



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Dispatches

20 March 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.

COVID-19

The RUSI(NS) Board hopes all members are well during these turbulent times. There are plenty of official sites providing information about the pandemic, and main stream media reporting is good. The same cannot be said for social media and the large number of disinformation sites that have popped up. There is a public information war going on. Be careful what you read and how you respond to it. Readers are vulnerable when emotions are inflamed. The Institute is not going to try to repeat what authorities are reporting but we will include in *Dispatches* a few links that we have come across that may be of help/interest. Meanwhile, look at all this enforced self-time as an opportunity for reading, research and writing. We would greatly appreciate your writings and comments or just bringing to our attention articles, etc.

And, most importantly, do not hesitate to reach out if you find these days trying for their forced isolation. We are, after all, social creatures and we need each other's company, even if just at a distance. RUSI(NS) is an association of like-minded people, and together we can and will get through this. Together.

MILNEWS.ca Coronavirus News/Links

<https://www.protopage.com/milnewstest#Coronavirus>

News collator.

The Lawfare Podcast: Kate Starbird on Pandemics and Infodemics

podcast: <https://www.lawfareblog.com/lawfare-podcast-kate-starbird-pandemics-and-infodemics>

Foreign Policy Magazine - Essential Coronavirus Reading: Now Free for Everyone
<https://foreignpolicy.com/projects/essential-coronavirus-reading-now-free-for-everyone/>

Global Economic Effects of Covid-19: In Brief
<https://new.usni.org/2020/03/17/report-to-congress-on-global-economic-effects-of-coronavirus>

Pandemic Readiness Toolkit
<https://www.pandemicreadinesstoolkit.fusionrm.com/s/>
Has informative map.

What Will Great Power Militaries Look Like After COVID-19?
<https://thediplomat.com/2020/03/what-will-great-power-militaries-look-like-after-covid-19/>

Which Country Has Flattened the Curve for the Coronavirus?
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/03/19/world/coronavirus-flatten-the-curve-countries.html>

Truth Decay in the Coronavirus Moment: Q&A with Jennifer Kavanagh
https://www.rand.org/blog/2020/03/truth-decay-in-the-coronavirus-moment-qa-with-jennifer.html?utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=RAND%20Review+AEM:%20%20Email%20Address%20NOT%20LIKE%20DOTMIL&utm_campaign=AEM:897182727

Prominent scientist dares to ask: Has the COVID-19 response gone too far?
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/somni-1.5502423>

Why outbreak like coronavirus spread exponentially, and how to "flatten the curve"
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/corona-simulator/>
Tweeted by a DRDC scientist.

Canadian Forces @CanadianForces 19 Mar tweeted: #DefenceTeam: we have compiled the most up-to-date information and resources related to #Covid19. We will continue to do our part to ensure risk for our military and civilian members is minimized during these ever-evolving times.
#StaySafeStayHome
<https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/campaigns/covid-19.html>
(National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces – COVID-19)

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
www.army-armee.forces.gc.ca/en/exercises-operations/covid19.page
Multiple links, from the Army.

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.

Postponed from **18 March**, new date to be determined - Distinguished Speaker Dr Jonathan Fowler, Saint Mary's University, titled "The Historical Archaeology of Halifax's Earliest Defences."

Postponed: 8 April, Wednesday – Distinguished Speaker Rear-Admiral Craig Baines, Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic, about naval activities during his tour of command.

Registration closed: **28 April**, Tuesday - Evening @ Government House presentation by Dr Marc Milner to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic. Dr Milner will present on the longest continuous naval and air campaign during the Second World War in which the RCN and RCAF played a pivotal role. See: <https://lt.gov.ns.ca/news-events/evenings-government-house>.

Postponed: 28 April, Tuesday - presentation by RUSI(NS) member Tom Tulloch, "The Royal Naval Burying Ground." Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

Postponed: 20 May, Wednesday - Distinguished Speaker to be announced. The talk by Chief of Halifax Regional Police Dan Kinsella, about policing in HRM.

Postponed: 26 May, Tuesday - presentation by RUSI(NS) member Tom Tulloch, "The Halifax Graving Doc." Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

3 June, Wednesday - Distinguished Speaker Brigadier-General Roch Pelletier, Commander 5th Canadian Division, titled "Commander 5th Canadian Division – Army Reserve Update." 1130-1330. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess. Note this is the first Wednesday of the month, not our normal third

Long range planning for the program is ongoing. Ideas welcome. There may be some short-notice events. Consideration is being made for using information technology (tele-conferencing) as part of our Distinguished Speaker events and other occasions.

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.

5thCanadianDivision @5CdnDiv 12 Mar tweeted: On his visit to #BaseGagetown, the @Army_Comd visited 4 Engineer Support Regiment, the @CanadianArmy's only general support engineer unit to hear about how they are #StrongProudReady to build facilities anywhere in the world to support @CFOperations #CCSB.
RUSI(NS) retweeted: 4 Engineer Support Regiment - close and general engineer support <http://www.army-armee.forces.gc.ca/en/5-canadian-division/4-engineer-support-regiment/index.page>



LGen Wayne Eyre @Army_Comd 12 Mar tweeted: During a visit to the 4th Artillery Regiment (General Support), #5DivSoldiers briefed on some of the @CanadianArmy's newest capabilities, the Medium Range Radar and Small Unmanned Aircraft System. #CCSB #StrongProudReady
RUSI(NS) retweeted: 4th Artillery Regiment (General Support), Royal Canadian Artillery - provides Coordination Centres (air support, fire support & surveillance & target acquisition), Divisional joint fires & targeting expertise, Small Uninhabited Aerial Systems & Medium Range Radar
www.army-armee.forces.gc.ca/en/5-canadian-division/4-artillery-regiment/index.page



.@CanadianArmy "...Black Hornet handheld micro unmanned aerial system (#UAS) provides a lightweight, portable beyond-line-of-sight capability to small units gathering intelligence on what's over the next rise or inside a building"
<https://canadianarmytoday.com/micro-reconnaissance-army-trials-black-hornet-for-iss/>
 (Micro reconnaissance: Army trials Black Hornet for ISSS)



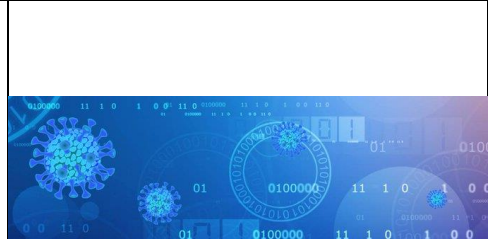
Canadian Global Affairs Institute @CAGlobalAffairs 12 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: What can the federal government learn from #FixPhoenix? Ian Mack expands on the lessons of the 2017 Goss Gilroy agility report to explain how the Government of #Canada can better manage complex projects as a whole:
https://cgai.ca/complex_project_delivery_capability_matters
 (Complex Project Delivery Capability Matters)



"Canada's cyber agency dismantling fake government coronavirus pandemic response websites"
<https://globalnews.ca/news/6673497/canada-csec-fake-coronavirus-pandemic-response-websites/> The info-war continues. Fight fear/confusion with knowledge/calm. Good to read of active CAN🇨🇦 cyber-ops #COVID19



Canadian Centre for Cyber Security @cybercentre_ca 13 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: The Cyber Centre has seen an increase in reports of malicious actors using the #CoronaVirus in phishing campaigns and malware scams. #COVID19 Protect yourself by staying informed:
<https://cyber.gc.ca/en/guidance/cyber-hygiene-covid-19>



COVID-19 fraud
<https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/features-vedette/2020/covid-19-eng.htm>

Tom Ascott @Tom_Ascott 14 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: As #coronavirus continues to spread, conspiracy theories and disinformation are spreading with it, creating an environment of fea. The #UKGovernment must combat both in tandem. Read my latest:
<https://rusi.org/commentary/infectious-lies>
 (Infectious Lies)



CDN Naval Review @CdnNavalReview 15 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Royal Navy and French Navy will accept unmanned surface vessels into their fleet this year to conduct mine countermeasures. Any chance Canada close to doing this?

<https://navyrecognition.com/index.php/news/defence-news/2020/march/8163-thales-mcm-usvs-will-enter-service-with-royal-navy-and-french-navy-in-2020.html>

(Thales MCM USVs will enter service with Royal Navy and French Navy in 2020

<https://www.navyrecognition.com/index.php/news/defence-news/2020/march/8163-thales-mcm-usvs-will-enter-service-with-royal-navy-and-french-navy-in-2020.html>)



.@CanadianForces "has seen 1,000 per cent increase over past four years in number of calls for help with floods, snowstorms, fires & other emergencies..."

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/army-maple-resolve-cancelled-1.5500982> Time for more public debate of what we expect our #CAF to be & to be able to do domestically & abroad?

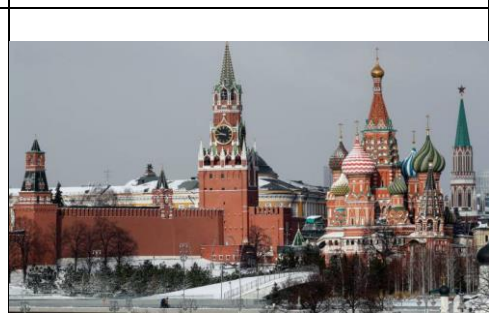
(Canadian Army cancels major training exercise to prepare for COVID-19 call out)



STRATCOMCOE @STRATCOMCOE 19 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Russian pro-Kremlin media have launched an intense disinformation campaign in western countries to undermine public trust in healthcare systems. The EU has found 80 cases of COVID-19-related disinfo since Jan 22. More from @FT

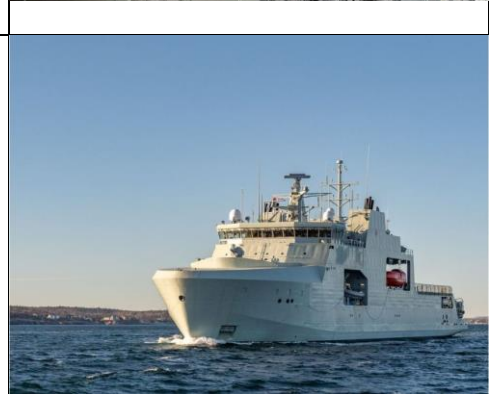
(EU warns of pro-Kremlin disinformation campaign on coronavirus

<https://www.ft.com/content/d65736da-684e-11ea-800d-da70cff6e4d3>)



Building of #RCNavy #Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessels & Halifax-class frigate maintenance at @IrvingShipbuild #Halifax suspended

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/construction-of-new-arctic-ships-maintenance-of-frigates-halted-because-of-covid-19> Unknown whether trials of #AOPS1 #HarryDeWolf (still an Irving ship) affected. Acceptance/delivery date to @RoyalCanNavy TBA



"To combat growing unmanned aircraft threat #RCNavy is investigating feasibility of employing Rotary Wing Unmanned Aircraft Systems – Targets (#UAS-T) onboard HMC Ships" Every ship a #drone carrier (Navy prepares for unmanned aircraft threats www.lookoutnewspaper.com/navy-prepares-unmanned-aircraft-threats/)



Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute NS with comments:

RCMP issues dire warning about its ability to police terrorism, foreign interference and cybercrime

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/rcmp-significant-resourcing-challenges-security-1.5492424>

"Given the increasing demands on RCMP resources, particularly on national security files, the RCMP is facing significant resourcing challenges..."



"...the RCMP's federal policing unit will concentrate its efforts on high-priority investigations related to terrorist activities, foreign interference, organized crime, money laundering, serious and organized cyber-enabled criminal activities and foreign-influenced cybercrime."

Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2020-2021 Departmental Plan

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/royal-canadian-mounted-police-2020-2021-departmental-plan>

Joint Operations Symposium 2020

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2020/03/joint-operations-symposium-2020.html>

Joint Operations Symposium 2020 "featured panel discussions that touched on: understanding Allied employment and future force concepts; Joint Operations Symposium 2020 "featured



panel discussions that touched on: understanding Allied employment and future force concepts; current operations related to pan-domain challenges; how to best compete, contest, confront, and when necessary, combat our nations' adversaries; and how a Whole-of-Government or Whole-of-Nation approach will enable the National security team to effectively address current and emerging security threats."

Australian and US forces trial UAV-dropped medical supply service

<https://www.janes.com/article/92103/australian-and-us-forces-trial-uav-dropped-medical-supply-service>

"Australian and US armed forces have evaluated an autonomous airborne delivery system capable of distributing medical supplies to forward-deployed units."

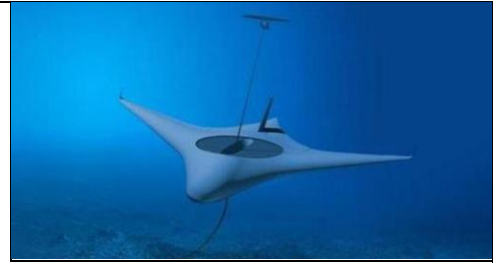


DARPA Selects 4 Companies for Work on Manta Ray UUV Program

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2020/03/darpa-selects-4-companies-for-work-on-manta-ray-uuv-program/>

"...a new class of long duration, long range, payload-capable unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs)...that operate for extended durations without the need for on-site human logistics support or maintenance offer the potential for persistent operations during longer term deployments."

Stand by for new acronym.

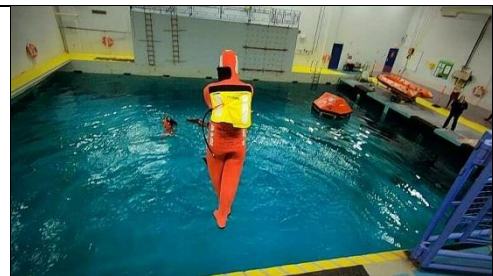


Shortage of seafarers opens the door for new recruits

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/shortage-of-seafarers-opens-the-door-for-new-recruits-1.5488160>

Naval Association of Canada asked a good question: does Canada need a National Maritime Personnel Strategy in conjunction to the National Shipbuilding Strategy?

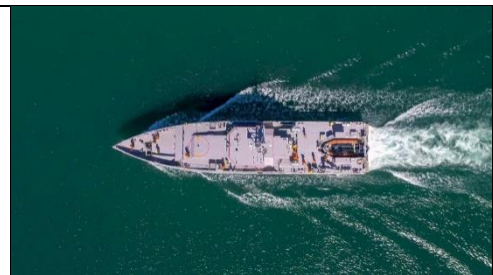
Yes, it's not just the platforms (ships, aircraft, whatever), not just the infrastructure (jetties, airfields, etc.) and not just the logistics (parts sources, supply chain), it's also the people. Hmm, maybe it's mainly the people...



Chequebook diplomacy: The battle for influence in the south Pacific

<https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/key-enablers/5727-cheque-book-diplomacy-the-battle-for-influence-in-the-south-pacific>

A form of economic warfare. Not to be lightly disregarded. The West has to win this war in all continents and ocean area. Lessons for Canada?



Why does the RAF intercept aircraft outside sovereign UK airspace?

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/why-does-the-raf-intercept-aircraft-outside-sovereign-uk-airspace/>

Reasons applicable to why any nation's air force intercepts (when it can) outside sovereign airspace. Will Canada be seeing more intercepts as Russia tries to re-flex its airpower muscles? We see enough of them as it is.



"Spyglass" Reveals Fisheries Crime

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/editorials/spyglass-reveals-fisheries-crime>

"...a platform...which publishes the criminal records of fishing vessels and seafood companies. Its aim is to help surveillance departments, NGOs and governments focus their efforts on high-risk vessels, sanction them more effectively and improve monitoring efforts."



It can be taken that Canadian Armed Forces staffs involved in Operation DRIFTNET ("support of Fisheries and Oceans Canada efforts to protect wild fish stocks world-wide from the threat of illegal, unreported and unregulated [IUU] fishing." <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-driftnet.html>) are using such tools.

Mystery Solved: The Submarine Spy Drone Captured By North Korea

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/hisutton/2020/03/11/mystery-solved-the-submarine-spy-drone-captured-by-north-korea/#5735cf021af7>

The article brings to mind (not the first occasion to do so) questions about the legalities of recovering (accidentally or deliberately) some other state's drone.

Acronym (Change) Alert! UUV = Uncrewed Underwater Vehicle



Why the United States Needs a Merchant Marine – A Historical Basis

<https://gcaptain.com/why-the-united-states-needs-a-merchant-marine-a-historical-basis/>

Does Canada need (again) a Merchant Navy? What should it look like? What relationship should it have with the Royal Canadian Navy and federal government maritime departments? What defence and security roles might there be for a Merchant navy? What government support should there be for a Merchant Navy? Should it be part of the National Shipbuilding Strategy?



Climate Refugees: Our Problem From Hell

<https://wavelroom.com/2019/07/02/climate-refugees-our-problem-from-hell/>

A UK perspective, but what lessons/thoughts can be taken away by Canada?



5 Unique Weapons Of Cuba's Garage-Built Navy

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/hisutton/2020/03/15/5-unique-weapons-of-cubas-garage-built-navy/#4468f9d62acc>

Hmm, improvised warships. (Really, warships started that way.) That could make for some interesting intelligence assessments (not just of Cuba).

<grin> A different approach to a National Shipbuilding Strategy. Please that Canada never has to resort to this. "Garage shipbuilding."

Nice infographic - gains attention.



Spanish Influenza's Final Lesson

<https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/spanish-influenzas-final-lesson/>

Lessons for emergency planners and operations staffs everywhere. Actually, lessons for everyone.



Coast Guard Struggling to Get Ships Repaired as Navy Expands Use of Smaller Yards

<https://news.usni.org/2020/03/16/coast-guard-struggling-to-get-cutters-repaired-as-navy-expands-use-of-smaller-yards>

Kinda wonder whether Canadian shipyards could pick up US Coast Guard maintenance contracts.

"Part of this has to do with capacity: the yards do not have enough dry docks..." Yes, dry docks are a strategic resource. What does Canada have and are there enough of them?



Attacks on DOD Networks Soar as Telework Inflicts 'Unprecedented' Loads

<https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2020/03/attacks-dod-networks-spike-telework-brings-unprecedented-loads/163812/>



This was predictable. Lessons for Canadian military and other government departments?

Watch the Army test the new 'Hawkeye' Humvee-mounted howitzer

<https://taskandpurpose.com/military-tech/army-hawkeye-humvee-howitzer>



Innovative (popular concept these days). Kinda reminds one of an earlier RUSI(NS) posting, "5 Unique Weapons of Cuba's Garage-Built Navy" (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/hisutton/2020/03/15/5-unique-weapons-of-cubas-garage-built-navy/#43fc8df02acc>). Will there be more of these lash-ups as a response to the need to provide capability to militaries in the face of rising platform costs?

Such capabilities may do well in the Reserves.

US is preparing to ban foreign-made drones from government use

<https://techcrunch.com/2020/03/11/us-order-foreign-drones/>



War in the Time of Coronavirus: To Prepare for Great-Power Conflict, Plan for Epidemics

<https://mwi.usma.edu/war-time-coronavirus-prepare-great-power-conflict-plan-epidemics/>



A couple of thoughts come to mind in reading this. First, the importance of medical intelligence. Canada may not have equivalents to the US Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch and National Center for Medical Intelligence, but there assuredly are capabilities in the Canadian Armed Forces and other government departments and agencies (e.g., Public Health Agency of Canada) that do similar. The Forces and civil agencies are sharing information about the ongoing pandemic. Second, what with the overwhelming effect disease can have and the necessity for whole-of-force, whole-of-government and whole-of-nation responses, it is important that extensive planning for and exercising of operating in a disease environment be undertaken prior. How much of that and whether it was adequate for the current situation will be a focus of post-incident reviews (conducted in the 'new normal,' as we won't be going back to pre-incident conditions).

In addition to sharing with Canadian civil authorities, the Canadian Armed Forces have robust sources of medical intelligence with other countries, including from the '5 Eyes' (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States) partnership.

Canadian Army cancels major training exercise to prepare for COVID-19 call out

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/army-maple-resolve-cancelled-1.5500982>

"The military has seen a 1,000 per cent increase over the past four years in the number of calls for help with floods, snowstorms, fires and other emergencies..."

The article reports a planned review as to whether government needs "to boost the capabilities of the military, including the reserves, which often play a key role, or civil organizations that are also tasked with responding to emergencies."

When the last defence review occurred, the questions were (still are): what do Canadians want their country to be able to do abroad and at home, and what do Canadians want their military to do as part of that? How the military should be structured and equipped in response to those two questions is really one to be answered by the experts within the Forces (although getting outside opinions, especially from retired military, is a good thing to do as it potentially provides 'out-of-the-box' thinking). Canadians have indicated expectations in the number of requests from provinces, etc., for assistance from their Forces in response to natural disasters and other emergencies. As part of this next review, would it not be a good time for more public discussion?



Trump: Hospital Ship Comfort to go to New York City, Mercy Set for West Coast Support

<https://news.usni.org/2020/03/18/trump-hospital-ship-comfort-to-go-to-new-york-city-mercy-set-for-west-coast-support>



Hospital ships, like hospitals, can be specialized. Naval hospital ships focus on trauma treatment, the kind of injuries that result from conflict. In themselves, they are not the best for treating large numbers of infectious casualties (though the possibility of those is a planning factor, as bio-warfare has to be considered). What they can do is relieve the civil infrastructure of regular cases so that civil facilities can focus on their pandemic response.

Canada does not currently operate hospital ships. There is a medical capability in the replenishment oiler ASTERIX, leased to the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), but the capability is designed to serve the needs of a naval task group, not those of a city. ASTERIX could be loaded with a hospital-in-a-box (a worthwhile capability for humanitarian assistance and disaster response) but that capability has not yet been demonstrated during her time in RCN service. As with MERCY and COMFORT, a limiting factor could be the availability of medical staff. The desirability of a hospital ship in Canadian service

was noted at "We Need a Hospital Ship – Stat!" (<https://defence.frontline.online/article/2016/4/5204-We-Need-a--Hospital-Ship---Stat%21>).

Canada has operated hospital ships in the past (see: "Canadian Military Hospitals at Sea 1914-1919" <https://www.royalcdnmedicalsvc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/CANADIAN-HOSPITAL-SHIPS-1914-19.pdf> and http://www.forposterityssake.ca/RCN-SHIP-INDEX.htm#HOSPITAL_SHIPS) in addition to taking advantage of His Majesty's Hospital Ships and those of other nations.

See also: Pentagon Preparing Navy Hospital Ships Mercy, Comfort for Coronavirus Response <https://news.usni.org/2020/03/17/pentagon-preparing-navy-hospital-ships-mercy-comfort-for-coronavirus-response>

Plans for LSS and FSSS vessels may be scrapped in favour of MRSS

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/plans-for-lss-and-fsss-vessels-may-be-scrapped-in-favour-of-mrssl/>



Multi-role support and logistics vessels of a moderate size, capable of replenishment-at-sea; transport and delivery of troops, vehicles, equipment and supplies, with a mix of ship-to-shore offloading and logistics capabilities through landing craft, boat operations and multi-spot aviation (essentially, a 'sea truck') may be the most useful type of vessel to build these day (whilst ensuring sufficient submarines and general purpose escort and patrol vessels). Canada could do with a number of these. Certainly Canadian shipbuilders have pitched the concept design to government. Another way to fill gaps in our yards' building programs? We need to ensure a continuous program to ensure our trained people and strategic assets are retained.

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.



This Week

<https://mailchi.mp/rusi.org/thisweek-13-march-167757?e=a539211a30>



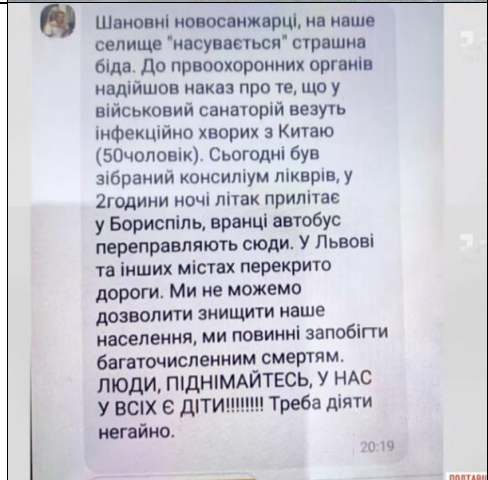
Germany plans to send a warship to the Indian Ocean

https://www.federaltimes.com/global/europe/2020/03/12/germany-plans-to-send-a-warship-to-the-indian-ocean/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2003.13.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



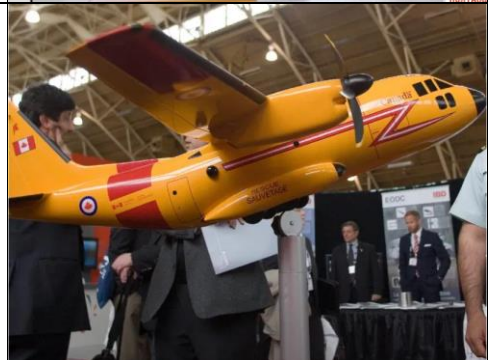
Viral Disinformation: The Kremlin's Coronavirus Information Operation in Ukraine

<http://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/viral-disinformation-kremlin%E2%80%99s-coronavirus-information-operation-ukraine>



Major defence conferences in Ottawa to proceed despite virus; other military events cancelled

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/major-defence-conferences-in-ottawa-to-proceed-despite-virus-other-military-events-cancelled>



UPDATED: Canadian military personnel told not to leave country as government plans to deal with COVID-19

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canadian-military-personnel-told-not-to-leave-country-as-government-plans-to-deal-with-novel-coronavirus>



F-35 work continues in Italy despite coronavirus lockdown

https://www.defensenews.com/congress/2020/03/10/f-35-work-goes-on-in-italy-despite-coronavirus-lockdown/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2003.11.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



ALEX McCOLL: MacKay ironically lining up against fighter-jet jobs in his own backyard

<https://www.thetelegram.com/opinion/national-perspectives/alex-mccoll-mackay-ironically-lining-up-against-fighter-jet-jobs-in-his-own-riding-420208/>



Japan unveils its hypersonic weapons plans

https://www.defensenews.com/industry/techwatch/2020/03/13/japan-unveils-its-hypersonic-weapons-plans/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2003.16.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



Chief of the Defence Staff announces Lieutenant-General Mike Rouleau as the new Vice Chief of the Defence Staff as part of the 2020 Canadian Armed Forces General and Flag Officer senior appointments, promotions, and retirement

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2020/03/chief-of-the-defence-staff-announces-lieutenant-general-mike-rouleau-as-the-new-vice-chief-of-the-defence-staff-as-part-of-the-2020-canadian-armed-.html>



Promotions and Senior Appointments 2020 - General and Flag Officers

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2020/03/promotions-and-senior-appointments-2020---general-and-flag-officers.html>



Congressional watchdog skeptical on new F-35 logistics system

<https://www.defensenews.com/air/2020/03/16/congressional-watchdog-skeptical-on-new-f-35-logistics-system/>



Allies shoulder for influence in the Gulf region as naval security remains top priority

https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2020/03/16/allies-shoulder-for-influence-in-the-gulf-region-as-naval-security-remains-top-priority/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2003.17.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



F-35 Factories In Italy, Japan Are Reopening After Closing for Coronavirus

https://www.defenseone.com/business/2020/03/italys-f-35-line-shuts-down-japans-reopens/163862/?oref=defenseone_today_nl



Canada orders soldiers on leave abroad to return home, self-isolate

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/canada-orders-soldiers-on-leave-abroad-to-return-home-self-isolate/ar-BB11klz5?ocid=se2>



Canada, U.S. to close border to non-essential travel

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-canada-us-to-close-border-to-non-essential-travel/>



HUAWEI RISK ISA CHINA RISK: Why Canada needs to ban Huawei's involvement in 5G

https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/files/pdf/20200309_MLI_Huawei_Risk_Chen_PAPER_FWeb.pdf?mc_cid=9526a0928c&mc_eid=a8426c0175



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

#3D printing

Right-Wing Extremists’ New Weapon

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/right-wing-extremists-new-weapon>

#army development

US Army ventures down path to electrify the brigade

<https://www.defensenews.com/2020/03/16/us-army-ventures-down-path-to-electrify-the-brigade>

#airpower

Reviewing McCain and the Triumph of Naval Air Power

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2020/3/11/reviewing-mccain-and-the-triumph-of-naval-air-power>

#artificial intelligence

An AI early warning system to monitor online disinformation, stop violence, and protect elections

<https://thebulletin.org/2020/03/an-ai-early-warning-system-to-monitor-online-disinformation-stop-violence-and-protect-elections/>

China’s Scary Vision of Future Warfare: Humans Are Obsolete

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/china’s-scary-vision-future-warfare-humans-are-obsolete-119996>

How to Train Your AI Soldier Robots (and the Humans Who Command Them)

<https://warontherocks.com/2020/02/how-to-train-your-ai-soldier-robots-and-the-humans-who-command-them/>

#Canadian Armed Forces

Promotions and Senior Appointments 2020 - General and Flag Officers

<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/news/2020/03/promotions-and-senior-appointments-2020---general-and-flag-officers.html>

#child soldiers

Why are children still being recruited to fight in horrifying adult wars?

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/opinion-why-are-children-still-being-recruited-to-fight-in-horrifying-adult-wars>

#China

Ignorance of China is not bliss

<https://navalinstitute.com.au/ignorance-of-china-is-not-bliss/>

650 Warships and Counting: Here's How Large china's Navy Is

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/650-warships-and-counting-heres-how-large-chinas-navy-132362>

#command

The Function of an Army Executive Officer at the Company and Battalion Levels

<https://everitas.rmclub.ca/case-study-the-function-of-an-army-executive-officer-at-the-company-and-battalion-levels/>

#cyberops

The Cyberspace Solarium Commission was established to "develop a consensus on a strategic approach to defending the United States in cyberspace against cyber attacks of significant consequences." The Commission's report of March 11, 2020 is at: <https://www.solarium.gov/report>. Some reporting on the report:

- Defending Forward by Defending Norms

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/defending-forward-defending-norms>

- Confronting the Ubiquity of Norms in Cyberspace and Cyber Governance

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/confronting-ubiquity-norms-cyberspace-and-cyber-governance>

- Digital Strangelove: The Cyber Dangers of Nuclear Weapons

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/digital-strangelove-cyber-dangers-nuclear-weapons>

- Operationalizing Defend Forward: How the Concept Works to Change Adversary Behavior

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/operationalizing-defend-forward-how-concept-works-change-adversary-behavior>

- Ensuring the Cybersecurity and Resilience of the Defense Industrial Base

<https://www.lawfareblo.com/ensuring-cybersecurity-and-resilience-defense-industrial-base>

- The U.S. Government Can Deepen Its Operational Partnership With the Private Sector to Better Defend the U.S. in Cyberspace

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/us-government-can-deepen-its-operational-partnership-private-sector-better-defend-us-cyberspace>

Can cyberwarfare be regulated?

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/can-cyberwarfare-be-regulated/>

Cyber Deterrence Is Dead. Long Live Cyber Deterrence!

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/cyber-deterrence-dead-long-live-cyber-deterrence>

#drones

U.S. Army Future Warfare Division White Paper:

Operationalizing Robotic and Autonomous Systems in Support of Multi-Domain Operations

<https://publicintelligence.net/us-army-robotic-autonomous-multi-domain-ops/>

#learning

Why is the Army Preparing for 21st-Century War with a 19th-Century Approach to Learning?

<https://mwi.usma.edu/army-preparing-21st-century-war-19th-century-approach-learning/>

#multi-domain operations

The U.S. Army in Multi-Domain Operations 2028

<https://publicintelligence.net/usarmy-multidomain-ops-2028/>

#navies

The 1 Thing Aircraft Carriers Must Do or Else Face Their Doom

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/1-thing-aircraft-carriers-must-do-or-else-face-their-doom-131972>

leads to:

US Think Tank Calls for 'Fundamental Reshape' of US Surface Fleet to Defeat Chinese Threat

<https://csbaonline.org/about/news/us-think-tank-calls-for-fundamental-reshape-of-us-surface-fleet-to-defeat-chinese-threat>

and the report itself:

Taking Back the Seas: Transforming the U.S. Surface Fleet for Decision-Centric Warfare
<https://csbaonline.org/research/publications/taking-back-the-seas-transforming-the-u.s-surface-fleet-for-decision-centric-warfare/publication/1>
Lessons applicable to other navies such as Canada's?
(Interesting Center for is publications: [https://csbaonline.org/research/publications?categories\[\]=131](https://csbaonline.org/research/publications?categories[]=131))

#policing

National Domestic Communications Assistance Center Presentation:
Quantifying Law Enforcement's "Going Dark" Problem
<https://publicintelligence.net/ndcac-statistics-collection-tool/>

#reading

United Nations Truce Supervision Organization Recommended Reading List for Military Experts on Mission – 2020
<https://cove.army.gov.au/article/united-nations-truce-supervision-organization-untso-recommended-reading-list-military>
At Home During the Pandemic: A Contingency National Security Reading List
<https://theforge.defence.gov.au/home-during-pandemic-contingency-national-security-reading-list>

#Reserves

JTF1110 Op Bushfire Assist Experiences | Combat Engineer Troop Commander
<https://cove.army.gov.au/article/jtf1110-op-bushfire-assist-experiences-combat-engineer-troop-commander>

#Russia

Joint Staff Strategic Multilayer Assessment: Russian Strategic Intentions
<https://publicintelligence.net/sma-russian-strategic-intentions/>

#strategy

The Wages of War Without Strategy
<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2017/6/20/the-wages-of-war-without-strategy>

#terrorism

A Sharper Image: Advancing a Risk-Based Response to Terrorist Financing
<https://rusi.org/publication/occasional-papers/sharper-image-advancing-risk-based-response-terrorist-financing>

#urban warfare

Analysing the Urban Attack: Insights from Soviet doctrine as a 'model checklist'
<https://researchcentre.army.gov.au/library/land-power-forum/analysing-urban-attack-insights-soviet-doctrine-model-checklist>
Australian Army Research Centre: "...Soviet urban doctrine can be used to examine how new technologies might deliver comparable effects faster, cheaper and—above all—at lower risk."

#war

War in the Time of Coronavirus: To Prepare for Great-Power Conflict, Plan for Epidemics
<https://mwi.usma.edu/war-time-coronavirus-prepare-great-power-conflict-plan-epidemics/>

Protracted Great-Power War - A Preliminary Assessment

<https://www.cnas.org/publications/reports/protracted-great-power-war>

What Is War? Defining War, Conflict and Competition

<https://researchcentre.army.gov.au/library/land-power-forum/what-war-defining-war-conflict-and-competition>

Other:

Oceans Protection Plan newsletter

<https://www.tc.gc.ca/en/initiatives/oceans-protection-plan/oceans-protection-plan-newsletter.html>



The Government of Canada is pleased to launch an Oceans Protection Plan e-newsletter.

Through this newsletter, the Government of Canada will regularly share the latest news on the Oceans Protection Plan and work being done in partnership with coastal communities and Indigenous peoples to protect our coasts.

Visit our [Oceans Protection Plan newsletter](#) page for instructions on how to sign up.



 Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada



Global Defence Technology Issue 109 March 2020

https://defence.nridigital.com/global_defence_technology_mar20/contents

contents:

Scorpion: France's collaborative combat platform in action

Could the UK get a space command?

Tomorrow's tankers

Arms transfers on the rise

Modern-day war games

New vehicles for a new era

Dealing with drone threats

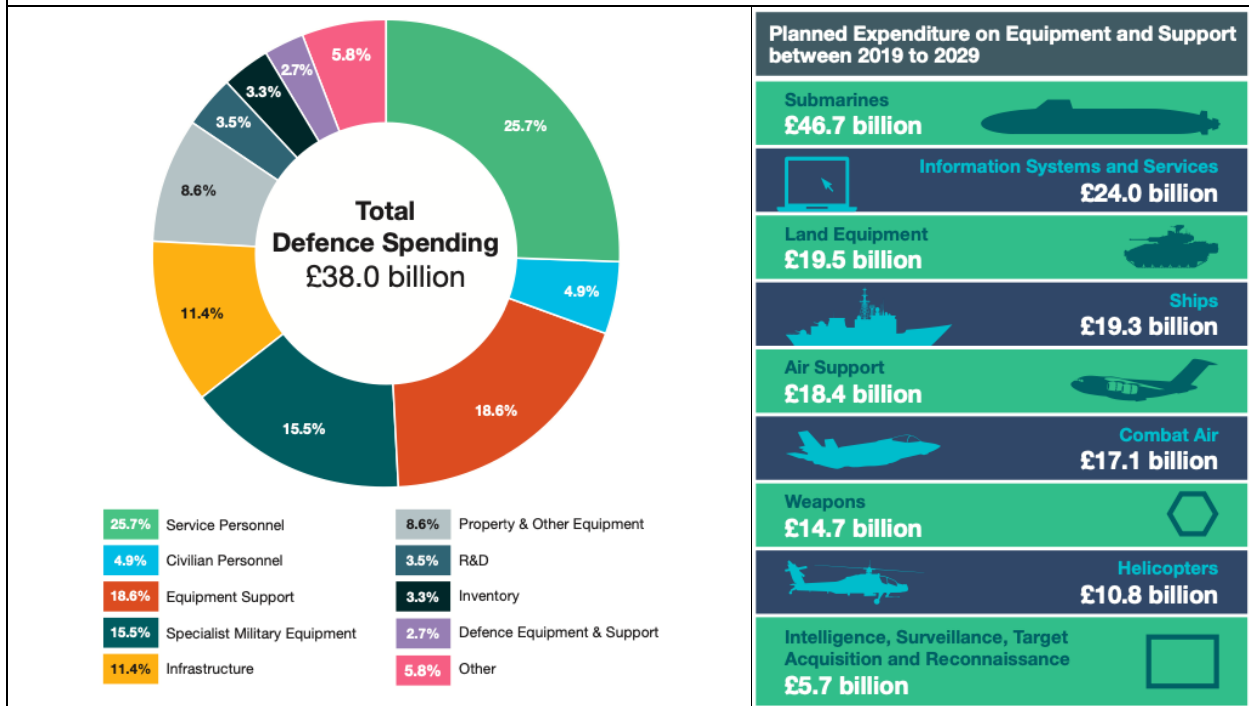
The intelligent ship, one year in

Infrastructure costs

UK but interesting example of use of silhouettes and graphics in making the point. What would Canadian versions look like?

Andy Netherwood @AndyNetherwood 14 Mar tweeted: Infrastructure is one of the few areas where the armed forces have any spending discretion so it's been neglected for decades to find savings and fund equipment. That's why the estate is so bad and basics like hot water often not there. Infra is the hidden Defence deficit.

(<https://twitter.com/AndyNetherwood/status/1238822039449993216>)



Australian Army Research Centre (@AARCAusArmy) website, "featuring a #LandPowerForum built to enable debate, an #AustralianArmyJournal archive and detailed information of AARC's various programs": <https://researchcentre.army.gov.au>

Land Power Forum

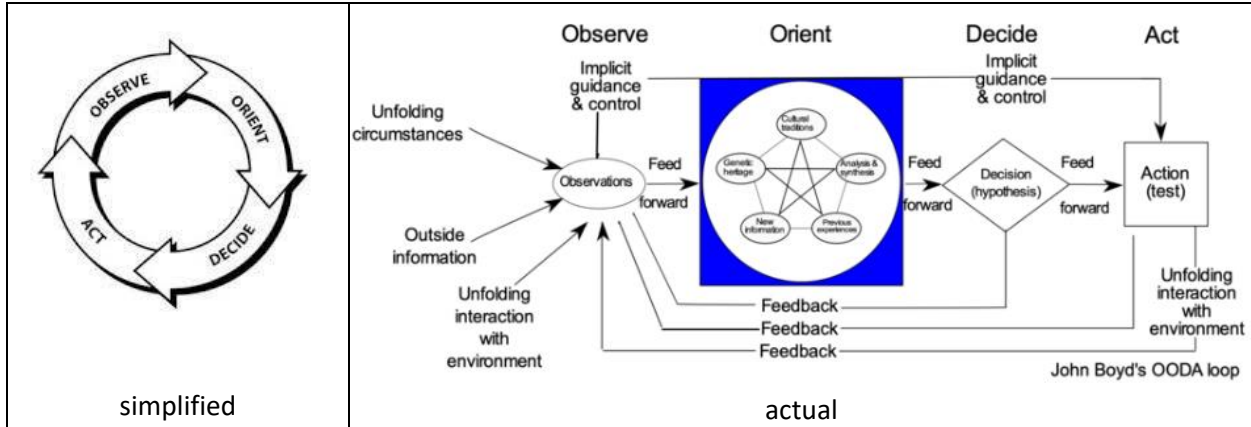
<https://researchcentre.army.gov.au/library/land-power-forum>

"The Land Power Forum blog is published by the Australian Army Research Centre in order to generate discussion and debate about the future of Army."

OODA Loop

The Strategy Bridge @Strategy_Bridge 17 Mar tweeted: #TheBridgeStrengthens, expand your perspective with Alastair Luft's thought provoking article 'The OODA Loop and the Half-Beat'. #Strategy #NatSec

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2020/3/17/the-ooda-loop-and-the-half-beat>



Pandemic

Dale Gilbert Jarvis @DaleJarvis 15 Mar tweeted: Instructions regarding Spanish Influenza, Evening Telegram (St. John's, N.L.), 1918-10-15.

It's interesting, the parallels between these instructions and those for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

SPANISH INFLUENZA.

Instructions to Outport Magistrates.

Requests are constantly being sent to the Board of Health by Outport Magistrates for instructions in dealing with the influenza epidemic. The following points are to be noted:---

1. The disease is highly contagious.
2. It is spread very largely by contact one with another.
3. It is advisable to prohibit any unnecessary gathering of people about stores, street corners, etc.
4. Close schools, churches, theatres, etc., if there is any indication of spread of disease.
5. Avoid a panic, but take this thing seriously and co-operate with the doctors, following strictly the advice given.
6. Good ventilation is very important—therefore admit sunlight and fresh air as much as possible.
7. Do not allow the patient to spit, and when coughing cover the mouth.
8. Never neglect the precaution of washing the hands before eating or after contact with a sick person.

Quarantine is difficult to establish with any degree of success and the presence of the police in an attempt to enforce quarantine would create more panic.

N. S. FRASER,
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

oct15,61