

For immediate release

Minister Tables Military Police Complaints Commission Annual Report

OTTAWA, May 4, 2009 – The Military Police Complaints Commission (MPCC) handled a record caseload in 2008 according to its Annual Report, tabled in Parliament today by The Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence.

In the report, Commission Chair, Peter A. Tinsley, noted that the MPCC managed multiple, concurrent, and increasingly complicated and costly investigations which involved the review of thousands of pages of evidence and interviews with scores of witnesses. The number of case files opened reached a total of 92, the highest-ever volume in the Commission's 10-year history.

The overall theme of this year's report is "Meeting the Challenges of Oversight", which is particularly appropriate given the increasingly complex environment in which the Commission operates as it fulfills its responsibilities to provide independent civilian oversight of the Canadian Forces military police.

The report points to a range of challenges, both operational and corporate, including matters related to the Afghanistan Public Interest Investigations and Hearings and the Federal Court challenge of Commission jurisdiction.

According to Mr. Tinsley, "As we have risen to meet those challenges, we have also continued to make progress in other areas. This includes adapting to significantly increased workload pressures; completion of substantial conduct complaint investigations and accompanying Interim and Final Reports addressing both specific and systemic issues."

A copy of the MPCC's 2008 Annual Report can be downloaded from the Commission's Web site at www.mpcc-cppm.gc.ca.

Established by Parliament in 1998, the role of the MPCC is to provide for greater public accountability by the military police and the chain of command in relation to military police conduct and investigations.

- 30 -

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