

## Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Aug 20, 2013

### Wednesday Lunches

**Mrs Lum is on her scheduled vacation. Lunches resume on Sept 4<sup>th</sup>. NO LUNCHES on Aug 21 or 28<sup>th</sup>.**

### Military recruits struggling to win the battle of the bulge, audit says

*Lee Berthiaume Published: August 16, 2013*

Canada's military is having to accept new recruits who are fatter, less educated and harder to motivate than previous generations because quality applicants are in dwindling supply, an internal Defence Department audit has concluded.



*Unlike these soldiers, seen at Nova Scotia's Camp Aldershot in 2007, the audit found that "fitness and educational levels of recruits in the last five years have been slightly lower than in the past."*

*Photo: WO Jerry Kean/DND*

OTTAWA — Canada's military is having to accept new recruits who are fatter, less educated and harder to motivate than previous generations because quality applicants are in dwindling supply, an internal Defence Department audit has concluded. Despite an end to combat operations in Afghanistan and deep budget cuts, officials say the military needs more than 4,000 new recruits each year to offset attrition and keep 68,000 full-time troops in uniform. According to the audit conducted last year but only recently made public, Canadian military recruiters are expected "to encourage dedicated individuals, who are mentally and physically fit, towards military service as a career of choice." However, the department's auditors found that "recently, this has been an increasingly difficult challenge."

The Canadian Forces has historically drawn heavily on young, white males from rural communities to fill its ranks, but the auditors cited recent census data showing that "traditional pool" has been steadily shrinking. "Factors such as increased levels of education, an aging workforce, a labour pool increasingly made up of immigrants, and the changing expectations

regarding the nature of work among the 17 to 29-year-olds have also been contributing to challenges in recruiting,” they added. The result? The auditors found that “fitness and educational levels of recruits in the last five years have been slightly lower than in the past,” while “compared to previous generations, recruits of today are described as harder to motivate.” Despite this, they warned “raising the quality line” could backfire by making it even harder to find new recruits, and instead noted a number of initiatives such as sending out-of-shape recruits to fat camp before basic training has had positive results.

The audit was conducted before the military rolled out a new fitness test earlier this year that it says more closely reflects the actual tasks the country’s soldiers, sailors and air force personnel must be able to accomplish such as carrying sandbags. It’s unclear what impact the new test will have on recruiting, if any, but auditors concluded the military has been able to “cope with differences observed with this slightly less fit and educated generation of recruits.” Auditors noted the budget for military recruiting has been slashed from \$38.6 million in 2009-10 to \$25.6 million this year, which has resulted in the closure of several recruiting centres. However, they do not draw a link between those cuts and the declining quality in recruits. The audit report also noted Defence Department officials have looked at following the United Kingdom and Australia in privatizing military recruitment, but that the costs outweigh the benefits at this time.

Royal Military College professor Christian Leuprecht, who has researched military demographics and recruiting for years, felt the audit report was as much a statement about the military’s failure to adapt to changing circumstances as anything else. Leuprecht noted the absolute number of youth in Canada continues to grow, meaning there is still a substantial and growing population to recruit from. He questioned whether the military has continued to rely too heavily on its traditional recruit pool and old training methods. “We just need to work harder with the people who may be interested in joining but perhaps don’t have all the attributes that we need,” he said. “Is what the organization is trying to make these kids do really what the organization needs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century? And is that perhaps why the kids themselves are a little bit disenchanted with what they’re being asked to do because they’re questioning how in the world this is possibly relevant?”

## **Stephen Harper Wants You to Major In Military**

*Yves Engler National Post, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

*The Conservatives' militarism is unrelenting.*

Last month, the Harper government launched a Civil Military Leadership Pilot Initiative at the University of Alberta. The program “allows[s] people to simultaneously obtain a university degree while also gaining leadership experience in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Reserves.” The four-year Civil Military Leadership Pilot Initiative will be “co-directed by the University of Alberta and the CAF” and the government hopes to export this “test model” to other universities. The program is an attempt to re-establish the Canadian Officer Training Corps, which was offered at universities from 1912 until 1968. According to Lee Windsor, deputy director of the University of New Brunswick's Gregg Centre for the Study of War and

Society, the Canadian Officers Training Corps program "introduced university undergraduates to a form of military service on campus, providing them with leadership and other military training and preparing them to join the reserve or the regular force if they wished to do so." This latest move onto campus is part of a multifaceted effort to expand the military's role in Canadian society. When the Conservative government updated the citizenship handbook *Discover Canada: the Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship*, they added over a dozen photos of armed forces personnel.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada also decreed that citizenship ceremonies include a military speaker. Introduced at the start of the ceremony, the veteran should declare: "As a Canadian citizen, you live in a democratic country where individual rights and freedoms are respected. Thousands of brave Canadians have fought and died for these rights and freedoms. The commitment to Canada of our men and women in uniform should never be forgotten." Huge sums of public money have been spent promoting the military at Canada Day festivities, the Calgary Stampede, the Canadian National Exhibition, Santa Claus Parades, the Grey Cup, NHL hockey games and other cultural and sporting events. Recently, the Canadian Forces have been spending over \$350 million a year and directing 650 staff members to carrying out these public relations efforts. The federal government's deference seems to have gone to the military's head. Five years into the Conservative government the Canadian Forces openly proclaimed that it should determine public opinion. In November 2011, *Embassy* reported: "An annual report from the Department of National Defence says Canadians should appreciate that their values are shaped in part by their military. That represents a shift from past annual departmental reports that said departmental activities were informed by Canadian interests and values. Now it's the other way around."

While strengthening the military's role in the cultural and ideological arena, the Conservatives have also taken a decidedly pro-military position on arms control. Ottawa has refused to ratify the UN Arms Trade Treaty, which is designed to limit weapons from getting into conflict zones or into the hands of human rights violators. The Harper government also watered down Canada's adherence to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The director of the Cluster Muniton Coalition, Laura Cheeseman, explained "Canada cannot claim to have banned cluster bombs when it proposes to allow its military to help others use the weapons, and even leaves open the possibility of Canadian forces using them." Along with its ambivalence towards UN arms control measures, the Conservatives have expanded the list of nations that Canadian defence companies can export prohibited weapons to. In April 2008 Canada's Automatic Firearms Country Control List was increased from 20 to 31 states and in December they added Colombia, the worst human rights violator in the Americas, to the List. Now, they are looking to add four more countries to the Automatic Firearms Country Control List.

The Conservatives have helped military companies in numerous other ways. They have been supporting the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries, the arms industry's main lobby group, through grants and dedicated trade commissioners. CADSI is also benefiting from direct political support. Senior representatives from the Department of National Defense, the Canadian Forces, Foreign Affairs and the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) have

participated in recent CADSI trade missions. After a December 2011 visit to sell weapons to the Kuwaiti monarchy, CADSI president Tim Page applauded what he described as the Conservatives "whole of government effort". During the Harper reign the CCC, whose board is appointed by the government, has taken on a more expansive role as a go-between on military sales with foreign governments. According to a June 2011 *Embassy* article, "the Canadian Commercial Corporation has been transformed from a low-profile Canadian intermediary agency to a major player in promoting Canadian global arms sales."

Traditionally, the CCC sold Canadian weaponry to the U.S. Department of Defense under the 1956 Defence Production Sharing Agreement but during the Conservative government it's begun emulating some aspects of the U.S. defence department's Foreign Military Sales program, which facilitates that country's global arms sales. In June of last year *Embassy* noted: "In the last few years, the Canadian Commercial Corporation, a Crown corporation, has helped Canadian firms sell everything from military hardware and weapons to wiretapping technology, forensics for ballistics, surveillance, document detection, sensor systems, bulletproof vests and helmets, training, and other services." According to CCC president Marc Whittingham, who wrote in a May 2010 issue of *Hill Times* that "there is no better trade show for defence equipment than a military mission", the agency is "partnering with government ministers to get the job done." The Conservatives have worked hard to expand Canadian arms sales as well as to convince the public that it should support this country's military-industrial complex.

## **Ottawa Testing \$620,000 Stealth Snowmobile for Arctic**

*Jeff McIntosh. The Canadian Press Posted: Aug 18, 2013*

*According to The Canadian Press, Ottawa has been testing out a stealth snowmobile to help transport Canadian Forces throughout the Arctic without being detected.*

The Canadian military has been secretly test-driving a \$620,000 stealth snowmobile in its quest to quietly whisk troops on clandestine operations in the Arctic. The Canadian Press has learned that soldiers have taken the new hybrid-electric snowmobile prototype on trial runs to evaluate features such as speed, noise level, battery endurance and acceleration. The Department of National Defence even has a nickname for its cutting-edge, covert tool: "Loki," after the "mythological Norse shape-shifting god." Word of the federal hunt for a stealth snowmobile first surfaced two years ago when National Defence's research and development agency posted a public tender. That 2011 tendering document, however, offered few details on the future of these missions, except for the top priority: silence. The project kicked off at a time when the Conservative government was laying out promises to boost Canada's military muscle in the Far North, in a once-vaunted package of Canadian Forces upgrades the feds have largely failed to implement. Prime Minister Stephen Harper is scheduled to arrive in the Arctic on Sunday for a six-day tour of the region, where his government's main focus has gradually moved from improving the country's northern military capabilities to promoting economic development. The stealth-snowmobiles project has withstood that political shift. National Defence has made it clear it does not intend to spend any more money on Arctic mobility for eight years, but its research branch says the evaluation of the silent snowmobile, though still in its early stages, will continue.

The Canadian Press obtained a report that offers a behind-the-scenes peek at how soldiers ran the prototype through "informal" tests in February across varying snow conditions on Canadian Forces Base Petawawa. "These experiments compared Loki against commercially available snowmobiles already in use, testing a wide variety of the snowmobiles' characteristics, including speed, towing capacity, endurance, mobility, usability, and of course, noise emissions," says the heavily redacted report, acquired under the Access to Information Act. Snowmobile tests. In one test, military personnel used sound-meter readings to compare the prototype's noise performance against two gas-powered snowmobiles. Another trial saw the machine driven at a steady speed on a mix of flat terrain and hilly snow-covered roads until batteries died. Soldiers wielding a radar gun also tested the stealth snowmobile's acceleration as it raced 100 metres down a flat, snow-packed track. "The prototype must be at least nearly as capable and reliable as a standard internal combustion snowmobile, while providing a significant noise reduction," the report said. "For military purposes, it is not enough for a snowmobile to operate quietly."

The report also found potential gaps in the military's assessments. "One of the difficulties encountered in evaluating Loki is the lack of a standard set of CF snowmobile requirements," the document said. The quest, meanwhile, to develop a silent snowmobile remains highly secretive. Large sections of the May report, such as test results and comments, were blacked out. The document justified its omissions under different provisions of the Access to Information Act, including one that says information is withheld because releasing it could be injurious to the defence of Canada or the detection, prevention or suppression of subversive or hostile activities. A government spokesman declined to make the report's author available for comment, nor did he answer questions on why Canada's military wants the unconventional snow machine. "In general, anything in the military that's quieter is going to be advantageous," Noel Paine, a spokesman for Defence Research and Development Canada, said. "Whether it flies or goes on the sea or anywhere else, if it's quieter it's advantageous to any military." Later, in an email, Paine said the testing and evaluations are ongoing.

He also said the Canadian Forces are looking at different small vehicles that "can be modified to traverse all types of difficult terrain, under various conditions. This includes, but is not limited to, vehicles such as snowmobiles." In the original federal tender, Ottawa said it was seeking a snow machine that would run by gas-powered engine, but would have the capability to easily switch to a "silent mode" electric motor. "The noise level of an internal combustion engine cannot be reduced to an acceptable level for missions where covertness may be required, especially given the increased propagation of sound in cold, dry, Arctic air," read the tendering document, which also indicated bids could not exceed \$550,000. It also said National Defence's research agency was "pursuing the development of a 'silent' snowmobile for winter operations in Canada, specifically in the Arctic."

The Canadian Press obtained the contract, which listed the revised price tag at nearly \$620,000. The winning bid came from CrossChasm Technologies, which is based in Waterloo, Ont., and also has an office in Montreal. Simon Ouellette, the firm's director of project development,

refused to discuss the stealth snowmobile due to a confidentiality agreement with National Defence. One Arctic policy expert questioned whether the cost of developing such a vehicle is money well-spent, particularly since he doesn't believe there are any significant security threats in the Far North. "I don't see a whole lot of evidence that criminals and terrorists are scooting around Canada's North on snowmobiles and that we have to sneak up on them," said Michael Byers, a former federal NDP candidate who teaches international law at the University of British Columbia. Byers said he's not sure whether defence officials have an accurate picture of Canada's actual needs. Perhaps, he added, they have an obsession with high technology. "I can't help but wonder whether they've been watching too many (James) Bond movies."

## **Hagel, Chang Seek to Bolster Military-to-Military Relations**

*By Jim Garamone American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19, 2013 - Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Chinese Minister of National Defense Gen. Chang Wanquan today announced that their countries will take a series of steps to improve military-to-military relations.



*Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Chinese Defense Minister Gen. Chang Wanquan hold a joint press conference at the Pentagon, Aug. 19, 2013. The two leaders met to discuss a broad range of issues, including the rebalancing U.S. forces to the Asia-Pacific region and U.S.-China military-to-military relations. DOD photo by Glenn Fawcett*

Speaking to reporters at a Pentagon news conference, both leaders said that close US-China relations will provide stability and security for the Asia-Pacific region and the world. Establishing better military-to-military relations between the United States and China is important to the overall bilateral relationship, Hagel said. "The United States welcomes and supports the rise of a prosperous and responsible China that helps solve regional and global problems," the secretary said. The secretary announced he has accepted Chang's invitation to visit China next year, a move that highlights contacts between the two nations at the highest military levels. Contacts between service members will build trust, both Hagel and Chang said. The two men led delegations discussing the way forward and agreed to a number of steps. The United States has invited the Chinese to attend next year's Rim of the Pacific multilateral naval

exercise, Hagel said. Also, Chang and Hagel agreed to expand the current system of defense exchanges and joint exercises. Some examples include Chinese midshipmen joining a multinational exchange program at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement Working Group meeting in Hawaii today to discuss humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

"And this weekend, our navies will conduct another counter-piracy exercise in the Gulf of Aden, building on the first-ever joint counter-piracy exercise we held last year," Hagel said. Hagel and Chang also agreed to set up an exchange mechanism between the People's Liberation Army's strategic planning department and the Joint Staff's strategic, plans and policy directorate. "We also agreed to take use of mechanisms, such as defense consultative talks, military maritime consultative agreements, to actively explore a notification mechanism for major military activities and continue to study the rules of behavior on military air and maritime activities," Chang said through an interpreter. The two men also discussed the recently established US-China cyber working group and steps to strengthen it. Hagel said he and Chang also discussed regional security issues, including North Korea, the East China Sea and the South China Sea. Chang emphasized a number of times that it is his mission to build "a new model of major country relationship" between China and the U.S. based on mutual respect and win-win cooperation. "At present, the China-US relationship is in a new historical era," he said. "Building a new model of China-U.S. military relationship can help us to increase strategic trust to reduce strategic risks and to maintain world peace and regional stability."

## **Peacekeepers Day**

*Ottawa August 9, 2013*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today issued the following statement to mark National Peacekeepers' Day:

"For several decades, Canada has made important contributions to peacekeeping operations around the world. "Tens of thousands of Canadian Armed Forces members, police officers and civilians have worked tirelessly to promote Canada's interests and international stability. This has included placing themselves between hostile forces, supervising cease-fires and the withdrawal of opposing troops, providing valuable support to international security operations and stabilization efforts through capacity building, training and policy development, and participating in strategic deployments of equipment and uniformed personnel and civilian experts." "On this day, let us pay tribute to the remarkable work accomplished by all Canadian and international peacekeepers and remember with deep respect the more than 275 citizens of our country who paid the ultimate price while on peacekeeping missions. "Let us also remember those Canadians currently keeping up the proud tradition of peacekeeping in places such as Haiti, Israel, Cyprus and South Sudan, and wish them a safe return home. "Today, I call on all Canadians to join me in saluting and thanking these heroic and selfless individuals who sacrifice so much to help make the world a better place."

## **"Who Is That?"**



Last week's photo – a group of 15 Fd Officers at an OP in Wainwright in 1965. Second from the left is Vic Stevenson. To his left Gord Platt, who became CO later in the year, and Al Langmuir (with the binos). The offr in front is Tom Dalzeil, BC of 5 Bty, which was part of 15 Fd at the time. We haven't id'd the officer on the left but he is probably from 5Bty as well.

"This weeks' quiz photo should be of interest to uniform historians. Most histories state that the Canadian Women's Army Corps was stood down in 1964, but this photo is from several years later, judging from the Mobile Command flashes worn on the uniforms (post-1968). Yet, there is a CWAC, in fully-fledged CWACiness. So, two questions for those younger members of our organization: who are they, especially her, and when is this? The place, of course, is our dearly-beloved armoury, so no points for spotting that, or for identifying the C-1 gun. By the way, if someone has CWAC collar dogs and shoulder titles that they'd like to donate to our museum, to add to the uniform worn by "Shoeless Sal", please feel free to fork them over."



As always, answers to [johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net) or the editor. Thank you all for your help with the museum's collection.

### **From the 'Punitary'**

Marriage is the mourning after the knot before.

### **Murphy's Laws**

Every day, in every way, things get better and better; then worse again in the evening.

### **Quotable Quotes**

"The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not." -- *Thomas Jefferson*