

# **Welcome to CANADIAN FORCES BASE PENHOLD**

## **“The Best in the West”**

### **CFB PENHOLD**

It may be interesting to note that the Penhold Radio Range letter identifier, “Q-F” established in 1939, is also a registered brand. In 1954 the Province of Alberta granted the Base the official registered brand, “Q-F”. It is renewed once every four years and the name remains with us as the name of our Social Centre.

The brand “Q-F” (pronounced Q bar F), has had a long and illustrious life, having been used on actual livestock as well as carrying the CFB Penhold colours of Green, Gold and white to a number of Calgary Stampedes and various local rodeos.

### **Beauty**

Surrounded by the bounty of nature with a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities, this area is holiday country for countless thousands of visitors every year. Drawn by the lure of sparkling lakes and streams, sandy beaches, tall trees, good fishing and true Alberta hospitality, the visitor has a choice of informal cabin resorts, deluxe lodges, provincial and private camping grounds, as well as the modern hotels and motels in the cities.

For those who choose the City of Red Deer, there are over 4,000 rooms or units available. Hotels and motels provide a wide range of entertainment to delight the visitor during the evening hours, and the many restaurants can supply quality dining to suit every taste.

### **Term Applies**

Penhold has traditionally been known as the “The Best in the West’ in recognition of its fine location and facilities, the friendliness of the local people and its reputation as a happy posting. Although CFB Penhold’s role has changed and its population is now smaller, the term still applies today, and will for many years to come.

Although CFB Penhold is no longer a flying base, it holds an important place in Canadian military aviation history.

### **Opened 1940**

The Base opened as a Royal Canadian Air Force Manning Depot in 1940. In August 1941 it was turned over to the Royal Air Force and became Number 36 Service Flying Training

School – one of many stations in Canada associated with the well remembered British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. In its three years of operation, the school trained 1,555 students on the twin engined Oxford aircraft. Buildings from the period still standing today include the Hangar Line, the old Auto club (which functioned as the Royal Air Forces's Transport Section) and an old building which served at one time as Station Headquarters.

### **Closed 1944**

With the Royal Air Force having built up a vast reserve of trained aircrew, the base was considered to have served its purpose and in October 1944, was turned over to the Royal Canadian Air Force and closed down. Only Department of Transport employees remained to operate the radio range. But its retirement as brief. The station southwest of Red Deer, which had made such an important contribution to the wartime cause still had a large role to play in peacetime.

Thus it was that in 1951, work began to create a permanent Royal Canadian Air Force station for the purpose of operating a flying training school to train pilots for the nations of NATO.

### **Reopened 1952**

The station was re-opened on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1952 and today has a residential area serviced with all utilities, including natural gas, and having a total of 243 married quarters. The population of this residential area is estimated at approximately 1,000 people. More than 250 service personnel live on base. In addition, more than 50 servicemen and 150 civilian employees live out, so that the base's payroll contribution to the district's economy is significant, ranging around \$400,000 per month.

The uneasy peace in Europe which led to the formation of NATO brought Penhold out of retirement, and towards the end of 1952 some of the smaller of the new building were ready for occupancy. While facilities were being erected for the operation of the flying training school, the necessary buildings to house and provide the amenities of life for the Recreation Centre and the Protestant and Roman Catholic chapels. About 180 houses were erected for married personnel and an additional 63 were constructed 18 months later.

A modern school with facilities to teach Kindergarten as well as grades one to nine was built, along with other projects vital for the smooth operation of a large permanent air base.

### **4 Flying Training School**

The first draft of NATO students for 4 Flying Training School arrived at Penhold on 25 May 1952. The draft consisted of 22 Royal Canadian Air Force trainees, 6 French Air Force, 10 Royal Air Force, 7 Italian, and 5 Royal Netherlands Air Force. On June 8<sup>th</sup>,

flying training was started at Penhold with 20 Harvards, while a formation of 44 Harvards arrived on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, completing the move of 4 Flying Training School from Calgary.

The first graduating course was ready to receive diplomas on August 12<sup>th</sup>, when the first mess dinner was held at the re-opened base.

### **MQs Open**

The official opening of Mynarski Park, the station's married quarters community, took place on 1 September, 1954. Dedicated to the memory of Pilot Officer A.C. Mynarski, VC, the park was opened officially by his mother, Mrs. J. Mynarski.

On the same day the Andersons of Craigmyle School was dedicated by Mrs. W.B. Anderson to the memory of her three sons, all whom died on active service with the air force during the Second World War.

### **Flying Ceased**

Penhold's aviation era ended on the morning of 19 May 1965, when the final student training flights were logged out and the Central Alberta skies echoed to the famous staccato of the "Yellow Peril" for the last time. On cessation of flying, Penhold was transferred from Training Command to Air Defence Command and in 1976 to Air Command.

### **New Roles**

The base then adopted new roles in providing support to other non-flying operational units. Air Defence Command established 43 Radar Squadron here in February 1964 and the Alberta Signal Squadron (now 743 Comm Squadron) commenced operations in March 1964. The Regional Emergency Government Headquarters were established here in April 1964.

The Air Cadet Summer Camp was moved to CFB Penhold in 1966, and this unit requires a considerable support effort each year. Some 2,500 cadets from western Canada, and their instructors pass through the base each summer.

During 1973 and 1974 an Air Defence Command School was established at the base. The school was divided into two components: one component is responsible for the Junior NCO Leadership training program for Air Defence Command and the other component offers a number of courses on communications and electronic equipment used in the air defence system. The C&E School no longer exists, while Junior Leaders School remains as an integral unit.

CFB Penhold is in the unique position of being the smallest base in the armed forces. There are six units on the base, and a seventh during the summer months. They are: 43

Radar Squadron and the FPS-27A (Search Radar) School, 743 Communication Squadron of Communication Headquarters, a responsibility of Air Command, Junior Leaders School, the Regional Cadet Instructors School (Prairie) training detachment and the summer Air Cadet Camp, also a responsibility of Air Command. Each of these units has its own commanding officer and special responsibilities, but they are all dependent upon CFB Penhold for all support services such as messing, transportation, etc. The Base Commander, CFB Penhold is responsible to Air Command Headquarters for the provision of all support facilities required by these units in connection with the defined roles of the Base.

### **43 RADAR SQUADRON**

43 Radar Squadron is one of the 24 radar sites forming the “Pinetree” line across Canada, and it is a component of both Fighter Group and the 24<sup>th</sup> NORAD Region, Operational control of the unit is exercised by the Direction Centre of the 24<sup>th</sup> NORAD Region, located at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Great Falls, Montana. There are eleven Canadian and Seven American radar sites in this region, which includes most of Montana, half of North Dakota, all of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and British Columbia. The function of 43 Radar Squadron is identical to that of the other radar units, and that is to provide the direction centre with search, identification, and height information on air-breathing threats, and to provide remote communications facilities from which the direction centre can control interceptors to counter the threat.

### **Opened in 1964**

The Squadron is one of the last “Pinetree” radar units to be constructed and the unit became operational in February, 1964. The radar equipment includes the FPS-27 search radar and FPS-507 height finder. Computer functions are performed by the FYQ-47 Common Digitizer. The Ground-Air Transmit-Receive (GATR) site equipment includes the GKA-5 Time Division Data Link (TDDL) system, GRT-3A transmitters, GRR-993 receivers, and GRC-27 receivers.

### **Location**

The radar site is located on a twelve acre clearing on top of a glacial esker, some 18 kilometres east of CFB Penhold, and some 400 M higher in elevation. The GATR site is in the same area, approximately 1.6km removed from the radar site. Almost all support facilities and services are provided by CFB Penhold at the main base complex. A small kitchen and dining room is located at the radar site, and the noon meal is available during normal working days.

### **Transportation**

Transportation between CFB Penhold and the Radar Squadron is provided for shift changes. The bus departs from the Combined Mess and proceeds through the married quarters area en route to the radar site. In addition, a shuttle run operates between both

sites during normal working hours. Information on these runs may be obtain by telephoning 7-231 from any base telephone. Transportation is not provided between Red Deer and the radar site, although commuting assistance is paid.

### **FPS-27 School**

43 Radar conducts courses for Air Command on the FPS-27 Radar and the UPA-62C Indicator. The FPS-27 School is located on the main base complex.

### **Reporting-In**

After reporting in the CFB Penhold, report to the Squadron Orderly Room located in the technical annex at the Radar Site.

### **CF JUNIOR LEADERS SCHOOL**

CFJLS Penhold is an Air Command unit, integral to CFB Penhold, responsible for leadership training of CF Corporals. As a secondary role, it provides supplemental staff to Air Cadet camps during the summer period. Being an integral unit of CFB Penhold, DFJLS is responsible to AIRCOM through the Base Commander. All support services are provided by the Base.

CFJLS Penhold conducts from five to seven courses per year with an average course loading of 75 candidates. Candidates receive instruction and practical exercises in Leadership, BDF, Drill, Instructional Techniques and the Military Administrative System.

After reporting to CFB Penhold Base Orderly Room, report to the CFJLS Orderly Room located on the second floor of Building 39 (Base Headquarters).

### **REGIONAL EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS**

#### **Emergency Decentralized Government**

The Regional Emergency Government Headquarters (REGHQ) installation and facilities at CFB Penhold are part of a decentralized system of protected emergency government centres from which federal and provincial authorities can direct operations and give continuity to government in the event of an attack on North America. For purposes of emergency decentralized government, each province is designated as a “region”, and some type of protected facility is provided as the REGHQ. Six special purpose REGHQ installations were constructed in six of the provinces by the end of 1964, and the Penhold REGHQ is one of these key facilities.

## **Components**

The REGHQ facilities provide wartime accommodation for federal and provincial elements of government, emergency and survival functions of the Department of National Defence, and a National Emergency Government Communications System. The peacetime role of the facility includes the training and exercising of federal, provincial and military personnel for emergency government functions; conferences and meetings concerned with wartime and peacetime disaster planning and operations; and the operations of the National Defence Communications System and the National Survival Attack Warning System. Essentially, the REGHQ is responsible for the collection and dissemination of information should Canada and North America be attacked by a hostile force. As reliable and extensive communications facilities are vital to the REGHQ role, the primary installation also provides accommodation for 743 Communication Squadron.

## **Administration**

The REGHQ is the property of the Government of Canada, and its administration and maintenance involves a number of government departments and agencies, primarily the Department of National Defence and Public Works of Canada. Within the Department of National Defence, the Canada Emergency Measures is responsible for all civilian and government operational aspects of the facilities. Air Command in the role of Prairie Region, is installation, it is considered to be a component of CFB Penhold, the base that provides the staff and full base support for its operation.

## **Provincial Warning Centre**

Apart from the operations, maintenance and security staffs provided by CFB Penhold, and the personnel of 743 Communication Squadron, the only resident staff of the REGHQ is the Provincial Warning Centre. This small cell follows a daily routine of testing attack warning system in Alberta, and participates in periodic major defence exercises. This staff is an integral unit of Air Command.

## **743 COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON**

Located within the REGHQ complex about 1.5 kilometres east of CFB Penhold's main gate, 743 Communication Squadron is an integral component of 74 Communication Group, with headquarters in Vancouver, and Canadian Forces Communication Command (CFCC). It is a lodger unit of CFB Penhold.

The Squadron's role is to provide strategic communications for the Canadian Forces and Emergency Government Communications. The Squadron operates and maintains one of the three major message switching centers of the Automated Defence Data Network (ADDN) serving all the communication centers and facilities of Western Canada. The Squadron also operates and maintains long range radio circuits as backup to the landline circuits normally used, a 'GATEWAY' station providing long range rear link radio communications to deployed elements for the CF, mobile radio detachments which can be

adapted to a wide variety of peacetime or war emergency communications requirements and the Commcen supporting CFB Penhold and its integral and lodger units.

Detachments of 743 Communication Squadron are located at CFB's Calgary and Suffield and CFS Alsask to provide for the communication needs of these sites. In addition, the Squadron is tasked to support and is actively involved with the Communication Reserve Force units at Calgary and Red Deer and the Squadron's Area Maintenance Team is responsible for maintenance of non-tactical communication equipment throughout southern Alberta.

The majority of the Squadron is located in the REGHQ complex. Elements of the Squadron are also located at the Transmitter Site, approximately 10 kilometers south of the Base, and in Hangar 4. The Squadron also operates an unmanned Receiver Site located approximately 10 kilometres west of the Base.

### REGIONAL CADET INSTRUCTORS SCHOOL (PRAIRIE)

RCIS(P) moved to CFB Penhold during the autumn of 1982. This school conducts training of CIL Officers of Prairie Region.

CIL Officers are Reserve Officers of the CF, responsible for the supervision, administration and training of Navy, Army and Air Cadets.

RCIS(P) conducts approximately ten qualification courses each year, training a total of 240 students. These courses are a requirement for rank progression from Officer Cadet to Captain, Environmental and refresher training courses are conducted in addition to this qualification schedule.

School facilities are located in BB 11 and a full-time staff is in attendance from September to July of each year.

### AIR CADET CAMP

Each summer since 1966, CFB Penhold has been the site of the largest air cadet camp in Canada. This camp is for air cadets from the four western provinces, northwest Ontario, the Yukon, and also the Northwest Territories. The total number of cadets accommodated each summer is approximately 2,500 divided into four two-week camps or 625 cadets each. In addition to the basic indoctrination course for new cadet officers, bush survival training is conducted, as well as many other courses.

With the great influx of cadets, cadet camp staff, and base augmentation personnel, the strength of CFB Penhold once again becomes equivalent to that of an active flying base. Two Otter aircraft are assigned to the base for familiarization flying purposes. Cadets are given flying training at the Red Deer Industrial Airport site.

(We don't have an Orderly Corporal, Orderly Sergeant, or Orderly Officer).

## **Base Headquarters**

The focal point on your posting to CFB Penhold is initially the base headquarters building which contains the offices of the Base Commander, Base Technical Services Officer, Administration Officers, Accounts Section, the Base Orderly Room, Housing/Ground Training, the D/BWO, Chaplain's offices, and the offices and many classrooms and training facilities of the Junior Leadership School.

## **Reporting In**

All personnel posted to the Base or an integral of lodger unit follow the same initial reporting in procedure. First stop is the Base Orderly Room during normal working hours, or the main gate guardhouse if after normal working hours, All 'other ranks' shall report to the BOR will look after getting you started on your rounds and also such things as medical plans, rations and quarters for single personnel, and contacting the Welcome Wagon in the case of families.

## **Accounts**

Located immediately next door to the BOR, the Base Accounts Section will look after your claims and have a daily casual pay parade period between 1100 and 1200 hours.

## **Accommodation**

The Base housing office, located within the Base headquarters building controls the allocation of all single and married quarters on the Base. For living-in personnel, officers and senior NCOs are housed in Barrack Block 8, junior ranks permanent staff are in Barrack Block 3, female and civilian personnel are in Barrack Block 4, junior ranks course trainees are in Barrack Block 12, and Barrack Blocks 10 and 11 are reserved for the air cadets and emergencies. There are 243 married quarters of all types on the Base, and another 76 three-bedroom multiple dwelling limited dividend housing units available in downtown Red Deer. Application is made through the Base housing offices as outlined in CFAO 28-3. The housing office will notify the applicant 60 days prior to his COS date of the assigned married quarter address.

In downtown Red Deer, for those who contemplate buying, there are approximately 32 Real Estate firms and, in the vicinity of the Base, there are also five trailer parks. They are: Penhold Trailer Court, Penhold Alberta (approx 2 ½ miles away); Shady Pine Trailer Court, 2001 Highway No.2 South, Red Deer (approx. 4 miles away); Frizzell's Trailer City, 5029-34<sup>th</sup> Street, Red Deer (approx. 7 miles away); Mustang Acres Ltd., 5425 Gaetz Avenue, Red Deer (approx. 12 miles away) and B & R 2-11 Service and Trailer Park, Highway 2A North, Red Deer (approx. 15 miles away).

## **Newspapers**

There is one local daily, The Red Deer Advocate, and two local weeklies, the Advisor (Red Deer Shopper) and the Innisfail Province. Also, the Base has its own newspaper, the Harvard Flyer, published monthly. The Calgary Herald and the Edmonton Journal are also delivered to MQs for those wishing to subscribe. The Flyer and Advisor arrive automatically at your door free of charge.

## **Radio & TV**

Good receivers can pick up Calgary and Edmonton radio stations. However, locally there are only two stations. Television at CFB Penhold is provided through a Cable-vision system which carries ten channels and offers a variety of programming.

## **Chapels**

There are both Protestant and a Catholic Chapel located on Base, with both Protestant and RC Chaplains in residence.

## **Food Services**

The combined Mess, located in Building 6, provides meals for all personnel on the Base, and prepares meals required at the radar site. The mess building has a central kitchen with partitioned eating areas: one of these is for junior ranks personnel, while the other one is a combined officers and senior NCO's dining room.

## **Messes**

CFB Penhold has three very active messes with extremely fine facilities:

**OFFICERS' MESS:** Due to its small membership, the Officers' Mess works on the 'honour bar' system with bartenders in attendance only during specific functions.

**WOS' AND SGTS' MESS:** Bar Hours: 1600-2100, extended if six or more persons present.

**JR. RANKS MESS:** Known as the "Harvard Haven", this is the largest and probably the finest mess facility of any small unit in the Canadian Armed Forces.

## **Social Centre**

The "Q-F", pronounced Q bar F, is the Base's Social Centre and is used for section parties, weddings, meetings, etc., by and for all ranks.

## **Community Council**

The Mynarski Park community is served by an elected community council, which organizes various programs and facilities to benefit the residents of the married quarters area. This group administers the Teen Town, garden plots, community recreation programs, and sponsors special annual events. Council members are elected semi-annually for a one-year term of office. The mayor is normally appointed by the Base Commander from the elected Councilors.

## **Medical**

The Base has a MIR staffed by one Nursing Officer and three qualified Med A's. Medical officer's services are also provided by civilian doctors under DND contract. Hospitalization for members is normally at local hospitals of the Colonel Belcher Hospital, Calgary's DVA facility. For dependants there are clinics and doctors of all specialties in Red Deer also having one 350 bed hospital, and a 100 bed Auxiliary hospital. The town of Innisfail also has a 75 bed hospital.

## **Dental**

There is a dental facility on Base to serve military personnel, and a number of dentists and specialists in Red Deer and Innisfail for dependants.

### **Banking**

Parkland Savings and Credit Union has opened a branch on a one day a week basis. This facility is located in the Recreation Centre lobby. Business hours are every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

There are 12 banks in Red Deer, 2 in Innisfail, as well as Treasury Branches and Credit Unions in Red Deer and Innisfail.

## **Mail**

All mail is handled through the Mynarski Park post office, located in the Recreation Centre on Base. The post office does not provide a delivery service to the married quarters. Post office boxes are available to all personnel at a cost of five dollars per year. Personnel not desiring a box may receive their mail at the counter through the following address:

Your Name  
General Delivery  
Mynarski Park, Alberta  
T0M 1N0

## **Schools**

There are two school facilities on Base: the Andersons of Craigmyle School serves the needs of dependant children from grades one to nine, and a Kindergarten accepts children at age five. Tuition and transportation are provided for high school students who are offered a choice of public secondary schools in Red Deer and Innisfail, or separate schools in Red Deer.

Red Deer College offers a variety of courses at the university level.

Schooling in the French language is not available in the local area, but it is possible to receive instruction in the French language in Edmonton. Further information on special schools in the area will be provided by the Base if requested.

## **Commercial Services**

Apart from the limited services provided by the Base exchange, there are no other commercial facilities on Base. The closest stores are located in the Village of Penhold, at a distance of two miles, and the City of Red Deer,. These stores are excellent, providing a complete selection of goods and services, comparable to any other Canadian city.

## **Vehicle Registration and Licenses**

New residents of Alberta are required to register and license motor vehicles within 90 days of their arrival. An Alberta operator's permit can be obtained if a valid permit is held in another province, except the Yukon or NWT, or by passing the normal proficiency tests offered in either Red Deer or Innisfail. The license fee is \$10.00 (\$2.00 per year for a maximum of five years validity), renewable on the holder's birthday.

Public Liability and Property Damage insurance is mandatory for all vehicles operated on public roads in Alberta.

Snow vehicles, motorcycles, motor scooters, etc., must be licensed and insured if they are operated on public roads or on the base. Bicycles do not require a license.

Base decals are issued free of charge to all personnel residing at CFB Penhold, to give base access to motor vehicles. Proof of registration and licensing is required.

## **Recreation**

Most of the base recreation facilities are located within or close to the Recreation Centre building. This building contains a gymnasium, six-lane bowling alley, rifle range, weight training room, sauna bath, and theatre. Outside facilities include a sports track, soccer field, football field, two tennis courts, three ball diamonds, a skating rink and a

swimming pool. A four sheet curling rink and a social centre are also located next to the Recreation Centre. A skeet range is located on the north side of the base.

There are many excellent recreational facilities available in local communities. The golf courses in Innisfail, Bowden, Red Deer, Lacombe and Sylvan Lake are particularly popular, and the base purchases green fees to the Innisfail and Sylvan Lake golf courses.

Family camping, fishing and hunting are very popular activities with the personnel of CFB Penhold. The base is located within easy driving distance of many Rocky Mountain campsites for weekend camping. It is very common for base residents to spend the summer weekends at these sites by leaving Friday evenings, and returning on Sunday nights.

### **Pets and Firearms**

The normal types of household pets are permitted in the married quarters, but unusual pets require the specific permission of base authorities. Pets are not normally permitted in the single quarters.

Dogs are not permitted to roam at large on the base. A pet control service is provided in the Mynarski Park community, and stray dogs may be retrieved by the owner for a fee set by the pet control service in Red Deer.

All animals must be registered through the Base Pet Control Officer.

All firearms are to be registered with the military police, but they may be stored in both the married quarters and the single quarters. If kept in single quarters, they are to be disabled by the removal of one essential part will be stored with the military police. Storage facilities for any firearm and ammunition are available on the base.

### **Youth Organizations**

A full range of activities are available on base for the dependant children. It includes Cubs, Scouts, Beavers, Venturers, Brownies, Guides, minor hockey and childrens' baseball. In addition, there are several sports programs designed specifically for the dependants. An air cadet squadron; Number 7 Markerville Squadron, one of the first units formed in Canada, meets on the base. There are other air, sea, and army cadet units located in Red Deer and Innisfail.

### **Service Station**

A very successful service station and auto club is operated at CFB Penhold, and it is located on the north side of the base. It contains several repair bays, and a good line of equipment for auto repairs and maintenance. A coin operated wash bay is open 24 hours a day for the convenience of shift workers.

## **Base Exchange**

A small Base Exchange facility is located at the Recreation Centre complex, where a normal selection of merchandise is sold. The exchange also contains a catalog ordering service for items that cannot be carried in stock. A small grocery store has recently been added.

## **AA**

A local Chapter of AA meets on Base every week.

## **Barber Shop and Beauty Salon**

There is both a barber shop and a beauty salon in the Recreation Centre complex, adjacent to the post office. Hours of operation are variable according to season and staff situation, and they are published in the Harvard Flyer.

## **RED DEER**

Napia, the Indian deity who created all beautiful things in this western land decided to make a final resting place – a place that would be more beautiful than all the rest.

So he shaped the hills into gently rolling contours and covered them with woodlands. He made a sparkling river flow through a peaceful valley and here and there he added clear lakes. He made the grass and flowers grow, attracting animals and birds of every sort. The, well contented with his creation, he slept forever. This is how the beautiful Red Deer Valley was created.

Not only did Indians supply us with this lovely legend, but they were also responsible for the name “Red Deer”.

Because deer were always found in abundance along the banks of the river, the Crees called it “Waskasoo Seepee”. Settlers used the English translation “Red Deer” to designate both the river and the town which later grew.