**OVERARCHING RCN MESSAGES**

**(Include personal anecdotes about your own experience in the RCN)**

* The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) is Canada’s naval force, a rapidly deployable and highly flexible team that provides the Government of Canada with maritime defence and security options.
* The RCN is always ready to respond when called upon by the Government – at home and abroad – to missions ranging from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, to monitoring seaborne activity, deterrence, anti-terrorism, and full combat operations.
* The RCN’s vision – “Ready to Help, Ready to Lead, Ready to Fight” – captures who and what we are as naval professionals. It reflects the full spectrum of responses to the inevitable challenges of the future.
	+ “Ready to Help”: working with other government departments, capacity building alongside like-minded nations, Search and Rescue on the high seas, helping Canadians in time of need, providing critical life-saving humanitarian assistance both at home or abroad.
	+ “Ready to Lead”: as an instrument of national power and government policy the RCN is a strategically agile, adaptive and innovative institution able to exercise national and inter­national leadership.
	+ “Ready to Fight”: the RCN’s balanced, multi-purpose, combat-effective naval forces will need to stand ready for combat at sea and from the sea.
* “People First, Mission Always”: The RCN’s nearly 13,000 full- and part-time military members and 3,700 civilians are stationed across Canada and deployed around the world. They are the foundation of our service and among the most professional, highly educated, and highly trained sailors in the world.

**KEY HISTORIC MOMENT – BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC – (1939 to 1945):**

* Eighty years ago the longest continuous battle of World War II began; the Battle of the Atlantic. As we honour our past by looking back to the tremendous efforts of Canadian sailors, in fulfilling their commitment to secure Allied victory, we also salute the RCN’s resolute path forward in remaining committed to the safety, security and defence of Canada at home and abroad.
* The longest, most gruelling and most contested of the Second World War’s campaigns, the Battle of the Atlantic was a “no-fail mission” upon which victory in Europe depended. We prevailed, through the tenacity, grit and sheer determination of our veterans – shipmates of yesteryear; sailors, airmen & merchant mariners too.
* And as is the case for today’s navy, these accomplishments were fueled by an impressive shipbuilding effort that saw 400 merchant ships built in Canadian shipyards at the same time as they churned-out 281 destroyers/corvettes & frigates, 206 minesweepers, 250 tugs and 3,000 landing craft.
* The cost of victory came at a high price: our bell tolls again today for the 24 Canadian warships and 62 Canadian merchant ships lost, as well as the terrifying human cost of 1,990 sailors and Wrens, 1,700 Merchant Navy lives and over 900 RCAF aircrew.
* Today, we recall these facts & recognize the service of our veterans, their families, & the sacrifice of the many shipmates who never returned home. And we also pay tribute to the ladies of the Women’s Royal Canadian Navy Service. Almost 7,000 of these women served their country in a wide variety of crucial roles during the War.
* Now, 80 years after the start of WWII, this generation of heroes is quickly fading. With only a handful of veterans left to speak first-hand of these struggles, we are seeing our final opportunities to honour them and their families, and to enable these esteemed men and women to pass the torch to our youth, the custodians of Canada’s future.
* Our proud naval and maritime history could not be better represented than by our success in the Battle of the Atlantic. For this reason our annual celebration of naval and maritime service takes its name. Today belongs to the volunteer men and women of the Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Merchant Navy, Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service, and the Royal Canadian Air Force who fought for Canada in that campaign and all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.
* Today, we recognize the service of our veterans, and the sacrifice of so many of their shipmates who never returned home. On the 75th anniversary of the sinking of HMCS Athabaskan we remember the captain and 127 men who died, the 85 who were captured and the other 48 who were either rescued by HMCS *Haida*, or who made it to England in a small craft.
* The fallen members of HMCS Athabaskan are a fraction of the more than 4,500 Canadians who lost their lives in the Battle of the Atlantic, in hard-fought victories at sea, or on treacherous convoy duty. That battle ended with World War II, 74 years ago, but it remains vivid in the minds of the sailors who once guarded convoys against attack from enemy U-boats.
* Many of those who died have no gravesite — their bodies were lost to the Atlantic. Their names are now commemorated on the Sailors’ Memorial in Point Pleasant Park in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
* Numerous warships were lost to weather and accidents while operating in some of the stormiest open ocean waters in the world.
* Those sailors gave the same ultimate sacrifice as those killed by the enemy. The hardships caused by the environment, by the sea itself in the cold North Atlantic, could be as deadly as the enemy below in their U-boats.
* The RCN played a significant part in a hard-won victory escorting hundreds of convoys that departed Halifax and Sydney, Nova Scotia for the treacherous journey across the Atlantic.
* Without these convoys to keep the badly needed key shipping routes between Europe and North America open, the war surely would have been lost. As British Prime Minister Winston Churchill wrote, reflecting on the war in his memoirs: “The only thing that ever really frightened me during the war was the U-boat peril.”
* Canada would eventually have one of the largest fleets in the world (373 fighting ships and 90,000 members), which helped turn the tide of the war.

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY TODAY:**

(Various points for use if necessary. Please update for timeliness or relevance to the region.)

* The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) works with allies and trusted international partners to develop relationships, friendships and ultimately, trust. NATO is one of Canada’s longest-standing and most enduring alliances.
* In practice, the RCN has become Canada’s “force of first resort” in response to world crises. After Battle of the Atlantic success, in the Korean War, in the Suez crisis, in the Cuban missile crisis, in the First Gulf War, following 9/11, in the humanitarian relief effort following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, in response to the devastating 2010 Earthquake in Haiti, the RCN has been deployed into harm’s way as a vanguard Canadian military response
* Today, our sailors continue to proudly represent Canadians at home and on the world stage, hard at work alongside allies and partners around the globe combatting crisis – be it man-made or naturally-occurring.
* Recent deployments in the Asia-Pacific have also served to enhance relationships and interoperability with nations including Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Vietnam.
* Operation CARIBBE – Canada’s participation in the multinational campaign against narcotics trafficking in the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Pacific Ocean. 2019 is the 13th consecutive year of Op CARIBBE.
* The Royal Canadian Navy supports Op CARRIBE as a means of combatting illicit trafficking by providing naval assets to detect and monitor suspect activities on the water in the Caribbean and off the Pacific coast of Central America. The RCN is contributing to the interruption of major funding sources for organized crime and terrorist networks.
	+ Currently HMCS *Yellowknife* and *Whitehorse*, along with one CP-140 Aurora are conducting patrols in support of the Operation.
	+ HMCS *Moncton*, *Nanaimo* and *Edmonton* were deployed on Op CARRIBE in late 2018. They conducted patrols until December 2018. *Moncton* operated in the Caribbean Sea and *Nanaimo* and *Edmonton* were patrolling in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.
	+ Last year, 17 tonnes of cocaine disrupted or intercepted. In November 2018, *Edmonton* and USCG successfully interdicted approximately 750 kg of narcotics from a suspected smuggling vessel in the Eastern Pacific.
	+ Over the past thirteen years, the CAF has contributed to the disruption or seizure of approximately 102.7 metric tonnes of cocaine and over 6.7 tonnes of marijuana.
* Operation REASSURANCE Maritime Task Force – Canada’s support to NATO deterrence and assurance measures in Central and Eastern Europe.
* Since 2014, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) has deployed a Maritime Task Force of one frigate on Operation REASSURANCE. The deployment of a frigate provides Canada with the flexibility to execute a range of missions across a broad spectrum of operations in support of the international effort in the region, including surveillance and monitoring, regional defence and diplomatic engagement, and capacity building.
* In July 2018, HMCS *Ville de Québec* departed its homeport of Halifax, N.S. for Operation REASSURANCE. It joined Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2) on its way to the Mediterranean Sea. SNMG2 is a naval force made up of ships from various allied countries that work together for a common purpose.
* This is the first time that HMCS *Ville de Québec* has deployed on Operation REASSURANCE and was the first operational deployment for the CH-148 Cyclone helicopter– an important milestone for both the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Canadian Navy.
* The deployment of HMCS *Ville de Quebec* demonstrates Canada’s continued leadership on the world stage by continuing to make meaningful and enduring contributions to NATO counter-terrorism patrols and related activities with allies throughout the region.
* Operation PROJECTION: During Operation PROJECTION, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) conducts training, and at-sea and ashore engagements with foreign navies and other international security partners to enhance mutual understanding and interoperability. The CAF also supports NATO Maritime Command, U.S. Naval Forces, and other allied operations.
* The deployment of sailors, ships, submarines, and maritime patrol aircraft makes the world more secure and stable. It shows how the Royal Canadian Navy is ready to defend Canada’s interests around the world.
* The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) has a long history of deploying around the world in peacetime and during conflicts. In line with “Strong, Secure, Engaged,” Canada’s Defence Policy, the RCN works both independently and in support of allied or partner missions. While deployed on Operation PROJECTION, they help promote regional security and stability. Having a broad range of perspectives, ethnicities, and languages within our ranks offers our members greater cultural sensitivity and intelligence. In turn, these attributes helps us to better understand our complex world and apply that understanding to how we respond to its challenges.
	+ Op PROJECTION West-Africa 2019 –HMCS *Kingston* and *Shawinigan* arrived in the Gulf of Guinea region of West Africa in late February.
		- HMCS *Kingston* and *Shawinigan*, a detachment of personnel from the Naval Tactical Operations Group (NTOG), and a Maritime Operations Center (MOC) mentorship team participated in OBANGAME EXPRESS 2019 (OE19) from 9 to 22 March, 2019. Led by U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF), OE19 was designed to improve cooperation among participating nations in order to increase maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea. The NTOG worked with regional partners to build partner capacity for maritime interdiction operations.
		- As well, from 31 March to 4 April, 2019, the ships participated in PHOENIX EXPRESS (PE19), along with an MOC mentorship team. The engagement is designed to improve regional cooperation, increase maritime domain awareness, information-sharing practices, and operational capabilities in order to enhance efforts to promote safety and security in the Mediterranean Sea.
	+ Op PROJECTION Euro-Atlantic 2018 – From February to June, HMCS *Windsor* deployed to the Euro-Atlantic region. From March 5 to 16, the submarine participated in in NATO Maritime Command’s Exercise Dynamic Manta 2018.
		- HMCS *Windsor* periodically supported NATO’s Operation SEA GUARDIAN between late February and early June 2018.
	+ Op PROJECTION Indo-Asia-Pacific (IAP) 2018 – Operation PROJECTION shows Canada’s ongoing commitment to global peace.
		- HMCS *Calgary* deployed to the IAP region from July to December 2018. The ship conducted naval presence operations in the region, and supported international naval exercises with partners. *Calgary* made eight port visits in five different countries, including: Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United States and Vietnam.
		- From April to June 2018, HMCS *Vancouver* deployed to the Asia-Pacific region. *Vancouver* took part in the U.S.-led Pacific Partnership 2018, and annual exercise focused on training participating nations in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in the region.
		- *Vancouver* visited Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from May 3 to 9. During the port visit, Canadian sailors interacted with civilians and local counterparts to promote cooperation and friendship. They participated in outreach activities such as ship tours, school visits, charity event, friendly sports competition, and wreath laying at Sai Wan War Memorial.
		- *Vancouver* visited Singapore from May 16 to 23. The ship hosted members of the Singapore military and other stakeholders, and participated in community outreach and charitable activities.
		- On June 12, HMCS *Vancouver* arrived in Suva, Fiji. This was its last port visit for its deployment. The ship was met by members of the Royal Canadian Navy’s Naval Security Team. The port visit included a work party of 60 volunteers from the ship’s company visiting Homes of Hope to help out with maintenance, landscaping, and painting.
	+ HMCS *Chicoutimi*: In 2018 Her Majesty’s Canadian Submarine *Chicoutimi* conducted a record-breaking near-200-day deployment to the Asia-Pacific region.
		- It was the first time a Victoria-class submarine deployed to the region, was deployed for so long, and made port visits to Japan and Guam.
		- During its deployment, *Chicoutimi* participated in ANNUALEX with the U.S. Navy (USN) and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF).
		- *Chicoutimi* went through a large-scale deployed maintenance activity conducted by personnel from Maritime Forces Pacific and Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Breton while in foreign ports – another first for a Victoria-class submarine.
		- Over the course of several months, *Chicoutimi* conducted intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; carried out seven interactions with the USN, JMSDF, the French Navy, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Australian Air Force; operated with more than 20 surface ships and 50 aircraft; and conducted more than 180 hours of submarine-on-submarine engagements.
		- *Chicoutimi* left its home-port of Esquimalt, B.C., in early September 2017, and returned in late March 2018.

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY TOMORROW:**

* The Royal Canadian Navy of tomorrow stands on the shoulders of those brave men and women who served before us.
* Three new classes of ships are in varying stages of planning, design and production – as we look ahead to the largest-ever modernization in the RCN’s peacetime history:
* Harry DeWolf Class Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ships: the first two ships are now under construction in Halifax. The class is named after Vice-Admiral Harry DeWolf, a consummate leader, and a decorated Second World War Commander of both HMCS *St. Laurent* and our Navy’s Flagship HMCS *Haida*. While in command, HMCS *Haida* was known as “The Finest Ship in the Royal Canadian Navy,” and was responsible for sinking 14 enemy ships.
* Protecteur-Class Joint Support Ships: Construction started on 15 June 2018 and will result in the first JSS, the future HMCS *Protecteur*, being delivered in 2022/23, and the second, the future HMCS *Preserver*, in 2023/24. Replenishment at sea is essential to independent, international maritime security operations.
* Canadian Surface Combatant: In February 2019 the Government of Canada announced the project design and design team for the Canadian Surface Combatant Project. The Canadian Surface Combatant project is the largest, most complex, procurement ever undertaken by the Government of Canada. The selection of the design and design team was the result of a thorough and extensive evaluation and selection process. Construction is anticipated to begin in the early 2020s with the first ship delivered in the mid-2020s.
	+ - CSC will be Canada’s major surface component of maritime combat power. With effective warfare capability and versatility, CSC will be capable of rapidly deploying either independently or as part of a Canadian or international coalition. CSC will be able to deploy for many months with a limited logistic footprint.
		- The Canadian Surface Combatant is a core component of a revitalized Canadian Armed Forces that will be strong at home, secure in North America and engaged in the world.  These future warships will safeguard Canadians, and Canada’s sovereignty by delivering the tools the RCN requires to accomplish the range of missions and tasks assigned to us by the Government of Canada.
		- The CSC project is one of the biggest procurement projects in Canada’s history that will create more jobs and support innovative research. When these ships are delivered, Canada will have an even stronger naval fleet that will be combat-effective across all naval warfare disciplines, able to contribute meaningfully to joint action ashore, highly interoperable with our allies and defence partners.

**The Royal Canadian Air Force**

* The Royal Air Force’s Coastal Command, which included seven Royal Canadian Air Force squadrons, fought against the enemy’s U-Boats, merchant ships and warships. Coastal Command aircraft escorted convoys sailing from North America to Britain, and searched the seas from Iceland to Gibraltar. Coastal Command crews destroyed more than one-quarter of all German U-Boats “killed” during the war: 212 out of 800.

* RCAF squadrons in Coastal Command and in Canada accounted for 19 U-Boats, while RCAF crews serving in Royal Air Force squadrons involved in many more “kills” in the North Atlantic.

* This year marks the 75th anniversary of the mission for which Flight Lieutenant David Hornell was awarded the Victoria Cross. Flight Lieutenant Hornell flew with the Royal Air Force’s Coastal Command, stalking German U-Boats during the Battle of the Atlantic as the aircraft captain of a PBY-5A Canso amphibious aircraft. On June 24, 1944, he was on a patrol out of Iceland, when he sank a U-boat while taking heavy anti-aircraft fire. His Canso crash-landed into the rough and icy sea.  By the time the crew was rescued, two had died and Hornell was blind and completely exhausted; he died shortly afterwards.