



# Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

## Dispatches

### 13 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* 20 Aug will return to its regular editorial staff. Thank you for the content received during the past three weeks and your patience in its distribution.

If you have content for *Dispatches*, email to [RUSINSDispatches@gmail.com](mailto: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](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.

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

**New: 18 August**, Wednesday – Maritime Security Challenges Virtual Session 8 will continue its focus on Great Power competition in the Indo-Asia-Pacific with a presentation by Dr. Tarcisius Kabutaulaka, an Associate Professor at the Center for Pacific Islands Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He will give his insights into trends and developments in the Pacific Islands, who are more than pawns in a great game, and how the region's goals and interests fits into the wider Indo-Pacific and interactions with other nations. 1600 hrs PDT. To register:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_clk0ESbnTEmZwPMVoDK1tQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_clk0ESbnTEmZwPMVoDK1tQ)

**New: 19 August**, Thursday - UNSNORTHCOM, USECOM, USINDOPACOM and University of Alaska Fairbanks Arctic eTalk with Vice Admiral Poulin, Commander, USCG Atlantic Area, titled "The United States Coast Guard - Our Arctic Partnerships: Safety, Security, and Environmental Stewardship." Noon EST. See invitation at end of *Dispatches*.

**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 [ruginsdispatches@gmail.com](mailto:ruginsdispatches@gmail.com). 9:30am-to-6:00pm AST. To register, email [leo.deveau@eastlink.ca](mailto: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](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

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

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/](https://rusi-ns.ca/arctic_special_operations/)

**New:** Nautical Professional Education Society of Canada Newsletter *Seatimes*, August 2021

**New:** Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association On Watch, 11 August edition  
[https://send.successbyemail.com/prvw\\_message2.aspx?chno=c4aa2562-eae6-4db7-a945-c8230acc1d68](https://send.successbyemail.com/prvw_message2.aspx?chno=c4aa2562-eae6-4db7-a945-c8230acc1d68)

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-QqXJ7Y1xfzfd0M&tmpl=raw>

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>

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.

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 5, 9 July 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](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

RUSI(NS) @RUSI\_NS tweeted 7 August 2021: "Military will likely need help for natural-disaster missions: DND" <https://ipolitics.ca/2021/08/06/military-will-likely-need-help-for-natural-disaster-missions-dnd/> Responsibility to respond (not just co-ordinate response) to domestic natural disasters should reside with CAN federal department not @CanadianForces. #CAFforces excellent to assist



Canadian Army @Canadian Army 6 August 2021 tweeted and RUSI (NS) retweeted: Improving the Canadian Army's digital culture is more than just using the latest technology or the best software. The Army recognizes that it needs to become more "Digital", but what does that mean and why? Learn more: <https://spoti.fi/3yuzX9g>



RUSI(NS) @RUSI\_NS tweeted 7 August 2021: "Old-school Martin Mars water bomber not included in B.C.'s modern firefighting fleet" <https://globalnews.ca/news/8095328/bc-no-martin-mars-water-bomber/> Would a national operated water bomber fleet be more effective approach now? <https://rusi-ns.ca/water-bomber-squadron/> "RCAF & Canada Need a Bomber Squadron—A Large Water Bomber Squadron"



The Northern Mariner @tnm\_lmn\_editor 16 July 2021 tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Writing on the 1957 Bellot Strait expedition, @adam\_lajeunesse @WhitneyLackenbl explain how Canadian and American vessels charted a usable Northwest Passage for deep-draft ships - an Arctic escape route. <https://tnm.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/default/article/view/121> @USCG @NavalInstitute @RoyalCanNavy



Canadian Armed Forces Operations @CFOperations 12 Aug 2021 12 August 2021 tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: #OpCARIBBE #BZ For more information: <https://t.co/BzKh9JTG4u> <https://t.co/fnWrqxZSGw>

**Operation CARIBBE**  
WINTER – SUMMER 2021

From January 22 to August 9, Canada contributed to U.S.-led Enhanced Counter-narcotics Operations in the waters off the coast of Central America, to help control and disrupt drug trafficking and organized crime in the region.

Approximately 12,200 kg of cocaine kept off the streets of North America	HMCS Brandon HMCS Saskatoon HMCS Anzac HMCS Shawigan CP-140 Aurora aircraft	180 days at sea -150 flight hours in the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Pacific Ocean
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Canada.ca/Defence Canada

**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.

**The Future of NATO's Air and Missile Defence**

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/occasional-papers/future-nato-air-and-missile-defence>



**World Day Against Trafficking in Persons: Human Trafficking in Sudan**

<https://www.rusi.org/news-and-comment/video-commentary/world-day-against-trafficking-persons-human-trafficking-sudan>



RUSI(NS) members may recall the presentation we got a couple years ago on this subject from the RCMP. Human trafficking may be a local issue of concern, but in reality, it is a big, global, issue.

**SEA 5000 Future Frigate Program: continuous shipbuilding under the spotlight/**

<http://sdsc.bellschool.anu.edu.au/experts-publications/publications/8085/sea-5000-future-frigate-program-continuous-shipbuilding-under>



"... the key reason for this deliberate slow down in the construction rate of the frigates is to enable the 'implementation of a stable, deliberate and continuous shipbuilding drumbeat' so as to 'end the 'boom and bust' cycle of naval shipbuilding, delivering sovereign capability and certainty for industry.' ..."

Canada's National Shipbuilding Strategy has much the same rationale. Develop a strong shipbuilding industry sector. Then develop a strong navy.

It does mean remaining committed to building programs, and not being scared off by sticker shock, which scaring would create a break in the drumbeat.



### U.S. Navy dispatches aircraft to help with Greek wildfires

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2021/08/06/us-navy-dispatches-aircraft-to-help-with-greek-wildfires/>

"...the U.S. Navy has dispatched a P-8 Poseidon reconnaissance plane to assist firefighting efforts there."

Interesting employment of a maritime patrol aircraft. And a demonstration of their versatility. The Royal Canadian Air Force CP140 Aurora may be similarly employable. Would be interesting to see Canada so use them, either domestically or internationally.



### Halter Marine gets order for 5th US Navy berthing barge

<https://www.navaltoday.com/2021/08/06/halter-marine-gets-order-for-5th-us-navy-berthing-barge/>

"The vessels are 82 meters long and each is equipped with offices, classrooms, washrooms, laundry facilities, medical treatment areas, a barbershop and a fitness center. They offer mess seating for 224 enlisted personnel and 28 officers, and are fitted with mixed-gender berthing spaces for 74 officers and 537 enlisted personnel, for a total of 611 people."



Berthing and messing barges such as this Auxiliary Personnel Lighter-Small [APL(S)] 67 class could be of good use as basing in austere locations (thinking Arctic/North) and for international humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions. The use and missions wouldn't have to be naval. For Canada, whose Royal Canadian Navy doesn't operate and maintain ships such that it needs APL of any size, the barges wouldn't even have to be military. Maybe similar vessels are owned by commercial companies. Could they be made available for Canadian government missions? If such vessels exist in Canada, what planning and preparations have been made?

*Comment from contributor:* Obviously on a smaller scale, but for several decades the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans utilized "accommodations barges" as research bases at remote locations on the Pacific coast. In many locations where steep foreshores prevent the installation of infrastructure, a barge or vessel can be moored in deep waters right up to the shoreline, then relocated as the work shifts along the coast. Similarly commercial lumber and fishing enterprises in British Columbia commonly moor retired ships as temporary "camps". On several occasions in past decades, surplus CCG icebreakers have occasionally be purchased for use as floating accommodations for northern mining operations. Here is the former DFO accommodations barge

'Pender': <https://www.facebook.com/VintageCCG/photos/a.312215835559600/31221585555959>

**Australian military uses ball-shaped simulation platform to practice amphibious ops**

<https://www.defensenews.com/training-sim/2021/08/10/australian-military-uses-ball-shaped-simulation-platform-to-practice-amphibious-ops/>



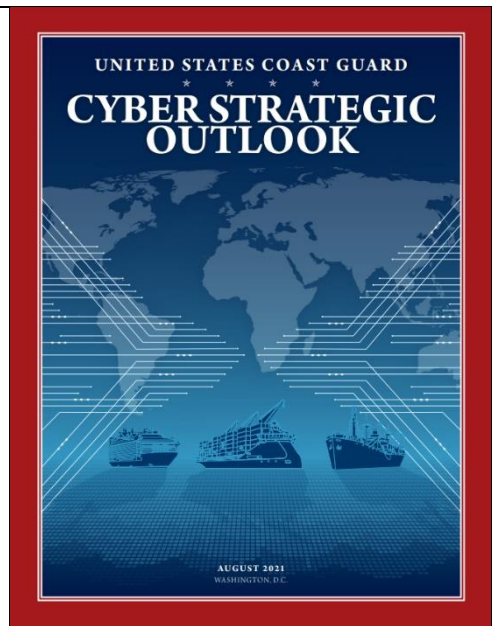
Cool vehicle driver trainer. Potential for use training drivers during demanding conditions other than landing ship offload?

And portable, too. That could be very useful, particularly for training drivers in Reserve unit armouries scattered around the country.

**Notice of recent cyber threats to the Marine Transportation System**

<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2021/08/06/notice-of-recent-cyber-threats-to-the-marine-transportation-system/>

"As part of the effort to protect the (Marine Transportation System), Coast Guard Cyber Command has created Cyber Protection Teams and the Maritime Cyber Readiness Branch as detailed in the Cyber Strategic Outlook (<https://www.uscg.mil/Portals/0/Images/cyber/2021-Cyber-Strategic-Outlook.pdf>) released on August 3, 2021. Additionally, the Coast Guard is in the process of hiring 40 individuals as Marine Transportation System Specialists (MTSS)-Cybersecurity, to further aide in the coordination of efforts at our Area, District, and Sector/Marine Safety Unit Commands to strengthen the MTS against cybersecurity attacks."



Reads like good actions. Hire and organize the right people. Let them function freely - they are after all "front line warriors" (the term "front line" is so passe in cyberspace).

Is the Canadian Coast Guard, Transport Canada or other federal department (or maybe several) taking similar action. The movement of trade by sea is critical to our country's prosperity. Economic warfare (in this case, defensive).

Looking forward to reading the Cyber Strategic Outlook.

**British government to nationalize steel components maker in \$3.54 million deal**

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2021/07/28/british-government-to-nationalize-steel-components-maker-in-354-million-deal/>



"The British government plans to nationalize specialist steel components-maker Sheffield Forgemasters in order to protect the supply chain involving critical defense programs in the nuclear submarine and other sectors."

Defensive economic warfare. Ensure essential industries don't fall into foreign hands, particularly those of competitor states and potential adversarial states. Else, the result could be hazardous to international relations (and conflict).

Industries essential to defence production (and other security areas, e.g., public health) need to be identified and supported. Steel has long been a measure of a state's strength and position relative to other states (am thinking of steel production by different European states leading into the First World War). For an interesting perspective of and a call for national action on steel as part of national strength, see "Lack of British steel in Dreadnought nuclear subs underlines procurement failure"

(<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/mar/30/why-vast-projects-like-hs2-uk-steel-industry-procurement-rules-british-producers>).

**Geomatics is vital to US national security; our advantage is at risk**

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/opinion/2021/08/01/geomatics-is-vital-to-us-national-security-our-advantage-is-at-risk/>



'Navigation warfare.' Yes, developing a corps of geomatics professionals, and very much not just for military purposes, and conducting good research and development in the field, are in the national (not just Canada's) interest.

**Type 26 Global Combat Ship (GCS) History**

<https://www.thinkdefence.co.uk/type-26-global-combat-ship-gcs-history/>



Worth a read by Canadians, what with the design of the Canadian Surface Combatant, to provide 15 frigates for the Royal Canadian Navy, is based in the Type 26.

Also a lesson in the convolutions of warship building projects. A lesson to bear to mind when criticizing the CSC project.



### Arctic will become 'contested' without US presence and partnerships, 2nd Fleet CO warns

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2021/08/02/arctic-will-become-contested-without-us-presence-and-partnerships-2nd-fleet-co-warns/>



"Enhancing presence and cultivating partnerships in the Arctic are vital to ensuring the region does not become a contested space..."

Partners. That's us, Canada. Actually, we should be doing the the enhancing and cultivating, especially with our people who live there.

### Coast Guard to Build Digital Twin for Polar Star

<https://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/articles/2021/8/9/coast-guard-to-build-digital-twin-for-polar-star>



Interesting that it is a Canadian company that is part of creating a computer model of the ship to help with risk assessments.

Hopefully this or another Canadian company is involved with the various Canadian shipbuilding projects. Lots of potential in having 'digital twins' of ships.

### In the Newly Noisy Arctic, Underwater Operations Are Getting Harder

<https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2021/08/newly-noisy-arctic-underwater-operations-are-getting-harder/184238/>



"Underwater operations in the Arctic are becoming more challenging, in part because more ships are rumbling through the northern waters..."

"...the increase in underwater noise is making it harder both to operate subs and to find them, and the problem is exacerbated by the fact that much of the Arctic is not mapped."

We (Canada) need to do a lot more research in our Arctic. Not just for military operations, though obviously the more we know about the environment, the better we'd be at operating there (and at detecting others attempting to operate there).

## Royal Navy Tests Otter Pro Robot Survey Boat

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2021/08/royal-navy-tests-otter-pro-robot-survey-boat/>

Royal Navy is trialing a robot boat (= drone) to survey uncharted waters (probably good to re-survey charted waters,

too - conditions change with time). "The next stage of the trials will see the Otter Pro ... tested in a more complex environment and its near-real time data processing will be refined." Something like that would be very useful for surveying Canadian Arctic and Northern waters, especially if supported from a Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) Harry- DeWolf-class Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV). HMCS LABRADOR, the RCN's 1954 first and only icebreaker (AOPV are listed as 'ice capable') had a survey boat named POGO (which still exists, with a Cadet unit in Quebec). The survey capability is still necessary up north, so drone survey boats could be something to develop to embark in RCN and Canadian Coast Guard ships.



## Other Sources:

### #airpower

Should British Battlefield Helicopters be Operated by a Single Service?

<https://wavellroom.com/2021/08/03/british-battlefield-helicopters-single-service/>

### #Arctic

Report to Congress on Changes in the Arctic

<https://news.usni.org/2021/08/05/report-to-congress-on-changes-in-the-arctic-11>

### #drones

As Drone Popularity and Potential Risk Soars, so too Does S&T Preparedness

<https://www.domesticpreparedness.com/updates/as-drone-popularity-and-potential-risk-soars-so-too-does-s-t-preparedness/>

### #land operations #NATO

Is NATO Land Operations Doctrine Aiming Too High

<https://warontherocks.com/2021/08/is-nato-land-operations-doctrine-aiming-too-high/>

### #maritime security

A New U.S. 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/>

A New U.S. Navy Planning Model for Lower-Threshold Maritime Security Operations, Part 2

<https://Cimsec.Org/A-New-U-S-Navy-Planning-Model-For-Lower-Threshold-Maritime-Security-Operations-Pt-2/>

### #Royal Canadian Navy

Your Navy Today July 2021

<http://www.navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/news-ynt/2021/07-your-navy-today.page>

## #warfare

How to Integrate Competition and Irregular Warfare

<https://mwi.usma.edu/how-to-integrate-competition-and-irregular-warfare/>

Not Your Grandfather's Counterinsurgency

<https://mwi.usma.edu/not-your-grandfathers-counterinsurgency-the-united-states-must-prepare-for-radically-new-forms-of-nonstate-violence/>

## Other:

### **Arctic eTalk August**

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 ([CASR](#)) - University of Alaska Fairbanks, we would like to invite you to our August 2021 Arctic eTalks distinguished speaker presentation on "The United States Coast Guard - Our Arctic Partnerships: Safety, Security, and Environmental Stewardship" by Vice Admiral Steven D. Poulin, Commander, Coast Guard Atlantic Area, Coast Guard Defense Force East on Thursday, August 19, 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 United States Coast Guard Headquarters, Coast Guard Atlantic Area, and Coast Guard Defense Force East

VADM Poulin ([biography](#)) 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 Mr. Shannon Jenkins, USCG and Dr. Adam Lajeunesse, Irving Shipbuilding Chair in Canadian Arctic Maritime Security Policy, St. Francis Xavier University, Canada.

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\\_I1uUp6HIRvSAIXiWzXEmgg](https://alaska.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I1uUp6HIRvSAIXiWzXEmgg)

Event website: [https://www.uaf.edu/casr/activities/etalks\\_aug\\_2021.php](https://www.uaf.edu/casr/activities/etalks_aug_2021.php)

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  
Director - Center for Arctic Security and Resilience  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

"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



The United States Coast Guard  
Our Arctic Partnerships: Safety, Security, and Environmental Stewardship














Present

## Arctic eTalks

A monthly forum for open discussion (non-attribution) on key issues affecting the Circumpolar Arctic for academics, defense and security professionals, and military leaders of the Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the United States, as well as the United Kingdom and Germany

Partners:

 Defence Science and Technology Laboratory United Kingdom	 NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence	 Royal Danish Defence College
 George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies	 North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network	 United States Coast Guard
 Joint Task Force (North) Canadian Armed Forces	 Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies	 William J. Perry Center National Defense University
 Ministry of Defence United Kingdom	 Norwegian Institute of International Affairs	

Registration required:  
Link provided in the email invitation

Thursday, August 19<sup>th</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*

## Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

### RUSSIA

The opposition founded by Alexei Navalny has opened an encrypted website to get political donations. The security services quickly shut it down as they have done for more than 50 other opposition web sites in the ever running game of "wack a mole" between the opposition leadership and the security service. Although now banned as an extremist organization they continue to cause discomfort to the Putin regime. United Russia which Putin once was chair before he became President is sitting very low on the polls and very much in danger of losing to other parties. Recent polling suggests that only about 25% of the population support United Russia. United Russia is considered corrupt by many and is known to rubber stamp Putin directions.

The Putin regime is supported by the security services, the oligarchs, the silioviki, and certain criminal elements. All of these groups will lose significant protection if other parties become dominant in the Duma. Would Putin continue to act by edict, probably, but the legitimacy of these edicts would come under greater scrutiny and thus Putin himself would possibly become more vulnerable to other factions and parties. Russia has a long history of supporting strongmen but at some point that sours with often violent outcomes. There is a lot at stake, but Putin will still have the support of these groups as they will also become vulnerable.

### BELARUS

The US, UK and Canada have all added new sanctions against Belarus on the anniversary of the last election widely seen as rigged in favour of Mr Lukashenko., These sanctions mainly target major industries that will have an effect on the economic health of Belarus. Sanctions are often two edged and hurt the people rather than the regime. Perhaps sending the case against Alexander Lukashenko and his family to the International Courts may have some effect as well. Surely, there can be some charges can be laid against the regime which would also increase the pressure. It is known that people have died under torture and detention. As well, unreasonable arrests have occurred and that actions that are considered torture are used against unarmed demonstrators. Further actions may be considered against the Putin regime for their ongoing support of the Belarussian regime.

The Belarussian sprinter, Kyrstina Tsimanouskaya, who boldly and unexpectedly for her handlers was able to successfully gain her safety by asking using a Google Translate app for asylum in Japanee to Police, which was offered by several countries. She accepted the offer from Poland which has become a haven for the opposition to the Lukashenko Regime. Both coaches that appeared to initiate her removal from the games, lost their accreditation and were forced to leave the Olympic Games. The Belarussian Olympic Committee is not accredited by the International Olympic Committee as it is currently composed with Lukashenko's son as the president of that body. It should be noted that many of Belarus' Olympic athletes signed a letter supporting the opposition as part of the actions against the regime last summer. Many lost their support, but strangely enough, this sprinter was not one of them as she and her husband chose to be apolitical. This action was condemned by Lukashenko stating that this athlete was misled to accepting this action. This is not over nor is the action on the regime over by the International community except for Russia.

Speaking of Russia, there are strong indications that Russian security forces have entered Belarus in significant numbers. The Russian government appears to be supporting the regime wholeheartedly including providing extra muscle to deal with the opposition. If one remembers Crimea, the Lukashenko regime should be concerned that "friends like Russia can come at a steep price especially since Putin and Lukashenko have always been at best lukewarm about each other. One can expect Russia to push for further integration or union between the two countries in the near future.

## CHINA

China continues to pressure Canada regarding Meng Wanzhou and her efforts in court to avoid extradition to the US on fraud charges. Her lawyers have attempted to try the court case in the Canadian court. The judge thus far has not fallen for the effort and has continued to view it strictly from the point of view of extradition. This merely has to show that the charges are found to be similar in Canada and not a specific to the US. Fraud is available in both countries but they are based on US sanctions actions against Iran. The bottom line is there are strong indications that Meng Wanzhou did act in such a way as to appear to have committed fraud. This has to be tried and proven in a US court at some point.

CBC also reported that Robert Schellenberg had is death sentence confirmed for drug trafficking. Although the court case was little better than a kangaroo court, it is worthy to note that many other countries in the region also sentence people to death for similar activities in courts that are similar in nature. The big lesson is one is always subject to the laws of the nation one is in at the time of the crime is alleged to be committed. Although, the death penalty is rather arbitrary and certainly final, it is the law of China under the Communist Chinese Party (CCP) which executes thousands of people a year on drug related charges, we should not be surprised at this outcome.

The CBC also announced that Michael Spavor was sentenced to eleven years and fined \$9600 Canadian for his crime and will be deported. The actual time of deportation and other aspects are still



to be determined but it appears he will be released sometime in the near future. He has been incarcerated, tortured and abused for 979 days as of 11 August 2021. Michael Kovrig's sentencing should be soon as well but may be related to the outcome of the Meng extradition trial.

China continues its lockdowns of major cities as the delta variant takes the dominant place in several large population Provinces. This being said, China never really was able to contain the virus and was able to hide the issue by preventing independent reporting in much of the country. It is clear that the CCP lack of transparency, lack of cooperation and their sad attempt at deflection of responsibility to the US facility at Fort Detrick have largely failed. The CCP is largely to blame for the pandemic as a result when honesty and early warning could have saved thousands.

### IRAN

Iran's new President is now sworn in and has now taken the lead. One of his first announcements is the recognition of the increasingly difficult position most Iranian citizens are in economically and in a large area the lack of water is now life threatening especially in the south of the country. It is recognition that these problems are now becoming existential to the life of the regime if they are not handled carefully. Demonstrations have been breaking out across the country but these efforts are not coordinated but are ongoing and getting worse. Some have pointed to Iran's ongoing efforts across the Middle East which have been expensive in money, resources and manpower at the expense of the common citizen. Large scale corruption and actions of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps which controls the economy in many areas have difficult for other businesses to thrive as well. It is this constant lack of effort on behalf of Iran's citizens in favour of a elite that cause the increasing number of demonstrations against the actions of the regime.

Iran was blamed by the US, UK and others for the drone strike against the MT MERCER STREET, operated by an Israeli company but owned by another country. The fallout from this latest incident is unknown but it will likely affect ongoing discussions regarding Iran's nuclear ambitions. It certainly will not be a benefit to the region and one can expect an escalation by other countries especially Israel in the near future.