

PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MINUTES



Brigadier-General Gregory Young

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DEPUTY COMMANDING
GENERAL COMBINED
SECURITY TRANSITION
COMMAND, AFGHANISTAN

Brigadier-General Greg Young, was only the second reservist to command the Army's Land Force Central Area in 2005. He

had responsibility for 5,000 regular soldiers, 5,500 reservists and 1,400 civilian employees, a responsibility to which he brought his usual determination and hands-on approach.

In March 2005 Brigadier-General Young visited Fort Albany and Kashechewan so that he could see the fine work of Canada's Rangers first hand. He travelled on snowmobile on James Bay and over frozen rivers and land to see the Rangers and visit community leaders. "It was my first opportunity to see them function in their environment and I was very much impressed."

The Brigadier-General brought the same intense interest to the training of ROTO4, soldiers drawn from the Canadian Mechanized Brigade, while they prepared for "Operation Athena" in Afghanistan. "All of us have been impressed with the individual soldier skills and the building of cohesive, professional teams to meet the challenges ahead."

In Afghanistan Brigadier-General Young had the responsibility to reform and rebuild the-62,000-strong-Afghan National Police. His efforts to improve security in Afghanistan and to mentor Afghanistan's Deputy Minister for Security earned him the Legion of Merit from the United States. In 2009 the retired Brigadier-General received the Afghan Medal of Bravery from democratically elected president Hamid Karzai.

"Afghanistan was and is an honourable mission. Canadians are there trying to help provide the security that country needs to recover and rebuild itself. Everyone faces obstacles and it is necessary to use your strength of character to conduct yourself honourably as you confront those obstacles. That is true in Afghanistan and it is true in life."