

2012 was the 100th Anniversary of the Edmonton United Services Institute



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

JANUARY 2016

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President's New Year's Greeting

Friends and supporters of the EUSI, Happy New Year and Kung Hai Fat Choy. This is the Cantonese New Year's greeting which means hoping you all will have a prosperous year with money befall upon you. But I also hope you all will have good health for the coming years. While the economy in Alberta continues to take a beating and the unemployment rate has soared, we are blessed with a relatively mild winter and the Grey Cup finally came home.



The New Years Day Levee co-hosted by EUSI and HMCS NONSUCH was a great success and attended by about 150 people including members of the military community and business community, as well as Federal and Provincial politicians.. Over the years,

many of the military rituals and traditions have diminished and fear of disappearing all together. It is important that we preserve these traditions which tells a story significant to the preservation of Canadian values and history.

To meet the demands of the increasing activities of EUSI, the Board of Directors have added two new positions, Ms. Mary Hunt as Director of Protocol and Capt Jason Pascoe as Liaison Officer, Allied Forces. Welcome aboard.

The EUSI will host a symposium on Saturday, September 17, 2016. The topic will be “Future of Canada’s Military, Peace Making and/or Peace Keeping”. Within this broader policy statement, it is hoped discussion will be more specific such as the threat, resources and manpower required to achieve the goals. The day will be topped with a mess dinner commemorating the Battle of Madak Pocket, Croatia. We are in the process to invite guest speakers from the rank of soldiers who fought in this violent battle in recent Canadian history. Invitations have been sent to the MND, CDS, and academics from Kingston University and University of Calgary to sit on the symposium discussion panel.



The Royal Commonwealth Society of Edmonton

The RCSE will be holding a formal dinner to commemorate the Commonwealth Day on 12th March, 2016. This is followed by another reception on March 14, 2016 at the Ramada Hotel in Edmonton. There will be a very interesting and well known guest speaker to speak on the accomplishment and merits of the Commonwealth, of which Canada is a member. Today, there are among us some who are not aware that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of State of Canada and Canada is one of the 53 commonwealth countries in the world. There are also some who are aware of this fact but opted to challenge the Constitutional Monarchy. Given today’s troubled world, perhaps we can look at the Commonwealth concept and model to address some of the international conflicts of today. A more detailed invitation and RSVP will be forth coming.



Anzac Day Mess Dinner and Parade

The Anzac Day is an important event for Australia and New Zealand which commemorate the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army at the port of Gallipoli in the war against the Ottoman Empire during WWI. Many soldiers died on both sides. In Edmonton, Anzac day will be commemorated with a Saturday evening mess dinner and a breakfast/parade at City Hall the next morning. More detailed invitation and RSVP will be forthcoming.



The Dreaded Income Tax Filing

If you are receiving Federal Pension, chances are you are also subscribing to the Federal health and dental plan. You may be getting a tax break, if you are not already aware of this. I published this tax information in September, 2015. In case you missed it, Comd (ret'd) Ron Bell who gone through the process provided the following:

You can claim your Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) & Pensioners' Dental Services Plan (PDSP) on your taxes.

CF Pensioners receive a T4 from Specialized Services Division (Cdn Forces Pension Forces Cdn); however, the T4 DOES NOT include the premium paid to PSHCP or PDSP. Both premium payments ARE CLAIMABLE, therefore:

to learn how much you can claim, and to obtain a copy of the letter you will need in order to make a claim, please consider calling:

PSHCP, for health care plan details, call [1-800-267-6542](tel:1-800-267-6542); or,

PDSP/Dental, for dental plan details, call [1-800-267-0350](tel:1-800-267-0350)

The person answering will place your name in a database and send you a letter which is for use with your tax submission.

You can request it be back-dated if you've paid for years but have not claimed in the past

This will also ensure in future years you automatically receive the letter without having to call again.

The call, once connected, takes about four minutes.

This process has been validated by the Executive Director, Dean Black, as the RCAF Association

If you file your income tax by paper format, please attach a letter to explain you are claiming the accumulative sum for all the years(up to ten years) that you have not made a claim.

If you file your tax electronically, you will need to do the following:

The CRA process is not so easy as submitting the receipt with your taxes. You must write to CRA and request an Adjustment to Line 3-30 of your income tax return for the last ten years. Include your SI number, your full name and phone number. Attach the tax receipt you received from the pension offices. Sign and date the letter and mail to Canada Revenue Agency, 4695 12th Ave Shawinigan, Quebec G9P 5H9



Recommended Readings

1. Operation Medak Pocket Waikipedia, the free encyclopedia 2
2. Croatian War of Independence, Walkipedia, the free encyclopedia.



As this is the New Years edition of the ENew, instead of readings, you will have the pleasure of some not so politically correct jokes, compliment of LCol (ret'd) GG. McLean.

Ad. In Hospital Waiting Room:

**Smoking Helps You Lose Weight....
One Lung At A Time!**

On a bulletin board:

**Success Is Relative.
The more The Success,
The more The Relatives.**

**My Grandfather Is Eighty
And Still Doesn't Need Glasses....
He Drinks Straight Out Of The Bottle.**

Sign In A Bar:

**'Those Of You Who Are Drinking To Forget,
Please do Pay In Advance.'**

Sign In Driving School:

**If Your Wife Wants To Learn To Drive,
Don't Stand In Her Way....**

**The Reason Men Lie Is Because
Women Ask too Many Questions.**

**Laugh And The World Laughs With You,
Snore And You Sleep Alone**

Sign At A Barber Shop :

We Need Your Heads To Run Our Business..

A New York attorney representing a wealthy art collector called and asked to speak to his client, "Saul, I have some good news and, I have some bad news."

The art collector replied, "I've had an awful day; let's hear the good news first."

The lawyer said, "Well, I met with your wife today, and she informed me that she invested \$5,000 in two pictures that she thinks will bring a minimum of \$15-20 million. I think she could be right."

Saul replied enthusiastically, "Well done! My wife is a brilliant businesswoman! You've just made my day. Now I know I can handle the bad news. What is it?"

The lawyer replied, "The pictures are of you with your secretary."



What's Out There?

China' Carrier - Liaoning





An April image of a ship that is almost certainly China's first domestic aircraft carrier at the Dalian shipyard in northern China obtained on the Chinese language Internet.

China has quietly begun construction on its first domestic aircraft carrier in the same northern Chinese shipyard that refurbished the People's Liberation Army Navy's current Soviet-era carrier, USNI News has learned.

Sources pointed USNI News to an April photograph that emerged on the Chinese language Internet of a ship under construction at the Dalian yard believed to be the super structure of the PLAN's second carrier.

Further late September satellite photographs published by *Jane's* last week show a ship that corresponds to the dimensions of the refurbished Kuznetsov-class aircraft carrier *Liaoning* — a ship with a beam of about 115 feet and a length of 886 feet.

The interest to what is in the Dalian dry dock — once the home for *Liaoning's* refit after China purchased the carrier — has been a hot topic of conversation for international naval watchers.

One, retired U.S. Navy Capt. Chris Carlson, told USNI News given how quickly the Dalian yard builds commercial ships the timing of construction pointed toward a military platform.

China's Four Carrier Navy

China's intent to start its own domestic carrier program has been hinted at in official documents and scattered state-controlled press reports but the central government and the PLAN have been far from explicit in expressing a complete carrier vision.

The first public inkling China was set on creating a domestically-built carrier fleet emerged about five years ago as a minor footnote to a voluminous 2010 Ocean Development Report.

"In 2009, China put forward an idea and plan for building aircraft carriers. These indicate China has entered the historical era of building a maritime superpower," read a translation of the report.

The buried reference came two years before China commissioned *Liaoning*.

In early 2014 a hastily deleted report in Chinese state-controlled media quoted a regional official saying the PLAN had their sights set on four carriers.

Four carriers would mimic the U.S. legacy deployment model for carriers —one carrier deployed for three in training or maintenance. It wouldn't be the first time China has operated like the U.S. The PLAN has borrowed several other carrier tropes from the West down to dressing *Liaoning's* flight deck sailors in the same corresponding bright colors as the U.S. Navy.

Liaoning has been an effective tool for Chinese blue-water navy aspirational messaging but it's less effective as an actual warship. The combination of the skip-jump configuration of the carrier's flight deck and the reportedly underpowered engines of the Shenyang J-15 Flying Shark fighter have led to assumptions that the J-15s would only be able to launch from *Liaoning* with a limited lethal payload — if any weapons at all.

China would be able to mitigate some of the J-15 weight issues with a catapult- assisted take-off but arrested recovery (CATOBAR) system on its future carriers, however it's unclear if China has the technical wherewithal to include the scheme on its ships or if the Kuznetsov design could be modified to accommodate a CATOBAR system.



2016 Membership Renewal

Your membership secretary, Capt John Pinsent will be sending your 2016 membership renewal in the mail. Donations are also accepted. Please continue to be a member of the EUSI.

Securitas

Alexander Tsang CD

Major (retired)

President

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