



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



RUSI News
Vancouver

Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Jan 29, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Lunches in the 15th Field Officers Mess continue with Mrs Lum cooking at home and bringing the food in. The decision has been made to renovate the upstairs (Mess) kitchen at an estimated cost of \$30-35,000. There hasn't been any decision made on a start date, contractor or fundraising plans, but the Mess members will have to bear the costs of the renovations. You can be sure that they will be running some kind of fundraising efforts - either with special functions, direct appeals or both - to fund the work. The cost of lunches will go up as well and, effective Jan 1st, it has been raised to \$15pp.

We have a continuing problem with missing lunch tickets. Diners buy their tickets from the bar and are supposed to drop them in the pot when they pick up their soup and salad but sometimes diners forget and take the tickets home. At the moment, we are missing 3 tickets. If you have one of these tickets (check your jacket pockets) please return them to us.

Last week a set of keys was found on the sidewalk outside the Armoury front door. I sent out a quick note about this last week but heard nothing back. If you lost some keys at lunch last week, please contact me to find out how to get them back.

And finally, another reminder about parking in the vehicle compound. The only civilian vehicles permitted to park in the compound are those of the staff working at the Armoury. Lunch attendees must park on the street. At the moment, the compound is being expanded so it is now under control of the Contactor and NO civilian(or military) vehicles are allowed to park there. Last week, the contactor crew broke for their lunch hour and when they returned there were 6-8 cars parked in the compound and they couldn't work for a couple of hours as they were unable to move their equipment around. The Superintendent was a little upset and let the Adjutant know in no uncertain terms so, **PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE VEHICLE COMPOUND!!**

NOABC Lunch Speaker - Wednesday, 30 January - tomorrow!!

The monthly lunch speaker program will continue for the winter and spring at Bessborough Armoury. Talks are given in the lecture room adjacent to the Mess starting between 1315 and 1330hrs. Attendees at these talks are welcome to participate in the lunch in the Mess. Bar opens at 1130hrs, lunch service starts at 1200hrs. Jacket and tie (equivalent for ladies) is required at lunch. Guests are always welcome.

NOTE: Effective January 1st lunch tickets cost \$15pp

The speaker this month will be Dan McGreer. you will remember him from his presentations in 2009 on the Arctic Offshore Patrol Ship (AOPS) design. Dan is with STX Canada and is the Project Manager for the design of the new Polar Icebreaker for the Canadian Coastguard, which will be built under the National Ship Procurement Strategy. He will talk about the design of the vessel and include video footage from recent model testing in the ice towing tank in St. John's, Newfoundland.

DUES 2013

It's time to pay dues again:

Vancouver Artillery Association – Dues are \$75/yr. Make cheques payable to the Vancouver Artillery Association and send to the Vancouver Artillery Association at the address below.

15 Field Regt Officers Mess – Dues are \$60/yr. Make cheques payable to 15RCA Officers Mess and send to the Associate Members Representative at the address below.

Association and Mess dues to:

2025 West 11th Ave, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

RUSI Vancouver – dues are \$25/yr. Make cheques payable to RUSI Vancouver and send to Keith Freer

524-666 Leg-in-Boot Square, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3

The Gunners of Canada – Volume III

A request from Regimental Headquarters, The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

Greetings and best wishes to all members of our Regimental family, serving and retired, regular and reserve, and all those with whom we share in preserving and promoting the past, present and future of our proud Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. As many of you will know, the Royal Canadian Artillery Association, on behalf of the Royal Regiment, has undertaken to produce a third volume of “The Gunners of Canada” - the authorized history of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. A companion to Volumes I and II written by the distinguished Canadian military historian, Colonel G.W.L. Nicholson, CD, this volume will cover the period from 1967 to 2012. It will be comprehensive in scope, covering all units both Regular and Reserve and all artillery disciplines, specialties and equipment from field and air defence to locating, target acquisition and airspace control; from airborne batteries to air observation posts; and, from towed and self-propelled guns to mortars and missiles. Its content will include our contribution to commitments and operations at home and abroad as well as the evolution of artillery roles, organization, doctrine, tactics, training, equipment and ammunition. Our distinctive Gunner identity, regimental life and personalities will all be included. And of course, it will be published in English and in French. William Rawling PhD, has been selected as the author of Volume III. Dr Rawling is a highly regarded Canadian military historian with twenty years of experience in the Directorate of History and Heritage. He has written eight books and

many articles in both English and French and has co-authored the official histories of the RCN and the RCAF.

Dr Rawling is fully engaged in the research phase of his work beginning with the records available in the archives in Ottawa. Over the course of the next eighteen months, he will expand his research to include files held by units and headquarters from coast to coast. Documents do not, however, tell a complete story. If Volume III is to be a full and accurate account of the Royal Regiment since 1967, he will need the help of every serving and retired Gunner. Collectively, our actions and experiences comprise the history of this period. Regardless of our rank or position, by sharing our recollections with the author, we can help fill the gaps in the official records and add a vital human element to the story.

We encourage all Gunners to contribute information or anecdotes about what they saw or did during their service. You may do so by contacting Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Doc Hopper at dennis.hopper@sympatico.ca, CWO (Retired) Tom Tomaso at dtomaso@rogers.com or the author, Dr Rawling, directly at gunners.of.canada@gmail.com

Volume III will be as good a history as we Gunners make it. It is the story of our time in the RCA and it is a story well worth telling.

Special Operators Depend on Good Partners, Commander Says

By Karen Parrish American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29, 2013 - Close partnership with US geographic combatant commanders will be crucial to keeping the nation's special operations forces effective as budgets and formations dwindle, US Special Operations Command's leader said here today.

Navy Adm William H McRaven talked about special operations support to national strategy during a speech at the National Defense Industrial Association's 24th Annual Special Operations and Low-intensity Conflict Symposium. SOCOM troops around the world, McRaven said, are "doing exceedingly well, operating as an integral part of the geographic combatant commanders' strategy." The admiral said while his forces operate in more than 70 countries around the world, Afghanistan remains a key focus. US Central Command is the geographic combatant command responsible for Afghanistan, with NATO's International Security Assistance Force in charge of operations there. McRaven noted all coalition special operations forces in Afghanistan now are united under one special operations joint task force, commanded by Army Maj Gen Tony Thomas.

"His headquarters, which reached its full operational capability on 1 January, has done a phenomenal job," the admiral said. "During my most recent visit there, I was impressed to see [the headquarters] integrating, coordinating and fully synchronizing all [special operations activities] -- not only with each other, but with ISAF."

Village stability operations and support to Afghan local police -- both programs aimed at growing security and extending governance in rural areas -- are among the "most compelling success stories" special operations forces are logging in Afghanistan, McRaven said.

"These programs have been game-changers to our efforts," he noted. McRaven said he recently visited some of the places where Afghan local police groups have established outposts. "I was amazed at the relationships forged with our Afghan counterparts," he told the symposium audience. "These relationships, built on trust, have clearly paved the way for greater security in the remote areas of the country. They have also helped bridge the gap between the local, district and provincial governments." The thinning of US conventional forces in Afghanistan this year and in 2014, McRaven said, will give special operations troops "more opportunity to do more in places that we have neglected." While he doesn't yet know the number of special operations forces that will be needed in Afghanistan beyond 2014, he said, one approach now under way to bridge the anticipated gap is a "surge" in Afghan local police. The local police program across Afghanistan now numbers close to 19,000 "guardians," he said, which Afghan leaders want to build to 45,000. Around 60 Special Forces or SEAL units, working with Afghan counterparts, support the program as trainers, he added. McRaven said Thomas has a plan to sustain the program, with coalition special operations forces shifting to a "train the trainer focus," helping the Afghan uniformed police and Afghan special operations forces to take over training local forces.

"I think [the program is] on a good glide path right now," he said. The post-2014 special operations contribution in Afghanistan isn't yet known, he added, but officials are making plans to enable helping the Afghans continue to build the local police program even if special operations forces draw down to a small number. Special operators also are achieving "similar positive results" around the world, their commander said. He noted that in the Philippines, "our Green Berets and [Navy] SEALs are doing a terrific job with our Filipino partners." McRaven said on a recent visit to the Philippines, he stopped in two places that "10 years ago ... were safe havens for Abu Sayyaf and other extremist organizations." A decade ago, security for the people in such places depended on "how well they knew the enemy," McRaven said.

"Beheadings, bombings, and families fleeing their homes were a constant part of life," he said. "Today, largely through the magnificent efforts of our [special operations forces] advisory teams and their Filipino counterparts, the threat is contained. Security has greatly improved." McRaven said improvement in the Philippines, where economic progress and stable local government have followed security gains, rivals similar success in Colombia, where US special operators have worked for decades. Such special efforts are also taking place now in Africa, he added, where US special operations troops are "working with our African counterparts to end the [Lord's Resistance Army] tyranny in Central Africa." All of these efforts, he said, demonstrate the ability special operators bring geographic combatant commanders: to "counter regional challenges before they become global problems." Those 70-plus countries where his troops operate, McRaven said, often are "places we don't hear about on the news."

"SOCOM's missions in such places] are not secretive. They are not sexy," he said. "Nor do they involve low-flying black helicopters in the dead of night." SOCOM troops work at the invitation of the host government, are approved by the appropriate US embassy, and are commanded by the US geographic combatant commander for the region, he explained.

"These missions involve supporting an embassy country team, building partner capacity, or increasing [special operations forces] interoperability," he said. "It is hard, slow and methodical

work that does not lend itself to a quick win. Instead, it is about patience, persistence, and building trust with our partners -- a trust that cannot be achieved through episodic deployments or chance contacts." Special operations leaders always have known that "you can't surge trust," said McRaven, noting trust "is developed over years by personal one-on-one interaction." SOCOM troops' ability to build such trust, along with language and cultural expertise and the "ability to think through ambiguity," he said, increases both the command's credibility and the demand for its capability. The past year, the admiral said, has offered a glimpse of the future that includes reduced defense budgets, a drawdown in Afghanistan troop levels and ongoing demands for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

"SOCOM is prepared to deliver properly organized, trained and equipped forces to the combatant commanders," he said. "Our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are ready to address these and other challenges that our nation will face." McRaven noted that current defense strategy "directs us to rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region." Special operations forces have maintained a persistent presence in the region that will benefit conventional-force commanders who "fall in" on long-established partnerships, he said. "We have always been there, in a quiet and persistent way," McRaven said. "Whether capacity building in Thailand, advising in the Philippines, training with our Aussie and Kiwi [special operations] counterparts, or rendering assistance in the time of natural disaster, our efforts have been consistently focused on the region, our partners and our allies."

The future of special operations in Asia and elsewhere lies in how well SOCOM supports the geographic combatant commanders, McRaven reiterated. His suggestion for how best to improve regional support is to bolster theater special operations commands, which he calls TSOCs. "As a sub-unified command under the [combatant command], they, the TSOCs, work for the combatant commander and serve as their primary command-and-control node for special operations in theaters," he explained. "Simply put, the TSOCs are the center of gravity for [special operations forces] in theater. And if we want to adequately address current and emerging challenges with a SOF solution, we need to increase their capability." SOCOM is now rebalancing its manpower -- without increasing its budget -- to better support the TSOCs, McRaven said.

Regionally focused special operations commands are an adaptation to the changing world, he added, and will position SOCOM forces to meet global challenges. SOCOM also has to consider, he said, how to move Special Forces "A" teams, Marine special operations teams, Navy SEAL platoons and the platforms that support them in and out of theater quickly. That requires working closely with each of the services, he noted. "The relationship between the services and SOCOM is at an all-time high. ... We cannot do the job without the services," McRaven said. The nation's special operations forces, he said, "are the sum of the parts of the greatest military in history. It is the services' people, their traditions, their culture that makes SOF what it is." SOCOM also relies on interagency partners -- "all the three-letter agencies" -- on every mission, McRaven said. Interagency partners stand right beside special operators as they "secure a target, treat an injured child, or provide a much-needed water well or school," he said. "They are always there to provide expert analysis, the authority to arrest a criminal, or a

new capability." That level of cooperation would have been thought impossible before 9/11, but is commonplace today, he said. Work with coalition partner nations has progressed in a like way, McRaven noted. "The level of trust and friendship has so greatly expanded our network," he said. "It has given our nation a tangible edge over those who would threaten us. These partnerships give us our strength, based on a trust forged of mutual hardships, common cause, and shared ties. This is what will provide the best defense for the homeland and for our partners abroad."

Responding to audience questions, McRaven underscored his emphasis on engaged partnership. One lesson he draws from his experience, he said, applies to Mali, where US forces are supporting French-led efforts against insurgent groups. The United States was never able to establish a persistent presence for its special operations forces in Mali, he observed.

"We had an episodic presence in Mali," the admiral said. "And while I don't know whether or not a persistent presence would have changed our relationship with the Malian forces, ... one lesson we've learned from years of doing this is ... to work with the host country, you really have to have that persistent presence."

2013 Military Ball



Vancouver Garrison Officers Society

The Military Ball



We invite everyone to attend our

68th Annual Military Ball

to be held at the

Hyatt Regency Hotel

on

April 6, 2013

For information about the event and ticket orders please contact us at:

bcmilitaryball@gmail.com

Tickets - \$110pp

Mark your calendars now for the **6th of April 2013** to attend the Annual Vancouver Garrison's Military Ball, scheduled once again to be held at the Vancouver Hyatt Regency Hotel. The tariff to attend the Vancouver Military Ball remains unchanged for 2013 at \$110 per person - Tickets must be purchased in advance. To purchase tickets send an email to the address on the poster above to have an order form emailed back to you. We look forward to seeing you there.

Want to book a room at the host hotel for the Military Ball? The Hyatt has again offered a special room rate for our guests and the reservations link is pasted below. The rate is **\$149.00!** As per last year, this rate is *only available by booking on-line via this link*. You will not be able to find it if you call the Hyatt 1-800 reservation phone number or try to book via Hyatt.com.

On line reservation: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/mball2013>

Minister Blaney Meets with Corporate Canada - Harper Government and Corporate Canada Working to Remove Barriers for Veterans

Toronto – The Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs, today participated in events organized by the True Patriot Love Foundation, and the Veterans Transition Advisory Council (VTAC), a team of corporate champions committed to removing the barriers that Veterans face during the transition to civilian employment.

“We are proud to work with corporate Canada to help Veterans successfully transition from military to civilian life,” said Minister Blaney. “By working together with the True Patriot Love Foundation and the Veterans Transition Advisory Council, we will help ensure that transitioning Veterans have opportunities for new and rewarding second careers.”

The day began with a “From Battlefield to Boardroom” conference, which saw human resources executives from corporate Canada gather to learn more about the value and experience of military Veterans. The conference was followed by the inaugural Veterans Transition Advisory Council meeting. Led by the True Patriot Love Foundation, the Veterans Transition Advisory Council includes representatives from leading national companies who will raise awareness of the skill sets Veterans have to offer to the private sector. The Council will also provide strategic recommendations to Minister Blaney and to the broader private sector to improve the transition from military to civilian employment.

“The True Patriot Love Foundation is honoured to partner with the Government of Canada in delivering support to military members,” said Shaun Francis, Chair of the True Patriot Love Foundation and the Veterans Transition Advisory Council. “The inaugural From Battlefield to Boardroom Conference, along with the Veterans Transition Advisory Council, will help to create an environment where our Veterans will flourish in their new civilian roles.”

The Veterans Transition Advisory Council’s work lends itself to the new initiatives the federal government has undertaken to enhance opportunities for Veterans to transition to the civilian

workforce, including the Helmets to Hardhats Canada initiative launched in January 2012. The Council's work also builds upon the Veterans Transition Action Plan, launched last fall by Minister Blaney. The plan consists of new measures for cutting red tape for Veterans, enhancements to service delivery, post-military career opportunities for Veterans, groundbreaking research on the needs of releasing Canadian Armed Forces personnel, and enhanced cultural awareness.

“Our Government is dedicated to ensuring Canada's Veterans continue to prosper as they re-enter civilian life,” said Minister Blaney. “We commend the True Patriot Love Foundation and the members of VTAC for their leadership in these initiatives and are proud to support them.”

For more information on Veterans Affairs Canada's programs and services, visit veterans.gc.ca.

Website

We are still looking for someone in our membership to act as our Webmaster. If someone on our list has the necessary skills, please contact me ASAP at bob.mugford@shaw.ca

Newsletters

Miss a newsletter? Want to see a back issue? Newsletters for the last couple of years are archived on the RUSI Vancouver website (www.rusivancouver.ca) Go to: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletters.htm> to view.

From the 'Punitary'

Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

C-4 can make a dull day fun.

Great Truths

You're never too old to learn something stupid.



BC/Yukon Legion Foundation



Cordially invites you to attend a
Valentine's Day Luncheon
Held at the Kerrisdale Legion
(2177 West 42nd Ave, Vancouver)



February 14, 2013
11:30am to 1:30pm
A buffet luncheon will be served
Cost: \$25 per person
Dress: uniform or business
Items will be available for silent auction



Email info@legionbcyukon.ca to RSVP by February 4



Curry Lunch - India



Hosted by:
The British Columbia
Regiment
Officers' Mess



Coordinated by:
The BC Regiment
(DCO) Association

- Date:** Thursday, January 31, 2013
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(welcome at 12:15pm)
(lunch starts at 12:20pm)
- Location:** Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
- Dress:** Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)
- Price:** \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm attendance by January 25, 2013)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please contact Bill Diamond at Bill@DukeaBear.com or 604.618.3607 (Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association
No cancellations after January 25, 2013

NEXT LUNCH: Thursday, February 28, 2013