

LATEST NEWS FROM 415 FD SQUADRON

Over the past six months the major focus of the Squadron has been the coordination and oversight of the Block 4 Phase 1 implementation, of the Aurora Incremental Modernization Plan (AIMP). The objective of Phase 1 was to confirm that legacy systems work with the new software that was introduced as part of the Block 4 upgrade. This significant and time sensitive task required the efforts of the entire Squadron, the augmentation of an entire crew from 405 Squadron, as well as, maintenance augmentation from across 14 Wing. In addition, coordination with the 14 Wing Operational Support Squadron, the AIMP Project Management Office, various original equipment manufacturers (OEM) and IMP Group was constant. The culmination of this effort occurred just prior to Christmas. All that remains is the completion of the required Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E) reports and requisite permits to allow line crews to start flying Block 4 aircraft. It is expected that 434 OT&E Squadron will complete this paper work by the end of January.



2021 Squadron photo with Block 4 CP140 (M) aircraft 108 – June 2021

As the modernization program moves ahead ever decreasing numbers of Block III aircraft will be available to meet both operational and training needs. As such, it is imperative that Block IV Phase 1 aircraft be made available to ensure critical force generation needs are met. There are currently five Block IV aircraft available at 14 Wing – two for OTE duties and three for force generation flights.

Meanwhile Phase II of the Block 4 program is now underway. There are two major objectives of Phase II. The first is to confirm the deployability of CP140 (M) aircraft. The other is to prove that on board advanced systems are integrated and perform in a manner that meet or exceed program specifications. It is expected that Phase II will be completed by the end of 2022. The third and final phase will evaluate different mission profiles and develop advanced tactics. Once Phase III is complete, the CP140 (M) will reach full operational capability.

In addition to their project related workload, 415 aircrew must also maintain their flying currency and operational standards. Periodic deployments, pilot training and crew training flights, as well as simulator periods have been regularly conducted. On a recent crew operational readiness exercise (COREX), a 415 crew was directed to contact HMCS Harry DeWolf, which was conducting its own readiness exercise in the St Margaret's Bay area. The crew was requested to photograph the new arctic offshore patrol vessel, which was doing workups with two fast patrol boats.



In the near term the Squadron is planning to conduct “Cold Weather” trials on the Block IV. The trial requires a location where the day time high must be at or below -25c for four consecutive days. A deployment to Yellowknife is expected,

where standardized cold weather operating procedures will be conducted. Let's hope that both the propeller seals and the flight engineers hold up well.

It can also be expected that an overseas deployment will occur during the spring to allow various Block IV Phase II objectives to be met.

Aircraft 108 has been and is expected to remain the primary Block IV operational test and evaluation platform. 415 Squadron had wanted to place the Swordfish logo on the tail of this aircraft. While Wing approval was granted, there was no approved template available. Apparently templates were approved during the period 415 Squadron had been stood down (2005-2015). The Squadron has requested that the previous template be re-approved and apparently the paperwork should be soon finalized. Once the logo is affixed to 108, we'll make sure a photo is placed on this website.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick LeBlanc, says that the Squadron is coping well despite the numerous COVID restrictions which impact every aspect of Squadron life. Nonetheless operational objectives are being met and planning for future activities continues. For example he has advised that initial planning for the Squadron's participation at the Annual East Moor Memorial Service is underway. Of course participation will be dependent on higher headquarter approval and the state of COVID restrictions in May 2022.

Congratulations are extended to the Squadron MWO, MWO Jason Patterson, who was recently appointed as a Member of the Order of Military Merit.

It has also been announced that Major Keith Fugger will become the 35th Commanding Officer of 415 Squadron. Once the Change of Command date is set and ceremonial arrangements are made firm, we will post the information on this website.

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