



Winter 2024

## Report of the GCC President for 2023

Yes indeed! It has been another interesting year for the Garrison Community Council, London and Region.

As a community, we are still confronting COVID, but also the Flu and RSV.

Our General Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except for July, August, and December) at 12 Noon. Our meetings have been either fully on Zoom or Hybrid Meetings with some members in person in Beaver Hall and others on Zoom. On the Hybrid meetings about 70% of the members are in person and about 30% of the members are on Zoom. The Executive is constantly exploring options for the meetings.

As some of you may have noticed, we did experience some technical issues when doing a Hybrid Zoom meeting – attendees on Zoom were unable to see the Power Point presentation and a few members were kicked out of Zoom meeting. This was not of our doing but appears to be directly related to the lack of Internet bandwidth available in Beaver Hall. We are looking into connecting to the internet by a different method.

The Executive would like to have a situation where all members wishing to attend a meeting can do so either in person or on Zoom. We will keep the membership advised of our efforts.

Regarding the meetings in 2023, we had a wide variety of speakers. Past Pres. Geoff once again excelled in the line up of speakers.

Our newsletter, Connections, is very well done and is not only used to keep our members informed but as a tool to show to prospective members what the GCC is all about. VP Kevin puts the newsletter together in a professional manner.

VP Mike Leatham has been our tracking the attendance at our meetings and keeps the Executive advised of attendee numbers. VP Phil Dean has ably taken over the reins of the GCC Bursary Programme.

VP Eric Thomson looks after special projects such as the membership privileges at Columbia.

Sec. Randy Harden is quite busy with keeping the GCC on track, sending out various Notices to the membership and helping in a variety of ways.

Treasurer John Martin provides monthly financial statement to the Executive. John brings financial experience and knowledge to the GCC.

*Presentations continued on page 2*

## GCC Bursary Awards Presentations

The Professor Emeritus Don Bondy Award was presented to Cpl Natalia Strots, 4 RCR.



Presentation of Bursary to Cpl Bryce Phillips, 31 Signals Regiment



*Presentations continued on page 3*

## Report of the GCC President for 2023 *Cont. from Page 1*

Each member of the Executive has risen to the challenges of the last year. Although I was personally restricted from attending the in-person events, I was well represented.

The GCC welcomed one new member in 2003 – Harry Huffman a retired engineer and resident of Byron. Welcome aboard Harry!

For the time being, the matter of the incorporation of the GCC has been put on hold.

### Areas requiring immediate attention:

#### Membership

The GCC membership has declined significantly since the start of COVID. We cannot stop members from dying!

However, we can make efforts to replace those members that we have lost. If we cannot bring in new members, the GCC is in peril of closing its doors. (not an exaggeration).

We need new faces in our membership and on the Executive.

As we are about to enter our GCC 2024 year, I challenge each one of you to:

1. Once a month, talk to a friend, associate, or in law about the GCC.
2. Give our latest brochure to each prospective member. (Let Sec. Randy know how many brochures you wish.)
3. Encourage the prospect to visit the GCC website to learn more about the GCC.
4. Follow up to either give him/her the link to the Zoom meeting and/or bring the prospect to an in-person meeting and
5. Help the prospect complete the membership form (on GCC website) and forward it along with a cheque to Sec. Randy ASAP.

We are calling this the **GCC One a Month Plan**.

**If every member follows the GCC One a Month Plan, the GCC will be on its way to building up our membership base.**

We need new members to allow the GCC to expand its programmes. The experts in community associations state that the primary source of new members is the effort of the existing membership to accept and act on this responsibility of membership.

#### Advocacy

The GCC should adopt a new proactive approach to advocating on behalf of Canada's military.

The GCC needs to advocate for good benefits for veterans.

The GCC needs to disapprove of drastic military cutbacks by the federal government such as the recent reduction in the budget for the Canadian Armed Forces.

The military needs concerned citizens to speak up.

Tom Dean  
GCC Pres.

## 2024 GCC Executive

President .....	Tom Dean
Past President .....	Geoff Hutton
Vice President .....	Mike Leatham
VP Communications ....	Kevin Patterson
VP Bursaries .....	Dr. Phil Dean
VP Special Projects ....	Eric Thomson
Secretary .....	Randy Harden
Treasurer .....	John Martin

## Newsletter Contents

Report of the President for 2023 .....	Pages 1-2
GCC Bursary Awards Presentations .....	Pages 1,3
Jeff Topping appointed Honorary	
Naval Captain .....	Pages 3-4
GCC New Member .....	Page 4
GCC January General Meeting .....	Pages 5-6
Exercise STEADFAST DEFENDER 2024 .....	Page 7
GCC February AGM Meeting .....	Pages 8-10
Future Canadian Armed Forces Will	
Need to Shrink It's Ranks .....	Page 11
Grandfather gunner inspires	
grandson gunner .....	Page 12
NORAD Change of Command .....	Pages 12-13
Exercise GLOBAL RESOLVE 24 .....	Page 14

## Connections Editors

Kevin Patterson - VP Communications  
Tom Dean - President and Editorial Consultant  
All GCC screenshots provided by Gary Nash.  
Photos of meetings on site taken by Eric Thomson



GCC's Mission to build a greater understanding, support and appreciation of Canada's military.

Our three fundamental tenets are  
**Support, Assist and Connect.**



## GCC Bursary Award Presentations

Continued from page 1

Members of 31 Signals Regiment at Wolseley Barracks during presentation.



Presentation of Col (Ret) William Pettipas Award to Angel Abraham S3, at HMCS Prevost



We'd like to thank General Dynamics Land Systems - Canada and Militex for their sponsorship of the Bursary Programme

## GCC MEMBER JEFF TOPPING APPOINTED HONORARY NAVAL CAPTAIN

Welcome aboard HCapt Jeff Topping!

Jeff Topping PMP, is an executive with McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Limited. He is no stranger to working his way up having spent over 35 years working for one of the most globally recognized brands. He has been recognized and received numerous accolades including the prestigious President's Award, reserved for the top 1% of McDonald's employees globally. Today, he leads a talented team of professionals who are focused on growing the McDonald's brand nationally through new modern, relevant, and contemporary restaurants.



Jeff has made a personal commitment to "serve those who serve" and is very active in multiple communities serving on the Board of Directors for the Naval Association of Canada Nationally and in Toronto. In addition, he is an active member of the London Garrison Community Council and serves as a Civilian Instructor at RCSCC Courageous.

Continued page 4



## GCC MEMBER JEFF TOPPING APPOINTED HONORARY NAVAL CAPTAIN

*Continued from page 3*

With a passion for history, he is very proud to be the President and Board of Directors Chair for HMCS Haida, the Flagship of the Royal Canadian Navy, with a mandate to Preserve, Protect and Promote the legacy of Canada's most fightingest ship.

The journey to the appointment as Honorary Captain began as a participant of Canadian Leaders at Sea program, having sailed aboard HMCS Calgary, attending exercises at HMCS York, and having the honour of sailing aboard HMCS Harry DeWolf.

Jeff resides in London ON, with his wife Debbie and their 3 children.



## GCC New Member

Meet Harry Huffman Harry is our newest member of the GCC. Harry and his spouse, Mary, are long time residents of London. Harry is a retired engineer.

**Welcome Harry**



## Every Member should be a GCCPP (Garrison Community Council Project Person)



## Who Can Participate in the GCC? All Of Us!

The Garrison Community Council is open to any individual, or organization representative wishing to participate in any activity to raise awareness of and support for the local military community - past and present.

## GCC January General Meeting



Our Speaker for the GCC's January General Meeting  
**Col Frederick Guénette**  
**Deputy Commander for the 3 Canadian Space Division (3CSD) Ottawa**

Born in Paris, France, and raised in Buckingham, QC, Col Guénette joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1996. Graduating from the Royal Military College of Canada with a Bachelor of Computer Science, he subsequently received his pilot's wings and was posted to 430 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, Valcartier, flying the CH146 Griffon.

Posted to 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, Petawawa, he provided support to the development of the nascent CH147F Chinook capability while serving as Operations Officer and Flight Commander.

Col Guénette was then assigned to the United States Air Force Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) in Montgomery, Alabama, as a student, and remained for an additional two years as a Deputy Course

Director, mentor, and instructor; teaching courses to joint and multi-national field grade officers, as well as civilians.

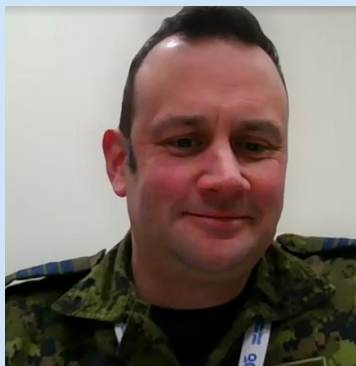
Following this assignment, Col Guénette was entrusted with the command of 403 Helicopter Operational Training Squadron, Gagetown.

He most recently took on the responsibilities of Deputy Commander for the 3 Canadian Space Division, Ottawa.

Col Guénette is a Distinguished Graduate of the United States Air Force (USAF) Air Command and Staff College, and completed the USAF Air War College Program at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. He holds a Master of Military Operational Art and Science from the USAF Air University.

On the home front, Col Guénette is extremely proud of the incredible strength, adaptability, and resilience of his children, and is eternally grateful for the unconditional support of his amazing wife, to whom he gives all the credit.

**Topic for presentation:**  
**Canada's Defence - The Space Domain**



CAN UNCLASSIFIED / CAN SANS CLASSIFICATION

YOUR AIR FORCE  
AGILE • INTEGRATED • INCLUSIVE



VOTRE FORCE AÉRIENNE  
AGILE • INTÉGRÉE • INCLUSIVE

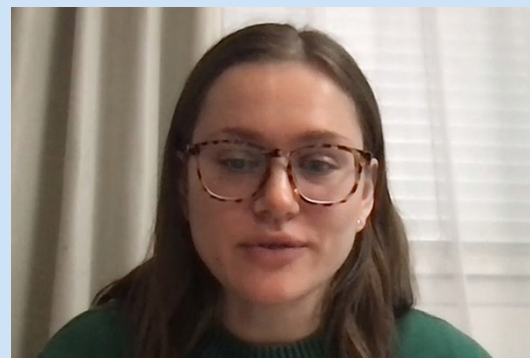
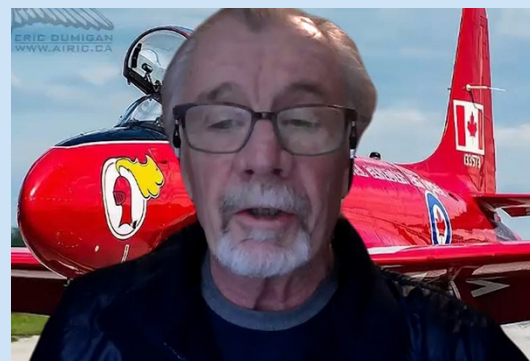
# CANADA'S DEFENCE -THE SPACE DOMAIN-

Col Frédéric Guénette, DComd 3 CSD  
10 Jan 24



National Defence / Défense nationale

CAN UNCLASSIFIED / CAN SANS CLASSIFICATION

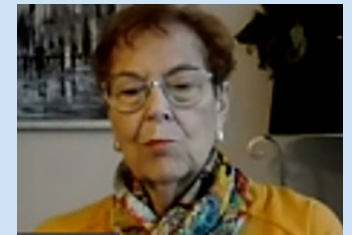


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## GCC January General Meeting *Continued from page 5*

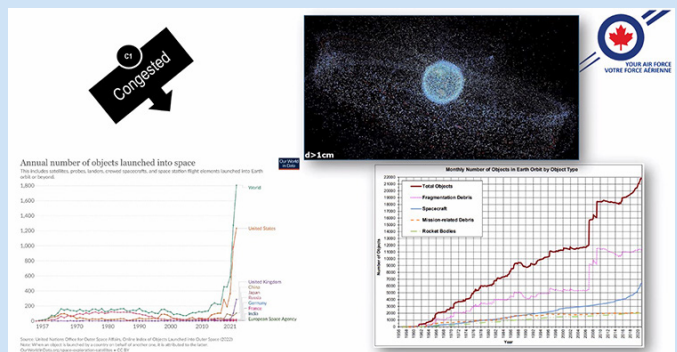
### The Space DOMAIN



### Space is... Critical TO MILITARY OPERATIONS

### Space is... Congested – Contested – Competitive

### CAF Space-Based Capabilities





## Canada set to participate in NATO Exercise STEADFAST DEFENDER 2024



The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) is set to participate in the largest NATO exercise in decades that will serve to rehearse NATO's Deterrence and Defence plans to counter threats to the Euro-Atlantic area.

Approximately 1,000 CAF sailors, soldiers, aviators, and special forces members, will demonstrate NATO's ability to conduct sustained, multi-domain defensive operations over a period of several months, simulating an Article 5 attack by an adversary with similar capabilities.

The exercise will run from the end of January until the end of May 2024, and is divided into two main parts. The first part will be largely maritime based and will focus on defence of the North Atlantic and Arctic waters, while the second part will test NATO's ability to rapidly deploy reinforcements across all domains in defence of Central and Eastern Europe.

CAF assets that will be participating include Canadian patrol frigate HMCS Charlottetown with an embarked CH-148 Cyclone helicopter, and the Canadian-led enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group in Latvia, including for the first time, a Canadian Leopard 2 Main Battle Tank squadron.

The exercise will also serve as an important milestone for the Canadian Army's future Forward Land Forces Multinational Brigade Latvia, as the second part of the exercise will see the future command team integrate with their higher NATO command in the planning and execution of defensive combat operations.

NATO is a cornerstone of Canada's Defence Policy, and Canada has been contributing to NATO's enhanced defence and deterrence measures in Europe since the invasion of Crimea in 2014. This exercise will provide a valuable opportunity to strengthen the CAF's ability to project, integrate, and sustain operations within the NATO command and control structure.

*"Canada's participation in Exercise STEADFAST DEFENDER sends a strong message about our ability to operate with NATO Allies and our continued contribution to the defence of Europe. Canada remains unwavering in its commitments to defend our shared values and interests, and to be a reliable partner in peace and security."*

*The Honourable Bill Blair,  
Minister of National Defence*

*"The deployment of CAF personnel and assets alongside NATO and Allied forces in Alliance territory serves as a powerful and unmistakable message of deterrence to potential adversaries and reassurance to Allies. This collective display of strength and readiness reinforces our commitment to safeguarding the security and stability of the region, sending a clear signal that any threat to our shared values and interests will be met with a unified and resolute response."*

*General Wayne Eyre, Chief of the Defence Staff*

*"The next few months will see our sailors, soldiers, and aviators engage in rigorous training and operational activities in diverse and challenging environments. This period will not only test their skills and capabilities but also provide an opportunity to forge strong and valuable partnerships with our NATO allies and partners, further enhancing our collective readiness and interoperability."*

*Vice-Admiral Bob Auchterlonie, Commander Canadian Joint Operations Command*

### **ADDITIONAL INFO**

- In development for over three years, STEADFAST DEFENDER 24 will see over 90,000 military personnel, as well as more than 50 naval assets, over 80 aircraft, and over 1,100 combat vehicles, exercised across multiple domains (maritime, land, air space, and cyber) through a series of integrated plans, overseen by an enhanced command structure.*

- HMCS Charlottetown will deploy for a period of roughly 7 weeks and will participate in live exercises designed to provide tactical training for the NATO Standing Maritime Groups. Canada is set to assume command of Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 this summer.*

## GCC February AGM Meeting

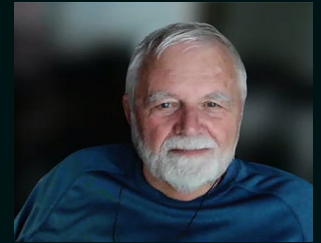


Our Speaker for the GCC's February AGM Meeting Constable Jeffrey Hare (OPP), Media Relations/Community Safety Officer in Middlesex County.

Prior to policing Constable Hare played 2 years professional hockey, the first in Sweden, the second in Port Huron Michigan. He latter attended UWO and played 3 years with the varsity hockey team, where they won the National Championship in his final year. Constable Hare graduated from UWO with a degree in Sociology.

Upon graduation Constable Hare attended the Ontario Police College in Aylmer. He was assigned to the Ingersoll detachment in Oxford County in 2014. After two years in Oxford County, he transferred to the Strathroy detachment in Middlesex County.

In 2021, Constable Hare successfully obtained the position of Media Relations/Community Safety Officer in Middlesex County, where he provides Community Safety messaging and presentations, engaging youth and satisfying media requests both proactively and reactively.

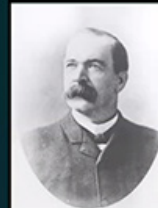


## POLICING IN ONTARIO BEFORE THE OPP

County Constables



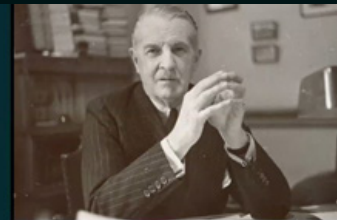
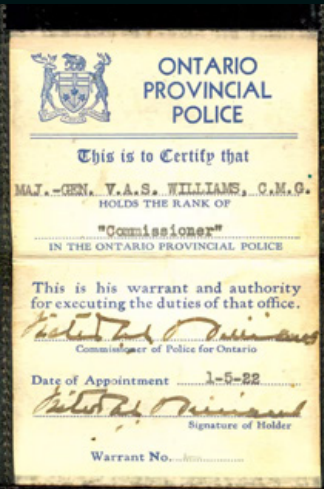
John Wilson Murray



Joseph Rogers



THE OPP MUSEUM



COMMISSIONER V.A.S. WILLIAMS BADGE & WARRANT CARD

## 1909

The Ontario Provincial Police Force was officially created by an Order-in-Council on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1909.

Officers began work in January of 1910 wearing cap badges like this one (worn until 1921).

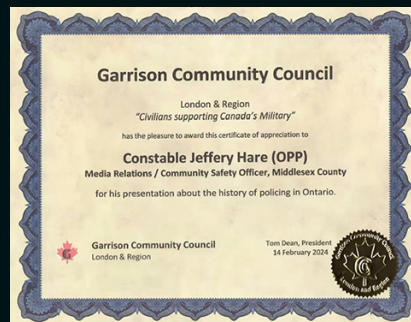
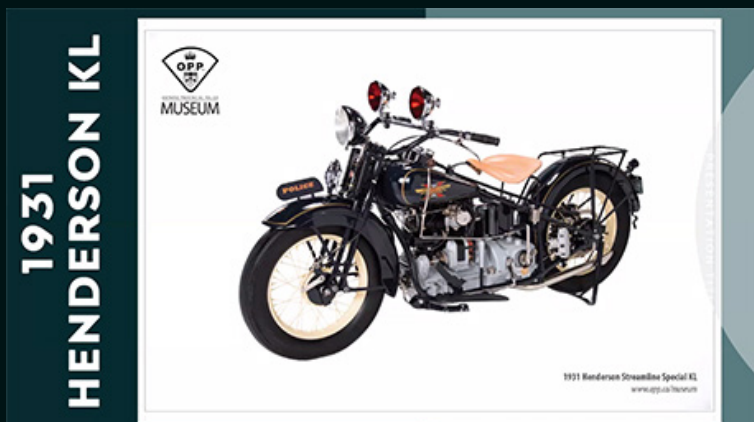
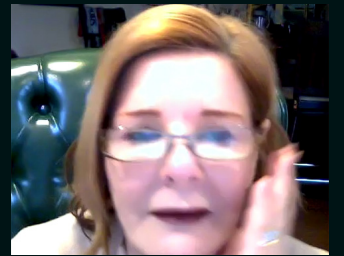


THE OPP MUSEUM

Continued page 9



## GCC February AGM Meeting *Continued from page 8*





## GCC February AGM Meeting *Continued from page 9*



SERVING IN THE NORTH  
MOOSEHORN - 1970S



MILITARY SERVICE



THE FIRST CRUISERS  
BLACK AND WHITES  
1941 - 1989



ALL WHITE VEHICLES  
1990 - 2007



THE OPP INTRODUCES LASER  
FINGERPRINT DETECTION TO  
THE WORLD



BEHIND THE BADGE



THE OPP  
TODAY



EVENTS

IF YOU SPOT US  
AT AN EVENT  
ACROSS THE  
PROVINCE - BE  
SURE TO STOP BY  
TO SAY HELLO!



## ON TARGET: The Future Canadian Armed Forces Will Need to Shrink It's Ranks



January 17, 2024

By Scott Taylor

There has been an almost steady drumbeat of bad news stories revealing the numerous shortcomings and challenges facing the Canadian Armed Forces. The combined recruiting and retention crisis over the past decade has resulted in a crippling shortage of personnel. In some key trades – particularly in the Royal Canadian Navy and RCAF – the trade vacancy rate tops 40%.

Overall the combined Regular and Reserve forces are facing a 17% shortfall of an authorized personnel strength of 115,000.

This situation has been acknowledged by the senior brass who have advised the Canadian public that, like it or not, they will simply not be able to achieve their operational requirements through the foreseeable future.

To face this crisis the Canadian military have focussed their efforts on the obvious. In an attempt to increase recruiting and encourage retention the CAF lifted all regulations on tattoos, piercings, hairstyles, facial hair and gender specific uniform items.

The RCN have also created a special one-year Naval Experience Program wherein would be recruits only have to commit to twelve months of service.

The hope is that within that initial period, the excitement and adventure of Navy life will convince these individuals to sign up for a full career.

However the current shortage of qualified personnel means that fewer RCN warships can be put to sea. As a result, the one year wonder recruits may find their twelve months to be a boring stretch of doing general duties *such as cleaning barracks and mending equipment. But I digress.*

The approach the CAF leaders should consider would be that of downsizing the military to keep pace with the diminished number of recruits.

I know this will sound like heresy to the Colonel Blimps out there, but before you start thumping your tubs, I will remind you that this is nothing new.

With advances in technology we have seen a complete evolution of the modern battlefield. We went from close-packed rank of hundreds of soldiers firing muskets in volleys to a machine gun able to generate more firepower from a single soldier.

Close observers of the current conflict in Ukraine will have realized that uninhabited drones are now the masters of the battlefield. They can

be used to observe and also to directly destroy enemy weapons and formations. The skill set for piloting or programming such drones does not require the same level of fitness and physical strength as that of conventional combat soldiers.

I think that if Canada were to invest in a boatload of cutting edge fleets of hunter-killer and kamikaze drones, operated by just a handful of talented gamers this would have more tactical impact on a modern battlefield than three battalions of conventional mechanized infantry.

At sea, the war in Ukraine has also exposed the vulnerability of Russia's surface fleet to the uninhabited, water borne attack drones of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

It is also true that with the advent of technology, crew sizes in conventional warships can be drastically reduced.

The French navy currently operates their larger FREMM frigates with crews of just 140, while the RCN still puts their Halifax-class frigates out to sea with over 220 sailors crammed aboard.

The RCAF has a crippling shortage of pilots despite a decades-long drastic reduction in the number of combat planes operated by Canada.

In terms of fighter aircraft, in the early days of the Cold War, Canada purchased over 1,100 CF-86 Sabre fighters. To replace them, Canada bought a mixed fleet of 200 CF-104 starfighters and 145 CF-5 fighters.

This was, in turn, downsized to a fleet of just 120 CF-18 Hornets in the 1980's. There are currently 86 CF-18's still in service with the RCAF, and the government has signed a contract to replace these with 88 F-35 Joint Strike fighters.

The real future of military aviation however, as demonstrated by the war in Ukraine is not dog-fighting Top Gun jet jocks: it is unmanned drones programmed by high-tech engineers.





Australian Army soldier Bombardier Jordan Whicker with grandparents, Sue and Dean Wilkinson, in Townsville during a tour of a Patriot missile launcher in 2021. Story by Sergeant Matthew Bickerton.

## **Grandfather gunner inspires grandson gunner**

As 40mm shells arced into the sky, aimed at a balloon towed by an aircraft, the anti-aircraft gunner was confident they were hitting close to the mark.

However, the pilot's urgent radio message revealed otherwise: "You're shooting at me, not the balloon," he said.

They promptly switched to using blanks for the rest of the exercise.

This was one of many stories from the 1960s that Dean Wilkinson, a veteran gunner from the 111th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, shared with grandson Jordan Whicker.

Inspired by his grandfather's service, Bombardier Whicker followed in his footsteps and is now at 110th Air Defence Battery, 16th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, commanding a radar detachment to identify enemy aircraft.

Bombardier Whicker said every Anzac Day his granddad would march up the main street in Mount Gambier with all his old Army mates.

"I enjoyed seeing these guys catch up all these years later," Bombardier Whicker said.

During the 1960s, amid the Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation, Mr Wilkinson was deployed to Malaysia.

His unit's operational stint there lasted two years, marking it as the longest continuous deployment since World War 2.

In 2022, during an open day, Mr Wilkinson took the opportunity to revisit his old stomping grounds at Woodside Barracks, where his grandson is posted.

He said the place had completely changed.

"We think the base is really old, but he said none of it was the same," Bombardier Whicker said.

Three years ago in Townsville, Mr Wilkinson had a full-circle moment with his grandson when he got an up-close view of a Patriot missile launcher.

The event underscored the advancements in ground-based air defence technology since his days operating a Bofors 40mm anti-aircraft gun.

## **Statement from the Minister of National Defence on the NORAD Change of Command**

The Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Bill Blair, issued the following statement:

"Today, United States Air Force (USAF) General Gregory M. Guillot took command of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), replacing USAF General Glen D. VanHerck, during a ceremony held at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"On behalf of all Canadians, I extend our sincere congratulations to General Guillot for taking on this new role. Canada is also grateful for General VanHerck's contributions in keeping a watchful eye on the skies of Canada and the United States, and for bolstering military cooperation between our two countries.

"Canada's commitment to NORAD is steadfast. In June 2022, we announced Canada's NORAD Modernization Plan, backed by an historic investment of \$38.6 billion over the next twenty years. This is the largest Canadian investment in NORAD in a generation.

We are already making strides towards the goals set out in this plan, in order to meet the timelines to which we committed during President Biden's visit to Canada in 2023. We have made early progress towards fielding next-generation radar systems, developing upgraded binational command and control systems, advancing the site development process for significant improvements to Canada's Northern airfields, and delivering new and upgraded fighter infrastructure across the country to employ the F-35 in continental defence.

"We are also making major investments in new platforms that will support the NORAD mission. In fact, since 2022 alone, Canada has finalized the procurement or upgrade of approximately 140 new aircraft for the Royal Canadian Air Force. Just over a year ago, Canada finalized a \$19 billion agreement to acquire 88 F-35 fighter jets.

*Continued from page 13*



## Statement from the Minister of National Defence on the NORAD Change of Command

*Continued from page 12*

In fact, since 2022 alone, Canada has finalized the procurement or upgrade of approximately 140 new aircraft for the Royal Canadian Air Force. Just over a year ago, Canada finalized a \$19 billion agreement to acquire 88 F-35 fighter jets. In July 2023, we awarded a contract to Airbus to replace the Royal Canadian Air Force's CC-150 Polaris fleet with nine air-to-air refuelling and transport aircraft, which will almost double our fleet size and support NORAD operational requirements.

"In addition, in November 2023, Canada finalized an agreement for the acquisition of up to 16 P-8A Poseidon aircraft for the Royal Canadian Air Force. This aircraft will provide Canada with an advanced multi-mission platform to conduct maritime and overland surveillance in defence of Canada and will contribute maritime surveillance data in support of NORAD's maritime warning mission. Further, in December 2023, Canada announced the acquisition of eleven MQ-9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, which will increase our interoperability with the United States and support our NORAD contributions.

"For over sixty-five years, this binational command has safeguarded North America and shown the world the unparalleled integration of the Canada-U.S. defence relationship. I thank all Canadian and American armed forces members for their work to monitor and defend our millions of square kilometres of airspace – and I look forward to continued collaboration with Secretary Austin and General Guillot to protect citizens on both sides of our border."

### ADDITIONAL INFO

- NORAD is a binational military command responsible for aerospace warning, aerospace control and maritime warning in defence of North America. It is the cornerstone of Canada's contribution to the defence of North America, as well as the cornerstone of Canada's defence relationship with the United States.
- NORAD has been defending Canada and the United States since 1958 and celebrated its 65th anniversary on May 12, 2023.
- NORAD monitors and defends North American airspace 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Over the years, the strength of NORAD has rested in its ability to evolve in response to the changing strategic environment to keep North America safe from modern aerospace and maritime threats.
- The Commander of NORAD is typically a four-star American general, while the Deputy Commander is a three-star Canadian general. Lieutenant-General Blaise Frawley of the Canadian Armed Forces was appointed Deputy Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command, in June 2023. The Deputy Commander North American Aerospace Defense Command is the highest-ranking Canadian officer within NORAD.

- Since 2022 alone, the Government of Canada has finalized the procurement or upgrade of approximately 140 new aircraft for the Royal Canadian Air Force, many of which will support the NORAD mission.

- In January 2023, the Government of Canada announced it finalized an agreement with the United States Government and Lockheed Martin with Pratt and Whitney to acquire a new fleet of eighty-eight state-of-the-art F-35 fighter jets. This investment is estimated at \$19 billion. The new fighter fleet will ensure Canada can meet its military obligations at home and deliver on its commitments under NORAD and NATO.

- In July 2023, Canada announced it awarded a contract to Airbus Defence and Space S.A. to replace the Royal Canadian Air Force's CC-150 Polaris fleet with a total of nine aircraft, to be designated the CC-330 Husky.

- In November 2023, the Government of Canada announced that it had finalized a government-to-government agreement with the United States government for the acquisition of up to 16 P-8A Poseidon aircraft for the Royal Canadian Air Force.

- In December 2023, the Government of Canada announced it will invest \$2.49 billion to acquire a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) capability. The system will be capable of detecting, recognizing, identifying, tracking, and engaging targets in complex environments. It will also enable Canada to optimally fulfill its NORAD and NATO missions while increasing interoperability with United States and NATO forces.





## Over 600 Canadian Armed Forces members training with Allies and partners in Alaska on Exercise GLOBAL RESOLVE 24

Over 350 Canadian Army soldiers will begin practicing their cold weather combat skills in a joint exercise at the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) in Fort Wainwright, Alaska from February 13 to 22, 2024.

Most of the Canadian training audience is from the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI), which is based in Edmonton, Alberta. They will join American counterparts from the 1st Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the 11th Airborne Division.

In addition to Canadian and American forces, troops from Mongolia and the Republic of Korea will be part of the training audience. Working shoulder to shoulder with these important partners is an opportunity for the Canadian Army to build inter-army relationships in the Indo-Pacific region. As an Arctic and Pacific nation, Canada greatly values the opportunity to work with Northern Indo-Pacific partners to prepare for defence and security issues that may increasingly affect both of these important regions.

The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) will also deploy approximately 165 personnel from 1 Wing to participate with three CH-147 Chinook and six CH-146 Griffon helicopters. Approximately 100 other Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel will support the exercise in other capacities, bringing the total CAF contribution to roughly 600 personnel.

Across all participating nations, the exercise will see over 8000 soldiers engage in offensive and defensive manoeuvres against a near-peer enemy force in a complex and fluid environment.

Exercise GLOBAL RESOLVE is an annual Canadian Army exercise that will alternate between the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center in Alaska and the Joint Readiness Training Center in Louisiana. It will validate one of the Canadian Army's light infantry battalions as the Global Response Task Force (GRTF), a high readiness force ready to deploy across a wide variety of potential missions. Each of Canadian Army's light infantry battalions will cycle through as the GRTF, giving Canadian soldiers outstanding training and experience in diverse environments.

*"Exercise GLOBAL RESOLVE 24 ensures the Canadian Army can conduct combat operations in challenging cold weather conditions and in the Arctic, but also serves as an opportunity to strengthen ties with crucial partners in the Indo-Pacific - especially our hosts: the 11th Airborne Division of the US Army Pacific. As we face an increasingly volatile security environment around the globe, I am incredibly proud to see our soldiers train together and sharpen their skills. The Arctic is experiencing growing competition, and the Canadian Army must remain ready to support the Government of Canada's strategies in this important region."*

*Lieutenant-General Jocelyn Paul,  
Commander, Canadian Army*

*"The training conducted at the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center alongside our American allies and Indo-Pacific partners, shows the Canadian Army's commitment to maintain individual and collective proficiency in Arctic and Cold Weather operations. Thanks to the relationship that exists between the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre and the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center, US, Canadian, and Indo-Pacific partner nation soldiers will prove their combat readiness shoulder-to-shoulder during the same exercise."*

*Major-General Roch Pelletier,  
Commander, Canadian Army Doctrine  
and Training Centre*

*"3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Light Infantry has conducted intense training these past four months leading up to Ex GLOBAL RESOLVE 24. Challenging, high-level training like this demonstrates the capability of a light infantry unit and better prepares us to operate in various environments around the globe. This training will ensure we are ready to take on the Global Response Task Force mantle this summer."*

*Lieutenant Colonel Ben Schmidt,  
Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion,  
Princess Patricia's Canadian Light  
Infantry*