

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News 3 Jan 2023

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 online. 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>

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars

The **2023 Army Gala. May 6, 2023**, at the Sheraton Wall Centre

Commemoration Cyprus 2024 – see poster section

Jan 11 Wed 'Zoom' meeting

Jan 18 **First Lunch followed by a speaker**

RUSI Vancouver speaker - *Canada, International Security & the Indo-Pacific Region*

Jan 25 Wed 'Zoom' meeting

Jan 28 78th Fraser Highlander's Garrison Burn's Supper - see poster section

Wednesday Lunch – Jan 18, 2023

Our first Wednesday lunch since the COVID virus shut everything down, will be held in the 15th Field Artillery Regiment Officers' Mess on **Wednesday Jan 18**, followed by Dr Jim Boutilier's presentation in the lecture room, sponsored by RUSI Vancouver. The subject of the presentation is "*Canada, International Security and the Indo-Pacific Region.*" The intension currently is to hold these lunches monthly in conjunction with a speaker series.

Lunch will consist of Roast Beef (Sirloin Tip), mashed potatoes (with gravy), mixed carrots and peppers with a small selection of desserts. The bar will be open as usual. Lunch will be restricted to 30 attendees. (If there is a good response that limit may be raised to 40.)

Lunch starts at **1200hrs**, Dr Boutilier's presentation in the lecture room at **1330hrs**

Cost will be \$25 per person and payment in **advance is required.**

Those wishing to attend must RSVP to dgfoster60@gmail.com and confirm their attendance by prepaying for their lunch tickets by 13 January. ePayment may be made to:- 15rca100th@gmail.com

For further information, contact HLCol Don Foster at (604)809-6242 or dgfoster60@gmail.com

RUSI Vancouver Presentation – 18 January 2023

Greetings to my fellow RUSI Vancouver members.

RUSI Vancouver will hold its first event since the start of the pandemic as we all try to return to normal (with precautions). There will be a catered lunch at the Bessborough Armoury Officers' Mess, starting at noon, followed by a presentation at 1300hrs. Our presenter, Professor Jim Boutilier, is well known in the defence and security community. Jim is a former Navy Officer and Academic who then spend more than a decade as the policy advisor to the Commander of Maritime Forces Pacific in Esquimalt. Jim has a well-deserved reputation as an expert on the strategic environment in the Indo-Pacific area, which is the topic for his presentation. Given the turmoil in the world, this area is of growing importance and strategic focus. We will all be much better-informed following Jim's presentation.

Keith Maxwell, OMM, CD

Colonel (Retired) kdmaxwell@gmail.com



Dr James Boutilier is the former Special Advisor (Policy) at Canada's Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters in Esquimalt, British Columbia. He was responsible for advising the Commander of Maritime Forces Pacific on matters of defence and foreign policy and maritime security in the Asia-Pacific region. Prior to this, Dr Boutilier spent twenty-four years on staff at the Royal Roads Military College in Victoria as Head of the History Department and then as Dean of Arts. During his time at RRMC, he was instrumental in establishing the military and strategic studies degree program at the college and taught courses on naval history, contemporary Asia, the history of the Pacific, and strategic issues. He is also an adjunct professor of Pacific and Asian Studies at the University of Victoria and the President of the Maritime Awards Society of Canada.

US Army's MPFVs Will Give Light Infantry Units Added Punch

Lots of combat power in a small package. *Jeff Schogol Task & Purpose Dec 13, 2022*



The Army has awarded General Dynamics Land Systems a \$1.14 billion contract to produce 96 Mobile Protected Firepower vehicles. (U.S. Army).

The Army's Mobile Protected Firepower vehicles are in many ways smaller, lighter versions of the service's M1 Abrams main battle tanks and are designed to give light infantry and airborne units more muscle in combat. "Light infantry, as you know, has only got so much firepower," Army Gen Mark Milley,

chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Task & Purpose. “So, you gotta give them something to be able to shoot, move, and communicate and protect themselves — protect our soldiers so they don’t get killed on a battlefield.” Milley talked to Task & Purpose at Saturday’s Army-Navy football game in Philadelphia about how the Army needs to have a vehicle that is light enough to be flown into combat zones to support infantry units. M1 Abrams main battle tanks, which weigh 70 tons, are so heavy that they are usually sent to Europe, South Korea, and elsewhere by ship, and that takes about two weeks, not including the time to get the tanks on and off ships, Milley said. “One of the things we decided we needed to do was to upgrade our armor systems for light infantry and also for deployability, and that’s where Mobile Protected Firepower comes out,” Milley said. “It’s a light enough vehicle, rapidly deployable, it can project power with airborne or light infantry forces.” At 38 tons, MPF vehicles are designed to be light enough so that two can fit on an Air Force C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft.



Task & Purpose Deputy Editor James Clark spoke with Army Gen Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, about the Army’s Mobile Protected Firepower vehicles at the Dec 10, 2022 Army-Navy football game in Philadelphia.

(James Clark/Task & Purpose)

That means two C-17 transport aircraft can transport a platoon of MPF vehicles to provide rapid support for Army units such as the 101st

Airborne Division (Air Assault), 82nd Airborne Division, 10th Mountain Division, and 25th Infantry Division said Milley, who added that MPF vehicles feature a 105mm main gun that has “enough punch” to destroy enemy armored vehicles. It has been 25 years since the Army retired its last M551 Sheridan light tanks, which weighed only 17 tons, so they could be flown in an Air Force C-130 transport plane or airdropped to support airborne units. Initially, the Army tried to replace its Sheridan tanks with the Stryker Mobile Gun System, but the service abandoned that program in May 2021. In June, the Army awarded General Dynamics a \$1.14 billion contract to build and field the first 96 Mobile Protected Firepower vehicles.

Army units are expected to receive the first vehicles in late fiscal 2025. MPF vehicles share many commonalities with the larger M1 Abrams main battle tanks. Both are built by General Dynamics and are configured to have three crew members in the body and one in the turret. The vehicles are so similar that Abrams tank crew members can be trained to learn how to operate an MPF vehicle very quickly, said Army Lt Col Peter George, product manager for Mobile Protected Firepower. “One of the benefits of this platform is it’s incredibly common with the Abrams,” said George, who also spoke to Task & Purpose at Saturday’s Army-Navy Game. “You take a 19K tank crewman; you train them on an Abrams, you get them set on an Abrams, and then you do a short transition where they can pick this vehicle up, move into the formation, and then work that teaming with infantry soldiers. “

Right now, the Army’s plan is that soldiers who operate MPF vehicles will attend the U.S. Army Armor School at Fort Benning Georgia to train in the same Military Occupational Specialty as

M1 Abrams crews, George told Task & Purpose in a follow-up email. But MPF vehicles are not exactly miniature versions of M1 Abrams main battle tanks, George said via email. One key difference is that MPF vehicles are not designed to get into battles with main battle tanks, George said. The vehicles' 105mm gun is meant to destroy enemy bunkers and other fortifications as well as other similarly armored vehicles. "It has a different mission profile and won't officially be called a tank in its vehicle nomenclature," George said. "It is an asset to assist the infantry with increased direct firepower to complete their assigned mission."

Army Eyeing New Weapons in Response to Lessons Learned from Ukraine

Lee Berthiaume, The Canadian Press December 29, 2022



LGen Joe Paul, newly-appointed commander of the Canadian Army, speaks with reporters after a change of command ceremony in Ottawa on June 16, 2022. The Canadian Army is rushing to buy new equipment in response to lessons learned from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ Patrick Doyle

The war in Ukraine has identified critical gaps in the Canadian Army's ability to fight and survive on the battlefield, leading to an unanticipated rush to buy new military equipment. In an interview with The Canadian Press, Canadian Army commander LGen Joe Paul said that includes anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles as well as systems to protect against drones. The Army is also hoping to purchase the types of long-range, precision missile systems that have given Ukrainian forces a distinct advantage over their Russian foes, and state-of-the-art command-and-control technology. "These are the capabilities that are making a difference right now in Ukraine," Paul said. "We have paid a lot of attention to that right now." The new weapon systems the Army is hurrying to purchase were not included in the Liberal government's defence policy when it was released five years ago. But Paul said the Canadian Armed Forces has studied the fighting in Ukraine since Russia invaded in February, launching Europe's largest war in generations. As a result, the Army has identified deficiencies in its equipment, including the need for weapons to defend against traditional threats like tanks and aircraft — and new threats such as drones. "I'm moving forward on these three programs to satisfy my really immediate needs," Paul said.

Not all of the gaps are a complete surprise. For example, the Army has repeatedly warned that it needs weapons and other defences to protect Canadian troops from air attack. But while there have been plans to buy a new system for years, little has happened. There is now a sense of urgency, particularly as the Army prepares to send hundreds more soldiers to Latvia to shore up a Canadian-led NATO battle group designed to help protect eastern Europe in the event of a broader war with Russia. While details on the planned reinforcement are still up for discussion, Canada has committed to acquiring and deploying anti-tank weapons, counter-drone and air defence systems, ammunition and explosives as part of that effort. Paul indicated the Army is

looking to buy portable anti-aircraft missiles as a first step toward addressing the broader need to protect against air attack, while working on a more comprehensive system over the medium term. "There're a few ticket items out there that maybe I'm going to be telling myself and the rest of my team: 'OK, we have something off the shelf right now. It's not optimal, but it's good enough,'" he said. The war in Ukraine has also revealed the advantage of long-range missile systems that are capable of striking with precision, Paul said. The US has donated such weapons to the Ukrainian military and they have proved decisive on the battlefield.

The Canadian Army currently relies on M777 howitzers for artillery support, which provide about 30-40 kilometres of worth of coverage. "Range does matter," Paul said. "The nature of warfare is evolving. So, we need to be in a position where a battle group and a brigade, their area of influence is more like around 100 to 125 kilometres." The evolving nature of war has also underscored the need for commanders to have a better idea of what is happening on the battlefield and the ability to issue commands and control units in real time. That will involve AI and other advanced computing. "You need hundreds of sensors and you need to be able to take the data and process the data quickly," Paul said. "You need to leverage the machine." At the same time, the Army commander said one real challenge in obtaining the equipment is that many of Canada's allies have come to the same conclusions about what they need and are moving to buy the same stuff. "We're looking at the options, we're looking at what's available," he said. "Keeping in mind that all the western democracies are right now knocking at the same companies' door to try to procure these same weapon systems."

Extending the Griffon

Chris Thatcher



The Griffon Limited Life Extension project is intended to address obsolescence issues with critical components and parts across the RCAF's fleet of 85 CH-146 helicopters. Mike Reyno Photo

While the hunt for the next Tactical Aviation Capability Set (nTACS) is underway, the RCAF is extending the life of the CH-146 fleet until the mid-2030s. In late May, the Canadian government awarded Bell Textron Canada a contract worth approximately \$800 million to extend the life of the Griffon fleet. The contract is a follow-on to an award in January 2019, valued at about \$90 million, to prototype the design and installation of a glass cockpit, integrated sensors, communications, cryptographic equipment, cockpit voice and flight recorders, navigation systems, automatic flight control systems, and control display units — as well as a new electronically controlled Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6T-9 Twin-Pac engine. Known as the Griffon Limited Life Extension (GLLE), the project is intended to address obsolescence issues with critical components and parts across the fleet and meet North American and European civil regulatory requirements. "It really is just sustaining the current level of capability we have," explained LCol Richard Morris of the Directorate of Air Requirements. "There's no intentional increase in capability for the fleet." If additional sensors are needed, they would be acquired

through a separate contract, he said. “GLLE will integrate the [existing WESCAM MX-15 EO/IR] system into the cockpit more fulsomely than it has been in the past, but it doesn’t replace the current sensor.”

The upgrade of 85 aircraft will make the fleet easier to sustain and interoperate with the rest of the Canadian Armed Forces and allies. While the Griffon supports Army, Special Operations Forces, and search-and-rescue technicians, the fleet is being brought up to a standard baseline configuration. The exception could be the five helicopters operated by 424 Transport and Rescue Squadron at 8 Wing Trenton, which require a hoist and other SAR-specific mission kits. The initial plan with Bell called for three prototypes to iteratively develop and design the installation process. According to the government, Bell will modify the first nine helicopters and “then manage a competitive process to sub-contract suppliers to install modifications on the remaining 76 helicopters.” “Prototyping is probably a misnomer,” said Morris. Bell was able to complete most of the process with 3D computer-based modeling, which “negated the requirement to do a lot of the physical prototyping or discovery.” In the end, just two Griffon platforms were required to finalize the design and build the workflow manual for the eventual subcontractors. Bell Textron Canada was first awarded a contract for the CH-146 Griffon in 1992 and delivered 100 to the RCAF between 1994 and 1998. As the original manufacturer, the company still holds the intellectual property rights and was deemed “the only company certified to assess and define necessary design changes and associated repairs to the aircraft,” according to Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC). The first upgraded CH-146 is expected by 2024, and the entire upgrade program should be completed by 2028. The first prototype is expected to fly this spring.

During a presentation to the Vertical Flight Society in 2021, Bell’s program manager for GLLE outlined an approach to manage costs by using “off-the-shelf products” from the 412EPX line where possible. The overhaul of each CH-146 includes rewiring and installing some 40 wiring harnesses and power cables, a new console, and “a mix of avionics from the commercial 412,” as well as a mission management system integrated with the MX-15 EO/IR imaging system (which was introduced on the Griffon about seven years ago) and new radios and cryptographic equipment in the nose of the aircraft, he explained. Several of the Griffon’s many antennas will be removed, replaced, or repositioned. The government intends to begin retiring the Griffons as nTACS delivers after 2030, but the modernized systems should give the Air Force coverage if the nTACS takes longer than anticipated. “GLLE will provide us a bit of flexibility left or right as we approach that time,” Morris acknowledged. “As we all know, major projects never go exactly as planned in terms of dates. But GLLE also gives us the impetus to look at the Griffon replacement with earnest, because even with the upgrades, the airframes are getting long in the tooth.”

Aerospace and Defence Company Sets Up Shop in Moncton

CTV News Dec 2022

An aerospace and defence company that provides military hardware and engineering services around the world is opening a production facility in New Brunswick. Marshall Canada has secured a long-term lease for a land systems production and integration facility in the Moncton

area. A government of New Brunswick news release says it will create roughly 65 jobs with an average salary of \$50,000 a year. “I am delighted that we have been able to secure a suitable home for our land systems business in New Brunswick,” said Marshall Canada’s managing director Sam Michaud in a company news release. “And expect, over the years ahead, that Marshall will become a leading employer in the region, creating a host of high-value employment opportunities both directly and through our broader supply chain.”



The Company also has offices in Abbotsford, BC and Ottawa Ont. (SOURCE: marshalladg.com)

The Government of New Brunswick says the federal government, through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), is contributing \$2 million to support building renovations and the purchase of manufacturing equipment. “The Government of Canada is

pleased to invest in Marshall Canada as it builds its new facility here in New Brunswick,” said federal Official Languages Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor, who is also the minister responsible for ACOA. “We are looking forward to working together to take advantage of future growth opportunities in the aerospace and defence industry.” The Government of New Brunswick estimates the GDP impact of Marshall Canada moving into the province at more than \$22 million. Marshall Canada is part of Marshall Aerospace and Defence, which is one of the United Kingdom’s largest privately owned defence businesses. The company employs more than 1,600 people through its operations in the UK, northern Europe, North America and the United Arab Emirates. The Company also has offices in Abbotsford, BC, and Ottawa On.

Vancouver Gunners Website Update

No report this week.

Our zoom channel will be open on Wednesday from noon at <https://zoom.us/j/6802412956> and the secret passcode is pFPey6. **Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!**

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: This is the ST Kinetics SSW. It was conceived as part of the Future Light Support Weapon program hosted by Sweden, in an attempt to replace the Mk19 and M203 grenade launchers attached on the Ak5 at platoon and squad levels. The SSW was intended as the replacement for the latter. Orders for the design and production of the SSW were placed on Nammo and ST Kinetics, scheduled for delivery in 2003. The ST Kinetics SSW is the design from ST Kinetics. Prototypes of the weapon have been made for display, but as of 2016 it has not been put into service or made into a full-



production weapon. Colt Canada was developing something along these lines but seems to have abandoned it.

The platform consists of a 5.7mm rifle, a 40mm grenade launcher, and a fire-control system. The grenade ammunition designed by STK features 400 tungsten balls inside the grenade; when the grenade impacts a target, the tungsten balls would fire out of the casing in a conical shape, like a shotgun

This Week: We return to the wild blue yonder this week. Aircraft have been much in the news recently, with the announcement of the first sixth generation fighter to be developed jointly by Britain, Japan, and Italy. Initially designated the “Tempesto Zero”, it is now to be called simply the “Tempest”. It looks to be the first fighter to enter service (if it does) that will have both a piloted and pilotless version. I’m sure Canada will exercise its usual rapid decision-making and be first in line for this cutting-edge weapon. It’s that history of interesting and sometimes drawn-out decisions that brings us to this week’s photo. It is obviously a jet fighter of our southern neighbours, the ones who don’t spell “neighbour” correctly. At least they got “navy” right.



This particular mount is one that looks familiar at first sight, but is actually a development that was not adopted, in spite of its very impressive performance. The name of this ship

is one of the answers we’d like, but, even more interesting is the question of this aeroplane’s connection, or failed connection to the Royal Canadian Air Force. Very few people know that connection. Are you one who does? If so, we’d be impressed. So, send that thought to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Neither of us knows much about aircraft, so maybe you can bluff it.

From the ‘Punitary’

Why was the tennis teacher so mad at the new player? He caught him raising a racquet.

Murphy’s Other Laws

The one virtue of pessimism is that any surprises will be pleasant ones.

Quotable Quotes

Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard. *Tim Notke*

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/6802412956> and the secret passcode is pFPey6



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.

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

USI(NS) Distinguished Speaker 18 January 2023



The
Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia
presents

Distinguished Speaker

Scott Hatcher

Canadian Coast Guard



**Canadian Coast Guard
Autonomous Systems
and Intelligence, Surveillance and
Reconnaissance Program**

**1 pm Atlantic time, Wednesday, 18 January 2023
via Zoom**

register through RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com

78th Fraser Highlander's Garrison Burn's Supper



Fort Fraser Garrison



I request the company of our Officers, Miladies and Guests at our annual

Garrison Burns Supper

to be held in

The Officers' Mess at Bessborough Armoury,
15th Field Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

Saturday, 28 January, 2023

1800hrs for 1900hrs

Dress: Scarlets, Highland Evening wear, Black Tie or Business Attire
Tariff: \$78 per Person

RSVP to jobarb@shaw.ca or 604-522-5766

ASAP! (before 20 January)

Places will be allocated on the sequence (date & time)
of RSVP emails received at jobarb@shaw.ca
Members have priority, but please RSVP soonest as this event is
usually oversubscribed.

Looking forward to seeing you there

James Barrett, Maj. Officer Commanding

With a Few Guns

“With a Few Guns” Calling For Support! Donate Now!



With a Few Guns will be an accounting of the contribution Canadian Gunners made to operations in Afghanistan from initial deployment in 2002 until withdrawal in March 2014. The book will not be an “official history” but will tell the story of the approximately 3,000 Gunners who served in Afghanistan, Regular Force and Reserves, in any and all positions, in any and all functions, as well as the stories of commanders and supported arms, and Gunner families.

We have three accomplished and exceptional authors:

Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired) Brian Reid

Colonel (Retired) Wolf Riedel

Mr. Mark Zuehlke

We are launching this fundraising initiative to cover expenses and get the book published, while keeping the price affordable. *With a Few Guns* is being written with the backing of the RCA Association, and all donations will be eligible for a tax receipt. Any monies donated in excess of what is needed will remain with the RCAA for support to the causes as espoused by the RCAA.

Our MISSION is to raise \$75,000 (+)

Questions may be directed to: WithAFewGuns@gmail.com

To Donate:

Go to: <https://rca-arc.org/>

Scroll down to: **Donate**

Go to : The Royal Canadian Artillery Association

Then donate to: RCAA Donation "With a Few Guns"

Commemoration Cyprus 2024



Commemoration Chypre 2024



Commemoration Cyprus 2024



Mission

...commémorer la contribution du Canada à la mission de l'ONU à Chypre à l'occasion du 50e anniversaire de la guerre de 1974.
...commemorate Canada's contribution to the UN mission in Cyprus on the 50th anniversary of the 1974 war.



WHAT - Cyprus 2024 Pilgrimage.

GOAL - to capture the history and stories from those who served in Cyprus with emphasis on the actions that took place during the 1974 war, **A FORGOTTEN WAR.**

WHEN - November 2024.

WHO - All Cyprus and Canadian Airborne Regiment Veterans and family members.

WHERE - Nicosia Cyprus, lodged at the Hilton Hotel.

COST - Pay as you go trip with individual costs in the \$5000 to 6000 range. Costs covered will include airfare, hotel with breakfast and expenses such as transportation.

TRAVEL - Will be arranged by professional travel agents, with pre and post tour travel options available.

PROGRAM - Seven days: three days of battlefield tours, three days of excursions, and one day of Remembrance.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND UPDATES ARE AVAILABLE BY JOINING THE CYPRUS 2024 FACEBOOK GROUP [Cyprus2024 | Facebook](#)

QUOI - Pèlerinage à Chypre 2024.

OBJECTIF - capturer l'histoire et les récits de ceux qui ont servi à Chypre en mettant l'accent sur les actions qui ont eu lieu là pendant la guerre de 1974, **UNE GUERRE OUBLIÉE.**

QUAND - Novembre 2024.

QUI - Tous les vétérans de Chypre, du Régiment aéroporté canadien et les membres de leurs familles.

OÙ - Nicosie Chypre, logés à l'hôtel Hilton.

COÛT - Voyage à la carte avec des coûts individuels inclus, environ \$5000 et 6000. Les coûts comprendront le billet d'avion, l'hôtel avec petit-déjeuner et les dépenses telles que le transport.

VOYAGE - Sera organisé par des agents de voyage professionnels, avec options de voyage avant et après la réunion.

PROGRAMME - Sept jours: trois jours de visites du champ de bataille, trois jours d'excursions et une journée du Souvenir.

PLUS D'INFORMATIONS ET MISES À JOUR SONT DISPONIBLES EN REJOIGNANT LE GROUPE FACEBOOK CYPRUS 2024 [Cyprus2024 | Facebook](#)

