



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 4 June 2021

The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia provides a forum for the study, promotion and debate of defence and security issues.

Dispatches is a weekly collection of news of interest, including posts to social media by the Institute. Links to articles are checked at the time they are put into *Dispatches* but may be unavailable at a later date or in some countries other than Canada.

If you are not a direct recipient of *Dispatches* but wish to be so, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com. If you do not want to receive *Dispatches*, or wish to receive it at some different frequency, please inform RUSI(NS). If you wish to receive *Dispatches* at a different address (i.e., not your work address), please inform RUSI(NS). Past editions of *Dispatches* may be requested by contacting RUSI(NS).

Everyone is encouraged to submit links and other content to be included in *Dispatches*. Submissions and feedback are welcome anytime. Comments to articles can be from members or non-members of RUSI(NS). Any comment in *Dispatches* is the sole opinion of the author and does not necessarily represent the views of the Canadian Department of National Defence or other government department, the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia.

Your Institute Needs You!

The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia is seeking Institute members to serve in the front trenches as *Dispatches* editors, Facebook admin and website admin. To enlist or to seek more information about these essential and other positions, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

You Can Help! Step Up Now!



Events:

To list an event in *Dispatches*, email RUSI(NS) by noon Thursday. RUSI(NS) events are by invitation. If you are interested in attending and have not been invited, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com. RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice – email RUSI(NS) if there is a question of an event occurring.

6 June, Sunday - Halifax Military Heritage Preservation Society presentation by Dr Tim Cook, "The Fight For History." 7 pm Atlantic time. Via Zoom. On the occasion of the 77th D-Day Anniversary and the Battle of Normandy on 6 June 1944 - one of the most pivotal events of the Second World War in turning back the march of the Nazis across Europe - the HMHPS invites you to attend a presentation by military historian and author, Dr Tim Cook. Tim will share reflections from his latest book, "The Fight for History, 76 Years of Forgetting, Remembering, and Remaking Canada's Second World War," on how

Canada remembered after the war - not only D-Day, but many other aspects of the war. To register, email Leo Deveau (leo.deveau@eastlink.ca) and you will receive later the web link and password to attend the presentation.

Emended: 15 June, Tuesday - Navy League of Canada Maritime Affairs Virtual Speaker Series with Andy Smith, Deputy Commissioner Strategy and Shipbuilding, Canadian Coast Guard, "NSS Navigational Track – A Coast Guard Perspective. 1200 EDT. Via MS Teams. To register: <https://navyleague.ca/maritime-affairs/special-events/>

New: 16 June, Wednesday - Military Institute of Windsor Guest Speaker Major Indira Thackorie "A Reflection of 25 Years of Service." 1300 Windsor time. Via Zoom. To register, email: [Morris Brause morbrause@gmail.com](mailto:MorrisBrause@gmail.com). See poster at end of *Dispatches*.

23 June, Wednesday - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker Major Scott Roach, Canadian Joint Warfare Centre, will speak about Canadian Armed Forces use of wargaming. 1300 Atlantic time. Via Zoom. To register, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com by close of business Sunday, 20 June. As the subject line for your registration email, put: RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speakers 23 June 2021 Registration. Zoom joining instructions will be emailed to registrants by end Monday, 21 June. Advance reading for Maj Roach's talk: Canada to launch wargaming course <https://www.shephardmedia.com/news/training-simulation/canada-launch-wargaming-course/>

Recent Publications:

Except where otherwise indicated, publications are available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

New: RUSI(NS) Information Note "Inshore to Offshore: Coastal Zones and Canadian Coast Guard Vessel Capabilities" by Phil Hanbidge, 28 May 2021
<https://rusi-ns.ca/coastal-zones-and-ccg-vessel-capabilities/>

RUSI(NS) Presentations "Arctic Air Operations: Canada and United States Agile Fighter Employment in Defence of North America" by Colonels Moar and Fesler, 19 May 2021
[https://rusi-ns.ca/arctic air operations/](https://rusi-ns.ca/arctic_air_operations/)

New: Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches* June 2021
<https://rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/74-security-issues-in-the-arctic-region-part-ii?userid=306-QqXJ7Y1xfzfd0M&tmpl=raw>

New: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch* 2 June edition
https://send.successbyemail.com/prvw_message2.aspx?chno=476d037b-cf33-401c-8fb6-7ee3d20e0c5c

New: The Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué* Volume XXXIX Number 6, June 2021.

New: Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch *Scuttlebutt* June 2021 Edition.

New: The United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island *Newsletter* Vol 29 No 06 June 2021.

New: The Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Occasional* Volume 6, Issue 3, 31 May 2021.

Company of Master Mariners of Canada Maritimes Division Newsletter *The Foghorn* June 2021

The Newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island, Volume 54, 2nd Quarter 2021.

The Edmonton United Services Institute President's Enews May 2021.

Tweeted by @RUSI_NS: RUSI(NS) tweets may also be viewed by clicking on the icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something tweeted or retweeted, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

<p>The Naval Association of Canada @navalassn 28 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Past NAC Briefing Notes have looked at how the RCN operates with allied and other partner navies. Today we look at Canada's Alliances and Coalitions. http://ow.ly/Efbm50EVCBg (Alliances, Coalitions, and the RCN https://www.navalassoc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/BN38-Alliances-1.pdf)</p>	
<p>Canadian Armed Forces Operations @CFOperations 28 May tweeted: Members of 436Sqn and the Canadian Forces Aeromedical Evacuation flight are in Winnipeg to support evacuation of COVID-19 patients to medical facilities using a CC-130J and the Aeromedical Bio-containment Evacuation System. #MBPublicHealth #OpLASER RUSI(NS) retweeted: "Ensuring Safe Aeromedical Evacuations in the Global Era of Infectious Diseases" https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2020/05/ensuring-safe-aeromedical-evacuations-in-the-global-era-of-infectious-diseases.html @CFOperations @RCAFOperations #MBPublicHealth #OpLASER Video about Aeromedical Bio-containment Evacuation System being used by @RCAF_ARC's @CanadianForces Aeromedical Evacuation Flight abroad & at home during #COVID19: https://www.facebook.com/RCAF.ARC/videos/the-rcaf-recently-declared-its-aeromedical-bio-containment-evacuation-system-abe/747478182471683/</p>	
<p>NATO Association @NATOCanada 28 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Article spotlight: Thomas Turmel examines the role of social media platforms in disinformation campaigns, and how foreign actors reach Canadians right in their homes. Read it here: https://natoassociation.ca/disinformation-and-social-media-a-mutually-reinforcing-and-iconic-duo/ #disinformation #socialmedia (Disinformation And Social Media: A Mutually Reinforcing And Iconic Duo)</p>	

Canadian Armed Forces Operations @CFOperations 30 May tweeted: #HMCSHalifax completed #SteadfastDefender21 – a massive multinational collective defence exercise to enhance #NATO responsiveness in an Article 5 activation situation, contributing to combined efforts to support peace, security & stability in the Euro-Atlantic area #WeAreNATO RUSI(NS) retweeted: Article 5 = collective defence. If NATO ally is victim of armed attack, each & every other member of alliance will consider this act of violence as armed attack against all members & will take actions it deems necessary to assist ally attacked
https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_110496.htm



"Remembering Merchant Mariners" <https://rusi-ns.ca/remembering-merchant-mariners/> "One of the purposes of Deadman's Island is to remember not only those buried at the island but all service members who have given their lives in defence of the United States." #MemorialDay2021 #WeRemember



CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 1 Jun tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: @TimDotChoi explores Canadian naval force modernization in the context of GPC & provides a status update on the specific planned capabilities of the incoming CSC. He also reflects on the impact climate change will have on the need for icebreakers.
 (Timothy Choi: What Can We Expect From The New Canadian Surface Combatant?)
<https://cdainstitute.ca/timothy-choi-what-can-we-expect-from-the-new-csc-combat-ships/>



Shows size difference Glen-class big yard tug (YTB) & Ville-class small yard tug (YTS). Glens 259 tonnes displacement, 28m length, 8.5m breadth, <20 tonnes bollard pull. 4 tugs building by @Groupe_Ocean under Naval Large Tug project for @RoyalCanNavy 450t, 24.4m, 11.25m, 40+t



Mia Bennett @cryopolitics 3 Jun tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: New paper in @Intl_Journal "concludes that #Canada should move expeditiously to incorporate LEO satcom into efforts to address the growing imperative of military satellite communications in the Canadian #Arctic."
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/002070202111016476> #remotesensing
 (Communications satellites in Canadian security policy: History and prospects)



Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia with comments:

Submarine Search and Rescue Exercise (SMASHEX): Quick Response Saves Lives When Seconds Matter

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/397216/submarine-search-and-rescue-exercise-smashex-quick-response-saves-lives-seconds-matter>

The Royal Canadian Navy routinely exercises submarine search and rescue (SUBSAR). Sometimes the exercises involve non-navy resources such as Canadian Coast Guard, ambulance services and local hospitals, as in reality a SUBSAR incident (a.k.a. SUBSMASH) would involve a great number and variety of agencies. That mix of participation makes SMASHEXes useful for building multi-agency collaboration for non-SUBSAR incidents.

Canada is a member of the International Submarine Escape and Rescue Liaison Office (ISMERLO).



Autonomous ships: regulatory scoping exercise completed

<https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/MASSRSE2021.aspx>

These are matters and language (e.g., Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships MASS) with which defence and security autonomous (drone) vessel operators are going to have to be familiar.



Atlantic Destiny

<https://verticalmag.com/features/atlantic-destiny/>

"U.S. Coast Guard and RCAF helicopter crews rescued more than two dozen fishermen from a sinking vessel on a stormy North Atlantic night."

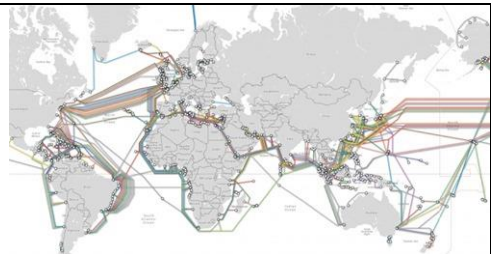
Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) Halifax, Nova Scotia, is the primary operations centre of Search and Rescue Region (SRR) Halifax. Commander SRR Halifax is Rear-Admiral Santarpia, Royal Canadian Navy, who is also Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic, Commander Joint Task Force Atlantic and Maritime Component Commander to the Canadian Joint Operations Command.



New Royal Navy Ship that will safeguard the Internet

<https://www.forces.net/services/navy/lima-charlie-new-royal-navy-ship-will-safeguard-internet>

Considering how critical underseas (a.k.a. submarine) communications cables are for all aspects of national and



social activity, and that at least Canada's east coast is a major node for trans-Atlantic cables, what is the capability of Canada, if necessary with allies, to protect and if necessary repair the cables? Submarine communication cables are recognized as critical infrastructure, and the Canadian Armed Forces has conducted exercises focused on them, but it is not evident to what extent there is a whole-of-government, really should be a government-industries, capability.

Someone, the Royal Canadian Navy, another government department, industry, should have an appropriate ship for underseas operations.

The Rise of China's Navy in the Indo-Pacific: Challenges and Response Options

<https://rusi.org/multimedia/rise-china%E2%80%99s-navy-indo-pacific-challenges-and-response-options>

"Rear Admiral James Goldrick discusses the underlying strategic and operational considerations driving the development of China's maritime forces, and the ways in which interested regional actors can adapt to China's rise as a maritime power in the Indo-Pacific region."

Grand strategy. Canada needs to pay attention. (And Rear Admiral Goldrick is always worth a listen.)



The cost of Defence ASPI defence budget brief 2021–2022

<https://www.aspi.org.au/report/cost-defence-aspi-defence-budget-brief-2021-2022>

Australia's defence budget, for those who might compare it with Canada's. The Auzzie budget remains eye watering. But then, they are alone in a dangerous part of the world, whereas Canadians still feel safe here and do not care enough about the Canadian Armed Forces. Some things never change. Note that the Auzzies, too, have challenges - major contracts cancelled after spending big bucks and a capped internal acquisition workforce with a growing acquisition demand. A reminder that it is harder to grow a capability than downsize.

The report itself: The Cost of Defence - ASPI Defence Budget Brief 2021–2022

<https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ad-aspi/2021-05/The%20Cost%20of%20Defence%202021-2022.pdf>



Atlas Elektronik Group showcases SEA Class 11 Workboat

<https://www.navyrecognition.com/index.php/naval-news/naval-exhibitions/navdex-2021-exhibitors-visitors-information/navdex-2021-news-official-online-show-daily/9803-navdex-2021-atlas-elektronik-group-showcases-sea-class-11-workboat.html>

An 11 metres, ship-deployable, workboat configurable (and I take it easily re-configurable) for logistics, diving training and operations, officer training, hydrographic survey, passenger



transportation, anti-submarine operations with a towed side-scan sonar, minesweeping and disposal, and underwater drone launch and recovery. Now that's the sort of ship's boat any warship would love to have onboard. Maybe a more appropriate boat for a large replenishment oiler (AOR) than a smaller frigate. The paid-off Protecteur-class AOR had two landing craft, vehicle, personnel (LCVP) and two rigid-hull inflatable boats (RHIB) plus a RHIB stored as a replacement if a frigate needed one. A workboat like the SEA Class 11 would considerably add to what a service ship like the AOR could do, independently or as part of a task group. And such multi-role workboats would be very useful for Naval Reserve Divisions across Canada, for training and routine operations in Canadian ports and waterways, and for employment in domestic emergency operations. Multi-role is increasingly being seen as the way to go, whether for large ships (the term 'truck' has been used) or for smaller boats.

Ferry Services Contribution Program

The Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Coast Guard and RCMP fleets are not the only federal government department fleets (putting aside boats in the Canadian Army, etc.). Transport Canada (TC), under the Ferry Services Contribution Program, owns four ferries, with the vessels managed and maintained by ferry operators.



Information on the Program is at: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/programs/ferry-services-contribution-program>. (The web page has some out of date information since it still lists the MV MADELEINE, which has been contracted to a breaker (<https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/award-notice/PW-MER-002-28153-001>) and does not note that TC bought the MV VILLA DE TEROR and renamed the ship MV MADELEINE II. The program end date is also wrong – the program currently expires March 31, 2022.)

It could be useful for the purposes of the National Shipbuilding Strategy to include these government ships under the strategy. The capacity in the Canadian shipyards is probably there. It is unknown, though, to this writer whether it is worth the effort to develop and maintain the capability in Canada to design ferries. Could be an interesting study.

Can the rift be healed? Beneath the tension in the New Zealand-Australia relationship

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/125010133/can-the-rift-be-healed-beneath-the-tension-in-the-newzealandustralia-relationship>



The article is a view from the New Zealand perspective in the different relationships with China between Australia and New Zealand. It seems to explain a lot about New Zealand's reluctance to conform with Australia in this area but also with the Five Eyes Community.

It is worth the read.

If China rebuilds Kiribati airstrip, it could spy on US Pacific Fleet

<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4212935>

The global game of Go continues. Canada should look with great askance at any attempt by China to finance building or rebuilding of infrastructure, marine and otherwise, in the approaches to Canada and on sea lanes of trade that are important for Canada's peace and prosperity. The far approaches. And especially in the North and Arctic.



U.S. monitoring Iranian warships that may be headed to Venezuela

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/05/29/iranian-warships-venezuela-491414>

Interesting vessel, MAKRAN, a former oil tanker converted to a floating forward staging base. Not the first tanker to be converted by a country, and not the first 'floating forward staging base.' Such multi-role vessels, large and small, can be very useful (and in this case one wonders whether MAKRAN has retained a capability to carry a cargo load of gas, to carry out a grand strategic action), and increasingly navies are looking at building or converting multi-role 'trucks,' especially to carry specialized capabilities. Combatant frigates, destroyers and the like, whilst multi-role as are all ships, can be limited in what they can do. What makes up a balanced navy is changing. There would be great benefit to Canada by acquiring a range of multi-role vessels.



Winter is coming to Canada's North. Vladimir Putin will make sure of it.

<https://www.macleans.ca/opinion/winter-is-coming-to-canadas-north-vladimir-putin-will-make-sure-of-it/>

"'Winter is coming' for Canada's Arctic, too, if our policy-makers fail to recognize the growing threat of the Kremlin's militarization and expansionism that now directly target Canadian interests and our Arctic coast."



Remontowa Shipbuilding delivers the last of the six tugboats for Polish Navy

<https://www.navyrecognition.com/index.php/naval-news/naval-news-archive/2021/may/10216-remontowa-shipbuilding-delivers-the-last-of-the-six-tugboat-for-polish-navy.html>

"The tugs of the B860 project are designed to perform logistic



support tasks at sea and in ports, as well as to carry out activities related to technical evacuation, support of rescue operations, transport of people and supplies, neutralization of pollution, and taking hazardous materials out of the water. The ice-class of the tugs allows them to operate in heavy ice conditions assisted by icebreakers. The vessels are capable of transporting on the open deck general cargo weighing up to 4.0 tons. For towing works, the units are equipped with towing lifts with a towing capacity of up to 35 tons."

These vessels may be typed as tugs, but reading the list of what they can do, they are great multi-role vessels. The capability of performing logistics support (even if limited), and being ice-capable, are characteristics that Canadian marine departments should be considering in their vessels for whole-of-government operations. Multi-role is increasingly being recognized as the way to go when procuring government vessels.

Hmm, maybe Canada should acquire some large ocean-going tugs (ATA in Royal Canadian Navy parlance).

Design issues weigh down \$45b frigate program

<https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/45-billion-frigate-problem-weighed-down-by-design-issues-20210531-p57wmv>

A 3 percent weight growth margin for a ship which has not even been built! Frigates should have more (10 percent?). Especially frigates that will have life spans of 30 plus years, during which there will be introduced significant new systems such as directed energy weapons and hypersonic missiles. That is the situation being faced by the Canadian Surface Combatant (CSC) project ships. What are their growth margins, for weight, volume, power, cooling, etc? Not necessarily figures that should be revealed to the general public, but can we Canadians have some assurance that the design of the CSC ships is being strictly controlled so that what is first built works, and works over the life the of ships (and is affordable!)?



Cranes for Submarines

Titus Seilheimer @DrFishSG 30 May 21 tweeted: The community was out to send off Manitowoc-built Konecranes #38. The crane will be heading. Through the Great Lakes to the east coast where it will be used to lift submarines.

<https://twitter.com/DrFishSG/status/1399037269726482436>

A crane capable of lifting submarines. Now wouldn't that be nice to have as part of HMC Dockyard infrastructure!

Of course, Canada has gotten by over a century of operating submarines without needing such a capability. But what additional could be done with having one?

Marine infrastructure (cranes, piers, drydocks, etc.) is an important part of a country's maritime strength. And part of a balanced navy.



From a RUSI(NS) colleague: It will be interesting to watch what the Public Services and Procurement Canada at the Esquimalt graving dock ultimately have in store as they advance ambitious site development plans over the coming decade, which presumably will start very soon with the enlarging of their dock.

Aside, see: "Jetties, Piers and Wharfs" <https://rusi-ns.ca/jetties-piers-wharfs/>.

China Allows Three Children per Couple

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-57303592>

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Politburo announced on 31 May 2021 that it will allow couples to have up to three children (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-57303592>). This latest CCP decision is expected to be passed

through the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) within the next few months and then handed over to the Central Government.



This latest decision comes only 20 days after the twice-delayed release of 2020 census data which reported the slowest decade population growth rate (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-57067180>) since 1949. However the same census was also criticized for cooking data (<https://www.rfi.fr/en/international/20210513-china-s-population-puzzle-was-the-latest-census-cooked>); even worse, a well-credited scholar, Professor Yi Fuxian of University of Wisconsin-Madison predicted the real Chinese population of 2020 is 1.26 billion (<https://blog.dwnnews.com/post-1392904.html>), which is not only 140 million less than reported but also has fallen behind the population of India.

Regardless of the authenticity of the latest census data released on 11 May 2021, it is highly likely that the reality of Chinese demographics is so dire that CCP Politburo has to act 20 days later.


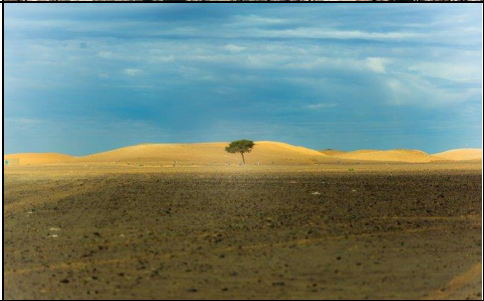



How did Chinese public react to the latest announcement? Likely not the way CCP expected. It was reported that Xinhua News Agency posted a survey on Weibo (the Chinese equivalent of Facebook) shortly after the announcement. Based on a screenshot posted on twitter at 2251 hours Beijing local time, amongst the 26 thousand people who participated, 24 thousand answered “definitely won’t consider” (the other 3 options are “can’t wait”, “planning”, “undecided”). There was also rumor the survey has since been taken offline.






Will this latest policy be able to slow down population decline in China? Most likely not. Among the many, many reasons, a quick look back at the CCP’s population policy-making history would be enough raise doubt.

Under the CCP’s governance, China conducted censuses in 1953, 1964, 1982, 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2020. The CCP introduced the notorious one-child policy in 1979; 34 years later, in November 2013, the CCP modified the policy to allow couples in which at least one of the marital partners was an only-child to have two children (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5944611/>). Then, just two years later, in October 2015, the CCP replaced the one-child policy with a universal two-child policy. The questions are, if the two-child policy had worked as planned, why is there a need for a three-child policy in just five years? What needs to happen to make the latest policy achieve its goal?

The dilemma for the CCP is which comes as a higher priority, population growth or military/national security spending? Given limited resources, it is impossible for the CCP to weigh the two equally.

Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia: RUSI(NS) postings may also be viewed by clicking on the icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something posted or commented, email RUSI(NS) by noon Thursday.

<p>There's No Such Thing as 'Precision' Explosives in Urban Warfare</p> <p>https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/29688/for-civilians-war-in-urban-zones-is-never-discriminate</p>	
<p>Resilience and Success in Warfare</p> <p>https://wavellroom.com/2021/05/28/resilience-and-success-in-warfare/</p>	
<p>Psychological Resilience — the missing golden thread?</p> <p>https://defenceindepth.co/2021/05/28/psychological-resilience-the-missing-golden-thread/</p>	
<p>In Africa, Great Power Competition Requires a Great Strategy for Information Operations</p> <p>https://mwi.usma.edu/in-africa-great-power-competition-requires-a-great-strategy-for-information-operations/</p>	
<p>Artificial Intelligence and Multi-Domain Operations</p> <p>https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/English-Edition-Archives/May-June-2021/Cox-AI-MDO/linkId/119525290/</p>	

<p>China sees polar regions as new strategic frontier, its satellite plan to monitor Arctic shipping has raised questions</p> <p>https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/china-sees-polar-regions-as-new-strategic-frontier-its-satellite-plan-to-monitor-arctic-shipping-has-raised-questions20210527180540/</p>	
<p>Sustaining China’s Sovereignty Claims: The PLA’s Embrace of Unmanned Logistics</p> <p>https://jamestown.org/program/sustaining-chinas-sovereignty-claims-the-plas-embrace-of-unmanned-logistics/</p>	
<p>Russia’s northernmost base projects its power across Arctic</p> <p>https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2021/05/18/russias-northernmost-base-projects-its-power-across-arctic/</p>	
<p>Stop Saying the U.S. Military Spends More Than China (It Might Not Matter)</p> <p>https://www.19fortyfive.com/2021/05/stop-saying-the-u-s-military-spends-more-than-china-it-might-not-matter/</p>	
<p>If the US went to war with China, who would win?</p> <p>https://asia.nikkei.com/Opinion/If-the-US-went-to-war-with-China-who-would-win</p>	

Other Sources:

#Arctic

Polar-Mindedness: A Prerequisite for Strategic Success in the Polar Regions

<https://mwi.usma.edu/polar-mindedness-a-prerequisite-for-strategic-success-in-the-polar-regions/>

#China

Disrupting the “Chinese Dream” – Eight Insights on how to win the Competition with China

<https://madsicblog.tradoc.army.mil/307-disrupting-the-chinese-dream-eight-insights-on-how-to-win-the-competition-with-china/>

The Cristina Garafola Bookshelf: A RAND Researcher-Practitioner's Insights into China's Air Force, Military Modernization & Deterrence Efforts

<https://www.andrewerickson.com/2021/05/the-cristina-garafola-bookshelf-a-rand-researcher-practitioners-insights-into-chinas-air-force-military-modernization-and-deterrence-efforts/>

POLITICO China Watcher

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/politico-china-watcher>

Note "China could soon outgun the U.S."

#defence policy

The Review (400 pages!) is available on request to RUSI(NS).

Third Independent Review of the National Defence Act

<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/news/2021/06/third-independent-review-of-the-national-defence-act.html>

DND to implement NDA review recommendations

<https://defence.frontline.online/in-the-news/16601/dnd-implement-nda-review-recommendations>

#grand strategy #China

'We don't want to poke the dragon'

<https://epaper.vancouversun.com/saskatoon-starphoenix/20210528/281762747171479>

Article available from RUSI(NS) if you are unable to access otherwise.

#information operations

Foreign-sponsored Disinformation Campaigns

<https://defence.frontline.online/article/2021/1/16221-Foreign-sponsored-Disinformation-Campaigns>

#intelligence

UN Intelligence in Balkans

<https://wavellroom.com/2021/05/26/un-intelligence-in-bosnia-unprofor-balkans-peacekeeping/>

#logistics

Naval Affairs Program Briefing Note # 39 "Logistics and Support"

<https://www.navalassoc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/BN39-logistics.pdf>

#NATO

NATO 2030: United for a New Era

https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2020/12/pdf/201201-Reflection-Group-Final-Report-Uni.pdf

Analysis and Recommendations of the Reflection Group Appointed by the NATO Secretary General

#peacekeeping

Tracking the Promises: Canada's Contributions to UN Peacekeeping

<https://www.walterdorn.net/256>

#resilience

Resilience and Success in Warfare

<https://wavellroom.com/2021/05/28/resilience-and-success-in-warfare/>

#tactics

An Annotated Guide to Tactics: Carl von Clausewitz's "Theory of the Combat"

<https://unum.nsin.us/kcic/customObject/viewCustomObject/da77418706f4>

and book:

An Annotated Guide to Tactics

https://www.usmcu.edu/Portals/218/AnnotatedGuidetoTactics_web.pdf

#technology #innovation

In warfare, the future is now

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/05/27/warfare-future-is-now/>

Article available from RUSI(NS) if you are unable to access otherwise.

#United States

US Army Readiness, from COVID-19 to the Crises of Tomorrow | Modern War Institute

<https://mwi.usma.edu/us-army-readiness-from-covid-19-to-the-crises-of-tomorrow/>

#warfare

Underground Warfare in Israel and Gaza

podcast: <https://mwi.usma.edu/underground-warfare-in-israel-and-gaza/>

Interesting quote: "One interesting question is whether it is even legal, or lawful, to use the underground in war."

Other:

RCAF versus RAF Paint Schemes

CF-18 Demo Team @CF18Demo 17 May: In tribute to the many Canadians lost during the pandemic and in honour of the role we now get to play as a part of #OpInspiration, the missing 9th Snowbird from our tail art can be found on the bottom of our jet, represented by the signature @CFSnowbirds SPEEDBIRD. <https://twitter.com/CF18Demo/status/1394353985117696001>

UK Defence Journal on Twitter 29 May 21: "29 Squadron at RAF Coningsby have unveiled a Typhoon aircraft with a very British paint scheme. <https://t.co/F8tcmjRVm1>" / Twitter <https://twitter.com/UKDefJournal/status/1398620944793440260>



Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

Iran

Iran is due to have elections this month on 18 June 2021. The elections have been marred by the actions of the Guardian Council who have systematically eliminated all candidates who might be considered “reformist” by Iranian standards. The current President Rouhani has complained about the arbitrary nature of these decisions. It means Iranian voters may have the choice of one hardliner versus another rather than an actual choice. Even Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Rouhani’s predecessor, is eligible to run again. Just to remind everyone, Mr Ahmadinejad belongs to a Islamic religious group that believes in the end of the world. Just thinking that, the nuclear deal becomes all the more important. Another candidate is the former head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The IRGC has an increasing amount of power through ownership in key industries. It is almost a country within a country with far more capability than some real countries. Like most organizations that have attained too much power and leverage, the Corps are becoming increasingly corrupt and can probably do anything they want to do within the country including ignoring the Guardian Council, at least privately. Everyone should be reminded that Israel’s attitude towards Iran getting the bomb is equally dire. The outgoing Prime Minister of Israel has stated that he would in fact risk the wrath of the US to prevent such an occurrence. Keep in mind that Israel has the capacity to keep its word in the form of ballistic missiles of the Jericho series as well as allegedly nuclear armed submarines and sufficient numbers of aircraft and tankers to hit Iran. This has the potential to get really messy very quickly if not dealt with appropriately.

There is a resistance group calling for the boycott of the elections which seems to be effective to a degree at least. The election is widely viewed as a sham given there is no real choice involved. The resistance has never really gone away from their demonstrations in the past. It will be interesting to see if this becomes effective and what will the regime do to mitigate the effectiveness of this type of resistance.

I would be most remiss in not acknowledging the loss of the *Kharg*, the largest ship in the Iranian Navy. It apparently caught fire off the Port of Jask and, at some point, the fire overwhelmed the ability of the crew to fight it. The crew of 400+ was able to abandon ship effectively and there were no announced casualties, but this may change. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time. It is interesting that Israel and Iran have been conducting an anti-shipping campaign for some time, although there are no reason to believe this was anything more than an accident. Estimates are up to twelve Iranian vessels have been damaged, not counting this latest incident. Canada’s Pacific Fleet had something that could have been similar in February 2014, when HMCS *Protecteur*’s engine room caught fire. The ship was towed to Hawaii and was later disposed as a result of the damage.

There is little doubt that the Iranian-Israel rivalry is dangerous due to the potential to escalate into almost unheard of dimensions if not taken seriously in the very near future. The election of a new hardline president in Iran with the creation of a coalition of eight parties in the new Israeli government is an unknown factor especially as Naftali Bennett is the first prime Minister in a rotating leadership program in Israel. The future Prime Minister is also a hardliner. This is not reassuring by anyone’s imagination.

Russia

Russia continues its actions against its own activists. A large number of activists and supporters have been arrested in recent weeks and many media outlets and individual reporters have been forced to

close or face criminal charges or fines of such magnitude as to shut them down. Russia is using its 'legal system' to eliminate the threat to Russia's elections and the rise of an anti-Putin Duma or at least one that might cause more issues for the regime.

Russian authorities have this past week used the designation of 'foreign agent' to shut down opposition media outlets such as VT Times. It became too much of a burden for independent media to continue in their present form. The one redeeming point is that Russians are famous for finding ways around official organizations. One can expect that the regime will still find the opposition able to get its point across one way or another. It is a sign of the weakness of the regime that it has to take such measures and that its own support is being whittled away due to their own corruption and antics.

Russia's pandemic continues unabated with more than five million folks officially counted as having the disease. The figure is thought to be much higher due to official 'modification' of results. Vaccine uptake of the Sputnik V vaccine is slow as many Russians do not trust the Russian-created vaccine which was notoriously rushed into production on limited phase 2 results without phase 3 trials. The vaccine is being assessed by European research facilities to judge the efficacy of this in proper testing.

On another issue, as Canada and some other Western nations are trying to shut down their oil and gas industries, Russia intends to add two million barrels of oil a day to the world inventory. It seems, although this is somewhat harsh, that our environmentalists are making it easier for authoritarian regimes to prosper while crippling our own economies. Russia is almost totally reliant on oil and gas sales to prop up the economy. Russia has never diversified its industries and is now extremely dependent on this economic stream. Even Saudi Arabia has understood the need to change, but not so Russia.

China

It was almost comedic when it was announced in articles this week that China, meaning the Communist Chinese Party (CCP) under President Xi, should be more friendly and approachable. It does make one wonder that the leadership now recognizes that perhaps 'wolf warrior' diplomacy has been, well, a total failure, setting China back decades in its relations with a large number of countries including most of the major economic powers. This does not mean that the CCP is actually changing but rather that they have to change some tactics. It does not mean the genocide against the Uyghurs, Tibetan, Mongolians and other minorities is stopping but rather they will be smiling about it and may do some fence mending by easing some of the restrictions. The CCP has used useful idiots to increase their influence in foreign countries such as using former politicians as lobbyists or using elements of the business community dreaming of untold riches in China or using research grants to universities to create influence groups to further the aims of the CCP. Money is no object, influence and the ability of coerce is. Canada is well and truly under the influence (apologies to Terry O'Reilly for using his title of his program on CBC).

Speaking of CBC, "The Current" had a number of interviewees on Thursday morning representing various minority groups in China explaining how the CCP attacks them even in Canada. This has been known for years and yet our security services and the RCMP have not been given the necessary personnel, equipment and, most importantly the official mandate and power to deal with the very real threat to Canadian citizens of Chinese descent. In reading several Chinese references on the CCP's point of view of the world one is not surprised to see that they view all Chinese, no matter what their nationality, as potential supporters of the CCP in some way. This is nonsense and overreach by the CCP as many families have fled the mainland to get away from the machinations of the CCP, and now find themselves harassed within their own communities.

China announced its new three-child policy in part because their previously announced two-child policy was a non-event. Why they think a three-child policy will be any better is still a mystery. India may have already surpassed China as the country with the largest population and it is likely the statistics recently released on the 2020 census maybe ‘doctored’ as well – in fact China may already be declining in population due to the CCP’s horrific population control policies which can only be called a long-term disaster.

In recent weeks, the Biden administration has asked the US Intelligence services to examine the information available on the outbreak of Covid 19. Part of the reason is that the CCP did not allow WHO scientists to see original data from the start of the outbreak. There are now concerns that three Wuhan Virology Lab staff may have gotten sick in November 2019 but no specific information was made available to the world. There are a series of incidents like that which, whether true or rumour mill, makes the actual location and timing of the outbreak such a problem. The CCP both at the local level and national level were not properly forthcoming about the outbreak. This included making comments to the effect that countries were racist for attempting to stop flights from China. The CCP has done itself no favours at all and their opacity in this incident has caused many to question how the virus started which included an opinion that it was started in the Wuhan lab. The CCP has attacked this but in real terms the Chinese government has an opportunity by cooperating with the US to end the speculation by being open and treating this not as an attack but simply a way of determining how the outbreak occurred and what could be done to mitigate such an event in future. Even if it does turn out to be true that it came from the lab, does it not make sense to own the issue and tell the world how one will solve it? China has lost a lot of support and trust; rebuilding this trust will take time and openness.

The CCP is coming to its 100th anniversary of its founding. One concern is that President Xi will try to press for the forcible reunification of Taiwan in the near future based on the image of a united China under the CCP. Taiwan is an independent liberal democracy that has its own armed forces, foreign policy, and a working legal system where in fact there is rule of law. Mainland China has none of these characteristics. Liberal democracy is hard to attain and the very thought of the Western world and other like-minded countries allowing a genocidal authoritarian regime take it over should be unthinkable and worthy of fighting for as opposed to going ‘tut tut’ from the side. This is an existential matter for all democracies and we should be clear about this issue. There can be reunification but only with the real determination of the people of Taiwan in a free and fair decision by popular vote and nothing else. It should be noted that the Kuomintang representative did agree to a “one China Policy” under a Nationalist Chinese Government, not the CCP.

There is an article by Nicholas Wade called “The origin of Covid: Did people or Nature Open Pandora’s Box at Wuhan?” (<https://thebulletin-org/2021/05/the-origin-of-covid-did-people-or-nature-open-pandoras-box-at-wuhan/>) which is good for some of the thinking. I had to do a considerable amount of refreshing of my basic biology to follow some of the material but it is worth wading through to have some idea of the complexity of the problem and why things might have to be looked at in more detail. I should mention Mr Wade is a controversial author, as the article will mention in the post article notes. This being said, the article seems lucid and worthy of thought.

On another matter, the Korean war was ended by an armistice not a final peace treaty. An armistice is not the end of the war, in fact technically the conflict continues which means the participants are still at war until such time as a proper treaty is brought into effect. Think about that and who participated and on what side.

O Canada

Canada has once again been unhappily surprised by the residential school problem with the discovery of 215 remains of children on the grounds of a British Columbia residential school run by the Roman Catholic Church. There are literally a couple hundred cemeteries across the country from these schools. This unhappy chapter in Canadian history is a black mark. It is a cultural genocide as defined by the UN after the Second World War. This activity was allowed to continue until 1996. There are few excuses if any for this mess and all governments since have let the side down.

There are many articles on the Canadian Armed Forces at the moment. Most are negative in regard to sexual and other misconduct. The media have made a show of it despite the fact that at this point none of the allegations have been properly investigated nor proven in court military or civilian. The fact is the CAF has done remarkably well in everything the government has asked of it despite the lack of support. This is long standing. Keep in mind that we have troops in Iraq, Latvia, Romania, with the UN, NATO missions, and at sea as well as been an instrumental in the fight against Covid. If the CAF's leadership is truly messed up, this would not be possible. There is much innuendo but so far limited substance. The CAF is not broken, it is more than senior leaders who screw up allegedly. Its success is based on the professionalism of the sailors, soldiers, aviators and special operations personnel. A recent interview on military law and current circumstances by an academic in an interview by the CBC shows, the lack of understanding of the CAF. The CAF is not perfect or anything close to it but it is far from the train wreck posed by recent media reports. One thing is very clear - the public does not understand that the Armed Forces are armed for a reason and that it is not a normal part of society. Its role at its basic level is to use organized violence on behalf of Canada. Standard civilian justice will not do the trick, especially in regard to the concept of unlimited liability and the members' requirement to take life or sacrifice their own lives. No other organization in the country requires that commitment.



MILITARY INSTITUTE OF WINDSOR



**JUNE SPEAKER'S PRESENTATION
ON ZOOM**

Guest Speaker

MAJOR INDIRA THACKORIE, CD

Maj Thackorie's military experiences have been extensive, including tours in the Golan Heights, Israel and Kandahar, Afghanistan. She has trained military personnel at many bases including Jakarta, Indonesia. She served as Public Affairs Officer and Air Show Narrator for the SkyHawks and the Snowbirds. Her current tasking involves Inclusion and Diversity, Employment Equity and Communications, for the Directorate of Human Rights and Diversity.



Topic

“A Reflection of 25 Years of Service”

Wednesday 16 Jun 2021

1300 Hrs

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