

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

(Amended: 21 November 2007)

### CANADIAN FORCES ADVANCED WINTER WARFARE COURSE

#### **General Information**

##### General

1. The Army proposes to conduct advanced winter warfare training courses (AWWC) in the high arctic. The courses will commence from a joint, multi-purpose facility located in Resolute Bay, Nunavut, which will be used for military training as well as operations. A proof of concept training exercise is planned for March 2008 with field training conducted across Cornwallis Island and parts Little Cornwallis Island and Bathurst Island.
2. The objective is to produce a maximum of 36 new Army specialists per course capable of advising their commander with regard to the organization, coordination, supervision and planning of deployment and training in arctic and cold weather conditions.
3. The initial Proof of Concept course is to take place from March 1-28, 2008. If the course concept proves successful, it will be conducted once per year for seven years (to 2014), and possibly longer.
4. Tactical reconnaissance missions were conducted in Resolute Bay, where consultations regarding the AWWC were held with Federal Authorities, including Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), territorial and municipal governments, Aboriginal groups, the public and other interested parties.
5. Based on the project information, an environmental assessment (EA) under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) is required. The primary component that triggers this requirement is the establishment of a base camp that is to be used for 200 person-days or more.
6. A land use permit issued by INAC under the *Territorial Land Use Regulations* of the *Territorial Lands Act* is expected to be required. A Class B permit would be required for both the establishment of a base camp used for a period of 100 to 400 person-days, as well as for the use of the BV-206 vehicles.
7. Based on the project information, it is not expected that the base camp will exceed the 400 person-day trigger for a Class A permit under the *Territorial Land Use Regulations*, unless extremely inclement weather results in the number of days at the base camp being extended.
8. The requirement for a Class A land use permit from INAC would trigger review under the Nunavut process. This would require:
  - a) Determination by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) of whether the proposal is in conformity with the approved land use plan (for the Resolute Bay area, the applicable land use plan is the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan); and

- b) If the proposal is in conformity with the land use plan (or a variance is approved), screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) is required to determine whether the proposal has significant impact potential.

## Contacts

9. In accordance with CEAA, by proposing the AWWC the Department of National Defence (DND) becomes both responsible authority and proponent of the project.

10. The designated DND point of contact for the environmental assessment is:

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## Project Information

### Project Components/Structures

11. The AWWC will involve a maximum of 48 Canadian Forces (CF) personnel, consisting of 36 candidates and 12 instructors. In addition, 12 local Canadian Rangers will be employed to assist in the implementation of the course and movement during all field exercises.

12. Candidates will be split into 4 Sections with an instructor/candidate ratio of 1 to 9. Two (2) Canadian Rangers will be assigned to each Section. The remaining 3 CF instructors and 4 Canadian Rangers will operate the Headquarters facility in Resolute Bay and provide supplies to the base camp and patrol camps as necessary.

13. The thirteen (13)-day field training, scheduled for March 8-20<sup>th</sup> 2008, will be divided into two main parts:

Part A - Skills Phase: A base camp surrounded by snow walls, consisting of four (4) 10-man army tents and approximately 6 prospector tents, will be erected for a period of 6 days. The 4 Sections will deploy daily from this location to perform various skill tasks in the area. Fuel, water and other supplies will be brought in daily by BV-206.

Part B - Patrol Phase: A platoon-sized mock Sovereignty Patrol will be conducted along the South end of Cornwallis Island and may include parts of Little Cornwallis Island and Bathurst

Island. Field training will be supported from various camps that will be established in different locations every 1-2 days. Kenn Borek Airlines will be hired to provide re-supply to the camps by air.

14. All camp locations will be restored to their previous state upon departure. All waste will be removed and improvised structures dismantled.

#### Project Activities

15. Course participants will be planning, mounting and executing a mock Sovereignty Patrol, employing Canadian Rangers and navigating while using GPS and astrocompass. The candidates will practice skiing, ski-joring, use of skidoo and BV206, and towing loads. Other activities include:

- Communicating in arctic conditions;
- Assessing the effects of cold on training;
- Conducting re-supply operations;
- Applying First Aid in arctic conditions;
- Conducting casualty evacuation;
- Demonstrating arctic survival techniques;
- Establishing bivouacs;
- Constructing field defences and snow obstacles;
- Conducting tactical training; and
- Conducting community relations' activities

16. An austere range will be established in the vicinity of Resolute Bay and ammunition will be expended at this location only during a community event planned for the last day of training. The firearms demonstration will involve firing a maximum total of 1000 rounds of small arms weapons (C7, C8, C9) into prepared snow defences and other targets on this range.

#### Resource/Material Requirements

17. The equipment used during the field training includes: up to 40 Light Over-Snow Vehicles (LOSV) (skidoo); up to 20 LOSV Sled or snowmobile toboggans; up to 4 Medium Over-Snow Vehicles (MOSV) (BV-206); MOSV Trailer; skis; toboggan; radio; ice auger and chain saw.

18. All fuel required for the training will be drawn from community supply facilities and will be transported to the camps by BV-206 and stored in 20L jerry cans within the vehicle. Fuel transfer during field training will be conducted by jerry can, over drip trays and/or appropriate absorbent material. Standard CF fuel spill kits will be carried both in the BV-206s and at the Section-level, and all existing spill Standard Operating Procedures employed as necessary.

19. The community will also provide potable water, in the form of ice blocks, for personal hydration and cooking. No water will be taken from a water body, nor will any substances be released into a water body. It's anticipated that approximately 5 to 6 ice blocs, each supplying

approximately 20L of water, will be used per tent, per day. CF personnel will ensure re-supply of ice blocs to the camps via BV-206 on a daily basis or as necessary. All black water or other contaminated water will be collected in appropriate bags and returned to Resolute Bay for proper disposal.

## Waste Disposal

20. While conducting field training away from the community of Resolute Bay, all garbage (including human waste) will be collected in bags and removed. Initial planning suggests the use of community garbage dump and sewage treatment facility for disposal, however this remains to be confirmed. If appropriate waste facilities are not available, CF personnel will store all collected waste materials and include them in the redeployment load table. Any remaining fuels or unused hazardous materials drawn from the community will be returned as appropriate.

## Project Site Information

### Project Location

21. All course personnel will be supported logistically from the community of Resolute Bay. Existing infrastructure, operated by Natural Resources Canada as part of the Polar Continental Shelf Project (PCSP), will be used to provide accommodation, feeding, storage, fueling and repair functions.

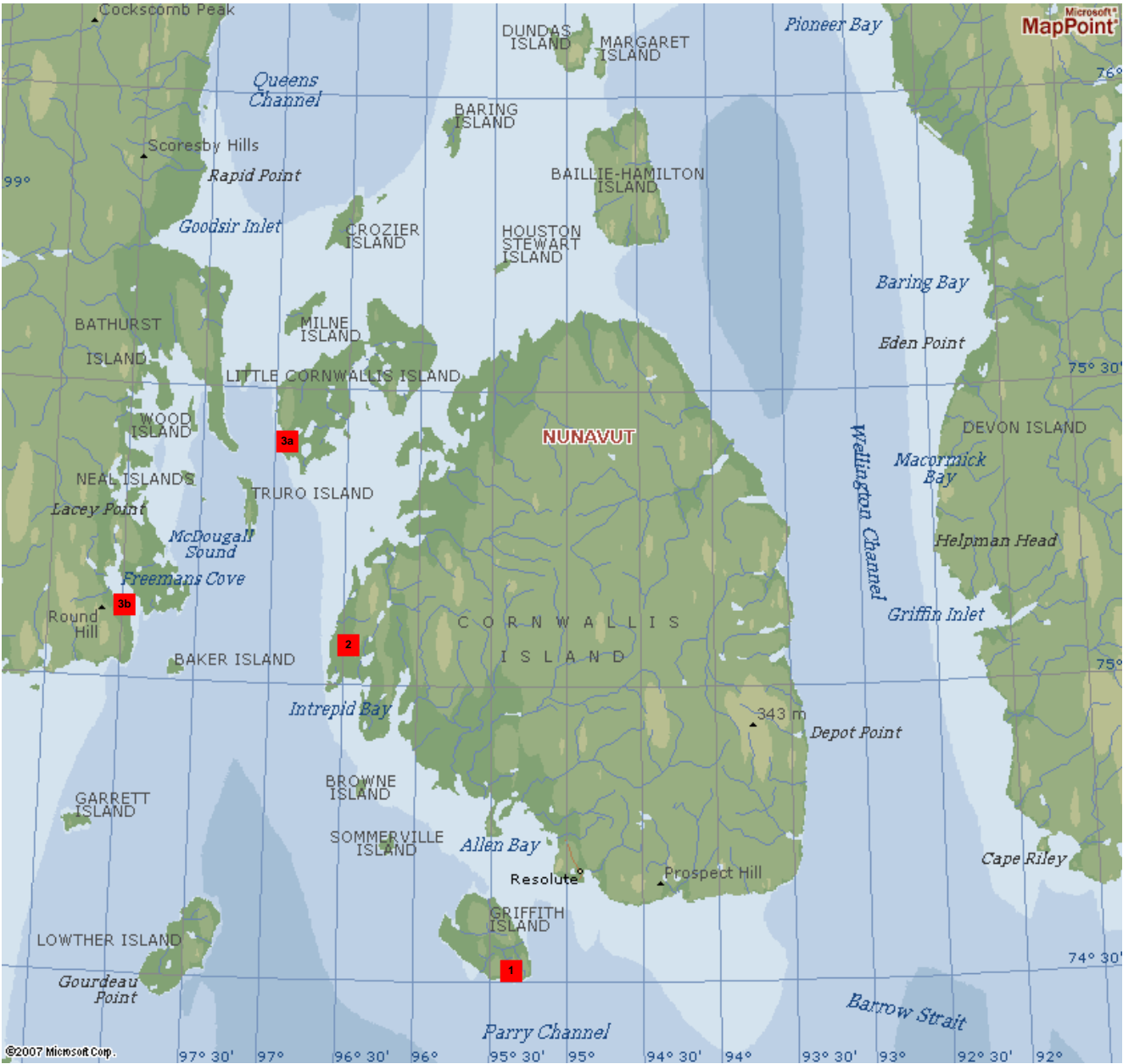
22. Field Training Part A - Skills Phase: A base camp housing 48 people will be erected for a period of 6 days, on Griffith Island, to the South-West of Resolute Bay (see Map 1). Sections will deploy daily from this location to perform various skill tasks in the area.

23. Field Training Part B - Patrol Phase: Field training will be conducted along the South end of Cornwallis Island and may include parts of Little Cornwallis Island and Bathurst Island. Field training will be supported from various camps that will be established in different locations every 1-2 days. Anticipated patrol camp locations include Cornwallis Island (75 DEG 05' 00" N - 96 DEG 28' 00" W), Polaris Mines Airstrip (75 DEG 23' 00" N - 96 DEG 58' 00" W), and Freeman's Cove Airstrip (75 DEG 07' 00" N - 97 DEG 59' 00" W) (see Map 1).

25. Personnel will travel over snow by skidoos, while instructors will follow with necessary supplies and emergency materials in BV-206s.

26. The Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Park located on Bathurst Island has been identified as a sensitive area and will not be entered during any field training activities. Canadian Rangers will guide all movements of CF personnel throughout the exercise and will ensure other areas of concern are avoided.

Map 1: Proposed Field Training Locations



LOCATIONS OF ARTIC TRAINING FIELD CAMPS		
1 - GRIFFITH ISLAND	-----	95°17' 00"W, 74°29' 00"N
2 - CORNWALLIS ISLAND	-----	96°28' 00"W, 75°05' 00"N
3A - POLARIS MINES AIRSTRIP	-----	96°58' 00"W, 75°23' 00"N
3B - FREEMAN'S COVE AIRSTRIP	-----	97°59' 00"W, 75°07' 00"N