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Headquarters  
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London, Ontario  
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3352-NOREX 18 (NOREX Plans)

26 March 2018

Distribution List

FINAL PLAN – NOREX 18



As you are aware, members of 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division based in garrisons across Ontario recently completed NOREX 18 (Northern Exercise 2018), a demanding field training exercise conducted in Nunavut during February 2018. While the major training location was the Canadian Armed Forces Arctic Training Centre in Resolute and the immediate vicinity on Cornwallis Island, a group of approximately 30 soldiers were also airlifted to both Arctic Bay and Grise Fiord from 9-10 February and 14-15 February 2018 respectively.

Enclosed is the Final Plan concerning NOREX 18. It is intended to formally close out the various permits issued by Nunavut authorities prior to the commencement of this military training activity.

On behalf of 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division, I would like to express my thanks for the assistance and guidance provided by all permit issuing organizations. Although an involved process, the various reviews ensured that NOREX 18 was conducted in a sustainable manner with limited and transient impact to the sensitive northern environment. I look forward to the conduct of further training activities in Nunavut over the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "C. W. Poole".

C. W. Poole  
Colonel  
Commander

Enclosure: Final Plan for NOREX 18

Distribution List  
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## Distribution List

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### Internal

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4 Cdn Div HQ Toronto//G3

4 CDSB Toronto//Env Svcs

CAFATC Resolute//SSO

2 CMBG HQ Petawawa//G3

31 CBG HQ London//G3/NOREX Plans

3 RCR Petawawa//Ops O

G&SF Barrie//CO/Ops O/ARCG Plans O

**FINAL PLAN**

**For**

**NOREX 18**

**(Northern Exercise 2018)**

**Cornwallis Island, Arctic Bay and Grise Fiord,  
Nunavut**

**4-17 February 2018**

NPC File: 148634

NIRB File: 16DN061

NWB File: 8WLC-NOR1819

QIA Certificate of Exemption: Q18X001

## **Background:**

The Canadian Army maintains a variety of forces on standby for employment within Canada. These forces are designed to support other government departments in a response to a domestic emergency situation and include reasonably well known organisations such as SAR (Search and Rescue). The 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division is based in Ontario and, as part of this overall force posture, maintains both Regular Army and Reserves on standby for employment in Nunavut. The Regular Army contribution to this emergency response capability is known as the Immediate Reaction Unit (IRU) with the Reserve component being called the Arctic Response Company Group (ARCG). Both the IRU and ARCG participated in NOREX 18.

A small group of soldiers arrived at the Canadian Armed Forces Arctic Training Centre (CAFATC) located in Resolute, NU on 26 January. A further advance group arrived on 29 January. Both were employed conducting necessary equipment preparation and checks to support the arrival of the main body of troops. On 6 February 2018 approximately 90 members of the IRU arrived at Resolute. These soldiers spent one night at CAFATC preparing equipment before moving out onto the land accompanied by 15 Canadian Rangers. They initially established a tented camp at the austere range location immediately east of the Hamlet of Resolute. This camp was maintained for two days, from 7-9 February, during which time a small arms range was conducted using various military firearms. The IRU then moved to the aircraft crash site further to the east and established a second tented camp for the duration of the exercise. This group also conducted patrols on Cornwallis Island using ski-doods. A group of approximately 30 soldiers also deployed to Arctic Bay for one night before returning to the main camp on Cornwallis Island.

On 10 February approximately 90 members of the ARCG arrived at CAFATC. This group spent one night at CAFATC preparing equipment before moving to a tented camp location on the shore of Cornwallis Island approximately two kilometres north west of the airport. They remained in this location for four nights before relocating their camp to the austere range location previously occupied by the IRU. A group of approximately 30 soldiers also deployed to Grise Fiord for one night before returning to the main camp on Cornwallis Island.

On 12 February the IRU returned to CAFATC to commence equipment turn in departing Resolute the following day. The ARCG remained on the land until 16 February at which time they too returned to CAFATC to turn in their equipment. This group departed Resolute on 17 February leaving only a small group behind at CAFATC to manage the various close out activities required. The final departure of NOREX 18 personnel from Resolute took place on 20 February 2018.

## **Timeline:**

26 January – arrival of 24 CAF member advance party at CAFATC

29 January – arrival of additional 15 advance party personnel at CAFATC

3 February – arrival of 15 Rangers from communities across the north

6 February – arrival of 90 CAF members, predominantly members of the IRU

7 February – IRU move to initial tented camp location at the range east of the Hamlet of Resolute

8 February – conduct of small arms range

9 February – 30 personnel from the IRU return to the airport and travel to Arctic Bay. The remaining 60 personnel close the tented camp site at the range and relocate to the aircraft crash site further to the east.

10 February – the group deployed to Arctic Bay are recovered to Resolute and rejoin the IRU at the new camp location (crash site). A ground patrol is conducted from the camp site to an objective located in the south of Cornwallis Island. ARCG personnel numbering approximately 90 arrive at CAFATC.

11 February – The IRU move 50 personnel back to CAFATC. The balance (45) remain at the tented camp site and conduct another ground based patrol in the south of Cornwallis Island. The ARCG move to their initial tented camp location approximately two kilometres north west of the Resolute airport.

12 February – The remaining IRU personnel return to CAFATC. The ARCG remains in the tented camp location conducting training within the immediate vicinity

13 February – The IRU departs by air to southern ON. The ARCG continues activities from 12 February.

14 February - 30 personnel from the ARCG return to the airport and travel to Grise Fiord. The remaining 60 personnel continue training in the immediate vicinity of the tented camp location.

15 February – The ARCG close the initial tented camp and relocate to the austere range east of the Hamlet of Resolute where another tented camp is established. The group deployed to Grise Fiord are recovered to Resolute and rejoin the ARCG at the new tented camp location.

16 February – The ARCG conduct a small arms range at the austere range located east of the Hamlet of Resolute. On conclusion of this activity, the tented camp is closed and all personnel return to CAFATC

17 February – The ARCG depart by air to southern ON. Rear Party of 21 members conduct close out activities at Resolute.

20 February – final departure of rear party personnel.

### **Environmental Overview:**

Area of Operation. The initial NOREX 18 proposal identified three operational areas (Op Boxes) for potential use during the course of the exercise. These Op Boxes were later amended to avoid areas specified by the NIRB in their Screening Decision Report. All areas were utilised, however weather and time constraints did restrict the range of ground movement within each Op Box. The status of each is therefore as follows:

Grise Fiord – used, however movement confined to within 5kms of the airfield;

Arctic Bay – used, but with restricted ground movement similar to Grise Fiord;

Cornwallis Island – used, however movement was restricted to the western half of the Op Box.

Key Locations. The following summarizes the key locations utilised during NOREX 18:

Cornwallis Island

Austere Range Camp Location: 74.697457, -94.763255



**IRU Ground Movement on Cornwallis Island, Major Routes, 7-12 February 2018**



**ARCG Ground Movement on Cornwallis Island, Major Routes, 11-16 February 2018**

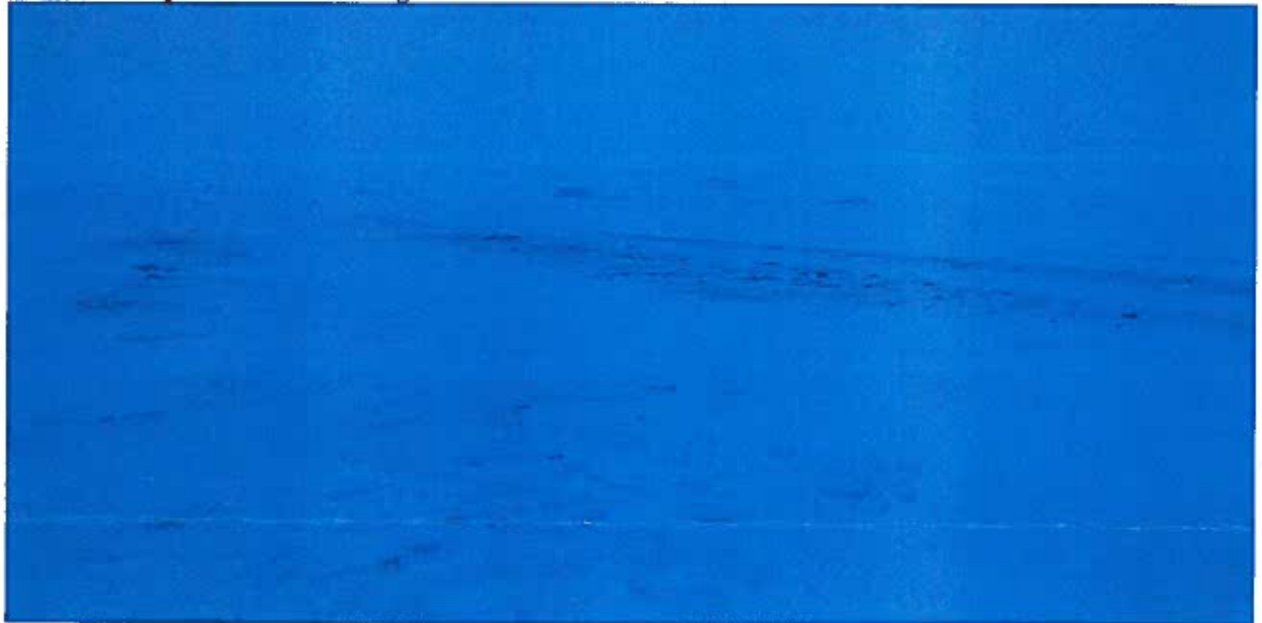


Camps. As indicated in the Timeline, several temporary tented camps of roughly 105 persons (90 IRU or ARCG members with 15 Canadian Rangers) were established over the course of NOREX 18. All camps consisted of only temporary structures (tents) which were provided with additional shelter through the construction of snow walls. Camps were completely dismantled at the conclusion of training.

**IRU Camp location following abandonment**



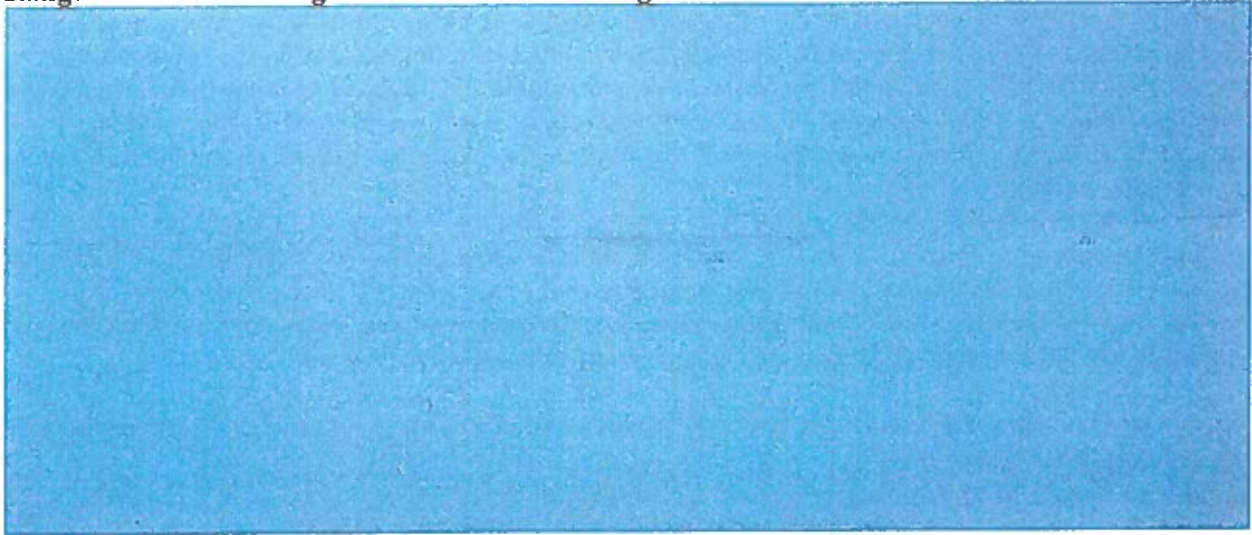
**ARCG Camp location following abandonment**



Smaller camps were also established in the vicinity of both the Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay airports. These camps were occupied by no more than 30 personnel for one night only. No photos are available for these camps.

Austere Range. As indicated in the timeline, a rifle and shotgun range was conducted on two separate days during NOREX 18. There was no interaction with wildlife during the conduct of these ranges.

**Range Location following the conclusion of training**



**Fuel Caching.** One fuel cache was established in the vicinity of the aircraft crash site located to the east of the Hamlet of Resolute. As required, this cache was located at a distance greater than 31 metres from any body of water. The cache consisted of five drums of gasoline, five drums of diesel as well as two drums of naphtha. Secondary containment was employed throughout.

**Fuel Cache near the Cornwallis Island aircraft crash site, established 4 February 2018, removed 16 February 2018**



Vehicles. Overland movement in all locations was accomplished primarily via LOSV (ski-doo) of which approximately 60 were employed by the IRU and then ARCG. A further 20 LOSV were also used by the Headquarters. Only two of these machines were deployed from Resolute (CAFATC) to Arctic Bay and Grise Fiord, although Canadian Rangers from these communities did make use of their personal machines to support training. Also employed, on Cornwallis Island only, were two tracked BV-206. These vehicles were used primarily for resupply from CAFATC to the tented camp locations and did not remain on the land overnight.

Airfield Operations. Chartered Twin Otter and ATR aircraft were employed on NOREX 18 to deploy and recover troops from Resolute (CAFATC) to Arctic Bay and Grise Fiord. All aircraft operations were conducted from permanent airfields located within these three communities. There were no aircraft operated from austere airfields located on the land or sea ice during this exercise.

Water Use. As required by the NWB (Nunavut Water Board), details of water used and waste deposited are depicted in the chart below.

NOREX 18									
WATER CONSUMPTION / WASTE WATER DEPOSIT SUMMARY									
Date	Austere Range (74.607457, -94.763255)			IRU Crash Site Camp (74.672159, -94.593225)			ARCG Shoreline Camp (74.723630, -95.047315)		
	Number of Personnel	Water Use in Cubic Metres*	Waste Deposit in Cubic Metres**	Number of Personnel	Water Use in Cubic Metres*	Waste Deposit in Cubic Metres**	Number of Personnel	Water Use in Cubic Metres*	Waste Deposit in Cubic Metres**
7-Feb-18	105	.48	.2						
8-Feb-18	105	.48	.2						
9-Feb-18				105	.48	.2			
10-Feb-18				105	.48	.2			
11-Feb-18				55	.24	.1	105	.48	.2
12-Feb-18							105	.48	.2
13-Feb-18							105	.48	.2
14-Feb-18							105	.48	.2
15-Feb-18	105	.48	.2						
16-Feb-18	105	.48	.2						

\* All water used was obtained from the Hamlet of Resolute. This water was delivered by truck to CAFATC and frozen into 7 litre ice blocks for transportation and use on the land.  
 \*\* Waste consisted of grey water from cooking and ablutions. Contaminants consisted of either minor food particles or diluted soap products.

**Contact:**

Enquiries concerning this report may be directed by e-mail to the following office:

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