Brass converge on Calgary to discuss Reserves

From December 1-4, 2005, the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies, in cooperation with the Canadian Defence & Foreign Affairs Institute, hosted a conference, entitled “The Special Commission on the Restructuring of the Reserves: Ten Years Later”. Despite frigid temperatures outside, the conference was a triumphant success as Reservists and Regulars met to discuss issues surrounding the Commission and its recommendations.

The Commission, organized in 1995, examined and made recommendations concerning the role, structure and employment of the Canadian Forces Reserve Force and options for restructuring this force in order to maximize their operational and cost effectiveness. Ten years later, the CMSS and CDFAI commissioned the two surviving members of the initial commission, Jack Granatstein and LGen. Charles Belzile, to re-examine their initial report and to issue a new one. This report, available at http://www.cdfai.org/researchpapers.htm, then served as the basis for the conference which examined the progress made in the transformation of the Canadian Forces Reserves in the last 10 years using these recommendations. This is the third such conference on the Canadian Reserves organized by the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies. The aim of this conference was to examine the progress or lack thereof of the restructuring of the Canadian Reserves in light of the recommendations of 10 years ago. While some of these recommendations are being enacted, there seems to be resistance to their overall intent.

This conference also raised the profile of the Reserves in Canada in both the public and private sectors.

New Book readies Allies, shoppers for Christmas

Dr. David Bercuson, Director of the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies, and Dr. Holger Herwig, Canada Research Chair for Military and Strategic Studies, celebrated the release of their new book at the University of Calgary Bookstore with a book signing. Both Bercuson and Herwig were jovial, reminiscing over the fun they had writing One Christmas in Washington, a book that details the discussions between Winston Churchill and Franklin Delano Roosevelt that crafted the Allied conduct of World War II. The book is now available at bookstores, just in time for the Christmas season.
fora through a very successful media awareness and advertisement program. The primary goal of this conference was to heighten the public and governmental awareness of the Reserve Forces in Canada and to suggest ways in which they can become both efficient and effective tools of government policy.

High-level panels included: A Report from the Forces with Lieutenant-General J.H.P.M. Caron, CMM, MSM, CD, Vice-Admiral Bruce MacLean, CMM, CD, Lieutenant-General Steve Lucas, CMM, CD; Army Transformation with Lieutenant-General Mike Jeffery, OMM, CD (ret'd) and Major-General Ed Fitch, OMM, MSM, CD, Project Manager - LFRR, NDHQ; and Captain (N) Kelly W. Williams, Director Defence Analysis and Major-General Andrew Leslie, Director General Strategic Planning, addressed the question of Canadian Forces' Transformation and the Reserves.

As well, stakeholders were represented in a panel by Colonel Peter Hunter (ret'd) of Reserves 2000, Hon. Colonel B. Finestone of the Honourary Colonels of Canada and John Fraser of the Minister's Monitoring Committee. Navy and air force perspectives were raised in the conference by two panels with Commodore R.R. Blakely, CD, Commander, Naval Reserve, Colonel Peter Davies, CD, of the Office of Senior Air Reserve Advisor, Dr. Richard Gimblett, Research Fellow with the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, Dalhousie University, Dr. Allan English of the Department of History, Queen's University, Commander Gordon Wong, Colonel Jim Donihee, OMM, CD (ret'd), and Lieutenant-Commander Linda Mushanski.

Civil-military cooperation was addressed in the final panel of the conference by Captain Graham M. Longhurst, LFWA G9 (CIMIC) Operations Officer, Megan Minnion, Public Diplomacy Division, NATO Headquarters and Colonel Christopher Holshek, U.S. Army Civil Affairs.

Keynotes included Vice-Admiral J.C. J.Y. Forcier, CMM, CD who spoke on Canada Command in a Transformed Canadian Forces, Brigadier General Richard Sherlock Leading Profound Change while Fighting the War, and Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Manley, of the Calgary Highlanders spoke about A New Paradigm for Army Reserve Participation on Operational Deployments.

The conference dinner was a wonderful affair at the Metropolitan Centre in downtown Calgary, with the King's Own Calgary Regimental Band, the Calgary Highlanders Pipes and Drums, and the Loyal Edmonton Regimental Blacklight Drum line providing the entertainment.

The Centre for Military and Strategic Studies would like to thank the sponsors of this event, the Canadian Defence & Foreign Affairs Institute and General Dynamics Canada for their generous support. We would also like to thank all those panelists and participants for making the conference a tremendous success.

The conference website at www.stratnet.ucalgary.ca/reserves2005 will soon carry various proceedings from this conference and the ejournal Journal of Military and Strategic Studies will be publishing some of the papers presented.
Hundreds gathered at the Museum of the Regiments in Calgary, Alberta to pay homage to fallen soldiers and veterans of past wars and conflicts on Remembrance Day 2005. In attendance honouring our fallen and our veterans were members of the CMSS. Masters students Tiffany Farrion and Maureen Shields laid a wreath at the eternal flame at the museum's entrance. The day was also marked by the announcement of a new Museum fundraising campaign (see below).

Lest we Forget.

Mural Fundraiser to support Museum

On the same day we remembered the sacrifices made of the past, a new fundraising project for the future additions to the Museum of the Regiment was also announced. CMSS Director and Honourary Lt. Colonel of the 33rd Field Engineer Squadron David J. Bercuson along with representatives from the Museum and the Bank of Montreal introduced a fundraising project involving a new mural depicting Canadian servicemen. The mural itself will be painted by famed artist Lewis Lavoie, who created the mural mosaic for Saskatchewan's Centennial. In the same fashion, the mural will be a mosaic made from 240 smaller paintings - each with its own story to tell. Funds for the museum will be raised through sponsorship of each of the smaller panels.

Here at CMSS, we are raising funds to sponsor one of these panels with a photo of one of our Masters graduates. Information on this effort can be found on the following page.
This Christmas, help give the gift of Honour.

On Remembrance Day 2005, the Museum of the Regiments announced a new mural project that would raise funds for museum expansion. This mural is a mosaic comprised of 240 individual paintings and will be painted by Lewis Lavoie.

Instead of exchanging Christmas gifts, the CMSS would like to contribute by raising funds for a photo to be added to this mosaic. This photo depicts one of our Masters Program alumni serving in Afghanistan with the Canadian Army.

We are asking for $10 or any amount you wish to contribute to this cause. The CMSS will match all individual donations.

To contribute or for more information, contact Nancy at 220-4030 or njmackie@ucalgary.ca
2006

- February 10 - 11: Perspectives on War: From Conflict to Resolution, Conference of the Society for Military and Strategic Studies, University of Calgary.

- Annual Ellis Lectures in Military and Strategic Studies presents: Jeremy Black, University of Exeter, United Kingdom
  - May 1: “The Revolution in Military Affairs: The Historian’s Perspective,”
  - May 2: The United States and Canada: Military Powers in Historical Perspective
  - May 3: War, Technology and the Rise of the West 1450-2006 Reconsidered

- May 4 - 6: Continental Defence and Beyond: Canada’s Place in the World Coast Plaza Hotel, Calgary

NEWS

MSS Students Shine in Kingston

On Oct 28-29 the 8th Annual CDAI/CDFAI Graduate Student Symposium on Security and Defence Issues was held at RMC in Kingston, Ontario. The Centre was well represented with 7 students making the cross country trek. These included: Claire Bennet, Russ Benneweis, Ty Curran, Joshua Flumerfelt, Jeremy Lammi, David Peabody and Valerie Yankey-Wayne. The weekend saw many interesting presentations, including keynote addresses from Senator Hugh Segal and Maj. Gen Andrew Leslie.

In addition to running the pool tables during the dinner, the weekend was also a success at the awards ceremony, with Jeremy Lammi getting an honourable mention for his work and Ty Curran taking home second prize for his paper entitled “Sole-Sourcing in Canadian Defence Contracts.”

The Centre would like to extend congratulations to all the students who participated.

Abstract of Ty Curran’s Award Winning paper:

Title: Sole-Sourcing in Canadian Defence Contracts

In an April 14th 2004 speech Prime Minister Paul Martin allocated 2.1 billion dollars for the purchase of three multi-role Joint Support Ships (J.S.S.). The government has pledged that these ships will be built domestically. Historically this has meant massive investment in infrastructure and personnel only to see this expertise and equipment disappear in the aftermath of the build program. The government needs to develop a better policy to end the cycle of feast and famine within the industry.

The Australian government is currently going through a similar slowdown within its industry. To preserve the expertise acquired during the ANZAC Class and Collins Class builds the Australians are examining a Single Shipbuilding Entity Model. Under this model the Australians would sole-source future government procurement needs to one shipyard under a long term contract. The hope is that this would guarantee the long term viability of a portion of the industry, retaining both the expertise and the strategic utility that the industry provides.

The Canadian military shipbuilding industry has had tremendous difficulty remaining viable outside of government contracts. If the industry were able to remain consistently viable it would result in significant job creation in manufacturing and high tech areas. This is not the best option economically or politically but does provide a middle ground that safeguards the initial outlay while meeting the political objectives of job creation and domestic investment.
CMSS welcomes future additions...

CMSS is happy to welcome Evelyn Margaret Clitheroe (left), the newest daughter of Web Communications and Marketing Specialist and Masters student Violetta Clitheroe, to the world. Evelyn Margaret Clitheroe was born on November 9th, 2005 at 11:41 am at Peter Lougheed Hospital at a healthy 7 lbs 10 ounces.

CMSS also wants to congratulate Masters student Jamie Milroy and his wife Cristina for their newest addition to their family. Patrick James Millroy (right), 7 lbs 3 oz., 21.5 inches, was born Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 18:04 at the Lakeshore General Hospital.

Congratulations to both families, and CMSS looks forward to both joining the Strategic Studies program in the future!

Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch...

CMSS would like to welcome Ray Szeto (dead right) to its staff. As of October 2005, Ray will be assuming the position of Web Communications & Marketing Specialist during Vio Clitheroe’s parental leave. He is an alumni of the Masters of Strategic Studies program, having defended his thesis entitled “Strategy 2020 and the Future of DND/CF” in Fall 2004. His artistic and graphic design skills, as well as a “wicked sense of humour” according to the CMSS Director, will ensure that all internet communications and Centre promotions are not disrupted while Vio welcomes her newest pride and joy.

Ray has already been plunged into CMSS work with overseeing the launching of the Centre’s new website.

CMSS launches new Website

In keeping with technological trends, CMSS is proud to launch its new and improved website. The new website is one of many steps resulting from an internal communications review that sought ways to improve the Centre’s connection with its stakeholders and the greater public at large.

The new website is located on the internet at:

www.cmss.ucalgary.ca
How Aid can promote Peace in the New Georgia

On a hot summer night last June, I sat in the Café Nicala on Rustaveli Avenue, the central promenade of Georgia's capital, Tbilisi. At the next table, two little girls in pastel dresses slurped their drinks while their mothers in bright miniskirts smoked and talked. To the right of me a trio of shaggy-haired teens slouched in T-shirts and fashionably faded jeans as they talked in low tones, dragging on Marlboros and sipping tea. The café was right in the heart of Tbilisi's upscale district, though it was not especially pretentious, and looked more like an IKEA cafeteria. It was a far cry from the dreary atmosphere and surly service of Soviet times. A three course hot meal dished up by pleasant young servers behind the buffet cost about 7 Lari, or US$4. To many in Georgia whose salaries are 20 Lari a month, of course this is a fortune, but the clientele here looked only average, not especially well-dressed. I sat sipping the pale local Kazbegi beer, and chewed on the idea that here with me was evidence of a new Georgian middle class.

This idea seemed remarkable to me and hugely encouraging. This was a country that since the late 1980s had literally gone through hell. In the 1990s, its diverse peoples lived through political and economic collapse after the breakup of the Soviet Union, two internal armed conflicts, civil war and rampant gangsterism, ending in a military coup that brought Eduard Shevardnadze to power in the hopes that the skillful former Soviet Foreign Minister could solve the country's woes. Instead, the result was years of gross corruption, economic stagnation and poverty, and a huge outmigration of talented people who support their families back in Georgia with remittances.

Then, after even Shevardnadze's stalwart allies in Western governments tired of the corruption and lack of true reform, in 2003 Shevardnadze was overthrown in a dramatic bloodless people's "Rose Revolution", and replaced by the charismatic "Misha" (Mikheil Saakashvili), a 35 year old U.S.-educated lawyer whose impatience for change and uncompromising approach seem to be his best and worst attributes. So, sitting in an average-looking café downtown and watching middle-class Georgians enjoy a mundane evening out seemed deliciously normal in a country not known for normal moments.

Then, the café's glass doors swung open and in strode a burly man in camouflage and a black balaklava, a semi-automatic rifle under one enormous arm. He stopped and stood, motionless, blocking the doorway. I looked around with alarm. The other patrons though, seemed undismayed, throwing a mildly curious glance at the heavily armed newcomer, but then casually continuing to their conversations and their tea. A clutch of photographers and a TV cameraman gathered at the far end, focused on the back entrance. Again the café patrons seemed only mildly interested.

Was this a robbery? Everyone was too calm. The staff continued working and the huaking masked man made no demands. Some other men in civilian clothing talked calmly with the café manager a few feet away. Was the president, or another VIP at the back door giving a press conference with these masked warriors as private security? Not the typical politician's visit, but then, this is not Canada.

But another 10 minutes passed, the journalists hovered still around the back door, and no one ever emerged. There were no announcements about what was going on, and the armed gunman remained a silent, huaking presence at the front. The TV cameraman wandered around now to the front of the restaurant, filming the gunman and us. Then it hit me, this was probably a movie crew, or one of those 'candid camera' shows, where they create absurd situations and then film how people react. A café taken over by armed gunmen and no one flinching! Perhaps after all the war, crises, and revolution, Georgian TV had developed a sense of irony about the gangsterism of the past.

After another few confused minutes, I finally left, holding my breath as I walked past the armed gunman. I stopped to talk to the young cameraman and photographers who were now lounging outside on the street. I asked, what was going on back there? It was a visit from the tax police, they explained, and because they were eating dinner in the café they ended up filming it all. There had been two more masked gunmen near the back door. The 30-something journalists were excited about their "scoop" and completely incredulous about the scene. "Their methods were a little heavy-handed", the bearded cameraman said, in a voice full of black irony. W hat a treat to meet this off-duty group of Georgian reporters - taking their role as watchdogs over abuses of power seriously. I heard later there had
been similar ‘investigative visits’ from the tax police at other cafes that night, but that the critical media coverage had really embarrassed the government. This was the contradictory face of the new Georgia. The clampdown on tax evasion was part of a larger battle against corruption, but in this case as in many reforms, the new government put results ahead of good or democratic processes.

I was in Georgia for three weeks in summer 2005 to help the staff of a major international humanitarian organization learn about conflict sensitive development programming. This agency had big programs in areas of Georgia home to serious ethnic, religious, and resource tensions (over land, water and roads) between different communities. It wanted to understand how its education, income generation, community development, and agricultural reform programs affected these conflicts. While they hoped that their development work was making things better, in Georgia, as elsewhere in the world, outside money, resources, and ideas can unintentionally fuel conflict, not peace.

That is because, while economic underdevelopment and poverty is a risk factor for conflict, but that does not mean that all aid is peace promoting. Over the past 15 years, much reflection in the international aid community has shown that for humanitarian and development assistance to be peace promoting it needs to consciously target and do so. A case in point is that Rwanda before the genocide was considered a model of successful development work by donor countries.

How to make sure that humanitarian and development aid promotes peace and not war? I was there to share the practical results of two major collaborative learning projects directed by the Boston-based organization, the Collaborative for Development Action, with whom I used to work. The Do No Harm Project synthesized field experience from aid agencies in war zones into a practical framework for designing aid programs in conflict areas, while the Reflecting on Peace Practice Project has developed similar practical tools and insights for NGO peace programs from a similar extensive review of field experience. (For more information see www.cdainc.com).

Many aid agencies in Georgia are seeking knowledge on conflict sensitive development as Georgia’s fragile new democracy has more than its share of potential and existing conflicts to worry about. The south Caucasus is a rough neighborhood, buffeted by the imperial and strategic ambitions of Russia, Iran and Turkey, and with war-torn Chechnya on its northern border. From 1990-93, Georgia was dismembered by violent wars with two ethnically-distinct internal republics who themselves demanded independence as the ultra-nationalist Georgian independence movement took over the state. So too large areas bordering Russia – Abkhazia on the Black Sea Coast and South Ossetia in the central region – won and maintain de facto independence since the early 1990s with Russian support. Though ceasefire agreements have held, more or less, since, there is no real peace and the uncertainty over whether war will erupt again blocks investment, economic development and resumption of the lucrative tourist industry in Georgia. In South Ossetia and Abkhazia, the war devastated the economy and infrastructure, and left these two enclaves isolated and blocked from any way forward politically or economically. Over 250,000 internally displaced and refugees, victims of these wars, remain in limbo all these years, living on meager subsidies and waiting to go home.

Under Georgia’s young reformist government, prospects for peace have worsened in fact with a disastrous attempt by the Georgian military to forcefully assert control over contraband markets beside South Ossetia in summer of 2004. Fighting broke out and my summer visit to South Ossetia confirmed that attitudes have hardened and even those who were active peacemakers there feel confirmed in their deepest fears that the new Georgia is intent on a new invasion. Conversations with people from the surrounding Georgian-controlled areas showed that many are so frustrated with the status quo, they openly push the authorities to reconquer South Ossetia militarily. In Abkhazia too, peace talks have floundered and stalled, with no real progress.

The going wisdom is that the U.S., EU and other key Georgian allies will not tolerate any Georgian attempt to regain these two territories militarily in a country that aspires to join NATO and the EU – but no one forgets the Croatian military offensive to regain the Serb enclave in Krajina while Western governments winked. And, as the tax police raids show, Saakashvili’s government has acquired the reputation of being heavy-handed and unpredictable. Georgia faces ethnic tensions in the territory it does control as well. In one district, tensions between the majority Armenian population and the central government over language and religious rights, education, self-government, access to jobs and resources and resentments over longstanding neglect have been escalating. In districts with large Azerbaijani populations, similar tensions are brewing. The pipeline project to carry Caspian sea oil through Georgia to the Turkish port of Ceyhan is bringing new economic activity, but is also exacerbating tensions between communities who benefit directly from the pipeline and those who don’t.
The latest volume of the Society for Military and Strategic Studies publication is now available. Perspectives on War - Volume 3: Selected Essays from the 2005 Conference of the Society for Military and Strategic Studies was edited by Laurel Halladay, with a foreword by Dr. J.L. Granatstein. The SMSS produces the Perspectives on War series as a way in which to allow junior scholars the opportunity to publish their work with the hope that by making this student research more widely available, established experts, policymakers and academics might discover new and imaginative approaches to security problems of the past and present.

The eleven students whose papers are included in the collection show a great aptitude for looking into the future and over the long term at the complexities of the issues surrounding security:

- Aneel Brar: The Fear and Feasibility of Biological Terrorism
- Nathan Klassen: State Autonomy and Encryption: An Examination of Technology's Ability to Impact State Autonomy
- Michael Lewis: The Israeli Struggle Against Terrorism: Assessing the Policy of Targeted Killing
- Scott Fitzsimmons: Dogs of Peace: A Potential Role for Military Companies in Peace Implementation
- Nicolas Virtue: Fascist Italy and the Barbarization of the Eastern Front, 1941-1943
- Anthony Imbrogno: Why the Oil is Still Underground: Uncertainty in the Caspian Sea Region
- Alex S.Wilner: Freshwater Scarcity and Hydropolitical Conflict: Between the Science of Freshwater and the Politics of Conflict
- Simon E. Stone: Green Water Dragon: The Practical and Ideological Limitations of the Modern PLAN
- Eno Trimecev: Structural Theory and the Trans-Atlantic Rift
- Matthew Tattar: Change and Resistance to Change in Post-Cold War US Conventional Force Planning

Contact the CMSS in order to purchase a copy.

One Christmas in Washington

by David J. Bercuson and Holger H. Herwig

Christmas in Washington is the fascinating, in-depth look at one of the most crucial periods in modern history: the weeks between December 1941 and January 1942, when Churchill and Roosevelt—seemingly on the run after Dunkirk and Pearl Harbor—met at the White House, forging what turned out to be the Grand Alliance—while in the background, a gloomy and confused America went about their Christmas celebrations.

Herwig and Bercuson grippingly recreate the dramatic days of the Washington War Conference of 1941-1942, code-named ARCADIA, using the diaries, meeting notes, personal letters, and detailed minutes that contain day-by-day, almost hour-by-hour accounts of these historic events. The authors' whose previous book The Destruction of the Bismarck was the companion to James Cameron's Discovery Channel special Expedition: Bismarck—take a penetrating look at the high level meetings that lasted long into the night and at the scenes behind the scenes: the social events and intrigues, Churchill's booming intrusion into the daily life of the White House, the strained relationship between Churchill and Eleanor Roosevelt, the key role played by Roosevelt's close advisor Harry Hopkins. As with any momentous gathering of world leaders, there was high politics and low gossip, and both contributed to earth-shaking events of this momentous time.
On October 20, students from the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies were invited by Eric Cameron of the National Defence Public Affairs Office (NDPA) - Calgary, to Wainwright, Alberta to briefings on the Phonix Ram exercise. More than 5000 Canadian soldiers were taking part in this exercise, the largest Canadian combined arms, brigade-level training event since 1992. After an early morning five hour bus ride from Calgary, the students were treated to a meal in the Junior Officers Mess and were then briefed by senior Army officers as to the purpose of the training exercise. EX PHOENIX RAM is expected to set a benchmark for future Army training. It is intended to provide realistic training for soldiers at all levels, while integrating all of the combat functions that will enable Canada’s Army to successfully complete difficult missions around the world. After the briefing, the students were moved out to the Command Post position where they were given a tour of the Command centre, a ride in a Bison Armoured Personnel Carrier and were treated to a brief live fire demonstration by a leopard tank. We were also allowed to visit with the crews of the leopard tank, an Air Defence Anti-Tank system and an armoured mobile TOW launcher. The soldiers and their officers were honest and forthright with us and we appreciated their candor. The Centre for Military and Strategic Studies would like to thank Eric Cameron and Rebecca Taylor of the NDPA for a wonderful day.

Photos courtesy of Dr. Bob Bergen
In response, humanitarian and development agencies have been trying to refocus their programming to ease such tensions in minority areas. Though Abkhazia and South Ossetia have so far been largely ignored by the world’s major aid donors, lately there is new interest in undertaking major development work in these regions as part of a new push to create the foundations for sustainable peace. That is a major opportunity for outside humanitarian and aid agencies to play a constructive role through smart, targeted development assistance. Mistakes of the past, like using aid as a lever to exact political concessions from the governments of these regions, have been shown to be counterproductive.

But aid can do important things to promote peace related to these longstanding conflicts. Development agencies can foster economic growth in ways that provide visible, tangible benefits to all groups and regions. To do so, however, it is important to shift the targeting criteria from a focus on purely need or efficiency to strengthening the attitudes, values, structures, and institutions that groups in conflict share. Peace groups can bring people and politicians together to understand what political, cultural, and economic interests need to be satisfied for a stable coexistence among Georgia’s diverse peoples, making sure to include not just those already inclined to compromise but those who hold more radical views. NGOs can work with government representatives from all sides to build functional, practical measures for cooperation on issues that matter to people’s daily lives - jobs, transport, trade, freedom of movement, cultural and family ties. These approaches will help build a base so that when the time comes to resolve the thorny issues of borders and status, all sides can be focused on how to secure the future rather than on the wounds of the past.

Lara Olson is a fellow with the CMSS whose focus is on field-based research on NGO effectiveness in peacemaking and peacebuilding.
“Promoting and developing excellence in military, security and defence studies.”