



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Dispatches

16 Jul 2021

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.

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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. 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 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/>

22 July, Thursday - USNORTHCOM, USEUCOM, USINDOPACOM and University of Alaska Fairbanks Center for Arctic Security and Resilience Arctic eTalk with 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. See end of *Dispatches* 2 July 2021 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.

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/

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* 14 July edition
https://send.successbyemail.com/prvw_message2.aspx?chno=46468bcb-111c-4b09-b2ed-67c2ebe848bb

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-QqXJ7Ylxfzfd0M&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 2, Issue 1, 12 July 2021.

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

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.

<p>GNWT/GTNO Infrastructure @GNWT_INF 8 Jul tweeted: The MV Kelly Ovayuak left the Hay River marine terminal on Monday, July 5, 2021, towing seven barges with a total of 6,261 tonnes of cargo and petroleum products. RUSI(NS) retweeted: Logistics in CAN🇨🇦 #Arctic/North different than high seas & challenging. Lots of tugs&barges, vessels which CAN companies can design&build. Analysis of Northern shipping would be interesting read. What shipyards there for building&repair?</p>	
<p>NATO ACT @NATO_ACT 9 Jul tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: How can the #Alliance stay ahead of the competition in an increasingly fluid, connected and complex global security environment? #NATO's Warfighting Capstone Concept maps out a path for Allies to focus, synchronise, and cohere efforts. (NATO's Warfighting Capstone Concept: anticipating the changing character of war https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2021/07/09/natos-warfighting-capstone-concept-anticipating-the-changing-character-of-war/index.html)</p>	
<p>Irving Shipbuilding @IrvingShipbuild 12 Jul tweeted: Margaret Brooke was the first Canadian woman to receive the Order of the British Empire for her heroic actions in WW2. At the age of 100, Canada's 2nd Arctic & Offshore Patrol Ship was named for her. On Thursday we deliver this fine ship to @RoyalCanNavy (Who is Margaret Brooke? https://shipsforcanada.ca/our-stories/who-is-margaret-brooke#prclt=HsbJdklB) RUSI(NS) retweeted: RUSI(NS) Information Note "Canadian Warship Acceptance" https://rusi-ns.ca/canadian-warship-acceptance/ Shipbuilder delivery a.k.a. acceptance by @NationalDefence @RoyalCanNavy & command of ship by #RCNavy officer</p>	
<p>"Navy kicks off long-anticipated push to replace Canada's beleaguered submarine fleet" https://www.thestar.com/politics/2021/07/14/navy-kicks-off-long-anticipated-push-to-replace-canadas-beleaguered-submarine-fleet.html #Submarines are strategic assets to CAN🇨🇦, best vessels to ensure strong defence of all three of our coasts. @RoyalCanNavy sub force should be mix of crewed & drone subs</p>	

The Naval Association of Canada @navalassn 14 Jul tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: What does a submarine force add to national security? Read our briefing note on Canada's Submarine Assets. @RoyalCanNavy #cdnpoli #RCNavy <https://navalassoc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BN5-submarines.pdf>
(Canada's Submarines Assets)



The Naval Association of Canada @navalassn 14 Jul tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: In 2019, @jeffreyfcollins wrote Niobe Paper entitled "Towards A Renewed Canadian Submarine Capability". It is worth re-reading his paper. @RoyalCanNavy #submarines #RCNavy <https://www.navalassoc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Collins-Submarine-Capabilities.pdf>
(Towards a Renewed Canadian Submarine Capability)



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CSE responded to more than 2,200 cyber attacks last year amid heightened concern over Chinese, Russian hacks

<https://nationalpost.com/news/federal-spy-agency-responded-to-more-than-2200-cyber-attacks-last-year-amid-heightened-concern-over-chinese-russian-hacks>



The Communications Security Establishment "generally identifies between two and seven billion 'malicious actions' against Government of Canada networks every day," its annual report said.

There's a cyber war ongoing. Are our forces up to it? And that question includes our civilian leadership and general population.

Why Does Russia Want to Resume Military Dialogue in the Arctic?

<https://mwi.usma.edu/why-does-russia-want-to-resume-military-dialogue-in-the-arctic/>



"Ultimately, Moscow is most concerned about increasing military cooperation between Arctic states and NATO."

A Canadian-led NATO exercise in Arctic waters might be significant signaling.

When Will China Rule the World? Maybe Never

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2021-07-05/when-will-china-s-economy-beat-the-u-s-to-become-no-1-why-it-may-never-happen>

To truly appreciate the balance of power between competing great states is not simply a matter of counting ships, aircraft and battalions. Success in confrontation, competition and conflict, certainly when long lasting, is derived from economic strength. Those who would develop and practice military and grand strategy, and advise on inter-state relations, need to know the economic measures of those other states.



New Tools to Create Time and Information: “Building the Bike While We Ride It”

<https://warontherocks.com/2021/07/new-tools-to-create-time-and-information-building-the-bike-while-we-ride-it/>

Thoughts from General Glen D. VanHerck, Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and US Northern Command:
"As America’s adversaries become increasingly capable of attacking U.S. territory, the military will need rapid access to information and intelligence, predictive analysis tools to identify trends and potential adversary actions as or before they occur, and communication networks that speed up the pace of decision-making."

Ditto Canada. Especially if we mean to stay as a capable ally of the US. Which need for alliances many in the US are beginning to emphasize again.

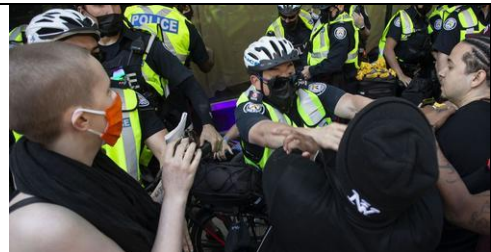


New group aims to overhaul Canadian police training

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-new-group-aims-to-overhaul-canadian-police-training/>

This article is particularly interesting as it touches on the root contemporary issues within Canadian policing and, in my humble opinion, offers many of the most viable solutions. The UK's College of Policing model is one of the most practical and professionalizing mechanisms with which we could modernize Canadian policing. It has served the UK well. As the article states, modernization starts with establishing national standards, particularly in recruitment, as its foundation. The rest of our policing standards, governance and accountability pieces flow from there. I believe our existing provincial policing structures (yes, based in our Constitution) are flawed and require a major re-fit to enable, support and be accountable to societal needs. There is little in place in Canada to ensure the national quality and consistency of policing services. Both Dr Huey and Senator Sinclair are spot on in that there is little value in rolling out any program until it is framed in evidence and incorporating effective apparatus to implement, evaluate and adjust.

Article is available from RUSI(NS) if you are unable to access it through the link.



Military hopeful new Arctic port will open in 2022, but 'significant' uncertainty remains

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/military-hopeful-new-arctic-port-will-open-in-2022-but-significant-uncertainty-remains-1.5502188>



Is the extended time to put Nanisivik Naval Facility indicative of something? The challenges of developing Northern and Arctic marine infrastructure? Challenges in the Canadian major crown project process? What is the message Canada is sending? What are the Canadian plan and strategy for developing marine and other infrastructure for the defence, security and safety of our North?

NATO Needs to Drop the 2% of GDP Requirement

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2021/07/nato-needs-to-drop-the-2-of-gdp-requirement/>



"... percentages of GDP spent on defense are meaningless without looking at the structure of individual defense budgets."

"Either continue with the 2% of GDP pledge and the usual bromides about allied solidarity or get serious about what the alliance needs the most, namely real exercised pluggable military capabilities that by their very nature will ensure that deterrence in Europe holds, regardless of what does or does not happen in Asia."

Part of Canada truly supporting the intent of the pledge would be to ensure that we have the strategic mobility (airlift, sealift, blue water navy) to get where we're needed.

Trudeau urged to scrap purchase of 'useless' fighter jets as Canada faces threats from pandemics and climate change

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/trudeau-urged-to-scrap-purchase-of-useless-fighter-jets-as-canada-faces-threats-from-pandemics-and-climate-change>



"The Liberal government, however, is committed to the fighter jet purchase. A recent Department of National Defence update on the project noted that contracts have already been awarded to build new infrastructure to support the aircraft."

The New National Security strategy is a paranoid charter"

The article "The New National Security strategy is a paranoid charter" (<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/07/05/new-national-security-strategy-is-a-paranoids-charter-a74424>) by Mark Geoleotti in the Moscow Times on 5 July 2021 is a true



eye opener as to the current thinking of the Putin regime in regard to the international scene.

It is interesting that the article talks about the suspected author Nikolai Patrushev, the Secretary of the Security Council, a job that bears some resemblance to the National Security Advisor in the US. The article states that he is thought to be the most hawkish of the regime. He is very similar to his boss, Vladimir Putin. He is a former member of the intelligence service, the KGB and its successor, first in the FSK or Directorate of Internal Security and then in the FSB and finally appointed head of the head of the FSB from 1999 to 2008 before being appointed to his present position and now Putin's chosen advisor on security issues as the Secretary of Security of the Russian Federation. He is typical of Putin's most trusted advisors, most of whom can be traced to the intelligence services, principally during the era of the KGB.

As one reads the article one can see the paranoia about the West and its motives and more importantly how vaguely it is written in a way that one could be charged with almost anything. It will be Russia's law for the next six years apparently. It is worth understanding.

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More delays expected on new navy ships, DND report warns

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/more-delays-expected-on-new-navy-ships-dnd-report-warns>



Defence procurement has been so botched, Canadian lives are now at risk

<https://ottawasun.com/opinion/columnists/williams-defence-procurement-has-been-so-botched-canadian-lives-are-now-at-risk/>



Other Sources:

#budgets

Federal Plans and Main Estimates

synopsis: <https://security.frontline.online/blogs/1114-Scott-Newark/16899-Federal-Plans-and-Main-Estimates>

#China

#KYR: China - Hot Topics

<https://cove.army.gov.au/article/kyr-china-hot-topics>

"It's important for all serving members of our military to have a foundation knowledge of the countries and issues in the Indo-Pacific."

#communications

The British Army doesn't make much sense anymore

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/the-british-army-doesnt-make-much-sense-anymore/>

#cyber operations

The Role of Russia's Military in Information Confrontation

https://www.cna.org/CNA_files/PDF/The-Role-of-Russias-Military-in-Information-Confrontation.pdf

#3D printing

Military Must Do More to Tackle Cyber Threats to 3D Printing, Watchdog Says

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/07/10/military-must-do-more-tackle-cyber-threats-3d-printing-watchdog-says.html>

Empty Threats and Warnings on Cyber

Lessons for Canada: <https://www.lawfareblog.com/empty-threats-and-warnings-cyber>

#information operations

Information Warfare Looms Larger in Russia's New Security Strategy

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2021/07/information-warfare-looms-larger-russias-new-security-strategy/183717/>

#maritime strategy

A New U.S. Maritime Strategy

<https://cimsec.org/a-new-u-s-maritime-strategy/>

#RCMP

New RCMP Operational Communications Centre

<https://security.frontline.online/article/2021/1/16895-New-RCMP-Operational-Communications-Centre>

Other:



12 July 2021

Over the past months, there has been a tremendous amount of work in setting the conditions for making long-term, sustained improvements to our culture to ensure we are a truly inclusive institution that can attract, retain and develop talent from all segments of Canadian society. Even without the highly stressful and demanding circumstances of operating in a pandemic and our longest domestic operation in history, these months have not been easy, as we have suffered many setbacks and come under unprecedented and intense scrutiny. Despite these challenges, you have continued to perform admirably, protecting Canadians here at home and our interests overseas, and for that I know Canadians are grateful.

The last several months have, however, clearly illuminated the urgent need to change our culture, not only to meet the expectations of all of our members and our citizens, but to ensure our future operational relevance. A month ago, the Canadian Armed Forces Chief Warrant Officer (CAF CWO) and I issued a short document through the Chain of Command for all in a leadership position, *CAF Leader Tenets for Moving Forward*, and in it we describe our current difficult situation as an *opportunity* for making real, meaningful change. We also discussed *ownership*, and in this context it means every one of us recognizing that the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) culture must change, and we must do our part. We must all be ‘all in’.

From my perspective, the approach of “Listen, Learn, Act” is being embraced down the Chain. Most of us have been involved in difficult, uncomfortable discussions that provided disturbing perspectives on aspects of our institution to which many of us were naively or willfully blind. I, for one, have had my eyes opened to the untapped potential we have missed because of the harm that has been caused. Our efforts to listen and learn must be continuous, and they need to lead to thoughtful action in an ongoing reflective cycle. It is clear to senior leadership that there is a tremendous pent-up desire for action, beyond words, that must now take centre-stage, so that we are not perceived as just providing lip-service to the legitimate concerns we are trying to address.

The intent with this communique is to provide you an update on the major efforts underway to effect this change – to act in a thoughtful way. Many mutually-reinforcing initiatives and efforts are in the works, and it is critical that we maintain a holistic understanding of all that we are doing. These can be grouped into four ‘streams’.

Stream 1 – Chief Professional Conduct and Culture (CPCC). The core of CPCC is now established under the command of LGen Carignan, who recently [issued an update](#). They will build a deliberate, comprehensive plan for culture change for the long-term, but concurrently in the short-term they are conducting Defence-wide consultations; issuing leader guidance for creating inclusive teams; building on our nascent restorative services to provide complainants, respondents and Chains of Command with a powerful tool to repair harm and re-establish relationships; aligning and streamlining the complaint and reporting system with the needs of those affected at the forefront. We are developing CPCC’s functional authorities, giving the organization the ability to mandate change across the institution.

Stream 2 – External Review into Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Harassment in the Canadian Armed Forces. Former Supreme Court Justice Louise Arbour has begun her important work, and is very keen to help us develop and make changes. We welcome and need this external look at our institution. I have told her we will be fully transparent and welcome her recommendations, (including independent reporting and external oversight as determined), a sentiment I expect to be echoed across the CAF as we humbly recognize that we do not have all the answers. In fact, any person who wishes to share any information, opinion, or participate in this review can do so [here](#).

Stream 3 – Organic Initiatives. As should be expected, many of you have not waited for direction. Grasping the importance and the context of our challenges, you have implemented local solutions. These may be the most important and long-lasting as they come from the grassroots level and are fed by the need for change there. Examples include: reinforcing or creating local advisor groups and advisors; the creation of culture officers on a number of our Royal Canadian Navy Ships; the trialing and introductions by the Canadian Army of the Sexual Misconduct Workshop Training, developed and delivered by a CAF member and survivor; as well as at the 4th Cdn Div Training Centre Meaford, the recent creation of a new local Defence Women’s Advisory Organization; a focused effort by the RCAF to leverage their quarterly Vector Check program; and Wing-level committees established by junior ranks to solicit grassroots proposals on local culture change initiatives. Additionally, many units and

formations have engaged local expertise, including through the Honorary Colonel community, to inform initiatives.

The list is longer and CPCC will capture those initiatives which meet with success as best practices, share them across the Defence Team, and provide institutional policy cover where necessary.

Stream 4 – Key Supporting Efforts. There are many other critical efforts that are concurrently underway, some led by independent actors, which form part of the holistic understanding.

- *Third Independent Review Authority.* Justice Fish’s recent [report](#) on the Military Justice System was comprehensive and well-received. The 107 recommendations cover the military justice system itself, military police activities, sexual misconduct, and the CAF Grievance System. In it, he prioritizes changing the ‘duty to report’, implementing Bill C-77, and the provision of free and independent legal advice to victims. While some of the recommendations can be implemented rather quickly, many others ask for working groups to study various aspects and there will be a need for legislation and regulation to fully implement a number of recommendations. We will very shortly issue an Implementation Directive that will guide the significant work required to make these changes. Concurrently, the Office of the Judge Advocate General is restructuring to support the implementation of the recommendations from Justice Fish.

- *Bill C-77 (Declaration of Victims’ Rights) Implementation.* C-77 regulatory framework and policy development continues to progress and will come into force as soon as possible. DVCDS (the Instructing Client) has recently endorsed proposed regulatory policy orientations enabling further regulatory development. This endorsement will inform work on the implementation directive and identification of initial policy development and training requirements. Consultation continues with key stakeholders and advisors to ensure fulsome consideration and collaboration.

- *Restorative Engagement.* A key aspect of the DND-CAF Sexual Misconduct Class Action Final Settlement Agreement, the facilitated restorative engagement program, will begin in the Fall. Engagement between class members affected by sexual misconduct and representatives from the Defence Team will be foundational in deepening our collective understanding and contributing to healing, and in doing so better inform and propel culture change. Defence representatives will have the opportunity to work together in cohorts to prepare for engagement with affected persons, as well as to reflect and plan together on how to take action on culture change, based on the lessons being learned. We will embrace this as an opportunity to become national leaders in this practice, and learn from it to incorporate a more comprehensive Restorative Justice approach into the CAF.

- *Sexual Misconduct Response Centre (SMRC) expanded service.* The Sexual Misconduct Response Centre is working to advance all of the Budget 2021 commitments related to sexual misconduct, including: the expansion of SMRC services; the stand-up of regional offices for the provision of in-person services; the establishment of a mechanism to offer independent legal advice to victims of sexual misconduct; and the development of a peer support program to support survivors of military sexual trauma.

- *Defining Military Sexual Trauma (MST).* Work continues to finalize a definition of military sexual trauma through consultations that are being undertaken collaboratively by DND-CAF, Veterans Affairs Canada, and the SMRC with the Communities of Practice on military sexual trauma, a broad array of stakeholders and, most importantly, representatives with the lived experience of MST.

- *Military Personnel Command Initiatives.* Military Personnel Command continues to examine and develop policies that will support the needs of all members of the CAF. The Employment Equity Plan

2021-2026 will be released in the coming months and is critical to achieving the type of culture change that all of our members in uniform - Regular and Reserve Force, including Primary Reserve, Cadet Organization Administration and Training Service, and the Canadian Rangers - deserve by increasing the representation, inclusion, and participation of underrepresented groups, across all levels of the organization. Inclusive dress regulation changes that honour the diversity of Canadian culture while prioritizing members' safety and operational effectiveness are coming this fall. New women's health initiatives will also be released in the near future, along with guidance on inclusive practices for pre and post-natal care. Members can also expect improved CAF promotion selection processes that apply GBA+ to examine and prevent bias. This involves, for example, looking at how the criteria measured in the promotion processes can adversely affect diverse groups within the organization, as well as mandating that one member of each of the Fall National Selection Boards be a member from an Employment Equity group. As well, General Officer/Flag Officer (GOFO) selection boards this fall will introduce evidence-based selection tools that provide greater insight into the character of the officers we entrust to lead the Defence Team.

As you can see from the multitude of efforts, there is no single silver bullet to change our culture, and it will not happen overnight. It will take vigilant and sustained effort from all of us. Our progress will not be linear. We are very much a human organization, and as such will, without doubt, have setbacks, mistakes, and disappointments, but together we will learn, heal, and grow. I am completely committed to achieving our goals and expect leaders at all levels to take whatever action necessary to ensure our success. We will be the CAF the country will so desperately need as we respond to international and domestic events. Our readiness to answer this call of duty will by necessity be underpinned by a culture that is respectful, inclusive, and welcoming for all.

Lieutenant-General Wayne Eyre
Acting Chief of the Defence Staff



13 July 2021

Many of us have been watching the reports coming out of Afghanistan with dismay. The fall of Panjwai, reported last week, has hit many of us particularly hard, and as we question our legacy, it serves as a harbinger for all Canadians who served in the country, regardless of when and where.

Panjwai District, with its place names such as Masum Ghar, Nakhonay, Sperwan Ghar, and Mushan, are indelibly etched into the collective psyche of those who served there. The heat, the dust, the grape rows, and the poppy fields all provide a backdrop to what truly troubles us – our investment of effort, of sweat, and most of all of blood.

Our Afghan experience has left none untouched, and many, including families, are scarred physically, mentally, and morally from it. Many of us have been asking, some for years, 'was it worth it?' Answers will be deeply personal, and not all have reached a final conclusion other than 'time will tell'.

We can hold our heads high knowing that we did everything our government asked us to do. Our members served with valour and selflessness, and were there to make a difference. The solution was never going to be a military one, and what we gave the people and the government of Afghanistan was time. The decision with what to do with that time was theirs to make.

While history will be the ultimate judge, the current trajectory of the country leaves us with much pain and doubt. After their wars, our forebears were able to visit many of the countries in which they served, such as in Europe and Korea, and put their sacrifices in context, giving them meaning when they saw hope and prosperity rise out of the rubble and ashes. At this moment in time, it is difficult to envision having similar sentiments for our war.

So where does that leave us? Should we hang our heads in bitterness and remorse; or should we continue to venerate the sacrifices of so many in our ranks and their families, to honour the noble commitment to service and making the world a better place, and endeavour to learn from our experiences, grow, and become better every day? While none of us can speak for them, I have to believe that our Fallen would want us to pursue the latter.

If you are struggling with your experience, I ask you to reach out for help.

For current CAF members and families:

- CAF Members have access to mental health care and a range of support services provided at [Canadian Forces Health Services primary care clinics](#) across Canada. Care is also available for those deployed. Many services are available either with or without an appointment, and there is a choice of in-person or virtual/telephone.
- [Member Assistance Program \(CFMAP\)](#) is a confidential advisory and referral service that is external to the CAF and available to members and their families by phone 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week at 1-800-268-7708.
- Spiritual guidance and support are available through [military chaplains](#).
- Information on these and other medical and mental health care and support services for military members and their families may be found on the [Military Mental Health “You’re Not Alone” web page](#).

Beyond these resources – speak to a friend, family member, your supervisor, or a mental health professional – do not shoulder this burden alone. Pain shared is pain divided.

For Veterans and families:

For Veterans as well as family members or caregivers who are struggling, [VAC Assistance Service](#) is available 24/7. Call 1-800-268-7708 (TDD/TYY: 1-800-567-5803) to talk to a mental health professional.

More information on counselling services, peer support and free online resources for Veterans and families can be found in the [Mental health and wellness section](#) of the Veterans Affairs Canada web site.

Lieutenant-General Wayne Eyre
Acting Chief of the Defence Staff

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

Afghanistan

Before reading this part of this week's notes, please note that I (SAC Chair) served three tours in Afghanistan and I have always my own thoughts on this mission which has been disappointing to watch. It did not have to be this way but it took the international community to realize that nation building requires generations of work – it was suggested that a minimum of three generations or 60 to 90 years is needed. Nation building is not for the faint of heart and requires dedication and sacrifice. The moment the decision was made to remain in Afghanistan in 2001, nation building became the goal. One doubts how much of a real study was made in that original decision. The real work would not be done by the military, the real nation building would be done by non-government agencies, civil servants, teachers and civil police. Canada was blessed by having some superb young civil servants who worked in Afghanistan. Unfortunately those folks were only there in decent numbers for three years. What they did was a pleasure to watch. They did so with only body armour and hoping their military escort was capable. They deserve more recognition than they received, they certainly deserved it. The military could only do so much and nation building is not what it does well but can produce the space and time for development of the country.

Contrary to the media, much was done. Just watch any young Afghan use their cell phone, or simply read and write whether they are girls or boys based on a real curriculum, or watch a healthy young mother and baby leave a decent hospital. Afghanistan has become much more urban, Kabul went from a population of 800k to more than 4m, Kandahar went from 200k to approximately 1.2m. A large part of the population has moved to cities for education, medical support and opportunities. Any forward move is incremental and will not be a big single event. This move has left 27m in mortal danger.

This past week saw three retired Canadian generals write a letter to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship asking that the Government of Canada bring our translators, interpreters and other people who worked for us back to Canada due to the rapid rise and success of the Taliban. The Taliban executed at least 22 Afghan soldiers who surrendered after running out of ammunition this past week. This is a true example of Taliban senseless brutality and their lack of fitness to lead and run a country. The Taliban are essentially heavily armed rural movement with limited education. They are brutal and incompetent and incapable of actual national leadership. They are an example of Mao's expression that all power comes from the barrel of a gun.

The bottom line is that if the reader can please contact your Member of Parliament and support our former Afghan support staff in Afghanistan by asking for the opportunity for them to come to Canada and safety.

In the last 24 hours (this is mid-week), the Taliban have directly threatened violence if cities resist. It is a tried and true method of authoritarians. One suspects that this will give rise of a type of warlord that also occurred after the first Taliban takeover. Civil war is almost inevitable and the Afghan people will suffer...yet again.

O Canada

The Canadian press published an article on 14 July 2021 called "Navy Kicks Off Long Anticipated Push to Replace Canada's beleaguered Submarine Fleet" by Lee Berthiaume which announces the establishment of an office to examine acquisition of new patrol submarines. This is a welcome development for those interested in a strong resilient capable armed forces. This will no doubt be a political football as some Canadian politicians seem unable to understand one of their main priorities is

the defence of the country. Canada is lucky or has been lucky that it has had the luxury of being relatively safe from any potential adversary. This is no longer true and our lack of effort also is impacting our friends and neighbours. Canada has three oceans and with global warming the third ocean is now becoming a major theater of operations and we have little or no capacity to defend it or even maintain sovereignty in real terms.

Security was at least mentioned by government ministers in relation to intellectual property this week. Both Francois Phillippe Champagne and Bill Blair commented on new regulations regarding intellectual property on 12 July 2021. There have been several examples of Canadian developments being stolen through espionage, theft and interference. The regulations are found in "National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships" made in collaboration with Canadian Government - Universities Working Group. The goal is to help ensure any future partnership is evaluated not only on the project itself but also takes into account security issues. It is about time, but the current government and academia may not have been the best partners for this type of effort due to their rather interesting views on participation of Communist Chinese Party researchers in research efforts. Hopefully, private industry and our security services were also hopefully involved as well.

Belarus

Belarus threatened last month to use refugees and illegal immigrants as a weapon against Lithuania. Last year, Lithuania had a total of 80 such individuals. Belarus has now opened the doors and is refusing to stop them. Within a short period more than 1700 illegal immigrants have crossed into Lithuania from Belarus. There are apparently scheduled flights to bring in people from Iraq and other countries directly to Minsk and from there they cross the border by way of local contacts who drive them from Minsk to the border area. There is no attempt to stop this flow by Belarus.

Belarus also is cracking down on known activists and human rights figures throughout the country in a continued move to reinforce overall control. In dealing with activists in this arbitrary yet ongoing way, it enforces a climate of fear. Many will flee rather than remain in the country if they can get out. Belarus has also moved to forbid Belarusian citizens from leaving the country, more or less turning the country into a large "prison camp." It is likely that the EU will press for changes in other ways in order to mitigate against the Lukashenko regime's actions. Russia pulled a similar action several years ago, allowing large numbers of migrants to enter Finland and Norway. It worked once, why not try it again, except Lukashenko admits it openly and the Russians denied their actions.

Russia and Belarus regimes are negotiating a union between the two countries. Sanctions by mainly Western countries and closure of the borders by Belarus have essentially meant that Russia is virtually the only option left to the Lukashenko regime. There is considerable discussion of how long Lukashenko will continue post any union of Russia and Belarus - time of course will tell.

Russia

Russia continues to flounder in its efforts against the Covid-19 virus including its variants. Part of this is a boomerang effect of Russia's own disinformation campaign against the West. Vaccine uptake has been spotty, with a level of strong distrust of anything provided by the regime, and thus the Putin regime has made it mandatory to be vaccinated. Deaths continue to rise to nearly 150k and nearly 6m folks have been infected. The trouble with official figures is that the reality is suspected to be between two and four times higher than officially reported. The bottom line is that this is hurting the image of the regime. Even Putin's popularity has suffered during this event.

The big news this week is somewhat disturbing. President Putin has written a "new" historical essay that would have failed in most first year classes in any reputable university. First comments stated that he ran roughshod over history in his view of the history between Russia and Ukraine. He also stated in an interview that Ukraine will only achieve peace through Russia and not the West.

Russia has also been very upset within their official media about the joint Ukraine-NATO Exercise OCEAN BREEZE held in the Black Sea. 32 countries were involved, including many NATO countries, Canada and the US as well as other allies. The one outsider was Russia which did not participate and viewed it as a provocation. They might be right in some respects, but an exercise is vastly different than invading a former ally and taking territory.

Speaking of taking territory, Russia has said that the new Moldovan government has been warned that Russia may increase the size of the "peacekeeping" force in Transnistria, a breakaway portion of Moldova that is settled by Russian ethnic people. The use of Russian populated areas in countries or allies of the former Soviet Union is a tactic by Putin. It is used to provide a platform in the country to destabilize the political environment of the country. This can be found in Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova where breakaway portions of those countries have been stolen by force by the Putin regime. The United Russia Party has continued to drop in popularity due to their action or inaction in relation to the pandemic, recent crackdowns on anti-corruption groups and Russia's anemic economy. A foreign "threat" is always a "good" way to regain national unity. One can expect further incidents as Russia gets closer to Duma elections scheduled for 18 September 2021.

China

The Communist Chinese Party (CCP) have continued their attacks on their own tech firms throughout the country, and as mentioned have even stopped some companies from international investment such as happened with Ant and Didi recently. Often the key leadership is arrested as well or invited to further discussion with security services or more recently the financial regulator. This seems a bit of a self-inflicted wound as these companies also seemed to be friendlier faces of China instead of the usual ham-fisted efforts of the CCP or Sovereign Owned Enterprises (SOE) which are more able to be directed by the Party. One thought is that Jack Ma's March criticism of the CCP Financial Regulator showed the vulnerability of the Party to major private enterprises especially one with an international footprint. In real terms, the Party is a delicate creature that reacts to any perceived threat to itself; survival of the Party is everything. One can expect further restrictions to occur.

The move against private enterprises also occurred against digital currency operations that have established themselves in China. Some have suggested nearly half the digital currency is produced in China. The crackdown has had a chilling effect. It is believed that this is mainly an attempt by the Party to control the operations, again to prevent potential negative effects against the Party.

Chinese media have been increasingly vocal in their condemnation of the Biden administration's action against possible forced labour use in Xinjiang Province and warnings to US firms in dealing with Hong Kong (HK), Tibet and other locations where forced labour may be occurring. It is wide-spread, so these actions by the administration are having a positive effect on Chinese industries. The US is taking a chance at CCP retaliation as more than 1200 US companies are located in HK. Somewhat strangely, some US companies are continuing investment in the former colony. One reason is that HK is considered a gateway into mainland China. There are two thoughts here, one is that some companies don't see the threat as long term therefore investment is reasonable. The other is that the CCP has changed its character in a substantial way and that investment may be in danger due to arbitrary rulings by the CCP's more recent actions.

China has now entered into negotiations with the Taliban, apparently in an attempt to protect Chinese mining operations and other projects, and secondly to protect their border with Afghanistan in Badakhshan Province which has a 354 kilometre border with China next to the country of occupied East Turkistan also known by the occupiers as Xinjiang Province. One of the large number of insurgent groups in Afghanistan is the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM). China has a great need to ensure that this group and similar ones are tightly controlled or better yet eliminated. The CCP is also very aware that any Islamic government in Afghanistan is potentially a step-off point for Islamist actions in Xinjiang. China is rapidly being surrounded by potential hostile neighbours, all courtesy of President Xi's decisions that have been less than ideal. Maybe the CCP's reason for the crackdown in Xinjiang will now be real, it could not happen to a nicer regime. One hopes that other factions within the CCP will finally rein in the "Core Leader" and start re-building Chinese relationships around the world.



seaspan

HoloShip Initiative Expression of Interest Solicitation

Seaspan Shipyards is issuing a call to participate with an Expression of Interest (EOI) in our HoloShip Initiative. The HoloShip Initiative is intended to build independent and integrated solutions that accelerate the market potential from digital twins, digital threads, integrated analytics and real-time sensing for improved competitiveness in the marine industry.

We invite participation from the wider marine and digital communities in an Expression of Interest as the first phase of a two-phase process. Selected project concepts from the EOI phase will be invited to submit a full proposal. One or more projects will be selected for funding up to a maximum cumulative total of \$2.4M. Pending interest from the community and available funding, additional calls for participation may be issued at a later date. This initiative is being developed under Canada's National Shipbuilding Strategy's Value Proposition program.

The HoloShip Initiative Expression of Interest Guidelines and Template can be found at:

<https://www.seaspan.com/seaspan-shipyards/innovation>

Expressions of Interest must be submitted no later than **14:00 Pacific Daylight Time on Friday August 6, 2021** via Email to innovation@seaspan.com.

This is a Canada-wide, public call for participation and Seaspan welcomes the sharing of this notice with colleagues and partners in your network. A related post will also be made on Seaspan's social media feeds.

Stan Jacobson | Assistant Vice President, Government Relations | Seaspan Shipyards