



CANADIAN ARMED FORCES
ETHOS
TRUSTED TO SERVE



National
Defence

Défense
nationale

Canada

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The Canadian Armed Forces Ethos

Trusted to Serve

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Preface

The *Canadian Armed Forces Ethos: Trusted to Serve* is the most essential doctrine in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). It must guide our conduct and performance at all times, both on- and off-duty.

This Canadian Armed Forces Ethos (CAF Ethos) comes at a particular turning point in Canadian Armed Forces' history. Mainly in response to strategic transformation at the turn of the century, the previous publication *Duty with Honour: The Profession of Arms in Canada* emphasized the profession, organizational aspects and future challenges related to the evolution of our Profession of Arms rather than our ethos. Instead, *Trusted to Serve* is focused on expanding and refining our shared understanding of our military ethos.

The CAF Ethos reflects Canadian values. These values allow our profession to operate with the trust of those within the organization and those we proudly serve; the Government of Canada and Canadians. Therefore, we entrust this renewed military ethos to all serving CAF members; to commit to and live by its principles. Every single one of us must embody the CAF Ethos and employ its values in our decisions and actions both while in the service of others and in our personal lives.

This renewal represents a necessary shift in approach to our ethos. With this publication, we have focused on accurately describing our ethos and putting it to best use in our daily service within the Profession of Arms. As military professionals, we must internalize all the elements of the CAF Ethos because it needs to underpin our character. Close to two millennia ago, Marcus Aurelius wrote that a person's worth is measured by the worth of what they value. Our worth will be judged by how we best exemplify the ethos espoused here. Our conduct and performance reflect directly on all of us. Therefore, we need to apply the highest standards of ethics and professionalism in all that we do. Our military effectiveness and credibility depend on it.

The Profession of Arms can only maintain its credibility and trust with the Government and Canadians by respecting the dignity of all persons. The employees of the Department of National Defence and CAF personnel share this foundational ethical principle within our combined Code of Values and Ethics. This foundational principle as well as other Defence Team values and ethics are now incorporated into the CAF Ethos in a way that more fully articulates what is expected from our military personnel. The CAF Ethos also serves as the basis for building the CAF Code of Professional Military Conduct.

As we progress in rank, this doctrine is formally taught and discussed on all common career-related professional military education programs; however, this is not enough. Leaders have the most significant impact on CAF culture and cohesion. Therefore, as leaders, we must demonstrate the highest standards of conduct and professionally socialize this ethos in our daily military service, ensuring that we live up to its ideals.

All military personnel must frequently return to our ethos for guidance and regularly discuss it with other members of the Profession of Arms. This is especially true when faced with challenging situations and decisions. All CAF personnel regardless of rank must play an active role in reshaping military culture by embodying the CAF Ethos and helping others to do the same.

Finally, we remind all leaders of their responsibility to consistently reinforce these values and principles through action, especially when it may seem challenging to do so. Our actions or inactions influence others whether we realize it or not. The example we make is the standard that we set. Remember, if we commit to and live our ethos, we will have earned the trust and respect of our team, the Government, and our fellow Canadians.

A blue ink signature of W.D. Eyre, written in a cursive style.

W.D. Eyre
General
Chief of the Defence Staff

A blue ink signature of G.A. Grégoire, written in a cursive style.

G.A. Grégoire
Chief Petty Officer First Class
Canadian Armed Forces Chief Warrant Officer

A close-up, profile shot of a woman in a Canadian naval officer's uniform. She is wearing a white-topped officer's cap with a dark band and gold braiding. Her hair is pulled back in a bun, and she has a small stud earring. She is looking out towards the sea. In the background, another officer in uniform is visible, and the ship's deck and equipment are partially seen. The word "CANADA" is embroidered in gold on her uniform jacket.

Even more so now
than ever, character
is just as important,
and indeed often
more impactful, than
competence.

CANADA

Introduction

Since Confederation, the Canadian military profession has worked to stay in step with Canadian society. More recently, the focus has been on expanding its membership to best represent Canada's demographics; the people we serve. It is therefore equally important to recognize past inequities and exclusions in CAF history and traditions, and work to change them. In doing so we realize our ideal Profession of Arms; a highly competent national institution that embodies our ethos – the CAF Ethos.

The Profession of Arms is subordinate to the elected civil authority (i.e. the Government of Canada) and serves only the state. The defence of Canada and its interests is the Canadian Armed Forces' primary role. Threats to Canadian interests have changed over time, but the fundamental purpose of the Canadian Armed Forces remains the lawful application of military force as requested and authorized by the Government of Canada.

Achieving government objectives requires a considerable level of reciprocal trust between the Government of Canada, the CAF as an institution, the people of Canada and the military personnel who have accepted the inherent risks to health and life in military service. Canadians and the Government expect the CAF to be operationally ready to assist civil authorities during domestic crises such as floods, forest fires, search and rescue operations, and to defend Canadian sovereignty, or even to help advance Canadian interests abroad. Given the CAF monopoly on the lawful application of military force, Canadians trust that CAF personnel will conduct themselves ethically and professionally in all of these activities, as well as off-duty. At the same time, CAF personnel volunteer to serve knowing that the CAF leadership and the Canadian government assume responsibility for their well-being and the well-being of their families.



However, military performance can quickly be overshadowed by inappropriate conduct, which in turn can cause significant damage to the trust that the CAF maintains with Canadians, the Government, and our own serving members.

Individually and collectively, as members of the Profession of Arms, CAF personnel have a duty to uphold the highest standards of conduct both on- and off-duty by being the best example of the CAF Ethos. It follows that this duty requires a commitment from our people to be of strong character.

Even more so now than ever, character is just as important, and indeed often more impactful, than competence.

It is our individual
level of commitment
to a set of principled
behaviours that
determines our
strength of character.



The background image shows a trench lined with sandbags. Two soldiers in Canadian military camouflage uniforms are visible. One soldier is in the foreground, seen from behind, walking away. Another soldier is further ahead in the trench. A semi-transparent box with a dark blue gradient is overlaid on the upper part of the image, containing the title and table of contents.

PART 1

The Importance of Trust

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The Importance of Trust

Military service is a privilege and is founded upon the trusted relationship that the CAF builds with Canadians, the Government, and those within the Defence Team. Those who trust the CAF have confidence in our professional military advice and service because they recognize our purpose, character and commitment to deliver successful results.

Trust is built through a commitment to character and competence. Character requires the ability to consistently live by a set of defining values and principles that shape one's conduct and judgement. Competence leads to the professional excellence needed to provide military advice and service that result in success, time and again.

The benefits of trust are wide-ranging. Trust enables those in uniform to work together within a common purpose and intent, rather than prescriptive orders, and this fosters professional creativity while maximizing efficiency and success. Also, mutual trust between military members creates the cohesion necessary for teams to succeed in the face of adversity. Lastly, the institution's trustworthiness allows the CAF greater flexibility in managing its affairs.

Trust takes time and energy to build through principled character and excellence in professional competence. However, trust is fragile and can quickly erode through weakness of character or an inability to deliver results. We must therefore prioritize strength of character and professional excellence in who we are and what we do as a Profession of Arms.

Character

High-character organizations tend towards success and do so consistently over time. As volunteers, each of us comes to the military with our own character based on the values and principles which, to that point, have defined us. An evidenced-based understanding of character reveals that strength of character can and must be intentionally developed through an essential set of behaviours that are underpinned by our ethical principles and values. Intentionally developed character determines how we make choices and conduct ourselves. It is our individual level of

commitment to a set of principled behaviours that determines our strength of character. However, one's character is not static. Our character is always evolving while we are working; for example, becoming more courageous or less courageous, or developing more humility or less humility. The ethical principles and military values described in Part 2 of the CAF Ethos require that all military members commit to and develop strength of character within themselves.

Competence

As professionals, military members are expected to continuously develop their level of professional competence as they progress in rank and experience. Excellence in our individual occupations is required to excel as military teams to ensure mission success. Professional competence demands a lifelong commitment to learning and both the drive and humility to pursue continuous improvement in ourselves. The professional expectations described in Part 2 of the CAF Ethos frame the professional competence that all military members must strive to achieve.



The Purpose and Function of the Canadian Armed Forces' Ethos

CAF personnel who embody and live our military ethos allow our profession to operate with the trust of those within the organization, with the trust of the Government of Canada, and of Canadians.

Canada as a country is made stronger because of its diversity and commitment to equity and inclusion, and so is the CAF. Diversity, equity and inclusion are so critical to CAF effectiveness that they are set as professional virtues and a key part of our military ethos. The DND and CF Code of Values and Ethics emphasizes a supporting hierarchy of ethical principles that underpin our ethos: first, respect the dignity of all persons, then serve Canada before self, and finally obey and support lawful authority. We take these principles into the heart of our ethos.

The CAF Ethos also serves other essential functions. Military leaders must have a thorough understanding of the CAF Ethos to guide their decisions as they apply the full spectrum of military

force. Over two millennia ago, Thucydides wrote that war is a violent teacher. When faced with the most vicious and barbaric of circumstances, the CAF Ethos gives our members a touchstone upon which to consider their decisions and actions.

Military decisions are often made in complex circumstances, with incomplete knowledge, under significant time constraints and considerable moral pressure. While competence is a requirement for decision-making, competence alone is insufficient. Strength of character needs to inform the moral component of decision-making. Canadians rightfully expect military personnel to lead by demonstrating professionalism in all decisions and actions.



The CAF Ethos also enhances professional conduct and performance because its principles, values and expectations reinforce selflessness, duty and the team. It unifies our personnel under one value system focused on achieving the military objectives chosen by the Government of Canada. Because it is a value system, the CAF Ethos creates and shapes a desired professional culture that then builds trust. The goal is to live the CAF Ethos to such a degree that we view all behaviours, decisions and actions through its lens.





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decision-making.

PART 2

What is the Canadian Armed Forces Ethos, and How Do I Use It?

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What is the Canadian Armed Forces Ethos, and How Do I Use It?

The CAF Ethos describes who we are as a profession. Ethos is defined as the characteristic spirit of a culture, community or organization as manifested in its beliefs and aspirations. Therefore, the ethos of a military force is the ideal culture of that profession, expressed by clear principles, values and expectations. Ethos should not be confused with ethics. Ethics are moral principles that govern people's behaviour (i.e. what is right and wrong). They form the foundation upon which the CAF Ethos is built.

The CAF Ethos comprises seventeen elements categorized as three *ethical principles*, six *military values*, and eight *professional expectations*. Since these elements are either unique or crucial to the Profession of Arms, they are not only described and taught but must also be embodied by all military professionals, at all times. The CAF Ethos defines our professional conduct, shapes our professional judgement, and frames our performance expectations.

Most of our principles, values and expectations can also be found in other government codes such as the DND and CF Code of Values and Ethics, and also the Values and Ethics Code for the Public Sector. However, the CAF Ethos further defines how these seventeen elements relate specifically to Canadian Armed Forces personnel as members of the Profession of Arms. Although these elements clearly apply to operations, the principles, values and expectations of the CAF Ethos must be applied **at all times**.

The CAF does not expect recruits to fully understand and comprehensively apply the CAF Ethos right away. However, socialization, or more simply, an ongoing discussion between leaders, subordinates and peers, helps to deepen our understanding of its application to military service and our daily lives. The CAF Ethos must guide all our actions and decisions,

ranging from how we respect each other every day, up to and including the lawful use of force on operations.

Leaders have a special responsibility to exemplify the highest standards of our ethos in their military service because, as CAF leadership doctrine emphasizes, we lead by example. Leaders must also constantly socialize the ethos with their subordinates. It is through practicing the ethos that we learn, internalize, and live it.

The CAF Ethos does not define standards of behaviour in minute detail. The CAF is a values-based organization that depends on self-discipline and sound judgement to uphold its high standards of conduct and performance. The ethos is a living value system that needs to be broad enough to apply to any number of situations. The ethos is only as effective as how our people interpret and apply it in their daily lives and military service. We all play an active role as members of the Profession of Arms in holding each other to account to the highest standards of conduct and performance.

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

The CAF Ethos has three ethical principles founded on *The Constitution Acts 1867 to 1982* which in turn describes the basic principles of the Canadian democratic government and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. These principles are the foundation of our CAF Ethos and underpin strength of character. The ethical principles are presented here in order of their importance to the CAF Ethos.

1. Respect the Dignity of All Persons

Everyone must be treated with respect and humanity at all times and in all places. Everyone deserves to serve in a safe, inclusive environment. As military professionals, we must respect the dignity of all persons at all times.

This first principle must anchor everyone's conduct across the profession. We always need to perform our duty with humanity, treating people with respect, whether they are in the military or not.



The equal dignity of
all human beings is
the logic of military
ethics, diversity,
equity and inclusion.

Respect for others is developed by appreciating the other person's unique identity, skillset, perspective, history and experiences. Respect, in turn, is the foundation for inclusion and trust built within and across our diverse military teams. Creating an inclusive and positive atmosphere enhances our ability to perform more effectively in military service. Respect is a necessary condition of mission success.

Respect is also expressed in humility, empathy, compassion, and an understanding that we are all of equal value despite the different lived experiences that have shaped us. Respect is most important when dealing with vulnerable populations while on operations. Humility, empathy and compassion are values Canadians aspire to and ones that we must commit to developing throughout our military careers.

Respect for the dignity of all persons goes beyond openness and consideration for all those within our working environment. As the foundation of military ethics, it also means an aspiration that all humans can live their lives in peace and be protected against unprovoked aggression, because we are all fundamentally equal and deserving of this ideal. When an extreme aggressor denies such a principle, it is the responsibility of those who embrace this principle to lawfully defend it. The equal dignity of all human beings is the logic of military ethics, diversity, equity and inclusion.

Those who respect the dignity of all persons demonstrate humility, empathy and compassion and give credit where it is due. They advocate for others' interests and welfare, demonstrate respectable behaviour, create a safe space to live and work, and are a positive and compassionate influence.





2. Serve Canada Before Self

CAF personnel prioritize service to the country, the military and their teammates ahead of themselves as a personal commitment to mission success. As military professionals, we place service before self to maximize team effectiveness.

This commitment to a higher purpose rests at the core of our value system. It is closely related to loyalty, selflessness and humility. We answer a calling to serve Canada and come to understand that we are an integral part of an essential national institution that defends our people and our way of life. We fulfill this function with our critical commitments to domestic operations that safeguard Canadians in crisis and abroad in

supporting and advancing Canadian interests. We serve with a strong sense of duty, without a sense of entitlement or needing special recognition.

Fulfilling this function is demanding. Leaders have a role to play in ensuring a healthy work-life balance for their subordinates. Leaders who allow the service demands to become too extreme for the team may achieve short-term mission success but risk longer-term unintended and potentially adverse consequences. Military personnel need to stay true to their personal identities and attend to roles and responsibilities in their personal lives. After all, military members have full lives outside of the military, and contributing to our family and community life is how we stay in touch with Canadian values and personal values.



The CAF Ethos creates and shapes a desired professional culture that then builds trust.

CAF personnel must operate with a strong sense of duty and are responsible to keep their leaders informed of their personal needs. It is a leader's responsibility to understand each individual's diverse and personal circumstances within their team to achieve a fair balance between service to Canada and care for self and family. Maintaining this balance is a positive force for the long-term health of our military personnel and supports mission success.

Those who serve Canada represent their team's interests first, they help their team improve their professional standards, do the right things for unselfish reasons with no thought for reward, and support one another through adversity.

3. Obey and Support Lawful Authority

CAF personnel act decisively in following lawful commands and orders to achieve mission success. As military professionals, we always obey and support lawful orders and the authority that issues them.

The strict obligation to obey lawful commands is a binding regulation that enables the chain of command's duty to achieve the mission. In turn, the military chain of command relies on a disciplined, cohesive team to immediately obey and carry out lawful commands and achieve decisive results towards mission success. Failure to follow a lawful command can result in reduced operational effectiveness at best, or at worst, complete mission failure. Obeying and supporting lawful authority reinforces our professional expectations of discipline, teamwork and duty. Everyone also bears the responsibility not to follow manifestly unlawful commands and to report them to a higher and appropriate authority.

Leaders must recognize that their decisions and orders impact the level of trust they earn from their subordinates. The consistency of their lawful and ethical decisions and related orders can build trust across the team, enhance cohesion and ultimately strengthen the chain of command, despite the potential for those lawful and ethical decisions to be unpopular.

Those who follow this principle support lawful authority, demonstrate initiative to support their commander's intent, make the team more effective through disciplined obedience, lead their subordinates through adversity and persevere to mission success.

MILITARY VALUES

Canadian values must always form the foundation for Canadian military values. These military values are the critical moral requirements for success in military service. They are also intrinsically aligned with and foundational to the development of character across the profession.

1. Loyalty

In order of precedence, loyalty is a personal allegiance to Canada, its parliamentary democracy, the Profession of Arms, the chain of command, and the team. Loyalty is most effective when it is based on mutual trust and respect between people. It requires that we support the intent of superiors and obey lawful orders and commands. It also explicitly requires leaders to be loyal to our professional ethos and set the best example of professionalism for others to follow. Finally, loyalty is also a reciprocal relationship between the military institution and its people, between leaders and followers, and amongst peers.

Loyalty is built first through mutual support in the completion of military tasks. Self-discipline, commitment and teamwork help to form strong relationships that can develop into lasting professional friendships. Loyalty can be strengthened as we demonstrate consistent professional conduct and performance in line with our military ethos. Trust builds slowly over time but can be quickly lost because it is based on the actions and behaviour between individuals, and also how people perceive such action or inaction.

For leaders, team loyalty is developed by following the CAF Ethos and by prioritizing the team's physical, mental and spiritual well-being in their performance of duty. A leader who actively shares in the team's hardships and risks associated with duty also further develops loyalty between subordinates and the leader. While the CAF Ethos obligates subordinates to demonstrate loyalty to authority, the hard-won personal loyalty earned by the leader's example acts as a catalyst to mission success.

Those who are loyal always show respect, challenge unacceptable behaviour, support their teammates in difficult situations, help others, ensure that their conduct and performance is always a credit to the CAF, ensure others' well-being and safety, and are willing to risk their health or life for that of another.



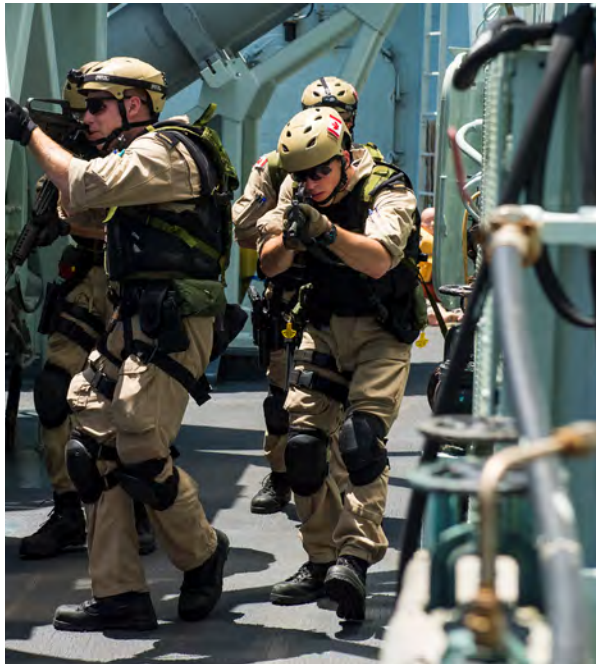
Developing and maintaining integrity is challenging and requires a commitment to live each component of the ethos to the best of our ability in every situation.



2. Integrity

Integrity is the uncompromising adherence to strong ethical principles. It is a commitment to a principled approach to duty and being accountable for both our action and inaction, and their respective consequences. A person of integrity is honest and has high ethical standards. Integrity means that our decisions and actions are consistent with established codes of conduct, values and ethics. It specifically requires transparency of motive in decisions and actions, speaking honestly, pursuing truth regardless of personal consequences, and a dedication to fairness and justice. Leaders must especially have unwavering integrity because of their personal example's powerful effect on those around them, particularly their subordinates.

With continued service, we understand that the CAF Ethos is designed to make the profession more effective. As this appreciation increases, it becomes easier to commit to and embody the CAF Ethos, leading to a career with integrity. Developing and maintaining integrity is



challenging and requires a commitment to live each component of the ethos to the best of our ability in every situation. A person with integrity is truthful, strong of character and reliable.

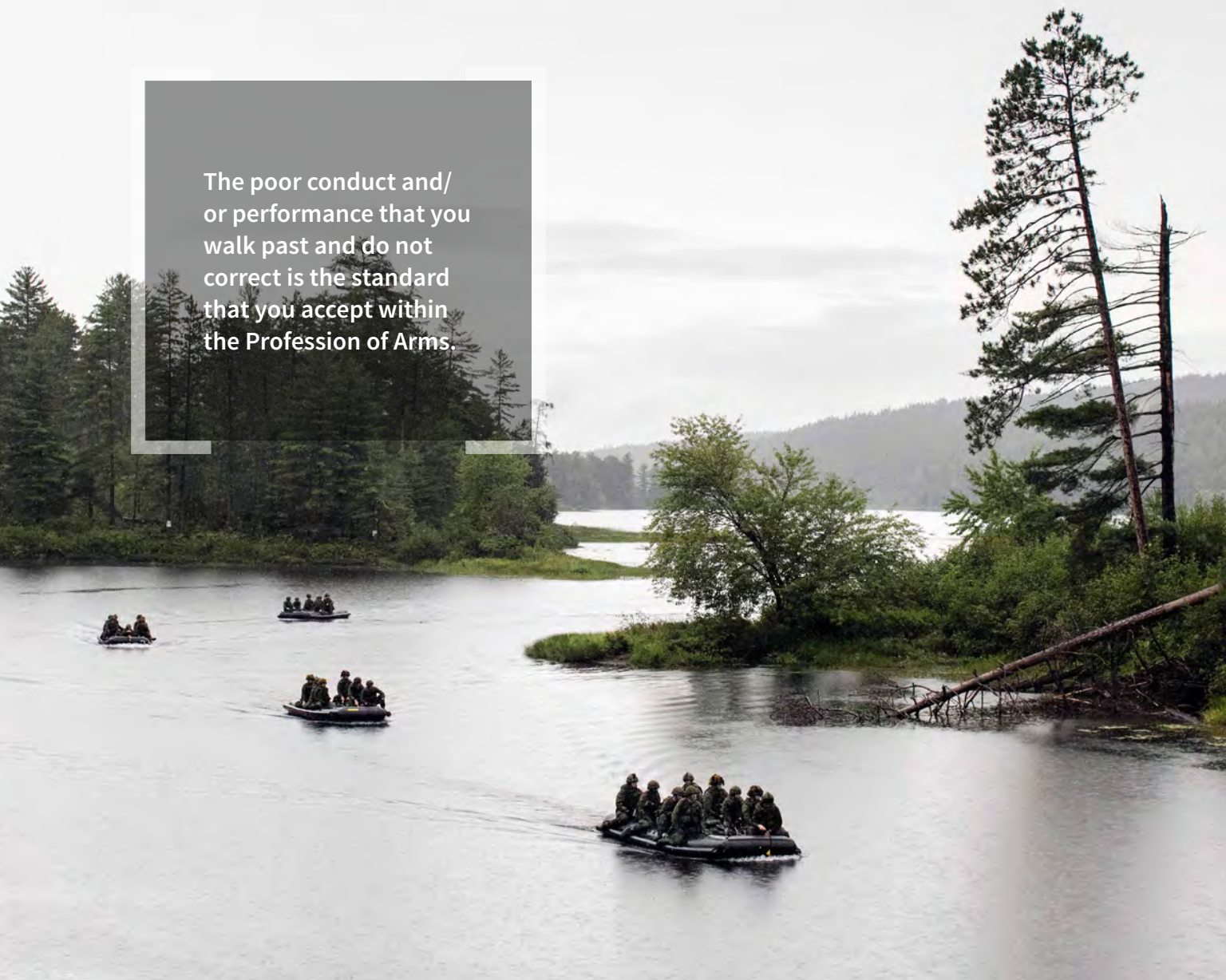
Those who embody integrity take responsibility for their decisions and actions and accept the consequences, good or bad. They own their mistakes, learn from them and share their insights. They assess conduct and performance transparently and honestly. They are reliable and trusted to complete tasks, are sincere, trustworthy and honest, and act on what they believe to be right. Their conduct will stand up to the closest public scrutiny, they are dedicated to fairness and justice, never use their official role for personal gain, and instead of making excuses, they make things right.

3. Courage

Courage is a quality that allows a military professional to overcome fear and pain in pursuit of the mission, and to do what is right in the face of adversity. Courage is both physical and moral; it allows us to confront danger such as physical risk to life and limb. It also allows us to confront the moral anguish of taking actions that may cause injury or death to those around us, or the moral courage to do the right thing despite social pressures.

Courage requires the willpower to see things through. It means making the best choice when faced with dilemmas, admitting our mistakes and rectifying them to maintain trust. Moral courage enables us to speak the truth to our superiors and teammates. This can be especially challenging for marginalized groups. It also means standing up for what is right and fostering a team culture and climate within our team that supports all team members, and yet holds them accountable to the high standards of our profession.

The poor conduct and/
or performance that you
walk past and do not
correct is the standard
that you accept within
the Profession of Arms.



Courage is essential to meeting the challenges of the military profession. It is a critical ingredient to succeed across the full spectrum of operations. It is also a critical requirement to ensure discipline and integrity within our teams.

Courage is an active choice made every day by individuals to think and act in line with the highest standards of the CAF Ethos, despite any fear of consequences. The moral courage required to do the right thing can be as equally, if not more, demanding than the physical courage to continue fighting in the face of adversity. It takes courage to show up, face uncertainty, and act in a way that is in keeping with one's values and character. Courage does not eliminate fear; instead, it overcomes fear's restraints. We cannot be courageous if we first do not feel fear.

In day-to-day military service, courage can be developed by helping others in following and championing our ethos. Conversely, the poor conduct and/or performance that you walk past and do not correct is the standard that you accept within the Profession of Arms.

Those who are courageous take calculated risks and learn from their mistakes, have the will and drive to get things done despite any danger or difficulty and do what is right despite pressure to do otherwise. They speak out and correct things when something is wrong, admit to needing help and accept it, resist peer pressure, remain steadfast in the face of adversity, and do what must be done despite personal risk.

4. Excellence

Excellence is the pursuit and achievement of strength of character and higher levels of professional competence to improve conduct and performance. As military professionals, we need to continually pursue the highest levels and standards of excellence.

Military service demands our total commitment towards the healthy pursuit of excellence in military conduct and performance. The pursuit of excellence includes healthy competition amongst CAF members who encourage each other to reach higher personal and collective standards.

Continuous learning is a requirement of military service that can be achieved by improving our individual and collective professional skills, and by expanding our communications, leadership and interpersonal skills beyond what is required in mandated education and training. Leaders need to

set the example when it comes to continuous learning. Additionally, leaders have a responsibility to mentor and coach subordinates in their pursuit of individual and collective excellence.

Advancement in military rank means increased authority, responsibility, accountability, and an expectation to develop a broader range of interpersonal and leadership competencies. The pursuit of excellence goes beyond occupational competencies because of the increasing demands of professional service. Consequently, as we progress in rank, we require a greater understanding of our joint institution, diverse partners and the complexity of international security issues. Though our professional military education system supports this learning, we also need to understand Canadian societal evolution to serve our diverse teams better.

People who embody excellence seek opportunities for personal improvement, are curious, ask questions and seek advice. They embrace valid standards, they are open to experimenting with new concepts and processes, they help others to improve their standards of conduct and performance, they pursue lifelong learning through additional training and education, and they look for ways to improve their workplace, their trade, occupation and profession.

5. Inclusion

Inclusion within an equitable professional culture is essential to creating a sense of belonging and cohesion. Within the CAF, inclusion makes our military teams stronger. As military professionals, we understand and expect all CAF members to recognize, value and help develop each other's unique potential. It is increasingly important to see each of our teammates as unique individuals and understand their distinct backgrounds. As the diversity of the CAF increases, we can build more cohesive and versatile teams.

As a national institution that needs to be credible and trustworthy, the CAF must be representative of the diversity of people, history and traditions of Canada. The CAF values the knowledge, skills and life experience that each individual brings to the team and needs to maximize this diverse potential through an inclusive culture. Inclusion is a force multiplier because it increases our operational effectiveness by integrating various perspectives and insights to improve decision-making. It encourages creativity, fosters group motivation, speeds up problem-solving, improves risk management, and increases productivity and performance. It also engenders trust and creates a sense of belonging which enhances group cohesion.



Those who practice inclusion create an environment where everyone can bring their authentic selves to work, everyone contributes to the team and cohesion is built through a real sense of belonging.

Embracing diversity produces stronger teams with leaders capable of making better-informed decisions and with team members contributing their unique knowledge, skills, experience and perspectives to the team. The military profession and its individual members in particular support gender equity, equal status of both official languages, inter-culturalism, equal opportunities, and the respectful treatment of all CAF members as their authentic selves. The profession establishes policies and practices that enable all CAF members to develop their full potential and have a rewarding career in a supportive, equitable and inclusive environment. Inclusion, acceptance and empathy towards one another are the only paths that lead to unlocking this potential.

Inclusion goes beyond respecting the dignity of all persons. Those who practice inclusion create an environment where everyone can bring their authentic selves to work, everyone contributes to the team and cohesion is built through a real sense of belonging.

Those who are inclusive reject racism, sexism, heteronormativity, homophobia, xenophobia or any other form of hateful, discriminatory or hurtful behaviour, conduct or association. They take a proactive approach to prevent, stop and report such conduct and support those affected. Inclusive leaders and team members take deliberate steps to identify and challenge inequities both within their teams and within the institution.



6. Accountability

The integrity of the Profession of Arms belongs to all its serving members. As military professionals, we understand and expect to hold each other to account to the CAF Ethos' highest standards.

Regardless of the power and authority of a certain rank or position, military professionals are accountable for decisions, actions and failures to act, and furthermore, they are accountable for how closely these align with the CAF Ethos. Whether we are issuing or following orders, we are accountable. To protect our profession's health and credibility, we must correct those, including superiors, that deviate from the CAF Ethos.

A member of the Profession of Arms' personal conduct is held to a higher level of scrutiny than that of other citizens. We wear symbols on a uniform to display our commitment to national security and to upholding the values and interests of Canadians. They expect that we reflect such ideals through our standard of conduct both on- and off-duty. The demands of service require that everyone act in a manner that will bring credit to the profession.

It is important to note that leaders hold the greatest accountability within the profession. While responsibility and authority may be delegated to subordinates, overall accountability remains with the leader. Leaders may also be held accountable for the conduct, action or inaction of those directly or indirectly under their command or supervision. Leaders may also be held accountable for the measures they take, or fail to take, to correct them. Not only must leaders be successful in their assigned tasks, but they must also remain vigilant to safeguard the integrity of the profession. They need to promptly correct subordinates' decisions and behaviour that do not align with the CAF Ethos.

Those who are accountable live our ethos, help others to embody the ethos, do not hesitate to respectfully question or correct others (including superiors) and routinely discuss the application of our ethos in daily military service with others. They identify, report and change any elements of military culture that oppose the CAF Ethos.

Trust is built through
a commitment
to character and
competence.



PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS

Professional expectations are necessary for the military to function effectively. Therefore, we expect high standards of personal conduct and performance to ensure our profession remains a competent and credible instrument to serve the public interest under the direction of the elected government and according to law.

The military is a truly unique profession. The concepts of unlimited liability and the military's authority over the use of lethal force to achieve government objectives set the military profession apart from other professions.

1. Duty

Military duty is unique. As members of the Profession of Arms, we serve. We can be called upon to serve day or night and often under challenging or dangerous conditions. Duty requires us to obey the law of armed conflict, the rule of law, and military policies and regulations with dedication, initiative and discipline. Duty dictates that we accept the risks of military service. It recognizes that the primacy of operations directs military leaders to prioritize their decisions based on a hierarchy of the mission first, then their subordinates, and finally themselves. As such, duty requires that leaders ensure the welfare of their subordinates.

Duty's primary mandate is achieving the mission. We can be required to work for long uninterrupted periods, and often with no rest or sleep. At times, the demands of service can be all-consuming and exhausting. For this reason, military personnel must be physically, mentally and spiritually resilient to endure and achieve mission success.

Generally, our careers are not spent in positions that lead directly to operational deployments. However, sometimes duty may require that we respond to an unexpected crisis, deployment or urgent task with little to no preparation. At other times, the readiness cycle allows for periods of reconstitution where daily duty is predictable and allows more opportunities to maintain social connections with family and friends. Regardless of the professional context, we are expected to perform our duty to the highest professional standards, take initiative, accept responsibility and perform with dedication.

Those with a strong sense of duty put the mission first, they are dedicated to the completion of a task despite hardship and obstacles, maintain a positive attitude, give focus and attention to the task at hand, are reliable, demonstrate initiative and complete tasks to the highest professional standards.

2. Accepting Unlimited Liability

Unlimited liability means that we may be ordered, or may have to order others, into harm's way during the performance of duty. Therefore, as military professionals, we understand and accept that we have unlimited liability to Canada to perform our lawful duty.¹ Unlimited liability is one of the most unique components of our ethos. It lies at the heart of our understanding of duty and service to Canada. It means that we may have to injure or kill to achieve the mission and that we may suffer injury or be killed while performing our lawful duty.



Unlimited liability amplifies the notion of service before self beyond that of enduring great hardship because it elevates the risk to health to, potentially, the loss of life. Without this high level of commitment to achieving mission success, our military effectiveness would be critically undermined.

Unlimited liability is mitigated by a leader's obligation to ensure the team's welfare and minimize losses when in pursuit of mission success. However, leaders also bear the moral burden of making decisions that could lead to loss of life or limb.

1. The concepts of unlimited liability and lethal force are not applicable to the Cadet Organizations Administration and Training Service (COATS). It is generally only members of the regular force or reservists while on class C service who incur unlimited liability while on active service. Canada. Department of Justice, *National Defence Act*, Section 33: Service.

In specific situations, the CAF requires everyone's total commitment to the military profession. The military profession expects everyone to dedicate their time, energy, talent, and, if need be, health or life to accomplish the missions that the government assigns.

Those who accept unlimited liability never give in or shy away from work, they are willing to push beyond personal limits to succeed, they do what needs to be done regardless of personal risk, they carry on despite risks and hardship, they ensure other's well-being, and they take calculated risks for unselfish reasons without thought for reward.

3. Fighting Spirit

CAF members must be committed to mission success. As military professionals, we understand and expect to develop and embody a fighting spirit to overcome the hardship and risk that can be a part of achieving mission success.



Having a fighting spirit means that we willingly undertake challenging tasks. It demands an unwavering will to succeed, requires grit and the will to fight against all adversity. It is a vital source of strength to draw upon in times of need. It drives us to view obstacles as opportunities to overcome adversity and complete the mission. Through this tenacious attitude, we find ethical ways to overcome significant challenges, undertaking our assigned missions with confidence and a relentless will to succeed.

Fighting spirit is cultivated within the significant demands inherent in full spectrum operations, in the confidence of the team's fighting competence, the moral bond between team members,

and the importance of the mission. We build perseverance through progressive, challenging and realistic collective training that prepares us for the significant demands of military service. Our love for and loyalty to our team members bolsters our determination to give our utmost to ensure success.

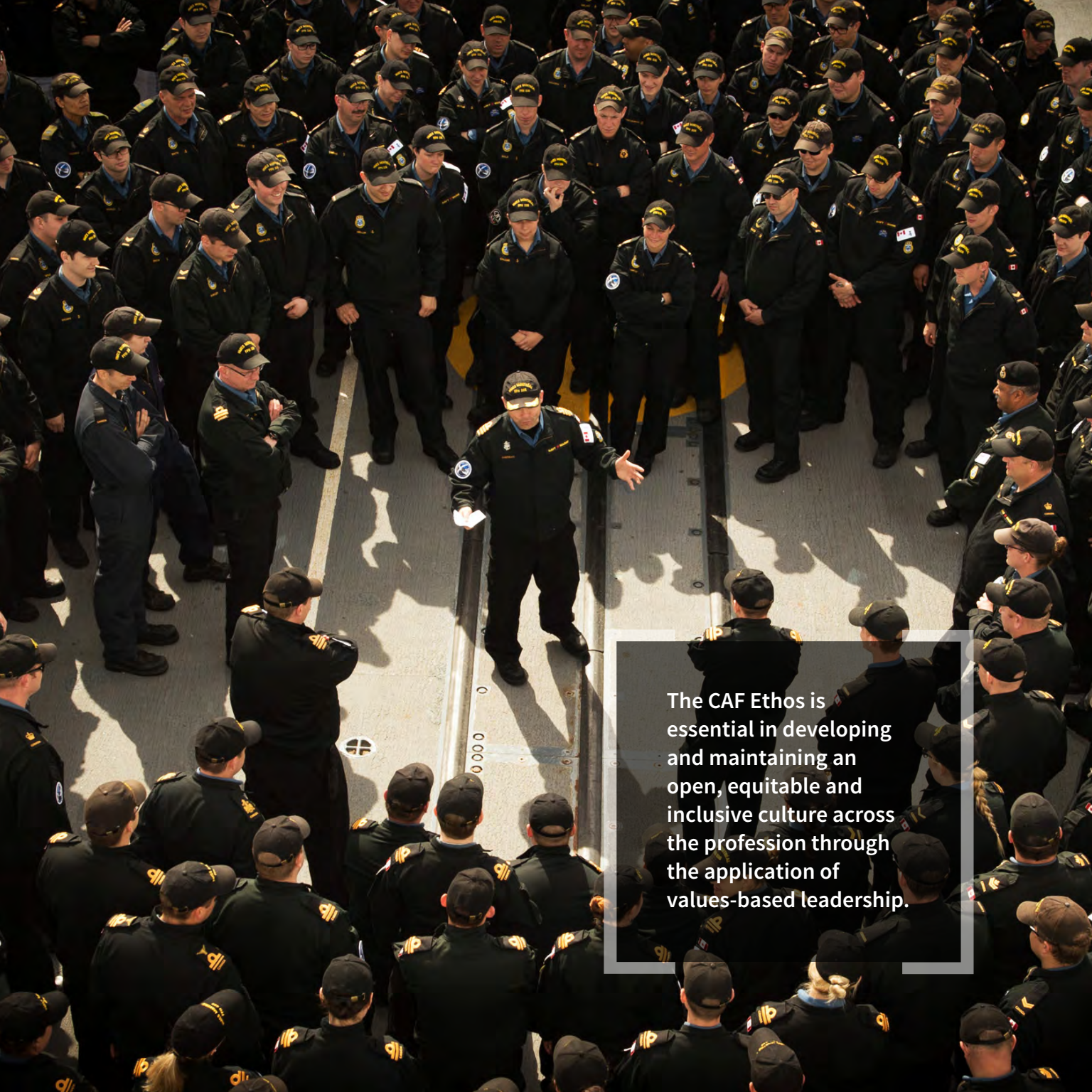
Fighting spirit permeates all aspects of military life. It is reflected in everything we do, whether generating forces for operational deployment, conducting training, or performing administrative work to support our institutions. We must always meet the expectations of our superiors and teammates, and succeed at the assignments we are given. It is also present in our determination to change our practiced culture more closely to what is expressed in the CAF Ethos.

People who embody fighting spirit push past their own perceived limits, they always take on tasks no matter how challenging they might appear, they remain calm, confident and demonstrate resolve in the face of extreme adversity, and they are relentless in ensuring high levels of ethical conduct across the profession.

4. Leadership

Continuity of leadership is critical to mission success. CAF personnel understand and expect the profession to constantly develop the leadership potential of its members to ensure this continuity. This creates the leadership resilience necessary to overcome the chaos and hardship of military service and to succeed, as every member of the CAF is a potential leader. Resilient leadership is critical to mission success, especially in situations where there is danger or a threat to life, such as on high-risk search and rescue missions, emergency responses, mass casualty events, humanitarian missions, or in combat.

Military leaders are developed through education, training, employment experience and self-development. Leaders have the most significant impact on CAF culture and cohesion because they have the authority and responsibility to set and maintain a healthy climate necessary for CAF members to develop their full potential. Our profession depends on a values-based approach to leadership that is founded in the CAF Ethos. The CAF Ethos is essential in developing and maintaining an open, equitable and inclusive culture across the profession through the application of values-based leadership.



The CAF Ethos is essential in developing and maintaining an open, equitable and inclusive culture across the profession through the application of values-based leadership.

Leaders make difficult decisions based on sound moral principles and commit to them even in the face of adversity, they seek out and take on responsibility and are accountable for their actions, they recognize their own limitations and that of others, they mentor, coach and develop subordinates, and they provide professional advice to superiors. They also develop CAF culture by purposefully pursuing self-development for the benefit of their team, embodying all aspects of the CAF Ethos and inspiring the same in others, and, most importantly, they promote the welfare of their subordinates by creating a healthy workplace.



5. Discipline

To best achieve mission success, we must act decisively and in unison as a highly cohesive team of teams. As military professionals, we understand and expect high standards of discipline from ourselves (self-discipline) and within our teams (collective discipline). That discipline creates a cohesive, coordinated and decisive advantage over our adversaries. There is no path to mission success without a total commitment to discipline.

Individual and collective discipline plays a crucial role in attaining and maintaining excellence in military conduct and performance. A high standard of discipline takes root in our understanding of the demands of military service, and in the respect, cohesion and trust of our team and our leaders. Discipline is the glue that keeps our teams unified in action. With discipline we harness our collective and individual abilities to win the fight or fulfil our duties with distinction in daily military service.

Self-discipline requires us to recognize when to act to ensure that unlawful or unethical acts are prevented, stopped, reported and corrected. If we do not respond to behaviour contrary to the CAF Ethos, we are condoning that behaviour and failing to do our duty. Furthermore, by holding each

other accountable in correcting behaviour, we shape our professional conduct and performance, enforced through discipline.

Discipline at its best becomes a constant and considered habit; a lived determination to do our professional duty. Personal discipline at its best means doing the right thing even in the absence of supervision and in the face of peer pressure. Discipline is also the path to courage because it commits us to habituated action in the face of fear.

CAF leaders must be the best examples of discipline. As the individuals authorized to hold others to account, leaders are expected to be beyond reproach if they are to oversee disciplinary proceedings or impose administrative measures.

Those who are disciplined are critical of their own conduct and behaviour first, and challenge unacceptable behaviour in others. They enforce discipline and uphold professional standards, they take ownership and do what is right without incentive or reward, they demonstrate self-control in the face of adversity, and they cultivate cohesion through teamwork.





Building teams means creating an inclusive climate where all team members are valued, supported, respected, and where they can develop a sense of purpose and belonging.

6. Teamwork

The military is a collective profession. It is a profession where an individual cannot perform its function alone; we fight as a team. As military professionals, we understand that operational effectiveness is predicated on the strength of our teams, which in turn rests on the unique contributions of our people.

The CAF's effectiveness comes from the combined talent of its diverse Canadian military professionals. In addition, CAF members share common goals, having accepted the obligation to defend the interests of Canada. Like Canadian citizens, CAF personnel represent all of Canada's vibrant diversity, be it age, racialization, sex, sexual orientation, creed, religion, spirituality, ethnicity, socio-economic background, language, gender, physical ability, perspectives, or personal choices.

The military is also diverse in terms of its full-time or part-time service, different environmental services, functions, and numerous occupations that, when combined, work together to become greater than the sum of its parts.

By bringing the diversity of our people together with the diversity of our work and service, we ensure that every member can, or feel they can, contribute to the mission at hand. Attaining this synergy and sense of belonging is possible because of the fulsome application of the CAF Ethos.

Leaders are responsible for building cohesive and inclusive teams. One key ingredient to achieving this is creating favourable conditions to optimize the diverse skills and contributions of the individual team members. Building teams means creating an inclusive climate where all team members are valued, supported, respected, and where they can develop a sense of purpose and belonging.

Teamwork is facilitated through mutual trust, integrity, shared experience and a commitment to one another and the mission. When the team shares in success and learns from failure, trust and cohesion form between teammates. Interaction between teams furthers this relationship and spreads cohesion across the larger team. These cohesive relationships make our military teams at all levels powerful in the face of adversity and resilient to overcoming fear and obstacles.

Respect and inclusion are critical to developing teamwork. Every member of the team brings their unique talents and perspectives to bear in the performance of their duty. It is essential that we recognize such talents and perspectives for the benefit of our effectiveness as a team of teams.

Therefore, we need to lead our teams with empathy, compassion, openness and respect to foster the depth of relationships required amongst CAF members to best serve Canada and Canadians.

Those who strengthen teams prioritize having a positive attitude and influence, they pull the team together to complete a task, they respect, recognize and develop the diverse talent within the team, always contribute to high morale, and foster a safe and healthy workplace.

7. Readiness

Military forces must be rapidly deployable to respond to threats and government assigned national security objectives. As military professionals, we understand and expect to undertake demanding individual and collective training to achieve high readiness states. In addition, we understand the requirement to be on short notice-to-move status for extended periods of time, and also the requirement to respond quickly to unexpected crises and threats.

High levels of readiness are achieved through extensive and repetitive training. This training produces the professional skills, physical and mental resilience needed to overcome the hardships and risks that come with achieving a mission.



The demands of these high readiness standards impact us and those in our personal lives and relationships. Therefore, the military must take a balanced total health and wellness approach to readiness. This approach is one that takes in the whole professional-social aspects of our lives given the demands of military service on- and off-duty.

Accordingly, we need to develop high levels of resilience. We need physical, mental and spiritual abilities to cope with and recover quickly from shock, stress and hardship. We achieve physical resilience from progressive physical conditioning. This conditioning strengthens our bodies so that we may endure physical hardship. Mental resilience is enabled by leaders who are active listeners, provide clear expectations, employ positive leadership styles, create a safe work environment, give clear direction, manage workloads and tempo, establish realistic deadlines, motivate their subordinates and consider their needs. We develop and maintain spiritual resilience by leading balanced lives and developing honest relationships with our families and beliefs. Bonds with family, friends and personal belief systems are potent sources of resilience for the military professional that can see them through significant trauma.

It takes every military professional's focused effort to be the best they can be to achieve and maintain high levels of personal readiness. This disciplined practice includes maintaining a healthy baseline in downtime that will enable a rapid recovery to high standards on active duty. Leaders have a crucial role in attaining and maintaining the readiness of their teams. Leaders also have the responsibility to ensure that the CAF policies, programs and resources are sufficient to support the team in achieving these high readiness goals and the government assigned military objectives while on operations.

Those who take readiness seriously attain and maintain high personal and professional standards, they push themselves to higher levels of physical fitness, they maintain open and honest relationships with others, they balance military service and personal life to keep themselves, their family and their friends well, and they communicate honestly with their superiors to ensure such a balance.

8. Stewardship

Resources entrusted to the CAF must be used effectively and efficiently. We all have stewardship responsibilities to fulfill in our daily military service from the clothing we are issued to the financial resources at our disposal, to the information we are given, the data we create, and to the subordinates we are assigned.

Stewardship demands that leaders at all levels foster an ethical culture, exemplify and reinforce the CAF Ethos, and develop and maintain a trusted professional identity. Stewardship also requires that we consider the long-term effects of our decisions and actions on people and the environment. It requires leaders to provide the necessary training and to actively develop their subordinates to reach their full potential. It also demands that leaders provide the resources needed to successfully accomplish the mission.

Every member of the CAF is responsible for the care, maintenance and ethical use of the public resources of the Government of Canada. Public resources include, for example, uniforms, equipment, money, property, information, data and human resources.

Stewardship requires the following behaviour from CAF personnel:

- Effective and efficient use of public money, property and resources under their management.
- Considering the present and long-term effects that their decisions and actions have on people and the environment.
- Acquiring, preserving and sharing knowledge and information as appropriate and lawful.
- Providing purpose, direction and motivation to personnel, both individually and collectively, to reach the highest standards in performance.
- Ensuring that sufficient resources are in place to meet future challenges, particularly through planning and forecasting.²

Those who demonstrate a strong sense of stewardship do not use government resources for personal gain, are not wasteful, protect the natural environment, ensure that protected information and data are safely handled, and that information and data are only used for the purpose of the mission.

Additionally, leaders that commit to stewardship make sure their subordinates are completely prepared for their mission, they prioritize their subordinates' well-being, keep their subordinates well-informed and highly motivated in the performance of their duties, and shepherd resources to allow for longer-term goals. Stewards ensure the long-term health, credibility and viability of the Profession of Arms.

2. Canada. Department of National Defence. *Department of National Defence and Canadian Forces Code of Values and Ethics*. (Ottawa: Defence Ethics Program), 2011.



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PART 3

Ethos and Leaders

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Ethos and Leaders

CAF leaders are the standard-bearers that uphold the CAF Ethos. They personify the ethos by internalizing its values and by living them in daily military service. CAF leaders instill the ethos in others, they establish and maintain a professional culture, they protect the reputation of the CAF, and they face and resolve problems lawfully and ethically.³ Both individual leadership and institutional leadership are important in ensuring that the CAF Ethos remains central to the Profession of Arms. When leaders commit to socializing and upholding the ethos, professional credibility is achieved through strength of character and excellence in military competence.

The Ethos is the Foundation of How We Lead Our People

The CAF Ethos resides within our people. It is grown and nurtured throughout one's military career. As military professionals, we shape and define our culture. We must ensure that our practiced culture is constantly aligned with our desired culture as expressed in the CAF Ethos. Military leaders have a responsibility to socialize new military members into the organization and embrace its ethos. Therefore, leaders must be the best examples possible to reinforce our ethos, maintain order and discipline, and uphold professional standards. Leaders have an enduring responsibility to establish an inclusive climate where individual rights are respected and where the strengths of our diverse members are valued, and, whenever possible, incorporated into decision-making. As a result, inclusive leadership significantly enhances effectiveness on operations and in day-to-day military service thereby serving the good of the whole team.

3. Canada. Department of National Defence, *Leadership in the Canadian Forces – Leading People*, pg. 21

When leading our people, CAF leaders must clearly and frequently articulate their expectations of professional conduct. They have a responsibility to explain the purpose of such standards of conduct and actively verify that followers understand how the CAF Ethos drives professionalism. Finally, leaders must take immediate action to quash the emergence of subcultures, activities or trends that run counter to the CAF Ethos.⁴

The Ethos is the Foundation of How We Lead Our Institution

Our ethos cannot be sustained simply through leading our people. It requires stewardship at the executive level to ensure that policies and programs are in line with the CAF Ethos.

Institutional leaders⁵ have strategic responsibilities related to the CAF Ethos. They develop and maintain the institution's professional identity, align the organization's culture with the ethos, and steward the Profession of Arms in line with advances in the Canadian values of peace, equality and human rights. They have a responsibility to establish an ethical culture, exemplify and reinforce the military ethos at the strategic



4. Canada. Department of National Defence, *Leadership in the Canadian Forces – Conceptual Foundations*, pg. 83

5. Institutional leaders refers to senior military leaders, normally Captain (Navy) / Colonel and above, as well as Chief Petty Officer First Class / Chief Warrant Officer.

level, preserve CAF heritage that reflects our values, and develop and maintain the military justice system. Institutional leaders primarily achieve these functions through policies, programs and regulations.

Institutional leaders are also responsible for identifying future leaders. They have a responsibility to coach and mentor them to develop their potential for promotion through selection and succession processes. When institutional leaders actualize the CAF Ethos within these processes, they place equal weight on character and competence. Furthermore, to attain the CAF's goal of having diversity in its leadership, institutional leaders must continually challenge their conscious and unconscious biases, and the biases of others, when they are selecting and developing subordinates for greater responsibility and advancement. Selection of potential leaders must be free of biases and barriers. Only through equity, diversity and inclusion can the values of the CAF Ethos be reflected.

Institutional leaders need to understand that any change to the institution needs to be anchored in our culture in order to be successful and enduring. Socialization of the CAF Ethos is the normalizing process that is essential to achieving our desired professional culture. Although the CAF Ethos is taught on all professional military education programs, this is insufficient to drive culture change. Socialization is an informal and continuous learning process that takes place in unit lines every day. Effective socialization of the ethos requires leaders to have frank and open discussions on military professionalism and the CAF Ethos with their people. Empowering all team members, regardless of rank and experience level, to participate actively as agents of change is critical to maintaining a healthy institution.

Institutional leaders need to lead by example because subordinates focus predominantly on how senior leaders act. Subordinates pay attention to how leaders treat people, react to crises, allocate rewards and status, and most importantly how they recruit, select, promote, retire and transition military personnel within and from the CAF.⁶ The criteria used by all leaders when making these choices needs to be entirely aligned with our ethos and transparently communicated to all to reinforce acceptable conduct and behaviour. In practice, we should only promote individuals, policies, programs and regulations that best reflect our ethos.

6. Canada. Department of National Defence, *Leadership in the Canadian Forces - Conceptual Foundations*, pg. 116.



Leaders must take immediate action to quash the emergence of subcultures, activities or trends that run counter to the CAF Ethos.

Conclusion

The *Canadian Armed Forces Ethos: Trusted to Serve* focuses on explaining our ethos. It details the various elements of our ethos so that we better understand and internalize their meaning and application. By following the CAF Ethos, we will be well-equipped to navigate our careers with confidence, respect, credibility and most importantly, trust. Moreover, it articulates the ethical principles, military values and professional expectations that will enable us to lean into those elements and live them every day.

In volunteering for military service, we accept the responsibility to embody the highest ideals of Canadian society. We accept the specific obligations and responsibilities that represent this unique identity as members of the Profession of Arms. In return, we understand and value the special trust and confidence placed in us by the people of Canada. Following our ethos, we achieve the highest standards of professionalism and thereby ensure that trust is never broken.

The CAF Ethos will continue to evolve through our commitment to professionalism and by holding each other to account. It is strengthened and sustained through our collective efforts to pursue excellence, knowledge, diversity, inclusion, and through leading by example.

It is equally important to recognize past inequities and exclusions in CAF history and traditions, and to humbly work to change them in order to realize a more competent national institution that embodies our ethos. To realize this, we must develop gender-equal, diverse, inclusive and respectful teams that operate with mutual trust and strength of character.

As members of the Profession of Arms, we can shape the institution's future and help create a culture that embraces everyone within the Defence Team. In doing so, we earn the trust, confidence and respect of our team, the Government of Canada, and most importantly, our fellow Canadians. Only then will we be **trusted to serve**.



Glossary

Chain of Command: Dictates a hierarchy of who is in charge of whom and of whom permission must be asked.

Character: Attributes or features that make up and distinguish an individual, group or nation leading to principled moral excellence.

Coaching: Short-term relationship lasting until the individual acquires the skills and behaviours sought out. Coaches observe the individual doing a specific task and provide objective feedback and encouragement.

Command: The authority vested in an individual of the armed forces for the direction, coordination and control of military forces.

Competence: The ability to do something well.

Culture: A shared and relatively stable pattern of behaviours, values and assumptions that a group has learned over time as an effective means of maintaining internal social stability and adapting to its environment, and that are transmitted to new members as the correct ways to perceive, think and act in relation to these issues.

Diversity: Possessing diverse or different qualities and perspectives. In the CAF context, it means the respect for and appreciation of differences in thought, ethnicity, language, sex, gender, age, national origin, ability, sexual orientation, education and religion. See *Inclusion*.

Equity: Equity recognizes that each person has different circumstances and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome. Equity recognizes the need to adjust structures, policies, practices and access to opportunities for particular individuals or groups of people to facilitate their full participation or full benefit from opportunities and entitlements.

An aerial photograph of a green military tank moving along a dirt road. A large, bright orange and yellow flame is visible behind the tank, indicating it has just fired a missile. The surrounding terrain is a mix of dry grass and patches of green vegetation.

The military profession
expects everyone to
dedicate their time,
energy, talent, and,
if need be, health or
life to accomplish
the missions that the
government assigns.

Ethics: Ethics is the search for, or study of, the justification for moral beliefs; how do we know what is right or good.

Ethos: The fundamental character or spirit of a culture; the underlying sentiment that informs the beliefs, customs or practices of a group or society. It is the foundation upon which the legitimacy, effectiveness and trust of the Canadian Armed Forces depend. The military ethos comprises principles, values and expectations that reflect core Canadian values, the imperatives of military professionalism and the requirements of operations.

Gender: Refers to the roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society may construct or consider appropriate for men and women.

Inclusion: The process whereby diverse personnel actively collaborate and work well together, recognizing that everyone is different. Ideally, it means embracing the different experiences and competencies that each individual brings to the CAF to optimize their contribution to mission success. This is fostered in a safe work environment where every individual is valued and develops a sense of belonging.



Inter-culturalism: Involves moving beyond mere passive acceptance of a multicultural fact of multiple cultures effectively existing in a society and instead promotes dialogue and interaction between cultures. It is based on the recognition of both differences and similarities between cultures.

Leader: A person who leads or commands a group, either based on formal authority or personal influence. For the purpose of this publication the term “leaders” refers to the potential for all CAF personnel to exercise leadership regardless of their rank level or their level of formal authority. In essence, all CAF personnel are either leaders, or potential leaders.

Leadership: The process of directly or indirectly influencing others, by means of formal authority or personal attributes, to act in accordance with one’s intent or a shared purpose.

Mentoring: Normally a long-term professional relationship based on a mutual agreement. Mentoring is an integral part of leadership. Mentors provide guidance in terms of leadership, career, professional and personal development.

Morals: Morals are the beliefs held by a person or community about what is right or good in conduct. Morals can be handed down by tradition; they need not come from a study of ethics, but when parties disagree about morals, ethics becomes necessary.

Order: A communication, written, oral or by signal, which conveys instructions from a superior to a subordinate.

Principles: A fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behaviour, or for a chain of reasoning.

Professional Expectations: Standards of conduct and behaviour that CAF personnel are expected to adhere to as members of the Profession of Arms in the spirit of the CAF Ethos.

Professional Military Education: Education that provides an understanding of the military profession’s body of knowledge and enhances cognitive capacities essential to the profession’s expertise across the full spectrum of defence and security missions.

Professionalism: The conduct and performance expected of a professional.

Sex: Refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define men, women and intersex persons. A person's sex is most often designated by a medical assessment at the moment of birth. This is also referred to as birth-assigned sex.

Socialization: The process of learning to behave in a way that is acceptable to society. The formal and informal processes of teaching and persuading others to accept the core beliefs, values, behavioural norms and roles of a particular culture.

Trust: The willingness to accept the decisions or influence of another person based on a belief in that person's reliability. Any of several characteristics may be important to establishing reliability including technical competence, loyalty, integrity, motive, courage and similar qualities.

Values: Norms or standards of desirable behaviour that give direction to and set limits on individual and collective behaviour. For Canadian military professionals, conduct values include the civic, legal, ethical and military values embodied in the military ethos.

Virtue: A moral quality regarded as good or desirable in a person. A particular form of moral excellence. Virtues are conditioned, then become second nature through practical repetition. Virtues are harder to adjust perhaps than values.



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Acceptable and Unacceptable Behaviour Matrix

	LOYALTY	INTEGRITY	COURAGE	EXCELLENCE	INCLUSION	ACCOUNTABILITY
ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR	Demonstrate respect for Canada, its people, our profession, our leaders, peers and subordinates. Execute, with loyalty, lawful orders and commands and support accountability to Canadians and the Government of Canada. Safeguard information and disclose it only upon receiving approval from authorized officials. Be loyal to our profession, subordinates, peers, and superiors. Ensure that all personnel are treated fairly and given opportunities for professional development. Never leave anyone behind.	Serve Canada with a principled approach to duty. Act, at all times, in a manner that will stand up to the closest public scrutiny. Prevent or resolve any conflicts of interest, particularly those involving yourself. Act with strength of character to earn and maintain the trust of the team. Adhere to the highest ethical standards, be honest and reliable. Be fair and just regardless of personal consequences.	Accomplish the mission despite fear, significant risk, and other obstacles. Overcome physical adversity or moral dilemmas with determination and strength of character. Make the right choice, weighing the alternatives. Condemn, correct or report unethical conduct and behaviour. Identify, discuss and resolve ethical issues using appropriate resources and authorities.	Commit to continuous learning and self-development in pursuit of professional excellence. Improve the quality of military service you provide to Canada. Push yourself to achieve personal bests. Foster an environment that promotes team learning and innovation. Perform duties in a manner that respects and promotes Canada's official languages. Communicate with others in their Canadian official language of choice.	Create a sense of belonging and cohesion within the CAF. Consider the present and long-term effects that your actions have on people and their families. Identify, address and overcome your unconscious biases. Capitalize on the diverse talents that each individual brings to the team.	Identify, report and correct any elements of military culture contrary to the CAF Ethos. Bring to attention any action or inaction detrimental to the good of the CAF. Discuss the CAF Ethos regularly with others as it pertains to military service. Accept and own up to your mistakes.
UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR	Breach security of information. Failure to take responsibility for one's action or inaction. Failure to give credit to whom it is due. Failure to develop subordinates.	Belong to, support or maintain an association with groups or organizations that are contrary to CAF values and principles. Support conduct that is in any way hateful, discriminatory, illegal or inappropriate. Obtain personal gain from those doing business with the CAF or DND. Act in a manner that would bring discredit to the CAF. Use position or status to obtain a personal advantage, or to disadvantage others.	Avoid tough decisions, confrontations or danger to the detriment of military service. Go with the flow to "not rock the boat." Act in a cowardly manner. Fail to identify, respond, report and rectify unethical or illegal actions. Condone, in any way, behaviour contrary to the CAF Ethos.	Complete only essential or mandatory training. Apply the minimum effort required to avoid repercussions. Fail to encourage the use of both official languages within the workplace. Fail to achieve minimum standards. Disregard the importance of total health and fitness.	Allow favouritism in the selection of personnel for professional development, thereby disadvantaging others. Withhold fair and consistent feedback on the performance of subordinates. Disregard other's healthy work-life balance. Dismiss subordinates' accomplishments as being "part of the job." Ignore rituals of hazing in any form, particularly as an initiation into a group or organization.	Pass by faults, leaving them for someone else to correct. Make excuses to avoid work or responsibility. Apply different standards of behaviour when on- and off-duty. Blame others for your mistakes.

Values, Principles and Expectations Matrix

VALUES	ETHICAL PRINCIPLES			PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS							
	Respect the Dignity of All Persons	Serve Canada Before Self	Obey and Support Lawful Authority	Duty	Accepting Unlimited Liability	Fighting Spirit	Leadership	Discipline	Teamwork	Readiness	Stewardship
LOYALTY	Prioritize others’ well-being and safety. Safeguard personal information received in confidence.	Always give your best effort for the team.	Inform superiors of all pertinent information that assists in their decision-making. Be part of the solution when unpopular orders are necessary.	Be fully committed to achieving the assigned task or mission. Take initiative to add value within the commander’s intent.	Without fail give your all to the team, especially in the face of danger.	Never quit nor give up on your team. Never leave anyone behind.	Treat your subordinates fairly and assign work equitably. Recognize your subordinate’s achievements and give praise and constructive criticism accordingly.	Be loyal to the team and hold each other accountable to professional standards. Act decisively in matters of discipline.	Foster a team environment where members look out for each other. Share credit where it is due.	Maintain healthy relationships both at home and in the workplace. Establish a healthy work-life balance, even during demanding high-readiness preparations.	Make sure your chain of command is aware of any issues that may impact your conduct and performance. Give subordinates time to address personal issues.
INTEGRITY	Always treat every member of your team with dignity.	Never put personal interests ahead of accomplishing the mission. Put your team’s welfare above your own.	Execute lawful orders and commands to the best of your ability and help others to do the same.	Consistently perform your duty with initiative, accept responsibility and work with dedication.	Share in your team’s hardships and danger.	Admit failures and weaknesses and learn from them as they help build character. Have the humility to ask for help when needed, but never fail for lack of trying.	Know yourself so that your bias does not affect your judgement of others. Stay true to who you are and be a better version of yourself every day.	Have the self-discipline to conduct yourself in a manner that brings credit to the CAF. Enforce high standards of collective discipline within your teams.	Be honest and transparent when making decisions and taking action. Keep the well-being of your team at the forefront. Actively maintain trust within the team.	Know your subordinates well and look after their welfare. Keep an eye out for indicators of stress which decrease personal and team performance.	Set realistic goals that will not unduly jeopardize resources. Maintain your personal life so as not to negatively impact the performance of duty.
COURAGE	Intervene when the dignity of a person is threatened by anyone in the team.	Do what is best for the mission and your team despite any personal consequences. Accept the risks that come with accomplishing the mission.	Have the courage to report manifestly unlawful orders to higher authorities. Execute lawful orders and commands in spite of any inherent risk or danger.	Accept the hardships of military service.	Complete tasks and missions to the best of your ability even when there are dangers, obstacles or adversities.	Have the courage to overcome adversity. Set the example so others will follow you, even into danger.	Have the courage to request honest feedback from your subordinates and the humility to listen to their comments on your character and performance. Lead from the front and share in the risks with your subordinates.	Report breaches of discipline promptly regardless of the ranks involved.	Share in the team’s hardships. Encourage team members to ask for help, and also accept help when it is offered.	Identify and correct pre-conceived notions or biases which may adversely affect team performance. Demand the highest standards possible to maximize collective performance.	Demand the necessary resources to achieve the assigned task, even if they are not initially provided.
EXCELLENCE	Provide others with opportunities to reach their potential. Foster a respectful and supportive work environment.	Anticipate challenges and prepare yourself professionally and personally to excel at your job.	Know well and follow applicable policies, orders and regulations. Promote a habit of conscientious obedience.	Complete your work to the highest professional standards.	Prepare yourself physically and mentally for adversity by training for the worst possible conditions and situations.	Train in realistic scenarios to overcome significant obstacles and develop the physical, mental and moral resilience necessary to excel.	Develop strength of character by committing to a principled approach every day. Pursue mentoring and coaching opportunities to be a better leader.	Exemplify self-discipline and help build it in others. Consistently work towards the highest standards of conduct and performance.	Leverage the team member’s individual skills and knowledge to help accomplish the mission. Encourage team members to achieve professional and personal competence.	Share lived experience with the team to enhance mutual respect and understanding. Pursue the highest individual and collective professional standards.	Take a personal investment in the Profession of Arms as if you owned it; because you do. Always plan for the future health and effectiveness of the Profession of Arms.
INCLUSION	Respect and seek the unique talents and perspectives of others within the team.	Maximize the advantages of diversity to the mission by soliciting input from everyone. Support the needs of diverse subordinates.	Make sure that policies, orders and regulations allow for the expression of unique identities. Encourage an atmosphere where all feel empowered to support the chain of command with their diverse perspectives and talent.	Capitalize on everyone’s potential. Learn from others’ rich life experiences.	Prepare subordinates equitably for the task at hand, sharing knowledge and resources, and by mitigating risks. Do not let personal bias determine the allocation of tasks.	Motivate the team, acknowledging their unique talents as being essential to success.	Get to know your subordinates and promote their welfare. Take care of your subordinates and let them take care of you. Recognize and develop the leadership potential in every member of the team.	Purposefully maintain order, discipline and cohesion within the team. Enforce discipline fairly within the team.	Give each team member the opportunity to contribute to the team goal. Create a team climate where people are valued and feel they belong, and that generates trust, loyalty and cohesion.	Seek and establish trusting relationships with people who are different from you to help build group cohesion. Maximize the diverse perspectives within your team to enhance collective decision-making.	Ensure personnel policies are fair, equitable and in line with the CAF Ethos.
ACCOUNTABILITY	Correct others in a respectful manner, including superiors.	Do not let self-interest and personal gain influence your decision-making.	Follow orders and support lawful authority to achieve commander’s intent. Never pass a fault. The fault you walk past and do not correct is the standard you accept. Always correct errors in a respectful manner.	Be reliable and demonstrate initiative in the completion of your tasks. Be responsible for your actions and inactions.	Accept the possibility that you may be put in harm’s way, including risk to life and limb. Accept the moral responsibility when ordering someone into harm’s way, including risk to life and limb.	Never ask a subordinate to do something you are not willing to do yourself.	Give credit where it is due, and never take credit for others’ work.	Create an atmosphere where team members hold each other respectfully to account. Admit when we fall short of professional standards and accept the opportunity to learn from mistakes.	Make certain everyone takes ownership and responsibility for their role in achieving team goals.	Attain and maintain high personal and collective standards. Encourage higher levels of physical and mental fitness and help others attain them.	Make efficient use of the resources assigned to you and your team. Uphold the credibility of the Profession of Arms through professional conduct.