

CANADA FIRST

WINTER 2011

THE **SENTINEL**

CANADA COMMAND

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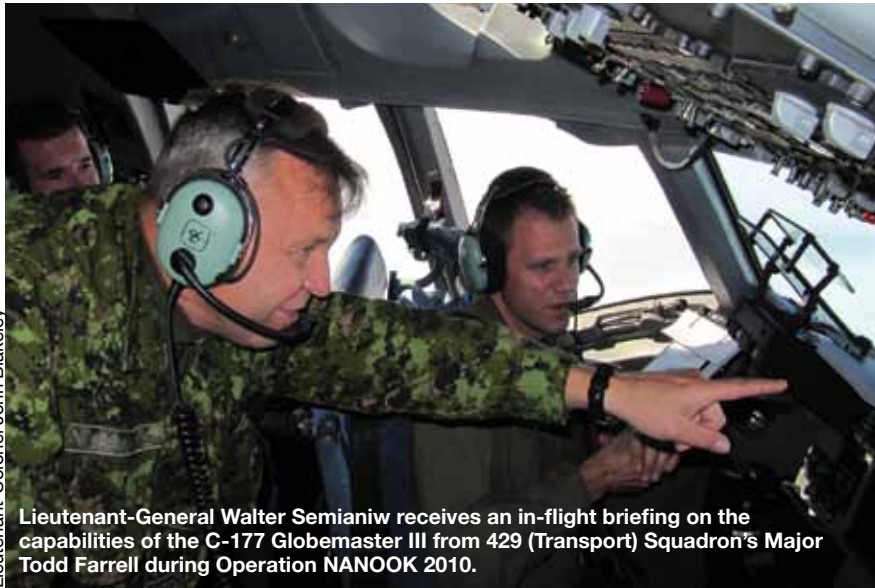


National  
Defence

Défense  
nationale



## Our commitment to Canadians and Canada's security partners



Lieutenant-Colonel John Blakeley

Lieutenant-General Walter Semianiw receives an in-flight briefing on the capabilities of the C-177 Globemaster III from 429 (Transport) Squadron's Major Todd Farrell during Operation NANOOK 2010.

civilian partners in overseas operations this past decade – and even questions about “whatever will the military be doing” after Afghanistan.

If we accept that the best way to predict the future is to understand the present, then there is one thing we can count on: the men and women of the Canadian Forces will be busy – very busy – this year watching our land, sea and air approaches, observing, patrolling, training for or being deployed on operations all over the nation and the continent and perhaps offshore.

It may come as a surprise to some people that most of the work of their Canadian Forces takes place right here in Canada. In 2010, our people, ably commanded by the six regional joint task forces based throughout the country, provided unique capabilities to support security for the Olympics and the

G-8/G-20 Summits, directed people and equipment to help Newfoundlanders besieged by Hurricane Igor, and to aid stranded motorists in southern Ontario after a record snowfall.

We worked closely, and often, with our security partners in Canada including helping to deal with illegal migrants and illicit drug trafficking, avalanche control, and fisheries patrols. Our people responded to thousands of search and rescue incidents, arguably saving hundreds of lives. And, recognizing the new security environment and its new threats to this country, Canada Command even supported counter narcotics activities in the Caribbean.

Our Forces continuously watched the air, land, sea and space for threats to Canada, conducted hundreds of sovereignty patrols and exercised regularly across the country, including major undertakings in the North.

**A**s this inaugural issue of *The Sentinel* comes off the press and is posted online, Canada Command marks being five years young.

Soon, the results of a combination of major reports including the DND strategic review, the transformation study and other various examinations of the Defence program will be made public, their findings scrutinized, their impacts studied, and decisions will be made for the way ahead. This summer, the Afghanistan mission will undergo a major transition. And later this year, the world will mark the 10th anniversary of the horrific terrorist attack against the United States.

Therefore, this year will surely be one of considerable reflection for many – about the nature of today's security challenges and the major investments made in security and defence since 9-11; the sacrifices of our military and

### THE SENTINEL

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Cover photo by Corporal Shilo Adamson, Canadian Forces Combat Camera



**Captain (Navy) Gilles Couturier, RCMP Sergeant Cameron Miller, and Sub-Lieutenant Chris Wong (left to right) attend a morning brief during exercises leading up to the Vancouver Olympics.**

Our primary focus this year will continue to be on the defence and security of Canada. Consistent with the government's integrated Northern Strategy, our operations in the North will take a higher priority for us, and you will see Canada Command demonstrate more visible leadership in shaping, guiding and directing Canadian Forces activities there. We will continue to broaden and deepen our relationship with mission partners in the United States, particularly in the fields of civil defence and maritime situational awareness. Finally, in support of the government's policy on Canada and the Americas, we will increase our efforts on issues related to Canadian national security.

We will continue to work closely with, and strive to enhance our partnerships with organizations at home including Public Safety Canada, the RCMP, the Canada Border Services Agency, Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the Canadian Coast Guard, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada and others.

The *Canada First* Defence Strategy is the government's policy foundation that confers explicit priorities and detailed investment plans for the Canadian Forces. It acknowledges that responding to crises elsewhere in the world will continue to be an important role and mission for our Canadian Forces. Still, the intent could hardly be clearer: Canada First. As the document explains, "first and foremost, the Canadian Forces must ensure the security of our citizens and help exercise Canada's sovereignty."

That is, and will continue to be, Canada Command's *raison d'être*.

This will be another important and active year in the evolution of this Command, and I hope you will take some time to learn more about our activities by perusing this new publication and our web site.

*Protegimus et Defendimus*  
"Protect and Defend"

**Walter Semianiw**  
Lieutenant-General  
Commander, Canada Command

## THE SENTINEL: What's in a name?

Welcome to the first issue of *The Sentinel*, a Canadian Forces stakeholder publication produced by Canada Command.

Why *The Sentinel*? Firstly, it fits exactly with what we do. Canada Command's mission and mandate is to stand on watch 24/7 to protect, defend and secure Canada, continental North America and its approaches, from threats to Canadians. Secondly, the name carries an enrichment of Canadian Forces (CF) heritage. It connects the CF's notable past with its future, standing on guard for Canada.

The name *Sentinel* has a long-standing reputation as the title of a respected print publication for the Canadian Forces. It originally appeared as the *Canadian Forces Sentinel* in 1965 that coincided with the integration of Canada's armed forces. At that time, it replaced the three service journals, *The Crow'snest*, *The Canadian Army Journal* and *Roundel*. In 1973, the name was revised and the publication became just *Sentinel* (*Sentinelle* in French) until 1994, when publication ceased. At that time, the six times per year magazine format was discontinued in favour of the current Canadian Forces newspaper, *The Maple Leaf*.

In publishing, a good name will not stay buried. The best example of this in mainstream publishing is probably *Life* magazine that began in 1936. *Life* ceased and resumed print publication twice, and came out in several different print forms during the 71 years before the brand was taken to the Internet in 2007.

Since 1994, the names *Crow'snest*, *The Canadian Army Journal* and *Roundel* have resurfaced and reappeared on print publications for the Canadian Navy, the Army and Canada's Air Force. Now, Canada Command brings you *The Sentinel*, refocused on the CF in Canada and North America.

In its new form, *The Sentinel* is intended to inform Canadians and Canada's security partners about Canada Command's roles, missions and activities in protecting Canadians and defending Canada and continental North America, while contributing to international peace and security. For those readers who consider this important and relevant to their daily lives, take a few minutes, turn the pages and enjoy.

*The Editor*



# PROTECTING CANADIANS

## DEFENDING CANADA AND NORTH AMERICA

Master Corporal Pierre Theriault



A Canadian Forces Coyote, a light armored reconnaissance vehicle, is positioned near the perimeter of the Toronto Pearson International Airport to provide surveillance and security during the G-8/G-20 Summits.

### CANADA COMMAND THEATRE CAMPAIGN PLAN

By Isabella Mindak

Canada Command will be five years old in February 2011 and since inception it has worked with its security partners to develop a new security architecture for the country, one based on Canada as a distinct area of operations. To guide these activities over the next several years, the Command will finalize and operationalize an integrated and comprehensive campaign plan.

Photo: Corporal Jax Kennedy



Prime Minister Stephen Harper (facing camera) lends a hand during a dive exercise conducted by Fleet Diving Unit Atlantic during Operation NANOOK 2010.

That plan will define the activities for the next half-decade required to meet the Command's vision — to deliver positive Canadian Forces strategic effects within 24 hours anywhere within its area of responsibility while conducting operations.

### **READY, RESPONSIVE, RELIABLE**

Canada Command stands on guard for Canada. It maintains a 24/7 watch over the country, ready to respond to threats and crisis in an area of operations that spans more than nine million square kilometres, 240,000 kilometres of coastline and almost 9,000 kilometres of borders. In addition to covering Canada and continental North America and the approaches, Canada Command pays close attention to other areas of the world where threats to Canada may exist, even having conducted operations off the coasts of Africa and South America.

### **CANADA FIRST DEFENCE STRATEGY**

The campaign plan is informed by a variety of government strategies, including for the North, the Americas, and the *Canada First* Defence Strategy, the latter providing a blueprint to rebuild the CF into a first-class, modern military, to “ensure the security of our citizens and help exercise Canada's sovereignty.” The Strategy details six core missions for the CF, the first five of them being a responsibility of Canada Command:

- Conduct daily domestic and continental operations, including in the Arctic and through NORAD;
- Support a major international event in Canada (such as the 2010 Olympics);
- Respond to a major terrorist attack;
- Support civilian authorities during a crisis in Canada such as a natural disaster;
- Deploy forces in response to crises elsewhere in the world for shorter periods; and
- Lead and/or conduct a major international operation for an extended period.

The campaign plan in turn will translate that policy guidance into four primary areas of focus:

### **FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS**

#### **Canada First—Safeguarding the Nation**

Our primary focus is on Canada First—Safeguarding the nation! We are committed to delivering excellence at home. We consider this a “no fail” mission and are continuously monitoring the situation throughout Canada; providing surveillance of Canadian territory, and the air and maritime approaches to Canada. In this regard, we are prepared to conduct the following tasks:

- Provision of services (expertise, equipment, personnel)

#### **Safety:**

- Humanitarian assistance
- Natural or man-made disaster consequence management
- Search and Rescue



Corporal Rick Ayer

Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Montréal* in the Labrador Sea during Operation NANOOK 10.

A CC-177 Globemaster III, from 429 Transport Squadron, 8 Wing Trenton, is guided to its parking spot after landing in Resolute Bay during Operation NANOOK 10.



Corporal Jax Kennedy

# CANADA COMMAND TIMELINES

## Evolution of a new Defence and Security Capability in North America

### 2001

The terrorist attack on the United States in September 2001 signals a new era in national and continental defence. It brings into sharp focus the need for enhanced domestic security capabilities, and much closer working relationships with and amongst security and defence departments and partners.

### 2002

The U.S. government creates the Department of Homeland Security, and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), the counterpart to Canada Command.

### 2003

The Canadian government creates the Department of Public Safety to more effectively coordinate the federal response to significant incidents affecting the public safety of Canadians.

### 2005

The Canadian Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Act and the Canadian Defence Policy Statement are issued: for the first time, Canada is identified as a distinct theatre of operations.

### 2006

The CF is reorganized. In addition to Canada Command, distinct Commands are established for expeditionary operations (CEFCOM), Special Forces operations (CANSOFCOM), and support activities (CANOSCOM).

### 2006-2009

The new Command takes shape and form. Policies and operational procedures continue to be created and refined. Canada Command coordinates support to the 2007 North America Leaders Summit, CF Search and Rescue, counter-drug operations in the Caribbean, sovereignty missions in the North, and assists civilian departments and agencies including the RCMP and Fisheries and Oceans. The U.S.-Canada Civil Assistance Plan is signed.

### 2010

Major security operations such as the CF's support to the Vancouver Olympics and the G-8/G-20 Summits in Huntsville and Toronto demonstrate the value of organizing forces under a Command focused on Canadian defence. Forces are deployed to Newfoundland and Ontario to help civil authorities.

### 2011

Development of a Theatre Campaign Plan that will enhance the CF's ability to deal with maritime, land, air, space and cyber threats to the country.

### Security:

- Aid to the Civil Power
- Assistance to law enforcement agencies (usually with unique military capabilities)

### Defence:

- Traditional defence tasks: (sovereignty/ surveillance patrols)

### THE NORTH

Our second area of focus is on the North, where in addition to sovereignty operations, the Government of Canada has committed in its Northern Strategy to promoting economic and social development, protecting our environmental heritage and improving and devolving Northern governance.

### PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES

The third focus area will be building on our long-standing relationship with our U.S. partners, including Canada Command's counterpart, United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), and the bi-national North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).

### HEMISPHERIC SECURITY

Finally, in support of the Government's policy on Canada and the Americas, we are focused not only on Mexico, but on what happens throughout the Western Hemisphere. In particular, we are focused on the security tenet of the policy as it applies to transnational criminal organizations, health pandemics and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

### CONCEPTUAL SHIFTS IN THINKING

The establishment of Canada Command in 2006 was the function of two conceptual shifts in thinking about national defence. First was acknowledgement of the scope and range of new threats to the safety, security and defence of the country and of North America. This drove the second major cultural and institutional reform, that being to consider Canada as a distinct theatre of operations, and thus to organize the people, assets, planning, and command and control functions accordingly. The government's *Canada First* Defence Strategy establishes a clear and concise policy foundation for the way ahead. The campaign plan will build on the lessons learned from the decades of experience the CF has conducting domestic and continental operations – including in the last five years under Canada Command – to defend our sovereignty and to provide enhanced security for Canadians.

## Visit our website!

Be sure to visit the Canada Command website at

[www.canadacom.forces.gc.ca](http://www.canadacom.forces.gc.ca)

Each weekday, new stories are posted to the site featuring what the men and women of the Canadian Forces are doing to protect Canadians and defend North America.

# GOOD NEIGHBOURS

## *Strong Partners*

CANADA COMMAND AND THE CANADIAN FORCES WORK WITH NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND AND U.S. NORTHERN COMMAND.

By Colonel (Ret) William Fulton

Canada and the United States have a long history as friendly neighbors and allies and over the years have established a close defence relationship. In 1940, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Mackenzie King established the Permanent Joint Board on Defence, which formalized bilateral consultation on military matters. In 1949, the two countries were founding members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

This longstanding tradition of defence cooperation is perhaps best exemplified by North American

Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) which will celebrate its 53rd anniversary on May 12th, 2011. With the creation of United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) in 2002 and Canada Command in 2006, Canada and the United States now have three commands responsible for the defence and security of North America. These three commands share a tri-command vision and strategy.

USNORTHCOM and Canada Command are national commands reporting to their respective governments while NORAD is a bi-national command reporting to both governments. The commands face a common security environment, have complementary missions, share common values and must work closely together to meet their individual and collective responsibilities for the defence and security of North America.

NORAD has mission responsibilities in the aerospace and maritime domains, while the national commands have responsibilities in the air, land, and maritime domains, including extensive responsibilities to support civil



Canada's Chief of the Defence Staff, General Walt Natynczyk (left), and United States Navy Admiral James Winnefeld, the Commander of NORAD and U.S. Northern Command, speak to the media during a media event at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa in June 2010. (Photo: Private Mathieu St-Amour)

authorities when directed. Because both the United States and Canada retain unilateral response options to air threats, there is an inherent overlap of responsibilities, authorities, and capabilities between the national commands and NORAD. This overlap requires careful coordination during planning and execution of operations. Unity of effort, situational awareness, and coordination with a variety of mission partners are important to all commands.

The Canada-United States Basic Defense Document, signed by Canada's Chief of the Defence

Staff and the US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, requires the Commanders of NORAD, USNORTHCOM, and Canada Command to establish close relationships with each other and with supporting agencies to ensure a timely and coordinated response to defence and security challenges to Canada and the United States.

As proof of the success of tri-command initiatives, one need only look at the support planned by Canada Command for security operations at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. Planning included all three military commands and execution

was bi-national in nature with the engagement of NORAD for air defence, Canada Command for general security, and USNORTHCOM for support, if required, from military capability pre-positioned in the State of Washington.

Canada Command, along with its partner commands, will continue to build on the initiatives described above to ensure ongoing improvement and to strive for excellence in the conduct of operations in support of command missions.



A Canadian Forces CF-18 Hornet fighter jet, deployed during Operation PODIUM by North American Aerospace Defense Command, takes off from Vancouver Airport. (Photo: Master Corporal Andrew Collins)

# Defending Canada's Sovereignty in the North

By Brian Berube

**T**he Mann River bivouac, set up at the top of Ellesmere Island in Canada's far North, provided a temporary refuge for Canadian Forces (CF) personnel as they exercised Arctic survival skills under the guidance of members of the 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group. Canadian Rangers, CF Reservists who are experts on living and operating in the North, are the Forces' eyes and ears in the Arctic region. Their skills, experience, and knowledge are essential to CF northern operations and to Canada's strategy of demonstrating sovereignty in the North.

Last April, more than 200 CF members took part in Operation NUNALIVUT 2010, one of three annual operations conducted by the Canadian Forces in the North. Operation NUNALIVUT was aimed at enhancing the CF's knowledge and capacity to operate in austere and challenging environments, and to demonstrate its ability to effectively respond to safety and security emergencies in the Arctic.

Photo: Corporal Shilo Adamson

General view of the Mann River bivouac erected close to Canadian Forces Station Alert in the high Arctic during Operation NUNALIVUT in April 2010.

Corporal Shilo Adamson

A Canadian Forces CC-177 Globemaster rests on the tarmac at Canadian Forces Station Alert during Operation NUNALIVUT 10.



Under the *Canada First* Defence Strategy, introduced by the federal government in 2008, the military is to play an increasingly important role in demonstrating a visible Canadian presence in the resource-rich North and will also help government partners carry out a wide variety of missions to protect and preserve this important part of our country. This has become more important as changing weather patterns have made the North more accessible to sea traffic and economic activity, while at the same time potentially sparking an increase in illegal activities and in threats to our sovereignty, safety and security.

In its 2009 document, "Canada's Northern Strategy: Our North, Our Heritage, Our Future", the federal government stressed its commitment to Arctic sovereignty: "The Government of Canada is firmly asserting its presence in the North, ensuring that we have the capability and capacity to protect and patrol the land, sea and sky of our sovereign Arctic territory," the report said. "We are putting more boots on the Arctic tundra, more ships in the icy water and a better eye-in-the-sky."

The Canadian military has long had a presence in the North, beginning with the Yukon Gold Rush in the late 19th century. In the 1930s, the Royal Canadian Air Force began photo-mapping the North and expanded this aerial surveillance considerably in the 1940s as the Cold War commenced. In the late 1950s, Canadian Forces Station Alert was established on the northern tip of Ellesmere Island to collect signals intelligence; for 50 years it has

been the most northern permanently inhabited settlement in the world. In 1970, Canada established a permanent military command in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

Today, Yellowknife is home to Joint Task Force North (JTFN), which oversees all CF operations in the North. JTFN's area of responsibility encompasses approximately four million square kilometres, or 40 per cent of Canada's land mass and 75 per cent of its coastal regions. The Commander of JTFN reports to the Commander of Canada Command. JTFN's role is to exercise Canadian sovereignty north of the 60th parallel, to coordinate and support CF activities in the North, and to provide liaison with the territorial governments and peoples of the Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut.

The CF conducts three major sovereignty operations each year in the North. In past years, Operation NUNALIVUT and Operation NANOOK took place in the eastern and high Arctic and Operation NUNAKPUT in the western Arctic.

In 2010, NANOOK focused on sovereignty patrols near Resolute Bay, Nunavut, and featured participation by the Canadian Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Danish Navy. In addition to the military exercises, NANOOK featured a whole-of-government exercise that focused on fuel spill containment and remediation of a simulated leak in the Resolute Bay area. In 2011, Operation NANOOK will focus on a whole-of-government response to major disasters in the North.



Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Montréal* passes an iceberg in Strathcona Sound near Nanisivik, Nunavut, during Operation NANOOK 10.



Corporal Rick Ayer

Canadian Rangers viewing the Arctic coastline near the BAR-1 North Warning System Radar site in the western Yukon during Operation NUNAKPUT 09.



Sergeant Kevin Stevens

# CANADA COMMAND: The Command Team



**C**anada Command is the organization charged with focusing the Canadian Forces on the defence and protection of Canada as its first priority. These are the officers responsible for directing Canadian Navy, Army and Air Force personnel, resources, readiness levels and activities while military personnel are on operations in Canada, the continent or its approaches.

## CANADA COMMAND

### Commander

#### Lieutenant-General Walter Semianiw

An infantry officer from the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (the PPCLI), his career is marked and defined by several assignments in operations, and in key staff jobs responsible for policies supporting the men and women of the military. Served at brigade, area, division and task force levels in a variety of staff and command appointments at home and abroad, including in Afghanistan. Was head of Army operations at National Defence HQ, served with the Privy Council Office of Canada, and for several years was deputy, then Commander of the Military Personnel Command. Joined the CF in 1982.



### Deputy Commander

#### Brigadier-General Gerry Champagne

An infantry officer from the Royal 22e Régiment (Van Doos). Extensive operational experience including two tours in the former Yugoslavia, at National Defence HQ as Director of Current Operations and Director General of Operations, and with ISAF in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Commanded the Infantry School and the Area Support Group in Montreal. Holds Master's degree in Defence Management and Policy Studies. Joined the CF in 1977.



### Chief of Staff

#### Brigadier-General John Collin

An armour officer, and the last Canadian tank squadron commander to serve in Canadian Forces Europe. Has served in Bosnia with the UN and in Afghanistan with NATO, as Chief of Staff for Land Forces in Atlantic Canada, and as an advisor to the CDS for the Defence Policy Review and homeland security issues. He also commanded Joint Task Force Central, the organization responsible for military assistance to the G-8 and G-20 Summits in 2010. Joined the CF in 1978.



# Regional Joint Task Force Commanders

## ATLANTIC

### Rear-Admiral David Gardam

Has served on six ships, including command of HMC Ships *Halifax*, *Charlottetown*, *Athabaskan*, and the CF Maritime Warfare Centre. Held a number of senior appointments ashore and is a graduate of the Command and Staff College Course and the National Security Studies Program. Joined the CF in 1975.



## EAST

### Brigadier-General Alain Tremblay

An infantry officer with extensive experience in the Royal 22e Régiment (Van Doos). Was commander of Canadian joint task force in Afghanistan, and a senior policy advisor at the Privy Council Office. Served as a Director General for the development of Army capabilities. Joined CF in 1977.



## CENTRAL

### Brigadier-General Fred Lewis

An engineer with UN service on the Golan Heights and Southern Lebanon, the former Yugoslavia, and Cambodia, and with NATO as a Canadian deputy commander in Afghanistan. Has experience in nuclear, biological and chemical defence operations. Has served as an instructor at American and Canadian staff colleges, including commanding the Army's Command and Staff College. Joined CF in 1976.



## WEST

### Brigadier-General Paul Wynnyk

An engineer with UN service in Cambodia and the Congo, and recently returned from a tour overseas assisting the Afghan army and the Ministry of Defense. Has held several command positions, including of 1 Combat Engineer Regiment in Edmonton. Was Senior Defence Advisor in the Privy Council Office. Is a registered professional engineer in Alberta, and holds Master's degrees in war studies and business administration. Joined the CF in 1980.



## PACIFIC

### Rear-Admiral Nigel Greenwood

Has served on eight Canadian ships throughout his career and held a variety of commands, including that of HMCS *Ottawa*, the base in Halifax, and of the Canadian fleet in the Pacific. Held a variety of positions ashore, including an exchange with the U.S. Navy. Graduated from Royal Roads Military College in 1979, holds Master's degree in International Relations, and is a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Navigation. Joined the CF in 1975.



## NORTH

### Brigadier-General Guy Hamel

A helicopter pilot with extensive experience on the Twin Huey helicopter. Held a variety of staff and command positions, including Director of Air Strategic Plans at National Defence HQ. Served with the UN and former Yugoslavia, and with NATO in Stavanger, Norway. Is a graduate of the U.S. Air War College and has a Master's degree in War Studies. Joined the CF in 1979.



## JOINT FORCE AIR COMPONENT COMMANDER

### Major-General Yvan Blondin

A CF-18 pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours with fighter squadrons in North America and Europe. Commanded a tactical fighter squadron and 3 Wing Bagotville, as well as Canada's air forces in Aviano, Italy supporting NATO forces in the former Yugoslavia. Served in Afghanistan, and at NORAD Headquarters in Colorado Springs. Obtained an MBA from the University of Phoenix. Joined the CF in 1980.



# Helping Canadians

## AT THE WORST OF TIMES

**I**n September 2010, Hurricane Igor caused widespread damage across parts of eastern Newfoundland, as heavy rains flooded communities, washed out roads and stranded residents in their homes.

At the request of provincial emergency management authorities, Canada Command's Joint Task Force Atlantic joined the humanitarian relief mission as Operation LAMA. Canadian Forces maritime, land and air personnel and equipment delivered much needed assistance.

Operation LAMA was but one of several Canadian Forces domestic operations led by Canada Command and its regional joint task forces during 2010.

Photo: Master Corporal Angela Abbey





With team work, engineers from 4 Engineer Support Regiment, in Gagetown, New Brunswick, and 56 Engineer Squadron, from St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, assemble a medium girder bridge to reconnect the small community of Trouty, Nfld., when the main bridge was destroyed in Hurricane Igor.

## DOMESTIC OPERATIONS

### Safety, security and assistance at home

Last year was the busiest yet for Canada Command since its stand-up in 2006. Operations ranged from the massive security challenges of the Vancouver Winter Olympics to the routine rescue of stranded motorists in southern Ontario. Some operations in highlight:

#### PODIUM

The Canadian Forces deployed about 4,500 members on Operation PODIUM to help the RCMP ensure the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games remained a safe and enjoyable event. The scope and scale of the Vancouver 2010 Games made this one of the largest domestic security operations in Canadian history.

#### NUNALIVUT

Operation NUNALIVUT is one of the Canadian Forces' three annual Northern sovereignty operations. In 2010 the operation was held near northern Ellesmere Island, close to Canadian Forces Station Alert. Op NUNALIVUT 10 saw some 200 Canadian Forces members from maritime, land and air environments operating in the challenging conditions of the North.

#### CADENCE

The RCMP asked the Canadian Forces to provide unique military resources and capabilities to facilitate the Integrated Security Unit's ability to provide safety and security in both Huntsville, Ontario and Toronto leading up to and during the G-8 and G-20 Summits.

#### NANOOK

Conducted by Joint Task Force (North) (JTFN), Operation NANOOK 10 was a combined, joint, integrated event in Resolute Bay, Nunavut, that featured sovereignty and presence patrols, composite dive team exercises, Arctic survival training, and included the participation of ships, aircraft, and personnel from the Canadian Rangers, Army, Navy, Air, and Special Forces.

#### CANTON

On December 14, 2010, the Canadian Forces was called by Emergency Management Ontario to respond to a fierce storm that started the day before and dumped approximately 50 centimetres of snow near Sarnia in southern Ontario, closing roads and stranding motorists in their vehicles. The Canadian Forces responded through the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Trenton, Ontario, and provided air and ground support for the rescue operation.

# A model of collaboration



HMCS *Whitehorse* (left) assists in escorting Motor Vessel (MV) *Sun Sea* to a Canadian port on Vancouver Island on August 11, 2010.

Master Corporal Angela Abbey

By Sub-Lieutenant Aaron Hawkins, Esquimalt Public Affairs

**T**he week of August 16, 2010, began very differently at CFB Esquimalt than the previous week ended. Cool seasonal breezes had broken a rare heat wave. The collection of national media journalists and federal representatives from Public Safety Canada, Canada Border Services Agency and the RCMP that converged on the base for the arrival of a migrant vessel had, like the ship's occupants, all moved on. A blue-and-red cargo vessel at D Jetty was the only enduring evidence of the recent flurry of activity.

Canadian Forces participation in the integrated inter-agency mission, dubbed Operation POSEIDON, was coordinated by Canada Command, the organization responsible for the oversight of domestic operations and military support to Canadian civil and law enforcement authorities. Elements of Joint Task Force Pacific were assigned to support the operation with HMCS *Winnipeg* and her crew at the front of the action. The task force was reinforced by CP-140 *Aurora* Maritime Patrol Aircraft flights from 19 Wing Comox and HMCS *Whitehorse*, already at sea on search-and-rescue patrol.

*Winnipeg's* Executive Officer Lieutenant-Commander Clive Butler led a prize crew aboard comprised of specialists in seamanship, navigation and engineering, plus a

medical team. Eleven medical personnel including medical officers, nursing officers, medical technicians and a preventive medicine specialist were assigned the tasks of conducting initial medical assessments and determining if any significant health issues existed onboard.

The vessel, while cramped, was in better shape than expected and was relatively clean and organized. The migrants were calm, compliant and, generally, in good spirits. *Winnipeg* provided water, rice and peas in abundance for the 492 migrants.

*Winnipeg's* team oversaw seamanship, navigation and contact avoidance duties until MV *Sun Sea* was transferred to tug and pilot control at the entrance to Esquimalt Harbour in the early hours of August 13.

In total, the MV *Sun Sea* arrived with 380 men, 63 women and 49 children onboard. Within days, the 492 migrants had been relocated to appropriate accommodations and detention facilities on the Lower Mainland and had completed initial examination portions of the review process.

The once-crowded hold of the *Sun Sea* now sat empty, a quiet reminder of the previous week's buzz of activity. Its only role now was to silently rise and fall with the harbour tides as the base resumed its usual cadence of activity.

## DOMESTIC OPERATIONS: SEARCH AND RESCUE

# Ready to assist on land and at sea

Corporal Darcy Lefebvre



Master Corporal Manuel Seguin and Sergeant George Olynyk from 442 Squadron in Comox, B.C., participate in a rescue event during Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) 10.

By Master Warrant Officer Gavin Lee

In the field of Search and Rescue (SAR), it is the overall “effect” that matters. In Canada, SAR is a coordinated response bringing all possible assets to bear, including those of the Canadian Forces (CF) and Canadian Coast Guard (CCG), to save the lives of people lost or injured, often in remote and dangerous locations. SAR operations rely on an integrated approach that combines air and marine resources from across a spectrum of government and volunteer organizations. However, while the CF, with the CCG, coordinates the overall response, it is not necessarily always the primary responder to a SAR event.

Nevertheless, the CF and the CCG, working within the national search and rescue program, are committed to providing the quickest and best response to a SAR event using all available assets.

SAR in Canada is a demanding and daunting task, with a combined area of responsibility of more than 15,500,000 square kilometres, as well as the challenges of terrain and climate. The aeronautical SAR area extends from the U.S. border to the North Pole, and from approximately 600 nautical miles (1,111 km) west of Vancouver Island in the Pacific Ocean to 900 nautical miles (1,667 km) east of Newfoundland in the Atlantic. The maritime SAR mandate includes the oceanic waters within this area, in addition to the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes. Ground and other marine SAR are generally provincial or territorial responsibilities.

Working with other Canadian SAR partners, the CF plays a vital role in delivering a world-class SAR service that answers the call of those in need. Annually, the CF coordinates approximately 9,000 incidents, tasking military aircraft or ships in about 1,100 cases. Historically, these actions have saved hundreds of lives and provided relief of pain and suffering to countless others.

The majority of the 1,100 annual SAR taskings of military resources involve aeronautical response. The primary rotary aircraft used to respond to SARs are the Canadian Forces CH-149 Cormorant and CH-146 Griffon helicopters. These aircraft offer swift response times, powerful hover and hoist capabilities, and dedicated SAR personnel. SAR fixed-wing aircraft such as the CC-115 Buffalo and CC-130 Hercules provide search capabilities, and all carry specialized equipment such as air-droppable survival kits, including life rafts and shelters. All other CF and Government of Canada aircraft may be tasked for SAR response on an availability basis.

The Canadian Navy maintains one ready-duty ship at eight hours standby on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts that are available for SAR taskings. Other naval ships, particularly those at sea and in the vicinity of a marine incident, can be tasked by the SRR commander as necessary. The CCG has 48 primary SAR vessels deployed on the coasts and Great Lakes as well as 57 other multi-tasked vessels available for SAR as a secondary task.

The Commander of Canada Command has overall responsibility for the “effective operation of the federal coordinated maritime and aeronautical search and rescue system” in Canada. The country is divided into three Search and Rescue Regions (SRRs), which are named after the geographic location of their respective Joint Rescue Coordination Centres (JRCCs).

JRCC Victoria coordinates all SAR operations in British Columbia, Yukon and the west coast. The Trenton JRCC covers the central part of the country, including the Great Lakes. The Halifax JRCC handles the region comprising all of the Atlantic provinces, the eastern half of the province of Québec, the southern half of Baffin Island and an area of the western North Atlantic.



Sergeant Frank Hudec

A Canadian Forces CH-146 Griffon helicopter from 424 Search and Rescue (SAR) Squadron, Trenton, Ont., lands after a SAR mission during Exercise SPARTAN RINGS near Whistler, B.C.

## Public Safety Canada

*Each issue, The Sentinel will feature an overview of one (or more) of the partner organizations with which Canada Command works to help provide for the defence, security and safety of Canadians.*

**P**ublic Safety Canada has the mandate to provide strategic-level coordination in response to events affecting the national interest such as natural disasters, industrial accidents, and terrorism.

Public Safety Canada was created in 2003 to give one department responsibility for the broad task of ensuring public safety. Five distinct organizations (Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Correctional Service of Canada, National Parole Board, RCMP, and the Canada Border Services Agency) – and three arms-length review bodies report to the Minister. The department also absorbed the Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness (OCIEPEP) from the Department of National Defence.

Recently, the natural synergy between the mandates of Public Safety and the Canadian Forces was recognized with the appointment of the commander of Canada Command as a co-chair of the Assistant Deputy Minister's (ADM's) Emergency Management Committee. This is the key body – with 30 departments and agencies being represented – that coordinates and integrates the exchange of information and advice at the senior levels of the federal government before, during and after an emergency. Important elements of their mandate include developing awareness of relevant emergency management issues, establishing priorities amongst various initiatives, and providing direction to departmental officials.

“This small change in our organizational structure has plenty of meaning and operational effect,” said Daniel Lavoie, Associate ADM of Emergency Management and National Security at Public Safety and the other co-chair of the Emergency Management Committee. “Increasing the profile of the Department of National Defence amongst our group is real recognition of the important role that the CF plays in the defence and security of our country. One of our first tasks under this new arrangement is to review and update the Federal Emergency Response Plan, which is the key policy framework outlining how federal, provincial, territorial governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector should harmonize their emergency response efforts.”

Lieutenant-General Walter Semianiw, in charge of Canada Command, explained that, “this is but one example of how we are really working together with our partners to provide for a more secure nation. This makes great sense at the federal level – the military has a presence in hundreds of communities nation-wide including in the North – and can bring some unique assets and capabilities to a problem.”



**RCMP Inspector Garth Patterson works in the Unified Command Centre, located at the Integrated Security Unit Headquarters in Barrie, Ontario, during the 2010 Toronto G-20 Summit.**

Dealing with emergencies is a shared responsibility in Canada. First responders from the provinces and municipalities are most likely to be the first on the scene. In situations where additional resources are needed, these levels of government can call upon the federal government for assistance—this assistance could take a number of forms including resources from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Health Canada or Environment Canada. Public Safety Regional Offices in all provinces and in the territories play the lead role in coordinating federal emergency management activities, including acting as the point of contact for provincial requests for assistance. This is all part of a coordinated approach to ensure that every effort is made to keep Canadians safe.

In the event of a threat, situational awareness would be provided by the Government Operations Centre, Canada's strategic-level operations centre. It is the hub of a network of similar facilities run by a variety of federal departments and agencies including the RCMP, Health Canada, Foreign Affairs, CSIS and National Defence. The Government of Canada also maintains contact with the provinces and territories as well as international partners such as the United States and NATO. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, gathering information from other operations centres and a wide variety of sources, both open and classified from around the world, on developing, imminent or actual natural disasters or man-made activities that pose a threat to the country.