



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Dispatches

24 January 2020

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 RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com. 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 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, 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 admin@duncom.ca.

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.

25 January, Saturday - NS Naval Association of Canada Annual General Meeting. 0830 for 0900. Wardroom, Stadacona, CFB Halifax.

30 January, Thursday - Centre for the Study of Security and Development, Dalhousie University, and Canadian International Council, Halifax Branch, present speaker Kevin Skillin, US Consul General, "A Changing Global Order: The View from Washington and Halifax." 5-7 pm. The Halifax Club Canada, 1682 Hollis Street. For tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-changing-global-order-the-view-from-washington-and-halifax-tickets-88571785595>. See poster at end of *Dispatches*.

12 February, Wednesday - RUSI(NS) *Annual General Meeting*. Noon start. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

19 February, Wednesday - Distinguished Speaker Dr Chris Harvey-Clark, Dalhousie University and Major (retired) John McCallum, Royal Military College. Their presentation is titled "The Explosive History of HMS *Raleigh*." 1130-1330. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

17 March, Tuesday - Evening at Government House presentation by Stephen Kimber about the VE Day Riots at the end of the Second World War. See poster at end of *Dispatches* for this and further Evenings at Government House events.

18 March, Wednesday - Distinguished Speaker Dr Jonathan Fowler, Saint Mary's University, speaking about archeological surveys of Halifax. 1100-1300 (note difference from our usual timings). Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

5 April, Wednesday - (To be confirmed) Distinguished Speaker, senior officer from RCN. 1130-1330. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

20 May, Wednesday - (To be confirmed) Distinguished Speaker Chief of Halifax Regional Police Dan Kinsella, about policing in HRM. 1130-1330. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

Recent Publications:

RUSI(NS) Presentation "Office of the Veterans Ombudsman" <https://rusi-ns.ca/veterans-ombudsman-presentation/>, by Craig Dalton, 20 November 2019

RUSI(NS) Comments "Thinking Strategically about America, Canada and Iran" by Ken Hansen, 19 January 2020
<https://rusi-ns.ca/thinking-strategically-about-america-canada-and-iran/>

The Military Institute of Windsor Communiqué, Volume XXXVIII Number 2 February 2020 is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

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 the CIO at RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com. Original article title in parentheses.

"Canada's first new Joint Support Ship receives its lucky coin"
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2020/01/canadas-first-new-joint-support-ship-receives-its-lucky-coin.html> Coin used for keel-laying shows future #HMCSProtecteur retains badge of former PROTECTEUR & has been assigned new pennant (aka hull) number 520 #RCNavy #NSS

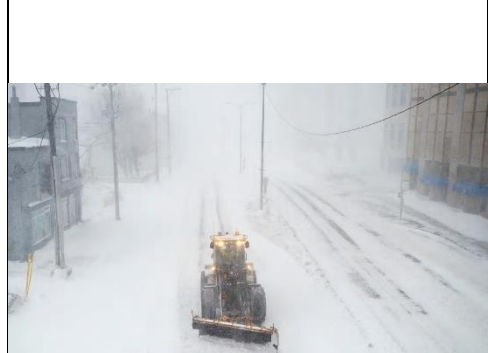


RUSI(NS) Comments "Thinking Strategically about America, Canada and Iran" <https://rusi-ns.ca/thinking-strategically-about-america-canada-and-iran/> #cdnpoli



Further, from RUSI(UK): Soleimani's Killing: The Regional Ripple Effects are Yet to Come
<https://rusi.org/commentary/soleimanis-killing-regional-ripple-effects-are-yet-come>

Bill Blair @BillBlair 18 Jan tweeted: Update on NL storm: formal Request for Assistance from the province has been received and approved. I'm in touch with @PremierofNL, @SeamusORegan, and @HarjitSajjan about how best we can help.



RUSI(NS) retweeted: 1st Operation LENTUS of 2020. #OpLENTUS = @CanadianForces assistance to province in response to natural disaster
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-lentus.html> #CAF logistics & other capabilities can be of great support to a provincial response #nlwx #nlstorm #nlblizzard2020

Ports & their capacities are significant element of defence planning & activities, especially at strategic level
<https://247customsbroker.com/index.php/2020/01/19/port-of-halifax-canadas-atlantic-gateway-to-the-world/> What #Halifax & other CAN 🇨🇦 ports can do, & their rail, road & air connections, are considerations for military, especially logistics, planners
(Port of Halifax: Canada's Atlantic Gateway to the World)



Canadian Global Affairs Institute @CAGlobalAffairs 21 Jan tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: How has #Canada navigated its complex diplomatic history over the years? Linwood DeLong offers an extensive survey of diplomatic relations for the country since 1925:



https://cgai.ca/a_guide_to_canadian_diplomatic_relations_1925_2019 #cdnpoli
(A Guide to Canadian Diplomatic Relations 1925-2019)

Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute NS with comments:

Navy LCS Gun Could Get Potent Airburst Rounds to Take Out Drones

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/01/16/navy-lcs-gun-could-get-potent-airburst-rounds-take-out-drones.html>



Proximity rounds aren't new. So there's something more to this new round than evident in the article.

Cyberwar is coming to a city near you

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-cyberwar-is-coming-to-a-city-near-you/>



Cyberwar isn't coming - cyberwar is here.

Has the US already lost the battle for the South China Sea?

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3046619/has-us-already-lost-battle-south-china-sea>



"China...has tipped the balance of power not just through a massive build-up of its navy...but also through the presence of a de facto militia made up of ostensibly non-military vessels and an island-building campaign, the profound strategic value of which has been lost on US policymakers."

China is demonstrating interesting ways in its strategy towards achieving its foreign policy goals. Island-building (hmm, thinking the games of Go and Settlers of Catan) and employment of security/safety and commercial fleets are demonstrative of modern confrontational actions. Is Canada ready to counter (to use?) such methods?

Next Ford-class Carrier to be Named After Pearl Harbor Hero Doris Miller

<https://news.usni.org/2020/01/18/next-ford-class-carrier-to-be-named-after-pearl-harbor-hero-doris-miller>



Naming a Ford-class aircraft carrier after a combat hero, no matter how well deserving (and he deserves a ship named after him) is contrary to US policy, to the extent the US follows policies. See: "Report to Congress on U.S. Navy Ship Names" (<https://news.usni.org/2020/01/01/report-to-congress-on-u-s-navy-ship-names-6>)

"Aircraft carriers are generally named for past U.S. Presidents. Of the past 14, 10 were named for past U.S. Presidents, and 2 for Members of Congress."

"Destroyers are being named for deceased members of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, including Secretaries of the Navy." Implicitly they were heroes and leaders.

On the other hand, Canada hasn't a good record following its ship naming policies, either. Whatever, naming government ships is a political matter. What will be the names of the Canadian Surface Combatants?

China's Unmanned "Mini-Destroyer" Out on Sea Trials

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/china-s-unmanned-mini-destroyer-out-on-sea-trials>



"Given its equipment, Chinese state outlet Global Times has described it in ambitious terms as a combat-ready 'mini Aegis-class destroyer.'"

Bit of hyperbole. Destroyers classically are fleet escorts, though as with any warship they have some capability for patrol, scouting and other functions. Though they originated as small ships, not much more than the torpedo boats against which they were to defend the battle fleet, destroyers are now quite large, bigger than heavy cruisers of the Second World War. So the Chinese claims can at best be called aspirational but more likely, as often, they are meant to be manipulative, to bolster pride in Chinese readers and concerns (respect?) in foreigners.

The US Navy's Three Great Intellectual Challenges

https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/01/us-navys-three-great-intellectual-challenges/162543/?oref=defenseone_today_nl



"Design the future naval force," "grapple with technological change," "buy and maintain ships." Really, these are challenges for any navy, including Canada's. Any marine service.

"...long-term challenges that must be constantly assessed, evaluated and addressed." Yes, continuous assessment is essential.

"Solving (the three challenges) will require the best-educated minds our country has to offer. We need national security thinkers and decision-makers to recognize this fact and lend their support – and their ideas – to our effort to build the intellectual capabilities of our force." That includes thinkers, willing to research, analyze and comment, outside of the military in addition to those in naval service. Defence associations especially! And amongst those in uniform, the ideas and the development of intellectual capabilities cannot be left to those with the appropriate job title or rank - it has to be as many as possible. Read, think, write.

New regs to restrict firearms, base access, travel for international military students

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2020/01/17/new-regs-to-restrict-firearms-base-access-travel-for-international-military-students/>



How many international military students are training at Canadian bases? What, if any restrictions are there on them on where they go and what they do? What security checks are made before they come to Canada and during their stays?

Chinese Dreams, Russian Realities

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/01/21/chinese-dreams-russian-realities-a68984>



Moscow Times article by Michael McFaul and Kathryn Stoner, dated 21 January 2020. The two authors are very familiar with Russia and paint a picture of overall decline.

This is a great article on Putin's decisive effect on Russia during his time as leader; well over 20 years with at least four more to come. The authors' comparison with other dictatorships is a great way to start the overall review of Mr. Putin's Russia. Under his "leadership," Russia's economic picture grew in spite of him, but barely as much as it could have grown with better leadership such as Boris Nemtsov, the more liberal leader assassinated in view of the Kremlin on 27 February 2015.

Mr. Putin's efforts last week to change the structure of government is now widely seen as a way to maintain real power once he leaves office. Demonstrations have ensued as a result. Mind you, Russia is now having virtually daily demonstrations against corruption and misuse of power by state and national leaders.

Putin is hard to ignore. He has put Russia back in a seat of international power but at great cost to Russian citizens. Russian citizens receive an average income less than many third world countries. Putin made changes to the pension act to fund a military build up and several foreign wars largely considered to be highly tainted by corruption. More importantly, his actions have left Russia vulnerable to China. Russia is in no danger at this point of a real change of government at the moment, but things are not well overall and this latest effort by Mr. Putin will not help.

Is Russia "successful" under Putin? One suspects history will not treat Mr. Putin well, but time will tell.

Who Made It Into Russia's New Cabinet?

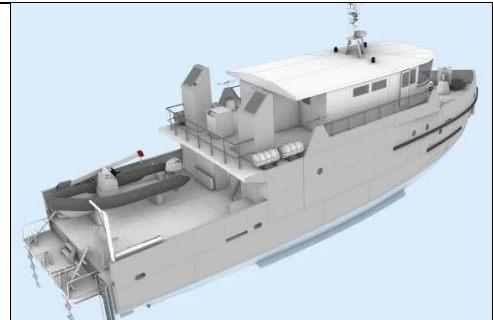
<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/01/22/who-made-it-into-russias-new-cabinet-a69004>



This shows the new Russian cabinet announced a short while today. Most are retreads such as the Foreign Minister and Defence Ministers, however, there are at least three new faces. The article gives a short biography on each of the appointees.

France orders eight diving support fast boats for navy

<https://navaltoday.com/2020/01/21/france-orders-eight-diving-support-fast-boats-for-navy/>



Leads one to wonder: what is the state of the diving boats (many designated as diving tenders) in the Royal Canadian Navy, and when are they up for replacement? Would they at some time be part of the National Shipbuilding Strategy for construction of small vessels (less than 1,000 tonnes of displacement), the second of three pillars of the strategy? Diving tenders are not currently listed (see: Small vessel shipbuilding projects <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/app-acq/amd-dp/mer-sea/sncn-nss/petitnav-smallves-eng.html>). Nor do they appear to be listed in official web pages, though their operating commands, the Fleet Diving Units, get some (base) mention (see: Maritime Forces Atlantic www.navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/about/structure-marlant-units.page and Maritime Forces Pacific <http://www.navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/about/structure-marpac-units.page>).

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.



<https://mailchi.mp/rusi.org/thisweek-17-january-167377?e=a539211a30>

Iran's Khamenei stands by Guards after unrest over downed plane

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-khamenei/iran-can-take-fight-beyond-its-borders-khamenei-says-after-u-s-strike-unrest-idUSKBN1ZG008?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2001.17.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



As Australia burns, a plan for a joint seaborne firefighting unit is getting a second look

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/australia-wildfires-canada-waterbombers-1.5425580>



RCAF still dealing with legal issues on new rescue aircraft name – military doesn't know when it will be able to announce a name

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/rcaf-still-dealing-with-legal-issues-on-new-rescue-aircraft-name-military-doesnt-know-when-it-will-be-able-to-announce-a-name>



Canadian military resumes some operations in Iraq following Iran scare

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.5428965>



If Iraqis order foreign troops out Canada will comply, defence minister says

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canada-listening-to-iraqi-concerns-about-military-mission-defence-minister-says>



Taiwan Deserves to Be a Normal Country

https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/01/15/taiwan-deserves-normal-country-tsai-election/?utm_source=PostUp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=19165&utm_term=Editor#39;s%20Picks%20OC&?tpcc=19165



A Public Relations Disaster Overtakes Iran

https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/01/12/a-public-relations-disaster-overtakes-iran-protests-airliner-suleimani/?utm_source=PostUp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=19165&utm_term=Editor#39;s%20Picks%20OC&?tpcc=19165



What to expect from Meng Wanzhou's extradition hearing this week

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/somnia-1.5429460>



Thinking Strategically about America, Canada and Iran

<https://rusi-ns.ca/thinking-strategically-about-america-canada-and-iran/>



Ordinary Brother, Exceptional General

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/iran/2020-01-15/ordinary-brother-exceptional-general>



Matt Gurney: The military is warning that homefront demands are stretching it thin. We need to listen

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/matt-gurney-the-military-is-warning-that-homefront-demands-are-stretching-it-thin-we-need-to-listen/ar-BBZ9syC?ocid=se>



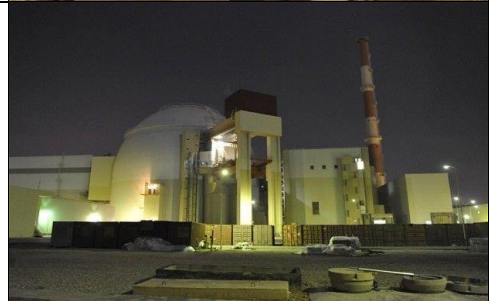
Space Force Offers First Peek at Camouflage Uniform

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/01/17/space-force-offers-first-peek-new-camouflage-uniform.html?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2001.21.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



Iran Likely To Field Nuclear Ballistic Missile In 2 Years: Israeli Intelligence

https://breakingdefense.com/2020/01/iran-likely-to-field-nuclear-icbm-in-2-years-israeli-intelligence/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2001.21.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



Explainer: Russia's cabinet quit and it's all part of Putin's plan

https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2020/01/17/explainer-russias-cabinet-quit-and-its-all-part-of-putins-plan/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2001.21.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



Canadian military goods suppliers up in arms over export permit delays under Liberals




<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/politics/canadian-military-goods-suppliers-up-in-arms-over-export-permit-delays-under-liberals/ar-BBZb8Hc?ocid=se>



Fighter jet competitors still wait to hear if they meet Canada's interoperability requirements

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/fighter-jet-competitors-still-wait-to-hear-if-they-meet-canadas-interoperability-requirements>



<p>As ‘Arctic Exceptionalism’ Melts Away, the US Isn’t Sure What It Wants Next</p> <p>https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/01/arctic-exceptionalism-melting-away-us-isnt-sure-what-it-wants-next/162557/?oref=defense_one_breaking_nl</p>	
<p>Saudi Arabia’s Phone Hacking Shows We Need Better Encryption — Not Backdoors</p> <p>https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/01/saudi-arabias-phone-hacking-shows-we-need-better-encryption-not-backdoors/162589/?oref=defense_one_breaking_nl</p>	
<p>Turkish foreign minister says Russian S-400 air defense no threat to NATO</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/article/us-davos-meeting-turkey/turkish-foreign-minister-says-russian-s-400-air-defense-no-threat-to-nato-idUSKBN1ZM1FS?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2001.23.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief</p>	

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

#A2R

Book Review: How Armies Grow In the Age of Total War 1789-1945

<https://wavellroom.com/2020/01/18/book-review-how-armies-grow-in-the-age-of-total-war-1789-1945/>

#air defence

Modern Russian and Chinese Integrated Air Defence Systems: The Nature of the Threat, Growth Trajectory and Western Options

<https://www.rusi.org/publication/occasional-papers/modern-russian-and-chinese-integrated-air-defence-systems-nature>

#information operations

The Rise of Digital Propaganda – An ‘Alt-Right’ Phenomenon?

www.strifeblog.com/2020/01/22/the-rise-of-digital-propaganda-an-alt-right-phenomenon/

#innovation

Software Wins Modern Wars: What the Air Force Learned from Doing the Kessel Run

<https://mwi.usma.edu/software-wins-modern-wars-air-force-learned-kessel-run/>

#search and rescue

Modernising the global maritime distress and safety system

<http://shipmanagementinternational.com/modernising-the-global-maritime-distress-and-safety-system/>

Other:

The Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review Volume 1, Issue 1

<https://shorensteincenter.org/announcing-hks-misinformation-review/>

"...an open-source, interdisciplinary, scholarly journal focused on all aspects of misinformation and featuring methodologically diverse, peer-reviewed, empirical research and cutting-edge commentary."
contents:

Russian Twitter disinformation campaigns reach across the American political spectrum

“Fake News” may have limited effects beyond increasing beliefs in false claims

Emphasizing publishers does not effectively reduce susceptibility to misinformation on social media

Cross-platform disinformation campaigns: lessons learned and next steps

How trust in experts and media use affect acceptance of common anti-vaccination claims

Commentary: Answering impossible questions: content governance in an age of disinformation

Commentary: Redesigning consent: big data, bigger risks

SOMNIA - Spotlight on Military News and International Affairs

<https://www.cfc.forces.gc.ca/254-eng.html>

A daily feed of news from the Canadian Forces College. Was noted in a conversation with a RUSI(NS) associate so brought now to attention of all readers.