

# Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches

# 14 September 2018

*Dispatches* is a weekly collection of links and news of current interest, included those tweeted and posted by the Institute on social media. Everyone is encouraged to submit links and other content to the Institute's Chief Information Officer (CIO) at <u>RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</u> to be included in *Dispatches*. Comments to articles can be from members or non-members of RUSI(NS). If you do not want to receive *Dispatches*, or wish to receive it at some different frequency, please inform the CIO. Feedback is welcome anytime.

RUSI(NS) also publishes a weekly Defence & Security Newsletter, aimed at opinion leaders and industry. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter, email <u>admin@duncom.ca</u>.

Events: To list an event into *Dispatches*, email the CIO by noon Thursday.

17 September, Monday - Canadian Military Intelligence Association (CMIA) Halifax chapter lecture by LCol (ret'd) Ian MacVicar [RUSI(NS) member] on "Obstacles to Analysis – Uncovering Cognitive Traps." 1900 start, HMCS SCOTIAN.

19 September, Wednesday – Commander Nathan Decicco will speak of his recent experience as Commanding Officer of the frigate HMCS *Charlottetown* deployed up North on Operation NANOOK. 1130-1330. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

23 September, Sunday – Jewish Legion Centennial Society and the Town of Windsor Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Jewish Legion. 1-4 pm, Fort Edward National Historic Site, Windsor, NS. RSVP VanEssa Roberts, <u>vanessa@town.windsor.ns.ca</u>, 902-798-6679. RUSI(NS) members will recall the talk by our May 2018 Distinguished Speaker, Sara Beanlands, titled "The Training of the Jewish Legion at Fort Edward during the First World War" (<u>https://rusi-ns.ca/jewish-legion/</u>). See poster in 7 September 2018 *Dispatches*.

10 October, Wednesday – RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker Shelley Hopkins, Executive Director of the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre, on MFRC services to families of veterans released on medical grounds. 1130-1330. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

25 October, Thursday – Society of Atlantic Heroes "Gala for Heroes" Songwriters' Circle. 6-10 pm. Casino Nova Scotia. Dress: semi-formal (men: business suits, jacket & tie, medals optional; women: cocktail dress/slacks, medals optional; active duty persons - military, RCMP and all first responders: uniform with medals encouraged). Light appetizers and liquid refreshment will be served. To purchase a ticket, call 1-833-213-4376. Or purchase a table (10 people) online at: <u>https://ev9.evenue.net/cgibin/ncommerce3/SEGetEventInfo?ticketCode=PR:HALIFAX:C19:9AH25:9AH25P&linkID=halifax&sh opperContext=&caller=PR&appCode=&prc=9AH25P&pc=9AH25P RUSI(NS) has already arranged a table of five couples. If you want to start a second table, contact Ken Hoffer.</u>

7 November, Wednesday – save the date for the RUSI(NS) Remembrance Dinner. Evening. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

# **Publications:**

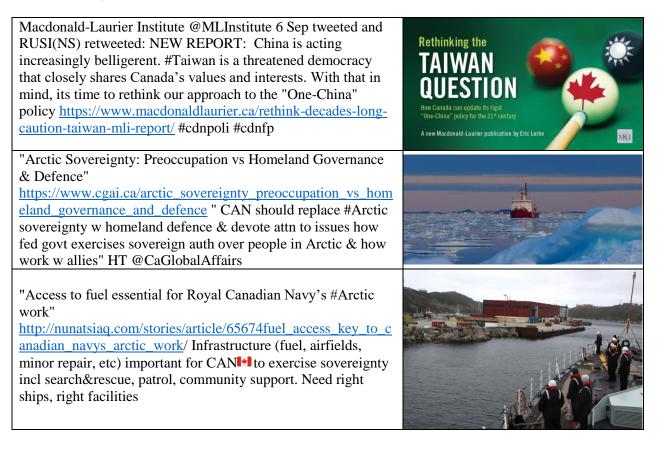
RUSI(NS) Information Note "Launch of Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessels" 5 September 2018 <u>https://rusi-ns.ca/launch-of-aopv/</u>

Remarks from readers and counter remarks from the author have been added to the RUSI(NS) Comments "Refuelling RCAF Aircraft Post-2020" 22 August 2018. https://rusi-ns.ca/refuelling-rcaf-aircraft-post-2020/

The Military Institute of Windsor Communiqué Volume XXXVI Number 8 September 2018 is available on request to <u>RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</u>. One of the articles in the Communiqué is "Specialty Weapons for D-Day, June 6, 1944."

The United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island (USINNI) Newsletter Vol 26 No 09 - September 2018 is available on request to <u>RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</u>.

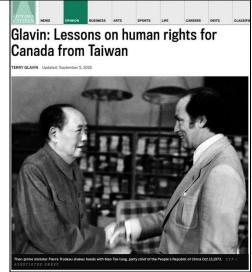
**Tweeted by** @**RUSI\_NS**: Original article title in parentheses. RUSI(NS) tweets may be viewed by clicking on the icon at <u>https://RUSI-NS.ca</u>. To have something tweeted or retweeted, email the CIO by noon Thursday.



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 5 Sep tweeted: Will a sixth Arctic Offshore Patrol Ship be built for the Royal Canadian Navy? https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defencewatch/will-a-sixth-arctic-offshore-patrol-ship-be-built-for-theroyal-canadian-navy/ RUSI(NS) retweeted: Decision soon on 6th #Artic&Offshore Patrol Vessel #AOPV would be timely as @IrvingShipbuild 430 making good progress with #AOPS project (3 ships now under construction), need avoid building gap before start CAN Surface Combatant #CSC HalifaxShippingNews @HfxShippingNews 13 Sep tweeted: Harry Dewolf Launch this Week - updated with tentative times (Harry Dewolf Launch this Week https://blog.halifaxshippingnews.ca/2018/09/harry-dewolfalmost.html) RUSI(NS) retweeted: RUSI(NS) Info Note "Launch of Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessels" https://rusi-ns.ca/launch-of-aopv/ Impending launch by @IrvingShipbuild of future #HMCSHarryDeWolf 1st of #RCNavy #Arctic & Offshore

# Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute NS with comments:

Taiwan can teach Canada a thing or two about human rights <u>https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3524769</u>



"Taiwan can Teach Canada a Thing or Two about Human Rights" is an article in the Taiwan News. Admittedly it is a very biased view, but it is commenting on an Ottawa Citizen article by Terry Glavin.

In his article, Terry Glavin states that Canada has shown extreme reluctance to criticize China for its belligerence in regard to Taiwan and really virtually all its neighbours. It also continues to conduct cultural genocide against the Tibetan and citizens of East Turkestan Muslims and other non-Han Chinese. Many of our allies have taken action against Chinese espionage efforts both against industrial, personal and military targets. Most recently, Huawei and ZTE were banned from the Australian 5G network development and in the Pacific. This is mainly due to connections of the senior leadership to

Patrol Vessels

Chinese intelligence organizations and that they are Communist Chinese Party (CCP) members.

It should be clear that there is a very clear distinction between Chinese people and the CCP. The CCP is little better than a gangster operation, using enforcers to set the program within the country. Even in Canada, Chinese "agents" have coerced family members in Canada to affect the actions of relatives in China.

China is not a friend, it is at best a competitor. At this point, Canada should approach any business relationship with some degree of caution. China does not work strictly on profit or loss model but also on influence and ability to corrupt or adjust national attitudes. One area of weakness is Canada's reluctance to spend money on Arctic development. Will China offer to build infrastructure as an example? It is something to watch.

The bottom line in this article is whether we truly believe in liberal democracy. If we do then logically we should re-visit the "One China Policy" and accept that Taiwan is a completely different country. We should not re-visit 1938 and the dismemberment of Czechoslovak Republic to Nazi Germany. China and, more importantly, the CCP should be called out on their activities and brutal tactics.

"Russia Prepares for Biggest Wargames in Its History"

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/russiaprepares-for-biggest-war-games-in-itshistory/articleshow/65748726.cms



This is a Times of India article by the editorial staff. The article is an Indian interpretation of the "Vostok 2018" exercises involving 300,000 Russian troops and some Chinese estimated to be about 3,200 contribution. It will be held in the Far East starting 11 September 2018.

Russia is also conducting exercises off the Syrian coast this past week ending 9 September involved 25 warships and auxiliaries and about thirty aircraft which involved live fire as well and landings on the Syrian coast by Russian Marines.

The article suggests that Russia expects a major war in the early 2020s.

It is a disturbing article, however, Russia continues to be an increasing mess internally. This summer the Duma posted Pension Reforms which drastically raises the pension ages. It actually attacked Putin's main constituency, older Russians. Demonstration supported by Alexandre Navalny took place across Russia. Putin's personal popularity has plummeted by 15% and more than one out of two Russians are now willing to demonstrate. The Rubles hit a new low at more than 70 ruble to the US dollar. There is increasing indication that Russia's financial figures are somewhat suspect and Russian growth may actually be a decline. Russia's interventions have also been less than popular longer term.

In past, dictators who have themselves in hot water have tried to find an external problem to focus the population attention on the "other" but with all Putin's wars and interventions, this may not be quite as easy as it previously was. Will Putin try to force the issues in Syria and thus try to focus on the US and potentially Turkey. It is worth a thought.

The article "China Launches First Domestically Built Icebreaker" announces the launching of Snow Dragon 2, a nearly 14,000 ton vessel with a crew and researchers of 90; more specifics on its dimensions are in the article.



http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201809/10/WS5b95a42ca31033b4f46550a7.ht ml

China has shown its long term interest in both the Antarctic and Arctic waters. It is something that Canada should be concerned about longer term especially coupled with Russia's increased moves in the Arctic. We should also be concerned about smaller players making deals with China for greater access. China is not shy about using money to gain access.

'Fake' Chemical Attack Filmed in Syria, Russian Military Claims

https://themoscowtimes.com/news/fake-chemical-attack-filmed-syria-russian-military-claims-62849



The article "Fake Chemical Attack Filmed in Syria. Russian Military Says is a type of operation we have seen Russia conduct time and time again. (Not to mention other folks like the Taliban) Get your message out first, and multiple times, let useful dupes continue to spread it thus it appears to gain some authenticity even after evidence to the contrary comes out. This type of operation was also seen in Russia's occupation of the Crimea and the Donbass.

Western media are often caught in a conundrum this way, whether to report something with limited time to check or be beaten to the punch. It is also interesting that the article also condemns the "white helmet" organization and mentions that the chlorine gas will be deployed after a "barrel bomb" attack thus calling into credibility the barrel bombing accusations, the honesty and integrity of the white helmets and gives plausible deniability to a chemical attack.

This will be widely covered in some media in the third world and thus the view of Western actions will be tainted, no matter what actually happens. It is likely that a chemical weapons attack will occur shortly and what comes out of this attack will be interesting.

It should also be mentioned the Russians have warned the US about impending operations into areas held by US troops. The US has calmly replied that they will take whatever measures are necessary to protect US personnel and reserve the right of self -defence. US Marines conducted air mobile practice into the same area. Even more interesting...not good but interesting. Will the Russian public accept further support to a truly bad regime and suffer from further sanctions; there is growing evidence that they may not.

Another wild card is Israel, will they ever accept Iranian troops in Syria long term. The short answer is no. Will Bashar Al Assad risk his life and his regime in the "last offensive" or are his days numbered, both personally and as a regime?

An interesting observation, the Chinese press has not placed the alleged Syrian opposition chemical attack in their main English language press, so just the Russians.

Saudi Arabia reportedly purchases Iron Dome missile system, Israel denies

https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Saudia-Arabia-purchasesthe-Iron-Dome-missile-system-from-Israel-567101



Saudi Arabia Reportedly Purchases Iron Dome Missile System From Israel is a growing sign of the times, where previously hostile countries, Saudi Arabia and Israel, are now cooperating against a common enemy; in this case Iran.

The article is short and not what could be considered reliable at this point, but anything that provides action against Iran makes it more likely that there is least talks or negotiations.

In Pictures: Putin Inspects Massive Russian War Games

https://themoscowtimes.com/photogalleries/pictures-putininspects-massive-russian-war-games-62871



Putin Inspects Massive Russian Wargames is worth looking at just for how well Russia can do parades.

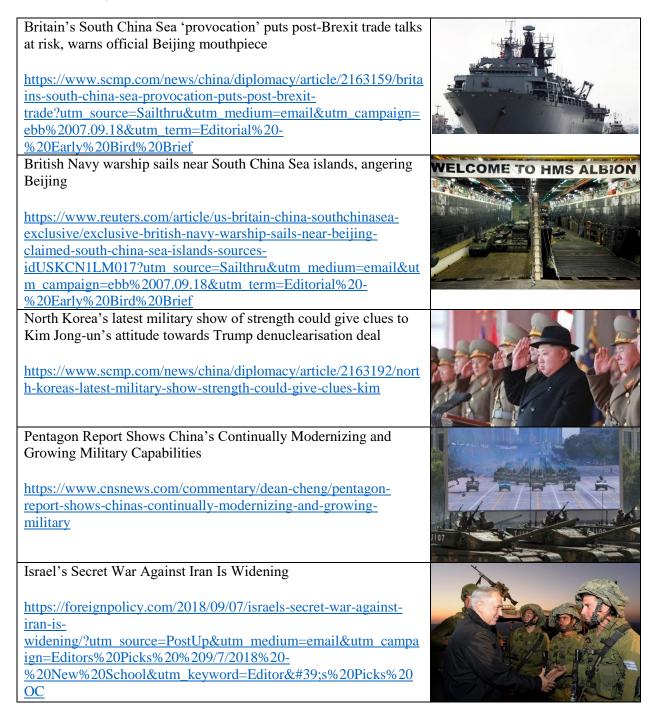
The wargames or as we call them, exercises, named VOSTOK 2018 are taking place in the Eastern Military District and allegedly have more than 300,000 troops, 36,000 vehicles, 1,000 aircraft and 80 warships from two fleets involved. It also includes troops from Mongolia and 3,200 Chinese troops.

Another way of looking at it, is similar to a "Potemkin Village." It is a show, an image rather than perhaps reality. Is it like Canada in the 1980s, where all our major kit was in 4 CMBG and there was little else to back it up. The reality is this, Russia is nearly broke economically, it has been unable to achieve many of its modernization goals often trying to refurbish old systems because of its inability to develop new ones in a cost effective way.

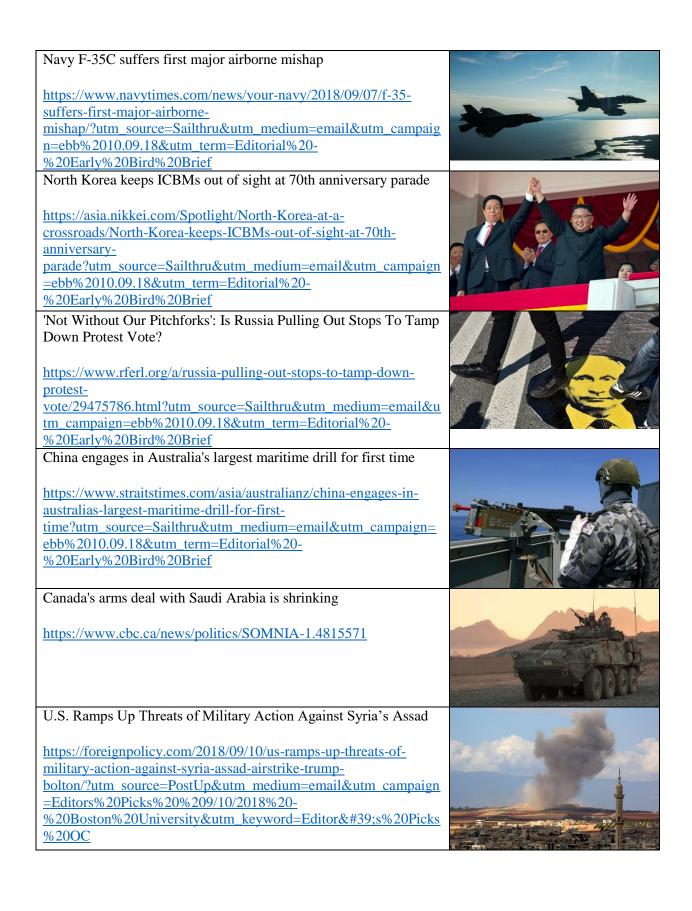
Earlier this week, Russian media stated that several Russian vessels had broken down due to the use of Chinese diesel engines which replaced Ukrainian engines in several ship types. Its fleets are aging as most vessels are 1980s models, as are their combat aircraft inventories and most ground equipment is based on older vehicles such as the T 72.

This is not to say Russia doesn't pose a threat, in fact it is likely that it is more dangerous in their weakened state especially when armed with approximately 7,300 nuclear weapons which is larger than the US inventory. It also raises the question of their reliability as well as the budget continues to shrink in real terms. Something to consider.

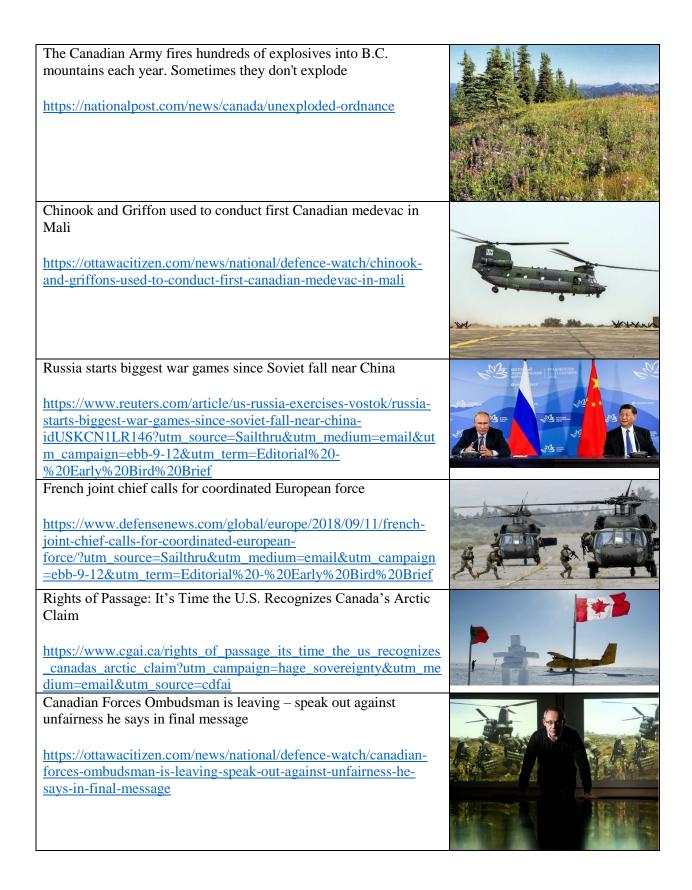
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Russia Unlikely to Walk Away from Ukraine Agreements, but Tense Times Lie Ahead	
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Russia's Vostok-2018 Exercise is About a Lot More Than War	
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