

The Official Newsletter of the Flight Deck

ISFTA(I'M SORRY FOR THE ACRONYM)

Heather Sutherland, Second Lieutenant

"Hey, Heather, I have a question for you! Is this accurate?" I walked over to the Logistics Lieutenant (pronounced left-tenant) calling my name. She was holding a schedule for the day, and on it was a line relating to the CC-130 that we knew was going to fly over our location and drop cargo and personnel. The C130 was marked down as dropping SAR Techs (Search and Rescue Technicians) as well as 'CDS'

'CDS as in the CDS?' She asked me. It was printed pretty clearly, so there was no mistaking the acronym. If you have had any sort of conversation with a military member (active or veteran) about their career, odds are at some point, there was an acronym you've never heard before. It's inevitable. It's so ingrained in the military culture we can't help it. CDS in most cases stands for Chief of Defence staff (currently the CDS is General Jonathan Vance) and is the senior-most member of the Canadian Armed Forces who reports to the Minister of National Defence. The exercise we were on was being watched by members of the press, but we had no forewarning that the CDS was going to show up, especially via airdrop.

"You would think more people would have been talking about it if the actual CDS was parachuting into a gravel pit" I responded. Nowhere in my training had CDS been mentioned in a role other than the chief of defence staff. The exercise continued, and the technicians on the ground seemed very happy with the dropped load, so we continued with our day, never seeing General Vance around.

"It wasn't until later where I finally received some context for CDS. A tactical form that was filled out for a CC-130 mission was handed to me, and CDS was listed again. What does CDS stand for? Oh, um, it's something that they drop out the back." was the explanation I received at the time. The context was nice, but I was frustrated with not having a real answer and only a concept of what CDS stood for.

Consequently, I opened up the Defence Terminology Bank bookmark which is a repository for known acronyms. I dug into the local flying publications and found that CDS stood for 'Container Delivery System' which is just a way of putting cargo on a pallet so it can be dropped out of the back of an aircraft. I was surprised that for something pretty unique to the RCAF, no one knew what the actual acronym stood for.

The more time that passes, the more acronyms I become familiar with as a concept rather than an acronym. If someone were to ask you on the spot what NASA stood for, could you answer correctly, or did you just know the concept? Is it the North American Space Association? How about the National Aeronautics and Space Administration? The acronym slowly becomes the name of the thing with an understood concept. Shortening the 'container delivery' system to CDS makes a lot of sense for pilots who need to fill it out on their mission forms to save time, and based on context, you can probably guess that General Vance isn't the cargo being dropped.

CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?



TOP 10 CHRISTMAS GIFTS

1. Heated Blanket
2. LED Strip Lights
3. Sony XM4
4. Google Home
5. Fitbit
6. Dutch Oven
7. Keurig
8. Banana LED Neon Sign
9. Insulated Tumbler
10. Slippers



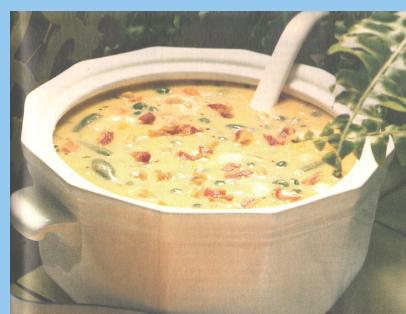
Here is a list of gift ideas
for friends and family!

ANTHONY'S FRIDAY FAVOURITES



Hitchhiker's
Guide to the
Galaxy

Fish &
Vegetable
Chowder



NEW PROJECT ALERT: LOADR

Hot off the press is the latest project in works at the Flight Deck. As the name suggests this is a load management app to ensure safe weight distribution on aircrafts. Loadr aims to eliminate the current paper or Excel workflow in place by load technicians to allow for a more efficient way of getting this job done. By electronically placing cargo on the plane, this app makes adjustments quick and easy while also providing the necessary calculations as changes are made. Keep your eye out for Loadr's release because you won't want to miss it.

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FLIGHT DECK FEATURE: VIKKI BABIC

Hi there!



My name is Vikki and I am the Lab Director of this amazing space, The Flight Deck. The innovation lab has been my home for the last 3 years, and I feel privileged to have the opportunity to work side by side with some of the coolest and brightest folks, military and civilian, and contribute to the technical advancements of the RCAF. I am an Electrical Engineer by training and have spent the last 20+ years of my professional career managing product development for some awesome hi-tech organizations. When I am not working, you will find me with my husband, our two kids (and probably another 10 family members and friends, 'cause we're Serbian and that's just how we roll) either lounging on a white sandy beach in the Caribbean or skiing on a snow-covered mountain in Quebec. I love animals, music, absolutely all sports, and game lunches with our Co-ops!!



**WANT TO BE FEATURED
IN OUR NEWSLETTER,
RECOMMEND 'FRIDAY
FAVOURITES' OR JUST
WANT TO CHAT?**

Contact us at
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