

408 TACTICAL HELICOPTER SQUADRON

"Honker Happenings" wants submissions from you!
A short piece or photo on any aspect of squadron life could be published in these pages.



For submissions:
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Upcoming Events

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 30 Apr-4 May | No-leave-period, IBTS |
| 13-14 May | 450 THS Integration at 408 |
| 15-22 May | Ex MAPLE RESOLVE |
| 26 May-8 Jun | TMST Mali |
| 11-15 Jun | DAG |
| 16 June | Family Day |
| 28 June | Reunion Dinner |
| 1 July | Canada Day Long Weekend |
| 2 July | Short Day |

Birthdays

| | | | | |
|------|---------------|------------------|----|-----|
| Capt | Matthew | Warnica | 1 | May |
| Capt | Lindsay | Fillmore | 1 | May |
| Cpl | Jeffery | Clarke | 3 | May |
| Cpl | Annabelle | Villeneuve | 5 | May |
| Capt | Carolyn | Hincke | 5 | May |
| Capt | Braydon | Janzen | 5 | May |
| MCpl | Laura | Caraiman | 6 | May |
| MCpl | Gregory | Simms | 7 | May |
| MWO | Grant | Lucas | 9 | May |
| Capt | Alec | Comeau | 9 | May |
| Cpl | Lindsay | Wallace | 10 | May |
| MWO | Stephane | Paquette | 14 | May |
| MCpl | Jackie | MacDonald | 14 | May |
| Cpl | Troy | Nason | 14 | May |
| Capt | Sterling | Vernon-Jarvis | 15 | May |
| Cpl | Joey Jean | Dumouchel-Jasmin | 19 | May |
| WO | Donald | Graham | 21 | May |
| MCpl | Kristopher | Steliga | 24 | May |
| Cpl | Taylor | Cote | 25 | May |
| Cpl | Priscilla Joy | Franklin-Lamping | 26 | May |
| Avr | Shane | Klassen | 27 | May |



Honker Happenings

77th Anniversary • 408 Squadron

May 2018

Geese Migrating to Africa



By HONKER STAFF

The Canadian government is looking to send CH146 Griffons and CH147F Chinooks to Gao, Mali, to provide MEDEVAC coverage to the UN forces stabilizing the north and east of the African country. Knowing that the job needs to be done and done well, the Wing has turned to 408 Squadron to mount and lead the first rotation (Roto 0) into the war-torn country for the first UN mission for tactical aviation in nearly two decades.

TF-MALI will consist of approximately 250 personnel, with 65 pers tagged as primaries from 408 Squadron, along with the CH147F contingent from 450 Squadron in Petawawa, and various augmentees from across the CAF to fill key roles.

"It's time to get the band back together!" remarked the Commanding Officer of 408 Squadron, LCol Chris "Morty" Morrison, referring to the success in the Aviation Battalion which flew together in Kandahar, Afghanistan from 2009-2011. While there are some parallels between the deployments, the deployment to Mali will be different.

"Make no mistake, I've done five international deployments, and this deployment, in my opinion, will be the hardest one we will have to date" LCol Morrison stated at the briefing to the unit on 23 April. "The theatre is hot and dusty, the base is small but comfortable. What will make this deployment a success is the fact that we have an outstanding team ready to work together to make a difference."

The Squadron had initially been looking forward to a well-deserved respite period with the upcoming completion of our time supporting OP IMPACT in Erbil, Iraq, having had a focus on defeating Daesh since the fall of 2016. Many members expected to deploy on TF-Mali will have already completed a tour on OP IMPACT. Members of the final rotation, Roto 5, are expected back in Edmonton by the end of May. Their handover with 430 Squadron has been delayed due to further visa issues with the incoming personnel.

The deployment is expected to begin in early July, leaving two months for the squadron to prepare. Preparations include packing up all the required kit and equipment to be sent forward so that the detachment will be able to live and work in the conditions of Gao.

The biggest piece for all squadron personnel is the need for pre-deployment training. Aircrew will begin flying in formation with the CH147F in Cold Lake from 4-10 May. Those slated to deploy to Mali will then participate in Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, starting on Sunday, 13 May at the unit, and then moving forward to Wainwright to practice the MEDEVAC roles. The end of May and beginning of June will consist of Theatre Mission Specific Training (TMST) at Edmonton, followed by Family Day on 16 June, and finally pre-deployment leave until July.

Tour lengths are expected to be 6 months, with all members having Home Leave Travel Assistance (HLTA). Time away and the HLTA blocks will not be known for several weeks. Generally, HLTA cannot be taken within the first 6 weeks of the operation nor the last 4 weeks.

SharePoint Top Tip

It's everything you need on the intranet

<http://collaboration-airforce.forces.mil.ca/sites/lwing/408/default.aspx>

THIS MONTH: CHECKING OUT FILES

By WO Graham, Sqn IMO

Did you ever notice the question "Would you like to Check this Document Out?" If you see a document with the little image above it means somebody has checked the document out... maybe you even.

When viewing documents that do not require you to edit them please ensure you DO NOT check them out. The implications can be that others cannot even see the document you have checked out anymore.

First let's understand some of the reasons why documents are in a Checked Out status.

The obvious:

- A user might really be working on the document. Don't underestimate this.
- A user doesn't understand how SharePoint works. Offer frequent SharePoint trainings on various topics.
- A user may have left the project, the department, or even the organization.

Not so obvious:

The document 'check out' feature can cause documents to be 'checked out' without the user realizing it. Here's how:

After clicking the 'Browse' button to upload a document, the user finds a document and clicks "OK". They are then presented with a form to fill out various metadata fields about the document. Even before completing the form, the document has actually been uploaded to the system. (This is transparent to the user at this point.) If the document library has the document check out/in requirement set and the user, for whatever reason, doesn't complete the form and simply closes the web browser (perhaps they don't have enough information to complete all the fields), the document will remain in the system in a 'checked out' status. The user won't really know because the web browser has been closed.

For the obvious reasons, you will see that a document is checked out, and a user with Full Control, you can override and 'check in' the document directly if need be.



RCAF Birthday Mess Dinner

408 THS shows its support for the families of the Humboldt Broncos who were affected by the tragic bus crash by donning jerseys over their uniforms at the annual Flight Suit Formal. The Flight Suit Formal represents a great way to remember 408 THS' long history when aircrew wore shirts and ties under their uniforms as they defended freedom in the skies above Britain during the Second World War. This mess dinner is also a fun way to remember our hard work over past months and connect socially with squadron mates within the hangar.



Air Reserve Flight News

Reservists: Backfill Positions Coming Soon!

How would you like up to an extra 180 days of Class B this year? With the upcoming deployment of 408 THS personnel, there will be many "Operational backfill" (Op BF) positions opening up. What is an Op BF position? Glad you asked. When a Regular Force, or full-time Reservist, gets deployed it often opens that position to be backfilled by a Reservist. This Class B position is funded by Ottawa – not us – and does not count toward your maximum 180 days per fiscal year limit. So, a Reservist could fill one of these positions as well as do several months of Class B within the same fiscal year. The 408 THS Op BF positions will go to competition via the Reserve Employment Opportunity (REO) process. This will happen soon after we receive the filled CFTPO for the position and funding permission from Ottawa. The REO runs for 30 days; the selection board is held; and, the position would then be offered - commencing approximately 30-45 days after the closing of the REO. If this is something you think that you may be interested in, please see Maj Dietzmann or MCpl Knapton.



SCWO's Corner - Accelerated Promotion

There is a great program in the Canadian Armed Forces to formally recognize the efforts of our most junior members by accelerating their rank progression. This program provides motivation for either Lieutenants or Privates / Aviators to wholeheartedly complete their initial occupation or trades training, become involved in squadron activities outside their occupational boundaries, work with unit funds and messes, and demonstrate a high level of military ethos. For those high performing members the financial reward can be



substantial, considering that the accelerated rank and corresponding pay may be awarded up to twelve months in advance. Supervisors at all levels are aware of this program and should always be looking out for those de-

serving junior members who consistently work toward their occupational goals and exhibit the best ideals in our Profession of Arms. Supervisors can refer to 1 Wing Standing Order 5640-3 and CFAO 49-4 for more information. The Squadron Chief is the unit OPI for the NCMs while the Deputy Commanding Officer takes care of the Officers. Remember: People First; Mission Always. We have a lot of amazing junior people who deserve your administrative recognition.

Freedom High-Flyer Winner

Throughout Ex STRIKING VIKING Cpl Dumouchel-Jasmin displayed the teamwork, positive attitude, and desire to increase his tactical acumen which influenced a positive atmosphere under high-paced deployed conditions. His approach to debriefing snags and anticipating aircraft servicing needs with the deployed Desk Controllers reinforced the team atmosphere. He openly demonstrated accountability and took steps to prevent further incidents when ammunition was found insecure on the ramp. During the return trip and Ex SPARTAN HOPALONG, Cpl Dumouchel-Jasmin eagerly carried out complex troubleshooting on a snagged aircraft alongside technicians and provided assistance to any inspections due in transit. His positive attitude and drive to produce serviceable aircraft improve cohesion between flights. Cpl Dumouchel-Jasmin exemplifies the Command Team vision of building a positive, high-performance, cooperative team atmosphere despite the challenging pace of operations and resource constraints. BZ to Cpl D-J!



Top tip...make sure you're happy with your Monitor Mass picture...you never know when it may be used! -Ed.



408 THS Inaugural Gaggling of the Geese Thursday June 28th, 2018



For Association and Squadron Members!

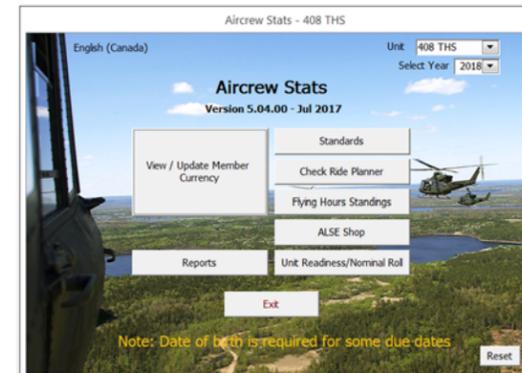
- CAF members' Sports Morning: softball, soccer or nature walk
- Optional golf tourney, 0800 – 1100, \$25/person \$10 extra for power cart
- Lunch and birthday cake at the hangar, 1130 - 1400
- Mixed Dining-In (All ranks/1x guest per person) at EGOM, \$60/ticket, 1800 – 2200. Tickets on sale at the Mother Goose Café in 2 Hangar.

For more information, contact:
Major Rodney Dietzmann
408 Goose Sqn Association Chair
780-373-4011 ext. 4505

Flight Safety

Capt Masters is now the UFSO with Capt Greyling as the Deputy Flight Safety Officer. As always, Sgt Desfossés continues to serve as the Flight Safety NCM.

Keep up to date on all of your stats, you don't need to overfly a key item.



**Are you current to fly?
Check your stats!**

PHOTO CORNER



A trio of RCAF CH-146 Griffons from 408 THS flies over the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco on the way back to Edmonton following our exercise at Twentynine Palms, CA. The picture was taken by Cpl Curtis Fox and submitted by Cpl Tony MacLeish to Skies Magazine. You can see the picture published in the April/May edition of Skies Magazine. Great job to both for getting the great shot and getting the picture in the magazine.

Do you have a photo you want to share...we'd love to put it in our little *Happenings*. Anything showing life in the Squadron would do, something that we don't normally see. If you do, feel free to email Mr. Bullard or Maj Dietzmann with your suggestions.