



UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NANAIMO AND NORTH ISLAND

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NEW COMMANDER PACIFIC FLEET ANNOUNCED

President's Message

Good day members and friends of the USI! Recently I have asked the Military Committee Chair to write a synopsis of the future requirements of our Canadian Armed Forces to send to the Minister of National Defense on behalf of the institute. I would like to thank Bill and all the members who helped contribute to this excellent piece of work! To date we are still

having issues finding guest speakers however, I attended the national Navy League AGM and met our incoming Commander of



Pacific Fleet Commodore Art MacDonald

who will soon be promoted to Rear Admiral prior to his taking command. I extended an invitation out to him to come as a guest speaker, he kindly sent me a short email saying that he is looking forward to meeting our group!

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday May 11th @ 1130 hours at the Grand Hotel, Nanaimo. Cost will be \$22 per person and guests are certainly welcome!

Military & Security Musings

The Failure of Blind Point Defence

Nanaimo, 5 April 2016...

Quite some time ago... years back in fact, I penned a column on point defence. Unfortunately, it was recorded on the hard drive of a computer that has long since been cannibalized in Nigeria or India or

wherever computers go for their last rites followed by Taps. However, recent events in Paris and Brussels cause me to return to the fray over “means” in our never-ending war against international terrorism (WAIT).

Of course, as Canadians,

we too officially deny at the highest political levels that there is any such war. We assume instead the problem is one to be addressed as usual by the police and the courts, both following and strictly using due process, or, is to be tackled through the use of soft power, whatever that

latter is.

It shouldn't be news to anyone, but it's quite clear that the very first failure in WAIT is an intelligence one. Rarely, it seems, do we ever get to be out-in-front of the terrorists, reduced instead to reacting to them. Even the clumsiest of wan-a-be martyrs, with the most primitive of tools, can kill or maim dozens of the unsuspecting, unprepared, at little cost to the "terrs" themselves. Our vulnerabilities are limitless; our defences simply aren't. *Selon moi, if you try to guard everything, you guard nothing.*

I quite understand why both the French and the Belgians sent troops into the streets following the terrorist attacks in Paris last



November and again in Brussels just this past March. But, other than for the optics, one has to wonder at the utility of such moves. It's a feel-good move on the part of governments, but those troops would be better used out in the proverbial boonies weeding out the bad guys at source. In truth though, the Paris and Brussels terrorists turned out not to be illegals from Syria, Algeria or wherever at all, but turn out to have been home grown and home radicalized right in France and Belgium. The failures, and there were glaring failures, were those

of the national police and domestic intelligence agencies. Of course, the latter are hamstrung by national and international political and judicial requirements that combine to preserve individual rights and privacy, even when these latter serve largely as cover for those who are eating at us from the inside out. The big threat remains that posed by *Salafist Jihadists*. The vulnerabilities we manage to create for or endure by ourselves.

Ineptitude is part of the problem. The following is from a US news source:

*"Ibrahim El Bakraoui, one of the bombers who killed himself in a suicide attack in the Brussels airport last month, managed to [travel through international airports three times in a short space of time without interference from authorities](#). El Bakraoui, one of **3,250** known and suspected terrorists deported by Turkey alone, is a symbol of what officials worry is a growing gap in airport security as foreign fighters return to Europe and elsewhere from Syria, and, do so untouched. But he's hardly alone. Three French jihadists flew to Marseilles, France in September 2014 without hindrance after leaving the Islamic State in Syria – this despite already being wanted men in France itself."*

We now also know that Turkey provided the Belgium Government with specific warning that a specific known Belgian jihadist fugitive was enroute home from Syria via Turkey. That warning arrived at the right office in Brussels, in goodtime, but there is no indication any action was taken on it. He was one of the Brussels conspirators. It's now widely known and accepted that Belgium's various national security and police agencies suffer from the kinds of petty turf wars and the absence of necessary inter-agency cooperation that was so typical of the United States prior to 9/11. Not all the lessons that should have been learned from 9/11 were absorbed or acted on; nor are they being now.

Part of the problem is that most if not all Western European countries have turned themselves inside out in efforts to ensure the sanctimonious integrity of individual privacy and of individual rights against the imagined machinations of Big Brother. As is the case here in Canada, Western Europe is locked into a situation where individual rights and freedoms trump the collective rights and ignore the responsibilities of the people as whole. Increasingly we are caught in the contemporary mindset of Henry Stimson, circa 1929, when he shut down the United States cryptography organizations, famously suggesting that "gentlemen don't read each other's mail." The reality though is that we all live in fish

bowls. Everything; but everything, we say or do electronically is being heard or seen anonymously, maybe accidentally, by someone else off in some other corner of the world. Everything! Surely then the greater national good must count for something? Surely that greater good is not being served by doctrinaire, strict & slavish avoidance of deliberate but presumably necessary intrusions on individual privacy rights and freedoms by good government?

Although not directly related to the issue of terrorism, I note the financial media globally is already responding to the *Panama Papers* leaks with cautions that governments should be careful not to go overboard with crack-downs on suspected tax evaders when privacy rights and freedoms might be at risk. Give us a break! White collar crime is still crime.

Our new Federal Government is already launched onto another pedantic *tour de horizon* of our security, security intelligence and foreign intelligence practices, presumably to ensure we are not violating someone's sensibilities. May I provide them with some up front advice...don't hold back on reading the other guy's mail...or, mine for that matter. I may occasionally be indiscreet and can

even be embarrassed in hindsight by some of my communications, but I have nothing to hide and thus nothing to fear. So, let's get with the 21st Century and get a lot more thrust and energy in all of our necessary intelligence collection activities. Let's be on the attack, rather than sitting back playing defence.

And yes, I do well remember that garbage in without collateral and sound analysis leads to garbage out.

Col (Retd) W.J. McCullough

The views expressed in this column are those of Colonel (Ret'd) W.J. (Bill) McCullough, a Past President of our Institute and the long-time Chair of our Military Committee. His columns are the product of his own research and midnight navel gazing.



A CH-148 Cyclone maritime helicopter is seen during a training exercise at 12 Wing Shearwater near Dartmouth, N.S.

This edition of the USINNI Newsletter has been published and authorized for release by

WO (Retd) Edwin J Peeters, Vice President, USINNI.

Any USINNI Member wishing to make a contribution or comment with respect to this publication may do so by contacting the same.

This month in Canadian Military History

- 04/05/1910** - The Canadian Navy, later re-designated as the Royal Canadian Navy, is authorized after Royal assent is given to the Naval Service Act of Canada.
- 04/05/1911** - Her Majesty's Dockyard Esquimalt is transferred from British to Canadian authorities.
- 05/05/1945** - Units of the First Canadian Army accept the surrender of German forces at Bad Zwischenahn, Germany.
- 08/05/1945** - Victory in Europe Day (VE-Day) is declared, ending the European portion of the Second World War
- 08/05/1967** - The Canadian Forces Reorganization Act is given Royal assent and begins the process of unification of the previously-separate Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Army and Royal Canadian Air Force.
- 12/05/1916** - Construction of the military base begins on the site selected for Camp Borden.
- 23/05/1944** - 1st Canadian Corps breaks through the Hitler Line and occupies Pontecorvo, Italy.
- 24/05/1941** - HMS Hood is sunk by the Bismarck in the Denmark Straits: three Canadian midshipmen serving on the battle cruiser are killed.
- 26/05/1940** - The evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk, France begins.

A Note from our Vice President:

Our next
luncheon
Meeting
will be held

at

The Grand Hotel
4898 Rutherford Rd
Nanaimo

on

Wednesday
May 11, 2016
1130 hours

\$22.00
per person

All Members are reminded to please ensure that they contact or are contacted by their respective telephone contact coordinator to confirm attendance at our luncheons. This process simplifies the task of the luncheon catering staff by ensuring that sufficient food and place settings are prepared in anticipation of our function.

Our telephone coordinators are:

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