



## Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 18 November 2022

*The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia provides a forum for the study, promotion and debate of defence, security and safety 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](mailto: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 Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia, the Department of National Defence or other government department, the Canadian Armed Forces, or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or other agency.

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).

### Remembrance Day

11 November was a lovely day for Remembrance Day ceremonies. Great to see so many families at the Royal Artillery Park, where our President, Inspector Don Moser, RCMP, laid a wreath with the help of his daughter, Abigail.

It is intended that RUSI(NS) parade at Royal Artillery Park for Remembrance Day 2023.



RUSI(NS) routinely communicates with staff in the Veterans Affairs Canada Commemoration Division. The following links resulted from a recent email exchange during lead in to Remembrance Day:

Memorials

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials>

National Memorial (Silver) Cross Mothers

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/silver>

Medals

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/medals-decorations>

Virtual Cenotaph honours citizen sailors

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/rcn/2022/11/virtual-cenotaph-honours-citizen-sailors.html>

### How Military Children Interpret the Presentation of Moral Injury in Canadian Armed Forces members Post-Deployment: A Qualitative Study

See letter at end of *Dispatches*.

## Veterans Affairs Canada Consultation on Supports for Veteran Families and Caregivers

Are you a family member or caregiver for a Veteran? If so, we need your feedback about the supports available to you, and what else we may be able to provide.

Visit Let's Talk Veterans before December 2nd, 2022, to provide your input:  
<https://letstalkveterans.ca/>

### **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](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com). RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice. Email RUSI(NS) if there is a question of an event occurring.

**30 November**, Wednesday - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speakers Jamie Foote, Marine Security Operations Centre (East), and Patricia DeMille, Fisheries and Oceans Canada International Programs, presenting "Fisheries and Oceans Canada: Intelligence Support in Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fisheries." 1300 Atlantic. Via Zoom. To register, email [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com) - indicate whether you are RUSI(NS) or, if not, of what department/agency, unit, association or company you are a member.

### **Publications:**

Publications without links are available on request to [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

RUSI(NS) Comments "Royal Canadian Navy Public Affairs Engagement Opportunities ...for Ships" by Steffan Watkins, 26 October 2022, [https://rusi-ns.ca/pa\\_engagement/](https://rusi-ns.ca/pa_engagement/)

RUSI(NS) Presentations by Lieutenant-Colonel Julien Letarte, RCAF, and Major Drew Larned, USAF, Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles – Canadian and US Programs, 14 September 2022  
<https://rusi-ns.ca/rpas/>

Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 9 November 2022  
<https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current>

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

Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XL, Number 10, November 2022

Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, October 2022  
<https://www.rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/155-rausi-october-2022-dispatches>

Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch *Scuttlebutt*, November 2022

Royal Canadian Navy *Your Navy Today* - Volume 5 Issue 7  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/navy/corporate/navy-news/your-navy-today/volume-5-issue-7.html>

Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island *Newsletter*, Volume 54, 4th Quarter 2022.

**New:** Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 15, Issue 4, 14 November 2022

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Quarterly Newsletter*, Volume 21, Issue 3, September 2022

St. Francis Xavier University Mulroney Institute of Government *Canadian Naval Review* Volume 18, Number 2 (2022)

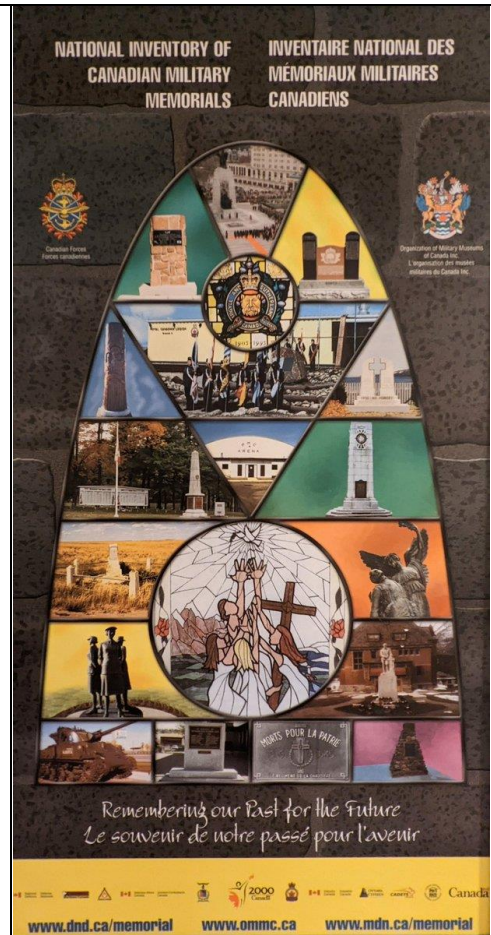
Veterans Affairs Canada *Salute!* November 2022

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/news-media/salute/2022-11>

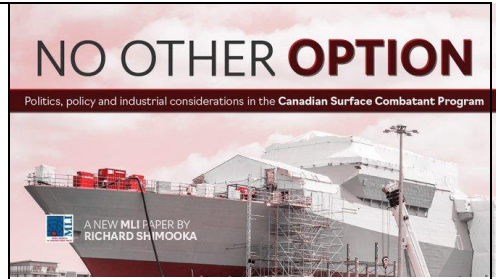
**Tweeted by @RUSI NS:**

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](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

André Levesque @DrALevesque 10 Nov tweeted: I am very proud to have been the project manager for this 🇨🇦 national memorials inventory that was unveiled more than 22 years ago. We will remember them!  
RUSI(NS) retweeted: Well done. National Inventory of Canadian Military Memorials is carrying on strong, now named Canadian Military Memorials Database  
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/national-inventory-canadian-memorials> @VeteransENG\_CA @VeteransFR\_CA 🇨🇦 #WeWillRememberThem







Macdonald-Laurier Institute @MLInstitute 11 Nov tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Despite predictable cost overruns, MLI Senior Fellow @ShimookaR explores why the Canadian Surface Combatant program is the best option on the table for the @RoyalCanNavy. #cdnpoli  
(Full steam ahead: Why Canada's shipbuilding program oughtn't to be abandoned or cut  
<https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/canadas-shipbuilding-program-oughtnt-abandoned-cut/>)



RUSI Europe @RUSIEurope 11 Nov tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Gaming culture, not just games, is increasingly exploited by violent extremists to sensationalise terrorism and desensitise users to violence. How can policymakers address this threat? Read the RUSI Europe commentary by @PetraRegeni: <https://rusieurope.eu/the-risks-of-gamified-violent-extremism/> @ExtremismGaming  
(It's All Fun and Games, Until It's Not: The Risks of Gamified Violent Extremism and How We Can Tackle It)



RCAF Operations @RCAFOperations 5 Nov tweeted: .@RCAF\_ARC CF-18s took part last week in Op #NOBLEDEFENDER off the Northeast coast of the  and the shores of Nova Scotia . These operations help maintain NORAD's capability and capacity to deter aggression and defend North America from airborne and maritime threats. #NORAD  
RUSI(NS) retweeted: Operation Noble Defender=series of @NORADCommand operations that validates capability to defend CAN  & US  against threats from every avenue of approach & demonstrate ability to integrate with other defense & security partners for defense of North America  
<https://www.norad.mil/Newsroom/Fact-Sheets/Article-View/Article/2928028/operation-noble-defender/>



"9,000 Fallen Soldiers Etched into the Sand on Normandy Beach to Commemorate Peace Day"  
<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2013/09/the-fallen-9000/>  
Powerful.

*Check out the other pictures in the article.*



Canadian Coast Guard @CoastGuardCAN 12 Nov tweeted: #CCGExercise in #BritishColumbia: We recently trained with the Mamalilikula and Nanwakolas Guardians in #EnvironmentResponse. See what the Nanwakolas Council thought about the training exercise and their experience working with us. <https://nanwakolas.com/news/all-hands-on-deck/>

RUSI(NS) retweeted: Good to partner with Guardians knowledgeable of local waters, often first at pollution incident in their territories. Building capacity to respond through training, sharing info & access to equipment helps them respond in emergency & helps @CoastGuardCAN respond more effectively  
(Partnering on Emergency Environmental Response with the Canadian Coast Guard)



Canadian Coast Guard @CoastGuardCAN 13 Nov tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: We continue to improve how we prevent and respond to marine pollution through the #OceansProtectionPlan. Our partnerships with Indigenous and coastal communities, industry & researchers are making it happen. Report to Canadians:

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/initiatives/oceans-protection-plan/report-canadians-investing-our-coasts-through-oceans-protection-plan>

(Report to Canadians: Investing in our coasts through the Oceans Protection Plan)

*From a colleague:* When the OPP was first announced, its objectives appeared to be quite vague, and during the first years of the initiative there seemed to be considerable wheel-spinning before the plan got on track. Looking at this report of achievements, it seems that once the objectives became more focused on definable, achievable projects that appears to have resulted in significant successes. Perhaps it's just that the initial objectives were not articulated clearly at the time, but I suspect that it truly was a refinement of a sprawling broad initiative that made the difference. The takeaway is that a lot of good work was done on the OPP by many, many people. (Aside - it was sloppy for staff to have appropriated a well-established acronym, OPP. Even renaming the NSPS as the NSS effectively appropriated the acronym of the National SAR Secretariat. For any researcher whose work is facilitated by unique keywords, that work is made more difficult by overlapping keywords - annoying.)



OCEANS PROTECTION PLAN

Canadian Coast Guard Garde côtière canadienne

Canada

Canadian Army @CanadianArmy 13 Nov tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Warfare is evolving. From the tactical to strategic level, we are modernizing in order to meet those evolutions head on. Read about the @CanadianForces Network Architecture Concept on Canadian Army Today: <https://canadianarmytoday.com/future-network-concept/> (Future network concept)



NSIRACanada @nsiracanada 14 Nov tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: NSIRA released its Review of the Canadian Forces National Counter-Intelligence Unit @NationalDefence, @CanadianForces. The review examined CFNCIU's domestic efforts at investigating Counterintelligence threats posed to DND/CAF. (<https://nsira-ossnr.gc.ca/wp-content/uploads/CFNCIU-2019-01-REDACTED-EN.pdf>)



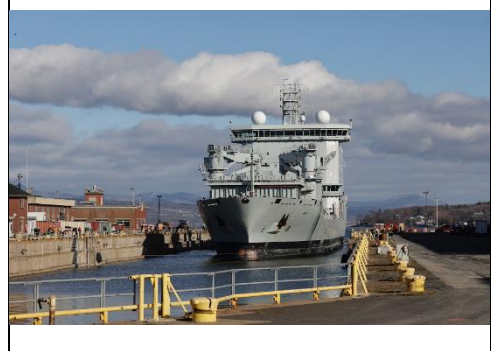
NATO Association of Canada @NATOCanada 16 Nov tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Given the difficulties with Covid, climate change, and Great Power competition, what might the middle of the century look like? Joseph De Sapiro examines some potential challenges and opportunities confronting the international system by 2050. (The Age Of Crises? A Primer For The Mid-Twenty-First Century <https://natoassociation.ca/the-age-of-crises-a-primer-for-the-mid-twenty-first-century/>)



CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 15 Nov tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Latest Expert Series with Jim Fergusson is out! NORAD modernization, integrated air/missile Defence, the North Warning System update, and the potential for Greenland and Denmark to join NORAD. ('We Simply Cannot Ignore North American Defence' NORAD Modernization, Integrated Air/Missile Defence, & North Warning System Update <https://cdainstitute.ca/james-fergusson-we-simply-cannot-ignore-north-american-defence/>)



Davie @chantierdavie 15 Nov tweeted: Welcome home, @MV\_Asterix! 3 years after her last visit, the Resolve-class military support ship is back at the Naval Maintenance Center of Excellence, where she will spend nearly a month for routine maintenance. ✨  
RUSI(NS) retweeted: Leased replenishment oiler #AOR @MVAsterix @MV\_Asterix in short maintenance period, unavailable for extended @RoyalCanNavy ops. Looking forward to 1st build of 2 Joint Support Ship #JSS project oilers to ensure 3-ocean #RCNavy has necessary logistics support #BlueWaterNavy



## Force Protection

Further to a posting about these concrete structures in *Dispatches* 4 Nov 22:  
Defense of Ukraine @DefenceU 13 Nov tweeted:  
How russian army sees its positions.  
How Ukrainian army sees russian positions.

*A later public post mused that the structures were simply septic tanks with holes cut into them.*



## 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.

## Growing dark fleet poses safety risks

<https://splash247.com/growing-dark-fleet-poses-safety-risks/>

"If Russia will start utilizing more vessels from the Dark Fleet, the average age of their export tankers will rise dramatically and (unfortunately), so will the risk of incidents..."



Dark Fleet - reads like something out of a novel but this is serious, especially considering the number of ships involved and the potential for disaster from international relations and environmental perspectives. Canada may not have 'choke points' like Turkey and Denmark do, but is Canada prepared to take action against "older, less well maintained, maybe underinsured tankers" when the opportunity arises? Economic action (avoiding the term economic warfare) like that might be as useful to Ukraine as shipping artillery, winter uniforms, etc.

## New Solution Launched to Track Dark Shipping

<https://www.marinelink.com/news/new-solution-launched-track-dark-shipping-500751>

"...near real-time, global geolocation position validation service can uncover suspicious activity and pinpoint a vessel without the need for an approximate location."



Not really apparent (understandably) from the article how the application works. One can be confident that government agencies are working very hard on this matter of vessel tracking. Not just for defence; illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a global maritime security issue with economic, international relation and environmental effects. An issue for Canada.

### **Indigenous legacy etched in stone at National Military Cemetery this Remembrance Day**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/first-indigenous-military-grave-stone-ottawa-1.6646478>

"This is the first gravestone of a Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) member to feature an Indigenous language, and the first to bear the symbol of the medicine wheel."



Good.

### **Thales Working On Dipping Sonar Technology for UAVs**

<https://www.navalnews.com/event-news/euronaval-2022/2022/10/thales-working-on-dipping-sonar-technology-for-uavs/>

"The small diameter cable is "less than 3 mm thick" and has an impressive length of "about 700 meters". It is made of synthetic material and is not only strong enough to carry the weight of the dipping sonar, but it also transmits information from the sonar to the UAV. Once the UAV receives the information it relays it to all the other platforms – MPA, helicopter and/or ship."



Fitting a dipping sonar to uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAV) could allow for any vessel that could carry a UAV (and, with vertical launch UAV, many vessels could) to operate as an anti-submarine vessel. That could be a great boon to the conduct of tactical anti-submarine operations.

### **The Navy's 'Analysis Paralysis' Sinks Chances For New National Shipyard**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/craighooper/2022/11/09/the-navys-analysis-paralysis-sinks-chances-for-new-national-shipyard/>

Whether a Canadian reader considers the article's focus to be or not a uniquely US issue, the author's remarks about studying the USN's four national shipyards 'to death' leads to some mulling: Have the Canadian yards engaged in government shipbuilding been sufficiently studied (number, capacity, drydocks, etc.)? Where are the studies? What are the results? Is it time for a study? The Canadian National Shipbuilding Strategy (NSS) has been extant for some years now. How are builds to date and current plans faring against NSS objectives? What are NSS objectives?





## Ukraine Launches Crowd Funding Drive for \$250K Naval Drones

<https://news.usni.org/2022/11/11/ukraine-launches-crowd-funding-drive-for-250k-naval-drones>



"Ukraine has put out an international call to crowd-fund a fleet of 100 domestically built sea drones..."

A novel, though not unprecedented, way to 'force develop.' It says something about the cost of uncrewed vehicles, sea surface, subsurface and aerial, that a crowd sourcing campaign can aim to procure 100 drones. Even if the campaign does not achieve its goal, the threat of such a number of them operating in the area of operations (and beyond?) has got to be a factor in the planning of the other side.

## Industrial mobilization

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1591926287358390272.html>



"Like it or not, this war is now a battle of industrial systems..."

Hope that governments realize that "...mobilizing industry is part of our conventional deterrent regime."

"There is an old saying - 'the best time to mobilise was yesterday'."

The expression 'war industry' should be reserved for when Canada is at open war (there are a number of covert wars ongoing in the public information, economic, legal and other domains), but meanwhile this country should be studying, planning and developing a resilient, scalable defence, security and safety industry (gotta find an easy expression for that).

Mick Ryan's tweet thread (<https://twitter.com/WarintheFuture/status/1591926287358390272>) and replies to it are worth a read.

## The pavilion and the watermelon: How Ukraine made its COP27 climate conference display an anti-war message

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-the-pavilion-and-the-watermelon-how-ukraine-made-its-cop27-climate/>



"The fruit (watermelon) became a symbol of Ukraine's victory last week when a video of a Ukrainian soldier entering the city (Kherson) while holding up a watermelon, as crowds cheered, went viral."

Huh! Fruit as an information operations tool (gotta admire Ukrainian mastery of the meme warfare).  
"Engage with bananas!"

### Sean Chu removed from committee after navy officer expressed concerns

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/sean-chu-city-council-committee-removal-1.6651659>

There is not a complete separation between the military and the rest of society, and it would be a mistake to think there is or should be. The nature, structure and actions of a military reflect the desires and demands of the state. A major lesson of history is that the support of the people is vital to the conduct of military operations (war), and it is a major point of war studies that military objectives should support political aims. So, it should be expected that at times the military will (choose your verb - push back? intrude? submit?) into civil affairs, and for a democracy, as long as there is a civil-military nexus and a respect for who's responsible for what, that should be okay.

Hmm, the government of Calgary has a Friends of HMCS Calgary committee. What other cities have a formal arrangement to support 'their' ship?



### Sweden's A-26 Submarine Creates New Possibilities For Seabed Warfare

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/11/swedens-a-26-submarine-creates-new-possibilities-for-seabed-warfare/>

"Going forward navies are expected to be able to defend, and in times of war attack, seabed infrastructure."



Seabed warfare. Pay attention to what that means (though it may be better to use the term 'seabed operations' as not all activities will be during war). Does Canada have the equipment, trained people and plans to undertake defensive and offensive operations in peace, confrontation (gray zone operations) and conflict? It would be 'whole-of' activities, with multiple government departments and a number of industries involved. What academic writings are there about seabed operations? What lessons are there to learn from the civil sector? Could make for some interesting gaming (wargaming), too.

### Other Sources:

#### #China

Report to Congress on Chinese Naval Modernization

<https://news.usni.org/2022/11/14/report-to-congress-on-chinese-naval-modernization-15>

Center for Strategic Translation

<https://www.strategictranslation.org/>

"The Center for Strategic Translation translates and annotates material of strategic and historical value that currently exists only in the Chinese language."

2022 Report to Congress of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission

[https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/2022\\_Annual\\_Report\\_to\\_Congress.pdf](https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/2022_Annual_Report_to_Congress.pdf)

## **#communications**

Mission Essential - Digital Interoperability during Multi-National Joint All-Domain Operations  
<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/English-Edition-Archives/November-December-2022/Bonin/>

*Note the use of Digital Liaison Detachments (DLD),*

## **#cyber operations**

How Australia plans to triple its offensive cyber capabilities

<https://www.defensenews.com/cyber/2022/11/07/australias-offensive-cyber-effort-yanks-funds-from-defense-plans/>

*Model for Canada? ‘Maplespice’?*

Cyber Norms in the Context of Armed Conflict

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/cyber-norms-context-armed-conflict>

## **#media operations**

Fixing the media’s trust deficit: Why a long-term national news media policy is vital and urgent

<https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/fixing-the-medias-trust-deficit-why-a-long-term-national-news-media-policy-is-vital-and-urgent/>

## **#Russia-Ukraine War**

*UK Defence Intelligence Update has been posted to end of Dispatches.*

The Russo-Ukrainian War and the Principles of Urban Operations

<https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/russo-ukrainian-war-and-principles-urban-operations>

Ukraine Launches Unprecedented Drone Attack on Russian Black Sea Fleet’s Sevastopol Headquarters

<https://jamestown.org/program/ukraine-launches-unprecedented-drone-attack-on-russian-black-sea-fleets-sevastopol-headquarters/>

Assessment of logistics for the siege of Crimea

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1591612965316612097.html>

## **#China**

The Russia-Ukraine War: Has Beijing Abandoned Pragmatic Diplomacy?

<https://jamestown.org/program/the-russia-ukraine-war-has-beijing-abandoned-pragmatic-diplomacy/>

## **#information operations**

‘Blessed’ are the ‘Evacuated’

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/blessed-are-the-evacuated/>

*Note the image fail (though not as important in an disinformation poster) – the tank is a Second World War Soviet T-34/85.*

## **#wargaming**

Games people play: The (sometimes) serious business of war gaming

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/war-games-canadian-war-museum-1.6648537>

*Whilst there may be some disagreement with points of the article, it is good to see this coverage.*

**Other:**

**Canadian Military Journal** [Vol. 22, No. 4, Fall 2022]

<http://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/cmj-22.4-toc-en.html>

contents:

The Arctic Search and Rescue Region: Frozen in Time

Search and Rescue Blues

Entrenched Heteronormativity: Gender and Work-Life balance in the Military

Gender-Based Analysis Plus and Medically Released Canadian Armed Forces Members

The View Looking Up: A Junior NCM Perspective on Culture Change

Leadership Through Adversity: Squadron Leader Leonard Birchall in Japanese Captivity

A RoCK Looks Back

Is the Term “Warrior” Suitable for the Canadian Armed Forces?

Becoming Antifragile by Creating S.P.A.C.E

Applying Human Security to Understand the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

An Intelligence Deficiency in Times of Crises

Soviet Active Measures and Disinformation: A Canadian Case Revealed

The Rise of the Chinese Navy

**Security Affairs Committee Synopsis**

**O Canada**

There are increasing indications that Canada’s Indo-Pacific review will result in something that looks the same as before, in that China is still viewed as a country that can be talked to and reasoned with on critical issues. This would be a mistake. Canada is not taking a sufficiently hard stand against Chinese actions, though Canada did order three Chinese firms to divest ownership of three critical mineral mining companies. A step in the right direction but still an anemic effort. Allegedly Canada is supposed to take a harder line with China yet it appears that the Canadian G-20 contingent just about fell over themselves to meet their Chinese counterparts. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs did have discussions on the sidelines of the G-20 in Bali, Indonesia. The Prime Minister’s Office provided the press with a readout of the PM’s chat with President Xi, not in great detail and mainly items that one might expect. The next day, Xi publicly admonished our PM for releasing the nature of the conversation. It was unusual that leaders do anything this undiplomatic. Xi knows full well that release of the nature of such conversations is the normal method of operation for a democratic country. Xi has purposely set out to show that Canada is in the “doghouse” with China.

China does not seem to be interested in discussions and our efforts to conduct some sort of diplomatic efforts on the sidelines apparently were more successful in causing further animosity between the two countries. This being said, it is the Chinese that owe Canada an apology for their ongoing efforts to interfere in our politics. Parliament is taking action in that a Commons committee is looking into the specifics of Chinese interference in up to eleven elections of Members of Parliament. No moves should be made until we have greater clarity. China’s efforts in Canada must be made clear and action taken to curtail illegal and suspect activities and necessary action taken to minimize the increasing amount of damage caused by Chinese actions in Canada. This includes kidnapping of Canadians and set up of illegal police stations in Canada, not to mention hostage diplomacy during the arrest of Meng Wanzhou and the “Two Michaels.” Canada also needs to be forceful in its actions regarding economic actions such as China’s against Canadian canola, beef and pork. Any new Indo-China policy has to be forceful and deliberate in our actions and diplomatic efforts. China does not play in accordance with any rules. They are not a friend but an adversary and should be treated as such.

The Defence Policy Update is ongoing. There are concerns that it will not be sufficient to meet the changed circumstances in the world. Canada's armed forces are equipped with antiques with little sign of a move to correct the needs in the immediate term. The Army is now in a very critical state without adequate anti-armour nor air defence to meet the situation. Equipment years from now will not help if the war should suddenly break its boundaries. It is not a situation that Canadian service personnel should be in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

COP 27 continues and there seems to be little information of consequence issued so far although Canada has sent an obscenely large contingent at great expense. There is little optimism that anything really concrete will come of this given the current state of global affairs.

### **The United States**

Artemis 1 launched today with the view of returning to the Moon. After three postponements, it finally launched successfully with three dummies on board that will measure the level of radiation that astronauts will receive on a prolonged mission. This is the first step to a Moon landing and the setting up of a base on the Moon for research. Good news overall.

The US mid-terms are ongoing with one Senate seat and eleven House seats still remaining to be called. The Senate will remain with a small Democratic Party majority. The House appears to be headed for a Republican majority as they only need to gain one more seat to achieve the majority position at present. Kevin McCarthy was elected as the House Majority leader and will become the Speaker of the House, third in line after the President and Vice President. The election did not go as pollsters and pundits predicted, mainly due the votes of young women, incensed about the turning over of Roe vs Wade. The Republican Party also did not have actual policy statements and what they did mention was not the message that a lot of voters wanted.

Donald Trump put his hat in the ring for the Republican Party's nomination as their presidential candidate for 2024. The New York Times had a small banner at the bottom of the front page stating "Florida Man Makes a Decision" as opposed to its former whole-hearted endorsement of Trump from three previous elections. No major media outlet covered Trump's announcement. Still Trump has surprised everyone before in 2016 but his ongoing track record is hardly shining. We may be surprised again or NOT.

### **Iran**

Demonstrations are continuing throughout Iran despite a severe crackdown by security forces. The tone of the demonstrations is changing, becoming increasingly an attack on the regime itself. Iran also seems to be reconsidering its provision of weapons to Russia. It has caused the regime to incur further sanctions on an already beleaguered economy with inflation soaring over 80% and businesses forced to close during the demonstrations. Iran is not able to sustain itself and to continue operations. Certain areas of the country are unable to function properly, particularly in Kurdish areas. The regime has not handled the situation well and continues to flounder. The Constituent assembly voted to recommend execution of all demonstrators, which passed. Although it seems somewhat blood thirsty, it appears that saner minds are limiting executions to those actually conducting major violent events such as arson and similar actions. As of this morning only two demonstrators have been thus sentenced. The long-term health of the regime is now in question as is the health of Ali Khamenei, the current Supreme Leader. His death or serious deterioration in his health may be the catalyst for overall regime change. Time will tell.

## **Belarus**

Russia has placed a reasonably large number of troops in Belarus, mainly aviation, missile, communications, supply, maintenance, military police and up to six battalion tactical groups (BTG) or somewhere around 20k. Belarus has also created six BTG and have joined them with the six Russian BTG to create a divisional sized organization which is near the Ukrainian border. There have been almost constant declarations that they will attack as a preventive strike against Ukrainian forces that are alleged to be ready to attack. The problem is that few if any Belarussian troops are willing to conduct such an operation against Ukraine. As mentioned previously more than 90% of Belarussian soldiers would refuse such an order.

The self-appointed ruler of Belarus is walking a very fine tight rope and has done so for years between the desires of his countrymen to join with Europe or to remain a vassal state of Russia. After the 2020 elections, the population rose up in demonstrations and were forcefully put down by security forces with Russian support. President Lukashenko owes his continued existence to Vladimir Putin. At some point he will be forced to pay up. The result of such an action is likely to be unfortunate for Lukashenko himself and for his poor country. A break of some sort is likely to occur in the near future as the war continues.

## **Russia-Ukraine War**

This war is a puzzle in so many ways. The very first question is why? It made no sense to attack on 24 February, there simply were not enough troops to even contemplate an invasion of a country of 46m people. The war started with only 18 to 20% of the necessary forces; one estimate was a minimum of one million troops just to attack and take the key cities and infrastructure. This would not be enough to hold the country for a much longer period of time which would double or triple the number of troops necessary. The other issue is that the population would be less than happy, and opposition and partisans would likely appear fairly quickly and require more troops. These troops would have to be equipped and trained as well - we are seeing hastily mobilized troops do not last long and ongoing casualties would have a “drip of water on a rock” for the occupation. The only answer is that Putin drank his own kool-aid to reinforce his rather bizarre understanding of Russia’s history. Even well-trained units properly briefed and equipped such as the VDV were thrown into a situation that left them highly vulnerable with minimal support. At Hostomel this clearly was the case and the paratroops found themselves facing an enemy on all sides. They did not find the Ukrainian maids waiting with salt and flowers for their liberators. It became clear this was the case when more than 150 members of the FSB 5<sup>th</sup> Directorate were arrested. This directorate was responsible for the ongoing intelligence picture of Ukraine as well as developing friendly assets amongst the Ukrainian population. It was a disaster.

Nearly nine months later, Russia has had to perform a third major retreat, this time from the only city they took in the first week of the war, Kherson. The most popular theory is that Russia needed the troops in Kherson oblast west of the Dnipro River to reinforce the attacks on the centre area around Bakhmut and environs. Attacks in this area have had some little success using soldiers of the private military company (PMC) Wagner. Russian troops losses here have been heavy. Their attacks made little sense such as attacking a low-lying town of Pavlivka which is below Ukrainian positions on the high ground. Rather than trying another route, the Russian attacks apparently follow a set pattern with the same results and limited advances with heavy casualties. In fact, no recent Russian attacks has had any major success whether in the north, centre or in the south, yet the war continues without Russia taking the necessary steps to get the necessary resources or to set conditions for a mutually agreed to peace settlement with a negotiated new border. This is not likely to happen.

This week, President Zelensky stated his demands to start peace negotiations. This would include withdrawal of all Russian forces from all internationally recognized Ukrainian territory, prisoner exchanges and return of deportees, radiation, nuclear and electric power safety, justice for war crimes, food security, prevention measures for escalation, prevention of ecocide through severe damage to the environment, confirmation that the war is in fact over, and security guarantees. Russia still claims the four oblasts they annexed and is refusing to negotiate on the basis of these points. There has been some pressure on Zelensky to negotiate with Russia but to be more “realistic” about the situation. Ukraine has refused to negotiate its independence, its territorial integrity, the freedom of its people and its ability to essentially do as it sees necessary for the good of the country. The Ukrainians know that this cannot be negotiated with the current Russian regime and that the matter has to be defined by success on the battlefield. It is a risky but necessary point of view.

Russia has responded to Zelensky’s points by launching the single biggest missile and drone attack of the war with more than 120 missiles and drones in a single day. Although most were shot down, a considerable number were successful in hitting energy infrastructure and of course, civilian residences. Two missiles of unknown origin hit a small Polish town eight kms inside Poland killing two farm workers. It is not clear whether they were Russian missiles or whether they were Ukrainian air defence systems missiles which missed their target and crashed in Poland. At present there are too many stories that are impossible to verify. First announcements are usually incorrect based on limited information.

### **China**

China is an authoritarian and genocidal regime that has had territorial ambitions against virtually all its neighbours. It has consistently interfered with the governments of other nations including Canada and has used debt diplomacy to saddle developing states with massive debts usually based on huge projects that are long on promise but are actually of little use to the citizens of those countries, Sri Lanka being a shining example of this type of issue. The issue has become so bad that the Belt and Road Initiative is now known as the Global Development Initiative as a way to rebrand the discredited program. It is likely a good thing as China’s economy continues a massive collapse of the property development industry, banking and other parts of the financial structure. Foreign investment is drying up and its overall effect on China is to increase unemployment, with the under 29 unemployment rate being over 20%.

Another issue is that China does not have a grip on Covid, with more than 200m people under lockdown at present. There was some hope that there might be a change to Xi’s draconian policy after the 20<sup>th</sup> Party Congress, but so far this has proven not to be true. The result is major demonstrations and people attempting to break out of their lockdown areas. It is affecting most key cities and is having a major effect on foreign sales and exports. The demonstrations are growing as people become more dissatisfied with the actions of the Party in regard to Covid but also to the increasing issue of the economic meltdown.

Xi has also cracked down on the tech sector, the education sector and private industry as a whole such as Alibaba. This has caused a further contraction in the private sector but has also destroyed a large portion of the small to medium sized businesses. Unemployment and under employment continue to grow within China. A large part of the population still lives well under the poverty level contrary to Chinese propaganda. There is some thought that rising countries get a thirty-year window in which they grow exponentially and then level off to what will become their normal growth rate. China is at that thirty-year mark; is it possible that the days of vast growth are nearly over? It may be and that we may see more Chinese decide to leave rather than remain.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Party Congress is over, and no surprise Xi was appointed to a third five-year term. He also remains head of the Central Military Commission. He has taken the opportunity to remove older members and appointed officers who are more amenable to his requirements. He is also said to be replacing the remaining heads of the military services with people who are loyal to himself. He has done the same thing to the Party Standing Committee where all six members are from the Xi faction plus of course Xi himself. Xi appears to be making the same mistakes most autocrats do, having an echo chamber as opposed to a sounding board for policy changes. Xi has more power but it also means that he can and will be forced to accept blame for future failures. At present, failures seem to be multiplying on the horizon. Xi's "wolf warrior" program has alienated most of the globe, China is not viewed in quite the same light as earlier this decade. The opening up appears to be quite dead, and more countries are becoming aware of being too close to a rapacious China.

It is hoped that in the near future that SAC members will publish a more detailed look at the outcome of the 20<sup>th</sup> Party Congress as it relates to such things as "Xi Jinping Thought" and some thoughts on the way ahead as members of SAC see it.

## Pensions (11 Nov 22)



National Association of Federal Retirees Association nationale des retraités fédéraux

Nov. 10, 2022

### This just in: Pension indexing rate for 2023

At the end of each year, the Treasury Board Secretariat provides the Association with information on the pension indexing increase that is effective Jan. 1 for federal public sector pensions.

**The pension indexation rate effective Jan. 1, 2023, is 6.3 per cent.** Federal Retirees was instrumental in establishing pension indexation back in 1970.

[For additional information and resources, visit our website.](#)

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webpage: <https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/news-views/news-listing/november/pension-indexing-rate-for-2023>





Title of Study: How Military Children Interpret the Presentation of Moral Injury in Canadian Armed Forces Members Post-deployment: A Qualitative Study  
Thank you for your interest in my research study.

The purpose of this study is to explore how family members of those in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) perceive moral injury (MI) post deployment. In particular, I am interested in how military children view the presentation of MI. I have a secondary goal of better understanding how family members are supported when MI is present. The results of this research may be published in academic journals, shared at academic conferences, and/or shared with interest professionals working within the military community.

You should meet the following eligibility criteria in order to participate:

- You speak fluent English
- You are at least 19 years of age
- You have access to a stable internet connection
- You self-define as a child to a current or previous CAF member who has served on deployment involving the presence of potentially morally injurious events
- You will consent to having the interview audio recorded

If you are eligible and you choose to participate in this study the interview will last about one hour to one hour and thirty minutes in length. During this interview I will be asking questions about how you experienced the process of deployment, how the Canadian military supported you during and after deployment, and perceived impacts of deployment on your parent.

If you meet the above eligibility criteria, and you are interested in taking part in the study, please contact me directly by email or telephone (see below). At that time, I will provide you with further details about my study by way of an informed consent letter. You should make sure that you know the details of this project prior to giving your consent to participate. You will have the opportunity to ask questions or seek clarification about my study prior to your involvement. You may contact me, or my thesis supervisor Dr. Catherine Baillie Abidi ([Catherine.BaillieAbidi@msvu.ca](mailto:Catherine.BaillieAbidi@msvu.ca)), with any questions in regards to this study. Whether or not you decide to take part in this study is completely up to you, and you may withdraw at any time.

This research study's ethical components have been reviewed by the Psychology Departmental Research Ethics Board (DREB) and University Research Ethics Board (UREB) and comply with Mount Saint Vincent University's Research Ethics Policy. Any questions or concerns about how this study is being conducted can be directed to the MSVU Research Office at 457-6350, or via email at [ethics@msvu.ca](mailto:ethics@msvu.ca). These contacts do not have any personal affiliation with the research study.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Reeves  
Department of Psychology  
Mount Saint Vincent University  
[Kathryn.Reeves@msvu.ca](mailto:Kathryn.Reeves@msvu.ca) / 902-240-6888

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 9 November 2022, Education Minister Sergey Kravstov stated that military training will return to Russian schools, beginning in September 2023. This reprises a Soviet-era programme where students had mandatory military training, a programme which ended in 1993. This training included contingencies for a chemical or nuclear attack, first aid and experience handling and firing Kalashnikov rifles.
- Russian officials attempted to revive this training in 2014 following Russia's invasion of Crimea. It was hoped that the initiative would improve the quality of conscripts. Eight years later, little has changed, and the quality of Russian conscripts remains poor, with low morale and limited training.
- A training programme is currently being drafted and will be completed by the end of 2022. It will then undergo an approvals process. The Russian MOD supports this process, stating that no less than 140 hours per academic year should be devoted to this training.
- This training likely intends to prepare students with military skills as they approach conscription age and to increase the take-up for mobilisation and conscription drives. This initiative is also likely to be part of a wider project to instil an ideology of patriotism and trust in public institutions in the Russian population.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Winter will bring a change in conflict conditions for both Russian and Ukrainian forces. Changes to daylight hours, temperature and weather will present unique challenges for fighting soldiers. Any decisions that the Russian General Staff make will be in part informed by the onset of winter.
- Daylight will reduce to fewer than 9 hours a day, compared to 15-16 in the height of summer. This results in fewer offensives and more static defensive frontlines. Night vision capability is a precious commodity, further exacerbating the unwillingness to fight at night.
- The average high temperature will drop from 13 degrees Celsius through September to November, to zero through December to February. Forces lacking in winter weather clothing and accommodation are highly likely to suffer from non-freezing cold injuries. Additionally, the 'golden hour' window in which to save a critically wounded soldier is reduced by approximately half, making the risk of contact with the enemy much greater.
- The weather itself is likely to see an increase in rainfall, wind speed and snowfall. Each of these will provide additional challenges to the already low morale of Russian forces, but also present problems for kit maintenance. Basic drills such as weapon cleaning must be adjusted to the conditions and the risk of weapon malfunctions increase.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- By 12 November 2022, the Russian military had almost certainly completed the withdrawal of forces which had been holding territory west of the Dnipro River.
- With the abandonment of Kherson city, Russia has made the Azov Sea port town of Henichesk a 'temporary capital' of the occupied region. Russia will likely also redeploy military command units to the Henichesk area.
- The choice of this area as a command node hints at the priorities and concerns of Russian commanders as they consolidate their defences in southern Ukraine. It is well positioned to coordinate action against potential Ukrainian threats from both Kherson city in the west, or via Melitopol to the north-east, and to receive reinforcements from Crimea. Above all, it is currently out of range of Ukrainian artillery systems which have inflicted heavy damage on Russian field command posts.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- The Kakhovka Dam on the Dnipro River is the site of major hydroelectric power plant as well as providing one of the two main road crossing points of the lower reaches of the Dnipro River. Ukrainian precision strikes have targeted the site since August, successfully disrupting Russian military resupply.
- On 11 November 2022 the site suffered further significant damage, almost certainly because of controlled demolitions by retreating Russian forces. This was likely done in an attempt to hinder future Ukrainian advances.
- Three spans of both the road and rail bridges on the northern end of the dam were destroyed, rendering the crossings impassable. However, the three spillway gates below this section of the dam remained largely intact. The current level of damage is unlikely to result in major flooding downstream.



#### RUSSIA'S CLAIM:

Russia claims that the civilian population in occupied areas of Ukraine overwhelmingly favour political unity with Moscow and see themselves as part of a common Russian national community.

#### BASED ON CANADIAN FORCES INTELLIGENCE COMMAND ANALYSIS:

- The celebratory reaction of locals to the arrival of Ukrainian forces in Kherson shows no love lost for Moscow and demonstrates that the pretext for Russia's annexation referendums was fabricated.
- Ukrainians continue to resist in areas that remain under Russian occupation. Attacks against Russian forces have continued behind the front lines in recent weeks, in particular around Melitopol.
- Moscow's attempts to "Russian-ize" occupied areas of Ukraine through censorship, forced economic integration, and the targeting of dissidents will persist, but they are unlikely to shift Ukrainian perceptions.

