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Vol 28 No 07

July 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello All. Ah yes! Summer is here at last. Time to get out and enjoy some sunshine and fresh air. And the sunshine and fresh air should be more enjoyable than most previous summers, particularly after being cooed in our homes for the better part of the first half of this year due to COVID-19.

Do, however, remember that life has NOT returned to the previous normal. The 'new' normal calls for us to keep that '6 foot social distance', and if we can't keep that distance, to wear a mask. Additionally

every effort needs to be made to avoid crowds, particularly in indoor spaces. Stay well my friends!

We have had some excellent news from Andrew Christie this past month. He has lined up some fantastic guest speakers for our planned September, October, November and December luncheon meetings. That has placed Pauline into action confirm-



On July 1st, 2020 Canada celebrates its 153rd birthday.

ing venue locations and food services for those luncheons. As soon as details

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Military & Security Musings:

Policing In 2020

Nanaimo, 25 June 2020...these are not particularly cheerful or heady days if you're a law enforcement officer of any kind. I readily acknowledge that several recent incidents that involved extreme action or troubling inaction by the police are colouring our impressions and expectations of a number of police forces in Canada. Several notorious such cases are still trooping their way through judicial or disciplinary processes. With a little patience, these will be decided on their respective merits. I don't intend to parse them here; nor will I link them to events to our immediate south.

However, I am going argue that we need to cut our police a little slack. Here in the 21st Century we are living in societies that are essentially being run by the inmates. Respect for a basic fundamental rule of law is only occasionally evident for what seems to be a significant number of our fellow citizens, and, then, only because it is mo-

mentarily convenient for them. Too many take an anarchistic stance that the law is really only intended to regulate the behavior of others. Individual rights are expected and demanded, with little acknowledgement rights are always going to have to be balanced by an assumption of responsibilities. In this regard, our problem today, and, it is a problem, began with a hasty patriation of our Constitution that was and is long on rights and short on responsibilities. Some subsequent findings by the Supreme Court of Canada have compounded the problem, such that the streets are safe for those who are essentially anti-social, but not safe for the rest of us.

Our Constitution guarantees that the disgruntled can assemble together freely and can demonstrate their complaints long, loud and forcefully, even if, in doing so, they inhibit our own parallel equally valid rights. How often this past year have we seen roads, bridges & railways blockaded for lengthy periods of time, while semi-paralysed, near inert political and justice systems were wringing their



Downtown Vancouver traffic disrupted in all directions by protestors—May, 30, 2020.

collective hands moaning: “what to do; what to do!” I’m all in favour of Rights, but not Rights exercised blindly in a vacuum. One inevitable law of the universe is that “*for every action there is a reaction; for every cause an effect.*” One Right that is righteously if carelessly exercised almost inevitably ends up infringing on someone else’s then-truncated Right.

As I pen this, the debate over “carding” rages on. I understand it can and may be abused, but carding is simply a 21st Century practice of recording accurately all of the constable’s significant professional contacts on his or her beat. This has always been fundamental to sound preventative or preemptive policing, which are in turn lynch-pins good community-based policing. So too is the exercise of absolute discretion in the enforcement of

the law accorded to and expected of every law enforcement officer. Fixing the problem here in 2020 is not going to be easy. Yes, any excesses or “ducking” on the part of the police must be dealt with. But, they’re not the root of the problem, you and I and the politicians are! And, I sense now that if we’re not careful, not a little more thoughtful, a little more patient, the baby is heading out with the bath water. That’s not smart; not smart at all! Then, only the anarchists and the ambulance chasers win; you and I lose.



The author of this column is Colonel (Retd) W.J. (Bill) McCullough, MSC, CD, a Past President of our Institute and the former 16-year Chair of our Military & Security Committee. The views expressed here are his own.

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are available, all members will be notified.

Our talks with 808 Wing on bringing the two Institutes together have come to a motionless halt due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Board is hopeful that we will be able to resume talks in September.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Stan Watts. His smile, participation and comradery will be truly missed. May he Rest in Peace.

Our Membership Director, Shah Hendi, has had to resign for personal reasons. In that light, we are looking for a Member to take over those responsibilities. Our group is getting smaller and the task of Membership Services Director is getting easier. Please consider volunteering, joining the team

In closing, on behalf of all the Members of the Board, I would like to wish all Members of our Institute, “Happy Canada Day”. May you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Edwin

Chinese Activity Increases in the High North: No Sign of Military Presence, Says IFS Researcher

Text: HILDE-GUNN BYE

Published: May 28 2020 / Updated: May 28 2020

“The Chinese and the Russians are everywhere, especially the Chinese. You would be alarmed at the amount of Chinese activity off the coast of Norway in the High North. And we need to be vigilant to that. We need to understand why», former US Ambassador to Norway Kenneth J. Braithwaite said in a hearing earlier this month related to his confirmation hearing to become Secretary of the Navy.

The Commander of the United States Naval Forces Europe and Africa, Admiral James G. Foggo III, also recently warned that everyone should be aware of Russian activities, claiming Russia has “taken an aggressive approach in the Arctic”.

These statements add to a series of US warnings in recent years regarding Russian and Chinese activity in the Arctic. The emphasis on Chinese activities in the region are preminent.

“Do we want the Arctic to be transformed into a new South China Sea, with increased militarization and competing territorial claims?”

The question was raised by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a speech before the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland in 2019. Pompeo lashed out against Russia and China, arguing amongst others that China has a hidden agenda in the Arctic in which civilian infrastructure is used to establish a permanent military presence.

Øystein Tunsjø, Professor at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies (IFS), says it is right that Chinese activity increases in the High North on a general basis, amongst others through investments and infrastructure projects, and that this has not been sufficiently mapped by Norway.

Tunsjø says there are no signs of Chinese military operations in the region and in Norway’s northern neighborhood.

Are we currently viewing a genuine escalation from Russia and China in Norway’s northern

No registered military activity

neighborhood?

“I have not seen any open sources indicating that the Chinese have operated militarily in the High North, neither in the Barents Sea, the Polar Sea or along the Northern Sea Route. I have not seen any reports that they have been here with any military vessels.”

He says it is surprising if the recent American statements about Chinese activity refers to military presence in the region. The Russian military

activity in the High North is, however, nothing new, Tunsjø points out.

“They sail with warships off their own coast and outside Norwegian territorial waters, but these are international waters. There is nothing new about that.”

Increased American

Russia is asserting its interest, which is quite natural given Russia’s geographical location.”

“What is new, is the fact that American and British ships recently conducted an exercise

together in the Barents Sea without Norwegian forces being part of the exercise. Norway was most certainly asked to join, but did not have the capacity to, which says a lot”, Tunsjø argues.

Earlier in May, American and British navy vessels operated together in the Barents Sea to conduct maritime security operations, according to a press release. It is the first time since the 1980s that surface vessels from the American navy operate in the Barents Sea.

The most recent Arctic strategy from the US Department of Defense says the USA considers the Arctic a potential corridor for strategic engagement. According to the strategy, limiting China and Russia’s opportunities for using the region as a corridor for strategic competition is in the American national interest.

The Arctic not a priority

“I believe we will see some Chinese war ships will



The USS Donald Cook, USSS Porter and USNS Supply during a British-American exercise in the Barents Sea in April/May. Despite recent American statements, professor Øystein Tunsjø at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies sees no sign of Chinese military operations in the High North.

Photo: Dan Rosenbaum/Royal Navy



Your friends and colleagues of the United Services Institute of Nanaimo North Island are concerned and are standing by to help if you are in need or difficulty during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please contact our President WO (Retd) Edwin Peeters at 250-751-2360 or by email at ejpeeters@shaw.ca if you need help.

visit, operating in the North Atlantic and the Barents Sea, and perhaps also along the Northern Sea Route in the coming years”, Tunsjø says. He believes there are two reasons why there will nevertheless not be much military activity.

“One reason is that the Russians do not want it. I do not think the Russians want heavy Chinese military presence outside their front door, in areas perceived by Russia to constitute its basic national interest, such as the Barents Sea and the Northern Sea Route.”

“The second reason is that the Chinese have far bigger and more important tasks. They have to use their warships to reach their targets especially in East Asia, a region far more important to China than the Arctic and the High North are. They will prioritize sailing in the South China Sea. The Indian Ocean, the East China Sea, the Pacific Ocean; these are areas of strategic importance to China.”

Tunsjø continues: “If they were to operate militarily in the Arctic, it would not only provoke the Americans, it would also provoke the Russians.

And that does not serve Chinese interests. It is far better to put pressure on the Americans in places where China has an advantage when operating, such as in the South China Sea.”

“One will notice superpower rivalry between the USA and China globally, including in the Arctic. However, one should keep in mind what is most important to China. The Arctic is at the bottom of their priority list. That does not mean that China will not be present in the region, pay attention to developments and invest. However, that should be seen in conjunction with the country’s most important strategic interest, which is everything else: The Korean peninsula, the relationship to India, Russia, the South China Sea, Central Asia, Africa, Latin America. Perhaps even the Antarctica is higher on its list of priorities.

Tunsjø points out that the American rhetoric about China in the Arctic may be considered a spillover effect, i.e. a consequence of the basic competition between the USA and China focusing on the Eastern Asia region, which is the geographical center of their rivalry.