



DISPATCHES

THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NOVA SCOTIA

Edition 05/11- Christmas Edition

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL RUSI (NS) PROGRAM

Day, Date	Time	Location	Remarks
Wed 14 Dec11	1200-1500	RA Park Air Force Room and lower bar area	<i>Distinguished Speaker Series – LCdr Flemming Rasmussen, OC Joint Personnel Support Unit (JSPU). Christmas lunch and good cheer get together</i>
Wed 18 Jan 12	1200-1300	RA Park Air Force Room	Distinguished Speaker Series – Mr. Gene Novikov – USSR Defector
Wed 15 Feb	1830 for 1900	RA Park Air Force Room	2012 Annual General Meeting (AGM). Soup and sandwiches will be provided.
Wed Mar 14	1200-1400	RA Park Air Force Room	Distinguished Speaker Series – The VAC Ombudsman – CFCWO (Ret'd) Guy Parent.
Wed Apr 18	1830 for 1900	RCMP "H" Division	Annual RCMP presentation - TBA

Christmas Greetings from the President

As I look back over the past year, I'm grateful for a number of things: the end of the mission in Afghanistan, the caliber and quality of our military and policing leadership, and the continued safety and security of our country at home. (From our perspective, one of the year's highlights was the re-introduction of the word "Royal" to our Navy and Air Force and the part played by some of our members.

Closer to home, I'm mindful of our accomplishments within RUSI(NS): the caliber of our speakers at the monthly Distinguished Speakers Series, the efforts of our Veteran's Affairs Committee and its presentation to the Joint senate Committee in Ottawa earlier this year, the highly successful June Dinner, the ever popular annual visit to RCMP headquarters and the well attended Remembrance Dinner with our Patron.

2012 promises to be even better and our program is already shaping up to be both topical, appropriate and varied. Stay tuned!

Of course these activities could not be accomplished without the dedication and passion expressed by your Board Members and it is they who deserve our collective thanks.

On behalf of your Board of Directors I would like to personally wish each of you and your families all the best this holiday season and for good health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

TR Birchall





November Events

Our Annual Dinner

Two events took place in November. On the 2nd we held our annual remembrance mess dinner. We witnessed an excellent turnout of our membership for this annual event due in no small part to the work done by our President, Tom Birchall. Head table guests included the LGov, the Hon Mayanne Francis, the Comd LFAA, BGen Thurrott, the Deputy Commissioner of the RCMP for the Atlantic Region, Steve Graham, the WComd 12 Wing, Col Ian Lightbody, as well as our RCN representative to the Board, Capt (N) Jorgensen.

The PMC for the evening was Insp. Dan Tanner, our Vice President. The meal was the best to date and thanks go out to the Mess Manager, Ryan Rodenheiser who put on an excellent event along with the RA Park serving staff.

Remembrance Day Parade

Our second event was the November 11th ceremony which took place at RA Park. Nine members of RUSI braved the pouring rain to attend.

This year our wreath was presented by Commander Colin Darlington Chairman of the SAC on behalf of our Institute.

WANTED - DIRECTORS

We will soon be approaching the time when we meet for our Annual General Meeting. The nominating committee is looking for a few good women and men to fill the ranks of those board members whose term expires in February. Should you wish to be part of running our Institute, please send your name into the secretary as soon as possible to:

murray.lee@ns.sympatico.ca

Do You Know About Benefits Available to You?

For those of you who receive a monthly pension from the Canadian Forces, this is not news. However, the information detailed below may be of interest to those of you who do not receive pensions. There are three funds available to you for financial assistance.

The CF Personnel Assistance Fund (CFPAF)

CFPAF provides financial assistance to serving and former members of the Canadian Armed Force who enrolled after 31 January 1968 and those of the Canadian Army, Regular who enrolled or continued to serve or enrolled after 20 September 1946. This assistance is available in the form of grants and low-interest

loans to those in financial distress situations and is also available to dependents. The CFPAF administers minor disbursements, through Veterans Affairs Canada, available to all eligible members mentioned above as well as to WW II Army Veterans. Effective 12 June 1996, CFPAF extended the benefits of its Financial Distress Programs to eligible members of the Reserves.

CFPAF also operates an educational assistance loan program which provides low interest loans to serving members, former members or their dependents. Grandchildren may be eligible for this assistance only if they are financially dependent upon the applying CF member in all aspects. Appropriate documentation is required (adoption, legal guardianship, and/or custody papers). Eligible applicants must have a minimum of one year of military service (Regular Force) and the student for whom the loan is requested must be accepted in a full-time education program.

The Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) Poppy Trust Fund

This fund provides financial assistance to all Veterans, including currently serving CF members and their families. In accordance with the General By-Laws of the RCL, the need



may be for shelter, food, fuel, clothing or other emergencies. All levels of the RCL (Branch, Provincial Command or Dominion Command) will consider applications for a grant. Every application is considered on the merits of the applicant's circumstances and demonstrated need. Benevolent assistance remittances are generally made by payable to both the applicant and the service provider. Applications can be submitted to Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) or directly to the Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Poppy Fund. Membership in the Legion is not required.

The Canadian Naval Benevolent Fund (RCNBF)

This third fund renders assistance to eligible applicants, who served in the Naval Forces of Canada. This assistance is provided in the form of grants and interest-free loans, to relieve distress and promote well-being for applicants and their spouses. Bursaries for educational purposes for dependents, including grandchildren, are also available. The RCNBF has extended the definition of eligible applicants to include the Merchant Navy War Veterans and former members of the Canadian Forces who served in units of Maritime Command or who had a Navy or Sea Element rank designation or wore the Naval Discinctive Environmental

Uniform (DEU). RCNBF also provides minor disbursements through VAC and the RCL.

In view of the large number of persons eligible to apply for assistance from these funds, it is necessary to restrict the forms of distress for which assistance can be provided. Each application is judged on its own individual merits by a committee formed within each Fund's organization.

For complete information, you should contact your nearest district office of VAC or your local service organization, eg RCL etc, in which membership is **NOT** required.

Contacts:

CFPAF – toll free 1-800 753-9828

RCNBF – toll free 1-800 557-8777

RCL Poppy Fund – toll free 1-800 534-4666

A NOTE ABOUT THE 14 DEC GET TOGETHER

As shown in our activity box on page 1, the meeting on 14 Dec will be a Distinguished Speaker noon event in the Air Force Room with *sandwiches and soup provided* at no cost to you.

Following the talk and Q & A, we will gather at the lower bar for Christmas cheer and to exchange season's greetings (this time at your own cost).

Hope to see you all there.

LCdr Rasmussen to Speak on December 14th

LCdr Rasmussen, Officer Commanding the Joint Personnel Support Unit (JPSU) has just been confirmed as our guest speaker at the Christmas cheer Wednesday luncheon. The JPSU provides a CF/VAC integrated "one-stop service" for ill and injured CF personnel and their families. It supports currently serving and releasing CF personnel, both Regular Force and Reserve Force. It caters to both referrals and walk-in clients, to long-term injured personnel and to members considering retirement. It responds to queries from family members regarding support services and programs for ill and injured personnel, and provides referrals as appropriate.

More information on the JPSU's will be posted on our web site.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you like to write, have something to say and have a hankering to be published, this may be your opportunity. Please send a draft or your article to your secretary at: murray.lee@ns.sympatico.ca. The only stipulation is that the piece be in keeping with our defence and security or a related topic.



NEW COMMANDER - 12 WING SHEARWATER

In the last of our series on new personnel in the Halifax military community, we feature the Wing Commander 12 Wing, Colonel Ian Lightbody, CD. Some of you had the chance to meet him at our recent mess dinner and he is keen to see more of us in the future.

Born in Port of Spain, Trinidad, Colonel Lightbody joined the Canadian Forces (CF) in 1983 and graduated from the Royal Military College, Kingston in 1987 with a degree in Engineering Physics. After receiving his wings in October 1988, he was posted to 423 (MH) Squadron in Shearwater, NS where he sailed on HMCS PRESERVER. He subsequently moved west with 443 (MH) Squadron in 1989 and sailed on HMCS HURON, HMCS ANNAPOLIS, and HMCS PROVIDER until he became the Deputy Operations Officer.

In 1993, he completed the Aerospace Systems Course in Winnipeg before arriving at the Helicopter Operational Test and Evaluation Facility (HOTEF) as a Project Officer in 1994. While at HOTEF as Project Officer, he managed and assisted in several projects, including Digital Imagery and the Self Defence Suite. During his time at HOTEF he was promoted to Major and appointed Project Control Officer.

In 1999, he was posted on exchange to Naval Air Systems Command at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland. There he worked in PMA-299 assisting the US Navy acquire the MH-60 Romeo and Sierra helicopters.

Following a brief six months as the Commanding Officer of the HOTEF in 2003, he was sent to Staff College in Valparaiso, Chile. On his return to Canada in 2005 he was posted to the Canadian Forces Experimentation Centre (CFEC) in Ottawa where he was the lead for inter-agency command and control experimentation. There he worked with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and various public security and safety agencies on 2010 Olympic command and control experimentation, which eventually culminated in Experiment Pegasus Guardian in November 2007.

In 2007 he was posted to the Directorate of Air Strategic Planning in the Air Staff where he helped develop the Air Force Strategy and Campaign Plan prior to his appointment as the Commanding Officer of 443 (MH) Squadron in 2008. Promoted to Colonel in 2010, Colonel Lightbody was posted to the Canadian Forces Staff College in Toronto to attend the National Security Program. On 4 August 2011 he assumed command of 12 Wing.

Colonel Lightbody is married to Linda and they have three children: Nicholas, Alex, and Sofia.

NEWS FROM YOUR VETERAN'S AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – THE VAC!

The second most active committee behind the SAC, is the RUSI VAC chaired by Colonel Dick Jamer. This committee is currently looking to expand in order to have more expertise at the table and are looking for interested people to assist. In particular, they will seek support from our RCMP representative, Greg Laturnus to determine if an RCMP VAC participant is available. Dr. Heather McKinnon provides our medical link with the various organizations in and around HRM to keep us informed about current veterans issues.

The committee will tentatively meet about once per month at noon on Wednesdays.

Once the larger committee is in place, outside experts will be asked to participate in rewriting the mandate of the committee. The Royal Canadian Legion NS/ Nunavut Command Service Officer, CO of JPSU and a former Surgeon General of the CF are suggested as possible candidates to help refocus the committee.

Possible future activities and initiatives of the RUSI-VAC are:

- Continuing to lobby for improved care for specific cases known to the committee.
- Lobby to have VAC recognize and close the gap between the care available to traditional and modern veterans.
- Preparing a well researched paper that specifies the needs of veterans and indicate who is responsible for fulfilling those needs. This would include medical care for physical and mental issues, career assistance, financial support, etc.
- Investigate the necessity of tracking reserves that have served in overseas missions.
- Study the processes for assisting veterans, who are being medically released from the CF, in their quest for civilian employment. This may include civil service priority hiring, the equivalence of military and civilian trade qualifications and many other topics.

As you can see from this ambitious agenda, the RUSI VAC is a most important body in assisting our organization to fulfill its mandate of working on current and important defence and security issues.

If you have an interest in this important topic, please email Dick at:
rjamer@eastlink.ca

THE SECURITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OR "SAC"

In the coming months, we plan to bring you up to date on our largest and most active committee, the SAC!

Chaired by Commander Colin Darlington, the SAC studies current defence issues, publishes articles pertinent to the defence and security of Nova Scotia, and aims to keep the public aware that there is a RUSI in the province. Papers produced by the SAC will be posted on our web site and from time to time, Op Ed pieces will be placed in the Chronicle Herald. If you are interested in their activities, and more importantly would like to write or comment on defence and security issues, contact Colin.

Colin can be contacted at:
cahd@hfx.eastlink.ca

Are you an iPhone, iPod or iPad user?

CF "I Ready" to Deliver

The new DND CF News app provides a single portal for news from all commands and organizations at DND. Go to the Apple App Store and search for "DND CF News" to find and download it.

Assistant Deputy Minister (Public Affairs') Dave Hicks designed and created the app. "The first version was supposed to be released to celebrate the Navy's Centennial" he says, "but delays in getting the development licences from Apple set the project back, and we had to wait. We were really ahead of our time, though, since as far as we know, we were the first Canadian government department to apply to Apple for such a licence. We have finally been able to launch our app, albeit without fanfare, on the CF Web site".

The app is obviously a success, given that it has been downloaded more than 1500 times since it was put online. The next step, Mr. Hicks says, is to create a similar app for the popular BlackBerry.

Try it out.

Membership Renewal Time Once Again

The RUSI membership fees for 2012 are now due. The cost this year **remains at \$35.**

Please make your cheques payable to: Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia. You can mail your cheques to:

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Halifax NS B3K 5X5.**