

**RESPONSE TO MP JOHN BARLOW'S HIGH RIVER QUESTION IN DEFENCE ATIP RESPONSE
AT ODDS WITH THE ANSWER THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE TABLED IN PARLIAMENT
Misleading Parliament or Not? It all comes down to whether RCMP request is 'official' or 'informal'
By Dennis R. Young – October 22, 2017**

The story from National Defence about seizing firearms in High River has changed over the last four years.

June 2013 - *“at no time did our soldiers touch any weapons.”* DND ATIP response (see below)

October 2017 – *“The CAF members assisted the RCMP in the removal of the firearms; however, this action was outside the restraints of the Operation Order.”* DND ATIP response (see below)

In other words, the soldiers in High River disobeyed their direct orders.

January 2015 – *“CAF, DND/CAF, did not find any records of official requests made by the RCMP to the CAF for law enforcement assistance.”* Minister of Defence in Parliament (see below)

October 2017 – *“The first request was to assist the RCMP in the search activity, including opening locked doors to search for trapped or injured persons. In a number of the residences that the RCMP entered, they found firearms that the RCMP determined needed to be secured. The RCMP then requested that the CAF members accompanying them assist the RCMP in removing those firearms (the second request).”* DND ATIP response (see below)

Immediately below are the key statements taken from National Defence E-Mails on late June 27, 2013 and early morning June 28, 2013 in response to a request for information from the Minister of National Defence Office,

RE: URGENT MNDO RFI: HIGH RIVER GUN SEIZURES

National Defence E-MAIL: Thu June 27, 2013 (10:22 pm)

Sir, PMO is saying that gun organizations are saying this.

MM Tompkins, Captain, PPCLI, Military Assistant to the MND. [ATIP page 4]

National Defence E-MAIL: Thu June 27, 2013 (22:28 pm)

*As well sir: The reporter, _____ is filing on this tonight. He's had gun organizations tell him the **military entered homes as well.** MNDO has asked to confirm ASAP if this occurred.*

MM Tompkins, Captain, PPCLI, Military Assistant to the MND. [ATIP page 3]

National Defence E-MAIL - Fri June 28, 2013 (00:20 am)

*Alcon, I have spoken to BGen Juneau who has spoken with Comd 1 CMBG on this issue. **Comd LFWA states that at no time did our soldiers touch any Comd LFWA also states that he is satisfied with the response fm the CoC and does not intend to pursue this matter further.***

T.P. Gosselin, LCol, A/COS, LFWA HQ 1985 [ATIP page 2]

National Defence E-MAIL - Friday, June 28, 2013 (00:28 am)

Sir, I understand from our COS that this issue has been closed “on high” but have sent you this for your own essay.

LFWA-JTFW DSO@LFWA-JTFW HQ@Edmonton [ATIP page 11]

MY COMMENT: Odd that the officers ‘on high’ chose to close this investigation down after just 8 minutes, without conducting a proper investigation and without answering all the questions posed by the Minister’s office.

National Defence E-MAIL - Friday June 28, 2013 (00:32)

Matt: *Comd JTFC/FLWA confirms base on his engagement of his chain of command that: "at no time did our soldiers touch any weapons."*

Conrad Mialkowski, Col, SJS/J33 Current Ops [ATIP page 1]

E-MAIL - June 28, 2013 (1:01 am)

BGen Thomas; *Sir, RFI close. Thank you. I don't expect that it will surface again unless some type of evidence to the contrary is presented.*

MY COMMENT: *'Unless some type of evidence to the contrary is presented'?*

(1) Like the RCMP photograph showing soldiers being handed seized firearms by an RCMP officer, and
(2) Detailed records (obtained by Access to Information request) from Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC) with the results of their investigation into Canadian Armed Forces involvement in the search of High River homes and firearm seizures (see below).

NOTE#1: Access to the full DND response to my Access to Information request including the quotes above are included in this link: <https://dennisryoung.ca/2017/09/01/dnd-high-river-response-no-time-solders-touch-weapons-oops/>

On January 26, 2015, Minister of Defence, Rob Nicholson answered High River MP John Barlow's Order Paper Question Q-792 in the House of Commons Debates.

BARLOW'S QUESTION (c) what requests were issued by the RCMP to the Canadian Armed Forces specifically with respect to (i) the door-to-door searches of residences,
(ii) door-to-door searches of residences by forced entry,
(iii) searches for any firearms in residences,
(iv) collection of any firearms found while searching residences,
(v) transportation of any firearms found while searching residences,
(vi) recording of any information regarding firearms found while searching residences,
(vii) recording of any information regarding residences in which firearms were located;

RESPONSE BY HON. ROB NICHOLSON (MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE, CPC):

With regard to (c), the Department of National Defence and CAF, DND/CAF, did not find any records of official requests made by the RCMP to the CAF for law enforcement assistance.

NOTE #2: The full exchange of Barlow's questions and the Minister's answers is available at this link: <https://dennisryoung.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/GOVT-RESPONSE-TO-MP-BARLOWS-HIGH-RIVER-ORDER-PAPER-QUESTIONS-January-26-2015.pdf>

On October 12, 2017, the Department of National Defence responded to my Access to Information Act request and provided this proposed answer to MP Barlow's Order Paper Question part (c):

During the period of CAF assistance to the Province of Alberta, the CAF provided transportation support for an RCMP effort to locate trapped or injured persons in the flood zone. It was during this transportation support activity that the RCMP made two additional, informal, support requests directly to junior CAF members who were providing the transportation support. The first request was to assist the RCMP in the search activity, including opening locked doors to search for trapped or injured persons. In a number of the residences that the RCMP entered, they found firearms that the RCMP determined needed to be secured. The RCMP then requested that the CAF members accompanying them assist the RCMP in removing those firearms (the second request). The CAF members assisted the RCMP in the removal of the firearms; however, this action was outside the restraints of the Operation Order. As soon as the military chain-of-command became aware of the activity, they took the appropriate actions to cause it to cease and to ensure that it would not reoccur.

NOTE #3: The National Defence proposed answers to MP Barlow's Order Paper questions is available at this link (PDF pages 33 to 39): <https://dennisryoung.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/National-Defence-Soldiers-Helped-RCMP-with-High-River-Gun-Grab-Oct-12-2017.pdf>

NOW IF THE PRIME MINISTER CAN JUST GET HIS MINISTER OF DEFENCE TO ANSWER MY LETTERS AND PROVIDE RESPONSES TO ALL THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT ELSE THE SOLDIERS DID IN HIGH RIVER AND WHY!

<https://dennisyoung.ca/2016/11/23/asking-prime-minister-for-his-help-to-get-two-ministers-to-respond-to-my-high-river-letters/>