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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all USINNI Members. I hope that this edition of our Newsletter find you and yours well and that the summer of 2017 has been an enjoyable one to date.

The weather has just in the past few days turned somewhat cooler early in the morning indicating that Fall is well on the way.

As of September 1, we officially commence our annual Membership Campaign. This includes seeking renewals from

our existing Members as well as the search for new Members. Please remember that only with your participation through Membership Renewals, assistance in seeking out new Members, and attendance at our various functions (BBQs, Luncheons, Dinners, etc.) can USINNI continue in its mission as well as support the fellowship that we are all so very proud of. In other words, its all up to you; Without your con-

tinued participation we will cease to exist. Your Board of Directors dedicate many additional hours every month to our Institute. Support them in their efforts to make the USINNI more than it is today.

Edwin



Nanaimo, 16 August 2017... in April of last year, I penned a column for you on the downside to relying on point defence while trying to defeat the threat posed to us by internationally promoted terrorism: (*The Failure of Blind Point Defence*). It in turn was preceded by a May 2009 column on taking the fight to 21st Century pirates: (*Modern Day Piracy on the High Seas*). Unfortunately, much as is the case throughout the Western World, Canada's practice is largely a reactive one; wait until a terrorist incident occurs and then rush off to close the barn door. Somewhat in common with most sports, you can't win while playing strictly on defence.

The reality is that there will never be enough police, security or military

Military & Security Musings: Taking the Fight to the Terrorists

forces adequate to guard every vital point or secure every vulnerability against every likely threat, while trying to do so all of the time. (*He who defends everything, defends nothing...Frederick 1st*). Pre-occupied as we are with the preservation of civil rights & privacy in an era when George Orwell's *1984* seems to "have arrived," we are fighting the

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terrorist just the way he wants us to do: reacting to his moves. In early August, this appeared in my morning (US) Foreign Policy Situation Report: ***President Donald Trump has ramped up the use of lethal counterterrorism (CT) operations since taking office, carrying out at least 92 strikes in Yemen, Pakistan, and Somalia. That's a fivefold increase over the Obama administration during a comparable period in its final days in office, FP's Micah Zenko writes: "This overreliance on lethal force is not just exhausting America's special operators; it is wholly insufficient to comprehensively confront the underlying causes of militancy and terrorism."*** So, there you have it, two competing American views!

Elsewhere, jurists, civil libertarians, social democrats and academics alike all promote a “kid-gloves” defensive approach in fighting terrorism. Here, it’s “no upsets, please, we’re Canadians!” They argue for due process: apprehend; arrest; try; and either convict or acquit the terrorist. Adding to our difficulty, many of the terrorist incidents occurring now appear to be self-generated, with no positive direct involvement on the part of organized terrorist groups. One way or t’other, fighting in kid-gloves won’t work, although Zenko is correct in suggesting that



any successful fight against international terrorism must make provision for addressing or redressing root causes...where & when this is even possible. Too often trying to apprehend terrorists for other than interrogation purposes isn’t very useful. In effect, even a convicted terrorist simply becomes a negotiating chip in a subsequent kidnap exchange organized for that very purpose

However, one downside to lethal acknowledged CT missions is that, Hydra-like, cutting off the head of one serpent simply promotes the growth of two or more replacement snake heads. While the Koranic rules on vengeance are complex, the practical contemporary consequence of killing a terrorist who is the head or even just a member of

a family or clan, is that two or more replacements join the ranks of a terrorist group to exact personal vengeance. The cycle can be a dreary endless one, particularly if you “keep score” with boastful news releases, as our media is wont to do. It also doesn’t help when our media focuses on “collateral damage” in judging the merits of this or that intervention. Terrorists thrive on getting attention; neglect shrivels them.

There are two obvious practical means to deal with a known terrorist; the first, drop a big bomb on him; or, the second, kill him or her anonymously. The former almost always involves collateral damage, needs a too obvious means & source of delivery, and, usually is or becomes attributable. Ergo, revenge follows. The second approach will often leave puzzlement, confusion and uncertainty in its wake. Deniability is the key. That requires the hand of a truly *Silent, Anonymous Service*. Few countries we cite as allies have that capability. In the case of Canada today, I’m simply not in a position to say if we are or are not in that kind of league. But, for anonymity, silence is gold; ignorance bliss.

Whether we do or don’t undertake them, active and pro-active counter-terrorism requires good intelligence; in effect, the who, where, when & way or how of “removal.” Canada tends not to get involved in this kind of “firm mailed fist” approach, and, when we do, we get out-from-under as soon as it is decently possible. For necessary “operational exploitation,” we have little acknowledged experience, beyond some World War Two special operations activities in Europe, and, in some more-recent vague activity by the Canadian Forces abroad. None of that is to suggest that Canada lacks some useful means for intelligence collection. DGA, DND, CSIS, the RCMP and CSE all have means or actual assets serving abroad, and, have some intelligence collection mandates. But, “some” is the operative word; comprehensiveness and coherence simply aren’t factored in; nor, equally importantly, in surreptitious operations. In the end too, good intelligence isn’t of much value, if you’re not actually going to put it to practical use.

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WO (RETD) EDWIN J PEETERS CD
PRESIDENT, USINNI.

ANY MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE WISHING TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OR COMMENT
WITH RESPECT TO THIS PUBLICATION MAY DO SO BY CONTACTING THE SAME.

Unlike most of our allies and all of our most probable adversaries, Canada hasn't a real central foreign intelligence agency. I'm not even sure we need one, although I admit that I am now a quarter-of-a-century out-of-date. However, I expect PCO still sits at the middle of Government's security and intelligence webs, manipulating product, largely to best meet the political needs of the day. But, years past, real intelligence and meaningful assessments too often got rewritten or backburner'd, ending up down-graded as suspect, unsuitable for policy development or operational use. Simply stated, politics tended to get in the way and probably still does so today.

Of course, officials in individual ministries still brief their own ministers, but if Cabinet input or decision is needed, the faceless majority and over-cautious unanimity carry the day. The problem now is not one of the absence of intelligence, but, rather, of its thoughtful, timely use in operations, including pre-emptive ones.

There are several underlying impediments to decisiveness in dealing effectively with terrorist threats to Canada and Canadians. The first is our

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Canada's 'Arctic Soldiers' shouldn't be our only line of defence in the North

Robert Smol
Published August 11, 2017

This month, Canada's largest annual arctic sovereignty exercise (Nanook 2017) will take place in Nunavut and Labrador.

As with each and every sovereignty exercise, the vaunted Canadian Rangers, our so-called "Arctic soldiers" will be touted by the Armed Forces and government as the permanent military symbol of Canada's determination to assert its sovereignty in the region.

This is not far from reality since, apart from a tiny shell of administrative, technical and aviation support staff, the Rangers are our only permanent military presence in the North.

Joint Task Force North also has a small squadron of four to six twin-engine Otter aircraft used to transport supplies. The aircraft are older than our current prime minister.

A component of the reserves, the Canadian Rang-

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LUNCHEON MEETING ATTENDANCE

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Note from the Secretary

Just a reminder that Denyse and I will again be "set up" at our September Lunch Meeting with a copy of the Institute's Membership List. We're simply double checking the accuracy of your contact and personal details. We caught a number of errors or changes needed to the existing List at our August Lunch Meeting at RCL Branch 257 Lantzville. So, if you missed the August Lunch, please take just a moment to see us this next outing.

Tony will also be set up with us, but he will be focused on Membership Renewals.

See you on the 13thBill



This month's Luncheon/Meeting will be held at
NANAIMO GOLF CLUB
 2800 Highland Blvd
 on
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2017
 1130 hours.
 \$25.00 per member/person.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!!!

Yes, it's Membership Renewal Time!!!

As is provided for in our Constitution, existing Ordinary, Associate and Family Plan memberships **expire on January 2nd 2018**.

Beginning with our upcoming 13 September Lunch Meeting, Tony Pearson, your Director Member Services, will be on hand to begin early membership renewals.



Membership fees remain unchanged from this past year;

- Ordinary Members: \$50.00 annually.
- Associate Members: \$50.00 annually.
- Family Plan Memberships: \$75.00 annually.
- All Life Members: No annual fee.

It helps if you are able to pay by cheque and bring or send along your Membership Card so that Tony can update it with the 2018 stamp.

Right now, Bob Sears, your Institute Treasurer, is struggling to put together our 2018 Budget. Part of the struggle is trying to guess what our revenues will be. As most Members will be aware, we have been living "beyond our means" these last few years; we rely on membership sales for our continued existence.

... Canada's 'Arctic ... cont'd from page 3 ...

ers are organized in a series of patrols throughout Canada's North.

But just how secure should we feel knowing that our Rangers are on duty? Dispense with the standard cheesy accolades and one can see that, operationally, the Rangers are not much more than a public affairs ruse aimed at placating Canadians into believing that Canada is actually taking Arctic defence seriously.

Granted, the Canadian Rangers do occasionally assist in search and rescue and may provide other



needed public assistance in their communities. But place our Rangers under an operational military lens and all one sees is a network of minimally trained, non-combat, part-time auxiliaries. The Canadian Ranger recruit receives all of 10 days military training. Most are not employed in a continuous manner. They do not have a uniform (other than sweatshirts and ball caps) and are usually required to supply their own snowmobiles when "on patrol."

Thus it should not come as a surprise that Canadian Rangers are in no way expected to go into military combat. As each Rangers unit is allotted about 12 days of paid employment for the year, we can hardly expect them to provide any systematic sovereignty patrol in the Arctic.

And when it comes to weaponry, Canada's "Arctic soldiers" are still armed with museum-worthy Second World War rifles — though these rifles are finally being replaced, after 70 years.

By placing minimally trained, non-combat, part-time reserve auxiliaries as the symbol of Canadian resolve to assert our sovereignty, we are, in essence, saying that Arctic sovereignty is not a responsibility we as a nation are willing to take seriously.

Otherwise we would be doing what the Danes, Norwegians, Finns, Swedes, Russians and Americans have been doing for decades. That is to maintain full-time, well equipped, professional and specialized "boots in the snow" ready to assert and defend their Arctic sovereignty.

By way of comparison, Denmark, Canada's eastern Arctic neighbour, is, like us, tasked with defending its territory of Greenland, a remote landmass far greater in size than its more populated southern area.

Yet this progressive country's vision of Arctic sovereignty involves an elite, specially trained and equipped regular military unit called Slædepatruljen Sirius (Sirius Sled Patrol). These professional military operators are full-time, trained members of the Danish Forces who go through a rigorous six- to eight-month selection and training process in areas such as winter survival, demolition, reconnaissance and First Aid.

Once deployed, they are expected to be able to operate in small independent teams in extreme cold for long periods of time, patrolling the entire length and breadth of Greenland through every season and through every type of weather.

Nothing remotely equivalent to this "in the snow" capability exists in Canada.

Similar contrasts can be made when our rangers stand against Norway's Sor-Varanger garrison, which continually patrols that country's 196-kilometre remote border with Russia. Likewise lacking among our Canadian Rangers is the intense winter warfare training and modern military equipment seen in Sweden's Norrbotten Regiment or Finland's famed Jaeger Brigade, both of which stand guard above the Arctic Circle. These Scandinavian arctic defenders are trained combat soldiers who do not have to provide their own snowmobiles and their uniforms go beyond ball caps and sweatshirts.

The Sor-Varanger garrison has actually been reinforced in recent months with a detachment of elite Army Rangers.

But regardless of how our Canadian Rangers might compare, they deserve our utmost respect and support. Why? Because our Rangers are exactly the kind of defence we Canadians think we deserve in the North.

Go, Rangers!

Robert Smol served for more than 20 years in the Canadian Armed Forces. He is currently an educator and writer in Toronto.

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preoccupation with due legal process referenced earlier in this piece. Next is freedom of information; we want the press to see, hear & report everything on record or at hand, too often just for its titillation value. The third is a near uninhibited

...we have managed to get ourselves in the very first rank of Western Countries least able to deal effectively with the threat of International or domestic terrorism ...

right to privacy. John Diefenbaker and Pierre Trudeau have much to answer; one for a flawed Bill of Rights, the other for a Charter of Rights & Freedoms, both of which ignored Duties & Responsibilities that should be those of every Canadian. Unfortunately, it would take another Constitutional Convention to sort that one out, something clearly not anywhere in the offing. Due process and soft power carry the day.

Pre-emption and combat missions abroad are not in vogue.

Compounding this, one has to but scroll through our daily newspapers or catch the evening news to be stunned at the lack of efficacy in our entire criminal justice system. In avoiding an Orwellian Canada, we have managed to get ourselves in the very first rank of Western countries least able to deal effectively with the threat of international or domestic terrorism. As I suggested in last month's Musing Column, the dispersal of foreign jihadists, including some Canadians, is already underway, as ITGIS loses its safe havens in Syria and Iraq. The notion that due process will see justice dispensed to our returning jihadists is simple wistfulness and denial on our part. Oh, yes, you can bet there are Mommas and Poppas out there wailing that their boy Willy or niece Susy are the product of our own dysfunctional society, or, simply a misunderstood victim of one kind or another. They will want our Government to find and bring their "children" back home. Like recreational drug abuse deaths, it's always somebody else's fault.

I just don't buy the notion of conversion and re-education! There could be up to one hundred poor Willies & Susies heading back our way to take

cover in Canada. It will be much better all-around if none of them make it back. Whatever the merits or lack of same in the Maher Arar and Omar Khadr cases, we don't need more litigants lining up, snouts down, at Canada's public troughs. Those who signed on to ITGIS made their own beds out in Syrian or Iraqi sands, so let's just leave them there to their own desserts. In just a little time, even the vaguest memory of them will drift away on the next sirocco. Dealing with terrorists is like weeding a garden; you have to be ruthless in digging out the weeds.

Finally, although this Musing Column is already overly long, I leave you with one concluding if somewhat unrelated thought. Missing in all of our due process is a meaningful Defence of Canada and Official Secrets Act to replace two existing but inadequate last century pieces of legislation.

There simply are times and circumstances when the needs of National Security should pre-empt the more usual processes, including Constitutional ones. Over the course of this past two or more years, I've been laying out for you the coming onslaught represented by a growing confluence of events, circumstances and forces that threaten the very existence of our values and way of life: literally, die Gotterdammerung. Terrorism is only one of those forces. Canadians, like the rest of the West, are going to have to make hard choices and some bitter compromises, if we are to even survive this Century. We need to get ready. Time and the tide of events are running against us



The views expressed in this column are those of Colonel (Retd) W.J. (Bill) McCullough, a Past President of our Institute and the long-time Chair of our Military Committee. His columns are the product of his own experience, research, midnight musing & wishful thinking.