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Rheinmetall Leopard 2A4 simulators to the Canadian armed forces are operational

All Leopard 2A4 simulators supplied by Rheinmetall to the Canadian Armed forces have been taken into operation. In March 2014, the last three of a total of 18 Leopard Gunnery Skills Trainer (LGST) went operational at the Canadian Forces Base Petawawa and have been committed to the Canadian Army. During the next two years of the utilization period the LGST project will be supported by a local partner of Rheinmetall.

In May 2012, the Canadian government awarded Rheinmetall's Bremen, Germany-based Simulation and Training division a contract to supply Leopard Gunnery Skills Trainer (LGST) and Driver Station Simulators (DSS) under the Canadian Leopard 2A4 Simulators and Trainers programme. In addition to the initial eleven plus two simulators, seven more LGSTs have been ordered, plus optional loader stations. The simulators are used to train Canadian tank crews in the operation and tactics of the Leo 2A4 CAN, which has been fielded by the Canadian Army.

The Leopard 2A4 simulators are located in

- Gagetown (6 LGST and 1 DSS)
- Edmonton (6 LGST and 1 DSS)
- Valcartier (3 LGST) and – as mentioned above –
- Petawawa (3 LGST)

Rheinmetall has delivered the Leopard Gunnery Skills Trainers in the second half of 2013. Both Driver Station Simulators were successfully delivered in February 2013 to Canadian military bases in Gagetown and Edmonton.

The LGSTs are indoor, self-contained, standalone systems for training Leopard 2A4 CAN crew commanders, gunners, loaders and drivers. This gunnery and combat training system combines Rheinmetall's Leopard 2 expertise in high-end simulation technology and visualization capabilities with the flexibility of Virtual Battle Space 2. The LGSTs will provide a network capability to permit tactical training at platoon level with at least six simulators. Moreover the LGSTs are equipped with a driver station that enables the driver to take part in tactical training.

Importantly, the Driver Station Simulator reflects Canadian Leopard 2A4 configurations. An instructor's console mounted behind the part task trainer allows the instructor to control the trainee's activities in the driver's station. The DSSs are

already in service, helping to train Canadian Leopard 2A4 drivers to properly operate the main battle tank and handle malfunctions.

Technical solutions for the Canadian Army's Leopard Gunnery Skills Trainer and Driver Station Simulators are based on Rheinmetall's longstanding experience in designing, building, supplying and supporting gunnery and driving simulators for Leopard 2A4 and other platforms, and feature Rheinmetall's state-of-the-art "TacSi Reloaded" technology. "TacSi Reloaded" brings together the company's full-fledged Computer Generated Forces (CGF) software with superb visualization from commercially available game engine technology.

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