

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News June 30, 2015

Wednesday Lunches

NOTE: NO LUNCH tomorrow.

World War 2 - 1940

John Thompson Strategic analyst quotes from his book "Spirit Over Steel"

June 25th: The armistice between Germany and France comes into force and the evacuations from the remaining French Atlantic ports end – since Dunkirk another 144,200 British/Dominion, 18,200 French, 24,300 Poles, 4,900 Czechs and sundry other troops and refugees have been shipped to safety. The Japanese immediately inform French authorities in Vietnam that rail links with China are to be severed and that Japanese observers should be placed to watch the frontier. The US increases its taxes so that another 2.2 million Americans are on the rolls and able to pay for armaments programs.

June 26th: The Soviets issue a demand to Romania for Bessarabia and Bukovina, and Romania turns to Hitler for advice, who counsils them to yield these territories for now.

June 27th: The Romanians tell the Soviets they'll hand the territories over. British and Australian representatives meet with Cordell Hull to discuss joint measures in dealing with Japan. The US remains noncommittal for the moment.

June 28th: De Gaulle is recognized as the Free French leader by the UK. Soviet troops occupy Bessarabia and northern Bukovina. The Italian garrison at Tobruk shoots down Marshal Balbo (their commander in chief) as his aircraft arrives during a British air-raid; his replacement will be Marshal "Electric Whiskers" Graziani.

June 30th: German troops begin occupying the Channel Islands – which are British sovereign territory.

July 1940: Vichy France Takes Shape

"The destruction of the enemy trade, the attack on the enemy sea communications is the proper purpose of sea warfare." - Karl Dönitz. 1939.

General: The happy time begins for the U-boats – all 28 of them on operations will sink 38 of the Allies' 105 lost ships this month and the great U-Boat aces start to establish their reputations. As they move to French and Norwegian ports, they can transit into their hunting grounds more quickly and at much less risk.

July 1st: Roosevelt signs another naval bill authorizing the construction of 55 more ships and the spending of \$450 million on naval projects

Air Force Memo Warns of Risk to Operations Due to Poor Recruiting

Briefing note sent as Canada ramped up anti-ISIS forces in Kuwait raised red flags

By Kristen Everson, CBC News Posted: Jun 25, 2015



Aviation systems technicians remove the propeller of a CP-140 Aurora for maintenance during Operation Impact in Kuwait. The director of personnel strategy for the air force issued a warning last year about the pressures created by poor recruitment of technicians.

(Combat Camera/DND)

Canadian military operations will suffer "devastating" effects if recruiting efforts for the Royal Canadian Air Force don't improve, the commander of the air force was warned in a briefing note last fall. The blunt assessment from the director of the Air Personnel Strategy office, obtained by CBC News through access to information, came just as hundreds of military personnel were being deployed against ISIS in the Middle East. The briefing note says key staffing targets were missed in the previous fiscal year — or met so late that members weren't able to get in on crucial training courses — and raises red flags for the 2014/15 fiscal year. The memo places the blame squarely on the Canadian Forces Recruiting Group, the department in charge of drawing people into the forces. Promising to give the Air Force Commander the "ground truth" about the problem, the note says the recruiting group's inability to meet staffing targets "is having a devastating effect on the health of all occupations but in particular the Air Maintenance, ATIS and pilot occupations." There are approximately 600 Canadian Forces members in Kuwait right now to support Canada's military operations against ISIS fighters in Iraq and Syria. Canada has six CF-18 fighter jets, one refueller and two surveillance planes operating in the region as part of a US-led coalition.

The personnel in Kuwait supporting these missions include aircraft maintenance workers, logistics staff and of course the pilots themselves. In March, the government extended Canada's mission by a year to March 30, 2016. By that point, the military will have been deployed in Iraq for nearly a year and a half. The document reveals that many Aerospace Technology and Information Systems (ATIS) technician positions were going unfilled. Recruiters were only able to fill 47 of their 79 targeted positions, for a 59 per cent success rate in the 2013/14 year. These are the people who repair and maintain all types of air force telecommunications and information systems, such as satellite systems, switchboards and computer systems. Recruiters were also unable to find qualified applicants for Avionics Systems Technician (AVS) positions — the people who maintain all of the electronic systems on aircraft. The document said that while recruiters hit 75 per cent of the target for the same year, most were recruited so

late in the season they weren't able to take the crucial courses they need to do the job they were hired for. Overall, the numbers were even worse, with total new recruits to the air force reaching only 54 per cent of what had been requested by the target date of September 2014. According to the document, if the recruiting issues for the RCAF were to continue, the "situation will lead to a reduced ability to remain operationally responsive to the needs of Canada." It also warns that during a time of tighter budgets across the Canadian military, recruiting levels and last-minute hires are actually jeopardizing the air force's ability to be fiscally responsible.

The warning seems to have had an effect. A Defence spokesman told CBC News the recruiting group managed to enroll 100 per cent of all needed ATIS and AVS technicians by the end of the 2014/15 fiscal year, adding the military is in the midst of building a new system aimed at modernizing and streamlining the recruiting process. "Overall, there has been significant progress in meeting RCAF recruiting targets, and the air force is able to mitigate the impact of shortfalls when they occur by making adjustments within the occupation management process," said Maj. Krzysztof Stachura, public affairs officer for the recruiting group, in an email. But another military-wide trend is creating more concern. While the Canadian Forces overall reached its objective of signing up 3,900 new soldiers last year that was offset by more soldiers leaving than was expected. In an email to commanders across the forces, LGen David Millar, the outgoing chief of military personnel, said "the overall result of intake versus outtake is minus-777 [people] for the FY [fiscal year] due to higher attrition than expected." That means, despite making new hires, the Canadian Forces still shrank in the first half of 2014. Millar expressed optimism that recruiters would be able to meet the military's goals by the end of the fiscal year, but warned that the bigger issue "is forecasting the impact of high attrition on our overall numbers from FY 2015/16 and beyond."

Flurry of Defence Projects on Way

David Pugliese Ottawa Citizen 23 Jun 2015

A new search-and-rescue training centre will be built in British Columbia, giving the Conservative government yet another high-profile project to announce in the run-up to the federal election, the Citizen has learned. The government is rolling out a number of defence announcements in the coming weeks. Those include an announcement Tuesday by Associate Defence Minister Julian Fantino that Colt Canada of Kitchener, On, is getting a contract to work on new rifles for the Canadian Rangers. On Friday, Defence Minister Jason Kenney and Public Works Minister Diane Finley announced the arrival of the first six Cyclone maritime helicopters. Government ministers will also announce later in the summer that a new radar system, as well as a fleet of trucks, has been purchased for the Army. The announcements are designed to deflect criticism of the Conservatives that they have bungled the job of purchasing equipment for the Canadian military, say Department of National Defence sources. Industry representatives have been waiting years for some of the contracts to be awarded. For instance, the project to buy 1,500 new trucks for the army was originally announced in 2006.

In other cases the acquisitions are small, such as the purchase of new rifles for the Rangers, but the government hopes to gain positive publicity in certain regions in the run-up to the October federal election. The need for the training centre on the west coast was added to the requirements companies must meet if they are to win the contract to provide the Royal Canadian Air Force with new fixed-wing search-and-rescue aircraft. The centre is to be located at CFB Comox, BC and would be a state-of-the-art building that is home to aircraft simulators and other training facilities for search-and-rescue crews. Prime Minister Stephen Harper was scheduled to travel to CFB Comox at the end of May for the announcement. But that was put on hold because he needed to be present for the Halifax news conference at which Justice Minister Peter MacKay announced he was leaving federal politics.

Military sources say the search-and-rescue aircraft project, announced by the Conservatives nine years ago, is still years away from delivering an aircraft. But now that the bids have been requested from companies, it provides the government with another opportunity to announce some details of the project. Industry representatives say the training centre at Comox is a new addition to the requirements that had been previously outlined. The Conservatives have faced criticism from both the Liberals and NDP for the military equipment programs that have run into delays.

'Support Our Troops': Manitoba Gets Camo Vanity Licence Plate

Nearly half of licence plate proceeds go to scholarship fund for families of Armed Forces' members. CBC News Posted: Jun 07, 2015 3:08 PM



*The province unveiled a new "Support our Troops" plate in Winnipeg June 7.
(Cliff Simpson/CBC).*

Military brass are applauding new speciality licence plates unveiled Sunday in Manitoba. The plates have a yellow "Support Our Troops" ribbon with a camouflage background. The plates are aimed at honouring people serving in the Canadian Armed Forces and cost \$70, \$30 of which goes to a scholarship fund for family of enlisted members. "They will assist me in providing scholarships to some personnel or their families, who chose to serve here in Manitoba," said Col. Joel Roy, the commander at 17 Wing in Winnipeg. "So, thank you for your generosity. I look forward to seeing those plates on ours and your cars."

MLA Deanne Crothers, Manitoba's special envoy to military affairs, said the plate gives the public a chance to show they value the sacrifices made by the members of Canada's Armed

Forces. "Whether they're members of the military or not, it's important for us to recognize when we need to call on these folks here at home, they're there for us," said Crothers. "This is just one way we can show that we are very supportive of what they do." The plates go on sale June 8 and can be purchased at any of the more than 300 Autopac agencies in Manitoba.

A New Commander for the Army in British Columbia

Colonel David Awalt takes command of 39 Canadian Brigade Group

Captain Chris Poulton, Brigade Public Affairs Officer, 39 Canadian Brigade Group

39 Canadian Brigade Group has a new Brigade Commander. On Sunday June 28th Colonel Matthew Haussmann relinquished command to Colonel David Awalt in a Change of Command Ceremony held at Jericho Garrison in Vancouver, BC. The ceremony was observed by over 80 military and civilian guests.



From Left to Right: Col Awalt, BGen Eyre, and Col Haussmann ready to sign the transfer of command certificates during the 39 CBG Change of Command Ceremony held at Jericho Garrison on 28 June 2015.

Photo by: Bdr Albert Law, 39 CBG Public Affairs

Colonel Awalt takes command of the brigade at a busy time when reserve soldiers are eagerly training and focusing on fundamental soldier skills during the

summer months. "The role of the brigade is to generate well trained soldiers to support Canadians both overseas and here at home," said Col Awalt during his first address as Commander. "I strongly believe that this mission resonates with all of us in the reserves." The brigade's summer training will culminate in August with a major brigade exercise known as Exercise Cougar Destroyer where soldiers will put their skills to the test and prepare for what challenges may lay ahead.

Looking toward the future, Col Awalt is focused on maintaining the readiness ability of 39 Canadian Brigade Group while increasing the number of recruits the brigade will hire. Col Awalt said that the growth will enable the brigade to provide more capability to Canadians when needed. "I am very excited about the future of the reserves in British Columbia," he said. "The army reserves are an integral part of the [Canadian] Army and the Canadian Armed Forces." He added that the brigade has a clear mandate and is continually being looked at to provide more capability.

Prior to receiving command of 39 Canadian Brigade Group, Colonel Awalt held four command positions with brigade units. The most recent being the commanding officer of The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) until May of this year when he turned over command to

prepare for his new appointment. In his civilian employment, Colonel Awalt works for the Department of National Defence at CFB Esquimalt. “As reservists we bring our civilian training into our army roles,” he said, “but more importantly we’re connected with the communities in British Columbia that we live in, and I think those are two of the strengths of the Army reserves.”

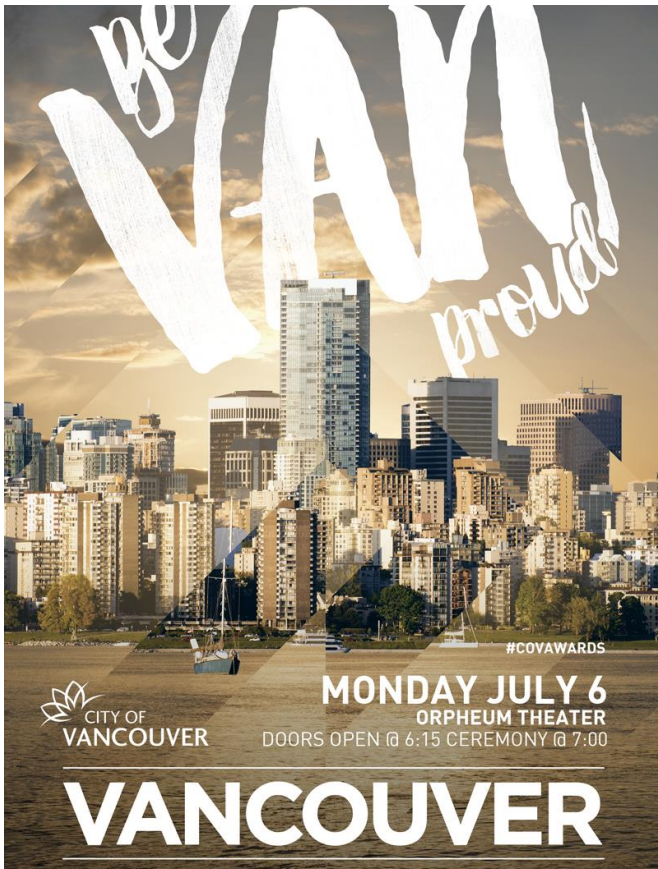
There are over 1,500 reserve soldiers in 39 Canadian Brigade Group working in 11 community based units throughout British Columbia. “We are citizen soldiers,” said Col Awalt, “and we must be resilient as we try to balance our family lives, our civilian careers, and our part-time army employment.”

39 Canadian Brigade Group is dedicated to readiness and the reserve soldiers are trained, tested, and qualified every year to prepare for emergency response to an earthquake, flood, or forest fire, as well as expeditionary combat and peace-making operations. The majority of reservists in the brigade have civilian jobs or attend university and serve as part-time soldiers.

Appointment of New Regimental Colonel, RCA

Colonel TR Young has been appointed Regimental Colonel, Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, eff 24 June 2015.

City of Vancouver Awards of Excellence



You are invited to the City of Vancouver’s 2015 *Awards of Excellence* on **Monday, July 6** at the **Orpheum Theatre**, 601 Smithe Street, Vancouver from **7:00 – 8:30 pm**. Mayor Gregor Robertson will present a Civic Merit Award to **Mr Cameron Cathcart** for his service as Chair of the Vancouver Remembrance Day Committee since 2003. The Civic Merit Award was established in 1942, and recognizes individuals for outstanding achievement in a particular field of endeavor in sports, science, arts or culture within the city and the province, or in recognition of a specific service. Cam is also the **President of RUSI Vancouver**

In addition to the evening’s award presentations, the ceremony will feature Master of Ceremonies Riaz Meghji, Co-Host of Breakfast Television, and live performances including a street dance

competition set to dueling Steinway pianos, the fabulous Carnival Band, and four time Juno Award winner Prevail.

To RSVP for this free event please register with Eventbrite: <http://cov-awards-of-excellence.eventbrite.ca>

Who is it?

Last Week: A little error in last week's answer. I had forgotten that RCHA Batteries were lettered sequentially starting with A Bty 1RCHA so the 3rd Bty of 3RCHA is J Bty.



This picture was taken in 1971 and is a view of the 31Bty office which was the middle of the three at the west end of the parade square. The picture is a mix of old and new (and somewhere in between) It is post integration (note the chart of the new ranks on the wall) but we are still waiting for the new DEUs. The first issue of Combat clothing to the Reserves had all been produced in different runs so pants and jackets were often different colours and came in the usual 3 sizes.

Note the red bottle on the desk to the left – that is Gestetner mimeograph master sheet correction fluid. No photocopiers in those days. Everything was produced on a hand cranked machine using a master produced on a typewriter. The clerk in the background is hunched over a typewriter. There were about 10 of those in the whole building, now there are about 25 computers. About the time of Integration, document security became much more important and our old metal filing cabinets were modified to take an external locking bar (note tab above the top drawer). Most people spotted the ashtray. In those days 9 out of 10 soldiers smoked and there was an ashtray on every flat surface.

On the left is the BSM Heinz Winters, talking to MBdr James. Behind them is Art Gee and the Bty clerk, Jackie Revelle. To the right is Barry Hamilton, the BC, and Wayne Davidson.

This Week: Well, believe it or not, this is the 100th quiz in this series. I want to thank all of you who have participated over the past two years, helping to build our knowledge-base for the future. Everything that you have contributed has been recorded and will be of assistance to future researchers. Let's hope that in 100 years there will still be a Canadian Army and that these photos will help our great-great grandchildren learn from the past.

Tempus fugit and it is already sixty years since this week's centennial photo was taken. It looks like a warm summer day in a training camp. The bell tents are arranged in neat rows, and the officers are posing for a group shot, all wearing comfortable "bush". Two are wearing pukka officer's forage caps, while the rest are in dark blue artillery berets (when are we going to get back to that colour?). Eagle-eyed readers will no doubt recognize the skinny kid on the left as

none other than our late, and much missed, museum founder, Vic Stevenson. Of the others, some look very familiar, some not.



For a photo you can zoom in on, email the editor at bob.mugford@shaw.ca

So, can you help identify this group of gently grinning gregarious Gunners? If so, let either the editor, or the author, John Redmond

johnd._redmond@telus.net know who is who.

From the 'Punitenary'

Why did the teacher have to wear sunglasses in class? Because the students were very bright.

Murphy's other Laws

A pat on the back is only a few centimetres from a kick in the pants.

Quotable Quotes

Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude. - *Thomas Jefferson*

Happy

CANADA
Day