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OPENING SALVO

Leading the Canadian Forces: Transformation and Continuity

Colonel (Retired) Mike Capstick OMM, MSM, CD

What a difference a decade makes! In the summer of 1998, fresh from command in Bosnia and a short stint as Chief of Staff, Land Force Western Area, I arrived in Ottawa to take up the appointment of Director Land Personnel. The Somalia Inquiry Report was still being analysed, the Bacovici Board of Inquiry had just wrapped up as had the Quality of Life hearings. *MacLean's* had just published a series of articles that pilloried the CF for its failure to integrate women and public criticism of the institution's treatment of wounded soldiers was mounting. Most importantly, survey after survey and report after report provided ample evidence that the troops simply did not trust the senior leadership. They did not trust the leadership's willingness to provide the Government with the best possible professional advice and, in the final analysis they did not trust senior officers to look after them.

A few senior Army officers, notably the Commander of the new Land Force Doctrine and Training System, MGen Mike Jeffery and (among others) the young Commander of 2 CMBG in Petawawa, BGen Rick Hillier, understood that the CF needed to drag itself out of this untenable situation. In short, Canada's military was in desperate need of reform and if the professionals did not seize control of the effort, the politicians and bureaucrats would – with unpredictable outcomes that would be more appropriate to a civil service than to a combat capable armed force.

A decade later 1998 seems like ancient history. The "decade of darkness" was more than a period of serious under-funding and political neglect. It was, in fact, a period that saw a proud national institution reach the nadir of military professionalism. As General Rick Hillier prepares to handover the post of CDS within a few months, he knows that he will be handing over the leadership of a highly professional organization that is respected by both its allies and by its foes on the battlefield. He will also turn over a trusted national institution that Canadians are justifiably (See Opening Salvo continued on page 3)

President's Report

Well here we are, into the second year of being President. I want to thank again all the people who were candidates in the last election of RAUSI. It was nice to have the number of qualified candidates run for positions on the Board. It was also nice that we had a good number of people attend the Annual General Meeting; I believe there were 32 persons in attendance, which is not a record but a good number of interested persons.

During the meeting, Col. Art Wriedt gave an impassioned talk about the members of 41 Brigade who were volunteering to go to Afghanistan. It was good to hear that there are a number of our youth who are volunteering for duty there and serving with distinction. The Calgary Highlanders and King's Own Calgary Regiment have been filling a large number of the positions available but it (See President's Report continued on page 2)

President's Report (continued from page 1)

must also be mentioned that the other units in the Brigade have been pulling their weight as well. Col. Wriedt is obviously an enthusiastic Commander of his Brigade and thankfully a good supporter of RAUSI.

Turning to the future, by the time you get this RAUSI will have attended the ANZAC Day memorial service on April 25th and carried our flag at the service (the first time it will have been seen in public) as part of the flag party. For those that don't know, ANZAC is the acronym for the Australian New Zealand Army Corps which was formed during the First World War and April 25 is the day the Corps landed at Gallipoli, Turkey. According to Wikipedia, The free encyclopedia:

"When war broke out in 1914, Australia had been a Federal Commonwealth for only thirteen years. In 1915, Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of an Allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula to open the way to the Black Sea for the Allied navies. The plan was to capture Istanbul, capital of the Ottoman Empire and an ally of Germany. The ANZAC force landed at Gallipoli on 25 April, meeting fierce resistance from the Turkish defenders. ... Over 8,000 Australian and 2,700 New Zealand soldiers died. News of the landing at Gallipoli made a profound impact on Australians and New Zealanders at home and 25 April quickly became the day on which they remembered the sacrifice of those who had died in war."

CGOM, with the assistance of RAUSI, will be having its usual Mother's Day Brunch on May 11th. Who's in the Kitchen Catering will be catering the event and will surely have great food for the Brunch. I hope many of you will attend, as it is always a good event. Make sure you call Kim in the office (265-6628) if you plan to attend with your family. We are still planning to have a dining in night in the Mess on June 14th. For those who haven't heard Grace Forbes, will be taking over the duties of the Mess Manager of CGOM effective May 1 from Shannon Thibodeau who is going on maternity leave, we wish Shannon all the best.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wednesday to Friday – Daily Lunches 1145 – 1300 hrs
- 9 May – CGOM Happy Hour 1600 – 1900 hrs
- **11 May – Mother's Day Brunch**
- 16 May – RAUSI Monthly Luncheon
- 13 June – CGOM Happy Hour 1600 – 1900 hrs
- 14 June – RAUSI Summer Dining-In (semi-formal)
- 14 June – Military Families Fund Gala Evening
- 20 June – RAUSI Monthly Luncheon
- 4 July – Stampede Brunch
- 11 July – Stampede – Happy Hour 1600 – 1900 hrs
- 18 July – RAUSI Monthly Luncheon
- 4-5 August – RAUSI Casino
- 8 August – Annual RAUSI Golf Tournament
- 8 August – CGOM Happy Hour 1600 – 1900 hrs
- 9 August – Summer BBQ
- 10 August – Peacekeeping Ceremonies
- 15 August – RAUSI Monthly Luncheon
- 16 August – Snowbirds to perform at the Springbank Air Show
- 12 September – CGOM Happy Hour 1600 – 1900 hrs
- 19 September – RAUSI Monthly Luncheon

Notes:

1. Please remember when reservations are required; food is pre-ordered based upon your response. If you make reservations and cannot attend please let the Secretary know a minimum of two days in advance or unfortunately you will be required to reimburse the Institute for the expenses incurred. If there are any questions please feel free to call the Secretary for clarification.
2. The Mess is available for members to book private functions from 5 to 95 people; we have our own Caterer who will be willing to work with you in organizing your event either in the Mess or at another venue. Call the Secretary for more details.
3. Please note that if you wish to hold regular meetings during the lunch hour for your organization or association, arrangements can be made depending upon the size of your group, to use either the Card Room or the Dining Room.

Message from the Chief of the Defence Staff to the Canadian Forces

General Hillier

April 15, 2008

OTTAWA - I have chosen to retire from the Canadian Forces and end my tenure as your Chief of the Defence Staff in July of this year.

I accepted the leadership of the Canadian Forces in February 2005. My goal was to set the conditions for our sailors, soldiers, airmen and airwomen to succeed in our critical and often dangerous tasks in defence of Canada, Canadians, and Canadian interests and values.

We have achieved those key objectives, and reached the critical milestones I originally set out for us to reach by the end of my time as CDS. We have moulded our culture to one which recognizes that operations are our *raison d'être*; that our efforts, all of them, must concentrate on achieving the missions and tasks given to us by the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians.

We have transformed how we recruit, train, equip, command, deploy, employ, bring home, recognize and care for our operational forces and our families, (see CDS continued on page 5)

Summer Dining In – June 14th

Mark your calendars; RAUSI will be hosting a Summer Dining In on Saturday 14 June at the Mess. This function will be semi-formal and reasonably priced. Timings are 1830 hours for 1930 hours; notices will be sent out shortly and posted on the website. Reservations can be made through the office.

Mother's Day Brunch

May 11th marks this year's Mother's Day; the Calgary Garrison Officers' Mess will be hosting this year's special event. Brunch runs from 1030 to 1330 hours, the cost is \$18 per person, children under 10 just \$9. RSVP before May 7th to reserve your seats/tables. Notices have been posted, visit the RAUSI website or call the Secretary at 265-6628 for more details and to make reservations. Reservations can also be made with Grace at CGOM at 410-2320 ext 3414.

Opening Salvo (continued from page 1)

proud of and whose combat tested and hardened members exemplify the essence of the Canadian military ethos – “Duty with Honour.”

Although the history of this institutional transformation has yet to be written, it is clear that Rick Hillier would be the last person to claim even the major share of the credit. He is the first to recognize the amazing team effort that has resulted in Canada being able to field a strategically relevant, operationally effective and tactically decisive Joint Task Force in Afghanistan and in the Gulf. That said, his personal legacy is clear. His personification of the proven military precept *mission – troops – self* and his unique ability to communicate with Canadians, CF members, Allies and politicians has been instrumental in bringing a decade of reform and transformation to the point that the CF is now one of Canada’s most trusted national institutions. More critically, he has restored the trust of soldiers, sailors and airmen/women in their leaders.

When then PM Paul Martin appointed Hillier as CDS in February 2005, there was really only one choice to prosecute the transformational agenda that the PM envisioned. As the CDS prepares to leave there are at least six operationally experienced officers who would be credible successors. The next CDS cannot replicate Hillier’s distinct charisma and unique style. However, the next Chief must have these attributes – the will and ability to provide unfettered professional military advice to Government, the ability to build on the trust that Hillier has established with Canadians and, most importantly, an uncompromising will to support the troops and to build their sense of pride in their membership in the Canadian military profession. Canada, Canadians and the troops deserve nothing less.

Colonel Mike Capstick retired from the Canadian Armed Forces (Regular) in late 2006 after 32 years of service. His final appointment was as Commander of the first deployment of the CF Strategic Advisory Team – Afghanistan from August 2005 until August 2006. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his leadership of this team and is currently an Associate at the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies, University of Calgary.

Military Families Fund Gala

There will be a fund raising dinner held on 14 June in support of the Military Families Fund General Hillier will be the Guest of Honour. The Gala event will be held at the Hyatt Regency, to purchase tickets visit <http://www.cfpsa.com/en/corporate/mFamily/index.asp> or call 1-877-445-6444. Price per person is \$300. This is a very worthwhile event, please consider attending, it should be a very memorable night.

RAUSI Casino

RAUSI is scheduled for a Casino at the Deerfoot Inn and Casino on 4-5 August 2008. There are two primary timeframes each day, from 1030 to 1900 and from 1830 to closing (approximately 0230). There are at least 40 positions that must be filled over the two day timeframe. RAUSI looks forward to seeing you at this important venture. Please let Kim know if and when you are available to assist.

RAUSI 2008 Annual General Meeting

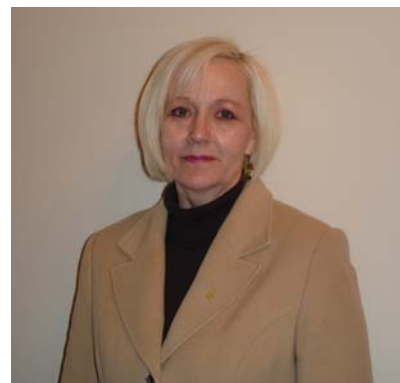
RAUSI held its 2008 AGM on Thursday March 20th. Even though it was the day before Good Friday, turnout was impressive with more than 30 people in attendance. Our new flag was dedicated and the successful candidates for the Board of Directors were announced during the meeting.

Six candidates ran for the Board and those elected were Brent Felix, JJ Martin, Jane Myden and Bill Schultz. Gord Leek and Robert Teel were not elected to the Board but must be congratulated for running even though they were not successful this time. RAUSI, like most not-for-profit organizations, operates with volunteers and it is great to see people such as the above volunteer to run for positions on the Board. We thank them all sincerely.

It should be noted that Jack Thompson decided not to run for the Board this year. Jack has been on and off the Board a number of times. Most recently Jack has run the RAUSI Golf Tournaments as the Entertainment (Sports) director and he has done a great job. Thanks to Jack for all the time he has devoted to RAUSI over the years.



LCol Bill Schultz, newly elected RAUSI Director



Ms. Jane Myden, newly elected RAUSI Director

The Joint Strike Fighter Program

The Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program was created to replace various aircraft while keeping development, production, and operating costs down. The F-35 is being designed to be the world's premier strike aircraft through 2040. It is intended that its air-to-air capability will be second only to that of the F-22 Raptor. Specifically the F-35's requirements are that it be: four times more effective than legacy fighters in air-to-air combat, eight times more effective in air-to-ground battle combat, and three times more effective in reconnaissance and suppression of air defenses.

The Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II is a single-seat, single-engine, stealth-capable military strike fighter, a multi-role aircraft that can perform close air support, tactical bombing, and air-to-air combat. The F-35 has three different models sharing 80% of their parts:

- F-35A, conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) variant.
- F-35B, short-takeoff and vertical-landing (STOVL) variant.
- F-35C, carrier-based (CV) variant.

DND is looking to replace its aging fleet of CF-18 Hornets by the 2020 time frame with much interest placed on the F-35. DND officials have stated the estimate for producing 80 units would cost \$3.8 billion, though this figure does not include training, sustainment, and any follow on costs. Canada has until 2012 to decide on purchasing the F-35, though they have already invested \$150 million in the JSF program.

The F-35A is the conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) variant intended for the US Air Force and other air forces. It is the smallest, lightest F-35 version and is the only variant equipped with an internal cannon, the GAU-22/A. This 25 mm cannon is designed for increased effectiveness against ground targets. The F-35A is expected to match the F-16 in maneuverability, instantaneous and sustained high-g performance, and outperform it in stealth, payload, range on internal fuel, avionics, operational effectiveness, supportability and survivability. It also has an internal laser designator and infrared sensors. The A variant is primarily intended to replace the USAF's F-16 Fighting Falcons, beginning in 2013, and replace the A-10 Thunderbolt II starting in 2028.

The F-35B is the short takeoff and vertical landing (STOVL) variant aircraft. The F-35B is similar in size to the Air Force F-35A, trading fuel volume for vertical flight systems. Like the AV-8 Harrier II, guns will be carried in a ventral pod. Vertical flight is by far the riskiest, and in the end, a decisive factor in design. This variant is intended to replace the later derivatives of the Harrier Jump Jet, which was the world's first operational short takeoff, vertical landing fighter, ground attack aircraft. The RAF and Royal Navy will use this variant to replace the Harrier GR7/GR9s. The F-35B variant was unveiled at Lockheed's Fort Worth plant on 18 December 2007. The U.S. Marine Corps will use the F-35B to replace both its AV-8B Harrier II and F/A-18 Hornet fighters. The B variant is expected to be available beginning in 2012. (See F35 continued on page 5)

Military Snippets

This day in history:

- 1 May 1912 Canada issues first five-dollar bank note
- 2 May 1995 Serb missiles exploded in Zagreb, killing six
- 4 May 1958 Wayne and Shuster make their first appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show
- 6 May 1994 Chunnel linking England & France opens
- 7 May 2007 The tomb of Herod the Great is discovered
- 11 May 1960 Israeli soldiers capture Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires
- 12 May 1958 North American Aerospace Defense Command agreement is signed between the US and Canada
- 14 May 1940 Lord Beaverbrook appointed British minister of aircraft production
- 17 May 1672 Frontenac becomes Governor of New France
- 22 May 1967 "GO Transit" is inaugurated by the Province of Ontario
- 30 May 1832 The Rideau Canal in eastern Ontario opens
- 4 June 1070 Roquefort cheese created in a cave near Roquefort, France
- 5 June 1976 Canada declares 370 km offshore fisheries jurisdiction zone, effective January 1, 1977
- 6 June 1970 The Black Watch of Canada is retired from battle order
- 8 June 1944 Nazi Panzer SS troops murder 23 Canadian prisoners of war in Normandy (Abbey Ardenne)
- 12 June 1944 First V-1 rocket reaches London
- 12 June 1961 The DND buys 66 F-101 Voodoos in exchange for US control of Pinetree Line
- 21 June 1813 Laura Secord sets out to warn British forces of an impending U.S. attack on Queenston, Ontario
- 25 June 1876 Battle of the Little Bighorn and the death of Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer
- 25 June 1959 The Saint Lawrence Seaway opens, opening North America's Great Lakes to ocean-going ships
- 30 June 1987 The Royal Canadian Mint introduces the Loonie

Please note, dates published in this section do not necessarily reflect all significant historical events, for instance 6 June 1944 was not listed in the last newsletter, not as a slight to those who participated in the Normandy landings but it was felt that since this date is so well known that other interesting dates could be inserted instead. *Editor*



F-35 Lightning II ninth flight - March 13th, 2007

The Wing Commander Don Freeman Memorial Bursary
Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Bursary

By The Rev. Eric V. Haffenden

The Royal Alberta United Services Institute annually offers two bursaries for post secondary study. Each bursary is worth \$1,000. Criteria include level of need, probability of scholastic success, military service (e.g. Cadets, Reserves), and community service. The bursaries are open to descendants of RAUSI members, and those serving in some military capacity.

The Wing Commander Don Freeman Memorial Bursary for 2007 was awarded to Miss Courtney Andruszko, Flight Sergeant with Royal Canadian Air Cadets, 604 "Moose" Squadron. Miss Andruszko is currently studying for a B.Com. at the University of Calgary. Miss Andruszko's life goals include following up the B.Com. with a MBA. In addition to her career ambitions, Miss Andruszko plans to join the Cadet Instructors Cadre to repay the squadron for the benefits she has received from the program. We wish her well in all of her endeavours.

The Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Bursary for 2007 was awarded to Mr. Danny Barnfield, a CIC Officer with Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps (RCSCC) Calgary. Mr. Barnfield's studies are in the field of "Media Arts" at the Alberta College of Art and Design. Mr. Barnfield previously studied Interactive digital Design at Grande Prairie Regional College. Mr. Barnfield is currently serving as A/Slt with the RCSCC Calgary. Over the past two summers, A/Slt Barnfield has served aboard HMCS Quadra as a divisional officer with the last year spent in the Bos'n department. We wish him well with his studies and future career.

RAUSI congratulates both of these fine young people.



Miss Courtney Andruszko, Flight Sergeant with Royal Canadian Air Cadets, 604 "Moose" Squadron receiving the Wing Commander Don Freeman Memorial Bursary from Past President Major Westbury.



A/Slt Barnfield a CIC Officer with Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps (RCSCC) Calgary, receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Bursary from Past President Major Westbury.

CDS (continued from page 2)

focused on achieving a strategic effect for Canada. We have done so while growing the Canadian Forces, re-equipping it, and while carrying out intense combat and peace support operations overseas and demanding, essential security tasks here at home.

We have remembered how to grieve; to never forget our comrades and dear friends who have died in the service of Canada. Their sacrifice, and that of their families, deserves our unwavering commitment to ensure their loss is not in vain.

We have been strengthened, immensely, by the vocal and visible support of millions of Canadians who have demonstrated that they recognize, understand and honour your service, and the sacrifice of your families.

Leadership in the Canadian Forces is not the role of one single person; it is the responsibility of all who wear the Canadian Forces uniform. I believe you will now be best served by the invigoration of new leadership, with the vision, energy, and strength to lead you through the challenges that will lie ahead. For we have not finished evolving.

We must continue to adapt, and improve our Forces to accomplish the tasks Canadians need us to perform in the complex, dangerous security environment before us. It is with great confidence that I await the selection of the senior leader who will take my place. I will continue to serve as your CDS until relieved of my duties by my successor, to be named in due course by our Prime Minister.

My wife Joyce and I thank you for the rewarding years we have shared with you, and look forward to many years ahead as part of the Canadian Forces family. You are Canada's greatest credentials, our national treasures, and I am so very proud of you. It has been my honour and privilege to be your Chief of the Defence Staff.

F35 (continued from page 4)

The F-35C carrier variant will have a larger, folding wing and larger control surfaces for improved low-speed control, and stronger landing gear for the stresses of carrier landings. The larger wing area provides decreased landing speed, increased range and payload, with twice the range on internal fuel compared with the F/A-18C Hornet, achieving much the same goal as the heavier F/A-18E/F Super Hornet. The US Navy intends to buy 480 F-35Cs to replace the F/A-18A, -B, -C, and -D Hornets. It will also serve as a stealthier complement to the Super Hornet. The C variant is expected to be available beginning in 2012.

Golf Tournament Update

by Lt(N) Sylvain Bouliane

Looking outside I'm not really sure that old man winter will ever go away. But optimistically, we'll get there by the time we reach August. Our golf tournament organizers will meet next week at the golf course to arrange the final details of our Institute's next golf tournament, scheduled for August 8th 2008 at Earl Grey Golf Course. Posters and advertisement should be coming out shortly after this meeting, asking for maximum participation to our annual outing. We're looking for any and all types of golfers.

The Military Museums Update

By LCol B. Brake

Since we last reported to your membership, work at The Military Museums has continued at a brisk pace with focus on getting the expanded area ready for public use. The Naval Museum of Alberta has all but moved its collection into the facility and their staff and volunteers are working frantically in anticipation of a June launch. The Military Museums Library and Archives are stocking the shelves with thousands of books, the Air Museum of Alberta is rapidly molding its space into a suitable venue to tell the "airman" story, and a team of volunteers and U of C researchers are busy readying the computerized maze for a summer trial. It is anticipated that each of these new areas will be opened to the public by the fall of 2008.

While the recently completed expansion is being prepared for use, work has also begun on the renovation of the entire back end of the original museum. This final phase of construction will take approximately 300 days and the resulting changes will include a new modern, state-of-the-art classroom and a new art gallery. It is hoped that this work will be completed in time to permit an official opening of the art gallery in the spring of 2009.

As new programs and initiatives are introduced, requirements such as gift shop sales, membership sales, story writing for the mural, creating the art gallery and classroom programming will all require a stronger volunteer base. We welcome the opportunity to invite your membership to join our dynamic team. To follow our story, please go to www.themilitarymuseums.ca.

Soldiers dub new armoured supertrucks Transformers

by Matthew Fisher, The Edmonton Journal, April 06, 2008

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Canada's military truckers have dubbed their spanking new armoured trucks Transformers, after the massive robots in the hugely popular film who can take on other shapes. Some have gone farther, calling their \$1-million supertrucks Optimus Prime after the most powerful Transformer of them all.

So taken are these usually unsentimental soldiers with their 503-horsepower, twin-turbo-diesel Mercedes-Benz trucks, which first began running food, parts and ammo to combat troops three weeks ago, that they gushed about them. "It is the first time that I have fallen in love with a truck," said Master Cpl. Lawliss Barnes, 34, a 15-year army veteran from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., who drives the baddest armoured Heavy Support Vehicle System (AHSVS) of them all, the imposing 35-ton recovery vehicle. "My passion is for recovery. With this tow truck, I can pull anything we have here except a tank."

The first of the top-of-the-line Mercedes trucks were rushed directly to Afghanistan from Germany in February to fulfill an urgent need identified early last year to provide better protection for truckers who spend their days running a gauntlet of roads infested with improvised explosive devices (See Transformers continued on page 7)



The Military Museums Library and Archives, home of the RAUSI Library (on permanent loan)



The Naval Museum of Alberta collection housed in The Military Museums



Mercedes Benz "Optimus Prime"
the Armoured Heavy Support Vehicle System

Padre's Corner

Newspaper articles, radio and TV reports make clear the human side of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen. To put this in the historical, spiritual sense these people, like the rest of us, experience emotions, are loved by others and love in return. These are people who have worries, but also hope for the future. None that I have met are "warmongers".

Members of the Canadian Forces are called upon to undertake some horrendous tasks in securing and maintaining peace, which stretch both their physical and spiritual sides to the limit. That has always been the case. Whether it is Vimy Ridge, St. Julien's Wood, or Afghanistan, our Forces have been required to destroy enemies while ensuring peace for the civilian population. What we are increasingly understanding is that soldiers are not automatons or robots. All are affected to some degree by fear, some more than others, many are afflicted by pain and grief. Many times Canadian soldiers have taken the time during their duties to comfort the children of war.

We see the human side in the sad farewells and joyful reunions as well as when we honour those who lose their lives in service to their country, or return terribly maimed.

I urge all who are so inclined, to pray for the safety of our Forces, for their bodies, souls, mental health, their families, and ultimately for their safe return to their love ones.

(The Reverend) Eric Haffenden

Did You Know?

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) offers a wide range of services and benefits to qualified Veterans, CF members, serving and discharged members of the RCMP, certain civilians and their families.

These services and benefits honour their sacrifices and achievements, and are designed to meet their changing needs. To deliver these services and benefits, VAC follows a philosophy of client service based on a Client-Centred Service Approach. This approach to client service is very important because it allows VAC to screen clients at all points of entry. This means that if VAC contacts clients, or clients call, write or visit VAC for any reason at all, VAC can talk with them about other problems or changes in their life that might otherwise be overlooked and do a needs assessment when required.

This approach also helps VAC to learn if the client has needs that are not being met. If so, VAC can work together with the client to develop:

- a case plan that links the client's needs with programs and services available through the Department or elsewhere;
- provide clients with information about VAC services and benefits, who qualifies for them, and how to apply for them, as well as information about health and safety matters that may be important to them; and
- provide case management and coordination services when required to help clients be as independent as they would like to be, help them maximize their choices and learn how to access community resources.

This client centred service approach results in a better quality of life for clients and their families. Call 1-866-522-2122 for more info.

Transformers (continued from page 6)

and always at risk of Taliban ambushes. Canada has ordered 82 of the vehicles -- which are sold commercially minus the armour and other military upgrades, under the name Actros -- at a total cost of \$87 million.

Mercedes, which hopes to sell the truck to many western armies, worked with Canadian engineers on the military modifications, sent field representatives to Alberta to train drivers and mechanics and has posted technicians to the Kandahar Airfield to assist their new customers.

"This is a mean-looking, purpose-built piece of kit," said Lt.-Col. Kerry Horlock of 1 Service Battalion in Edmonton, who has drawn soldiers from 39 Canadian bases, from Comox, B.C., to St. John's, N.L., to run combat logistics for the Canadian battle group in Kandahar. "We must give the boys the best we can, so we will use these trucks a lot. This is about protecting our troops. I haven't seen another piece of kit like it."

The AHSV's has state-of-the-art computerized screens in the cab to check oil, tires and much else. This saves drivers potentially dangerous outside inspections of the truck and its gauges. Each of the armoured doors weighs hundreds of kilograms, and is so heavy it can only be opened and closed electrically.

The new truck has begun to replace the Heavy Logistics Vehicle Wheeled (HLVW), which has had a hodgepodge of armour stuck inside and outside the cab to make it roadworthy in Afghanistan.

Canada depends more heavily than other NATO forces on ground convoys to keep forward-deployed combat troops supplied because it has no helicopters capable of operating in Afghanistan.

Master Cpl. Doug Dutchession, 38, of Portage La Prairie, Man., felt the vehicle might help draw attention to the largely unsung drivers who, as Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier has said, have among the most dangerous jobs in the battle group. "Not to take anything away from the infantry, but we're kind of the Cinderella part of the service," Dutchession said while taking a visitor on a test drive near the airfield. "I like to think the infantry are at the pointed end over here, and that we keep them pointy."

Dutchession, who is based at CFB Borden near Toronto, marvels at how Mercedes designers thought of little things such as nooks inside the cab to secure weapons and first aid kits, so that nothing hits drivers if the vehicle strikes an IED, as well as such touches as a cooler and thick window curtains to keep the searing Afghan heat from overwhelming the air conditioning. Until now, insurgents have not succeeded in striking any of the new trucks. "But I feel very safe in this. It is awesome, and I am lucky to have a chance to drive it," Dutchession said.

Humour to ponder

"If the enemy is in range, so are you."

"Tracers work both ways."

"After the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not your friend."

"Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once."

"Never trade luck for skill."

SUGGESTED WEBSITES

Note, suggested websites are posted for one issue of the *RAUSI News* and are provided for information only.

F35 Lightning II - Joint Strike Fighter Program website
<http://www.jsf.mil/index.htm>

Calgary's own 41 Canadian Brigade Group website
http://www.army.forces.gc.ca/41cbg_hq/home.asp

Boeing's Chinook Helicopter website
<http://www.boeing.com/rotorcraft/military/ch47d/index.htm>

Veterans Affairs Canada homepage
<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/>

RAUSI CONTACT INFO

Secretary: Ms. Kim Nelson

Office Hours:

1000 to 1400 hrs Monday through Friday

Phone: 265-6628 (leave a message when there is no answer)

Fax: 265-8347

e-mail: rausi@shaw.ca website: www.rausi.ca

Address:

RAUSI, Mewata Armoury, 801-11th Street SW
Calgary, AB, T2P 2C4

RAUSI NEWS is intended to be a bi-monthly publication. In order to keep mailing costs to a minimum, issues will be sent in electronic format (by e-mail) in PDF format (free download available at <http://www.adobe.com/>) to those members with e-mail addresses or by fax. Members wishing to receive a mailed copy in-lieu of an electronic copy please inform the Secretary. Copies are also posted on the RAUSI website at <http://www.rausi.ca> Articles concerning Canadian military topics are welcome and will be published space permitting, which is never a problem! *Editor*

Calgary Military Community Events is a listing that is released on a monthly basis by Eric Cameron from the Public Affairs Office. If you have an upcoming event that you would like listed or if you would like to be on distribution please contact Eric Cameron at cameron.ec2@forces.gc.ca or by phone 974-2826.

CALGARY GARRISON OFFICERS' MESS INFO

Mess Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel B. Doherty

President Mess Committee: Captain J. Alden

Mess Manager: Grace Forbes

How to contact the Calgary Garrison Officers' Mess

Phone: 410-2320 ext 3414 OR

e-mail: messmanager@shaw.ca

Address: Calgary Garrison Officers' Mess,
Mewata Armoury, 801-11th St SW,
Calgary, AB, T2P 2C4

Hello Internet buffers

by Lt(N) Sylvain Bouliane

I like statistics! I'm happy to report that our website has been used quite a bit lately. Our daily average hits are approximately 150 and the most commonly viewed pages are the newsletter(s) and the membership application form. As a result of the latter, our Board receives application forms downloaded from the website, filled in by a new member and then presented for membership approval at our monthly Board meeting. (It's so simple and what an improvement from previous years!). The photo gallery pages are also of a popular interest. I suppose that interested members want to know who attended the functions and look at what they've been missing. I'm always looking for more ideas to inform our membership using our website. Please keep your articles and links coming so we all can enjoy.

2008 Membership Status

As of 25 April 2008 the RAUSI Membership was:

Honorary	4
Life	6
Ordinary	131
41 CBG	12
Garrison	15
Out of Town	9
Group	36
Corporate	10
TOTAL	223

IN MEMORIAM

Honorary Colonel Mr. Justice A. M (Milton) **Harradence**, QC, RCAF,
RAUSI, 28 February 2008, Calgary, age 85

Trooper Michael Yuki **Hayakaze**, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians),
2 March 2008, Kandahar Province, age 25

Flight Lieutenant Francis (Frank) Lawrence **Hickey**, DFC, P. Eng, RCAF
RAUSI, 9 March 2008, Calgary

Bombardier Jeremie **Ouellet**, 1st Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery,
11 March 2008k Kandahar Air Field, age 22

Sergeant Jason **Boyes**, 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry,
16 March 2008, Panjwaii District, age 32

Private Terry John **Street**, 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry,
4 April, Panjwaii District, age 24

