

HMCS Huron set to perform final naval tasking

■ Trident Fury kicks off today

KIM HORROCKS
STAFF WRITER

After nearly two years of training and planning, PO1 Karl Hesjedahl tours the gutted hull of the former HMCS Huron with an earned sense of confidence.

As Chief of the Explosive Ordinance Disposal team from Fleet Diving Unit (Pacific) team, PO1 Hesjedahl is in charge of preparing the ship for its scheduled May 14 sinking as part of exercise Trident Fury 2007, where U.S. and Canadian warships and aircraft will use Huron for target practice until it sinks nearly 2,000 metres to the ocean floor.

"They're going to shoot on it to their heart's content and if they don't sink it, then I have the pleasure to scuttle it," said PO1 Hesjedahl.

Escorted by a Canadian naval unit, the retired destroyer will be towed 140 nautical miles from

D Jetty in Colwood out to the Pacific Ocean by the Navajo, a U.S. tug contracted for the job due to its vast experience towing vessels of similar type.

Once positioned in the West Coast firing area, PO1 Hesjedahl and his team will be inserted by helicopter to prepare Huron for the exercise by removing power packs, flood sensors, flood alarms and navigation lights.

"After the power units are lifted off the ship, I have to explosively remove the towing cable by blowing the joining shackle," he explained. "Then we'll be extracted by helo so the fleet can have at it."

The Sinking Exercise (SINKEX) will commence with small calibre gunfire, moving on to CWIS (Close In Weapons System) firing, Sea Sparrow missiles, aircraft strafing, and then finish with the launch of MK 48 torpedoes. If at

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Kim Horrocks, Lookout

The former HMCS Huron will no longer reside alongside F Jetty in Colwood. The stripped down warship will be pulled out to sea by an American tugboat for one last assignment - to serve as a target during Exercise Trident Fury. Ships and aircraft from Canada and the U.S. will shoot a variety of rounds and torpedoes to sink her.

Multi-national warfare exercise begins off coast of Vancouver Island

Lt(N) PAUL PENDERGAST
BASE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The sea and sky around Vancouver Island will be alive

the most diverse group of participants ever seen in MARPAC as ships, aircraft, and a limited number of ground units partici-

Pacific Fleet warships - *HMCS Algonquin, Regina, Ottawa and Saskatoon* -, three United States Naval vessels from Third Fleet

The primary forward operating bases for these units are CFB Comox; Victoria International Airport (including both the civil

spectrum of training events. There are core maritime professional serials such as seamanship and ship handling.