



Mess and RUSI Vancouver Members News Jan 8, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Christmas stand down is over and first lunch is **TOMORROW!** The bad news is we will be raising the price of lunch. Mrs Lum's costs have jumped a lot because she has to do all her cooking at home until the renos are completed on the kitchen, so this increase will be to help cover her costs. Effective tomorrow lunch will cost \$15.

VAC announces improvements to the Veterans Independence Program

Ottawa - Eve Adams, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, confirmed today that the improvements to the Veterans Independence Program (VIP), which will put money in the hands of Veterans faster, will come into force on January 1, 2013. Veterans who receive housekeeping and grounds maintenance services through the VIP will no longer have to submit receipts and then wait to be reimbursed by the Department. Instead, they will receive up-front payments. "This improvement is another concrete example of the Harper Government's determination to cut red tape for Veterans," stated Minister Blaney. "We have made great progress and are on track to begin converting Veterans to an up-front grant payment for housekeeping and grounds maintenance services, starting January 1, 2013." These changes are another part of the Veterans Transition Action Plan, recently launched by Minister Blaney, which consists of new measures from the Cutting Red Tape initiative, enhancements to the Department's delivery of services, new opportunities for Veterans beginning post-military careers, ground-breaking research into the real-life experiences and needs of releasing Canadian Armed Forces personnel and building cultural awareness.

"The changes will help over 100,000 Veterans who receive housekeeping and grounds maintenance services," said Parliamentary Secretary Adams. "We are making these changes so that Veterans receive the benefits and services they deserve, without bureaucratic delays." "The removal of the necessity of preparing monthly submissions for VIP benefits greatly reduces the stress on our aging Veterans and simplifies their lives," said Derrill Henderson, National Secretary of the Hong Kong Veterans Association of Canada. "VAC's move to reduce demands on Veterans while maintaining their benefits is appreciated and viewed as a positive and cost-effective move by our association."

For more information on the Veterans Independence Program and other services and benefits available to Veterans, visit www.veterans.gc.ca

And a follow-up note from Murray Scott via Hugh Message:-

If You Receive VIP House Keeping and Grounds Maintenance Windows Cleaning This Is A Must for You to Read

Well with a little pressure and the Government wanting to stay away from anything that sounds like Claw-back the final touches have been put through with respect to VIP Housekeeping and Windows and Grounds Maintenance. The most important thing to remember with the Jan. 1st 2013 changes to your VIP program is that the new system will pay you up front with two cheques six months apart. ***However;*** it is very important that if your next Anniversary date falls in the year 2013 they will take the amount you have spent this year and divide the amount in two equal payments. If you do not use your entire allotted budget then the amount you have spent this year will be reduced to your actual amount spent.

For example; if you are allotted \$1000.00 for your VIP House Keeping, Windows and Grounds and you only pay out \$700.00 then that will be the amount divided by two you will receive. You will get two cheques six months apart for \$350.00 each. This amount will never decrease as you will be grandfathered in at the \$700.00 amount. For those that are not in the VIP Program it is not as good news as one might think. If a new Veteran is accepted into the VIP Program the amount you will receive is calculated on a grid system. For Example; if you live in Edmonton then the House Keeping will be based on \$25.00 per hour. That amount will be paid to you regardless if the amount in the Edmonton Area \$45.00 per. Hour for House Keeping. So again if you do not use your allotted amount the money you will receive will be your actual amount spent divided by two.

Hugh also forwarded a VAC FAQ sheet on the VIP program. Send me an email if you want a copy.

Motion Induced Blindness

In a motor accident, wherein a speeding car hits a slower moving vehicle coming from the side, the speeding car drivers often swear that they just didn't see the vehicle coming from the left or right. Well, they aren't lying. They really don't see the vehicle coming from the side. This phenomenon is known as "Motion Induced Blindness". It is real and it is definitely frightening. The effects of motion induced blindness increase with speed so pilots are routinely taught about it during training, but, it is applicable to car drivers also, especially the fast ones. So, if you drive a car, please read this carefully.

Pilots are taught to alternate their gaze between scanning the horizon and scanning their instrument panel, and never to fix their gaze for more than a couple of seconds on any single object. They are taught to continually keep their heads on a swivel and their eyes always moving, because, if you fix your gaze on one object long enough while you yourself are in motion, your peripheral vision goes blind. That's why it is called motion induced blindness. For fighter pilots, this is the only way to survive in air; not only during aerial combat, but from peacetime hazards like mid-air collisions as well. Taken to the extreme in the air it becomes 'target fixation' where a pilot concentrates so much on his 'target' that he flies right into it. Until about three decades ago, this "heads on swivel & eyes moving" technique was the only

way to spot other aircraft in the skies. Today pilots have on-board radars, but the old technique still holds good. We also used to teach new military drivers this technique.

Control + Click on the link below to view a demonstration of motion induced blindness.

<http://www.msf-usa.org/motion.html>

This is the same demonstration that is used for trainee pilots in classrooms before they even go near an aircraft.. You will see a revolving array of blue crosses on a black background. There is a flashing green dot in the center and three fixed yellow dots around it. If you fix your gaze on the green dot for more than a few seconds, the yellow dots will disappear at random, either singly, or in pairs, or all three together. In reality, the yellow dots are always there. Just watch them for some time to ensure that they don't go anywhere! (You can alter the background color or the rpm of the array by clicking the appropriate buttons.

So, if you are driving at a high speed on a highway and you fix your gaze on the road straight ahead, you will not see a car, a bicycle, an animal or even a human being approaching from the side. Now reverse this picture. If you are crossing a road on foot and you see a speeding car approaching, there's a 90% chance that the driver isn't seeing you, because his/her peripheral vision may be blinded! And you may be in that blind zone!

Drive (and walk) safe. And bring this story to the attention of young/new drivers.

Former NONCOM nominated to be Obama's Defense Secretary

Charles Timothy "Chuck" Hagel (born October 4, 1946) is an American politician and a former United States Senator from Nebraska. He was a recipient of two Purple Hearts while an infantry squad leader (Sergeant E5) in the Vietnam War and returned home to start careers in business and politics. He made millions as co-founder of Vanguard Cellular, and served as president of the McCarthy Group, an investment banking firm, and CEO of American Information Systems Inc., a computerized voting machine manufacturer. A member of the Republican Party, Hagel was first elected to the Senate in 1996. He was re-elected in 2002, and retired in 2008. Hagel is currently a professor at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, the chairman of the Atlantic Council, and co-chairman of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board. He also serves on a number of boards of directors, including that of Chevron Corporation.

US, Canada Think Ahead to 'NORAD Next'

By Donna Miles - American Forces Press Service

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo., Jan. 7, 2013 - More than a half century since it was established to confront the Cold War threat, North American Aerospace Defense Command is at a new crossroads as officials in the United States and Canada determine the capabilities it will need to confront emerging challenges and threats in the decades ahead. Members of the Permanent Joint Board of Defense, the highest-level defense and security forum between the two countries, discussed the so-called "NORAD Next" concept during their meeting in

Colorado Springs, Colo., last month, Royal Canadian Air Force LGen JAJ "Alain" Parent, NORAD's deputy commander, told American Forces Press Service. The discussion was a first step toward a broad analysis to identify what threats and challenges the United States and Canada will face in the 2025-to-2030 timeframe -- and what steps need to be taken now to prepare for them, Parent said. NORAD Next is largely a vision at this point, Parent emphasized, and any changes to the bi-national NORAD agreement would require both countries' approval. But vast changes in the security landscape have produced broad agreement that NORAD must continually evolve to meet challenges to North America, he said. Throughout its history, adaptation has been one of NORAD's hallmarks, enabling it to remain relevant even as the geostrategic environment has changed, Parent noted.

The United States and Canada formed North American Air Defense Command in 1958, merging their air defense capabilities to provide a continental-scale ability to detect and intercept Soviet bombers, presumably carrying nuclear weapons, explained Lance Blyth, the NORAD command historian. That same framework -- warning systems that ran across Canada and Alaska, fighter bases with interceptor aircraft and a command-and-control system that tied them together and with national command authorities -- adapted as intercontinental ballistic missiles became the more pressing threat, Blyth said. This expanded mission led to NORAD's name change in 1981 to North American Aerospace Defense Command. The command continued to provide aerospace warning and control for North America after the fall of the Berlin Wall, but also began to contribute its capabilities to counterdrug missions, predominantly focusing on airborne trafficking into the United States and Canada. NORAD's sensors and interceptors supported this new law enforcement mission, providing intelligence to law enforcement agencies and serving as a catalyst for the close interagency collaboration that underpins NORAD's operations today, Blyth explained.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks shook NORAD to its very core, challenging the bedrock assumption on which it had been founded: that an attack on either of the two countries would emanate from outside their borders, he said. Within hours of the attack, NORAD already had the go-ahead to stand up Operation Noble Eagle. Under this ongoing homeland defense mission, NORAD monitors and intercepts aircraft of interest within both U.S. and Canadian territory, and provides security support for major events ranging from G8 summits, political conventions to even the Super Bowl. Operation Noble Eagle represented a sea change at NORAD, broadening its focus for the first time to address both internal as well as external threats against North America. "We weren't postured to be looking inside the continent as we are today," Royal Canadian Air Force Brig. Gen. A.D. "Al" Meinzinger, deputy director of strategy in the NORAD and U.S. Northern Command policy and plans directorate, told American Forces Press Service. "But as a consequence of 9/11, we stood up a whole enterprise to be poised and positioned to deal with the internal threats," he added. "And we all understand that we need to be ready to respond on a moment's notice."

Another major step in that evolution took place in 2006, when U.S. and Canadian authorities expanded NORAD's mandate to address seaborne threats. This maritime-warning mission applies the command's capabilities to identify and track vessels of interest approaching either country's coast, and passing that intelligence to authorities that would intercept them. More

than a decade after 9/11, NORAD officials are widening their field of vision yet again as they discuss roles the command could play in addressing threats from a broad array of domains: air, space, sea, land and even cyberspace. They also are working to identify what warning systems and processes will be required to address these threats, particularly as the life cycles of many of the current radars expire in the 2020-2025 timeframe. "We need to think about what is beyond 2015, what the strategic environment will be, and what we need to be doing to move the command into that future," Meinzinger said. NORAD Next, he said, will be the bumper sticker for that next big step in NORAD's evolution. "NORAD Next will ensure that NORAD remains forever relevant and ever evolving," Parent said. "If we want to outpace the threats, we have to think in advance of them. "The important thing," he continued, "is that we maintain relevancy and don't get surprises. The stakes are too big for our two countries to get surprised."

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

Newsletters

Miss a newsletter? Want to see a back issue? Newsletters for the last couple of years are archived on the RUSI Vancouver website (www.rusivancouver.ca) Go to: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletters.htm> to view.

From the 'Punitentary'

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

Having all your body parts intact and functioning at the end of the day beats the alternative...

Great Truths

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Curry Lunch - India



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

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



Date: Thursday, January 31, 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 January 25, 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 January 25, 2013

NEXT LUNCH: Thursday, February 28, 2013