



Royal United

Services Institute

of Nova Scotia

INCORPORATED 1928

P.O. Box 33100 Quinpool RPO, Halifax, NS B3L 4T6

Dispatches

March 2005: 2/05

77th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN REVIEW

RUSI's 77th Annual General Meeting was held on the 23rd of February in the Cambridge Military Library. Highlights of this year's meeting included the introduction of the new Executive and Board of Directors, who are as follows:

President: Lt (N) Paul Phillips, CD

Vice-President: Colonel Murray Lee, CD

Immediate Past President: Major John F. Harrison, CD

Secretary-Treasurer: Ms. Mary Pletsch

Directors (2005): Mr. Gordon Eastwood, Commander Len Canfield, CD, and
Mr. Michael Nash Kelly

Directors (2006): LCol Alex Morrison, MSC, CD, Captain Ross Brown, CD, and
Mr. Richard McNair.

As well, changes to the RUSI Constitution were proposed that would eliminate the position of 2nd Vice President, rename the Military Affairs Committee as the Security Affairs Committee, place the Secretary-Treasurer as chair of the Membership Committee, and place the Vice President as head of the Programme Committee.

Complete copies of the minutes are available upon request to Mary Pletsch at 475-1932 or marypletsch@hotmail.com. A detailed list of expenditures for 2004 will follow in the next edition of Dispatches.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

17 March: Commodore Eric Lerhe speaks on Operations in the Arabian Sea. The meeting will take place in the Cambridge Military library commencing at 1930 hrs.

21 April: Cdr Peter Haydon speaks on Canadian Submarines. 1930 hrs, Cambridge Military library.

19 May: Professor Dan Middlemiss speaks on Defence Policy 2005 1930 hrs. Cambridge Military library.

1 June: Mixed Dinner at Ashburn celebrating the Year of the Veteran. Guests welcome!
Cost will be \$25 per person. **Call Mike Kelly at 826-7112 for reservations.**

SECURITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The following is a biography of Alex Morrison, the new chairman of the RUSI Security Affairs Committee:

Alex Morrison was born in Sydney NS and received his early education there and in North Sydney. He is a graduate of Xavier Junior College, Mount Allison University (1968, Bachelor of Arts), the year-long course at the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College (1970, psc) and the Royal Military College of Canada (1980, Master of Arts.)

He served in the Canadian Army (Reserve), the Canadian Army (Regular), and the Canadian Armed Forces from 1956 until 1990 with postings in Cyprus at the Headquarters of the UN Peacekeeping Force (1968), with Canada's NATO force in the Federal Republic of Germany (1970-1973) and with the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in New York as Counsellor and then Minister-Counsellor (1983-1989), retiring with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He was then Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the 2nd Battalion, the Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton) (1990-2001) and Honorary Colonel of the Nova Scotia Highlanders (2001-2004).

He served as the Executive Director of the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies from 1989-1997 and as its President from 1997 until 2001, and remains a member of its Board of Directors. In February 1994, he was asked by the Government of Canada to establish the Pearson Peacekeeping Center at Cornwallis Park, NS and served as its founding President until November of 2001.

He is/has been a part-time lecturer at, *inter alia*, The Royal Military College of Canada (1981-1982), Glendon College of York University (1987-1994), Columbia University (1988), York University-Main (1990), and Dalhousie University (2002-present). He currently is a Research Associate with the Community Economic Development Institute of the University College of Cape Breton. He is the author, co-author or editor of over 30 books and many articles. He is in demand as a media commentator on security and defence issues. In the first half of 2002 and 2003, he facilitated an extensive series of public consultation meetings designed to obtain citizen input on various aspects of the cleanup of the Sydney Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens.

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECURITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Security Affairs Committee (SAC) held regular monthly meetings in January and February. Here are highlights of the meetings.

- Alex Morrison (sandym@mail.com) succeeded Gordon Eastwood as Chairman. The SAC extended a vote of thanks to Gordon for his productive term as Chairman and expressed appreciation that he will remain a member of the Committee.
- Peter Haydon, a new member of the Committee, presented a briefing outlining ways in which SAC, and RUSI, could enhance and improve its public image. Persistence and patience are two important guidelines. Regular publications and contact with the media will pay results if followed consistently.
- Hugh Pullen is continuing research on the subject of Arctic Sovereignty and hopes to have a paper for publication prepared soon.
- Murray Lee's Op-ED article on the upcoming defence paper was submitted to the media and was published by the Edmonton Journal.
- Alex Morrison's OP-ED on the new Chief of the Defence Staff and the challenges and opportunities he faces was published by the Halifax Chronicle Herald, as was Ned Amy's letter on Alex's article. Alex was also featured in a Chronicle Herald article on the recent federal budget.
- In 2005, the SAC will devote priority to defence policy themes applicable to Nova Scotia within the Canadian context.
- SAC decided to focus, as well, on expanded public education activities including sustained contact with government officials and military commanders and staff officers.
- Committee membership will be reviewed with a view to securing functional and writing expertise in selected focus areas.

RUSI PUBLICATIONS

Several RUSI members have had articles and letters published in the press recently:
Busy days ahead for Hillier

By Alex Morrison, Lt. Colonel (Retired).
Published in the Halifax Chronicle Herald on the 16th of February 2005.

Recent editorials in this newspaper have commented on Rick Hillier's promotion to general and appointment to the post of Chief of the Defence Staff. To be successful as Canada's top military officer, he will have to deal with a number of challenges.

First, he will need to establish with navy and air force personnel that warm sense of rapport he has enjoyed with the army. That means enhancing and expanding his "army days" custom of travelling the country to speak to those under his command. He needs to bring them into his confidence, engage them in consultations and keep them informed. The contemporary Canadian military is composed of highly educated, well-trained men and women whose opinions are important.

Next, his "political" skills will be tested as he deals with the individuals in many government departments that will look at how he plans to obtain an increase in the defence budget, what he proposes to do with the additional dollars, and in what parts of Canada he proposes to spend them.

The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia is, naturally, concerned with our province and the defence resources our local commanders have to carry out assigned and potential future tasks, including threats to our security. These provincial areas need to be approached within the context of the country as a whole. However, what is good for Nova Scotia is good for the country.

Here are some of the issues affecting Nova Scotians that Gen. Hillier will need to address in the months ahead.

The strength of the military in Nova Scotia: Is it sufficient to carry out currently assigned missions and tasks? Does it need to be increased or augmented. How soon can that be accomplished?

Coastal surveillance: Does the military have the reconnaissance capability needed to detect, report and co-ordinate responses to incursions and challenges to our laws from the sea and on the coastline, and to respond quickly to these challenges especially where the use of force is required?

Inter-service co-operation: Will he enhance the current co-operation in training exercises and operations, and ensure that the Canadian public is made aware of the extent to which the military, coast guard, RCMP, municipal police and other civilian agencies work together to ensure our security to the extent they can?

How will Gen. Hillier ensure that the new and updated equipment and weapons systems needed by all branches and elements of the regular and reserve Canadian Forces be introduced in a timely manner?

Reserves: How can our reserve forces be trained and equipped to be of maximum value to the overall military requirements? Should they train more closely with civilian organizations that respond to crisis situations? Does our dwindling population automatically mean that our reserve units will be reduced and the positions allotted to units elsewhere in the country outside of the Atlantic provinces? Will he expand co-operation with civilian employers to ensure that service personnel deployed on essential tasks in Canada and abroad will be able to return to their civilian jobs when released by the military?

The promised 5,000-person "peacekeeping brigade" promised by Prime Minister Paul Martin in the last election: Will it be a "brigade in being" (unlike the Disaster Assistance Response Team that must collect its personnel from military units across the country)? How long will it take to enrol, train, equip and otherwise prepare the 5,000 new persons? Will it be trained to a general-purpose combat capability level before receiving specialized peace-keeping training? Will the brigade have civilian police, non-governmental organizations, and election/governance officials allied with the military so that a timely, comprehensive approach can be adopted to meet the many challenges of dealing with the results of

conflict? Will those non-military personnel be action-ready within 48 or 72 hours or will they need to be collected and then given refresher training?

Informing the public: Will the necessary personnel and monetary resources be found to ensure that Nova Scotians are constantly provided with opportunities to learn about the accomplishments of our military forces? Will an outreach program be instituted that will permit greater military visibility in the community?

Will the new Chief of the Defence Staff be forced to preside over significant reductions in our navy and air force? If so, what sea- and air-related capabilities will be discarded? How many military and civilian jobs will be lost in Nova Scotia? By how much will the Department of National Defence reduce its spending in our province?

Gen. Hillier's days ahead will be busy ones. He will need to juggle international demands for Canadian military units and for his personal attendance with the challenge of dealing with politicians and the bureaucracy, while at the same time trying to meet commitments with what have been called "inadequate numbers of personnel and resources" and still remaining visible to members of the military as they carry out the bidding of the government. We wish him well.

Alex Morrison is chairman, security affairs committee, the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia.

Halifax Chronicle Herald
Voice of the People
26 February 2005

Alex Morrison's "Busy days ahead for Hillier" is now a reality. Defence Minister Bill Graham's statement that some items need not wait for the defence policy review reflect his desire to move quickly. Refreshing is the accord between these two and it augurs well that decisive action will now replace procrastination.

Some corporations have already crossed the start-line vying for lucrative contracts aided by media coverage focused mainly on big-ticketed items. Publicity is scarce for less costly items such as the need for a reconnaissance capability to be added to the reserves in Nova Scotia to optimize its relevance to coastline security.

Except for Nova Scotia, every mainland province has this capability that would enhance the army's support for vital RCMP security operations on our vulnerable and sparsely inhabited coastline. Conceivably, without this capability, the Russian Roulette metaphor could haunt us one day. Let us hope General Hillier agrees with the need and Defence Minister Graham authorizes it without delay.

As a bonus the capability would; broaden support for emergency and search and rescue operations, permit military footprints in communities where the sight of a soldier has been lost from memory, and provide some Nova Scotia reservists with an added challenge.

Edward Amy
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WHERE IS THE FUNDING FOR OUR ARMED FORCES?

By Murray Lee, Colonel (Retired).

Published in the Edmonton Journal on the 23rd of February 2005.

Readers interested in our national security will note three significant events which have taken place in the last month, *and there is much more to come*. The three events were: the deployment of the Disaster Assistance Response Team or DART; the appointment by the Prime Minister of a new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Rick Hillier, and a report released by a group calling itself Canada 25, a group of 20-35 year old Canadians concerned with our security.

The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia (RUSI NS) some 77 years in existence, has a mandate is to keep our politicians and our publics informed with respect to Canada's, and indeed, Nova Scotia's security and well-being. To that end, in the last 24 months, the Institute has produced a number of studies on such subjects as Port Security (to include the threat by terrorists using shipping containers); a study on the restructure of Canada's militia or Army Reserve; the subject of Strategic Lift, both for sea

and air for deployments by the Canadian Forces to trouble spots around the world, and finally, a paper entitled “Who is defending Nova Scotia’s Coast?”.

Just recently, the Chair of our Security Affairs Committee had an OpEd published with questions posed to the new CDS.

To continue with our cancers, the subject of a long range deployment capability for Canada is the subject of this article – the *lack* of a long range deployment capability and the future plans by the new CDS for the shape, scope and role of Canada’s Armed Forces. Canadians must pay closer attention to the indicators which are now public knowledge with respect to the future Foreign and Defence policy. Previous Ministers of National Defence, John McCallum and David Pratt as well as the current minister, Bill Graham, have been supportive of RUSI efforts in bringing to the government’s attention the shortfalls facing Canada’s woefully undermanned, under-equipped and overtasked Armed Forces. So what is our point in this article you may ask?

Our concern is that the government has not hoisted in the fact that the military needs a large infusion of funding to meet the perceived aim of a new, transformed armed forces. The scuttlebutt that the defence budget will only be increased by \$750 million does not address the problems facing the Canadian Forces. If the aim is become a “Model Power” rather than a “Middle Power”, the government has a responsibility to listen to what General Hillier is saying with respect to revitalization and spending on new equipment. We do not disagree that the army needs to restructure itself but in turn, *it should not be cast* as a model peacekeeper trained and prepared for humanitarian relief and peacekeeping. Colonel Pat Strogan, a truly experienced commander of the war in Afghanistan stated the problems facing the CF succinctly at Dalhousie just last week. The role of armies is to defend their country and when necessary, fight wars to do just that. Getting the army to where it has to operate requires airlift and in some cases sealift – capabilities which we currently do not possess. In his outgoing speech in Calgary, Ambassador Celluci re-iterated the same theme. General Hillier has stated that we cannot afford to purchase the needed equipment (read C-17 transports for the Air Force and Joint Support Ships for the Navy). He believes that leasing such equipment is the way to go. RUSI does not agree with this philosophy. It’s time we woke up and demanded that Canada pay its own way in supporting the security tasks the government assigns the CF.

The government has spent literally millions of defence dollars in the last 7 years chartering lift resources from various countries and not without embarrassment to Canada. Witness the MV Katey incident where we had to forcefully get our equipment back to Canada from the Balkans; the fiasco in trying to get three C-130 Hercules to fly to East Timor then finally having to rely on foreign carriers to do the job; the delay in deploying the DART as we negotiated airlift a \$4 million one-way airlift from the Ukraine *and then arriving two weeks after the event* – some rapid response capability that is!

It has become a habit to “cut and paste” when the CF has to deploy on short notice. Perish the thought that should we have to bring anyone home in hurry! Why is this happening? We believe it is because *WE DO NOT HAVE* the political will nor have a foreign policy on which to base our military planning. The forces have to react to the whim of a government who love to grandstand on the world stage by stating “Canada will be there!” This has happened so often the times are too numerous to count. We cut and paste together a group of what is available so that Canada can be seen as taking a leading role. Other than the Afghanistan commitment, we have not sent formed properly formed units into troubled areas for many years.

Why do we continually underfund the forces and why do we continue to waste millions on deployment assets? The government attempted to convince the Canadian people of a “peace dividend” after the end of the Cold War when really we were slashing the deficit at the expense of the Forces but continuing to insist we have a “core combat capability”. As Allen Fotheringham would say, its obfuscation. The monies spent in the recent past transporting our personnel and equipment could have been spent leasing the needed resources (as the British Royal Air Force has done with their C-17s). There are transport assault ships we could lease from the US Navy – the will has just not been there.

The bottom line to all of this is that we need a government which honestly believes in the mission of the armed forces (once they define it), then fund the forces to do the tasks and give them the proper equipment to do it with! Anything less will not make Canada a “Model Power” but a modern banana republic. We wish General Hillier all the luck in the world.

Murray Lee, Colonel (Retired)
Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Book: *The Canadian Soldier*

Anyone who is interested in a group ordering of the book *The Canadian Soldier* or who has questions about it, can contact the Secretary-Treasurer, preferably *prior to March 31 2005*. The price may change depending on how many orders we receive. The book is written in English, but published in France and therefore difficult to find. Bruce MacDonald has a copy and he says it is excellent.

Email Addresses Needed!

To help RUSI save money, we would like to send as many issues of Dispatches as possible via email rather than via paper and snail mail. If you receive a paper copy of Dispatches, and you have now acquired an email address, please email the Secretary-Treasurer (marypletsch@hotmail.com) to arrange to receive Dispatches electronically. The less money we spend on paper and stamps, the more money we can spend in other areas.

Dues

Just a reminder to those who have not yet sent in their dues: \$35 should be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer ASAP! The address is:

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