Vancouver Artillery Association News
'The Vancouver Gunners'
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7 www.vancouvergunners.ca

RUSI News Vancouver
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7
www.rusivancouver.ca

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News 14 Feb 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 www.militarygala.ca

Commemoration Cyprus 2024 – see poster section

Feb 15	Wed 'Zoom' meeting. RUSI NS Speaker 15 Feb 2023 via Zoom - 3 Cdn Space Division
Feb 18	BCR Regimental Whiskey Tasting- see poster section.
Feb 22	Wed 'Zoom' meeting.
Mar 07	**Tuesday** Lunch at 15Fd Offrs Mess & RUSI Vancouver Speaker Series

Regimental Birthday

L-R: RSM, CWO Heath Porritt. CO, LCol Nick Watts and HLCol Don Foster

On 2 February 2023, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA celebrated its 103rd anniversary! The night before, members of the Regiment gathered to celebrate with an overview of the Regiment's history and concluded with a barbecue provided by the Regiment's Honorary Colonels with music from the 15th Field Regiment Band.

RUSI Vancouver Presentation – Tuesday, 7 March 2023

RUSI Vancouver will hold it's second event coming out of the pandemic on Tuesday, 7 March 2023. Note that this presentation is on a **Tuesday**, not the normal Wednesday as this is the only day that our presenter is available. There will be a catered lunch at Bessborough Armoury Officers' Mess, starting at noon, followed by a presentation at 1330hrs.

Our presenter, Lieutenant Colonel Hope Carr, headed the deployment a new Canadian Training Assistance Team (CTAT) to Ghana. The CTAT team consists of a gender-balanced task force of four CAF members currently deployed on Operation PRESENCE (Elsie) and will contribute to Ghana's ongoing efforts to increase the meaningful participation of uniformed women in United Nations Peace Operations. The Task Force recently completed its initial engagements and is now working closely with the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) on a Garrison Tour of all GAF units across the country, intended to enhance understanding of gender issues and gender barriers impacting GAF. Upon completion of this first deployment, the assessments of the Task Force Commander will drive the composition, frequency and activities of future CTAT deployments commencing in 2023.

As bilateral partners in the Elsie Initiative since 2018, Canada and Ghana share best practices, and together develop and test innovative approaches to increase women's meaningful participation in uniformed military roles in UN peace operations. The ongoing deployment of the task force is part of Canada's commitment to support the GAF under this partnership.

Lieutenant Colonel Carr will provide a presentation on the activities of the CTAT and the associated activities leading to the deployment.

Lieutenant Colonel Hope Carr

Lieutenant Colonel Hope Carr has served in the Canadian Armed Forces Army Reserves for 25 years in both a full and part time capacity. She joined the Canadian Army as a Logistics Officer in 1995 before transferring to the Public Affairs branch in 1999. Lieutenant Colonel Carr has served as the Senior Reserve Public Affairs Officer for the Canadian Armed Forces and Deputy Director Army Public Affairs and Senior Reserve Public Affairs Advisor for the Canadian Army. Lieutenant Colonel Carr is the only Public Affairs Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces to be appointed as a Task Force Commander. She held this role in Canada's North for Op NANOOK-TATIGIIT in 2019, Task Force Training Peace Support Operations (TF TSPO) as part of Op Presence in Rwanda and Entebbe in 2021 and 2022 and Task Force Elsie in Ghana in 2022 and 2023. Lieutenant Colonel Carr was named one of Canada's Top 20 Women in Defence in 2021.

Since 2008, Lieutenant Colonel Carr has provided information warfare and communication training and guidance in her civilian capacity for more than 100 exercises in support of NATO, the EU, Partnership for Peace countries, the Canadian Armed Forces and US military in training locations around the world.

Tuesday Lunch – March 7, 2023

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**, and Lieutenant Colonel Carr's presentation will take place in the lecture room at **1330 hrs.**

This lunch is open to all military personnel, veterans and their guests.

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

Those wishing to attend must RSVP HLCol Don Foster @ dgfoster60@gmail.com

Prepayment for lunch tickets required by 1 March.
E-transfer may be made to: 15rca100th@gmail.com
If you cannot e-transfer please make payment arrangements with HLCol Don Foster.
There will be **no cash or credit card** option available at the door.

Dress: Jacket and tie, equivalent for women. Military dress of the day for Serving personnel always acceptable.
For further information, contact HLCol Don Foster at (604)809-6242 or dgfoster60@gmail.com or – Colonel (Retired) Keith Maxwell at (604) 865-0612 or kdmaxwell@gmail.com

How To Fix a Howitzer: US Offers Help Line to Ukraine Troops

Lolita C Baldor, Associated Press 27 Jan 2023

Ukrainian soldiers prepare a US-supplied M777 howitzer to fire at Russian positions in Kherson region, Ukraine, Jan. 9, 2023. AP Photo

A rapidly expanding group of US and allied troops and contractors are using phones and tablets to communicate in encrypted chat rooms to provide real-time maintenance advice to Ukrainian troops on the battlefield. As the US and other allies provide a growing number of increasingly complex and high-tech weapons, the maintenance demands are expanding. A military base in Southeastern Poland on the front lines in Ukraine, a soldier was having trouble firing his 155 mm howitzer gun. So, he turned to a team of Americans on the other end of his phone line for help. "What do I do?" he asked the US military team member, far away at a base in southeastern Poland. "What are my options?" Using phones and tablets to communicate in encrypted chatrooms, a rapidly growing group of US and allied troops and contractors is

providing real-time maintenance advice — usually speaking through interpreters — to Ukrainian troops on the battlefield.

Ukrainian soldiers fire at Russian positions from a US-supplied M777 howitzer in Kherson region, Ukraine, Jan 9, 2023. AP Photo

A rapidly expanding group of US and allied troops and contractors are using phones and tablets to communicate in encrypted chat rooms to provide real-time maintenance advice to Ukrainian troops on the battlefield. As the US and other allies provide a growing number of increasingly complex and high-tech weapons, the maintenance demands are expanding. In a quick response, the US team member told the Ukrainian to remove the gun's breech at the rear of the howitzer and manually prime the firing pin so the gun could fire. He did it and it worked. The exchange is part of an expanding US military help line aimed at providing repair advice to Ukrainian forces in the heat of battle. As the US and other allies send more and increasingly complex and high-tech weapons to Ukraine, demands are spiking. And since no US or other NATO nations will send troops into the country to provide hands-on assistance — due to worries about being drawn into a direct conflict with Russia — they've turned to virtual chatrooms.

Ukrainian soldiers prepare a US-supplied M777 howitzer to fire at Russian positions in Kherson region, Ukraine, Jan. 9, 2023. FILE

The US soldier and other team members and leaders stationed at a base in Poland spoke last week to two reporters who were traveling with Army Gen Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, when he visited the facility. Because of the sensitivity of the operation, the troops there spoke on condition of anonymity under guidelines set by the US military. Reporters also agreed

not to reveal the name or location of the base or take photos. Fixing a howitzer, the repair team said, has been a frequent request from Ukrainian troops on the front lines. The need for help with weapons as been growing. Just a few months ago, there were just a bit more than 50 members of what they call the remote maintenance team. That will surge to 150 in the coming weeks, and the number of encrypted chat lines has more than tripled — from about 11 last fall to 38 now. The team includes about 20 soldiers now, supplemented by civilians and contractors, but the military number may dip a bit, as more civilians come on board. And they expect it will continue to evolve as new sophisticated weapons are delivered to the Ukrainians, and new chatrooms set up to handle them. "A lot of the times we'll get calls from right there on the firing line, so there'll be outgoing or incoming fire at the same time you're trying to help the forward maintainers troubleshoot the best they can," said a US soldier who is part of the maintenance team. Sometimes, he said, the chat has to wait a bit until troops can get to a safer location.

A key problem, said one officer, is that Ukrainian troops are pushing the weapons to their limits — firing them at unprecedented rates and using them long after a US service member would turn them in to be repaired or retired. Holding up his tablet, the US soldier showed photos of the barrel of a howitzer, its interior ridges nearly worn completely away. "They're using these systems in ways that we didn't necessarily anticipate," said the officer, pointing to the tablet. "We're actually learning from them by seeing how much abuse these weapon systems can take, and where's the breaking point." The Ukrainian troops are often reluctant to send the weapons back out of the country for repairs. They'd rather do it themselves, and in nearly all cases, US officials estimated 99% of the time, the Ukrainians do the repair and continue on. Many of the chats are regularly scheduled with depot workers in Ukraine, like the one they call "Coffee Cup Guy," because his chat has a coffee cup emoji. Other times they involve troops on the battlefield whose gun just blew apart, or whose vehicle stalled. "A lot of times if they're on the front line, they won't do a video because sometimes (cell service) is a little spotty," said a US maintainer. "They'll take pictures and send it to us through the chats and we sit there and diagnose it."

There were times, he said, when they'll get a picture of a broken howitzer, and the Ukrainian will say, "This Triple 7 just blew up — what do we do?" And, in what he said was a remarkable new skill, the Ukrainians can now put the split weapon back together. "They couldn't do titanium welding before, they can do it now," said the US soldier, adding that "something that was two days ago blown up is now back in play." Doling out advice over the chats means the US experts have to diagnose the problem when something goes wrong, figure out how to fix it, then translate the steps into Ukrainian. As they look to the future, they are planning to get some commercial, off-the-shelf translation goggles. That way, when they talk to each other they can skip the interpreters and just see the translation as they speak, making conversations easier and faster. They also are hoping to build their diagnostic capabilities as the weapons systems get more complex, and expand the types and amount of spare parts they keep on hand. For example, they said the Patriot missile system the US is sending to Ukraine will be a challenge, requiring more expertise in diagnosing and repairing problems.

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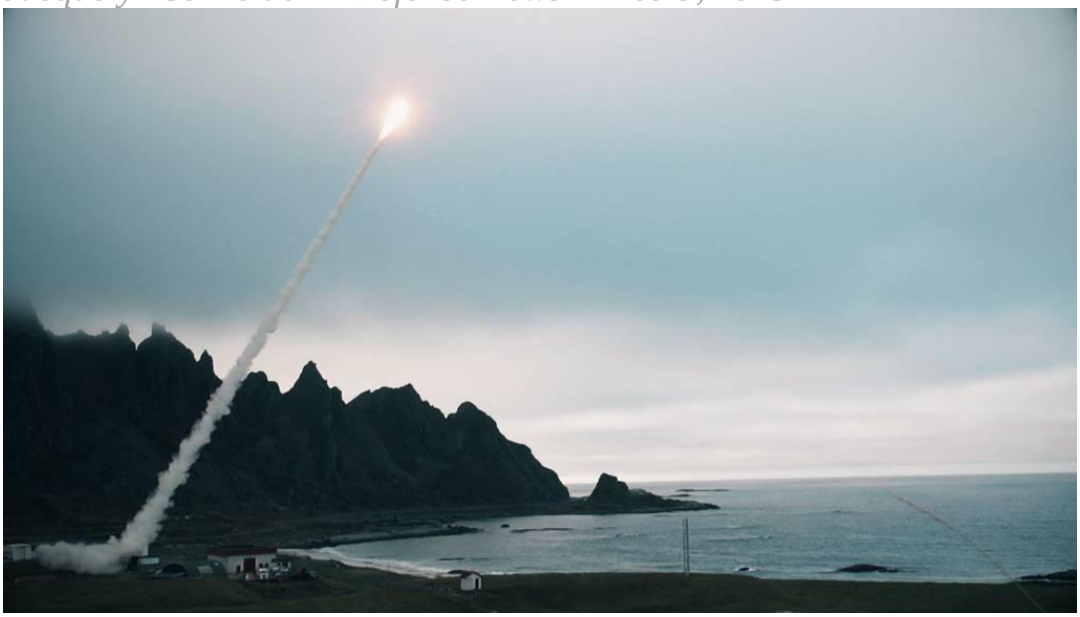
The expanse of weapons and equipment they're handling and questions they're fielding were even too complicated for a digital spreadsheet — forcing the team to go low-tech. One wall in

their maintenance office is lined with an array of old-fashioned, color-coded Post-it notes, to help them track the weapons and maintenance needs. The team in Poland is part of an ever expanding logistical network that stretches across Europe. As more nations send their own versions of weapon systems, they are setting up teams to provide repair support in a variety of locations. The nations and the manufacturing companies quickly put together manuals and technical data that can be translated and sent to the Ukrainians. They then set up stocks of spare parts and get them to locations near Ukraine's borders, where they can be sent to the battlefield. Just days before Milley visited the base, Ukrainians traveled to the Poland facility for parts. The visit gave US soldiers a chance to meet someone from their chatrooms face-to-face and swap military patches. "In the next video chat, we had he was wearing our patches in his video," the US soldier said.
The hub for the growing logistical effort is at Lucius D Clay Kaserne, the US Army base in Wiesbaden, Germany. There, in cubicles filling an expansive room, the international coalition coordinates the campaign to locate and identify far-flung equipment, weapons and spare parts in other countries that are needed in Ukraine. They then plan out deliveries — by sea, air and ground routes — to border locations where everything is loaded onto trucks or trains and moved to the war zone.

At least 17 nations have representatives in what's called the International Donor Coordination Center. And as the amount and types of equipment grow, the center is working to better meld the donations from the US and other nations. "As we send more additional advanced equipment, like Strykers, like Bradleys, like tanks, of course that sustainment activity will have to increase," said Douglas Bush, assistant Army secretary for acquisition. "I think the challenge is recognized. I think the Army knows how to do it."

Buying Bombs - Why the US Often Gets It Wrong

Jacquelyn Schneider Defence News Feb 9, 2023



A Boeing-Saab ground-launched small diameter bomb is fired during a test at Andoya Test Center in Norway. (Boeing/Saab)

Ukraine may be one of history's great examples of military technological innovation. It successfully integrated decades-old systems like the Javelin and the Stinger with modern digital targeting techniques; used commercial satellites to command and control decentralized forces;

reverse-engineered cheap drones to deliver grenades and converted ship-based Harpoon cruise missiles into truck-launched systems. It recently procured the Ground-Launched Small Diameter Bomb, a precision-guided 250-pound bomb employed by rocket beyond 90 miles. The Ukrainians' success highlights weaknesses in the US arsenal. Production lines for weapons like the Javelin and the Stinger were all but shut down. The GLSDB received a hard pass from the US military services. To launch the Harpoon from land, the Department of Defense had to draft a whole new emergency requirement. As analysts Stacie Pettyjohn and Hannah Dennis concluded, the US has been underinvesting in many munitions, including "anti-ship and area-effects weapons," and is "not buying enough of these weapons" or "stockpiling enough precision-guided munitions (PGMs) for a protracted war." Why doesn't the US focus more on munitions? A large factor is armed force service identity — or how the Air Force, Navy, Army, Marines and Space Force associate weapons with their organizations' identity.

The Navy identity, for example, centers on tradition and independent command at sea with a focus on aircraft carriers and submarines. In contrast, the Air Force, a relatively young service, is insecure about its independence and therefore advocates technology that emphasizes strategic air power, including bombers and (more recently) fighters. The Army is often a late adopter of technology, advocating for personnel-heavy doctrine and armored platforms like tanks. In general, these service identities create a bias towards platforms (tanks, planes, ships) over munitions (missiles, bombs, rockets). History is littered with examples of how service identity diverted attention away from munitions — both unintentionally and intentionally. For example, despite a proven combat record during World War I, an interwar US Navy de-prioritized torpedoes and decimated their industrial capacity to produce the munitions. When World War II began, the Navy had only a limited number of outdated systems available. The Air Force also famously sabotaged cruise missile testing during the 1970s, fearful it would jeopardize the B-1.

According to a damning congressional report at the time, it was "generally recognized that the Air Force has resisted pursuing [the Subsonic Cruise Armed Decoy] with an armed warhead because of its possible use as a standoff launch missile. This application could jeopardize the B-1 program because it would not be necessary to have bomber penetration if a standoff missile were available as a cheaper and more viable alternative." Only after Congress threatened to force the Air Force to use the Navy's cruise missile did the service overcome its antipathy for the munitions, with one Air Force general rejoining they better get serious or receive a "torpedo rammed up its bomb bay." Identities within operational communities (for example, surface warfare officers, infantry, or fighter pilots) and warfighting commands also impact munitions procurement. Strategic Air Force's dominance during the Cold War led to the prioritization within the Air Force of strategic bombers and nuclear missiles over conventional missiles and tactical bombs. Further, when munitions are viewed as replacements for platforms key to powerful operational communities, they often meet with strong resistance. Norman Polmar and John O'Connell, the authors of Strike from the Sea: The Development and Deployment of Strategic Cruise Missiles since 1934, recount, for example, that when it came to the adoption of the Regulus cruise missile, "naval aviators were not enthused."

Wars tend to defeat service identity and galvanize munitions development and production. World War II reinvigorated torpedo development and led to innovations in guidance. The Korean War saved radio-guided bomb programs, shelved after World War II. Vietnam wrestled power away from Strategic Air Command towards tactical innovation and catalyzed laser-guided bombs. But wars also create stockpiles of outdated munitions. After the Cold War, the United States was left with a large nuclear arsenal and no long-range conventional ballistic missiles. Meanwhile, two decades of counterinsurgency campaigns led to smaller inventories of munitions — mostly high precision, small effect, and high cost. Ukraine's remarkable innovation should be a wake-up call for the US, looking warily at China. Taiwanese munition stores would be depleted even faster than those of Ukraine and resupplying from across the Pacific will be much more difficult. This is an opportunity for the US to break its cycle, push the armed services to think as much about munitions as it does platforms and invest in tactics and campaigns that take into account the supply of munitions as well as forward basing of platforms.

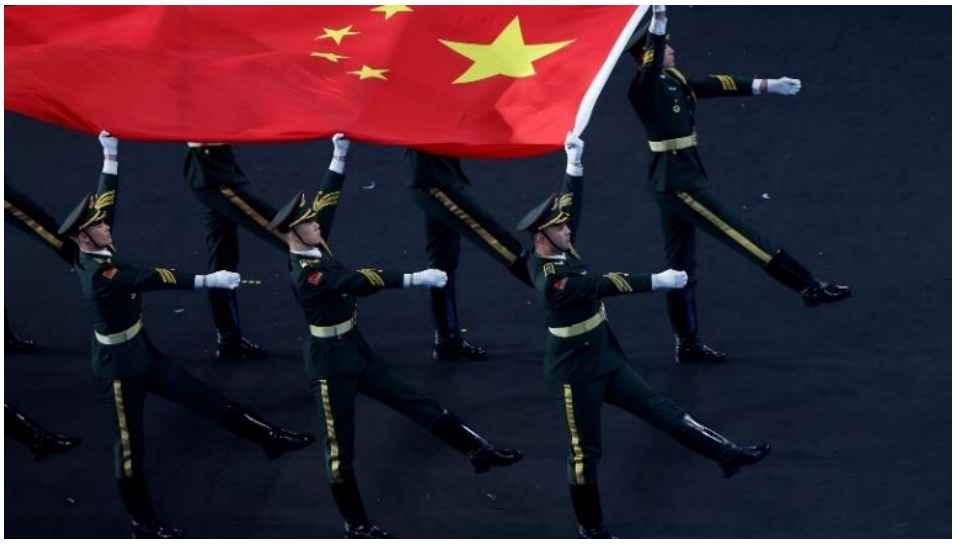
Balloons to Cyber Attacks-How China Has Spied on US for Decades

When it comes to spying on the United States, China truly is in a league of its own.

Jeff Schogol Task & Purpose Feb 6, 2023

Chinese Paramilitary police officers salute each other as they stand guard below a portrait of the late leader Mao Zedong in Tiananmen Square on June 4, 2014, in Beijing, China.
(Kevin Frayer/Getty Images).

Despite the Chinese spy balloon's ignominious end on Saturday, China has achieved numerous intelligence coups during the 21st Century, including capturing a Navy EP-3 spy plane along with its cryptologic equipment; planting an alleged mole in the FBI, who is accused of helping Chinese intelligence identify American spies; and hacking the Office of Personnel Management, stealing sensitive information on more than 22 million people. The Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank in Washington, D.C, produced a list in 2021 of 160 examples of Chinese espionage against the United States since 2000. The list shows that China uses a wide array of methods to steal the US government's most sensitive secrets, including classified information about technologies on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. China uses all the traditional methods of spying on the United States, such as human, signals, and electronic intelligence, said Dean Cheng, a senior advisor to the China program at the US Institute of Peace. "They rely on collecting huge amounts of data and then sifting through it for nuggets rather than targeting very specifically and going for very exquisite data," Cheng told Task & Purpose. Given that approach, China's cyber hacking efforts have been their most useful form of espionage, Cheng said. The OPM hack alone allowed the Chinese government to steal information on an enormous number of current and former government employees, possibly including intelligence officers.



Chinese soldiers carry Chinese flag during the opening ceremony of 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics in Beijing, China, 04 February 2022. (Aleksey Kirchu/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images)

The Chinese government has also redirected global internet traffic to China, allowing them to study where messages were being sent to and received from, Cheng said. Separately, China has hacked US companies to steal formulae, patents, and other proprietary information. However, China does not rely on one particular method of spying, and that helps to explain why the Chinese would send a surveillance balloon over the United States while simultaneously using other methods to spy on the US government, including spy satellites, Cheng said. "The Chinese believe in very comprehensive, overlapping efforts at collecting information," Cheng said. "They are collecting enormous amounts of information from all sources all the time." Cheng noted that the US military continues to use U-2 spy planes and other surveillance aircraft along with spy satellites in part because adversaries can determine when low Earth orbit satellites will pass overhead. Surveillance aircraft can also get much closer to a target than a satellite in geosynchronous orbit at more than 22,000 miles above Earth, potentially allowing them to pick up more signals and electronic intelligence, he said.

On top of all these methods for collecting intelligence, the Chinese-owned social media app TikTok stores a lot of data on its users, which the Chinese government could look at if it wanted to, Cheng said. If users allow TikTok to access their phone and email lists, that information is then included in Chinese databases, he added. It's unclear how well the US government is countering the threat of Chinese espionage. Intelligence agencies rarely advertise their successes, but their failures become well known, such as when the Chinese executed dozens of suspected American spies more than 10 years ago because the CIA's communication system had been compromised. Opposing Chinese espionage is the "FBI's top counterintelligence priority," according to the bureau's website. However, those efforts have not always succeeded. In 2003, Katrina Leung, a naturalized US citizen who became an FBI informant about China**,** was arrested after having affairs with two FBI agents in charge of counterintelligence against China, including her former handler James Smith, from whom she took classified documents. Justice Department officials have also successfully uncovered Chinese agents.

Last month, Ji Chaoqun, a Chinese national who joined the Army Reserve through the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest program, was sentenced to eight years in prison for espionage. In 2018, Ji met several times with an undercover law enforcement officer who was posing as a member of China's Ministry of State Security, the Justice Department announced in

a Jan 25 news release. "During these meetings, Ji explained that with his military identification, he could visit and take photos of 'Roosevelt-class' aircraft carriers," the news release says. "Ji also explained that once he obtained his US citizenship and security clearance through the MAVNI program, he would seek a job at the CIA, FBI or NASA. Ji intended to perform cybersecurity work at one of those agencies so that he would have access to all their databases, including databases that contained scientific research." For the time being, many Americans are still riding the emotional high that accompanied Saturday's shoot down of China's latest spy balloon. Several social media users took video of the balloon being struck by an AIM-9X Sidewinder missile. One man who captured the event on his cell phone yelled: "F–k you f–king commie China!" Ironically, he then posted the video on TikTok.

US Marines Outwitted an AI Security Camera

by hiding in a cardboard box and pretending to be trees.

Max Hauptman Task & Purpose Jan 24, 2023

US Marines from 1st Battalion 8th Marines unpack containers of mineral water in the Helmand province of Afghanistan on Jan 19, 2011. (Dmitry Kostyukov/AFP via Getty Images).

Artificial intelligence can do a lot. Given a large chunk of data, it can process information faster than your average intelligence analyst can. When it comes to certain things, though, artificial intelligence is apparently still lagging behind Marine Corps intelligence. In Paul Scharre's new book *Four Battlegrounds: Power in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*, Scharre recounts the story of one AI experiment that was disrupted by a squad of Marines who innovated new ways to sneak around and avoid detection. In just a day, the Marines figured out that the best way to approach an artificial intelligence system designed to identify human beings is to, well, not look like a human. In practical terms, that meant standing behind a tree or just throwing a cardboard box over their heads.

The artificial intelligence in question was developed by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's (DARPA) Squad X program. The technology was designed to maximize "a squad's situational awareness, while the autonomous systems allow squads to increase their battle space and area of influence," according to DARPA. "What DARPA was working on was developing the ability to identify people in complex urban environments," said Scharre. "And sense people approaching the squad." As Phil Root, the deputy director of the Defense Sciences Office at DARPA, recounted to Scharre, "A tank looks like a tank, even when it's moving. A human when walking looks different than a human standing. A human with a weapon looks different." In order to train the artificial intelligence, it needed data in the form of a squad of

Marines spending six days walking around in front of it. On the seventh day, though, it was time to put the machine to the test. "If any Marines could get all the way in and touch this robot without being detected, they would win. I wanted to see, game on, what would happen," said Root in the book.

And when the game began, as Root said, "Eight Marines — not a single one got detected." Two Marines, according to the book, somersaulted for 300 meters to approach the sensor. Another pair hid under a cardboard box. "You could hear them giggling the whole time," said Root in the book. One Marine stripped a fir tree and held it in front of him as he approached the sensor. In the end, while the artificial intelligence knew how to identify a person walking, that was pretty much all it knew because that was all it had been modeled to detect. "An algorithm is brittle, and the takeaway from this is that there will always be these edge cases," Scharre told Task & Purpose. "The real problem for the military is that it operates in an inherently adversarial environment, and people will always have the ability to evolve." Distributional shift, as Scharre writes in his book, is when an AI is trained on one set of data and then forced to interpret something new. If an AI has trained on data of people walking around, it can be duped by a person somersaulting. Or walking behind a tree. Or crouching under a cardboard box.

While an AI can outperform human beings in a specific task, people, as Scharre writes, have a tendency for "mistaking performance for competence." In other words, an AI can be very good at what it knows how to do. But the AI doesn't know what it doesn't know, and it also doesn't know that it should know what it doesn't know. "Humans tend to have a much richer understanding of the world," said Scharre. As Scharre told Task & Purpose, artificial intelligence is a rapidly advancing field, and the results of this test are not indicative of its capabilities in 2023. The challenge for the military is "creating doctrine to rapidly spin in what AI technology can do." But when it comes to Marines against an AI, Marines remain undefeated.

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

Anyone interested in Italy? Check out the OP Husky pages for an exciting opportunity coming up this summer. https://www.facebook.com/OperationHusky2023/

RCA Association Membership Cards - Have you sent in your request for a RCA Association Membership Card?
https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/rca-association-membership-cards2282107

Winter Warfare Exercise 2023 - From 20-22 January, 2023 members of 15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA took part in Ex ARCHANGEL GUNNER at Honour Ranch to maintain their winter warfare skills in austere conditions.
https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/winter-warfare-2023

Regimental Birthday - On 2 February 2023, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA celebrated its 103rd anniversary! The night before, members of the Regiment gathered to celebrate with an overview of the Regiment's history and concluded with a barbecue provided by the Regiment's Honorary Colonels with music from the 15th Field Regiment Band. Other anniversary dates to remember in the future include: 31st Field Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, CEF - 1 April 1912

- 111 years old in 2023. 5th Siege Battery, Canadian Garrison Artillery, CEF - 16 June 1916 - 107 years old in 2023. 68th Depot Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, CEF - 15 Jul 1916 - 107 years old in 2023. 68th Field Battery, 16th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, NREF - August 1918 - 105 years old in 2023. https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/regimental-birthday

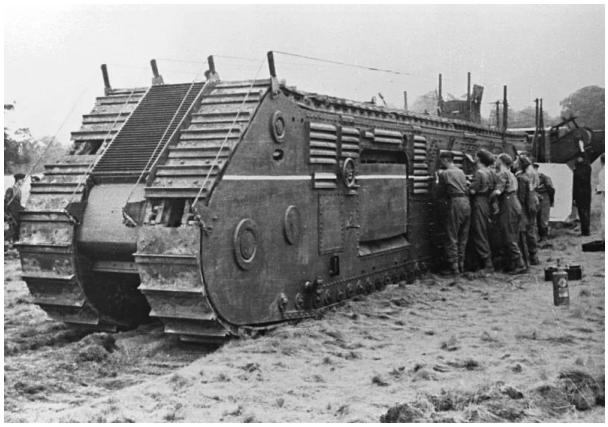
39 CBG Deputy Commander - LCol Brent Purcell is still on the job as the 39 CBG Deputy Commander. He was recently in Calgary, AB as the OC Headquarters Company, The Rocky Mountain Rangers, Lieutenant Commander Des MacMillan was promoted.
https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/february-12th-2023

Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Don Foster - HLCol Don Foster was recently featured in a 39 CBG Facebook post.
https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-2023-hlcol-don-foster

Our zoom channel will be open on Wednesday from noon at https://zoom.us/j/6802412956 and the secret passcode is pFPey6. **Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!**

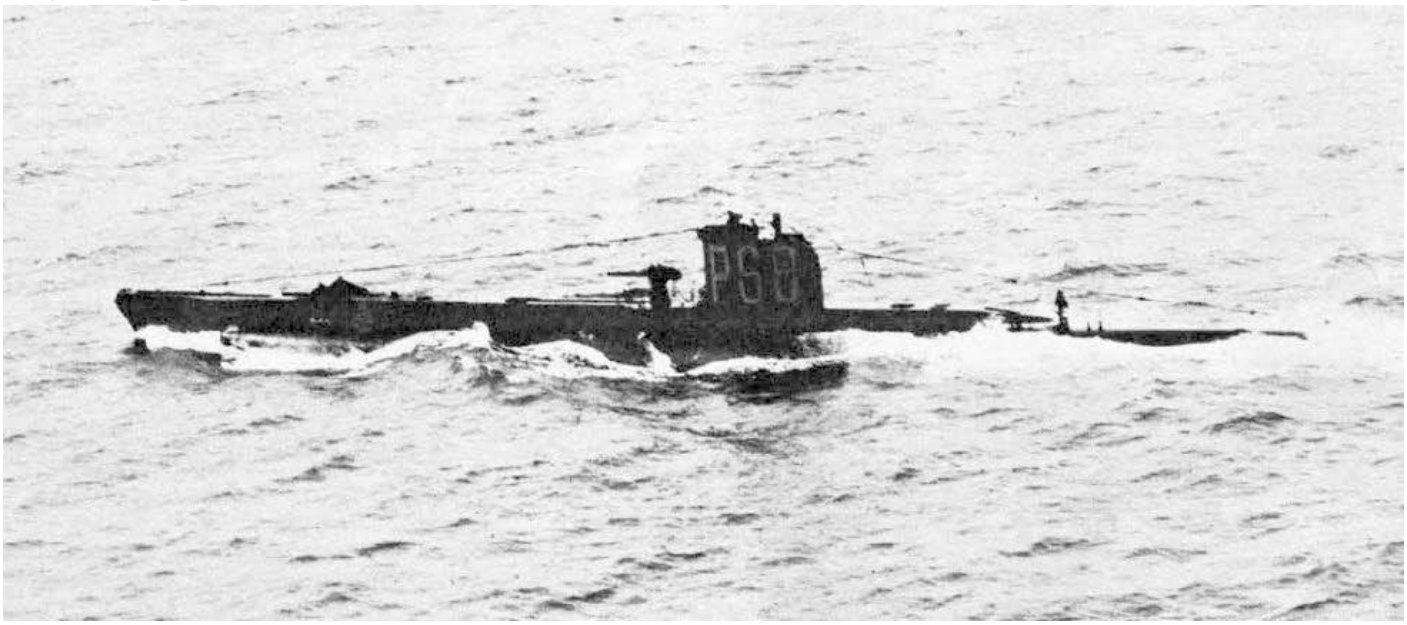
Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: Cultivator No 6 was the code name of a military trench-digging machine developed by the Royal Navy at the beginning of World War II. The machine was originally known as White Rabbit Number Six; this code name was never officially recognised, but it was said to be derived from Churchill's metaphorical ability to pull ideas out of a hat. The codename was changed to the less suggestive Cultivator Number Six to conceal its identity. The name was later changed to NLE Tractors. Winston Churchill sometimes referred to the machine as his *mole* and the prototype machine was dubbed *Nellie*. It was lightly armoured and carried no weapons. It was designed to advance upon an enemy position largely below ground level in a trench that it was itself excavating. On reaching the enemy's front line, it would serve as a ramp for the troops and possibly tanks following in its trench.



Cultivator No 6 was an enormous machine and was planned to be built in substantial numbers. The overall weight was 130 tons and the length was 77 feet 6 inches (23.62 m). The machine's development and production was enthusiastically backed by Winston Churchill and work on it continued well past the point when there was no obvious use for it. In the end, only a small number of machines were constructed and none were used in combat. In his memoirs, Churchill said about it: "I am responsible but impenitent".

This Week: We were fortunate to get this photo for the weekly quiz, as boats of this type are usually beneath the waves, not cruising above Neptune's realm. To the initiated, most submersible boats look the same, being in two categories: those from one of the great wars, and those of the modern age. This is not one of the latter, as it is not a streamlined cigar, and has bits and bobs that stick out, other than the usually necessary conning tower. Unlike aircraft and armour, which are quite varied (for example, who but Hollywood could confuse a Tiger with an M 47), submersibles and submarines tend to look alike, which has, on occasion, led to tragic incidents. Moreover, when they are doing their job, they can't be seen, except electronically. What we do know is that it takes a certain kind of chap to spend considerable time locked up in a sweaty, stinky, damp potential coffin. Your author is not one of them.



So, more the accolades for what this particular boat managed to do. It did something no other submarine has ever done in the history of warfare; a unique event, in the true sense of the word. What was that, and who owned this submersible killing machine? When did the epic feat occur? All of these questions are set to be answered by none other than you, our loyal readers.

Send your ideas to the editor, Bob "Das Boot" Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John "I'm not going in that thing!" Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net). Silent running and stay dry!

From the 'Punitentary'

What kinds of haircuts do sponges get? Bobs.

Murphy's Other Laws

That which does not kill me has made a tactical error.

Quotable Quotes

In the last analysis, luck comes only to the well-prepared. *Helmuth von Moltke the Elder*

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.

BC Military Gala 2023

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023, 1800 for 1900hrs - Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel

BCR Regimental Whiskey Tasting

Regimental Whiskey Tasting

Hosted by:

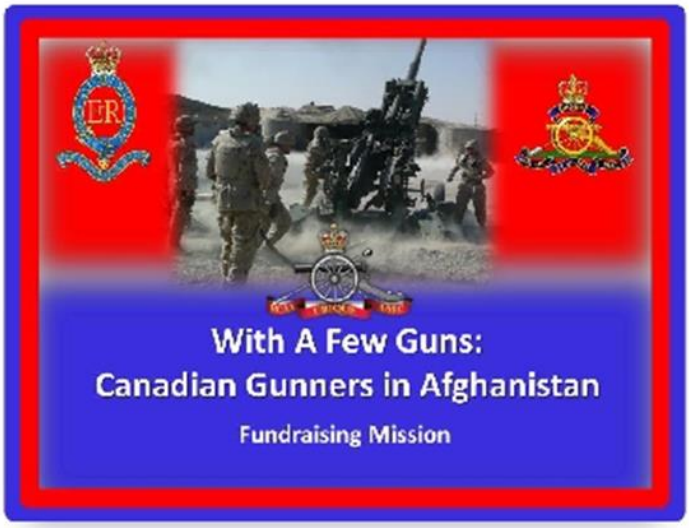
The British Columbia Regiment

Officers' Mess
&
Sgts' & WOs' Mess

Date:	Saturday, February 18, 2023
Time:	Bar Open from 6:00pm - Late. Whiskies presented 7:30-10pm.
Location:	Upstairs Messes of the British Columbia Regiment 620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
Dress:	Casual Dress/Kilt Encouraged (No Jeans Please)
Price:	$65/person (Includes Selection of 5x Whiskies)
RSVP:	Tickets are **limited** and **available by presale only** on a first-come-first-served basis! For more information or to purchase tickets, email: Maj Adam McLeod, at "adammcleod@gmail.com" Payment via e-transfer, ***no cash sales at the door***. No cancellations after February 4, 2023

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 Foce 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 fundraisining 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**
Then donate to: **RCAA Donation "With a Few Guns"**

Commemoration Cyprus 2024

Commémoration 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 gare 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