



COMMISSIONAIRES

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The Corpsrespondent

~ Newsletter of Hamilton Division - Spring 2008 ~

THE CANADIAN FORCES LIASON COUNCIL MWO Ken Brady, SBStJ, CD



MWO Ken Brady takes aim with an M 72 Rocket Launcher on the weapons SimRange.

In mid-August 2007 I had the good fortune to represent Commissionaires Hamilton on a CFLC ExecuTrek to visit Ontario Reservists participating in *Exercise Maple Defender* held at the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre at Wainwright Alberta. The purpose of this trip was for Employers of Reservists to observe the training that members of Canada's Reserve Force undergo to prepare for Operation Deployment (Afghanistan.)

The visit was quite the eye opener. We started off with a bus tour of CFB Edmonton stopping at the Simulation Range where we were given a brief demonstration of some of the weapons used by members of the military. Then we were all given an opportunity to try our hand with the C7, C9 or M72 on the SimRange. From the Range we went to the Officers' mess for briefings and dinner. On the Saturday we were bussed to Wainwright. There we donned costumes to make us look like Afghani citizens and taken out to one of the training areas which simulated a typical village in Afghanistan. While there we chatted with Reservists dressed as we were and observed a

the approach of a company who cordoned the village and conducted a search. Their intelligence was that a bomb factory was in the village. Once the search was complete our group were 'treated' to rations in the field, IMP's which I for one don't mind so much, they were pretty good. After lunch it was off to KAF (Kandahar Air Field) or a reasonable facsimile, for a tour of the facilities. At supper we ate at the Main Mess Hall, where we were encouraged to sit with a reservist. By chance I found a reservist from Hamilton and one who's older brother is a member of the Hamilton By-Law Detachment of the Commissionaires. After supper it was time to return to Edmonton for a little socializing then an early night to catch the plane home on Sunday. It was a very short, busy weekend indeed.

The Canadian Forces Liaison Council is a group of Canadian business people who volunteer their time and effort to promote the Reserve Force and the value of military training in the civilian workplace. The council encourages civilian employers to grant time off to reservists so they can keep up with their military activities. They recently began to encourage educational institutions to assist students who are asked to undertake military activities

MWO Brady is the Manager of Administration for Commissionaires - Hamilton

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE - Cdr. Bob Williamson CD,

In my final three months as Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Hamilton Division, I appreciate this chance to say a few words. I must first note how grateful I am to have had the opportunity to watch the Corps of Commissionaires continue to grow and prosper both at the local and national level. Being chairman has provided me with the opportunity to take a very active part in that process: a process that has seen the creation of a ground-breaking **Digital fingerprinting business**; a new **national logo**; a **national strategic plan** to stay ahead of the competition; the renewal of our **Right of First Refusal** for federal contracts and an ambitious **business plan** for the Hamilton Division. Most of all I have come to appreciate how difficult it is for a non profit organization to stay ahead of the game in a highly competitive marketplace.

To keep our Division in the best operating form, we have filled two empty seats on the Board of Governors with two volunteers who bring a wealth of corporate talent to our organization. Also the long awaited position of Human Resource / Training Manager has been filled in the business office.

Although my appointment draws to a close, I will long remember the dedicated and talented people who have shared their skills with me to make this a memorable time in my term as Chairman of the Board.

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE - MWO Don Clannon Manager Human Resources

Health & Safety

I think we can all agree that it has been a particularly long and nasty winter. Since the last issue of the newsletter we have experienced over 100 days of lost time due to slips, trips and falls. As a result, your **Joint Health & Safety Committee** has undertaken the task of attempting to find some form of slip resistant footwear accessory that we may use for next season. If anyone has any suggestions please forward them on to me. It would be greatly appreciated.

Ted Cobbett, has decided to step down as a member of our JHSC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ted for his dedication and sage advice during his tenure on the Committee.

I am pleased to advise that Barb Ledwon has volunteered to join our JHSC. The Committee is pleased to have Barb on the team. If anyone else is interested in becoming a member of the JHSC please contact me at HQ.

Training

As you may already know I have taken over the responsibilities for training from Jim Farrauto. I will try to do my best to maintain the high standard that Jim has set. To that end, it would be a great help if those who have or will soon have expired certificates could let their Detachment Commanders know so that I can try and schedule sessions in your region.

CQC Testing

The Commissionaires Qualifying Course is mandatory. There are still a number of employees who have not yet taken the testing. We ask that the Detachment Commanders forward the names of those who have not yet taken the test so that scheduling can be arranged.

OPERATIONS ROUND UP - John Livingstone CD

By the time you read this newsletter you will have received your application package for licensing under the new Private Security and Investigative Services Act. The deadlines of 1 May for new hires and 1 June for existing Commissionaires to be licensed are rapidly approaching. While the idea of \$80 for a license plus the expense of a photograph seems to be upsetting to some of our Commissionaires perhaps we could look at it another way. The Commissionaires have been free of licensing requirements in Ontario since our birth (corporately) in 1925 and have thus saved countless dollars in fees that others have paid. The dawn of a new world outlook after 9/11 and the results of the Ontario government's studies into the security industry showed there was a need for standards to be mandated and applied across the board. We should be pleased that all security companies will now be held to the same high standards that the Commissionaires have always pursued.

On another topic you will have noticed that the Account Managers Tom Lee and Jim Farrauto are now able to spend much more time at worksites due to the hiring of an HR Manager. This will allow us to respond to problems, questions and concerns from the field in a much more efficient and timely manner. I ask all of you to give your support to this plan and remember that we should all endeavour to solve all problems at the most local level possible. This means that all problems should first be addressed through your Detachment Commander. If the Detachment Commander is unable to provide resolution then the Detachment Commander will seek further information or direction from the Account Managers.

Now that we are in the final stages of winter (I hope) please don't let your guard down. It is still possible to encounter windchill, ice and other unpleasant winter weather. Stay alert and get ready for the blast of summer heat and humidity that will be coming soon. Remember that it is every worker's responsibility to work in a safe manner and that includes paying attention to different and changing weather conditions.

Finally, while on the topic of weather and climate here are some simple and easy things we can all do that will save us money, keep us healthier and save the planet:

Change a light

Replacing one regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb will save 70 kilograms of carbon dioxide a year.

Drive less

Walk, bike, carpool or take public transit more often. You'll save one kilogram of carbon dioxide for every two kilometers you don't drive.

Recycle more

You can save 1,000 kilograms of carbon dioxide per year by recycling just half of your household waste.

LAST POST

We are saddened to report the passing of two members of our Commissionaires family.

Retired **WO Brian Mercer**, who for many years was the detachment commander at Hamilton Federal Building, passed away suddenly on February 17 at age 69.

On March 7th, **Commissionaire Robert Stewart**, who had served several years with Hamilton By-law was taken at the age of 63.

Our sincere condolences to the families of these veteran members of Commissionaires - Hamilton.

TAKING THEIR ROUTINE TO A FAR AWAY PLACE - Steve Fortin
Reprinted from *The Maple Leaf*, (30 Jan 08) by kind permission of the author

Their uniform is familiar to anyone who works in a federal building—so is their presence. Commissionaires systematically scan building passes and chat with visitors or those who have forgotten their cards as they issue temporary ones. Whether in a building in Ottawa or Calgary, this repetitive action may seem routine. However, imagine being a commissionaire at the Kandahar Airfield, where over 500 people may pass through in a four-hour period, in a security zone where the least mistake can have catastrophic consequences, and suddenly, the task doesn't seem quite as routine.

Yet that is what is awaiting six commissionaires who have been chosen from among more than 160 people who wanted to meet the challenge. Commissionaires has a workforce of over 18 000 employees and provides such services as fingerprinting, training and the development of customized surveillance measures, in addition to staffing control and access points.

Sending personnel to an operational theatre is a first for Commissionaires. "We agreed to try it out under a partnership with ATCO Frontec said Commissionaires Executive Director, Doug Briscoe. "This Calgary firm provides a whole range of services to the Kandahar Airfield, from refuelling to cafeteria services. When it came to site access control and the management of passes, which is one of our specialties and in which our expertise is recognized, airfield officials called on our services."

That's when the selection process to identify potential candidates for a one-year deployment in an operational environment began. Many commissionaires are either former police officers or CF members, and HR were mainly looking for former service people with experience in deployments to operational theatres, such as Kosovo, Bosnia or the Middle East. The candidates had to be able to get security clearances for both CF and NATO operations, since the contingents taking part in the Afghan mission come from several countries. For this reason, candidates had to have good knowledge of the English language, since this is the language used by NATO for its missions.

In the end, four men and two women were chosen, all former CF members between the ages of 40 and 60 years. Five of them were from Land Forces and one had been in the Navy. The commissionaires had all been deployed, which is a good thing, since the employment contract is for a year's work, interspersed with three rest periods of a month.

Service Awards

The following Commissionaires are receiving service awards as noted:

5 Year Pin: Wayne Beauchamp, Marie Bissonette, Dan Cloutier, Bob Cowper, Ron Ellis, Ron Kauth, Jeff Morneau, Wally Trapler

10 Year Pin: Don Brennan,

15 Year Pin: Roy Martin, Mike Osier, Allen Robertson,

Long Service Medal (to be presented in November) Les Needham, Harold Ottmann, Chris Stopani-Thomson, Les Welgan,

1st Bar to LSM, Eugene Pieprzak

In addition to controlling access to the Kandahar Airfield, the six-member team will manage the passes to the compound, and gather the information needed for the issuance of the passes, to monitoring and classification of files—a colossal task when you consider the number of people who pass through the Kandahar Airfield.

Leaving nothing to chance, Mr. Briscoe, notes that the organization will be ready if more staff are needed, since it is in the process of training other people to back up those already in Afghanistan. An initiative in keeping with the organization's motto: "trusted—every day—everywhere".