



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Nov 19, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Still no start date on renovations. I understand all approvals have been given and financials are now in order but the Army is running the show so it's anybody's guess at the moment.

If you haven't been to one of our 5 course, buffet style, 'homecooked' lunches, they happen (almost) every Wednesday from 1130-1400hrs in the 15 Field Officers Mess, Bessborough Armoury, 2025 West 11th Ave, Vancouver. Cost is \$15pp.

Guests and visitors are always welcome. People these days, especially civilians, don't think about dress much and, if not pre-warned, will show up in very casual dress so, to avoid embarrassment, please make them aware of the dress requirements (suit/blazer and tie, equivalent for ladies) before they come.

Commendations Presented to Local Officers

MGen Milner. Tak Force Commander, Afghanistan presented 3 personnel from 39 CBG (out of 6 total presented at Camp Eggers) with his TF Commander's Commendation for OP Attention, Roto 3, on a medals parade held on 9 Nov 2013.



L-R: TF Sgt Maj B Crabb, Capt R Wishnicki, (15 Fd Regt RCA), Capt T Phillips (R West Regt), Capt G Hodson (39 Signal Regt), MGen D Milner Comd CCTM-A.

Afghan Forces Effective While Sustainment Remains a Problem

By Jim Garamone American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8, 2013 – Afghan soldiers and police are holding the hard-won gains International Security Assistance Force personnel took during the surge, but they will require more support to be successful, according to a report Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel sent to Congress today.

Afghan forces are defending their fellow citizens, but sustaining those forces remains a problem, according to the Report on Progress Toward Security and Stability in Afghanistan -- also known as the 1230 Report. The report says there has been a fundamental shift in the battle in Afghanistan with the move to Afghan forces in the lead. "During the 2013 fighting season, the [Afghan National security forces] led the fight, and have consolidated [the Afghan government's] control of Afghanistan's urban areas," the report says. "The fact that the ANSF -- a force in its infancy five years ago -- can now maintain the gains made by a coalition of 50 nations with the best trained and equipped forces in the world is a significant accomplishment." Afghan forces now conduct 95 percent of conventional operations and 98 percent of special operations in the country. Compared to last year, there has been a six-percent drop in enemy-initiated attacks, a 12-percent drop in security incidents and a 22-percent drop in improvised explosive device events.

This has had a cost. Casualties to Afghan forces increased 79 percent compared to the same period last year. Casualties for the NATO-led coalition dropped 59 percent. Insurgents also consolidated gains in some of the rural areas in which it has traditionally held power. The International Security Assistance Force continues a large advise-and-assist effort and provides many supporting functions to Afghan operations. These include logistics, maintenance, airlift support and close-air support. "This enabling support will decline through 2014 and will be difficult for the ANSF to fully replace," the report says. "ANSF capabilities are not yet fully self-sustainable, and considerable effort will be required to make progress permanent."

With the conclusion of the NATO mission slated for the end of 2014, sustaining the Afghan forces "will be at high risk without continued aid from the international community and continued coalition force assistance including institutional advising," the report says.

"With assistance, however, the ANSF will remain on a path towards an enduring ability to overmatch the Taliban," the report added. If you could look at Afghanistan solely through security glasses, the view is encouraging. But military progress is only one aspect of what is needed. "In addition to uncertainties about ANSF sustainability and challenges to security outside of urban areas, challenges with the economy and governance continue to foster uncertainty about long-term prospects for stability," the report says.

This uncertainty causes Afghans to hedge their bets and exacerbates instability. While the economic situation in the country has improved, Afghanistan remains one of the poorest countries in the world. International aid will continue to be the mainstay of the country's economy.

"The Afghan government is increasingly able to execute parts of its budget and to deliver very basic goods and services," the report says. But corruption and inefficiency, the report added, remain as problems. Looking ahead, the Afghan military gains remain dependent "upon the size and structure of the post-2014 US and North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence, the Afghan election in 2014, the level of international support provided to Afghanistan after 2014 and whether Afghanistan can put in place the legal and other structures needed to attract investment and promote growth," the report says.

CBSA Officers Receive New Beretta Handguns

Canadian Forces Personnel Still Use Aging Weapons

This is an excerpt from a letter written to the Editor of the Ottawa Post, purportedly from a serving member of the CF.

It is past time that our current service side arms are replaced. The Army's Browning Hi-Powers date from WW2 and are notorious for magazines falling out while firing (which is a problem if you find yourself in a situation where your life depends on that sidearm), and the Navy's and MP's SIG-Sauer P225s (from the 1970s) are worn out to the point that the springs crack or break, rendering the weapon inoperative until replacement.

The Ottawa Citizen reported, in 2011, that the pistol replacement contract was being cancelled. At that time the selection was down to the SIG-Sauer P226 or the 4th-generation Glock 17, at which point the government informed the suppliers that the design would have to be licensed to Colt Canada, to allow 10,000 pistols to be built in-country. The potential suppliers objected to its requirement to supplying proprietary details to Colt Canada. No suppliers regarded this small order as worth surrendering industrial secrets."

In this day and age, the phrase "Industrial & Regional Benefit" (IRB) is tossed around a lot. Basically, the idea is to provide economic benefit to Canada for any government procurement (another example is the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy). So, the CF cannot have new handguns until they are built in Canada.

Why, then, is the Canada Border Services Agency, another federal government agency, allowed to arm their officers with 6,400 Beretta PX4 Storm pistols purchased in the US? These pistols are being built in the US, and all benefit goes to Beretta, USA. CBSA officers are receiving their shiny new Berettas now. Meanwhile, the CF is using pistols that are roughly between 20 and 65(!) years old. They reached the end of their service life when soldiers serving today were little. Yet, like so much else of our equipment, we are squeezing more life out of them.

It is unfortunate that this seems to be one of those issues where a CF member must be hurt or killed before something changes. At what point does IRB become worth it? If this government really cares about its military, it must relax some of its inflexible rules. Providing economic benefits to Canada is well and good, but the effectiveness of the equipment and receiving it in a timely manner should take priority."

Germany intervenes in WW1 commemoration debate

Germany has intervened in the debate over how to mark the centenary of the First World War, with a call for Britain not to make its commemorations too celebratory.

By Jasper Copping_18 Aug 2013

The country's special envoy for the centenary of the conflict, Andreas Meitzner, requested a series of meetings in London earlier this month with his British counterpart, Andrew Murrison, as well as senior officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, to hear about the UK's plans and outline Germany's position. There are understood to be some official German concerns that the way Britain marks the centenary could cool relations between the two countries, against a backdrop of possible negotiations over the future of the EU and the UK's membership of it. Norman Walter, from the country's London embassy, said that a "less declamatory tone", which did not dwell on issues such as who was responsible for the conflict, "would be easier". He also suggested that commemorations should include a focus on the achievements of the European Union in helping to bring peace to the continent.

The tone of Britain's commemorations has been the subject of debate, with historians accusing the Government of concentrating too much on the carnage of the conflict and depicting it as accidental and futile out of a desire to avoid upsetting the Germans by appearing triumphalist. The critics argue that the war was a just, necessary fight for survival against a Germany bent on European domination and, as such, its centenary should see greater attention paid to Britain's achievements.

AF units join air defense mission in Iceland

By Airman 1st Class Dana J. Butler, 48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs / Published November 08, 2013

KEFLAVIK, Iceland (AFNS) -- The final members of the 48th Air Expeditionary Group arrived at Keflavik International Airport, Iceland, Nov. 4, to conduct air surveillance and policing missions. The group, which is made up of US Air Force and other North Atlantic Treaty Organization personnel, is a specialized team prepared to ensure Iceland's air sovereignty. Their air policing encompasses radar surveillance and identification of objects in the airspace, unit officials said. "We are committed to supporting NATO by conducting air surveillance and policing missions to contribute to its collective defense," said Lt. Col. Lendy Renegar, the 48th AEG commander. More than 200 Airmen are deployed from around the globe to make up the 48th AEG. Airmen from Royal Air Force Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall, England; Spangdahlem Air Base and Ramstein AB, Germany; Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.; Tinker AFB, Okla., and Robins AFB, Ga., have come together to police the sky above Iceland in support of the US-Iceland bilateral Defense Agreement of 1951. Required fighter aircraft such as the F-15C Eagle may be employed to assist in identification, interception and escort of aircraft during this rotation and are on 24-hour alert. During the 24-hour alert period, aircrew will scramble to get F-15C's up in the air within minutes to intercept

unauthorized aircraft flying through Iceland's sovereign air space. The KC-135 Stratotankers from RAF Mildenhall provide tanker support to extend the effective range of fighter aircraft; the C-130J Super Hercules from Ramstein AB works closely with the Icelandic Coast Guard to deliver combat search and rescue support with a Guardian Angel pararescue team on board.

"The Icelandic Coast Guard is one of the best rescue organizations in the world, and with our help, we provide further long-range detection capability," Renegar said. "We can extend the range of the fighters with the KC-135 refuelling aircraft and also provide an airborne search and rescue team that can go out with us. We have doubled the range of the rescue capability with those two things." Members of the Icelandic Coast Guard met with 48th AEG personnel Nov. 5 to discuss mission goals and plans. "On behalf of the Icelandic Coast Guard and the government of Iceland we are happy to host the US Air Force, our friends and neighbours of NATO," said Jon Gudnason, an Icelandic Coast Guard manager of operations at Keflavik Air Base. "Our goal is a successful completion of this mission with our NATO partners." Renegar explained the importance of working together in financially restraining times.

"In fiscal times such as these, it helps when we have all NATO forces working together," he said. "Our top priorities are to build relationships, trust, confidence and experience while safely and successfully completing the mission."

Ottawa's murky crystal ball

It's ridiculous to ask the government how much new warships will cost over their entire lifetime. What will a hull cleaner get paid in 2041?



Technicians work on a hull at the Halifax Shipyard in Halifax on March 7.

Andrew Vaughan / THE CANADIAN PRESS

A news item the other day reported that the federal government had, for the first time, released an all-inclusive figure giving its best estimate for the total lifetime costs of the new warships it is building. The bill, the story reported, "will exceed \$100-billion ... tens of billions of dollars more than Ottawa has previously disclosed."

The implication is that the federal Conservatives are involved in another example of financial chicanery, similar to the ever-changing price estimates for the F-35 fighter purchase program. An NDP strategist declared the entire 30-year program (which is in year two) had been "bungled" and was "another absolute mismanagement of the procurement process." Which is nonsense. The actual estimated cost for up to 15 surface combat vessels is \$26.2-billion, pretty much what it was to begin with. Another \$3-billion is budgeted for Arctic offshore patrol vessels. The inclusion of a package on non-combat vessels brings the price tag to \$36.6-billion. A spokeswoman for Public Works and Government Services told the Halifax

Chronicle Herald (much of the shipbuilding will take place in Halifax) that numbers may move a little now that the program is underway and more refined projections can be made.

What's changed is this: in order to fend off headlines feigning shock and outrage, the government has made its best guess as to the total costs associated with the project over three decades. In addition to the actual cost to design and build the ships, it consulted its crystal ball and tried to estimate every other possible expense that could possibly relate to the ships over that period, including the running costs, the crew costs, the maintenance costs, the food costs, repair costs ... you name it. The hull gets a bit rusty and you have to scrape it clean ... in 2031, say ... and gee, what's that going to cost, do you suppose? First you have to know how wages, benefits, fuel, supplies and general economic trends have changed between now and 2041 or so. Then you have to apply it to an entire fleet of ships, based on how you think they might have been deployed in the interim. It's sheer fantasy: governments can barely get economic forecasts right from year to year, so guessing what the world might look like 20 or 30 years down the road is just make-believe.

Ottawa needs to have a number to offer when asked, however, so it came up with one: \$64-billion. As it noted in the Public Works update: "At this point, the current preliminary acquisition cost estimate, for planning purposes, is approximately \$26.2B. There is an additional early, projected estimate of approximately \$64B for personnel, operating and maintenance costs over 30 years. ... It is important to note that the initial, rough estimate of \$64B is a projection essentially based only on the costs associated with the existing frigate and destroyer fleets, and will be refined over time." Which, in English, means: "We don't really know, but you wanted an estimate, so here's an estimate." This is the number that has critics salivating in hopes of another F-35 shouting match in Parliament.

To demand exactitude in a project so large, vast and complex, spread over 30 years, is ridiculous. It's a bit silly to even expect Ottawa to try. These are warships, people: they could go to war. Wars can do damage to ships. Say a shell hits a Canadian ship 20 years from now; you going to call up Stephen Harper in retirement and blame him for getting the estimate wrong? The equivalent exercise in the non-government world would be to require automobile builders to advertise the price of their vehicles based on the estimated lifetime cost, rather than the amount they actually charge you to buy it. So, a compact car priced at \$25,000 would have to include all the estimated costs for gasoline, oil, repairs, tires, insurance, maintenance, and the possibility that, somewhere down the road, you back it into a tree and need a new bumper, which you decide to pay for yourself rather than risk your insurance rates being bumped. All that, over the entire lifetime of the car, which could vary anywhere from a few years to a couple of decades, depending on how you drive and how well you treat the vehicle. So now your Honda Civic costs \$60,000, even though you're only going to pay \$25,000. Does that make sense?

Everyone wants more clarity from Ottawa, and honesty when it comes to spending. But there's nothing clarifying about asking Ottawa to peer into a murky future and anticipate 30 years of costs for \$26-billion worth of vessels. You might as well ask it to announce the inflation rate 25 years down the road as well, and pick the Stanley Cup winners for 2023 through 2040.

Canadian Forces To Get New Deployable Shelter Systems

HDT Expeditionary Systems Ltd., of Belleville, Ontario, has been awarded a contract to provide deployable climate-controlled shelter systems to the Canadian Forces, according to a government news release. Under the contract, valued at approximately \$3.5 million, the company will provide 38 shelters and linking connectors for the shelters, the news release noted. Each shelter must be easy to transport and assemble and have an independent heating, cooling and lighting system. The work on the lighting, heating and electric receptacles and panels, and on transit cases for the shelters, will be subcontracted by HDT Expeditionary Systems Ltd. to other Ontario companies, the release added. These deployable shelter systems will be used for medical teams or as workshops or for command operations. They will be delivered to the Canadian Forces in Petawawa and Kingston.

To view HDT's products, go to: <http://www.hdtglobal.com/products/shelters/>

The Rhythm of History Concert

Please see attached poster for our upcoming "*THE RYHTHM OF HISTORY*" Concert at Massey Theatre to celebrate 150 years of Music with The Royal Westminster Regimental Band. The concert will also feature special guest appearances by Entertainer Gillian Campbell and violinist Spencer Tsai. Please feel free to circulate this poster, or post it to your websites, Facebook etc, as you consider appropriate. It will be a wonderful evening of music to help celebrate the Regiment's 150th Anniversary Year.

Advance Tickets are on sale now at the Massey Box Office for \$10 (these advance tickets will qualify for a door prize draw). Call 604-521-5050 or purchase tickets online www.masseytheatre.com

All Military Personnel along with a family member will enjoy FREE Admission. All Children under 12 are FREE. This includes serving and retired members of the Canadian Armed Forces, all Legion Members, Regimental, Air and Naval Association Members and all Cadets. Please enter through the Military Gate with appropriate military ID. Everyone is welcome.

For more information about this concert and all our 150th Anniversary Year events, please visit the Celebration 150 Website of The Royal Westminster Regiment: www.150.royal-westies-assn.ca

Kind regards ,
Col Karen Baker-MacGrotty
Honorary Colonel The Royal Westminster Regiment

Who is it?

Last Week. In 1967 the site of the Stanley Park Battery was commemorated by a plaque, shown in last week's photo.



Front Row L-R: Ray Guttridge, x , x , Rick Forsyth, Theo DuMoulin, Doug Elsdon, x, x, x, x, Bill Jackson, Bruce Matthews (Col Comdt), Graham Blyth, Gordon Platt, Dan Davidson, Ruth Thompson, x, Pat Smith.

In the Nov 5th edition, we identified the padre in the picture as Rev Whittles; in fact it is Canon Garbutt and wife. Canon Garbutt ministered at St Augustine's, an Anglican church in Marpole.

This Week's picture

This week's photo is one of the more recently-taken we have used, although it was donated in 1985. To many of us, this is contemporary, but remember that the youngest of our newly-recruited soldiers was born in 1994 (last week by some standards)!



The photo shows how people of disability, in this case a sightless person, were integrated into our regiment long before political correctness came in vogue, or, does it? Are you one of the people in this photo? Let us know who you are and who the others are. Also, what is going on here, and where is it? From the look of the uniforms, hair and moustache, the date must be in the late 1970s or early

1980s. So, if you know more than the author does (and most people do), direct your answers to the editor or to the aforementioned author of this weekly column, John Redmond (johnd_redmond@telus.net). Every little bit helps."

John Donald Redmond, LC, BA, MEd. Assistant Curator 15 Field Regiment, RCA, Museum and Archives

From the 'Punitentary'

A man owned a drinking establishment for black birds. When negotiating loans, his crow bar could be used as leverage.

Murphy's other Laws

Do what your enemies don't want you to do.

Quotable Quotes

My interest is in the future because I am going to spend the rest of my life there.

- Charles F. Kettering



The Commanding Officer and the Officers

of

15th Field Artillery Regiment

The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

request the pleasure of your company

at their annual

***ST BARBARA'S DAY
SPECIAL GUEST NIGHT***

to be held at

BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY

2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

on

Saturday, the Seventh of December, 2013

at

six o'clock for seven o'clock in the evening

RSVP by 23 November 2013 with payment:

Captain W. Baxter

2025 West 11th Avenue

Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

Wayne.Baxter@forces.gc.ca

or 604-666-4142

Dress Formal: Mess Kit or Black Tie

Tariff: \$ 80.00 CAD or USD

Cheques payable to:

"15 RCA Officers Mess"



Celebrate 150 YEARS OF MUSIC

WITH
*The Royal Westminster
Regimental Band*

**SATURDAY
NOV. 30TH** → AT
**MASSEY
THEATRE**

Pre-Concert Reception
6:00 pm
Concert
7:00 pm
Advance Tickets: \$10
Advance Tickets include draw prize
Or Donations at the door
Children under 12 Free

Tickets available @ Massey Theatre
Box Office Phone: 604. 521. 5050



Visit: 150.royal-westies-assn.ca

LET'S SALUTE OUR MILITARY!
All Canadian Armed Forces, active and retired, including Legion members, Cadets and their families, will be honoured.
Free admission for military personnel.
Please show your military ID at the gate.

SHOW YOUR CANADIAN PATRIOTISM!
Wear uniforms, regimental blazers or wear red and white for Canada!

**SPECIAL GUEST
APPEARANCES**

Entertainer
**Gillian
Campbell**
and violinist
**Spencer
Tsai**



You and your friends are invited to

The 32nd

St. Andrew's Ball

Saturday, November 30, 2013

Hellenic Community Centre

4500 Arbutus St. Vancouver

Please join us for an evening of fun and entertainment!

Reception 6:00 pm - Dinner 7:00 pm

Scottish Country Dancing, Duncan McKenzie, Dance Caller

Music by the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra

Scotch tasting, Entertainment, Prizes

Highland, Formal or Business attire

Tickets \$99 per person \$75 per person, 30 years old and under

Purchase your tickets online <http://standrewsball.eventbrite.ca/>
or contact standrewsball@shaw.ca

Scottish Country Dance Lessons

Learn the steps for each of the dance numbers - New this year 2 locations!
\$6 per lesson cash at the door - Instructor Duncan MacKenzie

Scottish Cultural Centre

8886 Hudson Street
Wednesdays 7:30 to 9:30
October 16, 23 and 30, November 6 and 20

Wescot Elementary School Gym

(near corner of Taylor Way and Upper Levels)
760 Westcot Rd, West Vancouver
Tuesdays 7:00 to 9:00
November 12 and 26

Korea

Curry Lunch



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

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



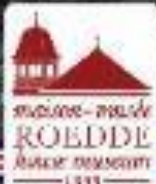
- Date:** Thursday, November 28, 2013
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(presentation at 12:01pm)
(lunch starts at 12:20pm)
- Location:** Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
- Dress:** Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)
- Price:** \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm attendance by November 22, 2013)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please contact Bill Diamond at Bill@DukeaBear.com or 604.618.3607 (Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association
No cancellations after November 22, 2013

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, December 12, 2013

We Stand On Guard For Thee

An Exhibition of Militaria and Memories
October 27 - November 28



Roedde House Museum

1418 Barclay Street, Vancouver, BC
Tuesday - Friday & Sundays, 1 - 4 pm



www.roeddehouse.org



VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

2013 Christmas Concerts

Fri, Nov 29th, 7:30pm White Rock
with *Johnston Heights Secondary Senior Choir*
White Rock Baptist Church
1657 - 140th Street, Surrey

Sun, Dec 1st, 2:00pm New Westminster
with *Winter Harp**
Massey Theatre
735 - 8th Avenue, New Westminster

Thur, Dec 5th, 7:30pm Downtown Vancouver
with *Collingwood School Senior Choir*
Christ Church Cathedral
690 Burrard St at Georgia, Vancouver

Fri, Dec 6th, 7:30pm Shaughnessy
with *Magee Secondary Chamber Choir*
Shaughnessy Heights United Church
1550 West 33rd Avenue, Vancouver

Fri, Dec 13th, 7:30pm North Vancouver
with *Argyle School Choir*
Centennial Theatre
2300 Lonsdale Ave, North Vancouver

O Holy Night



\$25 \$22 \$10
ADULT SENIOR STUDENT*

Where to Buy Tickets:

Online: vwmc.ca (no surcharges or handling fees)

In person: from any choir member

By phone: 604-878-1190 or

E-mail: tickets@vwmc.ca

Order by mail: VWMC, P.O. Box 2978,
Stn. Main, Vancouver, BC V6B 3X4

\$3 per ticket quantity discount on blocks of 10 or more tickets to any concert, except December 1st at Massey Theatre* where prices are \$30, \$25, \$22 for assigned seating.

Free Tickets: For Children under 12, if accompanied by an adult, except December 1st at Massey Theatre*

