



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Dispatches

10 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).

Holiday Tradition

Not exactly a garland of evergreen at the masthead, but for a working boat, an evergreen tree before the house is in the spirit of the season. (H/T @DonaldEntremont 1 Dec 21)

Happy Holidays!



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

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.

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>

New: 16 December, Thursday - USNORTHCOM, USEUCOM, USINDOPACOM and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Center for Arctic Security and Resilience Arctic eTalk with Ms Christina Henriksen, President of the Saami Council and Permanent Participant of the Arctic Council, "Arctic Security and the Saami Council: Indigenous Perspectives and Interests." 1200 EST. See details at end of *Dispatches*.

Save the date: 26 January 2022 (amended from 19 January), Wednesday – potential date for Distinguished Speaker. 1300-1500. Via Zoom.

Publications:

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

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/

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

New: Edmonton United Services Institute President’s *Enews*, December 2021.

New: Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XL, Number 1, January 2022.

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>

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>

New: Royal Canadian Navy *Your Navy Today* - Volume 4 Issue 9

<http://www.navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/news-ynt/2021/11-your-navy-today.page>

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 6, 6 December 2021.

New: Veterans Affairs Canada *Salute!*, December 2021.

In the edition:

Take care of your mental health during this season

The Veterans Independence Program can help you get through the winter

The Education and Training Benefit can help you reach career goals

Commemoration: End of the Cold War

80th anniversary of the Defence of Hong Kong

Do you know someone who deserves recognition?

Veteran Success Story: A man who loves to be busy

Veteran releases music album

You can help improve accessibility

Reminder: Please take part in an online study on chronic pain

Season's Greetings from VAC

Tweeted by @RUSI NS:

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

1st of 4 self-propelled modular barges being built by Ship-to-Shore Connector project for @RoyalCanNavy undergoing acceptance trials <https://mapleleafnavy.com/aor-replacement-aor-attend-connector-acceptance-trials/> To be carried by 2 replenishment oilers being built by Joint Support Ship #JSS project, add landing capability to #AOR (AOR Replacement PMO Attend Connector Acceptance Trials)



.@RoyalCanNavy Multi-Role Rescue Boat built by @RosboroughBoats demonstrates versatility, armed with machine-gun & embarking @USCG Law Enforcement Detachment to enforce counter-drug laws. Collaboration of CAN🇨🇦&US🇺🇸 #OpCARIBBE. Capability of #RCNavy #Arctic&Offshore Patrol Vessels



"Remembering the 'unsung heroes' of the #HalifaxExplosion recovery effort" <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/halifax-explosion-army-navy-response-unsung-heroes-1.6244683> Author John Boileau spoke to RUSI(NS) in 2017 "City's Saviours: The Military Response to the Halifax Explosion" <https://rusi-ns.ca/military-response-halifax-explosion/> Bravo, CAN🇨🇦forces there for Canadians



don d'entremont @DonaldEntremont 8 Dec tweeted: HMCS Montreal in the spotlight on the Syncrolift this morning. RUSI(NS) retweeted: Syncrolifts, dry docks & other dockyard facilities are important part of capable, balanced navy.



STRATCOMCOE @STRATCOMCOE 9 Dec tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Hybrid threats are highly adaptive and opportunistic. To get ahead of curve and establish facts of the matter in public discourse, targeted nations must set monitoring information environment and identifying hostile measures their top priority. More https://stratcomcoe.org/uploads/NATO_StratCom_COE_brief.pdf (Information Influence1 as a Tool of Hybrid Threats)

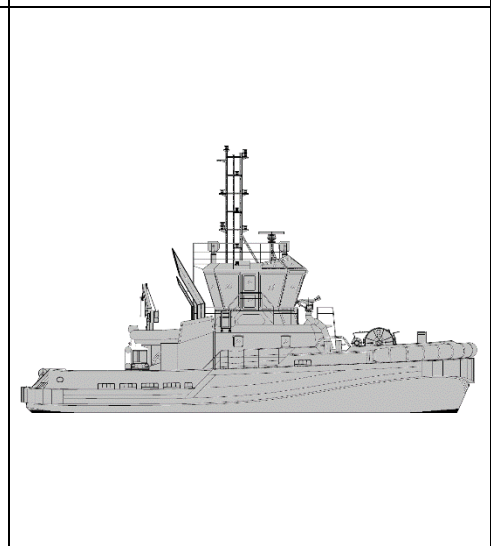


NATO ACT @NATO_ACT 9 Dec tweeted: The theme of the 2021 #NATO Alliance Warfare Development Conference is "The Alliance Warfare Development Agenda: From Concept to Implementation." The conference agenda will focus on the Warfare Development Agenda from multiple perspectives: Multi-Domain Operations, Audacious Wargaming, Data and the Alliance, as well as providing a comprehensive update on the Alliance Warfare Development Agenda whilst reflecting on the 2021 Warfare Development Talks and seeking topic recommendations for talks in 2022.



NATO Supreme Allied Commander Transformation @NATO_SACT retweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: A tool to enhance decision-making capabilities: Audacious Wargaming. (see video: https://twitter.com/NATO_ACT/status/1468805443363520513)

@RoyalCanNavy announces names of Naval Large Tug project vessels: HARO, BARKERVILLE, CANSO & STELLA MARIS built by @Groupe_Ocean <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/app-acq/amd-dp/mer-sea/sncn-nss/naval-large-gros-eng.html> 1st 2 with Queen's Harbour Master Esquimalt @MARPAC_FMARP, latter 2 w QHM #Halifax @RCN_MARLANT
CAN🇨🇦news releases "Royal Canadian Navy announces names of Naval Large Tugs" <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2021/12/royal-canadian-navy-announces-names-of-naval-large-tugs.html> "New large tug boats honour Canada's maritime history" <http://www.navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/news-operations/news-view.page?doc=new-large-tug-boats-honour-canada-s-maritime-history/kwewhadj>



NAADSN_RDSNAA @NAADSN_RDSNAA 9 Dec tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Dr Peter Kikkert, NAADSN Coordinator, outlines the need for a Canadian Resilience Corps: a nationwide network engaged in preparation, mitigation, response & recovery activities. "The solution begins at the local level." Read the policy brief here [Down pointing backhand index https://naadsn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/21-dec-Kikkert-Disaster-Workforce-Policy-Brief.pdf](https://naadsn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/21-dec-Kikkert-Disaster-Workforce-Policy-Brief.pdf) (Creating a Non-Military Disaster Workforce Must be Part of Canada's Climate Change Response)



Simon Harley on Twitter: "A British newspaper in January 1912: "no extent of abstract thinking or of economical administration can ever be a substitute for sufficiency in ships". <https://t.co/horogz4vbK>" / Twitter <https://twitter.com/simonharley/status/1466721765317566467>

Enduring words.



Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia:

RUSI(NS) postings may also be viewed by clicking on the Facebook icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something posted or commented, email RUSI(NS) by noon Thursday.

Operationalizing the Arctic

<https://mwi.usma.edu/operationalizing-the-arctic/>

Canadian strategies for the Arctic, defence, security and other strategies, will have to be written better than those of "big words but little substance." Working closely with Northern

peoples, as the Canadian Coast Guard has done, will go a long way to ensuring Canadian Arctic strategies have substance and actually address the means and ways to achieve ends.



Legion, MPs urge Ottawa to issue jubilee medal for pandemic volunteers

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8420779/queens-jubilee-legion-mps-covid-volunteer-medals/>

Yes, "it's an opportunity to thank front-line workers, health-care workers and volunteers over the last two years that we've had ..." It's worth it.

Also: Platinum Jubilee Medal revealed <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/platinum-jubilee-medal-revealed>

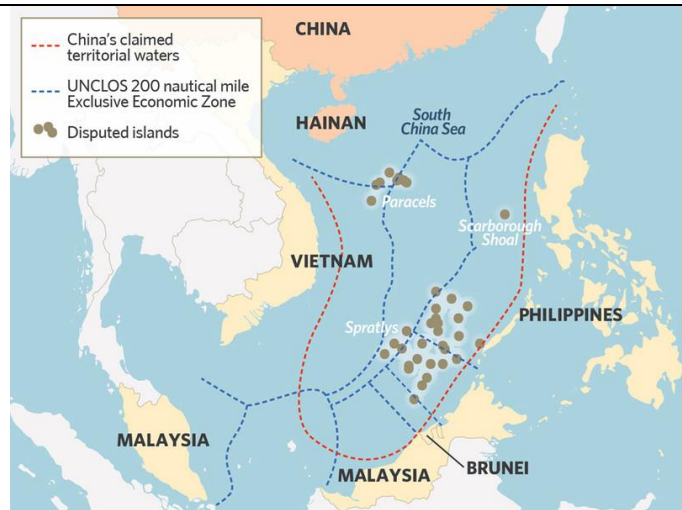


The South China Sea should be of concern to Europe

<https://euobserver.com/opinion/153616>

"If China is allowed unimpeded to break the law of the sea in the South China Sea, think about the repercussions elsewhere. It could ricochet into Europe's High North. In the Arctic, Nordic nations have overlapping claims with Russia which have so far been handed in for legal settlement."

Canada needs to pay attention. Royal Canadian Navy ships have deployed to the South China Sea. More presence, and attention to maritime states, potential partners, in the region, is called for.



Lloyd's Carves Out Cyber-Insurance Exclusions for State-Sponsored Attacks

<https://threatpost.com/lloyds-cyber-insurance-exclusions/176669/>

Lloyd's "explained it will no longer cover losses resulting from 'cyber-war,' which it defined as a cyber- operation carried out as part of a war, any retaliatory attacks between specified states, or a cyber-operation 'that has a major detrimental impact on the functioning of a state.'"

Insurance companies and rates have long had a major effect on the conduct of operations (think marine insurance, especially). Fascinating to read of cyber-insurance and possible non-coverage. Conflict, after all, is a matter of economics (shades of 'the winner will be the one with the biggest purse').



Another turn in the 12-year-long debacle to replace the CF-18

<https://vancouversun.com/opinion/richard-shimooka-another-turn-in-the-12-year-long-debacle-to-replace-the-cf-18>



Most RCAF Cyclone helicopters undergoing repairs after cracks discovered

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/rcaf-grounds-cyclone-helicopters-cracks-1.6273953>

Grounding of most of an aircraft fleet for repairs is not abnormal, even with a fairly new aircraft.



Interesting that the Cyclone was being considered for employment as part of the Canadian Armed Forces assistance to British Columbia in response to floods there. The Cyclone is a maritime helicopter, albeit capable and employable for land operations. Might this be indicative of a need for more helicopters for land and army operations?

Bringing up in the article the matters of procurement process, cost, manufacturing and software issues, and the loss of a Cormorant in 2020 is just filler. Questionable why reporters need to write like this if the history is not relevant to the story.

Norway deploys radiation drones along its coast amidst nuclear emergency concerns

<https://www.rcinet.ca/eye-on-the-arctic/2021/12/03/norway-deploys-radiation-drones-along-its-coast-amidst-nuclear-emergency-concerns/>

As one of many measures to prepare for an accident in the Arctic, particularly as the region opens more (though nuclear submarines have been deploying there for decades), might there be utility in fitting onboard and offboard radiation measuring sensors in our Canadian Coast Guard and Navy vessels which operate there?



American supply chains face a dire threat from China's water shortages

<https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/584266-american-supply-chains-face-a-dire-threat-from-chinas-water>

"All of this is to say that the U.S. economy is at significant risk until a long-term solution is found for China's water problems. Recent discussions regarding the shift of U.S. supply chains away from China have focused on national security and domestic policy considerations. Given the severe challenges posed by China's lack of water, it may be a question of economic necessity." Canada needs to be looking at this, too.

When, as military, studying at the strategic level a competitor and potential adversary, it is important to consider the other's economic strengths and weaknesses. Natural resources must be part of that study, and need to be factored in to geo-strategic assessments.



WWIII Has Already Started

<https://drpipa.substack.com/p/wwiii-has-already-started>

"WWIII may feel benign because it is silent, because it is digital, because it is occurring far away and without civilian involvement." "Until the public awakens to the true situation, the enormous gap between those who are in the know and those who don't know is a danger to everyone's future."

Be in the know.

Also note by same author: A Hot War in Cold Places

<https://drpipa.substack.com/p/a-hot-war-in-cold-places>



Ottawa needs a whole new approach to national security threats, experts say

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/national-security-climate-change-pandemic-trudeau-canada-1.6273226>

An integrated national security council, by whatever name, and periodic (frequent) assessments to Parliament would go a long way to improving Canadian understanding and approach to security.

The report itself is at:

Reimagining a Canadian National Security Strategy

<https://www.cigionline.org/activities/reimagining-canadian-national-security-strategy/>



Disasters are a permanent part of the Canadian fabric. We can't keep winging it.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-disasters-are-a-permanent-part-of-the-canadian-fabric-we-cant-keep/>

"We must radically shift our understanding of 'catastrophe' and view disasters as systemic in nature. And systemic problems demand systemic responses."



In the late 2000s, staff at Joint Task Force Atlantic (JTFA), Canada Command, Canadian Armed Forces, routinely planned and exercised responses to disasters, often flood and storm, in collaboration with provincial and federal emergency management organizations. Major exercises were conducted every six months, to ensure an exercise with each of the four provinces in the region at least every two years. A 'systemic response' includes a strong exercise program.

"One place to start is with the creation of a dedicated Canadian federal emergency management agency that can focus entirely on disaster mitigation 'before the storm,' response during, and recovery after."

Would this focus be the responsibility of the new Emergency Preparedness department established after the last federal election?

The article's comments about the CAF are interesting The article is available on request to RUSI(NS) if you are unable to access directly.

Is this how World War III begins?

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/is-this-how-world-war-iii-begins/>

"The real danger of cyberwarfare is not that it will replace kinetic operations, but that it will incite them. The line between war and peace is reasonably clear when dealing with tanks, warships and aircraft, but it is grey when dealing with malware and online bots. If countries feel safer engaging in conflict behind the veil of anonymity provided by the internet, the risk of a catastrophic miscalculation increases."



How China Is Challenging US Central Command, Digitally

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2021/12/how-china-challenging-us-central-command-digitally/187378/>

"China aims to become the Middle East's "digital arbiter" by building cheap data networks and providing surveillance software to autocratic regimes—all in a bid to boost its regional influence, ..."

Techno-imperialism?

"... CENTCOM team have been working on their response: a new secure network to help U.S. security partners link up around the world. It will go live in January."

Hopefully this doesn't mean another monitor on Canadian operations centre desktops. The new network (name?) should be (securely) integrated (= facilities info exchange between systems) with at least one Canadian system.



Illegal Strategy: China Suspected Of Unauthorized Sea Floor Survey in Pacific

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2021/12/illegal-strategy-china-suspected-of-another-unauthorized-sea-floor-survey/>

"A Chinese government survey ship, Da Yang Hao, has been accused of illegal activities in Palau's waters. Palau is a small island nation, strategically located between the Philippine Sea and the North Pacific. Using ship tracking data provided by MarineTraffic.com we can confirm that the Chinese vessel was operating in Palau's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)."

Marine OSINT (open source intelligence) exposes illegal activity.

Adversary state 'research' efforts need to be monitored as they surely are being used for defence and security purposes. (Of course, so do too the efforts of friendly states.) Such monitoring gives an insight into the thinking and plans of adversary states.



Russia Bolsters Supply Lines, Deploys Medical Units Near Ukraine As Invasion Fears Grow

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/43371/russia-bolsters-supply-lines-deploys-medical-units-near-ukraine-as-invasion-fears-grow-report>

A much more concerning indication of an attack than the numbers of troops and tanks on a border is the numbers and strength of support capability such as logistics and medical. The latter are truly what allow an attack of any depth and duration to happen.

Count the trucks!



Other Sources:

#Arctic

One would almost think there is a collaborative campaign between the authors of these three articles. The articles are available on request to RUSI(NS) if you are unable to access directly.

How long-awaited 'transformative investments in infrastructure' could address civilian and security needs in the Canadian Arctic.

<https://www.hilltimes.com/2021/12/08/how-long-awaited-transformative-investments-in-infrastructure-could-address-civilian-and-security-needs-in-the-canadian-arctic/332925>

Canada has a role in Arctic security amid nuclear arms dilemma

<https://www.hilltimes.com/2021/12/08/canada-has-a-role-in-arctic-security-amid-nuclear-arms-dilemma/332900>

Emergency management must be central to climate change response in the North

<https://www.hilltimes.com/2021/12/08/emergency-management-must-be-central-to-climate-change-response-in-the-north/332910>

#China

A Guide to Extreme Competition with China

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1378-1.html

If nothing else, read the Key Findings and Recommendations.

#doctrine

It's Time to Democratise Doctrine

<https://wavellroom.com/2021/12/03/its-time-to-democratise-doctrine/>

#Indo-Pacific

The uncomfortable reality of the army's role in a war over Taiwan

<https://warontherocks.com/2021/11/the-uncomfortable-reality-of-the-u-s-armys-role-in-a-war-over-taiwan/>

Japan's military, among world's strongest, looks to build

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/12/06/japans-military-among-worlds-strongest-looks-build.html>

#intelligence

The promise of open-source intelligence

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2021/08/07/the-promise-of-open-source-intelligence>

Article available on request to RUSI(NS) if member unable to access directly.

Battlespace Awareness Tools are Central to Fleet Readiness

<https://cimsec.org/battlespace-awareness-tools-are-central-to-fleet-readiness/>

#NATO

Inside NATO's battlegroups

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/global-europe-brief-powered-by-facebook-inside-natos-battlegroups/>

#policing

Should Military Police Wear Body Cams? Congress is Asking

<https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2021/12/should-military-police-wear-body-cams-congress-asking/187257/>

#shipbuilding

Media Response Lines on National Shipbuilding Strategy

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/proactive-disclosure/pacp-national-shipbuilding-strategy-25-may-2021/reference-materials/mrl-nss.html>

#strategy

Wrong and Useful: Models and Metaphors for Strategy

<https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/articles/models-metaphorsrr/>

#war

Operationalising the Constrain Concept: Competing Below the Threshold

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/whitehall-reports/operationalising-constrain-concept-competing-below-threshold>

#wargaming

War games must yield honest results, or we risk wartime mistakes

<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/583162-war-games-must-yield-honest-results-or-we-risk-wartime-mistakes>

Article available on request to RUSI(NS) if you are unable to access directly.

U.S. Army War College Wargaming Room Archives

<https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/category/wargaming-room/>

Other:

NATO Multimedia Library Thematic Bibliography no. 9/21 - Human Rights

https://natolibguides.info/ld.php?content_id=33928690

Le Rubicon on Twitter 9 Dec 21: "In partnership with @WarOnTheRocks and created by @RAS_NSA @IRSEM1 @AfriThucy #LeRubicon is a francophone platform for the analysis of international issues, focusing mainly on defense and security but also on foreign policy. Link: <https://lerubicon.org/>"

War on the Rocks is a frequent source for RUSI(NS) posts, etc., so, for our French speakers, here's hoping for *Le Rubicon*.

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

A question arose in SAC as to why the US is not addressed more as an area of interest considering all going on there. The US is addressed but in context with other issues. The media have gone to great lengths to disparage the US. There are daily articles saying the US is declining and being outperformed by China under the Communist Chinese Party and that Russia has once again become a major power. The US goes through periodic times of self-doubt and strange and wonderful and sometimes not so wonderful things occur in these periods. All of us are old enough to remember the fall of Saigon in 1975 and the terrible toll that war took on our US friends. There was considerable soul searching as a result within the US. Some countries such as the Cambodians and Iranians as well as others thought that they could push the US in the late 70s and early 80s. The Mayaguez incident ended badly for the Cambodians and the Iranian hostage issue lasted more than 400 days, also resulting in a raid that went terribly wrong through an accident which killed American special forces personnel and resulted in the loss of aircraft. The US rebuilt itself and the vaunted bad guys were put in their place, especially with the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. There have been several other times as well such as the economic meltdown of 2008 and more recently the partisanship there. The US is now going through yet another period of self-reflection and to a degree isolationism which is historic and comes in from time to time. The US unlike many other countries re-invents itself regularly; it is their greatest capability and it shows regularly.

The CCP often state how strong they are and that their system is better and that they are a real democracy. They aren't. If they were truly powerful people would be clamoring to come to Beijing, but that is not what happens. Most people still see the US as the shining beacon and want to share in that American dream and not the nightmare devised by a truly malignant entity provided by the CCP. The strength of the US is to organize coalitions and alliances. Every time, some "knowledgeable individual" compares the fighting power of the US to China, one shakes a head as if the US will be alone in a conflict with China or Russia. They won't be alone and they are constantly looking towards ensuring they won't be alone most of the time although the fiasco in Afghanistan is a bit unsettling. If China decides to take a military option on Taiwan, it will not go well for them or anyone else for that matter. Taiwan may be part of a greater China one day and that there will be one China as originally agreed to in the early 1990s. The 'One China Policy' doesn't say which type of government would be in place; the CCP views it as themselves but that is not what is stated. As we have seen in Taiwan, citizens of Chinese descent are able to withstand the rigours of democracy successfully. The CCP's argument is that only they can provide stability but they can barely control the party let alone the country. They would fail at democracy as they are failing in so many other ways.

Now Russia. The only thing that Russia has going for it are somewhere around 6500 to 7200 nuclear warheads, a holdover from the Soviet era. The US is spending a trillion dollars to upgrade and maintain their warheads; one wonders how much effort the Russians are putting into their own nuclear maintenance program. Their GDP is officially 4t USD but other estimates (more likely more accurate) place its GDP below Canada's. Russia has fallen while Putin has been in power. What little influence it retains is more a product of money and resources they can bribe countries with in order to achieve their aims. They have never diversified their economy. Their much-vaunted defence industries are barely able to sustain themselves. New equipment despite being announced almost weekly cannot be produced, for example the SU-57 of which there are apparently less than ten capable of becoming operational and that there still are having are issues building the necessary engines. At the same time, polls indicate that if people had the resources, nearly a quarter of the population would leave the kleptocracy that is Putin's Russia; most would go to Europe or the US. It is hardly the sign of an up-and-coming country. Russia under Putin has kept nineteenth century thinking in terms of spheres of influence. The modern world, it is the individual country that selects its friends and allies, those countries that more align with the wishes of the people governed. Putin's Russia does not seem to

understand that they are not going to be friends with Ukraine or the Baltic states or most of the former Eastern block as those policies failed and continue to fail miserably. Russia is a basket case and getting worse, not better. The outflow of Russian citizens, particularly their young, is large. It is not the sign of a healthy country. What can Putin offer the young? A place in the security forces, the oil industry in the far North, a position in the armed forces or a fading defence industry or in organized crime. It is a sad commentary.

To end on the following note, the largest air force in the world is the USAF, the second largest is the USN. The largest Navy by tonnage is the US and the most experienced ground forces are the US Army and US Marine Corps. The US has its problems, no doubt, but they are nothing in comparison to the utter failure of their competitors to deal with their own people. The most resilient economy and industry is in the US. The US is merely going through a period of reflection, something Canada should do right now while our economy can still recover from the current situation.

Arctic eTalk

On behalf of United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) and the command's "[The Watch](#)" Magazine, United States European Command (USEUCOM), United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), and the Center for Arctic Security and Resilience ([CASR](#)) - University of Alaska Fairbanks, we would like to invite you to our December 2021 Arctic eTalks distinguished speaker presentation on "Arctic Security and the Saami Council: Indigenous Perspectives and Interests" by Ms. Christina Henriksen, President of the Saami Council and Permanent Participant of the Arctic Council on **Thursday, 16 December, 2021 at 0800 AK/ 1000 MT/ 1200 EST/ 1800 CET.**

The Arctic eTalks is a monthly forum for open discussion (non-attribution, Chatham House Rule) in key issues affecting the Circumpolar Arctic for academics, defense and security professional, and military leaders from Canada, Finland, Kingdom of Denmark (Greenland and Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the United States, as well as the United Kingdom and Germany.

This event is presented along with our valued Arctic eTalks supporters at the Saami Council.

Ms. Henriksen is scheduled to provide a 30-minute presentation with slides which will be followed by a 60-minute Q&A session (non-attribution) that will be moderated by Ms. Sara Olsvig, former member of Parliament and Greenland Indigenous leader and Mr. Edward Alexander, co-Chair of Gwich'in Council International.

Note: Past Arctic eTalks presentations are posted on our [Arctic eTalks website](#). However, the Q&A discussions are not posted and open only to registered Arctic eTalks participants during the live event.

Please register at the following link: https://alaska.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dwk_rrBzRU2ax-GOe6WYYg

Our Arctic eTalks partners include:

- Defence Science and Technology Laboratory - [United Kingdom](#)
- George C. Marshall European [Center](#) for Security Studies
- Joint Task Force ([North](#)) - Canadian Armed Forces
- Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom ([UK MOD](#))
- NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence ([StratCom](#))
- North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network ([NAADSN](#))
- Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies ([IFS](#))

- Norwegian Institute of International Affairs ([NUPI](#))
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- United States Coast Guard ([Arctic](#))
- William J. Perry Center, National Defense University ([NDU](#))

We look forward to your participation. Thank you for your support!

Dr. Ben and Troy

Dr. Benjamin P. Gochman, DAFC
 Chief, Engagements
 Arctic, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean
 Directorate of Operations (N&NC/J39)
 HQ NORAD - USNORTHCOM/J3

Troy J. Bouffard
 Director - Center for Arctic Security and Resilience
 University of Alaska Fairbanks

“The Watch” Command Magazine, United States Northern Command,
 United States European Command, United States Indo-Pacific
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Arctic Security and the Saami Council

Indigenous Perspectives and Interests



Featuring:
Christina Henriksen
 President of the Saami Council
 Permanent Participant of the Arctic Council

Registration required:
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Thursday, December 16th, 2021
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