

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

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CREW BRIEF

RIMPAC 2012

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National
Défense

Défense
nationale

Canada



JAPANESE AIR SELF-DEFENSE FORCE

STRONG TIES TO THE AMERICAS AND ASIA

LGen André Deschamps, RCAF commander, visited Japan in November 2011. Canada is working to strengthen its defence relationships throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Over the decades, through two world wars and the Cold War, the Royal Canadian Air Force has had strong ties with Commonwealth and NATO nations and, through NORAD, with our neighbour to the south.

These international ties, as well as our forces' interoperability, have been tested and strengthened through our recent international missions—notably our ten-year presence in Afghanistan and our participation in the NATO-led mission in Libya last year.

We must not forget, however, that there are other key regions in our world that are of great importance to Canadian international relations and to the Royal Canadian Air Force.

In this edition of *Crew Brief* you will read about SICOFAA—*Sistema de Cooperación entre las Fuerzas Aéreas Americanas* (System of Cooperation among the American Air Forces). This year marks Canada's 20th year of fully fledged membership in SICOFAA, and I had the distinct pleasure of hosting the air force chiefs of the member nations at their annual conference—*Conferencia anual de Jefes de las Fuerzas Aéreas americanas* (CONJEFAMER)—in Ottawa in June. ►



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In October 2010, SICOFAA opened a new door that will drive the future of the organization for years: the conduct of *Ejercicio Cooperacion I* in Chile. The exercise rehearsed humanitarian aid during an emergency and tested SICOFAA's operational arm.

Chile tragically experienced a real humanitarian disaster—an earthquake—in February 2010. The exercise took place as planned, though, and the situation clearly underlined our need to plan for natural disasters and the provision of humanitarian aid.

Therefore, SICOFAA has transformed itself into an organization that will put words into practice. Next year we will hold a virtual exercise in Argentina and a live-flight exercise in Peru in 2014. In the coming years, we will strengthen a partnership that stretches from the North Pole to Cape Horn.

Canada also has a growing role and interest in the Asia-Pacific region and issues. Canada's engagement in this year's Rim of the Pacific exercise (RIMPAC) was a clear demonstration of our deepening engagement. Canada has been working to strengthen our defence relationships throughout the region, and we are committed to deliver on our role as a reliable and trusted security partner within Asia-Pacific.

I visited RIMPAC, which is the world's largest multi-national maritime exercise, in July. The exercise prepares military forces from Pacific Rim nations to work together in missions ranging from the provision of humanitarian aid to full-combat operations.

This year marked the first time that non-Americans commanded components of the combined task force during the exercise. One of the RCAF's own—Brigadier-General Michael Hood—did a stellar job commanding the Combined Forces Air Component. Bravo Zulu to everyone who participated.

On June 21, I was pleased to host the Ambassador and the Chief of the Indonesian Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Imam Sufaat, at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa.

This year marks 60 years of strong, friendly diplomatic relations between Canada and Indonesia. Both our nations are partners in several organizations such as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN—which is marking its 35th anniversary this year), the G20 and the World Trade Organization (WTO). This attests to a shared commitment to the Asia-Pacific region and to multilateral cooperation.

In July, Colonel Sean Friday, commander of 8 Wing Trenton, Ont., and I welcomed a delegation from the Republic of Korea to 8 Wing. The group was led by General Il-Hwan Sung, chief of staff of the Republic of Korea Air Force, who took command of Korea's air force in April.

South Korea is Canada's seventh largest merchandise trading partner. And of course, militarily, we have a deep and abiding friendship stemming from our participation in the Korean War (1950-1953), during which more than 26,700 Canadian troops served, and 516 Canadian lives were lost.

About 1,000 RCAF personnel supported the war, including crews from 426, 435 and 412 Squadrons, fighter pilots (who served on exchange with the U.S. Air Force) and flight nurses.

In all, the events of the last few months highlight the ever-growing importance of Canada's relationships within the Americas and in Asia, as seen through the lens of air force missions and activities.

I look forward to Canada and the RCAF continuing to strengthen these relationships—so vital to international cooperation and understanding—in the years to come.

André Deschamps
Lieutenant-General

Commander, Royal Canadian Air Force 



Dienne Hardianti Moehario, Indonesia's Ambassador to Canada, signs the guest book of the commander of the RCAF, in the company of LGen André Deschamps and Air Chief Marshal Imam Sufaat, chief of air staff of the Indonesian Air Force.

BUDGET 2012 AND EFFICIENCY MEASURES

By LGen André Deschamps
Commander,
Royal Canadian Air Force



As you know, the global fiscal outlook has changed in recent years. In an effort to return to a balanced budget, the Government asked each department to examine its programs and spending to find savings and improve its efficiencies and effectiveness.

Over the past two to three years, some initiatives to identify savings and efficiencies have been undertaken within Defence, including the Departmental Strategic Review (SR) and the Government-wide Deficit Reduction Action Plan (DRAP). The Royal Canadian Air Force has diligently examined its programs and spending as part of this important effort.

On March 29, 2012, the Government tabled its budget, which provided further direction on the way ahead and launched the implementation of adopted measures.

With regards to the RCAF, reductions to various funding envelopes have now been approved, effective immediately. We will achieve operating budget savings in areas such as contracting outside services, force generation, travel, and civilian and reserve salary envelopes.

As we implement reductions, we will ensure operational output continues and thus minimize the effect of the reductions on Canadian Forces, operations and the commanders who we support.

Specifically for the RCAF, these measures mean:

- Taking full advantage of benefits offered by modern technologies such as videoconferencing and, where feasible, accelerating the migration of some flight training activities to synthetic environments.
- Over the next three years, the RCAF civilian salary budget will be reduced. It is expected, however, that this reduction will be implemented through natural attrition.
- As we return to a normal pace of operations, Reserve Force employment opportunities will decrease and many full-time reservists will return to part-time status.
- We will also reintegrate personnel from the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force (NAEWF) within the RCAF structure. The drawdown of personnel from Geilenkirchen, Germany, will take place gradually over a three-year period. We will coordinate the drawdown, as much as possible, with the regular annual posting cycle. Canada will work with NATO to minimize the impact of the Canadian component's departure on NAEWF operations.

As we rethink the way we work over the coming weeks and months, we will do so while maintaining our level of operational effectiveness. Canadians expect this from us and I know that, working as a team, the men and women of the RCAF can achieve it.

Sic itur ad astra. 🇨🇦

READ MORE ON THE ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE WEBSITE!

Be sure to visit **www.rcaf-arc.forces.gc.ca** to stay up-to-date on events in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Or follow us on Facebook at **www.facebook.com/rcaf1924**.

Each weekday new stories are posted on the sites, featuring the men and women of the RCAF working on behalf of all Canadians.



RCAF HOSTS PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Air Force commanders and other senior officers from the Americas attended CONJEFAMER 52 in Ottawa in June.



Lieutenant-General André Deschamps, commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force, hosted the 52nd annual *Conferencia de los Jefes de las Fuerzas Aereas Americanas*—Conference of the Air Chiefs of the Americas (CONJEFAMER)—in Ottawa from June 10 to 15, 2012.

The conference is the annual meeting of *Sistema de Cooperación entre las Fuerzas Aéreas Americanas* (SICOFAA)—System of Cooperation among the American Air Forces. Established in 1961, this Spanish-speaking, politically neutral organization promotes and strengthens ties of mutual support and fosters friendships and cooperation among its 19 member and five observer nations. Canada joined SICOFAA in 1972 as an observer and became a fully fledged member in 1992.

SICOFAA provides its members with opportunities to share experiences, develop procedures and plans to improve interoperability, and conduct shared training and education.

CONJEFAMER 2012 brought together air force chiefs from North, South and Central America to discuss mutual collaboration and security throughout the Americas.

“Fifty-two years of these successful meetings is a testament to the commitment and friendship among air force professionals,” said LGen Deschamps. “I thank all participants in this year’s conference for their contributions to progress within the Americas and to better understanding between our air forces and our nations.”

This year’s conference incorporated plenary and executive sessions, several bilateral meetings and planning for SICOFAA’s second combined major disaster relief exercise, *Cooperación 2*, which will be held in Argentina in 2013.

Conferences such as CONJEFAMER are instrumental in laying the groundwork for more active forms of collaboration between Canada and other countries in the Americas. Such conferences have helped to enable Canada’s participation in

regular military exercises such as Panamax, a multinational exercise that focuses on defending the Panama Canal from attacks by organized terrorist organizations, and Exercise *Fuerzas Aliadas Humanitarias*, an international joint exercise to advance integrated disaster response to major crises in the Caribbean.

They have also facilitated RCAF engagement in multilateral operations such as relief efforts that followed the 2010 Haitian earthquake and counter-trafficking efforts such as Operation Caribe—Canada’s contribution to the Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-South).

Representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States and Uruguay attended this year’s CONJEFAMER. Jamaica and Mexico participated as observers.

The location of CONJEFAMER rotates among member nations; next year’s conference will take place in Chile. 🇨🇱



LGen André Deschamps (right), host of CONJEFAMER 52, hands the gavel over to General del Aire Jorge Rojas Ávila of Chile, who will host the 2013 conference.

SIMULATION:

A FORCE GENERATION BUILDING BLOCK



MCPL MARY MECHALKO

In recent years, CP-140 Aurora crews have been instrumental in providing airborne intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and control (ISR&C) on a number of Canadian Forces and NATO operations in Canada and overseas in Afghanistan, Libya and the Caribbean.

While those assigned operations were concentrated above the water and over land, it is essential for force generation that these crews maintain expertise in the underwater domain.

In meeting the *Canada First* Defence Strategy's goal of providing surveillance of foreign vessels—both on and below the surface, within or approaching Canada—the CP-140 Aurora long-range patrol aircraft is the Royal Canadian Air Force's most capable airborne surveillance platform. Crews must quickly respond and competently conduct underwater surveillance and control tasks. These sub-surface surveillance skills are honed through regular exercises.

The use of simulation is an important asset for crews needing realistic training. The Aurora's operational mission simulator (OMS) and the state-of-the-art, full flight simulator are effective tools with which to prepare and train.

From Nov. 21 to 25, 2011, seven Aurora crews practiced their skills in the simulator, conducting a simulated surveillance of a foreign submarine in Canada's maritime area of responsibility. Exercise Atlantic Ridge 2 was designed and run by 404 Long Range Patrol and Training Squadron, 14 Wing Greenwood, N.S., with support from the Canadian Forces Maritime Warfare Centre, the Canadian Forces Aerospace Warfare Centre and 14 Software Engineering Squadron.



MCPL MARY MECHALKO

Flight crews from 404 Squadron and 405 Long Range Patrol Squadron (both from 14 Wing), 407 Long Range Patrol Squadron (from 19 Wing Comox, B.C.) and the Long Range Patrol Standards and Evaluation Team were evaluated on their abilities to respond to a realistic and demanding scenario.

The exercise included challenging and authentic adversaries based on real-world intelligence reports, ensuring crews would face conditions that mirror those encountered during an actual mission.

An overall success, the exercise enabled crews and senior leadership to identify areas of significant strength, as well as those in which to further hone their skills. 🇨🇦

(Photos top and above) 404 Squadron members in the operational mission simulator at 14 Wing Greenwood, N.S.



AURORA CORPORALS MAKE HISTORY

Two corporals made Royal Canadian Air Force history in late 2011 when they graduated from the maritime occupational aircrew training (MOAT) course and received their flight engineer wings.


On average, eight to 12 flight engineers graduate from the MOAT course annually, but Corporal Dan Lewis and

Cpl Léandre Gingras are the first RCAF corporals to qualify as flight engineers and be employed on the CP-140 Aurora long-range patrol aircraft immediately after their training.

Colonel James Irvine, commander of 14 Wing Greenwood, N.S., presented Cpl Lewis and Cpl Gingras with their

flight engineer wings following the course, which is conducted by 404 Long Range Patrol and Training Squadron at 14 Wing.

The position of flight engineer on a multi-engine aircraft such as the Aurora is normally reserved for those with the rank of sergeant or above with previous aircraft experience. Changing demographics and restructuring within the flight engineer occupation were among the contributing factors that led to Cpl Lewis and Cpl Gingras' immediate posting to the Aurora.

Cpl Lewis is employed at 405 Long Range Patrol Squadron at 14 Wing and Cpl Gingras is employed at 407 Long Range Patrol Squadron, 19 Wing Comox, B.C. 



Cpl Dan Lewis



Cpl Léandre Gingras

450 SQUADRON REBORN


The reactivation of 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, which is to be the home of the Canadian Forces' CH-147F Chinook medium- to heavy-lift helicopter, was formalized on May 2, 2012, by an official Canadian Forces order.

450 Squadron, under the command of 1 Wing Kingston, Ont., and based at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, Ont., will be home to 15 F-model Chinooks. These are more modern and capable versions of the Chinook than the D models that were, until recently, flown in Afghanistan.

450 Squadron was also the designation of the original Royal Canadian Air Force unit that operated Chinook helicopters until the early 1990s, at which time these aircraft were phased out.

"I am also very pleased to name Lieutenant-Colonel Duart Townsend as the first commanding officer of the reborn 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron," said Lieutenant-General André Deschamps, commander of the RCAF.

"I know that LCol Townsend will lead this historic unit with the pride and professionalism that he has clearly shown throughout his extensive experience as a tactical helicopter pilot and staff officer."

The first aircraft is expected to be delivered to Petawawa in 2013 and 450 Squadron is expected to employ approximately 400 military personnel by 2016. 



The 450 Squadron crest

SYNTHETIC AIR ENVIRONMENT

The Canadian Forces Aerospace Warfare Centre's (CFAWC) Ottawa detachment, located at the Shirley's Bay campus, is growing in reputation as the benefits of using leading-edge modelling and simulation (M&S) become more and more clear.

The detachment now has a new name, the Air Synthetic Environment Centre (ASEC), that reflects the growing importance of M&S.

The ASEC provides training, mission rehearsal and experimentation in a synthetic air environment, supporting Canadian Forces and Royal Canadian Air Force force development and force generation efforts.

"ASEC's new name reflects modelling and simulation as an emerging priority and will enable due focus on operationalizing it as a strategic tool," said Lieutenant-Colonel Kelvin Truss, ASEC detachment commander.

"In recent years, we have been directed to make more effective use of modelling and simulation in collective training endeavours. The dedicated men and women of ASEC are committed to ensuring this service is delivered to the highest possible standard, thereby maximizing the benefit to its users and to the organization."

Modelling and simulation is a very broad field of work and the ASEC has focussed first on increasing the RCAF's distributed mission training capability. This links real-time simulators to exercise mission planning and execution processes.




Cpl Ryan MacDonald, an aerospace control operator, conducts surveillance of his assigned zone at the Canadian Aerospace Defence Sector, 22 Wing North Bay, Ont.

LCol Truss explained that the ASEC will connect mission training simulation devices in common synthetic environments. Thus, many RCAF assets will be able to "conduct collective training within our domestic lines of operation individually, jointly with our land and naval forces, and with our coalition partners throughout the world".

The ASEC is moving forward with several domestic and coalition initiatives that highlight the advantages of current distributed mission training (DMT) capabilities and examine potential areas of future growth in the DMT field.

While the current focus remains responding to domestic requirements, in the future ASEC may see increased connectivity to sites in the U.S., the U.K. and throughout Europe.

The ASEC is also involved with plans to connect training bases across Canada, leveraging the Canadian Advanced Synthetic Environment (CASE) project that aims to provide network backbone connectivity to a number of army, navy and air force sites and thereby offer varying levels of DMT to participants across the country.

"One of the big challenges we face is convincing our operators that DMT augments, and in some cases is a suitable alternative to, live collective training," said LCol Truss. "Improving the member's performance in the simulator allows precious flying hours to be expended more effectively, freeing up more of these hours for valuable operational flying and specialized training." 



ASEC operators enable synthetic training by role-playing as opposing air forces, or by generating relevant background air traffic to inject as much realism into simulation as possible (L-R) Capt Ray Dean, WO Jamie Rideout, WO Allan Com   and Cpl Trevor Hanninen.

NEW OPERATIONAL C² ORGANIZATION

A new operational command and control (C²) structure for Canadian Forces operations was announced in May as part of a renewed CF transformation effort.

A single command, the Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC), is consolidating the activities of Canada Command, Canadian Expeditionary Force Command and Canadian Operational Support Command. The new headquarters will be responsible for conducting all CF operations in Canada, North America and globally, in concert with national and international partners.

"Transformation is built on some hard-learned lessons from a period of an unrelenting operational pace and on recommendations included in the 2011 Report on Transformation by Lieutenant-General [Andrew] Leslie, which have defined necessary organizational changes to prepare the CF for the next decade," said Defence Minister Peter MacKay.

"Transformation is about reducing headquarters overhead to produce more 21st century capability.

It will give the CF the agility to adapt as the future security environment dictates, at the best cost to Canadian taxpayers."

The new CJOC, which will be implemented in a phased approach in the upcoming months, will be commanded by a lieutenant-general. This will result in a 25 per cent reduction in national-level command and control overhead, and it will make more efficient use of administrative resources.

"One command and control system will help us to deliver the capabilities required to face current conflicts and better plan for future global security challenges," said General Walter Natynczyk, Chief of the Defence Staff.

Transformation seeks to maximize CF capacity while ensuring an effective balance of resources and assets within the Defence Team and across the four defence pillars upon which CF capabilities are built—readiness, personnel, infrastructure and equipment. 🇨🇦

CANADIAN CHINOOK MAKES FIRST FLIGHT



Canada's first new CH-147F Chinook helicopter made its successful first test flight near Boeing's facility in Pennsylvania on June 24. The flight lasted more than 80 minutes and confirmed the initial airworthiness of the aircraft. Flight testing will continue over the next 12 months with a combined crew of Boeing/Canadian Forces test pilots. The Royal Canadian Air Force will receive 15 F-model Chinooks beginning in June 2013. 🇨🇦

BOEING

FINAL CC-130J ARRIVES

The Royal Canadian Air Force proudly welcomed the 17th and final aircraft of Canada's new CC-130J Hercules fleet on May 11, 2012, at 8 Wing Trenton, Ont., where it will be used to provide the Canadian Forces with vital tactical airlift across Canada and around the world.

"This truly is an historic day," said Lieutenant-General André Deschamps, commander of the RCAF. "When I was a pilot on the legacy CC-130s, we used to dream of days like this—and now I can proudly say those dreams have become a reality. The J-model family is complete."

Then-Associate Minister of National Defence Julian Fantino praised the speed and efficacy with which the J-model fleet was delivered to the Canadian Forces.

"Delivered on budget and ahead of schedule, this impressive aircraft provides our airmen and airwomen of the RCAF with the capability they need to do their job," said Minister Fantino. "In less than two years since the first CC-130J was delivered, they have literally spanned the country and the globe in support of Canadian Forces operations."

LGen Deschamps noted that the RCAF of the 21st century must be agile, versatile and reliable. He also said that these qualities aptly describe Canada's new fleet of CC-130J Hercules.

"In keeping with the motto of 436 Squadron, these new Hercs definitely 'carry the load,'" he said. "I have always said that my priority as commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force is success in operations and I can assure you that the J-model Hercules, along with its air and ground crews, maintainers, logistics and support personnel, is a key player in executing that mission each and every day."

Since the delivery of the first CC-130J Hercules aircraft on June 4, 2010, the fleet has logged more than 5,800 hours of flight time in service to Canadians at home and abroad. It has achieved an

impressive operational record that includes supporting Operation Athena in Afghanistan and Operation Mobile, Canada's contribution to the NATO-led mission to protect the people of Libya.

LGen Deschamps captured the mood of the event perfectly when he concluded his remarks by saying, "Through the use of this fully modern capability—perfectly suited to the missions of the 21st century—as well through our CC-177 Globemaster heavy airlifters, our fully modernized CF-18 fighter jets, our soon-to-be delivered Chinook helicopters and the rest of our fleets, the RCAF is better positioned than at any time in recent history to protect Canadian interests here at home and around the world.

"And for that, we are truly grateful and extremely proud." 🇨🇦



The 17th and final Canadian CC-130J Hercules arrives at 8 Wing Trenton on May 11, 2012.



SEARCH AND RESCUE CREWS: MISSION READY

Due to its vast size and range of environments, Canada relies on a diverse group of government, military, volunteer, academic and industry partners to provide search and rescue (SAR) services to the public.

In Canada, SAR is divided into three branches: ground and inland water, marine and air SAR. In addition to responding to SAR emergencies, time and resources are also invested to help prevent incidents from occurring. United by the common theme of “Working together to save lives”, the collective work of these partners forms the backbone of Canada’s national SAR program, and makes Canada a safer place to live, work and play.

Most would agree that military SAR crews play a crucial role in the success of SAR operations in Canada; they often brave the fiercest of weather, under cover of darkness when all other resources have been exhausted or the situation deemed unsafe. Canadian SAR crews face these challenges head on, enabled by the regional Joint Rescue Coordination Centres and a steadfast ability to focus on saving lives.

For example, SAR technician Sergeant Kent Gulliford of 442 Transport and Rescue Squadron, 19 Wing Comox, B.C., received a Medal of Bravery in April for rescuing an injured hiker and his two companions who had fallen into a 30-metre crevice on the Mount Compton Glacier (see page 22 for more about this rescue).

In March, another crew from 442 Squadron won the international



During avalanche training, a CH-149 Cormorant from 442 Squadron, 19 Wing Comox, B.C., creates a powerful downwash effect on the powdered snow as it hovers low to the ground, greatly reducing visibility.

SGT EILEEN REDDING

Shepherd Press Rescue Award in Dublin, Ireland, for the 2010 rescue of an injured hiker during extremely trying conditions (see 2011 Cormorant Trophy winner on page 22).

In 2011, a CH-149 Cormorant helicopter from 103 Search and Rescue Squadron, 9 Wing Gander, N.L., performed an extremely difficult hoist in heavy seas in the North Atlantic Ocean after a man aboard a Belgian container ship became seriously ill. The helicopter airlifted the patient to hospital with only .2 flying hours of fuel to spare.

Canadian Forces SAR crews are involved in coordinating approximately 9,100 air and maritime incidents annually, tasking military aircraft or ships in about 1,100 cases. Historically, these actions have provided assistance to more than 20,000 persons and saved on average more than 1,200 lives each year.

Sadly, over the last 25 years, 34 SAR crew members—including civilian members of the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association—have given their lives in their quest to save others. 🇨🇦

HEAVY EQUIPMENT DROP SCORES BULL'S-EYE



SGT RON FLYNN

The recovery parachute opens to bring the heavy equipment load safely to the ground.

The first-ever heavy equipment (HE) drop from a CC-177 Globemaster III in Canada scored a perfect bull's-eye on the drop zone (DZ) at precisely 1 p.m. on April 25, 2012—on time and on target.

Flying at 700 feet (213 m) above ground level, the Globemaster from 429 Transport Squadron, 8 Wing Trenton, Ont., dropped the 5,000-pound (2,268 kg) load at Mountain View airfield in Prince Edward County, Ont., using a parachute extraction system.

"In 2010, the commander of 1 Canadian Air Division directed 429 Squadron to pursue an airdrop program to be able to dispatch equipment and personnel from the back of a CC-177. Today is our final drop to validate

that concept," explained Lieutenant-Colonel Jason Stark, commanding officer of 429 Squadron.

The Globemaster can carry up to 110,000 pounds (nearly 50,000 kg) of load for heavy equipment drops and is able to do multiple drops on one or several DZs on the same mission. "We're starting to use [the aircraft]'s capabilities fully," explained Captain Bart Harbour. "It's [capable of] doing a lot more than just replacing the cargo-hauling capability of the chartered Antonovs."

As the aircraft approached the DZ at Mountain View, near 8 Wing Trenton, Ont., Warrant Officer Paul Makarchuk, loadmaster for the flight, monitored the release of the 15-foot (4.5 m) drogue parachute, which deployed out the back of the aircraft. After 15 seconds of flight, the drogue chute pulled out the 15-foot (4.5 m) extraction 'chute that then pulled the two-and-a-half-ton (2.25 tonne) load out the open ramp.

About 400 feet (122 m) out from the aircraft and 300 feet (91 m) from the ground, the load—in this case simply a huge wooden box filled with sand—stabilized. The 100-foot (30 m) recovery parachute, rigged on top of the load, burst free and brought the load safely to the ground.

"That's a bull's-eye," said Major Jean Maisonneuve, aircraft commander.

LCol Stark, who flew as a passenger for the morning's historic drop, was clearly pleased by the success. "It's fantastic!" he said simply.

"This demonstrates the capability of the airdrop program for the CC-177, and now we'll be able to focus on force generating our crews to create airdrop-qualified crews [who are] able to dispatch loads, personnel and equipment wherever the Government of Canada and the RCAF need us to.

"This is just a fantastic capability for 429 Squadron and an unbelievable capability for the Royal Canadian Air Force," he continued with a grin. 🇨🇦



JOANNA CALDER

The drogue parachute deploys.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT UPDATE

Several announcements have been made recently regarding Royal Canadian Air Force infrastructure and equipment, including the following:

- Two contract awards totalling \$209,296 for the replacement of a roofing membrane for a building and for the repair of a hammerhead (an area in advance of the runway) for the airfield at 3 Wing Bagotville, Que.
- Two contract awards totaling \$883,096 for renovations to office areas, syndicate rooms and washrooms in building 84, and for a lightning protection system for Hangars 10 and 11 at 17 Wing Winnipeg, Man.
- Sod was turned for the construction of a new fire hall at 8 Wing Trenton, Ont., in May. The new fire hall will accommodate bigger, 12,000-litre fire trucks and other emergency response equipment and personnel to support 8 Wing's CC-177 Globemaster III fleet and other modern capabilities. The \$12.1 million contract was awarded to M.J. Dixon Construction Ltd. of Mississauga, Ont., and involves the construction of a 3,176 square-metre building that will accommodate 14 truck bays, a vehicle wash area, a control room, offices, training rooms, equipment maintenance areas, and firefighter sleeping and support rooms. The new facility is expected to be completed in summer 2013.
- A one-year contract for the maintenance of the RCAF's five CC-150 Polaris (Airbus A310) aircraft was awarded to L-3 MAS (Military Aviation Services) in Mirabel, Que. The contract has a value of up to \$25 million for a period of 10 months. There are also six extension options of one month each.
- Top Aces' Interim Contracted Airborne Training Services (ICATS) standing offer has been extended until June 2013. Top Aces supplies combat support airborne training services to the CF. The ICATS program supports Army Forward Air Controller training in close air support operations, and supports the Royal Canadian Air Force and Navy in adversary support and live fire target practice. The program also includes an electronic warfare simulation capability.



CPL LEVARE MC DONALD


DND Parliamentary Secretary Chris Alexander and 8 Wing Trenton's fire chief, Capt Pierre Muscat-Drago, stand in front of the fire simulator following a sod-turning ceremony for the wing's new fire hall.

- A contract worth up to \$10 million for the repair and overhaul of surveillance sensors on the Canadian Forces' fleet of CH-146 Griffon helicopters was awarded to L-3 WESCAM of Burlington, Ont. The three-year contract is for the routine maintenance, repair and overhaul of the electro-optical and infrared imaging sensors that were installed on Canada's fleet of CH-146 Griffon helicopters under the Interoperable Griffon Reconnaissance Escort Surveillance System (INGRESS) project.

- The first of 10 CP-140 Auroras received its completed set of structural upgrades through the Aurora Structural Life Extension Project (ASLEP) in December 2011.

The project, launched in 2008, involves major upgrades that include replacement of the wings and horizontal stabilizers; this will increase the structural life and operational availability of the fleet into the 2020 timeframe.

This was the second major milestone in the Aurora's midlife upgrade as the first Block III-modified Aurora was delivered in September. The Block III modifications were the final upgrades to the Auroras' mission computer system through the Aurora Incremental Modernization Project (AIMP). Initiated in 1998, AIMP transformed the Aurora into a modern, multi-mission platform that can provide overland intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities in addition to its traditional maritime patrol role.

ASLEP and AIMP have now been combined into a single program, representing a \$1.5B (\$1.2 billion for AIMP and \$279 million for ASLEP) investment in the Aurora fleet. The upgraded aircraft will be based at 14 Wing Greenwood, N.S. and 19 Wing Comox, B.C. 



EX RIMPAC

Left: Capt René-Philippe Gagnon (left), logistics officer, and Sgt Ken Pomerleau (right), traffic technician from 4 Canadian Forces Movement Control Unit, Montreal, Que., help unload a CC-177 Globemaster III at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Top right: Cpl Oscar Concha, an aviation systems technician with 435 Transport and Rescue Squadron, 17 Wing Winnipeg, Man., cleans the windows of a CC-130 Hercules aircraft at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Honolulu.

Bottom right: BGen Mike Hood (left) welcomes Maj Brian Crosier, a CC-150 Polaris pilot with 437 Transport Squadron, 8 Wing Trenton, Ont., to RIMPAC.

Brigadier-General Mike Hood, deputy director general of international security policy at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa, served as the first RCAF officer to command the air component of the largest naval exercise in the world—Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)—that took place in Hawaii in July.

Hosted by U.S. Pacific Fleet, and led by Vice-Admiral Gerald Beaman, commander of the U.S. Third Fleet, RIMPAC 2012 marked the first time non-American officers commanded components of the combined task force (CTF) during the exercise.

Commodore Stuart Mayer of the Royal Australian Navy commanded the maritime component while Rear-Admiral Ron Lloyd of the Royal Canadian Navy served as deputy commander of the CTF and RAdm Fumiyuki Kitagawa of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force served as vice commander of the CTF.

Twenty-two nations, 42 ships, six submarines, more than 200 aircraft

and 25,000 personnel participated in the biennial exercise, which ran from June 29 to Aug. 3, in and around the Hawaiian Islands.

“Any time you get to practice your craft away from home is a tremendous opportunity,” said BGen Hood. “Take our CF-18 fleet, for example. Not everyone deployed to Libya last year for Operation Mobile so RIMPAC offered the RCAF the opportunity to send a six-pack of CF-18s, with all of their integral support and maintenance, half way around the world and then operate in combat-like conditions, which will only make our people that much more effective in real-world coalition operations. The same goes for all the fleets that deployed.”

The RCAF deployed CF-18 fighter jets, CC-130 Hercules transport aircraft, CC-150 Polaris air-to-air refuelling aircraft, CH-124 Sea King helicopters and CP-140 Aurora long-range patrol aircraft to train with air assets from the other nations. The RCAF sent two of its newly upgraded Block III Aurora aircraft with a team from the Maritime Proving and Evaluation Unit (from 14 Wing Greenwood, N.S.), who conducted the final phase of the operational testing and evaluation of the aircraft in real-world conditions.

Additionally, the CC-177 Globemaster III made nine flights to the Hawaiian Islands, transporting Canadian Forces personnel and equipment. 🇨🇦

RCAF AIDS DRUG SEIZURES

The Royal Canadian Air Force assisted with two major drug interdictions at sea over the past few months.

Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) St. John's, with an embarked CH-124 Sea King helicopter detachment, helped recover a cargo load of drugs during Operation Caribbe in the international waters of the Caribbean Basin last fall. The drugs were found aboard a scuttled, self-propelled, semi-submersible vessel carrying 6,700 kilograms of cocaine destined for distribution in North America. The drugs had an estimated street value of US\$180 million.

HMCS Charlottetown, with the embarked Scan Eagle unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), successfully intercepted a narcotics shipment in the Gulf of Aden in May 2012. Once the UAV located the skiff (the smaller of two suspicious vessels), a CH-124 Sea King was dispatched to search and locate the dhow (the larger fishing-type vessel commonly used for transporting goods in the region).

The helicopter retrieved two packages from the water and Charlottetown's rigid-hulled inflatable boat retrieved the remaining eight packages. In total, the packages contained 270 kilograms of hashish. 🇨🇦



HMCS Charlottetown's boarding party searches for drugs aboard a dhow while Charlottetown's CH-124 Sea King helicopter provides cover in May 2012.



Flight engineer WO David Pawulski inspects a propeller on a CP-140 Aurora during a pre-flight inspection during Ex Proud Manta.

EX PROUD MANTA

CP-140 Aurora crews conducted direct air support, anti-submarine warfare as well as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations during Exercise Proud Manta, NATO's largest recurring anti-submarine warfare exercise. The exercise was conducted from Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, in February 2012.

Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Charlottetown, with an embarked CH-124 Sea King helicopter detachment, also participated in the exercise, alongside submarines, surface ships and aircraft from 11 NATO nations.

The exercise offered NATO nations the opportunity to work together as a team and advance their anti-submarine warfare skills in a complex multi-discipline environment.

405 Long Range Patrol (LRP) Squadron from 14 Wing Greenwood, N.S., provided two crews and two crews came from 404 LRP and Training Squadron (also from 14 Wing) and 407 LRP Squadron from 19 Wing Comox, B.C. Two CP-140 Auroras flew during the exercise.

Maintenance personnel came from 14 Air Maintenance Squadron and 407 Squadron while detachment staff and operations support personnel came from 14 Wing, Maritime Forces Atlantic, Maritime Forces Pacific and the Acoustic Data Analysis Centre (Atlantic and Pacific).

Twenty-four Aurora sorties were planned, with each mission lasting seven hours, as well as eight aircrew upgrade/category check rides. 🇨🇦

OP NUNALIVUT

Operation Nunalivut, which ran from April 10 to May 1, 2012, in and around Resolute Bay, Nunavut, is a major sovereignty operation conducted every year by the Canadian Forces in Canada's North.

This year's operation focused on demonstrating the CF expeditionary capabilities in response to a simulated, whole-of-government, safety-driven mission. Approximately 150 personnel from the Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Air Force and Canadian Rangers, under the command of Joint Task Force (North), participated. 🇨🇦

Right: SAR tech MCpl Sean Daniell checks the tail of a CC-115 Buffalo aircraft for ice buildup.

Below: A CC-138 Twin Otter taxis past a CC-115 Buffalo (left) and a CC-130 Hercules (far right) at Resolute Bay, Nunavut.



SGT MATTHEW MCGREGOR



SGT MATTHEW MCGREGOR

VIRTUAL TRAINING ENABLES JOINT OPERATIONS



A CH-146 Griffon helicopter pilot with 400 Squadron watches the monitors of his simulated helicopter during Ex Winged Warrior 2012.

A key operational success in Afghanistan was the ability of the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Canadian Army to operate jointly. Lieutenant-General André Deschamps, commander of the RCAF, has said that continuing the momentum is crucial to enabling future joint operations.

Exercises Winged Warrior and Virtual Bear, conducted earlier this year, allowed members of the tactical helicopter community and the Army to practice "the fight" together in a simulated environment.

"We want to make sure we preserve the experience and knowledge we gained in Afghanistan," said Colonel Christian Drouin, commander of 1 Wing Kingston, Ont.

"This will better prepare us for the next operation."

Members of 400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, located at Canadian Forces Base Borden, Ont., participated in Exercise Winged Warrior 2012.

The annual exercise continues to break new ground as advances in virtual training evolve. In the virtual battle space, pilots and aircrews

practiced the most current aviation tactics and procedures, and adopted the full functional battle-rhythm of an operational aviation battalion.

Exercise Virtual Bear also used high tech simulation to allow Army and Air Force members to practice operating in a joint environment.

"If we embed liaison with the Army and we define very clearly our capabilities and limitations, then [we] bring something to the fight for the Army," said Lieutenant-Colonel Denis O'Reilly, commanding officer of 403 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, located at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, N.B.

"[T]he Army knows what we can provide and for how long. So the key really is...in doing joint mission planning together." 🇨🇦

A CF-18 taxis to the runway carrying an AIM-7 Sparrow missile on its outer weapons' station during Ex Combat Archer.



ATTILA PAPP

EX COMBAT ARCHER

The Nighthawks of 409 Tactical Fighter Squadron, 4 Wing Cold Lake, Alta., took part in Exercise Combat Archer at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida last March.

The exercise is conducted every year so that both pilots and ground crew can be evaluated by members of the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group (WEG) with regard to the air-to-air weapon system capability of the CF-18 Hornet fleet.

The goals of Ex Combat Archer are for pilots to maintain their air-to-air mission skills, to verify onboard weapons systems and for technicians to maintain and further hone their skills with ordinance.

During the live-fire mission, CF-18 pilots flew operationally representative missile shoot profiles, targeting and firing on a BQM-167A subscale drone, within specially designated live-fire airspace over the Gulf of Mexico.

The missiles that were fired by the Royal Canadian Air Force had their warheads replaced with telemetry packages that track the missile's flight in relation to the target. 🇨🇦



ATTILA PAPP

Members of the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group examine a weapons station on a CF-18.



SGT ROBERT BOTTRILL

OP SOUTHERN REACH

Capt Paco Gobeil shows off the CF-18 demo Hornet's moves and artwork over the British Columbia coast in May.

The Royal Canadian Air Force conducted Operation Southern Reach from May 5 to 26, 2012, to increase its professional bonds with the air forces of Brazil, Chile and Jamaica.

While in Brazil, the CF-18 Demo Team performed at the Brazilian Air Force's Smoke Squadron's 60th anniversary celebrations and air show in Pirassununga. The tens of thousands of spectators who came out each day, despite the overcast skies and morning rains, showed overwhelming enthusiasm.



CPL PIERRE TABIB

Capt Paco Gobeil, the 2012 CF-18 demo pilot, greets an ecstatic crowd after performing at the Brazilian Air Force's Fumaça Squadron's 60th anniversary celebrations and air show.

Every manoeuvre performed by demo pilot Captain Patrick "Paco" Gobeil of 3 Wing Bagotville, Que., was met with roaring cheers and energetic applause from the crowd. After each of the two daily performances, Capt Gobeil was swarmed along the crowd line as he greeted and thanked the audience. Shouts of "Go, Canada, Go!" and "Paco! Paco!" were everywhere.

"Just to be in South America, taking part in this operation, is a great opportunity with many memorable moments, like flying in formation crossing the equator," said Capt Gobeil. "To be able to participate in the show while we are here and to see the reaction of the crowds is an unforgettable experience."

The same level of appreciation was extended to all members of the team, each of whom could scarcely walk a few metres through the crowd without a request to stop and pose for photos and sign autographs.

"I just can't believe the reception we're getting here from the crowd; I've never seen anything like this before," said Master Corporal Sarah Nantel, the team's west crew chief, who was also part of the 2010 crew.

The summer season in Canada began in early June with an appearance at the Waterloo Air Show in Ontario.



DND

Snowflake 12 portrays northern culture, represented by Inuit artwork that features traditional symbols such as the hunter, the snow goose and the snowy owl.

Many in the RCAF agree that graphic design director Jim Belliveau, of 410 Tactical Fighter (Operational Training) Squadron at 4 Wing Cold Lake, Alta., has outdone himself with this year's design of the demo Hornet.

The paint scheme reflects the team's 2012 theme: The True North Strong and Free. The tail and dorsal art captures the Arctic landscape and its peoples, and features 13 unique snowflakes—representing Canada's provinces and territories, as well as the 13 RCAF wings—scattered across a dramatic Arctic blue background.

Each snowflake represents an Arctic theme such as the gold rush, Arctic sovereignty, northern culture or exploration and sacrifice. 🇨🇦



EX MAPLE FLAG

Exercise Maple Flag brought the skies over 4 Wing Cold Lake, Alta., to life once again this past spring with the sights and sounds of fighter aircraft from around the world. The goal of Ex Maple Flag is to bring together aircraft and crews from many countries to simulate a United Nations air campaign against a highly capable enemy.

The exercise has been conducted in various forms since 1978, and has occurred annually since 1987—other than in 1991, due to Gulf War I; in 1999, due to the Kosovo conflict and in 2011, due to Op Mobile in Libya.

Aircraft from several different countries participated this year, ranging from the Mirage 2000-5 and E-3F Sentry AWACS from the French *Armée de l'Air*, the “Block 52” F-16D Fighting Falcon from the Singapore Air Force, to various models of C-130 Hercules transport aircraft, including—for the first time—a C-130H from the Brazilian Air Force and the Royal Canadian Air Force’s own CC-130J Hercules from 436 Transport Squadron, 8 Wing Trenton, Ont.

CF-18 Hornets, CH-146 Griffon helicopters, the CC-130 Hercules refueller, the CC-150 Polaris refueller and the CP-140 Aurora long-range patrol aircraft also participated as did ground troops from Canada, Germany and the Netherlands. 🇨🇦



Photo captions, clockwise from top left:

A Royal Air Force Special Forces C-130K Hercules C.3A, capable of receiving fuel from a tanker, takes off on an Ex Maple Flag mission. The uniquely designed Hercules is operated by 47 Squadron out of RAF Brize Norton, and has been outfitted with a radar warning receiver and the AN/ALZ-157 infrared countermeasures system for protection while flying through hostile airspace.

This year marked the first time that a South American country participated in Ex Maple Flag. Flying the C-130H Hercules transport aircraft, Brazilian crews worked with German troops to perform paratroops to insert German personnel into designated hotspots within the fictional battle location. Their unique paint scheme emulates the rain forest jungle, over which the crews regularly train when in Brazil.

A French *Armée de l'Air* Mirage 2000-5 takes off to provide escort services to Blue Air assets during Ex Maple Flag. The MICA (*Missile d'interception et de combat aérien* [Interception and Aerial Combat Missile]), pictured on the outer weapons pylon, is an anti-air, multi-target, all-weather, fire-and-forget, short- and medium-range missile system used by operators of the Mirage 2000 series aircraft.

A Dornier Alpha Jet operated by Top Aces, a subsidiary of Discovery Air, took part in Ex Maple Flag by providing enemy “Red Air” support for fighter forces during large-scale exercises. Top Aces deployed six Alpha Jets, with one sporting a special blue, white and grey aggressor paint scheme to make it more challenging to pick up when it is engaged by friendly “Blue Air” assets over the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range.

MEDALS OF MILITARY VALOUR

In recent months, two Medals of Military Valour have been awarded to Royal Canadian Air Force personnel by Governor General David Johnston.

Captain William (Bill) Fielding was presented with the medal in January 2012 for his heroic actions in Afghanistan.

According to his citation, on Aug. 5, 2010, Capt Fielding's CH-147D Chinook helicopter was struck by enemy fire in Panjwa'i, causing the fuel tank to explode and rendering the aircraft nearly inoperable. With the helicopter in flames and the cockpit rapidly filling with smoke, Capt Fielding made the critical decision to land in enemy territory rather than fly to a friendly landing zone. His outstanding courage and devotion to duty allowed him to execute an emergency landing and then lead the evacuation of the burning aircraft.



Capt Bill Fielding received the Medal of Military Valour from Governor General David Johnson in January.

His actions no doubt saved the lives of all 21 crew and passengers that day.

Corporal Brian Bélanger was presented with the medal in June 2012. According to his citation, on April 13, 2011, Cpl Bélanger's joint Canadian-Afghan patrol was ambushed in the Panjwa'i district, resulting in an Afghan soldier being wounded.

Exposing himself to enemy fire, Cpl Bélanger, the patrol's medical technician, resolutely made his way to the wounded soldier and dragged him to cover. As bullets continued to ricochet around them, he administered first aid.

Because of his professionalism and dedication, Cpl Bélanger saved the life of a fellow soldier.



Cpl Brian Bélanger received the Medal of Military Valour from Governor General David Johnston in June.

The Medal of Military Valour is awarded for an act of valour or devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy. 🇨🇦

RCAF OFFICER APPOINTED CDS

On Aug. 27, 2012, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that Lieutenant-General Thomas J. Lawson, a Royal Canadian Air Force officer serving as deputy commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), would be appointed Chief of the Defence Staff, and promoted to the rank of general.

"Lieutenant-General Lawson is the right leader for the Canadian Armed Forces and will bring a clear vision and strong values to the role," said Prime Minister Harper. "His experience, team-building skills and collaborative approach will help position the Canadian Armed Forces for the future."

Read more in the next edition of *Crew Brief*. 🇨🇦



MEDAL OF BRAVERY AWARDED

Governor General David Johnston presented search and rescue technician Sergeant Kent Gulliford with the Medal of Bravery in April 2012.

On April 24, 2009, Sgt Gulliford rescued an injured backcountry skier who had fallen into a deep crevice on Mount Compton Glacier, northeast of Vancouver, B.C.

Sgt Gulliford was the search and rescue team leader aboard the CH-149 Cormorant helicopter tasked to locate and rescue the victim. In complete darkness, the Cormorant was kept in a hover position over the steep face of the glacier, while two of the victim's companions were hoisted aboard.

Sgt Gulliford was then lowered into the 30-metre crevice where he located the injured victim. It was a complex operation for him to get them both hoisted up to the helicopter without further incident. Sadly, the person did not survive.

The Medal of Bravery recognizes acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances. 🇨🇦



SGT RONALD DUCHESNE



PTE DAN MOORE

CORMORANT TROPHY WINNER

The daring cliff-side rescue of a British Columbia hiker, which pushed both the rescue crew and their search and rescue helicopter to the limits, earned members of 442 Transport and Rescue Squadron, 19 Wing Comox, B.C., the 2011 Cormorant Trophy last November. The trophy, awarded by CH-149 Cormorant manufacturer AgustaWestland Ltd., is presented to the Canadian civilian, government or military helicopter crew that has performed the most demanding helicopter rescue of the year. Left to right: Jeremy Tracy, AgustaWestland International Ltd.; Gen Walter Natynczyk, Chief of Defence Staff; CPO1 Robert Cleroux, CF Chief Warrant Officer; Cpl Nick Nissen, SAR tech; Sgt Carl Schouten, flight engineer; Maj Troy Maa, first officer; and Capt Jean Leroux, aircraft commander. Missing from the photo is Sgt George Olynyk, SAR tech. 🇨🇦

NEW TOP LEADERS FOR RCAF

On Aug. 31, 2012, the Minister of National Defence announced that Major-General Yvan Blondin will be promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general and become the next commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force. MGen Blondin was deputy commander of the RCAF, and is taking command from Lieutenant-General André Deschamps, who is retiring.

In addition, LGen Alain Parent is the new deputy commander of NORAD in Colorado Springs, Colorado; Brigadier-General Mike Hood will be promoted to major-general and become the new deputy commander of the RCAF at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa; MGen Pierre St-Amand will be the new commander of 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters in Winnipeg, Man.; and BGen Bruce Ploughman will be the new deputy commander of 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters in Winnipeg. 🇨🇦



MGen Yvan Blondin will be promoted and take command of the RCAF.

NEWEST HONORARY COLONELS

The following people have recently been appointed Royal Canadian Air Force honorary colonels by the Minister of National Defence:

- **Frank Wayne Adams**, Nova Scotia's first Black member of the Legislative Assembly and cabinet minister—423 Maritime Helicopter Squadron, 12 Wing Shearwater, N.S.
- **Dr. John Bonn**, emergency physician at Trenton Memorial Hospital, Trenton, Ont.—424 Transport and Rescue Squadron, 8 Wing Trenton, Ont.
- **David Bright**, a lawyer, director for the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo Society and former honorary consul to the Kingdom of Lesotho, South Africa—12 Air Maintenance Squadron, 12 Wing Shearwater, N.S.
- **George Canyon**, country singing star and former honorary colonel of 14 Wing Greenwood, N.S.—first colonel commandant of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets.
- **Colonel (ret'd) Ron Guidinger**, vice president of Raytheon Canada Ltd.—419 Tactical Fighter Squadron, 4 Wing Cold Lake, Alta.
- **Don Hewson**, President of Brothers Creek Trading Ltd., Vancouver, B.C.—19 Wing Comox, B.C.
- **Brigadier-General (ret'd) Jim Hunter**, president and CEO of the Regina International Airport—15 Wing Moose Jaw, Sask.
- **Colonel (ret'd) Dick Isabelle**, chief administrative officer for the town of Oromocto, N.B.—403 Helicopter Operational Training Squadron, 1 Wing Kingston, Ont., located at CFB Gagetown, N.B.
- **Sass Jordan**, Canadian singer and songwriter—417 Combat Support Squadron, 4 Wing Cold Lake, Alta. (appointment to take effect in September).
- **John Marinus**, former owner of the Anchor Garage, former Comox town councillor and former volunteer firefighter—19 Air Maintenance Squadron, 19 Wing Comox, B.C.
- **Armin Quickert**, retired president and general manager of Reid's Dairy in Belleville, Ont.—8 Wing Trenton, Ont.



HCol George Canyon chats with air cadets after his investiture as the first colonel commandant of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets.

- **Sam Reid**, founding member of the band "Glass Tiger"—8 Air Maintenance Squadron, 8 Wing Trenton, Ont.
- **Ross Robinson**, president and CEO of B.A. Robinson Co. Ltd. and co-chair of the Western Canada Aviation Museum's capital campaign—17 Wing Winnipeg, Man.
- **Stan Schwartz**, executive vice president of the Calgary Stampeders—409 Tactical Fighter Squadron, 4 Wing Cold Lake, Alta.
- **Major (ret'd) Kemp Stewart**, owner of Hillier Creek Estates winery in Prince Edward County, Ont.—429 Transport Squadron, 8 Wing Trenton, Ont. 🇨🇦

MERITORIOUS SERVICE DECORATIONS AWARDED

In December 2011, Lieutenant-Colonel Gilbert Thibault, the aircraft commander of a CH-149 Cormorant search and rescue helicopter, was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross (MSC), and members of the helicopter's crew were awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) (Military Division). On June 9, 2008, "Rescue 913"—LCol Thibault, Sergeant William Kelland, Captain Andrew Mercer, Warrant Officer (now Master Warrant Officer) Keith Mitchell and Sergeant (now WO) David Pawulski – successfully evacuated a critically injured sailor from the MV Maersk Dunedin, near Halifax, N.S., under exceptionally demanding circumstances.

During the December ceremony, the following Air Force personnel were also awarded the MSM (Military Division): Major Emanuel Jeannot Boucher, Capt James Hugh McKay, LCol David Christopher Murphy, Corporal Emelie Pilon and Colonel John Bruce Ploughman.


In January 2012, Col Christian Drouin was awarded the MSC for his service as commander of the Air Wing in Afghanistan from November 2009 to September 2010. Also in January,

WO Joseph Jacques Friolet, Sgt Charles Andrew McLean and LCol Jeffery Douglas Smyth were awarded the MSM (Military Division).

In June, the MSM (Military Division) was presented to Chief Warrant Officer Kirk Newhook, LCol David William Lowthian, WO Yannick Campbell and WO Marc Charles Joseph Filiatrault.

To read the full citations of all personnel, click on News and Events/News Releases on the Governor General's website at www.gg.ca.

The Meritorious Service Cross recognizes a military deed or activity that has been performed in an outstanding professional manner, according to a rare high standard that brings considerable benefit or great honour to the Canadian Forces.

The Meritorious Service Medal recognizes a military deed or activity performed in a highly professional manner, according to a very high standard that brings benefit or honour to the Canadian Forces. 



Left: The aircrew of CH-149 Cormorant helicopter "Rescue 913" (left to right): LCol Gilbert Thibault, Sgt William Kelland, Capt Andrew Mercer, Governor General David Johnston, MWO Keith Mitchell and WO David Pawulski.

Top right: Cpl Emelie Pilon was awarded the MSM for her service as a member of the Canadian Forces Urban Search and Rescue team that deployed to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.

Bottom right: WO Charles Joseph Filiatrault was awarded the MSM for his rescue of a semi-conscious driver from a burning vehicle.



RCAF TEAM WINS REALITY TV SHOW

Their compelling musical number during *Canada Sings* earned Supersonic the cash prize for the charity or cause of their choice.

Two Canadian Forces charities are receiving substantial donations thanks to the stellar performance by the RCAF Band members who participated in the *Canada Sings* reality show.

Each week during the six-part series, broadcast on Global TV, two teams faced off for the chance to win \$25,000 for a charity of their choice.

Their compelling musical number on national television on May 22 earned the RCAF team, named “Supersonic”, the cash prize for the charity or cause of their choice. The team chose the Soldier On and Military Families Funds.

“The hard work and commitment demonstrated by Supersonic is inspirational,” said Brigadier-General Fred Bigelow, director general of personnel and family support services.

“We are proud of their dedication to Support Our Troops programs which exemplify the care that exists in our community for Canadian Forces members and their families.”

Upon learning the judges’ decision at the end of the show the RCAF team appeared ecstatic.

“We put a lot of sweat into this piece, and being professional musicians—but not necessarily singers or dancers—we were determined to put on the best possible performance,” said Captain John Fullerton, RCAF Band commanding officer. “We had no idea if we would win, so when we heard our name called, the feeling was incredible.”

The episode of *Canada Sings* featuring the RCAF team included background clips of the team in rehearsals, footage of 17 Wing Winnipeg, Man., and personal profiles of some participating members.

Sergeant Mike Hall is a guitarist with the RCAF Band and a former heavy metal rocker who has toured with the Killer Dwarfs, Helix and opened for Iron Maiden. His epic tales of rock heroism made him a natural fit for the program’s profile interviews.

“This was the greatest team-building exercise I have ever been part of,” said Sgt Hall. “Over the past 25 years, I’ve performed in front of huge crowds, done lots of TV and videos, but it was always doing what I know how to do: play guitar.”

He added that he has never sung lead while dancing at the same time.

“Somehow, my band mates pulled me through this, so I’m happy and proud of how we supported such a worthy cause,” he said.

You can watch Supersonic’s performance at www.globaltv.com/canadasings. 



Supersonic performs in front of a live audience and judges Jann Arden, Vanilla Ice (Rob Van Winkle) and Laurieann Gibson.



Three SAR techs from 424 Squadron will receive the Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea: (from left to right) MCpl Marco Journeyman, Sgt Janick Gilbert and Cpl Max Lahaye-Lemay. Sgt Gilbert died during the rescue for which the award is being presented and will receive the award posthumously.

SAR TECHS HONoured BY UN AGENCY

Three search and rescue technicians (SAR techs) from 424 Transport and Rescue Squadron, 8 Wing Trenton, Ont., will receive the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea, at a ceremony to be held in London, U.K., on Nov. 26, 2012.

Sergeant Janick Gilbert, Master Corporal Max Lahaye-Lemay, and Master Corporal Marco Journeyman will receive this prestigious honour for saving the lives of two Inuit hunters stranded in icy waters near Igloodik, Nunavut, on Oct. 27, 2011.

"These brave men are truly deserving of this honour, and they embody the motto of all search and rescue technicians: 'That others may live'. Tragically, Canada lost a hero in this daring rescue, and Sgt Gilbert will receive the award posthumously," said Defence Minister Peter MacKay.

The IMO is the United Nations agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of maritime pollution by ships. The Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea is the highest honour awarded by the IMO. The CF members will receive the award jointly with Able Seaman César Flores Flores of the Chilean Navy.

To read more about the rescue and the award, please visit the newsroom at www.rcaf-arc.forces.gc.ca.

PARLIAMENTARIANS HOST RCAF

On April 24, 2012, members of the Royal Canadian Air Force were recognized on Parliament Hill during the sixth annual "Air Force Day on the Hill".

Lieutenant-General André Deschamps, commander of the RCAF, along with Air Force personnel representing the spectrum of RCAF activity and achievement, rank and composition, were invited to the Senate visitors' gallery to be formally recognized by Senator Joseph Day, the host and champion of this annual event. A reception was held in the evening for parliamentarians and RCAF members.

"Our recent missions in Afghanistan and Libya... have served as a reminder to us of just how professional, capable and adaptable the Royal Canadian Air Force is as a military force," said Senator Day.

Air Force Day on the Hill was organized by the Air Force Association of Canada (AFAC) in coordination with Senator Day's office.



Defence Minister Peter MacKay (left) thanks Col (ret'd) Terry Chester, national president of AFAC, for his support of the RCAF and Air Force Day on the Hill.

On the Cover

Aircraft technicians from the Maritime Proving and Evaluation Unit, 14 Wing Greenwood, N.S., perform after-flight checks on a CP-140 Aurora long-range patrol aircraft at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, during RIMPAC 2012.



PHOTO :
MCPL MARC-ANDRE GAUDREAU



Left: A bronze sculpture of Bomber Command airmen stands at the centre of the memorial.

Top right: A view of the back of the memorial, which is located in Green Park, London.

Bottom right: Fraser Muir came to England to witness the unveiling of the Bomber Command Memorial.

BOMBER COMMAND SERVICE HONoured

On Thursday, June 28, 2012, a stunning memorial was unveiled in London's Green Park, honouring airmen who served—and lost their lives—in Bomber Command during the Second World War.

"I thought this day would never come. I'm absolutely thrilled about this new memorial," said Fraser Muir, a Royal Canadian Air Force tail gunner who served in Bomber Command. "This is not about glorifying war. This is about honouring the 55,573 boys who gave their lives in the air campaign."

Mr. Muir, along with more than 40 other Canadians who served with Bomber Command, returned to England to witness the unveiling by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. More than 7,000 people, including more than 900 Bomber Command veterans from Commonwealth and Allied countries, attended the ceremony.

"I think it was long past due," said former RCAF Sergeant Frank Boyd, who was part of the delegation. "It was more than time to honour these fine young men who never came back. To me, they were the best of the best, and it was time they were recognized."

On June 25, 2012, the Canadian Government also announced that an official honour to recognize Canadian veterans of Bomber Command will be created in the form of a bar to be worn on the ribbon of Canadian Volunteer Service Medal.

Approximately 50,000 Canadians served in Bomber Command, either in RCAF or Royal Air Force squadrons. More than 10,000 Canadian airmen, as well as airmen of other nations serving with the RCAF, died while flying for Bomber Command.

At the heart of the memorial in London is a striking bronze sculpture of Bomber Command aircrew.

The roof, which is open at the centre to allow light to fall directly on the aircrew, was inspired by the geodetic construction used in the Vickers Wellington bomber. It incorporates aluminum recovered from a Canadian Handley Page Halifax III bomber from 426 Squadron that was shot down over Belgium on the night of May 12, 1944. Eight crew members were killed; three of them were still at their stations when the aircraft was excavated and they were buried with full military honours alongside their comrades.

Words from a 1940 speech by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill are inscribed within the memorial: "The gratitude of every home in our island...and indeed throughout the world except in the abodes of the guilty goes out to the British airmen who, undaunted by odds, unweakened by their constant challenge and mortal danger, are turning the tide of world war by their prowess and their devotion." 🇨🇦

CANADA'S FIRST AIR MARSHAL REBURIED

Air Marshal Harold 'Gus' Edwards, CB, was laid to rest in Canada's National Military Cemetery (NMC), located within Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa, on June 15, 2012, more than 60 years after his death.

During the Second World War, as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Royal Canadian Air Force Overseas, A/M Edwards championed the controversial "Canadianization" of the RCAF, which led to the creation of Canadian squadrons, manned by Canadian personnel and under Canadian command, to fight in the conflict.

In 2011, *Legion Magazine* named him one of "Canada's 25 Most Renowned Military Leaders" and on June 14, 2012, he was inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame.

"Today we remember and honour him as a pivotal leader in the development of the Royal Canadian Air Force," said Lieutenant-General André Deschamps, commander of the RCAF, during the graveside service.

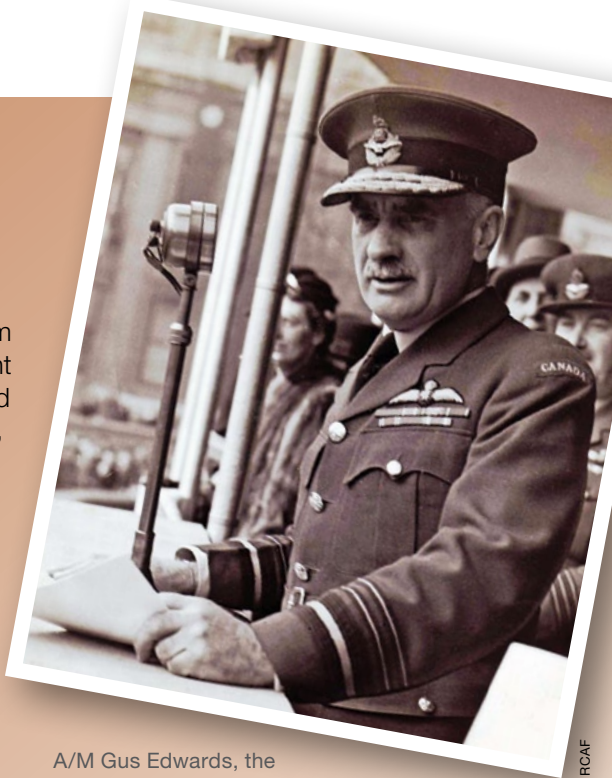
A/M Edwards, who died in 1952, was buried in the civilian section of Beechwood Cemetery because he had retired from the military and, under the regulations of the day, could not be buried in the military section.

Moreover, his beloved wife and daughter, Bea and Suzanne, were not present at the graveside. "There was a full military funeral, but women were not permitted to go to the gravesite," said Suzanne Edwards, who has written a biography of her father entitled *Gus: From Trapper Boy to Air Marshal*.

In 2001, when the National Military Cemetery was established, Ms Edwards began working towards the goal of having her father re-interred there. "I tried various routes for getting him transferred, none of which worked until I spoke to Colonel Sam Michaud [a former commander of 12 Wing Shearwater, N.S.] and he said, 'Well, leave it with me and I will see what I can do'."

The Vimy Foundation, whose mission is "to preserve and promote Canada's First World War legacy", raised funds through private donations to cover the costs of the re-interment. The RCAF provided the ceremonial elements, including an honour guard, bearer party, bugler, piper and chaplain.

"I know he would certainly want to be with other troops who had served," said Ms Edwards. "This is where he belongs."




A/M Gus Edwards, the RCAF's senior officer overseas during the Second World War, addresses a crowd in Trafalgar Square, London, in 1943.

LGen Deschamps paid tribute to A/M Edwards and his daughter during the service. "Ms Edwards, today we salute your father again as he is re-interred beside his comrades in our National Military Cemetery.

"We are grateful for this opportunity to honour his legacy, and we are thankful for his service. He was a man of honour, a man of courage and a man of conviction.

"And I salute you, for your tenacity in seeking your father's re-interment in this place where he belongs.

"I believe the former motto of the Royal Canadian Air Force applies to both you and your father, Air Marshal Harold Edwards. *Per Ardua ad Astra*—through adversity to the stars." 

Read more about A/M Edwards and view a video of his 1952 graveside service in the RCAF newsroom at www.rcaf-arc.forces.gc.ca



Bogart Edwards (grandson of A/M Edwards), his daughter Isabella, and Suzanne Edwards lay flowers and poppies on A/M Edwards' casket.

REMEMBERING “MR. FLIGHT SAFETY”

The Royal Canadian Air Force lost one of its most beloved pioneers on Nov. 11, 2011, when the “father of flight safety”, Colonel Rayne Dennis “Joe” Schultz, passed away at the age of 89.

His love of flying carried over a distinguished 37-year career with the RCAF and beyond. A well-documented Second World War Mosquito fighter pilot with 410 Squadron, he went on to fly more than 40 different aircraft, including the CF-18.

As the director of flight safety for 10 years, he was known as “Mr. Flight Safety”. His efforts were recognized internationally by the International Flight Safety Foundation in 1977 and he was elected as honorary member of the United States Air Force Aerospace Safety Hall of Fame.

In Canada, he was awarded the Trans-Canada McKee trophy in 1978 and was inducted into Canada’s Aviation Hall of Fame in 1997 with the following citation: “Over many years in cooperation with the military and the civilian agencies associated with aviation, his vision, dedication and pursuit of excellence resulted in significant advancement in air operations generally and flight safety accident prevention programs in particular.”

Lieutenant-General André Deschamps, commander of the RCAF, presented a special edition of *Flight Comment* magazine, dedicated to Col Schultz, to his daughter, Kathleen Boettger, during an honours and awards ceremony at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa in April 2012.

A tribute to Col Schultz upon his retirement in 1977 reads, in part:

“Col Schultz is highly respected in both Canadian aviation circles and internationally, for he has often represented Canada in international seminars dealing with broad concepts of aircraft accident prevention.

“Although it is impossible to estimate the numbers of aircraft and lives saved



Col Joe Schultz (centre), pictured on Dec. 2, 1942, with Flight Officer V.A. Williams (left) and F/O Dick Geary in England.

by his dedicated efforts, we are convinced that through his devotion to duty, the standards of all these involved in the operation of Canadian military aircraft have been raised substantially.

“The Canadian Forces and Canada have every reason to be justifiably proud of Col Schultz. Our flight safety

program is primarily the result of his continuing hard work, self-sacrifice and dedication in furthering the cause of military aviation.”

To read the entire tribute to Col Schultz, visit the RCAF newsroom at www.rcaf-arc.forces.gc.ca.

JUBILEE MEDALS PRESENTED

The Royal Canadian Air Force’s Master Warrant Officer Jean-Claude Parent, standing with Prime Minister Stephen Harper (left) and Governor General David Johnston, was one of 60 Canadians to receive the first Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals during the inaugural presentation ceremony on Feb. 6, 2012, at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. The medals mark the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The Diamond Jubilee Medal will be presented throughout the year to 60,000 deserving Canadians—military and civilian—to recognize those who have dedicated themselves to service to their fellow citizens, their community and their country. For more information, as well as a brief citation for each of the inaugural recipients, visit www.gg.ca.



SGT RONALD DUCHESNE