



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Mar 5, 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. Fundraising efforts have been started, with a whiskey tasting event scheduled for March. (see below)

Remember to drop your lunch ticket in the bowl when you pick up your soup/salad.

And finally, PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE VEHICLE COMPOUND!!

Lunch speaker - Wednesday March 27

Bruce Seligman, President ARKTOS Developments Ltd.

Bruce will provide us with an illustrated talk on his company's amphibious vehicles. Developed by his company in British Columbia, ARKTOS Craft are proven to have the highest level of all-round amphibious mobility in the world - particularly while crossing the transition between ice and water.

Due to their unique design ARKTOS Craft have an unsurpassed ability to manoeuvre through ice-rubble fields, significant side slopes, steep grades, muskeg, quicksand and any other water transition zones. The existing 15-meter United States Coast Guard approved ARKTOS Evacuation Craft can carry 52-passengers or 5,000 kilograms of cargo through the most severe terrain and up to 10,000 kilograms of cargo in open water, across relatively level ground and across moderate transitions between water and land.

Larger ARKTOS Craft with greater load carrying capacity and exceptional amphibious towing have been considered for several major projects, while smaller, faster ARKTOS Craft have also been conceived for patrol and rescue missions.

Army to scale back Arctic operations because of budget cuts

By David Pugliese, Ottawa citizen march 3, 2013



Canadian soldiers with Lord Strathcona's Horse haul a tow cable from a LAV Bison to a LAV III that was deliberately stuck in a snow pile to test their ability to rescue military vehicles on an ice road created near Behchoko, N.W.T. during Exercise Arctic Ram near Yellowknife on February 14, 2012. Approximately 1,500 Canadian soldiers and Rangers participated in Arctic Ram to re-familiarize the army with a harsh winter environment and to exercise Canada's Arctic sovereignty.

Photograph by: Ryan Jackson / Edmonton Journal

OTTAWA — Conservative government budget cuts are forcing Canada's army to scale back activities in the Arctic and cease training in other areas such as deserts and mountains, according to documents obtained by the Citizen. The army is bearing the brunt of cuts to the Canadian Forces and will see its budget reduced by 22 per cent over the next several years. The budget will drop from \$1.5 billion to just under \$1.2 billion by 2015. The reductions will affect how the army trains as well as its operations. The decision to scale back on Arctic missions flies in the face of the Conservative government's high-profile efforts to increase the military's presence in the North. The army, however, indicates it has no other choice as it is struggling with the excessive price tag of operating in the Arctic.

“Recent Northern exercises and operations highlight the fact that conduct of these activities can cost from five to seven times more than if they were conducted in Southern Canada,” noted the Jan. 31 planning document from army commander Lt.-Gen. Peter Devlin. “The Army will have to limit/reduce the scope of its activities in the North, thus directly impacting on Canada's ability to exercise Arctic sovereignty.”

The document, to provide direction on how the army will conduct its business this year and next, was leaked to the Citizen. It also notes that deployments overseas will be scaled back and

certain specialized training will stop entirely. “Training in specific environments (jungle, desert, littoral, mountain) will cease until such a time as new funding is made available,” Devlin writes. “Local training can obviously continue for units based in littoral or mountainous environments.”

Devlin wrote in the planning document that he was comforted by the fact army commanders are well suited to “leading change” and they will be able to deal with the government’s cost-cutting measures. But he added: “This period of fiscal uncertainty and reduction will have an impact on the way the CA (Canadian Army) has been accustomed to conducting its business for the past decade. As a result, the CA is being forced to review the way it trains and sustains its soldiers for all phases of war.”

The army could not respond with a comment by press time on how the cuts would be handled. But in December, Devlin warned a Senate committee that the 22-per-cent reduction to the budget would mean significant changes, although he did not get into many of the details. “We are training to a lower level than we trained when we were training for combat operations,” he acknowledged. At the time, Defence Minister Peter MacKay’s office released a statement noting that training is expected to slow since the Canadian Forces are no longer in combat missions in Afghanistan or Libya and their contribution to missions such as the one in Haiti has been substantially reduced.

The army’s decision to reduce its role in Arctic operations is a departure from the government’s push in the North. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has announced various military initiatives for the Arctic, which have generated positive publicity for his government. But many of the announced initiatives are years away from becoming reality and opposition MPs and some of Canada’s allies have questioned whether many of the ambitious plans will see the light of day. The U.S. government has privately dismissed many of the announcements as having little to do with enforcing sovereignty in the North. American diplomats instead suggested that such initiatives are largely designed to attract votes. “Conservatives make concern for ‘The North’ part of their political brand and it works,” according to a diplomatic cable written by analysts at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa. WikiLeaks made the 2010 cable public. There have also been delays and problems with Arctic-related equipment purchases and infrastructure initiatives. The Defence Department had been expecting to take delivery of the first of the Arctic/Offshore Patrol Ships this year. That, however, was delayed to 2015. But according to documents presented to the House of Commons last year, the delivery will now be delayed until at least 2018.

Plans for a naval facility at Nanisivik, Nunavut, have been scaled back because of the high cost of building in the North. Federal government plans to improve a runway in the area are not expected to proceed. The Royal Canadian Air Force had also looked at a major expansion of Resolute Bay in Nunavut as it considered transforming it into a key base for Arctic operations. That would have involved the construction of a 3,000-metre paved runway, hangars, fuel installations and other infrastructure. But the RCAF has confirmed that proposal will not be proceeding.

Amateur Historian Cracks Lost WWII Carrier Pigeon Code

December 17, 2012



Image Credit: Photos.com

A World War II message found in a fireplace attached to the remains of a dead carrier pigeon is believed to have been decrypted. A Canadian World War II enthusiast says that he has deciphered the message after realizing that a code book held the key to the encryption. Gord Young, editor for the history group Lakefield Heritage Research, says the 1944 note uses a simple World War I code to give information about German troop positions in the area around Normandy, France.

The 74-year-old David Martin first uncovered the message when he was renovating the chimney of his house in the village of Bletchingley in Surrey, England. During his renovation, he found the remains of a dead pigeon, along with a leg that had a red canister still attached. Once he cracked open the canister, he found a thin piece of paper with the words “Pigeon of Service,” along with handwritten encrypted codes.

According to the BBC, Britain’s top code breakers at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) obtained the message at the beginning of November but were unsuccessful at cracking the code. The British agency told BBC that they were convinced the message was impossible to decrypt, but did confirm that they would take a look at Young’s solution.

“We stand by our statement of 22 November 2012 that without access to the relevant codebooks and details of any additional encryption used, the message will remain impossible to decrypt,” a GCHQ spokesman told BBC.

“Similarly it is also impossible to verify any proposed solutions, but those put forward without reference to the original cryptographic material are unlikely to be correct.”

Young, however, said that the code is not complex, and that people who are trying to decrypt it are “over thinking.” The code, according to Young’s account, belonged to 27-year-old Sgt William Scott, who was placed in Normandy to report on German positions. Scott was killed a few weeks later and buried in a Normandy war cemetery.

Around 250,000 carrier pigeons were used during World War II, and Young said that Scott would’ve sent out two pigeons to ensure that the information made it through enemy lines and arrived back in England. He hinted that it was pretty obvious that the peculiar spellings and heavy use of acronyms indicate that Scott was trained during World War I.

“You will see the World War I artillery acronyms are shorter, but, that is because, you have to remember, that, the primitive radio-transmitters that sent the Morse code were run by batteries, and, those didn’t last much more than a half-hour tops, probably less,” Young told BBC.

According to Young, the decrypted message reads:

“Artillery observer at ‘K’ Sector, Normandy. Requested headquarters supplement report. Panzer attack – blitz. West Artillery Observer Tracking Attack.

“Lt Knows extra guns are here. Know where local dispatch station is. Determined where Jerry’s headquarters front posts. Right battery headquarters right here.

“Found headquarters infantry right here. Final note, confirming, found Jerry’s whereabouts. Go over field notes. Counter measures against Panzers not working.

“Jerry’s right battery central headquarters here. Artillery observer at ‘K’ sector Normandy. Mortar, infantry attack panzers.

“Hit Jerry’s Right or Reserve Battery Here. Already know electrical engineers headquarters. Troops, panzers, batteries, engineers, here. Final note known to headquarters.”

Young said that more deciphering is required still, but that extra bits of code could have been inserted into the text to confuse the enemy.

Bomber Command Clasp to the 1939-45 Star

A Clasp to the 1939-45 Star has been granted to the aircrew of Bomber Command who served for at least sixty days, or completed a tour of operations, on a Bomber Command operational unit and flew at least one operational sortie on a Bomber Command operational unit from the 3rd September, 1939, to the 8th May, 1945, inclusive. The award of the Clasp is to be denoted by a silver rose Emblem when the ribbon alone is worn.

Eligibility is extended to those members of Bomber Command aircrew who did not meet the qualifying criteria due to service being brought to an end by death, wounds or other disability due to service, service marked by a gallantry award or taken as a prisoner of war.

Foreign nationals commissioned or enlisted into British or, the then, Dominion Air Forces (e.g. Royal Canadian Air Force or Royal Australian Air Force) are eligible provided the individuals did not receive a similar award from their own Government.

Eligibility to the Bomber Command Clasp has no effect upon eligibility for World War Two recognition previously awarded and does not suggest automatic eligibility for any further awards.



Bomber Command Clasp

If you believe you are eligible for this clasp, email me and I will send the application form.

Whiskey Tasting Fundraiser

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78th Fraser Highlanders welcome you to attend a Fund Raising and Whisky Tasting event at our Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music from the BC Regiment (DCO) Irish Pipes and Drums.

Tickets are \$55.00 per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskeys selected by the Officers of the Mess, or \$25.00 if you are only having beer, wine, or soft drinks from our No-Host Bar.

Only 50 tickets will be sold for the full whisky fleet!

Dress is business casual. Kilts, of course, are welcome.

DATE: March 23rd, 2013

TIME: 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

LOCATION: 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th Ave Van BC V6J 2C7

TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:

LCol James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: barrettjd007@gmail.com

All profits will go to the 15th Field Regimental Society to be directed towards the kitchen renovation fund.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

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>

The Website is now up and running. For more information go to:
www.militaryball.ca

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

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

From the 'Punitentary'

Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

Always keep one bullet in the chamber when changing your magazine.

Great Truths

Joy can be real only if people look on their life as a service, and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness. - *Leo Nikolaevich Tolstoy*

Curry Lunch - Ireland



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

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



Date: Thursday, March 28, 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 March 22, 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 March 22, 2013

NEXT LUNCH: Thursday, April 25, 2013