



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches

07 March 2025

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 periodic collection of news of interest, including posts to social media by the Institute. Links to articles are checked at the time they are put into *Dispatches* but may be unavailable at a later date or in some countries other than Canada.

Everyone is encouraged to submit links and other content to be included in *Dispatches*. Submissions and feedback are welcome anytime. Email to RUSINSDispatches@gmail.com. Comments to articles can be from members or non-members of RUSI(NS). Any comment in *Dispatches* is the sole opinion of the author and does not necessarily represent the views of the 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).

**Your
Institute
Needs You!**



Home Dispatches

The March 2025 edition of *Home Dispatches* will be the last edited by Col Murray Lee, RCAF (ret'd). Many thanks to Murray and his team for the time and efforts they put into producing our internal quarterly. It's been a great read.

We need a new editor. Everyone is asked to consider stepping up and volunteering, even if it's only for a few editions. RUSI(NS) is an organization of volunteers. How well we progress out aim of advancing knowledge depends on what we put into it. Please volunteer.

Editor's Notes:

Notable quote from Andriy Zagorodnyuk, the former Ukrainian defense minister, in his [essay](#) (in *Foreign Affairs* behind a paywall):

“If Putin emerges victorious after standing on the brink of failure solely because of a sudden shift in U.S. policy, it will reshape global security in dangerous ways.”

Another from an undisclosed “veteran of European diplomacy” who attended the emergency European summit held in London on 2 March:

“The West is dead, at least as the world has come to think of it since World War Two. What remains to be salvaged is a transactional trans-Atlantic relationship.”

And, closer to home, assessing Canadian strengths and weaknesses, Joël Blit writes:

“Canada remains stuck in the wrong AI paradigm... The real opportunity isn't in spending billions on infrastructure — it's in mobilizing the creativity and ingenuity of all Canadians.”

Mobilizing the creativity and ingenuity of all Canadians...I think we can agree, that is a brilliant place to start for any of the myriad of issues Canada is facing today and the foreseeable future. Our people are key.

The next issue will be **21 March 2025**.

Quick links:

[Events](#)

[Publications](#)

[@RUSI NS on X](#)

[Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia on Facebook](#)

[Other Sources](#)

[Odds and sods](#)

[SAC Notes](#)

Contributions to RUSI(NS) social media

You are also encouraged to send material to be posted to the RUSI(NS) X and Facebook accounts to rusindispatches@gmail.com. Preferably, send the material ready to post. We are still looking for a volunteer(s) to be editor(s) for these accounts in order to keep them active.

Events

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

RUSI (NS) Events:

19 March, Wednesday: BGen Mark Parsons, Comd 5 Div. This presentation will be in hybrid format with the in-person event being held at Cambridge Military Library and a virtual event by MS Teams at **1400hrs** AST. The topic will be 5 Canadian Division, also known since the Second World War as the Mighty Maroon Machine based on the maroon coloured, rectangular patch identifying the division. It is one of a kind as a formation and as a key force generator of occupations that are found in no other formations. It therefore seldom misses an overseas deployment. BGen Mark Parsons will also discuss his time as the senior Canadian to Op PROTEUS in the Middle East and his observations on the current situation. Registration is required at rusinovascotia@gmail.com not later than **1800 hrs 15 March 2025** and the MS Teams instruction will be provided on 17 March 2025 (Happy Saint Patrick's Day). The registration should be addressed to Distinguished Speaker 19 March 2025.

25 March, Tuesday: AGM at 1900hrs AST.

April and May to be confirmed.

18 June, Wednesday: CBSA presentation at CBSA, Bayers Lake.

16 July, Wednesday: Historical presentation with Tom Tulloch/Meet and Greet.

17 September, Wednesday: Col Labbe, CAF Drone projects, virtual event.

Other Events:

New 7 March, 1030hrs AST, Friday: the President of Foreign Policy Research Institute will host a discussion with Sir Lawrence Freedman (among many things, editor to a previous edition of *The Makers of Strategy*) on "The Future of European Security." How should European defense be reimagined and reorganized to meet the current moment? To register for this Zoom event:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tNrwGphXRfmilVHcgbNiqA

New 10 March, Monday: Foreign Policy Research Institute presents, "Shaping the future of Defense Acquisition." As the defense landscape rapidly evolves, this session will delve into innovative strategies for streamlining operations, increasing agility, and fostering a culture of innovation within the DoD. Key insights will highlight how policymakers and lawmakers can reshape acquisition practices. 1200hrs ADT, virtual. To register: <https://www.fpri.org/event/2025/shaping-the-future-of-defense-acquisition/>

New 11 March, Tuesday: Foreign Policy Research Institute presents, “Russia and China in the Indo-Pacific: China’s Use of the Instruments of Power.” This event marks the release of a new report of the same name. The panel discussion with the report authors examines Beijing’s use of diplomatic, military, and economic instruments in the Indo-Pacific region, and then examines how Russia perceives China’s activity in the region. 1100hrs ADT, virtual. To register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_thEKuOR8TZK26HjaeAnEbA

New 18 March, Tuesday: Research funded by Public Safety Canada and led by RUSI presents, “Findings: Examining Radicalisation in Gaming Spaces through a Gender Lens.” With more than three billion gamers worldwide, online gaming has surged not only in popularity but also in social significance. It connects gamers from different countries, cultures, languages and identities, while at the same time transcending the online realm to shape offline identities. While acknowledging the positive aspects of gaming, this project explored how socialisation processes, coupled with exposure to harassment, hate-based discrimination and extremist content, can undermine resilience to radicalisation in gaming and gaming-adjacent online spaces. Insights and recommendations are offered for preventing and countering efforts, and for the safeguarding of gaming spaces. 1100hrs AST (1600hrs GMT), virtual. To register:

<https://my.rusi.org/events/findings-examining-radicalisation-in-gaming-spaces-through-a-gender-lens.html>

New 21 March, Friday: Elliott School of International Affairs and the Digital Trade Data Governance Hub presents, “China is making data an asset: What are the implications?” 1100hrs ADT, online. To register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-49-china-is-making-data-an-asset-what-are-the-implications-tickets-1270702438199?aff=oddtcreator>

New 26 March, Wednesday: RAND presents “Why AI projects fail.” By some estimates, more than 80 percent of AI projects fail. That’s twice the rate of failure for IT projects that don’t involve AI. RAND uncovers five root causes that lead to AI failures—and what can be done to minimize these issues. 1300hrs ADT, online. To register: <https://www.rand.org/events/2025/03/why-ai-projects-fail.html>

10 April, Thursday: Dr Adam Coombs, Historian, DND Directorate of History & Heritage will present Royal Air Force Museum lecture "Fighting the Third Battle of the Atlantic from the Air." 1800hrs, UK time. Online (Livestream). To register: <https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/whats-going-on/events/virtual-lecture-fighting-the-third-battle-of-the-atlantic-from-the-air/>

16 April, Wednesday: RAUSI presents MGen Ménard and “Hidden in plain sight: the subtle but concerning threat to Canada’s national security and prosperity.” MGen Ménard (ret’d) will examine three critical challenges shaping Canada’s security landscape. This zoom event, at 2100hrs AST (1800hrs MST), requires registration: <https://www.rausi.org/info-events/rmcscd/782-hidden-in-plain-sight>.

Wargaming Events:

Georgetown University Wargaming Society long-range schedule:

<https://www.guwargaming.org/guwsevents>

18 March, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Tactical Wargame Design." 7-8:30 pm ADT. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tactical-wargame-design-tickets-1052472612917>

8 April, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Spyships, Satellites, and SAMs" 7-8:30pm ADT. Online. "A summary of 3 games run in Canada in 2024" by **RUSI(NS) member Dave Redpath**. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spyships-satellites-and-sams-tickets-1060415745039>

New 15 April, Tuesday: Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Experiential Learning in Action – Wargaming at AOC." 7-8:30pm ADT. Online. How wargaming has been integrated into the Canadian Army Operations Course "to enhance analysis, decision-making, risk management, and synchronization in tactical planning." To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/experiential-learning-in-action-wargaming-at-aoc-tickets-1256901739939>

20 May 2025, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Cobalt Rocks: Wargaming Seabed Operations." 1-2:30pm ADT. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cobalt-rocks-wargaming-seabed-operations-tickets-1101179159509>

16 September 2025, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Naval Wargaming and Quantitative History." 1-2:30 pm ADT. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/naval-wargaming-and-quantitative-history-tickets-1052463264957>

Publications

New RUSI(NS) Paper "We Were America's Best Friend" by Tim Dunne, 22 February 2025, 26 November 2023, <https://rusi-ns.ca/we-were-americas-best-friend/>

New Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) presentation "Submarine Cables – a hidden weakness?" by Dr Samuel Bashfield, 27 February 2025, video recording: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/why8ij7udf7kuh7tj8sky/RUSIA-Vic-Dr-Samuel-Bashfield-Submarine-Cables-a-hidden-weakness-Feb-2025-SD-480p.mov?rlkey=lqvzot42ll4rcwyw7nj1ka0rz&dl=0>

RUSI(NS) Presentation "Drydocking Technology" by Robert Taylor, 29 January 2025, https://rusi-ns.ca/drydocking_technology/

RUSI(NS) Information Note "Canada's Militia and National Defence Acts" by Tim Dunne, 20 January 2025, https://rusi-ns.ca/militia_national_defence_acts/

RUSI(NS) Paper "Common Law, Civic Law, Martial Law and Military Law" by Tim Dunne, 8 December 2024, https://rusi-ns.ca/common_civic_martial_military_law/

RUSI(NS) Paper "China and the Maritime Shipping Industry", 7 December 2024, https://rusi-ns.ca/chinese_maritime_shipping/

RUSI(NS) Comments "Arctic security report deems Yukon relatively 'safe, secure and prepared'" by Cate Belbin, 24 November 2024, https://rusi-ns.ca/yukon_security/

RUSI(NS) Comments "NATO Interoperability When Targeting Indispensable Objects" by Cate Belbin, 24 November 2024, <https://rusi-ns.ca/nato-interoperability-when-targeting-indispensable-objects/>

RUSI(NS) Comments "Thoughts on New Vessels for the Royal Canadian Navy" by David Swan, 20 November 2024, https://rusi-ns.ca/rcn_new_vessels/

The following publications are received by RUSI(S) from other associations. The latest edition, where not otherwise indicated, may be requested by emailing RUSI(NS). To readers of Dispatches from other associations, sharing of your publications is appreciated.

weekly:

Naval Association of Canada

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) Defence Update

Vancouver Artillery Association and Royal United Services Institute Vancouver Members News

bi-weekly: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association On Watch

monthly:

Canadian Gunner News

Edmonton United Services Institute President's Enews

Military Institute of Windsor Communiqué

Naval Reserve Association of Canada Mess Deck ConneXions

Royal Alberta United Services Institute Dispatches

Royal Canadian Logistics Service The Logistician

Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch Scuttlebutt

Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island Newsletter

Veterans Affairs Canada Salute!

quarterly:

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) Quarterly Newsletter

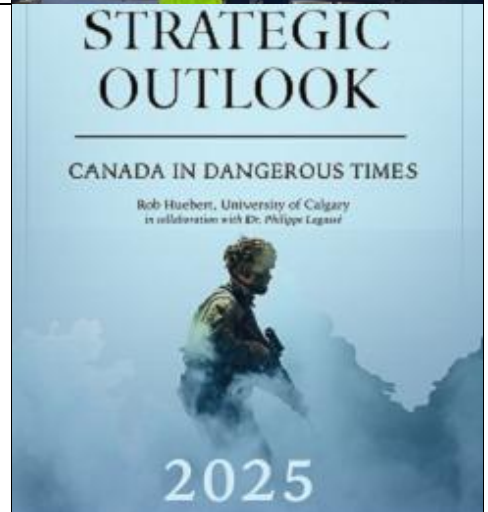
@RUSI_NS on X

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

"@DalhousieU scientists hunt climate clues on first-ever 🇨🇦 Canadian-led research mission to #Antarctic" <https://www.dal.ca/news/2025/03/06/antarctica-research-dalhousie-climate-2025.html> Embarked in @RoyalCanNavy #HMCSMargaret Brooke #Arctic & Offshore Patrol Vessel #AOPV. Warships have always been science ships



CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 5 mar posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: The CDA Institute Strategic Outlook 2025 is now available to read online. Authored by Rob Huebert with contributions by Philippe Lagassé (@LagasseSubstack), this report details strategic challenges and growing threats facing #Canada. ➡ Read now: <https://cdainstitute.ca/strategic-outlook-2025/>



Public Safety Canada @Safety_Canada 3 Mar posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Law enforcement partners and security agencies have launched the Joint Operational Intelligence Cell (JOIC). <https://canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2025/03/launch-of-the-joint-operational-intelligence-cell.html> The JOIC is one of many initiatives to strengthen intelligence and information sharing to combat transnational organized crime, money laundering, drug trafficking and border security. (Launch of the Joint Operational Intelligence Cell)



The War Zone @thewarzonewire 3 Mar posted: 'Fighter Drone' Designations Officially Assigned To Collaborative Combat Aircraft By USAF. General Atomics and Anduril's CCAs are officially designated YFQ-42A and YFQ-44A, the first aircraft with 'fighter drone' prefixes ever. Details: <https://www.twz.com/air/fighter-drone-designations-officially-assigned-to-collaborative-combat-aircraft-by-usaf> ('Fighter Drone' Designations Officially Assigned To Collaborative Combat Aircraft By USAF)



RUSI(NS) quoted: Hmm, 'fighter drones' & Q series type designation. Looks like RUSI(NS) Info Note "Aircraft Orthography" <https://rusi-ns.ca/aircraft-orthography/> may need to be updated. Awaiting @RCAF_ARC decision/promulgation on #drone type designations

CAN🇨🇦-Brazil🇧🇷 Defence Cooperation Agreement "advance(s) defence cooperation thru training & education; @UN peacekeeping ops; science & technology; & shared regional & international priorities." Notes #HMCSMargaretBrooke deployment to South America & Antarctica.
#ScienceDiplomacy



"This is the first all-Canadian Antarctic expedition" <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6667058> #HMCSMargaretBrooke w embarked multi-CAN🇨🇦 department & civil expedition conducting scientific research at #Antarctica. @RoyalCanNavy long a #BlueWaterNavy now an #IceWaterNavy North & South H/T @CBCNews



Canadian Army @CanadianArmy 28 Feb posted (video: <https://x.com/CanadianArmy/status/1895514418135609783>): Exercise ROGUISH BUOY 2025 took place near Victoria, BC. Combat Divers from across Canada collaborated with 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron, which operates CH-148 Cyclone helicopters on the west coast. Combat Divers are the only Canadian Army soldiers who perform helocasting while wearing full Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus (CABA). This technique is used for entering austere areas. A Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) is deployed from the inflatable boats to quickly inspect underwater areas, helping locate sunken vessels and simulated casualties. This training prepares the Canadian Army for underwater search and recovery, clearing underwater debris, and disposing of conventional munitions along the coastline.
#CanadianArmedForces #CombatDivers #ArmyDiveCentre #443Squadron #CFBESquimalt
RUSI(NS) quoted: Useful capability of @CanadianArmy in many scenarios: "underwater search & recovery, clearing underwater debris, & disposing of conventional munitions along the coastline"



Canadian Joint Operations Command @CJOC_COIC 28 Feb posted: HMCS MARGARET BROOKE transits to Antarctica via the Drake Passage, which is notorious for being one of the most treacherous bodies of water in the world.
#OpPROJECTION
RUSI(NS) quoted: #HMCSMargateBrooke ship's company & embarked scientists, plus @CBCNews reporters incl @OrmistonOnline, soon to get their "Order of the Red Nose" certificate for crossing #Antarctic Circle. First for @RoyalCanNavy sailors?



Antarctic News @AntarcticaNews 27 Feb posted: VIDEO: Scientists aboard HMCS Margaret Brooke deploy an Argo float to collect crucial ocean data on temperature and salinity—advancing climate models and weather predictions. <https://cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6665655> (Scientists launch 'Argo float' to gather ocean data in Antarctica)



RUSI(NS) quoted: #Arctic & Offshore Patrol Vessel #HMCSMargaretBrooke en route #Antarctica deploys Argo float ocean data collectors as part of embarked research expedition #OpPROJECTION2025. Versatility of @RoyalCanNavy ships, #BlueWaterNavy can be global science vessels

Trident News @Trident_News 27 Feb posted: Forging Antarctic ties: HMCS Margaret Brooke meets with Argentinian allies. The visit highlighted the spirit of international cooperation fostered through the Antarctic Treaty System. Read more - <https://tridentnewspaper.com/forging-antarctic-ties-hmcs-margaret-brooke-meets-with-argentinian-allies/> (Forging Antarctic ties: HMCS Margaret Brooke meets with Argentinian allies)



RUSI(NS) quoted: "Canada 🇨🇦 has long participated in the annual #Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings as a Non-Consultative Party..." "On October 22, 2021, Canada submitted its application for Consultative Party status in the Antarctic Treaty System." https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/arctic-arctique/index.aspx?lang=eng

Canadian Armed Forces @CanadianForces 26 Feb posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: The Armoured Combat Support Vehicle (ACSV) project reached initial operational capability with the successful delivery of the first three variants (Troop/Cargo Vehicle, Ambulance, Command Post), along with training, spare parts, and support equipment. Based on the Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) 6.0, the ACSV fleet will offer the CAF enhanced protection, improved situational awareness, and greater mobility. <https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/procurement/armoured-combat-support-vehicle.html>



"#HMCSMargaretBrooke Sets Sail for Historic #Antarctic Voyage with @CBC Reporters On Board" <https://readyayeready.com/hmcs-margaret-brooke-sets-sail-for-historic-antarctic-voyage-with-cbc-reporters-on-board/> "...blend naval expertise with scientific discovery in a unique collaboration dubbed 'science diplomacy."



Transport Canada @Transport_gc 17 Feb posted: Detecting pollution, protecting whales, and serving Canadians, the National Aerial Surveillance Program does it all! 😊 Learn more about Canada's iconic red planes: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/programs/national-aerial-surveillance-program>



#NASPCrew
(National Aerial Surveillance Program)

RUSI(NS) quoted: RUSI(NS) presentation "Surveillance of Sea Surface Activities in Atlantic Canada" https://rusi-ns.ca/national_aerial_surveillance_program/ National Aerial Surveillance Program #NASP

Canadian Maritime Security Network @cmsnminds 17 Feb posted: Check out CMSN's iDEAS Paper on 'The USCG Arctic Presence Leveraging Canada's AOPV Design'; here, it is proposed that the USCG utilize the Canadian AOPV to fill a capability gap in the North American

Arctic. https://cmsn.ca/files/ugd/0bcbee_68d7f83a5ba344cb84130fd0c08b9345.pdf

(The USCG Arctic Presence - Leveraging Canada's AOPV Design)

RUSI(NS) quoted: Adoption of proven CAN🇨🇦#Arctic &Offshore Patrol Vessel #AOPV design by (friendly) foreign countries engaged in Northern (&Southern) ops would allow expedited procurement. Can build in Canada with experienced builders presuming @IrvingShipbuild has/can expand production capacity



North American Aerospace Defense Command @NORADCommand 25 Feb posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: 🇨🇦 and 🇺🇸 assets from all three #NORAD Regions deployed to Pituffik Space Base, Greenland from Jan 28 to Feb 11 for #OperationNOBLEDEFENDER. Each OND strengthens and progresses NORAD's missions of aerospace warning, aerospace control, and maritime warning for North America. 📷 <https://dvidshub.net/search/?filter%5Bunit%5D=OND2025&filter%5Btype%5D=image&sort=date>



Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy @JointCtteNSS 24 Jan posted: How safe are the UK's undersea internet cables from hostile states? We have launched an inquiry looking into the security of our undersea fibre-optic cables, responsible for 99% of all UK internet data. Find out more

📌 <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/111/national-security-strategy-joint-committee/news/204906/how-vulnerable-is-the-uk-to-undersea-cable-attacks/>

(How vulnerable is the UK to undersea cable attacks?)

RUSI(NS) quoted: CAN🇨🇦 should do same. At least make public departmental staff (@CanadianForces?) studies of the situation/threats. What academic studies are there? #MaritimeSecurity #SeaBottomOperations #MaritimeInfrastructure



Colby Badhwar 🇨🇦🇺🇰 @ColbyBadhwar 🇨🇦🇺🇸 24 Feb posted: Ukroboronprom has signed an agreement with Roshel to jointly produce armoured vehicles in Ukraine. Roshel's CEO Roman Shimonov told me last year that establishing production facilities in Ukraine has been in the works for a while. H/T @deaidua

(Roshel CEO talks Ukraine, future opportunities <https://defensearchives.com/editorials/roshel-ceo-talks-ukraine-future-opportunities/>)



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 24 Feb posted: Today's article from me.....Opening of Arctic naval refuelling facility in limbo, DND

acknowledges <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/opening-arctic-naval-refueling-facility-limbo> via @ottawacitizen

RUSI(NS) quoted: It's time to consider alternate/additional means to refuel @RoyalCanNavy & other CAN🇨🇦 gov't ships in #Arctic. Maybe ice-capable tankers/oilers? Also ice-capable supply ships, medical service ships, base ships, etc. Innovative #NationalShipbuildingStrategy #NSS



RCAF Operations @RCAFOperations 23 Feb posted: The #RCAF's CC-138 Twin Otter flew over sixty hours last week supporting the construction of specialized ski landing areas to prepare for the New York Air National Guard's LC-130s deploying on #OpNANOOK-NUNALIVUT.

RUSI(NS) quoted: Construction of 'specialized ski landing areas' (likely temporary) is one of those capabilities which @CanadianForces needs to have & practice as part of ensuring our sovereignty (defence response) in the #Arctic/North



Canadian Armed Forces @CanadianForces 23 Feb posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: The CAF will be conducting defence and sovereignty related operations in the Arctic from February 23 to March 9, 2025, in the vicinity of Inuvik and Mackenzie River Delta, Northwest Territories, under Operation NANOOK-NUNALIVUT. <https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2025/02/operation-nanook-2025-strengthening-arctic-defence-and-sovereignty.html> (Operation NANOOK 2025: Strengthening Arctic Defence and Sovereignty)



RUSI(NS) Paper "We Were America's Best Friend" <https://rusi-ns.ca/we-were-americas-best-friend/>



RCAF Operations @RCAFOperations 22 Feb posted: Personnel from the International Cooperative Engagement Program for Polar Research conduct site reconnaissance via a #RCAF CH-147F Chinook helicopter deployed for #OpNANOOK-NUNALIVUT, which starts next week. #Arctic RUSI(NS) quoted: International Cooperative Engagement Program for Polar Research



https://asp-net.org/sites/default/files/website_files/ICE%20PPR2.pdf "ICE-PPR offers polar nations with interests in cold-weather ops an opportunity to identify & align defence priorities in order to ensure maximum impact on participating nations' security."

HMS Protector @hmsprotector 21 Feb posted: We enjoyed visiting @RoyalCanNavy ship #HMCSMargaretBrooke and hosting them onboard PROTECTOR in Punta Arenas to share our experiences of #Arctic and #Antarctica operations before they head south. Fair winds! 🇨🇦 🇺🇸 🇬🇧 🇪🇺 @UKinChile @UKinCanada

RUSI(NS) quoted: Another navy-to-navy interaction as @RoyalCanNavy #HMCSMargaretBrooke deploys to #Antarctica with embarked scientific expedition "Canadian Scientists are Getting on Board in the Antarctic region to Advance Knowledge of Polar Regions"

<https://www.canada.ca/en/polar-knowledge/news/2025/02/canadian-scientists-are-getting-on-board-in-the-antarctic-region-to-advance-knowledge-of-polar-regions.html>



PolarKnowledgeCanada @POLARCanada 21 Feb posted: Canadian scientists are heading to Antarctica aboard HMCS Margaret Brooke to study climate change, ocean currents, glacial retreat and how pollutants travel globally. <https://www.canada.ca/en/polar-knowledge/news/2025/02/canadian-scientists-are-getting-on-board-in-the-antarctic-region-to-advance-knowledge-of-polar-regions.html> #PolarKnowledge

(Canadian Scientists are Getting on Board in the Antarctic region to Advance Knowledge of Polar Regions)

RUSI(NS) quoted: Supporting scientific research is a role of navies, under appreciated but long practiced. @RoyalCanNavy #Arctic & Offshore Patrol Vessels like #HMCSMargaretBrooke well suited as expedition ships



"Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia" on Facebook:

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.

The Lepanto trap: Capacity after the first salvo <https://www.britainworld.org.uk/p/the-memorandum-08-2025>

"We now need to think about naval strategy in a more integrated way, linking military, industrial and education and training capacity, and accepting that a war will not be over after the first salvo."



UK's CETUS XLUUV launched by MSubs in Plymouth

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2025/03/uks-cetus-xluuv-launched-by-msubs-in-plymouth/>

"A subsea technology demonstrator designed to blaze the trail for future UK Royal Navy (RN) extra large uncrewed underwater vehicles (XLUUV) has entered the water for the first time."



Western navies, Canada's included, need to move quickly beyond the 'technology demonstrator' stage and produce sea surface, underwater and sea bottom drones to bolster

the fleet in these days of the storm clouds gathering.

And will we get past using long initialisms and adopt the Royal Navy name for underwater drones? Chariots!

Ocean has some work to do... and to offer
<https://www.lecharlevoisien.com/2025/02/20/ocean-a-du-travail-a-faire-et-a-offrir/>

"The 120 employees of Ocean Group in L'Isle-aux-Coudres have begun construction of the last two large tugs ordered by National Defence."

Looking forward to the last two of four Haro-class large harbour tugs (YTB - yard tug, big - in navy type designation) for the Royal Canadian Navy (though operated by Department of National Defence civilians) being built under the Navy Large Tug project. To be delivered to King's Harbour Master Halifax.



Retention, Investment, Recruitment and Gender Balance in Armed Forces

podcast: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/0zvUkHobqgn4eQ9R0gAmXW?si=4mx5DIQ8Ss6s9p2nBDc9iw&nd=1&dl=0823473a02b14c0d>

From an 'insider' colleague: It's always interesting to listen to what people on the outside 'think' about what is going on inside the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) in particular. I found the podcast to skim the surface simply, and it led me to ask the question: Where are they getting their information from? The recruiting times that were briefly talked about really didn't get to the root of the matter. I know that they were speaking in terms of averages, but they miss what the reality is. From my ground-truth perspective, times from application to getting in are anywhere from a couple of months to in excess of a year. More to the point, everyone points to the numbers of applicants then the number of acceptances. This misses the "in-between" work that has to be done in order for an applicant to progress between application and acceptance. Applying to the CAF is not as simple as it was in the 1930s, when one applied, was given a cursory medical and then sent off to basic training. Today there are a plethora of issues in terms of background checks, including criminal history and family background and, yes, medical – provided by the applicant, education, and then there are aptitude tests, etc.

The CAF is attempting to open the gates by widening medical standards. However, this now produces a paradox. The CAF medical system today is stretched beyond its capability. Despite contracting civilian doctors, the system remains short staffed and overburdened with personnel in uniform suffering from any number of medical employment limitations, a significant amount of which are mental health related. With the broadening of medical conditions now accepted there will likely be an increased burden placed on the already overstretched medical system. We have already done away with the requirement for 5-year medicals for those under 40 and every 2 years for those over 50 in order to reduce the load on the medical system. Thus, unless you are deploying outside of Canada or releasing, one is told that the standard is no longer required.



Indeed, recruiting appears to be approaching a corner of success. However, with increased numbers and lowered medical standards, there are reports coming in of increasing failure rates in basic training. Some people are provided with a second try, but perhaps the CAF should be looking at the US example of a pre-basic training course to prepare individuals for success.

The domestic response issue always surprises me and speaks to the lack of understanding outside the CAF of what exactly the CAF is trained to do. We are training as war fighters with some, some, humanitarian assistance/disaster response aspects. Nowhere in the CAF are there teams established for domestic events such as woodland firefighting, flooding or other natural disasters. Can we provide people? Sure. Are they specifically trained in teams? Not really. Importantly, this speaks to the issue of what exactly do Canadians want their military to be able to do. More to the point, the CAF needs to communicate better in terms of the 5 Ws of a military.

The discussion regarding reservists again only scratched the surface, from a poorly discussed historical perspective. The Naval Reserve was never called a militia, that was the army. However, the RCN has been recruiting from the Naval Reserve for some time. Here is the issue. There are naval reserve occupations which are equivalent to the Regular Force. Unfortunately, in today's environment, what is missing from these individuals is experience, and thus when they do enroll in the full time RCN, more often than not they drop a rank. The key is, however, and should always be, experience - time at sea - which is becoming more and more difficult for sailors to achieve whilst being in the Reserves. The fact is that with the impending loss of the Kingston-class vessels, longer docking periods for frigates, and limited space in Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessels will continue to reduce opportunities at sea. Trying to match Reservists' ability to get time off work or school, then finding opportunities with ships' sailing schedules is extremely challenging. Long gone are the days when ships would sail independently for a week or two for training or as part of a Canadian Task Group for training on a regular basis. Finally, no, not all employers are willing to let folks go for two, three or six months at a time and retain the Reservists civilian job status which only makes the search for opportunities that much more difficult.

Women in the RCN: as this is 2025, the fundamental question should now not simply be focused on gender! However, and this is my personal opinion, the CAF remains in a paradigm of quotas based on gender, cultural identity, etc. Additionally, the CAF continues to layer the idea of "deep selection" on top of these quotas. (Deep selection refers to junior people subjectively selected for a streamlined career in order to achieve flag rank as quickly as possible.) It has to be recognized that the military is different from both public service and the business community. A quota system, for lack of a better term, simply undermines the idea of merit and experience. No, this is not a "Trumpian" ideology, far from it. There must be a focus on the best and brightest performers/leaders rising to command and flag positions not because of gender, sexual orientation, language ability, or anything other than performance. Importantly the idea of quotas instills a certain bias, not only for selection but in terms of perception. Quotas always imply to the rank and file that an individual was promoted because of quotas rather than performance. If DEI is going to truly work, the playing field must be even and unbiased. Given the current global security environment and the implied realities, a military can ill afford to not focus on merit and performance and avoid what can only be described as biased labels. Within the CAF there are exceptional people of all denominations. We are one team, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, cultural background or any other societal qualifier. This would seem to run counter to what current policies dictate, however, the utopian belief that this writer holds is that everyone in uniform is equal, and biases, as well intentioned as they seem, should be left out of the mix in terms of people rising to the top. Opportunities and natural selection (performance based) within a military environment should occur through an equal and

unbiased approach to promotions across the rank and file.

Finally, and not mentioned within the podcast, there remains the idea of streamers. The belief that someone can subjectively predict the rise to fame of a 21-year-old is frankly illogical and again presents bias. Indeed, how is this any different from historical aristocrats buying their ranks? Yes, we need senior folks, but we need senior folks with experience and military acumen to make military decisions. I have watched it fail magnificently.

The podcast was a snippet of information and given the time opened doors to further discussion. It presented some ideas and for those of us in uniform shapes the idea that perhaps information from within the confines of the CAF should be presented, transparently - warts and all - if we are really going to get the message out to the taxpayer. Having said that, from within the CAF we are currently facing challenges understanding our own data!

A 2022 'strategy' (there's that word being mis-used again), how relevant does it remain?:

Canadian Armed Forces Retention Strategy

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/dnd-mdn/documents/reports/caf-retention-strategy/caf-retention-strategy-en-2022.pdf>

China Could Build an "Island Chain" Around America

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/china-could-build-an-island-chain-around-america>



In the 'global game of Go,' for the Chinese to place 'stones' on locations in the Caribbean rim would be strong strategic moves. In many respects, the stones are already there, though not so evidently black or white.

The USA in many respects has already broken one of its means to counter such moves by making it evident to allies, partners and economic and aid dependencies that it cannot be trusted to keep up relationships.

Canada and its efforts to date (e.g., counter-drug patrols) in the Caribbean and the Americas are not mentioned in the article. Lack of strategic significance? What are Canada's Americas foreign policies? What are Canada's military, maritime and naval strategies for the regions?

Something not raised in the post is that maybe Canada should focus more on the North and less on the Caribbean leading to the 'Gulf of America.'

The Deep Strike Dodge: Firepower and Manpower in Ukraine's War

<https://warontherocks.com/2025/02/the-deep-strike-dodge-firepower-and-manpower-in-ukraines-war/>



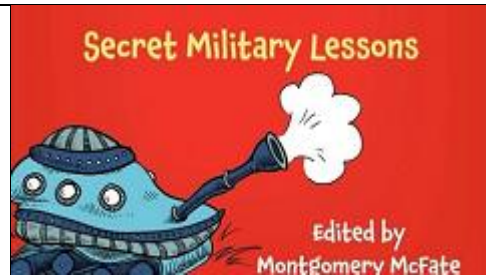
"Ukraine is facing a range of serious challenges to its ability to sustain the fight. One of the most

damaging is personnel availability - finding enough soldiers to maintain the frontline is an increasing issue. This article explores the problem in some detail, particularly in relation to the promise of deep strike weapons - arguing, ultimately, that mass and manpower will do far more good than a small number of exquisite long range weapon systems."

Do the Canadian Armed Forces have enough military personnel, in active service (Regular Force) and reserve (Reserve Force)? Does Canada have enough people and the (mobilization) plans to augment our fighting forces when necessary? Wars are more often not short and cheap. Are we prepared to fight with mass? We can't depend on 'exquisite' systems (too expensive, too long to produce, too few).

PLAN War College v. Our Naval War College
<https://cdrsalamander.substack.com/p/plan-war-college-v-our-naval-war>

"...the college has required intermediate students to study topics in military and national strategy, in recognition that naval officers—perhaps more so than the officers of any other service—must be prepared to make tactical decisions that could have major strategic consequences."



Much agree with the blog's emphasis on strategic education early and throughout a (naval) career.

Making inroads: Salvage crew may fix up old road to better access grounded cargo ship
<https://www.saltwire.com/newfoundland-labrador/salvage-crew-may-fix-old-road-access-grounded-cargo-ship>



There are good stories coming out of the salvage effort of MSC BALTIC III. It's going to be a long job - securing fuel and other pollutants will be an achievement with all its challenges. Salvors also need to keep an eye on ice making its way down the coast. Hopefully there'll be a 'wrap-up' story when the salvage is finished (in a Canadian Coast Guard journal?).

Salvage is an underappreciated capability. An important point, acutely so on consideration of expanded shipping in the Arctic. Mobilizing assets to undertake a salvage operation on the scale of what's happening in western Newfoundland is proving a logistics and capacity challenge alone. Planning to get equipment into the Arctic Archipelago is a whole other level.

What would/should it look like if Canada was to get involved in a major conflict?

Comments from a mariner: I don't know what the capability of the RCN is for salvage but the US Navy takes it seriously. They have several specialized ships for the purpose. USNS Grapple came north to assist with the investigation and recovery of Swissair 111. Their salvage manual

(<https://www.navsea.navy.mil/Portals/103/Documents/SUPSALV/Salvage%20Docs/Salvage%20Manual%20Vol%201%20S0300-A6-MAN-010.pdf>) is an impressive textbook - some 538 pages packed with all kinds of information related to salvage.

Comments from a mariner: It is likely the RCN would have to rely heavily on the USN for any serious salvage work related to Canadian warships, aircraft, weapons, etc. Given the

current geopolitical situation that we're in now, I am not so sure the assistance would be forthcoming without some sort of quid pro quo. Comments from a mariner: For many years, tug owners and others have warned that there is insufficient business in Canadian waters for them to invest in shipboard or shoreside capability or capacity for salvage operations. The business case for even fitting firefighting capability is not there. A discussion paper by Transport Canada (<https://tc.canada.ca/en/corporate-services/consultations/discussion-paper-potential-regulations-increase-access-marine-emergency-services-improve-response-pollution-incidents> - recently closed) is looking at response to non-oil spills, and requiring ships to have arrangements with responders for firefighting, salvage and wreck removal. In my view, the discussion paper missed some big issues and was not well thought out. If this initiative goes forward, there is a chance that every ship will have to pay providers to be ready to respond to such incidents. If done correctly this should fund the building of salvage capacity in Canada that is currently woefully inadequate. Time will tell if this becomes law (as it already is in USA) or not, and, if structured in a manner that builds a robust capability. Long gone are the days of Foundation Maritime and the fleet of salvage tugs that they had stationed on Canada's east coast.

Trump's Late-Night Texts On Rusty Warships Raise Concerns Over Navy's Readiness
<https://www.marineinsight.com/shipping-news/trumps-late-night-texts-on-rusty-warships-raise-concerns-over-navys-readiness/>



"...naval vessels represent military power and global influence, particularly when making port calls in allied nations. Ships in poor visual condition may impact both diplomatic relations and crew morale."

Ship appearance has long been taken as a measure of ship readiness. Poor appearance is the result of many factors, many not within a ship's control (e.g., schedule, crew number, material) - the causes of poor appearance should be a higher command concern.

'Beautifully' designed ships aren't necessarily combat effective.

Other Sources

#Arctic

Arctic security must be a top priority for Canada, not an afterthought

<https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/arctic-security-must-be-a-top-priority-for-canada-not-an-afterthought-ken-coates-and-ranj-pillai-in-the-globe-and-mail/>

Comment: A call by the Yukon Premier, in conjunction with MLI, to overcome the legacy of state paternalism, bursts of interest followed by years of neglect, and the marginalization of Indigenous peoples and commit to "...the co-production of a Northern strategy and the creation of a region that capitalizes on its rich human and natural resources." Interestingly, while it talks about Indigenous peoples, the call also specifies the explicit involvement of Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, which ignores the Inuit and Innu nations in northern Quebec and Labrador, as well as other Indigenous peoples that are not contained within provincial and territorial borders yet consider themselves part of Northern Canada.

#Canadian Armed Forces

Opinion: Canada is reaping the under-resourced military that it sowed. Here's how we can make real change, right now

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-canada-is-reaping-the-underresourced-military-that-it-sowed-heres-how/>

Comment from contributor: Striking - whereas before, retired Canadian general and flag officers tended to keep restrained publicly, more and more now they are speaking out. There is US guidance/regulation to retired GOFO, I wonder what Canadian guidance would look like. Havta navigate through rocks and shoals.

#China

Chinese Navy Task Group operating in Australia's EEZ

<https://news.usni.org/2025/02/25/chinese-navy-task-group-operating-in-australias-eez-u-s-japan-hold-ballistic-missile-exercise>

Comment: While the above article may give a sense of concern yet being in control through Australia's monitoring, this one paints a more alarming picture in that it was a commercial airline that informed Australia authorities of the live fire exercise occurring: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/chinese-navy-drill-tasman-sea-forced-49-flights-change-paths-australian-official-2025-02-25/>.

#China #influence operations

<https://navalinstitute.com.au/wargames-bring-nz-closer-to-australia/>

Comment: If you read the ground observations in the last newsletter, this article reiterates my points re: the increasing influence of China in the Pacific islands. While China's ability to conduct wargames is not disputed, what *is* disputed is China's role and influence in the Pacific. This, more so than a minor naval exercise, is what is causing headaches in Canberra and Wellington. The surprise agreement signed by the Cook Islands and China under a fortnight ago, aimed at "[deepening blue economy cooperation](#)", is the immediate context for that concern, moving Chinese influence into infrastructure support for wharves, shipbuilding and repair, and ocean transportation. This opens the South Pacific up to even greater Chinese influence and activity and challenges New Zealand's foreign policy.

#cyber security

Hegseth orders suspension of cyber, information operations and planning against Russia

<https://www.defenseone.com/policy/2025/03/hegseth-orders-suspension-cyber-information-operations-planning-against-russia/403422/>

Comment: This means that U.S. cyber warriors are curbed from gathering information that can be used to influence, disrupt, or sabotage Russian decision-making in the digital domain, including disinformation and influence narratives. The command was collaborating with Ukrainian cyberspace counterparts on information sharing, including exchanging indicators of compromise. This report aligns with the warning sent by RUSI NS's Cyber Security Intelligence colleague earlier this week: The Trump Administration Is Deprioritizing Russia as a Cyber Threat

(<https://www.wired.com/story/trump-administration-deprioritizing-russia-cyber-threat/>).

And at the same time, security experts warn about a widespread zero-day vulnerability, tentatively dubbed "CVE-2025-TRUMP," that threatens to let Russia backdoor just about everything and Russian state media (TASS) is allowed in the Oval Office to report while Reuters and the Associated Press are banned.

How North Korea pulled off a \$1.5B crypto heist, the biggest in history

<https://arstechnica.com/security/2025/02/how-north-korea-pulled-off-a-1-5-billion-crypto-heist-the-biggest-in-history/>

Comment: This sums up the key takeaway: “No matter how strong your smart contract logic or multisig protections are, the human element remains the weakest link. This attack proves that UI manipulation and social engineering can bypass even the most secure wallets.” Using advanced social engineering skills, online personas are built that ultimately win the trust of targets. Taking a step back and extrapolating: 100% certainty is rarely possible in any field or circumstance. Trust happens not when you are certain but when you allow yourself to be vulnerable, which means there is risk. I argue that social resilience speaks to our ability to continue to trust, take risks, after vulnerability occurs. Now apply this to government: zero-risk attitudes \neq resilience and efficiency \neq innovation, therefore risk adverse, efficient organizations do not lead to effectiveness in complex, uncertain times. In reality, all these components are needed in some measure to function well but first we need to realize that social engineering skills may be more relevant than economics.

#defence procurement #artillery

The Indirect Fires Modernization

<https://noahscornerofrandomstuff.substack.com/p/the-indirect-fires-modernization>

The current plan calls for the procurement of:

- 80-98 x Self Propelled 155mm Howitzers
- 99 x 120mm Mortar Systems integrated on the Armoured Combat Support Vehicle
- 85 x 81mm Mortar Systems integrated onto a Light Tactical Vehicle.

See: RFI Indirect Fires Modernization (IFM)

<https://service.ariba.com/Discovery.aw/ad/viewRFX?id=22439429>

#economic security

Breaking barriers: How provinces can drive Canada’s prosperity by unlocking trade and labour mobility

<https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/breaking-barriers-how-provinces-can-drive-canadas-prosperity-by-unlocking-trade-and-labour-mobility/>

#epistemic security

Fortifying the UK’s information supply chain to tackle the democratic emergency

<https://demos.co.uk/research/epistemic-security-2029-fortifying-the-uks-information-supply-chain-to-tackle-the-democratic-emergency/>

Comment: A UK paper about an issue that is not unique to the UK. A domestic response to the belief that “...the information supply chain in the US is so corrupted that it must be considered a lost cause.” Does this sentiment just apply to open-source information? And if not, what does that mean for the desired survivability of the Five Eyes community?

#food security

The future of food may depend on crops such as quinoa that thrive in salty soils

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-future-of-food-may-depend-on-crops-such-as-quinoa-that-thrive-in-salty-soils/>

Comment: Freshwater deprivation “is going to be one of the major consequences of climate change,” says Ed Barrett-Lennard, a soil-salinity expert at Murdoch

University in Perth, Australia. That impacts irrigation, soil, crops, and herds. Halophytes may be the answer and, of the 7,000 known edible halophytes in the world, new research has revealed that most are full of nutrients crucial for human health: many are rich in antioxidant and anti-inflammatory compounds, and various species have anticarcinogenic and antimicrobial properties. Some may help lower blood glucose and blood lipids, including cholesterol.

#geopolitical strategy #grand strategy

The geography of American power

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/the-geography-of-american-power/>

#information operations

How to inoculate yourself (and others) against viral misinformation

<https://thebulletin.org/2025/02/how-to-inoculate-yourself-and-others-against-viral-misinformation/>

Comment from contributor: We all need to learn to inoculate ourselves.

#intelligence

US intel shows Russia and China are attempting to recruit disgruntled federal employees

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/28/politics/us-intel-russia-china-attempt-recruit-disgruntled-federal-employees/index.html>

#land warfare

The Warfighting Skills Program

<https://tacticalnotebook.substack.com/p/the-warfighting-skills-program-4bb>

"(L)inks to places where readers might find (and download) digital copies of various parts of the Warfighting Skills Program, which was used during the Quantico Renaissance to help Marines improve their understanding of maneuver warfare."

#leadership

Breaking the myth of the charismatic leader (long listen, 78 min podcast)

<https://fromthegreennotebook.com/2025/01/24/ep-135-breaking-the-myth-of-the-charismatic-leader-with-sam-walker/>

Comment: A far-ranging discussion that includes why leadership isn't about talent, charisma, or speeches, but about behaviors; and the concept of "carrying the water," why great leaders often work in the background.

The Thing That Will Destroy Us

<https://fromthegreennotebook.com/2025/03/02/the-thing-that-will-destroy-us/>

Interesting, not really surprising, that this article was in an article this week from a (US) military leadership feed. "The Green Notebook was created as a platform for leaders to help each other by sharing lessons learned — lessons that come from our own green notebooks."

#legal

Explainer: Chinese Task Group's live firing on the High Seas

<https://www.jennifer-parker.com.au/post/explainer-chinese-task-group-s-live-firing-on-the-high-seas>

#naval warfare

On the eve of obstruction: Countering blockship attacks

<https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PEA2472-1.html>

#NATO

Can Europe still count on the US coming to its defence?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c011w1w41xzo>

#NATO #warfare

Net Assessment of Russian and NATO Capabilities in a Modern Strike Campaign

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/occasional-papers/net-assessment-russian-and-nato-capabilities-modern-strike-campaign>

#NATO #WPS

Women, Peace, Security and NATO: How to operationalise WPS

<https://static.rusi.org/women-and-nato-conference-report-feb-2025.pdf>

Comment: A conference report. Some interesting observations, such as there currently being 32 different perspectives on WPS within the Alliance, which leads to the suggestion that NATO should focus on interoperability and standardisation regarding WPS. The challenge, participants agreed, is to standardise across these countries despite their cultural differences. The conclusions include the need to strengthen buy-in and leadership commitment, and demonstrate the importance and effectiveness of the WPS agenda with tangible examples, including from current conflicts, to strengthen the understanding of what it means practically to implement WPS policy.

#reading

Chief of Staff of the (US) Army Recommended Articles

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/resources/csa-recommended-articles/>

#Russia-Ukraine war

Ukraine's fate hinges on its English-language influence operations

<https://www.cigionline.org/articles/ukraines-fate-hinges-on-its-english-language-influence-operations/>

Comment: Long after its conclusion, the war will be studied for its lessons on the application of digital technologies, both for combat operations and for shaping global opinion. Ukraine's influence efforts are instructive because 1) most contemporary research and policy discussions around digital influence have focused on how adversaries target Western countries, not how friendly states conduct campaigns to persuade each other; and 2) by investing in the production of its own content and broadcasting that on its own terms, Ukraine is able to build and control its narrative around the war much more effectively among foreign audiences than possible by solely relying on the international press. "Contemporary wars are largely wars of influence and they will not necessarily be won by those with the most information or the most accurate data," security scholar Ajit Maan writes in her book, *Narrative Warfare*. "They will be won by those that effectively tell the meaning of the information and what difference it makes for the audience."

NATO Operations Chief's Five Lessons Learned From War In Ukraine

<https://www.twz.com/news-features/nato-operations-chiefs-five-lessons-learned-from-war-in-ukraine>

Ukraine Fact Sheet, February 21, 2025

<https://understandingwar.org/backgrounder/ukraine-fact-sheet-february-21-2025>

Comment from contributor: This is getting kudos.

Moscow Changes War Rhetoric but Stays War Course

<https://jamestown.org/program/moscow-changes-war-rhetoric-but-stays-war-course/>

"Moscow is altering its narratives on the confrontation with the West and its propaganda campaign on Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in response to recent U.S.-initiated diplomatic activity."

#space

No mega rocket for crewed Moon mission: Isro to rely on docking

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/no-mega-rocket-for-crewed-moon-mission-isro-to-rely-on-docking/articleshow/118398404.cms>

India plans to have a crewed Moon mission by 2040.

Japan boosts defense satellite investments to strengthen space resilience communications

<https://ipdefenseforum.com/2025/02/japan-boosts-defense-satellite-investments-to-strengthen-space-resilience-communications/>

#strategy

Strategy: Some Notes for a User's Guide

<https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/article/strategy-some-notes-for-a-users-guide/>

#startegy #wargaming

The Wrong Conclusions: Repeating the Errors of Naval Interwar Strategic Thinking

<https://blog.usni.org/posts/2022/01/25/the-wrong-conclusions-repeating-the-errors-of-naval-interwar-strategic-thinking>

#unmanned

Serco and DARPA launch NOMARS USX-1 *Defiant*

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2025/03/serco-darpa-launch-nomars-usx-1-defiant/>

Comment: This 180-foot, 240 tonne hull is designed to be completely unmanned, rather than partially unmanned and/or optionally manned. Refueled at sea, the vessel is meant to be at sea for a year with minimal human intervention.

#warfare #artificial intelligence #Russia-Ukraine War

Ukraine's Future Vision and Current Capabilities for Waging AI-Enabled Autonomous Warfare

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/ukraines-future-vision-and-current-capabilities-waging-ai-enabled-autonomous-warfare>

#wargaming

Thinking through protracted war with China.

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1475-1.html

A set of scenarios of protracted conflicts that last longer than envisioned by traditional

force planning scenarios to provide foundations for more-detailed planning or analysis.

For military staff across Europe, wargaming is all the rage

<https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20250226-military-staff-across-europe-wargaming-all-the-rage-conflict-scenarios-simulation-military>

Odds and sods...

ATGM on UGV

AFV Recognition @AFVRec_ 22 Feb posted: Russian Okhotnik remote fire module being tested in Ukraine, the system is for the remote firing of the 9M133 Kornet ATGM. The ATGM can be launched remotely by either radio or cable, the ATGM itself has a range of 100-5000m. Notably the system fitted to this ground-based unmanned platform has 3 missiles.

Comment from contributor: Bad enough that the battlefield has self-destructing uncrewed ground vehicles trundling around, but now to have them carrying remotely-controlled missile systems?



Counter-#drones

Think Defence @thinkdefence 1 Mar posted: These counter UAV solutions are getting daft now



Posted by Tortoise Media, 5 March 2025:



Women Veterans: Participate in important studies on your health care needs and the transition experience

The [Atlas Institute for Veterans and Families](#) is conducting two online research studies about the needs and experiences of women Veterans:

- The association between unmet health and well-being needs and mental health for women Veterans of the CAF and RCMP. Looking to understand experiences in service, health care, and the mental health and well-being of women Veterans. You can help the well-being of women Veterans, like you. [Learn more about the study.](#)
- Women's well-being in post-service life: Evaluating the psychological, social, and systemic factors associated with transition from the Canadian military. The Atlas Institute, working with the [Canadian Legacy Project](#) is conducting a study on the experiences of women Veterans during their transition to post-service life. It aims to identify some of the most important factors that impact transition and come up with evidence needed to support the design of programs and services. [Learn more about the study.](#)

Participation is voluntary and will take 30 to 60 minutes of your time. Please share this information with your network.

2022 Canadian Veteran Health Survey results

Statistics Canada conducted the first-ever Canadian Veteran Health Survey the Fall of 2022. More than 5,000 randomly selected Veterans who said in the 2021 Census that they served in the Canadian military received the survey. The survey says that the five most common health issues among Veterans are:

- back problems (43.2%)
- arthritis (40.8%)
- high blood pressure (34.5%)
- obesity (29.7%)
- anxiety (18.4%)

When asked about their health:

- 39.6% of Veterans rate their health as very good or excellent, while 27.1% rate their health as fair or poor.

- 49.1% of Veterans rate their mental health as very good or excellent, while 21.1% rate their mental health as fair or poor.

The report also covers topics such as income, life satisfaction and main activities. In addition to overall results, the report also gives findings for both men and women Veterans. And, where possible, comparisons are made to the general Canadian population. The [2024 cycle of the CVHS is currently underway](#).

Here for: [the summary](#) and [full report](#).



Conference of Defence Associations Institute
L'Institut de la Conférence des associations de la défense

Now Accepting: Submissions for Publication

The CDA Institute is opening submissions from experts, scholars, military professionals, and students to contribute to our Op-Ed and Policy Paper series. We welcome insightful, well-researched contributions that advance critical discussions on defence and security issues.

We encourage authors to focus on their core areas of expertise, covering topics such as Canadian and foreign defence policy, grey-zone conflict, cyber and space security, military technology and procurement, and the impact of climate change on security.

Op-Eds should be between 700 and 1,400 words, offering concise and thought-provoking perspectives on key security and defence topics.

Policy Papers provide a more in-depth analysis, ranging from 4,000 to 10,000 words, and explore strategic issues shaping Canadian and global security. All submissions will undergo a rigorous peer-review process to ensure quality and relevance.

Those interested in contributing can submit their work or request further details by contacting publications@cdainstitute.ca.

Learn more about our publications process and submission guidelines below.

[Learn more](#)

SAC Notes

O Canada

Prime Minister Trudeau steps down as Prime Minister on 9 March once the new Liberal leader is selected. It is largely expected that Mark Carney will be selected.

Canada is under US tariffs and has responded quickly to this unwarranted attack with its own tariffs. This will not end well.

The Prime Minister attended the European Summit on Ukraine this week as the only non-European leader. The summit was chaired by Prime Minister Starmer of Britain after the disastrous meeting between the US President and President Zelensky which resulted in a shouting match and the failure to sign an agreement regarding Ukrainian mineral rights. Except for Victor Orban of Hungary and Robert Fico of Slovakia most European leaders realize that Russia is now an existential threat to Europe now that the US has changed its policies. The Prime Minister did well at representing the will of the Canadian public. Foreign interference is a major threat and has not been dealt with properly. Immediate action is required against the malign influence and actions of the US, Russia, China and Iran interests.

As the world descends into a new dark period, Canada should reconsider who and what it is and represents. During the Second World War, Canada became the major industrial powerhouse for the Commonwealth and the world. It is now another period of profound threats; is it time for Canada to return to its old form and return as the “Arsenal of Democracy” in these trying times and return to its lower key but vital role as a leader?

Australia

Some comments from our Australian correspondent.

[https://news.usni.org/2025/02/26/virginia-class-attack-boat-makes-port-visit-to-perth-australia?ct=t\(USNI_NEWS_DAILY\)&mc_cid=5c488dea4d&mc_eid=5d8457cbbf](https://news.usni.org/2025/02/26/virginia-class-attack-boat-makes-port-visit-to-perth-australia?ct=t(USNI_NEWS_DAILY)&mc_cid=5c488dea4d&mc_eid=5d8457cbbf)

The USN submarine visits have established a pattern as the USN-RAN relationship develops into a routine pattern. Extra Note: The actions of the Trump Administration are hard to determine. They seem likely to use any agreement as an opportunity for further gain. This will bear watching.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/defence/red-alert-for-british-submarines-program-a-blow-for-aukus/news-story/421fa8895a5f83679075ff85071b816b>

There is a problem in the Aukus program. Special Note: The British take approximately 144 months to build a nuclear submarine according to independent sources, nearly twice as long as the US build. The technical skills required are extensive in any case and Australia is starting nearly from scratch. There is a suggestion that Australia acquire the French Suffern class instead. The French program is stable with three out of six boats already built and could fit the Australian budget, allow acquisition of a larger number of subs and require half the crew of a Virginia class.

<https://gcaptain.com/china-accuses-australia-of-deliberate-provocation-in-south-china-sea/>

More news from the South China Sea. No surprises there.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/china-drops-flares-ahead-of-raaf-plane-sends-ships-to-australias-northern-approaches/>

The Chinese are in the neighbourhood of Australia again. Note: A Chinese task group

consisting of a cruiser, frigate, support ship and possibly a nuclear hunter killer conducted a live fire exercise in international waters near Australia and New Zealand with little notice. Apparently the first indication of a live fire was from an airliner. It is expected that China intends to increase its activity in this area to support foreign policy initiatives in the Cook Islands most recently.

<https://www.australiandefence.com.au/news/news/uss-minnesota-arrives-in-western-australia>

A foreign visitor changes life in Western Australia. The Australians hosted US forces in large numbers during the Second World War, especially submarine squadrons. There is a price to pay for that partnership. Both sides are affected.

United States

Defence Secretary, Peter Hegseth at the direction of the US President has stood down offensive operations against Russia by US cyber command. This is more than a little concerning. Russia continues its offensive actions against the West. This is not a good idea. Swedish ex-Prime Minister Karl Bildt has stated that US peace efforts by the Trump Administration have been amateurish according to Euronews on 2 March 2025. The former Prime Minister was very straight forward in his comments. He was in London for the European Summit on Ukraine. He also stated that the Trump administration made all sorts of concessions, and the Russians did not change their position at all. US diplomacy seems to be less than completely competent. The US has frozen deliveries of resources to Ukraine this week. Another bad idea.

The US has introduced widespread tariffs on allies and China effective 4 March 2025. Canada and Mexico are hit with 25% tariffs on all goods. Canada has introduced corresponding tariffs against the US. These tariffs will do considerable harm to all countries and will have a worldwide effect. Another really poor decision by the Trump administration.

Moldova

French President Emmanuel Macron stated at the European summit on Ukraine that if Russia is not stopped, Moldova and possibly Romania could be attacked. Russia is a major security threat potentially to all of Europe according to an article by RBC Ukraine on 2 March 2025. The continued talk of European “peacekeepers” is still being pushed by France and Britain. Russia’s Foreign Minister has stated that European peacekeepers are unacceptable for Russia. Other pro-Russian talking heads such as former Romanian Deputy Foreign Minister Valery Ostalep stated that Moldova and Europe are not threatened by Russia. This is generally not accepted by the European Union. The comment of the former foreign Minister was provided by Eurasian press on 2 March.

Romania has agreed to ensure electricity to Moldova, thus ensuring Moldova’s continued supply of energy from Western sources thus thwarting Russian destabilization efforts. Transnistria was provided liquid natural gas by Moldova, this caused Russia to restart deliveries to Transnistria. Transnistria is returning three million cubic meters to Moldova.

Georgia

Demonstrations are continuing in Georgia despite a severe crackdown by the current Georgia Dream Government and the security forces. The US does not recognize the current government especially after the actions against current demonstrations. The EU has also stopped visa-free travel by Georgians as well.

The current Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze has suggested that Georgia could ascend to EU membership by 2030. It is a way for the government to mollify the opposition. Given the government's point of view towards Russia, this is unlikely to be true or even possible. The last Georgian election on 26 October 2024 was generally found to be corrupted by voter fraud, intimidation, ballot stuffing and other means. The Georgia Dream Party won its fourth consecutive election with 89 seats out of 150 possible seats. The President is selected from amongst the elected members.

The opposition has not organized as one organization thus they were defeated as they spread votes amongst too many parties, some not even reaching the minimum of 5% of the vote for representation within the Parliament. It is likely Georgia will continue to move towards a single Party State.

Belarus

Belarus has received both the training of personnel, facility and weapons upgrades to receive Russian nuclear weapons both for short range missiles and aircraft deployed weapons. As a result, Belarus also must have a Russian security detachment to secure those weapons until they are authorised for use in the summer of 2024.

It is also known that Belarus will be the site of ZAPAD 2025, a combined Russia Belarus exercise scheduled for late summer early fall timeframe. The size is not specified yet, but they are usually large multi-pronged efforts. Russia will have to deploy many troops as a result.

Russia is having difficulties with manpower. The successful but brutal meat grinder attacks have extracted a heavy price not only on the Army but across the armed forces. Belarus' security forces are largely untouched and are a significant manpower pool when both sides of the main conflict are tired, and resources thinned.

Lukashenko has been balancing the requirement to support Russia yet at the same time keeping Belarus largely out of the fight, including shooting down Russian drones which attempted to fly over Belarus. The question is as Russia applies more concentrated efforts of the Lukashenko regime to become fully engaged? Will Belarus be forced to invade Ukraine? There is considerable opposition to that idea throughout Belarus society including in the security forces. Will Russia's pressure finally force the issue?

Israel-Iran Conflict

The real conflict is between Iran and Israel. Israel has largely defeated Iran's proxies; Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis. Their ability to inflict major damage by themselves has passed for at least the near to medium term future. This conflict is not over yet.

Israel and Hamas are engaged in phase 2 ceasefire negotiations. If successful would result in Israeli forces leaving Gaza. Israel has adopted a different approach and wants to continue the ceasefire based on phase 1 which would allow Israel to maintain a large presence in Gaza. Hamas has objected. Israel has stopped the re-supply of badly needed humanitarian supplies and is resuming a low-level bombing campaign.

In Lebanon, Israel still maintains garrisons on five hills overlooking an area previously held by Hezbollah forces. It also has conducted air attacks on Hezbollah attempts to regain control of the area. Neither the UN forces nor Lebanese armed forces have tried to disarm Hezbollah and have been largely ineffective.

The new Syrian government will not allow Iranian forces to return. It is expected that

Russian forces will have to find new bases for efforts in Africa. The countries of Libya and Sudan have both been mentioned as possible sites for new bases.

Israel will continue to conduct contingency planning to counter Iran. Iran is unlikely to concede the overall war yet. One can expect that Israel will not allow Iran to significantly rebuild their losses nor will they allow Iran to acquire the capability to build and maintain nuclear weapons. This war is not over yet.

Russia-Ukraine Conflict

The war continues as a war of attrition. Both sides are tired and have taken massive losses in manpower equipment and resources. Russia's forces are tired and are no longer making gains of consequence. In some areas they have been pushed back, especially around Pokrovsk and Toretsk. Ukraine has also managed to keep a large part of their handhold on Kursk as well conducting several successful counterattacks.

Russia continues to make some headway but at a slower pace around Kupiansk and in the Kursk oblast. In both cases Ukraine has been able to keep their gains at a minimum. The real battle is now one of drones and missiles on each other's infrastructure. Russia seems intent on destroying civilian infrastructure but has recently been hitting military targets of opportunity. Ukraine has been steadily hitting oil and gas infrastructure including refineries, pumping stations and storage sites in the European part of Russia. Headquarters and equipment depots and key factories producing key armaments are also being hit. Russian oil and gas are estimated to be down somewhere around 10 to 20% of maximum production. Neither side can deliver a knockout blow.

The information war continues as the US Administration stops offensive operations against Russia despite Russia continuing almost hourly attacks against the US and the other liberal democracies. This is a bad plan unless you are pro-Russia.

President Zelensky's argument with the US President and Vice-President last Friday, 28 Feb 25 in the oval office was unprecedented. In a matter of seconds, President Trump ended the US role as leader of the free world. The President and Vice-President spouted Russian propaganda points and failed to understand the real culprit, Vladimir Putin. Russia started the war in 2014 with a major invasion in February 2022. It was a true embarrassment for the US and a very strong wakeup call for the rest of the free world. Who would have thought that the US could fall to such depths.

Europe and most of the rest of the free world now understand the problem. Whether these smaller yet capable countries can adjust quickly enough is another problem.

What is certain is that the war will continue for a prolonged period; funded by Europe, the UK and Canada. One wonders if there are sufficient resources to keep Russia fighting until its economy is irreparably damaged.

China

China is an authoritarian state. It is this single fact that will lead eventually to its downfall according to sources within Southeast Asia. China has done remarkable work bringing parts of China into a modern world class economy, bringing hundreds of millions into the middle class.

Millions in rural provinces and cities have not and their provinces sink into a mire of debt. Most of this debt has occurred because of local governments being required to "boost" local growth, often this was done through the property development industry. It did result

in official growth but saddled the province with an impossible maintenance bill. Useless and needless infrastructure was built with little planning such as empty cities in locations no one wants to live or huge airports. The result is infrastructure that is impossible to maintain or even use.

At least twelve provinces are now in the Chinese equivalent of bankruptcy protection. Local politics have also forced local banks to take on more debt. In many cases more debt servicing than they can handle. It has resulted in bankruptcies of individual banks now estimated in their hundreds. Chinese banks in the rural areas also exist in over 33 k banks so the loss of a few hundred is a relatively minor problem that is until local governments forced healthier banks to take on this bad debt from these failed banks. It has a domino effect. Debt is increasingly too difficult to handle. It is an ongoing issue that will see the Chinese economy continue to deteriorate for the foreseeable future.

China has entered a period described by some as the “middle economy trap.” State owned industries have been successful in some respects, but their very success such as electric cars, robotics and artificial intelligence. It also has been wasteful spending vast quantities of funding to do so; the result of other key sectors such as the development of a consumer-based economy has failed. The state needs the intervention and knowledge of the private sector to develop healthier economic models. Its success in some areas will lead to failure of the entire economy

The US has raised new tariffs on China, now at 38% with more to attend. China has vowed retaliation and has sent an unofficial delegation under a former Ambassador to the US to present China’s point of view to major US business communities. It will fail because of the US administration’s efforts to hobble Chinese industry. This will continue for the foreseeable future.

Militarily, China has continued to harass Taiwan including large scale exercises within Taiwan’s waters. This is largely viewed as a pre-invasion exercise. While concerning and is a deliberate effort to destabilize the Taiwanese people, it will not work. Keep in mind that Taiwan has millions of reservists, it is relatively well-prepared and continuing to develop its own capabilities rather than depend on foreign providers.

The Philippines has also been subject to continued harassment by China. It has led to renewal of a defence pact with the US and others. It has also led to a major increase in military spending especially in the Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. China once thought of as a potential partner is now looked upon as an adversary.

Chinese Navy and Coast Guard vessels have also entered Japanese and Australian waters and are expected to continue those operations as a way of “warning” potential adversaries that China has claims and will use international waters near potential adversaries. Canada's contribution to the Far East has been also harassed including air and naval resources. This is expected to continue.

Operational Stress Injury Social Support (OSISS), 1-800-883-6094, www.osiss.ca

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The role of the Family & Peer Support Coordinator is to provide outreach, inform, and connect families and friends whose loved ones (members & veterans) are living with Operational Stress Injuries (OSIs); which can include but are not limited to; stress, anxiety, depression, addictions, as well as post traumatic stress injury (PTSI).

The OSISS program provides an opportunity for individuals to learn to deal with the effects of OSIs on their lives, and to develop healthy coping strategies. We come together to find support and understanding of a common reality. Through our strength and hope we can move forward on our journeys.

Family members supporting a loved one with an OSI can receive information and resources by calling the Family Peer Support Coordinator in their region, members / veterans can contact the Peer Support Coordinator.

Confidentiality is an integral key to the success of the program.

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