

## The Current Organization Structure of the Canadian Forces Health Services

By: Col Steven D. Pirie

Given the frequency of change, the desire to modernize and dynamic nature of the current policy space the Canadian Forces Health Service (CFHS) is always in somewhat of a state of flux when it comes to organization structure. Recently the membership has requested a quick update of what the organization chart looks like and who the key serving Royal Canadian Medical Service Colonels are. In this short article I will attempt to articulate what things look like today.



### Level 0:

The Governor General of Canada is the Commander-in-Chief of Canada. Her Excellency, the Right Honourable M. Simon is responsible for appointing the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

The CDS, General W. Eyre responsible for command, control, and administration of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and military strategy, plans and requirements. He works with The Honourable B. Blair, the Minister of National Defence, an elected federal Cabinet Minister to achieve the mandate of the Government of Canada.

### Level 1:

The CFHS falls under the authority of the Military Personnel Command (MPC). This organization is led by the Acting Commander Military Personnel Command LGen M.H.L. Bourgon.

### Level 2:

The CFHS is a Level 2 organization that exists under the command and leadership of the Chief of the Health Service, Director General Health Service (DGHS), and Surgeon General. Currently all three titles are held by MGen S.F. Malcolm (GOS-MED). He is overall responsible for all healthcare in the CAF.

Three groupings exist within the CFHS under the DGHS:

- The CFHS Group (Gp). The CFHS Gp oversees all of the day-to-day affairs of the CFHS. Formally known as the CFHS Division, it is under the command of BGen M.S. Chenette (GOS, Ex-HSM).

- DGHS Clinical. Currently lead by BGen C.A. Forestier (GOS-MED) this division is responsive of all strategic clinical aspects of health care in the CAF.
- Executive Director Health Services (EDHS) – Corporate. Currently EDHS is unfilled but it will, for the first time, soon be an EX-02 level public servant. While this division transfers from the former name of Deputy DGHS – Corporate, Col J.G. Barnes (HSM) leads the organization.

### **Level 3:**

Two Directorates report directly to the Surgeon General.

1) Director Health Services (HS) Secretariate. This organization manages all strategic affairs in and out of the CFHS to MPC and provide a central coordination point for the CFHS Gp, DGHS-Clinic and EDHS-Corporate for deconfliction of tasks. It is currently lead by Col C. A. Smith (HSM).

2) Director Quality and Performance. This Directorate ensures we are a learning organization and that we are providing the highest quality care of members of the CAF. It is currently managed by a civilian physician.

### **The CFHS Gp:**

Consists of 1 and 4 Health Services Groups who command and control medical care in the west of Canada (Capt (N) N.J.J.F Gauthier, HSM) and east of Canada (Col F.J. Kirk, HSM).

Consists of national level units such as 1 Canadian Field Hospital, CFHS Centre Ottawa, CFHS Training Centre, Canadian Forces Environmental Medical Establishment, 1 Dental Unit, the HS detachment at Canadian Defence Liaison – Washington and the HS detachment at 1 Canadian Air Division in Winnipeg.

To aid in command and control the Director Health Services Operations (Col R.M. Johnston, HSM), the J1 (Personnel) staff, and Headquarters Commanding Officer report to the Gp Commander either via the Deputy Commander (Col C.L. Goulet, HSM) or Chief of Staff (Col K.C. Hewitt, HSM).

### **DGHS-Clinical:**

Overseeing clinical matters there are several Directors reporting to DGHS-Clinical. These include:

Director Medical Policy, Col L.A. Jull, MED.

Director Mental Health, Capt(N) W.F.A Brockway, MED-EM.

Director Force Health Protection, Capt C. Rossi, MED-PREV.

Director Woman's Health and Diversity, Col H.L. Wright, MED-ASM.  
Director Dental Services, Col D.S.G. Bussiere, (RCDC) DENT-SPEC.  
Director of Professional Affairs, which is civilian physician currently in the hiring process.

The Environmental Surgeons also report to DGHS-Clinical including:

The Royal Canadian Navy Surgeon, Col A. J. Taylor, MED-EM.  
The Canadian Army Surgeon, Capt(N) A.G. Haley, MED.  
The Royal Canadian Air Force Surgeon, Col P.C. Burke, MED-ASM.

These various offices are coordinated by the DGHS-Clinical Chief of Staff, Col C.M.C. Blanchard, NUR.

**EDHS-Corporate:**

Corporate Services is charges with making the healthcare machine run by providing vital enablers. These include:

Director Health Services Personnel, Col D.K. McDonald, HSM.  
Director Health Services Logistics, Col N. Singh, PHARM.  
Director Health Services Delivery, which is currently filled by Col N. Singh as the Interim Director.  
Director Health Services Individual Education and Training, Col S.D. Pirie, HSM  
Director Health Information, Col (ret'd) M.R.P. Brooks, RCMS  
Director Health Services Reserves, Col T.A. Nguyen, HSM.

Also pivotal to this organization is the Comptroller Section and the Strategic Human Resources Section.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.