

THE STRATHCONIAN



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(Royal Canadians)

1900 ~ 2012



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The Strathconian

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Lieutenant-Colonel P.J. Peyton, MSM, CD
Commanding Officer

Table of Contents

Message From the Colonel of the Regiment	4
A Word From the Senior Serving Strathcona	5
Commanding Officer's Message	6
Regimental Sergeant-Major's Observations	7
Editor-in-Chief's Foreward	8

Year in Review

Births and Marriages	11
Honours and Awards	13
Promotions	15
Regimental Roll 2012	16
The Year in Review	22

Squadron Articles

Recce Squadron	29
Regimental Headquarters	33
A Squadron	36
B Squadron	39
Headquarters Squadron	45
Strathcona Family Support Troop	47

Training

Ex ARCTIC RAM	49
Ex STEELE VIRTUAL	50
Ex KAPYONG STEELE &	
Ex WARRIOR RAM	51
Ex STEELE SABRE	52
Regimental Training	59

Annual Events

Moreuil Wood	62
Family Day	64
All Ranks Dinner and Dance 2012	66
Remembrance Day	67
Kids' Christmas Party	68
Christmas Celebrations	69

Key Events

Change of Command	71
Spruce Meadows/Calgary Stampede Parade	72
Na Zdrowie! Strathconas in Poland	73
Chilean RUE: Pisco Sours vs Jagerbombs	74
"Longknife"	
Squadron exchange with Recce Squadron	76

Sports and Fitness

Ex PLEIN CONTACT	79
Ex SUMMIT RAM	81
Army Run	84
United States Marine Corps Marathon	84
Strathcona's at the CF Taekwondo National	86

The Society

Strathcona Mounted Troop	88
Historical Vehicles Troop	89
Strathcona's Pipes and Drums	90
Strathcona Regimental Museum	91
Strathcona Regimental Association	
(Alberta Branch)	92
Strathcona Regimental Association	
(Ontario Branch)	93

Extra Regimentally Employed

Strathconas in Gagetown	96
Strathconas at LFWA/JTFW HQ	97
Strathconas in the National Capital Region	98
Strathconas in Kingston	99
Strathconas in Wainwright	100
Strathconas in Suffield	101
Strathconas at 1 CMBG	102
An Exchange Officer with the British Army	103
United Nations Mission In South Sudan	104
Extra Regimentally Employed	106

Mess Life

The Mariner Room	112
The Sarcee Room	113
The Green Point Lounge	114
Track Pad	115
Subbies' Corner	116
Strathcona Ladies	117

Allied Regiment

The Queen's Royal Lancers	118
Strathconian Advertisers	124



Message From the Colonel of the Regiment

Major-General Cam Ross

As I pen this article in late January 2013, Canada is debating its participation in Mali, Strathconas are starting their training for the last Afghanistan deployment, the Regiment adjusts to a 60% cut in its operating and maintenance budget, and some 100 Strathconas have decided to leave the Forces. Interesting times indeed!

While some may look at this emerging scene with some dismay, I for one embrace the changes with great optimism. We are blessed with a very strong leadership team that will professionally weather the storm. The cuts, while severe, will not stop vital, exciting training.

The attrition of about 1 in 5 Strathconas, while on the surface seems high, is in reality one of the lowest rates in the Brigade. It reflects the reality of a strong Alberta job market, the high-level of regard amongst civilian employers for soldiers and the fact that many of the out-bound soldiers had joined to experience combat in Afghanistan. Some 35 plus recruits are in-bound to replace the losses.

I am also very encouraged about the exciting happenings on the Association front. Four new branches have been recently 'commissioned': New Brunswick, Kingston, Edmonton and Vancouver Island. The Association HQ will move to Edmonton as of Moreuil Wood 2013, which will be timely in preparation for our next reunion in 2015.

Finally, I would like to recognize the perseverance and dedication of three great Strathconas: 2IC **Major Rob MacKenzie** who heads to 3 UK Division in England; **RSM Bill Crabb** who will be the RSM of the Canadian Contingent in Afghanistan; and, **Sgt Dave Jones** who has provided sterling service to his Regiment, to the Canadian Forces, and to Canada.





A Word From the Senior Serving Strathcona

Brigadier-General Craig Hilton

How many of us began our service as Strathcona's introduced to the old bromide 'a day at the Regiment is like a day on leave – every meal a banquet – every pay cheque a fortune!?' Well, perhaps it hasn't always seemed that way, and I was reminded during a brief visit to Regimental lines in July, that sometimes prospects can appear confused and even fairly bleak. This past year has seen the Army continue to scale down from the driven tempo of the Afghan war and come to grips with a much wider set of mission requirements, and reduced budget realities. No regiment or unit has been immune to this predictable but tough situation, including our own, and as expected it has caused some angst over the future.

Yet, a quick review of our own history will confirm that our present situation is nothing new. The Army, and the Regiment, have reset from major operations and wars many times before, and have turned such difficult times to advantage. Three proven principles may serve to guide us forward and are well worth our serious attention.

First, take stock of our situation in order to appreciate our obvious strengths in personnel, experience and equipment, and focus the time we now have available to come at our areas of weakness, or forced neglect. Secondly, tap the deep reserves of imagination and initiative for which Strathcona's are well known, and seek innovative options to address a broad range of priorities. And finally, look to identify early those true leaders who will certainly emerge in these tougher times. It is this rising generation of leadership, born of our present challenges, who will take the Regiment forward into an uncertain future.

Every day may not be 'like a day on leave', but we may use each to true purpose, providing we remain up to the task. The Regiment, and the Army, depend upon it.





Commanding Officer's Message

Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Peyton

Who would have thought that “Reconstitution” could be so busy? **Colonel Trevor** reminded me this summer during our handover, which was every bit as much a production as a parade, that the tempo for the Strathcona's will remain at peak no matter where we are in the Army's Managed Readiness Cycle. He was of course correct. Over the past six months I have been awed with the consistent exceptional standards achieved by the soldiers of our Regiment during an incredibly hectic pace. I should not have been surprised. Success is reliant on professionalism and support. I am completely convinced that no other unit in the Canadian Forces can boast more of the professionalism of its soldiers or the outstanding support of its Regimental family than the Strathcona's. As you peruse this year's edition of the Strathconian I am certain you will see many examples that lead you to agree.

2012 commenced with a bang as the Strathcona's captured the Major Unit Aggregate Champions title during Strong Contender. It was the first of a continued trend of success, involving everything from sports competitions through training exercises, Leopard 2 tank implementation to Guards of Honour for royalty. Much is demanded of this Regiment, clearly due to your unparalleled record of achievement and barrage of accolades, despite your “mostly” quiet professionalism. To say that you are victims of your success would be an understatement. Your place at the head of the tasking line has been earned by your peers no longer in Regimental lines and is perpetuated by you today. I have no doubt that your success will be the motivation for your successors.

Although we no longer have tanks in Afghanistan, our focus on preparing for operations will not change. B Squadron, who performed exceptionally well during its high readiness exercises, remains on standby as part of Task Force 3-12 until June 2013. There are no indications that the squadron will deploy – rarely are there before we head off. A Squadron and Recce Squadron have now entered their training period for Task Force 1-13 and are already performing exceptionally. They will remain on standby from July 2013 until June 2014, coinciding with the Army's recent decision to move to a 12 month Managed Readiness Plan. RHQ and HQ continue to provide the guidance, support, and more often than not additional personnel to meet our high readiness commitments. As many as 25 Strathcona's will deploy this summer on Op ATTENTION, delivering critical training and professional development to Afghanistan's national security forces. As has occurred in the past, ensuring the welfare of the families of those deployed will remain a Regimental priority.

Change will remain the only constant. Some of our personnel will face new challenges away from the Regiment in the coming year, including our RSM, **CWO Bill Crabb**, who has been an exceptional confidant

and remains the pinnacle of emulation when it comes to looking after the welfare of our soldiers. We will continue to reduce the Leopard C2 fleet in favour of the awesome Leopard 2, the most lethal piece of equipment in Canada's land combat inventory. Fiscal resources will be reduced, domestic urgencies will drive us into an unanticipated deployment, and someone will come up with a bright idea that will be initially incomprehensible to the majority but in the end justified. In every case I know you will face the challenge head on and excel. You always have.

Enjoy this year's edition of the Strathconian. It is your story. I am proud to have the opportunity to serve with you.





Regimental Sergeant-Major's Observations

Chief Warrant Officer Bill Crabb

Where did the time go? It has been 2.5 years since I received the call freeing me from my Ottawa posting but it feels more like just last fall. During my Command Team Course a common theme from presenters was just how unbelievably fast the time goes, and it sure has proven true - ¼ done already **Col Peyton!**

As I write this, my third and final Strathconian article, I feel a true sense of pride in the accomplishments of our Regiment. Since taking over as RSM we have achieved some significant milestones, including bringing home the last of our Tank Squadrons and completing a tour as trainers and mentors of the Afghan Army. We have sent soldiers on visits in various countries and had the pleasure of hosting allied soldiers here in Canada. Who would have believed even 6 years ago that our hangers would be full of tanks including 22 Leopard 2s; well on our way to our end state of 42 of the beasts. For the first time in my memory there is even one assigned to the Adjutant, not that we ever let him come to the field.

As you are aware 2012 was a banner year to follow Strathcona sports. This was demonstrated from the overall aggregate Strong Contender win to an amazing showing at Mountain Man, including individual competitions. Our soldiers have proven they are second to none in the Brigade and I daresay the Army.

This year has been a particularly painful one in terms of retention in both the Regiment and Brigade as a whole. The lure of big dollars in the oil patch and the wide open job market in the Edmonton area have hit us where it hurts most, our soldiers. To those who have left I wish you the best of luck, for those who continue to serve thank you. Ours may not be the most lucrative of careers but ask any of the old guard and they will tell you it has been a life well spent in the service of family, friends, and Country.

As I pop smoke to head out early for Afghanistan I must apologize in advance for leaving you in the hands of the TQ, **Mark Riley** for 2 months until my replacement takes over. To my never ending shame I have to pass on the horses ass trophy to your new RSM, as the officers, due in no small part to cheating, won the bulk of the at home games this year.

To all of the Sergeants Major, Warrant Officers, and Sergeants, thank you for unwaveringly supporting me and my decisions even if you were not always in agreement on them. For those of you in other Regiments that I have had the pleasure of serving with over the years we are really not that much different here in the West, besides being better looking of course!

And finally to my girls **Emily** and **Sara**, thank you for supporting me over the years and putting up with a dad who seemed to be away almost as much as he was at home.





Editor-in-Chief's Foreward

Major Vince Kirstein



Another year at the Regiment has come and gone – with all the activities and changes that go with it. Change was the theme for 2012, with the Change of Command from **Col Cadieu** to **LCol Peyton**, the turnover of the majority of the command teams and the transition from Leopard C2's to Leo 2s it was a fairly tumultuous year for all the soldiers at the Regiment. As a number of this year's articles point out, it was a return to more traditional training as we slowly shift from the Afghanistan mindset. The Regiment took everything in stride and carried on with all our tasks, excelling across the board and bringing our Strathcona flair to everything we did.

The Strathconian this year was again painful to put together – though perhaps less so than previous years. Thanks to **Capt Dave Cronk**, who was fortunate enough to be the Editor for a second straight year because as we all know, the Army always gives you a second chance, regardless of how badly you screw up. **Capt Cronk's** experience and doggedness with the articles ensured that most were in on time and well written.

Capt Matt Shumka and the subalterns need a special nod. Their ingenuity and formidable reaction to threats and 11th hour deadlines for the last minute advertising push brought the money together to make the Strathconian possible.

As anyone who has worked on this publication knows, the person who does the real work and loses the most sleep over how it's going to turn out is **Mrs. Kathy Batty**. Her eye for photos and layout makes it look as good as it does and without her understanding of the process and willingness to backhand people who miss deadlines have ensured that it got published again for another year.

I hope you enjoy reading it this year, but more importantly I hope it brings a smile to your face years from now when you pull it off the shelf and it reminds you of some old friends and good times.

All old comrades and friends of the Regiment are cordially invited to increase our circulation by forwarding the names of other old comrades or prospective subscribers.

Business Address:

Editor, *The Strathconian*, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)
Steele Barracks, PO Box 10500 Station Forces, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 4J5



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Year in Review





Births and Marriages

Cpl St. Germain's daughter Brie born on 22 January 2012
Cpl Mijares was married to Chelsea Casson on 28 Jan 2012
Cpl Stewart's son Ryder born on 2 February 2012
Tpr McCulloch's son Tyson born on 4 February 2012
Sgt Craig's daughter Maryn-Elizabeth born on 19 February 2012
Cpl Rollins' son Logan born on 26 February 2012
Capt King's daughter Morgan Mary Margaret King born on 5 March 2012
MCpl and Cpl Burris' daughter Aislinn Marie born on 4 April 2012
Sgt Willcott's son Mason born on 9 May 2012
Tpr Christmas' daughter Valentina born on 11 May 2012
2Lt Tams's daughter Sara Joy born on 11 May 12
Tpr Smith's daughter Guinevere born on 12 May 2012
Capt Dullege's daughter Sophia born on 13 May 2012
WO Hardy's son Colton born on 17 May 2012
MCpl Bustard's son Dominik born on 19 May 2012
Cpl Bernardo's daughter Olivia born on 26 May 2012
Capt Kenny's daughter Moira born on 26 May 2012
MCpl Van Heerden was married to Chelsea Belbin on 26 May 2012
Cpl Brown was married to Ashley on 17 June 2012
Cpl Smith was married to Chantel on 22 June 2012
Capt Dwyer's son Shepherd Robertson Dwyer born on 2 July 2012
Cpl Brookson's son Ryley born on 5 July 2012
Tpr Wolfe was married to Heather on 21 July 2012
Cpl Pernitsch was married to Cassandra Ulmer on 28 July 2012
Capt Thompson was married to Sarah Connor on 1 September 2012
Cpl Clegg's son Evan was born on 10 September 2012
Tpr Warren's son Logan Warren born on 17 September 2012
LS Brassard's daughter Olivia born on 20 September 2012
Cpl Mijares' son Israel born on 28 October 2012
Cpl Winchester's daughter Callie born on 11 November 2012
Cpl Salazar's son Ezekiel Warrick born on 13 November 2012
Cpl Foster's son was born on 12 December 2012
Capt Vahal was married to Megha on 16 December 2012



Honours and Awards



Honours and Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

LCol Long
LCol Peyton

Canadian Forces Decoration

Capt McMurachy
Capt Cronk
Sgt McLoughlin
MCpl Fedyshyn
MCpl Ellis
MCpl Gibson
MCpl Bechard
MCpl Vigar
MCpl Burris
Cpl Thompson
Cpl Hatter

Canadian Forces Decoration First Clasp

Sgt Stoyko
Sgt Ellis
MCpl Ellis
MCpl Fedyshyn
MCpl Yates

Canadian Forces Decoration Second Clasp

Capt Swainsbury

General Campaign Star - South West Asia Ribbon

MWO Riley

General Campaign Star - Afghanistan

Capt Wiome
Capt Dullege
Capt Kerek
Capt Salter
Capt Whalley
Capt Lund
Capt Warlow
Capt Elliot
Capt Thompson
Capt Prince
WO Dufour

Chief of Defence Staff Commendation

Maj McKenzie

Commander CEFCON Commendation

MWO Taylor

Commander LFWA Commendation

MCpl Voisin
Cpl Herbert
Cpl Lawrence
Cpl Lonegren
Cpl Whipple
Tpr Maw

Commander 1 CMBG Commendation

Sgt Vigar
Cpl Albrechtson
Cpl MacLean
Sig Melanson

Colonel in Chief Commendation

Mr Alfred Balm

Prince of Wales Trophy

Rece Squadron

Fox Bugle

MCpl Charlton

Colonel of the Regiment Silver Stick

Sgt Hamilton

The Milroy Crossbelt

WO Sherren

The Neatby Pacestick

WO Chenier

The Olympic Torch Trophy

MCpl Charette

The Hessin Sword

Capt Van Muyen

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

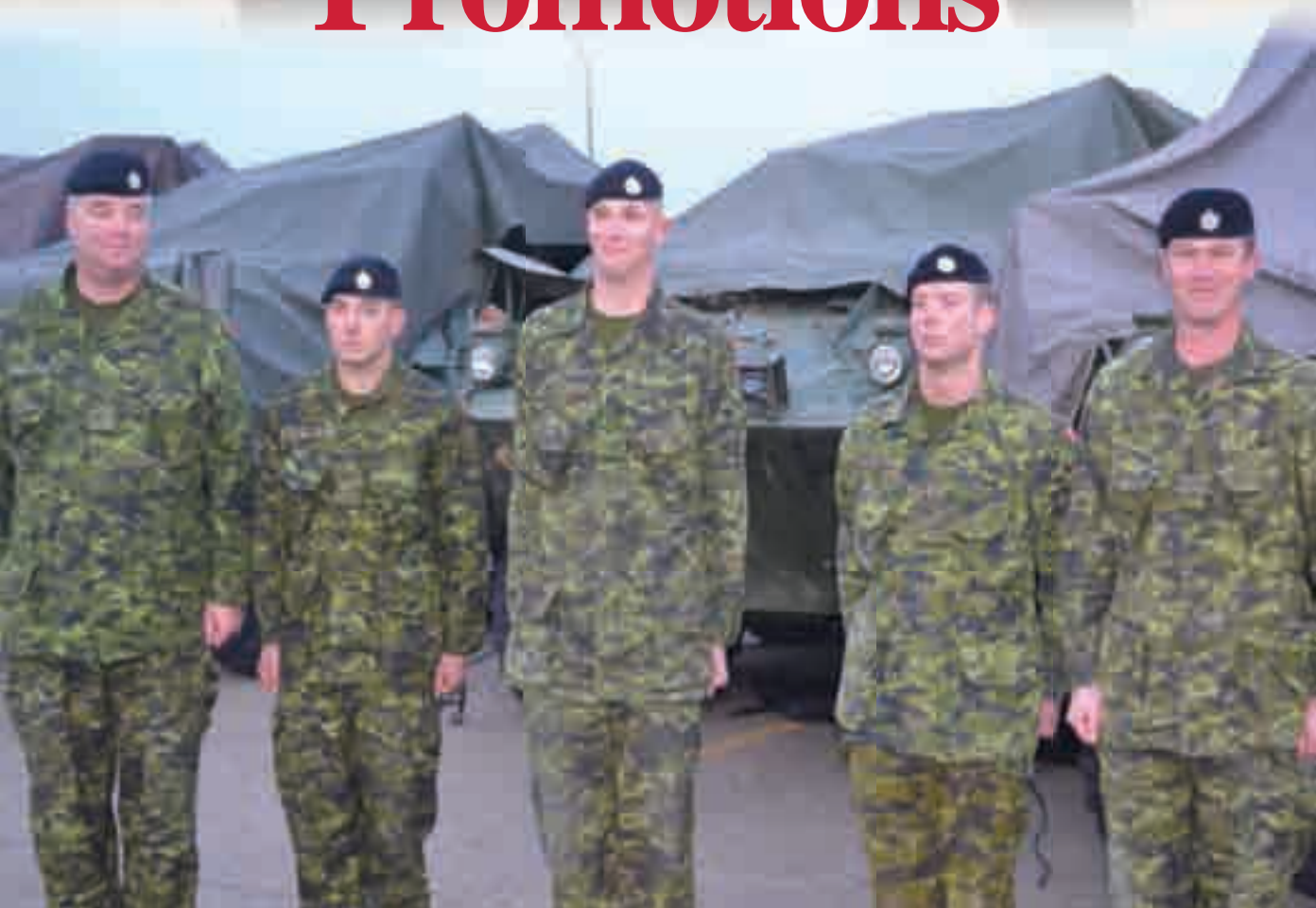
The Regiment congratulates all those serving and retired members, as well as all the members of the Regimental Family who were presented with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal this year.

Those members on strength at the Regiment this year who received this award are identified by an asterix (*) in the Regimental Roll.





Promotions





Promotions

Col Cadieu
Capt Ahn
Capt King
Capt Lee
Capt Lewis
Capt McGuinness
Capt McHugh
Capt Hewer
Capt Shumka
Lt Burchell
Lt Frizzell
Lt Jaradat
Lt McTavish
Lt Tams
2Lt Brittain
MWO Hopkin
MWO Irving
WO Churchill
WO Englehart
WO Flanagan
WO Forbes
WO Parent
WO Sherren
WO Thomas
WO Webb
Sgt Charette
Sgt Gorsalitz
Sgt Hamilton
Sgt Stein
Sgt Vigar
Sgt Williams
MCpl Breen
MCpl Davidson
MCpl Estabrooks
MCpl Fisher
MCpl Gaudreault
MCpl Hodgins
MCpl Hume
MCpl Jacobs
MCpl Johnson
MCpl Keller
MCpl Lanteigne
MCpl Mcatasney
MCpl Miller
MCpl Pasuta
MCpl Sephton
MCpl St. Germain

MCpl Van Heerden
MCpl Walker
Cpl Alm
Cpl Barten
Cpl Bishop
Cpl Blacklock
Cpl Blair
Cpl Bolzan
Cpl Bondy
Cpl Broad
Cpl Brown
Cpl Charles
Cpl Chen
Cpl Clackson
Cpl Clare
Cpl Croxall
Cpl Crozier
Cpl Delisle
Cpl Dobson
Cpl Downey
Cpl Dunford
Cpl Dunn
Cpl Duxbury
Cpl Edwards
Cpl Fraser
Cpl Freeman
Cpl Gaona
Cpl Gerrior
Cpl Gnabs
Cpl Green
Cpl Greenaway
Cpl Guay
Cpl Hall, J.S.M.
Cpl Hall, L.D.
Cpl Harder
Cpl Hauck
Cpl Hayes
Cpl Haywood
Cpl Hilman
Cpl Hogan
Cpl Howarth-Harrison
Cpl Hurley
Cpl Kabongo
Cpl Koke
Cpl Lachance Webster
Cpl Langlands
Cpl Larcher Pelland

Cpl MacDonald
Cpl Maendel
Cpl Malone
Cpl McTaggart
Cpl Molloy
Cpl Monge
Cpl Mosher
Cpl Muirhead
Cpl Phelan
Cpl Rae
Cpl Rollins
Cpl Seders
Cpl Senff
Cpl Serben
Cpl Shaw
Cpl Shepherd
Cpl Sherlock-Hubbard
Cpl Smith LRJ
Cpl Smith MR
Cpl Smith PJ
Cpl Snoek
Cpl Snyder
Cpl Stratford
Cpl Sullivan
Cpl Symington
Cpl Taylor
Cpl Townsend
Cpl Vachon
Cpl Veinot
Cpl Visaya
Cpl Wagner
Cpl Wheat
Cpl Woodcock
Cpl Younger



Regimental Roll 2012

As of December 2012

Colonel-in-Chief

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

Colonel of the Regiment

MGen Ross*

Commanding Officer

LCol Peyton

Regimental Second-in-Command

Maj McKenzie*

Regimental Sergeant Major

CWO Crabb*

Commanding Officer's Secretary

Kathy Batty

Adjutant

Capt Douglas

Operations Officer

Capt Leonard

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Operations Cell

Capt Ross*
Capt Kim
Capt Reiten
Capt Daley
Capt King
WO Boland
Sgt Vigar*
Cpl Guy
Cpl Albrechtson
Cpl Lucas*

Training Cell

Capt Swainsbury
Lt Couture
WO Allen
Sgt Graf
Sgt Green
MCpl Williams
Cpl Wry
Cpl Graves
Cpl Romkey
Cpl Foster*
Tpr Dixon

Intelligence Cell

Capt Peeling
Cpl Collins
Cpl Droogers*
Cpl Silcox

Regimental Signals Cell

Capt Niedzielski
WO Hardy*
Sgt Willcott
Sgt Stien
MCpl Deschambault*
MCpl Gaudreault
MCpl Breen*
Cpl Maclean*
Cpl Lloyd
Cpl Partridge
Cpl Weir
Tpr Bolzan
Sig Smith
Sig Melanson
Sig Hewison
Sig Knopf
Sig Lahti
Sig Burke*
Sig Willett

Regimental Orderly Room

Capt Lewis
WO Litwin*
Sgt Ellis
MCpl Kennedy*
MCpl Di Cesare
Cpl Ross
Pte Kozlik-Harding

Regimental Police

Cpl Churchill*
Cpl Rae

PRINCE OF WALES SQUADRON (RECCE SQUADRON)

Officer Commanding

Maj Nolan*

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Hopkin

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Selberg
Lt Jaradat
2Lt Brittain
WO Brown*
MCpl Boodhoo
MCpl Hume*
Cpl Crowe*
Cpl Ebaghetti
Cpl Guay
Cpl Herbert
Cpl Koolman
Cpl Lonegren
Cpl Molloy
Cpl Muirhead
Cpl Underwood*
Tpr Whipple

1st Troop

Capt Webster
WO Thomas
Sgt Scheller
MCpl Jacobs
MCpl Lahay
Cpl Booth
Cpl Dobson
Cpl Esau
Cpl JSM Hall
Cpl Maendel
Cpl Malone
Cpl McAtasney
Cpl Norman
Cpl Ram
Cpl Shaw
Cpl St Germain
Cpl Visaya
Cpl Woodcock
Tpr Brouwer
Tpr Germann
Tpr Senff
Tpr Skaarup

2nd Troop

Lt McTavish
WO Christopoulos*
Sgt Holmes
MCpl Bustard
MCpl Ribert
Cpl Clackson*
Cpl Davidson
Cpl Delisle
Cpl Downey
Cpl Gagne
Cpl Keller
Cpl McTaggart*
Cpl Peachey
Cpl Pernitsch
Cpl Stewart
Cpl Zwicker
Tpr Belanger
Tpr Jung
Tpr Maclean
Tpr McNair
Tpr RC Paquette
Tpr Radford
Tpr Ranchuk
Tpr Vachon

3rd Troop

Capt Hewer
WO Stanistreet
Sgt Charette*
MCpl Carnevale
MCpl Johnson
MCpl Painchaud
MCpl Van Heerden
Cpl Brisebois-Bergeron
Cpl Gnabs
Cpl Lawrence
Cpl McCollum
Cpl McNarland
Cpl Symington
Cpl Van Den Born
Cpl Young
Tpr Elston
Tpr Lachance-Webster
Tpr Morouney
Tpr NE Smith
Tpr Taborowski
Tpr Turner
Tpr Van Nieuwenhuyze

Admin Troop

Capt Nitu
Lt Readman
Sgt Encinas
MCpl Dugdale
MCpl Kenny
Cpl Broome
Cpl Cheng
Cpl Fraser
Cpl LD Hall*
Cpl Harris
Cpl Howarth-Harrison
Cpl Maw
Cpl Maxwell
Cpl Morin
Cpl Olaes
Cpl Roth*
Cpl Scheltgen
Cpl Schijns
Cpl PJ Smith
Cpl Steele
Tpr Briggs
Tpr Brown
Tpr Bulfone
Tpr Calvano

SQMS

WO Paquette
MCpl Dixon
Cpl Ford
Cpl Snoek

Maintenance

Sgt Mancin*
MCpl Lanteigne
MCpl Miller*
MCpl Noskey
Cpl Boucher
Cpl Goodall
Cpl Lavoie

A SQUADRON

Officer Commanding

Maj Angell

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Taylor*

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Johns
WO Flanagan
MCpl MacDougall
MCpl McMurtry
Cpl Banman
Cpl Barrett
Cpl Brown
Cpl Burris
Cpl Costello
Cpl Hauck
Cpl Langlands
Tpr Glennie

1st Troop

Capt McHugh
WO Connauton
Sgt Hamilton*
MCpl Estabrooks*
MCpl Murphy
Cpl Arsenaault
Cpl Baker
Cpl Chevalier
Cpl Collings
Cpl Elms
Cpl Gaona
Cpl Kabongo

Cpl Murdoch*
Cpl Phelan
Cpl Tonn
Cpl Young

2nd Troop

Capt Buckingham
WO Sherren*
Sgt Sanduliak
MCpl Brister
MCpl Davidson
Cpl Brown
Cpl Burton
Cpl Cameron
Cpl Campbell
Cpl Croxall
Cpl Cummings
Cpl Hilman
Cpl Kent
Cpl Korenowski*
Cpl Levesque
Cpl Veinot
Tpr Biener

3rd Troop

Lt Frizzell
WO Webb*
Sgt Parent*
MCpl Doucette
MCpl Gushue
MCpl Hodgins*
Cpl Bishop
Cpl Dunford
Cpl Freeman
Cpl Hamm
Cpl Hayes
Cpl Jacques
Cpl Lajoie
Cpl Livingstone
Cpl O'Dell
Cpl Wagner
Cpl Walker
Tpr Finch
Tpr Kozack
Tpr Richardson

Admin Troop

Capt Boates
MCpl McDougal
Cpl Bellegarde
Cpl Doyle

Cpl Hogan
Cpl Hurley
Cpl Koke
Cpl MacDonald
Cpl Serben
Cpl Woodland
Cpl York
Tpr Cook
Tpr Gheidi

SQMS

WO MacNeill
Cpl Hogemann
Cpl McKenzie*
Tpr Hodgson

Maintenance

Sgt Dance
MCpl Erb
MCpl Hasson
MCpl Miller
Cpl Eveleigh
Cpl Russell
Cpl Seders
Cpl Tremblay
Cpl Wilson

B SQUADRON

Officer Commanding

Maj Kirstein

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Irving

Squadron Headquarters

Capt Day
Sgt Craig
Cpl Seders
Cpl Kearns
Cpl Loft
Cpl Sherlock-Hubbard
Cpl Edwards*
Cpl Shepherd

1st Troop

Lt Tapp
WO Shiells
Sgt Clark
MCpl Goobie

Cpl Brown
Cpl Burke
Cpl Chase
Cpl Kroker
Cpl Sebo
Cpl Skinner
Cpl Crozier
Tpr Cassel
Tpr Pitcher
Tpr Sandhu

2nd Troop

Lt Smith
WO Englehart*
Sgt McDougall*
MCpl Thomas
MCpl Osborne
Cpl Bannister
Cpl Broad
Cpl Clare
Cpl Clegg
Cpl Duxbury
Cpl Dupuis
Cpl Graham
Cpl Haywood
Cpl Heisz
Cpl Marion
Cpl Monge

3rd Troop

Lt Lee
WO Churchill*
Sgt McLoughlin
MCpl Lister
Cpl Blair
Cpl Chen
Cpl Collier
Cpl Drew*
Cpl Gironne
Cpl Harder
Cpl Pasuta
Cpl Roselle*
Cpl Rollins
Cpl Sullivan
Cpl Taylor
Cpl Townsend
Tpr Schiffner

Admin Troop

Capt Cronk
2Lt Burchell
Sgt Baldwin

MCpl Burris
MCpl Sebo*
MCpl Walker
MCpl Wright
Cpl Drummond
Cpl Dunn
Cpl Hays
Cpl Hughes
Cpl Green
Cpl Partington
Cpl Priddle
Cpl Rabesca
Tpr Allard
Tpr Banting
Tpr Bourdon
Tpr Doan
Tpr Gordon
Tpr Goodwin
Tpr Martin
Tpr Southern
Tpr Weeden

SQMS

WO Baglole
MCpl Kruhlak*
Cpl Frenette
Cpl Popoff

Maintenance

Sgt Gorsalitz
MCpl Broadfoot
MCpl Leslie
Cpl Gray
Cpl Lefort
Cpl McConnell
Cpl Phillips
Cpl Smith

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Officer Commanding

Maj MacIntyre

Squadron Sergeant Major

MWO Mayfield*

Squadron Headquarters

Capt McEwen
Sgt Stoyko
Cpl Bondy

Cpl DeJong
Cpl Girling
Cpl Hatter
Cpl Riopelle

Transport Troop

Capt Thompson
WO Falls
Sgt Kopp
MCpl Baird
MCpl Ellis
Cpl Allman
Cpl Clendennin
Cpl Kearns
Cpl Lafontaine
Cpl Larcher-Pelland
Cpl Miller
Cpl Mosher
Cpl Mullens
Cpl Ouellet
Cpl Penny
Cpl Trainor
Tpr Bolstad
Tpr Charles
Tpr Christmas
Tpr Feenstra
Tpr Fraumeni
Tpr George
Tpr Smith
Tpr Stender
Tpr Tobin
Tpr Wood

Strathcona Mounted Troop

Capt McLean
WO Clarke
Sgt Zubkowski
MCpl Kruhlak
Cpl Balfour
Cpl Barten
Cpl Bernardo
Cpl Clake
Cpl Daos
Cpl Jordan
Cpl Lee
Cpl McMaster
Cpl Mijares
Cpl Morgan
Cpl Paskuski
Cpl Roberts
Cpl Sears
Tpr Aguila

Tpr Albers
Tpr Fisher
Tpr Gibbons
Tpr Gray
Tpr Hopper
Tpr Longjohn
Tpr Tomayer
Tpr Warren
Tpr Wolfe

Regimental Accounts

Capt Shumka
Sgt Jones*
Cpl Boorman
Cpl White
Tpr Wheat

Family Support Troop

Capt Barabash
MCpl Sullivan
Cpl Ried
Cpl Salazar
Tpr Wareham

Regimental Quarter Master Stores

Capt Ahn*
MWO Clayson
MWO Riley*
Sgt Brake
MCpl Fisher*
MCpl Sephton
Cpl Hagerty
Cpl Hoth
Cpl Lanthier
Cpl Lewis
Cpl Martin
Cpl Nancarrow
Cpl Paradis*
Cpl Slade
Cpl Veilleux
Cpl Winchester

Regimental Cooks

WO Doucet
Sgt Flannigan
MCpl Sinnet
Cpl Chang
Cpl Coxall
LS Brassard
LS Grobov

Regimental Maintenance Troop

Capt Bazinet
MWO Hawkins
WO Forbes*
WO Lapointe
WO Lefebvre
Sgt Cimon
Sgt McGean
MCpl Christopherson
MCpl Doiron*
MCpl Garcia*
MCpl Neil
MCpl Okimawinninew
MCpl Svensrud
MCpl Voisin
MCpl Walsh
MCpl Yates
Cpl Brookson
Cpl Courneyea

Cpl Crocker
Cpl Davis
Cpl Deng
Cpl Hunt
Cpl Kipot
Cpl Lee
Cpl Levesque
Cpl Morrison*
Cpl Pugh
Cpl Reid
Cpl Sephton
Cpl Sheilds
Cpl Thompson
Cpl Wood
Cfn Snyder
Pte Gordon
Pte Rimpilainen
Pte Yan

Stables

MCpl Ramage

Admin Troop

Capt Vahal
Cpl Alm
Cpl Frost
Cpl Greenaway
Cpl McKinley
Cpl Pegler
Cpl Scott*
Cpl Vallerand
Tpr St.Jean

SQMS

WO Chenier*
MCpl Headrick
Cpl Beatty
Cpl Smith

Museum

WO MacLoed
Sgt Giberson



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The Year in Review

January

- 16-18** Exercise STRONG CONTENDER –
1 CMBG Sports Competition
- 23-27** Exercise PATRICIA NOMAD –
Winter Warfare Exercise
- 30-3 Feb** Exercise STEELE VIRTUAL –
Regimental CAX

February

- 4-11** B Squadron Leopard C2 Gun Camp
- 14-29** Exercise ARTIC RAM – Recce
Squadron deployed a Recce Tp to
support 1 CMBG Exercise
- 17-20** Exercise PLEIN CONTACT –
12e RBC Sports Competition
- 21-29** Exercise STEELE WINTER –
Regimental Winter Adventure
Training
- 28-29** Command Team Retreat, Hinton

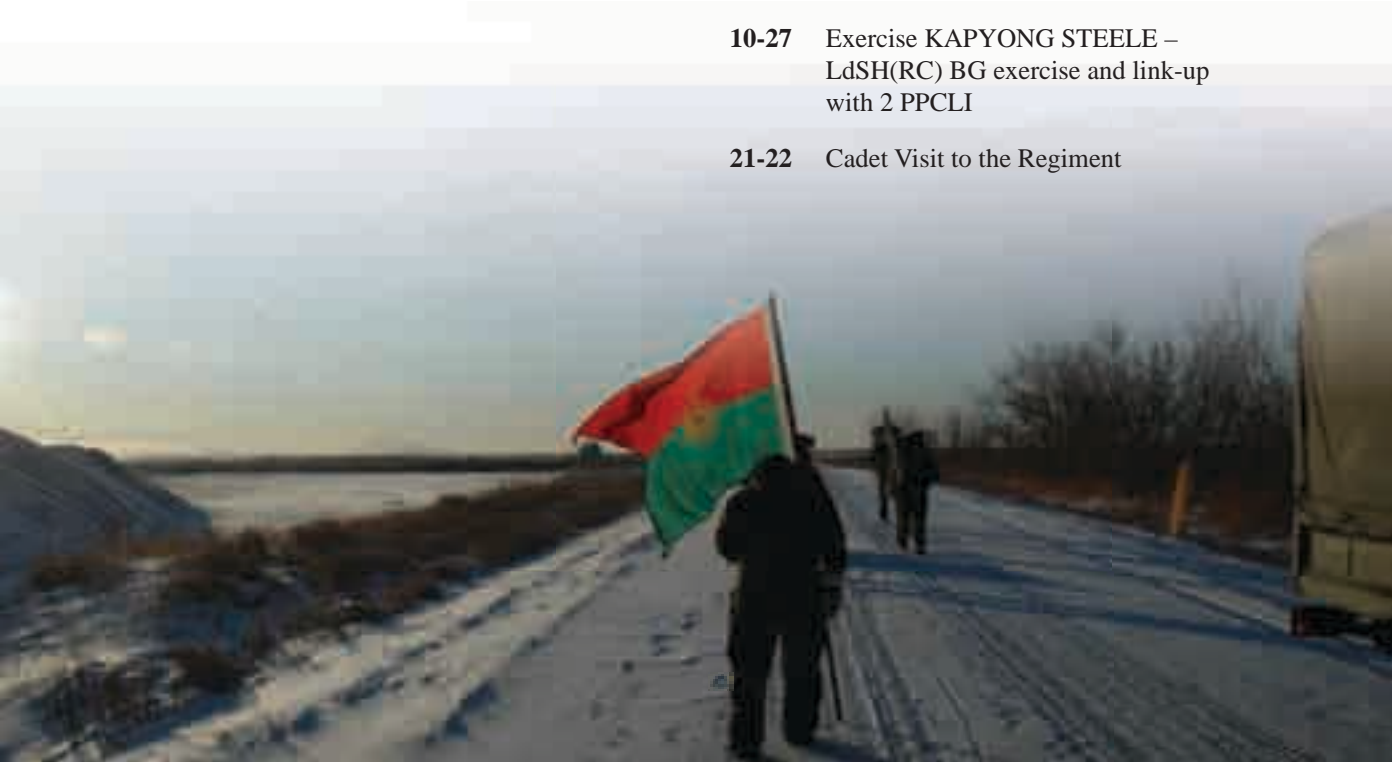


March

- 12-16** Regimental SPDET Inspection
- 20-22** Moreuil Wood Activities and Parade
- 24-
1 Apr** Spring Break

April

- 10-27** Exercise KAPYONG STEELE –
LdSH(RC) BG exercise and link-up
with 2 PPCLI
- 21-22** Cadet Visit to the Regiment





May

- 30 Apr-16** Exercise WARRIOR RAM –
LdSH(RC) BG support to Combat
Team Commander's Course
- 20-23** Support to Royal Visit in Winnipeg,

June

- 3** Loops for Troops Running Team to
Calgary
- 9** All Ranks Dinner and Dance/Welcome
Home Op ATTENTION
- 14** Regimental Change of Command
- 15** B Squadron, TF 3-12 Stand-up

July

- 3-13** Leopard 2 Commissioning in
Gagetown
- 4-8** Spruce Meadows Queen Elizabeth II
Cup and 100 soldier Guard for
Calgary Stampede Parade
- 6-15** Support to Calgary Stampede with
Static Displays
- 10-13** Colonel Commandant of the
Armoured Corps Visit to the Regiment
- 23-29** Regimental Support to Leopard 2
Swing Seat Trial in Germany
- 14-6 Aug** Regimental Block Leave





August

- 3-6** Exercise SUMMIT RAM (Regt Team at Death Race in Grande Cache, AB)
- 12** Strathcona Family Day
- 13-31** Leopard 2A4M conversion training for B Squadron
- 28** Support to Columbian Staff Officers Visit
- 30** Exercise MOUNTAIN MAN

September

- 4-26** Exercise STEELE SABRE (Regt Level 1-3 live fire ex with Level 4 live fire for B Squadron) – included visits from the Chilean Army for Collective Training with A Squadron and from 4/3 Cavalry leadership for participation in Recce Squadron's training schedule
- 6-8** Exercise THUNDERING RAM – 1 CMBG Motorcycle Ride
- 21-23** Canadian Army Run in Ottawa, ON
- 24-5 Oct** Exercise HOMESTEAD SAPPER in Chilcotlin, BC – Recce Squadron participation in 1 CER deployment

October

- 8-28** Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE – B Squadron high readiness confirmation exercise; A Squadron provided COEFOR support
- 15-19** Exercise STEELE ROCKY – A Squadron Adventure Training
- 15-17** Exercise STEELE SPIKES – RHQ Team Building
- 26-30** United States Marine Corps Marathon
- 28-10 Nov** Leopard 2 Commissioning in Gagetown, NB



November

- 5-9** Exercise REFLEXE RAPIDE – B Squadron high readiness live fire exercise
- 5-30** Primary Combat Function Course – Leopard C2 Basic Gunner, 25mm TOC, LAV III D & M and Armoured Vehicle Crew Commander (garrison portions only)
- 9** Regimental Support No Stone Left Alone program
- 11** Remembrance Day
- 13-15** Exercise STEELE VIRTUAL – Regimental CAX
- 19-23** Exercise ATHENA RAM – Brigade level CAX
- 26-30** Career Manager's Visit and Blackhat Professional Development
- 26-30** Leopard 2 Swing Seat Trial in Edmonton
- 26-7 Dec** Leopard 2 WES Trial in Wainwright

December

- 1-9** Exercise STEELE SPUR – Regimental Team to Fort Hood, Texas to participate in 4/3 Cavalry Squadron's annual Spur Ride



- 1** Regimental Kids Christmas Party
- 3-7** Primary Combat Function Course deployment to Wainwright for Gun Camp
- 11** Regimental Christmas Sports Day
- 12** Soldier's Christmas Dinner
- 15-6 Jan 2013** Christmas Leave



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Squadron Articles





Prince of Wales Squadron





Recce Squadron

Capt Phil Webster and Lt Connor Readman

2012 was a year full of exciting challenges, great training opportunities, and hard work for Recce Squadron. From Ex STRONG CONTENDER to Wainwright, from the mountains of Grand Cache to the infield of Spruce Meadows, Recce soldiers proved to their fellow Strathcona's and to all the members of our extended family why LdSH(RC) has such a long and proud history of excellence.

The Strathcona's started the year in fine form by winning the overall title for Ex STRONG CONTENDER, with Recce soldiers contributing to each team and helping the Regiment to completely dominate the event. Aside from giving our soldiers bragging rights and ammunition against the never-ending gravy comments, this competition helped get us in peak shape for what would turn out to be a long series of deployments to Wainwright for Ex KAPYONG STEELE and EX WARRIOR RAM in the spring.

Recce soldiers spent the muddy spring of 2012 getting back to conventional war fighting with 2PPCLI in a series of interdependent manoeuvres which swiftly and vigorously reinforced the long held doctrinal belief that it is always better to ride than to walk. Recce Squadron's close co-operation with the Patricia's was beneficial to both units and set us up for success for the arrival of most of 1CMBG for Ex WARRIOR RAM. Here again our soldiers demonstrated clearly how Recce came to be the Prince of Wales Squadron, striding out in front of a combined force made up of Engineers, helicopters from 408 Squadron, 2 PPCLI Recce Platoon, and Military Police. Right down to the patrol level Recce soldiers were able to hone their skills developing enemy positions and guiding combat teams into position for a series of successful attacks.

Recce Squadron bid farewell to outgoing OC Maj Mark **"This is Sparta"** Lubiniecki and SSM MWO **"This too is Sparta"** Rob Clarke and welcomed the new command team of OC Maj Chris **"Cowboy"** Nolan and MWO Tod **"Don't you dare give me a nickname"** Hopkin. Also departing were Capt Sam **"Screaming Eagle of Freedom"** Thompson and Capt Matt **"Money"** Shumka.

This summer marked the 100th anniversary of the Calgary Stampede and Recce Squadron was out in fine form for the Parade. Despite all the revelry afterwards, we are glad to report that the Strathcona's still have a firm grip on their key to the city. Shortly thereafter Recce Squadron was honoured to once again provide the 100-man Honour Guard for Spruce Meadows. The parade was inspected by the Lieutenant-

*43 and the Brave Rifles with their cradle
(which was soon after blown into pieces)*





Governor of Alberta, **The Honourable Col (Ret'd) Donald Ethell**, and the crowd was thrilled by the Feu de Joie in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Keeping up the fast pace and hard action, Recce Squadron soldiers threw themselves into The Canadian Death Race in Grande Cache and Ex MOUNTAIN MAN. The Recce team for the latter included **Cpls Whipple, Hall, Molloy, Underwood, and Tpr Jung**. Each man finished the gruelling challenge in fine form while **Cpl Luke Downey** achieved excellent standing in the United States Marine Corp Marathon in Washington, DC. **Tpr McNair** took Gold in the Canadian Forces Taekwondo competition, representing the Squadron and Regiment proudly.

With summer fading into fall, Recce Squadron launched back to Wainwright for Ex STEELE SABRE 2012. After shaking us out at the newly re-occupied Fort Recce, the OC **Maj Chris Nolan** set out to whip 1st through 3rd Troops into order. (4th Troop deployed to Chilcotin, BC, where they trained on Basic Demolitions with 1 CER in between tours of BC wine country). This exercise saw Recce continuing with traditional RAPZ tasks as we welcomed our American Cavalry brothers from 4th Squadron "Longknife", 3rd US Cavalry Regiment.

One highlight came early during the Quick Aim Shooting range taught by **Capt Alex "Did I stutter when I told you to go to the Low Ready" Nitu**. Longknife's **Maj Larry Croucher** announced that the Americans could outshoot anyone in Recce Squadron, and wagered a Stetson against **Maj Nolan's** Regimental belt buckle. Citing the War of 1812 as irrefutable proof of our dominance, Recce Squadron took the bet. As it turns out, we haven't lost our touch over the past centuries; **Cpl Hollis Zwicker** picked off 24 targets in just over sixteen seconds - faster than anyone else on the range.

As part of the move to return to our roots, (pun intended), 3rd Troop managed to sneak off during a maintenance day and take our American friends out in the bush for some good old Canadian Lumberjacking. A day of hard work by all resulted in a hand-made log crib obstacle for later use on the ranges, and the Americans enjoyed themselves thoroughly, practising the proper pronunciation of 'toque' and 'eh'. At the smoker Recce took home the cabbage ball win thanks to the immense power of **2Lt Ahmad "Subbie Arabia" Jaradat**, the intrepid speed of **Lt Brent "Liberty" Riedel** from C/S Longknife, and the incredible perseverance of **Tpr "Red" Van Nieuwenhuyze**, who continued to make forward progress despite being what doctors later referred to as "medically dead". Lots of steam was blown off and a good time was had by everyone.

Captain Hewer and 43 take another break





Cpl McAtasney is far too enthusiastic about weapon cleaning.

Finally it was off to Range 25 for our vehicle shoots and the last days of Ex STEEL SABRE. We spent the next five days and nights shooting under the supervision of **Sgt Felix “Wine and Cheese” Charette** and **BC Capt Mike “Parafires Free” Selberg**. With a final clean up and a quick trip back to Fort Recce we were set to head home, ready for whatever comes next for Recce Squadron.

Recce Squadron was the Regimental lead for a Reciprocal Unit Exchange with our new cavalry brothers in Fort Hood, Texas, the 4th Squadron “Longknife”, 3rd US Cavalry Regiment. 2IC Recce Squadron **Capt Alex “This is my Cambrian Patrol” Nitu** and **WO Laki “Sink or Swim” Christopoulos** led and trained a group of nineteen soldiers from across the Regiment in mainly dismounted operations for a longstanding “Longknife” tradition.....the “Spur Ride”. “Spur Ride” is an extremely physically challenging 72 hour exercise. It involved patrolling activities day/night, helocast/insert operations, water crossing, and operating in a stressed environment with little sleep. They did the Regiment proud; achieving a superb outcome which saw all nineteen members awarded their US Cavalry spurs.

Simultaneously, Recce Squadron embarked on a series of Primary Combat Function courses, 25mm Turret Operator and LAV III Driver that helped to increase our tactical and crewman skill sets. These courses culminated in a Regimental gun camp, consisting of 105mm and 25mm variants ran by OC Recce **Major Chris Nolan** and **SSM Recce Todd Hopkin**. The completion of this gun camp was swift and concise, allowing all soldiers to return ahead of schedule to our unit lines preparing for “silly season” and a well deserved Christmas break. More to follow in the New Year.....

The SSM and SQ in charge.





Regimental Headquarters





Regimental Headquarters

Signals Troop

It was a busy year for Signals Troop. The troop deployed three times to Wainwright for unit-level exercises and enabled three Computer Assisted Exercises at the LTF. **Cpl Lloyd**, **Sig Hewison**, **Sig Lahti**, and **Sig Knopf** worked overtime in the Information Systems cell to ensure the Regiment's computers and phones were in good repair. Troop storesmen scanned every piece of communications equipment in the unit into an electronic tracking system. **Sig Willett** and **Sig Burke** spent weeks crawling through every vehicle in the Regiment confirming equipment serial numbers.

The troop welcomed a few new members this year. **Sgt Stein** and **MCpl Breen** joined the troop from 1 Headquarters & Signal Squadron. **MCpl Gaudreault** was posted in from 5 Field Ambulance in Valcartier, Quebec and his English vocabulary for common radio components is increasing daily. For the first time in many years, armoured crewmen were transferred into Signals Troop. **Cpl Bolzan**, **Cpl Partridge**, and **Cpl Weir** have proven to be excellent additions to the troop and have officially become honorary signallers despite their protests. Sadly, **Sgt Bergeron** has left the unit after two years as the Alternate Command Post Detachment Commander to become the Operations Sergeant at 742 Signal Squadron in Edmonton. He was relieved that he did not get posted to Winnipeg as originally planned but still had to be dragged out of the unit kicking and screaming (note that **MCpl Deschambault** also did a lot kicking and screaming when he was pepper sprayed during his Close Quarter Combat course in Wainwright).

The extended Signals Troop family grew with **Sgt Willcott's** wife **Michelle** giving birth to a boy named **Mason** on May 9th and **WO Hardy's** wife **Tammy** giving birth to a boy named **Colton** on May 17th. Their enrolment paperwork has been drafted and the Regiment can expect to receive two keen signallers in approximately eighteen years. Here's to hoping the apple doesn't fall far from the tree!

Sigs Tp members had much to celebrate this year. After months of hard training, **Cpl Smith** was the top competitor in the Mountain Man 2012 competition with a jaw-dropping overall time of 4 hours and 59 minutes. **Capt Niedzielski** finished only slightly behind him <cough cough>. **Cpl MacLean** and **Cpl Melanson** along with other members of RHQ Squadron received the 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Commander Commendation for their assistance to an RCMP officer in subduing an unruly driver in Wainwright. Congratulations!

The year ended with the troop preparing the Regimental Command Post for next year's IRU tasking. Some well deserved leave is in order prior to the upcoming spring exercises. With a return to conventional war fighting skills, troop members will be spending most of their leave perfecting their skills in applying camouflage paint. The soldiers of Signals Troop look forward to another action-packed year in 2013!



Regimental Police Section

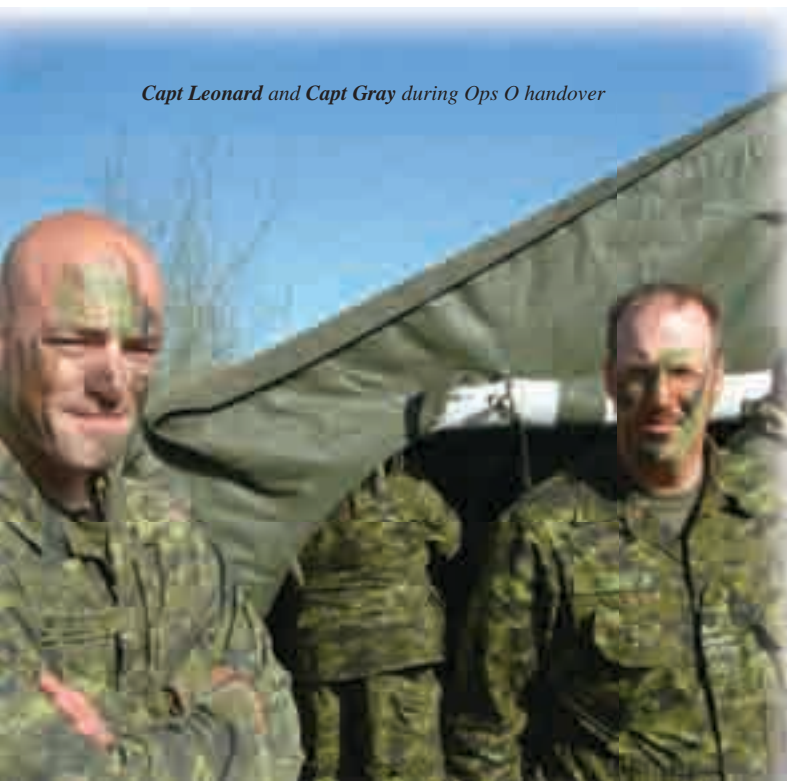
The Regimental police section thrives. As with all aspects of military life nothing remains the same and the RP section is no different. We welcomed two new members to the team, Section IC, **Cpl Churchill** and his right hand woman **Tpr Rae**, and we said goodbye to **Cpl Burton**, **Cpl Kabongo** and **Cpl Murdoch**, who have moved on to bigger and better things with A Squadron. The Regiment will surely miss **Cpl Kabongo's** paparazzi skills as the Regimental Photographer. No fear though, **Cpl Churchill** and **Tpr Rae** will handle all your RP needs. With that we say good luck to the new RPs and good luck to the old ones in your new endeavours.

Intelligence Cell

The Strathcona Intelligence Cell received a new influx of personnel as all members of the previous year (2011-12) were either posted or moved back to a sabre squadron and new staff were brought in. **Capt Peeling** was posted in from CFB Petawawa upon recently completing his Intelligence Officer's Course. This being his third Armoured Regiment he brings both experience and a unique perspective to the RHQ team. **Cpl Silcox** joined the Intelligence Cell from B Squadron and has shown a hunger and thirst for knowledge by recently completing the Tactical Intelligence Operator's Course. **Cpl Droogers** was posted into the cell in October 2012 and will be taking the Tactical Intelligence Operator's Course early in 2013.

The main function of the Intelligence Cell is to provide the Regimental Command Team with briefs on overseas events, recent enemy tactics, techniques and procedures and direct threats to members of the Regiment. Additionally, the intelligence staff work to support the unit and formation level exercises by furnishing a relevant and detailed enemy situation.

Capt Leonard and Capt Gray during Ops O handover



*CS 0 during
Ex STEELE SABRE*



The Intelligence Cell deployed on Ex STEELE SABRE in September 2012 and provided the intelligence brief for the B Squadron Level 4 Live Fire attack. Additionally, they operated as part of the LdSH(RC) CP during Ex STEELE VIRTUAL and Ex ATHENA RAM, which were both held at the Lecture & Training Facility in CFB Edmonton in November 2012. These exercises required the intelligence staff to report on and assess enemy formations ranging from insurgents at the Platoon level to Armoured Brigades. The intelligence cell worked diligently to establish a comprehensive enemy picture for the Regimental Command Team so that it could be incorporated into the planning of future operations. The Intelligence Cell is excited for 2013 and will continue to provide the CO with information about what's coming over the next hill.



A Squadron



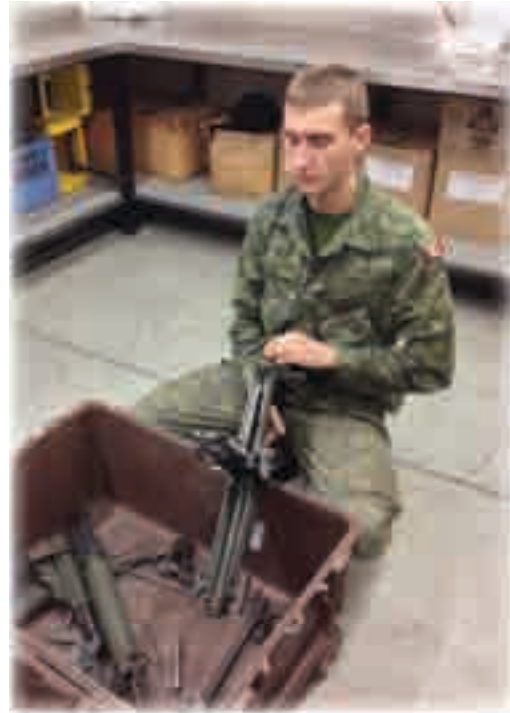
A Squadron A Year in Review

Capt Phil Buckingham

During this past year, A Squadron has participated in a large number of exercises including Ex KAPYONG STEELE, Ex WARRIOR RAM, Ex STEELE SABRE and Ex MAPLE RESOLVE. We have conducted Adventure Training (Ex STEELE ROCKY), a Leo C2 Gunnery Course and HLVW Driver Course as well as having the honour of commissioning and implementing the Leopard 2. Throughout the year, A Squadron has mastered every task it has taken on.

So far 20 of the expected 42 Leopard 2 have arrived at the Regiment. In the spring, under the command of **Maj Dave Macintyre**, A Squadron deployed these hulking metal beasts to Wainwright for Ex KAPYONG STEELE and Ex WARRIOR RAM. **Capt Steve Van Muyen** and **WO Marv MacNeill** had the distinct privilege of commanding these new tanks on exercise in Canada for the first time. The Squadron not only demonstrated the Leopard 2's superior capabilities to the Brigade, but its ability to careen through wood lines with ease, deforesting a large portion of the training area. On 2 May 12, the Squadron performed a hasty attack demo for **LGen Peter Devlin**, the Commander Canadian Army. With four Leopard 2A4Ms participating in the attack, A Squadron charged through the training area and annihilated the enemy position.

As his first official tasking as OC A Squadron, **Maj Eric Angell**, along with a delegation of Strathcona's including **Cpl Adrian Droogers**, visited our partnered formation in Poland, 10 Brygada Kawalerii Pancernej (10th Armoured Cavalry Brigade). Our delegation spent two days touring their facilities, swapped lessons learned from theatre and sampled the local cuisine (and perhaps one or two 'beverages'). These incredible hosts even facilitated tours to historic sites including a visit to Stalag Luft 3, the notorious German POW camp that was the site of "The Great Escape" during World War Two.



Throughout September, A Squadron redeployed to Wainwright for Ex STEELE SABRE to conduct troop and squadron level training in preparation for our role in the Road to High Readiness beginning in the New Year. A Squadron also conducted IBTS training, including Grenade, C7 and Pistol Ranges. **Cpl Lance "Marksman" Banman** demonstrated his 'impressive' shooting skills, hitting everything except his target. On the Tank Ranges, **Capt Tim McHugh** and his Troop put on an impressive display of firepower for our compatriots to the South, Soldiers of the 4th Brigade, "Long Knife," 1st Cavalry Division, United States Army, as well as a delegation of 12 personnel from several units in the Chilean Army that were visiting. The high point of the Ex was a

fantastic BBQ which involved an aggressive cabbage football game, a squadron Tug of War and a ridiculous “gunnery” competition, where a blindfolded soldier slingshot oranges at a target while riding around in a hand cart. Despite the challenges facing the Chileans navigating the Wainwright Training Area, (direct quote “the trees and hills get in the way”), their gunnery was excellent, firing orange after orange onto the target, stealing first place from our Strathcona experts.

In October, **WO Jay Webb**, **Sgt Chuck “Sandy” Sanduliak** and I led an amalgamation of 2 and 3 Troop in a war of attrition against B Squadron, playing the part of the baddies, the Port-au-Prince Guards Tank Battalion. Despite the best efforts of B Squadron, our only casualties came from a cunningly hidden tank ditch **MCpl Bryson “Murph” Murphy** “found”. On the final day of the Ex, in the middle of a lightning attack by B Squadron, **Cpl Arron “Hodghey” Hodgkin** thought he heard “It’s a charge boys!” when he was actually told “pack the damn’d tent”.

While A Squadron was lying in wait to ambush B Squadron, The Regimental Gunnery Warrant Officer **WO Rich “Gitch” Allen** and a crew of A Squadron soldiers including **Sgt James “Hammy” Hamilton**, **Cpl Andrew Foster**, **Cpl Shaun Collins**, **Cpl Andrew Phelan**, and **Cpl Dave Young** were awaiting the arrival of outgoing Chief of the Defence Staff, **Gen Walter Natynczyk**, to provide him an opportunity to fire a few rounds from one of the new Leopard 2A4M Tanks. He swept over the advancing 5 CMBG Combat team in a Black Hawk helicopter and landed at Range 16. **LCol Paul Peyton** introduced the crew before the CDS crawled into the gunner’s position under the ‘careful supervision’ of **Sgt Hamilton** to fire his first round. After all was said and done, the CO presented the CDS with the plaque and a CO’s coin as a token of appreciation for his tremendous leadership and support to the Regiment during his tenure as CDS.

During this fierce rearguard, in another part of Alberta, **Lt Brandon “Frazzle Dazzle” Frizzell** led 12 soldiers to the Bow Valley in Kananaskis Country Provincial Park for Ex STEELE ROCKY. The ‘Gypsy Caravan’ included **Tpr Jeremy Kozack**, **Cpl Lance Banman**, **Tpr Russell “Decent” Glennie**, **Tpr Jacqueline Hodgson**, **Cpl Matthew Freeman** and was rounded out with members of Recce and HQ Squadron.

In December A Squadron also ran a Leopard C2 Gunnery Course to train new soldiers to become gunners and prepare them for a Leopard 2 Conversion Course. **WO ‘Gunnery PAM’ Flanagan**, along with **Sgt Hamilton**, **MCpl Murphy**, **MCpl Brister**, and **Sgt Sanduliak** worked exceedingly hard to teach the principles of Leopard C2 Gunnery experiencing the joy of Wainwright in December while conducting their gun camp.

It has been a tremendously busy year for the soldiers of A Squadron. Despite the high operational tempo, the large amounts of time separated from our families, and the occasionally less than optimal weather conditions we have been forced to function in, we have excelled in every task assigned to us. A Squadron – Masters of Tank Warfare!





B Squadron

Semper Paratus

Captain Dave Cronk

In many ways 2012 was a mirror image of 2011, lots of time deployed to exotic Wainwright with the soldiers of the Squadron demonstrating their dominance of the battlefield and expert skills as tankers.

January started with a flurry of activity as the Regiment was deeply committed to 1 CMBG's Ex STRONG CONTENDER. It was a banner year for the Regiment at the 2011 competition with nearly all teams finding themselves on the podium. Not surprisingly, soldiers of B Squadron were prominently represented and contributed to their individual team's triumphs. Whether it was **WO Ernie Romanuik** and **Sgt Mike Craig** coaching **Sgt Rob Biener** and **Cpls Max Gironne** and **Francis Graham** in ice hockey, **MCpl Jamie Moores** lighting the lamp in floor hockey or **Cpls Dave Hughes** and **Corina Skinner** skipping their respective curling teams to success.

Immediately following the success of Ex STRONG CONTENDER, the leadership of B Squadron took to the Edmonton Lecture Training Facility to participate on Ex STEELE VIRTUAL, a Regimental Computer Assisted Exercise (CAX) that brought together Regimental leadership and representation from C Company 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI) to shake out command post procedures and refresh their war fighting skills in an electronic environment. During this exercise, we were also fortunate enough to be joined by a very slick infantry company from 2 PPCLI, lead by **Maj Dave Ferris**, that synched in very well with the Squadron and laid the framework for an excellent working relationship that would be repeated during Ex KAPYONG STEELE and WARRIOR RAM later in the spring. In fact it was often noted that **Maj Ferris** and **Maj Mike Onieu**, B Squadron's OC at the time, may have been separated at birth as they shared the same twisted sense of humour and hyper aggressive approach to offensive operations (i.e I don't care what Recce says, I am attacking NOW from here and here).

With Ex STEELE VIRTUAL complete, the Squadron shifted focus to prepare for the spring exercises Ex KAPYONG STEELE and WARRIOR RAM by conducting the theory portion of a Leopard C2 Gunnery Course and completing an impressive nine F3 annual inspections in a short two months. With some very ingenious planning and juggling of maintenance bays, **Sgt Lenny McGean** orchestrated this impressive feat with ease and only a few late nights.

However busy the Squadron was, some soldiers still found the time to volunteer their time and efforts to some very special causes. **Cpl Andrew Sherlock-Hubbard** and **Tpr Jesse Bolzan** not only volunteered their time but also their hair to support the Stollery Children's Hospital, the Make a Wish Foundation and Ronald McDonald House by shaving off their locks for charity. The Squadron also found time in its busy schedule to down tools for at least one day and gather for some team bonding (savagely pelting each other with paintballs) at Paintball Action Games in Edmonton. The day was organized by **Cpl Anthony Frenette**, the Squadron's resident paintball freak, who set up a brilliant day away from the tanks for the troops.

Cpl Jamie Steeves and his wife Jocelyn at the B Squadron Range.





*Cpl Loft, MCpl Kruhlak and Cpl Fitch
taking gunnery maintenance seriously*

With preparations for the spring exercises complete, the Squadron deployed to Wainwright in late March. The first element to deploy was the Leopard C2 Gunnery Course which deployed a week early to qualify new gunners for the Regiment. **Lt Tapp** and **WO Ken Shiells** set out for Wainwright for what would turn out to be a very cold gun camp. After a lengthy delay between the theory portion and the actual gun camp, all the future gunners were chomping at the bit to launch some rounds down range. **Tpr Matt Broad** particularly distinguished himself and was awarded Top Candidate.

At the conclusion of the gun camp, the Squadron descended onto Range 16 to complete a couple of days of focused crew and troop static shoots. During the Ranges, the Squadron also had the privilege of hosting **Cpl Jamie Steeves** and his wife **Jocelyn Steeves**, giving them the opportunity to fire a few rounds from one of the Leopards. It was an extremely emotional and inspiring visit, as **Cpl Steeves** had been diagnosed with cancer but maintained an indestructibly positive outlook and truly epitomised the motto of the Regiment and displayed an unmatched air of perseverance.

Ranges complete, the Squadron dove into Ex KAPYONG STEELE, a joint LdSH(RC) and 2 PPCLI exercise intended to shake out the Battle Groups prior to the Brigade's Ex WARRIOR RAM to support the Tactic's School's Combat Team Commander's Course (CTCC). Once again reunited with C Company 2 PPCLI, under the guidance of **Maj Onieu** and **Maj Ferris** the B Squadron / C Company Combat Team spent approximately a week honing their skills conducting numerous quick attacks throughout all parts of the CFB Wainwright training area. During this exercise, there were several incidents of specific note. Primarily, 1st Troop deployed and exercised with newly arrived Leopard 2A4Ms. Secondly, the soldiers of the Squadron watched in disbelief and confusion as the Patricia's spent nearly every waking opportunity doing physical

Maj Onieu promoting Tpr Nicholson to Tpr(T) the night of the smoker





MCpl Folkerts, Tpr Brown and Tpr Cassel chilling in the hide.

training in the field. Finally, 2nd Troop must have felt that they were the only troop on the net as the Battle Captain, **Capt Dave Cronk** seemed to be ever so helpful in providing suggestions on where and when they should actually be located.

Sufficiently shaken out and SOPs firmly established, the Combat Team was more than ready to transition to Ex WARRIOR RAM. With the focus of WARRIOR RAM being the support of the CTCC, the Squadron readied itself to be used and abused by a new Combat Team Commander each day. In the syndicate of students assigned to B Squadron were two

familiar faces however, as **Majs Eric Angell** and **Clayton Gardner** found themselves continually in the breach as the armoured student OCs. Ex WARRIOR RAM was very much a groundhog day-like endeavour with successive serials of battle procedure and familiar attacks of well known enemy objectives. After nearly a month of conducting offensive operations, the combat team became quite an efficient organization regardless of the “interesting” direction it received from candidate Combat Team Commanders. This was especially evident when, due to a combat team wide crypto failure, we executed a highly successful attack on radio silence (lots of hand waving). After a long two months in the field, the Squadron readied for home and shot out of Wainwright like a bullet feeling fairly confident that they had demonstrated to not only the students of the course but to the rest of the Brigade the fighting abilities of B Squadron.

The return to Edmonton provided a brief respite for the soldiers of the Squadron from the field but the tempo of Garrison Duties remained high. This time also coincided with the annual posting season and saw a change in Squadron leadership as **Maj Onieu** and **MWO Tony Mayfield** handed over the reigns of command to **Maj Vince Kirstein** and **MWO Bill Irving** after a very successful and rewarding two years leading the Squadron. As a thank-you to the departing command team, the Squadron gathered for a day of golf at the Cardiff Golf and Country Club followed by a few beverages at a local watering hole. Also posted out were **Capt Tom Pett**, **Capt Anthony Kenny**, **Capt Owen Lewis**, **WO Ernie Romanuik**, **WO Steve Connauton**, **Sgt Rob Biener**, **Sgt Conway Eady**, **Sgt Keith Hodgson**, **MCpl Kerrie Jesse**, **MCpl Warren Drake**, **Cpl**





Reg Fitch and Cpl Dave McKinnon. Posted into the Squadron were **Capt Tim Day, Lt Callum Smith, 2Lt Laurel Burchell, WO Rob Englehart, WO Steve Churchill, Sgt Tyler Baldwin, MCpl John Goobie, MCpl Kenny Wright, MCpl Ryan Sebo, Cpl Lawrence Heisz and Cpl Brady Walker.**

As soon as the additions to the Squadron settled into their new roles, Leopard 2 conversion training ramped up with the goal of training all soldiers on the new tanks in preparation for the Squadron's participation Task Force 3-12, the training of a high readiness Battle Group for possible deployment should the Government of Canada commit to a new mission. Thus, soldiers spent the last three weeks of August conducting driver, gunner and commander courses. This was done in addition to the normal preparations for readying the Squadron for the Regimental Exercise, Ex STEELE SABRE in September.

Theory training complete, the Squadron boarded a bus to deploy for Ex STEELE SABRE in early September. During this exercise, troops completed the field driving and gun camp for the Leopard 2 conversion training and then focused on completing up to Squadron level training. The conversion course gun camp was an awesome experience for the not only the Squadron but the Regiment as we finally had the opportunity to conduct live fire training with Leopard 2s in Wainwright. Of special note, **Sgt Mike Craig** was the first Strathcona tank commander to fire a 120mm round in the training area, though it took a second round to actually hit the target. As soon as the Leopard 2 conversion was complete, the Squadron then switched arcs to complete crew and troop level live fire. In a very busy three days, soldiers worked without a break to ensure that the demanding schedule of the Battle Captain and Squadron Gunnery Warrant Officer, **Capt Tim Day** and **Sgt Chuck McDougall**, went off with out a hitch. The Squadron echelon under SSM **Bill Irving** and the acting Admin Sergeant, **MCpl Brady Walker** was a constant buzz of activity keeping ammo moving and the Squadron resupplied. **Tprs Dan Bourdon** and **Chris "Marty" Martin** were excellent examples of the hard working soldiers in the echelon who kept the troops supplied and ready to roll. This was especially impressive for **Tpr Martin**, as the SH-Prac rounds he was moving around were twice as big as he was. After some battle procedure, a quick verification range and dry rehearsal the Squadron was ready to attack the highly resilient enemy position at Survey Hill, north of Range 25 for its Squadron live fire validation. **Maj Kirstein** and **SSM Irving** pumped up the troops with some rousing words and some death metal ensuring that the squadron was fully prepared and energized to launch. In a mere 25 minutes, the Squadron obliterated the position. Validated by the Bde Comd, **Col Dave Anderson**, the Squadron was ready to join the 2 R22eR BG for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE and REFLEXE RAPIDE.

Maj Kirstein and SSM Irving at the Squadron AAR





After a quick respite in Edmonton, the Squadron redeployed to Wainwright just after Thanksgiving to join the 2 R22eR BG. After some quick link-ups with the Companies of the Battle Group, the Squadron conducted some combat team level dry training and readied itself for Ex MAPLE RESOLVE to kick off. It was definitely an interesting experience working with 5 CMBG and lets just say that the Squadron was asked to definitely think outside of the box and conduct some “unconventional” conventional warfighting operations. On a positive note, after gaining considerable experience 1st Troop was able to gather information to draft a new doctrine publication for the Army, “The Lone Tank Troop in Battle”. Through some of the tasks given to the Squadron were unusual, the support provided by the 2 R22eR BG was exceptional and the Squadron wanted for nothing. After, two weeks of bouncing between Companies and working independently, the Squadron was happy to hear “End-Ex” called and readied itself for 4 days of day and night live fire combat team attacks. These attacks fell under Ex REFLEXE RAPIDE and saw the Squadron involved in every attack supporting individual companies as they cycled through the attack rotation. Needless to say, even with mixing up the positions as much as possible, all the troops became intimately familiar with the enemy position and pulled off each attack like seasoned professionals.

Ex MAPLE RESOLVE and REFLEXE RAPIDE complete, the Squadron quickly scampered back to Edmonton in time for Remembrance Day and spent the remainder on 2012 conducting post exercise maintenance and clean-up and preparing themselves for a well deserved Christmas vacation. Throughout a very hectic training year that included multiple field deployment, all soldiers of the Squadron displayed exceptional professionalism and duly lived up to the Regimental motto of Perseverance.





Headquarters Squadron



Headquarters Squadron

Capt John McEwen

2012 has been a busy year for the Strathcona's and this is especially true for Headquarters (HQ) Squadron. No matter what the event, exercise, task or activity members of the Regiment are participating in, there is almost always a role to play by HQ Squadron. Under the leadership of the Squadron Commander, **Maj Vince Kirstein** and Squadron Sergeant Major, **WO Marcel Chenier**, this first half of the year saw HQ Squadron winterizing Recce Squadron vehicles and weapons in preparation for Exercise ARCTIC RAM, preparing for the arrival of the Leopard 2A4M tank and then quickly deploying them to Wainwright for Exercises KAPYONG STEELE and WARRIOR RAM. As always, during this lengthy field deployment the Squadron did an incredible job of ensuring that all support requirements were seamlessly met, so that the Regiment was able to effectively conduct live and dry combat operations in support of the Combat Team Commander's Course. This includes the incredible maintenance support that was provided by the Maint O, **Capt Alex Bazinet**, the ETQMS, **MWO Bill Hawkins**, and their troop of dedicated mechanics who ensured that both our aging fleet of Leopard 1s and our new Leopards 2s were always ready for whatever tasks awaited.



The start of the summer saw change of command activities and the welcoming of **Maj Dave MacIntyre** and **MWO Tony Mayfield** as the new Squadron Command Team. Under their leadership, HQ Squadron provided all of the support requirements for the Regiment's involvement in the Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows activities. In addition, several members of the Squadron were lucky enough to deploy to Calgary to augment Recce Squadron and represent the Regiment proudly. Following some well deserved leave, **Capt Sam Thompson** and **WO Tom Falls** from Transport Troop took the lead on running an assortment of B Vehicle PCF courses in preparation for the Squadron's fall activities.



As quickly as the summer came, it was gone, and HQ Squadron found itself in Wainwright on Ex STEELE SABRE 12. This hectic deployment saw us supporting the Regiment during Leopard 2 conversion, live fire validations by all Squadrons, as well as visits by Chilean Armour Corps and US Army Cavalry contingents. Staged out of Peregrine 9, the Squadron established and maintained the Regimental Bivouac which could not have been done without the great work from the QM, **Capt Leona Ahn** and the RQMS, **MWO Lloyd Clayson**. Truly the most exciting thing to happen during this exercise was the return of beer to Squadron canteens. There really is nothing more rewarding than reflecting on a hard days work with your Regimental brothers and sisters over a cold, well deserved refreshment! STEELE SABRE was concluded with a Regimental Smoker that was highlighted by an incredible meal provided by the KO, **WO Alain Doucet** and his team



*Sgt Stoyko serving beer during the
Soldier's Christmas Dinner*

of highly skilled cooks.

The remainder of the fall continued to be quite busy and in addition to supporting an assortment of squadron and regimental activities, including the Admin O, **Capt Varun Vahal** and Ops Sgt, **Sgt Pat Stoyko**, running several rifle and pistol ranges that allowed Squadron members to renew their annual qualification and refresh their marksmanship skills. Various members of the Squadron were able to conduct some exciting training with other squadrons including **Cpl Eric Lanthier** and **LS Michael Grobov** joining A Squadron on Ex STEELE ROCKY, where they spent a week hiking and canoeing in beautiful Bow Valley. In addition, **Cpl Alan Lee** and **Pte Alexander Rimpilainen** completed their Basic Parachute courses and **Cpl Seamus Bondy**, joined Recce Squadron in Fort Hood Texas for Exercise STEELE SPURS. The Squadron was truly busy right up to the bitter end and prior to a well deserved Christmas block leave. One final PCF cycle was conducted where **Capt Bazinet** and **WO Falls** qualified a handful of soldiers as Armoured Vehicle Crew Commanders.

Well another year has come and gone in HQ Squadron and there really is not a whole lot of time to reflect on what we have accomplished over the past twelve months, as a busy new year is quickly approaching. Thanks to all who have had played a part in the successes of HQ Squadron. Without your hard work and dedication we would not have been able to continue to provide the outstanding support to the Regiment that we have come to be known for.

MCpl Sullivan - HVT Dog & Pony





Strathcona Family Support Troop

Cpl Jason Reid



MCpl Nathan Ramage with son Hayden

2012 was a productive year for Family Support Troop (FST). To best fulfill our supporting role in the Regiment we organized and hosted two movie nights at Cineplex Odeon Theaters for the spouses and children of our deployed soldiers. We also sponsored a children's event at Galaxy Land in West Edmonton Mall which was a great success.

With the return of soldiers from Afghanistan this past March, FST has had to change gears and we have become more involved in Regimental social events, such as supporting A and Recce Sqns in hosting two Regimental Family Days. Additionally, with the majority of the Regiment deployed to Wainwright for Ex STEELE SABRE this fall, we took the opportunity to host an event at Prairie Gardens for the families of deployed soldiers.

Families arrived at the Regiment and were greeted by **Capt Matt Shumka** and **Tpr Allison McCulloch** who guided them to the registration booth before being

transported to Bon Accord by shuttle bus. It was a sunny and cool fall day filled with train rides, a petting zoo, crafting scarecrows and even a corn maze. Pausing for lunch, the families took a break at the BBQ pit for a hot dog roast and refreshments. Everyone also had the opportunity to try homemade pumpkin pie, hamburgers and even some ice cream at one of the food stands on site. **Cpl Jason Reid** was on hand to issue tokens to families so all involved could experience the full outdoor play set, a hay bale mountain, and RC cars ensuring that kids of all ages were entertained. After families picked up some last minute pumpkin purchases the shuttle transported everyone back to the Regiment.

FST has also undergone some transformations this past year as highlighted by the renovations in the FST Office and the December mail out. We still have some fridge magnets left so feel free to get in touch with us if you don't have one. There are many avenues to communicate with FST. Your first point of reference should always be our website (www.strathconas.ca/families). We continue to monitor and update the site, and have recently included a Padre's Corner for multi-faith and couples counselling. For your convenience, we are also on Facebook, so be sure to search for 'Strathcona Family Support' and "like" the page to receive notifications. We also welcome and encourage you to stop by the office during regular business hours, coffee is always on!

Overall, 2012 was a great success and a solid step forward for the Regiment. All of the staff in FST would like to thank all of the families who have supported our events and look forward to seeing you in the future.





*Sgt Craig
captures a Sherman*



*Capt Shumka
Day 1 (It only gets better right?)*



Tpr Dobson

Training



MCpl Headrick



*I think I am supposed to go here,
says Capt Lewis*



Ex ARCTIC RAM

Capt Matthew Shumka

Normally when off-the-wall tasks come down in O-Groups there are few volunteers, but when **Maj Mark “Batman” Lubiniecki** and **MWO Rob “Redbag” Clarke** announced that a recce troop would be stood-up and sent to the great white north of the Canadian Arctic for 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Groups’s Exercise ARCTIC RAM, Recce Squadron stepped-up to the challenge. Under the guidance of **Capt Matthew “I somehow volunteered for this while in Shilo” Shumka** and **WO Rich “I don’t know what happened, I blacked out” Sherren**, 31 Recce soldiers of all ranks readied themselves for a deployment to a truly unique training opportunity. The Troop quickly learned that the focus of the exercise was to conduct cold weather training in the Yellowknife to Gameti corridor of the Northwest Territories to see just how well a deployed force could conduct classic war fighting battle task standards in the extreme climate of Canada’s North.

The newly formed “Arctic Troop (C/S T41)”, was composed of soldiers from across Recce Squadron, coming together in the fall of 2011 to prepare for and train for the harsh winter conditions of the Canadian North. Winter warfare training included snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and the construction of winter snow and ice defences, but nothing would be more vital than the lessons learned during winter survival training conducted with winter survival experts from 4 Canadian Rangers Patrol Group. This training truly tested the Troop, especially when they were stripped of all kit and equipment other than what was packed in our rucksacks. With all of the work-up training complete, the T41 finally deployed to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories on 7 February 2012.

Greeted by minus 40°C (before wind chill) weather, we mounted up, thawed out our Coyotes and moved out to set-up camp at FOB MAIDEN 1. After several days of maintenance, battle procedure and acclimatizing to the frigid temperatures, we set out to conduct a more than 100 kilometre long route recce along the MacKenzie Highway up to what would become the location for the Brigade fire power demo ranges on frozen Russell Lake in the Behchoko Region.

During the exercise, the Troop completed tasks such as the proving and conduct of the platoon/troop live fire range built on the ice of Russell Lake, route recces, convoy escorts, rear area and vital point security and employment as the Brigade Quick Reaction Force. Despite this wide range of tasks, we still managed to sneak in a day of ice fishing, small game trapping and snowmobile training, and even a midnight pizza party.

After a month of less than ideal bathroom arrangements, three IMP meals a day, snow baths (**MCpl John “JJ” Johnson**) and plenty of “tent routine”, the Troop truly learned to appreciate what it meant to be Strathconas. Between watching soldiers from several (unnamed) units burn down their tent groups, abandon kit, only to be recovered by T41, and experiencing the difficulty of everyday living in the extreme cold, Strathcona pride helped reinvigorate a new skill-set for these recce crewmen. Ex ARCTIC RAM was a test which proved to be little match for the soldiers of Recce Squadron.



Unnamed soldier finds a souvenir



Ex STEELE VIRTUAL

Capt Radek Niedzielski



Ex STEELE VIRTUAL was conducted by LdSH(RC) from 30 January to 3 February 2012 in the Lecture Training Facility drill hall. Much like a multiplayer video game, the exercise involved the use of computers to simulate military formations on a battlefield controlled by military personnel. Unlike a video game, the maps, units, and tactics used were an exact representation of an actual military deployment.

The exercise was used to solidify mission planning and execution in preparation for upcoming deployments in the spring. Approximately 80 members of LdSH(RC) took part of the exercise. In addition, members of 2 PPCLI, 1 RCHA, and 1 CER also participated. The exercise included two cycles of orders, planning, and simulated mission execution. The missions consisted of squadron-level attacks on enemy defensive positions which included the use of enabling assets such as artillery, engineer support, and intelligence. Reviews of mission events allowed all members to improve their planning, orders, and mission execution skillsets for future use.

Conducting exercises that confirm planning and execution procedures through the use of simulation saves the unit the costs associated with deploying an entire unit worth of personnel and equipment. Ex STEELE VIRTUAL 2012 ensured that future unit exercises will be executed effectively and efficiently.



13620 - 97 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
780.476.6241 | 1.877.785.7005
www.rosslyninnandsuites.com
reserve@rosslyninnandsuites.com



Ex KAPYONG STEELE & Ex WARRIOR RAM

Capt Jeff Daley

Ex KAPYONG STEELE and Ex WARRIOR RAM were conducted back-to-back by the Regiment from 10 April 2012 to 16 May 2012 in Wainwright, Alberta. 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry joined LdSH(RC) for the exercises and together both units formed combat teams with engineer and artillery assets which were exercised in a Battle Group context. The aim of KAPYONG STEELE was to ensure that all arms could work together as part of combat teams. Ex WARRIOR RAM assessed Combat Team Commander's Course candidates in leadership roles. Since the war in Afghanistan, most Canadian training has been geared towards counter-insurgency and stability operations. These exercises heralded a re-focus on conventional war fighting skills for the Canadian Army with 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade group and the Strathcona's at the forefront of developing these skills.

Ex KAPYONG STEELE commenced with refresher training at the troop and squadron level. Afterwards, the infantry, engineers, and artillery joined the unit to form combat teams. The majority of the exercise consisted of combat team attacks against fortified defensive positions. Combat teams were composed of three tank troops, three infantry platoons, a few engineer vehicles and a Forward Observation Officer that could call in artillery strikes. In general, a combat team would identify an enemy position on the move and the combat team commander would plan and issue orders for the destruction of the position. After a quick regrouping of friendly forces, the attack commenced. The enemy didn't stand a chance as it was overrun with coordinated artillery fire and engineer assets that breached their defensive obstacles. This was followed by a head-on tank assault with the infantry following safely behind destroying any last pockets of resistance.

After combat team tactics and procedures were confirmed on Ex KAPYONG STEELE, Ex WARRIOR RAM commenced on 29 April 2012. Candidates on the Combat Team Commander's Course from Gagetown were placed in charge of the combat teams and their planning and execution skills were confirmed. With combat team tactics and procedures already practiced to perfection, the candidates had no issues in completing their tasks. With the best trained troops in the Canadian Forces, there was no way they could fail.

Although combat team training was the most apparent part of the exercise, there was a flurry of activity behind the scenes. HQ Squadron ensured all maintenance was conducted and more than once sent troops into the battlefield to conduct rolling replenishment and vehicle casualty extraction. Usually static, RHQ deployed and moved command posts all over the battlefield to provide command and control. Through the use of terrain and camouflage nets, the command posts were barely visible and it was the first time I wore camouflage paint since basic training. 408 Squadron sent helicopters to facilitate reconnaissance and troop transport (you can rest assured knowing that the pilots slept well in Wainwright-area hotels throughout the exercise).

The exercises were a triumphant return to conventional warfighting skills. Due to the leading role that the unit and the brigade displayed in the return to these skills, the outgoing Chief of Defence Staff **General Walter Natynczyk** visited the brigade and witnessed one of the combat team attacks. He was impressed by the proficiency and war-fighting spirit the unit displayed. The exercise ended in a well-attended BBQ that further united the soldiers of 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group. Through their hard work and the armoured capability they provided our soldiers had much to be proud of after the exercise.



Ex STEELE SABRE

Cpl Derek Murdoch, Capt Matt Johns and Capt Dave Cronk

Like clockwork, with the turning of the leaves the Regiment once again prepared to deploy on Exercise STEELE SABRE (4 – 26 Sep 12), the annual fall training event. This Regimental deployment involved all squadrons and provided a superb opportunity for the soldiers of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) to hone their skills in preparation for further training.

Although primarily focused on the achieving of Level 4 Live for B Squadron as part of their Road to High Readiness training, STEELE SABRE had a little bit of everything for everyone. A wide variety of training events were planned, ranging from Leopard 2 conversion ranges to small arms quick aim shooting to Corps gunnery competition training and annual PWT ranges, ensuring that all members of the Regiment were kept busy and focused throughout the Ex. RHQ even got in on the action with the Ops O, **Capt Paul "ATV Ride" Leonard**, organizing a series of round robin stands for the "bubble dwellers".

The Ex kicked off with a dramatic bang as B Squadron's **Sgt Mike "High and Right" Craig** sent the first 120mm round downrange as part of the Leopard 2 conversion course. From there the squadrons pounced on their individual training opportunities. Recce Squadron became engrossed in zone and area recces, going so far as to spend a night out in the cold, dark "forests" of Wainwright in a screen. B Squadron continued to depopulate the targetry of Range 25, achieving level 3 live. While all this was going on A Squadron was conducting Squadron dry training with OC A, **Maj Eric Angell**, persevering in the face of significant personnel shortages due to crew commander training in Gagetown.

With B Squadron finishing their Troop level ranges it was time for A Squadron to get some trigger time. During A Squadron's days on the range they had the pleasure of hosting not one, but two, visiting units in the form of members of the Chilean Armour School and the command staff of the 4/3 US Cavalry. **Capt Matt "Hollywood" Johns** and **WO Shane "FPO" Flanagan** were kept busy with their hosting duties, which also included providing narration and technical expertise for a visiting camera crew from the Military Channel.

Troop live fire complete, B Squadron took two days to shake out with troop and squadron level dry training. Day one saw the troops fine tune troop movement and hide routine before moving into a very aggressive night time trace. Having conducted numerous night manoeuvres over the past year, the Battle Captain, **Capt Tim Day**, developed a devious plan to have the Squadron conduct a black-out drive advance to contact. It was definitely a confidence boosting experience for all crews and it demonstrated that B Squadron is just as good manoeuvring in the dark as they are in the light of day. Though **MCpl Anthony Lister** may disagree after waiting for recovery until the wee hours of the night when he managed to find the lone swamp along the axis of advance.



Throughout the misadventures of the Sabre Squadrons, Recce engaged in a prodigious amount of training. Commanded by **Maj Chris Nolan** the Squadron fought force on force WES battles, conducted advanced small arms ranges and ran the gamut of mounted recce tasks. Throughout it all they managed to find time to host their brothers from 'Merica and the 4/3 US Cavalry.



As with any Ex morale occasionally began to drop, that is until **MCpl Brady "VC" Walker** queried the CO, **LCol Paul Peyton**, as to why the Regiment couldn't have a wet canteen in the field. In near record time, authority was secured and suddenly Squadrons found themselves brimming with morale! In conjunction with the various Sergeants-Major's canteens, ably provided for by such sterling staff as **Cpls Brad Priddle, Mike Partington** and **Reece "Greasy" MacDonald**, the soldiers of the Regiment couldn't have asked for more.

The Ex reached its apex when B Squadron was unleashed on the unsuspecting West Island Defence Force. Tearing into the enemy, **Maj Vince Kirstein's** B Squadron demonstrated how a Squadron attack should be performed, operating like a well oiled machine as they destroyed objective after objective. Validated by the Bde Commander, **Col Dave Anderson**, B Squadron was ready to assume their position as the tank Squadron in TF 3-12.

The rest of the Ex flew by with games of cabbage football, NHL lockouts and an embarrassing loss to the Chilean Armour School in a orange-on-a-cart gunnery competition. Once again demonstrating why we are Canada's Tank Regiment, the Strathcona's showed off our razor sharp skills.





A Squadron taking a reprieve at the temporary camp set up near the firing range.



A typical camp set up. The majority of tents sleep 8-16 soldiers in a 4 section modular. A trench is dug around the tent with the sod being placed on the exterior perimeter of the tent. Between each tent is the "beloved heater" and collections of firefighting equipment including shovels and a garbage can with sand. Also around every corner seems to be a series of "blue rockets" (AKA- porta-potties) with foot pump hand washing stations.

The beloved heater. Many a soldier has expressed his love for the heater. "I hugged the hose the entire night!"





Coffee break for the engineers working with the Regiment.

A pictorial portrayal of life in the field.

In the last 12 years I've been with my husband, I've often wondered what life was like for him "in the field". In September 2012 I was fortunate enough to be granted permission to visit the "Steele Sabre" exercise in order to get images for my "military life" portfolio. After spending a couple hours visiting the range and camp I realized how great for my soul it was to see what camp life was like. During those times he was away and I was missing my husband, I could never picture him since I had no reference to what "being in the field" was like. After I left I really wanted to share my images with the other significant others so they too could hopefully get a glimpse to what camp life is like.

-Shannon MacIntyre



Soldiers get freshly baked goods daily, with this soldier making enough for approx. 400 people each day in a kitchen trailer with an open flame oven. Getting ready for dinner, the cooks work over an open flame. 1 trailer feeds approx. 100 persons. More mouths, no problem; HQ Squadron is able to attach multiple trailers to feed more people.



Inside sleeping quarters. Soldiers get comfy in their sleeping bags on a cot, on a pallet. Kind of like the ant on a frog on a log.



Working on his own at the canteen near the temporary camp.

Ex MAPLE RESOLVE and EX REFLEXE RAPIDE

B Squadron Always Ready

Lt Callum Smith

On 10 October 2012 B Squadron returned to snowy, snowy Wainwright to take part in Ex MAPLE RESOLVE and Ex REFLEX RAPIDE, validation exercises for B Squadron's Road to High Readiness with the 2nd Battalion Royal 22e Regiment Battle Group (2 R22eR BG) of 5 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (5 CMBG). Shortly after our arrival, we enjoyed the hospitality of our brothers in arms from Quebec, most notably the first of many fine-field-dining experiences. Who knew you could get a perfectly prepared, barbecued strip loin steak in the Army? Never in the history of the CF have so many been fed so well for so long. Bon appetite, indeed!

Stuffed to the gills, B Squadron then linked up with 2 R22eR to conduct shake out training with the companies before Ex MAPLE RESOLVE began in earnest. The infantry were suitably impressed with our breaching prowess, so much so that when the offensive against those perennially aggressive West Islanders began every infantry company wanted a troop of tanks attached to them! After the dust-up settled, B Squadron (-) forded their Rubicon (Battle River) with A Company, seizing the bridgehead and town beyond, whereupon 23B, **Sgt Stu "I'm a K-Kill" McLoughlin** took the first of many 24 hour coffee breaks. During these festivities, **Lt Blake "Lone Wolf" Tapp** began to draft an addition to the leather-bound copy of The Armoured Regiment in Battle that we intended to present to the staff of 5 CMBG as a "thank you." His working title was "The Lone Tank Troop in Battle." While well established in their Troop hide, 1st Troop continued their experimentation with doctrine, this time working on new voice procedure. "Sweetie!" it was decided, is much faster to say than "Roger, out."



SHQ



Admin Troop

Our next objective was the destruction of our foe at the foot of Tower Hill. With the daily allotment of coffee from the hundred-cupper (50 cups for the Squadron, 50 for the OC) downrange already, the OC **Maj Vince Kirstein**, heard a rumour that the West Islanders hated green coffee mugs, and had a stockpile of Maxwell House in their CP. Incensed, we charged those positions, barely pausing to pick up our infantry. With 2nd Tp leading, the OC knew we would reach those dastardly West

Islanders... eventually... When we finally arrived, 23B was so disgusted with the fact that there was no coffee, and took another 24 hours off to find a fresh cup of joe at the MOB.

Flush with success in destroying the West Islanders, and seeing no real opposition, B Squadron decided to prepare for the inevitable stability operations that were to come. Of course, during operations other than war, we must maintain our sharpness, which requires possession of a range. Conveniently, the Brigade Recce Squadron reported an enemy position occupying a range nearby our camp. With that in mind, the Squadron conducted a “recce in force” of Range 16. As we are an inclusive bunch, we brought the rest of the combat team along with us. Unfortunately the enemy position we assaulted that morning was uninhabited. They had moved in the night it seemed, and so we pursued in earnest. Seeking a fair fight, we heard from our reconnaissance assets – who had predicted enemy at Range 16 – that seven enemy

tanks had moved east. A textbook envelopment, orchestrated by the Battle **Captain Tim “Can I get a SITREP” Day**, resulted in the destruction or capture of six of the seven burned-out tank target hulks of circa 1960 Centurions and WWII Shermans at Range 4, identified as a very threatening formation of modern tanks... B Squadron then passed the can around for the Recce Eyeglasses Fund.

With the enemy armour threat eliminated, B Squadron took the fight to their heartland, penetrating deep into the Annex... er... West Isle. Our assault was swift and sudden, as always, a rumbling of tanks coming at the enemy out of absolute darkness. After our “fait un Brouhaha” task was complete, we established ourselves in some solid defensive positions and prepared for the worst. Knowing they could not take us tank to tank, the West Islanders resorted to chemical weapons, which slowed us down but could not prevent B Squadron from enjoying the finer things in life.

With Ex MAPLE RESOLVE under our belts, we then turned to the much-anticipated Combat Team live fire training of Ex REFLEX RAPIDE. After a few days back at the MOB, ensuring our mounts were in good repair and re-acquainting ourselves with the Squadron 2IC, **Captain Dave “Mobbitt” Cronk**, B Squadron then honed its skills at the Combat Team level, leading a series of infantry companies to their objective and hammering a surprisingly resilient enemy position 7 times. All ammo expended, and validated to be Canada’s reaction force, B Squadron returned to Edmonton to relish a job well done and gear up for the Holiday season. Attendez terminée!



1st Troop



2nd Troop

3rd Troop



Ex HOMESTEAD SAPPER

Lt Jamie Britton

This year during the Ex STEELE SABRE timeframe, Recce Squadron's Assault Tp headed to Chilcotin, BC for a basic demolition course with 1 Combat Engineer Regiment (1 CER). The course started with the intricacies of logging, culminating in a "Logger Sports" competition, which included tree felling, caber toss, underhand chop, an obstacle course and a horizontal chainsaw cut. Participating members were **MCpl Tom "Kit Bomb" Hume**, **Cpl Chris "Baby Scrapes" Lawrence**, and the author. By the end of our initial sapper indoctrination, we were all quite anxious to start the demolition course. The theory was interesting (read: short and tolerable) and only took 4 days. The conclusion of the classroom part was bittersweet, as it came with the news that CFB Chilcotin had a fire index of "extreme" and it was unlikely that we would get to blow anything up. Nevertheless, we headed out on the 24th of September in the hopes that we would get a green light.

We got to work right out of the gate doing reconnaissance for task sites and harbours. With no hope of demolitions on the horizon, we found work assisting the Engineers with their obstacle building tasks. After working on some basic skills, **Tpr Grant "Duds" Skaarup** found his strength in the chainsaws and proceeded to cut down half an acre of forest. We put our manual labour skills to work building obstacles and soon found an effective system; the concepts were picked up quickly and the task was made more interesting by knowing what we built would actually be tested. Next up was building a medium girder bridge over a small gap. A 12 section bridge is, according to the Engineers, a small bridge - we can certainly tell you from the experience, however, that it does not feel small with sections weighing anywhere from 500 to 2000 pounds. Slowly but surely, we assembled the bridge and were relieved to finally lay the last piece of decking, even though we only got to admire it for ten minutes until we had to tear it all down. It was a long and tiring but satisfying day. Just when it was looking like all hope for explosives was lost, a message came over the net announcing that the fire index has been lowered. This was just the break we were looking for; 560 pounds of beehives, 99 C4 blocks, and a mysteriously explosive cheese sandwich later, we had ten gaping holes in the ground and 9 big smiles on our faces.

Overall, Ex HOMESTEAD SAPPER offered us the chance to learn some truly useful conventional demolition skills and a terrific opportunity to work with our counterparts at 1 CER. Recce Squadron is looking forward to doing it all again next year.





Regimental Training

Capt Jeff Daley

Ex STEELE WINTER

This winter the LdSH(RC) conducted some winter mobility training that included down hill skiing and avalanche awareness training with the National Avalanche Awareness Training Center at Marmot Basin. In order to take full advantage of the training opportunity, the LdSH(RC) identified a further requirement to enhance this training and grant the soldiers the opportunity to operate in a winter mountainous environment. On arrival the Ski/Snowboard instructors ran the soldiers through a challenging class of instruction and if you didn't get hurt you must have learned something. The more adventurous and skilled snow boarders took to the terrain park and some found out the hard way why they should always wear helmets. The staff at the mountain was very helpful throughout and **LCol Cadieu** presented them with a 105mm casing to show our appreciation. This training improved physical fitness and was evident by all the sore muscles every morning. It also provided an opportunity for soldiers to conduct challenging outdoor activities in an area unfamiliar to them (if getting lost in the grand metropolis of downtown Hinton counts) and it facilitated team building and esprit de corps within the unit. At the end of the day the pub on the mountain was packed full of Strathconas talking about epic wipeouts, huge jumps and who had the most injuries.

Ex STEELE SUMMER

This summer the Regiment conducted Regimental Adventure Training during Ex STEELE SUMMER in order to stimulate and solidify team building in advance of an anticipated high tempo training period. In order to take full advantage of this training opportunity, LdSH(RC) had identified a further requirement to operate in a guided mountainous backcountry environment, the same environment that the Canadian Death Race is held every year. The Adventure Training improved physical fitness, provided an opportunity for soldiers to conduct challenging outdoor activities in an area unfamiliar to them and facilitated team building and esprit de corps within the unit. The entire package consisted of two, two day excursions each for up to 75 soldiers. Upon arrival the contractor from a white water rafting company ran the soldiers through a pre-determined Adventure Training schedule. Each serial deployed to the Hinton Forestry School and had the opportunity to conduct a day of white water rafting capped off with an epic water fight on the river, half day of Paintball (cardboard DOES NOT make good body armour) and a half day of trail riding on horseback and hiking in the mountains around Grande Cache, AB where some troops proved they were made of steel by wearing flip flops! A trip no one will forget in the near future.

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Annual Events





Moreuil Wood

Capt Owen Lewis

On Tuesday, the 20th of March 2012, the Regiment began its annual Moreuil Wood events commemorating the 94th anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood. It was at this battle on the 30th of March 1918, where the gallant cavalry charge of C Squadron under **Lieutenant Flowerdew** routed the Germans from the edge of the wood, securing both the hill and a place in history for Strathconas at the cost of 46 killed and 120 wounded. The event has been commemorated since then in various ways, evolving into its current form with sports, parades and dinners.

As part of the evolving traditions, the sports format changed from previous years where various messes competed against each other, to squadrons competing against squadrons. This change was likely an act of mercy on the Mariner Room, which everyone recalls has traditionally been soundly defeated by the Sarcee Room, Green Point Lounge and Track Pad in virtually every sport. This year the sports were ice hockey, ball hockey, soccer, tug of war and an impressive arm wrestling tournament. **Tpr Andrew Campbell** of Recce Squadron was the overall champion of arm wrestling in the Regiment, narrowly beating a former champion, **Cpl Travis Silcox** in a match that is widely assumed to have exerted so much force that it actually caused structural damage to the base gymnasium. In the end, the winning squadron overall was Recce Squadron which holds the title of Moreuil Wood Sports victors until 2013's competition.

No Moreuil Wood commemorations would be complete without social events, with the Sr NCOs hosting their annual dinner at the Sgts and WO's Mess and the Officers hosting theirs at the Fairmont MacDonald Hotel. Both events were a great opportunity to enjoy excellent food in the finest of company, and a wonderful time was had by all. With duty schedules being mostly free of stars beside peoples' names in the following months this was a testament to how well behaved everyone was at the dinners...mostly.

Padre Green and Catherine





The Moreuil Wood parade also gave the Regiment a chance to recognize some of its finest soldiers with a number of annual awards. For 2012, the following Squadron and individuals were recognized for their professionalism throughout the year.

Prince of Wales Trophy:

Recce Sqn

Fox Bugle:

MCpl Jeremy Charlton

Colonel of the Regiment Silver Stick:

Sgt James Hamilton

The Milroy Crossbelt:

WO Rich Sherren

The Neatby Pacestick:

WO Marcel Chenier

The Hessin Sword:

Capt Steve Van Muyen

Olympic Torch:

Sgt Felix Charette





Family Day

Capt Phil Webster

Continuing an annual tradition, the Regiment used the waning days of summer to organize a day of fun in the sun. This event showcased to all Strathcona's the Regiments' appreciation of its hard-working soldiers, officers, and especially their dedicated families who stand by them. On 11 August we gathered; past and present members and their families were given the opportunity to relax, have some fun, and mingle at a "carnival" like party. This event was generously supported and organized by the Regimental Society, the Commanding Officer, **LCol Paul Peyton**, and all ranks from Recce Squadron.

The day opened by showcasing cars, motorcycles and one very unique DeLorean DMC-12 owned by **Capt Alex Nitu** in a Show n' Shine. Prizes were awarded to the best car and bike chosen by the children of the Regiment. The top car positions were won by **MCpl Joel Ribert's** perfectly shined Shelby Mustang and **Tpr Jordan Finch's** Mazda MX-8; the top bike was taken by **Cpl Tony Burton's** Ducati. Although the Regiment proudly showcases our new Leopard II and Coyotes, our Show n' Shine competitors showed that we Strathcona's have a taste in vehicles that goes well beyond our work.

A hit for the children, the day moved forward with a variety of games, much to the chagrin of the lucky few who were the targets of children's youthful enthusiasm. **MCpl Colin Johnston's** brutal paintball range, **Sgt Gord Baker's** freezing dunk tank, and the Horse Sense Zoo were the star attractions of the day. The employees from the Horse Sense Zoo brought a selection of animals for petting and pony rides, which proved to be a huge hit. The addition of the bouncy castles and sumo wrestling made sure there was plenty of inflatable fun for anyone who wanted it.



WO King isn't sure what to say (for once)

Cpl Norman on his seventh bag of popcorn



No Family Day could be complete without a BBQ and our Regimental cooks, headed up by **WO Alain Doucet**, spent their day cranking out hot dogs, hamburgers and dishing out pizza faster than it could be brought in. There wasn't one person who left hungry, and I'm sure everyone put on a few pounds for the sake of a good time!

The highlight of the day was as expected the raffles and prizes. These door prizes were sternly presided over and awarded by **Capt Alex Nitu** and **Capt Phil Webster**. An X-Box 360, a Wii, more toys than you could shake a stick at, and enough electronics to please some of the technology starved soldiers were some of the big ticket items. While the prizes were handed out, soldiers and their families enjoyed the camaraderie of the day and ate popcorn, snow-cones and ice cream. While our families enjoyed the treats, 1st Troop Recce Squadron did their best to ensure that most of it went out to the children.....in the end they were just as sugar rushed as the kids.

Another successful Regimental Family Day, well deserved before our soldier's and their families readied for another busy fall training season.



All Ranks Dinner and Dance 2012

“Strathcona Welcome Home Family Celebration”

Maj Dave MacIntyre

When A Squadron returned from Afghanistan in November 2010, it appeared that the Strathcona's would have a temporary reprieve from operations. In the months that followed, however, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) was tasked to generate nearly 100 soldiers and leaders for Task Force Afghanistan, the Mission Transition Task Force and Operation ATTENTION. So, with the return of these troops to Edmonton in March 2012 marking the first time in nearly a decade that the entire team was out of harm's way, there was cause to celebrate.

On the 9th of June, 1200 Strathcona soldiers and their loved ones gathered to party at the Edmonton Northlands. After a terrific meal and tribute video commemorating the hard work of Strathcona soldiers this past year, Major Chaos – a local band featuring the Strathcona's own **WO Rick Allen** – took to the stage and rocked Northlands for a great set of hard rock. Primed up from the opener, the celebrating Strathcona's raised the roof of the venue when **Our Lady Peace** – four time Juno and ten time Much Music Video Award winners unexpectedly took the stage. Before performing one of their hit songs, Innocent, lead singer **Raine Maida** thanked the Strathcona soldiers for everything they have done for Canada, and he said the band was in awe at the dedication and support of the families. In addition to playing their greatest hits from over the years, Our Lady Peace unveiled songs from their newest album, Curve.



The celebration continued into the early morning as **Skratch Bastid**, an internationally renowned DJ spun tunes for the Strathcona's. Even a young Recce Squadron soldier, **Tpr Anthony Ramdean**, rapped on stage to the excitement of his peers.

The Strathcona Welcome Home Event would not have been possible without the tremendous support of the Strathcona Society and many generous Canadian business leaders and companies to include **Slaight Music; BioWare; Waterloo Ford; Diversified Transportation; Enbridge; All Star Productions; Sonic 102.9; Edmonton Northlands; Northern Blizzard; The Village Grocer; TransCanada; Big Rock Brewery; Katch Kan; Aztec Inspection; Flatlander; Western Pontiac Buick; and Critter Solutions.**

According to the unit's command team, “The 2012 Strathcona Welcome Home Event was a chance for grateful Strathcona leaders to thank the unit's soldiers for their extremely hard work not only on expeditionary operations, but throughout the year at multiple training exercises and domestic operations as well. Equally important, it was our chance to thank their great families, without whom we couldn't do our jobs.”

Strathcona Ladies hanging out backstage with Our Lady Peace





Remembrance Day

Padre Gerard Barabash

In addition to supporting numerous traditional Remembrance Day events this year, LdSH(RC) played a pivotal role in the multi site “No Stone Left Alone” (NSLA) event on Friday 9 November 2012. Our soldiers, along with hundreds of elementary school students and their teachers, braved the snow and the cold to ensure that thousands of fallen and deceased service personnel were remembered and honoured at fourteen cemeteries across the city. The main event at Beechmount Cemetery included an honour guard

and vigil to enhance the solemnity of the occasion. Alberta’s Lieutenant Governor, **His Honour Donald Ethel**, opened the ceremony at the invitation of **Gord Steinke** of Global News. Global provided a live stream internet broadcast so that students in classrooms could participate as well. Wreaths were laid by several dignitaries, including the founder of NSLA, **Ms. Keely Yates** who as a young girl placing poppies at her grandparents’ headstones every year looked up one day and saw that so many had none.

Edmonton Sun reported, “What started as a simple gesture for her grandparents who served in the Canadian military has quickly grown into a city-wide campaign”.

Girls and boys with brand new dreams placing poppies on decades old graves is a powerful reminder that to serve one’s country is to take responsibility for its future.





Kids' Christmas Party

Cpl Richard Wagner (Not Santa)

On 1 December 2012 there was something special in the morning air around the Harvey Building. On most Saturdays, members of the highly trained LdSH(RC) can be found at home spending quality time with their families or tending to the never ending list of things to do around the house; but this magical day was different. The word had gone out and people were whispering: this day would be special because Kris Kringle himself paid his yearly visit to the Strathcona's, bringing with him his cheery band of helpful elves. Santa was coming and children from all over the Regiment lined up just to get a glimpse of jolly old Saint Nick.

Leaving his sled and reindeer in the White Whale the jolly old Elf made a grand entrance, aided by a supporting cast of the freshest and finest Elves the North Pole had to offer. Santa's helpers included **Lt Blake "Too tall" Tapp**, **Lt Murray "Mrs. Claus" McTavish**, **Lt Steve "Stockings" Couture**, **2Lt Jamie "No nickname needed" Brittain**, **Lt Ahmad "Where's the weights" Jaradat**, and the littlest elf of them all, **Lt Brandon "Christmas sure is swell" Frizzell** which Santa had affectionately named Number 2. One by one the children had their turn with Santa telling him all about what that they wanted for Christmas and posing for pictures. Needless to say, some of the children were significantly less impressed than others by the whole situation.

After their time with Santa, each and every child received a wrapped present that they could take home, most of them however ended up being carried around by moms and dads. With a bouncy castle, cookie decorating, face painting, pony rides and a petting zoo there was fun to be had by all. A very special thanks goes out to **Shannon McIntyre** for setting up and taking the photos of Santa with all of the children and to A Sqn SSM, **MWO Leigh Taylor** for organizing the entire event. From each and every Strathcona, Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.



*Lt Jaradat, 2Lt Britton, Lt Tapp, Lt MacTavish and Lt Couture
The biggest elves ever*





Christmas Celebrations

Capt Tim McHugh

This year was a busy one at the Regiment, with a high volume of courses being run and some long exercises. So it was no surprise that everyone was looking forward to catching their breath and relaxing during their Christmas holidays, only the sports day and the Men's Christmas Dinner stood between the Regiment and leave.

The sports day brought back the old mess rivalries and the competitive spirit in all who participated. The Mariner Room beat the Sarcee room in soccer and showed up for every other sport. For the games between the Track Pad and Green Point, the Track Pad claimed victory in all but one. The Green Point summoned all of their anger from being beaten every year and decided that if they were going to lose overall that they might as well win the only sport where contact was allowed. Under the leadership of **MCpl Joe "The Shoe" Gushue** they put on their helmets and destroyed the Track Pad at Broomball, walking away with the trophy for the Regiment as well.

The desire of the Regiment to get on leave was illustrated by the speed at which we handed out QDJ medals and promotions at the parade. Considering there were almost 100 QDJ medals given out the parade was still held to under an hour. The Senior NCOs welcomed two into their ranks with **Sgts Vigar** and **Williams** both receiving a much deserved promotion. Everything considered the parade went flawlessly and led into Sqn photos and the Men's Christmas dinner without mishap.

The Men's Christmas dinner was delicious as always and allowed the Officers and Senior NCOs to model the newest designer kitchen wear. The CO for the day, **Tpr Quinton "The Bossman" Stender** tried to get us the rest of the week off but even his power has limits and we only got the Friday.

This years "At Home" was hosted by the Sgts and WOs and the evening was full of fun, games and not enough food (though there was more than enough moose milk). The Mariner Room had been the not so proud holder of the Horse's Ass Trophy for the past few years so we were looking forward to an opportunity to leave it in the possession of the Sarcee Room. Thanks to the recruitment of **Lt Ahmed "King Kong" Jaradat**, who sent **Sgt Mike "Left Eye" Brake** and **Sgt James "Slim Jim" Hamilton** to the hospital, the Officers managed to get victories in both Sumo Wrestling and Cabbage Football. The Sarcee room achieved a victory in darts, which allowed them to gloat over still being the experts in all things gunnery. With only poker remaining the Mariner room sent in two ringers, **Capt Leona "Moneybags" Ahn** and **Capt Tim "The Flow" Day**. Their poker savvy gave them the ability to bully their competition into submission and with their victory The Mariner Room received an early Christmas Present.

After the extremely short day on Thursday, the Regiment gladly welcomed a well deserved Christmas break. It looks like next year will be just as busy, hopefully it will be just as fun.

Tpr Stender receiving his Christmas promotion





Change of Command

Capt Matthew Shumka

The 14th of June 2012 marked another historic moment in the Regiment with the 52nd Commanding Officer assuming command of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). The Change of Command parade highlighted a week of events and saw the outgoing **LCol Trevor Cadieu** handover command of the Regiment to **LCol Paul Peyton**. With a large turnout from the Strathcona Family, supporters from local communities, and VIPs including the Col of the Regt **MGen (Ret'd) Cameron Ross**, Comd LFWA **BGen Paul Wynnyk** and Reviewing Officer, Comd 1 CMBG **Col Omer Lavoie**, the Strathcona's took to the parade square. The parade showcased the proud traditions of the Regiment. The Regimental Guidon was transported in one of three Ferrets from HVT in front of an honour guard composed of soldiers of all ranks, as well as the Strathcona Mounted Troop. **LCol Cadieu** marched before his soldiers for the last time as their CO alongside the Reviewing Officer. Promoted shortly after relinquishing command, newly promoted **Col Cadieu** and his wife **Megan** embarked to Ottawa where they have added to the Ottawa Branch of the Regimental Association.

Once he had assumed command, **LCol Peyton** led the Regiment in a mounted roll past composed of Coyotes from The Prince of Wales Squadron (Recce Squadron), the new Leopard 2 Main Battle Tanks in A Squadron, Leopard C2s in B Squadron and various support vehicles from both HQ Squadron and RHQ. Following the roll past, four Leopard C2s performed a feu de joie from a vantage point overlooking the parade before **Col Cadieu** made his final departure. Before departing with **Megan** at a high rate of speed in a Leopard 2, **Col Cadieu** echoed a former CO with the comment, "Although my beret is now green, my heart will always be black". This truly marked his spirit and dedication to the soldiers of his Regiment.

During his two year tenure of commanding the Regiment, **Col Cadieu** oversaw the deployment of Strathconas fulfilling the Canadian commitment to the NATO combat mission before transitioning to the training mission in Afghanistan. Further, he led the Regiment during Op LUSTRE as part of the 1 CMBG domestic operations assisting with the remediation in the Winnipeg area. **Col Cadieu's** command tenure was highlighted by the Regiment's incredible success during numerous exercises, flawless preparation and conduct of operations, and the domination of Brigade competitions including MOUNTAIN MAN and STRONG CONTENDER.





Spruce Meadows/Calgary Stampede Parade

Lt Murray McTavish

In a rare event, the honour of being called the Prince of Wales Squadron was awarded to Recce Squadron for the second year in a row. So, in a repeat of 2011, Recce Squadron was again given the privilege of performing at the Calgary Stampede Parade (on July 6th), and the Spruce Meadows North American Championship in Calgary, AB (on July 7th and 8th).

The weekend began on the 6th of July with a very early morning. The Squadron had to be downtown in time to muster for the Calgary Stampede Parade. This year's parade was special, as it was the 100th anniversary of the Stampede, and the Strathconas did not fail to impress. Accompanied by a Leopard 2 A4M, a Coyote Reconnaissance Vehicle, and an Armoured Recovery Vehicle, the Strathconas stole the show from the other performers. As they marched sharply through the city, the crowd sequentially rose to give their humbling applause, and to show their great support for Canada's military.

The following two days consisted of the Feu de Joie Ceremonies at Spruce Meadows. As is tradition, the Strathconas performed for the opening and closing ceremonies of the North American Championship. This year was particularly special due to the celebration of Queen Elizabeth II Day - A Diamond Jubilee Occasion, in recognition of Queen Elizabeth's 60 year reign.

The 100 Man Guard, lead by **Maj Christopher Nolan**, performed the parades excellently, despite the blistering heat. After being inspected by the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, **Col. (Ret'd) the Honourable Donald Ethell**, the guard fired the Feu de Joie. As always, it was very well received by the thousands of spectators in attendance. Upon completion of the firing, the crowd and the guard stood to honour the families of military members in attendance to recognize their significant sacrifice and support.

The weeks of practice had paid off, and the Strathconas had once again demonstrated the high level of professionalism that has earned them such a great level of respect with the public. With everyone tired from the long, but rewarding weekend, the events concluded with a quiet bus ride back to Edmonton.





Na Zdrowie! Strathconas in Poland

Maj Eric Angell

During the time period 18 to 22 August 2012, a delegation of seven Strathconas visited our partnered formation in Poland, 10 Brygada Kawalerii Pancernej (10th Armoured Cavalry Brigade). The Brigade garrison is at Swietoszow in the province of Lower Silesia. The delegation consisted of the CO **LCol Paul Peyton**, RSM **CWO Bill Crabb**, OC A Squadron **Maj Eric Angell**, HQ SSM MWO **Tony Mayfield**, **Cpl Adrian Droogers** from A Squadron, **Cpl Ben Kroker** from B Squadron and **Tpr Scott Muirhead** from Recce Squadron. After a “pleasant” international flight we arrived at the Nicholas Copernicus Airport in Wroclaw. We were met by our escort **Capt Piotr Wolyński**, who proceeded to take us on a scenic tour of the countryside on some roads reminiscent of Bosnia. He said it was to give us a better understanding of agricultural practices in Poland, but when we saw the airport again after driving for an hour our general consensus was that navigation had been left to the junior guy. That night we settled into our accommodations at the Kliczków Hotel, a real bargain at under \$100 per night.



*Cpl Kroker doing his best
Rommel impression*

The next morning we travelled to the garrison and were treated to an office call with **Brigadier-General Cezary Podlasinski**, and yes, there were cookies! The Brigadier-General was very gracious with his time and spent the better part of our visit to the garrison with the CO. We visited the garrison during two days, which included a tour of the facilities, an equipment display, and a session for swapping lessons learned from theatre. The 10th Armoured Cavalry Brigade base and troops were very impressive. They possess 124 Leopard 2 A4s and have very modern maintenance, storage and simulation facilities. They face many of the same challenges as the Regiment, given that they have mixed fleets of German and Russian equipment.

Aside from our visit to the Brigade, we had the opportunity to visit the historic cities of Zagan and Bolesławiec, as well as some of the historic sites in the surrounding area. The most memorable was the visit to Stalag Luft 3, the notorious German POW camp that was the site of “The Great Escape” during World War 2. It was a whirlwind trip, but absolutely invaluable for sharing lessons learned and strengthening our partnership. 10th Armoured Cavalry Brigade is in a word, awesome. They were incredible hosts and the Regiment is extremely fortunate to have allies and partners such as these.





Chilean RUE: Pisco Sours vs Jagerbombs

Lt Brandon Frizzell & Tpr Carlos Gaona

Having already had the privilege of visiting Chile as part of a reciprocal unit exchange (RUE), soldiers of A Squadron were given an opportunity to return the favour and play host to our Chilean brothers-in-arms in scenic Wainwright as part of their “temperate woodland training”. After a lengthy flight and a day in Edmonton to get squared away in their new quarters, the Chilean contingent joined A Squadron in Wainwright under the guidance of the Squadron 2IC, **Capt Joe “Best Go Ever” Boates**. Facing significant language barriers, the Squadron struggled to provide a translator, eventually sending **Tpr Carlos “Espanol” Gaona** along with the 2IC to provide translation services. The lack of Spanish language skills didn’t slow down the Squadron’s transport coordinator **MCpl John “Ginger” McDougal** one bit though, as he gamely dove into the challenging world of international communications.

Upon their arrival in Wainwright, the Chilean contingent was brought to Range 25, where they were all given the opportunity to fire both smoke and SH-Prac rounds from the Squadron’s Leopard C2s during the Squadron gun camp. The Battle Captain and Ops WO, **Capt Matt “Hollywood” Johns** and **WO Shane “FPO” Flanagan** were simultaneously hosting a contingent from the 3/4 US Cavalry, so the gun camp took on a distinctly international flavour with soldiers from three nations swapping stories.

Following the shoot, the Chilean soldiers returned to Peregrine 9 for a maintenance/familiarization day on the new Leopard 2A4M. The SQMS, **WO Marv MacNeill** worked through the language barrier to provide detailed training on the Canadian version of the Leopard 2. Although the Chilean Army uses similar tanks, the Chilean soldiers were very impressed with the Canadian modifications. **Capt Joe Boates** then spent the afternoon reviewing Canadian tactics and radio procedure with the Chilean crew commanders to prepare them for the Squadron advance the next day.

Forming a third tank troop in order to join the Squadron’s level four dry training, the Chilean crews had their first chance to navigate in terrain other than desert. The abundance of small trees and scrub brush in the area, significantly different than their own training area, created some challenges for the Chilean crew commanders that they overcame with unique tactical formations! The experience, however, was invaluable to all. It provided the Chileans the opportunity to operate in an unfamiliar and challenging environment, and most importantly reaffirm our outstanding camaraderie.

Following the day of Squadron training the Chileans became fully involved in the Regimental smoker, during which they successfully competed in the smoker gunnery competition, beating out all Squadrons and

*A Sqn shows the Chilean's that Canadians
know how to play soccer*





nations to claim the coveted title of best “soldier pulled cart firing an orange from a slingshot” crew. After presenting the Squadron and Regiment with several beautiful gifts, they joined the soldiers of the Regiment in celebrating a great exercise and their own National Independence Day. Avid supporters of the SSM’s canteen, they also exposed some A Squadron soldiers to a Chilean drink by the name of Pisco, which led to some early morning pain.

Once back in Edmonton, the Chileans became fully immersed in Canadian culture beginning with a shopping trip to Edmonton and fine dining at Hooters. Needless to say, they were very impressed with both the hot wings and the waitresses. On 22 September, the Chileans were guests of the Edmonton Officer’s Mess where bottles of red and white wines were mixed with fried chicken and jagerbombs. After two of the Chileans retired to their rooms early, the remainder of the Chileans along with **Capt Joe Boates** and **Lt Brandon Frizzell** went out to share in the ever exciting Edmonton night life. The experience began at a local Spanish club ensuring that the Chileans felt right at home, followed by a trip to one of Edmonton’s less reputable establishments. The next morning was understandably rough as the Chileans met to begin a day of tours and presentations at the Regiment, including a tour of the lines, time in the Leopard C2 Sims, a demonstration from Strathcona Mounted Troop and ample time to spend their hard earned money in the kit shop. Overall, the exchange was a great experience for all involved. It is with great anticipation that the soldiers of A Squadron look forward to the potential of conducting another such exchange.



Chilean's in a standard Canadian training formation

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TACORI



“Longknife” Squadron exchange with Recce Squadron

Capt Alex Nitu

In March of 2011, the Regiment dispatched three soldiers to attend the annual U.S. Army Armor Reconnaissance summit, held at the Manoeuvre Centre-of-Excellence, Ft Benning, GA. While the main effort was to keep our “ear to the ground” regarding new developments in the mounted reconnaissance universe, a strong secondary task was to find a keen U.S. Armor unit to forge liaisons and hopefully begin small unit exchanges. Seemingly at the first opportunity, the CO of the 4th Squadron of the 3rd Cavalry, LTC Foley, sought out the Canadian contingent and immediately offered his unit for the aforementioned efforts, (in U.S. parlance, a Squadron is a battalion). Work began shortly thereafter to establish a reciprocal small unit visit in the near term.

It was decided that the best “first step” would be to have members of the “4th of the 3rd” visit us during Ex STEELE SABRE 2012, hosted by Recce Squadron. Given that 4th/3rd recently transitioned to Strykers in order to fill the Ground Manoeuvre Reconnaissance role, this seemed logical. Nine officers and senior NCOs arrived on the 10th of September, beginning what would be a 10-day exchange. The U.S. delegation was lead by **MAJ Larry Croucher**, the Ops O of the Squadron, who had worked tirelessly the preceeding months to coordinate and authorize the exchange (a pain our Ops O, **Capt Paul Leonard**, also knew all too well).

The exchange began at the Harvey Building, with the Exchange OPI (your humble narrator) showcasing various Squadron lines and Stand-Easy’s. The Squadron Adjutant, **1LT Guevara**, documented the tour via camera and commiserated with our Adjt about the splendours of unit administration. Tours of Mounted Troop and Historical Vehicle Troop followed, with **CPT Fulcher**, OC of Headhunter Squadron, taking a ride in a Ferret Scout Car wearing his Stetson, in true cavalry fashion.

Upon our arrival to Wainwright we began training in earnest. Little time was wasted, and the U.S. soldiers began working and training shoulder-to-shoulder with the Squadron. WES-gear enabled section attacks quickly blended into Quick Aim Shooting by day and night, where **CPT Keefe** (an Army Ranger) traded small arms knowledge with the Squadron. Given the cumulative effect of the training, Platoon attacks were next on the bill, where the immense experience and acumen of our U.S. guests unquestionably saved the Squadron’s training efforts. Upon the realization that our Urban Operations skills are not highly proficient, the U.S. soldiers set about to quickly and effectively create a positive learning environment so all could maximize training. While everyone deserves mention, the particular efforts of **SFC Allan** and **SFC Spencer** made this event an exceptional training opportunity.

Thereafter, the Squadron mounted a Zone reconnaissance for the Cavalry members, in a “Left-seat, Right-seat” construct. Everyone gained from that experience, both Canadian and American, such as **1LT Riedel** (Company XO), and **CPT Brainard** (Squadron S4). The Recce SSM, **MWO Tod Hopkin**, traded battlefield sustainment notes and TTPs with his U.S. counterpart, **1SGT Del Pozo**.

We were also fortunate to be visited by the U.S. Squadron Commanding Officer and Sergeant Major, **LTC Foley** and SGM Peare, who spent time with our CO and RSM, trading insights into training and leading soldiers on either side of the 49th parallel. The initial exchange was a categorical success, and both sides benefited from the camaraderie that exists when professional soldier persevere together in the field.

Cpl MacAtasney paddles towards the finish line with his Zodiac crew.





Given the successful outcome of the Ex STEELE SABRE exchange, Longknife Squadron invited a delegation of Strathcona's to attend their upcoming Spur Ride, 4-6 December 2012. A Spur Ride is a time-honoured tradition practised by various Cavalry units of the U.S. Army. In keeping with Cavalry traditions, Longknife Squadron has designed its own Spur Ride to test leadership with that unit's unique mission and organization. This allows officers and Sr NCOs to demonstrate their proficiency in skill sets required by Cavalrymen, such as weapons famil, land navigation (without GPS), care under fire and First Aid, communications, call for fire, marksmanship, and recon missions.

Nineteen Strathcona's were selected to attend Spur Ride. Fourteen of the individuals were from Recce Squadron, four from A and B Squadron, and one from HQ Squadron. The delegation stood up as a formed body on the 14th of November to begin pre-deployment training. This training consisted of Quick Aim shooting (live and dry), care under fire and TCCC training provided by 1 Field Ambulance, land navigation, dismounted patrolling coordinated by 1 PPCLI's Recce Platoon, combat swimming at HMCS NONSUCH, Longknife and 3rd Cavalry history, and reconnaissance missions.

The travel program spanned between the 2nd and 8th of December, with those dates being the two travel days. The 3rd of December witnessed guided tours of the unit lines and base, along with equipment draws (for reasons of expedience, the delegation drew U.S. Ruck Sacks and Load Carriage). Of note, the SCO welcomed the delegation personally, along with the Squadron Sergeant Major (the RSM equivalent). Further, the 3rd Cavalry Commanding officer, **COL Richardson**, invited the delegation to the 3rd Cavalry HQ for a personal welcome and briefing. He was presented with a gift from the delegation (a copy of the South African war journal of the Regiment). A BBQ was hosted in our honour that evening, attended by all unit leadership.

The 4th of December was the first day of the Spur Ride itself. It began at 0400hrs with weapons draw and supervised kit checks. Afterwards, 4-5 man dets were given grid coordinates to their first event. That first day consisted of seven separate events ranging from the Air Assault School's obstacle course, to weapons handling, to the Leader's Reaction Course (which is a physical and mental leadership and teamwork challenge designed around complex problems). At dusk, the team reassembled for a Chinook helicopter insertion into the training area. At dawn the next morning, teams were grouped into platoons and began planning and executing common dismounted recon tasks, such as route, area, zone, and point recons. Each mission took about eight hours to complete, with each platoon completing two of any given type. At the end of the day, the entire Spur Ride was reassembled for one final recon task, a dismounted OP screen line.

The next morning Spur Ride candidates were ground lifted to a Zodiac boat launch. Eight soldiers were assigned to each boat and paddled approx 3 km towards the beachhead at which time the Spur Ride candidates were lifted back to unit lines, where they were medically inspected, weapons cleaned and turned in, and kit was sorted. A BBQ was held in unit lines, following which the Spur ceremony was held. The Colonel of the Regiment (**Col Richardson**) the SCO and SM were front-and-centre, where the Sergeant Major personally inducted each member into the Order of the Spur.

The Strathconas of Spur Ride 2012 are proud to have completed a Spur Ride with our new friends below the 49th parallel. The professionalism and soldier skills of Longknife Squadron were inspirational and much is to be gained by our continued cooperation and exchanges.

LONGKNIFE - OUTFRONT!

*The Spur Ceremony sees
Cpl Underwood taking a well
deserved toast to success*





Cpl Lonegren - Ex MOUNTAIN MAN

Sports and Fitness



Cpl Graham - Ex MOUNTAIN MAN





Ex PLEIN CONTACT – “Next Target Right!”

MWO Rob Clarke

It wasn't long after the Twin Rinks janitor swept up the last few bits of confetti and the mental scars incurred by seeing **Cpl Mike Allman** smeared in Myrtle Green body paint began to heal that the Regimental sports teams were called back into action for a rare opportunity, an “away game” in Valcartier, Quebec when the 12e Régiment Blindé du Canada (12e RBC) hosted Ex PLEIN CONTACT.

This annual day-long sporting event is a great opportunity to bring “Black-Hatters” together and typically draws its participants from Armoured units from in and around Quebec, such as the 12e RBC and the Sherbrooke Hussars. It also draws teams from the Armour School in Gagetown and the Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD) in Petawawa. Traditionally, the Regiment has never sent soldiers to participate in this event, but this year **LCol Trevor Cadieu** broke the mould and decided that sending both the Gold medal winning ice hockey team and the Bronze medal winning ball hockey team was the best way represent the Regiment – and represent they did.

The tournament kicked-off with the standard opening remarks and ceremonial puck drop at the ice hockey venue, which preceded our first game against a spirited 12e RBC home team. In true Strathcona fashion, the team quickly fell behind to cheers from the partisan crowd, but rallied back to pull out a thrilling 4-3 victory in the dying minutes, backstopped by net minder **Tpr Madison Lorge**. The second and third games had our boys take on the always tough RCD and the Sherbrooke Hussars and with very little in the way of dramatics this time our boys banked another two wins, as we won 5-0 and 4-2 respectively. With the round-robin and an impressive 3-0 record behind them, a spot in the Final was on the horizon.

Concurrently, at the Ball Hockey venue our boys were lighting the lamp by beating the Hussars 5-0 with the shutout going to **Cpl Dave Olaes**. Then during a highly contested and “rough” affair, the squad managed to beat 12e RBC 4-0 with goalie **Pte “Rimp” Rimpilainen** posting the “goose-egg” between the pipes.

Taking down the Dragoons



*Watch the Coach **WO Romanuik**
exude inspiration*



With the morning's games in the bag, the teams briefly stopped for a Timmy's and some rest before heading back to their respective venues for the next phase, the playoff round. Ball hockey kicked things off with a semi-final game against an aggressive Armour School squad, and after some early pressure the boys regained their composure, turned on the jets and powered their way to a 9-0 victory, anchored by a 4 goal performance by **Cpl Francis “too-tanned” Graham**. With that, the team made it to the final and earned a rematch with the Hussars, who seemed to have a bit more determination this go-round, but it just wasn't enough as we once again shut the door by winning 7-0. All in all, four wins, zero goals against and first place – impressive!

In order to close the tournament with a bang, the final game pitted our ice hockey team against the hometown favourite 12e RBC. This time, with the ball hockey finals in the bag, the complete Strathcona contingent was on hand to cheer on the team and it



Pte Rimpilainen



didn't take long before our boys (proudly wearing their jerseys in the crowd) were shouting the ever popular "Goalie, Goalie..." cheer, or the newest jab "Cheeseburger, Cheeseburger" at a few of the "rounder" 12e RBC skaters.

In the end, the team managed a 3-1 win, much to the chagrin of the hometown fans who did not seem too impressed as we out-cheered them in the stands and out-fought them on the ice. Team Captain **Cpl Kevin Crowe** who even fared well during a rare tussle, ok it was a wrestling match that ended with **Cpl Crowe** being mounted "school-yard style" but at least he didn't back down. Thanks for saving his life **Cpl Wallace Churchill**.

The day's festivities ended with a quick "smoker" and trophy presentation, which had **MCpl Calvin Delisle** accept for Ball Hockey, **Cpl Kevin Crowe** accept for Ice Hockey and **LCol Cadieu** "tear" the

Champion's trophy from the clutches of the 12e RBC CO, **LCol Stephane Boivin**.

Upon conclusion of the tournament, the boys quickly changed gears and prepared for a trip into Quebec City, The Citadel on Sunday afternoon (after a night at the bars of course) and an amazing and informative stop at Rheinmetall on Monday. Both tours were exceptional chances for our soldiers to see a bit of history, as they walked across the famed Plains of Abraham, and gained some insight into the Leopard 2 implementation process as they toured the factory that has been responsible for delivering the Leopard 2A4s.

In the end, after a few adventures into the heart of Montreal for some smoked meat sandwiches at Schwartz's, lead by **MWO Leigh "Tom-Tom" Taylor** and **Maj Dave "Magellan" MacIntyre**, and a quick stop at some other world-famous "establishments" the soldiers mounted up and made their way back to Edmonton with a hockey bag filled with memories that will only become more meaningful as the years go by.

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Ex SUMMIT RAM: Canadian Death Race 2012

Capt Jeff Daley

Tpr Glennie & Tpr Barten looking for pole position



Since the start of the millennium, endurance racers have come to the Canadian Rockies to participate in one of the world's toughest adventure races. The 125 km course begins and ends on a 4200 foot plateau, passes over three mountain summits and includes 17,000 feet of elevation change and a major river crossing at the spectacular Hell's Gate canyon at the confluence of the Smoky and Sulphur Rivers. During the August long weekend each year, elite athletes, both individually and in relay teams, push themselves to the limits of their endurance against the breathtaking background of Mount Flood, Hamel and Ambler. Each year, the well-trained and totally committed, battle the elements and themselves. There are no big prizes for winning, just finishing is enough.

This year two brave Strathcona relay teams and two hardcore solo racers travelled to Grande Cache to race. The wilderness and mountains that surrounds Grande Cache provides the raw ingredients needed for one of the world's toughest races: steep, steep climbs combined with rugged terrain and great views. One of our relay teams, "STEELE YETI" placed an impressive 24 out of 256 teams despite losing time on the top of a mountain looking for the prayer flag. Our second relay team, "STEELE BEAR" placed a well earned 96 out of 256 other teams. The two soloists did not complete the race however it should be noted that only 25% of those that attempt the race as a soloist even finish. Both of our soloists completed multiple legs that were more than any marathon. This year's solo racers were **Cpl Michael Whipple** and **Cpl Richard Partridge**. The relay team STEELE YETI was **Maj Dave MacIntyre, Cpl Thomas Underwood, Cpl Francis Graham, Tpr Russell Glennie** and **Tpr James Jung**. STEELE BEAR had **Tpr Evan Barten, Cpl Andrew Lonegren, Cpl Natalie Veilleux, Tpr Landon Hall** and **Cpl Shamus Molloy**.

The end of the race was capped off with the traditional "Deathfest" after party. Every racer who finished showed up despite sore muscles and dehydration. After a few team drinks to the Sam Roberts Band, and waiting for the final competitors to haul it in before they timed out, the party moved to the ole' rustic Rockies Bar and Grill. Everybody was in high spirits that night and a little healthy regimental rivalry with other Brigade units was kept strong with the exchange of tongue, and surprisingly that was all. We took the high road, and decided winning once that day was enough!



Ex MOUNTAIN MAN

Capt Matthew Shumka

On 6 June 2012, all of the soldiers who were considering running in the gruelling MOUNTAIN MAN competition meet for an initial team brief. Coming off one of the most successful years in Regimental history, the Team OPI and Team Training IC, **Sgt Felix Charette**, discussed the lone goal, top the podium! With a challenging and creative training plan the team faced constant challenges as they suffered numerous injuries and Regimental commitments, which hampered the training. Finally, after three long months of punishing cross-fit sessions, long runs with weight and canoe and portage practice the team was ready for race day, 30 August 2012.

Competition day provided results worthy of all the blood, sweat and tears of the team members. Arriving at Hawrelak Park in the wee hours of the morning, 53 Strathcona soldiers conducted final prep on their rucks, helped tape power gels to each other and psyched themselves up for the 32 km run, 3.2 km canoe portage, 10 km paddle down the North Saskatchewan River and the final 5.6 km “sprint” to the finish all while carrying a 33 pound ruck. In what is becoming a tradition, soldiers from across the Regiment came out to cheer on, run beside and support their comrades. Demonstrating this selflessness, **WO Danny “I don’t need any training” Forbes**, from Maintenance, joined the team only two days before the race to ensure that the team had a senior NCO after a summer of injuries to the team. After a quick “pep-talk” from the Brigade Commander the horn sounded and they were off! **Tpr Russel “Twig Legs” Glennie** from A Squadron set the pace leading the race at the 16 km mark only to be passed by fellow Strathcona **Sig Andrew “I’m not human” Smith** who took the lead going into the portage. From that point on **Sig Smith** wouldn’t look back, completing the race in what became an almost unbelievable time of 4 hrs 59 minutes and 58 seconds. This marked the second year in a row that a Strathcona placed 1st overall. At the end of the day the Regimental Team had another strong showing (and after a three hour delay due to technical difficulties), the Strathcona’s were awarded 3rd place overall in the major units category for the third consecutive year, yet again beating out two (unnamed) infantry battalions in the Brigade’s premier sporting event.

Top finishers of the Regimental team





The 2012 Strathcona MOUNTAIN MAN Team was composed of the following soldiers

Tpr Aguila	Cpl Graham	Capt Niedzielski
Tpr Biener	Cpl Harris	LCol Peyton
Capt Boates	Tpr Haywood	Cpl Priddle
2Lt Brittain	Lt Hewer	Tpr Radford
Capt Buckingham	Tpr Kelser	Tpr Ranchuk
Tpr Chen	Capt King	Cpl Scheltgen
Cpl Cheng	Tpr Lachance-Webster	Cpl Shaw
Tpr Clare	Cpl Lee	Tpr Shepherd
Tpr Cook	Capt Leonard	Tpr Skaarup
Lt Couture	Cpl Lonegren	Sig Smith
Tpr Dobson	Capt MacKillop	Tpr Snoek
Tpr Downey	Tpr Maendel	Cpl Symington
Tpr Edwards	Tpr Malone	Tpr Turner
Tpr Elston	Cpl Maxwell	MCpl Vigar
WO Forbes	Lt McHugh	Tpr Whipple
Cpl Fraser	Cpl McMaster	Cpl Woodcock
Lt Frizzell	Tpr McTaggart	Cpl York
Tpr Glennie	Lt McTavish	

Tpr Cook and Tpr Lachance-Webster



Sig Smith being awarded the Top Finisher award





Army Run

Capt Tim McHugh

The Regiment sent four soldiers to participate in the 2012 Army Run in the nation's Capital. The weekend started off with a Friday night tour of the Byward Market with one member of the team heading across the river to see what the night life was like in Hull. The next morning was an informative tour of the National War Museum, where sadly we could not find a single mention of the Regiment. I had to hold back **Tpr George Biener** as he wanted to strip the C2 on display for parts and ship them back. The rest of Saturday was spent with the team loading up on both solid and liquid carbohydrates. All four participants were faster than the average runner, although **Capt Tim McHugh** and **Tpr George Biener** cut it close by only a few minutes. **Tpr Vaughan Elston** led the majority of the way but he faded near the end allowing **Tpr James Jung** to come from behind and post the best time for the troops sent from the Regiment at 1:41.11. The worst part of the weekend was the six block walk back to the hotel after finishing the half-marathon, though it was made a little better by the waiting hot tub. After a night of relaxing and recovery all team members happily boarded the plane back to Edmonton.

United States Marine Corps Marathon

Cpl Blake Shepherd

"I've got some bad news... you probably aren't going on the marathon." They said. I understand. That sucks, but these things happen, training comes first after all... Oh well, I tell myself, at least I can go back to pizza and beer before we go to the field.

So after spending the last few weeks sitting and shivering inside my tank, legs cramped and knees deteriorating, I am now in Washington, DC, near the Pentagon, amongst a crowd of approximately 37,000 people, waiting in the chilly morning to begin a marathon I have not trained for.

We got here easily enough. The balmy air that greeted us was a welcome change from the wonderful misery that is Wainwright in October. We toured around the city and saw the numerous memorials and old government buildings as well as a tour through the vast and somber fields of the Arlington Cemetery, where we witnessed the razor sharp drill of the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

We also heard plenty about a looming hurricane of huge proportions that was quickly approaching the coast. No big deal though, the race should be over and we should be on our way home before then.

The run finally starts. The pack was so thick with people that it took another 15 minutes before I even began walking, and it wasn't until close to the 9th mile marker that I could finally run at my own good pace as I was constantly dodging and weaving my way around everyone. Lesson learned: Start further up front if possible.





The city was gorgeous. The weather was perfect for running; overcast and cool. The crowds lined the streets along the route in the tens of thousands, screaming and cheering everyone on the entire way. There was so much to see that I found myself at the 16th mile mark before I had even begun to think about how I felt.

Yet it began... Fatigue slowly crept into my awareness. Steadily, mile after mile I could feel myself weakening, running, running, running out of steam, running out of juice, running out of fuel... NO! No! I screamed at myself, Keep moving! Keep going! Fight on!

The 20 mile mark. Nice. I made it this far, only 6 more to go. No way I can't finish this now... I think these miles are longer than the previous miles. Keep going. I'm still passing people at a steady rate. Good. Keep going. Keep passing. I'm doing great. This is awesome. This sucks. This is horrible, what was I thinking? NO! This is awesome! Drive on! Look at all these people! There are bands playing! Keep passing! Hell yeah!

Mile 24. I'm almost there. Only two more to go. One foot after another. Crack on. Drive on. Keep, on, going. My right knee is screaming at me. I'd been ignoring it for a while, but now it's getting painful. Very painful. No! Forget it. It's not that bad. Pain is an illusion. Keep going. Advance. Don't even slow down. Attack. Keep going. There is no pain. No stopping. I "Beat the Bridge" I'm on the home stretch. These are the longest miles in the world. Hell, speed up! I'm still passing people. Keep advancing. Keep going. The crowd is cheering and there it is! Who puts a finish line at the top of a hill!? Damn it all, I sprinted up that hill and across that line. Perseverance.

The marines herded us along afterwards, limping and stumbling, delirious and exhausted, as they shoved Gatorade and water into our hands. I felt incredible. My time was good too, especially with no real training, coming straight from the field and having such a hampered start. The hurricane came along the next night and delayed our flights, but it wasn't too bad. I slept through most of it.





Strathcona's at the CF Taekwondo National

Capt Leona Ahn

Over Remembrance Day weekend, four Strathconas, as members of the CFB Edmonton Taekwondo Team, participated in the 2012 Canadian Forces Taekwondo National in Toronto. A total of 275 competitors from numerous civilian taekwondo teams and multiple military units across the country participated in this event. The Edmonton team, coached by **Capt John Kim** (RHQ), competed against some of the best civilian and military athletes in the country. The Quartermaster, **Capt Leona Ahn**, obtained Silver in the women's welterweight black belt division. **Tpr David McNair** (Recce Sqn) won Gold in his color belt division, and **Tpr Alexander Aguila** from Mounted Troop displayed perseverance against his opponent. Overall, the contingent from CFB Edmonton won 3 Gold and 7 Silver medals in both sparring and patterns competitions.

The exceptional performances of the Edmonton Taekwondo athletes, and in particular the three fighters from the Regiment, impressed **Capt(N) Mark Eldridge**, CF Taekwondo Patron, and **Grand Master Young Choung**, Head Coach for the CISM Taekwondo Team. The next goal for these Strathcona warriors will be to prepare for a training camp with CFB Wainwright and CFB Cold Lake teams, as well as to participate against civilians in tournaments within Alberta.



Capt Ahn (in Red) competing against her rival from Royal Military College of Canada



The Society





Strathcona Mounted Troop

Capt Corey McLean

The Strathcona Mounted Troop's (SMT) 2012 Ride Season was among the busiest of the past decade. The season kicked off at the Alberta Legislature on June 1st, where the Troop escorted **Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Donald S. Ethell**, during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration. After the escort, the Troop performed its first Musical Ride of the season followed by a tent pegging demonstration. Two of the SMT's newest additions, **Tpr Kyle Fischer** and an 8-year-old quarter horse named **Shock**, demonstrated the correct way to rid the world of those troublesome pieces of painted wood scattered haphazardly on the ground.

SMT was booked solid for all but three days in June at a variety of venues throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. While visiting Regina, the Troop had the pleasure of escorting the **Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield**, and SMT Ride Master, **WO James Clarke**, co-ordinated with the RCMP Academy's "Depot" division's Sergeant Major in order to allow foreign horses to parade with their Cadets for the first time in RCMP history. Unfortunately, a particularly nasty summer storm prevented the SMT from demonstrating to the RCMP what a Musical Ride should really look like. The Troop members enjoyed their time at the Depot and took great pleasure in turning the tables and asking the RCMP if they were "members of the Strathcona Mounted Troop".

SMT remained busy until mid-September, travelling as far west as Abbotsford, B.C.. As always, the Troop had the honour of being the Ceremonial Colour Guard for every major tournament Spruce Meadows orchestrated throughout the summer months. Here, **Cpl Juan Miguel Daos'** deep-seated need to insert himself in every photo opportunity possible, paid dividends when a picture of him atop his trusty mount, **Shadow**, was displayed on the Spruce Meadows website.

Thanks to the leadership of senior riders like **Cpl Travis Paskuski** and **Cpl Adriano Bernardo**, and important contributions from junior superstars like **Tpr Travis Gibbons**, the 2012 season went off without a hitch. The entire Troops' excellent performance managed to prevent the bumbling efforts of **Capt Corey "Broken Ribs" McLean** from ever taking the limelight.

*Cpls Juan Miguel Daos, Aryton Balfour and Sean Clarke, desperately hoping that Capt McLean doesn't decide to demonstrate to the crowds how he got his nickname.
(Photo provided by Spruce Meadows Media)*





Historical Vehicles Troop

Tpr Matt Wareham



This past year was a busy year for the Historical Vehicle Troop (HVT). Tasked throughout Alberta, HVT has had the pleasure of sharing Regimental history and traditions to the general public through various vehicle displays. From Bon Accord to Spruce Meadows, the Capital Ex Parade, and countless 'Soldier for a Day' events, Catherine and other notable vehicles within the Troop all rose to the occasion. Sadly, not all of the work completed by the soldiers in the Troop was put on display or parade. Utilising the painting skills of **Tpr Matt Wareham** and **MCpl Ryan Pasuta**, the Troop completed a full restoration of a Lynx, which will serve as a monument for the Wildwood Legion in the New Year. The Troop also acquired an M50 Israeli Super Sherman in the constant give and take within the Troop.

HVT would like to thank all of our contractors and partners for their continued support. Without their expertise with the rebuilding of a fuel injection pump, as well as the plethora of technical insight on how to rebuild that large, yellow engine choked with Israeli sand, HVT would not be able to offer the opportunities to our soldiers or to interact with the public at large in the manner which we currently operate. We hope to continue to work with them more in the near future to realise the completion of the rebuild.

This year the Troop welcomed a couple of new volunteers as **Cpl William Clendennin** and **Cpl Seamus Bondy** joined HVT. We wish **MCpl Andrew "The General" Baird** all the best as he moves on, after a worthy stint of rebuilding our history.





Strathcona's Pipes and Drums

WO Marvin MacNeill

After being “stood down” for almost 4 years due to the operational tempo of the Regiment, the Pipes and Drums have officially “stood up” and are now ready to perform. We were very fortunate to have the “the twins” **MCpl Colin Davidson** and **Cpl Cameron Davidson** as well as **Cpl Izaak Koolman** and our lead tip **Cpl James Lajoie** become the nucleus for the new band. The Pipes and Drums made its first debut as a formed body for this year’s Moreuil Wood parade. We saw **Sgt Pat Stoyko** step up and take the reigns as the band’s first Drum Major, who is also notably the first signaller to take this post. The band’s first official performance outside of Regimental activities was for the Canada Day Parade in Sherwood Park, where the Strathcona’s Pipes and Drums were awarded the first place entry for performance bands.

We were very excited to be invited to perform at Spruce Meadows during the weekend of 7-8 July 2012. In attendance this year we were honoured to perform for the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, the **Honourable Donald S Ethell**, and our former Chief of the Defence Staff, **Gen Walter Natynczyk**.

Our recent performances have not only provided a great opportunity to perform within Edmonton, but also gave the band greater exposure to play in the Calgary area. We were also fortunate to have combined our growing numbers with other established bands. On occasion we played with the Royal Canadian Artillery Band, which was a spectacular experience for the newer members of our Pipes and Drums.

Another huge success this year came for us on Remembrance Day when the Pipes and Drums became the official band of Branch 175 Kingsway Legion. After performing at numerous funerals and other events throughout the years for the Legion, the Branch President, **Mr “Mac” Torrie**, decreed “the Pipes and Drums of Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians) would from this time on be the Pipes and Drums Band for Branch 175 Kingsway Legion”.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all volunteers who put in their personal time and efforts to make the band what it is. It is only through your hard work and Perseverance that we can evolve to be even better.





Strathcona Regimental Museum: A New Gallery

WO Ted MacLeod

It's a new day and a new gallery. Following some successes with granting sources we have finally finished installation of all the new displays at the Regimental museum gallery in Calgary. 2012 has been a year of building.

New contacts were made with the University of Alberta through our support of their Sam Steele display in the old Bay building in downtown Edmonton. We made a first and successful partnership with the Alberta Lottery fund through their Community Facility Enhancement Grant. The Lottery Fund provided a good portion of the funds required for our gallery renovation. The Royal Alberta United Services Institute in Calgary supplied funds for the finalization of the Afghanistan display project.

A lot of engineering effort was expended installing the real Ferret scout car in the Cold War display. To get it in the doors we actually lifted it onto its side, installed it on a purpose built pallet and dollyed it into position through the front doors, into the main atrium and on to the very back corner of the gallery. It then had to be hoisted back onto its wheels prior to being installed on a purpose built 13' tall jack stand made out of railway track. The car was then painted in a scheme appropriate to the early seventies. Finally, the setting was built under and around the beast and "voila," a Cold War display. Also worthwhile mentioning is the Afghanistan display. The Afghanistan displays have been fleshed out with more mannequins, updated story boards, and a more three dimensional look. While not requiring the engineering acumen of the other dioramas, it held its own challenges. In an attempt to give it a three dimensional look from a distance, there are no square corners anywhere in the scene. The background and foreground seamlessly blend into a single surface and in the foreground are the real stones from beneath the flag at Masum Ghar.

In summary, our Museum is healthy, progressing, and staying relevant in a challenging environment of limited resources.

The distance view of the display showing no right angles, asymmetrical design and stones from Masum Ghar.



*Ferret in its natural habitat.
(No animals or trees were injured during the construction process.)*





Strathcona Regimental Association (Alberta Branch)

Mr. Howie Owen

Once again it is time to reflect on another year that has come and gone all too quickly. The Association has been kept fairly busy in 2012 taking care of business, luncheons and even a couple of Ceremonial parades, namely Moreuil Wood and a Change of Command to bid farewell to **Col Trevor Cadieu** and welcome his replacement, **LCol Paul Peyton**.

Without any doubt, the most important and time consuming task for 2012 was the planning and preparation of a "Transfer of Responsibility" of the Regimental Association (Alberta Branch) from Calgary to Edmonton. This process, started by a Motion put forward at the AGM on 10 Jan 12 instructing that the President (that would be me) inform the Edmonton Branch of the intended process. On 24 Jan 12 I did that, and again, at the Regimental Society Board of Directors meeting in March 2012 – the Board agreed in principal to the transfer.

After some hard work and the exchange of ideas and briefings between the two Branches, I am very pleased to inform all of you that the signing of an official Scroll for the "Transfer of Responsibility" will be done as part of the Moreuil Wood Ceremonies on 21 Mar 2013. Before I leave this part, I want to say "Thank You" to the Executives from both sides who, without their input, this transfer would never have been possible.

During the past year we were able to host four Black Hat Luncheons and with the full cooperation of the Regiment and 41 Brigade, we in the Old Guard were able to enjoy the members still serving and exchange stories with each other. The scary part is that some were actually believable! At the luncheon in December we also had an opportunity to meet the new boss **LCol Peyton** who was briefed very well by the RSM, **CWO Bill Crabb**. It is our hope that those meetings will continue when we in Calgary become the "Strathcona Association (Calgary Branch)".

The annual Golf Tournament was held on 11 August 12 and, as expected, it was a resounding success. **Peter and Susan Wonderham** showed their organizing skills as usual and 48 golfers and their family members enjoyed a windup at 285 Legion where the winners were announced by Peter, Mr. MC. The Regiment sent down their Top Guns from last year who won the trophy in 2011 BUT in the end, a team from the Old Guard regained the trophy. Here comes that name again Peter – the OWEN TEAM were the Top Guns for 2012.





Finally, I want to let everyone know that the Strathcona Association (Calgary Branch) committee is working on a Reunion in Calgary on 13, 14 and 15 September 2013. The main events will take place at #285 Legion on Horton Road SW. We invite you to mark your calendars for those dates and we hope to see many of you there. The planning committee is working hard and we assure you that more detailed information will follow soon so STAY TUNED.

In conclusion, I want to say from the bottom of my heart “Thank You All” for allowing me the honor of being the Chairman of this Association and once again thanks to all the people who supported me and the Executive here in Calgary since 2010. A special thanks also to the Commanding Officers, RSM’s, serving members and all the members of the Society Board. Last but not least, to the two Colonels of the Regiment (**John Roderick & Cam Ross**) - it has been fun!

Strathcona Regimental Association (Ontario Branch)

Capt Russ Ells

The Ontario Branch of the Regimental Association consists of 178 serving and retired Strathcona’s. This mix is reflected in the makeup of our executive with **LCol (Retired) John Stuckart** as Vice President, **Capt Stoo MacLean** acting as Secretary, **WO (Retired) Tom Martineau** as Treasurer, and **CWO Kevin Mulhern** in charge of communications. We have established four annual events:

1. Moreuil Wood, All Ranks, Mixed Dining In;
2. Melfa River BBQ;
3. Stampede Breakfast ; and
4. Fall Meet & Greet.

These events have been very well received and serve to bring us together and remind us of our shared Regimental heritage. It has been particularly gratifying to see the cadets from the Royal Military College interacting with our more senior members...they haven’t heard all the “war stories” yet.



While doing a recce for a suitable location for last year’s Strathconian photo, **CWO Kevin Mulhern**, noted that the Centurion tank being used as a monument in front of the 1 Canadian Division HQ was in fact a Strathcona tank and was in a sad state of disrepair. Several calls were made and **Cpl (Retired) Bill Hoggarth**, currently working on base, was instrumental in having the tank restored to its former glory. **LCol Dave MacLeod’s** recent retirement led to another series of discoveries. Following a long established Regimental tradition, he had decided to donate a gift upon retirement, what he found was a previously unattributed First World War photograph depicting mounted Strathcona troopers escorting German prisoners of war, a copy of which now hangs in the Land Force Doctrine and Training Systems HQ. Further research found an amazing film clip entitled German Offensive 4:

“Filmed on 3 April, the remaining evidence of the famous charge of Lord Strathcona’s Horse of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade, 3rd Cavalry Division, at Moreuil Ridge on 30 March...The dead horses left behind in the charge are still in position...”

Both of these items can be found at: <http://www3.nfb.ca/ww1/wartime-film.php?id=538099>

It has been a busy year for the Ontario Branch and we hope the next will be just as busy and productive.



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Strathconas in Gagetown

Capt Cameron Meikle

Another year has passed and like most organizations, it has been a very busy and productive one for those posted to CFB Gagetown. In early 2012, the Armour School received the first of several batches of Leopard 2A4 CANs for which it had been tasked to organize the commissioning for the incoming fleet. With the assistance of several crews of Strathconas from Edmonton, the first six Leopard 2A4 CANs were commissioned on the 31st of May, and they have since been used for a number of gunnery and D&M courses at the School.

In an effort aimed at integrating physical fitness training in the daily routine of those bogged down with the rigors of a full training calendar, a Commandant's Challenge has been reinvigorated which sees every soldier of the Armour School conduct a physical fitness challenge to see how they match up against their peers. This involves a 2.4km run, max bench-press, push-ups, sit-ups and chin-ups for score. This event was held periodically throughout the year and has rejuvenated the drive to achieving a high level of physical fitness in many personnel at the Armour School.

As with all Strathconas' across the country, Strathconas posted to CFB Gagetown celebrated the 94th Anniversary Battle of Moreuil Wood with a BBQ and the reading of the battle completed this year by **Sgt Ronnie Rushton**. Of course this event was not without a beer call and was graced with the attendance of the Armour School's Honorary **LCol John Swanton**, who received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal this year in a ceremony in Toronto. He was the sole recipient at the ceremony who was also a WW II veteran.

In an effort to foster a warrior spirit and the pursuit of excellence, the Armour School conducted a Recce Skills Competition to include a live-fire 25mm gunnery competition internal to the School, with each of the three training squadrons submitting a Recce patrol to participate in the competition which included a number of stands related to dismounted and mounted Recce skills, and finished off with a tactical 25mm gunnery competition. This year's event took place on a very rainy Saturday, and despite some delays, the event was very successful and set the stage for a more expanded Recce Skills competition in the future.

This year also saw the Armour School hosting a Leopard C2 gunnery competition aimed at reinvigorating the highest standard of crew gunnery skills across the Corps. Each of the Regular Force Regiments sent a Leo C2 fire-team to CFB Gagetown to compete

Sgt Ryan Ogston receiving his promotion to Sergeant on parade



against a team from the Armour School for the Worthington Challenge Trophy. Although a tank gunnery competition had not been organized for many years, this event proved highly successful and the lessons-learned will be used to further expand this competition in years to come.

Along with these highly successful events, Strathconas of the School as well as the other organizations in CFB Gagetown have been working diligently to train Crewmen and Armour Officers throughout another year full of courses. There has been tremendous work at revamping how tactical training will occur at the Armour School with an effort to making training much more progressive in nature; truly honing the crawl, walk, run philosophy. The Armour School looks forward to



working with CTC Training Design led by **Maj Mike Rogers** in implementing these changes and hopefully raising the quality of instruction on these courses.

What does the next year hold for those enjoying the sunny fields of Gagetown? You can count on another year full of courses training the future commanders of the Corps, a busy September training new instructors in the methods of coaching and mentoring while hosting several competitions and the implementation of several significant changes to Armour School courses to include new trace progressions and Distance Learning to improve the quality of instruction students will receive. Even with all of these challenges, there will be many Strathconas in Gagetown willing to meet them with the same perseverance that all have come to expect.

Strathconas at LFWA/JTFW HQ

Capt Mike Timms

LFWA/JTFW HQ fought on the administrative front line throughout 2012. Strathconas posted to the HQ worked determinedly to action several new Army initiatives aimed at meeting the requirements of the post Afghanistan fiscal reductions. It has been no small task balancing these initiatives with the capacity to meet force generation requirements for the upcoming High Readiness TF 1-13 and Op ATTENTION TF 2-13 and force generating and implementing the Reserve Arctic Response Company Group (ARCG) and Territorial Battle Groups (TBG).

Whilst working through these challenges, Strathconas at LFWA/JTFW HQ continued to contribute to the routine planning and administration required for the Area to keep rolling like a well maintained Leo. The HQ is no doubt grateful for the horsepower provided by a strong representation of talent from Canada's greatest Cavalry Regiment. **Col Derek Macaulay** heads the HQ as COS. The HQ also benefits from the following Strathconas: **LCol Trevor Gosselin**, G1; **Maj Clayton Gardner**, EA to Comd; **Maj Brian Roach**, G9-2; **Maj Craig Volstad**, G34; **Capt Mike Timms**, PA to Comd; **CWO James Merritt**, G4 Branch; **MWO Brian Speck**, HQ SM; **Sgt Owen Knott**, G37 Branch; and **LCol Robin Stewart** is currently deployed to South Korea. Additionally, we said goodbye to some of our brothers in arms. **Maj Kevin Mead** departed in order to take command of Detachment Dundurn. **Maj Chris Nolan** left the HQ and returned to the Regt as OC Recce Squadron. **Capt Thomas LaCroix** left the HQ to study at RMC. **WO Dave Cartwright** took his retirement. We are all proud to represent the Regiment at LFWA/JTFW HQ and will undoubtedly remember 2012 as a year of satisfying hard work and good laughs.



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Strathconas in the National Capital Region

MWO Rob Clarke

This year, as the tempo in Afghanistan subsided and focus switched to several other fronts; with none in particular, the tempo in Ottawa remained the same. The Strathconas, both serving and retired, were forced to adapt and witnessed the creation of Canadian Joint Operation Centre (CJOC) while budgets and positions were trimmed to fall in line with “the new reality.” Trying times indeed.

The National Capital Region, or “NCR” as it’s referred to by the more seasoned vets, continues to be somewhat of a mystery to those that arrive every summer; and rightfully so. “Things are different here” and “you’ll get used to it” are common phrases that shower the newbies, but after a few months on the ground one thing remains the same – every Strathcona that spends time “crew-commanding” a cubicle in Ottawa misses the troops.

As is the routine every posting season, several faces leave Ottawa to greener pastures and several others arrive with hopes and dreams of “making it big.” Some, like former Commanding Officer **Col Trevor Cadieu**, returned to the Army HQ this summer and managed to break or tie several NCR records as he juggled 4 different jobs in 4 months – finally settling in as the Incumbent Chief of Defence Staff’s Special Advisor. Others that arrived this posting season included **MWO Rob Clarke**, as the Army HQ Sergeant Major and **MCpl “I commute 2hrs” Usher** as a Strategic Joint Staff (SJS) specialist to name a few.

While the new faces signed for their cubicles, and others like **LCol “5 mins notice to move” Connolly** disappeared towards LFWA HQ without a trace, several other Strathconas moved from one “fire position” to another – some better, some arguably worse. Newly minted **LCol “Ration Assassin” Adams** moved to Directorate Land Staff (DLS) within the Army HQ (only to harass **SM Clarke** on a daily basis) while **MWO Rick “je deteste le français” Stacey** left the cozy confines of SJS to sit in a desk in order to improve his language profile – lucky him. Others, such as **Maj Warren Deatcher**, **Maj Sheldon Holmes** and **Maj Rob Hume** continued to assist with the CJOC jigsaw puzzle while Ottawa vets like **Col Pascal “did I mention that I travel everywhere?” Demers** and **Maj Charles Fournier** continue to hold down a few of the more “goochie” jobs within SJS. **Maj Mike Lakatos** held the fort in Directorate of Land Requirements and we hope he continues to keep an eye on **Capt Leonard Dunn** – or vice versa.



As everyone comes and goes, supporting fire continues to be provided by **Col Dave Rundle** who helps to shape the Regiment within the Corps and is often seen stalking the executive floors within the Army HQ with our best interests in mind. With that said, the Annual Merit Boards were a great opportunity for all involved, and more importantly, they brought a few familiar faces together for a few pints at a local watering hole and for the Corps Mess Dinner – where a great time was had by all.

Until next year, we’ll continue to miss the Regiment and we will look for opportunities to return to Edmonton – legal or otherwise.

*LCol Chris Adams receiving the
Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal from
Comd Cdn Army, LGen Peter Devlin*



Strathconas in Kingston

Capt Darryn Gray

Soon after being posted to Kingston, I realized a fact that many others have come to know after being posted here. Kingston sure is a home away from home for Strathconas and we continue to spread our knowledge, experience and Strathcona flare to all units across the base. More and more Strathconas are being posted or retiring in Kingston, and in this neck of the woods being so close to Petawawa it can not be looked at as “Dragoon Country”.

Shortly after arriving this APS, **Capt Russ “the cat-herder” Ells** planned a Strathcona meet and greet at a local pub, and at that point many of us who were recently posted to Kingston realized the number of brethren we have in this region. CFB Kingston definitely offers a plethora of opportunities for Strathconas to contribute to the Canadian Army. Being part of the Combined Joint Inter-Agency Task Force Headquarters as 1st Canadian Division, **Maj Gord Dyck**, **Sgt Nathan Mills**, recently promoted **Sgt Dave Barsotta** and I have experienced quite a high tempo preparing for the JOINTEX 13 series of exercises and high readiness exercises as the HQ for DART and NEO. This summer, **Col Spike Hazleton** had the opportunity to be the Acting-Commander of 1st Canadian Division before bidding farewell to the Division in order to conduct Italian language training and hone his wine tasting abilities in preparation for his posting to Italy this summer as a Canadian Defence Attaché.

Facilitating formation level exercises, **Maj Chris Quinlan** continues to work with his team at Director of Land Synthetic Environments, planning and executing higher level exercises, while **Maj Ed Frost-Kell** and **LCol Paul Pickell** are shaping the minds of Captains while instructing AOC at CLFCSC. As CFB Kingston’s G3 SM/ G3 Training, **MWO Dave Hall** works closely with his team of public servants, commissionaires, and soldiers to manage huge responsibilities supporting the operations of 34 local CF units, various Law Enforcement Agencies, Other Government Departments, and Non-Governmental Agencies.

At LFDTS some of the Strathconas employed in various capacities are **Capt Islam Elkorazati**, **CWO Kevin Mulhern** and recently badged a Strathcona from the Royal Canadian Hussars, **Capt Ali Ahsan Raju** who is being indoctrinated into the way of life of a Strathcona. In what he thought would be a relaxed posting; **Capt Andrew Warlow** is feeling the administrative burdens that some RMC Cadets can give as a Sqn Comd for RMC. Who knew that so much time could be occupied by so few people... In addition to those posted in HQs and Units across the Base, we cannot forget **Capt Thomas LaCroix**, **Capt Richard Lund** and **WO Lanny Hill**, who have been tucked away in a small building behind the Base Gym...not in the Arena or with the Naval Reserves but in a subset of RMC’s Department of Applied Military Science. When these fellas aren’t traveling around seeing the many system factories and organizations that support the Canadian Forces, they are diligently studying and working on their final projects as part of the Land Force Technical Staff Course.

For some, Kingston is a great place to reconstitute before returning to the mothership and for others it is a great place to dig in and plant roots. All in all the lifestyle in this city is tremendous and what better a place to provide support to the Canadian Army while taking in the city life / cottage country with an opportunity to ride your motorcycle up to the end of November.

*Col Spike Hazleton badging
Capt Ali Ahsan Raju as a Strathcona*





Strathconas in Wainwright

Capt Liz England

2012 in Wainwright was much the same as 2011. And 2010 and 2009... Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre (CMTC) supported collective training exercises from Gagetown to Virginia and occasionally in Wainwright, and the Land Force Western Area Training Centre (LFWA TC) sausage machine continued to churn out young soldiers and junior leaders while CFB Wainwright ran the base. Despite the routine nature of life in Wainwright, Strathconas have successfully infiltrated at all levels and are injecting regular doses of class wherever they go.

CMTC saw a few changes this year. **LCol Steve Kelsey** and **Maj Errol MacEachern** successfully migrated from LFWA TC and took over the key positions of Deputy Commander and G3 respectively. With **CWO Joe Ramsay** as CMTC Sergeant Major, Strathconas have consolidated on CMTC Headquarters and are holding the key terrain. **Capt Evan Wiome** and **WO Brad Smith** are often found skulking behind the scenes to reinforce the Strathcona's presence. On the front lines, the Observer Controller Team has seen an increase in the consumption of deli meat and rye bread by **Capt Nathan Hevenor** and **MWO Tony Batty** while **WO Mike Bolger** has preferred to eat snakes with Recce. Gastronomic preferences aside, the COEFOR Team continued to beat the crap out of any foreign elements operating in their training area. Led by **Capt James Anderson** and **Capt Steve Van Muyen**, Section Commanders **MCpl Gerri-Ann Davidson**, **MCpl Rob Smith** and **MCpl Serge Poitras** were masters of their domain as they wrought havoc for the Primary Training Audiences.

The departure of **LCol Steve Kelsey** saw the end of the Reign of the Tanker at LFWA TC. Not to be dissuaded, **Maj Darren Bromley** has stepped in as Officer Commanding Training Support Company and when he isn't injecting "reality management strategies" into the chaos, he can be heard mocking some innocent passer-by as he comes within striking distance. PT at the School will never be the same as **WO Trent Hiscock's** short shorts continue to wreak havoc among the weak. Never one to pass up an opportunity to socialize in cowboy boots, **Capt Ed McGowan** has stood up the Officer's Mess Annex at his new house in town and is charging a case of beer per deer to butcher your latest kill. **MCpl Dave Royes** is rarely not found at the Base Gym and has surprised us all by gaining another couple of inches on his biceps while losing the same from his legs. **Sgt Jerry Peddle**, **Sgt Tony Oake** and **MCpl Kerrie Jesse** influenced the

*A photo from the days of yore when
WO Trent Hiscock duked it out with the
Americans during the War of 1812*



impressionable students coming through the summer Bold Eagle program and junior leader courses while **Sgt Scotty "Gramps" Irwin** entertained his brand new grandchild using the same pleasant techniques he acquired teaching new recruits.

Strathconas are still scattered across the Base. **Capt Dave Lee**, DCO CFB Wainwright, often frequented the Wainwright golf course come rain, shine or deep freeze. **Sgt Ernest Lee** was often found in an obscure corner of the training area at the end of a single set of tracks, trying to self-recover in the snow and **Sgt Mike McGarity** is moving ever more closely to a full head of grey as the Base Ops Sgt. **Cpl Kevin Ferguson**, **Cpl Jon Hansen** and **Tpr Lance Williams** laid low throughout the year, supporting the CMTC serials with vehicles and kit.



Strathconas in Suffield Little Base on the Prairie

Capt David Williams

Eximius Ordo is a most fitting motto for CFB Suffield. It translates to “Out of the Ordinary” and is an apt description of the largest base in the Commonwealth. With British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) and Defence Research Development Canada – Suffield (DRDC) collocated here, a posting to Suffield is never short of variety and unique challenges.

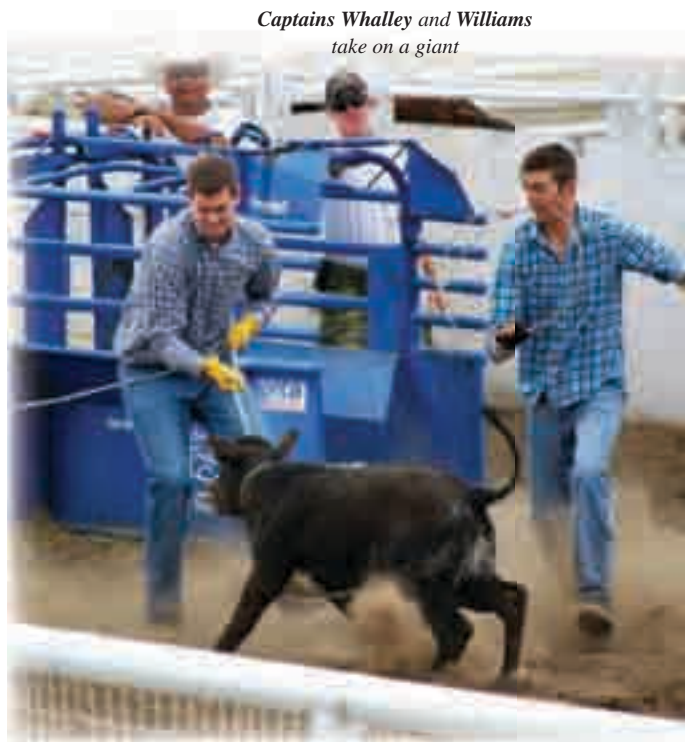
During the May to October training season **Capt Chris Whalley**, Range Control Officer, **MCpl Chris Oliver**, **MCpl Hugh Hayes**, **Cpl Dale Cyrenne**, **Cpl Kyle Dunphy**, **Cpl Shane Brough**, **Cpl Tim Gallagher**, and **Cpl Trevor McQueen** were busy in direct support of BATUS operations, literally putting out fires for four successive Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER serials. The Range Control crew’s efforts assisted over 8000 British soldiers prepare for combat operations in Afghanistan’s Helmand Province.

Embracing the Western spirit, CFB Suffield hosted the 33rd Annual Ralston Rodeo in August 2012, with **Capt Dave Williams**, Base Adjutant, as the Rodeo Chairman. The event, part of the Border Country Rodeo Association circuit, hosted many local and travelling cowboys, offering a very unique Canadian experience to visiting British soldiers and their families. Judging by the entertaining Calf Roping efforts of **Capts Williams** and **Whalley**, some may

*A rare shot of two allies
Challenger 2 beside Leopard 2A4M-Can*



*Captains Whalley and Williams
take on a giant*



have remained closer to the Regiment’s cowboy roots than others. The presence of a Leopard 2 provided by the Regiment was a welcome addition to an area normally prowled by the Challenger 2.

In late 2012, Strathconas also aided Alberta Fish and Wildlife in the execution of the Base’s first Elk Herd Reduction Program, which saw 200 Alberta hunters on the block attempting to fill antlerless elk tags.

With the continued influx of new British units, ongoing trials and operations of DRDC, and a full mess life, 2012 has been an interesting and rewarding year for Suffield Strathconas. The unique perspective gained here is definitely “Out of the Ordinary,” but worthwhile all the same.



Strathconas at 1 CMBG

Tips for how to succeed at Brigade

Capt Fred Hayward

Capt Gord Elliot, Personal Assistant to the Brigade Commander says:

Never walk down the hall without a document in your hands. People with documents in their hands look like hardworking employees heading for important meetings. People with nothing in their hands look like they're heading for the cafeteria.

People with the newspaper in their hands look like they're heading for the bathroom. Above all, make sure you carry loads of stuff home with you at night, thus generating the false impression that you work longer hours than you do.

Maj Mike Mallette, G1, says:

Use computers to look busy. Any time you use a computer, it looks like work to the casual observer. You can send and receive personal e-mail, calculate your finances and generally have a blast without doing anything remotely related to work.

Capt Sandy Cooper, G3 Operations says:

Messy desk. Top management can get away with a clean desk. For the rest of us, it looks like you're not working hard enough. Build huge piles of documents around your workspace.

To the observer, last year's work looks the same as today's work; it's volume that counts. Pile them high and wide. If you know somebody is coming to your cubicle, bury the document you'll need halfway down in an existing stack and rummage for it when he/she arrives.

Capt Jeff Daley, Task Force 2-13 Training Officer says;

Capt Hayward

Really, I used to weigh 180 pds



If somebody leaves a voice mail message for you and it sounds like impending work, respond during lunch hour. That way, you're hardworking and conscientious even though you're being a devious weasel. If you diligently employ the method of screening incoming calls and then returning calls when nobody is there, this will greatly increase the odds that they will give up or look for a solution that doesn't involve you.

Capt Allan Dwyer, G1 Operations says:

If you feel like talking instead of working, talk to your boss. That counts as work no matter what you're chatting about. The ideal topic of conversation is how poorly all of your coworkers are performing.

Capt Fred Hayward, G35 says:

Be sure to get involved in unquantifiable projects. You want to be doing a lot of consulting and advising and attending. Avoid anything with a hard and fast deadline. **(Disclaimer:** When tasked with a secondary duty (like write an article for The Strathconian) find something someone already did for another project and use it again. I received these quotes from a friend when we were in university.)

An Exchange Officer with the British Army Testing Equipment for the Royal Armoured Corps

Maj Brian Corbett

Greetings from the Armour Trials and Development Unit (ATDU) in Bovington, UK. I have been here on exchange for about 18 months as the unit 2IC. This position is one of the best kept secrets in the Corps, many people I have spoken too did not know it existed despite the fact that we have had an Armoured Corps officer in this position since 1959 (although the last Strathcona to fill this post was **Maj Bill Logan** from 1985 – 1988).

The unit's mission is to evaluate and test armoured vehicles and mounted soldier equipment on behalf of the British Army. We help ensure that the equipment is fit for purpose; if a Royal Armoured Corps soldier will use it on operations or training chances are we have trialled it at ATDU before it went into service.

The British Army has a slightly different structure to their trials and development. Unlike the Canadian Land Forces Trials and Development Unit (LFTEU) in Gagetown with a small but diverse team tasked with conducting trials on behalf of the wider Army, the British Army has seven separate trials and development units for Armour, Infantry, Artillery, Engineers, Signals, Aviation and CSS (comprised of Royal Logistics Corps and REME). The other unique thing about ATDU, unlike LFTEU, is that we hold our own fleet of vehicles which are maintained at the Theatre Entry Standard (TES), with all the equipment that would be mounted on the vehicle for operations, including add-on armour, IED ECM etc. We also have our own dedicated trials troop who run the trials and therefore we are not reliant on borrowing vehicles and troops to conduct testing.

The trials conducted by the unit over the last several years have primarily focussed on Unforecast Operational Requirements (UOR) equipment with the procurement of Warthog and Scimitar Mk 2 as an example. With the combat mission in Afghanistan set to finish in 2014, we are seeing a drop in the number of UOR vehicle trials however, we are seeing an increase in the number of trials being conducted in support of the equipment programme such as helping to develop the requirements for Challenger 2 Life Extension Programme (CR2 LEP).

The future will continue to be very busy as we will be conducting trials on the Scout Specialist Vehicle (SV) vehicle fleet, which is set to replace the aging Scimitar recce vehicle and the Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme (WCSP) which will provide significant upgrades for their IFV. From late-2013, both of these vehicle platforms will undergo a three year trials programme with ATDU receiving an uplift in personnel to support the user trials.



When I don't have to show up for work, my family and I are making the most out of life in the UK by getting as much travelling done as we can. We have already visited most corners of the UK and made several trips to "mainland" Europe. The British PMQs are not overly fancy but I am a five minute walk to work (which allows me to go home for lunch every day) and I live about 500m from the Bovington Tank Museum.

If anyone from the Strathcona family is planning a visit to the UK, please get in touch we are always happy to host visitors and as the only foreign exchange officer in the garrison it is always nice to speak with people who don't have an accent.



United Nations Mission In South Sudan

Maj Clayton 'Fly' Fifield

In July 2011, South Sudan became the world's newest country after decades of fighting for independence from Sudan. The United Nations, having determined that the situation faced by South Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region and acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the Security Council established the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS). UNMISS consists of up to 7,000 military personnel, including military liaison officers and staff officers, up to 900 civilian police personnel, and a civilian component, including human rights investigation expertise. The UN mandate in South Sudan consists of three key components: Support for peace consolidation and thereby fostering longer-term state building and economic development. Support the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in exercising its responsibilities for conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution and protect civilians. Support the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in developing its capacity to provide security, to establish rule of law, and to strengthen the security and justice sectors.

I deployed on October 21st as a Military Liaison Officer (MLO) and have been assigned to the largest and most volatile area in the mission, Jonglei State. It's rife with issues ranging from clashes between Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and Rebel Militia Groups, heavily armed cattle raiders, inter-tribal conflict, droughts, floods, and illness, just to name a few. Based out of Bor, we routinely conduct Dynamic Air Patrols, Short and Long Duration Patrols by road or by air, and are responsible for the liaison and coordination of a wide range of issues with various levels of government administration and the SPLA. South Sudan is one of the poorest countries on earth and the level of poverty of the population is astounding. There is absolutely no infrastructure to speak of; power, water, sewage, maintained roads, garbage disposal, health care, traffic control are all non-existent. Driving in the capital city of Juba is a stunning example of controlled chaos. I would be remiss I didn't mention that wives are still purchased from families with cows as the currency... approximately 50 of them...and as long as you have the cows, you can keep collecting wives. In all of my travels I have found the majority of the population to be extremely friendly, approachable, and surprisingly well dressed at all times. As for working within the confines of the UN structure, rules and guidelines... we'll have to discuss that over a beer...or twenty.

While on patrol in the AOR, you never know what to expect from one moment to the next. In one particular incident of note, we had just wrapped up a Long Duration Patrol to Panyagor. The three MLOs (New Zealand, Great Britain, and Canada) with our SPLA LO, and a Platoon minus from India, and a Section from Nepal for close protection, had departed early in order to get back to Bor before last light. About an hour into our journey we came across a large number of heavily armed men in civilian clothing all milling around the road and up against the berm to our left...first thought that jumps to mind is Rebel Militia Group... but their posture and actions as we got closer thankfully didn't indicate that. As we dismounted to see what's going on, we quickly determined that we've happened upon the final stages of a firefight between cattle raiders and a mix of SPLA, Private Security and Wildlife Officers. The previous night, Muerle raiders ambushed the men escorting the cattle and in the ensuing firefight one Wildlife officer was killed and another wounded along with a couple of civilians. Word very quickly got out and the Muerle ended up being trapped and caught in open terrain. The wounded Wildlife Officer spent the night about 30 meters from the attackers pinned down and hiding behind his fallen comrade. So there we were on the roadway, dismounted and trying to assess the situation when incoming rounds started sailing past us. The NGO Land Cruiser parked behind me took a round into the engine compartment and needless to say protective equipment went on rather quickly at that point. Immediately one of the Force Protection commanders high-tails it over to us and suggests that we beat a hasty retreat. As our SPLA allies, civilians and a wounded Wildlife Officer clearly needed assistance, we indicated that we weren't going anywhere and we would assist however we could. Some of the force protection soldiers that had remained quickly dismounted and proceeded to 'take cover' in the ditch and tree line on the far side away from the fight. The second force protection contingent



had a somewhat different response on the other hand. Even though they were parked right next to the NGO vehicle that took a round, they proceeded put on their protective equipment, stay in their Land Cruiser, all eight of them, and duck! The SPLA on the ground didn't have an officer amongst them so there was quite a bit of disarray over how to deal with the remaining raiders. It was one of the most difficult situations for us to not jump in and start organizing a makeshift fire base and assault force. 45mins later and after a lot hinting, our SPLA LO gave some quick direction and the fight was on again. All three MLOs had moved forward to the 'firebase' location, two of us with our med kits ready to assist where needed. The firing lasted about another 5 minutes or so when we received indications that the last two had stopped moving and were presumed killed. The fire base rose up and started moving forward the 80 or so meters to the raiders...we gave them a 15 second head start and then went up and over to see if the remaining wildlife officer was still alive and if he needed treatment. Turns out his wounds were relatively minor and was able to walk off. Unfortunately the other Wildlife Officer was indeed deceased and could not be helped. We proceeded over to check on the raiders and two were dead while the third was in his final moments and finally succumbed to his injuries shortly thereafter. Apparently the remaining Murle had beaten a hasty retreat to the north. So we remained on the scene for a short time and had just started to walk back towards the vehicles when another shot rang out about 20m from us...in the process of clearing a captured weapon the guy had a negligent discharge! Not too smart...especially with a bunch of amped up and armed guys standing all around you expecting to be shot at. Then to top it off, some yahoo back on the road with an RPK let loose half a belt of celebratory gunfire! So morale of the story...close protection force...isn't exactly close.

On the morning of Friday December 21st, tragically the SPLA shot down a UN Mi-8 on a recce flight in Jonglei State, killing the Russian flight crew. The SPLA reasoning was that it looked suspicious and that they assumed it was a helo from Sudan (North) dropping off supplies to the Rebel Militia Groups. They subsequently fired a SA-7 missile and shot it down which came as a great shock to the UN, as we didn't even know that they had any anti-aircraft missiles. They had already engaged three other birds with machine guns in the months leading up to this, resulting in some extra holes in the aircraft but had never downed one until now. And keep in mind that they're our allies! They're the government armed forces that we're supposed to be working, mentoring, and liaising with on a daily basis. As a result, there was an immediate impact on the way operations are now conducted throughout the AOR both by land and by air. It's not uncommon for SPLA patrols to 'shoot first and figure out the target later', including at their own patrols returning to base. The downing of a UN aircraft has highlighted just how dangerous everyday life is here in South Sudan.

As can be expected, Christmas was a very subdued period here, with the skiing nation members gathering for a pot luck supper. New Years Eve celebrations however, were decidedly more rambunctious as military members, base staff and NGO's came together to ring in the New Year with a BBQ and an eclectic selection of strange and exotic beverages from around the world. It still seems completely foreign to move through the holiday period in shorts and a t-shirt.

So, it will be with a refreshed sense of gratitude for all that our nation has to offer, that I look forward to rejoining you all back in Canada in April. Upon my return I will be reassuming my duties as LFDTS HQ G1...my penance for being allowed to go on tour...but more than worth it!



Extra Regimentally Employed

BGen	Hilton	D.C.	Canadian Forces College	Maj	Mead	K.J.	CF Detachment Dundurn
Col	Cade	J.	Canadian Defence Attache Mexico	Maj	Onieu	M.G.	CFSU (E) Det UK
Col	Cadieu	T.J.	NDHQ	Maj	Quinlan	C.J.	CFB Kingston
Col	Demers	P.P.J.	NDHQ	Maj	Rogers	M.D.	CFB Gagetown
Col	Fleury	P.J.	NATO IMS	Maj	Senft	D.J.	JTFP HQ
Col	Hazleton	C.M.	CFLS	Maj	Shrubb	S.J.	CFB Kingston
Col	Macaulay	D.A.	LFWA	Maj	Steeves	J.A.M.	International Peace Support Training Centre
Col	Rundle	D.A.	CDLS Washington	Maj	Volstad	M.C.	LFWA
LCol	Adams	C.R.	NDHQ	Maj	Young	C.J.	CFB Kingston
LCol	Connolly	M.A.	LFWA HQ	Capt	Anderson	J.A.	CFB Wainwright
LCol	Gifford	S.W.	US Army Training and Doctrine Command	Capt	Beitz	P.D.	CFB Petawawa
LCol	Gosselin	T.P.	LFWA	Capt	Bentley	M.D.R.L.	CFB Borden
LCol	Kelsey	S.R.	CFB Wainwright	Capt	Brown	J.W.	CSOR
LCol	Long	S.G.	41 CBG	Capt	Bugg	N.B.	FGH
LCol	McKinnon	D.B.	NDHQ	Capt	Collings	T.L.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	Padvaikas	E.T.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Cooper	R.A.	1 CMBG
LCol	Parsons	D.R.	CFB Gagetown	Capt	Dullege	M.C.	CFB Gagetown
LCol	Pickell	P.G.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Dunn	L.A.	NDHQ
LCol	Rankin	R.C.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Dwyer	A.C.	1 CMBG
LCol	Steward	R.T.	South Korea	Capt	Elkorazati	I. M.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Barnett	M.A.	SHAPE Belgium	Capt	Elliott	G.R.	1 CMBG
Maj	Batty	T.A.	CFB Gagetown	Capt	Ells	C.R.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Bromley	D.R.	CFB Wainwright	Capt	England	E.A.	CFB Wainwright
Maj	Callens	K.I.	ASG Edmonton	Capt	Gray	D.A.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Chenette	D.J.	CFC Toronto	Capt	Gray	D.M.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Chiasson	R.P.	CFB Gagetown	Capt	Hayward	V.F.	1 CMBG
Maj	Cochrane	J.L.	JTFC/LFCA HQ Toronto	Capt	Hevenor	N.R.B.	CFB Wainwright
Maj	Corbett	B.D.	ATDU	Capt	Johnson	B.S.	1 RCHA
Maj	Deatcher	W.S.	NDHQ	Capt	Kallos	G.P.D.	CFRC Toronto
Maj	Dyck	G.A.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Kaye	M.A.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Fifield	C.S.	UNMISS	Capt	Kenny	A.M.	1 MP Regiment
Maj	Fournier	C.D.	NDHQ	Capt	Kerek	W.M.	BCR
Maj	Froess	M.D.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Lacroix	T.A.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Frost-Kell	E.J.S.	CFB Kingston	Capt	Lee	D.A.	CFB Wainwright
Maj	Gardner	C.S.	LFWA	Capt	Lund	R.I.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Gough	M.H.	JTFN Yellowknife	Capt	MacInnis	M.J.	Halifax Rifles
Maj	Grodzinski	J.R.	CFB Kingston	Capt	MacKillop	S.D.	SALH
Maj	Holmes	S.W.	NDHQ	Capt	MacLean	S.C.	CFB Kingston
Maj	Hone	D.A.	CFB Gagetown	Capt	McGowan	E.D.	CFB Wainwright
Maj	Hume	R.M.	NDHQ	Capt	McMurachy	M.A.	CFB Borden
Maj	Hunter	J.R.	CFB Gagetown	Capt	Meikle	C.W.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Jared	E.G.	NDHQ	Capt	Miller	J.L.E.E.	CFB Wainwright
Maj	Lakatos	M.A.	NDHQ	Capt	Morison	D.G.	CFNRCC North Bay
Maj	Lubiniecki	M.	CFC Toronto	Capt	Nguyen	J.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	MacEachern	E.G.	CFB Wainwright	Capt	Pano	M.G.	KOCR
Maj	Malevich	J.J.	CFC Toronto	Capt	Penney	C.S.	CFB Gagetown
Maj	Mallette	M.J.D.	1 CMBG	Capt	Pett	T.D.	CFSU E
Maj	Manouchehri	E.	LFCA JTFC	Capt	Piekenbrock	Z.H.	CFB Wainwright
				Capt	Prince	C.E.J.	ASC Edmonton

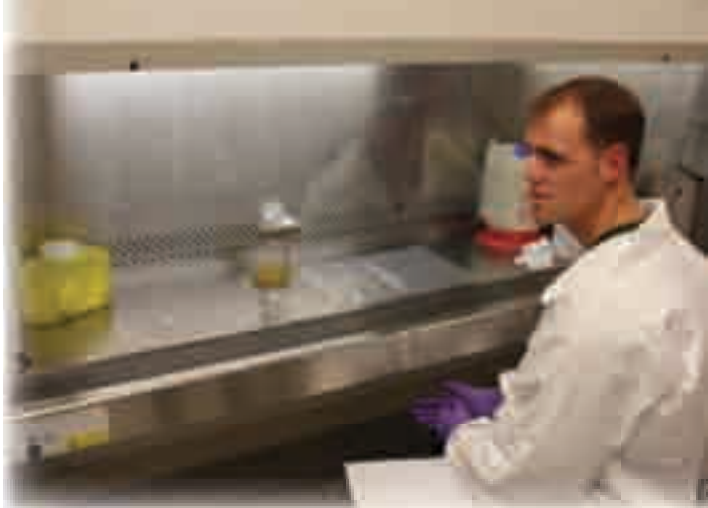
Capt	Raju	A.A.	CFB Kingston	Sgt	Denson	M.I.	KOCR
Capt	Rickard	J.N.	CFB Kingston	Sgt	Dunn	J.G.	CFB Gagetown
Capt	Salter	J.J.	Sask D	Sgt	Eady C.	CFB/ASU Edmonton	
Capt	Stachow	P.F.	CFB/ASU Edm	Sgt	Gibson	J.D.	SALH
Capt	Timms	M.D.	CFB/ASU Edmonton	Sgt	Goodyear	S.W.	CFB Gagetown
Capt	Van Muyen	S.R.	CFB Wainwright	Sgt	Gratto	M.A.L.	CFRC Halifax
Capt	Walters	D.R.	CFB Gagetown	Sgt	Hawes	J.C.	CFB Gagetown
Capt	Warlow	A.G.	CFB Kingston	Sgt	Heegsma	C.J.	CFB Gagetown
Capt	Wawrzyn	S.S.	CFB Gagetown	Sgt	Helliwell	J.M.	CFB Gagetown
Capt	Whalley	C.D.	CFB Suffield	Sgt	Hodgson	K.E.	CFB Gagetown
Capt	White	C.G.	CFSSAT	Sgt	Hornby	C.G.	CFB Gagetown
Capt	Williams	D.P.	CFB Suffield	Sgt	Irwin	R.S.	CFB Wainwright
Capt	Wiome	E.J.	CFB Wainwright	Sgt	Ives	P.B.	CFB Gagetown
Capt	Wong	A.S.H.	CFB/ASU Edmonton	Sgt	Jones	P.A.	CFB Gagetown
Capt	Wright	S.R.	JTFN Yellowknife	Sgt	Kauenhofen	F.K.	CFB/ASU Edmonton
OCdt	Forestell	M.J.	CFB Kingston	Sgt	Knott	O.W.	LFWA
CWO	Laughlin	W.A.	CFB Gagetown	Sgt	Koestlmaier	M.P.	CFB Wainwright
CWO	Mulhern	A.B.K.	CFB Kingston	Sgt	Lee	E.A.	CFB Wainwright
CWO	Murphy	B.N.	CFB Gagetown	Sgt	Levis	R.M.	CFB Gagetown
CWO	Ramsay	J.	CFB Wainwright	Sgt	McGarity	M.D.	CFB Wainwright
MWO	Bamford	G.	CFB Gagetown	Sgt	Mills	N.	CFB Kingston
MWO	Batty	A.S.	CFB Wainwright	Sgt	Moon	G.C.	CFB Gagetown
MWO	Clarke	R.J.	NDHQ	Sgt	Morley	E.	CFB Gagetown
MWO	Hall	D.W.	CFB Kingston	Sgt	Oake	A.D.	CFB Wainwright
MWO	Holland	T.C.	CFB Gagetown	Sgt	Pargeter	J.E.	CFRC Edmonton
MWO	Stacey	R.	CFSU(O)	Sgt	Parsons	S.M.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Bolger	M.P.	CFB Wainwright	Sgt	Peddle	J.G.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Boulter	G.F.	CFB Gagetown	Sgt	Peterson	P.H.	BCD
WO	Delaney	R.H.	CFB Gagetown	Sgt	Pickell	E.J.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Fox	I.R.	CFB Kingston	Sgt	Rushton	R.J.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Hill	L.R.	CFB Wainwright	Sgt	Thompson	S.D.	1 CRPG
WO	Hiscock	T.	CFB Wainwright	Sgt	Torney	R.M.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Kasawan	J.F.	CFB Wainwright	Sgt	Trenholm	J.E.	CFRC Calgary (Det Edm)
WO	King	K.E.	ASU/CFB Edmonton	Sgt	Troop	L.J.	1 CRPG
WO	Likely	R.G.K.	CFB Gagetown	Sgt	Woodrow	M.A.	CFB Gagetown
WO	McGregor	J.I.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Adby	R.	ELFRS St. Jean
WO	Miller	N.C.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Barsotta	D.G.	CFB Kingston
WO	Mosher	T.R.	Halifax Rifles	MCpl	Carson	R.M.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Pociuk	A.A.	Sask D	MCpl	Davidson	G.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Romanuik	E.E.	BCD	MCpl	Desjardins	J.E.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Screen	S.R.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Dickey	T.C.	CFB Wainwright
WO	Smith	B.M.	CFB Wainwright	MCpl	Gordon	P.W.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Wheeler	M.J.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Gray	C.	CFB Gagetown
WO	Young	R.C.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Guilbeault	Y.D.	CFLRS St. Jean
Sgt	Barker	C.C.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Harvey De Roy	E.	CFLRS
Sgt	Barker	D.T.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Hayes	H.A.	CFB Suffield
Sgt	Biener	R.W.A.	CFB/ASU Edm	MCpl	Jesse	K.	CFB Wainwright
Sgt	Bowden	E.J.	CFB/ASU Edmonton	MCpl	Kentfield	C.A.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Bulmer	C.J.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Leaman	L.W.	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Caufield	M.J.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	MacFarlane	N.J.C.	CFB Trenton
Sgt	Christopher	A.G.	41 CGB	MCpl	Macneill	B.	CFB Wainwright
Sgt	Clarke	G.R.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Mousseau	J.E.	CFB Wainwright
Sgt	Cordy	J.P.	CFB Gagetown	MCpl	Ogston	R.J.A.	CFB Gagetown

MCpl	Oliver	C.R.J.	CFB Suffield	Cpl	Cyrenne	D.R.	CFB Suffield
MCpl	Orlesky	C.N.M.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	D'Andrea	C.P.	CFB Gagetown
MCpl	Paterson	J.D.	CFLRS	Cpl	Dunphy	K.	CFB Suffield
MCpl	Poitras	S.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	Fedele	N.	CFB Wainwright
MCpl	Reid	N.A.	CFB Borden	Cpl	Ferguson	K.	CFB Wainwright
MCpl	Riley	P.A.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Francis	G.A.	CFB Gagetown
MCpl	Royes	D.D.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	Gallagher	T.R.	CFB Suffield
MCpl	Scott	T.	CFB/ASU Edmonton	Cpl	Gallant	A.G.	CFB Gagetown
MCpl	Smith	R.W.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	Hansen	J.D.	CFB Wainwright
MCpl	Sorel	J.M.R.B.	St-Jean	Cpl	Hansen	S.R.	CFB Gagetown
MCpl	St Aubin	J.A.J.	CFB Kingston	Cpl	Hayes	T.P.	CFB Wainwright
MCpl	Stewart	C.M.	CFB Trenton	Cpl	Hodgin	A.D.	CFB Wainwright
MCpl	Usher	A.J.	CFS Leitrum	Cpl	Hoyt	G.S.	CFB Gagetown
MCpl	Walsh	P.W.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Icala	A.L.	CFB Wainwright
MCpl	West	N.A.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	Jesse	M.R.	CFB Wainwright
MCpl	Whittall	G.L.P.	CFB Meaford	Cpl	Jobin	C.Y.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Aube	D.G.J.	CFLRS	Cpl	Jones	W.D.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Bernard	R.J.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Lang	I.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Bertin	Y.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Laramée	R.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Brough	S.	CFB Suffield	Cpl	MacEachern	M.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Brown	D.L.M.	CFB Wainwright	Cpl	MacIsaac	R.S.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Chaperon	A.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Martone		CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Chatzikirou	D.N.	CFB Trenton	Cpl	McKinnon	D.J.	CFB Wainwright
Cpl	Christie	A.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	McQueen	T.J.	CFB Suffield
Cpl	Chuback	K.G.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	McWaters	N.D.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Cook	R.T.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Mountford	R.T.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Cotie	A.J.	CFB Gagetown	Cpl	Murray	R.W.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Currie	M.A.	CFB Trenton	Cpl	Myers	L.B.	CFB Gagetown



Cpl	Parsons	A.N.	CFB Gagetown	Tpr	Mireault	S.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Picardal	G.	CFB Gagetown	Tpr	Munro	J.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Richardson	P.	CFB Gagetown	Tpr	Nieuwhof	K.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Ringuette	L.L.	CFB Gagetown	Tpr	Price	B.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Romkey	D.C.E.	CFB Gagetown	Tpr	Sawyer	A.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Seppenwoolde	J.W.	CFB Trenton	Tpr	Seders	L.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Shwetz	S.H.D.	CFB Gagetown	Tpr	Shields	B.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Sirois	M.M.R.	CFB Meaford	Tpr	Wedge	B.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Smith	T.	CFB Gagetown	Tpr	Williams	R.R.	CFB Wainwright
Cpl	Steeves	D.	CFB Gagetown	Tpr	Wilson	J.	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Steeves	J.	CFB Gagetown				
Cpl	Stevenson	J.P.	CFB Gagetown				
Cpl	Strong	S.S.	CFB Gagetown				
Cpl	Sturgess		CFB Gagetown				
Cpl	Sundelin	C.R.	CFB Gagetown				
Cpl	Sykes	D.	CFB Wainwright				
Cpl	Thomas	S.G.	CFB Gagetown				
Cpl	Tremblett	M.	CFB Gagetown				
Cpl	Vaillancourt	B.L.	CFB Gagetown				
Cpl	Vallee	B.	St-Jean				
Cpl	Van Kleef	C.L.	CFB Gagetown				
Tpr	Bacsu	J.	CFB Gagetown				
Tpr	Brunskill	M.	CFB Gagetown				
Tpr	Danczak	D.	CFB Gagetown				
Tpr	Davidson	R.	CFB Gagetown				
Tpr	Franklin	J.	CFB Gagetown				
Tpr	Gallo	D.	CFB Gagetown				
Tpr	Guzman	P.	CFB Gagetown				
Tpr	Hayes	J.	CFB Gagetown				
Tpr	Hollywood	J.	CFB Gagetown				
Tpr	Mikolas	B.	CFB Gagetown				

Capt Rich Lund prepares to work with live chemical warfare agents during training in Suffield





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Mess Life





The Mariner Room

Capt Tim McHugh

Unfortunately with the busy training schedule this fall, there were never enough Officers at the Regiment for us to host a proper Business Lunch or our favourite East Coast themed event, the Down Homer. So, instead, we decided to have a strong turnout at any event at the Officer's Mess hosted by the other units. In doing so we essentially made all attendees naturally think it was a Strathcona function with our inherently great personalities. The outgoing officers unveiled a new Regimental table of epic proportions at the Officer's Mess. The officer in charge of the table, **Capt Al Wong**, took all the necessary steps to ensure that it would be the "big people" table, relegating the vertically challenged (**Capt Jeff Daley**) to either talk to everyone through their beer mug or move to the old (and height friendly) table. From both these tables we have continued our domination of the Officer's Mess, ensuring the Brigade maintains a heightened awareness of "Tanker" pride.

Some big changes occurred in the Mariner room this year, with **Maj Eric Angell** taking over as the President of the Mess Committee. We retired our microwave, fondly referred to as Old Sparky, and brought in a new slimmer sexier model that does not require you to heat up your lunch with a fire extinguisher in hand. The biggest news of the year is that we were finally able to let our long serving coffee maker ride into the sunset. It was a day of mixed emotion since it had more time in the Mariner Room than most of our officers have in the Army. I know the subalterns are hoping that with the new coffee machine our ability to make tasty coffee will improve. This should limit the number of "chats" from the Adjutant, **Capt Marshall Douglas**, explaining how we could never hold a job at Starbucks, lest we put them out of business.

*A confused Capt Lewis failing his
Performance Check on the new coffee machine*



So far it has been a very good year for the Mariner Room, with plenty of Mess Dinners and opportunities to wear our mess kit. Starting with the Moreuil Wood Mess Dinner where some of the subalterns learned that freedom is not free, it costs extras. The Brigade Mess Dinner featured **Capt Ty Hewer** giving a speech so quiet that the Brigade Commander mocked him into sitting back down. There was also a Change of Command BBQ at Hotel MacDonald where the food was amazing, according to the ten people that got something to eat. The new Commanding Officer **LCol Paul Peyton** got to know his Officers through a night on the town in October, the main learning point from that excursion was to never get between **Maj Eric Angell** and a late night trip to Denny's. We finished off the year with the Black Hat Mess Dinner which was a huge success, as always, with a hundred people attending and us bidding a fond farewell to two former members, **LCol P.G. Hauenstein** and **LCol J.D. MacLeod**. Feel free to come by and visit any day, the coffee is always on (sometimes) and the company is always (sometimes) good. See you in 2013!



The Sarcee Room

WO Marcel Chenier

Before I begin to regale you of the deeds of this illustrious mess, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to congratulate **RSM Bill Crabb**, **MWO Leigh Taylor** and **MWO Rob Clarke** for their appointments to the Order of Military Merit (MMM). The Order of Military Merit was established to provide a worthy means of recognizing conspicuous merit, exceptional service and performance of duty by members of the Canadian Forces. The Governor-General appoints approximately 100 personnel annually. And to echo the words of the CO during the Strathcona's Christmas parade, "to have three Appointments in the Regiment in the same year is almost unheard of". Well done, you three are an example for us all.

Our reign as the dominate mess came to an abrupt halt this year. How is this possible you ask?? Though the Sr NCO's crushed the Officer's in hockey, broomball and volleyball at this year's sports day (who counts soccer as a sport anyway...). Through Mariner room trickery and a hidden agent the Sarcee Room lost all of the events during the "at Home". The trickery came in the form of the hulking beasts that the Mariner room passed off as their tag team sumo wrestlers and cabbage football teams! Each man (if they could be called that) was well over 6'6" and weighed about as much as **Kathy Batty's** car! Not to be intimidated, we threw our newest Sergeants to the mess at them **Sgts Matt Williams, Ryan Vigar, Karl Stein** and **Jim Gorsalitz**, but to no avail, the Sarcee room was awarded the "Horses Ass" trophy for the first time in a long time. Well played Mariner room, well played.

What's that? Where is this hidden agent I spoke of? Well, the Sarcee room has cause to believe that the Mariner room in an endeavor to better their odds of winning the sports day and the at home, hired an agent to systematically attack random Sr NCO's with the intent to cause injury! We believe that the first attack occurred at the Chateau Louis during the Sarcee room candlelight dinner. Where the attacker, in a case of mistaken identity defiled a wooden Nutcracker statue on the dance floor! A second attack was met with success, as the assassin leaped off of a table at a New Year's function to tackle **WO Cordell Boland** to the ground, causing his knee to swell. At this time we are unable to identify this villain....

To end my rant, I would like to say that with open arms the Sarcee Room welcomed back two of its "prodigal sons" **MWO Bill Irving** and **MWO Todd Hopkin**. As well, fresh from their French course **WO Rob Englehart** and **Sgt Tyler Baldwin**. Not to be left out, it is good to see **WO Laki Christopoulos** and **Sgt Chuck Sanduliak**. But with any great high comes a great low, the Sarcee Room was sad to see **MWO Rob Clarke** and **WO Leighton Hardy** posted out of the Regiment and even sadder still for the retirement of **MWO John Pudar** and **WO Doug Paquette**.





The Green Point Lounge

MCpl Joseph Gushue

The past year has been busy, something the Lounge has become used to in the past few years. We started off the year on a high note by beating the Track Pad during the Christmas sports season. Many new changes were instituted by the committee and the membership which inadvertently raised the morale for all and many spring and summer barbeques were had in the reverse hollow square.

The committee changed completely this past year bringing new blood into forming the leadership. I took over as PMC from **MCpl Matt Williams**, **MCpl Ryan Sebo** as the VPMC from **MCpl Doug Headrick**, **MCpl John Goobie** as Treasurer from **MCpl Mat Painchaud**, **MCpl Phil Sephton** as Entertainment Rep from **MCpl John McDougal** and **MCpl Bryson Murphy** as Secretary from **MCpl John Dugdale**.

Although due to the operation training tempo there was not a golf tournament the members of the Lounge had a great time enjoying our many games of euchre and watching the ever popular Family Feud during the lunch breaks.

This year appears as though it will be a challenging one. Throughout the year there will be many field deployments and we will be seeing a fair amount of new MCpls leaving for CFB Gagetown to complete career courses such as ARCC, ARPC and Tank Commander. Good luck and remember the sky is purple.

The past sports day for silly week wasn't as successful as we would have liked; however, I would like to point out that although we might not have finished first overall we did finish first in the only sport that allows contact!

This coming year will hopefully see a return of the MCpls golf tournament and also a curling bonspiel. We will be planning many more events and charity fundraisers so stay tuned. Despite all the field deployments the Regiment will still be able to enjoy some well deserved garrison fun!

MCpl Joe Gushue proud that the Green Point won this trophy on the bodies of the Track Pad





Track Pad

Cpl Derrick Popoff

Another year has passed for the Track Pad, and although there have been a lot of additions and even some farewells, it maintains most excellent success. Since the departure of our former PMC we have been in a state of limbo and have been fairly quiet when it comes to meetings. The plan for the coming year is to get the committee together, have some more assemblies and hopefully get some additional perks organized to let the members benefit from the numbers we have.

If you can find a seat in one of our luxurious leather bound couches at lunch, be prepared to be treated to a screening of Family Feud! And if you're lucky enough you'll actually be able to hear it over the chatter, chirps, and the always welcome foosball table bangs!

That will lead me into our sports accolades of the past few months. Always a team to be reckoned with, we found the back of the net a few times this year! The sickly Green Point Lounge had to hijack some of our boys for the Christmas Men's Dinner hockey tourney. Even with the added help, we dominated yet again. On the other side of the arena, in the Broomball pit, a valiant effort was put forth with ruckus brawls and even coach participation. It was a little too late though as we were defeated in a cockeyed loss. A successful day all in all, the Track Pad walked with two trophies and some big shoes to fill for next years competitors. Moreuil Wood this year was a squadron versus squadron affair, so unfortunately our bounty was cut short but none of the top teams would have gone very far without the youth and vigour of the Track Pad members.

We had a quiet year but members should be ready to see some more activities, fund raisers, and hopefully some improvements to the Track Pad room itself in the days to come. Cheers to an auspicious 2012 and we look forward to the trials of 2013.





Subbies' Corner

Capt Sam Thompson

The Subbies have done a great job this year of leading the charge. Whether it was smuggling a pitcher of "Four Loco" into the Business Lunch and then serenading several senior citizens until 3 in the morning or spicing up TGIF by taking it upon ourselves to work behind the bar in the name of freedom, we have persevered through many difficult social events. Of particular note was **2Lt "Akmed" Jaradat** who creatively redecorated the bathroom in his brand new apartment upon returning from his very first Subbies event. Having nearly bankrupted ourselves several times, and given recent budget cut backs, we are considering asking Old English Malt Liquor to sponsor us in order to do our part in helping the Forces.

This year the wife of the Senior Sub, **Sarah Connor**, Saviour of the Man race, graciously invited all the Subbies and spouses to a home cooked Thanksgiving dinner. Her only instructions were to bring chairs, bring deserts, and bring "more" booze.....Done! After said glorious Thanksgiving dinner, the Subbies, following years of tradition, carried on with creating an obscene mess for the Senior Sub to clean up the next morning, to include a mountain of dishes, cigar butts, and trails of candle wax on the floors....you're welcome guys.

Night in the trenches.... oh what a night. Please note that Strathcona Subbies owned, no, they conquered this event. Through screaming chants of "Touch My STASH!!!", spinning a finger in the air and emptying bottles of Jagermeister, crashing on the couches of mess, and **Lt Steve Couture** waking up with the Brigade Commander's nametag on his shirt.....we came, we destroyed, we conquered.

In remembrance of our Allied neighbours to the South, the Senior Sub and his wife took it upon themselves again to invite all the Subbies and Spouses to celebrate America Thanksgiving 2012. Graciously enough, knowing that such an event was on the rise, **2Lt Jamie "Hunter/Killer" Brittain** took it upon himself to bring home some "delicious" deer meat. Through the consumption of deep fried turkey and deer roast, America Thanksgiving 2012 was celebrated.

Worth mentioning from this year's Christmas At Home is the Cabbage Football Tournament. Through the use of solid manning organization skills, the Strathcona Officers, for the first time in too many years, dominated the Strathcona NCOs. After suffering from bloodshed and an abundant amount of moose milk, the Subbies carried on with Subbies Carolling the very next night. Throughout the night Subbies were welcomed into homes in exchange for "slurish" Christmas carols and aiding respective homeowners in cleaning out alcoholic beverage cabinets.

With a new year beginning there are still a great many "challenges" to be faced and although we expect many losses we few will Persevere and Represent.





Strathcona Ladies

Mrs. Tiffany Peyton

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. - Helen Keller

What does it mean to be a Strathcona Lady? With our family being posted back to the Regiment this year, I found myself asking that very question many times. It has been such a pleasant surprise to see how active this group has become. The credit is owed to all of the ladies both past and present who have worked and who continue to work in such a tremendous manner to make this group a successful one.

The Strathcona Ladies are unique in who we are and what we do. First and foremost there is the constant provision of love and support for each other. We have been witness to this both in good times and through some of the more difficult periods, as has been the case in recent years with so many of our spouses deployed. This team of ladies really does provide a safe place to gather for a laugh, or a cry. We ask questions and give advice. We table ideas and share random thoughts openly (yes we do!). We have drinks, love to play, and balance it all as we pay it forward with charity work. In the short time I have been here and have had the privilege to be a part of this ladies group, I can truly say I have experienced all of this and more. There is a little something for everyone. We welcomed new faces and reacquainted with familiar ones at our Meet and Greet in September. Then for a little fun, we proceeded downtown and hit a Pub in November. In December we shared in some playtime and mayhem with a Gift and Cookie exchange. Boxing Day saw us at the Hope Mission giving a small bit of our time to serve a few hundred people, and if I can just take a minute to say what an immense effect was felt that day. Nothing makes a group stronger than standing side by side to help others. That theme was carried out once again in January as we joined with 'WeCare' on a Sunday morning to help clothe and feed some of Edmonton's less fortunate. There are no limits to service and I think I speak for all of us when I say, the simple smile you give and receive back mean the most. We have many events planned for the upcoming months and we would love to have you join us. **Kathy Batty** is a great point of reference if you have any questions and deserves special thanks as she has been a pillar to this group.

Everyone, absolutely everyone is welcome here. Hats off to this very special group of ladies, for being you, for being a part of this awesome team, and for the service you provide to your family and community.



*Strathcona Ladies along with some
Strathcona 'Kids' giving back at
Hope Mission*



The Queen's Royal Lancers

Maj Ben Cossens

It has been a busy year for the Queen's Royal Lancers. Having returned from an extended period of training in Canada in late 2011, and conducted the Cambrian Patrol Competition alongside teams from Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), the Regiment commenced a demanding Mission Specific Training schedule in preparation to deploy on operations in Afghanistan in 2012. At the time of writing the Regiment are now fully up and running on Operation HERRICK 17. Regimental Headquarters are well established in Lashkar Gah and Headquarters, B (Brigade Reconnaissance Force) and A (Formation Reconnaissance) Squadrons are working from Camp BASTION. C and D Squadrons are fully bedded in mentoring and advising the Afghan National Security Forces.

It is evident that our training for this deployment has been first class in every respect. From the mock-up Afghan bazaars to the carbon copy HQ complex, we have been very well served by the training organisations in the UK. The training that we received has prepared us physically and conceptually and is key to ensuring that we succeed, and that we succeed as safely as possible.

A Squadron has undergone an uncertain first few months in Theatre, involving a change of location and a new role working under Royal Air Force command. The Squadron is highly regarded across the Brigade and are very much focused on getting on with the job at hand however, and it remains an aspiration to continue conducting deep reconnaissance for the Taskforce.

The Brigade Reconnaissance Force has had a number of notable finds already, which have made genuine inroads in denying the insurgents the means to prosecute their operations. The Squadron has been bolstered by the Reconnaissance Platoon from 1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, and are also augmented with additional personnel such as military policemen, medics, intelligence specialists, electrical and mechanical engineers, specialists in electronic warfare and a fire support team from the Royal Artillery to name but a few.





After an extensive period of training, C Squadron have now arrived in Nad-e-Ali and are split into four Police Advisory Teams. Each of these is responsible for mentoring a number of Afghan Police checkpoints. Squadron Headquarters is providing a District Advisory Team, responsible for mentoring the District Chief of Police and his staff.

D Squadron as the Highway's Kandak Advisory Team are operating in the Nar-e-Seraj area. They are working to 1st Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland and are employed in Helmand as part of the Brigade Advisory Group, charged with advising and developing the Afghan National Army.

The other big news of this year is that as a result of the British Army's restructuring we are to amalgamate with the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's). Whilst this is not due to happen until sometime after October 2014 work has already begun in earnest to prepare the ground. And the key news from the recent announcements is that the Regiment will become Armoured Cavalry – this means that we have the largest possible number of soldiers, the latest vehicles that will come into service and will be in the highly trained and deployable brigades of the future. It is expected that by this time next year a much fuller update will be possible.

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France and Flanders 1915 - 1918

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