



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Oct 8, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Lunches are back in full swing, although it will be much better once the kitchen project is completed. Still no start date, but I understand all approvals have been given and financials are now in order.

If you haven't been to one of our 5 course, buffet style, 'homecooked' lunches, they happen (almost) every Wednesday from 1130-1400hrs in the 15 Field Officers Mess, Bessborough Armoury, 2025 West 11th Ave, Vancouver. Cost is \$15pp.

Guests and visitors are always welcome. People these days, especially civilians, don't think about dress much and, if not pre-warned, will show up in very casual dress so, to avoid embarrassment, please make them aware of the dress requirements (suit/blazer and tie, equivalent for ladies) before they come.

St Barbara's Day Dinner

A quick 'heads up' to all. The St Barbara's Day Dinner will be held on Dec 7th. Mark your calendars. Invitations will be in the mail soon.

Military's procurement paralysis may see big changes

Years of delays and missteps forcing Conservatives to alter how it buys military equipment

By James Cudmore, [CBC News](#) Posted: Sep 27, 2013 5:04 PM ET Last Updated: Sep 27, 2013 7:02 PM ET

CBC News has learned the Conservative government intends to reform Canada's troubled system of military procurement and could announce its plans as early as next month's speech from the throne. Those plans could see the formation of a new agency under a single minister to manage all military procurement, or a secretariat of bureaucrats from each of the departments currently involved in sourcing Canada's military equipment. The decision to change the procurement process follows years of criticism of the government's handling of several massive military purchases worth tens of billions of dollars. It's also been stung by the still-severe troubles with the nearly three-decade-old program to replace Canada's aging Sea King ship-borne helicopters. The litany of bad news and criticism of procurement, alongside the apparent public perception of boondoggle and breakdown, seem now to have pushed the government into action. Keith Beardsley, a veteran Conservative and former deputy chief of staff to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, says the government is feeling political pressure on the file. Support for the military is a key Conservative political value and an essential part of its appeal to some supporters. But the current messy, sluggish nature of procurement has blocked the government

from credibly claiming success on re-equipping the forces and at the same time being effective managers.

"It is a management issue," Beardsley says, "because you have to deliver. Your reputation is based on how do you manage the economy, how you manage taxpayer dollars and you are constantly being attacked, pushed back by, 'what's wrong with this program, what's wrong with this particular item, this helicopter, this fighter aircraft,' whatever the case might be."

The hullabaloo over the F-35 fighter jet proved to be politically damaging to the Conservatives, although not lethal, and the government struggled to find a way out of that crisis. In the end, it damaged the government's reputation as a careful steward of taxpayers' dollars. Earlier this month CBC News reported that, after waiting five years for the delivery of new helicopters to replace Canada's 50-year-old Sea Kings, the government has decided to look at other options. Those options include the possibility of cancelling its multibillion-dollar contract with manufacturer Sikorsky in favour of perhaps pursuing a sole-source or "directed" purchase of one of its competitors: the AW 101, a descendant of the EH 101 helicopter once sought by Canada and cancelled in 1993 by then Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. Although there's plenty of blame to go around, the Conservative government has managed the program since 2006.

That's a problem, says Beardsley. "The [Conservative voter] base begins to wonder, and Canadians in general begin to wonder, what's your competence level if you can't get something simple? They see buying a piece of equipment like you go buy a car," Beardsley says. And procurement problems don't just plague the air force. An Army program to buy new trucks officially stalled because of a dispute between departments over costs. It's this program, unencumbered by regional or electoral politics, that perhaps best represents how bad things have become.

The program to buy new trucks was announced by former Conservative defence minister Gordon O'Connor in 2006. The government's deadline for proposals for 1,500 combat-ready logistics trucks was July 11, 2012. But just three minutes before the deadline, Public Works killed the process.



*The federal government delayed the purchase of new military vehicles at the last minute after an inter-departmental dispute over the costs.
(Adrian Wyld/Canadian Press)*

The military had provided a cost estimate of about \$800 million. But as the proposals started to come in, it appeared the price was going to be hundreds of millions more. The military manager of procurement at the time was Associate Deputy Minister (Materiel) Dan Ross. Ross, now retired, told the CBC News every department involved in the weekly procurement meetings was briefed on those higher costs. Nevertheless, he said, bureaucrats at Public Works insisted the program be cancelled, lest a minister be

"surprised" by the higher price tag. "It'll be at least three years before those trucks are delivered," Ross said.

CBC News has learned officials presented ministers with two distinct options for reform. The first is to wipe out the current bureaucratic muddle in favour of a new defence procurement agency, with a single minister accountable for the whole process. Currently, procurement is managed by three ministers — Defence, Public Works and Industry — with oversight from three more so-called central agencies: the department of Finance, the Treasury Board and the prime minister's own Privy Council Office. This option is popular among many of Canada's allies and is the preferred option inside the defence department. 'You have to take some of the cooks out of the kitchen.'- Dan Ross, former associate deputy minister (materiel)

The second and seemingly most likely option involves creating a permanent committee of senior bureaucrats from each of the procurement departments to work together to swiftly manage major purchases and programs. This model was first used to manage a thoroughly stalled process to build new ships for the navy and coast guard. It removed ministers from decision-making. There is a third option: muscle through and try to get something significant finished before the next election, expected in 2015. The "single agency" model is also preferred by two former military procurement managers. Alan Williams, the associate deputy minister (materiel) at the Department of National Defence until 2005, included the idea in his book, *Reinventing Canadian Defence Procurement*. His successor, Dan Ross, is also a supporter of the idea. "You have to take some of the cooks out of the kitchen," Ross says. "You need to do the business professionally with one minister, one deputy minister, one organization that is built to do the job."

Ross also suggests a committee of eminent Canadians be appointed to help review the military's requirements for big ticket items, like the F-35 fighter jet program, for instance, before the government starts its procurement. The committee would be able to transparently assess whether the military is cooking its requirements to favour a certain item or outcome, as it was accused of doing with the F-35.

New Aircraft for Military?

Ottawa Sun, Tue Oct 1 2013 Daniel Proussalidis

The Canadian military is taking the first step toward getting new eyes in the sky to monitor the Arctic, watch domestic waters and track movements in foreign battlegrounds. Government officials met with possible suppliers in mid- September to gauge interest in providing "enduring, operational level, multi-sensor Manned Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capability, deployable on short notice."



MC-12W

Suppliers have until Friday to tell the feds formally

that they're interested in the possible project to provide three to four aircraft -- even if they're used. "Each aircraft shall, upon receipt, have minimum sufficient life remaining for 10 years/10,000 hours of usage," said officials in documents given to industry. New planes would typically last much longer than a decade.

If Canada decides to pick up used planes, they may come from the US or Britain. The US is set to declare up to a dozen of its turboprop MC-12W recon planes surplus next year. Britain may also get rid of its Bombardier-built Sentinel jets after British forces come back from their mission in Afghanistan. British Sentinels were also used to help French forces find Islamist targets in Mali earlier this year and in NATO's Libya air war in 2011.

Bombardier Sentinel



The Canada First Defence Strategy calls for the retirement of Canada's 18 CP-140 maritime patrol craft by 2020, but a National Defence spokesman couldn't say if the new ISR planes would replace that fleet. "At this stage, it's not something that I can comment on," said Capt Travis Smyth, before adding that any purchase would be aligned with the CFDS.

Wounded vets asked to sign form saying they won't criticize the military on social media

BY DAVID PUGLIESE, OTTAWA CITIZEN SEPTEMBER 20, 2013

The Canadian Forces is requiring physically and mentally wounded soldiers to sign a form acknowledging they won't criticize senior officers or discourage others in uniform with their comments on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. The form, given to military personnel who are transferred to the Joint Personnel Support Unit, was sent to the Citizen by military members upset with what they see as a threat to their right to speak out about the failure of the Department of National Defence and Canadian Forces to take care of the wounded. The Joint Personnel Support Unit, or JPSU, was created to help the wounded and it oversees support centres across the country. But in August the Citizen revealed that the organization is rife with problems, with soldiers and staff speaking out about the lack of resources and concerns that some of the support centres are dysfunctional. Some of the wounded and their families have also spoken out publicly about the failure of the military and government leadership to help those injured in the service of their country. In addition, veterans are becoming more vocal in on-line chat rooms about their treatment.

In an email to the Citizen, the JPSU denied that the creation of the policy and document was designed to stifle criticism of politicians and senior military staff. It was created "in an effort to educate our members and personnel on what constitutes the appropriate and inappropriate use of social media and the possible ramifications for a CAF member," the email added. The JPSU "policy on proper comments on social media" repeats well-known military directions not to post secret information on websites and other forums. It also tells military personnel not to

make disparaging comments about senior officers or fellow personnel. But military personnel in JPSU are also told not to “write anything that might discourage others or make them dissatisfied with their conditions or their employment.” In addition, those in JPSU were told not to disclose “your views on any military subject.”

The form, introduced in March, notes military personnel in JPSU will be held responsible for not only the content they post on social media outlets but also the content of their friends which they have “tagged” on various sites. Although the Canadian Forces has produced a policy providing guidance for military members on the use of social media, military personnel interviewed by the Citizen say they have never been required to sign such a form that JPSU personnel are given. Retired air force officer Sean Bruyeya said the Canadian Forces is right to have a policy on how its personnel should behave on social media forums, but thinks the JPSU initiative goes far beyond what is normal.

“This is right out of something you would see during the Soviet era,” said Bruyeya, who deals with post-traumatic stress issues and is a high-profile critic of how the military and government treats wounded veterans. “This is way over the top.”

Bruyeya said wounded personnel use social media not only to communicate with each other but to raise issues that affect them. “The public deserves to know how these people are being mistreated and about the failure of the senior leadership to take care of them,” he explained. “This is just an attempt to shut them up.” The email sent to the Citizen by JPSU noted that “it is important for all CAF members to understand and follow the policies, rules, regulations and standards of conduct that apply to members of the CAF, including the policy on the use of social media.” That includes but is not limited to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and blogs.

The email, transmitted by public affairs officer Navy Lt Michèle Tremblay, stated that the policy is issued to all new members joining the Joint Personnel Support Unit. It stated that JPSU did not have any specific examples of improper use of social media by unit members. It also noted that members of the Canadian military “are encouraged to communicate publicly about their own experiences and expertise, in accordance with the Government of Canada and DND/CAF policy.” Various units have different means of raising awareness about the military’s social media protocols, the email noted. “The difference being that the JPSU is asking members to indicate that they have read and understood the policy by signing the form,” it added.

If military personnel refuse to sign, a JPSU staff member will indicate on the document the individual has been briefed about the unit’s social media policy. Ottawa lawyer and former military officer Michel Drapeau said the form is an obvious attempt to intimidate those who were injured and prevent them from speaking out about ill treatment. “It’s not illegal but it’s obviously a threat,” said Drapeau, who has represented injured soldiers as they try to get benefits from the federal government. “The criticism about the leadership’s failure to take care of the wounded is obviously hitting home.” He said while military personnel don’t have to sign such a document, most would feel compelled to do so. But if they step out of line and make controversial comments on social media about how they have been treated by the Canadian Forces, the signed form would be among the first items introduced at their court martial, Drapeau said.

The policy form notes that inappropriate use of social media has serious ramifications for the Canadian Forces as it can erode public trust and “destroy team cohesion.” The email from the JSPSU noted that “DND/CAF is committed to openness and transparency in accordance with Defence Administrative Order and Directives on communications.”

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Defence Renewal plan looks to save DND up to \$1.2 billion annually

Efficiency savings to be re-invested in operations By DAVID PUGLIESE, OTTAWA CITIZEN October 7, 2013
A 2011 report by now-retired Lieutenant-General Andrew Leslie found that the size of the military and DND went from 112,377 in 2004 to 132,870 in 2010. Most of the growth was at headquarters.

More public servants at the Department of National Defence could lose their jobs and the military’s Ottawa headquarters could be scaled back as new initiatives are brought in to find savings for priority projects. The DND and Canadian Forces launched their Defence Renewal program Monday with a promise that the size of the regular military will not be reduced. But more public servants could lose their jobs and military staff in various headquarters in Ottawa could find themselves transferred to bases across the country or to operational units in the National Capital Region, say DND and military officials. The briefing on the Defence Renewal initiative held Monday by the DND and Canadian Forces was short on details, with senior officials unable to provide numbers on potential job losses or on how many military personnel in Ottawa could be transferred from headquarters. Asked whether civilian public servants could lose their jobs in the latest department shakeup, an official responded: “There is that possibility.” He added, however, that it would be “irresponsible” to provide numbers at this point.

The Defence Department imposed rules on journalists that senior staff providing the technical briefing were not to be identified, although it did not provide any reasoning for that. Before Monday’s announcement, Defence stated it would see reductions of 1,621 full-time civilian employees by March 31, 2015. The DND says it doesn’t expect to cut beyond that figure. But that doesn’t mean there won’t be more public servants who are out of a job; some of the current workforce might not have the needed skills to continue working while others will find themselves doing completely different jobs. Defence wants to rely on retirements and attrition and “other” mechanisms to deal with those who don’t have the necessary skills. But union officials, who were informed about the renewal program 30 minutes before it was announced, remain unconvinced.

Mark Miller, the British Columbia vice president for the Union of National Defence Employees, said similar claims about retirements and attrition have been made before, yet public servants are losing their jobs at DND. “Recent history has forced us to question management’s previous statements and claims,” said Miller, whose union represents 19,000 DND workers. “It’s pretty clear to us there will be more job losses coming.” A 2011 report by now-retired lieutenant-general Andrew Leslie found that the size of the military and DND went from 112,377 in 2004 to 132,870 in 2010. Most of the growth was at the headquarters.

Leslie also outlined how the size of DND's presence in the National Capital Region jumped from 13,199 in 2004 to 18,168 in 2010. Most of that 38-per-cent increase in positions went to headquarters.

The DND and the Canadian Forces are hoping to save between \$750 million and \$1.2 billion annually by improving the way they do business. Those savings would be reinvested into operations and other priority areas, such as cyber defence and space operations. In a statement, Defence Minister Rob Nicholson said the moves are in line with Prime Minister Stephen Harper's intent to free up support for operational capability and readiness. DND officials contend that the renewal is not a cost-cutting exercise and the overall intent is not to reduce the number of regular and reserve forces or civilian employees. "Our projected global reinvestment opportunity will be in the range of \$750 million to \$1.2 billion annually by 2017-18, with the sources of reinvestment varying from efficiency savings, to improvements to productivity, to cost avoidance," the DND noted in its documents. "It also includes the internal reinvestment of between 2,800 and 4,800 military and civilian personnel into higher-priority areas or towards higher-value work."

The rollout of DND's Defence Renewal plan contained many elements of Leslie's report. Resources will be focused on front-line military capabilities and readiness, and overhead costs will be reduced as much as possible, both recommendations made by Leslie. Some of the initiatives underway have already been reported in the Citizen, such as transforming the department's real property management to be leaner and more responsive, as well as using video teleconferencing to reduce travel costs. But Miller said much of the renewal process is not clear, even to DND officials. "How many people won't have the necessary qualifications and as a result will be out of a job?" he asked. "They don't know. How many will be workforce adjusted? They don't know."

One initiative at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa will involve reducing administration time on maintenance, according to the DND. Currently, CFB Petawawa administers 6,700 work orders per year with the private sector for real property maintenance, such as roofing repairs and asphalt maintenance. Through the renewal process the department now expects to reduce the administration time the base staff spends on setting up such work orders by 30 per cent. The Royal Canadian Air Force will also put more emphasis on simulations to cut costs, something already announced earlier this year. It will invest in a training simulator for the Cormorant search-and-rescue helicopter, a move that will allow it to reduce the number of flying hours on operational aircraft required to train Cormorant pilots from 55 to 30 hours. More emphasis will be placed on technology and innovation and "a culture of continuous improvement and renewal will be instilled and accepted as a permanent feature of the defence business," DND added.

For more details on the plan go to: <http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/news/article.page?doc=defence-renewal/hmhfyhmz>

Who is it?

Last Week. These officers are all 2Lts from the 102nd Coast Artillery Regt. Elsbeth Webster recognized her husband in the picture, then identified 3 more of the officers.



From L-R back: John Francis, (u/k) , Ron Webster, Dave Pearson
Front: (u/k), Dave Hazelwood, (u/k)

The car is a late 40s to early 50s Plymouth. I hope to have a bit more info by next week.

This Week. We now rocket ahead to the heady days of Unification, when the very mention of the name "Paul Hellyer" was likely to raise a cheer in officers' messes all across the Dominion (or not, which was more likely). Along with the unification of the three services, came the spiffy CF greens, the envy of the military world at the time, especially when worn by sailors. The height of spiffy came with the gender-distinctive uniforms issued to female personnel. These stylish and practical garments are worn by three brave soldiers in this undated photo. One can feel the Soviets quaking in fear as our stalwart lasses march by.



So, who were these Amazons of Artillery, and when and where was the photo taken? Answers can be sent to the editor or to John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net)."

John Donald Redmond, LC, BA, MEd.
Assistant Curator
15 Field Regiment, RCA, Museum and Archives

From the 'Punitentary'

A friend of mine, who baked and wrote poetry, asked me for some money. When I asked what she wanted it for she said, 'for batter or for verse'.

Murphy's Laws

Anything that begins well ends badly. Anything that begins badly ends worse.

Quotable Quotes

A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject. - *Winston Churchill*

Singapore Curry Lunch



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



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

Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013

Time: 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(presentation at 12:01pm)
(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 October 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 October 25, 2013

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, November 28, 2013

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir Concerts



VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR



Inspirational Pipes

Guest Organist
**Michael
Murray**

Music Director
**Jonathan
Quick**

TWO FEATURE CONCERTS

Sat, Oct 5, 7:30pm
Ryerson
United Church
2195 West 45th Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C.

Fri, Oct 11, 7:30pm
Queens Avenue
United Church
529 Queens Ave. (at 6th),
New Westminster, B.C.

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September 25, 2013

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