



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Dispatches

19 November 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).

Media Advisory – November 18, 2021

No. 2 Construction Battalion Apology National Advisory Committee

Search started for descendants of unique First World War unit

See end of *Dispatches*.

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.

29 November, Monday – RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker Assistant Commissioner Neil O'Rourke, Arctic Region, Canadian Coast Guard, presenting "Arctic Region Implementation and Successes." 1300-1500, via Zoom. Registration is required. To register, email RUSI(NS) by close-of-business Thu, 25 Nov. As subject line for your registration email, put: RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker 29 November 2021 Registration. Participation is limited and later registrants may have to be put on a waiting list. If after registering your availability changes and you are no longer able to attend, please advise RUSI(NS) as soon as possible so your spot can be re-assigned. Zoom instructions will be emailed to registrants by end-of-day Fri, 26 Nov. If you have not received them by end-of-day 26 Nov, please check your spam folder and, if necessary, email RUSI(NS).

Publications:

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

RUSI(NS) Presentation “Royal Canadian Navy – Globally Deployed for Strategic Effect” by Rear-Admiral Brian Santarpia, 27 Oct 21

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

RUSI(NS) Presentation “Casualty Identification Program” by Dr Sarah Lockyer, 20 October 21

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

New: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 17 November edition

https://send.successbyemail.com/prvw_message2.aspx?chno=94aadb4d-e61c-4790-92ab-81e62624c8d1

Edmonton United Services Institute President’s *ENews*, November 2021.

Maritime Engineering Journal Fall 2021

<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/maritime-engineering-journal.html>

Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XXXIX Number 10 November 2021.

Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches* November 2021

<https://rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/87-rausi-dispatches-november-2021>

Royal Alberta United Service Institute *News* October-December 2021

<https://www.rausi.ca/news/publications>

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

Royal Canadian Naval Reserve *Link*, Vol 29, No 1, 2021

<https://issuu.com/lencre-reservenaval-link-navalreserve/docs/link-2021-vol29-navalreserve>

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

New: Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Occasional*, Volume 9, Issue 3, 15 November 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.

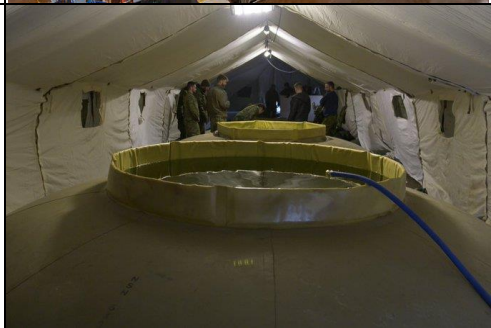
"Shipbuilding: Turning the Tide"
<https://www.renewcanada.net/feature/shipbuilding-turning-the-tide/> CAN🇨🇦 National Shipbuilding Strategy #NSS is not just about building ships (as welcome as they are). It is about ensuring a strong shipbuilding/maintenance industry, labour force & mariners





JTF North / FOI Nord @JTFN_FOIN 14 Nov tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Members of 4 Engineer Support Regiment monitor the flow and water temperature of the approximately 11,000 litre water bladders in support of Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit operations as part of Op LENTUS at the Sylvia Grinnell River in Iqaluit, Nunavut. #OpLENTUS

@NSIRACanada @nsiracanada 15 Nov tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: NSIRA has published its (redacted) review of the CSIS-RCMP Relationship in a Region of Canada through the Lens of an Ongoing Investigation, and you can find it here (<https://nsira-ossnr.gc.ca/review-of-the-csis-rcmp-relationship-in-a-region-of-canada-through-the-lens-of-an-ongoing-investigation>).

CIGI @CIGIonline 15 Nov tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: How can intelligence capacities, old and new, be mobilized to protect the security of all Canadians? (Prepared: Canadian Intelligence for the Dangerous Decades <https://www.cigionline.org/publications/prepared-canadian-intelligence-for-the-dangerous-decades/>)

RCAF Operations @RCAFOperations16 Nov tweeted: A job well done by @RCAF_ARC's 442 Transport & Rescue Squadron. Using 3 CH149 helicopters and supported by a CC115 Buffalo, the Sqn evacuated 311 people, 26Dog and aCat to safety in Agassiz after being trapped by landslides on roads in BC. @CFOperations @MARPAC_FMARP @BCGovNews
RUSI(NS) retweeted: Mass evacuation. Not usual mission expected of search&rescue #SAR helicopters. Squadron-level, one for the record book; will make for interesting post-



<p>operation (#OpLENTUS?) report. Bravo Zulu @RCAF_ARC. @CFOperations @MARPAC_FMARP</p>	
<p>Combat Camera @CFCombatCamFC 17 Nov tweeted: Patrol Pathfinder Candidates complete over 30 hours of tactical swimming while hauling over 100lbs of gear, and must be able to swim over 1km to shore with their gear. Photo: Mcpl Geneviève Lapointe, #CFCombatCamera #ComCamCanada #CAAWC #patrolpathfinder</p> <p>RUSI(NS) retweeted: "Carrying the Torch Forward: The Revitalization of the Patrol Pathfinder Capability" http://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/vol13/no4/page53-eng.asp "Patrol Pathfinders...are primed to execute the initial phase of most operations involving the insertion of forces into a new or immature theatre." @CanadianForces</p>	
<p>"An Arctic Foothold – The Coast Guard’s first evaluation of amphibious craft in the Arctic" https://arktoscraft.com/featured-in-coast-guard-outlook/ Cool kit. What @CoastGuardCAN research & development is there into advanced vehicles to operate in CAN🇨🇦 #Arctic/ North?</p>	
<p>The Naval Association of Canada @navalassn 15 Nov tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Canada's Navy spends a lot of time and effort learning what to do to operate in times of peace or war. Our latest Briefing Note explains Naval Training and Exercises. https://www.navalassoc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/BN41-Naval-Training.pdf</p>	
<p>Brian Santarpia @BrianSantarpia tweeted: It’s great to see allies taking note of how often Canada is sending ships to the Indo-Pacific Region to contribute to peace and security. Reliability and consistency are valued attributes. (Canadian frigate’s crew takes a break on Okinawa during eventful Indo-Pacific patrol https://www.stripes.com/theaters/asia_pacific/2021-11-16/canada-navy-frigate-okinawa-north-korea-patrol-3637276.html)</p> <p>RUSI(NS) retweeted: Indo-Pacific is region in which more CAN🇨🇦 strategists, leaders & general public should pay attention. What is CAN foreign policy & strategy (whole-of-government) for relations with states in region?</p>	

IAMSPonline @IAMSPonline 16 Nov tweeted: China To Build New Heavy Icebreaker and Lift Vessel for Arctic <https://www.highnorthnews.com/en/china-build-new-heavy-icebreaker-and-lift-vessel-arctic>
CDNShipbuilders @CDNShipbuilders17 Nov retweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: An update on Chinese #Arctic initiatives. #cdnships #maritime #shipbuilding



"First members of military contingent arrive in B.C. to assist with flood recovery" <https://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/first-members-of-military-contingent-arrive-in-b-c-to-assist-with-flood-recovery>
@RCAF_ARC helos&fixed-wing a/c have already been providing assistance. Regional Joint Task Forces deploying ground forces to assist BC in #OpLENTUS
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-lentus.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 RUSI(NS) by noon Thursday.

What Worked, What Didn't at Army's Second Connect-Everything Experiment

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2021/11/armys-second-connect-everything-experiment-reveals-progress-future-hurdles/186783/>

Reading the article reminds me of the Joint Warrior Interoperability Demonstrations of the 1990s, when companies and military gathered in a huge netted scenario to try and get feedback about various (usually information) technology. The US Army's connect-everything experiment is not a new approach, though like the JWID can work well. Also similar to the JWID, the list of "what needs work" is familiar - just getting technology to exchange information in order to provide 'situation awareness' still seems to be one of the biggest challenges. Even within the Canadian Armed Forces of the 1990s, that was so. The wry comment was that services were better able to talk to allies of the same environment (e.g., Royal Canadian Navy with US Navy) than with other services of the same nationality.



Australian-UK-US nuclear submarine deal exposes civilian-military links

<https://thebulletin.org/2021/11/australian-uk-us-nuclear-submarine-deal-exposes-civilian-military-links/>

Putting aside the various advocacies in the article (and the different use from the military of 'civilian- military links'),



it does make a good point that operating a nuclear-powered navy is best (can only be?) done with a capable civil nuclear power industry. Something for Canadian decision makers to consider when looking at replacement of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) current Victoria-class diesel-powered submarines. Is our nuclear power industry strong enough to support a navy with nuclear-powered ships? To operate under ice in the Canadian Arctic, the RCN might have to go with air-independent power and/or take advantage of improved battery technology.

Shipbuilding: Turning the Tide

<https://www.renewcanada.net/feature/shipbuilding-turning-the-tide/>



" 'Building ships under the NSS (National Shipbuilding Strategy) is just the beginning,' he adds. 'Forty per cent of the cost of a ship is the purchase of it. The rest is maintenance over the life of the ship. When you build a professional base, for example, a support network, there is a longevity to it. The ships will be around for 30 to 40 years, and they have to be maintained. Our hope is that a robust commercial, naval and coast guard fleet will keep us busy in perpetuity.' "

One has to bear in mind, especially when comparing to foreign-built offers, that the costs of Canadian National Shipbuilding Strategy built-ships are not just those of the ships themselves, but includes training operators and maintainers, sparing and infrastructure such as school buildings and jetties. Forty per cent is a good rule-of-thumb.

What with all that has been put into the NSS, it is incumbent on the decision makes, especially in government, to keep the industry viable but continuing to invest in it, placing orders for new builds and conversions of government (all levels) ships.

The Laws of War Don't Apply to the Kabul Drone Strike

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/30116/to-justify-kabul-drone-strikes-us-applied-the-wrong-law>



"One area the Biden administration—and human rights groups—could consider working on is reconceptualizing what it means to include legal advice in conflict zones. Currently, a corps of military lawyers are involved in the kill chain leading up to an attack in countries like the U.S. and Israel. But these professionals are trained to assume it is war law they should be applying to targeting questions. Including human rights lawyers to determine which law should apply, and how to weigh human rights and humanitarian law, in situations other than clear-cut interstate war, would require a new kind of bureaucratic thinking."

Would be interesting to hear what Canadian military lawyers think of this article.

Der Verlorne Haufen: Chapter 1

<https://wavellroom.com/2021/11/01/der-verlorne-haufen-chapter-1-autonomous-warfare/>

"... developed this narrative as part of concept development and design activity with EOS Defence Systems to inform current and future Australian autonomous and remote operations technology development."

Fiction as a means to explore the possibilities of future war (think "Battle of Dorking" from 1871). In this case, too, a means to market a company - hmm, not all corporate releases have to be dry and staid. Anyways, kinda thought provoking. Future casting.

The other chapters (five total as of this posting) can be found by searching the Wavell Room site.



Federal government won't commit to fighter jet timetable as industry worries about delays

<https://o.canada.com/news/national/defence-watch/federal-government-wont-commit-to-fighter-jet-timetable-as-industry-worries-about-delays>



Canadian Foreign Intelligence and the Future of Canada-U.S. Relations

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/canadian-foreign-intelligence-and-future-canada-us-relations>



Belarus Is Laying Tinder for a War. How Will NATO Respond?

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2021/11/belarus-laying-tinder-war-how-will-nato-respond/186796/>



Wheatley ship builder lands \$25M contract to refurbish coast guard lifeboats

<https://www.chathamdailynews.ca/news/local-news/wheatley-ship-builder-lands-25m-contract-to-refurbish-coast-guard-lifeboats>



UK's patrol boat HMS Cutlass completes initial trials

<https://www.navaltoday.com/2021/11/15/uks-patrol-boat-hms-cutlass-completes-initial-trials/>

A commissioned ship of only 10.3 metres length. It is the role and consequent command by a naval officer that leads to be a vessel being considered commissioned (taken into active naval service), not the size or armament of the vessel.

The Royal Canadian Navy will see a string of commissioning ceremonies in the years ahead as ships being built under the National Shipbuilding Strategy are accepted by the Navy from Canadian shipbuilders.



Army Recruiters on TikTok Dance Around Ban To Reach Gen Z

<https://www.defenseone.com/policy/2021/11/army-recruiters-tiktok-dance-around-ban-reach-gen-z/186881/>

What can Canada learn from this?



Matt Gurney: Canada's aging fighter jets will keep on aging because Trudeau has no incentive to replace them

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/matt-gurney-canadas-aging-fighter-jets-will-keep-on-aging-because-trudeau-has-no-incentive-to-replace-them>



Flight plan: How data keeps Canada's new search and rescue planes in the air

<https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/flight-plan-how-data-keeps-canadas-new-search-and-rescue-planes-in-the-air/465354>



Italy to make formal complaint over Chinese takeover of military drones firm

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/exclusive-italy-make-formal-complaint-over-chinese-takeover-military-drones-firm-2021-11-16/>

Italy has passed decrees which "identify the scope of application of the regulation regarding the notification obligation of certain corporate transactions as well as the exercise of special powers (so called "Golden Powers") by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in strategic sectors." (<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=5f4f5566-c62d-4445-be14-396e167b3dec>)



Golden Powers. Hmm, is there something similar within Canadian law? Should there be? There is easily Canadian strategic industries, infrastructure, etc., that we would not want in foreign control, especially Chinese.

Are Naval Forces on the Right Path? Leaders Run Wargame to Check

<https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2021/11/are-naval-forces-right-path-leaders-run-wargame-check/186924/>



One can be confident that our military leaders have wargamed, with the scenario in the Indo-Pacific and elsewhere, to "to help determine whether their decisions about capabilities and platforms have the <military force of choice> on the right path." One wonders whether wargames have included our newly elected Members of Parliament, especially those with relevant appointments, to assist them with understanding of where our military is and is going.

The utilities of wargaming. See: "Canadian Joint Warfare Centre – Wargaming" (<https://rusi-ns.ca/wargaming/>).

Other Sources:

#Arctic

Could the US Lose Access to the Arctic?

<https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/could-us-lose-access-arctic/>

#China

What Will Drive China to War?

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/11/us-china-war/620571/>

Article available on request to RUSI(NS) if you cannot access directly.

#hybrid warfare

The Russian Military Buildup Around Ukraine: Routine, Seasonal Maneuvers

<https://jamestown.org/program/the-russian-military-buildup-around-ukraine-routine-seasonal-maneuvers/>

#Indo-Pacific

A 'Cold War 2.0' Between the US and China

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/cold-war-20-between-us-and-china>

#information operations #NATO

Report implicates Belarus in anti-NATO cyber campaign

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/report-implicates-belarus-in-anti-nato-cyber-campaign/2021/11/16/d3220922-46ff-11ec-beca-3cc7103bd814_story.html

#intelligence

UK Intelligence Agencies and the Commercial Cloud: What Does It All Mean?

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/uk-intelligence-agencies-and-commercial-cloud-what-does-it-all-mean>

Review of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service's (CSIS) Internal Security Branch
<https://nsira-ossnr.gc.ca/nsiras-review-of-the-canadian-security-intelligence-services-csis-internal-security-branch>

#policing

Preparing an Investigative Interview

<https://security.frontline.online/article/2021/1/16897-Preparing-an-Investigative-Interview>

#robots #warfare

The First (and Only) Law of Robotic Warfare

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2021/11/17/the-first-and-only-law-of-robotic-warfare>

#technology

Report to Congress on Emerging Military Technologies

<https://news.usni.org/2021/11/12/report-to-congress-on-emerging-military-technologies-4>

#urban warfare (FUBUA)

Inside the Battle of Shusha, the Urban Fight that Decided Last Year's Nagorno-Karabakh War

<https://mwi.usma.edu/inside-the-battle-of-shusha-the-urban-fight-that-decided-last-years-nagorno-karabakh-war/>

"A great deal of attention has been paid to last year's war in Nagorno-Karabakh by observers who have extracted lessons on subjects ranging from tanks to unmanned platforms. But some of the most important lessons center on urban warfare."

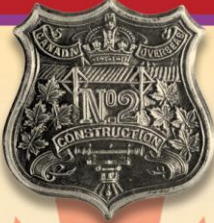
#weapons

What is the significance of the recent Chinese and American tests of Boost-Glide Vehicles? We demystify them

<https://hushkit.net/2021/10/24/what-is-the-significance-of-the-recent-chinese-and-american-tests-of-boost-glide-vehicles-we-demystify-them/>

Other:

**Are you a descendant of the historic No. 2 Construction Battalion?
We want to hear from you!**

Remembering the  *No. 2 Construction Battalion*

**To register and learn more, visit our website or call:
www.no2-cef.ca | 1-833-407-7214**

Search started for descendants of unique First World War unit

Are you a descendant of a member of No. 2 Construction Battalion, also known as “The Black Battalion”? If so, the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia (BCCNS) wants to hear from you and involve you in a milestone event next July.

During the First World War, Black men who wanted to serve King and Country were usually rebuffed when they tried to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force. At the time, unit commanding officers had the authority to accept or reject recruits as they wished. Most chose not to accept Black men, using a variety of excuses.

Despite the discrimination and racism they faced, a few hundred Black men succeeded in enrolling. But more wanted to join. Eventually, pressure from Black community leaders and others convinced the government to accept more Black men.

But there was a catch—a segregated unit would be created. And, although the soldiers were Black, the officers were white. The one exception was the unit chaplain, Honorary Captain the Reverend William Andrew White, one of only a handful of Black Canadian officers during the war.

On July 5, 1916, No. 2 Construction Battalion was established at Pictou, Nova Scotia. As the province had the largest Black population at the time, it was thought it would be the best place to form the unit. When initial numbers of recruits proved disappointing, authority was given to recruit nationally.

No. 2 sailed to Britain in March 1917 and deployed to France in May as a 500-man strong company. The unit spent the rest of the war in the Vosges Mountains of southeastern France, where it assisted companies of the Canadian Forestry Corps in timber operations.

Lumber was a very critical commodity during the First World War, more so than in later wars. It was used for revetting the sides of trenches, duckboards for the bottom of trenches or across muddy terrain, artillery gun platforms, railway ties, ammunition boxes, accommodation huts and many more uses.

When the war ended, the unit returned to Canada and was disbanded in September 1920. The Black Battalion faded into history—unsung.

Over the years, members of the Black community lobbied the federal government for some form of recognition for the men of No. 2 Construction Battalion. On March 28, 2021, then Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan announced the intention of the government to apologize to the descendants of the members of the unit for the racism and discrimination they had faced.

As a result, a No. 2 Construction Battalion Apology National Advisory Committee was formed to assist the government in planning the events associated with the formal apology. Its members come from across Canada and include representatives of the Black Cultural Centre, descendants of the men of the unit, serving CAF members, historians and others with an interest in redressing the discrimination the men of the unit faced.

A series of events is planned for July 5-9, 2022, with the main apology ceremony scheduled for Halifax on July 9, 2022.

Battalion members are listed at www.bccns.com. You or someone you know could be a descendant. If so, please email BCCNS at contact@bccns.com to learn more.

Contact

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Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

China

The first big story is of course a surprise...NOT. Xi has been given his third term as President and leader of everything. Note his disastrous economic policy and woeful attempts to get zero Covid in the country, usually at the expense of the Chinese people. The numbers of Chinese who have died as a result of his lockdown policies is unknown what with the lack of transparency to the rest of the world. There is one thing that has to remain at the forefront of any negotiation with China under Xi, the CCP it is an authoritarian regime that has and is continuing to conduct genocidal operations against Tibetans, Uyghurs and participants in Falun Gong as well as attacks on religious and democratic organizations not only in China but around the world. It will not tell the truth, it will not honour agreements and it will not be transparent, and investors will lose their shirts in the coming years as China returns to a more inward approach, contrary to the “opening up policy” that they will allegedly implement.

The second big story this week is the Biden-Xi virtual meeting. On the face of it, it seems at least the two countries are discussing irritants and issues of considerable importance, such as climate change, trade, human rights and areas of mutual concern such as Taiwan and the South China Sea. Under President Trump, both sides seemed to talk past one another as opposed to listening and it seemed apparent that there was a strong possibility of an accident that might have turned very ugly in a short

period, so being able to at least discuss issues is a vast improvement not only for the two countries but also for the world.

The US view in the media was that the talks were beneficial but China took a triumphant tone in their media stating that the US did not support Taiwanese independence, which has been viewed by over 200m Chinese citizens at this point. What was actually said by the US is that they do not have an opinion on the matter of Taiwan independence. They adhered to the following, based on a statement from the White House: "On Taiwan, President Biden underscored that the United States remains committed to the 'one China' policy, guided by the Taiwan Relations Act, the three Joint Communiqués, and the Six Assurances, and that the United States strongly opposes unilateral efforts to change the status quo or undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," according to a CNN article by Nectar Gan and Steve George on 17 November 2021. It seems that there is very different views of the talk on this point. President Biden stated that any decision regarding Taiwan is the responsibility of the people of Taiwan. Taiwan is a particular irritant to the Chinese, especially since it is now open that US military personnel are involved in training troops in Taiwan. This will continue to fester, but one hopes that dialogue will at least prevent any disasters in the near term. This issue will not go away and time seems to be running out on this issue as China's population starts to drop and their economy deteriorates because of the CCP's changes to regulation of the economy.

China continues to suffer from Covid 19 as their zero Covid policy has brought considerable discomfort and isolation for major cities including portions of Beijing from imposed lockdowns. Far from keeping control of the pandemic China has had long term and continuous incidents of Covid spread. China has consistently lied about its handling of the pandemic and the numbers of people affected. The pandemic has however been seen as a key area for cooperation between China and the US, but we will see as China has been less than open or transparent during the pandemic so far.

On a positive note, the Canadian Senate Conservative caucus is submitting a bill in the Senate effectively to ban goods from Xinjiang. As of July 2020 Canada has banned the import of any goods from anywhere made by forced labour. At the present time, the decision to ban the import of goods is made by Canadian Border Services agents who may not have the necessary knowledge to make such a determination. The new proposed legislation would specifically ban goods from Xinjiang Province, also known as occupied East Turkistan, which the CCP Peoples' Liberation Army invaded and occupied in 1950. Xinjiang is noted for its concentration camps housing as many as one million Uyghurs, as well as generally abusive actions there against the Uyghur population. The actions of the CCP in regard to Uyghurs is by definition a case of cultural genocide.

On a negative note, the CCP Consulate in Vancouver wrote a note that seems to have interfered with a local election. This is the second time that interference of the CCP in Canadian politics has caused concern. In the federal election as many as twenty seats may have shifted as a result of United Front interventions in the Canadian Chinese language press, especially against those politicians who had negative views of the CCP's China. This was not condemned by the Canadian government. There needs to be a thorough review of CCP interference. Australia and New Zealand have both been affected by China's actions, which are documented. It has also been mentioned in detail in Jonathan Manthorpe's book *Claws of the Panda* as well as CSIS reporting. Little has been done to date. This is a serious and ongoing issue.

Belarus

The Belarus regime of Alexander Lukashenko has continued its "grey warfare" campaign using refugees from a variety of countries to cause mayhem for the EU. Poland and Lithuania have both erected barriers against the migrants and have thus far stopped most from getting through the border.

Witnesses have stated that they were “invited” to go to Belarus and then are taken to the border and prevented from crossing by the barrier but unable to move because of Belarussian security forces prevent them from re-entering. Thus large numbers, as high 14 thousand are now trapped. On 17 November the migrants attacked the border in an attempt to cross but were forced back by tear gas and water cannons. According to a correspondent it appeared that some were finally able to head back into Belarus. The EU and others are moving towards new sanctions which will further hurt the regime. The UN Commissioner for Human Rights has also condemned Belarus for its actions. This week another person also expressed growing concern for the actions on the border - Vladimir Putin also questioned the actions at the borders and stated that Russia had nothing to do with the move of migrants, especially as Russia may also be smeared with actions such as the non-certification of the North Stream 2 pipeline. Putin and Lukashenko have not been the best of “friends” and Lukashenko’s actions are causing severe difficulties for President Putin and his regime especially in light of ongoing union negotiations. Although it seems Belarus is taking people back inside, the potential for a major incident is great. It would only take a relatively minor misunderstanding to have armed troops confront one another thus pitting by accident NATO against Russia.

On a related note, Russia just lowered Poland’s oil supply for “maintenance” according to the Moscow Times. This could be an actual maintenance requirement or it could be a very direct action against Poland in support of Belarus. Germany will likely be next as it refused to ratify North Stream 2 pipeline. Russia and its allies have used oil and gas supplies in past, as another method to coerce the EU and non-EU countries in Europe - is it likely to do so again? The answer is yes. Europe has made itself vulnerable to such actions.

Poland

Poland has moved nearly 23k troops to the Polish-Belarus border in support of police stopping Belarus’ attempts to destabilize the EU as punishment for sanctions against the “last Dictator in Europe’s” regime. Poland used tear gas and water cannons against the migrants, but it appeared that towards the end, the migrants were able to re-enter Belarus. Poland, Lithuania, and Ukraine have all closed their borders to migrants at this point.

Poland has also announced plans to double the size of their military to around 300k as a result of recent actions by Russia and Belarus. This is not good; Poland and Russia have a long and nasty history. One cannot blame Poland for Russia’s recent actions and provocations. The potential for a misstep is great at the present time although everyone is now saying the fears of a military action are overblown. Angela Merkle has contacted the President of Belarus three times in the past days to help resolve the issue.

Russia

Russia continues to be plagued with the Covid 19 virus. Russians have shown a great reluctance to get vaccinated with the Russian-produced vaccine called Sputnik V; only slightly more than 30% have now had two shots. As of this week, nearly 9.2m have had the disease with over one million cases being considered active. More than 250k have died per official figures, but a recent survey of excess deaths estimates more than 600 extra folks have died of other causes such as lack of needed medical procedures. Rather than having an improving situation, Russia’s deaths continue to climb to over 1.2k per day. Keep in mind that anecdotally from medical staff the actual numbers could be two to three times the official figures. Russia is one of the worst performing countries in the world.

Russia has issues with virtually all its neighbours, some for minor issues, some because former Soviet states are at each other’s’ throat. On 16 November 2021, Armenian and Azerbaijani troops clashed

using artillery, tanks and other armoured vehicles. Armenia had initially reported 15 dead and several captured as Azerbaijani troops took several fortified areas. Armenia has asked for Russian help. One has to wonder where Russia's peacekeeping force was.

Tajikistan continues to man their borders with Afghanistan with new Russian equipment and with new bases being built by China. The fear is that the Taliban government may pursue anti-Taliban forces across the border or that some organization such as ISIS K may cause significant disruption near the border causing a large flow of Afghan refugees. Tajikistan has already taken in large numbers of Afghans fleeing the Taliban regime. This will be an ongoing issue for the foreseeable future.

Russia is alleged to have massed up to 100k troops near the Ukraine border area. This has caused considerable angst in Ukraine and of course some mobilization of troops for a possible conflict. Ukraine has been buoyed by the recent naval activities of NATO in the Black Sea area including the visit of USS *Mount Whitney*, flagship of the US 6th Fleet, which paid port visits to Georgia, Ukraine Romania and Bulgaria, accompanied by at least one destroyer. Several NATO exercises were held including ones where US strategic bombers made an appearance. Russia declared this to be a destabilizing action and were quite upset. The real problem is that the assembled NATO naval power would have been sufficient to overwhelm Russian fleet assets thus NATO is making a major point that the Black Sea is not a Russian lake.

Russia shot down an old spy satellite this week creating more than 1500 pieces of debris to further clutter up the skies. The International Space Station's crew had to move to their "life boats" as a precaution. Russia denied this was a problem but this was not received well internationally. It is becoming clear that the larger powers can and are militarising space in a kinetic way and that this will have to be an ongoing concern for the entire world.

VAC Moral Injury Project - Veteran Participation

The Dallaire Institute is pleased to announce that applications are now being considered for veteran participation in a research study to examine the nature of experiences that military personnel have faced that relate to observing or engaging with child soldiers during their service, and how have these experiences affected them: morally, spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically. Details on applying for this study are covered in the posters at the end of *Dispatches*."

L'Institut Dallaire est heureux d'annoncer que des candidatures sont maintenant prises en considération pour la participation d'anciens combattants à une étude de recherche visant à examiner la nature des expériences vécues par les militaires en ce qui concerne l'observation ou l'engagement avec des enfants soldats pendant leur service, et comment ces expériences ont-elles été les a touchés : moralement, spirituellement, émotionnellement et psychologiquement. Les détails sur la candidature à cette étude sont couverts dans les affiches à la fin des *Dispatches*.

Seeking Research Study Participants

Researchers from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security, Western University, Lawson Health Research Institute, and the MacDonald Franklin Operational Stress Injury Research Centre, are conducting a study to understand the impacts of encountering children recruited and used as soldiers on military personnel, and the

We are seeking individuals who:

- Are veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces
- Ages 18 and older and living in Canada
- Have witnessed or engaged with children recruited and used as soldiers, to participate in the study.

training and supports that are needed.

Participants will be asked to participate in a 1 hour private interview about their experiences relating to child soldiers and the impacts on their well-being, as well as experiences with coping or seeking help.

- Interviews will be conducted virtually using WebEx (details and assistance will be provided).
- Participants will be compensated for their time.

If you are interested in participating, or would like more information, please phone or e-mail Sharon Bernards, Project Coordinator, at (519) 281-6182 or Sharon.Bernards@camh.ca

The security of information sent by e-mail cannot be guaranteed. Please do not communicate personal sensitive information by e-mail.

Principal Investigator: Samantha Wells, PhD
CAMH REB# 045/2021, Sep 22, 2021

For information about programs and services at CAMH, please visit www.camh.ca or call 416-535-8501 (or 1-800-463-4273)



Participants et participantes à une étude de recherche demandés

Des chercheurs et chercheuses du Centre de toxicomanie et de santé mentale (CAMH), de l'Institut Dallaire pour les enfants, la paix et la sécurité, de l'Université Western, de l'Institut de recherche en santé Lawson et du Centre de recherche MacDonald Franklin sur les blessures de stress opérationnel mènent actuellement une étude afin de comprendre les séquelles qu'ont laissés sur les militaires les contacts avec des enfants recrutés et utilisés comme soldats et d'évaluer la formation et les appuis nécessaires pour leur venir en aide.

Nous sommes à la recherche de personnes répondant aux critères suivants pour participer à l'étude :

- membres retraités.es des Forces armées canadiennes
- avoir au moins 18 ans et vivant au Canada
- avoir vu des enfants recrutés et utilisés comme soldats ou avoir été en contact avec de tels enfants.

Les participants seront invités à une entrevue privée d'une heure portant sur leurs expériences relativement aux enfants soldats et les répercussions de celles-ci sur leur bien-être et aussi sur leurs expériences en matière d'adaptation ou de recherche d'aide.

- Les entrevues se feront de manière virtuelle au moyen de WebEx (renseignements et assistance seront fournis).
- Les participants.es seront rémunérés pour le temps qu'ils/elles nous accorderont.

Si vous voulez participer ou souhaitez en savoir davantage, veuillez communiquer avec Stephanie Belanger par téléphone, au 613-539-2936.

La sécurité des renseignements envoyés par courriel ne peut être garantie. Veuillez ne pas communiquer d'informations personnelles sensibles par e-mail.

Chercheuse principale : Samantha Wells, Ph. D.

Comité d'éthique de la recherche de CAMH, n° 045-2021, 22 sep 2021 Fr

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