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February 11, 2016



Royal Canadian Artillery Association News



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DEFENCE NEWS

Disabled veterans still await the government's plan



Ottawa Citizen

Released from the military for medical reasons in 2012, Patrick Wilkins was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and irritable bowel syndrome from a tour in Afghanistan, as well as chronic pain. The 23-year veteran believes that if he had left the military seven years earlier, he would have received a disability pension of around \$60,000 a year. Instead, because of changes to veterans' benefits introduced in 2006, he was given a lump-sum payment of \$245,000. **READ MORE**

ISIS airstrikes by Canada to end by Feb. 22, training forces to triple



CBC News

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says Canada will cease all coalition airstrikes against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria by Feb. 22, while it beefs up its military efforts, including the number of special forces deployed on the ground to train Iraqi forces for the next two years. **READ MORE**

Canadian Forces looking to send 4 Griffon helicopters to Iraq



Ottawa Citizen

Chief of the Defence Staff Gen. Jon Vance mentioned very briefly during his opening remarks about the Liberal government's revamped Iraq mission that the Canadian military is looking at sending helicopters to Iraq. "Options are being explored to enhance in-theatre tactical transport," Department of National Defence spokesman Daniel Le Bouthillier confirmed to *Defence Watch*. **READ MORE**

Edmonton to host virtual training for Canadian Forces soldiers



Edmonton Journal

About 900 Canadian soldiers will be calling Edmonton home this week to do virtual training exercises. Exercise Unified Resolve 1601 runs until Feb. 12 as troops prepare themselves through simulations for future combat. The trainees, who will take part in manoeuvres without having to travel to a training area, may go on to Exercise Maple Resolve 16 and the Road to High Readiness training program. [READ MORE](#)

Hammonds Plains starts construction of veterans monument



CBC News

Community volunteers and residents broke ground at Uplands Park in Hammonds Plains for the area's new veterans monument. The project, led by the Greater Hammonds Plains-Lucasville Cenotaph committee, has taken more than 14 months of fundraising, paperwork and planning. [READ MORE](#)

Canadian Forces' armoured vehicle program delayed again



Ottawa Citizen

Delivery of the Canadian military's new armoured vehicles has been delayed once again after problems were found with the steering systems of the vehicles ordered under the \$1.2 billion program. The first of the Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicles was supposed to be delivered in 2014. [READ MORE](#)

9 Alberta veterans of D-Day awarded France's highest honour



Edmonton Journal

Nine Alberta veterans were bestowed France's highest honour, the Legion d'Honneur, at Alberta's legislature for their part in securing freedom for France in the Second World War. "Thank you for making my land a free country," said Jean-Christophe Fleury, France's Consul General who presented the awards on behalf of the government of France. [READ MORE](#)

RCAA NEWS AND UPDATES

Skill, Pride, and Friendship at Ex STRONG CONTENDER 2016



Lt Matt R. Doull

After a long year of hard work, training exercises, and domestic operations, 1 RCHA got a well-deserved boost to its fighting spirit and morale during its participation in Ex STRONG CONTENDER 2016. All-in-all fourteen units gathered at the Edmonton Garrison and competed in ice-hockey, volleyball, basketball, ball-hockey, indoor soccer, curling, powerlifting, and the Tactical Athlete competition. For five straight days, 1 RCHA's eight teams faced off against their challengers from the other major units of 1 CMBG. 1 RCHA seized this opportunity to show 1 CMBG what it can do, while building cohesion in its teams, and fostering camaraderie between the many units of the brigade. [READ MORE](#)

E Battery Winter Warfare 2016



RCHA

E Battery, Second Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, had the privilege of deploying on Basic Winter Warfare (BWW) from 18 – 21 January 2016 in order to develop and test soldier skills in a cold weather environment. There were 61 soldiers involved in the exercise, split up into 3 platoons in order to develop command relationships. [READ MORE](#)

THE LAST POST

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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

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