

Canada, US train for a new enemy

Stacy Thomas
stacy@starnews.ca

As foreign entities become more sophisticated, the Canadian Forces (CF) is changing its training habits. This year's Maple Resolve is based on a civil war scenario in a hostile area occupied by a "near-peer" enemy, meaning one with weapons capabilities equal to its own. This format contradicts previous training which has focused on repressing insurgencies, as in Afghanistan.

Hosted by the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre (CMTC) headquartered at the Canadian Forces Base in Wainwright, the Canadian Forces, along with the Royal Canadian Air Force and allied forces from the United States, are participating in their annual large scale training exercise: Maple Resolve 1301.

The exercise is running from May 13 to June 4, and involves approximately 4,000 high level military personnel participating in final stage training for deployment to international missions.

Begun in 2006, Maple Resolve is designed by CMTC to immerse soldiers in realistic, complex, multi-faceted scenarios which test field, combat and communications skills. In this particular mock scenario, Canada is involved in a United Nations international coalition to liberate an occupied foreign region.

"The real benefit of this exercise is the confirmation of the skills that the troops have acquired over the last year, in an environment that is really realistic," said Lead Planner Major Matt Primeau. "It reinforces both strengths and weaknesses of the system."

Using role players—both military and civilian—and elaborate staging, CMTC has created the mock country, called Hispanolia, based on the geography of Western Canada, complete with a civilian population and a CC138 Twin

Otter civilian airline, dubbed "Vampire Airways" and operated by RCAF.

RCAF is heavily involved in Maple Resolve, and is being employed in several missions, including simulated enemy engagements, casualty evacuation, troop transport, reconnaissance, and parachute dropping in several flight vehicles such as the CC130 Hercules and CH146 Griffon helicopter.

A fully functioning field hospital has also been erected by Canadian Forces Health Services, which itself staffs approximately 90 military medical staff and the capacity to perform operations, full dental services, lab testing and radiology.

Overseeing the exercise, and gathering detailed information about it, is a vastly complicated computer system called JOINTEX, which connects CAF, RCAF, and the Royal Canadian Navy in an even larger scale simulated battle exercise.

JOINTEX gathers information from the field using the Canadian Weapons Effect Simulation System, essentially a very high tech laser tag vest which records all the movements and communications of individuals and vehicles in the exercise. The system then compiles the information into comprehensive training tools.

JOINTEX will be run again in 2015.

Colonel David Lowthian, Chief of Staff of Maple Resolve's joint headquarters, sees exercises like this as investments in the future intelligence and diversity of CF.

"We're breaking knowledge barriers," he said. "When people go back to their units, they are going to be a mine of experience and expertise that we as a Canadian Armed Forces will be drawing upon for years to come."



A Chinook, provided for exercise Maple Resolve by Georgia's Army National Guard, prepares for takeoff at CFB Wainwright's Airfield 21.

Photo: Stacy Thomas

Thank You

The family of FREDA BURTON wish to thank friends & relatives for the many cards and donations in Freda's memory.

Special thanks to:

Pastor Darlene Stinner & Elder Anita Bates Of Community of Christ Church of Ribstone for their words of comfort.

Faye Stone for the beautiful Eulogy

Isabelle Cornfield - Pianist who played hymns Freda loved.

To the Women of Community of Christ Church who served a lovely lunch.

Jonathan Stone of Elton Printing for the "In Loving Memory Cards"

To Dr. Bitz, Nurses & Staff of the Wainwright Continuing Care for their kindness & care of Freda

Also to relatives & friends who remembered Freda with visits and cards.

HAYDU FAMILY
BURTON FAMILY
DALLYN FAMILIES



TOTAL IMAGE
natural foods

**check out our
SPRING FLYER!**

Proudly Serving Vermilion and Area for 21 Years

View our remarkable 8 per specials at www.dino'ssub.com

Hot order service is available.

HEALTHY CHOICES

4931-50 Ave. Vermilion, AB T8B 0S3-5992

Business Hours: 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm, Sat.