

2022 is the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Edmonton United Services Institute



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE  
**PRESIDENT'S ENEWS**  
OCTOBER 2022

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### President's Comments

**Our condolence for the loss of our fellow Canadians in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia as a result of the Typhoon Fiona. Our thoughts are with you and hope things can return to normalcy soonest.**

In Alberta and in Edmonton, we are blessed in that we are now almost a week into fall/autumn and the weather is still great. So far, we are well into the end of September, Edmonton has had 20 days of above normal temperature. I wish we could have some more rain however, to prepare the trees and shrubs for the winter.

The captain of HMC Edmonton and nine of her crews stopped by for a week of official visit. This visit follows two years of absence due to Covid-19. The City of Edmonton, through the Edmonton Salutes Committee has been instrumental to revitalize the connection with the Royal Canadian Navy Coastal Patrol Vessel, HMC Edmonton. There are a number of other vessels bearing names of other Canadian cities, such as HMC Winnipeg, Victoria, Saskatoon. These ships are either docked in Victoria or Halifax. Hence HMC Edmonton is more than a thousand kilometers and across the ocean from her name sake, Edmonton. Members of the Edmonton Salutes Committee have visited HMC Edmonton in Victoria a few times, including with Her Honor, the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Lois Mitchel included in the entourage.

For the last few days, crews of HMC Edmonton have enjoyed a reception hosted by the Mayor of Edmonton, toured the Ice Palace Hockey Rink, presented at the Legislature, and a luncheon hosted by the Edmonton Salute Committee at the Stan Milne Library. The crews also visited a charity organization they sponsored for many years.

Well, these are the nice to hear tidbits. More importantly, Russian army is getting their butts kicked by the Ukrainian Defence Force.



### Hot off the grill from the battlefield of Ukraine

Ukraine war: Russians 'outnumbered 8-1' in SUCCESSFUL counter-attack

## WATCH: Ukraine seizes abandoned Russian tanks

### **Ukrainian forces outnumbered Russians by eight to one in last week's counter-attack in the Kharkiv region, Russia's top occupation official there says.**

Vitaly Ganchev told Russian TV that Ukraine's army had taken villages in the north and broken through to the Russian border.

Ukraine says it has regained control over 3,000 sq km (1,158 sq miles) of territory in a potential breakthrough in the six-month war.

The BBC cannot verify these figures.

The Ukrainian army says it took back 20 villages in the past 24 hours alone, in its continued counter-offensive in the north-east of the country.

It also said its forces have taken control of around 500 sq km in the southern Kherson region of the country.

UK defence officials say the Ukrainian army's successes will have "significant implications" for Russia's overall operational design.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was, however, undeterred, saying operations in Ukraine would continue "until all the tasks that were initially set" had been fulfilled.

President Vladimir Putin is constantly being updated with the latest developments, he added.

Russia said its forces were carrying out strikes in those areas that Ukraine had retaken recently.

This included targets in Izyum and Kupiansk which were taken by Ukraine on Saturday. Russia confirmed its forces' retreat from both towns, which it said would allow them to "regroup".

Valerii Marchenko, mayor of Izyum, told the BBC the Ukrainian army was in his city and the state flag had been raised.

The military is now engaged in cleaning up the war-torn city and Ukrainian forces are searching for Russian soldiers potentially hiding in people's houses.

Mr Marchenko said that after "about 10 days", residents who had to flee the city would be able to return "safely".

Russia has been accused of targeting civilian infrastructure in revenge for setbacks on the battlefield.

A wave of missile strikes on Sunday caused power cuts across the region.

Media caption,

Watch: Widespread blackouts in Ukraine

The blackouts reportedly affected millions of people in the Kharkiv and Donetsk regions.

Ukraine's Defence Minister, Oleksii Reznikov, said the priority now was to secure the territorial gains made in a week of rapid advances in the Kharkiv region.

The Russian army appears to have abandoned large quantities of equipment and ammunition as it withdrew from areas it had held since the first weeks of the war.

A Russian battle-tank maker has switched to "round-the-clock" production after these setbacks, according to reports.

Workers at Uralvagonzavod in Nizhny Tagil, Russia's largest armoured vehicle manufacturer, have reportedly not been allowed to go on vacation due to the "production necessity".

## Ukraine's rapid gains stun Russia

By Hugo Bachega, BBC News, Kyiv

Ukraine's rapid progress seems to have stunned Russia. The Kremlin says its troops are regrouping, but pictures from some liberated areas in the Kharkiv region suggest a hasty departure by the invading forces, with military vehicles, ammunition, and equipment left behind.

If the gains are confirmed - and if they hold - it's the most significant change on the frontlines since Russian troops left the Kyiv region five months ago. The extraordinary advance would mark a humiliating setback for Russia, and be a boost to Ukraine's position that it can push the Russians out while asking for more Western weapons.

President Zelensky has talked about a possible breakthrough, suggesting that more advances could happen before winter. But the country still faces huge challenges. Around a fifth of it remains under occupation and, in the south, Ukrainian troops have reportedly faced more resistance in their offensive, as Russia has fortified its

### Ukrainian gains in Kharkiv counter-offensive



ositions. Source: Institute for the Study of War (21:00 GMT, 11 September)



## **Meanwhile, at home,**

In Sept. 2016, a Canadian delegation led by Trudeau travelled to China to strike a trade deal and rekindle relations between the two countries.

The trip failed to accomplish what it set out to do and the Liberals came back to Canada largely empty handed. While travelling through the country, the prime minister got the nickname “little potato” – a play on Trudeau’s surname and the Mandarin term for potato “tudou.”

Trudeau’s team tried to play the nickname as endearing but instead the prime minister was ridiculed for embracing it.

Since the trip, the nickname has taken on a negative connotation with the Australian Institute of International Affairs deridingly using it to bash Trudeau’s foreign policy in 2019.



## **EVENTS**

### **RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker –19 October 2022 CBSA’s perspective on Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking.**

The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia extends an invitation to presentations Wednesday, 19 October by Joe McGuinty and Ghislain Saulnier, Canada Border Services Agency, titled "CBSA’s perspective on Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking.", The speakers will share what is human smuggling and human trafficking, what is the difference and what are the Agency's legislative authorities. The event will start at 1 pm Atlantic time, Wednesday, 19 October, then be followed by Q&A and finish by 3 pm Atlantic time. Registration is required. There is no fee to attend this event.. To register, email [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com) by close-of-business Sunday, 16 October. As the subject line for your registration email, put: RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speakers 19 October 2022 Registration. In addition to your name, please provide your organization (association, company or unit).

.Participation is limited and later registrants may have to be put on a waiting list. If after registering your availability changes and you are no longer able to attend, please advise RUSI(NS) as soon as possible so your spot can be re-assigned. The event will be done by Zoom. Instructions will be emailed to registrants by end Monday, 17 October. .If you have not received them by end-of-day 17 October, please check your spam folder and, if necessary, email RUSI(NS). RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice. Email RUSI(NS) if there is a question about an event occurring.



**Humor**, contributed by LCol GG McLean (retired).

A Newfie is driving to work when he notices the flash of a traffic camera. He figures that his picture has been taken for exceeding the limit, even though he knows that he was not speeding. Just to be sure, he circles the block and passes the exact same spot, driving even slower this time through. Again, the camera flashes. He thinks it is hilarious, since he is obviously doing nothing wrong, so he drives even slower as he passes through the light for a third time. The traffic camera takes his photo again. He does it a fourth and fifth time and is hysterical each time when the camera flash snaps his picture. The final time he passes through the light he is going 20 miles under the speed limit.

Two weeks later, he gets five tickets in the mail for operating a car without a safety belt.

The NHL's Toronto Maple Leafs were originally called the Toronto St. Patricks.

The Edmonton Elks were once called, Edmonton Eunuch, Oops, I meant Edmonton Eskimos.



## **CANADIAN MILITARY READING**

Among the Walking Wounded: Soldiers, Survival and PTSD

The author offers a glimpse of what PTSD is like for our soldiers, and potentially their loved ones. Colonel (ret'd) John Conrad Military Families Magazine 14 Sept, 2022. Col Conrad was the former Commander of 41 CMBG.

As a child, I would write up my own stories and illustrations and bind them with stiff cardboard and glue for my friend to read. I enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces right out of high school at Royal Roads Military College near Victoria, BC in 1983. My writing became a constant companion as I made my way forward in an Army career that spanned 34 years and numerous moves for my wife and our family. I served three overseas tours during the full-time component of my career. The last of these tours was as a logistics battalion commander in Kandahar in 2006. For the first time since Korea, we were returning to sustained combat activity and the logistic task at hand was considerable. My unit was less than 300 men and women charged with keeping an infantry battle group bombed up (had ample ammunition) inside of 225,000 square kilometres of battlespace. This would have been a tall order on a more linear, Second World War-style battlefield with a clear front and a well-defined combat zone. In the non-linear, counter-insurgency style of warfare in Kandahar, where one could be attacked anywhere, where there was no true frontline, this was the work of my soldiers spiritually challenging. Afghanistan and that desperate summer of 2006 left a lot of my soldiers wounded and charred black on the inside. In the fullness of time, I came to realize that I, too, was different. My latest book, *Among the Walking Wounded: Soldiers, Survival and PTSD* is not a military book—at least not in the traditional sense. There is certainly some grounding in the recent Afghanistan War and that worst of the Taliban Summers of 2006, but this is essential for the context of the inner story of PTSD. *Among the Walking Wounded* was written first and foremost to reach soldiers who are still trapped in a psychological “no man’s land” and provide them with a map to come home. Spending so much time with wounded soldiers in the aftermath of 2006, I wanted to help even in a small way with their recovery. Additionally, the book is written for the average Canadian, to offer them an inside glimpse of what PTSD is like for our soldiers, and potentially their own loved one. PTSD grafts so seamlessly with one’s personality and with one’s sense of self that it is almost impossible to detect unassisted. What you learn to live with eventually becomes your life and this is far from necessary now. There are many tools and supports available if one can find the strength for that initial conversation, that initial step. This book gives an account not only of my own journey but also those of two Afghanistan veterans with PTSD. One of the soldiers made it, and the other unfortunately did not. In sharing the account, I am hoping that a bright light is directed onto this shadowy action. We need to become connoisseurs where wounds to the mind are concerned.



Securitas

## *Alexander Tsang CD*

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