



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



**RUSI News
Vancouver**

Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News April 29, 2014

Wednesday Lunches

The Mess has downgraded the dress requirements for Wednesday lunches to Business Casual. Business casual can best be described as our 'summer dress'. Minimum requirement is an open neck button up shirt with dress pants or slacks (no blue jeans, pls). Of course we never discourage the wearing of jackets and ties.

NOABC Monthly Lunch Speakers - April 30

Stuart Gold, Submarine Rescue Specialist

Schooled in Edinburgh, Scotland, Stuart Gold worked in the oil and gas business as an ROV (remotely operated vehicle) pilot and spent nearly 20 years working with the UK submarine rescue team. He attended the Russian submarine Kursk disaster in the Barents Sea, where 128 submariners lost their lives, and was team leader for the team, which flew halfway around the world to rescue 7 submariners from the mini-sub Priz 28. His presentation will be his story of the events leading up to, during, and after the rescue. For his leading role in the rescue he was awarded the "Maritime Order of Achievement" by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. His presentation starts at 1300hrs in the lecture rooms.

Other NOABC Events

Saturday May 3 - Battle of the Atlantic Dinner

The Battle of the Atlantic Dinner will take place in the Wardroom, HMCS Discovery at 1830 for 1930 on May 3. The speaker will be executive member and past president, Robert W. Mackay, an award-winning author, former naval officer, submariner, teacher and lawyer. Born in Surrey, British Columbia, he's lived above and below water in the West and East Coasts of Canada, the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and North and Mediterranean Seas. Bob will talk about the RCN Submarine Service, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Two past presidents, Barney Johnson Sr. and Fred Crickard Sr. served in submarines at the very beginning of this service. The invitation and reservation form can be accessed on the NOABC website:

<http://www.noabc.com/Home/events-3>

Sunday May 4 - Battle of the Atlantic Service

The Battle of the Atlantic Service will take place commencing 1030, Sunday May 3 at Sailors' Point in Waterfront Park, North Vancouver. All members are encouraged to participate. Dress is blazers with medals and beret (rain gear as appropriate). If you are able to take part in the march past, please muster at the Sea Bus Terminal by 1000. There will be seating at Sailors' Point for those not marching - please be seated by 1030. There will be a reception at HMCS Discovery following the service.

Canadian Army to Hold Series of “Patching” and Flag Raisings

April 25, 2014. Defence Watch Posted by: David Pugliese

Divisions across the Canadian Army will hold a series of “patching” and flag raising ceremonies, beginning in late April and running until mid-summer, to mark their stand-ups and officially issue their respective divisional patches.

In 2013, the Government of Canada announced it was reinstating several historical aspects of the Canadian Army including the re-introduction of divisional nomenclature and division patches in place of the former Land Force Areas. With commemorations of the First World War centennial starting in 2014, the timing is fitting for the Canadian Army to restore symbols that link it to its proud heritage. In fact, division patches were originally used during the First World War to distinguish soldiers. Historically, in particular during the First and Second World Wars, the Canadian Army was structured by division – rather than by Land Force Area – and throughout these conflicts, soldiers were able to identify each other by their uniquely coloured divisional patches.

The patch – a 2” x 3” coloured wool Melton badge – will be worn on the left shoulder of the service dress jacket. With these ceremonies, the Canadian Army will return to its traditional divisional heritage.

Canadian Forces Judge Advocate General is Not an Actual Judge.

Nor Does He Have the Independence of a Judge. Apr 26, 2014

Retired federal court Judge Gilles Letourneau has this article at the Global Military Justice Reform site:

Canada inherited from the British military penal system the term Judge Advocate General (JAG). “The Office of the Judge Advocate General can be traced back to the Articles of War of 1639 issued by Charles I. He gave authority “... to the Council of War and the Advocate of the Army to enquire of the actors and circumstances of offences. Orders issued in 1662 by Charles II gave authority to the “... Judge Advocate of the Forces ...” to take information and depositions as occasion should require in all matters triable before court martial” (see Letourneau & Drapeau, *Military Justice in Action*, Thomson Reuters Canada Ltd., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 2011, at p. 56. The first JAG in Canada was appointed on October 1, 1911: *ibidem*)

While the term “JAG” leads one to believe that, in Canada, the person appointed to that position is a judge, he is not a judge at all. He is a senior legal adviser to the Governor General, the Minister of National Defence (Minister), the Defence Department and the Canadian Forces, in matters relating to military law. He is also responsible to the Minister in the performance of his or her duties and functions: see ss.9.1 and 9.3 of the National Defence Act. This is a far cry from a judge who enjoys judicial independence, especially independence from the chain of command. In plain and simple words he is a lawyer. He is himself part of the chain of command as the Commander of all military lawyers. He attends all senior management meetings at National Defence Headquarters. However I suspect the term “Judge” in the title JAG allows

him to be paid the salary of a judge of a Superior or High Court although he is not a judge. I have to remain in the realm of suspicions because his salary and consequential benefits are determined in an Annex to the Government Decree appointing him which is kept confidential. Even the members of Parliament do not have a copy of it. This is quite surprising because in Canada the remuneration of all public servants, be they the Prime Minister, the members of Parliament, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, her colleagues, judges of all courts across Canada, is public and easily accessible.

Demands to have access to the Annex have been denied by the very Government that claims to be transparent. I guess Canadians will have to take a rain check on this one for the time being. Usually when a document like that is kept confidential and access is denied, it is not because it is under norms. On the contrary. In fact, his classification should be his military classification with a corresponding salary much inferior to the salary of a superior or High Court judge. I think it is fair to say that the misnomer is confusing and misleading for everybody, especially the lay person, but convenient for the incumbent. The title JAG is a remnant of a distant past. For the sake of clarity and the better administration of military justice, the title should be changed to reflect the current reality as well as the conditions and benefits which attach to the function that it is rather than the function that it is not.

Canadian Military's Recruiting System Blasted in Stinging Report

CHRISTIE BLATCHFORD | March 18, 2014



A report found that grotesque delay cuts across the Canadian Forces and that the attitude at the top of the CF Recruiting Group is cavalier about attracting the vaunted “best and brightest.” Ethan Baron/Postmedia News/Files

As the last Canadian soldiers returned from Afghanistan Tuesday, those who would follow them into uniform are being stymied by a woefully inept recruiting system where it takes an average of 166 days to be processed. That’s the ludicrous length of time it takes from the moment someone walks into a recruiting office, wanting to sign up to become a soldier, until he or she is put on the “merit list,” which means all the necessary boxes have been checked. The stinging criticism comes in a draft report — where, to judge by remarks in the margins, some of the harshest language appears destined for heavy editing — done late last year by the Defence Science Advisory Board, a private-sector group that isn’t part of the Defence Department, but advises it. The group is composed of leaders from business and academia, who work for free. Its most recent report cited “glaring weaknesses” in Canada’s ability to respond to emergencies in the Arctic.

Postmedia has obtained a copy of the 23-page report entitled ‘*Recruiting the Millennial Generation*’ and dated last October. It is the result of a request from the research arm of the Defence Department to examine how well the recruiting process is working with the millennial generation, those born after 1981. But in its work, the board found that grotesque delay cuts

across the Canadian Forces and that the attitude at the top of the CF Recruiting Group (CFRG) is cavalier about attracting the vaunted “best and brightest.”

The report says that when board members visited the CFRG headquarters and met the commander, he explained his job was to fill a certain number of slots with adequate people. “He appeared massively unconcerned with anyone who, for whatever reason, does not get accepted, repeatedly describing all unsuccessful applicants as ‘road kill’,” the report says. Worse, the report says the commander showed no regret that the recruiting process may be passing over those who with a little work or encouragement might become “entirely desirable candidates,” or that the head office attitude could itself undermine recruiting efforts. It says that while the system-wide delay might be particularly frustrating to millennials, who are from a generation used to instant gratification, it causes the forces to lose all kinds of candidates.

For instance, top students looking for scholarships, whose first choice is one of the Royal Military Colleges in Kingston, Ont., and Saint-Jean, Que., routinely don’t get the results of their military selection boards until months after civilian universities have made their offers. “The advice often given these distressed and conflicted families is to lie,” the report says — in other words, to accept the civilian offers, then explain they can’t attend if they get an offer from RMC or RMC Saint-Jean. The colleges traditionally produce many of the best officers in the Canadian Forces. When the board told that story to the recruiting commander, he said the advice was correct and if students didn’t follow it, more “road kill” would result. “That is not the view of this board!” the report says.

The commander isn’t named in the report, and it’s unclear, given the regular changes of command in the military, who was in the role at the time the board saw him. The situation is perhaps most dire for the reserves, or militia. These are Canada’s part-time soldiers, or citizen-soldiers, whose members made such an enormous contribution during the country’s 12-year-long mission to Afghanistan. During visits to CF recruiting offices — a dozen of these are slated to close, which adds to the problem — board members found recruiters had little knowledge of officer training plans for reservists. As well, it takes an average 150 days for a reserve recruit to be processed — a situation the report calls “so egregiously distant from various public pronouncements of at least one former CDS [Chief of Defence Staff] as to how long the process should take that it saps confidence in the system and invites public derision by its clients.”

Coincidentally, Reserves 2000, a lobby group formed to fight against cuts to the militia, traditionally a favourite target of the Defence Department, recently told Defence Minister Rob Nicholson that 2013-14 “is shaping up to be a disaster due to recruit quotas that do not offset the rate of attrition, recruiting centre closures, reduced staffing at the remaining centres and long-standing inefficiencies in the enrollment process.” The information is contained in a brief given to Mr. Nicholson on Dec. 12 last year. The paper resulted from a meeting in Toronto the month before with 30 former senior reserve leaders from across Canada, all of whom had commanded at least one unit, and senior civilian supporters. At the high-level meeting, Reserves 2000 members identified three critical problems – chief among them that recruiting

quotas are set artificially low and the force's bungled-up system can't manage to meet even those.

John Selkirk, Reserve 2000's executive director, also appeared in December before the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence. There, he called the situation "a crisis" and said the CF Recruiting Group is in "some turmoil, I guess is a kind word." As of this fall, which was halfway through the fiscal year, reserve units should have signed up about half their allotments, but had signed up 21%. The best bet now is that this will mean reserve units across the country will be short 700 to 750 soldiers. The danger is that Defence planners may seize upon the unmet quotas and further scale down the numbers of new recruits units are allotted in the next year. Mr. Selkirk appeared to warn the committee of fudged numbers. For instance, he said when the department says reserve pay costs about \$587-million, at least half of that isn't for pure reservists — called Class As, mostly students who put in a night a week at their units — but rather for so-called full-time reservists, or Class Bs, who are often assigned to headquarters.

While the advisory board said the military is still attracting fine candidates, the length of time it takes to sign up "will not stand the CF in good stead with the Millennial generation." It also says that the recruiting group is "all too often ... an afterthought at best and at worst a dumping ground for lesser performers..." It found situations "whereby highly motivated candidates were effectively soured on a career in the CF due to the disinterest shown them..."

The report recommends the military offer conditional acceptances to good candidates, convene selection boards so that applicants can get their answer at the same time civilian universities may offer them places, and generally change its collective attitude and ethos.

Recruiters don't have just one customer, the board says, but also "an implicit secondary role of connecting with Canadians." Applicants who miss deadlines or otherwise aren't accepted "are not 'road kill' ... They are Canadians with a strong interest in the CF and who may, at a future date, become serving members or simply engage in public discourse favourable to the profession of arms in Canada."

Governor General Silent On War Medal Issue

Veterans Caught Up In New Cold War between Canada and Russia April 26, 2014. *Defence Watch*

OTTAWA – Hundreds of Canadian veterans who braved the North Atlantic to deliver Second World War supplies to Russia will be allowed to wear a decoration created by the British government to honour their service. Approval to wear the Arctic Star by Governor General David Johnston has come over a year after it was announced and after sailors, many of them from the merchant marine, expressed concern they were becoming caught in the middle of frosty relations between Ottawa and Moscow. The medal was created to honour those who risked their lives on the treacherous convoys to Murmansk and Archangel, in Russia.

But in order for Canadians to wear the decoration, the Governor General needed to sign off. A note was quietly posted in the Canada Gazette, which posts many government decisions. However no public announcement was made to the veterans.

A spokeswoman for the Governor General would not comment Friday and National Defence would say only that there are strict guidelines when it comes to the acceptance and display of foreign honours. The veterans, many in their late 80s and 90s, have been waiting more than a year for that permission and some believe the delay stems from rapidly deteriorating relations over the crisis in Ukraine. Paul Bender, a merchant navy captain and Ottawa resident who enlisted at age 15, said recognizing veterans who aided the Russians seven decades ago could be politically embarrassing for Conservatives who've been talking tough against Vladimir Putin's government. He says honouring those who risked their lives in the war should be separate from the political circumstances of today. "I think it should be a totally separate matter insofar as it happened almost three-quarters of a century ago," Bender, 86, said in a recent interview with The Canadian Press. For his service, including a stint with the Royal Canadian Navy, Bender was also awarded the Commonwealth Atlantic Star, which recognized the U-boat war in the Battle of the Atlantic and the Italy Star, given for operations in the Mediterranean. "I don't recall the government of Canada objecting to those," he said.

Bruce Poulin, a spokesman for the Royal Canadian Legion, said there are a few hundred veterans in Canada eligible to wear the medal and their numbers are dwindling. The legion wrote to Rideau Hall and lobbied to get the decoration recognized, but received no answer. British Prime Minister David Cameron instituted the medal under pressure in Britain, but veterans of the dangerous convoy operations "missed out" on honours bestowed on soldiers in other theatres of the war. There were complaints, even from Conservative backbenchers in London, that veterans were dying before they could get it. Several times in the last decade, even the Russian government has honoured many of the Arctic convoy veterans with a commemorative medal that conveyed the country's deep gratitude for the sacrifices of British, Canadian and other sailors who helped deliver food, weapons, ammunition and vehicles to the Soviet Union. Some 3,000 merchant sailors died on the Murmansk run. A special protocol was even developed that allowed veterans in this country to accept the Russian medal. Poulin said he finds the government's reluctance curious given the Conservatives are gearing up for commemorations to showcase the country's military history, in particular the First and Second World Wars.

RCAF Uses Simulation Technology for Small Arms Training

Using systems from NGRain and Meggitt By Master Warrant Officer Douglas McQueen

April 10, 2014 • Section: [Defence Watch](#) Posted by: [David Pugliese](#)

Maintaining small arms qualifications has always been challenging for the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) due to the limited availability of live fire ranges and trained personnel as well as Canada's often inclement weather. It was clear that improvements needed to be made in how the training was delivered and to increase the number of personnel who achieve their annual small arms qualification. The RCAF has found a solution in innovative simulation technologies. "The RCAF will now adopt a blended strategy for annual small arms training. Our airmen and airwomen will qualify annually by completing a weapon familiarization portion online and then move on to a small arms simulator to achieve their annual qualification. However, anyone who is scheduled to deploy during the year will fire weapons on a live-firing range before their

deployment,” explained Colonel Colin Keiver, who is the director of air simulation and training within the RCAF headquarters staff. “This will improve the number of personnel who are trained annually, reduce the impact on the environment, and reduce overall costs without diminishing the standard for this essential training. “For the RCAF, this is a win-win situation.”

1 Canadian Air Division Readiness Training Flight, located at 8 Wing Trenton, Ontario, determined that a solution that blended electronic, simulated and live training had the potential to generate substantial savings. A more in-depth study by Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) considered more detailed cost items, such as personnel throughput, food, ammunition usage and transport requirements. This study confirmed the first evaluation and determined that the RCAF could improve the number of personnel it qualified and save more than \$1.3 million annually. The new RCAF Small Arms Training System, a virtual training system, will pay for itself in approximately four years and, over a 20-year span, the system has the potential to save the Canadian tax payer more than \$30 million. The road to improved small arms training began with the development of electronic learning virtual task trainer models of the C7A2 rifle and the Browning 9 mm pistol by NGRain, a Vancouver company. These models were transformed into computerized lessons and incorporated into the Air Force Integrated Information Learning Environment (AFIILE) – a web-based initiative that combines traditional instruction with e-learning and virtual environments. AFIILE gives all RCAF members the ability to familiarize themselves with the weapons using the internet or National Defence intranet.

The project’s second phase involved determining which weapon simulation system would improve the delivery of training. The RCAF conducted an option analysis and found out that National Defence’s Materiel group was in the process of upgrading more than 160 small arms training systems on behalf of the Canadian Army. Collaboration with the Army made good sense from a cost perspective and provided common simulators for weapons training across the Canadian Armed Forces. As a result of the analysis, the RCAF purchased small arms training simulators from Meggitt Training Systems Canada, based in Montreal, which is a business unit of the multi-national aerospace and defence corporation Meggitt PLC. The company will install the simulators and be responsible for service support and training the operators of the equipment. “The research and staff work required to determine a viable solution was laborious, but extremely interesting,” said Colonel Keiver.

“RCAF personnel got a first-hand look at the most innovative technologies on the market today. The real pay-off comes in knowing that everyone involved in this project has contributed to better training for our personnel who may deploy into harm’s way around the world.” As a result of this project, RCAF members will soon see state-of-the-art small arms training ‘gaming’ consoles coming soon to RCAF wings across Canada.

MFRC Monthly newsletter

Download the **MAY 2014 Mainland BC MFRC CONNECTION** by clicking on the following link: <http://www.familyforce.ca/sites/MainlandBC/EN/Documents/05May14News.pdf>

Who is it?

Last Edition.



We didn't get any responses on this picture. Guess it is too far back for anyone to remember.

This Week



We are taking a break from our usual army photos to ask you for information regarding this photo. It comes, as do many, from the personal collection of the late Vic Stevenson, and is dated on the slide frame: 1952. The location is quite obvious, what with the North Shore mountains and Stanley Park visible in the background, so the place is Jericho. The aircraft is also obvious, an RCAF Mustang IV.

Now, two questions for you boys and girls in powder blue: to what squadron could this aircraft have belonged, and how on earth did it get to Jericho, given that only seaplanes could land there?

As always, send your pensive guesses, erudite musings and true facts to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond (johnd_redmond@telus.net). Your help is always appreciated.

From the 'Punitary'

Meteorologists are very nervous people – their future is always up in the air.

Murphy's other Laws

For every human problem there is a neat, simple solution – and it is always wrong.

Quotable Quotes

The optimist believes this is the best of all possible worlds. The Pessimist fears it is true.

- James Branch Cabell, *The Silver Stallion* (1926)

Blue Collar Beer Tasting

3 May 2014

Bessborough Armoury WO & Sgt Mess

**50% of all proceeds will go to a Juno Beach Fallen
Gunner's Memorial Marker**



Featured Beers:

Red Racer Pils

Red Racer White

Driftwood White Bark

Farmland

From 6:00-9:00 3 May

RSVP no later than 30 April

Heath.Porritt@forces.gc.ca



\$15 or \$25 for 2

(Pay at the Door)

BC ARMY GALA

The
British Columbia
Army Gala
2014

Celebrating
A LEGACY OF SERVICE
Dinner and Dance

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

DO NOT DELAY. LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE!

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

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

www.bcarmygala.ca

Memorial Cross Curry Lunch



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, April 24, 2014
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(lunch starts at 12:25pm)
- Location:** Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
- Dress:** Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)
- Price:** \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm attendance by April 18, 2014)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please contact Bill Diamond at Bill@DukeaBear.com or 604.618.3607 (Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association
No cancellations after April 18, 2014

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, May 29, 2014



VANCOUVER WELSH
MEN'S CHOIR

*Songs from
Stage and Screen*

Friday, May 23rd, 7:30pm at
WEST VANCOUVER UNITED CHURCH
2062 Esquimalt Avenue, West Vancouver



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

Where to Buy Tickets:

By Phone 604-878-1190 or
Buy Online (no fees)
at vwmc.ca with credit card

Buy from any Welsh Men's
Choir member

Free Tickets for Children
under 12 with adult