



UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NANAIMO (NORTH ISLAND)

c/o Vancouver Island Military Museum
100 Cameron Road, Nanaimo, BC V9R 0C8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A very warm Hello to all our loyal USINNI Membership. Spring has finally started to push winter aside here in the Nanaimo area. It's about time and the excitement in anticipation of our Mixed Dining In is starting to mount. All the final arrangements for the upcoming USINNI 2017 Gala Dining In have been completed and ticket sales commenced on April 24th. Our Guest of Honour on June 17th at the Nanaimo Golf Club

will be Rear Admiral Art MacDonald, Commander Maritime Forces Pacific. We have mailed out more than 30 special invitations to local community, municipal, provincial and federal representatives in the hope that they will want to join us in the celebration of Canada's 150th Birthday. 'Forbes and Friends' a local music ensemble made up almost exclusively of retired Canadian military musicians will provide

the usual musical arrangements and marches that accompany any formal military dinner. Add to that the pipings of Pipe Major Gordon Webb, and the musical atmosphere will be perfection. The Nanaimo Golf Club will provide the physical setting with outstanding views of the waters around Nanaimo. Our 'cocktail hour' will be held on the patio adjacent to our dining area. Also the Club will de-

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MILITARY & SECURITY MUSINGS:

"TO INTERVENE OR JUST SIT IT OUT!"

During his address, at last month's luncheon, Andrew McCorquodale touched on some of his experiences in Iraq. I sensed that we simply don't all see the same merits or absence of merits to Canada's fairly frequent interventions in the Middle East or Africa. I've mused on this thought at some length since. I know why I think we are there in that region now, and, why we have been there off & on now for over some sixty odd years. The official justification may be found in reams of public statements by prime and other ministers dating back to 1948. But, much of that's just aging history. Instead, I'll ask and answer an entirely different question; what if we and the Americans and the Europeans just let the UN and the various homicidal factions in the Middle East & Africa sort it all out for themselves? Just how much better or worse off would it be if we just completely sat out their internecine wars? Too often, intervening leads to heightened

NANAIMO, 20 April 2017...for those who didn't brave the showers to venture out for our 12 April Lunch Meeting, you missed a quite interesting guest speaker. First though, just in passing, a BRAVO ZULU to Sylvia and Bill Adamson for once again making their monthly foray up over the Malahat to join us for lunch.

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expectations and growing dependency on the part of the recipients. We become part of the problem rather than a solution.

Of course, we do recognize now some of the mistakes we Westerners made along the way. Even some of the seemingly good decisions (Somalia, Iraq, Libya, etc.) turned out to have unfortunate and unexpected consequences. So, let's take European and North American influence right off the table for this year and next. Let's see what might happen.

There are today and will be tomorrow several different kinds of conflicts at play in the Middle East. Jews, Arabs, Iranians, Egyptians, Turks and Europeans of all ilk's, as well as three major religions, all claim rights on and spill, have spilled & will spill blood over Jerusalem and its precincts. Islam is also engaged in what looks like an internicine fight to the death, using all that 21st Century science, industry & ingenuity affords them. That family fight is between Sunni and Shia Muslims. The Persians (Shia) and the Turks (Sunni) also have their own empiric ambitions in the region. Even within Islam, there is a growing murderous generational struggle with those who would turn the clock back to much earlier times... turned back by centuries, while there are others, younger, more secular & progressive, who look forward to a new if still ill-defined future. At the same time, existing nation states, some good, some less so, are struggling to survive. Within and about this, several hundred million displaced humans are already on the move, migrating, they believe, away from war, starvation or thirst to better climes and quarters. Caught in the middle, continued survivability for some existing nation states is problematic.

So, with that, here's a possibility or two when we're not around to pick up the pieces. These are only a few examples. In one Musing Column, I simply can't cover every possibility.

In a conventional war against almost any likely alliance of Islamic countries, fighting on the defence, short and sharp, Israel will win. But, with no outside intervention, in an extended war, with other Arab countries weighing in, Israel will have to resort to the use of weapons of massed destruc-

tion (WMD). Using nuclear munitions, in an extended war, Israel could turn every combatant Arab capital city within a 1000 miles to rubble. Used less strategically, those same munitions would pulverize Arab armies on all sides. But in a prolonged war, without outside replenishment and other help, Israel will run out of assets of all kinds. And, the use of WMD on one side, leads to likewise from the other. Most of them have chemical munitions at hand. Gloves off then, it's a 21st Century version of *Endlösung*: the *Final Solution*. OK, forget that ugly prospect. Let's look at another scenario. With outside influences gone, Shia Iran will become a nuclear power. Given that, the Sunni Saudis will do the same. Oh, it will take a bit of time, but the skill set and resources are all there. But, will Israel just sit still for any of that? Unlikely! That's something that will go disastrously wrong while we're taking a "time-out."

Here's still another unhealed sore: Syria. Without any further outside intervention, the minority Shia may just be able to hold a much weakened Syria together. If the anti-Assad revolution collapses, the purge of rebellious Sunni Syrians will be almost unbelievably, homicidally bloody. Of course, if an unrestrained Turkey and other Sunni states jump in, a Shia Syria disappears in another genocidal bloodbath. It may well be that, in the end, when the Syrians finally tire of their seemingly mindless killings and maiming's, the best hope might be in a Syria made up of a number of autonomous exclusive mini-states.

What about Iraq? The Coalition destruction of the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq led directly to creation of a Shia government in Bagdad and the subsequent Sunni uprising against both the Shiites and Coalition occupiers. It also gave birth to IT-GIS and the notion that existing borders & regimes in the Arab world should be displaced by a more global Sunni Caliphate. In any event, without outside help, Iraq will split into three separate areas: one controlled by the Shiites with Iranian support; one controlled by the Sunni and/or IT-GIS: and, one controlled by the Kurds, although the latter will be contested by the Turks, Iranians and Syrians.

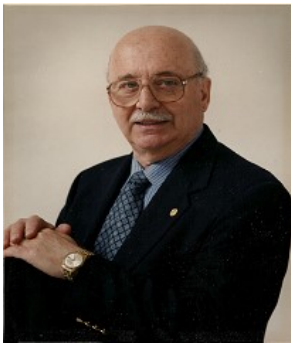
I could cite a dozen more situations where outside

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PRESIDENT, USINNI.

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interventions sometimes made life worse for the folk on the ground, but even more often at least saw some stabilization achieved. I covered much of this same gloomy ground in my February Column on Armageddon. In 1954, Winston Churchill suggested “*it is better to jaw-jaw, than just go to war-war.*” Were he with us now, he might say something like: “*it’s better to intervene & try to save a situation, even if it may still go wrong, than to just stand aside, and, then be assured it will go wrong and keep getting worse through our neglect.*”

Africa and the Middle East are very much in that proverbial “handcart on its way to hell.” If we don’t intervene, it’s not clear how much of the rest of the world gets dragged down with them. If we do intervene, we need to do so thoughtfully, having first decided exactly where our own National Interest lies? We simply don’t have a stake in every dust-up, big or small.



Musings are by Colonel (Retd) W.J. (Bill) McCullough, The views expressed here are, as always, the product of his own research, experience and deliberation.

... President’s Message cont’d from page 1 ...

ploy their best chefs and kitchen crew to serve us a select menu of carved Slow Roasted Beef Strip Loin or Blackened Wild Salmon with Creole Butter. The main entrée will be accompanied by salads, Herb Roasted Yukon Potatoes, seasonal vegetables, and an incredible selection of Fine Cakes and Fresh Fruit for desert. My mouth is already watering. Port for the usual toasts will be provided after the meal.

I have to acknowledge the hard work and team spirit of the planning committee. Mrs. Tracy Gillis, President 808 Wing, RCAF, Ms. Corrine Stewart, Secretary Royal Canadian Legion Branch 256, our own Col (Retd) Dick Stasuik (who will not be able to attend the dinner) and Maj (Retd) Len Campbell, have all made extensive contributions of time and effort to make this event possible. Without their assistance, the USINNI 2017 Gala Dining In would not be possible.

We have extended special invitations to Members of 808 Wing and Branches 10 and 256 of the Royal Canadian Legion to join us that evening. I urge Members of USINNI to reach out and extend an invitation to a friend that would appreciate the unique experience that this Dining In will provide; all the very best of fine comradery, dressed in elegant style in a stylish and graceful environment with fine food and wine, to celebrate the 150th Birthday of our Great Country.

If you get the impression I am very excited about it all, you are most certainly right.

Tickets are limited, so don’t delay. I would not any USINNI Member to be disappointed.

Edwin

The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) unveiled the CF-18 Demonstration Jet for its 2017 season today to celebrate Canada’s 150th anniversary of Confederation. Throughout the year, the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces will support the Government of Canada’s celebration of Canada’s 150th anniversary of Confederation, participating in numerous events across the country. The upcoming air show season is a special opportunity for the RCAF and the Demonstration Team to join Canadians across the nation in celebrating shared values, achievements and Canada’s place in the world.



USINNI Guest Speaker - May 10th, 2017

Colonel (Retired) John L. Orr CD

Colonel (Retired) John L. Orr CD, joined the Royal Canadian Navy in September 1963 and graduated in 1967 from the Royal Military College of Canada.

Selected for aircrew training, he began flying at Shearwater in 1969 and subsequently completed five operational tours on the Sea King helicopter culminating in command of 423 Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron from 1985-87.

A graduate of the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College, Colonel Orr has held staff appointments at National Defence Headquarters, Air Command Headquarters and Maritime Air Group Headquarters.



Colonel Orr was appointed as Canadian Forces Attaché in Cairo (1990-93) with accreditation to Egypt and Sudan. He subsequently served as Secretary to the Chief of Staff of Headquarters, Allied Forces Central Europe (1993-96) before returning to Canada in 1996 as the Deputy Commander, Maritime Air Group (MAG). With the disbandment of MAG in July 1997, Colonel Orr was appointed as the Maritime Air Component Commander (Atlantic) (1997-99).

In July 1999, Colonel Orr went back to the Middle East as the Chief of Liaison with the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai. He returned to Canada and retired from the Canadian Forces in September 2000.

LUNCHEON MEETING ATTENDANCE

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Denyse McCullough

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N to Z

Pauline Langley

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If you have not been in communication with your telephone contact coordinator and would like to attend this month's luncheon meeting please contact Edwin at (250) 7512-2360 or ejpeeters@shaw.ca.

This month's Luncheon Meeting will be held at
Nanaimo Golf Club, 2800 Highland Blvd
Wednesday, May 10th, 2017, 1130 hrs
\$25.00 per person.