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5th Canadian Division Support Base Detachment Aldershot to exercise the Freedom of the Town

KENTVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA – The 5th Canadian Division Support Base (CDSB) Detachment (Det) Aldershot will exercise the Freedom of the Town of Kentville at 11:30 am on Saturday May 27th 2017 at Town Hall.

This time-honoured tradition dates as far back as medieval Europe, and was originally granted to military units that had gained the trust of a municipality. These units were permitted to parade through the town with “drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed.” Today’s Freedom of the Town has become one of ceremony and honour. It reflects the community’s respect toward the Canadian Armed Forces and its units.

“This is a tradition that reminds the community of how closely 5 CDSB Det Aldershot and Kentville have worked in the past, and is a building block to a future of alliance and support with the Detachment,” said Mark Philips, Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Kentville. The soldiers and officers of 5 CDSB Det Aldershot will begin their parade from the Kentville Arena along Main Street at 11:15 a.m. with a formal march up to Town Hall at 354 Main Street. The Garrison Coordinator, Major Brent Kerr, and Garrison Sergeant Major, Master Warrant Officer Joel Turnbull, will be challenged by the Kentville Police Chief Ken Reade. Together Chief Reade and Major Kerr will advance to the front door of Town Hall, knock three times and Mayor Snow will ask “who goes there?” Major Kerr will request Freedom of the Town, followed by a general salute, playing of the national anthem, blessing and inspection of the parade. Following proclamations and presentations, the parade will march past the Town Hall with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed and proceed down Cornwallis Street.

“All members of the Detachment are looking forward to this event,” said Garrison Coordinator, Major Brent Kerr. “It’s a great opportunity for people to see their friends and neighbours in the Canadian Armed Forces showing their support for the community.”

Located just north of Kentville, 5 CDSB Det Aldershot supports individual training for Regular Force and Primary Reserve Canadian Army officers and soldiers from across Canada. Currently, 5 CDSB Det Aldershot supports the majority of training for 5th Canadian Division reserve units during the summer months, and supports leadership and basic training full-time throughout the year. The base also

supports other government departments with training facilities. It is celebrating its 113th year in its current location.

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