

408 TACTICAL HELICOPTER SQUADRON

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Upcoming Events

30 Mar-2 Apr Easter
6 Apr All PERs due to Adj
10 Apr CO's PT, Ruck March, 1430
12 Apr Hangar Mess Dinner, bar open at 1730, guests to arrive by 1800, dress is flight suit or CADPAT with white shirt and wacky bow tie
13 Apr CO's PD, 1230 in theatre, all SNCOs and officers to attend
30 Apr-4 May No-leave-period, TMST for Op MAGNUM

Birthdays

Cpl Thomas	Maslin	April	3
Capt Geoffrey Cameron	Martin	April	5
Capt Craig	Robertson	April	6
Cpl Kristopher	O'Keefe	April	7
Avr Mitchell Donald Joseph	Bourque	April	8
MCpl Michelle	White	April	8
Sgt Marius	Parent	April	10
Capt Justin	Racicot	April	14
Sgt Lori	Peckham	April	15
Cpl Robert	Szijarto	April	17
Cpl Jordan	Nelson	April	19
MCpl Laura	Fyffe	April	19
Cpl Mitchell	McKay	April	22
Cpl Simon	Deland	April	24
2Lt Adam	Bracke	April	27
Cpl Edward	Langille	April	27
Capt Gregory	Taylor	April	29
Cpl Toran	Zeisig	April	29

Check out 408 THS' new SharePoint page!

It's everything you need on the intranet

<http://collaboration-airforce.forces.mil.ca/sites/1wing/408/default.aspx>

Coming soon:

SharePoint training with WO Graham

Honker Happenings

77th Anniversary • 408 Squadron • New Issue

April 2018



408 Squadron, December 2017

Welcome everyone to the re-boot of the Honker Happenings. Every month, we will be sending out this newsletter far and wide, providing a fun, informative venue to pass on information to members of the Gaggle, in addition to our families and members of the association. It is our newsletter, and as such we are looking for articles, pictures and ideas from you all. Feel free to discuss ideas with either the DCO or Mr Bullard.

We launch this newsletter at the beginning of exciting times. We've just returned from a rewarding and successful Exercise STRIKING VIKING in California, where we have honed our skills of our core tasks of recce, mobility and firepower. Before even having arrived back in Canada, we received our preliminary warning order for the long-anticipated African Peace Support Operation – we will head to Mali and work with the UN and our compatriots at 450 Squadron to provide a MEDEVAC capability to that war-torn country. This squadron has a long and rich history of leading the initial rotations for expeditionary operations – it is an honour that we are called on again to lead the way for 1 Wing and the RCAF. We will meet this challenge as we do always, by embodying the RCAF core values of professionalism, excellence and teamwork.

We have work ahead of us, and when we thought we had a moment post-OP IMPACT to re-gather ourselves as a unit, we are out the door again. I look forward to our up-coming Hangar Mess Dinner on April 12th where we can tell our tales of the past. Then we are straight into our training and getting ready to deploy this summer.

We continue to be impressed with the operational focus and dedication of the members of this squadron, and are truly honoured to be your command team. It is a privilege to work with all you, day in and day out, making 408 the best squadron in the whole of the RCAF.

For Freedom!

LCol C.W. Morrison

Renewal of the Newsletter: A Call to Members for Input

In the past, 408 Squadron has tried to keep an up to date newsletter available to all members that included upcoming squadron and family events, recent promotions, deployments, and any other news members would enjoy reading about.

This newsletter has taken multiple forms, most notably the short lived 'Honker Happenings'. This year we will revive the 'Happenings' to help communicate positive stories and helpful information in a friendly and open format that is easily accessible to all members.

This issue will set the pace for an

ongoing opportunity for the squadron, as well as individual members, to advertise things they would like others to know. With that in mind, we call on 408 to bring forth any information they would like printed in the newsletter, and write an email to the DCO stating their rank, name, all pertinent information to the article or post, and the reason this information should be included in the paper.

In this new year, 408 would like to strengthen the bonds of our family and continue to build on the comradeship that holds the squadron together, and keeps this squadron 'Happening'!



408 THS Honoured on International Women's Day



408 THS mentors Capt Carolyn Hincke and Capt Ilona Inman were awarded certificates on 8 March 2018 (International Women's Day) at the EGOM. They were recognized for their leadership and efforts both in their unit and within their community by LCol Jennifer Parker and MWO Suzanne McAdam of the Edmonton Defence Women's Advisory Organization.



Air Reserve Medicals and FORCE Tests

Although this topic may seem quite boring, it becomes a very exciting topic when a Reservist is wanting a Class B contract.

So just a reminder to all 408 THS Reservists, as you should be doing with all of your APRV items, always keep your medical and FORCE Test up-to-



date. Without those being current, a Class B contract cannot be offered.

Trying to book these items at the last minute is not always possible either, so please keep them current. At the end of the day, this will simplify your planning for when you want to surge from Class A to Class B.

Rejuvenating the 408 Goose Squadron Association

Did you know that, by default, all serving members of 408 THS are also members of the 408 Goose Squadron Association? The Association exists to provide financial and other support to promote the legacy of 408 Squadron.

One of the Commanding Officer's mandates is to revitalize the relationship between the Squadron's current members and its former members. As such, over the past several months LCol Morrison has made a concerted effort to connect with, meet and invite former Geese to unit events.

Through the 408 Goose Squadron

Association, efforts have been made to send Holiday letters to its members, invitations to our February lunch and bonspiel, a push to strengthen the Association executive and membership, as well as a plan to enhance connections in new ways into the future.

One of these new ways will be celebrating the squadron's anniversary with the inaugural *Gagging of the Geese* squadron reunion which will take place

June 28, 2018. The day will include sports, golf, meet-and-greet lunch and a mixed dining-in mess dinner. More details will be out soon!

For more information about the Association either visit its website at www.forfreedom.ca or see the Association Chair Maj Dietzmann, OC ARAF.



408 THS in Garrison

The squadron's deployment on Exercise STRIKING VIKING saw more than 200 of the squadron's women and men travel south to 29 Palms, California. With so much of the squadron honing their skills in the USA, many will wonder what happened in 2 Hangar from 20 February to 15 March.

When the squadron deploys, there are always key functions in garrison

that remain to be completed. Every section in the building has important tasks that cannot be completed from a deployed location or accomplished at the end of a telephone line. For instance, many aspects of military administration like pay, travel claims, flight bookings, and career processes still

need to be done for personnel to get paid, return home and develop. Additionally, vital aircraft maintenance actions continue to carry on for aircraft remaining in Edmonton. As 408 did not take many vehicles, critical preventative vehicle maintenance remains an important en-

abler for future tasks. Finally, a local flying program requires aircrew to continue to develop their skills and fly aircraft.

When the squadron deploys, there are always key functions in garrison that need to be done

One from the archive...

This Lancaster bomber is getting fueled and loaded for a wartime mission in 1944. The bowser at left is fueling the aircraft while technicians carry out an engine repair on the right inner engine.

It is interesting how much and how little has changed since then...

