



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches

21 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).

Editor's Notes: The next issue will be **4 April 2025**.

Quick links:

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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 rusinsdispatches@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:

Media blackouts due to the calling of a federal election are impacting the short-term speaker engagement calendar.

21 May, Wednesday: Maritime Air presentation by Col Holmes. TBC, details to follow.

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:

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>

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>

New 26 March, Wednesday: Foreign Policy Research Institute presents, “Russia-China-North Korea Relations: Obstacles to a Trilateral Axis.” A virtual launch of a report that examines how the historical experience of trilateralism, reputational concerns, foreign policy considerations, and domestic factors make a new China-Russia-North Korea axis unlikely. 1100hrs ADT. Registration for this virtual event: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_m8u1HU-LQ3aQ57BW1Q04lg

New 1-2 April, Tuesday and Wednesday: The Centre for International Innovation Governance will host the Think7 Summit. The T7 is one of seven official engagement groups that are independent, non-government bodies to provide annual advisory insights to the G7. This year, there are four thematic areas shaping the recommendations: Transformative Technologies — AI and Quantum, Digitalization of the Global Economy, Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development, and Global Peace and Security. Registration is required and virtual participation is open to

all: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/t7-summit-canada-2025-tickets-1260002584649?aff=oddtcreator>.

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>.

3 May, Saturday: As part of the annual series "Jane's Walk" this year a guided walking tour of the various historical sites within CFB Halifax (Stadacona) will be conducted beginning at 1300 on Saturday 3 May 2025. The tour is open to all, however participants will be required to show a government-issued photo ID (such as driver's license) to be able to enter the base. It will commence at 1300 at the RCR Gate on Gottingen Street at Bilby, and will include sites such as Wellington Barracks, the Royal Naval Burying Ground and Admiralty House, lasting about 1.5 to 2 hours. There will be an opportunity to visit the Royal Canadian Naval Museum inside Admiralty House afterwards, for those interested. Details can also be found here: <https://www.janeswalkhalifax.com/schedule>.

Wargaming Events:

Georgetown University Wargaming Society long-range schedule: <https://www.guwargaming.org/guwsevents>

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>

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

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/>

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/

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 Logician

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).

RCI-EyeOnTheArctic @eyeontheartic 19 Mar posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Canada's national defence minister says plans for a naval facility project in Nunavut failed to consider the local context, and that his department has learned lessons from that.

via @CBCNews

(Nanisivik Naval Facility still has no opening date minister cites planning lessons

<https://www.rcinet.ca/eye-on-the-arctic/2025/03/19/nanisivik-naval-facility-still-has-no-opening-date-minister-cites-planning-lessons/>)



Successes with #HMCSMargaretBrooke & @HawboldtIND Marine Mission Module during Canadian #Antarctic Research Expedition

#CARE <https://www.ctvnews.ca/calgary/video/2025/03/17/antarctic-expedition/> Looking forward to more @RoyalCanNavy-civil science collaboration at both poles #meopar #mori



"Why is Canada's Type 26 a destroyer and not a frigate?" <https://www.naval-technology.com/news/why-is-canadas-type-26-a-destroyer-and-not-a-frigate/> Intended employment & outfit dictate ship type. See "Types of Royal Canadian Navy Combatant Warships" <https://rusi-ns.ca/types-of-rcn-combatant-warships/> @RoyalCanNavy @DefenceTech_Mag



National Post @nationalpost Mar 15 posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Canada has far too few soldiers. Here's a radical fix — mandatory service <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/how-canada-wins-mandatory-service>



NAADSN_RDSNAA @NAADSN_RDSNAA 17 Mar posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: The Rangers make the North accessible to Canada's military, said @WhitneyLackenb1 (A closer look at the Canadian Rangers, the military's 'eyes and ears' in the North

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/article/a-closer-look-at-the-canadian-rangers-the-militarys-eyes-and-ears-in-the-north/>)



RAS-NSA @RAS_NSA 17 Mar posed: #HotTakes | In this article, @justinmassie1 examines recent shifts in the Canada–U.S. relationship, highlighting key scenarios of #American coercion. He argues that #Canada must take decisive steps to strengthen its sovereignty and diversify its security partnerships.

(Canada Must Prepare for American Coercion

<https://ras-nsa.ca/canada-must-prepare-for-american-coercion/>)



Public Services and Procurement Canada @PSPC_SPAC 18 Mar posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Through the #NationalShipbuildingStrategy, we're building 6 program icebreakers and 2 polar icebreakers over the next few years to support the CCG's growing fleet of 18 icebreakers. Learn more about our polar icebreakers here:

<https://canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/services/acquisitions/defence-marine/national-shipbuilding-strategy/projects/large-vessels/polar-icebreakers.html>

(Polar icebreakers)



Murray Brewster @Murray_Brewster 19 Mar posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Only 40% of air force inventory ready for action as Canada rethinks its F-35 contract #cdnpoli #F35

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/f35-contract-royal-canadian-air-force-1.7487233>)



"2024 year in review: National Shipbuilding Strategy" <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/services/acquisitions/defence-marine/national-shipbuilding-strategy/reports/2024-year-review.html> #NSS has been successful in supporting @RoyalCanNavy & @CoastGuardCAN ship builds, reinvigorating shipbuilding & supporting industries & creating jobs. What now/next? Surge building for uncertain world?



Susan Ormiston @OrmistonOnline 8 Mar posted: No one owns Antarctica, but the international treaty which governs the frozen continent is being tested. <https://youtu.be/wBEq1jLnymM?feature=shared> via @YouTube

RUSI(NS) quoted: Canadian #Antarctic Research Expedition #CARE is part of CAN diplomatic/scientific engagement in both poles. Should deploy occasional expeditions with @RoyalCanNavy &/or @CoastGuardCan ships to demonstrate participation & collect valuable scientific data



Murray Brewster @Murray_Brewster Mar 18 posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Why is the naval destroyer program wrapped in secrecy? The F-35 saga offers insights #cdnpoli <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/naval-destroyer-contract-cost-secrecy-1.7486101>)



Name CAN🇨🇦#Antarctic Research Expedition #CARE #HMCSMargaretBrooke's sea bottom-mapping uncrewed-surface vessel #drone 'Pogo' after @RoyalCanNavy icebreaker #HMCSLabrador's survey launch! <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6685952> "Mapping Antarctica's ocean floor to reveal climate secrets"



Marine nationale @MarineNationale 13 Mar posted: #Tourville Le SNA Tourville réalise des essais en vue de son admission au service actif. Une escale logistique planifiée a été organisée à Halifax🇨🇦dans le cadre de la coopération bilatérale entre nos 2 nations. Nos SNA sont déployés loin, longtemps, sur toutes les mers du monde. (Translation: #Tourville The SNA Tourville is conducting trials in preparation for its admission to active service. A planned logistics stopover has been organized in Halifax 🇨🇦 as part of the bilateral cooperation between our two nations. Our SNAs are deployed far and wide, for a long time, on all the seas of the world.) RUSI(NS) quoted: .@CFB_BFCHalifax monitors visits of allied (US, UK, FR) nuclear-powered #submarines & aircraft carriers to #Halifax & has Nuclear Emergency Response Team standing by to ensure safety of Canadians🇨🇦& environment throughout visit



"Canadian🇨🇦navy looks to South Pole for lessons about the North" <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6682709> Canadian #Antarctic Research Expedition #CARE @CJOC_COIC @RoyalCanNavy #HMCSMargaretBrooke #OpPROJECTION2025-01



"Vice-Admiral Angus Topshee Visits HMCS Margaret Brooke in Antarctic Waters" <https://readyayeready.com/vice-admiral-angus-topshee-visits-hmcs-margaret-brooke-in-antarctic-waters/> Canadian🇨🇦#Antarctic Research Expedition #CARE# @CJOC_COIC @RoyalCanNavy #HMCSMargaretBrooke #OpPROJECTION2025-01



Canadian Joint Operations Command @CJOC_COIC 13 Mar posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Last weekend, the Canadian Antarctic Research Expedition (CARE) and HMCS MARGARET BROOKE performed a sample collection at Española Cove, Livingston Island, Antarctica, during Operation PROJECTION 25-01.



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 11 Mar posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: My latest article...Canada to buy new military helicopters to respond to potential F-35 crashes in the Arctic and conduct joint operations with the Americans. <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canada-military-griffon-helicopters-f-35-arctic> via @ottawacitizen



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 10 Mar posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: South Korea pitches Canada on new military equipment deals. Korea promotes itself as a trustworthy ally.....unlike the U.S. which is threatening to economically destroy Canada and annex it. <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/submarine-deal-south-korea-canada-us-relations> via @ottawacitizen



"Mapping China's Strategic Port Development in Africa" <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/china-port-development-africa/> As CHN builds "maritime strategic strongpoints", is West losing global game of Go? Ports are significant element of sea power



Dave Mazur @WestCoastCmdre 9 Mar posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: The Fleet Chief and I recently visited the newly formed Advanced Naval Capabilities Unit (ANCU), to observe the outstanding advances this unit is making with operating uncrewed systems, and counter UAS. Leading the RCN's efforts in this field, we are now experimenting with tethered UAS, shipboard beyond LOS certification, and arctic operations. I was bringing down drones with the directional system, and our new broad jamming system (not shown) can deal with large swarms. #BZ ANCU, leading the RCN's efforts in adopting new technology.



"🇨🇦 Canada's Victoria-Class #Submarine Crisis Is About to Get Very Real" <https://www.19fortyfive.com/2025/03/canadas-victoria-class-submarine-crisis-is-about-to-get-very-real/> @RoyalCanNavy needs #subs soon to ensure retain crew expertise H/T @19_forty_five



NAADSN_RDSNAA @NAADSN_RDSNAA 4 Mar posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: We're closely reading Rob Huebert's latest work on Trump and the Arctic Council. Will it survive the administration?
(Can the Arctic Council survive the Trump administration? Probably not. Here's why <https://www.arctictoday.com/can-the-arctic-council-survive-the-trump-administration-probably-not-heres-why/>)



GC Newsroom @NewsroomGC 4 Mar posted: Government of Canada awards contract to Chantier Davie Canada Inc. for construction of new polar icebreaker <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2025/03/government-of-canada-awards-contract-to-chantier-davie-canada-inc-for-construction-of-new-polar-icebreaker.html>



RUSI(NS) quoted: 2 polar icebreaker contracts announced. @CoastGuardCAN & CAN🇨🇦shipyards doing well. Success of #NationalShipbuildingStrategy? What next for #NSS?

GC Newsroom @NewsroomGC 7 Mar posted: Government of Canada awards contract to Seaspan's Vancouver Shipyards for construction of new polar icebreaker <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2025/03/government-of-canada-awards-contract-to-seaspans-vancouver-shipyards-for-construction-of-new-polar-icebreaker.html>



(Government of Canada awards contract to Seaspan's Vancouver Shipyards for construction of new polar icebreaker)

RUSI(NS) quoted: Would be interesting to know the @CoastGuardCAN fleet plan. How many icebreakers & what capabilities to meet current & forecast icebreaking requirements?

National Defence @NationalDefence 8 Mar posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: The Government of Canada announced today that an implementation contract was awarded to Irving Shipbuilding Inc. for the construction of the River-class destroyers for the Royal Canadian Navy. Learn more: <https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2025/03/government-of-canada-announces-contract-award-for-the-construction-of-the-river-class-destroyers-for-the-royal-canadian-navy.html>



(Government of Canada announces contract award for the construction of the River-class destroyers for the Royal Canadian Navy)

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

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The defence of Europe all at sea?

<https://www.iiss.org/online-analysis/military-balance/2025/03/the-defence-of-europe-all-at-sea/>

"If Europe does move significantly towards re-arming, the likely initial naval focus would be on upgrading and filling the capability gaps in existing platforms as quickly as possible and on improving their readiness."



As too often, no mention of Canada. How should Canada design and develop its fleet?

Coast Guard deploys new surveillance submarine

<https://www.icelandreview.com/fr/nouvelles/les-garde-c%C3%B4tes-d%C3%A9ploient-un-nouveau-sous-marin-de-surveillance/>

"Iceland intends to improve its defence capabilities by introducing a domestically manufactured submarine, which should soon be delivered to the Icelandic coast guard."



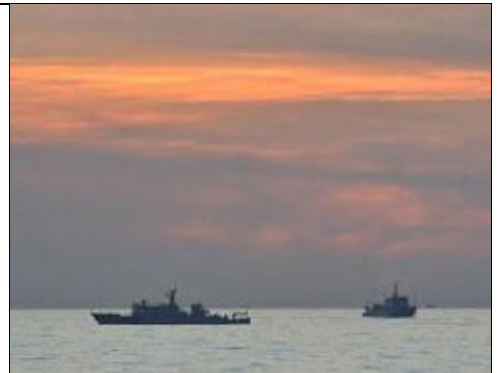
Though the (translated) article doesn't indicate, it's likely the 'submarine' is an uncrewed underwater vehicle (UUV). Whatever, procurement of UUV can result in an economical defence enhancement.

Canadian intentions with respect to UUV for our navy and coast guard are not getting much attention. We have the technology. What're the plans?

G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/g7-foreign-ministers-declaration-on-maritime-security-and-prosperity>

Much of interest in this statement related to maritime security, including from perspectives of international relations and of operations. Now, how to 'operationalize'? Starting with what governance is/should be in place in Canada to oversee actions in government and civil sectors? There have been, probably still are, inter-departmental committees to facility coordination.



Must be something on target in the statement to get such a Chinese response:

'Filled with arrogance': China lashes out at G7 over statements on maritime security

<https://apnews.com/article/china-g7-maritime-security-2ca16405f82352a62a41eef10866d4f1>

Comment from a mariner colleague: A very good statement from the G7 but it represents an immense shopping list to operationalize. UN Trade and Development reports world trade at 33 trillion dollars with 80% of goods traded carried by ship. Globally, there is a significant dollar interest to protect marine transportation. Canada does not have yard capacity to build more ships faster. Furthermore, it is doubtful whether we have the human resources available to operate larger shipyards. If Canada

moves to grand infrastructure projects to stave off depression, new shipyards and shipbuilding could be one of those projects. Can Windsor, Ontario, convert workers from auto factories to shipyard workers? The big bridge is almost finished so there must be labour coming available soon. Should we build ship components in other countries (Finland, Norway, France, Portugal) and assemble the ship in Canada and thus increase the capacity of our little shipyards by converting them to assembly yards? Or create our own component yards in Pictou, Meteghan or Gaspé? There are options.

National Coordinators of the Icebreaker Collaboration Effort (ICE Pact) Meet in Helsinki, Finland

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/03/08/national-coordinators-icebreaker-collaboration-effort-ice-pact-meet-helsinki>

"All parties (Governments of the United States, Canada, and Finland) recognized the need to enhance our Arctic and Polar icebreaking capabilities and the mutual interest in our nations having a strong presence in the Arctic."

Hopefully the collaboration will continue.



NATO to ask allies for 30% capability boost, top commander says

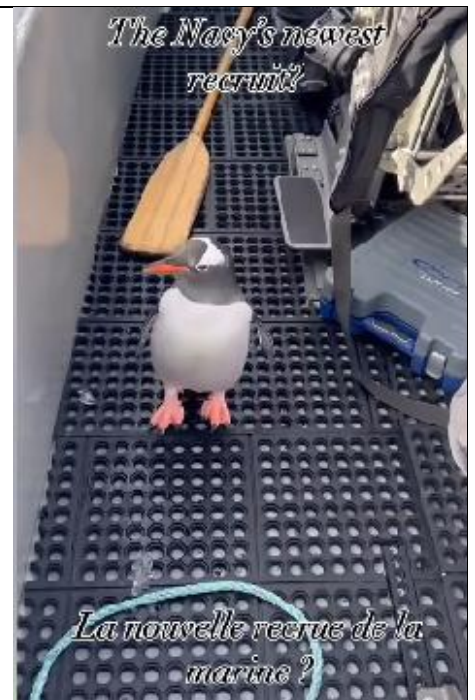
<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2025/03/14/nato-to-ask-allies-for-30-capability-boost-top-commander-says/>

"NATO will ask alliance members to raise their military capability targets by 30%..."



Does the Canadian public even know what Canada's capability targets are?

"Percy the Penguin" (relation to #HMCSTerraNova mascot?) visits #HMCSMargaretBrooke during Canadian Antarctic Research Expedition
#CARE <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1359194458837281&rdid=1UMNble3qtmlAwnm> @CJOC_COIC
@RoyalCanNavy #OpPROJECTION2025-01



U.S. Senators Launch Strategic Ports Reporting Act to Counter Growing Chinese Maritime Influence
<https://gcaptain.com/u-s-senators-launch-strategic-ports-reporting-act-to-counter-growing-chinese-maritime-influence/>

There doesn't appear to be specific Canadian legislation like the US Strategic Ports Reporting Act, but the US initiative could have ripple effects if Canada's ports are deemed strategically significant to US security. There may be pressure from the US on Canada to address such vulnerabilities. If security concerns arise, Transport Canada would likely (and this is speculation) be part of the collaborative efforts to address and mitigate them.



Canada Acquire Up to 98 New 155mm Self-Propelled Howitzers
<https://www.thedefensenews.com/news-details/Canada-Acquire-Up-to-98-New-155mm-Self-Propelled-Howitzers/>

This appears to be great news for the Canadian Army, both Regular and Reserve, purchasing hundreds of new systems for dealing with 'bad folks.'



Now, if we can get the same with air defence at multiple altitude levels and locating equipment for target acquisition batteries (that we don't now have in sufficient quantities).

Now, if we can get the logistics to sort out the vast quantity of ammunition these systems will use in operations and have the necessary ammunition transport, workshops, etc., we can return to being a more complete Army again.

Of course, this also means a robust secure communications system that is properly networked.

The bottom line is this is a start but only a start to get us back to where we should be, and this is just the artillery.

The Army as a whole needs to be rebuilt from the ground up with all arms rebuilt and modernized with equipment at least sufficient for training purposes, such as newer tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, armoured gun tractors, missile systems for artillery and air defence, armoured logistics vehicles, drones for various types of operations, electronic warfare equipment, and tactical aviation. Still, a step in the right direction.

Britain seeking to expand use of land drones
<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/britain-seeking-to-expand-use-of-land-drones/>

"The British Army is actively developing uncrewed land systems as part of a broader modernisation programme, with multiple projects underway to enhance future capabilities..."

What developments is the Canadian Army making?

The Royal Navy is calling uncrewed surface vessels 'sloops', and uncrewed underwater vessels 'chariots.' Might they come up with a name for uncrewed ground vehicles? 'Drones' is now a very general word (though its origin is with uncrewed aerial targets), it'd be useful to have simple words for types of drones.



Other Sources

#air power

Large, crewed sixth generation aircraft have unique value in the Indo-Pacific
<https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/large-crewed-sixth-generation-aircraft-have-unique-value-indo-pacific>

Comment: An interesting perspective of why the value of crewed next-generation fighters, like those in development by both the US and China, and compared to uncrewed distributed options, is more apparent in the Indo-Pacific than in Europe. Where does that leave Canada and its requirements?

#Arctic #resource security

The Northwest Territories is key to securing Canada's critical minerals future [*and investing in Canada's sovereignty*]

<https://thehub.ca/2025/03/05/r-j-simpson-the-northwest-territories-is-key-to-securing-canadas-critical-minerals-future/>

#Canadian Armed Forces

Inspirational Behaviour Then and Now: Remembering Two Military Heroes of 1944
<https://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/cmj-article-en-251page59.html>

The author of this article, John MacFarlane of DHH, was a RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker in 2018, with the presentation " 'Growing Together' – The Cultural Contribution of Indigenous People in the Canadian Military Since the First World War" (<https://rusi-ns.ca/indigenous-in-the-canadian-military/>).

#command

The Art of Giving Orders (1913)

<https://tacticalnotebook.substack.com/p/the-art-of-giving-orders-1913>

#data #AI #energy security #economic security

Power struggle: How AI is challenging Canada's electrical grid

<https://thoughtleadership.rbc.com/wp-content/uploads/Power-Struggle-Report.pdf>

"If every data centre project currently under regulatory review in Canada was approved, they would account for 14% of Canada's power needs by 2030."

Comment: A report that shows the interconnectivity of information technologies with nontraditional security areas, highlighting the need for a holistic, multipronged approach in any national strategy.

Key findings include Canada's clean energy resources are a strategic advantage for AI-driven growth, with natural gas a critical part of the mix due to its reliability; local data centres strengthen Canada's position in AI by securing data sovereignty and enhancing cybersecurity; and increased AI adoption by Canadian small to medium enterprises, which account for half of Canadian GDP, could help with lagging productivity.

#data security

Everything you say to your Echo will be sent to Amazon starting on March 28

<https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2025/03/everything-you-say-to-your-echo-will-be-sent-to-amazon-starting-on-march-28/>

#defence policy

Trump's prodding may resurrect Canada's military

<https://cnaps.org/trumps-prodding-may-resurrect-canadas-military-anthony-de-luca-baratta-and-jamie-tronnes-in-the-washington-times/>

#defence spending

David v Goliath: Cost asymmetry in warfare

<https://www.rand.org/pubs/commentary/2025/03/david-vs-goliath-cost-asymmetry-in-warfare.html>

European rearmament is going to turn the world upside down

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2025/03/04/european-rearmament-is-going-to-turn-the-world-upside-down/>

"It is becoming obvious to everybody that defence spending is the way to offset job losses in the car industry," says Holger Schmieding, the chief economist at Berenberg Bank.

#drones #legal

How Drones Make Civil Wars Worse

<https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/how-drones-make-civil-wars-worse>

#drones #medical #logistics

UK funds drones based frontline resupply and medical evac

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/uk-funds-drones-based-frontline-resupply-and-medical-evac/>

#economic warfare

Canada at Economic War: The 360-Degree Threat

<https://www.cigionline.org/publications/canada-at-economic-war-the-360-degree-threat/>

'Buy Canada' hits \$2.3 trillion money pot as Trump stokes anger

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-03-11/-buy-canada-hits-1-6-trillion-money-pot-as-trump-stokes-anger/>

#force development

The challenges of force design: The case of the US Navy

<https://www.rand.org/pubs/commentary/2025/03/the-challenges-of-force-design-the-case-of-the-us-navy.html>

Comment: A good case is presented and the impacts outlined for how focussing on the mission today is at the cost of strategic consideration for the future. A hard balance to strike but necessary nonetheless and one not obvious within CAF where one for one capability replacements with better versions masquerade as modernization.

#Indo-Pacific

How US-Russia-China ties would impact the Indo-Pacific

<https://www.rand.org/pubs/commentary/2025/03/how-us-russia-china-ties-would-impact-the-indo-pacific.html>

Comment: A short read. The responses differ, depending on which nation is discussed, but for many in the region, any U.S. detente with China and Russia would be positive.

There is a desire to avoid becoming entangled in the great-power competition, seeking instead to “hedge” and stay nonaligned.

#information and security

The information economy is fundamental to Canada’s security

<https://www.cigionline.org/articles/the-information-economy-is-fundamental-to-canadas-security/>

“Amid the chaos — especially as we move into a federal election — Canadian media and politicians should be more intentional about creating spaces for optimism. Stories of innovation, collaboration and hope have exceptional power to reframe focus, spur ideas and build Canada’s sovereign, economic future.”

#leadership

What military members need to hear from their leaders now

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2025/03/what-military-members-need-hear-their-leaders-now/403758/>

#logistics

Self-reliance and the sustainment of the force – logistics as the bedrock or quicksand of operations in a crisis

<https://logisticsinwar.com/2025/03/11/self-reliance-and-the-sustainment-of-the-force-logistics-as-the-bedrock-or-quicksand-of-operations-in-a-crisis/>

#marine security

European shipping key for Europe’s security with 35% of global fleet, studies find
<https://ecsa.eu/european-shipping-key-for-europes-security-with-35-of-global-fleet-studies-find/>

Comment from a mariner: This is a good article and study. The recommendations are applicable to Canada. There must be a sustainability plan for all aspects of our marine industry and infrastructure and I do not see that our government has that vision. No need for farmers to farm, miners to mine or fishers to fish without safe means to get the product to market. With the US gone haywire we need government investment and parentage in the transition and sustainability. It is a rather painful and abrupt divorce. Once slapped in the face, it can take years for the sting to go away.

#NATO

Turning towards Turkey: Why NATO needs to lean into its relationship

<https://www.rand.org/pubs/commentary/2025/03/turning-towards-turkey-why-nato-needs-to-lean-into.html>

Canada and a post-American NATO

<https://opencanada.org/canada-and-a-post-american-nato/>

#Russia

Consequences of Russia’s War at Home

https://mcusercontent.com/28b6673fcc2022a1dd557acae/files/16af6a54-2a59-7c86-alle-728de8689e3c/PDF_FINAL_Snapshot_Consequences_of_Russia_rsquo_s_War_at_Home.02.pdf

#Russia-Ukraine War

North Korean Deployment in Kursk: A Window into the DPRK Military

<https://geopoliticalmonitor.com/north-korean-deployment-in-kursk-a-window-into-the-dprk-military/>

Report to Congress on Ukrainian Military Performance and Outlook

<https://news.usni.org/2025/03/11/report-to-congress-on-ukrainian-military-performance-and-outlook>

Ukraine's Winning Cards Against Russia In The Black Sea

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2025/03/ukraines-winning-cards-against-russia-in-the-black-sea/>

#warfare

Deep Precision Strikes: A New Tool for Strategic Competition?

<http://www.ifri.org/en/studies/deep-precision-strikes-new-tool-strategic-competition>

#wargaming

Do You Have To Do “Analysis” To Call It A Wargame? Actually, No.

<https://cimsec.org/do-you-have-to-do-analysis-to-call-it-a-wargame-actually-no/>

CNA Wargaming Reports by Peter Perla

<https://www.cna.org/centers-and-divisions/cna/ow/gaming-and-integration/peter-perla>

Long time 'gamers will of course recognize Peter Perla.

Odds and sods...

NATO ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR L' **OTAN**



Founded in 1966, the NATO Association of Canada (NAOC) is a NATO-affiliated, non- governmental organization based in Toronto and active across Canada. Born from the tragedy of world war and division, NATO has worked to avert conflict and uphold the rules-based international order. The NAOC has involved the public in our mission and educated and engaged Canadians about international affairs and the crucial, long-standing role that NATO has played in bolstering national and global security and fostering peace. The organization facilitates its mandate by hosting conferences, seminars, roundtables, and other activities. The NAOC also provides an in-depth analysis of current affairs and public policy through regular publications.

NAOC is a registered charitable organization dependent for its operating funds on membership fees and business and personal donations and sponsorships.

This year on April 4th, NATO celebrated its 75th anniversary of ensuring the

collective defence of its member countries through political and military means. Since its establishment on April 4, 1949, with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty by 12 founding members, the alliance has grown to 32 members with the Government of Canada ratifying the North Atlantic Treaty and officially joining the founding members on April 30, 1949. Throughout the year, the NAOC is organizing events, cultural initiatives, sports events, educational programs for the youth, and speeches from past Ministers of Defence, Foreign Affairs, and Ambassadors to mark the occasion. To showcase Canada's role and contributions to the alliance from sea to sea, the NAOC is also highlighting and supporting signature events being hosted by military, educational, and cultural organizations across the country.

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.

#energy security

Europe may be replacing dependence on Russia for fossil fuels with dependence on China for renewables:

Clean energy technology manufacturing, by region*

Turning away from fossil fuels (and Russia) means turning towards China

Solar PV



Batteries



Wind



Electrolytes



Heat pumps



*2022

Source: IEA

Protection bracket. The US and Canada have imposed 100 per cent tariff barriers on Chinese EVs. The EU has imposed tariffs of up to 45 per cent, depending on the level of state support Chinese carmakers receive. But keeping Beijing out is rarely as simple as that.

“If you look inside the supply chain, all the permanent magnets inside wind turbines are made in China,” Michal Meidan of the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies says. “The minerals are processed in China, using Chinese technologies. China is everywhere.”

China has built up a lead through

- clear policy direction, driven partly by a desire to have a cleaner environment but also to dominate the technologies of the future;
- a large domestic market for its suppliers – though within that, Chinese manufacturers compete fiercely on price; and
- low input costs. Land and labour are much cheaper than in the West, and China has industrial clusters where suppliers and manufacturers huddle together, reducing transport costs and encouraging collaboration.

Tortoise Media, 12 March 2025

#disinformation

Canada has built almost no defence to track or combat disinformation attacks

The Globe and Mail (Ottawa/Quebec Edition) · 10 Mar 2025 · OPINION KEVIN NEWMAN

We must defend ourselves from any efforts to normalize the idea that we should give up our sovereignty Retired journalist and part of a volunteer effort to combat disinformation For

some young man, somewhere in Canada, his Instagram feed is right now serving up a humorous but enticing fantasy. “What if the United States, Mexico and Canada united to create one country?” an animated video with crude references asks. “Economically, this union would dominate with a GDP of over \$ 28trillion, making it the richest country on Earth! ... Geographically, this supernation would span 21.66 million square kilometres, overtaking Russia as the largest country!” For almost a minute, it pitches giving up Canadian sovereignty in order to rule the world. For a young man watching, with his hopes for a stable career, homeownership and a safe world to live in withering away, it might be an alluring idea. That video comes from an Instagram account suspected of originating in Russia and posted after Donald Trump started musing about the idea of turning Canada into the 51st American state. Its use of professional- looking graphics, economic data and masculine stereotypes sets it apart from the more subtle approaches to cognitive warfare on social media. According to NATO estimates, the Russians spend roughly € 2billion (\$ 3.1- billion) a year on creating content to flood social media feeds in NATO countries. And that’s only the flow it can track. Until recently, Russia had paid little attention to Canada as we had the luxury of being relatively unimportant. That is no longer the case. Canada is in play, along with its Arctic, its resources and its water. What Mr. Trump says, the Russians exploit. It’s not hard to imagine American- sponsored disinformation attacks joining the assault. Targeting our population with content normalizing the idea of absorbing Canada aims to destabilize our institutions and sap our will to resist. It exploits intergenerational conflict, denigrates our history and culture, and makes America seem like the land of endless opportunity. The aim, after a couple of years of bombarding social media and torquing its algorithms, is to make us believe joining the U. S. isn’t much of a leap. With a federal election looming, we can expect attempts to boost the posts of certain candidates. With the rise of populist and separatist sentiment in Quebec and Alberta, look for attempts to elevate the destabilizing impact they’ll have on the country. Meantime, MAGA keyboard warriors and their media stars will continue to allege that Canada isn’t a country at all, merely an accident of history that deserves to be corrected. So how do we fight this escalating war for the hearts and minds of Canadians? There’s the problem. We have built almost no defence. Of all founding NATO countries, Canada is unique in having little ability to track or combat the lies and distortions. Look to Sweden, NATO’s newest member. It has something called the Psychological Defence Agency, a robust government department that shares and co- ordinates intelligence between companies, regions and agencies to “identify, analyze and provide support” in combatting disinformation that is “aimed at weakening Sweden’s resilience and the willingness of the population to defend itself.” Canada has nothing remotely like that, and no continued monitoring of disinformation anywhere. Then there’s Britain. It has multiple agencies and programs doing that work: the Government Communication Service, the UK Government Resilience Framework, the Information Threats and Influence Directorate, the Home Office and so on. The British Army has devoted a group of between 3,000 and 5,000 reservists and regular army soldiers to its 77th Brigade Information Operations, devoted exclusively to combatting “new forms of warfare in the information environment.” The Canadian Armed Forces has no such capability. It used to have a robust psychological- warfare effort used to good effect in the Afghan War, but the program was recently abandoned and its expertise scattered to satisfy budget cuts over the past decade. We are the only member of the Five Eyes without a psyops unit to spot, identify and challenge disinformation campaigns. This has left us completely blind to one of the ways this U. S. administration and its many supporters are seeking to play with our heads in the coming months. Some might argue it was impossible to prepare for the sudden shift in attitude of our neighbour, but the threats to Canada’s infospace have existed from other countries for a decade – not only from Russia, but from China, India, Iran and North Korea. And when Mr. Trump promised predatory tariffs for years, our leaders assumed he didn’t mean for us. We are, once again, victims of a lack of imagination. It is a colossal failure. The highest calling of any leader and a country’s military is to protect its citizens from harm. We have been left utterly defenceless in this fight for our minds and our sovereignty. Abandoned, each of us, as the propaganda, lies, and distortions are aimed right at us, and sure to intensify.

The Lepanto trap: Capacity after the first salvo
<https://www.britainsworld.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."

Editor: the above was posted in the last edition of *Dispatches*. The following was received from one of our Australian colleagues:

I consider this article to be a glimpse of the bleeding obvious. This isn't the age of Jenkin's Ear. Nor is anything – ships, weapons, capabilities, national will, industrial capacity or population – the same as it used to be. To be an infanteer or a seaman in the Australian Army or the Royal Australian Navy requires an applicant to have a higher schools certificate as a minimum. Most officers above the rank of Lieutenant-Commander have higher degrees (in my day, unless they were engineers or doctors, they had none).

Industrial production in the defence area is a complex multi-national effort. We can't churn out warships built by country farm machinery fixers as we did in the Second World War. It's scary that in these piping days of peace, it is taking our chosen exemplar of naval warship construction almost nine years to build one frigate. Only one nation is building the fifth generation fighters our air forces demand. We build our own infantry fighting vehicles, but they're full of imported sensors and weapons. I'm not sure we can build a naval gun anymore and we are just rediscovering how to make artillery shells. Our first surface-to-surface missile factory began construction a few months ago – say, two years before it turns out its first weapon. Our nuclear-powered submarines will be the product of tri-national cooperation (if we can keep the Trump factor out of the equation).

As for people, our population is four times as large as it was in 1942 but we are having trouble keeping 50,000 of them in uniform. There is a whiff of the infamous Oxford Union debate about in the military-age cohorts - they seem to think that if there was to be war they'd stand by and watch what happened. Unless I totally underestimate the capacity of our political class, many might do the same - 'Defending our country and way of life has nothing to do with us because we reject the very concept of war.'

Having said all that, unless one is Vladimir Putin or a Hamas leader (leaving Sudan, Rwanda/Democratic Republic of the Congo and Myanmar aside), there seems to be an acceptance of the fact that war is both risky and costly and that the outcomes are unpredictable. Only totalitarian regimes have the will and means to have large militaries and be prepared to risk them. The outcomes pretty closely reflect the views of the rest of us. While the Israelis didn't eliminate Hamas (something we in RUSI Oz considered impossible anyway) it looks like they are going to be turfed out of power by the Arab nations who they were counting on to join them in their assault on

Israel. Putin has gained bugger-all you could crow about at the price of a staggering loss of population and the ruination of his country's economy and reputation. Xi Jinping – who is no fool – must be mulling over these facts in his Zhongnanhai palace. Look what a truly motivated folk like Ukrainians can do if supported with weapons and intelligence from other like-minded countries. How badly does he really need to own Taiwan and what is the price he is prepared to pay?

In an age of Trump there are no more certainties except that there are better and less expensive ways to resolve difficulties than war fighting. But, just in case the other bloke doesn't understand that, we need to be prepared to fight, with all that this demands in today's world. Oz is nowhere near being in that position.

How to connect NS and NB across a washed-out Isthmus of Chignecto

Maybe we can get a number of 'invasion barges' to connect a roadway from one province to the other.

Though we may have to wait until after the Chinese have finished invading Taiwan...



For more: Our Best Look Yet At China's New 'Invasion Barges'

<https://www.twz.com/sea/our-best-look-yet-at-chinas-new-invasion-barges>

Comment: Whilst some may think that these barges have HADR utility, for say opening ports of storm devastated islands, most should reflect that purpose-built equipment like these are too-serious indications of China's intentions to invade Taiwan.

Initiative versus Project

The government announced a virtual technical briefing on the River-class Destroyer Initiative for 7 March ["Government of Canada to hold technical briefing to provide an update on the River-class Destroyer Initiative (formerly known as the Canadian Surface Combatant Project)" <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2025/03/government-of-canada-to-hold-technical-briefing-to-provide-an-update-on-the-river-class-destroyer-initiative-formerly-known-as-the-canadian-surface.html>]. The use of the term 'initiative' instead of 'project' caught the attention of some RUSI(NS) members, especially those who had served in Navy project offices. In response to a query made to DND, and forwarded here FYI, we learned:



- The RCD initiative adheres to DND's Project Approval Directive (PAD) establishing streamlined project approval paths that align governance, documentation, process, and delegations in accordance with the level of project

complexity and risk. The PAD conforms to published TB Policy: the Policy on the Planning and Management of Investments and the Directive on the Management of Projects and Programmes.

- Under the Policy on the Planning and Management of Investments, initiatives are often mentioned in relation to government-funded programs, projects, and procurement strategies. The Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS) does not provide a single, explicit definition of "initiative". However, in the context of government policies and programs, an initiative typically refers to a specific effort, project, or set of activities undertaken to achieve a policy objective or strategic outcome.

- In the case of the RCD Initiative, the term "initiative" is being used to reference the broader effort to deliver 15 RCD ships to the RCN, whereas the "RCD Batch 1" and "RCD Batch 2" projects will refer to discrete efforts delivered under their own PA.

- Given the scale, complexity, time duration, and affordability challenges related to a multi-generational procurement such as the RCD ships, DND, in consultation with TBS, decided to sub-divide the RCD effort going forward into discrete segments, with each batch of ships. As a first step, DND is dividing the broader Canadian Surface Combatant project, as it was formerly called, into two sub-projects. The first project is referred to as the RCD Batch 1 Project – focusing on delivering the Batch 1 ships. The second project, referred to as the RCD Batch 2 Project, has a more limited scope related to Implementation activities (required to procure Long Lead Items to ensure the timely delivery of Batch 2 ships).



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

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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.

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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

We have a new Prime Minister, the 24th Canadian PM, in the form of the former Bank of Canada chair Mark Carney. Allegedly his first act was to eliminate the carbon tax. The problem is that the carbon tax has actually passed in Parliament and is therefore the law of the land. It requires Parliament to eliminate as a result. Are we seeing a play rather than an actual event? Time will tell. A Federal election is likely to be called before the end of the month with election day likely being at the end of April or early May.

PM Carney had meetings with President Macron of France, then proceeded to London first to meet with King Charles the III and after with the British PM Sir Keir Starmer. Discussion mainly centred on the relationship between the two founding colonial powers and security issues especially in relationship to Ukraine as well as the US threats to Canadian sovereignty. It was a successful visit and saw new polls with the Liberal Party in the lead once again. The Liberal Party has seen a substantial change in their numbers. One can expect them to exploit this new found energy and an election sooner rather than later.

The Arctic has become a major source of concern as Canada now faces three predatory countries, Russia, China and the US. As Stephen Harper stated in the early years of his mandate “we either use it or lose it” when referring to the Arctic. He made a great start, but the financial situation deteriorated and the long-awaited naval station at Nanisivik was never completed by the government. Even as late as this year, the current government did not put in the heating coils to make the refueling station work in the cold. The Liberal Government was exceptionally neglectful of the North and did little to enhance the sovereignty until recently when they announced three major hubs, Iqaluit, Resolute Bay and Inuvik. The real answer is multi use infrastructure in locations that have deep water and the capacity to build major airfields with runways capable of landing strategic aircraft. The Arctic needs a strong consistent development plan with the support of the indigenous people and not as an afterthought.

HMCS Margaret Brooke is continuing its extraordinary voyage to Antarctica with the crew and its Canadian scientific teams. It is a story worth telling and hopefully a sign

of future types of voyages to both poles. Certainly, it is a major diplomatic effort as well to like minded South American countries. Well done to all involved.

The future FS Tourville is visiting Halifax at present and will be undergoing trials with the RCAF and RCN. Tourville is due to be formally commissioned into the French Navy in the next few months. The timing of its arrival is interesting considering Canada is looking into new submarines, especially as it relates to being usable in the North. French nuclear technology is their sovereign product. It contains none of the usual US issues with their technology.

The Trump administration continues its efforts to destroy the global economy and more importantly destroy the true strength of the US; its ability to gain the trust and support of allies in a common cause. Canada is even under threat by a former friendly power that even now sows seeds of distrust and hate. Canada needs to adopt the Roman silence and only deal with this regime as necessary. It will take decades for any trust in the US to return.

Military procurement programs must be reviewed. The US was able to turn off key equipment of the Ukrainian armed forces in a very short time resulting in the deaths of Ukrainian service members and the loss of territory. Canada cannot afford to have equipment that can be “turned off” by anyone. It is time to start developing our own capabilities in conjunction with other like-minded countries such as the Nordic countries in Europe. China is not an answer as it too is an adversary. Closer trade ties are not warranted.

Australia

Some articles from down under from our Australian correspondent.

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/mar/15/the-new-reality-dawning-in-australia-it-can-no-longer-rely-on-the-us?utm_term=67d47cbd34fe8738295b7c2f56dc5ee9&utm_campaign=WeekendMailAus&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=weekendmail_email

I think the Aussies are awakening to the reality of American self interest. It could become very lonely for the Aus in this isolated western country

https://gcaptain.com/australia-moves-to-arm-troops-with-anti-ship-missiles-as-china-threat-looms/?subscriber=true&goal=0_f50174ef03-a258a45601-170491534&mc_cid=a258a45601&mc_eid=9fc66b041f

The Aussies are aware of the Chinese growing threat and they are getting prepared for war without a lot of fanfare. This document is public, but I think it needs to be carefully used to increase Canadian awareness

https://youtu.be/fe6Ppp_kx_U?si=VljfjZoyAGCMB_sH

Visitors in the neighbourhood.

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

A foreign visitor.

<https://www.australiandefence.com.au/news/news/companies-partner-despite-aucus-risk>

Some interesting background on Aukus interested companies.

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

There appears to be trouble brewing with the UK side of Aukus

https://www.australiandefence.com.au/news/news/defence-signs-272-million-contract-with-cea-technologies?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ADM%20Today%20-%2014%20February%202025&utm_content=ADM%20Today%20-%2014%20February%202025+CID_4c05179a8b5d950da99c8e4fdf2ad2b5&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20more

More technology for the Australian forces

[https://news.usni.org/2025/02/10/secdef-white-house-supportive-of-aukus-australia-makes-500m-payment?ct=t\(USNI_NEWS_DAILY\)&mc_cid=54e2b93d14&mc_eid=5d8457cbbf](https://news.usni.org/2025/02/10/secdef-white-house-supportive-of-aukus-australia-makes-500m-payment?ct=t(USNI_NEWS_DAILY)&mc_cid=54e2b93d14&mc_eid=5d8457cbbf)

The first payment by Aus has been made to the US on the Aukus program

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/the-geopolitics-of-australia-day/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily%20The%20Strategist&utm_content=Daily%20The%20Strategist+CID_efaa101cc988b909d4b46a964ab9aa0d&utm_source=CampaignMonitor&utm_term=The%20geopolitics%20of%20Australia%20Day

Some interesting Aus strategic history

United States

The US administration has sown the seeds of distrust that will be far reaching in its impact on world affairs. Since the last notes, the US has more or less resigned its place as the leader of the free world. The administration has attacked allies and has materially affected the course of the war between Russia and Ukraine resulting in casualties to Ukrainian forces trying to defend their own country against a vile aggressor.

Fortunately, France has stood up in Europe offering a nuclear umbrella to all of Europe and has organized a coalition of the willing to support Ukraine in spite of the US. Who would have thought the US would now be excluded from the discussion on Ukraine as an unreliable partner.

The present administration has caused world-wide disruptions and concern over the imposition of tariffs despite the knowledge they have a detrimental effect. The Trump administration seems willing to tank the US economy and as a result the global economy. They seem to have little understanding of what the result could be if they are successful in destroying the world finances.

The US has carried out air strikes against the Houthis. There is considerable doubt that these will be effective. The Houthis stated that they had little effect. They also used the usual suggestions that 30 people were killed, mainly women and children. It should be noted that various groups use the women and children as a comment because the media have no way of verifying the statement, but the media usually take it at face value. It may or may not be true, but they know various organizations will

take this message across the world. It works even if it's untrue.

Various outlets have stated that Putin will not accept that Ukraine will receive more arms and that he wants a guarantee that Ukraine will never be allowed in NATO. There are also allegations that the Trump administration will insist on territorial concessions from Ukraine as well. If allowed, it will give in to most of Russia's demands despite Russia being the aggressor state. It is likely going to be unacceptable to the Europeans and other Western countries. The Trump Administration's pro-Russian stance is not even accepted by most Americans.

Moldova

Moldova is under constant attacks by Russia in order to destabilize the current Government of President Maia Sandu. Although Moldova has made major efforts to improve its own capabilities it is faced with a country with huge although depleting resources. It should be an easy task for Russia. Moldova has support from the European Union but also bilateral support from EU members especially Romania and France. In his visit to Moldova on Monday, 10 March 2025, French President Emmanuel Macron stated that "Europe's future cannot be decided in Moscow or Washington." While offering further support to Moldova's security efforts. He also provided increased support to help Moldova's energy infrastructure and increased efforts to improve Moldova's cyber-security. Most importantly, President Macron stated the ongoing support of France for Moldova's ascendancy to the EU by 2030.

Georgia

Authorities in Georgia have passed increasingly authoritarian laws to weaken opposition to the Georgia Dream Party. The number of people arrested is growing daily. Security forces are collecting video from multiple sources then arresting "opposition" members at home away from crowds. It is a popular method of operation by various regimes. This has been an ongoing process and is likely to continue. It worked well in Belarus and eventually destroyed the demonstrators a safe space. The real question here is the role of China in Georgia. Chinese workers are building the infrastructure to support a new Chinese run port on the Black Sea. China has brought in large numbers of Chinese workers to assist this construction. It will replace ports lost as a result of Abkhazia's separation from Georgia in favour of Russia. Could this be an opportunity to drive Georgia away from Russia and into the arms of the Chinese? The answer is probably yes, but only until Russia starts to recover from the Russia Ukraine War. What happens next?

The former President of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili was sentenced to a further 4.5 years added to his sentence bringing it to 12 years in total. The former President moved Georgia towards the West during his time from 2005 to 2013. The Georgia Dream Party then 'won' the next election funded allegedly by Russia and a pro-Russian dual citizen. The Georgia Dream party has been in power ever since although recent elections are known to have been largely corrupt. The charges against Saakashvili are considered largely politically motivated.

Belarus

Belarus continues to be a puzzle. It is a firm supporter of Putin's Russia, yet avoids getting involved in Putin's war despite the efforts of the Russian dictator to have the Belarus Security forces get involved. At the same time, Lukashenko sometimes lets the truth out. This past week he stated that if Russia gets its ceasefire, it will be the end of Ukraine and Europe. He also knows that he is likely finished as well. He is wily and a survivor and wants to remain so as well. He is making every attempt to keep Belarus from getting too close to a union with Russia. He knows how Putin operates and perhaps we might pay attention to his words. Make no mistake, he is himself a brutal dictator and he knows his survival is only assured if Russia is weak. Belarus is one of forty plus countries that will have restrictions placed on visiting the US. It is a third-tier country and thus has 60 days to clean up their processes before further US action is taken, thus complicating the already complex and restrictive travel regime for Belarus citizens.

Belarus is a major arms exporter unfortunately it produces arms similar to Russia and the performance of Russian equipment has been less than outstanding, thus Belarus has now dropped out of the top twenty arms exporters this month.

Israel-Iran War

Israel continues to hamper the rebuilding of Hamas and Hezbollah. This week saw Israel prevent aid from flowing into Gaza. The reason is that Hamas is continuing to play games with the lives and bodies of the 59 remaining hostages, 39 are listed as likely dead. They are using the hostages' bodies and the thought of possible live hostages as a bargaining chip, and it has not gone over well. Israel will continue to try to force Hamas to continue the phase 1 effort as opposed to proceeding to an Israeli withdrawal in phase 2 of the negotiated peace.

Hamas continues to occupy its vast underground fortress area built under the noses of the officials of the UN, they are supposed to give up control of Gaza and disarm but show absolutely no sign of doing so. This has resulted in the Israeli blockade of food and supplies and air attacks on specific target areas. Israel has renewed attacks against Hamas. Casualty figures have been released by Palestinian authorities but are likely from Hamas listing 400 persons killed mainly women and children. This has not been verified and is likely an exaggeration which Hamas is now famous for at this point. Hamas will likely continue this type of operation at the expense of the citizens of Gaza. They simply have to return the hostages.

Israel has stated that it will continue to occupy parts of Syria to ensure no Iranian or ISIS or equivalent forces can reestablish themselves in an area close to the Israeli border. It is expected this will continue for the foreseeable future.

Israel also occupies five areas in Lebanon. They have also stated they will remain there to ensure Hezbollah cannot re-establish itself. As a result, they too are in non-compliance. UNIFIL has proven itself to be ineffective in providing security. Hezbollah was routinely able to launch rockets within sight of UN posts sometimes a little over 100 M away. The main issue throughout this conflict is the inability of the UN organizations to perform their jobs adequately. The UN may be the problem not

the solution.

Iran continues to rearm and has mocked current US efforts in the Middle East. Israel is no doubt watching and will act against the leadership of Iran when convenient.

The Ukraine- Russia War

The war continues in all its destructive “glory.” The world has seen the US resign as the leader of the free world, lately parroting Kremlin talking points according to numerous media outlets around the world. The French, British and Poland amongst others have created what is now being called a “coalition of the willing” of 30+ nations not only in Europe but around the world. Trump has been stating that the de facto refusal to accept the negotiated ceasefire agreement is hopeful. No one believes that and President Macron of France has stated that Russia will have no say on whether there is peacekeeping in Ukraine. This will be an ongoing issue. It will pit the US against the “coalition” at some point.

Russia has managed to recapture most of the Ukrainian occupied Kursk oblast. It has cost the Russians tens of thousands of troops, and a large quantity of equipment and resources. Ukraine has used the Kursk oblast as a distraction, essentially draining Russian forces away from the Eastern front. It allowed Ukraine to regain territory in key areas around Pokrovsk, Toretsk, Chasiv Yar and in the Kharkiv region, some taken in hours but took the Russians months to achieve and at a horrific cost. Russia is not the Soviet Union; it does not have the manpower resources of that old empire. Current losses are not sustainable in the long term even by Russia.

Ukraine is also taking severe losses but tends to be a better steward of its manpower resources, but its losses also cannot be easily replaced. The difference is Ukraine has allies and supporters providing funding, new infrastructure for weapons and equipment production, provision of aircraft, tanks, armoured fighting vehicles, armoured personnel carriers, trucks, specialized vehicles, infrastructure repair, air defence equipment. Now the coalition of the willing have proposed putting boots on the ground and aircraft in the air to protect Ukraine. Russia has no such support. In the meantime, Ukraine and Russia have traded major air attacks using a mixture of drones and missiles. Ukraine has changed its targeting from the local area to attacking Moscow itself, hitting major oil production and storage facilities and factories producing military material. On two nights this past week, Ukraine sent massive numbers of weapons across a sizable part of Russia inflicting considerable damage despite losses to Russian air defences. There was another loss, and that is in the confidence of the population of Moscow. One citizen stated the obvious question; “If we are winning, why are the air raid sirens going off?”

Russia is out of cash, the inflation level is going up, the interest rate for loans is now considered too costly. Sanctions have worked and are continuing to do so, with more sanctions on the way. Russia’s economy is based on its war requirements. A ceasefire is not necessarily a good prospect for the Putin Regime. Its lack of success on the battlefield is also a major problem especially once the conflict stops and troops come home. This is a problem for the regime. A trained unhappy group of soldiers in large numbers is not conducive to regime survival. The Putin Regime has a lot to lose, especially if they do not get their way. It is expected that the ceasefire will not be an

immediate solution. Putin doesn't want the population to realize the full view of his actions.

China

China's economy continues to have difficulties. It has three pillars, property development, exports and domestic consumer demand. Property development companies have essentially created a situation similar to a Ponzi Scheme, where money is received from investors and used to fund new developments without necessarily creating the property that the money was intended for. China has a large number of unfinished projects and even completed projects that have no customers because the infrastructure is in the 'wrong' place. This includes whole cities, airports, rail lines, ports. It was not well regulated and now investors and provincial governments are now paying the price.

The second pillar is doing relatively well at present. Exports reached an all time high in January 2025 as importers placed orders that would beat the imposition of tariffs by the Trump Administration. Now that tariffs are now in place on top of existing tariff regimes; it is expected that exports will drop. How bad is another question. There is another factor and that is the loss of foreign investment in new products. Foreign investment has essentially dried up completely. Chinese business owners are moving some of their business to other countries such as Vietnam, India and Bangladesh to try to avoid the tariffs and sanction regimes. Exports are expected to continue to decline over the next few months and perhaps longer if the US tariff regime continues. This pillar is not expected to remain strong, and it will be affected by the ongoing trade war.

The last pillar is domestic consumer confidence. Chinese citizens are great savers and when possible, investors, especially when the economy is going well. At present consumer confidence is low. Part of the reason is because of some of the issues already discussed. China's economy is not doing well. Banks are going bankrupt; investments have soured, stagflation is ongoing, unemployment is comparatively high, and foreign industry is leaving China. There is little confidence in the near term of the economy improving sufficiently to increase the overall pessimism of the common investor.

The bottom line is that none of the three pillars is healthy and may further deteriorate. So far, the Communist Chinese Party has avoided taking the blame but that is not guaranteed to continue. Most protests are local, mainly aimed at the low end of the political spectrum. It is conceivable that this may change. Will China have to find an outside enemy?

The US firm Blackstone has managed to acquire the ports near the Panama Canal Zone from the Singapore based company CK Hutchison. The CCP leadership is not happy with the change and have brought legal action against the Singapore company. The legal action is expected to fail but China may be hoping that the company may be intimidated. Blackstone is already sanctioned by China, but Blackstone has few areas that China would be able to influence. China views this as a strategic loss. China has also tried to influence the European Union using various means that are quite normal in China such as 'kick backs.' Unfortunately, a number of Members of

the European Parliament are being investigated for accepting bribes and gifts from Huawei. Once again Huawei has been involved in illegal activity in support of the CCP regime. Any hope of better relations with the EU have essentially vanished in the near term.

China has continued to harass its neighbours particularly in the South China Sea. There is the potential to have a 'foreign enemy' as a result in order to take attention away from the deteriorating situation inside China itself. Taiwan and the Philippines seem to be potential targets. It is likely that China may use its overwhelming military capability against one or the other country. This is risky as it may involve more than it is willing to sacrifice.

Taiwan is well armed and has large professional forces supported by a massive reserve force. Even a large-scale attack would be a toss of the dice. One estimate suggests that Taiwan has 7M reservists. China is estimated to need at least 250 k troops on the first day, but this is likely insufficient to guarantee success against Taiwan by itself let alone one supported by other countries such as the US, Japan, Australia etc. There is no good solution here in the near term. A military option is not really feasible at this point, but apparently, Xi is still intent on conducting such an attack.

China is at a crossroad, what it does next may determine the fate of the CCP and China as a whole.

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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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