



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches

17 May 2019

Dispatches is a weekly collection of links and news of current interest, included those tweeted and posted by the Institute on social media. The most recent four editions are posted to: <https://rusi-ns.ca/dispatches/>. Note that links of articles are checked at the time they are put into *Dispatches*, but may be unavailable at a later date or in some states other than Canada.

If you are not a routine recipient of *Dispatches* but wish to be so, email the Institute's Chief Information Officer (CIO) at RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com. If you do not want to receive *Dispatches*, or wish to receive it at some different frequency, please inform the CIO.

Everyone is encouraged to email to the CIO links and other content to be included in *Dispatches*. Comments to articles can be from members or non-members of RUSI(NS). Feedback is welcome anytime. 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, the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

RUSI(NS) also publishes a weekly *Defence & Security Newsletter*, aimed at opinion leaders and industry. The most recent four editions are posted at: <https://rusi-ns.ca/defence-and-security-newsletter/>. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter, email admin@duncom.ca.

Defence Policy Initiative Monitoring

The RUSI(NS) Security Affairs Committee is monitoring progress of the government towards the 111 initiatives listed in the Canadian Defence Policy "Strong, Secure, Engaged" (SSE). Questions on SSE initiatives are being posed to CAF and DND staff, and articles and news releases are being reviewed for their reporting on initiatives. A monitoring document has been posted on the RUSI(NS) website at <https://rusi-ns.ca/category/publications/defence-policy/>.

Anyone (member or not of the Institute) who is interested in participating in this project, or who can assist and has information that can be added to the monitoring record, please contact Murray Lee, chair SAC, or email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

Events:

To list an event in *Dispatches*, email the CIO by noon Thursday. RUSI(NS) events are by invitation only. 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.

23 May, Thursday - the NS branch of the Naval Association of Canada invites members of RUSI(NS) and their spouses to the NS NAC Spring Lunch (Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration). 1230 hrs. Tom's Family Restaurant, 585 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville, 902-252-8667 (<https://www.tomsfamilyrestaurant.ca/>). This is a no host event. Please email Don Uhrich (dguhrich@eastlink.ca) or phone him at 902-407-2352 if you plan to attend, and the number of guests in your party. Also please cc Bob Lancashire (casalanc@eastlink.ca) in your email to Don.

23 May, Thursday - Halifax Military Heritage Preservation Society presentation and public consultation on what is to become of the Halifax Memorial Library. RSVP rsvp@hmhps.ca by 17 May. See poster at end of *Dispatches*.

19 June, Wednesday - Distinguished Speaker Dr Garry Heard, Leader, Underwater Surveillance and Communications, Defence R & D Canada - Atlantic, on Defence Research & Development in the Arctic. 1130-1330 hours. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

Publications:

RUSI(NS) Information Note "Canadian Armed Forces Domestic Operations," 12 May 2019
<https://rusi-ns.ca/domestic-operations/>

RUSI(NS) Information Note "The Canadian Combat Support Brigade," 8 May 2019
https://rusi-ns.ca/canadian_combat_support_brigade/

The United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island (USINNI) Newsletter Vol 27 No 05 May 2019 is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

The Military Institute of Windsor Communiqué Volume XXXVII Number 5 May 2019 is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

RUSI(NS) Comments "The RCAF Needs a Quick Ending to the Search for a New Fighter," by Murray Lee, 22 April 2019
<https://rusi-ns.ca/the-rcaf-needs-a-quick-ending-to-the-search-for-a-new-fighter/>

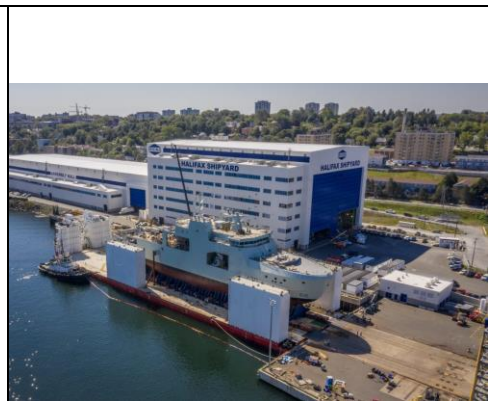
Tweeted by @RUSI_NS: Original article title in parentheses. RUSI(NS) tweets may be viewed by clicking on the icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something tweeted or retweeted, email the CIO by noon Thursday.

RCI-EyeOnTheArctic @eyeontheartic 10 May tweeted Ice-capable Canadian #CoastGuard ships could be both 'a blessing and a curse': expert <https://bit.ly/2JvM4fD> @levonsevunts #CdnPoli #Arctic #security pic.twitter.com/Ju4kzfpUfZ (Ice-capable Canadian Coast Guard ships could be both 'a blessing and a curse': expert <http://www.rcinet.ca/eye-on-the-arctic/2019/05/10/ice-capable-canadian-coast-guard-ships-could-be-both-a-blessing-and-a-curse-expert/>)

RUSI(NS) retweeted: Building #Arctic&Offshore Patrol Ships 7&8 for @CoastGuardCAN could be relatively quick means to provide #CCG with interim multi-role, ice-capable patrol vessels pending delivery (years?) of National Shipbuilding Strategy builds. Then retain, transfer or sell @IrvingShipbuild

Maritime Reporter @ShipNews 10 May tweeted: Vard Bags CCG Concept Exploration Gig <http://zpr.io/gwdfw> (Vard Bags CCG Concept Exploration Gig <https://www.marinelink.com/news/vard-bags-ccg-concept-exploration-gig-466030>)

RUSI(NS) retweeted: "contract will focus on @CoastGuardCAN's future fleet renewal program" "work is intended to explore requirements for multiple future (#CanadianCoastGuard #CCG) fleet ship types & could stretch over several years"



Not every Ground Search & Rescue #GSAR team needs to be #drone-capable <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/drones-search-and-rescue-technology-paramedics-transport-canada-1.5127613> Maybe provinces/territories/regions should have centralized mobile #UAV teams that can deploy rapidly in support of local #SAR missions (Drones can be crucial for search and rescue teams. So why don't we use them more?)



AUS asks questions about its #submarine force & building <https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/maritime-antisub/4024-a-bridge-to-far-time-to-ask-questions-about-sub-delivery-timing> Questions/answers which CAN should consider too for #RCNavy SUBFOR. How will National Shipbuilding Strategy 2.0 #NSS address? #DefencePolicy #cdnpoli @NationalDefence @RCN_MRC (A bridge too far? Time to ask questions about sub delivery timing)



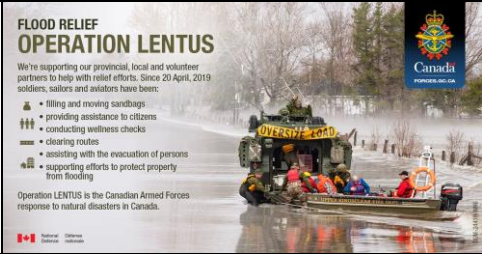
Naval ship type Ocean Patrol Vessel OPV has wide range of characteristics between states. Care has to be taken comparing vessels. Need to understand requirements/geo-political situations of states. Good Naval Association of Canada letter: <https://www.navalassoc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Letter-to-Editor-AOPSfinal24042019.pdf> #RCNavy @RCN_MRC



Canadian Armed Forces Operations @CFOperations 13 May tweeted: We've published our monthly operations update! <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/update.html> It's designed to explain Canadian Armed Forces engagements in Canada, on the continent, and around the world. RUSI(NS) retweeted: Canadian Armed Forces Operations Update – Summary of April 2019: Canada & North America Search & Rescue #SAR #OpLENTUS #OpBOXTOP #OpPALACI #OpCARIBBE International #OpREASSURANCE #OpUNIFIER #OpPRESENCE #OpIMPACT #OpKOBOLD #OpPROJECTION #OpARTEMIS



RUSI(NS) Information Note "Canadian Armed Forces Domestic Operations" <https://rusi-ns.ca/domestic-operations/> CAN🇨🇦 has been experiencing more natural disasters, more requests for assistance from provinces for @CanadianForces. More #OpLENTUS. Helpful to know some of the language



3rdCanadianDivision @3CdnDiv 13 May tweeted: "The province of Manitoba is establishing a fund to preserve the military memorials honouring the fallen [...] The government is spending \$2 million to create an endowment fund to restore the more than 200 military memorials in the province." <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-military-memorial-preservation-fund-1.5128813> (Manitoba restoring military memorials with new \$2M endowment fund) RUSI(NS) retweeted: Bravo MB! Another supportive & long term way to remembering our @CanadianForces, those lost & those returned (whole or hurt). #WeRemember #RememberThem



Royal Canadian Navy @RoyalCanNavy 13 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Your #RCNavy is globally deployed and having tremendous effects, keeping international waters safe & secure alongside allies and trusted international partners. We are Canada's Navy #ReadyToHelp #ReadyToLead #ReadyToFight @RCN_MARLANT @MARPA_CFMARP @NAVRESNAV <https://twitter.com/RoyalCanNavy/status/1128046026370310144>

ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY **MARINE**
ROYALE CANADIENNE

**KEEPING THE HIGH SEAS SAFE AND SECURE,
DISRUPTING THE FLOW OF ILLICIT CARGO AND NARCOTICS**

Middle East – OPERATION ARTEMIS:
From 6 December 2018 to 11 April 2019, Cmdre Garnier commanded Combined Task Force 150, a multinational maritime security and counter-terrorism task force in the Middle East.
Under his leadership CTF 150 conducted:

- 18 SUCCESSFUL BOARDINGS
- SEIZED AND DESTROYED OVER 33,000 KG OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS

Since March 2019:
HMCS Regina has operated with CTF 150 denying terrorist organizations use of the high seas and has seized & destroyed more than 9,000 kg of illicit narcotics to date.

Eastern Pacific – OPERATION CARIBBE:
HMCS Yellowknife and HMCS Whitehorse have operated with US Coast Guard and interagency partners, seizing & disrupting the flow of more than 2,500 kg illicit narcotics. Denying transnational criminal organizations use of the high seas.

Canada
National Defence / Défense nationale

Helicopter-based #UAS for @CanadianForces <https://defpost.com/qinetiq-wins-c51m-contract-to-supply-ums-skeldar-v-200-unmanned-helicopter-based-istar-solution-to-canadian-armed-forces/> "vertical take-off unmanned aircraft system will provide Intell, Surveillance, Target Acquisition & Reconnaissance svcs to #RCNavy & CAN🇨🇦 Special Operations Forces Command, for both domestic & international ops" (QinetiQ Wins C\$51M Contract to Supply UMS SKELDAR V-200 Unmanned Helicopter-Based ISTAR Solution to CAF)



"Defence Investment: Strong, Secure and Engaged - What the #RCAF gains in Canada's 20-year Defence plan"
<https://www.wingsmagazine.com/defence-investment-strong-secure-and-engaged/> "...the @RCAF_ARC in terms of spending allocation will be the biggest benefactor of #SSE #defencepolicy among all branches of the @CanadianForces."



"Strong, Secure, Engaged: A Two-Year Review"
https://www.cgai.ca/strong_secure_engaged_a_two_year_review "defence spending has exceeded or kept pace with the policy" "Set against a too ambitious projected pace of procurement increase, however, capital spending thus far is falling short of expectations." #cdnpoli



"Ship Escorting - A Changing Mission" <https://maritime-executive.com/blog/ship-escorting-a-changing-mission> "Ship escorting." OK, a role for tugs that most of us might not have thought about. Will new @RCN_MRC tugs have this as one of their roles? @RCN_MRC



John Newton @greatbigseas 14 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Remarkably, Canada is of a few investing in the north with shipbuilding on each coast and Arctic ship orders, yet too often these efforts are scorned. Nothing is ever perfect but Canada is building! Surveillance, science and disaster relief will keep this fleet more than busy
(Melting Ice Caps Are a National Security Crisis: James Stavridis
<https://gcaptain.com/melting-ice-caps-are-a-national-security-crisis-james-stavridis/>)



Irving Shipbuilding @IrvingShipbuild 15 May tweeted: The third Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ship, the future HMCS Max Bernays, now has all keel units of the centre mega-block laid. #ShipsForCanada pic.twitter.com/6acoCDUI4m

RUSI(NS) retweeted: RUSI(NS) Information Note "Shipbuilding Terms" <https://rusi-ns.ca/shipbuilding-terms/>



Canadian Army @CanadianArmy 16 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Canadian Forces engineers celebrate 75 years of service <https://www.thewhig.com/news/local-news/canadian-forces-engineers-celebrate-75-years-of-service> #RCEME #RCEME75

See also:

Army returns to dark blue or khaki berets for Foot Guards and technical corps
<http://www.army-armee.forces.gc.ca/en/news-publications/national-news-details-no-menu.page?doc=army-returns-to-dark-blue-or-khaki-berets-for-foot-guards-and-technical-corps/jucn3okj>

Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Corps celebrates 75 years of innovation, integrity and tenacity at their Blue Beret Parade
<http://www.army-armee.forces.gc.ca/en/news-publications/national-news-details-no-menu.page?doc=royal-canadian-electrical-and-mechanical-engineers-corps-celebrates-75-years-of-innovation-integrity-and-tenacity-at-their-blue-beret-parade/jvmqm199>



Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute NS with comments:

Federal government looks to ease requirements for fighter-jet makers after U.S. complaints

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/fighter-jet-rule-change-1.5130470>

"...the government said it plans to allow bids missing such a commitment (to re-investing back into the country) in the fighter-jet competition — they will be just docked points in the assessment."



Britain's Continuous at Sea Deterrent: Flawed Arguments by Disarmament Doves and Deterrence Hawks

<https://rusi.org/commentary/britains-continuous-sea-deterrent-flawed-arguments-disarmament-doves-and-deterrence>

"Yet, if we are doomed to have to listen to this debate (about the UK's nuclear arsenal) forever, the least we should expect is that the people indulging in this debate pay more attention to the quality of the arguments they are making."



Russian Internet Efforts Go Further Than Just Helping President Trump Being Elected

<https://rusi.org/commentary/russian-internet-efforts-go-further-just-helping-president-trump-being-elected>

"To a large extent, therefore, a Russia-led operation to disrupt the US elections would have happened, even if Trump had not won the Republican nomination. The US would have likely seen a different, but equal in size and scope, disinformation campaign. There was extensive Russian interest in information warfare since before Trump, and there will only be more of an appetite for it in 2020."

Canada, think the same, and be wary, in 2019.



Reinvigorating the Forgotten Financial Fight Against Al-Shabaab

<https://rusi.org/commentary/reinvigorating-forgotten-financial-fight-against-al-shabaab>

"...the global effort to disrupt the financing of terrorist groups has become one dimensional, obsessed only with Daesh. The recent passing of an updated UN Security Council Resolution on suppressing the financing of terrorism is welcome, but it should mark the beginning of expanded and renewed efforts."

Linked to: Landmark terror finance resolution adopted by Security Council

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/03/1035671>

Canada must be prepared to undertake 'financial warfare' both in defence and offence.



How artificial intelligence is reshaping global power and Canadian foreign policy

<https://www.opencanada.org/features/how-artificial-intelligence-reshaping-global-power-and-canadian-foreign-policy/>

"Automated decision-making impacts everyone, but without greater data literacy, political decision-making becomes increasingly reserved for cadres of specialized professionals that may or may not have sufficient leverage to direct decision-makers away from unethical AI."



Veterans Affairs bungles VE-Day video by showing Nazis

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/veterans-affairs-nazis-video-ve-day-1.5130515>

"Minister MacAulay has asked his deputy minister to review the approval process to ensure a similar mistake does not happen in the future..." The cynic in me, based on long



experience with bureaucracies, is that the review will result in more bureaucracy. Not the speed and agility that are necessary for information-age communications. I wonder, too, if this incident is just another revelation of how much some people in Veterans Affairs (at least, communications staff, who may be young and specialized) do not 'know their subject.'

Messaging, including visuals, in these times calls for expertise.

Persistent Engagement: Foundation, Evolution and Evaluation of a Strategy

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/persistent-engagement-foundation-evolution-and-evaluation-strategy>

Persistent engagement (okay, a lot of mil-buzz terms herein): "Superiority through persistence seizes and maintains the initiative in cyberspace by continuously engaging and contesting adversaries and causing them uncertainty wherever they maneuver. It describes how we operate — maneuvering seamlessly between defense and offense across the interconnected battlespace. It describes where we operate — globally, as close as possible to adversaries and their operations. It describes when we operate — continuously, shaping the battlespace. It describes why we operate — to create operational advantage for us while denying the same to our adversaries."

Cyber Command strategic vision: Achieve and Maintain Cyberspace Superiority Command Vision for US Cyber Command

<https://www.cybercom.mil/Portals/56/Documents/USCYBERCOM%20Vision%20April%202018.pdf>



Canadian Armed Forces Announces Top Employers of Reservists

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2019/05/canadian-armed-forces-announces-top-employers-of-reservists.html>

"The Canadian Armed Forces recognized employers and educators from across Canada for outstanding support to their employees and students who serve as reservists."



Congratulations Kings College, Nova Scotia, awarded for 'Support to Student Reservists.'

Ripples in the Pond - Command and General Staff Officer Course Interagency Education

<http://thesimonscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/IAJ-5-1Winter-2014-52-57.pdf>

"As military operations scale down, it is likely there will also be a concomitant decrease in the extent of daily or regular interaction among members of the U.S. military and of other



government agencies..." "This article will highlight some of the programs and actions undertaken by the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College to tackle this challenge by increasing interagency participation and interagency topics in its Command and General Staff Officer Course curriculum."

Joint is natural for Canadian Armed Forces personnel who attend the Canadian Forces College. This editor, a graduate three decades ago, does not recall much inter-agency study at that time. I wonder how much there is now.

Government of Canada awards contract for new space-based search and rescue technology
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2019/05/government-of-canada-awards-contract-for-new-space-based-search-and-rescue-technology.html>

Contact to "design, build and deliver ten search and rescue repeaters for National Defence's Medium Earth Orbit Search and Rescue (MEOSAR) system."

"The MEOSAR system is expected to deliver improved response times for search and rescue activities and increase accuracy to locate people, ships or planes in distress. It will replace Canada's current search and rescue system, which has been in place for several decades."

Medium Earth Orbit Search and Rescue

<http://dgpaapp.forces.gc.ca/en/defence-capabilities-blueprint/project-details.asp?id=996>



Experts doubt China's ability to launch assault on Taiwan

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3009780/experts-doubt-chinas-ability-launch-assault-taiwan>

Kritin Huang, South China Morning Post, 12 May 2019.

This article offers an interesting view of current Chinese efforts in regard to preparations against Taiwan. The article also references a new publication by the US Department of Defence titled "Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China 2019"

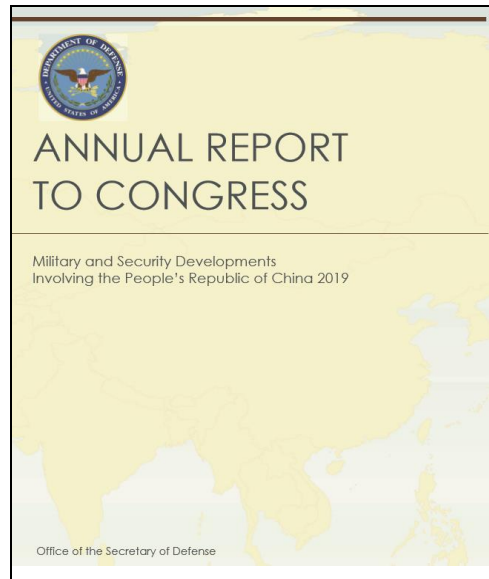
(https://media.defense.gov/2019/May/02/2002127082/-1/-1/1/2019_CHINA_MILITARY_POWER_REPORT.pdf) by the US Department of Defence dated 2 May 2019.

One of the key findings of the DoD publication is that China lacks the ability to take Taiwan with China's current naval resources. The major issue is the number of suitable amphibious warfare ships. Amphibious operations demand tremendous resources and a high level of highly coordinated planning steps to be successful. One key step is hitting your opposition where they are not there. An opposed landing can be problematic at best.

China has limited experience in such large-scale operations. Although Chinese forces have increased in size and capability, China's ability to "put it together" is an unknown variable. Chinese forces have very limited experience against a modern well-equipped foe.

China is also looking at the long term. Demographics will start to have an impact in the next decade as China's "one child policy" starts to have its full effect. China's population will age and then start to decline. One estimate suggests that China's population will fall below half a billion by the end of this century. What does this mean now? It means that China's current situation and capability is probably at its highest point. It is also suggested that Xi wants to "unite" the country within his mandate, which means it is likely that China may chance a major confrontation with the West over Taiwan.

Xi has displayed a high degree of narcissism. Will he commit his country to a military action that may have horrendous outcomes? Time will tell.



Innovative Thinking: The Role of Professional Military Education

<http://cimsec.org/innovative-thinking-the-role-of-professional-military-education/40280>

"Our military organizations must organize for innovation and adaptiveness such as recognizing



disruptive ideas and preserving innovators who learn from failures. ... Our educational institutions must nurture and support the kind of thinking so central to any adaptive organization."

The points of this article apply to Canada, the Canadian Armed Forces and its educational institutions. I think that is appreciated, fortunately, and that there is work ongoing to support innovative thinking. Still, becoming an innovatively thinking organization calls for a tremendous cultural effort.

Photo of the Day: Pooh firing misinformation missile in S. Taiwan

<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3700588>

by Keoni Everington, Taiwan News dated 13 May 2019.

As you may be aware, President Xi has been portrayed by opposition groups as Winnie the Pooh. The Communist Chinese Party has as a result outlawed images of our "favourite bear." The pictures and cartoons speak for themselves. It shows that Taiwan continues to have a sense of humour even if China does not.



Cartoon characters, either from mainstream stories or newly developed, are routinely part of information operations including influencing and disinformation.

The United Nations and the future of warfare

<https://thebulletin.org/2019/05/the-united-nations-and-the-future-of-warfare/>

"Today, there is a very real threat that if the CCW (UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons) doesn't act quickly, if these weapons aren't banned soon, lethal autonomous weapons could become ultra-cheap, easily accessible weapons of mass destruction. That is a fate humanity can live without."



Europe Is Reining In Tech Giants. But Some Say It's Going Too Far.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/06/technology/europe-tech-censorship.html>

"Europe has clamped down on violent content, hate speech and misinformation online through a thicket of new laws and regulations over the past five years. Now there are questions about whether the region is going too far, with the rules leading to accusations of censorship and potentially providing cover to some governments to stifle dissent."



Remote warfare increasingly strategy of choice for non-state actors

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/remote-warfare-increasingly-strategy-of-choice-for-non-state-actors/>

"...remote warfare tactics by non-state groups are impacting... the ability of national militaries, including the West and its allies, to bring conflicts to a rapid and satisfactory conclusion without high-cost and prolonged bloodied warfare."



Admiral, I Am NOT Ready For War

<http://cimsec.org/admiral-i-am-not-ready-for-war/40384>

This article raises some questions for Canadians. One question, long time a thought at least for this writer, is: what is the Canadian Merchant Navy? Other questions. If there is no Canadian Merchant Navy, what if any sort of unified effort is there between Canadian-flag shipping companies with respect to preparing to operate in conflict situations (including cyber operations)? What efforts are there by the Departments of Transport and National Defence and other authorities to prepare our merchant ships? To what extent should civil ships train with the Royal Canadian Navy?



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Australian Navy moving ahead with UAS

<https://www.australiandefence.com.au/defence/sea/navy-moving-ahead-with-uas>

"...likely that a common tactical unmanned aircraft system (UAS) will be selected to operate both from the upcoming Arafura offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) and the Hunter-class future frigates."



The Australian Hunter-class are based on the UK Type 26 as is the Canadian Surface Combatant (class name to be announced; likely to be typed as frigates). The three will differ, due to national requirements, in weapons, sensors and other capabilities including what unmanned/remotely-piloted systems (drones) are embarked.

"Having a common air vehicle across the OPVs and Hunter-class would facilitate the integration of the UAS with the Saab combat management system already equipping the Anzac and Canberra-class ships and destined for the OPVs, the Hunter-class, and the two under-construction support ships based on the Spanish Cantabria class in Supply and Stalwart. It would also create significant efficiencies in training."

The Australians see the utility of a common drone system across different ship types. It is highly likely the Royal Canadian Navy will go the same way.

Further, see: QinetiQ Wins C\$51M Contract to Supply UMS SKELDAR V-200 Unmanned Helicopter-Based ISTAR Solution to Canadian Armed Forces

<https://defpost.com/qinetiq-wins-c51m-contract-to-supply-ums-skeldar-v-200-unmanned-helicopter-based-istar-solution-to-canadian-armed-forces/>

Canadian Forces use of strategic communications on social media can backfire

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canadian-forces-use-of-strategic-communications-on-social-media-can-backfire>



I'm not sure I would have used the word 'strategic' in the headline (I have been told that a reporter may not be the one to write a headline, and may not even have seen the headline before an article is published). The example cases in the article strike me more as incidents, 'tactical' if you will. Of course, it can be argued that in the modern information sphere there is little of no difference between the strategic, operational and tactical levels.

The NATO definition of strategic communications is: "the coordinated and appropriate use of NATO communications activities and capabilities - Public Diplomacy, Public Affairs, Military Public Affairs, Information Operations and Psychological Operations, as appropriate - in support of Alliance policies, operations and activities, and in order to advance NATO's aims."

I haven't come across a Canadian definition, not uncommon (certainly in the Navy) when a NATO definition works. Canada is after all part of NATO and there are benefits of having a common language between allies.

A perspective of strategic communications can be one of communications that have intended or unintended (think the 'strategic corporal' scenario) effects. I don't think the McEwen and Janzen examples had such effects or were meant to. I don't think the term strategic communications applies.

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[Disclosure: Brigadier-General Janzen was the Distinguished Speaker to RUSI(NS) and guests 8 May 2019. His presentation was titled "Canadian Armed Forces Information in the Grey Zone."]

China, Russia move into the Arctic — and put US at risk

<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/443324-china-russia-move-into-the-arctic-and-put-us-at-risk>

"...speech peeled back the veneer of cooperation to expose the underlying great power competition that has been building for the past five years."

And risk for Canada?



On Writing: Look Out! There be Sea Monsters!

<https://fromthegreennotebook.com/2019/05/15/on-writing-look-out-there-be-sea-monsters/>

"Dare to speak out and challenge assumptions and accepted wisdom if your view differs from them. Have the courage to write, publish, and be heard. Launch your ideas and be an integral part of the conversation." [Admiral USN (ret'd) James Stavridis]

Your Dispatches editors echo this. Write for RUSI!



Navy Planning Aggressive Unmanned Ship Prototyping, Acquisition Effort

<https://news.usni.org/2019/05/15/navy-planning-aggressive-unmanned-ship-prototyping-acquisition-effort>

Using the article about US Navy intentions to consider questions for Canada. What is the Royal Canadian Navy plan for introducing unmanned surface vehicles (USV) into the fleet? What sorts and numbers of USV? What experimentation (e.g., independent vehicles and teaming with manned ships) should and will there be? Should Canada attempt a leading position amongst navies introducing USV or acquire them once they are proven? Drones have great potential to considerably change nature of naval operations. A major question is how fast should they be introduced? History is full of stories of naval equipment and ships being introduced too fast or too slow.



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

The Arctic: Who owns it?

<https://torontosun.com/news/national/the-arctic-who-owns-it>



Like it or not, the U.S. needs to be a key part of Canada's next-gen jet procurement process

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-the-us-needs-to-be-a-key-part-of-canadas-next-gen-jet-procurement/>



Other Sources:

#artillery

How NATO coordinates artillery fire

video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1OVcplB55g>

#information operations

EU Elections and a State of Denial

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/the-half-truth-a-little-of-the-truth-and-a-lot-of-stuff-besides-the-truth-2/>

Yes, the article is EU-centric, but Canada should expect the same efforts against us during our elections, and should heed the lessons from others' experiences.

Other:



Colleagues,

It is with great excitement that we introduce to you Mobilizing Insights in Defence and Security – MINDS – the successor to the Defence Engagement Program. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/programs/minds.html>

Strong, Secure, Engaged provided direction to increase investment in a revamped and expanded Defence Engagement Program. With your valuable input, we've been working diligently at this for the past year and a half. Not just to expand the program, but to do so thoughtfully, so that it becomes not just bigger, but better.

The best parts of the program that you know and love will continue – Targeted Engagement Grants and the Expert Briefing Series – but with an increased budget, so that we can support more of your innovative ideas.

We are also introducing scholarships, which we will deliver in partnership with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). These are available for students at the Master's, Doctoral and

Post-Doctoral levels, including a full, one-year MINDS Master's scholarship for Indigenous students. We are also proud to announce the MINDS NATO Defense College Fellowship, which will open for applications in the coming weeks.

Finally, we are incredibly excited to introduce multi-year collaborative networks, which will bring together experts from across disciplines and across Canada and the world, to work together on timely, relevant defence and security issues in line with the new MINDS Policy Challenges.

We are now accepting applications for Targeted Engagement Grants and Networks. Please visit our new website for more information on these and other opportunities.

We look forward to continued collaboration as the MINDS program unfolds.

Sincerely,
The MINDS Team

Social Media Warriors: Leveraging a New Battlespace

<https://mwi.usma.edu/social-media-warriors-leveraging-new-battlespace/>

(from Howard Coombs, CDA Institute)

"Note: In this article for the US Army War College journal

Parameters, Dr Buddhika Jayamaha and MWI Non-Resident Fellow Dr Jahara Matisek, demonstrate how adversaries have turned Western civil society into a new battlespace by attacking it through a strategy of schismogenesis [literally means "creation of division"].

While there is nothing new about the idea of waging political and information warfare, the rise of the internet in the twenty-first century and the prevalence of social media and other forms of interconnectedness have given hostile actors (e.g., China, Iran, ISIS, Russia, etc.) a new way of attacking the West's greatest strength: civil society. The societal cohesion and ways in which Americans (and others in Western liberal democracies) organize themselves and positively interact is being fragmented and polarized by nefarious "social media warriors," backed mainly by anti-Western adversaries, as a way of weakening state and military power. This is a new twenty-first-century strategy of schismogenesis against Western civil society: creating "extreme rivalry and ultimately [leading] to hostility and the breakdown of the whole system." Make no mistake; purposeful actions are being taken by China and Russia to degrade civil society in the United States (and allies) as a way of disrupting the normal policy-making progress that typically generates American power and strength in the international system.

The West, in this case, has been unable to respond adequately to the newly weaponized battlespace of civil society. Liberal democracies—unlike authoritarian China and Russia—do not regulate or repress civil society groups. Thus, China and Russia can attack the strongest tenets of a Western democracy as a way of strengthening their own positions. Western political and military leaders must account for this "blind spot" by creating new strategies to counter attempts at schismogenesis by China and Russia (and other hostile state and nonstate actors), while enabling civil society to have more resilience against foreign influence."



RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR STUDY ON

Veterans Policy and the Transition from Military to Civilian Life

Did you serve with the Canadian Armed Forces after 1990? Have you since retired from the Canadian Armed Forces? Are you the spouse or former spouse of a veteran who served after 1990?

Researchers from Mount Saint Vincent University are conducting confidential interviews to learn about the experiences of veterans and their families as they transition from military to civilian life.

WE ARE SEEKING

- **CAF veterans**
- **spouses of CAF veterans**
- ***we have a special interest in members of minority groups***

For more information on the project, *please contact*

Maya Eichler at maya.eichler@msvu.ca or (902) 457-6237

* This research study has received approval by the MSVU University Research Ethics Board