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## Task Force Canuck completes mission in Kandahar, journeys across Asia for friendly visit



The last CC-130J Hercules aircraft departs Kandahar on Nov. 17 after 10 years of aviation excellence in the Afghanistan theatre of operations. Photos: MCpl Dan Shouinard, Sr MissionTransition Task Force

By Lt Christopher Daniel,  
Wing Public Affairs Officer

In a dusky twilight at Kandahar Airfield (KAF) on Nov. 16, airmen and airwomen of Task Force Canuck proudly stood on parade in front of the CC-130 J Hercules aircraft as they completed their mission of transporting Canadian Forces personnel and equipment in and out of KAF and throughout Afghanistan in support of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

"The departure from Kandahar of the last remaining CC-130 Hercules aircraft after 10 years of continuous service in support of coalition forces in Afghanistan is a monumental milestone in Canadian Air Mobility Operations, as it marks the close-out of the longest continuous Tactical Airlift operation in the Royal Canadian Air Force history," said Colonel Sean Friday,

Commander 8 Wing.

The CC-130J Hercules, flown by 436 Transport Squadron (Sqn), departed Kandahar early in the morning of Nov. 17 and flew to India to pay tribute to 436 Sqn's historical roots.

"India was where 436 Squadron was formed as a Tactical Air Transport unit and where it conducted its first operational missions as an RCAF squadron," said Lieutenant-Colonel Colin Keiver, Commanding Officer 436 Sqn. "It is fitting that it returns from its most recent and significant mission through the place where it began 67 years ago."

During the visit, RCAF personnel met with their counterparts in the Indian Air Force for an enriching cultural exchange. Also, the visit allowed Canadian airmen and airwomen to pay tribute in

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Members of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and Indonesian Air Force pose together with Canadian Ambassador Mackenzie Clugston in front of the CC-130J Hercules aircraft during the recent friendly visit of the RCAF to Indonesia.

Photo: Canadian Embassy, Indonesia.

(Left) LCol Colin Keiver, Hon Col John Smylie (436 Sqn), and Hon Col Loreena McKennitt (435 Sqn) salute as they pay tribute to Canadian veterans interred at the Delhi War Cemetery.



Photo: Col Michel Latouche, Canadian Defence Attaché in Indonesia.

LCol Colin Keiver meets with Col Dzulkarnain Bin Hj Ahmad (right), Director of Safety, Standards and Readiness, Air Operations HQ, Royal Malaysian Air Force, as well as LCol Ishal bin Ujang (left), Commanding Officer 20 Squadron, Royal Malaysian Air Force (C130 Squadron) based at Subang Air Base located on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Major Spencer Selhi, Commanding Officer Tactical Airlift Unit parades with the airmen and airwomen of his unit under the nose of the CC-130J Hercules aircraft during a cease ops ceremony on Nov 16.



Photo: Canadian High Commission in India

LCol Colin Keiver and Hon Col John Smylie lay wreath at the Delhi War Cemetery.

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a solemn ceremony of remembrance to the 15 RCAF veterans, who are interred at the Delhi War Cemetery. Delegations from 435 and 436 Squadrons, both formed in India during WW II in support of the China-Burma-India theatre, were in attendance as well as Canada's High Commissioner, representation from other defence staffs, and the Indian Air Force.

On its way back home, the CC-130J Hercules aircraft, crew and passengers stopped in Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and the Philippines to meet with their air force counterparts in the region to help further boost the existing vibrant relations between our forces.

"We have dynamic and vibrant relations in Southeast Asia with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations," said Colonel Michel Latouche, Canada's Defence Attaché

in Southeast Asia. "Canada welcomed this opportunity to have a Canadian aircraft visit in order to demonstrate its commitment to enhancing our cordial relations with the region."

Canada's relations with Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and the Philippines have a long history of engaging in the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy, governance and pluralism. Counter-terrorism cooperation and capacity building is another key pillar of the bilateral relationship with those countries as well as their participation in Canada's Military Training Cooperation Program (MTCP).

The team is expected to arrive at CFB Trenton on Nov. 30 after its journey across the world.

"We take pride in having served in Kandahar and are truly honoured to be the first in the Royal Canadian Air Force to fly the CC-130J around the globe," said LCol Keiver.

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