

Canadian Ranger training is not mandatory other than the initial ten-day orientation training for new members. Additional advanced training is required, however, for Ranger Instructors and patrol leaders. Specialist training may also be offered to assist Rangers master and practice a new skill. Generally speaking, Ranger training is flexible and may vary from patrol to patrol, or from one area of the country to another.

Common areas of training for all Rangers include: flood or fire evacuation planning, sovereignty patrols, and major air disaster assistance. There is an emphasis on self-sufficiency and leadership, as well as traditional skills – which are uniquely defined according to the cultural and historical practices in the local community.



Some Canadian Rangers also conduct inspections of the North Warning System (NWS) sites to determine if they have incurred any damage. Others are responsible for conducting Sovereignty Patrols (SOV PATS) of Canada's remote coastal areas.

In terms of "regular" Canadian Forces training, Rangers participate in marksmanship and drill training, and learn about the history and traditions of the Canadian Forces

[Intro](#)

- [Rangers Training](#)
- [Exercise Baton Ranger](#)
- [Safety](#)
- [Site Map](#)



[Junior Canadian Rangers](#)



[Common Site](#)





The Canadian Forces has a Total Force structure, which integrates the Regular Force and Reserve Force components. Both components consist of fulltime and part-time military personnel, but with differing mandates. The Regular Force is permanently maintained in order to provide a ready response capability, while the primary role of the Reserve Force is to provide augmentation, sustainment and support to deployed forces, and also to provide a base for expansion or mobilization. The Reserve Force is organized into four sub-components:

The Primary Reserve (P Res)

The Supplementary Reserve (Supp Res)

The Cadet Instructors Cadre (CIC)

The Canadian Rangers Unlike the other three components, officers and non-commissioned members of the Primary Reserve may be ordered to perform such duty and training that is required of them. Members of the Primary Reserve fall into one of five elements: Naval Reserve, Militia, Air Reserve, Communication Reserve, and NDHQ Primary Reserve List. Canadian Rangers are non-commissioned members of the Canadian Forces Reserve. They are volunteers who hold themselves in readiness for service but are not required to undergo annual training. Rangers are obliged to serve only when placed on active service by the Governor-In-Council or when called out in an emergency. Since no training obligations exist, Rangers must be in good health and be able to effectively live off the land in their area. Rangers rarely operate as individuals but are frequently active as patrols or groups. Command and Control



Command and Control of the Canadian Rangers is divided between the Chief of the Land Staff (CLS) and Canadian Forces Northern Area (CFNA). Canada is divided into five geographic regions (CRPGs – Canadian Ranger Patrol Groups), each of which has a HQ or headquarters responsible for Ranger issues. Since the Rangers are Reservists however, policy and budget control belongs to the Chief of the Reserves and Cadets (C Res & Cdts). To this effect, there is a national Canadian Ranger/Junior Canadian Ranger Coord Cell in Ottawa. The national Ranger Coord Cell and staff from the five Canadian Ranger Patrol Groups meet bi-annually to review areas of common interest and responsibility.

Chief of the Land Staff

- 2 CRPG – LFQA Quebec
- 3 CRPG – LFCA Ontario
- 4 CRPG – LFWA British Columbia
- 5 CRPG – LFAA Newfoundland and Labrador

Canadian Forces Northern Area

- 1 CRPG Yukon Territory
- Northwest Territory
- Nunavut
- Northern Manitoba
- Northern Alberta
- Northern Saskatchewan

At the patrol level

Canadian Rangers receive nominal reimbursement for their service. They receive 12 days pay annually in

addition to the cost of wear-and-tear on their personal vehicles and equipment, which is covered by the government during official exercises. Canadian Rangers who are employed with the Junior Canadian Ranger Programme also receive 21 days pay per year in this capacity. Rangers elect their patrols leaders (Ranger Sergeants) as opposed to the traditional Canadian Forces promotion practices. The majority of Canadian Rangers are paid in the rank of Ranger (private) with the exception of the patrol leader (Ranger Sergeant) and section leader (master corporal and corporals), who receive appropriate compensation for their rank.

At the headquarters level

In each of the five Canadian Ranger Patrol Groups there is Regular Force or Reserve member (Ranger Instructor) who is responsible for performing periodic reviews, visits and inspections of the patrols. The Ranger Instructor interacts the Ranger Sergeants in his or her area on a regular basis to ensure frequent and open communication between the field (patrol) and the headquarters. Headquarters responsibilities also include personnel, logistics, pay and administrative support, as well as ensuring delivery and maintenance of Ranger uniforms, equipment and training aids. The five CRPG headquarters are located as follows:

- 1 CRPG – Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
- 2 CRPG – St.-Jean, Quebec
- 3 CRPG – Borden, Ontario
- 4 CRPG – Victoria, British Columbia
- 5 CRPG – Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Gander, Newfoundland

[Intro](#)
[Rangers and the CF](#)

[Exercise Baton Ranger](#)
[Safety](#)
[Site Map](#)



[Junior Canadian Rangers](#)



[Common Site](#)



The premise behind the Canadian Rangers is that they are well equipped, experienced outdoorspeople, who need only minimal instruction in order to redirect their skills to benefit the community and the Canadian Forces. Consequently, Rangers receive only basic training, which seeks to augment their highly developed knowledge of how to survive on the land. More experienced members can opt to participate in advanced Ranger Patrol Leaders training which qualifies them to be in charge of the patrol. Ranger Patrol Leaders are responsible for the training and good conduct of all the Rangers in the patrol, and are the point-of-contact for the Ranger Instructors from each of the CRPG (Canadian Ranger Patrol Group) Headquarters. Exercises

Each Canadian Ranger Patrol must undertake a minimum of one exercise on the land per year. These exercises differ in nature according to the most likely scenario in the surrounding area. These annual exercises afford the Rangers an opportunity to brush up on their skills and to work as a team in a controlled environment. Ranger sergeants also take advantage of these annual excursions to take inventory of wear-and-tear on issued equipment and to discuss new policy and directions with their patrols. Ranger exercises can last anywhere from a few hours to a week or more depending on the skills being practiced. Doing Business Ranger-style Canadian Rangers are required to report all unusual or unfriendly activity in their area of responsibility, regardless of whether or not they are out on an organized patrol, walking alone in the bush, fishing, sailing, working with Search and Rescue patrols, etc. Salute

In order to gather the appropriate facts before reporting potential incidents, Rangers rely on the mnemonic "salute".

- S** – size (how many people?)
- A** – activity (what are they doing?)
- L** – location (grid reference or name of place)
- U** – uniform (what are they wearing?)
- T** – time (local time in 24 hours system)
- E** – equipment (description of vehicles, weapons, clothing)

Rangers

Canadian Rangers are also required to perform First Aid when the need arises. They use the mnemonic of "rangers" to remind them of what they should do if they come upon an accident scene, or find an injured person. "Ranger" also provides valuable advice for day-to-day living.

- R** - reckless handling may kill
- A** – assess the extent of the injuries
- N** – notify the medics or local health/emergency
- G** – give psychological first aid
- E** – extra precautions prevent diseases or further injury
- R** – remain calm
- S** – stay healthy in order to train and serve effectively

Survival

Canadian Rangers often perform their duties out on the land. This means they are exposed to the conditions, even in harsh and difficult weather. Finding yourself alone, isolated, cold and wet in a desolate area can frighten even the most stalwart Ranger. Remembering the mnemonic "survival" can help in these unpredictable situations.

- S** - size up the situation
 - U** – undue haste makes waste
 - R** – remember where you are
 - V** – vanquish fear and panic
 - I** – improving (you can always improve the situation)
 - V** – value living
 - A** - act like the natives
 - L** – learn basic skills
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The Canadian Ranger training handbook is currently being re-evaluated in light of recent changes in technology and expansion plans. A copy will be made available on-line to members once it is completed.