

ARMED FORCES UNIFICATION

At a recent briefing session, members of the armed forces in Canada and overseas were informed of the major changes that would take place when the Canadian Forces Reorganization Act became effective on February 1.

Service personnel will no longer be members of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army or the Royal Canadian Air Force, but will serve as members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Army and air-force personnel generally will use the new ranks established for the CAF; personnel serving in the RCN prior to February 1 will continue to use naval ranks, as will personnel enrolled after that date who serve in a naval environment.

Other matters dealt with in the briefing included:

Operational elements – There will be no change in the operational elements of the new force, which will continue to employ ships and squadrons at sea, battalions, regiments and brigades on land and flying units, squadrons and wings in the air.

Uniforms – The final pattern for the new uniform has not been selected. It is estimated that all regular force personnel will be outfitted by 1971.

Service Environment – Personnel now serving will not be required to serve in another operational environment without their consent but those who join after February 1 are eligible for service anywhere in the force.

Retirement Policy – A new retirement policy will be established. Most personnel now serving will have the option of retiring under the existing terms or electing the new terms. Exceptions are those within two years of compulsory retirement who will leave the force under the existing plan.

Canadian Forces Ensign – A new ensign, incorporating the national flag and the Armed Forces emblem has been approved and is being issued to units.

Reserves – The Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, Canadian Army (Militia) and Royal Canadian Air Force Auxiliary will become the Canadian Armed Forces Reserve Component, which will consist of the Naval

Reserve, the Militia and the Air Reserve. The Reserves will be issued with the new uniforms after the regular force has been outfitted. The Reserves will continue to be managed under existing service regulations but ultimately will come under a new set of categories.

At present, programmes are being worked out that will result in the establishment of common personnel-management procedures and a single logistics system. Until these programmes are established and the new uniform issued generally throughout the force the unification process will be carried out in the progressive stages.

STEPS TO SINGLE SERVICE

Defence Minister Cadieux has described the proclamation of the Canadian Forces Reorganization Act as only one more step in an evolutionary process, albeit a very important one, that began in 1964 and will continue for some years to come.

The following chronology led to the creation of a single service:

March 1964 – White Paper issued spelling out the roles and missions of the Canadian Forces and forecasting unification.

July 1964 – Bill C-90 established a Chief of Defence Staff to replace former individual service chiefs.

August 1964 – Chief of Defence Staff and heads of the new branches at Canadian Forces Headquarters appointed.

June 1965 – New functional command structure announced.

January 1966 – All functional commands phased in.

December 1966 – Bill C-243 (Reorganization Act) brought before Parliament.

April 1967 – Canadian Forces Reorganization Act passed by Parliament.

February 1968 – Reorganization Act brought into force; RCN, Canadian Army and RCAF become the Canadian Armed Forces.

The dictionary is partly an academic reference book, but it will please anyone interested in Canadian history and social history, say the editors, who believe it will invite browsing by such readers.

EDITORS

More than a decade of planning and preparation has gone into the project, which was conceived in the early 1950s. The book was made possible by years of prior research by Charles J. Lovell of Willow Springs, Illinois, who was its editor until his death in 1960.

Mr. Lovell, a writer, lexicographer and outdoorsman who spent his summers in Banff, Alberta, and was fascinated by the Canadian scene, collected notes on distinctively Canadian words and expressions, which he kept in a growing set of shoe-boxes. These

DICTIONARY OF CANADIANISMS

The Dictionary of Canadianisms, published recently by W.J. Gage Limited, was a unique project of Canada's centennial.

The fourth and the most elaborate of a series of *Gage Dictionaries of Canadian English*, the publication defines over 10,000 words, with quotations to illustrate their use and development. It was prepared by the Lexicographical Centre of Canadian English, at the University of Victoria, B.C.

Typical "Canadianisms" include words like *muskeg*, *portage*, *mukluk* and *shivaree*. It also deals with usages such as *chesterfield* for a piece of furniture, and *riding* for a political constituency, and such expressions as *separate school*, *saw-off*, and *shanty-man*.