

## CF, Algonquin College partner on Geomatics Tech program

### From CFPN

In a first-of-its-kind partnership, the CF and Ottawa's Algonquin College are collaborating on the delivery of a Geomatics Technician program to CF students.

This initiative, part of the Canadian Forces Training Delivery program, will see about 30 students enter the college's School for Military Mapping, developed exclusively for CF personnel, for Geomatics Technician entry-level training.

Geomatics is the measurement, management, presentation and analysis of geospatial data. Geospatial data is a combination of geographical, meteorological, social and other data that is processed using spatial software to create a three-dimensional "picture" of a battle space. CF Geomatics Techs are the 21C military mappers who advise operational commanders on the many and varied elements in a battle space that may impact upon what takes place in that battle space.

The new program will allow the geomatics trade to double its number of graduates in one year. In addition, with the development of community college partnerships, the CF can increase advanced training for personnel already in the system.

CF instructors will deliver the military-specific content while providing context for the portions of the training delivered by Algonquin College staff. The visible presence of professional military personnel in a community college may also serve to further CF recruiting efforts.

The partnership with Algonquin College is part of an overall initiative to transform the delivery of training in the CF by increasing our productive training capacity, reducing the reliance on military personnel in the training system, and training entry-level personnel in a more timely manner. The CF Mapping and Charting Establishment and Canadian Forces Support Training Group worked together to develop the geomatics partnership program. The program is part of the Community College Delivery strand of the Alternative Training Delivery initiative sponsored through the Canadian Defence Academy. A number of other Community College Delivery initiatives are underway, aimed at transforming the avenues through which CF personnel receive occupation training.

The value of the Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) contract is \$600 000 annually through the next five years. ♦

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releasing personnel after the 120-day period, may also apply but under a different set of criteria.

### Growing pains

The transition interview process has proved successful and accessible for CF personnel releasing medically – they have CF case managers working with VAC area counsellors to guide them through the release process – including their mandatory VAC-TI. However, getting personnel who are voluntarily releasing to schedule and attend their VAC-TIs is sometimes a challenge.

"Release clerks can be frustrated trying to organize transition interviews for personnel, especially the ones on 30-day release," says Lieutenant-Commander Roger Shaw, VAC liaison on the Directorate Quality of Life (DQOL) Release and Transition team. "They aren't really interested in attending because, initially, they can't see the benefits."

If you release without a transition interview and never apply for a disability award (VAC maintains contact with clients who are in receipt of a disability award or disability pension), you might never have any contact with VAC. You might not receive services and benefits you need, and to which you are entitled, because you won't be aware of what's available to you. Moreover, VAC won't have you on their radar, and so won't contact you about benefits and service changes, and other important information.

Releasing personnel have a variety of reasons for not scheduling a transition interview. Those who are in good health and already have jobs or schooling lined up don't see the need. Some are just eager to get on with getting out, and some can't manage to schedule a time when everyone involved can get together.

"Sometimes," says VAC National Standards and Education Officer Ms Laura Perilli, "processes aren't being followed, or can't be followed. Personnel who are on voluntary release are showing up at the last minute, or after their release. Sometimes it just has to do with timing, or a lack of resources or space. However, we are starting a review that may highlight some of the barriers we are encountering."

"And in the new year," adds LCdr Shaw, "CF and VAC representatives will be making base visits again, to talk with case managers and VAC counsellors. This might help identify these potential problems a little quicker and provide solutions to solve them."

### Just do it

VAC area counsellors work closely with release cells and CF case managers (if you're releasing for medical reasons) to ensure you receive seamless support. If you are anticipating a 30-day release, you should schedule your VAC-TI within seven days after you receive your release notice. If you are scheduled for a six-month or longer

release, you should plan to have your VAC-TI within the first month after you receive your release notice. These timeframes give your VAC area counsellor an opportunity to conduct any necessary preparations on behalf of you and your family, or to take follow-up steps after the interview.

Whether you're on a 30-day release, anticipating a six-month release or releasing medically, don't let your VAC-TI fall through the cracks. You may already have a job, schooling or rehab organized (and that's good), but you still must schedule and attend a transition interview. Your VAC area counsellor is a professional who may think of something you've overlooked. Even if you've dotted every "i" and don't need any of the VAC-TI services when you release, the contact numbers, e-mail addresses, URLs and general good suggestions you'll receive may prove useful down the road.

And don't forget to include your family in your VAC-TI. They, too, are beginning this new phase of life, and transition interviews have been specifically designed to provide information to you all.

Your transition interview will give you and your client service team member a chance to go over your plans, your possibilities and your needs to make sure that you and your family are as well-informed and well-equipped as possible for your move to the civilian world.

Locations with VAC presence on-site:

- ♦ CFB Halifax
- ♦ CFB Greenwood
- ♦ ASU Galetown
- ♦ Garrison Montréal/St-Jean
- ♦ Garrison Valcartier
- ♦ CFB Bagotville (outreach from Garrison Valcartier)
- ♦ CFSU Ottawa
- ♦ CFB Petawawa
- ♦ CFB Kingston
- ♦ CFB Trenton
- ♦ ASU Toronto (outreach from CFB Trenton)
- ♦ CFB Borden
- ♦ 17 Wing Winnipeg
- ♦ CFB/ASU Shilo
- ♦ ASU Edmonton
- ♦ CFB Cold Lake (outreach from ASU Edmonton)
- ♦ CFB Esquimalt
- ♦ CFB Comox (outreach from CFB Esquimalt)

- Read CANFORGEN I 173/07 at [http://vcdds.mil.ca/vcdds-exec/pubs/canforgen/index\\_e.asp](http://vcdds.mil.ca/vcdds-exec/pubs/canforgen/index_e.asp) for information and references.
- Consult VAC at [www.vac-acc.gc.ca/clients/sub.cfm?source=forces/transition](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/clients/sub.cfm?source=forces/transition) for information on the transition process, and at [www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/) for comprehensive information on benefits, services and programs under the New Veterans Charter.
- Access background information on transition interviews at [www.forces.gc.ca/hr/cfpn/engraph/10\\_04/10\\_04\\_vac-ti\\_e.asp](http://www.forces.gc.ca/hr/cfpn/engraph/10_04/10_04_vac-ti_e.asp) and at [www.forces.gc.ca/hr/cfpn/engraph/7\\_04/7\\_04\\_vac-ti\\_e.asp](http://www.forces.gc.ca/hr/cfpn/engraph/7_04/7_04_vac-ti_e.asp). ♦

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additional risk does not mean you need to increase your life insurance coverage. Whether you are in a theatre of operations overseas or driving your car from home to work, your life insurance needs remain the same. You want your family to live reasonably, no matter what happens, or where.

That said, before you deploy is an opportune time to review your life insurance policy with a licensed insurance representative. He or she will help you make sure you have adequate coverage to protect your family.

### How do I figure out my family's financial needs?

The best way is to consult with a licensed SISIP FS life insurance representative, who will conduct a needs-analysis to determine the financial needs of your loved ones.

### What if I don't have any financial obligations?

If you are single, have no dependents, and are without financial obligations, you may need only a small amount of life insurance.

If you have dependent children—whether you're single or with a

spouse/partner—you need to consider income replacement needs for those children, and for your surviving spouse/partner if you have one. These needs could include an emergency fund, additional childcare expenses, mortgage, education expenses, personal debt, or special medical needs.

A SISIP FS life insurance representative will also take into consideration other financial benefits your survivors will receive, such as those paid under the *Canadian Forces Superannuation Act* (CFSA), the Supplementary Death Benefit (SDB) lump sum payments (equal to twice your annual salary), and other relevant sources of income.

### What kinds of life insurance does SISIP FS have?

SISIP FS offers three optional term life insurance plans:

- The Optional Group Term Insurance (OGTI) plan, designed for serving Regular Force personnel and their spouses/partners.
- The Reserve Term Insurance Plan (RTIP), designed for serving Reserve Force personnel and their spouses/partners.
- The Insurance for Released Members (IRM) plan, designed for the needs of the released personnel and their spouses/partners.

### Where can I get more information?

Visit [www.sisip.com](http://www.sisip.com) or call 1-800-267-6681. ♦

Example / Optional Group Term Insurance Plan monthly premiums for serving members									
Age	younger than 25	25-39	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and older
Non-smoker \$10K	\$0.70	\$0.60	\$0.65	\$0.80	\$1.05	\$1.35	\$2.00	\$3.40	\$4.30
Smoker \$10K	\$1.05	\$0.95	\$1.10	\$1.25	\$1.80	\$3.00	\$4.90	\$5.40	\$6.45