



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Dispatches

21 August 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:

1. A weekly Dimensions Newsletter, (formally called *Defence & Security Newsletter*) aimed at opinion leaders and industry. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, email admin@duncom.ca; and
2. A weekly *China Open Source Newsletter* of articles curated from Chinese military-related websites based inside mainland China. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

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.

26 August, Wednesday - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speakers Insp Blair Bannerman, New Glasgow Regional Police; Cpl Deepak Prasad, RCMP; and Cpl Shawn Reynolds, RCMP; will present "Policing in a Pandemic Environment." 1300-1500. The talks will cover the challenges to operations, wellness and resiliency, and emergency planning under the unprecedented conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Registration is required. To register, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com by close of business Mon, 24 Aug. Zoom instructions will be emailed by end Tue, 25 Aug.

27 August, Thursday - Ocean Frontier Institute webinar for Amundsen Science. 2-3 pm ADT. More information about Amundsen Science can be found at <https://amundsenscience.ulaval.ca/>. Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zCIWgUzERDWr0ZeahhI3FQ.

New: 16 September, Wednesday - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker LCol Barry Pitcher, CO Princess Louise Fusiliers, will present "Reservist Leadership during Crisis: CAF Response to COVID-19 in Atlantic Canada." 1300-1500. The talk will cover the Land Component Command of Operation LASER, the CAF response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Registration is required. To register, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com by close of business Mon, 14 Sep. Zoom instructions will be emailed by end Tue, 15 Sep.

21 October, Wednesday - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker TBA.

Recent Publications:

RUSI(NS) Information Note "The Navy's Barber Pole" by David J Freeman, 22 July 2020 <https://rusi-ns.ca/barber-pole/>

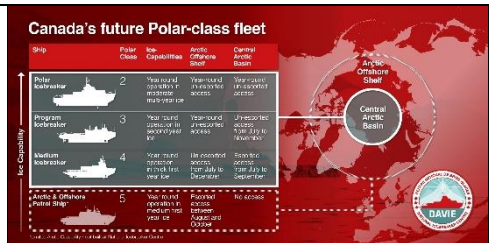
The Military Institute of Windsor Communiqué, Volume XXXVIII Number 7 July-August 2020 is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

The Edmonton United Services Institute President's Enews August 2020 is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

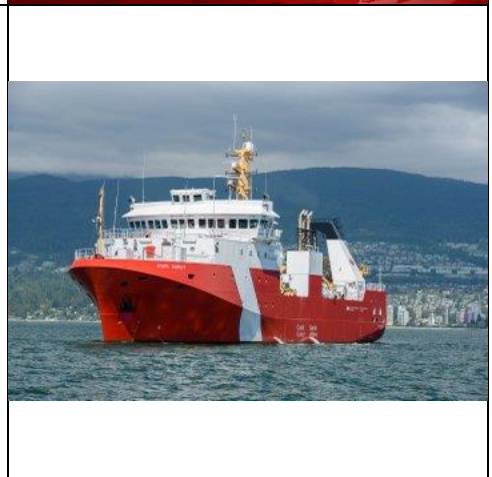
The United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island (USINNI) Newsletter Vol 28 No 08 August 2020 is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

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

Davie Shipbuilding @chantierdavie 18 Aug tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Canada's Future Polar-Class Fleet. The National Icebreaker Centre confirms Davie as Canada's trusted partner and an international leader in the design, engineering and construction of ultra-modern, multifunctional, environmentally responsible polar and ice-capable ships.



Seaspan Shipyards @MoreThanShips 19 Aug tweeted: #Seatrials for the future CCGS John Cabot have begun! A series of tests over the next 10 days to ensure the ship and its systems operate as designed. It's the last major phase of construction before the ship is delivered to @CoastGuardCAN.
 Press release: <https://nss.seaspan.com/featured-news/seaspan-shipyards-marks-another-best-in-class-milestone-with-the-start-of-sea-trials-for-future-coast-guard-vessel-ccgs-john-cabot/>
 RUSI(NS) retweeted: Shorter times between ship launch & trials & then acceptance/delivery/being taken into service as a shipbuilding project progresses shows advantage of procuring multiple ships, especially of same class or type.




"#Arctic-wide Inuit group wants to recapture North Warning contract" <https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/arctic-wide-inuit-group-wants-to-recapture-north-warning-contract/>
Having an Inuit group operate & maintain @CanadianForces North Warning System (47 sites North, 3 ON) would be great engagement of local people in CAN🇨🇦 North



Fascinating presentation by Dr Peter Kikkert StFX to RUSI(NS)&guests 19Aug20 "The Canadian Rangers: Cornerstone for Community Disaster Resilience in Canada's Remote & Isolated Communities" <https://rusi-ns.ca/canadian-rangers/> Great potential in Rangers to add resiliency in CAN🇨🇦 #Arctic/North

**The Canadian Rangers:
Cornerstone for Community
Disaster Resilience in Canada's
Remote and Isolated Communities**



Dr. Peter Kikkert,
Irving Shipbuilding Chair in Arctic Policy
St. Francis Xavier University

Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute NS with comments:

In developing robot warships, US Navy wants to avoid another littoral combat ship

<https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2020/08/17/in-developing-robot-warships-us-navy-wants-to-avoid-another-littoral-combat-ship/>



"The Navy wants (large unmanned surface vessels) to be low-cost, high-endurance, reconfigurable ships based on commercial ship designs, with ample capacity for carrying various modular payloads — particularly anti-surface warfare ... and strike payloads, meaning principally anti-ship and land-attack missiles..."

Careful approach.

Why the U.S. Navy Wants a Fully Automated Robotic Warship

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/why-us-navy-wants-fully-automated-robotic-warship-167119>

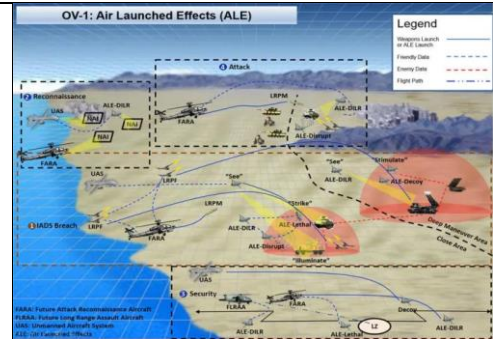


Medium Unmanned Surface Vehicle (MUSV), part of an "Unmanned Campaign Plan." Looks like there's a whole slew of drone-related initialisms with which to get familiar for when future fleets have these alongside DD, FF and other traditional type designations.

I wonder whether there is a Canadian "Unmanned Campaign Plan."

The Army wants a drone swarm to back up its next-generation helicopters against enemy air defenses

<https://taskandpurpose.com/military-tech/army-drone-swarm-air-launched-effects>



"To defeat those aggressive air defense systems, the Army wants a swarm of networked drones that can conduct active and passive surveillance, pose as decoys, and aggressively disrupt an enemy's defenses through both lethal and non-lethal functions — a fleet of suicide drones with ISR and electronic warfare capabilities mixed in."

Report to Congress on Navy Force Structure

<https://news.usni.org/2020/08/19/report-to-congress-on-navy-force-structure-14>



The US fleet could shift "to a more distributed architecture that includes a reduced proportion of larger ships, an increased proportion of smaller ships, and a newly created category of large unmanned surface vehicles (USV) and large unmanned underwater vehicles (UUV)."

The same could/should be for the Royal Canadian Navy. Though maybe medium size USV and UUV...

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny fighting for his life after alleged poisoning

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/world/russian-opposition-leader-alexei-navalny-in-coma-after-poisoning-spokesperson-says/ar-BB18aZ5o>



It has been a while since a major Russian opposition leader has been attacked so blatantly. Poisoning has been a key method of disposing of enemies of Vladimir Putin. Alexei Navalny has had many attempts on his life in the recent past including last year when a noxious substance was thrown at him causing vision issues in one eye. This attempt seems to be more serious. It is likely that the poison was introduced at an airport tea shop immediately prior to the flight.

The Canadian press has not really covered increasing discontent in Russia, in particular the East which has been rocked by demonstrations. The Putin regime is in trouble. The economy is still tanking, Putin's own popularity has fallen and recent arrests of persons thought to be honest and championing the rights of people such as the very popular Governor of Khabarovsk, Sergei Furgal, have opened a Pandora's box of problems. Demonstrations have been large and are directed directly at the Putin regime which would have been unthinkable even a few months ago. The loss of a key opposition leader and the arrest of political potential rivals may cause the opposition demonstrations to slow because of the "threat."

Russia is at a turning point. It is beset with major issues including the economy, Chinese territorial claims in the far East, unrest issues over the recent election in Belarus which puts another strong man at risk, plus elements of the security forces, especially the police, being less reliable, are almost a perfect storm. How Putin manoeuvres about these issues will be critical not only for Russia but the entire world.

The questions are: are the Russian people finally finished with this regime? Will Navalny's poisoning be the final straw? Or will Putin continue to survive with an increasingly unpopular regime?

Despite worldwide oil glut, Trump releases plan to open Arctic to drilling

<https://thebulletin.org/2020/08/despite-worldwide-oil-glut-trump-releases-plan-to-open-arctic-to-drilling/>



Actions like this make it even more important that Canada ensure a strong presence in its Arctic and North. Certainly for environmental monitoring and probably with a strong emergency response capability. The Inuit and other people of the region should be engaged. There are good examples of such engagement with the Canadian Rangers and Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary.

How Russian Spy Submarines Can Interfere With Undersea Internet Cables







<https://www.forbes.com/sites/hisutton/2020/08/19/how-russian-spy-submarines-can-interfere-with-undersea-internet-cables/#33d304443b04>



There's a vulnerability underseas that is not understood (even known) by many of the general public. And there's probably an ongoing conflict there that's even less understood.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, is a node where submarine telecommunications cables come ashore. The need to protect these vital points needs to be appreciated by governments, corporations and the public. The military understands.

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.

 RUSI www.rusi.org This Week	
<p>https://mailchi.rusi.org/14-august-2020?e=6129fa5ce1</p>	
<p>US says Iran briefly seizes oil tanker near Strait of Hormuz</p> <p>https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2020/08/13/us-says-iran-briefly-seizes-oil-tanker-near-strait-of-hormuz/</p>	
<p>CDA Institute Interview with Stephanie Pezard: Emerging Challenges & Strategic Competition in the Arctic</p> <p>https://cdainstitute.ca/cda-institute-interview-with-stephanie-pezard-emerging-challenges-strategic-competition-in-the-arctic/</p>	
<p>How A Canadian Pilot Became The First Westerner To Fly The Feared MiG-29 Fulcrum</p> <p>https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/35700/how-a-canadian-pilot-became-the-first-westerner-to-fly-the-feared-mig-29-fulcrum?</p>	

75 years later, can Asia shake off shackles of the past?

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2020/08/16/75-years-later-can-asia-shake-off-shackles-of-the-past/>



U.S. Formalizes F-16 Jet Sale to Taiwan With China Tensions High

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-08-14/u-s-formalizes-f-16-jet-sale-to-taiwan-with-china-tensions-high>



China unveils two-seater design for stealth plane based on J-20 fighter

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3097183/china-unveils-two-seater-design-stealth-plane-based-j-20?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2008.17.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



Federal restrictions hurting ombudsman's ability to help veterans: report

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/federal-restrictions-hurting-ombudsman-s-ability-to-help-veterans-report-1.5066976>



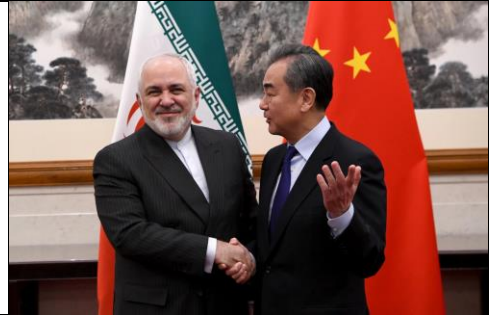
The UAE-Israel Agreement Isn't All It's Cracked Up to Be

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/08/15/the-uae-israel-agreement-isnt-all-its-cracked-up-to-be/>



China Is Getting Mired in the Middle East

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/08/17/china-is-getting-mired-in-the-middle-east/>



The Navy Needs More Ships — and Vision, Too

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/08/navy-needs-more-ships-and-vision-too/167753/>



Europe’s next-gen fighter club faces a dilemma: Who else can join?

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2020/08/17/europes-next-gen-fighter-club-faces-a-dilemma-who-else-can-join/>



Chinese state broadcaster reveals details of new airborne weapon Tianlei 500 as tensions simmer with Taiwan

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3097709/chinese-state-broadcaster-reveals-details-new-airborne-weapon>



North Korea to convene key party meeting to discuss economy, military

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-meeting/north-korea-to-convene-key-party-meeting-to-discuss-economy-military-idUSKCN25E06Z?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2008.18.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



Navy Quietly Starts Development of Next-Generation Carrier Fighter; Plans Call for Manned, Long-Range Aircraft

<https://news.usni.org/2020/08/18/navy-quietly-starts-development-of-next-generation-carrier-fighter-plans-call-for-manned-long-range-aircraft>



Finland's \$12 billion fighter plan dodges the post-pandemic budget ax

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2020/08/18/finlands-12-billion-fighter-plan-dodges-the-post-pandemic-budget-axe/>



Why Did South Korea Decide to Build Aircraft Carriers

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/08/why-did-south-korea-decide-to-build-aircraft-carriers/>



The Postwar Global Order That Never Happened

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/08/15/the-postwar-global-order-that-never-happened/>



Why Protests Threaten Dictatorships but Make Democracies Stronger

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/08/16/why-protests-threaten-dictatorships-but-make-democracies-stronger/>



Chinese troops have been told 'never to fire first' amid frequent standoffs with the US

<https://www.businessinsider.com/chinese-troops-told-not-to-fire-first-amid-us-tensions-2020-8>



Taiwan reportedly told military pilots again 'not to fire the first shot' amid rising tensions with China

<https://www.businessinsider.com/taiwan-tells-pilots-not-to-fire-first-shot-with-china-2020-8>



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

#COVID

A pandemic of bad science

<https://thebulletin.org/2020/07/a-pandemic-of-bad-science/>

and

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00963402.2020.1778361>

#culture

Raising the Flag - Implications of U.S. Military Approaches to General and Flag Officer Development

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR4347.html

Report to Pentagon on Culture of Flag, General Officers Across Services

<https://news.usni.org/2020/08/12/report-to-pentagon-on-culture-of-flag-general-officers-across-services>

#information technology

The Pandemic is Pushing the Pentagon Toward Classified Telework

<https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2020/08/pandemic-pushing-pentagon-toward-classified-telework/167837/>

Will be good to see Canada develop a similar capability.

Other:

The Department of National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces update -- August 18

Colleagues and partners in defence,

Throughout the summer, the Canadian Armed Forces have been gradually, and safely resuming regular activity. On August 4th, Her Majesty’s Canadian Ships *Glace Bay* and *Ville de Québec*, and MV *Asterix*, deployed to the Eastern Arctic waters to take part in Operation NANOOK/TUUGAALIK – the CAF’s signature northern operation. Op NANOOK is designed to exercise the defence of Canada and to secure our northern regions. Joining the

CAF on this operation are some of our closest partners — the United States Coast Guard and Navy, the French Navy, and the Royal Danish Navy. The Royal Canadian Navy will participate in a variety of defence and security exercises alongside our allies to foster cooperation and to test their ability to operate in challenging environments. This year's deployment will end on August 24th – a shorter deployment than in previous years due to the current COVID-19 restrictions. As one of the cornerstones of Op NANOOK is to keep our northern communities safe, participating members will not visit any ports or take part in any community relations events this year. We are also ensuring the health and safety of all personnel involved through a number of precautionary measures, including increased cleaning routines, mandatory testing, and enhanced personal hygiene requirements.

Training is an important part of maintaining a modern military. Equipping our people with the equipment that will support them on operations is another. Major defence procurement projects continue to unfold despite the pandemic and its workplace disruptions.

[Production of the first Armoured Combat Support Vehicles began](#) earlier this month at the General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada facilities in London, Ontario. These vehicles will support the CAF both here at home and overseas by providing ambulance, mobile repair, and vehicle recovery services. And on August 11th, Minister Duclos announced the start of maintenance for Her Majesty's Canadian Ship *St. John's*. This work is being carried out as part of an [initial \\$500 million contract with Davie Shipyard](#) for maintenance of three Halifax-class frigates. This includes equipment upgrades, inspections, structural renewal, and routine hull maintenance. This is critical to ensuring the long-term sustainment of the Halifax-class for the Government of Canada.

Finally, it is important to recognize the important contributions and achievements of individual CAF members on the world stage.

On July 29th, Major Gillian Parker of the Royal Canadian Air Force received the NATO Meritorious Service Medal (NATO-MSM) for her work while deployed in Germany. As the Training and Exercises Officer for NATO's Exercise Trident Juncture 2018, Major Parker was responsible for leading the air component of the multi-national exercise. After three years of planning and coordination, approximately 55,000 military personnel from NATO's 29 member-states participated in the integrated exercise. Major Parker's efforts were instrumental to its success. We commend her for her hard work and dedication to Canada and to our multinational partnerships. She is a true example of excellence and professionalism, and we are proud to have her represent our country on the international stage.

Finally, Sunday, August 9th marked [National Peacekeeper's Day](#) – a time to recognize those who have proudly upheld Canadian values through their peacekeeping efforts, working to bring peace and security to some of the world's most volatile regions and vulnerable communities. We thank Canada's peacekeepers who are currently deployed around the world, and those who served before them. And we remember and honour the 130 Canadian peacekeepers who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of peace and freedom.

Please continue to consult the [DND/CAF COVID-19 Webpage](#) for more information, and we encourage you to download Health Canada's new [COVID Alert App](#) if you haven't already, to help us break the cycle of infection and keep our communities safe.

Thank you for your continued engagement,
Quinn Watson
Director, Outreach and Speechwriting
Assistant Deputy Minister (Public Affairs)
Department of National Defence | Government of Canada

Canadian Defence Review Volume 26 Issue 4, with articles by RUSI(NS) members Tim Dunne and Jay Heisler.
<http://www.canadiandefencereview.com/>