

# LEAD AND LINE

## NEWSLETTER OF THE NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND

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*HMCS Fredericton sailing in the sunrise off the Atlantic seaboard. A zodiac, with members of HMCS Fredericton, heads for the submarine HMCS Windsor to exchange passengers.*

*Photo by Sgt Roxanne Clowe, CF Combat Camera*

### **NAC-VI 25 Jan Luncheon**

**Guest Speaker:**

**VAdm Bruce Donaldson, former VCDS**

Cost \$25

*Guests - spouses, friends, family are most welcome*

*Lunch at the Fireside Grill at 1130 for 1215*

*4509 West Saanich Road, Royal Oak, Saanich.*

*Please contact Bud Rocheleau [bnhrocheleau@shaw.ca](mailto:bnhrocheleau@shaw.ca)  
or [250-386-3209](tel:250-386-3209) prior to noon on Thursday 21 Jan.*

*Please advise of any allergies or food sensitivities.*

# NAC-VI LEAD AND LINE



## President's New Year's Message Jan 2016



New Years, as Past President Mike outlined last year is both a time of reflection and a time to look forward to new plans and new initiatives. Following in his footsteps, I too look forward to plans for 2016.

Membership is a challenge which all member-based associations are facing, and success usually comes by, not just doing what we have done in the past but, looking for new approaches in marketing and administration.

A major component of our new website mentioned in my last column is membership management. We will be able to join and renew on-line as well as access new member information services. It is also our plan to promote discussions and debate on issues facing our Navy. Our website renewal initiative is underway and we look to be up and running early this spring. By the end of the month I hope to be able to share new elements with you in my next column. We have engaged professional help here and renewal will be well underway by mid January.

Another point to consider, as we look to extend our

membership, is our key criteria to support and promote our Navy. This is gaining momentum across Canada. Recently in Newfoundland, a letter was sent out to a number of potential members and many joined giving a 20% increase to their membership. Your Executive will be pursuing this here as well. However, we ask you to consider others you may know that would like to support our Navy and ask them to join, or, give us their names and we will contact them.

Finally, as we look to build increased member services into our website, we invite you to let us know what you would like to see. Websites are now key components of membership communications as well as in connecting with those of the general public looking to support our Navy.

Indeed, this will be a year to look forward to.

### NAC-VI Membership Renewal Time

Many thanks to all of you who have already sent in your NAC-VI Membership renewal and donations to the Endowment Fund and the Navy League.

Just a reminder for those of you who have not had time to do so, we are back on the calendar year and membership renewals were due 31 Dec 2015 (or when you are next near a mailbox) for 2016. Any questions, please call the Membership Director, Kathie Csomany at 250-477-4175

NAC-VI Executive Committee				Special Appointments			
President	Bill Conconi	<a href="mailto:billconconi@me.com">billconconi@me.com</a>	250-652-1634	Editor	F Hanington	<a href="mailto:felhan@telus.net">felhan@telus.net</a>	778-440-0395
Past President	Michael Morris	<a href="mailto:mfmorris@shaw.ca">mfmorris@shaw.ca</a>	250-592-8897	Member Services	Stan Brygadyr	<a href="mailto:swb44@icloud.com">swb44@icloud.com</a>	250-727-2243
Vice President	David Cooper	<a href="mailto:drecooper@shaw.ca">drecooper@shaw.ca</a>	250-652-6580	Photography	John Webber	<a href="mailto:pacificsafety@shaw.ca">pacificsafety@shaw.ca</a>	250-920-4159
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# NACVI LEAD AND LINE

## Rescue at Sea

By Lieutenant (Navy) Kelly Boyden

HMCS *Halifax* joined forces with the Irish Coast Guard to airlift an injured sailor to a nearby hospital on October 15, 2015, while at sea in the North Atlantic.

HMCS *Halifax* put out a call to the Irish Coast Guard after a sailor suffered an upper body injury while training on board the ship. The ship's medical staff immediately tended to the sailor but deemed the injury required care best offered at a nearby hospital.

An Irish Coast Guard helicopter crew quickly responded to the call and lowered a rescue worker and a stretcher to the ship. Together with HMCS *Halifax* medical staff, the sailor was secured in the stretcher, raised into the helicopter, and taken to a nearby hospital in the Dublin area. The sailor was released from hospital later in the day, and returned to *Halifax*, Nova Scotia, the following day, where he is expected to make a full recovery.

This interoperability has been fostered in recent years through a program known as Regulus, which facilitates exchanges with partner navies from around the world. This past summer, Rear-Admiral John Newton, Commander of Maritime Forces Atlantic, was in Cork, Ireland, to meet with Irish Navy officials regarding the program. Since 2010, the program has seen over 150 Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) members serve with foreign navies, including the Irish Naval Service, and aboard war-



*An Irish Coast Guard helicopter lowers a rescue worker and stretcher to HMCS *Halifax* while at sea in the North Atlantic*

ships, research vessels, and coast guard cutters.

This has also been HMCS *Halifax*'s goal during the course of its current deployment. The ship recently worked with Allied forces to enhance overall mission preparedness during Exercise Joint Warrior and Exercise Trident Juncture, NATO's largest exercise in more than a decade.

## Korean Vessels Visit Montreal

Two Korean destroyers, *ROKS Kang Gam Chan* and *Dae Chung* came to Montreal in November this year. This visit was of particular significance as it came in the 65th anniversary year of the start of the Korean War, where more than 26,000 Canadi-



ans, including thousands of sailors on board eight warships, took part in numerous combat and transport missions in support of allied efforts.

The 623 Korean sailors were visiting Montreal, in part, for a training exercise for the 141 fourth year cadets on board. The visit also served to strengthen naval diplomacy between the two countries.

Canada and the Republic of Korea have bilateral defence agreements, such as the Mutual Logistics Support Memorandum of Understanding, which improve the logistical exchange and increased interoperability between the military forces of the two countries.

# NAC-VI LEAD AND LINE

## *Any nominations for the Admirals' Medal?*

The Admirals' Medal (established in 1985 in conjunction with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Naval Service of Canada) as established by Admirals Nigel Brodeur, Dan Mainguy and Bob Stephens in memory of their respective fathers who also had achieved flag rank, with the intent "to identify outstanding achievement in the wide range of maritime affairs" A group of prominent Canadians with backgrounds in various maritime fields serve on the Awards Committee and make the award annually, except when no qualified recipient is nominated.

**Nominations** The Foundation invites nominations for the award of the Admirals' Medal. Individuals and organizations who are in a position to identify outstanding achievement in the wide range of maritime affairs are urged to submit nominations. Nominees need not be members of any organization or a member of the nominating organization.

Nominations close on the 01<sup>st</sup> of March annually, and should be made by letter with the attached nomination form fully completed. Please include relevant biographical information, a brief description of the work, achievement or display of practical skill that it is proposed to recognize, along with the name of the individual or organization submitting the recommendations.

Nominations and all correspondence related to the Admirals' Medal should be addressed to:



**Executive Secretary  
The Admirals' Medal  
Foundation**

**PO Box 505, Ottawa, ON K1P 5P6**

**Email / courriel: [Richard.Gimblett@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Richard.Gimblett@forces.gc.ca)**

**Tel: (613) 971-7696**

**Fax: (613) 971-7677**



## *Previous Recipients of the Admirals' Medal*

- 2014 -- VAdm Charles M. Thomas & RAdm Eldon Healey
- 2013 – Mr. Robert P. (Bob) D'Aoust
- 2012 – Commander (RCN Res, Ret'd.) Fraser McKee, CD
- 2011 – No award presented
- 2010 – Mr. Ken Macpherson
- 2009 – Commander (RCN Ret'd) Peter T. Haydon, C.D.
- 2008 – Captain (N) William H. Wilson, O.M.M., C.D.
- 2007 – Robert Grenier, O.C.
- 2006 – Dr. A.E. Collin
- 2005 – Vice-Admiral (Ret'd) H. MacNeil, CMM, CD
- 2004 – Mr. R.M. Eaton
- 2003 – Dr. W.A.B. Douglas (Ret'd Cdr), CD, PhD
- 2002 – Commander (RCN, Ret'd) P.G. Chance, CD, M.N.I.
- 2001 – Dr. A.W. May, O.C.
- 2000 – Cdr (RCN, Ret'd) Anthony (Tony) B.C. German, CD\*
- 1999 – Captain (RCN, Ret'd) D.P. Ryan, CD\*
- 1998 – Vice Admiral H.G. DeWolf, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.S.C., CD\*
- 1997 – RAdm (RCN, Ret'd) R.W. Timbrell, C.M.M., D.S.C., CD\*
- 1996 – Rear-Admiral (RCN, Ret'd) A.H.G. Storrs, D.S.C, CD\*
- 1995 – Dr. Joseph B. MacInnis, C.M., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.G.S., L.L.D.(Hon)
- 1994 – Mr. William Andrew O'Neil, Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization
- 1993 – Ambassador John Alan Beesley, O.C., Q.C.
- 1992 – RAdm (RCN, Ret'd) Frederick Crickard, O.M.M., CD\*
- 1991 – Cdr (RCN, Ret'd) Charles Herbert Little, C.D., M.A., F.R.C.G.S.\*
- 1990 – Captain (RCN, Ret'd) Thomas Charles Pullen, O.C., CD\*
- 1989 – Cdr (RCN, Ret'd) Charles Robert Nixon, CD, M.Sc., P.Eng\*
- 1988 – Miss Moira Dunbar, O.C., M.A., F.R.S.C.\*
- 1987 – Dr. Michael Curtis Eames, B.Sc., M.Eng., D.Sc.\*
- 1986 – Cdr (RCNR, Ret'd) Louis C. Audette, OC, QC, BA, L.Ph., LLB\*
- 1985 – Cmdre (RCNR, Ret'd) Robert I. Hendy, V.R.D., Q.C., CD\*

*Note: an asterisk ("\*") has been placed beside the name of the recipients who are known to be deceased.*



# NAC-VI LEAD AND LINE

## ONAGAWA BAY

*A Legacy  
of Reconciliation  
and Friendship.*

by Terry Milne

**NAC members may recall an earlier story in the Lead & Line about Canadian pilot Lt. Robert Hampton Gray VC, DSC, RCNVR. "Hammy" Gray as he was known to his fellow pilots, was the Canadian Navy's most**



*Outside the Town Hall in Onagawa*

*Left to right Canadian Defence Attaché, Canadian Ambassador Mackenzie Clugston, Onagawa Mayor and Mrs. Soda, CDA Assistant (behind) Yoshitake Kanda, Emiko Kanda and family.*

**highly decorated officer in WW11. Operating from the British carrier HMS Formidable in the final days of the war he led an attack by eight Corsair aircraft on Japanese naval vessels deployed in Onagawa Bay. He sank the destroyer Amakusa, but her gunners had hit his aircraft, which crashed into the bay. Lt. Gray's remains were never recovered and to this day rest at the bottom of the bay. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.**

**In 1989, in an extraordinary act of reconciliation Canadians and Japanese came together to dedicate a monument to Lt Gray. It was located on a hillside overlooking Onagawa Bay where there is also a monument to the 157 Japanese sailors who lost their lives in the battle. Since then ties of friendship have grown. HMCS Ottawa paid a visit to Onagawa. Other ships visit-**



*News Clipping - Yomiuri Shimbun - a leading Japanese national newspaper*

*Caption: Japan and Canada commemorate the fallen at the 70th anniversary of the battle*

*The family of Yoshida Kanda at the Lt. Gray Memorial*

## NAC-VI LEAD AND LINE

## ONAGAWA BAY

*continued*

ing Japan have sent contingents to hold ceremonies at the monuments, and there is an ongoing student exchange between Onagawa and Hammy Gray's home town of Nelson BC.

Sadly the destructive earthquake and tsunami of 2010 caused widespread death and damage to Onagawa. The monument to Lt Gray toppled and the site became unstable. Contributions to help the town were gathered in Esquimalt and Nelson, and, coordinated by NOAVI, from serving and former RCN members across Canada. The town has been slowly recovering.

The latest news to arrive came from Yoshitake Kanda, the grandson of Warrant Officer Kanda IJA, who manned an anti-aircraft battery ashore during the battle. As President of the local Veterans Association WO Kanda was a leading supporter of the Lt. Gray monument. Yoshitake, who lost both his parents in the tsunami, sent photos of ceremonies at the monuments commemorating the fallen on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle.



*Below is the message sent by Yoshitake Kanda with the photo*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!  
I hope the New Year brings you many blessings and much love.  
I send newspaper articles and the photograph of the 70th anniversary ceremony.

I am sorry that information becomes slow.  
I was honored to be able to talk with the Canadian ambassador to Japan.  
I want to succeed the relations with Canadian people to my sons.  
Best regards,

Yoshitake + Emiko + Ibuki + Michito



# NAC-VI LEAD AND LINE



Join us for Maritime Security Challenges, the 7th iteration in the continuing successful MSC conference series, taking place in Victoria, BC, Canada from 3- 6 October 2016.

MSC16 is presented by The Navy League of Canada in cooperation with Maritime Forces Pacific of the Royal Canadian Navy.

As in past years, MSC16 will once again present topical issues on maritime security in a stimulating international environment.

Panel discussions will include:

- Challenges in the Regional Maritime Environment
- The Creation of Comprehensive Maritime Strategies
- Renewing Maritime Capabilities: People, Platforms and Systems
- Opportunities for Maritime Security Cooperation
- Technological Advancements in the Maritime Domain
- A special interactive, round-table discussion on The Future of Seapower

Don't miss this premier maritime security event! Mark 3 - 6 October, 2016 in your calendars now and plan to attend!

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and the Royal Canadian Navy**



## Spaniards to provide TWO AORs to Canada for 2016



*Photo: Maritime Task Force - OP Reassurance*

*HMCS Toronto conducted a RAS with the Spanish Navy supply ship SPS Patino in 2014 during Operation Reassurance in the Mediterranean.*

Many of you will have seen the photo and story in the last Lead and Line about the possibility of *SPS Cantabria* providing AOR support to Canada this coming year.

Since then, Esteban Villarejo of Defence News has reported that TWO replenishment ships — *Patiño* and *Cantabria* — will support training for the Royal Canadian Navy's Atlantic fleet in two different time periods: *Patiño* will operate between February and March, and *Cantabria* between mid-September and November.

Full details are still to come as negotiations are not yet complete

This year Canada chose the German Navy's Berlin-class design (not expected until 2020/21) to replace our two *Protecteur*-class supply ships, which have been removed from service. Davie is working on converting a container ship into an interim refueller for the RCN. It is expected to be ready in late 2017.

# NAC-VI LEAD AND LINE

## Training in *Cantabria*

By Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class Bill McClung

Five time zones and half a world away we arrived at our destination of El Ferrol Naval Base in northern Spain, home of the Spanish auxiliary oil replenishment (AOR) vessel, *ESPS Cantabria*, on October 18, 2015. Twenty-eight Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) sailors of different ranks, trades and experience levels then embarked on an adventure that would prove both challenging and extremely rewarding at the same time. Our mission was to observe, gather information and ultimately integrate within the ship's company of *ESPS Cantabria* in order to maintain skill sets and return with best practices for replenishment-at-sea (RAS) operations, while attached to an allied navy.

With *ESPS Cantabria* taking part in Exercise Trident Juncture, Canadian sailors worked hard to gain a solid understanding of Spanish equipment, methodology and procedures.

During the introduction to the ship by Commander Francisco Javier Roca, *ESPS Cantabria*'s Commanding Officer, he stated his goals for the exercise were parallel with ours – to fully integrate the Canadian team and conduct seamless replenishment operations within the task group. His crew, including Canadian sailors, took this direction to heart and accepted the challenge – no small feat when you consider the language and cultural differences between the personnel of the two navies.

While there are some differences between the practices of the Canadian and Spanish navies, the main concept of operations is shared and many of the equivalent trades were able to discuss and exchange ideas on how to carry out our tasks. As with most militaries today, secondary duties are the norm as bunk numbers decrease and the use of training hours must be maximized. *ESPS Cantabria* is no exception. For example, the supply officer on board doubles as the ship's boarding officer and as the landing safety officer during helicopter operations.

Canadian sailors were employed as bridge watch keepers,



helmsmen, RAS deck members and small boat operators. LCdr Cindy Hawkins, second-in-command of the mission, as well as head of the engineering sections, ensured that the embarked engineering personnel gathered information on all aspects of liquid cargo management, bunkering and fueling operations, as well as automated damage control systems. Ensuring marine engineers, marine electricians and hull technicians were swept up on all aspects of RAS operations, as well as routine maintenance required on the platform, was of critical importance.

Comparing notes with allies is a continuous process the RCN utilizes in order to ensure Canadian sailors maximize their training opportunities and to provide feedback as to how the RCN can move forward in developing future training for our sailors. The Spanish model, although slightly different than the progression plan that we know and understand, has many benefits that could be adapted within our Canadian training models.

One of the main goals for this current mission was to see the Spanish ship manned by Canadian sailors while fueling the Canadian-led task group. From RAS deck personnel to cage operators, as well as communicators and bridge watch keepers, the aim was to safely fill as many of the positions on board as possible with Canadian personnel during a RAS. This was accomplished, speaking volumes to the determination, drive and effort of both Canadian and Spanish sailors throughout the exercise.



*ESPS Cantabria fuels HNLMS Tromp and later HMCS Athabaskan as NRP Vasco da Gama sails past in the background.*



# NACVI LEAD AND LINE

## *HMCS Winnipeg in Turkey as part of our support to Operation Reassurance*

**By Sub-Lieutenant Jamie Tobin**

Sixteen naval reservists from across Canada deployed on board HMCS *Winnipeg* last summer, to support Operation REASSURANCE, Canada's contribution to NATO assurance measures in Europe.

These naval reservists represent a number of naval professions. Three of them are currently serving on the Royal Canadian Navy's (RCN) first Enhanced Naval Boarding Party, a team that specializes in maritime interdiction operations.

For the past few years, the RCN has been transitioning into a One Navy concept that employs reserve and regular forces on operational missions. Naval Reserve members have been deploying on major operations since late 2013, but *Winnipeg* is the first ship to employ reserve members in almost every department.

Maritime surface and sub-surface officers in the Naval Reserve also tend to serve the majority of their careers on Kingston-class vessels. This deployment has provided Sub-Lieutenant Michael Van Vlaenderen from HMCS *Chippawa* with a unique opportunity to sail on board a ship named after his home town while putting his skills to the test on a major warship.

So far HMCS *Winnipeg* has stopped in 10 ports throughout the Mediterranean and Western Europe and this has given these reserve members an opportunity to take a special kind of break from their normal day-to-day training. As these 16 sailors approach the halfway point of their deployment, they are establishing themselves as pioneers for naval reservists hoping to gain operational experience abroad at sea.



*A member of the Enhanced Naval Boarding Party of HMCS Winnipeg rappels down the side of the ship towards a rigid-hulled inflatable boat during Operation Reassurance.*



# NAC-VI LEAD AND LINE



## VETERAN'S CORNER

BY ROD HUGHES

In the aftermath of the Afghan War and Canada's ongoing other operational missions, it has been necessary to implement new initiatives to assist veterans. This past summer and fall saw the introduction of four new programmes: the Critical Injury Benefit, the Retirement Income Security Benefit, the Care Giver Relief Benefit, and the Priority Hiring for CAF. I will be covering each of these items over the next few editions of Lead & Line. A useful guide to all the different disability programmes can be found at:

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/services/after-injury/disability-benefits>

If you have not applied for a disability benefit before you will need to open up a dialogue with VAC, establish yourself a *VAC Account*, and be assessed...forms and paperwork of course are all part of the process (forms can be downloaded from web page above or obtained from the VAC office). The two key items for a disability assessment elements are a diagnosed medical condition

or disability; and to be able to show that the condition or disability is related to your service. VAC will work with you to get this done. To start the process you must confirm your identity with one piece of current and valid ID and acceptable documents include: provincial driver's license, provincial health care card, certificate of Indian Status or Secure Certificate of Indian Status, vital statistics documents (birth certificate, marriage certificate), government employee identification card, Canadian passport, and a federal or provincial identification card. Proof of identity is also needed for any spouse, common-law partner and/or eligible dependent child who may also benefit from the programmes. If you are applying in person, you can take the original of an acceptable document listed above and VAC staff will photocopy it for your file. If you are applying by mail, please photocopy one of these acceptable documents and attach that to your application. Please write the Veteran's service number on the photocopy. Do not send original documents to VAC.

To speak with VAC staff you can visit the VAC Office located in the Atrium Building, 1321 Blanshard Street, Suite 320. The office is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 4:30, or call toll-free 1-866-522-2122 or e-mail [information@vac-acc.gc.ca](mailto:information@vac-acc.gc.ca)



### Service Officer's report

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*If you would like to join the Service Officer's Report and Visitation Committee,  
Call Irvine Hare 250-853-5493 or Peter or Elizabeth Campbell at 250-478-7351*

NAC-VI Welcomes  
New Member  
Commodore Jeff  
Zwick