

EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

DECEMBER 2023



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President's Comments

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to you all. We have been blessed with great weather. First time in many years that the Remembrance Day Ceremony was held without snow for outdoor venues. It is expected the warm weather will continue for a while. Still, would be nice to have a bit of the white fluff for Christmas..

At this time of the year, I would like to reflect on our accomplishments and sum up the year end report. EUSI continue to be an active organization with injection of new members. We have amended our objectives this year, one of which is to eliminate our youth program and expand on recruiting serving and veteran members. We are successful in this regard. In 2023, new members include Capt Dane Finlay, MCpl (retired) Ben Grossmith, Commander (retired) Mark Minenko. MWO Andrew Gordey also accepted added responsibility to become the Vice President, MWO (retired) Leo Boyd will also liaise with other veteran organizations. HCol Ken Pilip will try to engage governmental agencies to promote EUSI objectives. The year 2024 promise to be an exciting year ahead.

For commemorative projects, a number of EUSI members have been speaking in schools, community centers to engage Canadians of all ages about contributions made by our veterans and serving soldiers.

I cannot even tally the number of EUSI members who laid a wreath during Remembrance Day Ceremonies. I laid a wreath on behalf of EUSI and Edmonton Salutes Committee. Thereafter, I was the guest speaker at the Boardwalk Retirement Community to speak on my experience in Bosnia, Sudan, Chad, Ethiopia, central African nations. Well, as these are senior citizens, I delivered my speech without gloves and they seemed to enjoyed the presentation reflective of both pleasant and unpleasant experiences. It was a busy day but great day honouring our veterans.

There are also a number of members who are actively involved with the Last Post Fund. For those who do not know what LPF is, it is a VAC program existed to assist vets and families who cannot afford a decent funeral. The Alberta Chapter is spread out in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Edson and Grande Prairie. LCol Hans Brink (retired) and members of EUSI was instrumental in reviving the Alberta Chapter about 12 years ago.

Do you know that the EUSI is a founding member of the Edmonton Salute Committee? The ESC was formulated in 1997 to assist soldiers and family posted to Edmonton or deployed from Edmonton for the War in Afghanistan.

Our annual symposium continues to attract attention from industry stake holders and DND. The theme of the 2024 Annual Symposium will examine the war in Ukraine two years later. The impact on the rest of the world and in Canada. We are hoping to also to focus on the progressive usage of drone as a weapon system. In the Black sea, Ukrainian naval drones have known to have sunk Russian battle ships. In the Gaza. IDF tanks have installed metal cages to repel Hamas drone grenades. All of these were unheard of in battlefields five years ago. Implication for Canada is we need to pay more attention to the lessons learned in battles overseas. The 2024 EUSI symposium will take place on Saturday, March 9, 2024, starting at 0830 hours at the Edmonton Inn and Convention Center. I am hoping 3rd Div and 41 CBG will encourage participation by designating the event as a professional development for officers and SNCOs.

Financially, our position remains healthy and independent, which allows us to pursue our objectives.

The EUSI has administered our web site for at least ten years. Click on [**EUSI.CA**](http://EUSI.CA) and you can go to various sub-sites which will have updates on events, EUSI newsletters, and a photo gallery. Click on the Face Book page under Edmonton United Services Institute, you will also find many updated photos and newsletters. For those who do not have access to a computer or Email accounts, our membership director, MWO Andy Gordey, will forward hard copies to our members through Canada Post. The EUSI membership due is minimal and barely covers our expenses. If you would like to make a donation to EUSI, please forward it to myself or to Andy at [**EUSI, 11035 -163 Ave., NW, Edmonton, AB. T5X2A2.**](mailto:andy@EUSI.ca) The EUSI is not able to provide any tax certificates. Our annual membership remains at \$25.00. If you have not renewed your membership, please make your remittance as soon as possible. Membership fee is due on Jan01, 2024 and covers the period of Jan 01, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024. There is no pro-rate.

There are other events under consideration. Beginning in January, 2024, we hope to have an EUSI Christmas gathering for members and family. Why in January? There are just too many functions happening in December. Also, the Orthodox/Ukrainian Xmas is in January. So, why not?



Canadian Forces Operations

Current Operations – as of December 1, 2023

The following information is produced by Canadian Joint Operations Command Public Affairs. It is intended to give a current snapshot of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) operations by highlighting certain accomplishments and developments. It is designed to assist all those who play a part in explaining CAF engagements at home and abroad.

Operation CARIBBE is Canada's contribution to U.S.-led enhanced counter-narcotics operations in the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Pacific Ocean. Under this operation, Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) ships and aircraft deploy to the region on a rotational basis to support the U.S. mission to suppress drug trafficking in international waters.

Europe

Operation DISTINCTION	Operation DISTINCTION supports the Government of Canada's Military History Commemoration Program to complement and enhance Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) selected ceremonies and commemorative events.
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<u>Operation IGNITION</u>	CAF periodic role in a NATO security mission for Iceland. Mission involves airborne surveillance and interception.
<u>Operation ILLUMINATION</u>	CAF support to Iceland while their country's air surveillance radars underwent scheduled maintenance and upgrades.
<u>Operation KOBOLD</u>	CAF contribution to the NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR)
<u>Operation OPEN SPIRIT</u>	CAF role to help clear explosive remnants of war in the Baltic Sea. A number of other countries take part. The annual mission is hosted by the three Baltic nations.
<u>Operation REASSURANCE</u>	CAF support to NATO's assurance and deterrence measures in Central and Eastern Europe
<u>Operation SNOWGOOSE</u>	CAF role in the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).
<u>Operation UNIFIER</u>	CAF military training and capacity-building operation in Ukraine.

Africa

<u>Operation CROCODILE</u>	CAF role in supporting the United Nations mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
<u>Operation EDIFICE-Tunisia</u>	Once a year, the CAF conducts combined training with the Tunisian Navy.
<u>Operation FREQUENCE</u>	CAF strategic airlift support to France between France and the Sahel region of Africa.
<u>Operation NABERIUS</u>	CAF mission in Niger to train the Forces armées nigériennes.
<u>Operation PRESENCE</u>	The CAF's contribution to the Government of Canada's peace operations strategy.
<u>Operation PROJECTION</u>	The CAF operates in maritime environments around the world to improve peace and stability.
<u>Operation SAVANNE</u>	Operation SAVANNE is the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) response to the deteriorating security situation in Sudan.
<u>Operation SOPRANO</u>	CAF role in the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)

Middle East

<u>Operation</u>	CAF maritime security and counter-terrorism operations in the Arabian Sea.
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ARTEMIS

Operation CALUMET

CAF role in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt.

Operation FOUNDATION

CAF role in United States Central Command Headquarters, United States Air Forces Central Headquarters, and Combined Maritime Forces Headquarters.

Operation IMPACT

CAF role in the international coalition to assist local security forces who are fighting against Daesh in the Republic of Iraq and in Syria.

Operation ION

Operation ION is the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) support to Global Affairs Canada with the transportation of Canadian Entitled Persons (CEPs) and Foreign Nationals from Israel.

Operation JADE

CAF role in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)

Operation PROTEUS

CAF role in the Office of the U.S. Security Coordinator to build security capacity in the Palestinian Authority.

Indo-Pacific

Operation AEGIS

Operation AEGIS is the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) contribution to the Government of Canada's effort to evacuate Afghans with significant and/or enduring relationship with the Government of Canada, along with their accompanying family members.

Operation NEON

Operation NEON is Canada's contribution to a coordinated multinational effort to support the implementation of United Nations Security Council sanctions imposed against North Korea.

Operation PROJECTION

The CAF operates in maritime environments around the world to improve peace and stability

Operation RENDER SAFE

CAF role to help Australia clear explosive remnants of war in the Solomon Islands.

Operation DRIFTNET

CAF support to Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The mission was to help enforce the global moratorium on high-seas driftnet fishing.

While we are with our family during Christmas and the New Years, many members of the CAF will not as they put themselves out to serve Canada. Particularly those in the Middle-east, they are in harms way and we pray they all come home safely.



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.

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.



Barrhead War Memorial



The History of the Edmonton Mayor's Chain of Office,

Originally conceived by the Edmonton United Services Institute, the chain was donated and presented to the then Mayor of Edmonton, Laurence DeCore on August 15, 1985. Edmonton was the last major city in Canada to have a Chain for the Chief Magistrate. (the Mayor). In August, 1999, the Chain was retrofitted with additional hat badges.

The retrofitted chain is made up of four metres of gold triple links, to which 40 badges of individual military units and police forces which have served or are serving the community have been affixed. The original chain had 26 badges. The majority of new badges came from the 11 infantry battalions

which were raised in World War I. Also being added was the silver badge of the Lord Strathcona 's Horse (Royal Canadian), the Gold Gilt badge of the Royal Canadian Air Force (1999 was the 75th Anniversary of the RCAF/CAF), and a gold plated cloissone enamel badge of 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group. The retrofitted Chain was mounted on a red leather pelt and attached to the beaver pelt. The back of the beaver collar has been edged with ermine. This ties the Chain of Office to the origin of the historical start of the City and the fur trading days of the Hudson's Bay Company in mid 1700's. The HBC were the original donors of the beaver pelt. One of the largest pelt they had ever located for this special requirement. Mr. Don Dunwoody and the staff at Dunwoody Furs cleaned and totally restored the prime beaver pelt which the chain is attached.

In 1985, the Chain was valued at \$12,000.00. With inflation and price of gold, historical value, and the addition of the previously unlocable badges, I suggest the City should insure this irreplaceable artifact for at least \$500,000.00.

The hunt for the missing battalion badges by the EUSI over a fifteen years period, has resulted in obtaining all 11 world War I badges for units raised in the City of Edmonton. The most difficult badge to obtain was the 9th Battalion. This battalion was formed from the 101st Regiment Edmonton Fusilers who were formed in 1908 and would be the oldest infantry unit in the Province of Alberta. The regiment was perpetuated by the Loyal Edmonton Regiment (49th battalion CEF)(4 PPCLI) of present day. The Fusilers first commanding officer was LCol E.B. Edwards, the grand father of Jim Edwards, President of Edmonton's Economic Development, and of LColonel Gail Edward, Commanding Officer of 15 Edmonton Service Battalion during the late 1990's. The badge was located in Ontario and purchased by EUSI for \$4200.00 (asking price was \$5500.00 but for the negotiating talents of then Lieutenant Alex Tsang). Other badges were obtained at auction sales, collector's shows, and sale catalogues.

The chain is worn at ceremonial functions where the Chief Magistrate attends ore preside. To assist the wearer, the EUSI and Mr. Dunwoody have designed the red leather pelt to be detached with the gold chain and badges. This will allow the Mayor to wear the chain more comfortably and on less formal occasions. The protocol of the wearing of the full pelt and chain will remain for state, provincial, and civic occasions. Our former Mayor, Janice Reimer refused to wear the Chain because of animal fur while ignoring the significance of the Chain. I am for one was not unhappy when Jan did not survive in the polls.

If anyone interested in knowing which badges are in the chain, President, EUSI has the information as well as names of the donors of the badges. The core of this project include LCol Colin Richle (deceased) Col F. Joyce, HCol Bart West, Major Wally West(deceased) Major Gordon Fonstad (deceased), Colonels Fred Davies, Jim Fitzgerald, Art Mottershead (all deceased), and myself, Major Alexander Tsang, alive and still kicking.

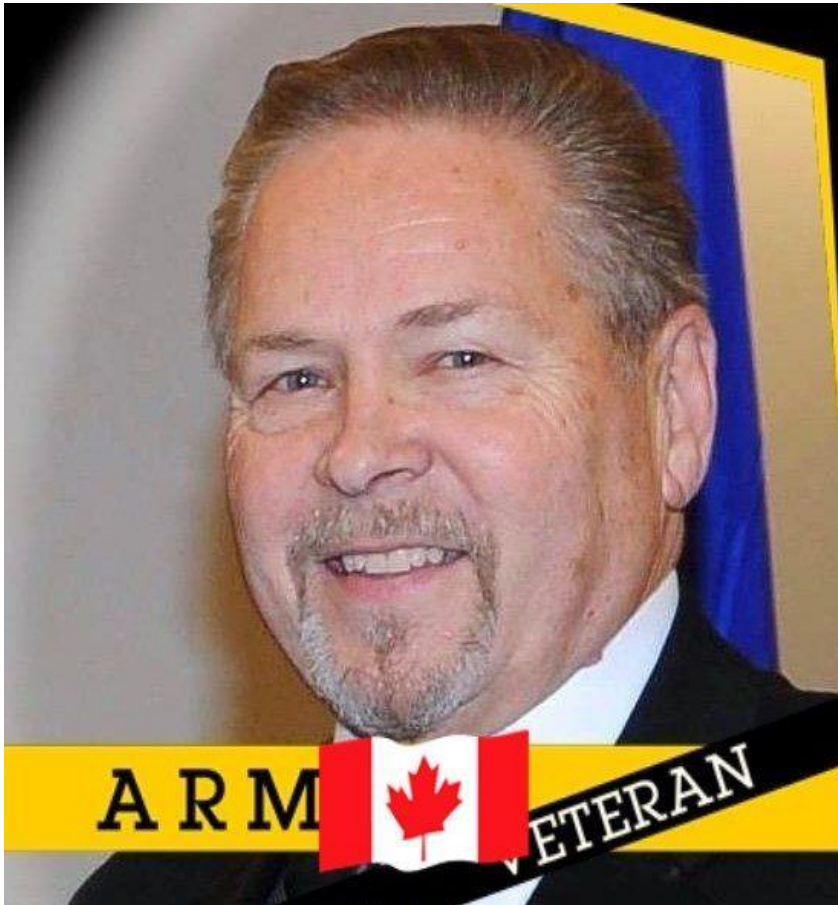


War in Ukraine and Israel/Gaza

The Latest Russian Drones Fire Lethal Slugs of Molten Metal There aren't a lot of great defenses against explosively formed penetrators. David Axe Forbes Staff Nov 10, 2023 - Russia's newest Lancet explosive drones apparently fire slugs of molten metal that can shoot right past the add-on armor Ukrainian troops count on to protect their vehicles from drone attacks. If there's any good news for the Ukrainians in the proliferation of drone-fired explosively formed penetrators, or EFPs, it's that the best-protected vehicles should be able to deflect the strikes. Keen-eyed observers months ago spotted—in photos and videos from the front—what they believed were EFP-armed Russian drones. Now wider acceptance is sinking in. “A video of the latest iteration of the Lancet loitering munition equipped with such a warhead striking a Bradley [fighting vehicle] was recorded on the Donetsk axis,” the independent Conflict Intelligence Team noted this week. A sensor aboard an EFP-armed drone—a laser ranger, in the case of the Lancet—calculates the distance to the target as the drone barrels in. At the best distance, 12 or 15 feet, the sensor triggers an explosive charge that sits behind a curved metal plate. Propelled and heated by the charge, the plate lances outward—and takes the shape of a long slug. This slug pierces the target. An EFP isn't as powerful as is, say, a high explosive antitank—HEAT—warhead that directly strikes its target. The main advantage of an EFP is that it ignores certain kinds of armor. For instance, bolt-on slats and cage armor that can detonate high explosive rounds at a safe distance, and which also tend to snag explosive drones before they explode. Both the Russian and Ukrainian militaries routinely add slat or cage armor to many of their combat vehicles. The armor is an expedient and doesn't always work. But it will work even less often for the Ukrainians now that the Russians apparently are equipping their Lancets with EFPs. There are counter measures. To defeat EFPs in Iraq, the US Army added composite armor to many of its vehicles. The main problem with this additional protection was the weight. One example: EFP-proof armor added a ton of extra mass to a three-ton Humvee, severely limiting the vehicle's mobility. Explosive reactive armor might work. “Since the 1970s, this has been used to defeat HEAT and EFP rounds by exploding small charges outward from the armor, interrupting the penetrating blast,” Capt Vincent Delany, a US Army infantry officer, noted in an essay for West Point's Modern War Institute. Explosive armor also adds weight. More troublingly, explosive armor explodes. You can't hang ERA on a thin skinned vehicle without the armor's own blasts damaging the vehicle. “Behind all ERA must be passive armor such as [rolled steel],” Sam Cranny-Evans and Sidharth Kaushal explained in a study for the Royal United Services Institute in London. All that is to say, the Ukrainians have some troubleshooting to do. There are ways of grounding and intercepting drones—jammers and air-defense guns, for example—and there are ways of protecting heavier vehicles against EFPs. But these measures could leave many vehicles exposed. Especially lighter ones that can't handle ERA. The usual anti-drone expedients—slats and cages—no longer are enough



Membership Profile Master Warrant Officer (retired) Leo Boyd



Leo lives in Spruce Grove, Alberta with his Domestic Niner, Margo. He is retired but keeps very busy volunteering for a variety of charity organizations. He was named a director of EUSI since 2022. Leo is also the President and National Director of the Royal Canadian Regiment Association (CWO Bobby Girouard Branch) in Edmonton. A long standing member and Treasurer of the Canadian Peace Keepers Veterans Association; a director on the national board of the Veterans Association; He volunteers with the Royal Canadian Legion #271 in the distribution of poppies every year since 2016; and is a member in good standing with the Canadian Airborne Social Club since 2002.

1st year university at the University of Manitoba through extension courses.

Leo served 27 years in the Canadian Military, spent his first 10 years in the Infantry and then re-mustered to Administrative Clerk. He served 10 years (3 tours) in Germany, two 6 month tours in Cyprus and one 6 month tour in the Golan Heights. His last posting was with the Canadian Liaison Staff at the Canadian Embassy in Washington DC as the senior Administrative staff advisor to the senior staff at that post. He retired from the Military in 1991, returned to Canada and spent 28 years in the retail business serving with Acklands Grainger; Home Depot; Rona; and Lowes.



Securitas

Alexander Tsang CD

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