

FOREWORD



It is with great pleasure that we gather at this RCAF Centennial Symposium to celebrate and reflect on 100 years of air and space power, while concurrently looking forward to future air and space power challenges and emerging trends in warfare and technology. Themed “Reflection at an Inflection Point – Celebrating the Past and Modernizing for the Future,” this event will provide a unique opportunity for moderated panel discussions by guest speakers and subject matter experts, including key allied commanders, industry professionals, academics and Canadian Armed Forces’ executive leadership.

The RCAF Centennial Symposium is one of several events across Canada celebrating the RCAF’s 100 years of service. We will explore topics derived from the *RCAF Strategy* and *RCAF Campaign Plan to 2035*, focusing on valuing our people, readiness to conduct operations, modernization for tomorrow and partnering for success.

With great anticipation, we extend a warm invitation to join us on this journey of reflection as we mark the monumental milestone of the RCAF Centennial. Over the past century, the RCAF has been a steadfast guardian of our national interests. Our Centennial provides the opportunity to reflect on how the RCAF has become integral to our collective identity, emerging as “Your Air Force,” a symbol of pride, resilience and unwavering commitment to Canada.

LGen E. J. Kenny
Comd RCAF

CWO John Hall
RCAF CCWO

Day 1: 30 May 2024

0700–0800hrs	Registration - Coffee and refreshments
0800–0805hrs	Master of Ceremonies - MGen Speiser-Blanchet, Deputy Commander Royal Canadian Air Force
0805–0830hrs	Opening Remarks - LGen Allen, Acting Chief of the Defence Staff
0835–0905hrs	Symposium Address: LGen Kenny, Commander Royal Canadian Air Force
MODERNIZE FOR TOMORROW	
0910–0940hrs	“A View From Above: The RCAF’s Legacy in Space and the Next 100 Years” -Col Jeremy Hansen, Astronaut, Canadian Space Agency
0940–1000hrs	Break - Coffee and refreshments
1000–1135hrs	“Expanding in Space and Improving Space Resiliency” Panel Moderator: BGen McKenna (Director General Air and Space Force Development) Panelists: BGen Adamson (Commander 3 Canadian Space Division), BGen Kevin Whale (Ret’d) [Senior Director Defence Strategy, MDA Space], Mr. Daniel Goldberg (CEO Telesat) Panel will evaluate and review spaced-based resiliency, emergence of the space domain in modern operations and the necessary modernization to keep pace with adversaries.
1140–1150hrs	Dr. Tim Cook (Chief Historian and Director of Research, Canadian War Museum)
1150–1300hrs	Lunch - Catered lunch provided
1300–1430hrs	“The Case for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Air and Space Operations” Panel Moderator: Gen Tom Lawson (Ret’d) [Former Chief of the Defence Staff] Panelists: MGen Zimmer (Chief Digital Transformation Office and Defence Chief Data Officer, Digital Services Group), Dr. Ming Hou (Senior Defence Scientist, Defence Research and Development Canada), Mr. Anthony Pitfield (AI/ML lead - Amazon Web Services Canada) Panel will discuss the advancement of AI/ML in training and operations and what the Air Force will need to focus on to harness modern technology in the optimization of effect.
1430–1455hrs	Break - Coffee and refreshments
ENGAGE AND PARTNER FOR SUCCESS	
1455–1550hrs	“Achieving Operational Advantage through Regional Partnerships” Panel Moderator: Dr. Richard Goette (Department of Defence Studies, Canadian Forces College) Panelists: LGen Frawley (Deputy Commander NORAD), Col Reiffenstein (Director Professional Development, Canadian Defence Academy), Dr. David Perry (President, Canadian Global Affairs Institute), Dr. Ibrahim Yimer (VP Transportation and Manufacturing, National Research Council Canada) Panel will evaluate future challenges in NATO/NORAD, regional-based conflict and relationships, expeditionary operations and the RCAF’s role in promulgating partnerships.
1550–1600hrs	Closing Remarks - MGen Speiser-Blanchet
EVENING RECEPTION - 30 May 2024 Royal Canadian Geographical Society, 50 Sussex Drive (parking available at National Research Council Canada, 100 Sussex Drive)	
1800–2100hrs	Cash bar / cocktails
1830–2030hrs	Stand-up dinner

Day 2: 31 May 2024

0730–0815hrs	Registration/Administration
READY TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS	
0815–0930hrs	Keynote: “Preparing the RCAF to Fly, Fight and Win alongside Allies against Concurrent European, Arctic and Pacific Threats” – Professor Justin Bronk
0930–0955hrs	Break - Coffee and refreshments
0955–1115hrs	<p>“Mission Ready and Combat Capable in the Pacific” Panel Moderator: MGen Molstad (Deputy Commander Canadian Joint Operations Command)</p> <p>Panelists: Prof. Justin Bronk (Royal United Services Institute), Lt. Gen. Nahom (Commander 11th Air Force), AVM Blyth (Head of Air Force Capability - Royal Australian Air Force)</p> <p>Panel will discuss the Indo-Pacific region, national response to emerging threats and what it takes to be mission ready and combat capable in the Pacific.</p>
VALUE OUR PEOPLE AND INVEST IN THEIR FUTURE	
1120–1150hrs	“RCAF Culture and ‘Valuing our People’: Learning from History” – Dr. Allan English (Queen’s University)
1155–1300hrs	Lunch
1300–1415hrs	<p>“The Workforce of Tomorrow - Attracting Talent in a Competitive World” Panel Moderator: BGen Deming (Director General Air and Space Readiness)</p> <p>Panelists: Ms. Lorraine Ben (Chief Executive Officer, Lockheed Martin Canada), MGen Boucher (Chief Professional Conduct and Culture), BGen Larsen (Deputy Director General Military Personnel Strategic and Director Strategic Development, Chief of Military Personnel), CWO Hall (RCAF Command Chief Warrant Officer), Col Michael Romero (Ret’d) [Executive Director, Air Force Recruiting Service],</p> <p>Panel will aim to define the workforce of tomorrow, highlighting the competencies, skills and attitudes that will be desirable to an employer and how organizations must evolve to move past the resource challenges of today to ensure the optimization of the Air Force of tomorrow.</p>
1415–1445hrs	Closing Remarks - Commander RCAF



**Lieutenant-General E. J. Kenny,
CMM, MSC, MSM, CD
Commander RCAF**

DAY 1

LGen Kenny joined the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in 1989 and graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) in Kingston with a degree in Computer Engineering. He completed pilot training at 15 Wing Moose Jaw in 1995 and was selected to fly the CF-188 Hornet.

Following CF-188 pilot training, he served as a CF-188 line and instructor pilot as well as flight supervisor at 433 and 410 Tactical Fighter Squadrons (TFSs) in 3 Wing Bagotville and 4 Wing Cold Lake.

LGen Kenny has held a number of command positions, including Commanding Officer of 409 TFS in Cold Lake, Commander of 4 Wing Cold Lake and Commander of 1 Canadian Air Division (Cdn Air Div) / Canadian NORAD Region in Winnipeg.

His staff tours consist of Deputy Wing Operations Officer at 4 Wing; A3 Fighter at 1 Cdn Air Div Headquarters (HQ) in Winnipeg; Director Air Force Readiness at RCAF HQ in Ottawa; and Deputy Director J7 at the NORAD, United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) HQ in Colorado.

As a brigadier-general (BGen), he held the positions of Deputy Commander Force Generation at 1 Cdn Air Div in Winnipeg and, subsequently, Director General Air Readiness at RCAF HQ in Ottawa.

LGen Kenny has deployed numerous times and participated in multiple operations. He deployed twice to Aviano, Italy, to participate in Operation ECHO (Bosnia) and Operation ALLIED FORCE (Kosovo), where he took part in combat missions, and he was the Deputy Director of the Air Operations Control Centre at the International Security Assistance Force HQ in Afghanistan. His deployed command tours include Task Force Commander for Operation IGNITION in Iceland; Detachment Commander of the CF-188s, CC-130H Hercules and CC-150 Polaris in Trapani, Italy, where he took part in combat missions for Operation MOBILE (Libya); Commander Air Component Coordination Element in Poggio Renatico, Italy, also for Operation MOBILE; and Commander of ROTO 0 Air Task Force – Iraq for Operation IMPACT.

Throughout his career, LGen Kenny has accumulated 2,900 flying hours, 2,200 of which were spent in the CF-188. He is a graduate of the NATO Tactical Leadership Programme, Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, Canadian Forces College Joint Command and Staff Programme, United States Air Force (USAF) Air War College, USAF Combined Force Air Component Commander Course and US CAPSTONE Course. He also has a Master of Defence Studies from RMC.

He was promoted to LGen in August 2022 and appointed Commander of the RCAF on August 12, 2022.



Lieutenant-General Frances Allen, CMM, CD **Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, CAF**

DAY 1

LGen Allen enrolled in the CAF in 1983. After graduation from Queen's University in 1987 with an honours degree in Statistics, LGen Allen completed her communications and electronics engineering - air (CELE - Air) training in 1988. Following CELE - Air training, her early operational postings were to 764 Communication Squadron, the Canadian Forces School of Communications and Electronics in Kingston, Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Carp and 76 Communication Group.

LGen Allen has commanded at multiple levels throughout her career, including as the Officer Commanding the National Systems Management Centre in Ottawa. She has also commanded at the Aerospace and Telecommunications Engineering Support Squadron (ATESS) in Trenton, the Canadian Forces Network Operations Centre and the Canadian Forces Information Operations Group.

Her staff appointments have included the Operations Officer for the Information Protection Centre, Executive Assistant to the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff and Director Support Operations in the Strategic Joint Staff (SJS). Upon her promotion in 2014 to BGen, she assumed the post of Director General Defence Security at the National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ). LGen Allen also served as Director General Cyberspace, Director General Information Management Operations at NDHQ and Joint Force Cyber Component Commander. She was appointed Deputy Vice Chief of the Defence Staff after being promoted to major-general (MGen) in June 2018. She was promoted to the rank of LGen in July 2020.

That same month, LGen Allen was appointed to serve as the Military Representative of Canada to the NATO Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium. She returned to Canada in June 2021 to assume the role of Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, and she was the first woman to hold this position in the CAF.

LGen Allen is a graduate of Queen's University, the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College and the Canadian Forces College National Security Programme. She holds a master's degree in Defence Studies from RMC and has been invested as a Commander of the Order of Military Merit.



Major-General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet, CD Deputy Commander RCAF

DAY 1

MGen Speiser-Blanchet enrolled in the CAF in 1990 and graduated from RMC in 1994 with a degree in Computer Engineering.

Earning her pilot wings in March 1996, she joined the tactical-aviation community and qualified on the CH146 Griffon helicopter at 1 Wing. Her operational and staff postings include 430^e Escadron tactique d'hélicoptères in Valcartier, 1 Wing HQ in Kingston, 1 Cdn Air Div HQ in Winnipeg and 403 Helicopter Operational Training Squadron in Gagetown.

MGen Speiser-Blanchet deployed as a helicopter pilot during United Nations and NATO missions in Haiti and Bosnia, and in 2019, she was appointed Deputy Commander (Operations) for Joint Task Force IMPACT in Kuwait. In Canada, she has deployed on numerous domestic operations in response to regional emergencies and in support of other government agencies.

MGen Speiser-Blanchet has commanded at multiple levels, including 403 Helicopter Operational Training Squadron, the Canadian Forces Intelligence Group, and the Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers Group. She has served in strategic staff appointments as the Military Assistant to the Minister of National Defence and as the Special Advisor to the Chief of the Defence Staff.

A graduate of the Joint Command and Staff Programme (JCSP) and the Defence and Strategic Studies Course (DSSC) in Australia, she holds a master's degree in Defence Studies from RMC and a master's degree in Politics and Policy from Deakin University. She was recently promoted to her current rank and appointed to the position of Deputy Commander of the RCAF.



Colonel Jeremy Hansen, CD Astronaut, Canadian Space Agency

DAY 1

Having achieved his glider licence at 16 and private pilot licence at 17 through the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, Col Hansen attributes his success to the organization for setting the foundation for his career. A CF-188 pilot, he was also the Combat Operations Officer at 4 Wing Operations, where his responsibilities included the effectiveness of regional NORAD operations, deployed exercises and Arctic flying operations.

Col Hansen is one of two recruits selected by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) through the third Canadian astronaut recruitment campaign. Upon graduation from Astronaut Candidate Training, he started working at the Mission Control Centre as the Capsule Communicator (Capcom)—the voice between the ground and the International Space Station.

He participated in the European Space Agency's CAVES [Cooperative Adventure for Valuing and Exercising Human Behaviour and Performance Skills] programme in Sardinia, Italy. During this programme, he lived underground for six days and was a crewmember of NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO) 19, in which he lived and worked on the ocean floor in the Aquarius habitat off Key Largo, Florida, for seven days, simulating deep-space exploration.

CSA astronaut Col Hansen is the first Canadian to be entrusted with leading a NASA astronaut class, meaning he is responsible for training astronaut candidates from the United States (US) and Canada. Col Hansen will fly to the Moon on the Artemis II mission, the first crewed flight test of the Orion spacecraft launching on the Space Launch System rocket. He will become the first Canadian to ever venture to the Moon.



Chief Warrant Officer John Hall, MMM, CD RCAF Command Chief Warrant Officer

DAY 2

Raised in Port Elgin, ON, CWO John Hall enrolled in the CAF on 6 February 1987. Upon completion of basic training at Canadian Forces Base Cornwallis, he attended performance oriented electronics training (POET) [basic electronics training] and radio technician qualification level (QL) 3 training at the Canadian Forces School of Communications and Electronics in Kingston. Upon graduating, he was posted to CFS Aldergrove, BC, as a Transmitter Site Technician. Following the successful completion of his QL5 course in 1991, he was promoted to Corporal. After completing a tour at CFS Alert in 1994 as the Transmitter Site Technician, CWO Hall was posted to 708 Communication Squadron at 8 Wing Trenton, where he was quickly deployed back to CFS Alert for another 6-month tour, this time as the Antenna and Telephone Technician.

When the 200-series trades were reorganized in 1995, he was assigned to the aerospace telecommunications and information systems trade, which included a switch from the tan distinctive environmental uniforms of the Army to RCAF blue. The year 1999 saw CWO Hall deployed on Operation PALLADIUM, specifically to the Stabilization Force HQ in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as an integrated digital network exchange (IDNX) technician. His promotion to Master Corporal in 2001 included a posting to Wing Telecommunications and Information Services (WTIS) at 19 Wing Comox, where he served as a network technician until 2004, when he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and assumed the role of the Network Services Supervisor. 8 Wing Trenton welcomed CWO Hall back in 2005, this time to ATESS, where—as the Deployable Network Supervisor—he led the team which designed and built deployable Defence Wide Area Network (DWAN) and Classified computer networks for the RCAF. Promoted to warrant officer (WO) in 2008, he assumed the role of Standards WO at ATESS Command and Control Information Systems Flight. In July 2009, he received a posting to Director Aerospace Equipment Program Management (Radar and Communications Systems) in Ottawa as the Air Force Command and Control Information System Life Cycle Materiel Manager, a job he held until 2011, when he was promoted to Master Warrant Officer and posted as the Project Manager to the Canadian Forces Network Operation Centre at CFS Leitrim. 4 Wing Cold Lake became home for him in 2012 as the Squadron WO of 4 WTIS and then, in 2014, he returned to the National Capital Region to attend second language training in Gatineau, QC.

In February 2015, he was invested into the Order of Military Merit, and in July 2015, he was promoted to CWO and posted to 19 Wing Comox as the Wing Operations Branch CWO. In 2016, he was chosen to be the RCAF Air Task Force CWO at Exercise RIM OF THE PACIFIC (RIMPAC) at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. He was appointed Wing CWO at 15 Wing Moose Jaw in 2017, a role he held until April 2019, when he was selected as Division CWO at 2 Cdn Air Div in Winnipeg. CWO Hall was appointed to his current position as the 6th Command CWO of the RCAF on 10 June 2021.

Brigadier-General Chris McKenna, OMM, MSC, MSM, CD **Director General Air and Space Force Development**

DAY 1

Initially an infantry reservist, BGen McKenna earned his RCAF pilot wings in 2002 and has commanded at the flight, squadron, wing and task-force levels, serving with tactical helicopter and special operations aviation squadrons. His deployments include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kandahar and Mali. He has over 2,600 flying hours in the CH-146 Griffon and CH-147 Chinook helicopters. He served as the Director Air Plans in RCAF HQ before taking command of 1 Wing, Canada's tactical-aviation wing. The following year, he was appointed as the RCAF's Director General Air and Space Force Development.

Brigadier-General Michael Adamson, CD **Commander 3 Canadian Space Division**

DAY 1

After receiving his navigator wings, BGen Adamson was employed as a CP-140A navigator/communicator, crew commander, simulator operator, standards officer and chief aircrew instructor for the CP-140. After serving as the Career Manager and Strategic Coordination Staff Officer for the Chief of Force Development, he then deployed to Combined Maritime Forces in Bahrain as the Chief of the Air Coordination Element. As the Commanding Officer of 405 Squadron, he oversaw the introduction of first-line maintenance and the unit's conversion to the upgraded Block III CP-140M Aurora. He then acted as Executive Assistant to the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff before assuming duties with the Chief of Force Development as Director C4ISR [Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance]. After serving as Wing Commander of 14 Wing Greenwood, BGen Adamson assumed the roles of RCAF Director General Space and the Joint Force Space Component Commander. When Director General Space transitioned to 3 Canadian Space Division (3 CSD), BGen Adamson was appointed Commander 3 CSD.

Brigadier-General Kevin Whale, CD (Retired) **Senior Director, Defence Strategy, MDA Space**

DAY 1

Prior to his current engagement, BGen Whale was Director General Space of the RCAF and Deputy Commanding General, Transformation, at Space Operations Command, USAF. In those posts, he was instrumental in setting the groundwork for what would become 3 CSD. His career spans multiple tours as a helicopter pilot in tactical-aviation operations, and he later gained command experience up to the wing level. BGen Whale has deployed throughout Europe, the US and Afghanistan.

Mr. Daniel S. Goldberg **President and CEO of Telesat**

DAY 1

Prior to joining Telesat, Mr. Goldberg served as CEO of SES, a satellite-telecommunications service provider. Prior to its acquisition by SES, he served as the Chief Operating Officer of New Skies. Before joining New Skies, he served as Associate General Counsel and Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs at PanAmSat, a satellite service provider.

He began his career as an associate at Covington and Burling, and then Goldberg, Godles, Wiener and Wright law firms in Washington, DC. He is currently serving as the Chairman of the Board for the Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA) and was the inaugural Chair of the Space Canada Board of Directors.

General Thomas J. Lawson, CMM, CD (Retired)

Former Chief of the Defence Staff, CAF

DAY 1

A fighter pilot, Gen Lawson held numerous command positions at the unit, wing, operational and strategic levels. He was part of the Canadian Forces Transformation Team and led the stand-up of the SJS. After serving as Wing Commander, Commandant RMC, Assistant Chief of the Air Staff and Deputy Commander NORAD, he was appointed Chief of the Defence Staff, wherein he oversaw the completion of the Canadian mission in Afghanistan, the deployment of Canadian troops to Eastern Europe following Russian aggression in Crimea, and the Canadian Forces contribution to the coalition effort against the self-named Islamic State. Gen Lawson now provides strategic advice to companies, including Air Canada, Lockheed Martin and CAE, and he enjoys speaking engagements and symposia that leverage his years in CAF command positions.

Major-General Christopher Zimmer, MSM, CD

Chief of Staff, Digital Transformation Office

DAY 1

MGen Zimmer joined the CAF as an air logistician. During his career, he has occupied a number of tactical, operational and strategic positions at Goose Bay, Cold Lake, Winnipeg, Kingston and Ottawa. His most recent key positions include Commander of Canadian Material Support Group (CMSG) and Director General - Support/Strat J4 within the SJS at NDHQ. MGen Zimmer has deployed twice in support of operations in Kosovo and then as the Chief of Staff for the Joint Task Force Afghanistan Air Wing. In 2021, MGen Zimmer joined the Digital Transformation Office as Chief of Staff, and he was the Acting Assistant Deputy Minister from February 2022 to March 2023.

Dr. Ming Hou

Defence Research and Development Canada

DAY 1

As the Principal Adviser and Authority of Human Factors Research and Development on Human-Technology Interactions within the Department of National Defence, Dr. Hou leads interdisciplinary teams to deliver technological solutions, evidence-based recommendations, science-based policy and strategic advice to the CAF. As the Co-Chair and Head of Canadian Delegation to Human Factors Specialist Team under the NATO Joint Capability Group Unmanned Aircraft Systems, she coordinates international efforts to develop NATO standards on Human Systems Integration guidance, human-factors experimentation guidelines, and sense and avoid guidance for unmanned aircraft systems. Additionally, Dr. Hou guides Canadian academic research in automation, robotics, AI and telepresence.

Mr. Anthony Pitfield

Senior Leader for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Amazon Web Services Canada

DAY 1

Mr. Pitfield is the Senior Leader for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning at Amazon Web Services (AWS) Canada. With over ten years of experience in the field, he specializes in guiding organizations in strategizing on, building and deploying artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) services for clients across Canada's public sector and Latin America. Previously, he was a senior managing consultant at IBM focused on applying ML and AI to Internet of Things (IoT), edge and digital operations. His focus is on enabling innovation within organizations with the scale of AWS.

Dr. Richard Goette

Canadian Forces College, RMC

DAY 1

Dr. Goette has taught Canadian military history, Canadian external relations, war and society, and command courses at several civilian and military universities. Dr. Goette teaches at the JCSP and National Security Programme at the Canadian Forces College, where he lectures on RCAF history, command, the profession of arms, air power and targeting. He is also a research associate with the Laurier Centre for the Study of Canada in Waterloo, where he previously held a post-doctoral fellowship. Dr. Goette has published extensively in the fields of air force history, air power, naval history, leadership, and command and control. He is also an Associate Air Force Historian with RCAF History and Heritage.

Lieutenant-General Blaise Frawley, CMM, CD

Deputy Commander NORAD

DAY 1

With over 3,000 hours on the CF-188, including an exchange with the United States Marine Corps, LGen Frawley has flown combat missions over the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Kosovo. He was assigned as the Executive Officer of the Task Force Aviano National Command Element at Vicenza, Italy, and the Air Mobility Division Deputy Director, 609th Combined Air and Space Operations Centre at Al Udeid Airbase, Qatar. He has held staff positions in 3 Wing Bagotville Operations as Chief of Plans, Training and Evaluation and within the Directorate of Aerospace Requirements in Ottawa, in addition to appointments as A3 Fighter 1 Cdn Air Div, Deputy Commander 1 Cdn Air Div and Director General Space within the RCAF Air Staff. He went on to be the Deputy Commander of the RCAF and Deputy Vice Chief of the Defence Staff until being selected for his current post.

Colonel J. Reiffenstein

Director Professional Development, Canadian Defence Academy

DAY 1

Colonel John Reiffenstein is an infantry officer with over 35 years of experience in the CAF in a variety of command and staff appointments. He has served abroad on operations in Croatia, Bosnia and Rwanda. He has extensive experience in professional military education, having served as Directing Staff at both the Canadian Army Command and Staff College as well as the Canadian Forces College. He has spent much of the last decade serving outside of Canada,

spending three years as the Canadian Army Liaison Officer to the US Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth and five years with NATO at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in the Partnerships Directorate. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master of Arts in War Studies from RMC. He is now the Director Professional Development at the Canadian Defence Academy and has a side gig as an assistant coach with the Varsity Rugby Team at RMC.

Dr. David Perry **President, Canadian Global Affairs Institute**

DAY 1

Dr. Perry is the host of the Institute's *Defence Deconstructed* podcast and a co-director of the Triple Helix MINDS [Mobilizing Insight in Defence and Security] Collaborative Network. He is the author of multiple publications related to defence budgeting, transformation and procurement, as well as a columnist for the *Canadian Naval Review*. He is an adjunct professor at the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary and a research fellow of the Centre for the Study of Security and Development at Dalhousie University. He was previously the Senior Security and Defence Analyst of the Conference of Defence Associations Institute and Deputy Director of Dalhousie University's Centre for Foreign Policy Studies.

Dr. Ibrahim Yimer **National Research Council Canada**

DAY 1

Prior to being the Vice-President of the Transportation and Manufacturing division, where he oversees the National Research Council Canada's (NRC's) Aerospace Research Centre and the Automotive and Surface Transportation Research Centre, Dr. Yimer was Director General of the Aerospace Research Centre. As part of the NRC, he has also occupied a series of roles, including Director of the Gas Turbine Laboratory, Program Manager of the Gas Turbine Aerodynamics and Combustion Group, and Senior Research Officer. He is a renowned expert in the field of gas-turbine combustion and fuels, having led and played instrumental roles in numerous leading international scientific associations, such as American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) International, the International Forum for Aviation Research (IFAR), the International Society of Air Breathing Engines (ISABE) and the International Council of the Aeronautical Sciences (ICAS), in which he currently serves as a board member and national representative.

Professor Justin Bronk **Royal United Services Institute**

DAY 2

Professor Bronk is the Senior Research Fellow for Airpower and Technology in the Military Sciences team at Royal United Services Institute. His particular areas of expertise include the modern combat air environment, Russian and Chinese ground-based air defences and fast jet capabilities, the air war during the Russian invasion of Ukraine, uncrewed combat aerial vehicles and novel weapons technology. Prof. Bronk also holds a Professor II position at the Royal Norwegian Air Force Academy.

Major-General Darcy Molstad, CD

Deputy Commander, Canadian Joint Operations Command

DAY 2

MGen Molstad is a CF-188 pilot and fighter weapons instructor with over 2,200 hours. Following an exchange with the United States Marine Corps, he went on to command at the unit and wing levels. He functioned as the Air Task Force Commander for NATO air-policing missions in Iceland and Romania as well as for Canada's largest expeditionary Air Force contribution to a RIMPAC exercise in 2016. Most recently, he served as the US Air Forces Central Command Combined Air and Space Operations Center Director at Al Udeid Airbase, Qatar. His staff experience includes tours as the Officer Commanding the 1 Cdn Air Div Fighter Standards and Evaluation Team; Senior Staff Officer in charge of the Northern Employment and Western Hemisphere Engagement Strategy at Canada Command; Air Force Advisor to the United Kingdom in London; Defence Attaché to Iceland; Special Advisor to the Minister of National Defence; and two director general positions at the Strategic Joint Staff responsible for military strategic assessments, strategies, effects and readiness portfolios.

Lieutenant General David Nahom

**Commander, Alaskan Region, North American Aerospace Defense Command;
Commander, Alaskan Command, USNORTHCOM;
and Commander, Eleventh Air Force, Pacific Air Forces**

DAY 2

As the senior military officer in the region, Lt. Gen. Nahom is responsible for the integration of all military activities in the Alaskan joint operations area. He ensures effective surveillance, monitoring and defence of the region's airspace. He is also responsible for the planning and execution of all homeland defence operations within the area of responsibility, including security and civil-support actions. He commands the Eleventh Air Force, overseeing the training and readiness of five wings and Air Force installations located in Alaska, Hawaii and Guam. He has commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels and is a command pilot with more than 3,400 hours. Prior to his current assignment, Lt. Gen. Nahom was the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs, Headquarters USAF, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia.

Air Vice-Marshal Wendy Blyth

Head of Air Force Capability, Royal Australian Air Force

DAY 2

As Director General Air Capability Enablers, Air Vice-Marshal (AVM) Blyth was the Capability Sponsor for the air mobility fleet, pilot and mission aircrew training systems, air traffic management, airbases, Air Force Security, cyber warfare and networks. She has established and overseen sustainment for the P-3 Orion, Heron uncrewed aerial system and Australian Defence Force aerospace life support equipment. AVM Blyth was the Project Manager for the P-8 Poseidon acquisition and facilitated government approval of

the fleet. In addition to being a fellow with Engineers Australia and a Certified Practising Project Director with the Australian Institute of Project Management, she is a Member of the Order of Australia for her exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in the C-130J Super Hercules' sustainment reform and in the P-8A Poseidon's capability development and system sustainment.

Dr. Allan English **Queen's University**

DAY 2

Dr. English served in the RCAF and CAF for 25 years. He taught courses related to air warfare, theories of war, and command and leadership at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto and was the Co-Chair of the Department of Aerospace Studies. He designed and taught a graduate course on Canadian air warfare for the War Studies programme at RMC.

Brigadier-General Ryan Deming, OMM, CD **Director General Air and Space Readiness, Air Staff**

DAY 2

BGen Deming flew operationally as a navigator on the CC-130 and then became an instructor at 426 Transport Training Squadron's (426 [T] Trg Sqn's) Tactical Training Flight prior to transferring to the 1 Cdn Air Div Detachment Transport and Rescue Standards and Evaluation Team (TRSET). He was then 8 Wing Trenton's Standards Flight Commander and Deputy Commanding Officer of 436 Transport Squadron. BGen Deming has had numerous deployments around the globe over the span of his career, including multiple deployments to Afghanistan and the Middle East, and he has commanded at the unit and wing levels. BGen Deming's staff tours include positions at Canadian Expeditionary Force Command (CEFCOM), Staff Officer for the Chief of the Defence Staff, Deputy Director Strategic Coordination for the Chief of Force Development, Executive Assistant to the Commander RCAF and Director Defence Programme Coordination. Currently, he holds the position of Director General Air and Space Readiness within the Air Staff.

Ms. Lorraine Ben **CEO of Lockheed Martin Canada**

DAY 2

Having previous experience with Lockheed Martin, TELUS, Accenture and IBM, Ms. Ben was appointed CEO of Lockheed Martin Canada in June 2019. As the corporation's in-country lead, she facilitates access to Lockheed Martin's broad portfolio of products and technologies to help Canada address its security and defence challenges.

Major-General Jeannot Boucher, OMM, MSM, CD **Director General Culture, Chief Professional Conduct and Culture**

DAY 2

MGen Boucher joined the CAF in 1992 as a pilot, accumulating more than 3,000 hours in his career. Following operational and instructional flying tours, he served as an analyst within the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff organization and deployed to Afghanistan as the Operations Officer and Deputy Commanding Officer for Canadian Helicopter Force Afghanistan in 2009. He went on to serve as a faculty member at the US Air Command and

Staff College; Executive Assistant to the Commander RCAF; Chief of Staff of 1st Canadian Division (Cdn Div); and Director General within the Chief of Force Development. His command appointments include Commander of 430^e Escadron tactique d'hélicoptères, Commander of 1 Wing, Interim Commander 1st Cdn Div and Commander Task Force Jerusalem (Operation PROTEUS). In January 2023, he was promoted to his current rank and appointed as Director General Culture within Chief Professional Conduct and Culture.

Brigadier-General Mark Larsen, OMM, CD
Deputy Director General Military Personnel Strategic and
Director Strategic Development, Chief of Military Personnel

DAY 2

BGen Larsen enrolled in the CAF in 1988 after serving as a Royal Canadian Air Cadet for six years. Serving in the RCAF as a logistics officer, he has been employed at squadron, wing, operational and strategic HQs. He deployed to Afghanistan as the Officer Commanding an operational mentoring and liaison team, working with the Afghan National Army. He has commanded the 1 Cdn Air Div and Canadian NORAD Region HQ, has served as Aide-de-Camp to the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, and has been Director Air Reserve and Director Air Personnel Strategy at the RCAF HQ in Ottawa.

Colonel Michael A. Romero (Retired)
Executive Director, Air Force Recruiting Service

DAY 2

Col Romero is the Executive Director, HQ Air Force Recruiting Service (AFRS), Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. Col Romero retired from active duty in November 2014 after 25 years of serving in a variety of flying and staff positions at the squadron, group, wing and joint levels. His flying assignments include McGuire Air Force Base (AFB), New Jersey; Kadena Air Base, Japan; Kirtland AFB, New Mexico; and Hurlburt Field, Florida. He was also the Deployed Squadron Commander for the 16th Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. His staff assignments include Headquarters, United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), as an air operations officer; USSOCOM's Interagency Task Force, MacDill AFB, Florida, as the Chief of Operations; and 1st Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Florida, as the Chief, Wing Plans. His AFRS assignments include Squadron Commander, 345th Recruiting Squadron, Scott AFB, Illinois; Chief, Inspector General, Inspections Branch, HQ AFRS; Chief, Plans and Resources, HQ AFRS; and Vice Commander, AFRS.

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GENERAL DYNAMICS



RCAF CENTENNIAL RECEPTION



All in-person symposium registrants are cordially invited to attend the RCAF Centennial Reception.

Date: 30 May 2024

Time: 1800 hrs

Location: Royal Canadian Geographical Society, 50 Sussex Drive

Attire: Business casual

Join us for an evening of socializing and connecting with fellow symposium guests. Enjoy delicious food, refreshing beverages and lively conversation in a relaxed setting. This is a social event organized to celebrate the RCAF Centennial and provide an opportunity for guests to network and build relationships.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Free parking is available at the NRC at 100 Sussex Drive.

Consult the map for details on how to proceed to the Reception from the NRC parking lot.



