



## **Mess and RUSI Vancouver Members News June 28, 2011**

### **Wednesday Lunch**

Our lunches, served by Mrs Lum from noon to 1400hrs every Wednesday, feature an excellent 5 course meal for only \$13pp. The first Wednesday of each month is roast beef day, the remainder of the month is up to Mrs Lum. Lunches are open to members of Messes and Associations and their guests.

Lunches will now continue until the Christmas break (barring any unforeseen problems), although there will not be any speaker lunches until Sept. We hope to see many of you through the summer.

Standard Mess dress rules apply, gentlemen wear suits or jackets and ties, ladies the equivalent. Summer dress is now in effect. This does not mean we are going casual; we just remove jackets and ties when it gets too hot in the Mess and many of the long-time members will keep their jackets and ties on as long as the weather is cool.

### **New Colonel Commandant Appointed.**

Director of Artillery, Col Brian McPherson, is pleased to announce that LGen (r) Mike Jeffery, CMM, CD, has been appointed Colonel Commandant of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery by the MND.

On behalf of the men and women of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, the Director of Artillery wishes to thank BGen (r) Ernest Beno for his outstanding support of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery during his tenure as Colonel Commandant.

An official signing ceremony will take place at an event in the fall of 2011 to recognize LGen Jeffery and thank BGen Beno for his considerable contributions to the royal regiment of Canadian artillery family.

### **RCAA President's Second Quarter Report**

Jim Brazill, President of the Royal Canadian Artillery Association, has sent out his second quarter report. Please see attached document.

### **Canada shuffles key diplomatic, military duties**

L Gen Lessard retires after 40 years in uniform

*By Matthew Fisher, Postmedia News June 19, 2011*

A major shuffle in Canada's military and diplomatic corps is in the pipes.

Retired VAdm Glenn Davidson, currently the country's envoy to Syria, will become Canada's next ambassador to Afghanistan later this year. Davidson's more than 35 years in the military should be useful in his new job as Canada moves from a combat mission in the south of Afghanistan to a training mission in the north.

At about the same time, air force LGen Charlie Bouchard, who is leading NATO's air campaign against Libya, is retiring as deputy commander of the Allied Joint Forces Command Naples. Fellow Canadian MGen Marquis Hainse will take over some of Bouchard's duties. But it is not yet known if Hainse, who was NATO's deputy commander in southern Afghanistan four years ago, will also assume Bouchard's role leading the air war in Libya. That decision has yet to be made by NATO.

As well, army MGen Stu Beare, who now oversees NATO's vital police training mission in Afghanistan, will become the new boss of Canadian Forces Expeditionary Command. Beare, an artillery officer who has directed the dramatic growth in size and capability of the Afghan police for the past year, is to be promoted to Lieutenant General when he replaces LGen Marc Lessard, the current CEFCOM commander.

Lessard, a former commander for NATO in southern Afghanistan, is retiring after nearly 40 years in uniform.

CEFCOM is responsible for all Canadian troops overseas, including those fighting against the Taliban in Afghanistan and against Moammar Gadhafi's Libyan regime.

The government has not yet announced the three new appointments. They were confirmed to Postmedia News by multiple sources in Afghanistan and Canada.

Davidson replaces William Crosbie, who is returning after two years at his own request to a position at Ottawa's Department of Foreign Affairs.

© Copyright (c) The Calgary Herald

## **PM makes care of soldiers Brit law**

By STAFF REPORTER Published: 15 May 2011

*PRIME Minister David Cameron has agreed to write the state's duty to look after the welfare of the armed forces and their families into law.*

The military covenant is to be put on a statutory footing for the first time with full details to be revealed tomorrow by Defence Secretary Liam Fox. He is to publish a new Tri-Service Covenant which sets out rights to services such as health, housing and education for forces' children. Amendments to the Armed Forces Bill will incorporate the principles of the covenant. It comes after a campaign led by the Royal British Legion, who said they were delighted by the decision.

Mr Cameron said: "The high esteem we all have for our armed forces will soon be given the recognition it deserves - as part of the law of the land. "We owe them. If we are asking our armed forces to do dangerous jobs in places like Afghanistan and Iraq, we have to ensure that we are doing everything we can for them in return. "The historic agreement we have reached means that, for the first time, the value we place on those brave men and women who put their lives on the line will be written down for all to see."

The Bill will make clear that no-one should be disadvantaged because of their military service and, beyond that, that special treatment could sometimes be justified. Dr Fox is expected to set

out a number of enhanced services for the military, such as doubling the rate of council tax relief to 50 per cent for those serving overseas.

A £3 million boost for schools with high numbers of children from forces family and making it easier for seriously injured service personnel and veterans to access cut-price public transport is expected.

The Royal British Legion termed the move "an historic breakthrough" which would benefit servicemen and their families "for generations to come". Director general Chris Simpkins said it would also help Parliament to scrutinise the treatment of the Armed Forces and their families. He said: "We are particularly pleased that the unique nature of Service will now be acknowledged in the Bill, together with the principle that no disadvantage should arise from Service - real issues for members of the armed forces.

"This is an impressive package of support, but even more impressive is the irrevocable legacy of at last getting the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant written into law. "This is a major step forward for the whole Armed Forces community."

## **UK War dead to be driven down side streets to avoid the public**

*The bodies of soldiers killed in Afghanistan will no longer be honoured with a public parade but will be driven through back streets to avoid upset, it has emerged.*

By [Victoria Ward](#)



*Wootton Bassett was the first town in more than 100 years to be granted the 'Royal' title in recognition of its parades for fallen soldiers Photo: PA*

For several years, the flag-draped coffins of fallen servicemen and women have been met by large crowds who line the streets to pay their respects as they return to British soil.

But repatriation flights are to be diverted and will no longer be

flown back to RAF Lyneham and through the small Wiltshire town of Royal Wootton Bassett, where they were saluted come rain or shine. Instead, they will arrive back to RAF Brize Norton, where they will be driven through the back gate and then down side roads, neatly avoiding the nearby town of Carterton, as they make their way to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. Andrew Robathan, Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, admitted that the decision to avoid public scenes of emotion had been taken deliberately.

The side gate was seen by the Ministry of Defence and the police as the most appropriate way to take out future corteges," he told Radio Oxford. "I am not sure taking coffins in hearses past schools, past families, past married quarters is necessarily the thing that everybody would wish to see ... the focus must be on the families of the dead service personnel. They are the people who care most. That is where our focus is."

The Ministry of Defence said the route from RAF Brize Norton, where flights had landed until the runway was closed for repair work in 2007, was decided by Oxford City Council but claimed that the side gate would be used to ensure minimal disruption to normal operations. A spokesman added: "Consideration has also been given to ensure the dignity and solemnity of the military repatriation ceremony is maintained and to those who are arriving at RAF Brize Norton about to deploy on operations."

Wootton Bassett was the first town in more than 100 years to be granted the "Royal" title in recognition of its parades for fallen soldiers.

John Beauchamp, 80, a local Navy veteran, said: "Wootton Bassett has done a damn good job and anyone who tries to hide it away should emigrate."

## **MOTORCYCLE/R&R MUSIC EVENT JULY 13 TO 17**

Bob Chown tells me that serving and retired service personnel are being offered free camping spots at this event but the tickets for the show are quite expensive.

For details go to: <http://sturgisnorth.com/> or call Cathy at: (604)536-7884

## **From the 'Punitary'**

A piece of string walked into a bar and said "Gimme a beer!" but the bartender said "Get outta here! We don't serve your kind here!" So the string left, but he was thirsty, and he really wanted a beer, so he messed up his hair real badly and looped himself around until he had tied himself into a knot. When the string went back into the bar, the bartender looked at him suspiciously and said "Aren't you that worthless piece of string I just threw outta here?" No, the string replied, "I'm a frayed knot!"

## **Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.**

Radios will fail as soon as you need fire support.