



## Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 20 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).

Many thanks to our volunteers, especially Meaghan Setter, who managed *Dispatches* and our social media over the last three weeks. Your regular pro tem editor (note that pro tem – we are still looking for long-term volunteer editors) has returned. That written, there is still a need for a volunteer for the 3 September edition of *Dispatches*, and long-term volunteers for our social media. If you are interested, please email [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

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.

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

**New: 7 September**, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation by Brant Guillory, Armchair Dragoons, titled "Incorporating Professional Perspectives in Hobby Wargaming." 7-9 am ADT. To register (free): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/incorporating-professional-perspectives-in-hobby-wargaming-tickets-166805420503>

**Save the Date: 30 September**, Thursday – RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker Rear-Admiral Brian Santaripa, speaking on Canadian maritime and naval strategy. 1300-1500 Atlantic time. Registration instructions will be emailed later. **Note** that this is a change from our usual third Wednesday of the month routine,

**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/)

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)

Edmonton United Services Institute President's *ENews*, August 2021.

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

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

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>

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 6, 16 August 2021.

United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island *Newsletter*, Vol 29 No 08 August 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 [RUSINSdispatches@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINSdispatches@gmail.com).

<p>Public Services @PSPC_SPAC 3 Aug tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: We've awarded a contract worth nearly \$7 million to Canadian manufacturer Royer to produce pairs of general-purpose combat boots and nylon laces for the @CanadianForces. <a href="http://ow.ly/TtRx50FJF22">http://ow.ly/TtRx50FJF22</a> #MadeInCanada #GCProcurement (Government of Canada announces contract for combat boots for Canadian Armed Forces)</p>	 <p>Providing our military with the equipment they need</p> <p>Public Services and Procurement Canada Services publics et Approvisionnement Canada Canada</p>
<p>NAADSN_RDSNAA @NAADSN_RDSNAA 3 Aug tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Is the Arctic Still a Forgotten Flank? @FoxallResearch's Policy Primer explores this question by examining NATO engagement in the Arctic. Read it at <a href="https://naadsn.ca/research/">https://naadsn.ca/research/</a> (Is the Arctic Still a Forgotten Flank? Examining NATO Engagement in the Arctic <a href="https://www.naadsn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Foxall-policy-primer-August-2021.pdf">https://www.naadsn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Foxall-policy-primer-August-2021.pdf</a>)</p>	 <p>NAADSN North Atlantic Arctic and Security Studies Institute naadsn.ca</p> <p>POLICY PRIMER</p> <p>August 3, 2021</p> <p>Is the Arctic Still a Forgotten Flank? Examining NATO Engagement in the Arctic</p> <p>Mackenzie Foxall University of Victoria</p>
<p>CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 4 Aug tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Our latest #ExpertSeries with @KimNossal: "Canadians do not have to take defence seriously, and unsurprisingly, we do not take defense seriously." (Kim Nossal: Canada Needs to Change Its Attitude Towards Defence in the 21st Century <a href="https://cdainstitute.ca/kim-nossal-canada-needs-to-change-its-attitude-towards-defence-in-the-21st-century/">https://cdainstitute.ca/kim-nossal-canada-needs-to-change-its-attitude-towards-defence-in-the-21st-century/</a>)</p>	 <p>A collage of three images: on the left, a man in a suit speaking at a podium with the Chinese national emblem behind him; in the center, a red icebreaker ship navigating through a field of sea ice; on the right, a man in a suit and glasses speaking at a podium.</p>

Canadian Army @CanadianArmy 14 Aug tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: The Urban Operations Training System will fundamentally change how urban operations skills are taught and absorbed." Find out more here: <https://canadianarmytoday.com/urban-ops-on-trial/> (Urban Ops on Trial)

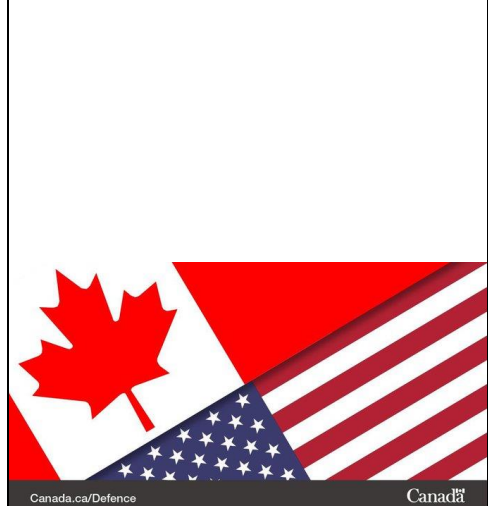


Harjit Sajjan @HarjitSajjan 14 Aug tweeted: Canada and the United States are friends, partners, and allies. Today I spoke with U.S. @SecDef Lloyd J. Austin III about the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, including our work to protect our personnel and staff on the ground. Learn more: <https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2021/08/defence-minister-harjit-sajjan-and-us-secretary-of-defense-lloyd-austin-discuss-situation-in-afghanistan-and-reinforce-defence-ties.html> (Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan and U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin discuss situation in Afghanistan and reinforce defence ties)

Timothy Choi @TimDotChoi retweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Hidden-ish in this are two new strategic joint statements:

@NORADCommand Modernization: <https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2021/08/joint-statement-on-norad-modernization.html>

US-CAN Strategic Docs Consultation: <https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2021/08/joint-statement-on-us--canada-consultation-on-strategic-documents.html> @AndreaCharron



"Canada 'standing ready' to help Haiti after 7.2 magnitude earthquake" <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/canada-standing-ready-to-help-haiti-after-7-2-magnitude-earthquake-trudeau-1.5547407> CAN🇨🇦 & @CanadianForces would benefit by having strong strategic airlift, engineering units & multimission support ships for humanitarian assistance/disaster response #HADR ops like this



The Naval Association of Canada @navalassn 16 Aug tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Just before the Canada-US Statement on NORAD Modernization, we published this article by Jeff Gilmour. <https://navalassoc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Gilmour-NORAD.pdf> (NORAD: Renewal of the North Warning System by Canada – or Not?)



Canadian Armed Forces Operations @CFOperations Aug 13 tweeted: #OpAEGIS continues with CAF support in the relocation of at-risk Afghan personnel and their families who worked with the Government of Canada. Today an @RCAF\_ARC Airbus CC-150 Polaris arrived in Toronto bringing more evacuees to safety. Welcome to Canada! 1/2 RUSI(NS) retweeted: Not clear whether #OpAEGIS aim is evacuation solely of at-risk Afghans or expanded as Non-Combatant Evacuation #NEO named operation to include Canadians in country. US has declared NEO

<https://news.usni.org/2021/08/16/pentagon-declares-afghanistan-exodus-a-non-combatant-evacuation-as-u-s-marines-soldiers-mass-in-kabul>

(Pentagon Declares Afghanistan Exodus a Non-Combatant Evacuation as U.S. Marines, Soldiers Mass in Kabul)

*The power of strategic airlift!*

*Even the VIP-painted Polaris is put to work.*

*Of relevance: "Afghanistan Exit Latest in Long History of U.S. Noncombatant Evacuation Missions"*

<https://news.usni.org/2021/08/17/afghanistan-exit-latest-in-long-history-of-u-s-noncombatant-evacuation-missions>



CDNShipbuilders @CDNShipbuilders 16 Aug tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: A quick update on the future #HMCSProtecteur being built in Vancouver by @MoreThanShips. #cdnships #maritime #shipbuilding #RCNavy

(Construction of largest naval ship in Canada nearing completion)

<https://www.navaltoday.com/2021/08/16/construction-of-largest-naval-ship-in-canada-nearing-completion/>



CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 18 Aug tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: An op-ed today in the @TorontoStar by our CEO @YouriCormier regarding what we expect from political parties on defence policy during this election.

(Canada's political parties can't tuck defence policy elephant under the rug)

<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2021/08/18/canadas-political-parties-cant-tuck-defence-policy-elephant-under-the-rug.html>



### **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 [RUSINSdispatches@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINSdispatches@gmail.com) by noon Thursday.

**Military launches online tracker to gauge progress in improving internal culture**

<https://www.thestar.com/politics/2021/08/14/military-launches-online-tracker-to-gauge-progress-in-improving-internal-culture.html>

Reporting at regular intervals on progress with an initiative within a federal department. Should be an approach with other (all?) initiatives and programs within federal departments.



(<Sigh> Same ol' Army shoulder patch photo, used often by media for stories that don't readily have an image to go with them or for which Defence has not released an appropriate photo. There are good imagery sites, e.g., Combat Camera, online, and surely some generic Canadian Armed Forces imagery in addition to Army shoulder patch pictures can be made available.)

**Maritime security and the Security Council**

<https://splash247.com/maritime-security-and-the-security-council/>



**Results from Virtual Joint Arctic Search and Rescue Exercise Published**

<https://www.cruiseindustrynews.com/cruise-news/25661-results-from-virtual-joint-arctic-search-and-rescue-exercise-published.html>



**Responding to China's Unending Grey-Zone Prodding**

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/responding-chinas-unending-grey-zone-prodding>



**China and the Fairy Tale of Change Through Trade**

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/china-and-fairy-tale-change-through-trade>



## Printing Fortifications, Buildings and Bridges

<https://www.thinkdefence.co.uk/2012/08/printing-fortifications-buildings-and-bridges/>

Hopefully there have been advances in research and development in this area since the article was printed. There is great potential in the use of printed infrastructure for military base and non-military humanitarian assistance/disaster response operations.



## Costs of the Afghanistan war, in lives and dollars

<https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/nation-politics/costs-of-the-afghanistan-war-in-lives-and-dollars/>

Often people, especially in western democracies, focus on lives lost when considering the cost of conflict. That is right, but there are also the economic costs - "blood and treasure." The two affect public support, especially for overseas engagements. Really, wars are won and conflict resolved by those states and their publics willing to bear the costs. Public support is essential. Costs should be appreciated when (preferably before) engaging. We don't talk enough about the economic costs of conflict (note the "costs will peak" point; often missed).



Re: RUSI (NS) Position Paper "**The RCAF and Canada Need a Bomber Squadron - A Large Water Bomber Squadron**" 30 July 2021 by Colonel Murray Lee, RCAF (ret'd), published in RUSI(NS) 'Dispatches' 13 August 2021 (<https://rusi-ns.ca/water-bomber-squadron/>).

While reluctant to disagree with an experienced air force officer and pilot, as well as a long-time friend and colleague, I must state I firmly believe that the proposed RCAF water bomber squadron is a bad idea. In these days of growing incidents of natural and man-made disasters, provincial governments are increasingly turning to the Department of National Defence (DND) and Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) as their first response. This is not the way it is supposed to happen, and governments should only request DND/CAF support when they have either exhausted (or are about to exhaust) their resources or do not have the required resources. The CAF has become the 'cheap solution' for some provincial governments and they have clearly abrogated their responsibilities for emergency planning and preparation.



DND's budget could well be reduced for several years as the federal government attempts to address its ballooning deficit, making it even more difficult to pay for new equipment already on the drawing board for the three services. Should water bombers take priority over the new surface combatant, replacement submarines, new fighter aircraft and a plethora of army equipment? I don't think so.

I do not disagree with a federal water bomber squadron; in fact, it is an excellent idea. Such a squadron however, should not be in the RCAF but in another government department.

Colonel John Boileau, Canadian Army (ret'd)

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*From Murray Lee:* Good comments by John. However, if we all agree a solution to the funding becomes the issue, then a collaborative equalization scheme by the provinces to fund such a resource

should be examined. And, if not the RCAF, similar to national search and rescue, then the Department of Transport?

### **The US Navy Is Reversing Its Fighter-Jet Design Philosophy**

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2021/08/us-navy-reversing-its-fighter-jet-design-philosophy/184269/>



"The most important thing that's going to happen with this with Next Generation [Air Dominance] is that we're going to take all of those technologies that we've developed, those enabling technologies, and instead of picking a platform and then figuring out how to wedge those enabling technologies into it, or not be able to wedge those into it, we're gonna start with the enabling technologies, and make that part of the criteria for what the aircraft looks like on the other end..." The US "Air Force said it had secretly built and flown a prototype of its NGAD aircraft."

<Sigh> Canada may finally be getting its Future Fighter Capability aircraft just about the time that the Next Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) and sixth generation aircraft come out. If we end up buying Super Hornets, which are being replaced by the NGAD, we will be buying into obsolescence.

### **Autonomous systems to help NATO examine climate change effects in Arctic waters**

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2021/08/06/autonomous-systems-to-help-nato-examine-climate-change-effects-in-arctic-waters/>



NATO Center for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE) to use underwater drones to sample Arctic waters to assess impact on military infrastructure, planning and operations.

CMRE, "in conjunction with other NATO stakeholders, developed an Arctic science-and-technology 2021-2030 strategy to help identify critical environmental factors and areas of the region that would need to be monitored and forecasted." "Part of the strategy will focus on the development and preparation of autonomous platforms and other technologies that can help monitor these changing conditions..."

### **Cost of used icebreakers Ottawa is buying from Quebec shipyard approaches \$1B mark**

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/cost-of-used-icebreakers-ottawa-is-buying-from-quebec-shipyard-approaches-1b-mark-1.5542440>





**Inside Reach 871, A US C-17 Packed With 640 Afghans Trying to Escape the Taliban**

<https://www.defenseone.com/policy/2021/08/inside-reach-871-us-c-17-packed-640-people-trying-escape-taliban/184563/>

Note comments and rebuttals in the tweet thread to <https://twitter.com/DefenseOne/status/1427395255788244992> about the percentage of males versus females and children embarked.

Defense One @DefenseOne 16 Aug tweeted : "The Crew Made the Decision to Go:" Inside Reach 871, A US C-17 Packed With 640 Afghans Trying to Escape the Taliban | @TaraCopp and @MarcusReports <https://buff.ly/3xYg75m>



Says something, too, about what cropping pictures does for telling a story.

There was a tweet about Reach 871 being nominated for the Mackay Trophy (<https://naa.aero/awards/awards-and-trophies/mackay-trophy>). The Mackay Trophy ... is awarded for the "most meritorious flight of the year" by an Air Force person, persons, or organization. Does the RCAF have something like that?

**Military deploying medical assistance teams to battle COVID-19 surges**

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2021/08/17/military-deploying-medical-assistance-teams-to-battle-covid-19-surges/>



"After deploying hospital ships to New York and Los Angeles from March to May 2020, planners found more efficiency with sending uniformed medical staff directly into hospitals..."

Hospital ships have their uses, but they are not a direct replacement to land-based hospitals in all cases. A state should have available a full range of medical capabilities, from small fly-away teams to full-up deployable facilities ("hospital-in-a-box" of which Canada used to have many with the National Emergency Stockpile System but which not apparently we lack).

**Trudeau says Canadian diplomats out of Afghanistan as fears mount for interpreters**

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/trudeau-says-canadian-diplomats-out-of-afghanistan-as-fears-mount-for-interpreters/ar-AApZsN?ocid=msedgntp>



From "Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO)" (<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/types/neo.html>): "A Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) is a military operation conducted to assist Global Affairs Canada (GAC)

in evacuating Canadians and eligible persons from threatening circumstances in a foreign nation and moving them to a safe haven."

**US and Canada want to collaborate on NORAD modernization**

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/battlefield-tech/2021/08/18/us-and-canada-want-to-collaborate-on-norad-modernization/>



**Russia is Top Military Threat to U.S. Homeland, Air Force General Says**

<https://news.usni.org/2021/08/18/russia-is-top-military-threat-to-u-s-homeland-air-force-general-says>



Commander of U.S. Northern Command states that "Russia, with its array of hard-to-detect cruise missiles and advanced submarines, poses the primary military threat to the American (ed: and therefore Canada) homeland."

**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..."

What does the Canadian Arctic strategy say about 'enhancing presence and cultivating partnerships?'

**Other Sources:**

To have something posted to Other Sources, email [RUSINSdispatches@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINSdispatches@gmail.com) by noon Thursday.

**#Arctic**

Over the Circle

<https://overthecircle.com/>

**#land warfare**

The Lost Art of Digging Field Defences

<https://www.thinkdefence.co.uk/digging-working-wood/>

**#networks #international relations**

The New Network Literature

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/new-network-literature>


**#wargaming**

Wargaming for Strategic Planning

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2017/3/29/wargaming-for-strategic-planning>

## Other:

To have something posted to Other, email [RUSINSdispatches@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINSdispatches@gmail.com) by noon Thursday.



**MESSAGE** | from the Acting Chief  
of the Defence Staff

To All Members of The CAF

Earlier today, I was honoured by our Commander-in-Chief with a promotion to General. While it is a great privilege to wear this rank, it does not change my approach to you, to the work we must do, or to being your Acting Chief of the Defence Staff. My message is one of stability – we will continue to defend this great country, and protect our population, while rebuilding the CAF after a very tumultuous period.

As the armed forces of this country, we are expected to face complex challenges in a volatile environment. However, the institutional instability we have collectively faced over the last year, along with increased operational requirements on domestic and international fronts and a challenging COVID-19 environment, have magnified the unpredictability we face at home, abroad, in our professional and personal lives.

The constant evolution of our environment, our organization, and the wider Canadian society also demands change. We have already initiated the work to transform our culture, and to create an organization where all members feel they truly belong. But while we face complex challenges internal to the CAF, our support is still needed – and vital. Our responsibility to serve our nation is constant, and the pressure that comes with this responsibility, along with the increased unpredictability of our environment and the stressors of the pandemic have left none of us untouched. There is no doubt that each of us have been impacted albeit differently, but impacted nonetheless.

How do we then still accomplish the tasks given to us when we are in constant flux?

I understand the innate need for stability and clear direction within our ranks to make this possible. Earlier this summer we issued the CAF Reconstitution Plan, focussed on prioritizing effort and resources on people – rebuilding our strength while making much needed changes to aspects of our culture; on readiness – to ensure our ability to continue to deliver on operations; and on modernization – to develop the capabilities and adapt our structure necessary to address the evolving character of conflict and operations. This plan will form the foundation of our activities over the next several years, and is absolutely necessary to ensure we are fit to succeed in our increasingly dangerous world.

Through my career, I have witnessed firsthand the excellence, the professionalism and selfless devotion to Canada of our CAF members, and even more so lately through our recent efforts on Operations LASER, VECTOR, GLOBE, LENTUS and AEGIS. As Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada declared during her Installation speech, “your conviction and courage is of the highest order and represents the very best of all of us.” I firmly believe in those words. We will continue to face uncertainty and unpredictable situations, it is in the nature of our profession. But I have no doubt that

we will overcome the challenges we face together, as we all strive to make the CAF better every day we serve – that is certainly my focus.

Thank you and your families for what you do.

Lieutenant-General Wayne Eyre  
Acting Chief of the Defence Staff

### **Veterans' Affairs Minister Message on Afghanistan**

To: VAC Stakeholder Community,

These past few weeks have been incredibly difficult for our Veteran community. With the Taliban's rapid advance across Afghanistan, it appears that the entire country could soon be under their control.

Given all it represents to so many of our Afghan Veterans, the fall of Kandahar will surely be particularly challenging. Having never worn the uniform, I know I will never be able to understand what so many of those who served there are grappling with.

As Minister, though, I want to provide some resources that I hope might be of use for those of you – and to those you serve – who might understandably be struggling with the situation in Afghanistan.

- At Veterans Affairs, please know that the [VAC Assistance Service](#) is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Veterans, former RCMP members, families, and caregivers can call to speak with a mental health professional, free of charge, at 1-800-268-7708 (TDD/TTY: 1-800-567-5803.)
- For those still serving in the Canadian Armed Forces, support is available to members and their families at each [Canadian Forces Health Services](#) centre across the country.
- The [Member Assistance Program](#) also offers 24/7 confidential short-term counselling to members and their families, and can be reached at 1-800-268-7708 (TDD 1-800-567-5803.)
- Some additional information on mental health resources can also be found through the [Canadian Armed Forces](#) and [Veterans Affairs Canada](#).

Because of what Canadians achieved in Afghanistan, lives have been changed, unquestionably, for the better. There are children who received medicine that allowed them to reach their teens when they otherwise wouldn't have. There are now young women studying law, physics, and journalism at some of the world's finest universities who would never have gotten that opportunity.

Time will tell us what those stories mean, but I choose to believe that the world will be better for them.

However this chapter in Afghanistan's history ends, Canada will not forget the actions of the more than 40,000 of our remarkable men and women who served there – the stories of their sacrifice will outlast them.

Our kids and grandkids are going to learn about the Canadians who fought and gave their lives in the streets and poppy fields of Kandahar, just like they will about the ones who fought and gave their lives at Vimy Ridge and Juno Beach.

Their wars might be different, but their stories are fundamentally the same. They went off to serve their country, and they did all that was asked of them and more.

How our Afghanistan Veterans and their families will come to understand their sacrifices is surely not for me to say, but I can promise that Canada will remain forever grateful for their service.

Please take care, and thank you for the work you all continue to do in support of our Veterans and their families.

Respectfully,

Lawrence MacAulay

Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence

### **Crystal Ball**

From a RUSI(NS) member with the remark "Someone was paying attention!"

Extracts from Canadian Security Intelligence Service report "Afghanistan The precarious struggle for stability" (<https://www.canada.ca/en/security-intelligence-service/corporate/publications/afghanistan-the-precarious-struggle-for-stability.html>) of a workshop 21 January 2019:

"The ethnic, religious, tribal and political forces that have repeatedly led to civil war in Afghanistan are undiminished. The Bonn Agreement of 2001 empowered and enriched important factional leaders from past conflicts.

The Taliban is strong and united, bolstered by senior leaders released from Guantanamo. The Kabul government is weak and unable to overcome endemic corruption, factionalism and economic failure.

Afghanistan's army is undertrained, crippled by corrupt suppliers and no match for the Taliban without US support. "

and

"The Taliban is negotiating because it calculates that, although it will eventually take back total control of Afghanistan, the cost would be very high if it tried to do so early. As soon as the US withdraws, this calculation would change to a belief in the high probability of a rapid victory if fighting resumed.

Many Afghans who can leave are doing so. Many believe that if the economy, stability and human rights did not improve after almost eighteen years of foreign attention, there is little hope for Afghanistan after abandonment by the US and its allies.

An early withdrawal of US forces could result in a new Taliban offensive and the end of the current regime."

### **Security Affairs Committee Synopsis**

#### **Belarus**

The Lukashenko regime continues to conduct a hybrid operation by bringing in refugees to Minsk then sending them through the borders of its EU neighbours as a method to hit back against sanctions. Poland, Latvia and Lithuania have all been forced to send troops to the border to meet these Lukashenko manufactured refugees. The fact is that the Lukashenko regime is ruthlessly exploiting the very real needs of these refugees, knowing that most Western nations will not stop them and can and will use resources to provide for them. So far, the West has not found a way to discourage this type of operation. The situation will get much worse especially if a solution cannot be found to this type of action.

## **China**

The Communist Chinese Party (CCP) is continuing to attack its own technical sector. The latest is a statement by President Xi to have the Chinese oligarchs spend their fortunes to the benefit of the whole population. This continued attack on China's most successful sector shows how reactionary the Party is in its continued return to Maoist type thinking, crushing the entrepreneurial spirit within the country. This effort is being conducted by the CCP's regulator shortly after they were criticized by Jack Ma, the head of Ant Group, who is now giving away his fortune and is no longer running the business. This is likely the fate of many others as well who dare comment negatively on CCP organs. The CCP has also made a point of moving greater resources to state owned enterprises for loans and support and has forced some of the major companies to share their data such as has happened to Didi.

The CCP has continued to ramp up its pressure on Taiwan with several air incursions into the Taiwanese air space as well as putting a new air strip on a small outcropping in the Taiwan Straits thus creating an unsinkable air craft carrier. It is limited but may be useful to recover damaged aircraft or to support surveillance operations. As seen with several of the South China Sea outcroppings, the overall long term survival of these artificial islands is not good as they continue to deteriorate – still, a point is made.

China has also tried to use the withdrawal of the US and NATO from Afghanistan to point out the decline of the US and how no one can protect the Taiwanese from China and how it might be in their best interest to negotiate their return to the Motherland. What could be more appealing than to join a genocidal authoritarian state that lies consistently and fails to honour negotiated agreements such as seen with Hong Kong? The West has to become more like Lithuania who allowed the opening of a Taiwanese office in their capital under the name of Taiwan. China must be recognized for what it truly is, a hostile power, and that handing over or allowing any liberal democratic state is unacceptable now or in the future. Continued acquiescence to the CCP government is a recipe for disaster in the long term for both liberal democracies and the world. People are not immigrating to China for a reason.

## **Afghanistan**

I have to be up front, I did three tours of Afghanistan, two in Kandahar and one in Kabul. I am not unbiased and I have always had my own views as a Canadian officer as to the way ahead, so please bear this in mind. One thing we were all certain of during our tours were that when the mission changed to one that involved development of the nation into a modern society, it would take generations, at least 70 to 90 years of firm effort. We also understood that the first generation we would have to put up with corruption of the highest order but we had hopes that younger new civil servants, police, judicial figures, teachers, engineers, journalists, etc., would start to appear before that first generation departed. We did see this start to occur - just take a look at how journalists asked meaningful questions to authorities. Take a look at teachers and schools and their ongoing success. Some projects have changed Afghanistan forever, such as cell phones and a working telephone system with internet. The subject of cell phones is worthy of several dozen studies on how disruptive they are to Afghan society and we barely ever think about that implication. Women generally survive child birth as do their children because of an enhanced medical system. There were a lot of good things occurring but the West has never been able to understand strategic patience. The answer always had to be immediate or in this case, twenty years, when 70 to 90 was always required. Nation building is tough and generational and the US especially has shown no capacity for patience; I have many examples of this culture of instant action and gratification.

Earlier this week, I received an email from my last interpreter in my last tour in theatre pleading for my help for her family. The interpreter is safe in the US as I was able to provide the necessary paperwork

and recommendation. I still remember the fellow I met at the US Embassy who allowed me to become a US officer for 20 seconds as he stamped the documents as it did require a US officer. He knew my intent for all of my US funded interpreters. It is nearly impossible to get to that family at the moment and they are a target as they were intellectuals and now live in fear as they remember the Taliban from their first time governing. One hopes for the best but understand the nature of the foe. They are not nice and although they are smoother, this is only a veneer and we can only hope it is a durable coating. But I suspect not.

My last few days in Kabul is something I will never forget. It isn't a major incident; it was certainly sad and I have a souvenir. The souvenir is a wooden bracelet given to me by a young Afghan boy. It isn't spectacular or remarkable but just a trinket. I never carried money and I didn't purchase these things but in that last time he said just take it and I said something to the effect that I would pay him a dollar next time I saw him. I know that sounds petty in some respects but after seven tours in various horrible locations, one tries to avoid children as bad guys can and will use them for terrible things and also you make them a target if you create a relationship of any sort. I know others have a different opinion on this but I never regretted my position. I never did get to pay him that dollar; I still have that single US dollar bill and I will always keep it as I owe it to him.

Two days later, a young man aged somewhere between 13 and 17 rode into the street in front of ISAF HQ wearing a back pack. The kids thought he was going to compete with their sales so they went forward in their little group to tell him off and to leave their area. They harassed him so badly that the individual apparently panicked and set off the suicide bomb in his back pack. The video shows those young kids going after him including the child I owed that dollar. The video and pictures were clear as were the results. The image of this child on child killing has made a lasting impression on me as I wondered as to the type of monster that would set a child to do this act. No security person was injured, just the kids. Now the monsters are back and I am not good with that at all.

The Afghan people deserve better than the corruption they had to deal with in the last Afghan government but even they are better than the nightmare of the Taliban and their barbarism. Our Western governments including our own failed; there will be a price to pay as once again the West pulled out and left an ally to die.

## ***Battle Drill: React to MEDIA Contact***

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1. Don't lie. Tell the truth.
  2. If you don't want to hear it or read it, don't say it or do it.
  3. Give media access 0500-2400. Set aside at least 20-30 minutes a day for interviews. Be prepared for unexpected.
  4. Purpose: To provide information to the public. The American people have a right to know.
  5. Talk about what you KNOW, not about what you THINK.
  6. Don't answer "How do you feel about...?" questions. Focus on mission. Think about answers.
  7. Interject humor with caution. Watch timing based on situation.
  8. It's about "US" not "ME."
  9. The Army is an outdoor sport. Do interviews outside in an operational environment.
  10. Have your public affairs officer keep you posted on your boss's and your boss's boss's quotes.
  11. Figure out your daily top 3 priorities of work and talk about them.
  12. Get satellite radio and listen to national news a few times a day.
  13. Don't be part of a public investigation. Don't let reporters act like prosecutors.
  14. Build business relationships with reporters. Drink coffee, eat with them, let them get to know you.
  15. Be yourself.
  16. Don't read any damn prepared remarks.
  17. Don't do politics – focus on your mission. Don't compliment or criticize political leaders.
  18. Use your staff to see first, understand first, act first
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