



SUPRAD Oldtimers Association Newsletter

January 2026 Edition

Happy New Year



In Memoriam

- Brian James Reid - 07 October 2025
- Edna Atkins - 29 December 2025
- Edward 'John' Waugh - 27 December 2025
- Marty Byzewski - 17 December 2025
- Wayne Moore - 02 December 2025
- Julie Watters (Steve) - 08 January 2026
- Georgina Montgomery (Tom) - 09 January 2026

New Members

No new Members this month

2026 Gaggles Dates:

- **10 February 2026**
- 14 April 2026

- 09 June 2026
- 19-21 June 2026 (Reunion)
- 11 August 2026
- 13 October 2026
- 08 December 2026 (Christmas Luncheon)

From Karen Stacy: – Support Services:

To all 291ers Serving and Veterans,

No one should ever feel they have to face challenges alone.

We want to remind all members of the 291 community that support is always available. If you are experiencing difficulties of any kind, whether personal, financial, health-related, emotional, or simply feeling overwhelmed, please know that help is within reach.

Reaching out is not a sign of weakness; it's a sign of strength, and it allows others who care to stand beside you. If you or someone you know could benefit from assistance, guidance, or simply an ear to listen, we encourage you to connect with us.

In addition, Veterans Affairs Canada offers confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the VAC Assistance Service:

 VAC Assistance Service (24/7): 1-800-268-7708

This service is available to Veterans and their families, providing immediate access to professional counselling and support at any time.

All conversations, whether within our community or through VAC are handled with respect, discretion, and compassion.

We are a community built on shared service, camaraderie, and looking out for one another, just as we always have.

You are not alone.

We've got your back.

Respectfully,

Karen Stacey

On behalf of the 291ers Veterans Community

From Rob Martin - Re: Support Services

Well put Karen. If I may, I would like to add that, at least in my own experience, September through New Years is always the toughest quarter of each year.

If any are wondering, because I'm not really a Facebook participant, I'm doing exceptionally well, but over the course of my 15-year PTSD journey through hell and this annual quarter has always been the most challenging. Time change, more hours of darkness, family gatherings at Thanksgiving and Christmas...these can be stressful pressure points, and lately our global situation and the news reporting have not been too positive. These events may not always be joyful, and we may not always want to talk about it, even though we know that the help is there for us.

There are healing programs out there, but we may not be ready. Time often reveals what we need. And the support of friends.

We are all on our own healing journey, one that I feel we must experience on our own to truly heal. It's a deep inner journey. We own our words and our emotions because they are our truths as we live them. Others can support and comfort, as the group does, but as you know, it is a tough, hellish journey. One that we get through in our own way, in our own time.

Family, I truly appreciate Dan's message to us all this week, and the responses and discussion it has generated. It is a necessary conversation. His engagement helps us all.

As I now pull my head back below the parapet, may I leave you all with a what I have learned, and continue to learn as I continue to evolve.

Be kind to yourselves, be kind to others. Find that inner light that drives you (love, really), and radiate that outward to your family, to your friends, to your community.

As you have experienced and continue to do Karen.

Love to you all,

Rob Martin

From Greg Jensen - Canada's Cold War signals intelligence effort

(There are two large documents – If you want a copy of them, reply to this email)

SIGINT BELOW ZERO: The Indications and Warning Role of Canadian Forces Station Alert, 1958-1998

The first study offers a comprehensive history on Canadian Forces (CFS) Alert—the first of its kind. This report examines the creation, evolution, and impact of the world's northernmost permanent signals intelligence site and concludes that, despite its high cost, CFS Alert was a strategically valuable pillar of Canada's Cold War SIGINT posture and its contributions to the Five Eyes alliance.

The study traces how Alert's unique Arctic location provided Canada and its allies with exceptional coverage of Soviet Northern Fleet, air defence, and long-range aviation communications. It also highlights persistent challenges in staffing, technology, and adapting to improving Soviet communications security.

Drawing on declassified Canadian records, allied assessments, and interviews with veterans, the paper reconstructs Alert's history from its late-1950s origins to the end of the Cold War. Rather than delving into highly classified processing or codebreaking details, it focuses on what Alert collected, how it collected it, and how its output fed into Canadian and allied intelligence systems.

Key findings include:

CFS Alert delivered early-warning and order-of-battle intelligence on Soviet naval, air, and missile-related activity in the Arctic and North Atlantic, often providing unique or first-tip reporting valued by the NSA, GCHQ, NATO commands, and Canadian defence planners.

Despite its remote location, high operating costs, and recurring personnel shortages, Canadian and allied reviews consistently endorsed Alert as a critical contributor to North American and NATO situational awareness—and as an important enabler of Canada’s access to broader Five Eyes SIGINT product.

The study also shows how Alert’s history reflects broader themes in Canadian intelligence: balancing sovereignty with alliance obligations, managing tensions between collection capacity and policy demands, and demonstrating SIGINT’s value to non-military clients. It concludes by positioning this work as an interim, open-source contribution toward fuller histories of CFS Alert, the Communications Security Establishment, and Canada’s intelligence community.

SIGINT in Paradise – Canadian Forces Station Bermuda, 1963–1993

The second study examines Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Bermuda, covering its three decades of operation from 1963 to 1993. Few Canadians are aware that CFS Bermuda served as a vital High Frequency Direction Finding (HFDF) signals intelligence (SIGINT) outpost in the Atlantic, enabling the precise location of Soviet naval and commercial radio transmissions. Its work supported anti-submarine warfare, NATO operations, and allied intelligence sharing across the Five Eyes community.

Established during heightened Cold War tensions, the station filled a critical gap in the US–Canadian Atlantic HFDF network. Although sometimes linked in public memory to the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, its actual origins lie in 1961 planning to improve tracking of Soviet submarines. Over more than 30 years, CFS Bermuda evolved through significant equipment modernization—including installation of the AN/GRD-6 antenna in 1977 and Project ASPIC upgrades in 1984—eventually peaking at 96 personnel. Its “cut-off” bearings frequently proved crucial, such as in the 1986 location of the distressed Soviet submarine K-219.

CFS Bermuda's operations were closely integrated with Canada's broader SIGINT architecture, including the Communications Branch of the National Research Council (later the Communications Security Establishment) and the Canadian Forces Supplementary Radio System. Throughout its existence, the station balanced national strategic requirements with tactical naval tasks, until post-Cold War budget reductions led to its closure in 1993.

Dr. Charters' report brings together fragmented historical records, Veterans' accounts, and newly declassified documents to illuminate—for the first time—the full story of CFS Bermuda: its contributions, challenges, and evolving role within allied defence structures.

Together, these two studies by Dr. Charters offer a uniquely integrated picture of Canada's Cold War SIGINT presence, from the Arctic at Alert to the Atlantic approaches at Bermuda, and underscore how these remote stations underpinned Canada's influence and responsibilities within the Five Eyes community.

From Dave Berry – The Entire Toronto transit line now free to ride for

Veterans: Here is a deal if you find yourself in Toronto:

<https://www.blogto.com/city/2026/01/toronto-transit-line-free-ride-460k-canadians/>

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Closing Note

As always, thank you to everyone who continues to share stories, memories, and milestones. Your contributions keep our community connected and our history alive.

Created by:

SUPRAD Oldtimers Association Executive Team