



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 22 October 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. Email to RUSINSDispatches@gmail.com. Comments to articles can be from members or non-members of RUSI(NS). Any comment in *Dispatches* is the sole opinion of the author and does not necessarily represent the views of the Canadian Department of National Defence or other government department, the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia.

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

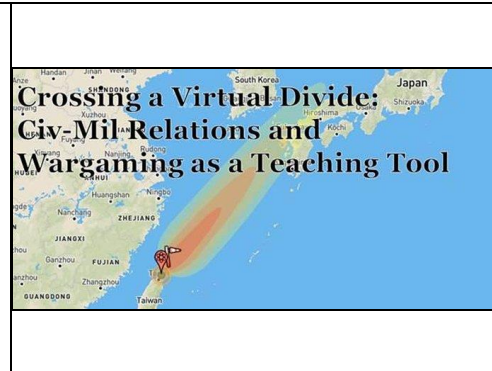
Events:

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

There will be no RUSI(NS) Remembrance Dinner 2021.

23 October, Saturday - Edmonton United Services Institute, 700 (City of Edmonton) Wing RCAF Association and Royal Alberta United Services Institute Symposium "Unmanned Vehicles in War and Peace." 0830-1600 Edmonton time. See: <https://rausi.ca/info-events/upcoming-events/rausi-event/eusi-2021-security-and-defence-symposium>

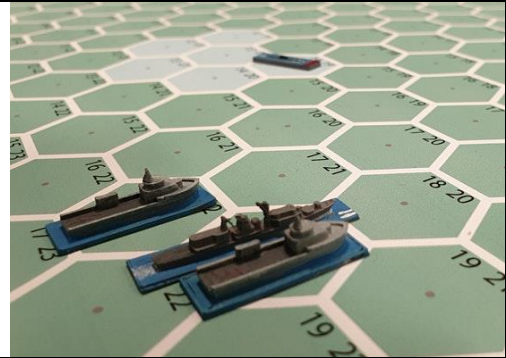
Georgetown University Wargaming Society (GUWS)
@GUWargaming 14 Oct tweeted: **Oct 26, 6PM:** How can #wargaming be used to bridge the gap between the academic and policy worlds? Or between civilian experts and military practitioners? Benjamin Harris & Suzanne Freeman from @MIT_SSP will discuss how.
(Crossing a Virtual Divide: Civ-Mil Relations & Wargaming as a Teaching Tool
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/crossing-a-virtual-divide-civ-mil-relations-wargaming-as-a-teaching-tool-tickets-163707727219>)



27 October, Wednesday – RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker RAdm Brian Santarpia, Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic. The topic of his presentation is “Royal Canadian Navy – Globally Deployed for Strategic Effect.” 1300-1500. Via Zoom. Attendance will be limited. To register, email RUSI(NS) with RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker 27 October 2021 Registration as the subject line. See: <https://rusi-ns.ca/event/distinguished-speaker-27-october-2021/>

New: 1 November, Monday - Naval Association of Canada Speaker's Evening with Vice-Admiral Craig Baines, 37th Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy. 1900 Eastern. VAdm Baines will share his thoughts about the general state of the Navy in terms of operational success, readiness, personnel challenges, and upcoming projects. Register at <https://nac-o.wildapricot.org/event-4461451>.

Georgetown University Wargaming Society (GUWS)
@GUWargaming **Nov 2**, 1200PM EST: For
@GUWargaming, @nickbradbeer will talk about how UCL
developed their own in-house wargames to assist in
engineering the design of the warships. #wargaming
(Failing Faster: Using Wargaming to Educate Warship
Designers
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/failing-faster-using-wargaming-to-educate-warship-designers-tickets-177473697607>)



Recent Publications:

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

New: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 20 October edition
https://send.successbyemail.com/prvw_message2.aspx?chno=c7784110-f273-47a3-850a-281371937970

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

Macdonald-Laurier Institute Policy Brief "The need for transatlantic solidarity in the face of today's security challenges" 31 August 2021
https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/files/pdf/20210811_NATO_solidarity_Thiele_Sannikov_Waschuk_COMMENTSARY_FWeb.pdf

Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XXXIX Number 9 October 2021.

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

Royal Alberta United Services Institute Research Brief "Iranian–Israeli Drone Warfare, Diplomacy and the Alberta Connection" by LJ Howard, August 2021,
https://rausi.ca/images/edocman/research/Research_Brief_Vol_2_Iss_4_Iranian_Israeli_Drone_Warfare.pdf

Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches* October 2021
<https://rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/85-rausi-dispatches-october-2021>

Royal Alberta United Service Institute *News* October-December 2021
<https://www.rausi.ca/news/publications>

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

Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island *Newsletter*, Volume 53, 4th Quarter - August/September 2021.

New: Royal United Services Institute Victoria (Australia) *Quarterly Newsletter*, Volume 20, Issue 3, October 2021.

New: Royal United Services Institute Victoria (Australia) *Occasional*, Volume 8, Issue 7, 18 October 2021.



United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island *Newsletter*, Vol 29 No 09, September 2021.

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

Veterans Affairs Canada *Salute!*, October 2021.

Tweeted by @RUSI_NS:

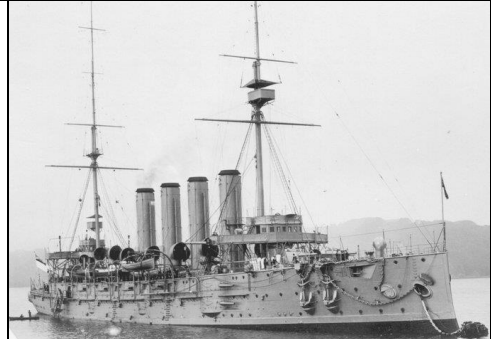
RUSI(NS) tweets may also be viewed by clicking on the icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something tweeted or retweeted, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

<p>Tod Strickland @Todstrick 15 Oct tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Originally it was going to be FoxholeU, but beta testing and some experimentation led to a new name, and a reworked site. The Canadian Army now has a internet based hub for junior officers and NCOs...</p> <p>https://canada.ca/en/army/services/line-sight.html (Line of Sight)</p> <p>Also: Not Your Grandfather's Staff College https://www.canada.ca/en/army/services/line-sight/articles/2021/09/not-your-grandfathers-staff-college.html</p>	
<p>NATO Association of Canada @NATOCanada 8 Oct tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: NEW “The Ambitions of the People’s Republic of China: An Opportunity & a Threat to the Rules-Based International Order” by Olivia Hamilton & Ruben Barragan. http://ow.ly/ZI8850GnXt3 #China #NATO2030 #UnitedNations @AsiaPacificFdn @BelferCenter @NATO</p> <p>https://natoassociation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/The-Ambitions-of-the-Peoples-Republic-of-China.-final.pdf</p>	<p>Towards Coexistence and Cooperation: NATO and China</p> 

Canadian Armed Forces Operations @CFOperations 19 Oct tweeted: On high! @RCAF_FAC CP-140 Aurora Air Detachment is once again operating from Japan. Along with @HMCS Winnipeg, our 407 Long Range Patrol Squadron team further enhances the #CAF contribution to monitoring efforts as part of Operation NEON.
 RUSI(NS) retweeted: #OpNEON - CAN🇨🇦 contribution to multinational effort to support UN Security Council sanctions against North Korea <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-neon.html>



Royal Canadian Navy @RoyalCanNavy 21 Oct tweeted: Today is NIOBE Day, marking the arrival of HMCS NIOBE to Halifax in 1910 as the 1st Canadian warship to enter Canadian waters. 111 years later, we continue to support Canada's efforts to participate in security operations at home and abroad with combat-capable maritime forces.
 RUSI(NS) retweeted: .@RoyalCanNavy article "Niobe Day" <http://www.navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/news-operations/news-view.page?doc=niobe-day/i0vikji8>
Vice Trafalgar Day.



DisinfoWatch @DisinfoW 31 Sep tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: "...Chinese influence activities are causing policymaking agencies to refrain from engaging in activity that would displease the Chinese government" says leading Canadian expert on China, @cburton001 @CDAInstitute @MLInstitute
 (Countering Chinese Influence Operations in Canada <https://cdainstitute.ca/charles-burton-countering-chinese-influence-operations-in-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.

How to Write for a Military Audience

<https://www.howgatepublishing.com/single-post/how-to-write-for-a-military-audience>

"Military audiences reside in the policy world where debate is won by someone who can make the most compelling jargon free argument."



"In the past three decades, however, academic writing has moved away from policy relevance and led practitioners to question the value of such analyses."

RN Frigate fleet could fall short of promised size, former Navy chief warns

<https://www.forces.net/news/frigate-fleet-could-fall-short-promised-size-former-navy-chief-warns>

Issues about size of frigate fleets in other navies is context for concerns about the number of Canadian Surface Combatant (CSC) project ships (likely to be typed as frigates - FF) to be built. At least so far the Government of Canada seems to be holding fast to building 15 CSC FF. Certainly Irving, as the shipbuilder, would want the assurance of a fixed (if not increasing) build size. And that's the sort of stability that the Canadian National Shipbuilding Strategy is aiming for.

Yes, frigates are the 'workhorses' of the fleet. Multi-role, especially as advances in sensors and weapons (reductions in weight, volume and power requirements) are allowing more capability into frigate-size hulls.

The UK is talking about their Type 32 when they haven't even finished building their Type 26 frigates (the design which is the basis for the CSC project ships) or launched their first Type 31. The Canadian ship is still being designed.



Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS): Legal and Operational Considerations, Constraints, and Concerns

<https://censa.net/publications/lethal-autonomous-weapons-systems-laws-legal-and-operational-considerations-constraints-and-concerns/>



For Sale: 12 French Submarines

<https://www.jewishpolicycenter.org/2021/09/27/for-sale-12-french-submarines/>

"The US and others should help the French sell these submarines or ones that are not export controlled by France to other allies in the Indo-Pacific region such as India, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, and other major sea powers in the Indo-Pacific region. This action would help all concerned about freedom of navigation, free trade, and territorial rights."



Win Some, Lose Some: China's Campaign for Global Media Influence

<https://jamestown.org/program/win-some-lose-some-chinas-campaign-for-global-media-influence/>

"Media has transformed into a new battleground between China and the West. Foreign journalists who strive to provide fair coverage find their work politicized and are caught in geopolitical crosshairs."



Canadians need to appreciate that there is confrontation (conflict? war?) ongoing in our open media space. And that it is part of larger geo-strategic competitions. Canadians need to have communications and public affairs staffs of our defence and security services trained and practiced in operations in that space. It is not Defence only, or police only, or a matter for government bureaucrats. Those who want to keep media operations walled off from information operations are weakening our country's capability to defend our values and interests. There has to be understanding by media and information operators of each other.

General Anthony Zinni (ret.) on Wargaming Iraq, Millennium Challenge, and Competition

<https://cimsec.org/general-anthony-zinni-ret-on-wargaming-iraq-millennium-challenge-and-competition/>

GEN Zinni's comments about senior commanders and their use of wargaming, to validate or prove capabilities that the services want and need to get the budget for, or to game war plans, is interesting reading.



NCIS wishes US Navy 'happy birthday' with photo of Russian warship

<https://taskandpurpose.com/news/ncis-us-navy-birthday-russian-warship/>

Such errors are not uncommon. Canadian media and even federal government departments have so erred. The challenges of the variety of military equipment speaks to the utility of sites such as Combat Camera (albeit Canada's does not contain stock pictures) or the US Defense Visual Information Distribution Service.

Reporters and editors would be well advised to check photos of military ships, aircraft, vehicles and people before publishing. Such errors reduce the confidence of readers in the quality of journalism.



Other Sources:

#China

#media operations #information operations

Win Some, Lose Some: China's Campaign for Global Media Influence

<https://jamestown.org/program/win-some-lose-some-chinas-campaign-for-global-media-influence/>

#weapons

China's Development of Hypersonic Missiles and Thought on Hypersonic Defense

<https://jamestown.org/program/chinas-development-of-hypersonic-missiles-and-thought-on-hypersonic-defense/>

#cyber operations

Can't Sail Away from Cyber Attacks: 'Sea-Hacking' from Land

<https://warontherocks.com/2021/10/cant-sail-away-from-cyber-attacks-sea-hacking-from-land/>

#information technology

What business leaders should know about Web 3.0

<https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/topics/digital-transformation/web-3-0-technologies-in-business.html>

I would also say "What military leaders should know about Web 3.0."

#intelligence

Forget James Bond? Public Perceptions of UK Intelligence

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/forget-james-bond-public-perceptions-uk-intelligence>

#maritime security

What Is UNCLOS?

<https://www.maritimemanual.com/what-is-unclos/>

For starters: United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea

#Royal Canadian Navy

Your Navy Today - Volume 4 Issue 8

<http://www.navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/news-ynt/2021/09-your-navy-today.page>

#Russia #shipbuilding

The Realities of Russian Military Shipbuilding (Part One)

<https://jamestown.org/program/the-realities-of-russian-military-shipbuilding-part-one/>

The Realities of Russian Military Shipbuilding (Part Two)

<https://jamestown.org/program/the-realities-of-russian-military-shipbuilding-part-two/>

#wargaming

Decision-Forcing Cases

<https://www.canada.ca/en/army/services/line-sight/articles/2021/09/decision-forcing-cases.html>

This article came from the Canadian Army's *Line of Sight*. "*Line of Sight* is a professional military education hub for the Canadian Army hosted online." The "Decision-Forcing Cases" article appears to be the only one so far on the hub about wargaming (there is opportunity there for those who wish to write about wargaming). Decision-forcing case games seem similar to matrix games or ICS 'staff exercises.' A RUSI(NS) colleague has provided another article on a similar theme: "Tactical Decision Games" (<http://companyleader.themilitaryleader.com/tdg/>).

General Anthony Zinni (ret.) on Wargaming Iraq, Millennium Challenge, and Competition

<https://cimsec.org/general-anthony-zinni-ret-on-wargaming-iraq-millennium-challenge-and-competition/>

Other:

Veterans' Week

Every year, in the lead up to Remembrance Day, we mark Veterans' Week from November 5 to 11. This week presents an opportunity for Canadians to honour those who have served our country in times of war, military conflict and peace. We recognize your organization's commitment and support to Veterans and their families and thank you for your continued collaboration in promoting remembrance initiatives.

2021 marks a number of significant military milestones from the First World War to present day operations, including the 10th Anniversary of service in Afghanistan. As such, this year's theme is "Service, courage and sacrifice—at home, around the world and across generations."

This Veterans' Week, encourage your contacts to take a moment to think about the freedoms we all enjoy, thanks to the brave Canadians who have put our country before themselves. On November 8—Indigenous Veterans Day—we recognize the many contributions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit throughout our military history.

As the ongoing pandemic is still affecting our traditional ceremonies of remembrance, it is more important than ever to hear and share the stories of the remarkable legacies that our service people have built over the course of Canada's long military history.

Again this year, we will launch a new series of our [Faces of Freedom podcast](#), where you can hear Veterans share their stories directly. You can also read a wide variety of them via our [Faces of Freedom](#) and [They proudly served](#) profiles. Some featured are Veterans of the war years; others are Veterans of peace support and humanitarian operations that took them to all corners of the world. Some Veterans served for decades; others were honourably discharged just months into their military careers. They are of diverse races and identities—some were born here, others were not. But one thing that Canada's Veterans all share is the honour of having worn a uniform for their country.

Visit veterans.gc.ca/CanadaRemembers to learn about more ways to honour the service, courage and sacrifice of all those who have served Canada. Let's express our gratitude and inspire our colleagues, friends and families to participate.

Together, let's show how #CanadaRemembers.

Sincerely,

Paul Thomson
Director General, Commemoration
Veterans Affairs Canada

Faith McIntyre
Director General, Communications
Veterans Affairs Canada

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O Canada

A new term was introduced to me this morning by our friend and the term is “predatory allegations.” The definition is as follows: “A predatory allegation is an accusation of wrongdoing or impropriety that is based on the probability that it will cause an adverse response by social, corporate, legal or criminal authorities intended to negatively affect the reputation, credibility or legal status of an individual. The wrongdoing or impropriety does not have to be true or significant, but it carries an interpretation that is undeservedly and disproportionately damaging to the affected individual.”

It seems to fit what is now occurring with what is occurring to the leadership of the Canadian Armed Forces. The use of the term by the various forms of media written as “historical allegations” is a case in point as so recently was presented in a story on LGen Cadieu recently. No explanation of the event, just the term “historical allegations,” and the public as well as the affected member are left with a void. As mentioned last week, there was a general feeling amongst the rank and file that there is a political hit list. How else could one possibly view it as anything else as in the case of MGen Fortin who was left wondering what the heck he had done 32 years ago to merit such a charge.

The Military Police have now become the judge, jury, and executioner of Admiral MacDonald by declaring that although he wasn’t charged, they stated that “It doesn’t mean the allegation was unfounded.” The question is, if there is insufficient evidence to support a charge, does that not mean the Admiral is innocent under the law? Yes, we know something happened, but is it enough to crucify someone by innuendo? What trial was there? Where was the fair opportunity to clear himself? Are the Military Police now acting in a manner that supports the actual process for both the victim and their new victim, Admiral MacDonald? How about innocent until proven guilty?

I did not know until this week that bill C- 25 which received Royal Assent on 11 December 1998 changed the “Statute of Limitations” from three years to 25 years. The question is why is this not taken into account? One has to consider how much anyone can remember from that time? I know I cannot remember what I did last year let alone 32 years ago. One has to wonder, who has to gain on this hit list? Could it be someone with a political agenda who has stated that the Forces cannot do this themselves, who might wish to put more “appropriate” individuals in charge who would show their “progressive” side?

On another issue, who said “progressives” are progressive? One can see that people are now charged and found guilty by “social media” rather than proper investigations and a fair and impartial trial. The type of progressive seen at the moment are more akin to the Paris mobs of the French Revolution or the Bolshevik Revolution. The public is satisfied apparently with this new standard which is more than a little alarming for those of us who believe that a fair trial is necessary although inconvenient for those “progressives.” Just saying that this is far uglier than the allegations against these men.

On a positive note, HMCS *Winnipeg* joined with US ships in a trip down the Straits of Taiwan. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was upset. The fact is that the CCP have no legal right to control the international waterway that is the Taiwan Strait nor to the South China Sea as ruled by the International Courts at the Hague in 2016. Bravo Zulu, *Winnipeg* may it be the first of many trips in support of International Law and in defence of a fellow liberal democracy that is the Republic of China, Taiwan.

One can only hope that the Canadian government will develop more resolve regarding China such as cutting their staff at their embassy and consulates, closer monitoring of Chinese “diplomats,” introducing new legislation against foreign money interfering with the election, removing elements tied

to the CCP United Front such as the Confucius Institutes, and finding new countries to trade Canadian products, etc. One can only hope that Canada will get a grip on the influence of a truly malign actor that is China. Canadians must understand that China is an authoritarian, genocidal regime that has consistently “attacked” Canada economically long before the Meng incident. Canada needs to decouple all but the most essential aspects and greatly limit China’s ability to further interfere in our governance system. China is an adversary and it should be treated as such.

Russia

Russia now has over eight million cases of Covid officially, a steady and ever-increasing rise in cases - over 225k have died. Russia has started a series of lock downs and stay at home orders including telling all old people to stay home for four months. The Russian Regime continues to have difficulties convincing people to get vaccinated. It seems fitting that the misinformation campaign directed at US audiences also found a willing Russian counter-part.

Alexei Navalny has won the prestigious EU’s Sakharov “Freedom of Thoughts” award which is approved by the EU Parliament and awarded to a group or individual who made an “outstanding contribution to the protection of freedom of thought.” It is the EU’s highest award for human rights. It was awarded on Wednesday, 20 October 2021. Navalny has two and a half years prison to serve.

Russia is continuing to prepare the “stans” for defensive actions against the Taliban. Refugees are moving across the borders of the “stans” on a daily basis. There have been several showdowns between local forces and the Taliban. Russia announced that it will not recognize the Taliban government at this time.

China and Russia have concluded a large naval exercise in the Sea of Japan. The fleet, consisting of 10 to 12 ships, then moved through the Tsugaru Strait between Japan’s Central Island and the Northern Island. The strait is considered international water and there were no incidents. The ships did not enter Japanese territorial waters at any time. The exercise was to show cooperation between Russia and China and was thought to be intimidation tactics. (Most articles state ten ships but the MARNEWS Extra for 20 October 2021 shows 12 ships.)

Belarus

The Belarus opposition leader, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, is continuing her contacts with other world leaders around the world to help gain support for the opposition forces through legislated sanctions against Belarus. Most recently she held talks with the Indian government. The Indian government just accredited the Lukashenko regime ambassador to India, which the opposition leader tried to show gave support to a “gangster regime.” In an interview post-talks she also stated that she was disappointed with the overall lack of increased sanctions on the Lukashenko regime and the apparent support of the Lukashenko regime by the international community. The regime continues its vindictive crackdown on dissidents including all media. There have been no further major sanctions against the regime.

Pakistan

The Army Commander General Bajwa appointed LGen Nadeen Ahmed Anjum as the new Director General ISI, to replace LGen Faiz Hameed, who has been appointed Commander of the Karachi Corps. Unfortunately, Prime Minister Imran Khan wanted LGen Hameed to remain in place until things were more settled in Afghanistan and thus, he held up approval of LGen Anjum’s appointment. This has caused a visible conflict between the elected leader and the Army Commander. The two have promised to work things out within days.

LGen Hameed is thought to be in the running to replace Gen Bajwa as the Commander of the Army. He was missing experience as a corps level commander, which is a prerequisite for the Army Commander's position. LGen Hameed is also considered the architect of the American defeat in Afghanistan by having the ISI provide training, resources and protection in the safe haven provided within the Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) in Pakistan along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. As the withdrawal of coalition forces occurred, tens of thousands of Taliban crossed the border and thus overwhelmed Afghan forces.

The Afghanistan armed forces had already lost much technical expertise from allied military and civilian contractors as part of the Trump withdrawal agreement between the US and the Taliban. Trump never consulted the Afghanistan government. Unfortunately, President Biden committed the US and its allies to this very flawed agreement. It was further exacerbated by the lack of US Administration discussion with its allies. No one will know how many thousands of Afghans citizens have been killed as a result of this action.

Why does this matter? Pakistan is a nuclear armed state with a relationship between the Army and the political leadership that is difficult, with the Army Commander being the stronger of the two elements. Pakistan's recent success in Afghanistan also might be the catalyst that causes a major incident in Kashmir as the ISI and Pak military view their success as a possible indication of a future success in the Kashmir. The success of the Taliban in Afghanistan is also not complete as ISIS K are conducting suicide bomb operations. Other groups that were allied with the Taliban are also now going their separate ways, thus agreements with the Chinese and Pakistan cannot be guaranteed. Afghanistan is a festering sore and the conflict is far from over. No current government has recognized the Taliban attempt at an administration. The Indian government would not take this well and would take severe action if attempted. China is also a potential user as the Taliban has little control over other groups. Any proposal to control these other groups is bound to fail and Chinese investments as well as their borders may be subject to transgressions by these separate groups. China has made a significant effort to rein in Muslim influence. This is not universally accepted by all the Taliban's supporting groups. It is likely that China may impose pressure on Pakistan to ensure these groups are suppressed.

China

The last Western application is finally calling it quits. LinkedIn had agreed to follow the CCP's regulation regarding the type of information allowed. It required LinkedIn to censor user comments and profiles. Although initially it was successful in meeting the CCP's requirements; it changed when Microsoft tried to purchase the US assets of TikTok. LinkedIn is a Microsoft application and therefore the CCP took action to punish Microsoft. As a result LinkedIn will withdraw from the Chinese market. It was the last major Western application in China.

There is apparently a new quad in South West Asia consisting of the US, India, Israel and the UAE. Their first meeting was this past week, they made several decisions including creation of an international forum on economic cooperation which will focus on infrastructure, maritime security and trade, agreement to appoint officials for the joint working group and lastly an in-person meeting at the Dubai Expo. This would be a direct competition to China's efforts in this area. The effort is to turn the Arab world into an opposition to China's initiatives. China needs this area for its own development. Loss of the income or cooperation as a result of its investments in this area would be a significant blow to China. Iran offers China its only confirmed bright spot. China takes 40% of its oil from this area. China has made a twenty-five year deal for oil and gas from Iran. India's efforts in Iran have been neglected by Iran. India is apparently taking a more aggressive attitude towards Iran as a result. None of the members of the new quad are pro-Chinese.

China continues to be beset with poor weather causing extensive floods and causing the collapse of older dams and water abatement systems. There has been high levels of flood damage through critical industrial areas. The death toll is not known but it is expected to be high.

China's economy continues to be pumelled by a combination of power outages, new government regulations and initiatives including the concept of common prosperity and the withdrawal of foreign investment and firms. China's ability to gain loans, etc., have been hurt at least in the short term by major business difficulties such as Evergrande and other property management companies, all supported by small time investors who could lose everything in the current economic climate. The results are a large number of layoffs and general dissatisfaction with the impending failures of key companies. A large number of unhappy investors could result in major incidents of civil disobedience.

Speaking of civil disobedience, China's 57m veterans have shown to be a volatile group. Many have received no pensions or support. Each veteran's compensation for release has varied depending on when the veteran was released. Dissatisfaction runs high and demonstrations occur nearly daily throughout the country. Mind you, Canada's system sometimes appears to be equally convoluted with 28 different types of veterans as well, but there is a lot fewer of us. Veterans are a key area that security services watch as they have the capability to cause violence with their protests. It also reminds the CCP that the security forces will also see how veterans are treated and may be somewhat sympathetic to their plight. Not a good combination in the longer term.

North Korea

North Korea launched a new ballistic missile. This one splashed into the sea and avoided any serious damage. The key point here is that it was a submarine launched ballistic missile. North Korea has at least two submarines capable of housing such a weapon. Neither submarine is sophisticated, but it does pose a major problem if North Korea can sort out the miniaturization of the nuclear warhead and its re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere. The range is still debateable but it certainly does complicate the Korean peninsula.