



**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- Armstrong Rifled Canons
- Passing On
- CLDO in Afghanistan

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FDU(A) COXN, Mark Simonsen, reported that Construction Engineers were digging around the Armouries in Halifax and came across 4 x 9" ARM-STRONG Rifled Cannon. They weigh 12 tons each and the civies were doing a bit of head scratching about what to do with them. The FDU(A) EOD Section was called in to render the area safe. They found out that one option was just to bury the cannons again so FDU(A) COXN made a few phone



calls and recommended that they be stored over at FDUA and we would put them to good use there. They were to be delivered to the unit on 27 April 2011. They were part of the original 38 cannons on the Citadel and they couldn't just let this part of history become buried again. So next time the CNDA members come visiting we have something new and interesting to show them. Our plan is to buff them up a bit and mount them around the unit.

## Passing On

The CNDA mourns the loss of two fellow divers since the last issue. The CNDA wishes to pass on our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of :

***Glen Frauzel who passed on 28 April 2011***

***Guy Fenn who passed on 18 March 2011***

Five bells passed and received.  
Divers have completed their work!

We are also sad to report the passing of Joey (Stan' Stephanson's widow) at Peace Arch Hospital in White Rock and also Marg (Jim Balmforth's wife) recently. Our deepest sympathy goes to all family and friends. Jack Lewis eloquently stated "I do sometimes wonder where all us **Old Guys** would have ended up had it not been for these strong dedicated women, that stood by us!"

## National Updates by Chuck Rolfe

### 2010 CNDA NATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORT

The CNDA National Treasurer, Chuck Rolfe reports that the National Association's financial resources are presently in an excellent state. As of 31 December 2010, there is a total of \$2298.01 in cash, with a further \$4000.00 invested in a Guaranteed Investment Certificate(GIC)at an annual rate of 3.65% for a period of 5 years, coming due on 2 October 2014,with \$257.67 interest earned to date. The CNDA Directors considered it wise to put a portion of our funds into an investment vehicle, rather than in a minimalist Bank Account which only accrues at less than 1% interest. With prudent purchasing, and sales of goods at our Reunions, we have been able to keep expenses down, and income up, thereby allowing us to direct funds to pay for any events approved by the Directors. It is noteworthy that CNDA National does not subsidize funding for any Meetings, accommodations, meals, etc. for Directors attending functions – they pay for them out of their own pocket! We do support the DIPPERS DIGEST and the navydiver.ca website financially.

### REMEMBERING DOUG HUGHES

Dan Normandin writes that he happily remembers that the late Doug Hughes was my first Diving Chief in the Branch, and later was our Chief on 6 Boat, which was the Attack Team from 1977 to 1979. The Team was composed of Glenn Adams(Tinker Tom or Red Light), Louis Hebert(Bam Bam), Dan Desjardins(Dez), Darrell Hines, Stan Dozell, Gord Lait(our Stoker), Larry Baillie(Ace), Ron Girard(The Hulk), Henry Mark(our Dive O) and myself(Stormin Norm). I considered that period the best days of my diving career, specially having such great guys as Doug, Ron and Larry, who I will always remember as my friends. Doug was more than just a Chief to us, he was more like a very patient Father who looked after us through all our diving years, covering us on numerous occasions, even when we were drafted elsewhere, or to a different Team. I remember him donning his wetsuit, when he was a Chief, to get in the water in order to guide Glenn & myself when we were encountering trouble on a Tug propeller job(the Eggbeater)in Dockyard. I still recall Glenn and I pulling a prank on him by drinking his Tot of Rum one Friday(Winter diving obliged!), and substituting it with something else. Doug simply looked at us after his first sip(he knew it was us who did the dastardly deed!), smiled, and carried on as per normal. He was always letting us know how he loved his wife and children, and how they got along so well. Doug was the most dedicated Military person I have known. I'm sure that he still keeps an eye on us, from his new in-water stop close to the front row up there, hopefully teamed up with Glenn for their Friday Tot. I will miss The Chief forever.

### NEW CNDA MEMBERS

Tom Aldred sent us an Application for Membership form from his home in Mississauga, Ontario, having qualified as a Ships Diver at FDU(A) in the Fall of 1979, at that time he was serving aboard HMCS OTTAWA. Later he was posted to #1 CFSD(Storage Depot)at Downsview, Ontario and, as DCIEM(Defence & Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine)and its' Experimental Diving Unit was just around the corner of the Base, he also participated in some experimental dives there. Tom wanted to contact some of the Clearance Divers he knew at DCIEM(Yves Lessard, Doug Jagger & Paul Arnold), so we let him know where to get in touch with Yves & Doug, but had nothing on a Paul Arnold: Tom also purchased some of our saleable goods he saw on our website, and his new membership card was sent with the CNDA new member package(consists of the latest Issue of DIPPERS DIGEST & 2 older ones, Divers Personnel Datasheet, a request for personal information to write up his story, a welcoming letter and a CNDA History Pamphlet). Tom was a Supply Tech when he was at #1 CFSD from 1979 to 1982(that huge Supply Depot is now rented out as a stage set for movie makers!). When Chuck Rolfe informed

him that he was drafted to VC 920 Naval Reserve Squadron from 1959 to 1961 just around the corner from DCIEM, Tom said he didn't even know that DCIEM & #1 CFSD were there then(they were), he wanted to know if the big 3 section Hyperbaric Chamber was in use back then – it hadn't been built then! He said he is glad to be aboard, loves our website and looks forward to reading future Issues of the DIPPERS DIGEST. His email is [twaldred@hotmail.com](mailto:twaldred@hotmail.com).

Donald Courcy emailed us to say he had just read much of the interesting material put out on our website [navydiver.ca](http://navydiver.ca) and that he forwarded his Ships Diver 3/67 Course Photo for inclusion on it. He qualified at HMCS GRANBY in mid 1967, with P2CD Tom Cowan as his Course Instructor and C2CD4 Vern Melanson as the Diving School Regulating Chief. Don was born in 1948 at Val-Brillant in Quebec's Eastern Townships, joining the RCN at Saint-Jerome on 29 April 1965 for a 5 year term(everyone in the RCN signed on for 5 years back then). He went to HMCS HOCHELAGA for 4 months language training, Parade Square Drill and general Navy Indoctrination, followed by New Entry Training at HMCS CORNWALLIS(in Skeena Division), graduating in December 1965. Two things he remembered from Cornwallis:- no French language here, they yelled at you in English and if you didn't understand the orders, you ended up doing push-ups, or crawling in the mud; you went there as a boy and came out a man! The second thing was going through the Assault Course near the end of basic training: crawling through the mud, climbing high walls, hanging from ropes, crawling in tunnels, swinging over mud ponds and making your way through the gas chamber – without a mask on! I was really proud to have successfully completed it, and could say that I am now a Sailor. Don was drafted to HMCS NADEN to be trained as a Radioman(ABRM), followed by drafts(no such thing as Postings back then)back East to Naval Radio Station(NRS)Newport Corners, HMCS GATINEAU, HMCS GRANBY for Diving Course, HMSubmarines ONONDÁGA, OKANAGAN & OJIBWA, NRS Mill Cove, NRS East Chezzetcook, and then retirement from the Canadian Armed Forces on 26 January 1973. For a total of 8 Yrs & 8 months of an exciting time of my life. On the 6 week Ships Diver Course, there were more than 60 applicants, but only 9 became qualified Divers. 15 to 20 quit due to not being in physical shape, many others quit when attempting to dive with a blacked-out face mask, some on Operation Awkwards, some when getting in tight quarters or underneath the barge, with the final straw for many was being on the night search dive under the ship and also in the limited visibility & darkness of the deep dives on the jackstay out into the harbour. It is to be noted that all applicants were not kicked off the Course by the Instructors, it was always the individual quitting for his own personal reason! We forwarded a CNDA Membership Form & package to Don, and he is now a member of the Ottawa Chapter.

We also hear that Doug Elsey([delsy@dougelsey.eastlink.ca](mailto:delsy@dougelsey.eastlink.ca)) & David Fullerton([djfullerton@cogeco.ca](mailto:djfullerton@cogeco.ca)) have joined the Eastern Chapter in February 2011 and are included on the National Membership List.

Ottawa member, Mike Atkinson in Bath, Ontario writes that he was checking out the website's Kit Locker and requested a CNDA Jacket, a Support Our Troops with hardhat in the loop decal, a Lapel Pin and a CNDA Badge decal. He stated his time as a Navy Diver was the best time of his life, and that he misses seeing a lot of his buddies from that era, but plans on attending the 2012 CNDA Reunion in Halifax, which will be the first time that he gets back to the East Coast since getting out of the Navy.

John Starrett contacted the CNDA National Office to let us know that he qualified as a Ships Diver at FDU(A) on 21 December 1979, with his Instructor being P.O. Baillie. The Commanding Officer at that time was LCDR R. Coren. John was a Naval Communicator(Sparker) and served aboard HMCS OTTAWA, HMCS ASSINIBOIA, HMCS NIPIGON, HMCS SKÉENA and ashore at HMCS SHEARWATER, HMCS STADACONA & HMCS SHELBURNE. He was posted(new name for drafted under the amalgamated Forces)as a P2 to Ottawa(frequency spectrum)in 1987, then accepted into the University Program and

Commissioned as a Communications & Electronics Engineering Officer. John held a couple of Staff jobs in Ottawa, then to Winnipeg and went into the Supplementary Radio System(Leitrim), being responsible for communications and up to CFS ALERT in the High Arctic. He retired from the Service in 1998, worked in private industry for a couple of years on the Y2K Project, then got back into DND as a civilian.

## Western Chapter Update by Moe Coulombe

Calls to & From - Charles Greengrass (Courtenay), Gerd Mantel (Nanoose), Russ Connolly (Dartmouth), Bill Lukeman (St John's), Jim Balmforth (Kelowna), Paul Legallais (Thetis Is), Andy Desrochers (Dartmouth), Al McRae (Fanny Bay)

Email from Mike Bateman-Cooke( CD-2 1962) of Australia wants proper spelling of names from the 1962 CD2 course. He intends to do up a 50th anniversary memorabilia for the next reunion Halifax/Dartmouth Sept 2012. We also need a photo of that course for the website. Allan McRae served Dinner at his home in Fanny Bay for visiting member and friends during Chicago/Vancouver Playoff. He also mentioned meeting an old Salvage EOD course member from USN while travelling in Detroit area.

Dropped in to visit Ed Pahl in Duncan and Ray Smith in Nanaimo while down for a dive in Maple Bay. Ed has quite a collection of memorabilia including a picture of SDL-1 in the wet chamber at EDU Panama City. Ray mentioned that Mona and he travelled to Arizona for the winter. Was still cold there when I passed through in January. Am looking for more copies of Dippers from the sixties for our website. Have 1966, 1967 & 1971. Noted in edition 1/66 that PO's Ivan Cripps and Stan Stephensen consulted with the "Forster Bomb Locator" at Trenton Ontario. Can you imagine letting two Divers near nine 500 LB unexploded Bombs. Take note Tim Flath.

Also note Deep Diving pictures provided by Mike Kettle (CD-2 1962) in same issue. "An American Tourist asks a Newf "Why do Scuba Divers always fall backwards off their boats?" to which the Newf replies ; " Lord Thundering Je---, you must be Stunned as my arse, if they fell forward, they'd still be in the f----- boat."

SEE YOU ON THE BOTTOM!

### President Western Chapter CNDA

Our late buddy, Glen Frauzel was working on his project that recognizes Andre Desrochers for the important work he had done on behalf of all Canadian Naval Divers, serving or retired. You will recall that Andy was one of the 6 Founders of the Canadian Naval Divers Association back in 1982, and has been a Director of same over the intervening period of 29 years, up to the present day. During this time, he was instrumental in progressing the Association from one Eastern Chapter, to the present 3 Chapters, including the Ottawa Chapter(in 1988) and the Western Chapter(in 1990)on a national scale. Andy has been involved with all the executive positions with the Eastern Chapter and, as such, has been actively involved as a National Director with all decisions made at the National Directors level. More importantly though, is the fact that he has been the driving force to ensure all the East Coast Reunions are organized, and operated, for the benefit of all our member Divers. Glen had the foresight to recognize all of Andy's attributes, however before this commemorative plaque could be completed by Glen, he recognized his time was almost up, so he put his project in Wayne "Pussyfoot" Catchpaugh's capable hands for completion, and presentation to Andy at the earliest opportunity. Unfortunately, Glen Frauzel passed away before it was ready. Wayne, and a bunch of the East Coast Divers, completed this important project, and it was officially presented to Andre Desrochers at the recently completed Eastern Chapter Annual General Meeting. On behalf of all CNDA Members, we give our thanks, and recognition of your dedication, and what you have accomplished for all of us, Andre.

Chuck Rolfe, CNDA National Sec/Treas



On Friday, 20 May 2011 Norm Herd, Chuck Rolfe & Hugulette Collins and Jack & Sandy Lewis travelled to Bowmanville ON to attend the interment of Doug & Vi Hughes ashes in the family plot at the local cemetery. There were approximately 80 relatives, friends and Military personnel in attendance to say their final goodbye to two people who touched their lives during their lifetime. The sun came out from behind the clouds just as the Minister spoke to us about all the good things that Doug & Vi were known for. Their son gave us a more intimate view of his parents lifestyle, and how their children benefitted from the directions of Mom & Dad. Their ashes were placed in the family plot, roses were then laid at the gravesite and a final prayer given by the Minister. Also Dougie's oldest son (Doug) let Jack know that he included a miniature bottle of Navy Rum and Diving Helmet in his Fathers grave. We all returned for the reception at the local Legion, where everyone enjoyed Tea, Coffee, sandwiches and sweets before departing for home. I'm sure that everyone in the Diving Branch will hold good memories of Doug & Vi Hughes from the contacts we had with them.  
 Chuck Rolfe.



**L-R Jack Lewis - Norm Herd - Chuck Rolfe**



**L-R Jack Lewis - Bryan Greley ( Dougs Brother-In-Law ) - Norm Herd - Chuck Rolfe**

### Eastern Update by Andre Desrochers

Our AGM was a great success and well attended by close to sixty members and guest on 1 May 2011. The meal was great and the sea stories almost made some of us sea sick.

Bill Luckeman and Jean Lafontaine presented a MK 5 Statue to FDU(A) to commemorate the "Sea Lab" operation in the US where Bill and Mike Lafontaine participated for our Navy.

I was also presented with a "Thank You" plaque and my wife Marie with flowers to thank us for our dedication to CNDA over the years. *(Editors Note: See previous article on pages 4 to 5)*

A report of the meeting is posted on the CNDA web site at:

[http://navydiver.ca/Library/Executive/CNDA%20\\_EASTERN%20\\_CHAPTER\\_May\\_2010.doc](http://navydiver.ca/Library/Executive/CNDA%20_EASTERN%20_CHAPTER_May_2010.doc)

## MUSEUM CDBA

Hello,  
I represent the Hall of Remembrance here in Perth, ON, which is part of Branch 244 of the Royal Canadian Legion. The attached photo is of an exhibit in our collection about which we have no information, but is supposedly from a RCN diver. We are asking for help in identifying this equipment, as we get quite a few queries about it during tours ... Our web site is: [www.hallofremembrance.ca](http://www.hallofremembrance.ca)

Many Thanks,  
Terry O'Hearn  
Assistant Curator

The above missive sparked much dialogue amongst the membership. Following are but two of the responses:



What you have is a CDBA in O2 swim configuration with at least one Canadian Tire Mod. The relief valve in the old set was put on with many wraps of copper wire and then covered with tape to avoid catching the wire not the jubilee clamp. DSSCCD was a bayonet style connection on hoses and had two valves in the counterlung. The set you have there has a newer 8 litre counterlung which made O2 swimming very difficult in wet suit. The 6 litre lung was great. The Brits used a Dunlop style drysuit so buoyancy wasn't an issue with them. George Cox

The first photo below shows Pat Connelly wearing the CDBA rigged for O2 as it was issued in 1965. Note the older style face mask.

After completing 11 weeks training we were allowed to take the face mask off and put a standard two hose regulator 1010 series mouth piece on the breathing hose and wear a regular CABA face mask. I don't believe there was much difference in this set from the war years to 1965. The newer issue came with the face mask you see in the exhibit.

The three divers on the right are Pat, Connelly, Archie Rose and Glen Guest (deceased) killed while working on the Mackay Bridge, excavating the seabed for the footings. The pump was used for charging the CDBA set to 3000 psi, known as the Rocking Cylinder Booster Pump. Location, Bldg 14? the EOD shop, the original Mixed Gas room. Milt Skaalrud



Hey Milt

I think you filled in a couple timeline blanks with that email. It appears that the mask in the pic was from a set as issued between 1965 to about 1985, or until DSSCD came in. The attached picture (Right) was taken one night on an exercise in Nanoose 1979 with that same mask.

The dive was presided over by Albert Wood with Hoppy, Rotten Ronnie, Joe Maillo, Tim Wiesharr, Don Lambert and myself. We shed the mask once the 2's crse ended and went to the scuba mouth piece and strap. My first east posting was the attack team (6 boat) for 2 yrs, I didn't miss the nose clips! LOL Austin Baird



## *Shared Missives*

It is always very interesting to see how things were organized in the past and how they have evolved or changed into what we have at the present. A few years ago General Hillier wanted an Amphibious capability and was seriously looking at " a Big Honkin Ship" to land his troops. SCF (Standing Contingency Force) was stood up and this started us cutting away 8 CDs into an experimental beach clearance team with the Maritime Amphibious Unit (MAU) as part of the SCF. The Army would not supply us or commit to tasking a security team with us as Force Protection so the Admiral said "Fine! I will make my own SEAL Team!" As well as investigating covert Beach Recce, Survey and Clearance, the unit sent 4 Clearance Divers to start a Parachute Program as an insertion method far ahead of the task group for recce purposes. In 6 weeks, 3 weeks in Arnprior just outside Ottawa and 3 weeks in Daytona Beach Florida, the men had completed over 100 Free fall jumps each from 10,000 feet and One hour each in a wind tunnel. One of the Army Pathfinders embedded with the MAU was amazed/ impressed and he stated that it took him over 12 years with the Pathfinders before he got 100 jumps.

We had started diving a new chest mounted rebreather (S24) good for O2 Swims along with a Very Shallow Water (VSW) Capability to 24 metres with 60/40 mix. The MAU was then planning small weapons training/crew fired weapons training along with patrolling, escape and evasion, when funding was cut, in the second year, due to our involvement in Afghanistan being a bigger priority and all resources were needed for that.

The young guys especially were really looking forward to this exciting new part of our trade when everything came to a screeching halt. We are still keeping up some of the Basic Recce Skills by putting guys on a 6 week course in Gagetown with 2 RCR. This could all start up again in the future if the CF wants this capability so you never know what the future holds for the trade yet!

Cheers  
Mark Simonsen  
CPO1  
FDUA Coxswain

Here are some pictures before and after of the mess renovations and the Surface Attack Swim Board. If anyone has some info on how the board was used or deployed on exercises, please let me know and I will mount a tally plate on it with the description etc. A lot of the young divers are interested and are asking questions. Ref picture #2 - you will notice the different colour blue linoleum strips on the floor - that is where the walls of the duty watch cabin were and gives you a better sense of the space we gained. It really opened the place up and we have a lot more square footage to host any of the Retired Diving Brotherhood :-). The weather is getting better week by week so don't be strangers, especially on any Friday starting at noon hour - you guys are always welcome.

Cheers Mark Simonsen  
CPO1  
FDUA Coxn  
902 720-1338



# CLDO Deployment to Afghanistan



Excerpts  
from a  
Christmas  
Letter with  
kind  
permission of  
Commander  
Leanne  
Crowe

January and February were pretty quiet, although there were a lot of personal administration arrangements I had to make prior to deploying. Car storage, Income Tax return, house minding services, and vet visit (for DW not me!), are just a few examples. Additionally, I was consumed by watching the Vancouver Winter Olympics at every opportunity. I was particularly impressed by our athletes, how they performed, and the excitement and national pride they inspired. I am a self-confessed Olympic junkie anyhow, so spending spare time (such as it was) watching myriad events was amazing. The media coverage was awesome! I was streaming video on my two computers, and could simultaneously watch Figure Skating and Hockey, while chatting with friends on Facebook. The lack of cable TV didn't hamper my ability to watch/enjoy, thanks CTV media consortium.

In March, I traveled to Budapest, Hungary for a NATO course in C-IED (Counter – Improvised Explosive Device). This was a Train the Trainer course. As I was going to be responsible for C-IED training and the actual trainers, this course was particularly useful. I arrived in Budapest the day of the Men's Gold Medal Hockey game. Although Olympic internet streaming was not available in Europe, I managed to find the one Sports Bar in Budapest that was showing the game. We won gold, on Sid's golden goal, so it all seems worth it now.

I flew directly from Budapest to Madrid, Spain, for my final NATO course. This was also a C-IED course and was geared towards staff officers. This would be my first time in Spain (hopefully not my last). The course was held at the military staff college, which is an old building in the heart of Madrid. Madrid has beautiful big boulevards with lots of beautiful old buildings, statues, and fountains.

I was only back for a week before I had to leave for Afghanistan, so I had to maximize my time with DeWolf (her Dog), as I was going to leave him for six months. I had two Pre-Deployment parties: one in Dartmouth at the Celtic Corner (another Irish Pub), and one in Toronto at the Madison Avenue Pub. It was the best way to see a lot of friends and not put anyone out in terms of having to host. Thanks to all who made it to either venue, it was quite the send-off.

Entry into Afghanistan for deployment is quite the travel process. First, I flew to Toronto (spent a few days with Mom). I bussed to CFB Trenton and stayed overnight. Then to the air terminal early in the morning (at least 3 hours prior to departure), check your bags and wait, and wait... Then we flew to Baden Baden, Germany (military air base) on an airbus. We spent 2 nights in Germany for "aircrew rest" (no complaints there!) and then flew on the same airbus to the former Camp Mirage in the UAE. We spent one night in Mirage and drew weapons, ammo, armour, etc. in the morning prior to boarding a Hercules for transport into KAF (Kandahar Air Field). We stayed 2 nights in the BATs (Big-Ass Tents), and spent 3 days getting more gear, and conducting more "in-processing" around KAF. Needless to say we spent a lot of time on the boardwalk and drinking Timmies' coffee. Finally I, and an Air Force Chief Warrant Officer were flown on "The Goose" up to Kabul. "The Goose" is small prop plane contracted to shuttle VIPs around Afghanistan (not that I'm a VIP in anything but my own mind). I think the crew was South African? Upon arrival at Kabul International Airport (KAIA) – military side, we were driven to Camp Souter. Camp Souter is where the Canadian National Support Element (NSE) for Kabul is located. There are about 100 uniformed Canadians in and around Kabul, and these folks look after them (in theory). I stayed one night at Souter, and then finally to ISAF HQ.

I spent six months in Afghanistan at ISAF HQ in Kabul as the Chief of C-IED Training in the strategic C-IED branch. I could write pages about what I did there and my experiences, but I will just give some highlights, as this letter is already going to be long enough!

My boss at ISAF HQ was an American Army Colonel named Scott Henry, a really great guy with a lot of experience in C-IED from both Iraq and Afghanistan. He was an Infantry officer and Airborne Ranger and I learned a lot from him (he has subsequently retired from the US Army, as much as one "retires" from the US forces). My Chief of Staff was a British Army Lt Col named Iain Brant. He not only had a handlebar mustache, but he could have been a member of the Monty Python comedy troupe with his outrageously funny sense of humour. He is likewise experienced in C-IED from two theatres. The branch was a real multinational entity. We had officers and senior enlisted (NCOs) from Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, US, and Britain. We even had an FBI agent or two on staff. We were supposed to have a staff of 24. When I arrived we had 5, and grew to 16 by the time I left. We all got along very well (in typical NATO fashion), and I have some great friends now in a variety of countries that I will not hesitate to visit as opportunities arise.

If I thought my training had ended when I got into theatre I was mistaken. I subsequently took two more in-theatre C-IED courses, and a Counter-Insurgency (COIN) course. All training took place in the Kabul area, with the COIN course taking place at Camp Julien. This is the camp that the Canadians built when they first arrived in Afghanistan over a decade ago. Kabul is actually at 5500' elevation, so getting used to altitude was a bit of an adjustment (much more so than the heat). I tried to workout every day, and you could really feel the effects of the altitude when doing cardio work. The bonus is when you get back down to sea-level and can run faster than you ever have before with little effort. Although the HQ is surrounded by huge cement walls and is within the security "Green Zone", you can still see the beautiful mountains (Hindu Kush) from the ground. Despite 30 years of war, Kabul is still a beautiful city (in a bizarre way) and the people are warm and friendly.

As Training Chief I was responsible for ensuring that all Troop Contributing Nations (TCNs)(many non-NATO countries have sent troops too) are conducting/receiving pre-deployment C-IED training to the NATO standard. I was responsible for ensuring that the standards for in-theatre C-IED training for TCNs were maintained and that standards for conducting C-IED training for ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) were created/implemented. I had many other responsibilities, and quite frankly wrote my own job description, as I was the first Training Chief working at the strategic level. I soon discovered that the job you are assigned to might not be what you actually end up doing when you arrive in theatre. Maximum flexibility is required, and a bit of creativity to utilize your individual skill sets.

C-IED 101. C-IED is every effort to reduce and hopefully eliminate the threat of IEDs. At the tactical level that means self-protective measures (body armour, route clearance, SOPs, bomb disposal, etc.). At the operational level that means identifying IED networks and planning operations to eliminate them. At the strategic level that means a government that has a C-IED organization in place that creates C-IED legislation and policy, that has the ability to execute operational and tactical C-IED activities, and can prosecute and therefore maintain rule of law. Any individual or groups of individuals who use IEDs as their weapon of choice are criminals – full stop. Therefore a nation's C-IED capability needs to reside within its government at the strategic level and ultimately its police forces at the tactical level. In Canada for example, it is not the military that deal with terrorists, it is the government (Public Safety - strategic), CSIS (operational), and RCMP (tactical).

I provide this very simplistic overview for context when I explain what I, and the rest of our C-IED team, were trying to do at the strategic level. One example is getting President Karzai to sign a Presidential Decree banning Ammonium Nitrate (AN) fertilizers in Afghanistan. AN fertilizers are used to make IEDs. He signed the decree after six months of work by our team interacting with the government (Ministry of Interior). The good news is that it is the fastest legislature that has ever gone through GIRoA (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan). Additionally, we supplied AN test kits to the Afghan Border Police so they could test fertilizer that was coming in from Pakistan. We also trained the Afghans to safely dispose of the AN fertilizer once found and confiscated. The bad news is that the Ministry of Justice has not matured enough to draft C-IED legislation or to prosecute offenders. Other work at the strategic level involved getting the Ministry of Interior (responsible for public safety and security) to create a C-IED Directorate, assisting the Ministry of Defence with C-IED training for the ANA (Afghan National Army), assisting the Ministry of Interior with C-IED training for the ANP (Afghan National Police), and supporting diplomatic efforts to have Pakistan reduce the amount of Nitrates in the fertilizer they manufacture and export. This is certainly not the sexy work of the EOD Operator who was glorified in the movie *The Hurt Locker*, but in more ways more critical to the success of the transition of GIRoA to effective self-government and rule of law. This type of nation-building work takes a long time. Name me a piece of legislature that gets through our parliament in six months! Progress is being made here, but that's not sexy enough to get reported on TNN.

Halfway through the tour, we are able to leave theatre for 3 weeks of leave. Although some people travel to exotic places during this leave, I decided going back to Canada was the thing to do. First of all it was summertime, and second of all it was the 100th anniversary of our Navy. There would be several centennial events that I wanted the chance to see. I flew back to Toronto, but then went back to Halifax for a few days. The Queen was visiting and she was reviewing our east coast fleet, so I went down to the harbour to check that out. I returned to Toronto and spent a lot of my time watching World Cup soccer. I finally saw a TFC game in Toronto and then went to the pub after to watch more soccer on TV. In Kabul before I left, you could hear the cheers from all the different national NSEs as their teams competed in the preliminary rounds of the World Cup. As Canada's team didn't make it in (don't get me going on that), my fall back team is the Netherlands. There is no particular reason for this; I like the colour orange, they are a good team, and they are not drama queens like some of the South American and Southern European teams. Unfortunately, they lost in the finals to one of the aforementioned teams, but that's how it goes in the "Beautiful Game". I watched the final with some of my good friends in a Toronto pub.

Overall, the deployment was the most rewarding work I have done so far in my career in terms of personal and professional development. I was there wearing the rank of Commander AWSE (Acting While So Employed). This means I was filling a position normally held by a Commander, so I was promoted for the six months I was there, and have subsequently come back down to earth, so to speak as a Lieutenant-Commander. I also never need to buy any more carpets in my life, as I went a little crazy with that. The sad news of the deployment was the loss of Petty Officer 2nd Class Craig Blake who was a Clearance Diver working as an EOD Operator in Kandahar Province. Craig was killed by an IED on his way back to his FOB (Forward Operating Base) after disposing of several IEDs earlier in the day. His team was walking back, and Craig was leading from the front as could only be expected of a Petty Officer, a Clearance Diver, and an exceptional man. I had the honour of being his Commanding Officer at FDU(A). He will be missed, but not forgotten.

I returned to Canada on October 2nd 2010, in a similar roundabout fashion as I had on my way in. We did "Decompression" leave for a few days before heading home. This was at a resort in the UAE, where I received some pampering and just enjoyed the time to unwind. In reality most people, myself included, just want to get home. Once home, I had to go into work for a few days and then could take off on post-deployment leave. Since I wanted to maximize my time with DeWolf, I decided on a road trip to see family and friends, and to get some camping in. Poor DeWolf has a gypsy for an owner. We travelled 8100km, and he hates driving in the car.

A few weeks after getting back to work, and a few days after spending \$170 to have new gold braid in the executive curl style (a centennial initiative) sewn on my uniform tunic (this of course after assuring the tailor that I would not be promoted anytime soon), I received a call from the Career Manager telling me that I would be promoted to Commander in the summer 2011. Oops! This of course also comes with a posting and a geographical move to Ottawa. Yes, I have avoided it for 23 years, but the time has come to work at National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ). I was told, and it has now been confirmed with a posting message, that I will take the position of Director of Diving Safety (D Dive S) and will be responsible for the safety of all CF diving operations in terms of setting policy. This is the top "diving" job, so I am thrilled that I am heading to Ottawa for this purpose. It will also be nice to be back in Ontario. I will definitely miss my east coast friends and will be sad to go as I have spent 14 years of my life in Nova Scotia, and will not likely be back with the exception of vacations.

Excerpts from a Christmas Letter  
Reprinted with kind permission of Commander Leanne Crowe

## OLD CRESTS REVIVED



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Is this what the earlier messages were about? I took some pictures of the Patch on my blue Jacket in response to the previous inquiry's on the subject. Let me know if this is what they were looking for.  
Ken Whitney

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# JUST FOR GIGGLES

## Regarding Military service:

**A Soldier, a Sailor, and an Airman got into an argument about which branch of the service was "The Best."**

**The arguing became so heated the three service men failed to see an oncoming truck as they crossed the street.**

**They were hit by the truck and killed instantly.**

**Soon, the three found themselves at the Pearly gates of Heaven. There, they met Saint Peter and decided that only he could be the ultimate source of truth and honesty. So, the three servicemen asked him, "Saint Peter, which branch of the Canadian Forces is the best?" Saint Peter replied, "I can't answer that. However, I will ask God what He thinks the next time I see Him. Meanwhile, thank you for your service on Earth and welcome to Heaven." Sometime later the three servicemen see Saint Peter and remind him of the question they had asked when first entering Heaven. They asked Saint Peter if he was able to find the answer. Suddenly, a sparkling white dove lands on Saint Peter's shoulder. In the dove's beak is a note glistening with gold dust. Saint Peter opens the note, trumpets blare, gold dust drifts into the air, harps play crescendos and Saint Peter begins to read the note aloud to the three servicemen:**

## MEMORANDUM FROM THE DESK OF THE ALMIGHTY ONE

**TO: All Former Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen**

**SUBJECT: Which Military Service Is the Best**

- 1. All branches of the Canadian Forces are honorable and noble.**
- 2. Each serves Canada well and with distinction.**
- 3. Serving in the Canadian Forces represents a great honor warranting special respect, tribute, and dedication from your fellow man.**
- 4. Always be proud of that.**

**Warm regards,**

**GOD,  
RCN (RETIRED)**



**Microsoft**  
**Founded**  
**HALIFAX, N.S.**  
**1981**  
**President: Norm Herd**

**FOUNDING MEMBERS**

Glenn Adams  
André Desrochers  
Leo Goneau  
Terry Havlik  
Michael Walsh  
**First President: Stanley F. Watts**

The mission of the Canadian Naval Divers Association (CNDA) is to keep Naval Divers, both Serving and Retired, informed and aware of what is happening within CNDA and other matters pertaining to Service Diving in Canada. It is also intended to keep everyone in touch with others of the diving community who may have been friends and diving team members from those tremendous days of service in our past.

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# Editor's 10 Foot Stop

I want to take the time to once again thank all those that have contributed to our digest for this edition. Your contributions are very much appreciated by all. In particular I would like to point out the tireless efforts of Mr. André Desrochers who has been with the CNDA since its inception and deservedly so was recognized for his significant achievements for the association with a presentation during the Eastern Chapter AGM. The Late Glen Frauzel was a driving force behind this recognition and through the kind efforts of Wayne Catchpaugh, his stunning "Presento" was completed in time to be given to him at the meeting. Bravo Zulu André as your tireless work for the association does not go unnoticed by anyone!

Lastly, as you have no doubt noted from the bottom of page one, we have sadly reported the loss of two more exceptional divers since the last issue. The saddest but most important part of my duties as the Association Web Master and Dippers Digest Editor is to report (often second hand) these tragic occurrences to ensure the word goes out so people may pay their final respects and sympathies to family, friends and within the naval diver community.

This edition we also sadly report the recent loss of Jim Balmforth's wife Marg and also the late Stan Stephenson's widow "Joey" as well. Despite the loss of Stan, Joey had maintained strong ties and her membership with the Association and was an ardent follower of the Digest and Association activities. Both these lovely ladies epitomized how the "Trade" has been deeply influenced by those that stand by us through thick and thin: Marg and Joey will be deeply missed...

