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# Shilo Stag

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*Happy Holidays and all the best in 2010 from the Stag*  
Look for our next issue on Jan. 21, 2010



At left, MCpl Rob Nepinak, stopping the vehicle, conducts a check point on a chilly day during exercises for Op Podium. Above, media are briefed at another checkpoint.

*Photos by Sara Cumming*

# Shilo trains for Olympics security

By **BRUCE PEEVER**  
Shilo Stag

A lack of snow meant improvisation for CFB Shilo soldiers training for the Olympics as part of Operation Podium.

On the day before the Dec. 1 snowstorm, a tracked BV206 used mounds of sand to stand in for the usual snow found here in abundance most years. For members of the media travelling in the bouncing BV carrier, choking sand dust added a certain realism to the overall operation.

Op Podium is this base's commitment to the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. Some 200 2PPCLI members will assist the RCMP in supplying security in the mountainous back country surrounding Olympic sites at Whistler. Troops from Shilo will spend up to 11 weeks in Whistler as part of the 3,700 person strong CF security commitment which also includes Navy forces patrolling the coast and Air Force personnel in the

skies above.

According to Maj Jay Adair, helping the RCMP with security at the Olympics shows how flexible our trained Canadian soldiers can be.

"The RCMP camp commander was just here and there were a number of lessons that were taught together. It's important we be able to do this kind of training face to face. At the end of the day it demonstrates how capable we are operating in Kandahar as well as at Whistler," Maj Adair stated.

Security training for the Olympics runs the gamut from searching for lost hikers, to unruly crowd control to a possible bomb threat. On the day the *Stag* and other media were invited, soldiers were training for bomb disposal and security measures resulting from that threat. Maj Adair said this exercise was a "worse case scenario, but that is what we train for." A veteran of three tours in Afghanistan, he indicated he's looking forward to taking Charlie Company to

the Olympics.

"We could be dealing with belligerents in a security zone, or a hostile crowd," Maj Adair explained.

During Op Podium, several BV206 units along with snowmobiles from CFB Shilo will be used at the Olympic site. MCpl Rob Nepinak of 2PPCLI said check stop training was also part of the exercise.

"Any training is of benefit to us. I have never done a domestic operation before but I have been in Afghanistan three times," he stated as he manned a checkpoint in the training area.

Capt Victor Mover showed media a command post that will be similar to that used at the Olympic site. He pointed out most soldiers will get a feeling of pride helping out in their home country.

"You can sit in Brandon and watch the Olympics on television. But to be there and contribute in a small way to the Olympics, that's probably something we will not be able to do again," he said.

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