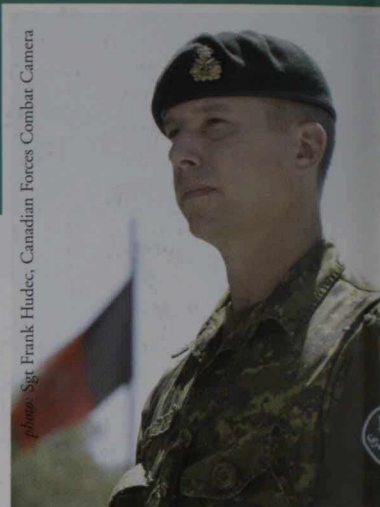


CANADA'S COMMANDER IN AFGHANISTAN

Canada *World View* recently spoke with Major General Andrew Leslie, Canada's senior commander in Afghanistan and Deputy Commander of ISAF (International Security Assistance Force).



Q. Canada has opened an embassy in Kabul. From a Canadian commander's perspective, could you describe the impact of having a Canadian diplomatic mission there?

A. At my level, it's ideal. The military is, in the final analysis, a political instrument. If we had the military operating in isolation, one could question why we were actually here. But by opening the embassy and putting Ambassador Chris Alexander in—he's a good friend, and I like to think we are an extraordinarily good team—it represents both lines of operation. Chris handles the diplomatic and higher-level political skill set; he interfaces, and I worry about things on the ground.

Q. Canada has the largest contingent in ISAF. Could you describe the Canadian Forces' role?

A. Canada provides over 40 percent of ISAF, the largest single contribution. We're also the most technologically advanced in terms of equipment, and arguably have the best trained soldiers.

Our soldiers patrol up in the mountains around Kabul to make sure no unpleasant people are there to fire rockets

into the city. They chase away Taliban or al-Qaeda elements and criminals who prey on the people flowing into Kabul. Equally important, the soldiers patrol inside Kabul, day and night. They take the local police out with them, training them, showing them how we conduct our business in a nation where respect for the rule of law is well established. These "presence patrols" reassure the locals that someone is out there providing security for them. The soldiers also do a variety of health projects.

Q. Describe how Canadian Forces' civil-military cooperation programs influence the relationship between the Canadian Forces and Afghans.

A. We are spending a significant amount of money on civil-military cooperation projects. It's critical, because by spending money on infrastructure, we show the locals that we are making their lives better. What they care about is security, water, food and shelter. If we can help them with those elements, they will see that we are a positive force, not just another invader. Then, when hostile elements try to kill some of the locals or some of us,

Equipped to Deal with Anything

From high-tech armoured vehicles and state-of-the-art radars to the very uniforms they wear, Canada's men and women in Afghanistan have been given the gear they need to stay safe and perform effectively.

Coyote

The Coyote is a highly mobile, well-armed and well-protected armoured vehicle that specializes in battlefield reconnaissance and surveillance. Incorporating a combination of daylight camera, radar, thermal imaging and laser range-finding equipment, the Coyote's surveillance system provides all-weather, day-and-night observation capability.



photo: Sgt. Frank Hudde, Canadian Forces Combat Camera

ARTHUR

If hostile elements target Task Force Kabul, Canadian troops will be able to react at a moment's notice, thanks to their new Artillery Hunting Radar, or ARTHUR. A system that pinpoints the location of hostile artillery and mortars, ARTHUR also detects enemy projectiles as soon as they are fired and determines their point of origin.

UAV

Canadian commanders in Afghanistan are using a new surveillance drone to help keep track of possible threats. The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) is a small, pilotless aircraft that is launched by catapult and can fly for up to five hours, within a 150-km radius. It uses electro-optical sensors to gather information and a datalink to pass it back to controllers on the ground.