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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A warm Hello to all USINNI Members.

Well, 2017 has certainly flown by thus far and I suspect that the few days that are left will be no exception.

Before you know it Christmas and the New Year will be upon us.

On a somber note, I wish to convey our sincere condolences to the family of Ken Waddington who passed away last month. He was a loyal Associate

Member since 2001. May he rest in peace.

I would like to remind all of our Annual Christ-



mas Luncheon to be held December 13th at 1130

hours at the Nanaimo Golf Club. This years festivities promise to be outstanding due to the dedication and hard work being put into the event by our Director of Hospitality and Events, Ms. Pauline Langley. Santa may not be there, however, his best Helper, Pauline, is sure to be and she has made every effort

to ensure that the event  
Continued on page 3...

## Military Committee Musings:

### POT-POURRI

**Nanaimo, 19 November 2017...** I trolled back through some 14 years' worth of Musings to see if ever, even just once, I might have congratulated our Federal Government, whatever its antecedents, for good governance on National Defence issues. It didn't happen, because the Government always lets us down when it comes to defence spending. The following is from the concluding para from my **October 2015 Column:**

"If you've been following my fairly gloomy columns on *Confluence*, you'll know I believe our need

for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Defence is *right- here-and-now*. It's time for Canada to ante up! To re-quote the concluding line of a **2008 Column: *The rust-out of Canada's Armed Forces, after only the briefest pause, goes on.***"

It hasn't been getting any better in the years since that **2008 Column**. We're still seeing news items bemoaning that, while Government may, repeat may, have a plan or policy for defence renewal, they don't have the money for it right now, or, if, in a weak moment, they acknowledge they do have some dollars, it turns out the procurement

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system is not ready or is simply broken. Like our American neighbours, the Trudeau Government is thinking about capital program spending on National Defence ten and 20 years down the pike. HELLO!! The next war to which we may have to send our young folk is just around the corner. We need 21<sup>st</sup> Century warships and combat aircraft today!

I believe successive Federal Governments have been inclined to accepting willy-nilly several popular theories that simply are irrelevant, illusionary or outright wrong for December 2017, much less that coming decade, during which we're being persuaded the Trudeau Government's *Strong, Secure, Engaged* Undefended Policy is supposed to come into play.

The first notion, is the presumption three major oceans insulate us from threats that emanate from outside our hemisphere. Wrong! They don't! Those same international waters and the airspace over them are open highways. The space represented by our continental isolation simply no longer equates to *time-in-hand*; that is, time to ponder over the threat, time to decide what to do about it & time to tool-up to fight the threat.

In spite of all our best efforts, Canada wasn't really ready to fight effectively in the Second World War until 1943. This becomes very evident and undeniable when you study the histories of our three Services in that last big war. Indeed, on almost every phase and front, we played catch-up through to the last six months of the war.

The cushion of space over time to invent-develop-build-deploy simply doesn't exist for us today. We win or lose with what we have right-at-hand, here and now.

The second notion is that somehow or other, having the United States as a southern neighbour represents protection for us under an American umbrella. They spend hundreds of billions of dollars

annually on defence, but even they can't defend themselves against all the threats imaginable. I rather doubt the next big war will be prefaced by a rain of missiles on anybody's cities. Not here anyway. The precursor will be the sudden complete shutdown of our entire electronic systems; no or at best only compromised internet; the same for hydro; telephone service; TV or radio service...just silence and darkness. God (or an atheist Governor-General) help Canadians if that happens mid-January. It will give a whole new reality to "freezing in the dark." The Americans will be too busy struggling with their problems to worry much about any unique to us. Sorting out and restoring computer-run and automated systems will take time, way too much time, in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century War.

The third illusionary notion is that the UN will somehow or other prevent or mitigate war. Sorry, but it hasn't demonstrably done so yet. The police action in Korea ended up a draw. The first intervention in the Congo had some success, but disaster after disaster remain the Congo's half century legacy through to today. Intervention in Cyprus and Kashmir at least froze the disputes, but, again, brought no lasting solutions. UN interventions in the Middle East brought some successes, but few if any lasting ones. The UN only works when the competing sides have first pounded themselves into insensibility.

No, the next war can only be prevented by demonstrating that the attacker will not find us a cakewalk. As this Institute argued in our submission to the Defence Review Panel in June 2016, Canadians just "can't manage it alone." In my view, a demonstrably strong pro-active NATO remains the one tool that may serve to deter the kind of apocalypse I forecast in my Confluence Series April 2015 to January 2016. A strong, pro-active, collaborative NATO may well be the last, best hope for avoiding a growing slide into international, global-wide anarchy. Mankind simply can't afford the current mindless, cowering drift into the

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THIS EDITION OF THE USIN(NI) NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN PUBLISHED AND AUTHORIZED FOR RELEASE BY  
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.

next big war. Canada needs to be doing much more than we already do in and for NATO...a whole lot more.

And, for those who argue that global disarmament is the only real way to avoid war, they and we need to remember that those who beat their spears into ploughshares, will do the ploughing for those who didn't. 'Twas ever thus!



*This column is again that of Colonel Bill McCullough, long-time Chair of our Military Committee & a Past President of our Institute. Having served for 37 years, Bill has now been retired for over a quarter of a century. The views expressed are entirely his own.*

### President's Message .... continued from page 1

will be enjoyed by all.

I also wish to extend a very sincere thank you to all those that have or will contribute to this event. I will not mention any one in particular so as not to offend someone that I might forget. A reminder to all that we will be collecting non-perishable goods to donate to a local charity that will help those that are less fortunate than us over the Holiday Season.

I also like to forward to you all, a kind invitation from RCL Br 257, to attend their 2018 New Year's Levee to be held Jan, 1, 2018 between 1200 and 1500 hours. A great opportunity to get out and see your Comrades and welcome the New Year.

In closing, on behalf of the entire USINNI BoD, I wish to extend to all of you and yours, all the best for the coming Holiday Season. May it be warm, merry and safe..

*Edwin*

## HMCS Nanaimo intercepts hundreds of kilograms of cocaine off the coast of Mexico

2017-11-24

Excerpt of article by: The Executive Officer of HMCS *Nanaimo*

Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Nanaimo* and an embarked U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) conducted their first drug seizure together on October 30, 2017. Their combined actions eliminated an estimated 680 kilograms of cocaine from circulation off of the coast of Mexico. (Estimated value of USD 22 million).

The haul was intercepted by HMCS *Nanaimo* as it executed its counterdrug mission in the eastern Pacific Ocean. This mission, known as Operation CARIBBE, is the CAF support to the multi-lateral mission known as Operation MARTILLO. In the expanse of Canada's ongoing engagement in Op-

eration MARTILLO, *Nanaimo* falls under the operational control of Joint Interagency Task

Force South (JIATFS). JIATFS's, and by extension *Nanaimo*'s, purpose is to support multinational efforts to address illicit trafficking by providing naval capabilities to detect and monitor suspect activities on the water off the Pacific



coast of Central America. During the law enforcement phase of the counter-smuggling mission — the actual interception, boarding and seizure of contraband — *Nanaimo*'s operational control shifts to the U.S. Coast Guard's 11<sup>th</sup> District.

**Nanaimo, 11 November 2017...**I'm just in, (home that is), after the usual outdoor Remembrance Day Rites observed with RCL Branch 257 in Lantzville, BC. Despite a cold, gloomy, rain-threatening day, we Lantzville & Mid-Vancouver Island area folk had the largest turnout I can recall in recent years for this particular annual event. Equally remarkable were the numbers of youngsters in the crowd, although the relative absence of teenagers and young adults was equally noticeable. However, I found myself left modestly troubled by an unrelated post-event conversation I had with a woman who stood near me throughout the ceremonies.

Having asked the ritual questions about my own medals and decorations, she was curious about the other group of vets in my company. I explained, too briefly it seems, that three of us were from "the local branch of the USI." I say "too briefly", because she responded with: "oh yes, I know that one...the United States Institute!" Ouch!!

To my own personal knowledge, this is the second time in twenty odd years that particular sobriquet has been appended to us by some of the locals. Albeit innocently meant this time, it did remind me of an earlier incident when one of our "loco" Raging Grannies intentionally so-monikered us an American front group trying to sneak "nukes" into our local Nanoose Bay naval establishment! Age is no excuse for stupidity or duplicity.

So, I think it opportune to remind all of our readers, not just our own Island ones, just who and what we are at the **United Services Institute of Nanaimo-North Island**.

## MILITARY AND SECURITY MUSINGS:

### Remembrance Day Question

#### What's the USI?

Following the Napoleonic Wars, the first Institutes just informally evolved in Britain from groups of either retired (unemployed) seasoned officers or the younger naval & army mavericks, on whom Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington, hoped to rely for the imaginative promotion of formal naval and military thinking in the face of government inertia and stingy treasuries. Out from under the oversight of the politicians, and, of stick-in-the-mud admirals and generals, Wellington's protégés could coolly examine, challenge, promote or denigrate British defence policy, doing so nominally with neither fear nor favour. No one owned them then, just as no one owns us now! In Britain, the roots of more progressive naval and military thinking began in 1831 at the Naval & Military Museum, becoming in 1839 home for the very first United Services Institute. In 1860, this USI won Royal Patronage, becoming the Royal United Services Institute and fore-runner for RUSI Whitehall or RUSI London.

Immediately following the First World War, Institutes existed then or are presumed to do so now in the UK, here in Canada and elsewhere abroad in

## LUNCHEON MEETING ATTENDANCE

**Your telephone contact coordinator will attempt to contact you in the days prior to the monthly luncheon/meeting to confirm attendance. In this manner we can confirm attendance numbers with the Nanaimo Golf Club.**

If for some reason she has missed you, please attempt to contact her or Edwin at 250-7511-2360 or [ejpeeters@shaw.ca](mailto:ejpeeters@shaw.ca).

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Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and possibly still in India. RUSI International also currently has a presence today in Brussels, Nairobi, Qatar and Japan.

In Canada, Old Fort York Reading Room (circa 1813) became just such a hot bed of critical and imaginative thinking on defence issues, evolving eventually into the Royal Canadian Military Institute, which secured its formal charter as an Institute in 1890. Since then, Canadian Institutes have come and gone, some having been properly gazetted as Royal, others remaining simply Institutes or possibly as Institutes only whimsically called Royal. Initially, closeted under the umbrella of the Federation of Military and United Services Institutes, our own mid-Vancouver Island group remained an Institute, now formally partnered with the Conference of Defence Associations as a non-voting associate member Institute.

Our Institute here is a johnnie-come-lately to the fold, founded in 1994 through the tireless efforts of the late Captain Ted Ethier, a former member of the Canadian Intelligence Corps and our first President. At its peak, our Institute numbered some 150 members-in-good-standing, but we have long since declined to about 35 active members. Otherwise pre-occupied, the vets of the Nineties and this bold New Century simply aren't interested.

However reduced our numbers now are, we still affirm that we will “*encourage our Government and Canadians in general to provide adequately for Canada’s national defence, foreign & international relations, and, for our national & public security.*” This is, of course, only one of the seven principles that constitute our own Institute’s Statement of Purpose. Our most recent significant foray on defence issues was an eleven-page submission to the Defence of Canada Review Panel, specifically: *The Defence of Canada in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century- We Can’t Manage It in Splendid Isolation.*

It may be needless to say so, but I will anyway, our views and recommendations were not adequately addressed in the Trudeau Government’s subsequent still-born Defence Policy: we’re neither *Strong; Secure; nor Engaged*. Not by a country mile!

“*So, the beat and the fight go on!*”

*As usual, this column is by Bill McCullough, a retired Regular Force Colonel, with 37 years service, eight of those out-of-country. His last posting was as Director-General Security at NDHQ. He is a Past President of our Institute; and, the long serving Chair of our Military Committee. Any errors or omissions in fact are solely his. His opinions are also his own.*



## MEMBERSHIP

Luncheon Meetings

### Note from the Board of Directors:

Following our November 8<sup>th</sup> special **Remembrance Luncheon Meeting**, several Members expressed “mixed

concerns” about the lunch typically provided us by NGC, even though an entirely different entrée was provided us this particular day. The staging of our meetings in an “awkward” venue, where sound and seating crowding is also a matter of concern for the organizers of our Meetings.

Complaints along these veins have been running concerns for us for several years now. We’ve tried the Hotel, but cost and seating there and at

other commercial premises are significant issues. Two of the local Legion Branches also represent possible venues, although catering and staging there can be even more difficult, even if more affordable. Like the Goldilocks’ nursery rhyme, we’re struggling to find something that suits and is “just right” for everyone. It just isn’t that easy!

It would be helpful for the Board to hear **from you** about what **you** would prefer for our 2018 functions. Please take the time; share your ideas. Feel free to comment verbally or in writing. Speak directly to Pauline or Edwin with your concerns and ideas. Speak up now, or, forever hold your peace! Well, if not forever, at least until after the next function.

*Your Board of Directors*

This month's Luncheon/Meeting will be held at  
**NANAIMO GOLF CLUB**  
 2800 Highland Blvd  
 on  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018**.

At our upcoming 11 October Luncheon 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.

Payment of Membership fees can be made either in cash (at the luncheon meeting), by cheque (at the luncheon/meeting or via Canada Post), or by email fund transfer. Email fund transfers can be directed to our President at [ejpeeters@shaw.ca](mailto:ejpeeters@shaw.ca).

Please present your Membership Card in person so that it can be updated with the 2018 stamp. If that is not possible, arrangements can be made to forward your 2018 stamp to you via Canada Post.

Thank you to all that have renewed their annual subscription already.