

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Feb 2, 2021

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com to let me know you didn't get your copy.

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

Wednesday Lunches - Lunches suspended until further notice. Everyone stay safe!!

The 2021 BC Military Gala is CANCELLED. The Sheraton Wall Ctr is booked for Apr 23, 2022

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars (see Poster section at end for details)

- Feb 03** Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting
- Feb 10** Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting
 RUSI NS Presents - The Americas Series - Americas as a market & Mexican Naval Strategy
 Museum Strategic Planning Session
- Feb 17** Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting
- Feb 18** RUSI NS Presents - The Americas Series
- Feb 24** Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting - Canada & USA

Norway Cancels Big Military Exercise After 1,000 US Marines Arrive

Gina Harkins Military.com 27 Jan 2021



US Marines with Marine Rotational Force Europe 21.1 (MRF-E), Marine Forces Europe and Africa, hike through icy terrain during cold weather familiarization training in Setermoen, Norway, Nov. 15-18, 2020. (Andrew Smith/US Marine Corps)

After the Norwegian government canceled an international military exercise this week, the US Marine Corps is determining what to do with the 1,000 Marines who arrived there earlier this

month to train. Norwegian Defence Minister Frank Bakke-Jensen canceled the exercise on Tuesday, citing spikes in coronavirus cases in the country. "We must be one step ahead to try to avoid the spread of the mutated, and more contagious variant of the virus," Bakke-Jensen said. "We have weighed the arguments and our decision has been to cancel the planned allied exercise activity in Troms." About 3,400 troops from Norway, the US, the UK, the Netherlands and Germany were scheduled to participate in the cold-weather training exercises, called Rein I and Joint Viking. All but about 500 of them had already arrived in Troms to train.

Maj Adrian Rankine-Galloway, a Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa spokesman, said there will now be a controlled termination of the exercise in line with COVID-19 restrictions. "We are working closely with our Norwegian military counterparts to determine the next steps with our Marines who are currently deployed to Norway," Rankine-Galloway said. About 1,000 Marines arrived in Setermoen, Norway, earlier this month. Troms is about 100 miles north of Setermoen, near the Barents Sea. The waterway is considered Russia's naval backyard. Bakke-Jensen said as of Tuesday, there would be a halt in the arrival of new allied forces to Indre Troms. For those forces already in place, there will be a "well-planned departure." More than 61,000 Norwegians have been infected with COVID-19, the sometimes-fatal illness caused by the new coronavirus. More than 500 people have died of the virus there.

The country has seen 14,637 new cases over the last month, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. That is close to the record-high 15,819 cases Norway recorded in November -- the highest level there since the start of the global pandemic. More than 2.1 million people have died from the virus worldwide. Medical experts are also warning about a new strain of the virus that is more contagious and possibly more deadly. Last year's iteration of Cold Response, another major NATO exercise, was also significantly scaled back due to the pandemic. Training in and around the Arctic Circle has been a priority for NATO forces to counter Russia in the region. Bakke-Jensen said some winter training could be tailored "in adherence with proper infection prevention measures until the various departure dates." "I want to thank all our allies who have shown great flexibility and understanding in a challenging situation," the defense minister said.

US Army is Buying the Sniper Rifle the Entire US Military Wants

Here's why the US military is falling in love with the Barrett MRAD.

Jared Keller Task & Purpose January 24, 2021

It's official: the US Army plans on dishing out for several thousand next-generation sniper rifles for soldiers over the next five years, service officials confirmed to Task & Purpose. In a presolicitation published last week by Army Contracting Command, the Army's Project Manager Soldier Lethality announced its intent to officially purchase the much-hyped Multi-Role Adaptive Design rifle from firearms maker Barrett. While the Army had previously moved to purchase 536 MRAD sniper systems for roughly \$10.13 million under its own Precision Sniper Rifle program, a spokesman from the Army's Program Executive Office Soldier told Task & Purpose that the service now plans on purchasing "approximately 2,800" PSR systems over the next five years. "The Army plans to purchase Multi-Role Adaptive Rifle (MRAD) systems for

Foreign Military Sales and Precision Sniper Rifles (PSR) systems for Army Snipers and EOD personnel,” PEO Soldier spokesman told Task & Purpose. “The MRAD is one component of the PSR.”

In March 2019, US Special Operations Command awarded a \$49.9 million contract to Barrett to adopt the MRAD — chambered in 7.62×51 mm NATO, .300 Norma Magnum, and .338 Norma Magnum with the help of a conversion kit — as part of the program’s Advanced Sniper Rifle program. According to officials, the Army is now simply adapting the rifle selected under the SOCOM ASR program because the original rifle selected for the PSR program, the Remington MSR Mk21, did not conform to SOCOM requirements. The Army now intends on replacing both of the service’s M107 sniper rifle and M2010 Enhanced Sniper Rifle systems with the MRAD through the PSR program, according to budget justification documents. The Army and SOCOM aren’t the only services thirsting after the MRAD: the Marine Corps has previously expressed interest in purchasing at least 250 of the sniper systems for \$4 million through SOCOM’s ASR program to “replace all current bolt-action sniper rifles” currently used by the service, according to budget justification documents. Both the Army and Marine Corps say the rifle offers greatly extended range and effectiveness than current sniper systems in a significantly lighter weight package. In particular, the Marine Corps budget documents touted the MRAD’s capacity to chamber a “wider variety of special-purpose ammunition than current systems” as a major selling point. Versatility and modularity are among the chief features of the MRAD’s broad appeal.



*Barrett’s bolt-action
Multi-Role Adaptive Design
(MRAD) system*

As The War Zone reported in 2019, the simple conversion method “eliminates the need for separate weapons to fire each of

these rounds, offering special operations units added operational flexibility and reducing strain on the logistics and maintenance chains.” “The MRAD’s modular ‘adaptive’ design also allows for the rapid removal of the trigger assembly for easy cleaning or replacement with another module altogether,” The War Zone notes. “This streamlines maintenance and means that an armorer could install trigger packs with different characteristics, such as changes in the weight or length of the trigger pull, which better meet a shooter’s preferences or their mission requirements. The Army previously planned on fielding the MRAD as its PSR Mk 22 starting in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2021. According to officials, the service plans on securing a five-year contract for the rifles sometime “this spring.”

Victory by Chocolate

Stephen J Thorne January 26, 2021



More than 25 years ago, Roméo Dallaire, the Canadian Major General commanding the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda, came rolling up to a stick in the road marking a checkpoint manned by a cadre of heavily armed, hyped-up kids. Rwanda was embroiled in civil war; it was on the verge of a genocide. Yet it would be months before the contingent under Dallaire's command would reach the 2,548 troops authorized by the UN and, even then, it wasn't enough. The general stepped out of his vehicle to find one of the child soldiers running toward him, AK-47 in hand. The next thing he knew, the barrel of the Soviet-made assault rifle was up his nostril.

The kid looked about 13. "His eyeballs were huge, he was sweating, all the kids all around screaming and yelling, and his hand is on the trigger," said Dallaire, now a leading

advocate for children forced into military service around the world. As Dallaire pulled the chocolate bar from his pocket, he gently pushed the rifle barrel away from his face. "An adult you can sense, you know, where you're going with it. A child you can't, and if they're able to get that close you don't know what might make him pull the trigger. What is so chilling is that a child is totally unpredictable." The boy's compatriots were goading him on, urging him to shoot. Dallaire had no training or experience in defusing such a volatile situation. No one did at the time. But he did have a chocolate bar. So, the veteran soldier slowly reached into the breast pocket of his vest, his eyes locked on the wide-eyed young fighter who followed his every movement. As Dallaire pulled the chocolate bar from his pocket, he gently pushed the rifle barrel away from his face and handed the undernourished boy the treat. The general, as they say, lived to fight another day.

Ah, chocolate. Milk, dark, sweet, semi-sweet—no matter.



For soldiers in the field, it has for centuries been respite, fuel source, even currency that bought service, purchased lives, symbolized peace and goodwill, and enlisted hearts and minds. During the French and Indian War (1754-1763), Benjamin Franklin was a quartermaster procuring supplies for British troops. He requisitioned six pounds of hard-to-get chocolate per officer as a form of compensation. By the American Revolutionary War (1775–1783), foot soldiers were being issued chocolate rations, occasionally in lieu of payment. It was even considered a medical supply, so valued that in 1780, Dr James Mann, a Continental Army surgeon, sent a desperate letter to the military hospital in Danbury, Connecticut, requesting a “pound of chocolate for the use of the wounded men at this place.” The combined kick its blend of caffeine and sugar provides was valued into the American Civil War (1861-1865) and beyond.

Canadian and other empire soldiers fighting the Second Boer War at the turn of the 20th century were sent commemorative tins of chocolate by Queen Victoria herself. The tins containing a pound of chocolate. As many as 80,000 of them were adorned with the royal visage and inscribed with “South Africa, 1900” and “I wish you a happy New Year, Victoria RI.” “I have just received a box of chocolate, Her Majesty’s present to the South African soldiers,” wrote Canadian Private C Jackson to his father in December 1899. “There is such a demand for them by the officers and everybody else, as mementos. “In fact, I have been offered five pounds for mine, and at the Cape as much as 10 pounds is being paid.” Cadbury UK told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. in December 2020 that the initial request from Buckingham Palace was “to be paid for out of [Queen Victoria’s] private purse.” “The cocoa must be made into a paste and sweetened ready for use under the rough and ready conditions of camp life—the tins to be specially made and decorated,” said a period memo from Cadbury Brothers, notable pacifists who at first declined the job, then had to be talked into putting their name on the boxes. “Ultimately,” said ABC, “the Palace won the diplomatic tug-of-war with Cadbury, as the Queen insisted that her troops know it was ‘good quality’ British chocolate.”

Hershey Tropical chocolate bars were included in American D rations. The D Ration bar “was unappetizing and tough to chew.”

Chocolate was a staple of military rations during the First World War. During the famous Christmas Truce of 1914, Allied soldiers shared theirs with their German rivals while, in some areas, Germans sent chocolate cake into the Allied trenches. In that heady first year of the world war, when everyone thought the fighting would end sooner than later, Princess Mary, the 17-year-old daughter of King George V and Queen Mary, organized a public appeal to raise funds to ensure “every Sailor afloat and every Soldier at the front” received a Christmas present. The response was so overwhelming that the recipients were expanded to include every person “wearing the King’s uniform on Christmas Day



1914.” The gift was a small brass tin, decoratively embossed with a portrait of Mary and the names of Britain’s allies. The contents varied: officers and men on active service received a pipe, a lighter, an ounce of tobacco and 20 cigarettes. Non-smokers and boys received a bullet pencil and a packet of sweets instead. East Indian troops often got sweets and spices and, best of all, nurses got chocolate.

Years later, after Forrest E Mars witnessed soldiers in the Spanish Civil War eating pellets of chocolate coated to keep them from melting in the sun, he developed M&Ms and patented them in 1941. Rowntree of England had been producing “Chocolate Beans” since 1882 and renamed them Smarties in 1937. But M&Ms gained a hold on the Americans largely because they travelled well and withstood high temperatures. The US Army Quartermaster, Colonel Paul Logan, approached the Hershey Chocolate Co in April 1937 to formulate an emergency chocolate ration bar to military standards: four ounces; high in food energy value; able to withstand high temperatures, and taste “a little better than a boiled potato” so as not to be overeaten. The ration provided 600 calories. “The bar became known as the D Ration or ‘Logan Bar,’” wrote the Chocolate Apprentice (www.chocolateapprentice.com), “and while it apparently fit all those criteria, it was unappetizing and tough to chew.” Many soldiers disliked the bar; it was bitter and very dense.

Undaunted, the army also formulated the Tropical Bar to withstand tropical heat. Chocolate was included in Red Cross packets to Allied prisoners of war, though they rarely made it past the camp guards. “It is estimated that between 1940 and 1945, over 3 billion of the D Ration and Tropical Bars were produced and distributed to soldiers throughout the world,” Allison Carruth wrote in *War Rations and the Food Politics of Late Modernism*. “In 1939, the Hershey plant was capable of producing 100,000 ration bars a day. By the end of World War II, the entire Hershey plant was producing ration bars at a rate of 24 million a week.” The Hershey Chocolate Company was eventually issued the Army-Navy ‘E’ Award for Excellence for exceeding quality and quantity expectations in the production of the D ration and the Tropical Bar. Chocolate’s role in the war and the regard with which soldiers came to hold it extended into postwar life in North America and elsewhere. The Tropical Bar remained standard ration for the US military in Korea and Vietnam, part of a “Sundries” kit that also included toiletries before it was declared obsolete. The bar made a brief return aboard Apollo 15 in July 1971.



Canada’s Composite Ration Packs, or Compo Rations, included a block of chocolate in a tin.

Dutch chocolate may be renowned, but many a Dutch child’s first taste of chocolate came by the hand of a Canadian soldier in 1944-45. Tony Romeyn was five years old when Canadian troops flooded the streets of his

native Haarlem, Netherlands, in the victorious summer of 1945. “We never had candy,” the Prince George, B.C., resident told the *Trail Times* in May 2020. In fact, they hadn’t had much of anything for some time, surviving on boiled tulip bulbs and whatever else they could scrounge through the preceding Hunger Winter. Sussie Cretier was just 10 when the Germans invaded in 1940. Her father, Willem, was a mechanic involved in the Dutch Resistance. He passed information to the Allies and hid Jews in their home until he was found out and the family was forced to escape behind the lines of the approaching Allies in the town of Alphen. They had only the clothes on their backs, living day-to-day on whatever food they could gather, including the chocolate and chewing gum Bob Elliot and other Canadians gave Sussie to take home to her family. For Christmas, the soldiers had a winter coat sewn for her from a grey army blanket; they plucked buttons from their own jackets to help finish it, and found her new shoes, along with a sweater, scarf and pants. Elliot kept in touch with the Cretier family over the years. In 1981, he paid them a visit. He and Sussie fell in love, married and moved back to Edmonton. The coat is now in the collection of the Canadian War Museum.

The healing powers of chocolate extended into Germany, where young Joachim (John) Zinram and his family in Koblenz were forced from their home by Allied bombs. American troops were stationed near their town after the war ended. “It was a very sad time; we had nothing to eat,” Koblenz told a US Army reporter in Wiesbaden last June. “Every day, I took an empty lunchbox with me to school. “During lunch, it was filled with either grits, rice pudding or just chocolate milk,” which the school received from the Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe (CARE) packages. “It meant the world to us; it helped us survive.” “Many soldiers stopped their vehicles and gave candy, chocolate and bubble gum to us children.” It surprised Koblenz that the Allied soldiers no longer viewed the Germans as their enemies and helped them rebuild their shattered country. “The best memory I have of the Americans back then was when they drove their tanks and jeeps through the streets of our town. I always heard them long before they got there, and then I stood patiently on the side of the road, waving to them. “Many soldiers stopped their vehicles and gave candy, chocolate and bubble gum to us children. We were in awe—these were like treasures to us.”



In the late-1980s, the US Army Natick Soldier Systems Center created a new high-temperature chocolate. Researchers christened it the Congo Bar, and it could withstand heat in excess of 60°C (140°F). Egg whites gave it a fudge-like texture. During the Gulf War in 1990-91, Hershey shipped 144,000 of the bars to American soldiers in the southwest Asia theatre, but the response was temperate, at best.

With the war over before the balance of supply could be moved, Hershey packaged the remainder of the production run in a “desert camo” wrapper, dubbed it the Desert Bar and marketed it to the public. The product was short-lived.

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Happy Birthday on 2 February 2021 – Our centennial year didn't quite work out as planned, but we sure had fun at the events that were held. Hopefully, we can catch up those events as soon as COVID is over.

Yorke Island War Diaries – The 85th Battery War Diaries Project continues. We've now completed 1939 and have started on the 1940 entries. Always looking for another volunteer that enjoys working with the past. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/yorke-island.html>

15th Field Artillery Regiment Museum Strategic Planning Session – Make sure your voice is heard! Our Museum is looking for input from the Regimental family to assist us in drafting a 5 year plan. Check out the Strategic Planning page. Send in your thoughts on the 4 questions provided and note 10 Feb on your calendar for our Zoom session. You can help by telling us what you want your Museum to look like in 5 years time.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/museum-strategic.html>

First promotions of 2021 – Congratulations to Master Bombardier Andy Chan, Master Bombardier Anders Grasdal and Bombardier Ryan Van Tunen

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2021.html>

Barrett Battery – Came across a YouTube clip on the Battery in Prince Rupert. We really need to organize an expedition after COVID!

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/barrett-battery>

ILTIS Project – It's amazing the grief that one little part can cause.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/iltis-project>

VAA Virtual Lunch every Wednesday at Noon PDT - <https://zoom.us/j/710845848> - Drop in for 10 minutes or stay for an hour.

Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: The aircraft is a Portuguese Hawker Osprey floatplane in Macau harbour. When, in early 1945, it was discovered that neutral Macau was planning to sell aviation fuel to Japan, the South China Sea raid was mounted by the US. Aircraft from the USS Enterprise bombed and strafed the hangar of the Naval Aviation Centre during the raid to destroy the fuel on 16 January 1945. American air raids on targets in Macau were also made on 25 February and 11 June 1945. In 1950, following Portuguese government protests, the United States paid US\$20,255,952 to Portugal in compensation.



This Week: More and more, one comes across colourized photographs on the Internet. This process is still controversial to some, who argue that adding colour detracts from the historical feel of the original. While this might be true of photos deliberately taken in black and white, such as those of Karsh, it is less so when the photo was simply taken to record a point in time, and colour was not an option, or, if it was, it was far too expensive and slow. Although colour photography has been a fact for over 106 years, it was not widely accessible until the development of cheap, reliable negative films in the 1950s and 60s that went hand in hand with the popularity of inexpensive point-and-shoot cameras.



Early attempts at colouring photos were done with oils, and took some skill, as your author found to his regret in the 1980s when he first tried such. Now, of course, it is almost always done digitally, and can really make an antique become contemporary. In the related world of cinema, just look at how real the Great War footage of the Imperial War Museum became when director Peter Jackson worked on it for his epic “They Shall Not Grow Old”. The person who

colourized this photo (and, sadly, I cannot credit him or her, as this was sent me by a third party) did an excellent job. The women pictured are now, in spite of their ancient attire, alive and relatable. We can see in their faces people who resemble those we now know (albeit, sans masks). In this, their story becomes even more real and contemporary.

But what is their story? Who are they? Certainly, they are not the CWACs who once laboured so well in the shadow of their male counterparts. If you think you know who they are, let the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net) know, too.

From the ‘Punitary’

Where do animals go if their tails fall off? To the Re-tail store.

Murphy’s Other Laws

If the truth won’t save you, lie your ass off.

Quotable Quotes

Soldiers can sometimes make decisions that are smarter than the orders they've been given. - Orson Scott Card

Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

No need to worry about COVID-19 when you go digital. Pop into our video lunch **at noon** on Wednesdays and say hi. All you need is a laptop, tablet or smartphone. These sessions are being hosted by the Vancouver Artillery Association and are **open to all – especially those who attended our Wednesday lunches.**

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies.

<https://zoom.us/j/710845848>

Password:- Ubique



Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars across mobile, desktop, and room systems. Zoom Rooms is the original software-based conference room solution used around the world in board, conference, huddle, and training rooms, as well as executive offices and classrooms. Founded in 2011, Zoom helps businesses and organizations bring

their teams together in a frictionless environment to get more done. Zoom is a publicly traded company headquartered in San Jose, CA.

[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting now](#)

Use the link above on your computer Zoom program or dial in on your phone:
(778) 907 2071 Meeting ID: 710 845 848

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

UBIQUE 150 “Good Shooting” Video Contest



UBIQUE 150 “Good Shooting” Video Contest

In conjunction with the commemoration of 150th Anniversary of A & B Batteries, The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery is pleased to announce a video production contest.

Prizes will be awarded to 3 winners: 1st place winner receives \$2,000; 2nd place winning entry receives \$1000; 3rd place prize is \$500.

Important dates

Submissions accepted between	1 January – 30 April 2021
Judging starts	1 May 2021
Winners announced	26 May 2021

Eligibility

Submissions are open to **teams** consisting of **current and/or retired members of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery**. Each team can submit more than one entry but only one prize will be awarded to any unit.

*If you missed it, the **Free webinar** recording and accompanying resources are available on our website.*

Learn about:

- Part 1: Pre-Production (Planning for Your Shoot)
- Part 2: Production (Getting the Shot You Need)
- Part 3: Post-Production (Bringing Your Vision Together)

All details on the contest and the free Webinar are at
ubique150.org

RUSI Nova Scotia Presents: -

The Americas Series

You are cordially welcomed to attend this virtual conference series on transatlantic maritime security and strategy challenges! It pairs experts on naval strategy and maritime security from North, Central, and South America with European colleagues to exchange thoughts and perspectives on pressing security issues. Specifically, it will discuss selected American navies, be they naval warfighting forces, maritime security & logistics providers, or third parties. Speakers from South, Central, and North American countries discuss recent naval strategic developments from their national (regional) point of view (15'-20'), such as capstone documents, major naval operations, procurement, major threats, and challenges. Where applicable, panelists from Europe will be invited. Speakers are specifically asked to focus on implications for NATO, the EU, Europe as a whole, and European navies. Followed by moderated Q&A. Length of event 75'-90' (max.). Open for all who are interested. The event will be recorded and is on the record. Engage with the speakers using the hashtag #AmericasNavies.

Session 2 | 10.02.2021

Americas as a market & Mexican Naval Strategy

Session 2 brings together two items of interest: First, the discussion will center on the North, South, and Latin America as a naval market. Second, an often-overlooked maritime force and its strategy will be covered. *Speakers: TBA & Christian Ehrlich*

Please click [here](https://eveeno.com/AmericasSeries_Session2) for the registration or register at: https://eveeno.com/AmericasSeries_Session2

Session 3 | 18.02.2020

Canada & USA

Session 3 covers the two North American countries with rich naval tradition and sizeable navies. Canada and the United States are NATO navies and, as such, of utmost interest and relevance to transatlantic security. *Speakers: Timothy Choi & Prof Peter Dombrowski*

Please click [here](https://eveeno.com/AmericasSeries_Session3) for the registration or register at: https://eveeno.com/AmericasSeries_Session3

Session 4 | date TBA

Seapower from a South American Perspective & Colombian Naval Strategy

Session 4 brings us further south in the Americas. Our panelists will discuss maritime security challenges in Latin America and in particular the Colombian naval strategy.

Speakers: Dr Samuel Rivera Páez & Rafael Uribe-Neira

The registration link will be provided shortly

Session 5 | 11.03.2021

Brazilian Naval Strategy & China and IUU problems in South America

Session 5, our final session, pairs a perspective on China's maritime influence in South America with a perspective on Brazilian naval strategy.

Speakers: Andrea Resende & Prof Tabitha Grace Mallory

Please click [here](https://eveeno.com/AmericasSeries_Session5) for the registration or register at: https://eveeno.com/AmericasSeries_Session5