



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE  
**PRESIDENT'S ENEWS**  
APRIL 2021

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.

**9 April is Vimy Ridge Day**

**30 April is the deadline for filing your income tax. It is also Prime Ministers Harper's birthday. Coincidence?**

**President's Comments**

The official spring season has arrived and the weather has been fantastic since February. My grand daughter sent me photos in Vancouver with flowers in full bloom. Yes, it will be a great year weather wise. Lets hope with vaccinations being administered, we will beat this pandemic and the economy will be as great as the weather. I can't wait to pack my luggage and resume my world travels. Just renewed my Priority Club membership. Normally, the EUSI AGM would be scheduled in March or early April. But this year, I am not risking the health of any members and will wait until most of us have had the vaccination completed, hopefully by June.

The EUSI remains an active organization and our web site is loaded with current information –[www.eusi.ca](http://www.eusi.ca). The planned symposium will proceed as scheduled in October. It will be an in person symposium and if required, could be delayed for 30 days. The theme of the symposium will still be about unmanned air vehicles or drones. The importance of drones cannot be under emphasized. Please see below an alarming article on drones as a weapon and the main chip for arms races worldwide.

While social distance and other health restrictions continue, there are many other activities and events take place throughout the city and the Province. I will continue to bring to your attention as these activities present themselves.

**The EUSI is only one of a handful of likeminded organizations out there. Most of the other Organizations receive government funding. THE EUSI relies sole on membership dues and private donations. More then 75% of our membership have had their dues expired. Please send in your membership due to Captain John Pinsent at PO BOX 51058 (RPO Highlands), Edmonton AB. T5W 5G5. It is still \$25.00 per year. If you are unsure you are paid up, send in your check for \$25.00 and John will update your due date accordingly.**



**COMBAT DRONES**

Combat Drones Made in China are Coming to a Conflict Near You. Growing sales of the aircraft threaten to spark a global arms race. Bruce Einhorn/Lucille Liu/Colum Murphy/Nick Wadhams Bloomberg Business Week March 17, 2021

AVIC's Wing Loong II drone. A dozen years into its fight with the Islamic insurgent group Boko Haram, Nigeria is getting some new weapons: a pair of Wing Loong II drones from China. The deal is one of a growing number of sales by state-owned Aviation Industry Corp. of China (AVIC), which has exported scores of the aircraft. The United Arab Emirates has used AVIC drones in Libya's civil war, Egypt has attacked rebels in Sinai with them, and Saudi-led troops have deployed them in Yemen. The company's drones "are now battle-tested," says Heather Penney, a fellow at the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, a think tank in Arlington, Va. "They've been able to feed lessons learned back into their manufacturing." Nigeria is getting AVIC's second generation of Wing Loongs—the name means "pterodactyl"—which can fly as fast as 230 mph and as high as 30,000 feet, carrying a payload of a dozen missiles. Since 2015, when AVIC introduced the newer model, it's produced 50 for export and an unknown number for China's People's Liberation Army. And it's working on even more advanced aircraft, such as a stealth combat drone with a flying-wing design similar to that of the US B-2 bomber. The drone program, combined with deliveries of fighter jets, trainers, transporters, and assault helicopters, has propelled AVIC into the upper ranks of the global arms trade. In 2019 it sold military equipment valued at \$22.5 billion, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri), placing it sixth in the world, behind five US companies. AVIC's drones have two big selling points: They're cheaper than comparable aircraft from producers in the U.S. or Israel—the other primary manufacturers. Over the past decade, China has delivered 220 drones to 16 countries, according to Sipri. That's prompted other nations to boost their capabilities in the field, says Michael Horowitz, a professor of political science at the University of Pennsylvania. Japan, South Korea, and Belarus are developing drone technology. Turkey supplied drones that helped Azerbaijan defeat Armenia in last year's conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. Russia in January agreed to send drones to Myanmar and is working on longer-range models. Serbia and Pakistan say they intend to use purchases from China to seed their own programs. "Armed drone proliferation is inevitable because of Chinese exports," Horowitz says. The Chinese government rejects the charge that it's fueling an arms race, saying it aims only to improve the defensive capabilities of its customers. And unlike the US, it refrains from meddling in their internal affairs, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said during a February press briefing. "We are prudent and responsible in exporting arms," she said. "This is totally different from what the United States does." The Chinese drone push presents a challenge for President Biden as he tries to move beyond the Trump administration's go-it-alone foreign policy. Last fall, Trump deemed AVIC and its subsidiaries part of the Chinese military, restricting their access to U.S. technology. But last summer he reinterpreted the Missile Technology Control Regime—a 1987 agreement, signed by more than 30 countries, that had long kept a lid on US drone exports—to allow sales of many such aircraft. Despite criticism from Democrats, Trump agreed to sell 18 General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper drones to the UAE. In November the administration approved a \$600 million deal to provide Taiwan with four Reapers; and the next month, Trump's State Department informed Congress of a contract to sell four Reapers to Morocco following its establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel. Although Biden has said he's reviewing the UAE sale, all three deals are on track to be finalized. AVIC is at the heart of a broader push by China to develop its aerospace industry, both civilian and military. China Aerospace Science & Technology Corp. has sold combat drones to Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Serbia—the first time a European country has deployed Chinese unmanned aircraft. China North Industries Group Corp. in November completed development of its Golden Eagle helicopter drones, which the Communist Party-controlled Global Times newspaper said were "designed to meet the demands of the arms trade." AVIC's growing expertise is paying off in improved quality, says Pawel Paszak, director of the China Monitor program at the Warsaw Institute, a think tank in the Polish capital. Although its drones don't match the best offerings from American and Israeli companies, they're increasingly competitive—and the price differential is significant: AVIC's top drones run \$1 million to \$2 million apiece, vs. more than \$15 million for a comparable American model. "Maybe Chinese drones aren't as good as American drones," Paszak says. "But 15 drones instead of one, and without any fuss about human rights? This is a good offer."



### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

The Nigerian Islamic Terrorist Group, Boko Haram, was responsible for several kidnapping activities involving hundreds of children. In January this year, the Boko Haram again conducted a kidnapping operation but the victims were very quickly rescued. Compared to the kidnapping occurred seven years ago when hundreds of school girls were kidnapped and many remain unaccounted for. Northern Nigeria has vast forested area and the Boko Haram easily disappeared into the woods and finding their tracks became very difficult. With drones which can operate in extreme conditions, tracking and locating the victims and the kidnapers became much easier. This writer was consulted in 2015 to assist with rescuing the victims and had a chance to review pertinent information as well as some primitive maps of the area. It was felt a rushed military operation would jeopardize lives under the condition. So, in some ways, drones are being deployed in a positive way. In Belgium, drones are also employed to deliver first aid equipment to hard to reach areas and saved lives.



## **Alberta Aviation Presentations**

The Alberta Aviation Council is presenting a series of free webinars focused on the status of aviation in Alberta and where do we go post COVID.

There are 6 - one hour sessions starting April 8. Attached a list of speakers and our schedule. Feel free to distribute this information to those who you think would be interested in these topics about Alberta and the industry.

Link to the AAC website and links to the sessions.

<https://www.albertaaviationcouncil.com/events>

### **Sessions**

Thursday, April 8, 2021

#### **Building the Talent Pipeline for Pilots in Alberta**

Moderator: Sophia Wells, AAC Director

Speakers: Paulette Buckley (North Cariboo), Chris Gillanders (Mount Royal University),  
Dusty Jorawsky (Sunwest) Kevin Lowe (Kanata Aviation)

*Creating the link between the educational system, flying schools, and the Alberta Aviation Industry.*

Thursday, April 15, 2021

#### **Aviation Strategy for Alberta's Future?**

Moderator: Kevin Wong, AAC Director

Speakers: Richard Godfried, (Chair of the Strategic Aviation Advisory Council (SAAC)), Two board members from SAAC to be introduced.

Intro to the SAAC and how it will help Alberta rebuild and become force for the future of aviation.

Thursday, April 22, 2021

#### **Building a Diverse Alberta Aviation Industry**

Moderator: Kendra Kincade, AAC Director

Speaker: Kim van Vliet (Director Aviation, Invest Alberta), Chris Mills (VP - People & Culture, Westjet), Nova Andrews (Program Director, Elevate Aviation)

*How can Alberta Aviation lead the way to deliberately address Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives in their Covid recovery strategies?*

Thursday, April 29, 2021

#### **How Airlines/Air Operators are faring mid COVID and what the future looks like.**

Moderator: Michael Stimac, AAC Director

Speakers: Andrew Gibbons (Director of Government Relations, Westjet),  
Stephen Jones (CEO, Flair Airlines), Vik Saini (President & CEO, Air Partners)

*How Airline Companies are faring mid COVID and what the future looks like.*

Monday, May 3, 2021

#### **Airports**

Moderator: Steve Michoulas, AAC Director

Speakers: Bob Sartor (President and CEO at YYC Calgary Airport Authority), RJ Steenstra (President & CEO, Fort McMurray Airport Authority), Wendy McArthur (Airport Manager, Wetaskiwin Regional Airport)

*State of airports coming out of COVID.*

Thursday, May 13, 2021

#### **Our Aviation Future - A Youth Perspective**

Moderator: Brian Andrus, AAC Director

Speakers: Cadon Weibe, Kensington Hewson, Mary Hornback

*Join a panel of our youth and see what they envision the industry should look like in the future.*

## Royal Alberta United Services Institute, Calgary, presentation on VIMY RIDGE

8 April, Thursday - Royal Alberta United Services Institute and Valour Canada presentation "The Battle of Vimy Ridge " 6 pm MST (8pm EST). Free video-conference. To register, e-mail [contact@valourcanada.ca](mailto:contact@valourcanada.ca).



### **The Soldier by Rupert Brooke**

If I should die, think only this of me:  
That there's some corner of a foreign field  
That is for ever England. There shall be  
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;  
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,  
Gave once her flowers to love, her ways to roam;  
A body of England's, breathing English air,  
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.  
And think, this heart, all evil shed away,  
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less  
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;  
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;  
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,  
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

### Forestburg Cenotaph



## **HUMOUR**

### **IN CASE YOU DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW THIS LITTLE TIDBIT OF WONDERFUL TRIVIA.....**

On July 20, 1969, as commander of the Apollo 11 lunar module, Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the moon. His first words after stepping on the moon,

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," were televised to earth and heard by millions. but, just before he re-entered the lander, he made the enigmatic remark "good luck, Mr. Gorsky."

Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning some rival soviet cosmonaut. However, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either the Russian or American space programs.

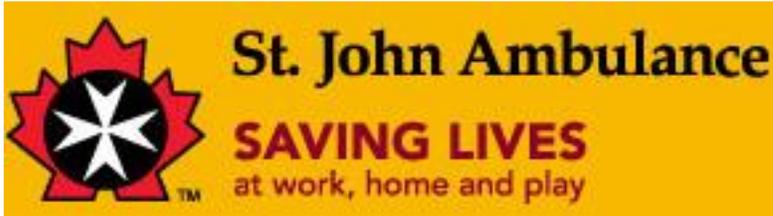
Over the years, many people questioned Armstrong as to what the 'good luck, Mr. Gorsky' statement meant, but Armstrong always just smiled.

On July 5, 1995, in Tampa Bay, Florida, while answering questions following a speech, a reporter brought up the 26-year-old question about Mr. Gorsky and this time he finally responded because his Mr. Gorsky had just died, so Neil Armstrong felt he could now answer the question.

Here is the answer to "Who was Mr. Gorsky?":

In 1938, when he was a kid in a small mid-western town, he was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard. his friend hit the ball, which landed in his neighbor's yard by their bedroom window. His neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Gorsky. As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs. Gorsky shouting at Mr. Gorsky, "Sex ! You want sex?! You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon"

It broke the place up. Neil Armstrong's family confirmed that this is a true story.



Get trained!



### What's Out There?

#### **Type 052C (Luyang-II Class) Missile Destroyer (China)**

Based on the hull design of the Type 052B (Luyang class) multirole destroyer, the Type 052C features an indigenously developed four-array multifunction phased array radar (PAR) similar to the Aegis AN/SPY-1 equipped by the U.S. Arleigh Burke class and Japanese Kongo class DDG. The ship is also armed with the indigenous HQ-9 air defence missile system, which is believed to be comparable to the Russian S-300F/Rif in performance, and the newly developed YingJi-62 (C-602) anti-ship cruise missile (ASCM).



### Historical Tit-bids

**World War II produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare.**

He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific.

One day his entire squadron was sent on a mission. After he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized that someone had forgotten to top off his fuel tank.

He would not have enough fuel to complete his mission and get back to his ship.

His flight leader told him to return to the carrier. Reluctantly, he dropped out of formation and headed back to the fleet.

As he was returning to the mother ship, he saw something that turned his blood cold; a squadron of Japanese aircraft was speeding its way toward the American-fleet.

The American fighters were gone on a sortie, and the fleet was all but defenseless. He couldn't reach his squadron and bring them back in time to save the fleet. Nor could he warn the fleet of the approaching danger. There was only one thing to do. He must somehow divert them from the fleet.

Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety, he dove into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-mounted 50 caliber's blazed as he charged in, attacking one surprised enemy plane and then another. Butch wove in and out of the now broken formation and fired at as many planes as possible until all his ammunition was finally spent.

Undaunted, he continued the assault. He dove at the planes, trying to clip a wing or tail in hopes of damaging as many enemy planes as possible, rendering them unfit to fly.

Finally, the exasperated Japanese squadron took off in another direction.

Deeply relieved, Butch O'Hare and his tattered fighter limped back to the carrier.

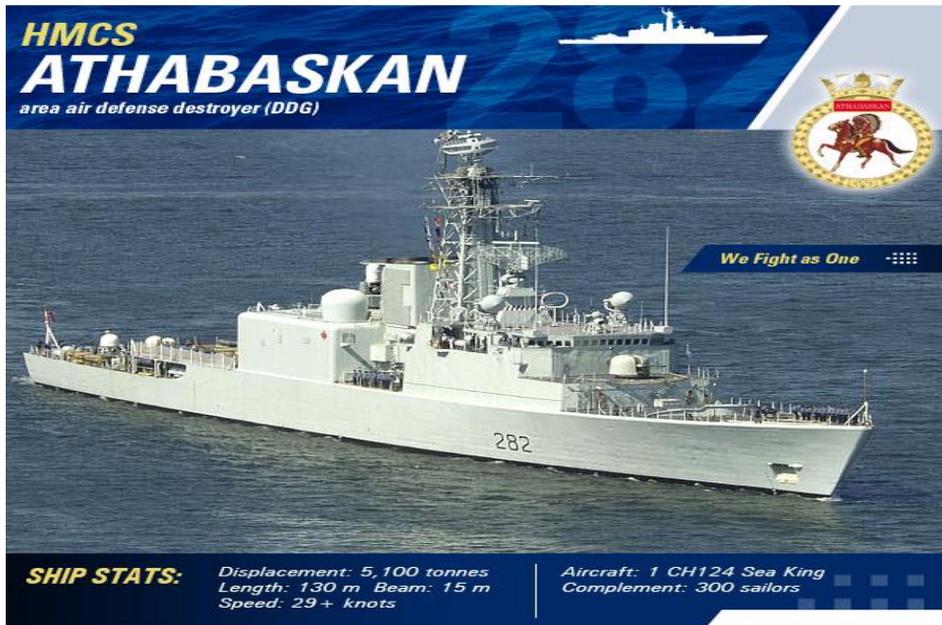
Upon arrival, he reported in and related the event surrounding his return.. The film from the gun-camera mounted on his plane told the tale. It showed the extent of Butch's daring attempt to protect his fleet. He had, in fact, destroyed five enemy aircraft. This took place on February 20, 1942, and for that action Butch became the Navy's first Ace of W.W.II, and the first Naval Aviator to win the Medal of Honor.

A Year later Butch was killed in aerial combat at the age of 29. His hometown would not allow the memory of this WW II hero to fade, and today, O'Hare airport in Chicago is named in tribute to the courage of this great man.

**So, the next time you find yourself at O'Hare International, give some thought to visiting Butch's memorial displaying his statue and his Medal of Honor. It's located between Terminals 1 and 2.**



## Canadian Gear



Canadian Uniforms

## Alexander Tsang CD

Major (retired)

President

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