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Defence nationale

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NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNIQUÉ

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CFB PETAWAWA LOCATES ENDANGERED BIRD

CFB PETAWAWA, ONT – The Base Environmental Office at CFB Petawawa has found, identified and confirmed the presence of an endangered and rare bird, the Kirtland's Warbler, within the base property.

With the assistance of the Canadian Wildlife Service, one bird was captured, banded and then released. CFB Petawawa will work closely with the Canadian Wildlife Service to implement a recovery strategy to best protect the Kirtland's Warbler while maintaining its reputation as a leading training facility within the Canadian Forces.

"The find demonstrates DND's commitment in managing its properties and resources in an environmentally responsible fashion," said Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Rundle, CFB Petawawa Base Commander. "With the hard work of the environmental office, we have successfully created an environment that allows the Canadian Forces to train and prepare its soldiers while at the same time protecting its natural resources."

CFB Petawawa conducted research to identify and study species determined to be at risk both Federally and Provincially and a comprehensive species at risk program was undertaken. The effort is part of the base's environmental stewardship program that is a required element of National Defence's Sustainable Development Strategy.

"It was during this year's activities that a Kirtland's Warbler was first sighted within the training area," said Sid Bruinsma, the CFB Petawawa Base Environment Officer. "We were then able to locate, capture, tag and release a second specimen that was found over 16 km away from the location of the first sighting."

The Kirtland's Warbler is listed as an endangered species and has rarely been observed to this extent in Canada. The significance of this find will hopefully provide an opportunity to further study the Kirtland's Warbler in a protected area.

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Note to editors: For more information contact Captain Scott Spurr, CFB Petawawa's Public Affairs Officer at (613) 687-5511, ext. 6721, or cell at (613) 639-9107.

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