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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello All USINNI Members.

I sincerely hope that this edition of your Newsletter find you and yours well.

Last month we held the first of our regular monthly luncheon-meetings in a new venue, the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 257 in Lantzville. I am pleased to ex-

press the gratitude of many of our Members in attendance for the fantas-

tic job that was done on our behalf by the volunteer kitchen staff of the Branch. All parties con-



cerned are looking forward to a long and beneficial relationship be-

tween the Branch and our Institute.

This month at our luncheon-meeting we will be holding our Institute's Annual General Meeting. That is the opportunity for the Board of Directors to present their respective annual reports to the Membership.

It is also another opportunity for the Membership to express

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A GUEST MILITARY AND SECURITY MUSING

Acknowledgement: This Musing is a precis of a much more complete article by JG Murray of [Canadian Defence Matters](#). We're publishing here with JG's kind permission. For more, you may access him at [jgmjgm516.blogspot.ca](#) There's lots of interesting reading and a variety of topical views expressed there!

20 February 2018...Canada will have to make the difficult choices that prioritizing the threats and the missions we assign our military requires. For Canada, a strategy focused on force development for great power competition would need to address priority mission sets. In other words, what should be the core missions of the Canadian Armed Forces? The Government's most recent policy statement on defence is, like most of its predecessors, re-

plete with laundry lists of things that would be nice to do and short on specifics on "the doing." Perhaps the closest it comes is the following statement.

Canada's defence policy presents a new strategic vision for defence: Strong, Secure, Engaged. This is a vision in which Canada is:

- *Strong at home, its sovereignty well-defended by a*

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Canadian Armed Forces also ready to assist in times of natural disaster, other emergencies, and search and rescue;

- **Secure in North America**, active in a renewed defence partnership in NORAD and with the United States;

- **Engaged in the World**, with the Canadian Armed Forces doing its part in Canada's contributions to a more stable, peaceful world, including through peace support operations and peacekeeping.

At best, these platitudes give us some rough guidelines on what Canada's priorities should be. These would be: defence of the homeland; defence of North America in partnership with the United States; and, contributing to alliances & organizations in ways that promote Canadian & Global security. If these are indeed the 'core missions' of the Canadian Armed Forces, they should drive spending priorities and procurement decisions. Specifically, these priorities should drive the Future Fighter Capability Project.

As stated, the objective of this project is to provide a capability for the Canadian Armed Forces to conduct control of Canadian Airspace and contribute to Alliance/

It has been said that 'Strategy without money is not strategy'. While this is true, it is also true that money spent without strategy is not strategy either.

Coalition operations. The government requires that the systems acquired have the capability for precision Air-to-Air, Air-to-Ground and Air-to-Surface capabilities, as well as non-traditional Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance in defence of Canada, North America and expeditionary operations.

These multi-purpose capabilities are at odds with the goal of prioritizing responses to our most important threats. The aerial defence of Canada, North America and our overseas allies can be accomplished by aircraft and systems that give precedence to the Air-to-Air role. Control of Canadian

Airspace does not require an Air-to-Ground or Surface capability. In a high threat environment, it seems likely that the best support we can give to expeditionary operations is a robust air defence of our deployed forces or allies.

There is a place for Air-to-Ground, Air-to-Surface capabilities and non-traditional Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance capabilities when Canada encounters "ongoing regional threats and contingencies", but it is not necessary or practical to provide these resources by using advanced and expensive jet fighters.



EuroFighter Typhoon



Textron AirLand Scorpion

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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.

Canadian Defence Matters has long argued that a high-low mix of aircraft, and other systems, is most appropriate for Canada's defence needs. If we are to make our acquisition decisions based on military priorities in a world of finite resources, then it would appear that the best fighter for Canada would be one which gave precedence in its design to the air defence mission.

If that aircraft were to be complemented with a lower cost aircraft for those missions deemed less essential, then a future Canadian Air Force should consist of aircraft with characteristics similar to those of the Eurofighter Typhoon partnered with a smaller number of aircraft whose capabilities more closely matched those of the Textron Aviation Scorpion.

It has been said that 'Strategy without money is not strategy'. While this is true, it is also true that money spent without strategy is not strategy either. Contrary to popular opinion, it is not the duty of the Government to purchase the best equipment available for the Department of National Defence. It is, instead, Government's responsibility to obtain the right capability for our Armed Forces.

Thanks again, JG!

And, next month, for our own readers here in the Institute, I'm going to return again to and expand on a theme from my Confluence Series; in essence, why water is more valuable in our 21st Century World than oil. It is very much a matter of life and death for peace & stability in Asia...Bill

President's Message continued from page 1

their thoughts and concerns. Please attend and do so.

On that note, if there is any Member that wishes to attend our luncheon-meetings and can not due to the fact that they do not drive, please advise any Member of the Board and we will make every reasonable effort to arrange for another Member to pick you up and deliver you back home. We currently have a surprising number of our Members that are provided just that assistance. Also, on the other side of that coin, if you are kindly willing to provide transportation for another Member so that they may attend a luncheon-meeting, we also ask that you advise any Member of the Board. Your very kind assistance will be appreciated by all.

Hope to see you all at our Annual General Meeting,

Edwin



This year the Russian Army will add a new main battle tank (MBT) to its arsenal. At least

one tank battalion will be reequipped with the new T-90M. The lessons of the war in Syria have been learned and that invaluable experience has been put to good use

This month's Luncheon-Meeting will be held at the

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 257

7227 Lantzville Road, Lantzville, BC

on

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2018

1130 hours.

\$25.00 per member/person.

CANADA'S DEAL ON AWACS - LESS MONEY AND NO RCAF PERSONNEL

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen
Published on: February 18, 2018

As Defence Watch reported last week, the Liberal government has reversed a 2011 decision that saw Canada withdraw from NATO's AWACS program.

The Conservative government decided at that time to end participation in the airborne early warning plane program to save money.

Canada's NATO allies were surprised and angered about the pullout. The Royal Canadian Air Force warned at the time that the decision could put overseas operations at risk. But that didn't appear to happen.

Over the last several years, however, NATO has significantly increased the use of its AWACS, including in areas like Central and Eastern Europe where Canada is leading a multinational NATO battlegroup based in Latvia.

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan said NATO is a cornerstone of Canada's international security policy. "In that spirit, Canada has decided to rejoin



NATO's Airborne Warning and Control System," he said in a statement. "AWACS is a key NATO capability that we will support by contributing to its operations and support budget."

The original shutdown of Canada's contribution to NATO's AWACS saved about \$50 million a year, according to the records obtained under the Access to Information law by Defence Watch.

But the return to AWACS will cost Canada less than half of what was being spent this time around.

"The exact amount of Canada's contribution is still being decided, but is expected to be between \$17-20 million annually," said Department of National Defence spokesman Daniel Le Bouthillier.

So why is that?

"Canada rejoins AWACS at the entry level and not at the same remit as we had before," Le Bouthillier explained. "At the moment, this re-engagement is focused on funding NATO's AWACS operations, rather than personnel contributions. The potential for RCAF members to serve with the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force will be explored at a later date."

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 Branch 257 of the RCL.

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

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Congratulations to our very own Cdr. Pete Betcher



RIDEAU HALL

THE CHANCELLERY OF HONOURS
LA CHANCELLERIE DES DISTINCTIONS HONORIFIQUES

February 14, 2018

PROTECTED

Dear Mr. Betcher,

On behalf of Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, I am pleased to inform you that you have been awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. An official Canadian honour, this medal recognizes exceptional volunteer achievements from across the country or abroad in a wide range of fields.

To ensure our records are accurate, I would be grateful if you could complete and return the attached form to the Chancellery of Honours by email (scanned copy) at caring-entraide@gg.ca, by mail or by fax to 613-991-1681.

Although every effort is made to arrange a presentation ceremony within two years of this notice, recipients may request to have their medal mailed to them instead.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers program, please visit our website at www.gg.ca/caring or contact us by phone at 1-800-465-6890, or by email at caring-entraide@gg.ca.

Please accept Her Excellency's warmest congratulations and best wishes, as well as my own.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Step Milligan'.

Stephanie Milligan
Program Manager
Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers





British Columbia Cadet Honour Band Concerts 2018

MARCH 27, 2018

NANAIMO: Port Theatre, 125 Front Street. Start time is 7:30p,

MARCH 28, 2018

VICTORIA: First Metropolitan Church, 932 Balmoral Road. Start time is 7:30pm

MARCH 29, 2018

BURNABY: Michael J Fox Theatre, 7373 MacPherson Avenue. Start time is 7:30pm

Featuring a special Pipes & Drums section, this one-night only free performance by B.C.'s best cadet musicians should not be missed!

The 45-piece B.C. Cadet Honour Band is the pinnacle of achievement for cadet musicians, who have worked years to achieve a high level of performance. Many are multi-talented, playing several instruments or adding vocals to the concert.

Musicians learn a concert's worth of music in just three days and then tour the province performing in commemoration of the end of the First World War and the this year's Sea Cadet Centennial!

This is a free event!