

Canucks' Macedonian mission accomplished

By **RUTHANNE URQUHART**
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Canadian Armed Forces engineers arrived in Trenton Monday from the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

Their three-month mission was to prepare the army base at Kumanovo for the evacuation of OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) ob-

server force personnel should the situation in Kosovo worsen.

"It was the most challenging thing I've done in my military career," said Lieut. Chris Brown, adding the unit accomplished something else at Kumanovo.

"We established a good rapport with other nations' forces," he said. "You could tell that by all the going-away parties and good wishes they had for us."

The returning squadron left behind a ready-for-action communications section, hospital and two barrack blocks.

"There were problems with material delivery, and the parts we got weren't what we were used to," Brown said. "It took a lot of ingenuity on the part of our tradesmen."

Lt.-Col. Serge Duplain, who is still at Kumanovo with more than

20 Canadian engineers, medical staff and military police, said the mission was very successful.

"It wasn't easy for them, but they did the job and they're home safely," he said.

Duplain and his personnel may be home by the middle June, but "we'll have to adjust according to the situation," he said. "Things are quiet here right now, and we're being taken care of safely."