

## Media Report 13MAY 2022

This weeks media reports will cover and answer great questions veterans are still asking such as Frequently asked questions regarding COVID-19 in Ottawa. Due to ongoing and evolving COVID-19 pandemic callers may experience increased wait times when calling the Government of Canada Pension Center. Callers may also experience dropped calls, as all telecommunication networks across Canada are presently facing capacity challenges. and local Media Articles and An illness or injury can have an impact on your ability to adjust to life after service. We all need healthcare services. The Treatment benefits program provides coverage for a variety of benefits and services to help you get—and stay healthy. Have you made an application for disability benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada and received a decision? If you disagree with that decision, you have the right to review or appeal

### NATO NEWS AND THOUGHTS [From SHELLDRAKE] FRIDAY 13 MAY 2022

**Why is Friday the 13th Unlucky? According to biblical tradition, 13 guests attended the Last Supper, held on Maundy Thursday, including Jesus and his 12 apostles (one of whom, Judas, betrayed him). The next day, of course, was Good Friday, the day of Jesus' crucifixion. On Friday, October 13, 1307, officers of King Philip IV of France arrested hundreds of the Knights Templar, a powerful religious and military order formed in the 12th century for the defense of the Holy Land. Imprisoned on charges of various illegal behaviors (but really because the king wanted access to their financial resources), many Templars were later executed. Some cite the link with the Templars as the origin of the Friday the 13th superstition, but like many legends involving the Templars and their history, the truth remains murky.**

Current Affairs to ponder by NVOC Members:...there are many events outside of the Ukraine that we all need to worry about!

- [Arab Food Insecurity and Political Failure](#). Current disruptions in the food supply chain highlight long-standing problems for Arab countries.

The Arab region, extending from the Persian Gulf in the east to the Atlantic Ocean in the west, faces severe shortages of several staple foods. Given that at least 65 percent of people in most Arab countries are poor or vulnerable to poverty, it's little surprise that hunger and malnutrition are prevalent in the region. Even in oil-rich Saudi Arabia, conservative figures place at least 20 percent of the population below the poverty line. Poor government planning, demographic changes, water scarcity, climate

change, the COVID-19 pandemic and unresolved conflicts all contribute to the problem. And today, the war in Ukraine is revealing the extent of these vulnerabilities, which will continue to plague the region long after the war's conclusion.

### Water Scarcity

Of the world's 17 most water-stressed countries, 12 are in the Middle East and North Africa. Even though the Arab region includes 5 percent of the world's population, its share of the world's freshwater is less than 1 percent. Arab countries import more than half of their food supplies, spending 5 percent of their gross domestic product on these imports.

These problems have affected countries in different ways. In Iraq, drought, sandstorms, high temperatures and external restrictions on water flows have led to 60 percent water loss. Turkey's and Iran's aggressive dam construction policies have hugely aggravated water supply problems in both Iraq and Syria. In Egypt, Addis Ababa's Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam has deprived the country of 25 percent of its Nile water supply. Israel's virtual monopoly of the Jordan River system has further worsened Jordan's severe water scarcity.

In Syria and Iraq, where 12 million people have lost access to water, wheat production is collapsing. Land under cultivation shrank by half last year in Iraq, where the population will double by 2050 but potable water will decrease by 20 percent because of declining precipitation, which constitutes 30 percent of the country's water supply. The Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources says that unless Turkey releases more water into the Euphrates and Tigris rivers – which flow into the Shatt al-Arab waterway south of Baghdad – they will dry up in 20 years. In Syria, around 60 percent of the water flow comes into the country from Turkey, which has used the resource as a political weapon to increase its influence in Syria. It typically releases more water into Syria in the winter, when dams reach maximum capacity, threatening their structural integrity. During the dry summer season, reduced water flows can cause immense economic losses in agriculture and fisheries.

- New leader. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the son of the late Philippine dictator, is [poised to become the next president of the Philippines](#). As president, he's expected to support strengthening ties with China, particularly on infrastructure projects.

- No deal. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán held talks in Budapest on a proposed EU ban on Russian oil – which Hungary strongly opposes. They [failed to reach a deal](#) but agreed to continue negotiations. [According to a report by Politico](#), Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia might be granted an exemption from the plan until 2024.

- Macron and Scholz. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and French President Emmanuel Macron [held talks in Berlin on Monday](#) on European independence from Russian energy. Macron also proposed a "European political community" that would extend some membership benefits to non-members, without providing many details.
- Greek-UAE consultations. Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed [signed several agreements](#) on investment, economic cooperation and energy security during talks in the United Arab Emirates on Monday. They also agreed to explore ways to increase liquefied natural gas supplies to Greece.
- Streamlining. U.S. President Joe Biden on Monday [signed a bill](#) to streamline the process of supplying weapons to Ukraine. The Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act will help Washington speed up the transfer of weapons, military equipment, medicine, food and other aid to Kyiv.
- Emerging water dispute. Iran's foreign minister [called Turkey's plans to construct dams in the region "unacceptable"](#) and said they could affect the amount of water flowing into Iran. He also said that he had raised the issue multiple times over the past eight months with Turkey's foreign minister and that [Tehran asked Ankara to set up a joint committee to resolve the matter](#).
- Lavrov in Algeria. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov [arrived in Algeria](#), a key trade partner for Moscow in Africa, for talks with Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra.
- Kazakh diplomacy. Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev will begin a [two-day visit to Turkey](#) on Tuesday. It's expected that he will sign a number of agreements with Turkish officials. Tokayev also [spoke with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev](#) on Monday to discuss bilateral relations.

## **2022 VAC National Client Survey / Sondage national de 2022 auprès des clients d'ACC**

Dear Stakeholders,

Forum Research Inc. will be conducting the 2022 National Client Survey on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC).

A random sample of approximately 3,250 people receiving VAC benefits or services will be surveyed. This includes War Service Veterans, current and former members of the Canadian Armed Forces Veterans and RCMP, and survivors.

Participants will receive calls during the following local times, and be offered the option to do the survey online or by telephone:

- Monday to Friday: 9:00 – 21:00
- Saturday: 10:00 – 21:00
- Sunday and statutory holidays: 12:00 – 21:00

The survey should take around 25 minutes and participation is voluntary. It's important to remember that VAC will never ask for a Social Insurance Number or credit card information over the phone. We urge Veterans and all Canadians to be vigilant when a person claiming to be from Veterans Affairs Canada asks for this type of information.

We encourage you to pass this along to anyone who may be contacted for the survey.

Sincerely,

Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Team

Veterans Affairs Canada

[vac.engagement.acc@veterans.gc.ca](mailto:vac.engagement.acc@veterans.gc.ca)

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Chers intervenants,

Forum Research Inc. mènera le Sondage national auprès de la clientèle de 2022 au nom d'Anciens Combattants Canada (ACC).

Un échantillon aléatoire d'environ 3 250 personnes recevant des avantages ou des services d'ACC sera interviewé. Cet échantillon comprendra des vétérans ayant servi en temps de guerre, des vétérans et des membres des Forces armées canadiennes, des membres et anciens membres de la Gendarmerie royale du Canada ainsi que des survivants.

Les participants recevront des appels durant les heures locales suivantes, et pourront choisir de répondre au sondage en ligne ou par téléphone :

- Du lundi au vendredi : de 9 h à 21 h
- Samedi : de 10 h à 21 h
- Dimanche et les jours fériés : de 12 h à 21 h

Le sondage devrait prendre environ 25 minutes et la participation est volontaire. Nous vous rappelons qu'Anciens Combattants Canada (ACC) ne demandera jamais par téléphone un numéro d'assurance sociale ou de l'information sur une carte de crédit. Nous incitons les vétérans et tous les Canadiens à la prudence lorsqu'une personne prétendant travailler à ACC demande ce type de renseignements.

Nous vous encourageons à faire passer ce message à toutes les personnes qui pourraient être visées par ce sondage téléphonique.

Cordialement,

L'Équipe de mobilisation et sensibilisation des intervenants

Anciens Combattants Canada

[vac.engagement.acc@veterans.gc.ca](mailto:vac.engagement.acc@veterans.gc.ca)

## Benefits for Veterans

Includes financial assistance, health, disability and death benefits for current or former Canadian Forces members and their families.



## **Services and information**

### **[Canadian Forces Income Support](#)**

Provides a tax-free payment for Canadian Forces Members who have completed the Rehabilitation Program and are able to work but have not been able to find a job or currently have a low-paying job.

### **[Career Transition Services](#)**

Offers practical assistance to eligible veterans trying to find a job, or their survivors.

### **[Disability benefits for veterans](#)**

Provides financial payments to individuals who have a service-related disability.

### **[Health Care Benefits \(Treatment Benefits\)](#)**

Provides financial support to veterans for health-care services or benefits

### **[Veterans benefits navigator](#)**

Offers a customized inventory of benefits that are provided for veterans and their families.

### **[Veterans Independence Program](#)**

Helps veterans to remain independent in their own homes and communities.

Contributors

- [Veterans Affairs Canada](#)

More information for

- [Veterans](#)

## **IN THE MEDIA**

[Eyeing hypersonic threat, Canada nears 'robust' NORAD investment](#)

[Watchdog: Canadian Armed Forces' 'compassionate posting' process needs overhaul](#)

[Le Musée de la guerre lance un appel aux anciens combattants](#)

[Army Reserves to conduct beach assault and raid exercise around CFB Comox](#)

[Plaques honouring soldiers from London's Hamilton Road find a new home](#)

[Canadian military eyes new ground-based air defence system at a cost of \\$1 billion](#)

[75 ans des Rangers canadiens : Les yeux et les oreilles du Nord](#)

[Ukrainian women training to identify and defuse landmines: 'A huge demand'](#)



[Surveillance aircraft over Ottawa during 'Freedom Convoy' protest operated by Canadian special forces, DND confirms](#)

[Meet the 24-year-old racing against time to keep the memory of WWII veterans alive](#)

### **DCC at Work – Latest issue**

### **Defence Construction Canada**

#### **In this issue:**

- [New procurement strategy sets course for engaging more Indigenous businesses](#)
- [Project innovation starts with innovation in procurement](#)
- [Historic Halifax armoury moves into next phase of restoration](#)
- [DCC creates dedicated Pacific Region to support Real Property Operations in British Columbia](#)

### **39 CER Association Newsletter – May 2022**

39 CER

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Hi all, it has been a busy month for the Regiment as you can see in the write-ups below. The best news overall, is that we are coming out of these COVID-19 lock downs. I am pleased to see that 6 Engr Sqn will be hosting their D Day dinner on Saturday, June 11 in North Vancouver. More details on that for sure. Enjoy the articles and I hope to see many of you at the dinner.

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH THESE CF NEWSPAPERS

### **Base/Wing — Newspaper**

14 Wing Greenwood — [The Aurora](#)

22 Wing North Bay — [The Shield](#)

4 Wing Cold Lake — [The Courier](#)

CFB Esquimalt — [The Lookout](#)

CFSU Ottawa — [The Guard](#)

CFB Shilo — [The Shilo Stag](#)

19 Wing Comox — [The Totem Times](#)

8 Wing Trenton — [The Contact](#)

CFB Petawawa — [The Petawawa Post](#)

Base Gagetown — [Gagetown Gazette](#)

17 Wing Winnipeg — [The Voxair](#)

CFB Halifax — [The Trident](#)

CFB Edmonton — [The Western Sentinel](#)

CFB Valcartier — [The Adsum](#)

CFB Kingston — [Garrison News](#)

CFB St Jean — [The Servir](#)

3 Wing Bagotville — [The Vortex](#)

CFB Borden — [The Citizen](#)