

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 <u>RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</u>. 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 <u>RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</u>.

# **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.

New: 23 November, Monday - RCN presentation by LCdr Jeffrey Anderson, "Operation CARIBBE – Countering Illicit Trafficking by Transnational Organized Crime." 7:00-8:00 PM EST. Via Zoom from HMCS *Summerside* in the Caribbean Sea. See box at end of *Dispatches*.

**9 December**, Wednesday - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker Derek Moss, Canadian Coast Guard, to present "Canadian Coast Guard Fleet Renewal." 1300-1500, via Zoom. To register, email <u>RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</u> by end Sun, 6 Dec. Zoom instructions will be emailed by end Mon, 7 Nov.

New: 20 January 2021, Wednesday – RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker TBA. 1300-1500, via Zoom. Call-to-meeting and invitations will be sent soon.

# **Recent Publications:**

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

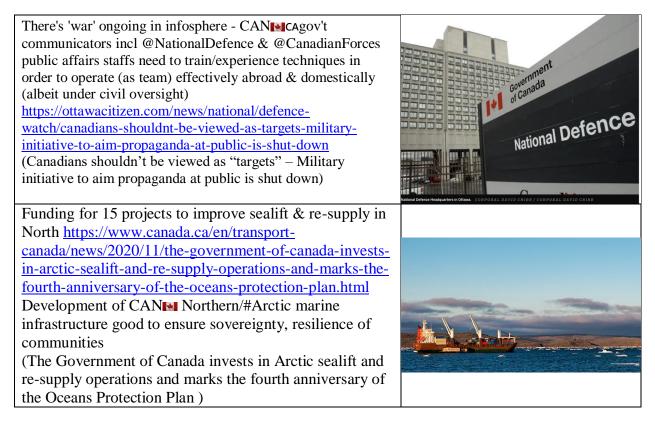
https://rusi-ns.ca/marine-supply-chain/

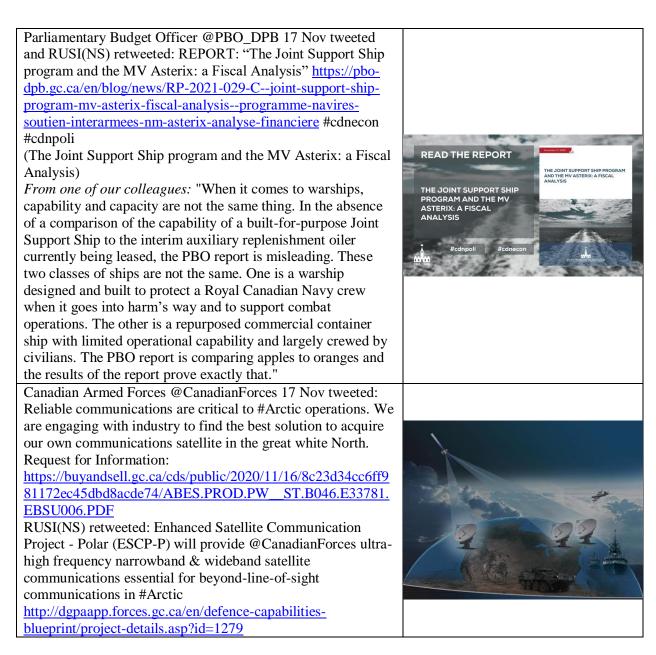
The Military Institute of Windsor Communiqué, Volume XXXVIII Number 10 November 2020 is available on request to <u>RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</u>.

The United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island (USINNI) Newsletter Vol 28 No 11 November 2020 is available on request to <u>RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</u>.

University Training Divisions Association Gunroom Shots Volume 1, Issue 1, November 2020, is available on request to <u>RUSIINovaScotia@gmail.com</u>.

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





# Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute NS with comments:

Hamilton's Heddle shipyards enters partnership to build steel ship components

https://globalnews.ca/news/7458067/ontario-premier-covid-19-modelling-nov-12/



"The partnership (between Heddle Shipyards, Seaspan Shipyards and Genoa Design International) is expected to bid on further projects including the construction of a polar icebreaker for the Canadian Coast Guard."

Shipbuilding is a national strategic industry. So many people and companies across Canada benefit from strong shipbuilding. Canada needs to ensure that the National Shipbuilding Strategy remains well funded and carries on beyond the current ships identified to be built.

There's Probably Never Going To Be A USS 'Donald J. Trump'

https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2020/11/09/theresprobably-never-going-to-be-a-uss-donald-jtrump/?sh=1f68d174338f



Elected officials by definition have people against them in addition to for them. Opposition to naming a ship after a politician can swell with time and cultural change and historical revisionism. There's something to be said for choosing a name for a government ship that has the least chance of leading to outcry at some later date (at least, during the life of the ship). Canada has made a practice of naming ships after places, though the latest, those of the Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ship project, have been named after, dare I write, everyday heroes. The Coast Guard seems to be following suit. The names to date, and it's been several decades, seem to be quite acceptable to the general public. People can readily relate to place names, they provide a connection of the marine service with the public. It will be interesting to see what names the government announces for the Canadian Surface Combatant and Naval Large Tug projects. The former project has been in the making for longer, but the latter is due to have steel cut soon for the first tug. Names could be announced anytime now. Of course, such announcements are timed to meet strategic communications purposes, so unless you're an insider it's a bit of a guessing game as to when an announcement might be made.

The US politicized naming its ships years ago. Canada hasn't. Let's keep it that way.

China Plans to Loosen its Coast Guard's Rules on Use of Force

https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/china-plans-toloosen-its-coast-guard-s-rules-on-use-of-force



"...law that would empower China's coast guard to use force to defend Chinese-claimed waters and territories, including the use of arms against foreign vessels."

It's becoming more and more apparent that the Chinese coast guard is a close extension to the Chinese navy, usable and being used as a threat of force for their national military purposes.

In the situation of a Canadian-Chinese fishing dispute (as unlikely as that might appear at the moment), how is the Canadian Coast Guard prepared to respond?

5

CMRE Research Contributes to the Ocean of Things Initiative

https://www.cmre.nato.int/rockstories-blog-display/535darpa

"...enable persistent maritime situational awareness over large areas of the ocean by deploying thousands of low-cost, environmentally friendly and intelligent drifters."

Great military and civil utility in support of ocean surveillance. Hmm, keep an eye on developments in this 'Ocean of Things (OoT)'.

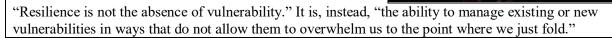
U.S. Intelligence Chief Pushes 'Intelligence Sharing on Steroids'

https://www.sdxcentral.com/articles/news/u-s-intelligencechief-pushes-intelligence-sharing-on-steroids/2020/10/

"We have to acknowledge what's happening right now around the globe where nation-state actors are using intelligence services to attack private-sector companies..."

The Pandemic Is Revealing a New Form of National Power

https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/11/pandemicrevealing-new-form-national-power/616944/



These Are The Proposed Paint Schemes For The Navy's New Adversary Super Hornets

https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/37634/these-are-theproposed-paint-schemes-for-the-navys-new-adversary-superhornets

It says something when a military is prepared to go to these lengths for adversary threat replication training. Of course, armies are used to mocking up some of their vehicles to replicate those of potential adversaries. Harder for navies to replicate their potential adversaries (mimic electronic and acoustic signatures?).







Royal Navy divers work with drones for first time on deployment

https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/royal-navy-divers-work-withdrones-for-first-time-on-deployment/



Good to see that a Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) officer is on exchange with the Royal Navy Fleet Diving Squadron and is experiencing the operation of remotely-piloted aircraft in underwater force protection and explosive ordnance disposal. Good knowledge to bring back to Canada. What is the organization of the RCN to manage the various opportunities for use of different types of drones?

More Strategic Approach Needed for Coast Guard to Exploit Advancements in Unmanned Systems Technology

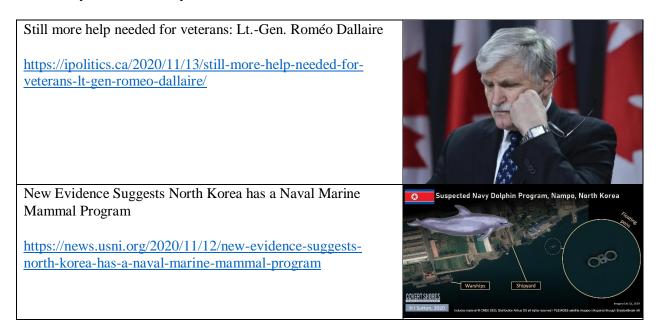
https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2020/11/morestrategic-approach-needed-for-coast-guard-to-exploitadvancements-in-unmanned-systems-technology



"...the U.S. Coast Guard should proceed more aggressively and deliberately in taking advantage of UxS advancements..."

All marine services "should proceed more aggressively and deliberately" in taking advantage of drones. There have been the occasional snippets of information about our Canadian Coast Guard trying such systems. What is the way ahead for including drones in the CCG force structure?

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



As China's military confidence grows, it's now looking to 'design' how war is fought	
https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3109585/ch	
inas-military-confidence-grows-its-now-looking-design-how-	
war	
Canada's New Frigate Will Be Brimming With Missiles	
https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/37506/canadas-new-	1
frigate-will-be-brimming-with-missiles	de la minima
Sudan to host Russian military base	
https://www.defensenews.com/global/mideast-	Change and the
africa/2020/11/13/sudan-to-host-russian-military-base/	and the second second second second
MBDA gets nod to develop new missiles for French Tiger	
helicopters	MBDA
https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2020/11/13/mbd	missile 53570
a-gets-nod-to-develop-new-missiles-for-french-tiger-	
helicopters/	
Macron: Europe needs its own sovereignty in defence, even	
with new U.S. government	
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-france-	
macron/macron-europe-needs-its-own-sovereignty-in-defence-	
even-with-new-u-s-government-idUSKBN27V0RN	
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Canada faces fresh calls to star up in Mali	
Canada faces fresh calls to step up in Mali https://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/10267101-canada- faces-fresh-calls-to-step-up-in-mali/	
Canada invests \$64.9M in sealift and re-supply operations for	
the Arctic	*
https://vanguardcanada.com/2020/11/13/canada-invests-64- 9m-in-sealift-and-re-supply-operations-for-the-arctic/	
NORAD to track Santa on Christmas with smaller crew due to	
COVID-19	Not the second second
https://www.upi.com/Defense-News/2020/11/16/NORAD-to- track-Santa-on-Christmas-with-smaller-crew-due-to-COVID- 19/1991605552283/	
NORAD's Canadian troops plan for a different holiday season	
at Peterson Air Force Base amid pandemic <u>https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/pentagon-</u> <u>congress/2020/11/16/norads-canadian-troops-plan-for-a-</u> <u>different-holiday-season-at-peterson-air-force-base-amid-</u> <u>pandemic/</u>	
Who will sell Iran weapons now that the arms embargo is dead?	
https://www.defensenews.com/global/mideast- africa/2020/11/16/who-will-sell-iran-weapons-now-that-the- arms-embargo-is-dead/	

China now has the nuclear strength to hit back at a first strike, former PLA colonel says	1
https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3110091/ch ina-now-has-nuclear-strength-hit-back-first-strike-former-pla	
Japan and Australia agree to 'pivotal' military access pact in deal sure to ruffle China's feathers	
https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense- national-security/japan-and-australia-agree-to-pivotal-military- access-pact-in-deal-sure-to-ruffle-chinas-feathers	
State-sponsored actors 'very likely' looking to attack electricity supply, says intelligence agency	The second
https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.5806213	
Four Pacific powers conduct 'Malabar' naval war games to deter China	
https://www.defensenews.com/global/asia- pacific/2020/11/18/four-pacific-powers-conduct-malabar- naval-war-games-to-deter-china/	
US-China relations: shooting down of mock ICBM was warning to Beijing, observers say	the standard
https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3110395/us -china-relations-shooting-down-mock-icbm-was-warning- beijing	

Consequences of a Precipitous U.S. Withdrawal from Afghanistan

https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PE326.html?utm\_sour ce=WhatCountsEmail&utm\_medium=RAND%20Policy%20C urrents+AEM:%20%20Email%20Address%20NOT%20LIKE %20DOTMIL&utm\_campaign=AEM:631600804



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

### **#augmented reality**

Pilot In A Real Aircraft Just Fought An AI-Driven Virtual Enemy Jet For The First Time <u>https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/37647/pilot-in-a-real-aircraft-just-fought-an-ai-driven-virtual-enemy-jet-for-the-first-time</u>

### #China

PLAN Force Structure Projection Concept, A Methodology for Looking Down Range <u>https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/cmsi-maritime-reports/10/</u>

For overview, see: The Chinese Navy Can't Grow Forever — the Slowdown Might Start Soon <u>https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2020/11/12/the-chinese-navy-wont-grow-forever-the-slow-down-might-come-soon/?sh=c3a5ef17ac7c</u>

## #COVID

Regional Rapid Response Team takes the lead on COVID-19 on Ships Interesting function take on by MSOC: <u>https://shippingmatters.ca/regional-rapid-response-team-takes-the-lead-on-covid-19-on-ships/</u>

## #cyber ops

Cybersecurity at Port Facilities: Making Rules Requires Rulemaking <u>http://cimsec.org/cybersecurity-at-port-facilities-making-rules-requires-rulemaking/46240</u>

## #security

Let's Talk About Human Security https://wavellroom.com/2020/11/12/human-security-lets-talk-about-human-security/

#### #strategy

Mimicking Rome: Adapting to the Nimbleness of New Threats <u>https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2017/11/8/mimicking-rome-adapting-to-the-nimbleness-of-new-threats</u>

The Importance of Nuance in Strategic Thinking <u>https://wavellroom.com/2020/11/10/the-importance-of-nuance-in-strategic-thinking/</u>

#### #terminology

NATO Terminology Database https://nso.nato.int/natoterm/content/nato/pages/home.html?lg=en

# Other:

**Kingston Consortium on International Security** "A Changing International Order? Implications for the Security Environment"

https://www.queensu.ca/kcis/publications

"KCIS2019 examined the implications of the changing international order for international security. It studied the hypercompetitive, multipolar environment in which we find ourselves, marked by a persistent struggle for influence and position within a "grey zone" of competition. This edited collection features contributions from academic and military experts who have examined the future of the liberal international order and what is at stake. These evidence-based examinations discuss the challenges to the order, and why it has been so difficult to articulate a compelling narrative to support the continuation of American leadership."

From one of our members.

**NATO Multimedia Library** October-November 2020 Acquisitions List <u>https://natolibguides.info/ld.php?content\_id=10701615</u>

### Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

The biggest news this past two weeks is the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership or RCEP, which will become the world's largest free market. It includes all ASEAN countries, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and China. China is gloating as Taiwan and the US are not part of this effort. China will also attempt to further push key US allies towards a more China friendly position through this effort. The implications for the world are great.

The Communist Chinese Party also looked developing an International Criminals List. Criminals also including those who support blatant pro-democracy and independence from China such as citizens of Hong Kong and Taiwan. There were also musings about foreigners who show support for such activities. Canadians in Hong Kong and even within Canada maybe subject to this type of pressure tactic. CSIS and others have identified a strong CCP effort to pressure Canadian activists even within Canada. Canadian opposition members have brought this issue to Parliament. The bill proposed by Conservative member of Parliament, Michael Chong would also ask for a Government decision on Huawei. More to follow on this issue one suspects.

This past week and a half saw the apparent downfall of Ant financial at the behest of the CCP leadership and more to the point the whim of Xi Xinping. Jack Ma's mistake was to suggest that the current regulatory systems are not up to date nor capable of dealing with modern financial practices. This did not sit well with said regulatory body. Apparently, several other lesser entrepreneurs have also been brought before the regulatory body for questioning. Thus, ended the largest proposed IPO in history, courtesy of the CCP.

Speaking of the China financial situation, it is clear in the Asian press that China's official financial figures are made up of stuff that makes the grass very green. There are suggestions that China's financial health is less than optimum based on a series of loans between companies (not banks but could be) that in the West would be considered little better than a Ponzi scheme. Western investors are ripe for exploitation in the belief that access to the Chinese market will create a new wild west for investors. It is likely a sad mistake as China has never developed a properly audited system. China under the CCP is a disaster waiting to occur. It is not if, it is when the financial system collapses. Now to the "health" of democracy.

In Hong Kong, all 19 Pro-Democracy members of the Legco have resigned after four were disqualified because of their pro-democracy, pro-independence views. This was widely seen by pro- Beijing elements as a good thing despite near universal condemnation by the Liberal Democracies.

Meng Wanzhou continues her extradition trial with continuing questioning of Border Services personnel. The defence is suggesting that her rights were violated because of the way she was detained by Border Services before she was arrested by the RCMP. This week saw speculation that the new President elect administration would reset US-China relations which could have an impact on this case. There is a continued view within the leadership of the CCP that the arrest of Meng is strictly political. She continues to "suffer" in house arrest in her 10-million-dollar mansion in Vancouver. The Biden administration will take over oat noon hour EST on 20 January 2021, so this idea will have to wait a bit. The Michaels still live in a tiny cell with the lights on without counsellor services on a routine basis. The CCP has no rule of law, it is at the whim of the CCP alone whether criminal matters or business relationships. The CCP is the only winner as the casino is rigged to quote Donald Trump.

Russia has essentially negotiated an end to the Armenian Azerbaijan war with Armenia suffering a major defeat. It will be forced to give up all the Azeri areas taken outside of Nagorno Karabakh and the city of Shusha. Most Armenians are extremely displeased with this result and have demonstrated for the resignation of Prime Minister Pashinyan and there was also an alleged assassination plot against him as well. The Foreign Minister also resigned adding to the overall confusion and disorder created by the defeat. The Russian president also warned today, that Armenia's refusal to accept the negotiated settlement would be disastrous for Armenia. Russia and Turkey will be providing a peacekeeping force to allow for a peaceful transition.

Turkey extensively supported Azerbaijan with equipment especially drones and by some accounts sent other military support allegedly including Syrian fighters. It seems difficult to understand how a country largely condemned for its 1915 genocide of Armenians and was a major supporter of one side can be a "peacekeeper." Russia has a defence treaty with Armenia, but Armenia received no substantial help from Russia. This conflict is not over despite the rhetoric to the contrary. Azerbaijan continues to gloat and anger continues to rise in Armenia. This conflict is on pause only. Several questions remain, why did Russia not assist Armenia? What good did it do for Russia to let turkey get away with entry into the perceived Russian area of interest? What is Iran's perspective, they brought large numbers of troops to the border with Azerbaijan and even shot down Azeri drones? Is Iran willing to allow Turkey freedom of action and influence along their borders? What is the real state of Iranian and Turkish rivalry and will this solution make things less stable in the region? Russia has not played the hand one would think for such a position on their borders and within their area of influence especially when one deals with a NATO member. There is more manoeuvring to be done.

It is concerning as Turkey is directly facing Russia in this conflict, in Syria and in Libya. It is not a recipe for peace. During the recent war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Iran moved large forces to the Azeri/Iranian border, apparently several Azeri drones were shot down by Iran. The level of hostility between two rival powers for leadership in the Muslim world is also cause for concern. Turkey is acting more as a "wild card" within the Mediterranean theatre. The potential for President Erdogan to have a misstep is greatly increased.

## **Operation CARIBBE**

On behalf of Vice-Admiral Art McDonald, Commander, Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), it gives me great pleasure to invite you to join Lieutenant-Commander Jeffrey Anderson, Commanding Officer, Her Majesty's Canadian Ship *Summerside*, who will deliver a presentation via Zoom live from "in-theatre" aboard *Summerside* from the Caribbean Sea during the middle of their Operation CARIBBE deployment

- 1. Topic: Operation CARIBBE "Countering Illicit Trafficking by Transnational Organized Crime"
- 2. When: 7:00-8:00 PM EST, Monday, 23 November 2020

Registration: email <u>Kray.Robichaud@forces.gc.ca</u>. Please include your full name and professional details (i.e. position/title & organization)

Operation CARIBBE is Canada's participation in the US-led campaign MARTILLO, a multinational campaign against illicit trafficking by transnational organized crime in the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Pacific Ocean. Under this operation, Canadian Armed Forces ships and aircraft have deployed since November 2006 to the region on a rotational basis to support the US mission to suppress trafficking in international waters and airspace since. Over the past fourteen years, the CAF has contributed to the disruption or seizure of approximately 105 metric tonnes of cocaine and over 6.725 tonnes of marijuana. LCdr Jeffrey Anderson, CO, HMCS *Summerside*, will join us live from aboard *Summerside* in theatre from the Caribbean Sea as Commander Maritime Task Force CARIBBE to deliver a presentation via Zoom about Operation CARIBBE, including a short video showcasing and capturing *Summerside's* activities to date during their ongoing Operation CARIBBE deployment, 26 October to 11 December 2020.



Should you have any questions, please let me know. I can be reached via my mobile device: call or text <u>902-440-6131</u>, or my work email <u>Kray.Robichaud@Forces.gc.ca</u>, or office phone <u>902-427-1549</u>.

Very Respectfully, Kray

Kray Robichaud, CD Lieutenant-Commander | Capitaine de corvette

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