



National Defence Défense nationale

9.1.1

Maritime Forces Atlantic
P.O. Box 99000, Stn. Forces
Halifax, N.S. B3K 5X5

MARL: 1350-1 (N00 Comd)

17 May 2004

Mayor Peter Kelly and Members of Council
Halifax Regional Municipality
P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, N.S. B3J 3A5

Your Worship and Council Members:

Operation Overlord, the invasion of Normandy, mounted the greatest seaborne assault of all time. Its naval component, Operation Neptune, employed a staggering armada of 5,300 ships and landing craft. Their task was to land 150,000 soldiers and 1,500 tanks along a fifty-mile span of Normandy beaches within the first 48 hours of the campaign. Approximately 15,000 Canadians fought on the beaches and over 80,000, many from Nova Scotia, took part in the bitter, 10-week Normandy campaign that followed. More than 5,000 Canadians died in the fighting between D-Day and the end of August, when the Germans were driven from Normandy. This is the 60th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion and Maritime Forces Atlantic is marking this important milestone with several events planned on 6 June.

Maritime Forces Atlantic is aware of two separate D-Day observance activities. The first is a large parade consisting of Normandy Veterans, marching contingents from Maritime Forces Atlantic, the Stadacona Band, the 1st Battalion Nova Scotia Highland Pipe Band, cadets, other Veteran groups, HRM police, RCMP, cubs, floats and Royal Canadian Legion colour parties, which will start in the vicinity of Chebucto and Windsor, and will then march along Windsor Street to the Halifax Forum. This activity will start at approximately 1020 hours.

The second part is a Drum Head ceremony - an ancient service that dates back as long as drums have been associated with war - at the Halifax Forum. This commemoration will start at 1100 hours. The drums from the 1st Battalion Nova Scotia Highland Pipe Band will be used to form a symbolic makeshift field altar that would have been used in the battlefield and will form the central focus of the commemorative ceremony. The ceremony will be officiated by a Canadian Forces Padre, a Rabbi and Spiritual Leader of the Mi'kmaq Nation.

In addition to the parade and Drum Head ceremony, a symbolic flypast by a Sea King helicopter from CFB Shearwater is planned. In this respect, it is requested that the Mayor and council grant the Canadian Forces permission to do a symbolic flypast over the parade in honour of Veterans in attendance. This flypast would happen at 1040 hours when the marching contingents were midway along the parade route.

Yours truly,

G.V. Davidson
Rear-Admiral
Commander

Canada

Commander
Maritime Forces Atlantic
PO Box 99000 Stn Forces
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3K 5X5



Commandant
Forces maritimes de l'Atlantique
BP 99000 Stn Forces
Halifax, Nouvelle Écosse
Canada B3K 5X5

Facsimile (902) 427-1336

Télécopieur (902) 427-1336

Fax To: CHRISTINE MACDONALD, MUN CLERK'S OFFICE

Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

- Originator:
- RAdm G.V. Davidson 427-6355
 - B.A. St. John, Admin Asst 427-6354
 - LCdr F.G. Rasmussen, Executive Assistant 427-6356
 - Lt(N) D.J. Benoit, Flag Lieutenant 427-0550, ext 6357
 - CPO1 L.D. Ryan, Formation CPO 427-0550, ext 6196
 - MS W.G. Brown, Formation CPO Assistant 427-0550, ext 0473
 - LS P.M. Greene 427-0224

Date: 17 MAY 04

Subject: D-DAY CEREMONY

Number of pages (including this one): 2

Confirmation required: No Yes

Notes/Special Handling Instructions: