



#### Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News May 15, 2018

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 <u>bob.mugford@gmail.com</u> to let me know you didn't get a copy.

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

**Wednesday Lunches -** We serve a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome, and we encourage members to bring their significant others. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies. **Note: NO** lunches on June 20 and 27. Mrs Lum is on vacation.

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars See attached posters for details.

- May 16 RUSI Van presents Patrick Denis talk on 'Reluctant Warriors'
- May 23 15 Fd Regt change of RSMs parade
- May 26VAA Artillery Day Artillery DemonstrationFort Macaulay Historic Interpretation Event47 RCSCC Captain Vancouver 100th Anniversary Dinner
- June 0215 Fd Regt Cadet Corps Annual Review and Dinner<br/>39 CER Change of Command
- June 03 Walk for Veterans
- June 20 No lunch
- June 27 No lunch

#### <u>World War 2 – 1943</u>

John Thompson Strategic analyst - quotes from his book "Spirit Over Steel"

**May 16<sup>th</sup>:** The Japanese defences start to be displaced on Attu. The SS Brigade leader Stroop announces the end of resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto by blowing up its Synagogue; but despite killing 14,000 Jews and railing 40,000 more to Treblinka a few survivors are still free and fighting. The Soviets contain German counterattacks in the Kuban Peninsula. The Dambusters raid goes in tonight with 19 well trained elite bomber crews on the Ruhr dams on the Mohne and Eder Rivers – eight bombers are lost and the damage is not sufficient to be decisive. Wing

Commander Guy Gibson leads the Mohne Raid. A tough and brash yet highly professional officer, he expects much of his crews and yet leads by example – taking 30 minutes and repeated passes over the Mohne Dam to get the 'bouncing bomb' attacks in perfectly and to distract flak from the other bombers making their runs. Already highly decorated, this night's work earns him the Victoria Cross.

**May 17<sup>th</sup>:** The fifth anti-partisan sweep in Yugoslavia pits 120,000 Axis troops (led by the 1<sup>st</sup> Mountain Division and SS Prinz Eugen Division) against Tito's 20,000 guerrillas.

May 18<sup>th</sup>: The UN Food Conference begins in Hot Springs, Virginia. The northern and southern beachheads on Attu link-up.

May 19<sup>th</sup>: American troops on Attu close in on Chicagof Harbour.

**May 20<sup>th</sup>:** The Japanese have a well constructed defence line in caves overlooking Clevesy Pass on Attu, and this will hold up the American advance for a week.

**May 21<sup>st</sup>:** The French naval squadron interned in Alexandria since June 1940 decides to join the Allies.

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>:** The Soviets announce the dissolution of the Comintern. Faced with soaring U-Boat casualties, Doenitz recalls all U-boats from patrols in the North Atlantic but will continue to send submarines to the Caribbean and south of the Azores

#### Royal United Services Institute, Vancouver Society - AGM

Annual General Meeting - Bessborough Armoury 9 May 2018 From the BCR News



The 2018 Annual General Meeting of members of RUSI Vancouver was held in the lecture room of the 15th Field RCA Armoury on Wednesday, May 9, after a most enjoyable lunch prepared and served by the acknowledged expert, Mrs. Lum. After the luncheon, at the beginning of the formalities, RUSI President, Cam Cathcart, called upon the Society's lawyer, Ted Hawthorne of HPLaw, to come forth and be recognized by the members for his long-time support of RUSI Vancouver as "Special Counsel". Honorary Colonel Hawthorne was then presented with a very attractive plaque in recognition of his support. President Cathcart was generous with his praise of Colonel Hawthorne's work within the military community and generally in the "not for profit sector".

At the conclusion of the business part of the meeting, Colonel Hawthorne provided the meeting with a brief overview of the transition requirements under the **Societies Act** and confirmed that the Society had been transition as required.

Congratulations to the newly elected Board of Directors of RUSI Vancouver and every success in the future!

# New Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle for the BCR

BCR Association News and Wikipedia



One of the Regiments new TAPV's made it's debut at the May 12, 73<sup>rd</sup> BC Military Gala. The Textron TAPV (Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle) is an armoured car currently in use by the Canadian Army. It is essentially a more heavily armed and armoured upgrade of the M1117 Armoured Security Vehicle, developed for use by the military police of the US Armed Forces. The Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV) program began in 2009, and in 2012 the contract was awarded to Textron Systems, Inc. On August 16, 2016, Textron systems delivered the first Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV) to the

Canadian Army. An eventual 500 vehicles will be purchased, with the option to order an additional 100. The TAPV is powered by a Cummins QSL diesel engine, which provides 365 horsepower (272 kW), allowing the vehicle a maximum speed of 105 km/h (65 mph), and a maximum range of 644 km (400 miles). The vehicle utilizes an independent suspension axle system originally developed by Irish Timoney, and it has a central tire inflation system to prevent flat tires during combat operations.

The TAPV relies upon composite armour to provide the maximum protection to the vehicles occupants. The armour is slated as being 20% better than the armour on the M1117. The TAPV also has a V-shaped hull, which provides protection against mine and improvised explosive device (IED) blasts. The vehicle also has a high ground clearance, which increases protection from mine and IED blasts. It can withstand up to 10 kg of explosive force directly under its hull



and can resist even 12.7mm armour-piercing rounds. Each of the seats in the vehicle are blast protected, and the vehicle has vented wheel wells to disperse the energy of an explosion out from the vehicle. The TAPV is slated to have a remote weapons system based on the M151 Protector. The weapon system is called the Dual Remote Weapon System and can mount both a C6 7.62mm general purpose machine gun and either a HK GMG 40mm automatic grenade launcher or a M2HB 12.7mm heavy machine gun. The vehicle also possesses numerous smoke grenade launchers located throughout the hull.

## Military Leaders Sent Them on A Hasty, Ill-Planned Mission

— And Are Now Blaming Them PAUL SZOLDRA May 10, 2018

The Pentagon has briefed reporters on its long-awaited investigation of the deadly Oct. 4, 2017 ambush in Niger, where four American and four Nigerien soldiers were killed, and its report

passes more blame on the fallen soldiers than the leadership above them. I obtained the 8-page unclassified summary of the investigation by US Africa Command, which offers findings and recommendations that it claims it based on "all available evidence" from the incident in Tongo Tongo. According to the report, the investigating team received photos, video, audio, and witness testimony from 143 people. But most shockingly, amid the deadliest combat incident for American soldiers in Africa since "Black Hawk Down," most of the blame in Africom's report is attached to the dead, who cannot speak in their own defense. On Oct. 3, 2017, an 11man Special Forces team, including Sfc Jeremiah Johnson, Staff Sgt Bryan Black, Staff Sgt Dustin Wright, and Sgt LaDavid Johnson, left their outpost on what The New York Times described as a "routine, low risk patrol with little chance of encountering the enemy." The report, however, says the Green Berets and their Nigerien counterparts — referred to as Team Ouallam since that's where they were based out of — went out on a counterterrorism operation "targeting a key member of ISIS." This however, then raises the question: If they knew they were conducting a raid on a terrorist stronghold, why weren't they all wearing body armor, carrying heavy machine-guns, and rolling in bulletproof vehicles? And why, when raids can go wrong so quickly, was there not close air support standing by or a plan for medical evacuation should it be needed?

These are the questions I raise, which are not substantially addressed in the report. Instead, the report says that prior to their deployment to Niger, "personnel turnover" prevented the team from conducting "key pre-deployment collective training" (blaming the soldiers for not conducting the training their command should have been keeping track of). It goes on to mention the team did not carry out "pre-mission rehearsals" (something that just about every single American unit in Iraq or Afghanistan likely fails to do on a daily basis, given their operational tempo), and claims that "only two members of Team Ouallam were wearing their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)," adding that some members put it on while others did not (again blaming soldiers for not wearing body armor, when clearly they were not briefed on intelligence indicating they needed it on at all times). There probably would have been a far different result had the soldiers been given air on station or bulletproof trucks with .50 caliber machine-guns mounted on top, and it would not have mattered if they were wearing their flak jackets or ESS goggles. This report's assertions are shameful. Four American soldiers are dead because their mission was repeatedly and hastily changed; they were given thin-skinned vehicles with no heavy weapons, had no air support or medevac support nearby, and apparently not enough intelligence that could have told them a force of 50-plus insurgents was working to surround them with mortars, heavy machine-guns, and rocket-propelled grenades. Most of these problems can be traced back to the team's leadership, but instead this report seems to give them a pass.

Still, the answer to some questions can be found when reading between the lines of the report which says the initial Concept of Operations (CONOP) — an Army document that outlines a commander's intent, the objective, and how the mission should play out — was not approved "at the proper level of command." The mission was approved at the captain's level, the report says, where both he and the team commander "inaccurately characterized" the mission's true

intent, which would have required much higher-level approval. Soon after the team made initial contact with the enemy, they called in troops in contact. Amid a hellish firefight from all sides, the report says, a driver of one of the friendly trucks made a radio call saying they were going to be overrun. "The radio call occurred 53 minutes after first contact and was Team Ouallam's first request for assistance," it says, which can be read as the team's fault for not asking for help on the radio sooner, when you can watch the helmet-cam footage and see that the situation was incredibly desperate, and there was little cover to be found. To their leadership's credit, the captain who approved the initial mission alerted both Nigerien forces and his Special Operations Command bosses soon after troops in contact was called in, but as the timeline is detailed in the report, it is clear that proper planning was not done ahead of time (emphasis added). "Both partners responded immediately. Nigerien ground forces departed 8 minutes after notification and arrived in Tongo Tongo approximately 4 hours and 25 minutes later due to distance, lack of roads, and rough terrain. French Mirage aircraft conducted the first show of force approximately 40 minutes after receiving notification. A single Nigerien helicopter took off approximately 40 minutes after receiving the request."

The first sign of support didn't come until 47 minutes later — an eternity in a firefight, especially in this one when the Americans and Nigeriens were surrounded by a much larger force. Illustrating the failure of planning is this line: "All four soldiers were killed in action before French and Nigerien responding forces arrived in Tongo Tongo." And even then, "the French aircraft were unable to engage because they could not identify US troop locations and did not have communications with the team on the ground" (Who in leadership was supposed to ensure the troops vehicles were properly marked, and were friendly troops given infrared or other markings on their uniforms that could be seen from the air? The report doesn't say). If you want to see the one moment of pure truth in this report, it not surprisingly comes toward the end, which I will reproduce here in full:

"Contradictory and ambiguous CONOPs approval matrices between Special Operations Command Africa, Special Operations Command Forward-North and West Africa, [Special Operations Command and Control Element], and the [Advanced Operations Base] resulted in confusion regarding proper approval level for certain types of CONOPS. A reliance on templated CONOPS (cut and paste from previous CONOPS), a lack of attention to detail in quality control and quality assurance, and inadequate notification of CONOPS to [Special Operations Command-Africa] all contributed to a general lack of situational awareness and command oversight at every level. The CONOPS development, review, approval, and notification processes were pro-forma and did not reflect the detailed, deliberate planning and oversight tools they are intended to be." What this translates to is that someone back at US Africa Command failed to put together clear guidance on what operations would be approved and by whom. Meanwhile, in Niger, the team's company command leadership was "copying and pasting" together documents related to future missions, thus setting up these four Americans for failure. The lack of "situational awareness and command oversight" is what killed these men, not their lack of protective gear.

# Legislation Aims to Address Gaps in Canada's Military Courts

Proposes a victims' bill of rights. Lee Berthiaume The Canadian Press May 10, 2018



The proposed changes come only a few weeks before federal auditor general Michael Ferguson is scheduled to release a report on the military justice system. The new legislation would require military tribunals to consider the circumstances of Indigenous offenders when deciding on jail time and require formal courts martial for criminal cases rather than leaving some with unit commanders. (DAVID KAWAI / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

OTTAWA—The federal government is promising to close what some consider significant and long-standing gaps within the country's military court system with a new declaration of the rights of victims. Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan unveiled proposed legislation on Thursday, which would provide victims in military cases with many of the same rights to information, protection and participation as those already available in the civilian system. "This is the right thing to do," Sajjan told a news conference at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. "This will ensure victims have a voice and that their voices are heard." The new legislation would also require military tribunals to consider the circumstances of Indigenous offenders when deciding on jail time and require formal courts martial for criminal cases rather than leaving some with unit commanders. The measures, if adopted, would represent a dramatic change to the way victims interact with the military justice system, which a recent internal review found was perceived as being unfair and opaque.

The legislation is similar to changes proposed by the Harper government in June 2015, but which died a few weeks later with the start of the federal election campaign. It is considered long overdue by many inside and outside the military. While Canada's bill of rights for victims came into effect three years ago, it exempted the military court system, much to the chagrin of many, particularly given concerns about sexual misconduct in the Forces. The military's top prosecutor and a senior Canadian Forces military police officer both told The Canadian Press in 2016 that they wanted a victims' bill of rights for military tribunals. The federal victims' ombudsman also flagged concerns about "the gap in the rights of victims of crime within the Canadian military justice system" in November 2016. The proposed changes come only a few weeks before federal auditor general Michael Ferguson is scheduled to release a report on the military justice system. Sajjan defended the fact it took three years for the legislation to be introduced, given its similarities to what the Harper government proposed, saying the Liberals took the time necessary to deliver for the Canadian Forces and victims. "And tabling a bill just days before an election is called, you know where it's going to end up," he said in reference to the Conservatives. "So, our government is serious about making sure that we make the changes that look after our people."

The proposed legislation includes provisions that would let victims better track their cases, seek compensation from perpetrators, and establish special liaison officers to help military members,

families and civilians navigate the system. It also broadens the ways in which victim impact statements can be delivered during courts martial and gives victims the right to complain if they feel their rights have been violated. The plan to strip commanding officers of their power to hear serious cases, particularly those of a criminal nature, is also a significant shift in terms of perceived fairness, but also so commanders are better able to deal efficiency with minor disciplinary matters. "What we will have in place will make sure we have a system that is simplified and will allow unit commanders to impose much quicker discipline and in a simpler way," said Commodore Genevieve Bernatchez, the military's top legal officer. Sajjan said he's not concerned that sending all serious cases to court martial would lead to more delays in the military justice system, which has been struggling with the same backlog issues as its civilian counterpart. "We are going to adjust resources if necessary to make sure that the process goes as quickly as possible, that we can have cases that are heard, and more importantly, justice for the victims." The proposed legislation was welcomed by retired colonel Michel Drapeau, one of the country's top experts on military law, who credited Bernatchez with pushing what he argued were some much-needed reforms to the system. "It is not a panacea," Drapeau said of the impact the proposed changes would have on the military justice system, "but it is a very good step in the right direction."

#### Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Here's the latest updates:

St Barbara's 1989 <u>http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1989.html</u> Rifle Exercise 1988 <u>http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1988.html</u> Milcon Road Move 1985 <u>http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1985.html</u> Limber Gunner 1984 <u>http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1984.html</u> Rifle Exercise 1983 <u>http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1983.html</u> Driving Exercise 1978 <u>http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1978.html</u> Brian Cormier photo 1960 <u>http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1960.html</u> Group Photo 1954 <u>http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1954---15th-fd-regt-rca.html</u> Regimental Jubilee honours 1935 <u>http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1935.html</u> Keep those stories, calendar events and pictures coming! Contact Leon Jensen at president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

## <u>Who Is It</u>



**Last Week:** This photo is of a practise water landing against a prepared position at Kitsilano Beach, possibly in 1942. Probably a rehearsal for the upcoming operation in the Aleutians. Archie Steacy and his brother were in the crowd watching the event and he states that a 3.7" anti aircraft gun was also shooting at a

drogue flying over English Bay as part of the exercise, giving a bit of realism to the operation. We know that the AA troop from the Oak and 41<sup>st</sup> location would move to this area to conduct live fire exercises, as featured in the quiz photo of a few months (Aug 2017)back. That photo may have been of one of the guns firing here.

**This Week:** This week's mystery photo could be from the frozen plains of distant Manitoba, or some similar semi-civilized part of this great dominion of ours. However, as it depicts an armoured train, and given that the only one in Canadian service was a tiny thing up on the Skeena River, near Prince Rupert, it can't be here. We will start with the assumption that this is, indeed, an armoured train. It is, in fact, one with a very, very interesting history, and one with which I can claim a rather distant connection, as the father of an ancient professor of my acquaintance once helped refurbish it when it was passed on to one of its final owners.



Therefore, dear rail buffs and history enthusiasts, who do you think build this mighty train, and with whom did it serve. Even better, if you know where it is now, please let us know, as it would make an excellent "mobile wall" to sell to a certain US head of state for use on his southern border. Send your musings to the editor, <u>bob.mugford@outlook.</u>com or to the author, John Redmond (johnd.\_redmond@telus.net). *Děkuji*!

#### From the 'Punitentary'

Why did the cross-eyed teacher lose her job? Because she couldn't control her pupils.

#### **Murphy's Other Laws**

The only perfect science is hind-sight.

#### **Quotable Quotes**

Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow, it only saps today of its joy. - Leo Buscaglia

# Artillery Day 2018







The

# Vancouver Artillery Association

is hosting an

# **Artillery Demonstration**

on

# Saturday, 26 May 2018

The intent of the Artillery Demonstration is to deploy artillery detachments in public areas throughout the Lower Mainland of British Columbia where artillery units have had a presence today and in the past. Do you own artillery ordnance that could be part of this display? Contact Leon Jensen OMM CD for additional details – president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

# Fort Macaulay Historic Interpretation Event

Where: Macaulay Point Park When: May 26, 2018 - 10:00AM to 2:00PM



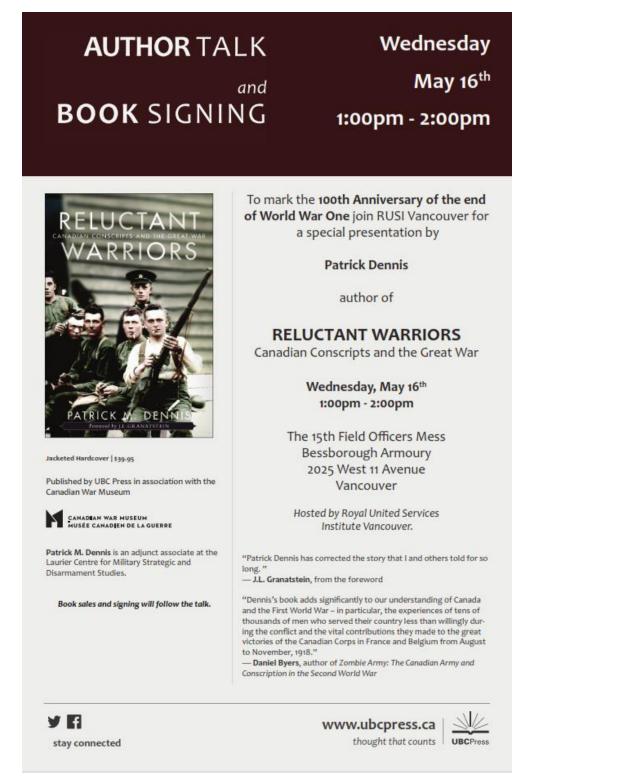
The Fifth Annual Fort Macaulay Historic Interpretation Event will take place on Saturday May 26 at Macaulay Point Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guided tours will take place at 10:30

a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and will be led by local historian Jack Bates, from the Organization for Preservation of Canadian Military Heritage. New interpretive signage was installed at the site during 2017 Canada 150 celebrations, and pamphlets featuring a map of the area and historical background were also printed.

The buildings and gun emplacements at the historic site will all be numbered and indexed to a handout. The event will also feature members of the Victoria-Esquimalt Military Re-enactors Association with their encampment, the Esquimalt Archives, and Toad Hollow Photography. The Esquimalt Lions will provide a cash only BBQ, serving up their famous hamburgers and hot dogs with proceeds going back into the community.

### **RUSI Vancouver hosts Patrick Denis' talk on 'Reluctant Warriors'**

Come and join us for lunch in the 15 Fd Officers Mess at noon



Patrick Dennis will also give this talk and book signing in the evening at the Seaforth Armoury starting at 1930hrs. For the evening event at the Seaforths, make reservations on Eventbrite.ca

# **<u>47 RCSCC Captain Vancouver 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner</u>**

Captain Vancouver Sea Cadet Corps is looking for people who were cadets with the Corps to come to the dinner. Link to ticket sales page: <u>https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/47-captain-vancouver-100th-anniversary-alumni-dine-in-tickets-43300539078</u> Facebook Page: <u>https://www.facebook.com/47CaptVanAlumni/</u>

47 RCSCC Captain Vancouver Staff & the Navy League Branch - Greater Vancouver Area Request the pleasure of your company and guest(s) to the





Saturday May 26th 2018 1845 for 1930hrs HMCS DISCOVERY 1200 Stanley Park Drive, Vancouver BC No-host bar Tariff Early Bird: \$75.58 per person / \$86.29 per person after 30 Apr Mess Dress or Formal/Black Tie Optional (Ladies Equivalent) RSVP by 21 May:

https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/47-captain-vancouver-100th-anniversary-alumni-dine-in-tickets-43300539078

The Commanding Officer, Officers and Cadets

Of

2472 15th Field Artillery Regiment Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps Cordially invite you to the

65<sup>th</sup> Annual Ceremonial Review Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2018

ACR Dress: DEU/ Business attire

Mess Dinner Dress: Mess kit/Business attire

Parade Timings: 1430 for 1500 Hours Mess Dinner: 1730 for 1800

## Mess dinner tariff: \$60.00

Please book your free tickets for the review, and purchase mess dinner places, at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/65th-annual-ceremonial-review-and-3rd-annual-mess-dinnertickets-45007287007



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#### <u>Change of Command – 39 CER</u>



39 Combat Engineer Regiment invites you and your guest to a ceremony where

Colonel D.R.A. Awalt, CD

Commander 39 Canadian Brigade Group will mark the

<u>Change of Command</u> between

Lieutenant Colonel Cameron McLean, CD, PChem,

and

Lieutenant Colonel James Julien, CD

And

<u>Change of Appointment</u> between

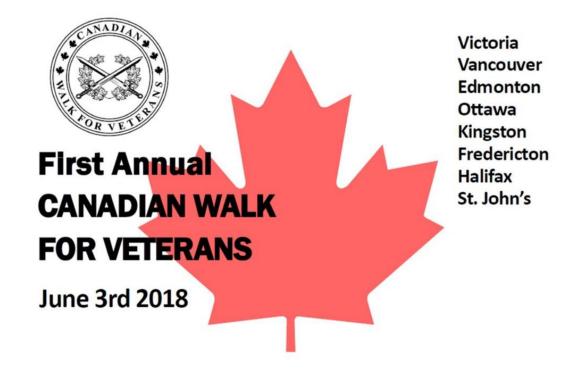
Chief Warrant Officer Terrance Haley, CD

Master Warrant Officer Charles Rochlow, CD

At 13:00, 2 June 2018, to be held at Lieutenant Colonel James Pemberton Fell Armoury, North Vancouver, BC

All guests are invited to a short reception following the ceremony The LCol J.P. Fell Armoury is located at 1513 Forbes Ave, North Vancouver, BC. Dress: DEU 1A, business attire for civilians RSVP to Captain Grant Greaves by 15 May 2018 at (604) 858 1011 ext 1403 or via e-mail at grant.greaves@forces.gc.ca Please be seated by 12:45 The DDay dinner is being held later that evening. For tickets please email DDayDinner2018@gmail.com

### First Annual Walk for Veterans – June 3



When you walk in the Canadian Walk For Veterans you lend your voice to a collective declaration by Canadians across this country who pay tribute to the men and women who have served in Canada's military and sacrificed to provide us all with a safe and secure homeland. This is an opportunity to get to know veterans in a fun, informal way and walk shoulder to shoulder with those that stand on guard for thee. We are all pioneers on this inaugural Canadian Walk For Veterans and we unite to create a legacy of justice, fairness, and equity for Canada's military veterans for generations to come.

Donations raised will go toward funding the Equitas class action lawsuit and advocacy that significantly influences the policies, benefits, and actions that shape a veteran's destiny. Our long-term goal for the Canadian Walk for Veterans is to make it an annual event that takes place in every major city across the country and to raise the financing necessary to create a new veterans organization that will build trust and inspire the veteran community to come together and speak with one voice.

Please invite your family, friends, and co-workers and all military and veterans. Register at:

http://www.equitassociety.ca/walk-for-veterans/

3 June 2018 0845hrs Lafarge Park, Coquitlam Check in at Wingrove Way near the Amphitheatre