ORGANIZATION AND TRADITIONS OF THE CANADIAN FORCES

ROLES OF THE CANADIAN FORCES

One of the three aims of the Canadian Cadet Movement (CCM) is to stimulate interest in the CF. This is a basic introduction to the history and role of today’s CF.

THE CANADIAN FORCES INCEPTION

The first small steps to form the Canadian Forces might be considered to be established in 1868 when Canada’s Department of Militia and Defence was established with a budget of $900,000, taking over from provincial or Canadian Militias, which were disbanded by 1869. At the time the intention was to create a militia force to support the British troops in Canada to drive out any invading force. However, in the fall of 1871 the British troops were withdrawn from Canada, leading to Canada taking moderate steps in producing its own forces. The country established two field artillery batteries to protect Quebec City and Kingston. Thus the regular army began its formation. This was expanded in 1883 when the first cavalry school corps (Royal Canadian Dragoons) was established in Quebec City followed by infantry corps (Royal Canadian Regiment) in Fredericton, Saint John and Toronto.

In 1964, Defence Minister Paul Hellyer tabled a white paper in Parliament, which concluded that a unified command structure - one which amalgamated the Navy, Army and Air Forces - would better serve Canadian interests.

The modern Canadian Forces was formed on 1 February 1968 when Bill C243, The Canadian Forces Reorganization Act, became law. At this time the Canadian government merged the Canadian Army, the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force into a unified structure. Canada remains one of the few developed countries in the world to organize its military forces like this. The integration of the Canadian Forces continued in 2005 when the CDS, General R.J. Hillier, announced an initiative to introduce a joint force management structure in the Canadian Forces to make them more “streamlined, integrated and effective.”

BRANCHES OF THE CANADIAN FORCES

**Land.** The land branch of the Canadian Forces consists of three components:
- Regular Force;
- Reserve Force; and
- Canadian Rangers.

**Navy.** The Canadian Navy first came into being on 4 May 1910 with the passing of the Navy Bill of 1910. Currently the Canadian Navy consists of three headquarters:
- MARLANT (Maritime Forces Atlantic) – Halifax;
- MARPAC (Maritime Forces Pacific) - Esquimalt; and
- NAVRES (Naval Reserve) – Quebec City.

**Air Force.** At the outbreak of WWI Canada had no Air Force. In 1914 Canada sent the Canadian Aviation Corps, made up of three personnel and one American built Burgess-Dunne biplane to accompany the First Contingent overseas. This can be considered the first modest attempt at the formation of Canada’s Air Force. Currently the Canadian Air Force consists of thirteen wings spread out across Canada.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CF

The mission of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces is to defend Canada, its interests and its values, while contributing to international peace and
security. Under Canadian Defence Policy, the Canadian Forces are called upon to fill three major roles:
1. protecting Canada;
2. defending North America in cooperation with the United States of America; and
3. contributing to peace and international security.

NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENCE COMMAND (NORAD):
- NORAD is a joint United States and Canadian organization which provides aerospace warning and aerospace control for North America. It was founded on 12 May 1958 under the name North American Air Defence Command.
- NORAD consists of two main parts, corresponding to its mission. Aerospace warning or Integrated Tactical Warning and Attack Assessment (ITW/AA) covers the monitoring of man-made objects in space, and the detection, validation, and warning of attack against North America by aircraft, missiles, or space vehicles. Aerospace control includes providing surveillance and control of Canadian and United States airspace.
- The NORAD agreement between Canada and the United States was last modified and renewed in 2006.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO):
- NATO, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, the Atlantic Alliance or the Western Alliance, is an international organization for collective security established in 1949, in support of the North Atlantic Treaty signed in Washington, DC, on 4 April 1949. Its headquarters are located in Brussels, Belgium. Its other official name is the French equivalent, l'Organisation du Traité de l'Atlantique Nord (OTAN) (English and French being the two official languages of the organization).
- The core of NATO is Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty, which states that, “The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all. Consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area.”
- NATO consists of 26 member countries.
- Its primary function is the stability of the North Atlantic area and to safeguard the freedom of its people based on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and international law.

UNITED NATIONS (UN):
- The UN is an international organization that describes itself as a “global Association of governments facilitating cooperation in international law, International security, economic development, and social equity.” It was founded in 1945 at the signing of the United Nations Charter by 51 countries, replacing the League of Nations which was founded in 1919.
- Peacekeeping operations began in 1948 with the first mission to the Middle East.
- Lester Pearson, prior to being elected as Canadian Prime Minister, was well recognized for his efforts building the framework for the UN and its auxiliary organizations.

ROLES OF EACH ELEMENT OF THE CANADIAN FORCES
The CF functions in a joint capacity for many of its international commitments. However, each element has a distinct set of responsibilities:

**ARMY**
- National Defence;
- Canada/US defence of North America (NORAD);
- contribution to peacekeeping missions;
- civil defence; and
- humanitarian operations including disaster relief;

**NAVY**
- surveillance and control of Canadian waters;
- support of Army and Air Force operations;
- support to other government departments (fisheries, search and rescue, drug enforcement, environment);
- NATO deployments; and
- humanitarian operations including disaster relief (food and medical relief, and personal and technical aide);

**AIR FORCE**
- surveillance and control of Canadian airspace;
- world wide airlift of CF personnel and material;
- support operations of the Army and Navy;
- support to other government departments;
- search and rescue; and
- humanitarian operations including disaster relief.

**CANADIAN FORCES BASE LOCATIONS**

**LAND FORCES**

**Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Edmonton (AB).** CFB Edmonton is the headquarters of Land Forces Western Area, the highest military authority in western Canada, and a number of brigade groups, including 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG), the only regular force brigade group in the region.

**CFB Borden (Barrie, ON).** The mission of CFB Borden is to support several military training establishments and a variety of other military and civilian organizations located on the base. On average, CFB Borden trains 15 000 military personnel annually.

**CFB Gagetown (Oromocto, NB).** At the beginning of the Cold War, Canadian defence planners recognized the need for providing the Canadian Army with a suitable training facility where brigade and division-sized armoured, infantry, and artillery units could exercise in preparation for their role in defending western Europe under Canada’s obligations to the North Atlantic Treaty. CFB Gagetown continues to function as the army's primary training facility, although due to risk of forest fires in recent years, live-fire training has been pushed primarily to the fall-winter-spring seasons.

**CFB Valcartier (Quebec City, QC).** CFB Valcartier was originally erected as a military camp in August of 1914 as part of the mobilization of a Canadian Expeditionary Force at the onset of the Great War. Currently CFB Valcartier is home to 5 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (5 CMBG), which consists of 5e Régiment d’artillerie légère du Canada (5 RALC), the 12e Régiment blindé du Canada (12 RBC), 5e Régiment du genie de combat (a combat engineering regiment), the three Regular Force battalions of Le Royal 22e Régiment,
5 Service Battalion, and 5 Military Police Platoon. The base also houses 430 Tactical Helicopter Squadron (a communications squadron and other support units). CFB Valcartier is also home to a Defence Research Establishment, which conducts military research for the Canadian Forces.

CFB Petawawa (ON). Founded in 1904 as the Petawawa Military Camp, or Camp Petawawa, the base was created by the Department of Militia and Defence upon the purchase of 22,430 acres (91 km²) of mostly agricultural property from local residents. The first military aircraft flight in Canada took place at Camp Petawawa on 31 July 1909. Between December 1914 and May 1916, Camp Petawawa was used as an internment camp for 750 German and Austrian prisoners of war. The base supports Land Force Command (the Canadian Army) and is home to 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (2 CMBG) among other units. 4400 military personnel are employed at the base. The base motto is, in the Algonquin language, “endazhe kinamandowa chimaganishak”. The English translation is “training ground of the warriors”.

CFB Shilo (Brandon, MB). Canadian Forces Base/Area Support Unit Shilo has been the site of military activity in the region since 1910. Its mission is to provide support services and limited support service to operations, all supported units as well as visiting formations, units or agencies. CFB/ASU Shilo is home to First Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (1 RCHA), and Second Battalion Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI). Both of these units are part of 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG). The base is also home to a component of the Western Area Training Centre, 731 Signal Squadron, and 11 CF Health Services Centre, as well as being the “Home Station” of the Royal Canadian Artillery. Other supported units include 26 Field Regiment, RCA Brandon's Reserve Unit and 38 Canadian Brigade Group Headquarters, located in Winnipeg.

CFB Wainwright (AB). CFB Wainwright is home to the Land Force Western Area Training Centre and Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre. It is the primary training location for the Army units from Western Canada (from Thunder Bay to Victoria). It was an internment camp in early 1945 for German Prisoners of War (POWs) and, at its peak, housed almost 1100 German officers, soldiers and civilians as prisoners. Camp Wainwright’s role is as an integral military training centre for military courses, and both Canadian and foreign units, who all conduct field training at CFB/ASU Wainwright year round, taking advantage of the extensive 620 square kilometre training area and live-fire practice facilities. CFB/ASU Wainwright is home to several distinct units, the most established being the Land Force Western Area Training Centre (LFWATC), and the newest being the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre (CMTC). The Base is supported by a 742 Signal Squadron Detachment, a Field Ambulance Detachment, a Dental Detachment, and a Garrison Military Police Company detachment. Approximately 900 military personnel work on the base. The transient military population averages over 1000 soldiers at any given time, and in the summer it grows significantly, when hundreds of Reserve Force soldiers undertake basic, specialist and leadership training. A significant development at Camp Wainwright is the creation of CMTC, a national training unit whose primary purpose will be to prepare Canadian soldiers for missions overseas. The new centre will use extremely sophisticated laser and satellite technology to simulate the effects of battle with realism and specially constructed training sites, including four entire “villages,” to recreate the foreign environments in which the soldiers may find themselves.

MARITIME FORCES

CFB Halifax (NS). CFB Halifax is Canada’s east coast navy base and home port to the Atlantic fleet. It is presently the largest Canadian Forces Base in terms of the number of
posted personnel and is formed from an amalgamation of military properties situated around the strategic Halifax Harbour in Nova Scotia. Some of the units located at CFB Halifax include: MARLANT Headquarters, Canadian Forces Maritime Warfare Centre (CFMWC), Canadian Forces Naval Operations School (CFNOS), Canadian Forces Naval Engineering School (CFNES), Fleet Maintenance Facility – Cape Scott (FMFCS), and the naval reserve division HMCS Scotian.

CFB Esquimalt (BC). CFB Esquimalt is Canada's west coast navy base and home port to the Pacific fleet. It is located on Vancouver Island in the municipality of Esquimalt, just west of Victoria. Some of the units located at CFB Esquimalt include: MARPAC Headquarters, Naval Officer Training Centre – Venture (NOTC Venture), Canadian Forces Fleet School Esquimalt (CFFSE), Canadian Forces Maritime Experimental and Test Range (CFMETR), Fleet Maintenance Facility – Cape Breton (FMFCB), Fleet Dive Unit (Pacific), and the Naval Reserve division HMCS Naden.

CFB Greenwood (NS). Today CFB Greenwood remains Canada's largest operational air force base on the Atlantic Coast, based on numbers of aircraft and personnel. The following aircraft types are permanently stationed at the base; CP-140 Aurora, anti-submarine warfare/long-range maritime patrol, CP-140A Arcturus, long-range maritime/Arctic patrol, CH-149 Cormorant, air-sea search and rescue, CC-130 Hercules, air-sea search and rescue, transport.

CFB Shearwater (NS). CFB Shearwater is the birthplace and primary base for naval aviation in Canada, and plays host to 12 Wing (12 Wing Shearwater) which was formerly organized as Maritime Air Group, Canadian Armed Forces. The current ship-borne helicopter used by Canada's Navy is the CH-124 Sea King. Though the Sea Kings deploy aboard HMC ships, the units operating them are part of the “Air Force”. CFB Shearwater is also home to the Fleet Dive Unit (Atlantic).

AIR FORCES

1 Wing Kingston (ON). Home of the Griffon helicopter, 1 Wing supports the Canadian Army by airlifting troops and equipment anywhere in the world. Its six tactical helicopter and training squadrons are spread out across the country.

3 Wing Bagotville (QC). 3 Wing Bagotville, home of the CF-18, is one of only two fighter bases in Canada. Located in Quebec's Saguenay region, it carries out air defence, combat support and search and rescue missions.

4 Wing Cold Lake (AB). 4 Wing Cold Lake hosts Canada's world-class tactical fighter force training and deploys and supports fighter aircraft at a moments notice to fulfill the domestic and international roles of Canada's Air Force.

5 Wing Goose Bay (NL). Goose Bay has been used as a strategic airfield, ferry base, an air defence radar site and, for the past 21 years, the home of Allied Tactical Flying Training in Canada. 5 Wing Goose Bay supports the following flying operations: low-level training for the German Air Force (GAF) (http://www.airforce.forces.ca/5wing/squadron/gafftsg_e.asp) and the Italian Air Force. It also serves as a Canadian Deployed Operating Base (DOB) of CF-18s operationally committed to NORAD. This Goose Bay Allied Military Training In Canada (GAMTIC) Program, which 5 Wing Goose Bay supports by acting as an on-site “agent” for the various Allies, is a unique and evolving role of the CF.
**8 Wing Trenton (ON).** From delivering supplies to the high Arctic (CFS Alert) to airlifting troops and equipment world-wide, 8 Wing is the heart of Canada's air mobility forces. It is also responsible for search and rescue in central Canada and home to the famous Skyhawks with the Canadian Parachute Centre.

**9 Wing Gander (NL).** When a call for help comes in, Search and Rescue (SAR) crews at 9 Wing Gander are ready to head out in any direction from their base in Canada's most easterly province, Newfoundland. The Wing is home to 103 Search and Rescue Squadron, providing full time SAR services to Newfoundland and Labrador.

**12 Wing Shearwater (NS).** Shearwater is home to the maritime helicopter community. Personnel and aircraft are deployed around the world primarily as part of Helicopter Air Detachments (HelAirDets) that deploy with Navy ships on the east and west coast. While deployed personnel become part of the ship's crew and the helicopter acts as an extension of the ship, extending its sensor and weapons delivery capability.

**14 Wing Greenwood (NS).** Nestled in the heart of Nova Scotia's beautiful Annapolis Valley rests 14 Wing Greenwood, the largest air base on the east coast. Aurora crews conduct sovereignty and surveillance missions over the Atlantic Ocean routinely, while search and rescue capabilities are maintained 365 days of the year.

**15 Wing Moose Jaw (SK).** We are the home of Canada's military jet training. 15 Wing is home to the NATO Flying Training in Canada Program which involves the training of pilots from around the world.

**16 Wing Borden (ON).** 16 Wing is the largest training wing in the Canadian Forces. It is composed of a headquarters and three schools: the Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Technology and Engineering (CFSATE), the Air Command Academy (ACA), and the Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Control Operations (CFSACO). Both CFSATE and ACA are in Borden while CFSACO is located in Cornwall, Ontario.

**17 Wing Winnipeg (MB).** For Canadian airforce personnel, all roads will lead to 17 Wing Winnipeg. The Wing is comprised of three squadrons and six schools. It also provides support to the Central Flying School. All combined, 17 Wing turns out what are considered some of the best pilots, air navigators and multi-skilled personnel in the world.

**19 Wing Comox (BC).** Based on Vancouver Island, 19 Wing's Aurora crews keep watch over the Pacific Ocean while its search and rescue teams regularly locate downed Aircraft in some of Canada's roughest terrain.

**22 Wing North Bay (ON).** 22 Wing provides surveillance, identification, control, and warning for the aerospace defence of Canada and North America. This surveillance and identification of all air traffic approaching North America (some 200,000 flights per year) is accomplished using radar information received via satellite from the North Warning System across the Canadian Arctic, coastal radars on the east and west coasts of Canada, and airborne warning and control system aircraft.

**THE HISTORY AND TRADITIONS OF THE AFFILIATED UNIT**

**LOCATION OF THE AFFILIATED UNIT**
- The affiliated unit;
  - unit commanding officer;
  - full address (mailing); and
AFFILIATED UNIT
A cadet unit obtains its affiliation with a unit of the Regular Force or the Reserve Force through a request from the appropriate region commander to the Chief of the Defence Staff. Once affiliated, the cadet unit may follow regimental traditions and share history. Each cadet is entitled to wear the shoulder title and cap badge of the affiliated unit.

Affiliated units are expected to support their affiliated cadet corps’. They are encouraged to provide any assistance possible in helping in the training and general performance of the cadet corps. The affiliated unit does not assume any financial responsibility for the cadet unit. The unit with which a cadet corps is affiliated may:
- appoint a liaison officer to serve the cadet corps; and
- provide such assistance as may be practical to enable the cadet corps to conduct training.

Affiliation usually takes place during the cadet units’ inception; however, affiliation can be created or changed throughout the duration of a unit.

LIAISON OFFICER
The affiliated unit with which a cadet corps is affiliated normally appoints a liaison officer. The appointed liaison officer is responsible to coordinate with affiliated cadet units and provide assistance where possible.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNIT
The affiliated unit depending on resources may have much to offer. Depending on request and availability of resources the affiliated unit may be able to provide such items to include:
- facilities (place to parade);
- training equipment (as required);
- personnel (if available);
- supplies;
- transportation;
- C7 training for senior cadets; and
- participation in affiliated unit activities.
CURRENT AND PAST UNIFORMS OF THE ARMY

Knowledge of army uniforms during different time periods will allow the cadets to better understand the dress of the Army and to interact appropriately with members of the army in various situations.

ORIGINS

Uniforms were introduced during the days of chivalry. Armour obscured the combatants, which could have resulted in friend fighting friend. Knights therefore adopted symbols and colours, which they displayed on their shields. Each family was identified in this manner.

HISTORY OF THE BRITISH UNIFORM

Red was the uniform colour adopted by the first permanent regiment of the British Army in 1645. One military legend suggests that red was used to mask bloodstains. In actual fact, red was adopted as their national colour. French soldiers tended to wear blue, Russians wore green, and the British wore red. It was not until the late 1880s that a khaki uniform was formally adopted by the British Army, when they realized that drab uniforms provided better camouflage.

The colour of dress for the Navy was also red until King George II, in 1748, had it changed to dark blue. The reason this colour was changed was to distinguish naval officers from army officers. Bearskin caps, awarded to grenadier regiments in recognition of their victories on various campaigns, were adopted to make the grenadiers look like giants.
The bearskin cap is actually bear fur, which is culled under the terms agreed upon by the Canadian Government. An average of 150 pelts a year are sent to the British Army.

**KHAKI DRILL 1900-1949**

Khaki is defined as a dull brownish yellow coloured twilled cotton or wool used in military uniforms. Canada developed its own khaki drill pattern after the First World War and, in the Second World War, this style of uniform was worn by Canadians serving in Jamaica and Hong Kong.
SERVICE DRESS 1907-1940

Service dress was the first true battle dress adopted by Canada in 1907. This was a separate pattern from the British service dress adopted after the Boer war.

Canadian Expeditionary Force – 1915-1916

Canadian Expeditionary Force – 1917

Lord Strathcona Horse – 1918

BATTLE DRESS 1939-1970

Battle dress is defined as a military uniform worn into combat, and was the basis of the initial Canadian uniform. Battle dress was patterned after the British Battle Dress (BD) adopted in 1939, and was made of wool. A new pattern of BD was introduced in 1949, and was worn throughout the Korean War and into the 1960’s. Militia units used BD as a dress uniform until the early 1970’s.
Bush dress was a series of dark green cotton uniforms, worn primarily as a field uniform until it was replaced by the combat dress in the 1960s.
Bush Dress

WORK DRESS 1970'S - 1980'S
This style of uniform consisted of:
- green zippered “rifle green” work jacket;
- rifle green trousers;
- “lagoon green” shirt; and
- beret or ball cap.

NO. 4 BASE DRESS 1980-1990'S
Known as “Garrison Dress”, this style consisted of:
- disruptive pattern jacket;
- work trousers;
- dress shirt or work shirt;
- optional sweater; and
- black jump boots.

COMBATS 1960-2000
The olive drab combats became the universal battle dress in the 1960's. The Canadian pattern had angled pockets (tunic), designed to take magazines from the FNC1A1 rifle.
During the Second World War the Canadians wore different coloured shoulder flashes on their battle dress to identify which division they were with:

- red: 1st infantry division;
- royal blue: 2nd infantry division;
- grey: 3rd infantry division;
- dark green: 4th armoured;
- maroon: 5th armoured;
- black: independent brigades; and
- orange: troops.

**DEU’S 1968 – PRESENT**

In full, this style is known as the distinct environmental uniform. It consists of:

- dark green tunic (rifle green);
- dark green trousers (rifle green);
- dark green tie (rifle green);
- light green short/long sleeve shirt; and
- beret.

**BERETS**

**Type of Unit Corresponding Beret Colour**

- Army rifle- green
- Armoured- black
- Airborne- maroon
- Military Police- red
- Navy- black
- Air Force & postman- blue
- Search & Rescue (technicians)- orange
- Special Operations Regiment- tan
- United Nations- U.N. blue

**CANADIAN DISRUPTIVE PATTERN (CADPAT) 2000 – PRESENT**

**Temperate Woodland Pattern**
- light green
- dark green
- black
- brown

**Arid Regions Pattern**
- light brown
- dark brown
- tan

**MESS DRESS**

Mess dress first appeared in the British Army in 1845. It was intended to provide a comfortable and inexpensive alternative to the stiff and elaborate dress uniforms worn by officers for evening social functions, such as regimental dinners or balls. Designs vary between units; however, jackets are usually scarlet, trousers and skirts are dark blue with red striping, waistcoats black, and shirts white, with black bow ties for the males.

Variations on Mess Dress

Many varied groups utilize uniforms around the country (e.g. companies, sports teams, emergency services). The CF is no exception; they hope to make these people easily identifiable at a glance and to instil pride in their organization. Cadets will be able to identify...
the various uniforms of the Canadian Forces at a glance, and use this ability to better interact with CF members.