

SERT Centre holds First DND Fire Fighting Graduation Ceremony

The Marine Institute's Safety and Emergency Response Training (SERT) Centre shared a special graduation ceremony with the Canadian Military on April 24th when it presented 19 military personnel with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting program certificates.

Standing at attention and ready for inspection, graduates from across Canada shared their accomplishments with family, friends, MI instructors and Department of National Defense officials from CFB Borden.

On hand for the ceremony was guest speaker Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice Hynes, Glenn Blackwood, MI's executive director, and Catherine Dutton, head of the school of Maritime Studies, who together handed out the certificates.



DND Graduation Class. SERT Centre, April 2008.

Aside from receiving their program certificates, two of the Military students were also awarded for their outstanding performance and leadership skills. Cpl. John MacNeil was awarded the Student Choice Award. This award was chosen internally by the students and is awarded to an individual who is a motivational team player and provides encouragement to their peers.

The Top Candidate Award, an award based on a high level of academic performance and initiative both in the classroom and during practical exercises, was awarded to Cpl. Jesse Leslie George Fox. Cpl. Fox was chosen by the instructors at the SERT Centre for his exceptional leadership and team building skills.

It has been a great pleasure to deliver firefighting and emergency response training to this first group of Service personnel," said Bob Rutherford, director, Offshore Safety and Survival Centre. "The Safety and Emergency Response Training (SERT) Centre very much appreciates the opportunity provided by the Department of National Defense and we hope that this is just the start of a long and successful partnership. We would like to thank the Town of Stephenville, the

Stephenville Airport Corporation, ACOA Innovative Communities Fund and the Department of Innovation Trade and Rural Development for their support to this initiative.”

The graduating class will now continue their Delta training in Borden before they are posted to ships, army bases or anywhere that fire fighter skills are required.

The Department of National Defense has looked to the Marine Institute to deliver high caliber training for almost a decade. MI also offers two two-year training programs for naval cadets: a marine engineering technical training plan and the naval combat systems technical training plan.

Congratulations to all of the graduates from everyone at the Marine Institute!