



The Royal Canadian Dragoons  
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15 April 2024

Dragoons and members of the Regimental Family,

The year 2024 is in full swing as the Regiment looks towards what will be a very busy BUILD year starting this Summer. That said, I wanted to take some time to provide an update on what the Regiment has been up to over the last 5 months to highlight the outstanding work of the soldiers and leaders of this team.

Leliefontein 24 saw the return of all major events to include the Mixed-Combined Mess Dinner, Parade, and Soldiers' Gala. The Dragoon team was happy to see the return of the extended regimental family to these events to celebrate this historic day together. As the focus returned to training, the Regiment conducted Ex RESILIENT DRAGOON in late November to improve soldier resiliency ahead of another deployment window. This Warrior Support/Health Promotions-supported training saw experts in these fields deliver briefings and run breakout groups to give soldiers the tools to face difficult situations. It also included a tough PSP-run CO's PT to ensure all ranks shared a good work out together. As the Regiment prepared for holiday leave, we wished good luck to C Squadron and the Recce Troop (C/S 42) from D Squadron as they deployed to Latvia as part of the enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup for Op REASSURANCE. This would be the first operational deployment of a tank squadron since Afghanistan, and C Squadron's last hurrah on the beasts before beginning its conversion to Medium Cavalry.

Following some well-deserved Holiday leave, the Regiment was back at it, running multiple serials of the Cold Weather Operator course followed shortly after by Winter Warfare. In Petawawa, this saw A and D Squadron hone their winter warfighting internally, followed by a dynamic force on force that pitted them against each other. The RSM and I also managed to get to Gagetown to partake in C Squadron (rear)'s winter warfare, testing their defensive position at night as the Enemy Force. In early February, the Regiment wished the Op UNION team from A Squadron good luck as they deployed to Poland to take the mission over from B Squadron, who had been deployed since September 2023.

End February-early March saw a contingent of Dragoons deploy to Ft Moore, Georgia for Ex WORTHY PERSICA 24, a Reserve-led exercise that would train troops and squadrons in a simulated environment using the American Close Combat Tactical Trainers (CCTTs). These simulators replicate the inside of an Abrams tank or Bradley fighting vehicle and provided all 184 participants, of which 46 were Dragoons, with an outstanding training opportunity short of being in the field. Much of the credit for the exercise's success belongs to Major Phil Trimble, A/OC D Squadron, for his outstanding planning and coordination efforts on behalf of the Reservists and Regiment. The return from the US was soon followed by March Break and Ex OLYMPIAN BEAR, the brigade sports competition. As has been the case in the past, the Regiment's teams battled hard and earned the RCD 2<sup>nd</sup> place amongst all units.

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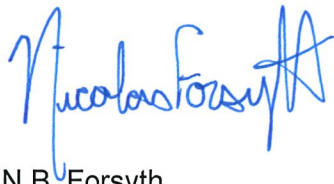
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As we shift to celebrating Leeuwarden on April 15<sup>th</sup>, which will be marked with a small parade attended by representatives of the Dutch Embassy, I wanted to highlight some of the Guild of the RCD's major contributions to the soldiers of the Regiment, which will be recognized following the parade. Over the past years, the Guild has provided funding to purchase equipment for the RCD gym, and most recently, buy appliances as part of major RCD canteen renovation that was conducted by CANSOF Engineers. As such, the Regiment will be holding "official opening" ceremonies for both locations to recognize the impact the Guild is having at the Regiment.

In closing, the tempo at the Regiment continues to remain high and will only increase as we enter the BUILD year. We currently have many soldiers deployed and proudly representing the Regiment and Canada, with another group preparing and excited to get over when the time comes. As always, the dedication and professionalism of our soldiers is second to none and representative of the values that have formed the foundation of this Regiment since its creation.

Bold and Swift!



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