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RUSI

Newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island

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Suggestions are encouraged.

RUSI-VI Office

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The RUSI Calendar of Events is on page 8.

FMUSIC ...FADESAWAY

By LCol (Ret) J.C. Berezowski

As the saying goes, “Old soldiers never die, they simply fade away.” And now, it is the turn of the Federation of Military and United Services Institutes of Canada (FMUSIC). It has been a challenging but contributory journey for most of the past 34 years since federating in October 1973 at Winnipeg. Incredibly, the next Biennial meeting scheduled last year was to be held in Winnipeg this October 2007. That meeting will never happen since the Interim National Chairman, Rear Admiral (Ret) Jamie Fraser, has thrown in the towel. Heeding the majority advice of 25 member Institutes from across Canada, the National Office in Kingston is now in close-down mode.

Aging and dwindling membership, tired and diminished national staff and the complacency of member Institutes in pursuing our national objectives in the face of local financial challenges, all have taken their toll.

Our Special General Meeting 12 Sept. reached a similar conclusion and our President’s response to the National Chairman appears below.

In conversation with some of our members who participated in the founding of FMUSIC, it was seen a sad day. In the early 1970s, Lt (Nursing Sister) Joan Thomas was a volunteer in our RUSI VI office located in the Sayward Building on Douglas Street. Recently, she recalled work parties stuffing monthly newsletters into envelopes for mailing to between 700 and 800 RUSI VI members.

With so many former officers back from the wars in Victoria and retaining a patriotic zeal to serve, they turned to RUSI VI. Founded in 1927, RUSI soon

became the social hub of Victoria. The Institute sponsored the annual spring Debutante Ball at the Empress Hotel with the Lieutenant Governor, as patron, presiding in the Crystal Ballroom. The Empress was also the scene of our RUSI annual members’ formal dinner with their ladies and the annual Victoria military ball.

The Institute was recognized for its size and influence nationally in that some of its members had served at the highest military levels. Lt-General E.C. Ashton, a former Chief of the General Staff, was president in 1943. Colorful Brigadier J. Sutherland-Brown had the gavel in 1944-45. Rear Admiral P.W. Nelles, former Chief of the Naval Staff, was president in 1948-49.

Undoubtedly, they saw a need for a national voice in Canada beyond the Conference of Defence Associations that was directly tied to the ministry of Defence. With the advent of the Korean and the Cold War, the case for a nationally federated voice by our Institutes advocating for Canada’s security, gained validity.

RUSI’s full-time secretary-manager was a “human dynamo” as Joan Thomas described LCol “Pick” Picking. At the 1973 founding meeting of the Federation in Winnipeg, he was elected FMUSIC national chairman by the 19 Institutes present. Victoria was also confirmed site of the National Office.

At the 1977 Biennial Meeting in Halifax, LCol Picking took severely ill and flown back to Victoria. Nursing Sister Joan Thomas recalls how she took charge of the oxygen bottles that had to be administered enroute home.

In the meantime, Lt-General Reg Lane had retired to Victoria after being Deputy Commander NORAD in Colorado Springs. He assumed the chairmanship of the FMUSIC National Defence committee for a short time before serving as National Chairman of FMUSIC from 1978 to 1993. He was succeeded by Maj-General Clive Milner of Kingston.

Capt (N) Colin Shaw, former Base Commander Esquimalt, after two years as RUSI VI president, became BC Regional Vice Chairman and stand-in for the National Chairman. He ended up with the task of moving the National Office from Victoria, lock, stock and barrel, to Kingston to support Clive Milner, the newly elected National Chairman in 1993.

Biennial meetings of Institute presidents with the national chairman were the centerpiece of FMUSIC's success. After Winnipeg, succeeding meetings ranged from Halifax to Kingston, London, Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver and Edmonton. Service Air made this possible and the keynote speakers included the Minister of National Defence, the Associate MND, the Chief of Defence Staff or the Vice Chief. Policy briefings and policy positions highlighted the biennial meetings. And, the Institute achieving the greatest membership increase over the previous two years was awarded the Picking Trophy. It was awarded last in 2005 to RUSI Vancouver.

On the off-year, the National Defence Committee, led by LGen Reg Lane, visited National Defence Headquarters for detailed briefings by principal staff heads on current activities, thus keeping Institutes abreast of major defence issues for dissemination to the Institutes. Early on, the long-standing Library grant to individual institutes was converted into an annual operating grant but recently discontinued.

Pursuing its advocacy role, FMUSIC officials appeared before the Commons Defence Committee and the Senate Standing Committee on

Security and Defence as well as the 1994 Special Joint Parliamentary Committee on Canada's Defence always countering the naïve notion that, "A dollar spent on Canada's defence was a dollar wasted!"

In this advocacy role, the FMUSIC National Defence Committee produced a number of briefs for submission to the Canadian government. The most recent was in 2001 entitled "CANADA'S STRATEGIC SECURITY XXI – A National Strategic Appraisal Into The 21st Century." It went to Parliament, the Department of National Defence, Conference of Defence Associations and the media from then National Chairman, MGen (Ret) Clive Addy, Perth, ON.

Guided by the National Chairman, this FMUSIC brief was produced by the Policy Committee 2001 under the guidance of LCol (Ret) Cec Berezowski, Victoria. Members were LGen (Ret) Lou Cuppens, St. John, NB, Cmdre (Ret) Ted Heath, Victoria, and LCol (Ret) Ernie Wesson, Vancouver.

The brief advised that a new study defining our national security strategic imperatives and coordinating ways and means in the national interest should be commissioned forthwith. It stated: **"The first step is for government to charter an independent blue-ribbon panel of experts to quickly craft a national security strategy for the 21st century. The panel would represent different political viewpoints and varied kinds of professional experience. Its mandate would be to find maximum, feasible convergence on issues of paramount importance to the security of Canada. This strategy would guide and coordinate our future foreign, defence and economic policies, plans, programs and resources over the next 10 to 15 years. The panel should report to Parliament."**

Recalling this, it was startling to hear last Friday, (12 Oct 2007)

Prime Minister Harper announce that he was appointing a Blue-Ribbon Panel (the first since the FMUSIC recommendation) of five members of varied political and professional experience to study Canada's future role in Afghanistan and report back with recommendations to Parliament by the end of January 2008.

The co-founder of the Dominion Institute called this "a brilliant piece of public policy".

Farewell FMUSIC. It was an honourable journey. ☸

RUSI VI President Responds

18 September 2007

James D Fraser,
Rear Admiral (retired)
Chairman FMUSIC

Dear Chairman,

You may recall my letter of 7 July 2007 in which I advised that the membership of RUSI VI would vote upon a motion to retain, or not, FMUSIC as the umbrella entity for the variety of RUSI's and USI's across Canada.

This vote was held at a special general meeting 12 September, and the outcome by a large margin was to recommend to you that FMUSIC cease operations.

At the same time, it was viewed by the membership that it would be premature for RUSI VI to more formally join with CDA/CDAI. This matter will be resolved at our AGM this upcoming March 2008.

Should the required majority of RUSI's and USI's support standing down FMUSIC and this event occurs, please send any monies accruing to RUSI VI upon wind up of FMUSIC affairs.

Yours truly,

Original Signed By
H.B. Eugene Lake, Colonel (Retired)
President ☸

FMUSIC CHAIRMAN SENDS:

KINGSTON, ONTARIO

27 September 2007
All Institutes:

This email is to advise you that the decision to close out the Federation of Military and United Services Institutes (FMUSIC) has been almost unanimous. All Institutes, who answered, agreed to the close out. Only two institutes have yet to be heard from but, it has been decided to go ahead with the close out. However, three Institutes have decided not to accept the offer of a trial two year membership in the Conference of Defence Associates (CDA).

It is unfortunate that FMUSIC is closing its doors; however, with the demise of several Institutes, loss of Government funding, the reduction in membership of the Institutes (total of 2931 as opposed to 7000 plus six years ago) and their overall concern with local matters, it was inevitable. Moreover, military affairs has such a high profile now, it is doubtful if our voice and advocacy would be heard by politicians and the general public. It is hoped that with the membership in CDA, institutes will be revitalized by the membership in this organization centered in the Nation's Capital and with its permanent full time staff.

In the near future, the Executive Vice-Chairman will be sending out checks to those Institutes who paid dues for 2007. This will be followed by payment to CDA for those Institutes who have indicated that they wish to join CDA. When this is completed, the remaining funds, after expenses, will be distributed to the Institutes. It is anticipated that this will be in the range of \$3 per member and will be forwarded by the end of this year.

Jamie Fraser R Adm (Ret'd) CMM CD
Interim Chairman
FMUSIC

Allan Cooper LCol (Ret'd) OMM CD
Executive Vice -Chairman
FMUSIC ☺

Special General Meeting – 12 Sep 07

and revealed no appetite to continue to have FMUSIC as A Special General Meeting was convened on 12 Sep 07 at 1230 hrs at Bay Street Armoury. President Gene Lake presided.

Item I. Call to order. Present were 55 members, a quorum thus declared.

Item II. The president reviewed the draft constitution.

Noted changes encouraging spouses/widows/widowers to join.

The inclusion of the Working Group concept for special projects such as the "Battle of Britain" parade.

Extending financial discretion for the Executive.

Considerable discussion ensued by the members. Now, the Executive will meet in special session to review and update the draft constitution for presentation at the Annual General Meeting in March 2008.

Item III. Financial.

Paula Skippon spoke to the University of Victoria request for an additional \$1000.00 to add to the \$1000.00 already budgeted to support students attending the Military Oral History conference at UVic in Feb. 2008. After discussion, the motion was approved.

Also approved was an additional \$1,000.00 to be disbursed as discretionary expenditures which are approved by the Executive: \$449.80 for travel expenses of our June guest speaker from Calgary; leaving \$500.20 for other events as they arise.

Item IV. FMUSIC.

The president tabled the issue of FMUSIC continuing as our umbrella entity or to cease operations as outlined by the National Chairman, RAdm (Ret) Jamie Fraser.

Considerable discussion ensued the umbrella entity.

Moved by Maj (Ret) B.V. Tweedy and seconded by BGen (Ret) A. Brown that FMUSIC cease operations and wind up its business, with funds owing to RUSI VI be returned forthwith.

The matter of whether or not RUSI VI should, or should not, more formally join CDA/CDIAI was held in abeyance till the next AGM.

Item V. The meeting adjourned at 1345 hrs. ☺

UVIC Veterans Oral History

History 394 (Sep to Dec 2007)

The next course has commenced with eight lucky third and fourth year history students at the University of Victoria. They were guests and introduced to our RUSI of VI members during the luncheon meeting Wed., 11 October at Bay Street Armoury. Moreover, they were able to mingle with our members before lunch. Later, they heard Surgeon LCdr Peter Clifford just back from Afghanistan. He spoke about his service as a military physician in Afghanistan for the previous nine months with the Canadian Forces. The power point pictures of his frontline medical clearing station at Kandahar were, to say, vivid.

The students and topics being pursued through research and interviews of selected veterans are:

Curtis Hansen (Airborne Regiment);

Sarah Hutchinson (Military Families, Post-War, RCAF);

Elena Merritt (Peacemaking Operations, Bosnia-Croatia, [Army Ops]);

Chris Perry (ASW, Cold War, RCN);

Val Rundans (NORAD -

Hemispheric Defence); **Natasha Tashuk** (4th Canadian Mechanized Brigade);

Louise Tumchewics

(RCAF, No. 6 Group); **Jonathan**

Wolsey (Persian Gulf War, Canadian Navy).

UVIC MILITARY ORAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

Date: 20-23 February 2008

Location: Marriott Victoria Inner Harbour Hotel

Cost: \$50.00 dollars for Veterans

UVic is hosting, with support from Veterans Affairs, the Canadian War Museum, and RUSI VI, a three-day conference in Military Oral History. This is a student-centered conference (graduate students). Also, a number of prominent military historians will be presenting papers.

The reception will be at the hotel on the night of 20 Feb. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Gary Weir, formerly of the Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C. Dr. Sean Maloney, RMC, will give the after-dinner speech on Saturday night (restaurant yet to be determined). Two days of sessions/panels will follow on the 21st and 22nd. We are also planning on offering a tour of CFB Esquimalt and Fort Rodd Hill on the Sunday.

Veterans are invited to attend. The conference rate for Veterans is \$50.00 including admittance to the conference sessions, four coffee breaks, the Reception and Keynote Address (on the 20th), and two lunches (which will be at the hotel). Please note this does not cover the cost of the Saturday night dinner which will be held off-site downtown. Also, please note seating will be limited and will be offered on a first come, first served basis. Anyone interested in attending the conference is to contact Dr. Shawn Cafferky at the University of Victoria. His e-mail address is: shawncaf@uvic.ca.

On 11 Sept., Russia tested what it called the "dad of all bombs", a name used specifically to one-up the US and its MOAB, or "mother of all bombs". The air-delivered ordnance is the most powerful non-nuclear weapon in the Russian arsenal, and is reportedly four times more powerful than the US' MOAB (Massive Ordnance Air Blast). The thermobaric weapon has a reported blast radius of nearly 1,000 feet, and produces "shock waves that can be directed and amplified in enclosed spaces such as buildings, caves or tunnels. The Russian test comes amid strained relations between Washington and Moscow over democracy in Russia, and Iran policy.

Miami Herald

BATTERY WELCOMES NEW LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

By Tom Hawthorn, Victoria

The province was welcoming a new Lieutenant-Governor, an occasion for a ceremony. The Naden Band paraded along Belleville Street, brass instruments gleaming, followed by Canadian Forces members, and an RCMP honour guard in red serge in Victoria on Mon. October 1.

The Queen's representative, The Honourable Steven Point OBC, a former elected aboriginal chief and Provincial Court judge, wore a traditional wool uniform with intricate, gold-thread embroidery. On his head rested a beaver hat with a flowing plume of white ostrich feathers.

As a blue flag with British Columbia's shield of arms was raised at the legislature, signaling the presence of the Lieutenant Governor, Lt. Thurber, 5th (BC) Field Regiment RCA shouted more commands. The cannons were loaded and fired with a swift pull on the howitzer's lanyard. As per Canadian Forces Orders, the reservists fired a 15-gun salute. (The Queen gets 21 rounds, the prime minister 19, the national defence minister 17.)

The salute was repeated upon departure of the Lieutenant-Governor about an hour later. The 5th (BC) Field Regiment has been the city's saluting unit since 1878 for visiting royalty and Legislature openings.

Lt. Doug Thurber delivered his commands crisply. "Fire mission battery!" the lieutenant called in a sharp voice, as eight uniformed soldiers snapped to attention. "Fifth British Columbia Field Regiment! Royal Canadian Artillery! Will fire a vice-regal salute!"

Lt. Thurber continued: "15 rounds blank! Bearing as laid! Elevation 800! At my command! Five rounds - fire for effect!"

They began at dawn, as the howitzers needed scrubbing after being used during a four-day exercise at Fort Lewis, Wash. They had returned less than 12 hours before having to report in their tidy "greens," the distinctive army uniform worn publicly. The lack of sleep may explain why the howitzers were unloaded without first removing the barrel coverings. Like leaving the lens cap on a camera, it was an error

quickly corrected.

"It's a long-standing tradition and a great honour for the regiment," Lt. Thurber said. The reservists included students, a furniture upholsterer and a stockroom worker for Zellers. UBIQUE

Army Reserves to Afghanistan

By LCol (Ret) J. C. Berezowski

Recently Reservists have been serving in Afghanistan in significant numbers. One estimate is that over 400 Canadian Army reservists have already served in that theatre of operations in the recent past. About 50 of those reservists have been from British Columbia.

Currently there are 137 Reservists from British Columbia undergoing pre-deployment training at Wainwright, Alberta and CFB Shilo, Manitoba with their mounting units. Both Reserve and Regular members undergo the same pre-deployment training before posting to overseas units.

This current group of BC reservists under training at Wainwright are 78 infantry, 26 armoured, 10 engineers, 20 artillery, one musician, one weapons technician and one clerk. The reservists are from units in British Columbia and all part of 39 Canadian Brigade Group, Vancouver. The data was provided by Capt C.D. Poulton, 39CBG Public Affairs officer.

Victoria reserve units providing some of those volunteers are: 5th (BC) Field Regiment, RCA, The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) and 11 (Victoria) Service Battalion.

Most of the serving members have civilian jobs and work part time for the army reserve. 39 CBG is committed to the safety and security of Canadians by supporting Canadian Forces missions at home and abroad..

With the Infantry in Afghanistan

By Dr Anne Irwin

39 CBG is a reserve brigade formation with Land Force Western Area that supports the efforts of Joint Task Force Pacific in times of domestic operations (i.e. Forest fires and flood watch). In operations overseas, 39 CBG provides individual augmentation to regular force battle groups within LFWA, and other Areas across Canada. Every year, their members serve around the world in UN and NATO sanctioned operations.

One of the current trainees left Esquimalt for Edmonton five months ago for training with the National Support Element in preparation for Task Force Afghanistan 1-08. A naval clerk, Master Seaman Yin-Yee Yip describes his Army indoctrination as a culture shock. His story appeared in the October 9, 2007 issue of LOOKOUT published by CFB Esquimalt.

He recounts how he has done some pretty cool things with the army. He took the relatively new gunfighter course in May firing more rounds in one day than he has in all his previous service. In June he went to Wainwright for 10 days of gun camp throwing grenades and learning live pairs and group firing, navigation and emergency driving in a G-Wagon and a Bison.

Currently, MS Yip is living in a tent in Wainwright during Exercise Desert Ram. The Task Force is doing work-ups in preparation for Exercise Maple Guardian which starts during October. The training scenarios are designed by the Canadian Maneuver Training Centre to certify that all the members are trained and ready to go to Afghanistan. This includes simulated convoy logistic patrols through Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Alley.

MS Yip concluded that of all the

things he has learned, along with all the amazing people that he has met, has definitely made this training for his first tour very memorable. ☺

Editorial note: Dr. Ann Irwin is Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute Chair in Civil-Military Relations, University of Calgary. She spoke to RUSI Vancouver Island on June 6, 2007. A social anthropologist, she researched and studied the infantry battalion in Edmonton as a social group and then again, with First Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry last year from May through August when she remained embedded with Charlie Company, 8 Platoon Headquarters. She has kindly provided her speaking notes used June 6 from which selected portions appear.

My topic today...is an examination of what life is like for the infantry privates and corporals and their NCOs. In particular I want to discuss how they understand and experience the impact of certain policies and strategic decisions. I was told just recently that the platoon which formed the primary focus of my research has lost all but six of its soldiers to voluntary releases since the redeployment from Afghanistan last August...I want to suggest a few reasons for this significant and disturbing loss of experienced and valuable personnel.

First though, I want to explain the context, goal and methodology....I have been conducting anthropological research with the First Battalion PPCLI since 1992 when I did an MA and then a PhD in anthropology studying the battalion as a social group. When the Battalion deployed to Afghanistan, I proposed to go along to follow up on the PhD research....and how soldiers' experiences of combat differed frommy previous research with the unit. To my great surprise, I had very little difficulty getting permission.....so, I went [to Afghanistan] in May and stayed with

the unit until the end of the tour, returning home with them in August and participating in the decompression tour in Cyprus with them.

The method I used....involves participating as fully as possible in the everyday life....and keeping detailed field notes.I spent most of my timewith 8 Platoon, Charlie Company. These were the soldiers who were involved in combat operation in Panjwayi and in Helmand districts last summer. My remarks are very much fromthe soldiers, not the officers.

Life outside the wire is profoundly and significantly different from life inside Kandahar Air Field. Life is marked by uncertainty, constantly changing orders, time disruption, sleep deprivation and chronic risk for weeks on end. The heat is unimaginable, averaging about 55 degrees Celsius....the hottest recorded was 64 degrees Celsius before the thermometer melted. Dehydration is a problem....we were drinking 10 – 12 litres of water a day.

Sleep is at a premium, and often the tactical situation is such that soldiers can't eventake their boots off to sleep.priority is given to weapons and vehicle maintenance and resupply before rest for the troops. On one occasion we were on ten minutes notice to move for 36 hours.The old truism that one should worry about morale when troops stop complaining was certainly true, and I was witness to times when soldiers completely shut down and stopped complaining, and it was at these times that I observed tremendous feats of leadership at the section commander level, as they cajoled and coaxed the soldiers into a new frame of mind.

.....now about some of the factorsof bitterness and cynicism about higher command on the part of the privates and corporals.

Again and again, I was told, "we were lied to." Soldiers felt that they

had been made promises, such as: ... no night road moves; they would be in hard accommodations in Kandahar Air Field; their equipment needs would be given top priority. In fact, the unit moved routinely at night; they were seldom in KAF, and when they were....it was 200-man tents in which the air conditioning never worked.Now, I am sure that they were not intentionally lied to, but I believe what happened is that when officers made expressions of intent, soldiers heard promises. Soldiers heard certainty, not caveats or intentions or hopes, and this exacerbated by theofficers trained to display confidence and certainty. It is even more the case in combat operations, which by their very nature are uncertain, and because of that, soldiers look to their leaders for certainty.

Moreover, although soldiers today are more sophisticated, better educated and older than they were during the Cold War, they are still remarkably naïve in their understanding of the military hierarchy, and most of them don't have a very good sense of at what level decisions are made, so they often credit their CO or company commander with having more power and authority than he actually has.

There were significant problems with the media which caused discontent and cynicism....there were reports in the media which statedno longer using the lightly armoured G-Wagon....when in fact every section patrol included at least one, sometimes two....This did not contribute to trust in higher command.

There were serious problems... from the point of view of the soldiers, with the redeployment, the most important of which was the splitting up of sections. Because of the demands of the relief in place, dismounted infantry were sent home first, followed by the vehicle crews, (gunners and drivers), and finally followed by the section commanders and platoon headquarters. This meant that during the decompression tours in Cyprus...

easing into the transition from combat theatre to home, they were worrying about the remainder of their sections who were still involved in combat operations in an active theatre.Moreover....there were a number of soldiers, including section commanders, who should have been concentrating on the mission at hand, and in keeping their troops focused on the mission, but who had to deal with the stress of confused and contradictory information about postings....after their return home.

Although these policies placed significant and unnecessary additional stress on soldiers, it was little things....which really annoyed them.One example....during the Airbus flight from Mirage to Cyprus....when they asked for blankets they were told that it was not Air Force policy to distribute blankets for a flight shorter than four hours.

On the other hand, small gestures of recognition were much appreciated. Many returning soldiers were profoundly moved when on approach to Edmonton, the pilot announced that two CF-18s would be escorting the airplane. Soldierstook pictures of the two jets flying at the wing tips of the Airbus and many of them became quite emotional.

While none of these complaints in and of themselves can be held responsible for the large number of releases from the Forces, the pattern of lack of recognition for their experiences, and the lack of trust in the higher command certainly contributed to a lack of satisfaction with the military as a long-term career. ☹

Air Force Memorial Service

By Stan Brygadyr in the Lead & Line,

On Sunday, 16 Sept, the Air Force "Warriors" held their first annual

"Air Force Memorial Service" in Victoria. This Parade, previously held annually as the "Battle of Britain parade", has been changed in format and name so as to be more inclusive. Representing the Prime Minister was Member of Parliament Mark Warawa (Langley), and the Reviewing Officer was Colonel Veenhoff, "Air Boss" at MARPAC.

The Parade was formed into four Flights: the "past" (wartime vets); the "near past" (Cold War vets); the "present" (serving members/443 MH Sqn); and, the "future" (Air Cadets). The 443 Sqn Pipe and Drum band was also in attendance. It was a stand-only Parade alongside Christ Church Cathedral and the only marching was into the church. The Service was conducted by the Very Reverend Canon Andrew E. Gates, CD, Major (ret). During the service, the Reverend Gates told a most interesting story - it went like this:

"...In 1943 a young mother with a baby in-arms, and two elderly ladies, shared a compartment in a train from northern England to London. On arrival they were the last to leave the train as they had some difficulty with their luggage and baby items; no help was forthcoming. As they were exiting the train the air-raid siren sounded and all persons nearby rushed to the air-raid shelter.

Being somewhat encumbered, and not physically able to rush, the four of them arrived at the shelter after it was declared full and so the door was closed. They wandered away and hid somewhat alongside nearby buildings.

When the "all-clear" was sounded, they returned to the train station and found that the shelter had suffered a direct hit and all inside were killed."

At this point in the story the Reverend Gates announced, "...and I was that baby in my mother's arms!" ☹

Editors note: RUSI VI has the honour to be the hosting organization for this annual event; organized as the Air Force Working Group under the authority of the RUSI Executive.

NEW COMD

Welcome to Rear-Admiral Tyrone Pile upon taking command of Maritime Command Pacific on July 28.

Enrolled in the Canadian Forces in 1975, he graduated from Royal Military College, Kingston in 1979 and Naval Officer Training Centre VENTURE in 1980.

He served at sea in a number of Canadian warships. He was XO (1993-95) aboard HMCS PRESERVER and Commanding Office HMCS REGINA (1995-97.) He participated in United Nations and NATO maritime interdiction operations: Haiti (UN) (1993), the Former Yugoslavia (NATO) (1994 and 1995), and the Northern Arabian Gulf (UN) (1997).

Following staff appointments at MARPAC and National Defence HQ, he attended the University of Victoria completing a Masters degree in history in 1992. He attended the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College in Toronto in 1993 and on promotion to Captain (N) in 1999, became Director of NATO Policy at NDHQ. From 2000 to 2002 he commanded 4th Maritime Operations Group in Victoria. He then attended the International Symposium Course in Beijing, China followed by the National Security Studies Course in Toronto. Promoted Commodore in July 2003, he had the Canadian Fleet Atlantic until July 2005.

Promoted Rear-Admiral in June 2005, he returned to NDHQ as Chief of Staff Assistant Deputy Minister (Human Resources – Military). In 2006, he became Chief Military Personnel & Commander Military Personnel Command, returning to Victoria last July 28 as Commander MARPAC. ☼

MARPAC SENDS

When I took the watch at MARPAC just two months ago and declared to those present at the Change of Command, “I am very excited about every day ahead of me in this job, I thought I had an idea how exciting and busy it would be. On that very day, behind the ceremony, the work of MARPAC was moving forward and the phrase “hit the ground running” has new and personal meaning. Already I have first hand experienced the vastness of Canada’s Pacific area of responsibility from Singapore to Prince Rupert and the United States. What is most impressive is the team that makes it all work! This really is the best job in the Navy.

With the turnover briefings complete, I am looking forward to meet with all the agencies, organizations and individuals of the greater team that keeps Canadians safe.

On Aug.18 we were reminded just how fragile life is when Lieut. (N) Mark Ashley, of HMCS CALGARY was killed by a hit and run driver while ashore in San Francisco. His ashes were buried at sea from HMCS CALGARY on Aug. 31 with his parents among the ship’s company.

HMCS REGINA is at sea off the west coast of South America. The ship left Esquimalt on Aug. 11 to participate in a multi-national exercise known as PANAMAX that is based on the requirement to ensure the security of the canal. Nineteen nations, from as far away as France and the Netherlands, in cooperation with the government of Panama, deployed more than 30 ships, a dozen aircraft and 7,000 personnel from Aug. 29 to Sep.7 in the largest naval exercise in the Western Hemisphere this year. REGINA worked with other navies in maritime interdiction operations and

boarding exercises. As is always the case, the ship’s company is also engaged in diplomatic visits with the aim of becoming familiar with the region’s naval forces and their respective South American countries including Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, and Peru to return to Esquimalt in Oct.

MARPAC personnel spent the last two weeks of August meeting Canadians at the Pacific National Exhibition. The display under the auspices of Canada Command and executed in my capacity as Commander Joint Task Force Pacific brought members of the Navy, Army and Air Force together in a unified display. While the display was not a recruiting event, thousands of visitors were able to speak personally with members of the CF and see some hardware close up. The Naden Band was there.

You will know that Canada was the host country for the NATO Military Committee Conference Sept. 7 to 9 and that the 26 heads of the allied militaries came to Victoria to visit NATO’s western flank. I am proud to say that the delegates were very impressed with Canada and its grandeur. Her Honour, Iona Campagnolo, the Lieutenant Governor of B.C. spoke at the delegate dinner making a tremendous impression with an extraordinarily powerful message. The day at sea was well received

On Aug. 24, 63 young men and women of First Nations’ descent graduated from the Navy’s “Raven Aboriginal Youth Employment Program.” This is the fifth year for the program but the first time the participants are from across the country, rather than from just B.C. The participants ranged in age from 16 to 25 years. The six week program not only caused the participants to raise their self worth and image I am told that at least 16 will apply for enrolment in the CF.

As is almost tradition, one of the first ceremonial duties on becoming

MARPAC is to attend the final graduation at the Sea Cadet Summer Training Centre HMCS Quadra and it was my pleasure as a former air cadet to do that on Aug.16. Led by Cdr. Rick Mountford, the cadet program in B.C. is in very good shape. We host cadets from across Canada at Comox, Victoria and Vernon, in activities that range from learning how to sail and harness wind, tide and current, to learning to pilot a glider or airplane as well as rock climbing, rappelling and canoeing. It is an understatement to say that the cadets have had a safe and exciting summer. It is hugely rewarding to know that the Canadian Forces with the support

of the Cadet Leagues is contributing to making these young people better citizens for the future.....

On the other hand there are the recent reports of drug use amongst Canadian Forces members. Those young people come from the same Canadian families as all CF members come from and the issue is not unique to the Canadian Forces. In fact, while the statistics are not complete, drug use in the CF is well below that found in the general population. takes education, counseling, enforcement and when required prosecution to control this unacceptable practice. I say control because as with any debilitating substance some

people will disregard common sense. I mention it here to tell you that we take the matter very seriously, and that new and more extensive drug testing will soon be in place, particularly for specific activities and employment.

As is the practice, it is my aim to get out and about to meet as many of you as I am able in the coming months. Thank you for continuing to tell the Navy's story and keeping Canadians informed about what their Navy is doing for them every day of the year.

Yours Aye,

Rear Admiral T.H.W. Pile,

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday 14 NOVEMBER MEETING

- ⇒ **SPEAKER: Colonel Jim Cottingham, Commanding Officer, Canadian Forces Aerospace Warfare Centre,**
- ⇒ **TOPIC: Uninhabited Air Vehicles - Capabilities and Limitations**
- ⇒ **PLACE: 5th (BC) Field Regt RCA Officers' Mess, Room 312, Bay Street Armoury**
- ⇒ **TIME: 1130 FOR 1200 Hrs Luncheon**
- ⇒ **COST: \$18.00 (pay at the door)**

Colonel Jim Cottingham joined the Army Reserves in 1971. Commissioned through ROUTP in 1973 as a communications and electronics officer he transferred to the Regular Force in 1978. He received his air navigator wings and began operational flying in 1980 as a tactical coordinator on Sea King helicopters. During five flying tours, he was a line navigator, crew commander and detachment commander aboard almost all classes of ships in the Canadian Navy. Highlights were the Preserver air detachment on Op Deliverance Somalia, deputy command 423 (MH) Sqn in Shearwater and command of 443 (MH) Squadron, Victoria from 1995 to 1997. At NDHQ he was on capital projects for new aircraft acquisition, then Director Operations, Maritime Air Component (Pacific) in Victoria. Following language school and post-graduate training, he was a DS at CF Staff College, Toronto. Promoted colonel in 2002 at 1 Cdn Air Division, Winnipeg, he assumed his present command in 2005. He is a graduate of the Australian Air Force Staff College and distinguished graduate of the USAF War College.

Sunday 16 DECEMBER HOLIDAY RECEPTION

- ⇒ **GOOD FOOD, GOOD FRIENDS = FESTIVE SEASON AND GOOD WILL**
- ⇒ **PLACE: 5th (BC) Field Regt RCA Officers' Mess, Room 312, Bay Street Armoury**
- ⇒ **TIME: 14:00 Hrs to 16:00 Hrs**
- ⇒ **COST: \$10 per couple / \$5.00 single (pay at the door) AND draw tickets.**

Wednesday 9 JANUARY MEETING

- ⇒ **SPEAKER: TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- ⇒ **TOPIC: STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES OR FUTURE MILITARY CONCEPTS**
- ⇒ **PLACE: 5TH(BC) Field Regt RCA Officers' Mess, Room 314, Bay Street Armoury**
- ⇒ **TIME: 1130 FOR 1200 Hrs Luncheon**
- ⇒ **COST: \$18.00 (pay at the door)**

From the President: RUSI VI feels to me like it is going through a growth phase. We have successfully embraced the Air Force Officers Association to the benefit of both groups. The doorways between us and RUSI Nanaimo and RUSI Vancouver are wide open and it seems that good things will happen. With the help of a lot of people our Constitution has been updated and made relevant to the reality of today's world. We have also slid nicely into the Artillery Officers Mess and we seem to be enjoying this new venue for pre-luncheon comradeship. Our corner stone program "Military Oral History" continues to bring young students and Veterans together with a tangible benefit to both parties. The "Speakers program" continues to high praise as is indicated by the turnout for recent lunches. Couple this with the fact that we don't owe any money and we have some money in the bank would cause our grandsons to say, "We Rock". These are some of the reasons I am proud to be the President of RUSI VI.**Gene Lake**