

## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News 23 May 2023

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

**Commemoration Cyprus 2024** – see poster section

- May 24** Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting
- May 26** Coast to Coast Toast celebrating Artillery Day (see posters)
- May 27** Change of Command Ceremony !5 Fd Regt RCA
- May 31** Wed 'Zoom' lunch meeting

## A 1960s-Era Cannon is Kicking Ass Against Russia's Drones

but the country that makes ammo for it won't send more to Ukraine.

*Benjamin Brimelow Business Insider Apr 19, 2023*



*Romanian Gepard anti-aircraft tanks during a live-fire drill in Poland in November 2021.*

*Photo US Army/Pfc Jacob Bradford*

One of the most valuable weapons that Ukraine has gotten to help fight Russia is a relatively unsophisticated German system from the 1970s: the Flakpanzer Gepard. The Gepard, which means "cheetah" in German, is a self-propelled anti-aircraft gun that uses two automatic cannons to take out aerial targets. It was the first heavy weapon that Germany sent to Ukraine. Despite being close to 50 years old, the Gepard is filling an important role in Ukraine's air-defense network: taking out low-flying drones and missiles that are very threatening but too cheap and numerous to justify using sophisticated

surface-to-air missiles to shoot down. The Gepard's performance in Ukraine has demonstrated the enduring value of simple and mobile anti-aircraft systems in the 21st century, but Ukraine's Gepards face another problem far from the frontline: The country that makes their ammunition has so far been unwilling to let Kyiv have more of it.

*A German Gepard anti-aircraft tank during an exercise near Munster in June 2007.*  
*REUTERS/Christian Charisius*



The Gepard was designed in the 1960s and entered service in the 1970s. Built on the chassis of a Leopard 1 tank, it is capable of speeds up to 40 mph and has a range of 340 miles. Its main armament is two Oerlikon GDF 35mm autocannons on either side of its specially designed turret. It carries about 320 rounds for each cannon, both of which can fire of 550 rounds a minute. Belts of ammo are fed to each gun through hermetically sealed chutes in the turret. The Gepard can fire a variety of ammunition, including Armor Piercing Discarding Sabot Tracer rounds, High Explosive Incendiary Tracer rounds, and Advanced Hit Efficiency and Destruction rounds. Depending on the ammunition they're using, Gepard cannons can hit targets some 6,500 yards away. The turret has an S-Band search radar mounted on its rear and a Ku-band tracking radar on its front. Each radar can detect targets up to about 9 miles away. The search radar, which constantly rotates at 60 rpm, locates a target and passes the data to the tracking radar, allowing for a continuous search. With a crew of three — a commander, a driver, and a gunner — the Gepard was designed to take on heavily armed and armored Soviet helicopter gunships. Its target set eventually expanded to include low-flying drones, missiles, and rockets.



*Romanian soldiers fire a Gepard during an exercise in Poland in November 2021.*  
*US Army/Pfc. Jacob Bradford*

German defense company Krauss-Maffei Wegmann built 570 Gepards between 1963 and 1980 — 420 for the German Bundeswehr, 95 for the Dutch army, and 55 for the Belgian army. The Netherlands and Belgium retired their Gepards around 2006 and



Germany did so in 2010. Brazil, Jordan, Qatar, and Romania have since purchased some decommissioned Gepards. After being criticized for its reluctance to send heavy weaponry to Ukraine, the German government promised some 50 Gepards to Ukraine in April 2022. The first three arrived in July and were followed by another 27 by the end of the year. As of March, 34 Gepards have been sent to Ukraine, with plans to deliver at least three more. The Gepards were rushed to the frontlines almost immediately and proved effective at downing low-flying Russian cruise missiles and drones. They have been particularly effective against Iranian-made Shahed-131 and 136 loitering munitions that Russia is using against Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Ukrainian Gepard crews have been successful despite receiving just two months of training, compared to the German standard of 18 months. One crew around Odessa reportedly downed 10 Shaheds and two cruise missiles in a single day.

*Romanian soldiers in Gepards during an exercise in Poland in November 2021.*

*US Army/Pfc Jacob Bradford*



The Gepards fill an important gap in Ukraine's air-defense network, which includes long-range systems like Soviet-era S-300 and Buk surface-to-air-missile systems as well as Western-made systems like NASAMS and the MIM-104 Patriot, which recently arrived in Ukraine. Missiles fired by those systems are more advanced, but they are expensive and few in number. Those missiles are also Ukraine's main defense against Russia's fast, high-flying fighters and bombers, and Ukrainian forces can't afford to use them against every drone and cruise missile. Gepards are designed to destroy low-flying targets and are much cheaper to operate. The different weapons have worked in tandem — surface-to-air missiles force Russian aircraft and cruise missiles to fly at lower altitudes, enabling Gepards and Ukrainian troops armed with shoulder-fired missiles to take them down —

to create an integrated air-defense system that US military officials have praised.

*A Romanian soldier carries rounds to a Gepard before a live fire drill in Poland in Feb 2021.*

*Army/Staff Sgt Elizabeth O Bryson*



The Gepards' 35mm rounds with air-burst capability, which explode near targets and

fill the air with shrapnel, are particularly useful for their mission, but access to that ammo may also be a limiting factor. The only country that makes air-bust ammo for the Gepard is Switzerland, which not only refuses to sell more ammo to Ukraine because of its commitment to neutrality but also prohibits other countries from re-exporting Swiss defense products to another country at war.

Consequently, Ukraine hasn't been able to buy more ammunition from the Swiss, and Germany has been unable to send more ammo from its stocks. Attempts to acquire ammunition from other countries have fallen through for political and technical reasons. The Gepards "are kicking ass against the drones, against the Shahed," Mark Montgomery, a retired US Navy admiral who is now senior director of the Center on Cyber and Technology Innovation and the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said at a Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance event in February. "They're shooting them down. They're doing fantastic, but they're running out of ammo," Montgomery added.

In February, German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius announced that German firm Rheinmetall would restart ammo production for the Gepard. The company has said two batches of 35mm rounds would be delivered to Ukraine: 150,000 APDS-T rounds arriving this summer and 150,000 rounds of HEI-T rounds to be delivered in 2024. Ukraine's need for Gepard ammunition may only increase, however. US intelligence documents composed in February and leaked on the internet in recent weeks show assessments that Ukraine's main surface-to-air missiles could be expended as early as May, meaning that weapons like the Gepard will have to be fired more.



*A US Army M-SHORAD system in April 2021.  
US Army/Capt. Jordan Allen*

The US's prime anti-air weapon is its Air Force, which has maintained air superiority in every conflict it has fought in since the end of the Cold War. But US Air Force officials don't expect that dominance to last, and the US military has stepped up its search for a SPAAG-like weapon to fill its air-defense gap. The US Army, traditionally responsible for short-range air defense, has fielded an interim solution — the Maneuver-Short Range Air Defense system. Based on the Stryker armored vehicle, the M-SHORAD is armed with four Stinger missiles, two AGM-114L Hellfire missiles, and a 30mm M230 autocannon. US soldiers in Europe were the first to receive M-SHORADs in April 2021.



# **For Comd Post Survival, US Army Wants More Mobility and Concealment**

*Colin Demarest C4ISRNET May 17, 2023*



*US Army soldiers go through a command post modernization operational assessment at the Kinnard Mission Training Complex at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in 2021. Spc Andrea Notter US Army*

WASHINGTON — The US Army wants to make its command posts nimbler and more easily concealable to survive intense, widespread fights of the future, and it's pulling lessons from the invasion of Ukraine to inform the effort. Command posts of the past were relatively stationary, cumbersome to set up and break

down, and often identifiable by the heat, noise and electronic artifacts they give off. Such easy targets will not cut it in a fight against China or Russia, world powers with mature sensing and targeting capabilities, according to Army officials. So, the service is investing in several projects to make the battlefield hubs hardier, including what are known as Command Post Integrated Infrastructure and the less-mature Mobile and Survivable Command Post. The former combines trucks with communication nodes and off-the-shelf commercial technologies for intuitive use.

The latter could feature remote antenna systems, enhanced camouflage techniques and self-sufficient power generation and banking. “Five years ago, two years ago, we spent a day setting up a command post and then we spend a day tearing it down, so the command post was never able to really fight,” Ward Roberts, the assistant program executive officer for command, control and communications-tactical, or PEO C3T, said at a virtual C4ISRNET event May 16. “Now, the idea is that commander needs to be maneuvering the command post as well as maneuvering his elements.” “Between the ability to move the command post around and the efforts to reduce the ability to detect the command post — two lines of effort really driving at solving that problem of ‘how do we make the command post survivable,’” he added. A conflict with either China or Russia would mean defending against an array of eager eyes and ears: drones overhead, signals intelligence capabilities that can cue in on communications, and other long-range sensors. Commanders need to understand their footprint, Ward said, as well as how to manipulate the hardware they have in hand.

*US Army soldiers assigned to the "Can Do Battalion" test and provide feedback on network equipment during a three-week pilot at Fort Stewart, Georgia, in February 2022. Capt Detrick Moore/US Army*



The envisioned future — to which the broader Defense Department is cleaving — is a far cry from the decades the US spent waging counterterrorism campaigns in the Middle East, where combatants were less equipped and less technologically savvy. “Most of our commanders have grown up not having to worry about that problem. When you were in a forward-operating base in Iraq and Afghanistan, it wasn’t a challenge,” Roberts said. “We have seen that when you have a highly skilled enemy, you can’t sit there very long. If you do sit there and long, they’re going to find you. If they can find you, they can target you.” Footage captured in Ukraine and disseminated through social media, among other outlets, shows the dangers of staying still; entrenched troops are often the pickings of airdropped ordnance, as are slow-rolling vehicles. Maj Gen Jeth Rey, the director of the Army’s Network Cross-Functional Team, earlier this month told reporters there is a clear demand for mobility. Minutes in the same place can mean the difference between life or death. “We can’t halt,” said Rey, who works closely with PEO C3T. “One of the big things we’re moving forward on is on-the-move capabilities for them.”

### **15 Fd Museum’s FAT Gets an Oil Change.**



The Vancouver Artillery Association is getting ready to enter the Museum’s FAT and 25pdr in the New Westminster Hyack parade. They drove over to the local Mr Lub and got the oil changed. They flushed out the old oil and put in 10W40 oil. The shop has a pit, so the vehicle did not have to go up on a hoist. The employees were very impressed with the vehicle.

### **Another Successful lunch in the 15 Fd Officers’ Mess**

A sell out crowd attended the 15Fd Regimental Society luncheon and RUSI Vancouver presentation by Mr Roddy MacKenzie on his recent publication on the history of ‘Bomber Command’ which has been very well received and has been selling very well. The Commanding Officer of 15<sup>th</sup> FD Regiment RCA took time during the luncheon to acknowledge the service of WO Morris for her work as Chief Clerk and wished her well on her new posting.



*LCol Nick Watts pays tribute to Chief Clerk WO Morris on Posting*



*L-R: Former HCol Ted Hawthorne, LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett BCR Association President, Mr Roddy Mackenzie, Col (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell & HLCol Don Foster 15 Fd RCA*



This was the fourth catered luncheon/presentation since the start of the Pandemic in 2020, with service of roast sirloin beef tip, mashed potatoes, gravy, mixed carrots and peppers, tea and coffee and a small selection of desserts. A June

lunch/presentation is being considered. If it goes ahead, it will be the last for the season and the next lunch/presentation, if it happens, will be in September.

## **Full Spectrum Integrated Lethality**

On the Promise and Peril of Buzzwords. Every few years, there seems to be a new buzzword in the national security establishment. *Elena Wicker War on the Rocks May 17, 2023*

What was once simply “deterrence” has recently become “integrated deterrence.” This follows many decades of adjectival marches through nuclear, conventional, direct, immediate, general, complex, indirect, extended, symmetric, classical, traditional, modern, pivotal, and perfect deterrence, not to mention deterrence by denial, punishment, entanglement, and detection. Today, at least 27 types of deterrence exist in political science and defense studies. Across the defense enterprise, the proliferation of attention-grabbing jargon is widely maligned. These new terms can be confusing, duplicative, vague, and generally unhelpful. Buzzwords and jargon are banned in writing guides, legislated into plain language, and constrained through terminology standardization programs. Yet, despite this, buzzwords continue to proliferate. Why? Buzzwords are a promising weapon in the arsenal of individuals seeking to shape an organization. Buzzwords introduce a new label that can delink us from our prior knowledge and expectations. They can provide an external or executive-driven justification for new budgeting and organizational structures, thereby deflecting blame from lower-level leaders. When used judiciously and in concert with other tactics, buzzwords can help leaders change organizations. But buzzwords are also perilous. They can be coopted into bumper stickers or denigrated as bingo squares. All buzzwords eventually lose their buzz. It is the actions, or inaction, of individuals and organizations during a buzzword’s lifespan that determine whether it begins a revolution or fades into a bumper sticker.

“Buzzwords” and “jargon” are often conflated, but they are not the same. Jargon is the set of technical language shared by a group of people in the same profession or specialty. One subset of jargon is “terminology” — the standardized technical words and phrases that have been

codified. For example, in my research, “military terminology” is the set of words found codified in military doctrine, the Department of Defense Dictionary, or the service dictionaries. Buzzwords are a different subset of jargon. They are uncoded phrases that are particularly fashionable or attention-grabbing at a specific moment in time. Some are just flash in the pan words that quickly drop out of usage, while others survive for decades. Critically, words can move between these categories: buzzwords that lose their fashionable nature decay into non-buzzy jargon, and with enough support, may eventually be codified into doctrinal terminology. The first benefit of buzzwords is that they create cognitive distance from something that already exists, creating space for individuals to think in a new way. When individuals enter a profession, they are taught the jargon of their professional community. These words become familiar, even habitual. Jargon is often shorthand for more complex ideas and processes, allowing for faster communication. Because this language is often learned through conversation and context, it is possible to use jargon appropriately without recalling its origins. You’ve experienced this if you have ever used an acronym but cannot recall exactly what it stands for. It is possible to discuss the term “deterrence” without understanding its intellectual history. The 2022 National Security Strategy introduces “integrated deterrence” to make readers reconceptualize “deterrence,” breaking out of the habitual shorthand. The document even explicitly calls on readers “to think and act in new ways.”

One of the greatest (unintentional) buzzword designers was Carl von Clausewitz. In *On War*, Clausewitz used scientific analogies like gravity and friction to capture his theory of war. Ironically, he also warns readers about the “pompous retinues of technical terms” that accompany most studies of war. In Clausewitzian thought, “centres of gravity” are “situated where the greatest bodies of troops are assembled.” After the 1970s boom in *On War*’s popularity in professional military education, usage of the phrase “centers of gravity” peaked in military professional journals in the 1980s. The argument was that Clausewitz presented a more intelligent way to focus Army combat power. At this same time, US Army leaders were learning from the Vietnam and Yom Kippur Wars, reconceptualizing and extending the battlefield, and implementing change through the AirLand Battle concept of war. Robert Cluley argues that buzzwords provide a “spoonful of sugar” to help organizations explore problem areas that they don’t want to admit are problematic. The “extended battlefield” and “centers of gravity” were that sugar. The buzz around these ideas would eventually dissipate. But this was not a failure of the buzzwords, rather it was a sign of their success. Leaders like Gen. Donn Starry at US Army Training and Doctrine Command were wielding their buzzwords intentionally and thoughtfully in a planned series of talks, articles, and engagements. “Center of gravity” is not in AirLand Battle, but Clausewitzian and AirLand battle narratives converged. In 1986, Army operations doctrine codified AirLand Battle, redefining operational art as the fundamental decisions about when and where to fight. This was to be enabled by the identification of center-of-gravity, defined as “those characteristics, capabilities, or localities from which a military force derives its freedom of action, physical strength, or will to fight.”

In this case, an intentional campaign of AirLand Battle buzzwords merged with the inadvertent buzz of Clausewitz’s lexicon, linguistically anchoring a transformation in Army doctrine. Other services, like the US Marine Corps, were also codifying Clausewitzian theory into their



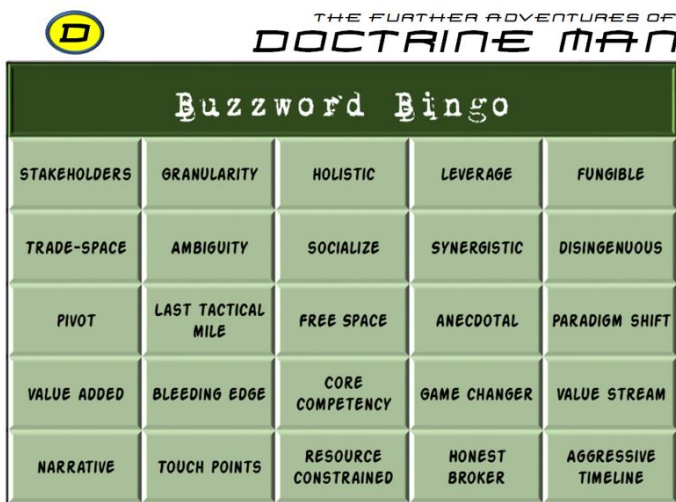
operations doctrine. Nearly forty years later, centers of gravity remain critical to operational design and underpin how US forces assess, plan, and act in combat. The term remains codified in joint doctrine as “the source of power that provides moral or physical strength, freedom of action, or will to act.” Identifying the strengths and weaknesses of an enemy was not a new idea, but “center of gravity” has fundamentally changed how Army forces train, plan, and operate. A foothold in doctrine was all that was needed to shape the thought of an entire generation of soldiers. “Integrated deterrence” now seeks to shape thinking in a similar way. We all have preconceived notions of deterrence based on our education, occupational background, and numerous other factors. The National Defense Strategy explains integrated deterrence as “using every tool at the Department [of Defense’s] disposal,” in concert with the rest of government, allies, and partners. Needless to say, this is not a new idea. But in practice, “whole-of-government” coordination for deterrence has been difficult to achieve. As with “center of gravity,” “integrated deterrence” seeks to disconnect listeners from their habitual understandings and create a new lens through which a challenging conversation can be revisited.

Buzzwords are just words until they are made material. When a new term is introduced, leaders can use this new external or higher-level priority to reallocate resources with less blame falling on them personally. One of the clearest ways to connect a term to material impact is through funding. To be resourced, a program must be named. The first National Defense Authorization Act passed in 1961 was less than one page long. It had three named categories: aircraft, missiles, and naval vessels. The fiscal year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act is 4,409 pages long with hundreds of sections, each representing a uniquely named “budget bucket.” “Lethality” is one such term made fiscally relevant. The concept of “new lethality,” was introduced in the 1976 Field Manual 100-5. Interest in the idea would wax and wane until, in the 2010s, the term was directly connected to resource reallocation. In 2017, the Army’s modernization priorities had “one simple focus: make Soldiers and units more lethal.” “Soldier lethality” became a modernization priority. The 2018 National Defense Strategy defined “joint lethality” as a resource allocation criterion, overtly threatening the existence of any organization that “hinder[ed] substantial increases in lethality.” Even though there was no codified meaning for “lethality” at the time, the term gained material importance. The connections between names and funding can prove problematic. Michael Spirtas wrote that “poorly understood terms waste time, money, and potentially lives.” After “lethality” was introduced as a metric for funding allocations, a cascade of rebranding occurred across the defense enterprise. In 2018, the Hawaii National Guard participated in the Pentagon’s Showcasing Lethality briefings to discuss their volcano response efforts. Volcano response is a legitimate public service, but the power of the buzzword as a metric for funding required that the program be redefined through a relationship to lethality. The momentary justification provided by a new buzzword is fleeting by nature. Buzzwords are flashy linguistic lightning rods — they spark debate.

When used within a narrative or directly connected to resource distribution, they can underpin concrete change. Over time, however, a word that is initially an intervention in a discourse is often reconfigured into a neutral talking point with no inspirational power. These neutral terms can be chained together into fuzzy language that masks meaningful conversation. George Orwell wrote that “modern writing at its worst ... consists in gumming together long strips of

words which have already been set in order by someone else and making the results presentable by sheer humbug.” Once the Department of Defense has been fully wrapped in the fuzzy chains of integrated deterrence and lethality, there is no need or opportunity for it to change further. Volcano response is conducted in the name of lethality. The moment is gone. Change is success for a buzzword. This change can take the shape of new ideas, new actions, and new funding, but also new language. Buzzwords can fizzle out and be forgotten, but successful buzzwords die a glorious death in legitimate codification. Military dictionaries and glossaries are the cemeteries of successful buzzwords. The most recent edition of the US Army’s Field Manual 3-0 Operations defines lethality as “the capability and capacity to destroy.” No longer simply buzzy, “lethality” is now doctrinal terminology.

Despite the potential for new thought, redistribution of resources, and new ways of operating, buzzwords are a double-edged sword. A well-designed and thoughtfully wielded buzzword can slice through red tape, but it can also rebound and cause a great deal of damage. In hierarchical organizations, subordinates are incentivized to use the language of their superiors. Using a leader’s language is a public way to show deference to authority. Typically, if a leader introduces a new term, no matter its utility, that word is reproduced in all subordinate documentation. The language cascades down the hierarchy as programs are relabeled to match a leader’s priorities. During these cascades, organizations can refuse to adapt but exploit the buzzword to *appear* different without substantive change. Organizations also tend to incorporate as many buzzwords as possible, even if it leads to incoherence. The result is exercises “focused on fires interoperability designed to increase readiness, lethality and interoperability across the human, procedural, and technical domains.” This communal regurgitation of buzzwords was described by a retired military officer I interviewed as “bunnies reproducing on PowerPoints.” Historically and not only in the military, when buzzwords are regurgitated, people keep track. It is not uncommon for individuals to create bingo cards of that moment’s terminology and turn speeches, presentations, or conferences into games of buzzword bingo with their colleagues.



*A 2015 comical buzzword bingo card by Steve Leonard, aka Doctrine Man.*

This is not a new phenomenon. In 1986, retired US Army Sergeant Major Fred Bost published an article titled “Buzzword Cowards,” excoriating commanders for cramming “pizzazz” into the language of enlisted and officer evaluation reports. Earlier, in the 1970s, bureaucratic satirist James H Boren wrote that the Pentagon was a “graduate school of the

mumblistic arts,” dedicating an entire book to the art of “mumbling with professional eloquence.” In this work, he defined mumbling as “the practice of mixing of tonal patterns with multisyllabic words for the purpose of projecting an image of knowledgeable ability and competence without regard

to either knowledge or competence.” Herein lies the warning. Leaders have a particularly powerful ability to shape an organization’s language. Documents and speeches presented by individuals at the peak of a hierarchy are the ignition point for linguistic virality. When buzzwords are mindlessly adopted in relabeling cascades, critical conversation shuts down. Confident presentation of incomprehensible buzzwords, particularly by authority figures, has the potential to fool even the most educated audience. The more difficult a written work is to understand, the more likely it is to be seen as important and prestigious by peers. However, when communicating outside of your profession, the overuse of jargon can cause readers to judge the writer as less intelligent. Using complex language can lead to the perception of credibility, but complexity and vagueness will undermine listeners’ *trust* over time.

Cosmetic linguistic change is perilous. Former commander of US Army Training and Doctrine Command, Gen William E DePuy cautioned, “conceptual or doctrinal change is much like drastic surgery; it should only be undertaken for the most powerful reasons.” Regardless of intent, the veneer of rank will require subordinates to use buzzwords. But the introduction of new language without intentional presentation and control of its narrative can undermine trust in an organization and its leadership. Words matter, so choose your words carefully and wield them intentionally. When facing an entrenched and powerful bureaucracy, there are a range of options for introducing change. Buzzwords are just one weapon in this arsenal. However, they must be used thoughtfully and combined with other tactics. When encountering a new buzzword, don’t only ask what the word means, ask what it seeks to do. “Integrated deterrence” asks you to reconsider your preconceived notions of deterrence. This may require new processes and different allocations of resources, and the buzz of “integrated deterrence” provides an external justification for organizations to reorganize. It is too early to say whether this effort will be successful. Leaders can influence narrative and incentive structures, but it is the actions taken in the name of “integrated deterrence” that will determine success. Organizations can relabel programs far more quickly than they can change. It is easier to slap on a bumper sticker than it is to rebuild a car. Buzzwords have the potential to be helpful, but this is not a blank check for a buzzword bonanza. Too many new meaningless words can slowly poison the intellectual environment. Much like the emissions of a single car are not enough to destroy the ozone layer, a single, isolated buzzword will not prove fatal. But add more and more buzzword emissions every year and eventually decades of linguistic pollution could leave discourse and strategy burning.

## **Vancouver Gunners Website Update**

### **Coast to Coast Toast 24 May 2023 at 1600 Hrs Pacific**

Hear some interesting words from the Colonel Commandant, Director RCA, Regimental Colonel and Director RCA, NCM. Meet up online with Gunners from across Canada.  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/coast-to-coast-toast-24-may-2023-at-1600-hrs-pt>

### **Change of Command Ceremony – 27 May 2023 at 1230 Hrs**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, RCA will be performing a Change of Command ceremony on 27 May 2023 at 1230hrs. Please RSVP by 24 May 2023 to the Adjutant.  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/change-of-command-invitation>



## **Artillery Day Celebration Party – 27 May 2023 at 1800 Hrs**

Here's an opportunity to connect with some former and current serving members of the Regiment.  
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/artillery-day-celebration-party>

## **Museum Planning Meeting 21 June 2023**

A morning planning meeting will be held from 0900h to 1200h at the Bessborough Armoury on Wednesday, 21 June. We will be discussing the near term (2023) as well as some much longer term possibilities, suggestions, plans and projects for our regimental museum. Participation of current volunteers, and also those that wish to assist the museum in the future, is welcome and we look forward to a very productive and useful morning discussion.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/museum-planning-meeting>

## **Yorke island - 21-24 April 2023**

Another 12 photos have been added to this Yorke Island page. Feeling an urge to go there and shovel some more dirt out of the basement. Anyone else interested?

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yorke-island-21-24-april-2023>

## **Officers' Mess Wednesday Lunch 18 May 2023**

15<sup>th</sup> Fd Regimental Society and the Royal United Services Institute, Vancouver held another fine lunch and speaker event at the Officers' Mess. Organized by Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Don Foster and RUSI President, Col (ret'd) Leith Maxwell, the lunch was part of the RUSI Speakers Series and featured Roddy Mackenzie, author of "Bomber Command, Churchill's Greatest Triumph" <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/wednesday-lunch-18-may-2023>

## **FAT Oil Change**

The Field Artillery Tractor (FAT) is getting ready for its participation in the New Westminster Hyack Parade on 27 May at 11AM.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/2023-yearbook-update>

## **Distinguished Conduct Medal Awards**

Check out the list of 180 Gunners that have been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for heroic acts. Twenty of them are missing their citations. Can you help the research to locate them?

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/distinguished-conduct-medal-awards>

## **Vancouver Artillery Association Annual General Meeting**

Join us on **14 Jun 2023** at 12:00 Noon as we hold our Annual General Meeting via Zoom. More details to follow in the near future.

**Wednesday Lunch Zoom Meeting.** Our zoom channel will be open on Wednesday from noon at <https://zoom.us/j/71810323784> . Or, in Zoom, enter meeting number 718 1032 3784 and the secret passcode is **6L6qz0** (fourth digit is a lower case Q and the last digit is a Zero)

**Note:** This is a new address and code. I had to reset the meeting parameters.

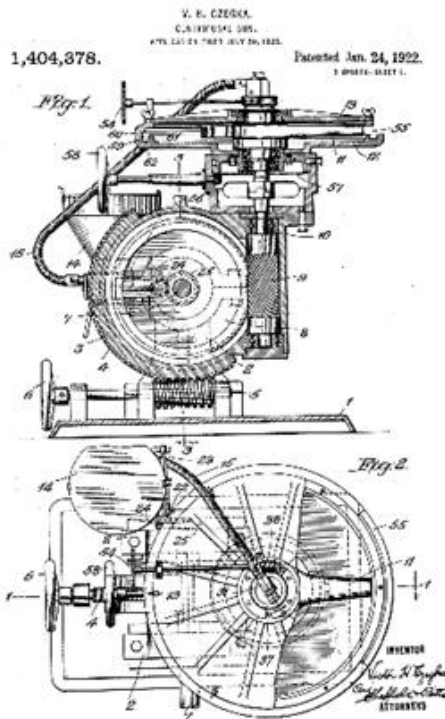
**Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!**

## The Army Cadet League of Cda, BC Branch is Seeking Our Assistance

The Army Cadet League of Canada, BC Branch is seeking assistance from our Regimental Association partners. The BC Branch urgently needs volunteers to assist the Branch as Zone Representatives across British Columbia. For more information [see notice in Poster section](#)

## Who (or What) Is It?

**Last Week:** This is a **centrifugal gun** invented by V Czegka in 1922. A **centrifugal gun** is a type of rapid-fire projectile accelerator, like a machine gun but operating on a different principle. Centrifugal guns use a rapidly rotating disc to impart energy to the projectiles, gaining kinetic energy from steam, electricity or other engine source rather than gunpowder. A steam powered centrifugal gun built by Charles Dickinson of Boston was tested during the American Civil War. This gun was popularly but incorrectly attributed to pro-Southern Maryland millionaire and inventor Ross Winans. Another hand-cranked centrifugal gun that fired musket balls was designed by Robert McCarty during the same period. Despite repeated tests, including one in the presence of Abraham Lincoln, McCarty's gun never saw service. Dahlgren however took the idea seriously, and after testing McCarty's prototype, he built a steam-powered 12 pounder which could fire 15 rounds in 16 seconds and had a range of a mile. It was extremely inaccurate, however. As historian Robert V. Bruce notes: "the sole casualty of centrifugal gunfire during the Civil War seems to have been one ill-starred Army mule".



The idea was even tested during World War I by the US Bureau of Standards, using a prototype built by lawyer Edward T Moore, and advertised as a silent machine gun. The prototype used a powerful electric motor to spin the gun's grooved rotor. It was abandoned due to extremely poor accuracy. Moore was granted USPTO patent number 1332992. Another design can be found in USPTO patent number 1311492, granted in July 1919. Another effort during World War I was to build a centrifugal gun powered by an aircraft's engine. This design was advanced by EL Rice and taken seriously by Robert Andrews Millikan and the National Research Council; the project ultimately proved "beyond resolution". In 2005, a new centrifugal weapon called DREAD, invented by Charles St George, was discussed in *New Scientist* and in *Annals of Improbable Research*. DREAD, patented in 2003, claims to launch projectiles with the speed of a handgun, at about

300 m/s. In an episode from the 2007 season of MythBusters Adam and Jamie built a replica of the Winans Steam Gun and found it unreliable. SpinLaunch, a California company founded in 2014, is working to launch satellites into space with a system similar to a centrifugal gun. *From Wikipedia.*

**This Week:** In spite of your author's personal computational engine being attacked by agents of a certain large, but evil power, in the form not of a virus, but of electronic difficulties, we have managed to issue another quiz. Take that Vladimir Poutine and your borsch-loving minions! In actual fact, this week's column does not reference that autocrat's current war of aggression directly, but does have an indirect connection. Our photo shows a flying machine of a rather pleasingly sleek shape, one that reminds us of a sandwich we recently ate, although that food did not have any engines, which is probably just as well, given that oil is not the most desirable ingredient when one is on a diet to fit back into one's govt-approved Speedo.



Our eagle-eyed Speedo-wearing readers will note that our skilled photo-artists have, at great cost, cleverly “redacted” this aeroplane to hide its national markings. We have done this in order to more fully test your synaptic response to the quiz.

So, dear readers, what is this elegant flying machine? Who built it? And what did it do at a time when such was not commonly thought viable? Send your responses to our hard-working editor, Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com)), or the technically-challenged (by Ivan Ivanovich's cyber agents?) author, John Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). Straighten up and fly right!

### **From the ‘Punitary’**

What did the trees wear to the forest pool party? Swimming trunks.

### **Murphy's Other Laws**

If it's stupid and it works, it's still stupid and you're lucky.

### **Quotable Quotes**

If you want something you have never had, you must be willing to do something you have never done. *Thomas Jefferson*





## Coast to Coast Toast Invitation for Artillery Day

## /Invitation au Toast d'un océan à l'autre pour le Jour de l'artillerie



**Register now!**

**Register now for the Artillery Day Coast to Coast Toast Wednesday, 24 May at 7pm ET.**

We will be joined by:

- Brigadier-General (Ret'd) D.A. Patterson MSM CD, Colonel Commandant
- Colonel K.L.A. Bouckaert OMM CD, Director RCA
- Colonel D.W. Grebstad CD, Regimental Colonel
- Colonel S.A. Heer MSM CD, Director RCA (NCM)

The Regimental Colonel will announce the winners of The Colonel Geoffrey Brooks Memorial Essay Competition

Following a toast to His Majesty, King Charles III and to The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, breakout rooms will be open for Gunners everywhere to connect.

**The Coast to Coast Toast - Come for the Toast, Stay for the Fellowship!**

**Inscrivez-vous maintenant!**

**Prévoyez vous joindre à nous le mercredi 24 mai à 19h (HE) pour le Toast d'un océan à l'autre de la Journée de l'artillerie.**

Nous serons accompagnés par :

- Le brigadier-général (retraité) D.A. Patterson MSM CD, colonel commandant
- La colonelle K.L.A. Bouckaert OMM CD, directrice de l'artillerie
- Le colonel D.W. Grebstad CD, colonel régimentaire
- La colonelle S.A. Heer MSM CD, directrice des militaires du rang

Le colonel régimentaire annoncera les gagnants du concours de rédaction commémoratif Colonel Geoffrey Brooks.

Après un toast à Sa Majesté, le roi Charles III et au Régiment royal de l'Artillerie canadienne, les salles de réunion seront ouvertes pour permettre aux artilleurs de partout de se rencontrer.

**Le Toast d'un océan à l'autre - Venez pour le toast, restez pour la camaraderie !**



24 April 2023

Le 24 avril 2023

Distribution List

Liste de distribution

2023 SUPPORT OUR TROOPS  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR  
FAMILIES OF CURRENTLY SERVING  
CANADIAN ARMED FORCES  
MEMBERS AND VETERANS

PROGRAMME DE BOURSES D'ÉTUDES  
D'APPUYONS NOS TROUPES DE 2023  
POUR LES FAMILLES DES MEMBRES  
ACTIFS ET DES VÉTÉRANS  
DES FORCES ARMÉES CANADIENNES

1. This letter announces details of the 2023 Support Our Troops Scholarship Program available to families of currently serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and veterans for the 2023/24 academic year. This program is made possible through Support Our Troops, the official charitable cause of the CAF Community. Support Our Troops is supported by donations from individual Canadians, contributions from third party events and external organizations and proceeds from the sale of Yellow Ribbon merchandise. This Program is intended to complement but not duplicate other scholarship programs offered to the CAF Community.

1. La présente a pour but de vous faire part des détails entourant le Programme de bourses d'études d'Appuyons nos troupes de 2023 offert aux familles des membres actifs et des vétérans des Forces armées canadiennes (FAC) pour l'année scolaire 2023-2024. Ce programme existe grâce à Appuyons nos troupes, l'œuvre de bienfaisance officielle de la communauté des FAC. Appuyons nos troupes est financé au moyen de dons versés par des particuliers au Canada, de revenus générés par des activités organisées par des tiers, de la vente d'articles arborant le ruban jaune et de contributions d'organisations de l'extérieur. Ce programme vise à compléter et non à offrir en double d'autres programmes de bourses d'études destinés aux membres de la communauté des FAC.

2. This year (2023) represents the ninth year of the Support Our Troops Scholarship Program whereby eligible families of currently serving members of the CAF, families of veterans and bereaved families may qualify to receive a scholarship. At this time, a minimum of seventy-five (75) scholarships are available, ranging between \$500 and \$5000 in value.

2. Cette année (2023) marque la neuvième année du Programme de bourses d'études d'Appuyons nos troupes grâce auquel des familles endeuillées ainsi que celles des membres actifs et des vétérans des FAC peuvent être admissibles à une bourse d'études. À ce stade-ci, un minimum de soixante-quinze (75) bourses d'études variant de 500 \$ à 5000 \$ seront décernées.



3. Registration for the 2023 Support Our Troops Scholarship Program will open on 1 May 2023 at

<https://www.supportourtroops.ca/Get-Support/Education/Scholarships>

4. Applications must be submitted by 20 July 2023 and are to include:

- a. three-part essay;
- b. A letter of reference;
- c. Most recent academic transcript;
- d. Proof of enrollment from academic institution;
- e. A point form list of volunteer/civic engagement activities.

5. Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee and recipients of a Support Our Troops Scholarship will be announced in September 2023.

6. Members of the CAF Community looking for additional financial support related to post-secondary education are encouraged to learn more about [Student Lines of Credit](#) and to [book an appointment](#) with a lending expert from BMO Bank of Montreal.

3. Nous accepterons les demandes dans le cadre du Programme de bourses d'études d'Appuyons nos troupes de 2023 à compter du 1<sup>er</sup> mai 2023 au

<https://www.appuyonsnostroupes.ca/Obtenir-du-soutien/Bourses-d-etudes>.

4. La date limite de soumission d'une demande est le 20 juillet 2023, et celle-ci doit comprendre :

- a. Une dissertation divisée en trois parties;
- b. une lettre de recommandation;
- c. le relevé de notes le plus récent;
- d. une attestation d'inscription à un établissement d'enseignement;
- e. une liste en style télégraphique des activités de bénévolat/d'engagement communautaire.

5. Un comité de sélection examinera les demandes, et les noms des récipiendaires d'une bourse d'études d'Appuyons nos troupes seront dévoilés en septembre 2023.

6. Les membres de la communauté des FAC qui désirent obtenir du soutien financier supplémentaire afin de poursuivre des études postsecondaires sont priés de se renseigner sur les [marges-crédits aux étudiants](#) et de [prendre rendez-vous](#) avec un expert en matière de prêts de la BMO Banque de Montréal.

7. In addition to the scholarships identified above, Support Our Troops also administers and distributes bursaries from the annual interest generated from the George and Helen Vari Foundation Education Bursary Program. Active members of the CAF who meet eligibility criteria may apply. For more information, please visit: <https://www.supportourtroops.ca/Get-Support/Education/George-and-Helen-Vari-Foundation-Education-Bursary>

8. CFMWS welcomes other donations and contributions to help deliver and expand the Support Our Troops Scholarship Program. Persons interested in this regard are encouraged to visit the Support Our Troops at <https://www.supportourtroops.ca/Give-Support> for more information.

9. I ask for your support in ensuring that the contents of this letter are widely distributed.

7. En plus des bourses mentionnées ci-dessus, Appuyons nos troupes administre et distribue aussi les bourses en fonction des intérêts annuels que génère le programme de bourses d'études de la Fondation George et Helen Vari. Les membres en service actif des Forces armées canadiennes admissibles peuvent en faire la demande. Pour en savoir plus, veuillez visiter: <https://www.supportourtroops.ca/Get-Support/Education/George-and-Helen-Vari-Foundation-Education-Bursary>

8. Les SBMFC invitent toute personne intéressée à verser un don en vue d'assurer la prestation du Programme de bourses d'études d'Appuyons nos troupes et d'en élargir la portée. Les personnes intéressées sont invitées consulter le site d'Appuyons nos troupes au <https://www.appuyonsnostroupes.ca/Apport-er-du-soutien> pour en savoir plus.

9. Je vous demande votre appui pour veiller à ce que la présente soit distribuée à grande échelle.

Le chef de la direction des  
Services de bien-être et moral des Forces canadiennes



Ian C. Poulter  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services



## THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



17 May 2023

Dear Sir/Ma'am;

The Army Cadet League of Canada, British Columbia Branch is seeking out assistance from our Regimental Association partners. The BC Branch urgently needs volunteers to assist the Branch as Zone Representatives across British Columbia.

A BC Branch Zone representative is a liaison between the BC Branch and the Corps Support Committee. We work with Support Committees in all 47 BC Army Cadet Corps to ensure that they are trained and knowledgeable in their roles to assist our DND Partners. This will ensure the ACLC can deliver the best possible experience in all of BC's diverse communities and ensure harmonious Corps Operations.

As a Branch Zone Representative, we ask you to make regular contact with the Corps Support Committee by attending meetings, award presentations, and Corps events as required. The Branch will also host an online bi-monthly meeting to provide updates from the Branch and to keep communication open.

We hope you can volunteer with us and make a difference in the Army Cadet Program and your community.

If you are interested in volunteering with the BC Branch, please contact me, the Executive Director for more information.

We thank you for your assistance;

Sincerely;

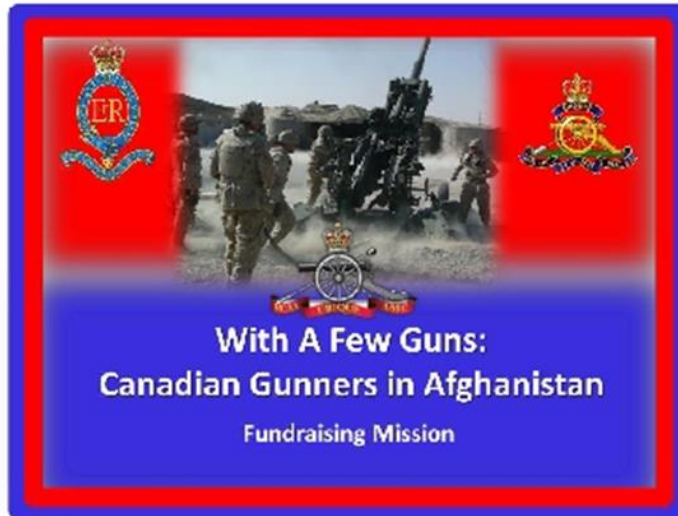
Elisabeth Mortlock  
Executive Director  
ACLC BC Branch

724 Vanalman Avenue, Victoria BC V8Z 3B5 250-708-0281 [execdir@armycadetleague.bc.ca](mailto:execdir@armycadetleague.bc.ca)  
<https://britishcolumbia.armycadetleague.ca/>



## With a Few Guns

# **“With a Few Guns” Calling For Support! Donate Now!**



***With a Few Guns*** will be an accounting of the contribution Canadian Gunners made to operations in Afghanistan from initial deployment in 2002 until withdrawal in March 2014. The book will not be an “official history” but will tell the story of the approximately 3,000 Gunners who served in Afghanistan, Regular Force and Reserves, in any and all positions, in any and all functions, as well as the stories of commanders and supported arms, and Gunner families.

**We have three accomplished and exceptional authors:**

Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired) Brian Reid

Colonel (Retired) Wolf Riedel

Mr. Mark Zuehlke

We are launching this fundraising initiative to cover expenses and get the book published, while keeping the price affordable. *With a Few Guns* is being written with the backing of the RCA Association, and all donations will be eligible for a tax receipt. Any monies donated in excess of what is needed will remain with the RCAA for support to the causes as espoused by the RCAA.

Our MISSION is to raise \$75,000 (+)

Questions may be directed to: [WithAFewGuns@gmail.com](mailto:WithAFewGuns@gmail.com)

**To Donate:**

Go to: <https://rca-arc.org/>

Scroll down to: **Donate**

Go to : The Royal Canadian Artillery Association

Then donate to: RCAA Donation "With a Few Guns"

# Commemoration Cyprus 2024



**Commemoration 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](#)

