



# THE BLAST TUNNEL

## DIEFENBUNKER ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Edition 2

February 2016

*Disclaimer: This Newsletter is produced for members of the Diefenbunker Alumni Association and is not an official publication of the Diefenbunker Cold War Museum nor of the Department of National Defence. It is produced solely to provide relevant items of interest to Alumni members.*

### Editor's Corner

I received enough positive comment to continue with the quarterly publication of this Newsletter so, unless I hear to the contrary or fail to get sufficient input I'll put this together and try to include material of interest to Alumni members. That said, its success will depend largely on you and the input that you provide—it need not be long or particularly earth-shattering—a brief update on your life since the Bunker; or an anecdote from your time in the Bunker—those are the sorts of thing that will be of interest to your colleagues.

Dave Peters, formerly of Emergency Preparedness Canada, who had a major responsibility in the Bunker's role as the Central Emergency Government Headquarters has provided a couple of background articles that I hope will stimulate some discussion. The first appears in this issue.

I would like to include selected biographies of Alumni members and will therefore be bugging individuals from time to time to get their permission to reprint their biography from the Alumni Booklet found on the website or an updated version thereof. Garry Dowd kicks off first.

I am pleased to include an update on the Museum from our Patron, the Executive Director of the Diefenbunker Museum. I think you will agree that your alma mater is now in excellent hands with the present leadership. Ms Riegel's report reflects a remarkable growth in the number of visitors to the Museum over the past few years—a growth due almost entirely to the outstanding programs and communications produced by the current staff.

As a volunteer at the Museum, I can say quite unequivocally, that it is a pleasure to work at the Diefenbunker Museum, unashamedly improving my tour presentations with many of the anecdotes that I have collected from Alumni members.

I am starting to turn my attention to the next reunion. I sense that there is sufficient interest to hold a fourth event. I suggest that we hold it in the late April/early May timeframe on a date and time that suits the Museum schedule. I would be pleased to receive any thoughts you might want to share on format and/or content. The format could range from a catered sit-down meal to hot finger food to sandwiches. The choice will drive the cost with the forgoing options reflecting a range from about \$50 per person to about \$15. Any thoughts you might have on a program would be most welcome.

Finally, I am still looking for biographies and photos for new reprint of the Alumni Booklet.

### In This Issue

- Editor's Corner
- The Alumni Association
- Membership
- Contact Points
- Activities
- In Memoriam
- At The Museum
- Last Word



# THE BLAST TUNNEL



Page 2

## The Origins of the Diefenbunker (Central Emergency Government Headquarters) as Part of the Federal Government's **Continuity of Government Program in the Event of a Nuclear Attack** by Dave Peters

An Interdepartmental Working Group on War Measures was created by the Federal Government in 1956 to deal with rising concerns about a potential nuclear attack. In January of 1957 the Committee recommended the establishment of emergency government headquarters at the federal, provincial (regional), and local (sector) levels, because of the fact that the Federal Government and some Provincial and Municipal Governments were located in areas liable to deliberate attack and therefore subject to evacuation. Specifically it stated:

*“If provision is not made in peacetime for emergency relocation sites, these governments may be unable to function when war starts. There will be no time then to improvise the necessary facilities outside the present capitals. It is therefore recommended that steps should be taken now to develop an emergency government organization comprising a federal emergency headquarters in the vicinity of Ottawa, a regional emergency headquarters in each province that would include both a federal and provincial component as well as an army component, and possibly a number of sector headquarters in each province. The various headquarters would be interconnected by an integrated, government communications network so designed as to permit the exercise of either decentralized or centralized control.”*

Planning for the maintenance of government authority, which was reviewed by the committee, included consideration of communications, law and order, legal problems, essential records, as well as emergency government facilities.

The Canadian Army also became heavily involved in the area of continuity of government by its acceptance of responsibility for constructing the central and regional emergency government headquarters and providing communications equipment.

The Canadian government made a conscious decision to involve the provinces in the preparations for a nuclear emergency. It followed, therefore, that if provincial arrangements were to be effectively carried out in a moment of crisis, the capability would have to exist for a decentralized system of emergency government. By 1960, the federal government had accepted the principle of an emergency regional site in each province from which the various federal organizations, including the military, would be able to operate in the closest cooperation with provincial authorities for the area. The Prime Minister (Rt. Hon. John Diefenbaker) approved the design for the installations in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

The first six regional headquarters were planned for the following Canadian Armed Forces bases; Nanaimo, Penhold, Camp Shilo, Camp Borden, Camp Valcartier and Camp Debart. By 1963 these six installations were still under construction. The nature of the facilities in the other four provinces had been studied by a joint Army/EMO Working Group. The central facility at Carp, Ontario was constructed in 1959 – 61 although certain facets (primarily concerned with telecommunications equipment) were not yet satisfactorily operational as late as 1963.

**Membership**

In the first edition of the Blast Tunnel, a list of currently registered members of the Alumni Association was posted. This prompted a number of you to propose other potential members as follows. To date none of these individuals have contacted me to indicate their willingness to become a member of the Association. If you know anyone on the list, I would be grateful if you encouraged them to contact me if they are interested.

Banks, Mel  
 Bezanson, Eugene (Tel Tech)  
 Bond, Bob (Driver)  
 Green, Mike  
 Higgins, Bob (Tel Tech)  
 Hulsman, Frank  
 Johnson, Rick (Cook)  
 Lachapelle, Brian  
 Linklater, Carl (Gen. Duties)  
 McCulloch, Ian (Adm. Clerk)  
 O'Callahan, John (Tel Tech)  
 Perfitt, Al  
 Tayler, Earl (Cook)  
 Tutty, Bill (Supply Tech)

Bellerive, Mike  
 Blais, Yvon  
 Davis, Orville  
 Gregoire, Serge  
 Hollemans, Hank  
 Ings, John (STRAD)  
 Kingsbury, Wayne  
 Laffin, Jimmy (Adm Clerk)  
 Manship, Don (Gen. Duties)  
 McEwen, Archie, (Cook)  
 Penney, Gord  
 Publicover, Jack (Cook)  
 Therens, Dale

**In Memoriam**

In the last edition, we also published the names of a number of comrades who had passed away. The following are a number of other names to add to the list.

<b>Church, Al</b>	<b>Dawson, Walter (Tech Officer)</b>	<b>Ferguson, Stan (Tel Tech)</b>
<b>Kelly, Hank (Tel Tech)</b>	<b>Leblanc, Jack</b>	<b>Lefebvre, Randy</b>
<b>McIssac, Bob (Tel Op)</b>	<b>Ptolemy, Larry (Rad Op)</b>	





# THE BLAST TUNNEL



Page 4

## Biography: Garret (Garry) J. Dowd

Military Service: 06 Sep 1961 - 15 Sep 1994

Carp Service: Jul 1963 - Jul 1986 (total of 15 years - intermittent - during this period in the Bunker and NICS)

I was born in Ottawa and raised on a farm next to the Park and Ride in Kanata. On 15 Sep 1961, I enlisted in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals and went to Petawawa to do basic training with the Canadian Guards (six months). On completion, I was off to Vimy for two week indoctrination training. After the two weeks I was sent to 2 Sig Sqn (Petawawa) for General Duty which included Gagetown for the summer playing at war games. I was the postal clerk and the Sergeant Major's Batman (George McMillan). Then I was off to Kingston in the Fall of 1962 for my Trades Training - Tel Op - and then back to 2 Signal Squadron for another summer in Gagetown but this time as a Senior Signaller with my own vehicle and trailer and subordinates. In July 1963 I was posted to EASE (support) at the bunker. In July 1970 - Cpl - I was posted to CFS Lowther - Pine Tree Line - and spent two uneventful years in the Communications Detachment.



In 1972 my family and I were posted to AFCENT, The Netherlands and enjoyed four glorious years. I was employed at the TRC in Tapijn Kazerne, Maastricht and lived in Geleen. It came to an end when I was posted back to CFS Carp in July 1976 as a MCpl and spent three more years in the Bunker working Crypto, FWC, Message Centre and STRAD. In Sep of 1979, I went on the year-long French Course. Promoted Sgt while on course. It was very interesting but I did not attain a working knowledge. In the summer of 1980 I was posted to 764 Comm Sqn Ottawa - at the time the busiest Comm Centre in the Military. I spent three years really learning my trade and attended the 6B Course and Senior Leaders Course - prerequisites for promotion to Warrant Officer. Off I went in July 1983 to the NATO site at Carp (NICS) and spend three years there before being posted back up the hill again to CFS Carp where I was employed in OSAX.

After that I did a tour in UNDOF, Damascus, Syria - 1986/87. On my return I was promoted to MWO and took over the job as Operations Warrant Office. In the summer of 1988, I received the posting I had been looking for a long time - ROCLANT (SACLANT), Norfolk, VA. We spent four wonderful years there and got posted in summer of 1992 back to CNDA Ottawa where after a year I was promoted to CWO (1993) and took over the job of DCOMSEC (Equipment). I retired in 15 Sep 1994 (FRP).

I am married to Donna Armstrong for over fifty years - two boys - 5 grandchildren. My wife and I now reside in Arnrior, ON. VVV PROUD TO SERVE

*Editorial Note; Garry has been a supporter of the Alumni Association since its inception and he and Donna have attended all three reunions. The Blast Tunnel thanks both of you for your service.*



## At the Museum by Henriette (Yetta) Riegel Executive Director, Diefenbunker Museum

Happy New Year to the Alumni Association from the entire Diefenbunker Museum team! We are entering 2016 full of excitement for the year ahead. We've got a wonderful schedule of events, exhibitions and more exciting programs to look forward to, and things just keep getting better.



I'd like to share with you some highlights from 2015, so that you can see how our museum continues to grow and thrive. We welcomed a record number of 60,713 visitors in 2015, which represented a 15% growth over the year, and an amazing 60% growth over the past four years. About 40% of these visitors were under the age of 20, so the museum has been able to attract a large number of visitors who weren't even born during the Cold War. Our educational programs helped reach this audience. Our new ***Conflict Resolution Workshops*** for grade 7 and 8 students won an Ontario Museum Association Award of Excellence for Educational Programming, and even won the extra WOW distinction because the jury was overwhelmingly positive about the value of this program to educate youth on the lessons of the Cold War. The key day in this

three-day program is the immersive nuclear scenario that the children must resolve when they take on the role of the Canadian government during a nuclear attack - a scenario that was built using input from Diefenbunker alumni. 750 students participated in the six-month pilot, and it was truly amazing to see these kids rise to the occasion and work together for the good of all Canadians. With today's mix of cultures within school classes, there were many inspiring moments, but one that stood out for us was the integration of recent refugee children into their new classes, once the kids gained a better understanding of the impact of war on ordinary lives.

In 2015 we also hosted seven exhibitions with nine partnerships, produced two exhibition catalogues, with four original pieces of music being composed for our spaces, and we hosted our first opera (a touching piece about life on the home front for military families) in the Cafeteria. We could not have hosted so many exhibitions had you, our Alumni Association, not been so generous and made it possible for us to purchase an art hanging system. As a small token of our appreciation, we named our new **Diefenbunker Alumni Association Gallery** in your honour, and launched the newly named space with ***Nuts & Bolts: The Stories They Tell***, an exhibition featuring rarely seen objects from the Museum's collection. A personal highlight for me is the ***Group 6: the Canadian Forces Artist Program*** exhibition in the Bank of Canada Vault. This show brings unique perspectives of the history and contributions of the men and women in the Canadian Forces, and was produced in partnership with the Department of National Defence and LEGION Magazine.

The climate of success that is being built here is a large team effort, and we are so fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers join our team and enrich the daily work of the museum in all facets. In 2015 alone, we had 82 regular volunteers (with another 100 special event/zombie volunteers!), who donated 4,843.5 hours of their time.



# THE BLAST TUNNEL



Page 6

## At the Museum (Concluded)

We are so proud to have an active Alumni Association, and look forward to the next reunion. Should any of you wish to visit the museum at any time, please let us know and we'd love to welcome you. I would also like to personally thank Mike Braham for his tireless work in organizing the Association, and for the countless hours he volunteers with us to help us make the museum what it has become today. It is truly an honour to work with Mike, and our other amazing volunteers, and we all have this feeling of doing relevant work for today's youth, and of making a difference. Should any of you want to work more closely with us, please let me know. I can personally attest to how inspiring (and fun) a work place this is, and I hope that you all feel that we are building on the legacy that you have left us.

## The Man Who Prevented WWII

On Sept. 26, 1983, Soviet missile commander, LCol Stanislav Petrov, made a decision credited by many with averting a nuclear war.

An alarm went off that night, signalling the launch of U.S. inter-continental ballistic missiles, and it was up to the 44-year-old lieutenant colonel to determine, and quickly, whether the attack on the Soviet Union was real.

Despite the data coming in from the Soviet Union's early-warning satellites over the United States, Petrov decided to consider it a false alarm. Had he done otherwise, the Soviet leadership could have responded by ordering a retaliatory nuclear strike on the United States.



**Stanislav Petrov, 2015 (CP)**

What made this even more dangerous was that the Soviet Union appears genuinely to have feared a surprise U.S. nuclear attack during what was an exceptionally tense period of the Cold War. That same month, the Soviets had shot down KAL 007, a passenger plane flying to South Korea from the U.S., suspecting it of spying. In addition, the United States was preparing to participate in a particularly aggressive NATO exercise, ABLE ARCHER 83, which simulated preparations for a nuclear attack.

In his homeland, Petrov's role in history has won him little fame. He lives in Fryazino, a town on the outskirts of Moscow, in a simple, unkempt apartment.

In a recent interview with the Canadian Press, Petrov, now 77, looked back on that night at the secret Serpukhov-15 control centre and remembered the sound of the alarm that shattered the silence shortly past midnight, and the ensuing panic among his team. He remembered the need to make a quick, firm decision based on an assessment of how reliable he thought the information was.

His decision was complicated when, within minutes of the first alarm, the siren sounded again, warning of a second U.S. missile launch. Soon, the system was reporting that five missiles had been launched.

Petrov reported to his commander that the system was giving false information. He was not at all certain, but his decision was informed by the fact that Soviet ground radar could not confirm a launch. The radar system picked up incoming missiles only well after any launch, but he knew it to be more reliable than



## The Man Who Prevented WWII (concluded)

the satellites.

The false alarm was later found to have been caused by a malfunction of the satellite, which mistook the reflection of the sun off high clouds for a missile launch.

Petrov was not rewarded for his actions, most likely because doing so would have brought to light the failure of the Soviet's early-warning satellites. Although his commanding officer did not support Petrov at the time, he was the one who revealed the incident after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

Petrov's courageous decision possibly prevented the outbreak of World War III.

## Closing Notes

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and I join Yetta Riegel in wishing you and yours a Happy New Year. I look forward to hearing from you and to receiving inputs to future editions of the Blast Tunnel. I will plan to produce the third edition early in April before the next Reunion.



**What is this aircraft and what is its significance in relation to the Diefenbunker?**