

Spring - Summer 2023

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

It is with sadness that I announce that since our last Newsletter, we have lost two of our members – Keith Roden who died on May 12, 2023 and Ian McCrimmon who died on May 22, 2023. We express our condolences and sympathies to the respective families. Both men will be missed by the GCC.

Lt. (N) Andrew McLaughlin, the Public Affairs Officer for the 31 CBG has been posted to the 33 CBG in Ottawa. Andrew was at our last meeting, so I expressed to him our thanks and appreciation for all that he has done over the years to assist the GCC. His well written articles on the 31 CBG helped to make our Newsletter one of the best in Canada. We wish Dr. Andrew McLaughlin well in his new duties.

If you are looking for a special summer outing, please consider visiting a Canadian military location such as the RCR Museum in Wolseley Barracks, HMCS Ojibwa at Port Burwell, Canadian Warplane Heritage in Ancaster, HMCS Haida in Hamilton, the War Museum in Ottawa and/or the National War Memorial also in Ottawa. Each location deserves a visit!

I trust that some of you have taken advantage of visiting the Columbia Sportswear Canada Store, in London - a new benefit of being a member of the GCC. (Designated dates only – watch for notices)

Past Pres. Geoff, Sec. Randy and I had a good meeting with LCol David Meehan of the 31 CBG. We reviewed several talking points focusing on developing a positive ongoing relationship between the 31 CBG and the GCC.

On behalf of the other members of the GCC Executive (Geoff Hutton, Mike Leatham, Kevin Patterson, Phil Dean, Eric Thomson, Randy Harden and John Martin) and myself we wish you a safe and happy summer.

See you on Wed. Sept. 13, 2023.

Tom Dean – President GCC

## Weblinks for Canadian Military Museums

The Royal Canadian Regiment Museum (RCR)  
<https://thercrmuseum.ca/en-ca/>

HMCS Ojibwa  
<http://www.hmcsojibwa.ca/>

Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum  
<https://www.warplane.com/>

HMCS Haida

<https://www.hmcshaida.com/>

Canadian War Museum

<https://www.warmuseum.ca/>

National War Memorial, Ottawa

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/national-inventory-canadian-memorials/details/9429>

## HIGHWAY OF HEROES



Driving east of Toronto on the Highway of Heroes, my wife and I encountered a number of plaques on overpasses and places to honour our heroes like the one pictured above. It prompted us to take moment to reflect and consider those who gave their lives in service to this country.

VP Communications  
Kevin Patterson



*Gathering at HMCS PREVOST Summer Garden Party*



## Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Garden Reception

By Jeff Topping

On a sunny evening in June, amidst a sea of proud veterans, esteemed members of the Royal Canadian Navy, local members of Government and enthusiastic citizens, HMCS PREVOST, in collaboration with The Battle of The Atlantic Memorial Project team, and The Commissionaires hosted a grand garden party to mark the launch of an exciting initiative. This event celebrated those who served during The Battle of The Atlantic and recognized the current serving members of our Royal Canadian Navy. The HMCS PREVOST Garden Party served as a reminder of our shared history and the enduring spirit of those who braved the treacherous waters of the Atlantic.

The Battle of The Atlantic was a pivotal naval campaign during World War II, spanning from 1939 to 1945. It was a relentless struggle between Allied naval forces and enemy U-Boats that aimed to disrupt the vital supply lines across the Atlantic Ocean. The Canadian contribution to the battle was significant, with a notable presence of Royal Canadian Navy ships and thousands of Canadian sailors who risked their lives to protect the convoys vital for the war effort.

The Battle of The Atlantic Memorial Wall of Honour project, launched during the Garden Party, was conceived as a tribute to the sailors and aircrews who served during this critical battle. The project's aim is to create a physical monument that will immortalize the names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, ensuring that their memory remains etched in history. The Wall of Honour will serve as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made to secure our freedom.

To memorialize the sailors who gave everything and have no gravestone to visit, a Wall of Honour will be built at HMCS PREVOST where each of their names will be forged into our nations' memory forever. All the over 2000 members of the Royal Canadian Navy and the 750 Airmen of the Eastern

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### 2023 GCC Executive

President .....	Tom Dean
Past President .....	Geoff Hutton
Vice President .....	Mike Leatham
VP Communications ....	Kevin Patterson
VP Bursaries .....	Dr. Phil Dean
VP Special Projects ....	Eric Thomson
Secretary .....	Randy Harden
Treasurer .....	John Martin

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### Connections Editors

Kevin Patterson - VP Communications  
 Tom Dean - President and Editorial Consultant  
 All GCC screenshots provided by Gary Nash.



GCC's Mission to build a greater understanding, support and appreciation of Canada's military.

Our three fundamental tenets are  
**Support, Assist and Connect.**





Commander of The Royal Canadian Navy, Vice Admiral Angus Topshee, arriving at the garden party

## Memorial Garden Reception *Cont. from page 2*

Command who were lost in the battle will have their names etched into metal panels standing over six feet tall and surrounded by beautiful landscaping. In addition, the project will recognize and honour the contributions made by the Merchant Navy and the 1600 members who lost their lives at sea.



Honouring those who were lost is incredibly important so that their sacrifice is remembered. In addition, it is important that we continue to educate future generations about The Battle of the Atlantic and our Royal Canadian Navy.

For this reason, the project includes a partnership with Educators and creators of Augmented Reality.

This project is leveraging technology to bring the stories and the history to life. Imagine for a moment that you are standing in front of a stone marker of a ship lost and you can scan it with your phone.

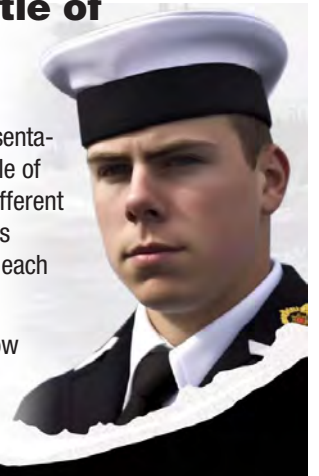
This brings to life a virtual Sailor from that ship on your device, the sailor that tells you about their service, the ship and the story of what happened to it.

Not just the facts and figures of The Battle of The Atlantic but the story of what it was like at sea in a Canadian corvette, during convoy duty, protecting struggling merchant ships trying to cross the cold dark Atlantic Ocean long after air cover from the Royal Canadian Airforce has ended and now wolf packs of U-Boats are hunting trying to sink every ship.

## Stories from the Battle of the Atlantic in Augmented Reality

We propose creating a fictional but representative character to tell the story of the Battle of the Atlantic. This would take form of 3 different AR experiences in which that character is wearing clothing/uniform that represents each of the RCN, RCAF, and Merchant Navy.

Switching between the uniforms will allow us to represent all those who were lost without needing to create all 12 ships.



To turn this vision into reality, the project team is seeking financial support from generous individuals and organizations. Donations will contribute directly to the construction and maintenance of the memorial, including the creation of the beautifully designed Walls of Honour, information panels, landscaping, and educational components.

A space will be created like no other in Canada that Honours, Remembers and Educates. Allied countries all over the world have created significant national monuments and memorials dedicated to those who served during The Battle of The Atlantic. Most of the sailors who were lost to the sea forever have no physical grave where families, friends and Canadians in general can visit to honour, remember, and say thank you. There is no one place in Canada to place a poppy, lay a wreath, and touch all the names or learn about them. It is time Canada paid tribute by creating a national place of remembrance dedicated entirely to The Battle of The Atlantic.

The HMCS PREVOST Garden Party, with the launch of the Battle of The Atlantic Wall of Honour Project, was a momentous event that brought together generations, united in their appreciation for the sacrifices made during The Battle of The Atlantic. It served as a reminder that the stories of courage and heroism should never fade away but rather serve as a guiding light for future generations. The Wall of Honour will ensure that the legacy of sailors and aircrews endures, and their sacrifice will be forever remembered.

To learn more about this project visit the webpage at [www.boamemorial.com](http://www.boamemorial.com)

If you would like to donate:

E-transfer: [donations@boamemorial.com](mailto:donations@boamemorial.com)

(be sure to include name and address in the comment section)

Mail: 90 Compton Court, London ON, N6C4G3

or Contact: Jeff Topping at [jtopping215@gmail.com](mailto:jtopping215@gmail.com)

Thank you for your consideration and potential support.



## ON TARGET: WHY IS THE RCAF NOT EQUIPPED TO FIGHT WILDFIRES?

*By Scott Taylor*

As a resident of Canada's capital, I can admit that the nationwide wildfire crisis suddenly became all too real last week.

A thick smoke haze engulfed Ottawa and much of southern Ontario for several days, prompting health advisories.

Pollution levels literally went off the charts with experts estimating that citizens were exposed to 100 to 200 times the normal range of pollutants.

The prevailing wind currents resulted in most of the eastern U.S. seaboard being blanketed with the same thick pall of smoke.

New York was the hardest hit city, and residents were quick to blame Canada by jokingly referring to the haze as the 'Eh'pocalypse.

As an emergency stop-gap measure, firefighters have been brought in from France, South Africa and the USA to help provincial authorities to battle the still out of control wildfires.

There is no federal agency tasked with fighting these fires, but in some cases provincial governments have requested assistance from the Canadian Armed Forces.

This support will come mainly from the army in the form of actual firefighters on the ground, with the air force providing some emergency airlift of endangered citizens.

The reason for this is that in a country that boasts 362 million hectares of forest – the third largest in the world – our air force is not equipped for, nor tasked with fighting forest fires.

The even crazier part of this equation is that Canadian aerospace industries have historically produced one of the world's most effective water bombers. Originally built by Canadair, the CL-415 was nicknamed the 'Super Scooper' when it first flew in 1993.

A twin-engine propeller plane, the CL-415 was custom designed to allow it to refill with water from lakes near the targeted forest fire, by skimming the surface. This allows the CL-415 far more time on station near the blaze rather than having to return to an actual airfield.

Following Canadair, Bombardier subsequently built the '415' and then in turn it was De Havilland Canada that produced these water bombers.

In October 2016 the CL-415 programme was acquired by the Victoria, BC based Viking Air.

Their aim is to modernize the existing design into what will be renamed the DHC-515 Firefighter, which will be produced at a plant in Calgary.

Spread across Canada, there are approximately 64 of the CL-415 aircraft employed by private companies and provincial governments.

International users of this 'Firefighter' are almost all foreign air forces; Croatia, Greece, Indonesia, Morocco, Portugal and Spain just to name a few.

Which begs the question, why is the RCAF not responsible for fighting forest fires?

As we are currently witnessing, these wildfires pay no need to provincial boundaries.

Our forests are a valuable natural resource; worth I daresay, as much protection as our international borders.

We are barely into this year's wildfire season and it is already one of the most destructive on record. The research indicates that things will only worsen with time. The changes in climate create warmer, drier conditions, increased drought and a longer wildfire season.

For much of North America, projections show that an annual average increase in temperature by 1 degree Celsius will result in an increase in the median burn area by as much as 600% in some forests.

If this is the new reality then Canada needs to act now.

If the threat was of a military nature we would have to find the will and the means to mobilize the necessary resources. Instead, Canada is battling the forces of nature.

However, this is also an opportunity for Canada to shift the focus of our military – particularly our air force – to protecting our resources and by extension Canadians health and welfare as well.

A huge investment in Canadian aerospace to build an iconic Canadian designed water bomber should be a popular one.

In re-rolling the RCAF to be the lead agency in combating wildfires, perhaps this would provide the genesis to create a true Air Reserve located at airfields all across the country.

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## ON TARGET: WHY IS THE RCAF NOT EQUIPPED TO FIGHT WILDFIRES?

*Continued from page 4*

Pilots and crews could be part-time reservists with legislation to protect their jobs when mobilized for active service.

Dropping loads of water on forest fires may not be as exciting as the prospect of engaging Russian fighter jets in a dog fight, but it would still be a hell of a lot more challenging than flying a cargo plane for a courier service.

It would also be great public relations for the Canadian military to have waterbombers bedecked in RCAF markings battling fires to save forests and remote communities.

As the fight against wildfires is seasonally hemispheric, if Canada was to possess such a potent firefighting resource as a 515 Firefighter equipped Air Wing of the RCAF, during our winter they could be deployed into the southern hemisphere.

Think of the international goodwill such support could earn for Canada- just as we are currently thankful to the French, South African and American firefighters here in Canada to help us get through the current crisis.

The threat of increased wildfires is real. The time to act is now.



## GCC June General Meeting

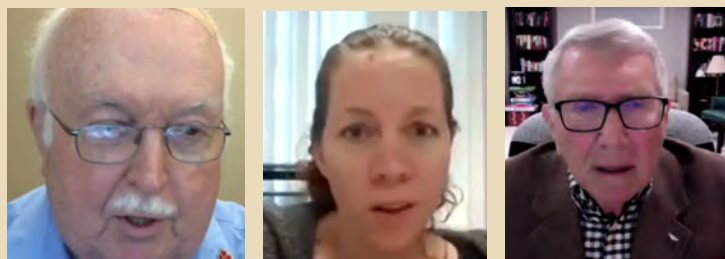


On Wednesday June 14, the GCC held it's June meeting at Sergeant's /Officers' Mess, Beaver Hall, Wolseley Barracks with members in person and on Zoom.

LCol David Meehan and two of his colleagues - Captain Karl Fitzgerald-Sloman and Captain Robert Krizandes attended the meeting. LCol David Meehan is Assistant Chief of Staff at 31 CBG Headquarters London and Commanding Officer of 31 CBG Battle School. He mentioned that there have been many changes in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). LCol Meehan has been working to initiate many of these changes at 31CBG, Wolseley Barracks, London. He expressed his thanks to the GCC for our support for the CAF.

Captain Karl Fitzgerald-Sloman G7 (branch Head), His primary vocation is the G7 Training at 31 Canadian Brigade Headquarters where he oversees all training (scheduling, budgeting, planning, conducting) for 2,000 officers and soldiers. In addition, he is also a Squadron Commander with 31 Signals Regiment, which has him commanding 40 soldiers and officers for both operations and administration. Captain Robert Krizandes, is responsible for 31CGB Canadian Armed Forces recruiting.

Lt. (N) Andrew McLaughlin, the Public Affairs Officer for the 31, was recognized for his years of working with the GCC.



He has provided a volume of stories and images for the GCC newsletter. This publication was all the richer for his contributions.



**Guest Speaker: Jeff Topping**  
**Executive with McDonald's**  
**Restaurants of Canada Limited**  
**President and Board of Directors**  
**Chair for HMCS HAIDA**

Jeff Topping began his career with McDonald's Canada as a member of the crew at the Dundas Street location in London Ontario in 1988 and remained with the company throughout his post-secondary education and then into Restaurant Management training

followed by employment at Head Office where his career has spanned the disciplines of Operations, Field Service, Management Training, Real Estate, Construction and Project Management.

Jeff has made a personal commitment to "serve those who serve" and is very active in multiple communities serving on the Board of Directors for the Naval Association of Canada Nationally and in Toronto.

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## GCC June General Meeting

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In addition, he is an active member of the London Garrison Community Council and serves as a Civilian Instructor at RCSCC COURAGEOUS.

He is very proud to be the President and Board of Directors Chair for HMCS HAIDA with a mandate to Preserve, Protect and Promote the legacy of Canada's most famous warship and flagship of the Royal Canadian Navy.

He resides in London ON, with his wife Debbie and their 3 children.

Jeff's topic was the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial project.



## FUNDRAISING REQUIREMENTS



\$2,000,000 was raised to build the BOA memorial in its current form



\$600,000 is required to create the BOA Memorial Wall of Honour



\$150,000 will be needed to create the Augmented Reality Education Experience



## First King's Colours unfurled



*Soldiers of the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment stand to attention during the battalion's King's and Regimental Colours Parade.*

*Story and photo by Corporal Jacob Joseph.*

With the coronation of the new monarch earlier this year, the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR) has become the first regiment to unveil its new King's and Regimental Colours.

The new Colours were uncased and paraded in front of hundreds of current and ex-serving 6RAR personnel at Gallipoli Barracks this month to mark the battalion's 58th birthday.

New theatre honours for Iraq and East Timor, and the Afghanistan Streamer joined names like Long Tan and other honours of the regiment – battles and operations woven into the fabric of infantry history.

It's a history lived by veterans like John Hazlewood.



*Governor-General General (retd) David Hurley inspects the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment's King's and Regimental Colours. Photo by Corporal Nicole Dorrett.*

Mr Hazlewood was an original member of the battalion and fought in the Battle of Long Tan, an Australian victory against the odds.

Mr Hazlewood and other veterans uncased the old Colours before they were marched in front of the battalion one last time.

The standards brought back memories of mateship.

"We all came together in 1965, half conscripts and half regular soldiers," Mr Hazlewood said.

"Within two or three months we'd all melded together and were working as one.

"The Colours bring it all back to me and I appreciate what they mean to the battalion and Army."



*Soldiers of 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment salute during the King's and Regimental Colours parade at Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane. Photo by Corporal Nicole Dorrett.*

Governor-General General (retd) David Hurley, who joined Chief of Army Lieutenant General Simon Stuart for the parade, said 6RAR had served the country with distinction for the past 58 years.

"The Colours represent the legacy of those who have gone before you," General Hurley said.

"Your service comes with great responsibility; you are custodians of their legacy as you build your own story."

For Major Sean Caughey, Officer Commanding Delta Company, his family's story was as colourful as the banners on the parade ground.

His uncle was a former 6RAR commanding officer, his father was a platoon sergeant and both brothers were section commanders.

"Some of those who've gone before us have paid the ultimate sacrifice," Major Caughey said.

"The Colours are our heritage and we carry them with pride."

## GCC May General Meeting

Speaker: Lieutenant-Commander Hilario Carlo Amunategui  
Commanding Officer, HMCS Moncton

Our speaker for May 10th was Lieutenant-Commander Hilario Carlo Amunategui, Commanding Officer, HMCS Moncton. Born in Manila, Philippines, Carlo immigrated with his family to Mississauga, Ontario in 1992. He joined the Naval Reserves at HMCS Prevost in 2000 as a Naval Communicator, then became a Naval Warfare Officer in 2002. Upon completing Naval Warfare Officer training, he started his seagoing career as a Bridge Watchkeeper onboard HMCS Moncton (2004-2005). He completed the Fleet Navigating Officer's course in 2006, then transferred to the regular force in 2007, joining HMCS Toronto, first as a Bridge Watchkeeper (2007-2008), then as the Navigating Officer (2008-2010). Following the Operations Room Officer course, he was appointed as the Operations Officer, then the Combat Officer onboard HMCS Montréal (2015-2016), followed by a brief period with the Commander Canadian Fleet Atlantic Staff and deployment with the Combined Task Force 150 in Bahrain (2016-2017) Carlo has fulfilled staff roles as a navigation instructor, the current operations officer at the Maritime Component Commander's Staff, and J3 staff at the Canadian Joint Operations Centre. His operational deployments include Operations SEXTANT, ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR, CARRIBE, ARTEMIS, PROJECTION, and GLOBE.

Carlo is a graduate of the Royal Military College with a Bachelor of Arts and a graduate of the Joint Command and Staff Program at the Canadian Forces College. An active athlete, he continues to practice Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, weight training and cycling. He is enabled and supported by his wonderful wife, Mary-Catherine, and two sons, Vincenzo and Ephraim. Carlo and his family reside in Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia.

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## GCC May Meeting Continued from page 8



### OP GLOBE

- Warning order to deploy on [OP GLOBE](#)
- MCT and GLA were the first RCN units deployed on OP GLOBE

### NATIONAL POST

World / News / Canadian Politics / Canada  
 Canada sending two small, slow naval ships to Haiti: Here's what they might do there  
 It's not clear what HMCS Moncton and HMCS Glace Bay can do to help Haiti alleviate its troubles — troubles that mostly exist on land, not at sea  
 Tom Brinkman  
 Published Feb. 15, 2023 • Last updated Feb. 15, 2023 • 4 minutes read  
 Join the conversation



HMCS Moncton, a Canadian Forces maritime coastal defence vessel, (left) and HMCS Glace Bay, a Canadian Forces maritime coastal defence vessel, (right) at sea in the Atlantic Ocean. (PHOTO BY PAUL AGOSTINI/POSTMEDIA/PAZ)



### What's Next?

- Force generating the next generation of sailors
- Preparations for [OP CARIBBE](#) (Nov-Dec 2023)
- Docking work period and hull transfer
- Change of Command?





## GCC April Meeting



Speaker: Colonel B. Christopher A. Brown, CD  
Commander 31 Canadian  
Brigade Group

Colonel Chris Brown joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1986 as a Trooper in the Governor General's Horse Guards (GGHG), and subsequently served in the Army Reserve for his entire career. A graduate of The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina (BA) and the Royal Military College of Canada (MA), he has served in various command and staff positions during his career. This includes operational and training deployments across North America, Europe, Africa and the South Pacific.

Post-Command, Colonel Brown served as a 4th Canadian Division (4 Div) Headquarters Reserve Advisor, working on key projects which included the development of an orientation program for newly appointed Army Reserve Honorary Colonels. As a secondary duty, he was appointed Deputy Director (Reserve) of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps (2017-2022). Promoted to Colonel in 2018, he transferred to the 5 Div and served as Assistant Chief of Staff. In 2020 he returned to 4 Div as Assistant Chief of Staff.

Outside the Army Reserve, he is an executive with General Dynamics Land Systems. He serves on the Board of Directors for two industry organizations: Next Generation Manufacturing Canada (NGen) and the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries (CADSI).



Royal Canadian Legion  
Insulated 3-in-one Tumbler







## Canadian Armed Forces to Train Ukrainian Junior Officers in Latvia

Defence Minister Anita Anand welcomed the Minister of Defence of Latvia, Ms. Ināra Mūrniece, to Ottawa. During the visit, Minister Anand reaffirmed Canada's commitment to Latvia's security. Approximately 800 Canadian Armed Forces members are currently deployed to Latvia, where Canada has served as Framework Nation of the NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group Latvia since 2017.

Ministers Anand and Mūrniece announced that Canada and Latvia will jointly train Ukrainian combat leaders on Latvian soil, beginning as early as May 15 of this year. Jointly developed by the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and the Latvian National Armed Forces, this program will see CAF and Latvian National Armed Forces members delivering much-needed Junior Officer leadership development training for the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) through Operation UNIFIER.

This training comes in addition to the Canadian Armed Forces' other ongoing deployments through Operation UNIFIER in support of Ukraine:

- Approximately eighty Canadian Armed Forces members are deployed to Poland under Operation UNIFIER.
- Approximately 170 Canadian Armed Forces members are deployed to the United Kingdom under Operation UNIFIER, where they are training members of the AFU on individual skills required for frontline combat, including weapons handling, battlefield first aid, fieldcraft, patrol tactics and the Law of Armed Conflict.
- Minister Anand and Minister Mūrniece also reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the Canada-Latvia Joint Declaration signed in June 2022 at the Madrid Summit. In this joint declaration, Canada agreed to:
- Continue to lead NATO forces as the Framework Nation in Latvia;

- Work with Latvia and NATO Allies to generate and stage forces in order to surge to a combat capable brigade;
- Establish and lead elements of a forward brigade command and control;
- Be prepared to provide critical capabilities to operations, such as ammunition and explosives, air defence systems, and anti-tank weapons systems.

Planning continues between Canada, Latvia, and other eFP Battle Group contributing nations in order to surge the battle group to a combat capable brigade.

Canada and Latvia share a long history of military cooperation and partnership. Ministers Anand and Mūrniece discussed issues of mutual interest in the lead-up to this summer's NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, and reaffirmed both countries' commitment to strengthening NATO's deterrence and defence posture and the security of the Euro-Atlantic area.

On May 9, 2023, the two ministers visited 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group at 4th Canadian Division Support Base Petawawa where they met with Canadian soldiers and participated in a tour of military vehicles and specialized equipment.

"Latvia and Canada are close NATO Allies, united through our strong defence relationship and mutual commitment to supporting Ukraine as it defends itself against Russia's illegal and unjustifiable war. The expansion of our training for Ukrainian military officers will contribute to Ukraine's battlefield success, and provide yet another opportunity for Canadian and Latvian troops to work together. I thank Minister Mūrniece for her strong cooperation, and I thank the people of Latvia for their ongoing hospitality to members of the Canadian Armed Forces." The Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of National Defence

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## Canadian Armed Forces to Train Ukrainian Junior Officers in Latvia

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### ADDITIONAL INFO

- Canada is committed to strengthening NATO's deterrence and defence posture in Eastern Europe. Approximately 1,100 CAF members are currently deployed as part of Operation REASSURANCE, Canada's current largest international military operation.
- As the Framework Nation for NATO's enhanced Forward Presence in Latvia, Canada leads an eleven-nation multinational battle group and coordinates with Latvia and the contributing nations to help set the tone, pace, and vision for this Battle Group.
- The Canadian component of the enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group comprises a mechanized infantry company, an artillery battery, a combat support company, and a combat service support company.

- The CAF is currently supporting four training ongoing missions under Operation UNIFIER, providing both basic and advanced military skills to the Security Forces of Ukraine, enabling them to apply those teachings on the front lines. These training missions include basic recruit training in the United Kingdom, as well as more specialized combat engineer, combat medical, and tank crew training occurring in Poland, and will soon begin Leadership training in partnership with Latvia.
- Since the beginning of 2022, Canada has committed over \$8 billion in direct financial, military, humanitarian, and other assistance to Ukraine.



## GCC March General Meeting



Our speaker: Graham Henderson

Our speaker on Wednesday March 8th was Graham Henderson Chief Executive Officer at the London Chamber of Commerce. Graham is an experienced Strategic Advisor with a demonstrated history of working in the music industry. Skilled in Business Planning, Team Building, Fundraising, Corporate Governance, and Strategic Planning. Strong business development professional with a Bachelor of Laws from University of Toronto. Graham will describe the purpose of the London Chamber of Commerce and describe some of the Chamber's initiatives that positively influence London's social and economic landscape.

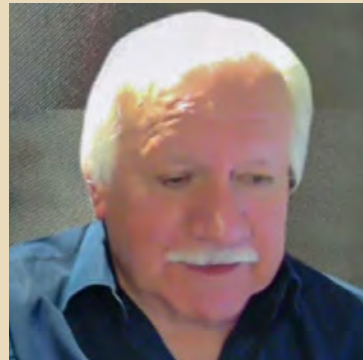
*Continued on page 13*





## GCC March General Meeting

Continued from page 12



## Canada Extends Operation IMPACT



The Government of Canada has extended Operation IMPACT until March 31, 2025. Operation IMPACT is the Canadian Armed Forces' mission in the Middle East.

Through this mission, the Canadian Armed Forces are deployed to build the military capabilities of regional partners and set the conditions for stability and security in the region. Canada's military efforts are diverse and include contributions to the Global Coalition against Daesh; contributions to NATO Mission Iraq; and contributions to building the military capabilities of Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon.

This extension will allow the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) to continue to play an important role in supporting regional partners in the advancement of peace and security.

Operation IMPACT will continue with the same mandate with CAF contributions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the military line of effort under the Global Coalition Against Daesh, and NATO Mission Iraq. The CAF will also continue to

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## Canada Extends Operation IMPACT

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provide training and capacity-building assistance on a bilateral basis with the Jordanian and Lebanese Armed Forces and will continue to provide episodic airlift support to the Coalition from its Operational Support Hub in Kuwait.

The presence of CAF personnel in the Middle East, and the capacity-building assistance programmes, support our regional partners' security forces, enhancing stability and security in the Middle East.

"Our personnel deployed on Operation IMPACT are helping to advance stability and security in the Middle East. When I visited them in December, I saw directly how their presence makes a difference to our partners and Allies. The Canadian Armed Forces contribute to the prosperity of the region and enhance security as well. With today's extension, Canada is again demonstrating its commitment to our regional partners and NATO Allies." The Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of National Defence

### ADDITIONAL INFO

- Since its launch in 2014, Operation IMPACT has provided training to 4,500 Iraqi Security Force members, over 3,400 members of the Lebanese Armed Forces, and 400 members of the Jordanian Armed Forces.
- In support of the Coalition, Canada conducts train, advise and assist operations with the Iraqi Security Forces and deploys personnel to enhance in-theatre tactical transport, including casualty evacuations, if required.
- Joint Task Force IMPACT headquarters and the Operational Support Hub continue to operate in Kuwait. Operation IMPACT includes episodic CC-130J Hercules Tactical Airlift support to move personnel and cargo in the joint area of operations.



## Honouring our four-legged heroes

**CAPTION:** RAAF military working dog handlers from 2SECFOR and their explosive detection dogs: (l-r) Sergeant Marc Douglas with Ollie, Leading Aircraftman Michael Robertson with Piper, and Corporal Alex Randles with Rex. Story by Flight Lieutenant Claire Campbell. All photos by Warrant Officer Class Two Kim Allen.

*By Security Forces Squadron, RAAF Amberley*

Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force personnel have participated in a service to honour the loyalty and commitment of military working dogs (MWD) over decades of service, including on operations overseas.

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## Honouring our four-legged heroes

*Continued from page 14*

The personnel joined the ADF Trackers and War Dogs Association, government representatives and community members at a commemorative service, in Wacol, Queensland, to mark National Military Working Dog Day on June 7.

Personnel and dogs from 2 Security Forces Squadron (2SECFOR) from RAAF Base Amberley took part in a series of activities highlighting the importance of this capability to the ADF.

Sergeant Marc Douglas, RAAF explosive detection dog capability manager at 2SECFOR, said the day was a time to reflect on the life and service of his MWD Ajax who died in 2017, as well as a reminder to cherish every moment with his explosive detection dog (EDD) Cowboy, who retired into his care last year.

“These dogs, and all the furry warriors I have worked with over the past 16 years, are the reason I serve in our defence force and do so with pride and joy as an MWD handler,” he said.

“It was Cowboy who taught me how to become an off-leash detection dog handler and it struck me when we graduated the course, I could never explain to him what he had done for me.”

June 7 marks the death of the first Australian EDD handler killed on overseas operations.

Sapper Darren Smith and his dog Herbie, along with Sapper Jacob Moerland, were killed in action in Afghanistan in 2010.

The service was held at the Military and Service Working Dog National Monument at the RSPCA Brisbane Animal Care Campus, with three EDDs and their handlers in attendance.

As part of Combat Support Group, MWDs are located on most RAAF bases around Australia and provide security, emergency response, and protection of Royal Australian Air Force’s aircraft and people.

These canines are exceptionally skilled and loyal, playing a vital role in protecting personnel, detecting threats and providing companionship when troops are far from home.

MWDs are a key element of the RAAF and will continue to adapt to a changing security environment over the years, through the implementation of the Security Force Transformation.

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## Every Member should be a GCCPP (Garrison Community Council Project Person)



## Who Can Participate in the GCC? All Of Us!

The Garrison Community Council is open to any individual, or organization representative wishing to participate in any activity to raise awareness of and support for the local military community - past and present.