



National
Defence

Défense
nationale

Canadian Armed Forces 101 for Civilians

Module 2: Department of National Defence (DND/CAF)



Canada

Module 2: Department of National Defence (DND/CAF)

Introduction

The Department of National Defence (DND) and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) work together to fulfill the Canadian government's mission to defend Canadian interests and values, and to contribute to international peace and security.

Canadian defence services are provided at home and abroad to ensure the safety, security and well-being of Canadians, to ensure continental security, and by conducting international peace operations.

This module is an overview of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces and how they work together.

In this module you will learn about the DND/CAF organization and its primary obligations, history, and mission. You will also learn about the Defence Team, which consists of military members and civilians.

Objectives

Upon completion of this module you will be able to:

- Describe the structure of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces
- Identify the organization's primary obligations
- Recognize important dates in the organization's history
- Identify the organization's mission
- Describe the Defence Team

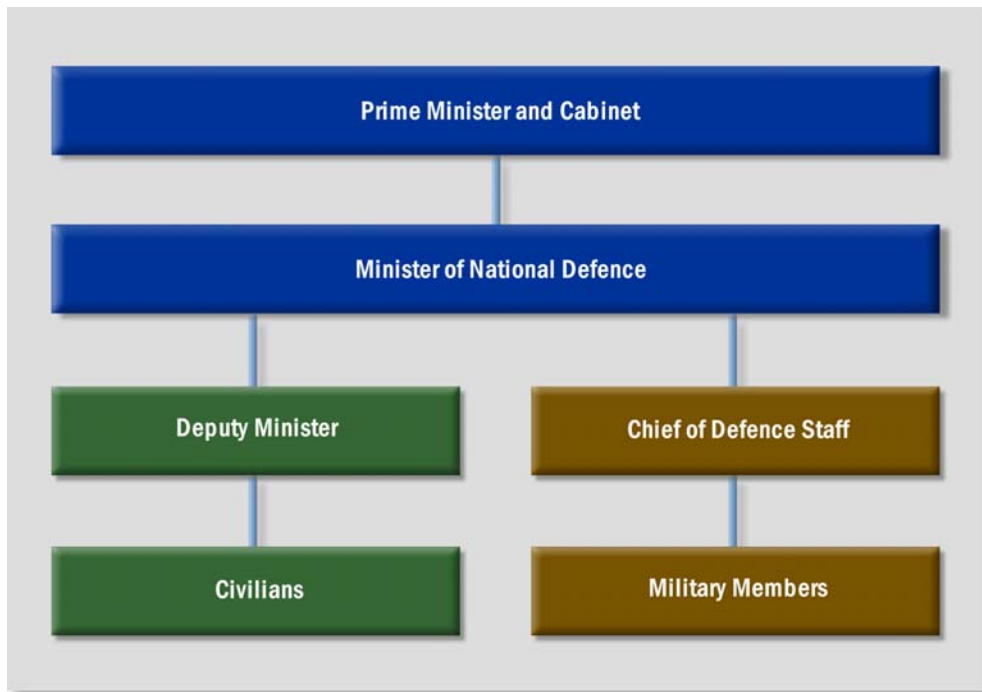
A National Institution

Understanding the relationship between the Canadian Armed Forces and the political executive is essential for understanding the military and the civilian structures that direct, guide, and support the department.

The Governor General of Canada is the Commander-in-Chief of Canada. As such, the Governor General plays a significant role in encouraging excellence and recognizing the important role of Canada's military at home and abroad.

The head of National Defence is the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The chart on the next page displays the upper levels of the institution.



The Department of National Defence (DND) consists of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and public servants.

Visit the following link to view the organization chart for DND and the CAF.

<http://vcds.mil.ca/sites/page-eng.asp?page=4394>

Prime Minister and Cabinet

The head of National Defence is the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

National Defence is one of the few Canadian national institutions that come solely under the federal government. This means that the federal government is the only authority in matters of defence and protection of Canadian sovereignty.

Minister of National Defence

The Minister of National Defence sets Canada's defence policy within the larger context of national objectives and policy priorities decided by the government as a whole. Defence policy determines the nature of the mission, roles and tasks to be undertaken by the Canadian Armed Forces.

The Minister carries legal responsibility and is accountable to Parliament for the administration of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces through the various Acts of Parliament which govern them including:

- The *National Defence Act*
- The *Emergencies Act*
- The *Emergency Preparedness Act*, etc.

Virtually all decisions and actions taken by Departmental and Forces personnel in respect to these Acts are carried out, directly or indirectly, on behalf of the Minister of National Defence.

The Minister, being accountable to Parliament for the actions of these officials, expects to be kept fully informed of any decisions or activities by the Canadian Armed Forces or departmental personnel that may be of concern to Parliament or the public.

The Deputy Minister

The *National Defence Act* stipulates that there shall be a Deputy Minister of National Defence who may exercise all of the Minister's powers, with the exception of:

1. Matters that the Minister reserves for himself or herself.
2. Any case where contrary intention exists in legislation.
3. The power to make regulations.

The Deputy Minister (DM) administers the Department of National Defence.

Chief of the Defence Staff

The Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS), who is Canada's senior serving officer, is the head of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The CDS is responsible for the command, control and administration of the Canadian Armed Forces and is at the head of a military chain of command that is responsible for the conduct of military operations and is the senior military advisor to the Minister of National Defence.

The CDS:

- Advises the Minister of National Defence on all CAF matters, including the possible consequences of undertaking or failing to undertake various military activities.
- Advises the Prime Minister and the Cabinet directly (as required) on major military developments.
- Is responsible for the conduct of military operations and for the readiness of the CAF to carry out the tasks Parliament has assigned to DND.
- Issues all orders and instructions to the CAF, and is responsible for all CAF personnel matters.
- Implements government decisions involving the Canadian Armed Forces by issuing appropriate orders and instructions.

Civilians

Civilians are public service employees who are governed by the Treasury Board.

Civilians fill three roles in DND. They provide:

1. Local or base support services at a base or station (firefighters, cleaners, environmental safety officers etc.).
2. Operational support (mechanics, shop repairmen, quality control, engineers, technical inspectors, university teachers etc.).
3. Corporate support (policy analysts, personnel consultants, procurement specialists, finance officers etc.).

Military Members

Military members are members of the CAF who are governed by the *National Defence Act* and its regulations.

Under Canadian defence policy, the Canadian Armed Forces fill three major roles. They:

1. Defend Canada.
2. Defend North America.
3. Contribute to International Peace and Security.

Primary Obligations

The primary obligations of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces are:

- To protect the country and its citizens from challenges to their domestic security.
- To uphold internationally the values that Canadians share under the direction of the elected Government.

History

The timeline of some of the important events that led up to what the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces are today is presented below.

Introduction

The history of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces is linked to the history of our nation.

The Canadian Armed Forces of today draws on the traditions and heritage of colonial militias dating back to the earliest French and British settlements in North America.

The first regular units of what constitutes today's Canadian Armed Forces were formed shortly after Confederation, while the Department of National Defence was not created until much later.



1867

The Constitution Act of 1867 assigned the defence function in Canada to the federal government.

1868

The Militia Act of 1868 created the federal Canadian military formed on the basis of previously-existing colonial militia units.

1871

After Confederation the British government decided to withdraw most of its forces from Canada. This decision left the Dominion government in need of professional soldiers to maintain the armament of Canada's two great fortresses:

- The Citadel in Québec City, Québec (top)
- Fort Henry in Kingston, Ontario (bottom)

The federal government formed a small regular force during the period of 1871-1887. The Regular Force (originally called the Permanent Active Militia) began on October 20, 1871 with the formation of two independent garrison batteries of artillery. Which were designated A Battery and B Battery.

1880

Regular infantry and cavalry regiments were formed in the 1880s as schools of instruction for the Non-Permanent Active Militia, (The Reserve Force).

1910

In 1910 the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) was created.



La Citadelle de Québec
Photo: Kedl Courtesy of
The Royal 22e Régiment:
Museum.



Fort Henry
Photo: Courtesy of Fort
Henry. The St. Lawrence



1866



National Archives PA123951

1923

On January 1, 1923 Parliament passed legislation creating the Department of National Defence on the recommendation of General Sir Arthur Currie, who had commanded Canada's forces in France during World War I.

The Department of Defence was intended to incorporate three previous divisions - the Militia, the Naval Service, and the Air Board, but during the Second World War the three services in practice operated independently of each other.

Canada. Dept. of National Defence
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1924

King George V promulgated the prefix "Royal" in 1923 for the Canadian Air Force and made it official in 1924. The new title Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) officially came into being on April 1, 1924.

Vickers Vedette flying boat,
Royal Canadian Air Force, late 1920s.
Photo: Department of National Defence



1968

After the wars, Canada began to work seriously toward unification of its Army, navy and Royal Canadian Air Force.

As a result, on February 1, 1968, the three services were amalgamated under the *Canadian Forces Reorganization Act* and the government established the Canadian Armed Forces.

Image: Individual badges of Canadian Navy, Army and Air Forces and badge of Canadian Armed Forces.



1972

The Government decided that the most effective way to provide advice and support to the Minister of National Defence and leadership to the Department of National Defence and recently unified Canadian Forces was through an integrated National Defence Headquarters.

The military and civilian branches merged to form a single Department of National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ). The military and civilian personnel now work side by side in the management of Canada's defence activities.



Top photo
by MCpl Robert Boltrill

Bottom photo:
Combat camera IH01-0209



2005

In the face of new security threats, the Canadian Armed Forces is transforming to become more relevant, responsive and effective. As these changes occur, the Department of National Defence's civilian departmental functions must remain coherent and properly aligned to a transformed Canadian Armed Forces and to ongoing DND and Government of Canada change initiatives.

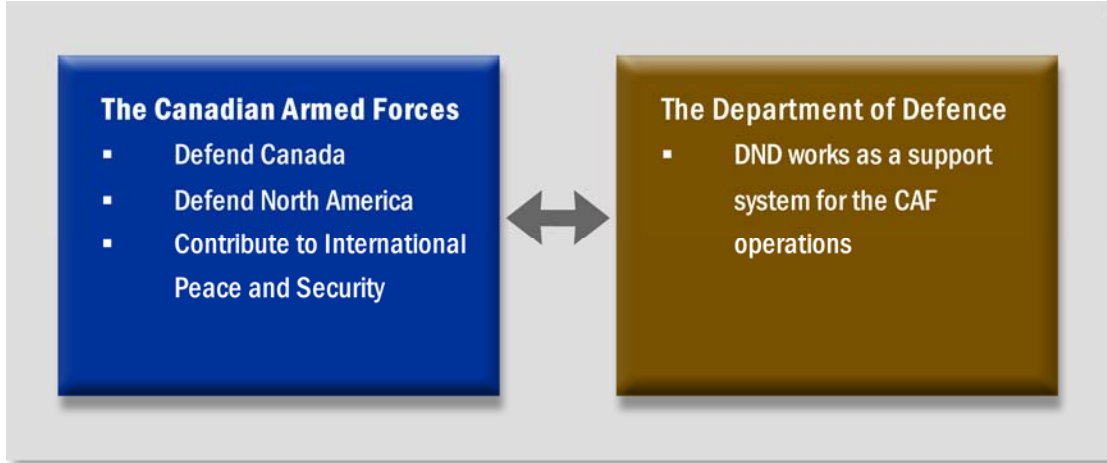
2011

The Government of Canada restored the historic names for the Canadian Armed Forces: the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army, and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

The Mission

The mission of DND and the CAF is to provide combat-effective, multi-purpose forces at home and abroad to protect Canada and Canadians.

To learn more about what the Canadian Armed Forces and the Department of National Defence do to achieve their mission examine the chart below.



Defend Canada

The Canadian Armed Forces defend Canada by:

- Providing surveillance of Canadian territory and air and maritime approaches.
- Maintaining search and rescue response capabilities that are able to reach those in distress anywhere in Canada on a 24/7 basis.
- Assisting civil authorities in responding to a wide range of threats – from natural disasters to terrorist attacks.

Defend North America

The Canadian Armed Forces contribute to the defence of North America by:

- Conducting daily continental operations (including through North American Aerospace Defence Command) (NORAD).
- Carrying out bilateral training and exercises with the United States.
- Responding to crises.
- Remaining interoperable with the US military.

Contribute to Internal Peace and Security

The Canadian Armed Forces contribute to international peace and security by:

- Participating in multilateral operations through international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and through coalitions of like-minded countries.
- Supporting humanitarian-relief efforts and helping to restore conflict-devastated areas.
- Participating in confidence-building measures such as arms-control programs.

Support System

The Department of National Defence works as a support system for the CAF operations in its activities in Canada and elsewhere by providing:

- Local or base support services
- Operational support services
- Corporate support services

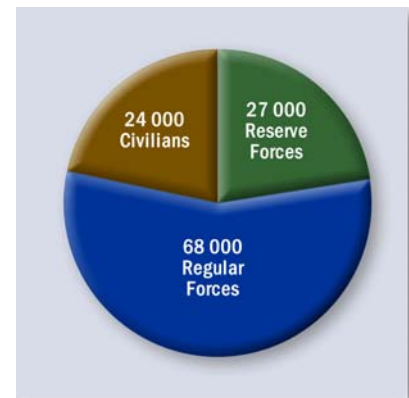
The Defence Team

The Defence Team is a concept introduced around 1994 to create a team spirit amongst all those who contribute to the accomplishment of the Defence Mission.

The Defence Team consists of the:

- Civilian employees in the Department of National Defence
- Military members in the Canadian Armed Forces

Every position held by a civilian or military member is linked to a group such as ADM(HR-Civ) or ADM(PA), or a command such as land, air or maritime.



Regular Forces

The Regular Force consists of 68,000 officers and non-commissioned members who are enrolled for continuing, full-time military service.

Reserve Forces

The Reserve Force is made up of 27,000 men and women who devote a portion of their spare time to military service. A limited number of reservists also serve on a full time basis.

Civilians

There are approximately 24,000 civilian employees in DND. By civilian employees we mean Public Servants. Public servants are defined as follows:

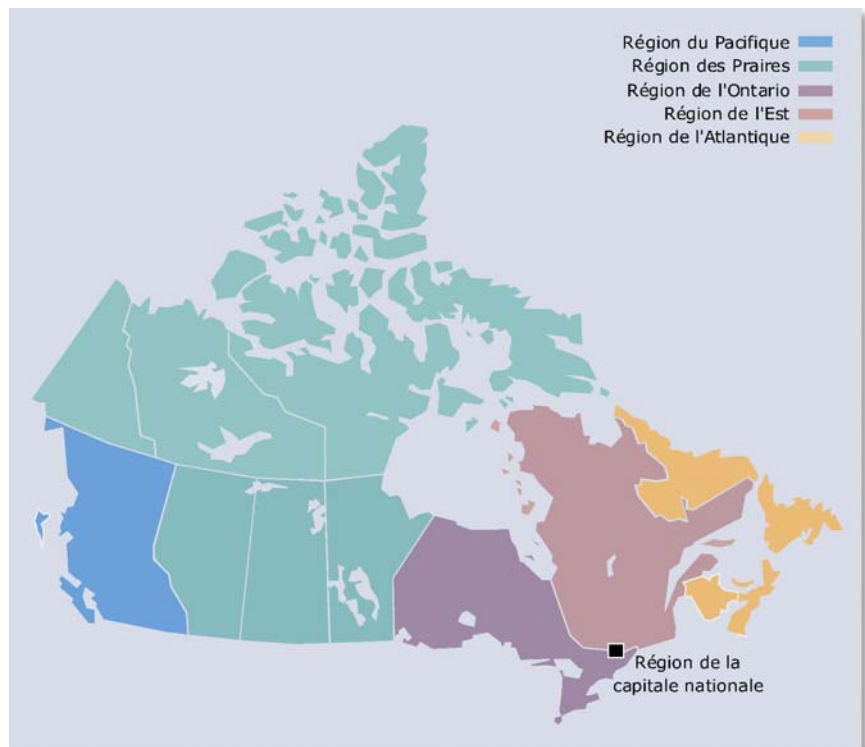
- Hired under the PSEA
 - For an indeterminate period
 - For a determinate period of three months or more
- In an “employer - employee” relationship
- Managed according to the terms and conditions of their respective collective agreements and the Public Service Terms and Conditions of Employment Regulations

The Department of National Defence

The Department of National Defence (DND) exists to carry out the work assigned to the Minister of National Defence. DND’s relationship with the CAF is that of an operations support system.

- DND employs approximately 24,000 Public Servants.
- The National Defence Headquarters is located in Ottawa in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- 67% of the DND population works outside the NCR.

The Department of National Defence is represented in six administrative regions: Pacific Region, Prairies Region, Ontario Region, National Capital Region, Eastern Region and Atlantic Region.



The Canadian Armed Forces

The Canadian Armed Forces are a modern and effective military capable of playing a number of important roles at home and abroad.

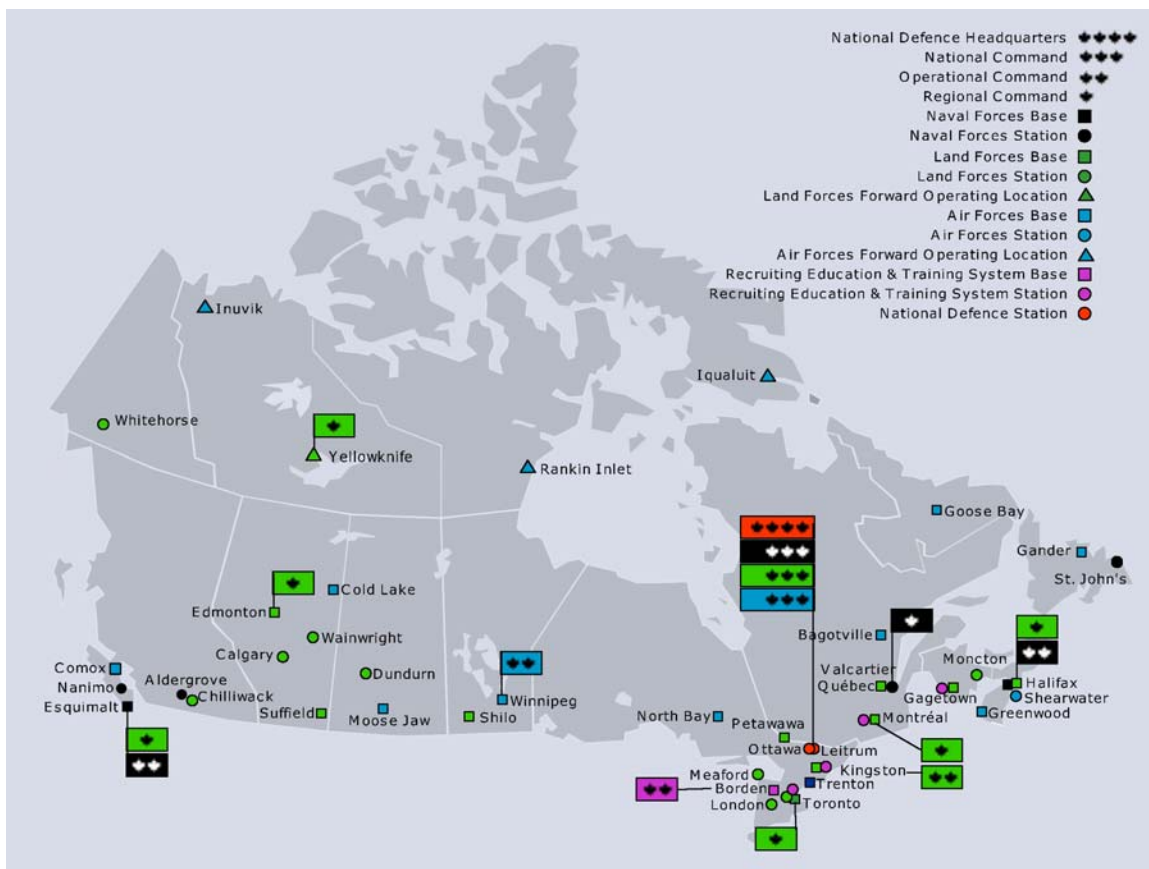
Canadian Armed Forces personnel belong to air, land, sea and special operations components.

There are approximately:

- 68,000 Regular Force members; and
- 27,000 Reserve Force members, including 4,000 Canadian Rangers.

A symbol of pride and national identity, the Canadian Armed Forces are present in every province and territory, and in more than 3,000 communities across Canada.

Map of the Canadian Armed Forces Commands and Locations



Exercise

Question 1. Select the appropriate answer.

Who is the Head of National Defence?

- ☐ The Deputy Minister
- ☐ The Prime Minister and Cabinet
- ☐ The Chief of Defence Staff
- ☐ The Treasury Board

Question 2. Select the appropriate answer.

The Governor General is the Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

True [] False []

Question 3. Select the appropriate answer. The primary obligations of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces are to protect the country and its citizens from challenges to their domestic security.

True [] False []

Question 4. Select the appropriate answer. In what year did the three armed services (Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Army and Royal Canadian Air Force) unite to become one single service: The Canadian Armed Forces?

- ☐ 1867
- ☐ 1945
- ☐ 1968
- ☐ 2000

Question 5. Select the appropriate answer.

The mission of DND and the CAF is to:

- ☐ Protect Canada and Canadians
- ☐ Provide combat-effective forces at home and abroad
- ☐ Provide multi-purpose forces at home and abroad
- ☐ All of the above

Question 6. Complete the following statement.

The Defence Team consists of the _____.

- ☐ Military members in the Canadian Armed Forces
- ☐ Civilian employees in the Department of National Defence
- ☐ Regular Force members
- ☐ Civilian employees in the Department of National Defence and Military members in the Canadian Armed Forces
- ☐ Regular Force members and Reserve Force members

Summary

The Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces are two distinct entities working together to fulfill the Canadian government's mission to defend Canadian interests and values, and to contribute to international peace and security.

They make up two important parts of the overall national security structure of the country. The CAF's mandate is to protect and serve; DND's mandate is to support (as a partner) the activities of CAF.

In this module, you learned about the DND/CAF organization, as well as, its primary obligations, history, and goal. You also learned about the Defence Team.

