



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

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## **PRSDENT'S COMMENTS**

### **REMEMBRANCE DAY**

As of time of publication, there is no public events are being planned in the Edmonton area. There are a few private ceremonies are scheduled with very limited seats and with strict covid-19 restrictions to be observed. However, this should not stop anyone from getting together and exchange war stories, as long as the group is less then ten and all are fully vaccinated.

There will be a televised ceremony from Ottawa to be held at 0900 hrs Edmonton Time. And at 1100 hrs, the City of Edmonton will also have a ceremony televised.



### **Veterans will be Invited to Participate in 2021 Turn Toward Busan ceremony**

Veterans around the world will be pleased to know that Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs will once again hold the world's core Turn Toward Busan Ceremony at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan on November 11.

Last year, Korea's National Assembly passed legislation that officially proclaims November 11 as the International Memorial Day for United Nations Veterans.

With this elevation in status, the Prime Minister of Korea, Honorable Kim Boo-kyum, will deliver the remembrance speech for the Korean nation during the ceremony.

MPVA Minister Hwang Ki-Chul will host the follow-on banquet luncheon in Busan.

To the great credit of the MPVA's International Affairs team, which has to navigate the fluctuating Covid situation and the changing regulations, 25 Korean War Veterans and their companions, for a total of 50 from eight nations, will be invited to participate as honored guests.

ROK Defense Attaches in the eight nations will soon extend the invitations.

### **LAST POST**

**Major Douglas Mattila, RCAF, (retired) passed away peacefully in Winnipeg, surrounded by his family, on October 26, 2021. Doug was a friend and we served together in Bosnia in 2003. RIP, Brother.**

## **The Last Post Song – Sincerely submitted By Sgt AE Bince, Korean veteran.**

If any of you have ever been to a military funeral in which The Last Post was played; This brings out a new meaning of it.

Here is something everyone should know.

Until I read this, I didn't know,

We have all heard the haunting song, 'The Last Post.'  
It's the song that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes.

But, do you know the story behind the song?  
If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the American Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia .. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead..

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier.. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral.

The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate.

But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform.

This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as 'The Last Post' used at military funerals was born.

The words are:

Day is done. Gone the sun, from the lakes, from the hills, from the sky.  
All is well, safely rest. God is nigh.

Fading light. Dims the sight. And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright. from afar..  
Drawing nigh, falls the night..

Thanks and praise.for our days. Neath the sun, neath the stars, neath the sky,  
As we go,. this we know, God is nigh.

I too have felt the chills while listening to 'The Last Post'  
But I have never seen all the words to the song until now.  
I didn't even know there was more than one verse .  
I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if  
You had either so I thought I'd pass it along.

I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before.

Remember Those Lost and Harmed While Serving Their Country.

Also Remember Those Who Have Served And Returned;  
And for those presently serving in the Armed Forces.

**Lest we Forget.**



Despite Covid 19 and world pandemic, the Canadian Armed Forces has maintained its active operations. The following is a list of CAF operations at home and abroad:

### **Current and recurring operation**

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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.<sup>[1][2]</sup>
- 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.<sup>[1][3][4]</sup>

- 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.<sup>[1][5]</sup>
- 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.
- Operation Nevus – To perform essential preventive and corrective maintenance on the High Arctic Data Communications System (HADCS) located on Ellesmere Island.
- Operation Nunaliut – 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Operation Sabot – Marijuana-eradication program conducted annually with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

## Foreign

- Operation Hamlet – Participation in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

## 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.<sup>[12][16]</sup>
- 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.<sup>[12][22]</sup>
- 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.
- 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.<sup>[12][30]</sup>
- 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

## Worldwide

- Operation GLOBE - The Canadian Armed Forces's commitment to active engagement abroad allowed the opportunity to work alongside personnel from other government departments, as well as other nations. Currently used for deployments related to the COVID-19 pandemic abroad repatriating Canadians overseas, and United Nations-related transportation of humanitarian and food supplies on behalf of the World Food Programme and World Health Organization.



CANADIAN GEAR  
**CC-144 Challenger**



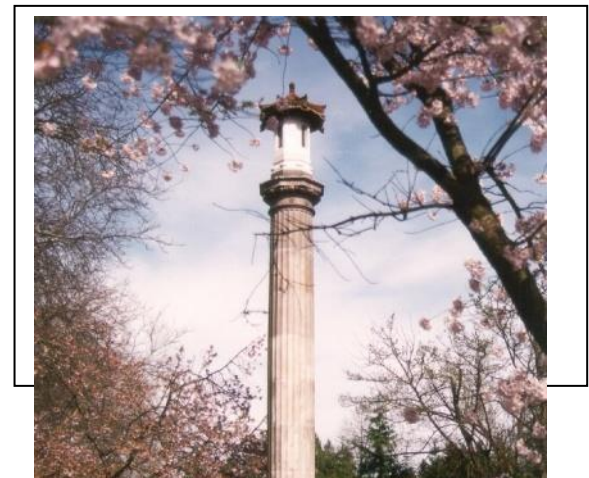
The CC-144 Challenger, DND's twin-engine, long-range executive jet, offers rapid air transportation to Canadian and international VIPs. With a range of up to 5930 km and a maximum speed of Mach 0.83, the Challenger can quickly deliver passengers almost anywhere in the world. The Air Force's Challenger fleet includes four VIP aircraft and two utility aircraft. The utility jets are used for military transport and can be configured for medical evacuations (medevacs) when our troops are in need. The CC-144's crew consists of two pilots, one flight engineer and one flight steward to tend to government officials and foreign dignitaries.



**To a Conscript of 1940**

A soldier passed me in the freshly fallen snow,  
His footsteps muffled, his face unearthly grey:  
And my heart gave a sudden leap  
As I gazed on a ghost of five-and-twenty years ago.  
I shouted Halt! and my voice had the old accustom'd ring  
And he obeyed it as it was obeyed  
In the shrouded days when I too was one  
Into the unknown. He turned towards me and I said:  
'I am one of those who went before you  
Five-and-twenty years ago: one of the many who never  
returned,  
Of the many who returned and yet were dead.  
We went where you are going, into the rain and the mud:

We fought as you will fight  
With death and darkness and despair;  
We gave what you will give-our brains and our blood.  
We think we gave in vain. The world was not renewed.  
There was hope in the homestead and anger in the streets,  
But the old world was restored and we returned





The glitter of garland round their head.  
Theirs is the hollow victory. They are deceived.  
But you my brother and my ghost, if you can go  
Knowing that there is no reward, no certain use  
In all your sacrifice, then honour is reprieved.  
To fight without hope is to fight with grace,  
The self reconstructed, the false heart repaired.'  
Then I turned with a smile, and he answered my salute  
As he stood against the fretted hedge, which was like  
white lace.

## WWI Japanese War Memorial



Get trained!



## HUMOUR

Subject: English language oddities

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,  
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes;  
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,  
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese;  
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,  
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,  
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,  
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet ?  
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,  
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth ?

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.  
Neither apple nor pine in pineapple.

We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes,  
We find that quicksand can work slowly,

boxing rings are square;  
A guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.  
Why is it that writers write, but fingers don't fing,  
Grocers don't groce & hammers don't ham?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend?  
If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them,  
What do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?  
If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

Sometimes I think all people who speak English should be in an asylum for the verbally insane.  
In what other language do people recite at a play, and play at a recital?

We ship by truck but send cargo by ship.  
We have noses that run & feet that smell;  
We park in a driveway & drive in a parkway.  
And how can a slim chance & a fat chance be the same,  
while a wise man & a wise guy are opposites ?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language  
in which your house can burn up as it burns down;  
In which you fill in a form by filling it out, & in which an alarm goes off by going on.

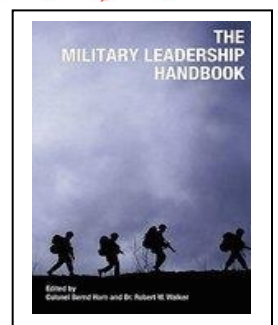


## CANADIAN MILITARY READING

### **The Military Leadership Handbook**

Bernd Horn, Robert W. Walker

A concise and complete manual that identifies, describes and explains various concepts, components and ideas that directly relate to military leadership. This book focuses on cohesion, command, cultural intelligence, discipline, fear and trust.



## SECURITAS

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