



# Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

## Dispatches

### 29 May 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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@duncom.ca).

**New:** Some members are now working at home rather than at an office, and their email addresses have changed. To ensure you continue to receive *Dispatches* and other emails from RUSI(NS), please notify [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com) of your new address. It is recommended that members with government addresses also provide a civil address as with some government email systems it is not evident when you retire and are no longer reading emails sent to your government address. And anyone who changes their civil address for whatever reason, please inform RUSI(NS).

## COVID-19

### **The Canadian Armed Forces and COVID-19 -- May 22 update**

Colleagues and partners in defence,

Writing to you this week is especially difficult. For the second time in as many weeks, the Defence Team is grieving. On Sunday, we tragically lost Captain Jenn Casey, a public affairs officer with the Royal Canadian Air Force Snowbirds team. Every life lost is painful, but the fact that Captain Casey lost hers as the Snowbirds were trying to lift the spirits of Canadians during the pandemic makes it all the more heart wrenching. Over the past few weeks, the Snowbirds have excited communities, boosting morale across the country through Op INSPIRATION.

Our thoughts are with everyone in mourning – Jenn's family and friends, the Snowbirds, the Royal Canadian Air Force, DND/CAF Public Affairs branch, and the entire defence community. We also

wish a full and speedy recovery to Captain Richard MacDougall, who is recovering from his injuries. And we thank the first responders and the community of Kamloops for their fast action and efforts to come to the aid of both of our members immediately following the crash. Operation INSPIRATION has been postponed until further notice, the Snowbird fleet is on an operational pause and a flight safety investigation is underway. As with any accident, we won't get answers right away, but a thorough process is necessary to maintain the integrity of the investigation.

I believe the best way to honour Jenn's legacy is by doing what she did best - enthusiastically telling the story of the bravery of our Canadian Armed Forces. Throughout this entire pandemic, our message has been constant – DND and the CAF are here to support Canadians in *any way* and *anywhere* that we can.

We continue to support long-term-care facilities. Currently, the CAF is supporting a total of 30 long-term-care facilities in Ontario and Quebec, working alongside civilian health authorities. We remain there as a temporary measure, providing emergency relief and the necessary operational space for the provinces to develop sustainable, provincially sourced solutions. While we continue to take all proper precautions including task-specific training and training on the proper use of personal protective equipment, the fact remains that our CAF members are operating in a high risk environment. Last week, the CAF confirmed 5 COVID cases among personnel deployed to long-term care facilities, with plans to update those numbers once every two weeks. However, as the number of cases increased, we felt that it was important to be transparent and provide more frequent updates. The CAF has now confirmed 29 cases total: 13 in Ontario, and 16 in Quebec. The increase in positive cases is due to a combination of factors, including receiving formal confirmation of a number of testing results we had been waiting on last week. Furthermore, as the incubation period of COVID-19 varies considerably from person to person, the showing of symptoms can take time. We will continue to update numbers daily, Monday to Friday, on the [CAF COVID response webpage](#).

We remain deployed in northern and Indigenous communities. Across Canada, approximately 1,200 Canadian Rangers are deployed in the fight against COVID-19, conducting a variety of critical tasks based on community needs. As we mark Indigenous Awareness week in Canada, there is no better time to recognize the important work our Rangers are doing in support of these communities. And there is no better time to honour the legacy and contribution that Indigenous people have made in the Canadian Armed Forces.

And we are working diligently to refine and implement our plans for business resumption. Specifically, a number of critical force generation activities related to training, recruitment and administration will resume on a limited basis when it has been deemed safe and appropriate to do so. The Defence Team will resume these activities in a progressive, deliberate, and safe manner, in order to ensure the ongoing and future operational effectiveness of the CAF while protecting the health and safety of our personnel. As critical activities start to resume, the CDS has made it clear that CAF readiness must be maintained and CAF members must not relax on measures put in place by the CAF to maintain personnel health and wellbeing. All resumption plans will be made using an abundance of caution, taking into account direction provided by federal, provincial, territorial and municipal health authorities.

Finally, in non-Op LASER related activity, on Tuesday senior CAF leaders held a technical brief on the [Cyclone accident and recovery operation](#), which will get underway next week. Due to the depth at which the wreckage can be found, we're turning to our allies in the U.S. Navy for their help with the use of a remotely-operated submersible. The operation will take as long as needed. We remain hopeful to recover as many of our fallen and as much of the machine as possible.

As always, please consult our [COVID-19 webpage](#), the latest [CDS Letter](#), and our [Deputy Minister's Friday Tweets](#) for all the updates on the CAF/DND response to COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued collaboration, and stay safe.

Quinn Watson

Director, Outreach and Speechwriting  
Assistant Deputy Minister (Public Affairs)  
Department of National Defence | Government of Canada

TPS board calls for 'stringent' safeguards around police access to provincial COVID-19 database  
<https://www.cp2.com/news/tps-board-calls-for-stringent-safeguards-around-police-access-to-provincial-covid-19-database-1.4948080>

COVID-19, a major failure of intelligence, is an opportunity for Canada to promote international collaboration in Foresight and Early Warning  
<https://thecic.org/covid-19-a-major-failure-of-intelligence-is-an-opportunity-for-canada-to-promote-international-collaboration-in-foresight-and-early-warning/>

COVID-19 disinformation being spread by Russia, China, say experts  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/covid-coronavirus-russia-china-1.5583961>

#### Events:

To list an event in *Dispatches*, email the CIO by noon Thursday. RUSI(NS) events are by invitation only unless otherwise indicated. If you are interested in attending and have not been invited, email [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com). RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice – email RUSI(NS) if there is a question of an event occurring.

If you have an idea for a topic or speaker, please email [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

**New: 1 June**, Monday - Naval Association of Canada Ottawa Branch video-presentation by Cmdre Chris Robinson, Director-General Naval Force Development. 7 pm **Eastern time**. To register, email [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

**New: 25 June** Wednesday – RUSI(NS) video-presentation by Brigadier-General Roch Pelletier, Commander 5th Canadian Division., titled "Commander 5th Canadian Division – Army Reserve Update." 1 pm **Halifax time**. To register, email [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

**Remembrance Dinner 2020** – Cancelled.

#### Recent Publications:

**New:** RUSI(NS) Comments "Canadian Ocean Science and the Role of AOPS" by Dean McFadden, 28 May 2020, <https://rusi-ns.ca/ocean-science/>

**New:** RUSI(NS) Information Note "Domestic Response Companies," 23 May 2020, <https://rusi-ns.ca/drc/>

RUSI(NS) Paper “Canadian News Coverage During COVID-19” by Laken Crowell, 2 May 20, <https://rusi-ns.ca/canadian-news-coverage-during-covid-19/>

RUSI(NS) Presentation “Arctic Sovereignty: New Challenges and Opportunities” by Dr Adam Lajeunesse, 29 Apr 20, <https://rusi-ns.ca/arctic-sovereignty/>

"The Newsletter" of the UNTD Association of Canada Spring Edition May 2020 is available on request to [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com). Original article title in parentheses.

Good to have allies to assist with recovery of @RCAF\_ARC #CH148 Cyclone <https://defence.frontline.online/in-the-news/14051/recovery-efforts-continue-for-cyclone> Is lesson the need for whole-of-CAN🇨🇦 deep-sea recovery capability? Especially for incidents in Cdn waters? There are Cdn ships, equip,#drones, people in go'v't&industry who can do this (Recovery efforts continue for downed Cyclone)



US warship shoot down #drone with laser weapon in first-of-its-kind at-sea test high-energy laser weapon system <https://news.usni.org/2020/05/22/video-uss-portland-fires-laser-weapon-downs-drone-in-first-at-sea-test> Will #RCNavy CAN Surface Combatant have power to operate a laser? Could be essential capability in future even frigates & smaller warships (USS Portland Fires Laser Weapon, Downs Drone in First At-Sea Test)



#USNavy 'salvage #drone' to be used in deep-sea recovery of @RCAF\_ARC #CH148 Stalker 22 helicopter <https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/5f282316-d6ad-43e2-a06b-aabd98f3ee58> Come the opportunity/need there are CAN🇨🇦 capabilities for deep-sea work (eg @ropos\_rov Remotely Operated Platform for Ocean Sciences) (US Navy contributes Remora ROV to Canadian CH-148 recovery attempt)



CAN🇨🇦 partners with US in Operation OLYMPIC DEFENDER [https://c4isrnet.com/battlefield-tech/space/2020/05/21/space-command-takes-over-operation-olympic-defender/...](https://c4isrnet.com/battlefield-tech/space/2020/05/21/space-command-takes-over-operation-olympic-defender/) "...allied space-faring nations to work together to deter hostile acts in space, strengthen deterrence against hostile actors & reduce spread of debris orbiting Earth" (Space Command takes over Operation Olympic Defender)  
*Note in the RCAF summary page*  
(<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/transition-materials/defence-101/2020/03/defence-101/rcaf.html>): "Op OLYMPIC DEFENDER will provide the essential synchronizing framework to face the security challenges in the space domain"



Dave Mazur @WardenNAtlantic 25 May tweeted: The Base Chief and I were honoured to join the US Consul General Kevin Skillin today at Deadman's Island for a remembrance ceremony. Taps was played and honours rendered for the hundreds of US service personnel from the war of 1812 who are buried there. We will remember them  
RUSI(NS) retweeted: "One of the purposes of Deadman's Island is to remember not only those buried at the island but all service members who have given their lives in defence of the United States." RUSI(NS) History Note "Remembering Merchant Mariners" <https://rusi-ns.ca/remembering-merchant-mariners/>



Canadian Armed Forces Operations @CFOperations 25 May tweeted: Today our CAF/USN team departed Souda Bay, Greece, onboard EDT Hercules. It is planned that within two days they will arrive at the site, approx 220 nautical miles east of Catania, Sicily, and begin the search & recovery of Stalker 22 and our fallen.  
RUSI(NS) retweeted: Lessons to take away from Stalker 22 recovery operation need include planning, equipping & practicing a national deep-sea recovery capability for seas off CAN🇨🇦. Much of that already available in CAN🇨🇦 commercially & in gov't; need integrate



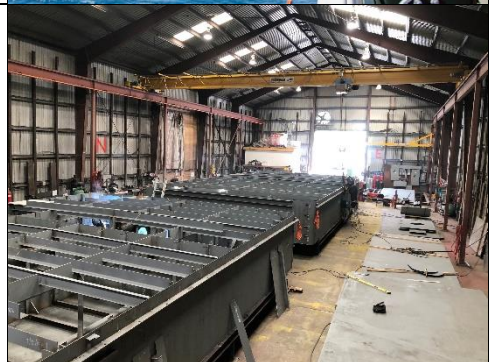
The Strategy Bridge @Strategy\_Bridge May 22 tweeted:  
Today the #BridgeArchive releases Jon Hermann's thought provoking article 'Nine Links in the Chain: The Weaponized Narrative, Sun Tzu, and the Essence of War' for you to consider its merits, leveraging today's wisdom. #Strategy #Disinformation <https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2017/7/27/nine-links-in-the-chain-the-weaponized-narrative-sun-tzu-and-the-essence-of-war>  
Jay Janzen @Jay\_Janzen 25 May and RUSI(NS) retweeted:  
This article is a must read for defence senior information practitioners.



Canadian Armed Forces Operations @CFOperations 27 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Update: The combined #CAF and US Navy search and recovery team operating from EDT Hercules has located #Stalker22 and remains of its crewmembers.  
(HMCS Fredericton personnel and Stalker 22 located <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2020/05/hmcs-fredericton-personnel-and-stalker-22-located.html>)



4 barges for @NationalDefence being built by Canadian Maritime Engineering, Port Alberni yard, for delivery to #QueensHarbourMasters #Halifax & #Esquimalt summer 2020. Strong harbour service (people, barges, tugs, boats) necessary for balanced & capable #RCNavy @RoyalCanNavy



RUSI(NS) Information Note "Domestic Response Companies" <https://rusi-n.ca/drc/> DRC is a @CanadianArmy Reserve organization used in domestic operations to assist provinces in response to natural disasters & other emergencies #OpLENTUS #OpLASER



RUSI(NS) Comments "Canadian Ocean Science and the Role of AOPS" <https://rusi-ns.ca/ocean-science/> Comments on potential & employment of #RCNavy #Arctic & Offshore Patrol Ship #AOPS for scientific research



Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute NS with comments:

Nine Links in the Chain: The Weaponized Narrative, Sun Tzu, and the Essence of War

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2017/7/27/nine-links-in-the-chain-the-weaponized-narrative-sun-tzu-and-the-essence-of-war>



"That all war is a conflict of narratives is a premise worth considering."

Navy Makes Important Narco Submarine Capture

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/hisutton/2020/05/22/navy-makes-important-narco-submarine-capture/#418500053e14>



Taken down by a team of destroyer with a Coast Guard team onboard, the warship's helicopter and a fixed-wing patrol aircraft. One can be assured that there were shore command, intelligence and sensor stations involved. This is theatre anti-submarine warfare. Though the target is not really a submarine but is a semi-submersible. It is probable, too, that Canadian elements could be involved when necessary.

Acronym alert! "The full taxonomy is LPV-OM-VSV meaning Low Profile Vessel, Outboard Motors, Very Slender Vessel."

RCMP facing 'systemic sustainability challenges' due to provincial police

[https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/rcmp-facing-systemic-sustainability-challenges-due-to-provincial-policing-role-1.4952188ng\\_role](https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/rcmp-facing-systemic-sustainability-challenges-due-to-provincial-policing-role-1.4952188ng_role)



"Public Safety Canada and the RCMP have confirmed there are systemic sustainability challenges impacting the whole of the RCMP."

New Dry Dock at Jiangnan Shipyard to Accelerate Work on China's Third Aircraft Carrier

[https://www.defenseworld.net/news/27035/New\\_Dry\\_Dock\\_at\\_Jiangnan\\_Shipyard\\_to\\_Accelerate\\_Work\\_on\\_China's\\_Third\\_Aircraft\\_Carrier#.Xsxcnm5FyUk](https://www.defenseworld.net/news/27035/New_Dry_Dock_at_Jiangnan_Shipyard_to_Accelerate_Work_on_China's_Third_Aircraft_Carrier#.Xsxcnm5FyUk)



"The floating dock can be used in the launch and transportation of large or ultra large ship modules and special equipment..."

Floating docks, especially large ones, are a sign of the capability (level) of a state's navy and therefore its maritime ambitions. The availability of a number of floating docks, including large ones, was one of the unheralded resources that helped win the Second World War in the Pacific for the US.

What is Canada's floating and shore dry dock situation?

Investigating military aircraft crashes

<https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/opinion/local-perspectives/tim-dunne-investigating-military-aircraft-crashes-452480/>



Latest flight safety report, "a synopsis of the investigations and activities carried out by the Airworthiness Investigative Authority": 2018 Annual Report - Airworthiness Investigative Authority and Flight Safety Program Activities

[www.rcf-arc.forces.gc.ca/en/flight-safety/article-template-statistical-report.page?doc=2018-annual-report-airworthiness-investigative-authority-and-flight-safety-program-activities/k3aiysp8](http://www.rcf-arc.forces.gc.ca/en/flight-safety/article-template-statistical-report.page?doc=2018-annual-report-airworthiness-investigative-authority-and-flight-safety-program-activities/k3aiysp8)

The full report is available to RUSI(NS) members on request to [RUSNovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSNovaScotia@gmail.com).

The US needs to rethink its overseas supply chain

<https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/commentary/2020/05/22/the-us-needs-to-rethink-its-overseas-supply-chain/>



Canada needs to rethink its overseas supply chain. From defence, security and safety perspectives.



Defence procurement won't be so easy to cut in a time of COVID-19

<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/may-2020/defence-procurement-wont-be-so-easy-to-cut-in-a-time-of-covid-19/>



"As governments around the world reassess national security, Ottawa could find it harder to delay plans for new ships, helicopters and fighter jets."

"...an irony of the pandemic is that it may see the National Shipbuilding Strategy become a 'major destination for stimulus spending in times of recession.'"

How the Pandemic Is Helping The Military Prep For World War III

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2020/05/how-pandemic-helping-military-prep-world-war-iii/165656/>



Hmm, Joint All-Domain Command and Control (JADC2), a 'health common operating picture (HCOP)?' (Don't pronounce that as 'hiccup!')

As debate over contact tracing continues, CSE warns of foreign surveillance technology






<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/cse-military-covid-1.5585770>



See: Joint CSE and CSIS Statement

<https://www.cse-cst.gc.ca/en/media/2020-05-14>

**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.

 <p><a href="https://mailchi.mp/rusi.org/15-may-this-week-168530?e=a539211a30">https://mailchi.mp/rusi.org/15-may-this-week-168530?e=a539211a30</a></p>	
<p>If the US seeks ‘to contain China’, the country will firmly defend its interests, top Chinese legislature official says</p> <p><a href="https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3085536/if-us-seeks-contain-china-country-will-firmly-defend-its?">https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3085536/if-us-seeks-contain-china-country-will-firmly-defend-its?</a></p>	
<p>Canadian-led NATO battlegroup in Latvia targeted by pandemic disinformation campaign</p> <p><a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.5581248">https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.5581248</a></p>	
<p>Recovery team headed to Cyclone helicopter crash site</p> <p><a href="https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/recovery-team-headed-to-cyclone-helicopter-crash-site/wcm/bf60f5e3-86e3-4a07-87d1-de3df5adcef8/">https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/recovery-team-headed-to-cyclone-helicopter-crash-site/wcm/bf60f5e3-86e3-4a07-87d1-de3df5adcef8/</a></p>	

The inside story of two supersonic flights that changed how America operates the F-35

<https://www.defensenews.com/smr/hidden-troubles-f35/2020/05/22/the-inside-story-of-two-supersonic-flights-that-changed-how-america-operates-the-f-35/>



The End of Hong Kong

[https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/05/end-hong-kong/165613/?oref=defenseone today nl](https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/05/end-hong-kong/165613/?oref=defenseone%20today%20nl)



Russian aircraft deploy to Libya to back private military contractors, AFRICOM says

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2020/05/26/russian-aircraft-deploy-to-libya-to-back-private-military-contractors-africom-says/>



Three European air forces approve performance benchmarks for next-gen fighter jet

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2020/05/26/three-european-air-forces-approve-performance-benchmarks-for-next-gen-fighter-jet/>



Russia building stealth bomber capable of carrying hypersonic weapons, report says

<https://www.foxnews.com/world/russia-building-stealth-bomber>



U.S. withdrawal from Open Skies Treaty presents Canada with a 'serious' challenge, says expert

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/open-skies-u-s-russia-canada-nuclear-war-1.5583696>



Recovery ship on its way to Cyclone helicopter crash scene in Ionian Sea

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/cyclone-helicopter-crash-1.5583740>



A Foreign General Is Helping to Lead US Army Europe. Other Commands Should Take Heed

[https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/05/foreign-generals-help-lead-us-army-europe-other-commands-should-take-heed/165689/?oref=defenseone\\_today\\_nl](https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/05/foreign-generals-help-lead-us-army-europe-other-commands-should-take-heed/165689/?oref=defenseone_today_nl)



Air Force sends pair of B-1B bombers on mission over South China Sea

<https://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/air-force-sends-pair-of-b-1b-bombers-on-mission-over-south-china-sea-1.631302>



The Global Pushback against China: Australia Leads the Way

<https://rusi.org/commentary/global-pushback-against-china-australia-leads-way>



Chinese President Xi Jinping tells military to prepare for war, boosts defence budget

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/world/2020/05/chinese-president-xi-jinping-tells-military-to-prepare-for-war-boosts-defence-budget.html>



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

### **#A2R**

It’s Only Going to Get Harder to Recruit and Retain Troops in a Post-Pandemic World

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/05/its-only-going-get-harder-recruit-and-retain-troops-post-pandemic-world/165555/>

The (US) Army is planning a mass recruiting drive this summer

A comparison: <https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2020/05/22/the-army-is-planning-a-mass-recruiting-drive-this-summer/>

### **#Arctic**

Report to Congress on Changes in the Arctic

<https://news.usni.org/2020/05/27/report-to-congress-on-changes-in-the-arctic-5>

### **#airpower**

The Air Force Has Some Thinking to Do: Airpower and the Future Urban Battlefield

<https://mwi.usma.edu/air-force-thinking-airpower-future-urban-battlefield/>

### **#crisis communications**

Conceptual Framework for Motivating Actions towards Disaster Preparedness Through Risk Communication

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877705818300419?via%3Dihub>

### **#drones**

DARPA Funds Earthworm-Inspired Soft Robot to Dig Tunnels

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2020/05/darpa-funds-earthworm-inspired-soft-robot-dig-tunnels/165681/>

### **#logistics**

Logistics, Digital Transformation and Future Logisticians

<https://logisticsinwar.com/2020/05/24/logistics-digital-transformation-and-future-logisticians/>

Surfing the Digital Wave: Engineers, Logisticians and the Future Automated Airbase

[airpower.airforce.gov.au/APDC/media/PDF-Files/Contemporary%20AirPower/AP46-Surfing-the-Digital-Wave.pdf](http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/APDC/media/PDF-Files/Contemporary%20AirPower/AP46-Surfing-the-Digital-Wave.pdf)

### **#professional military education**

Finally Getting Serious About Professional Military Education

<https://warontherocks.com/2020/05/finally-getting-serious-about-professional-military-education/>