

161 Yearbook Photography Basics

Capt A. Phinney



Goals of a Yearbook Photographer

- Capture high quality images
- Be inclusive – feature as many cadets as possible (not just your friends)
- Highlight key events that the squadron is taking part in
- Work as a member of a team
- Learn new skills



Selecting a Subject

- What or who are you trying to take a picture of?
 - Emphasize your subject
 - Is the story or message clear?
 - Is the background interesting or distracting?



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Point of View

- Where is the photographer standing?
 - Bird's Eye View – from high above
 - Becoming the Subject – from the point of view of the person interacting with the subject
 - Eye Level – Common perspective
 - Worm's Eye View – from ground level
- Consider different angles (move left or right to get a better shot)



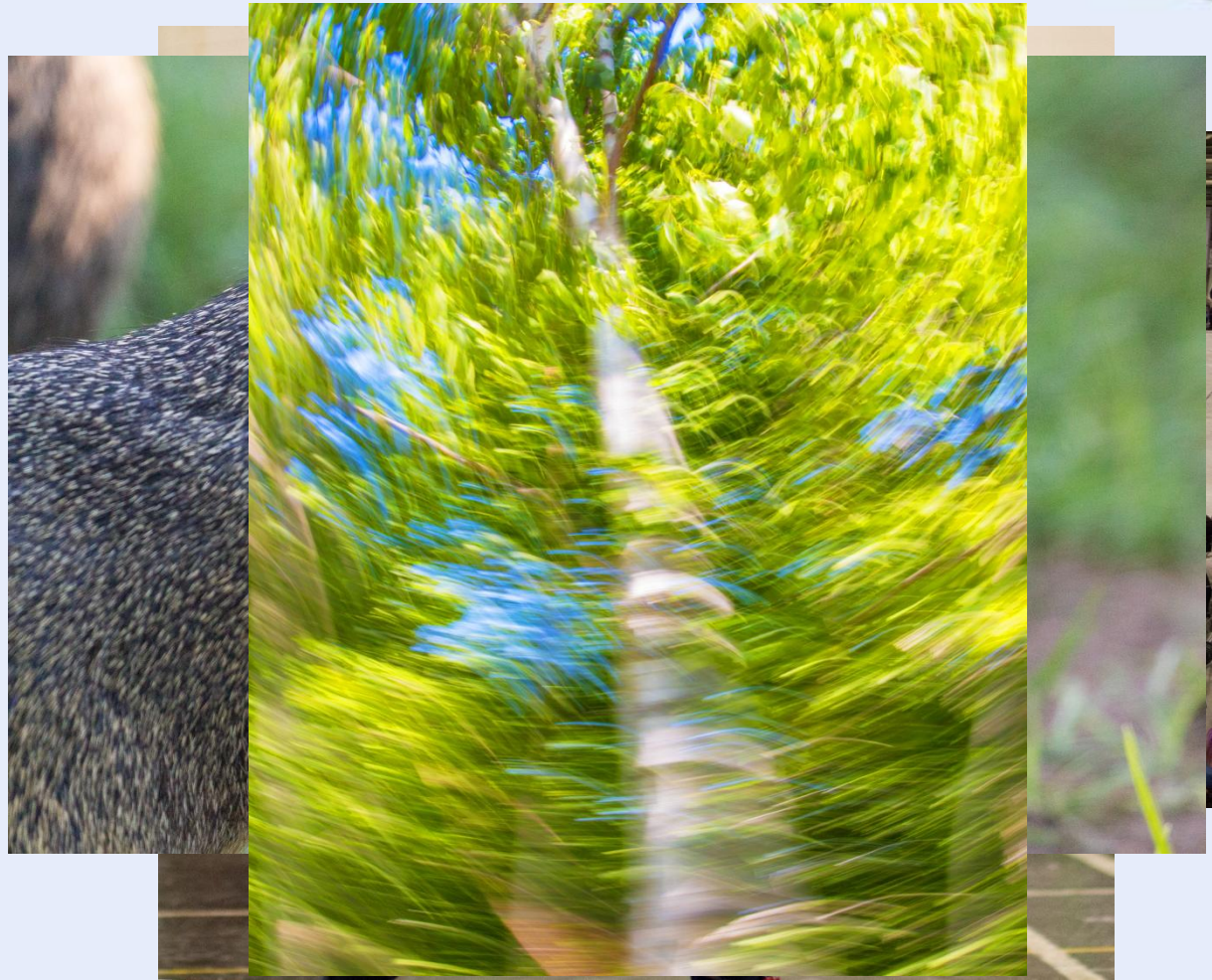
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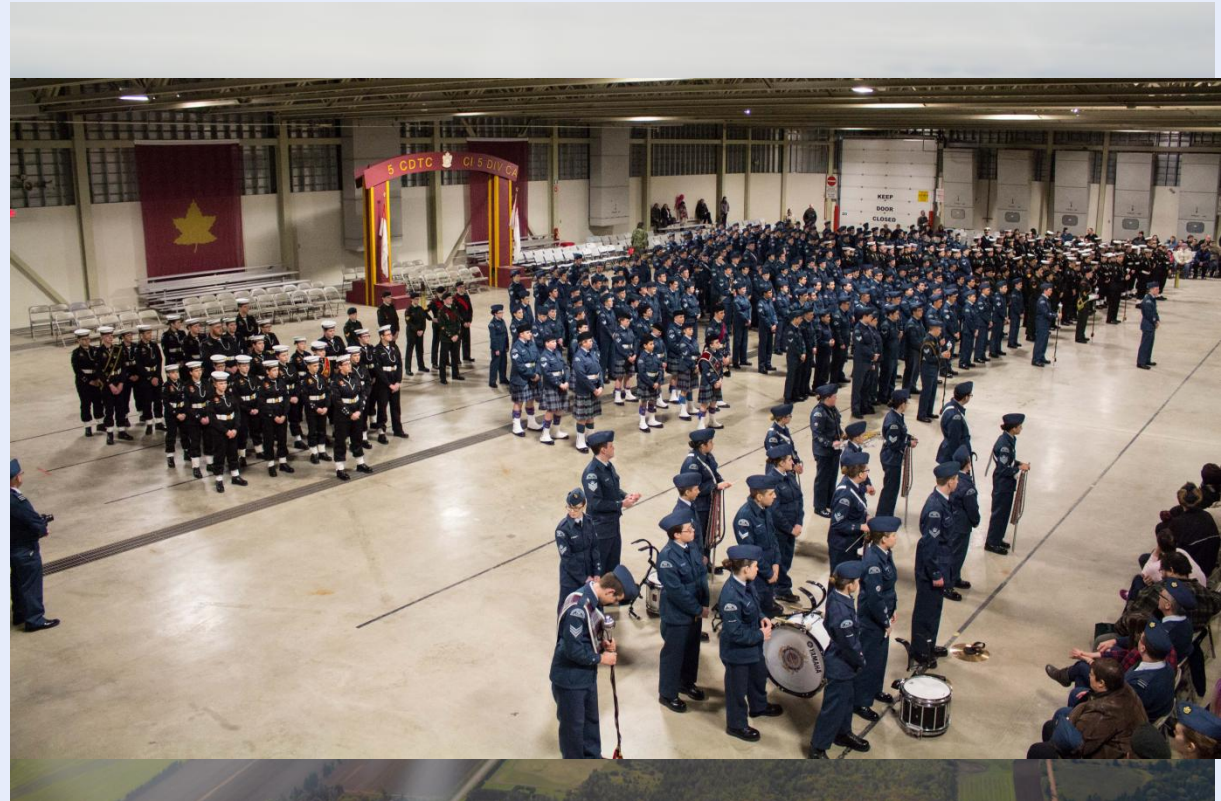
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Composition

Some tips for better photos



Fill the Frame

- Cropping in tight around your main subject can eliminate busy or distracting backgrounds

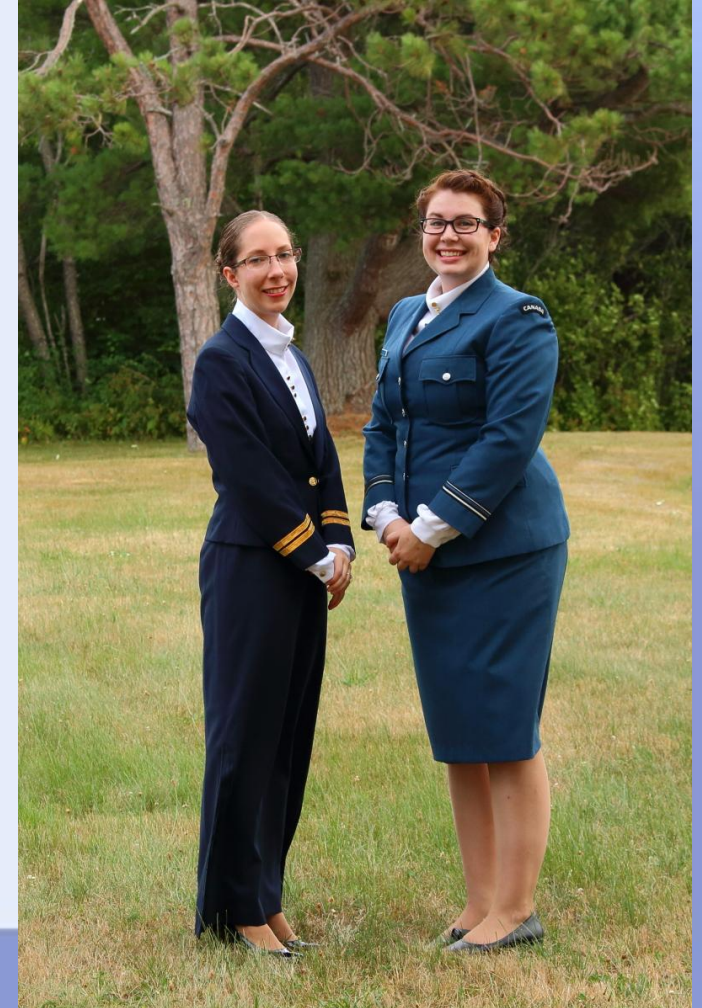


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Vs



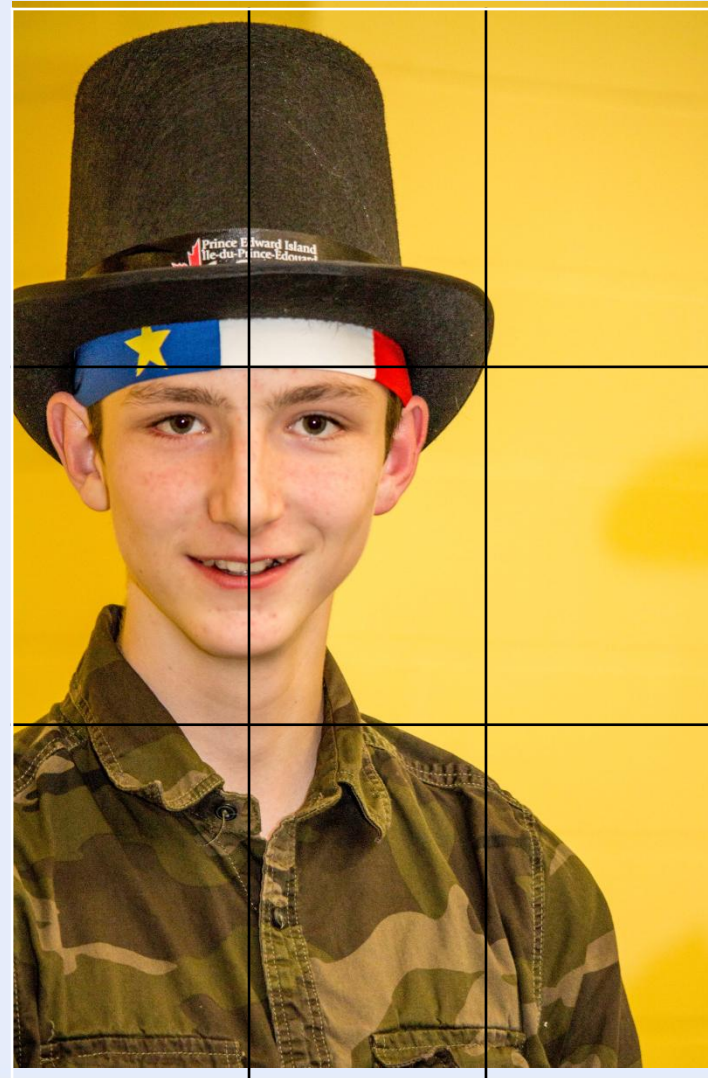
Don't Cut Off Limbs

- Chopping off body parts distracts the viewer from the real subject



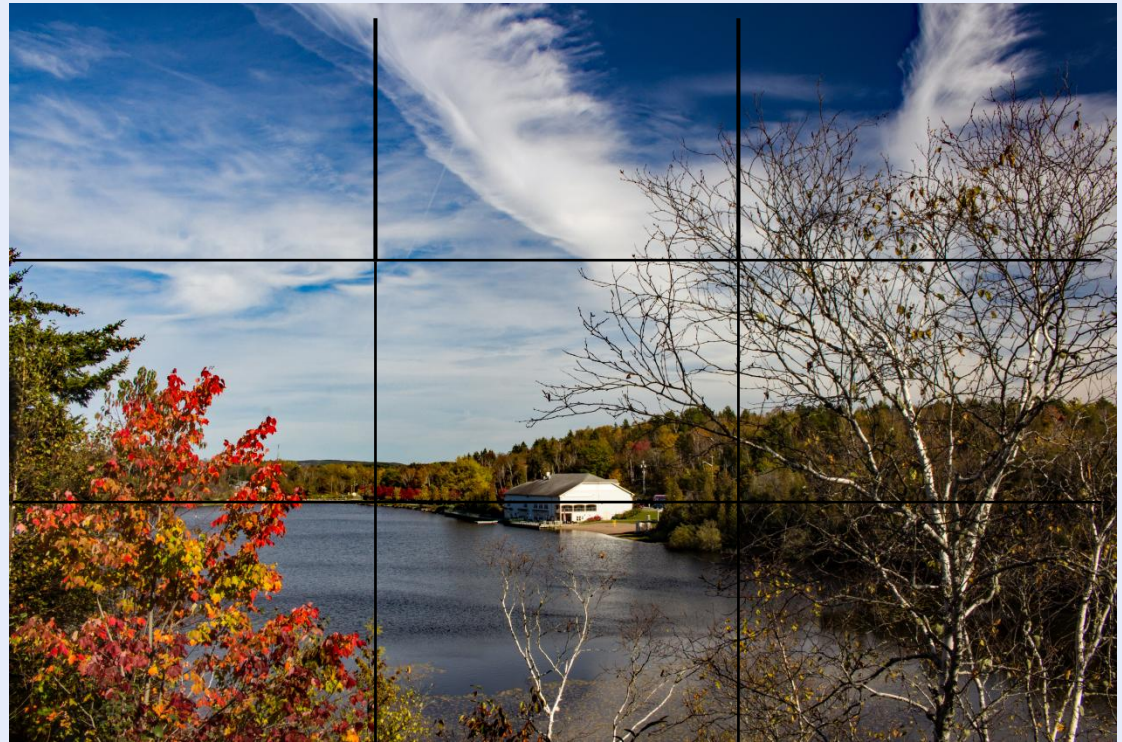
Rule of Thirds

- The human eye tends to be more interested in images that are divided into thirds, with the subject falling at or along one of those divisions
- Don't put your subject directly in the middle
- Use the gridlines on your camera as a guide



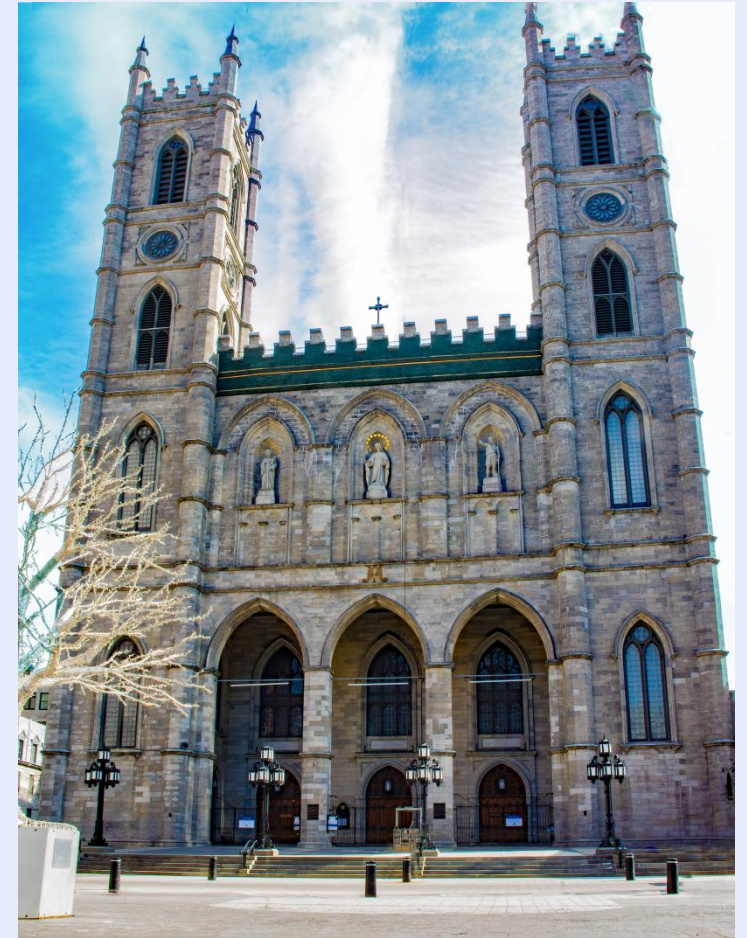
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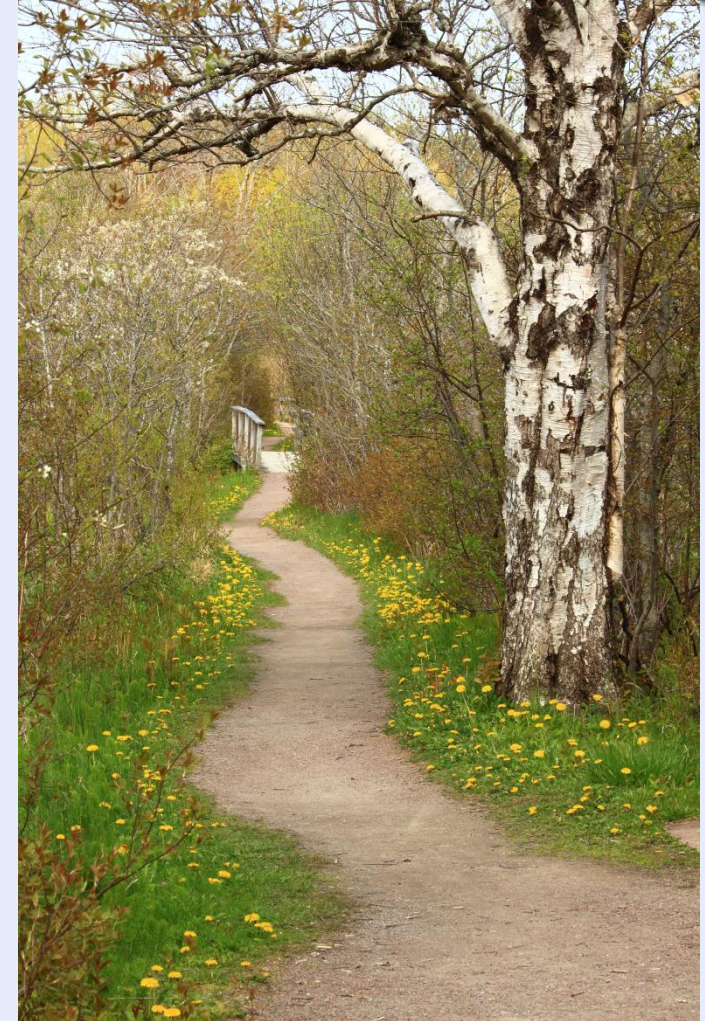
Symmetry

- The image looks the same on one side as it does on the other
- Breaks the rule of thirds



Leading Lines

- Attention is drawn to lines that lead to the main subject of the image
- Things that often create leading lines would be roads, paths, rivers, fences, anything in rows, sunbeams, etc



Framing

- Drawing attention to the subject of your image by blocking other parts of the image with something in the scene
- Examples: shooting through the trees, between heads, through a doorway



Light Source

- Consider what is providing light for your photo: sunlight, artificial light, flash, etc
- Note that the bigger the light source the softer the light and the smaller the light source the harsher the light
- Front lighting de-emphasizes texture; lighting from the side, above, or below emphasizes it.
- Be careful with flash as it often creates unwanted shadows

Light Source

- Consider what is providing light for your photo: sunlight, artificial light, flash, etc
- Note that the bigger the light source the softer the light and the smaller the light source the harsher the light
- From above, to the side, or below
- Be careful of shadows



Light Source



1



2



3



4



5



6

Light Source - Examples



Hard Light



Soft Light



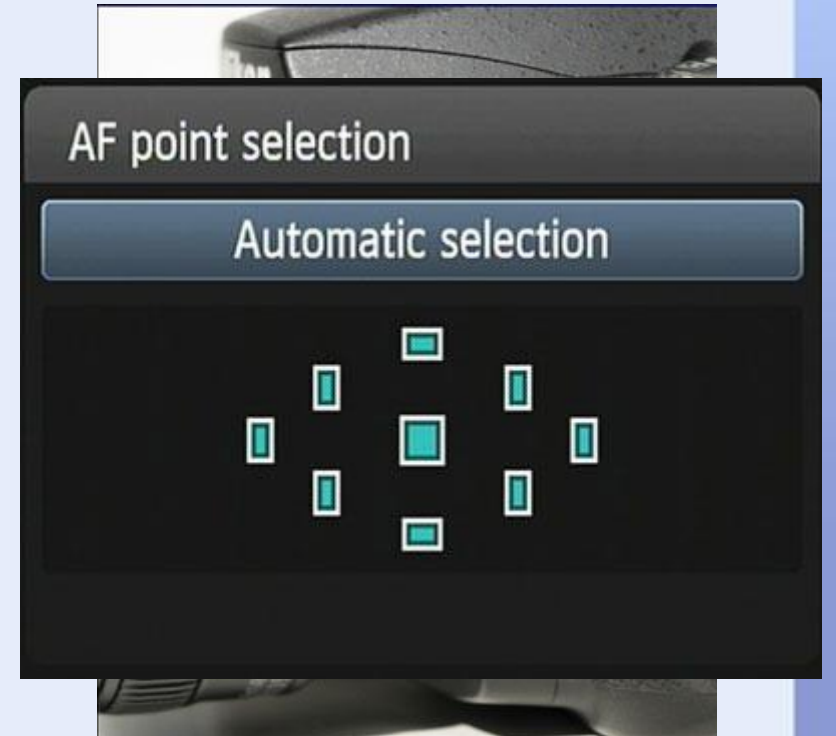
Knowing Your Camera

- Focusing
 - Aperture
 - Shutter speed
 - ISO
 - White balance
 - Camera modes
- } Exposure triangle



Focusing

- Auto focus vs manual focus
- Autofocus points are what the camera uses to focus on a subject. You'll probably first notice them when you press the shutter halfway. Many cameras will emit a "beep," and some of the AF points will light up (often in a red or green color) in the viewfinder or on the display
- Make sure you know which AF point is selected
- Manual focus – turn the focusing ring on the front of the camera to focus (not recommended for handheld shooting). Use back button focus and zoom in to get sharp focus.



Aperture

- The opening of the lens
- Measured in 'f-stops' where low numbers mean large aperture and high numbers mean small aperture
- Wider aperture (small numbers) means more light gets in. With each decrease in aperture, the amount of light is cut in half
- Changing aperture changes the depth of field – how much of your image is in focus
- Wider aperture (small numbers) means a shallow depth of field (meaning blurry background) while a narrow aperture means a large depth of field meaning everything should be in focus
- Wide apertures are often used for portraits while narrow apertures are used for landscapes

Aperture

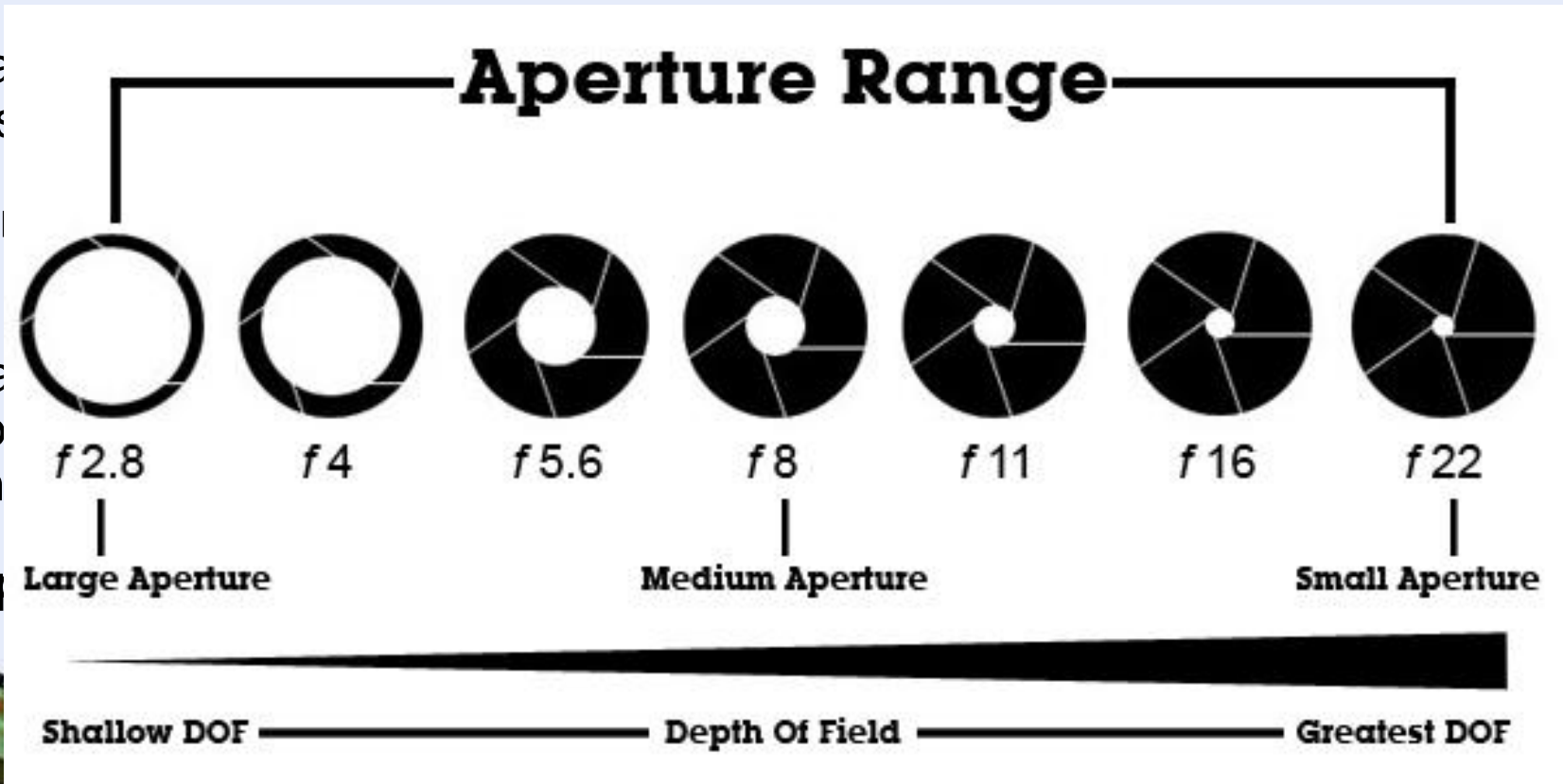
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- Wider aperture decreases

- Changing focus

- Wider aperture blurry background meaning

- Wide aperture



Aperture

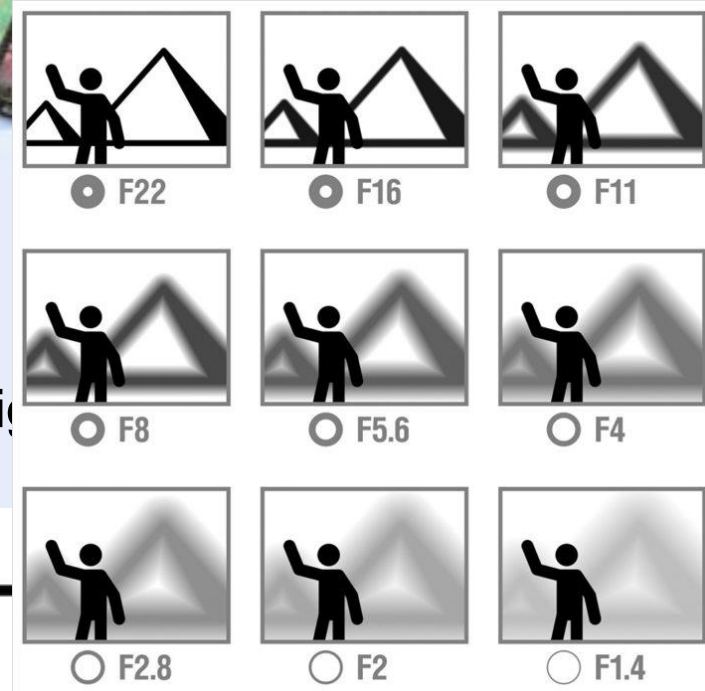
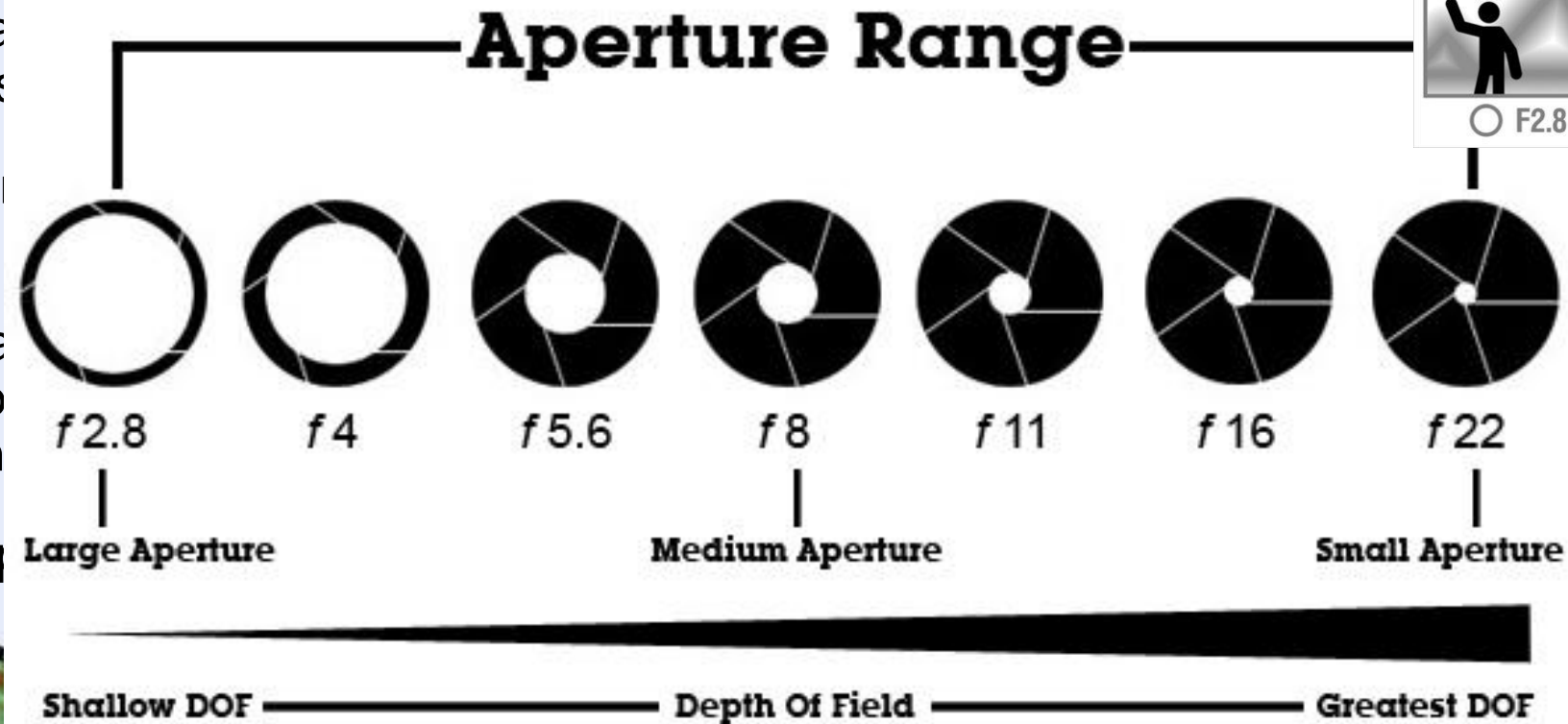
- The opening of the lens
- Measured in 'f-stops' where low numbers mean large aperture and high numbers mean small aperture

- Wider aperture decreases depth of field

- Changing aperture changes focus

- Wider aperture means blurry background

- Wide aperture means shallow depth of field



Aperture Example



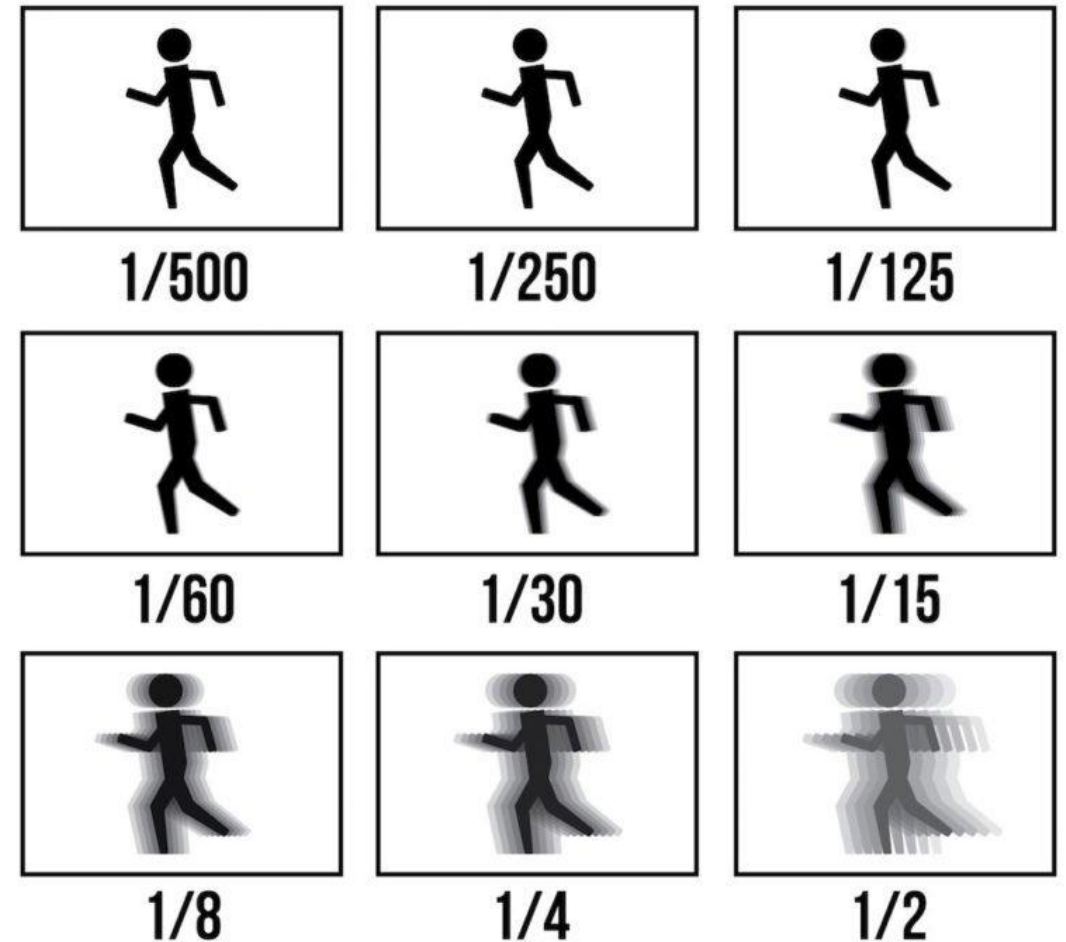
f/11



f/2.8

Shutter Speed

- The amount of time the shutter is opened
- Measured in seconds (or fractions of a second)
- Lower shutter speeds will result in camera shake (without a tripod) and motion blur (below 1/60 s)
- Lower shutter speeds let in more light while higher shutter speeds let in less light
- If you don't want motion blur when taking action shots you will have to use high shutter speeds (at least 1/500 s)



Shutter Speed Example



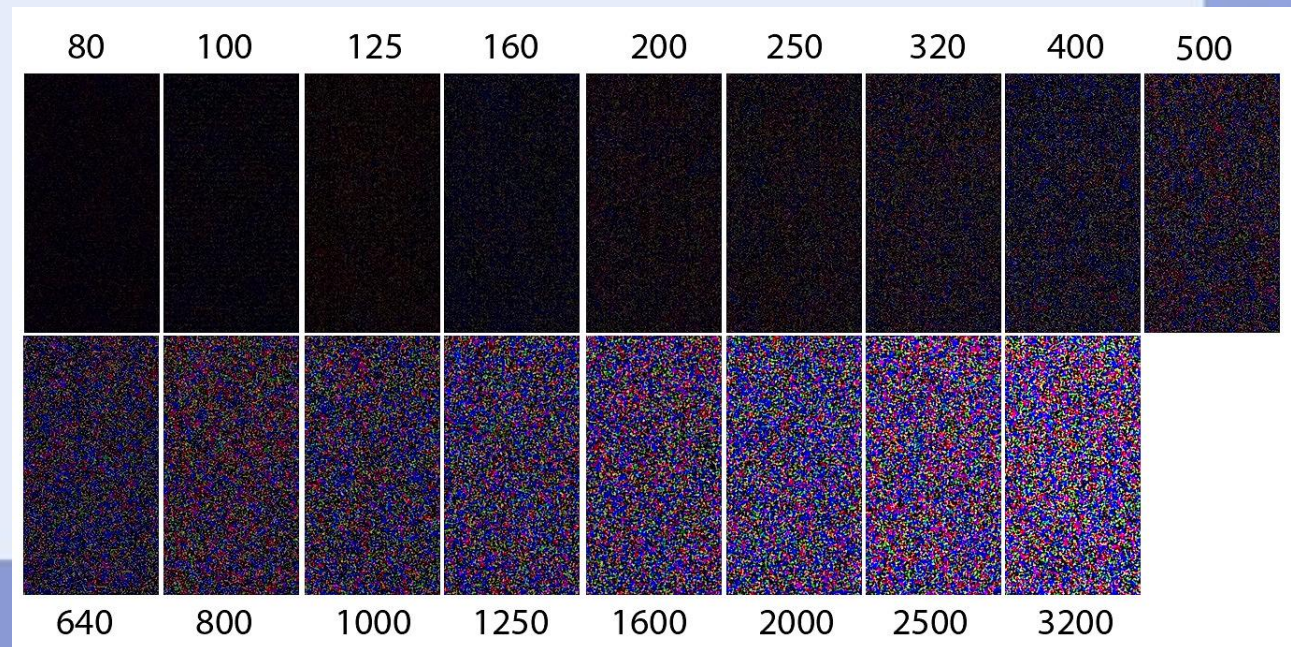
1/15 s



1/200 s

ISO

- The sensitivity of the image sensor to light
- Use higher ISO in darker situations
- Higher ISO results in more noise so try to keep as low as possible
- You may need to increase ISO if
 - It's dark
 - You want grain
 - You don't have a tripod
 - The subject is moving



ISO Examples



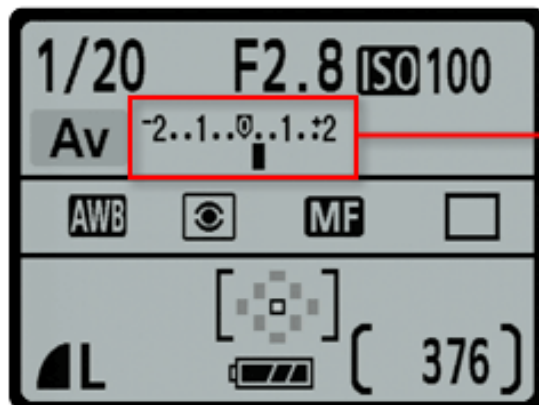
ISO 12800



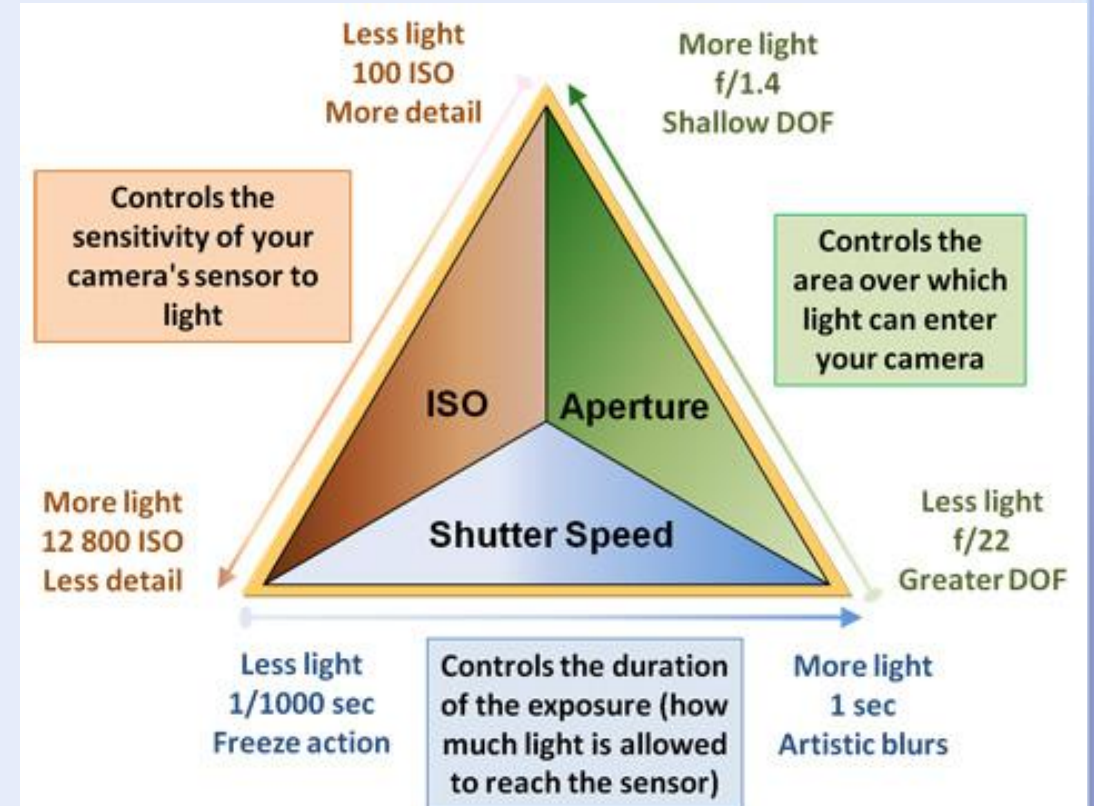
ISO 100

Exposure Triangle

- Aperture, shutter speed, and ISO all control the exposure of your image
- If you change one, you must change another to keep the image properly exposed
- Use the light meter on your camera to check if the image is properly exposed
- Check the resulting photo to make sure the image is exposed

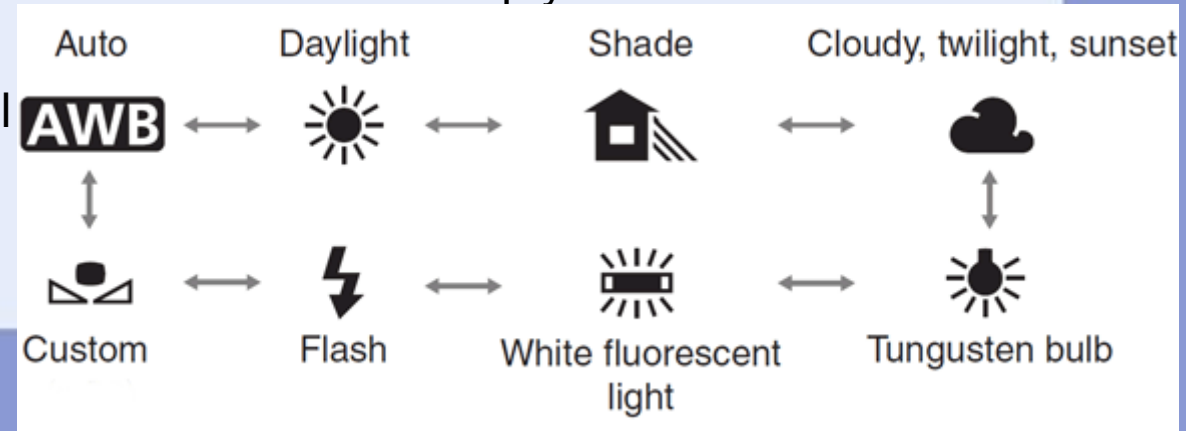


The light meter.
Note that it goes from
-2 stops to +2 stops



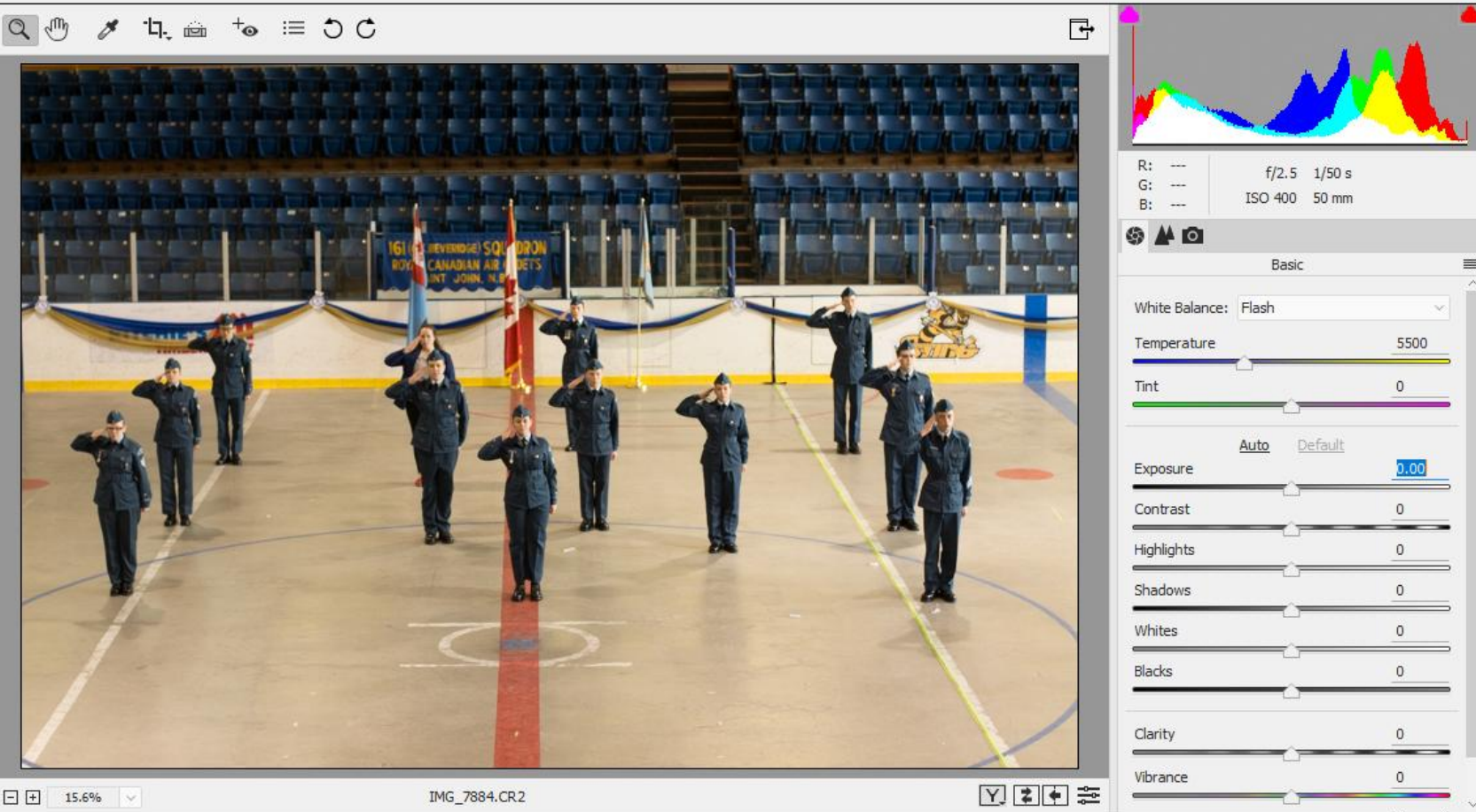
White Balance

- Adjust white balance to get the colors in your images as accurate as possible
- Different light sources provide different coloured light (blue to orange)
 - **Auto** – this is where the camera makes a best guess on a shot by shot basis
 - **Tungsten** – for shooting indoors, especially under tungsten (incandescent) lighting (such as bulb lighting). It generally cools down the colors in photos.
 - **Fluorescent** – this compensates for the ‘cool’ light of fluorescent light and will warm up your shots.
 - **Daylight/Sunny** – Use outside on a sunny day
 - **Cloudy** – this setting generally warms things up a touch more than ‘daylight’ mode
 - **Flash** – the flash of a camera can be quite a cool light so this mode warms up your shots a touch
 - **Shade** – the light in shade is generally cooler (bluer) than shooting in direct sunlight so this mode will warm things up a little.



White Balance Examples

Camera Raw 9.5 - Canon EOS REBEL T5i



White Balance: Flash

Temperature: 5500

Tint: 0

Exposure: 0.00

Contrast: 0

Highlights: 0

Shadows: 0

Whites: 0

Blacks: 0

Clarity: 0

Vibrance: 0

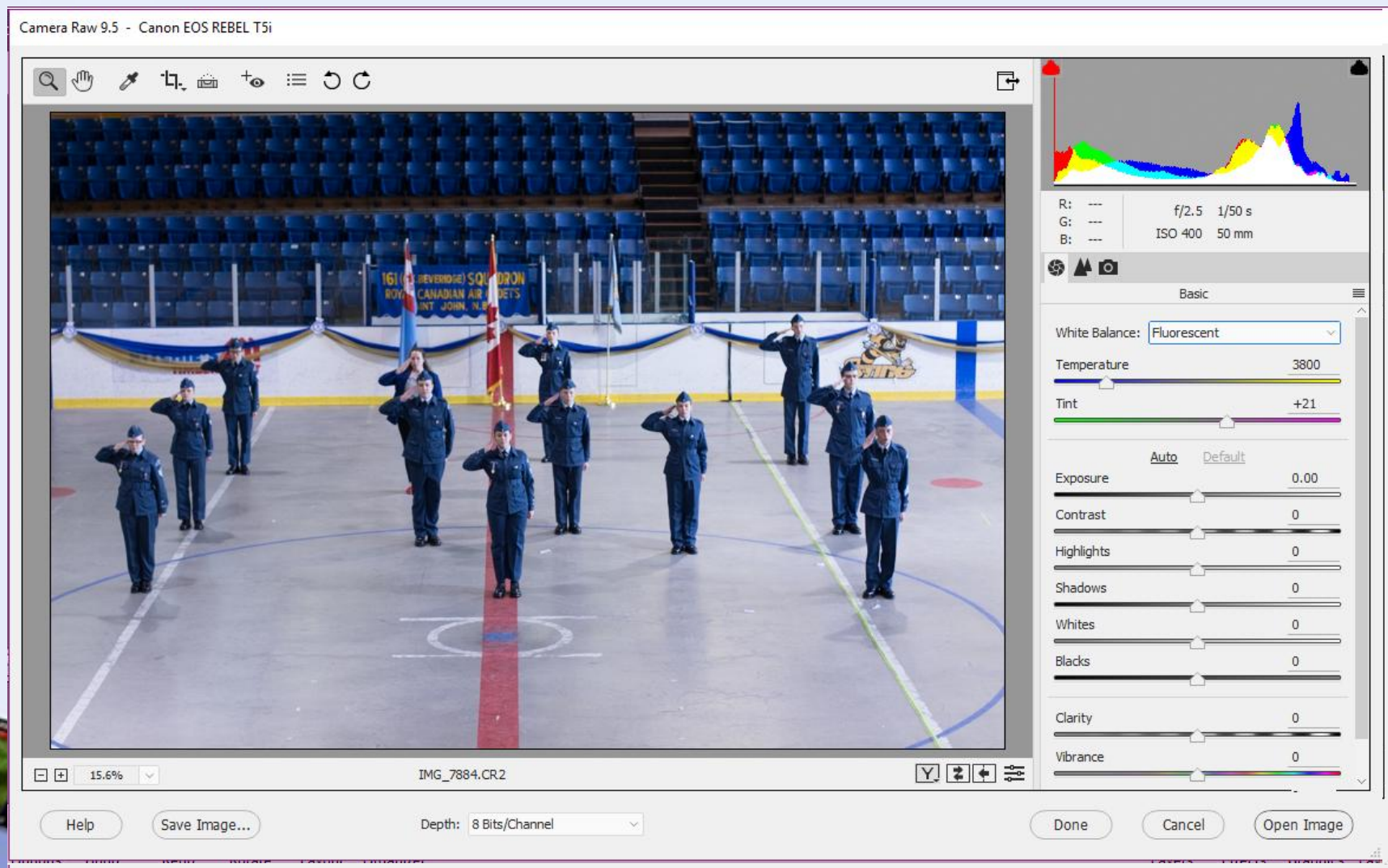
15.6%

IMG_7884.CR2

Depth: 8 Bits/Channel

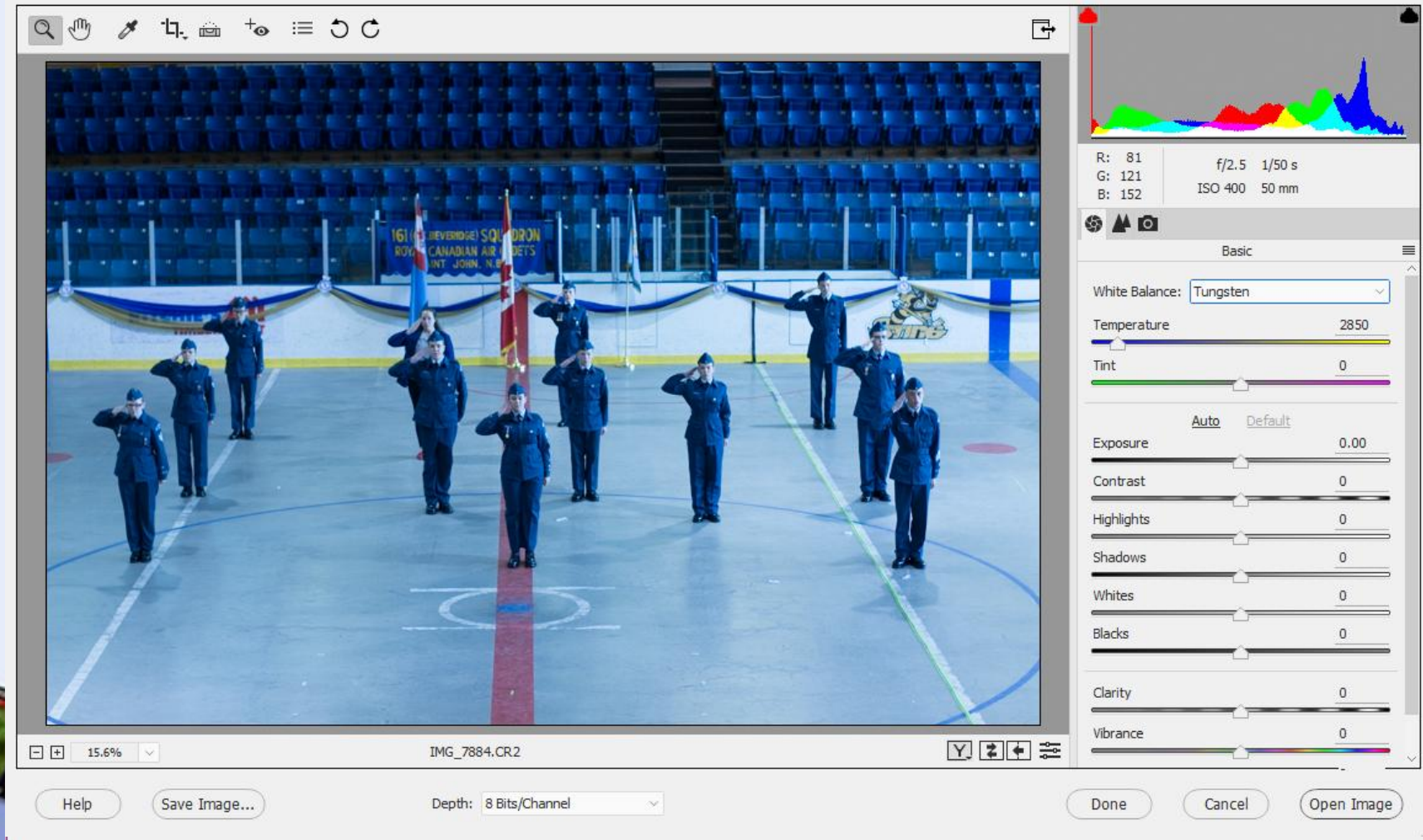
Help Save Image... Done Cancel Open Image

White Balance Examples



White Balance Examples

Camera Raw 9.5 - Canon EOS REBEL T5i



Camera Raw 9.5 - Canon EOS REBEL T5i

White Balance: Tungsten

Temperature: 2850

Tint: 0

Exposure: 0.00

Contrast: 0

Highlights: 0

Shadows: 0

Whites: 0

Blacks: 0

Clarity: 0

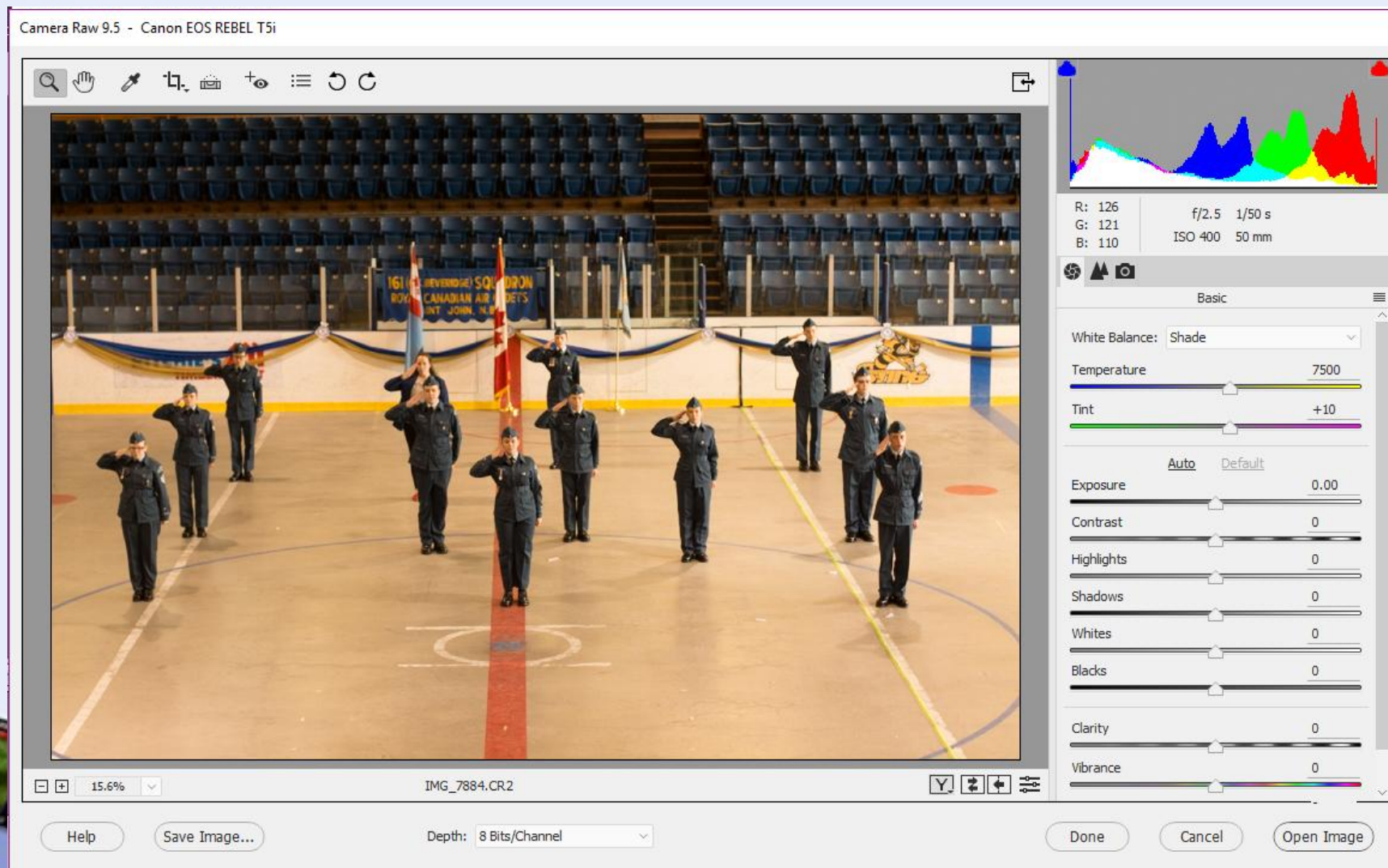
Vibrance: 0

Depth: 8 Bits/Channel

Help Save Image... Done Cancel Open Image

White Balance Examples

Camera Raw 9.5 - Canon EOS REBEL T5i



The screenshot displays the Adobe Camera Raw 9.5 interface for a Canon EOS REBEL T5i. The main image is a photograph of several military personnel in dark uniforms standing in a line on a basketball court, saluting. In the background, there are blue stadium seats and a banner that reads "161st REVERENDS SQUADRON ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ST. JOHN, N.B.". The right-hand panel shows various adjustment sliders under the "Basic" tab. The "White Balance" is set to "Shade" with a temperature of 7500 and a tint of +10. Other sliders include Exposure (0.00), Contrast (0), Highlights (0), Shadows (0), Whites (0), Blacks (0), Clarity (0), and Vibrance (0). The top right corner of the panel shows a color histogram and technical data: R: 126, G: 121, B: 110, f/2.5, 1/50 s, ISO 400, 50 mm. The bottom of the interface includes a zoom level of 15.6%, a file name "IMG_7884.CR2", a depth of 8 Bits/Channel, and buttons for "Help", "Save Image...", "Done", "Cancel", and "Open Image".

White Balance: Shade

Temperature: 7500

Tint: +10

Exposure: 0.00

Contrast: 0

Highlights: 0

Shadows: 0

Whites: 0

Blacks: 0

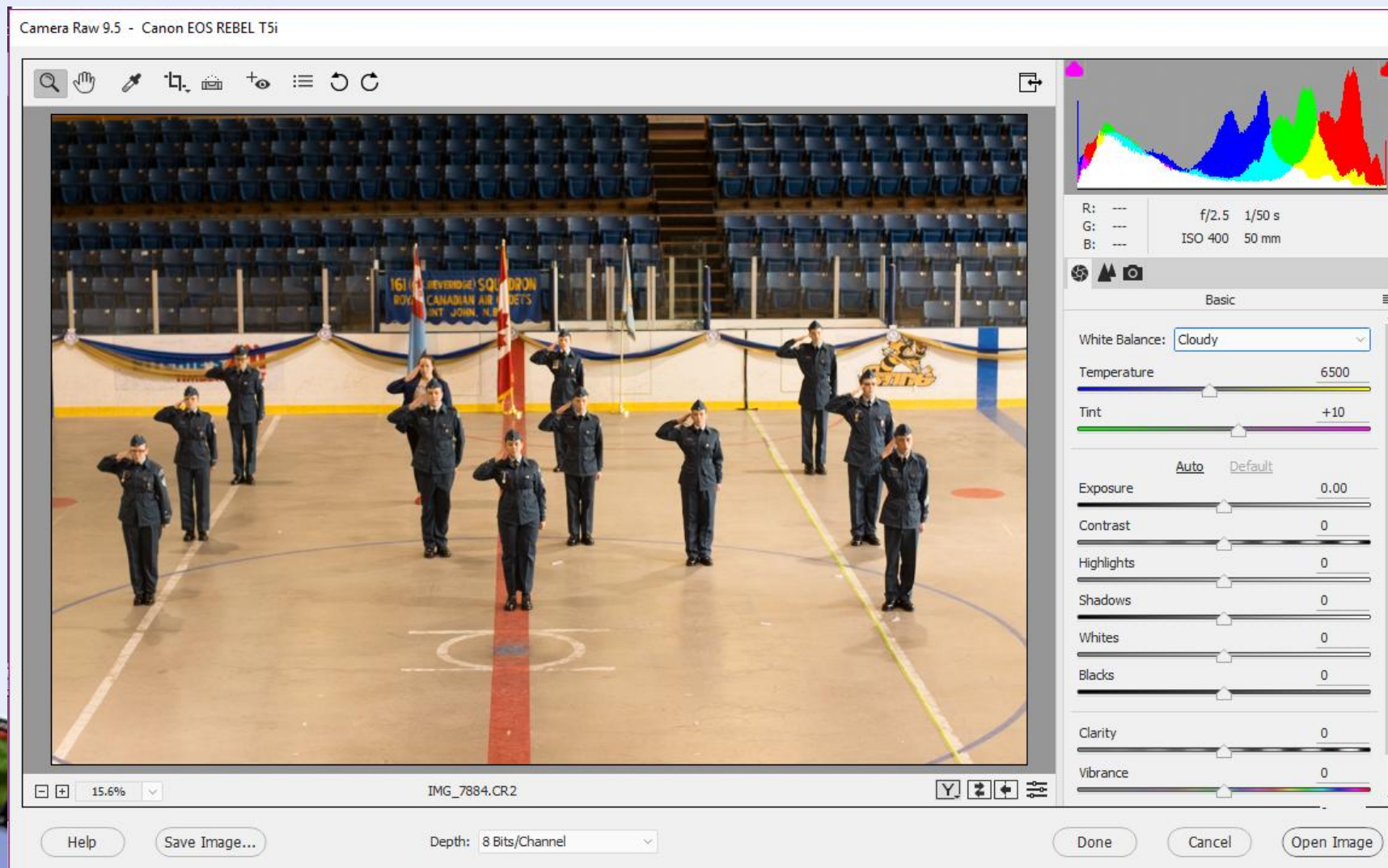
Clarity: 0

Vibrance: 0

Help Save Image... Depth: 8 Bits/Channel Done Cancel Open Image

White Balance Examples

Camera Raw 9.5 - Canon EOS REBEL T5i



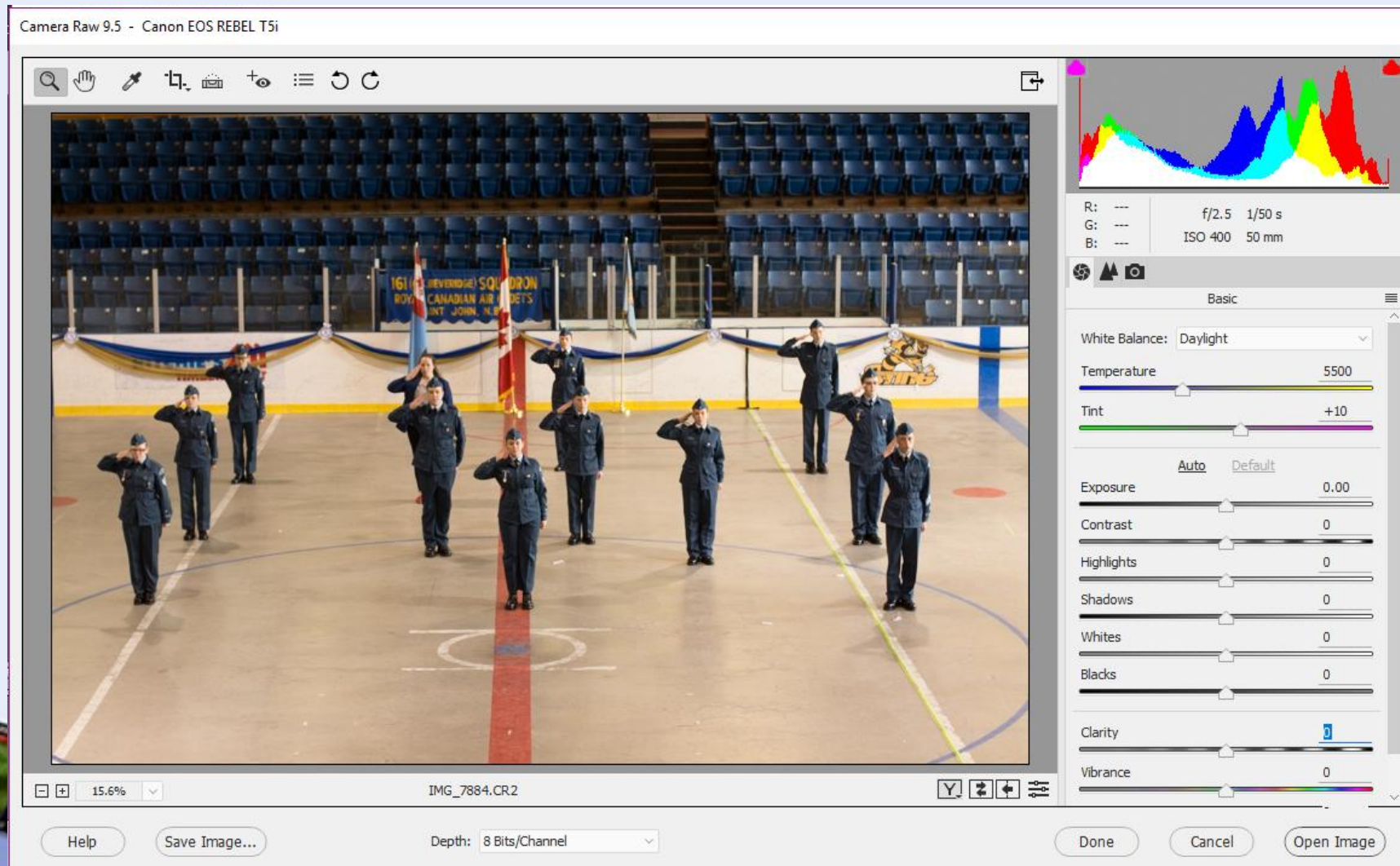
The screenshot displays the Adobe Camera Raw 9.5 interface for a Canon EOS REBEL T5i. The main image shows a group of people in dark uniforms standing on a basketball court, saluting. The background features blue stadium seating and a banner for the "161st REVENGE SQUADRON ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ST JOHN'S, N.S.". The right-hand panel is set to the "Basic" tab, showing the following settings:

- White Balance: Cloudy
- Temperature: 6500
- Tint: +10
- Exposure: 0.00
- Contrast: 0
- Highlights: 0
- Shadows: 0
- Whites: 0
- Blacks: 0
- Clarity: 0
- Vibrance: 0

The histogram at the top right shows a distribution of colors, with a peak in the blue/green area. The bottom of the interface includes a zoom level of 15.6%, a file name of IMG_7884.CR2, a depth of 8 Bits/Channel, and buttons for Help, Save Image..., Done, Cancel, and Open Image.

White Balance Examples

Camera Raw 9.5 - Canon EOS REBEL T5i



15.6%

IMG_7884.CR2

Depth: 8 Bits/Channel

Help Save Image... Done Cancel Open Image

White Balance: Daylight

Temperature 5500

Tint +10

Exposure 0.00

Contrast 0

Highlights 0

Shadows 0

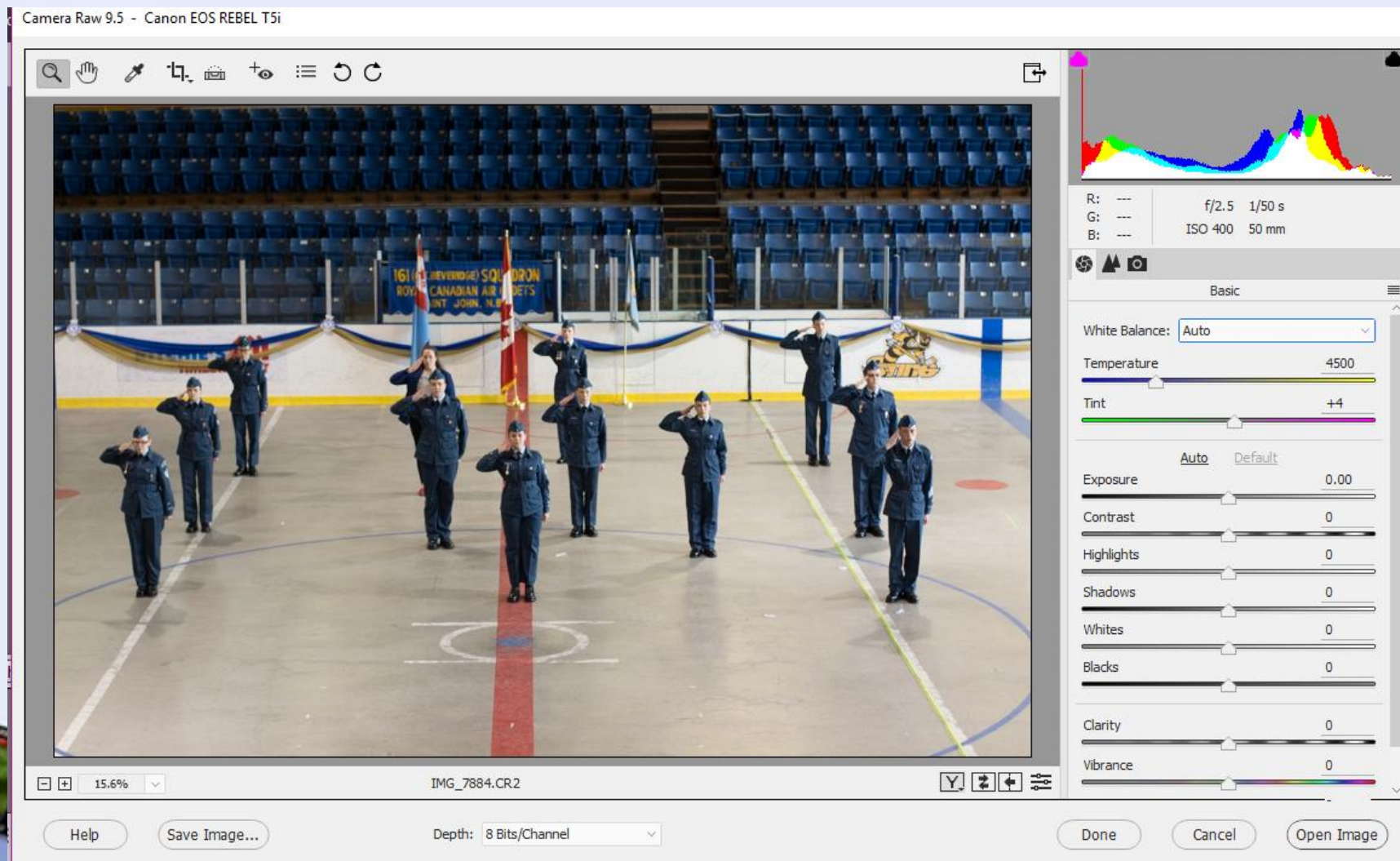
Whites 0

Blacks 0

Clarity 0

Vibrance 0

White Balance Examples



Camera Modes

- Auto – camera chooses everything for you
- Portrait – camera choose wide aperture
- Macro – Used for taking photos up close chooses shallow depth of field
- Landscape mode – camera chooses small aperture
- Sports mode – camera chooses higher shutter speed
- Night mode – uses long shutter speeds (use tripod)
- Aperture Priority (A or Av) – You choose the aperture, the camera does the rest
- Shutter Priority (S or Tv) – You choose the shutter speed, the camera does the rest
- Program Mode (P) – Similar to Auto but gives you a few control options
- Manual Mode – Gives you full control to set aperture, shutter speed, ISO, WB, etc



Camera Modes



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Types of Photos

- Portraits
- Group photos
- Candid photos
- Landscapes



Portraits

- Avoid distracting backgrounds
- Get in close to the subject
- Get the subject on an angle
- Often works better with camera turned lengthways (portrait)



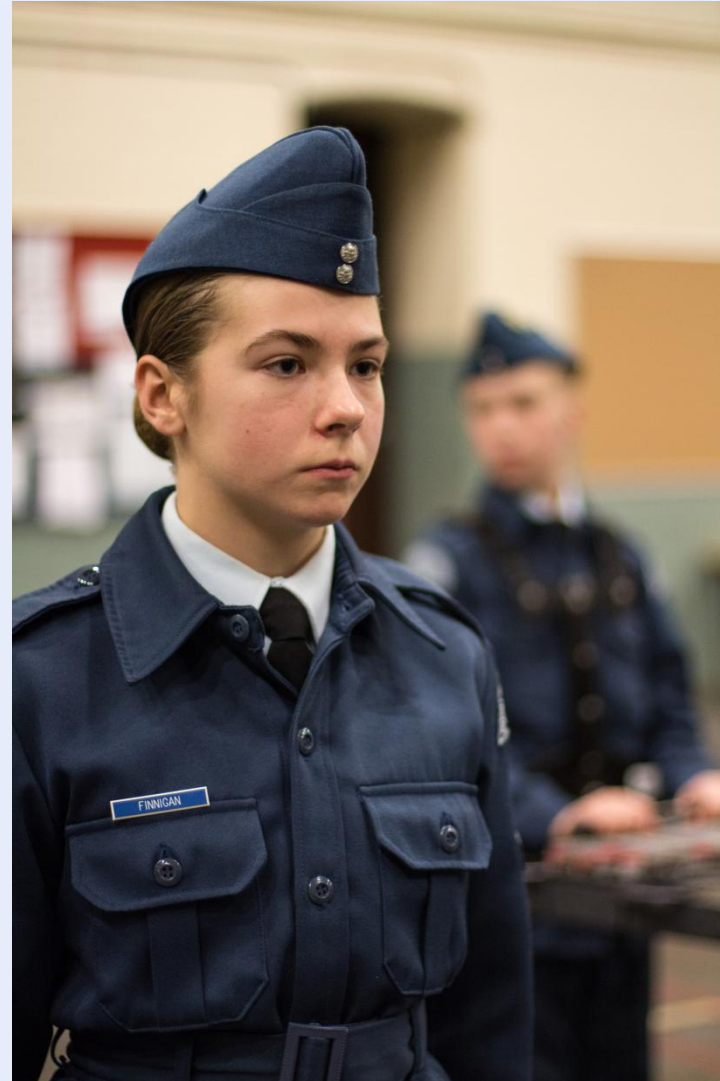
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Group Photos

- Choose a suitable location – enough space, enough light, no distracting backgrounds
- Take multiple shots
- Pose the group (tall people in back, shorter people on the edges)
- Make sure everyone can be seen: If you can see the camera it can see you
- Take photo from slightly above if possible
- Give the group a purpose for the photo



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Candid Photos/Action Shots

- Use a long zoom so people don't notice you
- Avoid flash (distracting)
- Photograph people doing things and interacting with other people
- Position yourself strategically – what you do think they will do next?
- Increase shutter speed when necessary to avoid blur



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Landscapes

- Use a narrow aperture so both the foreground and background are in focus
- Use a wide angle (18 mm) to capture the entire scene
- Avoid distractions – people etc
- Make sure horizon lines are straight



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Tips for avoiding bad photos

- Always check your focal point before taking a picture
- Hold the camera as steady as possible (use same principles as marksmanship – tuck your arms in close to your body, look through the viewfinder, partially depress shutter to focus then breath partially out then fully depress shutter)
- Make sure you frame your subject well – don't cut off body parts
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Editing Your Photos

- Shoot using RAW format for ability to do more advanced editing
- Require photo editing software such as Photoshop (but there are free programs you can download online)
- Basic things to edit:
 - Crop
 - Brightness
 - White balance
 - Colour vibrancy and saturation



Selecting Photos

- Only select your best photos
 - Photo must be sharp (not blurry)
 - Photo should be well exposed (not too dark or light)
 - Subject must be obvious
- Select the best photo of a particular scene if you took multiple shots
- Ensure a variety of cadets are featured
- Ensure a variety of activities are featured



Questions??

