



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Dispatches

06 August 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.

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).

Note: *Dispatches* for 6 and 13 Aug may look a little different due to assistance to editorial staff by new volunteers.

If you have content for *Dispatches*, email to RUSINSDispatches@gmail.com.

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.

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

New: 10 August, Tuesday – The International Institute for Strategic Studies will discuss what is the nature of cyber power and how will it evolve with Marcus Willet, the author of the report “Cyber capabilities and national power: a net assessment” (see Other Sources). 0800hrs EDT and if unable to attend the Zoom session, a recording will be available. To register: https://iiss.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SIIC-kZqSd6RMWaf2mK_4A

11 September, Saturday – The Halifax Military Heritage Preservation Society (HMHPS) McNabs Island Forts Tour with tour guide and founding member of the Friends of McNabs Island Society, Royce Walker. The tour provides visitors with a particular interest in the military history of Halifax an opportunity to visit the four major forts / gun batteries located on the island along with interpretation of the fort features, and discussion of the role each fort played in the defense of Halifax. A 6 km walk on reasonably good quality trails. There are no park services or running water but 3 composting toilets; the island is not considered accessible. The maximum number of registered participants allowed on the tour

boat is 23. Cost \$20 for members and friends. Payment to hold your seat can be made by cash, cheque or e-transfer. Treasurer coordinates, participant requirements, and wharf directions to catch the tour boat to the island are available upon request at rusinsdispatches@gmail.com. 9:30am-to-6:00pm AST. To register, email leo.deveau@eastlink.ca

30 September – 28 October, consecutive Thursdays – Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research Virtual Forum on Serving Military, Veteran, Family, and Public Safety Personnel. Each year, CIMVHR works to engage existing academic research resources, facilitate new research, increase research capacity, and foster knowledge translation. This work is showcased each year, when thought leaders from the government, academia, industry and philanthropic sectors gather at our Forum to present new research, exchange ideas, share insight, learn and collaborate. Free of charge and open to everyone as a virtual opportunity to learn, to connect and to serve those who serve. To register:

<https://cimvhrforum.ca/>

Recent Publications:

Except where otherwise indicated, publications are available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

New: RUSI(NS) Comments "The Rohingya – An Open Letter to Canadian Policymakers" by Jay Heisler, 5 August 2021, <https://rusi-ns.ca/rohingya-refugee/>

New: RUSI(NS) Position Paper "The RCAF and Canada Need a Bomber Squadron – A Large Water Bomber Squadron", 30 July 2021.

<https://rusi-ns.ca/water-bomber-squadron/>

RUSI(NS) Post "Policing and the Pandemic", 26 July 2021.

<https://rusi-ns.ca/policing-and-the-pandemic/>

RUSI(NS) Presentation "Arctic Special Operations" by Brigadier-General SR Satterfield, 21 July 2021.

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

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/>

Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch* 28 July edition.

https://send.successbyemail.com/prvw_message2.aspx?chno=a0cee393-939b-4820-a471-416ab4c0e3ad

Royal Canadian Navy *Your Navy Today* May/June 2021.

<http://www.navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/news-ynt/2021/06-your-navy-today.page>

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

Edmonton United Services Institute *President's ENews*, 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>

New: Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches* August 2021.

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

New: United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island *Newsletter*, Vol 29 No 08 August 2021.

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

New: Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch *Scuttlebutt*, August 2021 Edition.

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

Royal United Services Institute Victoria (Australia) *Newsletter*, Volume 20, Issue 2, June/July 2021.

New: Royal United Services Institute Victoria (Australia) Occasional, Volume 7, Issue 4, 2 August 2021.



True North in Canadian Public Policy, “Foreign Disinformation and Genocide Denial in Canada’s Senate” by Marcus Kolga, 14 July 2021.
<https://www.macdonaldlaurier.ca/foreign-disinfo-genocide-denial-senate/>







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>Globe Opinion @GlobeDebate 23 July 2021 tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Canada cannot claim Arctic sovereignty unless we find the political will to replace our submarines https://t.co/ZVJnYo3Ssv</p>	
<p>The Naval Association of Canada @navalassn 23 July 2021 tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Under Canada’s National Shipbuilding Strategy (NSS), Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) signed a \$35 million contract on behalf of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) for 30 fast, safe and agile MRBs from Zodiac Hurricane Technologies (ZHT). https://t.co/ccihshFzJo</p>	

<p>Canadian Armed Forces Operations @CAFOperations 23 July 2021 tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Hundreds of CAF personnel,   continue to work across Canada in support of #OpLENTUS https://t.co/Dlgp74DOfn</p>	
<p>CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 28 July 2021 tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Our piece with @zhubochubo, which includes an analysis of China's maritime strategy, the importance of aligning with ASEAN, and how Canada can contribute to an Indo-Pacific framework. https://t.co/qHo7Uemx1Y</p>	
<p>Modern War Institute @WarInstitute 2 August 2021 tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Canada's Arctic Problem @josephbvarner https://t.co/RTSF81gg60</p>	
<p>Roger Litwiller – Flag of Canada Naval Author/Historian @RLitwiller 2 August 2021 tweeted: HMCS REGINA receiving its commemorative Disruptive camouflage paint scheme on 21 Sept. 2019 at HMC Dockyard in Esquimalt, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Atlantic. @RLitwiller #RCNavy #POTD Collection. http://ow.ly/b1CE50CkVk1</p> <p>RUSI(NS) retweeted: RUSI(NS) Information Note by @TimDotChoi "Naval Camouflage and its Application on HMC Ships REGINA and MONCTON: A Brief History" https://rusi-ns.ca/naval-camouflage-and-its-application-on-hmc-ships-regina-and-moncton-a-brief-history/</p>	

Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia:

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

China's options to seize Taiwan

<https://diplomatonline.com/mag/2021/07/chinas-options-to-seize-taiwan/>

The reunification of Taiwan and all so-called lost territories with the mainland has become the political legacy piece of Chinese President Xi Jinping. He called for reunification with Taiwan to begin in 2020 and to be completed no later than 2050.



Decarbonisation and shipping: ship recycling - a changing landscape

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=5d22e064-9315-42a8-b088-d33e88c6dd71>

Maybe not many Royal Canadian Navy ships coming up to be broken (insiders' word for recycling), but other Canadian government ships (e.g., ferries supported by Transport Canada) are and will be available. It is useful to have an understanding of the legalities and other aspects of the shipbreaking sector.



Use Wargaming to Sharpen the Tactical Edge

<https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/wargaming-room/tactical-edge/>

Wargames provide a dynamic environment to explore and examine a variety of challenges and concepts along the strategic, operational and tactical levels. As an educational tool, wargaming fosters critical thinking and innovation.



Fix to software problem behind naval helicopter crash needed 'forthwith': experts

<https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/fix-to-software-problem-behind-naval-helicopter-crash-needed-forthwith-experts-1.5524423>



CSSC Lays Keel for Drone-Carrying Autonomous Research Vessel

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/cssc-lays-keel-for-drone-carrying-autonomous-research-vessel>

An impressive ship. Drones capable of launching drones (air, surface, subsurface) are not new in the military but the Chinese seem to have taken it further (a full 'drone carrier'). And with evident military applicability ("sensor mesh"). Hopefully Western navies will be commissioning similar vessels soon.



'Ghost Fleet' Hulls Moving Toward Completely Unmanned Operations

<https://news.usni.org/2021/07/27/ghost-fleet-hulls-moving-toward-completely-unmanned-operations>

The Navy has said it wants the Large Unmanned Surface Vehicles (LUSV) to operate as an auxiliary missile magazine for its guided-missile combatants, netted into the Navy's larger tactical data network for the fleet.



Overmatch by other means: integrating Irregular Warfare into Joint Force Wargaming

<https://www.militarytimes.com/opinion/commentary/2021/07/29/overmatch-by-other-means-integrating-irregular-warfare-into-joint-force-wargaming/>

Affording students the opportunity to conduct low-risk experimentation with irregular warfare concepts in the classroom (through wargaming) before being asked to formally plan or implement them is worth the time and effort to develop cognitive overmatch against our adversaries.



A New US Navy Planning Model for Lower-Threshold Maritime Security Operations, Part 1

<https://cimsec.org/a-new-u-s-navy-planning-model-for-lower-threshold-maritime-security-operations-part-1/>

For a variety of structural and other reasons, adaptation by the Navy to operate in the constabulary realm is much more challenging than the adaptation necessary by the Coast Guard to conduct higher-threshold political-military operations.



Un-crewed Underwater Technologies in the Arctic

<https://wavelroom.com/2021/07/28/uncrewed-underwater-vehicles-artic/>

The Arctic region is quickly becoming a new frontier in the international arena, exacerbated by climate change and new economic opportunities and the development and deployment of uninhabited underwater vehicles.

Unless a binding and enforceable treaty for the Arctic—which includes clauses and agreements on UUVs—is created in the near future, this instability of the security of the region is only likely to increase.

Canada, usually through its research and development agencies, has (relatively) long operated underwater drones in the North and Arctic; see: "Defence Research & Development – Canada's work in the Arctic" (<https://rusi-ns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/DefenceRDArtic.pdf>). It would be interesting to appreciate what clauses and agreements are thought necessary to operate UUV there in comparison to elsewhere in the world.



<https://www.shephardmedia.com/news/landwarfareintl/russian-armed-forces-receives-another-batch-artic/>

It (T-80BVM tank) has been promoted as being geared towards Arctic operations; however, there are criticisms (<https://www.shephardmedia.com/news/landwarfareintl/premium-t-80bvm-flatters-deceive-arctic-tank/>) regarding the tank's Arctic capabilities.



Yes, what would make a tank truly Arctic capable, and the utility of actually having a tank capable in the true Arctic (the how would you use it) are questionable. Canada is putting attention into Arctic mobility (good for so many civil and military tasks), not armoured warfare in the North.

Navigating the Gray Space of Social Media

<https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2021/july/navigating-gray-space-social-media>

(The Navy and military at large) must change our way of thinking and adapt to this new character of competition and potential warfare. Three factors frame the nature of the challenge: mind-set, organization, and institutional courage.



Twitter will not Steward the Profession

<https://warontherocks.com/2021/07/twitter-will-not-steward-the-profession/>

The Army might start by telling its leaders that the next time they want to tweet a thought, they ought to write it out in long form instead.

Different forms of writing (writing naval signals is yet another). Need different practice. Lots of it, to clarify thinking.



America's recent military history points to strategic shortcomings

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/north-america/america-s-recent-military-history-points-to-strategic-shortcomings-20210726-p58d1y.html>

Australia needs to make the most of the US alliance in its unfolding confrontation with Beijing. But it would be a serious error to again trust in the infallibility of US strategy. And a grave error to assume the permanence of a nation's friendship or its interests. Australia ultimately can rely only on itself.

Substitute "Australia" with "Canada." Apply.



Reforming Defence is about the mission and urgency—not lengthy corporate documents

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/reforming-defence-is-about-the-mission-and-urgency-not-lengthy-corporate-documents/>

But cultures, mindsets and ways of doing things are hard to change even when the operating environment demands such changes.

The difficult change in mindset and organisational structures is to take the words and directions seriously and act on them.

Lessons for Canada and its military and police forces. Changing culture is challenging. But important.



Top Admiral: Defense Firms Are Lobbying Against the Weapons the US Navy Needs

<https://www.defenseone.com/policy/2021/08/top-admiral-defense-firms-are-lobbying-against-weapons-us-navy-needs/184216/>



The U.S. Navy's top admiral accused defense companies of slow-rolling the production of certain weapons, moving too slowly on ship repairs, and lobbying against newer types of ships and aircraft that needed to compete with China.

This is not a military-industry relationship one (thinking Canada here) would want to have.

One of the things, I think, where industry can really help us is to be a bit more agile in pivoting to new technologies and new platforms.

What is the agility of Canadian shipbuilding? Especially now that the National Shipbuilding Strategy has put much into yards to get them operating better?

Gilday said the Navy needs to regularly include industry executives and lawmakers in its wargames to better show how existing weapons stack up against global threats.

It would be super to have industry leaders involved in the military wargaming, especially the higher strategic games looking at the effect of economic power on military capabilities.

Canada's Arctic Problem

<https://mwi.usma.edu/canadas-arctic-problem/>

Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic and its control of the Northwest Passage remain an open-ended question in the face of great power competition, with an increasing threat coming from an aggressive China and a revanchist Russian.



Canada - be there, be active. Show others, states and writers of Arctic affairs, that Canada is engaged in its Arctic. Hmm, what would that take? Not just military aspects but other (e.g., infrastructure development). A good Arctic strategy may help with that.

The Navy wants to weaponize your own voice against you

<https://taskandpurpose.com/military-tech/navy-acoustic-hailing-and-disruption-system/>

The "acoustic hailing and disruption (AHAD) system ... records incoming voices, amplifies them, and plays them back in two distinct sounds, one 'nearly simultaneously' with the original speech and one on an ever-so-slight delay." As a result, "target speaker's concentration will be disrupted..."

A lot more organizations than the Navy could benefit by using such a non-lethal device. ("Weaponize your own voice" is a misrepresentation of the capability by the headline editor.)



RAN Lays Inert Minefields as Part of Exercise Talisman Sabre 21

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2021/07/royal-australian-navy-lays-inert-minefields-as-part-of-exercise-talisman-sabre-21/>

Personnel from Royal Australian Navy (RAN) hydrographic survey ship HMAS MELVILLE laid two inert minefields as part of Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 21 (TS21)." "MELVILLE's core capability is military survey and geospatial intelligence gathering.

Using a hydrographic survey ship as a minelayer. Really many types of ships can be used as minelayers. The adaptability of ships. Does the Royal Canadian Navy have plans and equipment (own ships and civil vessels identified as potential layers), with people trained and exercised, in laying defensive minefields? Mines are great defensive weapons. And it's useful to have a laying capability in order to practice mine countermeasures.



Other Sources:

#Afghanistan

Three scenarios for Afghanistan's Future

<https://www.iiss.org/blogs/analysis/2021/08/afghanistan-us-nato-withdrawal-taliban>

#China

In Taiwan's standoff with China, a tilting balance of power puts the island on edge

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-in-taiwans-standoff-with-china-a-tilting-balance-of-power-puts-the/>

#cyber capabilities

Cyber capabilities and national power: a net assessment

<https://www.iiss.org/blogs/research-paper/2021/06/cyber-capabilities-national-power>

#cyber operations

Can a lack of cyber security send cargo ships off course?

<https://www.lr.org/en/insights/articles/can-a-lack-of-cyber-security-send-cargo-ships-off-course>

#cyber operations #NATO

When Does a ‘Cyber Attack’ Demand Retaliation? NATO Broadens Its View

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2021/06/when-does-cyber-attack-demand-retaliation-nato-broadens-its-view/175028/>

#drones

COLREGs and Autonomous Vessels: Legal and Ethical Concerns under Canadian Law

<https://www.marsafelawjournal.org/contributions/colregs-and-autonomous-vessels-legal-and-ethical-concerns-under-canadian-law/>

#information operations

Wisdom, Truth and Falsehoods: Are We In Plato’s Cave?

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/wisdom-truth-and-falsehoods-are-we-in-platos-cave/>

Aristotle: Disinformation, Truth and Practical Wisdom

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/aristotle-disinformation-truth-and-practical-wisdom/>

David Hume: Disinformation, the Slave of the Passion

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/david-hume-disinformation-the-slave-of-the-passions/>

Kant, the Philosophy of Autonomy, Truth and Peace

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/kant-the-philosophy-of-autonomy-truth-and-peace/>

Mill and the Virtuous Circle of Confidence Through Self-Correction

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/mill-and-the-virtuous-circle-of-confidence-through-self-correction/>

#NATO

NATO in an Illiberal World - The Case for Differentiated Partnerships

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03071847.2021.1945486>

NATO’s Strategic Concept: Three Do’s and Don’ts

https://css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/pdfs/PP9-7_2021-EN.pdf

#navigation warfare #operational deception

Phantom Warships Are Courting Chaos in Conflict Zones

<https://www.wired.com/story/fake-warships-ais-signals-russia-crimea/>

#reading #airpower

"From Balloons to Drones" Research Resources – Recent Articles and Books (July 2021)

<https://balloonstodrones.com/2021/08/06/researchresources-recent-articles-and-books-july-2021/>

#security threats

What would it mean to treat climate change as a security threat?

<https://www.cigionline.org/articles/what-would-it-mean-to-treat-climate-as-a-security-risk/>

#strategy

Centre of Gravity Series: Challenges to the Australian Strategic Imagination

<http://bellschool.anu.edu.au/experts-publications/publications/8022/centre-gravity-series-challenges-australian-strategic>

#veterans

The Transfer of Ste. Anne's Hospital

<https://defence.frontline.online/article/2021/1/17107-The-Transfer-of-Ste-Annes-Hospital>

#warfare

Irregular Warfare Initiative

<https://mwi.usma.edu/irregular-warfare-initiative/ape/>

Reviewing Military Agility

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2021/7/28/reviewing-military-agility>

A report about Military Agility, a book "concerned with the narrow time frame of an army's transition from peacetime to wartime." Considerations for reflection.

The Innovation for Defence Excellence and Security (IDEaS) Program has launched six new challenges under Competitive Projects covering a wide scope of DND/CAF needs, including real-time surveillance, rotary blade maintenance, antennas, and greenhouse gas reduction. The IDEaS Program is looking forward to seeing the cutting edge work being developed by innovators for these new challenges:

- Worth a thousand sources: A fused picture for continental surveillance
- We Sea You: Digital tracking and accounting on navy vessels
- Erosion from Motion: Reducing wear and tear on rotary blades
- Wireless is where it's at: Secure and Seamless Wireless Network Onboard Ships
- High Bandwidth, Low Profile: Next generation point-to-point communication solutions for the field
- Less GHGs on the Seas: Practical solutions to measure and record energy consumption

See: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/programs/defence-ideas.html>

Other:

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O Canada

It is becoming apparent that there is likely to be a federal election soon. All the parties seem to be promising money around as if there is no tomorrow. The list of new projects being handed out in the country is staggering and the method of paying for it questionable at best. There is a real need for a review of how money was spent and where is the Canadian economy now. Debt levels of the federal and provincial governments is the largest in history, not to mention that Canadians themselves are in horrendous levels of debt to the tune of two trillion dollars.

The Strong, Secure and Engaged (SSE) defence program is assessed to be 37% complete, however, the metrics of this figure is hard to determine nor is it clear what the percentage is drawn from especially since many of the initiatives are on subjects that would take significant effort to actually determine a percentage or other metric. Progress is good and we have seen a new ship for the Navy and several vessels for the Coast Guard; it is really hard to see how it all fits at present. Big ticket items such as new fighters, new frigates, new North Warning System are still up in the air and not progressing; Personnel initiatives are ongoing but seem adrift. Smaller projects are coming but even they seem to be mired in petty small 'p' politics between suppliers. Just look at the pistol replacement project, which is a mess and mired in legal wrangling. The old Browning 9 mm High Power was great in its

day but that was 1944; there is an urgent need to replace it sooner rather than later. All this to say, there needs to be some movement and actual production in these various programs. Sometimes the public forgets that ultimately a fellow Canadian's life is at stake and it isn't something in one's imagination.

HMCS *Harry Dewolf* just set sail this week for the Arctic and will attempt a circum-navigation of the continent of North America. It is apparently the first time in 64 years that a Royal Canadian Navy vessel has done this feat. *Harry DeWolf* will participate in Op NANOOK, an exercise that covers most of the Canadian Arctic. More than 250 Canadian Armed Forces personnel will be involved. *Harry DeWolf* will be joined by HMCS *Goose Bay*, a Halifax-based patrol vessel and elements of the Royal Canadian Air Force and Army along with Canadian and American Coast Guard vessels. All Canadians should wish Commander Corey Gleason and his crew our best wishes on this historic event. One can also hope that the new refueling capability at the Nanisivik Naval Facility in Western Baffin Island will be completed in 2022 and open for four months out of the year. It includes fuel and material storage facilities and will be used by Navy and Coast Guard vessels.

Belarus

The Lukashenko regime continues to crackdown on dissidents, sports figures, reporters and media outlets and anyone who criticizes the regime whatsoever including minor transgressions. Nearly 40k persons have been imprisoned at this point. There are allegations that some have been killed or died of their injuries as a result of their treatment. The latest individual was a young Olympic sprinter named Krystsina Tsimanouskaya who was apparently being removed by Belarussian officials back to Belarus after she publicly criticized the coaching staff on social media. The Belarussian Olympic Committee is chaired by Nicolay Lukashenko, son of Alexander Lukashenko. Ms Tsimanouskaya's husband, Arseni Zdanevich, also left the country once he knew his wife would not return. Both are thought to be considering remaining in Poland.

Ms Tsimanouskaya had signed a letter from Belarussian athletes supporting the opposition. Many have been imprisoned but also lost their income by being removed from the national Olympic team. Sports was once considered a key part of the long sought after positive image fostered by the Lukashenko regime. Last year's demonstrations and actions by key sports figures have crashed that image but many have paid heavily for their actions. Due to a large number of foreign sanctions, the Belarussian economy is in poor shape and is now propped up by Russia's Putin regime. There is increasing evidence that Russia is also augmenting Belarussian Security Forces using national guard and police units. The bottom line is the Lukashenko regime has lost all credibility with its own citizens. Russia has merely taken on another heavy load that will not win favour from the international community nor Russian citizens. It is a risk that Mr Putin seems to think he can take but ongoing demonstrations and opposition have simmered in Russia as well. The bottom line is that the Lukashenko regime is not likely to survive long-term unless heavily supported by Russia and that will work for a while but longer-term perhaps the example of the last Romanian communist dictator, Nicolai Ceausescu provides some insight as to how this crackdown may end. It did not go well after 1989.

India

India has massively reinforced its forces on the Indo-Chinese border to the tune of nearly 250k troops plus equipment. This border is not well demarcated and has been subject to several small conflicts, most recently in the Ladakh area. This resulted in the deaths of both Indian and Chinese troops. India has also declared China as its major adversary and has drawn closer to the US and other Western countries in opposing China.

This week saw India announce the move of an Indian task group of four ships into the South China Sea for a fairly long period of time as part of keeping the Indo-Pacific and particularly the South China Sea open for freedom of navigation. India supports the international court ruling which ruled against

China's Nine Dash Line' in favour of the Philippines. India has also increased the facilities for a joint operations capability in the Nicobar Island chain which can also stop any Chinese move into the Indian Ocean if necessary. Like China, India has sought to improve its armed forces and their ability to counter Chinese or Pakistani moves. The most recent addition to India's capability is the start of trials this week for INS *Vikrant*, an indigenously-built aircraft carrier. The *Vikrant* is 40 000 tons and can carry a medium size air wing using MiG-29 aircraft and helicopters. India is in discussions for the purchase of Super Hornets which have also been considered for the air group.

There are a number of other incidents that make Canada less than a good partner for India despite our large population of Indian people. It should be noted that nearly 1.4m Canadians are Indian or of Indian ancestry or 4% of our population, yet we know so little of the country which could be a good partner in future to counter the activities of China both internationally or here in Canada. Canadian media and business seem to forget the possibilities of a new Canadian relationship with a fellow democracy.

China

China has been hit by a series of major disasters within the past two weeks, everything from major floods from failed reservoirs and dams to a major typhoon and even the capsizing of a major construction platform at sea, not to mention an earthquake and the rise of the Delta variant of Covid 19 including in the place where it started, Wuhan. It is difficult not to be concerned about the health and safety of the people affected by these events. Some of these are unavoidable and some aspects reflect the planning, preparation and development of many projects, all courtesy of the Communist Chinese Party (CCP). The CCP first sent fledgling engineers to the Soviet Union to learn how to construct dams and reservoirs in the 1950s, a move that accompanied an overall effort to industrialize the country especially the development of a steel industry as part of the 'Great Leap Forward.' This led to the construction of a large number of infrastructure projects designed to help China alleviate the flooding problem found in this period but coordination was not conducted and often these projects were designed individually as one-off projects without understanding the problem of waterflow, the terrain and geography, with a failing to understand the second and third order effects when a river was dammed off nor the effect on surrounding lands and sedimentation amongst a vast number of other considerations. China has somewhere around 98k reservoirs in the country with over 30k dams, most of which were constructed during this time period; given the issues of this year with dam failures due to higher than normal rainfall, it seems they have developed a system that should have stopped floods but in turn has created a system that could fail at any time.

Taiwan received the largest number of incursions at one time with 28 People's Liberation Army Air Force aircraft taking part in this operation this past week. Most formations are fighter aircraft or H6 bombers but they also contain electronic warfare aircraft designed to identify Taiwanese radar signatures and locations. One can expect that China will continue this form of intimidation for the foreseeable future. At this point, Taiwan has been careful in its responses and how it identifies potential targets.

The US, UK and others are now exercising in the South China Sea to reinforce the idea that China has not gained international recognition of the Nine Dash Line, found to be a false claim by China by the courts which found in favour of the Philippines. China's media, especially the Global Times, has been vociferous in its attacks on this exercise in what is legally international waters. One can expect China to continue to make its claim but one can also expect the US, Japan, India, Australia and many others to exercise their right to freedom of the sea.

The fallout from Deputy-Secretary of State Wendy Sherman's meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister and his Deputy has been interesting. China had launched a pre-emptive strike on social media with their view. They had a whole series of demands, none of which will be accepted. China also accused the US of developing China as an 'imaginary enemy' and of similar such comments. The trouble of course is that China has been an enemy carrying out industrial espionage and conducting low

level conflict with all its neighbours including its erstwhile ally Russia. It has refused to accept that the international community does not accept the CCP's view about Hong Kong and the severe changes to freedom in that location. The CCP also has attacked other countries such as Canada with methods other than war such as financial warfare, legal warfare and information warfare, all of which have been utilised against Canada, unfortunately without any real response from the current government.

Dealing with China or any country requires a large measure of trust. Unfortunately, time after time the CCP have proven their total lack of integrity in our relationship. Just consider our four Canadians on death row or the "two Michaels" or the open threats by the CCP against the 300k Canadian citizens in Hong Kong. Why do we persist in fantasies in regard to this country? Why do we let Canadian investment there especially given the CCP's crackdown on both domestic and foreign companies? Why would our government continue to believe there is something to be gained by dealing with an genocidal, authoritarian regime with no redeeming features? The CCP will never allow an open market as we know it and no foreign money or facilities are safe. It is time to cut losses and get out completely except for some key areas such as climate change. Continuation of this non-action by Canada is not acceptable; it is the same as investing in Fascist countries of Europe pre-Second World War. It should stop now.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is not necessarily going to fall; it will go through severe changes and will affect the most vulnerable in Afghan society. Canada's attempts to help our interpreters and former employees is a national disgrace. One hesitates to think that because it is not on a particular party's agenda that it is viewed as an inconvenience rather than what it is a life threatening event.

What will happen is that the tribal groups and other armed parties will soon attack in their own interests. The government that we know may fall but the Taliban are incompetent as leaders of the country. They are also not just the Taliban. When I was there we had literally dozens of groups all with their own ideas and needs and wants; some were more terrifying than the Taliban. Some of the government were warlords and never accepted the Taliban government. One in particular used to slaughter Taliban in very cruel and inventive ways. He still lives and I suspect he hasn't mellowed one bit. This is not over by a long shot but it will slide back and that will be sad. There are so many good folks there who deserve better than an over-hasty withdrawal. One can only pray for their safety and well-being because the Taliban will not nor will the rising warlords.