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AIR FORCE *Crew Brief*

Message from the Chief of the Air Staff

Canada's Air Force Priorities: Operations, Transformation and Connecting with Canadians

This month, Canada's Air Force completed its 83rd year of exceptional service to Canada. Since its creation on April 1st, 1924, the contributions of the Canadian men and women who have filled the ranks of the Air Force have left their mark on this great country. People such as Air Marshal William Avery Bishop (better known as Billy Bishop, who was decorated for his actions in the skies over France as Canada was being defined on the battlefield of Vimy 90 years ago) and others like him, led the way towards the Air Force of today. Other heroes stand on guard for Canadians each and every day. Whether providing search and rescue assistance in the face of danger throughout this vast country, watching over the aerospace and maritime approaches to Canada, or airdropping supplies to combat troops in Afghanistan, today's men and women of the Air Force carry on the proud tradition of service to Canada.

As we begin another year of service, the future continues to look bright for the 15,000 highly dedicated, skilled and professional military and civilian members of the Air Force team. The Air Force will remain even more relevant to Canada's security needs in the 21st century and is being re-equipped with new and modernized equipment to protect Canada's security interests both at home and abroad.

With this increased importance comes increased interest by Parliamentarians and the public. Since the last issue of *Crew Brief*, I have had the opportunity to appear before Committees of the House of Commons and the Senate to speak about the current state of the Air Force and its relevance to the security of Canadians. I am pleased with the growing



LGGen Steve Lucas in flight aboard a CC-130 Hercules transport aircraft piloted by Capt Philippe Daunais from 436 (Transport) Squadron, during his recent visit to Afghanistan.

interest in the Air Force and the increased participation in the Air Force's parliamentary programs, which are aimed at providing our representatives a close-up look at how we conduct business on their behalf.

And I am also pleased with the growing appreciation of Canadians for the work their Air Force is doing on their behalf. The publication of this issue of *Crew Brief* coincides with the planned recognition of Canada's Air Force on Parliament Hill. Initiated by the Air Force Association of Canada, and championed by Senator Joseph A. Day (N.B.), this special recognition of its Air Force by Members of Parliament and Senators means a lot.

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National
Defence

Défense
nationale

Canada



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Today, Canada's Air Force is focused on three main priorities: Operations, Transformation, and Connecting with Canadians.

Operations are our "raison d'être." Our primary focus is on "Canada First." Day to day we maintain surveillance and control of the aerospace overarching the second largest country in the world. We assist our Navy in monitoring the maritime approaches along the three oceans bordering Canada, which form the longest coastline in the world. And we respond to calls for assistance through our search and rescue squadrons. Our personnel are on duty around the clock, integrated into Canadian Forces operations, contributing to Canada's economic, environmental and physical security in the post 9/11 world.



Senator Colin Kenny, Chair of the Standing Committee on National Security and Defence, speaks with Air Force Search and Rescue crew members at 19 Wing Comox.

Air Force personnel are also making a tremendous contribution to Canadian Forces operations around the world; especially in Southwest Asia, where we have been present since Canada first became engaged in the region more than five years ago. Today, approximately one in every five personnel engaged throughout the theatre of operations in the predominantly Army operation in Afghanistan, is from an Air Force occupation. Whether with the Theatre Support Element, largely run by the Air Force; with the joint task force in Kandahar (both on the airfield and "outside the wire" at the forward operating bases and with the Provincial Reconstruction Team); or elsewhere throughout Afghanistan, members of the Air Force are contributing in a big way. Some are employed in traditional Air Force

roles, such as providing tactical airlift with the CC-130 Hercules transport aircraft, but many of them are working side by side with their colleagues from the Army, some in fully integrated units. Still others are working in key positions within NATO and the Government of Afghanistan.

Canadian Forces operations are no-fail missions. Whether rescuing a stranded hunter from an ice floe in the Arctic, saving lives over the stormy Atlantic, preventing terrorists from using the skies to attack Canada, providing essential life-saving supplies to Canadian communities in distress, or supporting humanitarian and combat missions around the world, we must succeed – often under extreme conditions.

This is why we are pleased that, since February 2005, two successive governments have reinvested in defence. This permits us to re-capitalize our equipment and transform into a more effects-based, network-enabled, expeditionary force to continue to meet the evolving threats to Canadian security.

We welcome the government's decision to move quickly to acquire four strategic air lifters and 17 replacements for the CC-130 Hercules aircraft. This will provide a capability to support Canadian Forces operations at home and abroad into the future. The first C-17 Globemaster III is already in an advanced stage of construction and its arrival in late summer is eagerly anticipated. Its arrival will also help ease the strain on the existing fleet of Hercules aircraft, the backbone of our current air mobility fleet, which is quickly becoming too expensive to operate. Four of our current fleet of 32 Hercules have already run out of hours and are sitting on the ground in 8 Wing Trenton, Ont. By 2010, we expect to have only 18 aircraft remaining from the original fleet of 32 Hercules transport planes.

Work is progressing on other capability areas as well. We are making plans for the delivery of 16 Chinook heavy lift helicopters, expected within three years of a contract being awarded. Our CF-18 Hornet fighter aircraft are being modernized and we are now beginning to look at our future fighter requirements when that fleet is retired in another decade. The CH-148 Cyclone maritime helicopter will begin to arrive in 2009 to replace the venerable ship-borne CH-124 Sea King helicopter. We continue to see improvements in the performance of the CH-149 Cormorant search and rescue helicopter, which has already demonstrated tremendous capabilities in life-saving feats that would have not been possible with its predecessor. At the same time, work continues towards defining Canada's need for a new fixed-wing search and rescue aircraft. The growing importance

Photo: SCONSAD



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of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) to Canadian Forces operations in Canada and overseas is shaping our plans for both crewed aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to perform that role. Numerous other projects such as those to provide air-to-air refueling, improved radar coverage, and other essential force-multipliers, contribute to help the transformation of Canada's Air Force.

The Air Force is being transformed into a more effective, and operationally focused force in three key areas. The first, organizational transformation, has been underway for almost two years and much has already been accomplished. The standup of a strategic joint staff, the creation of four new operational-level commands, and the separation of force generation (training and equipping forces) from force employment (operations) mark organizational transformation of the Canadian Forces. The major organizational changes to the Air Force have occurred in the structure of headquarters, the consolidation of flying squadrons and the creation of a Canadian Forces Aerospace Warfare Centre – a think tank that has become the engine of change for the Air Force.

The second area of Air Force transformation centres on capability. Using capability-based planning, we are identifying the types of capabilities the Canadian Forces need to accomplish its mission and are beginning the process of re-capitalization. The acquisition of urgently required strategic and tactical airlift and heavy-lift helicopters will begin to deliver much-needed mobility to the Canadian Forces. Other capabilities such as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and search and rescue will be addressed as the Canadian Forces continues through this phase of its transformation.

The third phase of Air Force transformation centres on a shift from being an occasionally deployed but largely static-based organization to becoming more expeditionary. Although in its early stages, this is quickly picking up momentum. The first expeditionary organizations, known as Mission Support Squadrons, are already being deployed overseas. Other units are being reorganized to form Air Expeditionary Wings, capable of working anywhere in Canada or overseas from austere locations with limited support.


Over the upcoming months, a new Air Force strategy will be developed to guide the Air Force vision through its transformation into, “an agile and combat effective aerospace force, with the reach and power essential to CF operations at home and abroad.”

The transformation of the Air Force and the Canadian Forces is well underway and the initial results are positive. Air power enables the Canadian Forces vision. We are a more integrated force and a separation of force generation from force employment has enabled us to put the right focus on the right areas at the right time. Our critical challenge over the next few years will be to have the right number of people with the right skills in the right place at the right time. Meeting this challenge will ensure Canada has an expeditionary, effects-based Air Force that can continue to make a meaningful contribution to Canada's defence needs in the 21st century.



Photo: Royal NZ Air Force

LGen Steve Lucas inspects a Royal New Zealand Air Force Guard of Honour in March 2007. Exchanges of information between air forces provide insight into the best practices, resulting in better decisions.

We will need to have the continued support of the government and people of Canada in order to succeed. This is why we have placed a priority on connecting with Canadians. Our Honorary Colonels and organizations such as the Air Force Association of Canada play an important role in helping us communicate with Canadians. It is vitally important that Canadians know the value and relevance of their military and understand the significance of the tremendous heroism being displayed on a regular basis by Canadian men and women in uniform. Whether rescuing a Canadian in distress against terrible odds of survival, or demonstrating gallantry in the face of enemy fire, the acts of these courageous, well-trained men and women, equipped with the tools provided to them by the Government of Canada, continue to create the conditions for a strong and better Canada. 

“We will need to have the continued support of the government and people of Canada in order to succeed.”



TRANSFORMATION


Air Force Strategy: Guiding Aerospace Power into the Future

A long-term planning document entitled *Air Force Strategy* is being developed for the Air Force. Designed as the “flight plan for Canadian Forces’ aerospace power,” it will “articulate the Air Force strategy that will empower the aerospace element of the Canadian Forces (CF) vision over the near-, mid-, and long-term”, by providing the strategic plan for Canada’s Air Force into the future.

This strategy, which will be revisited and adjusted as necessary to reflect any changes in CF vision as well as strategic realities, “takes all the lines of Air Force operations from 2006 to 2026, and illustrates what the Air Force will be providing,” says

Lieutenant-Colonel David Wheeler, a member of the Directorate of Air Strategic Plans team, which is developing the strategy. “*Air Force Strategy* will provide a revised Air Force vision and long-term plan that will ensure relevance and affordability,” he says.

The new strategy is built upon the foundations of *Strategic Vectors* and *The Aerospace Capability Framework*, a series of 2003-2004 documents describing the Air Force vision and a force development framework in 2004.

Air Force Strategy is the result of extensive collaboration across all elements of the Air Force and other services of the CF. It will provide stakeholders with a clear picture of current and future Air Force capabilities. This will help in procurement planning, assist in identifying employment and training needs, and provide commanders with insight as to how the Air Force intends to meet their future needs. 

New Look and Features for Air Force Website

The Air Force website is getting a new, dynamic look and feel.


Improvements to the current site will be taking place in upcoming months, beginning with the launch of an interactive aircraft site, with step-by-step upgrades continuing over the next year, says Roy Ahopelto, the Air Force Internet Project Manager.

Initially, visitors will notice a new, streamlined look to the website. They will also be able to take new interactive tours of the CF-18 Hornet fighter aircraft, the CH-149 Cormorant search and rescue helicopter, the CH-146 Griffon tactical helicopter and the CP-140 long-range patrol aircraft.

Three-dimensional mock-ups of other Air Force aircraft will be featured, allowing users to zoom in on parts and features, and watch videos of the aircraft at work. Mission scenarios for each aircraft, as well as profiles of aircraft-specific crew profiles, will be featured.



Other projects under development for the site include more targeted outreach sections based on the different audience needs. Plans include pages organized for various stakeholders such as educators, business and industry, and the media. This will help people better find information about the Air Force bands, Honorary Colonels, the Snowbirds and other air displays and Air Force events. A photo gallery, planned for the main site, will feature more than 3,000 high-resolution Air Force images.

The overall result will be a more interactive and more modern site, which will serve the interests of a wide range of audiences. The improved Internet site will serve to increase the awareness and understanding of the mission, objectives, current activities and operations of Canada’s Air Force. It will assist the Air Force in “Connecting with Canadians.” 

Visit www.airforce.gc.ca for updates



EQUIPMENT & CAPABILITIES

Modernized CF-18s Fire First AMRAAM Missile

The first-ever Canadian launch of the AIM-20 Advanced Mid Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) in February 2007 “completes the test process and provides the Initial Operational Capability (IOC) of the missile for the CF-18 fleet,” said Lieutenant-Colonel Laroche, Commanding Officer of 425 (Tactical Fighter) Squadron, based at 3 Wing Bagotville, Que.

The AIM-20 is a ‘beyond visual range’ missile capable of tracking and guiding itself onto radar designated targets from long and close combat range. Its purchase and employment has only been possible since the completion of phase one of the CF-18 modernization, according to LCol Laroche. “It’s key to bringing back the CF-18 as a world-class fighter in the air-to-air arena,” he said.

Phase I, which was completed in August 2006, was the cornerstone of the CF-18 modernization project, and provided the fleet with secure communications interoperability. The upgrades that were completed include a new radar; jam-resistant radios; a combined interrogator-transponder; stores management systems; mission computers; and embedded global positioning and inertial navigation systems.

“Canadians have made it clear that they want an effective and efficient military, one that is properly equipped and that will serve their interests both at home and abroad,” said Lieutenant-General Steve Lucas, Chief of the Air Staff, upon receiving the aircraft. “The government has made it clear they intend to give our men and women in uniform the resources and equipment they need to do the job. By investing in modern technology and equipment, we are ensuring that the men and women of the Canadian Forces (CF) will continue to be among the best in the world at what they do.”

Phase I, in collaboration with Phase II (which began its prototype modification in January 2006), will provide the CF with a technologically advanced, reliable and effective fighter aircraft.

Phase II, which is scheduled to run until 2009, will outfit Canada’s CF-18s with the latest in technologically advanced equipment. The fighter jets will be equipped with a secure data and communications link that allow CF-18 crews to stay in constant contact with other jets, ground stations and airborne warning and control systems (AWACS) to maintain awareness in their constantly evolving environment.

New state-of-the-art colour display panels will provide pilots with improved access to flight data and communications. The colour displays will significantly improve the pilots’ ability to



A CF-18 Hornet successfully launches an AIM-20 advanced mid air-to-air missile (AMRAAM) in February 2007 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, while participating in United States Air Force Exercise “Combat Archer.”

Photo: DND

refine the reams of data they receive. Pilots’ helmets will be outfitted with new visors that display readings from the instrument panel, so that they can maintain visual contact with a target without having to look down into the cockpit to monitor flight instruments. The aircraft will also be outfitted with a new missile countermeasures chaff/flare dispenser.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alain Pelletier, who will assume command of 425 (Tactical Fighter) Squadron in April 2007, says he is looking forward to “a thrilling time, to experience the capability we’ve delivered as part of Phase I.”

Aircraft modernized under Phase II are currently undergoing rigorous operations testing and evaluation process before they are delivered to line squadrons for use. The first of the modernized aircraft, which have achieved their IOC following the testing and evaluation process, are expected to be delivered in early fall 2007.

Flying Into the Future: Next Generation Fighter Capability Project

Members of Canada’s Directorate of Air Requirements recently had the opportunity to take a virtual flight into the future on new F-35 Lightning II simulators, experiencing aerospace technology which will only become available ten years from now.

At a classified Lockheed Martin facility in Fort Worth, Texas, Lieutenant-Colonel Alain Pelletier, project head for the Next Generation Fighter Capability Project, joined the nine signatory members of Phase III of the Joint Strike Fighter

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for the “Coalition Warfare Event.” They gathered to assess the projected capabilities of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft.

“The event was valuable because we got the chance to experience technology and sensors that will be available ten years from now, and leverage the experiences of the different nations involved, who brought to the table a myriad of aircraft operating time on a variety of aircraft,” said LCol Pelletier.



Photo: Lockheed Martin


Four F-35 Lightning II simulators, such as this one, were networked at the Coalition Warfare Event. They reflected the capabilities that will be available from the three versions of the F-35 aircraft.

Canada signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Phase III, for the Product Sustainment and Development, in December 2006, following an analysis of fighter aircraft from many different countries, including the Boeing Super Hornet F-18 ES, the Saab JAS 39 Gripen, as well as French, Russian and other European models.

“Our analysis led to the conclusion that the JSF has the best operational capability for the longest serviceability life, because it is expected to be around until 2051, and it is available for the least cost,” said LCol Pelletier. In support of this MOU, we recognized that we needed better input in the overall progression. This summer we are standing up a Canadian JSF office in Ottawa, which will provide us with a better understanding of capabilities, for example logistic systems, and training requirements associated with maintaining and operating these aircraft, he added.

The Next Generation Fighter Capability seeks to provide a capability to the CF to conduct control of Canadian Airspace and contribute to Alliance/Coalition operations where/when directed after the retirement of the CF-18.

“Our continued participation in the Joint Strike Fighter Program affords Canada the unique opportunity to take advantage of the technological benefits and economic opportunities that come with that participation,” said the Minister of National Defence Gordon O’Connor.

According to a Department of National Defence news release, Canadian aerospace and defence industry will have “access to up to \$8 billion (Cdn) in industrial opportunities, as a result of Canada’s participation in the program.” 



OPERATIONS

Arctic SAREX Hones Northern Rescue Skills

Canada hosted an international search and rescue (SAR) exercise, called SAREX, in Comox from April 1-5, 2007. The exercise involved more than 200 people.

Hosted annually on a rotating basis, SAREX enhances interoperability of Canadian, American and Russian SAR personnel and provides participants with an opportunity to exchange information on rescue techniques used in extreme cold weather and austere locations.

“The goal is to increase the cooperation between nations with the ultimate goal of ensuring that we get rescue resources to survivors as soon as possible and can sustain them until they evacuated to a safe location and



Source: Voxair Newspaper

Search and Rescue Technicians Sgt David Cooper (right) and MCpl Dwayne Guay, from 435 (Search and Rescue) Squadron, based at 17 Wing, Winnipeg spent more than 24 hours on an ice floe with a stranded hunter near Cape Perry, NWT in February 2007.


The annual Arctic SAREX provides members of the search and rescue community with valuable training which can be utilized in circumstances such as these.



on-going medical care, as required,” says Major Mike Susin, who is involved in search and rescue training, policy and procedures.

While there are defined borders among the three nations, in many cases any one country may be better positioned to respond faster to a major air disaster in the North, an area that sees growing traffic. The number of polar routes is increasing, he says; approximately 400 flights fly over the North each day.

In this year’s scenario, an aircraft having difficulty while conducting a polar route crashes in the far north. A call is fielded to the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Victoria, B.C., which coordinated the resources required for the response. A first response is sent from 442 Transport and Rescue Squadron (COMOX) followed by aircraft and rescuers from Alaska and the Russian Federation.

Equipped with Major Air Disaster (MAJAID) kits which are air-dropped as close as possible to the crash sites, primary responders set up portable operating places to keep survivors onsite, safe, warm and protected from the environment. MAJAID kits include tents, heaters, clothing, food and supplies. SAR Techs are trained to provide assistance to injured survivors, keeping them alive until such time they can be transported to outlying medical facilities. 

SAR Quick Facts

- Canada’s search and rescue area of responsibility is 15,540,000 square kilometres, which extends out well into the Arctic, Pacific and Atlantic oceans.
- More than 700 CF members are dedicated to search and rescue in Canada.
- The CF, which has overall responsibility for effective operation of the coordinated aeronautical and maritime SAR system with its Canadian Coast Guard colleagues, directly contributed to the saving of more than 1,000 lives and the provision of assistance to approximately 20,000 people in 2005.
- There are three Joint Rescue Coordination Centres in Canada, located in Victoria, (B.C.), Trenton, (Ont.), and Halifax, (N.S.). Air and Marine controllers from these centres coordinate the search, find the available resources and dispatch rescuers to the scene.

Cold Lake to Host 40th Maple Flag Exercise

Maple Flag XL (40), the international air combat exercise held annually at 4 Wing Cold Lake, Alta. will take place from May 22-June 15, 2007. The exercise, which attracts more than 5,000 participants and observers from around the world, provides critically important air combat training in a realistic simulated modern coalition environment.



This year, international participants will engage in simulated, 10-day air campaigns during two periods, each lasting two weeks. Using the vast, unrestricted airspace and more than 640 targets of the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range (CLAWR), participants will engage in daily missions that involve confronting and dealing with modern air and ground-based threats.

Originally focused on fighter aircrews, Maple Flag has grown in scope to provide important training in the use of air transport, electronic warfare, air-to-air refuelling, air defence, and airborne early warning and control assets in a modern simulated coalition air combat environment. In addition to the involvement of the CF-18 fighter aircraft, Exercise Maple Flag continues to see an increased participation by other air and ground components of the CF, while maintaining the integrity



An American F-16 Falcon sits on the tarmac (foreground) as two Canadian Hornet CF-18s take off, at 4 Wing, Cold Lake, during Exercise Maple Flag last year.

Photo: WO Serge Peters D Air PA

of training for international participants. The exercise now includes the participation of the CC-130 Hercules transport aircraft, CP-140 Aurora long-range patrol aircraft, used for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and CH-146 Griffon tactical helicopters, as well as the insertion of land forces into the Maple Flag scenarios.


“These are new and exciting changes...increased involvement of ground components of the CF and other countries. Notwithstanding, Maple Flag is dedicated to providing unsurpassed facilities to foster the ability to train an Air Expeditionary Force,” said Captain Carl “Sleepy” Cottrell, Maple Flag Exercise Director.

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In addition to the invaluable training opportunities this exercise provides junior aircrews, Maple Flag also demonstrates Canada's Air Force capabilities in an integrated international environment and reinforces the importance of interoperability between like-minded Air Forces.

The involvement of almost 20 international partners and more than a dozen observing nations, involving thousands of personnel and hundreds of aircraft training in large force coalition operations, is a testament to the importance and usefulness of Exercise Maple Flag. 

Scheduled Friendly Forces “Blue Air” for Ex Maple Flag 40

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| - Belgian Air Force | - Royal Netherlands Air Force |
| - French Air Force | - Royal Netherlands Army |
| - German Air Force | - Royal New Zealand Air Force |
| - NATO AEWFC (Airborne Early Warning Force and Control) | - Republic of Singapore Air Force |
| - Royal Air Force | - United States Forces |
| | - Canadian Forces |

International Observers of Ex Maple Flag 40

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| - Brazilian Air Force | - Republic of Korea Air Force |
| - Egyptian Air Force | - Royal Army |
| - Greek Air Force | - Spanish Air Force |
| - Italian Air Force | |

Background

- Exercise Maple Flag is modeled after the United States Air Force Red Flag Exercise, conducted at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.
- Both exercises were developed in response to findings that 90 per cent of aircraft losses take place during a pilot's first 10 combat missions. Aircrew who survive these critical first 10 missions are more likely to survive the remainder of their combat tour. The exercises are designed to enhance survivability and improve performance of junior aircrew by providing them with their first 10 air combat missions in a structured, academic setting.
- Exercise Maple Flag was first conducted at “Red Flag North” in 1978, one year after Canada first participated in Red Flag. It was conducted twice a year until 1987, when it evolved into an annual exercise hosted by Canada's Air Force.

“...Maple Flag is dedicated to providing unsurpassed facilities to foster the ability to train an Air Expeditionary Force.”

Air Force Operations Abroad

More than 2,600 Canadian soldiers, sailors and Air Force personnel are deployed overseas on operational missions. On any given day, about 8,000 Canadian Forces members – one third of our deployable force – are preparing for, engaged in or returning from an overseas mission in support of national security objectives.

The majority of Air Force personnel deployed abroad are serving in support of the CF mission in Afghanistan. As of February 2007, more than 500 Air Force personnel were deployed on operations. For a full list of current Air Force operations, including descriptions and the number of Air Force personnel deployed, visit: http://www.airforce.forces.gc.ca/abroaddocs/abroad_5_e.asp

Since 1947, the CF has completed 72 international operations – not including current operations or any domestic ones here at home in Canada. 



Photo: Sgt Craig Flander, Rotation 3 Image Tech

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada and Commander In Chief of the Canadian Forces, stops to chat with Sgt Shelley Gero, a Medical Technician from 14 Wing Greenwood during her inspection of the Honour Guard on her arrival at Camp Mirage. The Governor General made a surprise three day visit to Canadian troops in Camp Mirage and Afghanistan in March, 2007.



Active in Rebuilding Efforts, Sharing in Inspiration, Co-operation and Hope

Although many may not be aware, Canadian Air Force members are active on the front lines of reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, and contribute to the success of the mission in many ways.

As part of the Canadian Strategic Advisory Team – Afghanistan (SAT-A) and the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (KPRT), Air Force personnel are working with members of the Army, the RCMP, CIDA, DFAIT, the Afghanistan national and provincial governments every day, to help rebuild a country that has survived, and is looking ahead, after three decades of war.

Emerging from the experiences of several are similar themes: a shared feeling of hope, an admiration for the Afghan people and regret that too few of the good news stories that happen each day are filtered back home to Canadians by the media.

Canadian Strategic Advisory Team – Afghanistan (SAT-A)

Since 2005, the SAT-A, which is comprised of Canadian Forces (CF) and civilian members, defence scientists and CIDA employees, has worked on a bilateral basis with the Government of Afghanistan. It was established under the direction of General Rick Hillier, Chief of the Defence Staff, at the request of Afghan President Hamid Karzai to provide strategic planning and capacity building expertise.

From an initial foothold in two ministerial portfolios, the SAT-A has expanded the scope of its operations and its 16 members are now embedded directly within seven government ministries, operating out of Kabul. They are tied into the private office of the president, acting as his chief advisors, in areas such as policy development. They work at the national and provincial level, with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, as well as the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, among others.

“We are here to ensure capacity building at the highest levels of government,” says Colonel Don Dixon, an Air Force officer who currently heads the team.

Col Dixon personally selected every member of his team, whose participation is all voluntary, from among as many as 30 candidates per position. “I select the people that I know would declare a sense of ownership, with a true sense of belief and appreciation of the society, its people and its leaders,” he says.

Major Chris Burt, an Aurora navigator originally from 14 Wing, Greenwood, N.S., began working with the team in early 2007. While working part-time on his MBA, he assists with strategic planning for the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, also known as the Afghan Compact, a document that sets benchmarks for the country’s progress over the next five years.



Col Don Dixon, left, head of the Canadian Strategic Advisory Team – Afghanistan (SAT-A), attends a school opening in Sar e Pol Province, Afghanistan, with the Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Mohammed Ehsan Zia.

Photo: Afghan MRRD

He was previously posted with the Directorate of Force Planning and Program Coordination at National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ). “One of the opportunities the Air Force has given me is to allow me to use the skill sets at NDHQ at the strategic level, and now over here. The most rewarding aspect is that the skill sets and the tool box I have learned throughout the course of my military experience is applicable in a wide variety of domains,” he says.

Air Force Major Mark Diamond, an aerospace engineer, who has a background in Air Transport, including 10 years flying the on the CC-130 Hercules, is an advisor to the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation. Working at the senior management level, he advises on process management and general aviation management issues. He works alongside members of the United States Federal Aviation Administration and the International Civil Aviation Organization, whose experts are developing aviation training systems and infrastructure for the country.

Major Diamond’s work takes him throughout Afghanistan, where he visits and inspects the country’s airports; many abandoned, neglected and currently unusable. “Over the last 30 years, there was simply no money put into this infrastructure” he says. “Only now within the country, is air traffic just starting to grow.”

“There are all kinds of rehabilitation projects for different airports throughout Afghanistan. We are developing Statements of Work, and rehabilitating a lot of these airports, many of which were destroyed during the past three decades of war,” he says. Most rewarding for him, he adds, is actually seeing and helping to move progress forward.

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As team members move throughout Afghanistan's 34 provinces, traveling with Ministerial staff, they demonstrate to the public that we recognize that this country is very safe and secure, that there is in fact a high level of freedom of movement, contrary to popular belief, according to Col Dixon. "Regrettably, Canadian media tend to focus on the four provinces with the most difficulty, but there is in fact a tremendous amount of success and prosperity in the country," he said.

"There are too many pictures of downtown Kandahar and Kabul, where indeed tragedies do occur," he said. "But there are also many untold stories of progress and development of which the SAT-A is an integral part. Its members, selected from all services of the CF, without exception, are on the leading edge of all the significant action happening here...we have looked way beyond what we thought possible, and I pinch myself every day."

Provincial Reconstruction Team – Kandahar

There are 24 Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) throughout Afghanistan. They help the democratically elected government of Afghanistan increase its ability to govern, rebuild the nation and provide services to its citizens.

The Canadian PRT, which is based in Kandahar City, consists of CF members, a civilian police contingent led by the RCMP, representatives from DFAIT, CIDA and Correctional Services Canada. The team promotes good governance, assists the Government of Afghanistan in extending its authority in the province of Kandahar, and facilitates the development of a stable, secure and self-sustaining environment for the people of Afghanistan.



Photo: WO Sean Chase

Air Force personnel serving with the Provincial Reconstruction Team earlier this year at Camp Nathan Smith, in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

From left to right: MWO Gilles Caouette, MWO Boyce Parrill, WO Ken Purcell, WO Stormy Knight, MWO Al Mandigo, Capt Rick Leighton, WO Crystal Krammer, WO Sylvain Bouchard, Maj Tammy Tremblay, Sgt Eric Dagenais, Cpl Justin Jameison, Capt Dave Muralt and MCpl John Proulx at Camp Nathan Smith.



Photo: Capt Dave Muralt

Air Force Maj Tammy Tremblay shows off her Canadian Flag and International Security Assistance Force patches to children who attended mine and unexploded ordnance awareness training given by the Provincial Reconstruction Team in February 2007.

"You find Air Force blue sprinkled all the way through," serving as cooks, truck drivers, military police, medics, and engineers, says Capt Dave Muralt. "For example, reconstruction efforts need to be managed by professional engineers. The PRT engineering specialist team assists on building projects such as police stations, checkpoints and roads, and a lot of the construction engineering expertise in the CF resides in the Air Force engineers," he says.

Deputy Judge Advocate Major Tammy Tremblay from the Air Force's 19 Wing based in Comox, B.C., recently returned from a tour with the PRT. She acted as the team's legal advisor, and in addition to her regular duties, she also focused on reform of the Justice Sector.

Maj Tremblay helped develop a pilot project for professional development of judges and prosecutors, intended so they can better fulfill their functions in the justice system. Strengthening the rule of law in Kandahar is crucial to Canada's efforts to extend the authority of the Government of Afghanistan, she notes. The PRT's goal is build capacity, as opposed to doing the work for them, in all the areas in which they are involved.

"We are making a difference in Afghanistan...I am so proud that I got an opportunity to be a part of this," notes Major Tremblay.



“We are here to ensure capacity building at the highest levels of government.”



Canada's Air Force – Quick Facts:

DOMESTICALLY:

- **Aerospace Responsibility:** Canada has the second largest territory in the world, bounded by a three-ocean coastline that is the world's longest. Our aerospace responsibility encompasses this vast expanse of land and extends well out over the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans.
- **Locations:** We operate from 13 Wings based across the country, from Gander, NF. to Comox, B.C. We also deploy to Forward Operating Locations in the North and Deployed Operating Bases across the country.
- **Search and Rescue:** 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, search and rescue teams are ready to fly missions that save lives. In a typical year, the search and rescue system directly saves more than 1,000 lives and provides assistance to more than 20,000 individuals.
- **Aerospace Control and Strike:** As part of North America Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD), CF-18 fighter aircraft are continuously ready to "scramble" to intercept threats to the security of Canadians. Command is shared between Canada and the United States of America. The Canadian NORAD Region (CANR) headquarters is located in Winnipeg, Man. It covers the entirety of Canadian territory, coastline and aerospace.
- **Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Control:** Working with the Navy, the Army and other government departments, we conduct maritime and northern patrols, monitor the environment, support counter-drug operations, and combat illegal immigration and illegal fishing activities. We use Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and a variety of crewed aircraft to perform intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions in support of Canadian Forces operations.
- **Air Mobility:** We deliver goods and transport people throughout the country every day. We provide VIP transport for senior government officials and other VIPs. We also support CF operations throughout Canada and abroad by providing strategic and tactical airlift.
- **Tactical Helicopters:** Helicopters operated by the Air Force are integrated into CF operations. Co-located with Army units across Canada, tactical helicopter squadrons perform a wide range of roles.
- **Crisis Response and Disaster Relief:** Canada's Air Force is ready when disaster strikes. We evacuate injured or threatened people, such as during ice storms, forest fires, and floods. During crises, we transport food, medical supplies and vital equipment to those in need.



INTERNATIONALLY:

- **Afghanistan:** The success of CF operations in Afghanistan depends on the air bridge between Canada and Afghanistan. We transport troops, materiel and supplies from Canada to Kandahar and back home. In Afghanistan, we provide tactical airlift, delivering people and supplies throughout the country. The Air Force also conducts invaluable surveillance for Army commanders, contributing to the success of the mission.
- **International partnerships:** We participate in international alliances, such as NATO, and support United Nations missions. We work closely with other like-minded nations in training and operations. Canada is home to the NATO Flying Training in Canada and a Canadian component of the NATO Airborne Early Warning Force is located in Geilenkirchen, Germany.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** The Air Force is often called upon to help countries facing national disasters, such as the tsunami in Sri Lanka and Hurricane Katrina in the United States in 2005, or during civil unrest or armed conflicts (Congo in 2002-03, Haiti in 2004, Lebanon in 2006). In these situations, the Air Force flies medical supplies, food, equipment and relief teams to assist in delivering aid to people in their hour of need.



PEOPLE

Air Force Parliamentary Program: Unforgettable Experience

The Canadian Forces Parliamentary Program (CFPP) gives MPs and Senators a rare glimpse of our people in action. Each year, the CFPP integrates members of Parliament and Senators into the Navy, Army, or Air Force for up to a week. As part of the program, MPs and Senators wear CF uniforms, shadow CF personnel, participate in training exercises, learn how equipment works, and, in some cases, deploy into theatre with their units or squadrons. Each MP and Senator has a unique experience with the CF, but all past participants agree that the CFPP is unforgettable!



Photo: Rob Merrifield

Conservative MP Rob Merrifield aboard a CF-18 Hornet flight during the Canadian Forces Parliamentary Program in 2005.

Launched in 2002, the CFPP provides parliamentarians with an opportunity to gain first-hand experience of the unique nature of Canadian military life. Their experiences permit them to participate more fully and knowledgeably in related parliamentary discussions and debates. It also enhances awareness of CF roles, responsibilities, contributions, issues and challenges.

This year, participants in the Air Force portion of the program will be exposed to two important roles the Air Force plays: how it ensures that the necessary equipment is sent to soldiers in Afghanistan and, closer to home, how the Air Force plays a fundamental role in protecting Canada and keeping its citizens safe.

The participants will climb aboard aircraft and have the opportunity to witness the great work Air Force members are doing in ensuring Canadian troops in theatre have the necessary material and equipment to carry out the mission.

They will also take part in a Cormorant helicopter search and rescue demonstration and observe a Griffon tactical helicopter exercise in support of Army operations. Exposure to the CF-18 Hornet fighter aircraft is also planned.

To accommodate individuals who did not have the chance to partake in last year's CFPP due to overwhelming demand, the Air Force organized its first-ever Parliamentary familiarization tour last September. Activities included a visit to the Canadian NORAD Headquarters in Winnipeg, Man., as well as a tour and briefings about search and rescue in Canada by 435 (Transport and Rescue)



Photo: DND

Bloc Québécois MP Serge Ménard is in a CH-146 Griffon tactical helicopter, during the parliamentary familiarization tour in September 2006.

Squadron, based at 17 Wing Winnipeg. Exposure to NATO Flying Training in Canada at 15 Wing Moose Jaw, Sask., home of the Snowbirds air demonstration team, as well as briefings on Canada's CF-18 Hornet fighter force, including a CF-18 intercept while in flight aboard a CC-150 Polaris, were among the highlights of the familiarization tour.

Last year, approximately 15 parliamentarians gained first-hand experience with Canada's Air Force through the CFPP and the parliamentary familiarization tour.

Since 2002, CFPP participants in Air Force activities have:

- Gained exposure to search and rescue, flying on search and rescue training missions and re-provisioning northern Forward Operating Locations;
- Gained first-hand experience of maritime air operations on CP-140 Aurora long-range patrol aircraft and CH-148 Sea King maritime helicopters;
- Received exposure to Canada's CF-18 fighter force and NATO Flying Training in Canada (NFTC);
- Visited Canadian NORAD Headquarters and Operations Centre in Winnipeg and received briefings on Canada's role in NORAD;
- Attended Exercise Maple Flag 39, in Cold Lake, Alta., an annual international air combat exercise attended by approximately 5,000 international military personnel.



15th Annual Honorary Colonels Conference: Focus on Air Force Operations

The 15th Annual Air Force Honorary Colonels Conference is scheduled to take place from May 30-June 1, 2007 in North Bay, Ont.

This year's location was selected to highlight the "Canada First" operations taking place in the new aboveground Canadian NORAD aerospace control complex. The new centre, which officially opened on October 12, 2006, replaced the infamous "deep underground facility" used during the Cold War.

Members of the prestigious group will get a first-hand look at Canada's significantly changed approach to aerospace control since September 11, 2001, according to Colonel (Ret'd) Dave Peart, who runs the Air Force Honorary Colonels Program.

This year's focus is based on operations, which is one of the three priorities of the Chief of the Air Staff: Operations, Transformation and Connecting with Canadians. While previous conferences have focused on the other priorities, this year's gathering will provide the Air Force Honorary Colonels with an opportunity to become familiar with the breadth and scope of Canada's Air Force operations in North America and around the world.

This means there will be lots to talk about. Canada's Air Force is actively engaged every day in operations focused on "Canada First," such as the surveillance and control of the aerospace and maritime approaches to our country and the provision of air search and rescue services to Canadians in distress. The Air




Honorary Colonels are provided with a briefing of the CH-146 Griffon tactical helicopter's intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities at 430 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, CFB Valcartier, Que, during the 2006 Honorary Colonels' Conference.

Force is also playing a significant role in the Canadian Forces operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere around the globe.

The Air Force has approximately 60 Honorary Colonels who are associated with various Air Force Wings and Squadrons.

An Honorary Colonel is virtually an officer on all issues except operations. Honorary members work to provide a much needed connection between the community and the Canadian Forces.

Each unit decides who they want as an Honorary Colonel. On the endorsement of the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Minister of National Defence approves all honorary appointments. The tenure is an unpaid position generally for a renewable three-year period.

"While many have military backgrounds, the program also includes lieutenant-governors hockey players, radio and television personalities, businessmen, doctors and lawyers," says Col (Ret'd) Peart. Their backgrounds are quite diverse but certainly their aim in this program is the same – providing the essential link between the community and the Air Force. And they do it extremely well." 

“Honorary members work to provide a much needed connection between the community and the Canadian Forces.”

More information at the Air Force website!

Be sure to visit www.airforce.gc.ca to stay up-to-date with things that are happening in the Air Force. Each weekday a new story is posted to the site, featuring what the men and women of Canada's Air Force are doing on behalf of all Canadians.





Air Force Members Recognized

Current and former members of Canada's Air Force continue to make headlines across the country for their bravery, dedication and contributions to Canada and aviation. Here is an overview of some of their achievements and public recognition.

Governor General

The Governor General awarded six meritorious service decorations to Air Force members on February 21, 2007. Recipients included:

- **Colonel Pierre Joseph St-Cyr**, for his achievements as Commander of Task Force Haiti Tactical Helicopter Detachment in 2004 during stabilization efforts in that country, which brought considerable credit to Canada.
- **Master-Corporal Jason MacKinnon** and **Sergeant David Payne**, search and rescue technicians, who rescued three adults and two children from a sailboat on the St. Lawrence River amid a violent storm in 2003.
- **Major Julia Atherley-Blight**, deputy commanding officer of Task Force Pakistan in 2005, who ensured the Disaster Assistance Relief Team (DART) was always maintained in a state of high readiness.
- **Corporal Christopher Kopp** (Ret'd), who initiated the development of a training package for a pilot course now known as the Tactical Combat Casualty Course.
- **Corporal Shaun Lindsey**, a medic who helped in the evacuation and medical treatment of five others who were wounded by an improvised explosive device explosion in Afghanistan in May, 2006, before tending to his own wounds sustained during that attack.



Photo: Rideau Hall

Corporal Shaun Lindsey

Other Air Force Members Recognized

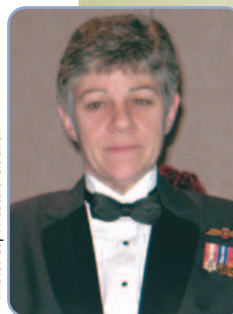
Photo: Bruce Way, D Air PA



Major Joe Goodyear

Major Joe Goodyear, a maritime air navigator, was awarded the Russian medal for Strengthening of Brotherhood in Arms for saving the life of a Russian sailor in 2001.

Photo: Capt Pascale Cloutier



Major Deanna Brasseur

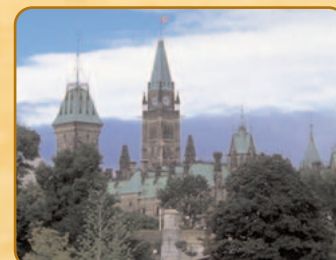
Major Deanna (Dee) Brasseur, one of the first two female CF-18 Hornet fighter pilots in the world, was inducted into the International Women's Aviation Hall of fame on February 17, 2007.



AFAC Organizes Air Force Appreciation Day: April 19, 2007

The Air Force Association of Canada (AFAC) is working to establish a new tradition on Parliament Hill: Air Force Appreciation Day. This year, the plan calls for a reception to follow statements read in the Senate and in the House of Commons, on April 19. Air Force Appreciation Day is designed to provide participants with an appreciation and understanding of the current state of Canada's Air Force.

AFAC is a national not-for-profit aerospace and community service organization composed of aviation-minded citizens established to remind Canadians of the rich aeronautical history and to support Canada's Air Force and to encourage the civil aviation component within the country. For more information, go to www.airforce.ca





Air Force Senior Promotions and Appointments

The Honourable Gordon O'Connor, Minister of National Defence, recently announced the senior Canadian Forces promotions and appointments for 2007.

"The men and women of the Canadian Forces are taking many challenges head on and with great success. Solid leadership is key," said Minister O'Connor. "There is no doubt in my mind that these General Officers, with their knowledge and skills, will rise to the challenge ahead of them".



MGen Angus Watt will be promoted to LGen and will be appointed Chief of the Air Staff at NDHQ Ottawa, this summer. He will replace LGen Steve Lucas, who is retiring.

MGen Watt has resumed his responsibilities as the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff since his return from Afghanistan, where he was the Deputy Commander (Air) for the NATO-led International Assistance Security Force.

Photo: DND



MGen Charlie Bouchard, currently Commander of 1 Canadian Air Division, will be promoted to LGen and appointed Deputy Commander NORAD.

Photo: DND

SENIOR PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS	LOCATION
MGen Angus Watt will be promoted LGen and appointed Chief of the Air Staff	NDHQ Ottawa
MGen Charlie Bouchard will be promoted LGen and appointed Deputy Commander NORAD	Peterson AFB, Colorado
Col Yvan Blondin will be promoted BGen and appointed Deputy Commander Force Generation 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters	Winnipeg
BGen Dwight Davies will be appointed Director General Plans, Strategic Joint Staff	NDHQ Ottawa
BGen Marcel Duval will be promoted MGen and appointed Commander 1 Canadian Air Division	Winnipeg
MGen Daniel Gosselin will be appointed Commander, Canadian Defence Academy	Kingston
MGen Joseph Hincke will be appointed Assistant Chief of the Air Staff	NDHQ Ottawa
MGen Dwight Langton was appointed Commander, Canadian Defence Liaison Staff	Washington
Col Tom Lawson will be promoted BGen and appointed Commandant, Royal Military College	Kingston
BGen David Martin will be appointed Chief Executive Officer Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency	NDHQ Ottawa
BGen André Viens will be appointed Deputy Commander Continental United States NORAD Region (CONR)	Tyndall AFB, Florida
Col Christine Whitecross will be appointed BGen (acting while so employed) and will remain as Commander Joint Task Force North	Yellowknife



The Chief of the Defence Staff, General Rick Hillier, recently announced the following 2007 Colonel Command and Staff appointments coming into effect this year.

The following list includes senior promotions and appointments of Air Force members.

SENIOR PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Col Neil Anderson will be appointed Chief, NATO Security Investment Program Staff Element Europe Allied Command Transformation SHAPE Belgium

LCol Sylvain Bédard will be promoted Col and appointed Deputy Commander Alaskan NORAD Region, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

Col Frederick Bigelow will be appointed Wing Commander 19 Wing, Comox

Col Alan Blair will be appointed Detachment Commander 1 Canadian Air Division Detachment RACE Atlantic, Halifax

LCol Luc Bouchard will be promoted Col and appointed Combined Forces Air Component Commander Forward, NDHQ Ottawa

Col Alain Boyer will be appointed A3 Aerospace and Force Protection Readiness 1 Canadian Air Division HQ, Winnipeg

Col Robert Champagne was appointed J6 Canada Command, NDHQ Ottawa

LCol C.J. Coates will be promoted Col and appointed Director Operations 1 Canadian Air Division HQ, Winnipeg

Col Michael Dabros will proceed on the Advanced Training List to undertake French Language Training at RMC, Kingston followed by the National Security Studies Programme at CFC, Toronto

Col Daniel Edgar will be appointed Director Air Force Training 1 Canadian Air Division HQ, Winnipeg

Col Steven Fash will be appointed Director Air Personnel Production and Development, NDHQ Ottawa

Col Denys Guerin was appointed Director Air Contracted Force Generation, NDHQ Ottawa

Col Michael Hood will be appointed Wing Commander 8 Wing, Trenton

Col Scott Howden will be appointed Wing Commander 17 Wing, Winnipeg

LCol Derek Joyce will be appointed Col (acting while so employed) and appointed Wing Commander 14 Wing, Greenwood

Col Sylvain Lescoutre will proceed on the advanced training list to undertake CDA language training, CFLS Ottawa

Col Greg Loos will be appointed International Security Assistance Force HQ- CJ6, Afghanistan

Col Marcel Major will be appointed Chief of Staff 1 Canadian Air Division HQ, Winnipeg

Col Gregory Matte will be appointed Director Aerospace Requirements, NDHQ Ottawa

Col Perry Matte will be appointed Special Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff, NDHQ Ottawa

Col John Mitchell will be appointed Canadian Defence Attache, Italy

Col Douglas Neill will be appointed Canadian Defence Attache, Air Force Advisor, CDLS London

Col Kenneth O'Brien has proceeded on the Advanced Training List to undertake studies at the Defence Services Staff College, Australia

Col Alain Parent will be appointed Wing Commander 1 Wing, Kingston

Col Robert Perron will proceed on the Advanced Training List to undertake CDA Language Training, CFLS Ottawa

LCol John Ploughman will be promoted Col and appointed Wing Commander 12 Wing, Shearwater

LCol Gordon Reid was promoted Col and will be appointed A3 Aviation, Patrol And Transport Readiness 1 Canadian Air Division HQ, Winnipeg

Col John Roeterink will be appointed Canadian Defence Attache, Netherlands

Col Neville Russell will be appointed Director Force Protection, Chief Force Development, NDHQ Ottawa

LCol Stephen Sibbald was promoted Col and appointed NORAD-USNORTHCOM J-64, Future Systems and Integration Chief, Peterson AFB, Colorado

Col Alain Stephenson will be appointed Director Western Hemisphere Policy, NDHQ Ottawa

Col Pierre St-Amand will be appointed Wing Commander 4 Wing, Cold Lake

Col William Veenhof will be appointed Detachment Commander 1 Canadian Air Division Detachment RACE Pacific, Esquimalt