



1180-1 (President)

6 September 2022

Distribution List

HOME STATION REGIMENTAL SENATE (HSRS) MEETING, 19 JULY 2022

Chair: Colonel P.J. Williams (Ret'd) – President

Members in attendance:

LGen M.K. Jeffery (Ret'd)
Col S.G. Haire
Col T.R. Young (Ret'd)
LCol J.P. O'Donnell – CO 1RCHA
LCol U.J.F. Wolanski (Ret'd)
LCol C.A. Wood – Commander Home Station
Maj A. Curr – 2IC 1RCHA
Maj J.R. Fisher (Ret'd)
Maj M. Marshall - OC Coy
Capt S. Sloat
CWO J. Abrahamse – RSM Home Station

Members unable to attend:

MGen R.W. Goodyear
Col D.Y.G. Brassard
Col S. Taylor
LCol J. Cochrane
LCol R. Stimpson
Maj L. Jackson – Regt Maj, RCA
Maj S. Kiropoulos (Ret'd)
Maj H.B. Nelson
Maj S.D. Youngson – COS CFB Shilo
CWO S.A. McGowan

References: A. Agenda for a Meeting of the Home Station Regimental Senate
B. The Constitution of the Home Station Regimental Senate, The Royal Regiment
Canadian Artillery, Revised January 2022

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

15. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1000 hours Central Standard Time. He welcomed the members of the new command teams, providing a brief summary of the appointments that had changed and where the incumbents had been posted to. He further informed the group of the passing of Mrs Helen Leslie, a great friend of the Regiment, and that he had sent a message of condolence on behalf of the senate to her son, LGen Andrew Leslie (Ret'd), a former CO 1 RCHA.

DISCUSSION

ACTION BY

2. Item 2 -Confirmation of Agenda. The President confirmed the agenda as published. No action required

3. Item 3 – 1 RCHA Update. Maj Curr provided the following update:

- a. The Regiment sent four of its M777 howitzers to Ukraine on four days notice from receiving a warning order.
- b. The Regiment recently conducted two courses, a Gun Detachment Commanders Course and the first in-house hybrid (distance learning) Primary Leadership Qualification course. Upon completion, all candidates were promoted to MBdr, half substantive, and the other half acting lacking.
- c. The regiment conducted a dedication to rename 'A' Battery as 'A (The Queen's)' Battery.
- d. 'A' Battery has deployed to Operation REASSURANCE in Latvia. Its deployment name is "Archer."
- e. There were three VIP visits to Shilo; the Vice President (VP) of Personnel Support Programs, the VP of Canex Operations, and the Commander of the 20th US Air Force. The VP of Canex announced a \$250k investment to expand the facility to include a full grocery store. The Commander of the 20th US Air Force visited to conduct an assessment to determine if Shilo could support training for up to 80 helicopters of the 54th US Helicopter Squadron. No Canadian GO/FO accompanied the visit.
- f. 'B' Battery will stand up in August for a deployment to Operation REASSURANCE in Latvia in December. Four

Primary Reserve Sergeants have already been identified on the Table of Organization and Equipment.

- g. Secretarial Note – Given the in-house courses, the 100% promotion rate, and the requirement to augment deploying subunits with primary reservists, there appears to be a critical shortage of trained NCOs in the Regiment.
- h. The Chair commented that being photographed in General Crerar's (the former Commander 1st Canadian Army in the Second World War) caravan might encourage the Commander Canadian Army to visit Shilo.
- i. LCol Wolanski (Ret'd) asked whether the regiment has addressed the issue of organizationally grouping a troop of three guns vs a pair of two guns for better observation of the criteria for a target round. LCol O'Donnell indicated that he would share the lessons learned from the high readiness training. 1 RCHA

4. Item 4 – Commander Home Station Update. LCol Wood provided the following update: No action required

- a. The Home Station recently supported two family events: one in Brandon, and the other in Shilo. They were both a success.
- b. With the recent retirement of the Commander of the 3rd Canadian Division, BGen W.H. Fletcher, the Deputy Commander BGen D.R.A. Awalt has currently taken up the duties of the commander until the arrival of BGen S.G. Graham in August.
- c. Since the last Senate Meeting, there has been no major movement on either the Dining Hall or Mess projects.
- d. The RCA Reunion has been delayed until next year.
- e. This will be the last week of the Afghanistan Memorial display at the museum.
- f. CWO Abrahamse, RSM of the Home Station welcomed the new Command Team.
- g. The Chair asked for an update on the status of the paper vs online distribution of the Shilo Stag. LCol Wood

commented that as of September the Stag will have limited distribution of paper copies. He could not confirm if the current practice of pushing paper copies of the Stag to Senior Appointments would continue. Col Haire confirmed that he recently saw a copy of the Stag in DOS's office in Ottawa.

5. Item 5 – C Coy, 3rd Canadian Division Training Centre Update. No action required
Major Marshall provided the following update:

- a. The Training Centre is currently in the final stages of running a second Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) course, clearing a back log of students. 35 Infantry and one Combat Engineer students are expected to graduate in a week's time.
- d. Three Primary Reserve Artillery courses will be conducted over the summer months. The DP1 Gun Detachment Member, the Reconnaissance Technicians and the Detachment Commanders Course will all deploy to the field together for their final exercise in early August. BGen Awalt is scheduled to visit the exercise.
- e. Forecasted courses to be conducted this coming summer include a Development Period 1 (DP 1) Gunner and a PLQ course. There is also potential to conduct a Detachment Commanders and a second BMQ course.

6. Item 6 – Approval of the Previous Minutes. The Chair stated that the previous minutes have been approved and posted on the RCA website in both English and French. No action required

7. Item 7 – Actions Arising from the Previous Minutes. The Chair will confirm with Chuck Larocque the revised dates for the RCA Reunion. Chair

- a. Secretarial Note – The 2023 RCA Reunion will likely take place over the period of 29 June through 02 July. This date will be confirmed by the planning committee in the upcoming months.

8. Item 8 – Election/Appointment of Executive Members. No action required
Elections were conducted for two vacant positions on the executive:

- a. Col T.R. Young (Ret'd) and Maj M. Marshall were unanimously elected as the Secretary and Treasurer of

the Senate. The motion was made by LCol O'Donnell and seconded by LCol Wood.

- b. The Chair added that elections for the President and Vice President would take place in the fall.

9. Item 9 – Home Station Regimental Fund Update. Maj Marshall provided a financial update as follows: No action required

- a. The current balance of the fund is \$8116.00. The balance includes a donation of \$900.00 and \$2,451.25 in proceeds from the military auctions.

10. Item 10 – Future Activities Potentially Meriting Senate Support.

- a. Cases for Need. There are currently no cases of need in either of the three units. No action required

- b. Exercise Heavy Loader. The fifth annual powerlifting fitness event has now expanded to encompass the entire royal Regiment and it will be conducted around the St Barbara's Day (4 December timeframe). There is potential that the Home Station Regimental Fund could support this event with prizes, t-shirts for the competitors, and possibly a small trophy. The following sectorial note is extant from the previous meeting - **Secretarial Note –** With respect to a trophy, I recommend that an old Non-Public Property (NPP) silver trophy be repurposed as the event trophy. Gunners working in the Regimental carpentry shop could make another trophy base in which the old trophy could be attached to without changing the integrity of the original trophy. Further, as this is now a Royal Regiment event, a piece of the Royal Regiment's NPP could be sought after to repurpose as the trophy. 1 RCHA Home Station

- c. Potential Activities for HSRS Support. Neither of the three units identified any unit activities for potential support. The Chair reminded all that support is manifested in many forms and is not limited to just monetary support for bereavement. No action required

- d. LCol Wolanski (Ret'd) asked what is the current range for PMQ rent? The consensus between the Commanding Officers was within the range of \$800 - \$1300 per month.

- e. LCol Wood suggested that departure receptions could be organized for both 'A' and 'B' Batteries deploying to Operation REASSURANCE. He further noted that 26 Field Regiment organized a Meet and Greet and a Bingo night for the families of its deployed members. Chair

11. Item 11 - Expansion of Senate Role to Include Advocacy for Home Station Issues.

- a. The Chair will resend a package of letters to the Commanding Officers regarding issues that previous Commanding Officers have taken to advocate for Shilo. Chair
- b. LCol Wood informed the group that something may be coming out of CMP in the near future as the Acting Commander of CMP recently paid a visit to Edmonton. Three possible issues that could be re-balanced are postings, Post Living Differential, and the Land Duty Allowance.
- c. LCol Wood also commented about two recent political engagements: one with a member of the provincial Legislative Assembly, and another with a visit from the federal Member of Parliament. Both of these engagements reinforce awareness of issues facing the military community in Shilo.

12. Item 12 – Communications Strategy. The senate will be using the 1RCHA Facebook page to communicate messages to the wider community.

- a. The Chair noted that the Senate requires NCO representation from the retired community. All

13. Item 13 – Update on Militaria Auction. The chair informed the membership that the senate earned over \$2,400 from the last auction. The intent this year was to leverage the RCA Reunion in Shilo this year to for the donation of items. The postponement of the reunion will have an impact on this fund-raising activity. Maj Fisher (Ret'd) provided the following update on the Militaria Auction:

- a. He received good feedback from doners regarding the provision of a tax receipt for the items that they donated.
- b. Given that the RCA Reunion has been delayed until next year, Maj Fisher (Ret'd) recommended that this activity

also be delayed for a year. As a result, the next auction that we will take part of will be in Oct/Nov 2023.

- c. An advertisement calling for items will be placed in the Shilo Stag. Maj Fisher (Ret'd) will be available to provide advice on what memorabilia is well received at the auction. Generally, badges and old rifles uniforms worked well whereas current CAF uniforms did not. Maj Fisher (Ret'd)

14. Item 14 – Other Business. The following points were raised:

- a. The Chair discussed the RCAA – Lest We Forget Project being driven by LCol (Ret'd) and former President of the RCAA, Leon Jensen. The goal of this initiative is to chronical all gunners of the RCA that have passed away and is not limited to those who have passed away on operations. **Secretarial Note** – In 1922 the RCAA published a booklet of all serving Officers who participated overseas in the First World War. One hundred years later, the Lest We Forget Project will begin a long-term project to chronical a short biography of all Gunners that have ever served in the Royal Regiment. As of 25 August 2022, there are more than 5,000 names entered in the new publication. It is available to be downloaded at the following link [RCAA Lest We Forget](#). The project is currently looking for volunteers to help with data entry, digitizing information following a specific template. The submission of any information is welcome. Furthermore, the project staff are looking for volunteers to help with adding information about local cemeteries in addition to editing the booklet for any errors or omissions. Anyone wishing to volunteer to be a member of the team or simply submit information to the project can do so through the Secretary of the RCAA secretary.rcaa.aarc@gmail.com.
- b. The Chair noted that Major Lindsey Jackson has been named as the new Regimental Major.
- c. The Chair noted that Burton Lysecki Books of Winnipeg is a good source to locate copies of old publications, particularly ones that could be missing from RHQs holdings.
- d. LCol Wolanski (Ret'd) put forward the names of two NCOs that could possibly serve on the Senate.

- e. LCol Wolanski (Ret'd) also recommended the Aquino Tank Weekend sponsored by the Ontario Regiment's Museum as an activity of interest. It is Canada's largest military show where many tanks and vehicles are on display. The next event will take place on 9-11 June 2023.

15. Item 15 – Next Meeting. The next meeting will be tentatively set not before November. The Chair will consultation with CO 1 RCHA.

Chair
CO 1 RCHA

ADJOURNMENT

16. Item 16 – Adjournment. The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was called for by LCol Wolanski (Ret'd), seconded by LCol Wood. The motion was passed with no one opposed. The meeting adjourned at 1120 Central Time.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

//Original signed by//
P.J. Williams
Colonel (Ret'd)
President

Distribution List

All Home Station Senate Members (Including Ex-Officio non-voting members)