



CHIEF MILITARY PERSONNEL

Change of Command



from

Rear-Admiral T.H.W. Pile

to

Major-General W. Semianiw

on 11 July 2007

presided over by

General R.J. Hillier

Chief of the Defence Staff



Sequence of Events

Guests arrive

Master of Ceremonies delivers opening remarks

Dignitaries arrive

National Anthem “O Canada”

*Chaplain General Brigadier-General S. Johnstone
offers a blessing*

*Rear-Admiral T.H.W. Pile, CMM, CD,
addresses the gathering*

*General R.J. Hillier, CMM, MSC, CD, Rear-Admiral T.H.W. Pile,
and Major-General W. Semianiw, OMM, CD,
sign the Change of Command Scrolls*

Presentations

*General R.J. Hillier
addresses the gathering*

*Major-General W. Semianiw
addresses the gathering*

Royal Anthem “God Save the Queen”

Reception

General R.J. Hillier

Chief of the Defence Staff



Born in Newfoundland and Labrador, General R.J. Hillier joined the Canadian Forces as soon as he could. Having enrolled in 1973, he graduated from Memorial University of Newfoundland in 1975 with a BSc.

After completing his Armour officer classification training, he joined the 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's) in Petawawa, Ont. Subsequently, he served with and later commanded the Royal Canadian Dragoons in Canada and Germany.

Throughout his career, Gen Hillier has had the privilege and pleasure of commanding troops from platoon to multi-national formation level in Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia. He has worked as a staff officer in several headquarters, first at the Army level in Montréal and later at the strategic level in Ottawa.

In 1998, Gen Hillier was appointed Deputy Commanding General of III Corps, U.S. Army in Fort Hood, Texas – the first Canadian to be so appointed. In 2000, he took command of NATO's Stabilization Forces Multinational Division (Southwest) in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Gen Hillier was appointed as Commander of the Army, and in 2003 was selected as Commander of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

Gen Hillier was promoted to his present rank and assumed duties as the Chief of the Defence Staff in 2005.

He and his wife have two sons, a daughter-in-law, and a grandson. Gen Hillier enjoys most recreational pursuits but, in particular, runs slowly, plays hockey poorly and golfs not well at all.

Rear-Admiral T.H.W. Pile

Outgoing Chief Military Personnel

Rear-Admiral T.H.W. Pile, a graduate of the Royal Military College, completed training at the Naval Officer Training Centre Venture in 1980. Subsequently, he served in a number of Canadian warships, rounding out his at-sea service in command of HMCS *Regina* from 1995 to 1997.



RAAdm Pile participated in UN and NATO maritime interdiction operations including Haiti (UN, 1993), the former Yugoslavia (NATO, 1994 and 1995), and the Northern Arabian Gulf (UN, 1997).

His Staff appointments have included Flag Lieutenant to Commander Maritime Forces Pacific, Staff Officer for Fleet Operations at National Defence Headquarters, Section Head for Navy Strategic and Business Planning (NDHQ), and Executive Secretary to the Chief of the Maritime Staff.

RAAdm Pile completed an MA in History at the University of Victoria in 1992, followed by a Command Control Officer Course and Canadian Forces Command and Staff College in 1993. He was promoted to Captain (Navy) in 1999, and was appointed Director of NATO Policy at NDHQ. In 2000, he assumed command of the 4th Maritime Operations Group, and attended the International Symposium Course in Beijing in 2002, and the National Security Studies Course in 2003.

Upon promotion to Commodore, he assumed command of Canadian Fleet Atlantic. RAAdm was promoted to his current rank in 2005, and was appointed Chief of Staff Assistant Deputy Minister (Human Resources – Military) in Ottawa. He became Chief Military Personnel and Commander of Military Personnel Command in 2006.

In July 2007, RAAdm Pile will take up his appointment as Commander Maritime Forces Pacific, Commander Joint Task Force Pacific and Commander Task Force Games (2010 Olympics).

Major-General W. Semianiw

Incoming Chief Military Personnel

Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Major-General Semianiw enrolled in the Canadian Forces (CF) in 1982. He graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a Bachelor's Degree and was commissioned as an infantry officer in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI). After completing his infantry officer classification training, he subsequently joined the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the PPCLI, where he served in a variety of command and staff appointments. He later commanded the First Battalion PPCLI.

Major-General Semianiw has served at the Brigade, Area, Division, and Task Force levels in a variety of command and staff appointments at home and abroad. He served at National Defence Headquarters on the Joint Staff as the J3 Land, J5 Policy Coordinator, and as the Special Assistant to the Assistant Deputy Minister (Human Resources – Military). Major-General Semianiw also served at the Privy Council Office in the Foreign and Defence Policy Secretariat. From February until August 2005, he was responsible for CF operations in Afghanistan as the Commander Task Force Kabul. On his return from Afghanistan in August 2005, he was appointed the Commandant of the Canadian Forces College in Toronto. He was subsequently posted to National Defence Headquarters in May 2006 as the Assistant Chief Military Personnel. Major-General Semianiw assumed his current appointment at the Chief of Military Personnel in July 2007.

Major-General Semianiw is a graduate of the Canadian Forces College, the Canadian Forces Command and Staff Course, the Advanced Military Studies Course and the National Security Studies Course. He has also completed the Joint Warfighter Component of the U.S. Military General/Flag Officer Capstone Programme and the NATO General Officer's Course. He holds a Master of Arts in Military Studies, and a Master in Defence Studies. He was appointed to the Order of Military Merit in 2005.

Major-General Semianiw is married to Nancy (nee Paradis) Semianiw and has two children. He enjoys most sports, but in particular enjoys running, soccer and spending time at the driving range.