



Groundbreaking at Farnham

On January 15, Defence Minister John McCallum broke ground at the Garrison Farnham dormitory, beginning work on a \$2.8-million project slated for completion for fiscal year 2003–04.

“This project is an important step in the renewing the infrastructure needed to insure that Farnham continues its mandate in support of recruit training and military operations in Quebec,” said the Minister.

“This is a good example of our commitment to the future of garrisons Farnham and Montreal as well as our commitment to improving the training conditions of our troops.”

DCC managed the contracting process, which led to Constructions Bugères Inc. of Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, winning the job. DCC is also managing the construction. For more information, contact Area Engineer Bruno Champeval at (514) 283-8073.



From left to right: Bruno Champeval (DCC), Capt. J.A. Valiquette (Coordinating Officer, Training Centre, Farnham), Alain Deschesnes (Project Manager, Construction Bugère), Col. Daniel Benjamin (Commander, 5 ASG), John McCallum (Minister, National Defence), Denis Paradis (MP, Brome–Missisquoi), Claude Bédard (Architect, DND).



DCC Contract Manager Paul Champagnie is recognized by Col. P.J. Atkinson, Commander TFBH, for his work on getting Camp Black Bear (VK) connected to commercial power. See page 2 for details.

Keeping Systems in Check

DCC always tries to improve the effectiveness of its operations, and as any manager will tell you, the key to continuous improvement is continuous evaluation.

At DCC, these evaluations are called “compliance reviews,” but DCC Technical Advisor Brian Hughes (613-998-1010) is just as happy to call them “site audits.” And it’s more than a difference in word choice. “I don’t sneak into places in the dead of night, check the files and sneak out.”

Instead, he operates openly. In particular, he debriefs site personnel before he leaves. This way, employees have a

chance to explain why they do certain things the way they do. It is also a chance to recognize good performance and to reveal skill deficiencies that can lead to retraining opportunities.

A site audit is a formal process in which an examiner goes on site to see how well managers are complying with existing processes and procedures. Every site should be reviewed every year. In two years, Hughes has been to 15 sites from coast to coast.

Although there is a formal checklist, Hughes does not penalize anyone for off-the-page innovation.

“Some people have very creative ideas and are doing functions differently. But they are doing them so well that I have suggested the ideas be adopted company-wide,” says Hughes.

These site audits are also important to DCC’s client. LCol Vaillancourt from DCPSPD attended Hughes’ debriefing at CFB Trenton in October. “He was most impressed by the detail of the review and by the performance of the site,” says Hughes. “He suggested more people should be aware of this and that the results of the audit should be available to other clients and other bases.”

Halifax Combat Systems Repair Facility



Pictured above is the Combat Systems Repair Facility, built at a cost of \$19 million at the Halifax Dockyard by Pomerleau/Cardinal Joint Venture. DND moved into this facility in January 2003. The building has four storeys, constructed on a pile foundation, with a footprint of 4000 square metres. For more information contact Marc Brophy, Project Engineer at (902)423-9985.

New facilities at HMCS Quadra

On March 13, Defence Minister John McCallum and Chief of the Defence Staff General Ray Henault announced a \$2-million construction contract to build a new administration facility and staff housing for HMCS Quadra, a sea cadet summer camp attached to 19 Wing, CFB Comox. DCC managed the competitive bidding process that led to Golden Globe Construction of Vancouver being awarded the contract. DCC also hired the architect, while the base handled the project management.

Protecting Kingston's heritage

On January 22, Defence Minister John McCallum and Chief of the Defence Staff General Ray Henault announced the award of a \$6.2-million contract to renovate the Stone Frigate dormitory, a designated heritage building, at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC). And on March 13, the two men announced another Kingston project, a \$6.09-million construction contract to renovate two historic row houses, known as Ridout Row, located at CFB Kingston. On both projects, DCC acted as DND's contracting agent. It hired the contractor and it is managing and supervising both projects. It also hired the necessary engineers and architects. The fact that both sites were heritage properties added an extra challenge, according to Area Engineer John Graham. "There were pieces that the owners wanted to preserve, plus there were heritage organizations that have an interest in the property, so we had to respect their interests."

Supporting Task Force Bosnia-Herzegovina

The Task Force Bosnia Herzegovina (TFBH) engineer section received a Commander's Commendation in March 2003 for its impressive capacity for work during Rotation 11. Sharing in this recognition are DCC Contract Co-ordinators Paul Champagnie and Harry Rohde, who are providing contract management and project management support to OP PALLADIUM.

DCC is slated to have five of its personnel stationed in Bosnia-Herzegovina over the next few months.

For more information contact:
Hans Gartner at (613) 293-5210.

Tackling Aconcagua

Aconcagua is the world's highest mountain outside Asia. And in January, DCC Contract Manager Steve Kukulka (250-363-5302) went to South America to take it on.

Kukulka became interested in mountaineering when he began climbing in the Gatineaus, near Ottawa, and he often trains



now by carrying heavy backpacks up the hills around Victoria, where he now lives. Previously, he had reached the top of Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain.

Aconcagua is much tougher. "It's a lot colder," explains Kukulka. "One night it was -21 on Aconcagua. The coldest it ever was on Kilimanjaro was -5 one night."

Aconcagua may be cold, but it is also desert-dry, so Kukulka had to bring water with him and get by with whatever snow he could find. The extreme dryness of the air, especially at higher altitudes, made it a punishing trip for Kukulka. He

got as high as 5,004 metres before he began to experience back pain caused by carrying all the necessary equipment up 40-degree inclines.

Even so, the trip was certainly worth it. "When you get higher and higher and see the rest of the Andes, you know why you're doing it," he says. "To see everything below you, it's breathtaking. It's a real challenge."

Although he didn't quite make it to the top, he is by no means deterred. He plans on returning to tackle Aconcagua, only this time he won't attempt to do it solo. "When you do it as a team, you can share equipment."

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