

THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

# SPRINGBOK



2018-2019

A u d a x   e t   C e l e r   -   B o l d   a n d   S w i f t





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## On The Cover

**Sgt Selway crew commanding  
a Coyote during Ex SABOT  
DRAGOON**

Photo: Cpl Devon McDevitt

Editor in Chief – LCol Marois  
Editor and Chief Planner – Maj Boire & Maj Justason  
Publication design - Cpl Langille

[www.dragoons.ca](http://www.dragoons.ca)

Opposite: Tpr Allen-Smith launches the RQ-11 Raven during Ex SABOT DRAGOON



His Royal Highness Charles  
The Prince of Wales



Colonel in Chief  
The Royal Canadian Dragoons



## Colonel of The Regiment's Message

Brigadier General (Ret'd) Peter Atkinson, MSM, CD

As I look back over the year 2018-2019 it certainly has been a year of change for the Regiment. A new CO and RSM, plans for the new Regimental lines have been approved and new equipment has been flowing into both Petawawa and Gagetown. It has also been a period of reconstitution which has allowed the Regiment to really focus on both individual and collective training while at the same time supporting the training of our affiliated armoured reserve units. I was fortunate to be able to see C Squadron field firing in Gagetown and the remainder of the Regiment lighting up the firing pads in Petawawa.

The winter of 2019 was a cold one and the Regiment re-acquainted itself with winter operations in the Ottawa Valley. Given the temperatures they could well have been deployed somewhere in the Arctic, good preparation for future Sovereignty operations. Then the spring of 2019 saw the Regiment helping Canadians as the Ottawa Valley dealt with extreme flooding. It was great to turn on the news and see Dragoons front and centre building retaining walls to stem the flooding and going door to door helping individual homeowners. It was an honour and a privilege to be able to witness the Regiment on parade receiving the Freedom of the Town of Petawawa including a horseback mounted contingent and a full roll past of the Regiments armoured vehicles. Leliefontein and Leeuwarden celebrations were well executed and showcased the soldiers on parade and demonstrated the importance of both safeguarding our history and heritage while respecting those traditions of the past.

With the delivery of the TAPV and LAV 6 now complete, the Regiment can focus on the develop of new tactics and techniques for these new capabilities. On the horizon is the delivery of the Coyote replacement TAPV recce variants. More importantly the Regiment welcomed 80 new Dragoons into the family since July of 2018. These new Dragoons are continuing to uphold the legacy of their forbears for professionalism, tactical proficiency and dedication.

As the Regiment enters into a period of High Readiness, I know you will be ready to take on whatever challenges the Canadian Forces give to you. I am proud to be your Colonel of the Regiment and I look forward to another great year of seeing Dragoons serving their country.



## Senior Serving Dragoon's Message

Major-General S.M. Cadden, CD

As this year's edition of the Springbok goes to print, we find ourselves in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Living and operating conditions across the world are changing, and we as a Regiment will change with them. Over the past year, as our Regimental and ERE members demonstrated exceptional competence and professionalism, Dragoons have carried on the responsibility to prepare our forces for conflict and operations. We have seen excellent training, a commitment to the welfare of our Regimental family, the strengthening of our Guild, and continued excellence on Operations.

And we prepare for the circle of life in our Regiment. LCol Marois will relinquish command of the Regiment, secure in the knowledge that we remain a vital and viable fighting entity as a result of his personal efforts. His compassion for our troops, commitment to readiness and love of Regimental heritage will not soon be forgotten, and Dragoons everywhere owe him a debt of thanks for his leadership and stewardship of our fine Regiment. We will welcome LCol Kerkhoff back to Regimental service, this time as Commanding Officer. Eminently qualified for the position, there is no doubt that this great leader will continue to push the boundaries of what our Regiment and Corps can do. We have been, and remain, in the hands of great leaders, and with the steadying professionalism of RSM Leamon backstopping the Commanding Officer, I am confident that the challenges of hard work, difficult decisions and decisive training of the future will be met with competence, professionalism and panache, as always.



## Commanding Officer's Message

### Lieutenant Colonel Rob Marois, CD

Another year has passed and the Royal Canadian Dragoons, the senior serving Regular Force Armoured Regiment, has again been at the forefront of training to be prepared and ready for anything and everything that our country asks of us.

Whether it was training for operations, both expeditionary and domestic, or maintaining our individual military skills, to include our spiritual and physical fitness, Dragoons of all ranks and trades pushed themselves to the limits and beyond.

As the Commanding Officer, I have the extreme privilege of serving alongside some of the finest Armoured soldiers and officers that our Canadian Army has to offer. Drivers, gunners, crew commanders and leaders. I am also so very proud of the supporters – the maintainers, the supply techs, the signallers, the clerks and all of the various specialists that enable us to fight and win as an Armoured Battle Group. They motivate me every day to be the very best I can be as their Commanding Officer.

Over this past year, Dragoons in Petawawa and Gagetown, to include those from the 12ieme Regiment Blinde du Canada who join our Regimental family while serving with C Squadron, have once again surpassed expectations and have consistently risen to any challenge placed before them. This includes support to national and local training events such as Ex MAPLE RESOLVE and UNIFIED RESOLVE, Ex COMMON GROUND in Gagetown and in training our colleagues in the Armoured Reserves in Meaford on Ex STALWART GUARDIAN.

We have welcomed back multiple Dragoons from

operations around the world, to include in LATVIA, UKRAINE and MALI. Our operational focus also ensured we were ready when called upon to support the flood relief efforts in Ontario and New Brunswick on Op LENTUS. And finally, we support our Regimental Family, both in the ceremonial celebrations of the anniversary of Leliefontein and the Liberation of Leeuwarden, but also in honouring our fallen, to include Tpr Sam Christiansen, Cpl Derek Wright, and MCpl Tommy Coulombe.

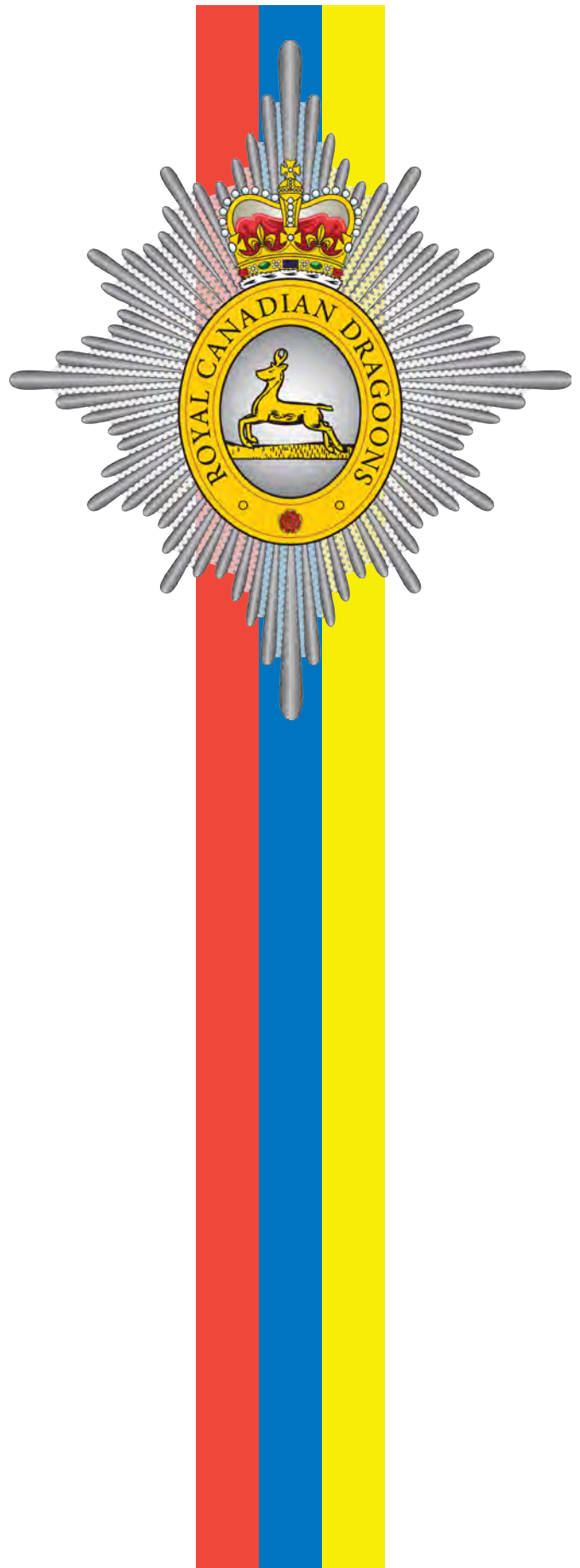
As we begin our road to high readiness, and prepare ourselves to be ready to deploy as an Armoured Battle Group, we have focussed not only perfecting our skills to shoot, move and communicate, but also to work effectively as a combined arms team alongside our fellow combat arms and combat service support colleagues in 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group and from across the Canadian Army and Canadian Armed Forces. Of particular note, we worked closely with D Battery 2 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, with whom we share a historic bond since the Battle of Leliefontein!

It was in a Springbok from 1946 that I found an article that talks about the organic nature of a tank crew and I witnessed first-hand, how this strong bond between soldiers and leaders, whether they are mounted in the new Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle, a Coyote, a LAV 6 or a Leopard 2, distinguished us from the other combat arms units and enabled us to arrive and fight as a small team but always make a huge impact. I felt this bond first hand, with my fire team partner, Chief Warrant Officer Jeramie Leamon, and my gunner, Sgt Travis Hackworth, as well as with my drivers, Cpl Fraser and



then Cpl Fess, and can attest to how we as Armoured crew members, develop a unique perspective, that fosters empathy and compassion, and a strong warrior spirit, that ensures our success, both on the battlefield and when training, but also when supporting each other and our families when one of the crew members is in need. The crew is our centre of gravity and I am so proud to be a part of an amazing and capable crew and a whole unit composed of these incredible teams.

For those reading this Springbok, take the time to reflect as you read the articles written by the soldiers and leaders in our fine Regiment, to look into the eyes of those Dragoons that are training, or playing sports, or celebrating their shared history, and consider that they are all proud members of a family. This family is always willing, able and eager to support each other and to come to the aid of anyone that needs their help. If you are part of this family, consider yourselves lucky and know that you are a part of something so much bigger than you or I, you are part of The Royal Canadian Dragoons, and you should be proud, as proud as I am of each and every one of you.







## Regimental Sergeant Major's Message

### Chief Warrant Officer Jeramie Leamon, CD

Dragoons, family and friends, there are a few things the RSM can influence, unfortunately time is not one of them. It's hard to believe a year has already passed since my last post to the Springbok. It gives me great pleasure and honor to be writing to you all in this latest edition. Thanks to the editorial staff for their amazing work in keeping us all connected.

As you peruse the pages of this edition, it will be clear the Regiment's tempo has not slowed. Dragoons have continued supporting overseas missions in Latvia and the Ukraine, aiding Canadians in domestic operations with flooding and participating and executing rigorous training exercises throughout Canada. Similarly, I am inspired daily by the work, leadership and accomplishments of Dragoons across the CAF and would like to thank you for your efforts in representing our fine Regiment. The CO and I have had the opportunity to visit many establishments across the CAF this year; the Armd School, CTC Wainwright, CFB Kingston, CFLRS Saint Jean, ASU Ottawa and Oshawa. The work you are executing and the value you are bringing to the fight is exemplary and I thank you for holding the Regiment's name in such high standard.

As mounted warfare experts, foundational training in crew commanding, gunnery, driving, maintenance, and resupply over the last 12 months, has produced armoured soldiers who have the tools necessary to execute a myriad of tasks only achievable through the incredible hard work and determination of our support personnel who regardless of trade, are all proud Dragoons. With a strong base, the Regiment completed challenging exercises from level 2 to level 6 with the newly formed Battle Group Headquarters coordinating and controlling multiple exercises. Each Squadron honed their skills in their respective task: reconnaissance, direct fire support, and sustainment. The Regiment continues to advance with our capabilities and ingenious ways of incorporating and employing the TAPV.

In any organization, it is its people that make the difference and our Regiment is no different. It is the relationships that develop on the hangar floor, strengthen with each new challenge, and become everlasting when on deployment, that makes our Regiment great. As RSM I would challenge the Regimental Family to:

- Check in on one another, reach out to our retired comrades, the families of our fallen, and our serving members and ask how they are doing. We are all proud individuals that may not want to bother each other but it's very important to stay connected and hearing a friendly voice every now and again can make a difference.

- Become engaged in the Guild. The Guild is doing an amazing job for our serving and retired members and their families. Some of those actions you will see front and center on Social Media with presentations to some amazing organizations, bursary awards and historical vehicle restorations. What you don't see, is the help the Guild gives to our families both retired and serving in time of need. This happens behind the scenes quite often. I am asking you all to help in your own way and in the capacity you can. Believe me, it makes a difference when I receive a call for help and I know with help from the Guild we can make a difference in someone's life.

In closing, I truly do appreciate those of you that have reached out to myself and continue to check in on how I and the Regiment are doing. Every day I am very honored and humbled to be the RSM of our Regiment. I remain certain that regardless what the next bound looks like Dragoons everywhere we will adapt and react in fine Dragoon fashion.

Always think two bounds out!

# The Guild.



Presentation of the 2018 Leliefontein Memorial Bursary to Malika Richards

The Guild of The Royal Canadian Dragoons is a private, non-profit corporation with charitable status established by letters patent under the Canada Corporations Act in 1980 with the expressed primary objective "to protect, preserve and further the traditions and heritage of The Royal Canadian Dragoons."

## The Vision of The Guild:

One strongly united Regimental family of former and serving Dragoons, encompassing the Unit, the Association Chapters, all past and present members, families and friends, dedicated to promoting family, Quality of Life, and upholding a proud tradition of outstanding service to the country by honouring our heritage as Canada's Senior Armoured Regiment.

## Guild Activities:

The Guild operates along a number of key thrust lines, in order to focus its actions toward achieving its Vision. These include:

1. **Unity and Communications.** Under this thrust line, the Guild ensures it is remaining active within the Regimental family, and assisting in outreach on its behalf to the broader defence and civilian communities. Specific activities include supporting publication of the Springbok, the maintenance of the Regimental web site, and support to the affiliated Cadet units.
2. **History and Heritage.** The Guild's history and heritage activities largely relate to the maintenance and upkeep of Regimental artifacts and support to participation in ceremonial events. The uniforms of the Scarlet Party and the vehicles of the Regiment's Historical Vehicle Troop are the most frequently seen examples of Guild support, though it should be noted that both of these require the ongoing support of the serving members of The Regiment.



3. Quality of Life. Here The Guild aims to make a tangible difference in the lives of the Regimental family, through activities and initiatives such as the Leliefontein Memorial Bursary, support to the broader RCAC Association, support to deployed soldiers and the initial issue of accoutrements to all soldiers newly joining the Regiment. Other initiatives include recuperation kits, to make soldiers recovering from injuries sustained on deployed operations more comfortable, and Deployment Bears, to offer a means for soldiers deploying on international operations to leave their children with a tangible reminder of their parent while they are away.

## Ways to Give:

Individuals interested in donating to The Guild can visit our website ([www.dragoons.ca](http://www.dragoons.ca)) or contact The Regimental Second in Command at (613) 687-5511 extension 5649. As a registered Canadian charity, The Guild issues tax receipts for donations. There are many different ways to give, including:

1. General Donations. For donors who wish to support the Guild's overall activities. Funds are placed into the general investment fund, and both principal and interest are applied broadly across the Guild's activities.
2. Directed Donations. For donors who wish to support a specific Guild activity. Funds are placed in to the general investment fund. Interest is applied broadly across the Guild's activities, while the principal of the donation is applied specifically to the Guild activity that the donor wishes to support.

The Guild continues to build and implement modernisation of our governance structures and procedures. This will ensure The Guild continues to diligently deliver services to its beneficiaries through its various thrust line initiatives. This has become especially important considering the increased operational tempo of The Regiment over the past year. The Guild wishes to thank all of our supporters and we are looking forward to another successful year that will see us in a position to assist our members where there are gaps in Publicly and Non-Publicly funded programs.

The Guild is funded entirely by donations (Registration Number 119236347RR0001). Donors range from corporations interested in supporting The Guild to voluntary donations by serving Dragoons.



New Guild vehicle donated by Butler GM, Pembroke Ontario.





## REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

The Regimental Headquarters had an exceptional and very busy 2018-2019 year. RHQ supported and deployed soldiers to support Op REASSURANCE R10 in Latvia and Op UNIFER R5 in Ukraine. RHQ lead the charge in planning and coordinating a number of Regimental exercises, Primary Combat Function training, and planned many Regimental events. The Royal Canadian Dragoons Immediate Response Unit responded to the Ontario Government's State of Emergency with Op LENTUS in March 2019 under Lieutenant-Colonel Marois' command, tirelessly supported by the RHQ team lead by the newly minted Ops O, Capt Delmonte.

In July through August of 2018, RHQ planned and executed Individual Battle Task Standard (IBTS) training for The Regiment in conjunction with PCF courses. Throughout the summer months RHQ stood up the Deployment Support Centre to help ensure soldiers deployed maintained contact with their families, and that The Regiment supported families while members were on operation. The summer concluded with Terry Fox Sports Day.

In September we saw many members of RHQ participate in the 2 CMBG Ironman Warrior, which

tested the resolve of first-time competitors and veterans alike through a grueling 50km course. RHQ planned Ex COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT where key stakeholders visited Garrison Petawawa to participate in a variety of soldiering tasks.

October saw RHQ shift its focus to be fully engaged in planning and participating in several major exercises including Ex WALKING DRAGON, CHARGING DRAGON, and SABOT DRAGON. RHQ conducted Ex RESILIENT DRAGON to focus on giving members the tools to prepare them and their families for upcoming tasks and ongoing deployments. In December, RHQ participated in the Soldier's Christmas dinner followed by Christmas Block Leave.

Throughout the winter and spring of 2019 soldiers from RHQ worked tirelessly on Op LENTUS to assist Canadians in flooded regions throughout Eastern Ontario. Following Op LENTUS, RHQ organized The Regiment to conduct PCF training and IBTS training, ensuring the Regiment's soldiers retained valuable training opportunities despite missing most of the spring training cycle assisting with the Ontario floods. On return from Op LENTUS RHQ



also organized the Right of Line competitions that took place prior to the Leeuwarden festivities, with RoL again being awarded to D Sqn. RHQ staff deployed to Tacoma, Washington in support of Joint Warfare Accreditation working with NATO countries to confirm the 2 CMBG Brigade Headquarters readiness. Prior to summer leave RHQ participated in Ex RUCKING BEAR, a 20km+ fitness event which pushed soldiers to their physical and mental limits in preparation for the Road to High Readiness (RtHR).

In late summer, TASK FORCE TOMAHAWK was officially stood up and RHQ began planning for the next RtHR. With a Regimental road move and the stand-up of the RCD Battle Group Headquarters, RHQ finished their summer with an opportunity to train with Ontario's Primary Reserve armour units in Meadford, ON during Ex STALWART GUARDIAN. This rolling start was the beginning of another high readiness cycle, integrating lessons learned from previous years and setting course for a busy fall 2019.







## A SQUADRON

Although most members of A Sqn knew that the 2018-2019 training year was going to be busy, the pace at which the last year progressed was truly astounding. Reforming quickly in July 2018, A Sqn participated in a packed September which saw the Terry Fox run, the Iron Warrior Race, Right of Line testing, Ex COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT, and IBTS ranges. Finishing just in time for Thanksgiving Weekend, the Sqn then departed immediately for Ex WALKING DRAGOON which saw the Sqn conducting level 2-4 training for two weeks.

Taking a short break for Leliefontein celebrations, the Sqn then commenced its role as the training sqn for the Armoured Reconnaissance Squadron Commander's Course. This three week training evolution saw future Sqn Comd's from the Army Reserve cycle through the OC's turret, learning how to command a recce sqn, receive orders from a CO, and interact with a BG HQ. This proved to be an excellent training opportunity which saw the Sqn deploy all over the Ottawa Valley and receive its Level 5 dry confirmation from Comd 2 CMBG prior to students arriving. Finishing at the end of November, the Sqn had just enough time to squeeze in some live fire training prior to a well-

deserved Christmas Break.

Early January saw troops from A, B, and D Sqns form the Immediate Response Unit Vanguard Company under the A Sqn SHQ. Ex RESPONSIVE BEAR kicked off shortly thereafter and the composite Sqn was deployed to conduct a long ruck march and overnight cold weather training. As temperatures dipped below -40 Celsius with the wind chill, it was certainly an exercise most will remember! Finishing just in time to commence Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE II, a bde level Computer Assisted Exercise, A Sqn SHQ quickly established in the Petawawa Simulation Center and formed the 2 CMBG Recce Sqn response cell. Lasting two weeks, this exercise proved a good shakeout for Tp Ldrs who were employed on a rotating basis as the Sqn BC/duty officer.

February saw A Sqn transitioning to a supporting role with troops contributing to an Armoured Reconnaissance Patrol Commander's course run by B Sqn and to a Regimental level basic winter warfare exercise. Several lucky troopers also got to travel to CFB Valcartier and compete in the 5 CMBG's Ice Man race. March and most



of April was relatively quiet, with more live fire training at Juliet Tower firing pad and a much expanded Leeuwarden celebration which saw a formal parade and mess dinner with the Dutch Ambassador, who by coincidence was born in Leeuwarden, as the guest of honour.

April was intended to be a relatively quiet month, but Mother Nature had other ideas. With flood waters rising on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River, it was only a matter of time before A Sqn, with soldiers from A, B, D, and HQ Sqn, deployed as part of the 1st Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment led IRU to the Ottawa/West Carleton area. Departing with only three hours to prepare, A Sqn landed in Constance Bay where we assisted The Duke's Company with sandbagging, welfare checks, and outreach to local authorities. Two days later, A Sqn was assigned its own area of operations stretching 30 kms north to south, and nearly 40 kms east to west. Establishing a command post at Fitzroy Provincial Park, A Sqn spent the next week coordinating with local volunteers and City of Ottawa officials, as well the IRU HQ to fight flooding in the Willola Beach, Fitzroy Harbour, and Armitage Ave areas of West Carleton. Returning to Petawawa in early May, A Sqn completed post operation drills just in time to see IRU 3, led by The RCD, deploy with B Sqn as the Vanguard Company to fight further flooding in the Pembroke – Westmeath areas.

Things finally began to settle down after the Victoria Day long weekend, with PCF courses and handovers taking the rest of the May and June. With a new OC at the helm and a healthy change around of senior NCOs, A Sqn will depart on some well-deserved summer leave in July, before commencing the year long Road to High Readiness training cycle and preparation for anticipated international deployments in 2020-2021.







## B SQUADRON

The last year saw significant changes to B Squadron (Sqn). Stood down with the deployment of a significant number of Dragoons on Op UNIFIER Roto 5, the pending return of personnel from the Ukraine saw B Sqn reactivated under the command of Officer Commanding (OC), Major Adam Graham and Squadron Sergeant Major (SSM), Master Warrant Officer Jason Ellsworth. Squadron Second in Command (2IC), Captain Chris Levan, Battle Captain (BC), Captain Dan Stephan, Squadron Quartermaster (SQ), Warrant Officer Andrew Fenton and Operations Warrant Officer (Ops WO), WO Dustin Barnett along with the Troop Leadership Teams of 1st Troop, Captain Dylan Brough and Sergeant (Sgt) Jeremy Selway and 2nd Troop, Second Lieutenant (2Lt) Brendan Dunks and Sgt Shane Dolmovic rounded out the larger Squadron leadership team.

With a good portion of the Sqn on post deployment leave until November, the fall time period saw B Sqn assume a supporting role to ongoing Regimental activities while rebuilding its personnel strength. This included supporting the other Sqn's with personnel and vehicles during Exercise (Ex) WALKING DRAGOON and Ex CHARGING DRAGOON. This

enabled the Sqn's newest Troopers to get some high value field training while helping flush out staffing shortages in A, D and HQ Sqn. B Sqn was also tasked as the lead plan for the Armour Reserve Squadron Commander Course (ARSCC) in concert with the Tactics School. This course, which runs every other year, is an important individual training event for Reserve Squadron Commanders as it provides them the opportunity to train with a complete Reconnaissance Sqn and enablers. The ARSCC was successfully executed in November as part of Ex CHARGING DRAGOON I. In addition to Exercise Control (EXCON), B Sqn provided a dynamic enemy force Troop which enabled high value training for the ARSCC students throughout the field portion the course, providing real time tactical problems for the students to react to while on the trace. With most of the Sqn's leadership due to come back from post deployment leave at the beginning of November, B Sqn was able to shift from a supporting to a supported role within the Regiment. The Sqn's training plan kicked off with a TAPV RWS course just prior to Christmas Leave in order to ensure that soldiers and Crew Commanders had the necessary qualifications prior to the commencement of mandated

collective training in the New Year. After a busy but satisfying Christmas silly season, the Sqn departed for some much deserved Christmas leave in order to ensure that all personnel would be ready to hit the ground running in January.

Upon return from Christmas leave, the Regiment entered another PCF cycle. In order to maximize the opportunity presented by B Sqn's offset training schedule, it was pitched to the CO and accepted that B Sqn would run the Armoured Reconnaissance Patrol Commander's Course (ARPC). In addition to delivering important individual training to selected personnel from the Regiment and Armoured Reserve Units, the extensive eighteen day field component of the ARPC allowed the Sqn to achieve some low level collective training which otherwise would not have been possible during this very busy time period. Graduating thirteen students to include two members of Army Reserve, B Sqn successfully delivered high quality individual training in some very challenging winter conditions. The end of the ARPC saw the Sqn conduct a quick regrouping before rolling right into Ex CHARGING DRAGOON II, B Sqn's level 3-5 field training exercise (FTX). As the remainder of the Regiment had already completed mandated collective training, the unique opportunity presented by the offset training schedule allowed B Sqn to receive the unfettered support and assets from the Regiment. During this short but high-tempo exercise, the Sqn received a third Troop from A Sqn as well as an Infantry Platoon from 3 RCR in order to create a combined arms Squadron Group (Sqn Gp). The attachment of enablers such as military police (MP), a Forward Observation Officer (FOO), engineer reconnaissance and a Miniature Unmanned Aerial System (MUAS) detachment further strengthened the capabilities of B Sqn Gp while providing a unique and challenging training opportunity for Sqn Headquarters (SHQ) to synchronize and coordinate these different enablers. Ex CHARGING DRAGOON II saw training conducted both off base and in the training area. The Sqn Gp conducted a number of different types of operations to include offensive, defensive and rear area security tasks, finishing off with a simultaneous isolate of the Urban Ops village and a cordon and seize operation in the Ortona Urban Operations Site. The opportunity to work with a dismounted Infantry Platoon provided an invaluable training experience at all levels of

command and the Sqn commenced its March break with a successful level 5 FTX under its belt.

Upon return from March break the Squadron rolled right into Ex SABOT DRAGOON II. Starting with crew level shoots and working up to Troop level day and night shoots, B Sqn had the opportunity to fine tune its gunnery skills on both the Coyote and TAPV. Immediately following the ranges, the Regiment quickly reoriented for Leeuwarden week. The lead up to the Leeuwarden parade saw the Sqn participate in the Regimental Right of Line competitions. Despite not winning, B Sqn had a strong showing throughout.

While the Easter Long weekend should have marked the transition to another PCF cycle, the flooding in Ottawa and the Ottawa valley saw the deployment of most of B Sqn to conduct flood control and mitigation as part of Operation LENTUS 1901. Along with other personnel from the Regiment, B Sqn soldiers conducted excellent work assisting the City of Ottawa and Renfrew County in protecting critical infrastructure and homes affected by the flood waters. Once redeployed from Op LENTUS, the Sqn quickly reconstituted and jumped right into the amended PCF cycle, running 25mm Gunnery and the 25mm Crew Commander Gunnery upgrade in preparation for the mid-June Regimental reorganization. Having accomplished a lot in a short period of time, the soldiers of B Sqn are more than ready to jump into the Road to High Readiness on return from their well-deserved Summer leave.







## C SQUADRON

The training year began with a bang as C Squadron (Sqn) deployed to Firing Point 4 in the 5 CDSB Gagetown Range and Training Area to commence Exercise CENTURION ARCHER I (Ex CA I). This live fire exercise served as a final send-off for the outgoing Officer Commanding, Major Chris Inglis. Ex CA I was designed and run by the 1 Troop (Tp) Leader, Lieutenant Kieren Luckhurst. It placed an emphasis on Level 2 (crew level) firing and implemented some of the new firing tables established in the Armoured Fighting Vehicle Operational Shooting Plan. It also contained a crew level competition to determine the most lethal crew in the Sqn. The competition simulated a defensive battle position and crews had to adopt their runups, fire, jockey to their alternate position, fire again, and repeat the process for a total of four rounds. An emphasis was placed on speed, accuracy, and safety. In the end, the crew of Call Sign 32, consisting of: 2 Tp Leader, Lieutenant Ben Bennett, loader, Corporal Nickolas Bronson, gunner, Trooper Alexander Warren, and driver, Trooper Yanni Smith, won the competition and took home the trophy. Ex CA I finished with Tp level shoots and battle runs with the goal of familiarizing the new Tp Leaders with Tp shoots and

the use of the Multi-Barrel Grenade Dischargers.

With the completion of Ex CA I, C Sqn moved into summer block leave ready for incoming tasks. Following this well-deserved break, C Sqn shuffled its ORBAT in order to receive new officers and NCOs in several positions, including the new command team of Maj Rich Bulley and MWO Shawn Rheaume. The Sqn kicked off its post-summer operations by running PCF courses, including a Leopard 2 Gunnery course, and a Leopard 2 Driver course. As August and September slipped away, C Sqn began focusing on its fall training objectives that would see the Sqn trained up to Level 5 (Combat Team level).

Kicking off the first week of October, the Sqn deployed to the Lawfield Impact Area in the Gagetown training area for the live fire Ex CENTURION ARCHER II (Ex CA II). Building on the skills of the previous live fire ex, Ex CA II concentrated on Tp shoots and Sqn level attacks. Restricted only by the terrain itself, each Tp was able to practice manoeuvring as a fire unit and engaging targets that were often difficult to acquire through the gun sights. Fog and rain also tested the capabilities of

each tank crew as they needed to rely on each other to spot targets and then identify them with fire in order to concentrate an entire Tp's firepower on an objective. Ex CA II culminated with Level 4 (Sqn level) live fire attacks where Maj Bulley commanded the assault force and the Battle Captain, Captain PO Lachance commanded the firebase in a synchronized attack on an objective. Of particular interest during this ex, C Sqn was visited by the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier General (ret) Peter Atkinson. Despite his prestigious position within the Regiment, BGen (ret) Atkinson quickly volunteered to work with the Sqn echelon and helped resupply the tank troops by handing out 120mm rounds in the pouring rain.

With the conclusion of Ex CA II, C Sqn was confident and ready for the next step in the training process, Ex COMMON GROUND 18 (Ex CG 18). This exercise took place in the month of November and saw the Sqn deploy once more to the Gagetown training area. The first ten days focused on the integration of C Sqn with mechanized infantry companies from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment (2 RCR). Members of C Sqn and 2 RCR practiced their marry-up drills over and over again until both groups were confident of the performance of their counterparts. Additionally, C Sqn deployed to the field with the goal of testing the new tactical mine implements installed on the fronts of several Leopard 2 tanks. This portion of the exercise culminated in the validation of C Sqn and two infantry companies as ready for combat team level operations. This would serve them in good stead for the second phase of the exercise. Following a sombre Remembrance Day held in Camp Petersville, C Sqn and 2 RCR changed the emphasis of their exercise participation to the support of the Combat Team Commander course and the DP4 Infantry and Armoured Sergeants-Major course. Students on both of these courses took command of the combat team or the A-Echelon to practice their tactical skills at the next level. Throughout the next 12 days, C Sqn participated and supported up to three different missions per day. These operations included: hasty attacks on various objectives that challenged students to react quickly to the terrain and tactical scenario, delay operations emphasizing the importance of time and space, and deliberate attacks on an urban village which necessitated a deliberate bridge crossing of a Medium Girder Bridge (MGB) built by CFSME. In

addition to the tactical challenges of the course, students also had to contend with the weather as heavy snowfalls and wind often made visibility a luxury and hid difficult terrain features which impeded mobility of the combat team on several occasions. A highlight of Ex CG II was the final attack on the urban operations town known as Groningen Village. Following a hasty attack on an enemy objective, one tank Tp consisting of Captain Andrew Garrie, Lt Bennett, and MCpl Dan Lacey, crossed the Nerepis River over the MGB to support both H and I Coys of 2 RCR. Eschewing the canalizing terrain created by the roads entering the village, this tank Tp broke through a treeline that enabled them to bypass the OPFOR's established kill zone and facilitated the break-in of the dismounted infantry into the buildings of the village. It was a successful conclusion to not only the attack, but the exercise as well, as end exercise was called over the net once the infantry finished clearing the last building. Ex CG 18 proved that not only was C Sqn ready for combat team level operations, they can operate in any environment they may find themselves in.

Despite the successes of the fighting troops during Ex CG 18, none of it would have been possible without the unparalleled professionalism and work of the Sqn echelon, especially the Maintenance Troop. Under the leadership of Warrant Officer Terry Walsh and Sgt Michel Paquet, Maint Tp worked tirelessly to ensure that C Sqn's Leopard 2 fleet retained a high level of operability throughout the exercise. Often working throughout the night until the early hours of the morning, Maint Tp proved once again the fundamental value and importance of maintenance support to an armoured Sqn.

Following the successful conclusion of Ex CG 18, C Sqn enjoyed a restful and relaxing break over the holidays. Returning in January, the Sqn once again focused on core qualifications and ran both a TLAV Driver course, and another Leopard 2 Gunnery course. The gunnery course demonstrated the level of professionalism and competence inherent to the Sqn as we supported the DP1.1 Armoured Troop Leader course of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School, and the development of the next generation of Armoured officers.

The training year concluded with an immensely



rewarding winter exercise, Ex FROZEN DRAGOON in February 2019. Over the course of three days, C Sqn deployed to the field to learn the basics of winter survival. Following a helicopter insertion and simulated crash, members of C Sqn were taught how to build improvised shelters that could help them survive the night. This lesson was listened to quite closely as the soldiers spent a night in the shelters they built themselves. Lessons on ice fishing and snaring completed the survival skills training and culminated in a lesson from Master Corporal Tommy Coulombe in the proper methods to skin, dress, and cook a rabbit. Finally, the tankers of C Sqn exited their comfort zone a little by deploying on dismounted reconnaissance patrols where the importance of stealth was taught to soldiers habituated to destroying all enemy they encounter.

2018/2019 was an extremely satisfying and successful training year as C Sqn adapted to a high leadership turnover and went through several challenging exercises. The hard work of all Sqn personnel throughout all tasks and training has set the Sqn and the Regt up for success in future endeavours. C Sqn looks forward to continuing its high standard of training as it enters the Road to High Readiness for FY 2019/2020.











## D SQUADRON

Last year saw a paradigm shift in the employment of D Sqns it redefined itself as the Combat Support Squadron of the Regiment. With the newly appointed squadron leadership team of Major Steve Boire and Warrant Officer Raymond Power, D Sqn would be home to the Battle Group Reconnaissance Troop lead by Lieutenant Avery Burke and Warrant Officer Brian Chaytor, MUAS Troop Lead by Sgt Steve Rice, Signals Troop lead Captain Matt Fleet and Warrant Officer Andrea Cote, an operations sections lead by Captain Jean-Francois Blondeau-Forget and Warrant Officer Shannon O'Neal. In the background the squadron was supported by Warrant Officer Anthony Edmunds and MCpl Anthony Tan forming the core of the Squadron's Quartermaster section. As the months progressed, Combat Support Troop was stood up, amalgamating MUAS Troop with an assault section and direct fire section lead by Lieutenant Avery Burke, handing over her responsibilities as 60 Troop Leader to Lt Jon Boudreau.

D Sqn's first collective activity was adventure training in the White Water Region of the Upper Ottawa Valley. Some 30 soldiers navigated the

challenging waters of the Ottawa River in guided raft tours over the course of 24 hours greatly increasing team cohesion. As personnel deployed to TF Latvia and TF Ukraine returned to work, the bulk of the Sqn began the fall training period which saw D Sqn participating in Terry Fox Run/Bde Sports Day, the Iron Warrior Challenge, competitions for the Right of Line Challenge, IBTS stands, and the Sqn supporting Ex COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT running the Basic Training Stand. Ex WALKING DRAGOON 18, conducted in the early weeks of October, saw D Sqn and the Operations Section of RHQ fuse to form the RCD Battle Group HQ and begin trialing innovative procedures in operations, sustainment, staffing, and planning. Key lessons for every level of command were highlighted and would pay dividends in future employment of the BG HQ. Concurrently, 60 Troop and MUAS troop deployed into the Petawawa training area to conduct crew, patrol, and troop level training. Ex WALKING DRAGOON 18 also saw the Tactical Armored Patrol Vehicle (TAPV) being employed in earnest by 60, MUAS, and SHQ. Crews trialed novel procedures of loading, camouflaging, manoeuvring, and fighting the vehicle in a training setting. SOPs were developed and shortcomings were overcome.



Following an outstanding Leliefontein week, that included a fair weather parade and an excellent All Ranks Gala, D Sqn travelled for the first time to Perth, Ontario as part of the Remembrance Day Celebrations. Hosted by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 244, D Sqn paraded in downtown Perth then spent a few hours visiting the Legion Museum and interacting with Canadian veterans and their families.

In Mid-November D Sqn deployed for two weeks in the Upper Ottawa Valley and Petawawa Training area on Ex CHARGING DRAGOON 18. Ex CHARGING DRAGOON 18 had two distinct phases: the first week of this exercise was focused on squadron and regimental manoeuvres while the second week saw candidates from the Reserve Armoured Reconnaissance Squadron Commanders Course take control of A Sqn as part of the course's FTX. Throughout, D Sqn provided a HICON, EXCON, and BG HQ for the candidates; 60 Troop was attached to A Sqn. The rest of 2018, saw the Sqn completing crew and patrol level live fire during Ex SABOT DRAGOON I, take part in the Regimental Festive Week, and go off on a well deserve Holiday Leave.

The months of January and February saw D Sqn, and the Regiment at large, look inwardly and complete the first wave of PCF courses for 2019, to include: MLVW Dvr, MUAS Operator, LAV 6.0 Driver and LAV 6.0 Gunner. D Sqn and the BG HQ deployed to the Petawawa Training Area in support of Ex CHARGING DRAGOON II, as a recently stood back up B Sqn completed its Sqn level validation. Following March Break, D Sqn deployed and supported Ex SABOT DRAGOON II, a level 3 live fire range at J-Tower. In the mid-to late Spring, as part of a Regimental effort, all elements of D Sqn were deployed to fight the floods in the Ottawa Valley as part of Operation LENTUS, supporting communities in Constance Bay, Armitage, Wilola Beach, and Pembroke.

Concurrent to the end of Op LENTUS, the Regiment prepared for the second volley of PCF course with D Sqn planning and executing the TAPV RWS course and with soldiers as students on the 25mm Gnr course and LAV 6.0 Gnr Conv course. The training year ended with D Sqn executing a small arms course prior to going on Summer Leave.







## HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

This past year saw Headquarters Squadron continue to build upon skills and lessons learned in the previous year to become more efficient in the provision of combat service support to The Regiment in both the field and garrison, the pivotal task of the Squadron. With this saw the change over of many dedicated officers which only aided in the Squadron's growth and development. In summer of 2018, Maj Summerfield moved on to JPSC, allowing Capt Dan Stephan to once again assume the role of Acting OC alongside the new SQ and Acting Sergeant Major WO Trubela.

Summer leave seemed fast and furious for those on the ground as it ended with The Regiment rolling right into Individual Battle Task Standards training. This saw the new AO/Acting 2IC HQ, Capt Jenny Silmsen, running the CBRN stands, the Maintenance Officer, Capt Robert Kilpatrick, RSO of the grenade range, and the bulk of Transport Tp supporting the movement of The Regiment and ammunition to and from the ranges. The support provided to the Regiment during this period was two-fold, providing crucial support to the achievement of IBTS and also building Squadron standard operating procedure. This set

the Squadron in a great position to prepare for Exercise WALKING DRAGON.

Exercise WALKING DRAGON was a great learning opportunity and return to the basics for HQ Squadron, having not deployed to the field to provide combat service support since Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE 17. The Squadron deployed to the Petawawa Ranges and Training area for over a week to brush off the cobwebs and cement their drills. The Squadron focused on operating the Command Post, coordinating sustainment and supply requests, maintaining local defense, as well as handling casualties and detainees. Transport Troop (Tpt Tp) had the opportunity to conduct resupply to other Squadron Echelons as well as take part in training with 2 Service Battalion as part of Exercise SKILLED SUSTAINER. This exercise saw the blending of the Service Battalion field SOPs with our own to streamline resupply operations. Maintenance Troop deployed to the field for the duration, focusing on their basic skills as well as testing their ability to conduct recovery and repairs in a field situation. Joining HQ Squadron for this exercise were the Military Police who built a Brigade sized detainee handling camp and



taught field practice lessons on the procedures of dealing with detainees.

In October 2018, the Squadron was placed under the leadership of Major Mitch Atkinson and MWO Steve Slade, who had recently returned from expeditionary operations. They hit the ground running as the Squadron deployed once again on mass in support of the Regiment and the Armoured Reconnaissance Squadron Commander Courses on Exercise CHARGING DRAGOON which took place throughout the Ottawa Valley. HQ Squadron was based out of Renfrew where they were able to test the limits of their lines of supply by conducting vehicle recovery, repair and resupply from Petawawa to Renfrew. Throughout, the Food Services Section ensured that The Regiment was fed, with fresh rations being provided daily. The busy exercise allowed the Squadron to shake out and overcome the challenges of sustaining a dispersed unit.

November saw a brief pause to participate and support Leliefontein celebrations. This year saw the reinvigoration of the All Ranks Gala spearheaded by the Tpt O, Capt Phil Trimble, which was an event to remember. Following Leliefontein the Squadron moved into a focused maintenance period in support of the Regiment's fleet and prepared for the Christmas block leave period.

Returning from much deserved leave, HQ Squadron hit the ground running again. They supported the IRU no notice call out where members of IRU marched in negative forty weather to BRAVO range. Next on the docket was Exercise FROZEN DRAGOON with A Squadron seeing the more junior members completing their basic winter warfare.

In February, the Regiment ran an Armoured Reconnaissance Patrol Commander course where HQ Squadron once again got the chance to test the skills they had developed over the fall training period when they deployed to the field, this time in winter, to conduct vehicle recovery, repairs, resupply, and provide food services. This exercise rolled into Exercise SABOT DRAGOON, where Tpt Tp was able to work with elements from 2 Service Battalion for live convoy ranges and small arms pairs ranges.

The Squadron was looking for a bit of a breather

and chance to get caught up on dedicated maintenance when The Regiment deployed on Operation LENTUS 19-01 in April to support flood relief in the Ottawa Valley. HQ Squadron supported the Regimental deployment by providing essential logistical support to the troops aiding the local population. With forward elements staged out of the Connaught ranges, the Squadron was kept busy transporting sand bags, troops, and supplies throughout the area. Simultaneously, the Cook section was kept busy providing fresh rations to the deployed troops. HQ Squadron personnel were instrumental in ensuring the troops at the front lines fighting the floods had the necessary supplies and support to get things done.

The Squadron saw a brief reprieve following Operation LENTUS and participated in the Freedom of the Town of Petawawa Parade in June. The Squadron also showcased their vehicles as The Regiment paraded through the town, including several recovery vehicles and trucks, for the people of Petawawa to admire.

Throughout the busy year HQ Squadron carried out their mandate with professionalism and dedication, ensuring The Regiment was effectively supported through all of its training and tasks. As The Regiment moves onto the Road to High Readiness, there is no doubt that HQ Squadron will continue to be busy providing unparalleled combat service support to The Regiment.







## A TROOPER'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE

# TAPV

by Tpr McKenna, 2 Troop, B Sqn

The Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV) is the Regiment's newest addition to our fleet of armoured vehicles. The vehicle has some of the most state of the art equipment on board including the TAPV Information System (TIS) and the Remote Weapons System (RWS). From my perspective, it is a welcome technological change from the older Coyote. It allows Drivers, Gunners, Operators and Crew Commanders to better understand and identify any faults with the vehicle that could leave it operationally ineffective. The TAPV displays any faults on the TIS and has a highly effective heater which is nice to have on a cold day!

I believe that the TAPV is a vehicle that excels in the role it was designed for; the movement and protection of personnel in hostile zones where small arms fire and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are a threat. The "V" shape of the hull pushes explosive force away from the crew areas. It is equipped with front bins, a fuel tank, and tires that disengage in the event of an IED strike to lessen the concussive force to the crew compartment. The RWS provides the operator with the ability to remotely combat any dug-in hostiles making it one of the safest vehicles to be in. The vehicle's ability to quietly and easily manoeuvre into new positions, makes it a more dangerous threat to the enemy due to the diesel engine being deceptively quiet making it much harder to detect when mobile or stationary.

Being significantly different from our older fleet of armour vehicles, the TAPV has required





readjustment of crew SOPs and drills to make best use of the vehicle. The commander's ability to have a full 360 degree view is restricted and the Operator has a much more active role in helping manoeuvre the vehicle with the commander. The weapons system, although great for engaging dug in personnel is challenging to operate in hides due to its overall height. The operator must also expose himself in order to reload the C16 and C6 which could be difficult depending on the situation the crew finds itself in. Finally, the high centre of gravity means that drivers must be diligent when moving over rough terrain to lessen the risk of rollover.

Overall, I believe the TAPV is a good vehicle and when used properly can be effective in a variety of roles. I am confident over time and with experience, the TAPV will be a great asset for the Regiment as we continue to improve our drills and doctrine for this vehicle.













March 2018 saw Dragoons deploy as a Task Force (TF) across the Atlantic once again. This time under the command of LCol Fraser Auld as the Task Force Commander (TFC) and CWO James Hebert, forming Rotation 5 of Operation UNIFIER, Canada's military contribution to Ukraine, which had been embattled in a pro-Russian separatist insurgency since 2014. The mandate saw some 200 Canadian soldiers rotate into the country in various roles and locations. The focus was on increasing the capability of Ukrainian Security Forces to enable enduring reforms. The brunt of the operation was situated out of the International Peacekeeping and Security Center (IPSC), located in Yavoriv on the country's Western border, more than 1,000 kms from the conflict zone.

One of the largest efforts was Line of Effort 1 (LoE 1), a mix of RCR and RCD soldiers who were embedded with Ukrainian battalions as they rotated through the IPSC, completing battle task standards and reconstituting for their next deployment into the country's East. Their mission was the core element of Op UNIFIER as they faced the arduous task of mentoring soldiers who had just returned from an active combat zone. While

initially, some of the Primary Training Audience (PTA) questioned the ability of the Canadians, who hadn't seen combat since Afghanistan, through the direct mentorship on small arms training, field craft, combat first aid, and through the efforts of the attached armoured team, the Ukrainians quickly realized the opportunities available to them and worked to expand their skill set with the Canadians who brought valuable knowledge and lessons learned to the table.

Not all Dragoons were destined for the field however. The RCD Chief Clerk Sgt Caroline Allison led the Orderly Room (OR) along with a mix of Dragoons and reserve augmentees. They ensured claims, pay, and admin operated smoothly at all times. Never a quiet moment in the OR, the clerks often worked extended hours facilitating cash advances, helping members with leave issues, completing Temporary Assistance Visit paperwork, ordering medals, and booking flights and accommodations for all travelling mission staff. Next door at the TF Command Center (TFCC), aside from the command team, several Dragoons made up the HQ element. TF Ops and J3, the Liaison Officer (LO) to General Staff and

the LO to the American led Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine, J1, Padre, KO, maintainers, weapons techs, and the Signals team all hailed from the RCD family. They formed the backbone of TF support and facilitated the operation of LoEs and the command team throughout the deployment.

The command team frequently travelled from the IPSC to various outstations, meeting with Ukrainian officials, other NATO members, or overseeing training initiatives. One of the largest improvements during Roto 5 was the Senior NCO program being implemented with the National Guard of Ukraine (NGU). CWO Hebert alongside a handful of TF NCOs communicated the importance of empowering senior enlisted members to advise and work alongside the officers and close the gap, which was a carryover from Soviet style doctrine. This saw strong advancements throughout the rotation and has no doubt carried on since. This aimed to not only give the senior enlisted a stronger and more respected presence, but also help with retention, an issue which plagued the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU). On top of this achievement, the TF saw training improvements in Desna at the sniper school, as well as with the medics. The TFC oversaw a milestone event on 20 August in Kam'yanets'-Podil's'kyi when the Canadian Engineer team transitioned full responsibility for the planning and execution of the "Improvised Explosive Device Disposal" training program over to the AFU.

At the end of each day, the troops enjoyed a relatively comfortable camp routine compared to deployments in previous countries. Housed in hard shacks they had access to internet, gym facilities, a mess hall, and land line phones wired back home. After hours, a two drink limit was served at the Canada House which was a pair of two semi-permanent Mod tents outfitted with fridges, tables, TV's, and a variety of games and entertainment. The upkeep of this area was led by the camp Defense and Security (D&S) section. Comprised mostly of Dragoons, their primary task was to facilitate the transportation of TF members to various outstations, task locations, or the local airport situated in Lviv. However, ask any Dragoon and they'll tell you, more importantly, D&S ran and stocked the bar, maintained the entertainment equipment, ensured snacks were available

at Canada House, and sustained the highly coveted coffee machines which each brewed an estimated 900 cups per month. Potentially underrated, these tasks were arguably critical in mission success and greatly appreciated by all members of the TF.

September saw an increase in tempo as the TF wrapped up activities and welcomed soldiers of the Royal 22e Régiment as their successors. The Transfer of Command Authority was passed from Roto 5 to Roto 6 on the 24th of Sept and the remaining Dragoons were repatriated to Canada the next morning. A well-deserved break was enjoyed after such a busy deployment which saw large successes of varying degrees with the AFU, NGU, MPs, and other organizations. Fortunately, Ukrainians weren't the only students during the tour. Much was learned from the AFU who had experienced a new type of warfare in the Eastern zones. A hybrid conflict with a mix of insurgency, traditional warfare, cyber-attacks, and false information propagation all create new challenges for soldiers to understand and consider. JTF - U saw many strong bonds made between Dragoons and Ukrainians in what is a developing and very welcomed new partnership.



LCol Ault accepts Transfer of Authority of OP UNIFIER from RAdm Auchterlonie - Starychi, Ukraine. 17 March 2018

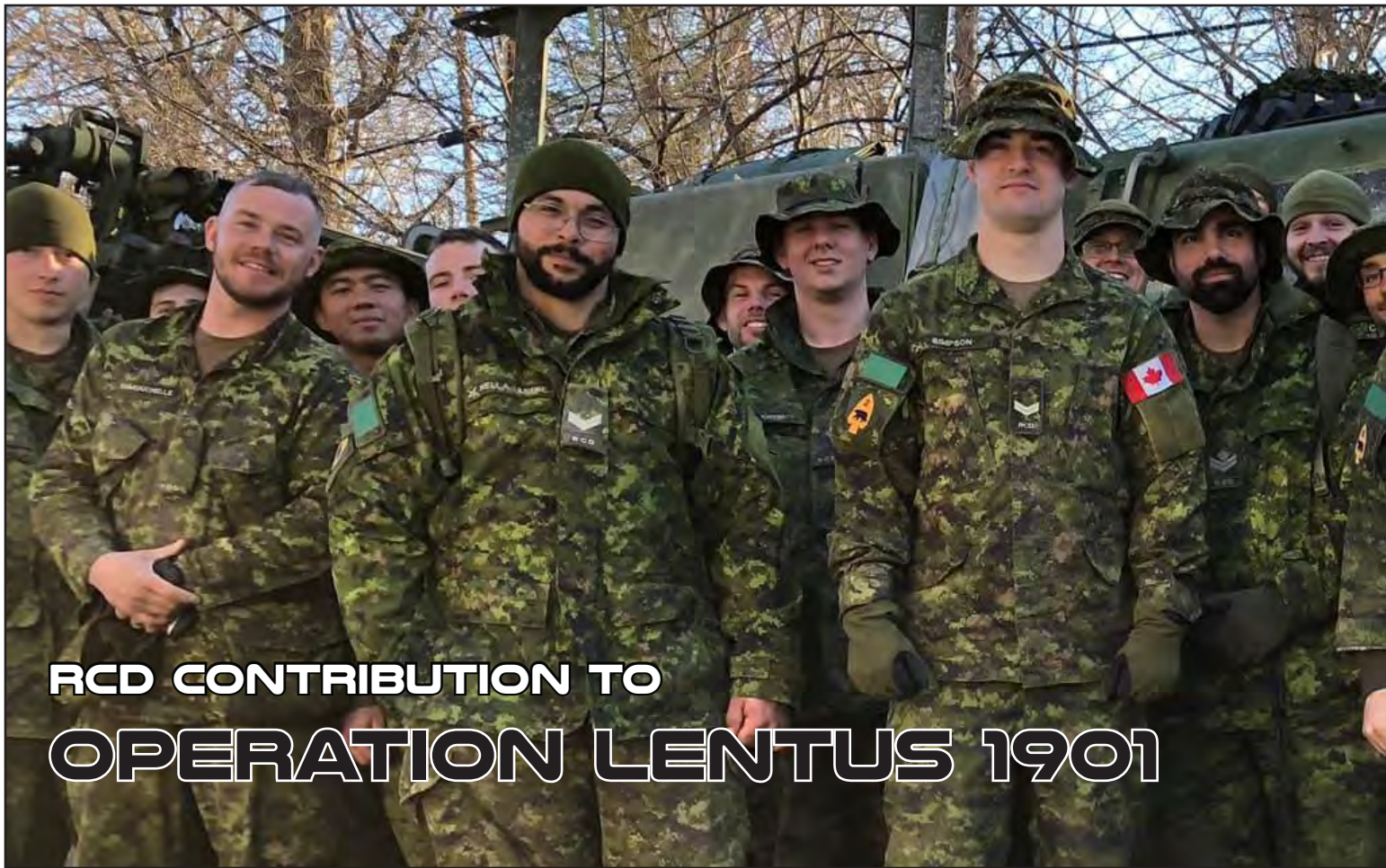












## RCD CONTRIBUTION TO OPERATION LENTUS 1901

The long winter and large snow pack coupled with a long spring resulted in much of Central and Eastern Ontario as well as Western Quebec having high waters levels and flooding in the spring of 2019. The Ottawa River in particular reached significant historical levels, breaking records of over 60 years, as a result there were many people's homes, properties, and critical infrastructure at risk.

In a year where one of the key focus points of Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group was readiness, the Royal Canadian Dragoons remained poised to conduct operations at home and abroad. The importance of readiness became apparent when on 25 April 2019, a Request for Assistance (RFA) from the Municipality of Ottawa was received by the Government of Canada to provide assistance to the flood relief efforts in the National Capital Region. At that moment, Operation LENTUS 1901 was activated within the Joint Task Force – Central's (JTF-C) Area of Operations (AO).

During this timeframe, The Regiment's mandate

was to provide the Follow-on-Force Company 1 (FoF Coy 1) in support of the 1st Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment (1 RCR) led Immediate Response Unit (IRU) for JTF-C AO. FoF Coy 1, commanded by Maj Kevin Wong and initially alongside WO Jay Dunnett and later MWO Chris Leblanc was truly a Regimental effort as it had personnel and equipment from nearly every Sqn in the Regiment. The 1st Troop, largely generated from B Sqn, was commanded by Lt Jon Boudreau alongside MCpl Shawn Hatfield. The 2nd Troop, based on A Sqn, commanded by Lt Teegan Martin alongside WO Darren Ferrie. The 3rd Troop, based on D Sqn, commanded by Lt Avery Burke alongside MCpl Ben Jerome, while the Sqn echelon was generated largely from HQ Sqn in order to provide the CSS element to the Sqn.

Following the indications of the impending RFA, notice to moves began to reduce for the coming deployment. Regimental staff and key leadership began planning the coordination and logistical requirements of attaching the Sqn to the 1st Bn who were already forward deployed





to Connaught Ranges and assisting the people of Constance Bay. The majority of the soldiers who were preparing to deploy, quickly began ensuring vehicle and personnel manifests were up to date before going home to verify their bug out gear and wait for the call to deploy.

On the morning of 26 April 2019, the Regiment reported for work at 0500hrs and the Sqn was rolling towards Connaught Ranges by 0730hrs in a road move alongside a Sqn of Engineers from 2 CER as the second FoF Coy, all of which was being controlled by Headquarters Sqn as the Movement Control Centre.

After arriving at the Connaught Ranges, where the 1 RCR IRU was being staged, the Sqn quickly received its orders and prepared itself to begin sandbagging operations in the West Carleton area. The first location the Sqn deployed to was Constance Bay, where The Duke's Company had already been working. Immediately after arriving and deconflicting terrain, the RCD soldiers began the task of assisting the residents of Constance

Bay in filling sandbags and building sandbag walls in order to protect homes and road networks from the rising waters of the Ottawa River.

Following two arduous days of work in Constance Bay, the Sqn was re-tasked to other communities in the West Carleton area. Now conducting more dispersed operations, 1st Troop was leading a massive sandbag filling site alongside civilian volunteers and city officials out of the Fitzroy Provincial Park while the 2nd and 3rd Troops were tasked to the communities of Armitage and Wilola Beach respectively to assist the residents whose homes were affected by the high water levels. The arrival of Canadian soldiers to these hard hit communities brought a calming and reassuring presence to the residents, many of whom were prepared to cut their losses and leave. The compassion, professionalism, and work ethic that Dragoons brought to this operation had an immediate and lasting effect while providing assistance to our fellow Canadians. For the Sqn, this deployment lasted a total of 9 days as orders for the redeployment came on the afternoon of





critical infrastructure such as the water treatment located on Garrison Petawawa.

Between the 1st and 10th of May, the RCD led IRU continued filling and stockpiling sandbags as well as delivering full sandbags to locations in support of the people whose houses were affected by the high waters. Additionally, as the 1 RCR led IRU was being reconstituted and their AO was being handed over to the Army Reserve's Domestic Response Company (DRC), the DRC became a direct reporting sub-unit to the RCD IRU force while deployed in support of flood relief efforts in the Renfrew area.



On the 11th of May, the RCD led IRU, received a task to assist the city of Pembroke, then still combatting the rising water levels. Elements of the RCD IRU deployed to Pembroke for the day in order to assist in sandbag filling, delivery, and protecting critical infrastructure in the area against rising waters. The DRC remained in the Renfrew/ Westmeath area until the end of May continuing to support the local residents with combatting the floods, which required command, control, and CSS elements from the Regiment to maintain their efforts.

the 4th of May and the Sqn deployed back to Petawawa that evening.

Concurrent to the operation that was ongoing in the West Carleton area, as the water continued to rise along the banks of the Ottawa River, the remainder of the Regiment and Brigade remained staged in Petawawa. A second IRU based on 3 RCR was activated and a third IRU with the RCD as the lead mounting Unit was stood up on the 29th of April 2019 and was assigned the AO of Petawawa/Pembroke.

The RCD IRU consisted of RHQ elements for Command and Control, a Vanguard Coy based on the remaining soldiers of B Sqn, commanded by Maj Adam Graham alongside WO Dustin Barnett, FoF Coy 1 from B Coy, 1 RCR, FoF Coy 2 from OJT Coy, 2 Svc Bn, and rounded off by HQ Sqn, providing the CSS element for the composite RCD IRU.

As soon as the third IRU within the Brigade was activated, sandbag filling commenced and on the 30th of April 2019, the RCD led IRU was tasked to begin building sandbag walls in order to protect

As the water levels began to recede and the emergency state in many of the local communities reduced, the force posture and number of deployed soldiers also began to decline. This continued until the only requirement for support was the employment of assault boats and crews with the task to assist local emergency services with wellness checks and being prepared to support the conduct of emergency evacuations as required, however, the Regiment as the lead mounting Unit for the Brigade's third IRU, did not fully cease its support to domestic operations until the 31st of May 2019.

In what started out as a deployment of a Sqn in support of flood relief efforts in the West Carleton area on the 25th of April 2019 and ended with the majority of the Regiment either having deployed or supported the conduct of Operation LENTUS 1901 until the end of May 2019. Throughout, The Royal Canadian Dragoons demonstrated their ability and professionalism during this domestic operation while supporting and assisting fellow Canadians in their time of need.







# IRON WARRIOR

## 2019





The 2019 RCD Iron Warrior team began training shortly after the summer Primary Combat Function (PCF) cycle in late June. As The Regiment was prepared to take on a wide range of tasks throughout the summer months, it was decided that a decentralized training schedule was the right approach for a successful team outcome. After consulting with the Petawawa Personnel Support Program staff and experienced team members across The Regiment, Master Corporal (MCpl) Jude Martin, the team captain, along with Lieutenant (Lt) Brendan Dunks, the regimental Office of Primary Interest, developed a training calendar to support competitors during individual squadron deployments. The training schedule was balanced between strength, endurance, resistance, and mobility training, which afforded the team flexibility to adapt their training based on the time available. Each squadron was assigned an OPI, who had direct access to all available training aides to include: their squadron nominal roll, the training schedule, The RCD Iron Warrior training route along Garrison Petawawa and the Ottawa River, and access to The Regimental canoes.

After canvassing The Regiment, initial interest in the event was very high and was balanced across all ranks. At every available opportunity, the team met for extended forced marches; attendance and performance were very promising. Leading up to the event, team members were supported by their respective leadership to participate in as much training as possible without disrupting The Regimental summer training cycle. Results of this were evident as many team members consistently saw critical improvements in their forced march, portage, and paddling times. At the culmination of training, well over 200 km were covered by forced marches, 40 km of portaging, and over 50 km of paddling were completed by most team members. The following was written by Trooper (Tpr) Grulms and Tpr Warden of B Squadron and reflects their personal experience during team training and the event itself.

"Iron Warrior 2019 was a physically and mentally demanding experience. From the start of training to the race itself, it was an immensely challenging task for both of us. We trained with our team for over three months; which included weighted ruck runs, portages, and canoeing almost every week. The training was difficult; however, we

believed it prepared us for the race quite well. Our leadership, who had completed the race before, gave us many tips that helped us succeed during the race. Our training pushed us to our physical limits, and in the end, helped us reach our goals.

Over the course of our three-month training program, we made great strides in improving our physical endurance and mental resilience, which proved to be our strengths on race day. The transitions between stages of the event were challenging, but the adrenaline carried us through, especially after the portage.

Successfully completing the race and crossing the finish line with the dragoon flag waving was a monumental experience. It was a relief at the finish line, when we could sit down and take our rucks off. Pickles and candy, provided by PSP, fueled our emotional finish.

Next year, we both know what we can work on to improve our times as we draw from our experiences during the race. With some minor improvements to our personal training and race day strategies, we are sure to surpass our goals yet again. We were proud represent B Squadron and the Dragoons during this year's race and look forward to next year!"

Over 45 members of The Regiment participated and completed in the event with some outstanding results. Tpr Organ of A Squadron finished sixth overall among male competitors and Lt Burke of D Squadron won the female competitor category. Many competitors achieved their personal best times among repeat performers and most first time participants surpassed their goals for completion times. Along with exceptional personal results the 2019 RCD Iron Warrior team finished third among major units. This was a phenomenal accomplishment as it was our highest team finish in over a decade, thanks to fastest Dragoon team ever assembled. MCpl Martin led the charge as the team captain pushing all competitors to their absolute best. We were Bold and Swift!













For Dragoon Officers posted on regimental strength and ERE Dragoon Officers posted to Petawawa, The Centurion Room Officers' Mess (The Cent Room) continued to be the social rallying point in 2018-19. The Cent Room is home to morning coffee, informal social events, official dinners, and where Dragoons host guests when they visit The Regiment. Cent Room activities, in all shapes and sizes, continue to strengthen our bond as Officers, while at the same time allowing its' membership to socialize in a less formal setting. It's management may have changed hands a few times, from Maj Steve Boire to Maj Mitch Atkinson as PMC and Capt Dan Stephan and Capt Jenny Silmser as Secretary, it was always in good hands and the events each team tackled left their mark. The constant social juggernaut was the Cent Room's Treasurer, Capt Phil Trimble, who kept the fridge stocked with Springbok Blond Ale from Whitewater Brewing Co. and the chips piled high.

The Cent Room played a major part in planning and executing several significant events this year. Firstly, the Leliefontein Mess Dinner, our Regiment's annual homecoming event, was a mixed-combined mess dinner with a record attendance: two hundred and fifty six guests, which included Officers, Senior NCOs, extended Regimental

Family and spouses enjoyed an amazing meal from Ulrich's and the warm embrace of the Regimental Family.

Secondly, The Cent Room executive, enabled by its membership, planned and executed The Petawawa Black Hat Mess Dinner. Once again we were honoured to be joined by our Army Reserve Comrades from across Ontario, our American counterparts from the 3-71 Cav and our fellow serving Armoured Corps brothers and sisters from the Kingston/Ottawa/Petawawa area. The dinner was an excellent time where those of us who wear the black beret gather to look back over the past year's adventures with another meal from Ulrich's that does not let anyone down.

As we look back on the times we have gathered together, the laughs we have shared and the many tournaments of darts played, we all take comfort in knowing that the bonds created within the Centurion Room will last a lifetime.

## The Centurion Room.









During the 2018/19 season, the RCD Sgt Holland Room (HR) was very active in hosting, supporting and coordinating multiple important events for the Regiment. This included hosting the RSM's coffee at the beginning of the APS 2018 posting cycle, in order to appropriately welcome the newly posted members into Sgt HR. Members were presented with the Sgt HR coin, a recent tradition that signifies the importance of our responsibilities as Snr NCOs at the Regiment.

There were also various mess dinners to include assisting the Centurion Room with the annual Leliefontein mixed combined dining in, which is always a pleasure to attend with our greater Regimental family. The Sgt HR also welcomed the future generation of Snr NCOs into our mess with the annual MCpl training mess dinner, a very important event in our annual sequence. The staff and Snr NCOs of the Sgt HR put on a carefully crafted event with appropriate training to ensure the MCpls of the Regiment understood our very important customs, traditions and responsibilities, as they form the bedrock of our culture.

The Regimental Officers hosted the Snr NCOs of the HR for the annual at home during the holiday season. It was a fun and welcoming event that provided both the Officers and Snr NCOs of the Regiment with a welcomed opportunity to break

bread and share some holiday cheer.

Another highlight of the Sgt HR, was hosting the reception for our liberation of Leeuwarden parade. A very significant event that included the attendance of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Ambassador to Canada, Henk Van der Zwan and Mr. (Tpr) Don White, that was present for the actual liberation of Leeuwarden during the Second World War.

Our newly promoted Sgts also had the opportunity to be welcomed into our mess during the annual shining into the Sgt HR. An important tradition that highlights our history and heritage, while reinforcing our ethos and values as Snr NCOs for the both the RCD and CAF.

Our final event during the 2018/19 season, was recognising the hard work and dedication that the members of the Sgt HR contributed to the Regiment during the year with our annual mug-outs. This provided the appropriate venue to correctly thank our posted Snr NCOs for their contributions to our successful year.

I would be remised if I did not acknowledge the passion and dedication that the VPMC; Lt (WO) Fenton and Sgt HR staff; Sgts Morrison, Hackworth, Lundrigan, Mitchell, Young, Bigney, Rice and

## The Sgt Holland Room.



Makkinje provided for all events both within the Sgt HR, and overall throughout the Regiment. It was truly a pleasure to work alongside such a dedicated and passionate group of Snr NCOs.

With the 2018/19 season having now passed, the care and custodianship of our precious Sgt HR has been now entrusted to the new PMC and VPMC; MWO Keith and WO Whitehead, along with their staff.







# RCD CADETS



*To develop in youth the attributes of good citizenship and leadership;  
promote physical fitness; and stimulate the interest of youth in the sea,  
land, and air activities of the Canadian Forces*

2332 Major E.J.G. Holland V.C. Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps (RCACC) had a highly productive training year which began on September 5th, 2018.

Every year, the Cadets of 2332 RCACC assist both the Bells Corner and Barrhaven Legions in the Poppy Campaign, and this year we raised over \$36,000. The cadets also participated in several Remembrance Week ceremonies including the First Poppy Ceremony at Rideau Hall, Veterans Affairs Candlelight Vigil at Centre Pointe Theatre, and numerous Legion mess dinners. On Remembrance Day, our Cadets attended parades at both legions and stood guard at both Cenotaphs.

We also celebrated our 70th anniversary this

year by performing a trooping of the Colours. The Reviewing Officer was Colonel Paul Fleury, Deputy Commander National Cadet and Junior Canadian Rangers Support Group. In attendance were former Cadets, Officers, parents and special invited guests including our Mayor, Jim Watson, the Honourable David McGuinty, OPP Deputy Commissioner Gary Couture and representatives from our affiliated Units. The Corps also hosted a gala which reunited former Cadets, Officers, and other guests.

This year, 2332 RCACC was awarded the prestigious Colonel John H.C. Clarry Trophy for Top Large Army Cadet Corps in Ontario. This is an annual award by the Army Cadet League and the winner is selected based on a point system which accounts for a number of criteria including:



interesting and effective training, attendance, team participation, retention rate, and strength – all relative to the size of the Corps community and Unit efficiency. We have also been the recipient of the Lord Strathcona Award for Top Large Cadet Corps in the Ottawa/St-Lawrence area.

This training year, our Cadets participated in three field training exercises (FTXs): Operation Premier Craft in the fall, Operation Return to Jungle Snow in the winter, and Operation Greener Pastures in the spring.

The spring FTX took place in Garrison Petawawa, where the training was focused on meeting one of the aims of the Cadet program: Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) familiarization. From rain to overcast to snow to sun, the cadets persevered through it all to grow as individuals, and as a team. They learned about radio procedures, environmental stewardship, survival skills, and face painting practices. Due to the hard work of former 2332 RCACC Cadets, Cpl Bergeron and MCpl Ahronson, the Cadets were able to meet many CAF members and see valuable relics at the Petawawa Garrison Museum. In the process, we were able to strengthen our relationship with our affiliated Units.

Every year, 2332 RCACC competes in orienteering, biathlon, marksmanship, band and drill competitions. The cadets attend weekly practices, demonstrating commitment and determination, which was evident in their performance at the competitions.

This year, we had one male and one female orienteering team, as well as two individual cadets. The competitors completed a new course at Wesley Clover Park where they applied their physical training and knowledge of orienteering theory to accomplish some of their best times!

The biathlon team had their most successful competition season to date. At the area level competition, our two teams took both 1st and 2nd places and placed first in their individual categories. These results earned all four athletes the opportunity to compete at the Regional Biathlon Competition in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. There, MCpl Tibbles and Cpl Morris placed in the top ten, and Sgt Sardelis placed in the top

five. MWO Hayden placed 3rd to move on and compete at the National Biathlon Competition in Brookvale, Prince Edward Island for the 3rd year in a row. After three races at the national level, MWO Hayden finished 5th in the individual 7.5 km mass start race, 2nd in the 4.5 km patrol race, and 1st in the relay race. The biathlon team demonstrated incredible perseverance, teamwork and overall performance.

After not placing at last year's drill competition, the drill team was more determined than ever to win first place. Under the coaching of Civilian Instructor Arnaud Jean-Louis, and the command of their team captain, CWO Johnathan Ethier, they practiced their drill tirelessly for 6 months to prepare for the competition. All their hard work was rewarded! The team won the Ottawa St-Lawrence Area (OSLA) Drill Competition that took place in Carleton Place on May 4th 2019. Adding to the success of the team, CWO Ethier was awarded Top Team Captain. The team then represented OSLA at the regional competition which took place in CFB Borden on May 25th.

The band competed for their second time at the OSLA Band and Drill Competition. Lead by Drum Major, WO Francis-William, they performed their best and were awarded Best Dressed Band at the competition. They impressed the crowd by performing hits such as Ed Sheeran's Perfect and Hey Brother by Avicii, while also paying tribute to their Royal Canadian Dragoons lineage with their Regimental marches: Light of Foot and Monsieur Beaucaire.

This is only a brief overview of our accomplishments, highlights, and successes in the past year. Everything we do would not be possible without the generous support of one of our affiliated Units, the Royal Canadian Dragoons. As the year draws to an end, 2332 RCACC looks forward to another outstanding year of accomplishments and successes which bears true to our motto - we will only get stronger!



# In Memoriam



Cpl Derek Wright