



The Royal Canadian Dragoons
Worthington Barracks
Garrison Petawawa
PO Box 9999 Station Main
Petawawa, ON K8H 2X3

21 July 2025

Dear Dragoons and members of the Regimental Family,

As we reflect on our first year as your unit command team, we note how deeply proud we are of the extraordinary dedication and professionalism shown by both members and friends of the Regiment. The six months since our last update have demonstrated the outstanding tactical skill, the motivation to improve and succeed, and the persistent spirit with which our people face each challenge.

The diverse and evolving nature of our current climate and security environment demand that we remain well-informed, agile, and importantly, ready to deploy. Domestically, we are monitoring the development of natural emergencies nation-wide, as we will retain lead responsibility for the Immediate Response Unit (IRU) under Joint Task Force Central (JTFC) until late Spring, 2026. Climatic shifts, combined with the current operational tempo of the Canadian Army (CA) make us aware that we may be asked to rapidly deploy personnel and resources to assist with providing response to natural disasters or other emergencies anywhere within Canada. We remain close with our higher and flanking headquarters to maintain our finger on the pulse regarding vulnerable regions, and our members are both ready and eager to assist with supporting our communities.

Less than a year after the return of many of our members from various expeditionary operations, we're back at it again. The focus of the CA over the last couple of years has been in setting the conditions to grow our commitment in Latvia under Op REASSURANCE from the enhanced forward presence battle group (eFP BG) to the Canadian-led multinational brigade (MNB-LVA). As part of this effort, B Squadron deployed over the last month to begin a six-month rotation (roto 25-02) under 2 CMBG HQ leadership where they will continue to be employed as the Medium Armcd Cavalry Squadron for the brigade. In Latvia, the squadron is already in full training swing, further refining their tactical skills as part of the joint effort to build new tactics, techniques, and procedures while fully integrating into the NATO structure. At home, the Regiment is gearing up to support a particularly charged Fall training schedule in order to prepare A Squadron for roto 26-01, relieving B Squadron in December 2025. This schedule will see the Regiment build both individual and collective skills through a progressive training plan to include exercises up to squadron-level in several locations and environments including simulation, the Garrison Petawawa range and training area (RTA), the Gagetown RTA, and the Ottawa Valley community. We will continue to balance doctrine with integrated lessons-learned from theatre in order to ensure that the transition between A Squadron and B Squadron is seamless.

Over the last six months, C Squadron has been instrumental in supporting Canadian Army-level trials and discussions for the acquisition of the LAV Recce Surveillance System (LRSS), intended to be a new armoured vehicle for the RCAC. Unfortunately, the results of the trial did not meet the project's requirements, and the trial for this vehicle was halted. Despite these results, we are encouraged by the energy with which the CA and the RCAC are working to develop and implement new structures, strategies, and capabilities to operate in the evolving, pan-domain battlespace. We are working closely with our corps partners and the CA to develop an equipment strategy that may include the delivery of a

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new vehicle for the Regiment, and we are excited for the development of these capabilities over the next few years.

In February, in addition to the conduct of several mounted and dismounted cold weather exercises, the RCD led Ex CANTERING DRAGOON, a simulated exercise at Fort Benning (Moore), Georgia. In all, 131 participants from four Reg F units and five Res F units within 4th Cdn Div conducted BG-level training in the Close Combat Tactical Trainer (CCTT) at the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE). Supported largely by A Squadron, the Armd elements integrated into a combined arms construct, incorporating fires (with aviation), intelligence, and logistics. The skills refined during this exercise enhanced planning and command and control expertise at all levels. We are planning to continue the conduct of this exercise in Winter 2026.

Over the past few months, the Regiment actively participated in several activities and events that showcased our traditions, competitive spirit and camaraderie. The unit participated in an exceptional ceremony marking the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Leeuwarden, where we strengthened our historical ties and bond with the Town of Leeuwarden. This year, with the support of the Mayor of the Town of Petawawa, the parade was held in the community, where hundreds of local school children, residents, and friends of the Regiment attended. We were both humbled and honoured to hear the sincere words of appreciation by the Mayor of Leeuwarden for the contributions that Dragoons made in the liberation of the Friesland village of Leeuwarden in 1945. We were also honoured to see our Springbok proudly displayed on the commemorative soccer uniform of SC Cambuur, a second division Dutch soccer (football) club. Several Dragoons also had the honour of representing the Regiment for a trip of a lifetime in the Netherlands. We are appreciative of the Guild and greater Dragoon family for supporting such a special trip!

In May, the RCD entered a highly competitive team to participate in the 2 CER-led Chimo Mudder obstacle course. The challenging obstacles proved no match for the spirit and drive of our team (bruises and sore muscles aside), as MWO Monaghan led the team to take home a well-earned gold medal. Regimentally, we also conducted Ex CAV CUP in Petawawa, a 5-day grueling competition between squadrons that saw teams battle through an obstacle course and competitions in navigation, small arms shooting, AFV recognition, maintenance, intelligence, and CBRN (amongst many others). Teams trekked the Petawawa RTA landscape over an estimated 40-50km on foot, developing resilience, tactical skill, and leadership at all levels (while also confirming the existence of a thriving black bear population). HQ Squadron proved their strength in not only the ongoing sustainment of the Regiment, but also in tactical acumen by winning the overall competition. Shortly thereafter, we were honoured to showcase the shiny brass and silver of our scarlet uniforms for the May 2025 Royal Visit of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla, providing a ceremonial quarter guard for the arrival and departure of His Majesty's first visit as King of Canada, and Colonel-in-Chief of the RCD. Well done to the members of the quarter guard and to the many people behind the scenes who supported the team.

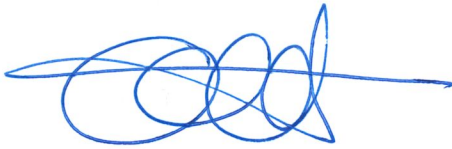
We also acknowledge the remarkable individual accomplishments of several Dragoons over the last few months, with Capt Ben Bennett having received a Comd 2 CMBG Commendation, Capt Will Beaupré having been selected as the Canadian Army Junior Officer of the Year, Maj Travis Vanryswyk having received a Comd 4th Cdn Division Commendation, Capt Erica Young and WO O'Rourke having each received a Comd 1 CAD Commendation, Capt Avery Burke having received a Comd CJOC Commendation, and the announcement of CDS Commendations for Maj Chris Levan and Capt Mike Cooke for their efforts in support of Op UNION. Congratulations to all recipients and to those who received awards at all levels!

The last six months were not without challenges however, as we grieved the tragic passing of Cpl John Meers. The unity of the Regiment shone through as we remember the strength and resilience of John, and of the impact that he had on the unit. Our thoughts continue to be with his family and friends.

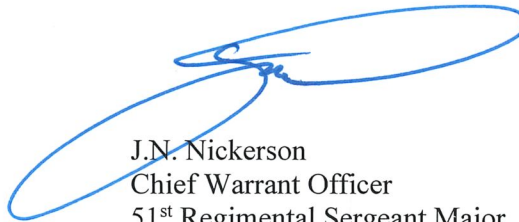
Looking forward, we are very excited to announce a significant change within the RCD that will take place over the coming year. Following tank centralization in Edmonton last year, and the transition of C Squadron from Heavy to Medium Cavalry, C Squadron will be relocating to Petawawa by July 2026. We are thrilled to have the Regiment under one roof and are looking forward to providing ongoing support to operations while ensuring the greatest support to our Dragoons and their families from Petawawa.

As we prepare for our exceptionally busy upcoming training season, we remain steadfast in our commitment to excellence and readiness. The dedication of our soldiers and leaders ensures that the Regiment remains a pillar of strength within the CA. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to the next opportunity for the greater Regimental Dragoon family to connect, notably at the 125th Anniversary of the Battle of Leliefontein parade and dinner which will take place on 08 November 2025 in Petawawa. All are welcome!

Bold and Swift!



C.M. Summerfield
Lieutenant-Colonel
60th Commanding Officer
The Royal Canadian Dragoons



J.N. Nickerson
Chief Warrant Officer
51st Regimental Sergeant Major
The Royal Canadian Dragoons