant Ryan Vigar**. **Warrant Officer Scott Brown** received the Neatby Pace Stick and the Ross Gear recognizing the top maintainer went to **Master Corporal Charlie Hasson**. The Hessin Sword, which is awarded by secret ballot amongst the officers, was presented to **Captain Shaun Rogozinski**. **Captain John Kim** was the recipient for the Olympic Torch Trophy, representing his skills, leadership, and integrity in sport.

That night the NCOs enjoyed their Mess Dinner at the garrison facilities while the Officers hosted their significant others downtown at the Fairmont Hotel for the Moreuil Wood Ball. The food was fantastic, the drink plentiful, and the nights were both a great success.

Sgt Paul Kruhlak, MCpl Kevin Crowe, Cpl Amélie Lavoie, and Cpl Karine Stratford show the evolution of the Strathcona uniform through different time periods.





*MGen Cam Ross (Ret'd), speaks
with Cpl Ben Kroker during the
inspection.*





Maj Matthew Johns and his wife Krista

All Ranks Dinner & Dance

Captain Shaun Rogozinski

Every year Strathconas gather for the All Ranks Dinner and Dance (ARDD). This annual event hosted by the Regimental Society and Regimental Non-Public Property was held at Shank's Pub in Edmonton on 12 June 2015. The venue provided a live band, mini golf, bowling, indoor golf, and numerous other activities to keep the night alive. The event was planned for approximately 1,000 soldiers and guests and the turnout was, in typical Strathcona fashion, awesome.



MCpl Lance Banman and wife Courtney enjoying the evening.

This year's ARDD was well received by all. There were numerous prizes given away but they came at a cost. All soldiers and guests were eligible to participate in the competitions but only one tribute could be declared a winner. The contests ranged from a golfing competition to playing air guitar on the big stage. Hats off to **Master Corporal Adam Christie (Ret'd)** who won an ATV through his spectacular dancing and guitar performance. He moved with the grace and style of a true Close Quarter Combat Instructor. So well in fact that he decided to retire from the Canadian Army and become a professional dance instructor. Congratulations **Adam!** Another major prize winner was **Trooper Niall Paterson**. He won the use of the Societies' one week timeshare for a Panorama Vacation Retreat at Horsethief Lodge from 8-15 November 2015 and received five hundred dollars in spending money. A well-deserved vacation provided by your Society.

There is no doubt the work ethic of the Strathcona's is second to none in the Canadian Army but we do know how to relax and have fun. The ARDD is the prime example of the Regiment dropping wrenches and building upon the strong esprit de corps that makes our Regiment so unique. We could not have such a reputation without the understanding and support of our loved ones and what better way to say thank-you than a party! See you next year!

WO Jason Forth, MCpl Adam Christie (ret'd), MCpl Izaak Koolman demonstrate some old time and Rock'n'Roll.



Family Day

Lieutenant Colin Peterson

On Saturday August 29th the Regiment held its annual Family Day. This annual gathering brings together all active serving members of the Strathcona's and their families. It serves as an opportunity to thank families for the support they provide and the sacrifices they make while their significant others are serving the Regiment and their nation.

This year's Family Day had many activities for the kids including pony rides, a bouncy castle, a dunk-tank (manned diligently by the Strathcona subbies), and the ever-popular tank ride.

The carnival games provided kids the opportunity to win prizes, and show off their MLB-worthy pitches as they dunked many 'enthusiastic' subbies into the ice cold water of the dunk tank. Subbies experienced first-hand the rush of the sudden but inevitable icy embrace awaiting them. The champion of this year's dunk tank was **Lieutenant Richard Yang** whose hour long marathon in the dunk tank topped all other subbies.

As in previous years, the tank rides were once again a big draw. **Warrant Officer Lawrence Troop** and his troop from B Squadron, along with **Sergeant Mark Thomas** gave the Family Day attendees an opportunity to ride on a Leopard 2 tank. They showed excited onlookers the capabilities of a Leo 2 and let them experience up close and personal the massive amounts of dust produced while moving around on the tanks. The day also included an impressive display of vehicles from the Base including a CH-146 Griffon from 408 Sqn, fire trucks, and vehicles from the Strathcona Historical Vehicle Troop.

Any Family Day would be incomplete without a feast. This year's festivities included a wide variety of food and snacks. There were BBQ hot dogs and hamburgers provided under the watchful eye of **Warrant Officer John Woroniuk** and **Sgt Mike Doody**, as well popcorn, snow cones, and cotton candy.

Although the day started off cloudy, it turned into a sunny afternoon that allowed everyone to enjoy time outside with their families at the Strathcona's annual Family Day. Without a doubt, a great time was had by all who attended. A special thank you to all of the volunteers who contributed their time to this event, and for making it an enjoyable and memorable day!

Lt TJ Casey about to get dunked.

Cpl Alison Sawyer making sure all members of the family are welcome.



WO John Woroniuk, MWO Lloyd "Paul Shaffer" Clayton, and WO Harry Delaney manning the BBQ.

Memory...

Padre Min Kim

On Remembrance Day I woke up in the early morning as usual and when ready for work I drove, not to the base, but to the graveyard where **Corporal Michael Yuki Hayakaze** was laid, a fallen Trooper of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). **Michael** was deployed twice to Afghanistan, and the task of his second tour was to replace an injured crewman. On 2 March 2008, nearly at the end of his second deployment, he was killed when an improvised explosive device struck his tank. Since then, every year on this day, his family, friends and comrades informally gather around his gravesite in Fort Saskatchewan, a northeast suburb of Edmonton, to recall their fond memories of him. This year over 65 people including little children paid tribute to the ultimate sacrifice he gave.

It was still early morning when **Captain Mike Labrecque** and I met Michael's family at the gravesite. **Captain Labrecque** introduced me to them. I had already read a couple of short articles about **Michael** and also researched him beforehand, but it was an opportunity for me to hear more stories about **Michael** and his family. His parents migrated from Japan about three decades ago, and **Michael** and **David**, his brother, were born here in Edmonton. There are always many stories when one lives in an immigrant family, particularly with regard to language, since the parents' mother tongue can never be their children's mother tongue. David said he and Michael, his older brother, had to keep on top of their Japanese every weekend. Every Friday, for example, despite their earnest desire and wish to play sports as any of their friends, they had to learn Japanese at a language school.

I could understand that situation, at least from a parent's perspective, for I am Korean Canadian, born in Seoul, Korea, I then came to Canada over twenty years ago. When my children were little, they had to understand nearly everything in two languages—Korean and English, which was quite natural to them to a certain degree, but which, nevertheless, remained an ongoing challenge. Likewise, **Michael** seemed to have a good memory of words, but he still had to practice his parents' mother tongue as often as possible in order to be bilingual.

While we were conversing with the family about **Michael** and language, I noticed their memory of **Michael** seemed to never grow old, just as **R. L. Binyon** succinctly yet beautifully noted in his poem *For the Fallen*: "They shall not grow not old, as we that are left grow old." It was as a part of Michael was always with them yet in their hearts. Their memory of Michael seemed to be so vivid that its stories images, sounds, and even feelings, were reminiscent of the words of St. Augustine, a profound theologian and philosopher, who said in his *Confessions*, "Yet my memory holds sounds as well, though it stores them separately. ... My memory also contains my feelings, not in the same way as they are present to the mind when it experiences them, but in a quite different way that is in keeping with the special powers of the memory. ... The power of memory is great, O Lord. It is awe-inspiring in its profound and incalculable complexity" (X.10. 14. 17). Perhaps, in such a way, his family and friends still remember **Michael**, just as families and friends of the Canadian men and women who gave their lives while serving in uniform remember them continually and distinctively. The informal gathering this year came to an end when each of the attendees hung their poppies on the wreath in memory of their friend and loved one, **Michael Hayakaze**.

Remarks: For anyone who wants to visit his gravesite to pay tribute to his sacrifice the address and location of Michael Hayakaze's gravesite is as follows: Evergreen Memorial Gardens, 16102 Fort Road NW, Edmonton AB. Section: Veterans, Lot 1096, Space C1.





Ex STEELE BLACKHAT

Captain Ali Raju

This year's Exercise STEELE BLACKHAT was again a successful Regimental training activity for all ranks and gave all the opportunity to increase professional expertise and knowledge using variety of methods.

As per the Regimental Second-in-Command's plan, the week started off with the Prince of Wales sports competition, followed by a CO's Hour. The CO discussed lessons learned from Exercise STEELE SABRE, the outlook for Road to High Readiness Training, soldier skills, and Operation HONOUR. Next the Regimental Maintenance Officer discussed the Regimental maintenance program. Later during the week, Officers Commanding A, B, Reconnaissance & Headquarters Squadron led syndicates in the review of current armoured doctrine and explored what future doctrine should look like. All syndicate work peaked with a back-brief to all participants, the Regimental Colonel and the Colonel of the Regiment. Master-Corporals and Senior Non-Commissioned-Officers conducted discussions on administrative, disciplinary, and human resource support mechanisms and policies including career management. Corporals and Troopers received Road to Mental Readiness briefings and conducted interactive sessions focused on applying soldier skills throughout Road High to Readiness Training. Also during the week, Strathconas who had not visited the Regimental Museum in Calgary had the opportunity to do so. Throughout the week, career managers briefed their respective messes and conducted interviews as required. Furthermore, The Colonel of the Regiment, **Colonel (Ret) Gregory Hug**, took the time to visit Regimental Society's Historical Vehicle Troop, Pipes & Drums and Strathcona Mounted Troop. The Regimental Colonel, **Colonel Paul Peyton** also addressed the officers outlining his role and how fortunate all officers are to be present at the Regiment.



LCol Scott Long's retirement presentation by the Colonel of the Regiment

Notably during this exercise, as per the CO's intent to foster the warrior mindset amongst his officers, the Adjutant **Captain James "meat hooks" Anderson** oversaw Close Quarter Combat training and pugil stick fighting – CF98 Injury Forms are still coming in.

The exercise culminated with the Officer's mess dinner which featured a presentation marking the retirement of a truly cherished Strathcona: **Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Scott Long**. Joining us for the festivities, were our Armoured brethren from the United Kingdom who currently are employed in Suffield. As such, it was great to host the Commander of British Army Training Unit – Suffield and three of his officers. After hearing and sharing stories and anecdotes throughout the night from guests and serving officers, most of us finally shut the night down – except for the Regimental Accounts Officer, **Captain Corey "Money-bags" McLean**. Thankfully for all those who participated throughout the week, the Regiment was stood down on the following day, a welcome gift for all after a very eventful exercise.

Officers conducting bayonet training





Kid's Christmas Party

Corporal Patrick Grubber

On 5 December 2015 Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) held the annual Kid's Christmas Party to widespread fanfare and general excitement from the children as well as many of the parents of the Regiment.

Shortly after arriving, parents and children alike discovered plenty to do at the party and children of all ages were running around gleefully. From the petting zoo to the bouncy castle, off to cotton candy for some sugar fuelled energy and off again to other areas of the Harvey Building, they didn't know what they would find next. Some of the kids were excited to play the Nintendo 64 with games made decades before they were born, while others cheerfully had their faces painted.

The paintball stand was particularly busy and before long they soon ran out of both air and paint. **Corporal Matt "Hawkeye" New** saved the day by running out to get more. It was a successful stand but it must be noted that Frozen was playing on the projector nearby and may have stolen the show.

Trooper David "Old Man" Gillis had a phenomenal time at the cotton candy machine. He was covered head to toe in a pink web of sugar. It soon got to the point where he had to find a pair of eye-protection for that very important job.

Santa Claus (who looked strikingly like an ever smiling **Corporal Richard "Wags" Wagner**) even took time out of his busy schedule to make an appearance with his elves. Any kid who so desired, posed for a picture and received a present from the jolly old man and his helpers.

Overall the day was a large success thanks to the soldiers of the Regiment who helped plan and coordinate all the events, the families who attended and made the day worth it, and of course to Santa himself for sparking joy in all the children.



STRATHCONA



Happy
HOLIDAYS 2015



Silly Season

Master Corporal Travis Silcox



RSM Tony Batty punts the soccer ball to the opposing side. "ATTACK!"

2015 was a long year for Strathconas, filled with exercises, courses, the complete destruction of 5 Brigade during Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, Worthington Cup, Canadian Patrol Competition, Individual Battle Task Standard training, public relations events such as Spruce Meadows, and an IRU Deployment to Saskatchewan fires. The stress of the year warranted a well-deserved Christmas break, but before the break, all Strathconas partook in our annual Regimental pre-block leave activities. These activities consisted of a CO's competition, Squadron vs Squadron Sports Day, Mess vs Mess Sports Day, and the Soldier's Holiday Dinner.

During the CO's competition, **Corporal Ryan "Everyday is Arm Day" Blacklock** of A Sqn gave everything he could right to the very end, and passed out when

he finished the strength stand knowing his Squadron was in good standing. Despite his efforts, CO's competition was ultimately won by B Squadron.

Squadron Sports Day consisted of Water Polo, Handball, Dodgeball and Volleyball and was won by A Squadron. The Mess vs Mess Sports Day consisted of The Trackpad vs The Green Point Lounge and The Sarcee Room vs the Mariner Room. The Trackpad took down the Green Point Lounge and the Mariner Room tied with the Sarcee Room, however the tie was broken when the Sarcee Room allowed **Master Warrant Officer Rob "I Embodify Multi-Dimensional Fitness" Clarke** to volunteer himself to the impossible task of defeating **Captain James "Golden Gloves Champion" Anderson** in an arm wrestle which resulted in a Mariner Room victory.



RSM of the day, CWO John Dugdale and Cpl Tony Batty

Finally, the Soldier's Holiday Dinner tradition was carried out in true Strathcona style. Following the dinner the troops moved their festivities to the Lamplighter Club, while the officers were hosted by the senior NCOs in the Warrant Officer's and Sergeant's mess. At the Junior ranks mess, **Corporal Shaun "One Punch" Graham** neutralized a disorderly (Non Strathcona) soldier who was annoying **Corporal Braeden "Governance is a Lie" Matthews**. The same night, **Master Corporal Mackenzie "The Iron Demon" Macleod** quickly established peace during another conflict which happened earlier in the evening against another Non-Strathcona. The LdSH(RC) NCM's won a decisive victory in the Lamplighter that night and received warm praise from the people that worked there. While these shenanigans were happening at the Lamplighter, the "At Home" was taking place between the Officers and Senior NCO's, having their own fun in the Warrant Officer's and Sergeant's mess. Bungee Beer and the mechanical bull were the highlights of this year's "At Home". Some took the phrase "taking the bull by the horns" a bit too seriously as **Sergeant Mark "Taking the Bull in the Face" Thomas** found out after his millionth ride trying to beat **Captain Dave "Former Rodeo Chairman" Williams'** time. Shortly after the blood was cleaned up, the Officers were crowned champions and the Sarcee Room was left licking their wounds and taking the Horse's Ass Trophy home for yet another year. The next morning the Regiment came into work in PT gear for a final clean-up and were promptly dismissed to begin our well-deserved Christmas leave.





Cpl Andrew Radford, Cpl Amélie Lavoie, MCpl Hayden Hunt, Sgt Michael Neil, Cpl Rebecca Campbell, Cpl Romeo Kabongo enjoy a break at the Edm Garrison Golf & Curling Club.

LCol Josh Major enjoying the perks of being CO by having RSM Tony "Soft Hands" Batty massage his feet.



Capt John Kim demonstrating a self-defence technique on Capt Steve Couture as Maj Darryn Gray looks on.

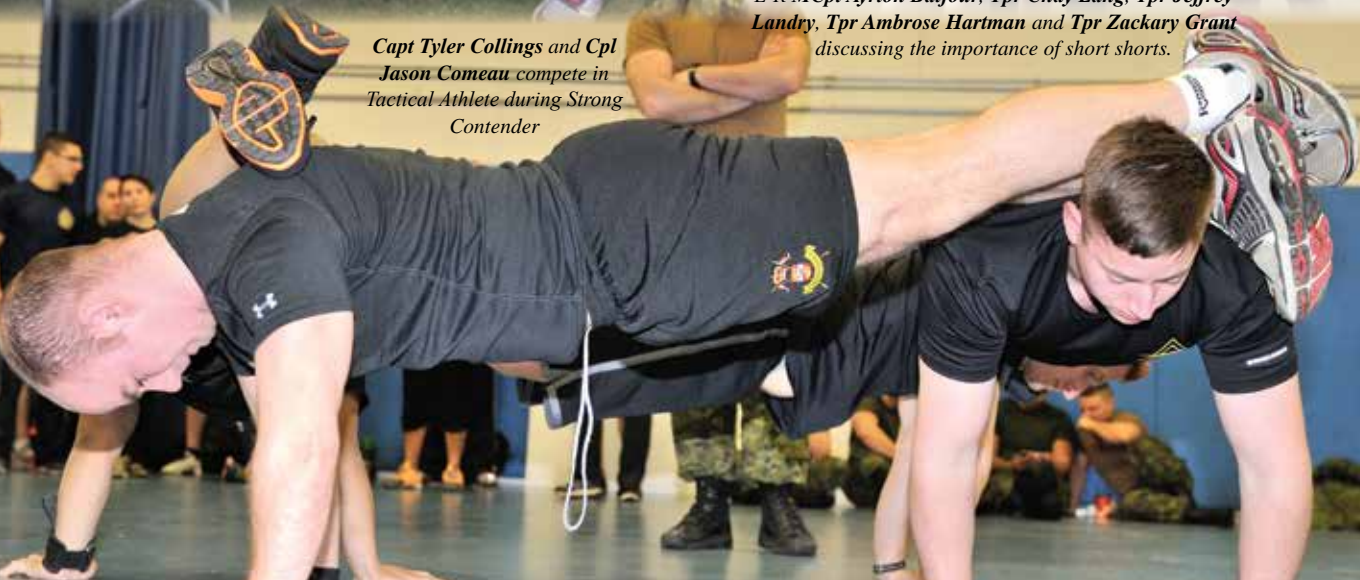


Sports and Fitness



L-R MCpl Ayrtion Balfour, Tpr Chay Lang, Tpr Jeffrey Landry, Tpr Ambrose Hartman and Tpr Zackary Grant discussing the importance of short shorts.

Capt Tyler Collings and Cpl Jason Comeau compete in Tactical Athlete during Strong Contender





Exs STRONG CONTENDER and TOUGH CONTENDER

Captain Catherine Diering

Every year in the beginning of January, Regular Force units from the 3rd Canadian Division gather to play in a sports competition known as Exercise STRONG CONTENDER, which is designed to develop camaraderie and stoke some friendly rivalries. All sub-units from within the Regiment contributed members to form the best teams possible in the eight respective sports: basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, ball hockey, ice hockey, curling, powerlifting and tactical athletics. Each of the eight sports was played at both the Major and Minor unit level, with the Strathcona's rightly in the Major unit category. This was the first time that powerlifting was showcased as a sport. The lifts included bench press, deadlift, and back squat. The division between Major and Minor unit was removed for this sport and the points did not count towards the aggregate score, but the competition was fierce and impressive (the winning lift was over 600lbs).

On 9 September 2015, the Regiment put its "game-face" on for the summer sports competition, Exercise TOUGH CONTENDER. This competition was one grueling day for four sports teams: soccer, rugby, slo-pitch softball, and powerlifting. This was only the second year for Exercise TOUGH CONTENDER, and though it is not as glamorous as its winter counterpart it is just as competitive. The division between Major and Minor units was removed, and the standings came down to points alone. The teams came together one month before the start of the competition and practiced every day, both in the early hours of the morning and into the evenings. By the time the competition began, the Strathcona teams were eager to go out and play hard.

The softball team practiced the art of verbal jeering while still maintaining the jovial atmosphere that always surrounds slo-pitch. The rugby team played hard and earned a few nominations for the second annual Regimental "SOB" (Sacrifice of the Body) award. The powerlifting team came together for only the second time and tossed some massive numbers (and weights) into the air. The Strathcona soccer team finished in a respectable 4th place after a full day of playing soccer, where **Trooper Lawrence Emery** and **Trooper Matthew Fuchs-Perry**, both newly posted to the unit, were glad for the opportunity to participate and enjoyed the competition.

Due to the short timeline of Exercise TOUGH CONTENDER, there were no playoffs and the winning teams were selected based on points for and against. Although the Regimental teams put forth an excellent effort, the teams were unfortunately eliminated by one of the greatest enemies of any Crewman: math. The annual sports competitions had their usual highs and lows but overall were a great showcase of the athletic talent of the soldiers of the Regiment.

Tactical Athlete team stacks the weights during Strong Contender.

*Cpl Andrew Lonegren, Cpl Jorge Valenzuela
Tpr Ethan Fulljames (stacking weights)*

*Tpr Jeffrey Landry, Tpr Zackary Grant, Cpl Craig Broome
(on top of scrum) practicing for Tough Contender.*





Mountain Man Challenge

Lieutenant Richard M. Yang

WO Robert Englehart during the portage.



On a cool September morning, the gruelling Mountain Man challenge was finally set to begin and Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) assembled their team for the event. The Mountain Man Challenge is a triathlon-type race with a 32 km weighted ruck-run, a 3.6 km portage, 10 km canoe on the North Saskatchewan River, and culminates after a final 5.6 km foot race. This punishing event is not only a major event for 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group but a major gut check for each competitor. Overall, the Regiment finished 3rd out of 7 major unit competitors within 1 CMBG, following closely behind the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. The workup training and the event day were not only memorable experiences for the competitors and organizers, but also integrated the entire unit into one team, building esprit-de-corps.

The Mountain Man training began in June as soon as the unit returned from Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 15. The team was assembled under the leadership of **Lieutenant Richard Yang** from Recce Sqn and **Sergeant Gerri-Ann Davidson** from A Sqn. Enthusiastic young(ish) soldiers volunteered for the 52km challenge and after receiving their briefing package, were eager to start the training. The training philosophy divided the team into a competitive and non-competitive group aimed at providing a balance between performance and participation. The training ended with

a Mini Mountain Man Challenge consisting a 16 km run, a 3.6 km portage, a 10 km canoe paddle and a 5 km weighted run. This proved to be an excellent test of our team and gave the competitors valuable experience in what to expect in the actual competition.

This year saw an impressive team of challengers with the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel Josh Major** leading the charge as the top finisher on the Strathcona team (and 1st place in the Masters Division), finishing the race at 5:32:39. A mere minute behind, **Captain Stephen Couture** came in at 5:33:42 for 6th overall in the Brigade, and **Master Corporal Tyler Eveleigh** was next for the team at 5:59:42. The scores from each competitor represented the culmination of their months of training and highlighted their dedication to the event.

Overall, Exercise MOUNTAIN MAN 15 was extremely rewarding for all participants in this demanding event. The race showcased to Edmontonians the rigorous fitness standards of 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG) and highlighted individual unit pride within the Brigade. We will strive to build on this year's success and look forward to Exercise MOUNTAIN MAN 16.





Strathcona's Taekwondo

Captain John Kim

The 2012 edition of “*The Strathconian*” featured an article on TKD at the Regiment for the first time, which has since been a permanent edition to the Regimental Annual, and for good reason. Not only is a Strathcona the Head Coach of the Garrison TKD Team, but four other members currently on Regimental strength are active members: **Major Clayton Gardner**, Regimental Second-in-Command; **Captain James Anderson**, Adjutant; **Captain Ali Raju**, Regimental Liaison Officer; and **Corporal Alex Aguila**, Rider in Strathcona Mounted Troop. Members of the Regiment train up to three times a week after garrison work hours Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays 1630-1800 at the base gym.

Since the team's inception in 2012, the TKD Team has become the largest individual sport team on the base which boasts a healthy strength of 20 members from across all units in 3rd Canadian Division. The team is proud to have produced the Garrison Male Athlete of the Year for the 2012/2013 season and has been the recipient of the Base Team of the Year for three consecutive years. For the 2014/2015 season, the team was awarded the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Individual Sports Team of the Year, a huge accomplishment for the base and brigade.

What should be particularly highlighted in this year's article was the Fight for Soldier On Training Camp that the team hosted 16-21 March 2015. As a result of the great feats that the Strathcona members and the team had accomplished, the CAF National Sports Office granted the team a great sum of \$60 000 and responsibility to host a one-week training camp on behalf of the CAF TKD Association. What was particularly unique about this training camp was that for the first time, Soldier On and Para-civilians trained jointly with our CAF TKD practitioners from across the country. The aim for inviting these individuals was to raise awareness within the CAF and Soldier On communities that, in spite of any physical or psychological wounds one may have suffered while in uniform, martial arts can provide a means of healing, as well as provide a venue from which one can regain confidence and a fighting spirit. This was manifested in some of our CAF members, serving and retired, partaking in actual competition as amputees or suffering from a mental health injury such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The second aim was to provide a venue from which the CAF and civilian TKD communities could begin recruiting and developing selected athletes for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games, which will be holding TKD as an official medal event for the first time in its history. Another great highlight of this year was Ex STEELE MARTIAL I, an Officers' TKD physical training program which the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Josh Major**, directed be introduced to the Regiment since assuming command. The Head Coach held a three day TKD session for all the serving officers at the Regiment 18-20 February 2015. This culminated in the emphasis on the values of unarmed combat as part of developing soldier skills as well as physical fitness to the leadership of the Regiment.





The Prince of Wales Competition

Major Clayton Gardner

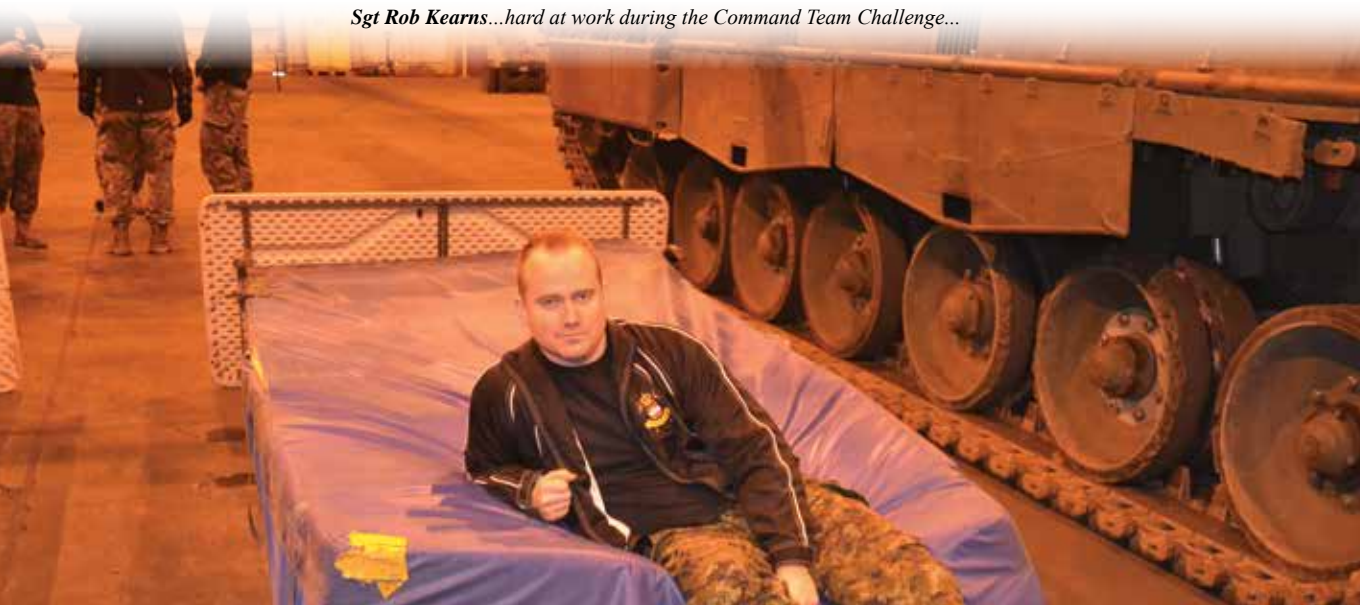
His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, presented The Prince of Wales Trophy to the Regiment during a Royal Visit to Ottawa on 26 April 2001. It is the Colonel-in-Chief's intention that the trophy be awarded annually to a deserving squadron and that it be known as "The Prince of Wales Squadron" for the following year. The Prince of Wales Squadron Trophy is awarded each year at the Moreuil Wood parade and the deserving Squadron assumes the right of line for Regimental parades and events.

The process for determining The Prince of Wales Squadron has changed significantly since 2001. In 2014, the CO and RSM decided that the competition would be almost completely objective, meaning that the Squadrons would have to compete against each other and be subject to defined inspection criteria in order to earn The Prince of Wales Trophy. It was a true competition, with no overall subjective assessment.

The competition for fiscal year 2014 – 2015 consisted of four Command Team Challenges for a total weight of 20%, inter-squadron sports for 15%, a maintenance inspection for 15%, an administration inspection for 10%, a safety inspection for 10%, a fitness test for 15%, and a march and shoot competition for 15%. The fitness test and march and shoot competitions, in their current construct, are new activities for the Regiment. Every person in the Regiment, who was physically able and present, was required to complete the fitness test. The test was comprised of a 40m sprint, a 2.4km run, bench press, squats, sit ups, and pull ups. The March and Shoot was a timed march to the rifle range, followed by a shooting competition and then a timed march back to range control. The best part of this competition was that the teams for each Squadron were selected by random draw. No one was safe! The draw was done the morning of the competition with all names put in a big tumbler barrel. It was highly entertaining, and one more way of ensuring that The Prince of Wales Squadron would be determined through the collective efforts of the Squadron, and not a select group of people.

Each Squadron was assigned to plan a Command Team challenge, reflecting the nature of their Squadron, and Headquarters Squadron took that to heart. All events in the challenge could be completed by every trade but they certainly all had a combat service support flavour. By far the best stand, of possibly any command team challenge, was organized by QM Troop. It was a two hour stand and each Squadron team was required to set up a mobile kitchen trailer and prepare a four course meal to be judged by the CO, RSM, 2IC, and CO's Secretary. Best of all, the entire event was followed by a camera crew and was broadcast on the big screen, much like Iron Chef. Many would say that Headquarters Squadron clearly

Sgt Rob Kearns...hard at work during the Command Team Challenge...





Cpl Ryan Blacklock "crushing it" during the weight-lifting fitness stand being spotted by Cpl Garnett George.

had the advantage, and yes they did take the MKT set up, but at the end of the day it was Recce Squadron who won over the judges with their culinary skills!

It is hard to say whether or not The Prince of Wales Squadron is the "best" Squadron in the Regiment as all of our Squadrons have such different tasks, resources, and organization. What is for certain though is that the Squadron who is awarded The Prince of Wales trophy has earned it and it is reflective of the collective efforts of that Squadron. B Squadron earned the right to be referred as The Prince of Wales Squadron in 2015 for the third year in a row and the next winner will be announced at the 2016 Moreuil Wood parade.

Maj Sandy "I have been swimming all day" Cooper enjoying a match of water polo.



Lt Joe Agius and Tpr James King-McAuslan being evacuated by Sgt Ryan Vigar while administering first aid.

Sgt Kyle Chuback, Cpl Justin Park, Cpl Jessey Vanbeek, during the weapons assembly of a Command Team Challenge





*MCpl Ayrton Balfour
pushing forward like a
Mack Truck....Isn't rugby
was a team sport???
Where is the rest of the
team?*



Top finishers within the LdSH(RC) team posing for team photo after receiving the Top Finishers Medal.

Bottom- Sgt Dave Brister....we always seem to get this type of pic from him...





Top: The Regimental Rugby Team of TOUGH CONTENDER 15.



The Regimental Soccer Team of TOUGH CONTENDER 15.



The Regimental Softball Team of TOUGH CONTENDER 15.

*MCpl Craig Shields is
assisted by Alan Nursall
with a powerpack
replacement*



Key Events

*"Tell me, Cpl Garrett George,
do I have something in my
teeth?"*

*Has anyone seen the Guidon?
WO Harry Delaney, MWO
Kevin King, WO Rob
Englehart enjoying Spruce
Meadows.*



*Sgt Jeffrey Gibson demonstrates that you
don't need to open your eyes to shoot....*



Change of Colonel of the Regiment Parade

Captain Matthew Hoffart

It has been five years since **Major General (retired) Cam Ross** took over as Colonel of the Regiment, and on 20 June 2015 he gave his final speech and salute. This concluded a military career that spanned over 35 years, not including his time in this honorary position. Joining the Army in 1968 he enjoyed a long career with his final day in uniform being in 2015. Juxtaposing farewells to the retiring of Colonel of the Regiment was the interest and anticipation to see what the incoming Colonel of the Regiment, **Colonel Greg Hug**, would bring to the Regiment in his new capacity.

After a week of drill practices, vehicle cleaning, polishing, and uniform inspections, all accompanied by loud verbal “encouragement” from the **Regimental Sergeant Major Tony Batty**, the entire Regiment was incredibly well turned out on parade. Constituting the backdrop to the parade was the impressive fleet of Regimental vehicles, the Historical Vehicle Troop, and the Strathcona Mounted Troop. With sharp dress and drill the soldiers of the Regiment received all of the VIPs that arrived for the parade and provided an impressive display for all of the family members and associates of the Regiment that were spectating.

After the VIPs were all driven onto parade in a number of historical military trucks (provided courtesy of the Edmonton Chapter of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association) members of the Old Guard and affiliated Cadet Corps fell onto parade for inspection. The Old Guard, as always, proved to be in high spirits and showing no sign of slowing down as they provided their unique and colourful commentary on all of the proceedings. The soldiers on parade were all inspected, including the Royal Canadian Artillery Band and the Regimental Pipes and Drums. Those with shorter attention spans were quickly reminded of the parade when three Leopard C2 tanks conducted a feu-de-joie, firing several blank rounds each in sequence.

Major General Ross and his wife **Patti**, were presented with gifts from the Regiment in honour of all of the time and effort they dedicated to the Regiment. **Major General Ross** addressed all Strathconas a final time, after receiving the Regimental Guidon from **LCol Josh Major**. During this time two soldiers from 3 Battalion Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry parachuted from a helicopter (courtesy of 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron) over the parade square with the Regimental Flag. The parade came to a conclusion with the departure of all Dignitaries, with **Major General Ross** leading the way in a horse drawn carriage. The Strathconas only know how to do things in style.

The Colonel of the Regiment is the custodian of Regimental traditions and our unique culture. **Major General Cam “the Godfather” Ross** worked tirelessly to guide the leadership of the Regiment, ensure that Strathconas stayed true to our heritage, and ensure the entire Regimental Family support network remained as active and recognized as ever. The Regiment now looks forward to **Colonel Greg Hug’s** tenure in the chair and how he will put his particular mark on the Regiment in the years to come.

Col Greg Hug inspects the parade

MGen Cam Ross receiving the General Salute









Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows

Trooper Matthew New

With the order to “fire”, the first volley of the “Feu De Joie” commenced leaving many surprised and startled guests of Spruce Meadows. With two more orders to fire being given by the parade commander, **Major Darryn Gray**, the startled looks quickly turned to smiles and cheers for the members of the Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians). The Calgary Stampede parade and Spruce Meadows events took place July 3rd to 5th in Calgary. The 100 soldier honour guard was comprised mainly of soldiers from A Squadron with augmentation from the remainder of the regiment.

The events officially kicked off at the Calgary Stampede parade grounds with a Strathcona Panzer roaring down the streets of Calgary with police escort. For members of the Regiment a Leopard 2A4M led the way commanded by **Master Corporal Sean “Make it Rain” Collins** with **Corporal Ryan “Chicken Legs” Blacklock** loading, and **Corporal Stan “Dearest Leader” Fong** driving. The parade started with a brief march down the streets of Calgary but quickly became more relaxed following the saluting of **Prime Minister Stephen Harper**. With the Officer Commanding A Squadron leading and **Squadron Sergeant Major Cordell “High Five” Boland** stirring the crowd, the parade continued down the streets of Calgary where many new and experienced members alike were impassioned with the heartwarming cheers and support for the Canadian Armed Forces. With the parade route approximately five kilometres long, many high fives and handshakes were given along the route affording soldiers the opportunity to interact with the public. With the Leopard 2A4M in the lead, and the Regimental Pipes and Drums and ARV 3 following the main body for the five kilometre route, the Strathcona’s did not disappoint and there was no shortage of cheers from the crowd.

Following the Calgary Stampede parade, the 100 soldier honour guard performed two parades at the Spruce Meadows venue on July 4th and 5th where they performed for the Southern family, honoured guests, and members of the crowd. On July 4th, soldiers of the 100 soldier honour guard joined the parade of nations behind the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery band and were inspected by the Governor General of Canada, **his Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston**, following which they were given permission to commence “feu de joie” which did not disappoint. The following day the honour guard performed once again, this time honoured by the presence of the then Minister of National Defence **Jason Kenney**. Once again, the Strathcona’s did not disappoint, and marched off to many cheers and applause from the crowd.

A Sqn delivers a Royal Salute to the Governor General at Spruce Meadows





For all the hard work and preparation that went into practicing for the parades, the satisfaction that came from doing it right made it all worthwhile. The long days practicing seem forgotten in such a very short time of actually parading. The Guard marched off to many cheers from the crowd as the bands played. Afterward, brass was gathered in a scramble by members on general duties for the event. The guard boarded buses back to Edmonton and the events were officially over, but the lasting impression from the trip will stay with A Sqn and the soldiers who participated for years to come.



*Top: Strathcona Mountain Troop salutes **Prime Minister Stephen Harper** at the Calgary Stampede Parade.*

*They LOVE me...They really, really LOVE me!
Tpr David Bursey waves to the crowd during the Stampede Parade.*

*Bottom Left: **MCpl Sean Collins** and **Cpl Ryan Blacklock**
Advance to Contact in an urban environment*





Daily Planet hitches a ride with the Strathconas

Alan Nursall

TELUS World of Science – Edmonton & The Alan Nursall Experience on Daily Planet

On October 22 and 23, 2015, I had the privilege of joining the Strathcona's during their exercises at CFB Wainwright. I was part of a crew from *Daily Planet*, Discovery Canada's national nightly science and tech show. If there is one thing the viewers of *Daily Planet* love, its big machines. And the Strathcona's have some of the best machines anywhere!

In real-life, I am the CEO of the science centre in Edmonton, TELUS World of Science – Edmonton. But whenever I can, I sneak away from the science centre to film a segment for *Daily Planet* called *The Alan Nursall Experience*. It's a great gig. I have done aerobatic flying, mud-bogging, skydiving, and so much more. But it took the Strathcona's to bring me one of my biggest thrills – getting up close and personal with a Leopard 2 tank. I was accompanied by producer **Chelsea Blazer**, cameraman **Jay Kemp**, and soundman **Michael Olson**.

To get my hands dirty, we started with a lesson in tank repair. Under the leadership of **Master Corporal Craig Shields**, we deployed the Armoured Recovery Vehicle to swap out a Leopard powerpack in the field in what was possibly the a new record for slowest powerpack swap ever. But when we were done, the tank drove away!

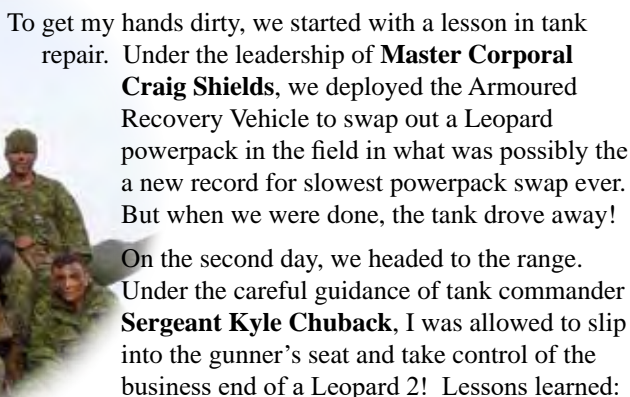
On the second day, we headed to the range. Under the careful guidance of tank commander **Sergeant Kyle Chuback**, I was allowed to slip into the gunner's seat and take control of the business end of a Leopard 2! Lessons learned:

Isaac Newton was right – for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Recoil exists. Don't keep your face too close to the viewfinder when pulling the trigger.

The best place to be when firing a tank is inside the tank. The other members of the crew, who were outside the tank, are still having nightmares.

At the end of filming, we were taken out for a little cross-country cruising in the Leopards to see what they were capable of. Best. Drive. Ever.

At the end of those two days, I left with a deep appreciation of the skill, toughness, and commitment of the Strathcona's. Two weeks later, I also had the privilege of introducing a table of Strathconas, including **Major Sandy Cooper**, at the science centre's annual fundraiser. The room gave them a standing ovation, a fitting show of gratitude for their service, and a nice show of appreciation for sharing an amazing two days with the *Daily Planet* crew!



L-R Cpl Juan Moceton-Velasquez, Tpr Colin Vanthournout, MCpl Kristopher Shields, Alan Nursall, Cpl Christian Maissoneuve, MCpl Matthew Collier, MCpl Matthew Burke, Capt Michael Timms, and Tpr Daniel Choquette who supported the Daily Planet experience.

The CO and RSM with Chelsea Blazer and Jennifer Pink wait for the filming to commence



Op LENTUS

Strathconas in Heat

Lieutenant Sean Coughlan

On 10 July 2015 the Strathcona's deployed an Immediate Reaction Unit (IRU) platoon and a Recce detachment, to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan to fight ongoing devastating forest fires. The platoon was made up of soldiers from every Sqn in the Regiment so as to ensure those with out of area leave plans were not affected. The platoon was used to supplement 1 PPCLI's IRU group aiding in providing a stop gap in which the Saskatchewan Government could train more civilian firefighters.

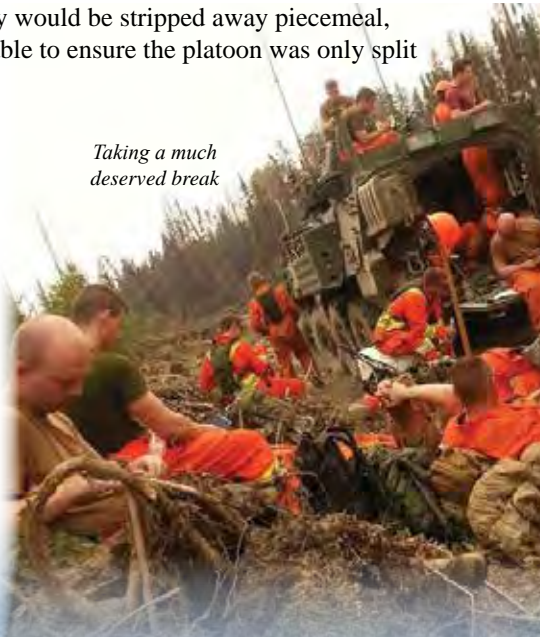
Upon arrival in Prince Albert, cot spaces were quickly assigned on the armoury floor in what would become a revolving door of soldiers from across the Bde bunking down for a couple of nights to receive training before deploying out to the field. Training consisted of five days' worth of lectures that had been compressed into seven hours of power point. Much of the original lectures were able to be cut away due to training that every soldier receives during qualification.

The Recce detachment, part of C/S 60, and the remainder of IRU Strathcona's platoon were split up amongst the 1 PPCLI companies. There had been a fear that they would be stripped away piecemeal, however **Sergeant Mike "Don't worry, I got this" Doody** was able to ensure the platoon was only split into two sections, each commanded by Strathconas.

Upon successful completion of training and the sections' deployment to their respective companies, the real work began. Each day would kick off with an assignment of the area in which the sections would be working, followed by a safety brief. The soldiers would then begin their patrol of their assigned cut lines. Tasks included digging up hot spots, hosing down areas, clearing brush, and ensuring that the fire did not spread cross the cut line either above ground or below.

Once areas had finally been cleared as no longer a threat and enough civilian firefighters had been trained to take over the duties of soldiers the scale down of force and redeployment to Edmonton began. Over the course of three days all of the participating Strathconas were pulled back to Prince Albert and all returned safe and sound to begin their long awaited summer leave.

*Taking a much
deserved break*



LdSH(RC) Fire Team





Worthington Cup 2015

Lieutenant T.J. Casey

The Worthington Cup is a long standing armoured gunnery competition which fosters excellence in our ability to shoot, move, and communicate with our advanced armoured fighting vehicles. The event also raises overall mounted proficiency within the Canadian Army. The event has evolved over the past three years to broaden the spectrum of soldier skills tested, reinforcing the importance of all aspects of soldiering. This year it was apparent that the armoured gunnery portion was no longer the entire focus and a much more substantial and all-encompassing mounted warfare skills competition was created. This in theory necessitated an overall understanding and strengthening of fundamental army skills. To compliment this, the competition not only included many first time participating units, but also welcomed first time participating nations. A tough Danish team, fresh off a strong showing at this year's Nordic Challenge competed directly while other nations such as Brazil, Portugal, and Chile observed the event. The Canadian competitors belonged to 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Canadian Divisions, with teams comprised from their armoured, infantry, engineer, and artillery units. This included Regular Force and Reserve Force soldiers, as well as soldiers from training centres.

The Worthington Challenge focused on four main competitive stands: an armoured fighting vehicle range, testing our crews' gunnery skill using our tanks and infantry fighting vehicles; a driving and maintenance (D&M) and first aid event designed to test our drivers' ability to conquer complex terrain and our ability to conduct first aid in combat conditions; a march and shoot event consisting of an obstacle course, a 7 km run, a small arms shoot, and a night navigation exercise; and an all arms call for fire event which tested our ability to estimate ranges and direct artillery fire. These four stands encompassed 90% of a team's total score with the final 10% being decided by an assessment of our physical fitness, which was tested in a number of ways throughout the competition.

The 3rd Canadian Division team consisted of two Leopard 2 crews and two Coyote crews from Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), a Light Armour Vehicle (LAV) 3 crew from 1 Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and two LUVW reconnaissance crews from the Saskatchewan Dragoons. Each vehicle crew consisted of four soldiers, and these crews competed in separate sub-events at each stand. Their scores all contributed to the overall score for their respective Division. The one exception to this was that the tank crews competed together as a fire team, and were scored on their ability to cooperate and synchronize their fires. A well-organized event, the competition pushed the teams to their limits. To compound the intentional stressors, the weather never fails to play a part when doing anything in

Road wheel change huh. 11 minutes, SEE YA NERDS!





the Gagetown training area. The weather fluctuated from warm sunny days to torrential rain, recording over 120 mm of rain within a 12 hour period!

Team preparation was instrumental to success in this competition. With so many facets of military abilities being tested, a comprehensive training program became a must. As many of the participants will admit, the training regime for this event ranged from challenging to pure lunacy. The 3rd Canadian Division team developed an exceptional level of cohesion, and together honed their team and individual skills. The team's competence and professionalism showed throughout the competition. From pistol shooting to interacting with other participating nations, the 3rd Canadian Division team was the clear front runner throughout. After the scores for the four stands and fitness were compiled, 3rd Canadian Division was congratulated as the overall winner! Further, the tank team from Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) took the first place trophy for the 120 mm gunnery category, and the LAV 3 crew from the 1 Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry took second place trophy for the 25 mm gunnery category. The 3rd Canadian Division team returned to Edmonton, joining their units on exercise with pride in their success, the friendships they had made, and the skills they had gained.



Tanker on a LAV? How can we lose?

Obstacle course, Rope Ladder. SEE YA NERDS!



*Repositioning
the turret
basket on a
Sherman tank*

Regimental Society

*Sgt Paul Kruhlak, Cpl Coleman Germann, Cpl
Landon Hall ride up a back road while helping
out a cattle drive near Barrhead, AB.*

Jeep – Complete

First meeting of the troop in HVT bay



Strathcona Mounted Troop Season

Captain Andrew Tardiff

As with every year, preparation for the new season began immediately following Ex STEELE SABRE in the fall when the new fresh faced recruits arrived at the Strathcona Mounted Troop (SMT) stables and riding school for the first time. In 2014 nine naive recruits walked through the doors. At this point they were innocent to the anguish of one of **Sergeant Paul** “*the tormentor*” **Kruhlak**’s group bareback ride lessons, and had yet to experience the sport of competitive bean picking. Riding lessons began in earnest in the New Year, following the completion of the theoretical portion of the Basic Equine Ride Course. During this stage, a few of the “new guys” received valuable lessons, such as “the dismount at the canter” which was actually taught during lunge training by one of their peers, **Corporal Chris** “*no-knees*” **Lawrence**. Although the class was brief, the “impact” was extreme.

When the Ride Master was satisfied with basic riding skills Musical Ride practice began. Although the complex movements were difficult for some to master, **Corporal William Hopper** shared his words of wisdom, “The next move is always the double dome, the first move is always ‘O Canada’, and when in doubt – Fan Out”. The hours of practice culminated at the end of May when the Troop, along with a posse from the Steele Scouts commemorative group, hosted a VIP BBQ and First Ride.



Capt Andrew Tardiff poses for a picture with the troop leaders of Household Cavalry and the King’s Troop Cavalry inside the International Ring at Spruce Meadows during the Masters tournament.



Sgt Paul Kruhlak walks through the troop stabling area at the PNE in Vancouver, AB before a musical ride performance.

Credit: Cara Grimshaw // www.caragrimshaw.com

Next on SMT’s docket was Spruce Meadows. This year was extremely important due to the celebration of Spruce Meadows 40th Anniversary. In order to support the festivities the Troop sent a contingent for the Opening Ceremonies of their 2015 season. It was during this visit that **Corporal Coleman** “*come see the mini-horse*” **Germann** became enthralled with a new breed and attempted to convince the Ride Master to stray from the Troop’s traditional Quarter Horse. In the midst of the North American Tournament, the Troop was able to take a moment to defend its title in the Calgary Stampede Parade, bringing home the award for “Best Colour Guard” once again. When the final presentation was awarded at the North American, the Troop packed up for home, making a stop at the Saddledome to perform its Calgary Stampede Musical Ride which has become somewhat of a tradition for the SMT. Next stop, the Grandstand.

This marked the beginning of the Troop’s 2015 tour of Alberta and BC. The first stop was the K-Days parade in Edmonton. The Troop decided to maintain some consistency and brought home another first place ribbon



SMT members participate in the opening ceremony for the Okanagan military tattoo.

for “Best Overall Equine Entry”. SMT performed at many venues throughout Western Canada. Of note, SMT performed a fantastic ride in Armstrong, BC at the Interior Provincial Exhibition grounds, in support of the Okanagan Military Tattoo. SMT was fortunate to travel twice to the West Coast this year. First, the Troop traveled to Arbutus Meadows on Vancouver Island. Where the Troop was extremely impressed by the hospitality and fare they were provided. **Corporal Ben “CHARGE” Ford** was so pleased he demonstrated unprecedented focus and aggression in his performance, particularly the final charge across the field. Second, SMT returned to perform at the Provincial National Exhibition in Vancouver, BC, which was a first in several years. The season culminated back in the Spruce Meadows with the Masters tournament.

Following what turned out to be an extremely eventful summer, SMT saw fit to practice a different type of horsemanship. As a Troop adventure training activity we traveled to 2V Ranch, near Barhead AB, and participated in an actual cattle roundup. This turned out to be a terrific opportunity for the riders to gain riding experience. The cowboys showing us the ropes were extremely helpful and even organised some night bareback training once all the chores were done. The exercise had the added benefit of allowing Troop members to expand the scope of the animal husbandry knowledge. **Corporal Landon “Is that a Goat” Hall** received instruction on how to properly and safely handle other animals found on the ranch, thanks to the assistance of **Cpl Coleman “Is that goat poo” Germann**. Although the dense brush did not meet your humble author’s expectations of rolling Alberta prairie, and although these were “bush cows” which are reportedly not as good tempered, it turned out to be a fantastic and once in a lifetime opportunity.

*Strathcona Mounted Troop members performing the cavalry drills before a musical ride performance at the PNE in Vancouver, BC.
Credit: Cara Grimshaw // www.caragrimshaw.com*





Engines inventory during reorganization and cleaning day

Historical Vehicle Troop

Where the history is made!

Captain Ali Raju

For the Historical Vehicle Troop (HVT) of the Regimental Society, year 2015 has been the year of re-organization. More notably, the troop saw an influx of volunteers from within the Regiment, all-eager to get out and do something out of the ordinary.

Over the years HVT has collected several vehicles, engines, spare parts and other equipment, which were located in few different locations. That is why the troop organized and inventoried all serviceable spare parts and engines in one location. Also all the vehicles were verified for serviceability and restoration requirement. The current collection includes a 1950s Sherman M4A3E8 tank (called Catherine), a 1950s Centurion mk III (named Alberta), four 1950s Ferret Scout cars (we call them Dagger, Drumheller, Dieppe and Dictator), a 1969 FMC Lynx Tracked Reconnaissance Carrier (dubbed Dervish) and two 1978 GM-built Cougar AVGP. Our collection is rounded off with several soft skin wheeled vehicles including a 1943 Harley Davidson WLC dispatch motorcycle and a 1968 FMC M113A3 Armoured Personnel Carrier to name a few. One of the troop's major benefactors Mr. Rick DeBruyn, President of Aztec Inspection Inc, is looking into a possibility of HVT acquiring two fully functional 1945 Universal Carrier mk II.

Most notably this year the HVT begun to rebuild the engine of 1950s Centurion mk III (named Alberta). This project is headed by the Troop Warrant, **Warrant Officer Peter Jones** and **Corporal Shaun Sullivan**, their enthusiasm and dedication is beyond reproach. Furthermore, the troop continued its self-education by taking on the restoration of the Harley Davidson WLC dispatch motorcycle and this project was championed by **Master Corporals Lance Banman** and **Roy Bondy**. Last but not the least, over the holidays **Corporal William Clendennin** worked on restoring the Ferret monument for the Regimental Museum.

As always the troop participated in all major Regimental events and supported community relations events. In particular, the Canada Day celebration in front of the Alberta Legislative Building and Spruce Meadows in Calgary showed the public's great interest towards HVT's 1950s Sherman M4A3E8 tank (called Catherine). In the new year HVT is expecting to travel to six events; Calgary Gun Show, 37th Annual Sundre Rodeo Parade, Stampede, Spruce Meadows, Edmonton Gun Show, and the Alberta Air Show.

Finally, this past year saw major changes to HVT's organization. The troop rearranged their hanger and storage spaces which allowed the collection to be massed, inventoried and more easily cared for. Of note this year, the troop acquired Second World War tank crew suits and a fitting shoulder patch, thus HVT volunteers will bring forth a piece of living history to the public. Nonetheless, as the HVT Troop Leader, it is truly astonishing to see the volunteer spirit of fellow Strathconas as part of this troop.



Actively speaking to the public at Spruce Meadows



Strathcona Pipes and Drums

Sergeant Joseph Gushue

The Pipes and Drums have grown this year both in number and within our community. Requests have been pouring in from all over the province for our presence at various events, which has allowed us to have some pretty amazing experiences. Our band had the honour of leading the massed Pipes and Drums for the Calgary Stampede Parade, and the parade for Spruce Meadows' Queen Elizabeth Cup. We are pleased to continue our longstanding partnership with Spruce Meadows and due to their generosity this year the band was able to dress all members in kilts, rather than patrol pants for drummers, as past years have seen. The band members have worked harder than ever this year to maintain this momentum, learning a large stack of new tunes and teaching some newer players in order to continue expanding our ranks. With our higher visibility in our community came requests from pipers and drummers from other units and the Edmonton Police Services to join our band.

For the upcoming year we are looking forward to continuing our tradition of hard work and dedication to our Regiment and society. This will see us participate in various events all across Alberta being in the public eye as much as possible. We will of course continue to strive to be great ambassadors of the Regiment and society and carry with us our work hard play hard demeanour.

*Mass Pipes and
Drums at Kingsway
Legion*



*Strathcona Pipes and Drums march on at
Spruce Meadows*



*Pipes and Drums on Parade for the Colonel of
the Regiment Ceremony*



The Regimental Museum

Sergeant Todd Giberson

There is always change down here at The Military Museums, and this year - it's a big one, with the welcoming of **Captain Phil "The Doctor" Webster** to the team. Recently posted to Calgary as the Platoon Commander for the Integrated Personnel Support Centre (IPSC,) he's only four doors and one posting message from his long-sought dream job as the Strathcona Museum Curator.

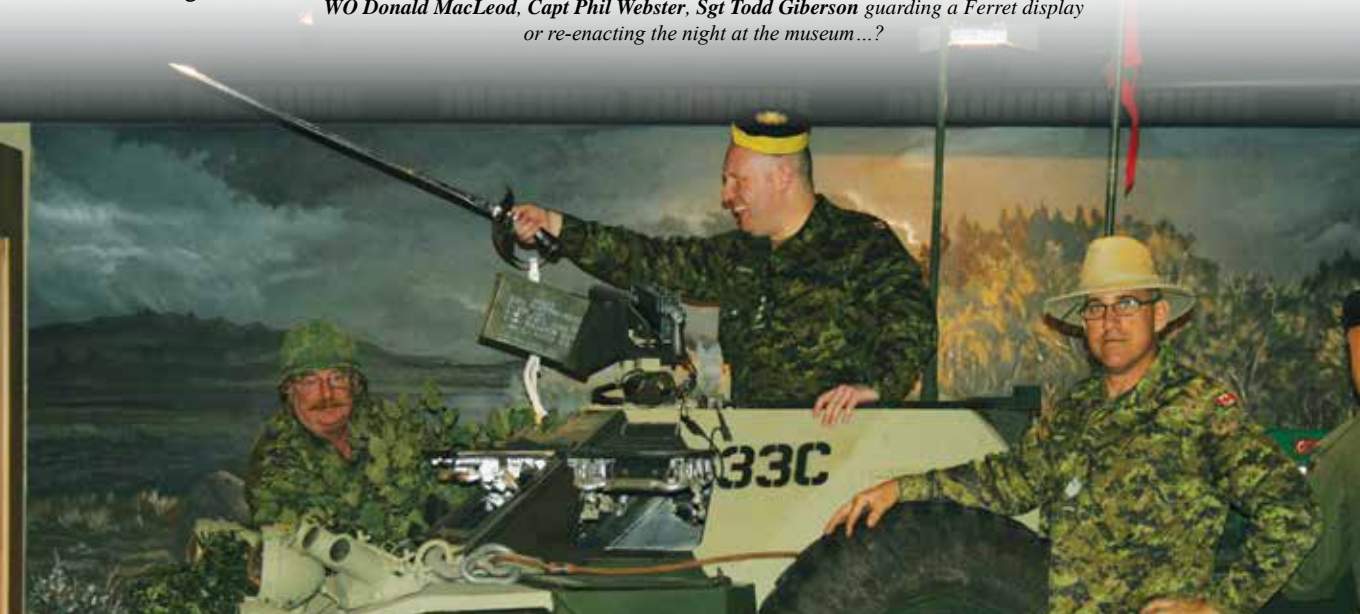
Our gallery is perpetually in a state of change and after the dust had settled from this year's rededication, we began the latest round of renovations and improvements. Unfortunately for our plans we had to put the renovations on hold as the Gallery flooded in July and repairing that damage became the first priority. Fortunately the damage was confined to a section of the gallery which was yet to be designated for a permanent display. An unused jeep, the expert help of **Mr. Ken Raychert**, the handy-qualities of **Warrant Officer Ted MacLeod** (with his handlebar mustache) and several gallons of white paint later and we now have a spot to highlight the Regiment's involvement in The United Nations Egyptian Force (UNEF,) and indeed all of the Regiment's peacekeeping endeavours.

Less excitingly, most of our work here takes place behind the scenes with our collection and archives constituting a long term, ongoing project, which will take many more years of constant work to complete. This work is further complicated by the often fragile quality of the archives and collections. Fortunately for us, this year we added more professional, archive-grade storage lockers; and while this doesn't initially sound all that interesting, these lockers will allow for the long term preservation and study of our wide assortment of weapons, relics and stores. Further, we began the process of long-term cataloguing, and photographing of the above items, with much of this work being made possible by the help of **Mr. James Adams** an invaluable volunteer.

The most pressing and time consuming task here at the museum for me, my volunteers and the incoming curator will be the arrangement and description of our much neglected archives. These archives contain over 10K photographs, and run the gauntlet from every day sports activities, to Regimental life and battle scenes. **Mrs. Myra Adamec** is in the process of scanning these pictures and building our digital photo library, which will allow much faster access to this invaluable resource, with the remaining photos and textual records being moved to proper, maintainable storage. This will ensure their preservation for future generations of Strathcona soldiers, scholars and writers.

The day to day upkeep of the museum and archives is constant hard work, but with an infusion of new blood and the constant effort of volunteers, it's a tunnel with light at the end of it, and work well worth doing.

*WO Donald MacLeod, Capt Phil Webster, Sgt Todd Giberson guarding a Ferret display
or re-enacting the night at the museum....?*





Family Support Troop

Captain Corey McLean

Despite the decrease in Strathcona soldiers serving overseas, the Family Support Troop (FST) still managed to stay busy and see its fair share of change. First off, FST thankfully said goodbye to Regimental Accounts Officer **Captain Shaun** *"That's a Cpl White Thing"* **Rogozinski** as he made his way to greener pastures as the Regimental Transport Officer. Unfortunately, replacing him was **Captain Corey** *"Show me the math"* **McLean**. As normal, the change in leadership came with a detailed review of all the Troop's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) with the stated intent of improving the overall efficiency of FST (read "reinventing the wheel").

Regardless of this time consuming SOP review, FST members actually managed to achieve a lot of important work. **Corporal Mark White** spearheaded the project of moving the Regimental Canteen from directly across from the gym into the room previously occupied by the Kit Shop. Therefore, the next time you are eating a slice of delicious pizza or drinking a cup of finely brewed coffee, you should take a moment to mentally thank the man who made doing so (without simultaneously smelling the intoxicating odour of gym equipment and sweaty man) possible.

The Kit Shop itself also saw a large change. **Corporal Matt** *"Yes that seriously is my last name"* **Bond** took over as the man with a plan in the Canteen. With little direction, he has spearheaded many projects aimed at providing items that soldiers are requesting. Further, with the addition of new paint, fridges, sponsorships, and planned Regimental and Squadron inspired murals, he is well on his way to turning the Kit Shop/Canteen into a room which no longer resembles what one young Trooper eloquently referred to as "a seedy gas station convenience store."

Also, The Troop's new Stables NCO, **Master Corporal Michael** *"Let me speak to them Sir"* **Korenowski** with his new 2IC enforcer **Master Corporal Anthony Lister**, have been a driving force behind organizing the practical details for the numerous parades and events.

Truthfully, despite being confused as to how I ended up in a position where I literally get excited about a new calculator (sadly that happened to me last week....no joke) I am looking forward to working with this great group of soldiers and am interested to see what 2016 will bring.

Cpl Shaun Sullivan trying to explain to MCpl Michael Korenowski the proven ways to avoid the RSM during your daily tasks as the Stables NCO.

Top: Sgt Dave Jones smile thinly hides his internal thoughts of "oh great yet another new Troop Leader to break in."

Cpl Bryan Naylor thinks he is ET...which I guess would mean he thinks that Red Bulls are stuffed animals???

Bottom: Cpl Mark White trying (unsuccessfully) to translate what NPF is sending him. What this picture doesn't show is the three angry SSMs leaning over his shoulder.





Ex STEELE SABRE Community Relations

Captain Ali Raju

Participants dig in to an IMP lunch



This fall the Regiment hosted 22 prominent people from varying backgrounds during a Community Relationship event held in the Wainwright training area from the 23-24 October 2015. It took place during our Exercise STEELE SABRE 15 where the equipment was already in place and it allowed a pause for the soldiers to perform maintenance and interact with the public. Also, this event showcased the personnel and equipment that Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) uses and expanded on the roles, capabilities and mission.

Upon arrival, our guests were shown their tented accommodation and issued personal protective equipment then greeted by the Commanding Officer in the Regimental Headquarters command post. Shortly after, guests were bused to Range 15 in order to commence scheduled activities. Officer Commanding "Prince of Wales" Squadron, **Major Sandy Cooper** welcomed the guests and his Battle Captain **Captain Nathan Hevenor** gave the Range safety briefing. Following that the guests were escorted by **Captain Shaun "Viper-Panther" Rogozinski**,

Captain Mathew "Spartan 117" Hoffart, and **Warrant Officer Ben Holmes** to a series of round-robin activities; observing a troop level smoke shoot, familiarisation with the main battle tank and observing displays of small arms.

Following the round-robin activities, guests were bused to Reconnaissance Squadron's Unmanned Ariel Vehicle capability demonstration and visited an observation post. Just before sunset, guests moved to Headquarters Squadron's location, and observed maintenance, logistic support activities and associated equipment. Throughout all these activities guests had the chance to converse with all trades of Strathcona soldiers as they expanded on their areas of expertise. At the end of the day guests had a fresh delicious meal prepared at the field kitchen. Shortly after supper guests had an update on Regimental activities by our Commanding Officer and later mingled with the Regimental Headquarter soldiers in the mess tent. In the early morning of 24 October guests rose and had a warm breakfast at the field kitchen.

This event provided a positive view on the Army as a whole and ensured that the local community was aware of the outstanding capabilities of the Regiment and what they do to protect Canadians.

RSM Tony Batty explains IMPs to the participants...he sure is camouflaged



CO presenting cavalry soldier for a day certificates to the Purvis family.





Canadian Pacific & Strathcona Student Scholarship Program

By Captain Ali Raju



Jamie Hunter and **Master Warrant Officer Tom Holland** at the Combat Training Centre in Gagetown, New Brunswick.

These successful applicants were chosen by a panel consisting of members from the LdSH(RC) Regimental Society and CP. The primary criteria for their selection was based upon their familial connection to the Strathcona's, academic standing, academic and career goals, community service, and financial need. **Michaela**, **Aleisha**, and **Travis**' applications were weighed against the other numerous applicants and they were all found to most closely fulfill the values which the selection panel was looking for.

We wish to reach out to as many people as possible in the Strathcona family. Since Strathconas and their families are spread all across Canada, we encourage all serving and retired members to pass this on to their loved ones that are pursuing higher education.

As CP and the LdSH(RC) Regimental Society

will continue to offer this scholarship in the future, we request that all applications be received no later than 30 April of each year. More information can be found on the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Society Website. Once again congratulations to this year's deserving recipients: Michaela, Aleisha, and Travis.

In summary, on behalf of the large Strathcona family we thank the CP Rail, for their generous partnership with the LdSH(RC) Regimental Society that has made this scholarship possible.

For the last few months, Canadian Pacific (CP) and the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) [(LdSH(RC))] Regimental Society have scrutinized through numerous applications for the 2015 CP – Strathcona Student Scholarship Program. The Strathcona's strong connection to Canadian Pacific has continually been beneficial to both organizations. It has increased awareness of numerous issues facing military members and support to families of those in uniform.

It is a great honour to congratulate the three recipients of this year's scholarship. **Mr. Travis Taylor** received \$2,000 from our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Josh Major** at the Mariner Room in the presence of numerous Regimental Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers. **Ms. Aleisha Colson** and **Ms. Michaela Woodrow** accepted their \$3,000 and \$5,000 cheque from **Major**





Cpl Adam Hurley demonstrating snowmobile skills



Capt Jack Nguyen and CPT Harris following a company attack during the Brigade Field Exercise – Photo by 2-2 SBCT Public Affairs

The G1, Maj Matt Johns, doesn't think you understand the power of the administrative side of the HQ.



Sgt Dave Brister with Portuguese Leopard 2A6Ms.



BGen Trevor Cadieu (left) and CWO Bill Crabb (right) in the wilds of Shilo. "Let our wonder twins power combine!"

Extra Regimentally Employed



Maj Islam Elkorazati during Ex TRIDENT JUNCTURE 15



LGen Stephen Bowes, Comd CJOC visits 1 Can Div, with Sgt Matt Williams as the Quarter Guard Commander.



Royal Canadian Armour Corps School

Captain Tyler Collings

It is often stated that the best place to work in the Corps outside of one's own Regiment is the School. That is made true by the fact that the people that work here all come from those Regiments. At the RCACS the Strathcona's surely are well represented, with recent re-enforcement this past APS which included yours truly. It is true that Regimental representation here is important, as it ensures the Regiment has a voice in the way forward on all things Armour, from Crewman DP1 to DP4 and Officer training.

RHQ has seen some adjustments as **Captain Allan Dwyer** has taken the reigns as the Operations Officer and we have (in the grand tradition started with **Lieutenant Colonel Josh Major**) abducted another quality 12ieme tanker in **Warrant Officer Hugo Babin**, who will be reporting to the Army of the West this posting season. Further, we decided to usurp the Adjutant position by secretly sneaking **Captain Mike "Is this my big three?" Kaye** in so gradually that no one noticed. In addition **Corporal Spencer Mackinnon**, adds to the Strathcona footprint in RHQ.

A Sqn has seen a large number of changes over the last year. The recent reorganization of RCACS has seen A Sqn become the official Tank Sqn (with more than a few TLAVs). As a result, there has been a centralization of Strathcona personnel in major positions within the Sqn, if for no other reason than to ensure track maintenance was not forgotten. From the OC, **Major Dave Cronk** and the BC, **Captain Phil "I need a coffee" Buckingham**, to **Warrant Officer Ed Morley** and **Warrant Officer Stu McLoughlin**, A Sqn has taken on a thoroughly Strathcona flavour. The expertise of the Strathcona School Personnel was specifically showcased on Ex WORTHINGTON CHALLENGE, Tank ACCs, Tank ATWs, and the newly minted DP1.1 Tank course. With the primary Crew Commander training platform for Officers now being the tank, the vehicles and staff have been in the field from February to December. Most recently **Captain Blake Tapp** ran an ACC tank with support from **Captain Brandon "The other" Frizzell** and **Captain Moses Pano**. As we all know, the heavy lifting was done by the Senior NCOs, including **Warrant Officer Ed Morley** and **Sergeant John Goobie**, who had the "pleasure" of instructing some of the Regiment's finest in the fundamentals of crew commanding; skills which will no

WO Neil Miller always working hard and jamming to some tunes demonstrates, as he does every time he deploys to the field, the importance of an effective union between track and wheeled vehicles... for recovery purposes.



doubt come in handy in Wainwright. In addition to the plethora of courses, the high profile of the School demands extensive use of the vehicles and naturally the tanks played a prominent role in all parades, including both the RCACS and CTC Change of Command. When asked about how much he enjoys his job, **Corporal Sean "I bleed Myrtle Green" Andrews**, is quoted as saying "I'll do anything to get back to the Regiment! Anything..." The school has taken him at his word and has subsequently employed him on every tank course and parade this year.

This year was also busy year for B Sqn that saw its' Strathcona members continue to lead the standard for the RCACS by first comprising the backbone of the 5th Canadian Division's tank team under the expert mentorship of **Warrant Officer Stu McLoughlin** and team captain **Sergeant Conway Eady** that gave the Regimental team a run for its money during the AFV Range portion of the



In true Strathcona fashion Trooper "I'm stuck...again" Fabischek

Warrant Officer Neil Miller. Also representing the Regiment in Standards are **Master Warrant Officer Dan Goodwin** and **Sergeant Larry Leaman.** This super elite team is tasked with validating timetables for such courses as well as ensuring the standard is maintained in accordance with the Qualification Standard and the Training Plan of each individual course. Strathcona's within the Squadron also play a pivotal role in the creation and updating of Training Plans and are often relied on by the Commandant as the Deputy Director of Armour, making these Strathconas an important cog both at the RCACS and the Corps level. In the newly formed HQ Sqn, we have yours truly, **Captain Tyler "Arrested for a ticket?" Collings** as Sqn 2IC, **Captain Laurel Frizzel** as an instructor, and **Warrant Officer Greg Moon** as Ops WO name a few.

The Regiment really did itself justice as Canada's preeminent Cavalry Regiment by owning mounted warfare skills during Exercise WORTHINGTON CHALLENGE 2015. Not only did the Regiment form several crews for the winning 3 Canadian Division team (under the leadership of **Warrant Officer "What IS in that backpack?" Barker**) but the Regiment took home the honour of the top tank fire team in the competition, commanded by **Lieutenant TJ "I do dip at AARs" Casey** and **Sergeant Ryan "Old Man" Vigar.** This achievement was applauded by the Strathcona members of the RCACS, who then added to the Regimental pride by achieving the highest score for tank gunnery during the competition.

competition. The Sqn also conducted a myriad of ACCs, ARPCs and its first DP 1.2 following the school's reorganisation, making it the official Recce Sqn of the RCACS. The DP 1.2 candidates that survived to the end saw the most enlightened of the bunch become the newest additions to the Strathcona Officer corps. These four fortunate individuals were welcomed into the Regimental family by a little mess dinner pre-drinking courtesy of **Captain Blake Tapp.** The result of this pre-game warm-up saw **Second Lieutenant Leland "I love to write essays" Kirkham** require a little first aid, a lot of rehydration and some on the job training in his likely future role as "Mr. Vice" at the Regiment. That said, in true Strathcona fashion he was able to rally and managed to persevere through the entire evening, ultimately closing the bar.

The Regiment also has some stalwarts in HQ Sqn and Standards Squadron here at the RCACS, beginning with Tactics Troop, which is led by **Captain Paul Stachow** and

*With the compliments and good wishes of
The Hon. Tommy Banks, OC, AOE, LLD. (Hon.), FRCMT (Hon.)*



Strathconas in the National Capital Region

Major Mike Onieu

The concept of “swarming,” as applied to autonomous robotic weapons, is equally applicable to Strathconas in the National Capital Region. We pass in the halls occasionally, then converge as and when necessary to socialize, under the guidance of our family “whip” and master of social events, **Master Warrant Officer Lanny Hill**, who otherwise spends his days in the Army Simulation Lab playing with shiny toys.

So, where are they now? As of December 2015, **Lieutenant Colonel Dwayne Parsons** is maintaining a tight grip on the reins in the Directorate of Defence Programme Coordination. It is said that any information can be pried out of him for the price of a Bubba’s poutine in Kingston. **Lieutenant Colonel Chris Adams** serves in the Land Staff but spends so much time on the road that he might well be serving an OUTCAN posting. At least then he wouldn’t have to import all the parts he buys to trick out his Jeep.

Major Warren Deatcher further solidified his reputation as master of all things Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear over in CJOC HQ while the Strategic Joint Staff retained **Major Mike Barnett’s** expertise in Arms Control Verification. **Captain Matt Bentley** took a hiatus from the daily grind to complete the Tech Staff course.

After spending two years in DGLEPM, people started to joke that **Major Thomas LaCroix** was in the running to be the next Maint O of the Regiment. A timely promotion and posting to the Chief of Force Development (CFD) shop took him out of the running. In fact, CFD took on a distinctly Regimental flavor as **Major Mike Lakatos** and **Captain Lenny Dunn** transferred to CFD from Director Land Requirements and **Major Mike Onieu** grudgingly relinquished his Regimental tour in exchange for the joys of cubicle life and capability integration “stuff.” **Major Sheldon Holmes** escaped CFD to finish the year in SJS Cyber and Information Operations Cell where he is dealing with the institutionalization of these two newer joint enablers within the CAF (really just playing video games and tweeting on social media).

Lieutenant Colonel Vince Kirstein remained the go-to person for personnel rumours in his capacity as Career Manager. He was generally hard to reach owing to the propensity of Career Managers to travel in packs as a force protection measure in the NCR. **Captains Varun Vahal** and **Brian Johnson** held the fort in DLR as the only Strathconas in Ottawa who get to talk about Canadian Army armoured vehicles on a regular basis. If you want to know about LAV 6.0 Recce vehicles, Brian is the guy.

LCol Derek Chenette and LCol Vince Kirstein being promoted





Over in CFINTCOM, **Colonel Paul Peyton** serves as COS Support and has maintained a surprisingly cheerful demeanor despite the rigors of bringing several disparate organizations together into one formation. **Major Brian Corbett** is also in CFINTCOM, serving as an analyst in the Directorate of Scientific and Technical Intelligence. With only his wits and a small jeweled bag of 12 sided dice, Brian examines current and future threat systems and technologies, in an effort of prevent technological surprise (such as the unforecasted appearance of enemy hover tanks) to Canadians on the battlefield. Keeping them both honest in CFINTCOM are **Warrant Officers Graham Irvine** and **Stuart Marshall** – both Strathconas for life although they no longer wear the cap badge.

Lieutenant Colonel Derek Chenette served as EA to COS Army Ops and, as such, maintained a frenetic pace throughout the year, as did **Lieutenant Colonel Mark Lubiniecki** while serving as EA to Deputy Commander Canadian Army prior to checking in for some pre-command Second Language Training at the language school.

All of us were grateful to **Master Warrant Officer Lanny Hill** for organizing the October beer call and December's Christmas drinks, the latter being graciously hosted by **Bill** and **Judy Logan**, despite the inherent dangers of allowing Strathconas to gather in your own home.



Capt Brian Johnson....Boys and their toys

• imagine • explore • create • play •

Inspiring
voyages of life-long
discovery.

Military Appreciation at TWOSE: Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel receive free Science Centre Admission & CAF personnel family members receive 15% off Science Centre Admission. CAF personnel & family members receive 10% off IMAX tickets*

*Must show Military I.D. or CAF Appreciation Card

TELUS WORLD
of SCIENCE
Edmonton



Some Kingston Strathconas on Remembrance Day, Capt Evan Wiome, Maj Clayton Fifield, Sgt Dave Brister, Col Stephen Kelsey, LCol Edward Padvaiskas, Sgt Matt Williams, WO Laki Christopoulos, Maj Errol MacEachern and possibly a bottle of Drambuie to toast the Regiment and our fallen comrades.

1st Canadian Division Headquarters

Sergeant Matt Williams

With a bit over four months since I've been posted to 1 CAN DIV HQ, **Sergeant Dave Brister** (aka good go Dave) and I have come to learn there is a completely different side of the army that one does not see at the Regimental level.

Since the beginning of our time here we hit the ground running with Individual Battle Task Standard training starting immediately after the block leave, then straight into a week's long preparation for a deployment on JOINTEX 15. JOINTEX is a Command Post Exercise and as the Canadian contribution of a division headquarters for full spectrum operations, the compliment of the headquarters swelled from 200 to 400 in order facilitate all of the functions of a higher headquarters.

This bi-annual exercise saw the headquarters deploy to 4 Div Training Centre Meaford (Home of the RCR Battle School) for a month. If you have ever had the pleasure to visit this marvelous place, as I have on several occasions, it will give you a chuckle as it did for me to know that you still can't walk on the grass without an ornery RCR MWO jumping out of the bushes and screaming at you for walking on "his" grass; I may or may not have tested this theory...

The time switch to Brunsum, Belgium time proved to be a challenge; one day you get up and go to work at regular time, the next, the schedule is switched to 2200 reveille and a report for work time of 0030, putting breakfast at 2330 and lunch at 0600. I personally couldn't make the switch very well and still had a bowl of Mini Wheats for lunch, with a piece of cherry pie for desert, of course.

Sergeant Dave Brister then redeployed to Kingston for a few short days before his next stop in Portugal for the LIVE EX portion of the exercise. The deployment started off like any other exercise deployment: hurry up and wait. He deployed two days late, due to weather and mechanical issues. He left 8 Wing Trenton on a C-17, stopped in Montreal to pick up a few other soldiers then crossed the Atlantic to land in Portugal before transferring to a C-130 to stop at Tancos. Here he was employed as the night duty NCO within the NCE. This allowed him to get out and interact with some of the NATO military forces on his down time. He was able to visit a tank troop from the Portuguese armoured 2nd Lancers Regiment, who were equipped with newly purchased Leopard 2A6Ms. After a small chat he came to discover they have many of the same issues we had at the beginning with various systems to include the rear tail light cluster ripping off with the mud flaps. He also was able to observe a very complex river crossing completed with floating bridges and amphibious equipment. It was very impressive to watch two Leopard 2s float across fast moving river.

Also in Kingston, **Warrant Officer Laki Christopoulos** is enjoying his busy life at Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC) running course after course for the ones and twos that deploy on the many operations that are ongoing throughout the world.

The future for the Division remains busy with many exercises and supporting the ongoing missions around the world. The motto for 1 CAN DIV remains true, "Small but Mighty."



The 1 CMBG World Tour

Major Matt Johns

Normally when Strathconas are posted to far off places such as the hallowed halls of 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Headquarters they duck their heads, bite their lips and prepare to weather a storm of gravy jokes and PowerPoint presentations. Somehow, over the course of the last year LdSH(RC) members in 1 CMBG have in fact gone on some type of non-stop, mind-bending world tour of borderline epic proportions. Initially led by forays into French culture by **Major Dave “Baguette” MacIntyre**, **Captain Callum “Smitty” Smith** and **Captain Matt “Red, Red Wine” Johns** as part of Ex CITADEL KLEBER these Strathconas saw the world open up for them. Working closely with five other NATO nations, Spain, Belgium, The Netherlands, France and Germany, these brave officers faced down the terrors of corps-level planning while also, perhaps inadvertently, invading another country as part of this computer exercise.

As if visits to France weren't enough, the brave Strathconas of 1 CMBG followed up their success with the Rapid Reaction Corps (France) by teaming up with the members of 2 Marine Expeditionary Brigade and 3rd Commando (UK) as part of Large Scale Exercise 15, held in Twenty-Nine Palms, California. Reinforced with supporting fires from **Captain Alex “Delorean” Nitu** and **Captain Ahmad “J-Dat” Jaradat**, as both G3 Ops and G3 Ops 2 respectively, the Brigade HQ once again launched itself against the foe. Fighting a desperate battle against a Dakotian Division, 1 CMBG earned its name of “Div Eaters” through the destruction of many, many pixels. Fresh troops were rushed to the front by the newly minted G1, **Major Matt “Half the man he used to be” Johns** from back in Edmonton.

Of course any world tour would be incomplete without a stop to see the sites of such scenic locations as Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. The unexpected, as always, deployment of the Immediate Response Unit in support of the Province of Saskatchewan saw over a thousand Canadian soldiers and the Brigade Headquarters setting up shop in Prince Albert as part of Op LENTUS 15-02.

Individual HQ members also indulged their travel bug, including **Captain Ahmad “Aren't Kiwis fruit?” Jaradat's** visit to New Zealand for a “conference”, **Major Dave “Needs a new pair of shoes” MacIntyre's** whirlwind tour of Las Vegas for “planning”, and **Major Pete “Elvis” Beitz** and **Captain Callum “War Bride” Smith's** forays into robotics in Kingston, Ontario. The latter trip resulted in **Captain Callum Smith** somehow finding himself a new girlfriend when no one was looking.

All of this was of course accomplished under the steady guidance of the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier-General Trevor Cadieu** and the haircut ordering grip of the Brigade Sergeant-Major, **Chief Warrant Officer Bill Crabb**. The HQ also saw the arrival and departure of several Strathconas who were part of the elite crew of 99er TAC. **Corporal Tom “Dark Side” Clackson** gave up his chevrons for the mighty bar of officer cadet-dom, while **Master Corporal Tom “AFV Recognition” Hume** stepped up to ensure that the many Patricias of 99er TAC were kept in line.

Having completed a very busy year and facing down an even busier Road to High Readiness, the Strathconas of 1 CMBG HQ look forward to their inevitable visit to the hinterlands of Wainwright, prepared to take the fight to 2 CMBG in Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 1601.

*Capt Ahmad Jaradat (left) preparing for an O Group during Ex MERCURY WANDERER in Shilo, MB.
Capt Callum Smith (Right) working hard in the G3 Branch.*





Strathcona's in 3 CDSG HQ

Captain John Kim

There are some that may be aware that 3 CDSG stands for 3rd Canadian Division Support Group, but what does it mean? Certainly the Strathconas that are posted here wrestle with that very question on a daily basis as they do their part to provide “institutional support” to the formation, which expands from Chilliwack, BC, all the way to Thunder Bay, ON, not to mention also providing support to Joint Task Force (North) in the Arctic. In terms of managing an Area of Operations as a formation, 3 CDSG is one of the most complex in the Canadian Army; thus 3 CDSG is comprised of many varied lines of communications, bases, branches, and lodger units. To attempt to visualise it as a single entity is a major conundrum good enough to confuse the best of Army Operations Course and NATO-qualified staff officers!

Rather than take on the daunting and near-impossible task of trying to explain 3 CDSG, it's better to highlight some of the key Strathcona personnel who actually make this organisation operate, and hear it straight from the horses' mouths, how and what they do to contribute to the fight. In Headquarters reside **Major Scott Shrubbs**, Deputy Chief of Operations, and **Captain John Kim**, G3 Operations Officer; **Major Steve Wright**, Range Training Area Management (RTAM) and CAF Arctic Training Centre (ATC) Manager, **Captain Tom Pett**, RTAM Operations Officer, and **Captain Kristian Reiten**, Base RTAM Officer; and **Captain Rob “The Centurion” Swainsbury**, Garrison Co-ordination Officer for the Lecture Training Facility.

Headquarters: “Ask me no questions and I'll tell you no lies” is the popular saying in 3 CDSG HQ. Responding to multiple formation, base, and unit demands, 3 CDSG HQ fights daily to explain to users that if it is a base demand, it must go through 3 CDSB Ops; if it is a formation demand, then it must go through 3 CDSG Ops... wait! They're one and the same! Welcome to life in HQ, where the officers and Warrant Officers, such as **Master Warrant Officer Tom Hopkin** (Information Management Officer), take on multiple tasks and play multiple roles to serve multiple users.

From a garrison (3 CDSB Edmonton) perspective, 3 CDSG HQ is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Fire Hall, Military Police Guardhouse, Commissionaires, Base Construction Engineers, Lecture Training Facility, Royal Canadian Artillery Band, and Range Control with its accompanying training area.

Cpl Francine Riopelle, Cpl Hurley, Capt Swainsbury, MWO Tom Hopkin, Capt Kristian Reiten, Maj Scott Shrubbs, Capt John Kim, Sgt Tyler Baldwin, Capt Tom Pett posing in front of 3rd Cdn Div HQ.
Photo taken by MCpl Van Putten, 3 CDSB Image Tech





*Sgt Tyler Baldwin receives his British jump wings from
HRH Charles Prince of Wales*

Range Control: Range Control is managed by **Captains Swainsbury** and **Reiten**, but led daily by **Sergeant Tyler Baldwin** and **Corporal Adam Hurley**. The small arms ranges are operated by our bona fide Subject Matter Expert, **Corporal Francine Riopelle**. Due to manning constraints that exist within 3 CDSB Range Control (and not limited to), **Sergeant Baldwin** and **Cpl Riopelle** play crucial roles daily to provide essential services, ensuring that 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group and other lodger units on the base get the training needed to meet their operational requirements.

CAF ATC: No one really understands their role, so a separate article has been dedicated by **Captain Tom Pett** just to inform the readers on what they do...

In conclusion, what is 3 CDSG HQ and what's its function? To put it in simple armoured terms, 3 CDSG does the background, under-

appreciated, non-glorious, "looks great on paper but barely manned to meet its mandate," bean-counting, staff check-after-staff check, answers to everyone (thus accountable to everyone), roles that no 1st line unit or headquarters would ever want to do. Responsible for not only 3 CDSB Edmonton and Detachment Wainwright operations, but also providing institutional support to CAFB Suffield/BATUS, CAFB Shilo, and Detachment Chilliwack, 3 CDSG HQ is the jack of all trades and master of none organisation that no one really wants to deal with, but without whom, can't function either. Oh, did the writer mention that we are undermanned and looking for good staff officers and soldiers to be posted-in?

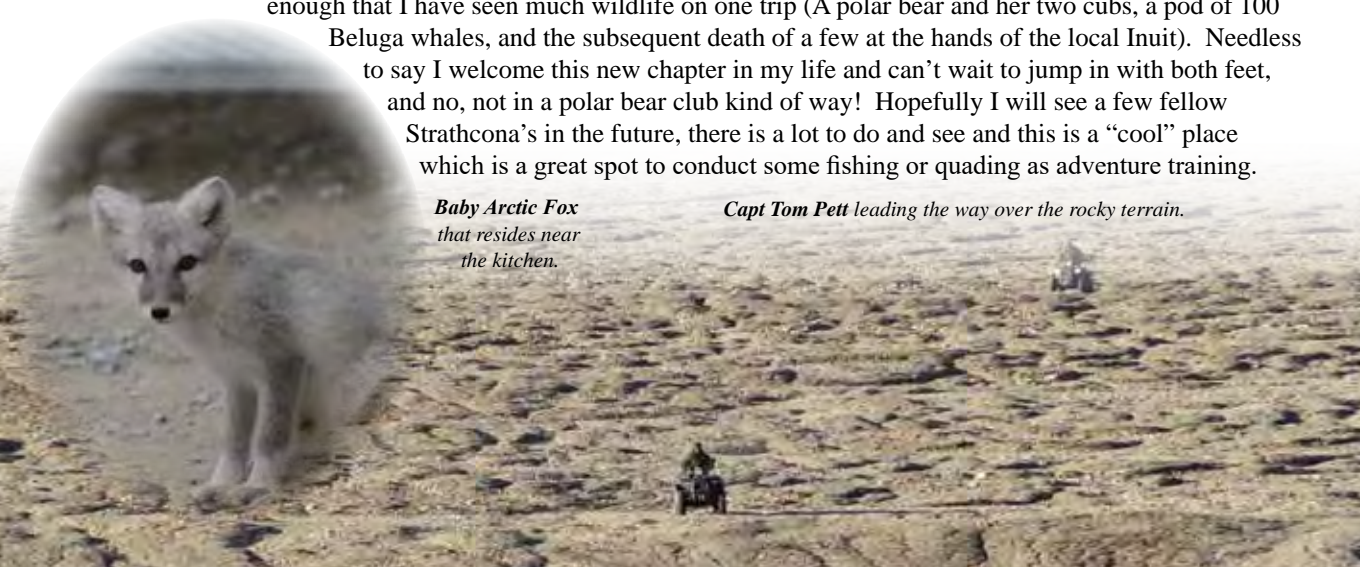
Arctic Training Centre

Captain Tom Pett

As the newest (and second) member of the CAF ATC (Arctic Training Centre), I was amazed and slightly taken aback by my new position at 3 CDSG. Having just returned from an area that saw snow only four times in three years, I was a little hesitant. After **Major Stephen Wright** gave me a whirlwind intro to Resolute Bay, I am glad to say that I have not frozen to death. I was actually quite impressed and cannot wait to see this training centre fully functional in all its glory. I have a steep learning curve in order to come to terms with the daily issues, whether it's the one sea lift a year to receive kit and equipment, or that I will be spending almost as much time north as I do in Edmonton, a fact that **Captain Rob Swainsbury** is actually jealous of. I have been lucky enough that I have seen much wildlife on one trip (A polar bear and her two cubs, a pod of 100 Beluga whales, and the subsequent death of a few at the hands of the local Inuit). Needless to say I welcome this new chapter in my life and can't wait to jump in with both feet, and no, not in a polar bear club kind of way! Hopefully I will see a few fellow Strathcona's in the future, there is a lot to do and see and this is a "cool" place which is a great spot to conduct some fishing or quading as adventure training.

*Baby Arctic Fox
that resides near
the kitchen.*

Capt Tom Pett leading the way over the rocky terrain.





Strathconas in CFB Suffield

Captain Chris Whalley

The past year at CFB Suffield remained a busy one, with many new challenges for members of the Regiment. Defence Research Development Canada – Suffield Research Centre (DRDC) continued to fulfill their mandate through two large exercises and multiple trials, providing Canada and its NATO partners with advanced scientific and technical research, as well as world-class training opportunities. British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) completed four battlegroup-level exercises, and saw over 6000 British soldiers successfully complete their high-readiness and combined-arms training for the year. The Primary Reserve and local police services managed to squeeze in 10 smaller exercises, rounding out the year's training calendar. Building on previous success, the Elk Herd Reduction Program entered its fourth year, with over 2000 hunters converging on the training area to harvest over 1400 elk. Add in a busy social calendar and some community relations events, such as the 2015 Ralston Rodeo, and the operational tempo remained swift year-round.

All of these achievements would not be possible, were it not for the dedicated and professional soldiers of G3 Range Control. Strathconas make up a sizeable portion of this organization, with members of the Regiment forming its veteran core. **Master Corporal Chris Oliver**, **Corporal Matthew Sebo**, **Corporal Shane Brough** and **Corporal Trevor McQueen** continued in their roles, while **Master Corporal Hugh Hayes** and newly promoted **Master Corporal Kyle Dunphy** returned to the Regiment. **Corporal Dale Cyrenne** also departed, retiring after a long and distinguished career. But, it was not all departures for the Strathconas this year, as **Corporal Michael Allman** joined the team, providing some fresh blood to the organization. Once again, the considerable efforts of these fine soldiers

Cpl Trevor McQueen debating the finer points of field firefighting



CWO Richard Stacey all dressed up for Canada Day





Capt Chris Whalley assures us everything will go according to plan

taking care of the endless excitement that flows from a Base, consisting of multiple organizations, mandates, priorities and cultures. **Captain Chris Whalley** remained as G3 Ops, working hard to find new ways to coordinate multiple, concurrent operations, and develop new training opportunities for the troops.

Overall, this posting continues to provide members of the Regiment with a full calendar, a quick pace and many learning opportunities. Through it all, the Strathconas of CFB Suffield continue to embody perseverance, never failing to rise to each challenge and achieve mission success.



MCpl Chris Oliver offering some guidance and refreshment,

received frequent recognition from the Base Commander and Commander BATUS, for their steadfast support to the Base and its primary users.

Up in the Base HQ, **Chief Warrant Officer Richard Stacey** continued as Base RSM,

CWO Richard Stacey presenting Cpl Dale Cyrenne with a Regimental Certificate of Appreciation upon his retirement.





Op IMPACT: A Strathcona in Kuwait

Warrant Officer Nathan Mills

Note that many aspects of this operation are classified and not available for use. As such, Warrant Officer Mills has done his best to provide an interesting article with what can be disclosed.

Going from squadron level operations to being employed at the 1st Canadian Division Headquarters (1st Cdn Div HQ) in Kingston for almost three years presented many training and operational opportunities. I served as the Operations NCO for the NEO HQ on 12 hours' notice to move for over two years, during which time the division conducted Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations, Disaster Assistance Response Team, Full Spectrum Operations, and National Command Element exercises in the UK, South Korea, Hawaii, and all over Canada. **Sergeant Dave Barsotta** and I had the opportunity to be loaded on a two month long course conducted in Fort Benning, Georgia, with the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. We were the first Canadians ever to participate on the course and we finished it holding the top two positions because, after all, we are Strathconas. Over all, working and training at the Div HQ level was a big jump from the Sqn level, and one that came with a steep learning curve, but it served as good experience with constant learning opportunities.

All this training was a great lead up to my rapid deployment on Op IMPACT Roto 0 as a part of the JTF-I HQ. I deployed in October of 2014 with the advance party and we hit the ground running. As with any Roto 0, we tried to figure out what we were doing while doing it at the same time. However, it didn't take long before we were operational and dropping bombs on enemy positions and installations with good effects.

Together, as a joint HQ we were made up of people from different experiences, environments, and trades. Fortunately, I worked with a few other combat arms personnel, so when we were operating together everything seemed to be a little more "normal". As a testament to our diversity, the Flag pole over the camp flew the RCD Flag for Lilyfontein Day, RCHA Flag for St Barbara's Day, the RCR Flag

for their Birthday, and the Strathcona flag for Moreuil Wood. As we stopped for small ceremonies to commemorate each other's days, we learned of each other's Regimental histories. It has reminded me of how different and important it is to be a part of a combat arms regiment. Officer or NCO, we had all shared similar hardships, successes, and losses. It made for a strong sense of comradery amongst the few combat soldiers there.

As the sole Strathcona on the operation, I had the privilege of raising our flag over Camp Canada for the commemoration of the Battle of Moreuil Wood. There was an RCD, an RCR, and Gunner as part of our small, quick "ceremony" and they were able to learn a little more about the heroism and perseverance of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). For a Strathcona there on my own, it was certainly a nice feeling of home to be able to look out and see our flag flying over that camp in the Kuwaiti desert.



The Strathcona flag is raised over Camp Canada



Op PROTEUS

Major Paul Leonard

In September 2014, I deployed on an 11 month tour with Op PROTEUS, the CAF mission to support the security force capacity building and security sector reform efforts of the Office of the United States Security Coordinator (USSC) and the United States Consulate General with the Palestinian Authority Security Forces (PASF). The USSC is a US-led, joint, inter-agency, and multi-national (UK, US, CA, NED, TUR) organization that works with the Palestinian Authority (PA) to transform and professionalize security institutions in the West Bank, engages with the Israelis and PA on security initiatives that build trust and confidence, and supports coordinated government efforts that set the conditions for a negotiated two-state solution. CAF support to this mission was extensive; with 17 officers committed to this organization, contributing to sustainment, PASF capability (effects) development and delivery, and training initiatives, the Canadian Task Force made a key impact to this mission and I was very fortunate to have been a part of it.

During my deployment I was employed as a Liaison Officer to two PASF services: the Palestinian Civil Defence (PCD) and the Joint Security Commission-District Coordination Office (DCO). My position entailed three core responsibilities: (1) meet with local PASF commanders and report on current operations; (2) define capability requirements and assist PASF with project design, management and delivery; and (3) coordinate PASF training in the West Bank and Jordan.

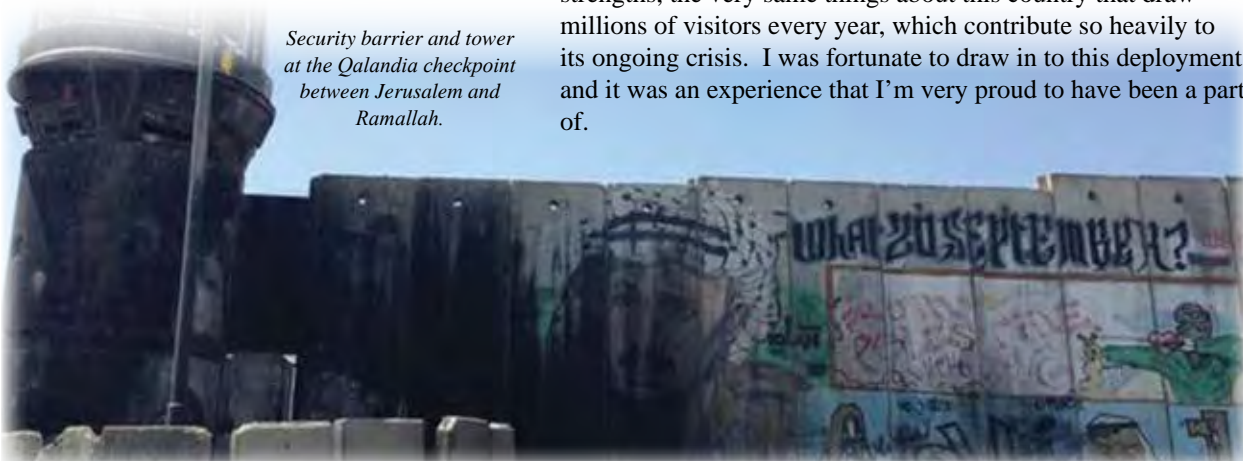
Maj Paul Leonard stands with US Army, US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement staff, and Palestinian Civil Defence personnel.



What the nature of these responsibilities meant was that I spent the majority of my time travelling throughout the PA governorates of the West Bank and meeting with local PASF commanders to discuss their ongoing operations and concerns. Predictably, and particularly with respect to my work with the DCO, this work proved to be a very revealing window into the fluid security situation in Israel and the West Bank. Further, as the Canadian Task Force made its home in East Jerusalem, the geographical flashpoint for conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, our day-to-day life was enmeshed in the difficulties that both sides of this disagreement find themselves in.

Briefly, this deployment was one of the most enriching experiences I have had. The region is a beautiful place with incredible diversity and history, and some of the kindest people you could hope to meet. Unfortunately, it is these same strengths, the very same things about this country that draw millions of visitors every year, which contribute so heavily to its ongoing crisis. I was fortunate to draw in to this deployment and it was an experience that I'm very proud to have been a part of.

Security barrier and tower at the Qalandia checkpoint between Jerusalem and Ramallah.





2d Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2d Infantry Division

Captain Jack Nguyen

The newly created exchange officer position at 2d Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2d Infantry Division (2-2 SBCT) can be summed up in one word: interoperability. In 2014, I had the great opportunity of being posted to “LANCER” Brigade as the S3 Plans. This entailed a rapid start with participation in the Brigade’s National Training Center (NTC) High Readiness rotation in July 2014; a magical three weeks in the Mojave Desert.

Lancer Brigade is not unlike a Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group in many aspects; we train throughout the year in preparation for a major Brigade exercise, followed by a combat training center rotation, and then enter into an operationally ready pool. That said, 2-2 SBCT has a unique mission set as we are regionally assigned to United States Army Pacific. As part of this assignment, the Brigade participates biennially in Operation PACIFIC PATHWAYS, a combined joint exercise aimed at increasing interoperability and access to the United States’ partner nations in the Pacific such as Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, and the Philippines. Of course, being the token Canadian on staff generally generates puzzled looks from our partner nations until I explain that I’m really there to expand our Maple Syrup and Tim Horton’s footprint!

Another relationship the Brigade enjoys is being partnered specifically with 1st Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG). This partnership has grown over the past two years with 1 CMBG and 2-2 SBCT participating in each other’s individual and collective training. 1 CMBG joined the Brigade during the Expert Infantryman Badge Certification, attaining a success rate of 40% (the highest ratio across the formation). 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (1 PPCLI) also participated in the Brigade’s culminating exercise at Yakima Training Center. **Major Chelsea Braybrook** and B Company, 1 PPCLI, joined our infantry and aviation battalions, participating in platoon live fire, company force on force, and conducting a company air assault. Lancer Brigade reciprocated by sending soldiers to 1 PPCLI’s adventure training in the Rocky Mountains.

The Brigades continue this partnership with the exchange of staff officers for each other’s respective high readiness command post exercises and high readiness rotation. **Captain Ahmad Jaradat** joined the

Brigade during the final Command Post Exercise and will join us at the National Training Center (NTC) in January 2016. Immediately following NTC, 2-2 SBCT will send two officers to participate in Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE, and then the Brigade will deploy a Battalion Headquarters and Stryker Infantry Company to participate in Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 16.

Working together with our closest ally has been a tremendous experience. As this relationship continues to build, we are always looking forward to our next partnered training event. As for the posting, life in the Pacific Northwest can’t be beat (although I do miss the range days in a -40°C snowstorm!).

Capt Jack Nguyen, CPT Waxman, CPT Kastanias, Capt Ahmad Jaradat, and 1LT Saw pose in front of a stryker at the Brigade Headquarters during the Brigade Command Post Exercise





NATO LANDCOM – Where did the time go?

By Major Islam Elkorazati

As 2015 is now a memory, reflecting on the year one finds that the months are shocking in their speed. I am on my second boss, the Assistant Chief of Staff G6, as the US personnel only serve for a year in this post. NATO's ALLIED LAND COMMAND HQ in Izmir in Turkey was extremely busy over the last year. Located on the Aegean coast in the west of Turkey this is not a bad place for weather and history; however, when you look at the current global situation, understanding the long hours due to the rapidly changing situation in the world is not hard.

Among the many Lines of Operations and strands of work in NATO's ALLIED LAND COMMAND HQ in Izmir is the purpose encapsulated within the motto, "For the Soldier!" The intent of this is to provide the soldiers of the Alliance the best training and preparedness for any of the possible threats to the member nations whether to the east or south. To that end, 2015 strongly focused on Exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE 15, which took place in October and November, and the ongoing planning and preparedness for the current strategic challenges to the Alliance. This took some preparation and planning considering complexity of this exercise and the fact that it had been many years since the last NATO exercise.

TRIDENT JUNCTURE 15 was an extremely successful exercise involving upwards of 35,000 armed service members from 30 nations spread geographically across three host nations. LANDCOM's role was to be a Land EXCON organization to provide Local Operational Control (LOPSCON) for the multinational Brigades in Portugal, Spain and Italy. I was involved with 5 Brigade's portion of the exercise in SANTA MARGARIDA, Portugal as the deputy chief of the Umpire Observer controllers. Despite the Canadian core involvement from 1st Canadian Division HQ and 5 Brigade out of Valcartier, it was great to see three other Strathconas involved in the Multinational Brigade and the National Command Element (NCE), **Major Ed Frost-Kell, Captain Tim Day** and **Sergeant Dave Brister**. The LOPSCON in SANTA MARGARIDA was Canadian centric, with **Colonel Jacques O'Keefe**, our Senior National Representative in LANDCOM being the chief of the team and 9 of the 10 Canadians here making up just under third of the group.

Another little known but important function here is the Operational Capabilities Concept, Evaluation and Feedback program. This is one of the lead priorities aimed at building NATO partnerships with other nations that wish it. I was fortunate enough to be involved in this program by way of two evaluations in Jordan, one of the lead countries in the program. These were evaluations for a mechanized battalion being offered to support NATO operations if the need arises. This was an extremely beneficial and important program that builds on capacities and relationships with the alliance. It involves personnel from, not just the alliance, but also the different partner nations that NATO has such as the Partnership for Peace (PfP) and the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD). This includes officers from as far away as Kyrgyzstan, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

All in all, the year has passed by in a blur and with the pace of activity in the world, especially in the local neighborhood; the expectations for 2016 will not be much different. The team here in LANDCOM will continue to move rapidly to build and maintain NATO's Land Element's preparedness.

Maj Islam Elkorazati, Sgt Dave Brister, Maj Ed Frost-Kell, and Capt Tim Day represented the Strathcona's on Ex TRIDENT JUNCTURE 2015 in Santa Margarida, Portugal



Extra Regimentally Employed

BGen Cadieu T.J.	1 CMBG	Maj McKenzie R.D.	CACSC
BGen Macaulay D.A.	OP Impact	Maj Nolan C.O.	US Army Command and General Staff College
Col Cade J.	Canadian Defence Attache Mexico	Maj Onieu M.G.	NDHQ
Col Demers P.P.J.	Canadian Defence Attaché Poland	Maj Quinlan C.J.	CFC
Col Hazleton C.M.	Canadian Defence Attaché Rome	Maj Rogers M.D.	3 Can Div
Col Kelsey S.R.	CFB Kingston	Maj Senft D.J.	MarPac HQ Esq
Col Peyton P.J.	NDHQ	Maj Shrubbs S.J.	3 CDSG
LCol Adams C.R.	NDHQ	Maj Volstad M.C.	1 CRPG
LCol Chenette D.J.	CA HQ	Maj Wright S.R.	3 CDSG
LCol Cochrane J.L.	CFB Shilo	Maj Young C.J.	CFB Kingston
LCol Connolly M.A.	3 Cdn Div HQ	Capt Bentley M.D.R.L.	RMC
LCol Gifford S.W.	CFB Kingston	Capt Boates J.S.	Tac Sch
LCol Kirstein V.G.	D Mil C 3-3	Capt Brittain J.M.D.	RCACS
LCol Lubiniecki M.	NDHQ	Capt Brown J.W.	CANSOFCOM
LCol McKinnon D.B.	CJOC HQ	Capt Buckingham P.A.	RCACS
LCol Padvaikas E.T.	CFB Kingston	Capt Bugg N.B.	CMTC
LCol Parsons D.R.	C Prog/VCDS	Capt Collings T.L.	RCACS
LCol Pickell P.G.	JSCSC Army Div- UK	Capt Daley J.A.	BCD
LCol Rankin R.C.	CADTC	Capt Day T.W.F.	3 Cdn Div HQ
LCol Steward R.T.	CFB Esquimalt	Capt Dunn L.A.	NDHQ
Maj Angell E.D.	4 Cdn Div	Capt Dwyer A.C.	RCACS
Maj Barnett M.A.	NDHQ	Capt Frizzell B.W.	RCACS
Maj Batty T.A.	Tac Sch	Capt Frizzell L.A.	RCACS
Maj Callens K.I.	3 Can Div	Capt Jaradat A.	1 CMBG
Maj Chiasson R.P.	JTFN Yellowknife	Capt Johnson B.S.	CA HQ
Maj Corbett B.D.	NDHQ	Capt Kaye M.A.	RCACS
Maj Cronk D.R.	RCACS	Capt Kenny A.M.	1 MP Regiment
Maj Deatcher W.S.	NDHQ	Capt Kerek W.M.	BCR
Maj Douglas M.R.N	CMTC	Capt Kim J.M.J.	3 CDSG
Maj Dyck G.A.	CADTC	Capt King S.A.	CMTC
Maj Elkorazati I. M.	NATO Land Command	Capt Lee R.	3 Can Div
Maj Fifield C.S.	CADTC	Capt Lewis O.T.	FGH
Maj Froess M.D.	CFB Kingston	Capt Lund R.I.	RCACS
Maj Frost-Kell E.J.S.	CADTC	Capt MacInnis M.J.	RCACS
Maj Grodzinski J.R.	RMC	Capt MacLean S.C.	NORAD
Maj Hayward V.F.	3 Cdn Div TC	Capt McGowan E.D.	JPSU/IPSC
Maj Holmes S.W.	NDHQ	Capt McGuinness S.J.	Wainwright
Maj Hunter J.R.	JPSU NB/PEI	Capt McHugh T.R.	5 CDSG Det Aldershot
Maj Johns M.D.C.	1 CMBG	Capt McMurachy M.A.	SALH
Maj Lacroix T.A.	CFD	Capt McTavish M.	4 CDTC Meaford
Maj Lakatos M.A.	Cyber FD	Capt Miller J.L.E.E.	KOCR
Maj Leonard P.E.	3 Can Div	Capt Monroe J.J.	CMTC
Maj MacEachern E.G.	CFB Kingston	Capt Morison D.G.	CFLRS
Maj MacIntyre A.D.	1 CMBG	Capt Nguyen J.	IPSC Det North Bay
Maj Mallette M.J.D.	CFC	Capt Nguyen J.	2d Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2d Infantry Division
Maj McEwen J.R.F.	CFB Kingston	Capt Nitu A.	1 CMBG
		Capt Pano M.G.	RCACS

Capt Penney C.S.	Tac Sch	WO Young R.C.	5 Cdn Div TC
Capt Pett T.D.	3 CDSG	Sgt Baker G.I.	IPSC Edm
Capt Prince C.E.J.	3 Cdn Div TC	Sgt Baldwin T.	3 CDSG
Capt Reiten K.A.	3 CDSG	Sgt Brister D.	CFB Kingston
Capt Rickard J.N.	CFB Kingston	Sgt Bulmer C.J.	RCACS
Capt Shumka M.R.	CFLRS	Sgt Chatzikirou D.N.	CFB Borden
Capt Simpson B.R.	1 RCHA	Sgt Craig M.W.D.	LFAA TC
Capt Smith C.T.	1 CMBG	Sgt Doucette J.F.	3 Cdn Div TC
Capt Stachow P.F.	RCACS	Sgt Eady C.	RCACS
Capt Swainsbury R.J.	3 CDSG	Sgt Goobie J.A.	RCACS
Capt Tapp L.B.	RCACS	Sgt Guilbeault Y.D.	CFLRS
Capt Vahal V.	DLR	Sgt Hamilton J.B.	CFLRS
Capt Walters D.R.	CTC	Sgt Hawes J.C.	CFRC Halifax
Capt Webster P.J.	IPSC Cgy/TMM	Sgt Headrick D.W.C	3 Can Div
Capt Whalley C.D.	CFB Suffield	Sgt Helliwell J.M.	RCACS
Capt Wiome E.J.	RMC	Sgt Hodgson K.E.	RCACS
Capt Wright D.M.	Sask D	Sgt Hornby C.G.	RCACS
Lt Rice J.A.	IPSC Edm	Sgt Ives P.B.	RCACS
OCdt Clackson T.M.	BTL	Sgt Kauenhofen F.K.	CFSPDB
CWO Bamford G.	5 CDSG	Sgt Knott O.W	3 Cdn Div
CWO Crabb W.J.	1 CMBG	Sgt Lang J.J.K.	5 CDSG
CWO Laughlin W.A.	5 CDSG	Sgt Leaman L.W.	RCACS
CWO Ramsay J.	JFC Brunssum	Sgt McGarity M.D.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/
CWO Stacey R.	CFB Suffield		Gar Wx
MWO Chenier M.A.R.	CMTC	Sgt McMurtry D.J.	JPSU
MWO Hall D.W.	CFB Kingston	Sgt Murdoch D.S.	JPSU
MWO Hill L.R.	DCSEM	Sgt Oake A.D.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar Wx
MWO Holland T.C.	CTC	Sgt Ogston R.J.A.	RCACS
MWO Hopkin T.W.	JPSU	Sgt Parsons S.M.	RCACS
MWO Screen S.R.	CFB Borden	Sgt Pickell E.J.	CANSOFCOM
MWO Taylor L.M.	RMC	Sgt Reid N.A.	CFB Borden
WO Boulter G.F.	Tac Sch	Sgt Ribert J.J.	CFRLS
WO Christopoulos L.B.	Peace Support	Sgt Rushton R.J.	RCACS
	Training Centre	Sgt Sebo R.G.	CFRS Calgary (Edm)
WO Churchill S.R.	ASU Edm	Sgt Thomas M.D.	JPSU
WO Clarke J.C.	FGH	Sgt Torney R.M. 3	CDSB Edm-Det/
WO Denson M.I.	KOCR		Gar Wx
WO Encinas L.E.	SALH	Sgt Williams M.R.	CFB Kingston
WO Flanagan S.D.	PEIR	MCpl Adby R.R.	CFB Suffield
WO Gratto M.A.L.	RCACS	MCpl Bernardo A. J	PSU
WO Likely R.G.K.	RCACS	MCpl Brisebois Bergeron J.S.	JPSU
WO MacNeill M.C.	BCR	MCpl Carnevale G.C.	CMTC
WO McGregor J.I.	CTC	MCpl Chevalier P.A.C.	CFLRS
WO Mcloughlin S.P.	RCACS	MCpl Crowe K.A.	KOCR
WO Miller N.C.	RCACS	MCpl Desjardins J.E.	5 Cdn Div TC
WO Moon G.C.	RCACS	MCpl Gironne M.J.J.K.	CFLRS
WO Morley E.R.G.	RCACS	MCpl Gordon P.W.	RCACS
WO Pociuk A.A.	Sask D	MCpl Graham F.J.	3 Cdn Div
WO Romanuik E.E.	BCD	MCpl Harvey De Roy E.	CFLRS
WO Ross B.A.	RCACS	MCpl Heisz L.R.	RCACS
WO Stanistreet T.J.	408 Sqn	MCpl Icala A.L.	CMTC
WO Thompson S.D.	1 CRPG	MCpl Jesse K.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/Gar Wx
WO Troop L.J.	1 CRPG	MCpl Johnson J.A.	QYR



MCpl Lahay D.W.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/ Gar Wx	Cpl Hayes T.P.	CMTC
MCpl Livingstone T.J.	CFB Meaford	Cpl Hoyt G.S.	RCACS
MCpl MacFarlane N.J.C.	CFB Trenton	Cpl Hurley A.J.	3 CDSG
MCpl Myers L.B.	RCACS	Cpl Jesse M.R.	CMTC
MCpl Nancarrow J.M.	CMTC	Cpl Jobin C.Y.	RCACS
MCpl Oliver C.R.J.	CFB Suffield	Cpl Jones W.D.	RCACS
MCpl Paskuski T.M.	3 Cdn Div	Cpl Kiomall C.T.J.	CFB Kingston
MCpl Pasuta R.A.	FGH	Cpl Lang I.	RCACS
MCpl Peachey M.	BCD	Cpl MacIsaac R.S.	RCACS
MCpl Poitras S.	CMTC	Cpl MacKinnon S.D.	RCACS
MCpl Royes D.D.	3 CDSB Edm-Det/ Gar Wx	Cpl Martone	RCACS
MCpl Smith R.W.	CMTC	Cpl McKinnon D.J.	CMTC
MCpl St Aubin J.A.J.	CFB Kingston	Cpl McQueen T.J.	CFB Suffield
MCpl Stewart C.M.	CFB Trenton	Cpl Mekhail S.Y.	CFC
MCpl Usher A.J.	CFS Leitrum	Cpl Mohamed M. J	PSU
MCpl Walsh P.W.	RCACS	Cpl Mosher T.R.	RCACS
MCpl Wright K.W.T.	SALH	Cpl Mountford R.T.	5 CDSB
MCpl Zwicker H.C.	Sask D	Cpl Murray R.W.	RCACS
Cpl Allman M.G.	CFB Suffield	Cpl Parsons A.N.	RCACS
Cpl Anderson S.T.	RCACS	Cpl Picardal G.	RCACS
Cpl Atwood A.C.P.	RCACS	Cpl Ringuette L.L.	RCACS
Cpl Aube D.G.J.	CFLRS	Cpl Riopelle F.L.	3 CDSG
Cpl Bernard R.J.	RCACS	Cpl Salazar E.M.	CMTC
Cpl Bertin Y.	5 CDSG	Cpl Sebo M.D.	CFB Suffield
Cpl Bishop K.H.	RCACS	Cpl Seppenwoolde J.W.	CFB Trenton
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Cpl Chaperon A.	JPSU	Cpl Stevenson D.E.	RCACS
Cpl Cook R.T.	RCACS	Cpl Strong S.S.	RCACS
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Cpl Harding I.G.	CMTC	Tpr St-Onge B.	RCACS
		Tpr Wilson J.	RCACS



Top: The subbies preparing our Polish friends for a Mess Dinner.



Putting some lead down range during the march and shoot.



WO Harry Delaney devoured a massive feast and topped it off with this fruity drink!



Lt Justin "no one knows what I do for a job" Rice, Capt Sean "Wrangler of Subbies" Rogozinski.

Messing and Social



Capt Michael Labrecque, Capt Hyun-Joon(Dave) Jung, Lt Sean Coughlan, Capt Stephen Couture, and Capt Andrew Tardiff.



Lt Mike "Christmas Tree" Forestell thought it best to self-decorate for the holidays....soon all that could be seen was some blinking Christmas lights in a dark corner of the house



MCpl Burke and MCpl Robert Kearns cranking wrenches.



The Mariner Room

Lieutenant Cam Ross

Another year, another Mess Sec, another thousand litres of coffee, another dozen or so business luncheons, and perhaps most tragically another dishwasher. Yes, such is the life inside the Mariner Room. Although one could compose an epic to rival that of *The Odyssey* about the trials and tribulations of the officers of the Mariner Room during the Dark Dishwasherless Era; such a grave tale of loss, redemption, and even heroism cannot be adequately told in the paltry 400 word article. And so alas, in lieu of a recounting of gallant dishwasher-related deeds, I shall instead regale you in lesser stories.

This year was filled once again with the officers taking every opportunity to hone their skills and build teamwork and esprit de corps amongst each other. Following in the footsteps of the new Adjutant, **Captain James “Hammer-Hand” Anderson**, and **Captain John “JK-47” Kim** gathered the officers before his posting to instruct them on Taekwondo. Through a combination of instruction on basic techniques and the occasional awkward grunting, **Captain Kim** was able to impart upon his new students some invaluable knowledge. The Adjutant, not to be outdone, has since issued a decree stating that all subalterns who acquire extras shall also be thrown in the ring in a fight to the death be subject to more invaluable Close-Quarter-Combat Professional Development.

But in between sharing excited hushed whispers and betting pools of questionable legality over the long awaited **Captain Ali “Stay-Down” Raju** versus **Captain Cam “The Abuser” Meikle** grudge match, the members of the Mariner Room have also engaged in their signature social events. This year’s Strathcona Business Luncheon followed our usual modus operandi of doing our utmost to outdo every other unit on base in terms of lavishness and decadence. It appeared to be a success, as we filled the dining room to nearly its maximum capacity, outdoing most Mess Dinners. With our Strathcona Mounted Troop being otherwise tasked, the main source of entertainment moved from our traditional mounts to our modern ones. That is to say, **MLA Nicole Goehring** won the lottery to crush a car with a tank. It went exactly the way you would imagine, except cooler.

The Mariner Room also took a lead role on hosting our friends from abroad. Two Polish officers visited the Regiment and were both well entertained at the Moreuil Wood Mess Dinner and somewhat disgusted at the amount of cow that **Captain Steve “The Doughnut Challenge Champ” Couture** managed to consume in a single sitting. From the other side of the English Channel, **Lieutenant Erica “The Motivational Speaker” Young** showed **Lieutenant “British Tom” Barter** the finer areas of Edmonton, which consisted mostly of endless hours of playing with seals at West Edmonton Mall, before he joined the Regiment on Ex STEELE SABRE where he was bounced from smoker to smoker in a dizzying competition of which squadron is the most “festive.”

After an interesting and successful year, the officers of the Mariner Room now look forward to next year, “The Golden Age of the New Dishwasher.”

Cpts Tyler Collings, Gord Elliot, Dan Gray, and Dave Williams on the annual Mid Management Ski Trip at Kicking Horse – Wait, was Capt Cam “last minute bail” Meikle there after all!?





Sarcee Room

Warrant Officer Cari-Ann Barker

Once again another busy year has come to an end with many changes within the Sarcee Room to include several retirements, postings and promotions. We said good-bye to five members this year as they choose to retire and move to greener pastures. In no particular order **Master Warrant Officer Mark Riley**, **Master Warrant Officer Iain Fox**, **Warrant Officer Steve Connauton**, **Warrant Officer Richie Sherren** and last but not least **Warrant Officer Jay Webb**. The Sarcee Room also had ten new members join us from the Green Point Lounge upon promotion.

The Sarcee Room started our mess activities this year with a Candlelight dinner being held at the West Edmonton Mall, in order to show our continued appreciation of the love and support we receive from our significant others. The President of the Mess Committee (PMC), **Warrant Officer Melanie Parent**, succeeded in delivering a beautiful event which everyone enjoyed tremendously, and where there was a lack of the usual shenanigans. This year the Moreuil Wood parade was held on 26 March, followed by the Sarcee Room's mess dinner. The PMC, **Sergeant Matt Williams**, much to the amazement of all Sarcee Room members managed to deliver a successful dinner; perhaps it had something to do with the help of **Sergeant Mike Doody**...

The year ended with our annual Christmas sports day, in which the Sarcee Room (sadly) was annihilated in ice hockey by the Mariner Room. However the Mariner Room narrowly escaped a loss by a one sided, arm wrestling victory between the Adjutant **Captain James "Pipes" Anderson** and the TQMS, **Master Warrant Officer Rob "Stone Cold" Clarke**. The Chief Clerk, **Warrant Officer Leah Posluns**, put in a valiant effort in her Bull Riding ability worthy of a cavalry soldier, but did not earn her buckle due to the skills of 2IC A Sqn, **Captain Dave "Rodeo" Williams**.

2015 was another great year for the Sarcee Room and although we were sad to see some old friends depart, our ranks were refreshed by the influx of new members.

MWO Rob Baglole, MWO Cordell Boland, RSM Tony Batty, MWO Tony Mayfield, and MWO Kevin King looking sharp at the Moreuil Wood Mess Dinner.



WO Ben Holmes

*We really don't have a comment for this...
and no I will not buy that table now...*





Green Point Lounge

Master Corporal Andrew Foster

This past year was a busy one for the Master Corporals of the Regiment. In 2015, we welcomed many new faces but also said goodbye to many members of the mess. The start of the year began with the annual Mess Meeting with the newly elected board of **Master Corporals Andrew Foster, Matt Burke, Adrian Droogers, Francis Graham, and Cam Davidson**. Giving the lounge a new feel was the first order of business, which included the acquisition of a new TV, TV stand, and surround sound system.

Hosting the Regiment for the tradition of “Moose Milk” before the Christmas dinner was one of the first successful events the lounge held. Due to its great success, and rapid depletion of the drink, **Master Corporal Tom Hume** took it upon himself to make a second batch for which most of the much needed ingredients ended up on floor. Though he claims it was an equipment malfunction, for those of us who were there it was most definitely operator error of the mixer.

The Master Corporals Annual Golf Tournament held by the Green Point Lounge in support of the Women In Need House was this year’s most successful event. The event was held at the Hunters Green Golf Course and drew a large crowd of past and present members of the Regiment. The weather could not have been better for a day on the greens. The golf tournament was followed by a delicious steak dinner with prizes for top teams, a raffle draw, and silent auction. The hard work of the mess’ members contributed to the success of the event, raising a record setting \$1,600 for the charity, and ensured that fun was had by all. The vast amount of prizes and donations would not have been possible without the hard work of **Master Corporal’s Howarth Harrison and Van den Born**, who dedicated many days to the promotion of this tournament.

This past year also saw many of our members instructing new DP1 Crewman, Leopard D&M, Leopard Gunnery, and 25mm Gunnery. Though most of our members were tasked with these, most courses were held “in house” and the Green Point Lounge was able to stay alive and well with many stories and jokes told during lunches. We also had to say goodbye to a lot of active members of the mess due to the dreaded posting season. Though many members left, promotions filled up the empty spaces at the lunch table.

We are looking forward to another great year, and to surpassing last year’s golf tournament fund raising record.

Left: MCpl Robert Kearns proving that there’s always time to lift.

Right: The Green Point donates to the WIN house charity.





Track Pad

Corporal Jan Makula

Well another busy and successful year has passed for the Troopers and Corporals of the Regiment. The year was filled with the usual field time including Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE, where Recce and A Squadron had the opportunity to cause our friends in 5 Brigade lack of sleep and a good thorough thumping. A Squadron went down to Shilo to pay a visit to our future fellow dealers of destruction, 2 PPCLI, where we showed them what a tank squadron can do. Speed and aggression was the name of the game! The Troopers and Corporals of Recce and B Squadrons had another opportunity to hone their skills to a fine edge with the annual Exercise STEELE SABRE.

Yet again we showed the Regiment that we are an unstoppable force in the world of sport. Not only did we defend our ice hockey title against the Green Point Lounge, but we emerged victorious in a heated and well fought match of broomball. Both of these victories can no doubt be attributed to the awesome albeit ridiculous on bench cheerleaders/coaching staff.

We have a new board of directors and a fresh framework laid down to breathe some much needed life into your Track Pad! You the Track Pad have voted on a board of directors that is motivated to ensure our mess becomes the place to be, and the subject of envy in the Regiment. The board consists of your PMC Corporal Jan “Weak Ankles” Makula, your VPMC Corporal Brandon “Tomato” Tomayer, secretary Trooper Sean “Italian Stallion” Marcotte, your treasurer Corporal Garret “VP Debt Collections” George, Entertainment rep Corporal Dan “Knee Caps” Smith, Housing Rep Corporal Jesse “Pretty Boy” Ell, Fundraising Corporal Kyle “Prettier Boy” Meaney, and your sports/morale enforcement officer Corporal Evan

“Das Boot” Cook. 2016 is shaping up to be an exciting year for the track pad as we now have the means, in the form of mess dues, to organize events and supply proper entertainment to the Regiment. We plan to have many more events such as the awesome Christmas moose milk, and the Friday cheap breakfast feast that we put on for the Regiment. Look out for raffles and free events coming your way in 2016.

As we look back at all that’s happened in 2015 and what we have accomplished, we hope to surpass our achievements and overcome the many hurdles and obstacles that 2016 is sure to present us. We look forward to seeing many of you at our continued tradition of lunch time family feud marathons. I fully expect us to reign superior of the Green Point Lounge in all that concerns sport this year...nuff said. FER DA B’Ys!!



The boys enjoying a smoker during Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 15.

Your Track Pad Board of Directors in action.





Subbies Corner

Captain Shaun “what is this “field training” everyone talks about” Rogozinski

Well look at that, another year has passed us by. It is an honour and a privilege to write this article on behalf of all Strathcona's Subaltern Officers (Subbies). The Regiment welcomed four new Subbies this year and in accordance with time honoured tradition, they were pretty junk. Just kidding, I will tell about them as we go. As the official Herder of Subbies, I encourage you to read on and see just what shenanigans your Subbies were up to in 2015.

Ever been tubing with seven of your friends? Ever had 73 beers in a tube cooler? Ever been threatened to be thrown out of a moving bus from an ultra-right Christian shuttle bus driver? If the answer is yes to all of these and they have happened in a two hour window then you are either **Captain Darren “Run ‘em down dude” Carter-Wright** or **Lieutenant Erica “Sir! I am not drunk and you look like you’re straight off of The Hills Have Eyes” Young**.

As some of you may know, life at the Strathcona's can be extremely regimented at times. Most recognize that there is always the right, wrong, and Strathcona approach to tackle any problem. The Subbie way is a fourth approach, which most want to maintain a degree of plausible deniability about its very existence. For example, have you ever heard of **Lieutenant Dick “Pistol Pants” Yang**, not to be confused with **Lieutenant Richard “Guys, I think I just rented the river!” Yang**. I have seen this man quick draw his sidearm from his pants pocket faster than **Lieutenant Sean “move with me darling” Coughlan** can Milonguero Dip your Momma on the dancing square. Anyway, the Subbies support you **Dick**, and your rebellious ways!

You know it is not all fun and games though. Black Hat Professional Development Week had the Subbies worked to the bone between 23-27 November 2015. Even **Warrant Officer Benjamin “you need to come back to work... Sir” Holmes** noted that all the Subbies were gone for the entire week conducting Mess Dinner setup, Syndicate meetings, Officer Physical Training sessions, polish parties, and a filming a short video. You know it is busy when **Captain Matthew “treadmills should have more safety features” Hoffart** takes a break from the coveted green hallway and moves tables with the rest of the Subbie hoard. Regardless the week went smooth... for most.

Those of you who attended the Black Hat Mess Dinner 2015 learned two new things from our Vice-President of the Mess Committee (VPMC) **Lieutenant Erik “Guys, I forgot the toast responses” Gajnorio**. First is that puke and rally is a completely reasonable and honourable course of action for a

Subbies festive gathering in the Mariner Room





Capt Karl Tams, Capt Ahmad Jaradat, Lt Michael Labrecque, Capt Shaun Rogozinski, Capt Bryce Simpson at the Moreuil Wood Mess Dinner 2015, "Why stand when you can sit... because these guys can't stand."

VPMC at these events. Secondly, we learned that our VPMC had some gender confusion concerning our Colonel-in-Chief, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales. Clearly his title is NOT Her Royal Highness, as was communicated by **Erik** as he stood at the Mess Dinner and announced this during the Colonel-in-Chief Toast to a totally baffled crowd. This was of course quickly followed by a roar of historical laughter from his fellow Officers as a completely pale **Lieutenant Cameron "shitty" Ross** face planted into the table while begging God that he wouldn't be blamed. The remainder of that night shall never be discussed...

As we close the books on 2015 and look to the future, we find ourselves in an extremely busy time. As all new Subbies are aware, stepping into the Harvey building for the first time is an experience you will never forget and having your peers look out for you is one of the reasons that the Subbie culture is so unique. This year isn't our wildest on record but the intent of building esprit-de-corps has never been as strong and has produced a solid crew of good humans. Except for **Captain Andrew "Diff-icult Diff-tastic Diff-tard" Tardiff**... we think he was abducted by aliens shortly after taking command of Ceremonial Mounted Troop. That dude is totally an alien.

L-R Capt Dave Wright, Capt Mike Labrecque, Lt Steph Clubine, and Lt Mike Forstell practicing Tai Chi before they hit the park.



Capt Colin Peterson appears jealous of Capt Mike Labrecque's new helmet bag.



Capt Bryce Simpson's mustache in the Mariner Room. "Ye be in the awe of his most regal mustache, gift upon posting from Captain Bryce Simpson."



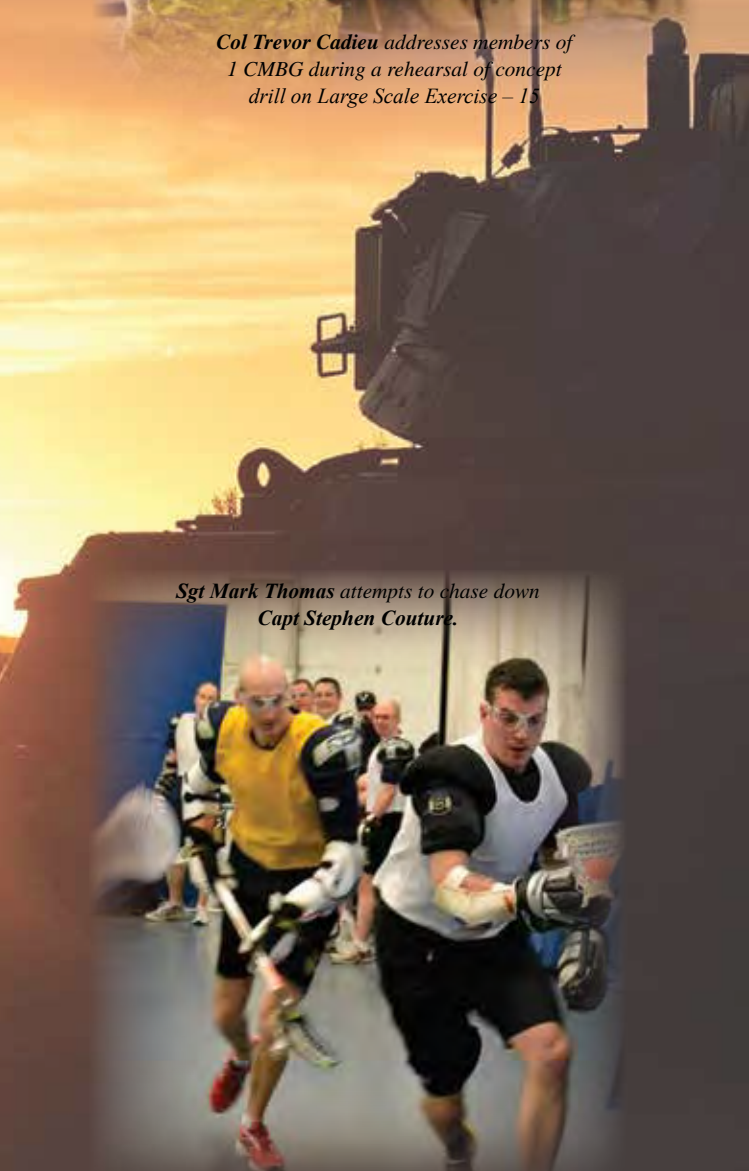
MCpl Rory Adby couldn't make the shot, that's why he's posted.



Col Trevor Cadieu addresses members of 1 CMBG during a rehearsal of concept drill on Large Scale Exercise – 15



Cpl Joey "Fish" Schijns....yes I put my 'B' paint on in a mirror....why?



Sgt Mark Thomas attempts to chase down Capt Stephen Couture.



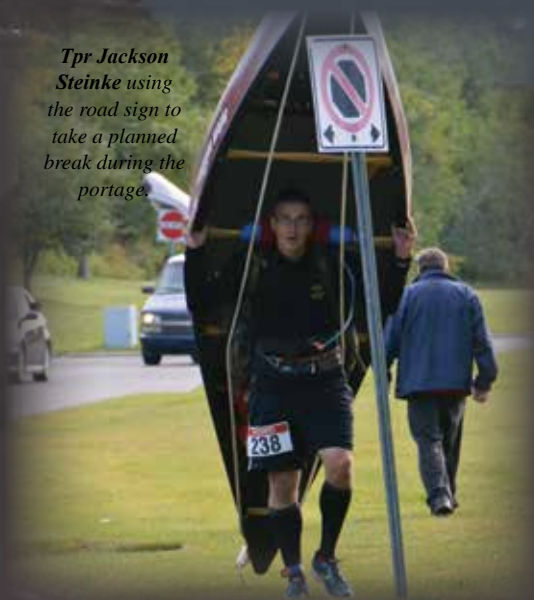
Amanda Huddy and WO Ben Holmes - CHEESE!



*WO Nathan Mills is
presented a coin from
MGen LaMarre*



*Practising casualty
evacuation*



*Tpr Jackson
Steinke using
the road sign to
take a planned
break during the
portage.*



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