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March 10, 2016



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DEFENCE NEWS

Veterans Affairs minister promises Afghan war memorial, but won't say when



National Post

Veterans Affairs Minister Kent Hehr promised the Liberals would "get it done," but refused to provide further details, as Conservative MPs grilled him over whether the government plans to move ahead on a national Afghanistan war memorial. The heated back-and-forth on the floor of the House of Commons came after the minister's office said that the government had not decided whether to proceed with the Afghan memorial or another devoted to Victoria Cross winners. **READ MORE**

Dartmouth legion gets \$35,000 from feds, province for upgrades



CBC News

A Dartmouth legion is receiving \$35,000 in federal and provincial money for a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. The Royal Canadian Legion's Somme Branch 31 in Dartmouth will receive \$25,000 from the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. The government of Nova Scotia is putting \$10,000 toward the project. **READ MORE**

Naval officer takes over military's much maligned injured troop unit



Ottawa Citizen

The Canadian military has appointed a navy captain to head its support unit for ill and injured soldiers. Marie France Langlois, a seasoned military officer, will take over the much-criticized Joint Personnel Support Unit she

helped create in 2008 when she was its Deputy Commanding Officer. She left JPSU in 2012. [READ MORE](#)

Pets for veterans with PTSD aim of Kamloops fraternity campaign



CBC News

A Kamloops fraternity is raising money to pair animals who need a home with veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD. Kappa Sigma member Justin Bourke came up with the idea after his two cats helped him through a tough phase a few years ago. His grandfather had just died and Bourke was forced to drop out of school due to financial difficulties. [READ MORE](#)

Canadian military to train Kurdish special forces battalion



National Post

Canada's top general says the Canadian Armed Forces will be training and equipping a battalion of Kurdish special forces as part of its efforts to fight the Islamic State. Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Jonathan Vance made the comments during an appearance before the Senate defence committee on Monday, where he also acknowledged that ISIL has chemical weapons, which represents a "huge concern." [READ MORE](#)

Defence industry update — contracts awarded for equipment ranging from AOPS to CP-140s



Ottawa Citizen

Kongsberg Maritime has been selected by L-3 MAPPS to provide the CCTV system for the Royal Canadian Navy's Arctic Offshore Patrol Ships. L-3 MAPPS is one of the Tier 1 suppliers to Irving Shipbuilding, the prime contractor behind the AOPS program. Kongsberg Maritime has over 70 employees in Dartmouth, Vancouver and St. Johns, 190 employees in the UK and approximately 4,600 total across the world. [READ MORE](#)

Veterans share stories with new generation



Medicine Hat News

Grade 7 students listened attentively to veterans and joined them for a pizza lunch at the Legion. It has become an annual event for basketball students at Crescent Heights High School to make the connection and hear personal stories from Veterans. [READ MORE](#)

RCAA NEWS AND UPDATES

Veterans' Support



RCAA

The next Veteran's Support Meeting will be held March 20th from 14:00-16:00 hrs at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 550 Cobden, 43 Main St, Cobden. Free Lunch and drinks will be available.

This meeting's speaker will be talking about service dogs; get yourself a wonderful companion that will help you get through the hard times. May be you already have a fur baby and would like to see if he/she can become a service dog and what does Veterans Affairs cover as far as costs and training.

Lisa will be there to register those who wish to have a "myvac account" she will get you sorted out. And we will be talking about what you can be covered for by Veterans Affairs, help you fill out applications for disability or an financial award.

Hope to see you all there!

From Private to Gunner



RCAA

While, in the Artillery, we have traditionally used the rank "Gunner" to refer to our "Private" soldiers the traditional rank was removed from QR&Os back in 1970. Since that time official correspondence and records have referred to the lowest rank of all Army personnel as Private.

On 1 June 2015, section 3.01 of QR&Os was amended to reinstate traditional Army Corps ranks so that officially our Privates and Corporals are Gunners and Bombardiers.

During 2016, our Corps rank names for our soldiers will become more evident as the Guardian information management system comes on-line. This initiative is part of our CA effort to revitalize our Corps' traditional identities including soldier pride of trade and retention.

Hello from Australia



AAA

The following was received from Keith Bettany, a member of the Royal Australian Artillery Association: "My dad in WW2 was a lance bombardier on 25 pounders in Europe, evacuated Dunkirk, demobbed to North Malaya, then a POW for 3.5 years under the Japanese. With no formal art training at age 22 he painted to keep sane in the conditions he found himself in, often the opposite of his reality." **READ MORE**

Major Sarah Heer



RCAA

Major Sarah Heer's almost twenty-year career in the CAF can be categorized as both accomplished and momentous. This one time CAF athlete of the year has led troops in war zones and times of natural disasters as an artillery officer. **READ MORE**

Updated RCA Cap Badge



RCAA

In June 2006 the Canadian Heraldic Authority and the Inspector of Canadian Forces Colours and Badges approved the adoption of an updated RCA Badge to replace the current 1961 design. Effective 26 May 2015 the updated badge was officially released; serving members have until 16 May 2016 to make the change. The small beret and both the large forage cap metal badges are to be replaced. With the lack of fidelity on the cloth cap badge no design changes have been made. **READ MORE**

POSTING AND PROMOTIONS

CWO Marc Gabanna to CWO AJAG Office, Montreal
 CWO Garth Hoegi to CWO Royal Military College, Kingston
 CWO Eric Saint-Pierre to CWO Military Police Group HQ, Ottawa

THE LAST POST

DELWO, Ronald Gerald, 6 Mar 2016
MORRIS, Thomas Alfred, WWII, 26 Feb 2016
DOWNE, John Sgt (Ret'd), 16 Feb 2016
LIRETTE, Joseph Alfred, BDR(Ret'sd), 21 Feb 2016
SMITH, Col D. Ian OMM, CD, 10 Feb 2016
CARVER, Chester, 4 Feb 2016
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

TRENDING ARTICLES

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

- [Head of military support unit Gerry Blais steps down amid major overhaul of unit](#) (CBC News)
- [Tax relief to Canadian Forces members on international missions](#) (Ottawa Citizen)
- [Retired paratrooper creating sanctuary for soldiers, vets](#) (Nugget)

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Royal Canadian Artillery Association News Brief

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Janet Piercey, Content Editor, 289-695-5350

Please submit all news to RCAA Association's Executive Director Maj (Ret'd) Garry Smith.

Royal Canadian Artillery Association News

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