

# THE PACIFIC EXPRESS



17 JULY 2020, ISSUE 9

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

**BGen D. Cochrane, Comd Natl CJCR Sp Gp**

In previous years, as we approached the month of July, our Cadet Training Centres would be preparing in full force for the arrival of cadets who had been looking forward to attending their summer courses. This year, globally, we have been faced with unprecedented challenges and therefore, changes to the way that we were providing training. As we work on navigating the way forward and how the Cadet Program will look come the fall and beyond (operating in a COVID environment), I would like to commend you all on rising to the challenge. I have seen the members of this program come together to continue inspiring youth in their communities, whether it was through virtual parades, presentations, or virtual activities I am very proud of all of you.



As we begin the summer, my staff, alongside many people - including those at the Regional Cadet Support Units and local corps and squadrons have been working hard to offer some engaging activities for cadets and to gainfully employ those who would have been working at the Cadet Training Centres. The fruits of their labour are becoming a reality in the month of July. We are able to offer individual activities and professional development on our Extranet for both cadets and adult leaders. We have rebranded the Cadet Exchange Facebook page to the Cadet Learning page ([link below](#)) to showcase unique and engaging opportunities throughout the summer. And most recently we announced that we will be hosting 22 virtual courses this summer that is open to all cadets regardless of rank, age, or element on a first come first serve basis.

In the event that you have not already done so, I encourage you to check out the [Cadet Learning Portal](#) and the [Cadet Learning Page on Facebook](#).

Now I understand that this is not the traditional Cadet Training Centre experience that you have become accustomed to, however, it is our way to show you that we remain committed in provided unique, fun and challenging experiences and that we are looking forward, to ensure that we can continue to do so in the future. I encourage you to stay safe, stay positive and stay connected this summer, as we continue to develop our way forward. I will remain committed to my centre of gravity which has and will always be the Cadet Experience.

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# COMMAND CONNECTION

## Comd Brad Henderson, CO RCSU(PAC)

This week marks the change of appointment and departure of CPO1 Dave Bliss as he heads to become the Formation Chief in Ottawa. Over the past couple of years, CPO1 Bliss has made a significant impact to the region, and to the role of Regional Chief. I commend him for his dedication to this program, and for his leadership, and wish him the best of luck on behalf of all of us as he moves on to become the Formation Chief. I know that he will continue to impact the program in positive ways, and look forward to continuing to work with him in this new role.



Caption: Reviewing Officer Commander Brad Henderson, Commanding Officer of the Regional Cadet Support Unit (Pacific), signs the Change of Appointment certificates with outgoing regional Chief, Chief Petty Officer First Class (CPO1) Dave Bliss (left), and incoming regional Chief, CPO1 Michael Miller (right) during the Regional Cadet Support Unit (Pacific) Change of Appointment Ceremony held at Work Point Barracks on July 15.

### **A note from CPO1 Dave Bliss:**

When I assumed the position of Regional CWO for RSCU(PAC) in late 2018, I had a fair appreciation of the scope and level of effort that was required to run the Cadet Program in British Columbia; that assessment has continually been readjusted from day one.

Over the past 18 months I have observed the adult leadership take on the challenges of resource management in an ever changing environment. Ranging from personnel shortfalls to recruiting timelines, and well as the need to maximize the use of our limited funds, you have all worked hard to continue to deliver the best youth program in Canada.

Recently, I have witnessed firsthand how quickly and successfully you have shifted gears in supporting the Commander's direction to realign the summer program due to COVID-19; your agility in this huge tasking will pay dividends for the organization in the future.

In B.C. we have a great relationship with our League partners, and I thank them for the positive engagement with me from the outset.

For the adult leaders in the region, please engage CPO1 Miller the same way you've done with me. Your passion for the program is the part that keeps us moving forward successfully.

To the cadets in Pacific Region, my thanks. I look forward to continuing to engage with you in my new role.

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## WELCOME TO THE TEAM



MCpl Marla Head joins RCSU (Pac) in Victoria as the J1 Supervisor (Records & Pay). She has been in the CAF for more than 12 years and joins RCSU from 4 CRPG. Her favourite experience in the CAF so far has been sailing around the Gulf Islands. When not working in uniform, she spends her time taxiing two teenagers, and enjoys gardening and camping.

There are currently several REOs open for RCSU (Pac), including J3 Zone Trg O (Surrey/Langley), check the SharePoint message board to see recent postings.

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## BRAVO-ZULU!

The following cadets received scholarships from the Air Cadet League of Canada, well done!

- *RCAF Association Award, \$2,500*
  - WO1 Kesley Rana, 59 RCACS
- *Canadian Aviation Electronics Award, \$2,500*
  - WO2 Chloe Yip, 111 RCACS
  - WO2 Wuyue Sun, 754 RCACS
- *Air Cadet League Foundation Award, \$1,000*
  - WO2 Gabriel Elder, 909 RCACS

The cadets at **676 RCACS** created a virtual drill team video that was featured on Cadets Canada, [check it out here!](#)



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## CADETS IN THE NEWS

The Cadet Program has done an outstanding job of adapting to the COVID environment, continuing to offer meaningful engagement and connection within communities across Canada. The Richmond News recently covered the efforts of **2947 RCACC**. [Check it out here!](#)

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## SALUTE TO STAFF

*An upcoming weekly feature on B.C. Cadets is a celebration of the diverse skill set and interests of the staff in Pacific Region. Check out the weekly posts starting this Saturday, and enjoy this Sneak Preview!*



#SaluteToStaff - Did you know Captain Jeff Ng is a Martial Arts Instructor and a contracted Hand-to-Hand Combat Instructor for the 39 Service Battalion?

Captain Ng is the Commanding Officer at 2947 39 Service Battalion RCACC in Richmond, B.C.

He is currently the manager of the Steveston Karate Club and has over 20 years of experience training in various martial arts styles. Captain Ng received his Black Belt in Kukkiwon (Olympic) Tawkwondo in 2005 and joined the Steveston Karate club in 2006. He received his Black Belt in Goju-ryu Karate in 2016, and is still training consistently at Pacific Top Team in Brazilian JiuJitsu, which he was promoted to Purple Belt in 2019. On top of that, he is also trained in Muay Thai!

“Training in martial arts is the hardest thing I've ever done, and probably the hardest thing I'll continue to do. I've gained so much through training - grit, problem solving, and attention to detail to name a few. These have helped me through so many personal and professional challenges. Whether you're only halfway through 500 kicks or being crushed under a 250 pound training partner, the lesson remains the same and can be applied anywhere in life.”



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## CADET UNIFORM UPDATES

We know that you are all interested in finding out more information about the Uniform Modernization Project. For now, we can tell you that Air Cadet FTUs are on the way in B.C! Check your Logistik account for a new category called Air Cadets FTU and place your order as soon as possible; orders MUST be in NLT 1 September. Currently, berets cannot be ordered yet by squadrons, so wedges are authorized with FTUs.

Questions about the measuring and ordering process, and confirmation of orders, should go to CPO2 Bates at [Robert.Bates@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Robert.Bates@forces.gc.ca).



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## VIRTUAL CTCS



Registration is still open for Virtual CTCs. With more than 20 courses available, there is something for every cadet. Staff are encouraged to ensure all cadets are aware of the Virtual CTC opportunities, which [can be found here](#). Registration requests can be sent to [VCTCRegistrationPacific@cadets.gc.ca](mailto:VCTCRegistrationPacific@cadets.gc.ca).

Once a cadet is registered, they will receive two emails; one to confirm their course, and one providing them with MS Teams connection information. Cadets will then be able to access course content and further instructions on MS Teams. Cadets who have requested more than one course are now being loaded and should expect further information closer to the course start date.

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## J35 TRAINING AND PLANNING

### CO's Meeting

Don't forget the deadline to register for this Fall's virtual CO's Meeting is 31 Jul. Register by emailing WO Bingham at [james.bingham@forces.gc.ca](mailto:james.bingham@forces.gc.ca).

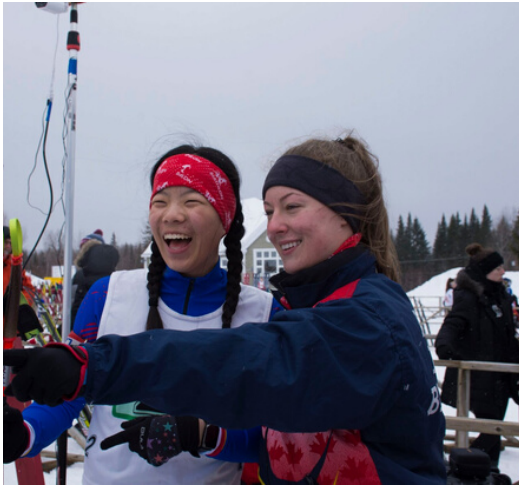
Have an idea for a workshop, round table, or speaker? Submit your thoughts to [paccadets@gmail.com](mailto:paccadets@gmail.com)



### Summer Training & Regional Tasks

This summer sixty-seven cadets from all over British Columbia have been assigned to work on Regional Tasks for RCSU (Pac.). Each cadet has received training from their command team on military writing, as well as guidance on planning activities, and they will be developing one-day hikes, museum & other cultural activities for locations near their home communities for use by any cadet corps or squadron. Their program has also been designed to include a series of guest speakers to discuss leadership and to provide inspiration to the cadets. Their first guest speaker was 91 year old Flight-Lieutenant (Retired) Eric Mold, who joined the RAF in 1945 at the age of 15 as an Apprentice Pilot, who went on to fly Sabre Jets and Starfighters during the cold war, retiring from the RCAF in 1974.

# 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**

