



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News July 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> . 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>

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. We are now pushing the 3rd Wed lunch each month as the Van Arty Association lunch and encouraging members to attend. Come meet some old friends and help with the Yearbook project.

Yorke Island Visit – Aug 2016

The Regt and Association are planning a visit to Yorke Island in August. For details, visit the Association website at: <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yorke-island-2016>

We need to see how many are interested, so check the details and let me know ASAP

World War 2 - 1941

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

July 20th: Luftwaffe fighter pilot Günther Lützow receives the Oak Leaves to his Knights Cross; an ace since his days with the Condor Legion in Spain he will achieve 108 kills (the last with a Me-262) before being killed in April 1945. Like Adolf Galland, Oberst Lützow is a man of integrity and courage who will get on the wrong side of Reichsmarschall Goring for telling him exactly how things are going for the much-battered Luftwaffe.

July 21st: Roosevelt asks Congress to extend the draft service period from one year to 30 months; in subsequent deliberations in August the measure passes by 1 vote (203 to 202). The Soviets allow their remaining units along the Dneistr (and a few battered ones are left lurking in the area) to withdraw to the east. HMS Renown, Ark Royal, Nelson, four cruisers and 17 destroyers leave Gibraltar as an escort for seven merchant ships bound for Malta – six days later, the whole force (less a destroyer) returns after a successful mission. Since their surprise offensive into the Soviet Union, German troops have fought many brave Soviets but they haven't fought many skilled ones. However, on the crucial Minsk-Moscow highway, Heinz

Guderian's panzers finally bumped into one Soviet divisional commander who knows how to fight a delaying battle against modern mechanized forces. The commander of the 1st Moscow Motorized Division buys 14 precious days. In reward for this, the division is among the first units to gain the prestige of becoming a Soviet Guards formation and Yakov Kreizer today becomes a Hero of the Soviet Union.

July 22nd: The 'Op Substance' convoy to Malta is detected by Italian aircraft, but they decide to keep their fleet at home and will only send aircraft to attack the convoy.

July 23rd: Invested by German troops in the opening minutes of the war on June 22nd, the fortress of Brest-Litovsk has sheltered holdout Soviet soldiers for weeks; and even then the Germans still find it difficult to clear out its last defenders. Major Pyotr M Gavrillov is among the very last and is captured today, unconscious as a result of a grenade blast. Even his captors are impressed with his survival and treat him with respect, giving him (in contrast to their usual policies for Soviet prisoners) the proper treatment due a POW. Thanks to Stalin's paranoia about men held captive by the Germans, he is only named a Hero of the Soviet Union in 1957.

July 24th: The Vichy Government reluctantly accedes to Japan's demand for air bases in Indochina. The Scharnhorst is hit by RAF bombs while in dock, and will be unavailable for operations until 1942.

July 26th: Japanese assets are frozen in the US and the UK, this triggers similar arrangements by the other allies --- meaning 75% of Japan's trade is frozen and 90% of their oil is cut off. MacArthur's Philippine Army is ordered incorporated into the US Forces for the duration of tensions with Japan and the General is back in US service.

Canadian Army Pulls Anti Tank Missiles Out of Storage

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen



An American soldier uses a tripod-mounted TOW in Afghanistan in 2009. Canada will be re-introducing the tripod-mounted missile system to all of its regular force infantry battalions. Sgt Amber Robinson/US Army

As tensions increase with Russia, the Canadian military is pulling anti-tank missiles out of storage and will start distributing them to troops next year. The Canadian Army had sold off most of its tube launched optically sighted wire guided (TOW) missiles and mothballed a few of the anti-tank weapons, assuming they would not be needed in the future. But with Canada

now stationing troops on Russia's borders, soldiers will require the weapons to counter the Kremlin's robust armoured forces, military sources say. BGen Derek Macaulay, chief of staff

for army strategy, confirmed the service is re-introducing the tripod-mounted missile system to all regular force infantry battalions. “Each battalion will receive its complement of systems with all systems being fielded and deployable by summer 2017,” Macaulay said in a statement to the Ottawa Citizen. “We are not purchasing new systems at this time, but rather re-introducing what we had placed into preservation.” The TOW missiles are designed to destroy armoured vehicles. Although the army has other weapons to deal with such targets, the TOW system is considered among the most effective. Its missile has a range of about 3,700 metres.

Courses for training troops on using the TOW system are now underway at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, NB, the army noted. Macaulay denied the move was related to the increase in tensions with Russia. The re-introduction of the weapons is “not in response to any external influence” but instead a decision to deal with a gap in a capability that is fundamental to how the army operates, he said. It is not clear why such missiles were removed from service in the first place if they are so critical to how the army operates. But the initiative comes as Canada and NATO turn up the heat militarily on Russia, prompting some observers to point out the West has started a new Cold War with the Kremlin. NATO is establishing a more permanent and extensive troop presence on Russia’s borders and is sending thousands of soldiers to the region. Canada recently announced it would deploy about 450 soldiers to Latvia as part of those efforts. It will also keep a warship in the region and contribute fighter jets at different times to the NATO mission. Peggy Mason, a former security adviser to the Mulroney government, says the moves by the Liberals are further provoking an already tense situation. “What we’re seeing is Justin Trudeau and his government continuing with the most disagreeable aspects of Stephen Harper’s foreign policy,” said Mason, president of the Rideau Institute in Ottawa. “People didn’t vote for that. They voted for change.” At the same time the Liberal government has appeared to have turned its back on talks with Russia, she added.

Chris Westdal, a former Canadian diplomat who was ambassador in both Russia and Ukraine, has said six months into his mandate, Global Affairs Minister Stephane Dion has not yet met his Russian counterpart. The West has taken a hardline against Russia, prompted by Russian leader Vladimir Putin’s decision in 2014 to annex Crimea, once part of Ukraine. The Russians claim they acted to protect the predominately Russian-speaking population there. Western nations have also denounced Russia’s military support for separatists in eastern Ukraine. As a result, Western nations, including Canada, brought in economic sanctions against Russia as well as increasing their military presence in the region. But those actions have only backfired, instead shoring up support for Putin among the Russian people who see NATO as closing in on their country’s borders, Mason argues. Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader who helped end the Cold War and who has been of critical of Putin, recently accused NATO of preparing for offensive operations against his country. “NATO has begun preparations for escalating from the Cold War into a hot one,” he said. “All the rhetoric just yells of a desire almost to declare war on Russia.” But NATO’s Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg denies the alliance is a threat to Russia. “We do not want a new Cold War,” he said. “We do not want a new arms race. And we do not seek confrontation.”

Liberals Need to Cut Top Fat Off Defence Budget

John Dacombe Published on: July 13, 2016



Almost five years ago, Andrew Leslie wrote his Report on Transformation, which argued for 'more teeth and less tail.' Leslie is now in government and a position to advocate for transformation.

Graham Hughes / The Canadian Press

The Liberal regime in Ottawa has launched a Defence Policy Review for the first time since the mid-1990s, so clearly it is about time. But while the Liberals are denying this review will

include cuts, cuts are exactly the conversation that needs to happen. Defence budgets have in recent years hovered just shy of \$20-billion a year, a significant part of discretionary spending at the federal level. What that money has bought Canada is a decent, but limited, global reach, world class skills in a few areas, several thousand operationally ready soldiers, sailors, airmen, airwomen, and special forces operators — and lots and lots of fat at the top.

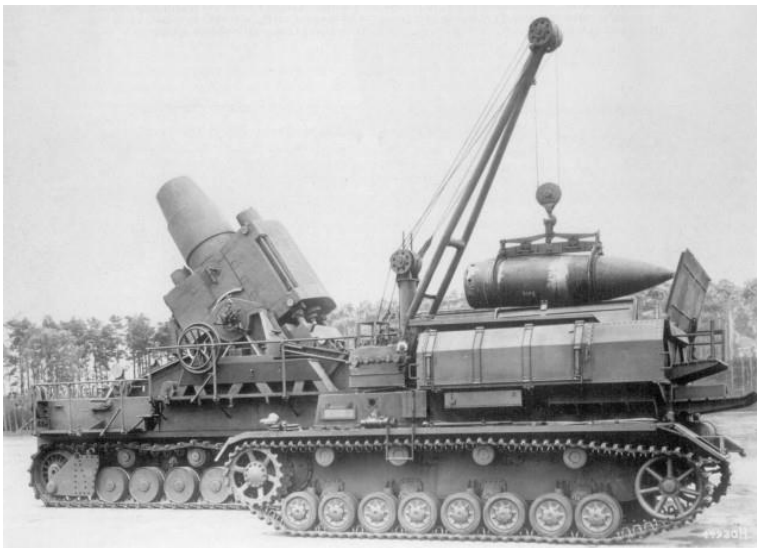
National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ) is bursting at the seams with hardworking, intelligent people, civilian and military. Unfortunately, many of those people are busy with unnecessary work, answering to a bloated inverted pyramid leadership structure. A surplus of senior officers and civilian managers has been busy for decades creating a rewards system within NDHQ, where the same senior staff recommending materiel and services to the political level seamlessly move into jobs with the suppliers they recently recommended. And for those remaining in public service, doing right for taxpayers is subsumed by empire building and rewarding personal allies.

Almost five years ago, Andrew Leslie wrote his Report on Transformation, which argued for “more teeth and less tail.” Clearly, this was not popular with many within NDHQ leadership, who saw their many perks at risk. Leslie quickly became persona non grata, especially with a Conservative government at the time who broached no criticism of their defence narrative, and who were pouring money into National Defence, ostensibly because of Afghanistan, but which also led to a 38 per cent increase in headquarters staffing between 2006 and 2010. The biggest de facto military base in Canada is no longer Petawawa, Halifax or Trenton. It is by far Ottawa, with more than 18,000 positions, of which over 5,000 are “managers.” The thousands of senior officers and civilian managers in Ottawa make from a minimum of more than \$100,000 to well over \$400,000 per year, plus benefits. And while worker positions were cut between 2012 and 2014, there are now more managers than ever, many with no or few subordinates reporting to them.

This is not just about the billions spent on a surplus of management at HQ. The old phrase “Too many cooks spoil the stew” is an appropriate one, and one of the leading explanations for the inability of most procurement projects to be anything but unmitigated disasters. Massive duplication of effort, a management culture that accepts political interference without challenge — especially under the previous regime — inefficiencies of scale due to being just too big for the size of the actual, operational military, and little to no enforcement of conflict of interest rules, are all outcomes of the present state of both the civilian and military side of NDHQ. Andrew Leslie is now in government and a position to advocate for transformation. The Defence Minister is a former senior officer who did not partake in this incestuous HQ dance, but who remained true to the troops beneath him. If change is ever going to happen, it is now. If the Liberals truly want to fix Defence, they need to start at the top. Start vetting the senior military ranks of underperforming members. Cut the masses of civilian managers who have turned the organization into a bureaucratic nightmare for those doing the actual heavy lifting. Start enforcing conflict of interest rules. Make accountability more than a hollow buzzword. And most importantly, do not listen to the advice of the vested interests who have created this system, and who will continue to benefit if yet another government gives them free reign to spend our tax dollars with abandon.

John Dacombe recently retired home to Vancouver Island after over 21 years in the regular Canadian Forces and another five-plus in the National Defence civilian bureaucracy. More than half of that was spent in National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ).

The Massive 60cm German Siege Mortar Karl



In World War 2 the Germans liked to build them big and the 60cm Siege Mortar Karl was no exception, it could fire shells of 60cm in diameter that weight 2170kg. It could fire its lighter shells at targets 10km away! Seven guns were built, six of which saw combat between 1941 and 1945. They were used in attacking the Soviet fortresses of Brest-Litovsk and Sevastopol, bombarded Polish resistance fighters in Warsaw, participated in the Battle of the Bulge, and used to try to destroy the Ludendorff Bridge during the Battle of

Remagen. Only one exists today; the others were scrapped after the war.

In March 1936 Rheinmetall made a proposal for a super-heavy howitzer to attack the Maginot Line. Their initial concept was for a weapon that would be transported by several tracked vehicles and assembled on site, but the lengthy preparation time drove them to change it to a self-propelled weapon in January 1937. Extensive driving trials took place in 1938 and 1939

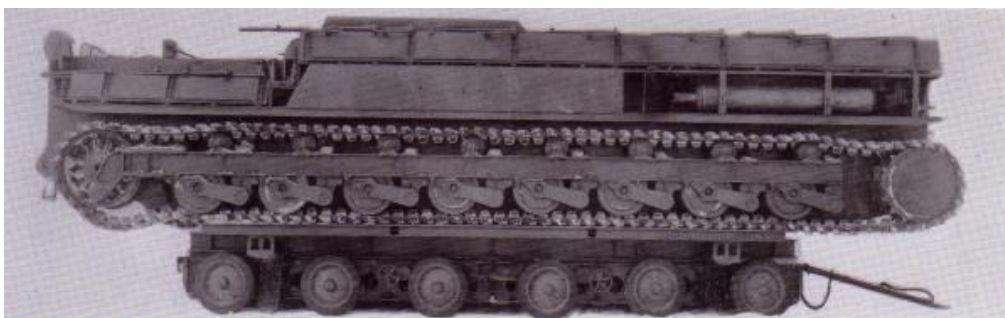
using a tank prototype and a scale model to investigate the extremely high ground pressure and steering of such an enormous vehicle. Firing trials took place in June 1939, the full-scale driving trials were held in May 1940. General Karl Becker of the Artillery was involved in the development, from whom the huge weapon gained its nickname. Delivery of the six production and one test vehicles took place from November 1940 to August 1941. first six had the nicknames: I “Adam” (later “Baldur”); II “Eva” (later “Wotan”); III “Thor”; IV “Odin”; V “Loki”; and, VI “Ziu”. The seventh, the research and test weapon, had no name.

Karl Gerat 040 “Odin”



Twenty-two Panzer IV Ausf. D, E and F

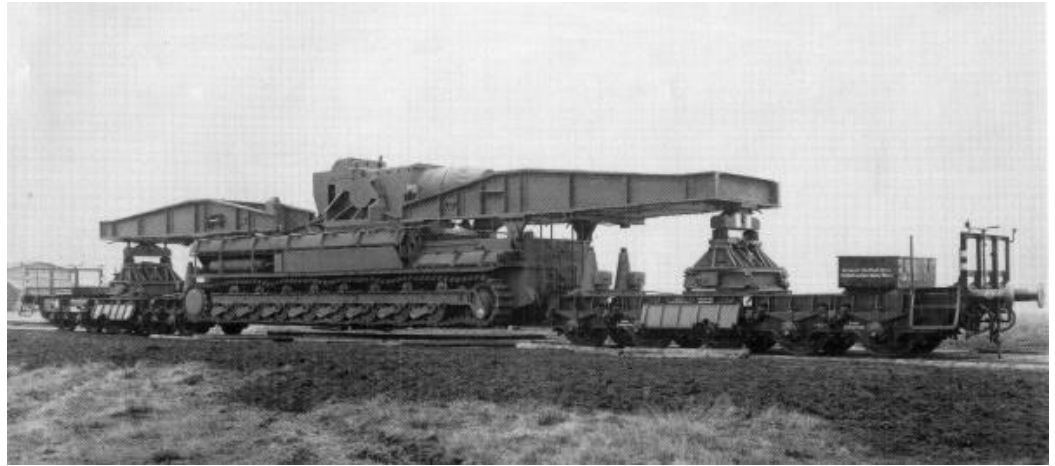
chassis were modified with a superstructure capable of carrying four shells that replaced the turret and outfitted with a crane as Munitionsschlepper ammunition transporters/loaders. Two or three of these Munitionsschlepper were assigned to each weapon. The 124-ton vehicle was propelled by either a gasoline engine or a diesel engine, but this was mainly used for aiming (the mount had only 4 degrees of traverse on each side), as the engines provided a top speed of only 10 km/h (6.2 mph). For any distances the Karl-Gerät was disassembled into seven loads using a special mobile crane.



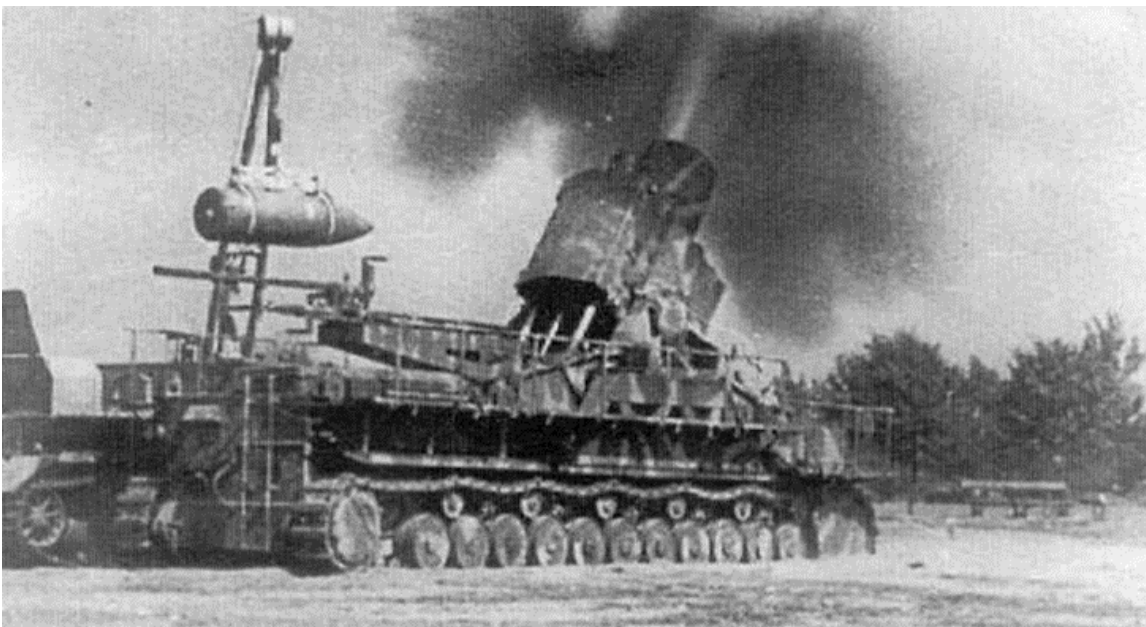
Culemeyer-Strassenroller on lowboy trailer

The chassis was loaded onto a six-axle Culemeyer-Strassenroller lowboy trailer. The other parts of the gun were lighter and used four-axle trailers. If the trailer with the chassis on board had to cross a bridge that couldn't carry their combined weight the chassis had to be off-loaded and driven across under its own power.

A Karl-Gerät on its rail transporter



The weapon was moved long distances via rail. When it reached its destination, the weapon was detached from its supporting arms, driven to its intended firing location, then the chassis was lowered to the ground to distribute the recoil forces more evenly in preparation for firing. The Karl-Gerät proved to have no problems moving over normal soil, but under no circumstances was it allowed to make turns on soft soil lest it throw a track. The chassis had to be backed into position to fire, which expedited movement to a new position, but the firing position had to be precisely leveled and the approach route prepared ahead of time to fill in soft spots and any ditches, etc. It could only be loaded at zero elevation, so it had to be re-aimed between every shot.



Karl Nr VI "Ziu" firing

The original heavy 60 cm concrete-piercing shells made a crater up to 15 m (49 ft) wide and 5 m (16 ft) deep. More range was desired and the light concrete-piercing shell 040 was introduced in 1942. Firing trials for the 54 cm shells were not completed until the end of 1944 and they were not used in combat before then. The original 60 cm heavy shell had no designation other than the name. The Gerät (device) number was added for the newer shells.

Who is it?



Last Week: This is a Brennan anti-ship torpedo, manned by the Royal Artillery at various ports around the Empire in the 1880s and 90s. This one is a replica at the Museum of Coastal Defence in Hong Kong.

This Week: Our quiz this week goes back in time to the very early days of World War Two, and to a location beloved of all Canadian gunners, and many allied personnel: Camp Shilo, Manitoba. These days, CFB Shilo might not have the “buzz” it did 75 years ago, but it once was a centre piece of Canada’s response to the Nazi menace (we had several centres back then).



As a tyke, I well remember the bright blue skies of Shilo, and the never-ending prairies that cascaded away from our spacious and luxurious PMQ on Sapper Drive. I also remember the lines of vehicles parked tantalizingly close to where my little buddies and I played; so tantalizing that we eventually succumbed to temptation and entered the forbidden area to play amongst the mechanized might of the Canadian Army. We did so until the meatheads arrested us and turned us in to our parents. Imagine! A criminal record at aged three!

That, however, was a good ten or twelve years after the visit to Camp Shilo of this famous celebrity (although I doubt such terminology was in use then). Your task, dear follower of such famous people, is to identify her (the lady curtsying to the camera), and let us know if you ever witnessed her performances. The photo, by the way, was taken by then-Colonel (later Brigadier) Tees, formerly CO of the 1st Anti-Aircraft Regiment, RCA, located at Bessborough Armoury.

From the ‘Punitary’

Why did the chicken go to the séance? To get to the other side.

Murphy’s other Laws

In any unit there will always be one member who knows everything that is going on; eventually this person will be posted.

Quotable Quotes

It is difficult to say what is impossible, for the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow. - *Robert H. Schuller*

"Photographs Required"

1960 – To present

"History of the Gunners of Canada Vol 3" urgently needs relevant photographs about units, equipment, memorable events including ceremonial, and unusual tasks or activities. To date only 2 units 5eRALC and 6eRAC have provided material. Some individuals have also contributed. 1 RCHA can be covered by persons in contact but most are pre-1980.

Please submit up to 20 suitable photographs per unit or individual with detail of activity/event, location and date, description of equipment, source (who took the photograph). Pictures should be a minimum of .300 dpi where possible. We assume that all submissions may be used - no copyright limitations, etc.

The design of the book will be firmed up by September 2016. Material received after that might not be usable.

Please email submissions by 31 August 2016 to dtomaso@rogers.com or mail to:

**Tom Tomaso
1681 Boisbriand Cres,
Orleans, ON K1C 4V6**

**Tom Tomaso
Vol III Committee Member**

OKANAGAN



MILITARY TATTOO

KAL TIRE PLACE Vernon, BC

Saturday
July 23, 7pm

Sunday
July 24, 2pm



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SAVE THE DATE

**15th Field Artillery Regiment,
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery
Officers' Mess**

St Barbara's Day Special Guest Night

Saturday 3 December 2016

1800hrs for 1900hrs



Boundary Bay Airshow 2016



People of all ages have a fascination with flying. There is something about 'taking to the skies' that challenges and excites. While we may never have the experience of flying our own planes, we can share in the thrill of seeing others do it. The Corporation of Delta and Alpha Aviation are proud to sponsor the Boundary Bay Airshow on Saturday, July 23, 2016.

As one of the few remaining free admission airshows, this event holds an appeal for people of all ages. From children's activities and delicious food options, to the non-stop excitement in the skies, there truly is something for everyone!

You are encouraged to bring your folding chair, sunglasses, sunscreen and hat. Remember, the Boundary Bay Airport is located next to the ocean and can be windy throughout the day. A windbreaker can be a great addition to your backpack.

We look forward to presenting you with a great experience that incorporates our slogan of "flying, family and fun."

In Partnership With:



“ENGAGING POLICY MAKERS OF THE FUTURE”

If you are interested in issues like Canadian defence and security, NATO, ISIS, East-West relations, and military diplomacy, then this is the conference for you!

The Global Model NATO Summit 2016 is an international initiative that brings together leading experts from a wide range of defense-related fields. Our vision is to engage Vancouver in what it means to be a part of NATO today. Speakers include Colonel Ian Hope of the Canadian armed forces, and Special Advisor to the NATO Public Diplomacy Division, Alison Hart and Commodore M. B. Mulkins of Royal Canadian Navy. Seminars will be interactive, enabling individuals to ask questions and become involved in the conference at their own leisure.

The guest section of the conference will span two days, July 26th to 27th, at the four-star Pinnacle Harbourfront Hotel. In addition, ticketholders are welcome to attend our dinner with Colonel Ian Hope at the Beatty Drill Hall on July 26th.

Please see our website, www.globalmodelnato.org, for further information and agenda.

To purchase tickets please visit Eventbrite for event “Global Model NATO Summit 2016” or [CLICK HERE](#)



Cmdre. MB Mulkins



Col. Ian Hope



Spc. Adv. Allison Hart

Lecture and Seminar: Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront
Address: 1133 W Hastings St, Vancouver, BC V6E 3T3
Date/Time: July 26-27, 08:00 - 12:00

Col. Ian Hope Dinner: Beatty Street Drill Hall
Address: 620 Beatty Street in Vancouver
Date/Time: July 26, 19:00 - 00:00



GLOBAL MODEL NATO SUMMIT

JULY 25th - 30th 2016 | VANCOUVER, CANADA

TICKET: \$100.00

Website: <http://www.globalmodelnato.org/> | Email: globalmodelnato@gmail.com