



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Dispatches

3 December 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).

The December 2021 issue of *Home Dispatches* is being put together. Contributions of commentaries, anecdotes, etc., from the membership would be welcome.

Events:

There is no RUSI(NS) event scheduled for December. Enjoy the holidays!

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.

6 December, Monday - Naval Association of Canada invites RUSI(NS) members to their December event with Dr Andrea Charron, speaking on NORAD Renewal. 19:00 - 21:00 Eastern time. To register: <https://nac-o.wildapricot.org/event-4461475>. See content at end of *Dispatches*.

New: 7 December, Tuesday - eorgetown University Wargaming Society speaker John Curry “Hiding in Plain Sight: Connecting Commercial and Professional Wargames.” 1300-1500 AST. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hiding-in-plain-sight-connecting-commercial-and-professional-wargames-tickets-151112524629>

9 December, Thursday - Navy League of Canada Maritime Affairs Luncheon with RAdm (ret'd) Simon Page, PSPC ADM Defence and Marine Procurement. 12:15-1 pm. See poster at end of *Dispatches*.

New: 14 December, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society speaker Nick Kristof USN (ret'd) "War at Sea: Naval Warfare at the Operational Level of War." 1900-2100 AST. By Zoom. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/war-at-sea-naval-warfare-at-the-operational-level-of-war-tickets-212184107377>

Publications:

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

New: RUSI(NS) Presentation “Canadian Coast Guard Arctic Region – Implementation and Successes” by Assistant Commissioner Neil O’Rourke, 29 Nov 21

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

RUSI(NS) Presentation “Royal Canadian Navy – Globally Deployed for Strategic Effect” by Rear-Admiral Brian Santarpia, 27 October 2021

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

RUSI(NS) Presentation “Casualty Identification Program” by Dr Sarah Lockyer, 20 October 2021

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

New: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 1 December 2021 edition

https://send.successbyemail.com/prvw_message2.aspx?chno=052ba50c-0955-49ee-8427-74b9bf7bb941

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

Maritime Engineering Journal Fall 2021

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

Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XXXIX Number 11 December 2021.

New: Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, December 2021.

<https://rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/88-rausi-dispatches-december-2021>

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

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

New: Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch *Scuttlebutt*, December 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) *Defence Update*, Volume 9, Issue 5, 29 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.

Canadian Armed Forces Operations @CFOperations 21 Nov tweeted: Good hunting, @HMCSHarryDeWolf! On Nov 8, 2021, while deployed on Operation CARIBBE, the USCG LEDET embarked aboard HMCS Harry DeWolf conducted a successful boarding of a vessel of interest off the West coast of Mexico, resulting in the seizure of 1300kg (1.3 tonnes) of cocaine.

RUSI(NS) retweeted: Demonstrating inherent flexibility of @RoyalCanNavy warships, whether frigates or patrol vessels. Multi-role, able to conduct constabulary or safety actions at short notice. #OpCARIBBE=CAN🇨🇦-US counter-narcotics ops in Caribbean Sea & eastern Pacific Ocean <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-perations/operation-caribbe.html/>



Canadian Armed Forces @CanadianForces 22 Nov tweeted: We have confirmed the identification of a previously unknown grave as being that of Corporal George Herbert Ledingham, a Canadian soldier of the First World War.

<https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2021/11/canadian-soldier-of-the-first-world-war-identified0.html>

(Canadian soldier of the First World War identified)

RUSI(NS) retweeted: Bravo, another welcome success for Dr Lockyer @S_Lockyer & @NationalDefence Casualty Identification Program https://rusi-ns.ca/casualty_identificaton_program/ & <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/casualty-identification-military/casualty-identification-program.html>

We all can help: "Register to help identify Canadian war dead with no known grave"

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/casualty-identification-military/register-missing-military-family.html>



The Naval Association of Canada @navalasn 27 Nov tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: The Fall 2021 issue of Starshell Magazine is now available, and includes a new article on Ballistic Missile Defence by @adam_lajeunesse and @TimDotChoi.

<https://www.navalassoc.ca/naval-affairs/starshell/>



Canadian Coast Guard @CoastGuardCAN 28 Nov tweeted: #CCGLive: Our thoughts are with Canadians in Newfoundland struggling with the aftermath of severe storms. We are proud to support the province at this challenging time by transporting goods to the community of Port aux Basques with our Bell 412 helicopter. RUSI(NS) retweeted: Assistance to CAN province request for assistance in response to natural disaster can & should be whole-of-government. Great to see @CoastGuardCAN helicopters transporting goods to NL communities. Can be assured #CCG is coordinating with other gov't departments at all levels



.@NATO Review "Hybrid Warfare – New Threats, Complexity, and ‘Trust’ as the Antidote"
<https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2021/11/30/hybrid-warfare-new-threats-complexity-and-trust-as-the-antidote/index.html> "gained significant currency&relevance...as states employ non-state actors&info tech to subdue adversaries during or—more importantly—in absence of direct armed conflict"



The Naval Association of Canada @navalassn 30 Nov tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: The newest addition to the NAADSN Engage Series is out today, and it deserves to be read widely. "Debating Arctic Security: Selected Writings by Rob Huebert and P. Whitney Lackenbauer, 2010-2021" is available online. <https://www.naadsn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/DebatingArcticSecurity-RH-PWL-nov2021.pdf>



"Government of Canada announces key milestone in process to replace Canada's fighter jets"
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/11/government-of-canada-announces-key-milestone-in-process-to-replace-canadas-fighter-jets.html> @CanadianForces Future Fighter Capability Project to provide 88 replacements for @RCAF_ARC #CF188 Hornet fighter aircraft, 1st delivery 2025
<https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/app-acq/amd-dp/air/snac-nfps/CF-18-eng.html>



Information Operations

The tweet threads of these two posts (the first was the one with the image below) are well worth reading:

<https://twitter.com/ZaknafeinDC/status/1464600182654447626>

and

<https://twitter.com/CharERobertson/status/1464602003842215937>

"Is there a reason why only a very small part of the Army do Info Ops? Why is it not embedded in all that we do?"

...and who the adversary is.

In net-centric war, reality is secondary in relation to virtual. The image is much more important than reality. Reality itself becomes real only after reports about it appear in the informational dimension, and therefore, the major factor is control of the informational dimension. The one, who controls the informational dimension, controls everything. Informational support of war stops being a secondary supporting factor (as classic propaganda was), but becomes the *raison d'être* of war. In essence, a war has become informational, [where] military operations have only a secondary supporting role.¹⁸

Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia:

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Ottawa declines Boeing's bid to replace Canada's aging fighter jet fleet

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/boeing-fighter-jets-1.6262851>



Feeding the Bear: A Closer Look at Russian Army Logistics and the Fait Accompli

<https://warontherocks.com/2021/11/feeding-the-bear-a-closer-look-at-russian-army-logistics/>

"Amateurs talk tactics, professionals discuss logistics."

Geo-strategic assessments have to include logistics considerations.



Nixon's Thumbprint

<https://wavelroom.com/2021/11/24/nixons-thumbprint/>

"... rather than equipping and funding our local allies, perhaps co-opting local auxiliaries may be considerably more effective as a lasting strategic solution."



Democracy Summit

An article called "Chinese, Russian ambassadors to US voice against upcoming summit for democracy"

(<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1240059.shtml>) by the Global Times on 27 November 2021 is an amazing piece of disinformation, or as we say in the Maritimes, a lie. This one is a whopper.

The Russian and Chinese ambassadors to the US are complaining about President Biden's "Summit for Democracy" where 110 countries have been invited to a virtual summit on 9 and 10 December 2021. Guess who wasn't invited? The two most authoritarian states that have committed murders, eliminated opposition, tore down democratic institutions and silenced critics of any sort. One country is even conducting culturally genocidal acts on an ongoing basis to its minorities.



These "gentlemen" complained that this shows a cold war mentality, trying to divide the world into camps. I have to say they are correct, especially at a time when autocratic regimes seem to be flourishing. The liberal democratic countries have to stand up to the ravages that these two countries are creating. Neither country has rule of law and can only be compared to organized crime syndicates, each ruled by a supreme crime boss who have major ego problems. So the world is divided and there is such a thing as right and wrong. One just has to watch the antics and actions of these two countries as

they intimidate smaller neighbours, as we have seen in even this past week with Taiwan and Ukraine. The time to call out these regimes is now. It is also time to get away from ambiguity, especially with China in regard to Taiwan. Taiwan is a functioning liberal democracy; any action by China to take Taiwan by force should be met with equal force and there should be no ambiguity about what this will mean.

We find ourselves with two authoritarian regimes threatening conflict if they are opposed on their actions in regard to their neighbours. This is similar to 1936 and 1938 for the Sudetenland and Czechoslovakia respectively. In both cases the democracies caved into their demands and people found themselves under a brutal dictatorship. We have seen with Hong Kong and in the Donbass region that similar things have occurred. Taiwan is a liberal democracy and Ukraine is trying hard to be one and now they face a similar threatening authoritarian regimes. The question is will we appease the authoritarians again? One is reminded of the Edmund Burke quotation, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." And so we find ourselves here once again. Let us hope for the best but expect the worst, it is time to prepare.

The Polar Silk Road Will be Cleared With Chinese Icebreakers

<https://maritime-executive.com/editorials/opinion-the-polar-silk-road-will-be-cleared-with-chinese-icebreakers>



China does not have more heavy icebreakers than Canada. Xuelong (ice class ~equivalent to PC7 or Ice 1A) and Xuelong 2 (PC3) are both classed as "icebreaking research vessels" not "icebreakers." The difference is important. Ships assigned an ice class notation and complying with relevant class requirements may be given additional notation "icebreaker." Both of Canada's heavy icebreakers (ice class ~PC3) meet this these requirements. "Icebreaker" refers to any ship having an operational profile that includes escort or ice management functions, having powering and dimensions that allow it to undertake aggressive operations in ice-covered waters.

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Comment: The Polar Class Rules (PC Rules) were formalized and began to be adopted by individual classifications societies (e.g., Lloyds Register) after 2000. The rules consist of seven PC classes from PC1 to PC7 with the former being the strongest and the latter being the weakest. The lowest two classes, PC6 and PC7, are approximately equivalent to the Finnish-Swedish Ice Class Rules (for Baltic navigation) two highest ice classes 1AS and 1A respectively.

Equivalency between PC ice classes and individual countries ice classes are approximations, as they are fully dependent on what design element is being assessed for comparison.

Vessels may also have additional ice strengthening dependent on the area, season and ice conditions in which they may operate. The Royal Canadian Navy's Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessel, for example, is assigned ice class PC5. Even though it has additional strengthening to the PC4 level in the bow and stern ice belts reflecting the risk of occasional encounters with multi-year ice, the remainder of the hull and the propulsion train are designed to the PC5 level and thus the assigned ice class is based on those aspects.

The Navy is testing a GPS-like device that doesn't require satellites

<https://taskandpurpose.com/news/navy-muon-navigation-arctic-circle/>

"Unlike GPS signals, cosmic ray muons are a natural source of radiation that can pass through rock, buildings and earth and can be used at high latitudes north of the Arctic Circle, where GPS satellites do not work well due to their orbital constraints ..."

"The ability to navigate in polar regions will be of increasing importance in the coming decades as climate change is opening up Arctic waterways to commercial and military activities ..."

Precise navigation at high latitudes or underwater? Now, that would be a tremendous advance for both civil and military use. The application of advanced science to 'navigation warfare' (NAVWAR) and just plain ol' safety.



Japan Plans To Double Military Spending In Rush To Bolster Air And Sea Defenses

<https://gcaptain.com/japan-double-military-spending-in-rush-to-bolster-air-and-sea-defenses/>

As Canada dithers about purchasing an inadequate number of fighter aircraft, slows the production of the surface combatant ships, ignores the needs of combat and combat-support vehicles, and fosters a military population with too few personnel and a reserve force that is perhaps one-sixth the size it should be, Japan has recognized that the world is troubled and they are expressing that concern in doubling its defence budget.

We may not have the luxury of foreknowledge of a future conflict. It will be a "come as you are" party, and I fear that we will lose many Canadian service personnel for the lack of attention, training and equipment.



Taiwan sends jets after 27 Chinese planes enter buffer zone

<https://www.militarytimes.com/flashpoints/2021/11/28/taiwan-sends-jets-after-27-chinese-planes-enter-buffer-zone/>

It is poor writing to use the term 'buffer zone.' The Chinese aircraft flew in Taiwan's air defense identification zone, something that law allows. 'Buffer zone' is undefined and imprecise, and using it as it has been implies an incursion into Taiwan's sovereign airspace, something that would call for much stronger international response. Such wording can be inflammatory, especially these days. There is enough ratcheting up of international tensions, by all parties, as it is these days.

Though 'buffer zone' may be the headline editor's choice as a form of lede, to attract readers' attention, it is a form of 'influence activity' (propaganda?) that should not be applied on the readership.



Rank has its privileges when facing courts martial in Canada

<https://www.saltwire.com/halifax/opinion/tim-dunne-rank-has-its-privileges-when-facing-courts-martial-in-canada-100661250/>



As Russia masses its troops, Canadian soldiers in Eastern Europe keep watch

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/canada-ukraine-russia-military-1.6267674>



The Nail that Sticks Out Gets Hammered Down

<https://www.jewishpolicycenter.org/2021/11/30/the-nail-that-sticks-out-gets-hammered-down/>

Strategy.



Combat Ready

<http://publications.canadianarmytoday.com/v5i2/#p=49>

The author, Major Tim Dunne, Canadian Army (retired), is a member of the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia.



Competition for Canada's new fighter jets down to two after Boeing ejected

<https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/canadian-press-newsalert-boeing-officially-out-of-canadian-fighter-jet-competition>

"... the top-secret Canada-U.S. intelligence network known as "Two Eyes," which is used to defend North America." I don't think 'two eyes' is a common expression in the military. Certainly not one I have heard. Much more common is "CANUS."

First aircraft delivery in 2025 could be ambitious.



BTW, the Canadian Hornet is the CF-188 (actually, CF188 within the Royal Canadian Air Force). The use of "CF-18" by media continues a mis-reporting (albeit the RCAF accepts CF-18 for its Demonstration Hornet).

Commander NORAD completes first visit to Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2021/11/commander-norad-completes-first-visit-to-canada.html>

"Discussions focused on the strong Canadian-American defence partnership and current efforts to strengthen continental defence and modernize NORAD – a key component of Canada's defence policy, Strong, Secure, Engaged. Discussions also addressed the evolving nature of current and future conflicts, the strategic importance of the Arctic, and the technological advances being developed to assist in all-domain awareness and decision-making processes."



Range Limits, Enemy Snooping Are Leading Naval Services to More Virtual Training

<https://www.defenseone.com/policy/2021/11/range-limits-enemy-snooping-are-leading-naval-services-more-virtual-training-corps/187178/>



"Virtual training environments are becoming more important as the naval services work around the limits of physical ranges and try to keep adversaries from snooping on new concepts and tactics ..."

These are issues for the Canadian Armed Forces, too. Need more 'federated battle labs,' networked trainers and simulators, and the like.

"... tracking the training and performance of a service member over time and space ..."

Possible, when one considers the personal tracking and reporting technology already available in the civil (e.g., health and fitness) sector. Some may consider it intrusive, but is it really any different than the (often paper-based) systems currently in place? Well, military leadership has for years been saying the most important asset in the military is people.

Other Sources:

#Arctic

US Army to regain Arctic dominance

<https://defence-blog.com/us-army-to-regain-arctic-dominance/>

#Canadian Armed Forces

CAF improves promotion selection process, beginning with General and Flag Officers

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2021/11/caf-improves-promotion-selection-process.html>

Admiral McDonald and Procedural Fairness in the Canadian Forces

<http://roryfowlerlaw.com/admiral-mcdonald-and-procedural-fairness-in-the-canadian-forces/>

#China

China military watch

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/china-military-watch-12/>

#drones

A cascading catastrophe: The drone threat to critical infrastructure

<https://thebulletin.org/2021/11/a-cascading-catastrophe-the-drone-threat-to-critical-infrastructure/>

#Indo-Pacific

Evolving Missions and Capabilities of the PLA Rocket Force: Implications for Taiwan and Beyond

<https://jamestown.org/program/evolving-missions-and-capabilities-of-the-pla-rocket-force-implications-for-taiwan-and-beyond/>

#information operations

Understanding the Pro-China Propaganda and Disinformation Tool Set in Xinjiang

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/understanding-pro-china-propaganda-and-disinformation-tool-set-xinjiang>

#intelligence

Domain Awareness Superiority Is the Future of Military Intelligence

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/English-Edition-Archives/November-December-2021/Ryder-Domain-Awareness/>

#training

Why Do We Fall? Learning From Failure and Defeat During Training

<https://wvrellroom.com/2018/01/15/why-do-we-fall-learning-from-failure-and-defeat-during-training/>

#warfare

#land

Brigade Combat Teams

<https://wvrellroom.com/2021/11/26/brigade-combat-team-bct>

#urban

Urban Warfare: An Annotated Bibliography

<https://researchcentre.army.gov.au/library/other-papers-aarc-collection/urban-warfare-annotated-bibliography>

#wargaming

The Craft of Wargaming: Best Practices for Defense Wargaming

video presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0j0-bmHw7eE>

Other:

NATO Defense College Publications

<https://www.ndc.nato.int/research/research.php?icode=6#>

Note latest: The future of NATO

NATO Multimedia Library Acquisitions List October-December 2021
https://www.natolibguides.info/ld.php?content_id=10701615

RAF Air and Space Power Publications
<https://www.raf.mod.uk/what-we-do/centre-for-air-and-space-power-studies/publications/>

Cultural Advisor

Came across the acronym CULAD in reading a tweet thread, the one mentioned above in *Dispatches* about information operations. It was not familiar so had to look it up: CULAD = Cultural Advisor.

That was intriguing, and a quick google provided from the NATO Allied Command Transformation Future Solutions Branch:

Duties of the military Cultural Advisor

<https://www.innovationhub-act.org/sites/default/files/Duties%20of%20the%20military%20Cultural%20Advisor.pdf>

CAF Wargame Advisor

David Redpath shared a post on LinkedIn 29 Nov 21: First pilot course of the CAF Wargame Advisor qualification at the Canadian Joint Warfare Centre (CJWC) last week was a really good start to our campaign plan - our thanks to all of the very enthusiastic participants and the whole team that made it all happen - especially coming straight off a major wargame just prior. The participants learnt the key aspects of advising their units and commands how to use wargaming tools and techniques and importantly how to utilise the assets available from the CJWC #wargames #canadianarmedforces #professionalwargaming #canadianprofessionalgaming #gamedesign

Holiday Reading

Two books on sale:

Top Secret Canada: Understanding the Canadian Intelligence and National Security Community
<https://utorontopress.com/9781487525279/top-secret-canada/>

Stand on Guard: Reassessing Threats to Canada's National Security
<https://utorontopress.com/9781487524517/stand-on-guard/>

Der Verlorne Haufen

<https://wavelroom.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."

This article was originally included in *Dispatches* 19 Nov 21, with the comments in the next paragraph. The story is now up to ten chapters; all can be found at: <https://wavelroom.com/?s=Haufen>



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.

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O Canada

The US has requested that Canada fulfill its United Nations commitments which are minimal at best. Currently there are 57 Canadian military and police on UN duty, up from an all-time low of 34. Canada has offered the UN a 200 person rapid reaction force, helicopters and a transport plane, none of which is in place although the transport is usually made available with notice. Once again Canada has embarrassed itself by failing to meet even the most minimalist targets whether from NATO and the 2%, NORAD and the renewal of the ancient North Warning System and new fighter aircraft for minimalist air defence, or the United Nations.

The new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Melanie Joli, is at least meeting the troops and attending a NATO meeting of foreign ministers in Latvia this week. There are videos of her addressing members of the Royal 22 Regiment at their base in Latvia before they head out to a major exercise to show NATO solidarity. There is even some talk of more Canadian troops being sent to Ukraine and our training mission there. Canadian efforts are once again being penny-packeted out to various missions as opposed to a major single deployment. Still, an improvement to start paying attention to a rapidly deteriorating international situation in Europe and in the Farr East.

Russia

Russia continues to suffer from the pandemic virus with the daily death toll stubbornly staying above 1200 with more than 33k new cases per day and coming close to 10m cases in total. More importantly, Russia's own disinformation campaign against vaccination found a willing anti-vaxxer population in Russia. There have even been riots and demonstrations this week against proposed vaccination passes even within government controlled legislatures around the country. Only 35% of Russians are fully vaccinated. Russia has amongst the highest percentage of vaccine skeptics in the world. Talk about being hoisted on your own petard, but the ones that have suffered have been the Russian citizen. President Putin himself has essentially been hidden away from anyone for months in all but the most controlled circumstances although he has had his own vaccination shots. The other side effect is that his own popularity continues to slide to around 30% despite the hold on media by the regime and the ongoing attacks on media outlets and individuals. One has to wonder about the longer-term survivability of his regime or will even more dramatic actions will be taken by Putin's security forces to cow the general population. One can do that for a while but longer term it is not a healthy situation.

Speaking of forces, Russia's security forces including the National Guard are actually bigger than the whole of the armed forces. Most are paramilitary and have trained in an internal security role, one might also add, used in an internal security role and noted for heavy handedness. This being said, these security forces have to be considered in any force comparison. Nationally, the head of the National Guard actually takes command instead of the armed forces. The National Guard was set up by President Putin and they answer to him, thus the armed forces and national security troops are fully under the Putin personal authority and not the Duma or other organs of government.

Russian troops have been massing near the Ukraine border and the figure 100k is often used. There are other forces to consider such as the rebels in the Donbass which are somewhere around 40k with tanks and heavy weapons. There are also a large number of Russian troops in occupied Crimea including a

large portion of an airborne division, naval infantry as well as air and naval forces. The troops allegedly massing are likely from the 1st Tank Army and 20th Combined Army. They may have been augmented by troops from the Central Military District. The last wild card is Belarussian forces. Although they have a much smaller security force, they are about 10 k strong and seem to have kept the lid on anti-Lukashenko elements, thus at least part of these forces may be able to be used in any attack, not to mention Russian security forces in place in Belarus to assist the regime against opposition elements. The number of troops available for an attack on Ukraine could be considerably higher in number than 100k. The question is, what does Russia gain by attacking Ukraine? Yes, Putin has stated that Ukrainians and Russians are one people, but the successful outcome of an attack is questionable or is this a series of pressure tactics? Both are possible depending on how much pain the Putin regime is willing to take especially in light of less than popular polls including Putin's personal popularity and the ongoing participation of Russian forces in a number of conflicts. Still, an outside enemy and conflict are a tried and true method of short term popularity for a strong man.

The Ukraine is an issue for Russia, Kiev is the capital of the Rus, the original Russians so to speak. When Russian leadership talk of Ukrainians and Russians being one people, they do have a point to a degree. Ukraine is in Putin's word a "red line" as is the arming of the Ukraine by the West. Putin would rather see Ukraine with a friendly pro-Russian government as part of the Russian sphere of influence. Needless to say, Putin lost any chance of a friendly government after he occupied Crimea and started a Russian-led rebellion in the Donbass. This past week Putin has stated that the real cause of the rising tension is NATO intransigence giving examples such as the British destroyer sailing through Russian territorial waters (actually Ukrainian waters as Russia's occupation of Crimea is not recognized), increased NATO activity in the Black Sea, US nuclear capable bombers flying 20 kms off the Russian coast, etc., forgetting to note Russia's own aggressive actions in the Arctic, Baltic, Black Sea, Ukraine and many African countries nor mentioning Russian undersea reconnaissance of the trans-Atlantic cables. In the course of his most recent interview, he in fact made a threat of war. Is he bluffing or has he lost any respect for NATO's actions? NATO's main partner, the US, has usually backed off in recent past but Russia and Belarus are continuing to push boundaries that are unacceptable now. Is NATO bluffing; is Ukraine bluffing? There are too many moving parts to know. Any move of an aggressive nature such as crossing a recognized border or frontier is likely to get out of control very quickly. The end is not certain.

Belarus

Alexander Lukashenko stated on Tuesday, 30 November 2021, that he will accept Russian nuclear weapons if NATO deploys similar systems. This further supports the Putin regime's rhetoric regarding NATO crossing the Russian regime's red lines. Whether Russia would ever put its nuclear weapons in the hands of someone who has been less than honest in his dealings with Moscow is an interesting question. It would be interesting to see what safeguards Russia might impose, such as positioning major formations in Belarus. More importantly, despite his faults and there are many, Lukashenko has always tried to avoid too close an entanglement with Russia fearing the loss of his country's sovereignty. I expect he will continue to walk that increasingly narrow line.

Last week, as was mentioned in last week's note, he was still trying to get the EU to negotiate with him. He actually told migrants to go to the border and cross after his attempt to have Germany take 2000 migrants while Belarus would remove at least 5000. Some have been flown home mainly at the request of the home country. Belarus is backing down at least a little bit as most migrants have been removed from the border to a large warehouse complex. This episode is not over as yet but it has gone from boiling to a simmer. Whether the Lukashenko regime tries this type of action again, is another question entirely, all they have succeeded in doing is acquiring a large number of refugees inside Belarus who have to be cared for by the government. Despite their attempts to win an influence

activity victory by portraying themselves as the good guys and helping migrants, it has generally fallen flat. Even the less democratic governments involved on the EU side have found support from across Europe. The general public viewed this as an attack and are not likely to improve their outlook of the Lukashenko regime. More sanctions have been or soon will be put in place. This is not over yet.

Ukraine

Last Friday, 26 November 2021, President Zelensky announced that Ukrainian security forces had stopped a coup attempt by Russian and pro-Russian elements. One prominent name stuck out, Renat Akhmetov, the richest man in Ukraine. Throughout his term as president, President Zelensky has waged a not too subtle war against the oligarchs. There is some thought that this is a way to sideline Mr Akhmetov from political maneuvering and keep him off balance or he might actually be involved. The bottom line is that a coup attempt was planned and thwarted. It will allow for a “cleaning of the house” in Ukraine as it prepares for further Russian aggression.

In a response to the Russian build-up along its borders, Ukraine has also called for a major exercise of Ukrainian forces including live fire exercises. Ukraine has acquired two new systems and have used them effectively against rebel forces in the Donbass. Ukraine has acquired the US-developed Javelin missile anti-tank and Turkish drones which were the same type used effectively by Azerbaijan against Armenia. Several armoured vehicles were destroyed by the drones.

Jens Stoltenberg has warned Russia to lower the level of threat and to stand down. He also stated that Russia would pay a steep price if they did attack. Russia in turn, has stated that they are just exercising and will head back their normal garrisons. Russian President Putin has also said that delivery of NATO weapons to Ukraine.

China

China and Russia state they are deepening their mutual cooperation and trust and are building new relationships that broaden all aspects of life from people-to-people exchanges to academic research to military exercises, according to the Global Times 30 November 2021. These two countries act and talk like this is a real relationship filled with mutual admiration and true friendship. Sounds inspiring to follow the way of Xi and achieving a win-win for both nations. Reality is somewhat different. Remember several months ago, a Chinese ‘wolf warrior’ stated that a Russian city in the East of Russia was celebrating its 160th anniversary of its founding - the wolf warrior said it was actually a Chinese city taken by the Russians. How can one forget that a huge portion of the Russian armed forces is not oriented towards the west but south and east as part of the Russian Eastern Military District or that its second largest fleet is in the Pacific. Russia always has been leery of China, remembering conflict along the Amur River starting in a 1652 border war and lasting until 1689 or the more recent Soviet - Chinese war of 1969. Russia is also aware that the east only has about 20m people mainly found along the coast with vast expanses of underpopulated areas and that China has developed a ravenous appetite of resources. One might think things have changed, but Russia stopped delivery of the S-400 air defence missile system and accused China of intellectual theft this year although they are delivering the same missile to China’s rival, India. Yes, it sounds like a system built on trust with daggers hidden behind the back but ready for use.

Let us talk about the real important stuff such as tennis and Peng Shuai the Chinese tennis star who on social media accused a retired member of the central standing committee, Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli and a member of Chinese Olympic bid team, of sexual assault. Chinese leadership was horrified that this information came out less than 100 days before the start of the Beijing Winter Olympics. Zhang has not been seen since. It is possible he is enjoying the comforts of one of China’s many black

prisons. He is not a Xi man, but rather a supporter of Jiang Zemin, an arch rival of Xi for power and influence. A large part of Xi's work has been to eliminate his rival's influence. The other piece that is interesting information is that Peng actually was a voluntary mistress initially however she was unceremoniously dumped by Zhang when he became Vice-Premier. It is later during the Olympic bid that he forced himself upon her against her will. The CCP leadership does not like that kind of issue drawing attention to their lifestyles and corruption. In the meantime, there have been videos and pictures of Peng on social media although information is getting harder to come by because of CCP censorship of the whole situation. One picture I think was beautiful and speaks to Peng's courage, it shows her smiling in a selfie holding "Kung Foo Panda" toy however in the background is a framed photo of an unidentified individual and "Winnie the Pooh," that is outstanding. I hope Winnie appreciates the acknowledgement.

China's third aircraft carrier is about to enter the water shortly; it is large nearly the size of a US fleet carrier. Its estimated in service time is 2025 or so. One thing that I have learned from my naval brethren is that first-in-class ships are always a bit of a nightmare no matter how competent the builder. They are so complicated that it is hard to get everything right. We have seen this with the *Gerald R. Ford* trials and workups where many things seemed to go awry. These issues are not likely to occur on her new sisters the *John F. Kennedy* or the new *Enterprise* with more to come. China has also had difficulties building aircraft engines and carrier aircraft that don't break when launched. The ship may be able to sail in 2025 but to fight the ship, it is a bit unlikely.

China continues to fly aircraft into Taiwan's Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) and at one point Taiwan reacted by sending F-16 aircraft to intercept. Speaking of F-16, the first of their new purchase aircraft has arrived and has been accepted by the Taiwanese Air Force. These new aircraft combined with new air defence systems will be at least a stumbling block for China.

Something else from China went through the Taiwan Strait as well on 29 November 2021. It was identified as a Type 94 ballistic missile submarine, running on the surface under escort. There has been speculation that this was what was hit by USS *Connecticut*. Wild speculation has run rampant similar to the activity associated with the loss of the Russian submarine *Kursk*. Still, for a boomer to run on the surface for a long distance is highly unusual.

Taiwan

Taiwan's indigenous submarine program has started on design options. They will be diesel electric and there will be eight submarines built in total. Taiwan is also building a new class of missile corvette based on a catamaran hull; a total of eleven are scheduled to be built. They are about 700 tons and are equipped with a variety of missiles and a 76mm gun forward as well as automatic weapons. Speed will be about 45 knots. The Taiwanese Navy also accepted the launch of a new mine layer, the first of four fast mine layers and they are contracted for four new mine sweeper/hunters as well. The combination of small fast ships, mines, submarines and new coastal defence missile batteries will make life more interesting for any Chinese attacking force.

Japanese Ship Curry

WarshipPorn @WarshipPorn 26 Nov tweeted: Every Japanese warship may not have their own anime mascot, but they do all have their own officially sanctioned curry recipes. NewDays, JR Yokosuka station, 27NOV21 from /u/ReactorMechanic at #WarshipPorn [https://www.reddit.com/r/WarshipPorn/comments/r2zti1/4608 x 3456 every japanese warship may not have/](https://www.reddit.com/r/WarshipPorn/comments/r2zti1/4608_x_3456_every_japanese_warship_may_not_have/)

peng90 commented: If you're curious, the boxes all say <ship name> curry. A few of them also says what's the main ingredient of the curry. (Vegetable or pork I think...) This actually makes me hungry. Japanese curry is really delicious.



Editor: The Reddit thread is interesting reading. For example: Longsheep commented: Most of the names are indeed reusing WW2 ships. Some also "adopt" the heritage of previous ships, including recipes.

Editor: Okay, RCN cooks, there's your challenge. Create a distinctive food for each ship. HMCS Montréal smoked meat sandwich? HMCS Harry DeWolf seal?

From a RCN cook: Calgary has wonton soup.

Naval Association of Canada 6 December Speaker Event - NORAD Renewal

The Canadian-U.S. Permanent Joint Board on Defense has been in existence for over 80 years. This binational board of experts provides advice to the prime minister and president on how best to defend North America. The pressing topic today is North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) modernization and the renewal of its aged radar sensors in the Arctic.

The North Warning System, a series of unmanned, long- and short-range radars dotting the North American Arctic and Greenland in support of air defense and frontier control, is reaching its end of serviceable life. The American and Canadian defence industries are racing for a chance to provide both militaries with the latest technology to replace the old radars. But to what ends? More sensors are not the magic solution to "modernizing" NORAD. Sensors are but one very small part of a wider effort to reconsider what it means to defend North America — beyond technology and the North Warning System.

December speaker Dr. Andrea Charron will examine this wider effort.

Dr. Charron holds a PhD from the Royal Military College of Canada (Department of War Studies). She obtained a Masters in International Relations from Webster University, Leiden, The Netherlands, a Master's of Public Administration from Dalhousie University and a Bachelor of Science (Honours) from Queen's University. Dr. Charron worked for various federal departments including the Privy Council Office in the Security and Intelligence Secretariat. She completed her post doctorate at Carleton's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs and is now Associate Professor and Director of the Centre for Defence and Security Studies (CDSS) at the University of Manitoba.



SAVE THE DATE

On behalf of our Vice-President Maritime Affairs, Mme Louise Mercier,
You are cordially invited to attend our

Virtual Maritime Affairs Lunch

where we are pleased to host as our guest speaker

Rear Admiral (Ret'd) Simon Page
ADM Defence and Marine Procurement
PSPC,

December 9th 2021
12:15-1:00

Login Details to be provided with
registration

We await your kind reply to RSVP at
cmarch@navyleague.ca

