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December 17, 2015



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DEFENCE NEWS

Tough defence choices ahead for Trudeau's Liberals



Globe and Mail

Harjit Sajjan, Canada's new defence minister, is uniquely qualified to know how Ottawa's abstract policy decisions can be bent, twisted and mangled in the far-flung corners of the globe — sometimes to the detriment of those in uniform. **READ MORE**

Researchers explore the post-deployment life of Canada's veterans



University Affairs

"The way some veterans have spoken about it reminds me of when I first came to Canada," says Maya Eichler, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Social Innovation and Community Engagement at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. "I spoke the language — people could speak to me, I could speak to them — but we didn't quite understand each other." Dr. Eichler is alluding to the "cross-cultural experience" faced by former soldiers embarking on civilian life. **READ MORE**

Only 4 Sea Kings headed to retirement next year, says National Defence



CTV News

A spokesman for National Defence says the air force is only expecting to retire four of its venerable CH-124 Sea King helicopters in 2016 in addition to the four it has already put out pasture. Daniel Le Bouthillier says the choppers, which have seen five decades of service, have been written off, but not yet sent to the scrap yard. **READ MORE**

Canadian CF-18s supporting Iraqi efforts to retake Ramadi



Ottawa Citizen

Canadian fighter jets joined coalition aircraft in bombing Islamic State targets near the key Iraqi city of Ramadi this week but extremist forces are still hanging on despite losing at least a third of their troops in such raids. The ongoing aerial onslaught killed an estimated 350 Islamic State gunmen in and around Ramadi, according to the U.S. military. The U.S. believes there were between 600 to 1,000 members of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) occupying the city. **READ MORE**

Korea awards its highest military medal to Canadian veteran



Ottawa Citizen

Korea's highest military medal was awarded to the Korean War Veteran Edward Mastronardi, who was a platoon commander of The Royal Canadian Regiment 2nd Battalion during the Korean War, the Korean Embassy announced. **READ MORE**

Canadian Forces Medals returned to owner



Erie Media

Last month, the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) requested the assistance of the public to locate the owner of stolen Canadian Forces Military Medals. The NRPS seized the medals on September 24, 2014 while executing a search warrant at a Niagara Falls hotel. Minutes after posting the Facebook message to the public, NRPS received phone calls from retired Canadian Forces Veterans offering assistance to locate the owner of the medals. Information received from the retired Veterans aided the NRPS to connect with the rightful owner of the medals. **READ MORE**

Gun control in Canada



Radio Canada International

Recent events in the U.S. and a tragic anniversary in Canada have once again ignited debate over gun control in this country. Canada has long established and relatively stringent laws controlling private ownership, use, and storage of firearms, but for some, these laws are not stringent enough. Whenever a tragedy occurs, the media in Canada tend to turn to well-known and media-savvy spokespeople who are members of gun-control lobby groups, and little is heard from hunting or shooting sports groups. **READ MORE**

All about 1917 Vimy Ridge Royal Canadian Army Cadets



Cape Breton Post

The training year began in September with many of the cadets having returned from summer camp at Camp Argonaut, Oromocto, N.B.; they along with other army cadets from Atlantic Canada experienced two to six weeks training camps. Special training and events are planned on Wednesday nights, and may include snow shoe march and stove lighting, sports night, movie night and games night. **READ MORE**

RCAA NEWS AND UPDATES

Canadian Forces Friday



Canadian Tire

Every Friday, currently-serving Canadian Forces members and veterans will receive 3¢ per litre off* their fuel purchase at select Canadian Tire GAS+ locations. Simply present your ID to the cashier and to receive the discount, and don't forget you'll earn Canadian Tire 'Money' on your fuel purchase. **READ MORE**

Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery Sergeant of the Year Award 2015



RCAA

We are now in our third year of recognizing Sergeants for The Brigadier-General Ernest Beno Award. for Leadership in the Rank of Sergeant (The RCA Sergeant of the Year Award). This year's recipients of this award are:

- Sergeant (Now WO) Matthew Flynn, Royal Canadian Artillery School
- Sergeant (Now WO) Tristan Bankasingh, 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA

READ MORE**1RCHA Hockey News**

RCAA

This year's winners of the inter-battery hockey trophies are:

- Kingston Cup — B Bty
- The Hugsweier Cup — HQ and Svcs Bty

SITREP — Gunners return to Vimy & the Battlefields of Normand

RCAA

As of December 15, 2015, 14 position remains before we close off all reservations! Register today! [Click Here](#) for more information, schedule, and contact information.

Public health care plan and dental tax write off

RCAA

If you are paying for public health care and dental package, here is some information for your income tax:

Call CF Medical Plan Office 1 800 267 6542 and CF Dental Plan Office 1-800-267-0350.

Ask them for your premium paid tax receipt for the past 10 years and they will take your information and you will receive it in the mail. I was assured that the amount I paid over the past 10 may be applied to my income tax submission for 2015 tax year. The form will be mailed to you in Feb/Mar 2016 and then from that date on you will receive the tax amount via a letter every year.

THE LAST POST

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

KEMPERS, Herman Jan 'John', 3RCHA, 29 Oct 2015

TAYLOR, Edward Patrick, Gnr Korea, 23 Oct 2015

MacISAAC, John Francis Donald, LCol (Ret'd), 22 Oct 2015

TAYLOR, Norman, WWII Gunner, 19 Oct 2015

HAWKINS, Danny, Sgt (Ret'd), 18 Oct 2015

SINGER, Keith C., 15 October 2015

DE VEER, Robert 2RCHA, 22 Oct 15

JEFFERIES, Jim, Col (Ret'd), 14 Oct 2015

DYKE, Charles Richard "Dick", LCol (Ret'd), 8 Oct 2015

TRENDING ARTICLES

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

- [Colonel Commandment Commendation \(RCAA\)](#)
- [Canadian CF-18s still coming home \(CP24\)](#)
- [Liberal government moves to hire new staff at Veterans Affairs \(Ottawa Citizen\)](#)

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Royal Canadian Artillery Association News Brief

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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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