

Summer 2024

From the desk of the President

The Olympics captivated audiences around the world as France displayed its flair in the opening ceremonies.

The outstanding performances from our young Canadian participants made one feel proud to be a Canadian. Local athletes won several medals. It shows that with talent, dedication and hard work good results can still happen.

The CBC carried extensive coverage of the events and medal presentations. The CBC is a national institution well worth preserving.

Our congratulations are extended to Gen. Jennie Carignan on her appointment as the new Chief of the Defence Staff. (See article inside.) Gen. Carignan has several important matters awaiting her attention. The problems of the Canadian military are complex, and they will not be solved easily nor quickly.

Several significant military events occurred in London and coverage of these events is covered in this issue of Connections. We thank our GCC members who became photographers for the GCC at these events.

Our VP Programming, Grant Hopcroft, is working on obtaining good speakers who are interesting and informative for the start of the GCC fall session.

I am pleased to announce that Past President Geoff has won the Ed Holder membership recruitment prize. Congratulations Geoff – enjoy!

The summer holiday period is coming to a close and the children are starting to think about returning to school as we are thinking about resuming our GCC activities.

I have just finished reading, “When The Sea Came Alive, An Oral History of D-Day” by Garrett M. Graff. It was an enlightening account of D-Day, the extensive preparations required and the coordinated implementation of the attack plan. The human side of the day comes very much alive with first person recollections. The hard cover book is over 500 pages but is well worth a read.

Tom Dean – President – GCC

Images from the 1st Hussars D-Day Event

Soldiers, veterans and families commemorated the 80th Anniversary of D-Day at Victoria Park in London on June 2nd 2024. The D-Day commemoration becomes more important with each passing year because those who took part are passing away.



London D Day Event Images *Continued from page 1*



Planes Spotted over London

The B-17 flew over the house about 0830h Saturday morning. I managed to grab the camera and a long lens quickly enough to get a shot. I pondered if the B-25 would come around as well. And sure enough, it did two hours later. These planes are from the Commemorative Air Force. <https://commemorativeairforce.org/> - Photos and text by Dave Barton



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Connections Editors

- Kevin Patterson - VP Communications
- Tom Dean - President and Editorial Consultant
- GCC Screenshots - Gary Nash
- Event photos - Jack Scott, Randy Harden, Eric Thomson



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

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

Lieutenant-General Jennie Carignan Appointed as New Chief of the Defence Staff



The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced the upcoming appointment of Lieutenant-General Jennie Carignan, currently Chief, Professional Conduct and Culture, National Defence, as Chief of the Defence Staff. She will be promoted to the rank of General and will replace the current Chief of the Defence Staff, General Wayne Eyre, who is retiring from the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF).

Lieutenant-General Carignan will be the first woman in our country's history to lead the CAF. Her military career in service of Canada and Canadians spans over 35 years and includes commanding two Combat Engineer Regiments and the 2nd Canadian Division, where she led more than 10,000 soldiers and spearheaded crisis operations during flood relief efforts in Quebec.

In 2008, Lieutenant-General Carignan became the first woman in CAF history to command a combat arms unit. She deployed to Afghanistan the following year, and also served in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Syria. From 2019 to 2020, she led NATO Mission Iraq, helping to strengthen Iraqi security institutions and forces to fight terrorism and stabilize the country. She was promoted to her current rank in 2021 and has served for the past three years as Chief, Professional Conduct and Culture, National Defence, leading efforts to transform the culture of the CAF. Lieutenant-General Carignan has received numerous accolades in recognition of her dedicated and exceptional service, including the Meritorious Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Cross.

In the face of new and evolving security threats, the CAF are more important than ever, from defending our continent – including in the Arctic – and providing life-saving assistance to Canadians affected by natural disasters to strengthening NATO's collective defence and providing military support to Ukraine. In her new role as Chief of the Defence Staff, Lieutenant-General Carignan will oversee the CAF's ongoing operations, at home and around the world, in support of these important goals, while continuing to advance our efforts to build a respectful and inclusive environment for members of our Armed Forces.

The Prime Minister reiterated his thanks to General Eyre for his leadership as Chief of the Defence Staff since 2021, and congratulated him on his retirement, following 40 years of distinguished military service. General Eyre will continue to serve in his role until the appointment of the new Chief of the Defence Staff takes effect at a Change of Command ceremony to be held on July 18, 2024.

"I congratulate Lieutenant-General Jennie Carignan on her upcoming appointment. Over the course of her career, her exceptional leadership qualities, commitment to excellence, and dedication to service have been a tremendous asset to our Armed Forces. I am confident that, as Canada's new Chief of the Defence Staff, she will help Canada be stronger, more secure, and ready to tackle global security challenges."

— The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

"Lieutenant-General Jennie Carignan has served Canada with great distinction both at home and abroad. Throughout her career, she has had a proven track record of excellence on difficult operations. Her extensive experience makes her the right person to lead the Canadian Armed Forces through emerging security challenges – and I am confident in the future of this crucial institution under her leadership. I extend my sincere congratulations to Lieutenant-General Carignan on her appointment as Chief of the Defence Staff and look forward to our continued work together."

— The Hon. Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence

ADDITIONAL INFO

- The Chief of the Defence Staff is charged with the control and administration of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and is also responsible for military strategy, plans, and requirements.
- The Chief of the Defence Staff is appointed by the Governor General, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. As commander-in-chief of Canada, the Governor General plays a major role in recognizing the importance of Canada's military at home and abroad.

GCC June General Meeting



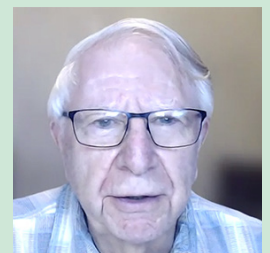
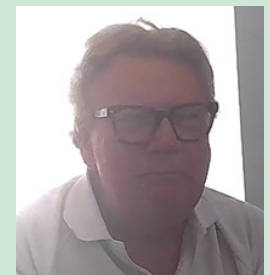
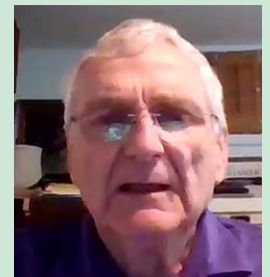
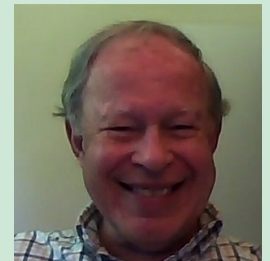
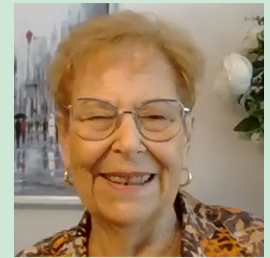
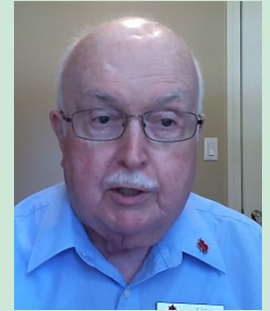
Our Speaker for the GCC's June AGM Meeting
Shekhar Gothi
Canadian Corps of Commissionaires

He presented information about the ways in which Commissionaires support serving and past-serving members of the CAF, both Regular and Reserves.

Shekhar Gothi joined the senior management team of Commissionaires Great Lakes in March 2024 as Vice President, Partnerships. Reporting to the Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Shekhar leads strategic engagement and partnerships with all levels of government and industry.

Shekhar joined Commissionaires following a 33-year career in the Royal Canadian Navy that included senior appointments both at sea and ashore. He deployed on two United Nations peacekeeping missions, first to Sudan in 2008 and then to Haiti in 2009-2010, commanded HMCS STAR, and most recently served as Innovation Director for the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM).

He serves in a volunteer capacity as Chief Aide-de-Camp to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, overseeing a team of 65 Aides and volunteers throughout the province.



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GCC June General Meeting *Continued from Page 4*

BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL

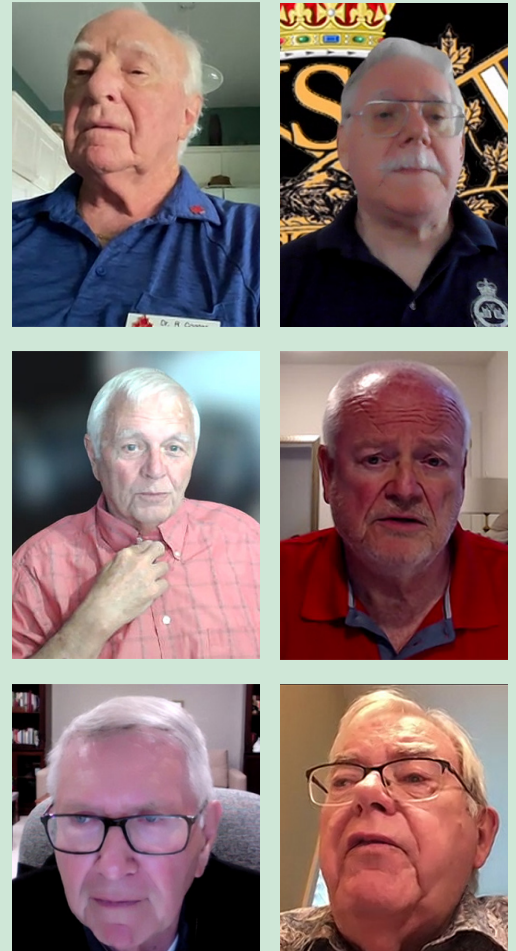
WHY WORK WITH US?

- Supportive employer of reservists: generous reserve service leave program – take as much time as you need
- We understand reserve service: flexible schedules and seasonal work available, full-time, part-time or casual.
- Higher-than industry pay rates
- Gain experience for careers in law enforcement or corrections
- Career opportunities in a large, national security organization
- Medical and dental benefits

This is why we have the highest employee retention rate in the security industry at 80%: twice the industry average



COMMISSIONAIRES



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.

ON TARGET: QUESTIONING CANADA'S NATO COMMITMENT



By Scott Taylor

Last Wednesday NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg was hosted by the NATO Association of Canada at a private dinner in Ottawa.

In addition to Stoltenberg using the occasion to browbeat the Canadian government into spending more on national defence, the attendees gathered to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the military alliance. The original Charter of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was signed on 4 April, 1949 by the original 12 members, of which Canada was proud to be among.

Those were the early days of the Cold War and the threat of the Soviet Union spreading communism throughout Western Europe was a clear and present danger. The key component of the NATO charter remains Article 5 which outlines a commitment to collective defence.

While it was fear of Soviet expansion that prompted NATO members to form the alliance, once formed it was fear of NATO aggression that prompted the Soviet Union to form the Warsaw Pact in May 1955. This communist bloc alliance included Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. With the exception of Albania withdrawing from the Warsaw Pact in 1968 and four more countries joining NATO that was pretty much the opposing line-ups on either side of the 'Iron Curtain' that divided Europe until the collapse of the Soviet Union between 1989 and 1992.

Thankfully for all involved, at no time during those tense years was article 5 of the NATO Charter ever invoked. However, with the threat of the Soviet Union removed, the question now begged what to do with this untested massive military alliance known as NATO?

For those hawks in high places, the answer was to expand the membership. The thaw of the Cold War changed the map of Europe with East Germany reunifying with West Germany.

Former Warsaw Pact members eagerly got in line to join NATO; Hungary, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania and both of the now separate republics of Czechia and Slovakia have become NATO members.

The breakup of Yugoslavia from 1990 until 1995 created the new states of Slovenia, Croatia, North Macedonia and Montenegro, all of whom are now NATO members.

The three former Soviet Baltic states -Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia have also joined the ranks of the alliance. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, both Sweden and Finland have added their not inconsiderable military might to the alliance. This brings the total membership to 32 developed nations, fielding the most sophisticated weaponry in the world.

So for Stoltenberg and the NATO groupies making merry at the 75th anniversary celebration last week, just what milestones exactly would they be heralding?

Well in 1999 NATO violated international law by bombing Serbia for 78 days. After an unexpected stubborn resistance by the Serbs, that tiny country finally submitted to the NATO alliance.

Although it was not until 2008 that the disputed province of Kosovo declared itself an independent state, the desired result of NATO redrawing the map of Europe through military force remains a political mess. Kosovo still does not have full status at the UN as 89 of 193 member nations still recognize Kosovo as the sovereign territory of Serbia.

Within the European Union there are five member states blocking Kosovo from membership for the same reason. In a recent article on Kosovo, Matthew Karnitschnig of Politico wrote: "Put simply, even after decades of American aid and support, the country remains an economic and political basket case."

The article also outlined that Kosovo has one of the lowest per-capita GDP's in Europe, a poverty rate of over 20 percent, and is plagued by corruption and political turmoil.

So, not much to celebrate there. In September 2001, in the wake of 9-11 all NATO members heeded US President George Bush's invocation of Article 5 of the NATO Charter.

While possibly reassuring to the US public, almost every UN member also agree to be an ally in the War against Terror. So no biggie.

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ON TARGET: QUESTIONING CANADA'S NATO COMMITMENT

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Then there was the Afghanistan fiasco. NATO troops, including Canadians, fought for more than a decade in that country. The end result was a failure in 2021 when the Taliban took over. Better to forget that one.

In 2011 NATO took the lead role in fulfilling United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973 which called for a no-fly zone over the skies of Libya. The NATO generals promptly empowered themselves to bomb the bejeezus out of President Moamar Gadhaffi's loyalist forces. After 10 months of aerial bombardment the various rebel factions succeeded in murdering Gadhaffi.

However the fractious rebel forces immediately began fighting each other and Libya was plunged into a bloody anarchy that continues to this day. So not really worthy of a Victory Parade, but nonetheless Canada staged a full ceremony with flypast on Parliament Hill to celebrate NATO's defeat of Libya.

In 2018 NATO agreed to assist the US coalition in Iraq. While the NATO flag may still fly over some heavily guarded Green Zone buildings in Baghdad, the alliance has no more chance of a successful exit from Iraq than we did with Afghanistan.

With a 75-year track record of 1 for 5, maybe NATO should have simply disbanded after they won the Cold War.



espritdecorps
CANADIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE

Young Newfoundland and Labradorian Reservist feels kinship with unknown soldier



Honouring the past, preparing for the future

Private Benjamin Miller feels a deep connection to a fellow Newfoundlander his age who died 100 years ago, even though he doesn't know the boy's name.

The 16-year-old Newfoundland Reservist says the repatriation of the remains of an unknown Newfoundland First World War soldier killed in France carries great significance for all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

"He's returning home in the same colours he left in," said Miller, 16, who joined the 1st Royal Newfoundland Regiment in February 2024.

"Those boys were sent off to the front lines. They were teenagers, just like me."

Miller, whose great-grandfather was in the Merchant Navy in the First World War, says he's made his family proud by choosing military service. He is currently the youngest serving member of his regiment. "My Pop is pretty proud of me."

The Grade 11 student at Holy Spirit High School in Conception Bay South likes math, working out and tinkering with cars. He says he grew up hearing stories of the devastating losses Newfoundlanders and Labradorians suffered during the Great War.

This unknown soldier represents all of those who didn't get to come home.

"It took him 100 years to get this honour he so deserved."

Newfoundland was a British dominion separate from Canada during the First and Second World Wars. About 12,000 Newfoundlanders served during the Great War, with more than 1,700 dying in the field. There are no known graves for about 800 of those killed.

That makes bringing this soldier's remains home a very important event for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, Miller said.

During a ceremony at the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial on 25 May 2024, the Government of France transferred the remains of an unknown First World War Newfoundland soldier to Canada. The Canadian Armed Forces then transported the remains to Newfoundland and Labrador later that day. The hearse travelled past key locations in St. John's.

These would have been local landmarks members of the Newfoundland Regiment passed as they left the city to go to war.

The public may pay respects to the soldier during a lying-in-state from 28 to 30 June 2024 at the Confederation Building, overlooking the city of St. John's.

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Young Newfoundland and Labradorian Reservist feels kinship with unknown soldier

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This Memorial Day is the 100th anniversary of the unveiling of the Newfoundland National War Memorial. As part of this ceremony, a new tomb will be unveiled at the base of the memorial and the remains of an unknown soldier will be reinterred. The memorial is located on the harbour, where his regiment sailed from a century ago.

The tomb of an unknown Newfoundland First World War soldier will represent all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians from all branches of service who have no known grave.

As Miller looks forward with anticipation and excitement to his own military future, he reflects on his home province's rich military history.

"That is something I hold close to my heart. They made such a great sacrifice, the ultimate sacrifice. We can't forget that," he says. "Now he can finally be at rest."

- from the July 2024 version of **SALUTE**



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

Change in command HMCS Prevost

On June 8, HMCS Prevost marked a change of command, from Cdr Hong to Cdr Butler. We thank the people of London for supporting this event!



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Change in command HMCS Prevest

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Change in command 31 Service Battalion

31 Service Battalion conducted a unit change of command parade on 8 June, 2024 at Wolseley Barracks, London, Ontario.

Colonel Brown presided over the ceremony as Lieutenant-Colonel Stéphane Briand officially passed command authority of the Battalion to Lieutenant-Colonel David Meehan.

The day was celebrated with museum tours, static displays and demonstrations as the unit showcased its unit pride and capabilities.

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Change in command 31 Service Battalion

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Looking for Funds* to Assist with your Further Education?



STUDENT BURSARIES 2024

In appreciation of your service, London and Region's Garrison Community Council, with support from General Dynamics Land Systems - Canada and Militex Coatings Inc. in London, will award a number of bursaries to serving military personnel in Primary Reserve units who are enrolled in post-secondary education. Each bursary is worth \$1,000 and may be used for any educational expense.

***Tax free, by CRA regulation, when used for post-secondary education.**

HOW TO APPLY

Relevant information and Applications Forms etc. are available on the GCC website under Bursaries at

<https://gcclondon.ca/bursaries-page/>

Applications must be submitted in electronic format only and sent by e-mail to: garrisoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Reservists serving in the following units and are eligible to apply for a GCC Bursary:

HMCS Prevost	London
31 Canadian Brigade Group HQ	London
1st Hussars	London, Sarnia
31 Combat Engineer Regiment (The Elgin's)	St. Thomas, Waterloo
31 Signal Regiment Detachment	London
4th Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment	London, Stratford
31 Service Battalion	London, Windsor, Hamilton
31 Military Police	London

The submission deadline for applications is

8 November 2024



EVERYTHING'S SIR GARNET

By Vincent J. Curtis

"Everything's Sir Garnet" was, for over a hundred years, an expression in the Canadian army that meant all was in good order. The reference is to Sir Garnet Wolseley, 1st Viscount Wolseley, after whom Wolseley Barracks in London, Ontario, was named. Wolseley commanded the Red River Expedition which, in August, 1870, bloodlessly put down the first Riel Rebellion.

Wolseley was born in Dublin, Ireland, on 4 June 1833, the son of a British army officer who died when Garnet was still a boy. His impoverished family could send him to school only in Dublin, and he was forced to leave school at the age of 14. Unable to afford the purchase of a commission, Wolseley was nevertheless gazetted an ensign in the 12th Foot on 12 March 1852, in recognition of his father's service.

Wolseley served in the Second Anglo-Burmese war in 1852, where he was severely wounded and invalidated home.

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EVERYTHING'S SIR GARNET

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Promoted successively to Lieutenant and then to Captain, Wolseley was sent to Crimea in December 1854. Significantly, he was seconded to the Royal Engineers during the siege of Sevastopol, and then appointed to the Quartermaster General staff for the re-embarkation of British forces at the end of that war. Wolseley was twice wounded and twice mentioned in dispatches.

Wolseley next saw action in the Indian Mutiny, distinguishing himself at the relief of Lucknow and in the defense of the Alambagh position. He ended the war appointed deputy assistant Quartermaster General of a division, eventually to be promoted to brevet lieutenant-colonel, having frequently been MID'd. He followed his division to China for the Anglo-French expedition of 1860 where, again, he distinguished himself, and promoted substantive Major.

As a result of the Trent Affair arising from the American Civil War, Wolseley was sent to Canada in November, 1861, as a special service officer. He seems to have spent a lot of time throughout the war in the confederate states as a military observer. At its end, Wolseley returned to the province of Canada, was promoted brevet colonel (on 5 June 1865) and appointed Assistant Quartermaster General. Involved in repelling the Fenian Raids of 1866, Wolseley was appointed AQMG for Canada on 1 Oct 1867, and was in that role when the Red River Rebellion broke out.

The Wolseley Expedition set out for Fort Garry (present day Winnipeg) from Fort York, Toronto, on 1 May 1870 with the following forces:

1st Bn 60th Reg't of Foot, 377 all ranks

Det Royal Artillery, 1 officer, 19 ORs, 4 x 7 pdr brass mountain guns

Det Royal Engineers, 1 Officer, 19 ORs

Det ASvcC

Det AHospC

1St (Ontario) Rifles, 29 officers, 350 ORs

2nd (Quebec) Rifles, 29 officers, 350 ORs

plus about 400 aboriginal voyageurs, 150 horses and 100 teamsters that were hired and employed along the way.

The expedition travelled to Georgian Bay, likely by rail, and embarked upon two steamers, the Algoma and the Chicora, to take it to Thunder Bay on Lake Superior, passing through the St. Mary's Canal at Sault Ste. Marie along the way.

Problem was, the canal passed through U.S. territory; and, while Wolseley was able to sneak the Algoma past the

sleeping U.S. Customs agents, they refused to let the Chicora through, since it would mean allowing British soldiers onto U.S. territory. Wolseley was forced to unload the boat and make a three-mile portage of men and material on the Canadian side of the river, the emptied steamer being allowed to pass through U.S. territory.

Re-embarking, the Expedition reached the Department of Public Works station at Thunder Bay on May 25th. From there, Wolseley moved west to Lake Shebandowan, and departed for Fort Garry in canoes from there. Crossing the lake, the expedition followed an old Hudson's Bay Company trap line until they reached Lake Kashabowie and discovered the Dawson Trail, incompletely constructed for the expedition, but enabling them to reach Fort Francis on August 4th.

Crossing the lake, the expedition followed an old Hudson's Bay Company trap line until they reached Lake Kashabowie and discovered the Dawson Trail, incompletely constructed for the expedition, but enabling them to reach Fort Francis on August 4th. Wolseley reached Lake of the Woods at Rat Portage (present day Kenora, Ontario) on August 15th. They floated down the Winnipeg River to Lake Winnipeg, and thence across the lake to where the Red River empties into it. Wolseley formed up his troops, marched upon Fort Garry, and, finding the southern gate open and the fort abandoned, occupied the place on August 24th, without a shot being fired. Riel and his government had fled, and Dominion sovereignty was firmly established over the new province of Manitoba.

Wolseley transported over 1000 men, all their supplies and materials, and artillery across hundreds of miles of trackless Canadian bush, at the height of summer, while plagued with blackflies and mosquitoes. The expedition's success was a testament to Wolseley's foresight and preparations, from which his long experience as QMS and time with the Royal Engineers played no small part.

Field Marshal Wolseley ended his career as the Commander in Chief of the British Army on 3 January 1901. He died, aged 79, on March 25, 1913, and is buried, fittingly, in St. Paul's Cathedral, London.





By Joetey Attariwala

If you've visited Southwest Ontario recently and heard some unusual sounds coming from the sky, look up. Sky watchers will be treated to the sights and sounds of flight test and tactical training student pilots receiving training by some of the world's best. ITPS Canada, headquartered in London, Ontario is comprised of the International Test Pilots School (ITPS) and the International Tactical Training Centre (ITTC). These units employ a highly experienced cadre of staff, most of whom are veterans of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and Allied air arms.

As an EASA Approved Training, ITPS Canada offers Government-to-Government training agreements through the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC). Clients include the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), Royal Netherlands Air Force, Belgian Air Component, Australian Defence Force and major aircraft manufacturers including Airbus, Leonardo, Korea Aerospace Industries and Turkish Aerospace Industries, with an ability to expand to other allied forces.

The company is a trusted partner of the RCAF, offering a sovereign capability for training their next generation of test pilots and flight test pilots. ITPS graduates are armed with the knowledge and skills to successfully plan, conduct and report on critical defence capital acquisition programs across fixed and rotary wing aircraft and Unmanned Aerial Systems. They are actively involved in flight test programs that contribute directly to the capability of Canada and allies, enhancing operational effectiveness of existing platforms, and maximizing the capability of future aircraft acquisitions.

ITPS is an Ontario Ministry of Education Designated Learning Institution, offering Master of Science Degrees in Flight Degrees in Flight testing and Flight testing Engineering to suitably qualified graduates. It is one of only 8 internationally recognized test pilot schools in the world, and the only one located in Canada, providing a Canadian training solution and allowing taxpayers' money to stay in Canada.

"We've been training the next generation of flight test professionals for the Royal Canadian Air Force for the past three years," said Dave 'Loshy' Lohse, former Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18 fighter pilot and test pilot, and current VP Flight Test at ITPS Canada. said Dave 'Loshy' Lohse, former Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18 fighter pilot and test pilot, and current VP Flight Test at ITPS Canada.



"We've been training the next generation of flight test professionals for the RCAF for the past three years," says Lohse

"Our graduates are working on leading-edge programs that directly support Canadian sovereignty, and we are committing to continued collaboration to expand our support to the RCAF in the years to come. We want the RCAF to see us not just as a potential training provider but as an already established and trusted training provider and a strategic national asset. We're executing today, and we remain willing and able to increase our training support as and when required."

FIGHTER LEAD-IN TRAINING

With the closure of NATO Flying Training in Canada (NFTC), ITPS Canada is now the only Canadian-based training solution able to provide NATO Phase III-IV Fighter Lead-in Training (FLIT) through ITTC, a service they have been providing to Allied air arms since 2001.

To fulfill its remit, ITTC collaborates with industry partners to develop, test and implement cutting-edge and cost-effective aviation training and simulation technologies, advancing defence capabilities and fostering growth in the aerospace industry.

The division provides ab-initio and advanced fighter-jet tactical training, such as Fighter Lead-In Training (FLIT, NATO Phase II-IV) and Fighter Weapons Instructor Courses (FWIC) to Allied air arms around the world.

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ITPS Canada - A Sovereign Training Capability

Cont. from page 13

ITTC currently operates the L-39 jet trainer and is in active negotiations for the acquisition of a next generation supersonic advanced jet trainer to future-proof their training capability and provide a world-class 5th Generation training pipeline to the RCAF, NATO and Allied air arms around the world.



“The government, as well as other participants from major air forces, recognize that ITPS Canada, through ITTC, can provide a customized training solution that meets their training needs for NATO air forces’ current 4th and 5th Gen fighter pilots,” said Brendan ‘Darcee’ Pierce, former RCAF F/A-18 Fighter Weapons Instructor and current VP Tactical Training at ITTC. “Based on our resources, Sim Centre, aircraft, and training capabilities, we can provide an immediate solution for militaries in need of fighter pilot training - that includes the ability to train RCAF pilots and those of our allies so they are the best prepared that they can be.”

ITTC is implementing new capabilities as it incorporates in-house developed avionics upgrades for their L-39 jet trainers. The Avionics Upgrade Program II (AUP II) will combine a modern, touch-sensitive large area avionics display with a heads-up-display (HUD) and embedded training system. ITTC is also developing its own L-39 advanced flight simulation products to supplement the training that pilots do in the aircraft, and has a roadmap to implement live, virtual, constructive training into their syllabus.

“Exposing students to an advanced human-machine interface and simulated battle space reflective of modern fighter aircraft allows for significant download and offload training, maximizing training effectiveness, efficiency and cost savings,” said Lohse.

“Canada no longer needs to outsource tactical training,” added Lohse. “Canada has a sovereign training capability available to allow control over the standard, the syllabus, the instructors and the aircraft we offer to our RCAF pilots. ITPS prides itself in offering tailored solutions to our students to ensure they receive training based on the unique needs of their air force. This is why ITPS is world renowned for producing pilots that will meet their needs today and into the future.”

LOOKING AHEAD

ITTC is actively planning to expand its training footprint to other facilities and locations within Canada to ensure access to airfields and airspace suitable for conducting advanced tactical training activities in support of current and future training needs of Canada and Allies. The company continues to scale its in-house R&D capability to meet the ever-growing need for suitable and affordable fast jet training platforms incorporating modern avionics and networked embedded training systems.

“We are working hard to educate and inform people about what we do,” said Lohse. “You’ve got the International Test Pilots School, training test pilots and flight test engineers from Canada, Allied air arms and industry around the world. Then you’ve got ITTC, the International Tactical Training Centre, providing Fighter Lead in Training and advanced tactical training to Allied air arms around the world.

We are much more than a test pilot school - we are a dynamic, strategic aerospace partner for a more secure and resilient Canada.”



Never too old for cyber



Australian Army Warrant Officer Class Two Brett Holloway at the Defence Space and Cyber College at HMAS Harman. Story by Corporal Michael Rogers. Photo by Leading Seaman Nadav Harel.

When Warrant Officer Class Two Brett Holloway joined the Army in 1981, the valve-operated radios he used as a trainee electronic warfare specialist needed to warm up before use.

One night, he turned the radios off to save power but did not realise it would take almost two hours to power up the radio again the next day.

“Needless to say, my corporal at the time let me know what he thought of my idea of saving electricity,” WO2 Holloway recalled.

Now, as the lead for the development and delivery of the Joint Cyber Intelligence Analyst pathway at the Defence Space and Cyber College, WO2 Holloway proved that you are never too old to learn new things by completing a graduate diploma in cybersecurity at age 61.

“I have always had an interest in computers. I was fascinated with their logic and how computers worked; it was something I could relate to,” WO2 Holloway said.

“Back in the ’80s, computers were either the size of a room, or they were old and clunky and were not what they are today.”

After retiring from full-time service and continuing to serve as a reservist, WO2 Holloway earned a certificate IV and a graduate diploma in cybersecurity.

He then worked at the Information Warfare Division as the ADF cyber reserve manager before moving to the Defence Space and Cyber College at HMAS Harman.

From pre-heated radios and Morse code to cyber warfare technology, WO2 Holloway has witnessed a dramatic evolution in the Army’s electronic attack equipment over his career.

He has contributed to introducing new capabilities, including a stint in Iraq in 2005, where he installed the first electronic countermeasure systems on Australian vehicles to combat remotely detonated improvised explosive devices.

“We had to show personnel that the system worked. Obviously, you couldn’t detonate things, but by using radios and saying ‘see how our radios don’t work?’ people then understood,” WO2 Holloway said.

“Until then, it was just another piece of kit being put on their vehicle by guys who’ve never been overseas before and don’t get it.

“It felt good knowing we were doing something like that to protect the troops; it was the epitome of my job as an electronic warfare soldier.”

WO2 Holloway encouraged soldiers to consider changing trades to something that interests them in the Army, particularly cyber, rather than discharging the military, citing that the demand for cyber skills will increase in the future.

“Changing trades to cyber is a positive change as it will always be a required capability within the Army and ADF,” WO2 Holloway said.

“I would strongly recommend that if someone has an interest in computers, they consider switching to cyber, regardless of their current age, knowledge or background.”

Game on! Meet Team Canada for Invictus 2025

On July 10, all eyes were on Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Kingston for the official announcement of Team Canada, who will compete at the next Invictus Games in Vancouver and Whistler, B.C., in February 2025.

The Games use the power of sport to inspire recovery and rehabilitation. They can also promote a wider understanding of, and respect for, all who serve in uniform.

The Games will take place 8 to 16 February 2025 in

Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia. More than 500 Veterans and serving military personnel from over 20 nations, including 56 Team Canada members, will compete in nine winter and indoor adaptive sports.

This will be the second time Canada will host the Games, having previously hosted in Toronto, ON, in 2017.

Visit <https://www.soldieron.ca/Team-Canada> to learn more about team members.

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Game on! Meet Team Canada for Invictus 2025

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The Games focus on rehabilitation, mental health support, employment advocacy, and general well-being of the global military community. The journeys and experiences of competitors and their families—throughout the Games and also their lives and careers—are important snapshots of the military experience and should be shared. The journeys and experiences of competitors and their families—throughout the Games and also their lives and careers—are important snapshots of the military experience and should be shared.

Over the coming months, VAC and other Invictus Games partners will be sharing these incredible stories of the resilience shared by Canada’s service members, Veterans, their families and friends. These stories will hopefully inspire others facing similar adversity, demonstrating ways to move forward while highlighting useful resources, programs and services along the way.

Sharing the experiences of competitors and their families may also help all Canadians to better understand, respect and recognize those who served and sacrificed for our country.

Read, watch, and listen to stories from Invictus Games Alumni on the Invictus Games webpage.

For more information on the 2025 Games events, or information on how to attend or volunteer, visit the Invictus Games 2025 website.

- from July 2024 Edition of **SALUTE**

Natacha’s Story

Every injured Veteran follows their own road to recovery. For Natacha Dupuis, hers led back to a childhood love of athletics and, eventually, an opportunity to once again represent Canada internationally—this time, under far different circumstances.



Natacha always knew she wanted to join the military. By the time she was 18, she was in the Reserves. Then, in 2002, she joined the Regular Force, eventually serving in Bosnia and completing two tours in Afghanistan.

Natacha saw 13 vehicles explode in Afghanistan. Each incident took an emotional toll, but one in particular stands out. The date was March 20, 2009.

“We were on a week-long mission, and the vehicle behind me exploded with an IED, killing two of my brothers in arms ... We were the first responders.”

That incident triggered a serious case of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Natacha suffered from severe insomnia and nightmares, but persevered and finished the remaining two months of her rotation. “I still don’t know how I did it,” she says. “Every day I thought about quitting, but I just couldn’t do that to the team.”

When she returned to Canada, her symptoms worsened to the point where she says she was in “total trauma” and unable to care for herself. Natacha is grateful for the help she received from the Canadian Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) during those dark days.

“I couldn’t even make toast. I needed a lot of care and treatment, which I got.”

The road to recovery

Education was an important part of Natacha’s recovery. As a tank driver and a gunner, her skills weren’t easily transferable to the civilian workforce. With help from the Service Income Security Insurance Plan (SISIP), she earned a college diploma in security management—a major achievement for Natacha, who didn’t have a high school diploma when she entered the military.

*Natacha Dupuis, Master Corporal (Retired)
Years of service: 17
Age: 38
Trade: Armoured Corps*



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Natacha's Story *Continued from page 16*

"It's really important to know and use all the support we are entitled to," she says, adding that the help she received through VAC's Rehabilitation Services and Vocational Assistance Program made a real difference for her.

But, something was missing. Natacha's weight increased and her desire to be part of the outside world waned. She was offered a spot on Team Canada for the 2016 Invictus Games in Orlando, which gave her the push she needed. "If I'm going to be representing Team Canada, I thought, this is my chance to regain control. Not just my physical health, but also my mental health."

She won three medals (two gold) at those games, which set the table for her inspired performance as co-captain of Team Canada during the 2017 Invictus Games in Toronto, where she earned four medals, including three golds.

"I never thought that wearing the Maple Leaf again would be possible. I thought my life was over. I thought I had nothing more to give. Going on to represent Canada once again, that made me really proud. The Invictus Games were my Olympics."

Natacha still has symptoms of PTSD, but says she is much better equipped to deal with them. She remains involved with the Canadian Army Run and the Soldier On organization. Employed full-time in the federal public service (hired through the Veterans Hiring Act), she continues to pass along her message of hope through public speaking engagements.

"It feels really good to use a very traumatic experience and turn it into something positive where I can help others. It helps me make sense of it all."

Natacha has shared her story in the hope that others will see themselves in both her struggles and successes and will reach out for help when required. We recognize that we need to do more to improve supports available to Veterans and family members. Our mission is to provide the support you and your family need during your transition to reach your goals the way Natacha has reached hers. Thank you for sharing with us, Natacha!

- from August 2018 Edition of **SALUTE**

ON TARGET: DISASTER RELIEF: A Disaster for the CAF?

By Scott Taylor

Last week as Canada watched in horror as Alberta's landmark town of Jasper was engulfed in a wildfire, the federal government announced that the Canadian Army would provide disaster assistance.

In this instance, some 75 members of the Second Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2PPCLI) have deployed to assist residents of Jasper to safely return to the remnants of their charred town.

Over the past few years, the sight of Canadian military personnel assisting citizens in the wake of disasters has become all too commonplace. Forest fires in Alberta? Send in the military. Flooding in Quebec? Send in the military. Massive blizzard in Newfoundland? Send in the military. Pandemic stricken long term care facilities in Ontario? Send in the military. Power lines downed by a hurricane in Nova Scotia? Send in the military.

The sight of uniformed military personnel on site with specialized equipment is reassuring to civilians, and to be honest it is a great public relations exercise for the Canadian Armed Forces.

However, what the average layperson fails to grasp is that this is not the primary task for what is supposed to be a combat capable, armed forces. Every unscheduled deployment interrupts the scheduled training and professional development necessary to keep our military formations sustained.

Now it is no secret that the CAF are woefully understrength at present due to a crisis in both retention and recruitment. At last count there were 16,500 vacancies in an authorized regular and reserve joint strength of 105,000. The recruitment shortfall is not due to citizens not being willing to volunteer. Last year some 70,080 individuals signed up at the recruiting centres but only 4,301 could be processed and sent to basic training.

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ON TARGET: DISASTER RELIEF: A Disaster for the CAF? *Continued from page 17*



Photo Credit MS Dan Bard, Directorate Army Public Affairs

The reason for this is twofold as the bureaucratic process is backlogged, and due to the shortfall in personnel, trainers are in short supply as well.

Again, for those not familiar with a modern military, soldiers do not simply go through entry level training and become combat capable. At all levels personnel receive advanced weapons training, leadership training, trades training and when money and ammunition stocks permit, actual formation level training exercises.

Pulling a unit out of that rotation for unscheduled disaster relief operations, throws a monkey wrench into the works. And when you are dealing with a profession that involves the use of lethal force there should not be a cutting of corners.

Recently retired Chief of Defence Staff General Wayne Eyre understood all too well the impact which Operation LENTUS has been having on the state of readiness of the CAF. Operation LENTUS was initiated in 2010 and is the blanket term for any domestic deployment of the CAF as aid to the civil powers.

In an April 23 virtual town hall video conference with the senior leadership of the CAF, General Eyre stated: "I made it quite clear to other departments that our capacity to do what we did last year is not the same, especially with reduced readiness (and), increased deployments to Latvia. We're not going to have the same forces available...for the scale and duration of response." This year the CAF commitment to the forward deployed battle group in Latvia as part of NATO's Operation REASSURANCE is set to grow from the current 800 personnel to roughly 2200 Canadian troops.

As the overall force numbers continue to decline, and the fixed commitments continues to grow, something will eventually break. Given the reality of climate change, the demand for federal disaster assistance will only increase. The answer cannot always be 'send in the military'. They are a spent force.

Why not implement a limited form of national service and create a manpower pool nationwide that could be called upon in an emergency. There is already in existence Team Rubicon which is a volunteer force of mostly retired military personnel.

Why not build heavily upon this organization as the foundation with a registry of community minded Canadian citizens willing to deploy when needed.

While we are being creative, why not purchase 24 Canadian-built CL 415 water bombers and create a full squadron of fire fighters based on retired RCAF aircrew. For those Colonel Blimps still fretting about Canada not spending the full 2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product on national defence, we can add the cost of these organizations to the defence budget. Defending Canada's natural resources in the face of extreme weather conditions brought on by climate change is more patriotic than militarily occupying a hostile third world country.



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