

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Feb 9, 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 10** Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting followed by Museum Strategic Planning Session
RUSI NS Presents - The Americas Series - Americas as a market & Mexican Naval Strategy
- Feb 17** Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting
- Feb 18** RUSI NS Presents - The Americas Series - Canada & USA
- Feb 24** Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting

Alberta Helping to Fund First Veterans' Campus at U of A

"This new generation of veterans will have an opportunity to pursue their post-secondary goals in an affordable and specialized environment" Jeff Labine *Edmonton Journal Feb 05, 2021*



The Alberta government announced on Thursday that it will be spending \$714,000 over two years to develop the province's first veterans' campus at the University of Alberta. Image supplied. The Alberta government is spending \$714,000 over two years to develop a new campus at the University of Alberta to help veterans transition to the civilian world. The two-year pilot project announced on Thursday will offer specialized on-campus supports and resources for military veteran students to help them achieve their career

and educational goals. Students can begin accessing the services during the 2021-22 academic year. The province hopes that the pilot project will become a roadmap for other post-secondary institutes to follow. U of A president Bill Flanagan said the campus is a perfect fit for the university as it continues the school's tradition of supporting veterans. "This new generation of veterans will have an opportunity to pursue their post-secondary goals in an affordable and specialized environment," he said. "The first president of (the university) Henry Marshall Tory was deeply affected by the loss of students and instructors during the two world wars. He was passionate about supporting active soldiers and veterans. He knew that many soldiers had given up their education in order to enlist. We are enormously honoured to be welcoming more veterans to the U of A community."

Planned supports for the campus include a resource centre, mental health supports, flexible enrolment schedules, connections to local support and veterans' organizations and a veteran student peer mentorship program. The program will be run through the dean of students' office with the help of Heroes in Mind, Advocacy and Research Consortium (HiMARC) and Alberta Faculty of HiMARC director Suzette Brémault-Phillips said the campus will create a safe place for veterans. "Our university community, province and entire society will be stronger for it (as it) serves those who served us as they embark on their civilian life," she said. "As an occupational therapist, I have had the privilege over a good number of years of working with veterans, active-duty military and public safety personnel. I've seen the incredible commitment and personal sacrifices as they serve our country and protect our freedoms." In 2017, the federal government created the veterans' education and training benefit and committed to spending \$133.9 million over six years to help cover costs for colleges, universities and technical institutes to support veterans.

Last year, the province announced an award grant for up to \$5,000 to Alberta veterans and their families to help them achieve their career goals. Advanced Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides said the province is leading the way by developing the first veterans' campus in Alberta. "Post-secondary education is the key to helping our veterans find success in other professions once their military service has ended," he said. "Our veterans have incredible transferable knowledge, skills and life experience that enrich our campus communities for all students, staff and faculty."

Sikorsky Boeing Defiant X

New Helicopter Includes Many Sought After Features

Craig Bowman Jan 31, 2021 Courtesy of Sikorsky and Boeing

Like many armies and navies around the globe, the United States invests billions of dollars annually in equipment that most people sincerely hope will never need to be employed, at least not in real combat scenarios with flesh and blood enemies. Nonetheless, America must always be prepared for that eventuality, even if the chances of such an unwanted confrontation coming to pass are incredibly slight. To that end, the American military is now considering what to purchase as its new helicopters, and in the running as a lead contender is the Defiant X, an aircraft with all the bells and whistles pilots in battle could hope for at the beginning of a new century. Its

prototype was designed and manufactured by Sikorsky & Boeing Company. The firm is up against rival defence manufacturer Bell Textron, which has submitted a new 280 Valor helicopter. The winning bid will be announced in 2022.



The Defiant X.

Courtesy of Sikorsky and Boeing

The Defiant X has several features the US military has asked for, most notably the speed at which the aircraft can fly. One company spokesman noted that it will fly twice the distance at twice the speed, a profound improvement over the helicopters currently used, the Black Hawks and the AH-

64 Apache attack aircraft, among others. Another improvement, according to Boeing sales and marketing representative Heather McBryan, is that “we’ve made some... enhancements to the design to help reduce thermal signature and improve (the) aerodynamic handling.” In layman’s terms, that means the helicopter will be easier to maneuver.

Company officials have not said just how fast the Defiant X can fly, but last fall it was clocked at well over 200 knots in test flights. Test pilots put in more than 25 hours in actual tests, and about 1,500 hours of simulations. Sikorsky designed the Black Hawk, which gave the firm a “leg up” when it came time to design the new aircraft. Designers have incorporated all the positive design elements of the old helicopter into the new and added plenty more features on the military’s “wish list.” One of its most crucial features is its ability to last as demand – and conflict scenarios – change. McBryan added in a recent press release, “This is really designed for growth and so out in the 2030s, as missions change and threats change, there is that growth capability.” The Defiant X is one of the aircraft in the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA) program. This design, specifically, has been “optimized,” according to company officials, and will be well equipped to respond to changing environments for several decades yet to come. If the Black Hawk’s history is any indication, it seems likely that the American military will choose to replace these venerable machines with the new Defiant X, although no one can predict this with certainty.



Bell V-280 Valor at a 2019 airshow.

Image by Danazar CC BY-SA 4.0.

The Black Hawk has been the go-to helicopter of choice for the American military for more than four decades, and not solely for combat missions. They are also used in medical evacuations, and for transport of important military personnel. This aircraft was named for an early 19th century Native American leader, named Black Hawk, renowned for his bravery and fighting skills. He was one of the top people in the Sauk Tribe, which today lives mainly in areas of Minnesota.

If accepted, the Defiant X would replace the trusty Black Hawk in service.

Image courtesy of Sikorsky Boeing.



His namesake helicopter has seen battle in places like Iraq and has been part of special operations in places like Panama. It is considered one of the finest aircraft

in the fleet in US aviation. Whether the Defiant X will replace the Black Hawk remains to be seen. But if it contains all the latter's strengths with some brand-new technology and speed, the odds seem to be in its favour, and Sikorsky Boeing's.

CF Eyes Adaptive Camouflage, Self-Repairing Clothing for Future Troops

5 Canadian universities leading cutting-edge research at cost of \$9M over 3 years.

David Burke · CBC News · Jan 28, 2021



The Department of National Defence is partnering with universities and industry to create cutting-edge clothing and armour for military personnel. This is a photo illustration, as DND did not supply CBC with any images of the proposed designs.

(Photo illustration/CBC)

From chameleon-inspired camouflage to clothing that mends itself when damaged, the Department of National Defence is looking to outfit Canadian troops with next-wave gear that provides better protection — and less detection — on the battlefield. Those are just two technologies in a long list of cutting-edge scientific advancements that DND is spending \$9 million over three years to research, spearheaded by five Canadian universities. "Adaptive camouflage would be more like a chameleon where, depending on your background, your camouflage will modify itself. So, if you are in front of a dark wall, your camouflage could be

darker. If you are in front of a whiter wall, your camouflage would be lighter," said Eric Fournier, director general of innovation with DND. That technology exists and is being worked on right now, he said. Fournier and the researchers working for DND are tight-lipped on details about how effective this kind of technology is and exactly how it works. DND did not supply CBC with any images of the proposed designs. "I'm not sure we're allowed to talk about it all that much yet," said Shona McLaughlin, defence scientist portfolio manager with the federal Innovation for Defence Excellence and Security program.

Canadian soldiers take part in NATO operations near Skrunda, Latvia, in 2018.

(Cpl Jean-Roch Chabot/Combat Camera)



Carleton University, Polytechnique Montreal, the University of Manitoba, the University of British Columbia and Université de Sherbrooke are leading the work. They have all received around \$1.5 million so far, except for Polytechnique, which is working on two projects and has been given almost \$3 million. A handful of businesses are also helping with the research, including athletic apparel manufacturer Lululemon Athletica and engineering and manufacturing firm Precision ADM. Each university is researching what's known as advanced materials, which are engineered to perform a variety of specific functions. Some of those materials can be fashioned into clothing that repairs itself. As an example, McLaughlin said a capsule could be embedded in a shirt or armoured vest that, when the garment or gear is damaged, bursts and releases a liquid or foam that solidifies and seals the hole. Research is also being done on new materials that may one day replace Kevlar and ceramics as the chief components of body armour. "Now we're looking at materials where we can actually tune the properties, we can make them lighter weight, stronger and less bulky," said McLaughlin. The goal is to have armour that holds up better to bullets, high-velocity ballistics and shrapnel, and is more comfortable for the wearer. It's innovation that would be extremely helpful to troops on the battlefield, said Randy Turner, a retired special forces soldier with years of experience in combat zones. Turner was part of the Canadian Armed Forces Joint Task Force 2 (JTF2), a highly trained unit that handles complex and risky missions throughout the world. He had tours of duty in Afghanistan and Bosnia. On average, Turner said soldiers carry around 60 to 65 pounds of equipment when they're on duty. "A soldier spends a lot of time on his feet and he's moving in and around vehicles. Anything that could be a little bit smaller, a little bit lighter, would also be a little less taxing on the individual's body," said Turner.



*Turner said it's very easy for uniforms and boots to wear out when a soldier is working, so self-repairing technology could be helpful.
(Cpl Tommy Dufresne/CAF)*

The adaptive camouflage and self-repairing clothing are also of interest to Turner. He said anything that helps a

soldier blend in is useful. Rips and tears in uniforms and damage to boots are also common, so clothing that repairs itself would be helpful. Still, he's apprehensive about the technology and questions whether wearable tech could distract military personnel from their job. "Has anyone asked, you know, what a soldier needs? Has anyone done a real hard needs assessment on what an infantry unit, for example, requires right now? I'm willing to bet the first thing that comes to mind is not going to be a uniform," said Turner. He said the \$9 million being spent on the research could be used for other things. "That's a lot of money that could be, in my opinion, better utilized to give an infantry unit some bullets so they can train and become proficient with their firearms," he said. "Give some quality training to soldiers, and that is a level of protection." At the universities, research continues with teams experimenting with fabrics that can block radio signals and printable electronics that can be woven into clothing. Printable electronics could perform a number of functions, according to McLaughlin, but she said monitoring a military member's health is high on the list.



*Canadian Forces members can be deployed almost anywhere and need gear that holds up to a variety of environments from the battlefield to flood zones. In this photo, soldiers place sandbags to reinforce the highway in Saint-Andre-d'Argenteuil, Que., after flooding in the area in 2017.
(Ryan Remiorz/Canadian Press)*

"It could be for health monitoring, if you want to make sure your soldiers are not overly stressed because they're in a hot environment ... the heat, the blood pressure, the actual stress from the exertion, those things you might want to keep tabs on," she said. Fournier has no doubt these new systems could help save lives. "Our soldiers go all over the world for all kinds of missions,"

he said. "Just to inform them, for example, [that] they're getting dehydrated ... It could have an impact on how missions would happen, for sure." Teams have been working on this research for a little over a year and while progress is being made, no one has come forward with a finished project. Fournier said work like this can take years and there's no guarantee of a final product. He said the important thing is that researchers are moving the science of advanced materials forward. "In the end, we may not end up with a new protecting gear, but we will have learned a lot about making that protective gear in the future," said Fournier. McLaughlin also said people should temper their expectations. "It's not as simple as throwing everything in a pot, stirring it, and boom — you've got a material," she said. "There's processing challenges that [researchers] have to overcome. So that's one of the big things that they're working on right now ... how to actually create these things and how to evaluate them."

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Lest we forget. One of the aims of our Vancouver Gunners to ensure that the names of those that have served before us are not forgotten. While not a Gunner, Telegraphist Bernard Cecil Barlow of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve was assigned to the Fisherman's Reserve Vessel Leola Vivian which formed part of Examination Vessel Fleet at York Island. The details of the Board of Inquiry are detailed here. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/rcnvr-drowning.html>

Yorke Island War Diaries – Still looking for volunteers interested in 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>

Yearbook Update 2021- Another video on the Point Grey Battery uploaded to YouTube. Check it out on the 2021 Yearbook page. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2021.html>

SWAG – There's Ubique150 coffee mugs, Velcro patches and whisky available to order online. Make sure that you get your order in early as they are disappearing fast. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/swag5246446>

History Briefing – Sergeant Calogero provided a briefing on Regimental history to both an inhouse COVID compliant audience at the Armoury and a wider WebEx audience online. Well Done!

Social Media Warning – This one goes back to 1940. The things soldiers do! <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/swag5246446>

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: Women's Battalions (Russia) were all-female combat units formed after



the February Revolution by the Russian Provisional Government, in a last-ditch effort to inspire the mass of war-weary soldiers to continue fighting in World War I. In the spring of 1917, male shock-units and battalions of death were formed from pools of enthusiastic volunteers to lead the way in battle. Already some women had successfully petitioned to join regular military units, now a number began pressing the new Provisional Government to create special women's battalions. These women, along with a

number of high-ranking members of the Russian government and military administration, believed that female soldiers would have significant propaganda value and that their example would revitalize the weary, demoralized men of the Russian army. Simultaneously, they hoped the presence of women would shame hesitant male soldiers into resuming their combat duties. Fifteen formations were created in 1917, including the 1st Russian Women's Battalion of Death, a separate unit called the 1st Petrograd Women's Battalion formed a few weeks later in Petrograd, the 2nd Moscow Women's Battalion of Death created in Moscow, and the 3rd Kuban Women's Shock Battalion organized in Ekaterinodar. Four communications detachments were created in Moscow and Petrograd. Seven additional communications units were created in Kiev and Saratov employing privately organized women's units already in those cities. Additional unsanctioned battalions sprang up in cities across Russia. An all-female naval unit was created in Oranienbaum, the 1st Women's Naval Detachment, as part of the Naval Infantry Training Detachment. American reporter Bessie Beatty estimated the total number of women serving in these gender-segregated units at 5,000 in the fall of 1917, but only the 1st Russian Women's Battalion of Death and the Perm Battalion were deployed to the front. On 30 November 1917, the new Bolshevik government ordered the official dissolution of any remaining women's military formations. However, members of the 1st Petrograd and 3rd Kuban women's battalions lingered in their camps until early 1918. Some women who had served in these units went on to fight on both sides of the Russian Civil War. In 2015 a Russian war film called *Battalion*, directed by Dmitry Meskhiev, was released. It related the story of the First Battalion of Death, a women-only Russian combat unit that fought in the First World War. Actress Maria Aronova played the role of real-life heroine Maria Bochkareva. *Battalion* was the biggest winner at the 2015 Golden Eagle Awards, winning four awards out of nine nominations. See the whole story at:-

<https://www.grunge.com/175489/the-untold-story-of-russias-all-female-battalion-of-death/>

This Week: Many of our readers are fans of the world's greatest science fiction television programme, "Doctor Who", and will have watched this New Year's impressive special, "Revolution of the Daleks". However, some of you might be culturally deprived, or have just

emerged from a fallout shelter that you entered the day Kennedy was assassinated (the same day Doctor Who premiered). For those few, let me explain that a “Dalek” is a native of the planet Skaro, and lives encased in an armoured shell, having lost the ability to perambulate many aeons ago. This shell can both fly, and is armed with deadly weapons, providing many challenges to the plucky Doctor.

All of which brings us to this week’s photo, which slightly resembles an evil Dalek. However, it is of earthly origin, so fear naught. That it no longer represents a threat to our freedom-loving



Dominion can be seen in the placid countenance of the duck who paddles in front of it. Nonetheless, it was once something that the stout lads of the Empire would have had to tackle, as it belonged to an enemy of the past, albeit one who was not so evil as the main pickelhaube-topped rogue.

And that leads us to our simple question. What is this thing? If you know, or

think you do (the two are sometimes not in harmony), please contact the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Exterminate! (That’s what Daleks most often say).

From the ‘Punitentary’

What happened when the avid gardener realized spring had arrived? He was so excited he wet his plants.

Murphy’s Other Laws

An object in motion will be heading in the wrong direction.

Quotable Quotes

Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else. - *Margaret Mead*

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