

## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News – 20 Feb 2024

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at [bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com) to let me know you didn't get your copy.

**Newsletter online.** This newsletter and previous editions are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: [www.vancouvergunners.ca](http://www.vancouvergunners.ca) and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>. Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

### Upcoming events – Mark your calendars – see poster section for details.

#### Commemoration Cyprus 2024

#### 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour

- Feb 21** Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs and RUSI NS presentation
- Feb 28** Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs
- Mar 01** 15 Fd & 78<sup>th</sup> Frasers Whisky Fundraiser – Bessborough Armoury Officers' Mess
- Mar 06** Zoom Lunch Meeting – 1200hrs
- Mar 21** Left Coast Lancers Moreuil Wood Lunch

### Next Wednesday Lunch – 13 March 2024

#### Dr Andrea Lane: - RCN Strategic Policy - Hybrid Warfare and Information Operations



Please join us on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> to welcome our guest speaker, Dr Andrea Lane from Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC). Professor Lane is a Defence Scientist with the Maritime Operational Research Team, providing operations research support to Maritime Forces Pacific in Esquimalt. She is part of a team of defence scientists who do deep dive research into defence topics of interest to commanders. She will talk to us about hybrid warfare and information operations. Thanks to Captain Jamie Blois of the Regional Public Affairs Office for making this possible. Lunch starts at 1200hrs, and the presentation will take

place in the lecture room at 1315hrs. **Bio – see poster section.**

Cost is \$35 per person. Reservations and payment in advance are required. Those wishing to attend must RSVP HLCol Don Foster @ [dgfoster60@gmail.com](mailto:dgfoster60@gmail.com) Prepayment for lunch tickets required by 8 March. E-transfer may be made to: [15rca100th@gmail.com](mailto:15rca100th@gmail.com)

If you cannot make an e-transfer, please make payment arrangements with HLCol Don Foster. There will be no cash or credit card option available at the door. For further information, contact HLCol Don Foster at (604)809-6242 or [dgfoster60@gmail.com](mailto:dgfoster60@gmail.com) or Colonel (Retired) Keith Maxwell at (604) 865-0612 or [kdm Maxwell@gmail.com](mailto:kdm Maxwell@gmail.com)

Menu
Greek salad
Chicken souvlaki
lemon potatoes
Greek rice
pita bread & tzatziki
Dessert Squares
Coffee and Tea
<b>Reservations required by 8 March</b>
tofu/veggie skewers available for the vegetarians.

## Ongoing Problems Facing New Arctic Patrol Ships

Leaks, ineffective anchors, mechanical breakdowns. *The vessels constructed by Irving Shipbuilding only come with a one-year warranty.*

*David Pugliese Ottawa Citizen Feb 14, 2024*



*The HMCS Margaret Brooke, is docked at a ceremony as the second Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ship (AOPS) is delivered to the Royal Canadian Navy from Irving Shipbuilding in Halifax on Thursday, July 15, 2021.*

*Photo By Andrew Vaughan /The Canadian Press*

The Royal Canadian Navy is trying to fix a series of problems on its new Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ships including anchors that aren't effective, a refueling system that's too heavy to use, and areas

on the vessels that are leaking. In addition, the Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ships (AOPS) can't perform emergency towing as was required in the original contract and some cranes on the vessels are inoperable, National Defence confirmed to this newspaper. Structural issues are also hindering the operation of Cyclone helicopters from the ships and the supplier of satellite communications systems on the vessels no longer has the security clearance to provide the navy with parts. The problems are on top of previous issues with mechanical breakdowns and safety concerns about drinking water on the ships because of lead. National Defence says repairs and various fixes for the issues are in the works or are being examined.

Taxpayers are spending almost \$5 billion on the six ships for the Royal Canadian Navy. The vessels are being constructed by Irving Shipbuilding and a number have already been delivered. The ships only come with a one-year warranty, National Defence confirmed. That means taxpayers will be on the hook to repair a number of the deficiencies. "As the repairs are ongoing, we do not yet have a full estimated cost," National Defence noted in its email to this newspaper. "The Government of Canada and the shipbuilder agreed that certain deficiencies could be

corrected after delivery,” the department added. Irving Shipbuilding noted in a statement to this newspaper that, “through the process of designing, constructing, commissioning, and operating new ships, stakeholders work together to identify and resolve a range of issues. This is a normal but essential element of shipbuilding.” National Defence provided this newspaper with a list of issues but noted that not all of the problems on the AOPS were outlined. Among those listed are issues with internal and external drainage systems on the ships not working properly, resulting in flooding of interior compartments, according to the department. “The flooding of interior compartments could lead to mould build-up, equipment damage and electrical concerns,” it added. Work is underway to fix the problems.

Then there are issues with the design of the anchors on AOPS. Those allow for the vessels to be anchored in sheltered conditions. But the navy wants an anchor to work in open ocean as well as in situations where the ships are close to shore. “To date, HMCS Harry DeWolf and HMCS Margaret Brooke experienced difficulties holding position while at anchor in conditions at or above the design specifications,” National Defence noted. More tests on the anchors will be conducted in the spring. National Defence also pointed out that trials on whether Cyclone helicopters could operate from the ships “identified a significant number of deficiencies and modifications that will require consideration to achieve full operational capability.” Such modifications will be brought in over the next few years, but the department did not provide a date when the ships will be fully capable of using the helicopters.

National Defence also noted the cranes on the ships have “experienced defects and deficiencies since delivery.” Some repairs have been done but a particular type of crane outfitted on three of the ships has “been deemed inoperable and options are being evaluated for their replacement.” In addition, the AOPS are required to be able to conduct emergency towing of ships up to its own displacement. But National Defence noted, “the towing equipment delivered by the build contractor has not met the contractual requirements and as such, towing trials for the class have been delayed.” The AOPS are also outfitted with equipment to allow for refueling at sea. But the equipment is too heavy for the crew to use without some kind of mechanical assistance. “Work is ongoing to establish safe standard operating procedure to erect the (refueling) post,” National Defence confirmed.

Other problems, such as contaminated fuel, and issues with systems to launch lifeboats, are also being examined or fixed. The AOPS have already faced a series of ongoing problems. This newspaper reported in 2022 that the first AOPS, HMCS Harry DeWolf, had been taken out of service for several months because of ongoing mechanical problems, including issues with diesel generators. Concerns have also been raised about the safety of drinking water on the vessels. An investigation revealed that some fittings and valves in the potable water system were manufactured from alloys that exceeded the allowable amount of lead, National Defence confirmed. Irving Shipbuilding installed the fittings and valves on four of the AOPS. In addition, HMCS Max Bernays was accepted from Irving even though a system that allows the vessel to manoeuvre wasn’t functioning properly. There were also problems with the fire suppression system on HMCS Harry DeWolf. National Defence has now confirmed repairs have been made to the generators on HMCS Harry DeWolf and the manoeuvring system on Max Bernays has

been fixed. As for the issues regarding fire suppression systems and drinking water, solutions have been or will be implemented.

The AOPS program was launched by the former Conservative government with a minimum of five ships for the navy. The Liberal government, first elected in 2015, approved the construction of a sixth ship for the navy and two more for the coast guard. In 2017, the Senate Defence Committee raised concerns about the capabilities of the AOPS. “This (concern) is based on the fact that these ships cannot operate in ice more than a metre thick, are slower than a BC Ferry, can only operate in the Arctic from June to October and will require a Coast Guard escort when in the northern waters,” the senators pointed out in their report. “These limitations are troubling and raise the question of whether the taxpayers are receiving value for the monies spent.” But Irving, in its statement to this newspaper, pointed to a video released by the navy in December 2023 in which Vice-Admiral Angus Topshee noted the AOPS “are outperforming expectations and proving the value of the National Shipbuilding Strategy.” Irving also cited Topshee making similar comments that month to an association that lobbies for more funding and support for the navy. “We remain committed to the delivery of high-quality vessels, to continuous improvement, and to the realization of the goals set out by Canada’s National Shipbuilding Strategy,” Irving’s statement noted. Both National Defence and Irving pointed to successful deployments of the new ships. But in the departmental results report, released by Defence Minister Bill Blair on Jan 22 2024, the military pointed to what it determined were problems on AOPS that “required significant work to rectify” and resulted in some of the vessels not being available.

## **Ukraine Decodes Russian ‘Carrots’ and ‘Tea Bags’ Chatter to Save Lives**

*Samya Kullab The Associated Press Feb 14, 2024*



*A Ukrainian officer Maksym listens to Russian chatter in a shelter near Bakhmut, Donetsk region, Ukraine, Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024. (AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)*

Ukrainian forces are increasingly resorting to an age-old tactic — intelligence gleaned from radio intercepts — in a desperate effort to preserve their most vital resources. The painstaking work of eavesdropping is part of a larger effort to beef up and refine electronic warfare capabilities so that soldiers can be warned earlier of impending attacks, while having the battlefield intelligence needed to make their own strikes more deadly. As the radio crackles with enemy communications that are hard to decipher, one Russian command rings out clear: “Brew five Chinese tea bags on 38 orange.” A Ukrainian soldier known on the battlefield

as Mikhass, who has spent months listening to and analyzing such chatter, is able to quickly decode the gibberish. It means: Prepare five Beijing-made artillery shells and fire them on a specific Ukrainian position in the Serebryansky Forest, which forms the front line in the country's restive northeast.

Mikhass, hiding in the basement of an abandoned home 12 kilometers (7 miles) away, immediately warns the commander of a unit embedded in that part of the forest, giving him crucial minutes to get his men into trenches, saving their lives. On the defensive and critically short of ammunition and soldiers after two years of war, Ukrainian forces are increasingly resorting to an age-old tactic — intelligence gleaned from radio intercepts — in a desperate effort to preserve their most vital resources. The painstaking work is part of a larger effort to beef up and refine electronic warfare capabilities so that soldiers can be warned earlier of impending attacks, while having the battlefield intelligence needed to make their own strikes more deadly. To prevent enemy drone attacks, signal-jamming is also on the rise.

After months of near stalemate along the 1,000 kilometer (621 mile) front line, Ukraine expects fierce attacks in the year ahead from a Russian enemy determined to wear down its defenses to forge a breakthrough. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said there will be no peace until Russia achieves its goals, which include recapturing the entire Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, which it illegally annexed in 2022. The commander elevated last week to lead Ukraine's army, Gen Oleksandr Syrskyi, has highlighted the importance of electronic warfare, and the country's defense ministry has increased spending on the people and technology behind it.

Russia, which controls about one-fifth of Ukraine, has the advantage of a more developed domestic weapons industry and it uses conscription and coercion to call up troops. For Ukraine, ammunition shortages have forced brigades to use shells sparingly and only after locating precise targets. Difficulty in mobilizing troops means Ukrainian commanders must be extra protective of soldiers' lives as they try to fend off ferocious Russian attacks. It is within this context that better surveillance, eavesdropping and jamming have become more urgent. Several kilometers south of where Mikhass is positioned, in the Donetsk region town of Konstantinivka, the 93<sup>rd</sup> Brigade's Electronic Warfare unit is using jammers to stave off attack drones, the main driver of injuries for soldiers in the region. The platoon commander is alert, staring at a laptop that shows signals picked up by small antennas planted near the front line. When a Russian Lancet attack drone approaches their area of operation, his screen lights up with activity. The commander, known on the battlefield as Oleksandr, flips a switch to activate the jammer which interferes with the drone's radar; it's the equivalent of shining a bright light in someone's eye to disorient them. "It's a must," he says of their operation. "A lot of guys are dying because of drones."

Radio operators like Mikhass work in shifts around the clock. The antennas he relies on to pick up Russian radio signals are camouflaged, jutting out of trees in the forest near Kreminna, close to Russian positions. From a quiet basement command center nearby, Mikhass and other soldiers chain smoke cigarettes and listen through headphones. A new and sophisticated signal-finding antenna, which resembles a carousel, uses triangulation to locate where the radio waves are emanating from. They cross reference what they hear against images they gather from



reconnaissance drones and use detailed maps of their enemy's positions to slowly piece together what it all means. They are part of a 50-man intelligence unit dubbed the Bunnies of Cherkess, the name inspired by the Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu, who advised warriors to feign weakness when one is strong. "No one takes bunnies seriously, right?" said Cherkess, the commander of the eponymous unit. Radio intercepts reveal that the Kremlin is determined to control the entire Serebryansky Forest, which divides Ukraine-controlled Lyman from Russian-occupied Kreminna. It's part of an effort to reach Torske, a village in Donetsk that is west of Kreminna. From Torske, Russia will be closer to recapturing the nearby hub of Lyman, which would be a devastating setback for Ukraine and disrupt its ability to move supplies to the front.

Cherkess and his men, most of whom are volunteers who signed up for the infantry, understand the stakes couldn't be higher, especially as signs grow that support from Western allies is less secure. After listening to hours and hours of Russian communications each day, much of it related to troop rotations, artillery fire and drone reconnaissance, they gradually build an understanding — with help from specialized computer software — of what it all means. "Cucumbers" are mortars, "carrots" are grenade launchers -- and locations are conveyed in a numerical code with a corresponding color. It took the unit months to decode these Russian orders. The arrival of new combat equipment and ammunition — and especially infantrymen — signals a fresh attack is imminent. "(A soldier) is not interested in what kind of radar Russians have, he needs information on if there will be an attack tonight, and who will come, if they will have tanks, if they have armored vehicles or if it's just infantry," said Cherkess. "and we have to understand how long we have to prepare. A week? Two weeks? A month?" Advance word of enemy troops being rotated in and out is also useful to Ukrainian soldiers seeking to go on the offensive, he said. That is when they can exact maximum personnel losses. The previous week, a Russian assault operation was carried out against a neighboring brigade. But the Ukrainian soldiers positioned there were prepared to greet them.

The importance of electronic surveillance can't be underestimated, said Yaroslav Kalinin, the CEO of Infozahyst, a company under contract with Ukraine's Defense Ministry. Before the war, Infozahyst provided anti-wiretapping services for the offices of the president and prime minister. Once the war began, the company pivoted to help the army by manufacturing a versatile signal direction finding system, which is now in high demand. The government recently doubled its contract with Infozahyst, according to Kalinin. The buildup of surveillance capabilities is partly a recognition of the need to catch up to the Russians, who invested heavily in this technology long before it invaded Ukraine. Kalinin believes that better and smaller devices that are easier to hide and move around will eventually give Ukraine an edge. The Russians know they are being listened to and routinely try to deceive their enemy with bogus information. It is up to Mikhass and other radio operators to discern the signal from the noise. "Their artillery helps us," he explained. "They say where they will shoot, and then we check where the shells landed." "38 orange," the location Mikhass recently heard about for an upcoming attack, is represented on a map by a small dot. And it is surrounded by hundreds of other dots that signify locations they have decoded. "We need a lot of time to uncover these points," he said. And, as Russia steps up the pressure, the clock is ticking.

# The Lessons of Ukraine Mean the Death of the US Army Helicopter

World's biggest rotary wing fleet doomed to irrelevance on the modern battlefield.

David Axe *The Telegraph* 14 February 2024



*Black Hawk (L) and Apache (R) helicopters, two of the main types in use by the US Army today*

*CREDIT: Daniel Mihailescu/AFP*

For wartime missions, the helicopter is dead. Well, *mostly*. The US Army – the world's biggest helicopter force – dramatically took a budgetary axe to its multi-billion-dollar portfolio of rotorcraft programs last week, canceling a next-generation scout helicopter as well as an effort to upgrade hundreds of decades-old transport helicopters. It's no secret what motivated the Army leadership to take such drastic measures. "We are learning from the battlefield – especially in Ukraine – that aerial reconnaissance has fundamentally changed," said General Randy George, the Army's top officer. An absolute bloodbath among helicopter pilots on both sides of Russia's two-year wider war on Ukraine explains the US Army's sense of urgency. Inasmuch as the helicopter is dying, the Ukraine war is killing it.

*A Chinook CH-47 of the Alaska Army National Guard*

*CREDIT: Alaska National Guard/via Reuters*



Most likely, rotorcraft will endure into their second century: but in very different roles. In the months leading up to Russia's further invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, it was mostly business as usual in Russian and Ukrainian helicopter regiments. They scouted ahead of the front lines, prepared for close-air-support missions directly attacking enemy forces and transported troops along the front. But after the Russians attacked, a whole lot of old ways proved virtually suicidal. Ground-based air-defenses – guns and missiles – were always a serious threat to slow-flying rotorcraft. As it turns out, they're a much *bigger* threat than almost anyone realized.

Helicopters have dropped like flies on both sides. According to a running tally by the analysts at the intelligence collective Oryx, the Russians have lost around a hundred of their pre-war force of 800 or so attack and transport helicopters. The Ukrainians have, for their part, lost half of their 60 or so helicopters – although they've gotten, from their allies, more than 80 helicopters as replacements. The devastating loss of helicopters and, more importantly, their crews compelled the Russian and Ukrainian air forces to radically change what they use their helicopters for. Put simply, helicopters no longer fly anywhere near the front line unless the circumstances are truly extraordinary. One extraordinary circumstance was the Russian army's encirclement of the port of Mariupol in southern Ukraine in the spring of 2022. In a desperate bid to resupply the city's besieged garrison and retrieve the wounded, Ukrainian transport helicopters flew scores of miles

mere feet off the ground in order to reach Mariupol without tipping off Russian air-defenders. At least three of the helicopters didn't make it in, or back. Mariupol was the exception.

By mid-2022, the closest a helicopter got to the front line under normal circumstances was a few miles. Russian and Ukrainian rotorcraft continued to haul troops and supplies – but not too close to the fighting. They also continued to launch attacks on enemy troops – but usually from miles away, using unguided rockets they lobbed at high angles like artillery. And yet rotorcraft still fell from the sky in startling numbers. Russian attack helicopters were especially vulnerable as they hovered for 30 seconds or longer while their crew tried to steer command-guided anti-tank missiles. The Russians have lost perhaps a third of their best Ka-52 attack 'copters. The US Army isn't willing to risk its own helicopters over the front line of some future war. So, it simply canceled the helicopter whose mission would have required it to fly close to enemy forces: the futuristic Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft scout helicopter. The American ground-combat branch also axed an effort to upgrade 700 or more older Blackhawk transport helicopters.

US Army leaders soothed their aviators – and the United States' sprawling rotorcraft industrial base – by promising to reinvest billions of dollars in savings in other helicopter programs, including expanded production of a new Blackhawk model as well as the latest version of the twin-rotor Chinook heavy-lift helicopter. Notably, neither of these types would have to fly very close to the front line in order to remain relevant. If there's a big open question, it's what America plans to do with its hundreds of Apache attack helicopters, which *do* have to fly close to the front line. The likely answer has been apparent for a while now. The US Army is upgrading its Apaches to the new "Block E" version, which includes controls and radio links in the cockpit that allow the crew to control drones that operate 30 miles or more ahead of the helicopter. "This combination results in increased survivability of Apache aircrews," Army colonel Steven Van Riper explained.

Unshockingly, drones are the solution to a lot of the US Army's rotorcraft problems. As it grounds more and more helicopters, the Army is launching more and more drones. One of the things the service said it would do with its rotorcraft savings is "increase investments in research and development to expand and accelerate the Army's unmanned aerial reconnaissance capability." Again, the Ukraine war is showing how it's done. Today the air over the 600-mile front line in Ukraine might be mostly devoid of *manned* helicopters. But it's practically teeming with *drone* helicopters, especially small reusable quadcopters, hexacopters and octocopters as well as single-used quadcopters packed with around a pound of explosives. The Ukrainians, who retain a robotics advantage over the Russians, are building and launching as many as 50,000 small drones a month. Who needs to risk a \$25-million helicopter and its crew when you can fill the air with thousands of drones, none costing more than a few thousand dollars?

## **Vancouver Gunners Website Update**

**2017 Yearbook Update:-** Bombardier Rozario received the Cpl Corey Graham award for "excellence in the eyes of their peers" The winner is selected by his or her peers as best



exemplifying the qualities of junior leadership. Check out the other events from 2017. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2017.html>

### **Former member - Chief Warrant Officer Roberts**

39 CBG recently posted a story on a former member of 15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/39-cbg-profile-story-cwo-roberts>

### **Upcoming Exercise Cougar Rage**

Check out the poster on the 2024 Yearbook page. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2024.html>

### **Yorke Island**

The 85Vics are planning their annual weekend cleanup visit to Yorke Island in May 2024. Interested in joining them? Send me an email. [president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)

### **68 Bty 30'ish Year Campout Reunion**

May 24 at 4 PM – May 26 at 12 PM - Harrison West - Camp Cove Campground  
Anne Nikodem (former Bombardier Anne Edwards) and Terry Stratton (former Bombardier Terry Stratton) are organizing another 68 Battery camping reunion. Same as last year, its a a 10 vehicle allowance (50 person max) with the booking (additional fees for extra vehicles and day guests. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2024.html>

### **Photos**

Have you got any photos of past regimental activities? Send them to [president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com) and we'll post them to the website.

### **Wednesday Lunch Zoom Meeting**

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies. Click on this link.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72758359360?pwd=XE0y7bIBCNvTYsIFcFlZ6glE1pfzMP.1>

or use Meeting ID: 727 5835 9360 Passcode: pFPey6

**Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!**

## **Who (or What) Is It?**

**Last Week: The Philippine navy's "Sierra Madre" LST.** On 9 May 1997, the Philippine



Navy's dilapidated tank landing ship BRP *Sierra Madre* (LT-57) ran aground on a reef near the Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratly Islands. She was stranded, and it was certain the ship could not be removed under her own power. She had been run aground intentionally to serve as an outpost to boost the Philippines' claim to sovereignty over the Spratly islands. It was one of a long-running series of actions

on many sides over claims to the hotly contested South China Sea. To read her full story, go to: <https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-magazine/2022/february/measure-sierra-madre>

**This Week:** Most of our readers have been keenly following the “Special Military Operation” occurring in Ukraine. The more erudite possibly subscribe to social media posts by the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), which has been very good in detailing, on a daily basis, the conflict’s push and shove. Others seem more intent on watching Soviet-era armour get clobbered on YouTube. The war seems to have become an artillery one, with the air element, with the exception of drones, taking a backseat to delivering ordnance. One part of the artillery war is the use by both sides of self-propelled guns (SPGs) of all types, with towed artillery playing a lesser role. Commentators often mention the ability of SPGs to “shoot and scoot” as the reason they are playing such an effective role. The videos showing the new Royal Artillery wheeled SPG, the Archer, a Swedish design, attest to the rapidity of deployment and withdrawal that modern SPGs are capable of (the Archers are replacing older AS90s that have been sent to aid Ukraine). Canada, which has no SGP’s, was once a pioneer of such equipment, with the Sexton 25 pdr SPG, based on the chassis of our Ram tank, giving sterling service during and after World War II. We continued that tradition from the 1960s to 2005 with the American M109 155mm vehicle. Sadly, the Royal Regiment now has zero SPGs. If you don’t like that, write to your MP, I have.



Nonetheless, those fine people at NDHQ would probably like to have some of the kit they see our allies (and non-allies) using with such effect. If modern kit is too expensive, then why not revive something from the past that could be built more cheaply and quickly than some complex modern device? Why not use the vehicle in this week’s photo? But we ask, what was it? If you know, please let our

editor, Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com)) know, too, or tell the author (but I already know), John Redmond ([johnd.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd._redmond@telus.net)). Soldier on!

### **From the ‘Punitary’**

Where did Robin Hood buy his flowers? Sherwood Florist.

### **Murphy’s Other Laws**

The worse the weather, the more you are required to be out in it.

### **Quotable Quotes**

The problem with the world is that the intelligent people are full of doubts, while the stupid ones are full of confidence. *George Bernard Shaw*

## 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.**

### **NOTE change in sign on address and password**

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies. Click on this link:-  
(this link will take you **straight to the waiting room** – no password needed)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72758359360?pwd=XE0y7bIBCNvTYsIFcFlZ6g1e1pfzMP.1>

or use Meeting ID 727 5835 9360 **and the secret passcode is pFPey6**

Invite some friends! We have room for 100! See you on Wednesdays at noon. Bring your own lunch and beverage of choice.

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

## Dr Andrea Lane

### Defence Scientist at Defence Research and Development Canada



Andrea is a Defence Scientist and strategic analyst with DND. Her personal research focusses on the intersection of national defence, politics, and society, examining the military as an institution, civil-military relations, personnel policy, and procurement. Her dissertation project investigated the role of gender in Canadian civil-military relations. Her work has been published in *International Journal*, *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, and the *Canadian Naval Review*, as chapters in several books, and in popular venues such as *Policy Options*. She is the co-editor, with Brian Bow, of *Canadian Foreign*

*Policy: Reflections on a Field in Transition*, published by UBC Press (2020). As a strategic analyst with DND, Andrea's work has been published in *International Journal*, *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, and the *Canadian Naval Review*, as chapters in several books, and in popular venues such as *Policy Options*. She is the co-editor, with Brian Bow, of *Canadian Foreign Policy: Reflections on a Field in Transition*, published by UBC Press (2020).

#### Employment

Defence Research and Development Canada Ottawa Research Centre (DRDC Ottawa)  
Defence Scientist, Maritime Operational Research Team. Jul 2021 - Present  
Esquimalt, British Columbia, Canada. Strategic analyst supporting the RCN

Assistant Professor Canadian Forces College Canadian Forces College  
Aug 2020 - Jul 2021 Lecturer

Deputy Director, Centre for the Study of Security. Jul 2019 - Aug 2020

Lecturer - Dalhousie University. Jan 2017 - Apr 2017





The  
Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia  
presents  
**Distinguished Speaker**  
**Major-General S.Y. Ménard**  
**Chief Fighter and NORAD Capability**  
**Royal Canadian Air Force**



# **F-35 Update**

**1-2:30 pm Atlantic time, Wednesday, 21 February 2024  
via Zoom**

**register through [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com)**



## **RUSI(NS) - Distinguished Speaker 21 February 2024 - MGen Ménard RCAF**



### **Major-General S.Y. Ménard, MSM, CD Chief Fighter and NORAD Capability Royal Canadian Air Force**

Major-General Sylvain Ménard was recently appointed to Chief Fighter Capability, Royal Canadian Air Force in the National Capital Region, where he is responsible for the management of all projects related to the current and future fighter capability.

He joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1989 and attended the Royal Military College of Saint-Jean (RMC) Saint-Jean, and Royal Roads Military College (RMCC) Victoria, from which he graduated in 1994. He proceeded through pilot training and received his wings in 1995. In 1996, he was posted to 439 Squadron, Bagotville, Quebec, where he flew the CT-133 Silverstar. In 1998, he completed the Fighter Pilot Lead in Training and the Fighter Pilot Course on the CF-188 Hornet at the 410 Operational Training Unit in Cold Lake, Alberta. He then flew the CF-188 with 425 Tactical Fighter Squadron from 1999 to 2003, and completed the Fighter Weapons Instructor Course (FWIC) and the Tactical Leadership Program (TLP). In his flying career Major-General Ménard has accumulated over 2,600 flying hours on jet aircraft, with 1,600 of those hours in the CF-188 Hornet.

Over the course of his career, he held various significant staff assignments. He was the 3 Wing Evaluations, Exercise and Plans Officer, held the positions of Flight Commander, Operations Officer, and Deputy Squadron Commander at 425 Squadron, and worked at the 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters as A3 Fighters. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2008 during Op ATHENA to work within the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) Combined Joint Operations Centre. In 2011, he led the expeditious deployment of the Canadian fighters and air-to-air refuellers detachment to Italy in support of Op MOBILE, the country's contribution to NATO Op UNIFIED PROTECTOR. Over the course of that mission Major-General Ménard flew numerous combat missions over Libya in support of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973.

In 2008, Major-General Ménard completed the Joint Command and Staff College (JCSP) in Toronto, and in 2015 the USAF Air War College (AWC) in Montgomery, Alabama. He assumed command of 3 Wing/Canadian Forces Base Bagotville (2013-2015) and filled the role of Director Defense Program Coordination in Ottawa (2015-2017). Following, he assumed the duties of Deputy Commander Continental U.S. NORAD Region in July 2017, where he was responsible for the region's continuous air defense readiness in addition to the defense of the US National Capital Region.

Major-General Ménard holds a Master's degree in Strategic Studies, with academic distinction, from the USAF Air University in Montgomery, Alabama, a Master's degree in Defense Studies from the RMC Kingston, Ontario, a Bachelor degree in Space Sciences and Physics from RRMC Victoria, British Columbia and a certificate in Complex Projects and Procurement Leadership from the TELFER School of Management, University of Ottawa, Ontario.

# **78<sup>th</sup> FRASER & 15<sup>th</sup> FD REGT RCA WHISKY TASTING**



## **78<sup>TH</sup> FRASER HIGHLANDERS & 15<sup>th</sup> FIELD REGIMENT RCA ANNUAL WHISKY TASTING FUNDRAISER FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2024 BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY – OFFICERS' MESS**

**Back after a four year absence, our annual whiskey tasting, and fundraiser is scheduled to take place starting at 1800 hrs in the Bessborough Armoury's Officers' Mess.**

**1830 to 2200 hrs  
(6:30 to 10 PM)**

**The aim of the event is to raise funds to support the programmes and charities of the 78<sup>th</sup> Frasers Highlanders Fort Fraser Garrison, as well as the activities of the 15 Field Regimental Society which also includes providing scholarships to serving members of the Regiment to pursue post-secondary education.**

**Light refreshments will be provided, and up to six samples of whisky's will be served. The Bar will be open for those who may prefer other beverages.**

**The tariff for the full whisky fleet tasting is \$65, and for those who wish to attend to support the event but prefer other beverages is \$30.00**

**Prior proceeds for this event have supported the 15 FD Centennial Activities, and scholarships including one to the Scottish Studies Programme at SFU.**

**Dress is Business Casual or Highland Dress**

**This event is open to guests from any of our 39 CBG military units and families, including members of the Royal Canadian Legion or Army, Navy, & Airforce Associations.**

**Please RVSP prior to Tuesday 27 February to LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett at [barrettjd007@gmail.com](mailto:barrettjd007@gmail.com) to support both units.**

# Left Coast Lancers Moreuil Wood Lunch



## **Left Coast Lancers HQ**

### Warning Order

#### Situation

**The Battle of Moreuil Wood Luncheon is booked for 21 March 2024, 1130-1400 at the Sidney North Sannich Yacht Club.**

This lunch is also the Spring Gathering of ALL members of the LCL. We are inclusive and do not wish to offend the sensitivities of other fine regiments such as Garry's, Hussars and Dragoons various. We could go with St Georges Day on 23 April, Saint George is the Patron Saint of the RCAC and he is all about chivalry, charity and courage. We are supposed to give flowers out that day. Very popular amongst the more dashing Hussars so I am told. I will leave the Dragoons out of this for the moment as they are in Petawawa and would possibly be snow bound handing out pine cones and black flies.

The weather here is damp and on the Island we have survived plunging tempters in the minus 5 area which caused the earth to briefly cease rotation on it's axis, but we have Endured as is the wont of all Left Coast Lancers who are loath to having their golf and fishing activities interfered with.



Global events continue and we of the LCL are on standby to conduct additional lunches if ordered by the HRH King Charles III or members of the LCL.

### Command and Signals

Please ack, menu and pricing to follow. Estimate \$40.00 per person.  
If you know of others in the area please pass on.

### **Endurance**

David Scandrett

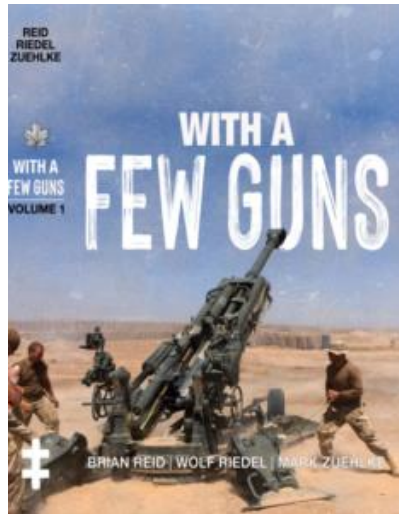
Left Coast Lancers Ops O and Maître de

[tango14@outlook.com](mailto:tango14@outlook.com)

778-245-2800



## With a Few Guns



### **With A Few Guns – The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery in Afghanistan Volume I 2002-2006**

Authored by Col (Retd) Wolf Riedel and Mark Zuehlke,  
building on the work of LCol (Retd) Brian Reid

This two-volume set captures the experiences of Canadian Gunners and the Regimental family during the Afghanistan era.

- Volume 1 – 2002-2006, publication date **4 December 2023!**  
The translation “Avec quelques canons” is expected for autumn 2024.
- Volume 2 – 2007 to 2014, targeted publication date 2024/2025

[READ SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM VOLUME 1](#)

<https://rca-arc.org/excerpts-from-with-a-few-guns/>

*We can't complete Volume 2 without your help. Be part of this significant undertaking – tell your story, submit your photos. Even the smallest detail touches someone!*

Contact [mrgnrsmith@gmail.com](mailto:mrgnrsmith@gmail.com) and make sure *our* story is recorded for generations to come!

“With A Few Guns” is dedicated to the greater family of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery—from those who served with distinction in the face of danger in Afghanistan, to those who trained and supported them to become mission-ready, and especially to those who kept the rest of the family together at home. In memory of “Reid B.A of the RCA” (1939-2023) and his dedicated service to the Guns, his sage advice and his literary prowess in recording parts of the Canadian Army’s rich history.

# 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland Battlefield Tour

*The  
Royal Canadian Artillery  
Association*



*L'Association de  
l'Artillerie royale  
canadienne*

13 October 2023

## **RE: 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Liberation of Holland Commemorative Battlefield Tour, May 2025**

Dear Sirs, Commanding Officers, et al

I am writing this letter to solicit your interest in participating in a May 2025 Battlefield tour to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Holland. The organisation of a trip of this magnitude involves a lot of time and resources and we, at the RCAA, would like to ensure that we have sufficient interest from all the units across the country before we start planning. For those of you that participated in the last significant commemoration, the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day in 2019, we would like to build on it's success and use the lessons learned to make this trip better.

### **Why**

- The 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland will be a major event – the very last major event while veterans of the Second World War are still with us. These commemorative events in Holland every fifth year are always a big deal – but this one will be special.
- The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery played a major role in the Second World War, especially in the Liberation of Holland.
- Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) will be the lead Department for Canada in official ceremonies, and the Department of National Defence (DND) will support the VAC efforts (typically a multi-service Guard, Band, Logistics support, Security, VIPs, airlift, etc.). Elements of the Gunner community will most certainly be involved in the VAC-led events, but so will all elements of the CAF be represented.
- Separate from the "official" GOC activities, many Branches/Corps, Regiments, Associations, and travel companies will be organizing commemorative trips to participate in the 80th Anniversary of Liberation of Holland.

### **Mission**

- To enhance cohesion, morale, and esprit de corps of the Royal Regiment by commemorating and celebrating the accomplishments of our predecessors during the Liberation of Holland 1945.

### **Rationale**

- Remember and commemorate those Gunners who served in WWII, and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.
- Build cohesion and morale amongst serving members, Regular Force and Reserve.
- Connect the serving generation of the RCA with retired members
- Support and reinforce the goals and objectives of the RCA Association.
- Supplement the professional development of serving members.
- Re-learn lessons of the Artillery at war in a theatre of operations in North-West Europe.

*Administration  
27048 35B Avenue  
Langley, B.C. V4W 0C3*

*Au service des artilleurs canadiens depuis 1876  
Serving Canadian Gunners Since 1876*

*Finance  
10 Lancewood Crescent  
Brampton, Ont. L6S 5Y6*





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### **Concept and Scope**

- Conduct a ten-day battlefield study immediately prior to and during the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands.
- Aim for 30 to 40 deserving Non-Commissioned Members and Junior Officers representing every Regular Force and Reserve Artillery unit, who will be sponsored through raised donations.
- Invite other serving, retired Gunners and their families, Association members and others, who will pay their own way.
- Aim for two bus loads of participants (80-90 pax).
- Engage a professional company that specializes in battlefield studies, with professional historians.
- Arrange all travel activities (flights, land travel, hotels, meals, insurance, etc.) through a professional travel agency.
- Conduct with the assistance of the RCAA, a major Non-Public fundraising campaign at national, local, and unit level to raise approximately \$6,000-6,500 per person. Ideally each participating member should contribute \$500 towards the trip.
- Identify a point of Contact per unit that will engage with the national organising committee.

### **Conclusion**

The RCAA want to ensure the participation of serving gunners and we are willing to put the time and resources however, this trip cannot happen without your support and commitment. Please advise us of your interest in supporting and participating in this trip by the 31<sup>st</sup> of October by notifying Major (R) Richard Gratton at rgratton1534@gmail.com.

Following the returns, timelines and more information will be coming your way. If you have any questions, please also contact Maj (Ret'd) Richard Gratton at rgratton1534@gmail.com.

Ubique!

*Bill Kalogerakis*

B. (Bill) Kalogerakis, CD  
Colonel (Ret'd)  
President  
The Royal Canadian Artillery Association  
president.rcaa.aarc@gmail.com

# Commemoration Cyprus 2024



**Comméoration Chypre 2024**



**Commemoration Cyprus 2024**



## Mission

*...commémorer la contribution du Canada à la mission de l'ONU à Chypre à l'occasion du 50e anniversaire de la guerre de 1974.*

*...commemorate Canada's contribution to the UN mission in Cyprus on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1974 war.*



**WHAT** - Cyprus 2024 Pilgrimage.

**GOAL** - to capture the history and stories from those who served in Cyprus with emphasis on the actions that took place during the 1974 war, **A FORGOTTEN WAR.**

**WHEN** - November 2024.

**WHO** - All Cyprus and Canadian Airborne Regiment Veterans and family members.

**WHERE** - Nicosia Cyprus, lodged at the Hilton Hotel.

**COST** - Pay as you go trip with individual costs in the \$5000 to 6000 range. Costs covered will include airfare, hotel with breakfast and expenses such as transportation.

**TRAVEL** - Will be arranged by professional travel agents, with pre and post tour travel options available.

**PROGRAM** - Seven days: three days of battlefield tours, three days of excursions, and one day of Remembrance.

**FURTHER INFORMATION AND UPDATES ARE AVAILABLE BY JOINING THE CYPRUS 2024 FACEBOOK GROUP** [Cyprus2024 | Facebook](#)

**QUOI** - Pèlerinage à Chypre 2024.

**OBJECTIF** - capturer l'histoire et les récits de ceux qui ont servi à Chypre en mettant l'accent sur les actions qui ont eu lieu là pendant la guerre de 1974, **UNE GUERRE OUBLIÉE.**

**QUAND** - Novembre 2024.

**QUI** - Tous les vétérans de Chypre, du Régiment aéroporté canadien et les membres de leurs familles.

**OÙ** - Nicosie Chypre, logés à l'hôtel Hilton.

**COÛT** - Voyage à la carte avec des coûts individuels inclus, environ \$5000 et 6000. Les coûts comprendront le billet d'avion, l'hôtel avec petit-déjeuner et les dépenses telles que le transport.

**VOYAGE** - Sera organisé par des agents de voyage professionnels, avec options de voyage avant et après la réunion.

**PROGRAMME** - Sept jours: trois jours de visites du champ de bataille, trois jours d'excursions et une journée du Souvenir.

**PLUS D'INFORMATIONS ET MISES À JOUR SONT DISPONIBLES EN REJOIGNANT LE GROUPE FACEBOOK CYPRUS 2024** [Cyprus2024 | Facebook](#)

