

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Mar 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 online. 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)

- Mar 10** Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting
- Mar 11** RUSI NS Presents - The Americas Series - Brazilian Naval Strategy & China and IUU problems in South America
- Mar 17** Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting
- Mar 24** Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting

Canadian Armed Forces Members to Receive Pay Increase

Defense Stories March 4, 2021



Most Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members can expect to see something extra in their pay this month.

Beginning March 31, 2021, eligible CAF members will receive a general pay increase, effective retroactively to April 1, 2018 and covering the past three fiscal years. Those who may be eligible for a lump sum back-payment include Regular or Reserve Force Non-Commissioned Members, General Service Officers and Pilots at the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and Commander and below, as well as Medical and Dental Officers. This pay increase does not apply to senior officers at the rank of Colonels and Captains (Navy) and above. Their rates are managed separately and at this time, no decision has been made regarding an increase for them. The compounded increase of 6.1 percent demonstrates Canada's continued support of CAF members, fairly compensating them for their continued service. The Government of Canada recognizes and appreciates the outstanding contributions and sacrifices made by CAF members and their families in service to our country.

The back payment covers retroactive increases starting April 1, 2018, calculated as follows:

- Effective April 1, 2018, an economic increase of 2.8%
- Effective April 1, 2019, an economic increase of 2.2%
- Effective April 1, 2020, an economic increase of 1.0%

CAF members can view their new pay rate or statement electronically via Employee Member Access Application (EMAA), as individual payments will depend on rank, pay increment (PI), and time worked in each category. CAF members who released after March 31, 2018 will be eligible for a lump sum back payment and adjustments to their Canadian Forces Severance Pay based on the new rates effective at release on 31 March 2021. Former members should contact the Release Benefits Administration via email to the Administrative Response Centre (ARC) (CMPARC.CRACPM@forces.gc.ca) to inquire about their own specific case.

This updates the rates of pay for the majority of CAF members with an economic increase aligned to the salary improvements reached through the collective bargaining process for employees of the Core Public Administration of the Public Service of Canada. The Department of National Defence and the CAF recognize the need to ensure that military compensation remains fair and relevant, to ensure the attraction and retention of the highest standard of personnel required for the challenges of service in the profession of arms. Treasury Board approval of these increases recognizes the value of military members, strengthens overall morale, supports *Strong, Secure, and Engaged* initiatives in attraction and retention, and strengthens the larger employment model of the CAF.

Estimates – Full-time Annual Salaries

Full-Time Annual Salary RegF/ClassC	2017 (Prior Rate)	2018	2019	2020	Overall Annual Increase	Retroactive Payment *
Corporal (5A) Standard Increment 4	\$63,624	\$65,400	\$66,840	\$67,512	\$3,888	\$8,880

Full-Time Annual Salary RegF/ClassC	2017 (Prior Rate)	2018	2019	2020	Overall Annual Increase	Retroactive Payment *
Sergeant (6A) Standard Increment 4	\$71,940	\$73,956	\$74,880	\$76,344	\$4,404	\$9,360
Chief Warrant Officer (8A) Standard Increment 4	\$98,280	\$101,028	\$103,248	\$104,280	\$6,000	\$13,716
Captain Increment 10	\$104,616	\$107,544	\$109,908	\$111,012	\$6,396	\$14,616
Lieutenant Colonel Increment 4	\$132,012	\$135,708	\$138,696	\$140,088	\$8,076	\$18,456

**Estimated based on 3 years (1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021) at the maximum increment for each standard rank.*

Estimates – Part-time Daily Rates

Part-Time Salary Daily - Class A/B	2017 (Prior Rate)	2018	2019	2020	Overall Daily Increase	Approximated Retroactive Payment *
Corporal (Stand. A2) Increment 4	\$148.16	\$152.32	\$169.94	\$171.66	\$23.50	\$1,327.80
Sergeant (Stand. 4) Increment 4	\$167.54	\$172.24	\$192.18	\$194.12	\$26.58	\$1,393.20
Chief Warrant Officer (7A) Increment 4	\$228.88	\$235.28	\$262.52	\$265.14	\$36.26	\$2,055.60
Captain Increment 10	\$243.68	\$250.46	\$279.44	\$282.26	\$38.58	\$2,181.60
Lieutenant Colonel Increment 4	\$307.50	\$316.04	\$352.64	\$356.18	\$48.68	\$2,755.20

** Estimated based on 60 workdays a year for 3 years (1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021) at the maximum increment for each standard rank.*

US Army's New Infantry Goggles Put the 'Tron' in 'Army Strong'

"This changes how we operate honestly." *David Roza Task & Purpose Feb 19, 2021*

The Army is definitely putting the 'Tron' in Army Strong with a set of new infantry goggles that make its wearers look like disciples of the French electronica group Daft Punk. Except instead of dropping synthpop tracks and psychedelic light shows, these goggles are supposed to allow soldiers to go harder, better, faster, and stronger by maintaining better situational awareness on the modern battlefield. In particular, tests conducted last month at Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Washington by soldiers with the 3rd Infantry Division and the 1-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team shows that the Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS) could make popping out of a cramped Stryker or Bradley infantry fighting vehicle into the middle of a hectic combat zone a lot less disorienting. "I struggled when I was a squad leader getting out of the bay not knowing where I was because we get dropped at different spots in the op order," said Sgt John Martin, a Bradley Master Gunner from 3rd Infantry Division, in a recent press release. "Not having information on the ground was definitely a challenge that tripped us up."



Soldiers don the Integrated Visual Augmentation System Capability Set 3 hardware while mounted in a Stryker in Joint Base Lewis-McCord, WA, Jan 26, 2021. (Army photo / Courtney Bacon)

In the past, soldiers in the back had to ask the vehicle crew what was going on outside, or they had a single screen to toggle between cameras mounted at the driver's, gunner's and commander's seats and through periscopes elsewhere on the vehicle. IVAS allows all the soldiers to tune into those cameras and sensors so that they can effectively see through the vehicle's armor to the battlefield beyond, as if they were riding in an invisible car. Now that's the kind of Technologic we need. "The dismounts in the back ... can seamlessly work with the crew because everyone can see around the vehicle without actually having to step outside of it," Martin said. "It has countless uses like land navigation, being able to track things while on the battlefield, moving through urban complexes, moving through open terrain, it's insane." You know what else is insane? Daft Punk's 2007 "Alive" show. And just like how that album changed the way I got psyched for cross-country races, so too could IVAS change the way mounted grunts do their much-more-dangerous jobs. "This changes how we operate honestly," said Sgt Philip Bartel with 1-2 SBCT. "Now guys aren't hanging out of vehicles in dangerous situations trying to get views on what's going on ... Maneuvering elements with that kind of information will minimize

casualties and will overall drastically change how we operate and increase our effectiveness on the battlefield.”



Soldiers don the Integrated Visual Augmentation System Capability Set 3 hardware while dismounting a Bradley in Joint Base Lewis-McCord, WA, Jan. 27, 2021

(Army photo / Courtney Bacon)

The system is also making a splash outside of mounted units. Last year, Marines and soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division tested it out at Fort Pickett, Va. The IVAS allowed them to look through thermal and low-light sensors, identify targets, check out real-time maps, and call-in fire support all without taking their eyes off the battlefield. Though it's not clear when or if Daft Punk will release a new album, the Army plans to get IVAS on soldiers' faces very soon. According to the press release, the Army hopes for an operational test this July. The Army also said last year that it plans to field more than 40,000 goggles sometime in the fourth quarter of the 2021 fiscal year, which is from July to September. Soldiers were pumped to get them soon. One could say they had an Instant Crush. “This is something that none of us imaged we would see in our careers,” Martin said. “It's futuristic technology that we've all talked about and seen in movies and video games, but it's something that we never imagined we would have the chance to fight with. It's definitely technology that we are really excited to use as soon as they can get it to us.”

US Troops Just Got Trashed by Lithuanian Infantrymen

"We couldn't see them even when we were right on top of them."

David Roza Task & Purpose February 25, 2021

When it comes to the phrase ‘protect this house,’ few do it better than the Lithuanian 21st Dragoon Battalion, a motorized infantry unit that had the rare pleasure of handing American soldiers their asses on a silver platter in a simulated ambush in the snowy forests of their home turf on Sunday. The ambush was part of a larger exercise where the “Stallion” Troopers of the US Army's 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment played the bad guys of an invading army as a way to test the defenses of local troops, who have fewer heavy vehicles and fewer soldiers in general compared to the US Apparently the Lithuanians passed with flying colors. “The ambushes were on point. They were concealed well, we couldn't see them even when we were right on top of them,” said Stallion infantryman Cpl Joseph Salamon in a press release. “They did really well, they know their stuff.” While the Lithuanians may have fewer tanks and troops, they know how to work with what they got, explained Capt Evan Ringel, commander of 2-8 Cav's Bravo Company. What they lack in numbers, they make up for in unconventional warfare tactics, where Dragoons fight in small groups using gear found in local hardware stores. “This training is specialized to fight

with techniques against tanks,” said Lt Eimantas Maslauskas, of the Lithuanian Volunteer Forces, 3rd District, before the ambush went off.



Lithuanian Volunteer Force Lt Eimantas Maslauskas places an improvised explosive device along a tank trail Feb 21, 2021, at the Kairai Training Area. Maslauskas and his team of five placed several ambushes along the trail to test the ability of his team to halt or stop enemy heavy weaponry movement.

(US Army photo / Sgt Alexandra Shea)

Lithuania is far from the only country with which the US military war games. For example, the US Marine Corps likes to test its mettle against the British Royal Marines, and the US Air Force regularly puts on simulated dogfights with other countries in exercises such as Red Flag and Cope North. However, in recent years, the United States has doubled down on working with Baltic countries such as Lithuania, since the small republics lie in between regional rival Russia and the North Atlantic Ocean. Lithuania is buffered from Russia by the country Belarus, but that country is closely allied with Russia (at least for now). “Since 2016, we convened the US-Baltic Dialogue to broaden and deepen our range of security cooperation activities and address Baltic-wide security gaps,” the US State Department said in a press release last month. The department noted that the Baltic states have bought about \$504 million worth of military gear from the US since 2015, and the US has also sought to shore up those countries’ defenses with military financing, education and training.

Dismount infantrymen assigned to 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, race out of the back of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle Feb. 21, 2021, as they participate with Lithuanian 21st Dragoon Battalion in a combined training exercise. The Troopers traveled a two-mile route where they were faced with small units of Lithuanian forces who placed various ambushes along the route.

(US Army photo / Sgt. Alexandra Shea)



“Thanks to continued strong Congressional support, such as the Baltic Security Initiative in the FY21 National Defense Appropriations Bill, DoD continues to invest in programs in the Baltics to deter Russian aggression, increase interoperability, and support modernization,” the State Department added. Geopolitics and military financing is all well and good, but how did it go down in the knee-deep snow of the Kairai training area, just off the coast of the Baltic Sea? Quite well, in fact: Maslauskas and his team placed several improvised explosive devices and camouflaged soldiers touting grenade launchers at key points along a two-mile stretch of road

running through a forest. The surprises were meant to disrupt or disable the movement of Bravo Company's Bradley fighting vehicles and dismounted infantrymen, and it worked.

As the Stallions rolled down the road, one of their Bradleys took a critical hit from a bomb hidden under snow and tree branches. The only indicator of the trap was a thin strand of wire that blended in with the branches. Seconds later, as infantryman left the disabled Bradley, a second, smaller explosion kicked off an attack on the Americans' flank, signaling that they were now in some serious shit. "We definitely would have taken some casualties today," Ringel said. "We may have them on sheer numbers, but their ability to halt our advance with their tactics is a force multiplier ... They don't hold anything back and train hard." For the Lithuanians, the scenario validated the effectiveness of that training. For the Americans, it gave them an inside look at the use of unconventional warfare to prepare them for future such ambushes. Maslauskas, the Lithuanian officer who helped plan the ambush, seemed to have a 'bring it on' kind of swagger afterward. "We have been having fun, you see that we are smiling," he said. "100% we would train again with US forces."

Scientists Want to Inject Night Vision Straight into Eyeballs

Forget bulky goggles: Jared Keller September 04, 2019



The US military may be working overtime to reduce the weight of a standard-issue pair of night vision goggles to the point where it feels like you're wearing nothing at all, but a group of scientists think they've cracked the code of "built-in" night vision thanks to dollop of special particles and a needle to the eyeball. A

group of researchers attending the American Chemical Society's national meeting in San Diego, California this month plan on presenting a method for using ultra-small nanoparticles, injected into the eye, to imbue a subject with the ability to see near-infrared light, according to an August press release. "When we look at the universe, we see only visible light," Massachusetts Medical School nanoparticle expert and the project's principal investigator, Gang Han said in the release. "But if we had near-infrared vision, we could see the universe in a whole new way. We might be able to do infrared astronomy with the naked eye or have night vision without bulky equipment."

According to Popular Science, human vision usually operates within wavelengths between 380 to 700 nanometers. But in February, a paper authored Gang and fellow researchers at the University of Science and Technology of China described how they injected special "ocular injectable photoreceptor-binding upconversion" nanoparticles that absorb infrared light and produce visible (and therefore perceivable) light into the retinas of lab rats. The result? The nanoparticles basically created "thousands of tiny infrared goggles *inside the rodents' eyes,*" as

The Atlantic artfully explained at the time. “With their technologically augmented retinas, the mice could respond to infrared light that would otherwise have been invisible to them.” This obviously has fascinating applications beyond combat: As one expert told Stars and Stripes, the temporary nature of the treatment presents less of a risk to the average warfighter than permanent augmentations, and various nanoparticle designs could enable customs officials to detect “smuggled radioactive materials” by eyeball alone.

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Yorke Island Update – Final photos from the Bombardier Jimmy Blackburn album have been uploaded. A big thank you to Alexis Smith, daughter of Bombardier Jimmy Blackburn for donating the album to our Museum. There were some great new photos!
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/bdr-blackburn.html>

Yorke Island War Diaries. We’ve found some great stories in the War Diaries from Yorke Island. A big shout out to Stu McDonald who spent hours photographing all the pages. Some of the stories include: Nov 1941 - a deer mascot was brought to the island, plans were made for a trumpet band to be formed; Feb 1942 – fire in the power house; Jan 1942 – rowdyism in the wet canteen; Dec 1941 – Warning Order; Jan 1941 – 6 Pdr Hotchkiss installed.
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/war-diaries---85th-battery.html>

The ILTIS project – We’re still waiting for the Antique plates from ICBC. Our fundraising seems to be stalled at 35 kph. Any one else care to donate to this worthwhile cause? The ILTIS is in great shape and would be an excellent addition to our events this upcoming summer.
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/the-iltis-project>

M 135 Deuce and a half – We’ve started work on restoring a deuce and a half that was once part of 5th (BC) Fd Battery. Check out the progress here.
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/deuce.html>

Venerable Gunners– We’re looking for all of our remaining World War 2 veterans to give us a call! <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/venerable-gunners>

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: *Prototype semiauto rifle with Ross parts*

Rock Island Auction. Rock Island, Illinois. Auction Date: September 15, 2013
Estimate Price: \$5,500 - \$8,500 Sale Price: \$11,500

This is really a one of kind prototype self-loading Ross rifle. This unique rifle was developed specifically by Sir Charles Ross circa 1910-1918. Obviously, he was one of the numerous companies at this time that was attempting to develop some kind of self-loading semi-automatic rifle for not only the Canadian Commercial market but probably for future Government sales. Based on the overall configuration of the rifle you can certainly tell its lineage, as the complete trigger guard, box magazine, barrel, barrel bands and forward section of this rifle are exactly like the Canadian Ross MKIII rifles. The complete action/receiver section is an all-new design effort.



The written documentation provided by the consignor notes that this rifle was developed in the 1910-time frame specifically by

Sir Charles Ross. During the WWI time frame he took this rifle to the Savage Arms company for further testing/evaluation. It remained with the Savage Arms, R&D department until 1946 when it was sold to one of the Savage production Engineers, prior to the move by the company from Utica, NY to Chicopee Falls, Mass. This rifle is a very large and complex rifle design employing a brass vertical locking block mechanism similar to the later 1921 Thompson SMG and also similar in appearance to the later 1918 Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) designed by John Browning. The only markings on the rifle are the serial number on the barrel which is "HG15238", which was probably associated with the original MKII/III Ross rifle, where those parts came from.

This Week: The fortunes of war can make strange bedfellows, such as in the operations in Syria and Iraq against the terrorist Daesh (aka ISIS) organization. Indeed, one needs a flow chart to see who is a good guy, on our side, against the really bad guys, or who is a non-good guy, not on our side, but against the really bad guys, too. It was obviously a bit too much for a former US potentate, who ended up abandoning some of the really bad guys' worst enemies, and our good friends, the Kurds (but, the good Kurds, not the ones that our NATO ally, Turkey, considers terrorists). Confused? Well, war can also result in last night's bedfellow becoming today's enemy, and vice versa. Who can forget the Wars of the Roses, when brother turned on brother, and horses were worth the price of a kingdom?

All of which leads us to this week's photograph, taken from the interweb, easily accessible to those of you with programming skills and a computational engine. These brave lads on parade fought in one of the least known incidents in modern warfare. To complicate things a bit, some of them remained on the side of the power from which the others defended themselves, with

panache, a credit to the history of their unit (which still exists). The situation is even more bizarre



when one realizes where the action took place. The country in which they were stationed was itself divided into the remains of the legitimate government, and at least three puppet states. However, as it turned out, the legitimate government (a wartime ally of Canada) lost out to a pack of unwashed communists who spent much of the war hiding in the hills and bumping each other off.

Confused again? Well, were we to tell you exactly where

this photo was taken, that would spoil the game. Suffice to say it was about as far from their native land that one could get, although a countryman had been there several centuries earlier. He even had a bridge named after him. So, who are these stalwarts, where were they stationed, and who did they briefly fight? You may send your electronically encoded letters to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). No more hints!

From the 'Punitary'

How do you fix a broken gorilla? With a monkey wrench.

Murphy's Other Laws

Education is the process of moving from cocksure ignorance to thoughtful uncertainty.

Quotable Quotes

Looking forward to things is half the pleasure of them. - *LM Montgomery*

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