

# UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NANAIMO AND NORTH ISLAND

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A warm fall season hello to all USINNI Members. Our great summer has almost completely passed into our memories, and we now anticipate the events of the coming new season. Our September Luncheon/meeting will feature BGen (Retd) Don Macnamara as our guest speaker. Don's vast experience as a strategic intelligence and national security policy advisor certainly sets the anticipation level very high

for his presentation entitled — Are We Strong, Secure and Engaged? - An Assessment of Canada's 2017 Defence Policy. For the October Luncheon/meeting we have engaged LCol Mike Meeks, Commanding Officer, 4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group. This also promises to be a very interesting presentation. (I am keenly interested in hearing LCol Meeks as I was formerly a member of this unit).

Now on the business side of the house, we have entered into our Annual Fall Membership Campaign. We ask that all Members diligently and expediently assist our Membership Director, CWO (Retd) Tony Pearson, with the timely submission of your annual Membership tariff. Be well and hope to see you all at the September Luncheon/meeting...

*Edwin*

**Nanaimo, 19 August 2019:** Members may recall the incident I described in a column a couple of years back about something that occurred right after Remembrance Day Ceremonies in Lantzville. I was part of a group of mostly USI veterans that had been standing to one side with wreath layers. A woman who stood behind me throughout asked who we were? I replied something to the effect that we were part of the USI from Nanaimo-North Island. "Oh," she said, as best I recall the words now, "I've heard of that, you're the United States Institute!"

That wasn't the first time we've been misidentified that way,

## MILITARY AND SECURITY MUSING:

### USINNI:

## Who, What & Why

although no offence was intended on this particular occasion. Members may recall though that we were similarly "mischievously carded" during the earlier debate over whether Nanaimo should declare itself nuclear-free, or, that our allies be allowed continued access to DND facilities & waters at and around Nanoose Bay. This being the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of our own founding, I thought it might be opportune to muse a bit about who and what we are.



First, United Services Institutes are a global phenomenon. They originated in Great Britain in 1831, created by Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington. With mandates approved by King George IV and subsequently by King William IV, the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI UK) was charged to be "a strictly scientific and professional society, and not (just) a gentleman's club". Historically, although it has gone through major reconstitutions in 1839, 1860 and most recently in 2004, RUSI (UK) & other splinter Institutes have flourished or sometimes floundered since. Over the years, out-station Institutes have come and gone almost anywhere British, Empire or Commonwealth Armed Forces have been based. Today, in addition to the UK, Institutes or offices exist in India, Belgium, Kenya, Singapore, South Africa, and, firmly in Canada, Australia & New Zealand.

Following the wars of the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the British cut back on the size of their standing Navy and Army, with a consequent loss of experienced officers and a temptation to just "stand fast" on imaginative changes of any kind. Wellington's goal was to unofficially "tap in" to the "wealth of talent & experience" represented in retirees, while encouraging the new and up-and-coming generation of naval and regimental officers to "use the old" on which to sound out new ideas, or, to hear old ideas bent to new purposes!

In Canada, the roots of our Institutes were to be found in Old Fort York, where a Reading Room was established as part of the Officers Mess. Militia officers from the mid-Ontario area were encouraged to visit when practical, availing themselves of the latest news on developments in artillery, musketry and mounted warfare. At least two officers of the Wellington Rifles availed themselves of that opportunity. The Reading Room eventually became the Militia Institute located in Toronto circa 1878.

However, while both the Reading Room & the Militia Institute probably evolved into the Canadian Military Institute, the first Royal Canadian Military Institute only received its official charter in January 1890. Over the years since, other Canadian Institutes have come and gone, some as institutes, others as societies and still others as clubs or adjuncts to naval or military messes. In essence, that's the basis for the "who & the what" we are.

Our own Institute is an Associate Member of *Canada's Conference of Defence Associations*, alt-

hough not all Canadian Institutes are. Earlier, we were an Ordinary Member, part of the now defunct *Federation of Military and United Services Institutes*. Institutes are not beneficiaries of "public funding." We're member-funded.

The "who" is specifically covered in our Institute's Constitutional By-Laws. We focus on recruiting like-minded veterans honourably released from ours or allied Armed Forces, or, from related police forces. Serving Members are also welcome as Ordinary Members, as are motivated applicants from the general public, these latter as Associate Members. We also make provision for surviving spouses or partners to continue on as Members of our Institute.

The principal "why" is best captured in the Purpose Statement of our Institute Constitution. In part, at Article 2.2, we focus on encouraging "our Government and Canadians in general to provide adequately for Canada's national defence, foreign and international relations, and, for our national and public security." Simply stated, that's our reason to exist. Like the original RUSI, we're not just another club. We're lobbyists for just "adequate and necessary" National Defence for Canada.

So, that is a brief description of the **who, what & why** for USINNI. Not asked or answered here is the "how" or the means in all of this. That's something each of us has been deciding, fairly capriciously so, for ourselves. Too bad, because the very first Principle of War could be applied here: *Selection and Maintenance of the Aim...* that is, for us to effectively and positively influence our Federal Government on National Defence matters.

Adequate Defence is the objective. The mission couldn't be clearer.



*This Musing Column is again by Colonel (Retd) W.J. (Bill) McCullough, MSC, CD, a Past President of this Institute and the long-time Chair of our Military & Security Committee.*

# China now strong enough for a surprise move in the Indo-Pacific

By: Mike Yeo  
August 19, 2019

MELBOURNE, Australia – China is gaining an increasingly favorable military position in the Indo-Pacific, leaving the United States no longer able to enjoy military primacy in the region, a new report by an Australian think tank has warned.

The Sydney-based United States Studies Centre says the region is now vulnerable to China making a quick move to secure a military or strategic advantage, with the cost of an American counter-move potentially too high to bear.

In its report, analysts also lament the “combined effect of ongoing wars in the Middle East, budget austerity, underinvestment in advanced military capabilities and the scale of America’s liberal order-building agenda has left the US armed forces ill-prepared for great power competition in the Indo-Pacific.”

The report, titled, “Averting crisis: American Strategy, Military Spending and Collective Defence in the Indo-Pacific,” adds that over the next decade, the U.S. defense budget “is unlikely to meet the needs of the National Defense Strategy owing to a combination of political, fiscal and in-

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A Great Wall 236 submarine of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy, billed by Chinese state media as a new type of conventional submarine, participates in a naval parade to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of China's PLA Navy in the sea near Qingdao, in eastern China's Shandong province on April 23, 2019. (Mark Schiefelbein/AFP/Getty Images)

ternal pressures.”

Meanwhile, the regional balance of power has tilted in China’s favor, which the report says is also a product of the way Beijing has modernized and postured its armed forces. Central to this is the massive investment in conventionally-armed ballistic and cruise missiles, which analysts consider the centerpiece of China’s “counter-intervention” efforts.

This “growing arsenal of accurate long-range missiles,” some of which are able to reach the critical American air and naval bases located at the U.S. territory of Guam in the northern Marianas from mainland China, “poses a major threat to almost all American, allied and partner bases, airstrips, ports and military installations in the Western Pacific.”

According to a 2017 article by Capt. Thomas Shugart, then a senior military fellow at the Center for a New American Security, open-source satellite imagery suggests that China has been testing its ballistic missiles against mockup targets similar in layout to those found at American and allied bases in the region.

These mockup targets range from vehicles to above-ground fuel tanks, runways, hardened air-

craft shelters and moored ships, with Shugart pointing out that the latter are arranged in a “near-mirror image of the actual inner harbor at the U.S. naval base in Yokosuka.” He posited that “the only way that China could realistically expect to catch multiple U.S. ships in port ... would be through a surprise attack.”

The risk is compounded by the fact that many of the U.S. and allied operating bases in the Indo-Pacific that are exposed to possible Chinese missile attack lack hardened infrastructure, while “forward-deployed munitions and supplies are not set to wartime requirements” even as “America’s logistics capability has steeply declined.”

China’s growing military might in what is known as the “first island chain,” which stretches from Japan and the Ryukyu Islands archipelago down to Taiwan and the Philippines, has now effectively been flipped, according to the think tank. That provides China “with the coercive leverage it would need to quickly seize coveted territory or overturn other aspects of the status quo by pursuing a *fait accompli* strategy.”

This “anti-access, area-denial” bubble that China could activate within the first island chain and beyond will mean follow-on forces coming from Hawaii and the West Coast would have to fight their way into the region, analysts wrote. And while the report says the U.S. military “would probably — but not certainly — prevail in an extended war, escalation at this point would be enormously costly and dangerous”.

In response to this shifting regional balance of power, the think tank also calls for a strategy of collective defense to offset shortfalls in America’s regional military power.

Australia, in particular, is urged in the report to beef up its own network of regional partnerships and alliances by pursuing “capability aggregation and collective deterrence with capable regional allies and partners such as the United States and Japan, as well establishing new and expanding its existing, high-end military exercises with allies and partners to develop and demonstrate new operational concepts for Indo-Pacific contingencies.” The report also calls on Australia to rebalance its defence resources from the Middle East to the Indo-Pacific, acquire robust land-based strike and denial capabilities as well as increase its own stockpiles and create sovereign capabilities in the “storage and production of precision munitions, fuel and other materiel necessary for sustained high-end conflict.”

## HMCS Regina seizes 9,000 kilograms of drugs while on recent deployment

The crew seized an estimated 9,000 kilograms of hashish over four major drug busts along a route referred to as the “hash highway.”

LYNN GIESBRECHT, REGINA LEADER-POST  
August 9, 2019



**HMCS REGINA's Air Detachment and the CH-148 helicopter "BRONCO" train on hoisting and in air refueling during Operation PROJECTON in the Pacific Ocean on August 2 2019.**  
(Photo by Cpl. Stuart Evans, courtesy of the Royal Canadian Navy)

Crew members on board HMCS Regina seized 9,000 kilograms of hashish being transported along a drug route in the Arabian Sea during its most recent deployment, which Cmdr. Jacob French said prevents extremist networks from getting the drug profits.

HMCS Regina spent April and May — two months of its recent seven-month deployment — in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea as part of the Canadian Armed Forces’ Operation ARTEMIS, which focuses on counter-terrorism and maritime security in the region.

French, HMCS Regina’s commanding officer, said this operation is “part of an effort to make sure the maritime domain does not become a place for extremist networks to exploit ... It’s disrupting the network and taking money out of the hands of extremists and terrorists.”

In total, the crew of Regina’s namesake ship seized an estimated 9,000 kilograms of hashish (which is created from cannabis plants) over four major drug busts along a route French called the

“hash highway.”

The drugs are typically being transported from Iran or Pakistan to the coast of Yemen in motor driven boats called dhows. Using HMCS Regina's on-board helicopter, crew members searched for dhows that raised concern through signs like flying a suspicious flag or not flying a flag at all, or spotting a ship that looked like it could be the right size. Once a suspect dhow was identified, French said members boarded the boat and searched it for illegal drugs.



**RAS with MV Asterix and HMCS Regina FFH334 during Ex Talisman Sabre 2019 photo's from HMAS Melbourne's helo. (Photo courtesy of the Royal Canadian Navy by LSA Aaron Baker / HMAS Melbourne)**

With large busts like the four conducted, all of the approximately 230 crew members help haul the many nylon bags of hash onto the flight deck. French is sure these moments of teamwork will stick with the members.

“Having the successful drug busts will definitely probably have some memories for the crew. You know, it was a one-ship mission (with) all parts of the ship contributing to it and to seize those drugs,” he said.

“They feel like they're a part of the ship's company and the ship's crew that actually contributed to that in a tangible way, to counter-terrorism operations in the Middle East.”

HMCS Regina set sail from its home base in Esquimalt, B.C., in early February and will return later this month. In the other five months of its deployment, the crew took part in Operation PROJECTION, a naval mission in the Asia Pacific aimed at strengthening Canada's relationship with countries in that region.

As part of this, the crew also had the chance to spend three days in Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay, where they worked on outreach projects with the local people.

“I've been very pleased with the last seven months, both in terms of the capability that we brought with us ... (and) the experiences that we've had, the cultures that we've been able to intermingle with, the exercises we participated in, the operations that we contributed to. It's all been fantastic,” said French.

## **Canadian Government Delegation to the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands — May 1 to May 10, 2020**

The Government of Canada is planning an overseas commemorative program to mark the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands. An official Government of Canada Delegation will travel overseas from approximately May 1 to May 10, 2020, to attend remembrance ceremonies and events at a number of sites in the Netherlands. If any Member is aware of any Canadian Liberation of the Netherlands Campaign Veteran(s) who would be interested in joining the Government of Canada delegation, VAC have an official nomination form that must be completed and submitted in the next four weeks.

When preparing nomination(s), the nominee's level of comfort and ability to share information with others or make informal presentations about their military service are important considerations. Although a medical team will accompany the delegation, all delegates must be in "good" health. Nominees will be asked to have their family physician certify that they are in good

health and that they are able to withstand the rigors of travelling overseas. The delegation doctor will also review the medical forms for each nominee to provide final approval. Delegates will be expected to participate in a full schedule of events and days will be tiring. It should also be noted that the majority of events will be held outdoors.

In order for Veterans Affairs Canada to ensure that each Veteran receives the best possible care and support during the trip, Veterans over the age of 80, or those who have a medical condition that requires help with daily living activities, are required to choose a caregiver to accompany them on the trip. The caregiver will assist with such things as getting in and out of the bath/shower, administering medication, pushing wheelchairs, etc. Each Veteran and his or her caregiver will share a room. It is very important to note that the caregiver will be required to remain with the delegate at all times. Additional details regarding the role of the caregiver will be provided to the nominated Veteran. All travelling and living expenses for the Veteran and their caregiver, both in Canada and overseas, will be the responsibility of Veterans Affairs Canada.

Completed nominations must be in the hands of Patricia Burnside, Delegation Manager NLT 11 October 2019.

**Ms. Patricia Burnside**  
 Commemoration Division  
 Veterans Affairs Canada  
 PO Box 7700 JCB 304  
 Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island C1A 8M9

This month's Luncheon/Meeting will be held at

## ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 257

7227 LANTZVILLE ROAD, LANTZVILLE, BC

on

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2019

1130 HOURS

\$25.00 per member/person. Guests welcome.

## LUNCHEON MEETING ATTENDANCE

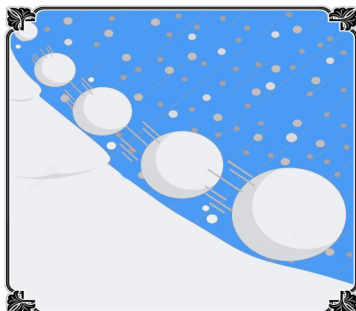
Your telephone contact coordinator will attempt to contact you in the days prior to our monthly luncheon/meeting in order to confirm your attendance. In this manner we can provide attendance numbers to the volunteer kitchen staff at RCL 257 so that they may prepare adequately for our function.

If for some reason she has missed you, please contact her or Edwin at 250-751-2360 or [ejpeeters@shaw.ca](mailto:ejpeeters@shaw.ca).

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**Ms Paula Francis**  
250-751-0991



## USINNI SNOWBALL

Sorry Darrel Hamilton, but your ticket was drawn for last month's SNOWBALL draw and you were not signed in.

Remember you can't win if you do not sign in, and you can't sign in unless you attend the Luncheon/meeting.

*More anticipation, more excitement, more fun, more reward.*