

## Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News May 6, 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.

### Canada to Take Over Leadership of Military Observer Mission



*Ukrainian soldiers stand guard on their checkpoint not far of Sloviansk, Ukraine, on April 30, 2014. Militants in Sloviansk are keeping dozens of hostages, including seven European military observers, who were detained in the city on April 25 while on a verification mission under the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). PHOTO: EPA/SERGEY DOLZHENKO Matthew Fisher Published: April 30, 2014*

DONETSK, Ukraine — Canada is stepping into the increasingly tense showdown between Kyiv and Moscow over the future of eastern Ukraine by taking over leadership of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s observer mission in the central European country. Three Canadian army officers are to lead a nine-member team, Defence Minister Rob Nicholson said in a statement released Wednesday. The other members will come from Ukraine, France, Moldova and the US. It is the first time that Canada has led such a mission. Its job will be to monitor the deteriorating security situation across Ukraine until May 11. “This mission constitutes a strong show of support to Ukraine and is a concrete demonstration of Canada’s commitment to the security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine,” Nicholson said in a statement.

The OSCE was invited to observe the chaotic security situation by Ukraine’s acting government. Canada volunteered to lead this mission, which is to begin its work Thursday from a location in southern Ukraine. Such observer duty does not come without hazards in the current situation. Seven members of another OSCE team were kidnapped and have been held hostage since last week by pro-Russian militias in the town of Slovyansk. Those holding that German-led team of observers have demanded the release of some of their supporters who have been jailed by the Ukrainian government and the dismantling of barricades in the centre of Kyiv that played a central role in the coup that toppled the pro-Russian former Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich. “While military personnel, there is a strong diplomatic aspect to the mission,” said Lt Col Gary Hardwick, the artillery officer chosen by Ottawa to lead the group.

“We are looking to neutrally observe what we see; to characterize the situation on the ground as honestly as we can.”

Hardwick’s group will be unarmed. But they will be accompanied by armed Ukrainian military escorts. “We hope to visibly demonstrate our support for Ukraine and that our work is a deterrent to those who might wish to challenge the territorial integrity of Ukraine,” the colonel, an Afghan war veteran, said by telephone from southern Ukraine.

The other Canadians on Hardwick’s team are infantry officers. The entire team has at least four year’s experience in similar verification work in Eastern Europe, he said. While not being drawn on the specific perils of such a mission, Hardwick acknowledged that the current security situation in Ukraine was “more fluid” than usual. In diplomatic parlance such OSCE verification missions are taken under something known as a Vienna Document 2011 (VD11). It was “being conducted in order to dispel concerns regarding unusual military activities in Ukraine, and to ensure a continuous international military presence on the ground,” DND said in its statement.

Where the Canadian-led team will conduct inspections has not yet been decided. They have been invited in by Ukraine because of “concerns of unusual military activity in the region,” a Department of National Defence statement said. The OSCE is made up of 57 participating states, including all NATO allies. The announcement came as Ukrainian security forces were placed on full combat alert Wednesday after the acting president, Oleksandr Turchynov, told regional governors that his government’s security forces were “helpless” to stop pro-Russian militias in eastern Ukraine and must now try to save cities outside the region such as Odessa and Kharkiv from a similar fate. Turchynov’s ominous declaration came as another swarm of armed supporters of union with Russia easily captured another municipal building and police headquarters in the eastern city of Horlivka and a city council building in the nearby town of Alchevsk. These unopposed takeovers — walkovers is more like it — followed, by a day, a similar action in the border city of Luhansk.

With Wednesday’s assaults, there were now at least 14 cities and towns in the coal and steel-producing Donbass region where separatists sympathetic to Moscow who call themselves part of the People’s Republic of Donetsk now appear to control the political destiny of several million Ukrainians. In each case, Ukrainian police provided little resistance. In a few cases they joined those attacking the buildings they were supposed to be defending. “Our main task is to prevent the terrorist threat from spreading to other regions of Ukraine,” Turchynov said as he announced the security alert. There was a “real danger of continental war (being) unleashed against Ukraine,” he said, alleging a campaign by Russian intelligence operatives and Special Forces troops to create chaos and fear. The swift, apparently well-coordinated takeovers were designed by “the Russian leadership” to prevent Ukraine from staging presidential elections scheduled to take place on May 25, Turchynov said. He became interim leader after a pro-western coup in Kyiv two months ago and is to step aside after the ballot.

The confused security situation across eastern Ukraine, which shares a long border with Russia, has created jitters everywhere. Perhaps nowhere are apprehensions higher than among the two

million mostly ethnic Russians who live in the heavily industrialized city of Donetsk where separatist gangs seized municipal and regional offices on April 7.

## **Canadian Forces Breaks Promise To Afghan War Veteran**

*Moves to Boot Him Out Of Military after Media Spotlight Dies Down.*

*MURRAY BREWSTER, the Canadian Press 5 May 2014*

OTTAWA – National Defence has done an about-face and revoked an offer that would have allowed a soldier with post-traumatic stress disorder, who spoke publicly last fall about his attempted suicide, the right to an extended release from the military.

Master Cpl. Kristian Wolowidnyk's story made headlines across the country in November when it was revealed he tried to take his own life after the army put him on the fast-track for dismissal. The military backed down after his case became public, but just last week reversed itself and said he doesn't qualify for the program. He was given the latest news last Tuesday by officials at the Edmonton Joint Personnel Support Unit, one of several centres across the country designed to get injured and ill soldiers back to their units or – more often – out of the military.

Wolowidnyk, and wife Michele, were told the offer for an extended release under the Integrated Transition Program was withdrawn and that the base surgeon had stated that there was no medical reason why he couldn't be either working or in school. Michele Wolowidnyk, in a letter to Defence Minister Rob Nicholson and Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Tom Lawson, says that the base surgeon has never met her husband and that she believes the department was just stringing him along until the media attention died down.

The former combat engineer and Afghan war veteran is unable to comment because, after all the public attention, he was compelled to sign the defence department's social media policy, which forbids him from saying anything disparaging or critical of the military – and the joint personnel unit in particular.

## **D-Day Practice More Deadly than Real Thing**

*Western Morning News | Apr 26, 2014*

Exercise Tiger proved to be the most deadly training incident in the whole of the Second World War. The similarity between the Start Bay area and the Normandy coast prompted its use for several full-scale battle practices. Slapton Sands was thought to be a perfect place to simulate landings for Utah Beach in France as part of Operation Overlord on June 6, 1944. In the early hours of April 28, 1944, eight landing ship tanks (LSTs) full of American servicemen and equipment converged in Lyme Bay and made their way towards Slapton Sands for a D-Day rehearsal. Four German E-Boats, alerted by heavy radio traffic, intercepted the three-mile convoy of vessels and the heavily laden, slow-moving LSTs proved easy targets for the torpedo boats.

A series of tragedies, including the absence of a British Navy destroyer assigned as an escort and an error in radio frequencies, led to three of the LSTs being hit by torpedoes. More loss of

life was caused by life jackets being incorrectly worn and the extreme cold of the sea. A total of 749 American soldiers and sailors died. The loss of life was greater than that later suffered by the assault troops during the initial attack on Utah Beach. Allied commanders, fearing the news might make its way into German hands and reveal the intentions for the D-Day landings, immediately ordered a communication blackout. Approximately 12 weeks before the military exercises, many of the villages surrounding Slapton Sands had been evacuated. The soldiers and sailors who survived were ordered not to speak about the incident and many did not talk about it until 50 years later.

It remained a secret until Ken Small, then a Torcross hotelier, was told about a Sherman Duplex Drive tank that was resting on the sea bed three-quarters of a mile out from the shore. After negotiations over several years, he bought it from the US Government for \$50, finally recovering it from the sea in May 1984. Thanks to his efforts, the Sherman Tank Memorial was officially recognised by US Congress and acknowledged by the addition of a bronze plaque.

## **Spy Plane Fries Air Traffic Control Computers, Shuts Down LAX**

*BY ANDREW BLANKSTEIN MAY 2, 2014*

A relic from the Cold War appears to have triggered a software glitch at a major air traffic control center in California Wednesday that led to delays and cancellations of hundreds of flights across the country, sources familiar with the incident told NBC News. On Wednesday at about 2 pm, according to sources, a U-2 spy plane, the same type of aircraft that flew high-altitude spy missions over Russia 50 years ago, passed through the airspace monitored by the LA Air Route Traffic Control Center in Palmdale, Calif. The LA Center handles landings and departures at the region's major airports, including Los Angeles International (LAX), San Diego and Las Vegas. The computers at the LA Center are programmed to keep commercial airliners and other aircraft from colliding with each other. The U-2 was flying at 60,000 feet, but the computers were attempting to keep it from colliding with planes that were actually miles beneath it. Though the exact technical causes are not known, the spy plane's altitude and route apparently overloaded a computer system called ERAM, which generates display data for air-traffic controllers. Back-up computer systems also failed.

As a result, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had to stop accepting flights into airspace managed by the LA Center, issuing a nationwide ground stop that lasted for about an hour and affected thousands of passengers. At LAX, one of the nation's busiest airports, there were 27 cancellations of arriving flights, as well as 212 delays and 27 diversions to other airports. Twenty-three departing flights were cancelled, while 216 were delayed. There were also delays at the airports in Burbank, Long Beach, Ontario and Orange County and at other airports across the Southwestern US. In a statement to NBC News, the FAA said that it was "investigating a flight-plan processing issue" at the LA Air Route Traffic Control Center, but did not elaborate on the reasons for the glitch and did not confirm that it was related to the U-2's flight. "FAA technical specialists resolved the specific issue that triggered the problem on Wednesday, and the FAA has put in place mitigation measures as engineers complete development of software changes," said the agency in a statement. "The FAA will fully analyze

the event to resolve any underlying issues that contributed to the incident and prevent a reoccurrence.”

Sources told NBC News that the plane was a U-2 with a Defense Department flight plan. “It was a ‘Dragon Lady,’” said one source, using the nickname for the plane. Edwards Air Force Base is 30 miles north of the LA Center. Both Edwards and NASA’s Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center, which is located at Edwards, have been known to host U-2s and similar, successor aircraft. The US Air Force is still flying U-2s, but plans to retire them within the next few years. Gary Hatch, spokesman for Edwards Air Force Base, would not comment on the Wednesday incident, but said, “There are no U-2 planes assigned to Edwards.” Kevin Rohrer, a spokesman for the Armstrong Flight Research Center, said that neither of the two high-altitude ER-2 planes used by the agency for earth science research were flying that day.

Developed more than a half-century ago, the U-2 was once a workhorse of US airborne surveillance. The plane’s “operational ceiling” is 70,000 feet. In 1960, Francis Gary Powers was flying a U-2 for the CIA over the Soviet Union when he was shot down. He was held captive by the Russians for two years before being exchanged for a KGB colonel in US custody. A second US U-2 was shot down over Cuba in 1962, killing the pilot.

## **Regiment takes some ‘Friends’ to Vokes Range**

On Saturday April 25, the 15 Fd Artillery Regiment hosted three “Friends of the Regiment” at the Vokes Range. They observed the soldiers doing the PWT3 course, enjoyed an IMP lunch, and did a little familiarization training on the C7.

Don Foster, of BMO Nesbitt-Burns, is a member of our Officers Mess. His father served with 12<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, from the beach on D-Day to the Rhine. Stephen Welscher is a senior financial advisor with Sun Life. Al DeGenova, a well-known local Real Estate

developer, was a major mover in the founding of the Honour House Society and establishing its facility in New Westminster.

*Don Foster, Al DeGenova, LCol Bill Rodgers (Hon LCol of the Regiment) and Stephen Welscher ‘loaded for bear’ at Vokes Range.*



This event was an important first step for the Society in finding ways to thank our Friends who have contributed to the Regiment and the

Society. The next Vokes Range event is in November. In September we plan to get out more invitations.



*Warrant Officer Porritt coaches Don Foster on the range.*

Thanks to LCol Wickens for energizing this; Maj Purcell who greeted our Friends and provided briefings as well as RSM Dempsey and Warrant Porritt who supervised the shooters.

## **Canada's D-Day Tribute Campaign**

What is it? Canada's D-Day Tribute is an effort organized by the Juno Beach Centre Association in Canada to honour those Canadians who fought and died on D-Day. The goal of the campaign is to create a moving display of 359 tribute markers – one for every Canadian who died on D-Day – emphasizing the gravity of Canada's sacrifice, while at the same time supporting the operational costs and educational programming of the Juno Beach Centre. The markers are made of Canadian maple, and are roughly 2 inches by 4 inches by 36 inches tall with a plaque installed on the top indicating the soldiers name, hometown, and regiment, as well as the name of the sponsor or sponsoring organization. They will be installed in May 2014, and remain on public display as a memorial throughout the anniversary year until November 11, 2014. "The Juno Beach Centre helps us remember and appreciate not just the incredible valour of June 6, 1944, but that of all Canadians on land, in the air, and at sea during World War II. Canada's D-Day Tribute Campaign is an opportunity for Canadians from coast-to-coast to honour the sacrifices made 70 years ago and pay tribute to the men who made them. D-Day was a pivotal moment in Canadian history and we commemorate the Canadians who were part of that extraordinary achievement." – *General Rick Hillier (Ret'd), Patron, Juno Beach Centre Association.*

*(See poster at end of newsletter. A donation form is available. Email me at [bob.mugford@shaw.ca](mailto:bob.mugford@shaw.ca) ) The RSM, CWO Dempsey, is spearheading a drive to sponsor a marker from 15 Fd. Anybody wishing to contribute can see him, or myself, to make a donation.*

## **State of Arizona seeks gun from battleship Arizona**

*Original story published in 2011*

On the eve of the 70th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Arizona officials have their sights on a rusty gun barrel sitting in a Navy yard in Virginia. It's a barrel from the battleship Arizona, which was sunk on Dec. 7, 1941. The attack, which killed about 2,400 U.S. service members, including 1,177 aboard the Arizona, catapulted the United States into World

War II. Arizona Secretary of State Ken Bennett has been leading an effort to bring the barrel, which wasn't on the ship the day it was sunk, and a barrel from the battleship Missouri to Phoenix for a World War II memorial. Plans call for displaying the barrels -- along with a signal mast and anchor from the Arizona -- outside the state Capitol.

The effort to bring the barrels to the desert is no easy task. The Arizona barrel, removed from the ship before the attack for relining, is 54 feet long and weighs 70 tons. The Missouri barrel is 68 feet long and weighs 140 tons. Bennett, alerted to the Arizona barrel earlier this year by a former statehouse employee and fellow history buff, said that when he contacted the Navy, he was told, " 'Oh, it's our last one from the Arizona. I'm not sure that we want to let that one go,' although we would later see pictures of it that it had been sitting in a field rusting for 50 years." In an interview Tuesday, Bennett said the Navy offered a barrel from the Missouri, on which the Japanese signed the surrender. Then the thought came to him that the barrels could be displayed together to represent the beginning and end of the war.



*A gun barrel removed from the U.S. battleship Arizona, before it was sunk in the Pearl Harbor attack, sits in a Navy yard in Virginia. Arizona officials want to bring the barrel to their state for a World War II memorial.*

*Credit: Jim Drake / Arizona deputy secretary of state*

Stacia Courtney at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Dahlgren, Va., called the former Arizona gun barrel a historic naval gun. The barrel was on the Arizona from 1925 to 1938. It was removed for

relining and sent to Dahlgren for testing. It was installed on the battleship Nevada in 1942, probably as part of the ship's repair after the Pearl Harbor attack, and was used in the D-Day invasion, she said. It was removed from the Nevada near the end of the war for relining again and has remained in a storage area at Dahlgren since then. Bennett has set up a website to raise funds to bring the barrels to Arizona. So far, about \$20,000 has been collected. He's hoping to get the barrels to the state in time for Arizona's statehood centennial on Feb. 14. "We're also receiving a couple of shells, one 14-inch shell from the Arizona barrel, and a 16-inch shell from the Missouri," Bennett said. "We're thinking of drawing a map of the Phoenix area, starting where the guns will be here at the Capitol, and go out 20 miles the Arizona shoots its shell and

24 miles the Missouri shoots its shell and draw two concentric circles ... and have markers saying, here's where a shell would land."

## **Who is it?**



**Last Edition.** We had several very detailed replies to this quiz. The aircraft is a North American Mustang TF Mk IV, RCAF 9600, obtained from the US in the 50s. It was considered to be the "personal aircraft" of the late AFOA member, Group Captain Bill Barker, when he was CO of 443(Aux) Sqn. It went South in 1960 as N9151R and was illegally smuggled out of Florida to Guatemala. The "yellow bee" squadron crest is the unofficial 443 Sqn. hornet crest.....a hornet firing a pair of .50 cal machine guns. It is believed that the aircraft was barged around from Sea Island to Jericho and was probably headed for the PNE parade and display.

**This Week** Our theme this week is that of early feminism in the army cadets. As many of you might remember, the Royal Canadian Army Cadets were an all-male preserve in the past.



That allowed for such fun events as mass nude bathing, rude language use, etc. However, in 1975 girls were admitted to the RCAC as full members, thus joining the existing male members.

Nonetheless, girls did serve as cadets before 1975. Indeed, according to Wikipedia, a "Daughters of the Regiment" cadet corps was formed in Guelph, ON in 1882. We can't claim that ancient a heritage, but we did have girl cadets in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The records are vague, so we'd like to hear from you. Do you remember girl cadets? In what corps were they enrolled, and what did they do? What are the dates for their service, and why did it eventually end? Answers can be sent to the editor or to the author, John Redmond ([johnd\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd_redmond@telus.net)). All attempts at help are greatly appreciated.

## **From the 'Punitary'**

What is the difference between a frog and a cat? A frog can croak many times, a cat only nine times.

## **Murphy's other Laws**

Logic is a systematic method of coming to the wrong conclusion with confidence.

## **Quotable Quotes**

Laughing at our mistakes can lengthen our own life. Laughing at someone else's can shorten it.  
- *Cullen Hightower*



# 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](http://www.bcarmygala.ca)



## Vancouver Aviation Show 2014

Show website: [www.VancouverAviationShow.com](http://www.VancouverAviationShow.com)

Saturday October 18, 2014

Hours 10:00am- 5:00pm / Richmond Rod & Gun Club Auditorium

7891 Cambie Rd. (Cambie & River Road, Richmond)

\$4 admission / Tables \$45 + PST/GST

Models, Books, Slides, Postcards & Other Collectibles

[Book your table now!](#)

### Richmond Rod & Gun Club auditorium



auditorium.

We have finally confirmed the date and venue for this year's show. Unfortunately the folks at Oakridge Mall were not willing to provide their auditorium. So we had to find a new place. The new location is the Richmond Rod and Gun Club

The Richmond Rod & Gun Club auditorium is located 50 yards west of the Aberdeen Station in Richmond on Cambie Road (at River Road), close to all amenities, food, the airport, and there is plenty of free on site parking and street parking.



To book your table for this year's show visit the [website](#), complete the [table registration form](#) and mail it in along with your check. We also now accept payment in bitcoin as shown on the [website](#).



Please visit the show's [facebook page](#) for news and updates. You can [LIKE](#) the page and indicate if you will be attending the show.

**SLIDE SHOW:** If there is enough interest, this year we plan to have a Saturday evening slide show and pizza night, after the show end. Tickets will cost \$7 to cover the cost of pizza and drinks, we'll be selling tickets at the show, or you can pre-pay your tickets with your table rental. The slide show will run fro 7 pm until 10 pm.

We always enjoy hearing from our show attendees, and look forward to hearing from you!

If you have a question ... please contact me any time.

Henry Tenby, organizer  
[www.VancouverAviationShow.com](http://www.VancouverAviationShow.com)



*Henry Tenby*



## Canada's D-Day Tribute Campaign

JUNO  
BEACH  
CENTRE®

On June 6, 1944, D-Day, **359 Canadians** were killed in action on the beaches of Normandy.



70 years later, the Juno Beach Centre commemorates their sacrifice by installing **359 Tribute Markers** – one for each fallen soldier – on Juno Beach.

These men came from communities across Canada. Honour a soldier and show your support for the Juno Beach Centre. **Sponsor a Tribute Marker today.**

### How to Help:

Get together with your family, community, or organization to sponsor a tribute; or, make an individual donation in honour of Canada's fallen.

### Why are we doing this?

To raise awareness of the role Canada played in the D-Day Landings and to honour those who lost their lives. In addition to ensuring the placement of the tributes in time for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, the funds raised through this initiative will help to pave the way for future commemoration and educational programming at the Juno Beach Centre.

For more details, visit [www.junobeach.org/tribute](http://www.junobeach.org/tribute) or contact Jen Sguigna at [jsguigna@junobeach.org](mailto:jsguigna@junobeach.org) or by phone toll-free at 1-877-828-JUNO (5866).

### SPONSOR A TRIBUTE

Individual D-Day Tributes can be sponsored for a minimum of \$500.

Each sponsor will receive a tax receipt for their donation, as well as recognition on the marker and on the Juno Beach Centre's website.

### MAKE AN INDIVIDUAL DONATION

Donations can also be made in the name of a veteran or family member and every donor will be recognized on our website.

Contributors will receive a tax receipt for their donation (minimum \$25).

*Remember Today.  
Remember Always.*

