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DEFENCE NEWS

More than \$200 million tagged for veterans not spent last year



Globe and Mail

Veterans Affairs underspent its budget by \$200-million last year, raising questions about the Liberal government's plan to pump even more cash into a system that seems perpetually unable to get money out the door. The figures are contained in the latest plans and priority report for the federal budget year that ended last March, which shows many of the federal government's marquee disability and entitlement programs had surpluses of tens of millions of dollars. **READ MORE**

A father of Canadian artillery



The Whig

British forces boarded ocean-going vessels after Confederation, returning to the United Kingdom. Canadians were ready to develop their own military forces. The new country still had some work to do, including establishing permanent artillery batteries. Gunnery schools were established in Quebec City, and later Kingston, to train the inexperienced recruits. An experienced commander was required. **READ MORE**

Canadian military ill-prepared for modern peacekeeping



CBC News

The Trudeau government has promised to get Canada back into the peacekeeping business, but a new report from two independent think tanks says the military is ill-prepared for the task. The study by the Rideau Institute and the Centre for Policy Alternatives was penned by Walter Dorn, a professor at the Canadian Forces Staff College

and one of Canada's leading experts in peacekeeping. [READ MORE](#)

New push for ban on mefloquine in the Canadian military



Ottawa Citizen

Former soldiers from the disbanded Canadian Airborne Regiment are pushing for a ban on the controversial anti-malaria drug mefloquine that some say plagued the disastrous 1993 Somalia mission. Two events — the 2013 U.S. military ban on mefloquine for Special Forces and new scientific studies showing toxicity from the drug can cause permanent brain damage — should force a review of Canadian policy, says John Dowe, a former airborne soldier. [READ MORE](#)

Ottawa pushes military deals with Kuwait despite UN concerns



Globe and Mail

The Canadian government is busy promoting Canada's defence industry in Kuwait even as a United Nations report accuses a Saudi-led coalition, which includes Kuwait, of "widespread and systematic" bombing of civilians in Yemen. Ottawa's efforts to secure military contracts for Canada's defence industry are coming under increasing scrutiny as controversy grows over the federal government's commanding role in a \$15 billion sale of weaponized armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia, a country notorious for human-rights abuses. [READ MORE](#)

Navy shipbuilding in midst of rough seas: Canadian Global Affairs Institute



Global News

An Alberta-based political think-tank says that in order for the Canadian Navy to escape the cycle of replacing a large number of ships at the same time, it's vital the national shipbuilding program be given the funding to succeed. The University of Calgary based Canadian Global Affairs Institute published The Royal Canadian Navy: Facing Rough Seas recently outlining some of the huge challenges facing the navy. [READ MORE](#)

RCAA NEWS AND UPDATES

Captain Mike Keen



RCAA

On the 29th of April, 2015, the 1st Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery held a commemorative ceremony in the Canadian Forces Base Shilo Range and Training Area for Captain William Michael Keen. That date marked the 25th year since Captain Mike Keen's passing caused by a tragic vehicle accident. The ceremony was followed by the dedication of a picture frame at the Royal Canadian Artillery Officer's Mess where Mike's image now hangs and will always be remembered. [READ MORE](#)

Maintenance Weeks



Captain T.E.M. Jewer

The role of the Canadian Armed Forces both at home and abroad has steadily increased over the years. Canadians continually expect more despite a lag in procurement which has left the Canadian Army with a reduced and aged fleet. This has caused an increased in stress on the remaining vehicles where parts are often difficult to source. [READ MORE](#)

CFOne Card



CFOne

In 2013, Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS) introduced the CFOne Card as the one 'recognition and benefits' card for the Canadian Forces Community. CFOne Cards are available for issue to currently serving members of the CAF (including Reg force and Res force), veterans, and their respective families. CFOne Cards confirm proof of service, and includes the member's name, category of membership (currently serving member, family of currently serving member, veteran or family of veteran) a unique identifier, a bar code and a magnetic strip. [READ MORE](#)

Ex AMPLE STRIKE



Capt David Smith

The 2nd Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery deployed two Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) on Ex

AMPLE STRIKE from 3-20 September 2015. The exercise was a NATO coalition level joint operation involving army personnel from eighteen different countries. It was organized by the army of the Czech Republic and took place at several different training facilities across that country. Captain David Smith and Master Bombardier Mathieu Marcoux-Desrochers were joined by four other Canadian JTACs from the 1st Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery and 5e Régiment d'artillerie légère du Canada. **READ MORE**

RETIREMENTS

Capt JSM (Mike) LAVALLEE MMM CD will retire from the CAF after 40 years of loyal and dedicated service to the guns and his country. Capt Lavallee joined the Reserve Force in 1976, RCH Armoured Recce before joining the Regular Force in 1977 where he trained as a gunner and was posted to 5RALC. This was followed by postings to E Bty (Para) 2RCHA and then to RCAS. In 1987 as a Sgt he attended the AIG course. As BSM X Bty 5RALC 2005-2007 he deployed to Afghanistan with C-IED Roto 2. He returned to the RCAS in 2007 and was subsequently appointed to the Order of Military Merit. In 2013 he was promoted to Capt and served as Unit Trg O at the RCAS. He plans to remain in the Oromocto area.

THE LAST POST

LACHANCE James (Jim), 23 Jan 2016

BOOTH, Darrell Anthony, 12 Jan 2016

WOODS, Thomas Edward (Woody), Jan 17 2016

BECHTEL, Charles, Sgt, 9 Jan 2016

MACLEAN, Norman, Capt AOP, 8 Jan 2016

VAUTOUR, Joseph (joe) Eloi, 7 Jan 2016

WEBSTER, Ronald James, Col, 28 Dec 2015

DILLING, Frederick Ronald, 20 Dec 2015

MCKAY, Robert Neil, LCol, 19 Dec 2015

JAMES, Ronald Kenneth (Jesse), Col, 17 Dec 2015

INGLEHART, Gordon John, 15 Dec 2015

MUISE, Keith Robert, 12 Dec 2015

O'NEIL, Donald William (Bill), 12 Dec 2015

BLACKWELL, Eugene (Blackie), MWO 11 Dec 2015

REYNOLDS, George Francis Finley, Col 10 Dec 2015

MCTAGGART, A.E. (Ted) Capt. (Mstr Gnr), 10 Dec 2015

MARTIN, Charles Edward, WWII, 7 Dec 15

WHALEN, Ivan, RCHA, 7 Nov 2015

HILCHEY, James (Jim), 24 Aug 2015

TRENDING ARTICLES

Missed last week's issue? See which articles your colleagues read most.

- [Questions raised about \\$400 million army tent contract headed to Trudeau cabinet](#) (CTV News)
- [Veteran calls out Canadian War Museum for using wrong 'American-style' salute on promotional poster](#) (National Post)
- [Veterans Ombudsman outlines key issues to be addressed in coming year](#) (Ottawa Citizen)

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Frank Humada, Vice President of Operations, 289-695-5422 | [Download media kit](#)
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Please submit all news to RCAA Association's Executive Director Maj (Ret'd) Garry Smith.

Royal Canadian Artillery Association News

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