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Subject: The Despatch - March 2018  
Date: March 11, 2018 at 7:54 PM  
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*Dear C&E Association Member,*

*Below is The Despatch for the month of March. Any comments and constructive feedback are always appreciated.*

*-Kevin O'Keefe.VVV*



# Communications and Electronics Association

## *The Despatch March 2018*

### Recent News

**Canada being invited to take 'greater role' in Iraq mission, says NATO general**

NATO's chief military policy adviser is sounding out Canada on the kind of commitment the country will make to the alliance's expanded training mission in Iraq.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-iraq-pavel-1.4569545>

Source: CBC News

**Don Martin: Waving the white flag on Canada as a middle military power**

The most uplifting takeaway from my 2007 Afghanistan embedding with the troops was hearing how our soldiers had never been prouder to serve than being in combat against the tyranny of the Taliban.

But a decade later, that pride has gone along with the fall in our status as a middle military power.

[https://www.ctvnews.ca/mobile/politics/don-martin-blog/don-martin-waving-the-white-flag-on-canada-as-a-middle-military-power-1.3835027#\\_gus%26\\_gucid%3D%26\\_gup%3Dtwitter%26\\_gsc%3Dse0JQ7B](https://www.ctvnews.ca/mobile/politics/don-martin-blog/don-martin-waving-the-white-flag-on-canada-as-a-middle-military-power-1.3835027#_gus%26_gucid%3D%26_gup%3Dtwitter%26_gsc%3Dse0JQ7B)

Source: CTV News

## **What's happening to Canada's defence spending?**

You really have to dig into [Equality+Growth, the Liberal government's 2018 budget document](#), to find any mention of defence spending at all. Only after more than 300 pages, in the Supplementary Information section, can you find a table that shows National Defence is the largest spender amongst government departments. At \$25.5 billion, forecasted direct-program expenditures by National Defence will clock in at more than the next two departments—Indigenous Services Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency, which were both forecasted to spend \$11.0 billion—combined.

<http://www.macleans.ca/opinion/whats-happening-to-canadas-defence-spending/>

Source: MacLeans

## **Yes, Canada is vulnerable to information cyber attacks**

With special counsel Robert Mueller's recent [indictment](#) of 13 Russian nationals for interfering in the 2016 U.S. election, the focus in intelligence circles globally has turned to preventing similar intrusions on their democratic institutions.

For its part, the Communications Security Establishment has published a [report](#) on cyber threats to our democratic process; a document that focuses primarily on the technical aspects of elections, including electronic voting systems, the cyber threats to political parties and how voters access information related to the voting process.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/opinion/fake-news-1.4564975>

Source: CBC News

## **ADGA Job Opportunity**

Link is to a potential job opportunity with ADGA Consulting Group. Information on applying is included.

<https://cmcen.ca/blog/2018/03/08/adga-job-opportunity/>

# **DND/CAF News**

## **Vice-Admiral Mark Norman charged with breach of trust over alleged shipbuilding leak**

Vice-Admiral Mark Norman, the second-in-command of the Canadian Forces, has been charged with breach of trust over allegations he leaked news in late 2015 that the Liberal government was considering cancelling a significant shipbuilding project inked earlier that year by the Conservatives.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4073543/vice-adm-mark-norman-charged-with-breach-of-trust-over-alleged-shipbuilding-leak/>

Source: Global News

## **Plan to send Canadian peacekeepers to Colombia fizzled due to official foot-dragging**

Canada had a small military team on standby to take part in a high-profile United Nations peacekeeping mission in Colombia, but foot-dragging on Ottawa's part saw other countries fill up the mission's ranks instead, newly released documents reveal.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-peacekeeping-colombia-1.4563147?cmp=news-digests-canada-and-world-morning>

Source: CBC News

## **Wave of retirements leads to musical chairs among military top brass**

For the fourth time in less than two years, the Canadian military is getting a new deputy commander following a major shakeup of the senior leadership on Friday.

<http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/politics/military-brass-shakeup-1.4559620>

Source: CBC News

## **Dommages collatéraux dans le «combat contre les jeans» au CMR du Canada**

Le «combat contre les jeans» fait des victimes à Kingston alors que près de 1 000 élèves-officiers du Collège militaire royal du Canada ont été punis parce qu'un nombre indéterminé de leurs camarades de classe portent des jeans pendant leurs heures d'absence du campus.

<http://www.45enord.ca/2018/03/dommages-collateraux-combat-contre-les-jeans-cmr-du-canada-kingston/>

Source: 45eNord

## **Military leaders must listen to cultivate innovation: Brigadier-General Jennie Carignan**

The Canadian Army (CA)'s Chief of Staff for Operations, Brigadier-General M.A.J. (Jennie) Carignan, says senior officers must always be open to ideas from the ranks in order to ensure the organization is as innovative as it can be.

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<http://www.army-armee.forces.gc.ca/en/news-publications/national-news-details-no-menu.page?doc=military-leaders-must-listen-to-cultivate-innovation-brigadier-general-jennie-carignan%2Fjdoogtx7>

Source: Canadian Army

## CAF amends criteria for Special Service Medal

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) has amended the criteria for two bars to the Special Service Medal (SSM), making it easier for CAF members to receive recognition for their contributions.

<https://ml-fd.caf-fac.ca/en/2018/03/10969>

Source: CAF

# Affinity Partners

## Preferred Rates

Members could save on insurance with preferred rates from affinity program partner TD Insurance. Learn more ►

<https://go.td.com/2pwww1B>



## Tarifs préférentiels

Nos membres pourraient économiser grâce aux tarifs préférentiels de TD Assurance. Plus d'info ► <https://go.td.com/2lcgAA8>



## Port or transfer your mortgage with Street Capital Bank of Canada



Street Capital has recently informed the C&E Association that it is ending its affiliation programs.

Street Capital Bank of Canada launched the Affinity Mortgage Program in 2015. They built the program with the belief that they could meet the needs of affinity partner members in a mutually beneficial manner. To date, the market response to the program has been significantly less than anticipated. When coupled with the recent regulatory changes implemented by the Federal government, they have experienced unsustainably low volumes. Consequently, they have made the difficult decision to wind down their affinity mortgage program.

Street Capital has ceased marketing their program but has assured us they will honour any existing agreements or applications existing pipeline or generated between now and 1 June 2018.

## Veteran News

## **Canadian veterans in Korean War remembered through hockey**

Hockey in South Korea has for the most part been about athletes realizing their Olympic dreams, but just a few hours away from Pyeongchang, it has a totally different meaning.

On the frozen waters of the Imjin River, in Gapyeong County, Canadian Korean War veterans returned to the site of one of their biggest battles to play a little game of hockey.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/sports/canadian-veterans-in-korean-war-remembered-through-hockey-1.3815663>

Source: CTV News

## **Do more to help clear backlog of disabled veterans, critics urge Ottawa**

A promised infusion of cash to help Veterans Affairs Canada address a massive backlog of requests for services from thousands of wounded warriors has sparked mixed reactions — with some fearing it won't be nearly enough.

The new money, included in this week's federal budget, amounts to \$42 million over two years and is specifically earmarked to speed up the delivery of services to disabled veterans.

<http://nationalpost.com/pmnn/news-pmnn/canada-news-pmnn/feds-promise-millions-to-fix-backlog-of-applications-from-disabled-veterans>

Source: National Post

## **The Royal Canadian Legion responds to federal budget 2018**

<http://www.legion.ca/news/articles/2018/02/27/the-royal-canadian-legion-responds-to-federal-budget-2018>

Source: The Royal Canadian Legion

# **C&E News**

## **Brigadière-générale Josée Robidoux**

Pionnière en son domaine, la Brigadière-générale Josée Robidoux occupe le plus haut poste qu'ait occupé une femme au sein des Forces armées canadiennes. Reçue à l'Ordre du mérite militaire en tant qu'officier en décembre 2017, elle fut nommée, en novembre 2015, l'une des 100 Canadiennes les plus influentes de l'année par le Réseau des femmes exécutives.

<http://www.journalaccs.ca/supplement/exemple-remarquable-sein-forces-armees-canadiennes/>

Source: JournalAcces

## **Reunion 2018**

### **C&E Reunion – Advance Warning**

The C&E Association, C&E Branch and Signallers Club of Canada, in cooperation with CFB Kingston and the C&E Home Station Units, are in the planning stage of organizing a 2018 C&E Reunion.

This event is intended to involve all C&E Branch members, serving and retired with special tribute to the C&E Branch veterans of the Afghan Mission; and to celebrate the founding of the Communications and Electronics Branch ( 50 years) , Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, Royal Canadian Air Force Telecommunications Branch, and Royal Canadian Navy Communications Research Branch.

Reunion 2018 will be held at the C&E Home Station from 31 August to 2 September 2018.

The proposed outline program is as follows:

#### Friday, 31 August 2018:

- Afternoon registration.
- Evening meet and greet.

#### Saturday 1 September 2018:

- Mini reunions; Afghanistan, Signals Apprentice, Airborne, RCAF Tech Te, UN Ops ( UNEF, Rwanda, etc).
- Possible golf event
- Afghanistan veterans ball hockey tournament.
- Evening dinner/dance event.

#### Sunday, 2 September 2018:

- Wreath Laying ceremony at the Vimy Gate Memorial;
- Veterans Parade on the Vimy Parade Square and
- Farewell Brunch.

Detailed information on this event will be disseminated as it becomes available.

## **Heritage Moment**

### **Italy December 1943- February 1944 (post the Battle of Ortona)**

The 1 Div Sigs War Diary...went on to mention that there was an issue of Christmas Cheer in the form of two bottles of beer for each man and one bottle of scotch per officer and Sr NCO. In addition, authority was received to issue a rum ration on Christmas Day. The Auxillary Services also provided each person with one Canadian chocolate bar, one roll of Lifesavers, an apple and an orange and 75 cigarettes.

Throughout January and most of February 1944, 1 CID [Canadian Infantry Division] remained on the defensive holding the extreme right wing of 8th Army. It was a time of miserable weather, cold, constant rain and high winds. Although the front was static and the sodden ground unsuitable for tanks, there was little rest for signallers particularly the

linemen. In many places the German lines were so close that using wireless dangerous, so line was the norm. To avoid breaks in the line from shelling, the line section reverted to making laddered lines and laying stand by lines.

Source: Semaphore to Satellite pages 166-167

*If you are a C&E Association member using the "@forces.gc.ca" email address, you will have noticed that our News Brief sent to your "@forces.gc.ca" addresses will not function properly. The DND DWAN firewall strips all hyperlinks that come in for obvious security reasons. In order for you to receive the News Brief without this problem arising, we ask you to forward to our President –Kevin O’Keefe a personal email address. Kevin will arrange for the News Brief to be sent to your personal address once he receives the information. He can be reached at [kevin.okeefe@cmcen.ca](mailto:kevin.okeefe@cmcen.ca).*

*Comme membre de l'association de la C&E utilisant l'adresse courriel "@Forces.gc.ca", vous avez remarqué que nos nouvelles en bref( News Brief) envoyés à vos adresses "@Forces.gc.ca" ne fonctionnent pas correctement. Pour des raisons de sécurité, le coupe-feu du réseau intranet de la Défense nationale bloque tous les hyperliens qui sont attachés à ces nouvelles. Afin pour vous de recevoir ces nouvelles en bref sans problème, nous vous demandons de fournir une adresse de courriel personnel à notre présidente, Kevin O’Keefe. Une fois votre adresse reçue, Kevin fera les changements afin que vous puissiez recevoir les nouvelles en bref à votre adresse de courriel personnel. Kevin peut être rejoint à [kevin.okeefe@cmcen.ca](mailto:kevin.okeefe@cmcen.ca).*