

## SUGGESTED READINGS

# The Canadian Rangers

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The internet is filled with perspectives and opinions. These lists, compiled by academic subject matter experts, are intended to help direct policy makers, practitioners, and academics to credible, open-access sources, available online, free of charge, that reflect leading-edge research and thinking. The compilers of each list have been asked to select readings that are accessibly written (i.e. they are not filled with excessive jargon), offer a diversity of viewpoints, and encourage critical thinking and debate.

The Canadian Rangers provide a Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) presence, a local operational capability, and support to community resilience in sparsely settled northern, coastal, and isolation areas of Canada. As reservists considered trained upon enrolment, Rangers serve unique role within the Canadian military, including as local guides and facilitators whenever the CAF deploys outside units into remote regions. In addition to serving as a strategic reconnaissance screen for the military, the Rangers facilitate connections between local populations and the CAF grounded in longstanding relationships built on trust and respect. These readings provide insights into the benefits of the Ranger concept for myriad stakeholders and rightsholders, historical and contemporary roles and tasks, high rates of Indigenous participation, and the organization's strong rootedness in traditional and local ways of knowing, seeing, and being.

*Canadian Army Journal*. 2023. [Special Issue on the 75th Anniversary of the Canadian Rangers](#).

2022 marked a significant milestone for the Canadian Ranger Corps as it celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As a Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Reserve sub-component, the Rangers are an integral part of the Canadian Army and serve in communities from coast to coast to coast across Canada. While their tasks and capabilities have evolved over the years, the role of the Canadian Rangers is to provide a military presence and a local operational capability. Concurrently, they offer support to community resiliency in sparsely settled and remote northern, coastal and isolated areas of Canada, which cannot be expeditiously supported by other elements of the CAF. This special issue of the Canadian Army's professional journal features articles provided by each of the five Canadian Ranger Patrol Groups across Canada.

Kikkert, Peter, and P. Whitney Lackenbauer. 2021. "[The Canadian Rangers: Cornerstone for Community Disaster Resilience in Canada's Remote and Isolated Communities.](#)" *Northern Review* 51 (May): 35-67.

The Canadian Rangers are Canadian Armed Forces Reservists who serve in remote, isolated, northern, and coastal communities. Due to their presence, capabilities, and the relationships they enjoy with(in) their communities, Rangers regularly support other government agencies in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a broad spectrum of local emergency and disaster scenarios. Drawing upon government and media reports, focus groups, interviews with serving members, and a broader literature review, this article explains and assesses, using a wide range of case studies from across Canada, how the Rangers strengthen the disaster resilience of their communities. The findings also suggest ways to enhance the Rangers' functional capabilities in light of climate and environmental changes that portend more frequent and severe emergencies and disasters. It also argues that the organization can serve as a model for how targeted government investment in a local volunteer force can build resilience in similar remote and isolated jurisdictions, particularly in Greenland and Alaska.

Kikkert, Peter, with Doug Stern. 2017. "Finding Ihuma: Inuit Leadership Norms and Canadian Ranger Operations," in *Canadian Armed Forces Arctic Operations, 1941-2015: Lessons Learned, Lost, and Relearned*, eds. Adam Lajeunesse and P. Whitney Lackenbauer. Fredericton: Gregg Centre for the Study of War & Society. 370-86.

Successfully adapting to northern conditions means living, travelling, and working in the environment rather than simply seeking to pass through or conquer it. The Canadian Rangers, an important "success story" in terms of harnessing the expertise and knowledge of northern residents, offer a strong example of how unorthodox approaches to providing a military presence in isolated communities bring positive effects. In this important chapter, historian Peter Kikkert and Canadian Ranger Doug Stern present the operational perspective of a Ranger with extensive experience working with Regular and Reserve Forces in the Arctic. Stern's story details his interactions with southern-based soldiers and highlights difficulties in reconciling traditional military culture with a more nuanced northern approach to operations.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2007. "[Teaching Canada's Indigenous Sovereignty Soldiers ... and Vice Versa: 'Lessons Learned' from Ranger Instructors.](#)" *Canadian Army Journal* 10, no. 2: 66-81.

Based upon a series of interviews conducted with Canadian Ranger Patrol Group personnel from 2000 to 2006, this article provided a pioneering exploration of the roles, responsibilities and "lessons learned" by Ranger instructors – the Regular and Reserve Force members who mentor the Ranger patrols in the Rangers' communities and areas of operations. This brief survey identifies personality traits and leadership skills that facilitate successful instruction of Ranger patrols, with a particular emphasis on Indigenous communities. In simple terms, the standard

approach to the training of Regular and Reserve Force units in the south would not suffice; in addition, instructors, who are willing to acclimatize and adapt to the ways and needs of diverse communities, are compelled to develop a flexible, culturally aware approach. Far from being an extended “hunting and fishing trip,” the professional soldiers who volunteer for postings as Ranger instructors are tasked with tremendous responsibilities in a tough physical environment and must learn to teach and build trust relationships with patrols in an adaptive manner that transcends cultural, linguistic and generational lines. This observations remain equally applicable and relevant nearly two decades later.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2013. [\*The Canadian Rangers: A Living History\*](#). Vancouver: UBC Press.

The Canadian Rangers, a dedicated group of citizen-soldiers, have quietly served as Canada’s eyes, ears, and voice in isolated coastal and northern communities for six decades when Lackenbauer wrote this comprehensive history. How does this minimally trained and lightly equipped force make a meaningful contribution to national defence and to sustainable communities? One of Canada’s leading experts on northern issues answers this question using official records, extensive interviews, and on-the-ground participation in Ranger exercises from coast to coast to coast. Lackenbauer reveals how the Rangers have evolved into a flexible, inexpensive, and culturally inclusive way for Canada to “show the flag.” The Rangers offer living proof that military activities designed to assert sovereignty need not cause insecurity for residents of remote regions. Local knowledge, stewardship, and national security prove compatible and mutually reinforcing. *The Canadian Rangers* also tells the untold story of a successful partnership that has developed between the Canadian Forces and Indigenous Peoples, a partnership rooted in traditional knowledge and skills and characterized by acceptance and crosscultural understanding.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2022. [\*The Canadian Armed Forces’ Eyes, Ears, and Voice in Remote Regions: Selected Writings on the Canadian Rangers\*](#). Peterborough: NAADSN.

This volume brings together insights from Lackenbauer’s extensive writing on why this unique military organization has taken the shape that it has, and where the Rangers fit within the Canadian Armed Forces. It is also a celebration of the diversity and resilience of Canada through the richness of its remote communities, and the strength of the people who live therein.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney, and Peter Kikkert. 2020. [\*Measuring the Success of the Canadian Rangers\*](#). Report to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Ranger Patrol Group.

Pursuant to a project on “Measuring the Success of the Canadian Rangers: Using Statistical Methods, Gender Based Analysis Plus, and Stakeholder Dialogue to Discern Culturally Relevant and Appropriate Metrics,” the authors worked in close cooperation and partnership with 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group to develop a series of metrics and indicators that might be used to evaluate the contributions,

successes, and shortcomings of the Canadian Rangers as a component of the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves within a Northern Canadian context. The report blends descriptive, explanatory narrative (with extensive first-hand quotes providing the insights of Canadian Rangers in their own words) with specific, measurable outcomes.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2022. [The Canadian Rangers @ 75: Key Documents, 1947-2022](#). Documents on Canadian Arctic Sovereignty and Security (DCASS) No. 19. Calgary: Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies and the Arctic Institute of North America.

Often described as the military's "eyes and ears" in remote regions, the Canadian Rangers have evolved over the past seventy-five years to represent a successful integration of national security and sovereignty agendas with community-based activities and local stewardship. As the seventy-five documents in this collection attest, the Ranger concept has been debated since the early postwar period. What should the Canadian Rangers be expected to do? Where should they be located? Who should participate? How should they be organized? And how does Ranger service fit with evolving military and civic identities?

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney and Bianca Romagnoli, eds. 2022. [Sovereignty, Security, and Resilience: Selected Stories about 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, 1998-2022](#). Yellowknife and Peterborough: 1CRPG and NAADSN.

The one hundred stories in this volume celebrate the contributions that the Canadian Rangers of the 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group have made to Canada's North since 1998. In addition to affirming the Rangers' value as an operational resource for the Canadian Armed Forces and their value to their communities, these articles reveal experiential knowledge, insights and testimonies from Rangers and from other CAF members and community partners who have worked with them.

Vullierme, Magali. 2019. ["Towards Human Security in the Arctic: Lessons Learned From the Canadian Rangers"](#). *Arctic Yearbook 2019*: 1-14.

Human security aims at protecting individual(s) against physical or non-physical, violent or non-violent threats (environment, health, development or well-being). In order to assess the current human security in Canadian Arctic, this research analyses the relational dynamics within Canadian Rangers patrols, which are composed of Indigenous people under the responsibility of non-Indigenous instructors. It focuses on Nunavik, where communities suffer from many risks related to the concept of human security, and analyses a corpus of 21 qualitative interviews and field observations conducted in 2016 and 2017. Data interpretation reveals that the Canadian government indirectly strengthens human security of its Arctic communities through Canadian Rangers and Junior Canadian Rangers patrols - Canadian Rangers' youth counterpart. This strengthening of human security in Canadian Arctic communities results from a three-step process based

on balanced and respectful relationship dynamics between Inuit Rangers and non-Inuit instructors, allowing Canadian Rangers patrols and Junior Canadian Rangers patrols to act as a source and a guarantee of human security.

Vullierme, Magali. 2021. "[Cultural Understanding and Dialogue within the Canadian Armed Forces: Insights from Canadian Ranger Patrols.](#)" *Northern Review* 52: 127-144.

Based on an inductive analysis of semi-structured interviews and field observations conducted in 2016 and 2017 in Nunavik, Quebec, and Nunavut, this article explores the relationships between Indigenous reservists and military within Canadian Rangers patrols, and aims at demonstrating how those patrols reinforce understanding and dialogue between the different cultures. As a subcomponent of the CAF Reserve, Canadian Ranger patrols from Nunavik and Nunavut are mainly composed of Indigenous Rangers under the responsibility of non-Indigenous Ranger instructors. Providing a meeting place between Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals, the patrols enable cultural understanding and dialogue between different cultures. This article is worth reading in conjunction with Lackenbauer's 2007 article in *Canadian Army Journal*.

## Official Commemorative Histories

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2015. [\*Vigilans: The 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group.\*](#) Yellowknife: 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Ranger Patrol Group.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2022. [\*A History of the Canadian Rangers of Quebec: 2nd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group.\*](#) Saint-Jean and Peterborough: 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Ranger Patrol Group and NAADSN.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney, Magali Vullierme, et Stéphane Roussel. 2022. [\*L'histoire des Rangers canadiens du Québec: 2e Groupe de patrouilles des Rangers canadiens.\*](#) Saint-Jean et Peterborough: 2GPRC et RDSNAA.

## Further Reading

Ghazal, Samantha Sashia. 2022. "[An Assessment of Resilience and Wellness of the Canadian Rangers.](#)" Ph.D. dissertation, Carleton University.

Girard Lindsay, Sébastien. 2017. « [L'intégration Des Autochtones Dans L'armée Canadienne – Entre Émancipation et Assujettissement : Une Étude des Représentations Sociales qu'ont Les Militaires des Autochtones dans L'armée Canadienne.](#) » M.A. thesis, Public Administration, École Nationale d'Administration Publique, Gatineau, Quebec.

Kikkert, Peter, and P. Whitney Lackenbauer. 2021. "[Enhancing the Canadian Ranger Role in Disaster/Emergency Management \(DEM\)](#)," North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network (NAADSN) *Policy Brief* (February).

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2006. "[The Canadian Rangers: A Postmodern Militia That Works](#)." *Canadian Military Journal* 6/4 (Winter): 49-60.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2007. "[Canada's Northern Defenders: Aboriginal Peoples in the Canadian Rangers, 1947-2005](#)," in *Aboriginal Peoples and the Canadian Military: Historical Perspectives* ed. P. Whitney Lackenbauer and Craig Mantle. Kingston: CDA Press. 171-208.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2007. "[Guerrillas in Our Midst: The Pacific Coast Militia Rangers, 1942-45](#)." *BC Studies* 155 (December): 95-131.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2009. "The Canadian Rangers: Sovereignty, Security and Stewardship from the Inside Out" in *Thawing Ice – Cold War: Canada's Security, Sovereignty, and Environmental Concerns in the Arctic* ed. Rob Huebert. Bison Paper 12. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Centre for Defence and Security Studies. 61-79.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2011. "[Aboriginal Peoples in the Canadian Rangers: Canada's 'Eyes and Ears' in Northern and Isolated Communities](#)," in *Hidden in Plain Sight: Contributions of Aboriginal Peoples to Canadian Identity and Culture, Vol. 2* ed. Cora Voyageur, David Newhouse, and Dan Beavon. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 306-28.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney, ed. 2013. [Canada's Rangers: Selected Stories, 1942-2012](#). Kingston: Canadian Defence Academy Press.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2013. [If It Ain't Broke, Don't Break It: Expanding and Enhancing the Canadian Rangers](#). Working Papers on Arctic Security No. 6. Toronto: Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation and ArcticNet Arctic Security Projects.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2013. "[The Military as Nation-BUILDER: The Case of the Canadian North](#)." *Journal of Military and Strategic Studies* 15/1 (Summer): 1-32.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2013. "[Sentinels of Sovereignty: How the Canadian Rangers came to be the shadow army of the North](#)," *Canada's History* (April/May): 48-50.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2019. "The North's Canadian Rangers." In Alistair Edgar, Rupinder Mangat, and Bessma Momani (eds) *Strengthening the Canadian Armed Forces through Diversity and Inclusion*. University of Toronto Press, Toronto. 67-86.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney. 2021. "[Diversity Statistics, Self-Identification Data, and the Canadian Rangers: Underestimating Indigenous Peoples' Participation Rates in the Canadian Army](#)." North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network *Policy Brief*.

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney, and Peter Kikkert. 2020. "[The Canadian Rangers and COVID-19.](#)" North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network (NAADSN) *Policy Brief* (June).

Lackenbauer, P. Whitney, John Moses, Scott Sheffield, and Maxime Gohier. 2010. [A Commemorative History of Aboriginal People in the Canadian Military.](#) Ottawa: Department of National Defence.

Bianca Romagnoli. 2023. "[Patrolling North of 60: Military Infrastructure in Canada's Arctic Communities.](#)" Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Los Angeles.

Romagnoli, Bianca. 2024. "Military Wealth: How Money Shapes Indigenous-State Relations among Canadian Rangers." *Economic Anthropology* 11, no. 1: 49-58.

Stevens, Samantha. 2021. "[Canadian Rangers: Community, Autonomy, and Sovereignty.](#)" *Journal of Australian, Canadian, and Aotearoa New Zealand Studies* 1, no. 2: 8-40.

Vullièrme, Magali. 2018. « [Les Rangers et les Rangers Juniors canadiens : vecteur de sécurité humaine des Inuit canadiens.](#) » Ph.D. dissertation, Political Science, Université de Versailles St-Quentin, Guyancourt, France.

Vullierme, Magali. 2018. "[The Social Contribution of the Canadian Rangers: A Tool of Assimilation or Means of Agency?](#)" *Journal of Military and Strategic Studies* 19/2: 193-211.

## Multimedia

*Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Whitney Lackenbauer explores the roles of the Canadian Rangers.* Canadian Army News, video, 31 May 2017, project number: 17-0010. <http://www.army-armee.forces.gc.ca/en/news-publications/national-news-details-no-menu.page?doc=honorary-lieutenant-colonel-whitney-lackenbauer-explores-the-roles-of-the-canadian-rangerics-video/j2yxk0cb>

*The Pacific Coast Militia Rangers served as the military's eyes and ears along the Pacific coast,* video, 31 May 2017, project number: 17-0075. <http://army-armee.forces.gc.ca/en/news-publications/national-news-details-no-menu.page?doc=the-pacific-coast-militia-rangers-served-as-the-military-s-eyes-and-ears-along-the-pacific-coast-video/j2yxk0wx>

*Watchers of the North.* Picture This Productions. 2013. <https://www.mcintyre.ca/titles/PTP000>

*Ridin' with the Rangers.* Director Jimmy Lewis, Vancouver. Documentary film. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9w2Q9p95zY>

*Canadian Rangers*. Director Jon O'Connor, Toronto. Interviewed in Waterloo in December 2008 and provided archival photographic footage for use in the promotional film. Available online as "Soldiers of the North," Department of National Defence, March 2009. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iGOgMs7\\_bM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iGOgMs7_bM)

Rick Mercer Report. *Rick and the Canadian Rangers*. 2006.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0mBSkATzQM>

## International Perspectives

[Advancing Solutions to the Arctic Maritime Domain: The Canadian Rangers](https://tedstevensarcticcenter.org/document/advancing-solutions-to-the-arctic-maritime-domain-the-canadian-rangers/),  
<https://tedstevensarcticcenter.org/document/advancing-solutions-to-the-arctic-maritime-domain-the-canadian-rangers/>

James Morton and Ryan Burke. 2022. "[Special Operations Forces and Arctic Indigenous People: Partnering to Defend the North American Arctic Homeland](#)," *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*.

Magdalena Paluszkiewicz-Misiaczek. 2016. "[Formacja Canadian Rangers — historia i współczesne wyzwania](#)," *Księgarnia Akademicka*: 251-271.