

WEBVTT

00:00:03.020 --> 00:00:17.820

<v SPEAKER\_1>In this episode, which was recorded July 9th, 2025, I'm talking to three folks from the Royal Canadian Air Force, Colonel Steeve Belley, the Commanding Officer of 2 Wing, Lieutenant Colonel Craig Greeley, the Commanding Officer of 8 Air Maintenance Squadron, and the organization's Chief Warrant Officer Rene Gagnon.

00:00:17.820 --> 00:00:35.520

<v SPEAKER\_1>We're talking about the Royal Canadian Air Force's support to the Operation Cadence Security Mission for the G7 Summit this past June, as well as the Operation Lentus, the support to forest fire mitigation and evacuation in Manitoba and Northern Ontario earlier this year.

00:00:39.520 --> 00:00:45.800

<v SPEAKER\_1>Colonel Belley, Lieutenant Colonel Greeley, and Chief Warrant Officer Gagnon, welcome to Defence Deconstructed.

00:00:45.800 --> 00:00:46.220

<v SPEAKER\_2>Welcome.

00:00:46.220 --> 00:00:46.600

<v SPEAKER\_2>Thanks.

00:00:46.600 --> 00:00:47.500

<v SPEAKER\_2>Really appreciate it.

00:00:47.500 --> 00:00:49.080

<v SPEAKER\_2>Great being here.

00:00:49.080 --> 00:00:49.440

<v SPEAKER\_3>Thank you.

00:00:49.480 --> 00:00:50.880

<v SPEAKER\_1>Thanks.

00:00:50.880 --> 00:00:58.520

<v SPEAKER\_1>Very happy to have the three of you on today to talk about some of the work that the Royal Canadian Air Force did over the last couple of months.

00:00:58.520 --> 00:01:17.800

<v SPEAKER\_1>A couple of really interesting activities in support of the G7 security mission, as well as a whole series of activities related to forest fires in Western Canada, significant number of evacuations, and both of these things ended up sort of stacking up on top of one another, at least for a period of time.

00:01:18.640 --> 00:01:32.540

<v SPEAKER\_1>So, what we're going to ask you to do is just to go in turn, in the order that I just introduced you, hopefully you remember that, to introduce yourselves more fully, a little bit about your job and the role that you played over the last couple of months to kick off the discussion.

00:01:32.540 --> 00:01:34.820

<v SPEAKER\_1>Colonel Belley, get you to start.

00:01:34.820 --> 00:01:42.240

<v SPEAKER\_3>So I'm Colonel Steeve Belley, I'm currently like the 2 Wing commander here in CFB Bagotville.

00:01:42.240 --> 00:01:53.000

<v SPEAKER\_3>Over the last year, I've been planning like the ATF up cadence, so the Air Task Force up cadence in support of the J7 Summit.

00:01:53.000 --> 00:02:01.840

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so as the ATF commander, I was in charge of providing the air effect outside GANAR.

00:02:01.840 --> 00:02:02.200

<v SPEAKER\_1>Super.

00:02:02.200 --> 00:02:02.920

<v SPEAKER\_1>Thank you.

00:02:02.920 --> 00:02:04.040

<v SPEAKER\_1>Colonel Greeley.

00:02:04.040 --> 00:02:04.260

<v SPEAKER\_2>Yeah.

00:02:04.260 --> 00:02:04.680

<v SPEAKER\_2>Good morning.

00:02:04.680 --> 00:02:06.680

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's honestly really great being here.

00:02:06.680 --> 00:02:14.180

<v SPEAKER\_2>Love the opportunity to tell the story about what we were able to execute and accomplish over Operation Lentus over the past couple of weeks.

00:02:14.180 --> 00:02:16.260

<v SPEAKER\_2>So my name is Lieutenant Earl Craig Greeley.

00:02:16.260 --> 00:02:20.260

<v SPEAKER\_2>I'm the commanding officer here in Trenton for 8 Air

Maintenance Squadron.

00:02:20.260 --> 00:02:23.060

<v SPEAKER\_2>Took the role about a year ago.

00:02:23.060 --> 00:02:26.440

<v SPEAKER\_2>I wear a number of different hats in my role here in Trenton.

00:02:26.440 --> 00:02:55.980

<v SPEAKER\_2>One of them being the Air Mobility Fleet Senior Aircraft Maintenance Authority, which brought me to Winnipeg a couple of weeks ago and just happened to be right place, right time, and was selected again as the Air Task Force commander for Operation Lentus 2502, which lasted just over a week time frame, towards the end of May, beginning of June time frame, and then rolled right into, we'll say rolled right into Operation Lentus 2503, taking over as the Air Task Force commander there for that one as well.

00:02:57.260 --> 00:02:59.220

<v SPEAKER\_1>So okay, super.

00:02:59.220 --> 00:03:00.500

<v SPEAKER\_1>The Chief.

00:03:00.500 --> 00:03:01.200

<v SPEAKER\_4>Hi, thank you.

00:03:01.200 --> 00:03:04.340

<v SPEAKER\_4>Welcome to everybody that's listening.

00:03:04.400 --> 00:03:08.160

<v SPEAKER\_4>Great opportunity, great, as Seal mentioned.

00:03:08.160 --> 00:03:12.840

<v SPEAKER\_4>I am the Chief Warrant Officer for 8 Air Maintenance Squadron here in Trenton as well.

00:03:12.840 --> 00:03:17.980

<v SPEAKER\_4>I happen to work directly with Lieutenant Colonel Greeley on a daily basis.

00:03:17.980 --> 00:03:23.520

<v SPEAKER\_4>So that is what found my way to Winnipeg as well for the same conference.

00:03:23.520 --> 00:03:34.980

<v SPEAKER\_4>And then I guess guilty by association, I decide to stick along with my command team partner and join in for Lantus 02 and 03.

00:03:34.980 --> 00:03:39.340

<v SPEAKER\_4>Yeah, and that's what kind of found us involved in that role.

00:03:39.340 --> 00:03:40.160

<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay.

00:03:40.160 --> 00:03:45.340

<v SPEAKER\_1>So, sequentially, the G7 meeting was planned before the fire started.

00:03:45.340 --> 00:03:47.720

<v SPEAKER\_1>So Colonel Belley, I'll come back to you.

00:03:47.720 --> 00:03:59.300

<v SPEAKER\_1>Just get you to talk a little bit about what kind of planning goes into the kind of operation that your part of the CAF played in providing for security for the G7 meeting that was held in Cananascus this past June.

00:04:00.620 --> 00:04:04.020

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, the planning started in June 2024.

00:04:05.140 --> 00:04:23.720

<v SPEAKER\_3>That's when we heard that the G7 Summit about a potential like request for assistance from the Global Affairs Canada and Public Safety to the Minister of National Defence for CAF support for the G7 Summit.

00:04:23.720 --> 00:04:37.160

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, when we started doing like our planning analysis, we saw a requirement to get some air asset initially like the discussion were about helicopter.

00:04:37.160 --> 00:04:53.480

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so, how we were able to support the Integrated Safety and Security Group led by the RCMP, that was a Joint Task Force Commander that was appointed under with an ATF.

00:04:53.480 --> 00:04:57.040

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, I was reporting back to the Joint Task Force Commander.

00:04:58.200 --> 00:05:03.440

<v SPEAKER\_3>Part of the planning, there were requirement to be close from the sites.

00:05:03.440 --> 00:05:15.920

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so, we decided to look at the Kananaskis area and decided to create like an airfield to operate our helicopter out of

there.

00:05:15.920 --> 00:05:23.040

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, I got my main body was over close from the sites, approximately less than 5 kilometers.

00:05:23.040 --> 00:05:26.660

<v SPEAKER\_3>And I have a detachment over at Calgary Airport.

00:05:26.660 --> 00:05:41.080

<v SPEAKER\_3>Part of it, I have like multiple helicopter that was planned to be there, including like CH-146 Griffin and CH-147 Chinook helicopter that was present within the area.

00:05:41.080 --> 00:05:45.280

<v SPEAKER\_3>But having a skill doesn't mean we got an airfield.

00:05:45.280 --> 00:05:49.640

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, part of 2 Wing, one of our mandate is to do airfield opening.

00:05:50.520 --> 00:05:53.520

<v SPEAKER\_3>Not only domestically, but internationally.

00:05:53.520 --> 00:06:04.640

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so, we had to put our skill all into the effort in order to build up an airfield within a parking lot at the scale.

00:06:04.640 --> 00:06:09.200

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, when you're talking about an airfield, you need to have air traffic control.

00:06:09.200 --> 00:06:11.780

<v SPEAKER\_3>You need to have a firefighter capability.

00:06:11.780 --> 00:06:16.700

<v SPEAKER\_3>We needed to have refueling capability for aviation fuel.

00:06:17.300 --> 00:06:23.520

<v SPEAKER\_3>We needed to have an operation center, but also like a meteorological services.

00:06:23.520 --> 00:06:28.720

<v SPEAKER\_3>And we also needed to have airfield repair capability in case something was happening into it.

00:06:28.720 --> 00:06:50.340

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, imagine you are at the scale and you're seeing a parking lot, and within less than a year, we changed that into a full airfield, operating approximately 12 helicopter out of there,

including like the RCMP helicopter, the CAF helicopter, but also like our partner from the United States were also present.

00:06:50.340 --> 00:06:59.640

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so, it's just to say, it was quite a complex mission to plan in order to make sure like where we were answering the requirement.

00:07:00.740 --> 00:07:04.740

<v SPEAKER\_1>Before we go into any more detail, maybe just take one quick step back.

00:07:04.740 --> 00:07:08.740

<v SPEAKER\_1>Why was it you and your organization involved in this in the planning?

00:07:08.740 --> 00:07:14.440

<v SPEAKER\_1>So, just talk a little bit maybe about 2 Wing's role within the wider structure before we keep going.

00:07:15.420 --> 00:07:19.740

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, 2 Wing within their field opening, so we have different mandate.

00:07:19.740 --> 00:07:23.360

<v SPEAKER\_3>We're supporting like domestic operation through up lenses.

00:07:23.360 --> 00:07:28.500

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, we have personnel that are on short notice to move, ready to support that.

00:07:28.500 --> 00:07:39.660

<v SPEAKER\_3>We're also supporting what we call the Complan Angle, that is the non-combatant evacuation operation for Canadians that are abroad.

00:07:39.660 --> 00:07:55.220

<v SPEAKER\_3>We're also doing the Complan Renaissance, where it's in case like we have humanitarian assistance disaster relief, sorry about that, in order to support when we have like any hurricane or anything like that.

00:07:55.220 --> 00:08:16.520

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, we were well situated to be the one to took that mission when Commander 1CAD received a phone call about potentially having to support like the J7 Summit, and looking at his capability, 2 Wing was a capability that was available for him to do the J7 Summit.

00:08:16.520 --> 00:08:25.060

<v SPEAKER\_3>We also had the experience from 2018, so I was the Deputy ATF Commander, Air Task Force Commander in 2018 in order to do that.

00:08:25.060 --> 00:08:28.580

<v SPEAKER\_3>So I have some background and experience with regards to it.

00:08:28.580 --> 00:08:37.460

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so for the following two reasons, Commander 1CAD asked us to do it with the support from other wing, including like one wing for the helicopter.

00:08:38.100 --> 00:08:49.980

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so that was really like a whole Air Force commitment in order to support that international event that did happen here in Canada.

00:08:49.980 --> 00:08:51.240

<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay, so super.

00:08:51.240 --> 00:08:52.200

<v SPEAKER\_1>Thanks for that.

00:08:52.200 --> 00:09:02.420

<v SPEAKER\_1>Couldn't Greeley come to you, I guess, a little bit more about kind of your role, if there was one in the operation cadence, but then more specifically in Atlantis.

00:09:02.460 --> 00:09:20.900

<v SPEAKER\_2>Yeah, so with regards to operational cadence, I really didn't have anything to do with that operation, though Operation Lentus was, I'm not going to say impacted by op cadence, but it was definitely a consideration in terms of the number of assets that were going to be assigned to Operation Lentus in the first iteration of 2502.

00:09:20.900 --> 00:09:27.780

<v SPEAKER\_2>As I alluded to, my specific role was as the Air Task Force Commander, Chief Gagnon, as the ATF Chief.

00:09:27.780 --> 00:09:47.060

<v SPEAKER\_2>We happened to be boots on ground in Winnipeg for a conference leading into what was the 29th of May, the 28th of May, and I'm sure all your listeners have seen or heard the emergency alerts that you typically get on your cell phone or your Apple Watches, things like that, when there is a child alert or amber alert.

00:09:47.060 --> 00:09:55.440

<v SPEAKER\_2>So we happened to be in Winnipeg, we got an evacuation notice for the province of Manitoba saying that things were happening

in northern Manitoba.

00:09:55.440 --> 00:10:06.880

<v SPEAKER\_2>Knowing that Trenton is the home of air mobility and typically the C-130Js, maybe the C-17s, if we're talking about the evacuation for Yellowknife, that Chief Gagnon can definitely speak to.

00:10:06.880 --> 00:10:18.080

<v SPEAKER\_2>I sent an email off to Colonel Bowser, our Wing Commander, and saying, sir, my conference ends tomorrow, which would have been Thursday, and I'm more than willing to stay in Winnipeg if there's a need for an ATF commander.

00:10:18.080 --> 00:10:20.540

<v SPEAKER\_2>He comes back and says, no, Craig, it's good.

00:10:20.540 --> 00:10:22.740

<v SPEAKER\_2>We're going to be sending one aircraft, one person.

00:10:22.740 --> 00:10:24.400

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's no need.

00:10:24.400 --> 00:10:26.500

<v SPEAKER\_2>Come on home Thursday night.

00:10:26.500 --> 00:10:34.960

<v SPEAKER\_2>So fast forward on to Thursday, I get a phone call mid-afternoon from the commander of the Operational Support Squadron saying, Craig, are you still in Winnipeg?

00:10:34.960 --> 00:10:36.080

<v SPEAKER\_2>Yes, I'm still here.

00:10:36.080 --> 00:10:37.100

<v SPEAKER\_2>Don't leave.

00:10:37.100 --> 00:10:38.660

<v SPEAKER\_2>Go to OneCat right now.

00:10:38.660 --> 00:10:41.420

<v SPEAKER\_2>You've been assigned as the Air Task Force commander.

00:10:41.420 --> 00:10:48.180

<v SPEAKER\_2>And all I can say is bring it into seventh gear, find that eighth gear because things were going fast and furious at that point in time.

00:10:48.240 --> 00:10:54.720

<v SPEAKER\_2>As we learned about the scope of the operation for what needed to be executed in Northern Manitoba at that point in time.



00:10:54.720 --> 00:10:55.520  
<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay.

00:10:55.520 --> 00:11:01.200  
<v SPEAKER\_1>So in your case, basically you were in the wrong place at the right time, I guess is maybe the right place at the wrong time.

00:11:01.200 --> 00:11:01.680  
<v SPEAKER\_2>I don't know.

00:11:01.680 --> 00:11:03.060  
<v SPEAKER\_2>Depending on the perspective.

00:11:03.060 --> 00:11:04.260  
<v SPEAKER\_2>Yeah, exactly.

00:11:04.260 --> 00:11:05.580  
<v SPEAKER\_3>Yeah.

00:11:05.580 --> 00:11:08.520  
<v SPEAKER\_2>From my perspective, right place, right time.

00:11:08.520 --> 00:11:09.540  
<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay.

00:11:09.540 --> 00:11:10.380  
<v SPEAKER\_1>Super.

00:11:10.380 --> 00:11:13.220  
<v SPEAKER\_1>And so Chief, you're there in that same capacity.

00:11:13.220 --> 00:11:24.340  
<v SPEAKER\_1>And then I guess there's an element of going with the boss, but a bit beyond that, just in terms of your responsibilities in terms of helping to support some of this.

00:11:24.340 --> 00:11:26.460  
<v SPEAKER\_4>So absolutely.

00:11:26.460 --> 00:11:32.360  
<v SPEAKER\_4>By virtue of same location, same conference, is kind of how that ended up going.

00:11:32.360 --> 00:11:37.380  
<v SPEAKER\_4>And the CO, Lieutenant Colonel Greeley had asked me, hey, I need an ATF Chief.

00:11:37.420 --> 00:11:38.360  
<v SPEAKER\_4>Are you in?

00:11:38.360 --> 00:11:41.920

<v SPEAKER\_4>So I made a quick call home and home was like, you're good.

00:11:42.720 --> 00:11:47.800

<v SPEAKER\_4>If you can make it home by this date for Chris Stapleton concert, you're good.

00:11:47.800 --> 00:12:11.700

<v SPEAKER\_4>So what ends up happening from my perspective from a Chief's role in an ATF, the CO kind of coordinates everything specific to the mission, specific to the deployment of the assets, how the assets are used, how the evacuations are going to take place, timings, how many per day, all that finite detail where my role ends up being from a personnel perspective.

00:12:11.700 --> 00:12:21.640

<v SPEAKER\_4>And you can probably appreciate from the moment that we got called to this operation, to both Operation Lantus, is things happen at the speed of light.

00:12:21.640 --> 00:12:27.500

<v SPEAKER\_4>You have a multitude of assets coming to stage out of one area, in this case was Winnipeg.

00:12:27.500 --> 00:12:31.920

<v SPEAKER\_4>Do I have enough accommodations should they need to overnight if there's an unserviceable aircraft?

00:12:31.920 --> 00:12:42.980

<v SPEAKER\_4>So I have to coordinate logistics for feeding, housing, and depending on the ATF size, our larger ATF I believe was somewhere around 170 mark rate, sir.

00:12:42.980 --> 00:12:44.000

<v SPEAKER\_4>Give or take.

00:12:44.000 --> 00:12:51.580

<v SPEAKER\_4>So think of all these considerations when there's already coarsing going on on the current base that you're on because there's certain elements of training.

00:12:51.580 --> 00:12:59.400

<v SPEAKER\_4>There's certain elements where there's housing restraints within all of our geographic locations, and military accommodations is becoming more and more scarce for short notice.

00:12:59.400 --> 00:13:00.820

<v SPEAKER\_4>Things like this.

00:13:00.820 --> 00:13:20.740

<v SPEAKER\_4>Because Manitoba was already in a state of emergency, David, what you have is I cannot lean too much on the Winnipeg economy because their housing, their hotels, their everything, their Airbnbs are full of Red Cross workers, they're full of NGOs, humane support.

00:13:20.740 --> 00:13:22.240

<v SPEAKER\_4>What's the word I'm looking for?

00:13:22.240 --> 00:13:23.180

<v SPEAKER\_1>Humanitarian.

00:13:23.180 --> 00:13:24.380

<v SPEAKER\_4>Humanitarian, thank you.

00:13:24.380 --> 00:13:25.860

<v SPEAKER\_4>Humanitarian support.

00:13:25.860 --> 00:13:30.780

<v SPEAKER\_4>So I have to be cognizant that I'm not going to overburden that side of the house.

00:13:30.780 --> 00:13:32.940

<v SPEAKER\_4>Yeah, so that's kind of my role.

00:13:32.940 --> 00:13:34.720

<v SPEAKER\_4>Beans, bullets.

00:13:34.760 --> 00:13:36.200

<v SPEAKER\_4>What was the third one I always used to say?

00:13:36.380 --> 00:13:37.340

<v SPEAKER\_2>Beans, bullets and people.

00:13:37.340 --> 00:13:39.680

<v SPEAKER\_4>Beans, bullets and people, yep.

00:13:39.680 --> 00:13:45.860

<v SPEAKER\_4>And making sure our troops are happy so they can do the job on the ground and support operations.

00:13:45.860 --> 00:13:47.180

<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay.

00:13:47.180 --> 00:13:54.760

<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay, so to come back to you, so you're basically responsible for basically the HEL0 support function.

00:13:54.760 --> 00:13:56.680

<v SPEAKER\_1>Can you maybe just talk about how that fit?

00:13:56.700 --> 00:14:01.180

<v SPEAKER\_1>Because there's also a Fighter Patrol exercise.

00:14:01.180 --> 00:14:11.440

<v SPEAKER\_1>Maybe just talk about who does that and how you interact with those folks because presumably there's some element of coordination or at least de-confliction on some of those parts.

00:14:13.280 --> 00:14:21.720

<v SPEAKER\_3>Yeah, so the J7 Summit is really like it's a complex air mission that has like two aspects associated.

00:14:21.900 --> 00:14:35.880

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, NORAD through CANAR is responsible like to do the air surveillance above and being able to make sure like they're keeping the security of the air throughout.

00:14:35.880 --> 00:14:52.180

<v SPEAKER\_3>In order to do that, they were also having some radar that was positioned across some key position within the Rockies Mountain to make sure like they have like the full visibility of the air picture above like the summit.

00:14:52.180 --> 00:14:57.880

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so, those radar were logistically supported by the Air Task Force.

00:14:57.880 --> 00:15:03.560

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, that's one of the link that I had with the CANAR aspect.

00:15:03.560 --> 00:15:18.080

<v SPEAKER\_3>On my side, what I provided is I provided the helicopter, but some of the helicopter also had a mission to support the CANAR by providing like some of the intercept capability associated with it.

00:15:18.080 --> 00:15:35.940

<v SPEAKER\_3>Because I was so close from the summit, it makes sense to have helicopter that will be able to lift up and moving from the center to the longer area in order to do any intercept, but also like look if we had like any concern at one point associated with that.

00:15:35.940 --> 00:15:42.020

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, but that relation is quite complex from a command and control aspect.

00:15:42.980 --> 00:15:49.060

<v SPEAKER\_3>Some of the aircraft that were used from a Canar were

arriving from 8 Wing Trenton.

00:15:49.060 --> 00:16:03.660

<v SPEAKER\_3>They were also arriving from 4 Wing Gold Lake, and they were all associated to be able to provide that air picture and that air security associated with it.

00:16:03.660 --> 00:16:31.020

<v SPEAKER\_3>On my side, what I were focusing more was really about like the air mobility of the IPP that were there, and to move them from the site, from the airport of Calgary when they arrive with their national aircraft and to move them from the Calgary Airport to the sites where the J7 Summit was arriving.

00:16:31.020 --> 00:16:42.680

<v SPEAKER\_3>I also add in case of evacuation, I did have some helicopter that was available, that was close from the site, in case we have anything that was happening.

00:16:42.680 --> 00:16:49.640

<v SPEAKER\_3>I also supported the RCMP in case they needed to bring their response team anywhere.

00:16:49.640 --> 00:16:53.540

<v SPEAKER\_3>We were present and available to do that for them.

00:16:53.540 --> 00:17:01.820

<v SPEAKER\_3>We were also supporting the Joint Task Force and the Land Task Force LMN with some logistical support if they needed.

00:17:01.820 --> 00:17:07.940

<v SPEAKER\_3>It's a mountainous area and sometimes it's just easy to move some equipment through a helicopter.

00:17:07.940 --> 00:17:13.040

<v SPEAKER\_3>We also maintain a CASEVAC response if needed.

00:17:13.440 --> 00:17:21.740

<v SPEAKER\_3>So furthermore, at night, there were a need for OARS capability and it's something that the CAF did have.

00:17:21.740 --> 00:17:23.140

<v SPEAKER\_3>It's one of our niche aspects.

00:17:23.140 --> 00:17:27.020

<v SPEAKER\_3>So we wanted to make sure we were ready in order to do that.

00:17:27.020 --> 00:17:32.400

<v SPEAKER\_3>In order to be efficient into it, we needed to do a

strong training program.

00:17:32.600 --> 00:17:36.680

<v SPEAKER\_3>So what we call the road to I-readiness.

00:17:36.680 --> 00:17:57.300

<v SPEAKER\_3>So we started some of the training as early as January and February in order to develop, to command both exercise, to tabletop exercise, but also to field training exercise throughout, in order to make sure we were ready for the J7 Summit.

00:17:57.300 --> 00:18:06.340

<v SPEAKER\_3>So it's a long process in order to make sure that when the summit started like we were ready, what we were.

00:18:07.900 --> 00:18:21.280

<v SPEAKER\_1>So the type of operation you're describing, I mean, at least from my understanding, it's part of the kind of normal set of operational mission planning parameters for the CAF.

00:18:21.280 --> 00:18:25.000

<v SPEAKER\_1>And we've actually held a G7 Summit in Kananaskis before.

00:18:25.000 --> 00:18:30.840

<v SPEAKER\_1>I don't know if it's the exact same facility, but done this kind of thing previously and done this kind of thing in the same place.

00:18:30.840 --> 00:18:40.240

<v SPEAKER\_1>I guess, were there anything, any particularly unique aspects of the 2025 Summit that added some additional complexity or planning considerations?

00:18:40.240 --> 00:18:51.940

<v SPEAKER\_1>I guess one thing I presume during the previous Kananaskis Summit, you didn't have to be as concerned about UAS usage from civilians and things like that in a way that I presume is a more significant factor now.

00:18:51.940 --> 00:19:00.980

<v SPEAKER\_1>But as you're going about that planning, were there any unique characteristics to take into consideration for this particular admission?

00:19:02.520 --> 00:19:05.920

<v SPEAKER\_3>In 2002 was the last time we were in Kananaskis.

00:19:07.100 --> 00:19:15.360

<v SPEAKER\_3>What we had was about a little bit over 40 Griffin that was providing the immortality task in 2002.

00:19:15.360 --> 00:19:28.700

<v SPEAKER\_3>With now the addition of the Chinook, we did not need that as many Griffin in order to have the same effect of moving those IPP person by hair.

00:19:29.820 --> 00:19:32.120

<v SPEAKER\_3>The technology did increase quite a lot.

00:19:32.120 --> 00:19:44.740

<v SPEAKER\_3>Now, we have full visibility over aircraft flying through the sky using TAC and TAC server in order to provide us visibility over that asset.

00:19:44.740 --> 00:19:46.360

<v SPEAKER\_3>You mentioned the UAS.

00:19:46.360 --> 00:19:49.580

<v SPEAKER\_3>UAS were not there in 2002.

00:19:49.580 --> 00:19:57.020

<v SPEAKER\_3>Now, CAF did not deploy those capability, like the RCMP had a robust capability.

00:19:57.020 --> 00:20:04.580

<v SPEAKER\_3>And as I was so close from the RCMP side, I was falling under their bubble with regards to that.

00:20:04.580 --> 00:20:07.840

<v SPEAKER\_3>But it was a threat that we discussed quite a lot.

00:20:07.840 --> 00:20:15.980

<v SPEAKER\_3>And what is making even more complex is how you de-conflict that airspace now with UAS that are friendly sometimes.

00:20:15.980 --> 00:20:21.080

<v SPEAKER\_3>So we're using UAS in order to make sure we have eyes in the sky.

00:20:21.840 --> 00:20:23.800

<v SPEAKER\_3>The RCMP is using it.

00:20:23.800 --> 00:20:30.200

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so that air battle management now is way more complex than what it was over in 2002.

00:20:30.200 --> 00:20:40.020

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so that's a reason we had air traffic control directly over at the side that was covering up to 10,000 feet.

00:20:40.020 --> 00:20:53.060

<v SPEAKER\_3>And they were able to cover also a bubble of about 10 nautical miles, that was the conflict thing, that low flying area within the sites.

00:20:53.060 --> 00:20:58.580

<v SPEAKER\_3>But after that, you got CADs out of North Bay that was covering the remaining portion.

00:20:58.580 --> 00:21:13.340

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so there were no time that was established in order to prevent some of the flying within the area for people who are just doing it for leisure sometime.

00:21:13.660 --> 00:21:21.840

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so we were able to inform it because it's the most protected area in Canada for that three days summit.

00:21:21.840 --> 00:21:29.080

<v SPEAKER\_3>It's a place that's gonna be as tight as you can imagine in order to do that from the air, from the ground.

00:21:29.080 --> 00:21:31.760

<v SPEAKER\_3>And everything is over there.

00:21:31.760 --> 00:21:41.160

<v SPEAKER\_3>But when you look at 2002, like the air battle management is way more complex with the UAS and all the flyers that are over there.

00:21:42.420 --> 00:21:45.840

<v SPEAKER\_1>So the note, Tim, if I'm not mistaken, that's a notice to Airman Basely.

00:21:45.840 --> 00:21:49.440

<v SPEAKER\_1>It's a directive that goes out to other people that might be flying.

00:21:49.440 --> 00:22:03.620

<v SPEAKER\_1>I think we saw some media reporting that even people that are flying aircraft that can, I guess, more regularly be expected to get those kinds of notifications don't always get the message because it was reported there was at least one intercept.

00:22:03.620 --> 00:22:09.840

<v SPEAKER\_1>Maybe talk about like what's the, what kind of complexity is there for just regular civilian drone operators?

00:22:09.920 --> 00:22:14.100

<v SPEAKER\_1>Because I don't, are those folks just expected to track



that other information?

00:22:14.100 --> 00:22:22.100

<v SPEAKER\_1>Is it if you, they give you this order from Amazon or you go wherever you can get a drone any place now, who is expected to be paying attention to that stuff?

00:22:22.100 --> 00:22:26.360

<v SPEAKER\_1>And how much do those people pay attention to those kinds of things?

00:22:26.420 --> 00:22:33.960

<v SPEAKER\_3>So the, first of all, like PARC Canada already have some regulation associated with the UAS within that area.

00:22:33.960 --> 00:22:39.580

<v SPEAKER\_3>So there were already some policy that were implemented with regards to that.

00:22:39.580 --> 00:22:46.040

<v SPEAKER\_3>The RCMP was the lead agency in order to make sure like we communicated to all the flyer.

00:22:46.040 --> 00:22:51.540

<v SPEAKER\_3>But also like using social media, some different site.

00:22:51.540 --> 00:22:55.320

<v SPEAKER\_3>They were also like some information center that was provided.

00:22:55.760 --> 00:23:06.280

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so as we build up a bubble above the sites, like we were covering like quite large with regards to the NOTAM.

00:23:06.280 --> 00:23:20.420

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so for anyone like any airfield, any airport within almost like the province, but like the area was receiving like that notification.

00:23:21.340 --> 00:23:26.680

<v SPEAKER\_3>Social media, the RCMP did a great job in informing like everyone.

00:23:26.680 --> 00:23:35.720

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so as you were going over to the Kananaskis Park, there were some information center, like you needed to have clearance in order to get there.

00:23:35.720 --> 00:23:46.340

<v SPEAKER\_3>And based on the range of some of the UAS that are

currently available, none of them could have ended up like being closed from the site at that time.

00:23:46.340 --> 00:23:56.600

<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay, which I guess is probably increasingly a consideration in choosing a site like that and not somewhere else where you have fewer tools to employ in that kind of respect.

00:23:56.600 --> 00:24:00.600

<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay.

00:24:00.600 --> 00:24:04.040

<v SPEAKER\_1>This episode of Defence Deconstructed is brought to you by Irving Shipbuilding.

00:24:04.040 --> 00:24:06.540

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00:24:06.540 --> 00:24:14.980

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00:24:16.700 --> 00:24:18.060

<v SPEAKER\_1>Colonel Greeley, come back to you.

00:24:18.700 --> 00:24:24.820

<v SPEAKER\_1>I guess to pick up where you were, you were at a conference, happened to be in location, and you asked to stay another day.

00:24:24.820 --> 00:24:29.280

<v SPEAKER\_1>I mean, just kind of take this story forward from there and talk a little bit.

00:24:29.280 --> 00:24:32.840

<v SPEAKER\_1>The Oplintus mission is one that we've seen increasingly.

00:24:32.840 --> 00:24:45.600

<v SPEAKER\_1>The Royal Canadian Air Force and the wider CAF called on to support, but talk a little bit about the specific ones over the past couple of months and maybe some of the unique aspects of those given where they were located.

00:24:46.340 --> 00:24:46.780

<v SPEAKER\_2>Absolutely.

00:24:46.780 --> 00:24:55.020

<v SPEAKER\_2>So first and foremost, how did the Canadian Armed Forces get involved in this Operation Oplintus to begin with?

00:24:55.020 --> 00:25:02.500

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's the province's responsibility to respond to these emerging threats, the domestic threats within their respective provinces.

00:25:02.500 --> 00:25:10.480

<v SPEAKER\_2>However, there comes a point in time, sometimes, where the needs of the province far exceed the resources that they've got available to them.

00:25:10.480 --> 00:25:19.840

<v SPEAKER\_2>In the instance of a forest fire, maybe the fire is getting too close to the town at a rate that they can't get the personnel out of that area fast enough.

00:25:19.840 --> 00:25:26.700

<v SPEAKER\_2>At which point in time, the province submits a request for federal assistance or an RFA that goes up their respective chain of command.

00:25:26.700 --> 00:25:36.260

<v SPEAKER\_2>In our case, comes across through the Minister of National Defence, the commander of the Chief of Defence Staff, down through, depending on the agency that's being involved.

00:25:36.260 --> 00:25:47.960

<v SPEAKER\_2>For us, the air evacuations, obviously, from an airport's perspective, but I've seen from an Ottawa perspective, the recent flooding where army or just general people are being called out to support in that regard.

00:25:47.960 --> 00:25:51.880

<v SPEAKER\_2>So that's how we came, the Air Force came to be involved in that.

00:25:51.880 --> 00:26:00.500

<v SPEAKER\_2>Largely, as everybody sees across the various wings, we've got aircraft that are flying, doing force generation activities or FG activities.

00:26:00.500 --> 00:26:10.980

<v SPEAKER\_2>But in this situation where an operation is stood up, those assets get taken away from that wing and then assigned over to a respective Air Task Force commander to execute that mission.

00:26:10.980 --> 00:26:24.300

<v SPEAKER\_2>That mission falls under the commander of the Joint Operations Centre, the commander of CJOC, who below them is the Joint Air Force, Joint Air Force Air Component Commander.

00:26:24.300 --> 00:26:27.060

<v SPEAKER\_2>I'm after losing the acronym, the JFAC commander.

00:26:27.060 --> 00:26:27.600

<v SPEAKER\_2>There you go.

00:26:27.600 --> 00:26:28.880

<v SPEAKER\_2>Yeah.

00:26:28.880 --> 00:26:31.960

<v SPEAKER\_2>Who happens to be Major General Nikkenda, and then down through myself.

00:26:31.960 --> 00:26:37.340

<v SPEAKER\_2>So I'm reporting up through to him in the execution of this particular mission.

00:26:37.380 --> 00:26:41.980

<v SPEAKER\_2>For Operation Lentus 2502, it was primarily in Manitoba.

00:26:41.980 --> 00:26:52.560

<v SPEAKER\_2>We staged out of Winnipeg with a, we had five assets that were down there, primary fixed wing assets, C-130Js and C-130H legacy models.

00:26:52.560 --> 00:26:54.100

<v SPEAKER\_2>Five of those in total.

00:26:54.100 --> 00:26:58.280

<v SPEAKER\_2>And then we had assets that were in the PAH in Northern Manitoba.

00:26:58.280 --> 00:27:04.120

<v SPEAKER\_2>So the scope of the operation was that from the PAH, we had 21 assets in total.

00:27:04.120 --> 00:27:08.720

<v SPEAKER\_2>They were flying into a place in Northern Manitoba called Pukka Diwagan.

00:27:08.720 --> 00:27:21.180

<v SPEAKER\_2>And that was primarily Rotoroo Wing because the airfield was so short, it was about 3,000 foot, that we couldn't put C-130s in there to make any sort of meaningful extract of personnel.

00:27:21.180 --> 00:27:25.040

<v SPEAKER\_2>Though we had Twin Otters operating out of that airfield.

00:27:25.040 --> 00:27:31.060

<v SPEAKER\_2>Given the small size of that aircraft, it was very

similar to what we were able to execute utilizing Griffin helicopters as well.

00:27:31.100 --> 00:27:35.340

<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, just primarily we'll just say Griffin helicopters, those Chinooks were supporting.

00:27:35.340 --> 00:27:44.580

<v SPEAKER\_2>But separately to that, we had another set of air operations going on between Winnipeg, Norway House and then to Cross Lake and then back to Winnipeg.

00:27:44.580 --> 00:27:56.800

<v SPEAKER\_2>We're bringing people from the north down into the south utilizing a total of 21 gusting up to 31 assets at a point in time where we're driving towards 2503, upland is 2503.

00:27:56.800 --> 00:27:59.520

<v SPEAKER\_2>That was out of northern Ontario.

00:27:59.520 --> 00:28:19.760

<v SPEAKER\_2>Again, we staged out of Winnipeg moving personnel from Sandy Lake, which is just north of Canora and moving those personnel utilizing just fixed wing assets, C-130s, four of those in total from Sandy Lake down to Thunder Bay, doing that a number of times until we end crew day and then recouping back in to Winnipeg.

00:28:22.360 --> 00:28:28.440

<v SPEAKER\_1>Given the geography, I guess we keep having fires in particular all across the country.

00:28:28.440 --> 00:28:38.960

<v SPEAKER\_1>So you mentioned that the one area had some limitations in terms of being able to get fixed wing assets in there, but was there any other unique considerations given the geography of where these events were occurring?

00:28:43.640 --> 00:28:53.880

<v SPEAKER\_2>When I took a look at Puckett-to-Woggen, the airfield itself, as I said, 3,000 foot, we were primarily utilizing that for the two twin otter aircraft that we're utilizing.

00:28:53.880 --> 00:29:14.940

<v SPEAKER\_2>But given the proximity of the fire at that point and the capability from a rotary wing assets, all the other rotary wing assets were actually going into the town of Puckett-to-Woggen, landing on softball fields, on soccer fields, in the fields in front of churches and parking lots, and where we can put a helicopter down just to be able to extract the people out.

00:29:14.940 --> 00:29:27.680

<v SPEAKER\_2>Challenges we saw, not so much from a geography perspective in that regard, was the determination of how many people were remaining in the towns and who was doing the coordination to get those people out.

00:29:27.680 --> 00:29:31.560

<v SPEAKER\_2>Obviously, you can appreciate it's a race against time to get those people out.

00:29:31.560 --> 00:29:38.780

<v SPEAKER\_2>But not having centrally located people there at the very beginning was very difficult to determine, well, how many people are we talking?

00:29:38.780 --> 00:29:41.940

<v SPEAKER\_2>If we got 100 people left, is that like a half a day's mission?

00:29:41.940 --> 00:29:48.060

<v SPEAKER\_2>Or are we talking 2,000 people in which I might need to request more assets to come in to be able to extract those people out?

00:29:48.060 --> 00:29:56.180

<v SPEAKER\_2>So that information deficiency posed complications from both the operational lettuce 2502 as well as 2503.

00:29:57.240 --> 00:30:04.040

<v SPEAKER\_2>I'll speak to 2502 and Crosslake in Norway House when utilizing the fixed wing assets.

00:30:04.040 --> 00:30:24.500

<v SPEAKER\_2>We ran into a situation towards the end of the operation where just given the changes in the fire situation, how quickly it had moved from the time an air crew took off out of Winnipeg, got to the theater of operations on the degrading environment effects, they did a missed approach over the field because they were not able to land due to the cloud and smoke.

00:30:24.500 --> 00:30:39.700

<v SPEAKER\_2>And as they came around, they just happened to be above the fire, which incurred significant, I'm not going to say structural damage, but structural risk against one of the C-130s upwards of, I think it was like six or six and a half Gs.

00:30:39.700 --> 00:30:41.820

<v SPEAKER\_2>That aircraft is now down for a number of months.

00:30:41.820 --> 00:30:51.220

<v SPEAKER\_2>But there was a significant degree of risk there for the

air crew and something very treacherous happening had they not been able to get out of that specific environment.

00:30:51.220 --> 00:30:58.640

<v SPEAKER\_2>So the dramatically fast changing environment had some significant impacts, if you will, on the operation in that regard and the coordination as we move forward.

00:30:59.760 --> 00:31:04.440

<v SPEAKER\_1>So, in total, how many different flights did you support?

00:31:04.440 --> 00:31:07.960

<v SPEAKER\_1>And how many people did you end up supporting the extraction of?

00:31:07.960 --> 00:31:18.440

<v SPEAKER\_2>Yeah, so the one thing I really want to stress here is the rapid response of the Canadian Armed Forces to these, both these operations.

00:31:18.440 --> 00:31:31.320

<v SPEAKER\_2>For 2502, we had aircraft and personnel coming as far west as Comox, British Columbia, and as far east as Gaugetown, New Brunswick, all coming together into Winnipeg in the PAW with a matter of, I'm going to say about 24 hours.

00:31:31.320 --> 00:31:37.540

<v SPEAKER\_2>I mean, there was a highly dedicated effort to get people into situation because again, time is of the essence.

00:31:37.540 --> 00:31:42.720

<v SPEAKER\_2>And if I could quote my chief in saying, you know, I want more of this, but I don't want more of this.

00:31:42.720 --> 00:31:52.320

<v SPEAKER\_2>I mean, it was an incredible opportunity to be together with, you know, a give or take 170 CAF personnel, all supporting and dedicated towards the singular mission.

00:31:52.320 --> 00:31:53.800

<v SPEAKER\_2>And it was a great experience.

00:31:54.920 --> 00:31:56.520

<v SPEAKER\_2>But I don't want more of that.

00:31:56.520 --> 00:32:00.220

<v SPEAKER\_2>I don't want Canadians to be at risk, you know, their lives, right?

00:32:00.220 --> 00:32:02.320

<v SPEAKER\_2>And so it's kind of a duconomy in that regard.

00:32:02.320 --> 00:32:05.680

<v SPEAKER\_2>And it's, I'll leave that at that.

00:32:05.680 --> 00:32:13.840

<v SPEAKER\_2>But in total we had for Operation 2502, 174 people across the Canadian Armed Forces coming together to support.

00:32:13.840 --> 00:32:18.560

<v SPEAKER\_2>We executed 113 flights or 113 chocks.

00:32:18.560 --> 00:32:23.740

<v SPEAKER\_2>We were supported by 21 aircraft, which Major General McKenna is very quick to point out.

00:32:23.940 --> 00:32:28.540

<v SPEAKER\_2>In jokingly terms, that I had more aircraft assets under me than most Wing commanders.

00:32:29.640 --> 00:32:30.460

<v SPEAKER\_2>21 aircraft.

00:32:30.460 --> 00:32:39.500

<v SPEAKER\_2>We extracted a total of 3,804 people out of Pocketeuwagen and Norway House over a span of five days.

00:32:39.500 --> 00:33:02.020

<v SPEAKER\_2>For Operation Atlantis 2503, smaller in nature, but we had 73 personnel come together, executing 24 sorties with six aircraft, two C-130Hs, two Jays, a 1CH-146 Search and Rescue Griffin helicopter, and a Cormorant helicopter that happened to come in from the West Coast as well.

00:33:02.020 --> 00:33:08.240

<v SPEAKER\_2>Extracting 1,458 people out of Sandy Lake in a matter of four days.

00:33:08.240 --> 00:33:09.840

<v SPEAKER\_2>So incredible success.

00:33:09.840 --> 00:33:13.280

<v SPEAKER\_2>I mean, it's just the dedication of the personnel to be able to do that.

00:33:14.740 --> 00:33:15.460

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's endearing.

00:33:15.540 --> 00:33:19.360

<v SPEAKER\_2>It gives me goosebumps to be able to reflect on all that



we were able to accomplish.

00:33:19.360 --> 00:33:21.440  
<v SPEAKER\_2>Chief?

00:33:21.440 --> 00:33:23.480  
<v SPEAKER\_4>Sir, thanks.

00:33:23.480 --> 00:33:27.440  
<v SPEAKER\_4>Not too much more to say about the Lenticles.

00:33:27.440 --> 00:33:36.080  
<v SPEAKER\_4>Just to kind of loop back to Colonel Belley, for your listeners, there is a good article in the North Bay Nugget that was released.

00:33:36.080 --> 00:34:02.800  
<v SPEAKER\_4>I happened to have been up there on holidays over the weekend, and it talks to the intercept just about that conflicted airspace and the no-tams and the importance of our actual role even at home, never mind on deployment overseas, and it speaks to a fighter intercept of a small private airplane that had ventured into that for whatever reason, either A, not knowing the no-tams or B, thinking that the no-tams didn't apply.

00:34:02.800 --> 00:34:17.480  
<v SPEAKER\_4>So there's not really particulars as to why they did it, but there's particulars as to what was done on the CAF's perspective to deter assets or other aircraft flying into our airspace that weren't necessarily supposed to be there during that time.

00:34:17.600 --> 00:34:24.600  
<v SPEAKER\_4>And it also brings home in an area like North Bay that sometimes forgot that the military has pulled out of there and everybody thinks they have.

00:34:24.600 --> 00:34:33.440  
<v SPEAKER\_4>It brings back the point that we still have a military presence in some of these locations, despite not as big as they once used to be.

00:34:33.440 --> 00:34:36.980  
<v SPEAKER\_4>Just to give some love back over to the Cadence side here.

00:34:36.980 --> 00:34:39.620  
<v SPEAKER\_4>No, not too much more other than what Lieutenant Colonel Greeley mentioned, right?

00:34:39.680 --> 00:34:52.700

<v SPEAKER\_4>Like the speed at which things begin to happen from an ATF Chief perspective, you can imagine when you have people located all over from Winnipeg to, you know, we had small debt in Norway House.

00:34:52.700 --> 00:34:57.380

<v SPEAKER\_4>We had Rangers supporting the North on the other, on Lantus 03.

00:34:57.380 --> 00:35:00.280

<v SPEAKER\_4>We had people in the PAW.

00:35:00.280 --> 00:35:08.240

<v SPEAKER\_4>We had people that moved forward to control air traffic because just like Cadence, our air traffic, our traffic space becomes conflicted as well.

00:35:08.900 --> 00:35:14.260

<v SPEAKER\_4>And like we're trying to not interfere with provincial firefighting situations.

00:35:14.260 --> 00:35:18.140

<v SPEAKER\_4>And they have many aircraft that are bombing and doing fire suppression activities.

00:35:18.140 --> 00:35:27.680

<v SPEAKER\_4>So we had to bring in some controllers as well to kind of speak to and be the link between green fleet and civilian fleet communications.

00:35:27.680 --> 00:35:33.420

<v SPEAKER\_4>But, you know, you start staging these people live from the CAF in areas that have already been evacuated.

00:35:33.420 --> 00:35:38.660

<v SPEAKER\_4>And now you have civilian resources that are eating fuel out of a small airport, like the PAW.

00:35:38.660 --> 00:35:44.420

<v SPEAKER\_4>So we had to co-ordinate from the Chief, ATF Chief Perspective and my Contracts Officer on the Task Force.

00:35:44.420 --> 00:35:46.820

<v SPEAKER\_4>How do we get more fuel in the PAW like yesterday?

00:35:46.820 --> 00:35:50.220

<v SPEAKER\_4>Because the amount that we're consuming is unsustainable.

00:35:50.220 --> 00:35:51.660

<v SPEAKER\_4>So that kind of thing.

00:35:51.660 --> 00:35:57.300

<v SPEAKER\_4>And then I have, you know, soldiers, aviators, sailors, potentially working in austere locations.

00:35:57.300 --> 00:35:59.480

<v SPEAKER\_4>How do I feed them without putting too much tax?

00:35:59.480 --> 00:36:02.300

<v SPEAKER\_4>Like it becomes increasingly a problem.

00:36:02.300 --> 00:36:07.840

<v SPEAKER\_4>Down to small things that we take for granted, like, hey, it's sure they're stationed in the paw and doing the business.

00:36:07.840 --> 00:36:09.500

<v SPEAKER\_4>Everybody's passionate about it.

00:36:09.500 --> 00:36:11.980

<v SPEAKER\_4>But there's only two showers in the airport terminal.

00:36:11.980 --> 00:36:18.780

<v SPEAKER\_4>So how do I make sure that the basic needs of all the people involved are being met?

00:36:18.780 --> 00:36:20.380

<v SPEAKER\_4>Like they're getting proper food.

00:36:20.380 --> 00:36:26.600

<v SPEAKER\_4>You know, they're not relying on rations for, you know, unless it's absolutely necessary and they become overwhelmed.

00:36:26.600 --> 00:36:29.000

<v SPEAKER\_4>And the city becomes overwhelmed in their resources.

00:36:29.000 --> 00:36:42.460

<v SPEAKER\_4>It's great to put a little revenue into these communities when we're doing these things and like not eat rations because it's great support and it gets our faces out there and shows what we're doing for more than, you know, more than just the financial impact.

00:36:42.460 --> 00:36:44.700

<v SPEAKER\_4>The person impact is wonderful.

00:36:44.700 --> 00:36:49.460

<v SPEAKER\_4>But then there reaches the point that, you know, what if it comes overwhelmed?

00:36:49.460 --> 00:36:51.340

<v SPEAKER\_4>Do we have a plan B?

00:36:51.340 --> 00:36:54.960

<v SPEAKER\_4>And that's kind of again where the role that I play comes into it.

00:36:55.000 --> 00:37:00.160

<v SPEAKER\_4>You know, to touch what Lieutenant Colonel said, Lieutenant Colonel Greeley said, like the troops are passionate.

00:37:00.440 --> 00:37:04.640

<v SPEAKER\_4>You get out there, I had a chance to go forward to the ground, to the paw, and they all love it.

00:37:04.640 --> 00:37:05.740

<v SPEAKER\_4>They love what they're doing.

00:37:05.740 --> 00:37:06.740

<v SPEAKER\_4>They were glad.

00:37:06.740 --> 00:37:09.120

<v SPEAKER\_4>They were happy to help.

00:37:09.120 --> 00:37:13.120

<v SPEAKER\_4>You know, it's a tough one.

00:37:13.120 --> 00:37:15.040

<v SPEAKER\_4>It's not always about going overseas, right?

00:37:15.040 --> 00:37:21.920

<v SPEAKER\_4>You know, so, and the troops definitely, you know, if you were to give them more, they would take more.

00:37:21.920 --> 00:37:24.140

<v SPEAKER\_4>There is an appetite for more.

00:37:24.140 --> 00:37:30.560

<v SPEAKER\_4>One of the messaging that I would try to port through was the fact of resiliency, right?

00:37:30.560 --> 00:37:35.440

<v SPEAKER\_4>If you're ever challenged with the what is my role in the CAF, what am I doing?

00:37:36.900 --> 00:37:38.220

<v SPEAKER\_4>That's your purpose.

00:37:40.140 --> 00:37:59.100

<v SPEAKER\_1>And just to kind of touch on why we thought it would make sense to kind of have these conversations at the same time, Colonel Belley, to come back to you, I guess, so some of the, what was the

role in some of the folks that were originally lined up to just be working with your activity and supporting the Oplenis at the same time, or what was the interrelationship?

00:37:59.100 --> 00:38:07.860

<v SPEAKER\_1>Because I know that there's a finite number of certainly, well, all the assets in the CAF, but Rotary Wing in particular, let alone ones that were all ready to go.

00:38:07.860 --> 00:38:10.220

<v SPEAKER\_1>So just talk a little bit about the interrelationship.

00:38:10.220 --> 00:38:25.080

<v SPEAKER\_1>I think we've had some discussion kind of at a higher level in the last couple of years about the need to be able to plan for concurrent operations and what, you know, you can have a sequence, you can do a whole bunch of different things if they're in a linear, laid out fashion that happened one after another.

00:38:25.080 --> 00:38:32.000

<v SPEAKER\_1>But if you have an unexpected set of activities that happen at the same time, then that changes a bunch of the different considerations.

00:38:33.620 --> 00:38:44.660

<v SPEAKER\_3>So in my case, so up cadence at some asset that was moving from Eastern Canada, so from Bagotville and Pitawawa.

00:38:44.660 --> 00:38:52.500

<v SPEAKER\_3>And they were in direction of Alberta in order to start doing some force generation activity prior to the J-7 Summit.

00:38:52.500 --> 00:39:00.160

<v SPEAKER\_3>So really like that was about like starting flying in mountainous area, developing their skills, also like starting to change.

00:39:00.160 --> 00:39:07.660

<v SPEAKER\_3>So my CAZEVAC line of task was at night, so they needed to change the crew from daytime to nighttime.

00:39:07.660 --> 00:39:16.220

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so they were on their way over out west and they were like almost like close to Manitoba when the fire got declared.

00:39:16.760 --> 00:39:24.640

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so the JFAC at that time took those assets and moved them over to uplenses.

00:39:24.640 --> 00:39:37.280

<v SPEAKER\_3>And we started having the discussion about like when will be like the decision point for them to be cut back to up cadence in order to limit any impact.

00:39:37.280 --> 00:39:40.160

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so that's when we started like doing planning.

00:39:40.160 --> 00:39:44.580

<v SPEAKER\_3>So when we're saying like CAF personnel are extremely skilled as doing planning.

00:39:45.020 --> 00:39:57.080

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so how we're able to make sure like we're starting looking at each day and each impact they will have on making sure like we're still able to do cadence.

00:39:57.080 --> 00:40:11.580

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so with regards to that cadence was still a priority for the Canadian Armed Forces, but how we're still able to support uplenses and making sure we're able like to do like boat operation.

00:40:12.180 --> 00:40:18.680

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so we needed to start having like discussion at the high level about with regards to all those impact.

00:40:18.680 --> 00:40:32.580

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so I had a few discussion with some of my general officer that I reported to in order to make sure like we identify some of those impact and making sure like we were prepared to absorb them and what they will be.

00:40:32.580 --> 00:40:35.460

<v SPEAKER\_3>It's how to identify the risk at that stage.

00:40:35.460 --> 00:40:37.540

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so we were able.

00:40:37.580 --> 00:40:54.360

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so I had a discussion with the JFAC and also like other general officer to make sure like we were able to identify that early on and to make sure like we were familiar with the decision and what will be the impact.

00:40:55.860 --> 00:40:57.520

<v SPEAKER\_1>Craig Greeley, I don't know if you want to add to that.

00:40:57.520 --> 00:41:11.180

<v SPEAKER\_1>I mean, I guess correct me if I'm wrong here, but I'm assuming just doing quick mental math that this would have kind of taken up in a short period, basically most of the, some of these

available mobility assets for the RCAF across the country.

00:41:11.180 --> 00:41:21.860

<v SPEAKER\_2>Yeah, so from air mobility, again, so from air mobility specific, we had two, we'll say three C-130Js that were a direct support of Operation Lentus.

00:41:21.860 --> 00:41:31.100

<v SPEAKER\_2>Given the size of the C-130J fleet, we were able to chop aside a couple of extra aircraft that were going to directly support Operation Cadence.

00:41:31.100 --> 00:41:42.360

<v SPEAKER\_2>Operation Lentus 2503, a little bit different where there wasn't so much impact towards a Cadence perspective, but search and rescue definitely became impacted across Canada in that regard.

00:41:42.360 --> 00:42:07.300

<v SPEAKER\_2>As we talk about Cadence and Lentus overlapping, there definitely was a desire for information with regards to where we stood with Operation 2502, the extra active people out of Pocketeau Wagon, because we had three Chinook helicopters that were a direct support of that, doing anywhere between 60 to 70 people being attracted per chalk, and there was a need for those aircraft to start heading out west.

00:42:07.300 --> 00:42:16.600

<v SPEAKER\_2>We lucked into those aircraft and that tasking being right place, right time again, but still not they needed to go west.

00:42:16.600 --> 00:42:19.440

<v SPEAKER\_2>We're talking the beginning of June timeframe here.

00:42:19.440 --> 00:42:36.380

<v SPEAKER\_2>When Operation Cadence kicking off towards mid-June-ish timeframe, we still had some flexibility, but as the Colonel alluded to, those personnel, those air crews, were still going through a degree of training to high readiness to get them situated where they're confident to be able to work inside of the mountains.

00:42:36.380 --> 00:42:40.060

<v SPEAKER\_2>So we needed to release them so they could continue their training.

00:42:40.060 --> 00:42:41.860

<v SPEAKER\_2>And so we're getting close on the timelines.

00:42:41.860 --> 00:42:48.460

<v SPEAKER\_2>We again, locked out towards the end, that we were to cut them, allow them to continue on west.

00:42:48.460 --> 00:42:57.700

<v SPEAKER\_2>But where we really saw some significant heat and light was with the province supporting or obtaining additional air assets.

00:42:57.700 --> 00:43:06.700

<v SPEAKER\_2>We were looking at 6 to 8, I believe it's Eurocopter, Super Puma helicopters, also being looked at to come in to backfill if and as required.

00:43:06.700 --> 00:43:16.940

<v SPEAKER\_2>So there was definitely no shortage of desire from the province to step up, to secure, to contract out the additional assets that we may need to execute this.

00:43:16.940 --> 00:43:26.620

<v SPEAKER\_2>And again, given the cadence looming on the forefront here, just being able to chop those assets aside, it's right place, right time, it all worked out for us in the end.

00:43:26.620 --> 00:43:28.400

<v SPEAKER\_2>Thank God.

00:43:28.400 --> 00:43:29.100

<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay.

00:43:29.100 --> 00:43:42.560

<v SPEAKER\_1>Well, I think that's a great note to end the conversation substantively on and thanks to the three of you for joining in, to you and all the forces that you worked with doing this for the great job you did this spring.

00:43:42.560 --> 00:43:45.240

<v SPEAKER\_1>The last question that we ask all of our guests is what you're reading.

00:43:45.440 --> 00:43:50.180

<v SPEAKER\_1>We're heading into the summer beach reading season, hopefully for the three of you, if that's your thing.

00:43:50.180 --> 00:43:51.440

<v SPEAKER\_1>Colonel Belley, I'll start with you.

00:43:51.440 --> 00:43:55.800

<v SPEAKER\_1>What are you reading these days or what do you plan to read?

00:43:55.800 --> 00:44:02.480

<v SPEAKER\_3>I'm planning on going on vacation and so I want something light so I'm going to go with a book from Mr.



00:44:02.480 --> 00:44:06.380

<v SPEAKER\_3>Glancy and so that's what I'm planning currently.

00:44:06.380 --> 00:44:07.660

<v SPEAKER\_1>Always a good choice.

00:44:07.660 --> 00:44:09.180

<v SPEAKER\_1>Colonel Greeley?

00:44:09.180 --> 00:44:19.660

<v SPEAKER\_2>For myself as a recent grad of the Joint Command and Staff Program there in Toronto, one of the books that I continually heard about was Ghost Fleet by the authors Singer and Cole.

00:44:19.660 --> 00:44:20.740

<v SPEAKER\_2>I've seen some nods here.

00:44:20.740 --> 00:44:21.720

<v SPEAKER\_2>Now I've never read it.

00:44:21.720 --> 00:44:32.060

<v SPEAKER\_2>I've heard nothing but great things about it, but fingers crossed, we don't have to do any more operation of the Lenticles over the summer period, but that's where I'm looking at as it stands right now.

00:44:32.060 --> 00:44:32.420

<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay.

00:44:32.420 --> 00:44:34.160

<v SPEAKER\_1>Well, hopefully get time to read it.

00:44:34.160 --> 00:44:36.500

<v SPEAKER\_1>Last but not least, Chief?

00:44:36.500 --> 00:44:37.800

<v SPEAKER\_4>Yeah.

00:44:37.800 --> 00:44:51.620

<v SPEAKER\_4>This has been an ongoing read for me since back to somewhere around, I'm going to say the 2013 or 14 time frame, when I was actually posted to 450 Squadron with the Chinooks.

00:44:51.620 --> 00:45:04.460

<v SPEAKER\_4>We had the luxury of having 427 really close to us, and they brought a guest speaker in for a professional development day named Dave Marquet, and he was telling us about his book Turn The Ship Around.

00:45:04.460 --> 00:45:11.700

<v SPEAKER\_4>I've been trying to pack my way through that with various extracurricular activities like Lentice and a 12-year-old.

00:45:12.060 --> 00:45:16.340

<v SPEAKER\_4>So, I'm hoping I can actually achieve my goal and finish that off this summer.

00:45:16.340 --> 00:45:21.860

<v SPEAKER\_4>It's all about transforming to the leader-leader mentality instead of the leader-follower mentality.

00:45:21.860 --> 00:45:25.280

<v SPEAKER\_4>So that's kind of on my hit list this summer.

00:45:25.280 --> 00:45:26.300

<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay, fantastic.

00:45:26.300 --> 00:45:29.080

<v SPEAKER\_1>Well, I hope the three of you all get time to get through that.

00:45:29.080 --> 00:45:32.320

<v SPEAKER\_1>And once again, thanks for joining us on Defence Deconstructed today.

00:45:32.320 --> 00:45:32.900

<v SPEAKER\_2>Really appreciate it.

00:45:32.900 --> 00:45:34.480

<v SPEAKER\_3>Thank you again.

00:45:34.480 --> 00:45:35.360

<v SPEAKER\_3>Thank you.

00:45:35.360 --> 00:45:37.900

<v SPEAKER\_1>Thanks.

00:45:37.900 --> 00:45:39.620

<v SPEAKER\_1>Thanks for listening to Defence Deconstructed.

00:45:40.120 --> 00:45:45.560

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00:45:45.560 --> 00:45:52.160

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00:45:52.160 --> 00:45:54.760

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00:45:54.760 --> 00:45:58.420

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