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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to all my fellow Members. I sincerely hope that this email finds you and yours well.

One of the biggest understatements that I could possibly make at this time is to state "that we are certainly living in inter-

esting times". The challenges thrust upon us by the current situation are certainly those that most of us have never had to experience before. With my recognition of the obvious, I would like to remind you all, that despite this, we are the lucky ones. Compared to the most of the rest of the citizens of the world, we are in fact doing very well. Please remember that.

One of the things that I do to relieve

the uncomfortableness of my current situation is to review the stories and circumstances of others. I inevitably discover that being a Canadian, living in this fantastic country of ours makes me a very lucky citizen



HMCS Fredericton

of the world. I recognize that despite the few inconveniences I must endure, they are significantly less than what the vast majority most other world citizens has to endure. I for one, am very grateful for the good fortune that has befallen me purely because I am a Canadian.

I wish to extend to every other member of our Institute the opportunity to express those similar feeling. Please

MILITARY AND SECURITY MUSINGS



Nanaimo, April 1st 2020...as I pen this particular Musing, Canadians, indeed, most of the human race, are struggling with COVID 19 and a dislocation of ordinary day-to-day life few if any us have ever before experienced. The reality is that life for us will never again be quite what it was, or, even what we might have wished it might be. Sitting here safe in my own

home, I'm waiting for the next shoe to inevitably drop. With the cats preoccupied, the rats are free to run rampant!

Way back in September 2017, I shared a warning with you that a Russian *coup de main* in Eastern Europe would not & probably could not be successfully challenged by NATO. That's still very much a reality today. Distracted in numerous ways, NATO appears

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oblivious to current Russian demands that the Ukrainians now enter into direct negotiations with the Kremlin-controlled Ukrainian rebels in what is the effectively Russian-occupied Donbas areas of South Eastern Ukraine. With the West thoroughly distracted with its own existential problems, Russian President Vladimir Putin is moving along to “bumping” Ukraine out of the West’s sphere of influence in Eastern Europe. NATO’s current military mission in Ukraine, which includes a modest Canadian contingent, is very much shrunk due to the CV 19 pandemic.



its inclination from West to East. Then, with Belarus and Ukraine serving as compliant buffers up against NATO’s Poland, Putin is then neatly down to just one other necessary realignment, this with NATO’s three Baltic partners, from north to south, Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania.



Post-World War 2, all three were absorbed right

Four of Russia’s NG & LNG pipelines run through Ukraine. That gas flow is absolutely critical to Europe’s economies & standard of living. The revenue earned from that flow is equally critical to post-communist Russia’s bank balance & their standard of living. A Ukraine that is part of the European Union or that has some kind of partnership with NATO is simply not acceptable to the Russians.

And, while the World tends to maintain its condemnation of Russia’s reoccupation of the Crimea, that possession has become the proverbial *nine-tenths of the law* reality for the Ukrainians. With Russian “peacekeepers” also securely ensconced in Eastern Moldova, sandwiched between Romania & Ukraine, the squeeze on Ukraine’s novice President [Volodymyr Zelensky](#) is a growing, steady & telling one. One way or the other, Vladimir Putin is determined that Ukraine switch

President’s Message Continued from page 1

take the time to jot down your own experiences during this time and share them with the rest of us. Most certainly, I will set aside room in the next edition of this newsletter to share them.

I also want to express my condolences to the families of those lost and the Canadian military family on the recent loss of life of several aircrew members from HMCS Fredericton. May they rest in peace.

We will get through this. The day will return that we will be able to again join together and share conversation, a meal and comradery.

In the meantime, if you need assistance, please ask, stay active, stay healthy, stay safe, stay well and stay home,

Edwin

Military Musing continued from page 2

into the Soviet Union as soviet states, member provinces if you will. All three have significant Russian-origin or Russian-speaking resident minorities, with Lithuania burdened as well with Russia's Kaliningrad enclave (Oblast). Kaliningrad is the former German city, Königsberg, and is the home port for Russia's Baltic Fleet.

The war for dominance over the three Baltic states is already underway. For now, it is a hybrid kind

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of war that sees all three countries dealing with Russian-origin misinformation, disinformation, propaganda and subtle commercial crime all intended to weaken and distort their still-fragile democracies. Russia's Fifth Columns are at work. NATO currently has a token international demi-brigade in each country, with the Latvian one Canadian-led. The lines-in-the-sand are drawn.

President Putin expects to remain in power until the mid-2030s, having been President or Prime Minister since 2000. He is a remarkably patient, pedestrian and methodical leader. He doesn't need Ukraine or the Baltic States tomorrow. But those are tidy-up jobs he will want and fully expects to see finished before he does his: Exit...Stage Left...2036 or thereabouts! And, the West sleeps obliviously on.

A fool too late be-ware; when the peril is already past..... Elizabeth Regina 1st

This Musing is by Colonel (Retd) W.J. McCullough, MSC, CD, a long-time Member of this Institute. The Column is the product of his own experience and research. The views expressed are his own.

CANADA

Coronavirus: Red Cross trains Armed Forces members for Quebec long-term care homes

PHIL CARPENTER—GLOBAL NEWS

PUBLISHED APRIL 29, 2020



A group of Canadian soldiers is being trained by the Canadian Red Cross before they are deployed to seniors' homes beleaguered by the COVID-19 crisis

Roughly 400 troops are taking the crash course at Ahuntsic College over the next few days, learning how to use personal protective equipment and communicate with the elderly.

According to military brass, about half of the soldiers slated to help out in seniors' homes are reservists from the Montreal area, some of whom have already completed the training.

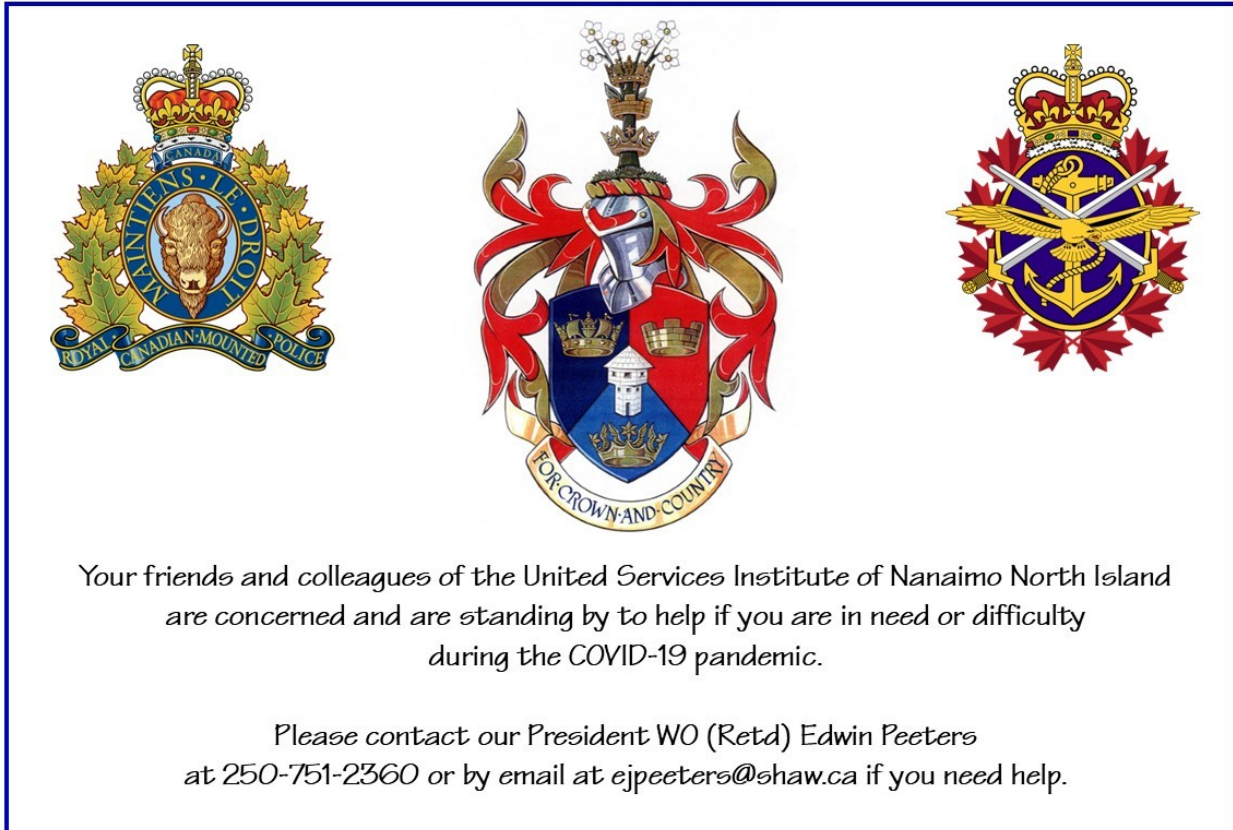
“We have one group that's already in one of the long-term care facilities already, so that's going very well,” said Colonel Tim Arsenault, Land Component Commander for Joint Task Force East.

The training was set up and developed by the West Island health care agency in collaboration with the Red Cross.

They trained us with their experts,” said Michelle Mercier, prevention and safety director for the Canadian Red Cross. “Now we are passing on the training to the military [and other] people that raised their hands and say ‘I gotta help!’”

She explained that the four-hour training session includes lectures and some practice, but doesn't end there. “When they get into the

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Red Cross trains CF members. Continued from page 3

CHSLD they might be teamed up with people that are already there to show them the finer things," Mercier added.

The troops were sent in response to Quebec Premier François Legault's request to the federal government, for soldiers to augment the more than 100 military medical personnel already in place, because of the staffing shortages in nursing homes. In addition to the five residences already being supported, the military will be helping at another eight.

"Our objective is to come in and help support, provide a constant and reliable flow of personnel throughout their work shifts," Arsenault said.

Military crews will take care of smaller tasks to allow medical staff to care for patients. With the troops and civilian volunteers, the government says the staffing crisis is easing.

"It's getting a bit better," according to Quebec Health Minister Danielle McCann. "We're not over the situation — far from there at this point, but we see a small improvement."

The soldiers expect to be fully deployed within a few days.

