

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



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

MARCH 2019

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President's Comment

There are no shortages of political tsunamis in Ottawa in the last few weeks. From the questionable antics involving the Department of National Defence in the Rear Admiral Norman trial to the alleged political interference from the PMO's office in a criminal trial, that two normally alarming reports of gross shortages of pilots and experienced sailors to carry out the most basic operations were side tracked because of the other political issues. The shortcomings were cited by the head of air and naval operations. For most Canadians, the dire state of our current defence capability is worrisome, especially with Russia flexing its military muscles resuming reconnaissance flights over Canadian northern territories, and both the USA and Russia backing out from nuclear disarmament agreements. As our demographic is getting younger and holds naïve opinions about military readiness, I just hope the day wouldn't come when we have to defend our homeland and values with military means..

Annual General Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 1145 Hrs, at the Edmonton Convention and Conference Centre at 11830, Kingsway NW, Edmonton, at the Silkwood Room. Lunch is provided and RSVP to President EUSI is requested.

Commonwealth Day



Commonwealth Day is celebrated on the second Monday of March. It is the day when Commonwealth countries, which represent a quarter of all humanity, acknowledge their common bonds and the contribution of the Commonwealth of Nations to the creation of a harmonious global environment. This year, in partnership with the Royal Commonwealth Society of Canada, Edmonton Branch, The Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Her Honour, Lois Mitchell, will host a dinner at the Government House on March 9. The Commonwealth does not have the power as United Nations and certainly do not

have the might as NATO to enforce any conditions or sanctions. It is effective in its own way to promote respect for diversity, democracy, religious freedom, and cultural values. Unfortunately, not unlike other institutions, it is getting less known to people, especially among the younger generations. I dare to say, many will not know that Canada is a Commonwealth nation and the head of the Commonwealth is Queen Elizabeth. The Royal Commonwealth Society of Edmonton has a newly completed Video available on YouTube and on its website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvrXsRQUONg>



Conference of Defence Association Symposium

The following is submitted by Capt Grant Cree who attended the Conference of Defence Association in Ottawa Feb 7-8, 2019: .

Future military frameworks



“I’m grateful to be able to share some thoughts on the status of the Canadian Armed Forces as we are in the second year of implementing Strong, Secure and Engaged,” said Lieutenant-General Paul Wynnyk on Feb. 13 to hundreds of delegates attending a defence conference in Ottawa.

LGen Wynnyk is the Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff, and he was one of several high-ranking military leaders who spoke during the annual Conference of Defence Associations conference. The two-day symposium took place Feb. 12 and 13 in the Chateau Laurier hotel.

On behalf of the Edmonton United Services Institute, I attended this conference which is the largest annual public gathering of its kind in Canada. The topics address security and defence policy, military capability, planning and analysis. Over 450 delegates were there, including key decision makers from the Department of National Defence, Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), NORAD, the defence and security industry, and academia.

LGen Wynnyk spoke about the international frameworks under which the CAF operates, and the challenges faced by Canadian military members operating about the world.

“These conflicts are compounded by a variety of factors,” said LGen Wynnyk, referring to the impacts of climate change, natural disasters and economic insecurities. “Contemporary conflicts are rooted in multiple complex causes, and therefore they must have multi-faceted and comprehensive solutions.”

He pointed out the military is one part of those solutions, as they partner with those in the diplomatic and economic realms. Continual adaption is the key to dealing with those challenges while setting up the CAF for success in future warfare.

LGen Wynnyk provided an overview on Canada’s current military operations, and spoke about how the CAF is being shaped into an agile and robust force. “Broadly speaking, we are engaged in operations in six theatres,” he said. They are Canada, the Arctic, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Asia-Pacific.

“Our domestic operations are shaped, in many ways, by working alongside with many government departments and agencies to help Canadians, and to keep them safe,” he said. For example, last year CAF search and rescue teams conducted 866 missions, which was only a portion of their tasks in Canada.

LGen Wynnyk also spoke of partnering with the Coast Guard, RCMP, Parks Canada, and other government agencies on a variety of operations. In 2018, the CAF assisted provincial authorities in response to six natural disasters including floods, forest fires and winter storms. “Over the past few years, our role in domestic disaster relief has increased significantly,” he said.

Reserve units will continue to play an important role across Canada, particularly when the military is called to assist civilian authorities. “They responded rapidly in their local communities on many occasions. This summer, we will put in place an immediate response unit made up entire of Reserve Force members who will be able to answer the call at any time.”

LGen Wynnyk also spoke of working with international allies, noting when Canadian and American fighter jets were scrambled on Jan. 26 to escort two Russian bombers that entered Canadian airspace. “This is not the first time that foreign aircraft approached our coastline without permission,” he said. “And nor will it be the last.”

He noted those type of incidents reinforce the importance of partnerships with NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command), particularly in terms of modernizing all aspects of defence.

“Meanwhile in Europe, our largest effort is our contribution to NATO assurance and deterrence measures,” said LGen Wynnyk. “Canada is leading a NATO enhanced forward presence battle group in Latvia.” There are now nine nations participating in the mission to enhance security and stability in the region.

“There are 1,300 soldiers with 10 different native languages all working together for a unified purpose,” he said. “I can’t think of a better example of tactical interoperability in the entire history of NATO, it’s quite significant.” He noted that Canadian soldiers recently helped train more than 10,000 members of the Ukrainian security forces.

“I’m proud of the way this mission has evolved since 2015,” said LGen Wynnyk. “And of the contributions that our soldiers are making on a day-to-day basis. What started as a training mission primarily in two locations has developed into mentoring in almost 10 locations across western and central Ukraine.”

LGen Wynnyk also spoke of CAF members deployed to places like Iraq and West Africa. “Their work is simple, but it is absolutely vital,” he said of Mali, where CAF members conducted seven medical evacuations since last August. “They are saving the lives of our partner forces in Mali.” Canadian military participation in Mali ends in July.

As for the Asia-Pacific region, the Canadian military is providing leadership in South Korea while also participating in multinational navy operations near North Korea and humanitarian relief in Indonesia. “We have demonstrated our commitment to stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region,” said LGen Wynnyk. “We have supported Canada’s diplomatic efforts there as well.”

As of mid-February, there are more than 2,400 CAF members deployed on 21 operations around the world. "Conducting operations is what we're designed to do," said LGen Wynnyk. "But to be effective and truly excel, we have some institutional priorities that we must get right."

As for future military operations, they are projected to include cyber warfare, outer space. "Our defence policy addresses this, and calls upon us to increase our capacity in these areas and we are," he said, noting that in 2018 the CAF created a cyber operator occupation. "We're all keenly aware of the impact that a cyber attack can have on Canadian society. It's an ever growing threat, and one that needs close attention."

Final note: Thanks to EUSI President Major (Ret'd) Alex Tsang who arranged sponsorship to support my photo and video coverage of this high-profile event to update our EUSI members on these important defence matters.

CAPTIONS

CDA-02

Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff Lieutenant-General Paul Wynnyk spoke on Feb. 13 to hundreds of delegates attending the annual Conference of Defence Associations conference at the Chateau Laurier hotel in Ottawa. Photo by Grant Cree



They ask me where I've been,
And what I've done and seen.
But what can I reply
Who know it wasn't I,
But someone just like me,
Who went across the sea
And with my head and hands
Killed men in foreign lands...
Though I must bear the blame,
Because he bore my name.

❖ St. Julien Memorial



Get trained!



HERE'S A LITTLE ABOUT HISTORY AT THE END OF WWII:

Operation Magic Carpet - the ride home from WWII

Returning the troops home after WWII was a daunting task

The *Magic Carpet* that flew everyone home.

In 1939, there were 334,000 servicemen, not counting the Coast Guard.

In 1945, there were over 12 million, including the Coast Guard

At the end of the war, over 8 million of these men and women were scattered overseas in Europe, the Pacific and Asia.

Shipping them out wasn't a particular problem but getting them home was a massive logistical headache.

Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall had already established committees to address the issue in 1943.

When Germany fell in May 1945, the U.S. Navy was still busy fighting in the Pacific and couldn't assist. The job of transporting 3 million men home fell to the Army and the Merchant Marine. 300 Victory and Liberty cargo ships were converted to troop transports for the task. During the war, 148,000 troops crossed the Atlantic west to east each month; the rush home ramped this up to 435,000 a month over 14 months.

In October 1945, with the war in Asia also over, the Navy started chipping in, converting all available vessels to transport duty.

On smaller ships like destroyers, capable of carrying perhaps 300 men, soldiers were told to hang their hammocks in whatever nook and cranny they could find. Carriers were particularly useful, as their large open hangar decks could house 3,000 or more troops in relative comfort, with bunks, sometimes in stacks of five welded or bolted in place.

The Navy wasn't picky, though: cruisers, battleships, hospital ships, even LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank) were packed full of men yearning for home.

Two British ocean liners under American control, the *RMS Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth*, had already served as troop transports before and continued to do so during the operation, each capable of carrying up to 15,000 people at a time, though their normal, peacetime capacity was less than 2,200.

Twenty-nine ships were dedicated to transporting war brides: women married to American soldiers during the war.

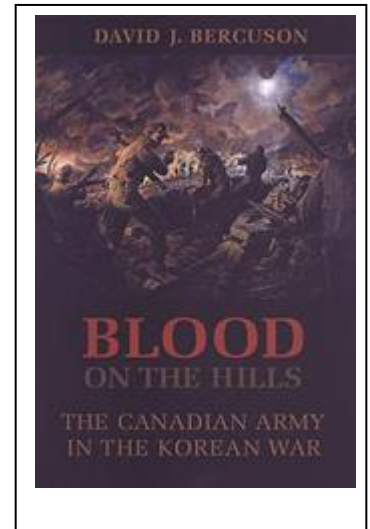


CANADIAN MILITARY READING

Blood on the Hills: The Canadian Army in the Korean War

David Jay Bercuson

Nothing tests a nation's preparedness for war better than war itself. This truism is notably apparent in David J. Bercuson's *Blood on the Hills: The Canadian Army in the Korean War*. Both Britain and Canada marched to war in 1950 either arrogant or ignorant—or both—and their ill-prepared armies were forced to learn hard lessons about the new ways of armed conflict.



CANADIAN GEAR

C2 105-MM HOWITZER



Canadian Uniforms

This howitzer is a mobile, general purpose, towed field artillery weapon. The C2 is manually operated, single loaded, air cooled, and uses semi-fixed ammunition. It can be employed for direct or indirect fire and, in the latter case, is very effective against most types of ground targets. The C2 is towed by a truck that carries both the crew and ammunition.



HUMOR

A senior citizen said to his eighty-year old buddy:

'So I hear you're getting married?'

'Yep!'

'Do I know her?'

'Nope!'

'This woman, is she good looking?'

'Not really.'

'Is she a good cook?'

'Nah, she can't cook too well.'

'Does she have lots of money?'

'Nope! Poor as a church mouse.'

'Well, then, is she good in bed?'

'I don't know.'

'Why in the world do you want to marry her then?'

'Because she can still drive!'



Securitas

Alexander Tsang CD

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IT IS TOO LATE TO SHARPEN SWORDS, WHEN THE DRUMS OF WAR ARE BEATING

