**Presentation:- ‘D Day and the Encounter Battle’ by RUSI President Keith Maxwell**

The Canadian Army was assigned one of five beaches to be captured by assaulting amphibious forces on D-Day, the opening day of the Battle of Normandy. It was the 3rd Canadian Division’s baptism by fire. The assault on the beaches and the following five day encounter battle with the 12th SS Panzer Division was studied by Staff and Defence Colleges for decades. The presentation will focus on the dedication and sacrifices made by Canadian soldiers in this, the first step leading to the final defeat of Germany eleven months later.

Colonel (retired) Keith Maxwell joined the Canadian Army (Militia) in 1968 at the age of sixteen. He transferred to the regular Canadian Army in 1970. He was deployed to the streets of Ottawa and Montreal during the FLQ Crisis in 1970. Colonel Maxwell transferred to the Air Force in 1977 serving in NORAD at North Bay, Ontario, Tacoma, Washington, Oklahoma City, Winnipeg, Anchorage and at HQ NORAD in Colorado Springs where he was and Assistant Command Director in the Command Post providing strategic and tactical early warning of SCUD missile launches from Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War. In 1993 he was posted to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Belgium and later joined the NATO International Staff in Brussels, Belgium. Col Maxwell has a History degree from the University of Manitoba and is a graduate of the Canadian Forces Staff School, the US Air Force Air War College and the Canadian Forces Senior Defence and Security Studies Program. Col Maxwell was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Military Merit in 1989 while serving at Alaskan NORAD Region. He has served on the executive of RUSI Vancouver for many years and is currently the President.