



The CANAP Sandpaper

Christmas 2007 Vol. 1 Issue 7

Project Manager's Christmas Message

At this special time of year, we reflect on the miraculous life that began in a humble manger 2,000 years ago. That single life changed the world, and continues to change hearts today.

I'd like to take a moment to extend the greetings of this holiday season to you, to your family and to all the people who hold a special place in your life and in your heart. In addition to its many other attractions, this holiday offers sharp and important contrasts that offer unique and special delights to all of us who live in Canada.

First, this holiday arrives just when the nights are their longest and darkest, yet it brings us what one Canadian writer called "the birth of light" — a renewed sense of the possible. This holiday also arrives at the coldest time of the year, yet it brings us unsurpassed warmth, not only the warmth of hot cocoa around the fireplace, but the spiritual warmth we feel so strongly when we are surrounded by family and friends and the spirit of peace and goodwill.

These intriguing contrasts of time and meaning should remind us of the faith and optimism that have enabled us to build this great Country of Canada.

Faith, because we have always been able to look past the snow and cold to see the warmth that lives in all human hearts. And optimism, because we have always been able to look past these long dark winter nights, towards springtime and the rebirth of the light, of tolerance, hope and love. Of course, we celebrate the light and the warmth and express our appreciation of family and friends by exchanging gifts with one another. I hope we might take a few moments to consider the many gifts we all share by virtue of living in this great nation of Canada. And I hope that in considering those gifts of freedom, tolerance, respect, and community we might also take a moment to reflect on the responsibilities that come with those gifts.

The late Governor-General Jean Vanier said, "Perhaps what Christmas is all about is to rediscover the child in all of us – that we have hearts, and are capable of love."

I hope that you can look back with pride on a year that your loved ones have been ambassadors of peace and well-being here in Afghanistan and through your support, their contribution has made the lives of the men and women of the Canadian Forces and other Canadian Organizations a much better place to live and work than it was last year.

On behalf of all members of CANCAP deployed and in Kingston, Ontario, and all our colleagues in the Canadian Task force Afghanistan, we wish you all a happy, joyous holiday, and all the best for a peaceful and prosperous 2008.

Season's greetings and may God bless and keep you all!

Alan Stephen
Project Manager - KAF



Weatherhaven G2 – First prize winners of the door painting contest. Congratulations!



Health and Safety

At this time of year we tend to look back and review the road we have traveled and we, as a team, have done a great many of these miles together.

In regards to Health & Safety it has been a success story and the team has accomplished a great deal in making our living and work environment a safer place for all. Look around you- everyone is doing their part by making the area we work and live in a cleaner, litter and clutter free place by removing debris and obstacles. The safety rail project has been completed thanks to many and now it's the team's responsibility to maintain it.

We have actually seen a (0) day loss in the month of November. This is a great accomplishment and the team working together has made it happen. Health & Safety is everyone's responsibly and we continue to meet the challenge.

To everyone: A Very Merry Christmas and a Safe and prosperous New Year.

John Braney
H&S Officer



Program Manager's Christmas Message

December is ending along with that year called 2007. Hard to believe that about one year ago we were working on the first major expansion to our KAF project and I was going to theatre to talk to our employees about upcoming changes. And now here we are again with even more changes on the horizon.

Looking back on 2007 I can say that we have had a very intriguing year with the many changes for the project, expansion into new areas, changes to the camp itself and, of course, so many changes to our people. Let us not forget the many employees who completed their contracts in 2007 and are taking a break from the deployed life. Their efforts, as much as those of you still with us, are recognized for contributing to our success.

And let there be no doubt that you have been successful. I go to many meetings with Government folks and the excellent feedback on your service and how important we have become to the Forces is always a key message.

I just got back from a ProFac National Conference where I was able to compare our project to many others and I can tell you that you do more and at a much faster pace than any other company project.

The future looks equally as demanding with continued expansion for the project and ongoing efforts to extend our stay on KAF. I am confident we will soon see an extension past July 2008 and even more positions for our services team and each of you.

I look forward to facing these challenges with our project. It has been an exciting, demanding, frustrating, challenging year. The only reason for our success is our employees and I am proud to know you. See you in 2008.

Ian Malcolm
Program Manager - Kingston



CQ's Corner

Well here I was sitting down relaxing at home when it occurred to me that I hadn't submitted an article for the Sand Paper. I know some of you will want to burn this article coming from cold, snowy Nova Scotia but I will write it anyway.

You will be happy to know that I have shovelled snow twice since returning home. I am hoping that all my friends and colleagues will keep as busy as possible over the holidays and I want you all to know that my thoughts will be with you. I am hoping that the long awaited winter jackets have arrived for those that are anxiously waiting for them as well as more Hoodies to ensure everyone is warm on those cold mornings, especially for those at Woody's Coffee Tent for the oh so wonderful morning coffee.

I am finding it hard to concentrate on an article when I am so far away from KAF. No sounds of Fighter jets taking off and landing or the sound of soldiers firing their weapons on the range. Nor do I have the beautiful aroma of KAF'S infamous S__ T pond to stimulate the thought process. The noisiest sound here is the occasional train that goes by our house so I guess that I will cut this article short. I will though finish it with a bit of fact and fiction.

Fact: I am happy to be home sitting by the fire with the love of my life.

Fiction: No fiction this time because I don't know what has arrived or not.

Steve Ambrose – CQ from afar



KAF DEEP THOUGHT

"I think there should be something in CANCAP-speak called the 'reindeer effect.'"

I don't know what it would be, but I think it'd be good to hear someone say, "Ladies and Gentlemen, what we have here is a terrifying example of the reindeer effect."



Speaking of which...



The 12 Days of CANCAP Management at Christmas

On the first day of Christmas Al Stephen said to me
Give us more money, coffee and honey
And forget about the damn tree

On the second day of Christmas Mike Savoie said to me
I want to pull my wireless, suck down some bandwidth
And get me a colour TV

On the third day of Christmas John Lorenz said to me
Send me some more techs, no more car wrecks
And an open pass to Bangkok that's free

On the fourth day of Christmas Mike Marcoux said to me
I want ten more people, twenty two more forklifts
And my own private warehouse you see

On the fifth day of Christmas Steve Ambrose said to me
We need some new shirts, boots, and not wine glasses
50 tiny chairs for our slimmed down little asses
And don't forget the golden rings

On the sixth day of Christmas Claude Perron said to me
I need some more dispatchers, drivers and RTCHers
And shoot the rental dealer for me

On the seventh day of Christmas Michael Verreault said to me
Send more reefer techs, tools, and wooden decks
And leave the plumbing to me

On the eighth day of Christmas Marcia Campbell said to me
I will sing you a song, it will not take long
And the words will burn your ears for free

On the ninth day of Christmas Ike Horvat said to me
If this song is in the PEP, our score will be a wreck
It definitely is not in the QC

On the tenth day of Christmas the mechanics said to me
Put on your frag vest, your helmet and bring your best guess
We have more questions you'll see

On the eleventh day of Christmas the CO said to me
Your guys can drive me crazy, turn my mind to gravy
But they are the best we all can see

On the last day of Christmas I finally said to you
Thank you for the effort, the fun and the heartache
It is time for a Bar Bee Que

*Ian Malcolm
PMOK*

The CANCAP Sandpaper

Tunisia...



Roman Coliseum at El Jem



Sidi Bou Said



Hammamet



Camels...in Tunisia even

Been There, Done That: Tunisian style

Since returning to theatre a few weeks ago, I've been busy making coffee, painting doors and saying goodbye to Duff, so, as an exception, I interviewed myself for this week's piece (how lame, I'm sorry!) Searching for an exotic location (although most of Asia was off the list), and ignoring the previously set rule of 'No Islamic Nations', my first R&R took me to the set of Star Wars, Tunisia, Northern Africa.

Traveler: Amy Robinson, CE, Environmental Engineer

Hometown: Most recently Kelowna, British Columbia

Destination/Itinerary: Tunisia (Northern Africa); concentrated on Tunis (capital), and several cities along the coast (Sidi Bou Said, Bizerte, Naboul, Hammamet, and El Jem)

Travel Partner: My favourite husband, Mr. Smith

Objective of Trip: Overdue honeymoon and to wash-off some Kandahar grit

The Bob's your uncle part of the trip: While trying to find his lost luggage at the Tunis airport, Mr. Smith met a local ex-pat Tunisian who had also lost his luggage. Upon returning to the airport and meeting him again, we were treated to several days of Tunisian hospitality at its finest, including a day out sailing on the Med on a 40-foot wooden sailboat. The water was emerald clear, warm and clean.

The small seaside town of Sidi Bou Said was charming and beautiful. Perched high on a cliff, the affluent neighbourhood is all whitewashed buildings with bright blue trim and large, decorative wooden doors. There is a popular café terraced on the cliff that overlooks the bay where you can relax, enjoy a swarma and mint tea, and smoke hookah while gazing at the beach below.

Hammamet was very developed with resorts, so fittingly, it was crowded with Europeans on packaged tours. The beaches, although busy, were nice. It was more reminiscent of Dubai's Jumeriah beach, so I wasn't too impressed with it.

An avid historian, Mr. Smith's favourite place was the Roman Coliseum at El Jem, approximately two hours by rental car from Hammamet (driving at 140 km/hr). The ruins stand in the middle of the town, and can be seen for miles outside the town. Built in the 3rd century, the amphitheatre was actually the third stadium built in the town, the first two carved out of a cliff held less than 10,000 spectators each. The third and largest amphitheatre could hold almost 30,000 people, making it possibly the third or fourth largest in the Roman Empire after the Coliseum in Rome. Walking through the tunnels where killer tigers were once kept and onto the floor where gladiators fought for their lives was magnificent.

The Last Supper (best meal): Le Kloseria, in Tunis, a hip outdoor restaurant/drinking lounge, with low couches and tables with pillows set around a pool. The three cheese ravioli would make even Chef Bouardi envious. The fresh seafood mains were equally good, along with bottles of local wines. Generally the seafood was a far superior choice over beef entrees. Typical of every meal is a starter of fresh bread with a chili paste, olives and tuna.

Le "This reminds me of Kandahar" part of the trip: It was difficult to find a 'gorgeous' beach place, not too crowded, and not at a ridiculous price. We started out with the idea of spending ~\$100/night, and moved up to almost \$300/night, but still weren't getting good value or service. Some places wouldn't even allow us to stay at their hotel since we didn't have a reservation, despite having vacancies available.

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And of course...what Christmas is really all about...



Been There, Done That: Continued.....

Total Damage for Entire Trip (including airfare for spouse, hotels, food, entertainment expenses and car rental for 1 day): About \$4500

Getting there: 6 & ½ hours from Dubai, Emirates (\$1000 to Tunis, Tunisia). Good luck getting your luggage when you arrive; Tunis International is notorious for losing bags.

Issues for Women Traveling Alone: General harassment is common. When I was with 6'3" Mr. Smith, I was fine. The moment I went out alone, I was approached, cat called, and followed. Not the best place to go off to on your own for women.

Parlez-vous anglais? Unless you're fluent in Arabic, most locals are also fluent in French. English is sparsely spoken.

Souvenirs taken home: Wine to add to our growing cellar, only about \$10/bottle

Closing Thoughts: We were glad we saw the country; however, to travel independently was problematic. If you're looking for a package vacation, it would be a good destination, otherwise, try to plan it all out before you go. We decided that the trip didn't count as our honeymoon, and so we qualify for a do-over. Any suggestions?

Next Trip: Kentucky and Indiana for the American Thanksgiving, which also will not count towards the honeymoon.

Top Ten Things To Say About a Christmas Gift You Don't Like...

10. Hey! Now there's a gift!
9. Well, well, well...
8. Boy, if I had not recently shot up 4 sizes that would've fit.
7. This is perfect for wearing around the basement.
6. Gosh. I hope this never catches fire! It is fire season though. There are lots of unexplained fires.
5. If the dog buries it, I'll be furious!
4. I love it - but I fear the jealousy it will inspire.
3. Sadly, tomorrow I enter the Federal Witness Protection Program.
2. To think I got this the year I vowed to give all my gifts to charity.
1. I really don't deserve this.

