

# Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 27 September 2019

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 links and news of current interest, included those tweeted and posted by the Institute on social media. Links to 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 <u>RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</u>. If you do not want to receive *Dispatches*, or wish to receive it at some different frequency, please inform the CIO. If you wish to receive *Dispatches* at a different address (i.e., not your work address), please inform the CIO. Past editions of *Dispatches* may be requested by contacting the CIO.

Everyone is encouraged to email to the CIO links and other content to be included in *Dispatches*.

Submissions and feedback are welcome anytime. Comments to articles can be from members or nonmembers 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, 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. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter, or want past editions, email <u>admin@duncom.ca</u>.

# **Events:**

Invitations for Remembrance Dinner <mark>6 November</mark> have been sent out. Please RSVP soon if you intend to attend. Evening, Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

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 <u>RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</u>. RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice – email RUSI(NS) if there is a question of an event occurring.

Keep an eye out for changes to our events program for the next while due to the election. With the 'drop' (really, 'drawing') of the writ(s), the 'caretaker convention' applies. For more info about the convention, see: "Guidelines on the Conduct of Ministers, Ministers of State, Exempt Staff and Public Servants During an Election" (<u>https://www.canada.ca/en/privy-council/services/publications/guidelines-conduct-ministers-state-exempt-staff-public-servants-election.html</u>).

**27 September to 22 November** - The Brian Mulroney Institute of Government, St. Francis Xavier University and the Naval Museum of Halifax are co-hosting an exhibit titled 'Through the "More Northerly Route": *St. Roch* and the Northwest Passage Transit of 1944.' Naval Museum of Halifax, CFB Halifax. From the exhibit developers:

"Seventy-five years ago Henry Asbjørn Larsen and the crew of *St. Roch* completed the first single season transit of the Northwest Passage, covering 11,740 kilometres in 86 days. The voyage also marked the first successful transit of the Passage's northerly route. This exhibit, co-developed by faculty and students at St. Francis Xavier University, answers why the Canadian government chose to send *St. Roch* to the uninhabited islands of the High Arctic in the middle of the Second World War and explores the experiences of Larsen, his crew, and the Panipakuttuk family on the remarkable voyage."

See poster at end of Dispatches.

**16 October**, Wednesday - Distinguished Speaker Adam MacDonald, PhD Candidate, Department of Political Science; and Deputy Director, Centre for the Study of Security and Development; Dalhousie University, on "China-Russia Cooperation in the Arctic: A Cause for Arctic for the West?" 1130-1330. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

6 November, Wednesday - Remembrance Dinner. Evening. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

11 November, Monday - Remembrance Day Parade. Forenoon. Royal Artillery Park.

**20 November**, Wednesday - Distinguished Speaker Craig Dalton, Veterans Ombudsman, about veterans affairs. 1130-1330. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

#### **Recent Publications:**

RUSI(NS) Info Quest "BREXIT and the Canadian Surface Combatant" <u>https://rusi-ns.ca/brexit-and-the-canadian-surface-combatant/</u>, 10 August 2019

RUSI(NS) Information Note "A System to Judge Information Reliability" <u>https://rusi-ns.ca/a-system-to-judge-information-reliability/</u>, 4 August 2019

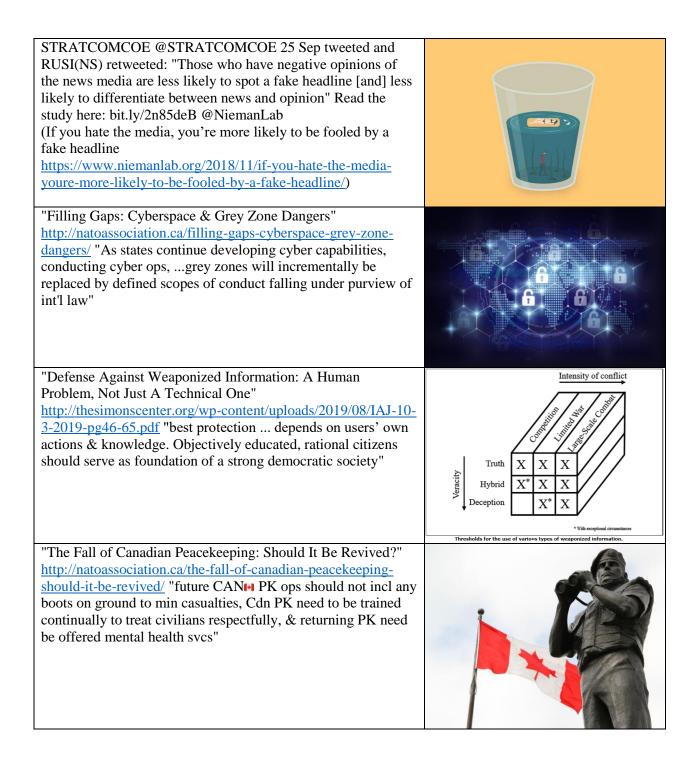
The United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island (USINNI) Newsletter Vol 27 No 09 September 2019 is available on request to <u>RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</u>.

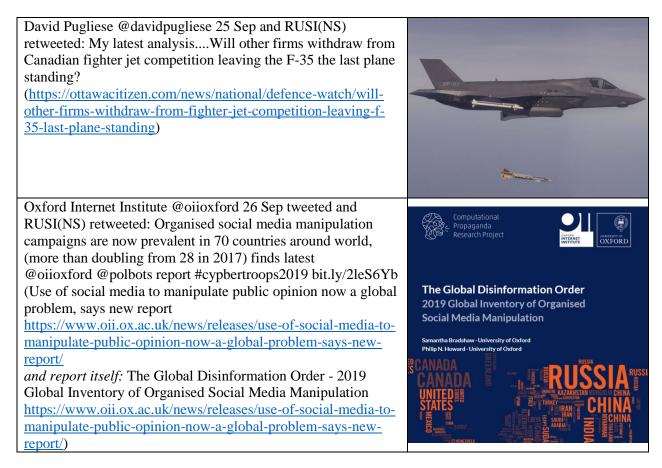
**Tweeted by @RUSI\_NS:** RUSI(NS) tweets may also be viewed by clicking on the icon at <u>https://RUSI-NS.ca</u>. To have something tweeted or retweeted, email the CIO at <u>RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</u>. Original article title in parentheses.

.@NationalDefence Capital Assistance Program to fund extension & modernization of Inuvik Airport runway for @RCAF\_ARC Forward Operating Location https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/runwayused-as-forward-operating-location-in-northwest-territories-tobe-modernized-extended Good approach, locivil-military development of #Arctic/Northern infrastructure









# Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute NS with comments:

U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Want Small Ships to Land Troops in a War <u>https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/us-navy-and-marine-</u> <u>corps-want-small-ships-land-troops-war-82566</u>

"The new small transports, perhaps based on the oil and gas industry's typical offshore support vessel, could represent a revival of a defunct class of warship..."

The fast transports "were numerous, inexpensive and flexible and, by all accounts, successful."

Yes, 'balanced' navies have been proven to be best, allowing them to carry out a range of national missions with appropriate resources (think "when all you have is a hammer..."), and to be balanced a navy needs various types of ships including small specialized vessels.

Remark: the term "offshore support vessel" used in a naval context, especially when referring to troop landings, is assuredly going to be confusing with the civil understanding of the term which tends to be logistics-focused. The initialism OSV will be uncertain in vessel contact tracking systems.

In a Major Military Command "Turbo Test" of Maritime Readiness, Two Old Rust Buckets Strive to Answer the Call

https://frumpblog.com/2019/09/22/in-a-critical-militarycommand-turbo-test-of-maritime-readiness-two-rust-bucketsstrive-to-answer-the-call/



Interesting, the author's assessment as to what constitutes old age for ships, or at least for merchant ships. Around 20 years? Canadian government fleets, albeit benefitting from capable onboard and dockyard maintenance staff and programs, easily push twice that.

More interesting is the conclusion which a reader can make that the US armed forces may be greatly challenged in getting significant forces deployed overseas in response to a major crisis, what with the state of the US reserve sealift fleet. If Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) deployment plans are dependant on the availability of US resources, that assumption may need checking. The CAF did have a full-time charter vessel once for moving material overseas (and back home). Maybe some arrangement to meet Canadian needs (e.g., multi-role: cargo/vehicle carrier - humanitarian assistance and disaster relief vessel - training ship for naval and Defence civilian seafarers) should now be considered. Certainly the Canadian shipyards are ready to build or convert such ships.

U.S. Navy Tests Mine Countermeasures on USNS Hershel 'Woody' Williams

https://defpost.com/u-s-navy-tests-mine-countermeasures-onusns-hershel-woody-williams/



The capability to integrate mine countermeasures into vessels of opportunity (VOO) would be a great force enhancement to the Royal Canadian Navy. Maybe the Naval Reserve Divisions should be issued small vessels ('tenders') again, in addition to their boats (often RHIB - rubber-hull inflatable boats), which could take on a VOO underwater operations role (mine countermeasures, survey, diving support, unmanned underwater/surface vehicle control).

Navy Shortening Maintenance Times for Surface Ships, But Repair Industry Still Overloaded

https://news.usni.org/2019/09/19/navy-shortening-maintenancetimes-for-surface-ships-but-repair-industry-still-overloaded



"...contractors here in San Diego are so backed up that the Navy has received zero bids for several recent maintenance availabilities."

"...the Navy needs to prove it can provide stable and predictable workloads over the long-term."

Maybe not a Canadian problem, and maybe there are parallels here in Canada, but worth examining the issue in the US and considering the lessons and rectifications.

New NATO command declared operational

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news\_168945.htm



The Joint Support and Enabling Command will ensure NATO can move troops more quickly across Europe in a crisis situation. "Among its main tasks will be to provide security, freedom of movement and support for NATO forces moving across Europe. It will also ensure rapid forward deployment of allied reinforcements."

Marines Arm Drone Vehicle with .50-cal Machine Gun for Urban Fight

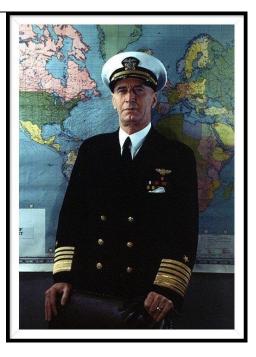
https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/09/19/marinesarm-drone-vehicle-50-cal-machine-gun-urban-fight.html



"Marines tested one of the Expeditionary Modular Autonomous Vehicles, or EMAV, equipped with a .50 cal. mounted on a Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station, or CROWS, to see how squads can benefit from having a heavy machine gun in their arsenal."

Lessons from World War II: Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King

http://www.navyhistory.org/2019/08/lessons-from-world-warii-fleet-admiral-ernest-j-king/



"...the fundamental principle would be cooperation between science and the armed forces, rather than to bring the scientists into military and naval laboratories..." "The principle proved thoroughly sound."

I think Canada has taken a little bit of both the two approaches noted by ADM King.

The Royal Navy's top officer lays out vision for unmanned surface vessels

https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2019/09/20/the-royalnavys-top-officer-lays-out-vision-for-unmanned-surfacevessels/



Starting small (mother ship and autonomous boats): "We've started using boats to follow an autonomy path."

"...the service plans to follow the commercial sector carefully and take advantage of advancements in autonomous technology developed privately."

"NATO nations (agreed) in 2018 to work together on the development of maritime unmanned systems aimed at combating the rising threat of Russian subs and the ever-present threat of mines."

"Securing the North Atlantic is key to ensuring freedom of movement for the nuclear deterrent."

https://thebulletin.org/2019/09/protecting-the-environment-intimes-of-war/#

Protecting the environment in times of war



"The data shows an increasing trend of water-related conflicts and violence against natural or built water systems, where water is a trigger, weapon, or casualty of conflict."

"Three core problems exist: The current international laws of war inadequately protect natural resources and the environment in the context of civil war or local conflicts. Militaries and armed groups inconsistently identify and differentiate among legitimate and illegitimate targets and ambiguous language in current laws and agreements creates loopholes for the military. And the enforcement of laws of war—and punishment of violators of these laws—are rare and subjective." Guns from Iroquois-class destroyers up for sale

https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/gunsfrom-iroquois-class-destroyers-up-for-sale



Sale of these guns from the paid off Iroquois-class destroyers makes sense. The guns were newer than the ships (45 years old in the case of HMCS ATHABASKAN when she was paid off) as they had been installed when the class underwent mid-life refits in the mid 1990s. Such sale is not uncommon, and could provide useful capability, or at least parts, to allies and partners.

The flip side of this practice is when used equipment is installed in new-build ships. The Canadian Surface Combatants (CSC) or other ships being built under the National Shipbuilding Strategy may receive radios or weapons or sensors already in use or coming off older ships of the Royal Canadian Navy (or elsewhere. This practice should not be looked upon as a failure of the CSC or any other project, rather, it should be looked upon as smart use of proven, appropriate and available equipment.

Does the Kremlin Have an Alternative?

https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/09/04/does-thekremlin-have-an-alternative-a67123



The article poses an interesting question. This summer saw some of the largest anti-Putin demonstrations since 2011. These most recent demonstrations by the growing opposition are in regard to the municipal elections. The Kremlin Electoral Commission disallowed most real opposition candidates. The elections saw the defeat of many "United Russian" candidates. United Russia is usually known as Putin's own party, despite having "resigned" from the party to become President. Despite the elimination of opposition candidates' people voted against the "Kremlin" choosing to elect hard line communists rather than members of the United Russia.

In recent surveys by the Levada Institute, Putin's popularity has plummeted to a new low of just 32%. Considering his overwhelming control of Russian media, this is not good. Rather than address opposition issues which include things like pension reform, which directly affected his support base, he has chosen to "disqualify" opposition candidates and when further demonstrations occur, send in his personal troops, the National Guard. The trouble this time, his tactics are not working, and demonstrations have become larger and more determined. Putin has no solutions and the citizens of Russia now realize this problem.

Will the current regime survive? Is it possible that the world might see a general collapse especially if there is a major catalyst such as a collapse of the Russian economy already a basket case mainly due to incompetence and corruption as well ongoing sanctions? Time will tell, but it is unlikely to get better.

Iceberg Dead Ahead! Deconstructing the Pentagon's Arctic Strategies

https://warontherocks.com/2019/09/iceberg-dead-ahead-deconstructing-the-pentagons-arctic-strategies/



"Canada's new Arctic Policy Framework does not commit to funding full surveillance of the North American Arctic."

"With limited sea lanes due to ice cover, freedom of navigation operations could only mean one of two things: challenging Russia's or Canada's claims to territorial seas in the Arctic." "Challenging Canada seems silly; challenging Russia seems dangerous."

Pentagon's Non-Lethal Weapons Office Pushing Gray-Zone Warfare Tools

https://news.usni.org/2019/09/24/pentagons-non-lethalweapons-office-pushing-gray-zone-warfare-tools



"Phases 0 through 5: Phase 0 is shaping the environment, Phase 1 is deterring, Phase 2 is seizing the initiative, Phase 3 is dominating, Phase 4 is stabilizing and Phase 5 is enabling civil authorities to resume control after the war. Aside from Phase 3, or all out armed conflict, the rest of the spectrum is 'gray zone' warfare."

What is Canada's approach to 'gray-zone warfare?'

Navy, Marines Practice 'Littoral Combat Force' Construct in Alaska

https://news.usni.org/2019/09/23/navy-marines-practicelittoral-combat-force-construct-in-alaska

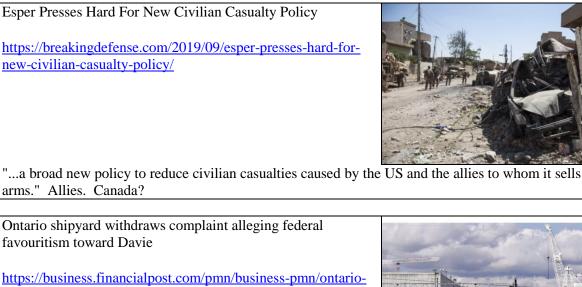


New C2 being tried: Littoral Combat Force Commander, commanding Littoral Combat Groups.

"...recently used a new Littoral Combat Force concept to command and control units spread over 2.2 million square miles of land and sea...

"...ships at sea would provide cover for Marines trying to get ashore, who could then set up temporary anti-ship missile launchers and contribute to sea control from ashore, and the supported/supporting relationship would be constantly moving back and forth."

"...important for the Navy and Marine Corps to practice expeditionary logistics capabilities in tough environments." "We've also learned a lot operating in the vicinity of Seward, with our bulk liquid transfer system, figuring out how we can actually push fuel to forces ashore if we need to, which would actually support us if we were in a wartime environment or peacetime, a disaster relief situation." Expeditionary logistics!



https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/ontarioshipyard-withdraws-complaint-alleging-federal-favouritismtoward-davie



"...the changes to the exception should be a concern to all Canadians given how much the government spends on goods and services each year..."

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9.20.19&utm\_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief The NSA Is Running a Satellite Hacking Experiment https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2019/09/nsa-running-satellitehacking-experiment/160009/?oref=defense\_one\_breaking\_nl Israel Shouldn't Worry About Ilhan Omar. It Should Worry About Xi Jinping. https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/09/19/israel-shouldnt-worry-about-ilhan-omarit-should-worry-about-xijinping/?utm\_source=PostUp&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=14985&ut m term=Editor#39;s%20Picks%20OC DHS's New Counterterrorism Strategy Reflects Professionalism, Not Politics https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2019/09/dhs-new-counterterrorism-strategyreflects-professionalism-not-politics/160030/?oref=defense one breaking nl Canadian special forces armoured truck stolen in Iraq during Mosul liberation https://www.cbc.ca/news/somnia-1.5289051

The US Navy's new autonomous refueling drone takes historic first flight

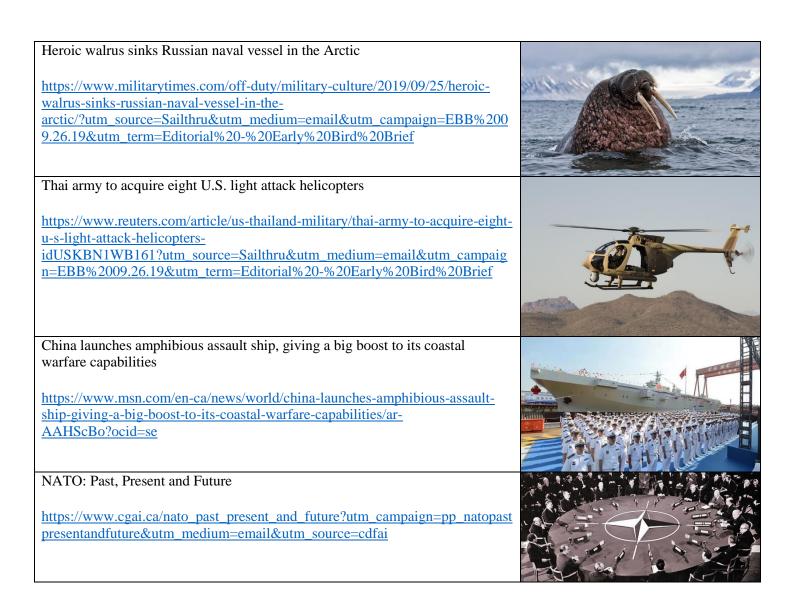
flight/?utm\_source=Sailthru&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=EBB%200

https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2019/09/19/the-us-navys-new-

autonomous-refueling-drone-takes-historic-first-



Israeli fighter planes participate in British air exercises	
https://www.upi.com/Defense-News/2019/09/20/Israeli-fighter-planes- participate-in-British-air- exercises/1521569004084/?ts_=23&utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email &utm_campaign=EBB% 2009.23.19&utm_term=Editorial%20- %20Early%20Bird%20Brief	
Iran Is Already Losing         https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/09/23/iran-is-already-         losing/?utm_source=PostUp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=15123&ut         m_term=Editor#39;s% 20Picks% 20OC	
Twitter says Canadian election campaign free of major manipulation attempts so far <u>https://globalnews.ca/news/5943227/canada-election-twitter-manipulation/</u>	Tuite
Dispute between Tokyo and Seoul disrupts naval review in Japan <u>https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2019/09/24/dispute-between-tokyo-and-seoul-disrupts-naval-review-in-japan/?utm_source=Sailthru&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=EBB%200 92519&amp;utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief</u>	
Will other firms withdraw from fighter jet competition leaving F-35 last plane standing? <u>https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/will-other-firms-withdraw-from-fighter-jet-competition-leaving-f-35-last-plane-standing</u>	



Other Sources: Recommendations for 'themes' (e.g., #drones) to list in this section are welcome.

# #Arctic

Report to Congress on Changes in the Arctic <u>https://news.usni.org/2019/09/24/report-to-congress-on-changes-in-the-arctic-2</u> US; August 2019 report.

# #China

Report to Congress on China Naval Modernization https://news.usni.org/2019/09/25/report-to-congress-on-china-naval-modernization

#### #civil-military relations

The UK Strategy on Protection of Civilians: Insights for the Review Process https://rusi.org/publication/whitehall-reports/uk-strategy-protection-civilians-insights-review-process

#### #cyber ops

Trend Analysis The Evolution of US Defense Strategy in Cyberspace (1988 – 2019) https://css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/pdfs/Cyber-Reports-2019-08-The-Evolution-of-US-defense-strategy-in-cyberspace.pdf

National Cybersecurity Strategies in Comparison – Challenges for Switzerland https://css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/pdfs/Cyber-Reports-2019-08-National% 20Cybersecurity% 20Strategies% 20in% 20Comparison.pdf And not just Switzerland.

#### #drones

Seafarers and digital disruption https://www.ics-shipping.org/docs/default-source/resources/ics-study-on-seafarers-and-digitaldisruption.pdf

The effect of autonomous ships on the work at sea, the role of seafarers and the shipping industry.

#### #gray zone warfare

Pentagon's Non-Lethal Weapons Office Pushing Gray-Zone Warfare Tools https://news.usni.org/2019/09/24/pentagons-non-lethal-weapons-office-pushing-gray-zone-warfare-tools

#hypersonic weapons
Report to Congress on Hypersonic Weapons
https://news.usni.org/2019/09/19/9-19-2019-hypersonic-weapons

#### **#information operations**

China and Russia aren't the same when it comes to information warfare <u>https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/china-and-russia-arent-the-same-when-it-comes-to-information-warfare/</u>

#### **#operational planning**

Operational Planning Processes and Tactical Decisionmaking https://defense-and-freedom.blogspot.com/2019/09/operational-planning-processes-and.html

#### #Russia

Anticipating a New Russian Military Doctrine in 2020: What it Might Contain and Why it Matters <u>https://warontherocks.com/2019/09/anticipating-a-new-russian-military-doctrine-in-2020-what-it-might-contain-and-why-it-matters/</u>

#### #soldier kit

The Military Origins of Layering <a href="https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2019/09/how-military-science-popularized-layered-clothing/597577/">https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2019/09/how-military-science-popularized-layered-clothing/597577/</a>

#### #strategy

The Battle of Salamis: Themistocles and the Birth of Strategy <u>https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2015/9/29/the-battle-of-salamis-themistocles-and-the-birth-of-strategy</u>

DIME without the "M" is DIE: A Case for Conventional Military Power in Modern Strategy Discourse

https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2019/9/22/dime-without-the-m-is-die-a-case-for-conventionalmilitary-power-in-modern-strategy-discourse

**#war** Scene from a Cold War <u>https://mwi.usma.edu/scene-cold-war/</u> Future fiction has it insights.

# Other:

# Hurricane DORIAN Response

UNOCHA Americas @UNOCHA\_Americas 20 Sep tweeted: Bahamas: Hurricane Dorian -Defence/Military Assets (as of 20 September 2019) - bit.ly/MIassets20sep19 [Bahamas: Hurricane Dorian - Defence/Military Assets (as of 20 September 2019) https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/latin-america-and-caribbean/infographic/bahamashurricane-dorian-defencemilitary-assets-0]

From H Coombs CDA Institute )note Harold's article on Canadian lessons): Available at <a href="https://ssi.armywarcollege.edu/pubs/Parameters/">https://ssi.armywarcollege.edu/pubs/Parameters/</a> is a special edition of the United States War College journal Parameters - focused on lessons from Afghanistan. This edition includes articles concerning NATO, Canada, the Netherlands and France, along with an overview by British strategic thinker Sir Hew Strachan. The Canadian article examines the strategic lessons identified by not learned; the abstract follows: This article reflects on the evolution of Canada's whole-of-government approach in the context of international cooperation in Afghanistan. Although the effort resulted in great gains when Canadian Forces were actively involved in combat roles, the nation does not seem interested in maintaining the capability as a framework for quickly responding to current or future international crises.

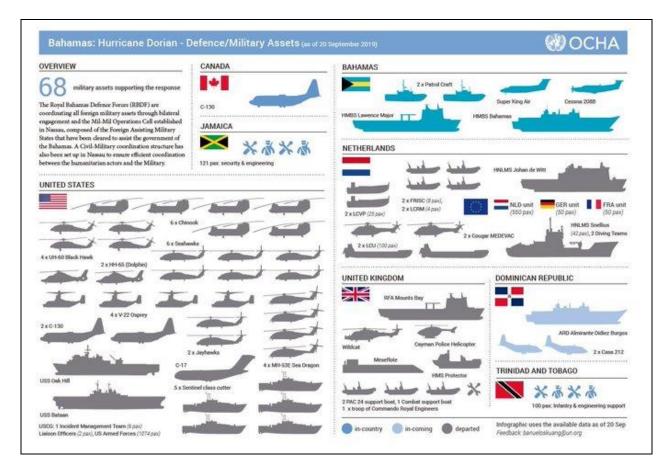
Ships' commemorative paint scheme to mark 75th anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Atlantic

https://www.facebook.com/notes/royal-canadian-navy/shipscommemorative-paint-scheme-to-mark-75th-anniversary-ofthe-end-of-the-batt/949837015378034/

*Regina* will be painted with a similar scheme and a commemorative pennant number, K34. The first *Regina*, a corvette, was K234 and the current frigate is 334.

"When the British Wanted to Camouflage Their Warships, They Made Them Dazzle" by @LinRod <u>https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/when-british-wantedcamouflage-their-warships-they-made-them-dazzle-180958657/</u> Note differences in dazzle vs Admiralty disruptive scheme





MV Asterix, Canada's Naval Supply Ship will attend DEFSEC Atlantic

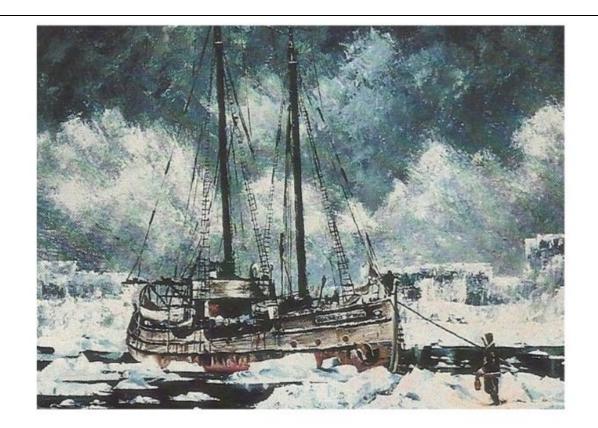
https://haligonia.ca/mv-asterix-canadas-naval-supply-ship-willattend-defsec-atlantic-268700/

DEFSEC is 1-3 Oct, Halifax.

Gabriele Molinelli @Gabriel64869839 21 Sep tweeted: Interestingly, the British Army has recently carried out, for the first time in over 40 years, a training course for Pack Transport at the Defence Animal Training Regiment. The last Pack Transport Unit disbanded in 1977.

Hmm, could Pack Transport be a special task for one of our Reserve units?





# THROUGH "A MORE NORTHERLY ROUTE"

# ST ROCH AND THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE TRANSIT OF 1944

25 September - 22 November 2019

**Naval Museum of Halifax** 

A NEW EXHIBIT BY FACULTY AND STUDENTS AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY