



Kestrel Publications

Canadian Military Aircraft Designations

Since 1968, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) have used standardized aircraft designations as follows:

Examples:	C	C	-	144	A	<i>Challenger-600</i>	144601
	C	P	-	140		<i>Aurora</i>	140101
	C	F	-	188	B	<i>Hornet</i>	188901
(See note below)	*1	*2		*3	*4	*5	*6

(*1) All designations start with "C" which denotes "Canada".

(*2) Following the initial C is a "type" letter describing the purpose of the aircraft. The current letters are essentially a subset of the "type" letters used in the current system in the United States:

- C - Cargo/Transport
- E - Electronic Warfare
- F - Fighter
- H - Helicopter
- P - Patrol / Reconnaissance / Anti-Submarine Warfare
- T - Trainer
- U - Unmanned Air Vehicle
- X - Research / Experimental

In earlier versions of the system, more letters were used to define the type. Previous examples (but which are now obsolete) include:

- O - Observation
- SR - Search & Rescue

(*3) The next series is a three-digit number. There is only one numbering sequence for all aircraft types. A number, which has been allocated to one aircraft, would not normally be later re-allocated to another one, even if the original aircraft order had been cancelled. The numbers were not necessarily allocated in sequence, but were instead often chosen to "match" another designation (like the manufacturer's or U.S. military designation) of the aircraft. The type number is also used as the first three digits of the six-digit serial number for individual aircraft. Variants of an aircraft for a different purpose retain the number, but use a different "type" letter. i.e., the Electronic Support Trainer version of the CC-144A *Challenger-600* was called CE-144A *Challenger-EST*. However, the allocation of a different "type" letter is not done very often and is only used if the aircraft is significantly altered.

(*4) An optional suffix letter may follow the designation, to distinguish between different versions of a specific type. Letters are assigned alphabetically, omitting I and O. Some letters are reserved for special purposes including:

- D - Dual-seat version of a single-seat aircraft
- NT - Navigation trainer

(*5) Most, but not all, a/c types have an official "Popular Name" assigned. Unofficial "nicknames" are also common

(*6) The aircraft serial number is always a six-digit no. including the aircraft number series + individual tail no.

Canadian Military Aircraft Designation Listing

Designation	Popular Name	Manufacturer	Quantity (Original / Current)	Manufacturer's Model No. & Remarks
CF-100	<i>Canuck</i>	Avro Canada	692	C.100 (nickname = <i>Clunk</i>)
CF-101B	<i>Voodoo</i>	McDonnell	132	F-101B
CF-101F	<i>Voodoo</i>	McDonnell	19	TF-101B, F-101F
CT-102	<i>Astra</i>	Grob	(11 / 11)	G120A; contract primary trainer
-103	never assigned (was reserved for proposed Avro Canada "C.103" model)			
CF-104	<i>Starfighter</i>	Canadair	200	CL-90 (license-built Lockheed F-104 Model 683-04-12)
CF-104A	<i>Starfighter</i>	Lockheed	1	Model 183-92-02 (single-seat F-104)
CF-104D	<i>Starfighter (Dual)</i>	Lockheed	39	Model 583-04-15 (two-seat F-104); Mk 1 (Dual Training Aircraft), Mk2 (Dual Operational Aircraft)
CF-105	<i>Arrow</i>	Avro Canada	5	project cancelled, designation not reused
CC-106	<i>Yukon</i>	Canadair	12	CL-44-6
CP-107	<i>Argus</i>	Canadair	33	CL-28-1 (<i>Argus</i> Mk 1), CL-28-2 (<i>Argus</i> Mk 2)
CC-108	<i>Caribou</i>	De Havilland Canada	11	DHC-4/4A <i>Caribou</i> 1/1A/1B
CC-109	<i>Cosmopolitan</i>	Canadair	9	CL-66B; license-built Convair CV-540
CSR-110	<i>Albatross</i>	Grumman	10	G-111 (U.S. designation: HU-16)
CF-111	<i>Starfighter</i>	Canadair / Lockheed	N/A	F-104; original designation slated for the CF-104 but never used
CT-111	<i>Firefly</i>	Slingsby	12	T67C3 (U.S. designation: T-3); leased trainer
CH-112	<i>Nomad</i>	Hiller	27	UH-12E (U.S. designation: OH-23 Raven)
CH-113	<i>Labrador</i>	Boeing-Vertol	6	107.II-9 (U.S. designation: CH-46)
CH-113A	<i>Labrador / Voyageur</i>	Boeing-Vertol	9	107.II-28; originally named <i>Voyageur</i> but converted to same standards as <i>Labrador</i>
CT-114	<i>Tutor</i>	Canadair	(190 / 46)	CL-41A

CC-115	<i>Buffalo</i>	De Havilland Canada	(15 / 4)	DHC-5A
CF-116	<i>CF-5</i>	Canadair	89	CL-219-1A10; license built Northrop F-5A; originally named <i>Freedom Fighter</i>
CF-116D	<i>CF-5D</i>	Canadair	46	CL-219-1A17; license built Northrop F-5B; dual seat version of the aircraft type
CC-117 CE-117	<i>Falcon</i>	Dassault- Breguet	8	Falcon 20C; some aircraft later converted to EW use
CH-118	<i>Iroquois</i>	Bell	10	Model 205 (U.S. designation: UH-1H)
CO-119	<i>Bird Dog</i>	Cessna	23	Model 305 (U.S. designation: L-19A/E) and Model 182; although different designs, both models became CO-119
CT-120	<i>Chipmunk</i>	De Havilland Canada	52	DHC-1B
CP-121	<i>Tracker</i>	De Havilland Canada	57	G-103; license-built Grumman S2F/S-2 <i>Tracker</i>
CP-122	<i>Neptune</i>	Lockheed	25	P2V-7/P-2
CC-123	<i>Otter</i>	De Havilland Canada	69	DHC-3; originally designated CSR-123
CH-124	<i>Sea King</i>	Sikorsky	(40 / 29)	S-61A (U.S. designation SH-3)
CH-124A	<i>(ASW variant)</i>		(32 / 22)	
CH-124B	<i>Troop transport</i>		(7 / 6)	
CH-124C	<i>Ground Trainee</i>		(1 / 1)	
CH-125		Vertol	15	Model 42 (U.S. designation: H-21) Nickname = <i>Flying Banana</i>
CH-126		Sikorsky	6	S-58 (U.S. designation: H-34, <i>Choctaw</i>)
CH-127		Vertol	5	Model 44 (similar to Model 42)
CT-128	<i>Expeditor</i>	Beech	398	C18S (Mk 1/2), D18S (Mk 3); U.S. designations: C-45B (MK 1), UC-45F (Mk 2)
CC-129	<i>Dakota</i>	Douglas	71	C-47/C-47A/C-47B/R4D-1 (Nicknames included <i>Dak</i> or just <i>C-47</i>)

CC-130	<i>Hercules</i>	Lockheed	(60 / 32)	C-130B/E/J/H
CC-130B			(4 / 0)	Retired from service
CC-130E			(19 / 0)	Retired from service
CC-130E / NT	<i>(Nav Trainer)</i>		(4 / 0)	Retired from service
CC-130H			(9 / 7)	
CC-130H-30	<i>(Stretched)</i>		(2 / 2)	
CC-130H90(T)	<i>(Tanker Variant)</i>		(5 / 5)	
CC-130J-30	<i>(Stretched)</i>		(17 / 17)	deliveries complete
CX-131	<i>Tiltrotor</i>	Canadair	3	CL-84-1. Test aircraft only
CC-132	<i>Dash 7</i>	De Havilland Canada	2	DHC-7 Series 102/103
CT-133	<i>Silver Star</i>	Canadair Lockheed	656 31	CL-30; license-built Lockheed T-33 (T-33AN)
CT-134	<i>Musketeer</i>	Beech	25	<i>Musketeer</i> C23-19
CT-134A	<i>Musketeer II</i>	Beech	20	<i>Sundowner</i> C23
CH-135	<i>Twin Huey</i>	Bell	50	Model 212 (U.S. designation: UH-1N)
CH-136	<i>Kiowa</i>	Bell	74	Model 206A (U.S. designation: OH-58A)
CC-137	<i>Boeing 707</i>	Boeing	5	Model 707-347C
CC-138	<i>Twin Otter</i>	De Havilland Canada	(9 / 4)	DHC-6-300
CH-139	<i>Jet Ranger</i>	Bell	(14 / 0) (12 / 12)	Model 206B-III leased aircraft at 3 CFFTS
CP-140	<i>Aurora</i>	Lockheed	(18 / 10)	Model 285B (U.S. designation: P-3 <i>Orion</i>)
CP-140A	<i>Arcturus</i>	Lockheed	3	Model 285L (U.S. designation: P-3 <i>Orion</i>)
CC-141	<i>Starlifter</i>	Lockheed	N/A	C-141; order was cancelled and planned designation was never re-used
CC-142	<i>Dash 8</i>	De Havilland Canada	2	DHC-8-102
CT-142	<i>Dash 8</i>	De Havilland Canada	(4 / 4)	DHC-8-102; heavily modified Navigation trainer variant
CH-143	<i>BK 117</i>	Eurocopter (MBB)	1	BK 117A-3D; leased aircraft
CC-144A	<i>Challenger-600</i>	Canadair	(12 / 1)	CL-600/600S

CE-144A	<i>Challenger-IEST</i>	Canadair	5	CL-645 (based on CL-600S); IEST = Interim EW Support Trainer
CP-144A	<i>Challenger-CP</i>	Canadair	N/A	CL-646 (based on CL-600S); CP = Coastal Patrol; program cancelled
CX-144A	<i>Challenger-X</i>	Canadair	1	pre-production prototype based on CL-600S
CC-144B	<i>Challenger-601</i>	Canadair	(4 / 0)	CL-601-1A
CC-144B	<i>Challenger-604</i>	Bombardier	(2/ 2)	CL-604
CC-144B	<i>Challenger-650</i>	Bombardier	(2/ 2)	CL-650
CE-144B	<i>Challenger-ARS</i>	Canadair	1	based on CL-600S; ARS = Airborne Receiver System (for ELINT gathering)
CE-144C	<i>Challenger-EST</i>	Canadair	N/A	based on CL-600S; EST = EW Support Trainer; project cancelled
CT-145	<i>Super King Air</i>	Beech	(2 / 2)	<i>King Air</i> 200; leased aircraft at 8 Wing
CT-145A	<i>King Air</i>		(7 / 7)	<i>King Air</i> C90A; leased aircraft at 2 CFFTS
CH-146	<i>Griffon</i>	Bell	(100 / 84)	Bell Model 412CF
CT-146	<i>Outlaw</i>		(12 / 9)	ex-CF now leased aircraft at 3 CFFTS (9+3 spares)
CH-147D	<i>Chinook</i>	Boeing-Vertol	(6 / 4)	BV-173 (U.S. designation: CH-47)
CH-147F	<i>Chinook</i>	Boeing-Vertol	(15 / 15)	CH-47F; deliveries now complete
CH-148	<i>Petrel</i>	European Helicopter Industries	35 / 0	EH 101 (Anti-Submarine Warfare variant); order cancelled
CH-148	<i>Cyclone</i>	Sikorsky	(28 / 20)	H-92; delivery; acceptance delayed; interim block a/c in service; deliveries ongoing
CH-149	<i>Chimo</i>	European Helicopter Industries	(15 / 0)	EH 101 (Search and Rescue variant); order cancelled
CH-149	<i>Cormorant</i>	European Helicopter Industries	(15 / 14)	EH 101 Series 511 (Search and Rescue); similar, but not identical to original <i>Chimo</i> version

CC-150	<i>Polaris</i>	Airbus	(5 / 5)	A310-304/304F
CC-150(T)			2	2 of 5 aircraft converted to tankers; 4 of 5 aircraft in combi-configuration 1 aircraft in VIP configuration
(151...154)	(not yet assigned)			
CT-155	<i>Hawk</i>	BAE	(22 / 19)	<i>Hawk 115</i> ; leased aircraft
CT-156	<i>Harvard II</i>	Raytheon/ Beech	(26 / 26)	T-6A-1 <i>Texan II</i> ; leased aircraft
(157...159)	(not yet assigned)			
CU-160	<i>Eagle</i>	IAI/EADS	1	<i>Eagle-1</i> UAV; leased vehicle
CU-161	<i>Sperwer</i>	SAGEM	31	<i>Sperwer</i> UAV
CU-162	<i>Vindicator II</i>	Meggitt	30+	<i>Vindicator</i> UAV
CU-163	<i>Altair</i>	General Atomics	1	<i>Altair</i> UAV; leased vehicle
-(164)	(not yet assigned)			
CU-165	<i>Scan Eagle</i>	Boeing-Insitu	leased	<i>Scan Eagle</i> UAV leased for various ops
-(166)	(not yet assigned)			
CU-167	<i>Silver Fox</i>	Advanced Ceramics Research	9	<i>Silver Fox</i> UAV
CU-168	<i>Skylark</i>	ELBIT	10	<i>Skylark</i> mini-UAV
CU-169	<i>Maveric</i>	Prioria	60	Hand-launched micro-UAV
CU-170	<i>Heron</i>	IAI	5	<i>Heron</i> UAV; leased vehicle
CU-171	<i>Super Hauler</i>	Bruce Tharpe Engineering	1	CFSAS test vehicle
CU-172	<i>Blackjack</i>	Insitu / Boeing	5	RQ-21A <i>Blackjack</i> UAV
CU-173	<i>Raven</i>	AeroVironment Inc	15	RQ-11 <i>Raven B</i> hand-launched mini-UAV
(174)	(Either not yet assigned or unknown)			
CU-175	<i>Puma AE II</i>	AeroVironment Inc	?	<i>Puma AE II</i> hand-launched mini-UAV

CU-176	<i>Gargoyle</i>	UMS Skeldar (Saab Group)	3?	Skeldar rotary-wing UAV being trialled by RCN
CC-177	<i>Globemaster III</i>	Boeing	(5 / 5)	C-17A
CH-178		Mil	6 4	Mi-8T; leased aircraft from Skylink Mi-17-V5 (Mi-8TV5); Special Forces variant
(179 - 187)	(not yet assigned)			
CF-188A	<i>CF-18 Hornet (single-seat)</i>	McDonnell Douglas	(98 / 59)	Model 267A (U.S. designation: F/A-18A <i>Hornet</i>)
CF-188B	<i>CF-18 Hornet (dual-seat)</i>	McDonnell Douglas	(40 / 18)	Model 267B (U.S. designation: F/A-18B <i>Hornet</i>); original planned designation was CF-188D (<i>CF-18D</i>)
CC-295	<i>Kingfisher</i>	Airbus Industries	(16/1)	CASA-295W; on order; first delivery in Sep 2020

Colour Keys:

In Service	Retired from Service	Not Assigned
	Program / Project Cancelled	

REFERENCES

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- <http://www.designation-systems.net/non-us/canada.html>
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