



# Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

## Dispatches

### 9 July 2001

*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 news of interest, including posts to social media by the Institute. Links to articles are checked at the time they are put into *Dispatches* but may be unavailable at a later date or in some countries other than Canada.

Everyone is encouraged to submit 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 or other government department, the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia.

If you wish to receive *Dispatches* at a different address (i.e., not your work address), please inform RUSI(NS). Past editions of *Dispatches* may be requested by contacting RUSI(NS).

#### **Events:**

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

**21 July**, Wednesday – Distinguished Speaker Brigadier General Shawn R. Satterfield, Commander, US Special Operations Command North (SOCNORTH), on "Arctic Special Operations." To register, email [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com) by close of business Sunday, 18 Jul. As the subject line for your registration email, put: RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speakers 21 July 2021 Registration. Zoom joining instructions will be emailed to registrants by end Monday, 19 July.

Advance reading: USNORTHCOM and Special Operations Command North discuss the future of SOF for Homeland Defense

<https://www.northcom.mil/Newsroom/News/Article/Article/2622975/usnorthcom-and-special-operations-command-north-discuss-the-future-of-sof-for-h/>

**New: 22 July**, Thursday - USNORTHCOM, USEUCOM, USINDOPACOM and University of Alaska Fairbanks Center for Arctic Security and Resilience speaker Brigadier-General Pascal Godbout, Commander Joint Task Force North, titled "A View from Yellowknife, Northwest Territories: Joint Task Force North: Enabling North American Arctic Defense." 0800 AK/ 1000 MT/ 1200 EST/ 1800 CET. To register: [https://alaska.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_y2UyxzYjTDi9gmQIRK7pMw](https://alaska.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_y2UyxzYjTDi9gmQIRK7pMw). See end of *Dispatches* for more info.

**Note:** There will be no Distinguished Speaker event in August.

## **Recent Publications:**

Except where otherwise indicated, publications are available on request to [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

RUSI(NS) Presentation “Canadian Joint Warfare Centre – Wargaming” by Scott Roach, 23 June 2021  
<https://rusi-ns.ca/wargaming/>

RUSI(NS) Information Note "Commissioning Canadian Navy Ships," 23 June 2021  
<https://rusi-ns.ca/commissioning/>

RUSI(NS) Paper "The Princess Louise Fusiliers Diversity Soldier Experience Program" by Second Lieutenant Ahmed Elkar and Captain Michael Gray, 5 June 2021  
<https://rusi-ns.ca/dsep/>

RUSI(NS) Presentation “The Canadian Army at an Inflection Point – Delivering Excellence Today and into the Future” by Brigadier-General J.J. Major, 2 June 2021  
[https://rusi-ns.ca/canadian\\_army/](https://rusi-ns.ca/canadian_army/)

Naval Association of Canada, Ottawa Branch, presentation by Andrew Miller, Irving Shipbuilding, “Delivering the AOPS” on HMCS *Harry DeWolf* at-sea trials, 14 June 2021  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivefPUQI0TA>

Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch* 30 June edition  
[https://send.successbyemail.com/prvw\\_message2.aspx?chno=b3817116-6af4-4abe-8c89-1ba98394b3c5](https://send.successbyemail.com/prvw_message2.aspx?chno=b3817116-6af4-4abe-8c89-1ba98394b3c5)

Company of Master Mariners of Canada Maritimes Division Newsletter *The Foghorn* June 2021

Company of Master Mariners of Canada NL Division *The Deck Log*, April-June 2021

Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué* Volume XXXIX Number 7 July - August 2021.

Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches* July 2021  
<https://rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/76-hot-weekend-hot-off-the-press?userid=306-QqXJ7Y1xfzfd0M&tmpl=raw>

Royal Alberta United Services Institute *News* July-September 2021  
<https://www.rausi.ca/news/publications?idU=4>

Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch *Scuttlebutt*, July 2021 Edition.

Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island *Newsletter*, Volume 54, 3rd Quarter 2021.




**New:** Royal United Services Institute Victoria (Australia) *Occasional*, Volume 6, Issue 8, 5 July 2021.


**New:** United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island *Newsletter*, Vol 29 No 07 July 2021.

**New:** University Naval Training Divisions Association of Canada *Gunroom Shots*, Volume 2, Issue 3, July 2021.

**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 [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

<p>OAPA @ObsAPA 29 Jun tweeted: Wondering how armed forces were mobilized against COVID-19 in nordic regions and how they interact with indigenous communities? See this new research report published by @ObsAPA and @OPSArctique researchers: <a href="https://obsapa.org/oapa_rapport_2021-04/">https://obsapa.org/oapa_rapport_2021-04/</a> RUSI(NS) retweeted: "purpose of this report is to compare strategies implemented by selected Arctic states to limit spread of COVID-19" "report focuses on role of national armed forces as responders of last resort, including in management of pandemics" (Mobilization of Armed Forces in seven Arctic jurisdictions <a href="https://obsapa.org/wp-content/uploads/OAPA_Rapport_2021-04.pdf">https://obsapa.org/wp-content/uploads/OAPA_Rapport_2021-04.pdf</a>)</p>	
<p>CDN Naval Review @CdnNavalReview 3 Jul tweeted: We don't pay enough attention to the security of undersea cables connecting the world and carrying 99% of digital communications, including phone calls, emails and financial transactions. "Study: Submarine Data Cable Security Deserves Urgent Attention (Study: Submarine Data Cable Security Deserves Urgent Attention <a href="https://maritime-executive.com/article/study-submarine-data-cable-security-deserves-urgent-attention">https://maritime-executive.com/article/study-submarine-data-cable-security-deserves-urgent-attention</a>) RUSI(NS) retweeted: .@CanadianForces &amp; other CAN🇨🇦 depts need to have resources, especially ships, to ensure security of submarine telecommunications cables. Plan, train &amp; exercise whole-of-government capability to conduct integrated operations. Underwater warfare is just not a @RoyalCanNavy domain</p>	
<p>"Feds vow military support as B.C. continues to battle more than 100 active fires" <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-wildfires-2021-day-three-lytton-castle-gar-1.6087876">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-wildfires-2021-day-three-lytton-castle-gar-1.6087876</a> Another #OpLENTUS? <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-lentus.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-lentus.html</a> @CanadianForces has become the go-to organization for major emergency response. Need to bolster #CAF and/or other gov't agencies</p>	

<p>CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 5 Jul tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: The systems we currently have in North America are outdated &amp; can't keep up with today's growing threats. Russia realizes we're in a bad place because we're still trying to decide, as a binational defense partnership, what the solution to this problem is. (Troy Bouffard: What do Russia's Ambitions Mean for the Stability of the Arctic Council? <a href="https://cdainstitute.ca/troy-bouffard-what-do-russias-ambitions-mean-for-the-stability-of-the-arctic-council/">https://cdainstitute.ca/troy-bouffard-what-do-russias-ambitions-mean-for-the-stability-of-the-arctic-council/</a>)</p>	
<p>NATO Association of Canada @NATOCanada 5 Jul tweeted: How will the #CAF restore its image? In this article, Jack Burnham of @SFUNATO_FS examines the recent sexual misconduct scandals, the war in #Afghanistan, and the threat of #informationwarfare Read it here: <a href="https://natoassociation.ca/losing-the-narrative-the-struggle-of-the-canadian-armed-forces-to-shape-its-image/">https://natoassociation.ca/losing-the-narrative-the-struggle-of-the-canadian-armed-forces-to-shape-its-image/</a> #narratives #fieldschoolseries #legitimacy (Losing The Narrative? The Struggle Of The Canadian Armed Forces To Shape Its Image) RUSI(NS) retweeted: "to win the war, one must first win the narrative" "the @CanadianForces must first become comfortable with telling the truth rather than continuing to seek methods to manipulate it for gain"</p>	
<p>Royal Canadian Air Force @RCAF_ARC 6 Jul tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Your #RCAF is 1,000 days away from its 100th anniversary, and so today we're unveiling the logo and motto for our 2024 Centennial. #RCAF2024 Read more: <a href="http://rcaf-arc.forces.gc.ca/en/article-template-standard.page?doc=announcing-the-rcaf-2024-logo/koej3mg4">http://rcaf-arc.forces.gc.ca/en/article-template-standard.page?doc=announcing-the-rcaf-2024-logo/koej3mg4</a> (Announcing the RCAF 2024 Logo) <i>The motto for the Centennial is "Your Air Force."</i></p>	

**Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia with comments:**

To have something posted or commented, email RUSI(NS) by noon Thursday.

<p><b>Ship Movements at St. John's and other ports in Newfoundland</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.shipshots.blogspot.com/2021/06/horizon-arctic-arrived-back-in-sri-john.html">http://www.shipshots.blogspot.com/2021/06/horizon-arctic-arrived-back-in-sri-john.html</a></p> <p>HORIZON ARCTIC can support dives to 2500 feet depth. Now, that's a capability. Hopefully the Royal Canadian Navy has made arrangements and plans to use HORIZON ARCTIC when needed for submarine search and rescue, undersea communication cable operations (e.g., cable security checks, not laying/recoveries), underwater drone operations and the like.</p> <p>Not every ship of use of a navy has to be built for and operated by a navy.</p>	
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### Royal Navy evaluating designs for new Type 83 Destroyer

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/royal-navy-evaluating-designs-for-new-type-83-destroyer/>

"It is understood that the Ministry of Defence have an aspiration is to achieve continuous shipbuilding with the Type 26 programme in Glasgow beyond the current planned number of eight vessels."

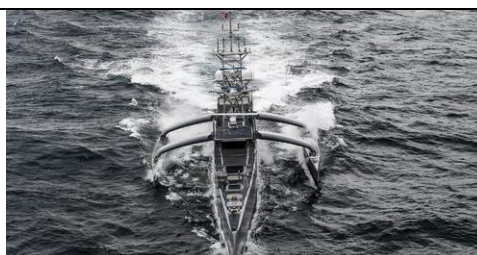


Might more Royal Navy (RN) Type 26 be good for the Canadian Surface Combatant project? The more related ships there are between the RC, Royal Australian Navy (with its Hunter-class) and Royal Canadian Navy, the more opportunity there is to exchange lessons and parts.

### Freedom of Navigation Operations: A Mission for Unmanned Systems

<https://warontherocks.com/2021/07/freedom-of-navigation-operations-a-mission-for-unmanned-systems/>

The use of sea drones for freedom of navigation operations (FONOP) needs significant consideration and international deliberation. FONOP per se is not part of Canadian official policy or military doctrine, though Canadian ships in effect carry out FONOP when they transit foreign waters.



Whether a drone is a warship is another major point of interest. From the San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflict at Sea

(<https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/article/other/57jmsu.htm>):

"warship means a ship belonging to the armed forces of a State bearing the external marks distinguishing the character and nationality of such a ship, under the command of an officer duly commissioned by the government of that State and whose name appears in the appropriate service list or its equivalent, and manned by a crew which is under regular armed forces discipline." Obviously a drone is not commanded by an officer or crewed, at least not onboard. The question will make for interesting discussion.

### Humans now testing the Army's catch-all COVID vaccine

<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2021/06/22/humans-are-now-testing-the-armys-new-covid-vaccine/>

"The push is an effort to produce robust vaccines that target a family of viruses, rather than past efforts which pursued specific immunization against certain strains. That method is too slow to meet the types and volume of viruses that humanity may face in the coming years."



## Spanish tuna operators join in anti-piracy campaign

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/spanish-tuna-operators-join-in-anti-piracy-campaign>

"Spanish tuna operators have become the latest to sign the 'Declaration of Gulf of Guinea on Suppression of Piracy' initiative that, among other things, is pushing for the deployment of a non-regional naval force to tackle rampant piracy along the 6,000-kilometer coastline extending from Senegal to Angola."



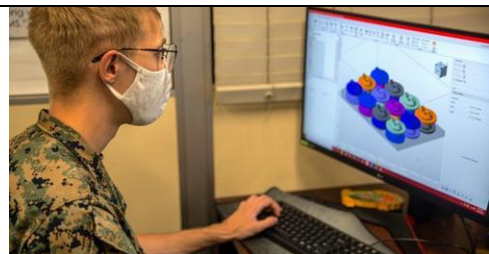
This is an area to which the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) has at times deployed ships, usually Kingston-class patrol vessels, to assist with capability-building and to train regional navies and coast guards in marine security. If there is an agreement to deploy a 'non-regional naval force' into the region, might RCN ships and shore personnel (and maybe Canadian Coast Guard and other Fisheries and Oceans Canada people) be part of that? Piracy anywhere affects the freedom of the ocean common and must, as navies always have, be countered.

"'Weak domestic justice systems and the absence of procedures for the collection as well as for the handover of evidence render effective legal action against piracy and other maritime crime unnecessarily complex,' the U.N. Office on Drug and Crime said in a release."

Reads like any deployment into the area could benefit from police and legal services in addition to navies and marine security and safety agencies. That is a lesson Canada and other peace-making, peace-keeping states have learned in other interventions. Gotta fix the greater system in a country/region to stabilize it.

## Marine Corps Wants a Digital Blueprint Locker for Access to 3D Printing Plans Anywhere

<https://news.usni.org/2021/07/05/marine-corps-wants-a-digital-blueprint-locker-for-access-to-3d-printing-plans-anywhere>



"The Marine Corps wants to establish a secure, digital repository that Marines anywhere could tap into for help building needed spare parts with 3D printers."

This makes sense. Yes, repositories of 3D files of parts should be a basic aspect of modern military logistics systems.

## How To Lose A War Over Taiwan—Get Hacked, Panic

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2021/07/06/how-to-lose-a-war-with-china-over-taiwan-get-hacked-panic/>

"War games aren't predictive. But they can be informative."



It's logistics! Something that needs more attention at higher levels.

### Seaspan's Vancouver Drydock seeks to expand operations

<https://biv.com/article/2021/07/seaspans-vancouver-drydock-seeks-expand-operations>

"Seaspan Shipyards is seeking permission from the Port of Vancouver to expand its Vancouver Drydock operation by adding two new dry docks ..."

Drydocks are strategic assets. Good to have more of them.

An analysis, even a simple inventory, of Canadian drydocks, both static and mobile, would make interesting reading. Haven't found such reading yet. One would think (hope) that some staff in the Canadian Armed Forces, Public Services and Procurement Canada or other department, or an academic, is looking at the matter.



### Access Denied: The Costs of Keeping the Afghan War out of the Media Spotlight

<https://mwi.usma.edu/access-denied-the-costs-of-keeping-the-afghan-war-out-of-the-media-spotlight/>

"If the Pentagon had given journalists more access, policymakers might have been forced to face up to a more unvarnished — and more accurate — picture of the situation on the ground. Increased scrutiny from the media might have prevented policymakers from dodging difficult strategic decisions about the overall purpose of the mission"

Lessons for all truly democratic states.



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### Federal plan to upgrade search-and-rescue choppers grounded by 'unaffordable' cost estimate

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/ch-149-cormorant-helicopters-search-rescue-1.6090353>



**No 'quick fix' to cause of deadly military helicopter crash, procurement chief says**

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/no-quick-fix-to-cause-of-deadly-military-helicopter-crash-procurement-chief-says-1.5501207>



**The war inside the Canadian Armed Forces**

<https://www.macleans.ca/news/canadian-armed-forces-justice-system/>



### **Other Sources:**

#### **#cyber**

Revisiting a Framework on Military Takedowns Against Cybercriminals

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/revisiting-framework-military-takedowns-against-cybercriminals>

#### **#COVID**

Humans now testing the Army's catch-all COVID vaccine

<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2021/06/22/humans-are-now-testing-the-armys-new-covid-vaccine/>

#### **#future casting**

U.S. Air Force Global Futures Report: Alternative Futures of Geopolitical Competition in a Post-COVID-19 World

<https://publicintelligence.net/usaf-afwic-global-futures-covid-19/>

#### **#information operations**

It's Too Easy to Troll Like a Russian

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2021/07/its-too-easy-troll-russian/183108/>

#### **#legal**

The Current State of the Law of Naval Warfare: A Fresh Look at the *San Remo Manual*

<https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1237&context=ils>

#### **#profession of arms**

On the Toxicity of the 'Warrior' Ethos

<https://wavellroom.com/2020/04/28/on-the-toxicity-of-the-warrior-ethos/>

#### **#Russia**

Joint Staff Strategic Multilayer Assessment: Russian Strategic Intentions

<https://publicintelligence.net/sma-russian-strategic-intentions/>



## **#sealift**

Strategic Sealift articles:

<https://cimsec.org/strategic-sealift-week-kicks-off-on-cimsec/>

The Fourth Arm of Defense: America's Merchant Mariners

Across the Expanse: The Sealift Dilemma in a War Against China

Obsolescence, Chokepoints, and the Maritime Militia: Facing Primary Threats to U.S. Sealift

Recapitalizing Strategic Sealift Should Be DoD's Number One Modernization Priority

American Strategic Sealift in Peer-to-Peer Conflicts: A Historical Retrospective, Pt. 1

American Strategic Sealift in Peer-to-Peer Conflicts: A Historical Retrospective, Pt. 2

For a Greener, More Lethal Force, Look to Strategic Sealift Recapitalization

Solutions to Revitalizing America's Strategic Sealift

One Fleet, One Fight: Four Fs to Give About Sealift

Sealift Forces for the Future Operating Environment: An Airlifter's Perspective

Strategic Sealift is Broken: Which Direction Are We Headed

Beyond MSC and Amphibs: Unconventional Sealift

Strategic Sealift's Merchant Mariner Problem

Don't Overlook the Medical Fleet in Distributed Maritime Operations

The Future of Sea Basing for U.S. Army Transportation

The Glutted Mariner Shortfall

Clandestine Cargo: Hiding Sealift in Plain Sight

## **#strategy**

Offshore Balancing with Chinese Characteristics

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2021/7/2/offshore-balancing-with-chinese-characteristics>

More than Just Friends: The Strategic Advantage of Enduring Relationships

<https://mwi.usma.edu/more-than-just-friends-the-strategic-advantage-of-enduring-relationships/>

## **#urban warfare**

Launch Announcement: The Urban Warfare Project Case Study Series

<https://mwi.usma.edu/launch-announcement-the-urban-warfare-project-case-study-series/>

## **#warfare**

Joint Staff Briefing Paper on China's "System Attack" Concept of Warfare

<https://publicintelligence.net/jcs-china-system-attack/>

The U.S. Army in Multi-Domain Operations 2028

<https://publicintelligence.net/usarmy-multidomain-ops-2028/>

## **#wargaming**

"No Option is Excluded" — Using Wargaming to Envision a Chinese Assault on Taiwan

<https://madsicblog.tradoc.army.mil/337-no-option-is-excluded-using-wargaming-to-envision-a-chinese-assault-on-taiwan/>

## Visualising Strategy through Wargames and Crisis Simulations

<https://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/visualising-war/2021/07/visualising-strategy-through-wargames-and-crisis-simulations/>

### **Other:**

#### **SOF Truths**

**Truth 1: Humans are more important than hardware.**

People – not equipment – make the critical difference. The right people, highly trained and working as a team, will accomplish the mission with the equipment available. On the other hand, the best equipment in the world cannot compensate for a lack of the right people.

**Truth 2: Quality is better than quantity.**

A small number of people, carefully selected, well trained, and well led, are preferable to larger numbers of troops, some of whom may not be up to the task.

**Truth 3: Special Operations Forces cannot be mass produced.**

It takes years to train operational units to the level of proficiency needed to accomplish difficult and specialized SOF missions. Intense training – both in SOF schools and units – is required to integrate competent individuals into fully capable units. This process cannot be hastened without degrading ultimate capability.

**Truth 4: Competent Special Operations Forces cannot be created after emergencies occur.**

Creation of competent, fully mission capable units takes time. Employment of fully capable special operations capability on short notice requires highly trained and constantly available SOF units in peacetime.

**Truth 5: Most special operations require non-SOF assistance.**

The operational effectiveness of our deployed forces cannot be, and never has been, achieved without being enabled by our joint service partners. The support Air Force, Army, Marine and Navy engineers, technicians, intelligence analysts, and the numerous other professions that contribute to SOF, have substantially increased our capabilities and effectiveness throughout the world.

United States Special Operations Command Pacific <https://www.socom.mil/socpac/Pages/SOF-Truths.aspx>

### **Security Affairs Committee Synopsis**

#### **O Canada**

Issues facing Canada's military are many: poor recruiting, poor procurement process, social experimentation, leadership under suspicion, a military justice system that is allegedly subject to bias and over tasking amongst many others. Canadian Forces members can be subject to further problems as the federal government washes their hands of veterans when they retire. One only has to watch the results of the Lionel Desmond Inquiry to see the short comings. The one really big issue is the federal government has downloaded the care of veterans on to provinces. The provinces get cash to take care of veterans, but does this meet the needs of veterans? The real answer is to maintain the same system that veterans have used throughout their careers, the Canadian Forces medical system, modified to deal with veterans as well. A suitably manned organization would also be invaluable upon mobilization for an emergency, as we have seen during the pandemic. Just a thought, because the system still does not work for many, it operates as more of an insurance company as opposed to a system that deals with the issues of veterans. Keep in mind the federal government has no real certainty as to who has actually served, it is somewhere between 600k to possibly as high as a million veterans.

Another big issue is the mystery of the two scientists at our level four lab in Winnipeg. The Opposition is doing its job of asking to understand why two scientists were fired under interesting circumstances such as sending samples of two virulent strains of viruses to the Wuhan Virology Institute in mainland China. There were also members of the Peoples' Liberation Army medical allowed access to the same

Canadian lab. One of the Canadian scientists apparently applied for patents in China as well without acknowledgement to their Canadian lab. The reason given by the government is that there are national security issues but this is a request of Parliament in its role to provide oversight on government actions.

### **Russia**

Russia's elections for the State Duma are scheduled for 17 to 19 September 2021. There are 450 seats at stake. At the present time, there are 14 political parties running in the election with a minimum of 5% required to gain seats in the Duma. The current largest party is the United Russia Party, however, the current polling places its popularity at around 25 to 30% whereas last election it polled well over 50%. The notable missing element of course is the lack of real opposition as most actual opposition parties have been eliminated as foreign agents, extremists or simply not accepted by the Russian election commission. The real issue is how obvious will be the election rigging as it is likely the United Russia party will again "win" in the election despite its low polling stats.

### **Belarus**

The Lukashenko regime is continuing its crackdown on dissidents but this has now entered a different phase, one that has sham trials for other presidential candidates on charges that are considered largely factious. Last week, Viktor Babaryka was sentenced to years in jail for fraud and money laundering. Mr Babaryka is a former bank president and was considered the top rival to Lukashenko. The current Opposition Leader, Sviatlana Tsikhounouskaya's husband, is also on trial. It is thought this is a way to pressure Ms Tsikhounouskaya to moderate her opposition and criticism to Mr Lukashenko. Ms Tsikhounouskaya is currently operating out of Lithuania.

In another twist, both President Putin and Mr Lukashenko have made statements alluding to a major Western plot against the Lukashenko regime. It essentially said that the US had sent CIA and other elements to create a plot to kill members of the Lukashenko family. They apparently went out of their way to capture an American in Moscow in who has now "confessed" to such a plot. This adds to the fiction created by the two authoritarian regimes to support their anti-Western bias. Youras Ziankovich was kidnapped by Belarussian operatives on or about 11 April 2021. He was a staunch critic of the Lukashenko regime. It is very difficult to accept that the Russian security service and government were not aware of this operation by Belarus operatives, especially as they apparently drove Mr. Ziankovich across Russia to the Belarussian capital of Minsk. The two regimes have done everything they can to portray the opposition as violent despite the only real violence has been by the Lukashenko regime, including torture, heavy handed violence, kidnapping and air piracy just amongst the latest activities.

The Lukashenko regime is seen by many as illegal, and the West has sanctioned Belarus and essentially crippled its economy. Belarus is now completely propped up by Putin's Russia economically and thus the Lukashenko regime remains with the support of the security forces and little else. The real problem is that Lukashenko has always been wary of getting too close with Russia as it would mean essentially that the Belarussian government would cease to exist as an independent entity and become part of Russia. This is something that Mr Putin has sought not only for Belarus but also for the other former republics of the Soviet Union. So are we looking at the end of days for the country of Belarus? The answer unless something changes is likely yes.

### **China**

It is the 100th Anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) which was celebrated on 1 July 2021 in Beijing with more than 700k people present in Tiananmen Square for the big event. The CCP also celebrated the fact that 95m people are now members of the CCP, the largest number of members

in history. This would be about 6.8% of the Chinese population. President Xi gave a speech that focused on the achievements of the CCP, glossing over the very real events and deaths caused by the excessiveness of the post-revolutionary period, the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution and of course the more recent events such as the ongoing crackdown on dissidents, and cultural genocidal acts in Tibet, Xinjiang, (East Turkistan) Inner Mongolia and against other minorities such as smaller Muslim sects, Christians, Buddhists, Falun Gong participants and a vast host of others. The continued existence of the CCP has cost the lives of tens of millions of people. Its ongoing territorial demands against smaller countries is ongoing and pervasive. There is certainly something to celebrate...NOT.

The latest target of the CCP is the large multi-nationals starting with Alibaba and the Ant Corporation. Many of the large companies now pose a very real threat to the status quo as virtually everyone in the country has an app or something from many of these companies. Most of these companies also offer short term loans to consumers that are not within the CCP controlled banking system. It was too powerful a tool to remain independent of actual CCP control. Jack Ma even had the temerity to criticize the banking regulator which was the ultimate final insult to the Party. Mr Ma enjoyed a "vacation" at a CCP "spa" to help change his mind. Since that time many other companies have had similar visits to adjust their thinking.

If there was a silver lining, it is that the CCP is really killing its "golden geese" in the form of these relatively independent and innovative companies. These actions and the ongoing CCP efforts to control Hong Kong are showing the world that the CCP cannot be a trusted partner. Legally, no company is safe from the CCP. It will simply make up laws and interpret them as they require, hence threats to Western companies threatening to leave HK recently. One can hope that the CCP will collapse because of its own incompetence; they are certainly trying very hard to make this vision possible.

One other China note (although there could be many more), the World Health Organization (WHO) has certified Chinese vaccines. Many countries that have used these medical diplomacy-provided vaccines have seen increased infections due to the variants of Covid 19 against which in some cases the vaccines are apparently less than 50% effective. China itself, which brags about how they eliminated the problem, has seen a series a large lockdowns as well in the past month. The Chinese manufactured vaccines are comparatively ineffective yet WHO has certified them. Maybe it is time to clean things up at the UN as well.

### **Afghanistan**

The spectacle of watching the NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan as a result of the Biden Administration decision to withdraw has been painful to watch. As one who completed three tours there it is hard to understand the waste of our efforts. There were many things going well that seem to be glossed over such as education, civil services, medical advancements especially lower infant and maternal mortality rates at a much lower level and so many more things that are still being developed. There are 27m folks who depended on NATO countries to help in the long term. This was nation building, not just a war. It is expensive and time consuming. One issue that always stood out was the lack of understanding that the military could only do a part of the security effort - the actual heavy lifting had to be done by non-government agencies and civil servants that could help develop the necessary structures within Afghan society to be a truly functioning nation. This takes time and patience, something that the West especially lacks. It is a major disadvantage if we do not sort this type of thinking out. As I have said at the time and continue to say now, 27m folks are worth it. They deserve better than to be inflicted by thugs and criminals.

## Arctic eTalk - July 2021

On behalf of USNORTHCOM and the Command's "[The Watch](#)" Magazine, United States European Command (USEUCOM), United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), and the Center for Arctic Security and Resilience - University of Alaska Fairbanks ([CASR](#)), we would like to invite you to our July 2021 Arctic eTalks distinguished speaker presentation on "A View from Yellowknife, Northwest Territories: Joint Task Force North: Enabling North American Arctic Defense" by Brigadier-General Pascal Godbout, Commander, Joint Task Force North (JTFN), Canadian Armed Forces, on Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 0800 AK/ 1000 MT/ 1200 EST/ 1800 CET.

The Arctic eTalks is a monthly forum for open discussion (non-attribution, Chatham House Rule) in key issues affecting the Circumpolar Arctic for academics, defense and security professional, and military leaders from Canada, Finland, Kingdom of Denmark (Greenland and Faroe Islands), Norway, Sweden, and the United States, as well as the United Kingdom and Germany.

This event is presented along with our valued Arctic eTalks partners at the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC), and Joint Task Force North (JTFN).

BGen Godbout will provide a 30-minute presentation with slides which will be followed by a 60-minute Q&A session (non-attribution) that will be moderated by Maj Conrad Shubert (JTFN) and Dr. Whitney Lackenbauer (NAADSN).

Note: Past Arctic eTalks presentations are posted on our Arctic eTalks [website](#). However, the Q&A discussions are not posted and open only to registered Arctic eTalks participants during the live event.

Please register at the following link:

[https://alaska.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_y2UyxzYjTDi9gmQIRK7pMw](https://alaska.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_y2UyxzYjTDi9gmQIRK7pMw)

Note: We have changed the date of the Arctic eTalks to the 3rd Thursday of every month to better accommodate our Nordic and European partners.

Our Arctic eTalks partners include:

- Defence Science and Technology Laboratory - [United Kingdom](#)
- George C. Marshall European [Center](#) for Security Studies
- Joint Task Force ([North](#)) - Canadian Armed Forces
- Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom ([UK MOD](#))
- NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence ([StratCom](#))
- North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network ([NAADSN](#))
- Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies ([IFS](#))
- Norwegian Institute of International Affairs ([NUPI](#))
- Royal Danish Defence College ([fak.dk](#))
- United States Coast Guard ([Arctic](#))
- William J. Perry Center, National Defense University ([NDU](#))

Please see the attachments for further information, including additional registration information concerning email security issues.

We look forward to your participation. Thank you for your support!

Respectfully,  
Dr. Ben and Troy

Dr. Benjamin P. Gochman, DAFC  
Chief, Engagements  
Arctic, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean  
Directorate of Operations (N&NC/J39)  
HQ NORAD - USNORTHCOM/J3

Troy J. Bouffard  
University of Alaska Fairbanks, Faculty  
Director - Center for Arctic Security and Resilience

“The Watch” Command Magazine, United States Northern Command,  
United States European Command, United States Indo-Pacific  
Command and the Center for Arctic Security and Resilience



Present

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Partners:



## A View from Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Joint Task Force North (JTFN):  
Enabling North American Arctic Defence



Featuring:

## BGen Pascal Godbout

Commander, Joint Task Force North  
Canadian Armed Forces

Registration required:  
Link provided in the email invitation

Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021  
0800 AK/1000 MT/1200 EST/1800 CET

Contact for more information:  
casr@alaska.edu

*Strong Partnerships are Integral to Defending Our Homelands*