



Canadian Forces Safe Driving Championship held in Kingston

by Pte Stephan Racette
8 Wing Trenton Tn/EME
Squadron

It was with great pleasure that I had the privilege to participate in the Central Region Regional Canadian Forces Safe Driving Championship (CFSDC), commonly known as the Rodeo, which took place at CFB Kingston from June 10 to 13, 2008.

The purpose of the CFSDC competition is to promote SAFE DRIVING-COURTESY- DISPATCH, with various types of vehicles, through friendly competition.

Although this event was originally open to MSE Ops only, it has since evolved and is now open to all members of the Canadian Forces for the Heavy Logistic Vehicle Wheeled (HLVW) and the Route Discipline.

The CFSDC is divided into two portions. In the first portion, safe driving is measured by navigation through a series of obstacles that challenge your skills such as: knowing the width, length and turning radius of your vehicle.

Vehicles used for this event are the HLVW, 40-passenger bus (commonly referred to as the "pickle

bus"), five-ton truck and tractor trailer.

The second portion of this competition, (and the one I participated in), consists of a two-day Route Discipline (road rally).

This event is completed in teams which consist of two people, the driver and the co-driver reading the map and directions, which is carried out in a staff car.

The aim is to challenge your general military knowledge and skills such as map and compass navigation, grid plotting, weapon handling drills, first aid, and of course safe driving.

This event was a great success due to the participation of 72 members who showed up from Central Region.

Many thanks to the road construction worker who was kind enough to show us the right way at an intersection that was undergoing some construction, and of course thanks to my partner, Corporal Jason Bell, who introduced me to the CFSDC.

And on another note, this year, the Central Region Regional CFSDC 2008 was hosted by CFB Kingston. I can assure you that the spirit of the competitors was cer-



Photo: Submitted

Pictured above, from left to right: Warrant Officer Nicole Bureau, 8 Wing Team Leader; CWO Marc Pelletier from Tn/EME, Central Region Rodeo Master; Pte Stéphane Racette, competitor; Cpl Jason Bell, competitor.

tainly evident during the Route Discipline event.

For some of them, it was their first time in the competition. 8 Wing/CFB Trenton had five teams. Competitors did extremely well for their first time. Finishing in second place were Corporal Hunt and Private Crowley, third place Corporal O'Brien and Corporal MacLaren, and in

fourth place, Corporal Fallu and Corporal Brisson.

In other categories, Corporal Paquet finished in first place and Mr. Balsdon in fourth place in the Tractor Trailer event. In the Bus competition, Cpl Paquet took second place.

To achieve success in these last categories, the competitors need excellent driving

skills, experience and a lot of concentration to win.

8 WTn/EME would like to congratulate all the participants for their outstanding performances this year at the Central Region CFSDC, and wish good luck to all who will be proceeding to the National CFSDC, hosted by CFB Cold Lake, where the best of the best will compete.

Search & Rescue UPDATE

424 Squadron had four missions in the past week.

On June 28, RESCUE 419, our Griffon SAR asset, was tasked to medevac a 55-year-old male from a 700-foot laker underway in Lake Ontario. Our Griffon landed on the ship, the SAR-techs took care of, and then transported, the patient to Kingston General Hospital before returning to base.

June 30 was a busy day for 424 Squadron. Early in the morning, our Griffon was tasked to medevac a 50-year-old female following an ATV accident just south of Bancroft. The area was heavily wooded, with only a small trail leading out from under a set of major hydro lines, so the SAR-Techs were inserted by hoist. An ambulance had concurrently arrived on scene, but due to the poor condition of the trail and lengthy transit time to the hospital, it was agreed to transport the patient by chopper to Kingston General Hospital.

Shortly after the Griffon was tasked, our Herc was tasked to assist with a vessel stuck on some rocks. The vessel was located, and the two people with the vessel were found tied alongside in a dinghy, wearing personal flotation devices. The Coast Guard showed up just as RESCUE 320 did, and they took over the case.

Later in the morning, our Griffon was tasked to search in the Midland Harbour area for a possible person in the water. The OPP had discovered a boat turning in circles, with no one on board. After several hours of extensive line searches, and shore crawls, RESCUE419 was stood down and returned to Trenton.

Until next week, stay alert and stay safe.

Missions for 2008: 72 Missions for June: 23 Persons rescued: 16



The JACK VANCE

Golf Classic 2008

Sunday
July 13
11 a.m.

Poplars
Golf Club
Tweed, Ontario

FUNDRAISER

for
TWEED & AREA
ARTS
COUNCIL

4 Person
Scramble



\$100 per player
(includes cart, steak
dinner, and a \$50
charitable receipt)

Limited Spaces.
Register Now
613-477-2634