



Founded 1927

RUSI

Newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island

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See the **RUSI Calendar of Events** on page 8.

Argus: The Aircraft with a Thousand Eyes – Theme Aircraft for the RCAF's 88th Anniversary

As in the previous 30 years in Borden, a theme aircraft was selected for this year's anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force, a tradition that intends not only to highlight the aircraft itself, but also to give recognition to the Canadians who flew and maintained it. For this RCAF 88th Anniversary, the Canadair CP-107 Argus was selected, as this year marks the 30th anniversary of its retirement from CF service.

The story of the Argus finds its roots in the Battle of the Atlantic during the Second World War, when allied forces realized the need for a very long range, anti submarine patrol aircraft that could reach and patrol the mid-Atlantic. The role was first filled by the B-24 Liberator until the end of the war, but soon Canada was in need of a modern submarine hunter that could face a fast growing Soviet submarine fleet. Perhaps something like... the Argus!

Named after the Greek mythological character Argus - who was said to have a thousand eyes, the CP-107 Argus was designed around the airframe of the Bristol Britannia airliner. Built by Canadair in Montreal, it was introduced into RCAF service in 1957. Considered at the time the most technologically advanced anti-submarine warfare aircraft in the world, it was powered by four huge Wright R-3350 engines, and featured two large bomb bays that could handle homing torpedoes, bombs or depth charges. It also had a 70-million candlepower search light mounted on the wing to help with identification of surface vessels at night. Loaded with state-of-the-art detection tools, it was easily recognizable by its obvious external features that included a large radome holding a radar antenna under its chin, and an 18-foot tail boom to isolate magnetic sensors away from the aircraft.

With a flight crew of eight and an

additional seven sensor operators, the aircraft flew missions often in excess of 20 hours. In October 1959, an Argus from 405 Maritime Patrol Squadron made Canadian aviation history by flying the longest non-stop flight up to that day, a record-breaking 4,570 miles from Hawaii to North Bay. Throughout the Cold War, the RCAF fleet of Argus made a tremendous contribution to the strategic maritime balance by conducting anti-submarine patrols for NATO in Canada's area of responsibility. During the 1962 Cuban Missile crisis, RCAF Argus typically flew six hours out to their patrol area in the Atlantic, stood eight hours "on station" patrolling their area, before making the six-hour return flight home - although their key contribution to the operation was never publicly acknowledged.

Over a period of more than two decades, the Argus was flown and maintained by crews from 404, 405, 407, 415 and 449 Squadrons, mostly out of Greenwood, N.S., Comox, B.C., and Summerside, P.E.I. It was replaced in its maritime patrol role by the CP-140 Aurora in 1981

The Maple Leaf, MWO Normand Marion, Mar 22, 2012

RCN participates in International Counter-Narcotics Op

HMCS St. John's, and its ship-borne CH-124 Sea King helicopter, are participating in Operation Caribe. It represents the Canadian Forces' contribution to Op Martillo, a bi-national joint interagency and multinational collaborative effort among western hemisphere and European nations to counter illicit trafficking in the Caribbean Basin.

"The tremendous work that HCMS St. John's

and her crew have done during Operation Caribe demonstrates Canada's commitments made during the North American Leaders Summit," said the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence. "Canada is devoted to contributing more to the security of the hemisphere, and countering criminal activities and other threats in the region. The efforts by our CF members to disrupt illicit trafficking operations in the Caribbean will help to ensure the safety of Canadians and our borders." Initiated on January 15, 2012, Op Martillo is coordinated by the Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF South), a subordinate command of U.S. Southern Command, which is based in Florida. JIATF South is a U.S. national task force responsible for conducting interagency and international detection and monitoring operations, and facilitating the interdiction of illicit trafficking of drugs, weapons, money and people.

"This operation is designed to deny transnational criminal organizations air and maritime access to the littoral regions of the Central American isthmus," said Lieutenant-General Walt Semianiw, Commander of Canada Command, "We are committed to working with our western hemisphere and European partners, and successfully disrupting illicit trafficking operations in the region."

Throughout the course of this mission, HMCS St. John's, its helicopter and crews will provide surveillance, detection and monitoring of potential vessels of interest during counter-drug surveillance and U.S. Coast Guard led law-enforcement interdiction operations.

"The efforts of HMCS St. John's and her crew will directly lead to the interruption of some illicit drugs destined for our shores. These are tangible results that will be felt in the communities of Canada and its allies," said Vice-Admiral Paul Maddison, Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy. "These are outcomes

we can all be proud of.”

Every year, under the coordination of JIATF South, partner nations intercept and seize millions of dollars in illicit drugs, and play a major role in suppressing trafficking in international waters and airspace. Op Caribe helps to strengthen international partnerships, builds partnership capacity, and demonstrates our regional commitment to combatting transnational criminal organizations. The CF has participated in Op Caribe since November 2006.

This is HMCS St. John's second participation in Op Caribe. In 2011, it assisted in the recovery of a sunken self-propelled semi-submersible vehicle carrying drugs, and used its helicopter to medically evacuate an injured U.S. Coast Guard sailor to Honduras.

The Maple Leaf, April 16, 2012

Canadian Combat Sniper Record Broken

A British Army soldier by the name of Corporal Craig Harrison, of the Household Cavalry, set a new record for the longest shot in combat. Twice. Cpl. Harrison fired two shots at Taliban machine gunners in Afghanistan. They were confirmed via GPS to be 8,120 feet from Cpl Harrison's position. That is more than a mile and a half. To make it even more astounding, the range was almost 3,000 feet beyond what is considered the effective range of the weapon. At that range the bullet takes around 3 seconds to reach the target.

The previous record was set in 2002 for a sniper kill at 7,972ft. That shot was made by Canadian Corporal Rob Furlong, of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, who was using a .50BMG McMillan TAC-50 rifle.

Cpl Harrison accomplished his successes

with a L115A3 rifle. The weapon is used .338 Lapua Magnum cartridges. The Canadian records were fired with .50BMG rounds.

The L115A3 .338 is a bolt action, detachable magazine-fed, precision rifle.

But it doesn't come cheap. News reports put the rifle at around \$25,000. But if you put it in the right hands and it can hit a sized target from 4500 feet. More importantly, even at extreme range, the bullet retains its power, hitting with more force than a .44 Magnum at 25 feet.

“It was just unlucky for the Taliban that conditions were so good and we could see them so clearly. We saw two insurgents running through its courtyard, one in a black dishdasha, and one in green. They came forward carrying a PKM machine gun, set it up and opened fire on the commander's wagon. The first round hit a machine gunner in the stomach and killed him outright. He went straight down and didn't move. The second insurgent grabbed the weapon and turned as my second shot hit him in the side. He went down, too. They were both dead.”

Cpl. Harrison had a memorable tour of duty, making the two impossible shots, having a bullet deflect off his helmet, and surviving an IED blast that broke both of his arms. He is reportedly healing well, and has returned to duty.

RUSI-VI Member Reg Roy

Reg has moved to The Lodge at Broadmead, and is quite content with his new billet.

Given that Reg is a well-known and eminent member of RUSI, we wanted to let all members know where to find him.

Can you Help?

The Prince George Company of the Rocky Mountain Rangers has been reactivated and members are now looking for historical documents about the Company that might be returned to their museum for safekeeping. The CO of the unit recalls a conversation with a former member of the Company who had apparently saved some of the memorabilia when it closed its doors in the 1960s. Unfortunately, the contact information of this individual was not kept at the time. RUSI members are being asked if they know where some of these histories might be. Any information should be forwarded to Paula Skippon, RUSI Military Oral History Director at PaulaSkippon@shaw.ca or to Jim Wood at jimwood@uvic.ca.

RUSI & UVIC Military Oral History Student Selected for Prestigious Battlefield Tour

We are proud to announce that Caylan Ayers, one of our MOH students, was one of only 12 students selected from across Canada to attend the 2012 Canadian Battlefields Foundation Study Tour. The tour is organized by the Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic and Disarmament Studies.

This year's programme of study will examine the actions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War by visiting the Ypres Salient, the Somme and Vimy Ridge.

This will be followed by a visit to Dieppe, and a detailed examination of the Normandy Campaign of the Second World War.

Students will attend and participate in ceremonies commemorating the 68th anniversary of the D-Day landings. They will be expected to undertake pre-trip preparation, lead one historical on-site discussion, and make a biographical presentation of a Canadian soldier who is buried or commemorated at one of the sites on the itinerary. Participants will also keep a detailed journal describing their experiences; these will be submitted to the Foundation at the end of the tour.

The 2012 tour will be led by Dr Geoff Hayes, University of Waterloo and Col David Patterson, President of the Canadian Battlefields Foundation.

The Foundation selected Caylan for a \$1500 bursary towards the cost of the programme.

Important Notice

Future of Military Oral History Program

As members know, RUSI took a leadership role, in partnership with UVIC, in establishing the Military Oral History course 7 years ago. Since then, some 70 students have interviewed over 150 veterans, whose personal histories are now held within the university's Archives. These detailed interviews are accessible by students, historians and the general public.

However, due to cutbacks in university funding, this program is now at risk. Your executive feels that this RUSI outreach initiative should be supported and we are in discussion with the university to determine how we might assist, if the course is to continue. This matter will be raised at the May luncheon so that the general membership can be involved in possible next steps.

Arctic Sovereignty 2012: Op Nunaliut

Operation Nunaliut 2012, a major sovereignty and security operation that takes place in Canada's High Arctic until May 1 2012, in and around Resolute Bay, Nunavut. During Operation Nunaliut 2012, which is Inuktitut for "land that is ours," the Canadian Forces will face some of the most challenging terrain and weather conditions Canada has to offer.

"Operation Nunaliut serves as an excellent example of our Government's commitment to a secure and sovereign North and our commitment to ensuring the Canadian Forces are well-trained to take on the challenges that may confront them," said Minister MacKay. "The Canadian Forces play a key role in achieving our goals in the North, and our Government is making sure they have the tools they need to carry out a full range of tasks in the Arctic."

Operation Nunaliut 2012 is one of the major operations conducted every year by the Canadian Forces in Canada's North. The aim of the operation is to demonstrate expeditionary capabilities in response to a simulated whole of government safety-driven mission.

Two different scenarios will be conducted during the operation: one in the vicinity of Beechy Island enabling Search and Rescue (SAR) training combined with a dive operation; and a northern ground patrol scenario that will allow Canadian Rangers to both exercise sovereignty and practice area search techniques.

"The success of these Northern activities is achieved in great part through the cooperation of other government departments and agencies," said Lieutenant-General Walter Semianiw, the Commander of Canada Command. "We also look to develop and maintain strong relationships with the local authorities and the indigenous populations, and there is an ongoing reliance on the Canadian Rangers."

"In the changing environment of the Arctic," said Brigadier-General Guy Hamel, Commander, Joint Task Force (North), "we need to be prepared to respond to calls for assistance, whether it is ground SAR or other emergencies on the land or at sea. Operation Nunaliut 2012 provides the perfect opportunity to test the capabilities that will allow us to deploy rapidly and effectively in response to tomorrow's safety and security challenges."

This year's operation will also feature a Combined Dive Team that will conduct Arctic diving operations in support of Defence Research and Development Canada's Northern Watch Project, and a remotely operated vehicle survey of Her Majesty's Ship Breadalbane, a Franklin rescue ship that sank in 1853 and is the world's most northern known shipwreck. As well, 413 Transport and Rescue Squadron from Greenwood, Nova Scotia, and 442 Transport and Rescue Squadron from Comox, British Columbia, will deploy a CC-130 Hercules, a CH-149 Cormorant, and a CC-115 Buffalo for approximately five days to conduct High Arctic SAR training.

To mark the end of the operation, a closing ceremony and parade will be conducted at the Task Force Nunaliut Headquarters in Resolute Bay.

U.S. Coast Guard Praises Canadian Search and Rescue

The burned-out tug *Patrice McAllister* is towed to Clayton, New York, after its injured crew was rescued by the Canadian Forces and the Canadian Coast Guard. Photo: U.S. Coast Guard

Search and rescue crews from the Canadian Forces and the Canadian Coast Guard have received high praise from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) for the rescue of six crew members from a tugboat in the Great Lakes.

"Thank you for your superb rescue of six crew members from the U.S.-flagged tug *Patrice McAllister*, which experienced a major fire Tuesday [March 27, 2012] while underway in the Canadian waters of eastern Lake Ontario. Because of your prompt response and skilled on-scene action, your SAR resources were able to rescue the entire crew before further severe injuries could occur," said Rear-Admiral Michael Parks, Commander of the USCG's Nine District, in a Bravo Zulu message to the Canadian Forces and the Canadian Coast Guard.

"You truly conducted the response in the spirit of the trilateral CAN/U.S./U.K. SAR agreement of 1999, putting first the safety of life at sea. As always, we are grateful for your partnership and commitment to maintaining a world-class SAR system on the Great Lakes."

Bravo Zulu is a NATO naval signal meaning "well done." Originally conveyed by flag hoist or radio message, it is now often used in written correspondence and message traffic from senior naval officers to congratulate or

compliment contemporaries, crews or commands on outstanding performance.

Fire broke out on the *Patrice McAllister*, a 105-ft tug, in the early morning hours of March 27th in Lake Ontario waters about 16 kilometres south of Prince Edward County. The Canadian Forces Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) in Trenton, Ontario, responded with a C-130 Hercules aircraft and a CH-146 Griffon helicopter from 424 Transport and Rescue Squadron at 8 Wing Trenton, and with the Canadian Coast Guard Cutter *Cape Hearne* from Kingston, Ontario. The U.S. Coast Guard also responded with a MH-65 helicopter and a USCG cutter.

The Canadian Griffon crew evacuated the critically-injured chief engineer from the tug to a hospital in Bellville, Ontario, while crews on the Canadian Coast Guard *Cape Hearne* rescued the five remaining sailors.

"This is an excellent example of teamwork between other nations, the Canadian Forces and the Canadian Coast Guard," said Major Marty Zimmer, officer-in-charge at the Trenton JRCC. "This also highlights the fact that due to the early warm weather, activity on the water had started a month early and Canadian Coast Guard vessels were ready."

This year, the Trenton JRCC had worked with the Canadian Coast Guard to ensure that primary search and rescue vessels were in the water two weeks earlier than the planned start date of April 6th.

The Canadian Forces, through Canada Command, are responsible for the effective operation of a coordinated aeronautical and maritime SAR system in Canada. The Forces have the primary responsibility for aeronautical SAR services, while the Coast Guard is responsible for maritime SAR services.

RUSI VI President's Remarks

As our 'meeting season' draws to a close, your Program Committee is pulling together the topics for next year. We will continue to build a program that will permit members to gain information on security and defence topics that will provide them with the knowledge to engage in informed discussion of such matters with their friends and neighbours.

There is no shortage of need for clarification with media frenzy and 'gotcha politics' chasing very serious issues regarding F-18 fighter replacement and the F35 program, the continuing sniping at the submarine program – with a few pot-shots at the shipbuilding program, and the contracts for an effective armoured fighting vehicle for operations in the IED-ridden asymmetric environment.

Some will consider it natural after the CF has enjoyed overwhelming public recognition and support throughout the Afghanistan operation – although Canada's continuing presence still numbers almost 1000 personnel in the exceptionally important training mission for the Afghan Army and police – and contributions to officer professional education as well. With the exceptions of a few journalists like Matthew Fisher, Canadian reporters and analysts have apparently abandoned Afghanistan for Ottawa where they can be seen changing the tone of respect for the CF to one questioning competency, especially in equipment procurement.

The misapprehension that we are 'finished' with our Afghanistan responsibilities threatens too the absolute necessity to recognize and remember those lost, wounded or otherwise suffering physical or emotional damage as a result of Canada's contributions to the

stabilization of a most dangerous area. Their continued support by their comrades, families, friends – and especially those charged with benefits administration -is and will remain an imperative responsibility for many years to come.

With the recent Budget reductions to National Defence, there were no reductions in the size of either the Regular or Reserve forces, although there will be programmatic and organizational changes yet to be fully played out. However, the public must be informed of the various issues relevant to Canada's defence and security interests and the capabilities of the CF to respond when called.

As Kipling wrote, with such great insight, in his poem 'Tommy' dedicated to the British Army enlisted man in the Victorian Age (1892):

**"O IT'S TOMMY THIS AN' TOMMY THAT
AN' 'TOMMY GO AWAY',
BUT IT'S 'THANK YOU MISTER ATKINS'
WHEN THE BAND BEGINS TO PLAY...
FOR IT'S TOMMY THIS AN' TOMMY THAT
AN' 'CHUCK HIM OUT, THE BRUTE!'
BUT IT'S 'SAVIOUR OF 'IS COUNTRY',
WHEN THE GUNS BEGIN TO SHOOT..."**

Lest we forget!

Don Macnamara BGen (ret'd)
President

The Last Post

RUSI VI Members

Sam Meckbach, 31 January 2012

MGen (Ret) PJ (Pat) Mitchell, 4 March 2012

Cdr (Ret) John Coppard, 5 March 2012

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, 9 May 2012

SPEAKER: Capt(N) Brian Costello, the Assistant Chief of Staff Halifax Class Modernization

TOPIC: Update on Maritime Activities

- ⇒ **PLACE:** 5th (BC) Field Regt RCA Officers' Mess, Room 312, Bay Street Armoury
- ⇒ **TIME:** 1130 FOR 1200 Hrs Luncheon
- ⇒ **COST:** \$20.00

Change in Speaker - RAdm Greenwood, was called to Ottawa and we were very lucky to have Capt (N) Costello step up.

Capt(N) Costello was promoted to Lieutenant-Commander in 2001 and took up Headquarters duties in Ottawa on the Maritime Commander's Staff as Staff Officer Operations Training. During this NDHQ sojourn, he was dispatched to join Op APOLLO in the Arabian Gulf, first as Liaison Officer to the ABRAHAM LINCOLN Carrier Battle Group Commander, and then to the Commander Fifth Fleet in Bahrain for the planning of Op IRAQI FREEDOM.

Returning to Victoria in April 2004 to the appointment as Executive Officer at VENTURE. Having next served as Executive Officer in the Esquimalt-based frigates CALGARY from December 2005, and VANCOUVER from June 2006, Capt(N) Costello completed a 'Hat Trick' with appointment as Executive Officer in the frigate OTTAWA in December 2006 while deployed on Op ALTAIR to the Middle East region with the BOXER Expeditionary Strike Group. Capt(N) Costello was selected to attend the year-long Joint Command & Staff Programme at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto in June 2007, and was promoted to Commander in December of that same year.

Selected for command upon graduation, he became the 11th Commanding Officer of the Halifax-based frigate ST JOHN'S on 11 July 2008 where he completed Op HORATIO in Haiti before returning to NDHQ Ottawa to become the Executive Assistant to the Chief of Defence Staff. With promotion to his current rank in May 2011, Capt(N) Costello was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff - Personnel and Training at Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters in Esquimalt, and is now the Assistant Chief of Staff Halifax Class Modernization and he is also heavily involved in upcoming Naval transformation and the introduction of new capabilities.

We are working on our speakers programme for the Fall and will advise in our August Newsletter.

Reminder -The Pacific Tattoo

The inaugural performances of the Pacific Tattoo will take place **July 14 & 15, 2012 in Victoria, BC**. This musical extravaganza will feature bands, dancers and music from around the world. The Tattoo has evolved from a simple military ceremony in the 17th century to a dynamic performance concept with hugely successful events in cities around the world from Edinburgh, to Sydney, Australia. In Canada, Halifax's Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo has been a major fixture since 1979. The Pacific Tattoo is gearing up to deliver high quality, family friendly entertainment to locals and visitors alike. Bands are coming from near and far and there are dancers and other participants as well.\

We have learned that tickets for this event are going fast so act now.

Tickets are now on sale. For more information go to: <http://pacifictattoo.ca/>