



RCSU-CENTRAL MESSENGER

Christmas/Holiday

2020

Issue 8



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COMMAND TEAM CORNER

LCol Barry Leonard and CWO Gilles Godbout

Friends and colleagues,

As we approach the end of a remarkably unique year and begin a well-deserved Christmas and holiday break, it is worth remembering that through the many unprecedented challenges of 2020 you have created enormous opportunities enabling our people, our program and our cadets to continue to advance and to develop in unimaginable ways. Your efforts, in turn, create the strong citizens and leaders of tomorrow that we need.

Since March, the CJCR has drawn on the skills, creative talents and pure passion of staff, cadets, local leaders, parents and volunteers to offer virtual training – permitting the continuation of the cadet program within a COVID-19 environment. You have worked tirelessly together to develop and deliver creative parade nights and activities, virtual cadet training centres, and a fall and winter schedule to include the Cadet Activity Program (CAP), taking place over March Break in areas where conditions permit.

As we embark on a new year, I ask for your continued commitment, your patience, your

flexibility and your creativity in developing and delivering fun, challenging, and meaningful activities.

With the health and safety of our cadets, staff, and other stakeholders as our top priority, we will adjust our plans, as needed, to align with direction and guidance from all levels of government.

Your leadership and commitment to the Cadet Program in 2020 has been outstanding. Please take the time needed to rest and recharge over the Christmas and holiday period. Connect with family and friends, safely, and reach out to others who may have a difficult time this season. Whether virtual or in person, we are one family and one team.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year – and here's to a successful and rewarding 2021!

Stay connected, stay focused and stay safe.



Flexible CAP Planning Moving Forward Rapidly

With cadets, parents, staff and others saving the dates (15-19 March) for the first serial of the Cadet Activity Program (CAP), we are making solid progress in the planning process to ensure we are prepared to deliver on our main effort – providing a “fun experience” – through meaningful and challenging activities in those communities where conditions permit.

The operations order, which was distributed 11 Dec and is a must-read for all staff involved, provides details to achieve the CAP mission, which is to “support attraction and retention of cadets, and gather lessons learned in advance of summer training”.

“Max flex will be key to delivering fun, challenging and meaningful activities, and adapting to COVID safety precautions/PHM” as the COVID-19 environment will determine the extent of the CAP in various communities. We must be prepared to achieve our mission in March, while realizing that our planning now will be beneficial for both spring and summer serials of the CAP.

CAP consists of activities during the day without an overnight component, which will be conducted within local area COVID-19 guidelines. Participating cadets will be dropped off and picked up by parents at locations that will be within a one-hour drive. Registration is through FORTRESS and in “each round of selections, first- and second-year cadets will be loaded first”, followed by other applicants until the corps or squadron quota is reached (see operations order for specific details, including those for remote, single-unit locations).

The “intent is to have as many cadets selected as possible before the year-end holiday break” and “cadets are encouraged to apply early and cc/sqns to process nominations quickly”. Further details regarding the employment of staff cadets, the decision process regarding “whether to proceed in any given location”, dress, daily timings and other coordinating instructions are also included in the order and its annexes.

Please encourage all to save the dates (15-19 March) and register for CAP in FORTRESS.

Two CCW serials scheduled for early 2021

Central Region (CR) is set to offer two serials of the Cadet Correspondent Workshop (CCW), in conjunction with Eastern Region (ER). This is an opportunity that will attract cadets interested in telling the stories of cadets – and cadet activities in their communities – through researching, writing and capturing imagery (photos/video) to share the fun, benefits and challenges of the program with other cadets, families and friends, and Canadians across the region and beyond.

The two CCW serials are now established in FORTRESS, allowing interested cadets to be nominated, and – like CAP – we encourage registration ASAP. CR cadets who wish to participate in French will do so with ER serials, while ER cadets who wish to participate in English will be loaded on our serials. The two serials for both regions will be conducted through short modules over five weekends, as follows:

Serial 1	23, 30 January and 6, 13, 20 February
Serial 2	13, 20, 27 March and 3, 10 April

THANK YOU AND SEASON'S GREETINGS!



A special thank-you to all RCSU-Central staff for your outstanding efforts and results in 2020. We are a team and everything we achieve is as a result of team effort. The operations and planning team (J35), which is often the headquarters "backbone" – working behind the scenes to put together detailed plans for CAP, and our other nationally and regionally directed activities – is especially grateful for your support as we navigate these challenging times.



*Are you a cadet alumni or alumnae? How has cadets shaped you into the person you are today? Let us know for your chance to be our next **#CadetAlumni** story.*

*Send us a direct message to our page or email Anthony.Vukojevic@cadets.gc.ca and share your story with us of how you continue to be **#CadetProud!***



Ontario Cadets



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