

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Dec 8, 2020

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com to let me know you didn't get your copy.

Newsletter on line. This newsletter and previous editions are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.vancouvergunners.ca and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>. Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

Wednesday Lunches - Lunches suspended until further notice. Everyone stay safe!!

The 2021 BC Military Gala is **CANCELLED. The Sheraton Wall Ctr is booked for Apr 23, 2022**

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars (see Poster section at end for details)

- Dec 09** **Ubique 150 Free ‘How to video’ Webinar**
RUSI(NS) - Distinguished Speaker 9 December 2020
‘Wednesday Lunch’ Zoom meeting
- Dec 11** RCA Band Concert

RUSI(NS) - Distinguished Speaker 9 December 2020

Canadian Coast Guard Fleet Renewal

The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia extends an invitation to hear a video-conference presentation Wednesday, 9 December 2020 by Derek Moss, Canadian Coast Guard, titled “Canadian Coast Guard Fleet Renewal.” In 2019, the federal government announced the construction of 24 new ships for the Canadian Coast Guard, in addition to the ships already built or under construction as well as future builds yet to be formally announced. This brief will provide an overview of the different ships being designed and built as part of the National Shipbuilding Strategy as well as their mission as it relates to the Coast Guard's mandate. Capt(N) (ret'd) Moss' bio is attached (See poster section).

The talk will start at 1 pm Halifax time, Wednesday, 9 December, then be followed by Q&A and finish by 3 pm Halifax time.

Registration is required. There is no fee to attend this event. To register, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com by close of business Sunday, 6 December. As the subject line for

your registration email, put: RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker 9 December 2020 Registration. In addition to your name please also provide your organization. The event will be done by Zoom. Instructions will be emailed to registrants by end Monday, 7 December.

RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice. Email RUSI(NS) if there is a question about an event occurring.

CAH Darlington
Commander, Royal Canadian Navy (retired)
Vice-President, RUSI(NS)

Govt Wants to Fast-Track Canadian Military Equipment Purchases

from Canadian companies to help Canada's economic recovery.

David Pugliese Ottawa Citizen Dec 03, 2020



DND's Carling campus

Photo by Tony Caldwell /Postmedia Wire

After committing to spend more than \$2 billion with American companies, the Liberal government wants to give a major boost to homegrown defence firms by moving ahead on projects that can purchase equipment for the Canadian military quickly from domestic companies to either create or shore up jobs.

Department of National Defence officials began looking in late April at options to provide support to the defence industry as the new coronavirus pandemic rocked the economy. DND and the government hoped the fast-tracked purchases would help Canada's economic recovery.

But so far, the four major purchases over the last several months for the Canadian military saw the Liberal government make major commitments with US-based companies for work that will be done almost entirely in America and create or support hundreds of US jobs. That includes the acquisition of new surveillance aircraft for Canadian special forces, the purchase of new systems and missiles for the air force's CF-18s, missiles for the navy and parts and equipment for C-17 transport planes. The particular equipment ordered isn't built in Canada. In some cases, the US firms receiving the work are exempt from the government's requirement to match the value of the contracts with the reciprocal purchasing of services or supplies from Canadian companies. Now, the government has ordered DND officials to draw up lists of equipment that can be bought from Canadian firms. Companies must be based in Canada and the work has to be completed relatively quickly, creating or maintaining domestic jobs. DND spokesman Dan Le Bouthillier confirmed options are being examined to help minimize the impact of COVID-19 on the defence industry. "We are looking at ongoing procurement projects to determine what we may be able to

prioritize in order to ensure our defence industry partners are supported,” he said. “This is ongoing at this time, though no decisions have been made at this point.”

But Tamara Lorincz, a peace activist and PhD candidate in Global Governance at the Balsillie School for International Affairs, says many more jobs could be created in Canada if the money was directed into non-defence sectors of the economy. She pointed to the 2009 US study by University of Massachusetts, which examined the impact of spending \$1 billion on both military and non-military areas. The non-military areas included clean energy, health care, and education, as well as for tax cuts which produce increased levels of personal consumption. The study concluded substantially more jobs were created by non-military sectors. Lorincz noted that there were no comparable independent studies which have looked at the Canadian situation. Lorincz and various peace groups are also questioning the Liberal government’s plans to spend \$19 billion on new fighter jets in the coming years. The money should instead go towards programs like national pharmacare or childcare, she added.

Lorincz noted it costs \$40,000 an hour to operate a F-35, one of the fighter jets being considered by the Liberals. That amount is close to the yearly salary of a long-term care facility employee, she added. Christyn Cianfarani, president of the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries, said the country’s defence industry can play an important role in the federal government’s COVID-19 economic recovery plan. The association has recommended to government that it accelerate military equipment project approvals, favour domestic firms as much as possible for future work, as well as focus on Canadian-based cyber firms for associated purchases as the government moves its employees to more remote work. Construction projects on bases could also provide local contractors with work, she added. Canada’s defence industry actually fared better than other economic sectors during the pandemic, Cianfarani noted. There were no significant layoffs and most firms have been able to continue operations and production. In addition, some companies switched to producing medical equipment or protective gear for use by hospital staff during the pandemic. The Liberal government announced Monday it wants to spend up to \$100 billion between 2021 and 2024 to help the economy recover from COVID-19.

New Weapons for US Army on Horizon

Latest high-tech gear assessed by military brass

Craig Bowman War History online Nov 18, 2020

It is axiomatic that even the most highly trained, experienced soldiers are only as effective as the weapons they carry; guns, grenades and other items must be state of the art for enlisted personnel if they are to carry out their duties properly. In the US Army and the Marine Corps, the machine guns “of choice” have been the M240 and ‘Ma Deuce’ .50 calibre M2 for many years. Now, top brass in both those arms of the US military are considering eventually upgrading soldiers’ weapons to the .338 Norma Magnum, or Mag, as it is nicknamed, a machine gun officials say is a major improvement over the weapons currently used. One feature in particular is extremely important – the Norma Mag has hit targets as far as 1,500 metres away, considerably further than the M240 has achieved. The new machine gun currently being reviewed has other attributes as

well and is in keeping with state of the art medium and heavy weapons technology that is coming down the pike more rapidly every day.

*The classic 7.62 M240.
Image by US Marine Corps.*



David Oatley, a product director with the Army, said in a press release when the much anticipated upgrade was announced, “Our systems have been around for a very long time, and we expect that we will want to increase that capability some time in the future.” He went on to note, “We don’t know what those systems (will) look like. We don’t have a new requirement for those yet, but we’re interested in understanding what is available to us at this time.” In mid-November, representatives from both branches met (virtually, presumably) to discuss possible options. In this instance, the Army and the Marine Corps are going to work in unison to decide on a new machine gun, which is under assessment at the US Special Operations Command (SOCOM). The Norma Mag is also to be equipped with greater lethality and accuracy.



*The SIG SAUER MG 338, a potential replacement for the M240. With the .338 Norma Magnum round it'll provide a level of firepower between the M240 and the M2 Browning machine gun.
Image courtesy of SIG SAUER..*

Before a decision of this scope and breadth can be made – after all, it will mean outfitting thousands and thousands of soldiers with new weapons, which will cost millions of dollars – the American military is studying several factors that must contribute to its choice at Fort Benning in Georgia. The study is called a Platoon Arms and Ammunition Configuration (PAAC) study, and its results will help inform decisions about weapons made in the coming years. For the moment, the Army is not thinking of acquiring new machine guns equipped with advanced technology, but officials know that, at some point, that will have to happen. Presumably the study, which will conclude sometime in 2024, will examine how soldiers adapt to new guns and how changes in weight, size and other features affect their ability to use the weapons in a combat zone. Prototypes from three companies are under scrutiny at SOCOM: Textron Systems; Sig Sauer Inc, and General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems Inc.

*General Dynamics' RM277 NGSW-AR and NGSW-R prototypes.
Image by GD-OTS.*



It is not only weapons the Army is examining and considering changes; it's even weighing the wisdom of

changing the size of infantry divisions. As leaders in the military must consider that a conflict may occur with a country the size of Russia or China, they wonder whether current units are the ideal size, in terms of battlefield conflicts. How many soldiers is enough, and how many men might each unit be up against? For now – and, one hopes, forever – these are strictly hypothetical questions. But leaders in the military can't afford to overlook any possibility and must always keep uppermost in mind a famous motto of a boys' group in America: "be prepared." And, one might add, hope those scenarios never play out in real life.

The US Army's First Replacement for its Vietnam-era APC

just rolled off the assembly line. *Jared Keller Sep 2, 2020*

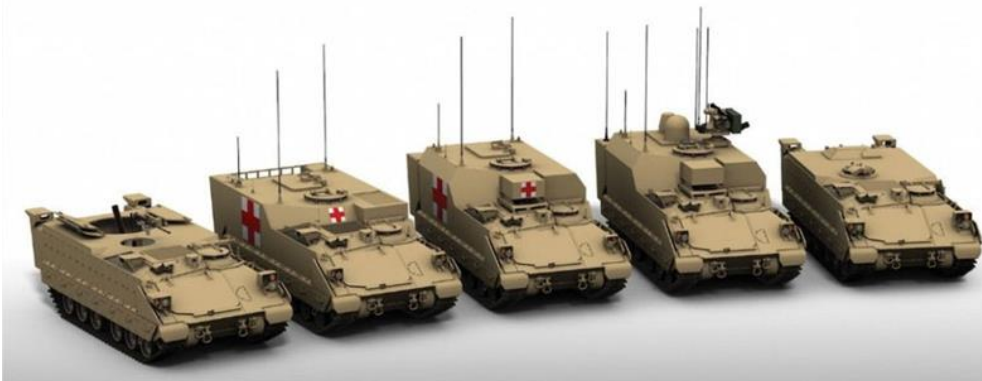


Soldiers from 4th Squadron, 9th US Cavalry Regiment "Dark Horse," 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, are escorted by observer controllers from the US Army Operational Test Command after completing field testing of the Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle (AMPV) Sept 24, 2018.

US Army/Maj Carson Petry

Have no fear: the Army's next battlewagon is officially here. The first Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle (AMPV) built as replacement for the Army's Vietnam-era M113 armored personnel carriers has officially rolled off the assembly line for delivery to the service, defense contractor BAE Systems announced on Monday. BAE was slated to start production of the first batch of 450 of a total of 2,907 AMPVs as of December 2018, according to the Congressional Research Service, with the Army awarding a \$575 million contract for the initial production of the vehicle in February 2019. "Finalizing the first AMPV for delivery marks a major milestone for the program and the US Army," BAE AMPV program director Bill Sheehy said in a statement. "The AMPV is designed to meet the Army's missions for the Armored Brigade Combat Teams (ABCT) and lay the foundation for the future of the battlefield."

The five Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle variants (BAE Systems)



The vehicle comes in five distinct variants tailored specific mission roles: General Purpose, Medical Evacuation, Medical Treatment, Mortar Carrier,

and Mission Command. According to BAE, the AMPV "leverages aspects of the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle and M109A7 self-propelled howitzer" for a vehicle with 73 percent more carry capacity compared to the M113 APC and significantly improved capabilities

over other platforms. Indeed, limited user testing of the AMPV conducted in fiscal year 2018 indicated that the vehicle demonstrated "superior power and mobility" over the M113, as well as increased operational mission availability and reliability, per the CRS report. The AMPV family of vehicles "provides significant power, mobility, interoperability, and survivability improvements for the ABCT," BAE vice president Jeremy Tondreault said in a statement. "The AMPV has demonstrated outstanding survivability and force protection as well as flexibility and growth for the future."

The Army has completed nearly two dozen AMPV tests and was initially expected to field 258 AMPVs as part of the European Deterrence Initiative some time in fiscal year 2020, with two brigades worth of vehicles fielded by the end of calendar year 2020, according to the CRS report. However, BAE is currently behind schedule in its actual delivery of the AMPV, which was initially expected for March 2020, due to "tooling and assembly line challenges," while the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) delayed the delivery even further. The AMPV program also recently endured funding cuts as the Army searches for savings across all of its programs, so far that the service only requested \$193 million for the program in the fiscal 2021 budget compared to \$445 million in fiscal 2020 and \$673 million in fiscal 2019. The AMPV is expected to enter full-rate production in the third quarter of fiscal year 2022 rather than the first quarter as previously planned, according to the CRS report. All told, the Army's \$193 million budget for fiscal 2021 covers just 32 vehicles, shaking out to just over \$6 million per AMPV.

US Air Force Experimenting with Palletized Munitions Systems

a brand-new way to put warheads on foreheads. *Jared Keller Task & Purpose 6 Oct 2020*

The Air Force is continuing to experiment with delivering munitions on pallets thrown from the back of cargo aircraft as a way to turn transports into munitions trucks that provide additional strike capacity during a potential future conflict. During the latest test of the so-called 'palletized munitions' system, airmen from the 412th Test Wing in coordination with Air Mobility Command recently conducted a drop of multiple AGM-158 Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile cruise missiles from a C-17 Globemaster III, the Air Force Research Laboratory announced last week. The test took place during a testing "on-ramp" for the Air Force's Advanced Battle Management Family of Systems (ABMS) at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, the same demonstrations that saw the service test out robot dogs as backup for security forces and mobile laser weapons to protect convoys from enemy drones.



A high-altitude airdrop of palletized munitions (JASSM simulants) from a C-17 using standard operational airdrop procedures was conducted during the Air Force's Advanced Battle Management Family of Systems (ABMS) Onramp #2 activities.

(US Air Force photo)

Previously referred to as "a bomb bay in a box" in a February request for information, the Air Force believes that "delivering standoff type weapons in mass, from non-traditional delivery

platforms, is one potential option to deliver mass firepower and could prove pivotal in future conflicts," according to the RFI. This isn't the first time the Air Force has opted to deliver munitions to a target via a customized pallet: In January, Air Force Special Operations Command successfully dropped simulated palletized munitions from a MC-130J Commando II multi-mission combat transport/special operations tanker in a test at Dugway Proving Ground in Utah. During that experiment, which ARFL announced in May, the MC-130J's aircrew deployed five wooden pallets known as Combat Expendable Platforms carrying six simulated munitions in three airdrops.

Four of the six munitions on one pallet were simulated "Cargo Launch Expendable Air Vehicles with Extended Range (CLEAVERs)," which AFRL described as "long-range, high-precision weapons" able to "destroy moving and non-moving targets." The Air Force had also previously tested the palletized munitions concept with another C-17 military transport aircraft. "This successful [demo] is evidence of our commitment to evolve innovative weapons concepts and enhance our partnership with AFSOC to meet the needs of the National Defense Strategy," said Col Garry Haase, the director of AFRL's Munitions Directorate, in a statement at the time. "CLEAVER represents a different approach to launching large numbers of long-range weapons, which will bring a new dynamic to the high-end fight."

*A pallet carrying CLEAVER deployed from MC-130J Aircraft.
(US Air Force via Business Insider)*



It's unclear when the palletized munition concept may move from testing to prime time: despite its previous February RFI, the Air Force has not issued any contracts regarding the concept in the intervening months. The palletized munitions capability "could enable various airlift aircraft to employ a range of weapons en masse via a self-contained, roll-on/roll-off palletized system, and may offer an alternative way for the Air Force to bring more mass to the fight," said Dr Dean Evans of the service's Strategic Development Planning and Experimentation office in a statement. "The successful demo represents a key step in SDPE's Palletized Munitions Experimentation Campaign, which will determine if the Palletized Munitions concept is feasible and provides a competitive advantage for the warfighter."

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

St Barbara's Day Dinner – 4 December 2020. It was great to talk with everyone that attended the dinner! I must confess my meal was nowhere close to the quality provided by Mrs Lum! Next year!

New Year's Day Levée - We're looking to put together a Virtual New Year's Day Levée. Keep tuned to the What's New portion of our website for details as we move forward.

Yearbook Update 1942 – The joys of online research. I came across a [news article](#) featuring 12 newly commissioned Artillery Second Lieutenants from British Columbia. I can only identify one of them – Second Lieutenant F.C. Garrett (later Commanding Officer). [I'm slowly finding additional information on the others](#). Were they ever members of 15th Field Regiment? Have you got some information that you can share?

VAA Virtual Lunch every Wednesday at Noon PDT - <https://zoom.us/j/710845848> - Drop in for 10 minutes or stay for an hour.

Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: Circassian guards, who have served Jordan's kings since the founding of the

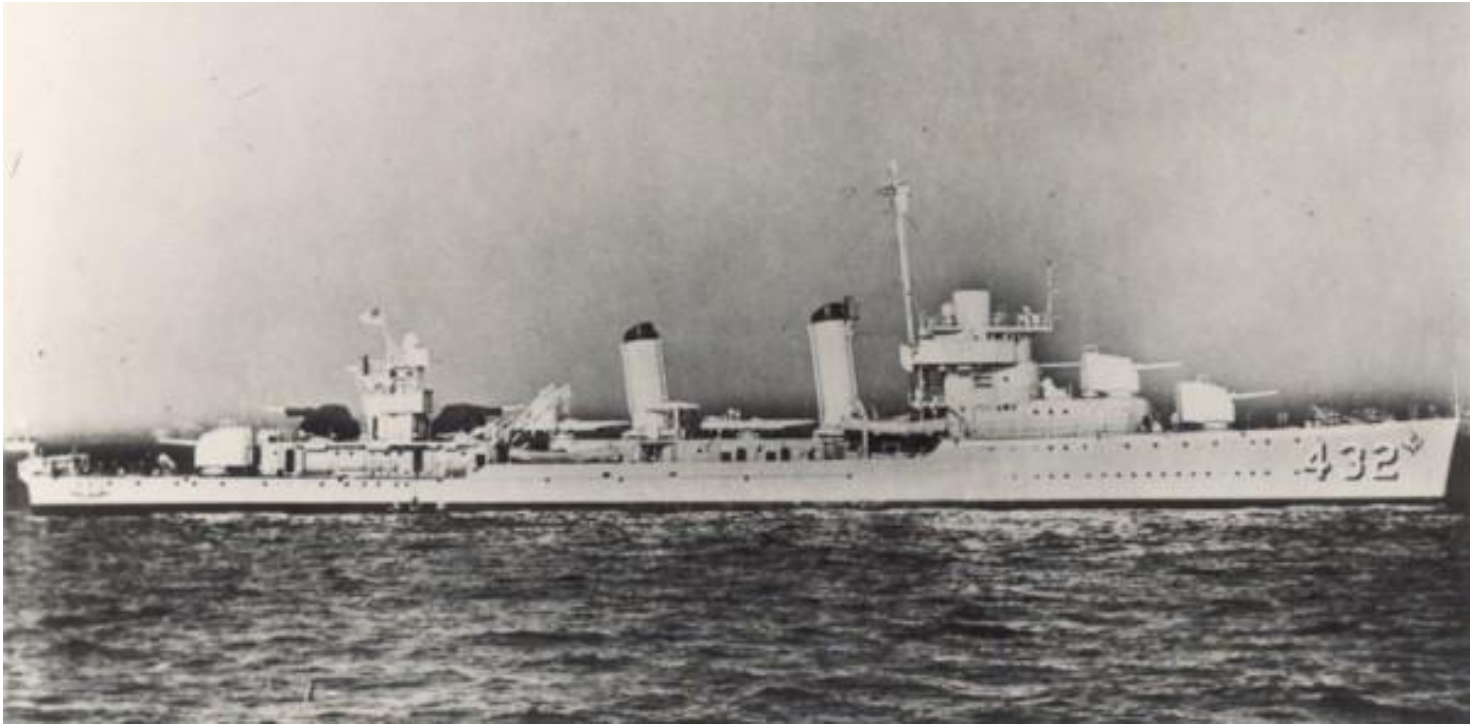


monarchy, still adhere to their ancient traditions, such as donning an incongruous cold weather uniform of black wool hats, red capes and leather boots in this desert climate. Circassians are a non-Arab ethnic group that originated on the northeast coast of the Black Sea and in the mountainous Caucasus region, but were dispersed around the Mideast in the mid-19th century after being defeated by the Russians. They have been central to the culture and history

of Jordan, where about 100,000 of the world's 3.7 million Circassians live, according to the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization. Both the first prime minister in 1923 and the first female lawmaker in 1993 were Circassian. Mayors, ministers, and ambassadors have come from the community, along with leaders of the air force, army and intelligence agency. Chosen from the various Circassian tribes in Jordan, recruits undergo eight months of training in self-defence, security, palace protocol, and military techniques. Their unique uniform includes 16 decorative rifle cartridges, adorned in silver and black leather and draped across a guard's chest. Today, the Circassian guards' role at the Basman and Raghadan palaces in a royal compound in Amman, like that of their counterparts in London's Buckingham Palace, is largely ceremonial. Actual security for the royals is handled by military units. In the compound, the 14 guardsmen march under stone arches and pine trees, greeting dignitaries and visitors to King Abdullah II, his brother, regent Prince Feisal, and the heir to the throne, 21-year-old Prince Hussein.

This Week: Ahoy there! We haven't done much nautical for a while, so let's put on our sea boots and let our jolly Jack Tars play the game for a change. As you know, most sailors are employed on ships (or "boats" if they are submersible), and ships come in all shapes and sizes, some with sails, others with oars, while now, thanks to British inventiveness, most large ones now come with propellers. Now, our fly boys and girls might question this, but we can assure you that these twirly devices are used by seafarers, but being below the waterline, cannot be seen. As a related aside, whilst viewing various documentaries on YouTube, your author came upon amazing

footage of sailing vessels of the Byzantine Empire at the bottom of the Black Sea (the vessels, not the empire), in almost perfect condition, save for their being where they are. The reason for their preservation is the lack of oxygen and marine life in that body of water, which should really have been called the “Dead Sea”, but for the fact that such was already copyrighted. We have similar conditions in our Great Lakes (and possibly in the one the Americans took from us).



Those ships, of course, were wooden ones, with masts, sails, and all the gear that goes with using the forces of nature to power the vessel. This week’s subject is obviously from the next age of propulsion and might not fare as well as the wooden ones were it to be submerged in a salty environment. This ship, while lacking a bit in terms of power and size, did mark its place in history in a rather unusual way by becoming a “first”, with a little help from someone else.

Your task, dear reader, is to identify this vessel, and tell us why it became famous for a brief period of time. That fame, by the way, was quickly eclipsed by other events beyond the ship’s control. Let us know your thoughts by contacting the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Sail on!

From the ‘Punitentary’

What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind? A Maybee

Murphy’s Other Laws

The best defense is to stay out of range.

Quotable Quotes

Nothing ever seems too bad, too hard, or too sad when you've got a Christmas tree in the living room. *Nora Roberts*

RCA Band Concert



**The Royal
Canadian
Artillery
Band**

Presents

*A Christmas
Celebration*

**Join us for our virtual concert
December 11th at 5 PM MST
[facebook.com/rcaband](https://www.facebook.com/rcaband)**

Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

No need to worry about COVID-19 when you go digital. Pop into our video lunch **at noon** on Wednesdays and say hi. All you need is a laptop, tablet or smartphone. These sessions are being hosted by the Vancouver Artillery Association and are **open to all** – especially those who attended our Wednesday lunches.

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies.

<https://zoom.us/j/710845848>

Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars across mobile,



desktop, and room systems. Zoom Rooms is the original software-based conference room solution used around the world in board, conference, huddle, and training rooms, as well as executive offices and classrooms. Founded in 2011, Zoom helps businesses and organizations bring their teams together in a frictionless environment to get more done. Zoom is a publicly traded company headquartered in San Jose, CA.

[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting now](#)

Use the link above on your computer Zoom program or dial in on your phone 778 907 2071 Meeting ID: 710 845 848

Invite 2 friends! We have room for 100! See you on Wednesdays at noon. Bring your own lunch and beverage of choice.

UBIQUE 150 “Good Shooting” Video Contest



UBIQUE 150 “Good Shooting” Video Contest

In conjunction with the commemoration of 150th Anniversary of A & B Batteries, The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery is pleased to announce a video production contest.

Prizes will be awarded to 3 winners: 1st place winner receives a \$2,000; 2nd place winning entry receives \$1000; 3rd place prize is \$500.

Important dates

Submissions accepted between	1 January – 30 April 2021
Judging starts	1 May 2021
Winners announced	26 May 2021

Eligibility

Submissions are open to teams consisting of current and/or retired members of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. Each team can submit more than one entry but only one prize will be awarded to any unit.



Sign up now for the free “How to video” Webinar! (9 Dec 2020, 19:00 ET)

Learn about:

- Part 1: Pre-Production (Planning for Your Shoot)
- Part 2: Production (Getting the Shot You Need)
- Part 3: Post-Production (Bringing Your Vision Together)

All details on the contest and the free Webinar are at
ubique150.org

RUSI(NS) - Distinguished Speaker 9 December 2020

Canadian Coast Guard Fleet Renewal

Biography

Derek Moss

Senior Director Fleet

Canadian Coast Guard

Derek Moss is the Senior Director Fleet for the Canadian Coast Guard Central Region, headquartered in Montreal, Quebec. In this capacity, he is privileged to lead a highly effective and motivated team that oversees the Coast Guard's vessel and aircraft fleet operations in the Great Lakes, St Lawrence River, northern gulf of St Lawrence, Hudson Bay, and Arctic waters. Before joining Central Region, Derek served in National Headquarters in Ottawa as the Senior Director Operational Support, responsible for policy on fleet readiness and requirements, icebreaking program, Aids to Navigation and Waterways, and Marine Communications and Traffic Services. Previously in the Coast Guard, Derek was the Director, Incident Management and subsequently the Director, Maritime Security and Intelligence. In addition to his regular work, Derek involves himself in Arctic and Northern projects as well as Maritime Security issues. Prior to joining the Coast Guard, Derek served in the Royal Canadian Navy. He was Commanding Officer of the Halifax-class frigate HMCS REGINA, Commandant of the Naval Officer Training Centre (VENTURE) in Esquimalt, Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force North in Yellowknife, and Chief of Staff Maritime Forces Atlantic and Joint Task Force Atlantic in Halifax.



Derek is a graduate from the University of Ottawa and holds a Bachelor of Arts (Communications). He is also a graduate of the Command and Staff Course at Canadian Forces College Toronto, where he completed a Master of Defence Studies, and the National War College in Washington, DC, where he received a Master of Science in National Security Strategy. Derek attended the National Defense University in Washington for a year as an International Fellow. He holds a Master Mariner certificate issued by Transport Canada.