

Honorary Patron of EUSI – Her Honor, Lois Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

## PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

JULY 2017

The information in this newsletter is for informational purposes only. The Edmonton United Services assumes no liability for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon.

### President's Comment

Happy Canada 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. There are many celebratory activities happening in the city and in surrounding areas.

CFB Edmonton will host a number of events on July 01:

Afternoon Event – 1100 -1500 hrs at Sir Winston Churchill Park, CFB Edmonton ( Not Churchill Square in Edmonton) Free admission with attractions for the whole family including pony rides, midway rides, inflatables and many more.

Evening Event - 1800hrs-2300hrs at the Edmonton Garrison Memorial Golf & Curling Club.

Free Admission with an outdoor concert, fireworks, and food & beverage sales.

Calgary Stampede Homegrown Heroes Night

“The Calgary Stampede is pleased to provide you with information on our upcoming Homegrown Heroes Night, July 10th, 2017 for the Evening Show. In our efforts to recognize members of the Canadian Forces, First Responders and Veterans, we are pleased to offer 50% off tickets for the member, their family and friends. Please extend this to retirees as well.”

The landing page for ticket purchases

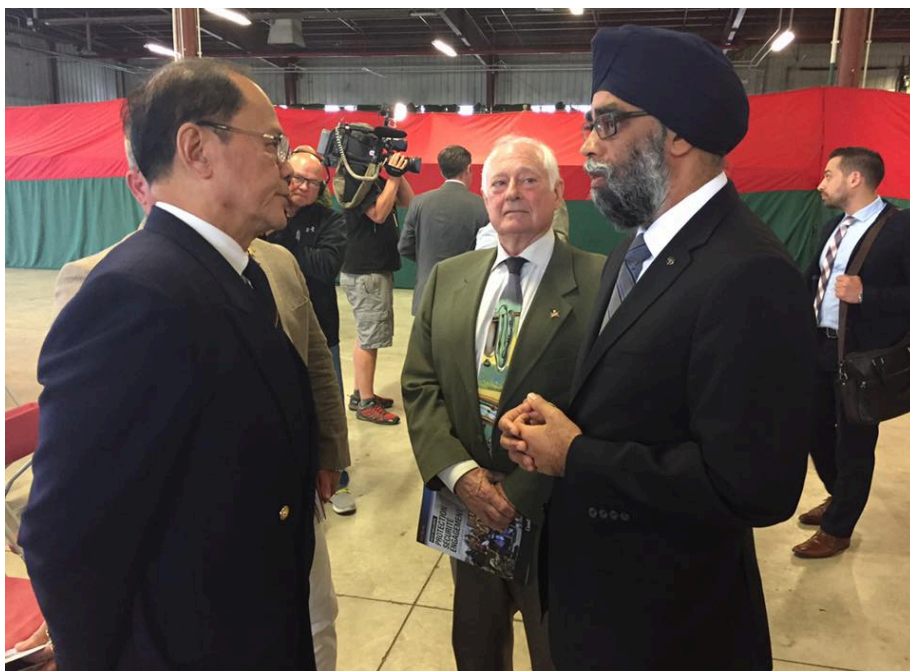
is [www.calgarystampede.com/heroes](http://www.calgarystampede.com/heroes)<<http://www.calgarystampede.com/heroes>>

Use promo code HERO

The month of June has been a busy month for EUSI. Three board members were privileged to be part of the Edmonton Salute Committee VIP guests at Ex Maple Flag that took place at CFB Cold Lake on June 7. They were observers of some excellent air maneuvers at close proximity, followed by a sumptuous dinner at the Officer's Mess.



Ten positions were allocated to EUSI for a briefing with the Minister of Defence, The Honorable Harjit Sajjan on June 14 at CFB Edmonton. Three of us attended. There was no significant different information provided that was not already released to the public, except on the matter of cyber security. Cyber security was the topic of the EUSI symposium four years ago. I am happy that we at least have formulated a defence policy on cyber security. The previous government had tabled Bill C-51 to address the same concern but failed to get any support from the opposition, citing concerns for intrusion to personal privacy. Mr. Sajjan advised that DND will be working in close cooperation with the Department of Public Security to arrive at an acceptable balance between protection of the state and respect for citizen privacy. Mr. Sajjan advised that the Honorable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Security will be making an announcement shortly. We will be monitoring any further development on the matter. (Mr. Goodale did announced an amended Bill C-51 on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017)



The President of EUSI was invited to attend the Change of Command ceremony of HMCS Edmonton, took place in Victoria on June 21. Readers may remember that the executive members of HMCS Edmonton visited our City of Edmonton in May and we hope the visit will become an annual event.



Alex Tsang posing in front of HMCS Edmonton, moments before the Change of Command parade begins.



Members of the Edmonton Salutes Committee with Incoming CO, Lieutenant Commander Brian Henwood. Starting from left, Maj Alex Tsang, Tammy Pidman Judy Wilson, LComd Henwood, Lesli Olsen and Marv Neumann,

EUSI sponsored Luncheon and Learn have had two successful luncheon meeting held at HMCS NONSUCH in May and June. Col Bill Flatcher and LCol Tom Bradley were the two guest speakers who spoke on military deployment to Eastern Europe and the Battle of Vimy Ridge respectively. We will be take a break for the summer and Luncheon and Learn will resume in September. Details will be published at an opportune time.

On June 27, Ms Nicole Goehring, MLA Castledowns and the Provincial Military Liaison will be hosting an information fair on PTSD at the Federal Building in the morning and again at the Castledowns YMCA in the evening. A BBQ will be served at the YMCA event. Come and meet Nicole and she will try to have your questions answered.

### **July 27 is the Official Korean Veterans Day.**

Senator Yonah Martin conceived and authored Bill S-213, which passed both the Senate and House of Commons unanimously, to make July 27 Korean War Veterans Day. The Korean War began June 25, 1950. By the time the Korea Armistice Agreement was signed on July 27, 1953, more than 26,000 Canadians had served in Korea and 516 Canadians had lost their lives in service.

Canada, plus 20 other countries, went to the aid of South Korea and turned back the scourge of communism. About 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.

In 2013, the Government of Canada marks the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice with events in both Korea and Canada on the newly established Korean War Veterans Day on July 27, in honour of all Canadians who served in the Korean War, and those who served on duties in Korea following the signing of the Military Armistice Agreement that ended the war, on July 27, 1953.



### **HUMOR**

If a man cuts his finger off while slicing salami at work,

he blames the restaurant.

If you smoke 3 packs a day  
for 40 years & die of lung cancer,  
your family blames the tobacco company.

If your neighbour crashes  
Into a tree while driving home drunk,  
He blames the bartender.

If your grandchildren are

Brats without manners,  
You blame television.

If your friend is shot by a  
Deranged madman,  
You blame the gun manufacturer.

And if a crazed person breaks  
Into the cockpit and  
Tries to kill the pilot at 35,000 feet,  
And the passengers  
Kill him instead,  
The mother of the crazed deceased  
blames the airline

I must have lived too long to  
understand the world  
as it is anymore.

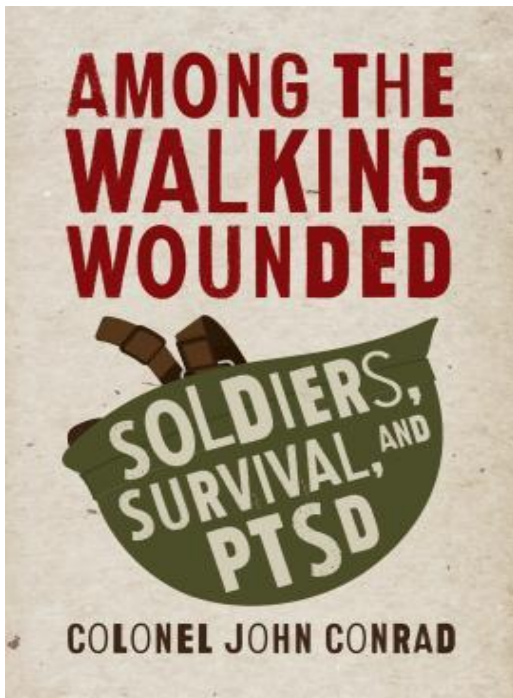
So, if I die while my OLD WRINKLED ARSE  
is parked in front of this computer,  
I want all of you to  
Blame Bill Gates.



## CANADIAN MILITARY READING

**Among the Walking Wounded by Colonel (retired) John Conrad. Published May 23rd 2017 by Dundurn Group**

Colonel Conrad was the former Commander of 41 Canadian Brigade Group, a Reserve Brigade in Alberta. In his book, Col Conrad tells the less glamorous side of soldiering, PTSD. He reminds readers that, **for many, wars go on long after the last shot is fired.** In the shadows of army life is a world where friends become monsters, where kindness twists into assault, and where self-loathing and despair become constant companions. Colonel Conrad did not suffer from PTSD although he had a number of tours in combat duties in Afghanistan. As a commander, he witnessed firsthand many traumas soldiers lived through and those who were coping with PTSD upon returning to Canada. *Among the Walking Dead* was the best seller in Alberta. Given June 27 is the Provincial Awareness Day for PTSD, this book is a must read.



## CANADIAN GEAR

### Remotely Piloted System (Drones)

For those who attended the briefing by the Minister of National Defence on June 14, 2017, at the Canadian Forces Base Edmonton will remember seeing a replica model of the Predator Class MQ18 Predator in front of the dias where the minister spoke. Part of the Canada's Defence Policy released last week included funding for a fleet of remotely piloted systems, intended to enhance the capability of the RCN, the CA, and the RCAF. This may be inferred that either the navy, army or the air force will have the capability to deploy RPS. In addition to weaponry capabilities, drones have multiple usages, as follows:

- Camera Systems / Imaging / Vision Systems
- Communication Systems
- Components
- Counter RPAS Technology
- Data Management
- Education/Training and Simulation
- Engines
- Flight Control Systems
- Ground Systems
- MRO
- Operator Services
- Original Equipment Manufacturer
- Research, Development, Test & Evaluation
- Sensors



**41 Canadian Brigade Group is the Reserve Brigade in Alberta. It is one of the busiest military formation, including an infantry company posted in our northern territories. The following is a briefing about 41 CBG from the Commander, 41 CBG, Colonel Eppe van Weelderden:**

These are busy times for the soldiers of Alberta's Brigade. In addition to the normal tempo of training, we deployed more than 27 soldiers overseas, commemorated the centennial of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in all six of our garrison cities, changed commanding officers in five of our nine units, successfully revamped our recruiting system, and are now preparing to conduct basic training for 150+ new recruits.

We currently have 27 soldiers deployed on operations in Beirut, Kuwait, Latvia and Ukraine.

In April, our brigade commemorated the sacrifices and courage of our predecessors at the Battle of Vimy Ridge at ceremonial and social events in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer and Yellowknife.

The following units are now "under new leadership": 20th Independent Field Battery (Maj Nick Barber), 41 Combat Engineer Regiment (LCol Scott Long), 41 Signal Regiment (LCol Mike Fawcett), The Loyal Edmonton Regiment (LCol Jon McCully), and The Calgary Highlanders (LCol Simon Cox). Furthermore, CWO Mike Parchewsky replaced CWO Bob Prospero as the Regimental Sergeant-Major of 41 Signal Regiment and CWO Glenn Fedoruk replaced CWO Chris Tucker as Regimental Sergeant-Major of The Calgary Highlanders.

There will be two additional changes of command in September: The South Alberta Light Horse in Medicine Hat on 9 September (LCol Troy Steele to Maj Shawn Thirlwell) and 41 Service Battalion in Calgary on 30 September (LCol Dave Sweeney to Maj Peter Boyle). I hope you will be able to join us to mark these significant events.

As of 1 April, the Army Reserve re-assumed control of Recruit Processing from the Canadian Forces Recruiting Group. The strong efforts of our Units in attracting additional applicants, and our Brigade Recruiting Centres (Jefferson Armoury and Mewata Armoury) in processing have significantly increased the throughput. We have been able to significantly reduce processing times to mere weeks (instead of months) thanks to the efforts of our extremely dedicated Brigade Recruiters team led by Lt(N) Gwen Rodgers. They have been very well supported by Medics from 15 Field Ambulance, as well as the Canadian Forces Recruiting Centres in Calgary and Edmonton led by Maj Kristina Morin.

This surge in recruiting means we will be training 150+ recruits this summer in Edmonton, Calgary and Medicine Hat. We are reinforcing this success by expanding into two new areas. In May, the King's Own Calgary Regiment launched its Foothills Training Detachment in High River, providing training opportunities for new soldiers in the Okotoks / High River area. The South Alberta Light Horse is growing its presence in the south with 3 Recce Troop now parading out of Vimy Ridge Armoury in Lethbridge.

Members of our Brigade will participate in the Calgary and Medicine Hat Stampede parades, and as part of the annual interactive display of equipment and gear from across the Canadian Armed Forces.

After such a busy training year, I hope everyone will take the time to enjoy some well-deserved rest with family and friends this summer.



Lieutenant-Colonel Scott Long (left) , with Colonel Eppo van Weelderen and Lieutenant-Colonel Bruno St. Amand, signs the scroll during the 41 CER Change of Command Ceremony at Philip L. Debney Armoury in Edmonton on 29 April



Soldiers from 41 Service Battalion secure the perimeter of their Commodity Point location during Exercise WILD MUSTANG held at Camp Worthington, west of Caroline, from 21 to 23 April 2017.



Securitas

*Alexander Tsang CD*

MAJOR (RETIRED)

PRESIDENT

EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

[ALEXANDERHTSANG@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:ALEXANDERHTSANG@HOTMAIL.COM). OUR WEB: [WWW.EUSI.CA](http://WWW.EUSI.CA)

