

# THE PACIFIC EXPRESS



14 AUGUST 2020, ISSUE 11

## COMMAND CONNECTION

**Cdr Stephan Gresmak, CO RCSU(PAC)**

The Change of Command between Cdr Henderson and Cdr Gresmak took place on Wednesday, August 12th. You can [view the ceremony here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIWCB00enQY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIWCB00enQY)



As the ink is still drying on the Change of Command certificate, I thought I'd take the opportunity to say a few words in case not everyone was not able to tune in to the virtual Change of Command. Firstly, I'd be remiss if I didn't congratulate the RCSU (Pac) staff on an excellent ceremony. This was the first time I have seen a true virtual ceremony where not all three of the key positions were in person.....once again, you have set the standard.....Bravo Zulu!!!

I wish to re-emphasize some of the key words that will shape the way in which we operate in the current Operational Environment. The first is that of "privilege". Without reiterating the Mission Statement, the trust that parents place on us to deliver a program to shape their children's development towards adulthood is immense. Having my own teenager in the Cadet Program, this fact is certainly not lost on me, and I know, from what I have seen, that fact is not lost on you. I am privileged to be a part of this organization, as we impart our knowledge and our experiences on youth of today, our leaders of tomorrow - and I know that you are too.

Secondly, "challenge". We are all experiencing the reality that the way in which we lived pre-COVID 19, has, at least for the foreseeable future, been significantly altered. As has been predicted, the necessary personal health precautions are, at the very least, inconvenient, and though initially adherence to these precautions may be realized, as time goes on, people will get complacent, allowing the virus to spread. Already we see increasing cases across this region. Balancing this, I, as much as anyone, want to see a resumption of as many of our worthwhile activities as we can.

Though virtual activities may be worthwhile, and is, in many cases possible, there are some activities which just don't translate well to the virtual domain. We will not, however, sacrifice the safety and wellbeing of our youth or their families in resuming these activities. I know that not all risk can be eliminated, we just have to be smart and responsible on how much of that risk we can, and will, assume. In many cases, out-of-the-box thinking will be required in the delivery of some of the activities in order to deliver them in a responsible manner. This will certainly "challenge" us, but I know from my handover, and what I have seen first-hand, I am confident we will be able to maximize the programs we deliver to our youth.

Finally, along with "challenge" I will throw in one other word, that I think will certainly be very important for us all, certainly in the foreseeable future, and tied to "challenge" is "FLEXECUTE". In preparing for, and delivering our programs, we will, I am sure, have to adjust, and readjust how we are doing things in this Operating Environment. As I reassured the Commander during the Change of Command, certainly I, and I know you too, will always be ready to "FLEXECUTE".

I am greatly looking forward to working with each and every one of you to deliver on our mission and hope to be able to meet all of you in the very near future. Enjoy the remainder of your summer, spend quality time with your family if you can, and I know we will all be ready for the challenges that will inevitably face us in the fall.

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## CHIEF'S CORNER

CPO1 Mike Miller, RCWO



After more than 36 years in the Royal Canadian Navy, I am honoured to be moving into my new role as the Regional Cadet Support Unit (Pacific) CWO.

Having had the opportunity to work with Cadets at numerous commemorative events over my career, I have always been an ambassador of the program and I am eager to visit the various communities across our beautiful province to meet with you and learn about your hometowns, and what makes them and your Corps or Squadron the unique places that they are. Your voices are all important as we evolve our programs to suit our current circumstances, and I am confident that your input will be key to that success. I will be reaching out to you through the Senior Cadet Council, and look forward to working on your behalf.

### CADET HISTORY:

Every summer the Vernon Cadet Museum hosts an auction at the end of CTC, one of their major fundraisers. This year the auction has moved online; you can participate in the auction at <https://trellis.org/annualmuseumauktion> with bidding open 15 Aug.

You can also support the museum and their ongoing efforts to preserve the history of the Cadet Program by making a donation or purchasing from the kit shop at <https://www.vernoncadetmuseum.com/kit-shop.html#/>

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## BRAVO-ZULU!

A hearty well-done to **Capt Brad Justason** for working with international band directors and coordinating the Canadian component of the International Cadet Band concert: Hands Across the Commonwealth - find out more info below!

BZ to **Capt Jordan Holmes** and **Lt(N) Shawn Stewart** for the flawless execution of the first virtual Change of Command in the Formation, including a streamed-in presiding officer!

BZ to the **RCSU (Pac) JI Staff** who demonstrated exceptional dedication, working long days, to ensure that all tasks associated with the staffing of the summer Campaign Plan were completed. The outstanding effort of this team allowed for offers, task assignments, pay and leave to be administered to the adult staff and staff cadets who were engaged over the summer months.

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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS



We are wrapping up a productive summer of online engagement - [check out the Celebrating Summer 2020 video here!](#)

As always, we love to hear your stories about Cadets and Staff who are making a difference in your community. Submit your stories to [paccadets@gmail.com](mailto:paccadets@gmail.com) - so they can be featured in our #TributeTuesday or #SaluteToStaff initiatives!



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## ORDERING AIR CADET FTUS

A reminder that FTUs need to be ordered by **1 September 20**.

If anyone has cadets that do not fit standard sizing, they are to contact Logistik directly and will receive a 'special sizes' form to complete.



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## HANDS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH



The Pacific Region Cadet Honour Band didn't have a chance to perform this Spring, but they had a unique opportunity to participate in an International Cadet Band concert, featuring musicians from the United Kingdom and Australia. The concert will premier at 1100 PDT on 15 Aug at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn5ov3DpbDnzIhdFQExneSw!>

Join us in celebrating the region's finest musicians as they perform O Canada and Highway of Heroes, along with other performances from across the Commonwealth.

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## J35 - MUSIC TRAINING

Interested in offering more music training for your cadets? We have had a number of cadets and instructors across the country making video examples and guides for Cadet Musicians! These are now all located on the Music Page in SharePoint and include new links to:

- Music Theory Instructional Videos (for all Military Band levels);
- Video Examples for Pipe Band Level One (all instruments);
- Video Examples of Bagpipe Technique (all levels);
- Video Examples of Level Basic Drum Skills; and,
- Video Examples of all Snare Drum "Steamboats" patterns.

This will continue to be developed, and interested cadets and staff who would like to make videos can get in touch with Capt Brad Justason ([brad.justason@cadets.gc.ca](mailto:brad.justason@cadets.gc.ca))!

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## CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Important announcements and directions for the way forward will be coming soon to your corps and squadron email boxes, please ensure that you are checking in regularly to receive information in a timely manner.



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## FULL TIME STAFF

**Ethics Survey** - The Annual Defence Ethics Survey is now open for all full-time staff in Pacific Region. The survey will be open until 8 Sept and all staff are encouraged to provide a response. Please complete the survey at <https://interceptum.com/s/en/ethics2020>.

**HQ Survey** - All full-time staff are requested to complete this survey with a focus on communication, support and resumption of business:  
<https://interceptum.com/s/en/camplanstaff>

## 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**

