



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Dispatches

4 February 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).

RUSI(NS) Membership Renewal

If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2022, please do so at: <https://rusi-ns.ca/membership/>.

RUSI(NS) 2021 Survey

The link to the RUSI(NS) survey for how we did in 2021 was included in the email 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. If you can't find the link, email RUSI(NS).

Temporary Editor Wanted

We are seeking an editor for *Dispatches* for 8 to 22 April 2022. If interested, please contact RUSI(NS).

Events:

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

New: 7 February, Monday - Naval Association of Canada February Speaker's Evening with Shaun Padulo, President of Heddle Shipyards, presenting an overview of the capabilities of Heddle and about

some current projects and past refits of HMCS Haida. 1900-2100 Eastern time. To register: <https://nac-o.wildapricot.org/event-4660141>.

New: 8 February, Tuesday - Royal Canadian Navy virtual tour of future HMCS *Margaret Brooke*. 1100-1200 AST. Via Zoom. To register, contact LCdr Kray Robichaud Kray.Robichaud@forces.gc.ca. See poster at end of *Dispatches*.

16 February, Wednesday - Distinguished Speaker Col Meaghan Setter, RCAF, "RCAF Strategy: Air and Space in Formation." 1300-1500. Via Zoom. To register, email RUSI(NS) by close-of-business Sunday, 13 February. As the subject line for your registration email, put: RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker 16 February 2022 Registration. In addition to your name, include whether you are a RUSI(NS) member, otherwise please provide your organization (association, company or unit). 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 Monday, 14 February. If you have not received them by end-of-day 14 February, please check your spam folder and, if necessary, email RUSI(NS).

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>

16 March, Wednesday - save the date for the next RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker.

New: 31 March, Thursday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation by Phil Bolger-Cortez, Wargame Director, Air University LeMay Center for Doctrine Development and Education, on "Air Force Wargaming." 7-9pm ADT. Via Zoom. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/air-force-wargaming-tickets-241404436167>

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.

RUSI(NS) Paper "We Have No Air Defence For Our Army – Why?" by Murray Lee, 23 January 2022, <https://rusi-ns.ca/air-defence/>

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/

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

New: Edmonton United Services Institute President's *Enews*, February 2022

New: Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XL, Number 2, February 2022

New: Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, February 2022

<https://rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/99-rausi-dispatches-february-2022>

New: Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch *Scuttlebutt*, February 2022

Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver and Vancouver Artillery Association Members *News*, 25 January 2022

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

New: Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 10, Issue 4, 31 January 2022

New: Vancouver Artillery Association and Royal United Services Institute Vancouver Members News Feb 1, 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.

Center for International Maritime Security @CIMSEC 24 Jan tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: "Throughout history, from the age of sail to modern nuclear navies, the maintenance of good order at sea has required far more than simply fighting battles on the waves." @GoldrickJames and @BDHerzinger take on the idea of "non-traditional security."


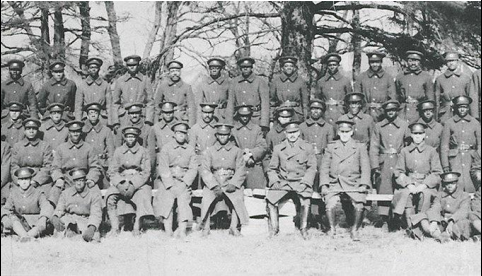

<https://cimsec.org/non-traditional-security-is-just-security/>
RAdm Goldrick RAN (ret'd) is always worth a read.



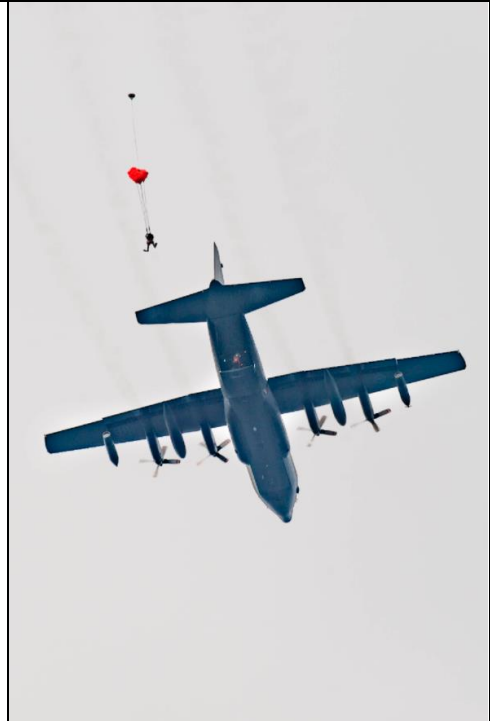
Anita Anand @AnitaAnandMP 24 Jan tweeted: Attawapiskat: In response to a Request for Federal Assistance, our @CanadianForces are providing support for Attawapiskat First Nation. Canadian Rangers continue to liaise and work closely with community leaders to ensure their needs are met. RUSI(NS) retweeted: @CanadianForces #CanadianRangers assisted Attawapiskat First Nation with logistical & general support; transportation; distribution of food, water & care packages; production & distribution of firewood; distribution of information to community #OpLASER

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national->



<p>defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/laser.html</p>	
<p>National Defence @NationalDefence 31 Jan tweeted: A new \$592M contract has been competitively awarded to Nasittuq for the maintenance of the current North Warning System, a chain of remotely operated radar stations in the Arctic that supports our ability to defend Canada. https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2022/01/government-of-canada-awards-in-service-support-contract-for-north-warning-system.html (Government of Canada awards in-service support contract for North Warning System) Contract for op & maintenance of North Warning System (NWS - chain of remotely operated aerospace surveillance radar stations in #Arctic) awarded to Nasittuq Corporation, an Inuit owned company. Appropriate; people of CAN🇨🇦 North best positioned to care for northern infrastructure</p>	
<p>MGen M.-H. St-Louis, Acting CCA / CAC par intérim @Army_Comd_Armeec 1 Feb tweeted: Members of the No. 2 Construction Battalion, the largest Black unit in Canadian military history, fought for the right to serve in WWI. #CanadaRemembers their bravery - both at home and in Europe. #BlackHistoryMonth https://veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/national-inventory-canadian-memorials/details/2126 (No. 2 Construction C.E.F. Memorial) RUSI(NS) retweeted: RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker scheduled 29 June 2022 to talk on @CanadianArmy No 2 Construction Battalion, largest Black unit in CANFlag of Canadamilitary history https://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/no-2-construction-battalion Gov't to apologize 9 July 2022: https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-planning-apology-to-the-no-2-construction-battalion.html (No. 2 Construction Battalion Government of Canada planning apology to the No. 2 Construction Battalion)</p>	
<p>RCAF Operations @RCAFOperations 2 Feb tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: On 29 Jan, a 436 Sqn CC130J parachuted water barrels simulating fuel to Ross Lake, Northwest Territories in support of an @RCAF_ARC Twin Otter. This exercise was part of a trial to enhance the range of 440 Sqn CC138 northern operations. #airpower @JTFN_FOIN</p>	

Trenton JRCC CCCOS @JRCCTrentCCCOS 1 Feb tweeted: With a range of over 7000 kms, ability to operate at high and low altitudes, and capacity to carry and drop SAR Techs and equipment, the @RCAF_ARC's CC-130H Hercules is a great #SAR aircraft for Search and Rescue Region Trenton! @RCAFoperations #ThatOthersMayLive #DYK



Jay Janzen @Jay_Janzen 3 Feb tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: You've seen plenty of Russian fake news. Get ready for Russian fake FILMS as pretexts for invasions... (U.S. Exposes What It Says Is Russian Effort to Fabricate Pretext for Invasion <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/03/us/politics/russia-ukraine-invasion-pretext.html>)



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 3 Feb tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Australian defence study warns new warships with same design to be used by Canada are unsafe. Parliamentary Budget Officer estimates Canadian project to cost \$77 billion. <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/australian-defence-study-warns-new-warships-with-same-design-to-be-used-by-canada-are-unsafe> via @ottawacitizen



Canadian Coast Guard conduct sea trials of the Shield AI V-BAT UAS

<https://www.navyrecognition.com/index.php/naval-news/naval-news-archive/2022/january/11327-canadian-coast-guard-conduct-sea-trials-of-the-shield-ai-v-bat-uas.html>

RUSI(NS) tweeted about this development last week; this article has a different picture of the UAS.



North Warning System

The tweet above in *Dispatches* about a contract for the NWS led to some discussion during which ‘EvoNAD’ was mentioned. Acronym Alert! A quick search resulted in:

Department of National Defence Departmental Plan 2021-22 <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/departmental-plans/departmental-plan-2021-22/planned-results/operations.html>

“The CAF will continue participating in the Evolution of North American Defence (EvoNAD) Study to analyze current and emerging threats, plans and initiatives in order to identify, develop and recommend modifications and investments to close the capability gaps across the air, maritime, cyber, space, information and land domains.”

Also found: Shielding North America - Canada’s Role in NORAD Modernization

<https://www.naadsn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/NAADSN-engage4-NORAD-NT-RD-upload.pdf>
and

NORAD: Renewal of the North Warning System by Canada – or Not?

<https://www.navalassoc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Gilmour-NORAD-1.pdf>



NORTH WARNING SYSTEM

NWS was constructed between **1986** and **1992**

There are **50** sites in total, **47** of which are in Canada

- The NWS provides aerospace surveillance of northern approaches and helps us keep North America safe.
- We are investing **\$592 million over 7 years** to maintain this important capability.
- This contract includes the **highest ever Inuit-Benefits** Requirements.

Canada.ca/Defence

Canada

The graphic features a large radar dome on a building in the background. A map of Canada is overlaid with the number 47. In the bottom left, there is a smaller image of a radar site with a sign that reads 'Requirement of Inuit-Benefits North Warning System Site CAMBROSE BAY'.

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.

Canadian arms cache originally for Kurds could be sent to Ukraine

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canadian-arms-cache-originally-for-kurds-could-be-sent-to-ukraine>

"But it could use the Canadian equipment as long as there is enough ammunition and its soldiers receive proper training."



Those are significant points. Points that those who call for sending weapons to Ukraine should bear in mind. Otherwise, such calls are simply posturing.

We Have No Air Defence For Our Army – Why?

<https://rusi-ns.ca/air-defence/>

I was very gratified to see the paper on the Canadian Army's lack of air defence capability. I've been amazed that this has not set off alarm bells long before now.



This is a link to a discussion of the Russian military threat to Ukraine from the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University: <https://youtu.be/gwrzophpNJA>. It covers the origins of the situation, looks at the current state of the Russian build up and how it occurred, and discusses both Russian and Ukrainian options.

Russia moves naval exercises outside Ireland's Exclusive Economic Zone

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/russia-moves-naval-exercises-outside-ireland-s-exclusive-economic-zone-1.4789024>



A state, "... under international law, can take military exercises in international waters, ..." including another state's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Hmm, at that point, the exercise becomes a statement of international relations, whether the other state is an ally or not. But then, that's a nature of navies. Whatever a warship does is some kind of signal.

Could be a really interesting statement if some state, particularly a not-friendly one, decides to exercise in Canada's EEZ.

Russia Is Teaching a Master Class in ‘Decision-Centric’ Warfare

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2022/01/russia-teaching-master-class-decision-centric-warfare/361310/>

"... decision-centric warfare attempts to create a larger and more diverse set of options than is available to the enemy."

"Integrated deterrence is likely to fail unless it provides U.S. and allied leaders a superior range of credible options that pose dilemmas for opponents, which will require persistent engagement and demonstrations of capability and resolve."

It's not about troops and aircraft and ships. There is all sorts of warfare going on now.



Belgium Naval & Robotics tests LARS as part of rMCM programme

<https://www.naval-technology.com/news/belgium-naval-robotics-tests-lars-as-part-of-rmcm-programme/>

Interesting development, a small floating dock as a launch and recovery system (LARS) for unscrewed surface vessels (USV). With the right cranes (davits?), many civil ships (e.g., offshore supports vessels) may possibly now be employable as USV tenders ('Mother ship?' An appropriate term needs to be developed).



Tail cracks on military's new helicopters likely due to weight of equipment: DND

<https://www.thestar.com/politics/2022/01/31/tail-cracks-on-militarys-new-helicopters-likely-due-to-weight-of-equipment-dnd.html>



Russia moves blood supplies near Ukraine, adding to U.S. concern, officials say

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/exclusive-russia-moves-blood-supplies-near-ukraine-adding-us-concern-officials-2022-01-28/>

The number of another state's tanks on your border is an 'indicator.' That the number of tanks is now 400 when last week it was 100 is an 'indication.' But numbers of combat elements (troops, aircraft, ships) are not the best indicators at the strategic and operational levels. For a possible major action, the extent of the other state's logistics (fuel, ammunition) and medical services preparations are telling.



Going the extra mile

https://editions.shephardmedia.com/2021/11/19/nw-06-21-fleet-replenishment/pugpig_index.html

Some Canadians and others may disagree with the author's taxonomy (generally, service support ships that provide fuel and other necessities to naval ships are replenishment oilers;

ships that move fuel in bulk from port to port are tankers), but the article well highlights the utility and complexity of logistics ships. There are, however, many types of logistics ships, and a navy, as part of decisions about roles and employment (blue water, regional, power projection, sea control), is structured accordingly.

Commercial standards have and can be used to convert and build logistics ships. Motor Vessel ASTERIX, converted from a civil container ship into a replenishment oiler and leased to the Royal Canadian Navy, is a good modern example. The Protecteur-class replenishment oilers being acquired under the Canadian Joint Support Ship project are being built to more stringent naval standards.



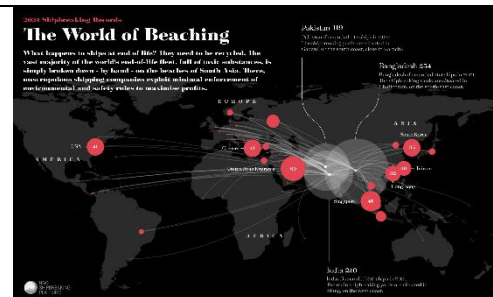
The Toxic Tide - 2021 Shipbreaking Records

<http://www.offthebeach.org/>

Whilst there aren't any Canadian warships due for disposal and breaking, other federal marine department vessels continue to go to, apparently always, Canadian breakers. And the Canadian Coast Guard wrecked, abandoned and hazardous vessels program

(<https://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/awah-ienad/program-programme-eng.html>) continues.

A summary of the report is at "Platform publishes list of ships dismantled worldwide in 2021" (<https://mailchi.mp/shipbreakingplatform/press-release-platform-publishes-list-of-ships-dismantled-worldwide-in-15229239>). Canada doesn't seem to get a mention in the report – are Canadian merchant ships sold to a foreign owner before being sent to overseas breakers? And we have local issues, see "Global coalition calls for halt to shipbreaking in Union Bay" (<https://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/news/global-coalition-calls-for-halt-to-shipbreaking-in-union-bay/>).



Canada will not use troops against truckers' blockade, more protests planned

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/canada-has-no-plans-use-troops-deal-with-ottawa-protest-pm-trudeau-2022-02-03/>



British navy rejects plan to push back Channel migrant boats

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/british-navy-rejects-plan-push-back-channel-migrant-boats-2022-02-02/>



The Royal Navy, tasked with "policing small boats crossing between France and England," will not use "controversial tactic" (policy?) of forcing migrant boats back from the United Kingdom. Appropriate - the use of military force against civilians in such circumstances is not what a liberal democratic state's military is all about.

Earlier: "Royal Navy: No spare capacity to patrol English Channel for migrants"

<https://www.forces.net/news/royal-navy-has-no-spare-capacity-service-set-patrol-english-channel>

The use of fast inshore patrol vessels to conduct policing is a better use of resources than high end frigates and even (smaller than frigates) mine warfare vessels. This "no spare capacity" highlights that the Royal Navy (similar to Royal Canadian Navy?) was not structured to carry out constabulary missions such as countering irregular migration. Their navy, and Canada's, is balanced differently. Offshore (midshore?) patrol vessels for such tasks should be built for and operated by other federal (civil) departments.

Other Sources:

#Arctic

Maritime Risk and Safety Group "Maximum Expected Time to be Rescued" project

<https://www.maritimeriskandsafety.ca/projects/metr/>

Interesting project. Well support by federal departments, etc.

#cyber ops #strategy #NATO

Pressing Questions: Offensive Cyber Operations and NATO Strategy

<https://mwi.usma.edu/pressing-questions-offensive-cyber-operations-and-nato-strategy/>

#drones

The Drone Threat Comes Home

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2022-01-28/drone-threat-comes-home>

Available to RUSI(S) members on request if you are unable to get past the subscription wall.

Navy Moving Forward with Autonomous Systems in Non-Lethal Roles

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/navy-moving-forward-autonomous-systems-non-lethal-roles-200173>

Note reference to the USN's "Unmanned Campaign Framework"

https://www.navy.mil/Portals/1/Strategic/20210315%20Unmanned%20Campaign_Final_LowRes.pdf

#information operations #deception

Sowing Darkness for Military Advantage: Deception

<https://wavellroom.com/2022/01/28/sowing-darkness-with-deception/>

#intelligence

Detect and Understand: Modernizing Intelligence for the Gray Zone

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/detect-and-understand-modernizing-intelligence-gray-zone>

Here's how intelligence agencies can search foreign documents without learning the language

<https://www.defensenews.com/intel-geoint/2022/01/31/heres-how-intelligence-agencies-can-search-foreign-documents-without-learning-the-language/>

#international relations #finwar

Turning Words into Action: Russia, Ukraine and Financial Sanctions Options

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/turning-words-action-russia-ukraine-and-financial-sanctions-options>

#media operations

Improve Military–Media Relations

<https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2022/january/improve-military-media-relations>

Available to RUSI(S) members on request if you are unable to get past the subscription wall.

#NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Lessons from Afghanistan

<https://hillnotes.ca/2022/01/27/the-north-atlantic-treaty-organization-and-lessons-from-afghanistan/>

For NATO, Ukraine-Russia War Threat Has Been Clarifying

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/30296/for-nato-ukraine-russia-war-threat-has-been-clarifying>

#naval strategy

Mahan Versus Corbett in Width, Depth, and Context

<https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/article/mahan-versus-corbett-in-width-depth-and-context/>

#space

A 'Scorched-Earth Orbit Policy' emerges from Indifference to Space Debris from ASAT missions

<https://www.williamsfoundation.org.au/post/a-scorched-earth-orbit-policy-emerges-from-indifference-to-space-debris-from-asat-missions>

#warfare

The Tactical Defense Becomes Dominant Again

<https://www.960cyber.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2810962/the-tactical-defense-becomes-dominant-again/>

Multi Dimensional and Domain Operations (MDDO)

<https://wavellroom.com/2022/01/26/mddo/>

Russia's New Way of War

<https://wavellroom.com/2022/01/24/russia-new-way-war/>

A Little Mud Won't Stop Putin

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/01/31/putin-russia-ukraine-frozen-ground/>

Available to RUSI(S) members on request if you are unable to get past the subscription wall.

Other:

Canadian Army Today Fall 2021, November 22, 2021

<https://canadianarmytoday.com/digital-catalogue/>

contents:

Army Sergeant Major: CWO James Smith

Modernizing for the future fight

A call for a digital insurgency

Experimenting with combat support

Joint Fires, incrementally

Behind friendly lines

RAMD: Test, break, repeat

Can you 3D print that?

MILNEWS.ca (<https://milnewsca.wordpress.com/>) is a news collector/curator of Canadian and foreign articles related to the Canadian military and foreign affairs. Currently the daily feed is an excellent listing of news related to the Ukrainian crisis. Worth subscribing (free).

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O Canada

I would be remiss not to mention that it is also the start of Black history month. One tends to forget how much the Black community actually has an important place in Canadian and military history from the building of the Citadel by the Maroons to the 2 Construction Battalion in the First World War to the start of integration into the Army in the Second World War and now to their everyday service as members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Yet still they have to jump through hoops that a white person doesn't have to do in order to just do their job. It is truly a wonder and a marvel that the Black community still wants to do the job despite the barriers. I consider it a privilege to have known some of the best and brightest within the Black military community who are true leaders in our country today. The world of defence and security has gotten somewhat better, but we still have a way to go in recognizing their contribution. More importantly, how important it is to simply have the possibility of being able to do their jobs safely and without barriers and be amongst friends and comrades without any reservations and with mutual respect as human beings.

I will start this week's note on a personal view. We have talked about the problems of procurement of new military equipment, but not really about the lack of actual action to sort out the issues and how it effects the member of the Canadian Armed Forces when procurement is delayed. As most members know, I did three tours of Afghanistan. I was armed with a C7 rifle, and a 9 mm Browning hi-power pistol dated 1944, built by Inglis Washing Machine Company of London, Ontario. I was lucky in that most of the time outside of the wire, I was well escorted and well armed personally. It was my final tour that became more than a little unnerving. I was working as a mentor to a senior Afghan police officer in an unnamed HQ unit within the Green Zone; I also acted as escort for US civilian contractors who worked in the same location. This day started well, the personal protective posture allowed for just a side arm, and we could go without body armour within the Green Zone. The day started to go

downhill because of a series of incidents nearby necessitating our return to our own camp. We were required to be ready for a possible attack by several means including suicide bombers with shooter escorts or even a vehicle borne improvised explosive devices (VBIED). So out we went armed with a Browning 9 mm hi-power pistol built in 1944 as our only means of defence. My only thought was what happens if someone does show up? The old Brownings were notorious for stoppages because of age and wear and although I was proficient and not too bad a shot, a stoppage would have meant death, either mine or the civilian contractors. It was an uneasy feeling to say the least. I wondered how many other Canadian soldiers ended up feeling the same way in similar circumstances. Just to finish this off, a couple days later, the local street kids stopped what was believed to be a fourteen- or fifteen-year-old child on a bicycle believing him to be an interloper on their sales territory. He wasn't, he was a suicide bomber, he was just across the street from our normal place of business. The six street children were killed along with the suicide bomber. I owed one of those children a dollar; he had shoved a wooden bracelet in my hands - as I never carried money, I promised to pay him the next time I saw him. I still have that stupid little trinket. The threat was real; a reliable pistol might have been the difference between life or death.

Working weapons for a soldier is not a nice to have, it is vital, just the same as a fighter pilot needs a good aircraft that they can trust and is the best aircraft available, or a ship's company who need ships that are relatively new, up to date and able to meet the main enemy, the sea or if necessary, fight a real near peer enemy with confidence. Right now, we do not have any of that, while the government works on social engineering and its other challenges. The CAF is capable of doing its job when it gets reliable tools and conducting the social engineering; right now, the CAF needs to concentrate on the job of defending the country and its interests.

Australia

Australia announced the acquisition of the Improved Tomahawk cruise missile for installation aboard the three Hobart-class air defence destroyers. The range will be around 2000 kms. There is no indication that the Hunter-class frigates (a Type 26 variant) will also be so equipped. The variant will cost approximately 1.5m USD per missile. It will give Australia significant strike capabilities. This will complement Australia's overall land and air based long range strike capabilities in the Indo-Pacific area.

Russia

The seeming impasse between the West and Russia over Ukraine continues. The UN Security Council was convened and as per normal in such situations became a place where countries talked past one another and little or nothing was accomplished. President Macron of France and the new German Chancellor have also tried to revive the Normandy Format which developed the Minsk II Accord between Ukraine, the two separate areas of Donetsk and Luhansk and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe – the format has thirteen clauses, none of which were accomplished or achieved as of today.

There have been a multitude of stories generated by many media outlets stating essentially the sky is falling or something along those lines. It was interesting that some talked of ghost divisions and that these were being mobilized, etc. Most didn't really understand the nature of the modernization process of 2008 after the Georgia-Russia War in which Russia did not do well. Russia eliminated over 200 divisions as part of a re-organization in favour of 83 brigade groups within the ground forces, which also eliminated the names of over 20m reservists (at least on paper) in favour of a smaller and more manageable number of somewhere around 2m reservists on paper. Russia has continued, however, to walk back some of these reforms in favour of using the division structure. They generally found the

brigade group structure to be insufficient to meet requirements. Armies were sorted out as well into twelve active armies and a leaner command structure for military districts based on geography. Ground Forces is but one organization.

Russia also maintains airborne troops as a separate force with four divisions. These were originally turned to two-regiment structures but has since seen the addition of a third regiment. The divisions are divided into two types: airborne and air assault and there are also other organizations that can be added for a particular task. The strength is about 35 to 45k.

Much has been stated this week about the professionalization of the Russian armed forces as opposed to the original conscript army. The use of professionals is mainly found in the following: the aero-space forces, strategic rocket forces, the navy, and the airborne all have fairly high participation rates of professionals. The ground forces still heavily rely on conscripts which are not the same troops of Soviet times. They only serve one year and are inducted at two separate times each year. In the case of 'contractees' they have been unable to achieve their overall goal of approximately 450k but rather have around 400k. Conscripts have fallen short by nearly 100k per year as well. Although Russian forces have improved and follow older methods which worked well for a conscript army they still have many of the same flaws as before. As said in our last note, only a fool would underestimate their capability.

Still, war, it would be problematic for everyone especially the President Putin. One has to wonder why Europe is once again looking at a potential war that is unnecessary but somehow not unexpected as well. Putin has called the Russian and Ukrainian one people, united by history, blood and heritage. Putin also believes in the 18th century concept of spheres of influence, something that should have died some time ago. Mr Putin has pushed the point that NATO promised not to expand to the East, something that no NATO negotiator remembers nor was it ever written, nor did Russia bring it up until recently despite having representatives at the table in the original NATO expansions. NATO has responded to the Kremlin's demands - all have been rejected as non-starters - but both the US and NATO have offered more substantive talks on alternatives such as the renewing of disarmament treaties, confidence building measures, further nuclear disarmament talks, which all may include some aspects of Russia's demands. Mr Putin responded that Russia's demands were ignored, however, a Spanish newspaper released a copy of NATO's letters which in fact show that Russia's demands were noted and answered and what NATO and the US were willing to offer under the circumstances. What is very clear is NATO will not remove troops from Eastern Europe and that as a sovereign country Ukraine can choose whatever path it wishes including joining NATO if all the normal conditions for NATO membership is met.

Poland, the United Kingdom and Ukraine have announced Wednesday they will enter into a pact. The details of this pact are still not known publicly as yet, but certain guarantees are apparently being given Ukraine.

Russia continues to fumble with Covid, reaching nearly 12m official cases with nearly 350k dead. This is an ongoing problem for the Russian regime as the very people mainly affected are ones who are most likely to support Putin. The younger generation does not share the view that Putin is an effective leader, nor do they like the stagnating Russian economy, nor the foreign interventions which are costing the lives of young Russians and considerable financial resources. Further sanctions from the West would be very bad overall for the nation. This will further impact the people but also more importantly Putin's main supporters, the oligarchs. At some point, a line will be crossed which will bode ill for the regime

Where does Russia go from here? Although many suggest that only Putin knows how things will go, this is not quite true. His main advisors on this issue appear to be hard liners including Nikolai

Patrushev, the main national security advisor; Sergei Naryshkin, Chief of the Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service; and Sergei Shoigu, Minister of Defence. While this does not mean an invasion, it does mean that Russia is unlikely to back down on its demands on the issue of Ukraine and NATO 'expansion.' Time will tell but at this point Russia seems to be wishing to create the perception of an impasse.

The US will be sending 2000 more troops to Europe, more specifically to Poland. These troops will be from the 82nd Airborne Division and a tactical headquarters organization from XVIIIth Corps. A further 1000 troops from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment will be moved to Romania according to the Canadian Press Wednesday. These new deployments are on top of US deployment of fighter aircraft to Estonia carried out earlier this week. Boris Johnson also had a telephone conversation with Vladimir Putin; not surprisingly nothing was accomplished. Earlier this week, Putin did have a more successful meeting with President Orban of Hungary in which Hungary and Russia would cooperate on issues including better gas prices and increased quantities of gas, assistance with the refit of a nuclear power plant, and a joint venture to improve port facilities in Hungary plus other items as may come up. Putin was very happy with the friendly relations with Hungary. Overall, President Putin has now gotten to where he wants to be; the focus of attention as opposed to the West's new preoccupation with China. What will he get? Probably nothing except further sanctions. Putin has now changed his story to one that suggests that the US is trying to cause a conflict by using Ukraine as a pawn. Ukrainian government officials including the President have called for a toning down of the rhetoric and reporters from a number of media outlets in Europe and the US have shown the Ukrainian people taking things in stride. The people being interviewed reminded the viewers that Ukraine has been under Russian attack for eight years including occupation of the Crimea and Donbass. They seemed to have a firm grip on their reality.

China

While the situation between Russia and NATO occupies the world stage, China prepares for the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing to open 4 February 2022. The Indian media are simply calling this the 'Genocide Games' and they would not be far off as the Communist Chinese Party has conducted and is continuing to conduct culturally genocidal actions against Tibet, occupied East Turkistan (also known as Xinjiang province) and other cultural minorities. There is also the crackdown on democracy, religious groups, pro-democratic forces as well as rival factions within the CCP. In the late 1940s, the world said never again to genocide, but here we are again with the International Olympic Committee willfully ignoring the issue of genocide. This is not political as Mr Bach is fond of saying that the Olympic Committee is not looking at political issues...and apparently moral and ethical matters either. One has only had to watch a fellow Canadian, Dick Pound, state that he was satisfied that the Chinese top tennis player Peng Shuai was in no danger as he had an opportunity to talk with her -it was painful to watch him squirm his way through a not very believable explanation.

It would be remiss not to mention China's requirement for athletes to load up with a Chinese app which to say the least is a vast invasion of privacy virtually anywhere else in the world and enables the Chinese authorities to monitor details far beyond actual requirements. A Canadian company already determined that the app has weak areas which could be easily used by hackers in future. The Canadian team has been asked to keep all their personal phones at home because of the threat. In another case of CCP overreach, China is imposing its own anti-Covid regulations on foreign diplomats, stating why would anyone leave the safest country in the world after US diplomats tried to arrange evacuation of families of their staff. The CCP has not taken the issue well, considering it a way to embarrass China. Still why would anyone want to leave their diplomatic staff to the mercy of the CCP? There have been several outbreaks of the virus in Beijing causing a massive series of tests, and several foreign Olympians have now tested as infected. This can and will cause issues throughout the competition.

Chinese property management companies continue to ‘meltdown’ and miss repayment dates. Many are likely to require some sort of bailout. While not death threat to the Chinese economy, it is a major problem for many Chinese who used investment in real estate as a method to provide for future wealth. The problem with restructuring of Evergrande is that it will require a large number of completed and incomplete projects to be torn down. Many Chinese middle-class citizens will lose their financial health or even go bankrupt. So far the CCP has not offered substantial support, but it using the situation to rein in large property management firms. As a result of these developments there is as well the move of foreign companies to other countries to avoid changes to Chinese legislation regarding financial issues. The move of companies and changes to regulations coupled with the economic turmoil of late have caused the rise in unemployment within China. Exact numbers are not available but it is higher than normal. What is interesting is that now even Western media have picked up on the fact that the CCP ‘cooks’ the books in regard to the economy and are now echoing earlier comments from the Asian press.

Canadian Coast Guard 60th Anniversary Celebration Event Recap

On 26 January we kicked off the year-long celebration of our 60th anniversary. Thank you to everyone who joined our fun national celebration on MS Teams. Over 1188 CCG employees and alumni from across Canada joined us as we **Celebrate the past. Navigate the future.** For those who weren’t able to attend, the full event video recording is now [available on YouTube](#). Check it out!

During this milestone event we heard from Commissioner Mario Pelletier and Deputy Minister Timothy Sargent, along with special guests including Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary May Simon, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, the Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, and the Honourable Joyce Murray Minister of DFO and CCG.

Each region shared presentations saluting colleagues who have served Canadians at sea and ashore in the past 60 years. Throughout the celebration, we also released our very first e-book, launched our online kit shop in partnership with CANEX, and revealed the designs for our time capsules to commemorate this special anniversary. To view the [e-book](#), shop our [kit shop](#), and browse through our [#CCGInTheFamily stories](#), visit our [Canadian Coast Guard at 60](#) website.

Keep an eye out for our “Safety First, Service Always” feature in the January/February print issue of *Canadian Geographic*. We can’t wait to share more of what’s to come this year!

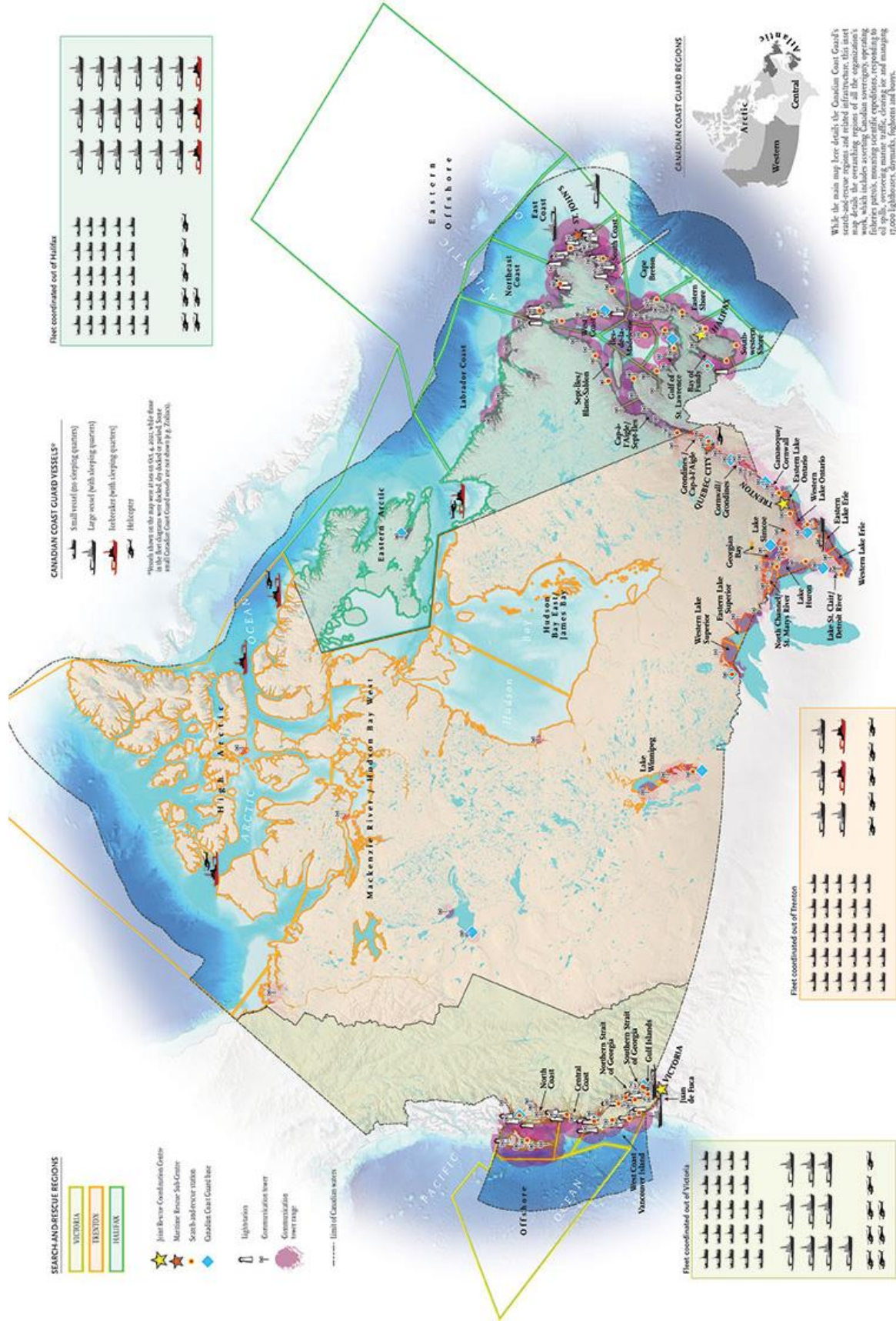
Internal Communications CCG

Coast Guard Map

Safety first, service always: The Canadian Coast Guard turns 60

<https://www.canadiangeographic.ca/article/safety-first-service-always-canadian-coast-guard-turns-60>

While the main map below details the Canadian Coast Guard’s search-and-rescue regions and related infrastructure, this inset map details the overarching regions of all the organization’s work, which includes asserting Canadian sovereignty, operating fisheries patrols, mounting scientific expeditions, responding to oil spills, overseeing marine traffic, clearing ice and managing 17,000 lighthouses, daymarks, foghorns and buoys. (Map: Chris Brackley/Canadian Geographic. Data provided by Canadian Coast Guard)



SEARCH AND RESCUE REGIONS

- VICTORIA
- BRITISH COLUMBIA
- HALIFAX

Joint Base Comox Valley Centre
 Maritime Rescue Fish Centre
 Search and Rescue Station
 Canadian Coast Guard Base

Lighthouse
 Communication tower
 Communication tower range
 Limit of Canadian waters

CANADIAN COAST GUARD VESSELS*

- Small vessel (no sleeping quarters)
- Large vessel (with sleeping quarters)
- Icebreaker (with sleeping quarters)
- Helicopter

*Numbers shown on the map are as of Oct. 4, 2012. While there is the live response view, data is not updated. Some vessels are shown in the map but are not shown in the legend.

Fleet coordinated out of Halifax

Fleet coordinated out of Victoria

Fleet coordinated out of Trenton

While the main map here details the Canadian Coast Guard's fleet, this overview map depicts the overarching regions of all the organization's work, which includes asserting Canadian sovereignty, operating fisheries patrols, monitoring scientific expeditions, responding to emergencies, and managing 17,000 lighthouses, buoys, aids to navigation, and more.



The Future Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) *Margaret Brooke* (AOPV 431) Canada's Newest Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessel

February 8, 2022 @ 11:00-12:00 AM AST via Zoom

Join Commander Nicole Robichaud, Commanding Officer of the future HMCS Margaret Brooke (AOPV 431) and her crew for a virtual presentation of Canada's newest vessel of the RCN. The presentation will be given by crew who are currently isolating in undisclosed locations around Halifax, in what is known as pre-embarkation protocols (PEP) in advance of their upcoming deployment to Canada's north to conduct Arctic cold weather trials and Arctic ice trials, from mid-February to mid-March 2022.



To Register, or for more information, please contact:

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