

THE Maple Leaf LA Feuille d'érable



Year in
REVIEW

8



Ten years in
AFGHANISTAN

12



National
Defence

Défense
nationale

Canada 

'I AM A CANADIAN RANGER'



In his untraditional regalia, Master Corporal Redfern Wesley, a Cree from Kashechewan, Ont., draws a few questioning looks at the Canadian Aboriginal Festival held in Toronto.

"They were shocked when they saw I was wearing my combat pants instead of traditional leggings," he says. "But when I explained I was

wearing them because I'm a Canadian Ranger, they understood. I want people to know I am a Canadian Ranger."

The Canadian Rangers hosted a display of some of the equipment—a tent, a snowmobile and an all-terrain vehicle—that they use in the Far North of Ontario. Their display was part of a large CF exhibit

showcasing different elements of Canada's military and spotlighting the career opportunities available to Aboriginals in the CF.

Canadian Rangers and Junior Rangers performed traditional dances as part of the large CF contingent that led the grand entry of CF veterans and Aboriginal dancers onto the arena floor. ♣

CF APPRECIATION PROGRAM: SAVINGS FOR THE DEFENCE TEAM

The CF Appreciation Program has partnered with more than 8,000 businesses to offer exclusive deals and discounts to all members of the Defence Team. The program is extended to current and former Regular and Reserve Force members, and their families, including surviving spouses; DND employees, and staff of the Non-Public Funds and the CF, and their families; and foreign military personnel serving with the CF, and their families.

Programs such as this are designed to enhance well-being and morale, and so contribute to the operational readiness and effectiveness of the Defence Team. The CFAP recognizes the efforts and sacrifices of military

personnel and their families in their service to Canada.

The CF Appreciation Program has great offers to help personnel and employees save money on family vacations, local restaurants, entertainment, and more. Discounts and promotions are available throughout Canada, and new national and local industry partners are added every day.

Offers available to the Defence Team include:

- Sporting events – discounts on game admissions and season passes;
- Museums – discounts on annual memberships, with access to more than 300 museums throughout Canada;

- Dining – discounts at local restaurants and eateries;
- The CF R&R Club – great rates at accommodations all over the world; and
- Local attractions – entry to parks, outdoor adventures, theatres and other attractions.

And registration is free! To receive a membership card by mail, simply fill in a registration form at www.cfappreciation.ca and send it to cfappreciation@cfpsa.com.

CFappreciation.ca
Community • Strength • Savings

DEFENCE ETHICS Programme

ETHICALLY SPEAKING,
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

JUST A LITTLE TOKEN OF OUR APPRECIATION

"Sir, it's Sergeant Casey calling. Are you available now for a sitrep?"

"Sure, Sergeant," Captain Villeneuve replies. "I'm on my way for a workout at the hotel gym, so I'll come to your room."

Capt Villeneuve and Sgt Casey are part of a large recruiting tour. They've just begun the tour that will last a few weeks as they travel throughout the region their recruiting office represents.

"Come on in, Captain," Sgt Casey says when he hears Capt Villeneuve knock at his hotel room door. When the Captain enters, he sees an unopened bottle of wine and a very large fruit basket on the desk.

"Wow, your wife must miss you already, Sergeant!" he says.

"Oh, I wish that was from my wife, sir, but it's just from the hotel management," Sgt Casey explains. "Since I booked the 14 rooms we needed on this leg of the trip, I guess they think I paid for them, too. They are probably hoping that we'll book with this hotel the next time we tour through the city."

"But Sgt Casey – is it okay to accept them?" the Captain asks. "What if we don't book with this hotel again in the future?"

Sgt Casey looks surprised and a little confused. "But, sir... they are just gifts, and nobody's getting hurt," he says. "Besides, we're giving them good business, and it's normal practice with most hotels. During the last recruiting trip I organized, we got free drink vouchers at the hotel restaurant."

Capt Villeneuve is uneasy, and unsure about what to do.

From a Defence ethics point of view, how would you advise Capt Villeneuve?

Send your comments, and suggestions for future ethics scenarios (anonymously, at your request), to ethics-ethique@forces.gc.ca.

THE MAPLE LEAF DECEMBER 2011 CORRECTIONS

—On page 7, Associate Deputy Minister Matthew King was incorrectly identified.

—In the centre spread, the photo caption second from the right at the bottom should have read, "HMCS Ottawa

enters Australia's Sydney Harbour during the ship's four-and-a-half-month operational training and goodwill deployment in the Asia-Pacific region."

—An incorrect version of page 9 appeared in English. To view the correct article, go to <http://defenceteam-equipedeladefense.mil.ca>.

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Cover:
Bdr Jason Pridham (right) advises an Afghan National Army sergeant during a live-fire exercise of the D-30 Howitzer at KMTC.

More than 200 CF advisors and support staff serve at KMTC on Op ATTENTION, the CF contribution to NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan.

PHOTO: MCpl Chris Ward



PHOTO: MCpl Julie Beisile

RCAF aircraft—a CC-150 Polaris and CF-18s—overfly Parliament Hill during a ceremony marking the conclusion of Op MOBILE.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE FOR A MERITORIOUS MISSION

CF veterans of the Libyan campaign marched past Governor General David Johnston November 24 while RCAF aircraft flew over Parliament Hill in a ceremony to mark the conclusion of Operation MOBILE.

During a ceremony recognizing the outstanding efforts of Canada's military personnel, the Governor General also awarded the Meritorious Service Cross (Military Division) to Lieutenant-General Charles Bouchard of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

From March to September 2011, LGen Bouchard was the commander of Combined Joint Task Force Unified Protector. In a difficult and complex environment, LGen Bouchard developed and executed a campaign plan that placed great pressure on the Gaddafi regime. As the head of the multinational forces, LGen Bouchard brought credit to Canada with his operational and strategic acumen, helping protect Libyans from additional harm during the war.

Op MOBILE was the CF participation in Op Unified Protector, the NATO-led effort to impose on Libya the arms embargo and no-fly zone authorized March 17, 2011, by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973 calling on the international community to protect civilians and civilian-populated areas in Libya. ★

Veterans of Op MOBILE marched past Governor General David Johnston and flew their aircraft overhead during a Parliament Hill ceremony marking the end of the operation.



Governor General David Johnston presents LGen Charles Bouchard with the Meritorious Service Cross in the Senate Chamber on Parliament Hill.

PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEE SURVEY: DND PARTICIPATION UP

The full results of the 2011 Public Service Employee Survey (PSES) won't be published until later this year, but one result is already in: DND's response rate in 2011 was 63 percent, an increase of 16 percentage points over the 2008 PSES.

The 2011 PSES was distributed to 26,277 civilian employees throughout DND; 16,523 responded, a significant improvement on the last survey, when only 47 percent of DND employees responded.

Open communication and employee feedback is essential for workplace well-being; tools such as the PSES benefit everyone. The PSES allows DND employees to express their views on the workforce, workplace environments and DND leadership. The survey results will help managers to continue to focus on people, Defence's greatest resource.

For more information, go to http://hr.ottawa-hull.mil.ca/hrciv/en/home_e.asp.



NDWCC CAMPAIGN

FAR EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Members of the Defence Team surpassed this year's National Defence Workplace Charitable Campaign (NDWCC) target of \$1.5 million by raising a whopping \$1.93 million – 28.7 percent over the target. This achievement ranks DND/CF among the fund-raising leaders of government departments in the National Capital Region.

In local campaigns throughout the country, military and civilian members of the Defence Team, many of whom partnered with other federal departments, worked to raise funds to make a difference in their communities.

The monies raised will go toward a diverse range of causes including aiding isolated seniors at home, helping individuals with an illness, providing a child with a nourishing breakfast, supporting groundbreaking medical research, and many others.

“This has been an exciting and inspiring campaign season.”

—ADM(IM)
John Turner

“This has been an exciting and inspiring campaign season,” says Assistant Deputy Minister (Information Management) John Turner, the NDWCC Champion. “It should come as no surprise that members of the Department of National Defence and Canadian Forces have once again exceeded the goals set before them, and achieved exceptional levels of success.”

The NDWCC has given the men and women of DND/CF the chance to make a significant contribution to the community while sharing a great experience within their own ranks. This is a great example of how to be a star in the lives of those in need while strengthening the tradition of helping others that is prevalent within the Defence Team.

The energy, donations, and commitment to this worthwhile cause will make communities across Canada better places.



NDWCC Champion, John Turner, ADM(IM), (left) and MGen David Neasmith, COS(IM), make their donations with campaign team leader Huan Nguyen.

FACE OF OPERATIONS



PHOTO: Cpl Brandon O'Connell

HMCS VANCOUVER STILL ACTIVE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

As their ship heads to the Mediterranean Sea to participate in Op MOBILE, HMCS *Vancouver*'s boarding party conducts an exercise in the Atlantic Ocean.

After Op MOBILE, *Vancouver* sailed to the southern Mediterranean where she is taking part in Task Force Vancouver, Canada's participation in Op Active Endeavour.

NATO stood up Active Endeavour in October 2001 as a counter-terrorism operation under Article 5 of the North Atlantic Charter. Its primary objectives are to demonstrate the solidarity and resolve of the NATO allies in the fight against terrorism, and to prevent, detect and deter terrorist activity in the Mediterranean Sea and the Gibraltar Strait. Canada's participation in the operation reflects our commitment to contributing actively to international peace and security through operations around the world.

CANADA'S ROLE IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

As the people of South Sudan usher in a new era of independence, the CF are helping the nation transition to a safer, more secure future.

The independent Republic of South Sudan came into being July 9, 2011, after the people of South Sudan—98.3 percent of them—voted to separate from their northern neighbour. The UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) was established the same day to support peace consolidation and support the new government in providing security and justice while preventing, mitigating and resolving conflict.

In support of the new nation and the new UN mission, the CF formed Task Force Sudan, comprising 14 CF personnel who work with UNMISS. This Canadian contribution to UNMISS, under Operation SOPRANO, provides the UN with key staff officers at their force headquarters as well as military liaison officers spread throughout the Republic of South Sudan.

"Operation SOPRANO carries on the CF's history of supporting peace and security in the region," says Captain(N) Steve Virgin, Assistant Chief of Staff – International at Canadian Expeditionary Force Command HQ. "The Sudans are a priority mission. Our 14 CF personnel play an important role in the UN's effort to consolidate peace and security in the Republic of South Sudan."

With the exception of a brief period of peace from 1972 to 1983, the former Sudan was plagued with conflict after gaining its independence in 1956. Before South Sudan gained its independence in 2011, the former Sudan was Africa's largest nation – ethnically diverse and richly endowed with natural resources, including oil. As a result of the almost continuous conflict, about 5.2 million people are displaced throughout the former Sudan. This includes 2.7 million in Darfur, 250,000 in the southern region of the former Sudan, and some 430,000 Sudanese refugees who fled to neighbouring states.

It is within this context that the CF operated during 2011 on Op SAFARI. Under the mandate of the former UN Mission in Sudan and alongside allied nations, members of the Canadian contingent worked to observe and report on security matters that concerned Sudanese civilians, military personnel



Maj Jacques Dubé and his fellow UNMOs from Team Site Wau pose with village leaders and the village's largest cow, which has just been sacrificed to celebrate the successful conclusion of voting in the South Sudan referendum.



The CF's Maj Ed Smith (left) and Lt(N) Peter Dibben, both UNMOs in Sudan, present the local Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army commander with a vehicle's worth of text books to help SPLA troops learn to read.



Completing the voting process, a referendum official dips the voter's finger in ink to show that he has cast his ballot.

and government authorities. The CF played a pivotal role in the 2011 Independence Referendum, a six-year process originating from the former Sudan's 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

"When the average Canadian thinks about elections in Africa, the mental picture is one of dispute, corruption, violence and even coups d'état," says Lieutenant(N) Peter Dibben about his experience while serving in Sudan. "The long-awaited referendum on independence in South Sudan was widely expected to be more of the same, but the actual event was pleasantly peaceful."

The referendum in Sudan had an extremely high voter turn-out – 100 percent in some areas.

"Our responsibilities were monitoring and verification; assessing the general security situation with respect to tribal, political and militia

violence; and showing the UN presence," says Capt Matthew Maxwell, who worked as a UN Military Observer. "These tasks were particularly important during the referendum period because the security situation had to be calm and peaceful so people would feel safe enough to go out and vote."

Since 2006, the Canadian government contributed more than \$885 million toward humanitarian assistance, development and peacebuilding in the former Sudan, including the ongoing Op SATURN in Darfur. With the mandate of UNMISS expected to be renewed in future years, Canada will remain a leader in the effort to find a lasting and peaceful solution to the conflicts in Sudan and South Sudan. Contributing to international peace and security is one of the core missions outlined in the Canada First Defence Strategy, and our ongoing effort in this region is yet another example of the Defence Team working toward this goal. ♦

CF DELIVERS A BANG WITH PALACI

BY STEVE FORTIN

Rogers Pass in Glacier National Park is a particularly dangerous place. As the essential land route between the west coast and the rest of Canada, it has cost many lives over the years. Between 1885 and 1916, when the Canadian Pacific Railway was the sole user of the pass, avalanches took the lives of more than 250 railway personnel.

Opening the road through the pass in winter to the general Canadian public was fraught with snags and difficulties. In 1961, the CF took the lead in developing safe and effective avalanche control measures in this notoriously unstable region.

Every winter for 50 years, the CF, through Canada Command, has set in motion Operation PALACI as the essential military component of the world's largest avalanche control program. A joint effort with Parks Canada, the Rogers Pass avalanche control program is a sterling example of interdepartmental collaboration that does more than save lives; it also keeps open the vital road and rail link between British Columbia and the rest of Canada.

"The expertise of the gunners of 1 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, based in Shilo, Man., is unrivalled," says Lieutenant-Colonel Pat Quealey, J3 Plans and



FILE PHOTO

Gunners deployed on Op PALACI and working with Parks Canada fire a 105mm Howitzer gun.

Operations/Land for Joint Task Force Pacific, and commander of this essential operation. "This is a special year, in that we are introducing a new weapon to the operation. The C1 105mm howitzer will be gradually superseded by the C3, which has a longer range and greater accuracy than its predecessor."

Firing, directed by Parks Canada representatives, is generally done at a distance of three to five kilometres. From their fixed positions, the gun crews have to be able to hit more than 270 targets spread over more than 130 avalanche lines. The shock of the exploding shells sets off safe and calculated avalanches. Depending on how the

avalanche season progresses, the gunners may fire anywhere from 350 to 1,000 rounds.

Over the avalanche season, two 1 RCHA detachments deploy in rotation on Op PALACI; each comprises 24 soldiers deployed for six to eight weeks at a time. They deploy to Rogers Pass in mid-November and remain there until April.

Op PALACI is a fine example of the CF's commitment to operational excellence at home, one of the four National Defence priorities. The operation also gives the participating troops valuable work experience while helping to ensure the safety of the Canadian public. ♦

HMCS VICTORIA SEA TRIALS

HMCS *Victoria*, based in Esquimalt, conducted sea trials in December—as part of the submarine's readiness programme—that included hoisting drills with a Sea King helicopter from 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron. With a successful extended docking work period recently completed at

Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Breton, the next critical milestone to full operations will be initial exercise torpedo firings, scheduled for early 2012. HMCS *Victoria* will be the first of the Victoria-class boats to be fully weapons-capable, providing the CF with a key strategic capability.



Tactical coordinator Maj Natalie Mutch lowers Cpl Tanya Carr, an airborne electronic sensor operator, from a CH-124 Sea King helicopter to HMCS *Victoria*.



LS Dean Massett (front) prepares a grounding rod to discharge static electricity from the hoisting cable as CF personnel await recovery via CH-124 Sea King helicopter from the deck of HMCS *Victoria*.

PHOTOS: Cpl Malcolm Byers

SAINT BARBARA, PATRON SAINT OF ARTILLERY SOLDIERS

BY STEVE FORTIN

Artillery soldiers, bomb disposal experts and any CF personnel who handle explosives fall under the very special protection of Saint Barbara. She is often considered to be the patron saint of artillery soldiers; her feast day is celebrated December 4.



Saint Barbara, the only daughter of a rich pagan named Dioscorus, is said to have lived 300 years after Jesus Christ's death. According to legend, her father locked her up in a tower to isolate her from the influence of Christianity and to prevent any man from asking for her hand in marriage. Somehow during her imprisonment, however, she converted to

Christianity. When this was discovered, she was tortured and it is said her father beheaded her himself.

Before dying, she called on God to grant the wishes of anyone invoking her assistance. At the time of her execution, a storm gathered and her father was struck by lightning and consumed by fire.

Saint Barbara is associated with lightning because of the events surrounding her death. When gunpowder made its appearance in the Western world, the help of this saint was invoked as protection against accidents resulting from explosions. This tradition bears testimony to Canada's rich military heritage, and it continues on to this day in units whose work involves the use of explosives, such as 1st Battalion, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, which is said to have celebrated Saint Barbara's Day since 1873.

FOCUS ON PEOPLE

HEROES HOCKEY CHALLENGE

It's a line-up that would strike fear into the hearts of your average weekend hockey warriors.

But when warriors from the ranks of the CF face off against National Hockey League legends such as Wendell Clark, Rob Ramage, Walt McKechnie, Dan Daoust, Marian and Peter Stastny, Guy Carbonneau, Bobby Smith, Guy Lafleur and the like in the new year, they'll be playing to help their friends.

The Heroes Hockey Challenge is a six-game fundraiser for wounded and fallen soldiers and their families. "The true heroes," says Heroes Hockey Challenge manager and former NHL goaltender Richard Brodeur, "are the military men and women who have risked their lives on Canada's various missions at the four corners of the world."

Vancouver businessman Glenn Cumyn understands the vulnerabilities of injured CF personnel and their families; his father was a member of the Forces. Inspired by the perseverance and determination of close family members wounded during deployments, and wanting to increase support for wounded soldiers and their families, Mr. Cumyn pushed to see Heroes Hockey Challenge become a reality.



Calgary will host the first game January 26, followed by Vancouver, Montréal, Halifax, the city of Québec and Toronto. In each city, the hockey game will be paired with a charity gala offering attendees the formality and ceremony of a traditional military mess dinner – and some surprise celebrity appearances.

A portion of the funds raised will be set aside for the Amputees Coalition of Canada.

For more information, go to www.heroeshockeychallenge.com. Tickets are available from Ticketmaster or the Billetech network. ♦



HEROES HOCKEY CHALLENGE DATES/VENUES

CALGARY

- **Hockey game:** January 26, Scotiabank Saddledome
- **Gala:** January 27, Telus Convention Centre

HALIFAX

- **Hockey game:** February 28, Halifax Metro Centre
- **Gala:** February 29, World Trade Convention Centre

VANCOUVER

- **Gala:** February 1, The Hotel Fairmont Vancouver
- **Hockey game:** February 3, Rogers Arena

CITY OF QUÉBEC

- **Hockey game:** March 8, Pepsi Coliseum
- **Gala:** March 9, Fairmont Le Château Frontenac

MONTREAL

- **Gala:** February 8, Windsor Station
- **Hockey game:** February 10, Verdun Auditorium

TORONTO

- **Gala:** March 22, Liberty Grand Entertainment Complex
- **Hockey game:** March 23, Ricoh Centre



PHOTO: MCpl David Cribb

Three CFB Borden personnel and medal bearers (in yellow)—Jeff Moyle, a fitness therapist with Personnel Support Program; Chrystal O'Neil, with the Construction Engineers; and Pte Richard Moore, from the CF School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers—cover a 2.5-km leg of the Rick Hansen 25th Anniversary Relay in December, joined by members of the Borden Striders Running Club and base personnel. Retracing the Canadian portion of the original Man In Motion World Tour, the Relay began August 24, 2011, in Cape Spear, N.L. and passes through several CF locations as it travels westward before ending May 22, 2012, in Vancouver.

LANGUAGE PORTAL OF CANADA

The Language Portal of Canada is a Government of Canada Web site that showcases Canadian expertise in the area of language. It informs readers about Canadian resources that deal with different aspects of language.

On the site, you'll find

writing tools pertaining to the many facets of English and French grammar, style and usage.

You'll also find articles covering the finer points of English and French grammar and style: grammar rules, spelling, punctuation, syntax and usage,

typography, and much more. Other tools for writers are available in the "Discover" section of this site.

Go to www.noslangues-ourlanguages.gc.ca and scroll the left-hand menu to discover a new English and French world.

EVERYBODY LOVES MAIL

Master Corporal Jennifer Jodrey, assistant postmaster in Kabul, and Corporal Karen Millar, a postal clerk, received four huge shipments of mail between late November and mid-December. The shipments filled 85 tri-walls, large shipping boxes used by the military that can hold about 40 shoebox-sized parcels each.

So what's it like to receive the equivalent of nearly 3,500 shoebox-sized parcels? "Everybody loves mail," says MCpl Richard Ross, a dental technician with Afghanistan's Armed Forces Academy of Medical Sciences, based in Kabul. "It doesn't matter whether it's Christmas or not.

It's nice to get mail from home."

"The mail arrives by air from Canada once a week," MCpl Jodrey says, "and here at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, we received the mail and sorted it for all 14 camps where Canadians are serving."

The CF resupply system supports the delivery of mail and parcels from families and friends of deployed personnel. Programs are available to Canadians who wish to show their support for deployed personnel at Christmas or any other time of the year. For more information about these programs, visit www.cfpsa.com. ♦



PHOTO: Maj Glen Parent

MCpl Jennifer Jodrey, assistant postmaster in Kabul, opens a container of parcels that arrived at Camp Phoenix just before Christmas.

MY ROLE IN THE CFDS

MY ROLE IN THE CFDS features military and civilian personnel and occupations throughout the Defence Team. Featured profiles use real-life stories to illustrate the dedication, excellence and professionalism of personnel and employees in their day-to-day jobs under the purview of the Canada First Defence Strategy.

CÉLINE LAJOIE: EQUIPPING THE CF WITH TANKS

What did you do at work today?

For Céline Lajoie, a day at work includes managing and negotiating agreements with international partners such as Germany and the Netherlands, and coordinating the logistics of the Supply Arrangement with Germany to train and equip our soldiers. It also involves maintaining the loan agreement of the tanks that the CF currently have in Afghanistan.

Ms. Lajoie works as a project controller officer for the Tank Replacement Project, which aims to

This was especially true during the Tank Replacement Project, when she worked as part of the two-year process to receive proposals and bid evaluations. This process provides the CF with a much-needed short- and long-term replacement for its Leopard 1 main battle tank fleet. It was a long and complicated process, and its completion was one of the achievements that she is proud of during her time at DND.

She originally worked at Public Works and was involved in many

and specifications. This part was interesting to me.”

As if that wasn't enough, Ms. Lajoie also coordinates the Engineer in Training program. Her role is ensuring that participants in the program receive the right level of training and mentorship, while transitioning them smoothly between work assignments and rotations.

“Everyone is very friendly and it is a great place to work,” she says. “If you have a problem, everyone stops and helps you, even if they are busy.”

Whether she is writing complicated technical specifications or negotiating amendments to an existing agreement, Ms. Lajoie wants

“Instead of saying that something is not possible to do, we always work to find the solution that meets everyone's needs.”

to be known as someone who gets results.

“I want to be remembered as someone who makes things happen and someone who finds solutions,” she says. “Instead of saying that something is not possible to do, we always work to find the solution that meets everyone's needs. The important thing is to talk to the stakeholders and to figure out what works for them.”

The first priority of robust and well-equipped CF is to protect Canadians and defend Canadian sovereignty at home and elsewhere. To do this, the Forces need the right tools and equipment to get the job done. Céline Lajoie is an example of a civilian member of the Defence Team working to support our men and women in uniform, and equipping them with the tools necessary for success. ♦



directly support the Canada First Defence Strategy's commitment to invest in the CF and ensure they are well-equipped to take on the challenges of the 21st century.

“Every day is a different challenge,” Ms. Lajoie says. “There are a wide number of stakeholders with different objectives, and our job is to find a solution that meets everyone's needs.”

DND projects. Seeing the work that goes on at DND and the opportunities available, she decided to make the jump.

“Originally, I worked on the procurement and contracting side to support DND, but I wanted to be more involved in the technical side,” she says. “I now work to prepare the Statements of Work for our projects as well as to define our requirements

LIGHT ARMoured VEHICLE III UPGRADE PROJECT

The Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) III, one of the backbone assets of the CF, will be getting about \$1 billion' worth of upgrades, the federal government announced October 21.

The LAV III, which has served the CF in Afghanistan and other areas of operation, is a state-of-the-art combat vehicle used to transport infantry on the battlefield while providing defensive protection and firepower.

The recent experiences of both the CF and allied forces in those same theatres of operation demonstrate the ongoing requirement for a highly protected yet highly mobile light armoured vehicle.

The LAV III Upgrade Project, one of four Family of Land Combat Vehicles projects announced in July 2009, both capitalizes on existing and evolving technology, and improves the protection, mobility and effectiveness of the LAV III fleet. These projects aim to provide the CF with the next generation of land combat vehicles.

This project extends the lifespan of the LAV III to 2035.

JANUARY



J-MODEL DEBUTS AT KAF

After departing their home unit, 8 Wing Trenton's 436 (Transport) Squadron, December 28, Canada's first J-model CC-130 Hercules and crew to be deployed to Afghanistan arrive at Kandahar Airfield January 1.

MARCH

SOLDIER ON PROGRAM TAKES TO THE SLOPES

Six CF personnel from the Ottawa Valley Region participated in a Soldier On Adaptive Ski Program February 13–17 at Calabogie Peaks Resort, about an hour west of Ottawa.

The objective of introducing them to adaptive skiing was to improve their quality of life, and that of their families, by supporting their active participation in physical, recreational and sporting activities.

Cpl Dale Cross negotiates a turn for CADS volunteer instructors.



PHOTO: MCpl Shilo Adamson

Year in FEBRUARY

US AND CANADA DISCUSS DEFENCE ISSUES

Defence Minister Peter MacKay hosted US Secretary of Defense Dr. Robert M. Gates January 27 in Ottawa to discuss Afghanistan. Secretary Gates expressed gratitude from his country for Canada's leadership and hard-fought, hard-won victories, and spoke about Canada's imminent new role in the area.

OP SAFARI: BEING PREPARED FOR EVERYTHING

CF observers deployed on Operation SAFARI pack their kit and head out into the bush on five- or six-day patrols. They carry not only food, water and tents but also a generator, because there is no electricity or telephone service in small Sudanese villages.



Everyone benefits from the UNMO-initiated water pump at the girls school in the village of Wulu.

SHOOTING THE SNOW IN B.C.

With up to 4,000 motorists and 40 trains travelling through Rogers Pass each day in the winter months, the pressure's on to keep the road and rails clear. Fifty years of partnership between the CF and Parks Canada has been successful in achieving just that.



Lt Anne Pham's team fires at a target to trigger a controlled avalanche, ensuring safe passage on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

PHOTO: Cpl Chelsey Hutson

PHOTO: Maj Ed Smith

OP MOBILE DEMONSTRATES READINESS

Task Force (TF) Libeccio, part of Operation MOBILE, the CF contribution to a whole-of-government effort to respond to the situation in Libya, began its work on March 18.

The first phase of Op MOBILE, carried out by Joint Task Force Malta, saw the safe evacuation of 191 Canadians and citizens of other nations from Libya by March 8. Two CC-177 Globemaster III strategic airlifters and two CC-130J Hercules tactical airlifters operated between Malta International Airport in Luqa and Tripoli International Airport in Libya. In all, about 80 CF personnel, including aircrews, medical staff, military police, air movement personnel and liaison officers deployed as part of JTF Malta.



Maj Bill Swales, JTF Malta surgeon, hands out water on board a Hercules during a flight from Libya to Malta.

PHOTO: MCpl Shilo Adamson

Review

MAY

Canadian Rangers demonstrate their marksmanship during Ex NORTHERN BISON.



APRIL

SOLDIERS WON, ELEMENTS 0

38 Canadian Brigade Group's Arctic Response Company Group (ARCG) stood up in 2008 and began acquiring the skills and experience needed to meet any challenge Arctic and sub-Arctic environments could present. This journey culminated in Exercise NORTHERN BISON 11, a 300-km snowmobile trek from Churchill, Man., to Arviat, Nunavut.



PHOTO: Sgt Daren Kraus

435 (T&R) Sqn SAR Tech Sgt Randy McOrmond helps a resident of the Wollaston and Hatchet Lakes area into a CC-130 Hercules at Points North, Sask.

JUNE

CF EVACUATES FIRE-THREATENED AREAS

The CF completed a 24-hour operation June 2, evacuating the remaining residents of Wollaston Lake and Hatchet Lake in Northern Saskatchewan after wildfires in the area threatened their safety. The operation was undertaken at the request of the Government of Saskatchewan.

CHARLOTTETOWN PATROLS WATERS OFF LIBYA

HMCS *Charlottetown* has been on-station in the Mediterranean Sea with Standing NATO Maritime Group One since March 17, helping to impose on Libya the arms embargo and no-fly zone called for in UN Security Council Resolution 1973, which authorizes the international community to "take all necessary measures" to protect civilians in Libya.

Fleeing the strife in Libya, Ethiopian and Eritrean expatriates request assistance from HMCS *Charlottetown* as they drift in the Mediterranean Sea.



PHOTO: Lt(N) Michael McWhinnie



PHOTO: Sgt Peter Moon

Ranger Peter Goodwin (left) and MCpl John Sutherland supervise soldiers lighting a white-smoke emergency signal fire during winter survival training near Gogama, Ont.

RANGERS TRAIN 700 TROOPS IN WINTER SURVIVAL

Canadian Rangers from four isolated First Nations in Northern Ontario provided winter survival training for more than 700 troops over a two-month period this year.

SAR TEAMS PULL HIKER FROM CREVASSE

Search and Rescue (SAR) teams from 14 Wing Greenwood and 9 Wing Gander rescued two Arctic hikers April 16, one of whom had fallen into a glacial crevasse in Auyuittuq National Park on Baffin Island, Nunavut.



PHOTO: Cpl Geoff Rowan

SAR techs evaluate the situation and speak to the rescued hiker (in blue and black jacket) by her tent next to the crevasse.

OP MOBILE: SUCCESSFUL 'ALL-CANADIAN' STRIKE MISSION A FIRST

Canadian Forces personnel operating in the Mediterranean as part of a NATO coalition to enforce the Libyan arms embargo and no-fly zone recently accomplished a truly Canadian first during Operation MOBILE.

A strike mission employed CF assets from the first stage through to its completion to destroy Libyan regime targets that were endangering civilians.



PHOTO: Cpl Jackson Yee

In Trapani, Italy, Pte Nicolas Marcil, a Task Force Libeccio aviation technician, refuels a CF-18 Hornet during Op MOBILE.

JULY

412 SQUADRON RETIRES COLOURS

In a sacred ceremony in the Hall of Colours at the National Memorial Centre located at Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa, members of 412 (Transport) Squadron and 8 Wing Trenton gathered June 18 to lay up their old colours forever.

CF chaplains Maj Art Crawley (left) and Capt Allan Mills lay 412 Sqn's retired colours inside the Hall of Colours in the National Memorial Centre in Ottawa for mounting on the wall later in the morning.



Photo: Richard Lawrence Photography

ROYAL TOUR 2011

CF Navy, Army and Air Force personnel from Regular and Reserve Force units were honoured to support the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge during their June 30 – July 8 Canadian tour.



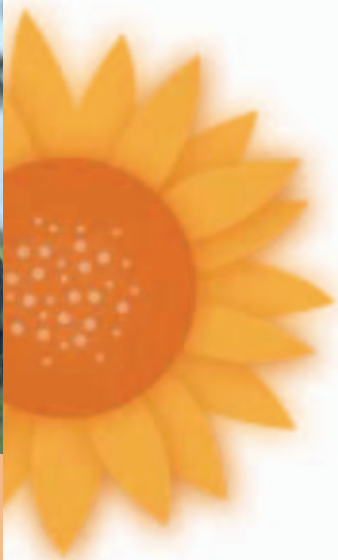
Prince William and Catherine, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, speak with Canadian Rangers at Blachford Lake Lodge in Yellowknife.

PHOTO: MCpl Marc-Andre Gaudreault

Year in

ARCTIC OPERATION TESTS SUPPORT CONCEPTS

The CF conducts Operation NANOOK annually in August in the Baffin Island/Lancaster Sound region of Canada's Arctic. Under Canada Command, NANOOK is a Joint Task Force North planned and directed sovereignty operation focusing on interoperability, command and control, and cooperation among governmental partners in the North.



AUGUST

ROLE 3 HITS THE SMALL SCREEN

"An hour of intrigue, drama and humour" describes many television series, but a new one in the line-up is about an emergency room in the middle of a war zone. This fictional medical series may hit home with many CF personnel; the set is modeled after something they have seen in Afghanistan.



CWO Kaye (centre), from 37 Bde HQ in Moncton, discusses dress and deportment issues, and equipment worn by US soldiers, with "Combat Hospital" set supervisor Peter Webster. The soldiers in this scene from episode 5, "Hell's Bells", are reservists from The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, The Toronto Scottish Regiment (Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's Own) and 25 Field Ambulance, all in the Greater Toronto Area.

SEPTEMBER

OPERATION NANOOK 2011 SOVEREIGNTY OPERATIONS IN THE HIGH ARCTIC

Operation NANOOK 11 was the centrepiece of the three major sovereignty operations the CF conducts annually in Canada's North. Exercising our Arctic sovereignty is a priority of Canada's Northern Strategy. This trio of sovereignty operations serves to demonstrate the Forces' ability to operate efficiently and effectively in the challenging Arctic environment.

In Resolute Bay, port inspection diver LS Krysta Montreuil (front) and clearance diver LS Ryan Burrell inspect a grounded iceberg that could be used as a diving platform.



PHOTO: MCpl Peter Reed

Review

OCTOBER

OP JAGUAR SAVES LIVES WHILE TRAINING

Jamaica's relationship with Canada goes beyond the fact that it's a great place to vacation to get away from cold Canadian winters. Canada and Jamaica have a long military connection dating back many years.



PHOTO: Cpl Roxanne Shewchuk

Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) members watch as CF SAR techs Sgt Bruno Lapointe (left) and Sgt Eric Soubrier conduct a medical evacuation exercise using MCpl Barry Holloway as a mock casualty at the Jamaican Air Field at Up Park Camp in Kingston.

OP SCULPTURE

PRODUCES RESULTS

Recently, Task Force Freetown, deployed in Sierra Leone with the International Military Advisory Training Team as part of Operation SCULPTURE, got involved with the local branch of the Scouting movement through a civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) project. With a budget of \$90,000, it turned into the most ambitious CIMIC project ever undertaken by the small task force in its 11 years of existence.



PHOTO: Cpl Isabelle Provost

A HIGHLY REALISTIC EXERCISE

Six hundred reservists with 35 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG) took part in Exercise GÉNIE TENACE in the regional county municipality of Fjord-du-Saguenay, Que., from October 21 to 23.

In an intense moment during Ex GÉNIE TENACE, soldiers regroup to make a radio call.

RCN BUILDS TIES WITH OTHER NATIONS

The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) initiated the Regulus Programme in January 2011 to seize opportunities for enhanced experiences, development and training with like-minded international navies.

In Niuatoputapu Island, Tonga, RCN sailor PO 1 Eric Labadie (centre, in ball cap) assists with surveying during multinational Ex Pacific Partnership. The RCN joined with the navies of Australia, New Zealand, the UK and the US, and a French air force helicopter crew based in Nouméa, New Caledonia, to carry out humanitarian work in the region.



DECEMBER

KABUL MILITARY TRAINING CENTRE

Malalai Company is the all-female Afghan National Army (ANA) Officer Candidate Course at the KMTC. Fourteen candidates graduated during a ceremony at KMTC, bringing the total of number of women in the ANA to 348.



PHOTO: MCpl Chris Ward

A member of Malalai Company salutes as she is presented with her graduation certificate during a ceremony held at the Kabul Military Training Centre.

NOVEMBER

JAG: A CENTURY OF SERVICE

Making it to 100 years is a real achievement, a sign of stability and sustainability, especially when you're talking about a service as critical as the Office of the Judge Advocate General (JAG) of Canada. The CF marked the 100th anniversary of the appointment of Canada's first JAG, Colonel Henry Smith, October 1; he later achieved the rank of major-general.

Afghanistan Legacy



A MAJOR OPERATION ENDS

The end of Operation ATHENA in December 2011 marked the end of a major mission for the entire CF and civilian community. It represented Canada's participation in the Afghanistan International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

2011 was a transition year for Canada's work in Afghanistan, as the CF wrapped up a UN-sanctioned, NATO-led combat mission in order to focus on Op ATTENTION, Canada's new training and mentoring mission in the country.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF OP ATHENA

- In August 2003, the CF officially joined ISAF and launched Op ATHENA.
- In October 2005, Canada took on a leadership role in counter-insurgency operations in Afghanistan, taking command of the province of Kandahar and setting up the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team.
- In August 2006, CF personnel were deployed to the province of Kandahar as members of the new operational liaison and mentoring teams, as a way to offer training, mentoring and liaison services to the Afghans.
- In 2008, Canada reassessed its work in Afghanistan, focussing on reconstruction and development, and security and stabilization in areas where the CF were posted.
- From August 2005 to December 2011, there were 12 CF rotations on Op ATHENA.
- On December 1, 2011, the formal lowering of the Canadian flag at Kandahar Airfield officially brought Op ATHENA to a close.

L'Afghanistan : un survol

LA FIN D'UNE GRANDE OPÉRATION

La fin de l'opération ATHENA en décembre 2011 signifiait la fin d'une mission d'importance pour les FC et la collectivité civile. L'op ATHENA représentait la participation du Canada à la Force internationale d'assistance à la sécurité (FIAS) en Afghanistan.

Deux mille onze était une année de transition en ce qui concerne le travail du Canada en Afghanistan, puisque les FC ont terminé une mission de combat sanctionnée par l'ONU et menée par l'OTAN, afin de se concentrer sur la nouvelle mission de formation et de mentorat du Canada dans le pays, l'op ATTENTION.

UN BREF HISTORIQUE DE L'OP ATHENA

- En août 2003, les FC se joignent officiellement à la FIAS et amorcent l'op ATHENA.
- En octobre 2005, le Canada assume un rôle de leadership dans la lutte contre-insurrectionnelle en Afghanistan en prenant le commandement de la province de Kandahar et en mettant sur pied l'Équipe provinciale de reconstruction à Kandahar.
- En août 2006, des soldats des FC sont déployés dans la province de Kandahar à titre de membres de nouvelles équipes de liaison et de mentorat opérationnel, une mesure qui vise à offrir des services de formation, de mentorat et de liaison aux Afghans.
- En 2008, le Canada procède à une réévaluation de son travail en Afghanistan pour se concentrer sur la reconstruction et sur le développement, ainsi que sur la sécurité et la stabilisation des zones où les FC sont affectées.
- Du mois d'août 2005 au mois de décembre 2011, il y a eu douze rotations des FC dans le cadre de l'op ATHENA.
- Le 1^{er} décembre 2011, la cérémonie de descente du drapeau canadien à l'aérodrome de Kandahar marque officiellement la fin de l'op ATHENA.

