

New general ready to take command in Afghanistan

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KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN — There's a new general in town.

The next commander of Canadian troops in Afghanistan has hit the ground in Kandahar and says he believes the mission will take on a different flavour during his nine month tour.

Brigadier-General Dennis Thompson says evolving conditions in the war-torn region mean there will be more of an emphasis on the civilian side of development and reconstruction.

He says there will still be a military aspect.

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Brig.-Gen. Thompson is the former commander of the 2nd Mechanize Brigade at CFB Petawawa, a base that has suffered a lot of casualties, and he says that aspect of loss personalizes this assignment for him.

He arrived in Kandahar one day after the latest soldier was killed in a shootout with the Taliban and will be replacing Brig.-Gen. Guy Laroche in the near future.

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