



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Jan 12, 2016

Newsletter on line. 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>

Wednesday Lunches The 15 Field Officers Mess serves a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal - or a better deal, anywhere. If you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch. Jacket and tie required, equivalent for ladies.

World War 2 - 1940

John Thompson Strategic analyst quotes from his book "Spirit Over Steel"

Jan 14th: General Wavell and Air Marshal Longmore are in Athens for talks with Prime Minister Metaxas and his senior staff. The Greeks want nine British divisions and attendant airpower. Metaxas has got 13 divisions facing the Italians in Albania, and only four manning the defences on the Bulgarian frontier.

Jan 16th: The British are having a hard time getting *Illustrious* mobile again, and 80 Stukas pounce on it in Malta – damaging it and *HMAS Perth* while losing 10 of their own. The ship's bell for *Illustrious* is in the WW2 museum for Malta, and if its appearance is anything to go by, there wasn't a square foot on her exterior that didn't have a bullet or fragment strike it.

Jan 18th: X Fliiegerkorps is back over Malta, and they're after the Island's fighter bases today. The Lion of Judah Banner flies again on Ethiopian soil, Haile Selassie returns home to take to the field against the Italians.

Jan 19th: The British offensive in East Africa is renewed as General Platt takes 4th and 5th Indian Divisions against four Italian divisions in Eretria. *Illustrious* is damaged again in Malta. Hitler and Mussolini meet, and Mussolini says he wants to handle Greece himself, Hitler agrees unless the British start to deploy troops there.

Canadian Military Explored Plan to Fully Integrate Forces with US

Top generals met to discuss possibility of fully integrating Canadian and US militaries

By James Cudmore, CBC News Sep 30, 2015

CBC News has learned that a Canadian military effort to formally create integrated forces with the United States for expeditionary operations included an even more ambitious option — a plan to fully integrate military forces, explored during a meeting with the top generals from the

two countries. The Canadian military efforts were ultimately shut down and refocused on improving interoperability between the forces. Information provided by the Department of National Defence shows the Canada-US Integrated Forces program was led at the highest levels, with then Chief of the Defence Staff Gen. Tom Lawson and the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey (now retired), meeting on "several occasions" to hash out a plan that included an option for "fully integrated forces."



Defence Minister Jason Kenney and Gen. Tom Lawson speak to the media in Ottawa in April. The Defence Department says the government was not part of high-level discussions to integrate Canadian and US forces for missions abroad. (Adrian Wyld/Canadian Press)

On Sept 28, CBC News reported that the Canadian military had been working on a plan to create a binational integrated military force with the US, under which air, sea, land and special operations forces would be jointly deployed under unified command outside Canada. That force was described by a military source as a deliberate arrangement, scaled according to the nature of the conflict it expected to face, with formally established rules for command and control and logistics. Discussion of the plans for an integrated unit was contained in an October 2013 briefing note prepared by the military's Strategic Joint Staff and obtained through access to information. Daniel Proussalidis, a spokesman from the defence minister's office, said in an email to CBC News Monday the document was not presented to the defence minister and the government has not considered its contents. "The government has neither expressed interest in the concept of Canada-US force integration nor directed exploration of it," Proussalidis told CBC News. A Conservative spokesman also said the party had no desire to establish a "standing integrated force." But the new information from the Defence Department shows the planning was deliberate and sustained, and it happened at the highest levels of both forces. Those two comments raise the possibility the plan was being pursued without the specific direction or approval of the Conservative government.

The Defence Department says three different concepts were reviewed:

- Enhancing military interoperability and co-operation.
- Creating an integrated force of specially designated national units to deploy abroad.
- "Fully integrated forces."

A fully integrated force could be politically dangerous in Canada, where there are perennial concerns about the quality of a bilateral relationship described by some as akin to sharing a bed with an elephant. There would also be deep concerns about maintaining national control over the Canadian Forces, particularly as it relates to questions about the use of force and varying interpretations of international law. In the end, the Defence Department says, "Gen. Lawson indicated that Canada was not prepared to field fully integrated land forces at this time." "The two armies do not intend to field formally integrated forces at this time," wrote DND

spokesman Dominique Tessier in an email. "Instead, they are developing the capability to operate together on any mission authorized by the government of Canada. Canada-US co-operation is excellent; we are trying to make it better."

Canada and the United States have long maintained fully integrated air forces in the form of the North American Aerospace Defence command, a binational unit that protects the air approaches to the continent. NORAD commanders are able to deploy and control forces of each other's militaries in pursuit of the goal of common defence. NORAD has also assumed increasing responsibility to provide warning and target information for naval forces that protect the maritime approaches to North America. But those efforts are focused on defence; the integrated forces planning was for expeditionary forces to be deployed on operations overseas. The Defence Department says the planning began as an attempt to maintain the level of interoperability with US forces achieved during the long war in Afghanistan.

German WWII Halftrack Pulled Out of a River

Oct 9, 2015

An amazing find has just been recovered from the river Pilica in central Poland. This looks like it could be driven away. The level of preservation is unbelievable. The Sd. Kfz. 250 (German: *Sonderkraftfahrzeug 250*; 'special motor vehicle') was a light armoured halftrack, very similar in appearance to the larger Hanomag-designed Sd. Kfz. 251, and built by the DEMAG firm, for use by Nazi Germany in World War II. Most variants were open-topped and had a single access door in the rear. The Sd. Kfz 250 was adopted in 1939 to supplement the standard halftrack. Production delays meant that the first 250 did not appear until mid-1941



In 1939, the Inspectorate for Motorized Troops (AHA/In 6) decided that it would be useful for small armored half-tracks to accompany tanks in the attack. They could satisfy requirements for which a larger vehicle wouldn't be needed, such as headquarters, artillery forward observer, radio, and scout vehicles. Demag, the designer of the smallest half-track in service, the Sd.Kfz. 10, was selected to develop the

“light armored troop carrier” (*leichter gepanzerter Mannschafts-Transportwagen*) or Sd. Kfz. 250. The D7 chassis of the Sd. Kfz. 10 was shortened by one roadwheel station, an armored hull (*Panzerwanne*) replaced the sheet steel bodywork and almost every component was specially designed for the D7p, as the armored chassis was designated. Power for the *Sd. Kfz. 250* was provided by a Maybach 6-cylinder, water-cooled, 4.17-litre (254 cu in) *HL 42 TRKM* gasoline engine of 100 horsepower (100 PS). It had a semi-automatic pre-selector transmission with seven forward and three reverse gears.

The US Navy Realizing It May Have to Sink Ships Again in the Future

Repurposing air defense missiles is a step in the right direction.

By Kyle Mizokami Popular Mechanics Dec 3, 2015



The US Navy has a ship-killing problem. The service has, over the past 25 years, neglected the basic mission to sink and destroy enemy ships. Now, with the Russian and Chinese navies on the horizon, the Navy is looking at ways of making its ships more lethal—by repurposing missiles as ship-killers. The problem started with the end of the Cold War. Defense budget cuts in the 1990s slashed the size of the navy, and pushed back a replacement for the venerable Harpoon missile. This was understandable—with the demise of the Soviet Navy, the US Navy had no peer in projecting sea power. 9/11 further shifted priorities. After the attacks in New York and Washington DC, the service shifted towards support of land operations, particularly in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Horn of Africa. Not much need for an anti-ship missile there, either. In the meantime, the rest of the world has not stood still. The Russian Navy is crawling back from starvation budgets of the last twenty years. Russia is an enthusiastic user of naval forces, sending them wherever Russian interests lie, in places like Iran, Syria, and Venezuela.

The biggest concern is China, which has made modernizing air and naval forces the number one defense priority. The People's Liberation Army Navy now totals more than 300 ships of all types, and China's shipyards are continuously cranking out new aircraft carriers, destroyers, frigates, corvettes, submarines, and amphibious vessels. The US Navy is now, belatedly, studying ways to spread anti-ship firepower across the fleet. One answer is to give existing missiles the ability to attack surface vessels—the SM-6 air defense missile, now entering the fleet, is gaining the ability to engage ships. The SM-6 is the latest iteration of the venerable Standard air defense missile that has armed Navy ships for decades. SM-6 is capable of engaging aircraft, ballistic missile, and even cruise missiles, and is even capable of being provided targeting information by E-2D Hawkeyes under the Navy's combat networking system.

Almost all US Navy combat ships will carry the SM-6. SM-6 fits in vertical launch silos on all destroyers and cruisers, and most of these ships have a hundred or more silos. The older Harpoon system had to be carried externally in canister launchers, limiting the number of missiles that could be carried. The SM-6's biggest drawback as a ship-killer? It doesn't have a very large warhead, making it more of a ship-damager. In the 1980s, the US Navy struck a small Iranian patrol boat with five SM-1 missiles, an earlier version of the SM-6, and still failed to sink it. The SM-6 as an anti-ship missile is not a one-missile solution to Navy's anti-ship problem. A larger, purpose-built missile carried in large numbers is still under development. One alternative is a new anti-ship version of the Tomahawk cruise missile; another, the Long-Range Ant-Ship Missile, is a derivative of the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM). For now, though, there's only one active US Navy ship that actually sank another vessel: the 218-year-old USS Constitution.

How Corruption Undermines NATO Operations

DECEMBER 2, 2015 By Karolina MacLauchlan Hilary Hurd

Members and partners must do better at spotting and stopping corruption in the field.

Western policymakers rarely mention “corruption,” “defense,” and “military operations” in the same sentence. Inclined to view state-level corruption as a distinctly third-world phenomenon, they underestimate the risks that it poses both to their defense institutions and their expeditionary operations. But corruption — abuse of entrusted power for private gain — is real, expensive, and dangerous for NATO partner and member states. Not only does defense corruption cost, on average, \$20 billion annually worldwide; it undermines operational preparedness and performance on the ground, as when armed forces find themselves with sub-standard equipment and personnel hierarchy — distorted by a lack of robust hiring and promotion procedures. Over the past year and a half, we at the Defence and Security program at Transparency International ranked NATO member and partner states’ vulnerability to corruption on a scale from A (low risk) to F (critical risk). We found surprisingly high vulnerability across the 32 governments’ military operations, which received, on average, a grade of D.

In Afghanistan, for example, corruption had a corrosive impact on military operations. It undermined the legitimacy of the Afghan government, aided insurgent recruitment, and hollowed out the national military and police forces slated to take over from NATO troops. The International Security Assistance Force, mandated to create sustainable security in the country, undermined its own objectives through its initial inattention to the problem. Now, a year after the end of the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, NATO nations are only marginally better prepared to tackle corruption — and their own contribution to it — during expeditionary operations. Out of the 22 NATO member states, only four – the UK, US, Norway, and Greece – address corruption in their military doctrines. France, which currently deploys over 10,000 troops on operations and trains peacekeeping troops in African countries, has no anti-corruption doctrine. The country received an E grade (“very high risk”) for its vulnerabilities in operations, placing it among NATO’s worst-performing members.

Only five countries – Denmark, Belgium, Greece, Germany and the US– systematically deploy monitors to make sure their own troops and officials are (first) not themselves corrupt, and that they are aware of the possibility of local corruption. Most countries do not have specific guidance for operational contracting; the United States is only country to have carried out a comprehensive review. Generic contracting guidelines, which may or may not take into account the ways in which missions can foster corruption when procuring supplies in theatre, are unlikely to meet troops’ needs during actual deployments. Lack of awareness and preparation for mitigating corruption risks make it likely that mistakes from Afghanistan will be repeated. In order to counteract corruption, armed forces first need to know how to recognize, identify, and report it. The alliance also faces domestic challenges in accountability and transparency. In line with NATO members’ commitment to democracy and human rights, most member states have instituted strong parliamentary accountability systems. Nine member states have overall low corruption risks (a B grade) in their military and defense agencies; the UK was graded as

having very low risks (A grade). Significant gaps in oversight do exist, though. In seven countries, parliamentary oversight is impeded by only aggregated information being made available to parliaments; in only five countries do parliamentarians receive full information on classified spending, including that on intelligence agencies.

However, given NATO members' commitment to increase defense spending to 2% of GDP, perhaps most surprising are gaps in oversight of procurement and protection of whistle-blowers. Such gaps make it harder to attain disciplined, effective spending of defense budgets. While all NATO countries have passed public procurement laws, 17 apparently perform little to no independent oversight of contracts exempted from these procedures under national-security concerns. Only four countries – the US, Bulgaria, Greece and Norway – require that companies bidding for significant contracts institute their own anti-corruption compliance programs and no member state has a comprehensive, robust system of whistle-blower protection. Two countries, Greece and Spain, have applied disciplinary sanctions to whistle-blowers. Even in the UK, which has overall very low corruption risks, only 40% of Ministry of Defence staff trust that the system will protect them if they make disclosures.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is the world's most powerful military and political alliance: six of its members were among the top-15 defense spenders last year, and 10 among the top 20 arms exporters. Its collective military power is peerless and its influence on other countries — through an extensive network of partnerships and tough expeditionary operations — is unmatched. But NATO's credibility and effectiveness depends, in part, on whether its members are prepared to hold themselves to the highest defense accountability standards and to address corruption in the countries where they are engaged

Special Envoy for Military Affairs Appointed in Manitoba

Premier Greg Selinger today appointed Minto MLA Andrew Swan as Manitoba's special envoy for military affairs. "Manitobans owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the courageous men and women who have served so selflessly to protect us here at home and around the world," said Premier Selinger. "Our government also feels very strongly that military families must be supported, which is why we created the position of Manitoba's special envoy for military affairs. I know that Andrew Swan will do an outstanding job of representing the interests of military families who have done so much to preserve the freedoms we all enjoy." Swan has strong connections with the Canadian Armed Forces including being recently appointed to the Regimental Senate of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. His grandfather, James Swan, served as a regimental sergeant major of the Winnipeg Light Infantry during the Second World War.

The premier commended Healthy Living and Seniors Minister Deanne Crothers for her leadership over the last two years in her capacity as the special envoy for military affairs. During this time, a number of supports were put in place to help veterans and their families including making it easier for veterans to transfer their military experience in the skilled trades into civilian jobs and gain Red Seal certification, and introducing Support Our Troops license plates so that Manitobans can show their support for the men and women serving in the Canadian Armed Forces and help fund scholarships for military families.

These built on a number of initiatives the Manitoba government has introduced including:

- passing legislation protecting the jobs of reservists when they are called into service;
- designating the Trans-Canada Highway west of Winnipeg the ‘Highway of Heroes’;
- supporting family resource centres to assist veteran’s families; and,
- extending the right to vote in provincial elections to armed forces personnel serving outside Manitoba.

“I am honoured to serve the interests of military families here in Manitoba and would like to thank Deanne Crothers for the hard work she put into this job for the past two years,” said Swan. Minister Crothers thanked the premier for giving her the opportunity to learn from military families about the supports they need here in Manitoba. “Serving as the special envoy for military affairs has been an absolute privilege and I know that Andrew Swan will continue to build on our government’s support for military families here in Manitoba,” she said.

Whistler/Blackcomb Military discounts

Whistler/Blackcomb offers a Military Discount off the Window Ticket price to all Active duty, reservists, retirees and Dept of Defense civilians across all branches of military. This discount can also be extended to intimate family (spouse and immediate dependents).

To redeem this discount, Military ID must be provided at the window. Any form of Military ID, Coast Guard, Emergency Services ID or paystub would be suitable proof when purchasing at the window. Whistler/Blackcomb is not affiliated with the CFOne program so CFOne cards are not accepted.

The daily rates offered at the window for Military:

Adult (19-64)	Senior (65+)	Youth (13-18)	Child (7-12)
\$97.00	\$64.00	\$60.00	\$34.00

Who is it? **Last Week:** This is a picture of the candidates on the Snr NCO Pt1 course held at Bessborough Armoury in the fall of 1965. There was some confusion about the course and date as I was a L/Sgt at the time but then I recalled that I had been directed by a Senior NCO of the Regt that I had to revert to Bdr for the duration of the course. IDs of candidates we recognise below.



RWestR	Ian Newby	BCR	Al Yelland	KE Casper	Patterson? BCR	RM Rang?	George Hollo	BCR	BCR	SHC
		Bob Mugford	Heinz Winters	RWestR	Eric Tyldesley Gore	RCASC	RCOC	RCEME		

This Week: John is in fine form and back on the job. He is also carrying on the theme we started over the holidays. There are a few people in this week’s picture that have appeared in the last couple of quizzes. See who you can identify. As always, you can email me for a picture you can zoom in on. Bob.mugford@outlook.com

We greet the New Year of the Monkey with some of his close relatives, posing in an undated photo from the deep archival vault of 15th Field Regiment's vast holdings. Indeed, due to heightened security, it is getting more and more difficult to get past the Gurkhas who guard our subterranean storage, but we shall persevere. The gentlemen (one, seated centre front, appears to be an officer, holding his forage cap) are all well-turned out in their comfy "bush" uniforms, looking every bit the ideal Cold War warriors of yore. As "bush" had a life that spanned over two decades, this helps a bit to date the photo, as does the fact that several lads have what appear to be Second World War ribbons.



A few in this photo are familiar faces, but the names escape my ageing brain. The chaps in the front row might now be sadly departed, or potential nominees for "Lost Trails" columns, but those youths in the rear could still be holding up the bar in the mess. So, dear reader, do you recognize these lads (and, my apologies for there being no lasses, but times were different then)? In fact, are you one of them, and do you have any jolly reminiscences of those

days (a date would help us, too)? Let us know, or just drop by the museum of a Wednesday morning and let us record your story (if the Statute of Limitations has meant you are now free to do so).

Send your thoughts to your editor, or to the author, John Redmond (johnd_redmond@telus.net).

By the way, if anyone has a bush cap, in large size, our museum would appreciate its being donated as the one on our mannequin is far too small for his giant egg.

From the 'Punitentary'

A negative person ties himself in knots.

Murphy's other Laws

You are only as wise as other's perceive you to be.

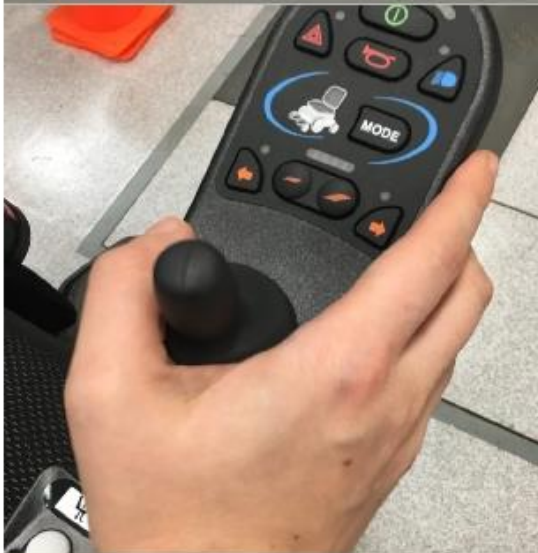
Quotable Quotes

The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually fearing you will make one.

- *Elbert Hubbard*

Stand-To!

Volunteers of your calibre are needed now!



Student researchers from the University of British Columbia Master of Occupational Therapy programme are comparing two different methods of controlling a powered wheelchair to determine if one of them is more intuitive for new users.

We are seeking persons with limited wheelchair experience, aged 60 years or older, for participation for an hour on one of two dates in January.

- ⇒ Wheelchair experience less than 6 months in the past 5 years
- ⇒ Willing to learn new skills

When: 23 or 24 January, 2016

Where: GF Strong Rehab
4255 Laurel Street @ West 26th Avenue, Vancouver

Time: One hours appointments throughout

Other: Please call or email for an appointment:

Emma Smith

778 986 4038

smithem@alumni.ubc.ca

Taste of Singapore Curry Lunch



Hosted by:
*The British Columbia
Regiment
Officers' Mess*



Coordinated by:
*The BC Regiment
(DCO) Association*

Date: Thursday, January 28, 2016

Time: 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(Bar opens at 11:45 am)
(Lunch starts at 12:25 pm)

Location: Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC

Dress: Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)

Price: \$30/person (\$5 discount for those
who confirm attendance by January 18, 2016)

RSVP: For more information or to register, please e-mail
Charlotte Yen at corporate@hplaw.ca
(Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association
No cancellations after January 18, 2016

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, February 25, 2016