

# THE PACIFIC EXPRESS



31 JULY 2020, ISSUE 10

## COMMAND CONNECTION

**Cdr Brad Henderson, CO RCSU(PAC)**

This will be my final message to the adult staff in Pacific Region through The Pacific Express, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for three very unique years. I have learned a lot about the Cadet Program, and those who support it, and had experiences I would not have expected when I first began my career in the CAF.

Since 2017 we have seen significant change in our region, and have weathered some difficult times together. In each case, the staff have continued to be dedicated, professional, and innovative in their adaptation to change, or the new normal. I am grateful to have led such an incredible team of adult leaders, and to see the significant impact you continue to have on youth throughout our province.

We have also had great success across our region and I am proud of some of our largest achievements, such as significant growth in the Lower Mainland, where I had the opportunity to help open 279 RCACS, and the development of a way to efficiently spend LSA, leading to 100% spending of our allocation, a first for the region.

I know that Cdr Gresmak will have an equally challenging and unique adventure ahead of him as he takes command during a pandemic, but I am certain that you will all continue to demonstrate the passion for the program, and the cadets, that has impressed me so much over these years. I wish you all the best and once again, thank you for the experience.



### **Change of Command Details:**

The RCSU (Pac) Change of Command between Cdr Brad Henderson and Cdr Stephan Gresmak will take place on Wednesday, 12 Aug at 1230 PDT, presided over by BGen Dave Cochrane. All staff are encouraged to view the Change of Command on [Youtube](#).

[RSVP through the B.C. Cadets Facebook page](#) to get the latest event details.

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# FAREWELL MESSAGES FOR CDR HENDERSON

*On behalf of Vancouver Island Division, Navy League of Canada, I would like to extend my gratitude to Cdr. Henderson for a job well done. The partnership between the RCSU and the Leagues has become stronger as a result of your leadership, honesty and integrity. We wish you well in your new posting. Bravo Zulu, and Thank You.*

*Julie Hillsden  
President*

*On behalf of the Army Cadet League of Canada British Columbia Branch, we would like to thank Commander Henderson for your extraordinary hard work as Commander of the Regional Cadet Support Unit Pacific. You will be missed by all of us in the BC Army Cadet Program. You lead with honesty, integrity, and most of all humour. You will leave the Pacific region and the partnership between the CAF and the Cadet leagues in a better place. We thank you for all you have done for the Cadet Program and best wishes in your future career path.*

*Norm Campbell  
President*

*BC Mainland Division has been truly fortunate to have worked with you the past few years furthering the objectives of the cadet program in Pacific Region. Numerous times you have demonstrated that you value your league partners and are committed to strengthening the relationship we enjoy. That coupled with your timely communications, particularly over the past 5 months, leadership and willingness to advocate for the cadets and officers in our region has been noticed and commented on by many. We have thoroughly enjoyed your contributions to our AGM's be it the detailed and informative reports, the sub mariner stories or the Canadian crafted penguins that travelled to the Arctic and back before attending our AGM. Thank you, we wish you the best in your future endeavours.*

*Denise Robson  
BC Mainland Division - Navy League of Canada*

*The British Columbia Provincial Committee (BCPC) of the Air Cadet League of Canada want to take this opportunity to say farewell to Commander Brad Henderson who will be retiring from his position as Commanding Officer of RCSU Pacific in August 2020. Throughout his tenure as CO, Cdr Henderson has continuously gone out of his way to maintain a high level of cooperation and communications with BCPC to ensure that the partnership between our two organizations could better function in the support of our cadets. For this we are truly appreciative and thankful for his efforts. On a personal note, I want to voice my appreciation for the several one-on-one chats we enjoyed talking about the cadet movement and other non-related topics. We wish Brad fair winds and calm seas in all his future endeavors. At this same time, BCPC would also like to take this opportunity to welcome on board the new Commanding Officer for RCSU Pacific, Commander Gresmak and ensure him that we at BCPC are looking forward to maintaining the same level of dialogue and cooperation as we have enjoyed over the past few years with Cdr Henderson.*

*Don Doern, CD  
President BCPC*

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## FAREWELL MESSAGES FOR CPO1 BLISS

*BC Mainland Division would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you brought to the role of RCWO in Pacific Region. We feel fortunate that you'll be continuing to serve the cadet program in your new role as the CWO at formation headquarters in Ottawa and look forward to your contributions in that role. Thank you!*

*Denise Robson  
BC Mainland Division - Navy League of Canada*

*On behalf of Vancouver Island Division, Navy League of Canada, I would like to extend my gratitude to CPO1 Bliss. You have earned the respect of and made a difference in the lives of hundreds of Cadets. You will be missed. I wish you well in your new posting as Formation CPO1.*

*Bravo Zulu and Thank You.*

*Julie Hillsden  
President*

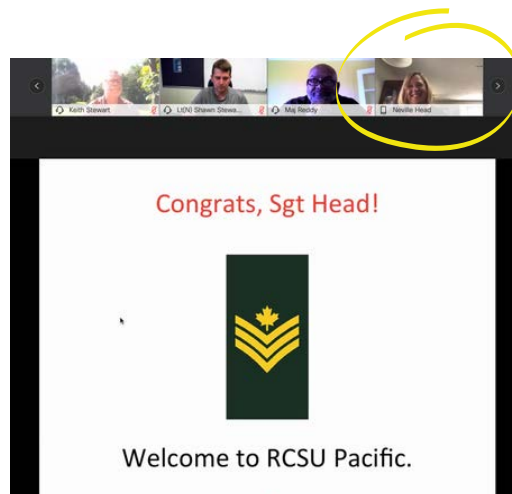
*The British Columbia Provincial Committee (BCPC) of the Air Cadet League of Canada want to take this opportunity to say farewell to CPO1 David Bliss who soon will be leaving his post as Regional Chief Warrant Officer at RCSU Pacific and moving on to a new job in the NCJCR Sp Gp. Although we have only had the opportunity to work with Mr. Bliss for a short time while he was at RCSU, we at BCPC have come to know and appreciate his passion for the program and the cadets. We appreciate all that he has done to help maintain and strengthen the Partnership between our two organizations so that we can all better serve the needs of our cadets. We know that CPO1 Bliss will be moving to Formation Headquarters in Ottawa as the Chief Warrant Officer there and we wish him all the best in his new position. We look forward to continuing opportunities for dialogue with him and know that the Canadian Cadet Organizations will be well served with his presence in this position. At this same time, we at BCPC want to welcome onboard the incoming RCWO, CPO1 Miller and assure him that we look forward to working in the same cooperative manner as we enjoyed with CPO1 Bliss.*

*Don Doern, CD  
President BCPC*

## BRAVO-ZULU!

**Sgt Marla Head** was promoted to her current rank on 21 Jul during the virtual Senior Staff meeting.

**Capt Abby Holder** (Darby) was featured by CBC for her civilian work as a Nurse at the Royal Columbian Hospital. The team she was a part of developed a virtual communications system for hospitals to use with their patients, something especially important in jurisdictions facing a surge of COVID-19. [Read more here!](#)



## CADET HISTORY

In B.C. and several other provinces in Canada, cadets can earn secondary school credits by completing senior levels or advanced training courses - but did you know that this recognition of the educational benefit of the Cadet Program was in place as early as 1941 in the Air Cadet Program? On July 11th of 1941 the Ministry of Education agreed to open the doors of numerous High Schools around B.C. for the formation of Air Cadet Squadrons within the High Schools. It was also agreed that should a cadet successfully complete two years of training (288 hours), complete all required courses and attain a mark of at least 60% in each course, the cadet would receive five credits towards High School graduation.

- Photo provided by Mr. Mike Symons, BCPC



89 Victoria High NCOs - Summer 1943 - WO1 Donaghy front center and Ida Clarkeson 5 from the right in the front row

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## J35 TRAINING AND PLANNING

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award has partnered with RBC to offer grants to help youth complete the Gold Adventurous Journey; journeys must be completed by 30 Nov. In thanks to the MOU with Duke of Ed., many Cadet Program activities count towards achieving the awards; be sure your cadets don't miss out on this opportunity, find out more here: <https://www.dukeofed.org/ajgrants>

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## A NEW MOU FOR YOU

On 17 Jul, Natl CJCR Sp Gp and our League partners released a new Memorandum of Understanding that outlines the shared responsibilities of supporting corps and squadrons. This back to basics document clearly outlines the scope of responsibilities, and identifies limitations in use of identifiers. Everyone should make themselves familiar with this document and be discussing the implications with your local League representative: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/cadets-junior-canadian-rangers/members/cancdtgens/cancdtgen022-20/mou2020.html>

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## CAF CONTEST - HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR WARSHIPS?

Enter to win one of 3 CANEX gift cards, open to all CAF members, DND Employees, Retired CAF members and families.

Email [Christine.farrington@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Christine.farrington@forces.gc.ca) to receive your questions and send back your answers before 5 Aug.



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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS



**Tribute Tuesday** - We want to hear about the senior cadet who has made a difference at their corps/squadron, the new junior cadet who blew away the competition in Marksmanship, or the cadet who has been generously donating their time in their community. We want to help you celebrate the incredible young adults who participate in the Cadet Program.

Submit a photo and a blurb about the cadet and their accomplishments to [PacCadets@gmail.com](mailto:PacCadets@gmail.com) or over Direct Messenger on Facebook to B.C. Cadets.

Check out [last week's Tribute Tuesday](#) for some inspiration!



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## RESOURCES

Lastly, remember that your community is here for you. Reach out, check on your friends, and know you are not alone.

**CFMAP - 1-800-268-7708**

**Family Info Line - 1-800-866-4546**

**Kids Help Phone - 1-866-668-6868**

**CAF Kids - text CAFKIDS to 686868**

