



G55 Forensic Odontology (FOd) in the Canadian Armed Forces: FOd Activities Historical Review and Structure

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand, from a military viewpoint, the historical Forensic Odontology Disaster Victim Identification (FOd DVI) operations as viewed and experienced by military forensic dentists and auxiliary staff. These experiences include both domestic and international deployments. This presentation will present the challenges encountered and techniques used to overcome these challenges and will also present an overview of the Canadian Armed Forces Royal Canadian Dental Corps' FOd standards, training, and response capacity in the context of the Geneva Convention, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Standardization Agreement (NATO STANAG) 2464, and American, British, Canadian, and Australian (ABCA) requirements. The organization and evolution of the Canadian Forces Forensic Odontology Response Team (CF FORT) will be outlined and discussed.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by increasing its situational awareness of the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) FOd capabilities and contributions; CAF lessons learned may influence future DVI responses.

This presentation will be an information overview of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Royal Canadian Dental Corps' FOd standards, training, and response capacity in the context of the Geneva Conventions, NATO STANAG 2464, and ABCA requirements. The organization and evolution of the CF FORT will be outlined and discussed. This presentation will explain the origins of the team's composition and establishment and the different elements that are taken into consideration in preparing the team members to respond to the unexpected, maintaining a 48-hour notice-to-move readiness level. Finally, partnerships and supporting professionals within the military and civilian community will be acknowledged.

Participants will gain a military perspective by being presented with historical FOd DVI operations as are permitted to be shared, viewed, and experienced by Canadian Armed Forces military dentists and auxiliary staff. These experiences include domestic operations in support of provincial coroners/medical examiners working in collaboration with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) (i.e., Swiss Air Flight 111 and First Air Flight 6560) and international deployments and operations (i.e., identification of fallen soldiers in Afghanistan and actual support to international operations in collaboration with the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development and the RCMP). Discussion will touch on the uniqueness of each response from the coordinated adaptation, including their analysis of the working environment, political expectations, response delay afforded, and the expected team composition and restrictions despite recognized standards.

This presentation will present the challenges encountered during each FOd involvement and techniques used to address/overcome them. Solutions found to address issues such as dealing with policy expectations, the requirements for transport and maintenance of equipment, working conditions, credentialing, dental documentation-evidence handling, responders' readiness level, training, physical and mental health well-being, communication, safety, and the documentation of lessons learned will also be discussed.

The contribution and challenges faced by CF FORT to the ongoing efforts put forth by the Canadian Armed Forces' Department of History and Heritage with the identification of recently recovered remains of our fallen World War I, World War II, and Korean War military members will also be discussed.

This presentation will give an overview of future considerations with an emphasis on the need for continued military and civilian community collaboration in standing together, ready to provide professional and timely support to DVI operations in all environments.

Canadian Armed Forces, Forensic Odontology, CF FORT