



National
Defence

Défense
nationale

Canada's Army



Canada

Our Role

“The most important force driving transformation is the changing nature of the very real threats to stability throughout the world, to Canada itself and to any Army units deployed on missions. What was, in previous years, described as the

asymmetric threat - terrorism, suicide bombers, explosive devices, well-armed militias - has now simply become the threat, and, unfortunately, probable.”

*LGen Marc Caron,
Commander of the Army*

Canada’s Army has a total strength of about 35 500 soldiers (19 500 Regular and 16 000 Army Reserve or part-time soldiers) and 4 100 civilian employees. The Army’s mission is to provide a trained, combat-ready, agile and quickly responsive force to meet Canada’s defence objectives. This broad mission can be broken down into the following objectives:



- Defend Canadian territory and helping to maintain Canada’s sovereignty,
- Contribute to the defence of North America,
- Provide armed and unarmed assistance to civil authorities when needed to maintain public order and security or to assist in emergency relief, and
- Support Canadian interests abroad, including forces for the United Nations (UN), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and other multilateral operations, peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance.

Soldiers First

The Canadian soldier is among the most dedicated, professional and talented in the world. We must continue to invest in our soldiers because motivated, committed and skilled soldiers are essential to operational effectiveness. Canadian soldiers are known for their ability to think on their feet and to defuse potentially explosive situations with the right mix of tact, diplomacy and the threat of controlled force. At the heart of each and every activity stand our soldiers and their interests will shape every decision we make.



Army Transformation

The Army has to evolve from a Force that was Cold War oriented and structured to face heavily mechanized forces in Northern Europe, to an agile, knowledge-based force, better suited for the asymmetric threats of the 21st century - terrorism and organized warlord militia.



To achieve transformation, the Army must change the way it generates forces, the way it trains and the way it fights. Through Army Transformation, the Army will emerge into a combat-capable, sustainable, rapidly deployable and knowledge-based Land Force capable of meeting the new threats to Canadian security. Army Transformation is an ongoing process that will continue along with advances in technology. The key goal of Army Transformation is to have rapidly-deployable forces that can respond to arising needs.

The operational preparation of those army units set to deploy internationally will be validated and confirmed, using state-of-the-art technology, at the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre (CMTC) in Wainwright, Alberta.



The Changing Face of War

Experience from recent missions, such as Afghanistan, has reinforced the vision that Canada's Army must approach missions from three perspectives (known as the Three-Block War). The Army must be prepared to:

- Fight against the armies of failed or failing states,
- Conduct stabilization or peace support operations including counterinsurgency and
- Deliver humanitarian aid or assist others doing it.

The Army is currently undergoing transformation to become a knowledge-based, rapidly deployable, command-centric institution capable of continuous adaptation to new and changing spectrums of conflict.



Our Equipment

The Army is transforming into a more lethal and deployable force with state-of-the-art equipment. We are replacing sheer mass with speed, agility and information dominance. Our modern, combat-capable, medium-weight force is based primarily on light armoured vehicles, including the infantry carrier LAV III and the Coyote, which is used for reconnaissance and surveillance. Soldiers benefit from additional protection and power with the G-Wagon, a light utility vehicle, the Armoured Patrol Vehicle, the Multi-Purpose Engineering Vehicle and the M777 Lightweight 155mm Towed Howitzer. Future capabilities will include the Mobile Gun System and a new fleet of transport trucks. The Canadian Army provides its soldiers with the latest cutting-edge technologies making them the best equipped in the world.



The LAV III is a leading-edge combat vehicle that transports infantry soldiers while offering defensive protection and offensive firepower. It can be used in all weather conditions and on most types of terrain.



Our Equipment



The **Coyote** is a highly mobile light armoured vehicle, loaded with high-tech gear, and used for reconnaissance and surveillance tasks.



The versatile **G-Wagon**, part of the Light Utility Vehicle (Wheeled) family, provides tactical transport in the field of command and control, liaison, and reconnaissance. Fitted with additional armour, it offers protection against small arms, hand grenades and anti-personnel mines.



The **Armoured Patrol Vehicle** provides soldiers on patrol with a high level of protection against bullets and large explosions. It features a remote weapon station permitting the operator to fire the weapon from within the vehicle while remaining protected.

Our Equipment



The **M777 Lightweight 155mm Towed Howitzer** is the most powerful gun of its kind. It is capable of firing a 155-mm shell with a maximum range of 24.7 km.



The **Multi Purpose Engineering Vehicle** is a robust backhoe and front-end loader with a powerful engine and custom designed chassis and suspension. It can run at speeds of 100 km/hr and is capable of providing close support digging, fording deep waters and climbing steep slopes.



Once delivered, the **Mobile Gun System** will be an armoured fighting vehicle complete with a 105-mm gun and automatic firing system. It also offers protection against rocket propelled grenades and mines, providing additional safety for the crew.

For more information, go to www.army.gc.ca