



DISPATCHES

THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NOVA SCOTIA

October Edition 2013

Web site: www.rusi.ca

RUSI (NS) PROGRAM

Day, Date	Time	Location	Remarks
Wed Oct 16	1200 - 1400	RA Park Officers' Mess	Distinguished Speaker Series commences. Major John Harrison will speak on the Middle East and Golan Heights with emphasis on Syria
Thur Nov 7	1830 for 1900	Stadacona Ward Room	Annual Remembrance mess dinner. Members only. Guest of Honor will be the HPD Chief of Police Jean-Michael Blais.
Wed Dec 4	1500-1700	Government House on Barrington Street	Christmas Reception and 85 th Anniversary hosted by the Patron, the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia

Patron: Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, BGen the Hon. JJ Grant, ONS, CMM, CD

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Royal Canadian Air Force – Lieutenant –Colonel Chris Barnard

Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Superintendent John Ferguson

Introducing the Commanding Officer, “H” Division, RCMP

Assistant Commissioner Alphonse (Phonse) MacNeil was born and raised in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia and joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in 1975 in Sydney.

He has served in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as at RCMP Headquarters in Ottawa and Barrie, Ontario. His early police experience in Newfoundland afforded him the opportunity to work in a number of detachments and develop close connections with the residents of the communities he served.

As his career progressed, A/Commr. MacNeil worked in a number of operational and strategic planning capacities in Ottawa and across the Atlantic provinces. In December 2005, he accepted the challenge of leading the Canadian Air Carrier Protective Program. While in this role, he revamped the program from solely a North American based operation to an international program by utilizing strong partner engagement with Canadian and foreign governments, foreign police and airline industry personnel.

He held this role until August 2008, when he was appointed the Integrated Security Unit Commander 2010 G8-G20 responsible for providing security for the Summits. These operations represented the largest deployment of security personnel in Canadian history.

In October 2010, A/Commr. MacNeil was appointed the Commanding Officer for ‘H’ Division - Nova Scotia. During his 35-years in the Force, A/Commr. MacNeil has developed a reputation as a consensus builder among internal and external policing partners, government stakeholders and private industry partners.

A/Commr. MacNeil is married to Patricia, who is also a member of the RCMP, and has four children Angela, Jeffrey, Adam and Megan.

THE NEW RCMP “H” DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

The new RCMP H Division Headquarters is one of the most environmentally responsible buildings ever constructed by Public Works and Government Services Canada, integrating numerous green elements.

Three Government of Canada initiatives were used in the design and site preparation of the new headquarters: **sustainable development**, which minimizes impact on the environment during the construction period and the future maintenance of the building; **connectivity**, to increase efficiency and security; and **supportive work environments**, to ensure employees have the space, tools and technology they need to be comfortable, productive and efficient.

Description

Five-storey building; site area: 6.5 hectares; gross floor area: 23,778 m²

Capacity: 512 RCMP and civilian employees

\$113-million project (plus HST)—\$59 million for construction; \$54 million for project costs

Completed ahead of schedule: (anticipated completion date: December 2013; actual completion date: June 2013).

Highlights

The building's long narrow shape allows natural light to penetrate to the interior and combines sustainable design features that represent a showcase for new, but proven, smart technologies, including: a reflective and green roof to reduce the amount of heat the building absorbs from the atmosphere; the use of natural light and sunshades to help moderate indoor temperatures; and the use of a recycled rainwater system to reduce water consumption. Features include:

- Building registered with the Canada Green Building Council and designed to meet the LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold benchmark
- Maximized use of regionally available materials and materials with recycled content where possible
- Elimination of materials with harmful volatile organic compounds (VOC) content, including cleaning materials, enhancing indoor air quality and minimizing the risk of allergies and health effects to occupants, including maintenance staff
- Air quality monitoring system tests spaces for other harmful gases such as excess carbon dioxide that may impact occupant comfort and health
- Maximized diversion of construction waste from municipal landfill; project established the first drywall recycling program in Halifax Regional Municipality
- Net annual consumption of potable water for building operations significantly reduced through capture, storage and treatment of rainwater for building operations and water efficient fixtures
- Measures to provide efficient thermal operation, including a high-performance building envelope, efficient mechanical systems, and utilization of Nova Scotia's natural gas as the primary heating/cooling source; estimates of energy use indicate this building will be approximately 47 per cent more energy efficient than a building constructed to today's minimum standards
- Developed with careful control and monitoring of the potential impact of the construction site on the adjacent Spectacle Lake Wetland Reserve
- A living green roof that covers nearly half the roof area, the largest in Eastern Canada, further mitigating the loss of habitat that the development of this site might otherwise have caused
- Mixed-mode mechanical systems functions, utilizing sensors and operable windows allowing individual spaces to be naturally ventilated by occupants where possible
- Provision of higher than normal day lighting levels in offices, and occupancy sensors to activate lighting only when it is necessary
- Fully flexible furniture systems planned to accommodate future relocations without need for costly renovations
- Future-proofed building cable management system, which as the work in the building changes, reduces need for duplication, redundancy and renovation construction waste
- Shared spaces, including boardrooms, mailroom, business centres and training rooms, reducing the building's footprint and operational costs
- Site chosen and facilities provided with sustainable transport in support of healthy lifestyle choices
- Locally sourced materials such as wood, brick, concrete, marble, sandstone, and granite used where possible

In addition to these technical enhancements, a memorial wall and garden, dedicated to the memory of RCMP members from H Division who have fallen in the line of duty, provides a formal focus in the building's circular entrance pavilion. There is also a public exhibition area illustrating "H" Division's history in Nova Scotia.

RUSI Tour of the Facility

Members of RUSI (NS) were treated to a tour of the new facility in April 2013 as part of the annual RCMP hosted RUSI evening.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Since our last Dispatches, we have had two new members join the Institute. They are Mr. Jonathon Blanchard and D/Commissioner Steve Graham.

Additionally, the new RCAF representative is LCol Chris Barnard, CO 406 HOTS in Shearwater. He replaces LCol Claude Desgagne who was posted to Ottawa this summer.

Welcome aboard to all.

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

The following meetings has been planned between now and Christmas. All will be held at RA Park.

- a. A full board meeting will be held **Wednesday, Oct. 16th at 1330 hrs.**
- b. The next Executive Meeting will take place on **Wednesday, Nov 20th at 1500 hrs.**
- c. The last full board meeting of the year will take place on **Wednesday, Dec 11th at 1130 hrs.**

RESERVE NOW FOR THE REMEMBRANCE MESS DINNER – Thurs. Nov. 7th.

Remember to get your reservations in to the Secretary at 462-7169 or email: murray.lee@ns.sympatico.ca. soonest. Cheques for the sum of **\$50** are to be mailed in advance to: RUSI (NS) Suite 151, PO Box 99000, Stn Forces, Halifax, NS B3K 5X5.

CONSERVATIVES LEAVING VETERANS OUT IN THE COLD

Most severely disabled soldiers don't qualify for pensions

OTTAWA – According to a new report from the Veterans Ombudsman, measures in the new Veterans Charter will push some of Canada's most severely disabled soldiers into poverty.

New Democrats are reiterating their call for the Conservatives to immediately fix the pressing problems outlined in the report, including the fact that many veterans do not have sufficient retirement income, there's inadequate support for veterans transitioning to civilian careers, and problems exist ensuring that the most severely injured veterans receive the benefits they need.

"We already knew many injured soldiers were left in serious need, now we have stark numbers to back it up," said NDP Defence critic Jack Harris (St. John's East). "This report is unequivocal proof that the government has to take immediate action to support our veterans before this crisis worsens."

The study reveals that over 400 of Canada's most severely disabled veterans do not even qualify for a Canadian Forces Pension. Further, over 600 soldiers who have been declared permanently disabled could also be at risk.

"The government could easily fix many of these problems, for example by removing age 65 restriction on pension eligibility to give the veterans and their families the dignity they deserve," said NDP Veterans Affairs critic Peter Stoffer (Sackville – Eastern Shore). "There's no need to wait for another review – the government can fix these problems immediately."

For more information, please contact:

Kiavash Najafi, Press Secretary: 613-852-6186 or kiavash.najafi@parl.gc.ca

CONSERVATIVES FACE PRESSURE TO OVERHAUL VETERANS' CHARTER

September 30, 2013.

From the Canadian Press:

OTTAWA – The Conservative government, which long claimed its support of Canada's military as a point of pride, faced mounting political pressure Monday to close lingering gaps in its long-championed veterans legislation.

A leaked copy of a Veterans ombudsman's report — slated for release Tuesday but obtained over the weekend by The Canadian Press — confirms there are major problems with a system that was meant to care for and compensate former soldiers for injuries they sustained overseas, the New Democrats say.

The ombudsman's office carried out a detailed comparison of benefits and entitlements between those under the new Veterans Charter and those from the old pension-for-life system, which had been used since the end of the First World War.

Hundreds of the most severely disabled soldiers will take a financial hit after they turn 65 when some charter benefits end, concludes the report by Veterans Ombudsman Guy Parent. Those affected do not have military pensions and face the possibility of spending their final years in poverty, it notes. The report also says the rates of compensation for pain and suffering are inadequate, and don't even meet the level of what is handed out by Canadian courts in personal injury cases.

The Conservatives overhauled the Veterans Charter in 2011 following complaints that it was nowhere near as generous as the old system. Those enhancements, which included more money to replace lost income, will be the subject of a review by a parliamentary committee this fall. But the concerns and gaps regarding elderly veterans and lump-sum compensation payments have been around for a long time — and the government had the chance to deal with the problems two years ago, said NDP defence critic Jack Harris.

"It should have and could have been done before," Harris said. "The fact that this is still an issue is simply mean-spirited, especially since this government is fond of describing soldiers as this country's greatest citizens."

Former defence minister Peter MacKay often invoked the phrase in speeches.

Last week, Veterans Affairs Minister Julian Fantino said the government would support the House of Commons veterans committee in its examination of the effect the government's changes have had. But there has already been "review after review after review," Harris said, and veterans now expect action.

Canadian satellite blasts off on mission to study space weather

[Ivan Semeniuk](#) - Science reporter

The Globe and Mail

Seventeen years after he first proposed the idea, Andrew Yau is finally getting a front-row seat to one of the nearest yet least understood parts of outer space — the part that starts where Earth's atmosphere ends. The University of Calgary physicist is project scientist for CASSIOPE, Canada's latest space mission, which was

successfully launched Sunday atop a rocket built by the private company Space X. “So far so good,” said Dr. Yau. “I’m definitely excited and relieved. Now the real work begins.”

For Dr. Yau and his colleagues, the real work involves a detailed exploration of ionosphere, an ephemeral realm of electric currents, magnetic fields and energized particles that intimately connects our planet to the interplanetary space environment that is dominated by our sun. The 481-kilogram spacecraft is now in an elliptical orbit that is highly inclined with respect to the equator. That will allow CASSIOPE to probe the complexities of Earth’s magnetic field as it converges around the north and south magnetic poles. The spacecraft’s cameras will also spy on the aurorae – the northern and southern lights – that ring the opposite ends of the planet.

It will also directly sample energized atoms are caught up in the magnetic field as they are whipped out into space and the incoming particles from the solar wind that rain down on the poles to create the aurorae – and not just at night when they can be seen from the ground.

“If we’re lucky we’ll have the first opportunity to image the visible aurora on the day side,” said Dr. Yau.

Deputy mission scientist Gordon James said the mission would aid researchers in their efforts to better predict space weather, the sometimes violent fluctuations of energetic particles and fields that are triggered by storms on the sun and can wreak havoc with communications and power systems on Earth. CASSIOPE’s scientific mission has venerable roots that reach back to Canada’s first satellite, Alouette 1, launched in 1962. It was among the first spacecraft to survey the electrically active region beyond the atmosphere known as the ionosphere.

“One might say it’s ‘back to the ionosphere,’” said Dr. James, who is based at the federal Communications Research Centre at Shirleys Bay, near Ottawa, where Alouette 1 was built. “Over the last 50 years, we’ve begun to appreciate the complexity of this important boundary region and the ways it can influence the environment that we live in.”

Announced by the Canadian Space Agency in 2004, CASSIOPE had a longer than expected journey to the launch pad. Space X, founded by Internet mogul Elon Musk, was only two years old then and still working out the bugs in its launch system. The company later took on the task of developing a capsule to supply the International Space Station. Sunday’s launch marked the first use of a new type of engine in the company’s workhorse Falcon 9 rocket.

In addition to CASSIOPE, six small satellites run by Cornell University, the University of Colorado at Boulder and Utah State University were launched as secondary payloads on the same rocket. “The launch was spectacular,” said CASSIOPE program manager Carlos Alonso, who watched the rocket lift off from the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Mr. Alonso is a senior engineer with MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates Ltd. of Richmond B.C., which is the mission’s industry partner and builder of CASSIOPE. He is also overseeing a communications technology package called Cascade, which is flying along with the science instruments on board the spacecraft.

Cascade will demonstrate the high speed transfer of large data files – ranging tens to hundreds of gigabytes in size – via satellite. In future, the technology could be used to relay large amounts of data from remote regions, such as the Arctic or the mid-Pacific.

“The idea is to pick up very large digital data files and deliver them to almost any destination in the world,” Mr. Alonso said.

COMMODORE (RET'D) ERIC LERHE PUBLISHES A NEW BOOK

“AT WHAT COST SOVEREIGNTY”?

About the book: "Does military interoperability with the United States affect Canadian sovereignty? The literature on this subject is highly polarized, arguing either that such interoperability significantly reduces Canadian sovereignty or that it is necessary to maintain it. Successive Canadian governments have supported the military view that high levels of interoperability with the United States are needed for operations to proceed safely and effectively and that this poses no cost to Canadian sovereignty. The critics of interoperability strongly disagree and argue that increased interoperability with the United States will diminish Canada's foreign policy independence, its ability to refuse US military adventures and its domestic sovereignty. Recent books and articles on this subject are marked by shifting definitions and unclear methodologies. These shortcomings have led to a reliance on conjecture, the critics predicting damaging future implications as a result of Canada's interoperability policies, and supporters promising outright gains.

This book attempts to correct these shortcomings. It examines Canada's interoperability history, defines the terms, develops clear hypotheses and then tests them against the key events that have defined Canada's participation in the 'war on terror'. The book examines six case studies that include, among others, Canada's response to 9/11, Canadian detainee policy, and Canadian decisions to participate (or not) in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In examining these case studies, the book relies on much more than the popular literature. Over 20 senior officials were interviewed and 18 agreed to go on record and be named. In addition hundreds of previously classified government documents were accessed and over 40 key ones are cited. US government cables made available via Wikileaks were used to corroborate or disprove recent claims. In addition the author was able to access previously untapped material from the Department of National Defence's ongoing official history project.

Not surprisingly, this book will contribute significantly to a much-needed review of the popular narrative. Some of the more recent accounts dealing with Canada's role in Iraq and Afghanistan have relied on the presence of single convenient factor or the actions of a specific group as they sought to explain Canada's final policy decisions. After reviewing these claims, Dr. Lerhe argues that far more complex decision chains were actually in play.

What are the conclusions? Is Canadian sovereignty at risk from the military interoperability policy? Can Canada enjoy an independent foreign policy? This comprehensive and meticulous study will answer these questions."

<http://www.dal.ca/dept/cfps/publications/AtWhatCost.html>