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SURVEILLANCE REPORT

08:28:07 | 18:27:42
SUBJECT: RATT
STATUS: CLASSIFIED

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REFRESHMENTS

You're looking at a court martial should you get caught consuming alcohol on duty, but if and when you do get relieved, you'll be looking for a hot spot to join your fellow cadets for some hard-earned R&R. The target area is full of great, decent, and barely-adequate hydration points, and it will take some time for you to figure out the type of place that you and your platoon will want to frequent.

RATT SUB In addition to regrettable burgers and passable salads, RATT serves alcohol, and lots of it. This fact, coupled with the bar's prime location on the top floor of SUB, means it's a great place to down a post-op beer while still keeping watch on hostiles approaching from the ground level. Wednesday is Karaoke Night (attend at your own risk; no defensive maneuvers taught at boot camp have shown any promise against the drunk university students belting out "I Will Always Love You"), and Tuesdays feature a name-that-tune contest. The bar also shows all Oilers games on the big-screens, which is more than can be said about the Armed Forces Network. Your rappelling skills may also come in handy here, as the elevators serving RATT have been known to malfunction, resulting in harrowing escape missions that play out on subsequent floors. Consider yourself warned.

Dewey's (located on the north side of the Powerplant): While the Powerplant itself has been deemed off-limits this term by the student governing body, the coffee shop next door has been licensed, so if you like to Irish up your coffee, this is the place to be. While it may be difficult to explain to your bunkmates that your drinking hole has an espresso machine, it's conveniently located in the middle of the university compound, meaning it's also equidistant for stumbling home afterwards.

Hudson's On Campus (11113 87 Avenue) G2 Usually packed with civies in popped collars and tight jeans, Hudson's is the most club-like of the campus bars. Best to save this venue for when you want to go AWOL on a Friday or Saturday night, but don't want to have to double-time it all the way home from Whyte when you're done.

Windsor Bar and Grill (11712 87 Avenue): Here, the service is notoriously bad, the tables are sticky, and the jukebox is older than your drill sergeant, but the pizza is cheap, and the pool tables are usually available. It's a dingy neighbourhood pub, but that's the appeal—plus it's crawling distance from Lister. Also, Thursday nights feature rock & roll bingo and karaoke, so be ready to use your tactical skills on anyone who dares belt out "In the Navy."

The Black Dog (10425 82 Avenue) W8 A comfortable watering hole located in the heart of Edmonton's party district, the Dog is a good place to go when you're looking for a relaxing drink with friends. The bar is geared towards veteran crowd, so keep that in mind before you stumble unannounced into the officers' quarters. If you're looking for a quieter spot away from civilian traffic, you can also head to the Underdog, located—you guessed it—downstairs. It also has a big-screen TV.

The Attic (10407 82 Avenue, second floor) W4 This centrally located club overlooks the hub of Whyte Avenue nightlife, but makes for a poor rendezvous point because the windows are grimy and steamy from all the infrared waves being generated on the dance floor. Neither the dancing nor tabled areas are particularly large, so it may remind you of being packed into a mess hall back in Borden.

Suite 69 (8232 Gateway Boulevard, second floor) W6 This bar offers both a dance floor and a patio, which accounts for much of its popularity. There is usually a large number of people there, mostly seasoned vets of the nightclub scene who've had their fair share of tours of duty with the opposite sex. The music is often more retro than some of the other clubs, which means that you're as likely to hear Michael Jackson as Justin Timberlake.

The Iron Horse (8101 Gateway Boulevard) W9 Surviving in this converted train station may be a bit daunting, especially with its multiple bars, levels and dance floors. The second level has couches and is intended as a more intimate reprieve from the crowded dance floor. The music is of-the-minute, and the crowd itself tends to be young. Code-named I-Ho, this is a spot enjoyed by rookies and veterans alike. However, be prepared to graduate to other venues as you advance through the ranks.

Funky Buddha (10341 82 Avenue) W7 This joint is for those enlisted thrill-seekers who need to draw attention to their well-honed *gluteus maximi*. The full front windows on the downstairs dance floor allow everyone lined up outside or driving past to see exactly whom you're fraternizing with, so positions closest the window are manned only by the few, the brave, and the proud. Those who prefer to remain nondescript often station themselves upstairs in the quieter dancing area.

OTHER STUFF TO DO:

If sitting on the sidelines isn't your idea of a good time off-duty, then there are still plenty of other activities nearby or a short commute away.

Cue SUB Recon ops in the depths of SUB have revealed the location of the facility's built in rec room. Cue has a small arcade and a rather large pool hall, allowing it to cater to a wide variety of recruits. One of the most tightly guarded secrets on campus, this games room is severely under-utilized, so it should not be a difficult assignment to procure a table or arcade machine, depending on your preference.

Costs: \$5 per hour for billiards.

Gateway Entertainment Centre (3414 Gateway Boulevard): For those who enjoy simulating their training while on leave, this south-side complex has a spacious laser tag facility, allowing cadets to practice their precision light-beam-pointing. Also included in the complex are a bowling alley, an extensive arcade, a pool hall and a comedy club, making it ideal for larger excursions with many different objectives. However, this target zone is anything but conveniently located, and co-ordinated transportation is required in order to reach it.

West Edmonton Mall: Though it is no longer the biggest mall in the world, WEM is still the most expansive entertainment complex in Edmonton. There's an indoor amusement park with a new roller coaster, a waterpark, a skating rink, two mini-golf courses, a Gateway-esque rec centre with billiards and bowling, dinner theatre, a sea lion show, bumper boats and copious amounts of shopping and eating options. It's very easy to spend an entire day doing a plethora of different things here without ever doing the same one twice. Or you could just ride the Mindbender until you throw up.

Costs: All attraction prices are listed at www.westedmall.com/play/rates.asp.

