

Details of army's beef jerky rations stay a secret for security

IAN MACLEOD
Ottawa Citizen
OTTAWA

Combat troops in Afghanistan will soon be biting into more than the Taliban threat.

An Ottawa-area company has a \$301,200 federal contract to supply 150,600 snack packs of beef jerky for shots of energy during combat operations.

Hero Bros. Beef Jerky will go into the Light Meal Combat packs of

ready-to-eat field rations Canadian troops chow down on when more substantial Individual Meal Packs or fresh food aren't available.

But Hero Bros., citing national security, won't talk about its beef jerky. "Canada is at war and this is part of the supply line, and very sensitive," said I.D. Gustus, head of the company, run from a small office in Hammond, 35 kilometres outside Ottawa.

"Somebody from the other side would look at this as part of our sup-

ply line. If you can cut off the supply lines, especially food, you can cripple the enemy.

"Where it's being made, where it's being assembled, all that kind of stuff is really sensitive," he said. "This is what the boys eat when they're under fire. If somebody was to be able to access them and poison them, you know?"

Hero Bros. has supplied the military with beef jerky and pepperoni sticks since 1988. Its latest contract is the first time government has re-

quired proof its supply plants have adequate security measures, said Gustus.

A Department of National Defence spokesman, however, said it isn't worried about enemy sabotage of its beef jerky.

The military even released a backgrounder about its National Combat Ration Program, including unclassified details about macaroni and cheese, beef chop suey, salmon fillet and other food delicacies. There are vegetarian meals, too, kosher

and halal certified.

All military meals adhere to the principles of the *Canadian Guide to Healthy Living*. Each Individual Meal Pack costs an average of \$12.34, contains 1,200 to 1,400 calories and has a three-year shelf life.

Light Meal Combat packs typically offer packs of beef jerky or other dried source of protein, dried fruit, granola and chocolate bars, a candy roll, fruit beverages and hot chocolate. They cost \$5.96 each.

Garnett News Service

Calm before the combat



From left: David Cvet, Dale Gienow, and Matt Brundlie relax before going into battle in an authentic reproduction of a 14th-century martial arts tournament organized on Sunday by The Academy of European Medieval Martial Arts in Toronto. Armoured combatants battled it out with swords, spears, poleaxes and daggers, complete with heralds and marshals.

Arctic Ocean needs commercial rules: World Wildlife Fund

Legal loopholes put environment at risk

RANDY BOSWELL
Canadian News Service
OTTAWA

A World Wildlife Fund report detailing "serious gaps" in global governance of the Arctic Ocean has the influential environmental group calling for a new international accord to regulate commercial development in the rapidly transforming region.

The WWF study identified numerous "loopholes" in maritime law, pollution regulation, shipping rules, fishing zones and other spheres of activity "that could allow irreparable damage to the marine environment, its biodiversity and Indigenous peoples."

The report claims there are "no clear responsibilities and mechanisms keeping marine resource extraction within sustainable limits, or for preventing and responding to pollution accidents and shipping disasters."

The WWF's proposed Arctic Ocean Framework Convention, to be administered largely by the eight-nation Arctic Council, would challenge the more exclusive "Arctic 5" grouping of coastal states, championed by Canada, that has recently asserted the special rights and responsibilities of states directly bordering the Arctic Ocean.

Last month, Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon hosted a controversial gathering of his counterparts from the four other Arctic coastal countries — the United States (Alaska), Russia, Norway and Denmark (Greenland) — as

a followup to the inaugural 2008 Arctic Summit in Greenland that explicitly rejected the need for a new international treaty to govern polar affairs.

The WWF report acknowledges that the Arctic coastal states deserve special status in charting the region's future and that the international Antarctic Treaty — which prohibits commercial development on the southern polar continent — doesn't translate well to a northern ocean surrounded by states with resource rights and legitimate territorial and maritime authority.

But the report, researched and authored by international legal experts from Finland and the Netherlands, concludes that the environmental stakes are so high in the Arctic — "one of the most unique and pristine areas of the world" — that a binding multilateral convention, administered through the Arctic Council by the largest possible number of stakeholders, is crucial.

"As Arctic leaders convene, they should consider alternatives to the current piecemeal approach to managing human activity in the Arctic environment," Craig Stewart, director of WWF-Canada's Arctic program, said in a statement announcing the report's release. "The top of the planet is too fragile for a patchwork approach to governance."

He conceded the WWF proposal is "not the only possible solution" for protection of the region, but challenged political leaders to "advance alternatives that would work equally well to safeguard the region."

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AUC Alberta Utilities Commission

Notice of Inquiry

Fifth Avenue Place
400, 425 - 1 Street SW
Calgary Alberta T2P 3L8

Regulatory Process for the Alberta Smart Grid Inquiry

Application No. 1606102 Proceeding ID 598

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or Commission) has been directed to inquire into, and report to Alberta's Minister of Energy on how smart grid technology can be used to modernize Alberta's electricity system. The AUC will use the information, submissions and consultations from its inquiry to prepare a report to the minister with a target release date of December 25, 2010. The report will provide findings, pros and cons, and options on relevant issues, but will not make recommendations.

A number of reasons for the inquiry were listed in Schedule 8 of the Order in Council 95/2010 which initiated the inquiry and are listed below:

(a) the policy of the Government of Alberta to strengthen and modernize Alberta's interconnected electric system to support its goals of clean energy production, wise energy use and sustained economic prosperity;

(b) the interest of the Government of Alberta in empowering persons regarding the development and deployment of smart grid technology in support of achieving the goals stated in (a) above; and

(c) the smart grid technology that is being developed in Alberta, and the need for the Commission to apply the application of advanced control and information technology, to meet the future needs of the province.

Characteristics of the smart grid that were identified in the order in council include, but were not limited to, the following:

1. **Industry:** The smart grid applies to the entire electricity system including generation, transmission, distribution, and consumers;
2. **Reliability:** The smart grid provides enhanced ability to warn of and directly prevent failures and take minimal action to reduce risk and protect the smart grid itself;
3. **Security:** The smart grid withstands cyber attacks;
4. **Environmentally friendly:** The smart grid reduces the environmental impact of the Alberta electricity system, most effective load management, and better information for consumers;
5. **Accessibility:** Electricity market participants must have access to all necessary information to make informed choices.

Scope and objectives:

In carrying out the Smart Grid Inquiry, the Commission was directed to conduct its inquiry with members of the Alberta electricity industry and other relevant parties.

The AUC will hold an inquiry for the purpose of gathering information with respect to all issues relating to the development and deployment of smart grid technologies in Alberta including, but not limited to, identification of:

1. the current status of smart grid development in Alberta;
2. the national and smart grid development in other jurisdictions;
3. the guiding principles, objectives and goals for developing the smart grid in Alberta;
4. the risks and barriers to the deployment and development of the smart grid; the functionality requirements for the smart grid in Alberta, including standards such as those required for the interoperability of the exchange of information; the method of assessing costs and benefits of smart grid related expenditures;
5. the necessary action to develop and implement the smart grid, including defining the roles for all the potential market participants;
6. the regulatory approach to consider smart grid investments including the extent to which competition models can be used to guide the smart grid; and other associated issues as required.

Participation:

The Commission considers that the following companies are essential participants in the inquiry and therefore directs them to participate:

- Black & Veatch Management Ltd.
- ATCO Electric Ltd.
- EDMRA Power Corporation
- PG&E Distribution and Transmission Inc.
- ParticAlberta Inc.

In addition, this notice will be served on other Alberta transmission facility and distribution system owners who may wish to participate in the inquiry, and they may submit a submission to the Commission regarding recovery of their participation costs, as if they had been directed to participate (see (a) of the cost recovery provisions, below).

All other interested parties who wish to participate in the inquiry should file a statement of interest to participate no later than 3:00 p.m. on April 30, 2010 and include the name of the party or organization name, address, telephone number and email address (if available). If a party is represented by another party, the contact information for that representative should be included. If a submission is being made on behalf of a group, the contact person for the group and the details of the group members should be provided. All submissions should include the application number and proceeding ID number and be made through the Commission's Digital Data Submission (DDS) system. Any parties who do not have access to the DDS system should contact systems@auc.ab.ca for assistance in filing their submissions.

Submission:

Submissions to participants can address any question not set in Appendix A or which the participant has a question or recommendation. Responses are required to provide comment on a question and answer format using the Commission's questions as they have been posed. Submissions should be supported in detail by relevant facts, market and economic analysis and should include references to other jurisdictions of appropriate and may include expert opinion. The Commission should be provided with complete electronic copies of all materials referenced in the parties' submissions.

In addition to the written submissions received, further public proceedings may be conducted or information. The Commission will make a determination regarding the format of these public proceedings after receipt of parties' responses to the Commission's questions.

Parties are asked to file these submissions no later than 3:00 p.m. on June 11, 2010. Parties will be permitted to reply to other parties' submissions in writing no later than 3:00 p.m. on June 18, 2010. The Commission expects the completion of parties to be completed in a timely manner.

Decision: Copies of submissions are prepared and can be accessed online using the AUC's Document Processing System (DPS). Parties who do not have access to the DPS system, submissions can be emailed to: mail@auc.ab.ca

Small Business: www.auc.ab.ca

The AUC messages of parties to file their submissions electronically. However, if necessary paper copies of submissions can be mailed to: Alberta Utilities Commission, Regulatory Policy Division, PO Box 1289, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6C 2B6

For Proceedings ID 598, Application No. 1606102

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