



VP International Headquarters Newsletter – Canada Edition

April 2023

From the Patron

Col Jeff Davis, Wing Commander 14 Wing



It has been some time since the Patron has addressed the VP International Membership. I took command of 14 Wing Greenwood in the summer of 2022, and with that, I accepted the title of VPI Patron. The mandate of VPI has not changed significantly over the years, yet how our individual forces are structured and operate have changed with the evolving fiscal and security environments. As the next generation of Maritime and Long Range Patrol aviation aircrew and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle operators achieve operational milestones to become members, some may not have heard of VPI. The era of counterterrorism of the previous decades did not enable the friendly competition and rivalries once so commonplace post-Cold War. As the maritime domain becomes increasingly contested and a focus area for many of our nations, we should take the opportunity to highlight the camaraderie and fellowship offered by VPI membership during exercises and operations. Effective teams bond “on and off the pitch” and so should we.

From the HQ President

LCol Keith Fugger, Commanding Officer



I am happy to see some VPI Wings quite active, such as recent posts from the Wing at RAAF Edinburgh and the re-formation of a Wing at RAF Lossiemouth. VPI Greenwood Wing has hosted an RAF P-8 crew and a handful of German P-3 crews over the past year. More are welcome! The Greenwood Wing looks forward to hosting them again as well as others in the future while still finding time to put on special event like bingo, BBQs, and formal suppers. From a Headquarters perspective, reinvigorating Wings and interest in VPI is challenging. We are trying to embrace the digital age and connect with the new generation of aviators. Amending constitutions is one way to attract a larger pool of prospective members, such as UAV operators. Of note, the membership certificate now includes a P-8 silhouette as some nations transition to a new airframe. The membership form can be downloaded at www.vpinternational.ca/join. Unfortunately, we are slower to adopt other technologies, but we are working towards the goal of modernizing how we share

information, collect membership fees, and sell memorabilia. Social media reaches a large audience and I hope that such communications continue. However, in-person gatherings when occasions present themselves solidify important personal and professional relationships between us.

415 LRP ‘Swordfish’ Force Development Squadron

Capt Richard Harding, Crew Commander, Senior Operational Liaison and Acceptance Officer



The Canadian Long Range Patrol Community recently implemented a fourth and final Block upgrade to the venerable CP140M closing out the Aurora Incremental Modernization Program which first began in 1998. Designed to keep the CP140 tactically capable after over 40 years of service, the most recent upgrade adds some new capabilities and distinct visual features. The most obvious change is the Wideband Global Satcom capability housed underneath a 4ft wide by 12ft long dome, affectionately called “the canoe,” located atop the fuselage center line. Another notable change is the installation of a Directed Infrared Countermeasure capability consisting of centrally mounted Laser Pointer Trackers and multiple Missile Warning Sensors. Inside the aircraft both a new Link-16 Small Tactical Terminal and aircraft networking backbone have been installed. These two additions will add significant capability to the CP-140M in its C4ISR role particularly in its ability to transmit data off the aircraft. While Test & Evaluation only began in 2020, and some features continue on-going testing today, Block IV aircraft have been deployed on operations in the Pacific, Atlantic and Northern regions since 2021. Currently six CP140M have completed the Block IV upgrades, four more in are production, and the final four are awaiting induction. This commitment to modernization will ensure the CP-140M weapon system can continue to serve the Government of Canada’s needs and support our defence partners for years to come.

404 LRP ‘Hunter’ Training Squadron

Maj Keith Tagg, Deputy Commanding Officer



Throughout 2022, 404 Long Range Patrol & Training Squadron continued to support the full spectrum of aircrew and maintenance courses, including Maritime Operational Aircrew Training (MOAT), Flight Instructor Course (FIC), Maintenance Type-Courses, and more advanced courses. 404 Squadron personnel modernized all courseware and content to incorporate critical elements of the Block IV capability. The Squadron also deployed personnel to support Op REASSURANCE, Op NEON, Exercise DYNAMIC MANTA, as well as a variety of domestic maritime surveillance and sovereignty patrols. The Simulation Flight continued to champion and lead the RCAF in Distributed Mission Training (DMT), including participation in several large-scale DMT exercises such as Coalition Virtual Flag (CVF) and Fleet Synthetic Training – Joint (FST-J) with our allies. These successes were due entirely to the hard work of the simulation team and through cooperation with RCAF and allied stakeholders. These events yielded significant Force Generation outputs during a time of scarce aircraft availability due to the ongoing fleet transition to Block IV. Collectively these initiatives, along with other simulator hardware and software improvements, will set the

foundation for CP140 fleet simulation for years to come. Steadfast and unwavering in the face of adversity, the ‘Herd’ remains *Ready to Fight!*

405 LRP ‘Pathfinder’ Squadron

Maj Garrett Milne, Squadron Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Officer



The Pathfinders of 405 Sqn made a mark on 2022. As the global security situation progressively worsened in Europe, Asia and North America, all line and HQ crews deployed at various times to Keflavik, Scotland, Thule, Guam, Japan, El Salvador, and countless domestic locations. History repeated itself as allied ASW operations continued to increase in tempo as did Canada’s commitment to its partners. A first in quite some time, five crews were concurrently deployed on operations and training. Maintenance activities continued to stretch the minds of our young and amazing folks to innovate and share a wealth of information across newly arrived trainees. New mission sets in support of CANSOFCOM challenged the operating and environmental limits of the CP140M Block IV aircraft. On the Force Generation front, crews participated in Exercises DYNAMIC MANTA, DYNAMIC MONGOOSE, JOINT WARRIOR, ROYAL AVALANCHE, FLEET SYNTHETIC TRAINING – JOINT, COALITION VIRTUAL FLAG, NEMESIS STRIKE, KEEN SWORD, RIMPAC, and various TGEXs. Multiple renovations to the Eagles’ Nest at 11 Hangar breathed some new life into the workspaces. An excellent operations and training slate rallied the unit y in training top-category aircrew and maintainers to reconstitute other RCAF capabilities and LRP Force units.

407 LRP ‘Demon’ Squadron

Capt Ian Paone, Crew Commander Crew 2



It has been a busy year for the Demons with a heavy operational tempo that sent them operating around the world. They retained the Dragon Belt at Exercise SEA DRAGON and are about to head back to Guam for the ‘three-peat.’ They contributed to United Nations Sanctions Enforcement against North Korea on Op NEON and helped monitor Russian Federation Naval surface and sub-surface forces in the Mediterranean at the outbreak of the invasion of Ukraine in support of Op REASSURANCE. Most recently Demons helped interdict over 1,500kg of cocaine coming from South America on Op CARIBBE and provided ISR support to the Haitian National Police on Op GLOBE. At home, the Demons provided a Canadian government presence in, and enforce our sovereignty of our coast lines, in the High Arctic on Op LIMPID while continuing to train with our NORAD partners. On the Force Generation front, they participated in multiple exercises such as the US Navy’s Submarine Commander’s Course, Exercises DYNAMIC MANTA, DYNAMIC MONGOOSE, JOINT WARRIOR, CUTLASS FURY, and a Strike Coordination and Reconnaissance/Dynamic Targeting exercise with the CF18s. The Demons strive to provide a top-quality LRP capability to the Government of Canada and to our NATO and Allied partners.



CP140M Block IV photo courtesy of Karly Barker (Debert Airshow, Nova Scotia, 2022)