

70th Anniversary

**Gathering
of the Lions**



November 3rd 2012

FORMER COMMANDING OFFICERS

GP CAPT D.H. BURNSIDE	NOV 42 - SEP 43
WG COMD R.S. TURNBULL	SEP 43 - JAN 44
WG COMD G.J. CRIBB	JUN 44 - AUG 44
WG COMD V.F. GANDERTON	SEP 44 - MAR 45
WG COMD E.M. BRYSON	MAY 45 - JUN 45
WG COMD R.D. BLAGRAVE	JUN 45 - OCT 45
WG COMD J.C.R. BROWN	OCT 45 - MAY 46
WG COMD C.L.V. GERVAIS	AUG 52 - JUN 54
SQN LDR D.K. BURKE	JUN 54 - SEP 55
WG COMD D.G. LAIDLER	SEP 55 - JUL 56
SQN LDR L.J. HUBBARD	JUL 56 - OCT 56
WG COMD W.R. TEW	OCT 56 - MAY 58
LCOL D.M. PAYNE	AUG 59 - NOV 60
LCOL P.B. ST. LOUIS	DEC 60 - DEC 62
WG COMD R.G. MIDDLEMISS	DEC 62 - DEC 63
MAJ J.G. JOY	JAN 64
LCOL H.R. KNIGHT	MAY 58 - JUL 59
	FEB 64 - JUN 65
COL J.F. DUNLOP	JUL 65 - AUG 65
COL J.A.C. TOUSIGNANT	SEP 65 - APR 66
LCOL P.J.S. HIGGS	MAY 66 - AUG 67
SQN LDR D.W. MCGOWN	SEP 67
LCOL R.E. CAURUTHERS	OCT 67 - JUL 69
LCOL T. REID	JUL 69 - JUN 70
LCOL J.P. HARRISON	JAN 71 - FEB 72
COL D.L. GLENDINNING	FEB 72 - JUL 73
LCOL D.M. MCNAUGHTON	JUL 73 - JUL 74
LCOL D.E. MUNRO	JUL 74 - JUL 76
LCOL W.R. DOBSON	JUL 76 - JUL 78
LCOL J.E. JACKMAN	JUL 78 - JAN 80
LCOL H.A. CUNNINGHAM	JAN 80 - JUN 83
LCOL D.R. FOSTER	JUN 83 - JUL 85
LCOL E.H. GOSDEN	JUL 85 - SEP 86
	APR 87 - JUL 88
MAJ G.F. IRELAND	SEP 86 - APR 87
	FEB 90 - AUG 90
MAJ D.A. MCEACHERN	SEP 88 - APR 89
LCOL E.A. FINDLEY	JUL 88 - SEP 88
	APR 89 - FEB 90
LCOL D.R. BROWN	AUG 90 - MAY 92
LCOL K.R. SORFLEET	MAY 92 - JUN 94
LCOL P.A. CAMPBELL	JUN 94 - SEP 95
	JUN 96 - JUN 97
MAJ B.A. MCQUADE	SEP 95 - JUN 96
LCOL J.J.G.D. GUERTIN	JUN 97 - JUL 00
LCOL R.H. MEIKLEJOHN	JUL 00 - AUG 02
LCOL M.R. DABROS	AUG 02 - FEB 03
	OCT 03 - JUL 04
MAJ R.C. McLAUGHLIN	FEB 03 - OCT 03
LCOL C.J. COATES	JUL 04 - MAY 06
LCOL J.H.C. DROUIN	MAY 06 - AUG 08
LCOL K.G. WHALE	AUG 08 - JUL 10
LCOL J.J. ALEXANDER	JUL 10 - JUL 12

PARADE FORMAT

SQUADRON MARCHES ON

GENERAL STANDARD MARCHES ON

GENERAL SALUTE FOR ARRIVALS

DEPUTY COMMANDER CONUS NORAD

COMMANDER 1 WING

HONOURARY COLONEL

COMMANDER CANSOFCOM

INSPECTION

PRESENTATIONS

ADDRESSES

PRAYER

MARCH PAST LED BY LCOL

T.A. MOREHEN

ADVANCE IN REVIEW ORDER

GENERAL SALUTE FOR DEPARTURE OF

DIGNITARIES

MARCH OFF THE STANDARD

OFFICERS DISMISSED

SCWO MARCHES OFF THE SQUADRON



**DEPUTY COMMANDER CONUS NORAD
BRIGADIER-GENERAL
C.J. COATES, OMM, MSM, CD**

BGen Coates joined the CF after completing his post-secondary education at the University of Calgary with majors in chemistry and biochemistry. Upon entering the Canadian Forces he was trained as a helicopter pilot. His flying career started as a reconnaissance pilot flying light observation helicopters with 444 Squadron in Lahr Germany and 430 Squadron in Valcartier Québec. He also flew utility helicopters with both 408 Squadron in Edmonton Alberta and 427 Squadron in Petawawa Ontario. He led the deployment of three helicopters to England and France during Canada's celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of D-Day and spent six months as a Forward Air Controller with the UN Protection Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. BGen Coates served as the Air Component Commander during support to the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg, returned to Bosnia-Herzegovina for the second time, serving as the CO of the Canadian Helicopter Detachment for seven months, and led the re-role of 427 Sqn from a Tactical Aviation unit to a Special Operations Aviation Squadron.

In his staff appointments BGen Coates has served as an operations officer with 10 Tactical Air Group HQ in St Hubert, 1 Wing HQ in Kingston, with the Air Staff in Ottawa and as the CAOC Director in Winnipeg. He has contributed to the planning and execution of aviation support to a variety of domestic operations, including forest fires, ice storms, and floods. He has been involved with the air and aviation planning for Canadian missions to Haiti and Honduras, the first Canadian tactical aviation deployments to both Bosnia and Kosovo, air support for the French-led mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as Canada's mission to Afghanistan. As the CAOC Director for the Canadian NORAD Region he coordinated NORAD's response to numerous increased operational requirements, including Canadian domestic operations and Northern sovereignty.

After Winnipeg BGen Coates was appointed Commander of 1 Wing in Kingston, in charge of all Canadian combat helicopter Squadrons. While commanding 1 Wing he was also appointed as the first Commander of the JTF-Afghanistan Air Wing in Kandahar where he led the deployment and establishment of new air and aviation capabilities in Afghanistan. It was during this period and under his leadership that Canada re-established its Chinook helicopter capability, directly in to the combat theatre of operations.

BGen Coates is appointed as the Deputy Commander Continental NORAD Region based at Tyndall AFB, Florida.

BGen Coates has completed Canadian Forces Land Forces Command and Staff College in Kingston and Command and Staff College at the Institut royal supérieur de la défense in Brussels, Belgium. He attended the USAF Air War College in Montgomery Alabama completing a Masters of Strategic Studies. BGen Coates has completed the USAF Combined Force Air Component Commander Course. He served as an air cadet with 781 RCACS in Calgary and 533 RCACS in St Albert, and enjoys outdoor pursuits and woodworking in his leisure time.



**COMMANDER CANSOFCOM
BRIGADIER-GENERAL
D.W. THOMPSON, CD**

BGen Thompson entered le Collège Militaire Royal de St. Jean in 1979, graduating from the Royal Military College of Canada at Kingston in 1984.

As a junior officer he served with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment in Winnipeg, Cyprus and Germany and Joint Task Force 2 in Ottawa.

Upon promotion to Major in 1995, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment as Officer Commanding G Company, leading them as part of the Queen's Royal Hussars Battle Group on the initial NATO mission in Bosnia. Thereafter, he was appointed the Deputy Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, and G3 of 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group. In 2000, BGen Thompson assumed command of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment deploying with them in 2001 as the Battle Group Commander in Bosnia.

On leaving Regimental duty in 2002, he took up a post as a policy officer including a secondment to Foreign Affairs Canada. In 2006, BGen Thompson was appointed Brigade Commander of 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group in Petawawa until assuming command of Task Force Kandahar from May 2008 to February 2009.

Since then, he has served in a number of staff positions at National Defence Headquarters before being appointed Commander of Canadian Special Operations Command in April 2011.

BGen Thompson is a licensed Professional Engineer and his academic qualifications include a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Applied Military Science.



**COMMANDER 1 WING
COLONEL K.G. WHALE, CD**

Born in Wallaceburg, Ontario, Col Whale enrolled in the Canadian Forces in 1986 under the Regular Officer Training Plan. Achieving his pilot's wings in 1990, Col Whale has completed a wide range of conventional and special operations aviation assignments including tours with 427 Squadron, the 1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas, and 400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron. With operational qualifications on Kiowa, Twin Huey, AH-64A/C Apache, and Griffon helicopters, Col Whale has a well rounded background in tactical aviation mobility, reconnaissance, and aerial firepower operations.

His staff experience includes Training and Concept Development assignments within 1 Wing HQ, Kingston, as well as various positions at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa including with the Canadian Forces Transformation Team and the Directorate of Air Strategic Plans. Col Whale also completed a brief assignment at the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command Headquarters, Ottawa, working with both Plans and Force Development staff and, most recently from 2011 to 2012, he was assigned as Chief of Staff Formation Operations, Support, and Management at the Canadian Defence Academy, Kingston.

His leadership and command roles have included those of an Attack Platoon Leader, Battle Captain, Deputy Commanding Officer, and Commanding Officer to include command of 427 Squadron from 2008 to 2010. His international experience includes an assignment with 444 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, Germany, an exchange posting with the US Army, a flying tour on OP PALLADIUM in Bosnia, and most recently in 2011 on OP MOBILE as Chief of Current Operations in NATO's Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters, Naples, Italy. His professional development and education include a B.Sc. in Physics from the University of Western Ontario, the Land Forces Transition Command and Staff Course, Kingston, and the Joint Command and Staff Program at the Canadian Forces College. Col Whale is currently completing a M.Sc. in Organizational Leadership with Norwich University, Vermont. Col Whale's recognized achievements include a US Army Commendation for his contribution to the US Army Task Force XXI program, a Comd 1 Cdn Air Div Commendation for aviation project development, and a Chief of the Air Staff Commendation for his leadership role in creating a revitalized Air Force strategy development process and document.



**HONOURARY COLONEL
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL (RET'D)
R. MIDDLEMISS, DFC, CD**

HCol Middlemiss joined the RCAF on 14 September 1940. Upon completing initial Flying School in Toronto and Summerside P.E.I. he was posted to No 57 Operational Training Unit, Hawarden Cheshire in July 1941. HCol Middlemiss flew MK11 Spitfires while serving with 145 Squadron in Caferick, Yorkshire. He carried out operations consisted of convoy patrols in the English Channel Fighter Sweeps, Rhubarbs, Bomber escorts, Air Defence Patrols and defence against low flying fighter bomber attacks. On 10 April 1942, he shot down an FW 190. During his tour with 249 Squadron in Takaii, Malta HCol Middlemiss flew the Spitfire MkVc off the aircraft carrier HMC Eagle, during which time he shot down three ME 109s and damaged two others before being shot down and himself being wounded. Following his recuperation, HCol Middlemiss served on various operational and training units including No 130 and 403 Squadrons, then, having completed two tours of duty, he was repatriated back to Canada in April 1944.

Following operational training on the Harvard and Hurricane aircraft and subsequently the Oxford and Mosquito aircraft, HCol Middlemiss completed a number of Operational and Staff positions including Flight Commander at 421 Squadron, Chatham NB, 1(F) Operational and Training Unit, Chatham, and 441 Squadron St. Hubert, during which time he also flew the Vampire aircraft CF 100, and eventually the T-33 Sabre. HCol Middlemiss was appointed Commanding Officer of 421 Squadron St. Hubert in November 1951, then Commanding Officer of No. 1 Overseas Ferry Unit, delivering Sabre aircraft to the European continent. On promotion to Wing Comd, he was selected as the first Commanding Officer of a CF 104 Squadron leading to his tours as Commanding Officer of 427 Strike/Attack Squadron, 3 Wing Zewibrucken, Germany and Commanding Officer of No 6 Strike/Reconnaissance Operation Training Unit, Cold Lake Alberta.

HCol Middlemiss' final posting was to the Fighter/Bomber Exercise Branch in NORAD headquarters, Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1968. He retired from the Canadian Forces in June 1969. His interests include attending Air Force reunions, public speaking, golfing and computers.



**427 SOAS COMMANDING OFFICER
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL
T.A. MOREHEN, CD**

Born in Ajax, ON but raised on Vancouver Island, LCol Morehen joined the Canadian Forces in 1990 as an Officer Cadet. He graduated from Royal Roads Military College in 1994 with a Bachelor of Military and Strategic Studies. Upon completion of pilot training, he received his wings and a promotion to Lieutenant in November 1995. Posted to 427 Tactical Helicopter Squadron in Petawawa, ON, he flew both the CH135 Twin Huey and CH146, while serving as a Standards Officer and Night Vision Goggle Specialist. In 2002 he was posted 1 Wing Headquarters as the 1 Wing Lessons Learned Officer.

Promoted to Major in 2003 he continued to serve at 1 Wing Headquarters as A7 Doctrine dual-hatted within the Directorate of Army Doctrine. Completing his tour as the 1 Wing Operations Management Officer, he returned to 427 Tactical Helicopter Squadron as a Flight Commander in 2005. He left the squadron as Operations Officer in 2008. Promoted to his current rank in 2009, Lieutenant Colonel Morehen was posted to 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters as A3 Tactical Aviation.

LCol Morehen has served on operational deployments to Haiti in 1996, Honduras in 1998, Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2001, and Afghanistan in 2007. LCol Morehen received his Glider Pilot and Private Pilot licenses through the Royal Canadian Air Cadet program with 89 RCACS Victoria. A graduate of the Canadian Land Force Command and Staff Course in Kingston and the Canadian Forces Joint Command and Staff Program in Toronto, LCol Morehen also holds a Masters of Defence Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada.

LCol Morehen is lucky to be married to Nancy Morehen (nee McLaughlin) and they have two very busy sons: Carson and Ty.



HISTORY OF THE LION SQUADRON

427 (Lion) Squadron was formed on November 7, 1942, as the eighth of fifteen Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Bomber Squadrons formed overseas. The squadron flew Wellington aircraft out of Croft, Yorkshire; then Halifax and Lancaster bombers out of Leeming from May 3, 1943. Its first Commanding Officer was Group Captain Dudley Burnside. Initially part of 4 Group, the Squadron was transferred to 6th Bomber (RCAF) Group where it remained until the end of the war.

The Lion Squadron amassed an enormous amount of flying hours and won an impressive list of Battle Honours and individual distinctions. In 3,200 sorties comprising 26,000 flying hours, they dropped an incredible amount of high explosives on Fortress Europe and its ports. During the war, 415 personnel were lost, another 121 were shot down and taken prisoner, and 14 escaped to allied lines. Indicative of the selfless bravery of the Lion crews were four Distinguished Service Orders, two Conspicuous Gallantry Medals, 16 Distinguished Flying Medals, and 147 Distinguished Flying Crosses.

On May 24, 1943, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer adopted 427 Squadron and presented a bronze lion to the Squadron. This gift and the affiliation with the MGM lion mascot strengthened the Squadron's nickname. Another highlight was the presentation of a lion cub, named Mareth, by the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill. After the war the Lions were involved in flying Prisoners Of War and troops back from Europe to Britain. On May 31st, 1946, the Squadron was disbanded. On August 1, 1962, the Lions were reactivated as a Fighter Squadron flying F-86 Sabres at St-Hubert, before moving to Germany.

The Squadron subsequently served in France, Morocco and Sardinia as ambassadors for Canada, before becoming the first

Canadian squadron to be equipped with the CF-104 Starfighter in 1962, under Wing Commander Middlemiss. While flying CF-104s the Squadron won the Air Division Trophy in 1965, the Bradshaw Trophy in 1966 and Top Gun in 1967 and 1970. The Squadron was again disbanded on July 1, 1970.

The Lions returned on January 1st, 1971, as a Tactical Helicopter Squadron based at Petawawa, where they are to this day. Originally equipped with the L-19 Bird Dog, they received soon after the CH-136 Kiowa light observation helicopter, as well as the CH-135 Twin Huey utility helicopters. The Squadron has participated in numerous overseas operations such as Norway, Egypt, the Sinai Peninsula (Operation CALUMET), as well as a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Central America (Operation SULTAN). In 1992, 427 Squadron switched to a uniform fleet of CH-135 Twin Hueys. Soon after, in March 1993, a flight of Lions deployed to Somalia in support of Operation DELIVERANCE where they distinguished themselves in day and night operations. Maintaining its versatility in deployed operations, 427 deployed to Haiti for United Nations support missions from 1995 to 1997 on Operations PIVOT and STABLE. In 1975, 427 Squadron hosted and won the first Collective Challenge, the annual helicopter competition within the former 10 Tactical Air Group family of aviation squadrons. After having set the standard we repeated this feat again in 1981 and 1988.

427 Squadron retired the Twin Huey in July 1997, while receiving the last of the newly purchased BELL CH-146 Griffon Fleet. The Lions have used the Griffon in a number of operations to date, including Operation RECUPERATION (1998 Ice Storm), Operation CENTRAL (Honduras 1998), Operation HURRICANE (Arctic 1999), Operation Palladium Roto 5 (1999-2000), Roto 7 in 2000-2001, and was the driving force behind Operation Palladium Roto 11/12 in Bosnia 2002-2003.

On February 1, 2006, the unit was renamed 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron and became a part of Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM). As part of this newly formed command, 427 Squadron provides an aviation capability to the Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR), and Canadian Joint Incident Response Unit (CJIRU), and JTF2. It also serves Army operations by providing tactical airlift of troops and equipment, casualty evacuation, logistical support and support to search and rescue operations in central Canada.

Since the SOAS renaming, 427 Squadron continues to transform from a conventional tactical aviation squadron into an integrated SOA element of CANSOFCOM by upgrading, adjusting and implementing special projects in literally every flight within the Squadron. In addition to 427 Squadron's high tempo, Lions of all occupations have deployed to support 1 Wing's conventional CH-146 and CH-147 (Chinook) commitment to Afghanistan.

While moving forward in our current role, we never forget that all of this remarkable activity is rooted firmly in the successes of our past. Though roles and platforms have changed over the years, the Lion's resilience remains consistent and keeps moving us forward. We will continue to build upon our rich history of excellence, in Canada and abroad, as an Air Force unit uniquely embedded as part of Canada's Special Operations Forces.

Ferte Manus Certas (Strike with a Sure Hand).



We will find a way