



DISPATCHES

THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NOVA SCOTIA

New Year Edition 2014

Web site: www.rusi.ca

RUSI (NS) 6 MONTH PROGRAM

Day, Date	Time	Location	Remarks
Wed Jan 15	1200-1300	RA Park Air Force Room	Your service reps will present a short overview on the new ranks, structure and organization of the Navy, Army, Air Force and RCMP in Nova Scotia.
Wed Feb 19	1900-2000	RA Park Air Force Room	The Annual General Meeting. Note that this is an evening event and you will be voting for your new Board and the budget.
Wed Mar 19	1200-1300	RA Park Dining Room	Guest speaker will be the Mayor of HRM, Mike Savage who will speak to us on the relationship between Halifax and the military.
Wed Apr 16	1830-2100	RCMP "H" Division	The annual RCMP evening hosted by our RCMP rep, John Ferguson
Wed May 21	1220-1300	RA Park Air Force Room	A talk by Prof. Martin Middlebrook on the First Battle of the Somme. Date is subject to change.
Wed Jun 18	Times TBA	Army Citadel Museum	A look at the newly built WW I displays to commemorate the Centennial of WW I. John Harrison will be our host.

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE. WELCOME TO 2014.

RUSI (NS) HOSTED BY THE PATRON IN RECOGNITION OF OUR 85TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Our Patron, BGen, the Honorable JJ Grant, CMM, ONS, CD, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia hosted 55 RUSI members at a reception at Government House on Wednesday, December 4th. We were very pleased with the turnout and everyone had a wonderful time meeting and greeting not only our members but our invited guests. His Honour spoke to the members and encouraged the Institute to partake in a number of significant events which will occur this year. The three events we will focus on are the Centennial beginning of World War I; the 75th anniversary of the start of World War II; and the One Hundred Years of service of Her Majesty's Royal Canadian Navy submarine

service. You will be provided with more detail as the events roll out. Photographs of the reception will also be displayed on our web site.

FIRST DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER LUNCHEON PLANNED FOR JANUARY 15TH

Our four service representatives have kindly agreed to speak to us at the first Distinguished Speaker luncheon of the New Year. On January 15th, in the Air Force Room at RA Park, the RCN rep, **Cdr George Forward**, the Army rep, **LCol Dale Warner**, the RCAF rep, **LCol Chris Barnard** and the RCMP rep, **Supt. John Ferguson** will each brief us on the myriad of changes which have taken place in the various organizations and will detail the changes in rank insignia and nomenclature. As usual, sandwiches and coffee will be available at a cost of \$5.00.

SECOND EVENT OF 2014 WILL BE OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – PLAN ON ATTENDING THIS EVENING

This year, our AGM will be held on the evening of Wednesday, February 19th. Our evening will commence at 6:30 pm with sandwiches and coffee served prior to the meeting which we plan to commence at 7:00. The main vote will be on your new executive and of course the budget for 2014. Copies of last years minutes, the proposed budget and the reports from the committee Chairs will be sent out to you prior to the event.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN – DUES FOR 2014

2014 is just around the corner and once again, we solicit your dues which have not been raised. The annual dues for the Institute **remain at \$35**. Please send your cheques to us made out to RUSI Nova Scotia at the following address:

RUSI (NS), Suite #151
PO Box 99000 Stn Forces
Halifax, NS B3K 5X5

100th F-35 ROLLS OFF PRODUCTION LINE

The 100th F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter was rolled out on 13 December at Lockheed Martin's Fort Worth facility, with a senior programme executive confident that per unit prices will continue to drop.

The 100th aircraft, an F-35A conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) variant, will be used for initial pilot training at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona. Lockheed Martin has delivered 87 F-35s to the US Department of Defense, and a further 90 are in various stages of production at Fort Worth.

Production in 2014 is being ramped up from 29 to 39 aircraft, which will include first deliveries to Australia, Israel, the Netherlands, Italy, Japan, and Norway.

CANADA CONTEMPLATES BUYING A FLEET OF ARMED DRONES



Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Tom Lawson. PHOTO: THE CANADIAN PRESS/ADRIAN WYLD

WASHINGTON — As Canada moves to modernize its military, it plans to enter the new world of unmanned aircraft but still has not decided whether its fleet of drones should be weaponized, Gen. Tom Lawson, chief of the defence staff, says.

In a speech Tuesday at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, he indicated military leaders see no moral difference in the source of firepower, whether it comes from a rifle or a drone.

“If a kinetic round is propelled towards a confirmed enemy for strategic purposes by a rifle, by an artillery piece, by an aircraft manned or by an aircraft unmanned, any of those that end up with a desired effect is a supportable point of view,” he told a small audience of academics and military officials.

He said the purchase of a fleet of drones is part of the 2008 Canada First Defence Strategy, which promised \$490 billion over the next 20 years for new equipment.

“It’s yet to be determined whether ours will carry lethal capabilities on board or will just simply be for electronic, optical and IR (infrared) surveillance,” he said.

Canada leased drones for surveillance purposes in Afghanistan and currently is using them on board ships in the Arabian Sea “to great effect,” he said. “So we are in the game along with many NATO allies and delighted by the capabilities it gives us to use the high ground in recognizance and surveillance.”

He said drones could be deployed in the Arctic when seasonal weather is too inhospitable for humans. He added that Arctic radar has limited capacity to see beyond the shores of the archipelago. Drones could plug that hole.

“It really is a terribly inhospitable place with a very difficult set of challenges whenever you want to operate anything up there,” he said. “I think likely you will find a mixture of manned aircraft and unmanned vehicles that will provide us that capability (in the Arctic).”

He stated that Canada favours a strong NATO, North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) and the Pacific Rim alliance and stressed that the member nations will continue to expect leadership from the U.S.

“Like most other nations, we will be seeking good, strong, cogent leadership from Americans internationally,” he said. “It’s unfair, certainly, how we all seek the American point of view but what a wonderful thing it says about the people of this nation, the leaders of this nation, that so often that desire from coalition partners is met time and time again.”

He said the close relationship between Canadian and U.S. military is unparalleled in world alliances. Canadian and U.S. military continue to operate under each other’s command at NORAD and in international operations, most recently in Afghanistan. “There is a real spirit of partnership and collaboration that permeates our defence relationship,” he said.

He noted that in NORAD Canada and the U.S. surrendered sovereignty by allowing each other’s military aircraft to cross each country’s borders at will.

“We will continue to seek from the United States certainly at home to be a great partner as the U.S. armed forces have been over I’d say a 100 years in the security of the continent,” he said.

Fielding questions after his speech, Lawson addressed concerns voiced Monday by Auditor General Michael Ferguson about military procurement. Ferguson claimed the government has not budgeted sufficient funds to replace aging destroyers and frigates, putting the Navy at risk of shrinking in size and capabilities.

Lawson said the Canada First Defence Strategy includes replacement of fighter aircraft, replacement of vehicle fleets for the army and a series of ships including Arctic offshore patrol ships, supply ships, support ships and a new combat surface ship.

He said the numbers of these vehicles are in the strategy and “I have every hope they will remain the same.”

He indicated that budgeted figures are for both the purchase of vehicles but also for their long-term operation and maintenance.

He cautioned that these latter figures could be easily adjusted. “The nice thing about that long price is we hold a lever on that so in fact we can throttle back or throttle forward as required to meet strategic and operations needs,” he said.

NAMES FOR RCN’S NEW JOINT SUPPORT SHIPS

Names have been chosen for the Royal Canadian Navy’s two new Joint Support Ships (JSS) which will be built by Vancouver Shipyards Co. Ltd. in North Vancouver BC.

The ships will be named Her Majesty’s Canadian Ship (HMCS) Queenston and HMCS Chateaugay in recognition of the significant battles of Queenston Heights and Chateaugay during the War of 1812. The announcement was made by the Honourable Rob Nicholson, P.C., Q.C., Member of Parliament for Niagara Falls and Minister of National Defence, at a recent ceremony at Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON.

“The names recognize the achievements and sacrifices of those early Canadian soldiers who fought and died in these critical battles during the War of 1812. The War of 1812 was a defining moment in our nation’s history that contributed to shaping our identity as Canadians and ultimately our existence as a country”.

“Canada’s rich military history is a source of inspiration for the men and women who currently serve in the RCN “ said Vice-Admiral Mark Norman, Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy. “The events surrounding the War of 1812 remind us of the sacrifices of soldiers and sailors who fought for their country during a pivotal moment in Canadian history”.

Traditionally, the name of a class of warship is derived from the name of the first vessel in this class to be constructed. HMCS Queenston will be built first, therefore, the two JSS will be known as the Queenston-class.

The two ships will provide underway replenishment capability for fuel and other supplies, and offer hospital facilities and strategic sealift for operations ashore. They will ensure that the military can continue to monitor and defend Canadian waters and make significant contributions to international naval operations. The JSS will provide Canada with a modern, task-tailored, globally deployable support capability for naval task groups for extended periods.

MILITARY’S FIGHTER-JETS REPORTS TO PUT BALL IN OTTAWA’S COURT ON F-35s

OTTAWA — The Globe and Mail

Published Thursday, Jan. 02 2014, 10:00 PM EST

The Canadian Forces have finished exploring the world market for fighter jets, putting pressure on the government to decide whether to launch a competition or forge ahead with the sole-sourced purchase of F-35s before the next election.

According to documents posted on a federal website on Thursday, the Canadian Forces have already prepared draft reports on the price, the technical capabilities and the strategic advantages of the four fighter jets in the running.

“The process is nearly finished,” said an official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The newly released documents suggest the government will have to make its decision in short order because of concerns over the viability of the current fleet of CF-18s, which is set to be phased out between 2017 and 2023. Any decision on the life extension of the CF-18s will depend on Ottawa’s main choice in coming months: whether to launch a full-blown competition for new aircraft, which could take years, or proceed with its initial decision to directly buy a fleet of 65 Lockheed-Martin F-35s, a high-tech aircraft that is still in development.

The process is designed to help the government weigh the risks associated with both scenarios and choose the best option for the Canadian Forces and taxpayers.

The Auditor-General slammed Ottawa’s previous acquisition plan in a report that fuelled a political firestorm in the spring of 2012. There was speculation at the time the government’s seven-point response could bring a final decision after the 2015 general election.

However, the process is moving along swiftly, according to the public summary of meetings of an “independent review panel” that is monitoring the government’s process, which means that the F-35 is set to be a hot political file once again.

The Royal Canadian Air Force presented a series of draft reports to the review panel in late November and early December, including the initial version of the Public Report on the Evaluation of Options that will eventually be released at large. In addition, the RCAF is finishing up its “Integrated Mission Risk Assessment,” that is nearly ready to be presented to a committee of deputy ministers, the documents said. According to the government’s process, the committee of deputy ministers will then present a series of options to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his cabinet, which will make the final decision on the process.

In its 2012 report, the Auditor-General criticized the government’s sole-sourced acquisition process, and raised questions about the long-term cost of the program.

The government responded by creating a National Fighter Procurement Secretariat to oversee its new acquisition process, stating that it was “hitting the reset button.” One of the first steps was to launch an “options analysis” to compare the cost and capabilities of the four fighter jets in contention for the \$40-billion contract: the F-35, the Dassault Rafale, the Boeing Super Hornet and the Eurofighter Typhoon.

However, the Canadian Forces informed the panel of independent experts that it has not managed to obtain detailed financial information from the four aircraft manufacturers. Instead, the government is currently operating with a “rough order of magnitude,” which suggests that Ottawa will need to launch a full competition if it wants guarantees that it is getting the best possible price for its new fighter jets.

The federal government announced to great fanfare in 2010 it would forgo an open competition and buy the Lockheed F-35 because it was the only plane that would serve Canada’s needs. The Conservatives defended the decision in the 2011 election and often excoriated critics who suggested they had made a mistake.

In late 2012, however, the government backed away from its decision as it launched its new process, including the evaluation of the F-35’s major rivals.

HISTORICAL FACT

On April 1st, 2014, the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) will celebrate it’s 90th birthday. Stay tuned for events planned for this occasion, perhaps the re-establishment of RAF rank titles.

IN MEMORIAM

On November 10, 2013, Major George C. Barker, CM,MBE, passed away at his home town of Kentville NS. He had been a member of RUSI since February 1982. May he rest in peace.