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The Official Newsletter of the Flight Deck

SITREP: DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR COVID-19

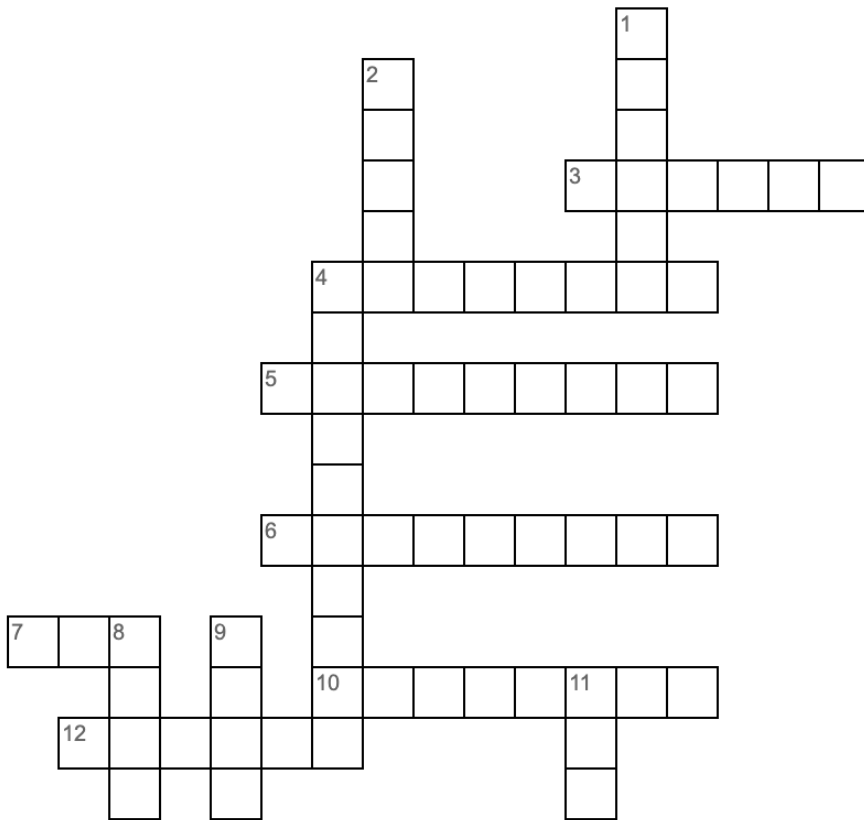
By LCol Ray Stockermans, Innovation Section Head

Hello and let me introduce myself. I am LCol Ray Stockermans, the Innovation Section Head at the RAWC in Trenton, which is part of CD&E Branch. While I am responsible for the overall RCAF Innovation programme, some of my responsibilities are to look after the Flight Deck in Kitchener. If you have not heard of it, it is located at an Innovation Hub called Communitech (www.communitech.ca), which houses small start-up companies to large established organizations like TD Bank, Deloitte, LCBO and of course, the RCAF! Located there are two contracted personnel, the Lab Director and the Technical Lead, who mentor and guide the four coops that we hire every four-month term from the University of Waterloo.

During these strange times we are in due to the COVID-19 virus, a few things have changed, but in many ways, we are operating in the same manner as we did before, due to the remote location of the Flight Deck. For example, we were already using Google Hangouts to run our regular meetings between the Innovation staff at the RAWC in Trenton, and the people located in Kitchener. We had already subscribed over two years ago to GSuite – the Google suite of office products to allow our detachment to run like a modern office; it provides cloud storage, email and calendar functions. We could not use the normal DWAN based office products such as Microsoft Office, since access to the DWAN was not guaranteed at the office in Kitchener,

and a new way of doing business had to be taken. Also, just before the COVID-19 crisis hit Canada, forcing many of us to work at home, the Flight Deck was already using programs like Slack, and trialing Monday.com as ways to better communicate and effectively manage the workload.

So when the doors closed at Communitech, and with much the same thing happening at Bases across Canada, our Flight Deck easily transitioned to working separately from home, but still working together, using the tools they were already used to. The biggest effect was on the staff in Trenton. We had to fully transition to the same tools the Flight Deck was using so that we could also work from home, communicate with each other, and work together on shared documents and projects. It certainly forced old-school people like myself into using tools that an agile, design-thinking high tech industry such as that found in the Kitchener-Waterloo region, has already been using for years to great success. While the entire RAWC Innovation Section is now working in different locations, we are still able to communicate, share the workload, and complete projects that will directly benefit the RCAF.



FLIGHT DECK CROSSWORD

Down:

1. Current newsletter creator
2. The Flight Deck's lab director
4. The Prime Minister's ride
8. An RCAF network
9. Trenton airport
11. Our aquatic counterpart

Across:

3. A good internet browser
4. Ranks of the Flight Deck co-ops
5. Old name for Dispatch's map
6. Common frequency unit
7. Our department
10. A bad internet browser
12. A recent holiday

BRAIN TEASER

Put a coin into an empty bottle and insert a cork into the neck.

How can you remove the coin without removing the cork or breaking the bottle?

SITREP: PROVIDING DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

By CJ Chenevert

To most military members, reporting on the current situation is second nature. We have excelled in the past at being able to have a quick look at our ranks and let our superiors know how well everyone is doing. That quickly changed once the COVID-19 social distancing rules came into effect. Looking for a new way to have the ability to continue this reporting requirement, the Flight Deck – along with ATESS – have been working diligently to create, improve, and deliver a quality distributed application to allow chains of command to reach out to their members via unclassified means and receive their current status. The team has managed to put together, in very short order, a system allowing team leaders at all levels to keep accountability of their members and automate the need for daily reporting to commanders at the highest levels. With agility, flexibility, and a cunning sense of innovation, the Flight Deck continues to improve on this system, which is currently in use at multiple units throughout the RCAF. A shining example of how necessity leads innovation, the SITREP tool has proven itself an invaluable partner in assuring the readiness of the CAF in the support of Canada.

COOP CORNER

Jon Loos

Meet my dog!



Vinci Rose

Hey everyone, my name is Jon. I'm a full-time full-stack developer for the Flight Deck. The reason why I've been placed in the coop corner is because I was actually a coop here over summer 2019! Together, our main project was to design, build and deploy the first few iterations of Dispatch, the 8Wing's main Air Mobility flight planning platform!

Currently I'm part of the team building SITREP, the COVID situational reporting tool currently being adopted throughout the Air Force. Looking forward to the new projects to come!

SOLUTIONS

Brain Teaser

Push the cork down into the bottle & then shake the coin out.

Crossword

Down

1. Sophia
2. Vikki
4. Challenger
8. DWAN
9. CYTR
11. RCN

Across

3. Chrome
4. Civilian
5. Dashboard
6. Megahertz
7. DND
10. Explorer
12. A recent holiday

TECH TIP

Kiran Manoj Kumar

Here's some cool Python code that creates a unique multi-coloured loading bar in your console.

Try running it on your computer for a colourful surprise!

```
import random as rand
import time
import sys

def progress_bar(length):
    colours = ['\033[95m', '\033[94m', '\033[92m', '\033[93m', '\033[91m', '\033[0m', '\033[1m', '\033[4m']
    spaces = "[" + " " * length + "]"
    sys.stdout.write(spaces)
    sys.stdout.flush()
    sys.stdout.write("\b" * (length+1))
    for i in range(length):
        time.sleep(0.1)
        sys.stdout.write(rand.choice(colours) + "#")
        sys.stdout.flush()
    sys.stdout.write("]\n")

progress_bar(40)
```



**WANT TO BE FEATURED
IN OUR NEWSLETTER OR
JUST WANT TO CHAT?**

Contact us at
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