



1180-1 (President)

3 August 2023

Distribution List

HOME STATION REGIMENTAL SENATE (HSRS) MEETING, 10 JULY 2023

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

Members in attendance:

LGen M.K. Jeffery (Ret'd)
Col T.R. Young (Ret'd)
LCol J.P. O'Donnell – CO 1RCHA
LCol D. Cronk – Commander Home Station
Maj J.R. Fisher (Ret'd)
Maj M. Marshall – OC Coy, 3rd Cdn Division
Training Centre
CWO S. McGowan – RSM 1 RCHA
MWO M. Reinders (Ret'd)

Members unable to attend:

Col D.Y.G. Brassard
Col S.G. Haire
Col R. Stimpson
Col S. Taylor
LCol J. Cochrane
LCol U.J.F. Wolanski (Ret'd)
Maj A. Curr – 2IC 1RCHA
Maj L. Jackson – Regt Maj, RCA
Maj S. Kiropoulos (Ret'd)
Maj H.B. Nelson
Maj S.D. Youngson – COS CFB Shilo
CWO E. Leclair –RSM CFB Shilo

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

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

16. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1000 hours Central Standard Time. The Chair informed the Senate that since the last meeting that sadly a number of

key Gunners have passed. He also informed the group that Ryan Stimpson has been promoted to Col and has been posted to HQ 1 Canadian Air Division in Winnipeg as Chief of Staff.

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. LCol O'Donnell provided the following update: No action required

- a. The Regiment will be celebrating its 125th birthday up to 1 December 23. Some of the planned events include a sports day, a Regimental Ball, a 125th unit patch, and an update to the unit lines in the second-floor hallway.
- b. To promote an event to replace the Battle Fitness Test, the Regiment will be conducting Ex TOUGH GUNNER. The event will consist of a 7, 14, or 21 km rucksack challenge carrying a 30-pound rucksack.
- c. In conjunction with the RCA Reunion, the Regiment held a Family Day for members of the Regiment near Range Control. A firepower demonstration was conducted for all attendees.
- d. The Regiment currently has 257 personnel deployed on five operations in seven countries. When most of the personnel return in the fall, the Regiment will transition into reconstitution. The Brigade will conduct a War Cabinet in Shilo in the fall, and the Regiment will conduct Ex LIMBER GUNNER in preparation for Operation IMPACT in the following spring. The remainder of the summer will be spent on IRU and completing summer block leave.
- e. 1 RCHA is awaiting details on what future Op REASSURANCE arty force structure might look like.

4. Item 4 – Commander Home Station (Comd Home Stn) Update. No action required

LCol Cronk did not provide an update as he took command of the Home Station two weeks ago.

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

- a. C Coy is currently conducting two courses in house, an BMOC exported from CTC, and an Arty Det Mbr course. There are plans to conduct an Arty Det 2I/C and an Arty Det Mbr course in the near future.
 - b. C Coy will host the Deputy Division Commander later in the summer.
 - c. Maj Marshall concluded her comments by indicating that she will remain the Coy Comd until the summer of 2024 when she will deploy on operations.
6. Item 6 – RHQ RCA Update. RHQ was not represented at the meeting.
7. Item 7 – 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. [Minutes Home Station Regimental Senate Meeting: 27 Mar 2023](#) No action required
8. Item 8 – Actions Arising from the Previous Minutes.
- a. The chair called upon Unit Commanding Officers/Officers Commanding for any requests for support from the Senate, particularly anything relating to the support of 1RCHAs 125 Anniversary. CO 1RCHA
Comd Home Stn
OC C Coy
 - (1) Secretarial Note. Feedback from this action item following from the 27 March meeting was not received. The Senate is exploring additional initiatives to sponsor similar to Ex HEAVY LOADER from both the Base and C Company. He suggested course Top Candidate awards could be considered. Comd Home Stn
OC C Coy
 - b. The History of CFB Shilo. The Chair has submitted articles for the Shilo Stag concerning the history of CFB Shilo. They are current being translated into French prior to their publication. The Chair also provided copies of the War Diaries of the RCHA Brigade and the Regiment's Korean War Diary.
9. Item 9 – Election/Appointment of Executive Members. No action required

- a. MGen R. Goodyear (Ret'd) has retired from the CAF and has requested that his appointment to the Senate Executive be withdrawn.
 - b. Maj J.R. Fisher (Ret'd) has agreed to continue in his capacity to generate funding through military memorabilia auctions.
 - b. Col P.J. Williams (Ret'd), the Chair of the Senate informed the group that after six year of service to the Senate that he will not be seeking re-election as President for a seventh term this coming fall.
10. Item 10 – Home Station Regimental Fund Update. Maj Marshall provided a financial update for the Treasurer as follows: No action required
- a. The current balance of the Fund is \$9,116.46.
11. Item 11 – Future Activities Potentially Meriting Senate Support.
- a. 125th Anniversary of 1 RCHA – 1 December 2023. CO 1RCHA discussed the potential for the Senate to fund the prizes for Ex TOUGH GUNNER. The monetary prizes would be the same as Ex Heavy Loader; \$300, \$150, and \$75 respectively for first, second, and third place. CO 1 RCHA Treasurer
12. Item 12 - Expansion of Senate Role to Include Advocacy for Home Station Issues. The Chair floated one possible advocacy item concerning the state of local real estate for military personnel moving in and out of the area. In the past, one Staff Officer liaised with the local community concerning real estate and housing. No action required
13. Item 13 – Communications Strategy. The [1 RCHA Facebook Page](#) is one of the means that messages from the Senate are published. The RCHA Brigade War Diary from the First World War will be the next item published. Secretarial Note: this was published in the Shilo Stag on 11 July, as part of an article titled, “1 RCHAs History Started 125 Years Ago.” No action required
14. Item 14 – Update on Militaria Auction. Maj Fisher (Ret'd) provided the following update on the Militaria Auction, from his attendance at the RCA Reunion: No action required
- a. There was a lot of interest with many promises to donate memorabilia at the reunion.

- b. The best return at the auction is from firearms, long guns in particular.
- c. Tax receipts are issued for the appraised value of the item donated to the auction. This includes the shipping charges to get the items to Jim.
- d. Advertising and photos will follow. They are exploring the use of a different auctioneer who charges a more competitive rate.
- e. The last auction raised \$2,400.

15. Item 15 – Other Business.

- a. Inter-museum Loan. Maj Fisher (Ret'd) brought forward the idea of renewing an inter-museum loan of the Stuart Tanks from the Greg Collection with a Field Artillery Tractor (FAT) held by the Strathcona's. RHQ RCA
Comd Home Stn
- b. Home Station Senate Discussion. The Chair provided some additional information regarding the formation of the Senate.
 - (1) The Home Station Senate was formed under the direction and guidance from the Senior Serving Gunner MGen Tremblay in 2015. Its roots can be found in the RCA Family Strategy. There is a constitution and financial management is conducted under NPF rules.
 - (2) The Home Station Senate has supported a number of activities since its inception: Subsidizing soldiers on professional development trips; Bereavement support for soldiers; The donation of prize money for unit competitions; and Fundraising auctions.
 - (3) The Chair outlined four challenges that the Senate has had over his tenure: 26 Fd Regt has a senate and therefore the operating areas were defined with Brandon being the AOR for 26 Fd Regt; The limited participation from former Command Teams; Limited NCOs participation; and no Vice President for many years.

- (4) The Chair provided a cross-section of the status of Regular Force Senates across the Royal Regiment: 2 RCHA recently dissolved its senate, choosing to evolve it into an association; 5 RALC has no senate, but they have an association; and 4 GS Regt and the RCAS both have no senate nor a unit association. The Atlantic Gunner Association is however located in Oromocto.
- (5) The Chair summarized his points with two questions regarding the future of the Senate: Is the formation of a unit association the future model supporting units; and given the existence of the Gunner Peer Support programme, which is separate from the Senate, to what extent are we duplicating other programs.
- (6) LGen Jeffery (Ret'd) asked the CO of 1 RCHA what the Senate is not doing that could better support the Regt? Both the CO 1RCHA and the Chair expressed that they would reach out to 2 RCHA and their Association for additional information. Secretarial Note: the Chair subsequently spoke with the President of the 2 RCHA Association and shared the key outcomes of that discussion with members, as well as a copy of the 2 RCHA Association Constitution. CO 1RCHA
Chair
- (7) LGen Jeffery (Ret'd) further asked if there was a critical mass of retired personnel living in the Shilo area. The Chair and MWO Reinders (Ret'd) noted that there were very few Officers and few NCOs above the rank of WO.
- (8) The Chair wanted to ensure that we could divide the current monies in the Fund, on a percentage basis amongst the three units should the Senate dissolve. Treasurer
- (9) The Secy added a possible course of action to evolve the Senate into an Association designed to reinforce the RCA Reunion to include Base Shilo, supported by the RHQ RCA. The Chair further added another option to allow any former member to become the President of the Home Station Senate.

- (10) The Chair concluded the discussion noting that he would put the references together along with the options for the future. Secretarial Note: the Chair subsequently circulated several options for consideration by the Senate and has asked for feedback by

Chair

16. Item 16 – Next Meeting. The Chair informed the group that the next meeting will be held in October. Maj Fisher (Ret'd) requested that a hot wash from the RCA Reunion be presented at the next meeting. Secretarial Note: after discussion with CO 1 RCHA, the Chair confirmed that the next meeting will be on Tues 3 Oct 23 at 1000 Central Time.

Chair

HQ RCA

ADJOURNMENT

17. Item 17 – Adjournment. The Chair called a conclusion to the meeting at 1055 hours Central Standard Time.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

P.J. Williams
Colonel (Ret'd)
President

Distribution List

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