



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Dispatches

5 March 2021

The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia provides a forum for the study, promotion and debate of defence and security issues.

Dispatches is a weekly collection of links and news of current interest, included those tweeted and posted by the Institute on social media. Links to articles are checked at the time they are put into *Dispatches* but may be unavailable at a later date or in some states other than Canada.

If you are not a routine recipient of *Dispatches* but wish to be so, email the Institute's Chief Information Officer (CIO) at RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com. If you do not want to receive *Dispatches*, or wish to receive it at some different frequency, please inform the CIO. If you wish to receive *Dispatches* at a different address (i.e., not your work address), please inform the CIO. Past editions of *Dispatches* may be requested by contacting the CIO.

Everyone is encouraged to email to the CIO links and other content to be included in *Dispatches*.

Submissions and feedback are welcome anytime. Comments to articles can be from members or non-members of RUSI(NS). Any comment in *Dispatches* is the sole opinion of the author and does not necessarily represent the views of the Canadian Department of National Defence, the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

RUSI(NS) also publishes:

A weekly Dimensions Newsletter, (formally called *Defence & Security Newsletter*) aimed at opinion leaders and industry. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, email admin@duncom.ca;

Information on the 2021 Canadian Naval Memorial Trust Essay Competition is at the end of *Dispatches*.

Events:

RUSI(NS) Annual General Meeting 2021

1900 hours, Wednesday 24 March, via Zoom

Tom Birchall, Secretary/Treasurer, in an email (Fri, 26 Feb 2021 at 15:43), distributed:

Notice of Meeting

Agenda

Draft minutes of 04 Mar 20

2020 Compiled Financial Statements

2021 Budget

Programme Report

Security Affairs Committee (SAC) Report

Veteran's Affairs Committee (VAC) report

President's Report

If you haven't got his email, check with Tom.

Zoom joining instructions will be emailed Monday, 22 March.

Events:

To list an event in *Dispatches*, email the CIO by noon Thursday. If you have an idea for a topic or speaker, please 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.

8 March, Monday - RCN International Women's Day Leadership Panel "Empowering women of the RCN to achieve an equitable future" in RCN celebration of International Women's Day. 1200-1300 EST. Registration details to follow.

8 March, Monday - The Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University "Seapower from a South American Perspective & Colombian Naval Strategy." Via Zoom. To register, see: <https://kielsepowerseries.com/en/the-americas-series.html>.

New: 8 March, Monday - USNORTHCOM and Arctic eTalks Team event "Leveraging the Arctic as a Region of Global Stability in a Sea of Change." 1000-1300 Mtn Std Time. For details, see poster at end of *Dispatches*.

9 March, Tuesday - Canadian International Council Victoria presentation "Struggles In The Spy House: Canada's Intelligence Efforts And Our Lost Secrets." 10-11:30 am PST. See: <https://thecic.org/event/cic-victoria-struggles-in-the-spy-house-canadas-intelligence-efforts-and-our-lost-secrets/>.

10-12 March, Wednesday-Friday - Canadian Defence Associations Institute Ottawa Conference on Security and Defence. In its 89th year, conference proposes a slate of speakers that includes: Minister Harjit Sajjan, former Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Deputy Minister Jody Thomas, Deputy Minister Marta Morgan of Global Affairs Canada, NATO Deputy Secretary General Mircea Geoana, US Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John Hyten, NORAD/USNORTHCOM Commander General Glen VanHerck and experts from around the world. Topics range from great power competition and below the threshold warfare, AI and cyber threats, security in space, Arctic sovereignty and climate change, NATO 2030, NORAD modernization, and extremism. The event consists of half days for easier scheduling. For currently serving members with an @forces.gc.ca email, CAF/DND has taken care of the registration with no cost to the individuals. There is a DND/CAF button on the main registration page (<https://cdainstitute.ca/ottawa-conference-2021/>) that can be used. There is also a student price.

11 March, Thursday - The Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University "Brazilian Naval Strategy & China and IUU Problems in South America." Via Zoom. To register, see: <https://kielsepowerseries.com/en/the-americas-series.html>.

17 March, Wednesday – RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker Cora Pictou, Transport Canada, titled "Marine Security Operations Centre East." 1300-1500. To register, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com by close of business Sun, 14 Mar. As subject line for your registration email, put: RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker 17 March 2021 Registration. The event will be done by Zoom. Instructions will be emailed by end Mon, 15 Mar.

30 March, Tuesday - Centre for International Governance Innovation presentation "National Security Challenges in the 21st Century: A discussion with Vincent Rigby, National Security and Intelligence Advisor to the Prime Minister." 1:30-2:30 pm EST. See: <https://www.cigionline.org/events/national-security-challenges-21st-century-discussion-vincent-rigby-national-security-and>.

Recent Publications:

Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University "The Americas Series" (Zoom recording) presentation "Americas as a Market & Mexico Naval Strategy," 10 February 2021
<https://kielseapowerseries.com/en/the-americas-series.html>

Naval Association of Canada Presentation "AOPS/JSS In Service Support (AJISS)" by Jamie Turcotte, 1 February 2021
<https://nac-o.wildapricot.org/resources/OTTAWA%20BRANCH/Documents/Meetings/Thales%20AJISS%20presentation%20to%20NAC%20Feb%201%202021%20Final.pdf>.

Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association "On Watch" 3rd edition
https://send.successbyemail.com/prvw_message2.aspx?chno=be60b8fd-3e56-405e-bc7d-9051bf28ad10

The Edmonton United Services Institute President's Enews March 2021 is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

The Military Institute of Windsor Communiqué Volume XXXIX Number 3 March 2021 is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

The United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island Newsletter Vol 29 No 03 March 2021 is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

New: US Northern Command's The Watch, Issue 3, Great Power Competition, was released today on our magazine website @ <https://thewatch-magazine.com/> and to read as a PDF: <https://thewatch-magazine.com/v3-eng/>

NAADSN_RDSNAA @NAADSN_RDSNAA 3 Mar tweeted:
📢 3rd issue of "The Watch" @NORADCommand @USNorthernCmd features articles by @NAADSN_RDSNAA's @WhitneyLackenb1 & Adam Lajeunesse "Arctic Security: A Canadian Perspective" @ArcticTroy & Cameron Carlson "The Emerging Information Environment" <https://thewatch-magazine.com>

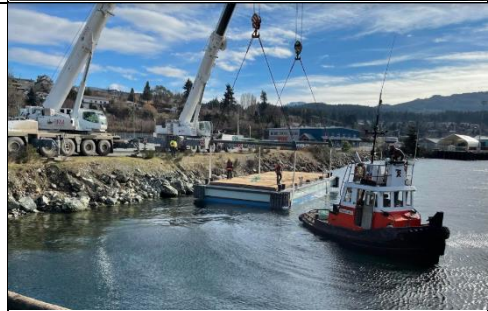


Tweeted by @RUSI_NS: RUSI(NS) tweets may also be viewed by clicking on the icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something tweeted or retweeted, email the CIO at RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com. Original article title in parentheses.

The Naval Association of Canada @navalasn 26 Feb tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Auditor General's Report: "Overall we found that during the audit period, the National Shipbuilding Strategy was slow to deliver the combat and non-combat ships Canada needs". https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_oag_202102_02_e_43748.html (National Shipbuilding Strategy)



Canadian Maritime Engineering launched 4 500-series barges 11Feb21 to deliver to @RoyalCanNavy Queen's Harbour Master Esquimalt. Strong port services enable a capable navy. Balanced navy include barges, tugs, #QHM people in addition to submarines, frigates, oilers #RCNavy #NSS





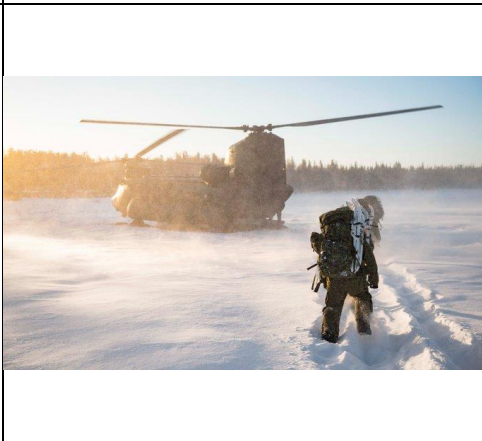

don d'entremont @DonaldEntremont tweeted 26 Feb: Early start for Glenbrook, Granville and Merrickville. RUSI(NS) retweeted: 'Glen' is class name used for generations of @RoyalCanNavy large yard tugs (YTB). Hopefully tradition will be continued with 4 tugs to be built by Groupe Océan under Naval Large Tug project <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/app-acq/amd-dp/mer-sea/sncn-nss/naval-largegros-eng.html> Keel-laying of NLT1 anticipated soon



Fisheries and Oceans @FishOceansCAN 24 Feb tweeted: "Dark" vessels will switch off location transmitters to avoid detection, sometimes to engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. We're using new satellite technology to find these vessels and combat illegal fishing around the world. Learn more: <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-launches-international-program-to-track-illegal-fishing-using-satellite-technology.html>



(Government of Canada launches international program to track illegal fishing using satellite technology)
Bernadette Jordan @BernJordanMP Feb 24 retweeted: Illegal fishing threatens our fish stocks & takes resources from hard-working fishers. Through the Dark Vessel Detection program, Canada is partnering with ocean nations to better detect unauthorized vessels & stop illegal fishing Arrow pointing rightwards then curving downwards
[twitter.com/FishOceansCAN/...](https://twitter.com/FishOceansCAN/)

<p>RUSI(NS) retweeted: Countering illegal, unreported & unregulated #IUU fishing a traditional naval (constabulary) mission. @RoyalCanNavy ships have long conducted fisheries patrols at home & abroad. #RCNavy has ocean surveillance capability to make major international contribution #TeamworkAtSea</p>	
<p>Jay Janzen @Jay_Janzen 1 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Additional evidence that Canada is not immune from foreign interference in the information environment. Our relationship with @NATO targeted. Indicator we need to continue work with allies to counter #DISINFO . #WeAreNATO (Canada Mentioned Over 300 Times in Deleted Russian GRU And IRA Twitter Posts https://disinfowatch.org/canada-mentioned-over-300-times-in-deleted-russian-gru-and-ira-twitter-posts/)</p>	
<p>CCFL @Cmdre_Feltham Feb 23 tweeted: HMCS HARRY DEWOLF operating in ice building the skills and experience for arctic operation in this critical new capability for Canada through the Royal Canadian Navy. Thanks to our friends at Joint Task Force North, 436 Squadron and ACCE(N)for the wonderful imagery. #RCN RUSI(NS) retweeted: Media appellation 'slushbreaker' can be put to rest. @HMCSHarryDeWolf conducts ice trials as far north as 62 degrees latitude. @RoyalCanNavy #Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessels #AOPV designed as ice-capable to 1.2m ice #ExcellenceAt(Ice)Se</p>	
<p>JTF North / FOI Nord @JTFN_FOIN 4 Mar tweeted: Rise and shine! It's just another day at the office for the #OpNANOOK-NUNALIVUT 21 Land Task Force as they board a #RCAF CH-147F Chinook helicopter and head out for the day! #NorthStrong #ArcticOps RUSI(NS) retweeted: Operation NANOOK #OpNANOOK https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-nanook.html @CanadianForces guards CAN🇨🇦 sovereignty; improves operating in #Arctic; improves coord with Indigenous, fed & territorial gov'ts & northern partners; works with partners to respond better to safety & security issues in North</p>	
<p>1 CRPG-1GPRC @1CRPG_1GPRC 4 Mar tweeted" Day 1 of the Sandy Lake Type 3 patrol, 25 Feb, started out with a lecture from RI Sgt Corey Rein. Construction of the airstrip was conducted by the Hay River patrol led by Ranger MCpl Warren Gibb. @RCAF_ARC Twin Otter from 440 (T) Sqn did a fly by to check it out. #Vigilans RUSU(NS) retweeted: #CanadianRangers construct airstrip, a task more than we southerners think Ranger Patrols perform. Demonstrate great utility in CAN🇨🇦 North for emergency</p>	

response "Cornerstone for Community Disaster Resilience in Canada's Remote & Isolated Communities" <https://rusi-ns.ca/canadian-ranger>

Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute NS with comments:

East Coast Navy Divers Take on a Minnesota Lake, As Service Eyes Greater Arctic Presence
<https://news.usni.org/2021/02/19/east-coast-navy-divers-take-on-a-minnesota-lake-as-service-eyes-greater-arctic-presence>



In last week's Dispatches, a question as a statement was posed in one of our Facebook postings: "To what extent the Canadian Rangers are involved (in Arctic diving operations) is a question - one can be assured they are at least providing support to diving operations."

In response, contacts with the Canadian Rangers and other contacts contributed the following:

1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (CPRG) is involved annually in supporting Royal Canadian Navy dive operations in the high Arctic as part of Operation NANOOK-NUNALIVUT. In 2021, due to COVID, the operation will be limited, but the dive portion will still take place, though on Great Slave Lake near Yellowknife. The typical CPRG role in supporting dive operations is predator control, but depending upon the complexity of the operation, CPRG tasks may involve supporting the move plan to get to the dive location, along with camp set up and camp routine tasks.

Within 2 CRPG, when requested to assist or facilitate dive training, Rangers provide community liaison, site reconnaissance, predator control and general support. In recent years, there has been occasional involvement of 2 CPRG with dive training.

Technologists from the Defence Research and Development Canada's Atlantic Research Centre have left this week to support the annual ice diving activities as part of the Op NANOOK-NUNALIVUT 2021.

As for support to HMCS HARRY DEWOLF during her ice trials, Rangers are not currently involved. One can be optimistic that there will be the opportunity to support Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessels in the future.

Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute NS: RUSI(NS) postings may be viewed by clicking on the icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something posted or commented, email the CIO by noon Thursday.

 <h1>Focus</h1> <p>MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE</p> <p>https://mailchi.mp/rusi.org/highlights-from-rusi-in-february2021-171162?e=a539211a30</p>	
<p>Makers of next-generation fighter jets tout economic benefits as Ottawa readies COVID-19 stimulus plans</p> <p>https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/makers-of-next-generation-fighter-jets-tout-economic-benefits-as-ottawa-readies-covid-19-stimulus-plans</p>	
<p>New report flags Chinese push to field support ships, planes for greater reach</p> <p>https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2021/02/25/new-report-flags-chinese-push-to-field-support-ships-planes-for-greater-reach/</p>	
<p>TIM DUNNE: Cy Clayton — a natural-born soldier, legendary mentor for Canadian Forces officers</p> <p>https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/opinion/local-perspectives/tim-dunne-cy-clayton-a-natural-born-soldier-legendary-mentor-for-canadian-forces-officers-557279/</p>	

Alberta veteran recalls his experience 30 years after the Gulf War

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7667257/alberta-veteran-gulf-war-memories/>



Vietnam strengthens fortifications in disputed South China Sea, satellite images reveal

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/asia-pacific/2021/02/26/vietnam-strengthens-fortifications-in-disputed-south-china-sea-satellite-images-reveal/>



See images of a secretive Israeli nuclear facility undergoing major construction

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/mideast-africa/2021/02/26/see-images-of-a-secretive-israeli-nuclear-facility-undergoing-major-construction/>



Canada's new frigate is getting heavier and more expensive

<https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2021/02/26/canadas-new-frigate-is-getting-heavier-more-expensive/>



DND refuses to change course on warship project even as price rises to \$77 billion

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/dnd-refuses-to-change-course-on-warship-project-even-as-price-rises-to-77-billion>



What's preventing Taiwan from preparing for potential war?

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/asia-pacific/2021/03/01/whats-preventing-taiwan-from-preparing-for-potential-war/>



South China Sea: PLA starts month-long drill in push to modernise soldiers while resisting US operations

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3123576/south-china-sea-pla-embarks-month-long-drill-push-modernise>



Cyber War

This report is a service of David Swan. It is intended to provide you with information in accordance with the guidelines you provided. The format is an Intelligence Report or INTREP for short. It contains 'observations', meaning headlines and links to information published online. It *may* contain a brief comment on the observations.

If this report does not meet your requirements, is in error or if you need additional information and/or analysis, please contact David Swan or email swdswan@yahoo.ca

This report covers the following selected topics from 20 Feb – 5 Mar 2021:

[China vs Indian Infrastructure](#)

[SolarWinds](#)

[Mac Malware \(Silver Sparrow\)](#)

[Microsoft Exchange \(eMail\) Servers Hacked](#)

China vs Indian Infrastructure

Observations

210301

[Mumbai Outage Example Of China Targeting India Power Facilities: Report](#)

210302

[Alleged China-linked APT41 group targets Indian critical infrastructures](#)

[Chinese Hackers Targeted India's Power Grid Amid Geopolitical Tensions](#)

[Mumbai power outage could have been cyber sabotage, says minister](#)

Comments

There is considerably more reporting on both the power outage in Mumbai as well as the Chinese penetration of the Indian power grid.

Analysis

1. There is enough forensic analysis that the assessment that APT41 is the attacker can be considered *HIGHLY LIKELY*. This infers that mainland China is behind the attacks.
2. The use of nation vs nation cyber attacks on critical infrastructure is becoming common-place. Russia has cyber-attacked infrastructure during conflicts with: Georgia, Estonia and Ukraine. Israel and Iran have both attacked each others infrastructure. Previous Chinese administrations used cyber attacks, mostly focused on neighbours in South-East Asia, notably on the Philippines.

Assessment

Cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure such as the electrical grid and water treatment plants *should be expected*.

SolarWinds

Observations

210302

[SolarWinds executives blame intern for 'solarwinds123' password lapse](#)

[SolarWinds security fiasco may have started with simple password blunders](#)

210303

[Ex-NSA chief: No idea how badly SolarWinds hack harmed security](#)

Comments

1. In previous reporting I had noted that several years ago SolarWinds had changed its CEO, who in turn made changes to the company structure in order to make it more profitable.
2. The Jerusalem Post article has a number of significant observations including:
 - A. The admission by Mike Rodgers former head of the NSA, that the United States has no understanding of how badly the SolarWinds hack has harmed computer security;

B. Former IDF Unit 8200 (the Israeli NSA) commander, Nadav Zafrir, said: “the lines are blurred between nation states and criminals. Sometimes nation states will piggyback on criminals, so if it [a hack they undertook] is out in the open, they don’t need to take the blame for it.”¹ and

C. “... too many company boards are not only failing to define who are their threat actors, but in some cases are “not even on a path to a sufficient answer.”²

Analysis

1. There is no way to justify an ‘Intern’ being able to use a poor password. Worse, attackers ability to penetrate SolarWinds internal network and especially their development stream without detection demonstrates the lack of internal security. SolarWinds had no appreciation that *THEY* were a high value target. The SolarWinds executives had no appreciation that their internal security was essential overhead.

Assessment

The current state of ‘hacking’ (in general) is analogous to the earliest days of unrestricted submarine warfare in the North Atlantic in WW I. Like the unprotected merchant ships, companies have a very limited understanding of what they are facing. Worse, executives continue to refuse to perceive the threat while governments have no effective counter-measures.

Mac Malware (Silver Sparrow)

Observations

210222

[Mysterious Silver Sparrow Malware Found Nesting on 30K Macs](#)

[Mac malware for new and old machines found, payload a mystery](#)

Comments

1. Many ‘Mac’ users think that they are immune from computer viruses and malware. This is myth. To hackers Mac’s are more expensive computers and therefore Mac owners are people with the money to purchase more expensive hardware. That makes Mac users “high payoff targets”.

2. This attack focused on the new, Apple manufactured, “M1” CPU. The hacker made it both forward and backward compatible, making the hack effective across a wide

1 <https://www.jpost.com/jpost-tech/ex-nsa-chief-no-idea-how-badly-solarwinds-hack-harmed-security-660268>

2 <https://www.jpost.com/jpost-tech/ex-nsa-chief-no-idea-how-badly-solarwinds-hack-harmed-security-660268>

range of higher end Apple computers.

3. To date no payload has been detected so the attackers objective remains unknown. The Security engineers who discovered the malware speculate that the most probable payload is ‘Adware’. “Adware” generates money for its creators by generating fake advertising.

4. “But despite ascertaining that Silver Sparrow was present on 29,139 machines in 153 countries — including big numbers in the US, the UK, Canada, France and Germany — the Red Canary duo said they were yet to observe the delivery of any malicious payloads.”

"Yet, its forward-looking M1 chip compatibility, global reach, relatively high infection rate, and operational maturity suggest Silver Sparrow is a reasonably serious threat, uniquely positioned to deliver a potentially impactful payload at a moment's notice," they wrote."³

Analysis

1. The development of malware for Apple's M1 chip demands a high level of engineering skill. Further, this payload is exclusive to higher end Mac's.

- A. I *ASSESS* that Adware with its relatively low payoff for its operators is *UNLIKELY* to be the intended payload.
- B. More *PROBABLE* malware payloads include:
 - ransomware (high payoff for hackers),
 - hacking corporate networks (high payoff, variable risk) and
 - selling access to other hackers (Low risk, medium payoff).

2. This hacking effort *INDICATES* a sustained, high intensity effort, by a top tier hacking group.

Microsoft Exchange (eMail) Servers Hacked

Observations

210303

[Microsoft: Multiple Exchange Server Zero-Days Under Attack by Chinese Hacking Group](#)

[Microsoft: Chinese Cyberspies Used 4 Exchange Server Flaws to Plunder Emails](#)

Comments

3 <https://itwire.com/security/mac-malware-for-new-and-old-machines-found,-payload-a-mystery.html>

1. Microsoft has already issued a patch for the “zero-day vulnerabilities” detected on January 6th. This is an “out of stream” patch.
2. The attackers used servers hosted in the United States, complicating both detection and attribution. Data / eMail copied off the servers are sent to leased servers in the United States before being exported to China. I note there is no indication of how long the vulnerabilities have existed nor how long the hacks have been in place.
3. Microsoft Exchange servers have been operating since the middle 1990’s and remain common in corporate networks.
4. “Microsoft pinned the blame on a sophisticated Chinese APT operator called HAFNIUM that operates from leased VPS (virtual private servers) in the United States. HAFNIUM primarily targets entities in the U.S. across a number of industry sectors, including infectious disease researchers, law firms, higher education institutions, defense contractors, policy think tanks, and NGOs.”⁴

Analysis

This hack is potentially equivalent to SolarWinds. Microsoft Exchange Servers are eMail hubs (think major post-offices). Worse, eMail servers are often shared resources because they are complex and expensive, potentially expanding the impact of the hack. The speed at which Microsoft responded indicated a ‘critical’ hack. Any compromised organization that did not use desktop to desktop encryption (relatively uncommon) will have lost its mail calendar and linked activities to mainland China.

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4 <https://www.securityweek.com/microsoft-4-exchange-server-zero-days-under-attack-chinese-apt-group>

Other Sources: Recommendations for ‘themes’ (e.g., #drones) to list in this section are welcome.

#Arctic

Responding to Russia’s Northern Fleet

<https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2021/march/responding-russias-northern-fleet>

#cyber operations

The Evolving Cyber Threat Landscape during the Coronavirus Crisis

https://css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/pdfs/23122020_CyberThreatLandscapeCoronaCrisis.pdf

Sieges, Containerships, and Ecosystems: Rethinking Maritime Cybersecurity
<https://cimsec.org/sieges-containerships-and-ecosystems-rethinking-maritime-cybersecurity/>

Sea Blind: Pacing Cybersecurity's Evolving Impact on Maritime Operations
<https://cimsec.org/sea-blind-pacing-cybersecuritys-evolving-impact-on-maritime-operations/>

#Department of National Defence

What Can The British Armed Forces Learn From the Civil Service? | Thin Pinstriped Line
<https://thinpinstripedline.blogspot.com/2021/02/what-can-british-armed-forces-learn.html>

#drones

The Future is Unmanned: Why the Navy's Next Generation Fighter Shouldn't Have a Pilot
<https://cimsec.org/the-future-is-unmanned-why-the-navys-next-generation-fighter-shouldnt-have-a-pilot/>

#exercises

Able Archer War Scare "Potentially Disastrous"
<https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/aa83/2021-02-17/able-archer-war-scare-potentially-disastrous>
In the article are links to interesting reports.

"What might have happened that day in November 1983 if we had begun a precautionary generation of forces" against a Soviet alert in response to the Able Archer 83 NATO nuclear release exercise?"

#Future Fighter Capability

Makers of next-generation fighter jets tout economic benefits as Ottawa readies COVID-19 stimulus plans
<https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/makers-of-next-generation-fighter-jets-tout-economic-benefits-as-ottawa-readies-covid-19-stimulus-plans>

#grand strategy

The end of the old order shakes Australia's grand strategy
<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/the-end-of-the-old-order-shakes-australias-grand-strategy/>
What changes are occurring in Canada's grand strategy?

#hybrid warfare

The Landscape of Hybrid Threats
<https://dgap.org/de/forschung/publikationen/landscape-hybrid-threats>

#information operations

The Tense Relationship Between The Military And The Media
<https://www.forces.net/opinion/lima-charlie-tense-relationship-between-military-and-media>

The Army's Information Operations Profession Has an Identity Crisis
<https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2021/march/armys-information-operations-profession-has-identity-crisis>

#shipbreaking

Croatia becomes 16th member of IMO's Hong Kong Convention
No Canada signature yet: <https://www.offshore-energy.biz/croatia-becomes-16th-member-of-imos-hong-kong-convention/>

At least it doesn't appear that we have any government ships coming up to go to the breakers.

#warfare

China's Three Information Warfares

<https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2021/march/chinas-three-information-warfares>

#wargaming

Reviewing The Craft of Wargaming

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2021/3/1/reviewing-the-craft-of-wargaming>

This and other wargaming articles have and will be posted to Dispatches as a lead to what is hoped will be our 16 Jun 21 Distinguished Speaker, a member of the Canadian Joint Warfare Centre to speak on wargaming.

Other:

The Northern Mariner

The Northern Mariner/Le marin du nord is an academic journal published quarterly by the The Canadian Nautical Research Society and the North American Society for Oceanic History. It focuses on the maritime, coastal community, and naval history (including inland waterways) of the northern hemisphere. Our authors come from academia, industry, the heritage sector, government, and the general public.

The Northern Mariner publishes research articles, research notes, commentaries, review essays, and book reviews.

- Articles present original research and should normally not exceed 9000 words, inclusive of footnotes and table/figure captions, but excluding the reference list.
- Research notes, which may be a maximum of 5000 words, discuss research in progress, methodological approaches, historiographical debates, and other aspects of the research process.
- Commentaries, generally between 1000 and 5000 words, introduce and assess historical documents, maps, works of art, artefacts, technology, and other aspects of material culture.
- Review essays up to 9000 words in length review the state of research on a particular topic or subject area.
- On average, *TNM/Lmn* reviews more than 300 new books each year, making it the most convenient and comprehensive way to keep abreast of new works.

Perks to publishing with *TNM/Lmn*: fully open access, a broad and engaged audience, quick publication (aiming for three months max. from submission), and an editor that will do everything possible to promote the piece. We are also transitioning to a new online journal format to improve accessibility and reach new audiences.

If you have an article, note, commentary or review essay that you would be willing to contribute (or an idea for one), please contact the editor, Dr. Peter Kikkert, Irving Shipbuilding Chair in Arctic Policy, Mulroneu Institute of Government, St. Francis Xavier University, at pkikkert@stfx.ca.

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

The Russian Scene

Russia has sentenced Alexei Navalny to two years eight months of jail time. This week saw Mr. Navalny being taken to an obscure prison camp outside Moscow. The EU and the US have both instituted sanctions against key Russian officials believed to be involved in the ‘trumped’ up charges and sentence. The EU Courts have already investigated the charges against Mr. Navalny and found them to be without merit and view these charges as political in nature. This has not deterred the courts controlled by the Putin regime which also fined him for defamation of character against a Second World War veteran used by the regime in pro-Government commercials. Demonstrations are continuing but are being more discrete taking into account the weather. It should be noted that these demonstrations are widely scattered even within cities which forces security forces to redeploy. Usually this means the demonstration disperses prior to the arrival of security forces. This tactic wears the security forces down while also using social media to ensure people know they occurred.

Russia’s opposition is also scattered in other respects. Mr. Navalny is a catalyst but he is not widely considered a viable alternative to the Putin Regime. He has made a name for himself as an investigator of Government corruption and has gained some fame and respect in this regard. He has also had a history of anti-immigrant views and comments. Some demonstrators are motivated by other acts by the Government such as the arrest of the popularly elected Governor of Khabarovsk in the Far east. He was arrested for murder which most of the population view as false charges. His replacement is a Putin appointment.

Presently, the main weakness in Russia is the reliance on a single person in the form of Putin. There is no other leader in waiting. His push for a “Great Russia” has also had its missteps and has caused the country to use resources that it simply no longer has available. The result is a loss of economic power for individual citizens. The Nord Sea 2 pipeline could still be a victim of US/EU sanctions versus Russian activities despite it nearly being complete at the cost of billions. The effect on the Russian economy would be significant. Europe is of two minds as they do not wish to be reliant on Russia but at the same time is concerned with future US actions as well.

As an example of this overreach (in some respects) this past week saw Russia and Sudan sign an agreement for the use of a Sudanese port for a Russian Naval Base at considerable expense. Interestingly, this is actually not a bad plan for a country with delusions of grandeur such as Russia. It now has two naval bases that could provide a way to cut a major supply route for oil to the West. One base is located at Tartus in Syria and the new base in Port Sudan in Sudan. This port was visited by one of Russia’s most modern vessels, the Admiral Grigorovich on 28 February, just before the signing of the agreement.

Russia’s ongoing hacking has been highly successful as our cyber-security advisor has stated and reported on this past couple months. The new US administration has made it clear that the previous administrations liberal attitude to Russian actions will no longer be tolerated. One example of this was US strikes against Iranian targets within Syria with little or no warning or regard to Russian forces on the ground. This is definitely a different signal.

Other issues that are still a concern to Russia is the ongoing low-level disagreement in Nagorno Karabakh which continues to be a festering sore. Belorussian demonstrations are continuing but adjusted to meet the actions of the Lukashenko regime and of course the weather. Other former Soviet

Republics continue to pull away either to the West or towards China. Russia is increasingly tied up in Syria and Libya without any end in sight. Russia's economy is anemic and has been devastated by the pandemic. The exact level of economic loss is as yet undetermined but with an economy smaller than Canada's. The bottom line is that Russia is beset and surrounded by a sea of unrest and potential challenges and conflicts.

The China Overview

The Communist Chinese Party (CCP) has, unsurprisingly, condemned and criticized countries that have now stated in various ways that the CCP is carrying out a genocide of the Uyghur people in occupied East Turkistan also known as Xinjiang province to the CCP. Some countries and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) have now called for a boycott of the Beijing Olympics as a result. The International Olympic Committee has stated often that the games are apolitical and an opportunity to bring people together in sports. One Canadian commentator has compared this to the 1936 Olympics where the Nazi Regime used the Olympics as a showcase of the superiority of the German Volk and National Socialist system. It did not work out well as one might remember. The CCP and the Putin Regime have also used the Olympics as a showcase of their alleged success. The Olympics and other major sports events are political and will be used by regimes for their own purposes. The world knows this is true and one has to wonder why this is recognized and not dealt with appropriately such as moving the venue.

Meng Wanzhou is again in court in British Columbia battling her extradition to the US on fraud charges by misrepresenting Huawei's involvement in another company doing business with Iran. This time her lawyers are arguing that President Trump 'poisoned' the waters by stating that her disposition could be part of a future trade deal. This argument is expected to fail and it becomes another step towards her extradition to the US. In the meantime, the two Michaels and many other Canadians are held in in CCP jails. Four Canadian citizens have been sentenced to death and the Michaels have been forced to live in conditions that are essentially considered torture by most countries. Prime Minister Trudeau has finally called the charges trumped up after gaining stronger US support for their release.

On another note, the CCP is starting the Chinese People Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) today, Thursday, March 4, 2021. It is expected to do a number of things including passing the 14th Five Year Plan and to anoint Xi Jinping as the party Leader again. Commentators have noticed that CCP mouthpieces no longer refer to the Party but to Xi alone in their articles. Xi seems to have achieved something no one since Mao has done; become the sole and primary leader of China noting that there is no identified successor to Xi. Xi's views will bring him into direct conflict with the West and Liberal democracies. The push for unification with Taiwan is almost a certainty, probably by force before 2025. If that were to occur, will the west react or will it allow the takeover to occur with little more effort than the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia in 1938. The parallels to Nazi Germany's behavior are growing and the CCP becomes bolder with each passing day.

The CCP Peoples' Liberation Army Navy and other elements will be conducting major exercises in the same area as the US Navy and Allies. This exercise will include a major landing exercise away from the Chinese mainland. No cause for concern there! If Xi remains in power; there will be trouble of a significant nature. The West and other countries will have to decide when enough is enough. This would include Russia in that equation as elements of the CCP covet the Russian Far east including Vladivostok, Khabarovsk as well as its large oil and mineral deposits with a tiny population. It is ripe for exploitation. One tends to forget that about a third of Russia nuclear weapons are not aimed at the West but somewhere else. They say they are friends but the old saying reputedly

from the Romans: "Keep your friends close but your enemies even closer." I cannot think of a situation that is anymore truer than the Russian Chinese "friendship."

On other fronts....

Enough for this effort but there is so much happening...not reported in Canadian media which is totally consumed by Covid 24 hrs a day 7 days a week which leaves most Canadians living in the dark. One has only to notice the total lack of information and reporting from two massive countries- India and China, yet nothing from half the world's population.

On another matter, the media have shown interest in the Type 26 frigate program as always a negative way as they do with all military procurement projects such as new fighters or even minor projects such as the pistol replacement project. Looking back at the days of CD Howe, his efforts to equip the armed forces and to develop industry to fight the war were amazing and low and behold things got done...mind you in Ontario and Quebec and not the rest of the country. It reminds us why Crown Corporations were formed and we are sorely in need of something now along the same line.

Lastly, our veterans. Listening to the Desmond inquiry, one is struck by the testimony of the various witnesses who tried their best for Lionel Desmond. The structural issues are amazing between being in the service and leaving for the care of provincial programs. One has to wonder whether the right decision was made to place veterans under the control of a Provincial Health authority. Canada has lots of veterans, they are just not Second World War Veterans or even Korea veterans - no one is actually sure how many there are, no one is keeping track, but it could be as high as a million by one account but they are now the concern of the Provinces. No issues there when the responsibility for the damage whether by accidents or enemy action or just the day to day wear and tear caused by a very rough life both physically and mentally on behalf of the Federal Government. The real problem continues to be the lack of responsibility by the Federal Government alone. No one should leave the service without the necessary services and access to Federal medical services; it isn't on behalf of the Provinces that the injuries were done but the country .

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of National defence need to re-build their hospital and clinic system and take away the burden from the ill-equipped Provinces such that a veteran never leaves the care and responsibility of the Federal Government in such a way that there is no seam between DND and DVA and not to the Province. It is the old case of "you break them, you fix them" and not hand it off to those unprepared or equipped to deal with the issue. The real problem was the inclusion of military personnel who retire into Provincial systems.

2021 CANADIAN NAVAL MEMORIAL TRUST

Essay Competition

Canadian Naval Review will be holding its annual essay competition again in 2021. There will be a prize of \$1,000 for the best essay, provided by the **Canadian Naval Memorial Trust**. The winning essay will be published in *CNR*. (Other non-winning essays will also be considered for publication, subject to editorial review.)

Essays submitted to the contest should relate to the following topics:

- Canadian maritime security;
- Canadian naval policy;
- Canadian naval issues;
- Canadian naval operations;
- History/historical operations of the Canadian Navy;
- Global maritime issues (such as piracy, smuggling, fishing, environment);
- Canadian oceans policy and issues;
- Arctic maritime issues;
- Maritime transport and shipping.

If you have any questions about a particular topic, contact cnrcoord@icloud.com.

Contest Guidelines and Judging

- Submissions for the 2021 *CNR* essay competition must be received at cnrcoord@icloud.com by Wednesday, **30 September 2021**.
- Submissions are not to exceed 3,000 words (excluding references). Longer submissions will be penalized in the adjudication process.
- Submissions cannot have been published elsewhere.
- All submissions must be in electronic format and any accompanying photographs, images, or other graphics and tables must also be included as a separate file.

The essays will be assessed by a panel of judges on the basis of a number of criteria including readability, breadth, importance, accessibility and relevance. The decision of the judges is final. All authors will be notified of the judges' decision within two months of the submission deadline.

FONDS DE COMMÉMORATION DE LA MARINE CANADIENNE 2021

Concours de rédaction

La *Canadian Naval Review* tiendra à nouveau son concours annuel de rédaction en 2021. L'auteur(e) du meilleur article recevra un prix de 1 000 \$, gracieuseté du **Fonds de commémoration de la marine canadienne**, et son article sera publié dans la *Canadian Naval Review*. (Des articles non retenus pourraient aussi être publiés, sous réserve d'une révision éditoriale.)

Les articles présentés dans le cadre de ce concours doivent porter sur l'un ou l'autre des sujets suivants :

- Sécurité maritime canadienne
- Politique navale canadienne
- Questions touchant la Marine canadienne
- Opérations navales canadiennes
- Histoire/opérations antérieures de la Marine canadienne
- Problèmes maritimes à l'échelle internationale (comme la piraterie, la contrebande, la pêche et l'environnement)
- Politiques et problèmes concernant les océans canadiens
- Problèmes maritimes dans l'Arctique
- Transport et expédition par voie maritime

Si vous avez des questions sur un sujet en particulier, veuillez envoyer un courriel à l'adresse cnrcoord@icloud.com.

Lignes directrices du concours et sélection du gagnant

- Les articles présentés dans le cadre du concours de 2021 de la *CNR* doivent être envoyés au plus tard le lundi **30 septembre 2021** à cnrcoord@icloud.com.
- Ils doivent contenir 3 000 mots au maximum. Ceux qui dépassent ce nombre de mots seront pénalisés au cours du processus de sélection.
- Les articles ne doivent jamais avoir été publiés auparavant.
- Tous les articles doivent être soumis en format électronique, et les photographies, les images ou toute autre représentation graphique et les tableaux qui les accompagnent doivent être envoyés dans un fichier distinct.

Les articles seront évalués par un jury en fonction d'un certain nombre de critères, dont la lisibilité, la profondeur, l'importance, l'accessibilité et la pertinence. La décision du jury est sans appel. Les auteur(e)s seront informés de la décision du jury dans un délai de deux mois suivant la date limite de la présentation des articles.

SPECIAL ARCTIC EVENT

Leveraging the Arctic As a Region of Global Stability in a Sea of Change

MARCH 8, 2021 1000-1300 MTN STD TIME

Throughout the world women play a pivotal role in military, security, and resilience operations. Their complex and powerful relationships with each other, their communities, and the environments in which they live represent a critical set of tools, partners and allies that are often underutilized or misunderstood. In celebration of International Women's Day we will host a symposium on 8 March to examine Women, Peace, and Security as dimensions of Arctic security. Arctic security experts from U.S. and Canadian militaries, the Department of Homeland Security, and Academic Institutions will provide insights about this complex human terrain and its vital importance to Alaska and Canada's High North. Discussions will include trade-offs, risks, and opportunities to engage local populations, particularly rural and indigenous women, around issues of resiliency and sustainability. The overall objective is to advance economic development and environmental sustainability by enhancing regional security and influence in the face of global power competition.

Military speakers include Major General Michelle Rose, U.S. Army, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) J4, Director of Logistics and Engineering; Brigadier General Patrick Carpentier, Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), Commander, Joint Task Force North (JTF-N); Brigadier General Carla Harding, CAF, Director General, Support, Canadian Joint Operations Command; Commodore Jamie Clark, CAF, Deputy Director, Strategy, Policy and Plans, NORAD/NORTHCOM; Lt Colonel Craig Fleener, 11th Air Force. Civilian speakers include Major General (Ret) Randy "Church" Kee, U.S. Air Force, Executive Director Arctic Domain Awareness Center; Ms. Tammy Kendrew, Chief of Operations, Integration and Issues Management, Canada Border Services Agency, Northern Ontario Region; Commander Sean Moon, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret), Director, Global Strategies, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and Dr. L "Doc" Alessa, President's Professor and Director, The Center for Resilient Communities.

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