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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow USINNI Members. Well, the winter season has found us. The cooler weather is most definitely here. And with that, some additional measures have been imposed to protect us all from COVID-19. Yes, a vaccine is on the way, but we will still have to wait a little bit before it gets delivered. 2020 will most definitely go down as a year to remember. (not that anyone would really care to).

The BoD would like to express its gratitude to our very own Past Presi-



dent, Pete Betcher, for taking on the Director Membership Services responsibilities. I do have to remind Pete that once this COVID thing is over, we (the Board) will be returning to our monthly zero-dark-thirty meetings.

Mrs Patricia Ansell, wife of the late Major (Retd) Patrick Ansell, would like to express her sincerest thanks for all the expressions of sympathy from USINNI Members on the

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Canada's New Frigate Will Be Brimming With Missiles

BY JOSEPH TREVITHICK, NAVAL NEWS, NOV 13, 2020

The Royal Canadian Navy's future Canadian Surface Combatants, frigates derived from BAE System's Type 26 design for the U.K. Royal Navy, are set to have an impressive and particularly diverse missile armament for warships of their size. This includes Sea Ceptor, RIM-162 Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile, and Standard Missile 2 surface-to-air missiles for close-in, point, and area air and cruise missile defense respectively, as well as Naval Strike Missiles for engaging surface targets. Most notably, an official Canadian infographic says the ships will carry variants of the Tomahawk cruise missile, a weapon that the United States has only ever exported to the United

Kingdom.

Naval News was first to report on the new details about the Canadian Surface Combatant's (CSC) armament on Nov. 9, 2020, after noticing the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) infographic. The Canadian government had first announced that the Type 26-based design, pitched by a team led by BAE Systems and Lockheed Martin, was its "preferred" bid for the CSC competition in 2018. The Canadian government intends to buy 15 CSCs to replace its existing 12 *Halifax* class frigates, the first of which began entering service in the early 1990s.

BAE Systems had already begun the construction of the first of eight Type 26s, which you can read about in more

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STILL MORE HELP NEEDED FOR VETERANS: LT.-GEN. ROMÉO DALLAIRE

Janet E Silver. November 13, 2020

Retired Lt.-Gen. Roméo Dallaire says funding announcements this week from the federal government, first to give \$20 million to veterans' groups and then tapping Nishika Jardine as the new Veterans Ombudsperson, is still a far cry from what is needed to help Canada's vets.

During a media availability on Thursday following a virtual presentation on the moral injuries of COVID-19, Dallaire said "it is exceptionally difficult to meet the challenges with the resources they (the government) have." A moral injury is when a person feels an action has occurred that goes against their moral beliefs.

Dallaire and Dr. Shelly Whitman, executive director of the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security, spoke about veterans' mental health and the moral injuries they face, with the added problem of finding treatment during COVID-19.

Dallaire told iPolitics that when he sat in the Senate he pushed for more aide to veterans – particularly those suffering mental wounds – but he could not get his fellow policy makers to commit to a "sense of urgency" for Canada's retired military members.

He says veterans have an overwhelming need for therapy and when asked what should the Canadian government should do, he responded, "we



Retired Lt.-Gen. Roméo Dallaire. (iPolitics/ M. Usherwood)

need to change the nature of the injury of the mind and to make the psychological as urgent as the physical and change the nature of how we look at mental health as a long-term problem."

Dallaire said the federal government needs to hire more staff, including more therapists, and provide help to veterans and their families. He says "treating the individual without giving support to families won't meet the challenges vets and their families face." And, he says, the \$3 billion for the Office of the Veterans Ombudsman is not nearly enough.

The Veterans Ombudsman's office works with veterans and their families to make sure they can access programs and services to contribute to their wellbeing.

Dallaire says more investment in this office is needed because the veterans they help "are self-destructing and creating so many difficulties for their own families and their own communities, this is not a major investment (\$3 billion) in my opinion, not yet."

Canada faces fresh calls to step up in Mali

By Lee Berthiaume, The Canadian Press
Sunday, November 15, 2020

OTTAWA — Canada is being urged to step up its presence in Mali, including through the provision of military assistance to help fight Islamic militants in the region and a diplomatic push to lead peace and reconciliation talks.

The calls for greater involvement follow a coup in August that has once again left the West African nation under military rule even as fighting between different armed groups — including some Islamic extremist groups — continues to spiral out of control.

They also come more than a year after Canada wrapped up its peacekeeping mission in Mali, leaving only a handful of troops and police officers to continue supporting United Nations' efforts to bring peace and stability to the country.

French military and diplomatic officials were among those asking for more Canadian involvement in Mali during a panel discussion last week on the situation in the country hosted by the Ottawa-based Conference of Defence Associations Institute.

France has been leading efforts to counter the

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detail in this previous *War Zone* piece, in 2017, so there had been some idea of what kind of capabilities the Canadian ships might have. The Royal Navy's Type 26s are set to have a 24-cell Mk 41

weapons to the United Kingdom. It has long been posited that the Type 26's Mk 41 array would also have strike-length cells and be able to be armed with the Tomahawk.

It is possible that Canada could be eyeing newer anti-ship focused variants of the Tomahawk, such



Vertical Launch System (VLS) array, as well as 48 more VLS cells for the Sea Ceptor missile, also known as the Common Anti-Air Modular Missile (CAMM), along with a five-inch main gun and torpedoes. However, it had previously been unclear what the exact armament for the Canadian derivatives would be. We now know that the RCN ships will also have a five-inch gun and torpedo tub. When it comes to missiles, though, the CSCs will have a 32-cell Mk 41 array, eight more than the Type 26s, which can accommodate various weapons. Most interestingly, the infographic mentions the inclusion of the Tomahawk cruise missile in the ship's arsenal for "naval fires support." Last year, Lockheed Martin representatives confirmed to *Naval News* that the Mk 41 cells on these ships will be "strike-length," meaning that it is the larger version of this VLS that can accommodate Tomahawks and other longer missiles.

Naval News said it had been unable to confirm, so far, what the RCN's plans are exactly with regards to integrating Tomahawks onto the CSCs. It's important to note that Canada does not have any other ships armed with Tomahawks and that the United States, to date, has only ever exported these

as the Block V Maritime Strike Tomahawk (MST). However, the infographic states that the CSC would carry these missiles for naval fire support, a term that typically refers to strikes against targets on land, which strongly indicates that, if this is indeed the RCN's plan, it is looking to acquire an entirely new maritime capability.

For Canada, having ships capable of very long-range stand-off strikes against targets on land could give it a completely new role in future operations, especially together with allies and partners, such as other members of NATO. Within that alliance, only a very few countries beyond the United States, most notably the United Kingdom and France, have this kind of capability. Other nations in that bloc do have land-attack cruise missiles, but generally not with anywhere near the range of a missile like the Tomahawk.

CSCs armed with Tomahawks could certainly give the Canadians a new organic ability to project naval power, in general, as well. This could offer something of an anti-access/area-denial deterrent for responding to challenges to the country's specific national security interests, especially its claims in the increasingly strategic Arctic

region.

These ships will also have the shorter-range, stealthy NSMs, a very capable and increasingly popular Norwegian-designed missile, which you can read about in more detail in this past *War Zone* piece. This missile, which uses an imaging infrared seeker that electronic warfare systems can't jam to find its target in the terminal stage of flight, also has a land-attack capability, making a very flexible weapon in its own right.

Beyond all that, the RCN is also planning to fill at least some of the Mk 41 cells on the CSCs with a mixture of RIM-162 Evolved Sea Sparrow Missiles (ESSM) and Standard Missile 2 (SM-2) Block IIICs. The U.S. government approved the sale of the SM-2 Block IIICs for Canada's future frigates just last week.

Only one SM-2 can be loaded into a single Mk 41 cell, but four ESSMs can be packed into one, expanding the ship's available magazine capacity. At present, the plan is for the ESSMs, which you can read about in more detail in this previous *War*

Zone story, to provide point defense against incoming threats, including barrages of cruise missiles, while the SM-2s tackle more general area air defense duties. The CSC's primary sensor to cue these weapons will be a version of Lockheed Martin's AN/SPY-7 Long Range Discrimination Radar (LRDR), an active electronically-scanned array (AESA) type, supplemented by a solid-state AESA radar target illuminator.

With this already significant anti-air defense capability, it's interesting that the CSCs will also be armed with Sea Ceptors. It's unclear what launchers will be used to fire these missiles or where they will be located, but *Naval News* has pointed out that a model of the ship publicly displayed last year had a previously explained six-cell VLS array, possibly a version of Lockheed Martin's Extensible Launching System (ExLS), amidships. Sea Ceptors can also be quad-packed into a single ExLS cell, which would allow these ships to carry 24 of these missiles in total.

ESSM and Sea Ceptor are typically seen as some-

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Weapons

- Missile Vertical Launch System 32 Cells – LMC MK 41
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- Point Defence Missiles – Raytheon Evolved Sea Sparrow
- Naval Fires Support – Raytheon Tomahawk
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Specifications:

Length: 151.4 metres Displacement: 7800 tonnes Range: 7000 nautical miles
 Beam: 20.75 metres Navigational Draught: ~8m Class: 15 ships
 Speed: 27 knots

Habitability:

Accommodations: ~204 Dedicated Gym/Fitness Facilities
 Medical Facilities Shipboard Wi-Fi

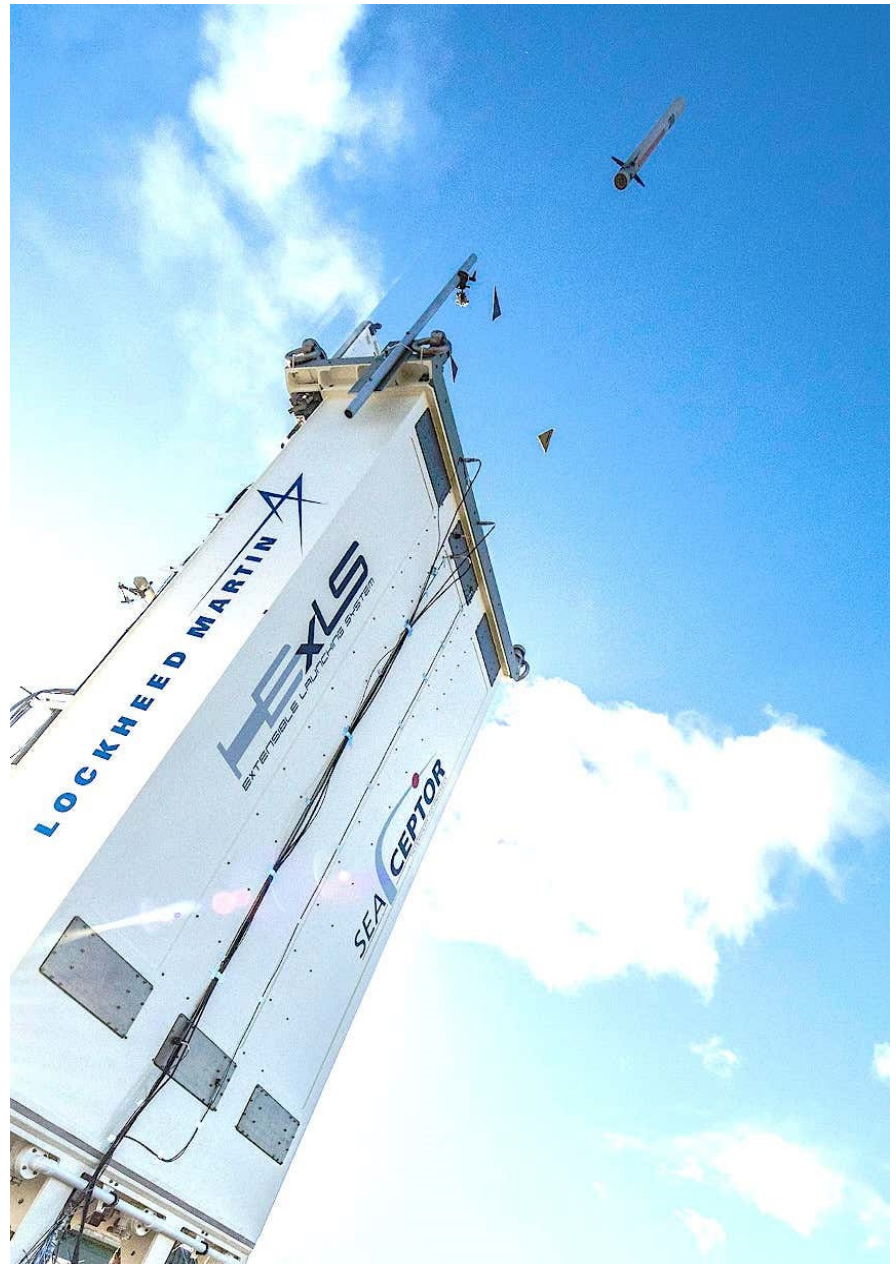
what equivalent competitors and the Royal Navy's Type 26s will have a 24-cell VLS loaded with them for general air defense. However, MBDA told *Naval News* that, on Canada's CSCs, its Sea Ceptor missiles will be filling the role of a close-in weapon system. Typically, very rapid-firing guns or horizontally-fired missile systems, such as the U.S. Phalanx Close-In Weapon System (CIWS) with its 20mm Vulcan cannon or the SeaRAM loaded with RIM-116 Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM), provide this last line of defense for warships.

Of course, it is possible that Sea Ceptor will also be capable of supplementing the ESSMs in the point defense role, meaning their addition to the CSC's arsenal could offer the ships added flexibility in that regard.

Regardless, taken together, all of these missile options represent major, multi-purpose firepower for a frigate-type warship. It's not entirely clear how big the CSCs will be compared to the British Type 26s, but the general size of the two designs will be very similar. The Type 26s are expected to displace around 7,000 tons, which is more than existing variants of the Franco-Italian Fregata Europea Multi-Missione (FREMM), or European Multi-Mission Frigate, on which the U.S. Navy's future *Constellation* class frigates will be based. Those forthcoming American warships, also referred to as FFG(X), are also set to be armed with ESSM, SM-2 Block IIIC, and NSM, as well as the SeaRAM close-in weapon system, but there are no plans to add a weapon like Tomahawk to their arsenal at present.

Canada's plans for its CSCs, at least as they are understood now, would make them very similar capability-wise to the U.K. Royal Navy's future Type 26s, as well as France's FREMM variants, known as the *Aquitaine* class. Those French warships also have a long-range land-attack cruise missile capability in the form of MBDA's Missile de Croisière Naval (MdcN), or Naval Cruise mis-

sile. The *Aquitaine* class frigate *Languedoc* actually fired some of those weapons in anger in 2018 as part of a U.S.-led missile barrage against chemical weapon-related sites in Syria, underscoring the kind of capability that



A SEA CEPTOR MISSILE FLIES FROM AN EXTENSIBLE LAUNCHING SYSTEM CELL DURING A TEST IN 2018.

could become available in the future to the RCN if it does ultimately acquire Tomahawks.

The CSCs had already looked set to usher in a new era for the Royal Canadian Navy. Armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles, together with the various other missiles they will be able to employ, the ships now look set to offer Canada an entirely new form of maritime power projection.

“... Mali” continued from page 2

growing threat of Islamic extremists in West Africa and the sub-Saharan region since a previous coup in Mali in 2012, with French forces involved in combat operations against jihadist groups.

Canada has provided some support to that French mission, which is known as Operation Barkhane, notably the occasional provision of military transport aircraft to help move troops and equipment around the region.

French Brig.-Gen. Cyril Carcy, who until August commanded Operation Barkhane, thanked Canada for that contribution during the CDAI conference even as he hinted at talks between Ottawa and Paris around the provision of more assistance.

“I do believe that discussion is already underway to ask for additional contributions,” Carcy said in French before listing several ways in which the Canadian military can help French and local African forces fighting terrorist groups in the region.

Those include more intelligence and sensors to help locate and identify Islamic militant forces as well as air-to-air refueling to support French fighter jets operating in the region.

“The Canadians can therefore participate without necessarily being present in Mali in the combat sense,” said Carcy, who is now the French defence attache in Washington, D.C.

The growing threat posed by Islamic extremists was underscored by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in his most recent quarterly report on Mali at the end of September, which noted that such groups are expanding their activities and influence.

“Time is of the essence as the security, humanitarian and human rights situation continues to deteri-

orate as a result of intensified activities by terrorist groups in central and northern Mali,” Guterres wrote.

International observers have expressed repeated concerns over the years that instability in Mali will spill over into the surrounding region, providing a potential base of operations for terrorist groups such as al Qaeda.

At the same time, the UN chief reiterated his previous concerns over the Aug. 18 coup that saw the Malian military wrest control of the country from the government of Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, ostensibly to deal with the rampant corruption in the capital city of Bamako.

While Ottawa was quick to condemn the coup, experts have suggested that Canada is increasingly disengaged from Mali due to a lack of political will and interest. That is despite the peacekeeping mission and hundreds of millions in foreign aid over the years.

Former Canadian ambassador to Mali Isabelle Roy, who was speaking on the same panel as Carcy, voiced some of those complaints as she called on Canada to become “more present” in the country — including by participating in peace and reconciliation talks.

“I believe that Canada in fact could do more on the mediation front, as we did during the 1991 transition period and as we continued to do for the northern part of Mali,” Roy said in French.

For his part, France’s special envoy to the Sahel told the panel that his country sees Canada as an important partner in the region.

“Of course, we always hope that Canada does more,” Frederic Bontems said in French. “But Canada is already very present on the ground.”



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.

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passing of her husband. She has very fond memories of the comradery and companionship both she and Patrick shared with other USINNI Members. She has moved to Ontario to be closer to her daughter, but will be retaining her current email address.

On behalf of all the Members of the Institute Board, I would like to wish the very, very best, to all Members of our Institute, and their families, for the coming holiday season. May your festive season be filled with joy and happiness.

Stay well, stay safe.

Edwin