



The Royal Canadian Dragoons  
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3 November 2022

Greetings to all Dragoons across the country and in many parts of the world, both serving and retired! My hope is that this letter finds you all well and enjoying the fall season. As we are quickly approaching another celebration of Leliefontein, it is fitting that I provide an update on what the Regiment has been up to and what we can expect in the near future. As with every year, one thing remains - things are busy at the Regiment!

Following the Change of Command at the end of June, the Regiment enjoyed some weeks of leave before returning to work after the August long weekend and jumping back into training. Achieving a high level of readiness for the CONTINGENCY phase of the Canadian Army's Managed Readiness Plan (MRP) was the first priority and as such the focus was on conducting numerous Primary Combat Function (PCF) courses including LAV 6 Driver/Gunner, Leopard Driver/Gunner, TAPV Driver/Gunner, various courses for the crews of the Regiment's many support vehicles, in order to get soldiers qualified on new platforms and weapons systems. Concurrent to this, squadrons also conducted Individual Battle Task Standard (IBTS) training to renew basic soldier skills in personal weapons handling/shooting proficiency, navigation, and field craft, bringing them to a level of readiness required for a deployment.

In the latter half of August, many Dragoons also supported the Army Reserve (ARes) training concentration in Petawawa named CAMP WORTHY, which this year was focused on TAPV training. This two week training package proved to be a huge success as it trained Reservists from across Ontario to be TAPV Remote Weapons System (RWS) Operators and Drivers, while also repairing their TAPVs so they could be sent back to the regiments for follow on training. Much of the credit for this success is due to the Dragoon Instructors, Maintainers, Cooks, Logisticians, and Operations staff that supported the everyday running of the training, and to the efforts of Dragoon Captain Phil Trimble, Operations Officer for Governor General Horse Guards, who pulled everything together from the ARes side. This was but another example of Reserve and Regular Force synergy reinforcing the ONE Army concept.

The focus on individual training was soon followed by collective training in the September/October timeframe. Both A and B Squadrons each conducted virtual shake out exercises before heading out to the field to conduct their own troop level shake outs. The regimental and squadron headquarters were then exercised using simulation during Ex VIRTUAL DRAGOON before the Regiment headed out to the field for Ex WALKING/CHARGING DRAGOON in the Petawawa training area. This exercise saw the squadrons conduct two days of training before falling under the regimental headquarters and Commanding Officer to operate as a cavalry battle group. The exercise culminated with a battle group attack that brought together many of the new skills and lessons learned during the course of the week.

In C Squadron, tank availability limited a lot of the troop level shake outs to a virtual setting, though the joint exercise with 2 RCR, Ex ROYAL FORGE, eventually got the squadron

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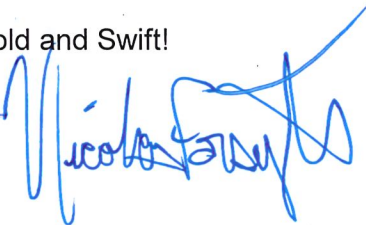
in the field as it focused on combined arms training at the combat team level to prepare for the Combat Team Commander Course (CTCC). Despite having to use LAV 6s as “wheeled tanks” for two of its troops, C Squadron quickly integrated itself with 2 RCR’s companies and performed exceptionally well. This high standard of performance continued on to the CTCC, where the squadron conducted combat team attack after combat team attack for over two weeks to support student learning and provide the best example of how a tank squadron operates in a combat team. By the end of the exercise, they had earned the praise of Commanding Officer 2 RCR up to the Division Commander!

Outside of training, the Regiment was able to return to extra-curricular activities like sports as the COVID19 restrictions were lifted. Not missing a beat following their dominance of OLYMPIAN BEAR the previous winter, the regimental teams brought their competitive spirit to the playing field and were soon champions of the slow pitch, beach volleyball and soccer leagues. The Regiment also fielded a large IRON WARRIOR team, which saw 5 competitors place in the top 20 for the competition, and the team placing 2<sup>nd</sup> overall for the major units!

Despite having had a great fall so far, the Regiment has much to look forward to in the near future. While a resurgence in COVID has affected our ability to celebrate the 122<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the action at Leliefontein with the wider Regimental Family, we are looking forward to 9 December, when Her Excellency The Governor General of Canada will be presenting the Regiment with its 5<sup>th</sup> Guidon in a ceremony at Y-137. This type of ceremony only occurs once in a generation and as such a great deal of effort is going into the preparations. On both occasions, we hope to see many of you return to Petawawa to celebrate with us.

In closing, Dragoons in Petawawa and Gagetown continue to strive for excellence in their training in order to prepare themselves for the operational tasks that will come as part of the COMMITTED phase beginning in summer 2023. They continue to push through the adversity of vehicle availability and personnel shortages due to tasks to build strong, cohesive teams that are capable of operating across the spectrum of conflict and proving once again why The RCD is home to the best armoured soldiers and officers in the Canadian Army.

Bold and Swift!



N.B. Forsyth  
Lieutenant-Colonel  
59<sup>th</sup> Commanding Officer  
The Royal Canadian Dragoons