



# UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NANAIMO AND NORTH ISLAND

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The warmest Greetings of the Season to all USINNI Members.

With the 2018 Commemorative Dining In now behind us, I am very pleased to announce that the event was a outstanding success. With more than 75 Guests in attendance, we conducted an event in Nanaimo like now other, something we can all be very proud of.

I want to thank all those that participated in the planning, preparation



and conduct for their hard work. It has been said that the success of an event is primarily due to the attention to detail that is expended, and in this case, those words

truly apply.

A small reminder to all that were in attendance - if you would like a copy of the photo DVD please let me know!

I now wish to extend to you all the very best wishes for a very Happy Holiday Season. May you be safe and spend it surrounded by those you love and cherish.

Hope to see you all at our next Luncheon. Wednesday, December 12th at RCL Br 257.

*Edwin*

## MILITARY AND SECURITY MUSING:

### Russian Belligerence & the Drift to War

**Nanaimo, 29 November 2018...**the Russian attack on three Ukrainian naval craft exiting the Sea of Azov last Sunday (25 November) was the equivalence of a third shot heralding the next war. The Straits of Kerch are international waters, providing the Ukrainians maritime access to their Mariupol Region of Eastern Ukraine.

The first two shots were the Russian invasion and seizure of the Crimea from the Ukrainians in 2014, and, Russia's sponsorship of a continuing

rebellion in the Ukraine's Donbass (Doneis'k) Region. In the process, the Russians equally recklessly and callously shot down Air Malaysia Flight 17, killing 196 Dutch nationals, 38 Australians and 64 other innocent passengers & air crew. Of course, the Russians denied any involvement, although a subsequent international enquiry proved beyond all possible doubt Russian culpability in this war crime. The added pity is that Putin is getting away with it; no international arrest warrant has or will ever be is-

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sued for him. It's not the first airliner the Russian's "mistakenly" shot down....Korean Air 902 in 1983.

Be in no doubt, President Putin is engaged in an undeclared war against the Ukraine, all part of Russia's much wider efforts to destabilize Eastern Europe. The big ugly bad bear is back!

Members of the Institute should not see this as just one more manifestation of unsettled times in a part of the Globe that is distant from our own. I say to you here and now that this is a replay of an 80-year-old script, when a British Prime Minister gutlessly wrung his hands bemoaning "*how horrible, fantastic, incredible it is that we should be digging trenches and trying on gas-masks here because of a quarrel in a far*



thing else along Russia's elastic borders.

There is a way, here and now, for Canada and NATO to get Putin's attention. While the so-

**“Russia should simply be informed that the Straits are open for Russian naval and commercial shipping to exit the Baltic, but are closed indefinitely to any Russian maritime traffic of any kind, West to East .”**

*away country between people of whom we know nothing.”*

By now, it must be clear that Putin's Russia is back at the old game of a chunk of Georgia here and a chunk of the Ukraine and chunk of some-

called Danish Straits (there are three of them) are national waters covered by an international freedom of passage convention, they are inland Danish & Swedish waters. NATO should move immediately to announce and conduct an extended surprise NATO naval exercise in and about the Straits.

Russia should simply be informed that the Straits are open for Russian naval and commercial shipping to exit the Baltic, but are closed indefinitely to any Russian maritime traffic of any kind, West to East.

This is simply a 2018 version of Russia's year-long 1948 Berlin Blockade. It's *quid pro quo* time for the Russians and stand-up-tall time for the West.

There will, of course, be consequences. Some are predictable, some aren't. Russia's immediate response will be lots of threatening sabre-rattling, noisy but ineffective in the long run; a more practical one will be to cut off Europe's winter heating supplies. But that's a sword that cuts two ways. The consequential reduction in foreign earnings will further damage Russia's already stumbling economy and Putin will find his own oligarchs up-

**Continued on page 4...**

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WO (RETD) EDWIN J PEETERS CD  
PRESIDENT, USINNI.

ANY MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE WISHING TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OR COMMENT  
WITH RESPECT TO THIS PUBLICATION MAY DO SO BY CONTACTING THE SAME.



UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NANAIMO & NORTH ISLAND  
 2018 COMMEMORATIVE DINING IN  
 NOVEMBER 17, 2018

This month's Luncheon/Meeting will be held at

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 257**

7727 LANTZVILLE ROAD

on

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2018**

1130 HOURS

\$25.00 per member/person.

**Security agencies warn of foreign espionage threat to company networks**

Canadian companies should watch out when they use technology supplied by state-owned companies from countries that want to steal corporate secrets, the country's security agencies have warned.

The RCMP organized two workshops last March — one in Calgary, the other in Toronto — to raise awareness about threats to critical systems, including espionage and foreign interference, cyberattacks, terrorism and sabotage, newly

disclosed documents show.

Canadian Security Intelligence Service materials prepared for the workshops advise that "non-likeminded countries," state-owned enterprises and affiliated companies are engaged in a global pursuit of technology and know-how driven by economic and military ambitions. The materials were released to The Canadian Press in response to an access-to-information request.



The heavily censored records do not go into detail about specific countries. But the presentation does include a passage from a 2017 U.S. government report saying competitors such as China steal American intellectual property valued at hundreds of billions of dollars every year.

## ... The Drift to War ... continued from page 2



in-arms against him.

So, the challenge for NATO is, are you going to send a wimpy Chamberlain or a defiant Churchillian message to Putin? And, how much stomach will Trudeau and Trump actually have when push comes to shove in Europe?

*This Musing Column is again by Col (Retd) W.J. (Bill) McCullough, MSC, CD, a Past President of this Institute and the long-time Chair of our Military Committee. His views are his own, but are founded on considerable practical experience in strategic thinking.*



## LUNCHEON MEETING ATTENDANCE

Your telephone contact coordinator will attempt to contact you in the days prior to our monthly luncheon/meeting in order to confirm your attendance. In this manner we can provide attendance numbers to the volunteer kitchen staff at RCL 257 so that they may prepare adequately for our function.

If for some reason she has missed you, please contact  
**Edwin**  
 at  
**250-739-3783**  
 or  
[ejpeeters@shaw.ca](mailto:ejpeeters@shaw.ca)  
 to confirm your attendance

## USINNI SNOWBALL



As we had a Snowball Winner at our last Luncheon, please be sure to "sign in" for the next game at our next Luncheon on Wednesday December 12th at RCL Br 257. Good luck to everyone!.