



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches

1 February 2019

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 RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com 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.

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 Defence & Security Newsletter, aimed at opinion leaders and industry. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter, email admin@duncom.ca.

Membership Renewal. It's renewal time. A notification email has been distributed. Please return your renewal promptly.

Survey. The beginning of the year is also time for the annual RUSI (NS) survey. Survey Monkey will be used again to manage the survey. You will receive a survey request in the weeks ahead. The survey will be short. Your feedback is important – please take the time to complete the survey.

Events: To list an event in *Dispatches*, email the CIO by noon Thursday. RUSI (NS) events are by invitation only. 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.

8 February, Friday - Centre for the Study of Security and Development 2019 Glyn Berry Lecture by Dr Paul Evans, Professor UBC, titled "Living with China in an era of Great Power Rivalry: Canadian Options." Noon to 1:30 pm. Room 1109, Rowe Management Building, Dalhousie University. See poster at end of *Dispatches*.

20 February, Wednesday - Distinguished Speaker JM Blais, Chief of Halifax Regional Police, titled "Reflections on Three Decades in Policing" as he approaches retirement from HRP. 1130-1330. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

26 February, Tuesday - CIC Halifax Branch and Dalhousie University Centre for the Study of Security and Development speaker Dennis Horak, until recently Canada's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, on "Insights on Saudi Arabia and the Middle East." 6-7:30 pm. Halifax Central Library, 5440 Spring Garden Road. To register: <https://thecic.org/event/cic-halifax-insights-on-saudi-arabia-and-the-middle-east/>




20 March, Wednesday - Distinguished Speaker Chief Petty Officer First Class Craig MacFadgen, on the challenges of introducing new capabilities into the RCN. 1130-1330. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

20 March, Wednesday - **Annual General Meeting**. Following Distinguished Speaker. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess.

Publication:

The Military Institute of Windsor Communiqué Volume XXXVII Number 2 February 2019 is available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

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

<p>Canadian Forces @CanadianForces 26 Jan tweeted: Design work will begin to extend the life of the CH-146 Griffons to at least 2031. Upgrading the CH-146 will ensure that this valuable asset continues to make important contributions to the success of the CAF's missions and operations. https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2019/01/government-of-canada-invests-in-the-modernization-of-the-royal-canadian-air-forces-ch-146-griffon.html</p> <p>(Government of Canada invests in the modernization of the Royal Canadian Air Force's CH-146 Griffon)</p> <p>RUSI(NS) retweeted: #RCAF #CH146 #Griffon #helicopter #DefencePolicy #StrongSecureEngaged #SSE</p>	 <p>CH-146 Griffon</p> <p>The Royal Canadian Air Force's multi-purpose utility helicopter, used for tactical troop transport, reconnaissance, escort and surveillance, casualty evacuation, disaster relief, special operations aviation support, and search and rescue.</p> <p>Number in RCAF: 85</p> <p>Crew: 2 PILOTS, 1 ENGINEER</p> <p>Passengers: UP TO 12</p> <p>Maximum weight: 5 400 kg</p> <p>Years procured: 1995 TO 1997</p> <p>Now deployed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mali (Operation PRESENCE), providing armed escorts for the CH-147 Chinook ▶ Iraq (Operation IMPACT), transporting troops, equipment, and supplies
<p>Canadian Global Affairs Institute @CAGlobalAffairs tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Will the circumpolar #Arctic develop peacefully as sea ice retreats? Our newest Policy Paper takes a critical look at #Russia's activity in the North, and what it's likely to mean for the future of Arctic development: https://www.cgai.ca/the_arctic_is_warming_and_turning_red_implications_for_canada_and_russia_in_an_evolutionary_polar_region #cdnfp #cdnpoli pic.twitter.com/HMmf5yp4T0 (The Arctic is Warming and Turning Red: Implications for Canada and Russia in an Evolving Polar Region)</p>	
<p>"...navies offer their greatest utility in peacetime, by being a relative easy, relatively quick, low maintenance but high impact messenger" https://defenceindepth.co/2019/01/11/send-a-gunboat/ Whether frigate, patrol vessel or #submarine #RCNavy #NavalDiplomacy #OpPROJECTION (Send a Gunboat)</p>	

"Pulling" can imply 'piqued'
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/canada-pulling-refuelling-plane-from-anti-islamic-state-mission-1.4268912> Headline writer could have used @CanadianForces term 'redeploy' (=return to base) for what was probably a carefully assessed decision about #RCAF #CC150 #Polaris #OpIMPACT (Canada pulling refuelling plane from anti-Islamic State mission)



NORAD & USNORTHCOM @Norad_Northcom 26 Jan tweeted: An E-3 AWACS, 2x F-22, 2x CF-18 fighter jets from NORAD positively identified 2x Russian Tu-160 Blackjack strategic bombers entering the Canadian Air Defense Identification Zone on January 26, 2019. Bombers remained in international airspace and did not enter sovereign territory pic.twitter.com/utKe26SRBB
 RUSI(NS) retweeted: Important that CAN🇨🇦 retain @CanadianForces capabilities to monitor, respond & defend air & sea approaches to our country. Show other states that we are alert & ready to intercept probes & attempted surveillance #RCAF #RCNavy



Extending lives of #RCNavy #submarines good move; strategic asset. Confirms defence policy #StrongSecureEngaged
<https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/canadian-navy-pushing-ahead-on-life-extensions-for-submarines> Complicated vessels; CAN🇨🇦 needs start project now to replace (manned/drone combination?) by 2030s. #NationalShipbuildingStrategy2.0
 (Canadian navy decides to start upgrades to extend life of aging submarine fleet)



RUSI(NS) remarks on reports Commander @RCN_MRC 'comfortable' with one temporary support ship
https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2061689327252940&id=618819224873298



Commander North American Aerospace Defense Command & US Northern Command: #Arctic is potential approach for adversaries to conduct strikes on North America and is now front line in our defense
<https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/commentary/2019/01/29/look-north-to-find-the-front-line-of-americas-defense/>
 @JTFN_FOIN
 (Look north to find the front line of North America's defense)



Semi-annual CAN🇨🇦 #StrongSecureEngaged defence policy implementation update from the @NationalDefence Deputy Minister and the @CanadianForces Chief of Defence Staff <https://ml-fd.caf-fac.ca/en/2019/01/23669> Now, let's match announcement against the 111 initiatives identified in #SSE (Semi-annual SSE implementation update from the DM and the CDS)



Seaspan Shipyards @MoreThanShips 31 Jan 19 tweeted: Seaspan Shipyards is pleased to announce the launch of a brand new website dedicated to Seaspan's NSS-related work. Here you will find everything from progress updates and the latest news to 360 views of all the vessels we're building!

<https://nss.seaspan.com>

RUSI(NS) retweeted: CAN🇨🇦 National Shipbuilding Strategy #NationalShipbuildingStrategy #NSS #RCNavy Joint Support Ship #JSS Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment #AOR



Canadian Coast Guard @CoastGuardCAN 1:00 PM - 26 Jan 2019 tweeted: #DYK? Our official birthday dates back to January 26th, 1962, but the origins of a Canadian Coast Guard can be traced to as far back as the 1700s when the first lifeboats and lighthouses were established in Eastern Canada. Check out how we've evolved over the past 57 years!

<https://twitter.com/CoastGuardCAN/status/1089206557756264448>

This editor is still smarting from a recent CCG member quite definitely noting that the CCG is the senior marine service in Canada! (A CCG colleague emailed back in response to this remark: "Thanks! We celebrated by breaking ice along the St. Lawrence...")

CAF Operations @CFOperations 28 Jan tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: The first group of @CanadianForces members to have deployed on #OpPRESENCE-Mali is heading home to Canada following a successful deployment in Gao, Mali in support of @UN_MINUSMA. Bravo Zulu for your hard work! We're confident the next group will make us just as proud.

Operation PRESENCE-Mali

The first deployment

The first group deployed on Operation PRESENCE-Mali served as part of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) from July 2018 to January 2019.

250 Canadian Armed Forces personnel

5 CH-146 Griffon helicopters

3 CH-147F Chinook helicopters

7 medical evacuations

3,788 passengers transported

333,345 pounds of cargo delivered

Over **1400** hours flown by the **CH-146 Griffon**

Over **600** hours flown by the **CH-147 Chinook**

Tactical Airlift Detachment and Operational Support Hub – Dakar, Senegal

1,628,540 pounds of cargo delivered

Over **800** flying hours by the **CC-130 Hercules**

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

New Russian unmanned aerial vehicle Hunter raises many eyebrows in the West

<http://www.pravdareport.com/news/science/tech/25-01-2019/142196-russia-new-drone-0/>



Russia has over the years made significant engineering strides in surprising places, in particular with air defence missile systems, electro-magnetic spectrum equipment and basic missile technology for both space and for combat. Most notably, Russia has also had failures, such as newer MiG aircraft and the near demise of a company noted for its fighter aircraft of the 20th century. The Russians have also tended to try to update older machines such as the TU-22M3 bomber, one of which crashed earlier this week, or the TU-160 which has gone back into production - they produced just one. Aircraft engines and ships turbines are major failures as the companies that used to produce these are now in independent countries such as Ukraine. Russia has also apparently purchased Chinese versions of these sophisticated systems...hasn't worked out well. So why these comments when the article is about a new Russian unmanned aerial vehicle capable of combat?

Russia continues to make many announcements and has had various weapons systems photographed as we see here in a secret base. This particular "discovery" may be a little convenient and seems to be somewhat suspicious - possible, but this vehicle has not flown. The other part is the system to fly it. Is it AI, still in its infancy, satellite controlled, or by ground station? How about the lag time for a response to a weapons launch? The picture is very interesting but it only tells a tiny part of the story. Russia is very good about making models as well; they look good but don't do anything. As with all things Russian, time will tell the real story, and usually the story is the lack serious real capability. The announcement or discovery is very presented, the execution ...not so much.

Technological Identity and Autonomous Systems: Lessons from the Battleship

https://warontherocks.com/2019/01/technological-identity-and-autonomous-systems-lessons-from-the-battleship/?utm_source=WOTR+Newsletter



The War on The Rocks article, "Technological Identity and Autonomous Systems: Lessons from the Battleship." It is a historical piece that examines the rise of naval aviation and its impact on the battleship and then discusses the impact of increasing use of drones on naval forces. It concludes with the following:

Technological evolution is part and parcel of maintaining a competitive military. Sometimes the developments are incremental, and other times they are radical, involving paradigmatic shifts in thinking. Postwar battleship sailors contemplating their future in the aircraft-carrier Navy may well have asked themselves: "What am I to do?" For them, the answer was simple. Contribute to the Navy's sea

power like they've always done and welcome the ways that aviation made them more effective sailors. In looking ahead to the future roles of drones, what are aviators itching for the thrill of flight to do? The answer is also simple: Contribute to the Navy's air power like they've always done and welcome the ways the technology of tomorrow will let them be better pilots than they are today.

Howard Coombs
CDAI

The Deceptively Simple Reason Australia Picked the Shortfin Barracuda

<https://thediplomat.com/2016/05/the-deceptively-simple-reason-australia-picked-the-shortfin-barracuda/>



“The Deceptively Simple Reason Australia Picked the Short fin Barracuda” is an article in the magazine “the Diplomat.” This article explains some of the reasoning behind Australia’s selection of the conventionally powered, but air independent Barracuda-class submarine developed from the most recent French nuclear submarine class. It is of interest to Canada as (hopefully) we are starting work on a suitable replacement for the “Victorias.” It takes between 15 and 20 years to put a complex system like a ship in the water, so starting today is not too soon, even with the new submarine modernization program recently announced by the Canadian government. The Australian thought process might be considered as they have laid out the ground work. The Royal Canadian Navy borders on three oceans and continues to function as a “blue water” navy. It needs the necessary tools to do so, Submarines are a proven system with many benefits and for one of the richest countries in the world, it is completely possible given the political will to do so. Sovereignty is the basic role of Government, all else is secondary.

Canada has embarked on a modernization program to keep the Victoria-class submarines in operation until the 2030s. Although there are those who suggest that unmanned underwater vehicles would be cheaper, etc., there is still a reason to maintain manned submarines. Unmanned underwater vehicles (UUV) may be unlawful if those who wish to prevent “killer robots” from being able to operate and potentially attack an enemy prevail. The technology for a UUV is still in development and although it appears to have a bright future from many aspects, it may not be able to do the job for legal reasons.

Canada is faced with global warming which is making the Arctic more viable as an area of sea traffic and development. The Arctic in particular will become a major point of friction between not only the Arctic countries but also countries which want to push their way in, especially China. As the century goes on, there will be a very real requirement to protect Canadian waters. The Arctic and Off Shore Patrol Vessels will be inadequate due to a lack of armament and overall capacity. (It has many real capabilities, being able to fight if required is not one of them.) Canada’s effort would also mean putting in money for infrastructure such as navigation aids and perhaps even before that a massive hydrographic effort to ensure navigation safety. It goes without saying that having suitable air sea rescue capabilities would be necessary. Canada has dodged the issue at least twice before when on two separate occasions

passenger ships hit rocks; on both occasions we were fortunate and no one was lost. Having facts on the ground is vital and as the ice recedes, that will become ever so much more important.

Some have argued that Canada should not militarise the North as it would cause an arms race. This is at the same time Russia's largest fleet exists a relatively short distance away. The US, Russia and Britain have sailed submarines into the Arctic and one can probably assume that other countries may do so as they also acquire suitable capabilities. China is producing quite capable nuclear submarines and given their self-declared "near Arctic" country status, will shortly follow suit. The best way around would be for Canada to acquire air independent submarines in conjunction with passive underwater detection equipment and UUVs coupled with satellite and aerial surveillance. As with underwater systems, some of the air platforms could be unmanned but at some point, manned armed combat systems will also have to be in place to support overall surveillance.

As the ice recedes, resource exploration will ensue. Being ready by having civil and military capacity to support it will be vital to maintenance of our sovereignty.

NATO loses trust: The German Navy has run aground

<http://www.wirenewsfax.com/nato-loses-trust-the-german-navy-has-run-aground-2>



Often useful is check the defence situation of other countries for the possibility of lessons and insights.

There's something to be said for having the numbers, whether it's number of ships and especially high-use ships such as frigates, or number of people. A government is limited in what are its options domestically and internationally when there just aren't the naval ships and sailors to carry out more than a few missions at a time. Canada, with twelve to fifteen frigates, one to two (hopefully three) replenishment oilers, four submarines, and twelve to eighteen patrol vessels (depending on how you want to count them), is not in a bad position, though when geography is factored in, we do need more, especially logistics ships.

Navy 'comfortable' with one temporary support ship:
Commander

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/navy-comfortable-with-one-temporary-support-ship-commander-1.4268009>



Media have been reporting "Canada's top sailor says he is currently 'comfortable' with having only one temporary support ship in the water...". A few remarks are in order about the language used, especially in the headline, and therefore what can be made of the report.

Give credit to the Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) for navigating between the rocks and shoals of a media interview. In his appointment he has to be seen supporting what is the result of

government policy and decisions. He only gets one opportunity to display real opposition to a government position, by quitting in protest. A bullet to be saved until/if needed. His choice of words shows care and professionalism. He can be comfortable with one support ship (auxiliary oiler replenishment - AOR - currently MV ASTERIX) because after whatever back and forth there was between government and the Navy, that is all he is getting right now. He knows he has to wait for the two permanent AOR to be delivered by the Joint Support Ship (JSS) project, hence the 'temporary' applied to ASTERIX, and he won't endanger that delivery. What that use of language doesn't mean is that the requirement for AOR isn't something bigger. With three oceans bordering this country, and long distances to get anywhere to engage in global affairs, Canada could well use more support ships. Certainly many people who are not constrained by government employment are of that opinion. The RCN will have two JSS AOR, and maybe and hopefully three AOR overall if ASTERIX is retained whilst the two JSS AOR are working up to enter service. And, one can fairly assume that the admiral would like more than one support ship now and two later - it is the nature of the military business that leaders and planners prefer to have as much capability in hand as they can. After all, lives and mission success are the concerns.

The admiral is quoted later in the article as saying "...I comfortable with one interim (support ship)..." His choice of words is indicative. He said 'interim' rather than 'temporary' and may have said 'ASTERIX' or 'replenishment oiler' where the article's writer has substituted '(support ship)' for better public understanding. The Defence project that managed the delivery of Motor Vessel ASTERIX was titled Interim Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment (iAOR - sic). It is evident that there was a certain amount of translation by the article's author and by the headline writer (usually not the same person - it is understood that sometimes they don't even talk to each other before an article is published). Both had their own objectives in the words they wrote.

So, in the end, the article is not reporting some concession by the Commander of the RCN. Really, his is careful phrasing, acknowledging the current situation and the government's predominance in its decision to fund only one support ship, without precluding any opportunity for more, however acquired, support ships later.

Watch List 2019

<https://d2071andvip0wj.cloudfront.net/EU%20Watch%20List%20January%202019.pdf>



New Report from Crisis Watch – “Watch List 2019.” A description is below.

Howard Coombs, CDAI

Crisis Group's early-warning Watch List identifies up to ten countries and regions at risk of conflict or escalation of violence. In these situations, early action, driven or supported by the EU and its member states, could generate stronger prospects for peace. The Watch List 2019 includes a global overview, regional overviews, and detailed conflict analyses on Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan, South Sudan, Tunisia, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen.

The Looming Russian Recession

<https://themoscowtimes.com/articles/the-looming-russian-recession-op-ed-64318>



“The Looming Russian Recession” is an article by Vladislav Inozemtsev published by the Moscow Times on 29 Jan 19 and originally had been published in the magazine Riddle.

With the advent of the Venezuelan crisis and pact issues with China in the news the past couple months, this article is of crucial interest. It should be noted that the levels of trust in Mr Putin have plummeted because of pension reform, a stagnating economy and foreign forays and conflicts into which Mr Putin has entered the past few years. There is a word for the Putin regime’s handling of the economy and that word is incompetent.

The article mentions that the Russia has only had a 2.9% growth in its economy, although as the figures are “official” there is growing scepticism whether this is in fact true and that Russia actually saw real decline instead. Russia has seen very few people gain from the Putin regime’s economic effort. The article mentions that real Russian monthly wages have fallen from \$695 USD to about \$630 USD at the end of 2018. The real Russian public is hurting.

It is becoming clearer to the public that the regime has spent billions of dollars propping up dictators such as Mr Maduro and Mr Assad as well as for maintaining Ukrainian and ex-Georgian puppet entities, not to mention the forays into the Central African Republic. This money came out of the pockets of the Russian people. This is now becoming noticed and broadcast by Mr Navalny on YouTube and other social media. On top of that, the number of bomb threats, demonstrations, etc., throughout the country are not decreasing.

Long term Russia is in very poor shape in almost all areas. Its population is decreasing and aging. Men are dying at a much earlier age than women and the economy is in shambles, coupled with massive corruption. The most popular and trusted regime in the country is the Army and not Putin, the Duma or the oligarchs. It sometimes takes a while for things to occur in Russia but when they do, they are relatively quick and often violent. The question is whether this growing discontent will continue to grow and if it will grow sufficiently to create conditions for a regime change. If it does result in regime change, what will be there instead? It may not be pretty.

The trade war won’t shake Xi Jinping’s grip on power in China – for now

<https://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/united-states/article/2184088/trade-war-wont-shake-xi-jinpings-grip-power>



The article “A Trade War Won’t Shake Xi Jinping’s Grip on Power in China- For Now” by Deng Yuen in the South China Morning Post 29 January 2019 makes for interesting reading.

For those who did not attend the 28 January 2019 Canadian Military Intelligence Association professional development session by Hugh Williamson, a lawyer specializing in maritime law, a Dalhousie professor and a retired naval reserve officer, you missed a good night. Hosted by HMCS

Scotian, he gave a good solid overview of Chinese ambitions and concerns in the maritime realm. Considerable discussion also ensued including the viability of president Xi's hold on power.

This article published in Chinese, sheds an interesting light on issues regarding Mr Xi's grip on governing despite his centralizing power in his own leadership. He has not done well due in part to massive debts, conflict with the US over trade, and his antagonizing friends, neutral countries and adversaries. This, coupled with his crackdown on religion, his alleged crackdown on corruption (which includes his opposition), and his generally exposing to the world China's naked ambitions.

The article does have a quick reminder of their political system. It is good to be reminded of from time-to-time and now is the real time to refresh oneself as to its differences from most Western liberal democracies. China's communist government would not be out of place within a Mafia family. One rises by one's ability to manoeuvre within the party apparatus vice actual ability as a manager of businesses. Note Xi's reduction in support to "private" business in favour of state owned enterprises.

Xi has taken power on to himself and thus is also the focus of blame for certain sections of the party. The Chinese have gotten used to diffuse power structures so no one person can direct the country and thus there is opposition to Mr Xi's initiative and power grab. After all, one who calls himself "Core Leader" has perhaps some personal issues especially if he also outlaws the use of images of Winnie the Pooh because of its use in memes. (Winnie's image is often used as a stand in for XI... apparently he cannot take a joke).

The article is one man's opinion in an open source, but there does seem to be some thoughts of interest.

Should India too act against Huawei?

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/should-india-too-act-against-huawei/articleshow/67750529.cms>



In considering others' views of Huawei, the article "Should India Too Act Against Huawei?" is from the Times of India. India is apparently doing some soul-searching regarding Huawei. The Indian government is also sitting on the edge of a decision. It is by no means resolved.

Many comments have been made about Huawei and the security issues that surround it and other Chinese tech companies. There are an increasing number of incidents where the Chinese have not behaved in what would be considered an appropriate manner. The best example was the use of Chinese technology in the African Union Headquarters building in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. China did provide generous funding for the building including information technology. It turned out that all documents, emails, etc., were being stored not only in the headquarters but in China as well. More recently, in Canada, Simon Fraser University allowed Chinese technology in the form of hydrophones to be set up in Canadian waters opposite one of the most critical bases in the US, Bangor, Washington. The data was being sent to servers on Hainan Island, home of China's ballistic missile submarine fleet. There are several other transgressions that are now coming to light - espionage charges in Poland and charges laid this week in the US. So there is smoke and some would say flames in regard to any Chinese tech company and its separation from the Communist Chinese Party.

The fear in the West and other places is of a technological “Pearl Harbor” made possible by the use of technology from a major rival - some would use the term competitor or even adversary. So why is 5G different than 3G and 4G networks? The answer is that it will be the infrastructure to turn the Internet of Things into reality. Does one really want to trust one’s overall security to a major rival with whom there are major concerns? The answer is an emphatic ‘no.’

Debt trap could derail China’s high-speed train network

<http://www.atimes.com/article/debt-trap-could-derail-chinas-high-speed-train-network/>



“Debt Trap Could Derail China’s High Speed Rail Network” is an Asian Times article dated 30 January 2019. It is interesting in that this subject also came up at the Canadian Military Intelligence Association professional development meeting held at HMCS Scotian on 28 January 2019 during a presentation by Hugh Williamson. This article focuses on their high speed rail system. The lack of economic performance by this rail system was brought up at the meeting. Impressive to look at until one looks at the debt and subsidization of the rail system overall.

China’s economy has done well and has grown massively over a short period of time. One question that was raised at the meeting is how did they fund it? One way is debt. This article focuses on just one area, the high speed rail network. The amount of debt being carried by the Chinese Rail Company is truly breathtaking and it appears that there is no way that they can ever recover those funds. This is just one area, where else has China funded beyond their means as well?

As an example, how much do those artificial islands cost? Cities built but not populated in the middle of nowhere all show extravagance without too much thought or study. Despite their concern for the environment, China has no real environmental studies completed before commencing projects such as the Three Gorges Dam.

The article is worth reading. Keep in mind that this can probably be multiplied over and over again throughout the Chinese economy. So the question is, is the Chinese economy really that robust?

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.

Accusations fly between South Korea and Japan over ‘threatening’ maritime maneuvers

https://www.defensenews.com/global/asia-pacific/2019/01/24/accusations-fly-between-south-korea-and-japan-over-threatening-aircraft-maneuvers-radar-targeting/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ebb%2025.01.19&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



China's Xi Jinping 'most dangerous' to free societies, says George Soros

https://www.bbc.com/news/business-46996116?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ebb%2025.01.19&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



US and Russia Regard Each Other Warily in the Baltic and Black Seas

https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2019/01/us-and-russia-eye-each-other-warily-baltic-and-black-seas/154404/?oref=defenseone_today_nl



2 arrested in RCMP raids in Kingston, Ont., related to national security probe

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.4992197>



Navy 'comfortable' with one temporary support ship: Commander

<https://meadowlakenow.com/article/629078/navy-comfortable-one-temporary-support-ship-commander>



Canada pulling refuelling plane from anti-ISIS mission

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-ending-syrian-refuelling-mission-1.4993212>



Opinion: Trudeau's Mali mission uses soldiers for symbolism points

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/opinion-trudeaus-mali-mission-uses-soldiers-for-symbolism-points>



Trudeau pressed on giving more work to Davie

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/politics/trudeau-pressed-on-giving-more-work-to-davie/ar-BBSK2MZ?ocid=se>



COMMENTARY: Canada will screw up the submarine replacement. It's just a matter of how and when

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4879063/commentary-canada-submarine-replacement/>



Work to start on first phase of CH-146 Griffon upgrade and life extension

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/work-to-start-on-first-phase-of-ch-146-griffon-upgrade-and-life-extension>



Army reserve soldiers take part in military exercises in Lethbridge






<https://globalnews.ca/news/4895839/army-reserve-military-exercises-lethbridge/>













Soldiers suffer frostbite during winter training

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.4994767>



<p>Canadian and U.S. fighter planes scramble to escort Russian jets out of Arctic region</p> <p>https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.4994702</p>	
<p>Greek lawmakers ratify Macedonia name change, clearing way for NATO, EU membership</p> <p>https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2019/01/25/greek-lawmakers-ratify-macedonia-name-change-clearing-way-for-nato-eu-membership/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ebb%2028.01.19&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief</p>	
<p>In Trump's World, Nukes Are Self-Defense</p> <p>https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/01/28/in-trumps-world-nukes-are-self-defense/?utm_source=PostUp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11322&utm_term=Editor&#39;s%20Picks%20OC</p>	
<p>Justice Department Announces Indictments Against Huawei</p> <p>https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2019/01/justice-department-announces-indictments-against-huawei/154478/?oref=defenseone_today_nl</p>	
<p>National Guard becomes Arctic protector</p> <p>https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2019/01/national-guard-becomes-arctic-protector?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2029.01.19&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief</p>	

<p>U.S. files formal extradition request for Meng Wanzhou</p> <p>https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.4995848</p>	
<p>U.S. alleges Meng Wanzhou part of 10-year conspiracy by Huawei to skirt sanctions</p> <p>https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/us-politics/article-us-alleges-meng-wanzhou-part-of-10-year-conspiracy-by-huawei-to/</p>	
<p>China urges U.S. to withdraw extradition request for Meng Wanzhou</p> <p>https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.4996779</p>	
<p>Shanahan has identified top pick to lead Space Command</p> <p>https://www.defensenews.com/space/2019/01/29/shanahan-has-identified-space-command-head/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ebb-1-30&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief</p>	
<p>Australia swipes at Beijing over South China Sea tensions, detention of pro-democracy writer</p> <p>https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2019/01/29/australia-swipes-at-beijing-over-south-china-sea-tensions-detention-of-pro-democracy-writer/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ebb-1-30&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief</p>	

<p>NATO-member Denmark to hike military spending to 1.5 percent of GDP</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/article/us-denmark-security/nato-member-denmark-to-hike-military-spending-to-1-5-percent-of-gdp-idUSKCN1PN265?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ebb-1-30&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief</p>	
<p>Xi's China Is Steamrolling Its Own History</p> <p>https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/01/29/xis-china-is-steamrolling-its-own-history/</p>	
<p>The New Pro-Israel Law That Could Backfire on Israel</p> <p>https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/01/28/the-new-pro-israel-law-that-could-backfire-on-israel/</p>	
<p>If Huawei were a security risk, how would we find out?</p> <p>https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.4997957</p>	
<p>Ottawa setting up new team to warn Canadians of potential election interference</p> <p>https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.4998409</p>	

Canada's in a corner over the Meng Wanzhou case, with no good options

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.4998007>



Canada to pay bigger share of F-35 costs

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/canada-to-pay-bigger-share-of-f-35-costs/ar-BBSXKRd?ocid=se>



Israeli Air Force starts training German Heron TP drone pilots

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2019/01/29/israeli-air-force-starts-training-german-heron-tp-drone-pilots/>



Lockheed CEO: Boeing's F-15X won't disrupt F-35 program

<https://www.defensenews.com/industry/2019/01/29/lockheed-ceo-boeings-f-15x-wont-disrupt-f-35-program/>



Lockheed: F-35A Cost To Drop Below \$80 Million Per Fighter In 2023

<https://news.usni.org/2019/01/29/40708>



General Dynamics To Invest \$1 Billion In Production Facilities Upgrades With Focus on Subs

<https://news.usni.org/2019/01/30/40759>



China eyes a strategic port in the Philippines

http://www.atimes.com/article/china-eyes-a-strategic-port-in-the-philippines/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ebb%2031.01.2019&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



As Brexit Looms, the Rock Is in a Hard Place

https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/01/30/as-brexit-looms-the-rock-is-in-a-hard-place-gibraltar-spain-britain-uk-may-sanchez-shared-sovereignty/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ebb%2031.01.2019&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



China must treat detained Canadians fairly, NATO chief says

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/SOMNIA-1.4999984>



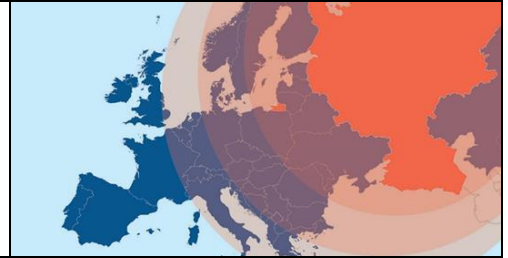
Russia Is a Rogue, Not a Peer; China Is a Peer, Not a Rogue

https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PE310.html?utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=RAND%20Policy%20Currents+AEM:%20%20Email%20Address%20NOT%20LIKE%20DOTMIL&utm_campaign=AEM:631600804



Russia's Hostile Measures in Europe

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1793.html?utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=RAND%20Policy%20Currents+AEM:%20%20Email%20Address%20NOT%20LIKE%20DOTMIL&utm_campaign=AE M:631600804



Other Sources:

#cyber operations

Toward Norms in Cyberspace: Recent Progress and Challenges

<https://thecic.org/en/toward-norms-in-cyberspace-recent-progress-and-challenges/>

#defence policy

Defence Procurement Governance: Do We Have The Balance Right?

podcast: https://www.cgai.ca/defence_procurement_governance_do_we_have_the_balance_right

with links to:

Measuring the Big Bang: Evaluating the Implementation of Strong, Secure, Engaged

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/cdfai/pages/3486/attachments/original/1547061722/Procurement_Conference_Report_2018.pdf

Defence Business Planning in Canada

https://www.cgai.ca/defence_business_planning_in_canada

Strong, Secure, Engaged So Far

https://www.cgai.ca/strong_secure_engaged_so_far

#forecasting

Disruptive Writing and the Army's Fight for Tomorrow

<https://mwi.usma.edu/disruptive-writing-armys-fight-tomorrow/>

Start just with writing, then move on to disruptive writing. But just write. (Hmm, my fourth year history professor said that...)

#future fighter

F-35A Cost To Drop Below \$80 Million Per Fighter In 2023

<https://news.usni.org/2019/01/29/40708>

Germany officially knocks F-35 out of competition to replace Tornado

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2019/01/31/germany-officially-knocks-f-35-out-of-competition-to-replace-tornado/>

Don't often read about the F-35 getting such a setback.

#innovation

Blueprint 2020: Taking Stock of Defence Modernization

<https://ml-fd.caf-fac.ca/en/2019/01/23939>

Note new group and Assistant Deputy Minister (Data, Innovation, and Analytics), with an Innovation and Change Management Team which "will serve as a hub for innovation within Defence, bringing together

innovative projects in a single collaborative eco-system, and follow-through on innovations that were brought forward."

#leadership

Is Doctrine Affecting Military Leadership?

<https://puzzlepalace1664.wordpress.com/follower-articles/leadership/>

#logistics

Task Force on Survivable Logistics – Executive Summary

<https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/1064537.pdf>

ADDP 00. 2 Preparedness and Mobilisation (Australia)

file:///C:/Users/EllenColin/Documents/Colin/library/ADDP_00_2_preparedness_and_mobilisation.pdf

Sustainment of Army Forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom - Battlefield Logistics and Effects on Operations

https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2006/RAND_MG344.pdf

#policing

No "Ordinary Crimes" - An Alternative Approach to Securing Global Hotspots and Dense Urban Areas

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/English-Edition-Archives/Jan-Feb-2019/Guilmartin-Crimes/>

#professional military education

Turning Swords into Multi-Tools

<https://thewarrantofficer.org/>

PME for OR. Really, for anyone.

#risk

World Economic Forum 'Global Risks Report 2019' is available in request to

RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

#shipbreaking

Platform publishes list of ships dismantled worldwide in 2018

<https://mailchi.mp/shipbreakingplatform/press-release-platform-publishes-list-of-ships-dismantled-worldwide-in-1255053>

No Canadian government vessels listed. Five Canadian flag commercial vessels.

#shipbuilding

Why Has The Cost of Navy Ships Risen? A Macroscopic Examination of the Trends in U.S. Naval Ship Costs Over the Past Several Decades

<https://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG484.html>

Over a decade old but worth reading – it is after all 'macroscopic.'

Statement by Davie Shipbuilding regarding a second interim supply ship - MV Obelix

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/statement-by-davie-shipbuilding-regarding-a-second-interim-supply-ship-mv-obelix-859714699.html>

US Navy lays keel for future USNS Newport
<https://navaltoday.com/2019/01/30/us-navy-lays-keel-for-future-usns-newport-epf-12/>

"Austal USA hosted a keel laying and authentication ceremony for the US Navy's twelfth Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) vessel, the Newport (EPF 12), at its Alabama shipyard on January 29." Authentication - not a word or ceremony in Canadian shipbuilding. It appears to apply to the US practice of the ship sponsor welding her initials to the keel.



#threat tracking

Government of Canada unveils plan to safeguard Canada's 2019 election

<https://www.canada.ca/en/democratic-institutions/news/2019/01/government-of-canada-unveils-plan-to-safeguard-canadas-election.html>

Check the "Related products" at the bottom of the news release. One of the interesting products is: G7 Rapid Response Mechanism

<https://www.canada.ca/en/democratic-institutions/news/2019/01/g7-rapid-response-mechanism.html>

Note in the second release: "Housed within Global Affairs Canada, the G7 RRM Coordination Unit will act as a focal point for Canada and all of its G7 partners. The Coordination Unit will be tasked with sharing information and threat analysis — and identifying opportunities for coordinated responses when attacks occur.

The Coordination Unit will produce analysis and reports on threat patterns and trends. The information shared across the G7 will be used to develop a better understanding of the evolving threat environment. This will help us better position ourselves to anticipate, identify and respond to threats across the G7."

Other:

From Howard Coombs, CDAI. Available at

<https://d2071andvip0wj.cloudfront.net/EU%20Watch%20List%20January%202019.pdf> is a new report from Crisis Watch: "Watch List 2019." Crisis Group's early-warning Watch List identifies up to ten countries and regions at risk of conflict or escalation of violence. In these situations, early action, driven or supported by the EU and its member states, could generate stronger prospects for peace. The Watch List 2019 includes a global overview, regional overviews, and detailed conflict analyses on Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan, South Sudan, Tunisia, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen.