



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 27 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

We continue with our COVID-19 reporting, commenced last *Dispatches*. As then stated, there are plenty of official sites providing information about the pandemic, and main stream media reporting is good. Our political and public health leaders are leading. Interesting developments include an almost 'mobilization of industry for war' approach, and the use of 3D printing/additive manufacturing for producing needed equipment.

There is a lot going on in the world other than the pandemic, though media (mainstream and social) reporting is so dominated by the pandemic that it is hard to pick out other news in the noise. You can help your fellow *Dispatches* readers by bringing interesting topics to the attention of the editors. And, as always, we would greatly appreciate your writings and comments in this time of enforced self-time.

This period of isolation is only in its early days (it likely will go on for months). Reach out if you find the days trying. As declared in Nova Scotia: compassion, community, common sense (to which a wag added: chocolate!).

COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool

<https://ca.thrive.health/covid19/en>

National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces – COVID-19

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/campaigns/covid-19.html>

Government of Canada website: Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Prepare for multiple waves of COVID-19 over 12 months: military chief to troops

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/prepare-for-multiple-waves-of-covid-19-over-12-months-military-chief-to-troops/ar-BB11tajS?ocid=se2>

US Navy Working to Keep Subs and Destroyers From Becoming COVID-19 Hotspots

https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2020/03/us-navy-working-keep-subs-and-destroyers-becoming-covid-19-hotspots/163942/?oref=defenseone_today_nl

Infectious Lies

<https://rusi.org/commentary/infectious-lies>

Coronavirus Preparedness: Lessons Yet to be Learnt

<https://rusi.org/commentary/coronavirus-preparedness-lessons-yet-be-learnt>

We Predicted a Coronavirus Pandemic. Here's What Policymakers Could Have Seen Coming.

<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/03/07/coronavirus-epidemic-prediction-policy-advice-121172>

Coronavirus Will Change the World Permanently. Here's How.

<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/03/19/coronavirus-effect-economy-life-society-analysis-covid-135579>

Winning the war for prosperity – the military, supply chain security and the post-pandemic world

<https://logisticsinwar.com/2020/03/22/winning-the-war-for-prosperity-the-military-supply-chain-security-and-the-post-pandemic-world/>

Google launches educational coronavirus website

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/03/21/politics/google-coronavirus-information-website/index.html>

HHS' pandemic simulation showed how US was ill prepared for coronavirus

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/19/politics/hhs-pandemic-simulation-crimson-contagion-report/index.html>

Putting aside any politics of the reporting, note the key findings report of Exercise CRIMSON CONTAGION:

<https://int.nyt.com/data/documenthelper/6824-2019-10-key-findings-and-after/05bd797500ea55be0724/optimized/full.pdf>

Further reporting is at:

Before Trump's inauguration, a warning: 'The worst influenza pandemic since 1918

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/03/16/trump-inauguration-warning-scenario-pandemic-132797>

with presentation at:

Facilitated Group Discussion Pandemic Response

<https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000170-e50c-d588-ab77-ed5ff3310000>

Royal Canadian Navy Update - Ongoing COVID-19 Response

www.navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/news-operations/news-view.page?doc=royal-canadian-navy-update-ongoing-covid-19-response/k7njkm3

3D Printing Community responds to COVID-19 and Coronavirus resources

<https://3dprintingindustry.com/news/3d-printing-community-responds-to-covid-19-and-coronavirus-resources-169143/>

Coronavirus - Analysis on the impact of the Coronavirus on defence and security.

<https://rusi.org/content/coronavirus>

Economic Implications of Social Distancing to August

<https://www.conferenceboard.ca/research/economic-implications-of-social-distancing>

The Strategist and the Virus Crisis

<https://mwi.usma.edu/strategist-virus-crisis/>

Government Surveillance in an Age of Pandemics

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/government-surveillance-age-pandemics>

Economic impact of epidemics and pandemics

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_BRI\(2020\)646195](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_BRI(2020)646195)

How Taiwan is leading by example in the global war on the COVID-19 pandemic

<https://www.macdonaldlaurier.ca/taiwan-leading-example-global-war-covid-19-pandemic-new-mli-commentary/>

The general public uses a small part of the available English language (see: "If I May Use Some of It" <http://www.full-stop.net/2016/02/23/blog/simon-chandler/if-i-may-use-some-of-it/>) That's because many of the words are very technical and used by small technical groups of people. Two of those words that are relevant in these COVID-19 days and may be useful considering what so many of us are talking about to the few people we can talk to are:

1. zoonosis - an infectious disease caused by bacteria, viruses, or parasites that spread from non-human animals to humans; and
2. nosocomial - a hospital-acquired infection, also known as a nosocomial infection, is an infection that is acquired in a hospital or other health care facility.

Hey, a lot of us have the time to brush up on our reading these days...

"You are being watched..."

EthicalGEO on Twitter 24 Mar: "Location data analysis company @Unacast has unveiled a "Social Distancing Scoreboard," using cell phone data to measure how well people are restricting their movements. #EthicalGEO

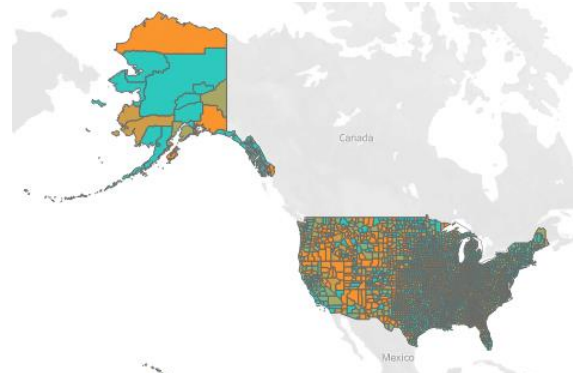
(Social Distancing Scoreboard

<https://www.unacast.com/covid19/social-distancing-scoreboard>)

The interesting (scary?) thing about this data kludging is how it highlights that people's movements are being tracked via their cellphones.

And then there's overseas: Europe eyes smartphone location data to stem virus spread

<https://www.fifthdomain.com/international/2020/03/24/europe-eyes-smartphone-location-data-to-stem-virus-spread/>



And at home: Trudeau leaves door open to using smartphone data to track Canadians' compliance with pandemic rules

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.5508236>

How the Coronavirus War Economy Will Change the United States and the World Forever

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/03/26/the-coronavirus-war-economy-will-change-the-world/>

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: 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 hours. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess. Note this is the first Wednesday of the month, not our normal third

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."





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.

Naval War College Naval & Maritime News @NavalNews 19 Mar tweeted: #China Threatens Use of #NonLethal Electromagnetic and Laser Weapons Against #USNavy Ships Transiting #SouthChinaSea

<https://washingtontimes.com/news/2020/mar/18/china-threatens-electronic-strikes-on-navy/>

RUSI(NS) retweeted: May be 'nonlethal' but is still an attack. Use of force even if non-kinetic to back up illegal claims of



<p>sovereignty is getting concerning (China threatens electronic strikes on Navy)</p>	
<p>North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary General's Annual Report 2019 (19 March 2020) https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions_174406.htm #NATO</p>	
<p>"How can Canada's military help in the coronavirus pandemic – and why has it largely avoided doing so?" https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-how-can-canadas-military-help-in-the-coronavirus-pandemic-and-why/ In emergencies, @CanadianForces capability to plan&conduct logistics (inherent strength to #CAF) in spt of civil authorities/ops is significant/useful</p>	
<p>CADSI @CadsCanada 20 Mar tweeted: "Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is announcing a new plan to mobilize businesses and manufacturers to help fight the spread of the virus and boost the health sector's stockpile of life-saving supplies." (Trudeau unveils new measures to mobilize industry in COVID-19 fight, bring Canadians home https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/trudeau-unveils-new-measures-to-mobilize-industry-in-covid-19-fight-bring-canadians-home-4861302) RUSI(NS) retweeted: Similarities, & appropriately so, between this mobilization of industry to fight #COVID19 & mobilization of industry & research&development during world wars. It's all about logistics</p>	
<p>EUvsDisinfo @EUvsDisinfo 20 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: The #COVID19 outbreak has been accompanied by a massive #infodemic flooding the EU and its neighbourhood. More on the current information environment in this special report. (EEAS SPECIAL REPORT: Disinformation on the coronavirus – short assessment of the information environment https://euvsdisinfo.eu/eeas-special-report-disinformation-on-the-coronavirus-short-assessment-of-the-information-environment/)</p>	

Could #RCNavy replenishment oiler ASTERIX support response to #COVID19?
<https://www.facebook.com/618819224873298/photos/a.826825104072708/2843204119101453/> May not be a hospital ship but there are ways capable multi-role ships could contribute to CAN🇨🇦 team



Good article covering possible @CanadianForces assistance to civil authorities "Canadian Armed Forces prep coronavirus response plan, but no request for help yet"
<https://globalnews.ca/news/6708040/canadian-armed-forces-coronavirus-response-preparation/> #COVID19



Modular Ocean Research Infrastructure (MORI) - to deploy "modular, portable infrastructure" temporarily on industry "workhorse" & other "non-specialised vessels" (#RCNavy #Arctic&Offshore Patrol Vessels #AOPS)
<https://bulletin.cmos.ca/modular-ocean-research-infrastructure/>
Great idea to increase CAN🇨🇦 research vessels (Modular Ocean Research Infrastructure [MORI]: A Flexible, Scalable and Affordable Approach to Ocean-going Research in Canada and Worldwide)



Operation LASER #OpLASER = @CanadianForces response to worldwide pandemic situation #COVID19
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/laser.html> Lines of effort: Preserve & protect #CAF personnel; assess CAF activities at home & abroad; support other government departments



ASPI @ASPI_org 22 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: 'It's time to break with the idea that capabilities in Defence are "structured for war, adapted for peace". Natural and man-made disasters...will be more frequent and more damaging' writes @michael_ASPI in this piece originally published in the @australian (Military must find a new balance
<https://www.aspi.org.au/opinion/military-must-find-new-balance>)



CIMSEC @CIMSEC 23 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: SEA CONTROL 165: Join @jwsc03 and @TimDotChoi to discuss Canadian Navy recapitalization new frigates, joint support ships and offshore patrol vessels, the Victoria-class submarines and Canadian naval aviation! #PodFightWin @CAFinUS (Canadian Fleet Recapitalization with Tim Choi <https://sea-control.simplecast.com/episodes/sea-control-165-canadian-fleet-recapitalization-with-tim-choi>)



Last & 1,587th @CanadianForces medium logistics vehicle rolled out <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2020/02/the-last-medium-logistics-vehicle-nearing-the-end-of-a-major-project.html> SMP logistics vehicles, capacity 9.5 tonnes, significantly increase #CAF capability to transport equipment, personnel & supplies in int'l & domestic operations



Canadian Global Affairs Institute @CAGlobalAffairs 24 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: "The idea that they're planning to be at this for a year is absolutely bang on," @DavePerryCGAI told CBC about @CanadianForces #COVID19 planning exercise, noting the unprecedented complexity of a federal government with its workforce isolated at home: (Prepare for multiple waves of COVID-19 over 12 months: military chief to troops <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/covid19-military-vance-1.5504247>)



Passenger ship refitted as hospital ship for #COVID19 relief <https://www.seatrade-cruise.com/news/splendid-case-study-how-first-passenger-ship-was-transformed-coronavirus-relief> Innovative (& historically common) use of ships not otherwise busy cruising. Another "#WorldWarC" measure (Splendid case study — how the first passenger ship was transformed for coronavirus relief)



Canadian Global Affairs Institute @CAGlobalAffairs 25 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: What's missing from the conversation on improving #Canada's defence #procurement? How to finance necessary capital assets, writes Vern Kakoschke in this policy perspective: https://cgai.ca/financing_capital_assets_the_missing_link_in_defence_procurement



(Financing Capital Assets: The Missing Link in Defence Procurement)

.@CanadianForces have 1 Canadian Field Hospital & several field ambulances <https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2020/03/24/three-army-field-hospitals-ordered-to-new-york-washington-states/> What roles they could be employed in a pandemic is not evident but one can be assured planners are carefully considering them #OpLASER #COVID19 (Three Army field hospitals ordered to New York, Washington states)



Sea Lanes

David Heindel @dwheindel 23 Mar tweeted: A satellite image of ships carrying goods around the globe. Seafarers continue to work even though situation in most ports is very difficult. The maritime industry is one industry without which the current world economy could not survive.

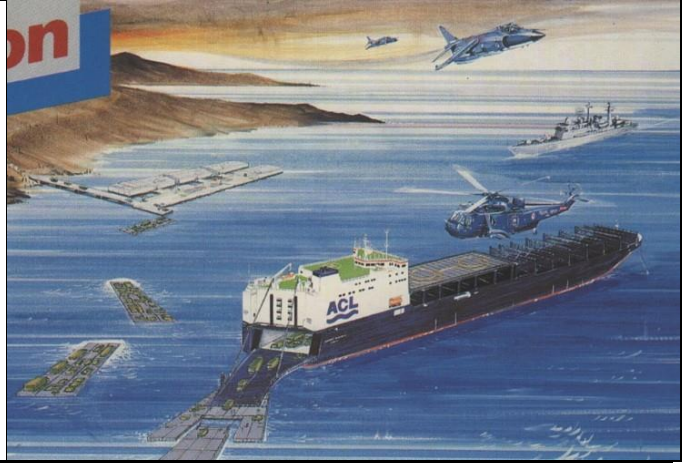
@DarrenMGarnier @darrenmgarnier [RUSI(NS) member] retweeted: Excellent graphic merci David. A key reminder that world economies float and robust Navies are essential to ensure the uninterrupted flow of this commerce. A role the @RoyalCanNavy supports with enduring presence in many of the key maritime “choke points” worldwide. @RUSI NS



Mexeflote

Think Defence @thinkdefence 23 Mar tweeted: Back in the day, the replacement class that came after the Atlantic Conveyor, the ACL G3, was tested with temporary landing pads and Mexeflote offload at sea. Anyone know what that is in the top left of the first image, bonus points if you do!

Can anyone advise whether Mexeflote is a generic or brand name? The Royal Canadian Navy is procuring a ship-to-shore connector, description of which reads much like a mexeflote.



Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute NS with comments:

Stop Hiding Vulnerabilities Found By Red Teams, Joint Staff to Tell Military

<https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2020/03/stop-hiding-vulnerabilities-found-red-teams-joint-staff-tells-military/163868/>



Kinda reminds of the way senior commanders of the Japanese Navy refused to accept results of wargames prior to and during World War II (see: "The Seldom-Seen Enemy" <https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-magazine/2010/april/seldom-seen-enemy> and "History Every MOC Warfighter Should Know: Wargaming and Midway" <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/moc-warfighter/vol1/iss11/5/>).

Red team results, any disruptive thinking, should be given serious and due consideration.

In Colombia, fleet of cartel narco-sub's poses challenge for navy

<https://www.france24.com/en/20200319-in-colombia-fleet-of-cartel-narco-sub's-poses-challenge-for-navy>



Such drug-smuggling vessels are a challenge for the navies of North America, too. In camouflaging colours, low-profile and made of fibreglass (to reduce radar signature), such vessels are difficult to detect. One wonders how noisy and hot they are - acoustic and infra-red are almost the only detection means left (besides intelligence, probably the best counter in the first instance). When Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) ships deploy on counter-drug missions (see: Operation CARIBBE <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-caribb.html>) do they embark additional sensor packages (including those carried by drones)? Should they?

Whilst colloquially the vessels are referred to as submarines, actually they are semi-submersibles with no true underwater operating capability.

"...winged torpedo-like tubes known as 'parasites' -- fixed to the underside of large ships..." Do the wings imply the tubes are mobile? 'Limpets' (immobile containers fixed to hull bottoms) have long been a technique. Underwater hull inspection increasingly becomes important. Drones for hull bottom inspection would be increasingly useful (and are in current use).

The GPS-equipped "buoyed cargo," designed for clandestine recovery at sea, isn't necessarily a new tactic (jettison and scoot is as old as smuggling). Is there an implication of a signal emanating from the target that can be picked up by another smuggler for whom the cargo is destined? Hmm, does that make electronic support measures (ESM) another detection means?

One can envision the necessity for close co-operation between the RCN and security services for close collaboration to counter these vessels.

Motor Vessel ASTERIX, leased by the Canadian Armed Forces to serve as a replenishment oiler (AOR) for the Royal Canadian Navy, has capabilities beyond that of being able to refuel other ships whilst underway, capabilities that allow her to be employed as a multi-role vessel in support of other government missions. As well reported in "Canadian Armed Forces prep coronavirus response plan, but no request for help yet" (<https://globalnews.ca/news/6708040/canadian-armed-forces-coronavirus-response-preparation/>), the ship has a fully equipped surgery, a small intensive care unit, a pharmacy and a hospital ward capable of handling 100 patients. Several hundred more patients could be treated in the ship's gymnasium, cargo areas and helicopter hangers, especially if a hospital-in-a-box, containerized medical facilities, were embarked. She also has a dental facility and X-ray and other diagnostic equipment. The ship has accommodation for up to 100 medical staff and there is kitchen capable of feeding hundreds of people each day. As the articles notes, though ASTERIX, as an AOR, is not designed to treat infected patients, she could help municipal hospitals by taking some of their other patients, freeing those hospitals to concentrate on treating the infected.



Using Navy Hospital Ships To Help With Coronavirus Is A Dangerously Bad Idea

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/craighooper/2020/03/20/navy-hospital-ships-coronavirus/#1d3319351b04>



If Canada ever develops hospital ships it should keep the thoughts of this article and lessons from COVID-19 response in mind.

Russian army to send coronavirus help to Italy after Putin phone call

<https://www.reuters.com/article/somnia-idUSKBN219081>



This article leads one to think: whilst many are looking at the Canadian Armed Forces for what they can do with direct medical intervention (e.g., medical personnel, field hospitals), and those who are somewhat more knowledgeable of military capabilities look at the Forces for what they can do logistically (e.g., fly civil medical supplies to outlying areas), a question (as yet not answered publicly) is: do the Forces have decontamination capabilities that can be employed in Canada where needed? We haven't seen the broad area spraying of public areas as often reported in China (maybe it's happening but not reported) and maybe there will not be many Canadian areas requiring it. Certainly there is a lot of cleaning and pesticide spraying capability in the civil sector. But if conditions were appropriate and a request for assistance made, what could the Forces offer? Certainly the Forces has decontamination capabilities, but those capabilities were procured to meet specific military requirements. Are they portable enough? Are they general enough?

The Federal Government Needs a Military-Style Campaign Against the Coronavirus

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/02/federal-government-should-go-war-coronavirus-today/163401/>



This needs to be read again after developments of the last few weeks and after many states have started to include their militaries in their responses to COVID-19.

'We Want to Be the Last Resort,' Says Defense Secretary

<https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2020/03/we-want-be-last-resort/163863/>



The military should be 'force of last resort' but should never be the 'force of last call.' Militaries should always be involved early in planning and in a response, whether there is any certainty or not that they may be called upon later (their assistance requested). Whilst some elements can get out the door in short notice, particularly if there has been advance warning, it takes time to get the behemoth moving.

Company set to crank out ventilators, awaiting final go-ahead from Ottawa

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.5505909>



There are interesting stories being and to be written about Canadian industries converting production, as they did during the world wars, to meet needs of the ongoing emergency. One wonders how this is being co-ordinated at the federal level - what is the governance (responsible department, etc.)? The strength of that co-ordination will have much to do in the success of the Canadian response.

Reflecting on a submarine search and rescue exercise, where in considering objectives it was decided to stress medical support. That got planners looking at casualty control, casualty transport and casualty treatment (hyperbaric chambers). Being of a senior headquarters staff, planners naturally looked at logistics so started asking questions about supplies. Sure, there were stocks of oxygen for the chambers, but the situation became problematic when staff starting looking at re-stocking of those stores and who would produce more oxygen. All to say, whilst medical planners and authorities are ensuring additional masks, ventilators, etc., are being ordered and produced for the pandemic, what's the situation for consumables such as oxygen for the ventilators? One can be confident that planners have recognized this and are ensuring enough, just that media have not yet asked about oxygen and other supplies availability as they have about ventilators.

Royal Navy to moor hospital ship on the River Thames in coronavirus plan to increase beds

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1258505/royal-navy-coronavirus-nhs-hospital-beds-river-thames>



"Senior military clinicians see the vessel (Royal Fleet Auxiliary ARGUS) as an ideal short-term solution, as it can impose 'medical isolation' with the aid of infection tents, to ensure Covid-19 patients cannot pass the disease on to anyone else."

Has to be a capable ship, with specialized equipment embarked, to be able to treat infected patients. Still, good to know authorities assess it is doable. Could be a useful asset for future incidents - COVID-19 will not be the first time there will be a need to treat large number of infected people.

French Navy to Deploy Mistral-class LHD Tonnerre for Coronavirus Response

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2020/03/french-navy-to-deploy-mistral-class-lhd-tonnerre-for-coronavirus-response/>



"The French Navy (Marine Nationale) is about to deploy its Mistral-class LHD 'Tonnerre' to the Island of Corsica in a mission to evacuate several Coronavirus / COVID19 patients towards mainland France."

Evacuation is a good mission for a naval vessel, taking into account TONNERRE has 20 rooms and 69 hospitalization beds of which seven are fit for intensive care. Maybe not a mission that the Royal Canadian Navy would have to face as Canada does not have outlying islands like Corsica with large populations. But never ignore the possibilities of 'black swans' (incidents outside the normal emergency planning envelope) when Canada might be faced with a situation to which the best response

is an evacuation ship. One could be confident our Navy would take it on with the same 'can do' approach as they do for so many missions in assistance of Canadians in need.

France to Deploy Mistral Amphib to Serve as Hospital Ship

<https://news.usni.org/2020/03/20/france-to-deploy-mistral-amphib-to-serve-as-hospital-ship>

Not really a 'hospital ship." That is a legal status.

Battling the Bug: The Army's Response to Epidemics and Pandemics

https://ahec.armywarcollege.edu/documents/Battling_the_Bug.pdf



The US Army War College monograph "Battling the Bug The Army's Response to Epidemics and Pandemics" (October 2014). This was forward to us by Lieutenant- Colonel Erik Liebert, currently serving in Ottawa. He observed:

“The survey was written after the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa to provide some additional context on the US Army's role in responding to significant disease outbreaks. It highlights two case studies (Yellow Fever in Panama; and the Spanish Flu 1918-1919) and provides an overview of the US Army's response to endemic diseases in the post-WW2 period.

The survey is followed by a series of articles and research papers that provide additional insight on disease mortality, the US Army's role in the 1918-1919 Spanish Flu outbreak, the military response to pandemics, war and infectious disease, and mosquito control in Panama.

The papers do not provide any insight on the current health emergency, but they provide some useful context on the broader issue of the military role in dealing with major disease outbreaks.”

My thanks to Erik for sharing this material with us.

Howard Coombs, CDAI

Navy hospital ship Mercy sails next week to aid West Coast strained by coronavirus

<https://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/coronavirus/article241353406.html>



MERCY "will be used as a referral hospital for non-COVID-19 patients currently admitted to shore-based hospitals." "The ship is not configured to handle infectious disease outbreaks because patient

beds are stacked close together in large open bays. Instead the ship would be used for trauma care so local hospitals can focus on the coronavirus."

Indirect military support. Sometimes that approach is the best.

Symbolism and Capacity: Hospital Ships in the COVID-19 Response

<https://www.cna.org/news/InDepth/article?ID=41>



"Yet despite their modest contributions, the deployments of Comfort and Mercy remain important symbols of the seriousness of government's role in alleviating the pain caused by COVID-19..."

The movement of a state's ships, particularly warships, can often be highly symbolic, and is one of the roles of such ships.

Canadian troops in Ukraine face uncertainty due to COVID-19 crisis

<https://www.nsnews.com/canadian-troops-in-ukraine-face-uncertainty-due-to-covid-19-crisis-1.24104933>



Canadian Armed Forces "commanders weigh whether (Canadian troops in Ukraine) should be replaced with new troops, kept in place for the time being or pulled out entirely until the pandemic subsides."

Huh. 'Strategic effect' from a pandemic. I suppose, why not. And not just in the Ukraine. Where else are such effects happening, and who is taking advantage of them?

Three Army field hospitals ordered to New York, Washington states

<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2020/03/24/three-army-field-hospitals-ordered-to-new-york-washington-states/>



"...the Army Corps of Engineers to retrofit hotels and other facilities into medical clinics..."

In addition to forums for medical treatment and ice arenas for morgues, another great way to include the private sector in the pandemic response (@#WorldWarC).

As Stocks Sink, Pentagon Fears Foreigners Will Buy Control of US Defense Firm

https://www.defenseone.com/business/2020/03/stocks-sink-pentagon-fears-foreigners-will-buy-control-us-defense-firms/164089/?oref=defenseone_today_nl



Economic warfare still ongoing whilst so much attention is (rightly) focused on the pandemic. There are multiple 'wars' at any time - legal, public information, cyber. The West has to be prepared to operate in them all (plus the traditional land, sea, air, space), and operate in them all at the same time.

'A solemn space': first interior shots of Franklin's HMS Terror released

https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/a-solemn-space-first-interior-shots-of-franklins-hms-terror-released/ar-AAAGrypZ#image=AAAGrypZ_1|1



"The U.K. has given the ships to Canada."

Wrecked warships remain property of their state or successor state under 'perpetual title.' See: "In Defense of Perpetual Title to Sovereign Wrecks" (<https://archive.hnsa.org/conf2004/papers/pixa.htm>). EREBUS and TERROR were Her Majesty's Ships so an arrangement had to be made between the UK and Canada even though the wrecks are in Canadian waters. Fascinating stories and pictures.

Irish Naval Vessel To Become COVID-19 Testing Centre

<https://www.forces.net/news/irish-naval-vessel-become-covid-19-testing-centre>



Further reporting clarified that LÉ SAMUEL BECKETT is providing power and other services to the COVID-19 testing centre on the wharf. A reasonable task for a warship providing assistance to civil authorities.

Spanish soldiers find bodies in retirement homes

<https://www.afp.com/en/news/3954/spanish-soldiers-find-bodies-retirement-homes-doc-1q44z84>



One wonders what training Canadian Forces troops would receive to handle such situations, whether or not they are engaged in mortuary affairs.

A wartime economy is a very particular thing

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-a-wartime-economy-is-a-very-particular-thing/>



"Good policy ideas that are, for one reason or another, politically impractical at most times often become possible in crises, when the risks and rewards of experimentation are seen rather differently."

We can learn and apply the lessons of mobilizing our industry for combating the threat, in this case COVID-19. Historians and other academics have something to contribute to our plans and efforts now.

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/looking-ahead-a-message-from-the-rusi-director-general?e=a539211a30>



How can Canada's military help in the coronavirus pandemic – and why has it largely avoided doing so?






<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-how-can-canadas-military-help-in-the-coronavirus-pandemic-and-why/>



NATO points to 'severe consequences' on global budgets from coronavirus crisis

https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2020/03/19/nato-points-to-severe-consequences-on-global-budgets-from-coronavirus-crisis/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=



<p>aign=EBB%2003.20.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief</p>	
<p>Prepare for multiple waves of COVID-19 over 12 months: military chief to troops</p> <p>https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.5504247</p>	
<p>Spy agency warns Canada's coronavirus researchers to look out for hacking threats</p> <p>https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-spy-agency-warns-canadas-coronavirus-researchers-to-look-out-for/</p>	
<p>Canadian military will no longer release info about numbers of personnel affected by COVID-19</p> <p>https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canadian-military-will-no-longer-release-info-about-numbers-of-personnel-affected-by-covid-19</p>	
<p>Russia Has New Tool For Massive Internet Shutdown Attack, Leaked Documents Claim</p> <p>https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2020/03/russia-has-new-tool-massive-internet-shutdown-attack-leaked-documents-claim/163983/?oref=defense_one_breaking_nl</p>	
<p>When will China be held accountable for coronavirus? Marcus Kolga in Maclean's</p> <p>https://www.macdonaldlaurier.ca/will-china-held-accountable-coronavirus/?mc_cid=541b01d1f2&mc_eid=a8426c0175</p>	

Unconfirmed report of rise in 8 Wing COVID-19 cases creates unease

<https://www.intelligencer.ca/news/local-news/unconfirmed-report-of-rise-in-8-wing-covid-19-cases-creates-unease>



Canada's cyber spies taking down sites as battle against COVID-19 fraud begins

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.5504619>



North Korea test fires two missiles

https://www.defensenews.com/global/asia-pacific/2020/03/23/north-korea-test-fires-two-missiles/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2003.24.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



Canadian Forces leadership to decide whether to cancel movement of thousands of military personnel to new jobs

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canadian-forces-leadership-to-decide-whether-to-cancel-movement-of-thousands-of-military-personnel-to-new-jobs/>



The IDF's Momentum Plan Aims to Create a New Type of War Machine

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/03/23/the-idfs-momentum-plan-aims-to-create-a-new-type-of-war-machine/>



France pulls military out of Iraq amid virus concerns

https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2020/03/26/france-pulls-military-out-of-iraq-amid-virus-concerns/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2003.26.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



The next outbreak? We're not ready | Bill Gates (Apr 3, 2015)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Af6b_wyiwI



Canada to cut number of troops in Ukraine due to COVID-19 pandemic

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/canada-to-cut-number-of-troops-in-ukraine-due-to-covid-19-pandemic/ar-BB11L6IO?ocid=se2>



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

#armour

On Killing Tanks

<https://mwi.usma.edu/on-killing-tanks/>

#artificial intelligence

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

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00963402.2020.1728976s/>

#Australian Army Research Centre "Emerging Threats and Opportunities"

<https://researchcentre.army.gov.au/library/land-power-forum/emerging-threats-and-opportunities-2>
articles:

The Information/Cyber Domain

Irregular Warfare and Terrorism

Lessons & Major Power Competition

Defence innovation

The Regional worldview

#CC295 Fixed Wing Search and Rescue Aircraft

Naming of new RCAF planes stalled by legal issues

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/naming-of-new-rcaf-planes-stalled-by-legal-issues-1.4862112>

#drones

Robotics and Autonomous Systems Experimentation

<https://researchcentre.army.gov.au/library/land-power-forum/robotics-and-autonomous-systems-experimentation-rico-update>

Acronym Alert! OCCV = Optionally Crewed Combat Vehicle

#information operations

COVID-19 Disinformation

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/disinformation-cases/>

#NATO

Can NATO evolve into a climate alliance treaty organization in the Middle East

<https://thebulletin.org/2020/03/can-nato-evolve-into-a-climate-alliance-treaty-organization-in-the-middle-east/>

#professional education

Preparing for the #FutureOfWar: Don't Forget the Past

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2015/11/21/preparing-for-the-futureofwar-dont-forget-the-past>

#space

Space: NATO's latest frontier

<https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2020/03/18/space-natos-latest-frontier/index.html>

#urban warfare

Preparing the Military for the Complexity of Megacities

podcast: <https://mwi.usma.edu/preparing-military-complexity-megacities/>

#war

Clausewitzian Deep Tracks: #Reviewing "Guide to Tactics, or the Theory of the Combat"

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2020/3/23/clausewitzian-deep-tracks-reviewing-guide-to-tactics-or-a-theory-of-combat>

#Reviewing The Russian Understanding of War

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2020/3/24/reviewing-the-russian-understanding-of-war>

#weapons

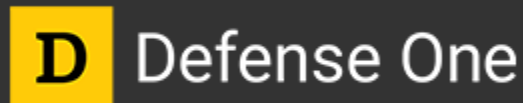
Pentagon Test Launches Prototype Hypersonic Weapon

<https://news.usni.org/2020/03/20/video-pentagon-test-launches-prototype-hypersonic-weapon>

Other:

In light of the current events, Civilians now have an idea what it's really like to be in the Military.

- The toilet paper is always gone.
- Being told how to do the simplest things over and over.
- Ordered around by numbers and size of groups.
- Watching others panic.
- Getting constant orders from up the chain that are always changing.
- Always being shown maps that mean nothing.
- Getting information that is always an operational period too old.
- Even the leadership doesn't know what they are doing.
- Being told what to do on your free time.
- Standing in lines, all the time.
- Carrying around a mask all the time.
- Your weekend plans are revoked.
- Your favorite bars are off limits.
- Being locked down to your quarters
- Always under a Curfew
- Always have travel restrictions



Defense One eBooks and Special Reports

<https://link.defenseone.com/view/56c715c86e4adc434d8b5279bsrw1.8bf/a1be44b5>