

Recommissioning Naval Reserve Divisions



Prior to unification of the CAF in 1968, the RCN had always commissioned its shore establishments. In the lead up to unification, all shore establishments including NRDs, NADEN and STADACONA ceased to be commissioned ships. After being briefly known as Naval Reserve Units (NRUs), Naval Reserve Divisions were allowed to retain their historic naval names including the title HMCS and were subsequently authorized to fly the Canadian Naval Ensign and a Commander's Pennant at the masthead. As a way of acknowledging their history as commissioned ships within the RCN, and to celebrate the Naval Reserve Centennial, there is an opportunity to pursue formally re-commissioning the Naval Reserve Divisions in 2023.

Prior to the commencing of each unit's Freedom of the City Parade, on or around 23 September 2023, all NRDs will also hold a symbolic recommissioning ceremony by raising a Commissioning Pennant at the masthead over their unit.

Some divisions have considered themselves as commissioned for some time and may already be flying a commissioning pennant. If so, no action will be required of these units, but their commissioning will become officially mandated on that date.

Some divisions may mount a traditional commissioning ceremony with manning of the ship and similar components.

(Excerpted from COMDNAVRES Administrative Order for the Naval Reserve Centennial 2023 Commemoration, October 2022)