

28 Oct 25

GENERAL MESS MTG  
HELD AT THE NORMANDY  
OFFICERS' MESS – 16 OCT 2025  
CHAIR: PMC J. DAY

Committee:

PMC: LCol Jeff Day, 2 CMBG	Present
VPMC: Maj Chris Mack, 2 CER	Present
Finance: Maj Jessica Decaire, 4 CDSG Corp Svcs	Absent
Secretary: Capt Thomas Van Delinder, 2 CMBG HQ	Deployed
Air Force:	Vacant
SOF: Capt Pamela Turney	Absent
Navy: SLt Lindsay Little	Absent
Infrastructure: Capt Nicholas Bomers, RPOps	Absent
Entertainment & Sport: Capt John Byrtus, 2 CMBG HQ	Deployed
Family: Melissa Dysktra, 2 Sig Sqn	Absent
Subbie: Capt Alaa Elfoulie	Present
Living-In: Capt Sara Pulumbo, 2 Fd Amb	Present
IT: Capt Ethan Lockie, 4 CDSG Sig Sqn	Absent
Mess Manager: Erin McCarthy	Present

Attendance:

Approx. 65 members initially (77 by the time of motions). IAW NOM Constitution 4.4.2, due to exigencies of the service, a quorum for this meeting was approved by the CO to be 40 Ordinary Members, which was exceeded.

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
I.	<p>PMC (LCol Day): The purpose of the meeting is to address ongoing financial challenges. The Mess is currently spending significantly more than it earns, and solutions are needed to manage costs and revenue. Possible adjustments include changes to TGIF frequency, policies regarding children at events, and an increasing mess dues.</p> <p>Question (Maj Murray 1 RCR): Why were unit COs not invited?</p> <p>Answer (PMC): COs were excluded to prevent perceived influence over subordinates. The intent is to allow open and respectful discussion among members.</p>	PMC

II.	<p><b>COMMITTEE REPORTS</b></p> <p><b>Patio Project:</b> Contract approved and signed by contractor and ready to be signed by CO for \$163,800. Included in the contract are new patio stones and fencing. Additional funds will need to be allotted for new lighting following the contracted work. Work delayed until Spring 2026, meaning expenses will appear in the next fiscal year. Depreciation expense for the patio: approx. \$1,200/month will appear in financial records next year. Volunteers will need to oversee the project next year.</p> <p><b>Housing Representative:</b> Ongoing work to repair furniture (tables and chairs). Request for a volunteer with woodworking skills to assist.</p> <p>Mess Memorabilia and Revitalization: Units encouraged to bring memorabilia to hang in the Mess (on the wall in the main room across from the fireplace). Items should be coverable for private events. Further efforts will be made to modernize and improve the front entrance.</p>	REPS
III.	<p><b>FINANCIAL OVERVIEW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year-on-Year Entertainment budget exceeded by \$12,000; food budget also exceeded.</li> <li>• September was the first month the bar made a profit.</li> <li>• TGIF expenditures are approximately \$17,000 over budget.</li> <li>• Cancelling TGIF would almost balance the budget, though this is not desired.</li> <li>• <b>Projected \$ ~40,000 annual deficit; budget alignment required.</b></li> <li>• VPMC showed calculations that increasing dues by \$1/month could generate an additional \$ ~10,000.</li> <li>• Alternatives include modest bar price increases or a specialty drink offering.</li> </ul>	VPMC
IV.	<p><b>DISCUSSION: TGIF PROGRAMMING</b></p> <p>Main Issues: TGIF attendance dominated by 14–15 families. Non-family members cite lack of interest in attending family-heavy events. Current \$10 per guest fee is insufficient to cover costs (actual cost ~\$14 per person).</p> <p>Options discussed: reduce TGIF frequency, modify structure, or alternate between family and member-only events.</p> <p>TGIF Options Considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain current structure (weekly, family-friendly).</li> <li>2. Alternate weeks (family vs. members).</li> <li>3. Weekly TGIF with one family-friendly Friday per month.</li> </ol> <p>At this point, there were several questions and opinions about the reasons for TGIF and TGIF, the opportunity that Family Friendly TGIFs give to spouses to meet one another, and the culture of the mess on Thursday vs Friday. Capt Thompson brought up the poor image of junior officers having to serve senior officers' families at TGIF. The PMC asked the Mess Manager to look into ways to have Family Friendly TGIFs in the future be self-serve or have the attending members themselves serve.</p>	PMC

	<p>One member asked if there could be additional Family Friendly TGIF during the summer (outside of hockey season). The PMC replied that he will look to add additional events next summer.</p> <p><b>Motion By Maj Ernst:</b> That the Mess adopt Option 3: maintain weekly TGIT &amp; TGIF, with families invited once per month.</p> <p><b>Seconded by:</b> Maj Henderson-Miville / Capt Porter</p> <p><b>Vote:</b> Motion passed (Majority in favour, one opposed – Lt Szabo).</p> <p>Clarification: “Children” defined as anyone under 19 years of age. Pricing (\$10) will be reviewed separately.</p>	
V.	<p><b>DISCUSSION: MESS DUES</b></p> <p>Mess dues have not increased in at least 10 years. PMC noted the monthly deficit and projected annual deficit. Although cash on hand is healthy, <b>just over</b> \$300k, \$163k is dedicated to the patio project and with the current deficit, that would leave us in a poor financial situation very quickly.</p> <p>Question: Maj Murray asked what the minimum bank balance we need to maintain is. Asked if we should set a number.</p> <p>PMC: \$50k from the Constitution. The PMC explained that we need to gradually build up cash over several years so that we can spend it on larger projects like the patio when required. The Mess Committee will examine the longer-term expenditure cycle, to see if it is possible to forecast these larger costs through a Real Engineer Study or similar investigation.</p> <p><b>Initial Motion: Increase dues by \$1 (Moved by Lt Cale, Seconded by Capt Faller). After discussion, Lt Cale amended his motion to be an increase of \$5/month.</b></p> <p><b>Amendment: Increase dues by \$5/month</b></p> <p><b>Vote: In Favour – 41, Opposed – 36. Motion passed.</b></p> <p><b>Effective Date: 1 January 2026.</b></p> <p>The PMC discussed that this change being effective in January, will give the Committee the opportunity to assess the impact and bring it to the membership for the Annual GMM in March.</p> <p>A member asked if we could look at scaling the mess dues by rank. The PMC replied that the committee or mess manager will look into it and answer at the next mess meeting.</p>	PMC
VI.	<p><b>CONSTITUTION AMMENDMENTS</b></p> <p><b>Motion: Adopt all three motions presented on slide 17 (see below) and correct the unclear reference to headdress always being permitted in the mess at 12.5.1.</b></p> <p>1. Section 5 a. Add Innovation Rep Duties as Follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Research and propose departure gift ideas and present them to the PMC;</li> <li>2) Ensure departure gift costs remain within the approved budget; and</li> <li>3) Other duties assigned by the PMC</li> </ol>	VPMC

	<p>2. Section 7.2.2 a. Remove “Mess dues shall be charged on a pro-rated daily basis, for any period less than a month.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This content is out of date and must be removed to align with standard of monthly charges for messes across Canada.</li> </ul> <p>3. Section 8.3.3, and Appendix 12 a. Remove reference to set costs and rental fees for private functions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task mess manager to scale private function fees according to event scope / attendees. (i.e., smaller events like baby showers and receptions that occur on non-peak days will have a lower set cost). Set member fee to 50% that of non-member fee in-line with current set-cost basis of \$1000 per non-member and \$500.00 per member.</li> </ul> <p><b>Moved by: Maj Ernst</b>  <b>Seconded by: Capt Porter</b>  <b>Result: Motion passed unanimously.</b></p>	
VII	<p><b>OPEN DISCUSSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestion to present an annual “Appreciation Estimate” to show long-term costs and forecast major expenses (10–20 years).</li> <li>• PMC agreed that maintaining a small yearly surplus would help fund major purchases periodically.</li> <li>• Discussion on tracking TGIT/TGIF attendance—data collection ongoing. It was clarified that what is unknown is how limiting children at TGIF will affect the attendance of other members.</li> <li>• A member suggested that TGIT should not be mandatory. The PMC advised the member to take that up with their chain of command.</li> <li>• The PMC invited anyone who was available or willing to join the mess committee.</li> </ul>	
VII	<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p> <p><b>Motion to Adjourn:</b> Moved by Maj Blaine, <b>Seconded by</b> Maj Ernst. Meeting Adjourned.</p>	

(Deployed)

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JEFFREY 701

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T.J. Van Delinder (Date)  
Capt  
Mess Secty

J.N. Day (Date)  
Lcol  
PMC eff 20 June 2025

REMARKS:

LAFORGE,  
ANGIE @JBH

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A. Laforge (Date)  
A/Deputy Mgr PSP

RECOMMENDED / NOT RECOMMENDED

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NATHAN @4G8

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N. Lane (Date)  
Sr. Mgr PSP

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED

TRENHOLM,  
SEAN 537

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S.D.C Trenholm (Date)  
Col  
Comd 4 CDSG