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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A warm summer's Hello to all USIN-NI Members. Well we asked for it and we got it. That warm July & August weather is upon us. Please take care when you head outdoors.

I am pleased to announce that our very own MGen (Retd) Andrew Christie has pulled a few strings and has been able to line up an outstanding series of Guest Speakers for us this fall and into 2021. All the speakers were chosen because of their knowledge and expertise with respect to China. A very special series that you will not want to miss. You can find more specific details on page three of this newsletter.

The venue we will be using to present these Guest Speakers is the Main Hall at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 256. This facility was chosen because it is large and will allow use to respect social distancing guidelines.

The dining tables are large and round, and that will allow us to seat a maximum of four persons at each table. Our dinner will be prepared in the Branch kitchen and to minimize others running around, we will each collect (one table at a time) our pre-plated meal at the kitchen window. A maximum of 50 persons will be permitted

Continued on page 4

**Nanaimo, 24 July 2020...**I've been trolling back through old columns to see if there's anything that I've missed in my rants & ramblings about the place of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in our lives. Not much, if I do say so myself. The Red Dragon is real, although it's more a monster centipede than anything else. I've been whaling away about how successive governments in Ottawa play weak hands with the Chinese, and, do so timidly & indecisively. How the Chinese must love us; the penultimate *Western Whimps!*

The Chinese have been crystal clear and consistent on one single national policy: all of China's legitimate territorial disputes shall be "satisfactorily resolved" by 2049; the Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of a "free" China. The axe has fallen on Hong Kong much sooner than expected. It

## Military & Security Musings: **CHINA CIRCA 2049**



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sets the tone for just how China will deal with other “disputants” over the course of the next twenty-eight years. China’s negotiations have been and will continue to be state-to-state preferably without third party mediation, or, preoccupation with earlier experiences, prior laws or international agreements; real or imagined. The ultimate goal is unchallenged hegemony over the China & Philippine Seas, the Himalayas, South East Asia and unfettered access to the Indian Ocean & beyond.



The most serious contests will be those relating to the China Seas, and, with India. By their successful occupation and development of islands, islets and outcroppings in the China Seas, the Chinese have set the scene for their eventual occupation of Taiwan. This latter is unlikely to be achieved peacefully. Taiwan, Japan & the Philippines are distinct features, not part of mainland Asia. A successful occupation of Taiwan would almost certainly lead to renewed Chinese claims to some, possibly much, of Japan’s Ryukyu Islands, which, curiously, are roughly as close to Taiwan as Taiwan is to Mainland China. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia & Borneo will all be called upon to *kow-tow* to China’s primacy in the China Seas. In 1998, The whimperish Jean Chretien Liberal Government officially caved in and acknowledged that Tibet was a part of the PRC. Sayonara the Dalai Lama; sayonara real Tibetans! With Tibet “securely locked into China,” control of much of the Himalayas and its critical run-off fresh waters... also falls to the Chinese. The water diversions have already begun. South-East Asia lives or dies at the whim of China! Monsoon rain alone

just won’t be enough.

However, the real challenge for China over borders are those with India. Here, in the Himalayas and beyond, China and India bitterly dispute some 4000 kms of ill-defined borders. Pakistan & China and Nepal in the north-west (the old NW Frontier of the British Raj), and, Bhutan, China and Myanmar (Burma) in the north-east (the old NE Frontier) all challenge modern India’s borders that largely exist on the basis of British maps circa the 1880s! Following an inconclusive China-India War of 1962, the belligerents rested on a very imprecise *Line of Actual Control*, a map on which neither currently nor are ever likely to agree! At stake are 90,000 sq kms claimed by India but occupied by China; and, another 38,000 sq kms held by India and claimed by China.



For both India and China, the stakes in this dispute are a lot about territory, but are much, much more about “face.” Nominally a friend to both sides, President-for-Life Putin may yet be asked to try to pull an arbiter’s rabbit out of his hat. If not, India and China only have that scant 28 years to find their own *modus vivendi*; one with which both Asian giants can improbably live. Both may end up having to live with ambiguity until the next crisis erupts.

*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 & conclusions expressed here are his own.*

## USINNI FALL 2020 GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAMME

During the past 5 months the media has been dominated by COVID-19 news, statistics, opinions and projections to the detriment of reports on other crises and developments occurring around the globe. Armed confrontation, undiplomatic maneuvering, international bullying, and the widespread employment of trade sanctions, justified or not, are occurring daily but details are difficult to find and even more difficult to verify. The Western Pacific encompasses all of the above-mentioned. The People's Republic of China (PRC) intent on aggrandizement of their power and breadth of influence in Asia and beyond is impacting the national rights of neighboring countries, international protocols and trade, and threatens the stability of the region and the international balance of power. For these reasons your Board agreed that our Fall 2020 Speakers Programme would concentrate on the present and developing situation in the Western Pacific Region.

Leading off in September, we have invited RAdm "Bob" Auchterlonie, The Commander of Joint Task Force Pacific and Maritime Command Pacific to present the Canadian assessment of the situation and Canada's capabilities to secure our national interests in the region.

He will be followed in October by Mr. Jonathan Manthorpe, noted journalist and author, to present his views on the PRC's campaign of influence and power in Canada and beyond.

November will bring the return of Dr. "Jim" Boutilier who will give us his assessment of the PRC's aims, strengths and its limitations to their wielding of power in the Western Pacific.

For December, we have invited the Hon. Andrew Chen, the Consul General of the Taiwan Embassy to provide us with the Taiwanese assessment of the developing situation, Taiwan's ability to defend itself, how it intends to thwart the PRC's machinations and maintain itself as a democratic bastion.

For the 2021 Winter/Spring we intend to spread our interest circle to bring in national representatives from some of the other national players in the region as well as an USA assessment of the regional and international power struggle, their capabilities to contain the PRC and their expectations for allied nations to play their part in containing the PRC's ambitions.

All in all, we have assembled an exciting stable of speakers to present to you the best and latest up-to-date information on this crucial area of international interest and tension. Mark your calendars now and bring a friend or two. This is a series not to be missed!

Let's just pray that the COVID-19 crisis will subside and we can meet!

MGen (Retd) Andrew Christie  
USINNI Guest Speaker Coordinator



Irving Shipbuilding tweeted on Jul 10: Beautiful morning to begin final Sea Trials for the future HMCS Harry DeWolf. Fair winds and following seas.

RUSI(NS) retweeted: Must be getting close to acceptance when care & custody of Arctic & Off-shore Patrol Vessel (AOPV) transfers from Irving Ship Building to Royal Canadian Navy and Captain takes command from civil ship's master. Commissioning ceremony later. Trials (alongside and sea) continue after acceptance .





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](mailto:ejpeeters@shaw.ca) if you need help.

### President's Message Continued from page 1

to attend the luncheon meeting. Masks will be made available if you so wish. I also understand that during May & June, RCL 256 had the opportunity to upgrade and repaint the hall. I for one am looking forward to re-establishing the comradery that we all so appreciated at luncheon meetings past.

I am aware that the temptation to get out and enjoy the summer is upon all of us. I strongly urge that you take reasonable precautions and follow provided guidelines. It is just as important to get out and interact with others as it is to maintain that 6 foot social distance.

Our telephone coordinators will be contacting all our Members in the next week, in order to get an estimate of how many will attend and to address any concerns you may have. Stay well, enjoy the summer.

Edwin

### RCN is going to the polls to consult on changes to Rank designations

As the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) maintains its momentum toward a more inclusive environment, an effort has been initiated to consider new rank designations for our junior ranks that will result in more inclusive and gender-neutral terms than the current Ordinary, Able, Leading and Master Seaman.

The RCN would like to engage with currently serving and retired members, stakeholders, and other interested Canadians to receive their feedback on this issue.

The potential alternative rank designations were arrived upon by a focus group consisting of Non-Commissioned Members, and were reviewed by the Directorate of Gender, Diversity and Inclusion using Gender Based Analysis.

Options for consideration include:

- ◆ Replacing "Seaman" with "Sailor" meaning ranks would be Ordinary Sailor, Able Sailor, Leading Sailor and Master Sailor and would maintain their current abbreviated titles (OS, AB, LS and MS); and
- ◆ Sailor classes such as Sailor 3rd Class (S3), Sailor 2nd Class (S2), Sailor 1st Class (S1) and Master Sailor (MS).

There will also be an open feedback field which will allow respondents to suggest alternative options for consideration.