

The Role of Ritual and Tradition in Resisting Culture Change in the Canadian Armed Forces

Walter Callaghan, MA

PhD candidate, Medical Anthropology

Dept. of Anthropology, University of Toronto

w.callaghan@mail.utoronto.ca

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Culture

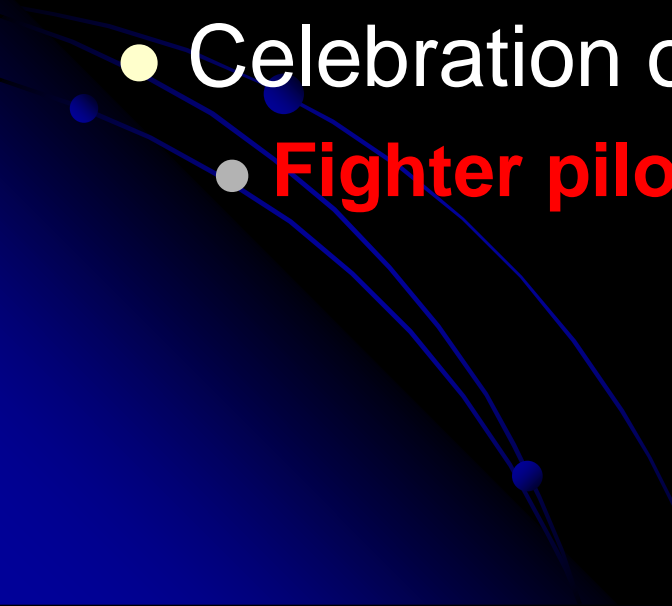
“A shared and relatively stable pattern of behaviours, values and assumptions that a group has learned over time as an effective means of maintaining internal social stability and adapting to its environment, and that are transmitted to new members as the correct ways to perceive, think and act in relation to these issues”

CAF Ethos: Trusted to Serve (2022)

Ritual & Tradition

- Ritual (Anthropology): An act or series of regularly repeated acts that embody the beliefs of a group of people and create a sense of continuity and belonging.
- Culture Change can be:
 - Adopted
 - Adapted
 - Resisted

Initiation Rituals

- “Joining up” ceremony
 - Basic training indoctrination
 - Celebration of achievements
 - **Fighter pilot “call-signs”**
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Ritual gone bad

Politics

Fighter squadron commander removed from post after probe into sexually explicit pilot call sign



Lt.-Col. Corey Mask attended a call sign review board meeting in Cold Lake, Alta.



[Murray Brewster](#) · CBC News · Posted: Oct 20, 2022 1:47 PM EDT | Last Updated: October 20, 2022



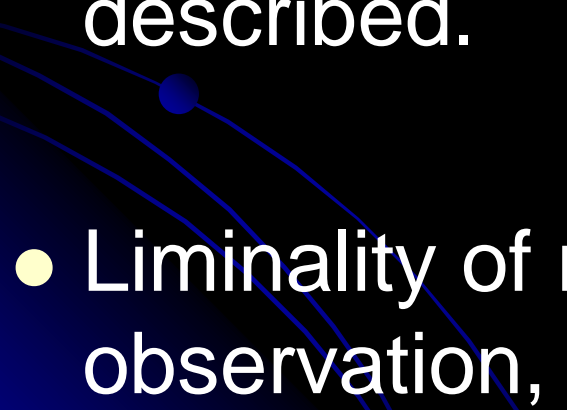
Church Parades

- Traditions based in Christian heritage
- Usually in conjunction with Remembrance Day ceremonies
- Mandatory?
- Canada 2021 Census
 - 53.3% Christian
 - 34.6% Non-Religious

Queen's Regulations & Orders (QR&O)

- QR&O 33.11: officers and non-commissioned members shall not be ordered to attend a parade that is primarily religious or spiritual in nature
- QR&O 33.12: officers and non-commissioned members may be required to attend a military ceremony that has a religious or spiritual aspect, including a Remembrance Day ceremony

Culture Change

- Is the CAF adequately capturing what it's culture is?
 - Culture is not always spoken, or easily described.
 - Liminality of ritual requires direct observation, witnessing and experiencing.
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