



Cdr (NL) Mark Doram Goals and Vision

Covid has slowed the momentum of the Navy League Program. Moving forward, we'll need to complete the assessment on the effects the shut down has had. We can assume we've have lost cadets, officers and in some cases whole corps through the pandemic. Money will be tight and fund raising more difficult. With the advent of the temperature check it developed a mechanism for Division's to assess the effectiveness of promotion, instruction and over all health of the entire ships company. I believe at least for 2020-2021 this should continue on a regular basis. For Divisions, Branches and Corps knowing there is a National Navy League Cadet Team backing them and working on support mechanisms this will be very reassuring for those folks presenting the program.

Depending on where we sit with the pandemic, vaccine; no vaccine it will dictate the course that we'll need to chart. I work in the Non Profit sector as a Senior Manager and our sources are telling us that the effects of Covid can last up to three years or more.

My overarching vision would be to unify the program while growing the numbers. There are many ways to do this and creating experiences and learning opportunities designed for our young people is just one way of increasing our numbers. Our biggest accomplishment is to see our Cadets use some of the life skills we teach them, as they go out into the world as highly regarded Canadian Citizens.

Through my time with Hockey Edmonton I had the pleasure to meet and sit down with Dr. Steve Norris. Dr. Norris is a youth psychologist from the U of A and U of C for high performance athletes, he told me that the ages of 9-12 are the most impressionable years for an individual. Their minds are like sponges and they haven't experienced peer pressure to the extent to mold their opinions and drive decision making. The first thing I thought of was the Navy League, we have such an opportunity to mold these young minds and create phenomenal leaders. While the Sea Cadet program provides great skills, the Navy League program creates a base that their life will build upon from self-discipline and leadership to standing up in front of a crowd to deliver a speech or provide guidance to a group.

I have outlined some goals I would like to see over the next three years. Again we need to be very nimble as things change and the direction from our Navy League Vice President may change according to the Boards Vision and Goals.

Year 1 of Command (Getting back on our feet)

No Vaccine:

- Corps hopefully can meet in person with a combination of online instruction for corps.
- Modify drill standards to adhere to 2-meter distancing.
- Build a promotion to attract cadets and officers to the program.
- Online Officer Training hosted by National.
- Continue the build of the National Officer Training Standards.
- Terminology; we tend to be all over the place as Bob pointed out ie Alberta we call Division Staff – Division Area Officers; Ontario – Division Squadron Leaders. We need to be all on the same page.
- Develop and use technology. A National Address to all NL Officers from the VP, Director and Commander of NL Cadets?

Vaccine:

- Corps meet in person; we may still need to offer an online instruction option for parents who remain unsure of safety.
- Some modification of the program may need to take place to satisfy Health Authorities.
- Build a promotion to attract cadets and officers to the program.
- Continue with the NL Commanders Committee building the National Officer Training Standards.
- National testing of Officers and Cadets.
- Terminology, continue as per above.
- As per the Navy League VP role out the National Music Program.

Year 2 of Command

- Increase cadet numbers and build retention.
- With the NL Command Team (Vice President, National Director NL Cadets) Continue to build on experiences for cadets that local corps can introduce.
- Creation of a National Leadership Program. Bring out the natural born leaders in our officers, this would be more than what an officer would receive at an OTW.
- National Navy League Cadet Award, interview cadets using technology. We introduced this in Alberta this past year and it provided us with some outstanding results. The portfolios were circulated to all the committee members and we all ranked them from 1-10. Most were in agreement about our third applicant and then came the interview. She went from a three to a definite number 1. She could have been the poster child for Navy League Cadets. She spoke so eloquent and passionately about the program we all sat in the room speechless. We should have recorded it to use in a promotion. This is why I would strongly recommend that a live interview would be so beneficial. We need to develop opportunities for these award winners to speak publicly whether it's on a National Zoom Call or at the National AGM.
- Under the leadership of the National VP and National Director of NL Cadets, continue to review all NL Publications and make changes for presentation to the National Board.

Year 3 of Command

- Continue the emphasis on growth for both cadets and officers. Can we spark some new corps openings?
- Implement changes to any of the publications after National Board Approval.
- Build an evaluation so we can see what Divisions and Corps are struggling and where they need help. The National Commanders Committee would be an excellent group to mentor struggling Divisions and Corps.
- Assist in the training of the incoming National Commander.