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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello All. We sincerely hope that this edition of our newsletter finds you and yours well.

COVID-19, is still the topic of relevance. And maybe more so now.

Within the Canadian population, I believe we veterans are a lucky group. During our careers, we learned how to deal with adversity and hardship, how to smile when things got difficult, how to keep pushing through the obstacles until we have finally reached that mission goal.

Carry that forward to today. We know how to deal with the discomforts that COVID-19 restrictions have placed upon us. We know that some hardship now will pay off in the end. We know

that we must stay true to the course laid out. We will succeed, we will get to the other side of this. Just when we thought that maybe we would get a break, well we found ourselves in a deeper pot. No non-essential travel. Stay in your circle - generally those that are in your immediate family - those that reside with you. We have been through worse. This is not as difficult on us as it is on those that have never served their country in uniform. Keep an eye out on them, your friends, your neighbors. Be tolerant but firm, be supportive but maintain your distance.

We are coming to the other side.

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## MILITARY AND SECURITY MUSING

### Changing Tides in the West Pacific & Indian Oceans

Nanaimo, 25 January 2021...the World Order is evolving, literally overnight, while we doze on... the blind dumb sleep of the oblivious. The Musing that follows my preamble came to me via our good colleagues at RUSI UK in London. Just for background though, the Musing is from the conclusion of a major paper that originated in an Indian think tank on Defence Issues. The paper is designed to promote UK interest in what is now a



formal Indian-Japan-Australian agreement called the: Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI). I believe that South Korea, Taiwan and New Zea-

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## Canada to get a drone to patrol Arctic

By **Marc Montgomery**  
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Posted: Radio Canada International  
 Tuesday, January 12, 2021

After years of discussion, Canada has announced the purchase of a drone to help patrol its vast Arctic.

The announcement late last month was made by the federal Minister of Public Services and Procurement Anita Anand and Transport Minister Marc Garneau.

The contract will be for a 'civilian' version of an Israeli military drone from Elbit Systems Ltd. or the acquisition of a Hermes 900 StarLiner remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS). It will be able to patrol up to 72 degrees north latitude, roughly near the top of Victoria and Baffin Islands

and has a range of some 1,400 nautical mile.

It will not however be used for military purposes but rather as part of Transport Canada's National Aerial Surveillance Programme (NASP) which is primarily designed to monitor shipping and other activity on the oceans, detect ship related oil spills and dumping, and survey ice and marine habitats.

While Canada does have satellite surveillance and can detect such things as oil spills, the speed of the satellite over an area makes it difficult to de-

termine the nature or origin of the spill, a lower and slower flying, easily directed and maneuvered drone with its refined sensors can help fill the gap. The programme also helps in search and rescue efforts and efforts to control illegal fishing and currently involves two De Havilland Dash 8, a Dash-7, and other contracted fixed-wing aircraft. The \$36.16 million drone contract involves the drone and development of communications links



*The drone Canada is buying is a civilian version of the Hermes 900 military drone. It has a wingspan of 15 meters, can reach 10,000 meters, can fly for up to 30 hours, with cruise speed at just over 100 km/h. (Elbit Systems)*

ground control stations, sensor packages, training and the optional purchase of spare parts.

A new NASP multi-million dollar complex is also planned in Iqaluit, Nunavut, to include a hanger, office space, command post and briefing rooms.

The drone is expected to be delivered in December of 2022, with the Iqaluit complex ready by 2023.

"President's Message" continued from page 1

There may be a few more minor setbacks, a few more inconvenient disappointments, but rest assured, the day will come, it is not too far away, that we will be able to enjoy each others comradery once again. We will get back to gatherings

and luncheons. We will laugh at the stories that will come out after all this has passed.

Stay safe, stay well,

Edwin

“Changing Tides...” continued from page 1

land are also seriously looking into it, while Malaysia and Indonesia are weighing the pros and cons. Illogically, the Filipinos appear to be gunshy & disinterested. There is vague talk about Canada joining in on this, but nothing certain, given that the Trudeau Government is inert an anything that might upset the Chinese.

Nominally unrelated to SCRI, the United States, Japan, India and Australia are already parties to another arrangement called the: Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD). This more imaginative thinking now naturally evolves on to the idea of an Asian-West Pacific version of NATO. One related possibility being promoted by Britain is Democracy Ten, envisaging a re-grouping of the the G7 (minus Russia), with Japan, India and Australia added in. Where this all leads is anyone’s guess, but we need to at least see what others are doing and thinking...open-mindedly.

Here’s the concluding paragraphs from the Indian Paper. They’re worth a read. In the very last paragraph, the author lays a bit of a lash on the Brits. You and I might add Canada to the UK as prospective members of a Pan Pacific alliance We just need a good kick on the backside to get us started!!! □...Bill

## THE INDO-PACIFIC AND CHINA IN THE UK’S POST-BREXIT OUTLOOK

*The Author is Jagannath Panda, a Research Fellow and Centre Coordinator for East Asia at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi.*

Moving forward, if the UK is to substantially carve a ‘bold new positive role’ for itself in the world, the Indo-Pacific must be accorded increased priority within the UK’s foreign policy calculus. After the UK–EU trade agreement, the UK risks being further separated from the Asia-Pacific than ever before. It will, for instance, no longer be a dialogue partner with ASEAN – either with the EU or independently amid the ongoing moratorium on new members. Hence, the UK must necessarily explore new modes of engagement for deeper ties with Asia and the Indo-Pacific that benefit it both economically and politically. A recent report, endorsed by Shinzo Abe, has recommended that the UK forms its post-Brexit foreign policy with a focus on the Indo-Pacific.

The UK is equally concerned with Chinese belligerence

in the Indo-Pacific, especially in Hong Kong. In response to China’s breach of their 1984 bilateral treaty vis-à-vis Hong Kong through a sweeping national security law that quashed fundamental freedoms, the UK censured Beijing, suspended extradition, and banned export of riot control products to the country. A cross-party consensus is developing in the UK with parliamentarians asking for a complete overhaul of ties with China. Prime Minister Boris Johnson also declared a five-year visa for the 2.9 million Hong-Kongers with British overseas status, claiming that the law was a serious violation and setback to Hong Kong’s autonomy. The UK has also consistently accused China of blatant human rights violations in its crackdown on Uighur Muslims, with more than 100 lawmakers signing a letter to this effect to the Chinese ambassador to the UK. The UK also banned Huawei equipment from its 5G network, citing security concerns regarding potential cyber attacks, following a similar move by FVEY partners New Zealand, the US and Australia. Considering such political disputes, enhanced security engagements and reinforced democratic partnerships that uphold the regional rules-based order will be key narratives driving the UK’s involvement in the Indo-Pacific framework. The UK-proposed Democracy 10 initiative, which creates a club of 10 democracies, including India, shows London’s desire to further coalitions that counterbalance China and reduce reliance on it. The SCRI, which is also underpinned by a shared desire to balance China, can be a key forum for engagement in this regard.

China’s response to the UK has seen a reciprocal ban on extradition treaties and increased criticism of the UK’s policies in Chinese strategic circles. Seeing the UK’s emerging Indo-Pacific outlook, China’s ambassador to the UK Liu Xiaoming has stated that a ‘recognition deficit and a trust deficit’ have emerged in UK–China ties as a result of the UK’s ‘Cold War mentality’. While claiming that Hong Kong is a Chinese domestic matter, the Chinese outlook towards the UK urges London to make ‘smart choices’ and also shows signs of targeting British companies and businesses if further deterioration takes place. It hence encourages the UK to promote an ‘independent’ policy with China and not one that is a derivative of the US.

Nevertheless, the UK’s Indo-Pacific outlook, and indeed its consultations with the SCRI, need not be framed entirely through a Sino-centric narrative. Rather, as the UK loses access to its EU-centred dialogue mechanisms, the SCRI can be a way to sustain strategic communication with the economically vital Indo-

Pacific region. It can aid Johnson's mysterious 'Project Defend', which has swiftly become a domestic exercise to make sure that the UK retains access to critical goods while working on the diversification of trade ties. As UK leaders look to avoid onshoring of supply chains, the SCRI can allow for an expansion of trade ties with the Quad members, other Indo-Pacific countries and Commonwealth partners. Economic alignment will also provide the UK with greater access and an active role to play in the Indo-Pacific security landscape.

The SCRI will also be of great advantage to the private sector, which is already actively looking for ways to update its supply chain strategies while inculcating structural agility into organizations breaking away from EU dependency. The UK-EU trade relationship is bound to undergo significant changes with the end of the Brexit transition period and the finalization of the UK-EU trade deal, which will only be further complicated by the drastically transformed economic context provided by the pandemic. Amid such long-term changes, the SCRI can help the UK solidify its trade outlook.

The UK must play a more proactive role in the Indo-Pacific, and this engagement can begin with the SCRI's

emerging platform. If the UK is to play a role commensurate with its historic status as a great power, as well as its existing position as a Permanent Five member of the UN Security Council, it must devise a new strategy to bolster its presence within Indo-Pacific frameworks. Only then can the UK establish itself as a reliable and trusted partner.

*This Musing Column is again that of Colonel (Retd) W.J. (Bill) McCullough, MSC, CD, a Past President of this Institute. For 16 years, he was also Chair of our Military & Security Committee. The views and conclusions expressed here are those of the original author (s), coloured by Bill's own introduction and commentaries.*



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.