



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News May 7, 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. A good start has been made on fundraising and efforts are continuing; watch this newsletter for events and campaigns.

Your guests are always welcome – just don't forget to tell them that jacket and tie are required for men, equivalent for women.

Lunches will continue through the summer.

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!!

RCN and RCAF Personnel Join US Coast Guard and USAF For Search and Rescue Exercise on West Coast

April 29, 2013. 4:11 pm • Section: Defence Watch News release from Royal Canadian Navy:

PRINCE RUPERT, B.C. — Personnel from the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), Royal Canadian Air Force and Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) will join members of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and United States Air Force in Prince Rupert, B.C. for a Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) to be held from April 29 to May 1, 2013.

Residents of Prince Rupert and surrounding areas can expect to see increased military aircraft activity operating from the Prince Rupert airport during this period, as well as RCN, CCG and USCG vessels off shore. The purpose of the training is to exercise the ability of rescue personnel in both Canada and the U.S. to work together in responding to a maritime emergency. The SAREX will take place at sea in the vicinity of Dundas Island, approximately 30 nautical miles (55 kilometres) northwest of Prince Rupert. Members of the public nearby may see Canadian and American rescue personnel parachuting into the water from aircraft, as well as helicopter crews conducting hoist operations. Residents are advised that these activities are part of carefully controlled training scenarios, and unless otherwise stated, do not constitute a response to an actual emergency.

This exercise will be conducted under all applicable training and safety regulations to protect both the public and rescue personnel. Furthermore, we will diligently endeavour to prevent damage to marine or coastal flora and fauna during this exercise.

Readiness to respond to an actual emergency within the Victoria Search and Rescue Region will not be affected by this exercise

DOD Report: North Korea Still Critical U.S. Security Threat

By Cheryl Pellerin American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, May 2, 2013 - North Korea's pursuit of nuclear capabilities and development of long-range ballistic missile programs make it one of the most critical U.S. security challenges in Northeast Asia, according to the Defense Department's first report to Congress on that nation's military development. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel delivered the report, titled, "Military and Security Developments Involving the Democratic People's Republic of Korea 2012," to Congress today. Required to be produced annually in classified and unclassified versions by Section 1236 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2012, the report is DOD's authoritative statement on North Korea's current and future military power, Pentagon officials said. It was developed by the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

The Korean People's Army -- an umbrella organization composed of ground, air, naval, missile and special operations forces -- ranks in personnel numbers as the fourth-largest military in the world. The large, forward-deployed military can inflict great damage on South Korea despite serious resource shortfalls and aging hardware, the report said, but the strength of the U.S.-South Korean alliance deters North Korea from conducting attacks on its southern neighbor. On a smaller scale, North Korea has used military provocation to achieve national goals, the report notes. In 2010, for example, it sank the South Korean naval vessel, Cheonan, killing 46 South Korean sailors, and shelled Yeonpyeong Island, killing two South Korean marines and two civilians.

North Korea's continued pursuit of nuclear technology and capabilities and its development of long-range ballistic missile programs -- including the December 2012 Taepodong-2 missile launch and the April 2012 display of a new road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile -- demonstrate North Korea's threat to regional stability and U.S. national security, the report observed. These programs, North Korea's hostility toward South Korea, and the proliferation of items prohibited under U.N. Security Council Resolutions 1718, 1874 and 2087 make North Korea a continued security challenge for the United States and its allies and partners, the report said.

The report assesses the following aspects of North Korean military power:

- The security situation on the Korean Peninsula, goals and factors shaping North Korean security strategy, and military strategy;
- Trends in North Korean security;

- North Korea's regional security objectives, including North Korean military capabilities, developments in North Korean military doctrine, and training;
- North Korea's proliferation activities; and
- Other military security developments.

North Korea's strategy under Kim Jong Il, who was supreme leader from 1994 until his death in 2011, focused on internal security, coercive diplomacy to compel acceptance of its diplomatic, economic and security interests, development of strategic military capabilities to deter external attack, and challenging South Korea and the U.S.-South Korean alliance, the report said.

"We anticipate these strategic goals will be consistent under North Korea's new leader, Kim Jong Un," the report added. On the topic of cyber capabilities, the report said North Korea probably has a military computer network operations capability. North Korea may view computer network operations as an appealing platform from which to collect intelligence, the report added, and the nation has been implicated since 2009 in cyberattacks ranging from computer network exploitation to distributed denial of service attacks.

In assessing North Korea's security situation, the report said, "North Korea continues to fall behind the rising power of its regional neighbours, creating a widening military disparity and fuelling its commitment to improving asymmetric and strategic deterrent capabilities as the primary guarantor of regime survival." Tensions on the Korean Peninsula have grown as relations between North and South Korea worsen, the report noted. North Korea has portrayed South Korea and the United States as constant threats to North Korea's sovereignty in a probable attempt to legitimize the Kim family rule, its draconian internal control mechanisms and existing strategies, the report said.

"The regime's greatest security concern is opposition from within," the report added, "and outside forces taking advantage of internal instability to topple the regime and achieve unification of the Korean Peninsula."

North Korea seeks recognition as an equal and legitimate international player and recognized nuclear power and seeks to normalize its diplomatic relations with the Western world and pursue economic recovery and prosperity, the report said. "[North Korea's] rhetoric suggests the regime at this time is unlikely to pursue this second goal at the expense of the primary goal of pursuing its nuclear and missile capabilities," the report added. North Korea is attempting to upgrade its conventional weapons by reinforcing long-range artillery forces near the Demilitarized Zone that separates North Korea and South Korea, the report said, and has a substantial number of mobile ballistic missiles that could strike targets in South Korea and Japan.

"These advances in ballistic missile delivery systems, coupled with developments in nuclear technology, are in line with North Korea's stated objectives to strike the U.S. homeland," the report said. Weapon sales are a critical source of foreign currency for North Korea, the report said, and it is unlikely to cease export activities. North Korea also continues to invest in nuclear infrastructure. It conducted nuclear tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013 and could conduct more tests

at any time, the report said, violating its obligations under four U.N. Security Council resolutions and the September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. Global concern about North Korea's proliferation activity continues to mount, leading some nations to take action. In June 2011, for example, a vessel bound for Burma, suspected of carrying military-related cargo, returned to North Korea after refusing a U.S. Navy inspection request. In February 2010, South Africa seized North Korean-origin spare tank parts destined for the Republic of Congo. In December 2009, Thai authorities impounded the cargo of a chartered plane containing about 35 metric tons of North Korean weapons including artillery rockets, rocket-propelled grenades and surface-to-air missiles. In October of that year, South Korea seized North Korean-origin chemical-warfare protective suits destined for Syria. "The United States remains vigilant in the face of North Korea's continued provocations and steadfast in commitments to allies in the region, including the security provided by extended deterrence commitments through the nuclear umbrella and conventional forces," the report said.

Mystery of 200-year-old British soldier found in the dunes of Holland

By Caroline Wyatt Defence correspondent, BBC News

The 200-year-old body of a British Coldstream Guards soldier was found in sand dunes in the Netherlands. Who was he?



A preserved Coldstream Guards button.

Soldiers in modern ceremonial dress and the skeletal remains of the unknown soldier with a decomposed button found at the site

For more than two centuries, the remains of a soldier lay undisturbed on a windy beach in the northern Netherlands. But in March 2011, birdwatchers discovered bones and metal artefacts among sand-dunes that had once been covered in asphalt. The find was near an area known as the "Bonehole" because of the number of historic remains that had previously been unearthed. A team of archaeologists was called in to dig further. Among them was 28-year-old Esther Poulus, whose involvement was to lead her to the National Archives in Kew, Surrey, in an attempt to discover the identity of the fallen soldier.

"We were taken to the site by the person who made the find, and it was quite hard to see," she recalls. "You could only see it if you were really close, and even then it was only the larger bones from the legs that were visible. The bones were very degraded and mixed with the ground."

She and her colleagues had to sift carefully through the sand using a brush and trowel, piecing together the remains of the body. They were working against the clock, as they had only been given two days on the site because a rare bird was about to start nesting, and the local government were keen for it not to be disturbed. They had suspected that the body might be that of a soldier, given the area's association with a particular 18th Century battle. But the nationality of the soldier might have remained a mystery if it had not been for clues that had been left behind - muskets and tell-tale items of clothing.

In August 1799, Britain and Russia launched an invasion of northern Holland in an effort to topple the Batavian Republic and restore the House of Orange. The action formed part of the wars against revolutionary France, which supported the Dutch republic. The British-Russian armies - including the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards, consisting of some 1,000 soldiers - arrived in Groote Keeten under the Duke of York. About 12,000 British soldiers were landed in total.

"It was a really special dig, as we knew instantly this was a period that wasn't very well known," Poulus recalls. "In the Netherlands, they call it the forgotten war - it didn't take very long, and was quite local."

The soldier was buried in his uniform, along with several muskets, which may simply have been thrown in the grave to dispose of them, or may have been fashioned into some kind of makeshift stretcher to carry his body to its resting place.

"When we found the buttons he had worn on his tunic, we thought, 'Wow - we can identify this soldier.'"



- *The button on the Coldstream Guards uniform is composed of an eight-pointed star of the Order of the Garter:*
- *A belt and buckle within the star contain the inscription "honi soit qui mal y pense" or "evil be to those who evil think"*
- *A cross of St George is at the centre of the star*
- *As the "second" regiment of foot guards, Coldstream Guards wear their buttons in pairs*

The team from Hollandia Archeologen brought in Cor Prins, an archaeological conservationist with a particular interest in the area's military history, to study the fragile pewter buttons. He identified them as belonging to a member of the Coldstream Guards from the regiment's distinctive star and cross, which was

barely visible on one of them. He was also able to make out the words "COVEN GARDEN", indicating that it had been made by a button-maker based in London's Covent Garden.



The brevity of the campaign - the British army had only been in the area for a day - helped the team date the soldier's remains. His torso had crumbled, and - crucially - he didn't have a head, which means that it may never be clear what killed him.

A museum in Northern Holland has constructed a life-sized replica of a Coldstream Guard from the era

After excavating the remains, Esther took up what became a personal quest to see whether the soldier could be identified, and - if possible - brought home. She has been partially successful, getting in touch with Coldstream Guards veterans via their website, and arousing interest from the regiment in the soldier's repatriation. The Ministry of Defence in the UK does not deal with the repatriation of such historic remains, while the Commonwealth War Graves commission does not handle pre-1914 remains. So it was up to the regiment itself to engage with the Dutch authorities to decide what to do. In the meantime, the Unknown Soldier's remains were stored at the local government depot for archaeological finds in northern Holland. But finally, on 2 May they were handed over in Haarlem, in a child-sized wooden coffin to the British ambassador and representatives of the Coldstream Guards. A regimental musician is due to play the Last Post before Captain Oliver Morley brings the remains back home to the Regimental HQ.

Poulus's tenacity may have succeeded in narrowing down the identity of the soldier a little. "The state of the bones meant we could not have done DNA testing, as they were too degraded, and usually you would use teeth for DNA. We have nothing to compare it with," she says. Poulus says that her research in the National Archives at Kew yielded six possible names, with Nathaniel Haines and Thomas Taylor the two most likely. "The archives in the UK show that the two soldiers I think it could be were in the most dangerous jobs, as grenadiers. Judging by his remains, our soldier was probably around 1.80m tall, which was tall for the time. And the grenadiers recruited the tallest. So it's just a hunch, and a feeling I got when I saw the names." So far, though, no way has been found to narrow this down, and the Coldstream Guards are not optimistic.

"Both are quite common surnames, and between 1790 and 1801 we had 12 Thomas Taylors who were serving in the Coldstream Guards," says retired Colonel Simon Vandeleur, the regimental adjutant who has been key in organising the repatriation. "The archaeologist's report is very good, but I don't think we can absolutely pin it down to two possibilities."

"The regimental archives show well over 100 people killed in 1799 in the Coldstream Guards, and unfortunately some of the archives were damaged in the Blitz. At the time, they didn't look

after those records very well - if a soldier died they destroyed his record, as they no longer needed to pay a pension, though we have got the archivist looking through the 1799 box," he says. If the regiment can pinpoint a name, it will try to find the soldier's descendants, though Vandeleur admits it seems unlikely.

"But we will try. If not, Plan B is to cremate the remains, and scatter his ashes on Horse Guards Parade before the Trooping the Colour with due dignity and ceremony, and the guardsmen of Number 7 Company Coldstream Guards - his descendants - can tramp his ashes into the welts of their boots on one of the nation's most famous parade grounds, 200 years later. I hope it will be a fitting resting place for an unknown soldier who died long ago, doing his duty."

From prehistoric spear points to modern Howitzers: Canada's artillery museum

BY STEVE LAMBERT, THE CANADIAN PRESS MAY 1, 2013



Canadian artillery units have a long history which is commemorated at a museum dedicated to them in Manitoba.

Photograph by: Don Healy, Regina Leader-Post

SHILO, Man. - From prehistoric spears to massive modern field guns, mankind has always found a way to launch projectiles at enemies. And if

something can be fired, shot or hurled, chances are it's on display at The RCA Museum located at Canadian Forces Base Shilo in southwestern Manitoba. Walking through the 2,230-square-metre building is like taking a trip through Canadian history as seen by members of the artillery, an army regiment with a long history of action at home and overseas. There's a cannon that was used against Louis Riel and other Metis in the Northwest Rebellion, a German mortar captured at Vimy Ridge, and a large wooden table on which Gen. James Wolfe is believed to have been laid after he died while his British troops captured Quebec. But the museum — its official name is the Central Museum of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery — is more about the gunners than the guns. Each item has a story, and the aim is to get visitors to focus on people who fought in the forests, on the plains and in trenches, often during important turning points in Canadian history.

"War is a terrible event which we should avoid at all costs. However, the reality is that you can't always choose not to fight," museum director Marc George said during a recent tour.

"So you then rely on people coming forward and serving their country. And so that's what this is about. It's a place where we can tell all Canadians the story about the people who have chosen to serve Canada."

One of the first weapons visitors see is one of the four-kilogram (nine-pound) field guns used in the battles of Fish Creek and Batoche during the Northwest Rebellion of 1885 in what is now Saskatchewan. The battle at Batoche led to Louis Riel's surrender and later execution. Alongside the gun is a picture of a nine-pounder in action at Batoche taken by Capt. James Peters, one of the world's first battlefield photographers. Peters was on the cutting edge, considering the technology of the day was not exactly user-friendly.



'Opening the Ball at Batoche' captures the initial Canadian bombardment.

James Peters' (1853-1927) photograph

Peters commanded "A Battery" during this action.

"What amazes me is, not only was he snapping these things under fire, but he was also busy giving orders, so I have this image in my mind of him

yelling out, you know 'range 4,000 with high explosive load' and then 'look over here and smile, guys,'" George said. "And then he was developing the photos under his blankets at night."

One of the better-known pieces in the museum is a German 17-centimetre trench mortar captured by Canadian troops at Vimy Ridge. It was one of three guns the museum loaned to the producers of the 2008 movie "Passchendaele" that starred Paul Gross. On the smaller side, the museum also hosts rifles, pistols and muskets dating as far back as the 17th century. Most have been donated from private collections. The oldest item in the museum is a prehistoric spear-throwing device called an atlatl, which dates back 7,000 to 9,000 years. It was found just 50 kilometres from where the museum sits.

"What I love about this is ... a human being was doing something 3,000-5,000 years before the great pyramid (of Giza, in Egypt) was built. He was sitting here in Manitoba making an atlatl," George said. Most displays have mannequins next to them, to help visitors appreciate what the weapon-handler had to deal with in terms of the weapons' weight, portability and the conditions in which they were used. One exhibit shows a gunner's dugout in the First World War, where troops dealt with mud, fended off rats and lice, and slept underneath their cannon. The mannequins are meant to be life-like. They have prosthetic eyes, dentures, and resin that makes their lips appear moist. Most look like young men, barely past their teens.

"What we want is, each time someone approaches an artefact in the museum, the first thing they're aware of is that could be a person standing there," George said. Weapons are not the only items on display. There is other memorabilia that connects gunners to some true Canadiana. Hockey legend Conn Smythe was a gunner in both world wars. He picked the stylized maple leaf that has been part of the Toronto Maple Leafs logo because it looked like the hat badges used by Canadian troops, George said, pointing to a badge on display beneath a photo of Smythe.

Nearby is a signed, handwritten copy of "In Flanders Fields," the war poem by long time gunner Lt Col John McCrae of Guelph, On, which has been taught to generations of schoolchildren. The display also includes a printing plate that adopted McCrae's handwriting style to make copies.

The end of the tour brings visitors to something of a mystery, called The Other Grey Cup. It's a small chalice of sorts that pales in comparison to the Grey Cup that is awarded annually to Canadian Football League champions. Legend has it, George says, that it was the original cup designed for Earl Grey, Canada's governor general in the early 1900s — something he is still trying to determine through the British company that made it.

"The myth that goes with it is that it was made and the governor general originally intended it to be the football trophy, but he was a little bit underwhelmed. So he had it dedicated as an artillery practice trophy instead and got a better cup made for football."

If You Go...

— The museum at CFB Shilo is open year-round, Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Between Victoria Day and Labour Day, the museum is also open on weekends during the same hours. It is a two-hour drive from Winnipeg and a half-hour drive from Brandon, Man.

— Admission is \$5 for adults.

— Group tours can be booked at 204-765-3000 ext. 3570.

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See also the video interview of Marc George at: <http://globalnews.ca/video/515086/guarding-history>

Outward Bound Canada - Veterans Chapter

The Veterans chapter of Outward Bound Canada has several spots remaining for the upcoming Rock Climbing Skills course. This course takes place in Penticton BC from 11-17 May under the tutelage of an experienced climbing guide and veteran of Afghanistan, with a support staff of other former CF members. Candidates will have the chance to share deployment and post deployment experiences with like-minded peers, experience a time of personal renewal and reflection and learn some new outdoor and leadership skills while enjoying the landscape they served to protect.


As these spots are already paid for, it would be a shame to let this opportunity go to waste. All the programs at Outward Bound Vets have been generously funded through outside sources

of philanthropy such as business magnate Brett Wilson, the True Patriot Love foundation and Bell Canada which pays 100% of the course tuition and travel. There is no cost to the participant or the unit to attend this program. This opportunity and others like it during the year are open to all current and former members of the CF regardless of age, experience and status. While the main focus is on healing the mental and emotional trauma's our veterans go through, it is understood that a soldier need not be a veteran to have dealt with trauma in their lifetime. Please give this a wide distribution including, as appropriate, any civilian emails of former members.

For more information please call 1.888.OUTWARD (688.9273), Ext 205, email: veterans@outwardbound.ca, or visit www.outwardbound.ca and navigate to the right side of the page for more information and an application package.

BCR Lunch

**Curry Lunch – a
Mystery Country**



Hosted by:
The British Columbia
Regiment
Officers' Mess



Coordinated by:
The BC Regiment
(DCO) Association

Date: Thursday, May 30, 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 May 24, 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 May 24, 2013

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, September 26, 2013

NOTE: No lunches over the summer - this is the last lunch until September.
From the 'Punitary'

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

Whatever you have, you won't need; whatever you need, you won't have.

Quotable Quotes

Love what you do. Believe in your instincts. And you'd better be able to pick yourself up and brush yourself off every day. While life is not always fair, it is manageable. It is a matter of attitude and confidence. - *Mario Andretti*