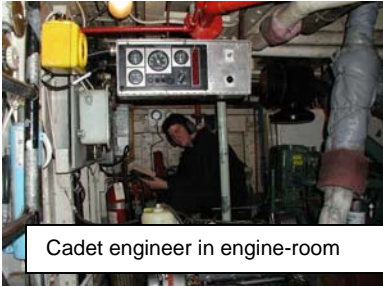


YAG Training

Many Sea Cadets in British Columbia get to practise their seamanship skills in a sea-going environment while participating in weekend deployments onboard 75' Canadian Forces YAGs. The vessels, which are shared with the Naval Reserves, sail from CFB Esquimalt and carry 20-24 cadets.



YAG 314 - Esquimalt



Cadet engineer in engine-room

The YAGs are commanded by CIC officers who have completed the Tender Charge Course. The engineers are cadets who have completed the [Marine Engineers course](#) at [HMCS Quadra Summer Training Centre](#).

During a weekend deployment the cadets are divided into teams – called watches – and they rotate through various stations on the boat.

- ⚓ Helmsman – cadets learn how to steer the boat and control the engines in response to orders from the bridge
- ⚓ Lifebuoy Sentry – the lifebuoy sentry is stationed in the stern of the boat. In a man overboard emergency, their job is to throw the kisby ring and keep their eyes on the man overboard at all times until he/she is recovered
- ⚓ Messenger – the messenger is stationed by the bridge ladder and is responsible for relaying communications from the Officer of the Watch (OOW) to the rest of the ship's company
- ⚓ Lookouts – the lookouts are stationed one on each side of the bridge. Their job is to inform the OOW of any objects sighted. In the waters around southern Vancouver Island there are large numbers of floating logs that could seriously damage a YAG if struck. There is also a high volume of vessel traffic.

The cadets in the off-watch carry out drills such as man overboard (Mobex), fire and emergency steering. They also learn how to launch and recover the ship's boat .

A typical day on a YAG training weekend

0600 Wakey-wakey. You're kidding – right? OK, OK, I'm up. Shuffle into the line-up for the head (bathroom). YAGs can only carry limited amounts of fresh water so a shower is not an option. You do the best you can with a sink half-full of hot water.

0615 Roll up your bedding and stow it for the day. Prepare the cabin for breakfast.

0630 A good hearty hot breakfast.

0730 Everyone on deck to prepare for morning colours and getting underway.

0800 Colours. Ship's company on deck and at attention for the raising of the Ensign.

0815 Hands to Special Sea Duty Stations for entering and leaving harbour. Now you get to practice what you learned last night about manning lines and fenders.

0830-1200 Once all the lines and fenders have been neatly stowed, the ship's company separates into Port and Starboard Watches. Port watch takes the first rotation. You're on the Starboard Watch so you get to go back down into the cabin to work on your Sea Reqs (Sea Requirements is a workbook that you are issued on your first YAG deployment). You just get nicely settled when the Deck Officer sticks his head through the hatch and hollers "Fire! Fire! Fire!



Fire in tiller flats!" You tuck your pant legs into your socks, put on your floater coat and get up on deck as fast as you can. Once there, the Starboard Petty Officer of the Watch (POOW) explains how the drill is going to work and what everyone needs to do. Because this is the first time your watch has done a fire drill, you don't do too well so the DeckO decides that the fire is out of control and hollers "Survival Stations! Survival Stations!" You all head up onto the focs'l where you get told that you did fine for the first time and that you'll get better as the day goes on.

You just have time to get settled and warm in the cabin again when the DeckO re-appears. This time it's a man overboard drill (Mobex) and you learn how to launch the sea boat to recover the man overboard and the Kisby Ring thrown by the lifebuoy sentry.



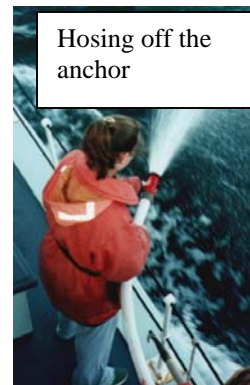
The next drill is Emergency Steering, followed by another fire ex and yet another Mobex. By time you do your third fire ex you have the routine down to a fine art and you are more than ready for lunch!



1130 Everyone up on deck for a class on anchoring. You just get the anchor "set" and it's time to standby to receive lines as the other YAG with the rest of your corps comes alongside and "ties up" to your boat. Now both ship's companies can relax and have lunch.



1300 The other YAG leaves and you get to handle the fire hose to wash off the anchor as it is winched aboard – neat!





1315 The Watches exchange places now and Starboard Watch begins rotations. Your first station is Port Lookout so you go up onto the bridge, take the binoculars and start looking for objects that you need to report to the OOW. You spend 30 minutes on the bridge and get to report 5 other boats, 3 floating logs and a marker buoy.

1345 You are relieved as lookout and you move to your next station in the stern of the boat as Lifebuoy Sentry. 5 minutes later you spot a PFD in the water. You throw the kisby ring overboard, point to the PFD and yell "Man overboard! Man overboard! Man overboard" You keep your eyes and your pointing finger on the PFD while the OOW turns the boat around and heads back. The Port Watch launches the inflatable and recovers the PFD and the kisby ring.. By time the Mobex is done, it's time for you to move to your next station.

1415 This time you get to be inside, in the wheelhouse and take your turn on the wheel and engine controls. The Coxswain (one of the senior cadets) explains how to keep the boat on course, how to change course and how to respond to orders from the bridge. After a while you decide that this is definitely your favourite station!



1445 Even though you really don't want to give it up, your replacement arrives to take their turn at the helm. You put your floater coat back on and head out on deck again. This time you are the messenger. You spend the next 30 minutes standing at the bottom of the bridge ladder waiting for the OOW to give you a message for the ship's company. Evidently it's all quiet up there because you get to spend your time watching a couple of seals that keep sticking their heads up to have a look around.

1515 Back up onto the bridge to take over as Starboard lookout. You get to do lots of object sighting reports because the boats are getting closer to the island harbour where you will be spending the night.

1545 Everyone reports to their entering and leaving port station. The lines and fenders are rigged and the OOW brings the boat alongside. You just have time to get the lines secured when you all have to scurry to the other side of the boat to receive lines from the other YAG as she comes alongside and ties up to your boat.

1630 Time to get cleaned up and the cabin prepared for supper. You realise that the time has passed so quickly that it seems like 5 minutes ago that you were eating supper. In the cabin the 2 watches are having a friendly argument about who did the most drills and who did them the best.

1700 Supper. You realise that you are REALLY hungry !
After supper it's all hands to cleaning stations. The Executive Officer is going to do rounds at 1900 so it's got to be really clean!

1900-2100 Evening activities. One of the staff has brought some board games and cards for a games tournament. You also get some time to work on your Sea Requirements book.

2100 Kye is served. Hot chocolate with peanut butter and jam – always a favourite. Then it's time for the males and females to split up and report to their "sleeping boats." You climb into your sleeping bag at 2200 and are just drifting off to sleep when you hear someone say "That was a fun day – and we get to do it all over again tomorrow!"



319 on the high seas