



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Jan 22, 2013

NOABC Lunch Speaker - Wednesday, 30 January

The monthly lunch speaker program will continue for the winter and spring at Bessborough Armoury. Talks are given in the lecture room adjacent to the Mess starting between 1315 and 1330hrs. Attendees at these talks are welcome to participate in the lunch in the Mess. Bar opens at 1130hrs, lunch service starts at 1200hrs. Jacket and tie (equivalent for ladies) is required at lunch. Guests are always welcome.

NOTE: Effective January 1st lunch tickets cost \$15pp

The speaker this month will be Dan McGreer. you will remember him from his presentations in 2009 on the Arctic Offshore Patrol Ship (AOPS) design. Dan is with STX Canada and is the Project Manager for the design of the new Polar Icebreaker for the Canadian Coastguard, which will be built under the National Ship Procurement Strategy. He will talk about the design of the vessel and include video footage from recent model testing in the ice towing tank in St. John's, Newfoundland.

DUES 2013

It's time to pay dues again:

Vancouver Artillery Association – Dues are \$75/yr. Make cheques payable to the Vancouver Artillery Association and send to the Vancouver Artillery Association at the address below.

15 Field Regt Officers Mess – Dues are \$60/yr. Make cheques payable to 15RCA Officers Mess and send to the Associate Members Representative at the address below.

Association and Mess dues to:

2025 West 11th Ave, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

RUSI Vancouver – dues are \$25/yr. Make cheques payable to RUSI Vancouver and send to Keith Freer

524-666 Leg-in-Boot Square, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3

Minister Blaney Announces 2013 as the Year of the Korean War Veteran

Ottawa - The Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs, today announced that 2013 will mark the Year of the Korean War Veteran. Minister Blaney made the announcement

today at a special event held at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum. He was joined by Senator Yonah Martin, representatives from the Royal Canadian Legion, the Korea Veterans Association of Canada, and Korean Veterans.

“Our Government is honoured to mark 2013 as the Year of the Korean War Veteran,” said Minister Blaney. “It is our duty today to pay tribute to more 26,000 Canadian men and women in uniform who came to the aid of South Koreans during the Korean War, and in particular the 516 Canadians who gave their lives in service to defend the values of peace and freedom on the Korean peninsula.”

“This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice,” said Senator Yonah Martin. “In the years that followed, Korean War Veterans have diligently strived to respectfully commemorate the sacrifices of so many of their fellow Canadians. This year, our nations will pay special tribute to their sacrifices.”

“The Korean War, Canada’s third bloodiest conflict, commenced in 1950,” said John Bishop, National President of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada. “The 60th anniversary of the ceasefire will occur this year, and will be remembered by all those who served in Korea. We will not forget our 516 comrades who made the supreme sacrifice, or the 1,558 who were wounded. Minister Blaney’s strong commitment to honouring those who served in Korea should be commended. We are very grateful for his efforts.”

During the event, Minister Blaney also launched and demonstrated an interactive Web site feature, Land of the Morning Calm, which is now available at veterans.gc.ca. This feature presents Korean War history and archival footage, interviews with Korean War Veterans and an interactive history calendar. The feature is presented in broadcast style, complete with news anchor and video footage. “I am proud to offer interactive multimedia tools that will encourage Canadians of all ages, especially youth, to come to know and be thankful for the sacrifices young men and women made during the Korean War,” said Minister Blaney.

The Year of the Korean War Veteran coincides with the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and South Korea. The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, and active fighting ended on July 27, 1953, with the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement. Approximately 7,000 Canadians continued to serve in the tense theatre of operations between the signing of the Armistice and the end of 1955, with some Canadian troops remaining until 1957.

The names of the 516 Canadians who died in service during the war, including the nearly 400 Canadians who lie at rest in the Republic of Korea, are inscribed in the Korean War Book of Remembrance, which is on display in the Peace Tower in Ottawa.

For more information on Canada’s role in the Korean War or the Year of the Korean War Veteran, please visit www.veterans.gc.ca

Lightning will ground F35 fighter jet known as the Lightning II

Britain's £150 million new combat jet has been banned

from flying in bad weather amid fears that it could explode. By Sean Rayment, Defence Correspondent - 20 Jan 2013



Attempts to increase fuel efficiency by reducing the jet's weight have also made it more vulnerable to enemy attack than the generation of aircraft it was supposed to replace
Photo: AP

The production of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter – the world's most sophisticated and expensive combat aircraft – has been derailed after engineers discovered that the jet's fuel tank could explode if struck by lightning. The disclosure is a major setback for the aircraft, also known as the Lightning II, which is due to enter service with both the RAF and the Royal Navy by 2018.

Attempts to increase fuel efficiency by reducing the jet's weight have also made it more vulnerable to enemy attack than the generation of aircraft it was supposed to replace.

The damaging findings were disclosed in a Pentagon document which revealed that a fault within the JSF's fuel tank could potentially lead to catastrophic explosion if the aircraft was struck by lightning in a thunderstorm.

The report from the Pentagon's Operational Test and Evaluation Office states that all test flying within 25 miles of thunderstorms is "not permitted" until a device in the fuel tank which maintains correct oxygen levels is redesigned. The fear of an exploding fuel tank is just one of a series of problem to befall the F-35 programme. A design fault in the fuel tank has also prevented the JSF being able to rapidly descend to low altitude.

The Pentagon report describes both failings as "unacceptable for combat or combat training". Examinations by the United States Air Force and the Lockheed Martin, the aircraft's manufacturer, also discovered a handful of cracks in the tested aircraft, including on the right wing and right engine of the F-35A variant, and on another part of the F-35B variant. "All of these discoveries will require mitigation plans and may include redesigning parts and additional weight," the report added.

Britain is buying the F-35B – the short take-off and vertical landing version – as a replacement for the Harrier. The "multirole" plane will be used for air defence, ground attack and reconnaissance missions. The F-35 has a top speed of 1,300mph and a range of 1,450 miles, while the Harrier could reach a speed of 700mph and had a range of 350 miles. The older aircraft also had no radar transparency or stealth capabilities, while the F-35 has both.

However the version being ordered by Britain is the is the heaviest, least capable and most expensive of the three versions of the plane, as it carries a lift fan propulsion system for its "jump jet" capability, which it needs to land on the Royal Navy's new aircraft carriers.

The F-35 is also designed to be practically invisible to radar. Its shape has no right angles, which reflect radar waves, and a special “fibre” coating make it difficult to detect on any enemy radar. Low heat emissions and an ability to carry armaments in an internal weapons bay instead of mounted on wings and underneath the fuselage further enhances its stealth capabilities. The aircraft will carry a range of weapons including air-to-air rockets and satellite guided bombs. Pilots are fitted with helmets which allow them to see 360 degrees, and displays all the data they need inside the visor. The cockpit also features an all-glass digital instrument panel and a speech recognition system. Each aircraft has more than 24 million lines of “software code”.

In theory the F-35 should be able to fly into the enemy’s air space, attack its target and return safely to friendly territory without ever being detected. But the F-35 has been dogged by criticism since its inception in the 1990s, particularly in the United States where it has gained unwelcome notoriety as the most expensive equipment project ever undertaken by the Pentagon. Estimates suggest that the total cost of buying, operating and maintaining the planes over the next 30 years will be £625 billion – or \$1 trillion.

Winslow Wheeler, at the US Center for Defense Information described the F-35 programme as a “gigantic performance disappointment”, which was not even as stealthy as the F-22 Raptor. He added: “It’s the counterintuitive problem of paying a huge amount of money thinking you’re getting a Lamborghini or Ferrari: You’re not, you’re getting a Yugo (the cheap, mass-produced cars made in the former Yugoslavia).”

Though British pilots have already been involved in the test flying programme, they will not be flying the plane off UK bases or the two new aircraft carriers until 2018. The US is spending around £254 billion to buy 2,500 F-35s for its navy, air force and marine corps. The previous government said the UK would buy 138 planes but Philip Hammond, the Defence Secretary, has so far committed to purchasing only 48. The fuel tank problems are the second major blow to hit the programme in recent weeks. Last month Canada pulled out of a deal to buy 65 F-35s over fears that the aircraft could be too expensive to run. Canada is not the only country to get cold feet. Italy reduced its purchase to 90 F-35s instead of the initial 131, while the US has delayed some of its purchases and may still trim the programme given its difficult fiscal situation.

An audit of the programme by KPMG revealed aircraft running costs could reach £28.4 billion over the next 42-years. The final decision on the number Britain buys will be dependent on the future role of the Royal Navy’s two carriers and whether, as is expected, the unit price of each aircraft falls. The future of the aircraft is also key to Britain’s defence industry and will help to sustain over 20,000 jobs. Although the plane is being manufactured by Lockheed Martin, Britain is a major partner in the programme, with both BAE Systems and Rolls-Royce playing key roles in the production and design of the jet.

A spokesman for Lockheed Martin said: “The F-35 is a stealth aircraft and by definition it is less vulnerable than any fourth generation fighter flying today. We don’t consider this a major

issue. We have demonstrated very good vulnerability performance and we continue to work this with the Joint Programme Office.”

To view an interactive display of the aircraft go to:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/defence/9804276/Inside-the-Lockheed-Martin-F-35B.html>

Former Top Army Commander Sounds the Alarm on Defence Spending

\$475M rise in administrative spending despite 22% army budget cut, says LGen Andrew Leslie



*LGen (r) Andrew Leslie speaks to CBC Radio's *The House* in his first in-depth interview since retiring from the ranks in Aug. 2011.*

(Bill Graveland)

A retired top army commander who penned a controversial report on transforming the military is breaking his silence 18 months after retiring from the ranks. In an interview airing Saturday on CBC Radio's *The House*, retired LGen Andrew Leslie said he's been drawn out from the sidelines after seeing a \$475-million increase in spending by the Department of National Defence for professional services, including consultants and contractors, coupled with a 22 per cent cut in the army's budget. 'It's going to result in lower levels of readiness; it's going to mean our troops are not as well trained.' Said Gen Leslie

The Public Accounts show that spending for Professional and Special Services at National Defence went from \$2.7 billion in 2009-2010 to \$3.2 billion in 2011-2012. "This has a direct impact on our troops. It's going to result in lower levels of readiness, it's going to mean our troops are not as well trained ... It's going to have an impact on part-time reserves, the lifeblood of the army. So I can't watch from the sidelines," Gen Leslie told host Evan Solomon in his first in-depth interview since retiring in Aug. 2011.

According to Leslie, the vast majority of those professional services include consultants and contractors which he calls "overhead." And this, said the general who oversaw the Canadian army until 2010, runs contrary to the advice he gave DND in his Transformation Report commissioned by the military.

"The strongest recommendation we had was that the corporate services number should be reduced by 10 per cent per year [over three years]. And it's going exactly in the wrong way."

In addition to this increase in spending, Leslie noticed that his successor, LGen Peter Devlin, testified before the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence in early December that his budget had been cut by 22 per cent. 'I'm not sure that [Devlin] was understood clearly for what he was saying.'—Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, Vice-Admiral Bruce Donaldson.

"As you would expect, that has had an effect on people, infrastructure and training," said Devlin, the Commander of the Canadian Army. "Training has a direct impact on operational capability, a direct impact on the part-time army who are the reserves, and a direct impact on training in Canada. All to the negative," said Leslie.

The prime minister told Defence Minister Peter Mackay, in a letter dated June 15, 2012 and obtained by The Canadian Press, that his proposed budget did not cut deep enough into the administrative side of National Defence. According to Leslie, "there's an obvious disconnect between what's actually being said in terms of guidance and direction to DND and what's actually happening."

In a separate interview on *The House*, the vice chief of the defence staff, VAdm Bruce Donaldson, defended DND's spending on professional and special services. Donaldson told Solomon that consulting includes a "very broad range of activity" including "medical and mental health services," even "maintenance and repairs." "A lot of it relates to supporting the men and women in uniform," Donaldson said, adding that in many ways "it's much more economical" to turn certain contracts over to the private sector.

With respect to the army's 22 per cent budget cut, Donaldson said Devlin's testimony before the Senate committee may have been misunderstood. "Devlin was actually saying that he's been successful in preparing the army for what's next. He's reoriented training in the army to make sure they are operationally ready for the next deployed mission," said Donaldson.

The vice chief of the defence staff said the cuts in the army's budget reflect "the ramp down" from Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan. The federal government is said to have identified \$530-million in cuts over the next three years to "contracting and in-service support of defence material," according to a written statement by Jay Paxton, a spokesperson for the minister of defence.

In the 2011 Report on Transformation, Leslie identified ways DND could save \$1 billion annually and called for "dramatic changes" so the military could meet its future obligations. Leslie was said to be on a short-list of contenders to replace outgoing Chief of the Defence Staff Walter Natynczyk but the federal government appointed LGen Tom Lawson, a former fighter pilot and air force veteran, to the top job. Asked if he thought his controversial report had anything to do with the fact that he didn't get the job, Leslie said it's "water under the bridge."

2013 Military Ball



Vancouver Garrison Officers Society

The Military Ball



We invite everyone to attend our

68th Annual Military Ball

to be held at the

Hyatt Regency Hotel

on

April 6, 2013

For information about the event and ticket orders please contact us at:

bcmilitaryball@gmail.com

Tickets - \$110/pp

Mark your calendars now for the **6th of April 2013** to attend the Annual Vancouver Garrison's Military Ball, scheduled once again to be held at the Vancouver Hyatt Regency Hotel. The tariff to attend the Vancouver Military Ball remains unchanged for 2013 at \$110 per person - Tickets must be purchased in advance. To purchase tickets send an email to the address on the poster above to have an order form emailed back to you. We look forward to seeing you there.

Want to book a room at the host hotel for the Military Ball? The Hyatt has again offered a special room rate for our guests and the reservations link is pasted below. The rate is **\$149.00!** As per last year, this rate is ***only available by booking on-line via this link***. You will not be able to find it if you call the Hyatt 1-800 reservation phone number or try to book via Hyatt.com.

On line reservation: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/mball2013>

Website

We are still looking for someone in our membership to act as our Webmaster. If someone on our list has the necessary skills, please contact me ASAP at bob.mugford@shaw.ca

Newsletters

Miss a newsletter? Want to see a back issue? Newsletters for the last couple of years are archived on the RUSI Vancouver website (www.rusivancouver.ca) Go to: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletters.htm> to view.



From the ‘Punitary’

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Murphy’s Rules of Combat Operations.

A free fire zone has nothing to do with economics.

Great Truths

You do not really understand something unless you can explain it to your grandmother.

BCR Curry Lunch – Jan 2013

Curry Lunch - India



Hosted by:
The British Columbia
Regiment
Officers' Mess



Coordinated by:
The BC Regiment
(DCO) Association

- Date:** Thursday, January 31, 2013
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(welcome at 12:15pm)
(lunch starts at 12:20pm)
- Location:** Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
- Dress:** Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)
- Price:** \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm attendance by January 25, 2013)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please contact Bill Diamond at Bill@DukeaBear.com or 604.618.3607 (Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association
No cancellations after January 25, 2013

NEXT LUNCH: Thursday, February 28, 2013

Legion Foundation – Valentine's Day Lunch



BC/Yukon Legion Foundation



Cordially invites you to attend a

Valentine's Day Luncheon

Held at the Kerrisdale Legion
(2177 West 42nd Ave, Vancouver)



February 14, 2013

11:30am to 1:30pm

A buffet luncheon will be served

Cost: \$25 per person

Dress: uniform or business

Items will be available for silent auction



Email info@legionbcyukon.ca to RVSP by February 4



The Royal Canadian Legion BC Yukon Command Foundation is a registered charity. Registration No. 880760285R0001

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