

Naval Electronic  
Sensor  
Operator

L'opérateur  
Detecteurs électroniques  
Marine

**NESOP OP(DEM)**  
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The NESOP NEWSLETTER is published by & for the NESOPs of the *Royal Canadian Navy*. Its purpose; to keep members current with items that reflect the NESOP community, by supplementing information provided by formal sources & acting as a forum for sharing unit-level items of interest.

This newsletter is only as strong as the members it supports, as it is they who provide the content.

Views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect official **opinion or policy**.

- Editor



Staff

Editor: Mark Chapman

Assistant Editor: Lorde  
(Who says we'll never be Royal?)

Layout: Hayden Panettiere

Sales: Jessica Alba

Advertising: Adriana Lima

How's your summer going so far??

As I write, the rain is splatting down in what has been our first serious display of precipitation in about two months. We have had a glorious summer on the west coast, with endless sunshine. The downside of that, of course, is that everything is dry as a popcorn fart, and we needed the rain. Small comfort to me, since I ride a bicycle to and from work, and am fond of the rain in about the same way a cat is.

Riding a bike – for most of us – is a task that, having once learned the basic skills, requires little concentration. Therefore, riding in to work allows me to clear my mind and occupy it with idle thought. I have discovered several scientific principles in this way that were previously unrecorded. True story – for instance, did you know that when two cyclists are approaching one another on a pathway, the point at which they reach CPA will be precisely co-located with the position of the only pedestrian in sight, some dick walking his dog, so that one of you will have to stop to let the other cyclist pass?

But science, exciting as it is, is not what I wanted to talk with you about today. No, it's ethics.

There has been a flurry of items in the newspapers across the country, relating to the conduct of persons in the navy. I have personally learned of several disturbing allegations that, if true, also reflect badly on the behaviour of sailors, and those did not make the papers. As they remain under investigation, I cannot discuss them further. Not even the Naval Reserve was spared the lash of professional and public disapproval – in a move which the papers described as “rare” but is to the best of my knowledge unprecedented, HMCS WHITEHORSE was ordered home rather than going along on RIMPAC, after a port visit in San Diego resulted in a number of serious misconduct issues.

Disgraceful behaviour, since it cannot properly be called an accident, therefore represents one or more personal failures. It is of course a failure on the part of the individual who committed the offense. It is frequently a failure also of his or her shipmates and peers, who failed to observe and correct aberrant performance on previous occasions, because disgraceful incidents are rarely a complete surprise, but an escalation of previous lesser incidents which went uncorrected. And it is always a failure of leadership, with its enforcement of discipline through the medium of personal example.

Since the blame is spread around generously, it is only fair the punishment be so as well, and it is and will be, in the regard of your fellow citizens. They see only a sailor, and are unable to distinguish whether he or she is a Reserve or a Reg and what unit he or she represents. Consequently, everybody who behaves disgracefully in the Navy looks just like you. Expect to hear more about this.

- CP02 Mark Chapman  
EIC NESOP Newsletter

Le BULLETIN OP (DEM) est publié par les OP DEM de la *Marine canadienne royale* et à leur intention. Son but : aider les militaires à connaître l'actualité en ce qui concerne le milieu des OP DEN, en complétant l'information qui provient des sources officielles, et offrir une tribune où les unités peuvent mettre en commun les sujets dignes d'intérêt. Ce bulletin ne vaut qu'en fonction des militaires qu'il appuie, car ce sont eux qui en fournissent le contenu.

Les vues exprimées dans le présent bulletin ne correspondent pas nécessairement à l'opinion ou à la politique officielles.

- Le directeur



Your Editor



# THE NCR

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2013 was a busy year for NEWC. In the spring we achieved a major milestone with the final installation of a real, live and somewhat functional ELISRA, along with the software upgrades to our internal MEWLGS servers to allow us to produce ELISRA ES libraries and CMS aPriori data outputs. Concurrently, the EA team continued to work closely with CFMWC, DNR and PMO HCM to develop a coherent MASS tactical and exercise firing doctrine.

Another highlight came in November when, with the assistance of CFFS(E), CCFP and the Fleet we also arranged to have 414(EW) Sqn fly their emitter pods against Black Rock's Sea Search to collect and verify the signals used by their threat simulators. This trial was a huge success and the analyzed pod data will find its way into a new CATS library which will be released with the June 2014 semi-annual library issue. Many thanks are

due the operators from WINNIPEG, ALGONQUIN, REGINA, CALGARY, OTTAWA, MARPAC HQ and especially the staff at CFFS(E) AWWTC for hosting us.

Other notable accomplishments include: an updated CFCD114 (CFCD114(I)) was submitted to CFMWC and we were involved in numerous liaison meetings with the RCAF Maritime Air community to develop a consolidated approach to supporting “Maritime EW Collectors” (ships, CP-140 and CH-148). Along the way, we also found the time to process 361 intercepts, 141 ES libraries, 133 Multi-product CDs and added 193 platforms to the MEWDB - not a bad year.

The past year also saw lots of new faces at NEWC. Starting the year off, CPO2 John Forrester departed after many years as the Detachment Chief Petty Officer and was replaced by CPO2 Dave Keeping. At the same time PO1 Greg Murray and PO2 Fabian Pittman stepped into empty billets as Fleet Support PO and ELINT PO respectively. April saw the arrival of LS Andrew Bishop from HMCS ALGONQUIN and in May LS Ivan Opat’s wish to become intelligent was granted and his OT to Int Op became effective in July. Also in May, our long-serving data base manager, Mr Derrick Moore, retired. Lastly after the successful completion of his PLQ course LS Kevin Granger was promoted to MS and posted to CFEWC. The end result of this influx new people resulted was a rush of new ideas on how NEWC can improve the product we provide the fleet.



NEWC staff participating in the annual CFSU(O) Run in Red, 31 May 2013. Back row (L to R) MS Kevin Granger, LS Andrew Bishop, LS Scott McRae, MS Christopher Myles (Det Tech), LS Ivan Opat, Mr Rob Gallant. Front Row (L to R) MS Nathan Bradbury, PO2 Daryl Barrett, Lt(RCN) Arthur Halpenny (DCO), PO2 Fabian Pittman, Cpl Amiee Hill (Det Clerk), PO1 Greg Murray. Missing: MS Owen Demarce, CPO2 D. Keeping, LCdr J. Marczak

In 2013 NEWC’s NESOPS successfully challenged a wide range of career and other courses. MS Granger successfully completed his on PLQ and LS Bishop passed both his QL5B and PLQ distance learning courses. In April, LS Scott McRae completed the RCAF Advanced EW Operations Course, proving that a good LS NESOP is worth his weight in ACSOs. At time of writing he is now in Halifax on his QL5B, and in November we decided to send MS Owen Demarce there on his QL6A just to keep an eye on Scott (OK, so maybe it was

the other way around, but we wish both of them well all the same). Career courses aside, with all the personnel changes this year was a heavy training year full of in-house MEWLGS courses, SIGE-1030 Math, SIGE 2810 Fundamentals of Tech ELINT, HCM conversion training, ELISRA familiarization and some second language training thrown in for good measure.

In the midst of the postings, courses and a reorganization necessitated by the departure of our Database Manager, NEWC suffer a major setback when CPO2 Keeping was sidelined for 3 months by an injury during a vigorous game of “Saskatchewan Rules Hand Ball”. The verdict on whether the PO1 was guilty of excessive “personal career management” or whether the Chief was trying to find a creative way to get the entire summer off to fish (albeit from a wheel chair) is not expected by time of publication.

Our success this past year would not have been possible without the support of the other members of our team: our technician MS Chris Myles who is now convinced that the term “ELISRA” must originate from an ancient Hebraic curse and our clerk, Cpl Aimee “GI Jane” Hill. We would also like to thank our civilian staff for their assistance: Dave Gray and Mr Steeve Mimeault who populate and update the parametric emitter data contained in the MEWDB; Mr. Rob Gallant, our Intercept QA Manager and the EA team of Louis Caron, Louis Jillette and Chi Uong.

Looking ahead, 2014 it looks like it will be another interesting year full of new faces and fresh ideas.

### Naval Electronic Warfare Centre

2014 has been a busy year for NEWC. Much of NEWC’S time has been spent dealing with Elisra for the FELEX program and our usual work, creating CANEWS libraries and analysing the seemingly endless supply of Sea Search collects sent in by HMCS TORONTO and HMCS REGINA.

The past year has seen many new faces come to NEWC. Starting the year off, LS Dustin York was drafted into the ranks in February (Apparently he didn’t want to weather out the winter in Halifax). We are also anticipating the arrival of LS Daniel “Crazy Frog” Gignac from the west coast in July and LS Jason Martin from the east coast in August.

With new the arrivals there must also be some departures and 2014 looks like we’re having a clearance sale here. Detachment clerk Cpl Aimee Hill has left us for a posting to Colorado Springs – we would wish her well but she doesn’t even know who Peyton Manning is...who doesn’t know Peyton fricken Manning? PO2 Fabian Pittman has left Ottawa and is now posted to HMCS IROQUOIS so it is safe to say he is happy being at home every night. In the near future MS Owen Demarce will be returning to the Pacific fleet as a PO2 and LS Scott McRae will be moving up in rank and elevation by moving to the third floor (CFEWC) as a MS. LS Bishop pick up his leaf and move into MS Demarce’s position to make room for LS Gignac.

NEWC’S Ops O, Lt(N) Arthur Halpenny has left the unit for bigger and better things downtown. The greatest loss to NEWC and the RCN this year will be the retirement of CPO2 Dave “AHHH MY KNEE!!!” Keeping. After many, many years of exemplary service, Chief Keeping has decided to try something new. We all wish him luck in his upcoming adventures.

This year has included a lot of training for NEWC’S NESOPS. MS Owen Demarce successfully completed his QL-6A course and is currently undergoing FELEX training in preparation for his highly anticipated return to the fleet. LS Andrew Bishop completed his PLQ, and is now anxiously awaiting his promotion and the opportunity to become PO2 Barrett’s adopted equal instead of his slightly unorthodox son. LS Scott McRae completed his 3810 course and can finally begin his posting slump. LS Dustin York is excited

to complete his Math 1030 course, so he can get loaded on to the MEWLGS, SIGE 2810 and hopefully his SIGE 3810 course if he's lucky!

While not everyone has gone on course this year, everyone has been up to something. You have probably seen PO1 Greg Murray on the coast during his numerous Fleet Liaison Briefings. PO2 Darryl Barrett has taken over as NEWC'S customer service rep, so please send any questions or complaints to him... and remember the only stupid question is the one that you didn't ask. MS Nathaniel Bradbury has been teaching the Drug and Alcohol Awareness course, with the goal of a dry CF.

While NEWC is a NESOP dominant unit, there are some other trades and civilians here, without whom our successes this past year would not have been possible: Our boss, LCdr John Marczak; Our detachment technician and soon to be father, MS Chris "Winter is Coming" Myles, who may believe he was iron born in a previous life; Our new clerk inductee Courtney "Do you even work here?" Hoskins; our former NESOPS Dave Gray, Rob Gallant and Steeve Mimeault; And the EA team of Louis Caron, Louis Jillette and Chi Uong.

We all expect that the upcoming year will be interesting and challenging and we are looking forward to providing the fleet with the essential products and services it needs.

Cheers

A Farewell

*"I, David Wayne Keeping, do solemnly swear that I will bear faithful and true allegiance, to Her Majesty, Elizabeth the Second, her heirs and successors, according to law. So help me God."*

It was a Thursday (or so Google tells me) and, as I recall, it was an absolute scorcher of a day, particularly for Saskatchewan in mid-September. I was 17 and, as I stood in a line with a handful of other enrollees in the air conditioned comfort of the CF Recruiting Det in Saskatoon, I was smirking to myself about how clever I was to have enlisted, and thus escaped the rigours of another harvest back on the farm. A week or two later, as I struggled up Mount Cheam on a 13K forced march through the Chilliwack valley my opinion had changed slightly and I would have gladly gone back to shovelling grain.

Since my career is all but over, I may as well come clean with one of my deepest, darkest secrets: I originally enrolled as an officer. Worse than that, I enrolled in the air force.

I survived 12 ½ weeks of BOTC before a TRB determined that while I had potential, at the present time, I lacked the maturity needed to serve as a leader in the CAF. In hind-sight, I would agree with them.

"Come back and try again after you've grown up a bit" were the last words my Pl Comd, Capt Sullivan, 1 Bn RCR, said to me, after pulling me aside from the group of OCdt's who had just been told they were not advantageously employable.

Thus I got my wish and went back to the farm. Except I didn't want to farm anymore, I didn't want to work in the bush, I didn't want to spend four years in a university listening to a bunch of long-haired peace-nik hippies and I certainly didn't want to work some Joe-job under the supervision of a dope-smokin' loser who couldn't even do a single push-up. As much as I had struggled and hated BOTC, it had instilled enough of the military ethos in me that there was no other career that I found even the slightest bit interesting. I licked my wounds, swallowed my pride and 6 months later was back in that same office, repeating those same words...this time as a NESOP.

As pleasant as it is for me to reminisce about the early days of my career, I've listened to enough old Chiefs to know that no one but me, and maybe a couple others who knew me then, would find them interesting. So I'll spare you the boring details and get to the point.

The first and probably most important point I want to leave you with is this: I joined at 17, with nothing more than a high school diploma and no work experience to speak of. Take a quick peak on Workopolis for the types of jobs available to people with those credentials. Today, 23, 24 or 25 years later (depending on how you count it) I "manage" a staff of 25 people and a budget of just shy of \$1M CAD. I plan and coordinate their training, career progression, annual evaluations and apply corporate personnel policy, including having primary responsibility for disciplinary matters. At the same time I provide subject-matter expertise to multi-billion dollar capital projects and assist in the development of strategic corporate HR and training policies for a "functional group" of over 300 personnel. I even have my own parking spot and a window office...in Ottawa.

I have infinitely more authority and influence than any of my civilian friends and family, despite the fact that many have worked at their jobs far longer than I have and have far more education than I ever will. I don't say any of that to brag because: 1 - I don't give a shit and, 2 - my credentials are not that unique for the RCN. I mention it just to point out that I don't know of another organization anywhere that offers that kind of opportunity to 17 year-old kids with nothing but a high school diploma from a no-name school in a nowhere town. Go Navy!

In addition to the untold millions that the CAF has invested in my professional training, the Navy has given me free university education, free second language training and even free Fisherman's Friends when I had a little tickle in my throat. Not that long ago I suffered a pretty serious injury at work. I never had to go blind doing Workman's Compensation, EI or long-term disability paperwork. I just stayed at home on sick leave and drew my pay like normal. About a week later a van pulled up in my driveway with about 1K of mobility assistance devices of various types, even a funky "sock-putter-on thingy" that I never did figure out how to use. Free. And to top it all off, when I came back to work a few months later, I still had all my "vacation days" to use.

As much as we all bitch about IRP and Brookfield, when I had to move they paid all my closing costs, flew me and my wife (for free) to my new place of duty to find a new home. And on moving day, some dudes showed up at my house, packed up all my stuff, and loaded it on a truck while we stood around and watched, wishing they'd hurry up so we could get back to the hotel and have another (free) supper.

Oh yeah, and then there's the fact that I'm 43 years old and, starting 7 August, the Queen will be paying me a pension for the rest of my life.

Find a job description like that on Workopolis and see what qualifications a civilian company requires to get a job with those benefits. Kinda makes you think, don't it?

But never mind dollars and cents, because that's a very poor yardstick to judge quality of life by. For the first decade of my career I don't remember a winter when I didn't spend at least 4 weeks of it in the Caribbean. I have seen the Coliseum and St Peter's Basilica in Rome, ridden a water taxi through the Venetian Canals, seen the Sphinx and Giza Pyramids in Egypt, stood and looked over the edge of Pulpit Rock in Stvangerfjord, haggled with the merchants in the Dubai Gold Souq, and debunked the myth that if you stand still in Trafalgar Square for 20 minutes you'll see someone you know (people from the ship don't count).

I've been to Vimy Ridge, Beaumont-Hamel, the Valentin bunker in Bremen and tried my best to keep my composure while a 80 year-old French fisherman, with tears streaming down his face, repeatedly and profusely apologized to me in his broken English that he and his father weren't able to save more of the *Athabaskan's* crew after she was sunk off the French coast near Brest in 1944.

I've suckled the breast of the Little Mermaid, spent an afternoon nursing a perfect 3-beer buzz from the snack cart at the base of the Acropolis, fired a volley from the Huot Bay Battery in Cape Town, watched a cheetah teach her young to hunt Springbok and been roundly cussed out by a little blue-haired Spanish lady after I absent-mindedly cleared my throat and spat on her doorstep one hot, sticky afternoon in Palma Mallorca.

I doubt the rest of the Class of 89 will have memories like that when they're in their 80s. I'm in my 40s. In the words of that great poet of our time, Mr Kid Rock: "*I've been around, I've seen some things. I've slept in dumpsters and got high with kings.*" Ok, so maybe it was Chrétien and we didn't exactly get high - just had a beer together in Grenada; and it was some pallets beside a loading dock that I racked out on that night in Plymouth not a dumpster, but you get the point.

Will I miss it? Yes, and no. I can tell you I definitely will not miss the blue fog in #3 rope stores 20 minutes after an 8 hour chemical transit, the funky smell of 13 Mess the morning after beans and wieners or that unique and disgusting sensation that one experiences while brushing your teeth as someone is coiling down a greasy, morning-after shit in the stall behind you. But I will miss dog-kabobs at Papa Joes (Rosey Roads in general, for that matter), Trapper Johns, Elmundo's, George Street hot dogs, and that little pub outside the Victory gate in Portsmouth across from the train station. I'll miss clam chowder, steak night, moose milk and having a job where it's perfectly normal to start every Sunday by drinking Caesars in your bathrobe and pajamas.

And pay day...I'm definitely going to miss pay day.

But it's the people that I'll miss the most. The Earl Corns, the Lenny Edmunds, Ed Campbells, the Max Factors, Derrick Paynes, the "Split Cocks", "Hamburgulars" and all Bagsys, Dustys, Soupys, Dingers and Nobbys I've sailed with, partied with and occasionally cursed at along the way who made life interesting.

There are a few that I would like to mention, by name. The first is Pete Rigby, if for no other reason than for dragging me out of Elmundo's by the scruff of my neck before I punched out our Div O for wearing a pinkish Hawaiian shirt in public, and ending my career before it ever really began. You have a genuine gift for taking young sailors under your wing and protecting them until they find their feet and can stand on their own. I am truly blessed to have had you as a mentor and friend. I also have to thank George Hamilton and Jim Percival for their patience in allowing me the chance to develop and using my failures as teaching points, not evidence to condemn me. Together you two taught me what it means to be a mentor. I would also like to thank Steve Haughn, Dave Macnevin, Steve Whyte and Richard Jenkins without whom I would have absolutely lost my sanity. To Steve Murphy, and even though he'll likely never read this, Richard Stacey, thank you for all the advice and (trying) to teach me what it means to be a Chief.

Finally, I thank my God for the career I've had. For enabling my successes, for the lessons I learned from my failures, for the friends I've made, for the experiences and all the fun I've had over the last 23 years.

It's going to be a little weird, one day I'll go to work as CPO2 D.W. Keeping and come home as Dave. But that's OK. Dave's a pretty cool dude too, despite what you may have heard. Mostly because Dave has a smokin' hot wife who likes to fish and even if she doesn't understand my obsession with killing Bambi she at least tolerates it. She enjoys an afternoon at the ball park, is good with dogs, can drive a quad better than I can, likes Johnny Cash and can even call a moose into gun range (I'll let YOU ask her about that one). Dave will be just fine.

God bless you all, peace out.

Dave.



### *Director of Naval Requirements (DNR) Ottawa*

DNR 2 – Maritime Security & C4ISTAR  
CPO1 Terry Prowse DNR 2-4 C4ISR Project Director

DNR 4 – Above Water Warfare Requirements  
CPO2 Gerry Doutre DNR 4-4-2 EW, SIGINT, and Targets

There are a couple of new faces here at DNR Ottawa since the last newsletter was published. CPO1 Terry Prowse at DNR 2 and myself, CPO2 Gerry Doutre at DNR 4. We would like to take this opportunity to update the NES Op community on upcoming projects which directly affect our occupation.

The Minister of National Defence released the inaugural Defence Acquisition Guide (DAG) in June of 2014. It lists the RCN priorities for procurement with 23 projects in total. Everything from capitol projects such as AOPS and JSS, to projects for individual pieces of equipment such as NEWS (Sea Search I replacement). Basically if it's in the DAG, we are moving it forward here at DNR. A complete description of all 23 RCN projects can be found online at:

<http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/business-defence-acquisition-guide/naval-systems.page>

Here are the 23 RCN Projects currently in the DAG:

1. Arctic/Offshore Patrol Ship
2. Joint Support Ship
3. Canadian Surface Combatant
4. Submarine Equipment Life Extension
5. Point Defence Missile System Upgrade (PDMSU)
6. Lightweight Torpedo Upgrade
7. Naval Large Tug
8. RCN Intelligence Surveillance Tracking Acquisition and Reconnaissance Programme
9. Underwater Warfare Suite Upgrade
10. Maritime Satellite Communications Upgrade
11. Multi Role Boat
12. Naval Electronic Attack Recapitalization (NEAR) (Onboard)
13. Naval Remote Weapon Station (NRWS)
14. Unmanned Surface Vehicle
15. Maritime Tactical Command and Control
16. Naval Electronic Warfare System Surface (NEWS)
17. Naval Electronic Warfare System Sub Surface (NEWSS)
18. StrongBow

19. Canadian Underwater Minewarfare Apparatus
20. Surface Supplied Diving
21. Naval Minewarfare Countermeasures Support Craft
22. Maritime Next Generation Radio Suite
23. Virtual Intergrated Shipboard Information Networks

All 23 projects are in different stages of acquisition/procurement. Good news from DNR was received this summer, as the ESSM upgrade (PDMSU Project) has been approved to seek Treasury Board approval this fall. This will ensure our Halifax Class Frigates have an updated point defence missile until 2030 and beyond.

NEWS and NEWSS are both Sea Search I and II replacement projects respectively. NEAR(O) is our RAMSES replacement project and work is ongoing with NEAR(U) as well, which is an unmanned offboard force EA system. Project Strongbow updates the CDSE suites onboard the Halifax Class Command and Control Frigates.

Needless to say it is an exciting time here at DNR and for the RCN. Lots of new equipment and ships in the very near future will make this transition phase of the RCN all worth it. Remember if it's not working properly or lacks capability, the best way to fix it is to produce UCRs and/or SOCDs. Those documents carry a lot of weight in the procurement process. Please contact myself or CPO1 Terry Prowse if you have any questions regarding Naval Requirements. Have a great NES Op Navy Day!



Attribution Perry Bible Fellowship Comics: <http://pbfcomics.com/134/>



# From THE EAST COAST



***Canadian Forces Maritime Warfare Centre (CFMWC)***  
**Written by PO1 John McCarthy**

Once again it's that time of year for NESOPs all across the CAF to tell stories and bring everyone up to speed on the news within our respective units. Like many of our units, a new posting season has come and gone and with it came a change here at the CFMWC. CPO2 Gerry Doutré has taken his talents to Ottawa while CPO2 Bob Burton has returned from Ottawa (CANSOFCOM) to assume the position of AWW Chief (first PO1 Dave MacNevin and now CPO2 Gerry Doutré off to Ottawa after their time here at the CFMWC. I'm not sure I like this trend.). On a serious note, Gerry you will be missed here and it was a pleasure to work with you for the year we were both together. I'm sure you'll make out very well in your new job and it won't take you long before you are a Committee Member of the Mess up there.

Now on to the business update of this submission; Like every new NESOP posted to the CFMWC, CPO2 Bob Burton is back to being a student again over at the MATTs facility at Lockheed Martin in Dartmouth and at CFNOS Halifax. Fun times if I remember correctly. I had the opportunity to go to sea onboard HMCS HALIFAX while they were conducting trials during the early part of the year. There is nothing like seeing the actual system perform at sea as opposed to seeing it in a trainer. I would like to thank the NESOP section onboard HAL who tried to answer any questions I might have had to the best of their abilities.

In the early part of June members of the CFMWC were onboard HMCS HALIFAX while she conducted her missile firing. This was an important milestone for the HCM project and from the initial indications it was a success. Up next is HMCS CALGARY in Aug off of Hawaii (no, it looks like neither Bob nor myself will be making the trip. I think Gerry and Dave must have blown the budget for years to come).

As always if there are any questions that you might have on any of the new equipment or tactics, along with the legacy systems, please feel free and ask. If we don't have the answers there is sure to be someone around here that does.

We want to wish everyone a safe summer, relax and enjoy some well-deserved time off.

**CPO2 Bob Burton and PO1 John McCarthy sends.**

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### *HMCS ATHABASKAN*



Good day, fellow NESOP's.

I'm writing again on the back watch, so hold on to your hats and be prepared. We have no gear (port side bent, ETR unknown), and we've been flat out since I got here on April 1. We're currently doing Salty Dips and SWOAD, in preps for TGEX and OP Caribbe. I thought these tubs were due to slow down and decommission? Sure doesn't seem that way. Anyways, these trips will likely be done by the time this gets published so how about those Jays?

Now, on to name dropping time. PO1 Pistol Pete Rigby continues to drive the junior personnel (PO2 + below) in the section with seemingly off-the-cuff questions about sh\*t that happened a long long time ago. We know there's a method to his madness, but no one can quite put their finger on it. PO2 Steve Crack pipe Whyte has been condemned to the Cox'n's office as RPO. A 6B qualified RPO seems like a serious misallocation of trade knowledge, no? New joiner PO2 Jeff "Yes, I'm the guy with the NESOP trade badge tattoo" Lacey came in hot from the NCR just in time for Air WUPS just a few short weeks ago. His backside still puckers every time the ventilation crashes here on ATH, due to his swath of experience on CPF's. Freshly promoted PO2 Brian Brevity Kennedy has just left us for the leaky pastures over on IROQUOIS. Yes, you read that correctly and don't need to adjust your screens. I, MS Mudge, also recently joined ATHABASKAN on April 1 and couldn't be happier. I especially love the half wall between the racks and when the guy just millimeters away from you farts out his poutine and Olands you get to taste it FOR FREE. MS Nick Corbeil has also recently joined ATHABASKAN after completing his 5B's. I've sailed with Nic without the K for nearly 2 years and admittedly know nothing about him. He's a big, beautiful French enigma.

LS Jordan Herritt, the pride of Glace Bay NS, is retiring after fulfilling his four year contract. He's going back to school to only find out that he'll still have to clean his bosses sh\*tty toilets in the civvie world too. In a severely lopsided trade, ATH acquired LS Kevin "The fruit whisperer" Delorey for a player to be named later. He has his wedding date smartly set for the middle of Caribbe, so you know we'll be seeing him as a P2 with 15 years sea time trying to pay for it and wondering where it all went wrong. Jokes, just jokes. LS Chris Guido Piccione remains a fixture on ATH in half body and half mind. Seriously dude, why are you so tiny? AB Felix Amyot just got landed with a sprained ankle from RVNQ because he was having a stroll in some flower beds in Sept Iles QC...his words, not mine. The other half of the dynamic duo, Tweedle-Dee, AB Jeff Three Finger Lyrette finally changed his linen because he's landed for his QL-4 course. AB

Max “yeah, I know your girlfriend” Claveau maintains he doesn’t love Tassot, but he’s not fooling anyone. AB Shawn Lettuce Leg Tiller continues to shine like a polished turd, and is also getting married smartly during one of our upcoming trips. Oh yeah, I should have mentioned earlier that we’ve picked up IROQUOIS’ summer sailing schedule because the paint keeping the hull intact over there finally let go. OS Brad The Anvil Neid Hart continues to depress and is a constant source of morale reduction. OS Vince The Pince Siler smokes, is tall, has a deep voice, and that’s it really. OS Steven the vegan cheater Hartling has recently been posted to us and legit played the Zelda and Super Mario Bros theme on an old church organ in Quebec City. The only half interesting thing he’s done since he got here. That’s it for the warm-blooded peeps in the section, yes it’s ok to wipe your eyes and feel depressed.

Now, our recently departed; LS Jamie eye crusty Rygiel has left us for RJOC after ringing the bell during Standard Readiness WUPS. OS Nathan golden horseshoe Smallwood was TD’ed here and left for the leaky ‘QOUIIS as well. OS Anton legit Spryfield business Manson was also TD’ed here and then left. Obviously he left his mark here...just don’t know where. No real loss here in this section.

In closing I’d like to mention our DivO, LT(N) Warren Graham. Those of you that have had the pleasure of meeting me know that I could give two sh\*ts about LT’s normally, but this guy is spot on. So watch for his name as a tenth incentive LT as you guys fly up the ranks.

Alright boys and girls, I look forward to reading your submissions. I hope you all have a good year and I’ll see some of you in the fleet.

-MS Robert finally out of stasis Mudge.

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## *HMCS VILLE DE QUEBEC*



Hellooooo NES OP's! It's the one and only PC here filling you in on what we've been up to in the past few months. Looking back at the time since the last newsletter we've all settled back in to life at home after OP ARTEMIS. After arriving home we completed our post-deployment leave, conducted our second crew swap (TOR to VDQ), and many of our NESOPS have completed courses. Speaking of the deployment, it was certainly an eye opening experience for some as it was the first deployment for most of the MS and Below. We all managed to get through it! From our epic water bottle fights and "cat games" on the STBD watch, to LS Hickey putting the guardrails up while we were trying to put them down. (Way to go Hickster) and AB Whalen finally understanding relative/true bearing. "Hey Whalen, do we still have that contact to the south?" "No, we've turned" (facepalm); but through the seven months we helped each other out, and became stronger as a team with some well earned foreign port and Operational NESOP experience.

What we're up to now:

After flying home early from deployment for coursing, LS Littlejohn and I are now QL-5A qualified (bring on spec 1!!). Immediately following the deployment our three wonderful AB's Whalen, Auchu and Corrigan attended their QL4 course and are now FCO qualified. Congrats to all of you! Oh and Congrats to now LS Jeff Corrigan. The last note on coursing, although he will be missed, our "Wonderful" PO2 Worton has left us for a year long French course. Upon finding out I think that's the happiest we have ever seen him. Everyone else are staying put for the time being we are currently finishing up with de-storing and happily awaiting our time in the

shore office. Once again, it will be a first for most of us MS and Below but I'm sure we will make the best of it and find some training opportunities, and maybe a little fun on the side.

On a final note, a wonderful joke from our resident funny "What does a Magician say when he pulls a ship out of a hat?"

"TA-DHOW!"

LS Justin Parsons-Coady sends.

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## *HMCS HALIFAX*



The Halifax never sleeps and neither do her NESOPS. Having recently finished WUPS and successfully completing a MISSILEX. The NESOP section of HMCS HALIFAX is eagerly looking forward to the summer leave period.

Starting at the top we have PO1 Clyde "Mani / Pedi" Long, the rumors of his death have been greatly exaggerated, however it is still rumored that he is looking at cashing in some of his offshore accounts for his new Caribbean Spa.

Next we have PO2 Frank "The Tank" Lacroix. Who is screaming and blowing whistles to make sure nobody is falling asleep on the back watch.

PO2 James "The Honey Badger" Hirtle after taping anything and everything to himself for added weight to help with his training.... he is now 3 foot 4. He is currently now trying to the same weighted exercise with his wheelchair.

The master seaman of the section MS Darren "Biceps" Binder and MS Steve "Robi" Robidoux are ensuring positive control and that all rounds are flying down range.

Now we move onto the meat and potatoes of the section. In the leading seaman category we have LS Eddie "The Ghost" Renaud recently returned from Run Nova Scotia in which he raised a lot of money for a great cause. We also have LS Matt "The Barber" Marshall who is still cursing up a storm, working out at the gym, ever the overachiever he has decided to bypass the 6 pack and go straight to the keg. LS Joe "CIWS KILL" Clairmont who is reporting the destruction of all targets. LS Colin "The Gambling man" Agnew would still rather play poker than sail. LS Alex "when I was artillery" Mullaly is new to the trade and learning to love the navy. AB Andrew "Rescue" Swim Also participated in run Nova Scotia and helped out a great cause. AB Ryan "Guppy" Gariepy is preparing for his QL4 course and last but not least the best OS in the section we have OS Darryl "Christina" Da'guilar who just escaped a long and grueling term banished to scullery.

Honorable mentions include MS Andrew “The Falcon” Fletcher and LS David “Bucky” Buchanan who are posted and finally moving on to greener pastures.

PO2 Jensen helped HALIFAX with MISSILEX and left knowing now that PO2 Hirtle has now officially taken on the record for shortest NESOP.

And thank you to HMCS MONTREAL for lending PO2 Wells to HALIFAX for WUPS. We appreciate him practicing his golf swing in the OPS room even though we all know it did not improve his game.

LS Matt Marshall



*The unaccountably happy NESOP crew of HMCS HALIFAX. Must be good leadership; I don't see a whip!*

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## HMCS TORONTO



Salute, fellow Naval Electronic Sensor Operators! I am quite new to our trade so insist on writing out our acronym so as not to forget what it means. I was asked to write an article about the HMCS Toronto Naval Electronic Sensor Operators section and as the innocent sailor that I am asked my PO1 (Murray...yes the red headed man who apparently has become "soft" over the recent years), "Do I actually have to write nice things?" To which his reply, "F\*\*k no." Naturally I jumped at the rare opportunity.

As the Atlantic Fleet is aware our ship is to deploy this summer. As to where, we can only speculate. Speculating does not help the poor junior Naval Electronic Sensor Operators with which regions to make threat cards/assessments, especially with our everyday work ethic/capacity. LS Lamarre (Yes, yes, it's true, the unfortunate red head got promoted) denotes such capacity. Our self proclaimed acting-lacking leading seaman understands the task at hand, however, either pretends not to hear, blames it on the language barrier or attempts to delegate. So obviously still ends up with said task. Oh wait, belay last. LS Lemarre has taught me everything I know about...scullery. With our sights on the up and coming deployment we did have our fair share of preparations to go through.

Workups this past winter was such a preparation that ensued. I now will set the scene of workups for the Naval Electronic Sensor Operators section:

More often than not MS Kuffner was squinting his way up to the upper decks for a smoke. Buying candy for Sea Training Atlantic in hopes of diverting their attention away from the task at hand (usual an upcoming shoot). Side note; the candy did trickle down to his juniors the much of the time. MS McPhee was practically crawling into the operations room after a night on the town in Boston trying to get a grasp on reality, with a headache, brewery breath, bloodshot eyes and a shiny head. Though, his shiny head is not different from any regular day.

PO1 Murray, was usually yelling orders from across the far side of the operations room to get his minions to do his bidding. On several occasions, he'd buy the watch candy and treats. Which we had to check- like your parents did with your Halloween candy when you were a kid just to make sure there were no rogue razor blades. But each time, it was evident that the "new Murray" was turning over a new leaf and being nice.

PO2 Hunt got his smoke time down to approximately 1:37, which gave him more time to ask the PO1 what he needed/wanted and be his pontiff self (to the juniors delight). His large furrowed eyebrows taught a thing or two on their own.

PO2 Froese, with his curly Lockes, enjoyed calling Zippos whenever possible with his ear-piercing whistle. Looking back on it, most of us on the opposite watch were counting on the whistle for an alarm every half an hour. If he was not blowing he was working out and showering. The shower was only to pat down the "Froese Fro" although he can only hide it for so much longer.

LS Beaulne was either smoking, eating, smoking or shaking because he needed a smoke. LS Lemire was eating the ship out of house and home. He practiced his 57mm shooting sounds "peu peu peu" for the fire exercises and pre action calibrations. At times he would randomly roam around asking us math questions, claiming that

they were easy and, you were stupid if you could not solve them. AB Thorne is still sitting in the CANEWS chair (as I write) smiling blankly at the deckhead. AB Mercier is apparently a part of our section. I have yet to see him. He serves as a boarding team member. LS Richard could be found in his rack with a Grivol needle hole in his arm and a popped out vein on his forehead. LS Laidlaw (holy f\*\*k that pretty boy got promoted too, who would have thunk) was sitting at CANEWS half the time and the other half was spent standing in the mirror pumping iron and concurrently making out with himself while taking a selfie. Figure that one out...

Of course the aforementioned events and personnel are not based on true depictions of my co-workers, and are not an accurate description of Canadian tax payer's money at work.

In all honesty with all kidding aside, I am excited for this deployment and look forward to working alongside our NESOP team. I thank you for your good humor and deny all responsibility for hurt feelings.

OS Nicholson  
Jr NESOP  
HMCS Toronto

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## *HMCS MONTRÉAL*



Well it has been an exciting year for our Section. With the HMCS MONTRÉAL finishing our RRI's (With a port visit that was cut short in Bermuda) and many sea trials to that would make your head spin. As a section we looking for to WUPS in early 2015 and the many trials and shenanigans that we will face in following the year.

The NESOP section on board is a very special bunch. With our not so brave and not so fearless, PO1 Tony Phee. Our first EWS PO2 Hollie Blakney who is currently on his 6B's and as section, we wish him all the best in his endeavor. Our second EWS is none other than PO2 Scott "Don't do this in a foreign Port" Wells. PO2 Wells is teaching us the "do's and don't's" when it comes to being a young sailor in foreign ports. This leaves MS Christian "Baby Makin" Williams. MS Williams who welcomed a bouncing baby boy and is currently on diaper duty for the summer (Lucky Bastard).

LS Robert Sinclair in the last year has completed his 5B's and acted our Senior Hand with the absence of our MS. LS Sinclair will be leaving the HMCS MONTRÉAL this August to take a posting at CFEWC. As I am writing this entry, LS Cody "Just the Tip" Johnson is continuing to harass and maintain moral in our section. If it is either telling you to go &\*\$ yourself or inappropriately giving you that kind of creepy pat on the back...

LS Adam Langford is slowly everyday becoming more and more like the fitted equipment on board. (Only useful at sea). LS Ken "Old Balls" Stevens is surprisingly still kicking and not slowing down for his age. LS Ken "Wanna see my tattoo" Squibb is still continuing his art gallery on his body.

Congratulations are going to LS Mike “I’m a Diver” Ivanic to his promotion to Leading Seaman. Mike is currently on his QL4’s which he will successfully complete next month. We are saying goodbye to AB Joey Cummins “Slummins” who is being posted to HMCS Fredericton. We wish Joey all the best on his upcoming deployment and will be missed.

AB Scott “I AM A COP YOU IDIOT” Broderick and myself AB Ryan Lawrence have completed our QL3 packages and preparing for our QL4 course early 2015.

Now the Leadership “We still do NESOP stuff... Sometimes” Section. We are welcoming our new Combat Chief CPO2 Ron Carr. Always a good thing when your Combat Chief is the same trade... I think. Saving the best for last, our Coxswain CPO1 Jim Percival. Not a good thing when your Coxswain is the same trade.

Well that’s all the news on our team we call MONTRÉAL. Our next entry should include new and wonderful things we’ve done, but, most importantly, include the new people when we get them.

By  
AB Ryan (Not so Smooth) Lawrence

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## From THE WEST COAST

*From the West Coast MOC Advisor*  
**CPO2 Wayne “Bill” Frerichs**

MARPAC Occupation Advisor  
SENSORS SECTION CPO CFFSE

Greetings and salutations from the mostly sunny West Coast. It has been a while since our last newsletter and now CPO2 Chapman at the helm driving this ship it is time for the next edition.

CFFSE is in the full swing of instructing all levels of QL training as well as finalizing our MES and CSI compliance for all these course. HMCS CALGARY completed sea doing trials and is enjoying RIMPAC to conduct their missile. HMCS WINNIPEG has completed sea trials and preparing for her next mission when told to go. HMCS VANCOUVER is preparing for sea trials, and OTTAWA is now refit. To the crew of HMCS REGINA, your mission progresses and even with a change of focus you remain strong, best of luck and remain safe. There are more changes to come and the future of our occupation looks bright and interesting.

To all those personnel who have graduated from QL courses in the last year, BZ and congratulations. To all those who have been promoted, your hard work and dedication have paid off, congratulations and enjoy your new rank.

Our occupation is now in the full swing of being instructed at all levels within the HCM construct. We are reaching a tipping point of having far fewer shortages at all rank and position levels. Our futures look bright and promising.



### ***HMCS CAYUGA, AWWTC Black Rock***

Good day fellow NESOPs, from the place we can all call home, Black Rock. D-218, Cayuga has finally wrapped up her last legacy course, QL-4 0048 graduated on 23 July 2014. The 'Rock remains a hive of activity, less so with in-house courses (with only two at the present time) and more so with the transition of all QL courses to HCM and also with the preparation of being capable to HCM train the west coast Above Water Warfare Teams. As our loyal readers may recall, Black Rock staff watched sadly as the 3" 50 was removed last year. On the other hand, CANEWS, which was used for its last training serial on 2 May, can't be removed quickly

enough. Nineteen days later SHIELD suffered the same fate. Both remain fully intact on the property, for some reason no land-locked reserve units are interested in displaying them.

The Above Water Warfare Training Centre continues to be led by CPO2 W.W. "Bill" Frerichs. PO1 Lloyd Boutillier remains as the Section Supervisor and PO1 John Penner is the Senior Instructor. PO2 Dominique Gougeon is posted to HMCS CALGARY in August and has been replaced by PO2 Eric Lemay who joined us in May coming in from HMCS OTTAWA. PO2 Rex Heslop was kind enough to lend his services to HMCS CALGARY for RIMPAC 2014 where he described our facility to PO2 Mark Simper who is scheduled join the AWWTC in August. PO2 Tracy Schulz keeps busy OPI'ing courses and processing VCR security requests. PO2 Billy Blore joined the team in July after serving three years with the CFFSE Leadership and Recruit Division. Promoted in late 2013 after completing his QL-6A PO2 Greg Hamilton joined HMCS WINNIPEG in May. MS Mark Pyza remained employed at Black Rock after successfully completing his QL-6A course until he begins his Continuous French Second Language Training in August. MS Jesse Truscott and MS Danny Buch are currently on PATA leave after the delivery of their children in March and July respectively. MS Steve Tremblay has departed Black Rock in August to join his brother at the CFLRS in Saint Jean and MS Derrick Cote was posted in to replace him in July after successfully completing Second Language Training. MS Pierre Lacombe was posted in to the AWWTC in April from HMCS OTTAWA joining MS Phil Burton who had the pleasure of instructing the final QL-4 0048 legacy course.

All in all, it's business as usual at the 'Rock, as we continue our proud tradition of turning out newly minted NESOPs to the Fleet, and furthering the training of those already there.

PO1 John Penner

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By CPO2 Steve Smyth - *CNESOP CANFLTPAC*

Bonjour!!! After nearly 6 years away from the fleet, (5 in NCR and a year-long French course) my family and I have settled back into the west coast lifestyle in beautiful Mill Bay (ie no snow blower required and adjusting to driving with traffic lights on the highway).



(Our view from the hottub)

This year has been quite hectic with our preparations for RIMPAC 14 exercise in Hawaii. The CFMCC (Combined Force Maritime Component Commander) was commanded by Canada this year. That meant 31 days alongside in Hawaii for CANFLTPAC staff. Tough to take but someone has to do it. On return we jetted off to San Diego for a planning conference for the fall TGEX. CANFLTPAC staff will be sailing for proof of concept aboard HMCS Calgary this October. This is the first time staff will embark post HCM/FELEX for TGEX, off the SOCAL OPAREAs. This should prove to be quite interesting for staff, as we navigate the new CMS. We are also seeing the end of an era with NCOT going the way of the dodo to make way for the new SEACOT for HCM.

I would like to express congratulations from the West Coast to two of our East Coast Chief's. CPO2 Howie Martell and CPO2 Dave Keeping both retired this summer. We wish you both the best and thank you for your years of commitment to the NESOP community and trade.

And finally I would like to wish CPO2 Keith Macfarlane good luck in his retirement, Alberta will never be the same. Unfortunately I will miss this historic event while we are on TGEX.

To Keith, Howie and Dave,

Fair winds and a following sea, my friends.

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### *Sea Training Pacific*



Greetings from Sea Training Pacific - ST(P). The past year saw CPO2 Lonnie Thompson replaced by CPO2 Gord Dolbec. The office has never been so noisy! Leaving his family behind and going IR, CPO2 Thompson went off to the center coast. As for me, I'm now into my third year since taking over from PO1 Todd Green in 2012, who is releasing in August and taking the big move to retire in Halifax. What the....?!? He figures that his wife spent all these years out here for him, now it's his turn to do the same for her. What a guy! As most of you know, those who go to sea anyway, our sailing schedules have really increased with half the fleet in refit (...or broken) and the other half doing RRIs, trials, WUPs, DWUPs, MWUPs, etc... it makes for a busy time. The past year has certainly been busy conducting MWUPs with REGINA, Halifax Class Modernization training, a number of Harbour Readiness Training (HRT) serials and Reduced Readiness Inspections (RRI) and RRI2... don't ask, it's the "unofficial" new thing. We also assisted with Weapon System Training-Practical on CALGARY with the HCM Safe-Cert Cell joining us from the East Coast. The past year also saw PO1 Penner donning the red hat and brassard for ALGONQUIN WUPs so thank you to him for filling in! What's ahead? Well after some down time during the summer (for the NESOPs anyway. Some ST(P) members sailed from Halifax to Spain for TORONTO MWUPs), we'll be back to the grind gearing up and preparing for WINNIPEG's full WUPs program in October. VANCOUVER will finally be setting sail later this fall for RRIs with the pleasure of our presence onboard ☐

Since my arrival here, I've seen the advancement of several subjects from firefighting to force protection to HCM ships coming on line and the future will continue to see changes such as the new Naval Boarding Unit brought online which will open up opportunities to be a full time Naval Boarding member for a few years. Sea Training has also changed from years gone by. We are working on streamlining ourselves with ST(A) in the "One Fleet" initiative. Changes are also underway to how we conduct pre-firing briefs so watch our website for the latest updated briefing format, based on the AWD QSP and the STG. Myself and CPO2 Dolbec pride ourselves on being approachable and are open to new ideas and suggestions to improve training and operations in the Navy. Our door is always open... when we are here... so please feel free to fire us an email and stop by for a chat. Also, don't forget to check out the fairly recent release of the new STG (C), SSOs AL9 MC1 and CFCD 102 (L).

Hope everyone had a great summer in Hawaii for RIMPAC or wherever your travels took you! See you in the smoke!

PO1 Corey Lange

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## *HMCS WINNIPEG*



HMCS Winnipeg is proud to welcome a few new additions to the section. LS Randy Burns has been attached posted in from HMCS Algonquin, LS Alan Moffett who has rejoined the RCN from Civi Street, and PO2 Greg Hamilton from CFFSE, who will be taking over for PO2 Mark Champ. PO2 Champ has moved on to the Recruiting Office in Kingston, Ontario. We here on HMCS Winnipeg wish PO2 Champ the best of luck in his future endeavors in the military.

A big Bravo Zulu to AB Jean-Michel Aubin (who was promoted this month), AB Philippe Prud'homme and AB Aaron Guest, who all recently completed their QL4 course. They all excelled and are looking forward to putting some of their new knowledge to the test in the upcoming CIWS trials that HMCS Winnipeg will be conducting this month.

HMCS Winnipeg wishes good luck to LS Phillip Tallack, LS Daryl Bowen, LS Edward Davidson and LS Randy Burns, who are all currently loaded on the QL5A course.

The majority of the NESOP section was recently sent to Halifax to complete Safe Certification, PTT and OTT1 training. This was completed with flying colors, and the section feels the experience brought a lot of valuable knowledge and training that will be utilized moving forward to Work Ups and possible deployments in the future.

During the last sail, we successfully completed 57mm trials and conducted the first shoot for the newly refitted HMCS Winnipeg. This was due to the excellent preparation and planning by both the Combat and CSE Teams.

Overall, the NESOP Section on HMCS Winnipeg has been hard at work completing Certifications, trials and training. The section as a whole is looking forward to the upcoming opportunities to utilize the new systems and show the fleet what a cohesive and well trained Combat Section is capable of.

PO1 Byron Rempel

## HMCS ALGONQUIN



It's been a busy year onboard HMCS Algonquin. Although the mighty Algonquin hasn't been mobile for a while, the Nesop section on board has been an absolute whirlwind of activity! This frenzied team is headed up by PO1 Frigon who recently graced HMCS Regina with his presence for a time as SWC during their deployment. In his absence, PO2 Luke Mack has been powering the section through some of the most tenacious trade training that the team has taken part in. MS Day has been keeping busy doing the jobs of two Master Seamen, as MS, now LS, Stopa left the trade to become a valued member of the Image Technician PATs. We wish him all the best in his new trade. Congratulations to LS Chris "MP-5" Perkins who recently completed his second attempt at the boarding party course and has returned to ship with a vengeance, a new patch on his jacket, and many, many, many tales of his intense training. On the subject of tough training; LS Jessie Hanna is currently missed by the section while he is away at his PLQ, but we all have faith that he is taking the field by storm by participating in exercises with maximum enthusiasm and conducting crystal clear O-groups for the benefit of his fellow course-mates. Ever-progressing and having recently returned from his QL5B's, LS Jensen has hit the deck plates moving with a sense of urgency and is ready to use any and all of the remaining RCPs in the fleet. When it comes to admin, there is no one better than LS Jon "the bomb" Whitty, who is often so busy he is barely visible onboard! We would certainly be remiss if we didn't mention LS Ketterer's long overdue advanced promotion to Leading Seaman. This was a well deserved promotion and he is filled to the brim with pride and basking in his new found responsibilities. It's been an especially busy year for AB Kozlov who not only completed his QL4 course, but is also preparing junior members of the section with their QL3 OJPR packages as well as awaiting his QM board to become a fully qualified quartermaster. AB Murtonen has been ready and willing to backfill HMCS Regina's QL4 qualified Nesops for some time now, but the chance to patrol the Med keeps on evading him. Despite a few let downs, he looks forward with optimism for a possible deployment in the future. It's been a year since AB Burns QL 4 course, but he still has a whopping thirst for knowledge and is currently drinking in information preparing for his upcoming QL5A's. Bringing up the rear are OS Vivian and OS Koller who are currently trudging their way through course hoping to become qualified FCO's. Study, study, study! All in all, this has been quite an eventful year for Algonquin's Nesop section, despite the lack of sailing. This group of hard-working, self-motivated Nesops looks forward to another year of training and attach-postings.

LS Jensen



**STEP LADDER**

## *HMCS OTTAWA*



H.M.C.S. Ottawa's NESOPs have had a busy couple of months since our ship went into refit in May. After 6 months of hard work de-storing and painting the ship, Ottawa's NESOP section has seen member's posted in and out, coursing and promotions making our time in the shore office an exciting one. Our section provided manning for many ORCA sails, Oriole sails and various other tasking's around the base. PO2 Lemay and MS Lacombe were posted out to Blackrock AWWTC and PO2 Duhamel was posted in from CFRC Ottawa Det Kingston. With CPO2 Pitman retiring in August, PO1 Timmons has temporarily taken on the Combat Chiefs duties until our new Combat chief arrives later this month. PO2 Miller is currently on his QL-6B course in Halifax and LS Allison-Ryan is on her PLQ. AB Perron returned home from his duties aboard H.M.C.S. Regina in the Arabian Gulf and was selected to act as a Sentry for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa. AB Carmichael and AB Cormier were promoted from OS to AB and completed their RQ-4 Course where AB Cormier achieved Top Student Honours. LS Urichuk was promoted LS and is currently on RQ-5 Course. We are looking forward to more training through the fall months and HCM training early next year as we ramp up to get our ship back!

PO2 Martin Duhamel

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## *HMCS CALGARY*



It's been a very busy year at sea for the HMCS Calgary since our last entry. In the beginning of the year we have been going out to sea to trial all the new systems on board. It was the first time to see the new system in action and also first time to get our hands on the system since we had taken the CSI course. Like all new things there have been times where we had to work around problems but working with Lockheed Martin's staff, we were able to still complete tasks that given to us. We had also discovered the Port Watch (AKA Alpha watch) is able to destroy all targets that we have pointed the gun, ESSM or CWIS at, which included Hammerheads, EBITS, TLX, BQM targets. After long lasting trials, we went into a month long WUPS, during which time we were able to get back into war mentality mode.

This summer we had gone down to Hawaii to take part in the RIMPAC Exercise along with 22 other countries. During the RIMPAC sailing we also took time to get ready for our first missile shot (you know how it goes, step 216 complete, etc) since we took back the ship from the HCM refit. We were able to prove the system is able to fire the missile at targets in different modes, and that was proven when we were able to destroy one of a stream raid BQMs(thanks to Port watch – skin on skin). After RIMPAC and the missile shoot we were

able to take a few weeks off getting ready for TGEX and another missile shoot down in the vicinity of San Diageo.

During all these sails we have seen many NESOPs TD'd for a short and long period of times as well as having people being posted off. We have been able to keep our fearless leader, PO1 Esquivel for almost 3 ½ years. In the summer we sent PO2 Dawson on his QL6B course which left PO2 Simper all by himself. PO2 Simper is now posted to CFFS(E) and was replaced by PO2 Gougeon. We still have both MS Silver and MS Marier here as FCS's. LS French have been continuing to further develop his expertise on the fire control system as well as the upcoming FCS. LS Zaruba, AB Lajoie, AB Berube, and OS Evans remain with CAL and are looking forward to TGEX. OS Thomas and OS Lameris are both from other units and are having a blast with the little experience as NESOPS.

LS Borys

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### *HMCS VANCOUVER*

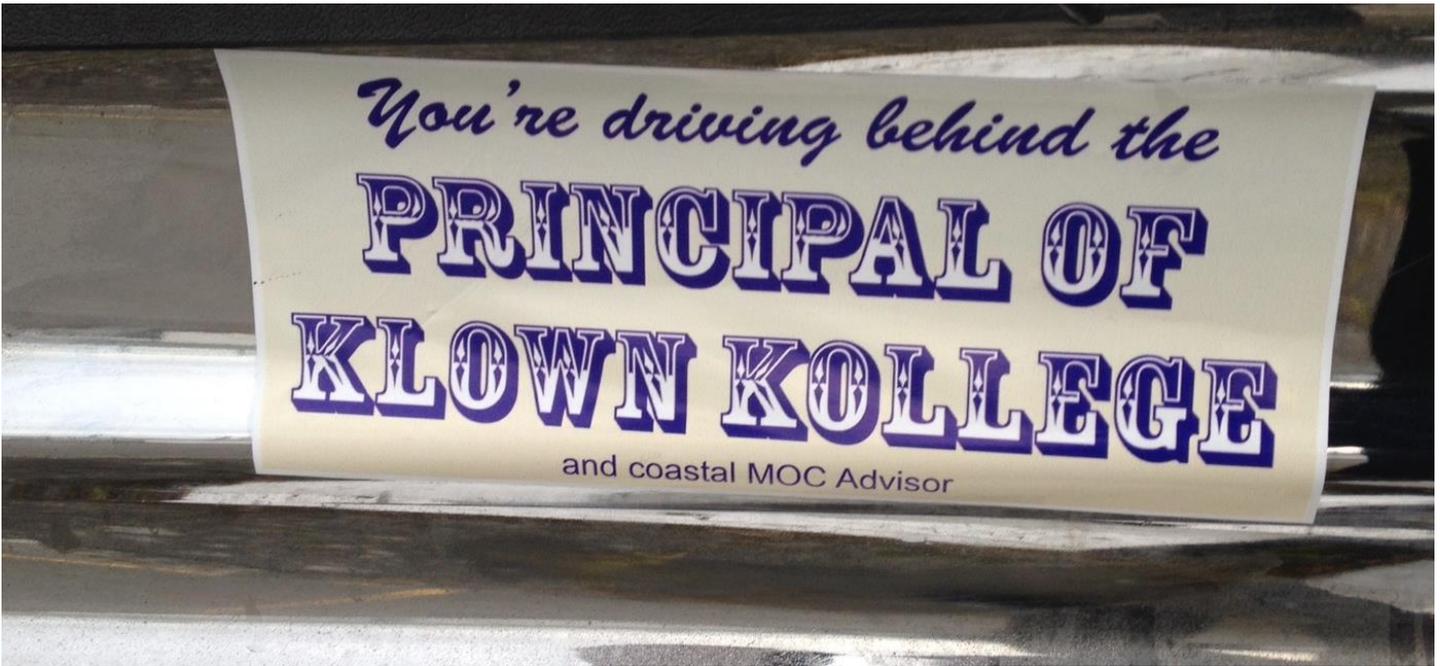


In 2014 the crew started to gear up and get ready to take the ship back. Around that time the newly minted MS Chalovich and MS Morris showed up and got down to work. We all got to go to Halifax for CSI training, getting our first look at the future of the navy, and it is shiny. In May we finally moved out of the shore office to make room for OTTAWA to take up the position, and took back control of our ship. It was hot and heavy with duty watches and storing, as we worked to get the ship back up to a live-able state. MS Chalovich attended PLQ, showing all that approached his keen abilities and intellect, easily passing all obstacles put in front of him. Utilizing the lack of sailing we loaded as many of our junior bodies as we could onto the upcoming RQ 4 courses. LS Ho, AB Grant, AB Sanfacon, and AB Moe all attended and passed with flying colors. AB Lajoie got the opportunity to sail with the CALGARY and got attached to them for their RIMPAC experience. Malabossa continues to be an all-star, being awesome in general. Huston rocked his dive course and continues to build his biceps.

Life on the VANCOUVER right now starts and stops with masking, painting, cleaning, storing and more cleaning. Every day we offer up the meager bodies that we have to the BOSNs and they disappear into the vast work party, only to reappear periodically for Warfare Wednesdays and Combat PT.

After an ill-timed accident on leave PO2 Davidson will need to sit out for a few months with a leg injury, and PO2 Sheppard has been pulled away from the ship for personal reasons. With the uncertainty of who will be filling our much needed PO1 position, and with our MS being out on block leave and PLQ, we remain low on bodies and bosses. We still smile and joke on a daily basis, and complete as much as assigned to us as possible.

LS Peppley



Custom stickers have evolved into a growth business on the west coast. The above example was spotted on the rear bumper of a pickup truck belonging – as the text correctly identifies – to CPO2 Bill Frerichs, the west coast MOC advisor. Since there are no spelling errors except for deliberate ones to increase the humorous nature of the barb, the perpetrator is presumed to have secondary education at least, and to have been born before 1970.

## Next Generation Electronic Warfare



The familiar AN/SLQ-32, AKA the “Slick”, which outfitted almost every United States Navy ship may soon be a thing of the past. The Surface Electronic Warfare Improvement Program (SEWIP) will soon begin making changes. The SLQ-32 was identified as one of the key failures ‘way back in 1987, when USS STARK was hit by Iraqi Exocet missiles. More specifically, its fundamental electronic hardware architecture was identified as “inadequate”, and Raytheon began work on the way ahead.

Initial improvements were to the display, followed by new drivers provided by off-the-shelf commercial hardware. Block 1-B-1 replaced many of the electronics, some of which – astonishing to me, because I remember well when the first SLQ-32 system was installed – are not even made any more. Subsequent Block 1 improvements center on improving Specific Emitter Identification (SEI) and high-gain sensitivity.

Block 2 will replace the receivers and the familiar antennas with new digital systems which are forecast to greatly increase signal-processing muscle. The contractor also promises a lower false-alarm rate and better high-pulse throughput for clutter environments. Block 2 is expected to enter series production later this fall if operational testing goes well.

Block 3 is already envisioned as well, which will address future Electronic Attack (EA) capability and form a common capability for all USN ships larger than frigates, as well as selected new construction. This system is expected to start operational testing & evaluation in summer 2018 if all goes according to plan. Custom stickers

<http://www.defenseindustrydaily.com/us-navy-from-slick-32s-to-sewip-05365/>

## Next Generation Gunnery



How cool would it be to never have to hump ammunition again? How cool would it be as a SWC to not have to count your rounds, trying to plan during an active engagement when you were going to have a quick break where you could reload the gun? How cool would it be as one of those sweaty and somehow sexually ambiguous little government procurement types we never see, but know must exist since they are constantly chipping away at our budget, to pay about a dollar per shot for the energy pulse? In fact, there were a couple of times last year when the loonie was worth more than the greenback, which would only further our domination of the seas. And PACs? Fuggedaboutit.

All of that stuff might be possible, thanks to directed-energy weaponry. I'm sure we all played with ray guns when we were kids, at least the boys did, and perhaps there was some kind of laser Barbie for the girls, but directed energy weapons were always in the world of fantasy. However, now might be the moment at which we can see laser weaponry on the horizon.

The Tubular Laser Weapons System (LaWS) is a solid-state laser which has eaten up six years and \$40 Million so far. At the end of that, in tests aboard USS DEWEY, the LaWS shot down drones and destroyed fast-attack surface targets.

Developers and planners alike warn us not to get too excited yet – these platforms are easy to smack down owing to their thin-skinned structure, and the LaWS in its present configuration would not be able to shoot down a missile and would barely singe a fighter. The power output is classified by the Navy, but the reporting source (Wired) suggests it is probably under the 100 kilowatts considered “militarily mature” for a laser. However, it's a foot in the door. Rear-Admiral (USN) Thomas Eccles, a senior naval engineer and advocate for the program, envisions a day when the ship's power grid will be able to generate up to a megawatt of power (LaWS currently powers itself), which would scale the beam – currently about the width of a dime – to where it could burn through 20 feet of steel in a second. He says that would take out fighters and anti-ship missiles, which leads me to deduce he is not talking about steel 20 feet thick, but on a longitudinal axis.

<http://www.wired.com/2013/04/laser-warfare-system/>



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After a battle is over, people talk a lot about how decisions were methodically reached, but actually there's always a hell of a lot of groping around."

Admiral Frank "Jack" Fletcher, USN



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And that's it for now. Enjoy your leave with your families and friends, if you are so fortunate as to have it, and spare a thought for those sailors everywhere whom duty keeps at sea protecting those who pass upon it in pursuit of their lawful occasions. Fair winds and following seas.

**FIN**