

BRANDON FIRE *AND* EMERGENCY SERVICES



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Photo by Liam Pattison Photography





MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of myself, and the staff of Brandon Fire & Emergency Services (BFES), it is my pleasure to submit to you the department's 2024 Annual Report.

We are an extremely busy department which includes an Emergency Communications Centre which dispatches 911, Fire, Police and Conservation to over **565,111** Manitoba residents. Brandon Public-Safety Communication Centre received **214,791** calls throughout the year. BFES responded to **8,810** Fire and Medical calls, and inspected **738** properties in 2024.

BFES is continuing to work with Shared Health on training BFES Paramedic staff to work in the Brandon Police Service Detention Unit. This will be an extremely important step forward for the City of Brandon.

With such an active department it is imperative that we ensure that we take care of one another. In 2024 we saw more emphasis on continuing to build a strong team and a positive culture. The departments

Health and Wellness Committee once again planned several initiatives throughout the year to support the health and wellbeing of our staff and their families.

2024 saw BFES and the IAFF Local 803 team up to support an extremely important training initiative that will save lives. Fire Ground Survival training will ensure that staff are better equipped to recognize the dangers that they may encounter at a fire scene, and if necessary be better equipped to save themselves and their co-workers in the event that they are trapped in a fire.

We at Brandon Fire and Emergency Services are extremely proud to "*Serve Community through Tradition, Pride and Teamwork*".

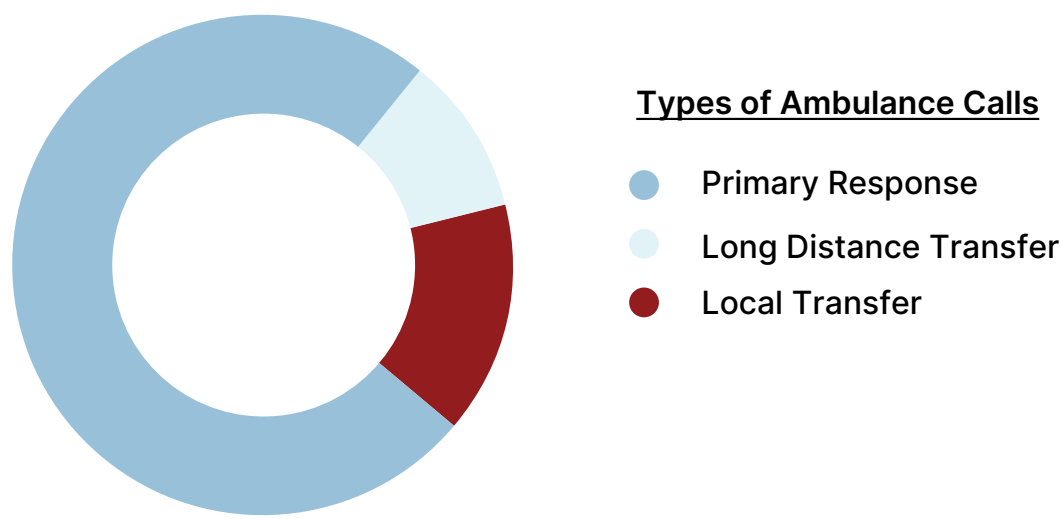
I hope you enjoy the 2024 Annual Report.

Terry Parlow
Chief of Emergency Services

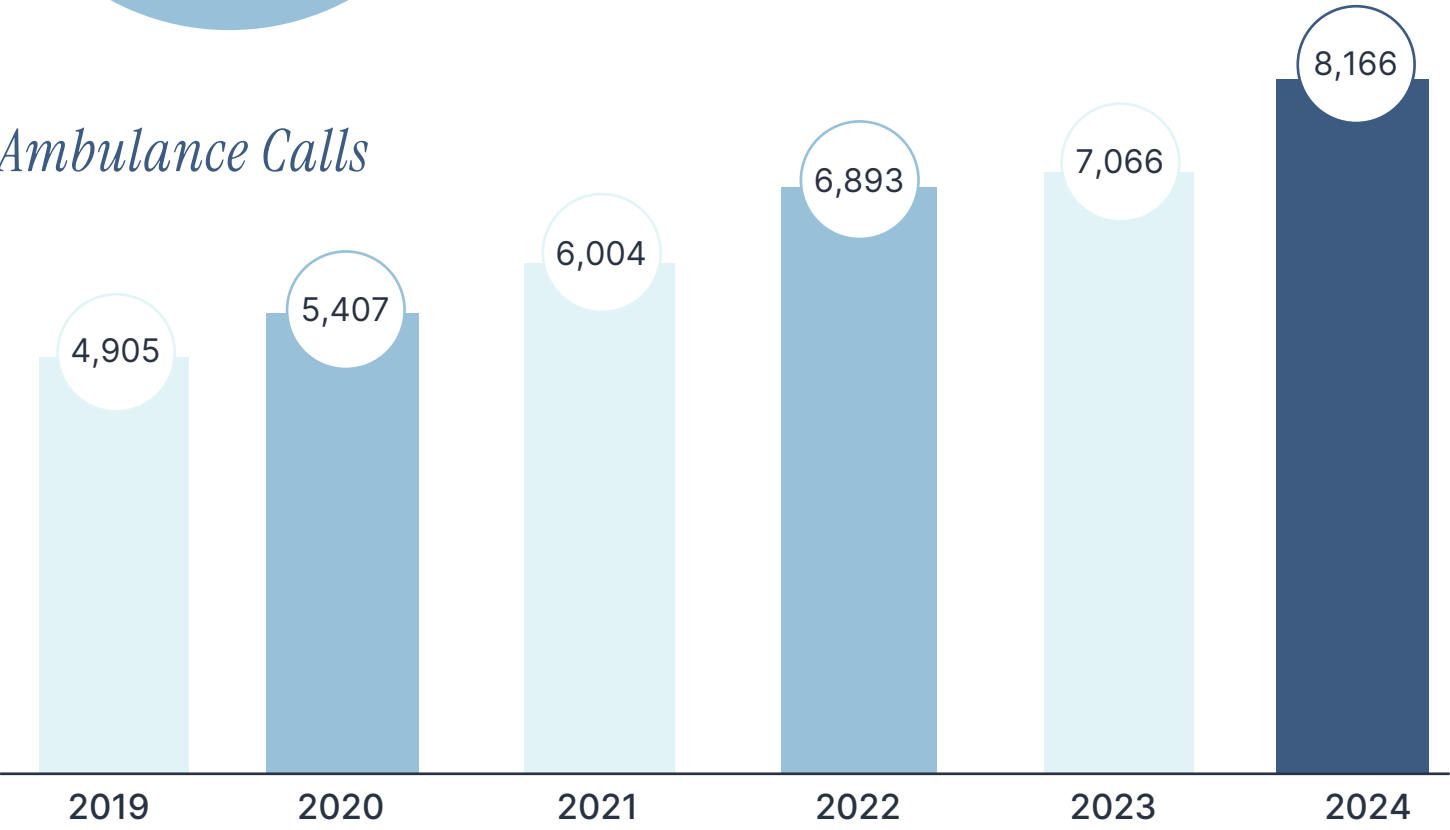
AMBULANCE

Brandon Fire & Emergency Services is an ambulance provider within the City of Brandon. The Department responds to both emergency and primary calls in Brandon, as well as rural areas as needed.

The staff on board these ambulances are fully trained Firefighter/Paramedics. The City of Brandon is one of only a few cities in Canada that have a fully integrated Fire and Ambulance Service.



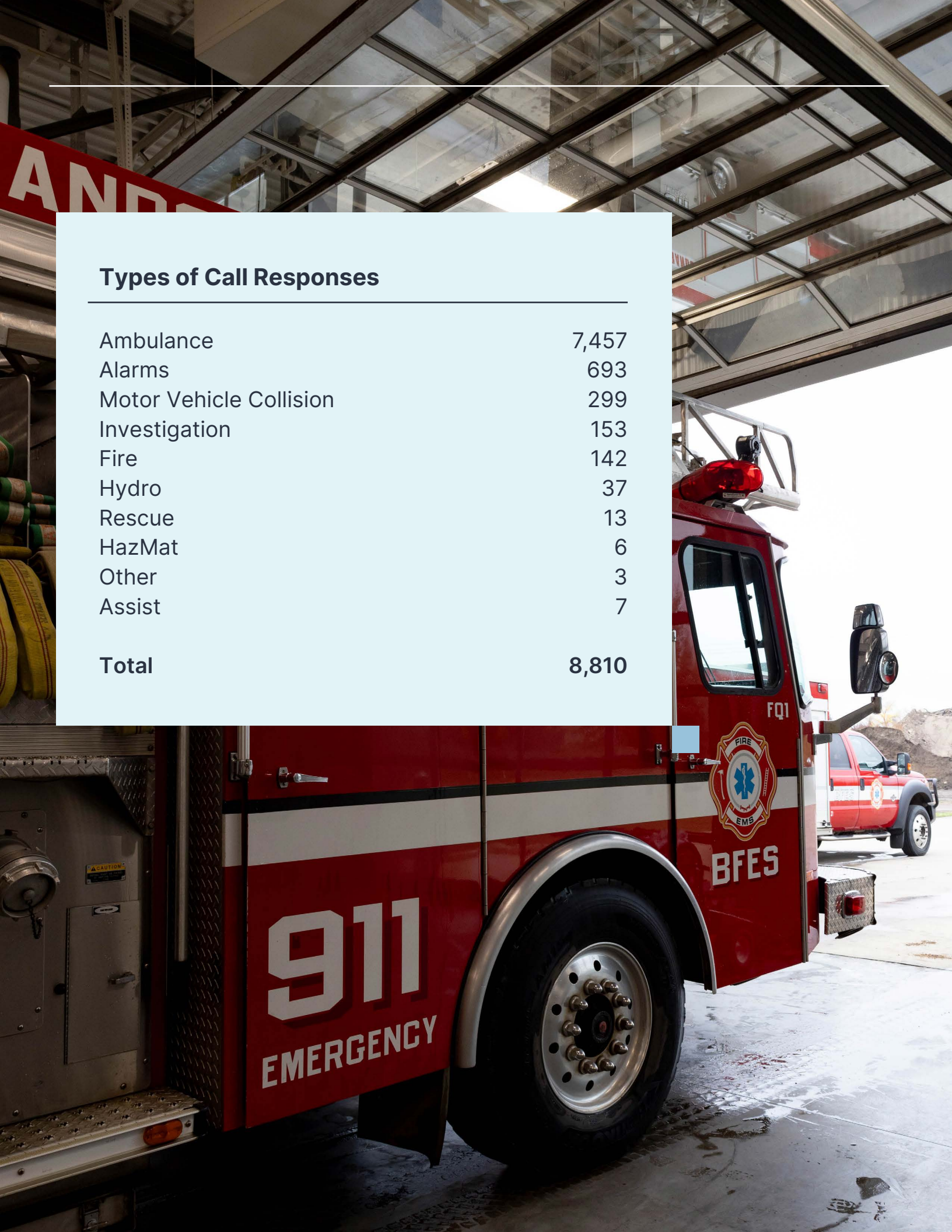
Ambulance Calls





Types of Call Responses

Ambulance	7,457
Alarms	693
Motor Vehicle Collision	299
Investigation	153
Fire	142
Hydro	37
Rescue	13
HazMat	6
Other	3
Assist	7
Total	8,810



FIRE INSPECTION, PREVENTION AND INVESTIGATIONS

Another year of changes and challenges, resiliency and adaptability was tested in 2024. We strive to provide top quality fire inspections, public education programs and fire investigations to our residents of this great city. We are excited to bring you the year in review report from the Prevention Division that provides a journey of our staff within the division. Under the authority of the Fire Chief, our Fire Prevention Officer, Fire Inspectors, Public Educator and Fire Investigators provide and maintain positive working relationships within our community.

For the Fire Inspectors of the division effective January 1, 2024, Manitoba had adopted the 2020 editions of the National Fire Code of Canada (NFC) and the National Building Code of Canada (NBC). Nearly 40 technical changes have been incorporated in the new edition of the 2020 National fire Code, improving the level of safety, health and fire protection provided by the code, and expanding the NFC into new areas since the last adopted edition in 2010.

Having an effective fire prevention program does not only serve the citizens but also helps serve our firefighters. The Public Educator's delivery of programs, distribution of safety materials and training courses within our community also

increases the safety for our Firefighters. Preventing or significantly reducing the severity of any fire situation is the best way in reducing the risk to our staff and our community. The statement of "If there is no fire, how can a firefighter be hurt fighting it?"

Fire investigation, sometimes referred to as origin and cause investigation, is the analysis of fire-related incidents. After extinguishment, a fire investigator's investigation is initiated to determine the origin and cause of the fire or explosion. A fire investigator looks at the fire remains and obtains information to reconstruct the sequence of events leading up to the fire. The Fire Investigators of the department have been kept remarkably busy with multiple fires within Brandon over the past year.

By providing Fire Inspections, Fire Prevention Programs and Fire Investigations, a proactive approach is implemented to protect life and property within our community. Our job is to provide exceptional service to the citizens of Brandon and surrounding community partners.

The Prevention Division

TECHNICAL RESCUE

Brandon's Technical Rescue Team saw some changes this past year, both in staff and equipment. We were excited to take possession of a new trailer to house our equipment.

Some members moved into different positions this year and their valuable experience will be missed. We gained several new and very eager members who will be valuable assets to the team going forward. All of these new members will take part in two weeks' worth of

accredited training, at Manitoba Emergency Services College in March 2025, to become certified Rope Rescue Technicians. It takes a lot of commitment to stay up to date on effective rescue practices and our department is fortunate to have dedicated members who are willing to take on these responsibilities. We look forward to future quarterly training dates with a fully staffed and certified team qualified to address any call for response.

HAZMAT TEAM

2024 was a good year for the Hazmat team. In March, we spent a day at the Manitoba Emergency Services College reviewing BFES operating procedures for hazmat incidents as well as various details regarding incidents BFES has been involved with in the past. July found us at Koch fertilizer, watching how their team works through a mock incident on site. Since BFES would be in a support role for Koch's on-site fire department, it was really good to see how their team works during an incident and how our team would integrate into their plan.

In October, the team had the opportunity to take part in a two day training session put on by Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railway. The course consisted of learning about railway operations, flammable liquid firefighting, and how Canadian Pacific deploys their assets during an incident. After a day of classroom lecture, we were able to take part in live fire fighting techniques and firefighting foam application during flammable liquid incidents. It was another valuable opportunity to work with a regional shareholder, learning how they operate, what their expectations are of us and how we can integrate them into an emergency situation involving the railroad.

WATER RESCUE

This year, the Water Rescue Team reviewed the RDC (Rapid Deployment Craft) and discussed deployment plans. It was beneficial to watch training videos from other agencies that also use the RDC. Other videos on ice rescue training were watched and discussed.

The team researched about replacement immersion suits. We also had a couple days of training throughout the year on the Assiniboine River. The team performed three different rescue scenarios using the zodiac, other rescue equipment and the aqua eye.

In December, we held our final training day of the year at Pelican Lake doing thin ice rescue around the aerators. We had received our new immersion suits from Level Six Canada as well as a new rescue sling and were able to test out both items. The sling is an important piece of equipment for pulling a victim out of icy waters.



ORDER OF THE BUFFALO HUNT

The members of Brandon Fire and Emergency Services, as well as other first responders from the Westman area who responded to the tragic Carberry accident that occurred on June 15, 2023, were awarded the Order of the Buffalo Hunt on October 28, 2024 by Premier Wab Kinew and the Province of Manitoba. Also inducted was Carberry North Cypress-Langford Fire Department, Neepawa Volunteer Fire Department, Shared Health Emergency Response Services, STARS Air Ambulance Manitoba RCMP and provincial call takers and dispatchers.

MEMORIAL BENCH

A memorial was created at the Day Lily Garden in Carberry in honour of the 17 victims, survivors, and first responders of the MVC at the Trans-Canada Highway and Highway 5 on June 15, 2023.

Premier Wab Kinew, Carberry Mayor Raymond Muirhead, Dauphin Reeve Ernie Sirski, Carberry North Cypress-Langford Fire Chief Keith Loney, Carberry Deputy Fire Chief Grady Stephenson, Brandon Fire and Emergency Services Chief Terry Parlow were among those in attendance.

A memorial monument and three benches were installed as well as 17 trees planted in the park to symbolize each life lost.

Three benches honour Brandon Fire and Emergency Services, RCMP, Carberry North Cypress Langford Fire Department, Shared Health Emergency Medical Services, Neepawa Fire Department, and STARS Air Ambulance as the first responders who attended the scene that day.



MEMORIAL BENCH

On August 11, 2024, the Town of Carberry unveiled a monument dedicated to the victims of the tragic accident, and to the First Responders, and Dispatchers who responded that day.



Photo by Abiola Odutola
Brandon Sun

MILITARY

In 2001, Captain Doug Wheatland (then a Firefighter/ Paramedic with 3 years experience with the department) was asked if he would be interested in laying the wreath at the Remembrance Day ceremonies on behalf of the Department and the Union at the Westman Centennial Auditorium. This started a tradition that has lasted for more than twenty years.

Doug's wife Kim and son Nathan would also attend the services. When Nathan was 5 years old, he joined in the tradition of laying the wreaths and was excited to be part of the ceremony. Doug and his son make it a priority to ensure they are available every year to stand beside each other and march to the cenotaph to lay a wreath to pay respect to all the military and Brandon Fire and Emergency Service members who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our great nation.



DOUG WHEATLAND

Retired in 2020 after serving 32 years as a medic within the Canadian Armed Forces Primary Reserve. When he retired, he held the rank of Master Warrant Officer within 17 (Winnipeg) Field Ambulance and had the honour to be part of the 26th Field Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery right here in Brandon.

Over his time at the two units, he held the positions as Battery Sergeant Major and ran the unit medical station and then became the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 17 (Winnipeg) Field Ambulance. Wheatland participated in domestic operations throughout the years, such as the floods in Winnipeg and Brandon. He also served with counterparts in the United States Military on a number of different military exercises. Wheatland was deployed as a medic to Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2008 to work in the role 3 trauma hospital.



MARK RYBACK

Served as a Boatswain in the Canadian Navy. Between 2000 and 2003, he sailed onboard HMCS Halifax for a NATO Tour and Operation Apollo-War on Terrorism. During that time period he also sailed on HMCS Preserver and HMCS Charlottetown as part of the NATO Fleet.



CARTER THIESSEN

Served from 2008-2014 as a Combat Engineer with the rank of Corporal in the Canadian Armed Forces. He served in the Dive Unit and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Unit.



MICHAEL VUONGPHAN

Enrolled in the Royal Canadian Navy in 2011. His current rank is Lieutenant as part of the Naval Warfare Officer Element in HMCS Chippawa. Lt(N) Vuongphan has seen the world through the Canadian Armed Forces as a seasoned sailor. He has been deployed on Operation Nanook in the Arctic in 2015, Exercise Tradewinds in the Caribbean on board HMCS Shawinigan in 2016, Operation Regulus in the North and Baltic Seas on board the Japanese ship Kashima in 2018, and Operation Reassurance in Europe on board HMCS Halifax with the Naval Tactical Operations Group in 2019. He was deployed on Operation Unifier supporting Exercise Sea Breeze 21 in Odesa, Ukraine in 2021.



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