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NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNIQUÉ

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ENDANGERED BIRD RETURNS TO CFB PETAWAWA

CFB PETAWAWA, ONT – The Base Environmental Office at CFB Petawawa has confirmed the return of one of Canada's most endangered bird species, the endangered Kirtland's Warbler, within the base training area.

Last year CFB Petawawa had undertaken a comprehensive survey of endangered species. It was during this initial survey that CFB Petawawa was able to locate the Kirtland's Warbler after many years of the bird being absent in Canada. With the assistance of the Canadian Wildlife Service one bird was captured, banded and then released. This bird has now returned to the base for a second year and was identified by the individualized leg bands. CFB Petawawa will continue efforts to locate other Kirtland's Warblers and will attempt to band additional birds in the next few weeks, collecting valuable data on this species adding to our knowledge of this endangered species.

"Finding the same bird at CFB Petawawa for a second year is incredible. It confirms that what the Department of National Defense is doing at CFB Petawawa is working in protecting wildlife and encouraging environmental stewardship while taking into account our need to train Canada's soldiers," said Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Rundle, CFB Petawawa's Base Commander.

"This find once again is significant, but what is even more remarkable is that this extremely rare bird which was banded last year has found its way back to CFB Petawawa." said Sid Bruinsma, the CFB Petawawa Base Environment Officer

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 Mr. Sid Bruinsma, CFB Petawawa's Base Environment Officer at (613) 687-5511, ext. 6572.

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