



Founded 1927

Newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island

RUSI

Valour Decorations and Awards

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Suggestions are encouraged.

RUSI-VI Office

The RUSI-VI office is located at:
Bay Street Armoury
715 Bay Street, Room 414
Victoria, BC V8T 1R1

Telephone: call any director

Email: usiviccda@yahoo.ca

Web site: <http://rusiviccda.org>

Webmaster: Capt DA Booker

**The RUSI Calendar of
Events is on page 8.**

OTTAWA,—Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, presented six Military Valour Decorations to members of the Canadian Forces who have displayed gallantry and devotion to duty in combat. The ceremony was held at the Fairmont Château Laurier on Mon., Feb. 19, 2007. This marked the first time that these decorations, which were created in 1993, were presented. The highest award, the Canadian Victoria Cross, has not yet been awarded to anyone.

During the same ceremony, the Governor General also presented 33 Meritorious Service Decorations (Military Division) to individuals whose specific achievements have brought honour to the Canadian Forces and to Canada.

RECIPIENTS

(Note: the ranks indicated reflect the substantive ranks of the recipients at the time that they performed the actions for which they have been honoured).

STAR OF MILITARY VALOUR Major W. H. Fletcher, SMV, CD

Edmonton and St. Albert, Alta, for extraordinary bravery while leading C Company 1 PPCLI, Task Force Afghanistan, by repeatedly exposing himself to intense fire while leading his forces, on foot, to assault heavily defended enemy positions and defeating a determined opponent.

Sergeant P. Tower, SMV, CD

Edmonton, Alta and Sidney, BC, for valiant actions on August 3, 2006 in the Pashmul region of Afghanistan. Follow-

ing an enemy strike, he led the platoon medic and a third soldier across 150 metres of open terrain under heavy fire, to render assistance to the casualties. Upon learning the platoon commander had perished, he assumed command and successfully extracted the remaining platoon members while under continuous enemy small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire.

MEDAL OF MILITARY VALOUR Sergeant M. T. V. Denine, MMV, CD

Edmonton, Alta and St. John's NL, for valour, exposing himself to intense enemy fire when he manned a pintle-mount machine gun and successfully suppressed and forced the withdrawal of the enemy, TF Afghanistan, 1 PPCLI, May 17, 2006.

M/Corporal C.R. Fitzgerald, MMV

Shilo, Man and Morrisburg, Ont for valour, exposing himself to intense enemy fire, in order to remove a burning platoon vehicle and clear the roadway, TF Afghanistan, B Company, 1PPCLI, May 24, 2006.

Private J. C. A. Lamont, MMV

Edmonton, Alta and Greenwood, NS, for valour while exposing himself to intense enemy fire in order to render medical assistance to a wounded soldier. Under concentrated enemy fire, he sprinted through open terrain to administer first aid. TF Afghanistan, Health Support Services Company, 1 PPCLI, July 13, 2006.

Captain D. Prohar, MMV

Edmonton, Alta and Avonlea, Sask as liaison officer with the United States Special Forces in Afghanistan during the battle at Sperwan Ghar from September 5 to 12, 2006, he operated as rear machine gunner on the battalion commander's ve-

hicle. He was wounded during an intense enemy ambush but continued returning fire and assisted the commander with the control of the attack thereby seizing key terrain.

MENTION IN DISPATCHES

While serving with Task Force Afghanistan in 2006, 24 members of the Canadian Forces received **Mention in Dispatches**. They were: **LCdr P. J. Clifford**, Chief Medical Advisor; **Lt D.M. Thorlakson**; **WO J.C. Mackay**; **Sgt J.R. Bradley** and **Sgt S. Machan**; **Sgt P. Shipway**; **Sgt C.T. Thombs**; **Sgt C.W. Tingley**; **MCpl N.B. Anthony**; **MCpl J.J. Cuppage** and **Cpl J.A. Fehr**; **MCpl J.N. Froude**; **MCpl T.W. Perry**; **MCpl D.E. Presley**; **MCpl K.H. Prodonick**; **Cpl C.A. Cummings**; **Cpl J. Joe**; **Cpl M.C. MacDonald**; **Cpl P. D. Rachynski** and **Private J.J. Rustenburg**; **Cpl K.A. Scott**; **Cpl G.M.H. Whitton**; **Pte R.A. Carter**; **Pte K.Y.R. Dallaire** (Posthumous).

MERITORIOUS SERVICE CROSS

Colonel S.J. Bowes, MSC, CD Halifax and Bedford, NS for exceptional leadership as Commander Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), TF Afghanistan February 2005 to February 2006.

Colonel D. A. Fraser, OMM, MSC, MSM, CD

As commander Task Force Afghanistan and multinational forces from March 1 to November 1, 2006, acting Brigadier-General Fraser experienced challenges of a breadth and depth unmatched in Canadian military operations carried out over the past half-century. This is the second Meritorious Service Cross awarded to Colonel Fraser.

Chief Warrant Officer M.L. McDonald, MSC, CD

Edmonton and Doaktown, NB for outstanding professionalism as Brigade Sergeant Major of Task

Force Aegis, the multinational Brigade headquarters for Operation ARCHER in Afghanistan 2006.

Colonel S. P Noonan, MSC, CD

Ottawa and Kars, Ont, for exceptional leadership and professionalism as Comd TF Afghanistan 2005 to 2006 during the intense period supporting the Afghan election process and the transition from Kabul to the more dangerous southern region.

Chief Warrant Officer R.A. Northrup, MSC, CD

Edmonton and Chipman, NB for outstanding professionalism and leadership as the regimental sergeant major of 1 PPCLI Battle Group, TF Afghanistan, from January to August 2006.

Lieutenant-Colonel M. R. Voith, MSC, CD

Kingston, Ont and Calgary, Alta for outstanding professionalism and leadership during two deployments of the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Sri Lanka in 2004 and Pakistan in 2005.

LCol J.M.C.S. Grenier, MSC, CD for exceptional leadership implementing the Operational Stress Injury Social Support program since 2001.

LCol I.C. Hope, MSC, CD for outstanding professionalism as commanding officer of TF Orion, TF Afghanistan, 2006.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

The following were awarded the Meritorious Service Medal: **LCol D.J. Anderson, MSM, CD**, Edmonton, Alta; and Pierrefonds, Que; **Maj Julia M. Atherley-Blight, OMM, MSM, CD**, Kingston; and Harrowsmith, Ont; **Honorary Capt(N) Sonja I. Bata, OC, MSM, CD**, Toronto, Ont; **BGen S.A. Beare, MSM, CD**, Kingston, Ont; and Shilo, Man; **Maj T.J. Bishop, MSM, CD**, Edmonton; and Woodstock, N.B.; **Chief WO W. D. Brown, MMM, MSM, CD**, Cal-

gary; and Montreal; **Col M.D. Capstick, OMM, MSM, CD**, Calgary; and Montreal; **Maj K.A. Gallinger, MSM, CD**, Ottawa; and Niagara Falls, Ont; **M/Cpl S. G. Gartside, MSM**, Ottawa; and Grand Manan, NB; **Capt Nichola K. S. Goddard, MSM** (Posthumous), Brandon, Man; and Calgary; **Maj N. J.E. Grimshaw, MSM, CD**, Ottawa; and Kingston, Ont; **LCol N.C. Koefoed, MSM**, Copenhagen; and Gilleleje, Denmark; **Corp C.E. Kopp, MSM, CD**, Winnipeg; and Westbourne, Man; **Chief WO J.O.M.P. LeBlanc, MMM, MSM, CD**, Ottawa; and Québec, Que; **Cpl S. Lindsey, MSM**, Edmonton; and Brighton, Ont; **MCpl J. Mackinnon, MSM, CD**, Goose Bay, NL; and Inverness, NS; **WO J.R. McArthur, MSM, CD**, Ottawa; and Summerside, PEI; **Maj J. D. McKillip, MSM, CD**, Ottawa; **Sgt D.C. Payne, MSM, CD**, Gander; and Port aux Basques, NL; **PO2 Carla M. Penney, MSM, CD**, Edmonton; and Springhill, N.S.;

LCol G. J. Petrolekas, MSM, CD, Brunssum, the Netherlands; and Saint-Mathias, Que;

LCol T.E. Putt, MSM, CD, Edmonton; and St Albert, Alta; **LCol S.B. Schreiber, MSM, CD**, Edmonton; and Lloydminster, Alta; **Sgt C.J. Shaw, MSM, CD**, Chambly, Que; and London, Ont; **Maj M.J. Stalker, MSM, CD**, Edmonton; and Revelstoke, BC; **LCol P.J.A.P. St-Cyr, MSM, CD**, Ottawa; Saint-Hubert and Verdun, Que. –Government House, Ottawa



FMUSIC: The Way Ahead?

Rear Admiral (Ret) Jamie Fraser of Kingston accepted the interim National Chairmanship upon the resignation of Lieutenant General (Ret'd) William Leech in Septem-

ber 2006. He found the Federation of Military and United Services Institutes of Canada (FMUSIC) to be at a crossroad and needs to determine its future as the national focal point for our 25 Military and United Services Institutes.

A letter on November 1, 2006 went to the Regional Vice Chairmen, who constitute the Executive Committee of FMUSIC. The interim National Chairman shared his concerns and frustrations over the current status of FMUSIC and sought answers to a number of questions.

He recognized that individual Institutes are in varying states, from thriving to declining, but all are making their own way ahead. Thus, the main topic for discussion and resolution is the Federation, the national effort. Much of the forcing factor in all this is funding for such a national agency to continue

The British Columbia Institutes found the BC Region 8 vice Chairmanship to be vacant. As a first step, the member Institutes: USI Nanaimo, RUSI Vancouver and RUSI VI, named Col John Eggenberger of Victoria to be the BC Vice Chairman to FMUSIC.

The Institute presidents found that our Institutes continue to provide a forum for the exchange of views, ideas and experiences between Institute members and between members and invited guest speakers.

Our regional Institutes were seen to have a varying degree of success in achieving the mandates of being committed to encouraging and fostering, through a spirit of comradeship and participation by the membership, responsible military and non-military initiatives and strategies designed to promote and sustain domestic and global security.

The presidents affirmed that the aims and objectives state that an Institute is:

a) to engage in open discussion, ex-

ploration and development of initiatives concerning Canadian

and international defence and security issues;

b) to present issues, initiatives, research, and policy proposals to appropriate government bodies;

c) to promote a better awareness in the general public of Canadian security issues and the need to meet the defence commitments of Canada.

Moreover, Institutes are to function in cohesion with established Military and United Services Institutes in Canada to: further the aims of individual Institutes and the Federation of Institutes; to cooperate with and assist organizations which have objectives similar to those of the Institutes; and to promote membership in the Institutes to persons eligible for active and associate membership.

The FMUSIC Challenge

The FMUSIC interim National Chairman, RAdm Jamie Fraser, has challenged the Institutes across Canada to decide what it is that they want the national organization to be within the present status and how to achieve it. Awakened to what is at stake: principally the loss of a voice in the affairs of the Canadian Forces and Canada's security, the West Coast regional view has been determined and presented as recommendations to the FMUSIC National Chairman.

1. That FMUSIC be retained as a national-level independent entity that represents all Institutes.
2. That FMUSIC assess the requirements (including funding) to conduct the business and leadership as a national office on behalf of the Institutes.
3. That an assessment be conducted to better determine how well individual Institutes and FMUSIC are

achieving their mandate with a view to improvement. The assessment to be considered as a basis for determining the value of the organization and for presentation by the chairman to the Minister of National Defence, and Vice Chief of Defence Staff.

4. Determine if there is a potential closer linkage between FMUSIC with CDAI that could be synergistic for both organizations while both retain their independent status.
5. Identify those elements for a possible linkage as recommended in 4, above, so that there is a clear demarcation between FMUSIC and CDAI; and identify those areas of mutual interest or cooperation.
6. That should a linkage be identified with CDAI and in the view of Region 8-BC, the Chairman FMUSIC propose to CDAI that his appointment be considered as a vice president of CDAI.

These recommendations have been signed and presented to the National Chairman FMUSIC on 5 February 2007 by Vice Chairman FMUSIC, Region 8 – British Columbia, John C. Eggenberger consolidating materials from: USI Nanaimo, Duncan Dunsmore, president; RUSI Vancouver, Vic Coroy, president; RUSI Vancouver Island, John Eggenberger, president. (Composed and prepared by LCol Vic Coroy, RUSI, Vancouver.)



Stressors, Stress and PTSD

(Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)

A small group of experienced and qualified individuals met a few

months ago in Victoria to discuss two vexing and intriguing questions. First, *“Why are some of our best-trained soldiers seriously affected by combat related post-traumatic stress disorder while others, hopefully the majority, are not?”* Second, *“Are there practical measures that can be taken to minimize the risk that personnel in combat will develop PTSD?”*

Over the course of a number of meetings and with a good deal of literature research, the group concluded that there might be merit in conducting a significant research project exploring the influence that the cohesiveness of the deployed unit, its leadership (at all levels) and its training regime have on the incidence of that particular strain of PTSD which is caused by exposure to combat situations.

To that end, the working group has prepared a “thought paper” which might be used by the Defence Staff to initiate a research project. The paper has been submitted to the Chief of the Defence Staff, General R. Hillier as a sincere effort on their part to be helpful and eager to meet with his specialist officers to pursue the proposal.

The Working Group is headed by Col (Ret) John C. Eggenberger, PhD, President of our RUSI VI and a former director Personnel Applied Research; VAdm (Ret) Nigel Brodeur, a RUSI VI member and former Deputy Chief Defence Staff; Dr. Timothy Black, Professor of Psychology, University of Victoria; LGen (Ret) Kent Foster, former Commander FMC, a RUSI VI member; Col (Ret) Peter Green, a RUSI member and former Army medical officer; Dr James Main, MD(in practice) contracted to DVA/DND for PTSD; Dr George Nichol, PhD(in practice) contracted to DVA/DND for PTSD; MGen (Ret) David Wightman, former Commander CF Europe, a RUSI VI member.

An institutional endorsement has

been made by our Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island.

The “Thought Paper” was submitted to the Chief of Defence Staff on February 20, 2007. It is focused upon whether or not combat capability can be increased by reducing the impact that combat stressors have upon soldiers. Should this thought paper elicit interest, it could lead to a series of Personnel Applied Research projects.

The sections in the paper describe the following subject areas for further research: A. Combat Capability; B. Stressors, Stress and PTSD; C. Ethos, Cohesion and Combat Capability; D. Impact of Casualties upon Cohesion; E. Stressors and Stress; F. Measuring Research Variables; G. Leadership; H. Research Teams; I. Research Sequence, Selection of Independent and Dependent Variables; J. Research Questions; K. Development of the Working Paper.

“A soldier should not meet in battle, for the first time, things which set him at unease or afraid.” Anonymous ☸

Riveting Presentation

By Capt (Ret) Harry Rice

Lieutenant-General, The Honourable Senator Romeo Dallaire, gave a stirring presentation to some 170 guests in support of the Lodge at Broadmead Foundation. It can be truly said that the audience was completely riveted to most every word during the luncheon talk on Jan.18 at the Harbour Towers Hotel, Victoria. The audience was drawn completely by his articulate arguments for a “call to action” especially oriented as he stated, to the youth of this great country.

General Dallaire commenced by speaking of the Canadian Veterans he visited earlier in the day at the

Lodge at Broadmead. In fact the Lodge was only one of many Veterans’ residences he has visited across Canada in the past few months. He was passionate about their importance, particularly now. He emphasized that we have a new generation of veterans in Canada from all services, the result of the Canadian Forces in several recent wars, or so-called peacekeeping operations overseas. This new generation is falling in behind those veterans of the Second World War and Korea. That is why The Lodge at Broadmead and all such establishments across Canada need support from all levels of government.

Another focus was the element of a new dimension on the battlefield. No longer, he noted using the Gulf War as an example, do we have an army of coalition divisions or brigades fighting an enemy with a similar basic military structure. We are now fighting Taliban or al-Qaeda insurgents, often in small groups or on individual or well coordinated suicide missions.

Clearly in Dallaire’s eyes, fighting our current enemies is a far different combat scenario and far more complex than of wars gone by. He spoke of the corporal on sentry duty in a current combat situation confronted with an instant decision. Is the young burnouse-clad girl approaching the sentry post, indeed pregnant or is she a suicide bomber intent on destroying the sentry post and his fellow soldiers? The decision in this case could have far reaching personal implications – both moral and psychological. Does he shoot first, or....?

LGen Dallaire did emphasize on a number of occasions that, in his opinion, the days of “peacekeeping” are essentially behind us and have been behind us for some years. The battles raging in far flung places such as Darfur, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan make it patently clear that highly trained combat forces

will be required to bring peace to these unsettled regions. And, the UN will require hundreds of thousands of troops to make it so. Why it was not happening was, in his mind, a mystery.

However, the essence of Dallaire's themes centered on "what do we want Canada to be?" We are not a super power but as one of the top nine industrial nations in the world we are a mid-power nation – and we can make a difference. The paradigm he espouses is to move away from our current focus on parochialism, provincialism, localism and regionalism and focus upon what Canada can be in terms of world affairs. Canada can have an impact to ensure our world enjoys a future free of the horrors of genocide. But we need the will of Canadians and government to make it so.

Throughout the talk, and in response to questions from the audience, LGen Dallaire's deep and abiding respect for his fellow soldiers surfaced frequently. He acknowledged that there will be casualties, both killed or seriously injured and suffering the mental anguish of what they experienced in battle. He made it clear however, our Canadian troops have taken such casualties over many years in many theatres of operations. That is the price required of us and the price we will continue to pay.

Responding to a question, Dallaire noted that of his three children, two are in the Naval Reserve and one is in the Infantry, preparing for an operational tour in Africa.

It can be said that LGen Dallaire is not only a true Canadian patriot but has become a national icon, with both a superb national and international presence. He remains however, amazingly humble, genuine, and caring individual who spoke afterward to many individuals.

When it was suggested that his talk should be heard by every single Canadian across the land, he re-

ceived a standing ovation.

That evening, he spoke to the four-day International Meeting of Church Explorations Symposium at the First Metropolitan United Church in Victoria. The 800 delegates from across Canada and the United States accorded LGen Romeo Dallaire three separate standing ovations during his talk.



Militia Gunners Fired Up

The militia's 5th (BC) Field Regiment with a battery in Nanaimo and battery and HQ in Victoria has had a busy and successful year. With artillery training the focus and soldiers back from operational rotations and others preparing to go, the regiment is taking on a different character.

Rotation 08-01 of Task Force Afghanistan will see an even larger participation by 5 Field Regiment, as is the case with most other units in 39 Brigade. The first members of this contingent will join the PPCLI Task Force for training in April 2007. The number of soldiers within unit ranks that have operational experience continues to grow and is only possible with the continued support of civilian employers.

Significant changes in the Army are also afoot. Within the Army, priorities have been refocused. The Reserve will augment the Regular Force for foreign operational rotations and the Regular Force will augment the Reserve in its domestic operations priority.

The 5th (BC) Field and 15 Field from Vancouver continue to combine resources in joint practice camps at Fort Lewis, Washington, just south of Seattle. This location and Yakima further east, are the two nearest locations where live artillery fire can occur, given the lack of impact areas in British Columbia.

The commanding officer of the

5th (BC), LCol Craig Cotter, was pleased that his unit was invited to participate in the CFB Esquimalt Navy Days in downtown Victoria last fall. The public was able to watch a troop of guns conduct "quick actions" firing blank rounds over several days.

Having the Mayor of Victoria, Mr. Alan Lowe, fire the first round added significant prestige to the local display of "firepower" before an enthusiastic throng of spectators at Ogden Point. At the St Barbara's Dinner at Bay Street Armoury on Dec 2nd, Mayor Lowe was presented with the suitably engraved cartridge case that he had fired.

The Regiment's Band is also an integral part of the regiment's activities and also performed at Navy Days and continues to fulfill a steady schedule of appearances throughout the Island.

It is a good time to be a gunner.



A woman's work is never done

By Lt (N) Dian Grover

PERSIAN GULF – HMCS *Ottawa* was treated to a visit by a special guest recently—Honorary Navy Captain Kathryn Bindon. Currently living in Manama, Bahrain, she is the president of the newly founded Royal University for Women.

An expert on women's issues, she was instrumental in the integration of women into Canadian Navy ships in the 1980s, served as chair of the minister's advisory board on gender integration, and continues her work in related fields today. While aboard for the day, she took the opportunity to meet with several members of the ship's company to discuss gender integration and overall quality of life issues in an open forum.

With impressive academic credentials and a zeal for promoting equal opportunities, HCapt (N)

Bindon said she finds her work with the Royal University for Women both personally and professionally rewarding. The chance for her to sail aboard HMCS *Ottawa* for a day was the culmination of her 10-year tenure as an honorary captain and a validation of her efforts to advance the integration of women in the Canadian Navy. – Lt (N) Grover is currently deployed in HMCS *Ottawa*. The Maple Leaf – 17 Jan 07




Basic Recruit Training

Truly, there must be no life like it. Due to the high number of recruits joining the Canadian Forces, the solitary Recruit School at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que. has burst its seams. Realistically, the CF has restored its Recruit training centres across the country to complete the 13-week Basic Military Qualification courses.

The Wainwright, Alta. Western Area Training Centre will be conducting up to eight courses over the next two years. Other similar courses are being run at Meaford, Ont., Gagetown, NB and Valcartier, Que. All instructors are vigilant to ensure that the standards for these courses are the same as those in Saint-Jean. The one significant advantage with the new locations is that they each have more and larger training areas and facilities available than St. Jean.

Currently Wainwright is running two courses of 60 recruits each about four weeks apart.

– The Maple Leaf and files. 

A Tough Life: Compelling Accounts of a Family in the Fur Trade

Edited by Doug Munro

The editor is the great-grandson


of Chief Trader Willie Traill and has published this book of his family letters.

Willie served with the Hudson's Bay Company from 1864 to 1893. He was based at 11 posts from Fort Garry to Fort St James. The letters are a splendid overview of fur trade life in the West; the good times and bad. The trials and tribulations faced by Willie, his wife Harriet and their 12 children included famine, scarlet fever, small pox and whooping cough epidemics, ferocious winters, drought and flood and plagues of grasshoppers. Notwithstanding many hardships Willie and his family's cup was invariably "half full."

William Edward Traill, better known as Willie, came by his literary talent naturally. In an excerpt from one of Willie's early letters to his mother, dated July 22, 1865, he describes his first buffalo hunt. These letters were Willie's life line from the Canadian West to his family in eastern Ontario. They are a unique collection, and one you should enjoy.

"I then picked out a large bull and fired at him and think wounded him. He separated from the rest. I followed ...when I got close jumped off [my horse] and got good aim and I am sure struck him. He slackened his pace....We then caught sight of a bull standing and putting up his tail a sure sign that he is angry....I fired and struck him in the shoulder and neck....This would prove a mortal wound but he would run far so we chased him again. Thomas now fired but missed. I fired again and struck him about the heart...Thomas fired again and struck him near the kidneys and I was coming up close behind him when up went his tail. I hauled my horse to one side when he made a desperate charge at me but I was too smart for him I fired again and struck him in the neck. He stood

looking defiance at us and then lay down....dead...only then did I realize what a monster he was – larger than 3 oxen and covered on the head and shoulders with hair that hid his eyes and horns and forelegs and a long beard under his chin.... I had intended making a powder horn of the first bull I killed but all old bulls have horns so much worn by sharpening them on stones that those of all [old] bulls are useless for such purposes....The monster ran fully 5 miles in which he got several shots. Unless struck in the heart or backbone they cannot be knocked down at the first shot and if not killed in 8 shots cannot be killed at all so say the Hunters."

Maj K. Doug Munro is a member of RUSI VI and a former director. If you have any questions about "Willie Traill," please call Doug at 250-370-5494, if you need more information about obtaining the book locally. Published by University of Alberta Press. 

Canada's Radio Kandahar

The Canadian military launched a new radio station on January 6, mixing music with a pro-NATO, anti-Taliban message aimed at young people in Kandahar, Afghanistan. RANA-FM will try to reach people between the ages of 15 and 25 by playing mostly "Bollywood" and modern Afghan music; and by featuring sports and public affairs programming.

RANA-FM also gives the commander of the Joint Task Force in Afghanistan an opportunity to talk to the people more directly.

The Canadian military says it's too dangerous for RANA-FM to be produced in Kandahar. The station is based in Kingston, Ont. and for security reasons its exact location has not been disclosed.

Sabir Ayaz, a young Afghan-Canadian who is spinning the tunes says he is hoping to make a differ-

ence in his homeland. "I do believe it's also part of a reconstruction and getting us back on the track since we were at war and everything," he told CBC Radio.

The station manager admits his station is tightly controlled, but says it's not a puppet of its military masters. Capt. Robin Thibault, a spokesman for the station, said the Afghan-Canadian broadcasters want to promote the Afghan way of life, as well as demystifying what Canadian soldiers are trying to accomplish in southern Afghanistan. – CBC News ☼

RUSI VI 2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2007 Annual General meeting of RUSI of VI was convened on Wednesday, March 14, 2006 by the president, Col John Eggenberger. He explained that he would be stepping down from the presidency as he had accepted the appointment of FMUSIC Vice Chairman for Region 8 – British Columbia, by concurrence of the presidents from Nanaimo USI and Vancouver RUSI.

The president then announced with regret, that the Air Force Officers' Association had voted to disband several days previous for lack of members willing to serve on the executive. He said an invitation had been issued to AFOA welcoming those who were not already members, to join RUSI of VI.

Following the adoption of the minutes, LCdr Murray Watkin presented the 2006 Audit report from LCol Gordon Gedge that was accepted.

Col Bill Weston recommended that awards and prizes similar to last year be continued. These include a book prize to the outstanding UVic history graduate. The book prize program for military history undergraduates at the University of Victoria was to continue and awarded upon the recommendation of the university. Grants of \$250.00 were

to be awarded again this year to each of the designated best Navy, Army and Air Cadets within Victoria region. Motion carried.

The treasurer, LCdr Murray Watkin, presented the financial statement for 2006 and the 2007 budget.

The financial statement contained unbudgeted expenses for hosting the Chief of the Defence Staff on his visit to Victoria and the reception for the Oral History Project with the University of Victoria at which the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia presented certificates of appreciation to both the senior year military history students and our veterans who participated in the oral history interviews. These unplanned costs were off set by funds accruing from the dissolution of the Defence Associations National Network – Pacific in 2006.

In presenting the 2007 budget, the treasurer explained that it is based upon nine luncheon meetings, a Christmas party and four issues of the Newsletter. He further recommended the motions setting up Reserve Funds No. 1 and No. 2 were redundant and dropped as this is part of the Board's executive authority. The AGM approved the remaining motions based upon the financial statement and budget as distributed to the members present.

Following reports from the present directors, the President moved the nominations of the slate of directors for 2007. The following slate for 2007 was approved: President: Col(Ret) Gene Lake; Vice President: Cdr(Ret) Bill Macdonald; Immediate Past President and Secretary: Col(Ret) John Eggenberger; Treasurer: LCdr(Ret) Murray Watkin; Functions: Maj(Ret) Tom Body; Membership: TBA; Awards: Col(Ret) Bill Weston, CD; Member at Large: Ms Paula Skippon; Newsletter: LCol(Ret) Cec Berezowski; Emeritus: Cmdre(Ret) Ted Heath.

Col John Eggenberger explained that the newly elected president was out of town thus he would continue as chair. Under new business, a few words were devoted to the future of FMUSIC and the status of our annual Federation dues of \$2.00 per member since its future is under discussion. The executive took note of the motion to withhold payment by MGen Pat Mitchell, seconded by BGen Jim Hanson. Others said that this action could be premature at this stage of national deliberations. The Chairman advised that all Institutes had just received the request from FMUSIC for our Annual Reports that are normally due by February 28. The motion was taken under advisement.

Kandahar via Texas

A Battle Group of some 2,300 troops from Valcartier, PQ have been training for Afghanistan at Fort Bliss, Texas this past February. This provided an opportunity to train in an environment similar to the one in Kandahar, in terms of both terrain and climate.

At Fort Bliss, Canadians have access to facilities that enable them to train for platoon and combat team operations. The location is also ideal for live fire training.

Training is based on the realities of in-theatre operations. Opposing forces use the tactics and techniques employed by the Taliban in Afghanistan. The soldiers taking part get a real taste of the feeling of fighting in-theatre, a critical first step in their preparation for deployment.

Combat units participating in the training in Texas include artillery, armour, infantry and combat engineers. – The Maple Leaf-Feb 14/07 ☼

REMINDER -- 2007 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOW DUE. \$30.00 for members and \$40.00 for families.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday 11 APRIL MEETING

- ⇒ **SPEAKER: Superintendent Wayne S. Blizard, RCMP, Director Tactical Intelligence Systems and E Division CIS Ops Officer**
- ⇒ **TOPIC: Criminal Intelligence and Police Operations Cycle**
- ⇒ **PLACE: The Canadian Scottish Officers' Mess, Room 314, Bay Street Armoury**
- ⇒ **TIME: 1130 FOR 1200 Hrs Luncheon**
- ⇒ **COST: \$18.00 (pay at the door)**

Supt Blizard joined the RCMP from Nova Scotia in 1977. He has served mostly in the lower B.C. mainland. Exclusively, his duties have been in major and organized crime sections, the B.C. Provincial Serious Crime Unit and ultimately the B.C. Unsolved Homicide Unit. Commissioned Inspector in 2001, he headed the Canadian Forces National Investigations Section, Sensitive Investigations Detachment. In 2003, he returned to BC and Criminal Intelligence as a Superintendent. He is tasked to roll out nationally to all RCMP Divisions, the Probe Team concept and thus is Director, Tactical Intelligence Systems for the RCMP.

Wednesday 9 MAY MEETING

- ⇒ **SPEAKER: Colonel (Ret'd) M. D. Capstick, OMM, MSM, CD**
- ⇒ **TOPIC: Leading the CF Strategic Advisory Team – Afghanistan**
- ⇒ **PLACE: The Canadian Scottish Officers' Mess, Room 314, Bay Street Armoury**
- ⇒ **TIME: 1130 FOR 1200 Hrs Luncheon**
- ⇒ **COST: \$18.00 (pay at the door)**

Colonel Mike Capstick, a career artillery officer retiring with 32 years service, not only commanded 1 RCHA in Shilo and Cyprus, but also the Canadian Task Force with the NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. His final command was the first deployment of the Strategic Advisory Team (SAT) – Afghanistan, a unique military/civilian team providing strategic planning and capacity-building advice to ministries and agencies of the Afghanistan government. For outstanding professionalism as the Commander of the SAT to Afghanistan, August 2005 to August 2006, he was recently awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Wednesday 6 JUNE MEETING

- ⇒ **SPEAKER: Dr. Kalam Shahed, Senior Analyst Research, Public Safety Canada**
- ⇒ **TOPIC: Perspectives on Southwest Asia**
- ⇒ **PLACE: The Canadian Scottish Officers' Mess, Room 314, Bay Street Armoury**
- ⇒ **TIME: 1130 FOR 1200 Hrs Luncheon**
- ⇒ **COST: \$18.00 (pay at the door)**

Dr Kalam Shahed is a PhD from Queen's University in political science with a dissertation on "Regional and Ethno-National Movements in Southwest Asia." He returned to Bangladesh serving in the Bangladesh Army including regional command, appointments in the National Defence College and as Military Secretary, voluntarily retiring in 1991 as a Brigadier General. He has extensive experience in Third World counter-insurgency and has taught security and strategic policy at Dhaka, Carleton and Queen's and is a leading international authority in these areas.

From the President: I am honoured and pleased to be afforded the opportunity to serve as President of RUSI Vancouver Island. It is not without some trepidation that I undertake this task. The laudable achievements of past Presidents are sufficient cause to make one realize that the tasks ahead may well be formidable. Suffice it to say that I will give you my best and hope that fills the bill. From my perspective I don't see RUSI Vancouver Island as a group of old folks passing their time having nice lunches and ruminating on stories of their glory days. We are, in my view, a group of senior professionals who collectively have a deep and broad understanding of the profession of arms. We can provide reasoned opinions on a variety of subjects associated with the profession of arms and we can provide the general public with a better understanding of our profession. We have a responsibility to serving members of the Canadian Forces to pursue these matters with whatever vigor we can muster. I leave you with these thoughts and I hope each of you will join me in these endeavors. Gene Lake.

The views expressed by the authors of articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the Views of RUSI VI.
