



Backgrounder Documentation

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THE CANADIAN CADET ORGANIZATIONS (CCO) -- NORTH OF 60°

Background

The Canadian Cadet Organizations (CCO) provides a dynamic and structured activity for Canadian youth. The aim of the CCO is to develop in youth the attributes of leadership and good citizenship; to promote physical fitness; and to foster an interest in the Sea, Land and Air elements of the Canadian Forces.

The CCO has enjoyed a long, successful tradition in the North since the inception of the first Army Cadet unit in Dawson, Yukon Territory on October 2, 1909. Cadets in the North enjoy an especially close relationship with the community as there are often few organized youth activities in the more remote areas above the 60th parallel. Today, of the approximately 56,000 cadets in 1,100 units across Canada, approximately 750 Army and Air Cadets reside in the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and the newly created Nunavut Territory. Cadets living in these three territories fall under the responsibility of the Canadian Forces Northern Area (CFNA), which has its headquarters in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Officers of the Cadet Instructors Cadre (CIC), as well as Civilian Instructors (CIs), instruct, support and guide these Cadets in partnership with the civilian Cadet leagues.

Local Headquarters Training

All Cadets in the North are provided with the opportunity to participate in marksmanship and biathlon competitions, map and compass exercises, as well as drill and other activities which focus on developing leadership, self-discipline and citizenship skills. Depending on which element (Land or Air) is available in a particular area, these Cadets may also participate in rappelling, adventure training, survival exercises, or flying and gliding exercises. Furthermore, Cadets in the North often enjoy sports, environmental challenges, and music instruction. General military knowledge, instructional techniques and first aid are also part of the regular Cadet Programme. As well, each Cadet participates in a minimum of three field exercises per year.

At the Regional level, CFNA supports a number of Cadet activities including zone field training exercises, regional drill competitions, regional shooting competitions, and regional biathlon competitions. At the National level, northern area Cadets compete annually in the National Cadet Shooting Championship, as well as the National Cadet Biathlon Championship.

Summer Training

During the summer, approximately 230 northern area Cadets attend Cadet Summer Training Centres (CSTC) to further develop their leadership and instructional abilities. Most of these Cadets attend Whitehorse CSTC situated in the Yukon Territory. This camp offers eight courses ranging from two

Whitehorse CSTC situated in the Yukon Territory. This camp offers eight courses ranging from two weeks in length for basic Army and Air Cadets, to six weeks of leadership and instructor courses for more experienced Cadets. The training at Whitehorse CSTC goes well beyond an introduction to basic military skills. Teamwork, camaraderie and self-esteem are a significant part of the camp's focus.

For many northern youth, participating in summer training at Whitehorse CSTC is the highlight of their year. In some cases, Cadet participation at the camp marks their first time away from home or their first time meeting people of other cultures. Given that there are a large number of different languages spoken across the North, basic communication and lifestyles can take on a whole new meaning at camp. In fact, Whitehorse CSTC is the only Cadet camp in Canada where large numbers of Inuit, Dene and non-native youth live and work together daily in order to achieve the same goals.

Cadets in the North also have the opportunity to participate in training at several different national and regional camps across Canada. Some northern area Cadets have also ventured overseas in past years to attend training in Wales, Germany, England, Scotland and Singapore.

Support To Cadets

Northern Cadets are supervised, administered and supported by the Army and Air Cadet Leagues, local sponsors, affiliated Regular and Reserve Force units and the Canadian Forces Northern Area (CFNA HQ) Headquarters.

The most important agency at the community level is the Cadet unit's sponsor, which falls under the administration of the Army or Air Cadet Leagues. Usually, sponsors include service clubs such as Elks, Lions or Legion branches. There are also a significant number of hamlet / town councils that sponsor their local Cadet units.

The sponsor is responsible for providing direct financial support; assisting the CO in administration of the Cadet unit; assisting in recruiting and recommending instructors; providing suitable training and stores accommodation in general; and providing the community link to the Cadets.

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For a complete list of the Cadet units North of 60, please see the following page.

For more information, please contact:

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As of March 1999, Cadet units are located in the following communities:

Yukon Territory

212 RCACS Ptarmigan, Faro

551 RCACS Whitehorse

2685 RCACC Yukon Territory Regiment, Whitehorse

3029 RCACC Watson Lake

Nunavut Territory

795 RCACS Iqaluit

2992 RCACC Arviat

3004 RCACC Nanook, Cambridge Bay

3008 RCACC Igloolik

3019 RCACC Rankin Inlet

3032 RCACC Baker Lake

3045 RCACC Arctic Bay

3050 RCACC Gjoa Haven

3055 RCACC Repulse Bay

3058 RCACC Pond Inlet (opened 1 Feb 99 with 100 plus Cadets)

Northwest Territories

825 RCACS Elks, Yellowknife

2724 RCACC Hay River

2748 RCACC Fort Smith

2749 RCACC Signals, Inuvik

2837 RCACC Yellowknife

2860 RCACC Fort Simpson

2961 RCACC Rae Edzo

3043 RCACC Norman Wells

3046 RCACC Fort Good Hope

3051 RCACC Holman

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