

## EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

# PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

## JANUARY 2018



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### **President's Comments**

Happy New Year to you all and may the new year bring you good health and fortune.

2017 has been a busy year for EUSI. Despite a reduced membership, we managed to maintain involvement in many activities. As a result of effective use of social media, our visibility in the community at large and within the defence stakeholders has been increased. For the coming year, I hope to increase our efforts to recruit new members. As a member of EUSI, your help in bringing new members would be much appreciated. Please do what you can to recruit at least one new member for this year.

I also hope to have a closer relationship with other United Services Institutes in Calgary and Vancouver.

### **Membership Dues**

Annual membership due remains at \$25.00. Our Director of membership, Capt (ret'd) John Pinsent will be sending out reminders shortly. Please update your personal information and include a check of \$25.00 for one year, or \$50.00 for two years, whatever you prefer. Group membership, such as Militia or Naval Reserve units, is \$50.00 per year.

### **Last Post**

A former president of EUSI and a Member Emeritus, Lieutenant (retired) John de Bruin passed away in 2017. John was a member of the Garrison Officers' Club, re-named EUSI in 1969, and a former mayor of the City of St. Albert.

### **Year End Report**

The following represents the summary of activities of the EUSI from January 01, 2017 to December 31, 2017. A description of some of the planned activities for the next 12 months are also included.

1. **Membership** - The EUSI currently has 61 regular members and 7 group memberships of local veteran and Reserve units. We have experienced a decrease in membership due to a number of members have passed away and a few more who were missing in action or failing to renew their membership.

**2. Board of Directors** --- The EUSI has a full board that include a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Director of Membership, Public Information/Media Liasion Officer, Director of Social Media and Website Maintenance, Military Liaison Officer, Social Function Director, Director of Business Development, Director of Protocol, Awards and Honours, and two Directors at Large. One of these Directors at Large was reassigned to become Director, Legal Affairs. His primary function is to review and update the EUSI bylaws. The current President was relected to a two year term during the Annual General Meeting held on October 2017.

**3. DND Policy change regarding use of DND services and facilities-** Due to changes of DND policy that require non miliary organizations to pay for services and use of facilities in kind, and that a number of United Services Institutes in Alberta that hold meetings in armouries previously are having to look for other accomodadtions as they do not have the fund for the very expensive demand for payment. This situation has not improved. EUSI have stopped requesting the services of the Militia music band in the last three years and we meet in a local hotel. It is not known if the same situation existed in the rest of the country. We have been fortunate to partner with the local Royal Canadian Navy Base, HMC NONSUCH, and held a number of functions without having to fork out expensive user fees.

**4. Newsletter** – The EUSI continuues to publish a monthly newsltter with distribution to all EUSI members plus roughly 200 non members. Those who have internet services receive our newsletter by Email. Those who do not have internet receive the newsletter via regular postal services.

**5. Social Media and Web site** – All EUSI publications, past and current events are available through Edmonton United Services Institute at Facebook and through our website, EUSI.CA. All information contained in our website are available to the public, military, and educational institutions free of charge. The educational symposium held in the last two years are uploaded in Youtube and Facebook. A number of colleges and universities have rsearched the web with no charges.

**6. Public Education/Annual Sumposium** - The EUSI has hosted annual symposium for the last 8 years, except in 2015 and 2017 Previous topics were

- a. Canada at War in Afghanistan
- b. Canada at War in Afghanistan – Going the Distance
- c. Canada at War in Afghanistan – Winning on the Home Front
- d. Canada at Wat in Afghanistan – Keeping the Promises
- e. Canadian Defence Against Cyber Invasion, held on May 24, 2013
- f. Threat to Canadian Northern Land and Marine Sovereignty, held on October 18, 2014
- g. Future Role of the Canadian Military, Peace Keeping Vs Peace Making, held on September 17, 2016. This symposium was videotaped and uploaded into the EUSI website. A number of individuals and organizations have take advantage of the information in their researches.

Due to the Federal election, previously scheduled annual symposium was cancelled in 2015.

For the year 2017, a decision was made to suspend the annual symposium for this year as to not to compete with other organizations for participants cerebrating Canada 150

For the year 2018, a tentative subject for the fall symposium will look at Canada's ability or lack of to defend Canada in a nuclear missile attack.

**7. Cancellation of annual symposium for 2017** - Due to the many events to take place in 2017 for the Canada 150 cerebration, EUSI have decided not to compete with organizations for audience. Instead, a townhall/gala and a mess dinner was held on October 28 to honor WWII and Korean and RCMP veterans.

More than fifty veterans and their spouses were hosted to a very delightful dinner with prominent guest speakers. Each veteran and their contribution to Canada was publicly recognized. Department of Veteran Affairs contributed \$2000.00 for this event.

**8. Partnership with The Memorial Project, Historica Canada.** In 2015, EUSI began a partnership with the Memorial Project, a program funded by Veterans Canada and Department of Heritage Canada, in which our members volunteered to speak at educational institutions and community gatherings. In the last 12 months, members of EUSI have spoken on approximate 40 times at high schools, churches, Legions, and community gatherings. The president of EUSI was invited to speak at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Alberta, on Canada's foreign policies. More speech engagements are expected in the coming year.

**9. The Last Post Fund** – Three of the EUSI members are currently serving as directors of the Alberta Chapter of the Last Post Fund. One is a current president.

**10. Edmonton Salutes Committee** – EUSI is one of the founding members of the Edmonton Salutes Committee, stand to in 1996 to honor Edmonton area soldiers and to commemorate their returning home from overseas deployments. This activity was suspended for a few years as the war in Afghanistan winded down. However, with the recent deployment to Poland, Ukraine, and Latvia, and that majority of the troops were from 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division based in Edmonton, the Edmonton Salutes Committee has resumed this activity. The president of EUSI was recently selected to be the new co-chair of the Edmonton Salutes Committee. The other chair person is an elected City of Edmonton Councillor.

Any EUSI members who would like to participate in the next welcoming troops returning, for January 13 and January 14, please contact the President, EUSI.

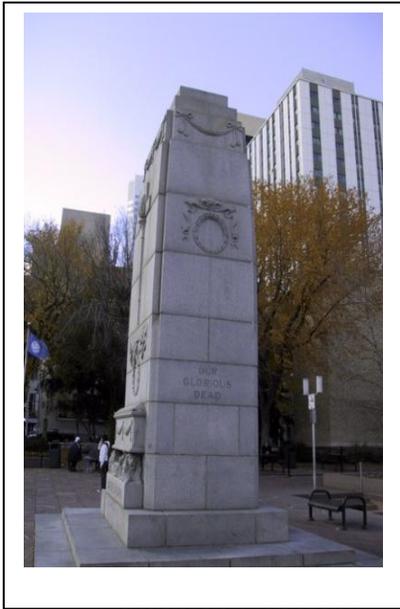
Via the Edmonton Salutes Committee, EUSI memebbers participated in a number of fund raising functions for the benefit of the Military Family Recreational Centre in Edmonton. (MFRC Edmonton). EUSI also participated in re-naming of an Edmonton street to commemorate Canadian soldiers. As the war in Afghanistan has ended, the Edmonton Salutes Committee has been involved in helping military personnel and their family intergrating and transitioning into the community. EUSI provided vintage military vehicles to support Edmonton Salutes Committee in the annual Capital City Parade.

**11. Difficulties anticipated in the coming years for EUSI** - EUSI does not receive any government funds and operates solely on private donations, membership dues and fund raising activites. However, the economy in Alberta is in a downturn and not expected to recover soon, we anticipated shortage of operating funds



**The Governor General Sovereign Medal for Volunteers** – Congratulations to Honorary Colonel Ian Taylor, former Treasurer of EUSI, for receiving the Medal for all his volunteer works and years of dedicated service to the military.





Edmonton Cenotaph

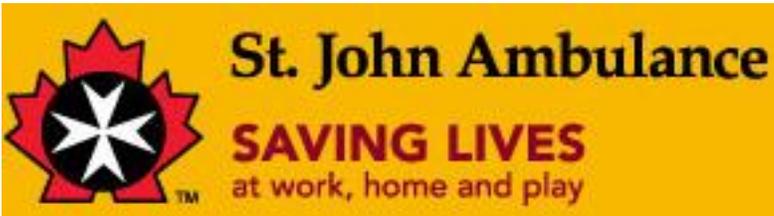
## ATTACK

A dawn the ridge emerges massed and dun  
 In the wild purple of the glow'ring sun,  
 Smouldering through spouts of drifting smoke that  
 shroud  
 The menacing scarred slope; and, one by one,  
 Tanks creep and topple forward to the wire.  
 \The barrage roars and lifts. Then, clumsily bowed  
 With bombs and guns and shovels and battle-gear,  
 Men jostle and climb to meet the bristling fire.  
 Lines of grey, muttering faces, masked with fear,  
 They leave their trenches, going over the top,  
 While time ticks blank and busy on their wrists,  
 And hope, with furtive eyes and grappling fists,  
 Flounders in mud. O Jesus, make it stop!



## HUMOUR

“What happened to ‘ee, lad?” asked a country-man of a bewildered airman who crashed on a lonely moor in the Southwest of England. “I got into air pocket,” replied the airman. “‘Ee doan’t say!” exclaimed the countryman. “And war there a ‘ole in it?”



Get trained!



## About Iran – why it is so dangerous when the state and religion are one entity

Shortly after Christmas, persistent protests against the government erupted in Iran, resulting in civilian injuries and fatalities. Few outside of Iran understand the political and religious interaction that evolved since the exile of the Shah of Iran four decades ago. The following is a Readers’ Digest version of the political system in Iran.



## **The Supreme Leader of Iran**

**Incumbent** [Ali Khamenei](#), since 4 June 1989

**Residence** – House of leadership, Tehran

**Term of Tenure** – Life appointment

**President of Iran** – Hassan Rouhani

The **Supreme Leader of Iran** also called the **Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution** officially in Iran, called the **Supreme Leadership Authority**, is the head of state and highest ranking political and religious authority in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The armed forces, judicial system, state television, and other key governmental organizations are under the control of the Supreme Leader of Iran. The current longtime Supreme Leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei, has been issuing decrees and making the final decisions on economy, environment, foreign policy, education, national planning, and everything else in Iran. Khamenei also makes the final decisions on the amount of transparency in elections in Iran, and has fired and reinstated Presidential cabinet appointments. The Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei directly chooses the ministries of Defense, Intelligence and Foreign Affairs, as well as certain other ministries, such as the Science Ministry. Iran's regional policy is directly controlled by the office of the Supreme Leader with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' task limited to protocol and ceremonial occasions. All of Iran's ambassadors to Arab countries, for example, are chosen by the Quds Corps, which directly reports to the Supreme Leader.

This post was established by the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran in accordance with the concept of the Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist. According to the Constitution, the powers of government in the Islamic Republic of Iran are vested in the legislature, the judiciary, and the executive powers, functioning under the supervision of the **Absolute Guardianship and the Leadership of the Ummah**, that refers to the Supreme Leader. The title "*Supreme*" Leader, is often used as a sign of respect; however, this is not found in the Constitution, which simply refers to the "**Leader**"

The Supreme Leader is more powerful than the President of Iran and appoints the heads of many powerful posts in the military, the civil government, and the judiciary. Originally Iran's constitution stated that the

Supreme Leader must be a *Marja'-e taqlid*, the highest ranking cleric and authority on religious laws in Usuli Twelver Shia Islam. However, in 1989, the constitution was amended to require simply Islamic "scholarship" of the leader, i.e., the leader could be a lower ranking cleric.

In its history, the Islamic Republic has had two Supreme Leaders: Ruhollah Khomeini, who held the position from 1979 until his death in 1989, and Ali Khamenei, who has held the position since Khomeini's death.

In theory, the Supreme Leader is appointed and supervised by the Assembly of Experts. However, all candidates to the Assembly of Experts, the President and the Majlis (Parliament), are selected by the Guardian Council, whose members are selected by the Supreme Leader of Iran. Also, all directly-elected members after the vetting process by the Guardian Council still have to be approved by the Supreme Leader. As such, the Assembly has never questioned the Supreme Leader. There have been instances when the current Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has publicly criticized members of the Assembly of Experts, resulting in their arrest and dismissal. For example, Khamenei publicly called Ahmad Azari Qomi a traitor, resulting in Ahmad Azari Qomi's arrest and eventual dismissal from the Assembly of Experts. There have also been instances where the Guardian Council reversed its ban for particular people after being ordered to do so by Khamenei.

**Western leaders who play politics with religions for votes should look at history and the damages to the stability of a nation, a province, a city, and a region when state authority is intertwined with religious authority.**

## CANADIAN GEAR

### LONG RANGE SNIPER WEAPON (LRSW)



The Long-Range Sniper Weapon provides snipers with a rifle that can deliver highly accurate fire against hard targets at ranges of up to 1800 meters. It is rugged and performs well under extreme climactic conditions. The rifle is a heavy-barrel, bolt action detachable box magazine-fed weapon with a five-shot capacity. The weapon was introduced in the fall of 2000.



**New U.S. Army Rifle!**The MXT135 Counter Defilade Target Engagement System has a range of roughly 7,800 feet - and is to be deployed in Afghanistan soon. I would call it the "Equalizer." Some call it the "Punisher". The rifle's gun sight uses a laser range finder to determine the exact distance to the obstruction, after which the soldier can add or subtract up to 10 meters from that distance to enable the bullets to clear the barrier and explode above or beside the target. Soldiers will be able to use them to target snipers hidden in trenches rather than calling in air strikes. The 35-millimeter round contains a chip that receives a radio signal from the gun sight as to the precise distance to the target. Lt. Col. Christopher Lehner, project manager for the system, described the weapon as a 'game-changer' that other nations will try and copy. The Army plans to buy 42,500 of the MXT135 rifles this year, enough for every member of the infantry and special forces, at a cost of \$11,900.00 each. Lehner told Fox News: "With this weapon system, we take away cover from [enemy targets] forever. Tactics are going to have to be rewritten. The only thing we can see [enemies] being able to do is run away." Experts say the rifle means that enemy troops will no longer be safe if they take cover. The MXT135 appears to be the perfect weapon for street-to-street fighting that troops in Afghanistan have to engage in, with enemy fighters hiding behind walls and only breaking cover to fire occasionally. The weapon's laser finder would work out how far away the enemy was and then the U.S. Soldier would add one meter using a button near the trigger. When fired, the explosive round would carry exactly one meter past the wall and explode with the force of a hand grenade above the Taliban fighter. The army's project manager for new weapons, Douglas Tamilio, said: "This is the first leap-ahead technology for troops that we've been able to develop and deploy." A patent granted to the bullet's maker, Alliant Tech systems, reveals that the chip can determine how far it has traveled. Mr. Tamilio said: "You could shoot a Javelin missile, and it would cost about \$69,000. These rounds will end up costing \$45.00 apiece." They're relatively cheap. Lehner added: "This is a game-changer. The enemy has learned to get cover, for hundreds if not thousands of years. Well, they can't do that anymore. We're taking that cover from them and there's only two outcomes: We're going to get you behind that cover or force you to flee." The rifle will initially use high-explosive rounds, but its makers say that it might later use versions with smaller explosive charges that aim to stun rather than kill. What one of the revolutionary bullets looks like that can be pre-programmed to explode to hit troops that are hiding.



Securitas

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