



## Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News July 16, 2013

### Wednesday Lunches

Lunches in the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Officers Mess continue with Mrs Lum cooking at home and bringing the food in.

**Mrs Lum has announced that she will be taking a vacation in August. Last lunch Aug 7<sup>th</sup> and resume on Sept 4<sup>th</sup> . NO LUNCHEs on Aug 14, 21 or 28<sup>th</sup> .**

Summer Dress is in effect. Just to clarify, this does not mean shorts, sandals and tee shirts. Summer dress for civilian clothing means you take off your jacket and tie so you can be more comfortable on hot days. On cool days, many of us keep jackets and ties on to keep standards up.

The basic renovation plan submitted for the kitchen has been approved. DND will pay for changes to the building envelope and that leaves us with a cost of around \$20,000. We have collected approximately \$12,000 to date so we will have to get another round of fund raising going to bring in the balance. It is probably too much to hope that the work would be carried out while Mrs Lum is on holiday.

### Funeral of former Lt Gov, Col Garde Gardom

*General Funeral Information*

Date: 17 Jul 13

Time: 1400hrs (doors open at 1300hrs)

Location: Christ Cathedral Church - 690 Burrard St, Vancouver

Dress: Business Attire with decorations or DEU 1A (with medals)

Misc: Reception to be held immediately following at the Hotel Vancouver

### Equitas Court Date

For those that are not on Facebook or did not see Aaron Bedard's posting, the dates for the court hearing are July 22, 23 and 24<sup>th</sup> at 0900hrs. We would love to have you come out, show your support and witness what is likely to be the beginning of an historic event. Location is the BC Supreme Courthouse on Smithe Street. Please feel free to spread the message to those that would be interested in attending. Wear your blazers, and medals etc.

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## **Remembering the Alamo: My Year in Afghanistan – Chapter 8**

*By Colonel Peter Williams*

*Publication date: 4 July 2013 (last week was mistakenly dated 6 July instead of 6 June)*

*Col Williams is currently deployed on Operation ATTENTION as commander of the KMTC Training Advisory Group. He is the senior serving Canadian gunner officer in the Afghan training program at this time.*

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN – Since drafting chapter seven, we’ve had some changes of command, but not a change of mission. First, in our immediate NATO Headquarters, known as Deputy Commander-Army (DOCM-A), our Commander, Brigadier-General Richard Dennis (UK), handed over to his successor, Brigadier-General Edward Chamberlain, also of the UK. Similarly, US Lt Gen Daniel Bolger, Commander NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A) handed over to US Lt Gen Ken Tovo. We thank both of the outgoing commanders for their support for our work at the Kabul Military Training Centre (KMTC), and we welcome the new generals, both of whom wasted no time in coming to KMTC.

At KMTC itself, the pace has not let up and in recent weeks we’ve had a student population of over 8,000 which is one of the highest I’ve seen in my time here. I continue to be amazed as new cohorts of students march through the gates each week, and how quickly they complete their in-processing and commence training. KMTC leadership is also starting to make good use of new facilities made available to them such as the new Forward Operating Base (FOB), purposefully built as an austere site in the training area, to replicate a FOB in which the new students might find themselves after being assigned to their first combat unit. Leveraging the presence of the New FOB, KMTC staff have also started to combine the Team Leader Course (TLC, for future junior non-commissioned officers), with the Basic Warrior Training Course designed for new recruits. Using the new FOB as their base, TLC students get to practice actual leadership of a team of BWT soldiers, in preparation for leading soldiers in future combat missions. The fact that they organized training in this way, with little prompting from us, and across two different training brigades, gives me a sense that they are making real progress in planning and coordinating training.

As far as our own team goes, everyone is now settled into life at Camp BLACKHORSE. This was made easier with the recent visit of some special guests from Canada who visited us here as part of a Team Canada visit, known as Operation WELFARE. Therefore, we were able to welcome many famous sporting personalities from the hockey and football world, members of the “Gentils Alouettes” cheerleading squad, a comedian and some musicians. It was a great day and everyone had a great time.

It’s only May, but the sun is getting “hot enough to split the rocks,” as we say at home. Indeed, summer *has* come early.

To learn more about the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A) and Operation ATTENTION, visit:

The NTM-A website: <http://ntm-a.com>

and the CCTM-A website: [www.facebook.com/OpATTENTION](http://www.facebook.com/OpATTENTION) .

## **IKE trains British Sailors**

*Number: NNS130517-12 Release Date: 5/17/2013 By MC3 Shannon M. Smith*

US 5TH FLEET AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (NNS) -- USS Dwight D Eisenhower (CVN-69) (IKE) is one of several U.S. Navy ships training British Sailors on large-deck flight operations as the United Kingdom prepares to launch the first Royal Navy aircraft carrier in more than 30 years. The US-UK Long Lead Specialist Skills Program (LLSSP) commenced in early 2013 with British Sailors aboard IKE and Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3). The program is an opportunity for British Sailors to regain operational experience at sea while their carriers are under construction.

"The training the guys have received on board is second to none," said Lt Cmdr Jon Llewellyn, aircraft handling and crash rescue firefighting staff officer at British fleet headquarters. "It's absolutely thorough, professional and valid. They're gaining experience out on the deck, which would be impossible for us to replicate in the UK at the moment."

The British carriers under construction are the result of a strategic defense review by the British government in 1998, which called for a return to aircraft carriers. The first of the Queen Elizabeth class carriers will be 65,000-ton HMS Queen Elizabeth (R08), which will utilize the new F-35B Lightning II vertical take-off and landing aircraft. It is scheduled for sea trials in 2017. LLSSP is training British Sailors in flight deck operations, maintenance and weapons handling to expose UK personnel to all facets of fixed wing and rotary wing aviation. The program helps fulfill a joint-signed Statement of Intent on Enhanced Cooperation on Carrier Operations by the U.S. Secretary of Defense and the UK Secretary of State for Defence in January 2012. The statement of intent provides guidance to "ensure the generation, training, operation and sustainability of carrier forces are effective and reflect maximum interoperability and synergy of maritime power projection."

"It brings our two Navies, and countries, and forces together," said Lt John Firth, UK liaison officer with Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 8, currently deployed with IKE. "Rather than being two Navies operating in a separate way, we're actually two Navies that can come together and rely on each other."

The British pioneered carrier development between World War I and World War II. The HMS Hermes (95), commissioned in 1924, was the first aircraft carrier to have a full-length flight deck and a starboard side control tower island. The British also helped develop angled flight decks, steam catapults and arresting gear. The last Royal Navy carrier to have these features was HMS Ark Royal (R09), which was decommissioned in 1980. "I think it's one of these things that's an ongoing cycle," Firth said. "We've pretty much come full circle now that we taught you originally how to do the big deck angled flight deck operations and now you're passing it back to us." The program is expected to run six to eight years, eventually involving more than 300 Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel. Those currently involved in the training program are intimately familiar with aircraft, each having an average of 10 or more

years of experience. The program allows them to learn new elements of aircraft operation, such as how to coordinate launching and recovering a large number of aircraft in cyclical operations.

"They're learning the space and number of aircraft involved and the actual choreography of moving the aircraft around," Firth said. "It really is very complicated what they're doing and requires a lot of training and experience."

The four British Sailors aboard Eisenhower said they've used their time on the ship to soak up as much information as possible. "It's been intense, very intense at times," Royal Navy Aircraft Handler 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mark Chapman said. "Tiring, but I think we've adapted to it slowly but surely." "We'll be where we want to be by the time we leave," Royal Navy Aircraft Handler 1<sup>st</sup> Class Raymond Richardson said. Firth said most American Sailors he's spoken with have been impressed with the progress of the British Sailors, saying their knowledge rivals those who've served multiple deployments. The depth of that progress was demonstrated May 12, 2013 when Royal Navy Chief Petty Officer Aircraft Handler Stacy Gager became the first ever Royal Navy Sailor to qualify as an aircraft director aboard a US aircraft carrier. Royal Navy Aircraft Handler 1<sup>st</sup> Class Graeme Robinson said the program is a reflection of the nature of the US and UK's special relationship as well as a look into the future of interoperability between nations.

"Britain and America have always worked together," Robinson said. "It's just to continue that relationship, taking it forward."

## **Australia's army chief demonstrates how you address sex abuse**

By Harold Maass | June 13, 2013

*Why have no American generals been this bold?*

Like the US, Australia is faced with a scandal involving women in the military. That's where the similarities end, however. While American generals have been criticized for their handling of an epidemic of sexual assaults, Australia's army chief, Gen David Morrison, is getting rave reviews for a blistering video he released this week demanding, through clenched teeth, that sexists in his country's military mend their ways or find another place to work. Morrison this week revealed that 17 military personnel, including high-ranking officers, were under investigation for allegedly creating and exchanging "explicit and profane" emails and images that were demeaning to women. Three of them have been suspended.

"Those who think that it is okay to behave in a way that demeans or exploits their colleagues have *no* place in this army," Morrison says in the video. "Female soldiers and officers have proven themselves worthy of the best traditions of the Australian army... If that does not suit you, then *get out*... There is no place for you amongst this band of brothers and sisters." Morrison also promises to be "ruthless" in rooting out sex abuse in the ranks, and urges all soldiers to do their part if they witness abuse. "Show moral courage and take a stand," he says.

Commentators in Australia and the U.S. say the withering message was exactly what everyone — victims and abusers alike — needed to hear. "Holeeee. Effffing. Crap," says Mary Elizabeth Williams at *Salon*. "It's brilliant." The words are powerful. But the utterly credible fury is what nails it. It is a validation of the

frustration and anger a whole lot of people who have been on the receiving end of that 'toughness' have been enduring for a very long time. And it says, yeah, you're right. This is goddamn outrageous. [Salon] Morrison's direct, unflinching attacks on abusers have left observers slack-jawed. "Er, hang on," writes Sean Power at *Mamamia*. "Where are all the weasel words, the evasive language, and the spin?... This bloke is the real deal."

Watch Gen Morrison's speech:

<http://theweek.com/article/index/245631/watch-australias-army-chief-demonstrates-how-you-address-sex-abuse>

## **DARPA Funded Robot Designed for Disaster Relief Tasks**

*By Cheryl Pellerin American Forces Press Service*

*WASHINGTON, July 12, 2013 - One of the most-advanced humanoid robots ever built was introduced to the public yesterday in Waltham, Mass.*

The 6-foot 2-inches tall, 330-pound Atlas robot, built by Boston Dynamics, is funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and it's designed to help humankind deal with future disasters. That's the goal of the ongoing DARPA Robotics Challenge, or DRC. The DRC seeks to enable ground-breaking research and development in hardware and software to help robots perform the most-hazardous jobs in human-supervised humanitarian assistance and disaster-relief operations, to reduce casualties, avoid more destruction and save lives.



The challenge was launched in October 2012 and will end after the final robot trial in December 2014, when teams will compete for a \$2 million grant from DARPA. The first challenge event was virtual -- designed for those who didn't have their own robots or hardware experience -- and produced seven winners who designed their own software to run virtual robots through a series of tasks in a DARPA real-time open-source simulator. The winning teams each received an Atlas robot, which will be programmed with their software. Then the teams will compete with each other and with other robots in the next event. They also will receive DARPA funding and ongoing technical support from Atlas developer Boston Dynamics.

In December, the second event and first live competition -- open to the public -- will be held at the Homestead-Miami Speedway in Homestead, Fla. "The Virtual Robotics Challenge was a proving ground for teams' ability to create software to control a robot in a hypothetical scenario," DARPA Program Manager Dr. Gill Pratt said in a statement. "The DRC simulator tasks were fairly accurate representations of real-world causes and effects but the experience wasn't quite the same as handling an actual, physical robot," said Pratt, adding, "Now these seven teams will see if their simulation-honed

algorithms can run a real machine in real environments, and we expect all the teams will be further refining their algorithms using both simulation and experimentation." That software and the actions of a human operator through a control unit will guide each robot's suite of sensors, actuators, joints and limbs.

The Atlas robot can make a range of natural movements and has an on-board, real-time control computer. The Atlas also boasts a hydraulic pump and thermal management, two arms, two legs, a torso and a head, 28 hydraulically actuated joints, a Carnegie Robotics sensor head with LIDAR and stereo sensors, and two sets of hands -- one provided by iRobot and one by the Department of Energy's Sandia National Laboratory. The term, LIDAR, taken from the combination of the words light and radar, is a sensing technology that employs laser beams to measure distances. During a recent media roundtable, Pratt said DARPA wants to employ the Robotics Challenge to prove that robots can be compatible in environments engineered for people -- opening doors, climbing stairs and moving around, even in environments degraded by some sort of disaster.

DARPA also wants to demonstrate that robots can be made to use tools designed for people, from screwdrivers to fire trucks, and that robots can be supervised by people who aren't trained to operate robots. Another DARPA advance involving robotics is the level of communication between people and robots. In the past, Pratt said, robots, particularly robots for explosive ordnance disposal, have been operated with human supervision at the motion level. "A person will tell a robot to go a centimeter forward or a centimeter to the left or tell the arm to move forward to grasp and do things like that," he explained. But the DARPA Robotics Challenge is set up so communications are degraded, as they might be in a disaster, to the extent that such "tele-operation" won't be a practical way to communicate with the machines, Pratt said. "Instead," he added, "what's going to be necessary is for the teams to give task-level commands to the robot. Things like, open the door, go up the stairs, turn the handle. What that will require is for the robot itself to use [its own] perceptual processing ... to understand what it is looking at and then to use behavior controls to execute the task while watching what the effect of the task is." The kinds of robots used today in disaster scenarios are derived from robots developed for explosive ordnance disposal tasks, Pratt said. "They tend to be pretty small machines," he added. "They have treads in most cases and they're mainly used for inspection, so they help give situational awareness to first responders ... but they don't do anything to really affect the disaster."

The hope is to develop machines that can intervene and help make a disaster less severe, Pratt said, adding that a good example occurred during the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster following the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. "During the first 24 hours if it had been possible to vent the reactors, then the explosions would not have occurred and the disasters would have been much less severe," he explained. "Human beings, in fact, tried to do it but had to turn around and go back because their radiation dosimeters read too high," Pratt said. "That was a perfect place where, if we could have sent a machine in quickly during the first day, the disaster would have been much less destructive."

# **Petition for a Volunteer Service Medal for our Veterans (GGVSM)**

*Petition published by Dave Palmer on Aug 07, 2009*

**Target:** Government of Canada

**Web site:** <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/volunteer-serv...>

## **Petition Background (Preamble):**

NOTE: There is no age restriction to signing an approved Petition and the GGVSM Petition is approved. Signing anonymously will not support it, please sign and be counted.

The Air Force Association of Canada has endorsed the creation of this medal to recognize Volunteerism. For the Heritage of our nation and the recognition of thousands of young men and women let's support their legacy for service. Thanks! Since 2 March 1947, our Veterans have not been issued a Volunteer Service Medal as was the Canadian tradition to do so up until 1 March 1947. The proposed Governor General's Volunteer Service Medal (GGVSM) is to recognize the conviction of our Veterans to have volunteered to serve our Nation. Many Veterans who have voluntarily served in our country's forces and for reasons did not serve for an extended period (more than 12 years) and they left the services. These Veterans never received a single "Canadian" medal or any recognition for their service.

The GGVSM would re-introduce a proud aspect of Canadian Heritage and remembrance of our Veterans. The GGVSM would also be highly supportive of Veterans Affairs "Canada Remembers program". Let us remember all of our Veterans and give them at least one medal to wear to give them the dignity and honour they deserve for volunteering to serve and the GGVSM would be a truly outstanding Canadian Medal to do this.

## **Petition:**

To The Government of Canada

## **Whereas:**

1. During a specified period of Service to their Country, Canadians, from 3 September 1939, to 1 March 1947, received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, and
2. During a specified period of Service to their Country, Canadians, from 27 June 1950, to 27 July 1953, received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal for Korea;

We, the undersigned residents of Canada, respectfully call upon the Government of Canada, to recognize by means of the issuance of a new Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, to be designated "The Governor General's Volunteer Service Medal", for volunteer service by Canadians in the Regular and Reserve Military Forces and Cadet Corps Support Staff who were not eligible for the aforementioned medals and who have completed 365 days of uninterrupted honourable duty in the service of their country Canada, since 2 March 1947.

[Sign the petition](#)

## "Who Is That?"

Here is this week's photo for identification. It is from the accessioned files, so something is known about it, but not much. Can you help the Museum to fill in more details? We have three officers, from left to right: a Lieutenant Colonel, a Colonel and a Major, all wearing the recently approved Canadian Army rank badges:)



*(actually not- both the Col and Maj are wearing the old or 'Kings' crowns while the Lt Col is wearing the current 'Queens' crown)*

The Major is from 43 H/MAA, but the others? The Lieutenant Colonel and the Major have served overseas, but one can't see the ribbons on the Colonel. Also, are those jump wings that he has? What about the trophy? It is the Col T Ingledow Trophy, awarded annually to the best battery in the 43rd, but what more can you tell us of it, and where is it now? Is that the Colonel himself? Finally, when do you think the photo was taken?

Your answers, sent to John Donald Redmond ([johnd.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd._redmond@telus.net)) are always appreciated. Last week's winners are now on the river cruise, as promised."

*Last week's picture was 15 Fd (31 Bty) marching down Hasting St on a Remembrance Day in the mid-60s. The Bty is led by Maj (at the time) Pellant and the BSM, WOII 'Mac' McKenzie, who died tragically in an MVA a few years later. To Mac's right is Lt Kennedy. We are not sure about the officer to Mac's left but Ian Newby thinks it might be him. Behind him is Bdr Terry Walsh. There are a few more faces that look familiar but no one has come up with any other names yet.*

## From the 'Punitary'

The prisoner sneered at the guards as he escaped over the prison wall. He gave them a condescending look.

## Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

The best sniper position is always the hardest to reach.

## Quotable Quotes

Some people are making such thorough plans for rainy days that they aren't enjoying today's sunshine. - *William Feather*