

# NESOP NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017  
Issue #33

Naval Electronic  
Sensor  
Operator

L'opérateur  
DéTECTEURS électroniques  
MARINE

NESOP

OP(DEM)

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bulletin d'information  
Winter 2017 Edition



# Editor's Notes



**The NESOP NEWSLETTER is published by & for the NESOPs of the Royal Canadian Navy. It's 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

This is the first Winter Edition of the newsletter since I took the job over in the summer. My favorite part of putting this together is reading all the submissions as they come in. Each one really speaks to how and what each unit is doing and the perspective they have on the state of the trade. The humor that comes through is priceless and cannot be recreated in any other forum. In addition, the detail given on each person in each trade really allows for the readers to get an idea of who is in the fleet and what they are doing.

In this edition of the newsletter I've worked to include some recognition of our members by including a "Key Events" page. Here I will try to capture any Honors & Awards, Promotions, and other significant events that occurred through the year. I hope this can offer another level of recognition for these accomplishments and help to bridge the separation between fleets in knowing who is who and what changes have taken place.

Finally, as I've stated before, the NESOP Newsletter is driven by you and needs your support to insure its longevity. From Ordinary Seaman to Chief Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class, it relies on you to provide input into this resource. As we continue to evolve into a leaner, more capable navy the need to maintain these resources becomes more and more apparent. With the help of everyone on both coasts and Ottawa I know this will continue to be a great newsletter, and continue to be the envy of naval trades.

With that, I hope everyone had a great holiday season and are excited to start 2017 with a bang.

If you ever have any questions or concerns or you just want to chat, look me up and give me a shout by email or phone.

I look forward to hearing from you.

- **PO1 Derek Dawson**  
Editor NESOP Newsletter  
ST(P) WST NESOP

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**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

# Honors & Awards

## Awards



On behalf of the queen, his Excellency the Governor General of Canada has awarded the **Meritorious Service Cross** to **CPO1 Ian Kelly** (NESOP) for remarkable leadership and selfless dedication as the COXN of HMCS Protecteur. His boundless drive and personal kindness were essential in enabling the crew to fight the fire. He is the first in our trade to ever receive an MSC so ensure you congratulate him when you see him.

## Trade Promotions 2016

### *Chief Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class*



*CPO2 Carlos Esquivel  
CPO2 J.F. Douville  
CPO2 Tim King  
CPO2 Daniel Lalonde*

### *Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class*



*PO1 Eric Lemay  
PO1 Steven Whyte  
PO1 Bruno Savoie  
PO1 François Lacroix*

*PO1 Adam Callaghan  
PO1 Dave Seymour*

### *Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class*



*PO2 Jesse Truscott  
PO2 Gilbert Parker  
PO2 Paul Awalt  
PO2 Adam Marier*

*PO2 Robert Day  
PO2 Harrington  
PO2 Steve Tremblay*

### *Master Seaman*



*MS John Helpard  
MS Tavis Moffat  
MS Garrett Jensen  
MS Francis Beaulne  
MS Dollard Morin  
MS William Huston*

*MS Matthew French  
MS Jason Winn  
MS Alexander Redpath  
MS Devin Snashall  
MS Carr  
MS Vincent Lemire*

### *Leading Seaman / Able Seaman*



*Congratulations to all NESOP's, both east and west, who were promoted to AB and LS in 2016.*

*This is an important milestone in your career and should not be taken lightly. Continued dedication and hard work will see that you rise through the ranks of the NESOP trade. Well done.*

*Apologizes if anyone was missed in this list*



# THE NCR

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*CPO1 S. Murphy*  
*Director Senior Appointments Navy Environment*

Be a mentor to someone: It's cool!

When I think of mentoring, I picture an experienced sailor providing advice, guidance, and perhaps support to a less experienced sailor with the aim of motivating them to maximize their potential and achieve career goals. A prime example is our Sea Trainers but how many of us regularly seek out a mentor, or someone to mentor?

There is much scientific research that tells us mentoring is beneficial to both mentor/mentee and to the Institution as a whole. So it only makes sense to me that as sea days decrease, simulation technology substitutes real life training, and our code of conduct is more important than ever, that we owe it to our future leaders to utilize mentoring as a development tool.

All sailors with ambitious career goals should seek the guidance and support of a mentor. This will enable you to recognize where you need to develop, encourage career aspirations, and balance home life with career demands. Sailors are expected to maintain the highest standard of personal conduct at all times and understand and adhere to the four CAF core military values: Duty, Integrity, Loyalty and Courage. In order to translate this expectation such that it reflects what we do daily both alongside and at sea, we need to complement the Divisional System and mentor our sailors so they know what right looks like.

The CAF now encourages military members to “engage in broad inquiry, to think critically, and to venture and debate new ideas in the interest of contributing to collective effectiveness.” (Leadership in the Canadian Forces: Conceptual Foundations, 2005, p. 126). I see this as positive and also an opportunity for mentors to engage and interact with our junior sailors and support them in their well-being.

Combining Deck Plate Leadership and mentoring, we can lead by example, develop, and support our sailors in a manner that brings credit to our Navy and also helps them achieve career goals.

Beware of any perception of favouritism when you are mentoring, or being mentored. There are some who will look on any ambition as negative. This can be kept in perspective appropriate orientation. Mentors should not specifically be involved with career matters such as performance appraisals, promotions and/or postings.

Mentoring is an important tool in our box to fully develop the potential of future leaders. Being a mentor and having a mentor is a way to ensure the development of our core values and vision of the CAF/RCN. By promoting and participating in mentoring, we will encourage the development of skills and knowledge of future leaders leaving a positive legacy that can be summed up by our motto: "Ready Aye Ready."



### *Director General Canadian Forces Grievance Authority*



Another year has passed and the Grievance Authority continues to be a busy place. Imagine that! After the initial shock of being posted to an organization that deals with topics that were very unfamiliar, the settling-in period of about six months expired and it was time to go full bore. When I arrived in 2015, I was placed in the compensation and benefits section, relieving CPO1 Bishop, who was posted to TOR as the coxn. Let me tell you, that was a scary time. As a sailor, I'd never really had much exposure to C&B, other than sea duty allowance and hardship/risk while in Afghanistan. Separation expense, CFIRP, pay policy for pilots, and a whole lot more...that's a long way from "air threat warning red" and being a HQSM with the tan beret group!! However, as all good NESOPs do, I adapted and overcame. © Here at the CFGA, we have prepared over 700 grievances for the final authority (the CDS or his designate, our DG) in the last two calendar years. That's a remarkable number when

you think about it. I certainly had no idea that there were that many grievances submitted by CAF members. It really showed me two things, a lot of service members have legitimate issues that need to be taken care of and a lot of service members have issues that could be taken care of at a much lower level. At least, their concerns are being heard and actioned, not always in their favour but they are getting answers. On the personal side, I officially crossed to the old fart platoon as I received my second clasp to the CD recently. It's amazing how the eye goes to the two rosettes on the ribbon when you look in the mirror. Where did the time go? I know, most of you C2s are saying, "Time to move on, old man", and that's okay...but not yet, I still have 2.5 yrs to go! Merry Christmas to everyone and make sure you take care of yourselves, your families and your wingers over the holidays. As the VCDS Group CWO said the other day, it's not always a happy time for everyone.

CPO1 S.H. Haughn, MMM, CD



### *Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School (CFLRS)*

Hello and bonjour from the 4 NESOPs currently posted to the Canadian Forces Leadership & Recruit School (CFLRS) in St-Jean, Quebec...or as PO2 Jeremy Froese puts it, CFLRS is the "tip of the spear"...if that is the case, who gets the shaft?

The newest or rookie of the 4 just happens to be the oldest, PO1 Pat Brunet. He never volunteered but said he would not put up a fuss if his name came up on a posting message for the place....guess what... Anyway, he is up for the challenge but rumors are that for his first 13km march, the Army had to come to his rescue at the 10km mark. His rebut was that all his gear was brand new and that if

anyone wants to dispute it, come see him. Give him a break...the last time he was in the field he was an eye-witness to Adam meeting Eve.

PO1 Paul Frigon is with "A" Div and is A11 Platoon Commander. That platoon only teaches officers and so far this year Paul has pushed out a total of 16 new MARS officers, of which a few of them have even expressed interest in AWW. You can thank him later!!! Over the last year and a half he has become much more familiar with the Army's version of Battle Procedure but mostly enjoys filling a bag full of arti sims and other pyro and going for a walk in the evening. With a job that has so many peaceful moments as that, the CM will be hard pressed to get him back to the coast...SAWS shoot...not another misfire.

Hear-ye, hear-ye, PO2 Jeremy Froese loves CFLRS-----the L stands for leadership. Jeremy actually just finished training an Aboriginal platoon only a few weeks ago but as the saying goes...all good things must come to an end. He just shredded all evidence that he was here because he will be returning to Halifax in early January to commence his 6B training from 5 Jan – 9 Jun. If something goes wrong, he will be squawking modes 3 and Charlie back to Montreal sometime in-between those dates. See the positive thoughts that CFLRS brings out of a person. All of here at CFLRS wish you the best of luck.

PO2 Benoit "Ben" Delorme is on round 2 here at CFLRS but as a second timer and with all platoon positions filled, he was assigned to the CFLRS Staff and is in charge of Monitor Mass accounts. It is a great go and has way more time on his hands than he did when working with the platoons, but he is OK with that...and what person would not be. It actually allows him time to take up his favorite hobby, playing with a member of the brass family, namely the trumpet. He has found a seat on a Montreal based Orchestra called "L'Orchestre à Vents de Musique de Films" (OVMF). It is rumored that he will be posted to Montreal this APS, so if that is the case, his trumpet skills will benefit because all the time that he spent travelling to and from St-Jean, he can now use that to stay later and fine tune his horn blowing skills.

So from all of us here in St-Jean at the Officer and NCM recruit school...IT IS a very rewarding job. To witness a civilian become a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, a brother in arms, and know that you had a role in it...it is a great feeling...not as great as your first foreign port but none the less it is still a very special moment. So for all you NESOPs that dread coming up here, all I can say is that I too had my fears because it was way out of my comfort zone but to be honest, it has been a great go so far and I can only see it getting better...that is once you get past putting your name on all the army gear they give you. Ohhhhhh, and one last thing, it takes approximately 3 months for cloth name tags to be made, so if you do venture up this way, do yourself a favor and go to base clothing and order Navy Blue & CADPAD name tags (don't forget the anchor). GO HABS GO

Author: PO1 Brunet, and approved by all (except Jeremy)



*Canadian Forces Electronic Warfare Centre (CFEWC)*



Here at CFEWC there are still familiar faces within building 91 but there have been a lot of changes in 2016. This APS has brought new personnel to the unit; all of which have brought unique and excellent skills and knowledge to the EW arena.

*PO1 Rempel* arrived here at the end of summer and has taken on the roll as Senior NESOP. He has ensured the parametric section has worked effectively and efficiently. He is enjoying being back in the NCR spending much of his time with his family.

*PO1 Phee* remains the supervisor for the EOB section here at CFEWC. He has been pushing forth with increasing the Analyst section. He's also still waiting to have an out of Canada trip. He is easily found in the smoker's area, smoking inexpensive cigars or enjoying wearing his Kilt.

*MS Teasdale* has continued to enjoy Ottawa. With the help of his Girlfriend he has added the new responsibility of being a Corgi owner. On the EW side of things, MS Teasdale has instructed his first 2810 course this year with much success.

*MS (Mr. SharePoint) Sinclair* is continuing the joys of fatherhood, making the best of his time in Ottawa with his wife and daughter. MS Sinclair is the GURU and MASTER of all that is SharePoint. On a weekly basis continues to teach and improve SharePoint format for CFEWC members. MS Sinclair is loaded onto his 6A's in January.

*MS Chalovich* left CFB Esquimalt mid-summer to join us. MS Chalovich was thrown right into the grind, working with the EOB section. He has also taken on helping other units within building 91 with his experience with EW. He has also just been loaded onto his 6A course and we wish him the best of luck.

*MS (The Iron Lord) Mudge* has been a key cog in the PARA section at CFEWC and most recently been added to the EOB Section during the great swallow up. During his off time here in Ottawa, MS Mudge has found a new passion for the video game Destiny and is hoping to recruit a fire team of NESOP's, assuming you don't suck and won't rage quit after you cause the team to wipe.

*MS (The Muscle) Morris* is the newest member to CFEWC. There have been a lot of recent events for MS Morris being posted here in Nov and recently been married in Oct. He has come to Ottawa to become the Bodybuilding champion of the world. He is registered for the 2016 GNC Allmax Ottawa Natural Classic and with the help of PO1 Phee's expert coaching; we believe he can obtain this goal.

*LS Perron* has been busy with SC&M section travelling to Petawawa and getting a taste of the army lifestyle. Shortly after arriving in Ottawa, LS Perron was sent to expand his skills for the CFB Esquimalt Urban Search And Rescue as a USAR technician. He is enjoying his time here in Ottawa being close to family and friends.

*LS Gariepy* joined the unit in May and began right away hitting the books studying for math 1030. Since then he has completed several other courses here at the unit including 2810, and BEW. Prior to joining the CAF, LS Gariepy was an animator and worked on a few television shows. One of the shows was the lovable and NOT annoying at all Caillou, which unknowingly, happens to be PO1 Phee's favourite show. LS Gariepy is enjoying being in Ottawa with his family and being a part of the EOB section.

*LS Turpin-Thauvette* has enjoyed another year here at CFEWC. He has taken on many roles here, bettering the unit. He has been Instructing new members on how to input Data for the EOB section. More recently LS Turpin-Thauvette is heading to Australia to work with their Navy and show them how to input data into NGES. Outside of work he has taken the opportunity to treat his girlfriend on a romantic getaway to Niagara Falls.

*LS Campbell* has settled in well here at CFEWC working in the ICMC section. He immediately completed the 1030 and 2810 courses provided. He has taken upon himself to take on extra schooling at the University of Manitoba. Currently LS Campbell is away on course in Winnipeg for the AEW (Advanced Electronic Warfare) course. This was an amazing opportunity to visit his family, who reside in Winnipeg, during the holidays. When he comes back he is hoping to have his apartment still furnished, after finding a new roommate off of Kijiji before leaving on course.



*Trinity Imagery Analyst CFIJIC Ottawa*

Good day mates from Bahrain!!!

Yes you read right, Bahrain during the snowy season in ARID CADPAT (much better than a Floater Jacket and Balaclava)...Not only has my position at the Canadian Forces Joint Imagery Centre (CFJIC) opened my eyes to the world of imagery analysis; it has given me the opportunity to deploy as part of CTF-150. The position here at CFJIC is very unique. Despite being in the NCR, and being in the basement of a building at Tunney's pasture it has been a very busy two years but rewarding. The AIMX courses is an eye opener and mentally challenging, but if you enjoy research, are pro-active, enjoy working on a computer and want to support your shipmates on the coast in a unique way this may be the challenge for you. From the basement in Ottawa you actually work for TRINITY, the workflow is steady and follows the ships along their deployments. This deployment to Bahrain is a first, I get to be the Imagery Analyst (IA) to directly support CTF-150 which is a new capability added to the team. Working out of a trailer doing imagery analysis, or the basement in Ottawa and supporting the intelligence branch is a good place for NESOP's; our experience and point of

view on operations is well received. If any of you have any questions and would like 1 on 1 information on the position, I will definitely be open to chat about it. I guess this is more of a sales pitch than an info letter, but in my view this is one of the better postings I have had the pleasure to hang my hat in, and my promotion will force me to leave this seat for a lucky winger. See you all soon on HMCS ? TBD. My crystal ball is fuzzy but I think I see the Halifax Coast in it.

Happy Holidays, and a Great New Year to all

PO1 Steven Whyte



### *Naval Electronic Warfare Centre*

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Greetings from the Nation's Capital.

As Ottawa is getting ready to host Canada's 150th birthday the city is starting to come alive. Great sights, a great local sports scene and a great place to be for 2017, but that is the future. 2016 has been extremely busy for NEWC with analysis and library production. Our work has seen plenty of changes, revamping old processes and streamlining ways for the future. This year (as of this moment on a cool December morning) has seen us analyze around 400 intercepts and completed 150 library products.

LCdr Steve Bedelle continues as our OIC with his eyes set on a not so distant retirement after 450 years of service to the RN and RCN. OPSO Lt(N) Villiam Tikka has his hands full with the day to day NEWC operations and taskings, but still takes time to volunteer with local cadets and maintain his level 34 Knight Elf Mohawk WoW account. CPO2 Mike Barker left us in June to be the Fleet Chief out west, and CPO2 Corey Treverton has taken his place with a transition so smooth that we hardly notice a difference. PO1 Evan Entwistle, or Twist, for those in the know, has been pulling greys out of his beard while dealing with us. PO2 Luke Mack, our softball enthusiast and fantasy league commissioner, keeps his eye on us by prairie dogging over everyone's cubicle. PO2 Duane Cole regales us all with his tales of past and present endeavours and imposes his love for Nickleback on all of us. MS Andrew Bishop completed his RQ-PO2, and became the PMC of the Junior Ranks mess. Now he's sitting at home looking after his first-born son. MS Nicolas Corbeil has been pulling double-duty during his absence and he has also welcomed a little girl into his growing family. Our new unit technician is MS Michael Cox, who is hard at work installing new computer towers, dreaming about hunting and fishing while doing so. LS Dustin York has been working on intercept analysis, as well as growing out his face hair, al while loving the season his beloved Dallas Cowboys are having. LS Jason Martin aka Barbarossa (due to his thick, red beard) completed his RQ-MS, and was given his leaf. Well-earned for sure, and is now posted back to Halifax as a member of HMCS Montreal. We all miss that beard Jay. His replacement, LS Alain Mercier has come to Ottawa from HMCS Toronto and was thrown right to the wolves and has survived so far. Our unit clerk, Cpl Courtney Hoskins was promoted to MCpl, and sent off. After most of the year without a full-time clerk, Cpl Richard Donahue has come in to fill the void. As for myself, it's been an interesting year. I'm the resident paper boy at NEWC, gathering enough Ottawa Metro newspapers for all to skip the articles and go straight to the crossword and sudoku. I made a Kevin Pillar-esque catch during our campus softball tournament and am still paying for it. Apart from that, I've kept busy with analyzing your collects and TACELINTs, and training. I also got to meet with most of my junior rank peers on both coasts (twice!) explaining some quality control measures, and things that we've been doing here at NEWC.

From all of us at NEWC, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

LS Daniel Gignac



## *NORAD / USNORTHCOM*

Greetings from the Mountain High State! PO2 Jeffery Lacey here sending you greetings from the NORAD / USNORTHCOM Command Headquarters. A fine place to find a Nesop no doubt lol. I am the only Nesop here so I thought that I would send some warm Holiday Greetings from our home here on OUTCAN. First Off I want to let you all know that coming here and getting to pass through the "STAR GATE" has been a very rewarding experience for me. I would not change this post for the world. I wait you all to know that working in the Missile and Space domain is a new level job experience that I never thought that I would obtain and I want all you junior Nesop's to know that this is a position that you should strive for. You will not be disappointed.

Gaining the experience to work in a Joint Command and seeing the defense of North America on a new Strategic level has made me realize just how much co-operation there is in the world between Canada and All its Allies to ensure that all our peoples remain safe while deployed and right here on our own home soil. I want you all to be rest assured that your loved ones here in on this Great Continent are being well looked after. The Job here is very rewarding and I hope some of you fellow trades people gain the chance to come here because it is well worth is and the Canadian crew down here is top Notch.

A little about myself in the last year, well not too much to tell at this point. I arrived at NORAD / USNORTHCOM in June after finishing a very rewarding 2 year tour on the wonderful "Old War Dog" HMCS ATHABASKAN where I served as the EWS. I must say it was my first tour on a 280 class and it was my most rewarding. The Crew and the Officers that sailed this fine vessel were the very best and I consider myself lucky to have been part of that crew. Once arriving here and getting settled I went on a 2 month training course for the missile and space domain and am now working the crew life here in Colorado Springs. I plan on taking space courses while here and Maybe even a QL 6B in the New Year. Who knows!

In closing I want to wish all my fellow Nesop's a very Merry Christmas and Happy New year to you and to all your families. Be safe this Holiday season and I look forward to reading all your submissions this year. Take comfort in knowing that here at NORAD we will ensure that Santa makes it to all your houses this year and I will see if I can put a word in to ensure he does all the Nesops First lol.

Take care.

PO2 Jeffery lacey  
Echo Crew, MSD NCO.



From

# THE EAST COAST



*Naval Training and Development Centre (Atlantic)*

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Merry Xmas and Happy New Year from the Naval Training and Development Centre Atlantic (NTDC(A)) AWW section, Warfare Division.

Our mission: NTDC(A) will rapidly evolve the RCN system of training, in order to generate the adaptive and agile warriors required to defend the global system at sea, and from the sea, both at home and abroad.

We will continuously test and integrate new technologies with performance based methodologies to ensure mission success. In addition, our Commander's intent currently includes analysis and planning for our future navy.

As I prepare this, TDC(A) has been operating for 152 days. The Warfare Div/AWW has been moving rapidly forward with a modified end-to-end review of all NESOP QSPs. The RQ MS course has gone through this process, but not overly affected due to it being almost completely performance based prior to. Shortly, the Naval Fleet Schools will receive the MLP and training methodology instruction to carry on with scheduled courses (NFS(A) 15 Jan 17 start). Next will be the RQ PO2 course which will have substantial change, followed by the RQ PO1.

*The MEGA.* Yes, it has changed and will continue to evolve. Within the next year, it is anticipated that all MEGA driven NESOP courses will be de-linked from the traditional MEGA format. The first combat course to experience this will be the RQ SONAR PO1 (Project BASSETT) commencing Jan 17. This pilot course will provide necessary course corrections and provide a solid direction for the development of our RQ PO1 and PO2 courses. If there is any advice I can pass to prospective students or instructors, it is come prepared from a doctrinal, tactical and operations planning perspective. The PowerPoint spoon-feeding method of instruction is no longer acceptable.

A newly promulgated "Maritime Tactical Planner's Handbook" is now being utilized as the Ship and TG Planning tool (link below) for director level courses. <http://esquimalt.mil.ca/notc/e/Courses/CDC/aawhatsnew.htm>.

Our staff consists of CPO2 Hamilton, PO1 Boone, PO2 Kelloway and MS Simpson.

The NTDC(A), with the exception of NLSC, is housed on the 3rd deck of S17 Stadacona. It consists of the following divisions:

- Warfare
- Submarine
- Seamanship
- Naval Learning Support Division (NLSC in S15 3<sup>rd</sup> fl)

*From the AWW Section at TDC(A), have a relaxing and safe holiday!*

CPO2 George Hamilton

Warfare Division Chief / AWW Chief, Naval Training and Development Center Atlantic / MARLANT NESOP MOC Advisor



***HMCS Athabaskan***



As the Athabaskan De-commissioning crew, 2016 has been a busy year with plenty of time at sea for us. We have had quite a few of our guys swapped around a bit, but as it currently stands we have MS Olsen, LS Scott, LS Gaynes, LS Hart, LS Tiller, LS Claveau, LS Amyot, LS Hartling, OS Brophy, OS Rhodenizer, and OS Kurello. We are a circus of varying talents, headed by our ringmaster PO1 Hillier.

We have had some excellent port visits over the year including ST John's, Charleston, Mayport x 4, Baltimore (Fleet week), New York City x 2 and Halifax for a quick turn about. Probably the most memorable part of the year for us was our visit to New York City, one of the greatest cities in the world, where we got to represent the Canadian Navy

at the Fleet Week festivities. FWNYC and FW Baltimore were likely the favourite ports for the majority of the NESOPs. Although this is quickly contested by the PO1 who had the opportunity to play 4 rounds of golf, while alongside in Mayport, followed by a date with the local delicacy of Gator Bites.

The Christmas season is upon and of course that means one thing...Career manager visits. I am happy to report that our interviews are complete and that the plan for the majority of our section is to remain onboard until the de-commissioning in March and then we will be set free to take up positions within the CPF fleet. Look out, here we come.

Our days here are numbered, and there has been much talk of what's to come in the upcoming year. Most of us will be honored to see the end of the HMCS Athabaskan, or as we are constantly reminded by our good Coxswain, the "Battleship Athabaskan". It will be a rare opportunity to not only see the end of a ship's rich life, but also an entire class of ship. In the coming months we will still be busy at sea right up to her decommissioning, and will then be disseminated within the fleet. PO1 Hillier has already sent out emails to the fleet SWC's to see what they are willing to pay in the way of trades for some able body seaman. His latest offer was 2 cans of ship side grey, 3 hurricane hawser's and 2 bottles of duty free vodka for LS Gaynes. All of these are willing to work outside in the cold unlike Gaynes. Not a bad first offer and he stated that he will make a decision prior to Christmas Eve. "Good price for you my Canadian Friends" is his new slogan. In the time being, we should absorb the "old school swag" of this magnificent and once modern vessel and sail alongside our shipmates to live out the final sea days onboard this seaworthy and trusted lady.

**"WE FIGHT AS ONE"**



*HMCS Charlottetown*

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Welcome Back to HMCS CHARLOTTETOWN:

On a bright Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of January HMCS CHARLOTTETOWN returned from OP REASSURANCE to turn over to a new crew. Though I had only been in shore office for a week, it was nice to come aboard what will become our new home. PO1 Jody Baker and the section really did a superb job passing along a great ship and we hope to rise to the same standard. The most striking upgrade to OPS had to be the “Wall of Heros” featuring 8.5”x11” mugshots of each section member plastered over vent trunking.

Departing NESOPs include:

PO1 Jody Baker, PO2 Rob Jensen, PO2 Nathan Kuffner, MS Scott Dickie, MS Tony Hickey, LS Matthew Marshall, LS California Privett, LS Krystyn Van Den Berghe, LS Kelly-Joe Perron, LS Taylor Bouthat, LS Ashley Whalen, LS Taylor Chamberlain and LS Mitchel Vincent Holden.

Enjoy your well-earned time at home, congratulations!

PO1 Dave Seymour (incoming SWC)



*HMCS Fredericton*

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After a six-month deployment and almost a month of leave for everyone, the crew of HMCS Fredericton was very excited to return to sea for TGEX Cutlass Fury, Spartan Warrior and SCC50 starting from the end of August to mid-December. The port visits include St-Johns (Newfoundland), Mayport (Florida), Havana, (The first Canadian warship to visit Cuba since 1956), Cartagena (Colombia) and Veracruz (Mexico) hope the dogs go easy on us when we get home.

PO2 Pittman was an excellent and enthusiastic leader, but decided to retire upon completing his contract with the military. We wish him and his family all the best.

MS Thompson was on his QL6-A course and couldn't sail with us. He is having lots of fun and we are looking forward to working with him again.

PO1 Dickie wanted a red hat but instead settled for the Warfare Center. He was an amazing boss for the Fredericton, and will be missed.

PO1 Murray is the new section head (maybe the third time he will get more things right than wrong). He keeps the Chiefs and PO's lounge entertained with some eighties' films. We all like his quizzes, provided that we can answer them correctly. He has a great deal of knowledge in all things NAVY, that will greatly benefit the section. And what can you say about having 2067 days at sea but wow.

PO2 Harrington can speak French for hours... using the same ten words. He is posted to HMCS Charlottetown II. His experience would be more than welcome on their upcoming deployment.

MS Erwood is such a smooth operator that he is needed to stand on both watches. He loves to work out on ship to get through the days' routines. At one point, he accidentally stowed his gym shoes in someone else's locker and was ready to wake up the whole mess just to find them. That's some dedication. Chris is being posted to HMCS Charlottetown II, we wish him a happy, fulfilling, and safe trip. We will miss him for his leadership and diligence.

LS Ewert recently completed his QL5-A course. Sean likes the Navy because he has more time to play on his computer than at home. During Movember, he wasn't far from winning the worst moustache in the Forces. Oh Luigi! He is a good Nesop with a positive and helpful attitude. He will surely be valued on his new posting aboard HMCS Charlottetown II.

LS Broderick recently completed his QL5-A course, although everyone suspects he passed because he played Airsoft with some of the instructors. During the middle of the sail, he left the Fredericton to join his new unit on the Charlottetown II. We will miss Scott. We wish him the best of luck with his upcoming deployment.

LS Duguay-Boucher (oh that majestic Frenchman!) spent most of the sail working as Scullery, and the Chiefs and POs' Lounge had never been a cleaner with him around. DB and his glorious Adam's apple will be solid additions to the crew of HMCS Charlottetown II after the sail.

LS Hatt is a good operator. An avid reader, she took part in Cutlass Fury but couldn't be onboard for Spartan Warrior. HMCS Fredericton is looking forward to having her back in the New Year. She has asked to try the SAC course out we wish her all the best.

LS Gladu is bright and engaging. Even though she couldn't participate in Cutlass Fury or Spartan Warrior, she is much liked by the section. Hopefully, she will take part in future sails with HMCS Fredericton.

LS Renauld was a part of Cutlass Fury but couldn't participate in Spartan Warrior because he needed to complete a dive re-qualification. He did complete it with success. He will proceed on his RQ5-B and hopefully will earn the rank of Master Seaman that he deserves.

LS Davidson thinks and acts like an NCIOP. That's because he has joined the dark side by mostly taking on the position of SAC. Intelligent and knowledgeable, he is still a better NESOP than an NCIOP and you cannot forget about the hair the PO has been keeping an eye on how long it is getting.

OS Melanson AP in from PCC, always a good sport and extrovert, is always in a good mood to talk and laugh with others. Whenever he's not showing off his muscles, he's showing off his wealth of knowledge regarding Electronic Warfare and platforms (not so for code words). Not a lot of seasoned sea dogs can drink him under the table and still remain relatively sober and giddy. He's a veteran of frigid New Brunswick Winters...perhaps that's why he's an MTOG wannabe.

OS Zhai AP in from PCC earns the dubious title of being the most educated sailor in the Navy, with a degree in Nuclear Medicine and Human Kinetics. He just can't get enough of sitting in front of Elisra. If no one ordered him off the machine, he would still be strapped into the chair till this day. But Zhai isn't always serious, there is nothing like a good game of Shincom trivia to put a massive smile on his face... and the faces of everyone watching him play. He may not be the fastest to the button on some topics, but if you know what's good for you, you will get out of his way during movie trivia. One thing's for sure, Zhai doesn't take any prisoners.

OS Doucett AP in from PCC is the newest NESOP addition to HMCS Fredericton. We found her in Mayport during our second visit there. After inadvertently giving her some food and alcohol, she followed us back to the ship and nobody had the heart to turn her away. With her bubbly personality and charm, she boosted morale and was an instant hit in the junior ranks' lounge. The poor crew didn't know what hit them. As soon as we secured for a new port, Doucett's hair would come down, and that's usually how the party got started. She's never one to pass up good drinks with good company. She's quick to learn and will be a valuable addition to HMCS Fredericton.

The ship has worked through a lot and more is expected in the New Year. It is back to sea for us and back to the sunny south before we head in for a much needed work period. The NESOP's that have gone on to be the back bone of CHA II good luck and take care of each other. For the members of CHA crew that are replacing them enjoy your time at home and get your gloves out to de-store the ship.



## *HMCS Montreal*

Hello fellow NESOP's



LS Forty hailing from the East Coast and the gallant HMCS Montreal. Where the lager flows like Black Water and the Donairs keep on spinning. It has been fun and interesting year taking on the role as X-Ship. We have a sense of pride in being the guinea pig of the RCN. Whether it's assisting the Cyclone on its many different endeavors or being hooked up to stress monitors and recording every ticking second of our sleep...or lack of it. The ship and section has come together as one efficient well-oiled machine. Our schedule is only going to get even busier this year with even more fun-filled trials and an OP Nanook and Joint Warrior coming this autumn.

We have seen many faces come and go over the past year. We lost the Turn-Table Freak PO1 Larry Peek to a COTF Volleyball injury. Just for the record before he blew his Achilles he was moving with

the grace of a young carefree stallion running the beaches of Sable Island. PO2 Blakney is off to N.B. for a shore posting. Maybe when he returns he could tell US a story or two. MS O'Brien, LS "That's no moon!" Drain and LS Smallwood (who took some convincing to refrain from reprising his role as Buzz in Home Alone) have left in preparation for Deployment with the Charlottetown. Good Luck! LS "Dicaprio on speed" Cummins and MS Young seem to be on the rise with a recent promotion and another Leaf right around the corner. Good work boys! MS Martin has been an excellent addition to the section (he writes my Div Notes) while LS Malcolm's flawless hair continues to impress throughout the fleet. LS "QuickDraw" Lyrette is no stranger to eating Snickers and chips in his rack and AB Bisson is still convinced after a long day of gunnery that we are to close up for a "Night Shoot", earning him a new nickname.

Some new additions to our section are sure to provide some interesting moments for the upcoming year. OS Adams continues to impress us and OS Sellars continues to impress us (for all the wrong reasons). With MS Carr and OS Storvik poised to return from their Parental Leave soon we congratulate them again and hope they enjoyed the time well spent with their ever growing families. We'd also like to give a shout out to PO2 Stewart from the West Coast and thank him for his contribution to the section. We hope the experience wasn't too painful for you.

We're all looking forward to what the future holds for MON and the X-Ship programme. The straight 8's watch trail was a success and we couldn't ask for a better section. Even though we're sailing a lot, morale is at an all-time high. With another year down the scupper we hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and time off and with loved ones.

Until next time,

-LS Forty





## *HMCS St. John's*



It has been a busy year for ST. JOHN'S with many good people coming and going from the NESOP section in preparation for our OP REASSURANCE deployment.

As far as newcomers go we saw a lot of new additions, with PO2 Scott "Chrome Dome" McPhee fresh off his new promotion and PO2 Andrew "The Falcon" Fletcher as our new pair of EWS's. We also saw the rise of the legendary PO1 Frank "Boola Boola" Lacroix who proved himself during our workups many times over, as well as proving his love for the Navy is only surpassed by his love for sunflower seeds.

As far as the current dream team goes, port watch led by MS Alexander "I can't grow a mustache" Redpath is going strong with LS Alex "My Dad was a CO" Mullally who proves that his vast knowledge of

Warhammer figurines is both beneficial to the Navy and to his tinder profile. OS Andrew "2 years 7 months 12 days" Iddon graces the crew with his stand-up comedy, whether they want it or not, and embarks on his first deployment with open eyes. Waiting backstage to join them is Anton "Mandingo" Manson who just had a baby girl suspiciously close to WUPS season, and PO2 "Sparky" Sparkes who was sent on his 6B's faster than he could name everyone Jungle Nuts... 2 mess will not miss his Zippo whistles.

Starboard watch is spearheaded by Joe "Quigleypuff" Quigley as the MS FCS, with LS "Dandelion" Dan Oliver starting his evil monetary empire in the canteen. LS Dan "Rainy days" Perally was promoted recently from AB and also embarks on his first deployment with much enthusiasm. LT Kyle "The Hangman" Hooper has been rocking it as SWC wishing he didn't have his own cabin or attendant so he could better fit in with his pleb brothers. LS Nick "The Trumpet" Forgues competes for top billing on either watch as LS Jeremy "FITNESS!" Terry does pullups and finds excuses to take his shirt off.

Filling the shoes of the combat chief we have Chief Ray "Chuck Norris" Cushing who proves that his love for ESM is matched by the love of family and a COSTCO size bag of Doritos.

All in all the section is the strongest it has ever been, taking to the seas of the Mediterranean and the Black to conquer the unknown as a team. This deployment is a first for many, we are all ready to prove ourselves (collect Foreign Service pay) and come home safely to our families. To the adventures we have, to the stories we tell, FOR QUEEN AND COUNTRY!

ST. JOHN'S out.



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From  
**THE WEST COAST**

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**AWWTC Black Rock (HMCS CAYUGA)**

Black Rock, the school with a view has been doing the business and producing top notch NESOP's for both coasts. 2016 has been a very successful year while undergoing reorganization with the addition of CAMPUS SUPPORT. We are working hand in hand with CS as they manage our PATS to maximize instruction and learning here at the school. We are very excited and anxious for them to reveal what it is they actually do one day. We have a museum on the first floor that showcases a vintage working CANEWS system where we could probably use an ELISRA. In the museum we also have the only working Sea Search in the Navy. At some point in the near future we will start to see the east coast teaching RQ-OS which will cause the NESOPS to be sorted after basic training instead of Black Rock. Unfortunately, a NESOP could complete 25 years of service having never experienced this coast or beautiful view.

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With the new layout of the school the Chief has been replaced by Divisional Officer Lt(N) Lee. Occasionally he will come out of his office and say hi between the instructing of sailing and biking to work rain or shine. PO1 Timmons has been keeping us all in line while maintaining a great Oceanside landscape with his weed whacker and hedge clips. He is the voice of wisdom, counselling his team with the fastest routes to work during peak traffic times and the state of the current wildlife at the school. PO2 Mack took a break from the day to day routine at black rock and the dockyard gym to enjoy some deserved parental leave with his new baby boy, Moses. PO2 Simper has stepped up his game with a commanding lead in outstanding amount owing to the canteen. He continues to have the same taste in vehicles that are older than him. MS Borys, the open up guy has been very helpful with my recent posting here. A busy man who volunteers for search and rescue, often falling victim to PO2 Simper's invites to the smoke can. MS Silver has put the finishing touches on his cave dwelling office in the basement, he braves the bright florescent lights and windows to say hello throughout the day. I'm enjoying my new posting here at the school. I'm doing my best to help prepare the recruits for a career with the Royal Canadian Navy with a little extra PT than previous courses might be used to.



## Sea Training Pacific

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Greetings from Sea Training Pacific!

We have been very busy here at Sea Training over the last few months. We conducted VANCOUVER's DWUP's over to Hawaii which turned out to be a very long program. It offered a lot of insight into the RIMPAC scenarios and even earthquake response which turned out to be very useful for the ship when tasked to New Zealand. Throughout the summer ST(P) was able to enjoy a bit of the summer leave period while still making trips down to visit the ships in the early mornings. After that WINNIPEG and OTTAWA's IMSRT was conducted by both Atlantic and Pacific Sea Trainers. This allowed for us to continue aligning our processes by ensuring that we are assessing to the same standard on both coasts. In November, a small contingent of Pacific Sea Trainers flew over to the MONTREAL to assist in the sleep study with the X-Ship. After a successful trip down to Jacksonville, the only thing that could not be assessed was the service from the hotels in the Greater Jacksonville area, UNSAT!

Right now ST(P) has been tasked with conducting an Operational Readiness Assessment on Electronic Warfare. This will focus on various capabilities and deficiencies the RCN is currently experiencing and will concentrate on providing recommendations to better enhance our ability to conduct ES operations. In addition, the recent completion of EW Working Groups and ES Enhancement discussions has demonstrated the desire and commitment that senior officials of the RCN have towards providing a capable and working ES system(s) for our operators.

Now that the New Year is upon us, we at Sea Training wish everyone in the NESOP community all the best and we look forward to seeing you throughout the fleet.

Cheers

CPO2 S. Smyth &  
PO1 D. Dawson  
Sea Training Pacific

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## Naval Fleet School (Pacific) PLQ

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Greetings from the Center of Leadership excellence here at NFS(P) PLQ.

Many changes have befallen us this past while, including personnel. Heading the charge from the front is CPO2 Kenny "Goalieman" Simoneau, who has been taking the brunt of full firemain pressure of changes and seemingly never ending issues that have been coming through. PO2 Adam "I R SWC" Callaghan has passed his AWWD course, subsequently Promoted to PO1 and posted to HMCS CALGARY. No doubt he will do extremely well there. Replacing PO1 Callaghan and filling his shoes has been myself, PO2 Troy "perpetual grooms-man" Stickley. Coming from the REGINA and parachuted in Oct last year. LS Howard "Anti-seasick" HO is also here helping us with everyday requirements and kit acquisition.

In a nutshell, there have been many changes in the Fleet School construct. Going from CFFS(E) to the new moniker of NFS(P) and the campus model, has had its challenges. This also included a move for PLQ itself from the long-time location in Naden to the much more modern "AKA not so much", Haida building and classrooms in Workpoint. Add in changes to the core PLQ course itself, meant to be a CAF wide standard, and it has been a whirlwind of activity here. But we persevere and drive the agenda forward in order to start the new pilot course in Feb 17.

If you are highly motivated and looking for a challenge to be "tip of the spear" in leadership, this is a great place for you to look at for a posting. And as a bonus, if you are a MS that is PLQ trained, we have spots opening. Call your career manager today! Sales pitch, end.

May the odds be forever in your favour, or a level of counselling shall be forthcoming!

PO2 Troy Stickley



## HMCS Regina

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Greetings from the NESOP section of HMCS Regina!

As most of you probably know that we are now out of refit (finally) and getting ready to get out there once again. Having spent the last while being upgraded we can now give lessons to MTV's "Pimp my Ride" mechanics on how to make a sweet ride (or ship in our case). To the untrained eye Regina may seem like a floating construction site....because it is. However much progress has been made and now there are actual dates in the near future of when we bring her out to sea.

Much has changed from the time we got her back and moved out of shore office to the present in which you are reading this newsletter. The NESOP section is now primarily made up of HMCS Winnipeg's NESOPs. Upon finishing the deployment and taking much deserved leave PO 2 (now big-wig at PLQ) Stickley, LS Moffet, LS Munro, LS Carmichael, LS Castellan and myself, AB Petkov have all found ourselves wearing the golden crown on a purple background. PO1 Hassen who briefly joined us was a great addition to the section has now moved on to better and bigger things. We greatly appreciated his humour and guidance.

They were joined by other NESOPs from units all over the country. PO2 Stewart and MS Granger take the cake for having travelled the most to get here - all the way from Ottawa. Both of them also now happen to be on their respective promotion courses - we wish them best of luck! Their counterparts PO2 Hamilton and MS Hanna administer the section with an iron fist inside a boxing glove.

Leading the section is PO1 Savoie who recently left his underground bunker office in Denver, Colorado to the ever cold and dimly lit Operations Room. Longest serving member of Regina, LS Biccum has left us to track communists from a desk at RJOC. Now the title of longest serving Nesop aboard REG belongs to LS Ledger. Also joining us is LS Price coming over from HMCS Calgary who made himself a great name as man of many hats and last but not least, we welcome OS Saull - the future of our trade! Special mention goes out to our esteemed Combat Chief and distinguished NESOP in his own right, CPO 2 Esquivel. Everyone is appreciative of his ability to keep us on track while ensuring both our performance and our morale are excellent!

Although nothing is ever written in stone for a ship, word on the street is we will be doing some good old fashioned RRIs with our friends from Sea Training. I'm sure they are looking forward to it just as much as we are (nooooot!) However there is light in the tunnel and it's a probable trip to Vancouver on Canada's 150th anniversary of confederation. Fingers crossed that no one is duty that day!



HMCS Winnipeg

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Salutations From the west coast, HMCS Winnipeg NESOP's here! Starting up where our last entry ends, we did go down to San-Diego California USA for a fun filled Fleet-week followed by the trials and tribulations of the dreaded Workups! Thankfully we were placed in the hands of Esquimalt's very own Sea-Training personnel who delivered not only a comprehensive workups full of "fun and games" as they say but also showed compassion and understanding in order to push us but not break us, Winnipeg absolutely rocked the workups, showing excellent teamwork and rising to every challenge brought to them by Sea-Training Pacific!

Sadly, it wasn't all fun and games for all the NESOP's, MS Garrett Jensen suffered an injury shortly into Fleet-week and had to be flown home, leaving us short a Master Seaman but lo and behold! MS Kevin Granger swooped in and took the reins for workups.

In other news, 2 members of our team, LS Dollard Morin and yours truly, AB Jean-Francois Masson got notification that it was time for another course, the RQ-LS-NESOP. Upon receiving this notification it was pack-up and go time returning home early in order to start their course at Blackrock. Earlier in the year LS Steve Earl, went through this course as-well and nailed it!

During this time, members of the NESOP section were sent for some more fun, this time in the cold winter of Halifax Nova-Scotia during OTT2 as-well as participating in a fun filled round of MRIs! We were sad to see MS Derek Cote depart HMCS Winnipeg to undertake his RQ-PO2 course, best of luck to him! On a brighter note, we received some new blood in the form of OS Chris Hachez enthusiastically joining the team!

Recently, HMCS Winnipeg entered a short-work period. We were soon informed that we would be greeting some visitors from china and escorting them back to Victoria, there were three ships meeting us at the rendezvous and we happily brought them back with us. They were soon berthed for a weekend of meeting and greeting the people of our fine city before departing the following week to carry on their good will tour of the Pacific.

The Whole Winnipeg NESOP team; PO1 Scottie "Bossman" Crouse, PO2s Martin "Duey" Duhamel and PO2 Adam Marier, LS Philippe Prud'homme, LS Steve Earl, LS Eric Pelletier, LS Daniel Vivian, LS Dollard Morin and LS Randy Burns, AB Jean-Francois Masson as-well as OS Brett "Butters" Melchior and OS Chris Hachez are forming a solid team and wish everyone a good year 2017!

Looking forward to sending you more news I say "Fair winds and Following seas!"

AB Masson



## HMCS Calgary

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CALGARY is nearing its final stage of de-storing before going in normal maintenance period after FELEX re-fit. The section is now lead by our newly arrived Snr NESOP, PO1 Callaghan. His two right hands are PO2 Demarce and PO2 Tremblay. I say right hand because we don't seem to be able to have them both at the same time onboard. I have been here now for a few months and actually enjoying my time with CALGARY's crew. The ship as always had a good reputation and I feel it is still living up to it.

For senior and junior members we have the following personnel currently onboard. Starting with LS Wilson who has been a tremendous help to me as I got to know the inner workings of the section. Unfortunately, he is leaving us to join HMCS OTTAWA very shortly to go on her next deployment. LS Zaruba is also one of the senior LS we have and he has been helping the section fulfill the many tasks that come with de-storing and moving to a shore office. LS Lajoie is busy with numerous tasking we get almost daily to support the fleet. LS Bowen just rejoined the ship and is looking forward to do ORCA sails and any other tasking we may get from PCC. AB Thomas who recently finished RQ-LS has also been a great support over the past few months as well. Our most junior members are OS Lefebvre and OS Sydney who are both going to attend their RQ-AB next week. Two more FCO's will be available to the fleet; I'm told they come in short supply these days. We also have LS Bowker who was loaned to us from FA(P) is now posted to HMCS OTTAWA to assist on her deployment.

MS Lacombe



## HMCS Ottawa

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Hello fellow NESOP from the exciting and ever changing Stone Frigate that is HMCS Ottawa. The winter season is behind us now, with the completion of OTT 1/2 and Work Ups last year these are critical times in OTT's preparations for a busy New Year that will include the ship finishing all preps for our upcoming Westploy to the South China Sea.

On to the team! Starting at the top, PO1 Eric "Where the hell is my protein shake" Lemay has successfully led the team though OTT 1/2 and Work ups. He also has somehow safely returned to us after a liver crushing trip to Mexico. Next are our famous PO2 Morgan "the wild card" Miller who has left us to kick butt on his upcoming QL-6B course. PO2 Jesse "the body" Truscott has been an excellent addition to the team with his vast knowledge of the trade and his insane stories of the glory days. PO2 Robert "the ketchup whisperer" Day who brings a wealth of knowledge and a generally calm demeanor to the section. MS Roberto "the donair crusher" Morris continues to be the tip of the spear of the section and is taking over as the RPO. LS Adam "PO I need a smoke" Carnegie continues to lead the way with his positive attitude lol. LS Bill "Tiger Woods Jr." Littlejohn has been prepping for retirement by working on his golf game literally every day. LS Frank "I'm so sleepy" Bellemare has returned to the section from his QL-5As and is now waiting for his spec pay to kick in. LS Matt "the family man" Cormier is waiting for his posting message to HMCS Calgary and is enthusiastic for a break from sailing. LS Derek "the best looking guy in the section" Urichuk is looking forward to the upcoming deployment and busy ordering supplies for the department. LS Chris "I want to be molly" Plamondon is awaiting a posting message ashore so he can enjoy some time off the seas. LS Nick "the friendly monster" Rigby is off on his QL-4s with LS Craig "super-size me" Rautenstrauch and they are both excited on meeting the ship in Guam.



## HMCS Vancouver



The 2016 year in general – and Westploy in particular – has been a busy one for the HMCS Vancouver, with enough tasks under our belts to fill a bowl of acronym Alpha-Getti: DWUPS, RIMPAC, JOLTEX, SAMEX and KAKADU, as well as Crossing the Line (twice), New Zealand earthquake relief, and a smorgasbord of sights, sounds and feels the likes of which the Canadian Navy haven't experienced in some time (Vietnam in particular). The desire to evolve our organization and experience new things is rivalled only by the desire for a half-decent cup of shipboard coffee; a formidable desire indeed, and one we take pride in attaining (if only irregularly).

During JOLTEX, HMCS Vancouver was the first Canadian warship to utilize Harpoons to fire at a land-based target, broadening Canada's warfare versatility in the process. In addition, during SAMEX, we successfully launched two ESSM at a BQM target. Unfortunately, our

attempt to take out a supersonic AQM was thwarted by distance, as the AQM popped up too far from the ship for it to be deemed a threat in the system. On the data-collection side of things, however, the exercise was a success.

Our section on ship is as colourful as ever. Between LS Roth's tireless pursuit of that half-decent cup of shipboard coffee (which should come with extra-curricular chemistry credits) and OS Hobbs slapping me around at cribbage for the better part of five months, we started coming up with unorthodox ways to entertain ourselves amidst our training exercises. However – aided by Roth's coffee – I was able to snap my eight-game losing streak against Hobbs and claim victory, which tastes as sweet as ever. Meanwhile, LS Koller and LS Sanfacon made it their mission in life – with the help of some Vietnamese suit shopping – to be the best-dressed individuals on the ship. They definitely succeeded, and their influence has spread to the other sections. Regardless of ship-wide successes or failures, we are definitely keeping it classy.

Several individuals have swapped in and out of the section over the course of our six-month jaunt across the Pacific. LS Lalonde brought an ample helping of sanity with him when he arrived prior to departure; AB Roberts took it with him when he departed for his RQ-LS course last month; and LS Starcevic has ruthlessly eaten the remains of whatever sanity was once present. Of our esteemed NESOP leaders, only MS Walker has been present long enough to remember Southploy earlier this year, while the deadly trio of PO1 Boutillier, PO2 Spence and PO2 Awalt provide a freshness hitherto unseen around these parts. That freshness turns sour in a hurry, of course, if PO2 Awalt does not get his tea and toast precisely at ten o'clock in the evening (he has apparently given up on the coffee).

As the Vancouver approaches Hawaii en route to Esquimalt, thoughts drift to LS Ho, LS Gillard and LS Malabossa, all of whom are presently enjoying their time ashore, either recovering from injury or awaiting their next chapters in their military careers. May the winds of change flow freely through all of you.

From the HMCS Vancouver NESOPs, hopefully people back home are looking forward to our return on December 14<sup>th</sup> as much as we are. Thank you for reading, and keep your stick on the ice.

- LS Moe -

No submission offered by the following units:

