

# THE ADMIRAL'S VIEW

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## Your Navy at Work

Just over one month ago on September 2, HMCS CHARLOTTETOWN returned home to an enormous outpouring of support from families, friends and the Halifax community. Her return marked the end of her six-month deployment to the uncertain and chaotic conditions of the Mediterranean off the coast of Libya, where her replacement, HMCS VANCOUVER, remains deployed today. Their presence in the Mediterranean has provided the government with options in support of Canadians and Canadian interests in other areas of the Middle East and North Africa, in the event that the impacts from the Arab Spring spread further afield.

They join a long list of HMC Ships that have been selected by the Canadian governments of their day to represent Canadian interests abroad during times of uncertainty and strife. They are also part of the broad spectrum of missions and deployments that your Navy has both prepared for and engaged in during this past year, as we supported the government's intentions and direction.

In order to provide the right type and mix of naval forces and ensure they are available, organized and ready, your Navy is constantly at work behind the scenes. We are engaged with our Maritime Security partners, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, focused on our domestic maritime waters and approaches. We are also working in partnership with our Allies, sharing a common understanding of Maritime operations around the world, especially those that could affect Canada or our interests.

As a result, your Navy has been very busy over the past year with deployments North to the Canadian Arctic, South to the Panama Canal and from our Pacific Fleet, West to the Asia-Pacific. In each of these instances we have been working alongside our Allies, forming operational and personal relationships that serve to support international security and increase our ability to operate in coalitions.

In the Arctic, we have been returning to the North each year since 2006 to increase our knowledge and abilities of operating off the ice pack. We have done so by working with other partners such as the Coast Guards of Canada and the US, the navies of the US, Denmark and Norway, and the native communities of the Arctic Circle in Canada and Greenland. This year our



exercise was cut short when the real-world tragic airplane crash overtook our planned activities for the area. This tragedy served to remind us of the daily difficulties that Canadians face, who work and live in the unforgiving Arctic environment.

In the South, off Panama and in the Caribbean, we have worked with our US Navy and Coast Guard counterparts to build trust and capacity in some of the poorer nations of the region. In addition, we have practiced combined responses to potential disruptions in the flow of goods through the region, especially through the Panama Canal, which would have a swift and real impact on Canadian prosperity.

We have also instituted innovative approaches to working with our US partners in combating the flow of drugs in the Caribbean region, by embarking US Law Enforcement detachments on Canadian ships and vessels. This type of international, inter-agency co-operation is rarely seen and is a testament to our close relationship with the US, as we work together in providing a seamless approach to the maritime security of North America.

Closer to home and as many of you will recall, Army, Navy and Air Force units in Atlantic Canada provided assistance to the government and people of Newfoundland in response to the aftermath of Hurricane Igor. Finally, the NS defence team joined with the many other Nova Scotian volunteers, to provide support to the hosting of an exceptional Canada Winter Games.

As you can appreciate it has been a busy year for our service personnel and the defence team, families and communities that support them in sustaining our success in operations. No matter what the challenge, we have risen together to meet each occasion and I am confident that we will continue to do so.