

MI welcomes new DND recruits

The Canadian Navy will add a few more good men and women to its fleet this January when it sends another 64 recruits from across the country to study at the Marine Institute.

The recruits were in St. John's last week to attend orientation sessions at the Institute and to settle into their new accommodations before they begin their studies in the winter semester.

"The relationship between DND and the Marine Institute has been an enormous success for both organizations since its establishment in 1991," said Catherine Dutton, head, School of Maritime Studies. "With each passing year, more and more naval cadets complete their technical training at the Institute and continue on to successful careers in the navy."

The Marine Institute offers two training programs to naval cadets - a Marine Engineering Technician Training Plan (METTP) and a Naval Combat Systems Technician Training Plan (NCSTTP). Both are two year programs and offer cadets a career in which they take care of some of the most advanced electronic and marine equipment in today's navy. Each year, the Institute graduates approximately 100 cadets.

DND has depended on the Marine Institute to deliver high calibre training to their cadets and now this training has expanded to MI's Safety and Emergency Response Training (SERT) Centre. On September 17, 2007 the SERT Centre welcomed the first group of DND firefighting trainees. Twenty young men and women from all over Canada converged on the centre to complete a thirty-week program consisting of the Marine Institute's basic firefighting modules with the addition of the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) program. This program was customized to meet the needs of the DND.

The Centre expects to train 60 DND firefighting trainees during 2007-08 with confirmation of another 20 due to start the program in March.