

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News 10 Jan 2023

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com to let me know you didn't get your copy.

Newsletter online. This newsletter and previous editions are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.vancouvergunners.ca and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>. Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars

The **2023 Army Gala. May 6, 2023**, at the Sheraton Wall Centre

Commemoration Cyprus 2024 – see poster section

Jan 11 Wed 'Zoom' meeting

Jan 18 **First Lunch**

RUSI Vancouver speaker - *The history of NORAD and current updates*

Jan 25 Wed 'Zoom' meeting

Jan 28 78th Fraser Highlander's Garrison Burn's Supper - see poster section

Wednesday Lunch – Jan 18, 2023

Our first Wednesday lunch since the COVID virus shut everything down, will be held in the 15th Field Artillery Regiment Officers' Mess on **Wednesday Jan 18**, followed by Dr Jim Boutilier's presentation in the lecture room, sponsored by RUSI Vancouver. The subject of the presentation is "*Canada, International Security and the Indo-Pacific Region.*" The intension currently is to hold these lunches monthly in conjunction with a speaker series.

Lunch will consist of Roast Beef (Sirloin Tip), mashed potatoes (with gravy), mixed carrots and peppers with a small selection of desserts. The bar will be open as usual. Lunch will be restricted to 30 attendees. (If there is a good response that limit may be raised to 40.)

Lunch starts at **1200hrs**, Keith's presentation in the lecture room at **1330hrs**

Cost will be \$25 per person. **Reservations and payment in advance is required.**

Those wishing to attend must RSVP to dgfoster60@gmail.com and confirm their attendance by **prepaying** for their lunch tickets by 13 January. ePayment may be made to:- 15rca100th@gmail.com

For further information, contact HLCol Don Foster at (604)809-6242 or dgfoster60@gmail.com

RUSI Vancouver Presentation – 18 January 2023

RUSI Vancouver will hold its first event since the start of the pandemic as we all try to return to normal (with precautions). There will be a catered lunch at the Bessborough Armoury Officers' Mess, starting at noon, followed by a presentation at 1330hrs. Our presenter, Professor Jim Boutilier, has cancelled for health reasons so our President, Keith Maxwell, will step in with a presentation on the history of NORAD including plans for a major upgrade of NORAD's sensors, communications and weapons systems to maintain its capabilities for another generation.

Col Keith Maxwell OMM CD



Col Keith Maxwell is the President of RUSI Vancouver. His military career began in the Militia in 1968. Two years later he joined the PPCLI and was subsequently commissioned in 1973. After transferring to the Air Force in 1977 he served in a number of NORAD posts. Col Maxwell flew as AWACS crewmember for 15 years carrying out intercept operations against Soviet flights into North American airspace on many occasions. After serving in three NORAD Regional HQs, he was subsequently posted to NORAD HQ in Colorado as Director of the Air Defence Operations Centre. While at HQ NORAD he served in the NORAD Command Post providing strategic and tactical early warning of SCUD missile launches from Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War. Following this Col Maxwell joined Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), in Mons, Belgium as the Chief of Air Command & Control. He retired in 1998, joining the NATO International Staff in Air Command and Control Policy and Technology. Col Maxwell has a History degree from the University of Manitoba and graduated from the Canadian Forces Staff School, the US Air Force Air War College and the CF Senior Defence and Security Studies Program. He was appointed as an Officer in the Order of Military Merit (OMM) in 1989 while serving at Alaskan NORAD Region.

RUSI Vancouver Members

As we renew activities for RUSI – Vancouver coming out of the pandemic, I look forward to seeing you in person. It's been a long time! As you know, the lunches at the Bessborough Armoury are back on, initially as a monthly event. That may improve to twice monthly or weekly as circumstances progress. We'll keep you informed through Bob Mugford's excellent newsletters. I hope to see you on January 18th for lunch and Jim Boutilier's presentation on security in the Indo-Pacific region. Most of you are familiar with Jim and this promises to be a great event to get us moving again. Book your seat early for this – there is limited attendance.

We're in the process of planning a field trip, as was mentioned in an earlier communication. The destination in CFB Comox and the timing is either late February or March. The plan is to travel

individually or using car pooling and rendezvous at the parking lot at the base main gate. We would then be met by a base representative for a tour of the Base and a briefing on their activities and missions. The trip would also include a visit to the Comox Air Force Museum.

Logistics – The sailing time for the ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo is an hour and forty minutes. We will aim for the 10:40 ferry; that will get us to CFB Comox around 2 PM. We can make group bookings at a reasonably priced hotel in downtown Courtenay and gather for a group dinner at a restaurant within walking distance of the hotel. The Museum opens at 10 AM for those who would like to visit, and we would make our way home on our own. We will need a list of those attending the trip well in advance for security purposes. If you are interested in attending this trip, please let me know as soon as possible at – kdmaxwell@gmail.com

We will look at additional activities as time progresses, including guest presentations and a possible field trip to the Navy in Esquimalt. More on all that as time progresses.

Best to all for 2023.

Keith Maxwell, OMM, CD

Colonel (Retired) President, RUSI–Vancouver

Over a Decade Ago, the Army Had a Plan to Rebuild. It Went Nowhere

Canada is still standing in line for equipment it planned to buy 12 years ago.

Murray Brewster · CBC News · Jan 07, 2023



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau gestures while visiting NATO troops at Adazi Military Base in Latvia in 2018. (Roman Koksarov/The Associated Press)

Ottawa is a city of plans. Many plans. Sometimes you find there are plans to have a plan. But as the old Scottish poem says, "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men often go awry." More than a decade ago, as Canada's war in Afghanistan was grinding to its conclusion, a plan was drawn up to rebuild, refresh and re-equip the army for the future. It withered and died over several years — a victim of changing defence fashions, budgets, inter-service and inter-departmental bureaucratic warfare and political indifference. Parts of the plan were resurrected, but in true bureaucratic fashion, those elements have languished somewhere in the dark recesses of the Department of National Defence and Public Services and Procurement Canada. Several of the key weapons systems in the 2010 plan — ground-based air defence, modern anti-tank systems and long-range artillery — are among the items the Liberal government is now urgently trying to buy, just as other allied nations also scramble to arm themselves against a resurgent Russia. In November, a senior defence planner told a conference that it could take up to 18 months to land some of the less complex items on Ottawa's wish list. In the meantime, Canadian troops in Latvia staring across the border at a wounded, unpredictable Russian Army will have to make do — or rely on allies.



Chief of the Defence Staff Gen Wayne Eyre arrives to appear before the House of Commons standing committee on National Defence in Ottawa on Oct. 18, 2022.

(Sean Kilpatrick/The Canadian Press)

Gen Wayne Eyre, chief of the defence staff, said in an interview with CBC News broadcast this week that the new equipment "cannot arrive fast enough." The military is looking for ground-based air defence systems to guard soldiers against attack helicopters, low-flying jets and missiles. It's seeking anti-tank weapons like the US-made Javelin, which the Ukrainians have used to deadly effect against the Russians. It's trying to source better electronic warfare systems and weapons to counter bomb-dropping drones. The urgency of Eyre's remarks points to the obvious question: If there was a plan to buy some of this equipment, what happened to it? Former Conservative defence minister Peter MacKay signed off on the proposal to reconstitute the army post-Afghanistan and set in motion a series of plans. He launched procurement projects for medium-sized fighting vehicles — the kind the US is now supplying to Ukraine to beat back the Russian invasion. Also on MacKay's shopping list were ground-based air defence systems, anti-tank weapons and long-range rocket artillery systems such the US HIMAR — another donated weapon Ukrainian troops have used to help stem the onslaught. "It was quite a robust, detailed plan with short-, medium- and long-term goals," MacKay told CBC News in an interview. "The close combat vehicle (CCV) was a big part of that ... There was obviously a need to replace and complement some of the long-range artillery that we use in Afghanistan."

Defence Minister Peter MacKay addresses troops at Kandahar Airfield as Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan ended in July 2011.

(Murray Brewster/The Canadian Press)



Former army commander and LGen Andrew Leslie, who also served as a Liberal MP between 2015 and 2019, was one of the authors of the 2010 rebuilding proposal. He said it was meant to cover gaps the military had seen develop during the counter-insurgency war in Afghanistan. "This was not something that was dreamt up in isolation. They were planned, programmed and sequenced [for delivery] between the year 2010 up to around 2020," Leslie told CBC News. "I kind of wish that people had followed through." Within a year of agreeing on the plan, Leslie moved on from the army commander's job and then out of the military. MacKay was shuffled to the justice minister's portfolio. Another champion of the proposal, former chief of the defence staff Gen Walt Natynczyk, retired around the same time. After 2013, MacKay said, "the plan seemed to get picked apart, and almost put to one side. So it never came to fruition." He said that while the current Liberal government, in its 2017 defence policy, resurrected some elements of the

proposal, the proposal is mostly "sitting there on a shelf somewhere, unfortunately." The last major element of the proposal — the purchase of 108 close-combat vehicles — was cancelled by the Conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper in late 2013. The chief of the defence staff at the time, the now-retired General Tom Lawson, said that the "Canadian Armed Forces do not procure capabilities unless they're absolutely necessary to the attainment of our mandate."



Retired LGen Andrew Leslie says federal governments have gotten good at deflecting blame for failures in military procurement. (Chris Wattie/Reuters)

The attitude of 'we're not going to buy it unless it's absolutely necessary' has been shared by both Liberal and Conservative governments since the end of the Cold War, said MacKay. While he said the government's pursuit of a balanced budget at the time was a worthy one, rebuilding military capacity is

seldom a government priority in peacetime — even when it makes sense. It's one of the reasons the Canadian Army went into a desert war in Afghanistan wearing green camouflage fatigues and in unarmoured vehicles. Leslie has become decidedly jaded about politicians' promises to restore the armed forces to fighting strength. "Liberals and Conservatives both have found a neat trick of telling Canadians that they are increasing defence spending, that the capabilities are on the horizon, but then somehow never getting around to fine-tuning the various procurement systems so that the money gets out the door," he said. When those procurement systems fail to deliver the goods, Leslie said, the politicians say, "Hey, we told them they could have their money. They just couldn't spend it in time." "And of course," he added, "at the end of the year, the cycle [of handing back unspent money to the federal treasury] starts. "You know, after 20 to 25 years of this, you begin to suspect that it's deliberate."

Politics aside, MacKay said the system itself is to blame. "There is a competing and almost intractable attitude between departments like public works that want to somehow design a perfect, impenetrable contract that will stand up against any challenge," MacKay said. "The Department of Industry Canada wants every nut and bolt and washer made in Canada. And of course, not surprisingly, the Canadian Armed Forces want the very best possible equipment that sometimes isn't there on the shelf, and certainly takes time to build and procure." And not everyone agrees on what the military really needs — even within the defence establishment itself. Eyre's recent warnings about the precarious geopolitical climate are "probably a little overstated," said Lawson, who suggested his successor was simply doing his job and advocating for the military. "There is something else at play here that is really grave and important to Gen Eyre," Lawson told CBC's *Power & Politics* this week. "The main responsibility of every chief of defence is ... to make sure that the Canadian military has enough people, the appropriate numbers of people, that they are equipped to an appropriate level and that they are trained and providing the readiness that the government may need."

Retired general Tom Lawson, a former chief of the defence staff, discusses comments current Chief of Defence Staff General Wayne Eyre made in a year-end interview. Plus, the Power Panel debates the possible political implications of holiday travel headaches. Lawson's remarks drew a sharp response from Leslie, who said Russia's invasion of Ukraine is unprecedented and has upended the global order. "The world is now much more dangerous than it's been at any other time during my lifetime," he said. "Far more dangerous than the Cold War. So, I believe Gen Eyre's comments are balanced and reasonable, and I think General Lawson is completely and utterly wrong." What defence expert Dave Perry is struggling to understand is why the equipment the Liberals are scrambling to buy now — the air defence and anti-tank weapons they identified as important in their defence policy five years ago — haven't been purchased already. "There was a series of projects that were funded, and policy approved in [the defence policy document] which was published in the summer of 2017," Perry said. "So I do find it really curious that versions of those are now being pursued on an urgent operational basis for Latvia, when there's been approved projects, with money attached to them, on the books for five and a half years."

Senior defence and procurement officials, testifying before Parliament last year, said they were proud of their record of delivering equipment under the current defence policy. Perry begs to differ and points to the rising pile of unspent capital in the defence budget. "There's urgency now," Perry said. "But I think, in part, Canada ended up in the situation as a result of a lack of urgency in the preceding five-plus years." Leslie takes a more tough-minded view. "I was the army commander for four years at the height of the Afghan war. So I had a front row seat to the various influencers, and their shenanigans concerning defence procurement," he said. "Tragically, it wasn't until Canadians started dying in Afghanistan that a great deal of focus and energy was placed on defence procurement. And the bureaucracy was told in no uncertain terms — woe betide any of you who slowed down programs that caused more soldiers to die because they didn't have the equipment they needed."

Plan To Plug Gaps In NA's Arctic Defence Shield Faces Roadblocks

NORAD is in line for a tech boost — but it won't happen quickly.

Murray Brewster · CBC News · Jan 04, 2023



Russian paratroopers conduct an Arctic exercise on April 25, 2020. Russia's military buildup in the region is making the need for a planned upgrade of NORAD's tech even more critical. (Russian Defence Ministry)

Despite the ballyhoo that surrounded last year's announcement, it's becoming clear that the modernization of North American air defence systems — a plan to spend \$4.9 billion over six years — has a long way to go and a number of key technical obstacles to overcome. The Trudeau government announced the long-anticipated NORAD modernization plan back in June during the

run-up to the NATO leaders' summit — a tense gathering where alliance members, sobered by the war in Ukraine, were expected to show how serious they are about defence spending. And the planned air defence upgrade was a key talking point for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Defence Minister Anita Anand and Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly at the NATO summit in Madrid. In the months since, however, some of the challenges facing that multi-billion-dollar defence makeover have become glaringly obvious — especially in Canada. The goal of the modernization programme is to create a layered defence over the Far North that will guard against strategic bombers (the kind NORAD was created to counter more than seven decades ago) but also ballistic, cruise and hypersonic missiles — the kind of weapons we've seen pummeling Ukraine.

Local resident Yana embraces a friend as she reacts outside her mother's house — damaged in a Russian missile strike in Kyiv, Ukraine on December 29, 2022. (Valentyn Ogirenko/Reuters)



According to the plan, Canada and the US want to improve satellite coverage, introduce modern over-the-horizon radar and deploy undersea sensors and surveillance in the Arctic — especially at the so-called "choke points," the ocean entrances to the archipelago Canada claims as its sovereign territory. The good news, according to the Canadian Armed Forces' operational commander, is that the military has a pretty good handle on surveillance in the Far North at the moment, given the modest level of shipping traffic. "Do I have decent domain awareness right now? Yes, I do," said Vice-Admiral Bob Auchterlonie, in charge of Canadian Joint Operations Command. "For example, in the maritime domain there's only about 150 ships that actually transit the North every year. We know every one of them, we track them very well."



A titanium capsule with the Russian flag is seen seconds after it was planted by the Mir-1 mini submarine on the Arctic Ocean seabed under the North Pole during a record dive in 2007. (Association of Russian Polar Explorers/AP)

The challenge — or threat — lies under the ocean surface, particularly under the ice where submarines with ballistic or cruise missiles could lurk. In a year-end interview with CBC News, Auchterlonie said Canada and its allies are always sharing naval intelligence on the whereabouts of adversaries and their major warships, including submarines. And a host of new technology — some of it still under development — is expected to join NORAD's underwater network soon, he said. "I would say that technology has really moved forward in the last number of years. And we're working with our allies, as well as their own defence scientists, to come up with those capabilities to detect adversaries in our waters ... both on the surface and subsurface," Auchterlonie said. The development of that new tech — which could include portable sensor arrays, unmanned ships and unmanned underwater vehicles built to hunt submarines — is taking place in conjunction with the US Navy Fifth Fleet. Last summer, the US Navy's chief of naval operations presented a plan for revitalizing the fleet by 2045. It calls for a fleet of 373 manned ships and 150 unmanned patrol ships, for a total of 523 ships. The navy has asked the US Congress for more than \$250 million US to develop unmanned surface and subsurface ships. Even though building those new weapons systems is a work in progress, Auchterlonie said Canada is keenly following developments.

The Russian navy's missile cruiser Marshal Ustinov sails off for an exercise in the Arctic in January, 2022. (Russian Defence Ministry Press Service/The Associated Press)



That said, he added, Canada and the US could start deploying tech in existence now — such as underwater drones — to protect the North. The war in Ukraine is driving an undeniable sense of urgency in the West over the need to develop new surveillance technology — and Canada has been watching Moscow's moves in the North with growing alarm. "Russia is rebuilding its Arctic military infrastructure to Soviet-era capability," Jody Thomas, the prime minister's national security and intelligence adviser, recently told the House of Commons defence committee. "They had stopped. And they're returning. I think that's interesting. They're continuing their construction in the Arctic despite the economic woes they are experiencing because of their illegal and barbaric invasion of Ukraine." During his visit to Canada's Far North last summer, Jens Stoltenberg, the secretary general of NATO, remarked that the shortest route for Russia to attack North America is through the Arctic. Canadian officials have stated repeatedly that the planned purchase of F-35 stealth fighters and the introduction of modern over-the-horizon (OTH) radar will go a long way toward easing that fear.



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau arrive in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut on Thursday, August 25, 2022. (Jason Franson/The Canadian Press)

Over-the-horizon (OTH) radar systems can locate targets beyond the range of conventional radar. They also draw an enormous amount of energy. Defence scientists are trying to figure out how to power the stations in remote northern locations in an environmentally responsible way. "Due to their extreme size, most OTH radar systems are located in remote areas where access to large amounts of power from the electrical grid is inadequate. Therefore, diesel generators are routinely used," said a Defence Research and Development Canada technical memo written in 2006, when the military was studying the feasibility of the new systems. It warned that, to prevent shutdowns, a two-megawatt generator burning 15,000 litres of diesel fuel per day would be required to power an OTH array. That "leads to a separate problem with continuous fuel supply," said the memo. "Disruptions in fuel supply (say, due to severe adverse winter weather events) could be mitigated by keeping a reserve of fuel for a few days." Perhaps the most immediate and vexing problem facing Canadian officials is the country's rapidly aging chain of government owned RADARSAT Constellation satellites. The federal auditor general warned in November that the satellites could outrun their useful lifespan by 2026.

Two RADARSAT spacecraft are prepared for vibration testing in the MDA facilities in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que. (Canadian Space Agency)



Replacements for those satellites — which are used by several government departments, including National Defence — are still on the drawing board. The current government promised dedicated military surveillance satellites in its 2017 defence policy but — as Auditor General Karen Hogan noted in her recent report — those systems aren't set for launch until 2035. "What we're looking for is for the government to

have a bit of a contingency plan," Hogan told the Commons defence committee on Dec 8, 2022. "What will happen should these satellites reach the end of their useful lives? Right now, the government either buys information commercially or turns to its allies." Nicholas Swale, a senior official in Hogan's office, told that same committee hearing the satellite system is already overtaxed. "There are multiple departments seeking information from these satellites and their needs are currently not being met," he said. In a year-end interview with CBC News, Gen Wayne Eyre, the chief of the defence staff, was asked whether the Department of National Defence will speed up a program to launch dedicated satellites before 2035. "At this point, I don't know," he said. "But we're certainly going to try."

Dues 2023

As of Jan 1, 2023, dues for both the Vancouver Artillery Association and RUSI Vancouver are payable.

Vancouver Artillery Association members:- Dues payments for VAA 2022 are payable on 1 Jan 2022. Dues are **\$35**. Payment may be made by:- etransfers to the treasurer at dj4loney@shaw.ca or by cheque (made to Van Arty Assoc) to:-

Doug Loney
5-10736 Guildford Dr
Surrey, BC V3R 1W6

RUSI Vancouver members:- Dues for 2022 are payable as of 1 Jan 2022. Dues are \$50 for regular members and \$25 for student members. Payment may be made as follows:-

ettransfer to the Treasurer at richmark@telus.net or by mail check (made to RUSI Vancouver) to: –

Richard Dunn
1998 Ogden Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 1A2

Interested in becoming a member of the VAA or RUSI Vancouver?
Email bob.mugford@gmail.com for more information and application form

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

No update this week as the Vancouver Gunner's website has been corrupted with malware.

Our zoom channel will be open on Wednesday from noon at <https://zoom.us/j/6802412956> and the secret passcode is pFPey6. **The host has been informed that there will be a power outage** in his neighbourhood from 1000 – 1400hrs. He will try to open the meeting on his iPhone so be patient. If you don't connect by 1215hrs then he probably couldn't get the meeting up and running. **Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!**

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: The F11F-1F Tiger was a higher performance variant of the US Navy F11F single-seat, single-engine swept wing aircraft carrier-based supersonic fighter Grumman F11F-1F Super Tiger, which the RCAF, German Air Force and the Japanese Air Force evaluated and considered as their new fighter eons ago, but all 3 of them picked the Lockheed F-104 Starfighter instead.



The last two regular production F11F-1 Tigers, Bu. Nos. 138646 and 138647 were completed as F11F-2s, with the standard Westinghouse J65-WE-18 turbojet engine replaced by a more powerful General Electric YJ79-GE-3, which produced 9,300 pounds of thrust (41.37 kilonewtons), or 14,350 pounds (63.83 kilonewtons) with afterburner. The air intakes on each side of the fuselage were longer and had a larger area to provide greater airflow for the new engine. After testing, the fuselage was lengthened 1 foot, 1½ inches (0.343 meters) and an upgraded J79 engine installed. The first “Super Tiger” was damaged beyond repair in a takeoff accident and was “expended” as a training aid for fire fighters.

The US Navy determined that the F11F-2 was too heavy for operation aboard carriers and did not place any orders. The designation was changed from F11F-2 to F11F-1F, and later, to F-11B, although the remaining aircraft was no longer flying by that time. The F11F-1F Tiger is 48 feet, 0.5 inches (14.643 meters) long with a wingspan of 31 feet, 7.5 inches (9.639 meters) and overall height of 13 feet, 10 inches (4.216 meters). The Super Tiger has an empty weight of 16,457 pounds (7,465 kilograms) and maximum takeoff weight of 26,086 pounds (11,832 kilograms). With the YJ79 engine, the F11F-1F has a maximum speed of 836 miles per hour (1,345 kilometers per hour) at Sea Level, 1,325 miles per hour (2,132 kilometers per hour) at 35,000 feet (10,668 meters) and 1,400 miles per hour (2,253 kilometers per hour) at 40,000 feet (12,192 meters). Cruise speed is 580 miles per hour (933 kilometers per hour). It had an initial rate of climb of 8,950 feet per minute (45.5 meters per second) and service ceiling of 50,300 feet (15,331 meters). Range with internal fuel was 1,136 miles (1,828 kilometers).

The Tiger’s armament consisted of four 20 mm Colt Mk 12 autocannon with 125 rounds of ammunition per gun, and four AIM-9 Sidewinder heat-seeking missiles. The single remaining F11F-1F, Bu. No. 138647 (shown in picture), is on static display at the Naval Air Weapons center, China Lake, California. On 18 April 1958, at Edwards AFB, California, test pilot Lt Comd George Clinton Watkins, USN, set a *Fédération Aéronautique Internationale* (FAI) World Altitude Record of 23,449 meters (76,932 feet) with a Grumman F11F-1F Tiger, Bureau of Aeronautics serial number (Bu. No.) 138647. In 1967, RCAF pilot Col Bud White, a frequent attendee at our lunches, set an altitude record of 100,110 feet (20,513 m) in a CF-104A, a record that has not yet been broken!!

This Week: Today’s Canadian officers and non-commissioned members (formerly ORs) might be surprised at how things were done in the past. A few of you may remember batmen (now known as “persons of batness”). These were ORs tasked with helping officers do simple tasks such as donning trousers, adjusting headgear, and figuring out how to open doors, etc. This was necessary, as most officers were gentlemen who had had servants whilst growing up on the estate.



Indeed, those fans of the British politician Jacob Rees-Mogg know that nannies still play an essential role in the bringing up of some of the better-bred. Boris Johnson had no such assistance and look what happened to him!

However, it seems that the farther one got from the centre of the Empire (not Toronto, sadly), the more batmen and other servants proliferated. This was especially true in India, where Indian people, happy to be recipients of British protection and culture, flocked to army camps to assist even the lowliest OR in putting on his socks and brewing his cuppa. Indeed, this was an old tradition in the Sub-Continent, as soldiers were of one of the higher castes (the Kshatriya), and merited copious servants, thus allowing them to focus on the manly task of chopping the opponent's head off with a freshly sharpened tulwar. This practice extended to other parts of the Empire and is exemplified by this week's photo. But, be forewarned, this is not in India. Our questions are these. First, what is the squatting figure doing? Please be respectful in your comments. And, secondly, what is the proud and well-turned-out regiment shown in this shot from the 60s?

If you know the answers, send them to the batman of the editor, Bob Mugford (his batman is Gunner (Ret'd) Bloggs) at bob.mugford@gmail.com, or to the author, himself a retired batman (to his dad), John Redmond at johnd._redmond@telus.net

From the 'Punitary'

Why didn't the nervous rooster cross the road? Down deep he was really a chicken.

Murphy's Other Laws

A little trust goes a long way. The less you use, the further you'll go

Quotable Quotes

People who know little are usually great talkers, while those who know much say little.
Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

No need to worry about COVID-19 when you go digital. Pop into our video lunch **at noon** on Wednesdays and say hi. All you need is a laptop, tablet or smartphone. These sessions are being hosted by the Vancouver Artillery Association and are **open to all – especially those who attended our Wednesday lunches.**

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies.

<https://zoom.us/j/6802412956> and the secret passcode is pFPey6



Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars across mobile, desktop, and room systems. Zoom Rooms is the original software-based conference room solution used around the world in board, conference, huddle, and training rooms, as well as executive offices and classrooms. Founded in 2011, Zoom helps businesses and organizations bring their teams

together in a frictionless environment to get more done. Zoom is a publicly traded company headquartered in San Jose, CA.

Invite 2 friends! We have room for 100! See you on Wednesdays at noon. Bring your own lunch and beverage of choice.

USI(NS) Distinguished Speaker 18 January 2023



The
Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia
presents

Distinguished Speaker

Scott Hatcher

Canadian Coast Guard



**Canadian Coast Guard
Autonomous Systems
and Intelligence, Surveillance and
Reconnaissance Program**

**1 pm Atlantic time, Wednesday, 18 January 2023
via Zoom**

register through RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com

78th Fraser Highlander's Garrison Burn's Supper



Fort Fraser Garrison



I request the company of our Officers, Miladies and Guests at our annual

Garrison Burns Supper

to be held in

The Officers' Mess at Bessborough Armoury,
15th Field Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

Saturday, 28 January, 2023

1800hrs for 1900hrs

Dress: Scarlets, Highland Evening wear, Black Tie or Business Attire
Tariff: \$78 per Person

RSVP to jobarb@shaw.ca or 604-522-5766

ASAP! (before 20 January)

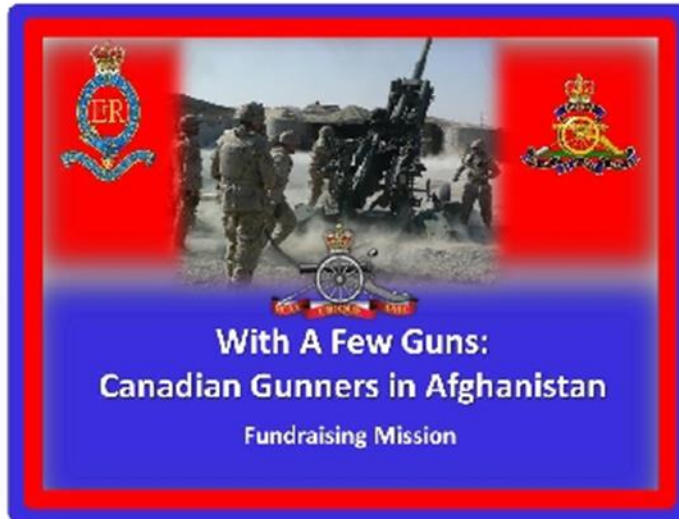
Places will be allocated on the sequence (date & time)
of RSVP emails received at jobarb@shaw.ca
Members have priority, but please RSVP soonest as this event is
usually oversubscribed.

Looking forward to seeing you there

James Barrett, Maj. Officer Commanding

With a Few Guns

“With a Few Guns” Calling For Support! Donate Now!



With a Few Guns will be an accounting of the contribution Canadian Gunners made to operations in Afghanistan from initial deployment in 2002 until withdrawal in March 2014. The book will not be an “official history” but will tell the story of the approximately 3,000 Gunners who served in Afghanistan, Regular Force and Reserves, in any and all positions, in any and all functions, as well as the stories of commanders and supported arms, and Gunner families.

We have three accomplished and exceptional authors:

Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired) Brian Reid

Colonel (Retired) Wolf Riedel

Mr. Mark Zuehlke

We are launching this fundraising initiative to cover expenses and get the book published, while keeping the price affordable. *With a Few Guns* is being written with the backing of the RCA Association, and all donations will be eligible for a tax receipt. Any monies donated in excess of what is needed will remain with the RCAA for support to the causes as espoused by the RCAA.

Our MISSION is to raise \$75,000 (+)

Questions may be directed to: WithAFewGuns@gmail.com

To Donate:

Go to: <https://rca-arc.org/>

Scroll down to: **Donate**

Go to : The Royal Canadian Artillery Association

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Commemoration Cyprus 2024



Commemoration Chypre 2024



Commemoration Cyprus 2024



Mission

...commémorer la contribution du Canada à la mission de l'ONU à Chypre à l'occasion du 50e anniversaire de la guerre de 1974.
...commemorate Canada's contribution to the UN mission in Cyprus on the 50th anniversary of the 1974 war.



WHAT - Cyprus 2024 Pilgrimage.

GOAL - to capture the history and stories from those who served in Cyprus with emphasis on the actions that took place during the 1974 war, **A FORGOTTEN WAR.**

WHEN - November 2024.

WHO - All Cyprus and Canadian Airborne Regiment Veterans and family members.

WHERE - Nicosia Cyprus, lodged at the Hilton Hotel.

COST - Pay as you go trip with individual costs in the \$5000 to 6000 range. Costs covered will include airfare, hotel with breakfast and expenses such as transportation.

TRAVEL - Will be arranged by professional travel agents, with pre and post tour travel options available.

PROGRAM - Seven days: three days of battlefield tours, three days of excursions, and one day of Remembrance.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND UPDATES ARE AVAILABLE BY JOINING THE CYPRUS 2024 FACEBOOK GROUP [Cyprus2024 | Facebook](#)

QUOI - Pèlerinage à Chypre 2024.

OBJECTIF - capturer l'histoire et les récits de ceux qui ont servi à Chypre en mettant l'accent sur les actions qui ont eu lieu là pendant la guerre de 1974, **UNE GUERRE OUBLIÉE.**

QUAND - Novembre 2024.

QUI - Tous les vétérans de Chypre, du Régiment aéroporté canadien et les membres de leurs familles.

OÙ - Nicosie Chypre, logés à l'hôtel Hilton.

COÛT - Voyage à la carte avec des coûts individuels inclus, environ \$5000 et 6000. Les coûts comprendront le billet d'avion, l'hôtel avec petit-déjeuner et les dépenses telles que le transport.

VOYAGE - Sera organisé par des agents de voyage professionnels, avec options de voyage avant et après la réunion.

PROGRAMME - Sept jours: trois jours de visites du champ de bataille, trois jours d'excursions et une journée du Souvenir.

PLUS D'INFORMATIONS ET MISES À JOUR SONT DISPONIBLES EN REJOIGNANT LE GROUPE FACEBOOK CYPRUS 2024 [Cyprus2024 | Facebook](#)

