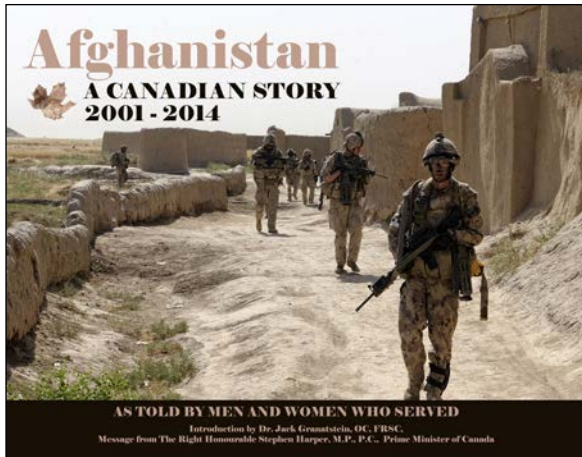




“Afghanistan: A Canadian Story” Backgrounder



“Afghanistan – A Canadian Story” is a coffee table book compilation of very human stories of that conflict as told by men and women who deployed with the Canadian Afghanistan Mission between 2001 and 2014.

“Afghanistan: A Canadian Story” is a collaborative private volunteer project that began in the summer of 2010. It is administered by the Edmonton MFRC, and supported by serving and retired Canadian Armed Forces members and civilians. The objective of the project was to develop and bring to Canadians a legacy album of

the human stories and images as experienced by the boots on the ground in the Canadian Afghanistan Mission.

Net proceeds from book sales will go to the Edmonton Military Family Resources Centre, to be shared with military support services such as the Boomers Legacy Foundation, the Military Families Fund, the Soldier On Fund and Operation Dignity St Anne de Bellevue Veterans Hospital Foundation.

A web site www.afghanistanaCanadianstory.ca was launched mid November 2011, hosted gratis by Racknine Inc. <http://www.racknine.com/>, for the purpose of soliciting the stories, images and video clips of those who served.

The project was first proposed to the Director of Army Public Affairs (DAPA) in the summer of 2010. DAPA supported the project in principle but was not in a position to allocated DND funds. Instead it was suggested that if we could find a publisher and independent funding we were free to run with the project. We have done so.

Respected Canadian publisher, John McQuarrie, agreed to work with the CAF volunteers to develop the project. Mr. McQuarrie distributes through Chapters Indigo and North 49.

The Book Production Team and the Edmonton MFRC entered into a collaborative relationship with Col (ret'd) Andrew Nellestyn, one of the producers of the documentary series “The Veterans” to share that series, along with other CF related films, with Canadians as a part of a 2013 Afghan Film Festival tour across Canada. The objective was to encourage those who served to see the value in hearing the stories of others who had served and therefore submit stories and photos of their own experiences in Afghanistan. Col (ret'd) Andrew Nellestyn quickly became a project champion and began advocating on behalf of the book, encouraging submissions through his extensive military network and actively soliciting funding for the project. Without his efforts the book would not be the stunning testament to the Canadian Afghan Mission that it is today.

The book itself stands as a tribute to the over 40,000 men and women who served Canada in Afghanistan. Readers, however, will not find a historical chronicling of our involvement in that conflict, nor will they find an academic dissection of the conflict or the polished perspective of a professional writer. They will find, instead, a fascinating collection of the very human stories and photos of the men and women who served, and glimpse the honest reflections, insights, and pivotal experiences of the boots on the ground.

When we set out we believed that developing and publishing a soldiers' legacy album chronicling the Canadian Afghanistan Mission would achieve two objectives: to provide those who served with a healing opportunity to share their mission related stories and images with their families, colleagues and Canadians; and, to produce a book that would provide Canadians with an accurate twenty-first century understanding and appreciation of the ordinary men and women who do an extraordinary job serving Canada in an increasingly complex and often hostile global community. We believe that those objectives have been met.

Volunteer Biographies:

Capt Susan Magill: Project Founder and Editor



Capt Susan Magill is a Public Affairs Officer currently working as the Executive Assistant to the Wing Commander 15 Wing and the Public Affairs Officer for the 2014 CF18 Demonstration Team. She served with the Mission Transition Task Force in Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2011.

She was deployed to Operation PODIUM with 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group in November 2009. She was the Deputy Public Affairs Officer for the Land Component Command (Calcheak) for the Olympic Games from January to March 2010. Shortly after that domestic deployment she departed for a three month Technical Assistance Visit in Kandahar, Afghanistan from April to June 2010. In July 2010 she began working with Army Multimedia as the Army News Officer for Land Force Western Area in Edmonton, Alberta.

After completing Second Language Training in St. Jean, Quebec in 2008, she began her Public Affairs training at Defence Public Affairs Learning Centre in Gatineau in 2009. She completed her training in July, 2009, and was posted to Land Forces Western Area in Edmonton, Alberta to work for Joint Task Force West.

Capt Magill was born and raised in Toronto but is most comfortable living in Ottawa, Ontario. She earned a diploma in journalism from the Humber College School of Journalism in Toronto in 1994. She later earned a Bachelors of Professional Arts in Communications (Distinguished) from Athabasca University in 2006.

Lt(N) Melanie Graham: Project Founder, Project Coordinator and Editor



Lt(N) Melanie Graham retired from the Canadian Forces in September 2012. She served as a Naval Public Affairs Officer (PAO) and enjoyed almost eleven years in the Regular Forces. She began her career, in October 2000, as a Naval Reservist, but began working with DND Public Affairs shortly after her transfer to the Regular Forces.

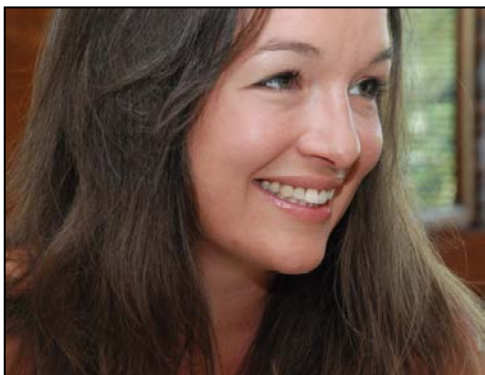
Graham has served in a variety of capacities including: Liaison Officer for the USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74)USS; Base Tours supervisor CFB Esquimalt, a community outreach program that trains and employs University of Victoria students as summer guides for the base; and, Assistant Adjutant at the Transport Unit of Canadian Force Base Esquimalt.

More recently Graham deployed as the PAO with Task Force Vancouver, and Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). The Task Force was a component of Operation PODIUM, a joint RCMP-led security support operation for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. Following Operation PODIUM, Graham was posted to 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group where she served as PAO until 25 July 2011.

Graham completed her BA in International Studies at the University of British Columbia in 1996 and her MA in International Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia May 2014.

Graham has three grown children and two grandchildren, enjoys an active outdoor lifestyle in her spare time, works freelance as an author and editor and dabbles in photography, videography and film production.

Jennifer Fraser: Fundraiser for Families of the Fallen Gift Copies



Jennifer Fraser met with Lt(N) (ret'd) Graham when the Afghan Film Festival came to Canadian Forces Base Shilo in September 2013. After watching one film she asked how she could help. The project team has always wanted to gift each family of the Fallen with a copy of the book but lacked the funds to do so. Jennifer took that project on and before Christmas of 2013 had raised over \$8000. Thanks to her efforts we can now ensure that every family of the Fallen will receive a free copy of this remarkable tribute.

Jennifer is currently living in Shilo Manitoba. She is a proud wife of a soldier currently serving in Afghanistan, and the mother to 3 girls. She looks forward to returning to work in the spring. Jennifer enjoys spending time at the lake, camping and fishing with her family.

Dr. Andrew Nellestyn: Project Champion and Advocate, Fundraiser, Financial Administrator, and Editor

OStJ KStG PhD PEng



Dr. Nellestyn enjoyed a rewarding and extensive career as a senior military officer, diplomat, municipal politician, senior corporate executive (Chairman, CEO, CFO, COO, Sr EVP Sales and Marketing), professor, author, archeologist, physicist, chemical engineer, project manager, economist, community volunteer and philanthropist. Andrew has extensive international business, management, finance, technology transfer, M&A, IPO, financing and joint venture experience. Industries in which he was engaged include ICT, energy, finance, defence and chemicals. He has worked with JV partners in the US, Canada, China, Japan, SE Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. He graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada with honours, was awarded the prestigious Athlone

Fellowship for study in the UK and was named to Who's Who in Atoms for his work in nuclear medicine and nuclear power reactor design and construction.

Andrew received the Professional Engineers of Ontario Citizenship Award and was named an honorary citizen of Egypt by President Anwar al Sadat for his contributions to Egypt's economic development and reconstruction whilst serving as a member of the United Nations mission in Egypt. Colonel Nellestyn has served as a national economic and energy advisor to various Canadian Federal and Provincial governments. He has and continues to serve on several Boards of Directors in the capacity of Board Chairman and Chairman of the Audit, Governance and Compensation Committees. He is Chairman and CEO of Andel Inc. Consulting Services (Management, Security, Economics, Finance, Energy, Development). Dr. Nellestyn is Co-Producer of the acclaimed documentary series The Veterans

(<http://vimeo.com/channels/theveterans>), book publication team member of Afghanistan: A Canadian Story 2001-2014 (www.afghanistanacanadianstory.ca) to be published in 2014 and a former Membership Coordinator Conference of Defence Associations. Andrew also served as an advisor to the Trent University/Sir Sanford Fleming Community College Geospatial Centre of Excellence. He is a member of the Ottawa Chapter Professional Engineers of Ontario Government Liaison Program Committee and Engineers Without Borders (www.ewb.ca). He is the former Chairman of the Board of Rebounders Ottawa, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario/Ottawa Hospital. Colonel Nellestyn is VP External Relations of the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (EME) Association, Co-chair of the Canadian Armed Forces Corps of RCEME Heritage Committee and VP of the Organization of Military Museums of Canada (OMMC). He also heads the project to establish a museum of military technology at CFB

Kingston which will include the RCME Museum project of which he is one of the founding members.

Andrew is an active member of the Kanata Legion Branch 638. He is a former board member of the Carleton Mississippi Mills Conservative Association and served as its Policy and Constitution Committee chair. He also served on the board of the Kanata Carleton Conservative Association.

Dr. Nellestyn is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his contributions to civics, citizenship, nation building and leadership. Colonel Nellestyn received the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada Commendation for his contributions to the well-being of Canada's Veterans and was recently inducted into the Order of St George at the rank of Knight. He is also a member of Operation Dignity which raises funds for Sainte Anne de Bellevue Veterans Hospital Montreal. Andrew is an acclaimed expert in economics, finance, security, defence, energy, management, ICT, geopolitics, international affairs, development aid and reconstruction. He enjoys a vast network of contacts nationally and globally. He is an economics and finance advisor to governments and international institutions. Colonel Nellestyn's hobbies include cycling, antique British sports cars, cross-country skiing, sailing, archeology, architecture, antiques, art and literature.

Edmonton Garrison Military Family Resource Centre

<https://www.familyforce.ca/sites/Edmonton/EN/About%20Us/Pages/default.aspx>

Mailing Address:

PO Box 10500 Station Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

Phone: (780) 973-4011 ext 6300

Fax: (780) 973-1401

information@mfrcedmonton.com

The Edmonton Garrison Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC) is a non-profit society registered under the Alberta Society's Act. The agency is also registered with Revenue Canada as a charitable organization.

The Edmonton Garrison Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC) is committed to enriching the lives of individuals and families in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) through positive action, education and support.

Absences from family support systems, difficulties during deployments, solo parenting or coping with an injury or loss are realities for military families: realities which can have a significant impact on family well-being.

Established in 1989, for more than 20 years the MFRC has been committed to supporting military families as they navigate these unique challenges through programs and services that enhance the strength and resilience of military families

Structure

The MFRC is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of military spouses, CAF members, and ex-officio members. The MFRC depends on the talents and skills of these dedicated volunteers to make guiding decisions.

Qualified staff from a variety of backgrounds direct and coordinate MFRC programs and services.

MFRCs Across Canada and Around the World

There are several MFRCs scattered across Canada and around the world, located as near as Comox, B.C. to Halifax, Nova Scotia, or as far away as Rome, Italy, to Geilenkirchen, Germany, or New York, New York. You will find an MFRC wherever there are a sufficient number of CAF families posted.

Boomers Legacy Foundation

<http://www.boomerslegacy.ca/>

boomerslegacy@gmail.com

Boomer's Legacy is named after Corporal Andrew "Boomer" Eykelenboom, a dedicated soldier, and a Canadian Forces medic, killed by a suicide bomber, August 11, 2006. Andrew was committed to saving lives and helping the Afghan people realize freedom. His death was the catalyst to creating this Foundation to help men and women in uniform make a positive difference in the lives of others. Andrew's humanitarian spirit lives on through Boomer's Legacy, committed to "Helping our Soldiers Help Others".

The Foundation raises awareness for Canadian military efforts on deployed operations around the globe and raises funds for Boomer's Legacy – money Canadian soldiers can access to further help the people in communities where they serve. This is done by holding fundraising events and by giving presentations to schools and interested groups. Funds raised have been used for basic humanitarian needs, medical care and education.

Effective 1 Oct 2014, Boomer's Legacy will become a program within the Support Our Troops (SOT) Program.



Corporal Andrew "Boomer" Eykelenboom

The Military Families Fund

<https://www.cfmws.com/en/SupportOurTroops/OurFunds/MFF/Pages/default.aspx>

The Military Families Fund is similar to Canadian charitable organizations that have existed since the time of the Crimean War. Canadian Patriotic Fund Associations were later established in large centers throughout Canada in 1900, for the benefit of:

- (a) The widows, orphans and other dependants of officers and men in the military forces of Canada, who might lose their lives in, or in connection with, the war operations in South Africa;
- (b) The soldiers themselves or others (whether combatant or non-combatant) on duty in South Africa with the authority of the Government of Canada, who might be disabled by wounds, sickness, etc., and their families or dependants; and
- (c) The wives, children and dependants separated at home from those serving in South Africa.

With the advent of the First World War, it was decided that the Federal Government must make permanent provision for disabled men and the widows and dependants of men killed in action or who died on active service. On August 28, 1914, the Government of Canada passed The Canadian Patriotic Fund Act, 1914 to provide assistance, in cases of need, for the wives, children and dependent relatives of officers and men who were on active service.

His Royal Highness, The Duke of Connaught, made a public appeal for support of the Canadian Patriotic Fund:

“The prompt and generous response on each occasion proves how truly Canada appreciates the duty which she owes to her sons who are fighting, for the Empire. ... the Dominion is as determined as ever to ... to help the families of those who are serving in the Army and in the Navy.

The Canadian Patriotic Fund was vested by Parliament with a dual responsibility, to collect and to distribute money. However, circumstances dictated that the Fund assume a third responsibility of acting as counsellor and business agent to soldiers’ families who found themselves faced with difficulties that they were unable to meet, single handed.

While the Government of Canada continues to provide directly for a number of Canadian Forces (CF) morale and welfare programs and services using both “public” and “non-public” resources, since 1950, through the enactment of the “Non-Public Property” provisions of the National Defence Act (NDA), The Canadian Patriotic Fund dual responsibility of collecting and distributing contributions from Canadians has been delegated to the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS).

The Canadian Forces Morale & Welfare Services (CFMWS) administers all non-public property on behalf of the CDS. The Canadian Forces Central Fund (CFCF), is the non-public funds bank account. The Military Families Fund is a sub-account within the CFCF. It grows through the

freely given contributions of generous Canadians, corporations and other organizations, and it is distributed to soldiers' families in need. On behalf of the CDS, an Executive Committee of seven Canadians will govern it in accordance with its Terms of Reference.

The Soldier On Fund

https://www.cfmws.com/en/AboutUs/DCSM/Soldier_On/Pages/default.aspx

SoldierOn-Sanslimites@forces.gc.ca

Soldier On is a sub-account within the Canadian Forces Central Fund (CFCF) that was founded in 2006 to empower retired and serving members of the Canadian Forces with an illness or injury (visible or non-visible) to accept their new normal by adopting an active lifestyle through participation in physical, recreational or sporting activities.

This reintroduction to an active lifestyle helps them to develop new skills, build confidence in their abilities and realize their full potential. Many ill and injured members credit Soldier On with helping them to overcome their challenges and open doors to other life opportunities.

Contact: Canada-wide Toll Free: 1-800-883-6094, in Ottawa at: 613-995-1457. Worldwide via the Military network at: CSN 995-1457



Operation Dignity St Anne de Bellevue Veterans Hospital Foundation.

<http://fondationhsa.ca/?lang=en>

It is our duty, as citizens, to express our gratitude in a tangible manner – this type of gesture should not only be made by other Veterans and military personnel, family members and Government. We must acknowledge the enormous sacrifices made by Veterans in times of war, as well as those presently being made by our young Canadian military personnel who continue to risk their lives in order to maintain peace throughout the world.

.Ste. Anne's Hospital Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization. It is managed by a Board of Directors and is independent from Ste. Anne's Hospital and Veterans Affairs Canada.

The Foundation's goal is to receive donations in the form of money, securities or realty from individuals, corporations, private foundations and community groups for the purpose of accomplishing its mission.

The Foundation organizes fundraising campaigns and solicits donations for the benefit of Veterans and military personnel who receive care and services from Ste. Anne's Hospital. The Foundation also has the responsibility of managing its funds and ensuring that donations be used in accordance with its mission.

Ste. Anne's Hospital Foundation has been incorporated under Part II of the *Canada Corporations Act* since March 25th 2014, is continued under section 211 of the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* since July 30th 2014 and is registered as a charitable organization with Revenue Canada and Revenue Quebec. The Foundation issues Income Tax receipts to its donors.

Contact:

English 514 457.8484 Toll Free 1 877 711.8484 - info@fondationhsa.ca

Ste. Anne's Hospital Foundation
305, Boul. des Anciens-Combattants
Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec
H9X 1Y9