

## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News 13 June 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](mailto: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](http://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

**Commemoration Cyprus 2024** – see poster section

**June 14** Van Arty Assoc AGM 1200hrs on Zoom

**June 21** Museum Planning Meeting 0900-1200hrs

RUSI Vancouver AGM 1200hrs on Zoom - at Armoury and on Zoom

**June 28** Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting

### 2023 Support Our Troops Scholarship Program

Ends July 20, 2023 - [See Poster section for details.](#)

### US Army Made 'Significant Improvements' to Its Troubled New IFV

Fighting from the Infantry Squad Vehicle "is not the intended use of the platform," an Army spokesman said. *Jared Keller Task & Purpose May 30, 2023*



*Paratroopers assigned to the Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate prepare to depart for a 50-kilometer road test in a fully loaded Infantry Squad Vehicle (ISV) after modifying airdrop rigging techniques because of structural and mechanical changes made by the ISV's manufacturer.*

*(US Army/Michael Zigmund).*

The US Army is pushing forward with the procurement and fielding

of its new Infantry Squad Vehicle (ISV) assault buggy despite years of documented issues with the platform, the service recently announced. The Army's Program Executive Officer for Combat Support & Combat Service Support (PEO CS&CSS) decided on March 30 that the ISV would officially begin production on a \$214.3 million contract with GM Defense to produce what the service has billed as a "light and agile all-terrain troop carrier." Commissioned to help "motorize" the Army's Infantry Brigade Combat Teams and the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, the ISV is intended as a lightweight asset to provide enhanced mobility and logistics support capabilities to infantry squad, giving maneuver forces greater flexibility across a variety of terrains. Consider it like Uber for infantry squads, capable of zipping soldiers across even the most austere settings to their mission objectives.

Based on the Chevrolet Colorado ZR2 midsize truck, the 5,000-pound truck can haul up to nine soldiers and a total payload of 3,200 pounds, according to the service. The vehicle can be externally sling-loaded by UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters and air-dropped from a fixed-wing C-130 Hercules or C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft. The ISV "is required across the range of military operations conducting crisis response, initial entry, and selected decisive action missions," according to the Army's latest round of budget documents. But during early field testing, soldiers found the vehicle to be too small and not rugged enough to carry an infantry squad fully loaded for combat.

*GM Defense delivers the first Infantry Squad Vehicle to the US Army on Oct. 27, 2020, in Milford, Mich. (GM Defense)*



To date, the Army has already taken delivery of 300 ISVs under the designation M1301 and fielded three brigade sets of 59 vehicles apiece, according to the service, with plans to eventually field 649 ISVs to 11 ICBTs by fiscal year 2025. The service plans on acquiring a total of 2,593 vehicles over the course of the program to replace the M1297 Ground Mobility Vehicle in its arsenal. The Army's fiscal year 2024 budget request calls for the service to spend \$36.22 million on procuring 143 ISVs, down from 197 in fiscal year 2023 and 200 in fiscal year 2022. "Soldier touchpoints, developmental testing, and operational testing have been key elements throughout the ISV program," John Hufstedler, product director for Ground Mobility Vehicles at PEO CS&CSS, said in an April statement. "Leveraging a commercial vehicle and the world-class manufacturing capability of GM Defense has helped compress the time it takes to field a modernized capability meeting infantry soldiers' needs."

The ISV has not had an easy ride from development to full-rate production, however. Two back-to-back analyses from the Pentagon’s top weapons tester revealed major issues with the new vehicle, ranging from the logistics and operational burdens posed by a cramped design to “lack[ing] the capability to deliver effective fires, provide reliable communication, and force protection” to an infantry squad, as one assessment put it. A first critical assessment from the Director, Operational Testing & Evaluation, published in 2021, stated that the ISV “[had] not demonstrated the capability to carry the required mission equipment, supplies, and water for a unit to sustain itself to cover a range of 300 miles within a 72-hour period” in accordance with the Army’s vehicle requirements. “The lack of internal space to carry soldiers with their rucksacks in seats, mission-essential equipment, and sustainment loads may create a logistics and operational burden,” said the report, which covered testing activities during fiscal year 2020. “This limits the type and duration of missions for which an ISV may be effective.”

Indeed, ISVs “are cramped and soldiers cannot reach, stow, and secure equipment as needed, degrading and slowing mission operations,” the report adds, noting that, during a soldier touchpoint testing event, “soldiers on all ISVs could not readily access items in their rucksacks without stopping the movement, dismounting, and removing their rucksacks from the vehicle.” The second, even more scathing assessment of the ISV from the Pentagon’s DOT&E office was published in 2022 and detailed “major failures” including a loss of steering control, cracked and bent seat frames, engine cracks, and overheating that occurred during operations in cross-country and wooded terrain. The ISV “is not operationally effective for employment in combat and ESD missions against a near-peer threat,” the report, which covered testing activities during fiscal year 2021, states. “The vehicle lacks the capability to deliver effective fires, provide reliable communication, and force protection. The rifle company equipped with the ISVs did not successfully avoid enemy detection, ambushes, and engagements during a majority of their missions.”



*The Infantry Squad Vehicle under test at US Army Yuma Proving Ground in February 2021. (US Army/Mark Schauer)*

Nearly two months after receiving details questions in writing from Task & Purpose regarding the ISV’s reliability

and suitability, an Army spokesman finally responded that the service and GM Defense are addressing concerns raised during the first critical DOT&E assessment from 2021. “One of the issues they are tackling is storage space in the ISV. To solve this problem, they added more tie-down locations, identified storage areas, and created tie-down procedures for equipment outside rifle squads,” the spokesman told Task & Purpose in an email. “These efforts will provide Soldiers with more space, better ride comfort and safety, and easier ingress and egress of the

vehicle.” The Army said, “significant improvements” added to the ISV in recent years include “a new rear axle, leaf springs and front steering knuckles and tie rods,” according to the spokesman, who added that service “repeated ISV reliability testing where failures initially occurred for all design improvements and didn’t experience a single system abort.”

As for the more critical 2022 DOT&E assessment, the Army spokesman emphasized that the primary role of the ISV is as a highly mobile troop carrier that reduces the need for infantry rifle squads to cover distances areas on foot, not as an armored fighting vehicle meant for a protracted firefight. “The ISV increases squads’ speed, maneuverability and off-road mobility to avoid or evade threats while squads execute forcible entry and decisive action,” the spokesman said. “There is no requirement for protection or armor; the unit on the ISV is intended to avoid threats where possible.” “Fighting from the ISV is not the intended use of the platform,” he added. “As the risk of contact increases, soldiers and leaders will mitigate the threat by transitioning to a more dispersed dismount fighting posture that maximizes their formation-based capabilities.”

## **Raw Meat and Moon Signs: Inuit Lessons for Soldiers in the Arctic**

DNYUZ June 4, 2023



*The first patrol of Operation Nanook-Nunalivut returning by snowmobile. Their intended plans were thwarted with the appearance of a moon dog on their first night, which the Inuit rangers knew predicted bad weather.*

A moon dog hung low over the horizon. It showed up on the first day of the Canadian soldiers’ patrol, and the Inuit rangers guiding them in the country’s far north spotted it right away: Ice crystals in the clouds were bending the light, making two illusory moons appear in the sky. It meant a storm was coming, despite the forecast of fair weather. The Inuit rangers told the platoon to pitch their tents and hunker down. “If it gets worse, we’re going to be stranded,” said John Ussak, one of the Inuit rangers, recalling how the soldiers wanted to keep going, but backed down. They awoke to a blizzard. Canada is now on a mission to assert its hold on its Arctic territory, an enormous stretch that was once little more than an afterthought. As Russia and China focus greater attention on the region’s military and commercial potential, Canada’s armed forces are under pressure to understand the Arctic’s changing climate, how to survive there and how to defend it. The contest is a global one, with the American secretary of state, Antony J. Blinken, having paid a five-day visit to Northern Europe last week to rally allies against Russian and Chinese ambitions in the Arctic.

Canada's mission to secure the Arctic means relying more heavily on the Inuit, the only people who have lived in this austere part of the world for thousands of years, keeping watch over the country's vast, isolated stretches in the far north. It also means dredging into the country's colonial past, changing hard-wired ways of thinking and undoing generations of mistrust. The Canadian government has a long and ugly history of abusing the Inuit, including misleading families into moving to the High Arctic to cement its hold on the territory during the Cold War and refusing to let them leave. But in recent years, Canada has embarked on a wide-ranging attempt to come to terms with and atone for its colonial history. Efforts to secure Indigenous Canadians' rightful place in the country have filtered through different levels of governments, schools, the arts and business. Canada is also focusing on the most intractable element of post-colonial relationships — people's way of thinking — by emphasizing learning from the Indigenous. On Arctic patrols, that brings practical benefits. "Leaders need to show humility and understand it's more important to acknowledge what you don't know than what you do know," said Maj Brynn Bennett, the army commander who led the patrol in March with the Inuit rangers, part of a military exercise called Operation Nanook-Nunalivut.

Before the soldiers ever landed in Rankin Inlet, the hurdles were clear. Like nearly all other Canadians, most had never been this far north. Military exercises between the Inuit rangers and the army have been held for decades, but the stakes have gotten higher as the world's superpowers vie for pre-eminence in an Arctic made more accessible by climate change. Russia is rapidly building up its military and partnering on commercial ventures with China, as thawing ice provides access to vast natural resources below the Arctic sea floor and unlocks new shipping lanes. Even Canada's closest ally, the United States, disputes Canadian claims of sovereignty over the Northwest Passage. While the exercise took place on uncontested Canadian territory, it is also part of a broader effort to build up Canada's military capacity in the Arctic and to fend off any potential rival claims on the increasingly navigable waterways. The Inuit rangers' advice to delay the patrol — and, more than anything else, Major Bennet's deference to them — not only shielded the seven Inuit rangers and nearly 40 soldiers from a blizzard, but cemented the authority of the Inuit in a region that continues to confound outsiders. It was not always the case.

Around Rankin Inlet, a small subarctic town on the west coast of Hudson Bay, stories passed down for generations speak of Inuit advice and help offered, and refused, by explorers and whalers marooned on Marble Island, about 30 miles off the coast. "My mom talked about it, even though I told her I didn't want to hear about the past, because it really hurts me," said Marianne Hapanak, 51, who has been a ranger for 24 years. "Our elders tried to help the white people," she added. "Why didn't they accept our help?" "Maybe just to act tough?" she said. With about 3,000 people, Rankin Inlet is the second most populated town in Nunavut, a Canadian territory nearly three times the size of Texas with a population of only 40,000 people, most of them Inuit. For centuries, European colonial powers led expeditions in search of a Northwest Passage — a shorter and faster sea route between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through the labyrinth of islands and waterways in Canada's Arctic. In 1905, a Norwegian man, Roald Amundsen — who went to live among the Inuit to learn how to survive in the Arctic — became the first European explorer to cross the Northwest Passage. But some of the doomed efforts, most famously the Franklin Expedition, have become parables of colonial cluelessness: European explorers who

died of scurvy by rejecting the Inuit's vitamin-rich diet of raw meat or after ignoring the Inuit and getting lost.

Harry Ittinuar, 59, a former Inuit ranger who used to run boat tours to Marble Island, grew up listening to stories of outsiders stranded on the island, including James Knight, an 18<sup>th</sup> century English explorer who was shipwrecked with his crew after failing to find the Northwest Passage. "One of the stories I heard, they knew one crew was struggling, so they went over in winter by dog team," said Mr Ittinuar of the Inuit. "When they were able to cross the ice, they offered them help and food, but the sailors refused to eat seal, walrus, whale or caribou, or whatever was offered to them," Mr Ittinuar added. "That was their demise." Some Inuit rangers say they have noticed a change in mind-set among the soldiers coming from "down south." "They're more respectful now," said Mr Ussak, 47, who has been a ranger for two decades. "Our culture is a big part of being a ranger because we teach our knowledge in exercises like this. We teach them what we learned from our ancestors." The Inuit rangers who participated in the recent patrol are among 5,000 Canadian Rangers, part-time reservists in the Canadian Armed Forces. Above the tree line where it gets too cold for trees to survive, most of the rangers are Inuit.

With Canada's military refashioning its relations with the Inuit by tapping into local knowledge, Canadian soldiers are heading north better prepared for the patrols, according to Inuit rangers. Jack Kabvitok, 83, an Inuit who served as a ranger in the 1990s, recalled how soldiers occasionally arrived without the proper gear for temperatures that drop to minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit in winter. "They didn't want to shoot their rifles because they didn't want to touch the steel," Mr Kabvitok said. "They didn't have coats or boots for up here. When they were few, we could deal with them. We would give them our clothes because we carry extra clothes all the time when we go hunting." Before their patrol, the soldiers trained at Petawawa, a base in Ontario. They practiced driving snowmobiles and built traditional Inuit sleds called qamutik. Despite an unusually brutal cold snap at the Ontario base, landing in Rankin Inlet was a shock to some. "There's winter all over Canada, and you think you know it until you come to a place where you don't see any trees, just tundra," said Cpl Simon Cartier, 30, from Montreal. "And if it wasn't for the buildings, you'd probably feel like you're on another planet."

At their base in Rankin Inlet, the soldiers spent a day fixing their qamutiks, which the Inuit rangers immediately noted were inadequate for the subarctic. As the soldiers and Inuit rangers headed out on their five-day patrol, the weather, at least, looked favorable. "We thought we were going to have good weather for the week based on the forecast," Major Bennett said. But on the first day, a soldier had to be evacuated after slipping and twisting an ankle. Continuing problems with the qamutiks forced the soldiers and Inuit rangers to set up camp about midway to their destination, in Chesterfield Inlet, a hamlet 60 miles northeast. Then later that evening, the moon dog, a rare optical illusion, emerged low over the horizon. When the Inuit rangers woke up the next morning — to the blizzard that made it impossible to see beyond 600 feet — they also saw a sun dog, a similar optical phenomenon that often precedes bad weather. The oldest and most experienced Inuit ranger, Gerard Maktar, 65, and Mr Ussak went to a morning briefing with the army leaders. Mr Ussak said he met some pushback when he advised the soldiers to stay put until the weather cleared. Lt Erica Rogers, 29, a soldier from Toronto, acknowledged that there was initial

skepticism of the warning from the Inuit rangers. “We were going, well, it’s not that cold, we can still go out — if we were back in Petawawa, we would go out,” she said.

The delay prevented the soldiers from reaching their destination, but Major Bennet considered the patrol a success. His soldiers learned much from the Inuit, including building igloos, deciphering the meaning of snowdrifts, ice fishing, hunting and butchering caribou — and observing the moon dog and sun dog. He added that his advice to the commander of the patrol after his was “Listen to Gerard” — referring to the elder Inuit ranger. At the height of the Cold War in the 1950s, the Canadian government asserted its presence in the Arctic, not by listening to the Inuit, but by using them as human pawns. Officials misled 92 Inuit into relocating far away from families and long-established communities to uninhabited areas in the High Arctic where they found little food, 24-hour darkness in winter and an unfamiliar life that contributed to depression and alcoholism. The Inuit rangers in the patrol said they believed that the joint mission would help Canada’s defense of its great north, though they said they did not want to be embroiled in a larger conflict. “I wouldn’t want to go to war,” Ms Hapanak said. Even as Canada tries to up its game in the Arctic, Ms Hapanak observed that the soldiers had a lot to learn — a point made clear with the start of the second patrol, a new group of 36 Canadian reservists and 10 British rangers.

As novices, they drove their snowmobiles slowly, taking more than three hours to reach a shooting range only six miles north of the base. One soldier had flipped on the side. The soldiers started pitching their tents as it became clear they would have to set up camp just on the outskirts of Rankin Inlet. “Boring!” said Ms Hapanak, who had hoped to make more headway. The Inuit rangers killed time. Mr Maktar sculpted a miniature igloo out of the hard snow. Two bulky, middle-aged men played tag. Ms Hapanak singled out one British ranger who was wearing a light coat and kept making big, rapid circles with his arms to stay warm. “I tried asking him, ‘Where’s your big coat?’” Ms Hapanak said. “‘I’ll be good,’ he said.” “Trying to act tough, I guess.”

## **Swords, Mudlarking and Druids**

*Neil Burridge from a Radio New Zealand broadcast 13 July 2022*



*Photo: Neil Burridge*

Bronze-age swordsmith Neil Burridge recreates the quality and the elegance of ancient swords, originally used by soldiers between 1600 BC and 600 AD. Burridge has been bringing Bronze

Age swords, spears and tools alive for 20 years, making modern replicas of museum pieces and mudlark's finds. He has cast about 500 sword blades and has a series on YouTube called Sword Corner. People turn up fragments of old swords all the time, he tells Kathryn Ryan. "The sword, broken up 2000 years ago, get spread apart and are buried and thrown in rivers and all kinds of things. "The pieces survive quite well. Whereas you bury something made iron 3000 years ago, and you'd be very lucky to find anything. So, particles of swords, travel down through time very well. And hence, there's lots of fragments of swords being found. During the summer, I'd say a piece of a sword is found every week."

From these fragments, he can then recreate how it would have looked, he says. "Most swords fall into certain type categories, and you can replicate them by just looking at the books if you can find a fragment. There's a German series of books and it catalogues every bronze sword ever found in Britain." Swords were the pinnacle of technology in the Bronze Age but also became an art form, Burridge says. "They developed like all military technologies; the fastest development is always in warfare." Swords were originally made from copper, he says. "The idea of bigger and bigger blades starts to be pushed on the bronze smith and it's the introduction of tin that changes blades from being copper to bronze. "Bronze is much stronger, a more resilient material."

The swords of that time would typically be about 12 inches long, he says. "So, they never get staggeringly huge until the very end, when they sort of fully develop as swords and then iron swords come in and sort of replicate them." The bronze smith worked with technology developed by potters, he says. "All early bronze working is based on what they could do from pottery manufacture ... the first crucibles they were making out of clay and then making the first molds in either stone or clay. "It just takes a little while for all that technology to join together and form more and more sophisticated methods until they get to the end of the Bronze Age and then they start smelting iron and hammering solids out rather than casting them." Bronze is an amalgam of copper and tin, he says. "By sheer chance I live in Cornwall, so there's tin here, it's a very rich, rare metal there are rich deposits in Cornwall and it's very rare in Europe. So, you basically have to melt your copper and tin." You need a temperature of over 1100 centigrade, he says. "Earlier metalworking with copper was probably even higher temperatures again, just to get the liquid to run in the molds."

Despite working as a smith for 20 years, he is still amazed at the skill displayed by the original makers. "I sometimes see stuff in the museums, and I think, how did they do that? It is so amazing. Quite often people say oh, you're the expert, but I feel like I've only scratched sort of two or three out of 10 on the Bronze Age scale of 10." Bronze Age swords were light, he says. "The blades are very, very swift. We see too many Hollywood films where they're attacking each other and bashing the blades together and beating on each other shields, it's kind of nonsense because if you were fighting, the last you want to do is smack your sword against somebody else's sword because it'll break the edge of it. "So, you'd use the side of the sword if you had to parry and you wouldn't be trying to hit the shield, you'd be trying to sort of basically put a hole in your opponent."



## Vancouver Gunners Website Update

### **Yorke Island One Day Adventure**

Are you interested in flying to Yorke Island on a Saturday? We still need to confirm a date but here's some information to check out.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yorke-island-one-day-adventure>

### **Vancouver Artillery Association Annual General Meeting**

Join us on 14 Jun 2023 at 12:00 Noon as we hold our Annual General Meeting via Zoom. We can use my Zoom link for the AGM <https://zoom.us/j/710845848> Password:- Ubique

You can join the HD Video Meeting by simply using the link above on your computer Zoom program or dial in on your phone 778 907 2071 Meeting ID: 710 845 848

### **Museum Planning Meeting 21 June 2023**

A morning planning meeting will be held from 0900h to 1200h at the Bessborough Armoury on Wednesday, 21 June. We will be discussing the near term (2023) as well as some much longer term possibilities, suggestions, plans and projects for our regimental museum. Participation of current volunteers, and also those that wish to assist the museum in the future, is welcome and we look forward to a very productive and useful morning discussion.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/museum-planning-meeting>

### **Shilo Artillery Reunion 29 June to 2 July 2023**

You can find some more details on the linked page.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/rca-reunion>

### **Wednesday Lunch**

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies. Click on this link:- This is a new link! <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71810323784?pwd=ehLJDhj9zIqI0HvnBIMCYmw0p6ZDwe.1> or

use <https://zoom.us/j/71810323784> or use Meeting ID 718 1032 3784 and the secret passcode is 6L6qz0 (fourth digit is a lower case Q and the last digit is a Zero) **Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe! No lunch meeting this week or next as the VAA and RUSI AGMs are being held at that time. Meetings resume on June 28**

## Who (or What) Is It?

**Last Week:** The final days of the Third Reich saw some truly remarkable aircraft fly in a desperate attempt to stem the inevitable defeat. But perhaps few offered as much potential as the **Junkers Klf 255**. This aircraft's roots were based in its inventor, Helmut von Klagenfurt, witnessing the destruction of German aircraft by Allied fighters as they were trying to take off on several occasions throughout the latter half of 1944. Klagenfurt was a researcher at the Institute of Aerodynamic Research at the University of Göttingen and an expert in aerodynamics, apparently working on several Luftwaffe types throughout the war as part of various programs.

Seeing the effectiveness of Allied airpower in preventing German fighters getting airborne convinced Klagenfurt that a radical solution had to be found. In short, he recognised that using a conventional airfield was now far too dangerous.



Klagenfurt envisaged using a rocket launched interceptor that would use a rail-mounted trolley as a launch platform. The aircraft would be stored in an underground bunker or cave, where it could be fueled and armed, and then take the pilot on board. To launch, the aircraft would fire its rocket motors and accelerate out of its protected hanger along a length of rail track, with Klagenfurt calculating that 500 metres (1,640 feet) of track

being sufficient. This would be far more discreet and easier to repair than a conventional runway. The rail launch would enable the rocket interceptor to get airborne in a matter of seconds, at which point the trolley could be winched back into the tunnel for taking on another interceptor. All of this would minimise the amount of time the interceptor was exposed to attack and mean the “airbase”, if that’s the right term, was immune from being destroyed. It was also thought that the process could be very rapid, with a single track having the potential, with the right handling apparatus, of conducting three launches in a minute.

The Aircraft was a canard design so the pilot lay prone in the pressurized nose capsule to help compensate for G-forces he would experience in the rapid climb to intercept. Armament was two of the formidable MK 108 30mm cannon, though its possible the aircraft might have taken 50mm MK 112 or 55mm MK 115’s instead, though no armament was fitted in the prototype, the Klf 255 V1. Propulsion was supplied by a Walther HWK 109-509 A-2 rocket engine that produced a maximum thrust of 3,800lbf. This engine was able to be switched to a lower cruise setting once take off and zoom to altitude was achieved, and the engine had an estimated seven minutes of burn time in combat conditions. The internal motor was supplemented by four solid-fuel rockets that produced almost 4,000lbf each and burnt for four seconds before jettisoning off the airframe. On 1 of April, 1945 the aircraft was ready for its first test flight and the test pilot, Major Spaßen, was sealed inside. The take off was successful but the aircraft then went out of control and crashed. That was the end of the program.

**This Week:** Since this column started many years ago, we have relied upon our readers to supply us with some of the interesting photos of vehicles, ships, aircraft, and weapons that have featured here. This always ensures that at least one person is able to identify the object given in each quiz, although, with failing memories, this might not continue. A key contributor, Major Joop Spander Plank, KCB, KCMG, late of the Leutonian Light Infantry, has been a key supplier of oddball items since his appearance in the mess in 2015. A man of many hats, it was he who convinced the mess committee to invest all their funds in crypto currency, and raised from the members, thousands of dollars to help disabled orphans, widows, and puppies, victims of Communist oppression in his homeland (or was it fascist oppression?).

Sadly, Major Spank der Plank seems to have gone somewhere that seems to have neither post nor internet; possibly he is off to help the struggling people of his great land. His mess bill, which has reached impressive figures, will be paid, we are sure, once he returns. We are also confident our crypto currency investments are secure, returning the promised 1,000% per month. Nonetheless, he did leave this photo of an armoured something, either a tank-like SPG, or an SPG-like tank, or something else. Anyway, we know it isn't a drone, nor a 1973 Toyota Corolla. Otherwise, we know nothing at all about this item.



Can you help us? If so, contact the editor, Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com)), or the author, John Redmond ([johnd.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd._redmond@telus.net)). And, if you are in touch with our Leutonian friend, please contact the local RCMP detachment. Finally, if anyone has a map showing where Leutonia is, please send it to us.

### **From the 'Punitary'**

Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? The food is good, but it has no atmosphere.

### **Murphy's Other Laws**

Amateurs talk tactics, professionals talk strategy, but winners talk logistics.

### **Quotable Quotes**

Life begins at the end of your comfort zone. *Neale Donald Walsch*

## Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

**No lunch meetings on June 14 or 21 as VAA AGM and RUSI Vancouver AGM are being held on those days.**

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.

Click on this link:- **[This is a new link and password!](#)**

**<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71810323784?pwd=ehLJDhj9zIqI0HvnBlMCYmw0p6ZDwe.1>**

or use **<https://zoom.us/j/71810323784>**

or use Meeting ID 718 1032 3784 **and the secret passcode is 6L6qz0** (fourth digit is a lower case Q and the last digit is a Zero)



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.

Attendance at this meeting is falling off. If you haven't been on for a while, we miss you so come back and join us.

# Okanagan Military Tattoo

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24 April 2023

Distribution List

2023 SUPPORT OUR TROOPS  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR  
FAMILIES OF CURRENTLY SERVING  
CANADIAN ARMED FORCES  
MEMBERS AND VETERANS

1. This letter announces details of the 2023 Support Our Troops Scholarship Program available to families of currently serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and veterans for the 2023/24 academic year. This program is made possible through Support Our Troops, the official charitable cause of the CAF Community. Support Our Troops is supported by donations from individual Canadians, contributions from third party events and external organizations and proceeds from the sale of Yellow Ribbon merchandise. This Program is intended to complement but not duplicate other scholarship programs offered to the CAF Community.

2. This year (2023) represents the ninth year of the Support Our Troops Scholarship Program whereby eligible families of currently serving members of the CAF, families of veterans and bereaved families may qualify to receive a scholarship. At this time, a minimum of seventy-five (75) scholarships are available, ranging between \$500 and \$5000 in value.

Le 24 avril 2023

Liste de distribution

PROGRAMME DE BOURSES D'ÉTUDES  
D'APPUYONS NOS TROUPES DE 2023  
POUR LES FAMILLES DES MEMBRES  
ACTIFS ET DES VÉTÉRANS  
DES FORCES ARMÉES CANADIENNES

1. La présente a pour but de vous faire part des détails entourant le Programme de bourses d'études d'Appuyons nos troupes de 2023 offert aux familles des membres actifs et des vétérans des Forces armées canadiennes (FAC) pour l'année scolaire 2023-2024. Ce programme existe grâce à Appuyons nos troupes, l'œuvre de bienfaisance officielle de la communauté des FAC. Appuyons nos troupes est financé au moyen de dons versés par des particuliers au Canada, de revenus générés par des activités organisées par des tiers, de la vente d'articles arborant le ruban jaune et de contributions d'organisations de l'extérieur. Ce programme vise à compléter et non à offrir en double d'autres programmes de bourses d'études destinés aux membres de la communauté des FAC.

2. Cette année (2023) marque la neuvième année du Programme de bourses d'études d'Appuyons nos troupes grâce auquel des familles endeuillées ainsi que celles des membres actifs et des vétérans des FAC peuvent être admissibles à une bourse d'études. À ce stade-ci, un minimum de soixante-quinze (75) bourses d'études variant de 500 \$ à 5000 \$ seront décernées.

3. Registration for the 2023 Support Our Troops Scholarship Program will open on 1 May 2023 at

<https://www.supportourtroops.ca/Get-Support/Education/Scholarships>

4. Applications must be submitted by 20 July 2023 and are to include:

- a. three-part essay;
- b. A letter of reference;
- c. Most recent academic transcript;
- d. Proof of enrollment from academic institution;
- e. A point form list of volunteer/civic engagement activities.

5. Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee and recipients of a Support Our Troops Scholarship will be announced in September 2023.

6. Members of the CAF Community looking for additional financial support related to post-secondary education are encouraged to learn more about [Student Lines of Credit](#) and to [book an appointment](#) with a lending expert from BMO Bank of Montreal.

3. Nous accepterons les demandes dans le cadre du Programme de bourses d'études d'Appuyons nos troupes de 2023 à compter du 1<sup>er</sup> mai 2023 au

<https://www.appuyonsnostroupes.ca/Obtenir-du-soutien/Bourses-d-etudes>.

4. La date limite de soumission d'une demande est le 20 juillet 2023, et celle-ci doit comprendre :

- a. Une dissertation divisée en trois parties;
- b. une lettre de recommandation;
- c. le relevé de notes le plus récent;
- d. une attestation d'inscription à un établissement d'enseignement;
- e. une liste en style télégraphique des activités de bénévolat/d'engagement communautaire.

5. Un comité de sélection examinera les demandes, et les noms des récipiendaires d'une bourse d'études d'Appuyons nos troupes seront dévoilés en septembre 2023.

6. Les membres de la communauté des FAC qui désirent obtenir du soutien financier supplémentaire afin de poursuivre des études postsecondaires sont priés de se renseigner sur les [marges-crédits aux étudiants](#) et de [prendre rendez-vous](#) avec un expert en matière de prêts de la BMO Banque de Montréal.

7. In addition to the scholarships identified above, Support Our Troops also administers and distributes bursaries from the annual interest generated from the George and Helen Vari Foundation Education Bursary Program. Active members of the CAF who meet eligibility criteria may apply. For more information, please visit: <https://www.supportourtroops.ca/Get-Support/Education/George-and-Helen-Vari-Foundation-Education-Bursary>

8. CFMWS welcomes other donations and contributions to help deliver and expand the Support Our Troops Scholarship Program. Persons interested in this regard are encouraged to visit the Support Our Troops at <https://www.supportourtroops.ca/Give-Support> for more information.

9. I ask for your support in ensuring that the contents of this letter are widely distributed.

7. En plus des bourses mentionnées ci-dessus, Appuyons nos troupes administre et distribue aussi les bourses en fonction des intérêts annuels que génère le programme de bourses d'études de la Fondation George et Helen Vari. Les membres en service actif des Forces armées canadiennes admissibles peuvent en faire la demande. Pour en savoir plus, veuillez visiter: <https://www.supportourtroops.ca/Get-Support/Education/George-and-Helen-Vari-Foundation-Education-Bursary>

8. Les SBMFC invitent toute personne intéressée à verser un don en vue d'assurer la prestation du Programme de bourses d'études d'Appuyons nos troupes et d'en élargir la portée. Les personnes intéressées sont invitées consulter le site d'Appuyons nos troupes au <https://www.appuyonsnostroupes.ca/Apport-er-du-soutien> pour en savoir plus.

9. Je vous demande votre appui pour veiller à ce que la présente soit distribuée à grande échelle.

Le chef de la direction des  
Services de bien-être et moral des Forces canadiennes



Ian C. Poulter  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services



## THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



17 May 2023

Dear Sir/Ma'am;

The Army Cadet League of Canada, British Columbia Branch is seeking out assistance from our Regimental Association partners. The BC Branch urgently needs volunteers to assist the Branch as Zone Representatives across British Columbia.

A BC Branch Zone representative is a liaison between the BC Branch and the Corps Support Committee. We work with Support Committees in all 47 BC Army Cadet Corps to ensure that they are trained and knowledgeable in their roles to assist our DND Partners. This will ensure the ACLC can deliver the best possible experience in all of BC's diverse communities and ensure harmonious Corps Operations.

As a Branch Zone Representative, we ask you to make regular contact with the Corps Support Committee by attending meetings, award presentations, and Corps events as required. The Branch will also host an online bi-monthly meeting to provide updates from the Branch and to keep communication open.

We hope you can volunteer with us and make a difference in the Army Cadet Program and your community.

If you are interested in volunteering with the BC Branch, please contact me, the Executive Director for more information.

We thank you for your assistance;

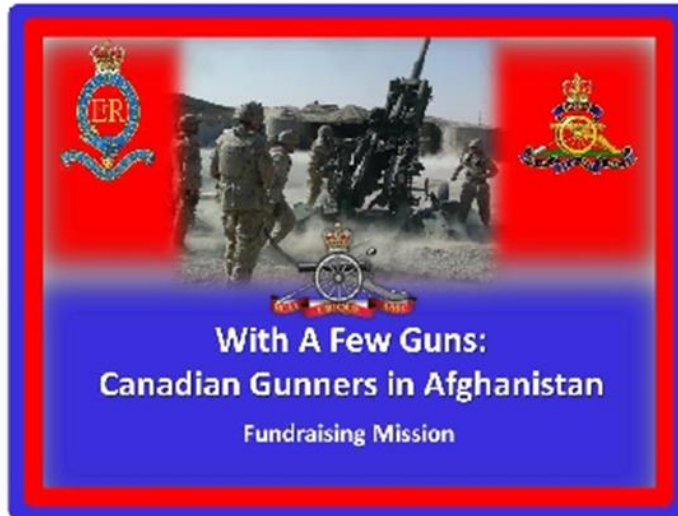
Sincerely;

Elisabeth Mortlock  
Executive Director  
ACLC BC Branch

724 Vanalman Avenue, Victoria BC V8Z 3B5 250-708-0281 [execdir@armycadetleague.bc.ca](mailto:execdir@armycadetleague.bc.ca)  
<https://britishcolumbia.armycadetleague.ca/>

## 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](mailto:WithAFewGuns@gmail.com)

**To Donate:**

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

Scroll down to: **Donate**

Go to : The Royal Canadian Artillery Association

Then donate to: RCAA Donation "With a Few Guns"

# 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

