

From The Desk of the President

Since Covid first impacted the GCC in April 2020, we have all been on a roller coaster ride of reported Covid numbers. One day, Covid seemed to start to be under control and the next day there appeared a new variant which shot up the number of reported cases. In some ways, we became prisoners in our own homes, reluctant to venture out into an unfriendly world.

Our whole society is held together by trust – trust that everyone will get double vaccinated and observe the appropriate social distancing and other safety rules and regulations. Unfortunately, our sense of community and of the common good has, in some instances, failed us. All of us, both in Canada and around the world, need to do better if Covid is to be tamed and brought under control. There are and will be hardships subduing this pandemic but the hardships of now are likely far less drastic than the hardships which may endure in the future if we drop our vigilance.

Telephone Calls to the Members

The GCC Executive along with Past President Doug Acton, undertook to contact the members of the GCC by phone. We did this because personal contact, even if by phone, is important to the vitality of a not-for-profit association. Unfortunately, we could not get in contact with all of our members, but we did manage to contact a lot of them. As a result of the calls, we found that:

- Nobody slammed down the phone when we identified ourselves! (Thank Goodness!)
- Everyone seemed pleased that we called
- Members were pleased with our Newsletter and most read all of it
- Expressions of thanks for the Zoom meetings were common
- Nearly everyone expressed a desire to return to in-person meetings when it was safe to do so, and a suitable meeting facility could be arranged.

An Act of Remembrance

The GCC Executive, on your behalf, purchased 12 “Giant” Poppies from the Lambeth Lions Club (all proceeds to benefit the Legion Poppy Fund). We did this before we knew how popular these items would become in London.

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National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

*By Lt (N) Andrew McLaughlin, Public Affairs Officer,
31 Canadian Brigade Group*

A ceremony was held at 31 Canadian Brigade Group Headquarters at Wolseley Barracks in London on October 1, 2021 in observance of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

We had the honour of hosting distinguished guest Mr. Miller of the Six Nations of the Grand River, who spoke of the impact of the Residential Schools on his community.

Our own Warrant Officer Jessica Miller, also a member of the Six Nations, helped preside over the ceremony and was also presented her Canadian Forces Decoration by LCol Clayton Van Volkenburg, Chief of Staff, 31 CBG with Mr. Miller, on the parade.

Mr. Miller’s presence and words bestowed an important lesson on all in attendance, and his invitation to us to participate in a traditional smudging ceremony was a true honour.

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From The Desk of the President

Continued from page 1

With the co-operation of the 31 Canadian Brigade Group, the poppies were placed in Wolseley Barracks next to a road where they could be easily seen by drivers and passersby. Wolseley Barracks was the home of the First Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment which played a crucial and valiant role in World War 2 particularly on the road to Ortona in Italy.

Bursary Programme

Our Bursary Programme (\$1,000 to each recipient) is in the final stages. In addition, the GCC Tom Lawson award, the Dr. Don Bondy award, and the Col. Bill Pettipas award (each in the amount of \$250) will also be awarded. Complete details will be announced in due course. A special thanks is extended to our Bursary Sponsors – General Dynamics Land Systems and Militex Coatings.

Newsletter

We are pleased to welcome Kevin Patterson who is helping us out with the look and organization of the Newsletter. The Executive is proud of our Newsletter and would like to get it into the hands of as many people as possible who may have an interest in Canada's military and the activities of the GCC. Please let us know of any organizations or individuals who you feel may be interested in receiving a copy of our Newsletter by email. Adding new recipients adds no extra cost to the GCC. We view our Newsletter as both a means of communication and new member tool

You Are Needed

Your GCC Executive needs some new blood. Please consider contributing by becoming a member of the Executive. Please contact either Pres. Tom or Past Pres. Geoff Hutton for more info.

Christmas Meeting

Yes, we are going to have another **Christmas and New Year's Zoom Meeting on Wed. Dec. 8 at 12 noon on Zoom**. Mark your day timer now as you will not want to miss this special seasonal event. Christmas or New Year's apparel is encouraged, so start thinking now! More details will be sent out closer to the meeting.

Tom Dean
President - GCC



Board Member 2021

President Tom Dean
Past President Geoff Hutton
Vice President Mike Leatham
Secretary Randy Harden
Treasurer John Martin

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Garrison Community Council Annual Dues 2022

Since its founding in 2020, the Garrison Community Council has carried out its mandate of supporting and connecting with Canada's military. We continue to do so in many ways one of which is our bursary program in support of Reservists enrolled in post-secondary education.

Through our zoom meetings, we offer an informative and unique program of knowledgeable speakers from a variety of backgrounds as well as regular updates from HMCS Prevost and the 31 Canadian Brigade Group.

We value our volunteer members for we realize that the strength and vitality of the GCC is determined by its membership.

On behalf of the Executive and the Members of the GCC, I thank you for your membership and your continued support.

A Membership Renewal Invoice will be shortly sent out. Please complete and return the invoice to:

Garrison Community Council, London & Region
P0 Box 28065 Oakridge R.O.
London, ON N6H 5E1

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation *Continued from page 1*

Smudging is a cultural ceremony practised by First Nations and Indigenous peoples in Canada, and in this case, for spiritual ceremonies. While colonization has repressed such traditions, the practice of smudging has survived to the present day, and we were proud to have been invited to participate in this sacred act.

We hope that our territorial land acknowledgement and this ceremony may help in the reconciliation process, and allow us to contribute to learning, and understanding the pain Indigenous peoples in Canada have endured.

Reconciliation is about healing. Reconciliation requires acknowledging the truth.

Reconciliation requires each of us to do our part to educate ourselves, understand the pain, and work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples on the path forward.

Photos: Bdr Julia Currie, 31 CBG Public Affairs



ON TARGET: Trudeau's Choice of New Defence Minister Sends Message



November 1, 2021

By Scott Taylor

In naming his new cabinet, Prime Minister Trudeau has finally relieved long serving Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan of his embattled portfolio.

Since February the Canadian Armed Forces senior command have been immersed in a still raging string of military sexual misconduct scandals. Despite the fact that Sajjan had announced yet another external review of the military's sexualized culture last April, critics felt that his handling of this crisis was weak and ineffective.

Taking the helm from Sajjan will be Anita Anand.

She is new to federal politics as she was first elected to parliament in 2019. However, she is seen as a rising star within the Liberal party and was gained kudos for her handling of the COVID-19 vaccination acquisition as Canada's procurement minister.

The fact that Anand is a woman, potentially sends out the signal to CAF survivors and victims of sexual misconduct that the government is finally serious about tackling the current crisis.

At her swearing in ceremony, Anand told reporters she plans to bring herself up to speed on her new department as quickly as possible.

Here's a piece of free advice for the new Minister: What you are inheriting from Sajjan is not a mere dumpster fire, this is a towering inferno of sexual misconduct and it is burning from the top down. There were nine top military commanders involved in some level of a sexual misconduct scandal.

Without stability and continuity among the senior CAF leadership, Anand will have her hands full just trying to build a solid foundation from which to staff any sort of cultural reform within the ranks.

At present, the CAF is facing both a recruitment and a retention problem among their membership due to the almost continuous stream of sexual misconduct revelations that have been brought to the forefront by the media.

Many of the allegations being brought against the senior commanders are of a historic nature, dating back ten, twenty and in a couple of cases, thirty years, when these officers were young men.

In no way does the passage of time diminish or negate these allegations.

However, when one turns back the hands of time and looks at the military culture that existed three decades ago, it is actually encouraging to realize how far the CAF has evolved in just a short period of time.

Up until 1987 women were not allowed to serve in combat units and they were not allowed to sail on warships.

We currently have Lt-Gen Frances Allen serving as Canada's first female Vice Chief of Defence Staff. There is also Lt-Gen Jennie Carignan serving as Chief of Professional Conduct and Culture.

Carignan not only served as a combat officer, she most recently commanded Canada's battle group in Iraq.

At the Royal Military College, the new commandant is Commodore Josee Kurtz, the institution's first ever female to head the college. Her last operational post was as Commodore of the NATO Standing Squadron serving in the Mediterranean.

Up until 1992 when a court challenge overturned the CAF policy, it was illegal to be gay and serve in uniform.

The military had no choice but to accept the ruling, which overturned their discriminatory practices. However it was not until 2017 that the federal government issued a formal apology to all of those who had been purged from the ranks as a result of their sexual orientation.

Service members are now authorized to wear their uniforms in pride parades.

Anand should be encouraged by the fact the military has belatedly and slowly changed over the decades. But that it can change should give her hope of possible success.



GCC November Meeting



The Death and Life of War Machines:

How Canadians Reduced, Reused, and Recycled Military Surplus after the Second World War

Dr. Alex Souchen

Postdoctoral Fellow
Royal Military College



Source: LAC



Source: BC Archives

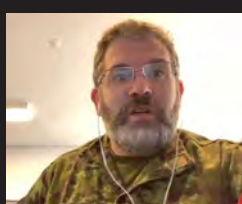


Source: Deelen Airfield Museum

Top Left: Rows of surplus vehicles and spare parts awaiting disposal.

Top Right: Surplus army huts were reused to house and teach veterans at Canadian universities.

Left: Rows of surplus motorcycles located in the Netherlands. Military assets were sold to the Dutch to settle war claims



Screenshots provided by Gary Nash

Support HOLY ROLLER Memorial



HOLY ROLLER is the only tank of the 1st Hussars and one of only two Canadian Army Sherman tanks to have survived the entire campaign in North West Europe from D-Day, June 6, 1944 to the end of the war in Europe on May 5, 1945. During that time the 1st Hussars lost 346 tanks but the HOLY ROLLER survived. It is a monument of national significance.

The Garrison Community Council supports the ongoing restoration of this important monument and urges our membership to provide support as well.

Visit
holyrollermemorial.ca

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Mark your day timer! A Special Seasonal Event!

Christmas and New Year's Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, December 8th, 2021

Starting 12 noon

Christmas or New Year's apparel is encouraged, so start thinking now!
More details to come.

Our special guests will be from the Southwestern Ontario Military Family Resource Centre.

Our speakers will be Hardeep Sadra, the Executive Director and Rebeca Sousa, the Program Coordinator.



TWO HMCS PREVOST SAILORS PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL SENTRY PROGRAM

By: PO2, Emely Melendez Rodriguez, CD

The National Sentry Program (NSP) is Canada's effort to commemorate and remember all those who have served in the twentieth century's major conflicts, including both World Wars, as well as its effort to celebrate the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) longstanding tradition of military excellence. In this effort, sailors, soldiers and air personnel are selected through a rigorous competition to stand guard over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa, Ontario. This is a tradition that has been ongoing since 2007. It is a seven (7) day per week tasking. The tasking consists of intense drill movements, public engagement and security awareness of the memorial, which requires heavy discipline to achieve.

Following the beginning of the COVID-19 global pandemic and its resumption back to a semblance of normalcy, the NSP has recommenced. For the 2021 season, beginning on June 6th 2021, only personnel from Ontario and Quebec were selected to carry on this tradition. In consultation with public health officials and the City of Ottawa, this was the preferred method to execute this commemorative effort to ensure the safety of those involved.

Among the selected personnel in the summer of 2021, Sailor Second Class (S2) Nathan Westman of Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Prevost were chosen to participate. "To be a part of the NSP is an honour. Not only does it mean you are standing guard for the fallen and unknown Canadian soldiers, but also all the fallen soldiers and soldiers working today worldwide," said S2 Westman. "To me, being a part of NSP is paying tribute and guard to my great grandfather whom served in the United States Navy during the Second World War."

Training to participate in this tasking was multi-faceted. During the program, the initial week consisted of seven (7) days of intense

training of drill and theory with another sailor that would be S2 Westman's partner throughout the tasking. Together, this team would practice silent drill that was mostly cautioned by strategic taps of one's rifle, with each movement predicted by the number of taps on the rifle.

S2 Westman's partner throughout the tasking. Together, this team would practice silent drill that was mostly cautioned by strategic taps of one's rifle, with each movement predicted by the number of taps on the rifle. By the end, both S2 Westman and his partner were able to complete the required movements in sync. "My first time marching up there and standing guard was met with mixed emotions of excitement and anxiety. Regardless however, [my partner and I] both managed to accomplish the standard as sentries. And as time progressed, we even managed to find peace in just standing up there for a whole hour."

S2 Westman is a Naval Combat Information Operator, responsible for the operation of all shipboard surveillance radars and associated equipment of the shipboard intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems. Barring changes in health postures by the City of Ottawa or the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), sentries will be posted seven days a week at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier until 10th November 2021. Each day, sentries will be guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from 0900 to 1700, Eastern Standard Time.



1st Hussars Change of Command

By Lt (N) Andrew McLaughlin, Public Affairs Officer,
31 Canadian Brigade Group

The 1st Hussars (1H) held a Change of Command parade on September 12, 2021 at Wolseley Barracks in London, Ontario. This ceremony saw the formal passing of command of the Regiment from incumbent Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Allan Finney to the incoming Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Vandenberg.

Reviewing Officer Colonel Joseph Robinson, 31 Canadian Brigade Group (31 CBG) Commander, and Brigade Regimental Sergeant Major Chief Warrant Officer Mark Delarosbil inspected the Honour Guard, and Colonel Robinson oversaw the transfer of command signified by the signing and witnessing of the Command Scrolls.



Canadian Artillery Soldiers Assume Queen's Guard Duties in England



Members of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery United Kingdom Public Duties Contingent (RCA UK PDC) began their month-long Public Duties in London and Windsor with Changing of the Guard ceremonies held at Buckingham Palace and St. James's Palace on October 4, 2021.

From October 4 to 22, the 90 soldiers of the RCA UK PDC will comprise the Queen's Guard at the four Royal residences in the London District – Buckingham Palace, St. James's Palace, Windsor Castle and the Tower of London. For the mount and dismount ceremonies, which will occur several times throughout the month-long tasking, the Queen's Guard will be accompanied by the 36-person Royal Canadian Artillery Band, based in Edmonton.

The Queen's Guard are soldiers and officers charged in support of the civil authorities with guarding the Sovereign and the official royal residences in the UK.

The RCA UK PDC was invited by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to form the Queen's Guard to honour and commemorate the 150th anniversary of the formation of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery (RCA) A and B Batteries. The founding of A Battery (in Kingston, Ont.) and B Battery (in Quebec City) of 1 RCHA in 1871 led the way for Canada's professional Army. It allowed Canada to bear responsibility for its defence and laid the groundwork for political autonomy.

This opportunity to conduct Public Duties perpetuates the tradition of Commonwealth soldiers working closely with the British Armed Forces while demonstrating the professional capabilities of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and the Canadian Armed Forces in an international setting.

"This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity for our soldiers and they are embracing every moment of it. While training and preparations leading up to this were at times long, when Canadian soldiers marched onto the forecourt of Buckingham Palace, they truly felt the full magnitude of their duties. This is not something that is by any means a common task for Canadian Armed Forces members and it is an honour and a privilege to be here as a member of the Queen's Guard."

Major Michael Crosier, Guard Commander, The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery UK Public Duties Contingent

"This is the first time that The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery has had the privilege of undertaking Public Duties in the United Kingdom. It is quite the honour, especially with this month being the 150th anniversary of the forming of the Regiment's A and B Batteries."

Master Warrant Officer Jason Power, Sergeant Major, The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery UK Public Duties Contingent

ADDITIONAL INFO

- *Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II holds the Royal Appointment of Captain General for The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and in this capacity serves as the ceremonial head of the Regiment.*

- *In addition to guarding the official Royal residences in the London District, the RCA UK PDC will participate in ceremonial events supporting the 150th anniversary of the formation of A and B Batteries during September and October 2021 while in the UK.*



31 Service Battalion Change of Command Ceremony

By Lt (N) Andrew McLaughlin, Public Affairs Officer,
31 Canadian Brigade Group

31 Service Battalion conducted a change of command ceremony at Wolseley Barracks in London on September 18, 2021. They bid farewell and gratitude to outgoing Commanding Officer, LCol Brian Medd, and welcomed the incoming LCol Stephane Briand

to take his post.

The ceremony was presided over by 31 Canadian Brigade Group Commander, Colonel Joe Robinson, and the limited attendance included a small group of family members, and leadership from within the unit.



Women in Defence Award

Kimiko Yamaguchi
Public Affairs, 4th Canadian Division HQ/Joint Task Force (Central)
Canadian Armed Forces
kimiko.yamaguchi@forces.gc.ca

A Profile of CWO Tracy-Ann Fisher, Recipient of Esprit De Corps' Women in Defence Awards. Esprit de Corps is a Canadian military magazine that reports on Canada and international military issues, politics, military history and current events.

In 2014, Esprit de Corps decided to profile 25 top women who were making a positive difference in the world of defence. Originally designed to be a one-time article, it was quickly discovered that there were numerous stories detailing the under-representation of women in a male dominated career field, and that it would be better to highlight women role models who had succeeded despite many challenges. As a result, the magazine created an annual Women in Defence Awards.

This year, Esprit de Corps chose to feature 4th Canadian Division Chief Warrant Officer Tracy-Ann Fisher as one of the 25 recipients for the Women in Defence Awards.

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Women in Defence Award

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Below is an interview conducted with CWO Fisher about her career in the CAF and what this recognition means:

1. How long have you been in CAF?

I joined the Communication Reserve in 1991 and have been serving since then – June 2021 marks 30 years in the CAF.

2. Why did you join the CAF?

My Grandfather was a dispatcher in WWII and he served for the entire duration of the war. I had spoken with him on a few occasions about his adventures but he was not always very talkative on the subject. I needed a summer job and various CAF opportunities were posted on the job board at my high school. I got to work outdoors, learn new skills, have fun, and most importantly, I met a lot of great people.

3. What operations have you been on?

Operation Abacus (1999 into 2000), Operation Recuperation (The Ice Storm of 1998); Operation Lentus (2017 – floods in Quebec); Operation Laser (2020 – LRU Hamilton RSM).

4. What was it like to be the Regimental SM of the 31 Signal Regiment?

Being the RSM of 31 Signal Regiment was a great job. I thankfully worked with a number of great Senior NCOs. I was very lucky that I was able to learn from a number of excellent RSMs within 31 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG). I would be remiss if I didn't also say that my Command Team partner, LCol Chris Marvin, was an excellent role model and teacher.

5. Can you outline your role as an RSM?

As the RSM, I was responsible for the careers of the soldiers, making sure they were taking courses and getting promoted. I also worked with the senior NCOs to ensure that new training was conducted and that they were being trained in our unit's mandate for providing communications across the brigade. It was my job to provide advice and

guidance to the members of the unit and to be accountable to the commanding officer.

6. What was the hardest part of being an RSM?

Being responsible to soldiers and their needs with regards to courses, employment, personal issues and balancing the needs of the CAF was not an easy task. Ensuring that soldiers can maintain this balance was a balancing act in and of itself.

7. What was the best part of being an RSM?

If the hardest part was the soldiers, the best part was also definitely the soldiers too! Teaching them and learning from them was rewarding. Watching them grow and become leaders within the establishment and knowing that you had a hand in moulding them to what they have become and will become in the future was exciting to witness. Seeing them succeed and celebrating their accomplishments – there is nothing better than that.

8. How has your role in the CAF affected your family/ family life?

My husband is also in the CAF and therefore I have needed to balance my needs, his needs in the CAF along with that of my family. Don't get me wrong, it has been a balancing act trying to attend exercises, training, courses, and still making my family a priority. My children are the best – they are resilient and understanding of what I need to do for the CAF and my role within the CAF. I have always worked very hard to balance the needs of my family, their extra-curricular activities, education and family time with my responsibilities in the CAF. In fact, the role of RSM prepared me to be able to balance these tasks!

9. Why do you believe diversity is important in the CAF?

Diversity is important in every aspect of life, including military operations. The CAF does important work around the world – training other forces, working with other nations and ensuring preparedness for whatever may come our way. Ensuring diversity in the CAF affords us the opportunity to call upon unique knowledge and strengths of our uniformed men and women. Diversity provides us with the opportunity to understand others on different levels, and ultimately ensures our success in everything we do.

10. What do you believe are some of the unique challenges women face in the CAF?

I think the biggest unique challenge that I have personally faced is proving that I deserve to be here and that I can do my job and do it well. It is being accepted not only for the strengths that I bring to the table but also for the challenges that I face head on and my willingness to learn and succeed.

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Women in Defence Award

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It has been my experience that women must often face the challenge of proving that they will not fail, as opposed to inspiring confidence that they will succeed. In many instances women are made to feel like a statistic as opposed to valued members of the team. We, not only as CAF members, but as people, must strive to do a better job of seeing past gender stereotypes and to recognize our people for their achievements and potential for future success if we are going to realize our full potential. It has been my experience that women must often face the challenge of proving that they will not fail, as opposed to inspiring confidence that they will succeed. In many instances women are made to feel like a statistic as opposed to valued members of the team. We, not only as CAF members, but as people, must strive to do a better job of seeing past gender stereotypes and to recognize our people for their achievements and potential for future success if we are going to realize our full potential.

11. How did you learn about your nomination for this award?

I received a phone call from my former commanding officer, LCol Matt Richardson, asking if I could provide some information about my accomplishments in the CAF. Shortly after I provided this list, I received an email from Esprit de Corps announcing that I had been selected along with other nominations for this award. Being considered for this award was very humbling as I know there are so many deserving women in the CAF.

12. What do you say to women thinking about joining the CAF?

I say go for it. Don't let anything stop you if this is truly something you want to do. Work hard and be prepared to be the best that you can be and to give it your all. Do your research on everything that the CAF has to offer and look for the best trade for you to be successful. There are so many opportunities out there!

13. What are your thoughts on sexual misconduct in the CAF?

There is no place in the CAF or in any place for sexual misconduct. We are a profession of arms and in our profession, we need to strive to remove the notion that any type of sexual misconduct will be tolerated. As leaders, we need to hold ourselves accountable and to lead by example those behaviours which we would like our young soldiers and officers to emulate. In my time in the military I have worked with a number of excellent leaders who embody the military ethos. It does unfortunately, only take a few to taint the image of the whole organization. I feel that there

GCC October Meeting



Screenshots provided by Gary Nash

is no room in the military for those who do not understand professionalism and equality and who do not practice it.

14. What are your proudest accomplishments being a part of the CAF?

I am proud of being part of the Canadian Armed Forces. Whenever I wear my uniform I wear it with pride and feel pride in others that wear the uniform as well, especially of those who came before me. I am proud of achieving the rank of Chief Warrant Officer and being the RSM of 31 Signal Regiment in addition to being appointed as the first female Battle School RSM in 31 CBG. I am proud of the fact that I got to instruct young soldiers and mould their careers and witness their amazing accomplishments. I am fiercely proud of my involvement in the 31 CBG Female Advisory Working Group where I work with an outstanding group of female soldiers to mentor and inspire other female soldiers. Most importantly, I am proud of the woman that I am and thankful to the CAF that allowed me to realize my potential.

GCC September Meeting



The screenshot shows a video conference grid with four participants and a presentation slide. The top-left participant is a man with glasses. The bottom-left participant is a man wearing a Toronto Blue Jays cap. The bottom-middle participant is an older man. The bottom-right participant is a man with glasses. The presentation slide is titled "Mandatory Investigations in vulnerable populations" and lists several categories: Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (CAS), Prison/Jail, Mental Health Sites, Police custody (SIU), Group Homes, and Moms, infants.

Dr. Elizabeth Urbanik
Regional Supervising Coroner, West Region-London

Screenshots provided by Gary Nash



You can support our troops during the Christmas Season



Members of our Armed Forces away from home on our behalf, and their families often find this time of year stressful. Many GCC members know this first hand. Canadians are grateful for the service members of the Armed Forces provide. We can clearly express our thanks during the Christmas season by taking a moment to write a note, shout out to the troops on Facebook, send mail or parcels, or send a donation via the Support our Troops web site. Take a moment and consider one or all these options at the following Canadian Department of Defence website.

To find out more, click the link below

<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/services/contact-us/write-troops.html>

31 Combat Engineer Regiment (The Elgins) Change of Command Ceremony

By Lt (N) Andrew McLaughlin, Public Affairs Officer,
31 Canadian Brigade Group

31 Combat Engineer Regiment (The Elgins) conducted a regimental change of command ceremony at the St. Thomas Armoury on October 24, 2021.

After a successful term, LCol Blair Ashford passed command to LCol Scott Burke in a ceremony presided over and reviewed by Colonel Joe Robinson, Commander of 31 Canadian Brigade Group.

BZ to The Elgins, and the incoming and departing Commanding Officers.

CHIMO!

Photos: Bdr Julia Currie, 31 CBG Public Affairs



31 Canadian Brigade Group Battle School

By Lt (N) Andrew McLaughlin, Public Affairs Officer,
31 Canadian Brigade Group

31 Canadian Brigade Group Battle School continues to force generate trained and professional soldiers for the Canadian Army.

Over the Regional Summer Training (RST) period, literally hundreds of our soldiers were qualified on courses including Basic Military Qualification, Development Phase-1, Primary Leadership Qualifications, and other courses critical to ensuring that we maintain and further develop capable soldiers who remain ready to defend Canada and Canadians anytime, anywhere.

Photos: Candidates from 31 CBG units on DP1-Infantry are evaluated during a simulated battle during their Final Training Exercise (FTX) at 4th Canadian Division Training Centre Meaford on August 12, 2021.

Credit: Bdr Julia Currie, 31 CBG Public Affairs



4 RCR live fire action



*By Lt (N) Andrew McLaughlin, Public Affairs Officer,
31 Canadian Brigade Group*

4th Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment conducted live-fire section attacks and other ranges at 4th Canadian Division Training Centre in Meaford on September 25, 2021.

With the start of the 2021/2022 Canadian Army Reserve training year, 31 Canadian Brigade Group has deployed hundreds of soldiers to local and regional training areas, including Department of National Defence establishments and in-community locations on private and public land, under official Land Use Agreements.

Watch for more on our social media channels!

Photos: Bdr Julia Currie, 31 CBG Public Affairs



Last Words

We'd like to extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone who contributed to this latest version of the GCC newsletter. Our goal is to further GCC's Mission to build a greater understanding, support and appreciation of Canada's military.

Coming in the Winter 2022 Issue

In GCC Connections Winter Issue:

- Our Bursary Programme recipients are announced
- Updates on GCC meetings including our Christmas and New Years Meeting
- News from 31 Canadian Brigade Group and HMCS Prevost