

EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

DECEMBER 2020



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President's Comments

Year End Report

Due to Covid-19, most of the usual EUSI activities have been suspended. We did not hold our ANNUAL Gener4al Meeting and a scheduled symposium to present discussions on unmanned vehicle systems or drones was cancelled. Some of the invited guest speakers would have been coming from USA and the Canada/USA border has been closed for some time. Also we would not be able to secure a venue to hold the symposium. A number of activities that EUSI would normally participate were also suspended; the Korean Veterans Commemoration, the Battle of Britain commemoration parade, the Battle of Atlantic Commemoration, the Remembrance Day ceremony and the dozens of presentations to schools, colleges, and community events on behalf of the Veter4an Affairs Memory Project. Our finance remains sound and we continue to hold funds to host the fore-mentioned programs. I do not expect things will return to normal at least till the fall of 2021.

A good news is that no EUSI member succumbed to the virus. Most of us are vets and are used to the discipline required to adhere to the restrictions. If you have not done so, I urge all of you to subscribe to some form of social media, Facebook, Instagram, Link-on etc. It would be so much easier to maintain your friend and family contacts. It is through Facebook that I keep track and do my buddy checks.

Finally, I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year. At least you can indulge a bit more this year on the Moose Milk and not worry about driving. I do hope you are staying home and cerebrate.



Canadian Forces Operations

CAF operations adjusting to **COVID-19**. The worldwide spread of COVID-19 worldwide has impacted our Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) operations across all regions. With over 2000 personnel deployed on approximately 20 different missions, the CAF is taking unprecedented measures to protect the health and well-being of our members, prevent the spread of this disease, and preserve our ability to conduct ...

Current and recurring operations

This section consists of Canadian Forces operations which are currently active, or conducted annually or on a periodic basis.

Domestic

- Operation Driftnet – In support of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Multinational efforts to control driftnetting and other forms of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in the North Pacific Ocean.^{[1][2]}
- Operation LASER - Domestic response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Operation LENTUS – Contingency plan that outlines the joint response to provide support for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) to provincial and territorial authorities in the case of a major natural disaster that overwhelms their capacity to respond.^{[1][3][4]}
- Operation Limpid – Routine domestic surveillance of Canadian air, maritime, land, space, and cyber domains as well as presence in Canada's aerial, maritime and land approaches in order to detect, deter, prevent, pre-empt and defeat threats aimed at Canada or Canadian interests.^{[1][5]}
- Operation Nanook – To assert Canada's sovereignty over its northernmost regions, to enhance the Canadian Armed Forces' ability to operate in Arctic conditions, to improve coordination in whole-of-government operations, and to maintain interoperability with mission partners for maximum effectiveness in response to safety and security issues in the North.^{[1][6]}
- Operation Nevus – To perform essential preventive and corrective maintenance on the High Arctic Data Communications System (HADCS) located on Ellesmere Island.^{[1][7]}
- Operation Nunavivut – To assert Canada's sovereignty over its northernmost regions, to demonstrate the ability to operate in the harsh winter environment in remote areas of the High Arctic, and to enhance its capability to respond to any situation in the Canada's North.^{[1][8]}
- Operation Nunakput – To assert Canada's sovereignty over its northernmost regions, to enhance the Canadian Armed Forces' ability to operate in Arctic conditions, to improve coordination and cooperation in whole-of-government operations, and to maintain interoperability with mission partners for maximum effectiveness in response to safety and security issues in the North.^{[1][9]}
- Operation Palaci – Contribution to Parks Canada's avalanche-control program in Rogers Pass. To prevent uncontrolled, naturally occurring avalanches, and thus prevent blockage of the essential road and rail links between coastal British Columbia and the rest of Canada.^{[1][10]}
- Operation Sabot – Marijuana-eradication program conducted annually with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.^{[1][11]}

Americas

- Operation Hamlet – Participation in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.^{[12][13]}

Africa

- Operation Crocodile – Military contribution to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Operation Saturn – To serve with UNAMID, the hybrid operation by the African Union (A.U.) and the United Nations in Darfur.
- Operation Soprano – Participation in the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), the military component of a "whole-of-government" engagement in South Sudan that also includes the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- Operation Sirona – Military component of the Canadian whole-of-government contribution to fighting the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel will augment efforts undertaken by the United Kingdom to combat the spread of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) in Sierra Leone.

At Sea]

- Operation Caribe – Multinational campaign against illicit trafficking by transnational organized crime in the Caribbean basin and the eastern Pacific Ocean.
- Operation Artemis – Participation in counter-terrorism and maritime security operations in the Arabian Sea.
- Operation Projection - Royal Canadian Navy operations in the Asia-Pacific, Euro-Atlantic and African maritime environment in support of NATO Maritime Command, U.S. Naval Forces, and other allied operations

Middle East

- Operation Jade – Contribution to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in the Middle East
- Operation Gladius – Latest stage of Canada's long-standing participation in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria
- Operation Calumet – Canada's participation in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), an independent peacekeeping operation in the Sinai Peninsula
- Operation Metric – Periodic participation in international efforts to enhance security in the eastern Mediterranean region, specifically the Middle East and North Africa.
- Operation Proteus – Canada's contribution to the Office of the United States Security Coordinator (USSC) in Jerusalem.
- Operation Foundation – Contribution of headquarters and liaison staff to United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) to support operations in its area of responsibility, which extends from Egypt to Pakistan and includes the Middle East and southwest Asia. Supports Canada's efforts in the Middle East and southwest Asia, and promotes Canadian values through regular presence and exchange with military allies, foreign armed forces, and governments in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility.^{[12][27]}
- Operation Impact – Canada's contribution to the US-led international coalition against ISIS.

Europe]

- Operation Kobold – Deployment to Pristina, Kosovo, to serve with the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR)
- Operation Ignition – Periodic participation in the NATO – Airborne Surveillance and Interception Capabilities to Meet Iceland's Peacetime Preparedness Needs mission. This is an operation conducted to monitor Iceland's airspace and enforce security if required. Contributes

to the security of Canadian airspace by monitoring and controlling air traffic in the northeastern approaches to North America

- Operation Reassurance – Deployment in Central and Eastern Europe as part of NATO reassurance measures.
- Operation Snowgoose – Contribution to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).
- Operation Unifier – Contribution to support Ukrainian forces through capacity building, in coordination with the U.S. and other countries providing similar training assistance.

Covid -19 or not, the CAF remain active in keeping peace around the world. Many will not be able to spend Christmas with their family. On behalf of EUSI, thank you for your service. Be safe.



Historical Tidbits

In the older days, as incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October). Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig'. Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board.'



Heroes

Fearful eyes looked upwards at the thousands of arrows streaking across the sky, the sun playing its reflective rays on those deadly tips.

The targets for those shafts of death held their wooden shields aloft as the prayers flowed freely from their lips.

The lucky ones died instantly, wooden missiles smashing through their bodies, splintering bone, and piercing their racing hearts.

Screams from the wounded, hard to ignore as the arrows stopped them playing their valiant parts.

The vanquished were fearful of the expected slaughter, which they understood would be their fate.

Victors hacked and slashed at their beaten foe, spilling their blood, just to satisfy their hate.



Barrhead War Memorial

Looting and burning, soaked in enemy blood, they sang songs of triumph at the death of their foe. On the return to their homeland, every one of the valiant men would be hailed as a returning hero. Frightening sound of an explosion, the fortress demolished, iron projectiles smash into its walls. Men defended their stronghold bravely, but arrows were no match for the power of the cannon ball. When sturdy walls were reduced to rubble, the defending army took up their swords and defiantly they charged.

They hoped that this new enemy would lose their courage and retreat, but it was them that were stopped at a distance of four hundred yards.

The enemy had new weapons, in the form of muskets that spat out deadly and unseen lead balls. The defending brave men carried on their charge, then in great numbers they began to fall. The smoke had cleared, the roar of the guns had ceased, the valiant army looted the bodies of their foes,

Then sang songs of victory and cheered each other knowing they would be hailed as returning heroes.

They will never know what happened, it would make no difference even if they did.

They will hear no sound, or sight of the enemy that is to destroy those who were content just to love and live.

Husbands, wives, parents; children, lovers, birds and sweet smelling flowers reduced to ashes by the unholy rain.

Unlucky survivors will be condemned to live their pitiful lives, mutilated and in terrible pain.

Towns, cities and countries will have very few left to cry, or to mourn.

Ill fated offspring of those few will suffer unknown terrors as they begin to die, from the moment they are born.

The senders of these weapons of Hell from hundreds of miles away, will be uncaring as the life's blood of millions, instantly ceases to flow.

They will stand upright and proud, as medals are pinned on the chests, of these valiant vanquishing heroes.



HUMOUR

A priest, a doctor, and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumed, "What's with those guys? We've been waiting for fifteen minutes!"

The doctor chimed in, "I don't think I've ever seen such inept golf!"

The priest said, "Here comes the green-keeper. Let's have a word with him." He said, "Hello George, What's wrong with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?"

The green-keeper replied, "Oh, yes. That's a group of blind firemen. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime!"

The group fell silent for a moment.

The priest said, "That's so sad. I'll say a special prayer for them tonight."

The doctor said, "Good idea. I'll contact my ophthalmologist colleague and see if there's anything she can do for them."

The engineer said, "Why can't they play at night?"

A drama teacher and an environment activist were looking at a flag pole in Ottawa. A woman who was from Saskatchewan, walked by and asked what they were doing

"We're supposed to find the height of this flagpole," said Pierre, "but we don't have a ladder."

The woman took a spanner from her purse, loosened a couple of bolts, and laid the pole down on the ground. Then she took a tape measure from her purse, took a measurement, announced, "6.5 metres," and walked away.

The environmentalist shook his head and laughed, "A lot of good that does us. We ask for the height and she gives us the length!"

Both men have since quit their civic jobs, joined the Liberal Party and elected to parliament.



Get trained!

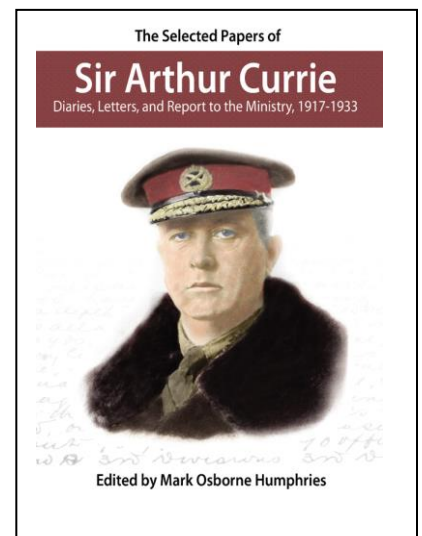


CANADIAN MILITARY READING

The Selected Papers of Sir Arthur Currie

Diaries, Letters, and Report to the Ministry, 1917-1933

The Selected Papers of Sir Arthur Currie brings to life the troubled world of Canada's most famous general. Detailed, introspective, and comprehensive, Currie's prolific writings illuminate events at the front and Canada's war at home, revealing the legacy of the Great War for Canadian society. Through diaries, letters, and a final report to the government, this book presents a vivid portrait of a very private public figure.





The Royal Canadian Artillery Band

Presents

A Christmas Celebration

Join us for our virtual concert
December 11th at 5 PM MST
[facebook.com/rcaband](https://www.facebook.com/rcaband)



The Annual RCA Christmas Concert, normally held live at the Citadel Theatre, will be presented through Facebook. You are cordially invited to join this annual tradition.

Securitas

Alexander Tsang CD

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