



UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

OF

NANAIMO AND NORTH ISLAND

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

President

WO (Retd) Edwin J. Peeters CD
ejpeeters@shaw.ca
250-751-2360

Vice President

Maj (Retd) Len Campbell CD
sqn439tiger12@telus.net
250-758-2292

Secretary &

Military Committee Chair

Col (Retd) Bill McCullough MSC CD
wjmcullough@shaw.ca
250-756-0223

Treasurer

Capt (Retd) Robert Sears CD
rtomssears@yahoo.ca
250-616-3984

Director Special Events

Vacant

Director Member Services

CWO (Retd) Tony Pearson CD
tm-pearson@shaw.ca
250-758-9758

Director Hospitality & Events

Mrs. Pauline Langley
fujjarah@shaw.ca
250-758-7632

Director Public Relations

Vacant

Newsletter Editor/Publisher

Vacant

Sergeant-At-Arms

Cpl (Retd) Pieter de Heer
pdeheer1935@gmail.com
250-758-4384

Regalia

Capt (Retd) Charles Kemp CD
250-390-1358

Past President

Cdr Pete Betcher
cdrbetcher@shaw.ca
250-754-9232

Director-At-Large

Capt (Retd) Roger Bird CD
hcrbird@shaw.ca
250-751-2941

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A warm Hello all USIN-NI Members. I hope that this edition of our Newsletter finds you well.

There are a several items that I wish to remind you of and/or bring to your attention.

First is our Annual General Meeting (AGM) coming up in March. As you are aware, it is the most

important meeting of the year, where and when our annual Board, Membership, financial and social matters are report-

ed and reviewed. Please mark it on your calendar. Next I want to bring to everyone's attention that we have changed the



venue for our regular monthly luncheon meetings. Effective immediately we are holding them at the Royal Cana-

dian Legion, Branch 257 in Lantzville. We have had excellent experiences with RCL Branch 257 in the past on an as-needed basis. Now, with a firm commitment from our Institute, they will be able to continue that tradition.

On behalf of Anne-Marie Smith, President, 808 (Thunderbird) Wing, RCAFA, I am delighted to announce that the Wing has extended a

Continued on page 3...

Nanaimo, 18 January 2018...way back in June 2016, I offered you a Grunt's perspective on Air Force needs, followed in September 2017 with a similar piece on the Navy. If the Earth shook for anyone, I quite missed it. Nothing at all! I've been a civilian now for some 27 years, so I'm 20th Century & no insider. But, now it's the Army's turn. And, they're the ones in the most trouble.



MILITARY AND SECURITY MUSING: An Auld Grunt's Take on 2018 Grunting!

As we enter 2018, Canada simply isn't war-ready. Strategically, we're pretty much locked into continental defence with our American partners, but playing a minor's role given the minute sizes and growing obsolescence of both the RCN and RCAF. That we're not pulling our weight is little if any fault of our sailors or airmen & women. Fault and guilt instead sits almost entirely at the feet of successive weak-kneed national governments and a

Vol 26 No 02

February 2018

moribund Ottawa bureaucracy. The principal warships and combat aircraft urgently needed are wanting, reflecting the current inertia in Ottawa camouflaged under a false-flag defence policy that's *not strong, not secure and not engaged*.

But, even without up-to-date equipment, the Navy and the Airforce, with their fully integrated Reserves, are, more or less, "good-to go." In the interim, which may have to stretch to be ten, 20 or more years, they can just manage to do so ...at least, do so in close concert with our US & NATO allies, and, not too far from our own bases. Limited by obsolescent kit, they are still, albeit modestly, forces-in-being.

So, more or less, is the miniscule Regular Army, but the Army Reserve (Canada's Militia) isn't.

In our 2016 submission to the Defence Review Panel we argued for a standing (Regular) Army that could deploy, in whatever circumstances prevailed, against any enemy whatsoever imaginable, an all-arms battalion or regimental Quick Response Unit, and, do so within seven days of the tasking. In addition, the Army would be expected to then field an all-arms brigade group into battle within 28 days of its tasking. That's not saying much. It's much less "soldiering" than we should be doing, but may well be all that's affordable while we're trying to find the money urgently required right now for our Naval and Air Force strategic needs.

Should push-come-to-shove this year, the Regular Army, with three Regular Force mini-brigades in-being, plus special service units, should be able to manage a modest-duration expeditionary mission. But, nor for long. They count on the Reserves for their reinforcements, which numerically and otherwise, just aren't there. The Regulars can also only handle a "One Front War." If a second mission drops in on top of the first, they quickly run out of boots!

The Reserve Army is currently at about 40% of its entitled strength. That Army is nominally organized into four divisions made up from ten bri-

gades or brigade groups. To be effectively operational, that would require somewhere between **sixty and eighty thousand** troopers. Hello!! The Reserve Army is down to around **12,000** all ranks; unevenly organized, poorly equipped, inadequately trained and with an in-balance of leaders for the near-empty ranks of "the led!"

But, almost worse than the numbers dilemma, is the disassociation Canadians have with "their militia" today. When I was a boy and a young man, the Reserve Army was big in my Town: 11 Field

Regt, RCA; 11 Field Ambulance (Regt), RCAMC; a small RCEME detachment; and, two sections of military police, C Pro C. We were very much part of our community. We were about 5-600 all-rank volunteers in a City of under 30,000 people. Today, we need to rebuild the sense that the Reserve Army is the People's Militia, to be found and sustained in every city and town in the Country. Here and now in 2018, we need to turnback the clock sixty years, although the end-

result should be a Ready Reserve that really is ready for new age 21st Century warfare.

In just one Musing Column, I am only able to lay out a general concept for a 21st Century, "real" Reserve Army for you. Reservists cost three to 4 times less than do Regulars. Their off-duty subsistence is negligible. But, the budget for a New Reserve Army must be entirely separate and preserved as such from that of the Regular Force. No more "end of fiscal year raiding!" The pay, allowances & incentives, including preferential tax ones, should be imaginative and significantly magnetic enough to attract large numbers of fit, forward-thinking post-secondary school graduates looking to further their educational, public service or other employment opportunities. Federal financial assistance to post-secondary education should be linked to service in one of the Reserves. Enrolments should be for a contracted five years, with extensions encouraged.

The Reserve Army should become the principal if

To be effectively operational would require between sixty and eighty thousand troops. Hello!! The Reserve Army is around 12,000 all ranks.

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.

not the only source of military assistance in Aid to the Civil Power, National Disaster or Civil Assistance missions. The Regular Forces should be left to focus on our more immediate Defence of Canada and international military missions. This is not intended, by any means, to be seen as a half-cocked cry for two armies. Instead, it is a *cri de coeur* for just one Army built around two meaningful Forces. The only real difference in the two Forces should be that one is largely made up of full-time soldiers, the other largely built around part-timers, the latter the Militia of Auld brought-up-to-date in 2018. When push comes to shove, the two should just seamlessly meld together.

And, that's just but one dimension of a meaningful defence policy that really **is engaged!**



This Musing Column is again that of Colonel (Retd) W.J. (Bill) McCullough, MSC, CD, a Past President of this Institute and the long-time Chair of our Military Committee. His very earliest years in the Canadian Armed Forces were spent in the Militia. The views and conclusions expressed are his own.

This month's Luncheon/Meeting will be held at
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 257
 7727 Lantzville Road, Lantzville, BC

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 2018

1130 hours.

\$25.00 per member/person.

Major Bryan Sylvester, will be our guest speaker.

US approves sale of F-35s to Belgium



The move clears the way for that country to purchase the conventional model of the F-35.

The Belgians are in the midst of acquiring a new fighter to replace their F-16s.

Although the competition is still proceeding, the F-35 is favored to win. Boeing withdrew from the process in April 2017, claiming the acquisition was tailored for the F-35. Saab also removed its Gripen fighter from the process.

The Rafale and Eurofighter are the only fighters left to go up against the F-35.

The State Department approval, announced Friday, was for the aircraft as well as 38 Pratt & Whitney F-135 engines for the planes.

President's Message continued from page 1

standing invitation to all USINNI Members, to attend their bi-monthly TGIFs held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. Effective Feb 9th, from 1500 hours to 1900 hours, every 2nd Friday of the month, the TGIF will be accompanied by a selection of appetizer/finger foods. The TGIFs held on the 4th Friday of each month will be accompanied by a buffet luncheon. There is no admission cost, although you can make a small voluntary donation to the Wing if you so wish. I for one will certainly be attending a few of these functions in the coming year as I have always been treated as a member of the family when I have visited 808 Wing.

Well, as we all can see, things this year is shaping up to be interesting, and busy. Stay tuned, stay happy and heathy. More to follow,

Edwin

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.

A thru E

Pauline Langley
250-758-7632

F thru M

Denyse McCullough
250-756-0223

N thru Z

Fern Watt
250-758-4231

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

AGM Minutes: the Minutes of our 8th of March 2017 General Meeting of the Members will be copied out (late February) to those Members-of-Record who are receiving our emails. These Minutes have already been reviewed & endorsed by the Board, and, will be recommended for your approval during the AGM. Institute Members attending that AGM who have questions or concerns out of the Minutes are encouraged to print your own copy for reference during the required approval process.

To keep down our mail costs, copies will not be mailed via CPO. Members not on the net can review the Minutes as usual in the **Minute Book**, always available to our Members at all of our lunch meetings. A few additional copies may be available during the AGM itself.

Treasurer's Reports: prior to the AGM, our Treasurer will also be making copies of our end-of-

-2017 Financial Statement available for those of you who are "on-line," together with a copy of our proposed Budget for 2018. Both documents will be formally tabled at our upcoming AGM. Both have also been reviewed earlier by the Board and will be recommended for your consideration & approval.

Again, to keep costs down, please print your own copies of both financial reports and bring them along if you expect to reference them during the AGM. Bob may have a few spares on hand for those of you not receiving emails.

Taking the time to review the Minutes and various reports prior to the AGM will help get us through the full Agenda in reasonable time on March 8th.

Thank you

Bill

