

CF Operational Commands take charge of domestic, special and international operations

By Kristina Davis

"It's a good day," said a beaming Chief of the Defence Staff, General Rick Hillier.

That day—the last day of January—marked the end of an era for the CF and the first concrete steps towards transformation with the stand-up of four new commands.

Marked by reflection and recognition, the ceremony at the Ottawa Congress Centre signalled the way forward with the transfer of CF operations from the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (DCDS) to Canada Command (Canada COM), Canadian Expeditionary Force Command (CEFCOM), Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM) and Canadian Operational Support Command (CANOSCOM). They assumed responsibility for CF operations February 1.

The CDS said this new command structure realized two top priorities: domestic security and overseas missions.

"We think we've recognized the number one priority for all Canadians is that we've got to be able to do better with a greater focus ...to protect Canadians here at home in Canada where they live and work," said Gen Hillier.

Plus, he added, the CF is committed to ensuring the success of overseas operations. "Equally, as we are engaged in missions around the world we're going to make sure that we can set conditions in which we ask our troops—air, land and sea—to execute those missions, that we can set the context for them to be successful ...and reduce [the] risk ...to the lowest level possible."

Speaking to reporters, Vice-Admiral Jean-Yves Forcier, dubbed Canada COM the cornerstone of CF transformation. Responsible for domestic operations, he said the command would work hard to serve Canada's "unique domestic defence interests". "We are really the country's one stop shop for emergency assistance ...one that reflects the new security realities facing Canada and places a greater emphasis on the defence of Canada and North America."

Major-General Michel Gauthier said CEFCOM would be focussed on two objectives: the effective command of deployed task forces and ensuring their success. The CF's major commitment in Afghanistan marks CEFCOM's first major challenge.



MCPL/CPLC JILL COOPER

Gen Rick Hillier, CDS, presided over the Canadian Forces Transformation Ceremony at the Congress Centre in Ottawa on January 31. From left to right: Gen Rick Hillier, CDS; Gen Marc Dumais DCDS; VADM Jean-Yves Forcier, commander, Canada Command; MGen Michel Gauthier, commander, Canadian Expeditionary Force Command; BGen Daniel Benjamin, commander, Canadian Operational Support Command; and Col David Barr, commander, Canadian Special Operations Forces Command.

Le Gén Rick Hillier, CEMD, a présidé la cérémonie de transformation des FC au Centre des congrès d'Ottawa le 31 janvier. De gauche à droite, le Gén Rick Hillier; le Lgén Marc Dumais, SCEMD; le Vam Jean-Yves Forcier, commandant du Commandement Canada; le Mgén Michel Gauthier, commandant du Commandement de la Force expéditionnaire du Canada; le Bgén Daniel Benjamin, commandant du Commandement du soutien opérationnel du Canada et le Col David Barr, commandant du Commandement des Forces d'opérations spéciales du Canada.

And of the next rotation heading to Operation ARCHER, he described the threat as "well understood" and said the troops are not only well equipped, but also well prepared. "There is not a force that has deployed on Canadian Forces operations overseas in recent years that has been better prepared, that's better equipped or that's better led than those that are going into the theatre over the next few weeks," said MGen Gauthier.

CANOSCOM, headed by Brigadier-General Daniel Benjamin, is what he terms "unique". "We are special and we are unique in that we unite under the same roof all of the operational support functions be they engineering, logistics, health care services, equipment maintenance, communication and information services, military police and personnel support," he explained.

Ultimately, he said, CANOSCOM is the "lifeline" for supplies, facilities and support. That lifeline, he said, can include Regular Force members, Reservists, Public Servants and contractors.

"Making sure that all those people work together is going to be a key aim [in]

making sure that we can respond to all of the demands in the different theatres of operation."

Colonel Dave Barr, the former deputy commanding officer of JTF 2, returned to his roots taking command of CANSOFCOM. Special forces operations, including the Joint Nuclear Biological Chemical Defence Company at CFB/8 Wing Trenton, 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron, the Special Operations Regiment at CFB Petawawa and JTF 2, will now come into one integrated command.

"What we're growing in CANSOFCOM is not just an expansion of JTF 2. The other units will be enhanced and the new unit, the Canadian Special Operations Regiment, has different standards than JTF 2," explained Col Barr.

He anticipates that by mid-April, the first 200 troops will report to CFB Petawawa for a 16-week training package. And if all goes well, with more training in the fall, the very first members of the Canadian Special Operations Regiment will be ready by the end of the year. In all, the unit could grow to about 750 members.



The Honourable Gordon O'Connor Minister of National Defence

Gordon O'Connor was first elected to the House of Commons in 2004 and re-elected in 2006. Until recently, he served as the Conservative Defence critic and was a member of the Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs.

Mr. O'Connor began his career in the military with the Armour Branch and rose to the rank of Brigadier General. After retiring from the military, he worked in the private sector, becoming vice-president of both a large facility management firm and a vehicle testing centre. Prior to his election, Mr. O'Connor was a senior associate at Hill & Knowlton Canada.

Mr. O'Connor is married and is the father of two children.

L'honorable Gordon O'Connor Ministre de la Défense nationale

Gordon O'Connor a été élu à la Chambre des communes pour la première fois en 2004, et a été réélu en 2006. Jusqu'à tout récemment, il était porte-parole du Parti conservateur pour la Défense et il faisait partie du Comité permanent de la défense nationale et des anciens combattants.

M. O'Connor a commencé sa carrière militaire en s'enrôlant dans l'Arme blindée et a obtenu le grade de brigadier-général. Après avoir pris sa retraite des FC, il a travaillé pour une grande entreprise de gestion des installations dont il est devenu vice-président. Il est aussi devenu vice-président des opérations d'un centre d'essais pour véhicules. Avant d'être élu, il était associé de l'entreprise Hill & Knowlton Canada.

M. O'Connor est marié et a deux enfants.



The Maple Leaf
ADM(PA)/DMSC,
101 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa ON K1A 0K2

La Feuille d'érable
SMA(AP)/DMSC,
101, promenade Colonel By, Ottawa ON K1A 0K2

FAX / TÉLÉCOPIEUR: (819) 997-0793
E-MAIL / COURRIEL: mapleleaf@dnews.ca
WEB SITE / SITE WEB: www.forces.gc.ca

ISSN 1480-4336 • NDID/IDDN A-JS-000-003/JP-001

SUBMISSIONS / SOUMISSIONS
Cheryl MacLeod (819) 997-0543
macleod.ca3@forces.gc.ca

MANAGING EDITOR / RÉDACTEUR EN CHEF
Maj Ric Jones (819) 997-0478

ENGLISH EDITOR / RÉVISEUR (ANGLAIS)
Cheryl MacLeod (819) 997-0543

FRENCH EDITOR / RÉVISEUR (FRANÇAIS)
Lyne Mathieu (819) 997-0599

GRAPHIC DESIGN / CONCEPTION GRAPHIQUE
D2K Communications

WRITER / RÉDACTION
Kristina Davis (819) 997-0741

D-NEWS NETWORK / RÉSEAU D-NOUVELLES
Guy Paquette (819) 997-1678

TRANSLATION / TRADUCTION
Translation Bureau, PWGSC/
Bureau de la traduction, TPSGC

PRINTING / IMPRESSION
Performance Printing, Smiths Falls

Submissions from all members of the Canadian Forces and civilian employees of DND are welcome; however, contributors are requested to contact Cheryl MacLeod at (819) 997-0543 in advance for submission guidelines.

Articles may be reproduced, in whole or in part, on condition that appropriate credit is given to *The Maple Leaf* and, where applicable, to the writer and/or photographer.

The Maple Leaf is the weekly national newspaper of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces, and is published under the authority of the Assistant Deputy Minister (Public Affairs). Views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily represent official opinion or policy.

Nous acceptons des articles de tous les membres des Forces canadiennes et des employés civils du MDN. Nous demandons toutefois à nos collaborateurs de communiquer d'abord avec Cheryl MacLeod, au (819) 997-0543, pour se procurer les lignes directrices.

Les articles peuvent être cités, en tout ou en partie, à condition d'en attribuer la source à *La Feuille d'érable* et de citer l'auteur du texte ou le nom du photographe, s'il y a lieu.

La Feuille d'érable est le journal hebdomadaire national de la Défense nationale et des Forces canadiennes. Il est publié avec l'autorisation du Sous-ministre adjoint (Affaires publiques). Les opinions qui y sont exprimées ne représentent pas nécessairement la position officielle ou la politique du Ministère.

PHOTO PAGE 1: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA/COUVERNEMENT DU CANADA