

## Pacific Naval Construction Troop Supports Naval Port Security Exercise

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The Pacific Naval Construction Troop (PNCT) from CFB Esquimalt constructed a 160 man camp in support of Ex PACIFIC GUARDIAN, which took place from 05 -18 February 2012. Ex PACIFIC GUARDIAN is a Port Security exercise that provided workup training and scenarios and was staged at HMCS Discovery, a Naval Reserve Unit located on Deadman's Island within Stanley Park in Vancouver, BC.

The Port Security Unit (PSU) is comprised of Naval Reservists from across Canada and works in conjunction with Other Government Department, such as the Vancouver Police and US Coast Guard units for this exercise. The PSU function is the secure control of harbours and waterways to ensure security of marine and waterfront infrastructure protect high value assets, and the escort and interception of vessels. The exercise was conducted in two phases, in which the first phase was skill enhancement in boat handling, diving operations, Rules Of Engagement (ROE), communications, and tactics. The second phase was scenario based, in which the Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels (MCDVs), conducted the escort of high value assets, mine hunting, and the collection of intelligence for the control of shipping, assisting in producing the maritime picture. Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIBs) provided a rapid intercept and shallow water security capability to counter high speed attacks, along with divers who ensured ships hulls and marine infrastructure were free of mines and explosives. The scenarios were based on previous taskings that provided security for the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) that was held in 1997 and the Olympic Games for Op PODIUM; providing practice for possible future tasking and deployments.



The PNCT was initially tasked to advise on camp layout and power requirements. A site visit was conducted in mid-December 2011, in which it was concluded that there was a requirement for PNCT involvement, for the full design and construction of the camp and also to provide technical support for camp maintenance throughout the exercise. The requirements for the camp were to have all personnel accommodated in modular tents, augment the ablution facilities, provide primary and secondary power, and additional POL storage. These were significant challenges as there was limited space that could be utilized due to land use constraints and multiple buildings on the island. The accommodations area was constructed in the main parking lot and an ablution trailer was contracted to provide additional showers. Primary power for the tents was sourced from two electrical panels that were located on either side of the parking lot. A generator was contracted and was connected to the main power panel for the island, as the panel had previously received an upgrade that allowed for the connection of a generator to provide backup power for the entire island. A POL storage tank was sourced and placed with standoff distances approved by the Fire Inspector. The PNCT Construction Techs constructed floor boards and assembled tents. While the Plumbing and Heating (PH) Tech, Electrical Generator Systems (EGS) Tech, and Electrical Distribution (ED) Tech connected electrical cabling, the generator and the heaters; they also remained throughout the exercise to maintain these systems.



The PNCT demonstrated the value of a Construction Troop in camp construction, showcasing our expertise and diverse skill sets that we provide in camp design, construction, and maintenance. This was shown by the level of detail and the considerations that were taken into account to ensure a safe and functional camp, which was noted by numerous personnel. The participation of the PNCT provided the Navy a better understanding of the material requirements and considerations for camp construction for future deployments in all environments.

The participation in the exercise highlighted the capability, knowledge and skills that the PNCT and engineer tradesmen possess and can be provided for future tasking or deployments. The PNCT provided support to the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) and gained exposure and experience in naval operations. The PNCT looks forward to the next opportunity to support the RCN.