



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

## PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

JANUARY 2021

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### President's Comments

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

To be honest, I am glad 2020 is about to end and it will be remembered as the worse year in centuries for most. With the promises of the vaccine available in the coming months, I am optimistic things will improve. I am happy to report that no one EUSI member succumbed to the Covid-19 virus. I am hoping the Next EUSI AGM will be a big splash to celebrate the return to normalcy. The annual symposium will take place in the fall as per usual. The military environment has not drastically altered despite the pandemic. Most major military powers in the world are now allocating more resources to air force and naval capabilities as the ways to engage enemies have changed significantly in the last ten years. For example, the big tank battles saw the last action in Desert Storm and limited action in Afghanistan. The USA Army is gradually decommissioning their tank battalions. Tank maneuver training for the British army at Camp Wainwright will be a thing of the past. Instead, we will see more activities with the air force in CFB Cold Lake. More and more declassified data have now emerged on offensive and defensive operations using drones. The Nova Scotia EUSI publish a monthly newsletter with a special report on Chinese military capabilities and their air force and navy would surpass most NATO countries within ten years, except USA, which will occur in 22 years. Ability to read Chinese allows me to maintain research and awareness on the Chinese military capabilities through various media and academic sources. My one interest is that drones on steroids is being developed that can deliver precise attacks from sea, land or in the air. As late as about ten years ago, the term Artificial Intelligence (AI) was for nerds and most do not know what that entails or even care about it. Today, AI is used for facial recognition (think the Iranian general and the nuclear scientist), criminal investigation, and group behavioural control. AI is also being used in weapon and military strategy development and planning. Conflicts of today are not being settled the old way that us old timers are used to. I hope the next symposium would bring a little more awareness on technology that is being used in fighting wars. Meanwhile, EUSI members who has suggestions for a guest speaker, please advise the president, EUSI for follow up.



## Current Drone Warfare



How the Army Out-Innovated the Islamic State's Drones

<https://warontherocks.com/2020/12/how-the-army-out-innovated-the-islamic-states-drones/>

"Both academics and policymakers should consider the role of experimentation, problem-solving, prototyping, diffusing knowledge and scaling up solutions in warfare. Anticipating and disrupting capabilities, even high-tech ones, is critical to building asymmetric advantages against peer competitors. On future battlefields, the Army will have to not just out-fight, but also out-think and out-innovate its enemies."

What is the Canadian Armed Forces' approach to and arrangements for innovation? We have the smart people, serving at all levels. Take advantage of them!



Russia is developing a helicopter drone to destroy other drones  
<https://www.defensenews.com/unmanned/2020/12/17/russia-is-developing-a-helicopter-drone-to-destroy-other-drones/>

### **Last Post**

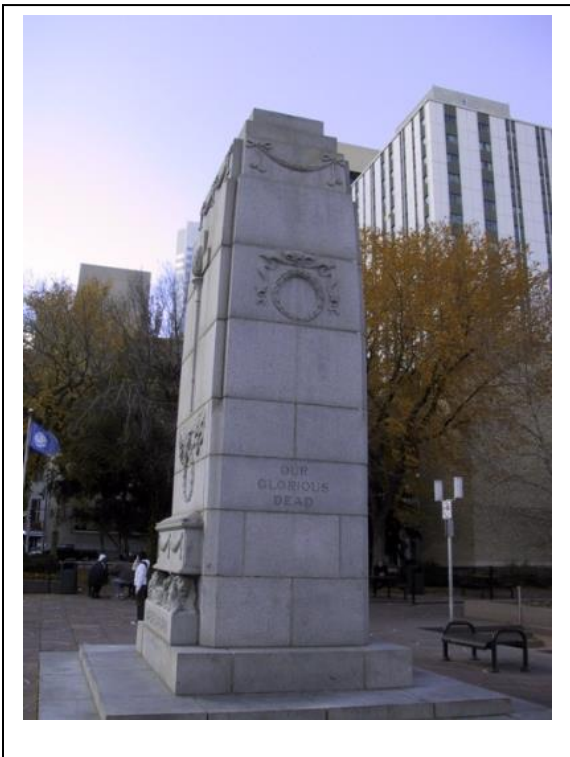
Colonel Frederick Joyce, former Commanding Officer of 745 Communication Squadron, former Commander of Northern Alberta Militia District, passed away on December 2020, in Calgary. RIP, brother. Northern Alberta Militia District was decommissioned around 1997 when Northern (Edmonton) and Southern (Calgary) Militia District combined to form 41 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG) headquartered in Calgary.

### **New Chief of Defence Staff**

Minister of Defence, Harjit Sajjan @HarjitSajjan 23 Dec tweeted: I want to congratulate Vice-Admiral Art McDonald as Canada's new Chief of the Defence Staff. He will continue to do important work to make sure that the @CanadianForces remain ready to support our government's efforts in the fight against #COVID19.



A very brief announcement of the appointment of a new CDS. Outsider will not be told of the Rear Adm's past accomplishments, policy inclinations, or his intents.



## 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 – contributed by our politically incorrect Sgt AE Bince, Korean veteran.**

A soldier returning home was riding his Harley along Highway 1 in Vancouver when suddenly the sky cleared above his head and in a booming voice the Lord said, "Because you have been a patriot and tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish."

The biker pulled over and said, "Build a bridge to Vancouver Island so I can ride over anytime I want and it will serve my fellow Canadians well".

The Lord said, "Your request is materialistic. Think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking; the supports required reaching the bottom of the ocean and the concrete and steel it would take... it will nearly exhaust several natural resources! I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that could possibly help mankind."

The biker thought about it for a long time. Finally, he said, "Lord, I wish that I-- and all men--could understand women. I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, why she snaps and complains when I try to help, and how I can make a woman truly happy."

The Lord replied, "You want two lanes or four lanes on that bridge?"



Get trained!

**CANADIAN MILITARY READING**

Battle diary: a Canadian soldier looks back on a year commanding NATO troops in Iraq  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.5848191>



### **What's Out There**

Japan sets record \$52 billion military budget with stealth jets, long-range missiles  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/japan-defence-budget/japan-sets-record-52-billion-military-budget-with-stealth-jets-long-range-missiles-idUSKBN28V03X>



## Meanwhile in Canada

Ottawa eyeing second-hand market to replace VIP  
and cargo fleet

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.5850140>



Securitas  
**Alexander Tsang CD**  
Major (retired)  
President  
Edmonton United Services Institute  
[Alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com](mailto:Alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com)

