



## Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 22 December 2023

*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.

### *A Holiday Message from our Patron*

Lt Gov NS @LtGovNS 18 Dec posted (video: <https://twitter.com/LtGovNS/status/1736881327633322079>):  
His Honour the Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc sends best wishes to all Nova Scotians this holiday season. #HappyHolidays  
#MerryChristmas #NovaScotia #Halifax



### *Happy Holidays!*

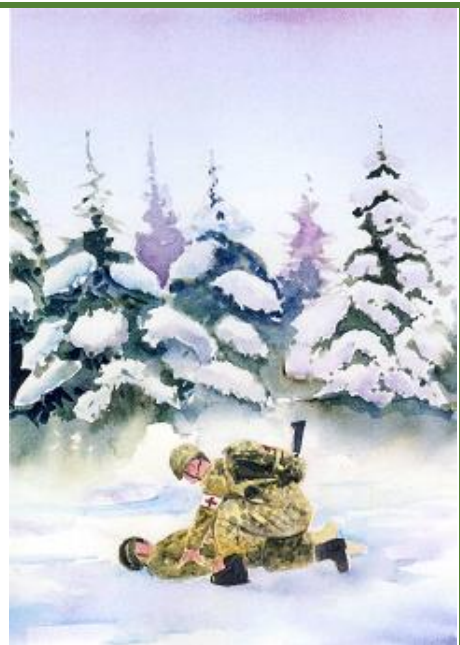
The Board of the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia wishes you and yours a safe and happy holiday season. Merry Christmas.

RUSI(NS) member and HLCol Heather Mackinnon is the artist of our featured image, with Frans Aeyelts as co-artist. 33 Field Ambulance medics served as models.

Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic Christmas Message  
<https://tridentnewspaper.com/commander-marlant-christmas-message/>

### *Dispatches 29 December*

There will be no 29 December edition of *Dispatches*.



## **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.

**9 January**, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Oh, The Humanity: Generative AI Imagery in Game Design." 7-9 pm AST. Online. To register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oh-the-humanity-generative-ai-imagery-in-game-design-tickets-722319094857>.

**17 January**, Wednesday - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker Dr Jonathan Fowler, Saint Mary's University, "The Historical Archaeology of Halifax's Earliest Defences." 1300-1430. In-person. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

Pre-event reading:

Early Town Defences

<https://hnhps.ca/sites/early-town-defences>

Peninsular Blockhouses

<https://hnhps.ca/sites/peninsular-blockhouses>

The Early Fortifications of Halifax

<https://hnhps.ca/pdf/The-Early-Fortifications-of-Halifax.pdf>

Cemetery that tells of Halifax's naval history hides in plain sight

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/cemetery-naval-history-halifax-1.6901190>

Walking Tour of Halifax's Early Defences

<https://hnhps.ca/pdf/Walking-Tour-of-Halifax's-Early-Defences.pdf>

**New:** 17 January, Tuesday - Canada House Veterans Wellness Workshop. 0930-1530. Fairview Legion Branch 142, 50 Hillcrest Street, Halifax. See poster at end of *Dispatches*.

**23 January**, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Wargaming's Influence on U.S. Navy Tactical Doctrine, 1906-1941." 7-9 pm AST. Online. To register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wargamings-influence-on-us-navy-tactical-doctrine-1906-1941-tickets-639727099977>

**30 January**, Tuesday - King's College London School of Security Studies presentation "Space power and Irregular Warfare in Space." 5:00-6:30 pm GMT. Online. To register:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/events/space-power-and-irregular-warfare-in-space>

**6 February**, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Saga: A Sub-threshold Conflict Wargaming System." 7-9 pm AST. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/saga-a-sub-threshold-conflict-wargaming-system-tickets-719821885637>

**21 February**, Wednesday - Distinguished Speaker MGen S.Y. Ménard, RCAF Chief Fighter and NORAD Capability (CFNC), speaking about the Future Fighter Capability Project (F-35 procurement) and about the RCAF Centennial. 1300-1500 Atlantic time. Via Zoom. Details to follow.

**22 February**, Thursday - Royal Alberta United Services Institute presentation "Beyond Greed: How Corruption Threatens Global Security" with journalist and political advisor Sarah Chayes. 6-7 pm MST (9-10 pm AST). Online. For more info and to register: <https://rausi.ca/info-events/rmcsd/622-beyond-greed-how-corruption-threatens-global-security>

**9 May**, Thursday - Royal Alberta United Services Institute 2024 Keynote Lecture with LGen (ret) The Honorable Roméo Dallaire, discussing key strategic challenges facing Canadian leadership in the current geopolitical landscape. 7 pm MST (10 pm AST) (start time to be confirmed). Via Zoom. For more info and to register: <https://rausi.ca/info-events/rmcscd/625-romeo-dallaire>

### **Publications:**

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

**New:** RUSI(NS) Comments "The RCAF is on another merry-go-round. This time it's the Search and Rescue CC295 Kingfisher." by Murray Lee, 20 December 2023 <https://rusi-ns.ca/kingfisher/>

RUSI(NS) Paper "Is another Cyclone about to form for the RCAF?" by Murray Lee and John McLearn, 26 November 2023, <https://rusi-ns.ca/p8-poseidon/>

RUSI(NS) Comments "White Hat Hackers" by David Swan, 25 November 2023, [https://rusi-ns.ca/white\\_hat\\_hackers](https://rusi-ns.ca/white_hat_hackers)

King's College London Wargaming Network presentation "Naval Wargaming Beyond the Classroom." video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOemWKst2g0>

Canadian Gunner News 30 Nov 2023

Notable: Howitzer Statement of Capability Deficiency for 20 self-propelled howitzers.

**New:** Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 20 December 2023 <https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current>

Edmonton United Services Institute President's *Enews*, December 2023

Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XLII, Number 1, January 2023

Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, December 2023

<https://www.rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/226-rausi-dispatches-december-2023>

**New:** Royal Canadian Logistics Service *The Logistician* Volume 13, Issue 4 December 2023 <https://sway.office.com/TbIXCGh5TR8C1xWn?ref=Link>

Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch *Scuttlebutt*, December 2023

Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island *Newsletter*, Volume 55, 4th Quarter 2023








**New:** Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 22, Issue 4, 18 December 2023

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Quarterly Newsletter*, Volume 22, Issue 4, December 2023

**New:** Vancouver Artillery Association and Royal United Services Institute Vancouver *Members News* 19 Dec 2023

**@RUSI NS on X:**

@RUSI\_NS posts may also be viewed by clicking on the icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something posted or reposted, email RUSI(NS).

<p>Murray Brewster @Murray_Brewster 15 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted): 2023 was a brutal year for natural disasters in Canada - a record-setting year for the Canadian military on domestic operations. But were troops needed to backstop every disaster? Some top soldiers say - no. #cdnpoli #wildfires #flood #Military (Military is being called on too often to deal with domestic emergencies, commander warns <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/military-armed-forces-auchterlonie-wildfires-1.7060034">https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/military-armed-forces-auchterlonie-wildfires-1.7060034</a>)</p>	
<p>RUSI @RUSI_org Dec 12 posted and RUSI(NS) reposted:  New Occasional Paper, 'Heavy Armoured Forces in Future Combined Arms Warfare' by Nick Reynolds, which explores the main battle tanks changing role in the British Army's force structure, is out now! (Heavy Armoured Forces in Future Combined Arms Warfare <a href="https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/occasional-papers/heavy-armoured-forces-future-combined-arms-warfare">https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/occasional-papers/heavy-armoured-forces-future-combined-arms-warfare</a>)</p>	
<p>"Canada to pilot options for national emergency response agency in 2024" <a href="https://shorturl.at/diEUW">https://shorturl.at/diEUW</a> CAN  emergency response agency need consist of regional response teams to relieve @CanadianForces of too many calls to respond to domestic emergencies as civil resources inadequate</p> <p>Steve Schmidt @Heardbeast 15 Dec quoted: CIFFCC. Expand CIFFCC. Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Control Centre. They do this every day.</p>	
<p>CAN  to deploy 4 CH146 Griffon helicopters, occasional CH147F Chinooks, to #NATO Enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group #Latvia, part of upscaling to brigade group <a href="https://shorturl.at/bjknM">https://shorturl.at/bjknM</a> Need more than 4, maybe 16, to support bde gp. @RCAF_ARC needs modern utility tac-tpt helos</p> <p>(Minister Blair announces measures to strengthen Canada's military presence in Latvia <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2023/12/minister-blair-announces-measures-to-strengthen-canadas-military-presence-in-latvia.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2023/12/minister-blair-announces-measures-to-strengthen-canadas-military-presence-in-latvia.html</a>)</p>	

Spencerpress @Spencerpress 14 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: It's ironic that the U.S., which failed to conquer Canada in the War of 1812-15, will one day have to pressure us to build a proper defence. Robert Smol writes on how America enables Canada's deep defence deficit. #cdnpoli #uspoli @OttawaCitizen  
 (U.S. should stop enabling Canada's defence deficit  
<https://ottawacitizen.com/opinion/smol-u-s-should-stop-enabling-canadas-defence-deficit>)



NATO ACT @NATO\_ACT 15 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Cognitive warfare is designed to target individuals, groups & societies, shaping their thoughts & behavior. Raising awareness about cognitive warfare has been a key focus for #NATO. More about this 21st century game changer in @NATO\_JWC article:  
<https://jwc.nato.int/application/files/7216/9804/8564/CognitiveWarfare.pdf> #WeAreNATO  
 (Cognitive Warfare)



"CBSA Atlantic Region: Operational and enforcement highlights from 2023" <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2023/12/cbsa-atlantic-region-operational-and-enforcement-highlights-from-2023.html>  
 Bravo @CanBorderATL. Busy year!

Full infographic at: <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/transparency-transparence/info-atl-eng.html>



Skies Magazine @SkiesMag 15 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: @RCAF\_ARC FAcT program could see a new mixed fleet of aircraft. For the RCAF's Future Aircrew Training (FAcT) program, the selected bidder is proposing a new mix of fixed- and rotary-wing #aircraft. Full story here:  
<https://skiesmag.com/features/rcaf-fact-program-see-new-mixed-fleet-aircraft/> #aviation4u #airlines  
 (RCAF FAcT program could see a new mixed fleet of aircraft)



CBC News @CBCNews 18 Dec posted: A Norwegian-owned vessel was attacked in the Red Sea on Monday in a strike that U.S. officials said originated from Yemeni territory controlled by the Iran-aligned Houthi movement.

<https://cbc.ca/news/world/red-sea-ships-strikes-1.7062343>

(U.S., Canada to join multi-national operation to counter attacks on commercial ships in Red Sea)

RUSI(NS) reposted: CAN🇨🇦 won't deploy ships but send personnel to international task force. Intelligence, subject matter advice can be good enablers/assistance in multi-national operations #OpProsperityGuardian



National Defence @NationalDefence 19 Dec posted: We're acquiring a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS), which will include 11 remotely piloted aircraft. A new capability for the CAF, the RPAS is a long range, long endurance, armed remotely piloted aircraft. #WellEquipped

<https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2023/12/canada-acquiring-remotely-piloted-aircraft-systems-for-the-canadian-armed-forces.html>

(Canada acquiring Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems for the Canadian Armed Forces)

RUSI(NS) quoted: CAN🇨🇦 to buy 11 MQ-9 Reaper #drones for @RCAF\_ARC Remotely Piloted Aircraft System #RPAS project. Ground control centre & squadron at Ottawa. Hangars at Greenwood & Comox

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/armed-drone-canadian-armed-forces-1.7063989> Modified to surveille #Arctic

Background: <https://rusi-ns.ca/rpas/>

*Editor:* The official NR certainly downplayed the armed drone aspect (only alluded to in the RCAF following LOAC). The headline editor for the CBC article certainly highlighted that aspect.



See posters at end of *Dispatches*.

RUSI(NS) Comments "The RCAF is on another merry-go-round. This time it's the Search and Rescue CC295 Kingfisher." <https://rusi-ns.ca/kingfisher/> @RCAF\_ARC #SAR



CDNShipbuilders @CDNShipbuilders 20 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: 'Robbing Peter to pay Paul': Canadian navy warship sails home on borrowed transponder

<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/robbing-peter-to-pay-paul-canadian-navy-warship-sails-home-on-borrowed-transponder-1.6692433> #cdnships #maritime

*Editor:* Not abnormal, especially as ship equipment ages. But can happen to new builds, too.





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Why Are the Houthis Attacking Now

<https://www.fpri.org/article/2023/12/why-are-the-houthis-attacking-now/>

**Pentagon To Launch ‘Operation Prosperity Guardian’ To Reopen Red Sea Passage**

<https://gcaptain.com/pentagon-to-launch-operation-prosperity-guardian-to-reopen-red-sea-passage/>



"...sources could say how many navies besides the US will be involved in Operation Prosperity Guardian, when it will start, or exactly what missions they will perform beyond protecting ships in the Red Sea against Houthi threats."

One can only guess, especially what with the silence from the Canadian government and with public comments from commanders about Canadian Armed Forces readiness, that Canada and the Royal Canadian Navy would be hard pressed to deploy a combatant, e.g., a frigate, to the region. And with only one replenishment oiler, the leased Motor Vessel ASTERIX, just returned to the Navy's west coast base from a Pacific deployment, sustaining a combatant there, especially one firing missiles in defence of Canada and maybe foreign ships, would be a challenge. The absence of a second or more replenishment oiler restrains government options in crises.

As a Corbett-related (meaning, seapower) account noted on X: "Defence of trade is the cornerstone of global civilisation & in some cases, the lifeblood of nations."

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*Explainer:* Red Sea crisis explained: what is happening and what does it mean for global trade?

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/dec/19/red-sea-shipping-crisis-bp-oil-explained-what-is-happening-and-what-does-it-mean-for-global-trade>

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Someone queried why Seychelles is part of the Op PROSPERITY GUARDIAN international force. Someone else noted that the US has a drone base there, located at the Seychelles International Airport, Mahé island, Seychelles. The fleet there is made up of MQ-9 Reaper drones.

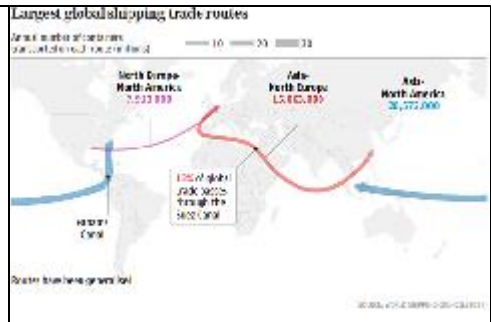
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Meanwhile, chat amongst mariners about armed civil protection teams onboard merchant ships, and: Inside The Private Security Forces Protecting Red Sea Shipping

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/inside-the-private-security-forces-protecting-red-sea-shipping>

**International warships converge on the Bab el Mandeb, battling Houthi rebels for control**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/12/11/red-sea-bab-el-mandeb-france-frigate-drone-houthi-shutdown/>



This is a particularly good analysis of the maritime security situation in the Red Sea, maybe because as a former senior naval officer the author has focused on command and control and on logistics. Might Canada rue not having more support ships (replenishment oilers) to support distant operations?



Some other good points: "We have ended up with ships which are arguably more powerful, but definitely fewer in number. The land war in Ukraine is proving time and time again that mass has a value all of its own. The Red Sea has the potential to prove this in the maritime domain as well." That is a statement on the utility of minor combatants such as corvettes for undertaking missions such as merchant ship escort (air defence). Navies need to be balanced like that. Canada's second tier (to use an Australian term) warships are (aging) mine countermeasures vessels, the Kingston-class, really regional patrol ships at this point. The Royal Canadian Navy is to get capable warships from the Canadian Surface Combatant project. Maybe the Kingston-class replacement project should be two projects: one to replace the Kingstons at coastal roles (e.g., mine countermeasures) and the other to provide a second tier warship (by whatever type, corvette, light frigate).

"The final point is that as these bills start adding up, including insurance premiums for the shipping companies operating there, there comes a point where preemptive action to defeat the threat starts making financial sense." Yes, conflict at sea is very much trade and economic war/conflict.

### Canada to participate in United States-led Operation PROSPERITY GUARDIAN

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2023/12/canada-to-participate-in-united-states-led-operation-prosperity-guardian.html>

"The Canadian Armed Forces are deploying 3 staff officers to support the operation." Reportedly they are two planners and one intelligence analyst.



"These CAF members will deploy as early as next week under Op ARTEMIS – the CAF operation in support of peace and security in Middle East waters. As part of Op ARTEMIS, the CAF periodically deploys ships and aircrafts, as well as land-based support, to work with our international partners to help secure the region." More about Operation ARTEMIS at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-artemis.html>. More about CTF (Combined Task Force) 150 at: <https://combinedmaritimeforces.com/ctf-150-maritime-security/>.

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Why Canada is joining U.S. to protect ships in Red Sea from Houthis  
<https://nationalpost.com/news/why-canada-helping-protect-ships-in-red-sea>

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*Comment:* One can foresee frigates and Auroras being committed.

*Comment:* Yes, but with state of fleet and crew shortages, RCN would be hard pressed. Yes, Auroras could be quickly deployed, but where would the RCAF base them?

### Shipping industry in the dark over US-led Red Sea navy force

<https://www.reuters.com/business/shipping-industry-dark-over-us-led-red-sea-navy-force-2023-12-20/>

"We don't know exactly how many warships will be involved, how long it will take those vessels to get to the region, or their rules of engagement and the actual protection scheme that will be put in place..."



Reads like some messaging (public and industry) and coordination is in order.

Hmm, might there be utility in Naval Control of Shipping personnel? Used to be a capability of the Royal Canadian Navy's Naval Reserve.

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Red Sea Shipping Chaos, By the Numbers

<https://gcaptain.com/red-sea-shipping-chaos-by-the-numbers/>

### **Bombardier Defense VP Patrick talks deep sensing, Kansas investing**

<https://www.defensenews.com/intel-geoint/isr/2023/12/18/bombardier-defense-vp-patrick-talks-deep-sensing-kansas-investing/>



Bombardier Defense... "is among the winners of two recent U.S. Army intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance contracts..."

Bombardier may not have won the Canadian Multi Mission Aircraft contract which resulted in the P-8 Poseidon being procured for the Royal Canadian Air Force, but it is doing well otherwise. Hmm, maybe they should pitch their intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) aircraft to Canada. A greater ISR capability would be good for the Canadian Armed Forces; a lesson of the Russia-Ukraine War.

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*See also:* Bombardier won't contest Ottawa's sole-source deal on new Boeing military planes

<https://shorturl.at/djmDE>

### **EU Shipping And US Naval Leaders Are Estranged Despite NATO Budget Boost**

<https://gcaptain.com/eu-shipping-and-us-naval-leaders-are-estranged-despite-nato-budget-boost/>



"In an era marked by escalating maritime tensions and evolving geopolitical challenges, the critical role of naval forces in ensuring the safety and security of global shipping cannot be overstated. As NATO increases its budget to address these threats, a collaborative approach between European shipping leaders and American naval strategy becomes more vital than ever."

How much meetings, planning, wargaming, exercising and other collaborative actions are occurring between the leaders of NATO (and partner) navies and of shipping concerns? What are the fora in Canada which brings together the Royal Canadian Navy and shippers, especially Canadian-flag companies?

## The rise and fall of the Royal Canadian Navy

The purpose of this post is to share a cool history Ph.D. dissertation, for discussion and comparative analysis between problems faced by the RCN in the past and those faced now.

Lund, W.G.D. "The Rise and Fall of the Royal Canadian Navy, 1945-1964: A Critical Study of the Senior Leadership, Policy and Manpower Management." Ph.D. Dissertation. Victoria, BC: University of Victoria. 1999.  
<https://dspace.library.uvic.ca/handle/1828/8828>

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY, 1945-1964:  
A CRITICAL STUDY OF THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP, POLICY AND MANPOWER  
MANAGEMENT

by

Captain(N) Wilfred Garby, Orlphin Lund, OMM, CD, (Ret'd)  
B.A., University of Victoria, 1971  
M.A., Queen's University, 1972  
Diploma (M.M.Sc.) Naval War College, 1980  
Diploma, National Defence College of Canada, 1990

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

in the Department of History

I think it is important that RCN folks, especially senior leaders, read this. Many of the issues faced by the Navy then are similar to those faced now, despite different contexts.

For example:

"The personnel shortages, largely self-imposed, were both numerical and structural and also had qualitative as well as quantitative aspects. The issue of numerical shortages in manpower might be explained away simply through government imposed ceilings or a failure to compete successfully with outside industry for recruits. Deeper investigation will demonstrate that these shortages, particularly in high-quality trained tradesmen, resulted from structural and morale problems created by internal policy decisions. This situation was exacerbated by poor personnel planning and management, including a decision to starve the training system of sufficient candidates for higher-level technical courses in order to man obsolete ships to meet NATO force goals." / pg 4

"Morale in the fleet was in fact deteriorating badly. The transition to a peacetime navy and financial constraints imposed by the government had created an environment of stringency, uncertainty, and dissatisfaction. The main complaints were poor pay, poor accommodations, lack of married quarters, the new trade structure imposed by integration, and poor career prospects. These issues affected "old hands" and new entries alike. A complaint specific to career men, particularly those in the Engine Room Artificer and Stoker trades, was their high ratio of sea time to drafts ashore. The generally poor situation was exacerbated by a scarcely functioning divisional system and indifferent leadership at all levels in the fleet." / pg 133

Familiar themes that arise:

Problems with personnel management policies.

The unwillingness of the government to allocate funding for improving conditions of service for members, despite multiple reports identifying these were the factors sailors identified as impacting them the most (cost of living/housing, family support programs, pay and benefits, etc.).

Overcommitting operationally despite a personnel crisis (exacerbated by cutting shore/training establishments to get bodies at sea).

Engineering trades facing a high ratio of sea days versus time alongside/ashore compared to other trades.

What I find interesting/worrying is that the Navy of that time had a much greater scope of control over many of these issues than it does today. The RCN at the time could spend its own funds to build

housing for its sailors, it ran its own recruitment and generally held control over many other corporate functions that no longer exist within RCN lines today.

Hope you find the read interesting as well, please comment with any thoughts!

### **Other Sources:**

#### **#A2R**

Sustaining the All-Volunteer Force Means Streamlining Army Recruitment

<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/sustaining-the-all-volunteer-force-means-streamlining-army-recruitment/>

Lessons for Canada? Of course, depends on what similarities there are in recruiting. Certainly there are similarities in the militaries being below establishment.

#### **#air power**

Air Power: A Personal Theory of Power

<https://cimsec.org/air-power-personal-theory-power/>

#### **#Canadian Armed Forces**

How Do Canadians View The Military? Most See It As ‘Old And Antiquated,’ Poll Finds

<https://mackenzieinstitute.com/2023/08/how-do-canadians-view-the-military-most-see-it-as-old-and-antiquated-poll-finds/>

Dated, but have things changed?

#### **#drones**

Wargame of Drones: Remotely Piloted Aircraft and Crisis Escalation

<https://dspace.mit.edu/bitstream/handle/1721.1/148674/SSRN-id3288988.pdf>

#### **#United Kingdom**

Creating a British ‘Army of Drones’

<https://wavellroom.com/2023/12/15/creating-a-british-army-of-drones/>

#### **#intelligence**

Australia needs an open-source intelligence agency

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/australia-needs-open-source-intelligence-agency>

Canada needs an open-source intelligence agency.

#### **#justice**

Military Justice has Failed

<https://www.frontline-canada.com/defence/featured/14204-military-justice-has-failed>

#### **#maritime security**

Part I: Combatting Short Term Limitations of U.S. Fisheries Enforcement in the Western Pacific

<https://centerformaritimestrategy.org/publications/part-i-combatting-short-term-limitations-of-u-s-fisheries-enforcement-in-the-western-pacific/>

Part II – U.S. Fisheries Enforcement in the Western Pacific: Embracing the Long Run

<https://centerformaritimestrategy.org/publications/3413/>

## #reading

A Year in #Reviewing

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2023/12/11/a-year-in-reviewing>

## #Russia

Another Budget for a Country at War: Military Expenditure in Russia's Federal Budget for 2024 and Beyond

<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2023/sipri-insights-peace-and-security/another-budget-country-war-military-expenditure-russias-federal-budget-2024-and-beyond>

## #Russia-Ukraine War

Ukrainian Strikes Have Changed Russian Naval Operations in the Black Sea

<https://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/ukrainian-strikes-have-changed-russian-naval-operations-black-sea>

High-tech trench warfare: 5 hard-won lessons-learned for the US from Ukraine

<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/12/high-tech-trench-warfare-5-hard-won-lessons-learned-for-the-us-from-ukraine/>

1. The cloud, fiber optics and hiding in basements: Army races to adapt to new command post threats
2. Dumb and cheap: When facing electronic warfare in Ukraine, small drones' quantity is quality
3. Ukraine War: Vast hacker 'militias' do little damage – but can rally mass support, says study
4. Ukraine and industry show how Europe can jump ahead on JADC2, ex-generals say
5. Cyber lessons from Ukraine: Prepare for prolonged conflict, not a knockout blow

Articles about the War in Ukraine

<https://tacticalnotebook.substack.com/p/articles-about-the-war-in-ukraine>

Russian 'conquest' of Ukraine on the table if US, allied military aid falters

<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/12/russian-conquest-of-ukraine-on-the-table-if-us-allied-military-aid-falters-study/>

## #drones

Ukraine Situation Report: Kyiv Wants A Million FPV Drones In 2024

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/ukraine-situation-report-kyiv-wants-a-million-fpv-drones-in-2024>

Ukraine's soldiers use cheap tech to hide from Russia's deadly drones

[https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2023/12/ukraines-soldiers-use-cheap-tech-hide-russias-deadly-drones/392957/?oref=defense\\_one\\_breaking\\_nl](https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2023/12/ukraines-soldiers-use-cheap-tech-hide-russias-deadly-drones/392957/?oref=defense_one_breaking_nl)

The world's first drone war is happening in Ukraine

<https://thehill.com/opinion/international/4360793-the-worlds-first-drone-war-is-happening-in-ukraine/>

New terms? Drone operator now is 'dronedriver.' 'Seed' - battle slang for small FPV (first-person view) drone.

Crude ground robots emerge on the battlefields of Ukraine, experts say

<https://www.defensenews.com/unmanned/2023/12/15/crude-ground-robots-emerge-on-the-battlefields-of-ukraine-experts-say/>



### #Russia-Ukraine War #Drone Industry

OSINT (Uri) @UKikaski 18 Dec posted (video:

<https://twitter.com/UKikaski/status/1736702623674146967>):

Ukrainian Media: "The Ukrainian Cobra attack drone began to be mass-produced. The production time of one drone is 3

hours. The flight range is 300 km. Carrying capacity — 15 kg.

The UAV was developed by engineers from Kryvyi Rih. The

drone has a body made of riveted steel. This technology simplified and cheapened the production of UAVs." #OSINT #Counteroffensive #UkraineRussiaWar #UkraineWar #Ukraine



*Editor:* Gotta admire that simplicity of production is appreciated. And followed in war.

### #security

2023: The Year in Review

<https://www.cigionline.org/articles/2023-the-year-in-review/>

National Intelligence Council - Foreign Threats to the 2022 US Elections

<https://www.odni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/NIC-Declassified-ICA-Foreign-Threats-to-the-2022-US-Elections-Dec2023.pdf>

Lessons for Canada?

### #shipbuilding

Australia's Hunter frigate project should be sunk

<https://www.afr.com/policy/foreign-affairs/australia-s-hunter-frigate-project-should-be-sunk-20231212-p5equp>

For those tracking the Canadian Surface Combatant project.

### #space

The New Frontier of Space Militarization

<https://css.ethz.ch/en/publications/css-analyses-in-security-policy/details.html>

### #terminology

A Compendium of Geopolitical, Strategic & Maritime Terms & Concepts

[https://www.academia.edu/33180297/PORTHOLE\\_A\\_Compendium\\_of\\_Geopolitical\\_Strategic\\_and\\_Maritime\\_TERMS\\_and\\_CONCEPTS](https://www.academia.edu/33180297/PORTHOLE_A_Compendium_of_Geopolitical_Strategic_and_Maritime_TERMS_and_CONCEPTS)

## #warfare

Enter the Era of Hypersonic Warfare

<https://www.cigionline.org/articles/enter-the-era-of-hypersonic-warfare/>

## Other:



### CDS and CAF CWO end-of-year message to the Canadian Armed Forces

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**December 19, 2023**

Reflecting on 2023, we want to express our sincere appreciation for the extraordinary dedication and resilience demonstrated by each member of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) throughout this challenging year.

2023 has seen further deterioration in the security environment with Russia's brutal war of aggression on Ukraine continuing, war in the Middle East, wars and coups in Africa, rising tension in the Indo-Pacific, increased interest in the Arctic, climate change-related disasters around the world and here at home, and an information environment rife with sophisticated disinformation and visceral hatred.

In the face of this confluence of crises, your unwavering commitment to standing on guard for Canada and its people has been a beacon of hope. You have consistently risen to the occasion, showcasing dedication, professionalism, and a greater purpose of serving Canada and Canadians. Your response, both at home and abroad, continues to be a source of inspiration.

It is well known that we currently, as we have many times throughout our history, face numerous challenges as a military. While acknowledging there is much work to do, we believe it is opportune to highlight your hard work and some positive strides made in key areas of focus laid out earlier this year: Reconstitution, Modernization, Cultural Evolution, and Operations and Readiness.

**Reconstitution:** We are making progress in reconstitution efforts, with force numbers beginning to stabilize. Our attrition rate is returning to historical norms and recruiting is increasing. Many initiatives to streamline the recruiting process are underway, including efforts to address medical procedures, digital portals, security screening, and more. Initiatives to streamline the training pipeline, add more flexibility to individual career pathways, and address such challenges as childcare are ongoing. This work will take several years of concerted effort but we are cautiously optimistic about progress.

**Modernization:** In response to the evolving nature of warfare, our military is undergoing significant modernization. Key efforts in 2023 include the acquisition announcements of P-8A Poseidon aircraft and F-35 fighter jets, which will provide the most advanced intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities needed in today's high-threat operational environment. We also took delivery of the first of nine CC-330 Husky aircraft, strengthening our strategic airlift, transport, and medical evacuation capacities, and the first of 360 Armoured Combat Support Vehicles providing versatile battlefield support. Our digital transformation initiatives promise a more tech-savvy and

efficient operational framework, aligning with ongoing efforts to modernize NORAD for contemporary defence strategies. We continuously adapt our force structure, operating concepts, and operational sustainment to meet evolving challenges and foster collaboration with Allies and partners.

**Cultural Evolution:** The [External Monitor's second report](#) indicates balanced progress in our cultural evolution efforts and is recommended reading. While the [StatCan Survey on Sexual Misconduct](#) revealed areas for improvement, the CAF's voluntary transparency underscores our commitment to positive change. We are consolidating our efforts to address external recommendations with an approach focused on making improvements that most directly benefit Defence Team members. Work is also underway across the organization to implement tailored Implementation Plans, nested under the [Culture Evolution Strategy](#). Transformation of the grievance and complaint process has begun, and the services of the [Sexual Misconduct Support and Resource Centre](#) have been expanded. Across the Defence Team, there is clear dedication to fostering a positive cultural evolution; it remains a strategic imperative to be able to attract and retain talent from all segments of Canadian society if we wish to be relevant into the future.

**Operations and Readiness:** Despite a high demand for our services and a consistently high operational tempo, your commendable efforts allowed us to make positive impact both at home and around the world. During Op LENTUS, we deployed over two thousand members, providing crucial disaster assistance across six provinces and two territories for 131 consecutive days. Our contributions extended globally through operations like UNIFIER and REASSURANCE, fostering stability in Europe and fortifying allied posture. Our commitment to a safe and stable Indo-Pacific saw the deployment of three Royal Canadian Navy patrol frigates and two Royal Canadian Air Force CP-140 on Operations PROJECTION and NEON. These are only a few examples of the remarkable work that was done at home and elsewhere, in making Canada and the world a safer place.

As we wrap up this year, it is important to recognize the potential impact of global events on you and your families, especially given recent events in the Middle East. These events could easily lead to a sense of divisiveness and polarization within our workplaces and communities. In such trying times, these divergent conversations, if not done with respect and dignity, may cause further individual and collective harm and jeopardize our sense of belonging. We encourage everyone to embrace understanding, compassion, respect, and dignity during this challenging time for many. Remember, we are all on the same team and no one is alone.

In conclusion, despite resource shortfalls and increased demand, our commitment stands strong. In a world increasingly characterized by cynicism, take the high road and take pride in being part of something bigger than yourselves, of being part of a dedicated Canadian Armed Forces focused on going forth and doing good. As we wish you the best for the holiday season, be proud of your contributions and your identity. The country relies on your commitment and military professionalism, and together we will navigate future challenges with strength and unity, to defend Canada and Canadian interests.

As you relax this holiday season, feel proud of your contributions and those of the team – we certainly are. And rest assured that what you have accomplished in 2023 stands as a beacon of hope for Canadians and many around the world.

General Wayne D. Eyre  
Chief of the Defence Staff

Chief Warrant Officer Bob McCann  
CAF Chief Warrant Officer





## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Heavy fighting continues for control of the destroyed town of Marinka and its surrounding areas in southeastern Ukraine. Russia has likely further reduced the small pockets of Ukrainian controlled territory remaining within the town boundary.
- One of Russia's operational objectives in the area is likely to secure the 00510 and N15 highways to eventually advance further west towards the town of Kurakhove.
- Despite its incremental advances, a major, operationally significant Russian breakthrough in this sector remains highly unlikely.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 12 December 2023, Kyivstar, Ukraine's largest mobile network operator, suffered a cyber attack. Effects continued for at least 48 hours, impacting the company's mobile and data services. Kyivstar supplies over half of Ukraine's population with mobile and home internet services. The cyber attack reportedly left users without mobile signal or the ability to use the internet. Kyivstar reported that no personal data was compromised during the attack.
- The cyber attack also reportedly disrupted air raid sirens, some banks, ATMs, and point-of-sale terminals. At the same time, the Ukrainian bank Monobank, was targeted with a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack, disrupting access to the bank's website.
- With Ukraine's government resources and emergency services affected, this incident is likely one of the highest-impact disruptive cyber attacks on Ukrainian networks since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 11 December 2023, the Russian Central Election Commission announced that voting in the March 2024 presidential election would extend to the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine. This follows their inclusion in the September 2023 Russian regional elections.
- As with the regional elections, it is almost certain that presidential election voting in the Russian-controlled regions will be neither free nor fair. The Russian authorities almost certainly see achieving the 'correct' results in these regions as a priority because they want to give the perception of legitimacy to Russia's invasion.
- The Russian administration will almost certainly utilise methods including substantive electoral fraud and voter intimidation to ensure Russian President Vladimir Putin wins in the regions by a substantial margin.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Members of Russian Shtorm-Z units are highly likely being returned to combat duties with unhealed wounds, and even after limb amputations. This follows credible reports that members of Shtorm-Z, Donetsk militias, and Wagner Group have frequently received minimal or no treatment.
- It is likely that convict recruits - who make up a large proportion of Shtorm-Z units - are especially liable to receive poor treatment. One reason is that prisoners often lack the paperwork required to access military hospitals.
- Whilst reducing pressure on an overburdened military medical system, the lack of proper in-theatre medical attention will transfer the administrative and medical burden back to troops' home units.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 14 December 2023, the Russian Air Force highly likely carried out the first use of a AS-24 KILLJOY air launched ballistic missile since August 2023. Russia launched at least one missile into central Ukraine, likely targeting a military airfield.
- One of the six 'super weapons' President Putin announced in 2018, KILLJOY has been ear-marked to play a major role in Russia's future military doctrine. In the Ukraine war, Russia has reserved the weapon for what it perceives as high value, well defended targets.
- KILLJOY has almost certainly had a mixed combat debut. Many of its launches have likely missed their intended targets, while Ukraine has also succeeded in intercepting attacks by this supposedly 'undefeatable' system.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- In recent weeks, Ukraine has mobilised a concerted effort to improve field fortifications as its forces pivot to a more defensive posture along much of the front line.
- This follows Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's calls, from late November 2023, for faster fortification in key sectors. In one part of the project, Ukraine has worked to improve defences along its border with Belarus with dragon's teeth, razor wire, and anti-tank ditches as of mid-December 2023.
- Russia continues local offensive options in several sectors, but individual attacks are rarely above platoon size. A major Russian breakthrough is unlikely and overall, the front is characterised by stasis.

**No great naval power has ever existed without also being a dominant commercial maritime power, encompassing both shipbuilding and global shipping.**

*SecNavDel Toro, 14 DEC 2024*

## Canada's MQ-9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft

First delivery 2028

The Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) will provide the Canadian Armed Forces with the ability to conduct long endurance surveillance missions over long distances, using a variety of sensors.



Pilot



Sensor Operator



Mission Intelligence Coordinator



Endurance	28+ hours
Transit distance	7 200 km
Max gross take-off weight	5 670 kg
Max speed	390 km/h
Ceiling	13 500 m
Wingspan	24 m
Fleet size	11
Remote cockpit	6



### Basing

19 Wing Comox, B.C.  
14 Wing Greenwood, N.S.  
Ottawa, Ont.



[Canada.ca/Defence](https://Canada.ca/Defence)

Canada



# CANADA'S Remotely Piloted Aircraft System

Entry into RCAF service by  
**2030**

Full operational capability  
**2033**



Hornet and Griffon included for size comparison

Endurance

**28+ hours**

Size

MQ-9B  
**24 m wingspan**

CF-188 Hornet  
**17 m length**

CH-146 Griffon  
**17 m length**

- The system will be operated by pilots located at the ground control center in Ottawa using satellite communication links.
- The RPAS will provide the CAF with the ability to conduct long endurance surveillance missions over long distances, using a variety of sensors.



Comox

Ottawa

Greenwood

AT HOME	It will help the CAF monitor Canada's large territory, long coastline and support operations in aid of civil authority, like responding to forest fires and floods.
ABROAD	It will provide commanders an overview of operational situations with near real-time information. The system will be capable of detecting, identifying, tracking and engaging targets of interest in complex environments.

# VETERAN WELLNESS WORKSHOP

Hosted by Canada House



**MAKE YOUR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH A PRIORITY THIS YEAR**



Join us for a day health education on Wednesday, January 17, 2023 from 0930hrs to 1530hrs.  
Location: Fairview Legion Branch 142 @ 50 Hillcrest Street, Halifax.

Attendance for all education sessions is not mandatory.

Learn about skills you can apply to your day-to-day life for better mental, emotional, and physical health.

This workshop is for RCMP and CF Veterans, still-serving members, First Responders, and for those who support them.

## Sessions Include:

- Dietician, Ashley South : Mood and Food
- Pharmacist, Leonard "Lenny" Walser
- Yoga & Mindfulness Resilience, Ian MacVicar.
- Nurse, Lindsay Densmore : Medical Cannabis and The Components
- Additional Veteran Support Programs

And more....



**Lunch, snacks, and drinks are provided throughout the day at no cost.**

RSVP to : [halifax@canadahouse.ca](mailto:halifax@canadahouse.ca)



*Seasons Greetings - Salutations Ses Saisons*

We wish you every happiness during this time of peace togetherness  
and all the very best in the new year.

To our veterans - thank you!

Nous vous souhaitons beaucoup de bonheur en cette période de paix  
et de convivialité et tout meilleur pour la nouvelle année.

À nos l'ancien combattants - merci!

**William Woodburn, Chairman   Gary Reddy, HMCS Sackville CO**



**Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year**



**Canadian Starfighter  
Association**



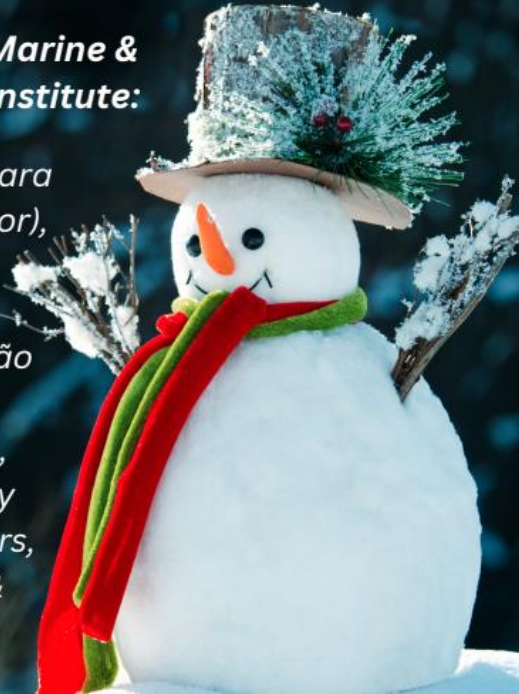
*Happy  
Holidays*

**FROM  
FEDERAL FLEET SERVICES**

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

From all of us at the **Marine & Environmental Law Institute:**

*Sara Seck (Director), Sara Ross (Associate Director), Olabisi Akinkugbe, Jamie Baxter, Aldo Chircop, Patrícia Galvão Ferreira, Jodi Lazare, Constance, MacIntosh, Naiomi Metallic, Sherry Pictou, Phillip Saunders, David VanderZwaag & Lauri MacDougall*



## Season's greetings from IDEaS

Season's greetings from the IDEaS team!  
With another year of discovery behind us, our innovation ecosystem has never looked stronger and we have you to thank. April 2023 marked a special commemorative milestone for the IDEaS program – our fifth year anniversary. Over the past five years, we have seen your dedication to creating solutions and pushing technology forward, and are grateful to be part of your innovation journey.

We are already looking forward to the exciting challenges in the year ahead.

Wishing you a safe and joyful holiday season.

The IDEaS team

