



(Photo by CI Wayne Emde, CSTC Vernon public affairs)

# Cadets 2012

**Every cadet corps/squadron has an album showing cadets from years past doing what cadets do best—having fun while learning.**

Since starting as one of those cadets, I have seen three evolutions of the Army Cadet Program, and now working at Directorate Cadets, I am helping to craft the future program, which is being rolled out between 2007 and 2012.

In 2012, the photos of our cadets will be much the same as today, showing cadets experiencing new things and smiling with excitement about what they have discovered. However, some of the framework around that discovery will have changed.

Officers in 2012 will be speaking a new language when they talk about the Cadet Program. To help us 'old dogs' keep up with the officers of 2012, we need to update our language.

Let's start with the big picture. The 2012 corps/squadrons will conduct more training, as they implement a five-tier training program called—

depending on the element—the Phase, Star, or Proficiency Level Program. This program will be conducted over 30 parade nights during the week (each consisting of three 30-minute periods called sessions) and 10 days, which are supported, during weekends. Although the idea of a fifth tier of programming for senior cadets is relatively new, particularly for army and sea cadets, the time allotted for training remains the same as it is today.

## PHASE/STAR/PROFICIENCY LEVEL PROGRAM

In 2012, this program will consist of two types of activities—mandatory and complementary.

### *Mandatory*

Mandatory activities will account for two-thirds of the structured material being instructed, so every cadet corps/squadron will instruct this portion of the program the same.

### *Complementary*

Complementary activities will make up the other one-third of structured material. These activities are chosen from a range of options that best suit your individual corps/squadron. For example, some army cadet corps may choose to do more drill, while others may choose winter camping. This choice will apply to training being conducted during sessions or supported days on weekends. It's sort of like a fast-food outlet where everyone gets a single hamburger with the number one combo, but you can choose between a limited range of side dishes, selecting what you like best.

### OPTIONAL

In some cases, a 2012 corps/squadron may want to do something that is outside the Phase, Star, or Proficiency Level Program. Provided this training still meets the big-picture framework of what cadets are permitted to do, and your sponsor is willing to pay the complete cost of the training, a corps/squadron can add it to their program as optional training. Some examples would be a band program or a trip to Ottawa. Going back to the fast food example, optional training would be much like the chili—you can have it with your number one combo, as long as it is something you want and someone is willing to pay for it.

So will the cadet unit of 2012 be radically different from the cadet unit of 2006? I think the best way to answer that would be to take a photo from when I was a cadet and put it next to the photos on the national website at [www.cadets.ca](http://www.cadets.ca). Some things have changed, but it still looks like cadets are having fun learning! \*

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