SUMMARY OF DUTY WITH HONOUR
THE PROFESSION OF ARMS IN CANADA
WE ARE CANADA'S MILITARY PROFESSIONALS
PROUD CANADIANS – MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN FORCES
DUTY WITH HONOUR
As Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian Forces, I welcome the publication of *Duty with Honour: The Profession of Arms in Canada*. The manual and this Summary serve as a milestone for the Canadian Forces, as they mark the first instance in which the time-honoured professionalism of Canada’s military has been defined fully in writing.

Such professionalism has been built upon the selfless sacrifice and commitment to duty of Canada’s uniformed men and women, both at home and abroad. They have served our nation and its interests with loyalty, integrity and courage, in many cases at the cost of their lives. To define their formative values and how they shape the Canadian military ethos is a daunting task, but one which brings honour to those who have served before and inspiration to those who follow in their footsteps. Indeed, those Canadians who have not served in uniform who take the time to read *Duty with Honour* will be rewarded with a rare glimpse into the value system that guides their Forces and has earned them and our nation respect and admiration throughout the world.

In presenting the Commander-in-Chief Unit Commendation to those soldiers who served with such heroism in the Medak Pocket in Croatia in September, 1993, I quoted the Roman poet Virgil in describing the gallant action of these Canadian military professionals: “These shall be your skills: to impose ordered ways upon a state of peace, to spare those who have submitted and to subdue the arrogant.”

As can be seen in the actions of these troops, and in the words of *Duty with Honour*, such an ethos continues to thrive more than two millennia later in our Canadian Forces.

Adrienne Clarkson
On behalf of the Government of Canada, I commend the Chief of the Defence Staff for the publication of the seminal manual, *Duty with Honour: The Profession of Arms in Canada*. Its publication represents an important step in the ongoing efforts of the Canadian Forces to strengthen as a profession, build upon their time-honoured legacy in Canada and the world, and prepare for the challenges to come.

The manual and this Summary define how Canada’s profession of arms functions within the policy framework of the Canadian Government. Defence policy is a critical component of Canadian national security, and the men and women of the Canadian Forces are on the front lines delivering that policy. All over the world, our military plays a vital role in implementing Canada’s security agenda, engaging in both peace support and combat operations. Their professionalism has earned them international respect and formed the cornerstone of their success in helping establish and protect human rights and freedoms internationally.

The future security environment will bring new and even more complex challenges to our already heavily burdened Canadian Forces. As the head of the profession, the Chief of the Defence Staff has provided an invaluable description of how Canadian military professionals support Canada’s defence policy and the ethos that guides their conduct. The elected representatives of the people of Canada should also understand the manual, for it is we who decide to send the Canadian Forces into harm’s way.

Finally, I commend the manual to public servants who support the Canadian Forces in performing their missions and to others involved in national security matters on behalf of the Government of Canada.

John McCallum
The profession of arms in Canada is an honourable one, and I am pleased to describe its philosophy and practise to members of the Canadian Forces and the Canadians they serve in the manual, *Duty with Honour*.

The end of the Cold War in 1989 saw major changes in the international system, and we, as military professionals, were challenged to adapt to a myriad of new and highly complex security threats. To help ensure that the military values and ethos remain strong through the challenges to come, the Canadian Forces embarked upon a wide-ranging program of self-renewal that includes the publication of the manual, *Duty with Honour*. It has been no small task, for the profession of arms demands a lot from its members. We must cope with extreme demands, frequent hardships and ever-present danger. At the same time, we are richly rewarded with a unique sense of accomplishment that rises from meeting the expectations of Canadians and our security partners.

As military professionals, we serve in different Environments, wear different ranks, and are trained and developed in a wide variety of different occupations. But, as the manual makes clear, a greater Canadian Forces ethos binds us together and points to our higher loyalty to Canada and the rule of law. Service to Canada is, and always shall be, our primary duty. *Duty with Honour* will help us perform this duty to the highest standards of military professionalism, while executing the mission, roles and tasks our government assigns us.
Duty with Honour is a defining document for Canada’s profession of arms and must be read and understood by all who wear the uniform. I have therefore directed that it serve as a cornerstone document in the professional development system for the Canadian Forces. To communicate the central philosophy of service and the key ideas contained in the manual to the widest possible audience, including interested Canadians everywhere, I have also directed the publication of this Summary of Duty with Honour: The Profession of Arms in Canada.

I am proud to lead Canada’s profession of arms. The Canadian Forces will continue to exhibit the highest standards of military professionalism both at home and abroad. The Canadian people deserve and expect no less.

General Raymond Henault
Chief of the Defence Staff
The exemplary performance of Canada’s military men and women, whether on the field of battle or in the complex and dangerous world of peace support operations, has earned them a high level of trust and respect both at home and abroad. They have achieved this by performing their tasks with competence and in a manner that respects their legal obligations and remains consistent with high ethical values. In essence, they have acted as military professionals whose fundamental function is the ordered application of lawful military force in accordance with government direction.

In an increasingly complex world characterized by highly nuanced political situations, sophisticated weaponry, revolutionary information technology and unprecedented public scrutiny, Canadian military professionals of all ranks face new challenges that demand the highest standards of professionalism. A clear vision of their role and place in society will help these professionals deal with such challenges, thereby strengthening the bonds of trust with the public they serve and enhancing their operational effectiveness.

The publication of *Duty with Honour: The Profession of Arms in Canada* is designed to provide all members of the CF with a clear definition of what it means to be a Canadian military professional and to describe the military ethos that is critical to continued operational success. This Summary provides a short overview of the Manual.
From before Confederation to the end of the Second World War, the Canadian profession of arms was built around a small cadre of permanent regulars supported by militia and reservists. When threats to Canada loomed, however, large numbers of Canadians would augment this military core, enabling Canada to field fighting forces completely out of proportion to its small size.

At no other time was this more evident than during the First World War, a conflict Canada entered with a regular army of only 3,110 men and a fledgling navy. By war’s end, the nucleus of a Canadian air force was also in place. From a population of a mere 8 million people, Canada had managed to field a force of more than 600,000 men and women, of whom one in 10 did not return from the front.

A similar pattern emerged in the Second World War, when a tiny Canadian force of regulars rapidly expanded through the course of the war into one of the most powerful militaries in the world. In both world wars, Canadians were forged into highly effective professional naval, army and air forces in the very heat of battle.

One of the crowning achievements of the soldiers of the Canadian Corps in the First World War was their stunning victory over the defenders of Vimy Ridge, an action providing an enduring testament to Canadian military professionalism. The unique relationship of trust built up between Canadian Officers and NCOs in the Corps contributed immensely to this success and became the model for the future officer/NCO team.

During the early years of the Second World War, Canadian sailors were the true frontline warriors, enduring extreme hardships on the high seas of the North Atlantic, constantly under threat of submarine attack as they kept the sea lanes open and supplied the armies and air forces in Britain that were preparing for the inevitable assault on the continent of Europe.
With the advent of the Cold War, this defence formula had to change for Canada to meet the sophisticated military threat posed by the Soviet Union and its satellites. Canada responded by expanding and specializing its standing forces and posting large numbers of troops to high-readiness operating areas in Europe to support NATO’s deterrence effort. These professional forces also excelled in the field of peacekeeping.

The end of the Cold War in 1989 required yet another significant change in the way Canada structured its defences. The collapse of the Soviet Union ushered in, not a peaceful new world order, but one that was more unstable and arguably more dangerous. In fact, in the decade or so following the end of the Cold War, famines and genocide in Africa, disasters in Turkey and Central America, the collapse of civil order in Haiti, conflict in the former Yugoslavia, an invasion of Kuwait and the September 11 attack on the United States have combined to render today’s Canadian Forces even more heavily burdened and widely deployed than during the Cold War.

But whatever the task, and whatever the circumstances, the proud legacy of Canadian military professionalism lives on.

It can be found in the fighter pilots who helped liberate Kuwait and stabilize the Balkans; in the Hercules crews who flew under fire into high-risk conflict zones in Sarajevo and Kigali, Rwanda; in the sailors who worked day and night to support UN operations in East Timor and conducted dangerous boardings in the Adriatic and the Persian Gulf; in the soldiers who, by cool diplomacy and raw combat skill, prevailed in explosive conflicts in the Balkans and Afghanistan.
Law, medicine and the religious ministry come to mind as “traditional” professions, but the concept and practice of a profession of arms has existed for more than a century. The military profession is similar to other professions in the following ways:

- Its members develop and apply specific skills derived from a theory-based body of knowledge.
- They perform their function competently and objectively for the benefit of society.
- They regulate their conduct through a values-based code of ethics.
- They ensure that their roles and standards are accepted as legitimate by society.

However, the profession of arms is distinct in three critical ways:

- It serves only the nation.
- It is directly subordinate to the lawful direction of civil authority.
- Its members accept that they are subject to being lawfully ordered into harm’s way under conditions that could lead to the loss of their lives.

These considerations lead to the definition of Canadian military professionalism in *Duty with Honour*:

*In no other profession in Canada, including the police and fire services, can a member be legally ordered into harm’s way.*

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**A CANADIAN STATEMENT OF MILITARY PROFESSIONALISM**

The profession of arms in Canada is composed of military members who are dedicated to the defence of Canada and its interests, as directed by the Government of Canada. The profession of arms is distinguished by the concept of service before self, the lawful, ordered application of military force, and the acceptance of the concept of unlimited liability. Its members possess a systematic and specialized body of military knowledge and skills acquired through education, training and experience, and they apply this expertise competently and objectively in the accomplishment of their missions. Members of the Canadian profession of arms share a set of core values and beliefs found in the military ethos that guides them in the performance of their duty and allows a special relationship of trust to be maintained with Canadian society.
Because the military profession can only be practised collectively, it is more inclusive than most. All those serving in the Regular force and Primary reserve are members of the profession of arms, including non-commissioned members (NCMs). The relationship between officers and NCMs is one of the most important in the profession. Indeed, the very existence of these two corps reflects the complex nature of the profession of arms and the need to organize and structure the profession to accommodate the many demands placed on it. A common identity as military professionals and a shared military ethos help create a powerful officer/NCM team.

In Canada, an individual becomes a member of the profession of arms by swearing the Oath of Allegiance and adopting the uniform of the Canadian Forces, an external sign of his or her distinctiveness in Canadian society. Thereafter, members of the CF demonstrate their professionalism by fully embracing the Canadian military ethos, performing their duty in accord with the core responsibilities of the profession of arms, and building and maintaining their unique military expertise, up to and including the skills needed for combat.
ATRIBUTES

The overriding purpose of Canada’s profession of arms is the conduct of military operations. Figure 1 illustrates the four main attributes of the profession in Canada:

Responsibility: Collectively, members of Canada’s profession of arms have a core responsibility to the government and the people of Canada to defend the nation and its interests. This involves keeping the Canadian Forces operationally effective by generating and using appropriate levels of military force for specific tasks. To manage this responsibility, members of Canada’s profession of arms must fully understand the process of civil control of the military within the Canadian political system and demonstrate administrative competency and accountability. Individually, members of Canada’s profession of arms are accountable for their personal conduct, while leaders are additionally responsible for maintaining effective, cohesive military units and ensuring the care and well-being of their subordinates. Finally, all Canadian military professionals share a broader responsibility to maintain the integrity and reputation of the profession of arms by ensuring that Canadian values and the Canadian military ethos guide their collective and individual actions.

Figure 1
The Theoretical Construct of the Profession of Arms in Canada

Fulfilling the responsibilities inherent in military service demands personal sacrifice and commitment. Long deployments, hardships encountered during missions and the stress of dangerous and emotionally draining situations can weigh heavily on our loved ones, as well as on us. Knowing that we make a difference, the camaraderie we share and the support of our leaders, family and friends sustains us in discharging our responsibilities.
Expertise: Expertise within Canada’s profession of arms derives from a deep and comprehensive understanding of the theory and practice of armed conflict in its many forms, ranging from warfighting to humanitarian missions. Increasingly, this includes mastering joint, combined and multinational operations, national security issues and the law of armed conflict. Such expertise must be tempered with critical judgement skills on the appropriate use of military force, and demonstrated by all ranks. Expertise and critical judgement are increasingly required from more junior ranks because in an organizationally sophisticated, fast-paced, highly technical conflict environment, decisions taken at the lowest levels can have immediate and far-reaching implications.

Today, as Officers and NCMs, we find ourselves on the front lines working with a wide variety of organizations that require us to develop new skills and knowledge. This was evident during the ice storms in Ontario and Quebec, the floods in Winnipeg and the Swissair Flight 111 disaster near Halifax. Away from home, human security and peacemaking operations require us to work closely with non-government and international organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and the Red Cross, as well as officials in local communities, to help restore order and services. Here again we must call upon more than the traditional military skills to accomplish our mission.
Identity: Military members are indeed part of Canadian society, a fact reflected in the Canadian values incorporated in the military ethos, and at the same time they have a sense of a separate, distinct identity. Thus, while they’re not civilians, they are always citizens. Internally, professional identity is differentiated in a number of ways, and the realities of combat and operations at sea, on land and in the air mean there will always be necessary differences in the way that the military culture is expressed in each of the Environments. These many separate identities coalesce around a hierarchy of loyalties that operate, in descending order, from law and government to the CF and thereafter through individual Environments to unit and branch. Canadian military professionals share a common understanding of the military ethos that unifies the CF around the concept of duty with honour.

Military Ethos: The military ethos serves to shape and guide conduct, and ensures the profession’s continued legitimacy as a vital national institution. In doing so, the military ethos clarifies how members should view their responsibilities and helps them express their unique military identity to others. The Canadian military ethos also represents the spirit that binds the other three attributes of the profession of arms: responsibility, expertise and identity. It comprises a value system that synthesizes Canadian laws and values with fundamental truths and expectations about military service. Given its importance, an entire chapter of Duty with Honour is devoted to this particular attribute of Canada’s profession of arms.

Membership in the profession of arms is vocational in nature. From the moment we step into a recruiting centre, we are instilled with the concept that military service is not a 9 to 5, Monday to Friday commitment, but one which demands performance and dedication 24 hours a day, seven days a week. While not all of us seek lifelong careers, the profession of arms expects this vocational approach from us during our period of service.

Ethos touches everything we do. It compels us to push ourselves to our limits, and it compels us to look out for and stand by each other. This is best seen when working as a team. We understand that we owe it to our comrades to pull our weight and not take the easy way out. As such, our ethos demands that officers and senior NCOs and warrant officers work shoulder to shoulder with their troops, enduring the same discomfort and sharing the same risks until the job is done.
Beliefs and Expectations about Military Service

Canadian military men and women distinguish themselves from the rest of society in the following ways:

**Accepting Unlimited Liability:** Military members embrace a spirit of self-sacrifice and dedication to duty that requires them to carry out their lawfully assigned mission and tasks without regard to personal fear or danger. This may even mean loss of life.

**Fighting Spirit:** Fighting spirit essentially means that everything members of the profession of arms do must focus on achieving success in military operations. This operational focus imparts in individuals the moral, physical and intellectual qualities required to operate in conditions of extreme danger, to endure hardship and to approach their assigned missions with confidence, tenacity and
the will to succeed. It builds a strong bond as *comrades-in-arms that instils cohesion and esprit de corps* in military units and in those who lead and support them.

**Discipline:** Military discipline takes many forms but ultimately exists to help forge bonds necessary for unit cohesion and the accomplishment of objectives that could not be attained by military skills alone. Among members of the profession of arms, it is fundamentally self-discipline that instils self-assurance and resiliency in the face of adversity and imparts self-control.

**Teamwork:** Since the profession of arms can be practised only collectively, the military ethos places a high value on teamwork in its training and socialization activities. Like discipline, teamwork builds cohesion and maximizes the contribution of individual talent and skills in accomplishing military tasks.

### Canadian Values

Throughout Canadian military history, these values have played an important role in determining the ways and means by which military professionals apply military force on behalf of the society they serve. Indeed, the very legitimacy of the profession of arms in Canada demands that the military embody the same fundamental values and beliefs as those of the society it defends, limited only by military functional requirements.

**Foundational Legislation:** The *Constitution Act* of 1982, the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and other foundational legislation all reflect the value Canadians place on the democratic ideal, the rule of law and the concept of peace, order and good government.

**Statement of Defence Ethics:** The Department of National Defence’s *Statement of Defence Ethics* has incorporated Canadians’ expectations of the CF by enunciating three fundamental principles guiding the conduct of all members of the Department: respect the dignity of all persons, serve Canada before self, and support and obey lawful authority.

**Canadian Security Policy:** Canadian values have also shaped Canada’s role on the international stage. Current policy and missions are influenced by the concepts of human security, international stability and viable international relations.
Performing Duty with Humanity: Members of the Canadian profession of arms have a mandate to perform their duty with humanity. Such behaviour contributes to the honour earned by CF members and helps make Canadians at home proud and supportive of their armed forces.

The excellent professional reputation of the Canadian Forces in contemporary peace support operations stems as much from adhering to these inherently Canadian values as it does from uniquely military values. Examples abound of Canadian military men and women, motivated by their humanity, going beyond the call of duty to assist those in need in conflict areas.

Duty guides our toughest decisions. For more than six weeks, Hercules crews flew missions into Kigali airport in Rwanda, supporting the UN mission there, as well as providing humanitarian aid that saved tens of thousands of lives. Their sense of duty sustained them despite frequently landing and taking off under mortar and small-arms fire.

Canadian Military Values
Canadian military values are essential for conducting the full range of military operations, up to and including warfighting. Military values must be always in harmony and never in conflict with Canadian values. These core military values are:

**Duty:** In the profession of arms, a sense of duty drives everything military members do. In Canada, this core value obliges members of the profession of arms to adhere to the law of armed conflict and display dedication, initiative and discipline in performing their tasks.
Loyalty: Military loyalty relates to duty and entails personal allegiance to Canada, commitment to the rule of law and faithfulness to comrades. Its importance cannot be overstated. In the profession of arms, enduring loyalty is reciprocal and based on mutual trust, regardless of rank.

Loyalty sustains us through the tough times. During the Swissair rescue and recovery operation off the coast of Nova Scotia, sailors of all ranks insisted on performing their duty, despite opportunities for rest and relief, because their loyalty to comrades demanded that all share equally in the emotionally taxing task at hand.

Integrity: Members of Canada’s profession of arms are expected to exhibit steadfast commitment to moral principles and obligations and to be accountable for their actions. This calls for honesty, truthfulness, uprightness, the avoidance of deception and adherence to high ethical standards at all times.

Integrity allows us to trust each other. During the UNPROFOR mission in the Balkans (August 1992 to September 1995), 11 members of the CF were killed as a result of their duties. Others returned to Canada physically injured or suffering from psychological wounds. The CF was unprepared to deal with either the number or type of casualties that resulted from this operation. As a consequence, a cloud of distrust developed between the senior leadership and the troops. A Board of Inquiry was convened to investigate the cause of these casualties and the controversy surrounding them. This was a critical juncture in re-establishing the trust between all ranks. The board’s success in conducting the investigation and having its findings widely accepted as credible and complete was in large measure a tribute to the individual and collective integrity of board members and witnesses.
**Courage:** Canadian military men and women place great value on courage, both physical and moral. This quality allows a member of the profession of arms to disregard the cost of an action in terms of physical difficulty, risk, success or popularity. It entails both willpower and the resolve not to quit.

_Courage is what we hope for and respect when we see it. Examples abound of courage, both physical and moral, displayed by Canadian military professionals in the early days of operations in the former Yugoslavia. Operating under the legitimate constraints of their UN mandate, they faced aggressive resistance and virtually unspeakable horrors. Both kinds of courage sustained Canadian soldiers in the firefight in the Medak Pocket in Croatia as they secured the region to prevent further ethnic cleansing._

**SUSTAINING THE PROFESSION**

While the Canadian military ethos embodies enduring values, beliefs and expectations, it must be actively supported. This requires strong, effective leaders who set high standards of conduct and encourage their subordinates to do the same. It requires institutional policies and programs that support and reinforce the military ethos, and a professional development system that helps military members continuously learn and improve. It also requires members of Canada’s profession of arms to know and learn from the nation’s proud military heritage and to respect military customs and traditions. Finally, the profession must self-regulate in a way that maintains the trust and confidence of the society it serves.

_The profession is sustained by: leadership; institutional policies and programs; professional development; heritage and tradition, and self-regulation._
A vital and sustained profession not only promotes military effectiveness, but also confers upon the soldiers, sailors and air force members who subscribe to its tenets the most treasured of military qualities — honour. This honour comes from performing their military duties within the context of a “good” and “right” military ethos and is manifest in loyalty to their comrades, adherence to the law of armed conflict and the protection of non-combatants.

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A warrior’s honour is a slender hope, but it may be all there is to separate war from savagery. And a corollary hope is that men can be trained to fight with honour. Armies train people to kill, but they also teach restraint and discipline.

—Michael Ignatieff, The Warrior’s Honour
The rapidly changing international security environment will bring many more challenges to Canada’s profession of arms. Perhaps the biggest will be the complexity of modern military operations, with combat, civil security, and humanitarian and nation-building missions frequently taking place at the same time in the same area of operations. Canada, as always, will call upon its forces to engage in such operations and expect them to act with the courage, tenacity and will to win that have epitomized their predecessors. But Canada will also increasingly require its military professionals to be critical thinkers — men and women of all ranks who understand the factors that shape their professional lives and possess the intellectual skills to make the right decision at the right time. The Canadian Forces will have to be tough, trained and ready to fight, but its members will also have to master highly sophisticated technology, understand and take into account complex cultural issues, and be fully accountable for their performance, in full public scrutiny.

To allow its members to adapt to the complex conflict environment of the future, the senior leadership of Canada’s profession of arms will be guided by the following principles in fulfilling its responsibility for the stewardship of the profession:

**Relevance:** The profession must continue to meet Canadian society’s expectations by remaining operationally effective, in line with Canadian values, and true to its core military values of duty, loyalty, integrity and courage.

**Openness:** The profession will have to ensure that its knowledge and practices are current and relevant by becoming a learning organization. This means that the profession will seek information and knowledge externally and remain open to new ideas from within.

**Consistency:** Within the profession, responsibilities, expertise, identity and the military ethos must continue to be integrated and aligned by senior leaders, both officer and NCM, in their role as stewards of the profession.
Reciprocity: The principle of reciprocity addresses the need to ensure an appropriate balance of expectations and obligations both between the profession and Canadian society, and between the profession as a whole and its members. It is the recognition that the legitimacy and self-regulation accorded the profession by Canadians is based on their trust that missions will be achieved in a professional manner. It also imposes a moral obligation on military leaders to assure the well-being of members who accept the obligations of unlimited liability.

CONCLUSION

This Summary demonstrates that professional service in today’s Canadian Forces can be expressed in three words: Duty with Honour, a concept more completely described in the Manual. In answering an unspoken call to military service, members of the CF accept as part of their duty a unique and distinct identity within Canadian society. By embracing the military ethos, they accept obligations and responsibilities that no other Canadian has. Members of the profession accept the special trust placed in them by Canadians and, in accord with their ethos, strive for excellence within their specialized expertise. They reach for the highest standards of professionalism — their reward is honour.
No person has ever been honoured for what he received. Honour is the reward for what a person has given.

—Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson
Memorial ceremony for the fallen soldiers of 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, April 28, 2002


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