



## NAVY LEAGUE PRESS RELEASE

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Ottawa, 28 March 2008 / Kandahar, Afghanistan is 587 miles from the nearest port. It is not the sort of place one would expect to find a Canadian sailor. Yet for the past two years, Canadian Navy clearance divers have been in the region, applying their expertise in underwater demolition to combat one of the Taliban's favorite weapons, improvised explosive devices.

Today, members of the Clearance Diver community were in Ottawa to accept the thanks of grateful Canadians. Lt.-Cmdr. Roland Leyte (North Sydney, NS), Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Paul Joseph Walsh (New Glasgow, NS), Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Dave Poole (Bridgewater, NS) and Master Seaman Kevin March (Prince Albert, SK) were here to accept the Honourable John James Kinley Award for Maritime Affairs from The Navy League of Canada.

The Navy League (Est. 1895) is an organization that promotes maritime issues across Canada. The Honourable John James Kinley Award, named for the former Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia (and a former League President) is awarded annually to members, employees or units of the Canadian Coast Guard, Department of Fisheries and Oceans or the Canadian Forces who have made remarkable contributions in support of naval and maritime interests.

Previously awarded to specific ships or individuals, this is the first time the award has been given to an entire trade. "With so many divers performing these dangerous missions, it is impossible to single out individuals without overlooking others as equally deserving," noted League Vice President Ken Bowering. "Dedication and bravery seem to be universal traits among the clearance diver community. How else can you explain these sailors travelling halfway around the world to a desolate and landlocked battlefield to go face to face with a bomb?"

The Navy motto, "*Ready, Aye, Ready*" might be loosely translated to "*Any job, Any time, Any where*" and the clearance divers of the Canadian Navy have shown that it's not just an expression. It's a creed all our sailors live by, and all Canadians benefit from. The Navy League extends sincere appreciation and congratulations to all our clearance divers, wherever they serve.

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