



THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

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Dear Dragoons and Members of the Regimental Family,

As we move through the early months of 2026, this letter offers an update on the activities, accomplishments, and future direction of the Regiment. Over the past six months, our soldiers and junior leaders have demonstrated remarkable resilience, professionalism, and teamwork—both at home and on operations. It is with pride that I share the following overview of our operational efforts, training achievements, and that I highlight the path ahead.

December 2025 marked a significant milestone as A Squadron and B Squadron completed their relief in place in Latvia on Op REASSURANCE. The RCD continue to lead in a demanding multinational environment, where, working closely with both brigade and Latvian partners, the cavalry squadron strengthened the collective understanding of combined arms integration and increased interoperability across the multinational team. After a successful six-month deployment as the MND-LVA cavalry squadron, B Squadron—led by Maj Travis Vanryswyk and MWO Sébastien Bérubé returned to regimental duty following well-earned post-deployment leave. A Squadron continues this task under Maj Trevor Smith and MWO Damien Chatel, where, operating forward, the squadron is conducting numerous squadron- and brigade-level exercises. Operating through an especially harsh winter has tested both personnel and equipment, which has produced valuable lessons for the brigade and showcased the adaptability and endurance of our soldiers.

In the lead-up to their deployment, A Squadron completed a rigorous training progression beginning with Ex WALKING DRAGON in the Petawawa training area in the early fall. Lines of communication were stretched and tested during Ex CHARGING DRAGON, which brought the Regiment to the Ottawa Valley in an excellent opportunity to engage with the community. Spanning Arnprior to Petawawa, RHQ and HQ Squadron worked tirelessly for A Squadron to ensure that lines of support were maintained through the complexities of large operations. A Squadron's work-up training culminated in the squadron's validation on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE in Petawawa. WO Livingstone, the Regimental Gunnery Warrant Officer, designed and delivered an exceptional mounted and dismounted live fire range that showcased the integration of fire and manoeuvre at the squadron level. Despite challenging mobility conditions that delayed the advance to the limit of exploitation into the early morning hours, the exercise delivered invaluable lessons and strengthened the squadron as a cohesive combat team.

In early fall, the Regiment planned and led Ex COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT on behalf of the Canadian Army—a significant engagement that brought together leaders from government, industry, and the Canadian Army. Over four immersive days, participants witnessed the

capabilities of the Canadian Army and, more importantly, the professionalism and strength of our soldiers. Headquarters Squadron ensured all participants were prepared, equipped, and fed. Well done to all involved! A chance of a lifetime for the participants.

Throughout the last six months, C Squadron - under Maj Nick Scott and MWO Ryan Broughm continue to develop their expertise as a medium armoured cavalry sub-unit through a demanding training program designed to harness their hard-earned skills on the Leopard tank, and apply them to the intricacies of the tactics, techniques and procedures associated with medium armoured cavalry. Amongst several crew and troop level field training opportunities, the Squadron participated in a brigade-level simulated exercise led by Comd 2 CMBG, Col Jordan Schaub and the HQ staff. Their participation stimulated full discussions on the tactical employment and responsibilities of a covering force within the brigade framework. In January 2026, C Squadron also took part in Ex CANTERING DRAGOON, a simulated exercise in Gagetown focused on command and control at the squadron level and refining troop level battle procedure.

In November, the Regiment completed the first of two brigade-level Ex RUCKING BEAR events for the training year—a 14km route around base that saw approximately 800 participants from across the Brigade. We will complete the second iteration in May 2026. In January and February 2026, winter conditions brought the opportunity for several serials of Ex WINTER DRAGOON, conducted at the squadron level in both Petawawa and Gagetown. These activities strengthened soldiers' and junior leaders' ability to operate in harsh arctic-like conditions—skills increasingly vital to the Canadian Army. Despite intense cold and significant snowfall this winter, Dragoons demonstrated resilience throughout and gave new soldiers an opportunity to learn about survival in cold weather operations. The Regiment is now also focused on force generation of the Task Force Headquarters supporting Op UNIFIER roto 22, scheduled to deploy in Summer 2026. Generating mission-ready teams for expeditionary operations have driven another intense period of collective training across the Regiment.

Against the backdrop of operational requirements this training year, Dragoons continue to uphold the Regimental traditions that connect our currently serving members with our predecessors. By all accounts, this year's commemorative event of the 125th Anniversary of the Battle of Leliefontein was a highlight. The mounted and dismounted parade on the traditional Worthington Parade Square demonstrated the Regiment's unwavering discipline and meticulous attention to detail. The parade showcased a well-orchestrated mounted troop led by Capt Lauren Butterworth and WO David Wilkinson, two Regimental Guards, and a 40-person Scarlet Guard led by the Technical Quartermaster, MWO Chad Monaghan—all delivered with precision despite the bitter, early winter winds. The ability of our soldiers to shift seamlessly from immersive field training to ceremonial excellence remains one of our Regiment's defining strengths.

Looking ahead, the next six months promise to be equally meaningful and engaged. We will commemorate the 81st Anniversary of the Liberation of Leeuwarden with a Regimental parade in Petawawa and look forward to hosting the Mayor of Leeuwarden later in the spring—a profound reminder of our Regiment's historic contributions and enduring international connections. C Squadron will make its historic return to Petawawa in late spring, marking another important milestone as we prepare equipment, vehicles, and training plans to welcome them home. In April 2026, the Regiment will conduct the inaugural Copeland Challenge—a 48-hour endurance event

aimed at strengthening discipline, mental resilience, and esprit de corps within the Regiment. Wearing full fighting order, participants will complete a marching distance of 6.5 km every four hours for the duration of the challenge. Best of luck to all competitors—your determination will set the tone for future events of this kind.

The coming months will also see preparations for the return of A Squadron from Op REASSURANCE, the deployment of an RCD-led HQ team on Op UNIFIER, and a Change of Command in the RCD leadership.

At the institutional level, the Regiment will continue working closely with the Canadian Army as modernization efforts progress, including the upcoming organizational changes that will see the CMBGs transition under the new Manoeuvre Division in early fall. We will also remain closely engaged with Director Land Requirements and the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps as planning begins for the next generation of medium armoured cavalry vehicles—equipment that will shape the Regiment's role in the Army of tomorrow.

Dragoons, as I head into the last few months of command, I thank you for your commitment, discipline, and professionalism. The Regiment has achieved much over the past year, and the challenges ahead will demand the same high standards you continue to demonstrate. I remain confident in our abilities and proud to serve alongside each of you.

Respectfully,

Chloeann Summerfield
Lieutenant-Colonel
Commanding Officer

John Nickerson
Chief Warrant Officer
Regimental Sergeant Major