

408 TACTICAL HELICOPTER

"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:

Email:

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Upcoming Events

26 May-8 Jun	TMST Mali
11-15 Jun	DAG Mali
16 June	Family Day
19 June	Edmonton Health and Safety Expo
24 June	Fête nationale du Québec
28 June	Reunion Dinner
29 June	Short Day
1 July	Canada Day
2 July	Canada Day statutory holiday

Birthdays

Rank	First Name	Surname	Date	Month
Avr	Brock	Hann	2	June
Cpl	Sheila	Donahue	5	June
Cpl	Bray	Charlebois	6	June
MCpl	Elizabeth	Naas	7	June
Cpl	Robert	Zagar	8	June
WO	Peter	Tremblett	9	June
Cpl	Robert	Muise	9	June
Cpl	Tracey	O'Hagan	11	June
Capt	Jason	Goodenough	13	June
Capt	Robert	Beal	13	June
WO	Ryan	Vigar	14	June
WO	Carlos	Oliveira	16	June
Cpl	Adam	McDonald	17	June
Capt	Ian	McMillan	20	June
LCol	Trevor	Teller	21	June
Capt	David	Scott	23	June
MCpl	Calvin	McCrie	23	June
MCpl	Shannon	Moses	25	June
Sgt	Alexander	Zelinsky	28	June
Sgt	James	Morris	30	June

Happy Birthday to you!

408 THS Family Day 2018

Due to future deployments, Family Day 2018 will be earlier this year than in previous years. This year's Family Day will be on Saturday 16 June and will include many activities for 408 THS' family and friends.

Family Day will include many activities to keep family members of all ages entertained and will display a wide variety of equipment used by 408 THS and other units on base. Activities for children will include bouncy castle, face painting, balloon animals, rope bridge and obstacle course. Static displays will include the CH146 Griffon, police cruiser, fire truck, ambulance, bomb squad equipment, small arms, and other equipment. Most importantly there will be LAV III and Griffon familiarization rides.

Sign-up will be done through the Flight Warrant Officers using the sign-up sheet provided to them. The sign-up sheet will also include criteria to determine if passengers are eligible for a familiarization flight. If certain passengers are not eligible they may still be able to get on a familiarization flight provided that a memo is submitted through the CoC.



Honker Happenings

77th Anniversary • 408 Squadron

June 2018



The Geese Prepare to Fly Home

Capt Ian McMillan
Erbil bureau

As Roto 5B eagerly awaits the arrival of 430 Sqn to begin a battlefield handover, marking the end of 408 Squadron's one year posture in Erbil, Iraq, the deployed soldiers are looking forward to warm reunions with family, friends, and fellow members of the flock. However it is with a heavy heart that many of us also say farewell to new friends. Behind the once unfamiliar faces of augmentees, JTF-I staff, Role 2 staff and coalition partners, can be found some of the most switched-on, and hardest-working individuals one could hope to work with.

The recent high Op tempo has pushed every member to go above and beyond, to better themselves and to work seamlessly as a team in order to enable mission success. For example, when aircraft 435 arrived back from heavy maintenance, the

initial quality assurance check resulted in seven flight safety investigations, and the opening of 58 349s, requiring 330 work hours to rectify. The ground crews involved rolled up their sleeves and managed to tackle 435 while already putting in full days ensuring the other three aircraft remained in the air. Concurrently, our aircrews were all bordering on 80 hours flying per month resulting in saving the Task Force an estimated 800 work hours per month doing ground moves, thus enabling them to fluidly conduct their missions throughout the AO.

While 408's role in Op IMPACT consisted of relatively low risk flying, and a comfortable camp life, we managed to see opportunity in this environment. We continued to train and develop our members, many of which this is their first tour, in or-

der to prepare them for future more austere deployments that may require a stronger resolve in order to maintain the warrior spirit.

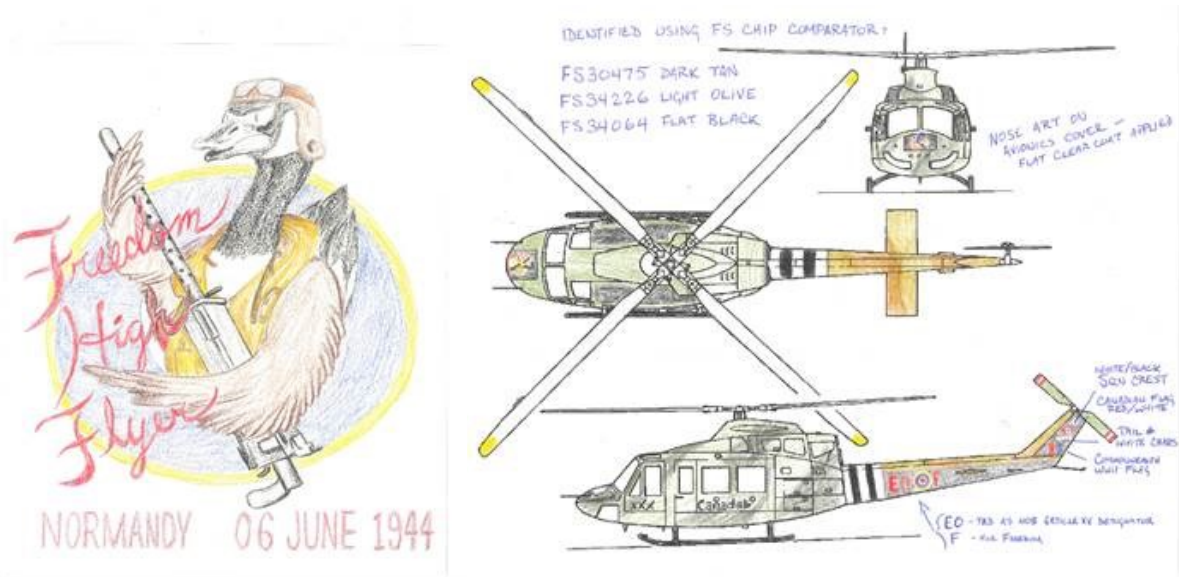
As we turn the corner on the last few weeks of this deployment and reflect upon our arrival in theatre, it seems every time we fly, we are greeted with increasingly affectionate waves from the local populace. While on weekends we often elect to transit at altitude to avoid the many kites, and false missile indications from fires at which family and friends gather to picnic. One can only be filled with hope as you see people returning to a normal and peaceful life, we leave this place wishing everyone better days to come.

CYYYYAAAA!!!

For Freedom.

Normandy Invasion Paint Scheme

A big thanks to Cpl McMillan for his proposed art work celebrating 408 THS' participation in the liberation of Europe at Normandy. In honour of this auspicious campaign, 408 THS will paint a CH146 in the style of the Normandy invasion scheme.



Is The Cabin Really Secure?



Air Reserve Flight News Reservists: Do you need a Route Letter?

A Route Letter is basically a document which acts as a contract for a Reservist. It outlines start and end dates of service, benefits and more. It is given to any Reservist who goes on a Class B or C period of service.

away for three or more consecutive days of Class A service, that you require a Route Letter as well?

The Route Letter (contract) acts as your "insurance" should something happen on duty or off duty during that time away.



As always, if you have any questions, please ask the Reserve HRA staff or Maj Dietzmann.

REMINDER: All Reservists (Class A, B or C) require a current medical and FORCE Test)

But...did you know that if you go

Sgt Richards' Retirement from 408 THS

After over 32 years, I am saying "so long". I joined the RCAF (before we got the name) back in 1986, as an engine tech (511) of 418 Air Reserve Squadron, flying and maintaining the mighty CC138 Twin Otter. From there, 418 transitioned to the C130 Hercules. Having been promoted to MCpl in May of 1991, I became the servicing and snags co-ordinator. In my time with 435, I was a servicing and snags crew member on two (maybe three?) OP Box-Tops both in Thule, Greenland and at Alert itself.

As it always happens, a change in government changed the fate of CFB Edmonton, and the Air Force left, with 418 disbanded, 440 exiled to Yellowknife and 435 sent to Winnipeg. In Sept 1994, I was the start controller of the start crew that sent the last Herc out of Edmonton. I joined 408 Sept 1994, and remained a Reservist until Sept 1997, when I finally lost my leaf and became an irresponsible corporal again. With 408 I got to see all the highlights...you know...Dundurn, Suffield and far too often, Wainwright. My first deployment was to Kosovo in 1999. A few years later, I was deployed on three 56-day tours of Bosnia. My final tour was to KAF, leav-

ing home 18 Dec 2008 and returning just in time for my 27th wedding anniversary, in May 2009.

Return from KAF, posted to Cold Lake, 2 1/2 years with AETE, then my short "fast air" tour.

Wow. 17 years total time in 408. Seems hard to believe. Memories of various exercises, deployments and in garrison. The ACS crew making horseshoes for the techs who are "off shift" to have something to do on exercise at AF21. Mike Barclay and Al Riddell making sure the unit has entertainment and heat whether on exercise or on deployment. The



cooks making sure we didn't go hungry. The caterpillar races, as we moved the mod tents from one position to another in Kosovo. Hortons Mafia in KAF. Staring down a (Challenger) tank's gun barrel while entering Pristina. Delivering stuffed toys to the kids in Pristina hospital. The happy faces of the guys and gals coming off the Chinooks after having avoided the long road trip to and from the FOBs. The "winter" camming of the trucks at "Frozen Gander" (they looked like Holstein cows). While you are going thru the next year and beyond, look out for each other. If you see some struggling whether on deployment, preparing for deployment or having returned, or just in garrison, reach out to them. There has been nothing better for me, when I was deployed and feeling down, for someone to give their time. And after a year of deployments? Help your Sqn mates. The most important thing I discovered in my 32 years 3 months, is the people. I have met and worked with so many great people. I know 408 is in for yet another tough year. It has seemed endless, since our return from the first deployment to Afghanistan, with the combined exercises and deployments. Look out for each other. So that's it. Hope to see you all around. Good luck!

Photo Caption Contest

The best caption for this photo will be awarded a \$10 credit at the squadron canteen!

Send those captions in!

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Captions will be judged on a basis of hilarity, suitability, operational relevance, 408 history, team-building and punniness.



"Gander 9^{er} and the gaggle off to Mali"

Last Month's Contest Winner

Mr. Dan Bullard

