

2016 is the 104<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Edmonton United Services Institute

EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

## PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

SEPTEMBER 2016



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### President's Comment

Well, August is almost over and it is back to school season. For grandparents, we will miss the laughters, the raucus and all that energy of our grandchildren. For parents, it will be season for deep pockets and ready to fork out big money for school supplies and all other fees. With the economy in Alberta not showing signs of recovery and unemployment going skyrocketing, I understand the difficulties some of us going through and I pray things get better real soon. This is the time we all need to be kind and help out if we can in whatever way we could. For myself, I just drop off donations at Staple outlets for back to school backpacks for children who are in need.

On another note, the annual EUSI **symposium** will take place at the Ramada Hotel in Kingsway, Edmonton, on **Saturday, 17 September, 2016, starting at 0800 hrs.** Admission is free and breakfast will be served. The theme of the symposium is to discuss the role of the Canadian military - peacekeeping or peacemaking. We have assembled a team of experts in the field as our panelist. I urge all EUSI members make an effort to attend this symposium and invite a family member and a friend. We especially welcome students and this will be an opportunity to learn what Canada is about.

The **Commemorative Mess Dinner** will take place at Ramada Hotel the same day, starting at 1830 hrs. This year, we extend our battle honor to soldiers of the Battle of Medak Pocket. The Battle of Medak Pocket, fought between Canadian and Croatian soldiers in 1993, during the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, was often referred to as the forgotten battle. It was never publicly commemorated, despite the scale of the battle, which involved many tanks and mounted infantry, with heavy casualties. Two former infantry soldiers who were combatants will be our guest speakers. LCol Dan Drew and MWO Mike Spellen. Cost is only \$100 per person which will afford all the cheap wine you can consume. But your regimental march will be performed and you are allowed to honor your regiment by standing on the chair or the table, whatever you feel safe and not too old to do so. Do not let HCol Hawn steal the thunder. Representing the RCAF, he will do the air force thing, every chance he get. For more information, go to [www.eusi.ca](http://www.eusi.ca) An invitation and RSVP is attached to the Enews. Hurry, seating is limited. .



**BATTLE OF BRITAIN.** OFFICIALLY CEBRATED ON 15 SEPTEMBER.

In 1940, from 10 July until 31 October, the Royal Air Force Fighter Command thwarted the German Luftwaffe's attempts to gain air supremacy over southern England, averting possible invasion and downing 1,733 German aircraft.

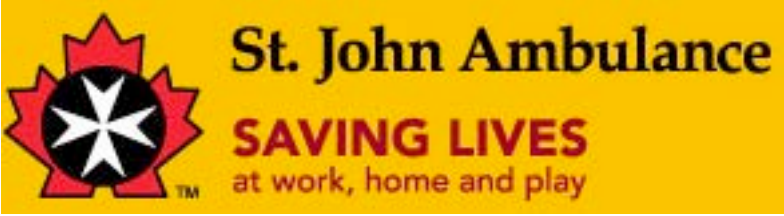
But the efforts were not without significant sacrifice: 915 British craft were lost and an estimated 544 of the 2,927 aircrew of the RAF were killed.

Their numerical disadvantage prompted Prime Minister Winston Churchill to describe them as the 'few' in his speech to Parliament on 20 August 1940.

**“Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.” Sir Winston Churchill**

**Battle of Britain Parade** You are invited to attend the Battle of Britain Parade to be held on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at the 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron hanger in Canadian Forces Base Edmonton at 1030 Hrs. Be seated by 1015 Hrs.





Get trained!

## Military Customs

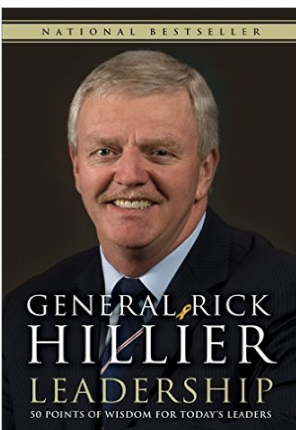
In today's military, we have many unique customs. What is not realized is that what is now custom formerly had a real purpose. Take the use of Side Boys to welcome a ranking visitor aboard a military vessel. It is the task of assigning two, four, six, or eight men to line both sides of the gangplank based on the ascending rank of the officer visiting the vessel, with two being assigned for ensigns and Lts, up to eight for admirals and above. More rank, more honor guard, right? But this system originally served a darker purpose....

this custom came from the British Navy of the 17-18 century. Back then, men did not often have the luxury of walking on to their ships: most had to transfer from a small boat to the larger ship by Ladder, or by a device called a bosun's chair, which was essentially a seat attached to a yardarm by a block and tackle. Here where the relevance comes about: the younger and less rank you had, the lighter you were. Thus, a light midshipman or Lt needed only two men on the haul rope, while a long endurance and often very stout Admiral, having eaten everything and then some over their forty year careers, tended to need eight men to pull them up. Additional jobs, such as availing themselves to steady the person after getting them to the deck, and helping with the person's luggage and other dunnage they would bring with them, also necessitated a required number of hands based on their weight or amounts of belongings collect throughout the years.



## CANADIAN MILITARY READING

### Leadership -By General Rick Hillier, Amazon October 4 2011



This is second book written by General Rick Hillier, former Canadian Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). If you are looking for references on organization theories. Don't read his book. However, if you want to be an effective leader, Hillier's "Put people first", "Always show respect", and "Don't focus on organization and process" are must reads. Hillier commented he learned from poor leaders not to rule through emails, frame responses to hard questions in what is politically correct language instead of speaking honestly. Hillier commented on loyalty is to Canada and within the military, our first loyalties are to the Canadian Forces. This often created conflict to our loyalty to the regiment or unit. Hillier noted that for years, regiments or units had created an impression among impressionable young men and women that their loyalty was first and foremost, even exclusively, to the unit. The Somalia enquiry exposed this fault.

Misunderstood values can impede decisions for the betterment of all. With the defence budget cuts, the army,



navy, and the air force goes into survival mode. The air force saw its salvation in working with NORAD or NATO, the navy saw its salvation working with the US Navy, and the army saw its future in high intensity combats. No one within the three components was interested or capable of working with the others elements. Hillier's comments are based on his personal experience as the CDS. I would like to add another component that the same reluctance is also found, working with Reservists. In Hillier's second book, we find the same contempt for politicians and bureaucrats who are only interested in the next promotion and indulges in risk aversion rather than risk management, resulting in the process displacing the original goal. .

With our current government embarking on another round of budget cuts and renewed interest in NATO and UN operations in eastern Europe and Africa, we must learned from our mistakes in facing new challenges.

## WHAT'S OUT THERE?

### The sidearm of Putin's bodyguards: SPS Serdyukov Pistol



#### Specifications

**Cartridge:** 9x21 SP10 or 9x21 SP11 or 9x21 SP12 or 9x21 SP13; 608 J / 448 Ft-Lbs

**Weight:** 2.19 lb/0.995 kg (unloaded);

**Length:** 8.8 in/225 mm;

**Barrel length:** 4.7 in/120 mm;

**Effective firing range:** 218 yards (200 meters);

**Feed system:** 18-round detachable box magazine



Designed in Russia "from scratch," the SPS (The Serdyukov pistol) is considered one of the best modern pistols in the world. However, the pistol, despite not being classified, is known exclusively to weapons experts.

The SPS (named after its designer, who incidentally shares his last name with a former Russian defense minister) is used by Russia's Federal Guards Service, President Vladimir Putin's personal security force. Its agents are inseparable from the Russian leader and accompany him on all his travels around the world.

The SPS has proven to be reliable under a very broad range of conditions, in temperatures from -58° to 122°F (-50°C to +50°C). The pistol is noted for its excellent accuracy even in the hands of an average shooter: a ten shot group measures 2½ inches at 27.3 yards (25 meters), and 12½ inches at 109 yards (100 meters).

The SPS was developed in the 1990s – a very troubled period in Russian history – as a new sidearm for Russian military and police officers: The crime rate skyrocketed in the country during the decade, and many criminals had access to body armor, so there was a need for a pistol capable of penetrating it. And that it does: A shot from an SPS with 9x21 mm armor-piercing SP10 bullets, developed specifically for the pistol, can penetrate up to 30 layers of Kevlar augmented with either a titanium (up to 1.4 mm) or a steel (up to 4 mm) plate.

The SPS is constantly being improved: in August 2012, TsNIITochMash presented the latest version of the pistol – the SR1MP, equipped with a Picatinny rail for mounting various accessories including reflector and laser sights, as well as tactical flashlights. The SR1MP can also be equipped with a suppressor.

Though not yet adopted by the Russian army, the SPS — along with its various derivatives — is in production by the Mayak factory in Kirov (600 miles northeast of Moscow). The pistol is used by the elite forces of Russia's FSB, Federal Guards Service and Internal Ministry.



Ubique!

*Alexander Tsang CD*

MAJOR (RETIRED)

PRESIDENT

EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

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



## EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

### OPEN INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

On behalf of the members of The Edmonton United Services Institute (EUSI), you are cordially invited to attend the EUSI Annual Symposium to be held on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at the Edmonton Ramada Hotel, 11834 –Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, commencing at 0800 hours. The theme of the symposium is “Role of Canada’s Military, Peace Keeping and/or Peace Making”. Under this broad theme, it is hope discussion will lead to more focused topics such as resources/manpower required to achieve the aims.

Panel guests are: the Minister of National Defence (or designate), Mr. Laurie Hawn, former Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence, former member of the Privy Council, the Treasury Board, and Honorary Colonel of 401 Squadron, Mr. Joe Howard, LL.M, Military analyst, Dr. Rob Hubert, University of Calgary, Lieutenant Colonel Nick Grimshaw, Mr. Norman Leach, award winning author.

Admission is free with breakfast and coffee/tea/juice served.

For further information, go to [EUSI.CA](http://EUSI.CA) or Facebook, Edmonton United Services Institute

Sincerely,

Major (ret'd) Alexander Tsang, CD  
President  
Edmonton United Services Institute

*[alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com](mailto:alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com)*



Major (ret) Alexander H. Tsang CD, President

And the Board of Governors of

The Edmonton United Services Institute

Requests the Pleasure of Your Company with Guests at

## **Battle of Medak Pocket Commemorative Dinner**

To be held at

Ramada Hotel

11834 – Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta

6:30 P.M. for 7:00 P.M., on Saturday, 17 September, 2016

**DRESS:** Mess Kit

Black Tie with Miniatures

Business attire with Medal

**TARIFF: \$100.00 PER PERSON**

**RSVP: with check payable to EUSI by 6 September 2016. Mail to:  
11035 – 163 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5X 2A2**

Guest Speakers are: LCol (ret'd) Dan Drew and MWO (ret'd) Mike Spellen. Both were combatants at the Battle of Medak Pocket, one of the fiercest battles fought between Canadian and Croatian Armies during the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.