



NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNIQUÉ

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**NAVY TO ACCEPT FIRST OF EIGHT NEW TRAINING CRAFT**

ESQUIMALT, B.C. —The Navy will accept the first of eight new training craft at a ceremony in HMC Dockyard at 3 p.m. Friday. The Patrol Craft Training (PCT) *Orca* is the first of eight ships to be built for the Navy by Victoria Shipyards Co. Ltd. under a \$69.7 million contract. The new ships replace 50 year-old wooden hulled Yard Auxiliary General (YAG) training vessels.

The Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources and Member of Parliament for Saanich-Gulf Islands, will be the guest of honour when Commodore David Gagliardi, representing the Chief of the Maritime Staff, takes delivery of the first ship from Mr. Malcolm Barker, General Manager of Victoria Shipyards Co. Ltd. The ships' names perpetuate those of the armed yachts of the Second World War while representing the culture of the West Coast First Nations.

The new ships provide the Navy with a training platform that replicates the capability found in the bridge simulator at the Naval Officer Training Centre and on the bridges of the larger ships of the fleet. Officers and sailors will thus train in an environment very similar to that in which they will eventually serve.

Upon being officially accepted by the Navy, the Patrol Training Craft *Orca* will be ceremonially manned by the primary users: regular and reserve junior officers training at the Naval Officer Training Centre, sailors of the Naval Tender Section and Naval Reserve Divisions, and teenage members of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets.

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