



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 21 January 2022

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).

Annual General Meeting 2022

New: The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia will meet for Annual General Meeting 2022 at 1900 hours Halifax time, Tuesday, **25 January 2022**. The agenda and Zoom joining instructions have been emailed by Blair Bannerman, our Secretary. If you are a member of RUSI(NS) in good standing and have not received the email, please contact RUSI(NS).

RUSI(NS) 2021 Survey

New: The link to the RUSI(NS) survey for how we did in 2021 was included in the email this week from our Secretary with the agenda for our AGM 2022. Please take a couple minutes to fill in the survey. Your feedback is important to the future activities of this Institute.

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.

New: 25 January, Tuesday - Canadian International Council, Halifax Branch extends an invitation to their AGM during which VAdm Glenn Davidson, RCN (ret'd) and former Ambassador to Afghanistan who will "provide a personal perspective on Canadian foreign policy based on his years of experience in the military and as an ambassador." 6:30–8:00 pm AST [note the conflict with the RUSI(NS) AGM]. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/cic-halifax-virtual-agm-tickets-243012455797>

26 January, Wednesday - Distinguished Speakers Commander Corey Gleason, first Commanding Officer, HMCS *Harry DeWolf*, and Captain Al McCabe, United States Coast Guard 17th District, "Arctic Maritime Security: US Coast Guard and Canadian Navy Operations." 1300-1500. Via Zoom. Registration is required. To register, email RUSI(NS) by close-of-business Sun, 23 Jan. As subject line for your registration email, put: RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speakers 26 January 2022 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 Mon, 24 Jan. If you have not received them by end-of-day 24 Jan, please check your spam folder and, if necessary, email RUSI(NS).

27 January, Thursday - USNORTHCOM "The Watch" Command Magazine and the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network January 2022 Arctic Academic eTalk "Russian Arctic Militarization" with Dr Rob Huebert and Dr Katarzyna Zysk. Via Zoom. 0800 AK/ 1000 MT/ 1200 EST/ 1800 CET. To register: https://alaska.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_883CAA-0TcKsnpkKLxa7qg. For details, see end of *Dispatches*.

16 February, Wednesday - Distinguished Speaker Col Meaghan Setter, RCAF, "RCAF Strategy." 1300-1500. Via Zoom. Invitations to follow. Meanwhile, see: "Cultivating Future Airpower Strategists - On 'Developing Twenty-First-Century Airpower Strategists'" https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/SSQ/documents/Volume-15_Issue-4/R-Terino.pdf

22 February, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Off the Hex Map with the Center for Army Analysis." 1900-2100 EST. Via Zoom. "The Center for Army Analysis' Strategic Wargaming Division will discuss how they support Army Senior Leaders and senior leaders across the Joint Force." To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/off-the-hex-map-with-the-center-for-army-analysis-tickets-237526477087>

5 April, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Strategic Wargaming - The US Army War College Approach." 7:00–9:00 pm ADT. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/strategic-wargaming-the-us-army-war-college-approach-tickets-187766283007>.

Publications:

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

New: RUSI(NS) Comments "An Evil Trinity" by Tim Dunne, 19 January 2022
https://rusi-ns.ca/evil_trinity/

RUSI(NS) Comments "Another Commemorative Medal Missed?" by Murray Lee, 2 January 2022
https://rusi-ns.ca/platinum_jubilee_medal/

RUSI(NS) presentation "Canadian Coast Guard Arctic Region – Implementation and Successes" by Assistant Commissioner Neil O'Rourke, 29 November 2021
https://rusi-ns.ca/ccg_arctic_region/

Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 15 December 2021 edition
https://send.successbyemail.com/prvw_message2.aspx?chno=31ae3090-a6e8-4916-a569-d757b7edc2ca

Edmonton United Services Institute President's *Enews*, January 2022

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

Naval Association of Canada presentation "NORAD Modernization and Renewal" by Dr Andrea Charron, 6 December 2021

<https://youtu.be/Vtf4g3qh26Q> (slides at https://nac-o.wildapricot.org/resources/OTTAWA%20BRANCH/Documents/Meetings/2021-12-06-NORAD-Modernization_Charron.pdf).

Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, January 2022

<https://rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/91-rausi-dispatches-january-2022>

Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch *Scuttlebutt*, Christmas/New Years Edition

New: Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver and Vancouver Artillery Association Members *News*, 18 January 2022

Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island *Newsletter*, Volume 54, 1st Quarter 2022.

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Quarterly Newsletter*, Volume 20, Issue 4, December 2021

New: Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 10, Issue 2, 17 January 2022

Veterans Affairs Canada *Salute!*, January 2022

Please note the first article on immediate approval of mental health care for veterans. It starts with the submission of the application and goes for two years even if the claim is rejected. There may be devils in the details, but that looks promising. VAC should do this for other issues like chronic pain care. One can suspect there is a good list of other conditions that should be treated this way. It separates pensions and other financial benefits from the needed care, but it's a big step forward if it reads correctly.

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.

Modern War Institute @WarInstitute 16 Jan tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Among the Army's most fundamental responsibilities are manning, training, and equipping a force ready to answer the nation's call. All of those responsibilities are becoming more difficult in the face of adversary information operations.

(Rethinking "Man, Train, and Equip" for Information Advantage

<https://mwi.usma.edu/rethinking-man-train-and-equip-for-information-advantage/>)



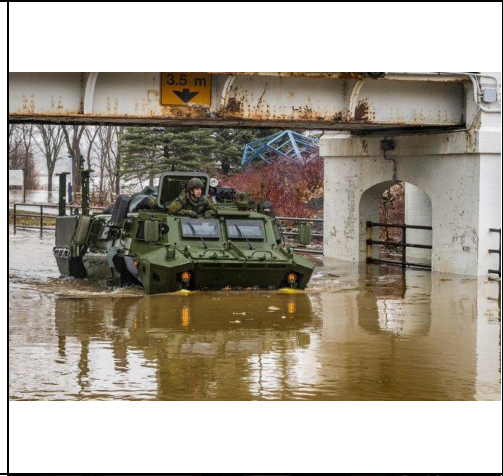
NAADSN_RDSNAA @NAADSN_RDSNAA 14 Jan tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: “While Arctic security issues are often characterized in human security terms in Western Arctic states, this is almost entirely absent in Russia.” Check out the latest policy primer by @PlakhovDemyan available here: <https://naadsn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/21-nov-Plakhov-Policy-Primer.pdf> (Human Security in the Arctic: A Review of the Russian Literature)



Oana Lungescu @NATOpress 17 Jan tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: NEW: Check out the public version of #NATO’s space policy: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_190862.htm
Space is NATO's 5th operational domain, alongside air, land, sea & cyberspace
NATO relies on satellites to navigate, communicate and gather intelligence.



CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 18 Jan tweeted: "The military will always be there to support Canadians in their time of need—natural disaster or armed conflict—that is its primary role. Nonetheless, we need to develop a civilian capacity to be able to respond instead." <https://cdainstitute.ca/josh-bowen-canada-must-invest-in-a-national-civilian-response-unit/>
(Canada Must Invest in a National Civilian Response Unit)
RUSI(NS) retweeted: Author raises some good points, especially with respect to gov'ts using @CanadianForces as first, rather than last, resort, resulting in considerable savings to those gov'ts in civilian disaster response. This is something current @CDS_Canada_CEMD has been heard to speculate on



Sea Power Centre @SeaPowerCentre 18 Jan tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: New Tac TalksPublic address loudspeaker: Can a cyber-operation be considered an act of war? by LEUT Max Westwood. BookmarkRead the paper here Rightwards arrow<https://bit.ly/3zwYif5>
#WeaponsWednesday #YourADF #OneDefence #DefenceValues #ShapeDeterRespond
(<https://www.navy.gov.au/media-room/publications/tac-talks-can-cyber-operation-be-considered-act-war>)



James Bezan @jamesbezan 19 Jan tweeted: Yes. #cdnpoli #StandWithUkraine
(Should Canada send weapons to Ukraine? MPs weigh in. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/should-canada-send-weapons-to-ukraine-mps-weigh-in-1.5745348>)
RUSI(NS) retweeted: Sending weapons to a partner nation so it can defend itself against the threat of invasion is diplomacy.



MARLANT @RCN_MARLANT 20 Jan tweeted: Today, #HMCSGooseBay and #HMCSMoncton deploy on #OpPROJECTION West Africa, to work with African nations to build partner capacity, promote maritime security, and foster relationships in the region. Fair winds and following seas. #ReadytoLead
 Operation PROJECTION
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-projection.html>
 @CanadianForces conducts training, exercises & engagements w foreign navies & other international security partners. #CAF supports #NATO & other allied ops. #RCNavy diplomatic function as part of CAN 🇨🇦 support to Africa. #OpPROJECTION



Canadian Surface Combatant Land-Based Testing Facility at Hartlen Point

Now this will be of interest to the golfers!

Canadian Armed Forces @CanadianForces 14 Jan tweeted: We're building a testing facility near Shearwater, N.S., to help bring 15 new Canadian Surface Combatants into service, and support them throughout their lifespan. This will provide CAF members with the facilities and tools they need. #WellEquipped 1/3

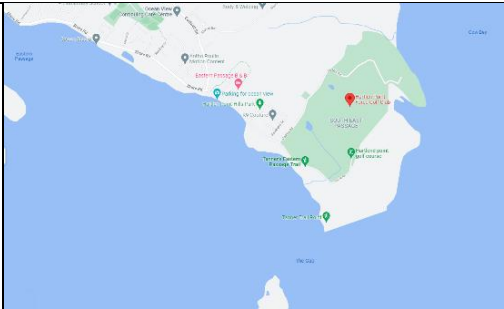
@CanadianForces retweeted: On Sep 30, we awarded a contract to PCL Construction of Dartmouth, N.S., to begin project support and design work. We expect this facility will accommodate 120 full-time staff, and help avoid greenhouse gas emissions from testing that would otherwise be done at sea. 2/3

@CanadianForces retweeted: We'll be holding a community engagement session this winter to address community concerns and provide more information on the project. Details to come. 3/3

National Defence @NationalDefence 14 Jan tweeted the same three tweets.

(Contract awarded to begin design work for Land-Based Testing Facility in Nova Scotia

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2022/01/contract-awarded-to-begin-design-work-for-land-based-testing-facility-in-nova-scotia.html>).



Cdr Daniel Rice @GooseBayCO 20 Jan tweeted: Today's the day! Goodbye Halifax; Hello West Africa! #HMCSGooseBay #HMCSMoncton #OpPROJECTION22

Okay, the Navy's 'morale patches' certainly have evolved. There probably are standards and an approval process, but obviously nothing heraldic. Still, if the sailors are happy with 'em...



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.

A Provocative Challenge to Analytical Doctrine

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/provocative-challenge-analytical-doctrine>

"We are going to need the ability to read our allies as well as our adversaries, to know what the impact of our actions might be, and to have an honest professional assessment of what we are and are not capable of."



Canadians Support a Stronger, More Principled Foreign Policy: MLI's Annual Foreign Policy and International Affairs Survey

<https://www.macdonaldlaurier.ca/canadians-support-a-stronger-more-principled-foreign-policy-mlis-annual-foreign-policy-and-international-affairs-survey/>

We need to have a foreign policy, with sufficient public support, before there are decisions on how our defence and security forces are structured and employed to undertake that policy, and well before there are decisions about equipment and people of our defence and security forces.



Canada's bid to replace WWII-era pistols a case study in government incompetence

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/matt-gurney-on-military-sidearms>



In a dangerous world, Canada is unprepared on every front. It needs to come to its own defence

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-in-a-dangerous-world-canada-is-unprepared-on-every-front-it-needs-to/>

"While Canada today can play only a minor role in Europe or the Pacific, it could contribute heavily to collective security by playing a greater role in North American defence, especially in the Arctic."

"It's time for Canadians to rise to the defence of their country, from sea to sea and especially to sea."



Iconic Hawaii Mars, world's largest flying water bomber, listed for sale for \$5M

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8514360/hawaii-martin-mars-for-sale/>

"The BC Wildfire Service has shifted its focus to smaller, more nimble aircraft capable of landing in up to 1,700 bodies of water around B.C. The Hawaii Mars, due to its massive size, is only capable of landing in 113."



Too often, the utility of defence, security and safety equipment is looked at from one or a limited aspect, with size usually getting people's attention. Yes, the Hawaii Mars can carry a lot of water (27,000 litres) but where it can operate, cost per hour to operate, maintenance costs, crew training and other such factors all have to be considered. When commenting on defence, security and safety equipment, we non-experts need to be careful, maybe pose our thoughts more as questions than definitive statements. Questions like: What are the requirements (capability specifications) of water bombers in various parts of Canada? What are the holdings of water bomber sin various jurisdictions? What can be done about collaborative employment of water bombers between jurisdictions?

Maybe not everyone agrees with conclusions like that in the RUSI(NS) paper "The RCAF and Canada Need a Bomber Squadron – A Large Water Bomber Squadron" (<https://rusi-ns.ca/water-bomber-squadron/>), but it is cause for thinking.

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From a contributor: Large aircraft like the Hawaii Mars are not the answer. Something like the amphibious aerial firefighting aircraft from Viking Air (<https://aerialfirefighter.vikingair.com/>) is the solution.



Concern for UK security as anti-vaxxer groups evolve towards US-style militias

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jan/15/concern-for-uk-security-as-anti-vaxxer-groups-evolve-towards-us-style-militias>



Striking in reading this article is all the (UK) intelligence-related bodies: office for security and counter-terrorism (OSCT), research, information and communications unit (RICU), counter-extremism analysis and insight (CEAI) programme, extremism analysis unit (EAU), and counter-disinformation unit (what, no acronym?!).

Acronym alert! (As in there weren't enough in the article.) MUU = " 'mixed, unclear and unstable' threats, ideological drivers of extremist violence beyond the traditional categories of far-right and Islamist extremism."

Uncomfortable Expositions for Unpopular Questions #1: Expendable Aircraft on Call

<https://cimsec.org/uncomfortable-expositions-for-unpopular-questions-1-expendable-aircraft-on-call/>



"It's the recognition of just how destructive a future great power war would be, and that our best, most expensive 'kit' will likely be the first to be lost. It's the acknowledgement of just how important a fieldable 'second line' of aircraft could be as a hedging strategy should most of each side's exquisite first rate forces end up on each other's spears."

The article may have been written from an air perspective but its point applies to other equipment. Navies and armies must be prepared to take on civil equipment for military purposes (am thinking auxiliary vessels, with containerize sensors and weapons) and to have designs ready for rapid contingency construction (like Second World War corvettes).

Ottawa eyes Indo-Pacific plan to shift trade away from China

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-trudeau-government-advised-to-spend-big-to-diversify-trade-away-from/>



"The strategy involves Ottawa establishing a bigger diplomatic footprint in the Indo-Pacific and contributing to infrastructure investments in the region as part of a Western effort to counter China's controversial Belt and Road Initiative.

Other elements would include increasing spending on international development assistance and fighting climate change."

"... Ottawa's emerging Indo-Pacific strategy appears to be a way to build strong relations with other Asian countries so that China can't inflict as much pain on Canada in the future as it did during the Huawei episode."

Building partnerships and reducing dependence on a single source for materials and goods (China) are elements of a good strategy, particularly for facing an imperialistically bellicose China. The Indo-Pacific is a region receiving increasing attention from Canada, with apparently more deployments of Royal Canadian Navy ships there than during our Atlantic-centric era. A strategy, reflective of Canadian foreign policy (which needs updating) is a good way to ensure the various levers of government are working together. Part of that strategy should be education of the Canadian public - don't want industry chasing opportunities in China in contravention of what Canada is attempting to achieve.

Meanwhile, let's not forget other competitive powers in the region: "2022: Russia the other Pacific power" (<https://www.9dashline.com/article/2022-russia-the-other-pacific-power>).

And for more perspective on the region, especially the islands (which could become foci of attention and effort): The Lion & the Mouse with LTC Laura Keenan (<https://cimsec.org/sea-control-310-the-lion-the-mouse-with-ltc-laura-keenan/> - check the list of articles).

Why You Should Study NATO in 2022

<https://natoassociation.ca/why-you-should-study-nato-in-2022/>

"The NATO Field School ... takes students from across the NATO Alliance on an immersive field study through Latvia, Belgium, and Italy where they will meet experts across the fields of security, defence, and diplomacy."



Interesting program, could be great opportunity for young students.

Top Admiral says Boris Johnson's plan to use Royal Navy to tackle migrant crisis won't work

<https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/defence/top-admiral-says-boris-johnsons-plan-to-use-royal-navy-to-tackle-migrant-crisis-wont-work-3530198>

The Royal Navy "is expected to be taking the lead on the migrant crossings as part of the PM's 'Operation Red Meat' initiative ..." "... the Senior Service would take over from the Border Force within the next few weeks in the battle to prevent migrants crossing the Channel in small boats to get into the UK."



Navies do have constabulary functions (see Booth Triangle) which can include responding to 'irregular migration' (Canadian term, may or may not be used by other states). But to take the lead, with its implications of a long endurance role, in a multi-government department (one could say whole-of-government'), badly named operation for something that is so patently within the responsibility of one or more civil departments is a gross misuse of a defence force. The military is there to assist civil authorities when something (e.g., a hurricane, pandemic) is beyond their usual resources, not to get taken up in domestic civil matters of major issue. Slippery slope for a liberal democracy.

Combat UGVs: are they really worth the hassle?

<https://www.tanknology.co.uk/post/are-combat-ugv-worth-it>

"First of a two-parter, an overtly critical piece challenging the fervent argument for combat uncrewed ground vehicles, meant to be confrontational, with next part arguing the benefits." A legible and comprehensible analysis, based on factors of:

- Autonomous Navigation: A colossal cognitive obstacle
- Assured Communications: An Achilles heel with no immediate solution
- Taking people out of harm's way: or putting them further into it?
- Logistics, deployment & support: Who exactly keeps RCVs running?
- Permanence: A flawed value proposition?

Well worth the read.



John Ivison: Canada's neglected military reaching point of being 'irrelevant'

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/john-ivison-the-perils-of-neglecting-our-military>

Too few, too little equipment, too far from the scenes of actions (other than cyber and public domains, where the battles are being fought right here at home) and with little means to get where we might be able to contribute if we had the resources. Government priorities, as evident to the public in actions and inactions, are social before combat readiness. Our senior military may be (certainly some are) strategists (though one could wish them to articulate strategy more) - 'Strong, Secure, Engaged' is a policy with strategic elements (what means are to be/may be bought), not a strategy (which in its simplest, is means and ways to achieve ends, ends that need articulation more than a few sweeping statements). The result may be that the military will be a limited option when government wishes to affect affairs, especially international.



Final operational flight of the CC-115 Buffalo aircraft

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2022/01/final-operational-flight-of-the-cc-115-buffalo-aircraft.html>

The CC115 Buffalo fixed-wing aircraft is being replaced by the CC295 Kingfisher in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Reading the news release about the 'final operational flight' of the Buffalo, and that CC130H Hercules will provide interim search and rescue service for a least one Search and Rescue Region, can lead one to wonder what is the status of bringing the Kingfisher into service (sometimes known as 'taken on strength'). In response to a query, the following was provided by Department of National Defence:

"The production of the Kingfisher, while impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic, is progressing. Currently there are four CC295 Kingfisher aircraft in Canada and five in Spain. Aircraft qualification work is ongoing in both locations.



Initial operational capability had been anticipated for summer 2022, however, this timeline is shifting to allow for aircraft certification and qualification which has been running longer than originally anticipated as a result of the volume and complexity of the work associated with developing the CC295 capability and the global COVID-19 pandemic situation. A revised schedule is currently being subjected to an extensive analysis that itself will take some time to complete because of its complexity.

The department is still analyzing and assessing the situation, working closely with Airbus, and expect to have more concrete information about the full impact in the next month or so.

In the meantime, Defence remains committed to ensuring continuous fixed-wing search and rescue availability and coverage across all Canadian Search and Rescue Regions during the transition to the CC295. While the Buffalo fleet has retired as planned, the existing CC130H fleet will be used alongside the CH149 Cormorant helicopter to provide coverage in Search and Rescue Region Victoria as an interim solution until the CC295 is declared operational."

Which brings up 'operational capabilities.' Some definitions:

Initial Operational Capability (IOC) is "the first attainment of the minimum ability to effectively employ a new or improved capability, and for which adequate infrastructure, training, staffing, and support are in place, both for the new capability and for the organization employing it." At IOC there is the equipment and the trained personnel to start operational use of a capability.

Full Operational Capability (FOC) is "the full attainment of the ability to effectively employ a new or improved capability, and for which fully achieved infrastructure, training, staffing, and support are in place, both for the new capability and for the organization employing it." The achievement of a FOC is a major project milestone that signifies that the scope (performance) objectives of the project have been substantially achieved to the satisfaction of the Project Sponsor. The criteria for achievement of FOC are described in the Statement of Requirements.

IOC and FOC can vary in detail from project to projects. For some projects, like major shipbuilding, the terms may not be in use. They are more useful for projects that are delivering large numbers of vehicles and aircraft.

Ukraine tensions: Frigate at 'high' readiness as it sets off for NATO mission

<https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/ukraine-tensions-frigate-at-high-readiness-as-it-sets-off-for-nato-mission-1.5745959>

"A Royal Canadian Navy admiral says a frigate departing Wednesday for the Mediterranean is prepared for 'any threat' as tensions with Russia mount."



'Forward presence,' especially the enduring kind the US practices, may not be part of Canada's military and naval strategies, but, in recognition that our country has a great challenge in getting to most places where we may be needed (other than domains like cyber and public information where the conflict has come to us), the Canadian Forces does routinely deploy forces forward as part of Canada's diplomatic statements and to be ready to contribute to military action when and where needed.

VT Halter Marine Wins Contract for USCG's 2nd Polar Security Cutter

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2021/12/vt-halter-marine-wins-contract-for-uscgs-2nd-polar-security-cutter/>

"The first ship delivery is scheduled to occur in 2024. If the options are exercised, the second and third vessels are expected to be delivered in 2025 and 2027 respectively."



It would be interesting to compare delivery dates of the US Coast Guard's Polar Security Cutters (PSC) to the prospective dates of Canada's Polar icebreakers. The dates of the latter are not reflected in the Public Services and Procurement Canada website: <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/app-acq/amd-dp/mer-sea/sncn-nss/polaire-polar-eng.html>. The Commandant of the US Coast Guard recently updated first PSC delivery to 2025 which leaves one wondering why are there articles with incorrect dates. Steel has not been cut for the first ship yet, either. These dates are overly ambitious given the yard has never built a polar icebreaker before.

And interesting to compare ship specifications. In the case of the US PSC, the design is 140m length by 28m breadth, with a full-load displacement of 23,200 tons and capable of embarking a large helicopter. The Canadian Polar icebreakers are to be 150m by 28m (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-coast-guard/news/2021/05/polar-icebreakers-and-the-national-shipbuilding-strategy.html>).

The Canadian Polar design was in the running originally for the US icebreaker. When VT Halter won, the PSC was based on the Polarstern II design - no one can ascertain what stage of completeness it was at as Germany cancelled the procurement process. That alone raises warning flags (to the point, see: Coast Guard Chief Says No Room to Accelerate Icebreaker Program <https://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/articles/2022/1/12/coast-guard-chief-says-no-room-to-accelerate-icebreaker-program>). The design has also been restrained in length as it has to fit existing the Seattle base wharf infrastructure. Another issue is open Azipod drives on port and starboard wings. Designs for the Commandant Charcot (Polar Class 2) and Xue Long II (PC3) use protective skegs ahead of the ABB Azipods. ABB, the Azipod manufacturer, has been concerned in the past of multi-year ice strikes directly on the propeller hub causing a catastrophic type failure. This is believed what may have happened on one of the Arctic LNG carriers in January 2021 when operating astern in heavy ice on the Northern Sea Route. The next series of these LNG carriers has been redesigned, with increased power, to reduce the need to operate astern in ice in the future.

Currently the wishful thinking dates for the two Canadian Polars are 2030 (at Seaspan) and 2031 (at Davie, although this is not believed to be Davie's date). The Davie Polar should be the first ship out of their new covered construction hall which has not yet started construction.

Other Sources:

#armour

Quick guide to identifying the Russian tanks Part 1: Updated Dec. 2021

<http://blog.vantagepointnorth.net/2021/12/quick-guide-to-identifying-russian.html>

#environment

Defence department to help feds plant two billion trees

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2022/01/17/defence-department-to-help-feds-plant-two-billion-trees.html>

Comment from one of our contributors: Let's re-equip the infantry with shovels. They don't jam and don't become obsolete...

#information operations

Rethinking the Press in an Era of Distrust

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/rethinking-press-era-distrust>

Responsible reporting has to be based on twin pillars of objectivity and facts. Opinion is just that, and all over the place these days in traditional and social media platforms.

#marine security

People's Republic of China: Maritime Claims in the South China Sea

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/LIS150-SCS.pdf>

part of US Department of State's series:

Limits in the Seas

<https://www.state.gov/limits-in-the-seas/>

and with easy-read summary:

State Department Report on Chinese Claims in the South China Seas

<https://news.usni.org/2022/01/13/state-department-report-on-chinese-claims-in-the-south-china-sea>

#Royal Canadian Air Force

Final operational flight of the CC-115 Buffalo aircraft

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2022/01/final-operational-flight-of-the-cc-115-buffalo-aircraft.html>

#Royal Canadian Navy

Special Edition: 2021 in Review

<http://www.navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/news-ynt/2022/01-your-navy-today.page>

#security

National security can't become a tool of partisan feuding

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-national-security-cant-become-a-tool-of-partisan-feuding/>

Available to RUSI(NS)members on request if you can't get by the subscription wall.

#shipbuilding

Irving Shipbuilding Year in Review - 2021

video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7UV6rlGOwQ>

#wargaming

Reviewing Sid Meier's! Lessons in Game Design: Civilization and Wargames

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2021/1/11/reviewing-sid-meiers-lessons-in-game-design-civilization-and-wargames>

Other:

Military Strategy Magazine - Volume 7 Issue 4

<https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/>

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Winning Left of Battle: The Role of Analysis

The Military Strategist's Flux Capacitor

Mahan Versus Corbett in Width, Depth, and Context

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Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O Canada

Wednesday, HMCS *Montreal* headed for the Mediterranean on Op REASSURANCE, which will also likely bring the ship into the Black Sea during a time of great stress on Ukraine, Russia and Europe. HMCS *Montreal* is the third ship of its name in Canadian service. In most modern navies she would be getting ready to be paid off due to her age. She was built at the Saint John Shipbuilding Ltd of Saint John New Brunswick as the seventh member of the Halifax-class frigates. She was launched in February 1992 and commissioned in 1994 into the Canadian Atlantic Fleet. Although she has been modernised, her hull is thirty years old and while Canadian shipwrights and maintainers are excellent, there is only so much one can do with an old hull. There are 240 personnel in the ship for this mission, along with the Cyclone helicopter which as one has to remind readers is still not a fully functioning aircraft despite the efforts of many capable folks. Turning a civilian helicopter into a military platform is very difficult and most countries are bright enough not to try this method. In spite of these deficiencies there is one part we can depend on, and that is the officers, sailors and aviators who crew her, they will do the very best they can with what our government has provided. Those who have served will all know the feeling of heading into harm's way. We who are now too old or not in a position can only pray that they will return safely in six months.

Canadian pilots who may be required to defend our North will be flying a nearly forty-year-old fighter against brand new Russian types. They also will do their best as they have always done. They will also be missing an up-to-date North Warning System to help them in their task. Again, lack of action by governments has once again put Canadian service members lives at stake. One only has to remember that a government sent Canadian troops into Afghanistan in uniforms meant for a temperate climate. The green on the beige soil of Afghanistan really was "outstanding," nor can one forget the *Illis* Light Utility Vehicle Wheeled (LUVW) used in an area with suicide bombers and improvised explosive devices that led to the deaths of several Canadian forces members. Once again, members of the Canadian Armed Forces will be putting their lives on the line in inadequate equipment. Hopefully, they will return in one piece.

Now for the bone-headed action of the year: it goes to Global News for its 'great' understanding of operational security by announcing to the world that Canadian special forces members were in Ukraine. Special forces and other organizations live in secrecy because that is their greatest armour against being ineffective or worse. I can hardly wait to see what happens next. It will certainly make life more 'interesting' for the SOF commander on the ground.

Russia

Russia is not the Soviet Union no matter what Mr Putin would want. Population alone would put Russia at a major disadvantage with an alleged population of 146m people versus the USSR at 380m. The economy is not able to take on major expenditures for any length of time, being smaller than Canada's GDP. Russia allegedly has over 1.1m active troops on the establishment yet some Russian language outlets state that conscription is not going well and that re-enlistment of contract soldiers is also anemic with actual true strength being around 800k and nearly a third being poorly trained conscripts. There are allegedly somewhere around 2m reservists, but this is an unverifiable number especially after reserve formations were eliminated under the 2008 reforms and re-organization. Not much is known about how much they train and how easy could they be called up. There is also the National Guard, an organization of approximately 370k that are more closely related to a gendarmerie rather than a fighting force. They report directly to the President of the Russian Federation. Their main function appears to be dealing with internal security threats such as riots and demonstrations. There are other organizations that could be used to augment the armed forces such as Border Guards, the successor to the KGB the FSB and the Personal Protective Service. Looks impressive but although there is much talk of modern weaponry, most Russian equipment is based on old equipment that has been modernized, such as the venerable T-72 which makes up the largest number of tanks available to Russian forces and not the technically advanced T-14 Armata which is difficult to build and maintain and is still in very small numbers. Russia does keep modifying and upgrading equipment and most is simple but robust and in significant numbers. The great announcements of new and better weapons are often shrouded in disinformation, such as the SU-57 5th generation fighter which still does not have the required engine because of development issues, as is the Armata tank and derivatives.

The Russian air force is being modernized but new aircraft are slow in coming and most, the entire AEW fleet, the IL-76 cargo aircraft, tankers and bombers, are aging as are a large proportion of fighter and attack aircraft. While relatively capable, the air force is tiny in comparison to overall allied numbers. Russian air defence is integrated and comprehensive but not infallible but it does provide a wild card. Last week saw the announcement of a new TU-160 White Swan being flown; it is apparently the first TU-160 produced since the late 1980s. There were four fuselages available which means they can build at least three more, but like the SU-57, the production of engines is slow as to be almost stopped. One source stated that only two per year could be managed. If true or even partially true, is the White Swan a real threat or is it wishful thinking of former Soviet glory?

Electronic warfare is also a strong Russian suit. Russia is famous for its capabilities in this area. Any action would be strongly supported by EW assets and capabilities. It is one of the strongest areas of Russian capabilities and it will no doubt be used and most effectively.

Russia's Navy is a mixed bag with large numbers of old ships. Their crews now are mainly contract soldiers as opposed to conscripts. Given the highly technological requirement, conscripts are not as suitable as they have been in the past. New technology requires a well-educated sailor who has time to train on complex combat systems. Russia has essentially five fleets. Once hostile actions start, they will be unable to reinforce the other fleets so are therefore faced with fighting with whatever forces they have on hand. Some fleets do not have the capability to maintain their more complex vessels therefore the fleet will deteriorate fairly quickly even through wear and tear of normal operations. Although Russia has modernised some areas, there have been no new major surface units built larger than a frigate. Missile armaments have been improved but large numbers of vessels are still not upgraded and new replacements have not been built. Most new ships have been smaller and more oriented for coastal waters but with some capacity to use long range missiles. Some of the vaunted numbers of warships include tugs and other unarmed or lightly armed auxiliaries and not cutters, corvettes, frigates or other armed vessels. Russia's destroyer fleet is exclusively of Soviet-era ships

and are now similar in age to our late Iroquois-class destroyers. One has to wonder about their effectiveness. The bottom line is that with the exception of the submarine fleet, the Russian Navy will be mainly a coastal defence force and its fleets unable to support each other once fighting begins.

Russia is conducting a series of exercises with Belarus this week. They were also successful in rapidly deploying to Kazakhstan and returning post-operation. It appeared that both military and civilian aircraft were used in this operation.

Currently, Russia has placed 100k troops on the Eastern border with Ukraine. There are also about 45k troops in Crimea and now Belarussian and Russian troops are exercising on Ukraine's north border. We also must mention up to 40k rebel troops although many are actually Russian service personnel despite Russia denying their involvement. Total Belarussian forces are around 100k. Not all of this would be available by a long shot. Some could be used to cause further concern. The bottom line is that despite large numbers, Russia is limited on how fast it could put new troops into the field, particularly if efforts are interdicted in various ways. If they were invade Ukraine, it would not be automatic victory but a nasty slugfest with people who now really don't like the Russians of Putin's Russia. Mr Putin's victory would be hollow as the Russian state would inherit a country that will be restless at best and in an insurrection at worst. It will be a lose-lose situation. It is hard to see that Russia will have achieved anything by its actions and it is increasingly easy to see that NATO and friends of Ukraine have been relatively solid in their support of Ukraine. One has to wonder, what was Vladimir Putin thinking? How many times did he think he would get away with his tactics without someone hitting back? His economy cannot take a hit despite them saying that they can. His cabinet and government do not have the expertise or knowledge of the effect of increased sanctions, particularly those directed at Putin directly. Time will tell if there is a greater plan at play but it seems unlikely at this point to see a Russian success. It is also increasingly clear that Russians in general and the young especially are not okay with his adventurism. These activities may be more costly than is currently known.

China

China has continued to maintain what is called Zero Covid policy within China. They are saying that they have been successful in preventing any deaths to Covid for over 600 days. Most recently, the city of Xi'an was locked down with more than 14m people affected by this order. Smuggled video shows a brutal level of enforcement including beatings, forced confinements, separation of children from parents, suicides and a steady number of dead...but none have died of Covid officially. Xi'an is about 70 kms away from Beijing, now a month away from the start of the 2022 Winter Olympic games followed a few weeks later by the Para-Olympics. Chinese authorities are showing their best, if one considers authoritarian brutality and zero tolerance for anything to be part of the Olympic spirit. These games prove once and for all that the Olympic spirit is dead and by allowing the games to continue, the IOC is de facto supporting an authoritarian genocidal regime because of money. It is a time to re-think the Olympic dream. I cannot believe genocide was one of the moving principles unless one counts 1936 as an example of that ideal.

I had someone comment that I was anti-Chinese. I am not, but I do differentiate between the Chinese people and the Communist Chinese Party (CCP). The CCP represents just 7% of the overall Chinese population. I dismiss the idea that the Chinese people and the Party are one. As we have seen by smuggled video, survivors and satellite imagery it is clear that the CCP lies almost exclusively, whether it is casualty figures from Covid, the state of their finances, to even their population figures which were delayed for months so that figures could be 'adjusted' to meet the requirements of the CCP. Some population experts have stated that they believe the actual Chinese population is actually much smaller than provided.

Now for some amusement. China is almost the very lowest score in press freedom with a score of 9/100 placing it at 177 out of 182 countries in the survey. China has responded by creating its own survey by Data100, owned by Alibaba. Unfortunately, in this new survey Canada is the absolutely the worst country in the world. Apparently it is to hit back at Canada's change in attitude towards China which went from being having a very favourable opinion of China to having one of the worst views of China. The survey was amateurish effort. One of the areas being reviewed is the availability of an extradition treaty with China. As the commentator of the article said, who would ever have an extradition treaty with an authoritarian China. I can see the dissidents being arrested and deported now. Still, a bit of a comedy but apparently it is an actual poll. One also should be reminded that Canada is one of the most asked for places to move to from China and that Canadian citizenship is also one of the most sought after. It fills me with pride that Canada is the worst. On a more serious issue, are Canadian athletes and staff safe if this the attitude of the CCP and its groups of netizens? It is worth some thought, not too much though, but it was funny to see this article.

On financial issues that should concern us, merchants like Walmart get 70% of its goods from China. It is these type of actions that should be stopped in favour of countries at least making some attempt at being a democracy. Every investment in China supports a murderous regime that has little or no interest in being fair legally to foreign investors, especially in light of new financial regulations. Speaking of China's finances, the business reporter of the CBC said this week that China's GDP rose by 8%. I have to say I more than sceptical given the massive damage caused by this year's rains and horrific damage to major infrastructure throughout China. It also devastated their crops throughout the country because of unprecedented flooding. Then there is the foreign withdrawal and US sanctions plus the massive interruption of the supply chain. Given that the CCP hates bad news is it possible (actually more than possible) that local officials have 'padded' the numbers? It is likely; a number of sources closer to China who rely on stats other than the official ones have said that growth is likely two to three per cent or even less but whose figure do you believe? I do not and cannot believe China's official figures, it doesn't make sense.

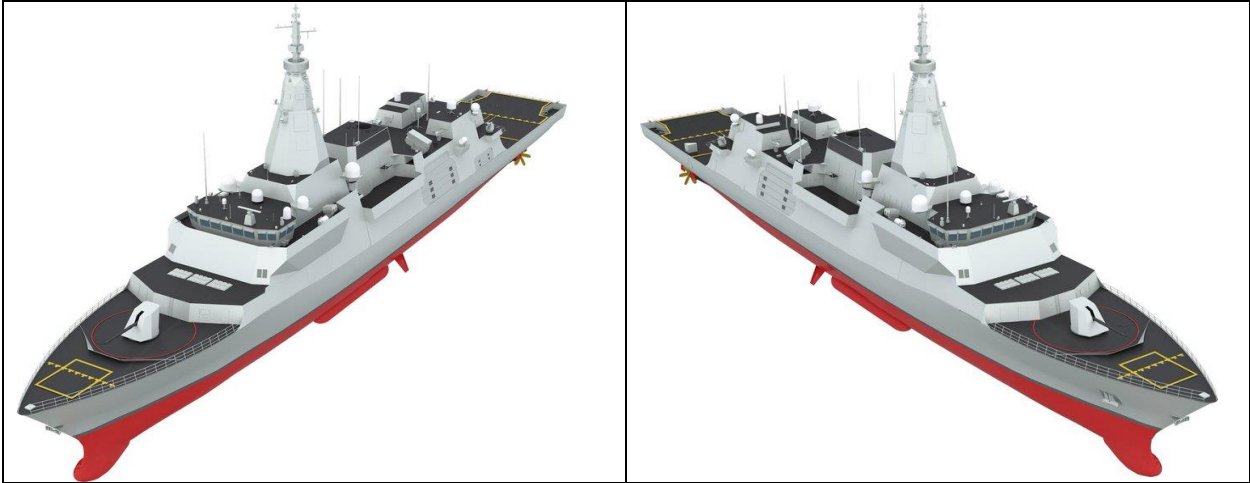
China continues to harass virtually all its neighbours in some form. The Ladakh area on the China/India frontier continues to fester especially. Keep in mind both states are nuclear armed and the area has a rather small population. Could a 'nuc' be used to settle some scores? One has to consider the possibilities. Speaking of that area, apparently Tibetans will be staging anti-China protests throughout China during the Olympics - this should show the real CCP. It will likely not be pretty and will result in 'lockdowns' for the foreigners for their 'safety,' no doubt. The CCP at its finest.

As a parting note, I would like to recommend a YouTube channel called *Digging to China* by a Mr Don Xiang. He is fluent in Chinese and his articles are normally around 10 to 15 minutes on a large number of subjects. What I like about it is that he seems a more reasonable and credible open source than most internet hosts or sites. It is not perfect, but this channel seems less imperfect than most dealing with China and the issues created by the CCP. It is worth watching and creating your own opinion but I find it useful as I do our own publication, *China Open Source*, by one of our own members published most weeks. Having Chinese language speakers gives us a better view of what we face as Canadians from the CCP. This is a valuable and useful capability. The other issue is that it reminds us that it is not the Chinese people who are the problem or challenge but rather the corruption of the CCP which warps the acts of the Chinese nation.

Canadian Surface Combatant Graphics

The two graphics below were included in CAF and DND tweets about the new Land-Based Testing Facility at Hartlen Point. Graphics have their utility, especially in the early days of a project, but until a detailed design is complete (hmm, does that really happen?), such pictures are just concepts.

BTW, the two tweet graphics are not the same picture flipped, but port and starboard bow views - the navigation radar on the bridge top gives it away.

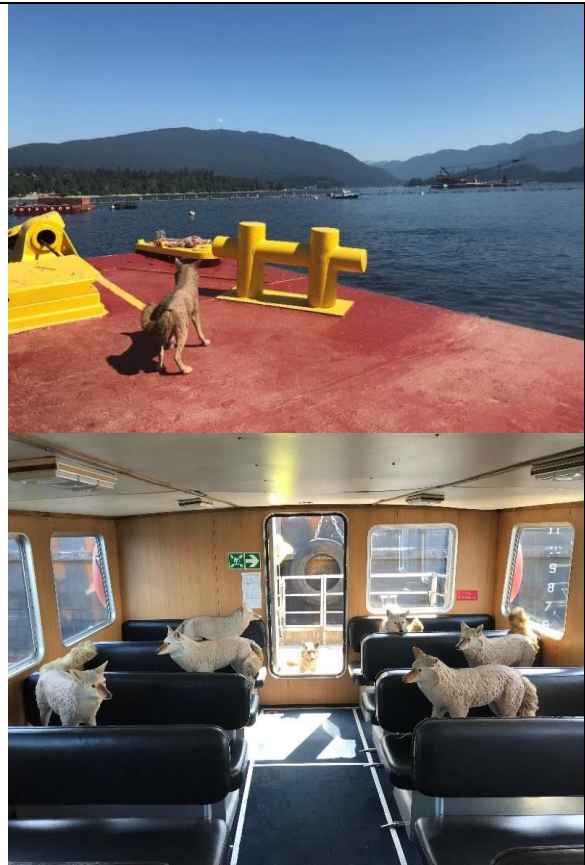


A New Pack at Westridge Marine Terminal

<https://www.transmountain.com/news/2022/a-new-pack-at-westridge-marine-terminal>

"... an innovative program that uses coyote decoys on our marine barges."

Okay, when new barges were recently acquired for the Queen's Harbour Master Esquimalt, did they come with their own coyote decoys? Vessel requirement documents need to look at all the threats and be all encompassing.



Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace & Security
@DallaireInst 15
Jan tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Attention Canadian Veterans! The Dallaire Institute and partners are conducting research to explore the experiences of military personnel who engaged with children recruited and used as soldiers. See poster for details on how to participate in this study.
@VeteransENG_CA

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 training and supports that are needed.

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.

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

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