



Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (VCDS) – Lieutenant-General Frances J. Allen, CMM, CD



- Appointed June 2021.
- Commanded at multiple levels of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), including the National Systems Management Center, Aerospace and Telecommunications Engineering Support Squadron, and Canadian Forces Network Operations Center.
- Previously Military Representative of Canada to the NATO Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium.
- Staff appointments have included Director General Defence Security, Director General Cyberspace, Director General Information Management Operations, Joint Force Cyber Component Commander, and Deputy Vice Chief of the Defence Staff.

MANDATE

- Senior Designated Official for the management of Defence projects and programs.
- Command a diverse group of 18 organizations within Canada and abroad that support the entire DND/CAF including:
 - Programme, Force Development, Defence security, General Health and Safety, Cadets, Reserves, NATO Military Representative, Canadians assigned outside Canada, Foreign liaison, Conflict and Complaint Management, Military Police, National Capital Region administration.

KEY FACTS

Total Members: ~11,950

- 2,725 Regular Force, 883 outside Canada
- 458 Primary Reservists (full & part-time)
- 2,200 Employees of the Public Service
- 6,567 Reserves Supporting Cadets

Budget: \$402,997,849

- \$227,815,194 – Cadets & Junior Rangers
- \$76,850,511 – Operations & Maintenance
- \$52,549,729 – Civilian Salary Wage Envelope
- \$18,626,068 – Primary Reserve Salary

Primary location(s):

- National Defence Headquarters (Pearkes & Carling), Uplands, Bases/Wings;
- 69 Countries: United States (Colorado Springs, Washington), United Kingdom (London), Belgium (Brussels), Germany (Niederheid), Italy (Naples), France, Australia, etc.

KEY PARTNERS

Internal:

- Minister of National Defence Office
- Deputy Minister Office/Associate Deputy Ministers
- Chief of the Defence Staff Office/Strategic Joint Staff
- Judge Advocate General
- Commanders (CAF Formations & DND senior officials)
- Ombudsman

External:

- Central Agencies
- Public Services and Procurement Canada, Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- Public Safety and Portfolio agencies
- Transport Canada
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization, North American Aerospace Defence Command, United Nations
- Global Affairs Canada and Foreign Embassies in Ottawa
- Five Eyes Military Partners: Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

TOP ISSUES FOR VICE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF

Execution of the Defence Services Programme (DSP)

- The execution of the DSP is a priority area for the VCDS organization ensuring the continued implementation of defence policy objectives, and integration and modernization imperatives.
- The continuity of that activity is essential to manage while also responding to the impacts that COVID-19 has had on industry and defence over the past 18 months.

Reconstitution

- The VCDS will prioritize the work to restore defence activities and readiness, which was affected by the pandemic.
- The VCDS is responsible for the CAF Modernization Focus Area, which includes the prioritization of Digitalization, Joint Capabilities, and Objective Force 2030 (the Force design aspiration to ensure the CAF remains strategically relevant, operationally responsive, and tactically decisive)
- The VCDS will concurrently support the other two Focus Areas of Reconstitution: People and Culture, and Excellence in Operations.

Implementation of External Comprehensive Reviews

- The VCDS, along with the JAG, will provide strategic oversight to the External Comprehensive Reviews Implementation Committee (ECRIC), which will develop a campaign to analyze and implement the 107 recommendations from the Third Independent Review and other external comprehensive reviews.
- The ECRIC will be a Permanent Secretariat, which should be established in Sept 2021 within the VCDS Group.
- The VCDS is also working with the JAG to implement the Bill of Victim's Rights.

New Vision for the Reserves

- The Reserve Force will integrate new roles and capabilities in order to support emerging CAF priorities such as sustainment, digitalization, and specialized enablers.
- A strategy is being developed which will provide direction for the structure, roles and capabilities of the Reserve Force.
- The size of the Reserve Force will be increased to 30,000; it will fill new roles and enhance existing ones.