



**AUSTRALIAN NAVY SUBMARINERS IN TRAINING
AT THE INSTITUT MARITIME DU QUÉBEC**

Rimouski, Mars 2nd, 2009 - Over the next few months nearly a hundred submariners of the Royal Australian Navy will be trained at the Institut maritime du Québec (IMQ). They will be trained in emergency evacuation from a submarine while dived. As of today, IMQ has welcomed two groups of 24 submariners who have successfully completed their training.

The arrivals of the Australian submariners at the IMQ is the crowning piece of nearly five years of effort to promote the training possibilities offered by the Institut to the authorities of foreign navies. Since February 2003, IMQ has been offering a training program in emergency escape from a submarine to Canadian Navy submariners. This program consists of various exercises, one of which is carried out thanks to a unique world class simulator. This simulator was created by Maritime Innovation, the Institut's Centre of Applied Research in Maritime Technologies, in collaboration with its Department of Professional Diving.

This simulator allows the practice of emergency evacuation procedures from a submarine while dived in a totally safe environment. A reservoir, serving as a diving bell, is used as a compartment for the submariners and an instructor during exercises performed at a depth of eight metres. An escape tower similar to that on Victoria Class submarines is an integral part of the bell.

The deep sea diving expertise of the Institut maritime du Québec, an indoor pool allowing for dives up to twenty metres in depth, a hyperbaric chamber with a large capacity and a renowned medical team facilitated the granting of this training mandate to the Australian Navy.

Let us remember that the Institut maritime du Québec established in Rimouski in 1944 is the one of the most important maritime training centre in Canada. The Institut provides the training and professional development of manpower in five areas of specialization: Naval Architecture, Navigation, Marine Engineering, Professional Diving and Transport Logistics. To fulfill its mission of support to the industry in Research and Development, the Institut counts on Maritime Innovation, its Centre of Applied Research in Maritime Technologies.

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Source: Daniel Dion
Assistant Director - Continuing Education Service
Institut maritime du Québec
(418) 724-2822, Ext. 2077 or 2025

