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RUSI VI

*To promote national defence and security issues
through discussion and engagement*

**Newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute
of Vancouver Island**

The Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island is a member of the Conference of Defence Associations. The CDA is the oldest and most influential advocacy group in Canada's defence community, consisting of associations from all parts of the country.

The CDA expresses its ideas and opinions with a view to influencing government security and defence policy. It is a non-partisan, independent, and non-profit organization.



June 2024

Contents

President's Message	3
Nominations are now open! Coronation Medal to recognize Defence Team members.	5
Chinese Canadian Sailor Liberated POWs in Hong Kong	7
Understanding history is key to Reconciliation for Métis Officer	10
Nav Canada marks 85th anniversary of Canada's first air traffic control tower	13
Reeling back 100 years of the Royal Canadian Air Force	17
Canadian Rangers Corps	18
Loitering Or Rocket Artillery?	21
The Melting Point: High Command and War in The 21st Century by General Kenneth McKenzie (A New Book)	24
The Canadian Defence Academy	25
Did you miss any of our speakers?	25

President's Message

Our world continues to get more dangerous and unpredictable with an ongoing war in Eastern Europe where Ukraine is now struggling against increasing Russian effectiveness and superior numbers. The war in Gaza continues even though it was expected to be short, yet 8 months later the IDF is still fighting. Israel is at war not only with Hamas, but additionally Iran's proxies Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis of Yemen. Finally, Iran launched a huge and unprecedented strike on Israel itself using hundreds of missiles and long-range drones on 14 April. Although unsuccessful, it was in retaliation for an earlier IDF strike that killed several Revolutionary Guard leaders in Damascus.

The Ukrainians are struggling because they are unavoidably reliant on Western and, more critically, US support in the form of weapons and ammunition. US Congressional delays in providing this support, has crippled Ukraine's battlefield performance. They are also too reliant on superior Western technology to give them a battlefield edge. As they have learned, technological advantages are the most fleeting of all, as the Russians eventually adapt and slowly reduce or counter any edge. In addition, Ukraine is now short of troops. Their tired veterans have been fighting for two years without respite and reluctant conscripts arriving at the front are poorly trained. Basic training provides each recruit with only 20 bullets for live fire practice and no live grenade training before joining their units.

The West continues to escalate this conflict- without a plan to end it- by providing additional advanced weapons and with France threatening to employ troops on the ground. It is rumoured that elements of the French Foreign Legion may already be in Ukraine providing training assistance.

Finally, just a reminder that 2025 is an election year in Canada. Consequently, we will be incorporating some future speakers who will cover Canadian democracy and National Defence.

Scott H. Osborne

President

Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island

Upcoming Speakers and topics:

- **11 September-** The Palestinian Second Intifada: 2000 to 2006 by Col (Ret'd) Ross Fetterly
- **9 October-** If All the Officers Were Shot by Dr. Bill Stewart
- **13 November-** Arctic Shipping Challenges and Maritime Security in the Arctic by Rear-Admiral (Ret'd) Nigel Greenwood
- **15 December-** Christmas Meet & Greet
- **8 January, 2025-** Democracy in Canada by Jonathon Manthorpe
- **12 February, 2025-** National Defence Discussion with

Host:

BGen (Ret'd) Don MacNamara and

Panelists:

Col (Ret'd) Jamie Hammond;

BGen (Ret'd) Greg Matte;

Vice-Admiral (Ret'd) Bruce Donaldson; and

Dr. Jim Boutilier

- **12 March, 2025** (date TBC) - Canadians in the Battle of Britain- Ted Barris

Nominations are now open! Coronation Medal to recognize Defence Team members.

May 6, 2024 - Defence Stories www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf

The deadline for commands to submit their nominations to the Directorate of Honours and Recognition (DH&R) is September 6, 2024.

Last year it was announced that the Government of Canada would award 30,000 Coronation Medals to Canadians who have “made a significant contribution to Canada, a province, territory, region or community, or an achievement abroad that brings benefit or honour to Canadians or Canada.” The design of this newest medal was unveiled on May 6, 2024, and commemorates the historic [Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III as King of Canada](#). Of the 30,000 medals, 4,000 are being dedicated to the recognition of members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and 1,000 for Government of Canada public service employees, including those in the Department of National Defence, representing the full breadth of our Defence Team.

CAF nominations will be made in accordance with the criteria approved by the Chief of the Defence Staff in consultation with the Armed Forces Management Board, and using selection guidelines so that recipients reflect the diversity of the military. The allocation of medals for public service employees within DND will be administered by the Corporate Awards and Recognition Team at ADM(HR-Civ).

For CAF members, the selection will be made using a process similar to the [Order of Military Merit](#), with a focus on recognizing lower ranks and ensuring equitable distribution within nominating commands. Specific instructions were sent out in a Canadian Forces General Message (CANFORGEN), on May 6 2024, outlining both the selection criteria and process. Commands are still expected to communicate the details of the CANFORGEN to their units and seek nominations.

The deadline for commands to submit their nominations to the Directorate of Honours and Recognition (DH&R) is September 6, 2024. The Coronation Medal will be administered by the Chancellery of Honours at Rideau Hall. Once all nominations are evaluated and approved, medals will then be provided by DH&R to commands for presentation.

Note that a nomination **does not** guarantee a medal. Any questions on honours administration and general honours policy may be addressed to your chain of command.

The Defence Team takes great pride in our association with His Majesty. As Canada's King, King Charles III is the Commander-in-Chief of the CAF and has been part of Canada's military for over 45 years. Our Governor General, Mary Simon, represents him in Canada.



King Charles III Coronation Medal

The medal features the effigy of His Majesty King Charles III, as well as the Royal Cypher. The medal's blue, red and white ribbon is evocative of the 1902 Edward VII Coronation Medal, one of the earliest coronation medals awarded to Canadians. The Canadian Heraldic Authority is responsible for the design of the medal, which was approved by His Majesty the King.

Canada

Editor: We don't hear much about the Liberation of POW camps in the far east. Here is a Canadian story.

Chinese Canadian Sailor Liberated POWs in Hong Kong

July 18, 2023 - Royal Canadian Navy



William Lore.
Photo: Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society.

"I think they just saw on my application 'Chinese' and threw it in the waste basket," Lore would later remember during an interview.

At the onset of the War, the Canadian government introduced restrictive immigration policies. The Chinese Immigration Act of 1923 barred nearly all immigration of Chinese immigrants into Canada, with those restrictions extending to military recruiting throughout the

Commonwealth.

In 1943, an Order in Council removed racial restrictions to Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) recruits. Applying again, Lore was finally admitted, becoming the first Chinese Canadian officer in the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN).

Lore completed naval training and was posted to Ottawa at the newly formed Combined Services Radio Intelligence Unit.

In 1944, he was loaned to the Royal Navy (RN) where his character, skill set, and multilingualism set him apart.

After reading and interpreting “two lines of a Chinese epigram on screen,” he was selected to be part of a two-man team in the Combined Services Detailed Intelligence Corps in Burma (present-day Myanmar).

In January 1945, he was sent to Colombo, Ceylon (present-day Sri Lanka), where he travelled deep into the jungle to a top-secret RN transit camp, where he played an instrumental role in the development of a large, joint amphibious and air attack on Japanese forces in Rangoon, Burma (present-day Myanmar).

The plan saw British and Anglo-Indian forces successfully liberate the city, contending with limited Japanese opposition, mostly snipers. By May of 1945, the enemy had been fully expelled.

After the Japanese government began to negotiate terms to surrender Lore led a party of British Royal Marines to negotiate an official surrender with the Japanese in Hong Kong.

They took control of the RN shore base and liberated Canadian, British and Hong Kong prisoners being held at the notorious Sham Shui Po POW camp.

The still-posted Japanese guards first laughed at Lore, but his persuasive attitude and the accompanying Marines convinced the guards of Japan’s surrender.

Lore’s account of discovering the Canadian POWs is harrowing.

“I went into the first building I came to and it was very dark,” he said. “There were about 40 men in there, Canadians, sitting at tables and so forth. I said, ‘Hi you guys, don’t you want to see a Canadian?’ Then they ran forward and saw my cap badge. Those men were really skeletons. You could see their bones through the skin.”



Chinese Canadian William Lore wanted to serve his country during the Second World War. But all three of his applications were rejected due to his heritage.

“Then they were crying and weren’t ashamed of crying. And finally I cried, too, because they were telling me what they had suffered,” remembered Lore.

Despite the war’s end, Lore stayed on loan to the RN before returning to Canada a year later.

Lore served in Hong Kong again during the Korean war doing intelligence work. He settled in Hong Kong in 1957 and became an insurance agent. Then, at the age of 51, Lore earned a law degree at Oxford University and opened his practice in 1962.

He died on September 22, 2012 at 103 years of age.

“William Lore’s drive and determination to serve his country and to achieve recognition of Chinese Canadians as full members of Canadian society serve as a wonderful example to all of us and show that we all can make a difference. As a sailor, Lieutenant-Commander Lore made Canada proud,” said Peter MacKay, the Minister of National Defence at the time of Lore’s passing.

Understanding history is key to Reconciliation for Métis Officer

November 8, 2023 - Canadian Army – Maple Leaf News



Colonel (Col) David Grebstad currently serves as both the Canadian Army's Director of Personnel Management and Regimental Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. He only very recently discovered his Métis heritage.

To mark Indigenous Veterans Day, Col Grebstad shared that story, along with his thoughts on advancing Reconciliation through the study of history, and the warm welcome he has received from his Métis community.

How did you discover your Métis heritage?

I did not know I was Métis until I was 45 years old. So, I lived my entire life not knowing. My mom passed away when I was 45. I was deployed to Egypt at the time. She had been the family historian and when I came home for the funeral, I said, 'I'll take that on.' So, I started looking into things. My fifth great grandmother was a Cree from northern Manitoba. As I did more research, I realized they were Métis. I became very interested, but also very upset that I had lived 45 years of my life without knowing. And so, I said, 'I'm going to make up for lost time and I'm going to jump in with both feet, embrace this culture and learn more about it.'

How has it impacted you?

What's really impacted me is the warm embrace that I've received from the Manitoba Métis. I've spoken to various members in the Manitoba Métis Federation government, and my situation isn't unique. A lot of people, not so much now, but in the first half and the middle of the 20th century were shamed for being Métis, so they deliberately downplayed their heritage. Whether or not that's what happened in my case, I don't know, but I've been welcomed into the community and supported.

Why should all Canadians educate themselves on Indigenous history?

I think it's a part of a wider effort at Reconciliation. Indigenous Peoples are an important part of our society. They have a lot to offer to the Canadian Armed Forces. Sadly, we don't have enough Indigenous Peoples within our ranks. We certainly don't have them in the proportions that are representative of their share of the population. There are a lot of reasons for that, colonialism and some of our national history, but if non-Indigenous people in the Forces can learn more about Indigenous cultures, the organization will become far more welcoming, and I think there will be a lot less reluctance among Indigenous Peoples who might want to join.



Col Grebstad shared his thoughts on advancing Reconciliation.

The Manitoba Métis Federation has invited you for the second time this year to be part of their Remembrance commemorations. What does that opportunity mean to you?

To be invited to attend and to speak both last year and this year is incredibly touching. The last time the Canadian Army fired in anger on Canadian soil was against Métis. So, the Métis people have more than enough argument to not like the Canadian Forces. However, the President of Manitoba Métis Federation, David Chartrand, is very, very supportive of Métis joining the Canadian Forces. He is very supportive of celebrating and respecting all veterans. The fact that they're holding these ceremonies is a great indicator of Reconciliation in itself.

Indigenous Veterans Day is an opportunity to honour the contribution Indigenous Veterans have made in service of Canada, even when it did not always grant them a fair treatment. To honour Indigenous Veterans Day, all are invited to take the time to remember Indigenous veterans and learn more about their tremendous contributions to Canada's defence.



Nav Canada marks 85th anniversary of Canada's first air traffic control tower

BY SKIES MAGAZINE | APRIL 22, 2024

Today, Nav Canada operates 42 airport control towers across the country. Nav Canada Photo

Nav Canada, the nation's air navigation service provider, is celebrating the 85th anniversary of Canada's first air traffic control tower, which opened April 13, 1939, at Saint-Hubert Airport in Quebec.

This simple structure, with only a few radios and light projectors, initially served as part of a military training facility during the Second World War, and marked the start of air traffic control in Canada.

"We are reminded of the pivotal role air traffic control plays in safeguarding our skies," said Nick von Schoenberg, president of the Canadian Air Traffic Control Association and 27-year air traffic controller.

"A lot has changed since the erection of that first tower, and a lot hasn't: Air traffic controllers remain the most vital and indispensable component within it."



Canada's first air traffic control tower at Saint-Hubert Airport, circa 1940. Nav Canada/X Photo

The Saint-Hubert airport, re-branded as Montreal Metropolitan Airport earlier this year, traces its history to an announcement by Prime Minister William Mackenzie King in 1926.

King pledged support for a British-proposed airship service at the Imperial Conference in London, U.K., that year. In 1924, Britain began constructing airships to improve communication within its empire, and the Canadian government concurrently hoped to establish an airmail service between Montreal and remote regions.

Canada chose Saint-Hubert for both projects and established the country's first civilian aerodrome. The first airmail delivery took place in November 1927 with a Fairchild FC-2W2 operated by Canadian Colonial Airways Ltd., and the Saint-Hubert facility continued to evolve.

In 1985, Transport Canada opened a new control tower at the airport, and Nav Canada acquired the nation's air navigation systems in 1996, becoming the world's first fully privatized air navigation service provider.



Quebec's first airmail delivery took place in November 1927 with a Fairchild FC-2W2 operated by Canadian Colonial Airways Ltd. Photo credit: National Parks Branch / Library and Archives Canada / PA-057109.

Today, air traffic controllers in Montreal use sophisticated radar, space-based automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B) technology, and radio communications to guide aircraft to their destinations. Nav Canada operates 42 airport control towers across the country.

“It’s amazing to think that air traffic control in Canada started right here in Saint-Hubert,” said Ian Michon, a Nav Canada air traffic controller who began his career at the Saint-Hubert tower in 2011.

“We’re located in the middle of three runways, making this one of the most unique towers in our country. This airport also has a long history of training the next generation of aviation industry professionals. From Canada’s first air traffic controllers, to RCAF pilots, to general aviation pilots, this airport has evolved many times to meet Canada’s current and future needs.”



Nav Canada acquired the nation's air navigation systems in 1996 and continues to evolve. Nav Canada Photo

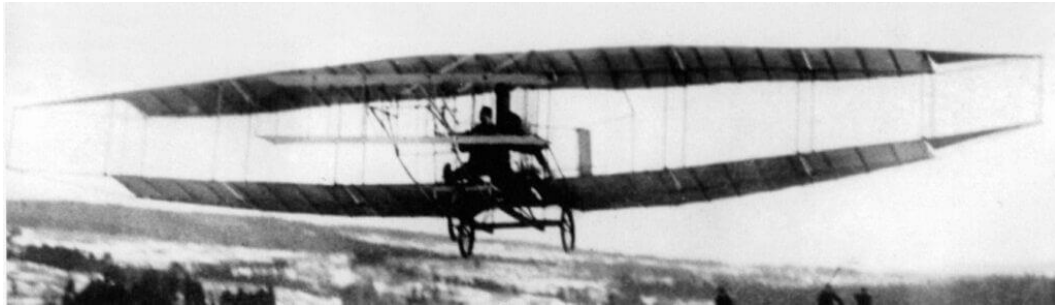
“Here’s to 85 years of safe skies and countless milestones yet to come,” says Ray Bohn, President and CEO of Nav Canada. “Happy anniversary to all the air traffic service professionals who have worked at Canada’s first air traffic control tower.”

“Here’s to 85 years of safe skies and countless milestones yet to come,” added Ray Bohn, president and CEO of Nav Canada. “Happy anniversary to all the air traffic service professionals who have worked at Canada’s first air traffic control tower.”

Editor: A worth while read with plenty of pictures.

Reeling back 100 years of the Royal Canadian Air Force

As the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) marks its 100th anniversary, we look back at the last century, from the Silver Dart to the CF-18, and the First World War to modern peacekeeping missions.



<https://skiesmag.com/features/reeling-back-100-years-rcaf-royal-canadian-air-force/>



Editor: Although most of us realize that the Canadian Rangers exist, these two forwards in the Canadian Army Journal, of early 2023, add a new perspective as to how dynamic and determined the organization is to move forward.

The Canadian Rangers continually contribute their valued service by helping communities during challenging events such as floods and fires and assisting in ground search and rescue operations. Canadian Rangers have proven themselves to be highly adaptable, as seen during their participation and support in recent operations, including Operation (Op) LENTUS (responding to floods and wildfires), Op LASER and VECTOR (providing a COVID-19 response) and Op NANOOK (demonstrating sovereignty).

Canadian Rangers Corps

From the Canadian Army Journal

In May 2022, I left my command of 2nd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (2 CRPG) after a tour of five years. Leaving this exceptional unit was difficult for me, as I truly loved those valiant and dedicated Canadians who, through the COVID-19 pandemic and dozens of ground search and rescue operations, demonstrated their commitment toward their fellow citizens, day after day. When asked to serve as the new director of the Canadian Ranger Corps—especially as we celebrated its 75th anniversary—I felt extremely privileged, grateful, and humble, as this was not an opportunity I expected to come after 36 years in the Canadian Army.

With limited support, the Canadian Rangers continue to impress Canadians daily with their commitment to others and their ability to respond quickly whenever called upon. Annually, they save dozens of lives by conducting ground search and rescue operations and allowing families to grieve and obtain closure by recovering their lost loved ones. Our Rangers reduce suffering in their communities by assisting in times of crisis and teaching their southern colleagues critical survival skills in some of the most austere environments.

Beyond their military functions, Canadian Rangers are community leaders and role models, and they play a crucial role in fostering our country's youth through the Junior Canadian Rangers Program. Every day, our Canadian Rangers are influencing Canada's future by providing our youth with a challenging and rewarding program based on practical skills and cultural practices in a fun and friendly environment.

We must look toward our future as we celebrate the “Year of the Canadian Ranger” and recognize their distinguished history and commitment to Canadians over the last seventy-five years. Double-hatted as the Canadian Army Headquarters Director Canadian Rangers and the Director Canadian Ranger Corps, I have been given a clear mandate to revitalize the Canadian Ranger Corps, enable the Canadian Rangers of today, and define the enhanced Canadian Rangers of tomorrow. To accomplish that, the Canadian Army has brought together several experienced and enthusiastic individuals solely dedicated to the advancement of the Canadian Rangers. With me, I have the Corps Sergeant Major, Chief Warrant Officer Michael Egan, who is working tirelessly with the group Sergeants major to establish a Corps identity that is respectful of our most cherished strength (i.e. our diversity of cultures, our traditions and our heritage). While the Director Canadian Rangers staff is currently devoted to improving the conditions for Canadian Rangers and the CRPG HQ staff of today, the Canadian Rangers Enhancement team is working to define the Canadian Rangers of tomorrow and empower them to successfully meet future demands and challenges that are inherent to being part of the One Canadian Army.

While we must be methodical in our approach, we will proceed with speed as we leverage our vast experience with modernization that has been ongoing for some time. We will address the issues that have been known for years but have continued without any real change. In our efforts, we are not alone. We feel the commitment of the Canadian Armed Forces leadership and benefit considerably from the knowledge and experience of the Canadian Rangers Corps community. Throughout this endeavour, the voices of the CRPG command team, Ranger instructors, headquarters staff, and honorary lieutenant-colonels will be heard, and so will the voices of the Canadian Rangers themselves. It is our Corps to all of us, the Canadian Rangers are its soul, and the Junior Canadian Rangers are its future. The Corps Sergeant-Major and I will seize every opportunity to get to know as many of the Corps as we can, share our thoughts, take ownership of the issues, and build on their solutions whenever we can.

To conclude, I want to thank my predecessors, the Canadian Ranger Corps, and the Canadian Army team for their efforts toward the series of successful CR75 events that happened throughout 2022. I thank every one of you who engaged in the national and local activities to recognize the Canadian Rangers in 2022 and are preparing for 2023, we celebrate the Junior Canadian Rangers’ 25th anniversary, which will culminate with a closing ceremony in Nunavik in January 2024.

Vigilants
Colonel Benoit Mainville, CD
Director Canadian Rangers Corps

Fun Fact. We aren't the only country with Rangers. The below excerpt is from an article in Army Journal from 4th Candain Ranger Patrol Group.

“To mark the 75th anniversary of the Canadian Rangers, the author was asked to write about a unique aspect of 4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (4 CRPG). It was readily apparent that 4 CRPG is the only one among the five CRPGs to draw its lineage directly from a Second World War Canadian unit, the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers (PCMR). It is also unique for its alliance with another unit, Australia’s North-West Field Force (NORFORCE). NORFORCE, like 4 CRPG, draws its lineage from a wartime unit, the Australian 2/1st North Australia Observer Unit (2/1 NOAU), known as the “Nackaroos.” The unusual points in common shared by the two units resulted in a periodic exchange. Since 2011, the units have held regular exchanges, with a brief disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Traditionally, NORFORCE and 4 CRPG take turns hosting each other roughly every two years. These exchanges are known as Exercise SOUTHERN CROSS and Exercise NORTHERN LIGHTS.”



Loitering Or Rocket Artillery?

ASSESSING THE SOLUTIONS FOR LONG-RANGE PRECISION FIRES.

Ian Coutts in Canadian Army Today **v8i1-Spring2024**

Modern warfare has reaffirmed the necessity of long-range precision fires. Director Land Requirements has a project assessing possible solutions.

“Reach out” is a phrase that says a lot about what it is that salespeople do and, it must be said, gunners. In a few years, Canadian gunners may be able to reach out that little bit farther.

“Long-range precision fire systems” will allow the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery to do just that. It’s not the most specific phrase, and mentally it doesn’t conjure up much. But as Lieutenant-Colonel John Zwicewicz, the section head at the Directorate of Land Requirements looking into their potential acquisition, explains, it’s not so much a particular weapon as a capability.

“When we speak of long-range, and this is consistent with how NATO interprets these capabilities, that means we’re looking at ranges of 80 kilometres and beyond,” he said. Two types of weapons have that capability, Zwicewicz says. One is rocket artillery; the other is long-range loitering munitions.

To the uninitiated, loitering munitions are similar to drones. But there is an important distinction. Take the General Atomics MQ-1 Predator, for example, probably one of

the best-known military uncrewed aerial systems. It is remotely operated like a loitering munition but really has more in common with a conventional aircraft. It can deliver bombs or rockets or serve as a surveillance platform, but returns to base afterwards, like a plane.

First and foremost, says Zwicewicz, loitering munitions “are intended to be one way.” Like a drone, they are remotely piloted guided sensors that give the operator situational awareness. But they contain a warhead and deliver their payload by striking it. They have been used to great effect by the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the fight against Russia, scoring successes even with improvised versions created using commercially available drone technology.

Both long-range systems have their pros and cons.

With loitering munitions, the command-and-control link lets the operator “send the [system] to an area, search out a target, confirm it with pinpoint accuracy, and then engage it if a decision is made to do so,” Zwicewicz explained. “Or the commander can make the decision to terminate the mission and cause it to crash or detonate in a safe area.”

The loitering munition could also serve as an “intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance asset while they’re airborne,” sending back real-time information about the battlespace. But “that communications link is vulnerable to being detected, and to potentially being jammed,” he said, “and that might make it hard to deliver a guaranteed effect.”

The relatively slow speed of loitering munitions also makes them “easier to engage with an air defence asset and to detect on a radar.”

That’s not as much of a problem for rocket artillery. “Those rockets are flying at Mach 2.5, Mach 3, etc.,” said Zwicewicz. Were the Army to go with rocket artillery, “you would have a highly responsive platform that can deliver effects within just a couple of minutes, one that has very good effects on target.”

And, more so than remotely operated loitering munitions, rockets are all weather. Unlike loitering munitions, however, “those missiles are going to a pre-determined target,” he noted. Once a round is launched, it is on its own.

“There are technologies being developed by industry and allies to eventually have a rocket artillery system that can seek and engage an imprecisely located target,” said Zwicewicz. “But that’s not yet fielded.”

To be sure, it’s early days, and the project is only in the options analysis stage of the procurement process, but it’s possible that the Army will require both rocket artillery and loitering munitions systems, he said.

The purchase of a long-range precision fire system would not mean the end of conventional cannon artillery in the Army, Zwicewicz emphasized. “This capability would definitely augment and not replace that. Cannon artillery, 155 millimetre, I think will always continue to play a vital role for direct support for troops in contact.”

While the acquisition of a system is years away — the Army only identified the need for such a capability in December 2022 and initiated work on the project in January 2023 — there are a number of systems currently fielded that they are looking at, he said.

In terms of rocket artillery, there are the Lockheed Martin High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), currently in use by the U.S. Army and a number of NATO allies, the Hanwha K239 Chunmoo multiple launch rocket system, and Elbit Systems’ Precision and Universal Launch System (PULS). Possible choices for a loitering munition include Rheinmetall’s HERO series, Israel Aerospace Industries’ Harpy and Harop, and AeroVironment’s Switchblade family.

Given the demand for long-range precision fires, there will undoubtedly be many more systems available in the not-too-distant future for consideration.

The Melting Point: High Command and War in The 21st Century by General Kenneth McKenzie (A New Book)

Amazon.ca 3 June, 2024

As the Commander of U.S. Central Command, General Frank McKenzie oversaw some of the most important — and controversial operations in modern U.S. military history. He had direct operational responsibility for the strikes on Qassem Soleimani and two successive leaders of ISIS, the many months of deterrence operations against Iran and its proxies, and the methodical drawdown in Iraq. He directed the noncombatant evacuation operation in Afghanistan, and the United States' final withdrawal from that tortured country.

The Melting Point has three themes. The first is the importance of the primacy of civilian control of the military. It has become a widely perceived truth that this control has been eroded over the past few years. General McKenzie doesn't believe that to be the case, and he speaks with some authority on the matter arguing that the civ-mil relationship isn't perfect or frictionless, but it doesn't have to be, and probably shouldn't be. It is, however, more durable than many believe, and is supported and embraced by the military to a degree that some critics do not choose to recognize.

The second theme is the uniqueness of being a combatant commander. Combatant commanders participate in the development of policy, although as junior partners. They are also responsible for the execution of policy once civilian leaders have formulated their decision, a unique position, and very different than the role of a service chief, or even the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. None of these officers are in the chain of command, and they have no ultimate, mortal responsibility or authority for execution. Only the combatant commander stands astride the boundary of decision-making and execution.

Finally, the third theme that McKenzie argues is that leaders matter, and the decisions they make have a profound effect on what happens on the battlefield. McKenzie provides an honest assessment of his time in command—describing decisions that were sound, as well as some outcomes he wishes were different. He offers a vivid portrait of leadership in action in one of the most volatile regions of the world.

The Canadian Defence Academy

A recommended web site for you. The Canadian Defence Academy has a good web site that provides links to the services and a plethora of sub pages for your reading pleasure. Please, take a look!

<https://cfc-ca.libguides.com/c.php?g=709488&p=5055316>

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