

Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News April 1, 2014

Wednesday Lunches

Well, it had to come sooner or later. The Mess has decreed that the dress requirements for Wednesday lunches has been downgraded to Business Casual. A number of people believe that this will help increase attendance in future. There have been comments that the Mess insists we ‘civilians’ wear jacket and tie but serving members can come in the ‘uniform of the day’ which is usually the cammo uniform.

Business casual can best be described as our ‘summer dress’. Minimum requirement is an open neck button up shirt with dress pants or slacks (no blue jeans, pls). Of course we never discourage the wearing of jackets and ties.

NOABC lunch Wednesday April 2 –The post lunch speakers will be Vice Admiral (Ret'd) Gary Garnett and Captain (N) (Ret'd) Kevin Carle doing a presentation on Battle of the Atlantic Place. This is a major project and will need strong support from naval associations across the country. For more information go to:

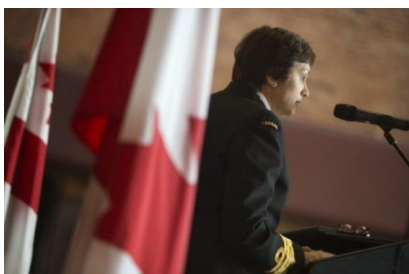
<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxub2FiYzJwcm9qZWNoGd4OjI1MjBkOTQ0MWJhNDEyZQ>

Renovations. The contractor has declared the kitchen project finished, except for the stove. We recently found out the the contact issued by the military to the contractor did not include the stove so we are now on the hunt for a good commercial stove for the Mess. Anybody have any good connections in the stove business?

Last week the old carpet was ripped out and the old hardwood floor reconditioned. I checked it out last week and it looks great.

Military Cadet Organization to Cut Staff Numbers in Half

BY DAVID PUGLIESE, OTTAWA CITIZEN MARCH 27, 2014



OTTAWA, ON: MARCH 6, 2014: Rear-Admiral Jennifer Bennett, Chief Reserves and Cadets speaks at the 2014 Department of National Defence / Canadian Armed Forces (DND/CAF) International Women's Day event at Cartier Square Drill Hall in Ottawa

(Chris Mikula / Ottawa Citizen)

Canada’s military cadet program hopes to cut its full-time administrative staff by half and redirect the savings into more programs for youth, says the organization’s top officer. Rear

Admiral Jennifer Bennett said she hopes to cut the 806 full-time staff by about 400 over a five-year period. The move is part of a larger overhaul of the program that involves youths aged 12 to 18 who participate in various activities while learning about the Canadian Forces. There are almost 53,000 cadets in units across the country. “I need to renew,” said Bennett, chief of reserves and cadets. “I need to update. I need to refresh.”

The proposed reductions in administration also come after a recent National Defence audit raised concerns the cadet program had grown bloated with managers whose salaries eat up much of the budget that is supposed to be used to support youth. The cadet program is funded by the Department of National Defence and Canadian Forces with help from civilian sponsors, the Navy League, Army Cadet League and Air Cadet League of Canada. It is one of the largest federally sponsored youth programs in Canada. The program is under the control and supervision of DND, although cadets and the Junior Canadian Rangers, in northern communities, are not members of the Canadian Forces. The 2013 evaluation by the Department of National Defence’s internal auditor pointed out that costs for the cadet program have jumped by 40 per cent over the last 20 years while numbers of participants dropped by 15 per cent. DND’s chief of review services also noted that management and administration is consuming more than half of the cadet budget. The budget for 2012-2013 was \$213 million, Bennett said. Most of the increases can be linked to the growth in full-time paid managers at its national headquarters and at regional offices, according to the evaluation. Over the past two decades, management of the cadet program has been “professionalized,” it added. Bennett said some of the increases in full-time staff came when regular force military members were sent overseas and the cadets had to rely on reserve members to fill staff positions. Salaries for regular force personnel do not come out of the cadet budget, while pay for reserve force members does. In addition, Bennett noted that some of the activities that cadets take part in, such as glider training and adventure camps, require more adult supervision.

Still, Bennett noted that the system will have to change. “I have to review everything from the employment model we have for our adult leaders, who needs to be paid, how often, whether we use a stipend or the reserve pay scale.” In addition, the review and renewal process unfolding over the coming years will examine the various programs offered to cadets and whether there is overlap in those activities. In October, the Conservative government announced the five-year renewal plan for the cadets. The plan proposes to increase participation in the program to 70,000.

Defence Minister Rob Nicholson said at the time that the cadets offer young Canadians a chance to experience the military as well as foster good citizenship. Highlighting the military for Canadians has become part of the Conservative government’s brand. The government is not expected to provide any new funding for the expansion. Bennett said the focus will be ensuring proper support to cadets at the unit level. “I think this program is incredible,” she said. “I want to do everything possible to enhance and expand that experience so more Canadians have that opportunity.”

New Focus on Arty Training Prepares US Army for Future Conflicts

By Adam L. Mathis *Stars and Stripes* Published: March 27, 2014



US Army artillerymen with 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, clear the new all-digital M119A3 105 mm lightweight howitzer at Fort Bragg, NC

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Fires Brigade, fire rounds from their M777 howitzer during a field training exercise at Yakima Training Center, Wash., in August 2011. Officials from various militaries around the world gathered in London this week to discuss the future of artillery.

HANNAH FRENCHICK/US ARMY



LONDON — US Army field artillery is preparing for future wars by returning to Cold War-era tactics supplemented by modern, mobile technology, a US general says. Though counterinsurgency has been at the center of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the recent past might not be the best guide to new threats, participants at the Future Artillery conference in London, hosted by Defense IQ, said earlier this week. Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald, commander of the Fires Center of Excellence at Ft. Sill, Okla., told *Stars and Stripes* on the margins of the conference that US artillery has to regain the capability to fight in more traditional, force-on-force style conflicts. His vision of artillery training re-emphasizes 20th-century-style tactics but with 21st-century equipment. Soldiers would focus less on training to fire guns manually, by doing calculations themselves, and would instead rely more on the digital tools. “We’ve got most of the pieces in place to be able to train the digital system. What we have to do is get everybody really comfortable with it, train with it more often, so that’s their go-to system,” McDonald said.

McDonald’s concerns about artillery preparedness were echoed several years ago in a white paper subtitled “The Impending Crisis in Field Artillery’s Ability to Provide Fire Support to Maneuver Commanders.” The authors of white paper urged the Army to resume training on larger-conflict skills and to do so soon “before we lose so much expertise that we have to reconstitute the branch from the ground up.” The authors noted that some artillery officers cited concerns of unpreparedness in commanding a battery of guns because they had spent so much time serving in non-artillery roles. “They didn’t sign up for motorized infantry, transition team membership, ‘in lieu of’ transportation units, detainee camp guards or any other of a number of hole-filler duty descriptions,” the authors wrote. “They wanted to be artillery officers and ended up being anything but.” Maj. Aaron Bright, another conference participant, is an example of

that lack of experience. Bright, who is a US exchange officer at the Royal School of Artillery in the U.K., did three tours in Iraq, all of them in an infantry role. He said US artillery should train for more-traditional conflicts because not every conflict will look like the recent ones. Still, he thinks that recent wars have contributed to the artillery's capabilities and that concerns about unpreparedness are overstated. "During the 20th century artillery was the biggest killer on the battlefield by far," he told Stripes. "Afghanistan and Iraq have been just one more stepping stone, one more addition to what we can do."

McDonald concurred, telling Stripes that artillery had gained "considerable experience" at providing support to a wide area but that now "our emphasis is going to go back toward combined-arms maneuver." Though he said there is a "training shortfall we have to overcome," he characterized US artillery as being "in reasonable shape." He said the US is working on introducing a digital, hand-held device for forward observers that would instantly transmit targeting information. This device is a couple of years away. When the transition to digital is complete "it will provide a more effective use of our artillery," McDonald said.

Scottish hero of Great War buried with honours... after 98 years

PRIVATE William McAleer died amid the choking poison gas, screams and machine-gun fire of the Battle of Loos on September 26, 1915. By: Anil Dawar March 15, 2014



But only yesterday, 98 years later, he was finally laid to rest with full military honours in a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery. Private McAleer, aged just 22, was one of nearly 60,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who fell during the battle in northern France. The

Royal Scottish Fusilier's body was placed in a forgotten mass grave. But the war hero was identified when it was uncovered in October 2010 during construction work, thanks to a home-made dog tag he wore, engraved with his surname and regimental number – 13766.

Kilt-clad Army pallbearers yesterday carried his coffin to his new grave during a mist-shrouded ceremony at Loos-en-Gohelle, near Lens, accompanied by a lone piper. The remains of 19 unidentified brothers-in-arms found at the same spot were buried in six neighbouring plots. Relatives of Private McAleer, from Leven, Fife, were among more than 200 people present.

One of them was occupational therapist Stephen McLeod, 47, a married father-of-two from Cowdenbeath and Private McAleer's great nephew.

He said: "To pay respects to a fallen soldier is a great honour. To be able to come here to show respects for kith and kin is unique. "It was a moving ceremony."

Self Healing Paint Could Halt Rust on Military Vehicles

3/18/2014 From Office of Naval Research

ARLINGTON, Va. (NNS) -- A new additive could help military vehicles, including the Marine Corps variant of the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV), heal like human skin and avoid costly maintenance as a result of corrosion, officials announced March 18. Developed by The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in partnership with the Office of Naval Research (ONR), polyfibroblast allows scratches forming in vehicle paint to scar and heal before the effects of corrosion ever reach the metal beneath.

"Corrosion costs the Department of the Navy billions of dollars each year," said Marine Capt. Frank Furman, who manages logistics research programs for ONR's Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare and Combating Terrorism Department. "This technology could cut maintenance costs, and, more importantly, it could increase the time vehicles are out in the field with our Marines." Polyfibroblast is a powder that can be added to commercial-off-the-shelf paint primers. It is made up of microscopic polymer spheres filled with an oily liquid. When scratched, resin from the broken capsules forms a waxy, water-repellant coating across the exposed steel that protects against corrosion. While many self-healing paints are designed solely for cosmetic purposes, polyfibroblast is being engineered specifically for tactical vehicles used in a variety of harsh environments.

"We don't care if it's pretty," said Dr Jason Benkoski, senior scientist at the university lab and lead researcher on the project. "We only care about preventing corrosion." From rainstorms to sunlight, tactical vehicles face constant corrosion threats from the elements. Corrosion costs the Department of the Navy about \$7 billion each year. About \$500 million of that is the result of corrosion to Marine Corps ground vehicles, according to the most recent Department of Defense reports. Vehicles transported and stored on ships also are subject to salt spray from the ocean, a leading cause of problems for military hardware. In one laboratory experiment, polyfibroblast showed it could prevent rusting for six weeks inside a chamber filled with salt fog. "We are still looking into how to make this additive even more effective, but initial results like that are encouraging," said Scott Rideout, deputy program manager, Light Tactical Vehicles, Program Executive Officer (PEO) Land Systems, which is overseeing continued development on polyfibroblast for potential use on the Marine Corps variant of the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle. "Carry that out of the lab and into the inventory, and that translates to improved readiness and big savings."

The research and development of polyfibroblast underscores the Marine Corps' commitment to

be "modernized with equipment and logistics that expand expeditionary capability and preserve our ability to operate from the sea" as stated in the Marine Corps Vision and Strategy 2025. Development of polyfibroblast began in 2008 and continued through the succession of three ONR program managers, eventually culminating in promising field and lab tests and a transition to PEO Land Systems. "To go from nothing to deployment in five years would be quite extraordinary," Benkoski said. "This progress has a lot to do with ONR's close relationship with PEO Land Systems and both organizations' willingness to let me carry out the research in accordance with our shared vision."

ONR Investigates 'Spidey Sense' for Sailors and Marines

Story Number: NNS140327-01 Release Date: 3/27/2014 7:42:00 AM By Eric Beidel, Office of Naval Research

ARLINGTON, Va. (NNS) -- Hunches are 50-50 propositions, but Navy researchers want to know if those facing the unexpected in the heat of battle can be trained to guess right more often than not, according to a new research effort announced March 27. In February, the Office of Naval Research (ONR) hosted leading experts in neural, cognitive and behavioral science to synchronize their studies of intuition and translate their findings into applications for military personnel and first responders. Though the research invites comparisons to a "sixth sense" or Spiderman, what researchers hope to learn has nothing to do with the supernatural or superheroes.

"Ultimately, this is about Sailors and Marines being able to harness their gut instincts in situations where they need to act quickly," said Dr Peter Squire, program officer for human performance, training and education in ONR's Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare and Combatting Terrorism Department. "But first, we have to understand what gives rise to this so-called 'sixth sense.' Can we model it? Is there a way to improve it through training?" Sailors and Marines don't always have the luxury to take a lot of time to figure out their next move. They must rely on intuition and a rapid, unconscious interpretation of their surroundings. In addition to the recent meeting that brought together representatives from other military services, industry and university laboratories, ONR has embarked on a four-year basic research program to enhance intuitive decision making through implicit learning. A team of scientists will study factors such as memory and perception to better understand how decisions are made and whether there are ways to improve premonition through training.

Detecting roadside bombs while in a moving vehicle; sensing impending danger based on something unusual at local cafe; deciding whether that object just launched off the coast is a missile or airliner - these are just a few of many scenarios where there isn't a lot of time to make a decision. "A seasoned Warfighter develops a gut instinct through experience," said Lt Cmdr Brent Olde, ONR Warfighter Performance Department's division deputy for human and bio-engineered systems. "If we can characterize this intuitive decision-making process and model it, then the hope is to accelerate the acquisition of these skills through simulation and scenarios; thus, providing our Sailors and Marines with years of experience in a matter of days and greatly improving their ability to make split-second decisions." These basic inquiries into intuition

align with both Navy and Marine Corps leaders' plans for the future. The findings eventually could influence operations related to cyberspace, unmanned systems and other areas emphasized by Chief of Naval Operations Adm Jonathan Greenert, whose Sailing Directions call for providing Sailors confidence, not only in their equipment, but in their own skills. In addition, Marine Corps Commandant Gen James Amos' Planning Guide stresses small unit leadership, cohesion, innovation and education as forming the foundation of the service.

"Understanding the connection between implicit learning and intuition allows us to open the doors a new set of training practices," Squire said. "That could provide our warriors a new set of skills to harness when making decisions."

ONR provides the science and technology necessary to maintain the Navy and Marine Corps' technological advantage. Through its affiliates, ONR is a leader in science and technology with engagement in 50 states, 70 countries, 1,035 institutions of higher learning and 914 industry partners. ONR employs approximately 1,400 people, comprising uniformed, civilian and contract personnel, with additional employees at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, DC.

Thousands of Veterans to receive voluntary one-time payment

March 28, 2014 – Ottawa, ON – Veterans Affairs Canada

Today Minister Fantino is pleased to announce that, in keeping with his commitment to support Veterans and their families, thousands of Canadian Veterans will receive additional support as a result of Economic Action Plan 2014. The Government of Canada is voluntarily taking steps to provide eligible Veterans, survivors or dependents with compensation for Earnings Loss (EL), Canadian Forces Income Support (CFIS) and War Veterans Allowance (WVA) benefits dating back to May 29, 2012. More than 5,000 Veterans, survivors or dependents will benefit from this compensatory payment. Changes to the way Earnings Loss and Canadian Forces Income Support benefits are calculated came into effect on October 1, 2012, and a similar change to the War Veterans Allowance calculation came into effect on October 1, 2013, at a total cost of \$273.1 million over five years.

These voluntary changes also mean improved services for Canadian Veterans, including approximately 560 additional Veterans now having access to the Veterans Independence Program for snow clearing, grass cutting and home cleaning services.

The compensation announced today will be made through a one-time payment to eligible individuals, including Veterans, survivors or dependents. The Department is beginning the work necessary to implement these changes, which are subject to parliamentary approval of the *Budget Implementation Act 2014*.

Military Family Resource Centre Newsletter

The April Edition of the MFRC Newsletter is now out. You can access a copy at:

<https://www.familyforce.ca/sites/MainlandBC/EN/Documents/04Apr14News.pdf>

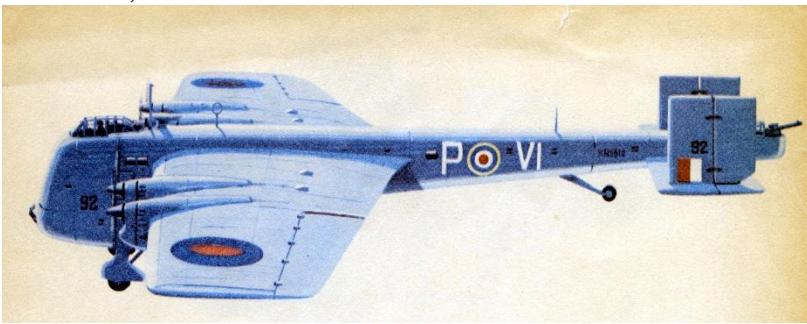
Who is it?

Last Edition.



This picture shows a Field Artillery Tractor towing a 25pdr in a Victory Loan parade later in the war. It is travelling south. The building shown was the home of the MacKenzie, White & Dunsmuir Ltd, motor car and radio supply store, located at 635 Burrard Street. (the corner of Burrard and Melville). That area is now Discovery Square and the location of the Burrard Skytrain station, just north of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

This Week's picture From time to time in the extensive photo archives of the regimental museum, we come across items that are other than artillery.



Such is this one, a photograph of an aeroplane (known as a "target" to the old 43rd HAA/MAA). It is of an obviously British or Canadian machine, given the roundels and the undoubtedly "Empire" look of smooth aerodynamic lines. Indeed, many British and

Canadian designs were famous for their elegance, such as the Royal Aircraft Factory B.E. 2, or the lovely Vickers Vildebeest, to say nothing of our own Fleet Fort, gazelle of the skies.

However, we are stumped as to the heritage of this graceful bird. Can anyone enlighten us?

Answers can be sent to the editor, or to the columnist, John Redmond (john.d._redmond@telus.net).

Thanks for your support of our history.

From the 'Punitentary'

An abbey was in financial difficulties, and to increase its income the brothers decide to open a fish and chips business. One day the abbey doorbell rang and one of the brothers went to welcome a customer. When he opened the door the customer said, "Are you the fish fryer?" The brother said, "No, I'm the chip monk."

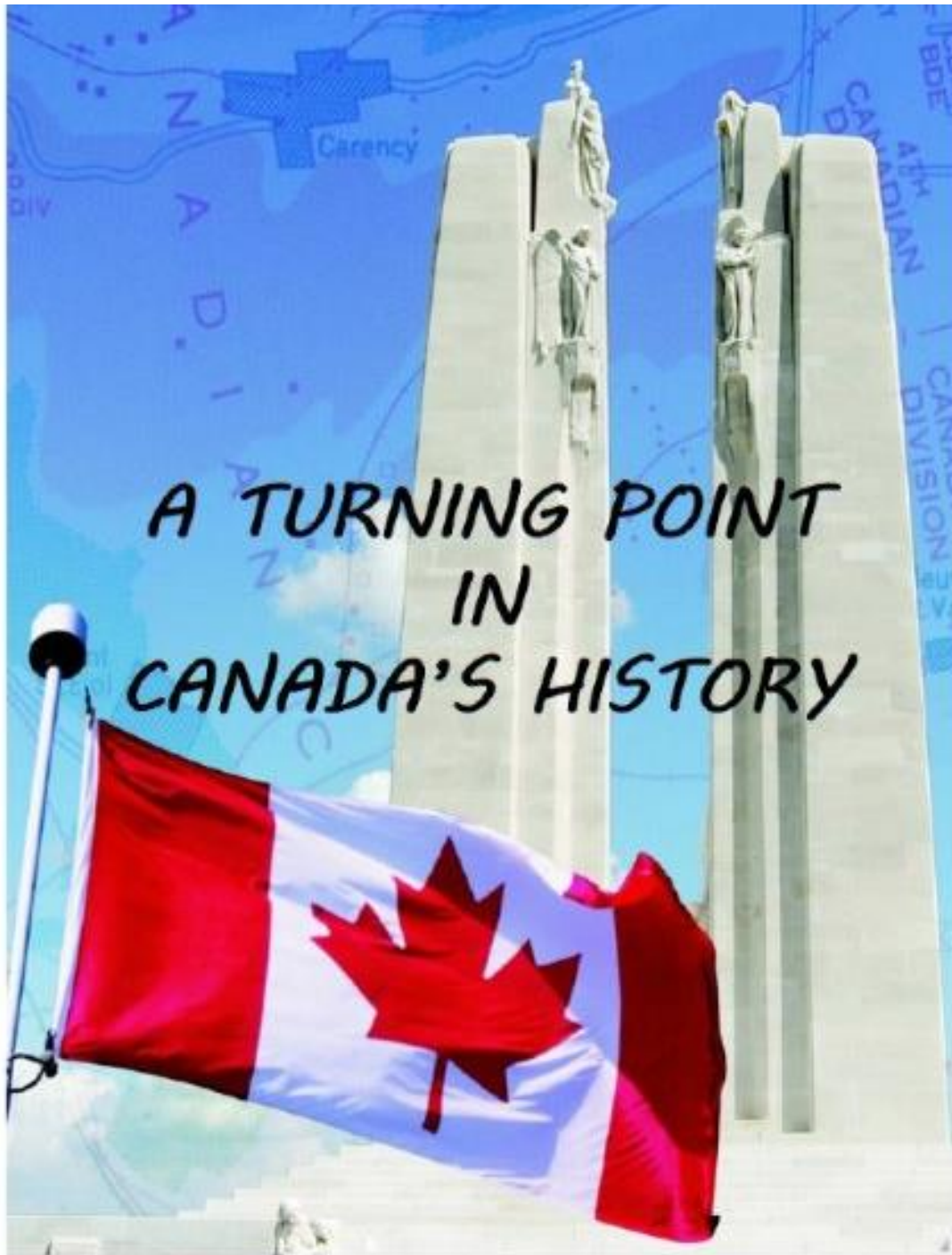
Murphy's other Laws

Statistics are a highly logical and precise method for saying a half-truth inaccurately.

Quotable Quotes

We learn wisdom from failure much more than from success. We often discover what will do, by finding out what will not do; and probably he who never made a mistake never made a discovery. - *Samuel Smiles*

The Vancouver Vimy Day Commemoration



VIMY DAY COMMEMORATION

Victory Square, Vancouver

11:00 a.m. Sunday, April 6 2014



*The
British Columbia
Army Gala
2014*



Celebrating
A LEGACY OF SERVICE
Dinner and Dance

Come and enjoy a distinctive evening of fun, friendship and tradition. The BC Army Gala is open to anyone who has served, is a friend of the military or who wants to have an enjoyable evening with a unique group of people!

DO NOT DELAY. LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE!

Venue: Hyatt Regency Vancouver
Date: Saturday 10 May, 2014
Time: 7 p.m. 'till late
Dress: Mess Kit, Black Tie or equivalent



For all ticket information, including Early Bird Specials, please visit the BC Army Gala web site or phone (604) 225-2520 ext 2496.

www.bcarmygala.ca

Ireland Curry Lunch



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, March 27, 2014
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(lunch starts at 12:25pm)
- 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 March 21, 2014)
- 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 March 21, 2014

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, April 24, 2014
***** A special presentation is planned for April *****