



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Dispatches

18 September 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.

30 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, via Zoom. 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 Sun, 27 Sep. Zoom instructions will be emailed by end Mon, 28 Sep.

14 October, Wednesday – RUSI(NS)/Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association shipbuilding supply chain webinar. 1400-1600, via Zoom. Call for registration to follow.

28 October, Wednesday - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Cdr Helga Budden, Commanding Officer, Canadian Armed Forces Transition Unit Nova Scotia/Newfoundland and Labrador, speaking on transition from serving to retirement. 1300-1500, via Zoom. Call for registration to follow.

18 November, Wednesday – RUSI(NS)/NORAD & NORTHCOM will host Distinguished Speakers from JTFN and N-NC to present "Arctic Continental Defense: Canada and U.S. Perspectives." 1300-1500, via Zoom. Call for registration to follow.

Recent Publications:

New: RUSI(NS) Paper "A Case for Canadian Forces eLearning – Using New Technologies" by Ed Young, 16 September
<https://rusi-ns.ca/elearning/>

Naval Association of Canada presentation "Here Be Dragons? Chinese Submarine Operations in the Arctic" by Adam Lajeunesse and Tim Choi, 8 September 2020, is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

RUSI(NS) Information Paper "Urban Search and Rescue" by Peter Ziobrowski, 28 August 2020
<https://rusi-ns.ca/usar/>

RUSI(NS) Presentations "Policing in a Pandemic Environment" by Insp Blair Bannerman, Cpl Shawn Reynolds and Cpl Deepak Prasad, 26 August 2020
<https://rusi-ns.ca/policing-in-a-pandemic/>

The Newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island Volume 52, 3rd Quarter 2020 is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com. Articles include:
Australia's Defence Strategic Update: It's All About China
Pulling Out of Germany: Trump Adjusts the Military Furniture
"For Our Enemies, We Have Shotguns": Explaining China's New Assertiveness
Hot Issue – The Houthi Art of War: Why They Keep Winning in Yemen
China-India Skirmish: Part of Maritime Versus Land Power Struggle
It Only Took Days for a Fire to Hinder the US Navy's Pacific Fleet for Years to Come
Kra Canal: China is Creating Another Naval Route to Escape a Blockade by India and Only Thailand Can Stop It

The Military Institute of Windsor Communiqué, Volume XXXVIII Number 8 September 2020 is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.





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

The United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island (USINNI) Newsletter Vol 28 No 9 September 2020 is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

New: Royal Canadian Military Institute Military History Night 'Codeword: CANLOAN' with Captain Charles Scot-Brown, 9 September 2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=1v-nae9xa5c&app=desktop>
"Captain Charles Scot-Brown was one of the Canadian infantry officers who were assigned on loan to the British Army under the CANLOAN programme during world War Two. As an officer of the Gay

Gordons, he led his men into parachute drops in Normandy and at Arnhem in 1944, wounded in the first and narrowly escaping capture in the second. He tells of his experience.”

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.

<p>Naval Association CA @navalassn 9 Sep tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: NAC's September Speaker's Event examined the possibility of Chinese Submarine Operations in the Arctic. A recording of the presentation is available at https://youtube.com/watch?v=DQPHrKUhqA4 @RoyalCanNavy @RUSI_NS</p>	 <p>Naval Association of Canada Association navale du Canada</p> <p>Ottawa Branch Speaker's Evening</p> <p>Here there be Dragons? Chinese Submarine Operations in the Arctic</p> <p>Dr. Adam Lajeunesse Mr. Timothy Choi</p> <p>September 8, 2020</p>
<p>HMCS/NCSM HARRY DeWOLF @HMCSHarryDeWolf 12 Sep tweeted: Thinking outside the box or what we can put in a box and restrained only by imagination! HMCS HARRY DEWOLF embarked a Defence Research and Development Canada portable lab, demonstrating just one of the many missions/capabilities of Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessels. RUSI(NS) retweeted: #RCNavy #Arctic&Offshore Patrol Vessels have much potential in support of research by @DRDC_RDDC & other scientific agencies. 6 containers onboard for use for labs, sensors, cargo. See RUSI(NS) presentation "Canadian Ocean Science and the Role of AOPS" https://rusi-ns.ca/canadian-ocean-science-and-the-role-of-aops/</p>	
<p>Maritime Executive @Mar_Ex 15 Sep tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Why the U.S. Should Recognize Canada's Claim to the Northwest Passage https://scq.io/avOuAci #arctic #maritime #shipping (https://maritime-executive.com/editorials/why-the-u-s-should-recognize-canada-s-claim-to-the-northwest-passage)</p>	
<p>Christopher W. Bishop @bishopcw 14 Sep tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: What are the precedents for China's detention of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor—and what lessons might Canada learn from them? My new policy paper from @CAGlobalAffairs (Dealing with China: Lessons Learned from Three Case Studies https://www.cgai.ca/dealing_with_china_lessons_learned_from_three_case_studies)</p>	

Strong harbour service essential part of capable balanced navy. 2 Canadian Maritime Engineering-built barges for @RoyalCanNavy Queen's Harbour Master #Esquimalt roll out of shed for coatings. 2 more being built in shed #NationalShipbuildingStrategy #NSS #RCNavy



Lee Berthiaume @leeberthiaume 15 Sep tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Hundreds of billions in planned military spending 'secure' despite COVID-19: Sajjan
<https://nationalnewswatch.com/2020/09/15/liberals-dont-plan-to-cut-military-spending-to-rein-in-deficit-sajjan/#.X2E8RWm2D-2.twitter> #cdnpoli #cdnmil #covid19



CDR @CDRmagazine 16 Sep tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: @genoadesign Joins Seaspan Shipyard's (@MoreThanShips) Team for Polar Icebreaker Bid #NSS #Shipbuilding Read more: <http://CanadianDefenceReview.com> (Genoa Design Joins Seaspan Shipyards' Team for Polar Icebreaker Bid <http://www.canadiandefencereview.com/news?news/2956>)



Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute NS with comments:

A Return to Combat Mass? Modern LIFT/LCA Platforms to Complement the Fighter Fleet

<https://rusi.org/publication/rusi-defence-systems/return-combat-mass-modern-liftlca-platforms-complement-fighter>



This article is truncated (other than for those with RUSI UK membership) but there is enough there to spark some thoughts. Navies speak about being balanced, having the right number of capable minor warships and auxiliaries in addition to the high end combatants (at one time, "capital ships"). There is so much focus in Canada on the high-end Fighter Future Capability (CF188 Hornet fighter

replacement) that lost in the coverage are messages and discussion about what the remainder of the Royal Canadian Air Force should look like to meet Canada's requirements. What should be the balance in our Air Force?

Is It Time to Bring Back the Medium Bomber?

<https://www.thinkdefence.co.uk/2011/05/is-it-time-to-bring-back-the-medium-bomber/>



This article just got resurrected. Kinda leads one to wonder whether that was done to contribute to ongoing discussions about balanced air forces should look like.

PACFLEET Preparing for 2021 Unmanned Fleet Battle Problem

<https://news.usni.org/2020/09/08/pacfleet-preparing-for-2021-unmanned-fleet-battle-problem>



Fleet battle problems have long been used to develop new ideas, concepts and doctrine. Albert Nofi's "To Train the Fleet for War: The U.S. Navy Fleet Problems, 1923-1940" is a good read for appreciating that (albeit the book appeals better to staff-trained officers more than general readers). It is appropriate to use battle problems as a means to progress integration of drones into navies. Looking forward to when Canada includes drones as a major element in one of their fleet exercises.

China expands its island-building strategy into the Pacific

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/china-expands-its-island-building-strategy-into-the-pacific/>



"Environmental great power diplomacy" - we will save your country from environmental disaster if you let us build military bases (commercial ports lead to military bases) there.

Hmm, dredgers as a national strategic resource...

China as a Faltering Contender

https://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2020/09/14/china_as_a_faltering_contender_577273.html



"Faltering contender." A concept to consider and term to watch. There are aspects of China's economy, demographics, etc., that are not as strong as China's 'influence activities' would like to make out.

Active-duty accessions dropped by 7,000 after COVID hit — and closed schools could make next year even harder

<https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/your-air-force/2020/09/14/active-duty-accessions-dropped-by-7000-after-covid-hit-and-closed-schools-could-make-next-year-even-harder/>



I wonder what Canadian Armed Forces recruiting (Regular and Reserve) is like now.

The US Air Force has built and flown a mysterious full-scale prototype of its future fighter jet

<https://www.defensenews.com/breaking-news/2020/09/15/the-us-air-force-has-built-and-flown-a-mysterious-full-scale-prototype-of-its-future-fighter-jet/>



By the time Canada starts receiving aircraft under the Future Fighter Capability project, are we going to be even more behind?

Sweden and the Blue Society: New Challenges for a Small Navy

<http://cimsec.org/sweden-and-the-blue-society-new-challenges-for-a-small-navy/45585>



There are points in this article, some general and enduring, worth reading by those interested in small navies such as Canada's.

US Bans Marine Scientific Research in its Waters without Consent

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/policy-change-09162020172023.html>



What are Canada's rules for foreign scientific research in its exclusive economic zone?

Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute NS: RUSI(NS) postings may be viewed by clicking on the icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something posted or commented, email the CIO by noon Thursday.



<https://mailchi.mp/rusi.org/uk-defence-armoured-capability-counterering-cbrn-exlm8serhp>



Analysis: New defence chief's main job could be to preside over budget cuts

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/analysis-new-defence-chiefs-main-job-could-be-to-preside-over-budget-cuts>



Iran begins expansive annual war games amid tensions with US

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2020/09/10/iran-begins-expansive-annual-war-games-amid-tensions-with-us/>



British warships extend their northern reach for Barents Sea drill

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2020/09/10/british-warships-extend-their-northern-reach-for-barents-sea-drill/>



A North Korea Strategy for the Next Administration

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/09/09/north-korea-strategy-next-administration-biden-trump/>



India's Alliance With Israel Is a Model for the World's Illiberal Leaders

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/09/10/indias-alliance-with-israel-is-a-model-for-the-worlds-illiberal-leaders/>



The military SAR machine – complex and dedicated

<https://www.skiesmag.com/press-releases/the-military-sar-machine-complex-and-dedicated/>



Norad leaders past, present call for new approach to North American defence

<https://www.vancourier.com/norad-leaders-past-present-call-for-new-approach-to-north-american-defence-1.24201509>



Clock is ticking for the Liberals to announce new defence chief, signal military priorities

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.5722358>



Selling F-35s to the Middle East was Never Going to be Easy

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/09/selling-f-35s-middle-east-was-never-going-be-easy/168438/>



Chinese Nuke Arsenal Next on Beijing's 'To-Do' List, US Commander Warns

<https://www.voanews.com/usa/chinese-nuke-arsenal-next-beijings-do-list-us-commander-warns>



South Korea military chief nominee stands by GSOMIA with Japan

https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2020/09/14/South-Korea-military-chief-nominee-stands-by-GSOMIA-with-Japan/5391600099648/



Greece Is Buying French Rafale Fighters In Light Of Tensions With Turkey

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/36397/greece-is-buying-french-rafale-fighters-in-light-of-tensions-with-turkey>



The Virtual Tools That Built the Air Force's New Fighter Prototype

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2020/09/virtual-tools-built-air-forces-new-fighter-prototype/168505/>



French Air Force changes name as it looks to the stars

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2020/09/15/french-air-force-changes-name-as-it-looks-to-the-stars/>



China air force plays up J-20 stealth strength as Taiwan tensions brew

[https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3101662/china-air-force-plays-j-20-stealth-stealth-strength-taiwan-tensions](https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3101662/china-air-force-plays-j-20-stealth-strength-taiwan-tensions)



Here Is The Surprise Choice To Become Germany's Standard Assault Rifle

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/36433/here-is-the-surprise-choice-to-become-germanys-standard-assault-rifle>



Canada's special forces seek outside intelligence advice

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.5726861>



Who is Secretly Building the USAF's New Fighter?

<https://www.defenseone.com/business/2020/09/who-secretly-building-usafs-new-fighter/168541/>



Seoul: North Korea may conduct underwater-launched missile test

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2020/09/16/seoul-north-korea-may-conduct-underwater-launched-missile-test/>



<p>North Korea: South 'digging its grave' with military spending</p> <p>https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2020/09/16/North-Korea-South-digging-its-grave-with-military-spending/9681600271807/</p>	
<p>Taiwan says Chinese anti-submarine aircraft off its coast</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN26800Z</p>	
<p>China bristles as Japan appoints Taiwanese ally as new defense chief</p> <p>https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense-national-security/china-bristles-as-japan-appoints-taiwanese-ally-as-new-defense-chief</p>	

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

#armour

<p>The British Army Should Seek to Retain an Armoured Capability</p> <p>https://rusi.org/commentary/british-army-should-retain-armoured-capability</p> <p>Tanks have rarely been more vulnerable</p> <p>https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2020/09/12/tanks-have-rarely-been-more-vulnerable</p> <p><i>Or, if you cannot get past the paywall, available on request to RUSINoavScotia@gmail.com.</i></p>
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#defence policy

Management of Defence After the Levene Reforms: What Comes Next?

<https://rusi.org/publication/occasional-papers/management-defence-after-levene-reforms-what-comes-next>

#drones

<p>Public Safety Drones: Disasters & Drones for Good</p> <p>https://www.domesticpreparedness.com/resilience/public-safety-drones-disasters-drones-for-good/</p> <p>Unmanned Aircraft Systems for Emergency Management</p> <p>https://www.domesticpreparedness.com/resilience/unmanned-aircraft-systems-for-emergency-management/</p>
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#information operations

NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence Robotrolling

<https://www.stratcomcoe.org/robotrolling-20203>

Why We Tweet: General Officer Use of Social Media to Engage, Influence, and Lead

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2020/9/7/why-we-tweet-general-officer-use-of-social-media-to-engage-influence-and-lead>

#policing

The Wars Are Here: How the United States' Post-9/11 Wars Helped Militarize U.S. Police

<https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2020/Police%20Militarization%20Costs%20of%20War%20Sept%2016%202020.pdf>

"American police departments now own at least \$1.6 billion in military equipment transferred from the Defense Department since Sept. 11, 2001, according to a new report from researchers at Brown University's Costs of War project."

#public affairs

Our Greatest Security Risk may be a Communications Failure

<https://wavellroom.com/2020/09/08/storytellingfordefence/>

#strategy

Beyond Ends, Ways, and Means: We Need a Better Strategic Framework to Win in an Era of Great Power Competition

<https://mwi.usma.edu/beyond-ends-ways-and-means-we-need-a-better-strategic-framework-to-win-in-an-era-of-great-power-competition>

#warfare

When the Campaign Meets the City: Urban Battles and the Operational Level of War

<https://mwi.usma.edu/when-the-campaign-meets-the-city-urban-battles-and-the-operational-level-of-war/>

Other:

Admiral's Barge?

This picture of RV *Ocean Seeker* departing Halifax (from Mac Mackay's blog

<http://shipfax.blogspot.com/2020/09/non-headline-news.html>) caught my attention. Not only does it show what can happen to disposed government vessels (*Ocean Seeker* used to be RCMPV *Murray*), but Mac comments on the superstructure graphic ('hull wrap') of a Kraken. Hmm, if and whenever CRCN gets a new barge (*Queen Bee* was disposed of long ago), could this graphic serve as the identifier for the Commander?



"The Watch" on Facebook

The United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) is pleased to announce the release of the USNORTHCOM "The Watch" Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TheWatchNorthcom>.

We would like to invite you to subscribe to "The Watch" Facebook page which serves as a platform to share emerging threats, innovative ideas, and cutting-edge technologies with fellow influential leaders in Homeland Defense and Security.

"The Watch" Facebook page is unique with posts exploring changing Homeland Defense threat environments (air/ground/maritime/cyber/space), emerging Great Power Competition (GPC) in the Arctic, cutting-edge technologies, and highlighting innovative Homeland Defense partnerships. The page emphasizes the importance of the United States partnering with its allies and trusted partners to defend our collective homelands.

"The Watch" Facebook page also links to the 2nd Edition of "The Watch" magazine which focuses on "Collaborative Defense", highlighting the value of local, regional, and international defense partnerships. For alliances to succeed, defense partners must embrace emerging technology to counter increasingly sophisticated threats. The magazine includes a key leader profile of Brig. Gen. Pete M. Fesler, deputy director of operations for the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). Brig. Gen Fesler explains how the U.S. and its partners are investing in cutting-edge technology to meet new threats. He also discusses the science of getting military cargo and personnel to the fight in a technologically sophisticated environment. "The Watch" also looks upward to the crowded landscape of space, where scientists are tracking 8,800 metric tons of debris orbiting Earth. Finally, the magazine highlights the partnership between Canada and the United States that has protected North America since the beginning of the Cold War.

Subscribe now to "The Watch" Facebook page!!

Thank you for your support and consideration.

V/r,

USNORTHCOM "The Watch" Staff

For your amusement, and as an (unrelated) trailer for RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker Cdr Helga Budden, CO CAF Transition Unit NS/NL, speaking about transition from service. 1300-1400, Wednesday, 28 October.

Friendship

Canadian Forces in Flag of United States @CAFinUS 14 Sep tweeted:

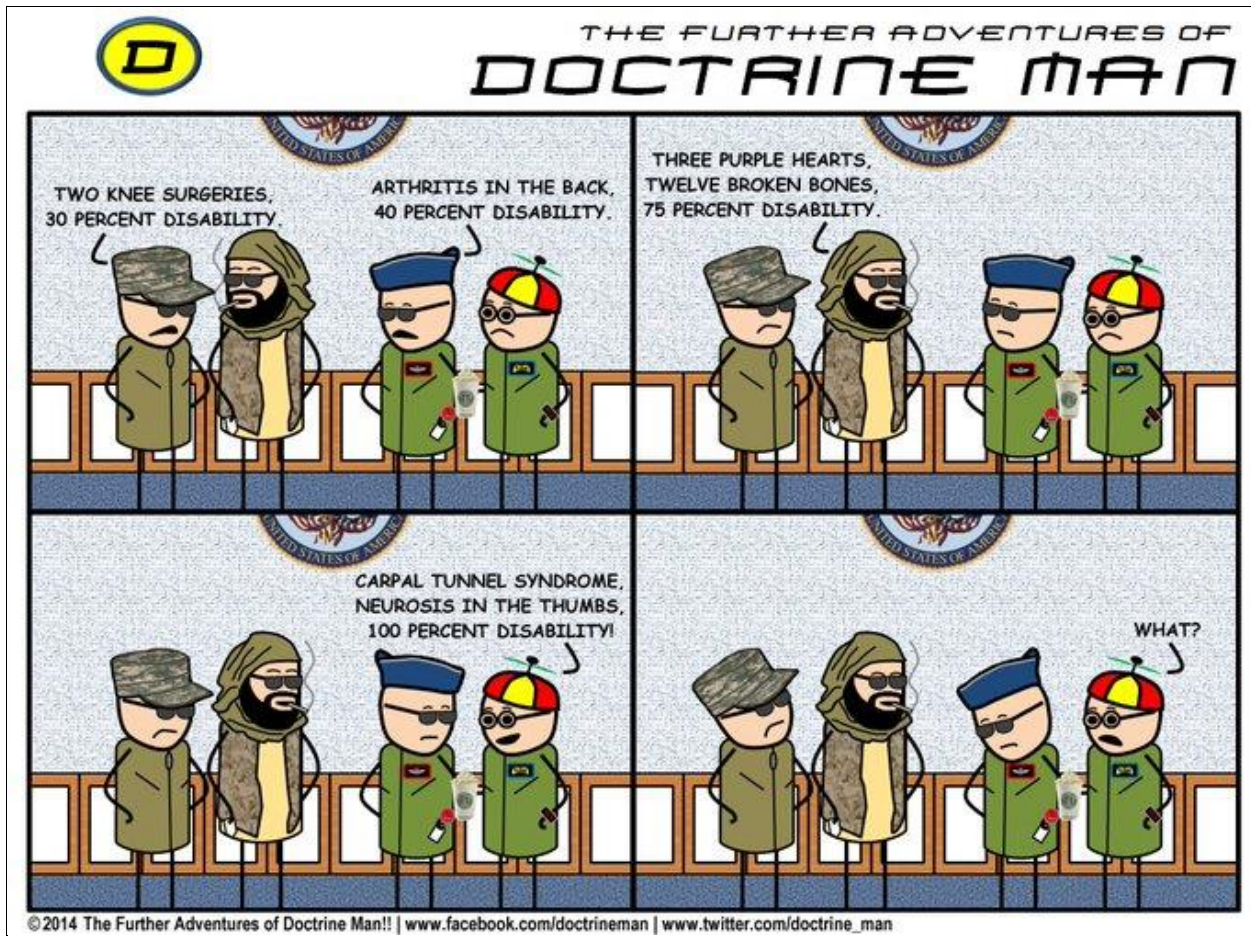
Dear America,

Earlier this year, we lost our sister in a tragic accident.

Amidst a pandemic, she tried to make it better if only for a moment. She always shone a light.

Your @AFThunderbirds are paying tribute to her. Thank you for them. Thank you, America.

Yours,
@CAFinUS



Global Defence Technology Issue 115 September 2020

https://defence.nridigital.com/global_defence_technology_sep20/issue_115

Contents include:

Will the UK's carrier strike groups achieve their full potential?

Words matter: reaching inclusivity through language

The Department of National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces update – September 16

Colleagues and partners in defence;

On September 11th, we remembered the terrorist attacks 19 years ago in the United States that killed nearly 3000 people—including 24 Canadians. Like all of you, I will never forget watching the horrible events unfold that day, or the stories of bravery and human decency that emerged in the days, weeks, and months that followed.

For many families across the country, including my own, last week represented the start of something new – the first week of school. Many of our children are heading back to a very different school environment than they left in March. For those of you with school-aged kids—whether they're staying home and learning online or attending classes in-person—I wish you the very best of luck this school year.

In light of our children heading back to school, I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on the strength, support, and sacrifices that military families make to support our people in uniform. September 18th is Military Family Appreciation Day, where we recognize and celebrate the spouses, children, parents, siblings and other family and friends of our Canadian Armed Forces members. We know that the challenges and demands of a career in the military are not borne by the member alone, and we are grateful for everything military families do to support those who serve.

This year between September 12 and 20th, thousands of people across the country are showing their support for the CAF, by participating in the 14th annual Canada Army Run. This year, runners are participating virtually, but are invited to stay connected online through digital events, by connecting with the @CanadaArmyRun page, and by using the hashtag #armyrun across social media. Participants have already raised nearly \$30,000 for Support Our Troops and Soldier On. Even though it looks a little different this year, the event is sure to be a great success.

This month, we also commemorate the 80th anniversary of the [Battle of Britain](#), the first battle waged and won exclusively in the air. It pitted 3,000 Allied aircrew—including more than 100 Canadians—against the much larger Luftwaffe. The unlikely Allied victory was a turning point in the Second World War, but it came at a great cost. By the time the Battle ended in October 1940, 23 Canadians, and a total of 544 Allied aviators, had lost their lives.

To this day, RCAF members carry on a proud legacy of supporting our allies and partners. On September 3rd, [Air Task Force-Romania](#) earned its readiness certification from NATO, and began its yearly Air Policing mission under Operation REASSURANCE two days later. As part of this effort, approximately 135 RCAF personnel and six CF-18 Hornets will spend the next four months working with the Romanian Air Force patrolling Romanian air space and intercepting any aircraft that enter without authorization. Throughout this mission—and all other CAF operations—our members are adhering to strict COVID-19 safety requirements to minimize risk to themselves, partners, and local populations.

Closer to home, the Innovation for Defence Excellence and Security (IDEaS) program invited the winners of the first round of the [Pop-Up City Contest](#) to prepare their proposals to move to the second round. In this first challenge, we invited innovators from across Canada to develop improved energy, water, and waste management solutions for Relocatable Temporary Camps (RTCs) that the military could someday use while deployed. Each winner received \$10,000 and the opportunity to compete in Round 2. In this next round, which closes on September 30th, competitors will present their integrated solutions combining the most promising energy, water and waste management solutions from the first round.

On September 3rd, the CDS celebrated the career of Chief Warrant Officer Alain Guimond, the senior NCO in the CAF. CWO Guimond is retiring after 37 years in the Forces, and leaves behind a strong legacy of supporting NCM's across the military and continuing to push our organization forward. In his place, CPO1 Gilles Grégoire has been appointed the 14th Canadian Armed Forces Chief Warrant Officer. He served most recently as CJOC Command Chief Petty Officer 1st Class, and brings over 30 years of experience to the job, including serving onboard nine of Her Majesty's Canadian Ships.

Finally, on September 1st, we were proud to watch as the Premier of Ontario presented a certificate of appreciation to the Commander and CWO from 4th Canadian Division for the excellent work of the 678 CAF members who deployed to Ontario's Long-Term Care Facilities [earlier this summer](#). From late April to July, CAF members supported seven facilities across the Greater Toronto Area impacted by COVID-19. This was a unique and difficult deployment for our people, and we are grateful for everything they did to support residents and health care workers.

As we move into the fall and the country looks to reopen, DND/CAF continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19. We need to remain ready which is why we are encouraging our people—military and civilian alike—to continue following strict health protocols and to download the Federal Government's COVID Alert app, which is now available in Ontario and Newfoundland. We hope you and your loved ones stay safe and healthy in the coming months.

And, as always, please continue to consult the [DND/CAF webpage](#) for more updates.

Thank you for your continued collaboration.

Quinn Watson

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

Standby for FoxholeU

COVID 19 has presented numerous challenges to be overcome as well as giving the occasional opportunity to be exploited. For the Canadian Army Command and Staff College (CACSC), the opportunity presented itself as time to think and focus on how the College could improve Informal Professional Military Education (IPME).

IPME is not new. Good units and leaders have been doing it throughout history. It has gone by different names – CO's Hours, Professional Development, Self-Directed Study – but the intent has generally been to supplement the formal education and training we give our people with additional instruction at their parent unit. The forms that this can take are limited only by the imagination, and we can all think back to all manner of study sessions led by senior officers or NCOs where we were able to take home a lesson of value without sitting in the classroom.

Contemporary IPME is greatly assisted by internet accessibility. The plethora of websites, blogs, and social media may be leveraged by any unit or individual with an interest. What has been lacking however, is a distinctly Canadian Army voice in this realm. FoxholeU aims to change that.

Originally coined by some young Captain undergoing a course at Fort Frontenac, the name FoxholeU has been around for at least 60 years. In its modern usage, FoxholeU.CA is going to be a hub for units and individuals to engage with their profession via digital means. Accessible over the open internet, using whatever device the individual possesses (phone, tablet, computer), it will offer a wide variety of resources, tools, and information that can be used for either self-guided or directed study.

Some of these tools are being generated in house at the College – guides on the conduct of unit level IPME, instructions for running TEWTs and Staff Rides, wargame rules and scenarios, and others. Other resources still are coming from fellow IPME sites with a global reach and audience. It is important to note, however, we envision that much of the content will come from our main target audience, the Canadian junior officers and NCOs currently operating around the globe. This site will ultimately be a venue where they can articulate how they overcame challenges, describe what the contemporary operating environment looks like at the coal face, and get ideas on how to resolve the difficulties that remain.

The screenshot displays the FoxholeU website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'HOME', 'ABOUT', 'CONTACT', and 'SEARCH'. The main content area is dominated by a large article titled "WHAT IS A 'LESSON' IN MILITARY TERMS?" featuring a background image of soldiers in a field. Below this, a "OUR MISSION" section outlines the site's purpose: to deliver high-quality, relevant, and engaging education and training to military officers and non-commissioned members. A "LATEST ARTICLES" section follows, showing a grid of article thumbnails. The "COMMANDER'S MESSAGES" section includes a portrait of a military officer and a message from the commander. A "RESOURCES" section lists various college resources. The footer contains a "CONTACT THE COLLEGE" form, a "SUBMIT AN ARTICLE" button, and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

At the point of this writing, the website is now being readied for its beta testing stage by the next crop of students on the Army Operations Course. This is being done deliberately to make sure that the site speaks to them, and meets their expectations. Following the completion of this trial, FoxholeU will be further refined and then activated for public access. Our goal is to do this no later than the end of this year.

You can assist us in this endeavour. Quite frankly, your perspectives are important and useful. Reflections on your own experience, ideas on tactical level issues, and best practices that you use currently would all be useful for publication and wider dissemination and will be sought in the near future. In the meantime, standby for the official launch of FoxholeU.CA.

Colonel Tod Strickland, Commandant
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