



For Immediate Release

LOCAL AIR CADET RECEIVES THE LEGION MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

PORT HOPE, ON – June 6, 2009: Local Air Cadet Squadron 718 “Port Hope” presented Warrant Officer First Class Joaquin Mendez with the Royal Canadian Legion Medal of Excellence.

“We are so delighted to present this young man with this medal. It shows his dedication to his community and his service with 718 Squadron. Canada would do well to have more young men and women like him,” said Legion representative Ronald Smith.

WO1 Mendez was awarded the medal for his exceptional service as an Air Cadet, dedication to volunteering within his community, and maintaining overall superior academic excellence.

“To see how much Joaquin has grown since he was a new recruit at the age of 12, just boggles my mind. When he came into this program, he was quiet and reserved,” said Commanding Officer Michael Silverstein, “and now he is this polished, professional young man with a very bright future ahead of him.”

WO1 Mendez has been with 718 Squadron for the past seven years and now is the Squadron Chief Warrant Officer with responsibility for 70 cadets. WO1 Mendez is the commander of the precision drill team and was the Top Cadet in 2008. WO1 Mendez retires this June and will be attending Queen’s University for Engineering in the fall.

The Royal Canadian Air Cadets, in partnership with the Air Cadet League of Canada has been training youth in Canada for over 60 years. The Cadets are the largest government funded youth program in Canada with over 425,000 participants across Canada, with over 8,000 Air Cadets in the province of Ontario alone. The Royal Canadian Air Cadets accepts youth between the ages of 12-18 who have a desire to learn more about the air element of the Canadian Forces, wish to develop the attributes of leadership and good citizenship and who wish to promote physical fitness. There are no fees or costs to join Air Cadets and uniforms are supplied free of charge. While the program is military based, there is no obligation for a cadet to join the Canadian Armed Forces when he or she finishes their cadet career. Cadets are also encouraged to learn more about opportunities within Canada’s Aviation Industry.

For more information on the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, please visit www.cadets.ca

For more information about the Air Cadet League of Canada, please visit www.aircadetleague.com

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