

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 the 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 <u>RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</u>. RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice – email RUSI(NS) if there is a question of an event occurring.

28 October, Wednesday - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker Cdr Helga Budden, Commanding Officer, Canadian Armed Forces Transition Unit Nova Scotia/Newfoundland and Labrador, will present "Transition – A Step We All Take." 1300-1500, via Zoom. Registration is required. To register, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com by close of business Sun, 25 Oct. Zoom instructions will be emailed by end Mon, 16 Oct.

New: **3 November**, Tuesday - Evenings @ Government House presentation: "To mark the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War, renowned author Stephen Kimber will tell the story of how Halifax's experiences during that conflict led to the shocking VE Day Riots that marked the war's end." 7:00 to 8:30 pm. To register, see: https://lt.gov.ns.ca/news-events/evenings-government-house/2020-11-03/mark-75th-anniversary-end-second-world-war-renowned.

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. To register, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com by close of business Sun, 15 Nov. Zoom instructions will be emailed by end Mon, 16 Nov.

9 December, Wednesday - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker from Canadian Coast Guard, speaking about CCG fleet recapitalization. 1300-1500, via Zoom. Call for registration to follow.

Recent Publications:

New: RUSI(NS) Presentations "Marine Industry Supply Chains of Canadian Shipyards in the Era of the National Shipbuilding Strategy" by Philippe Flébus, Lindsey Kettel and Steve Christiansen, 14 October 2020

https://rusi-ns.ca/marine-supply-chain/

RUSI(NS) Paper "A Case for Canadian Forces eLearning – Using New Technologies" by Ed Young, 16 September

https://rusi-ns.ca/elearning/

The Military Institute of Windsor Communiqué, Volume XXXVIII Number 9 October 2020 is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

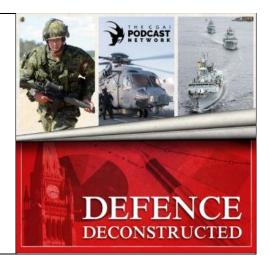
The Edmonton United Services Institute President's Enews October 2020 is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

The United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island (USINNI) Newsletter Vol 28 No 10 October 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.

Canadian Global Affairs Institute @CAGlobalAffairs 16 Oct tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: NEW PODCAST: ON this week's Defence Deconstructed, @DavePerryCGAI speaks to @RoyalCanNavy's RAdm Casper Donovan about Canadian Surface Combatant and the future of the Navy.

A text transcript of the podcast is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.



Presentations "Marine Industry Supply Chains of Canadian Shipyards in the Era of the National Shipbuilding Strategy" by @chantierdavie, @MoreThanShips & Groupe Océan to @CDNShipbuilders, RUSI(NS), engaged companies & guests 14Oct20 https://rusi-ns.ca/marine-supply-chain/ Interesting briefs, Q&A

Royal Canadian Navy @RoyalCanNavy 16 Oct tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Introducing Canada's next generation warship! #ShipsForCanada Flag of Canada Right pointing backhand index http://ow.ly/8jY150BUZWU (The Canadian Surface Combatant – More than Just a Ship http://www.navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/news-

operations/news-view.page?doc=the-canadian-surface-combatant-more-than-just-a-ship/kfi7q8h5)



"Government completes new vehicle maintenance facility at CFB Kingston" https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2020/10/government-completes-new-vehicle-maintenance-facility-at-cfb-kingston.html New Integrated Logistics Section facility consolidates maintenance, transport & and supply functions (900 vehicles, 800 boats incl cars, buses, armoured veh, bulldozers, excavators)

#Arctic & Offshore Patrol Vessel @HMCSHarryDeWolf experiences equipment issues during shake down https://www.capebretonpost.com/news/provincial/comms-problem-could-be-a-huge-fly-in-the-ointment-for-new-warship-retired-commander-511086/ To be expected with a first-of-class ship. That's why picked crew with great leadership. Lessons to be applied to later builds (New Halifax-made Harry DeWolfe has comms failure during sea trials)

"@CanadianForces Casualty Identification Program looking to utilize new DNA technology that will increase likelihood of identification with a more robust & rigorous scientific methodology"

https://buyandsell.gc.ca/cds/public/2020/10/20/5d374f0d44eb1 0052428ecd3724d92f8/ott lstl-5601704-v4-w6369-21-a004 - dna_identification_program - rfi - english.pdf Details of Program: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/casualty-identification-military.html

(Request for Information Regarding the DNA Identification Program)



NAVY MARINI





"Hardening the Shield: A Credible Deterrent & Capable Defense for North America"

https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/hardening-shield-credible-deterrent-capable-defense-north-america

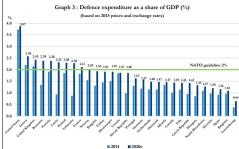
"US Northern Command & North American Aerospace Defense Command ... have developed new approach to defense." SHIELD = Strategic Homeland Integrated Ecosystem for Layered Defense

"Defence Expenditure of #NATO Countries (2013-2020)"

https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2020/10/pdf

/pr-2020-104-en.pdf CAN defence expenditure as a share of GDP = 1.45%

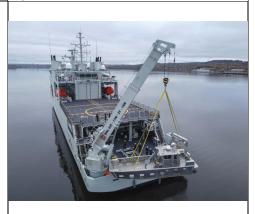




Royal Canadian Navy @RoyalCanNavy 20 Oct tweeted: Here is another look at the 20 tonne crane

Dave Mazur @HBC_44 20 Oct retweeted: The landing craft shown here, crane, ability to carry sea containers, and the garage are features that provide new and important capability/flexibility to the RCN and CAF. The landing craft provides an important sea - shore connector that will be invaluable operating in the North

RUSI(NS) retweeted: #Arctic&Offshore Patrol Vessel #AOPV landing craft built by ABCO Industries Inc, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia https://shipsforcanada.ca/our-stories/aops-landing-craft-ready-for-action 12 metres long, 4 tonnes capacity. For missions anywhere in world



Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute NS with comments:

CBO Report on Cost of the Navy's FFG(X) Program

https://news.usni.org/2020/10/14/cbo-report-on-cost-of-the-navys-ffgx-program



A Canadian Parliamentary Budget Officer report on the cost of the Canadian Surface Combatant is due out soon, so it will be interesting to compare. But have to bear in mind 'applies to oranges...'

A 21st-Century Reality Is Dawning on NATO

https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/10/21st-century-reality-dawns-nato/169230/



"The reality is this: in today's security environment, non-kinetic threats pose as grave a danger as kinetic ones. If NATO is going to be successful, its military capabilities have to be backed up by societal resilience in the member states. Without societal resilience, military excellence is useless."

Problems of Geography: Military and Economic Transport Logistics in Russia's Far East

https://rusi.org/publication/occasional-papers/problems-geography-military-and-economic-transport-logistics-russia



In war and adversarial situations, you can't just consider the other's strengths, you have to look, too, at their weaknesses. Logistics, especially transportation capabilities, is a good focus.

And then look at one's own transport.

Crude Tanker Damaged by Floating Mines Near Yemeni Oil Terminal

https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/crude-tanker-damaged-by-floating-mines-near-yemeni-oil-terminal



Mines (floating, moored, bottom, whatever) are still a valid and potent threat. In peace and war. Anywhere and everywhere in the world. Canada needs to ensure it retains strong mine warfare capabilities (ships, divers, mapping). And that it develops new capabilities (drones, sensors). When it comes time to replace the Royal Canadian Navy's Kingston-class mine warfare ships (known often by their project title - Maritime Coastal Defence Vessel), small (relatively to open ocean ships - enough hundreds of tonnes displacement) inshore multi-role ships should be procured. Include them in the National Shipbuilding Strategy.

Australia, UK Sign MoU to Cooperate on Frigate Programs

https://defpost.com/australia-uk-sign-mou-to-cooperate-on-frigate-programs/



"A key aspect of the MOU is a pledge for information exchange to ensure shipbuilding best practice is shared and both the UK Royal Navy Type 26 City-class frigate and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Hunter-class frigate programmes deliver world-beating maritime capabilities to the respective navies. Hunter class is based on BAE Systems' Global Combat Ship (GCS) design which also formed basis for the Type 26 frigates."

"The new agreement also sets out a framework to enable both nations to utilize the Type 26 and Hunter frigate programmes to create jobs and contribute to the growth of the UK and Australian economies, seeking to support small and medium-sized enterprises."

Will there be (needs there be?) similar collaboration between Canada, whose Canadian Surface Combatant design is based on the Type 26, and the other nations?

British Army set to slash 7,000 roles sparking fears of troops shortage— 'Sheer madness'

https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1348787/Uk-army-news-MoD-defence-troops-soldiers-integrated-review



Interesting to see public contentions of the UK's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy. What would a Canadian integrated review look like and result in?

'Weaponized truth': How the US military plans to compete in the crowded information space

https://www.c4isrnet.com/show-reporter/ausa/2020/10/16/weaponized-truth-how-the-us-military-plans-to-compete-in-the-crowded-information-space/



An interesting article with several take-aways.

"Senior leaders need to embrace that public-communication warfare is important, and then have the policies that provide the resources to equip our words warriors and our soldiers with what they need."

- "...one of the tactics that emerged from its efforts involves disclosing adversarial activity." Let truth and openness prevail!
- "...the military has to give everyday foot soldiers and especially public affairs personnel the tools to upload content faster to compete in this environment."

Some lessons:

- 1. create a mindset to domination the information environment with weaponized truth;
- 2. use an audience-centric approach to reach people in their natural language and on regional networks;
- 3. build relationships with representatives from partner forces and with regional journalists to fight misinformation; and
- 4. talk to the public though the press and embedded media.

A requirement: good communications to facilitate the movement of imagery.

And some buzz terms:

'word warriors'

'operations in the information environment' vice information warfare (also:

https://www.c4isrnet.com/information-warfare/2020/04/03/5-questions-with-the-marine-corps-deputy-commandant-for-information/)

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.



 $\underline{https://mailchi.mp/rusi.org/weekly16october2020?e=6129fa5c}\ el$



Combat Camera

https://www.flickr.com/photos/cfcombatcamera

U.S. Working to End Chinese Secrecy Around Nuclear Capabilities

https://news.usni.org/2020/10/15/u-s-working-to-end-chinese-secrecy-around-nuclear-capabilities

Japan Just Launched Its First "Big Whale" Lithium-Ion Battery Powered Submarine

https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/37083/japan-just-launched-its-first-big-whale-lithium-ion-battery-powered-submarine



How the US Army integrated a Marine F-35 jet into its tactical network

https://www.c4isrnet.com/battlefield-tech/itnetworks/2020/10/12/how-the-us-army-integrated-a-marine-f-35-jet-into-its-tactical-network/

As for Switzerland the United States Congress notified of possible multi-role fighter sale also to Finland

http://en.aviation-report.com/united-states-congress-notified-of-possible-multi-role-fighter-sale-to-finland/

Dutch Defence Ministry casts 'unrealistic' NATO spending goal

https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2020/10/16/dutc h-defense-ministry-casts-nato-spending-goal-as-out-of-reach/

Turkey reportedly test-fires S-400 air defense system

 $\frac{https://www.defensenews.com/training-}{sim/2020/10/16/turkey-reportedly-test-fires-s-400-air-defense-system/}$

US tells Taiwan 'to fortify itself' to repel invasion from China

https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense-national-security/us-tells-taiwan-to-fortify-itself-to-repelinvasion-from-china



China's military moves targeting Taiwan are more about intimidation than invasion, analysts say

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3106001/chinas-military-moves-targeting-taiwan-are-more-about

Video reveals Chinese H-6N bomber carrying suspected hypersonic weapon

https://www.defensenews.com/global/asia-pacific/2020/10/19/video-reveals-chinese-h-6n-bomber-carrying-suspected-hypersonic-weapon/

Britain unveils strategy to gain a technological advantage over adversaries

https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2020/10/19/britain-unveils-strategy-to-gain-a-technological-advantage-over-adversaries/

The Russians Have Spent 40 Years Preparing For Undersea Slaughter—The U.S. Navy Built A Submarine To Stop It

https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2020/10/19/the-russians-have-spent-40-years-preparing-for-undersea-slaughter-the-us-navy-built-a-submarine-to-stop-it/

Despite Military Improvements, Chinese Invasion of Taiwan Still 'Highly Risky' Says Former Pentagon Official

https://news.usni.org/2020/10/20/despite-militaryimprovements-chinese-invasion-of-taiwan-still-highly-riskysays-former-pentagon-official



As the Arctic's attractions mount, Greenland is a security black hole

https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN2750JL

North Korea unveils 'monster' new intercontinental ballistic missile at parade

 $\frac{https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-idUSKBN26V01K}{}$

Britain leaves the door open to foreign yards in \$2B supply-ship buy

https://www.defensenews.com/smr/euronaval/2020/10/21/british-mod-leaves-the-door-open-to-foreign-yards-in-2-billion-supply-ship-buy/

Russian Navy Seen Escorting Iranian Tankers Bound for Syria

https://news.usni.org/2020/10/21/russian-navy-seen-escorting-iranian-tankers-bound-for-syria

China overhauls military education, modernising troops to be ready to fight

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3106421/china-overhauls-military-education-modernising-troops-be-ready



Refit of WW II vessel brings 'tremendous sense of satisfaction,' says official

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/80-year-old-hmcs-sackville-dry-dock-for-refit-1.5771595



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

#armour

No, Drones Haven't Made Tanks Obsolete

https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/10/15/drones-tanks-obsolete-nagorno-karabakh-azerbaijan-armenia/ For those who cannot get through the paywall, a copy may be requested from RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

#artificial intelligence

Will Commanders Trust Their New AI Weapons and Tools?

 $\underline{https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/10/will-commanders-trust-their-new-ai-weapons-and-tools/169251/}$

#COVID-19

Troops ordered to keep guard up to protect military from COVID-19 resurgence https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/troops-ordered-to-keep-guard-up-to-protect-military-from-covid-19-resurgence/ar-BB1adXTA

#defence procurement

The (Cyber) Future of Procurement

https://uwaterloo.ca/defence-security-foresight-group/sites/ca.defence-security-foresight-group/files/uploads/files/dsfg_csenkey_policy_brief_cyber_futures_0.pdf

#drones

Cheap drones versus expensive tanks: a battlefield game-changer? https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/cheap-drones-versus-expensive-tanks-a-battlefield-game-changer/

#information operations

How Russia, China, and other governments use coronavirus disinformation to reshape geopolitics https://thebulletin.org/2020/10/how-russia-china-and-other-governments-use-coronavirus-disinformation-to-reshape-geopolitics/

How Russia, China, and other governments use coronavirus disinformation to reshape geopolitics https://thebulletin.org/2020/10/how-russia-china-and-other-governments-use-coronavirus-disinformation-to-reshape-geopolitics/

Forget Counterterrorism, the United States Needs a Counter-Disinformation Strategy https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/10/15/forget-counterterrorism-the-united-states-needs-a-counter-disinformation-strategy/

For those who cannot get through the paywall, a copy may be requested from RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

The United States Isn't Doomed to Lose the Information Wars

https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/10/16/us-election-interference-disinformation-china-russia-information-warfare/

Disinformation Is Drowning Democracy

https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/04/24/disinformation-is-drowning-democracy/ For those who cannot get through the paywall, a copy may be requested from RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

Why China's Coronavirus Propaganda Campaign Has Come Up Short

 $\underline{https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/29136/why-china-s-coronavirus-propaganda-campaign-\underline{has-come-up-short}}$

If you cannot get through the wall, email <u>RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</u> for a copy of the article.

#international relations

A Democratic Disadvantage: Sharp Power and Regime Typology in International Relations https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2020/10/12/a-democratic-disadvantage-sharp-power-and-regime-typology-in-international-relations

#maritime operations

TIAR 21: Maritime Security, the TIAR, and IUU Fishing in the Western Hemisphere http://cimsec.org/tiar-21-maritime-security-the-tiar-and-iuu-fishing-in-the-western-hemisphere/46145 Though Canada is not specifically mentioned, this article is about issues in which our services are engaged, and about our hemisphere.

#transport

Helicopter Transportable Vehicles

https://www.thinkdefence.co.uk/helicopter-transportable-vehicles/

#urban warfare

Taking "De Oppresso Liber" to the Streets: Why the Us Army's Special Forces Qualification Course Needs to Become More Urban

https://mwi.usma.edu/taking-de-oppresso-liber-to-the-streets-why-the-us-armys-special-forces-gualification-course-needs-to-become-more-urban/

#war

COVID-19 and the Masters of War (Part 1)

https://wavellroom.com/2020/10/09/covid-19-and-the-masters-of-war-part-1/

COVID-19 and Clausewitz (Masters of War Part 2)

https://wavellroom.com/2020/10/15/covid-19-and-clausewitz-masters-of-war-part-2/

Other:

Speed Mentoring Event

On 1 October 2020, two members of RUSI(NS), Tom Birchall and John McLearn, participated as mentors in a virtual Speed Mentoring Event that took place as part of the Aerospace, Defence and Security Expo Atlantic (ADS Expo). It was the fruit of the collaboration of three organizations: Atlantic Canada Aerospace & Defence Association (ACADA), Women in Aerospace Canada (WIA) and Women in Defence and Security (WiDS).

The event was sponsored by Serco Canada. Serco Canada was awarded earlier that day the ACADA Industry Excellence Awards in the category of Gender and Diversity Excellence. Serco was represented by Natasha Maclean, Managing Director of Canadian Business at Serco North America. RUSI(NS) congratulates Serco on its award.

This virtual event was created as a result of COVID-19 and the need to continue the program in a safe manner. This networking event was traditionally being held as part of DEFSEC Atlantic.

This year's event had a total of 35 mentors and 70 mentees participating. There were four sessions of fifteen minutes each with a mentor having between one and two mentees for each session. In between each session there were speakers who have reached key positions within their profession, including Natasha McLean; Colonel Speiser-Blanchet, currently the Commander of the Canadian Forces Intelligence Group; and Jody Fancey, ACADA's Provincial Director, Newfoundland and Labrador.

The discussions were as varied as the mentees and mentors themselves and with a surprising number of mentees being longer in their positions than expected. This did not seem to matter and most everyone found the experience to be highly beneficial. RUSI(NS) is pleased to be helping spread the word of this initiative.

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

The Chinese Communist Party announced through its mouth piece that China's economy grew by 5% officially. This is despite of massive floods in 27 out of 34 provinces destroying a huge portion of Chinese agriculture. It also impacted major cities and towns including factories and retail and wholesale outlets. It also flies in the face of the effects of US and other tariffs and boycotts. The biggest indicator is that the CCP is directing a new law against food waste. Major centres of food storage have been found to have been neglected with wide spread spoilage of stored food due to incompetence. This strategic reserve was also subject to corrupt practices including fraud within CCP cadres. There are indications that China will enter a period of starvation of at least a portion of its population due to these issues. The CCP's desire for stability is likely out of reach this year. One has to wonder why Western investors apparently are still throwing good money after bad in China. One hopes that brighter and more observant business leaders are paying attention to actual indicators as opposed to CCP fabrications known as their official economic forecasts.

Russia has problems completely surrounding it. There is a new government in Kyrgyzstan after a relatively bloodless series of demonstrations. The outcome on Russia is still to be determined. Armenia and Azerbaijan continue to fight with increasing attacks on civilian areas such as Ganja and Stepanakert in Nogorno Karabakh. This war has shown the new possibilities of drone warfare which has taken a severe toll on Armenian armour forces. Many of these drones have been provided by

Turkey which has given equipment and support to Azerbaijan forces including the alleged shooting down of an Armenian fighter by a Turkish F-16. This is open source and not verified but given Turkey's past with Armenians it is plausible. Russia thus far has been strangely quiet in comparison to their actions in Crimea as an example. Belarus continues to fester with wide spread demonstrations continuing. Security forces were more forceful as the regime has forced out foreign journalists. Social media continues to show security forces using undue force against demonstrators. Lastly, despite relatively peaceful demonstrations in Russia's Far East, security forces have finally cracked down as demonstrations grew smaller due to the weather. Even still, demonstrations seem to be occurring across Russia. The Putin regime seems to be out of ideas except to use security forces as a bludgeon against demonstrators. Mr Navalny insists that he will return to Russia once he recovers and will continue his campaign against Government corruption.

A large number of former ISIS prisoners are being released by Syrian Democratic Forces due to lack of resources and ability to maintain the camps. The SDF was a main supporter of the US. The release of these prisoners will complicate an already disastrous situation in Syria. No good will come of this act.

On another note, Britain and Australia have just signed an agreement to jointly develop the Type 26 frigate. Canada is absent despite opting for the same platform. Is this wise or can we leverage the other partners to help develop a more effective platform?

Less than two weeks to the US election. It is like a train wreck, it is hard to look away. One wonders how the US has come to this point in their democracy. One can only hope that their normal ability to rise to virtually any occasion and come out better and more united will occur once again.