

THE STRATHCONIAN



Lord Strathcona's Horse
(Royal Canadians)

1900 ~ 2007

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Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

Battle Honours

South Africa

South Africa, 1900 - 1901

First World War

**Festubert 1915, Somme 1916, '18; Brazentín, 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

(Battle Honours approved for emblazonment are in heavy type)



Allied Regiment

The Queen's Royal Lancers

Affiliated Cadet Corps

1292 Cadet Corps - Calgary

1813 Cadet Corps - Cranbrook

2716 Cadet Corps - Mayerthorpe

2860 Cadet Corps - Fort Simpson

2952 Cadet Corps - Grand Cache

3066 Cadet Corps - Golden

3070 Cadet Corps - Evansburg



The Strathconian

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Commanding Officer

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Editor.....Captain Clayton Gardner
Advertising.....Lieutenant Marshall Douglas
Layout.....Ms. Kathy Stephen

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All old comrades and friends of the Regiment are cordially invited to increase our circulation by forwarding the names of other old comrades or prospective subscribers.

Business Address:

Editor, *The Strathconian*, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)
Steele Barracks, PO Box 10500 Station Forces, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 4J5



Message From The Colonel Of The Regiment

Colonel J. E.N. Roderick

Once again this year's Strathconian will report on a Regiment that is fighting and training at a feverish pitch. By the time you receive this edition, three squadrons will have completed tours in Afghanistan and B Squadron will be well launched into its second tour. This rapid rotation has many implications, of course. The six months each squadron spends in Afghanistan is only a part of the equation. There are long periods of preparatory training in Wainwright, in Texas to train for the desert away from heavy snow, and in Germany to do the Leopard 2 tank conversion, all of which take the soldiers away from their families for extended periods. On return from theater many are then dispatched to catch up on professional qualification courses or to augment training staff in delivering these courses. No matter how you calculate it, with all the "away periods" in theatre and for collective and individual training, these men and women are putting in the equivalent of a one year unaccompanied tour with each rotation. Then there is the concern of how long one unit can maintain this rotation. Fortunately the Armoured Corps has rallied around to augment the limited manpower of the Regiment. The Royal Canadian Dragoons, 12e Régiment Blindé du Canada, and our Armoured Militia units have been more than generous in their support and this very large "team" is meeting the challenge at the highest professional standard. Notwithstanding this one must be cognizant of the inherent stress factors that can result from this level of activity – stress not only on our soldiers but their families as well.



These are the times when the support of the Regimental family becomes even more important. During my visits over the last year I have been very impressed by the high standards of leadership displayed at all levels within the unit and the outstanding financial and moral support extended to our soldiers and their families by our many associates and friends of the Regiment. The Strathconas are truly blessed in these areas. As a result unit morale and esprit is as high as you could ever expect under these circumstances and all of us can take pride in being affiliated with such a great Regiment.

I must repeat what I said in the Strathconian last year. From what I have observed of our soldiers and their families, they are well up to the challenge and are collectively contributing to exciting new chapters in the history of the Strathcona's.

Perseverance



Senior Serving Strathcona

Major-General T.J. Grant

Having returned recently from Afghanistan and assumed the responsibilities of Deputy Commander Canadian Expeditionary Force Command, I see evidence on a daily basis of the impact the Regiment continues to have on operations in Afghanistan. Since its arrival in October 2006, the deployed tank squadron has been employed in nearly every major combat action of the Canadian Battle Group. The ability of Taliban insurgents to find sanctuary in Kandahar Province has been rendered more difficult by the outstanding mobility and precision firepower afforded by Canadian armour. More importantly, the tank squadron has saved Canadian and Afghan lives, and it has bolstered the morale of our deployed troops.



Following the successful handover from B Squadron, A Squadron soldiers were integrated immediately into full spectrum operations. Led by **Major Dave Broomfield** and **Master Warrant Officer Bill Crabb**, this team acquitted itself extremely well against a determined threat and under extraordinarily harsh conditions. C Squadron, led by **Major Trevor Gosselin** and **Master Warrant Officer Geoff Bamford**, arrived in Afghanistan at the peak of the insurgent campaign season, and continues the tradition of excellence all Canadians have come to expect of our soldiers. The influence of the Strathcona's in this theatre of operations is pervasive, with our soldiers deployed not only as part of the Battle Group, but also augmenting Regional Command (South) Headquarters,

Joint Task Force – Afghanistan Headquarters, the Operational Mentor and Liaison Team, and the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team.

C Squadron has successfully introduced the Leopard 2A6M to battle. A strong indication that our military and civilian leadership take seriously the needs of our deployed soldiers, we are extremely fortunate to possess the best tank in the world. It is clear the Leopard 2 has already improved the protection afforded to our soldiers, while impeding even more the Taliban's freedom of movement in Kandahar province. Our allies have watched with interest the employment of Canadian armour in Afghanistan. Several other countries, such as Denmark and the Netherlands, are either deploying or contemplating the deployment of their tanks.

Achieving our mission of stability and reconstruction in Afghanistan has come at a tremendous cost to the Strathcona's, along with many other units in the Canadian Forces. While I was deeply saddened to learn of **Corporal Nathan Hornburg's** death in September 2007, I was inspired by the strength of this soldier's mother, **Ms. Linda Loree**, when presenting her with the Memorial (Silver) Cross medal. The loss of this fine Canadian is indicative of the contribution all armoured Regiments, both Regular and Reserve, have made in our ability to generate successive tank squadrons. The thoughts of the entire Strathcona family are with the families, friends and loved ones of the soldiers who have perished or have been wounded in combat.

I would be remiss if I did not applaud the Regiment for its great efforts on the home front in the past two years. Arguably one of the busiest units in the Canadian Forces, the Strathcona's have been tasked to force generate a tank squadron and numerous individual augmentees for the last four rotations in Afghanistan;



this pace of activity will continue. In the meantime, the Regiment has somehow managed the stand-up of a Reconnaissance Squadron and continues to take the lead on the implementation of the heavy anti-armour missile capability in the Army. All of these activities have been fully supported by our remarkable families. Without them, none of this would be possible. My personal thanks to everyone who has done so much!

Perseverance

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Commanding Officer's Message

Lieutenant-Colonel P.P.J. Demers

2007 has been another historic year for our storied Regiment. B Squadron completed its tour in Afghanistan, having had a great impact on operations there. This was followed by A and C Squadron rotations, each highly successful in the counter-insurgency. The Leopard 2A6M was introduced into theatre. E Company has committed half of its personnel to operations. The remainder have been the training cadre that has built a solid capability base of TUA ITAS qualified personnel across the Patricia Battalions and into the Royal Canadian Dragoons, laying the groundwork for the transition of this capability to the Armoured Corps. Reconnaissance Squadron has been reformed as our fourth sabre squadron as the Regiment has seen growth in new Troopers and Officers. Headquarters Squadron has managed to keep our fleet of vehicles running, and seen to the needs of our soldiers both in Garrison and in the field. This operational tempo made our Regiment the busiest unit in the Army. Lord Strathcona's Horse (Horse Canadians) is seen within the Brigade and the Army as a Regiment second to none.

On the Society front, the Society Troops have continued to keep alive our proud history and traditions. The Ceremonial Mounted Troop was reconstituted with new riders and delivered a ride season as full and successful as any we have ever seen. Our Historical Vehicle Troop, despite deploying most of its personnel, continued with community outreach events and managed to acquire an additional Ferret Scout Car. Our Pipe Band has been fully engaged on operations, so individual pipers have played more in Afghanistan than in Canada.



There have been serious trials. Soldiers have been injured and we lost a comrade. **Corporal Nathan Hornburg**, a superb soldier, attached to C Squadron from the King's Own Calgary Regiment, was killed in combat on 24 September 2006. While from another fine Regiment, **Corporal Hornburg** served during such an intense period with C Squadron that his loss was felt as strongly as any--he was one of us.

Throughout all of the training and deployments support from the home front, including both immediate families and the Regimental family at large, has been outstanding. This support has meant that soldiers could focus on their duties without worry, knowing that their loved ones were well cared for.

It has been another historic year. Our soldiers and the greater Regimental Family have risen to every challenge. These pages tell our story.

Perseverance



Regimental Sergeant-Major Observations

Chief Warrant Officer D.A. Ross

June 29 2006, where has the time gone?

It is with a mixture of emotions that I compose this, my last article.

“Many are called; few are chosen”. When I reported for my first full day I stopped to look at the photos of all those whom came before me. Silently I pondered and asked myself; are all these men going to be looking over my shoulder? What an intimidating thought.

I feel much honoured to have served as the RSM for these two years. This time has come with many challenges and a diversity of experiences, all of which I am very proud to have experienced. I never imagined that the time would pass so quickly, but now, in these the final months of my tenure I find myself beginning to feel that I am losing something that I will never have again. I believe that we have had a very unique tour of duty, one that not everyone gets to experience.

I wish to use this time to thank those that I have had the pleasure to work for and with. Though there are many, I would like to highlight a few of them. The Commanding Officer, **LCol Pascal Demers** has been an absolute joy to work for and I appreciate everything he has done. Col, it's been very easy to work with you although I have to admit, you drove me insane with how close you liked to cut it when we traveled. We always *just* made our flights. The complete RHQ team kept me busy and challenged. Every day was an adventure. I will truly miss the working relationship we have and all those special moments we shared. You are remarkable men and women and I will miss you all.

I could not have asked for a better group of Squadron Sergeant Majors. Your support and team work made life so much easier. Even putting up with my Cross Fit program showed me your dedication, supporting the intent behind it. Gentlemen, well done! Many thanks to you all. I wish you all the best on your next bound.

But those mentioned above are but a few of the overall team. My sincere gratitude and appreciation goes out to every man and woman in the Regiment regardless of your rank or hat badge. You are the ones who got it done. These past two years have been demanding not only on you but also your families. They too need to be commended for their perseverance and commitment.

Last but not least I wish to say thanks to Terri for her steadfast devotion and understanding. Because of this I could stay focused on what I had to do.

To the new RSM, **CWO Joe Ramsay**, congratulations and welcome home. Enjoy your time here, relish every moment. Before you know it you too will find yourself asking where has the time gone.

Perseverance and Good Luck to all.





Editor-in-Chief's Foreword

Major I. McDonnell



This year at the Regiment was another for the history books. As you will read in this year's edition of the Strathconian, the Regiment has added a few chapters to its already distinguished record of accomplishments.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who are responsible for the production of this year's journal. The Commanding Officer's Secretary, **Ms Kathy Stephen**, as she has so many times in the past, has worked tirelessly to produce an outstanding product. Without her efforts we would have never been able to produce this year's edition on time nor at a quality of professionalism that befits the Strathconian. I would also like to recognize the work of my Editor, **Capt Clayton Gardner**. He has devoted long hours to ensure that the final product is one in which every Strathcona can take pride.

This journal is provided to all members of the Regimental family free of charge and that is only possible through the generous donations of our many advertisers. I would like to thank **Lt Marshall Douglas** for his fund raising efforts in leading this year's advertising campaign and the subbies for raising the required funds. I encourage Strathconas to show patronage to those who have supported us in this endeavour as can be observed by the numerous advertisements throughout this publication.

As always, the members of the Regimental family, whether in Edmonton or across the country were instrumental in taking the time to record the highlights of their year and share that with us. This enthusiasm will undoubtedly continue for years to come.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Strathconian.



"This publication is not an official Canadian Forces publication. Opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and are not to be considered as an official expression by the Department of National Defence, the Canadian Forces, Edmonton Garrison, the Editor or Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)."



Births and Marriages 2007

A Squadron

Birth - Maj Broomfield's son Liam Patrick born 10 August 2007
Birth – Maj McDonnell's son Sean Jacob Christopher born 26 April 2007

B Squadron

Marriage -Cpl Ferguson and Patricia married on 20 January 2007
Marriage -Cpl Pickell and Sara Lee married on 11 August 2007
Marriage -Cpl Brown and Doreen married on 30 August 2007
Marriage -Tpr Larkin and Jennifer married on 19 May 2007

C Squadron

Birth - Lt Johns' daughter Eliza Keileigh Anne born 26 September 2007
Marriage – Cpl Poelzer and Kimberlee married on 10 May 2007
Marriage – Pte Vallee and Caroline Neault married on 10 October 2007

Recce Squadron

Birth - MCpl Parsons' daughter Ava born 21 May 2007
Marriage – Cpl Oliver and Ashley married on 1 May 2007
Marriage -Tpr Mendez and Stephanie Lee married on 23 June 2007
Marriage – Tpr Hugh and Tanya married on 13 June 2007

Headquarters Squadron

Marriage -Capt Grimsrud and Kurt married on 11 April 2007
Birth - MCpl Harding's daughter Isabella born 24 May 2007
Birth - Tpr Pugh's son Dylon born 6 June 2007
Birth - Capt Chiasson's son Raymond Thomas born 30 November 2007
Birth – MCpl Loof's daughter Meagan born 9 December 2007
Birth – Cpl Konschak's daughter Hollie-Ann born on 30 November 2007
Birth - Cpl Drake's daughter Olivia Grace born 19 October 2007

Regimental Headquarters

Marriage -Capt Howard and Erika married on 30 June 2007
Marriage -Cpl Whiteley and Stephanie Hartwig married on 27 October 2007
Birth - Capt Lubiniecki's daughter Halle born 22 April 2007



Honours and Awards

Canadian Forces

Decoration

Capt Lubiniecki
Capt Kirstein
Cpl Barrett
Cpl Claveau
Cpl Darrow
Cpl Hobson
Cpl McFarlane
Cpl Merchant

Canadian Forces

Decoration First Clasp

Capt Hone
WO Holland
WO Hopkin
WO St-Onge
Sgt Andrews
Sgt Barrett
Sgt Bolger
Sgt Cave
Sgt Hiscock
MCpl Charette
MCpl Heegsma
MCpl Price
MS Prichard
MCpl Voisin
MCpl Thivierge
MCpl Williams

Canadian Forces

Decoration Second Clasp

LCol Demers
CWO Ross

Chief of Defence Staff

Commendation

MWO Laughlin

Chief of Land Staff

Commendation

Maj McDonnell
Capt MacIntyre
WO Stacey

Commander CEFCEM

Commendation

MCpl Scott Brown
MCpl Lee Encinas

General Campaign Star

MCpl Ogston
MCpl Kovacs
Cpl Hodges
A Squadron TF 1-07 Complete

Prince of Wales Trophy

B Squadron

Regimental Individual Awards

The Fox Bugle

Cpl Jenkins

Colonel of the Regiment

Silver Stick

MCpl Doney

The Milroy Crossbelt

WO Irving

The Neatby Pacestick

WO Batty

The Hessin Memorial

Sword

Capt Wong

Promotions

Capt Leonard
Capt Nitu
Capt Reiten
Lt Bentley
MWO Batty

MWO Mainville
MWO Turner
WO Clarke
WO Crawford
WO Doucette
WO Dufour
Sgt Brown
Sgt Clarke, J
Sgt Connauton
Sgt Christopoulos
Sgt Hiscock
Sgt Lincez
Sgt Lindsay, K.D.
Sgt MacNeill
Sgt Miller
Sgt Nicholson
Sgt Petersen
Sgt Smith
Sgt Sterner
Sgt Wardle
PO2 Kopp
MCpl Bowden
MCpl Goodyear
MCpl Hall
MCpl Bowden
MCpl Harding
MCpl Bale
MCpl Hodgson
MCpl Holmes
MCpl Koski
MCpl Levis
MCpl Loof
MCpl MacAtasney
MCpl Oake
MCpl Parsons
MCpl Piatkowski
MCpl Roy
MCpl Thompson
MCpl Troop
MCpl Voisin
MS Prichard



In Tribute to Our Colonel in Chief His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales

Enews Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

Today, 11 June, is a day of considerable significance to our Regiment as it was thirty years ago today that His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales was appointed as our Colonel in Chief. On behalf of all Strathconas I have sent the following message to His Royal Highness.

Your Royal Highness

Three decades ago, on June 11, 1977, our Regiment, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), was honoured and delighted to learn that Your Royal Highness had been appointed as our Colonel in Chief.

In the ensuing years the Regiment has served with distinction not only in Canada but in Cyprus, Bosnia, and Kosovo in support of NATO and United Nations peacekeeping operations. Today we are engaged in the war in Afghanistan. I assure you, sir, that in all of these operations the Regimental esprit and resolve have been strengthened by your personal encouragement and support as well as by the great pride we have in our association with Your Royal Highness

On this significant anniversary I would like to convey to Your Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall the very best wishes of all members to the Lord Strathcona's Horse and our extended Regimental family for your continued good health and happiness. We, in turn, look forward to many more years of loyal service under you as our Colonel in Chief.

Yours sincerely

*John E.N. Roderick, CD
Colonel of the Regiment
Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)*

In order to mark this anniversary in a more tangible way, the Regiment has presented our Colonel in Chief with a framed print on canvas of the painting of B Squadron's tanks in Afghanistan that the Squadron recently presented to the Regiment. To answer the inevitable question from some of you, I have been assured by the Equerry that this is a most appropriate way to mark this occasion and that His Royal Highness will be most pleased to receive this pictorial record of B Squadron's tour.



BIRKHALL

15th July, 2007

Dear Don,

I was most touched by your very kind letter reminding me of my 30th anniversary as Colonel-in-Chief of Lord Strathcona's Horse. I find it hard to believe where all the years have gone, but I take the greatest pride in my association with the Regiment – even though I fear I can't see you all as often as I would like! – and would be so grateful if you could convey to all ranks my hope that the Good Lord will spare me long enough to continue such a happy connection with a splendid and famous Regiment.

Yours ever
Charles



Regimental Roll 2007

Colonel-in-Chief

His Royal Highness
The Prince of Wales

Colonel of the Regiment

Colonel Roderick

Commanding Officer

LCol Demers

Second-in-Command

Maj Cadieu

Adjutant

Capt Lubiniecki

Operations Officer

Capt McKenzie

Regimental Sergeant Major

CWO Ross

Commanding Officer's Secretary

Kathy Stephen

Regimental Headquarters

Capt McMurachy
WO Stacey
Cpl Biener
Cpl Boorman
Cpl Dugdale
Cpl Forbes
Cpl Goobie
Cpl Hodges
Cpl Macko
Cpl Starr
Cpl Vanderveur
Tpr Sachro

Regimental Signals Troop

Capt Ireland
WO Perry
Sgt Warne
MCpl Fraser
MCpl Price
MCpl Roy
Cpl Boyce
Cpl Simoneau

Regimental Police

Sgt Murrin
Cpl Whiteley
Cpl Dottin
Cpl MacFarlane
Bdr McCoy

Prince of Wales Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Adams

Sergeant Major

MWO Batty

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Manouchehri
Sgt MacNeill
MCpl Likely
Cpl Davidson
Cpl Ogston
Cpl Thomas
Tpr Fedele
Tpr MacDougall
Tpr Mooney
Tpr Romkey
Tpr Woods

1st Troop

Lt Anderson
WO Fox
Sgt Bell
MCpl Bowden EJ
MCpl Caufield
MCpl Hodgson
Cpl Barsotta
Cpl Charette
Cpl Hornby
Cpl Lister
Cpl Pickell
Tpr Bleasedale
Tpr Bourassa
Tpr Fuchko
Tpr Johnson JA
Tpr Young

2nd Troop

Lt Nitu
WO Pociuk
Sgt Kauenhofen
MCpl Bowden T

Cpl Cameron
Cpl Fensom
Cpl Johnston
Cpl Moncrieff
Cpl Moores
Cpl Royes
Tpr Barrott
Tpr Chubak
Tpr Dunbar
Tpr Fanni
Tpr Guy
Tpr Walker

3rd Troop

Lt Bentley
WO Taylor
Sgt Smith
MBdr Koestlmaier
MCpl Troop
Cpl Doucette
Cpl Hamilton
Cpl McDougall
Tpr Charlton
Tpr Dube
Tpr Markwell
Tpr Mastel
Tpr Ramiro
Tpr Shegleski
Tpr Villarette
Tpr Wagner

4th Troop

Lt Dwyer
WO Jones
MCpl Clarke J
MCpl Thompson D
MCpl Thompson S
Cpl Grouchy
Cpl Lackie
Tpr Ameeralli
Tpr Blain
Tpr Churchill
Tpr Kabongo
Tpr Kroker
Tpr Nolan
Tpr Partington
Tpr Sears

Administration Troop

Capt MacIntyre
Sgt Peddle
MCpl Green



MCpl Ryall
MCpl Wells
Cpl Arsenaault
Cpl Kentfield
Tpr Daneau
Tpr Gordon
Tpr Hurlburt

Squadron Quartermaster

Stores

WO Mayfield
MCpl Oake
Cpl Agarsky
Cpl Sundelin

Maintenance Troop

Sgt Klose
MCpl Brooks
MCpl Dostie
MCpl Hall
MCpl Koski
MCpl Lumbard
Cpl Anderson
Cpl Colenutt
Cpl Denvir
Cpl Gow
Cpl Gunton
Cpl Houle
Cpl Jahjefendic
Cpl Low
Cpl Mousseau
Cpl Sanduliak

A Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Broomfield

Sergeant Major

MWO Crabb

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Angell
Sgt Jordison
MCpl Gratto
MCpl MacNeill
MCpl McGarity
Cpl Eady
Cpl Fenton
Cpl Gross
Cpl Helliwell
Cpl McDougal
Cpl Nadeau
Cpl Suggitt

Tpr Jeffrey
Tpr Tullis

1st Troop

Capt Leonard
WO Pudar
Sgt Hiscock
Sgt Michaud
MCpl Parsons
Cpl Dickison
Cpl Doerfling
Cpl Guilbeault
Cpl Headrick
Cpl Murphy
Cpl Oliver
Cpl Porter
Cpl Scott
Cpl Sullivan
Cpl West
Tpr Thomas

2nd Troop

Capt Reiten
WO Peters
Sgt Sowards
MCpl McAtasney
MCpl Webb
Cpl Augustine
Cpl Desjardins
Cpl Lamothe
Cpl Miller
Cpl Romkey
Tpr D'Andrea
Tpr Dickey
Tpr Gushue
Tpr Hodgins
Tpr Koro
Tpr Martin

3rd Troop

Lt Beitz
WO Hopkin
Sgt Sobczuk
MCpl Connaulton
MCpl Harding
Cpl Ducharme
Cpl Fedalizo
Cpl Ferguson
Cpl Morin
Cpl Ribert
Cpl Weber
Tpr Beatty
Tpr Cook
Tpr Heisz
Tpr Paterson

Tpr Proulx

Administration Troop

Capt Volstad
WO Screen
Sgt Bolger
MCpl Clarke
MCpl Birt
MCpl Thompson
Cpl Clendennin
Cpl Edwards
Cpl Gibson
Cpl Reid

Maintenance Troop

WO Crawford
MCpl Cowles
MCpl Ralph
MCpl Richards
MCpl Stoyko
MCpl Taylor
MBdr Spriceniaks
Cpl D'Orsay
Cpl Downing,
Cpl Larsen
Cpl Reid
Cpl Poitras
Tpr Bellegarde

C Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Gosselin

Sergeant Major

MWO Bamford

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Hone
Sgt Dickson
Sgt Gravel
MCpl Fortin
MCpl Charette
Cpl Clews
Cpl Mills
Cpl Loykowski
Tpr Seppenwoolde
Tpr Fisher
Tpr Vallee
Tpr Wright
Tpr Hyshka

1st Troop

Lt Johns



WO Clarke
Sgt Schall
MCpl Goodyear
MCpl Holmes
Cpl Morley
Cpl Acorn
Cpl Bustard
Tpr Costello
Tpr D'Angelo
Tpr Leblanc
Tpr Baker
Tpr Sebo
Tpr Dixon
Tpr Jacobs
Tpr Thompson

2nd Troop (RCD)

Capt Duncan
WO Robertson
Sgt Staley
MCpl Wilkie
MCpl O'Brien
Cpl Angelini
Cpl Staley
Cpl Dill
Cpl Mio
Cpl Stafford
Tpr Cunningham-Dunlop
Tpr Macneil
Tpr Alwani
Tpr Bennett
Tpr Klein
Tpr Dezsi

3rd Troop (12e RBC)

Capt Croteau
Adj Curadeau
Sgt Malenfant
Cplc LePage
Cpl Defosses
Cpl Leduc
Cpl Turcotte
Cpl Poirier
Cpl Gauthier
Cpl Michaud
Cvr Roch
Cvr Proulx
Cvr Gosselin
Cvr Lavoie
Cvr Murphy
Cvr Belanger

4th Troop

Lt Nguyen
WO Kelly

Sgt Paquette
MCpl Hewitt
Cpl Ouellet
Cpl Baird
Cpl Hodge
Tpr Demelo
Tpr Jesse
Tpr Mijares
Tpr Reid
Tpr Hyakaze
Tpr MacPherson
Tpr Sedgewick
Tpr Keller
Tpr Bernardo

Administration Troop

Capt Kirstein
Sgt Hillman
Cpl Seeley
Cpl Paul
Cpl Torney
Cpl Marcotte

Squadron Quartermaster

Stores
WO Seefried
MCpl Sanduliak
Cpl Gow
Tpr Nolan

Maintenance Troop

Sgt Wardle
MCpl Plaunt
MCpl Vandervaate
MCpl Haberer
MCpl Petca
Cpl Dulong
Cpl Poelzer
Cpl Miedema
Cpl Kelly
Cpl Clemetson
Cpl Routhier
Cpl Hornburg
Cpl Osbourne
Cpl Drake

Reconnaissance Squadron (Formed November 2007)

Officer Commanding

Maj Cadieu

Sergeant Major

MWO Crabb

Squadron Headquarters

Lt Boates
2Lt Williams
2Lt Selberg
WO Hopkins
WO Reid
WO Screen
Sgt Daley
Sgt Connauton
Sgt Brown
MCpl Clarke
MCpl McGarity
MCpl Parsons
Cpl Ramage
Cpl Sorel
Cpl Locke
Cpl Doerfling
Cpl Oliver
Cpl Romkey
Cpl Reid
Cpl Paterson
Tpr Banman
Tpr Barrett
Tpr Bellegarde
Tpr Cameron
Tpr Cooke
Tpr Cormier
Tpr Estabrooks
Tpr Goodmanson-Morris
Tpr Mandes
Tpr Maxwell
Tpr Oliver
Tpr Pegler
Tpr Proulx
Tpr Pugh
Tpr Schenher
Tpr Skinner
Tpr Smith
Tpr White
Tpr Zwicker

E Company

Officer Commanding

Capt Caruana

Sergeant Major

MWO Turner

Company Headquarters

Capt Hanacek
Capt Pattle
WO Miles
MCpl Divinagracia
MCpl Haggarty



MCpl Lincez K.E.
MCpl Maker
MCpl Smith
MCpl Winfield
Cpl Murray
Cpl Porter
Cpl Primmer
Cpl Walsh

1st Platoon

WO Little
Sgt Miller
MCpl Donaldson
MCpl Frank
MCpl Hand
MCpl Lincez K.D.
MCpl Sherwood
Cpl Edmonds
Cpl Ulch
Pte Potvin
Cpl Merchant
Cpl Duff
Cpl Murree
Pte Vogt
Pte Brown
Cpl Wade
Cpl MacKinnon
Cpl Turanyik
Cpl Goettler
Cpl Barrett
Cpl Franklin
Cpl Brown
Cpl Hinz

2nd Platoon

Capt Bowers
Sgt Faught
Sgt Peddle
Sgt Turnbull
Sgt Stewardson
MCpl Osmond
MCpl Ryall
MCpl Sterner
Cpl Anderson
Cpl Baron
Cpl Bancarz
Cpl Bennett
Cpl Chauhan
Cpl Christmas
Cpl Finbeiner
Cpl Hayter
Cpl Hennessy
Cpl Jenkins
Cpl Lavallee
Cpl McDonald
Cpl Olson

Cpl Rees
Cpl White
Cpl Worthy

Headquarters Squadron

Officer Commanding

Maj Jared

Sergeant Major

MWO Mulhern

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Volstad
Lt Douglas
MCpl Brown
MCpl Christopoulos
MCpl Flanagan
MCpl Hoth
Cpl Osmond
Tpr Douglas
Tpr Goodmanson-Morris
Tpr Neufeld
Tpr Balfour
Tpr Collier
Tpr Docherty
Pte Doerksen
Tpr Kirkpatrick
Tpr MacKinnon
Tpr McKinnon
Tpr Mendez
Tpr Parker

Transport Troop

Sgt Andrews
Sgt Miller
Sgt Zahorodney
MCpl Cunningham
MCpl Frank
Cpl Bartlett
Cpl Orlesky
Cpl Phillips
Cpl Pittman
Cpl Robichaud
Cpl Sanders
Cpl Von Reitmyer
Cpl Weber
Cpl Wright
Tpr Adam
Tpr Bernard
Tpr Black
Tpr Estabrooks
Tpr Larkin
Tpr Lazo
Tpr Manchip

Tpr McKenzie
Tpr O'Neal
Tpr Smith
Tpr Van Maanen
Tpr Van Reeuwijk
Tpr Von Reitmyer

Regimental Orderly Room

WO Doucette
PO 2 Martin
MCpl Loof
Cpl White

Strathcona Mounted Troop

Capt Gray
Sgt Alexander
Cpl Fedyshyn
Cpl Gray
Cpl Hordyk
Cpl Roberts
Cpl Samms
Cpl Sarmiento
Cpl Todd
Tpr Bouchard
Tpr Cameron
Tpr Frenette
Tpr French
Tpr Graham
Tpr Lafontaine
Tpr MacEachern
Tpr Maxwell
Tpr Preston
Tpr Sephton
Tpr Slade
Tpr Zhou

Squadron

Quartermasters Sergeant

WO Holland
Cpl Loveless
Cpl Swainson

Family Support Troop

Capt Hubbard
Sgt Jones
MCpl Carson
MCpl Pargeter
Cpl Davis
Cpl Guay
Cpl McLaughlin
Bdr Morrison
Tpr Corduroy
Tpr Mumford
Tpr Wood



Quartermaster Troop

Capt Grimsrud
MWO Proctor
MWO Mainville
Sgt Stevenson
MCpl Levis
Cpl Allen
Cpl Bulmer
Cpl Haas
Cpl Norris
Cpl Oswald
Cpl Rekrut
Cpl Rohmer
Cpl O'Dwyer
Cpl Pope
Cpl Wallace

Cooks

WO St-Onge
Sgt Nicholson
Sgt Rimney
MCpl Langford
MS Pritchard
MCpl Wills
Cpl Delisle
Cpl Kovac
Cpl Theriault
Cpl Wade
Pte Dow
Pte Empey
Pte O'Grady

Maintenance Troop

Capt Watson
MWO Radies
WO Dufour
WO Smith
Sgt Cave
Sgt Clipsham
Sgt Tice
MCpl Bale
MCpl Banks
MCpl Cochlin
MCpl Costello
MCpl Foote
MCpl Keirstead
MCpl Kyle
MCpl MacKinnon
MCpl Piatkowski
MCpl Sampson
MCpl Voisin
MCpl Williams
MCpl Wolf
MCpl Wolfrey
Cpl Auld

Cpl Beaulieu
Cpl Brown
Cpl Cooke
Cpl Costen
Cpl Downing
Cpl Kennedy
Cpl Gray
Cpl Hogan
Cpl Kenschak
Cpl McNutt-Holland
Cpl Miller
Cpl Moser
Cpl Mullin
Cpl Normore
Cpl Paradis
Cpl Pleau
Cpl Riddell
Cpl Robichaud
Cpl Thayer

Stables

MCpl Fitzpatrick
Cpl Langridge
Tpr Legault

Garrison Troop

MCpl Cooper
MCpl Dufton
Cpl Collura
Cpl Dennis
Cpl Humphreys
Cpl Jensen
Cpl Ramage
Cpl Scheller
Tpr Arsenaault
Tpr Banman
Tpr Barret
Tpr Cormier
Tpr Forestell
Tpr Hammermeister
Tpr Oliver
Tpr Pugh
Tpr Parcher
Tpr White
Tpr Zwicker

Guidon Party

MWO Proctor
WO Mayfield
WO Stacey
Sgt Kauenhofen





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The Year in Review

By Captain R. McKenzie

January

A Squadron Task Force (TF) 1-07 Pre- Deployment Training
Theatre Mission Specific Training
Tactical Combat Casualty Care
Personal Weapons Test level 4

8 - 30 Leopard C2 Gunner's Course
13 - 14 Senior Leadership Seminar
15 - 21 Exercise STRONG CONTENDER
22 - 26 Feb Primary Leadership Qualification Modules One through Five
29 C Squadron (TF 3-07) Deploys to Fort Bliss, Texas for Exercise RELEX RAPIDE



February

C Squadron (TF 3-07) Ex REFLEX RAPIDE Battle Group Collective Training to Level 5 Live Fire.
Force Generation for TF 3-07, 2nd Battalion Royal 22ieme Regiment (R22^eR) Battle Group

10 - 16 RHQ and HQ Squadron elements deploy to Fort Bliss in support of Exercise RELEX RAPIDE
12 - 16 A Squadron (TF 1-07) Embarkation Leave
18, 20, 22 A Squadron (TF 1-07) Deploys to Afghanistan

March

5 - 20 April Primary Leadership Qualification Module Six
8 - 10 Moreuil Wood Activities
10 B Squadron (TF 3-06) Arrives in Edmonton from Afghanistan
12 - 23 C Squadron (TF 3-07) Theatre Mission Specific Training



April

2-5 C Squadron (TF 3-07) Individual Battle Task Training - Wainwright
10 - 23 Combat Team Commander's Course. - Wainwright
17 - 20 Ex DESERT RAM Commander's Recce - Wainwright
27 - 26 May Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN 0701



May

Ex MECHANIZED MITHRA E Company in Suffield with 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI)

- 5 - 1 July** Initial Cadre Training - Leopard 2A6M (Holland / Germany)
- 7 - 11** Air Brake Course
- 14 - 18** Land Component Command for Op PONTTOON deploys with Regimental augmentation (Preparation for possible flood of lower Fraser River)
- 22 - 15 June** Basic TOW Gunner pilot course
- 24** B Squadron (TF 3-06) Welcome Home Parade
- 28** B Squadron (TF 1-08) Stand up



June



- 1** Mr Fred Balm and Mr Gary Lee visit the Regiment
- 4 - 18 July** Leopard 2A6M Maintenance Training in Germany.
- 4 - 22 July** Leopard 2A6M Crewman Conversion Training, two serials.
- 4 - 15** Leopard C2 Driving and Maintenance Course
- 11-15** Tracked Light Armoured Vehicle Remote Weapons Station Course
- 11 - 22** Tactical Combat Casualty Care Course
- 11 - 6 July** Leopard C2 Basic Gunner Course
- 18 - 22** Tracked Light Armoured Vehicle Remote Weapons Station Course
- 28** United States Politicians Visit the Regiment

July

- 1** Historical Vehicle Troop Parade in Fort Saskatchewan
- 6** Stampede Parade Marching Contingent, Coyote, Leopard C2 and ARV.
- 7 - 8** 100 Man Guard and Museum Display at Spruce Meadows for Queen Elizabeth II Cup
- 5 - 15** Leopard C2 and Coyote static display for Calgary Stampede.
- 13-19** Leopard C2 Basic Gunner Course Gun Camp B Squadron (TF 1-08)
- 19** Edmonton Capital Exhibition Parade. Leopard C2
- 19 - 22** Grand Prix of Edmonton. Leopard C2 Static Display
- 20 - 24** B Squadron (TF 1-08) Squadron Continuation Gun Camp
- 27** C Squadron (TF 3-07) Farewell Parade





August

- 13 - 23** B Squadron (TF 1-08) Professional Development and Computer Assisted Exercise with 2nd Battalion PPCLI Battle Group.
- 15** Regimental Safety Day
- 17** Red Friday Rally
- 20 - 24** Weapons Effects Simulator trials for Light Armoured Vehicle 3 Tow Under Armour variant.
- 25** Tanks and Tags Run. Leopard C2, Armour Recovery Vehicle and Coyote Static Display, HQ Squadron
- 27** 3rd Battalion PPCLI Memorial Service
- 28** C Squadron (TF 3-07) Deploys to Afghanistan
- 28 - 31** B Squadron (TF 1-08) Lowbedding to Wainwright



September

Ex DESERT RAM - Brigade Collective Training to Level Five Live Fire. Force Generation for TF 1-08 (2nd Battalion PPCLI Battle Group) B Squadron (TF 1-08)- Primary training Audience, HQ Squadron, E Company and RHQ provided individual augmentees in support of the exercise

11

A Squadron (TF 1-07) Arrives in Edmonton from Afghanistan

24 - 5 Nov

Leopard C2 Basic Gunner Course. Force generation for A Squadron (TF 3-08)

October

Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN 0702 - B Squadron (TF 1-08) 2 PPCLI Battle Group Collective Training and Validation B Squadron (TF 1-08)- Primary training Audience, HQ Squadron, E Coy and RHQ provided individual augmentees in support of the exercise

9 Regimental Merit Board

12 - 25 Corps Merit Board





November

- 5 - 30 Basic TOW Gunner Course.
- 5 - 20 TF 1-08 Tactical Reconnaissance
- 5 - 21 Dec Leopard 2A6M Maintenance Training in Germany
- 6 - 10 Dec Primary Leadership Qualification Modules 13
A Squadron (TF 3-08) Stand up
- 19 - 11 Dec A Squadron (TF 3-08) Pre-Deployment Training
- 13 - 30 25 MM Turret Operators Course
- 19 - 16 Dec Leopard 2A6M Crewman Conversion Training
- 27 - 30 Tracked Light Armoured Vehicle Remote Weapons
Station Course



December

- 3 - 7 Combined Gun Camp
25 MM Turret Operators Course
Tracked Light Armoured Vehicle Remote Weapons Station Course
Basic TOW Gunner Course
- 8 - 12 Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major visit
Leopard 2 Training in Germany
- 12 Christmas Sports Day
- 13 Soldiers' Christmas Dinner
- 13 Officers at Home to Senior Non Commissioned Officers

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Regimental Headquarters

Written by members of RHQ

Regimental Headquarters (RHQ) consists of several different areas which support the Regiment: Operations/Training (Ops/Training), Intelligence (Int), Signals Troop (Sig Tp), Training and last but definitely not least, the Sheriff with her Regimental Police (RP). The Operational tempo that was initiated by the deployment of B Squadron Task Force (TF) 3-06 to Task Force Afghanistan in October 2006 has not abated and has been a whirlwind of activity for every segment of RHQ.

RHQ

The Commanding Officer (CO), **LCol Pascal Demers** and the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM), **CWO Douglas Ross**, have been extremely busy with planning and organizing the Regimental deployments and manning issues. With **Maj Christopher Adams** moving to Officer Commanding (OC) B Squadron for TF 1-08, **Maj Trevor Cadieu** assumed the Regimental Second in Command (2IC) position. The Adjutant (Adj), **Capt Robert Hume** received a well deserved promotion to Major and was succeeded by **Capt Mark Lubiniecki**, who has brought his own brand of infectious enthusiasm to the Adj's position.

Ops/Training

The one area which has seen a few new faces is the Ops/Training cell. The Operations Officer position has been like a revolving door starting with the departure of **Maj Kevin Mead** to Afghanistan, and **Capt Christopher Hunt** filling in for a few months until **Capt Christopher Nolan** took over. Then in April, **Capt Robert McKenzie** took on the job of the Operations Officer (Ops O) and is still patching all the holes left from **Capt Nolan's** "I love me" wall. Continuity has been maintained throughout by the Operations WO (Ops WO). **MWO Antony Batty** was the Ops WO from spring 2006 to June 2007, when **WO Richard Stacey** assumed the position of Regt Ops WO. With **Cpl Richard Smith** retiring from the forces that left the position of the Ops/Training NCO open. **Cpl Teri-Lynn Macko** filled this position in January 2007. And last but not least, the RHQ Clerk position changed from **Cpl Jonathan Osmond** to **Cpl Jason Forbes**, to **Pte Corinne "Blue-Beret" Doerksen**. And, we can't forget **Capt Malcolm McMurachy**, Training Officer, now deployed in Afghanistan with the Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT) has had his position filled by newcomer to the Regiment, **2Lt Graham Kallos**.



WO Richard "The Candyman" Stacey

Intelligence Cell

This Summer and Fall has seen many changes in the Intelligence Cell. **Cpl John Hodges** joined the team after he completed his Tactical Intelligence Operator course in April. **Cpl's John Goobie** and **Andrew Boorman** were posted in to fill the holes left by **Cpl John Dugdale** who left for On the Job Training for his new trade as an Intelligence Operator and **Bdr Mackinnon** who was posted back to 4 Air Defence (AD) Regiment in Moncton. The Brigade Commander's tactical vehicle crew of **Cpl Dave Starr** has moved to the regimental police, and **Cpl Beiner** has made the Int cell his home (when not buffing the Brigade Commander's LAV III).

The cell has continued to support Regimental operations, providing weekly Int briefs to the CO and Enemy Tactics Techniques and Procedures (TTP) briefs to deploying squadrons. Our largest undertaking



Cpl Teri-Lynn Macko

was the jokingly named Operation Sweatshop where 14 soldiers were crammed into our cell for a week to separate, laminate and bind the Leopard 2 Aide Memoirs for C Squadron before they deployed to Afghanistan with Task Force 3-07. During Exercise Desert Ram, **Cpl John Goobie** began his new task as CO's Gunner and **Cpl Andrew Boorman** as the G-Wagon rover driver. As we move into the winter season we will continue to support Regimental operations at all levels.

Signals Troop

With a new Regimental Signals Officer (RSO or Sig O), **Capt Scott Ireland** along with the Regimental Signals WO (RSWO), **WO Edward Perry**, Signals Sgt, **Sgt Jeffery Warne**, **MCpl Richard Fraser**, **MCpl Richard Price**, **MCpl Glenn Roy**, **Cpl Benjamin Boyce** and **Cpl Veronique Simoneau**, Signals Troop (Sig Tp) have been extremely busy keeping up with the operational flow of the unit. **MCpl Darryl Wells** is currently attached out to B Squadron

as the Sig NCO and will deploy with B Squadron, Task Force 1-08.

Information Systems (IS) Section continued to work at a high tempo providing constant IS support to the Regiment. Sig Tp personnel conducted a 50 percent recap of IT assets within Regimental lines and managed to keep the Ops O's computer going even though he would try his best to sabotage it (we think).

Training Section kept busy by conducting comms refresher training for deploying squadrons and in some cases taught new equipment, such as, the AN/PRC 117 radio. As well, Training Section conducted annual refresher training to HQ Squadron and E Company.

Despite all sub units of the Regiment being extremely busy, we still managed to find time to squeeze in a Command Post (CP) exercise for Sig Tp called Ex TANGO TALKER. This exercise was to confirm Detachment Commander drills and unit Standard Operating Procedures. The exercise started off with a wrong turn by our overzealous **Cpl Veronique Simoneau** and **MCpl Darryl Wells**. Once all vehicles were turned around and pointed in the right direction, **MCpl Richard Fraser** had to figure out why he had no comms. Once the radio was attached to the correct Antenna Mounting Unit (AMU) all worked well. The exercise gave Tp signallers the opportunity to hone skills which may have faded over time.



MCpl Richard Fraser

In the near future, Sig Tp will be conducting another Training cycle, CP exercises in Wainwright, AB and the upcoming deployment of the Sig O to ISAF HQ in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Training Troop

Training Troop as well has seen a few changes. The Regimental Gunnery Warrant Officer (RGWO) position was ably filled by **WO James Holmwood** for about a year. **WO Richard Delaney** came back to the Regiment from Gagetown and filled the position long enough to graduate 24 Leopard C2 gunners in support of Task Force 3-08 force generation. In a blatant demonstration of Armoured Corps unity, the course consisted of 10 soldiers along with two instructors from the Royal Canadian Dragoons in Petawawa, along



with one Primary Reserve soldier from the British Columbia Regiment. With the reception of two additional Leopard simulators to accommodate the size of the gunnery course, our two simulator operators, **Cpl Jason Vanderveur** and **Tpr Erik Sachro** did an outstanding job of facilitating the training.

Concurrent to the ongoing courses, training troop has updated the basic Leopard gunner's package with the most up to date lesson plans available and made an easy and straight forward instructor book along with a student handout book. During this busy time we are also working at a 25mm gunner's instructor book with student hand outs. Gunnery never ends (if we're lucky!).

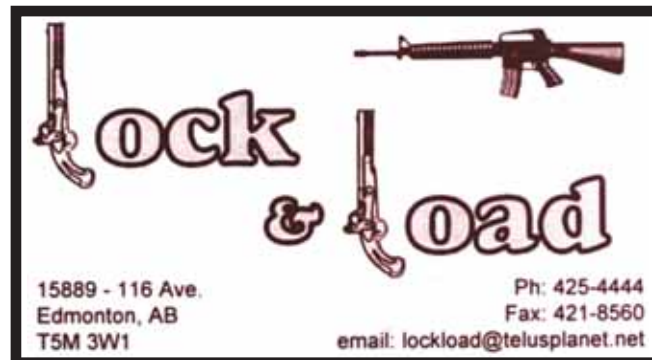
Regimental Police

What has been going on in the Regimental Police (RP) section lately? I don't know, but the Sheriff must be hard on her RPs because there are not too many people left. Recently, the RP section has been going through some changes. **MCpl Holin Hoth** moved to HQ Squadron, **Cpl MacFarlane** was posted out, **Bdr McCoy** released from the CF to seek fame and fortune, and **Cpl Dave Starr** is going to be joining the RCMP! However, with all that happening the work hasn't stopped. We welcomed a new RP member, **Cpl Winston Dottin**, to help out the only survivor of the RP section, **Cpl Robin Whiteley**. **Cpl Winston Dottin**, being new and not knowing what he was getting into, also accepted the duties of the Regimental Photographer. Now, it is easier for him to stay focused.

For those who wonder what the RPs do; we ensure the security of the building and assets are maintained to a high standard, update security clearances for members of the Regiment, distribute ID cards, resolve any issues or concerns with vaults or keys, conduct threat assessments, liaise with other Police agencies (not that we have anybody getting into trouble), and conduct Traffic Control Points. Last but not least, we like to sit back and enjoy a good cup of coffee and donuts after Crossfit. What else would cops enjoy?



Cpl Robin Whiteley





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Prince of Wales (B Squadron)

By Master Warrant Officer A.S. Batty

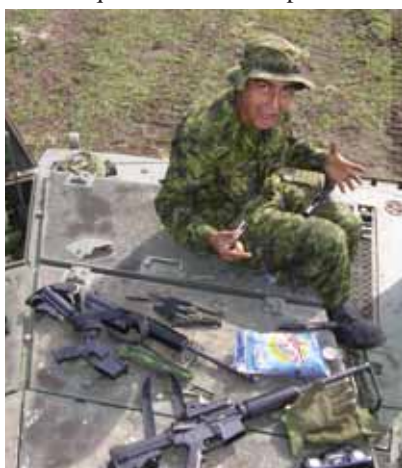
With Some well deserved re-deployment leave after returning from Afghanistan, the soldiers of B Squadron once again returned to Garrison life at the end of May. After Regimental reorganization, the Squadron was stood up; the main effort of this period was taken up with liberating tooling under the hawk like stare of the TQMS. Under the direction of the OC **Major Chris (Senior Noodle) Adams** and the SSM **MWO Tony (is there coffee yet) Batty** the Sqn began the process of training for Task Force (TF) 1-08 with deployment slated for early February (at this time). This involved a lot of detailed planning by the BC **Capt Eghtedar (this is so not Recce) Manouchehri**. The Squadron was ably assisted in this endeavor by the administrative guidance and the dodging of paper cuts by the Sqn 2IC **Capt Dave (that's b#*ll**it) Macintyre** and the combat clerk **Cpl Evan (Hesko - Hobbitt) Arsenault**.

The Squadron wouldn't be together long as it was split up for taskings, PCF training and Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC). There were a few soldiers remaining on the shop floor to carry out the F1s and tool liberation as required but it was not an easy task. Training and assorted Departure Assistance Groups (DAGs) continued as well as Personal Weapons Tests (PWTs) 1 through 3. The PWTs ended with Gun Fighter Training led by **Lt (now Captain) Alex (THREAT READY) Nitu** where some 800 rounds were fired off by each soldier.



The ranges in Wainwright

As the Primary Combat Function (PCF) cycle came to an end the Squadron finished up vehicle maintenance in preparation for gun camp in Wainwright. In Wainwright, the gunners' course was completed and the Squadron Gun Camp commenced. It started with individual crews working their way up to Troop



level battle runs. With the squadron live fire completed in record time, we carried on with grenade, pistol and C7 ranges in 38 degree heat including Gunfighter, where the complete Squadron enjoyed the slimming effects provided by the flak vest. The Squadron during this time frame also managed to start the preparation for Exercises Desert Ram and Maple Guardian with a level 4 day and night live fire exercise with **Sgt Marv (I so love my job) MacNeill** providing his expertise from TF 3-06 and utilizing his high school thespian talents, injected some realism to the training; I believe there were at least 300 enemies. A visit from the Regimental Second in Command (2IC) and Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) ensured we were on the right track. All that training and the Squadron still managed to make it back to Edmonton a few days earlier than planned.

B Squadron then made the annual trip to Calgary. The Squadron took part in the Calgary Stampede parade. A Leopard C2 Main Battle Tank and Armoured Recovery Vehicle led the way as the Squadron marched again in sweltering heat. The people of Calgary demonstrated their appreciation and respect for our soldiers by maintaining a standing ovation as the Troops marched by, this made the 5 or so kilometers feel much shorter. At this time the Squadron managed to impress some of the local populace with their Karaoke talents although some of the members were unable to complete a full sentence during the vocal extravaganza.



Back in Edmonton, the tanks needed a lot of maintenance. With the Squadron together again, we were able to get a lot of work done in a short period of time and couldn't wait until August for some much needed summer leave.

Early August saw the departure of the command team to Shilo for some Battle Group (BG) Professional Development and a Joint Combined Arms Tactical Simulator (JCATS) exercise, which enabled the Squadron hierarchy to meet some if not all of their counterparts.

After three weeks off, the Squadron was back to work in Garrison for two weeks before being re-deployed back to Wainwright. Once we got there, we wasted no time and got straight into the training. After dry training with the Infantry Companies to get back into things, we headed down to the annex training area to start the 3.5 level ranges for 5 days. Wainwright was at its most helpful with the weather holding its usual vortex over the training area.



*Ahh the tankpark at sunset
"does it get any more romantic?"*



Wainwright Ranges

Batman! You know who you are. (Name withheld to protect the innocent).

With a week remaining before the Force on Force Weapons Effects Simulator (WES) training scheduled to kick off, the Squadron took advantage of the extra time and finished the outstanding individual training we needed to compete. Maintenance was also a high priority, while trying to get some rest before the final push of the exercise.

After piecing together with liberal use of gun tape, enough tanks to make two full troops the Force on Force WES training

Once that was finished, we headed back to KAF for rest and vehicle maintenance. The Squadron then continued on with more dry training before eventually being deployed to the Forward Operating Base (FOB) for level 4 live fire training. There weren't as many troops as platoons, so to aid in the BG training the four troops had to keep cycling through the 24 hour trace until both companies were up to par. We then continued on with the Infantry to complete level 5 live fire. The live ranges finally culminated with the final range (level six) bringing the full might of the BG to bear with the BG Commanding Officer in command. During this time frame the Regimental Commanding Officer, Regimental 2IC, Adjutant and RSM were on hand to observe training and offer words of advice and encouragement (yes that was encouragement). With the exercise more than half complete, the Battle Group had a smoker for its soldiers, which ran smoothly with a special appearance from



Wainwright



kicked off. Due to lack of spare parts and the curse of **MCpl Tom (aka TANK BREAKER, Chainsaw or Peregrine Tom) Bowden**, the Squadron had to swap tanks back and forth to finish the training required. With all the training complete, the Squadron under the control of the **SQMS WO Tony (Scrooge) Mayfield** managed to rip apart the tented camp, de-WES the tanks, get them to the wash racks, and ready for low-bed in about eight hours. With that all done it was time to go home to our Families!

After two long months in the field, the Squadron had a week off to spend with their families. The squadron then split up to commemorate and remember the loss of fellow soldiers for Remembrance Day in Whitecourt and Mayerthorpe.

By the middle of November half of the Squadron was in Germany training on the Leopard II A6M Tank which we will use in Afghanistan. Then we had some well earned Christmas leave. In January the rest of the squadron departed for Germany in order to complete the Leopard II training cycle. The Squadron has had a very busy year and is well prepared to deploy in February for the 6 months as part of the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group.



Wainwright

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Ring of Steel

1st Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, Zhare District, Kandahar Province.

This image was inspired by the soldiers of B Squadron Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) during the first deployment of Canadian tanks into combat since the Korean War. B Squadron, equipped with Leopard C2 tanks, joined 1st Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group in Zhare District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan on 2 December 2006.



As this image depicts, the Canadian tanks worked closely with battle group infantry and engineers to breach complex terrain and disrupt Taliban insurgents through the use of superior firepower and mobility, thereby improving the stability of Afghanistan.

This open edition print was created by renowned Canadian artist and photographer **Silvia Pecota**. The image was digitally created by combining photography with oil painting and is printed on archival, fine art paper.

B Squadron - The Coin

The face side of the coin draws the viewers eye to both the Regimental crest and Leopard C2 tank, an armoured vehicle that provided not only excellent protection to its crew, but also to those who worked intimately with the soldiers of B Squadron while deployed on combat operations in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. Along the border of this side of the coin is inscribed the name of the Squadron and the Battle Group they were attached to. Along the bottom is the Regiment's motto "Perseverance"; a phrase that many discovered the true meaning of while serving with their comrades under the constant and imminent threat of enemy attack.

On the other side of the coin is an outline of the country of Afghanistan with a Scorpion overtop. The Scorpion represents the wildlife indigenous to Afghanistan and epitomizes the spirit of the B Squadron soldiers: rugged; precise; and lethal.





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A Squadron



Into the Breach: A Squadron 2007

By Captain P.E. Leonard

The last time A Squadron wrote to you in this forum it was to detail the activities it conducted in the work-up to our then-approaching deployment to Afghanistan. Since those cold days in Wainwright, A Squadron has come a long way, and with your indulgence, we would like to take this opportunity to review the events of 2007 with you.

The pace of training leading up to Christmas was break-neck, and this continued following our return from leave as the soldiers participated in Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) and Gunfighter training. The short deployment timeline for B Squadron had a knock-on effect for us and our training schedule was also compressed. Nevertheless, in the midst of all this, the soldiers took at least five days of pre-deployment leave and by 22 February 2007, we were complete on the ground in Kandahar.



1 Troop

After three days of acclimatization at Kandahar Air Field (KAF), the Squadron moved out to Forward Operating Base Ma'sum Ghar (FOB MSG) and immediately began conducting our handover with B Squadron. These were critical days for us as we tried to absorb the vast amount of information and experience that B Squadron was imparting to us over the course of only a few short days. Officer Commanding B Squadron, **Maj Trevor Cadieu**, presented all-ranks with a very detailed situation brief and the handover operation, which included a tour of the area of operations (AO) and a fireside chat in the heart of Howz-e-Madad (HEM), was vital to the work we were to conduct in the coming months. The hard work and lessons learned of B Squadron were the foundation upon which we built throughout our tour.

The handover complete, A Squadron jumped directly into Operation ACHILLES, the largest ground operation ever launched in the history of NATO. Deploying on 5 March 2007 as part of 'Hotel' Company Combat Team into the deserts of the Maywand and Ghowrak Districts, and Eastern Helmand Province, the Squadron lived for 36 days in austere leaguers. The soldiers survived on whatever they could pack into their tanks (and whatever Squadron Sergeant's Major, **MWO Bill Crabb** could load into his near daily convoys), and conducted operations over a vast swath of land that had seen little to no coalition presence in recent months. During this time A Squadron conducted a recovery operation to help extract beleaguered American forces, who had become stranded after striking several improvised explosive devices (IEDs) while travelling North through the Ghowrak District. The plan called for two lanes to be ploughed through seven kilometres of canalizing terrain that was littered with mines and IEDs. For their work ploughing these lanes the crews of **Sgt Trent Hiscock** and **WO Todd Hopkin** were awarded the Task Force Afghanistan Commander's Commendation. The Squadron also participated in a number of cordon and search operations, as well as a convoy escort of more than one hundred American and British vehicles travelling from the Sangin District of Helmand province back to KAF.



2 Troop with the Minister of National Defence



While kinetic activities of the gunfight variety were sparse during Operation ACHILLES, the Squadron was the target of rocket and IED attacks that increased with frequency as the operation continued. **MWO Bill Crabb's** resupply convoys (that supplied not only the Squadron, but the entire H Company Combat Team, to include the luxurious Artillery Manoeuvre Area) were the target of choice for insurgents throughout as his Echelon moved back and forth along the 60 km stretch of road from Forward Operating Base (FOB) MaSum Ghar (MSG) to our Area of Operations (AO) in Maywand. In one of these attacks on our fuel



3 Troop with special guest!

truck, **Cpl Martin Savaria** was seriously wounded and was eventually repatriated back to Canada. On another occasion, a young girl was killed during a suicide attack on one of our convoys. For his actions during both of these events, **Sgt Mike Bolger** was awarded the Commander Canadian Expeditionary Forces Command Commendation. The greatest loss of Operation ACHILLES, and one that was felt keenly by our soldiers, was the six 'Hotel' Company soldiers who were killed in an IED strike on 6 April 2007. A Squadron developed a close relationship with 'Hotel' Company during Operation ACHILLES and the loss of these soldiers struck us as hard as it would have had they been from our own team.

A Squadron redeployed to FOB MSG 10 April 2007 to conduct some much needed personal and tank maintenance. The month of April saw the Squadron position itself in support of 'Charlie' Company and Special Forces operations in Panjwahi District as well as conduct a number of quick-reaction force (QRF) vehicle recovery deployments. It was during this time that the Squadron made its first foray into the volatile Nalgham District when the QRF deployed in support of the Royal Canadian Dragoon Recce Squadron following an IED strike that resulted in the deaths of two of their soldiers.

It was in May 2007 that the Squadron's operational tempo really began to kick into high gear. Operation HURRICANE II, a 'Hotel' Company Combat Team operation that began as a presence patrol into Nalgham District and degenerated into two days of intense fighting, was the Squadron's first exposure to the two-way range. More importantly, it set the stage for Operation HOOVER, a Battle Group operation conducted between 17-25 May 2007 that saw the Squadron move into the "Anthill", also known as Ghunday Ghar, and conduct clearances of Nalgham District. Over these days the Squadron faced a determined enemy and killed a substantial number of them, conducting offensive, complex breaching and recovery operations under enemy fire. Unfortunately, during the operation, the tank of **Capt Craig Volstad** was damaged by a mine strike (no casualties) and one of the Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT) soldiers, who was working to train the Afghan National Army, was killed in a separate incident. Operation HOOVER was, however, a massive success that demonstrated to the Taliban that we could move where we wanted, when we wanted and take the fight to them in spades.

May was the start of campaign season for the Squadron and for the remainder of the deployment there was scarcely a community in our AO where we could deploy without encountering hostile Taliban forces. During the months of June and July, the Squadron largely teamed up with 'India' Company and conducted operations into Taliban country, fighting our way into the communities of Siah Choy, Asheqeh, Burmohammed, Kolk, Sangsar and Tallukan to name a few. Almost half of A Squadron's vehicles at some point during



WO John Pudar and the rest of the crew.



the tour struck either a mine or IED and during July **Capt Eric Angell**'s tank was the target of a suicide-vehicle-borne IED (SVBIED) that wounded his operator **MCpl Al MacNeill**. **MCpl MacNeill** returned to full duties within three weeks and was awarded a wound stripe for his injuries. There were also a large number of QRF deployments to recover vehicles destroyed by IEDs and contribute extra firepower to Troops in Contact (TIC).

Maj Dave Broomfield took half the Squadron and the bulk of Hotel Company to form the A Squadron Combat Team, deploying 18 June 2007 to the Kakrez District with American Special Forces, for Operation PERSEVERANCE. This operation saw the Squadron in contact with the Taliban, in the form of both IEDs/ mines and gunfights. In the end, the Squadron Combat Team put a serious dent into enemy operations in the area before returning to FOB MSG in early July 2007.

By the end of July the 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group (2RCR BG) began handing over its operations to the incoming 3^{ème} Battalion Royal 22^{ème} Regiment. This transition phase was not lost on the Taliban who proved the extent of their coordination and knowledge of our own operations when they launched an offensive against Afghan security forces during this time frame. As the only sub-unit not involved in a handover, A Squadron shouldered the brunt of much of this kinetic activity deploying twice over a three day period into gun battles to pull wounded and killed Afghan soldiers from checkpoints and police stations that had been overrun by Taliban. With Battle Group forces stretched thin as a result of the handover, and the bulk of the Squadron committed to Operation MALDAR, a presence operation into Maywand District with British forces from the Royal Welsh Regiment, the Taliban seized significant portions of terrain that had, only days earlier, been in the hands of Afghan National Security Forces. As a result, the Battle Group planned and executed Operation EAGLE EYE, whose goal was to take back Ghunday Ghar from Taliban forces. A Squadron played a significant role in this operation, leading the B Company Combat Team into Ghunday Ghar proper and supporting the C Company Combat Team into the Arghandab River. Both Combat Teams saw some of the most intense fighting of the tour but by days' end approximately a platoon's worth of Taliban had been reported killed, an insurgent leader among them, and Ghunday Ghar was back in the hands of coalition forces. The action was not without its cost and two soldiers from the B Company Combat Team lost their lives to an IED that had been planted in the dust of the base of Ghunday Ghar.



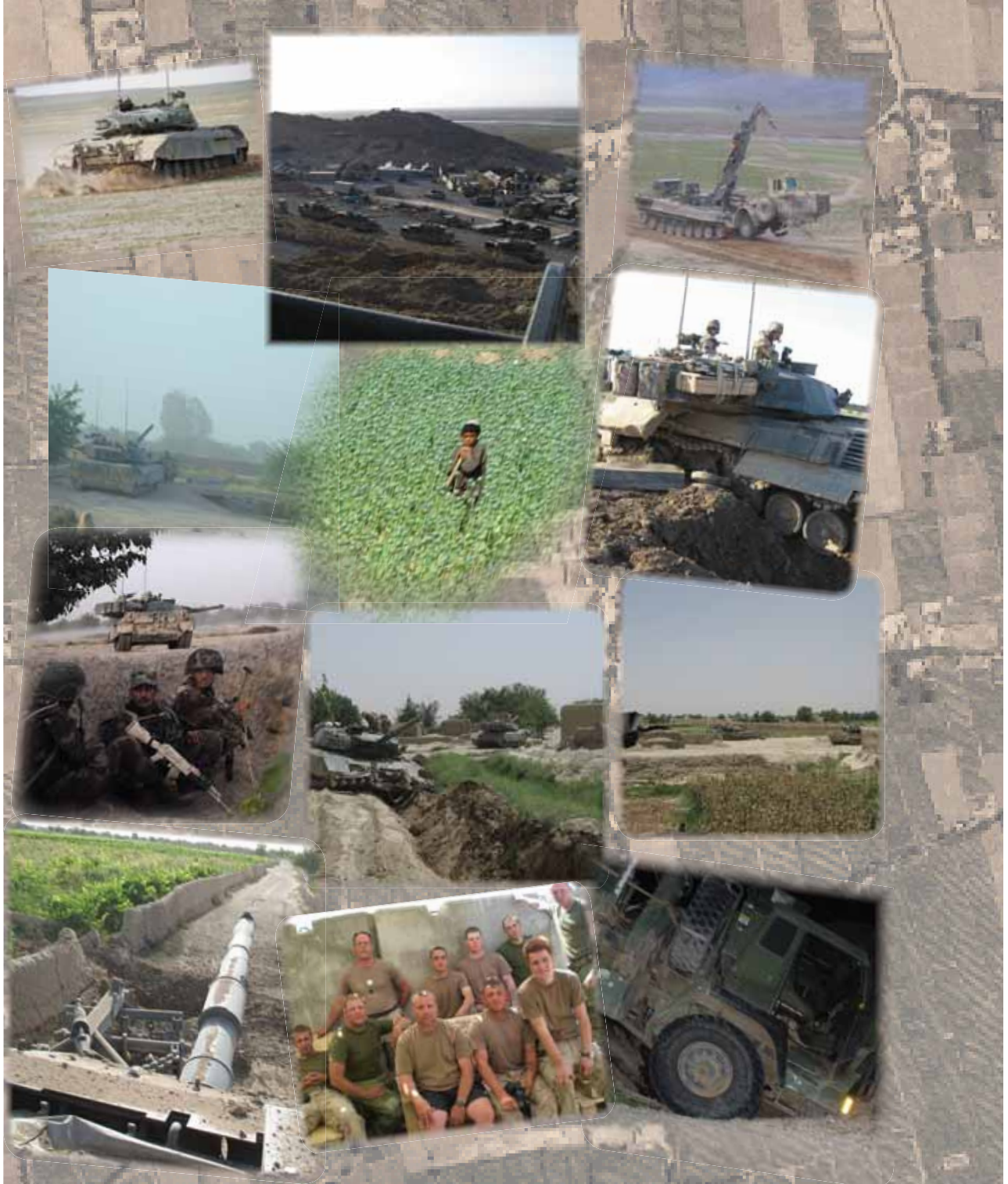
Maj Dave Broomfield

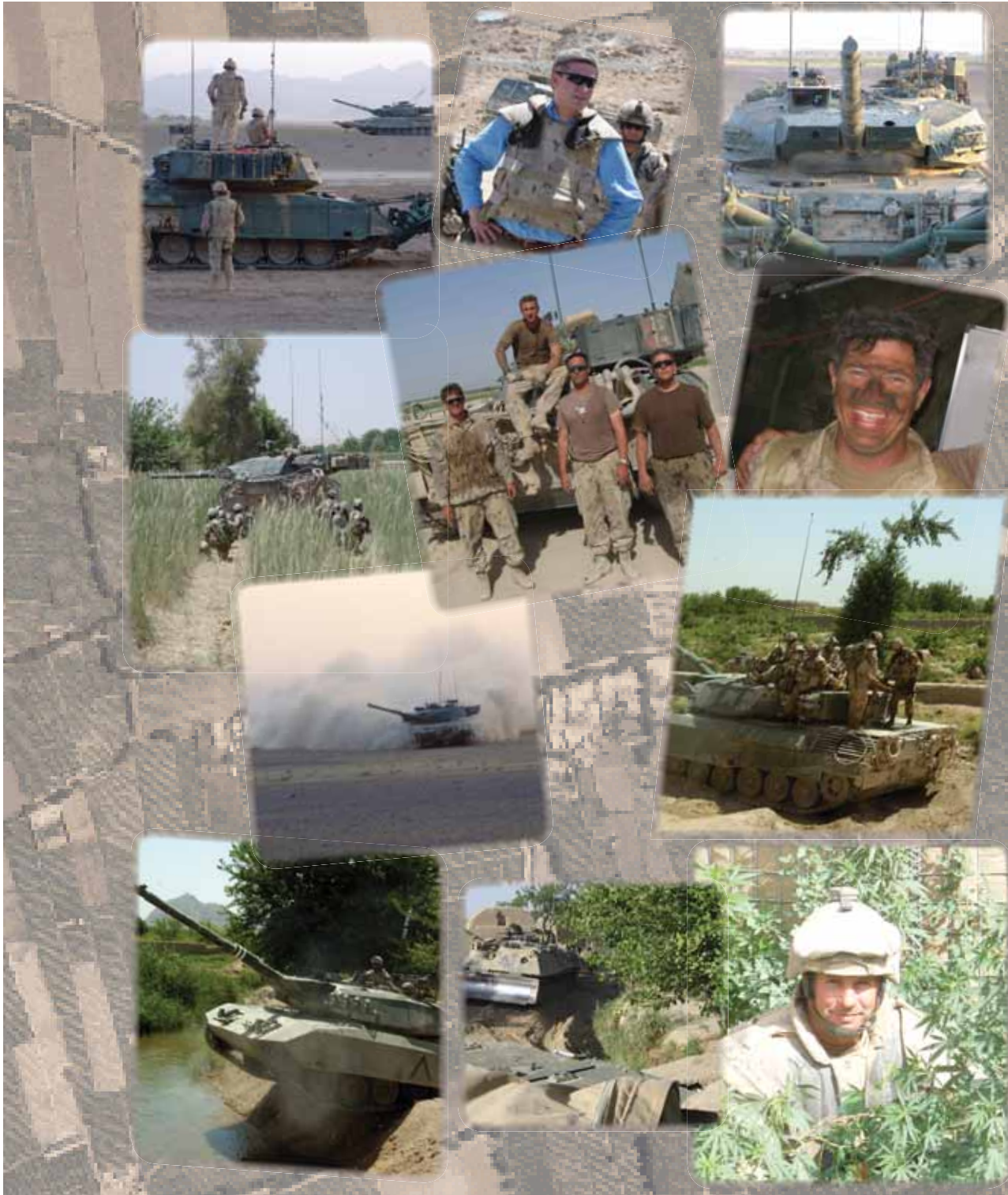
C Squadron arrived at FOB MSG on 3 September 2007 and after conducting a handover operation that included an Officer Commanding's brief, a tour of the AO, a tank range practice and a night in the leaguer, A Squadron boarded two American Chinook helicopters and flew back into KAF to clear up some administration prior to flying out of country on 7 September. After decompression in Cyprus (the stories of which I will not divulge in this forum!), the soldiers of A Squadron finally boarded a flight back to Edmonton where they landed late on the night of 11 September (irony?). Local police services escorted us through the city and our arrival at the Lecture Training Facility, to a large crowd of friends, family and well-wishers was outstanding. Few soldiers could contain their happiness at the sight of a loved one after such a separation.

When the squadron came back to work on 5 November after almost two months of leave, the old A Squadron found itself split to the winds. Some have been posted, others sent to different Squadrons while others still can be found in the reformed A Squadron that is currently conducting preparations for an Afghanistan deployment in September 2008 under the leadership of **Maj Ian McDonnell**. Still, the team that deployed as A Squadron for Task Force 1-07 with the 2RCR BG was as tight a group as can be imagined and will no doubt remain so in the years to come. To our friends and family who supported us through this difficult year, we thank you. Perseverance.



A Squadron in Pictures







Advance To Contact

This composition represents A Squadron, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) as a sub-unit of the Second Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, conducting combat operations in Afghanistan. From 22 February to 7 September 2007, the soldiers of the Squadron were deployed throughout Kandahar and Helmand Provinces, including the Districts of Zhari, Panjwayi, Khakrez, Arghandab, Ghorak, Shaw Wali Kot, Maywand, Kandahar, Daman and Nahr-e Saraj.



This image portrays the Squadron's Leopard C2 tanks, together with Afghan National Security Forces, Canadian infantry, engineers and its combat service support echelon, breaching complex terrain in an advance to contact. Throughout the mission, the Squadron disrupted Taliban forces through the use of superior firepower and battlefield mobility thereby enhancing the security of Afghanistan.

This limited edition print was created by renowned Canadian artist and photographer **Silvia Pecota**. Digitally produced by combining photography with oil painting is numbered out of 500.

A Squadron - The Coin

The face side of the coin shows one of our Leopard C2 tanks (with add-on-armour, identification friend-or-foe markings and even some "gypsy caravan" kit strapped to the turret) over the background of the Strathcona colours (crimson red over myrtle green) and the A Squadron tactical symbol. The other side is a contour map of Afghanistan showing Kandahar and Ma'Sum Ghar. An Afghan flag flies proudly above the capital of Kabul, symbolizing the country's independence (thanks in no small part to the efforts of Canadian troops). The Canadian flag, at half-mast, is in honour of our friends and colleagues who sacrificed their lives to build a more secure Afghanistan.





A Squadron Return



C Squadron Farewell





C Squadron



A Worthy Squadron

By Lieutenant M. Johns

On the 28th of August, 2007 C Squadron stepped off the tarmac at Edmonton International and into Armour Corps history. After eight months of intensive training, including a conversion to the Leopard 2A6M, the Squadron blended from six Regiments officially began their deployment to Afghanistan as part of OP ARCHER ROTO 4.

Working hand-in-hand with our brothers in arms in the 3rd Battalion Royal 22ieme Regiment Battle Group, C Squadron began the daunting task of acclimatization to the harsh terrain and weather of Afghanistan. Arriving a month later to theatre due to Leopard 2 conversion training the Squadron began to integrate itself with the Battle Group, including the occasionally difficult task of balancing both official languages! Under the strong leadership of the Battle Group CO and RSM these hurdles were overcome and C Squadron set to the mission with a vengeance.

Arriving at the height of the fighting season the men and women of the Squadron stepped immediately into operations. From disruption patrols to combat team and battle group attacks, the early months of the tour were kept busy with a constant parade of operations. Putting their months of training to good use all the Troops worked hard to ensure that the Leopard C2 tanks remained operational and extremely effective.

The Squadron's first month in theatre saw the troops facing and overcoming the worst that the enemy could throw at us. The Squadron as a whole got its first taste of combat and proved that the hard months of training were well worth it as the crews demonstrated that they were among the best that the Corps has to offer. During the first month C Squadron hit its stride and evolved from a well-trained sub-unit to a determined and battle-tested fighting squadron.



Leo 2 Dust Shake

As the tour progressed new challenges began to appear as the Squadron found itself being tasked for more and more demanding and versatile operations while continuing to be a part of combat team and battle group attacks. From Route Clearance Operations to convoy escort, the Squadron rose to the challenge and quickly became one of the most tasked sub-units of the Battle Group. The ability to bring enhanced mobility, devastating firepower and dependable protection to other combat elements meant that the tanks were deployed almost daily on every manner of task.

The Squadron also faced the challenging task of incorporating the newly arrived Leopard 2 Main Battle Tank into the Canadian Forces. Initially trickling in, the troops were excited by the arrival of the bigger, more powerful and meaner tanks. The Armour Corps had the newest vehicle in theatre and it was the best war machine we had ever fielded, a main battle tank the equal of any in the world!

Squadron members persevered through the tour, a difficult one for many due to the fact that it was over Christmas. Many first timers had to learn the ropes from their more experienced comrades who taught them the tricks to passing the time and remaining focused on the mission. Celebrations for all the various holidays occurred in some fashion or other. A solemn Remembrance Day ceremony was held at Forward Operating



Base Ma'Sum Ghar as the Squadron remembered all we had lost and all those who came before us.

As the tour nears its end, members of the Squadron have refocused to ensure that the last month remains as effective as the first. Our tremendous successes have been tempered by some terrible losses. All in the Squadron mourned the falling of **Corporal Nathan Hornburg**. We also cannot forget those who have been repatriated due to being wounded in action: **Sergeant Rick Dickson, Trooper Chris Cunningham-Dunlop, Trooper Bryden Klein, Master Corporal Tim O'Blenis, Corporal Dan Dulong, and Corporal Joe Ouellet**. The sacrifice of our comrades will never be forgotten by C Squadron.

Faced with a myriad of challenges, from two languages, to six regiments, to the introduction of a new tank; the troops of C Squadron have served with honour and distinction. Regardless of the potential difficulties that could have arisen, the soldiers of C Squadron have persevered and made Armour Corps history.



LdSH(RC)

ON BEHALF OF MY FAMILY, I WANT TO THANK THE ENTIRE REGIMENT
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E Company – LAV TOW Under Armour Capability

By Second Lieutenant T. Collings

E Company has made many advances this year with respect to the TUA capability in the Regiment. E Company conducted live fire TOW ranges in Wainwright during Ex STEELE DESTRUCTION II. The exercise gave both the Company and the twenty students of the Basic TOW Gunner course the chance to experience the accuracy and capabilities of the Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) TUA and Integrated Target Acquisition System (ITAS). This was a rare opportunity for the students as getting the chance to actually fire a \$35,000 TOW missile is not part of the training plan. With 75 missiles in stock, each student fired at least two TOW 2A missiles and the remainder were fired by members of E Company.

The most important consideration on EX STEELE DESTRUCTION II was the weather and climate of the CFB Wainwright training area. Students, staff and E Company members had to contend with sub zero temperatures ranging as low as -25 degrees Celsius as well as high winds and blowing snow. For those firing, this added a higher level of difficulty as the blowing snow and fog in the mornings reduced visibility by day substantially. Adding to this, the low temperatures made it that much harder for gunners to differentiate between cold targets and the snow.



Despite such setbacks the ITAS system proved an immeasurable asset both in day and in thermal, once the targets were warmed up. This was made obvious by the fact that targets were identified and recognized by gunners long before the Crew Commanders could even observe the target with binoculars or the Crew Commander's Target Acquisition System. It became obvious on the first day that the Crew Commander would have to trust the gunner or observe what the gunner was tracking using the flat panel display, slaved to the gunner's thermal sight. This demonstrated to the students and first time firers the capabilities and value of the ITAS system.

Before going to Wainwright the 20 students completed Basic TOW Gunner, which was run by E Company LdSH (RC) out of the company lines. The course ran from 5 to 30 November 2007 with all students successfully completing the course. The instructors were **Capt Caruana** (Course Officer), **WO Little** (Course Warrant Officer), **Sgt Miller**, **MCpl Donaldson**, **MCpl Hand**, **MCpl Lincez** (now Sgt), **MCpl Sherwood**, and **MCpl Frank**. Both the course and the range were supported by members of the company. For the students who were given the rare opportunity to fire TOW missiles on a live range, this was history in the making. The students consisted of sixteen soldiers from the Royal Canadian Dragoons, two from the Armour School and two from the Strathcona's. With this composition, it was the first TOW course in the Canadian Forces comprised of entirely Armoured soldiers, which marks a large step toward the capability becoming part of the Armoured Corps.

For 2008, E Coy will continue to be the centre for TOW in the Canadian Army. The company will host discussions on the future of TOW in January, and will continue to run Basic TOW courses with one starting on the 21st of that month. 2008 will be a busy year for E Company with a lot of changes on the way for both the Basic and Advanced TOW courses as well as the make up of the company itself.





Headquarters Squadron Silly Season Year Round

By Master Corporal L. Christopoulos

With the increasing tempo of operational deployments overseas, Headquarters Squadron saw another busy year for 2007. From helping A and C Squadrons deploy overseas, to assisting B Squadron for their second deployment to Afghanistan, members of Headquarters Squadron have been the leading and vital support element for the Regiment. At the beginning of the year between January and March, soldiers were sent to Fort Bliss, Texas to assist C Squadron with their pre-deployment training in Ex REFLEX RAPIDE.



HQ Sqn completing the 13km march - no GPS for Maj Earl Jared this time out

This year the Squadron was tasked to be the Office of Primary Interest (OPI) of the Regimental Safety Programme, OPI for the Commanding Officer's inspections and staff assistance visit/annual technical inspection (SAV/ATI), and maintained a system to account for expenditure of vehicle mileage for all vehicles. The Squadron was

also responsible to develop and maintain, on a quarterly basis, a forward planning list should funds become available for training opportunities or purchases. Even without the primary task of supporting the fighting Squadrons, it would have been a busy year.



Ensuring the mine-rollers are ready to roll

Public displays otherwise known as "Dog & Pony's" have been one of Headquarters Squadron unofficial tasks for this year. From farewell barbecues for Squadrons deploying to welcome home parades, there has always been a Leopard C2 on display for the families to take a look at. The Squadron had static displays of a Leopard C2, Coyote, and other vehicles from Historical Vehicle Troop (HVT) at various events such as Spruce Meadows in Calgary, in Edmonton during Capital Ex, and at the Rexall Grand Prix. The most memorable event took place in Calgary, during the Calgary Stampede Parade, where **Sgt Neil Miller** got the spectators roaring as his tank rumbled through the downtown core and he got a few pivot turns thrown in as B Squadron marched in behind.



HQ Sqn clerks hard at work!! As always

Maintenance has always played a strong role in the Squadron and continues to even more as the aging fleet of Leopard C2s have seen more than their fair share of deployments to the field. With the constant use and hand over of the tanks from Squadron to Squadron for pre-deployment training, maintainers have been extra busy trying to keep the fleet running. Many thanks to them for their unending support and extra hours that they put in to keep us firing and rolling.



In April, some members of the Squadron were placed on a standby list for possible deployment to British Columbia in order to assist with the worst flooding the area has seen in years. Personnel such as **Tpr Mickey Legault** were sent down to conduct a recce for a few weeks. Luckily, the water levels receded before any soldiers were needed.

The Squadron has even seen a few of its own deployed overseas. **Sgts Jeffrey Daley** and **Leighton Hardy** and **Cpls Nick Starr** and **Benoit Sorel** all recently arrived back home after serving a nine-month tour with the Joint Task Force Afghanistan. The four of them worked for the senior serving Strathcona, **MGen Timothy Grant**, as his LAV 3 crew. After completing the majority of the tour without major incident, the LAV 3 crew was tasked out to the Deputy Commander for a mission. It was during this time that **MGen Timothy Grant** decided to travel without his Strathcona crew into Kandahar City (his last road trip through the city) when a suicide bomber hit his convoy. Nobody was seriously hurt but it could be argued that if he had his LUCKY crew of Strathconas the bomber would have seeked a softer target.



Another day of removing and replacing packs

New Troopers coming in from Gagetown have found a new temporary home in HQ Squadron. Upon their arrival many were sent out the door to the Land Force Western Area Training Centre (LFWATC) in order to support B Squadron's Pre-deployment training during Exercise Desert Ram and Maple Guardian. Although it is a scary thought, other Troopers have been thrown onto the Leopard Gunner's course along with a few young Royal Canadian Dragoons coming all the way from Petawawa to learn to be real tankers! All these new fit and motivated Troopers have been sent to A Sqn for their subsequent stand-up and deployment and to the newly reformed Recce Sqn

Another busy year came to a close with yet another busy year quickly approaching. Headquarters Squadron has supported A and C Squadron's training and deployment and is prepared to support the subsequent deployments. Although it has been a high tempo year, Squadron members have found the time to support other events and even had time to enjoy themselves.



Several of HQ Sqn's finest serving as 99 Tac in Afghanistan



Maj Earl Jared giving a pre-safety-talk talk



Family Support Troop

By Corporal C. Davis

Well, another year and a little wiser...or older! **MCpl Aaron Carson** and **Cpl Curtis Davis** were running the show in the Family Support Troop (FST) after the retirement of **Sgt Dan Risk** and **Cpl Sandy Landon**. The deployments were ongoing and events needed to be planned so we carried on. As we said, "We can knit more soldiers, to help us in the future".

The first event of the year was very successful. It was the Deployed Spouses Tea Party. Mrs. Liz Crabb and Kim Mills (little one in tow) showed up. A vote was taken: tea was out, coffee and pop was in which made the children happier. The party was held in the new FST office (the old RP office), a smaller office, but cosier parties.

We received feedback from spouses to have more LdSH(RC) Family events. The Military Family Resource Center (MFRC) held fun events like potlucks and adult games nights, but we wanted to "stick it to them"; show them and the spouses a real party! Therefore the first big event was the West Edmonton Mall Watermark.



Mrs. Haberer and the gang at the Haunted Pumpkin Patch!

By now the Unit had "knit us more soldiers". **Cpls Brain Valliancourt**

and **Roger Herburt** had joined the team. Even the Padre, **Capt Richard Larsen**, showed up to play. Whoa, Speedos should be worn with caution! Needless to say, we had a high turnout. 40 plus family and friends had food and fun for all.

We must have worn the two new Corporals out, because **Valliancourt** and **Herburt** were out (after serving 4 months) and the new **Cpls, Richard McLaughlin** and **Ambre Anderson**, were in. Also, a new Padre showed up, **Capt William Hubbard**. In the spring, Capt Larsen will be heading overseas. We wish him (no pun intended) 'God Speed'.

The Thanksgiving Pot Luck hosted by the MFRC and the LdSH(RC) FST had a lot of support. **Cpls Davis** and **McLaughlin** provided the turkeys and ham. Our Chef, Harry Young did an outstanding job preparing the food. Due to bad weather, there were a lot of leftovers! Those that attended left with full tummies and doggie bags.

The last big event scheduled was the "Haunted Pumpkin Patch", which was a big hit. We joined forces with the MFRC and took the families to Bon Accord for a day of corn mazes, hotdogs, wagon rides, treasure hunts, scarecrow making, and many other activities like the Pumpkin Cannon. **Mrs. Anne Haberer** and crew showed up. While manning the Pumpkin Cannon, Breanne's shot would have taken out several pirates! It really shook up the Ship! The Strathcona families were by far the biggest crowd of the group and seemed to have a great time.

The new Family Support Troop is looking forward to the challenges of 2008. We wish all the best and look forward to seeing everyone at the events in the coming year!



Our Thanks to Sherwin-Williams from Padre Will Hubbard and the rest of Family Support



Huge Support coming from Kentwood Ford and Mr. Phil Neufeld



Strathcona Mounted Troop 2007

By Captain D. Gray

Following the completion of the 2006 season, the majority of the soldiers in the Strathcona Mounted Troop (SMT) departed for predeployment training. The Troop was dramatically affected by the increased operational tempo of the Regiment with Leopard Squadron deployments to Afghanistan, and had only five soldiers caring for the Horses by the end of 2006. In January 2007, the Troop was repopulated and the new members began the Military Equine Course under the direction of the Ride Master **Sergeant Wade Alexander**. Once completed, the basics of the Musical Ride were instructed. The new Troop members had quite a steep learning curve in a short period of time but were able to retain all the knowledge and skills taught on the course with ease. They were able to learn and master the skills much faster than anticipated



Sponsor flags in Spruce Meadows

and subsequently by mid May, the Musical Ride was re-established. All of the new Riders participated in the Musical Ride and learned the skills necessary to become Tent-Peggers. With the addition of seasoned SMT members, **Cpls Randy Todd** and **Dermot Samms** and the skilled Tent-Peg placing of **Tpr Danny Slade**, the Troop's strength was brought to 12 riders and three ground crew, enough to present a Musical Ride.

The Troop participated at the Saskatchewan International Tattoo in Regina from 24-26 May, providing a 20 minute Musical Ride and Tent-Pegging demonstration. Regina's performances were a great season opener for the Mounted Troop and also gave the Troop an opportunity to bond with the RCMP Musical Ride who also participated in the Tattoo. **Tpr Kate MacEachern** as the Mounted Troop's Master of Ceremonies performed remarkably well under the stress of the 4000 people in attendance at the Tattoo. Although quite apprehensive at first, she adapted to the situation and represented the Troop with grace and style. Also in May, **Cpls Pete Fedyshyn** and **Rob Sarmiento** were added to the Troop's strength after recently returning from combat in Afghanistan on Op ARCHER Roto 2 with B Squadron. They were quickly integrated into the Musical Ride bringing the number of Horses participating in the Ride to 14.



*Tpr Ji Zhou (Stein)
Tent-Pegging in Newbrook*

Following the Regina Tattoo, SMT had a number of smaller scale ride performances at the Edmonton Garrison Officers' Mess as part of the 1 June Business Luncheon, Crystal Kids Youth Centre on 2 June, and the Newbrook Agriculture Society Rodeo on 24 June. All the performances were extremely well received and the Mounted Troop was requested to return in following years.



The Charge in Regina

SMT, being the Official Colour Guard of Spruce Meadows, participated in full force at the "National" (6-10 Jun), "Continental" (14-17 Jun), "Canada 1" (28 Jun-1 Jul), "North American" (4-8 Jul) and "Masters" (5-9 Sep) Competitions. At each of the competitions the Troop performed Musical Rides, Vedettes, and Radetzkie's to escort the winners of the Horse Jumping Competitions. Despite the inexperience of many of our riders, they performed extremely well and represented the Regiment proudly. In long standing support to the Mounted Troop the increased corporate sponsorship from the ATCO Group and Spruce Meadows for 2007 has enabled the Troop to



enhance its appearance by purchasing many items to complete the historical representation and enable the Troop to showcase itself while performing on the road.



*Tpr Matt French (Summit)
Tent-Pegging at EGOM*

In addition to the Musical Ride performances, the Troop participated in the Calgary Stampede and Capital Ex Parades. In both parades the salute to the military was greatly received and the Troop was presented first place as the Commercial Mounted Colour Party at the Stampede and first place as the Ceremonial Mounted Group at the Capital Ex.

As August approached, the tempo for the Mounted Troop increased as the Troop performed in numerous locations across Alberta, and British Columbia. The Troop welcomed four new soldiers to the Troop to assist in some of the duties while on the road which enabled the Troop to perform with additional riders. The “Ralston Rodeo” in Suffield was an excellent venue where the Troop could demonstrate their skills and abilities to our British counterparts training at the Suffield Training Area. The Rodeo concluded with the performance of our Musical Ride, which was an excellent segway to the awards ceremony. The Troop looks forward to performing at the Rodeo in future years to come.

Later in August, the Troop went to the “Rafter 6 Ranch” in Canmore, AB to perform for the “Mozart on the Mountain” with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. The day before the performance, the Troop was taken for an evening supper ride led by some of the Ranchers through the Mountains, along the back trails and across a few rivers; finally ending up in a campsite location which had a huge fire pit with all of our steaks and supper cooking. Our horses dominated the trails and the only horses that were getting spooked were the Ranch’s horses, which made it quite entertaining for our Troop members. The following day the Troop performed our Musical Ride to Mozart Music played live by the Orchestra. The Orchestra played throughout the Musical Ride, sounded the Bugle Charge call, and also played “*Soldiers of the Queen*” for the march past of the Troop. The Performance went well despite the rain that continued throughout the day. After the show was over, the Troop set out for the long journey to Vancouver for the Pacific National Exhibition.



Summer Home in Spruce Meadows

Twice daily for 4 days, SMT performed the long version of the Musical Ride and Tent-Pegging demonstrations. It made for some tiring nights but the overall show was well received by the PNE. **Tpr**



Flashy Trailer

Anthony Frenette with his gifted ability to rally a crowd assisted by “Sinbad from the Island of the Cyclops and KC Bear” ensured that the stands were filled for the Musical Ride Performances. With note, during the 2007 season, the Mounted Troop showcased **Tpr Stevie LaFontaine** as the first female rider in SMT history to compete in the sport of Tent-Pegging. After many shows, **Tpr LaFontaine** finally succeeded in picking up the pegs while in Vancouver which sprouted a big grin from ear to ear, and the Troop never heard the end of it.



After the PNE, the Troop linked up with the Vancouver Mounted Squad from the Vancouver Police who hosted a Ride through Stanley Park along the coast of Vancouver. The Troop members thoroughly enjoyed the trip and took in the sights, as it was a nice closure to our time in Vancouver. After we arrived at the beach in Stanley Park, the Troop ran the horses up and down the waterline while others enjoyed racing in the sand. The experiences that the Troop had in Canmore and Vancouver were clearly the most enjoyable of the season and the Troop will look forward to continuing the traditions and performing at these events again.



Ralston Rodeo, Suffield

Overall the Troop came a long way in a very short period of time. Despite having so many new riders and soldiers report to the Troop throughout the season coupled with the integration of new horses into the Troop, the level of morale and team cohesion was outstanding. Without



*Cpl Chad Gray (Sportster)
Stanley Park*

difficulty, the Troop was able to continue representing the Regiment's history and traditions by presenting the Musical Ride and Tent-Pegging performances, which continued to enhance the public's view of the Military. The 2007 performance season was focused on explaining the Regimental operations in Afghanistan to the public and displaying those members of the Troop that are recently home from deployment. This led to an increased level of support from the venues and also gave a further understanding to the civilian audiences of our combat operations in Afghanistan. The season concluded after the "Masters" Competition in Spruce Meadows and once again the majority of the members were sent off for pre-deployment training for A Squadron's next deployment. It also has returning SMT members arriving at the Troop repopulating the positions in preparation for the 2008 year.



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Historical Vehicle Troop

By Corporal B. Sorel



Cruisin down 97th St in the Ferret

In the past year, Historical Vehicle Troop (HVT) has slowed down their normal activities in the Edmonton and Calgary areas due to the fact that most of the members of this unit were involved in deployments to Afghanistan. Nevertheless, some members were lucky to see and explore old, destroyed Russian T-54s and BRDMs in the Afghanistan National Army compound. Upon their return to Edmonton, the members of HVT had a lot of work ahead of them when the pride of WWII and Korea vehicles needed a must deserved overall refit.

Two Ferrets were invited to Edmonton Citadel Theatre for a special presentation of Canadian playwright Vern Thiessen's newest play "Vimy." Not even the cold of Alberta could stop HVT from smiling and waving back at people that proudly show their support to the men and women serving in the military. The special feeling that

you get driving a Ferret or a Lynx in the City of Edmonton was back. On Remembrance Day, "Catherine" (a Sherman Tank) led the parade in Fort Saskatchewan, proudly representing the Strathcona's. Many were impressed to see a working Korea tank slowly making its way into position with all the proud, dedicated soldiers behind her.

A small part of history came back to the Regiment this year. A Ferret with an original LdSH(RC) serial number was returned to us from New Mexico with free shipping, courtesy of CN rail. For the support in helping us to keep history alive, a small parade was held with the Ferret crew and the CEO of CN rail. With winter falling upon us, it was time to put the old horses to bed and begin preparing for the next busy year of displays and parades.



Even though it looks small it's pretty roomy on the inside - and there's no heat



MCpl William Fitzpatrick and Cpls Andrew Baird, Derek Romkey, and Benoit Sorel at the Citadel



Regimental Museum and Archives

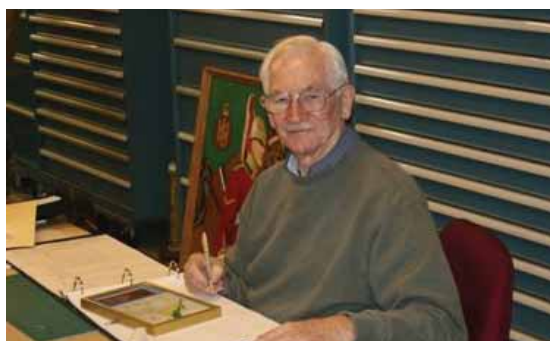
By Sergeant T. Giberson

It is hard to believe that another year has passed. So much has happened and much more is in progress since our last article. The updating of new storyboards that will help the public to better interpret our history was added. This year we will finally see the completion of our Memorial Wall. This wall will have the names of all the members of the Regiment who have died in the service of their country. This, along with the display of our medals, will add a powerful element and help the public to understand the sacrifices that the Regiment has made in the past and is still making to this day.



The expansion of The Military Museums is almost complete. A betting man would put his money on the expansion and our move of the archives into the new facility to be completed sometime mid February. Once this is done our Regimental history will be housed in a properly controlled space and will include a dictated and user-friendly research area for the public to research Regimental history. We have started to digitize our history, with the help of the University of Calgary and Centre for military and Strategic Studies. These documents are being photographed, digitized then put into a format that is word searchable. This will greatly enhance our ability to aid the Regiment and general public in their search of our history. All this will soon be available to you online, and can be previewed at (<http://www.military-history.ca/>) for all you computer enthusiasts.

The largest event this year was once again our Family Remembrance Service. We had approximately 5500 people turn out for the day, making this the largest Remembrance Day ceremony in Calgary. The Remembrance programs at the Museum see over 3000 students visit over a 6-week period. Needless to say, November is our busiest time of the year.



We could accomplish little without the continued efforts of our volunteers. They are the backbone to the tours and explain the history of the Regiment to our visitors. A great thank you to those who do volunteer and for your continued support.

Once last reminder – we are still looking for pictures preferably named and dated of your Afghanistan tours. If you have any, we'd like to hear from you. In all it has been a good year and everything looks strong from the Regimental Museum viewpoint.



Strathcona Ladies Functions





Hello from Wainwright

By Lieutenant-Colonel S.G. Long

Strathconas in Wainwright are extremely well represented throughout the entire spectrum of activities and organizations in this rural community we call home. It seems every office and building and facility I have entered in my short time here I run into Strathcona. Thank God! That is not to say that we are the only military regiment represented here, but simply ask any Strathcona and he will proudly tell you that we are the most important.

The Strathcona influence can be seen and felt immediately upon arrival of visiting troops. In **Area Support Unit (ASU) Wainwright** we have the likes of **Cpls Hoyt, Draves and Kruhlak** doing exceptional work maintaining the A-vehicle Fleet as part of the Field Support troop, Vehicle Section. With only the assistance of two other soldiers this five man team of weary and hard working soldiers does remarkable work. **Sgts Kasawan and Beaumont, and Cpls Hollingdrake and L'Heureux** are all members of the Range Control team that spend almost all of their waking hours ensuring we do not shoot or blow up ourselves, the oil workers, or the myriad of other interesting critters in the training area including some speckled grouse that tastes like crap, or so I have been told.



*Back L to R - Sgt Peterson, Sgt Borkovic,
Maj Cochrane, MWO Swainsbury,
Sgt Shiels MCpl Stringer
Front Row L to R - MCpl Moon,
Sgt Rousseaux, MCpl Knott*

Land Force Western Area Training Centre (LFWA TC) continues to have a solid representation of Strathconas supporting the training of our infantry brethren. Although Training Support Company (TSC) is the Strathcona strong point at the School with **Maj John Cochrane, MWO Rob Swainsbury, Sgts**



*L to R - MCpl Greg Moon,
MWO Rob Swainsbury, Maj John Cochrane*

Perterson, Graf, and Borkovic, and MCpls Ives, Moon, Cushing, Stringer, Lee and Knott manning the fort; there is representation in Standards with **Sgt Rousseaux**, and training with **Sgt Shiels**. As everyone employed here can attest to, it is a great place to work and it provides an outstanding opportunity to help train the future soldiers of the Army. The School is comprised of soldiers from all combat arms and is truly a combined arms team, with Strathconas proudly representing the Regiment and taking the lead as is our nature. This was probably most clearly demonstrated by our assistance with the Paul Gross production of *Passchendaele* that was filmed at the old Harvey Barracks in Calgary; once again we managed to jump into the spot light – literally.

Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre Headquarters (CMTC HQ), Canada's premier, world -class training facility also relies heavily on its fair share of Strathconas to ensure mission success. **Maj Mark Connolly** ably performed the duties of G3 CMTC and for his great work he and the family are now in Toronto attending Command and Staff College (well done Mark). Mark was followed into the G3 job by **Maj Chris Bradley** and ably assisted by **MWO Kevin Lovett** as the CMTC G3 branch SSM. Both manage so many issues and deal with so many levels of command that their terms of reference rival Tolstoy's "War and Peace" for weight and content. Recently, we welcomed **Maj Kevin Mead** to CMTC having recently



returned from operational employment in Afghanistan. Kevin is a great addition to the CMTC team as he will be in a position to incorporate his operational experience into the design and delivery of training the next soldiers. With **Capt Mike Onieu** as Adjt, and **MCpl Mike Craig** as the Commander's driver it is evident that Commander CMTC recognizes the professionalism and abilities of the Strathcona's. Either

that or he likes to really keep an eye on the potential trouble makers.



Members of Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre (CMTC)

Many new Strathconas arrived this summer, with **LCol Scott Long** as the Chief Observer Controller, **Capt Chris Nolan** as the Operations Officer and **WO Tony Mosher** as an Armour Recce Observer Controller Team (OCT). This jolly crew joins the established "old-guard" of **MWO Dave Hall** in the Armour Team. On that note, a heart felt congratulations to **MWO Hall** who has been selected as the Squadron Sergeant Major for A Squadron. All

at CMTC look forward to hounding him during Maple Guardian 08. The glue that binds the OCT Group is of course our Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant, **WO Tom Falls**, who always ensures we have what we need to get the job done. This year has been a pivotal one with a hectic pace as we continue to prepare our Army's elements for deployments to Afghanistan. The edition of improved capabilities in the area of Counter-Improvised Explosive Device and the shifting focus towards development and the training of the Afghan National Security Forces requires CMTC to be continually adaptive, innovative and dedicated in the development and refinement of training. A special thanks to **Maj Trevor Cadieu** and **Lt Marshall Douglas** from the Regiment, who most recently brought their operational tank experience to the fore as OCTs. They provided first class training and mentoring to B Squadron as they prepare for operations in Afghanistan. No job can be more important than ensuring the next soldier in the breach is as well trained or better trained than you were when you deployed.

Last but certainly not least are our black hat brethren in the Opposing Force (OPFOR). 2007 has seen an increase of Strathconas at CMTC to serve with our professional enemy force, OPFOR. Several Strathconas have turned in their Coyotes and Leopard tanks for dingo trucks and camels, okay maybe not camels, but definitely a change from the regular. Commanded by the team of **Major Kelly Callens** and **MWO Brad Murphy** the OPFOR continue to cause much grief and angst to the units coming through CMTC as they are put through their paces. Overall, OPFOR conducted MAPLE GUARDIANS 0701, 0702, MAPLE DEFENDER 07, and a DESERT RAM exercise during the year. As well, the training area, villages, and a number of compounds have continued to be developed to provide increased realism and exposure for the Task Forces.



L to R - WO T. Falls, WO T. Mosher, Capt C. Nolan, MWO D. Hall LCol S. Long

In conclusion, the Wainwright training area is no longer the place I first trained in as a young subbie and first earned my spurs. The training delivered today in CFB Wainwright relies on simulation to re-create the most realistic of conditions to prepare our soldiers to go in harms way. I am extremely proud of the work that is done and the fact that the backbone of Wainwright wears the Strathcona's Hat Badge. That said, we are always looking for more great soldiers and now that Tim's and Canadian Tire are opened I am hopeful we might attract a few more. From the Strathconas of Wainwright we few, we proud, we band of brothers.

Perseverance



Strathconas in Kingston

By Lieutenant-Colonel D. MacLeod

Kingston's Strathconas remain plentiful as the Army continues to pour effort into its intellectual centre. The Garrison here continues to grow with the addition of new units and new people into existing units. With a strength of almost 7800 both military and civilian, the Kingston Garrison is the largest Army Base in the country. Strathconas continue to make valuable contributions in a myriad of units and functions. As **Colonel Spike Hazleton** has been tasked as Deputy Chief of Staff Operations for Regional Command South (RC(S)) in Afghanistan and deploys from January 2008 to September 2008, **LCol Dave MacLeod** has taken over the reigns of the Base until Annual Posting Season 2008. **RSM Doug Harvey** remains in place as the Base Chief Warrant Officer and **Maj John Stuckart** continues to run operations and training on the Base as G3 with the able help of **MWO Dave Lee** running the ranges and training side of things. **Maj Chris Waters** has left the Base to start up a new unit, the Military Law Centre, and to teach at the Queen's University Law School. **Maj Ron Carson** has announced he will retire after 21 years and will be taking a management position with Calian. **LCol Robin Steward** is in his second year of steering the ship at the Peace Support Training Center and **Maj Mike Froess** is right there with him preparing people for various operations. **Capt Clayton Fifield** is working in the G1 shop at Land Force Doctrine and Training System Headquarters (LFDTS HQ) (whenever he can find a parking space big enough for his truck). **Capt John Rickard** is Director of Army Training 5-5-3, also in LFDTS HQ. **Maj Don Senft** is J5 in the Joint Headquarters and is amassing a host of airmiles on various 3-4 week swans all over the world. **Maj John Grodzinski** is still shaping young minds in the History Department at the Royal Military College (RMC) and **Maj Gord Dyck** will shortly be deploying for six months as the Operations Officer for the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Task Force in Regional Command (South). **LCol Chris Rankin** is on a two month task as the Formation Operational Lessons Learned Officer 2 in Kandahar and will return to his job in Director of Army Doctrine in January 2008. **MWO Jim Dorrance** is here as a student on the Army Technical Warrant Officer's Program in the Department of Applied Military Science at RMC. With him there is **Capt Mike Lakatos** who is on the Land Force Technical Staff Program. **MCpl Colin Dunn** is working with the Military Police Detachment in Kingston.

Kingston also remains a choice for many of our retired members as well. Living in the area are the likes of **MGen Clive Milner**, **MGen Bob LaRose**, **BGen George Wattsford** who served as the Regt 2IC at Melfa, **Col John Roderick** presently Col of the Regt, **Col Bob Billings**, **Col Ray Wlasichuk** who is working at Calian, **LCol Dennis David**, **Maj Danny MacLeod** who has finally retired from Taylor Chev Cadillac, **Maj Doug Green**, still working and going strong as a piper with the Prince of Wales' Own Regiment Pipes and Drums, **Maj John Russell** working part time for Calian and part time making movies as a military technical advisor, **Maj Ralph Kennedy**, **Maj Rod Babiuk**, **WO Tom Martineau** who works as the Garrison's Operational Stress Injury Social Support Rep, **Sgt Tom Hoppe** who is now with the Ontario Provincial Police as a constable, and **Sgt K.C (Casey) Baldwin** living in Gananoque. Both serving and retired members remain active in supporting local Corps events such as the Armoured Corps BBQ held at the Milner's property, currie luncheons, the Henry Sampson Golf Tournament, and Ironsides, the Corps



*Back row L to R: K.C. Baldwin,
MWO Dorrance, Capt Lakatos, Maj Dyck,
Maj Carson, Maj Senft, MWO Lee
Front row L to R: Doug Green,
Danny MacLeod, Wynn VanderSchee,
LCol MacLeod, Clive Milner,
CWO Harvey, Maj Stuckart*



Curling Bonspiel, which will be held here again this year at the Garrison Curling Club.

Kingston continues in its role as the Army's intellectual centre and as the emerging centre for training operational headquarters. Besides, it's a great place to live and work (and it's not Ottawa)!

Perseverance

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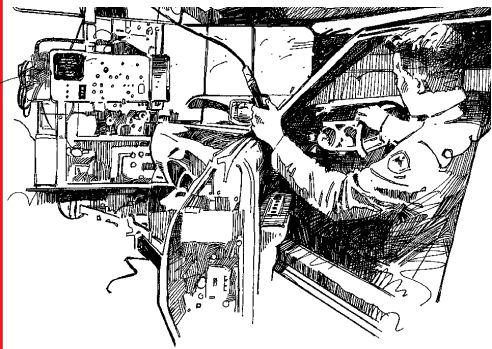
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Army Operations – A View From The Rideau Canal

By Major S. Gifford

As I write this little piece for the Strathconian, it is a crisp January morning. Preparations are underway to finally open the world's longest skating rink and commence the Winterlude Festival. Life goes on in Ottawa. What has impressed me most since returning to the Army Staff from a year of studies at the Staff College in Toronto is the operational focus of everyone at National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ). I am currently working in the Army G3 shop where a very talented team of individuals is ensuring that the Army continues to force generate in support of its international and domestic commitments and that people are getting the right training and tools to enable their success. Of course, I thanked the outgoing G3, **Col Jamie Cade** for dropping me into the hotbed that is the Afghanistan Desk. I continue to thank the outgoing desk officer and fellow Strathcona **Maj Paul Peyton**, for leaving me some hurriedly scribbled handover notes on his way to Kuwait. This job primarily entails the responsibility for training and equipment issues related to Afghanistan. Of particular interest, I have been involved with the Tank Replacement project people on delivering the leased Leopard 2 A6M tanks to theatre. **Capt Brian Corbett** of the said tank project continues to coordinate the training of our Regiments' tank crews in Germany and I am sure, racking up the air miles on his numerous trips there. I recently had the privilege of accompanying the ingoing B Squadron OC **Maj Chris Adams** with the Task Force 1-08 tactical reconnaissance to theatre. It was excellent to see people like **MCpl Sanduliak** in theatre working hard to keep the wagons rolling for C Squadron.

Thankfully, there are other Strathconas sprinkled throughout NDHQ keeping the organization honest. **LCol's Paul Pickell and Steve Kelsey** continue to work on Army force development. Occasionally I stop by their cubicles to see them polishing their crystal balls and trying to see into the future. Force development in the Army has taken all the lessons we are learning from the fight in Afghanistan to ensure our future force structure and equipment reflect how we will be fighting for the foreseeable future. Also seen roaming the halls of NDHQ on occasion is **Maj Warren Deatcher**, although he is difficult to make out as he wears a tan beret and moves in the shadows. **Major Charles Fournier** is another force developer, but is working one level up in CF Force development. You know the Canadian military is indeed a small world. In my recent dealings with a **Lt(N) Mike Fraser** in the Canadian Expeditionary Force Command (CEFCOM) Operations Centre, I was asked if I was indeed the then **Lt Gifford** in Reconnaissance Squadron in 1992. It seems **Lt(N) Fraser** is the ex **Cpl Fraser** of that same squadron. Although he has taken a shining to water and ships, he still continues to wear a black beret. There are indeed Strathconas everywhere.

The Strathcona contingent in Ottawa is gearing up for the annual Moreuil Wood celebrations here, which bring together the serving and retired in the area. It is comforting to note that all the Regiment's members serving in the nation's capital are contributing to the fight and are operationally focused.

Perseverance

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Strathconas in Calgary

By Captain T. LaCroix

Being in Calgary can be interesting at times. One often hears, "I thought the army left in the '90's?" But there are the perks to being in a large city with a relatively-small military presence: discounts at the local Subway! Try getting that in Edmonton!

Even though we are separated from Calgary Jr. (a.k.a. Edmonton... that joke always kills in this city), it seems that we all have jobs that support the Regiment by a few degrees of separation. Some of us are directly linked by maintaining the history of the unit while others among us support the force generation of soldiers who have joined or are currently deployed with squadrons overseas.



Capt Thomas LaCroix on parade with the KOCR

LCol Rick Williams, having spent too many years looking for Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) in the former Sarcee Training Area, although still based in Calgary, has now joined DND's UXO & Legacy Sites Program staff and is looking for old mortars and grenades in the former training areas around Vernon, BC.

WO Ted MacLeod and **Sgt Todd Giberson** are at the Museum of the Regiments but they wrote their own article and it's much better than anything this author could fabricate!

LCol Bill Schultz was posted to 41 Canadian Brigade Group HQ this year to be the Chief of Staff but he recently decided to retire after more than 35 years of service. If he remains here in the city after his retirement he will be one of the few people who have not moved East to take advantage of the deals in Saskatchewan.



Capt Stu MacLean in action

Capt Stu 'Stoo' MacLean spent the better part of the year trying to build his own private army in the Congo. When he came back to Calgary he found that everyone in the G3 shop at 41 CBG HQ had followed his lead and left for TF 1-08 jobs. The G3 moved up to take over as Chief of Staff so **Capt MacLean** became the G3 by virtue of being the most senior – by experience of course – person.

One of the individuals who remained in 41 CBG HQ was **Sgt Tony Christopher**. He wanted to explain what he does but **Capt MacLean** has not stopped adding things to his job description yet.

After being posted to the King's Own Calgary Regiment in July 2005, **Capt Thomas LaCroix** finally arrived in Calgary in January 2007. He spends most of his time learning the intricacies of working with the Primary Reserve and hoping that some of the knowledge will be useful upon return to a Regular Force unit. In his spare time he is trying to set a Calgary record for the number of months without a rent increase.

The Regular Support Staff baton-pass was completed in early January when **WO John Kelly** returned to Edmonton to join 'A' Sqn for TF 3-07 pre-deployment training. After a year of travelling to Texas, Wainwright, Germany, and even some



A very Strathcona office



time in Afghanistan, the good WO hasn't gotten enough and it looks like he'll be repeating the cycle all over again.

Not mentioned here are the many former-Strathconas in the area who are wearing different cap-badges or who have moved on to other things. Suffice it to say that they are all doing good things and we should be proud to have them as members of the Regimental family. Once a Strathcona...



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Strathconas in Gagetown

By Sergeant R. Allen

Hello fellow Strathconas from all of us currently serving at the Armour School in sunny Gagetown. Over the past few years the tempo at the School has reached an alarming rate in order to meet the demand of operational deployments. With recruitment also on the rise, course after course is being pushed through our doors and our soldiers are putting forth their best efforts to meet this extraordinary demand.

Even though we hang our hats east of Toronto, our Regimental pride has not faded. This year's Moreuil Wood celebrations were held at the K-Lines where a large group of Strathconas, both serving and retired, were in attendance. Following the reading on the Battle of Moreuil Wood, a BBQ took place where all had the chance to enjoy good food and good company. As part of our festivities we also wished **Mr John Swanton** a Happy Belated Birthday. He turned 86 years young on March 12.

With the changing times and as new technologies become available, the School is leading the way in future training concepts. Currently, **WO Lanny Hill** and **Sgt Marcel Chenier** are heading up the Armour School Battle Lab which offers challenging scenarios to Armour Fighting Vehicle (AFV) crews in a virtual battle space. The Lab is a cost effective alternative to field training. The Battle Lab is currently setup to train young Troopers to navigate using a map and compass or fine tune crew commanding skills at all levels on adopting positions of observation and fire, all without getting their boots dirty.



Mr John Swanton cutting the cake

Last fall, **Sgt's Billy Boland & Ted Amos** instructed the Armour Officer Troop Leader (AOTL) (Tank Commander) Course. The AOTL taught Armour Officers how to safely crew command and fire a Leopard tank cross country in both defensive and offensive operations. Shortly after the AOTL, the School fired up the annual Advanced Gunnery Instructor Course (AGIC) program with a full compliment of 36 students comprised primarily of infantry. The students learned how to properly instruct gunnery at an advanced level and to safely template and plan AFV ranges. The AGIC is the senior course here at the Armour School and if you ever need help on a range just look for someone with a blue glow-stick, they should be able to help with jammed cannons or other gunnery problems.

C Squadron, formally known as Depot Squadron, has been very busy instructing the Armour Crewmen courses and conducting driver training. The School has run seven courses this year with approximately 350 students parading through the gates of CFB Gagetown. This is a new course of 62 training days and it's now more demanding mentally and physically. This type of training ensures that we produce the best quality of armoured soldier prior to them heading to their unit. The candidates are trained on a wide



Gagetown Strathconas with the Old Guard



variety of subjects which include Regimental History, Tactical Communication systems, Armoured Vehicle recognition, Personal Weapons (including C9, C6, Claymore, M203, Grenade, and M72), Coyote driver, Coyote surveillance operator and some students even leave qualified tank driver. **MCpl Stephen Churchill, MCpl Ryan Thomas, MCpl Travis Armstrong, MCpl Jay "All In" Trenholm, MCpl "Dr.Funk" Denson, MCpl Jeff Hawes & MCpl Mike Gratto** are just a few of the Strathcona instructors that dedicated a tremendous amount of time and effort into training and mentoring. These new Troopers are eager and ready to roll with the rest of the Regiment once they arrive.

Lastly, please know that our thoughts and prayers go out to all Regimental personnel who may find themselves away from home. We hope that in some small way the work we do here provides those soldiers with the skills they need to be successful. From all of us in CFB Gagetown, stay safe and of course,



Some of the Old Guard around the cake

Perseverance

Salut D'ELFRC

By Master Corporal K. Parsons

The Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School (CFLRS) was looking for a few good instructors, so they called the Strathcona's! Currently at the school there are four Strathcona's; **Maj Derek Chenette** is the Chief Instructor, **Sgt Rich Sherren** is a Section Commander in Bravo Division, **MCpl Ken Parsons** is a Section Commander in Alpha Division and **Cpl Ian Folkerts** works in Forward Division as a member of the Farnham Enemy Detachment Platoon (FED PL).

CF Force Expansion has had a major impact on training delivery at CFLRS and the curriculum has changed significantly since most of you completed basic training. The school is comprised of 4 Training Divisions (soon to be 5) with 600 Instructors/Staff and 2000 + Recruits on the ground at any given time. This will see us train over 7200 recruits and Officer Cadets in fiscal year 08/09. Expansion has been rapid and infrastructure is continues to be a major challenge. The BMQ is now a total of 14 weeks while the officer courses total 17 weeks. Both the BMQ and OCdt final exercises are more operationally focussed and were conceived with the contemporary operating environment in mind. Candidates conduct 24/7 operations from Forward Operating Bases and the days of building a showerpoint or darkrooms are gone. OCdt's are now challenged and forced to think outside the box. Additionally, the FED PL keeps the scenario's up to date adding the "Human Factor" to even the simpler scenarios.

As an instructor here, you are expected to put in long hours teaching everything from Drill to Ethics to Battle Procedure. One of the most rewarding aspects of instructing is knowing that you are a critical part in the transformation of a civilian to a soldier.

In conclusion, CFLRS can be an excellent posting for any Strathcona who is interested in preparing new soldiers morally, mentally and physically for the profession of arms. With 80% of the recruits coming through the school being English and only 20% of the Instructors being English Strathcona's are a welcomed addition.



*L to R Maj Derek Chenette,
MCpl Ken Parsons, Sgt Rich Sherren and
Cpl Ian Folkerts*



Commander Home Station CFB Shilo

By Lieutenant Colonel J.J. Schneiderbanger

Who would have thought that a “Black Hatter” would be the Commander Home Station of the Royal Canadian Regiment of Artillery (RCRA)? My introduction to CFB Shilo was in 1987 when I was a Recce Troop Leader and I came to Shilo with my crew commanders to learn how to “call fire”. We arrived in a snow storm and departed in one. That was my first impression Shilo, Manitoba, snowy and cold. Now I am signing the loyal greetings to the Queen, the Captain General of the Artillery, on behalf of the RCRA. Now that’s a first for a Strathcona!

Since I have taken command in August 2006, we have had many opportunities to become involved in the surrounding communities. As Base Commander I have received many invitations to formal and informal events such as participating as guest of honour at the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair and opening the local Sprucewoods / Shilo Rodeo. Charlene and Maya have accompanied me to almost all events and that has allowed us to meet many people and make new friends very easily. I have not run into any old friends living here in Shilo but there is one other Armoured Officer living in the area - **Colonel (retired) A.D.M Matheson**, RCD. To date there have been only three non-artillery Base Commanders in Shilo’s history since 1910. **Col Matheson** was the first in 1974, **LCol Tom Doucette**, Logistics, was second in 2003 and then myself. However, I did know Tom from my Royal Military College days and we did serve together in Calgary... so I did meet one old friend.

CFB Shilo has the fourth largest training area in Canada with 100,000 acres and it is a busy place! The base is home to some 1500 soldiers with the two major lodger units being 1 RCHA and 2 VP. It is also the third largest employer in the area with a little more than 500 civilian employees. Shilo is growing in importances as CMTC blocks up training time and space in CFB Wainwright. I would like to see some Strathconas come out here to train with the Leopards as I’d like to see moving tanks rather than only the German tank monuments or those at the Royal Canadian Artillery Museum on the Base.

The tempo in Shilo was extremely high this past year with the stand-up of the 2 PPCLI Battle Group for TF 1-08. The TF 1-08 OMLT conducted training here as well. All 1200 beds in the training quarters were filled and we had to house another 250 soldiers in one of our closed down schools. From April to September, Western Area Training Centre Detachment Shilo and Communication Reserves School had a through-put of some 700 soldiers. The Base staff certainly earned their pay supporting all the training throughout the year. In November the training area experienced something that has not taken place in Shilo for many years. The ground shook many times over a two day period as B-52s from AFB Minot, North Dakota, opened their bombay doors dropping several 500lbs bombs as part of the FAC training for 1 RCHA. It was a sight to be seen and felt!



*LCol John Schneiderbanger with US
Ambassador David H. Wilkins*

It has been a great year and challenge as Base Commander of Shilo. I have enjoyed the experience and I’m looking forward to my third year. Charlene, Maya and I will continue to explore Manitoba over the next year and half and we look forward to visits from any Strathcona that may come our way. Regrettably, I missed **Major Ian McDonnell** when he came to Shilo on TD and had a tough time linking up with **RSM Ells** on his visits here! However, I did manage to see **Tom Putt** during the summer when he was in Shilo supporting 2 PPCLI’s TOC exercise. As CO of the RCA Officers’ Mess, I will always have a beer waiting for anyone who visits Shilo and don’t worry; you’ll be able to find me very easily in the sea of green berets as I’m the only Black Beret around!



From Snow to Sand, C Squadron Begins It's Journey

By Lieutenant M Johns

A brand new Squadron, “gun taped and bubble-gummed together” by the tireless efforts of all three Regiments, was on its way. Under the command of **Major Trevor Gosselin** and **MWO Geoffrey Bamford** four Troops total, two from the Strathcona's and one each from the 12e Regiment Blindé du Canada and the Royal Canadian Dragoons. It was a definite first for the Armoured Corps, not to mention everyone involved in the transformation. In that same vein of experimentation the Squadron was shuttled off to Fort Bliss, Texas in order to complete some work up training prior to Exercise MAPLE GUARDIAN with the 3rd Battalion Royal 22e Regiment battle-group as part of Exercise RÉFLÈXE RAPIDE.



A view from the Airfield

As the plane began its descent into Texas, not a single window was spared an eager face, as the soldiers leaned and squinted in an attempt to make out the terrain features below. Remarkably featureless and boring in the way of colors, we thought.



Preparing to Zero

After a hectic pace of de-training and re-kitting the Squadron deployed to its new home Camp Donna Anna. As soon as we arrived feverish preparations began to ensure the Squadron was prepared for the impending gun camp and demanding exercise schedule.

As the tanks rumbled out of the parking lot, and towards the ranges, we had our first taste of what the desert provides all too much of: dust! Upon arrival at the range, the soldiers joked and laughed at each other through black teeth, clogged nostrils and filthy faces.

The gun camp began with the usual Range Safety Officer briefs provided by **WO Scotty Holmwood** and translation by the BC, **Capt Dan Hone**; we were ready, and the rounds started to fly. The gun camp concluded with little difficulty, and was a huge success at all levels.

The second phase of the exercise had the Squadron participating in several dry advances to contact, with our Infantry counterparts and unfortunately some of the Texan terrain left a little to be desired. Several thrown tracks and tempers were tested but nevertheless, it trained us for what was to come.

The next phase of training was the live-fire. Unfortunately the maneuver ranges proved quite narrow. We managed to find a way to give each Troop the benefit of breaching and assault experience by “leapfrogging” troops along the range. By both day and night, the soldiers of the Squadron demonstrated excellent skill and determination.

With the echo of the final Sabot round filtering into the mountains, and the whisper of a rumor that would see us rolling into Afghanistan in the Leopard 2, the Squadron was on its way back, from sand to snow. Great!

Perseverance



*Our “digs” in Donna Anna
(complete with great weather and dust!)*



The Army of the West Triumphs in Wainwright

By Lieutenant J.A. Anderson

The 2 PPCLI Battle Group (BG) destined for Afghanistan in early 2008, consisting almost exclusively of units from Land Force Western Area (LFWA), has been unofficially dubbed the 'Army of the West'. The soldiers bound for Task Force 1-08 recently completed Exercise MAPLE GUARDIAN and Exercise DESERT RAM in the Wainwright training area during the months of September and October. The BG completed its operations based out of a simulated Kandahar Airfield (KAF), made to imitate conditions overseas.

Throughout the two months spent in Wainwright, the members of the BG were tested at every level from Private to Lieutenant-Colonel. Everyone did a first-rate job and is very well prepared for deployment to Afghanistan. If repetition is the key to success, then we are more than ready to succeed.

The exercise started out with dry training at the Troop and Platoon level preparing for the live fire ranges. As mentioned, everyone in the chain of command was put to the test time and time again; and the results from the ranges speak for themselves. The training got progressively harder as the ranges continued to grow in both scale and complexity. We worked at Troop and Platoon level only at the beginning and moved on to Combat Team and BG level live fire ranges. Everyone got to see the effects of bringing our entire BG team together for one concentrated operation and those involved in the Level 6 range will remember the massive amount of firepower that was used to attack an objective before the infantry contemplated moving onto the objective.

The all arms cooperation between the different units proved its worth as the tanks and infantry would engage an attacking enemy with the help of the artillery. At the same time, the engineers would make safe an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), and provide us mobility through complex terrain. The military police handled and questioned detainees and the National Support Element provided uninterrupted supply convoys out to the BG in the field providing equipment that was vital to the continuation of combat operations. All of these elements worked together to accomplish training missions that were remarkably realistic.

The soldiers all proved more than capable in using their war-fighting proficiencies when required,



Tanks, infantry, and engineers assaulting a village after breaching through a simulated grape field during the live fire training at the Troop and Platoon level



Sgt Mark Bell illustrates that Wainwright is not quite the real KAF as it is missing the most important feature: a Tim Horton's.

but, just as importantly, they were able to employ the personal skills required to complete tasks in a complex environment with civilians as well as combatants on the battlefield. It was a great learning experience for many on how to work with the different combat arms of the Canadian Forces as well as those teams that are outside our ranks such as Non-Government Organizations and the Afghanistan National Security Forces. We worked with the infantry, artillery, and engineers at all times. This allowed us to build up 'one' team for our operations. The time in the field working so closely with the other arms will be invaluable to our upcoming deployment.

All of this live fire training helped to prepare us for the second part of the exercise, the Weapons Effects Simulator (WES)



training conducted by the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre (CMTC). During this phase of the training, soldiers and vehicles are provided simulation equipment that use lasers to cause effects on other soldiers and vehicles within the battlespace. The opposing force (OPFOR) can now decisively affect us, and we them. This allows for greater flexibility with the scenarios and types of missions we are asked to accomplish, and provides a level of realism that far exceeds training events that were used to prepare forces only a couple of years ago.

There are certain safety rules that must remain in place with live ammunition, but with WES, you can safely operate anywhere in the training area, exposing us to a greater variety of terrain, and fluid, adapting situations. Most importantly, it allows us to interact with the people within our battlespace. This will be key to our success on the upcoming deployment and through the use of WES and role-players; we were truly able to put our skills to the test before returning to Edmonton.

One of the most important drills that we rehearsed during Exercise MAPLE GUARDIAN was reacting to IEDs, both post-and pre-detonation. The soldiers performed admirably; they remained calm and performed their individual tasks very well: providing security, giving first aid, and passing up the information the engineers required to make the IED safe.



Tanks and elements from the Reconnaissance Squadron cautiously make their way through a town during IED stand training.

Our team on Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN was well prepared, and managed to frustrate many of the OPFOR's efforts in testing the units from the BG. The drills that have been proven to work overseas were practiced time and time again, and now are part of every soldier's repertoire when dealing with the expected situations and hardships we will face in the coming months.



*Cpl Brennan Dunbar
The Dark Knight of Wainwright*

The training was not without its down time and there was a mid-exercise smoker where the soldiers from B Squadron managed to relax and have some fun, complete with their own costumes....

B Squadron impressed visitors from many different command levels through its extraordinary performance. I have no doubt that we went into the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre as a capable Leopard tank squadron and we left as a well prepared manoeuvre arm of the 2 PPCLI BG team, capable of working in the complex environment of Afghanistan and facing the many challenges that lie ahead.

Perseverance



Operation DESERT RAM

By Lieutenant A.C. Dwyer and Second Lieutenant G. Kallos

For the better part of four weeks, B Squadron participated in a series of progressive live-fire ranges conducted in a 360 degree battle space. Wanting to closely mimic a contemporary battle space, where dynamic enemy situations evolve and change, the tanks were involved in combined-arms attacks on enemy compounds. Working closely with the engineers, infantry and artillery allowed B Squadron to integrate intelligent, flexible and successful solutions to insurgent threats within the Area of Operations.

Often, the armour of B Squadron would be tasked with facilitating infantry approaches (**MCpl Dave Thompson**) to enemy targets, cordoning areas of concern, or playing the role of security. Based out of Wainwright's equivalent to Kandahar Air Field (KAF), with "bunkers" made of modular tents, B Squadron, life was made a bit more palatable by the addition of a canteen tent and satellite TV for the small periods of down time. Being in high demand, however, B Squadron often found its soldiers out on exercise or conducting maintenance, leaving little time for the Squadron canteen and watching **WO Al Pociuk's** Bombers or arguing over which hockey team to watch.

High paced operations at their best require re-supply, support and recovery, but at its worst require constant care. Op Desert Ram ran smoothly due to the echelon support from B Squadron which consisted of SSM **MWO Tony Batty** and his echelon spearheading support to every sub-unit in the BG. He tested both his team's endurance and their ability to adapt, as National Support Element (NSE) augmentees would have to be taught SOPs and combat drills whenever they rotated in for a bit of experience, and at times, 'tough love.'



MCpl Dave Thompson



Infantry helping out.

The culmination of Desert Ram was a series of 24 hour live fire ranges which verified forces at levels 3.5, 5 and 6. Starting at the Troop (Tp) and Platoon (Pl) level, teams were forged that attacked complex problems, using engineer, recce, sniper, Forward Observation Officers (FOOs) and Air attachments in order to formulate the necessary bonds of teamwork for operations in Afghanistan. The only exception to this would seem to be the Battle Captain, **Capt Eghtedar Manouchehri**, who seemed to have angered one of the mortar teams, as he was almost illuminated in hard fashion. The progressive ranges started with a full day of battle procedure, with each successive level of range growing in force with the level six utilizing the entire Battle group with Air support.

Maj Ian McDonnell, **WO Tom Holland**, and **WO Rich Stacey** were acting as safety staff for all the tank live fire ranges. The Regimental Second in Command, **Maj Trevor Cadieu**, the Adjutant, **Capt Mark Lubiniecki** and the Operations Officer, **Capt Robert McKenzie** also pulled long hours as safety staff for Squadron combat team ranges, while The Regimental Sergeant Major **CWO Doug Ross** and the Commanding Officer, **LCol Pascal Demers** kept busy with their validation duties. It should also be noted that the Regimental Second in Command, **Maj Trevor Cadieu** did such a good job during Exercise Desert Ram that he got to stay on as an Observer Controller for Exercise Maple Guardian.

The success of the Battle Group at every level was a testament to the drive, experience and determination of Task Force 1-08. B Squadron led the charge during this time period, demonstrating the mobility, firepower and protection that have helped protect Canadian forces and exploit insurgent threats in the past, boding well for the future.



E Company Ex Mechanized Mithras 30 April to 13 May 2007

By Master Corporal C. Donaldson

E Company conducted live fire TOW and Platoon Attack ranges in Suffield from 30 April 07 to 13 May 07, giving both the company and 1PPCLI the chance to experience the accuracy and capabilities of the LAV TUA and ITAS systems. This was a rare opportunity for the infantry as getting the chance to actually have TOW missiles fired on a mechanized platoon attack range is no longer part of the normal training plan. With 75 missiles in stock, the company started work up for the Platoon attack ranges by first conducting some tactical movement training which proved to be easier said than done. The ground was wet and soft, which meant we spent a lot of time tactically pulling our vehicles out of the mud.



Following this we conducted phase 2 of our training, where we constructed two ranges for our own use. Things were looking good when we were given only one rule from higher; don't shoot at the oil well heads or the pump houses. We were told however that if we did hit one it will be dealt with if it happens. So off we went and ranges were constructed in record time. We took the rest of the day off and were back out early the next morning. The range was to be more of an intermediate shoot as apposed to the static basic shoots the company had been doing in the past. With **Capt Mike Pattle** at the helm our 8 LAV TUAs took to shooting up the first range. The first missile left the launch tube and a short 15 seconds later the target was destroyed scattering flaming plywood fragments. This caused a fire to rapidly spread throughout our allotted training area. We called on the very skilled Suffield fire department, whose reaction time was that of an infanteer reacting to a stand to. They brought the county's new grass fire truck, which began to fight the fire. It was not long however before the new fire truck was stuck in the mud. The Suffield fire department is indebted to E Company as not only did we provide them with something to do but, we also pulled their new shiny fire truck out of the mud as the fire raged around it. So after we had been on the range for over six hours with one missile down range and what seemed like half of Suffield smoking, we decided to fire through our cold lunch opting to eat on the go in order to fire some more missiles. After all one missile fired would not equal a full day's work. Before we carried on, we moved the targets that survived the fire into the burnt area, to minimize the risk of setting the rest of Suffield on fire.



Day two of the range went much like the first, but with one exception. We used our C6s to start fires on the right flank in hopes to burn the target area under control. With range control on site we spent the next three hours fighting the controlled burn. All the fire fighting aside we did manage to fire all the allotted missiles and 7.62mm we had for the two ranges.

The next stage of training would prove to be the climax; E Coy was to reunite with our Patricia brethren in a full out tactical platoon attack range. One TUA section was attached to each platoon and they would RV at the Forward Operating Base (FOB) the day prior to H-hour to receive orders and carry on with battle procedure. My section was attached to call sign 23, commanded by a young officer. What he may have lacked in experience he made up for in his ability to delegate, listen to his Subject Matter Experts (SMEs),



and include them in the planning processes. We set off early the next day with our first objective being to link up with the Afghan National Police (ANP). This was to happen just outside of the FOB. The Platoon Commander moved his platoon down to the rendezvous point and took up position. Not knowing where to put his TUA section it was left up to me. I saw something off in the distance on his left flank and advised him of the potential threat. He decided to move my section in order to be able to engage any targets from our position on the right flank. Upon arriving in our new position my second in command saw a Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) team fire on the link up point. We were on target in seconds. It was that area that



had concerned me before we moved. I ordered my gunner to engage with his secondary armament. The LAVs were quick to engage shortly after but proved to be ineffective due to the terrain. Call sign 23 came over the means and asked for a missile and without any hesitation I ordered my gunner switch to main armament and fire when on. Time stood still as the infantry platoon, safety staff, the CO 1PPCLI, and range staff watched a lone red beacon fly effortlessly across the sky towards the target. It resulted in the total destruction of the RPG team on missile contact, with target debris flying over 300 feet in the air. "Target Destroyed".

We moved on to the next objective which was a small village housing a cell of bomb makers and a high ranking terrorist leader. Call sign 73 moved out and we took up positions on the right flank about 3 km from the village in order to get "eyes on". The platoon moved up for a soft knock and when things went south we got the order for weapons free. We then spotted a contingent moving up from the south of the village. It was three car loads of the bad guys and with the Integrated Target Acquisition System (ITAS) we were able to see the AK47 rifles on the dash board and the one that had fallen on the ground. We could also determine it was leaning against the car door of the rear vehicle; a small technical error on the range. I ordered my 2IC to fire in volley with me and after a count down from three we both fired. It was perfect timing; as there was only one bang as the missiles left the launchers. They crossed one another and impacted at the same time. Car parts were strewn throughout the area. I then engaged the middle impact. We went on to fire all of our missiles and during the after action review stole the show. It was the subject of much discourse, especially from the CO 1PPCLI. It was still being discussed at the smoker at the end of the exercise.

Welcome to
Strathconas.Ca
The Official Website of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)



Strathconas on Operation CROCODILE

By Captain S. MacLean

Op CROCODILE is the CF mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to support the United Nations Mission in the Congo entitled MONUC. When **Maj Mike Barnett** and **Capt Steward MacLean** deployed in late 2006 and early 2007 as part of Roto 15. Canadian staff officers transfer in every 3 months to both Kinshasa (Force HQ) and Kisangani (Eastern Division HQ and Sector 2 HQ). There were 6 staff officers sharing Canada House Kinshasa and 3 more in Kisangani. In summer 2007 there was to be an additional AJAG LCol added to the Canadian effort to the Mission. The two cities are very different. In Kisangani one has the choice of about 5 restaurants whereas Kinshasa has a great variety. While both cities are on the banks of the Congo River, Kisangani is surrounded by jungle. Estimates of the population of Kinshasa border on 9 million people, most living in poverty. Political tension was high during the tour and the officers in Kinshasa experienced firefights and slaughter in the streets of the capital. The Congolese are a very passionate people.

The United Nations Security Council established MONUC to facilitate the implementation of the Lusaka Accord signed in 1999. With a budget exceeding one billion dollars, it is the largest and most expensive mission in the UN Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO). MONUC is headquartered in Kinshasa, the capital of the DRC with liaison offices in Ethiopia, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia and Namibia.



Maj Mike Barnett at work

Given the complexity of conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the mission mandate and strength has gone through a number of revisions and updates through the years. MONUC is the largest and most expensive peacekeeping mission in the world. From July 2005 to June 2006 the budget was \$1,136,875,200. When **Maj Barnett** and **Capt MacLean** were in country there were over 19,000 UN troops on the ground. The contributing nations included Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Uruguay, Guatemala, England, Ireland, Republic of South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Indonesia, China, Canada, Malawi, Senegal, Belgium and France to mention a few.

MONUC is a Chapter VII mission of the United Nations Charter. Its mandate authorizes it to use all means deemed necessary, within the limits of its capacities and in the areas of deployment of its armed units, to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence; and to contribute to the improvement of the security conditions.



Capt Stu MacLean at FNI wpn & ammo surrender

Eastern Division HQ in Kisangani was stood up 14 February 2005 when the Force HQ in Kinshasa decided that there were too many troops in the East of the country to control from the capital. The Division HQ was comprised of 66 staff officers from 29 different countries. There were a total of 14,682 troops, 242 Military Observers and 155 Staff Officers in the Eastern Division Area of Responsibility. Although this was the highest number of troops deployed, there still remains a question as to the success of the mission. The UN has made a definite difference in the region but with the drawdown of the military force to take place 1 July 2007 to 31 December 2009 there is a huge question as to what will happen in the near future.



Spruce Meadows – B Squadron 100 Soldier Guard

By Lieutenant M. Bentley

It was Thursday 5 July at 1600 hrs, and after a long week of parade practice busses were loaded up and we were on our way to the world famous Spruce Meadows, and Calgary Stampede. On the road to Calgary, the Veterans of Spruce Meadows passed on old stories of warm welcomes and wild parties, which we would soon find out, were traditions still going strong. Later that night the busses arrived at Mount Royal College and we were pleasantly surprised to find apartment style quarters awaiting us. Although everyone was eager to explore the campus and surrounding area, it was early to bed the first night due to the 0400 wake up call coming the next morning.

We woke in the early hours of the next day and after some last minute boot polishing and uniform adjustments we once again loaded onto the bus and were on our way to meet **Sgt Neil Miller** and his Leopard, Coyote and ARV crews in order to take part in the opening parade of the Calgary Stampede. The parade was an absolute success, and was highlighted by some torn up roads, an entire parking garage of car alarms being set off, and one of our guys being tackled by a young woman bearing flowers and kisses. The people of Calgary were extremely welcoming and gave us a standing ovation for the entire two hour-long parade. By the end of the parade, the sun was high in the sky and it was getting extremely hot, but our day was not over yet, we still had to practice for the big show taking place the next day at Spruce Meadows.



Spruce Meadows 2007



B Sqn Strathconas on Parade

Later that night, armed with our remarkable beret induced sun tans; we were unleashed onto the city of Calgary to take part in a number of wild parties taking place in celebration of Stampede Week. Everyone had a good time that night and it was somewhat of a miracle that all arrived on time and ready to go for the following day's parade. After all the preparations, we were ready for our big show which was well executed and well received by the especially welcoming crowd.

Now that the parade was over, it was time to let loose once again and enjoy the wonderful nightlife Calgary has to offer during Stampede. Even after all that excitement everyone was still in great shape the next day to put on a grand finale for the Spruce Meadows crowd before heading back to Edmonton.

By this time we had practiced the parade so many times that we could literally do it with our eyes closed, and I am sure some of us did. However, just like the day before, the parade went off without a hitch. Overall, it was a very successful weekend and everyone that took part had a great time. Spruce Meadows was very welcoming and supportive of our involvement in this year's events. One thing is for sure, B Sqn would be proud to go to Spruce Meadows and the Stampede again next year.

Perseverance.



Strathcona Horses Lead the Way



Colonel of the Regiment Commendation

Mr. John Swanton has not only demonstrated the finest qualities expected of a Strathcona Officer, he has also become a role model within the Armour School and an ambassador of the Regiment abroad. Mr. Swanton was a Troop Leader within the Regiment, and he served in Canada, the United Kingdom, Italy and Northwest Europe before his retirement. He is an active member in the Atlantic Chapter of the Strathcona Association and maintains close ties with the Society. He invites new Strathcona Officers posted into the Armour School to monthly Happy Hours at his home. **Mr. Swanton** is invited to speak to the Troop Leader graduates before they are sent to their respective Regiments and able to fascinate these new officers with his own, war-time experiences, duties, responsibilities and sacrifices required of an officer. Throughout such talks, he stresses the importance of the Regiment as well as the importance for these new officers to become part of it. **Mr John Swanton was awarded the Colonel of the Regiment's commendation on 10 March.**



Mr. Fred Balm is very well known to the Regiment, being a long-standing friend and supporter. His history with us is so extensive that it can be divided into two distinct eras. In earlier days, he was generous in assisting the Regiment with improving the Museum and the Strathcona Mounted Troop. For this he was formally recognised as both a "Friend of the Strathcona Museum" and "Honorary Member of the Strathcona Mounted Troop." Over the past few years, **Mr. Balm** has renewed his involvement with the Regiment with an entirely different focus: his interest in the Regiment has been in direct support for the soldiers and their families, particularly those deployed overseas or away on tasking. Since 2002, he has made repeated, and unsolicited, donations to the Regiment with the caveat the funds be applied directly to the welfare of Strathcona soldiers and their families.

Consequently, Strathconas have enjoyed exceptional Children Christmas Parties, Family Day events and the Family Support Troop has been able to organise numerous events for the families of our deployed personnel. Our regiment has enjoyed the support of many generous friends through the years, but the recent support of **Mr. Balm** has been unique in that it has been in direct benefit to the individual and family. **Mr. Balm's** friendship has empowered the Regiment to provide our soldiers and their families with a level of attention and care that is unique and the envy of many units in the Army. **Mr Fred Balm was awarded the Colonel of the Regiment's Commendation on 1 June.**

For the past 10 years **Mr. Lee** has been the Association's Treasurer and his time and effort in managing the association funds has permitted donations to Strathcona cadet corps, the Newsletter, and provided the seed money for the last two Regimental reunions as well as many other events. Under Gary's management these funds have grown to a sizeable investment. Prior to and during the last two reunions, Gary has been much more than the Association Treasurer. He co-worked with **Donny Crossman** organizing, coordinating venues, maintaining registration information, and the hundreds of other hands-on tasks necessary to run a successful reunion. **Mr. Lee** has for the past two years taken on the roll of newsletter publisher. He has motivated and organized his small volunteer workforce in the creation of each edition; and he has overseen their production. Gary always tries to stay out of the spotlight in all things Regimental but has been a tremendous asset to the Regimental family. **Mr Gary Lee was awarded the Colonel of the Regiment's Commendation on 1 June.**





Moreuil Wood Celebrations 2007

By Master Corporal D. Wells

The Regiment's observation of the anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood this year began with a Regimental Parade to remember the contributions made by Strathconas 89 years prior and to recognize the outstanding performance of Strathconas in the present day. **Sgt Tom Pett** was dressed in period battle dress as he read the account of the Battle with a slide show behind. The awards presented were as follows:

Princes of Wales Squadron – **B Squadron**

Hessin Sword – **Capt Alfred Wong**

Neatby Pace Stick – **WO Antony Batty**

Milroy Crossbelt – **WO Bill Irving**

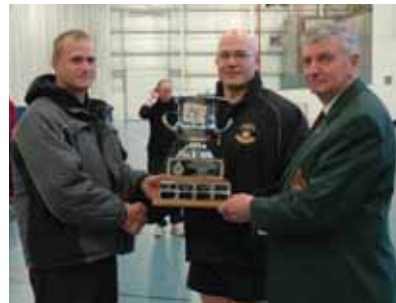
Col of the Regt Silver Stick – **MCpl Douglas Doney**

Fox Bugle – **Cpl Daniel Jenkins**

Maj Chris Adams presented a silver camel to the CO and RSM on behalf of the Regimental members from TF 1-06.

The impact of the Regiment's operational tempo was felt during the sporting events, where the number of participants was down from previous years. However, a great time was had by all through fierce competition at soccer, volleyball, and broomball. The Tprs/Cpls managed to emerge the victors with wins in every sport but the other messes did not go down without a fight.

With the awards and competitions done, all ranks of the Regiment retired to Schanks to cap off a great time with a well-deserved festive night out.





Remembrance Day

By Trooper E. Estabrooks

Once again, members of the Regiment attended Remembrance Day ceremonies throughout the Edmonton area to pay tribute to the Canadian soldiers that have served before us. The majority of the Regiment including Headquarters Squadron, A Squadron, and Recce Squadron participated in the ceremony in Fort Saskatchewan. They paraded from the arena to the Royal Canadian Legion to the military marches of a local Sea Cadet band, with Catherine leading the way along the route. Veterans and families later got a chance to get in and look around the Sherman tank as the Historical Vehicle Troop members were on hand to provide historical information on the tank. The Historical Vehicle Troop also sent Dieppe and Devilish to the ceremony in St. Albert.

Strathconas also attended ceremonies in Sherwood Park, Calmar, Mayerthorpe, the Butterdome in South Edmonton, and the Alberta Legislature. At all of the ceremonies, names of the fallen were read, and wreaths were laid in their memory. We remembered not only the sacrifice of the soldiers of the past, but also the sacrifice all Canadian soldiers and Strathconas who are putting their lives on the line every day in Afghanistan. Prayers were also said for both soldiers who have served and those currently serving. After the respective parades and ceremonies, most Strathconas and veterans headed to the local Legions where drinks and stories were shared.



Catherine leading the Remembrance Day parade in Fort Saskatchewan



Regimental Christmas Celebrations

By Second Lieutenant D. Gray

Nothing quite boosts morale and caps off a year at the Regiment like that last week before Christmas leave. This year was no exception. This year's Regimental Christmas celebrations included Subbie Carolling, the Kids' Christmas Party, Sports Day, the Soldiers' Christmas Dinner and the Officers At Home.

The tradition of Subbie carolling continued this year with all of the new Subbies going out for a night of carolling to the Senior Officers' houses. This years carolling was a little lower key than last year and other than an unexpected visitor along the way, it went off without a hitch.



Subbie carolling was followed up by the Kids' Christmas Party and by all accounts it was a success. This year it was organized by the wives of the Regiment and coordinated by **WO David Smith, Ms Kathy Stephen and Mrs. Evelyn MacNeill**. It included a petting zoo, face painting, blow up rides, lots of pizza and Santa Claus with his elves. His elves of course being two of our finest Subbies dressed in awkward fitting costumes who were feeling on top of their game after the night before.

The Sports Day was a chance to participate in some good natured Regimental competitions but left a lot of the Officers wondering where the ice hockey was? In broomball, the Sarcee Lounge continued its domination, beating the Track-Pad in the finals. In floor hockey, it was again the Sarcee Lounge that was triumphant over the Mariner Room and the Track-pad victorious over the Green Point Lounge. In soccer, the Mariner Room finally beat the Sarcee Lounge and the Track Pad beat the Green Point Lounge.



To finish the week off was the Soldiers' Christmas dinner and the At Home which was hosted by the Officers' Mess this year. At the Soldiers' Christmas Dinner we had a good turkey dinner, the traditional symbolic carving of the turkey, and for the majority of the Regiment we finished off for the Christmas season. The At Home saw some more competition with foosball, euchre and blind crew commander which in the end left the officers with the uncoveted Horse's Ass trophy. The activities went well into the night and a good time was had by all except for **Capt Kristian 'Bob' Reiten** who happened to leave with a little less facial hair than he arrived with special thanks to a dare placed by the Senior Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs).



Overall, the Regimental Christmas celebrations were a great success. The Regiment took the opportunity to have some good competitive fun before some well deserved time off for the holidays.



Kids Christmas Party





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The Mariner Room

By Second Lieutenant D. Williams

The Mariner Room had another busy year with as many social events as possible scheduled amongst the numerous training and deployment activities of the different squadrons. Many of our social events this year were missing some of our officers, as they were deployed serving the Regiment in Afghanistan. Nonetheless, in true Strathcona form, much fun was had by all and bonds were strengthened amongst those serving in the Regiment and all those who joined us in the mess.

There were two dinners held this year for Black Hat as the Armoured Career Manager **Maj Denis Hotte** visited in February and November. This had little to do with the accelerated careers of the officers and was more about catching them in Edmonton for interviews. In conjunction with the November Black Hat Mess Dinner we honoured some retiring members. The dinner marked the retirement of **Col Jim (Snake) Ellis**, **Maj Rick (Mouse) Erland**, and **Capt Chris Hunt**. The dinner was highly entertaining and **Col Ellis** in true form invited the subbies to attempt to top some his antics at his first mess dinner. Although the subbies made a valiant attempt, the rule of law prevented any new records from being established. The meal was excellently prepared under the guidance of our Regimental Chief Cook, **WO Martin St-Onge**, and his team.



**2Lt Dave Williams, Lt Marshall Douglas,
Capt Craig Volstad and Padre Will Hubbard**

The Mess bid farewell to a number of officers this year during the annual posting season. The farewell to the spouses was combined with the Senior NCOs farewell function held in the Chateau St Louis. Of course, we had already conducted our mug outs and shared those anecdotes and stories that remain best told over a pint in the mess. Departing the Regiment this year were **Capt Al Wong**, **Capt Howard Yu**, **Maj Rob Hume**, **Maj Dave Broomfield**, **Capt Kristian Reiten**, **Capt Paul Leonard**, **Capt Christopher Nolan**, **Capt Howard Yu**, **Capt Adrian Adams**, **Capt Seth Robinson**, **Capt Trevor Morley**, **Capt David Hanacek**, **Capt Richard Bowers**, and **Capt Raymond Chiasson**.

The officers welcomed the new subalterns (a whopping 13 new officers) and those returning to the fold this year at a meet and greet in the River Cree Casino. While we certainly did not produce any new regimental benefactors from within the ranks, it was a good night overall. The Commanding Officer, **LCol Pascal Demers**, has come to the conclusion not to follow the 2IC, **Maj Trevor Cadieu's** lead when it comes to his own money vice the Regimental accounts, as his personal success rate comes nowhere near his professional one.

The year also saw a change over of PMCs from **Maj Dave Broomfield** who started off 2007 to **Maj Chris Adams** who held the torch until the annual posting season. The reins have been handed over to **Maj Ian McDonnell**. September also brought a change of Mess Secretary from **Lt Matt Bentley** to **2Lt Dave Williams**.

For the Mariner Room, this sudden influx of fresh meat (new Cavalry Officers) meant a dramatic increase in the consumption rate of coffee and donuts. However, the Adjutant, **Capt Mark Lubiniecki**,



was quick to sort out the subbies' tendencies to leave only "Homer Simpson" style donuts for the senior officers. As with every year, the subbies needed some time to master the subtle art of making the perfect pot of Folgers, and coincidentally, regimental productivity closely mirrored the varying strength of these attempts. The increase in subbies also coincided with an increase in volume level in the Mariner Room, as the crack of a well placed shot in Foos, and the ensuing "GOOOAALL!" could be heard echoing the halls of the Harvey Building.

As always, the focus of the Regiment continues to be on our busy operational tempo. However, the Mariner Room remains a staple of Strathcona culture and an important medium of indoctrination for incoming Officers. Hopefully, this proud heritage (and the building) will continue to survive the occasional subbie oversight of turning off the coffee maker!



Lt Marshal Douglas, 2Lt Graham Kallos, Lt Joe Boates



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Subbies' Corner

By Lieutenant M.R.N. Douglas

2007 began with the safe return of B Squadron's subalterns: **Capt Al Wong** and **Lts Joseph "Wadi" Boates, Al Dwyer, and Marshall Douglas**, and the deployment of A Squadron subalterns: **Capt Bob Reiten, Paul Leonard, and Lt Peter "Left Boots" Beitz**. **Capt Dave Cronk** also deployed in early 2007 and thoroughly enjoyed his duties with Joint Task Force Afghanistan much more than any of his tank troop leader counterparts. With the busy training cycle, it seemed that shortly after A Squadron's departure, **Lt Matt "Mini Me" Johns** and his Royal Canadian Dragoons and 12 Regiment Blinde du Canada peers deployed with C Squadron. **Lts Matt Bentley, James Anderson, and Capt Alex Nitu** completed their workup training in the fall of 2007. **Lt Al Dwyer**, as operational reserve, got another kick at tank troop leading much to the envy of the redeployed subalterns forced to do penance in administrative-intensive jobs.

From September to November, the Regiment experienced something absolutely unreal: the influx of twelve new subalterns. With too many to name, "Hey you" or "You! New guy" was often heard throughout the Unit lines, as the new subalterns had either forgotten to introduce themselves to the senior Regimental officers or responded better to being anonymous. With the effective doubling of the Strathcona's subalterns, the term 'herding cats' has now become truly accurate. As an added bonus, the Regimental Orderly Officer duty list has now been bolstered by the new arrivals and should remain that way well into 2008 and 2009, especially under the firm guidance of the more experienced subalterns.



Although this year did not include any encounters with the Edmonton Fire Department nor the Edmonton Garrison Military Police Platoon, the subaltern social life was anything but quiet. Friday beer calls are livelier than ever (22 subbies in total) and downtown subaltern mini-pub crawls are frequent and often hastily thrown together under the best of planning conditions: after several pints. The wrestling and random throw-downs have been consistent this year as well as one or two notable scraps. That being said, most of the subaltern events have been more or less under some sort of control.

This year the Regiment lost several subalterns with leadership and administrative knowledge, operational experience, and most importantly, a "Shuttin 'er down" departing keg party. On the other hand, we gained twelve new subalterns, fresh from the Armour School and ready to learn how to operate the Mariner Room dishwasher, polish silver, and vie for those coveted operational troop leader positions. The sound of sharpening knives can be heard throughout the Regiment.

All in all, the Strathcona Subalterns have had another extremely busy year and have dutifully bashed head on through strenuous training cycles, entertained the senior Regimental officers, and of course, ably and successfully deployed into combat operations.



The Sarcee Room

By Warrant Officer D. Smith

Another landmark year is quickly drawing to a close. It is a historic time in both the Army and Regiment as the terms “Operational Tempo” and “Personnel Tempo” take on a whole new meaning. I have never witnessed any unit in the military mount continuous missions in support of combat operations with no relief in the near future. The importance of Senior Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs) in accomplishing the mission while looking after the welfare of the troops has created new challenges. Whether deploying, deployed or supporting, it is a busy time for all and the work load is unrelenting.

This year has seen numerous changes to personnel within the Regiment with old friends either posted, or else taking advantage of the Alberta job market and moving on to new employment challenges. We wish all the very best wherever their paths should lead them and welcome them back anytime to share coffee and toast and tell old stories. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new members to the Sarcee Room, both those newly promoted, and those posted in to the Regiment.



Sgt Todd Giberson explaining to the Regimental Senior NCOs about The Military Museum expansion

Despite present and future commitments we have continued to carry on with regimental traditions as team building amongst Senior Non Commissioned Officers has never been more important. Looking back on our cavalry beginnings, the Mounted Troop provided the opportunity to learn the basics of horsemanship. During Thursday afternoon riding lessons it quickly became evident between horse and rider who was the teacher and who the student. Professional development initiatives such as meeting with Strathcona veterans in Calgary and touring the Museum of the Regiments gave many of us a renewed appreciation of the unit's rich military history and the ongoing efforts to preserve and promote it.

We live in a time when every day sees the Army breaking new ground and creating history. The performance of Strathcona soldiers and Leopard C2 Tanks in Afghanistan thus far, combined with the arrival and implementation of the Leopard 2 in theatre, foreshadow a busy and exciting year ahead. We pray all our troops enjoy a good mission and a safe return to Canada and their families.



The Green Point Lounge

By Master Corporal W. Fitzpatrick

The past year has been what I would call “a year of lonely chaos.” Having been with the LdSH(RC) since May of 1993, this past year was the busiest I have seen. With A Squadron deployed and returned from Afghanistan, C Squadron deployed to Afghanistan, (and close to returning), B Squadron standing up, promotions, postings, and retirements, with only 4 to 6 MCpls consistently at the Regiment, it has been a very quiet year indeed. Being so busy, we were unable to conduct the yearly invitational charity golf tournament which was put on hold until next year.

This year has seen many MCpls move upstairs to the Sarcee Room or to my least favourite spot on the planet: Dunn’s Corner in Gagetown. Some of the new Sgts from the mess were **Sgts Marv MacNeill, Jason Webb, Ken Kovacs, Brad Smith, John Hawman, Conrad Heegsma, Shane Flanagan, Scott Brown, Gord Stringer, Laki Christopoulos,** and **Steve Connauton**. And we cannot forget **MCpl Tom Pett** who



MCpl Jason Webb promoted to Sgt and leaves the Green Point (finally! Just kidding)

became a Sgt in 2007 and is now a 2Lt. Some other MCpls posted were **MCpls Colin Hoth, Ronney Rushton, Douglas Doney, Lee Encinas, Gregory Moon,** and **Allan MacNeill**. We also cannot forget our retiring members: **MCpls Wade Cooper, Chandler Dufton,** and **Jason Cunningham**. The Lounge also invited **Cpl Richard Matvij** into the mess to wish him well on his retirement from the CF.

This year we have seen many new members arrive in from the Track Pad. Fine young **MCpls Shane Thompson, Chris Harding, Benjamin Holmes, Martin Levis, Shane Parsons, Ryan Ogston,** and **Tom Bowden**. The Green Point Lounge welcomed in to the mess this year, the first LdSH(RC) female Crewman (Crewwoman), **MCpl Erin Bowden**. This, we all think, is so Erin can keep close to her husband Tom.

The Lounge held a meeting in November to appoint new committee members. Positions were taken by: **MCpl William Fitzpatrick** (PMC), **MCpl Scott Brown** (VPMC), **MCpl Trent Hewitt** (Secretary), and **MCpl Colin Hoth** (Housing). With all the tours, postings and promotions we will be quite busy running the mess until the next meeting. We look forward the 2008, for I am sure, it will be another exciting year in the Green Point Lounge.



Orders group - the German way! Green Point Lounge has got it right!!



MCpl Erin Bowden gets promoted by LCol Pascal Demers and follows her husband to the Green Point



The Track Pad

By Trooper K. Goodmanson-Morris

Well....it has been an interesting year for the Track Pad. With most of the Regiment occupied with training in the field, on leave, or across the pond, it's been difficult to organize things such as a mess meeting, selecting squadron representatives, voting on voluntary mess dues, and what to do with those dues. However, perseverance will see us through, and we will continue to watch and shoot for the opportunity to bring it all together in the near future.

August saw the kick off of the revitalization of the Track Pad, with the appointment of **Cpl Rick Anderson** of E Company as temporary PMC in order to maintain some order around the place (**Rick is a big guy!**). With his tasking to the PRT, a call was put out for a PMC and I found myself nominated and accepted as PMC. It's been a good go so far and I plan on picking up the pace of things including a general mess meeting to hold a few votes and select our representatives. To accomplish this, the issues to be put to vote will be passed on to our boys in the dust as well so they can have a say. **Cpls Rick Anderson and John Osmond** of HQ Squadron both deserve huge thanks during 2007 for stepping forward to serve as the PMC and secretary treasurer. To add to the wall, all of the Squadron logos are now up including E Company's, and a few people have been eyeing that skull and thinking about updating the Squadron logos to show a bit more flavour.



JR Ranks at work...or play



*Cpl Amber Anderson
(our coaching legend)*

As it stands now, the track pad has been a bit of a ghost town. It did turn into a resemblance of a mess depending on which Squadron or Company were training or on leave. That being said, I would like to extend a Strathcona welcome to all of our new members as they get posted in from the Armour School, and don't be shy, we are all friendly for the most part! The new guys fresh from Gagetown will learn soon enough!!

On a sadder note this year, the Track Pad lost one of its own with the death of **Cpl Nathan Hornburg**. Although he was attached out from the KOCR, he was part of the Strathcona's and Track Pad family and will continue to be remembered as such.

This year has seen a very wide variety of units enjoying the Trooper and Corporal's rest area. Engineers from 1 Combat Engineer Regiment, logistics personnel from our Regiment and others, members of E Company which, draw from the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Royal Canadian Regiment, and Royal 22e Regiment, and of course, Armoured Crewman, from Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) and a few from the Royal Canadian Dragoons have all been spotted in the Track Pad. Who would have thought we would see the day. All in all, though not all Track Pad goers are Strathconas, everyone is very appreciative of our mess and it's interesting to talk to soldiers from the various walks of life in the army.

It has been quite the busy year with training and deployments but in the new year, expect to see some changes as we will dominate the regimental sports days (as usual) and complete a flurry of activity as we look for people to step forward to represent their sub unit so that the Track Pad can continue to see improvement.



Leopard 2 Main Battle Tank Introduction LdSH(RC)

The Regiment has now been through a complete cycle of conversion training from the Leopard C2 to the Leopard 2A6M Main Battle Tank in Germany. Considered the best tank in the world by many, the Leopard 2 is now being used by C Squadron in Afghanistan. The cycle of training and deploying to link up with our new rides will continue until we finally have Leopard 2s delivered to the Strathcona's in Steele Barracks (the sooner the better!).







Extra Regimentally Employed Strathconas 2007

MGen	Grant	T.J.	CEFCOM	Maj	Senft	D.J.	CFB Kingston
Col	Cade	J.	CFB Petawawa	Maj	Steeves	J.A.M.	Peace Support Training
Col	Fletcher	C.M.	NDHQ				Centre Karren
Col	Forestell	J.R.	Canadian Defence Attaché - United Arab Emirates	Maj	Stuckart	J.A.	CFB Kingston
Col	Hazleton	C.M.	CFB Kingston	Maj	Young	C.J.	CFLO
Col	Hilton	D.C.	Washington	Capt	Barnett	M.A.	CFC Toronto
Col	Wadsworth	R.J.	CFCA Afghanistan	Capt	Bromley	D.R.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	Schultz	W.F.	41 CBG	Capt	Brown	J.W.	CSOR
LCol	Fleury	P.J.	NDHQ	Capt	Chiasson	R.P.	1 CMBG
LCol	Hauenstein	P.G.	NRDC-T, Istanbul TU	Capt	Cooper	R.A.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	Kelsey	S.R.	NDHQ	Capt	Corbett	B.D.	NDHQ
LCol	Long	S.G.	CFB Wainwright	Capt	Elkorazati	I. M.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	MacLeod	J.D.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Fifield	C.S.	CFB Kingston
LCol	McCluskey	S.D.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Gardner	D.A.	Cheyenne Mountain AFS Colorado Springs, CO
LCol	McEachern	J.D.	CFB Halifax	Capt	Gough	M.H.	BCD
LCol	McKinnon	D.B.	CDLS London	Capt	Hayward	V.F.	CFB Wainwright
LCol	Pickell	P.G.	NDHQ	Capt	Hutchings	W.C.	NDHQ
LCol	Rankin	R.C.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Johnson	B.S.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	Rundle	D.A.	NDHQ	Capt	Kitching	C.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	Schneiderbanger	J.J.	CFB Shilo	Capt	Lacroix	T.A.	KOCR
LCol	Steward	R.T.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Lakatos	M.A.	CFB Kingston
LCol	Walsh	B.J.	Washington	Capt	MacEachern	E.G.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	Williams	R.A.E.	ASU Calgary	Capt	MacLean	S.C.	41 CBG
Maj	Bradley	T.	1 CMBG	Capt	Mallette	M.J.D.	BCR
Maj	Batty	T.A.	CFB Gagetown	Capt	Martin	J.T.	SALH
Maj	Bradley	C.	CFB Wainwright	Capt	McMurachy	M.A.	Afghanistan
Maj	Broomfield	D.J.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Nolan	C.O.	CFB Wainwright
Maj	Callens	K.I.	CFB Wainwright	Capt	Onieu	M.G.	CFB Wainwright
Maj	Chenette	D.J.	St-Jean	Capt	Paronuzzi	A. C.	GGHG
Maj	Cochrane	J.L.	CFB Wainwright	Capt	Penney	C.S.	1 CMBG
Maj	Connolly	M.A.	CFC Toronto	Capt	Rickard	J.N.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Deatcher	W.S.	NDHQ	Capt	Rogers	M.D.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Dyck	G.A.	TF Afghanistan	Capt	Shrubb	S.J.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Fagnan	V.J.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Walters	D.R.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Fountain	R.C.	NDHQ	Capt	White	C.G.	FGH
Maj	Fournier	C.D.	NDHQ	Capt	Wong	A.S.H.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Froess	M.D.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Wright	S.R.	CFB Suffield
Maj	Gifford	S.W.	NDHQ	CWO	Ells	C.R.	1 CMBG
Maj	Gooch	S.J.	LFCA TC Meaford	CWO	Harvey	D.R.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Grodzinski	J.R.	CFB Kingston	CWO	Ramsay	J.	NDHQ
Maj	Hume	R.M.	LFWA	MWO	Blanchard	D.L.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Hunter	J.R.	CFB Gagetown	MWO	Catterall	J.B.	St-Jean
Maj	Knight	R.D.	LFAA HQ Halifax	MWO	Dorrance	J.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Macaulay	D.A.	NDHQ	MWO	Fuller	R.A.	CFB Suffield
Maj	Malevich	J.J.	Afghanistan	MWO	Hall	D.W.	CFB Wainwright
Maj	Mead	K.J.	CFB Wainwright	MWO	Izzard	M.A.	CFB Borden
Maj	Padvaikas	E.T.	CFB Kingston	MWO	Laughlin	W.A.	1 ASU
Maj	Parsons	D.R.	CFB Gagetown	MWO	Lee	D.A.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Peyton	P.J.	Kuwait	MWO	Lovett	K.L.	CFB Wainwright



MWO	Murphy	B.N.	CFB Wainwright	MCpl	Calow	M.	CFB Suffield
MWO	Swainsbury	R.J.	CFB Wainwright	MCpl	Carson	R.M.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Campbell	J.D.	CFB Suffield	MCpl	Charette	J.J.Y.L.	CFB Gagetown
WO	deCaux	S.H.	LFCA	MCpl	Churchill	S.R.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Falls	T.C.B.	CFB Wainwright	MCpl	Craig	M.W.D.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Garland	E.D.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Cushing	M.P.G.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Goodwin	D.G.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Denson	M.I.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Halfkenny	T.G.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Eastlake	W.F.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Hapgood	J.J.	Area Cadet Office	MCpl	Encinas	L.E.	ASU Edmonton
WO	Hill	L.R.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Flanagan	S.D.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Holmwood	J.W.S.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Hawes	J.C.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Irving	W.K.	CFB Wainwright	MCpl	Heegsma	C.J.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Kingston	W.D.	LFWA	MCpl	Ives	P.B.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Marshall	J.	CFB Wainwright	MCpl	Knott	O.W.	CFB Wainwright
WO	McGregor	J.I.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Lee E.A.		CFB Wainwright
WO	Mosher	T.R.	CFB Wainwright	MCpl	MacNeill	N.A.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Pirie	P.G.	Sask D	MCpl	Moon	G.C.	LFWA
WO	Riley	M.S.	408 Sqn	MCpl	Parsons	K.R.	St-Jean
WO	Romanuk	E.E.	BCD	MCpl	Rushton	R.J.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Ross	B.A.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Stringer	G.W.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Roy	C.D.	SALH	Cpl	Armstrong	T.G.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Warren	D.E.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Baker	G.I.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Wheeler	M.J.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Baldwin	T.	CFB Trenton
Sgt	Allen	R.T.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Barker	C.C.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Amos	T.A.	LFWA	Cpl	Barker	D.T.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Baglole	R.J.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Beers	D.V.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Beaumont	D.A.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	Burphy	J.J.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Boland	C.J.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Champigny	P.A.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Borkovic	R.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	Clark	J.B.	CFB Wainwright
Sgt	Boulter	G.F.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Cotie	A.J.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Brush	J.M.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Cuff	M.P.	CFB Suffield
Sgt	Chartier	S.M.	CFB Borden	Cpl	Cullen	M.F.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Chenier	M.A.R.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Currie	M.A.	CFB Trenton
Sgt	Christopher	A.G.	ASU Calgary	Cpl	Cyrenne	D.R.	CFB Suffield
Sgt	Cordy	J.P.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Del Duca	E.G.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Dunn	J.G.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Doyle	K.R.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Graf	A.J.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	Draves	B.F.	CFB Wainwright
Sgt	Kasawan	J.F.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	Duncanson	K.R.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Kellough	T.A.	LFCA TC	Cpl	Englehart	R.A.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Landry	M.A.	CFB Moncton	Cpl	Francis	G.A.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Luomala	A.E.	CFB Borden	Cpl	Gallant	A.G.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	MacDonald	A.A.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Gould	R.J.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Mason	J.W.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Hall	T.J.	CFB Suffield
Sgt	Ovens	R.R.	Cold Lake	Cpl	Hansen	S.R.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Peterson	P.H.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	Hatter	B.L.	CFB Wainwright
Sgt	Price	T.	CFB Edmonton	Cpl	Hillier	J.D.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Rousseaux	R.J.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	Hollingdrake	J.E.	CFB Wainwright
Sgt	Sherren	R.A.	St. Jean	Cpl	Hopper	D.J.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Shiells	K.A.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	Howell	E.W.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Sobczuk	G.	SALH	Cpl	Hoyt	G.S.	CFB Wainwright
Sgt	Webb	J.A.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Jolly	S.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Webb	D.G.	Yellowknife	Cpl	Kruhlak	P.E.	CFB Wainwright
Sgt	Woodrow	M.A.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Lahay	D.W.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Young	R.C.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Lavoie	N.R.	CFB Gagetown
MCpl	Bolger	J.G.	CFB Suffield	Cpl	Leaman	L.W.	CFB Gagetown



Cpl	L'Heureux	R.A.	CFB Wainwright
Cpl	Lucy	M.D.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	MacIsaac	R.S.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Martin	M.E.	CFB Suffield
Cpl	McLoughlin	S.P.	CFB Suffield
Cpl	Mountford	R.T.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Murray	R.W.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Nicholas	T.J.H.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Noseworthy	B.K.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Ott	C.G.	LFCA Meaford
Cpl	Pasuta	R.A.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Prodaniuk	M.W.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Rawson	S.M.	CFB Wainwright
Cpl	Riley	P.A.	CFB Suffield
Cpl	Simard	A.J.B.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Smith	R.W.	CFB Wainwright
Cpl	St Aubin	J.A.J.	CFB Trenton
Cpl	Stewart	C.M.	DHTC (Ottawa)
Cpl	Strong	S.S.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Thomas	R.W.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Tremblay-Lavoie	Y.J.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Trenholm	J.E.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Unrau	J.J.	CFB Wainwright
Cpl	Vaillancourt	B.L.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Virtue	O.D.	CFB Suffield
Cpl	Weber	M.G.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Weir	V.E.	CFB Trenton
Cpl	Zubkowski	C.P.	CFB Gagetown
Tpr	Barsotta	D.G.	CFB Gagetown
Tpr	Bernard	R.J.	CFB Gagetown
Tpr	Brister	D.	CFB Gagetown
Tpr	Brownrigg	N.A.O.	CFB Gagetown
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