# Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches

**28 November 2025**

*The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia provides a forum for the study, promotion and debate of defence, security, and safety issues.*

*Dispatches* is a periodic collection of news of interest, including posts to social media by the Institute. Links to articles are checked at the time they are put into *Dispatches* but may be unavailable at a later date or in some countries other than Canada.

Everyone is encouraged to submit links and other content to be included in *Dispatches*. Submissions and feedback are welcome anytime. Email to RUSINSDispatches@gmail.com. Comments to articles can be from members or non-members of RUSI(NS). Any comment in *Dispatches* is the sole opinion of the author and does not necessarily represent the views of the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia, the Department of National Defence or other government department, the Canadian Armed Forces, or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or other agency.

If you wish to receive *Dispatches* at a different address (i.e., not your work address), please inform RUSI(NS). Past editions of *Dispatches* may be requested by contacting RUSI(NS).

*Editor's Notes:* The next issue will be **12 December 2025**. This will be the last newsletter of 2025.

**Quick links:**


- **Events**
- **Publications**
- **@RUSI_NS on X**
- **Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia on Facebook**
- **Other Sources**
- **Odds and sods**
- **SAC Notes**


**Contributions to RUSI(NS) social media**

You are also encouraged to send material to be posted to the RUSI(NS) X and Facebook accounts to rusinsdispatches@gmail.com. Preferably, send the material ready to post. We are still looking for a volunteer(s) to be editor(s) for these accounts in order to keep them active.

## Events

To list an event in *Dispatches*, email RUSI(NS) by noon Thursday. RUSI(NS) events are by invitation. If you are interested in attending and have not been invited, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com. RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice. Email RUSI(NS) if there is a question of an event occurring.

**RUSI (NS) Events:**

**4 December,** Thursday: Meet and Greet from 1400 until 1600 hrs at the upper bar of RA Park to celebrate the year. There is a nominal cost of $10. Please register by 30 November 2025, attention Vice-President. A confirmation of your registration will be sent out NLT 1 December 2025.

***Tentative 2026 Schedule:***

January - ACOA end January, likely virtual.
February - VAdm Miller (Retd) First Gulf War, in-person + virtual, RA Park.
March - NORAD Modernization Update, virtual.
April - RCMP or CBSA update, in-person, likely their location.
May - Col Tarra Willis, Comd 12 Wing, Future of Maritime Air, hybrid, in-person + virtual, Shearwater Aviation Museum.
June - Mr Harvey Vardy, Director Intervention Response Atlantic, virtual 17 June 2026.

**Other Events:**

**26-30 November, 1 December,** Wednesday-Monday: Naval Québec Rendez-vous annuel 2025 "Tour of the Quebec shipbuilding ecosystem." For proposed preliminary schedule, email RUSI(NS). Tours are to: Groupe Océan (https://www.groupocean.com/en/ocean/), Marmen (https://marmeninc.com/en), Groupe Mundial (https://www.groupemundial.com/en/), Port of Quebec City (https://www.portquebec.ca/en/) and the Emergency Response Training Centre CFMU (https://www.imq.qc.ca/formation-continue/cfmu/presentation). For inquiries and reservation: Vincent Bernier (581) 999-8333 vbernier@navalquebec.ca.

**New 5-6 December,** Friday-Saturday: The Cambridge Military Library is having a book sale with the sales going to support the Army Museum at the Halifax Citadel. Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter.

**New 12 December,** Friday: The Institute for Indo-Pacific Security presents, “Engaging the Pacific Island Countries (PICs): Offering Reliable Alternatives Beyond Bejing.” The importance of engaging in the "Global South" has been rising as the rule-based international order faces increasing challenges. In particular, the strategic importance of the PICs has gotten increasing attention in the context of intensifying U.S.-PRC strategic competition. 1000hrs AST, virtual. Register at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/engaging-the-pics-offering-reliable-alternatives-beyond-beijing-tickets-1975606834223?aff=oddtdtcreator

**Wargaming Events:**

Georgetown University Wargaming Society long-range schedule:
https://www.guwargaming.org/guwsevents

**5 January 2026**, Monday: Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Army Analytic Wargaming." 7-8:30 pm AST. Online. To register:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/army-analytic-wargaming-tickets-1554220036969

## Publications

26 November 2025, RUSI(NS) and the Royal Military Colleges of Canada Alumni Association Atlantic Branch Citadel Group hosted the staff from the NATO Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) located here in Halifax. "Through an Alliance-wide network of innovators, accelerators, test centres and end users, NATO DIANA is solving critical defence, security and resilience challenges to provide decisive defence and security effects." The presentations by LCol Nadia Kang and Mr Matt Clancey were excellent. RUSI(NS) members may request a copy of the slide deck by emailing RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

**New** Canadian Coast Guard Atlantic Region Newsletter *Coastlines*, July-September 2025 Available to RUSI(NS) members on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

The following publications are received by RUSI(S) from other associations. The latest edition, where not otherwise indicated, may be requested by emailing RUSI(NS). To readers of Dispatches from other associations, sharing of your publications is appreciated.

weekly:
Naval Association of Canada
Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) Defence Update
Vancouver Artillery Association and Royal United Services Institute Vancouver Members News

bi-weekly: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association On Watch

monthly:
Canadian Gunner News
Edmonton United Services Institute President's Enews
Military Institute of Windsor Communiqué
Naval Reserve Association of Canada Mess Deck ConneXions
Royal Alberta United Services Institute Dispatches
Royal Canadian Logistics Service The Logistician
Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch Scuttlebutt
Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island Newsletter
Veterans Affairs Canada Salute!

quarterly:
Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) Quarterly Newsletter

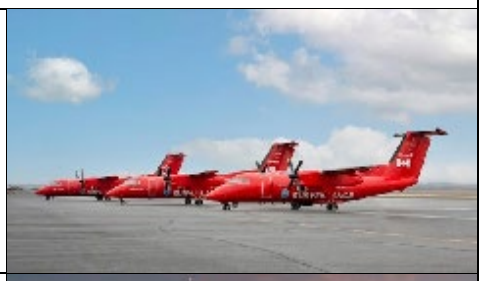
## @RUSI_NS on X

@RUSI_NS posts may be viewed by clicking on the icon at https://RUSI-NS.ca.
To have something posted or reposted, email RUSI(NS).

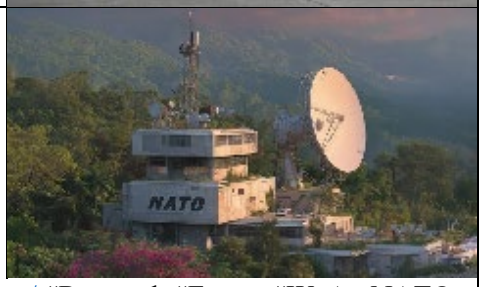
RUSI @RUSI_org 25 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Drug traffickers are constantly innovating to increase profitability and lower operational risk. Their experimentation with uncrewed semi-submersible technology presents a predicament for counternarcotics strategies centred on deterrence. #RUSICommentary

(Uncrewed and Under the Radar: How AUVs Transform Drug Smuggling https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/uncrewed-and-under-radar-how-auvs-transform-drug-smuggling)

Murray Brewster @Murray_Brewster 18 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Transport Canada's aviation wing moving to DND with little explanation. Transferring aircraft will help Ottawa meet NATO's new spending target. #cdnpoli #RCAF #CAF #NationalAerialSurveillanceProgram #ARCTIC



NATO Defense College @NATO_DefCollege 29 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) repostd: NDC Insight 06-2025: *Future of Conflicts – A Vision of What Is to Come*, by Nicolas Minvielle, Marie Roussie and Romane Thomas. #Foresight is intended to inform and illuminate the future. But what if instead it serves to build conceptual blinkers regarding the nature of future conflicts?
Learn more at 📎
https://ndc.nato.int/future-of-conflicts-a-vision-of-what-is-to-come/ #Research #Future #WeAreNATO
(Cut to the one-page conclusion.)




Greater Victoria Harbour Authority @gvicharbour 14 Nov posted: It's not every day you see a warship completely out of the water. This is HMCS Vancouver on Seaspan's Careen, which is a floating dry dock. The Careen and the Vancouver left Ogden Point this morning and headed to CFB Esquimalt where the warship's hull will be inspected.
RUSI(NS) quoted: Mobile floating dry docks like @Seaspan Careen are strategic assets, indicator of a country's status as seapower. @RoyalCanNavy needs to be able to repair forward of home ports. National Shipbuilding Strategy should ensure there are adequate floating dry docks across CAN🇨🇦yards.

*Comment from an engineer:* This is indeed a good proof of concept for the Royal Canadian Navy, solves an immediate shortage of docking facilities and offers all sorts of options in the future.

David Pugliese @davidpugliese 15 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Canada's battle of the fighter jets: F-35 vs the Gripen https://ottawacitizen.com/public-service/defence-watch/canada-fighter-jets-f-35-gripen via @ottawacitizen

Canadian Joint Operations Command @CJOC_COIC 15 Nov posted: 🇨🇦 218 days, 3 ops, 1 ship—HMCS Ville de Québec completes its mission! Visiting 11 ports during Ops HORIZON, REASSURANCE & AMARNA, it showcased Canada's global presence & commitment to peace, security & stability. Bravo Zulu! 👏⚓
RUSI(NS) quoted: Extent/success of this deployment says something for achievements of @CJOC-COIC & @RoyalCanNavy logistics planning/support. #RCNavy is globally deployable #BlueWaterNavy as part of @CanadianForces world-wide engagement

National Post @nationalpost 14 Nov posed: A long-troubled fleet of coast guard patrol ships that the Canadian government paid hundreds of millions to build will be pulled from service "sooner than expected," an internal document shows
(Coast guard patrol ships to be pulled from service 'sooner than expected,' amid pressures from new security mandate https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/coast-guard-patrol-ships-to-be-pulled-from-service-sooner-than-expected-amid-pressures-from-new-security-mandate)
RUSI(NS) quoted: Might replacement for @CoastGuardCAN Hero-class be combined with that of @RoyalCanNavy Orca-class patrol craft & other CAN🇨🇦marine departments for single multi-role mid/inshore vessel design? Simplified training & logistics

## "Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia" on Facebook:

RUSI(NS) postings may also be viewed by clicking on the Facebook icon at https://RUSI-NS.ca. To have something posted or commented, email RUSI(NS) by noon Thursday.

Britain wants a missile carrying drone warship – the Type 91 https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/britain-wants-a-missile-carrying-drone-warship-the-type-91/

A lesson of history, highlighted by ongoing conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine War and by wargames of potential conflicts in theatres such as off Taiwan - the side with mass is more likely to prevail. To have mass, if only to contribute to the greater mass needed by our alliances in a conflict, the Royal Canadian Navy needs to be structured with and to receive large numbers of less-than-exquisite combatants (corvettes, arsenal ships) including drones. The navy Canada should be building (maybe, is looking to build) should have a mix of sloops, chariots and other uncrewed vessels. The industry Canada should be ensuring should be able to scale up to meet emergency demands to produce such vessels.

Minutes of the 649th Meeting of the Canadian Chiefs of Staff, 19 November 1959, provide a tantalizing peek at early consideration by senior military officers of the benefits and challenges of acquiring nuclear powered submarines (SSN). It is fascinating that this consideration was so early, even before the formation of the Canadian submarine service. It puts into context the consideration in later years, even recently, of acquiring SSN.

*From a colleague:* The 1961 'Brock Report' (Ad Hoc Report on Naval Objectives) highlights SSN and argues Canada needed twelve, but these minutes illustrate that the ambition extended back even further.

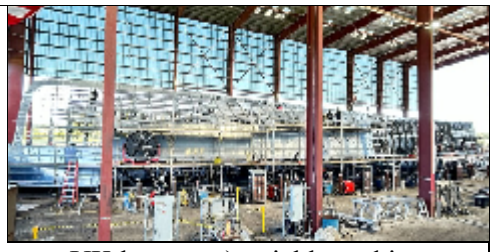
Note, however, that the rationale developed, like the Brock Report, is entirely based on professional biases and is not tied to any national strategy. It talks about the general utility of the capability and also muses about the trade-offs that might be necessary in terms of the scarcity of funds to deal with both the ship and submarine construction costs.

The key problem with Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) strategic planning is that it has never operated under true national strategic guidance. This goes back to its foundation in which the debate over its purpose revolved around a navy constructed for local uses or one for projecting power.

The projection of Canadian power has always been to serve Imperial direction (Boer War, the World Wars) or to secure international public goods under the auspices of alliances/coalitions (Cold War/Post Cold War). This amounts to what Jon Vance calls 'contribution warfare' where simply showing up secures Canada's interests in the conflict. Local defence required relatively little under the assumption that Canada was 'fireproof.' So, while the navy consistently argued that only by controlling the water column could it pursue its maritime missions, the state often decided that local conditions do not require submarines.

As Canada considers purchase of twelve submarine boats to replace the Victoria-class submarines, the RCN should endeavour to consider how submarines necessarily contribute to the realization of Canada's maritime interests, rather than simply serve the professional goal of a balanced fleet. Noteworthy for this audience, the RCN Directorate of Maritime Strategy has just stood up a project to do exactly that.

*From another colleague:* The best and most succinct discussion of the Canadian nuclear submarine program is found in Michael Whitby's chapter ("Vice-Admiral Harry G. DeWolf: Pragmatic Navalist") found in "The Admirals: Canada's Senior Naval Leadership in the Twentieth Century." Nuclear submarines are discussed on pages 231-235.



Building maritime drones in months—not years—could be key to creating the Navy's hybrid fleet
https://www.defenseone.com/business/2025/11/building-maritime-drones-monthsnot-yearscould-be-key-creating-navys-hybrid-fleet/409648/

Does Canadian industry have the capability to produce maritime drones (surface and underwater, 'sloops' and 'chariots' to us UK language) quickly and in quantity? What would it take to be able to scale up?

Considering current relations in parts of the world and therefore potential for major conflict in which Canada is engaged, and how long it takes to build even just frigates, there needs to be serious

consideration and preparations by Canada to be ready to support an 'emergency build.' Really, Canada should already be in a 'contingency build' situation. 'Mass' in warfare doesn't just apply to troops, aircraft and ammunition, it very much applies to (maritime) drones (whether one thinks of them as ammunition or as vessels).

New pirates of the Caribbean
https://navalinstitute.com.au/new-pirates-of-the-caribbean/

The Caribbean is an area that Royal Canadian Navy ships routinely patrol, albeit on counter-drug operations (distinct from US 'narco-boat' strike operations) though there is always the possibility of getting involved in counter-gun running and irregular migration. Piracy is something more. Admittedly, and even the author elsewhere admits, the looting of the stranded barge in Bahamian territorial waters was theft not piracy, but the incident does highlight the possibility of such boardings and theft to occur outside territorial waters and therefore be piracy. Canadian Navy ships, and more importantly Canadian federal government authorities and agencies, have to be ready for such an incident.

Operational excellence at the heart of Canadian Armed Forces Arctic operations this season
https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2025/11/operational-excellence-at-the-heart-of-canadian-armed-forces-arctic-operations-this-season.html

An interesting news release. Whilst it's good to see mention of 'domain awareness' in the Arctic, one has to view this in the perspective of time. In other words, the first idea of Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessels (AOPV) (at the time Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ships) was formulated in the early 2000s. Similarly, there were at the time multiple exploratory planning groups looking at the problem of the Arctic as one scenario in a grouping of thirteen. The idea was to explore the problem space, not wargaming but a two-week planning group to investigate the problems of each scenario from a military perspective; logistics; equipment; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; and the list went on. Of note, the Arctic issue was expanded to include experts on the region from academia (Rob Hubert, Whitney Lackenbauer, etc.). The point is that the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) have only been dipping their toes into that arena rather than diving in. From a program perspective, it's expensive, particularly in the maritime domain. Ships designed for Arctic operations are significantly different from those that operate only in the upper latitudes - not ice covered - for a short period of time.

The reality is that while we are (slowly) working in the Arctic, we are short a reactionary force - maritime, land etc. - that can actually do anything other than a modicum of surveillance. The refuelling station that was initiated with great fanfare, again in the 2000s, remains nothing more than a jetty with some fuelling equipment that has never been either crewed or used. AOPV are not icebreakers, are not really armed, have rudimentary surveillance capabilities and are built to a commercial standard. Regardless of armchair warriors, our submarines currently are incapable of operating under ice, and anything other than a nuclear option will in all likelihood be similarly limited in Arctic operations. (Diesel submarines cannot produce their own atmosphere and thus being stuck under the ice for prolonged periods is an issue simply from a crew survivability perspective). The largest issue for the CAF: the Arctic above the tree line is a massive area. So the problem in terms of surveillance is equally massive. More importantly, communications in this region remain an issue as does search and rescue - air assets are still based in Trenton.

There have been numerous articles written on the subject by academics and military experts alike. Despite climate change, the area remains immensely difficult to operate in for prolonged periods of time and until we sort out the issue of basing in the region - land, air and maritime - it will remain so.

The CAF remains on the beach, cautiously dipping toes into the Arctic realm with no real effective plan to reach a point where we can, hand on heart, say that we truly know what's operating up there either under, on or above the ice. Unfortunately the cycle of on-again off-again Arctic interest is a problem amongst many others in terms of homeland defence - particularly as it relates to the maritime domain.

Royal Navy's crucial support ships stuck in port
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2025/11/16/navy-crippled-by-support-ships-stuck-in-port/

"If you don't have logistics you're simply not a blue-water navy."

There are aspects of force design (maintenance) in this piece. The auxiliary element of a navy must be large enough and resilient enough to take losses for whatever reason. For Canada, the one replenishment oiler for each of two task groups (TG) may be insufficient (two TG may be insufficient). Should there be more public messaging about the auxiliary element of the navy Canada is/should be building?

Anduril and Hyundai launch drone warship project
https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/anduril-and-hyundai-launch-drone-warship-project/

The use of 'warship' in the article's title is likely just the result of whoever wrote the title not considering the legal significance of the term. The word is not otherwise used in the article. But it does raise a question: If the commanding officer and crew of the 'ship' (USV, UUV) are offboard, can the drone legally be considered a warship?

"A "warship" is defined as a ship belonging to the armed forces of a State bearing the external marks distinguishing such ships of its nationality, under the command of an officer duly commissioned by the government of the State and whose name appears in the appropriate service list or its equivalent and manned by a crew that is under regular armed forces discipline." (Newport Manual on the Law of Naval Warfare)

## Other Sources

#AI #China
To China's war planners, AI is just another thing to deceive
https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2025/11/chinas-emerging-counter-ai-warfare-playbook/409757/

#Arctic
The Northwest Passage and the Limits of U.S. Maritime Leadership Part 1
https://centerformaritimestrategy.org/publications/the-northwest-passage-and-the-limits-of-u-s-maritime-leadership-part-1/
The Northwest Passage and the Limits of U.S. Maritime Leadership Part 2
https://centerformaritimestrategy.org/publications/the-northwest-passage-and-the-limits-of-u-s-maritime-leadership-part-2/

Frozen Frontiers: The Navy's Role in Emerging Arctic Sea Lanes

https://centerformaritimestrategy.org/publications/frozen-frontiers-the-navys-role-in-emerging-arctic-sea-lanes/

#Canadian Armed Forces #defence procurement
Let's talk with Noah (Special Mega Edition) (11/16/25): Lot's on CDC, Asterix, F-35 numbers, Victoria-class update.
https://noahscornerofrandomstuff.substack.com/p/lets-talk-with-noah-special-mega

#cyber
Canada fighting "Billions" of attacks a day, says Cyber Agency
https://thewalrus.ca/canada-fighting-billions-of-attacks-a-day-cyber-agency-warns/

#cyber operations
What's happening with the Canadian Cyber Defence Collective?
https://www.cyberincontext.ca/p/whats-happening-with-the-canadian
*Comment from a cyber ops colleague:* Not surprising that there has been minimal movement in creating Prime Minister Trudeau's vision for a public-private cyber forum or collective. The concept is good ... as has been proven by a number of models.
There is a fundamental problem with using the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) as the government portion of a public-private forum. The CSE has no internal knowledge of how-to operate such as beastie. CSE is an intelligence organization wrapped in Canadian federal bureaucracy. CSE's legal mandate is to serve the government - NOT the Canadian public. CSE historically does not and has not 'talked to the public'. It (CSE) will not easily change that culture.
To make this work, it requires both a political champion and a bureaucratic champion. Currently, it has neither.

#defence industry
From Defence Industrial Strategy to Reality
https://philippelagasse.substack.com/p/from-defence-industrial-strategy

#disinformation
Scrutinizing the many faces of political deepfakes
https://www.techpolicy.press/scrutinizing-the-many-faces-of-political-deepfakes/
"The prevalence of unrealistic deepfakes (fanfakes and foefakes) challenges assumptions about viewer sophistication. Many researchers and policymakers have assumed that deepfakes only work if they are convincing, but our analysis suggests that AI-generated political content may operate through different mechanisms."
*Comment:* Analysis that provides nuance to the discussion of 'fakes' and how that could better inform policy choices in addressing them.

#drones #Arctic
How Arctic drones can redefine search and rescue response
https://www.weforum.org/stories/2025/11/arctic-drones-search-rescue-disaster-response/

#drones #Russia-Ukraine War #innovation
2 Minutes. That's How Long Many Drones Survive In The Constant Electronic Duel Over Ukraine.
https://www.trenchart.us/p/2-minutes-thats-how-long-many-drones

#federal budget
Budget 2025: Preliminary Observations from the CDA Institute
https://cdainstitute.ca/budget-2025-preliminary-observations-from-the-cda-institute/

#force development
Reserves Without Purpose: The Hidden Weakness in Modern Militaries
https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/exclusives/reserves-without-purpose-the-hidden-weakness-in-modern-militaries/

#intelligence
From Open Sources to Strategic Advantage: The New Age of OSINT
https://govwhitepapers.com/whitepapers/from-open-sources-to-strategic-advantage-the-new-age-of-osint-carahsoft

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service Director's Annual Speech
https://www.canada.ca/en/security-intelligence-service/news/2025/11/the-canadian-security-intelligence-service-directors-annual-speech.html

#legal
When the law bends: What the narcotics boat debate misses
https://breakingdefense.com/2025/11/venezeula-strikes-legal-southcom-when-the-law-bends-what-the-narcotics-boat-debate-misses/

The Legal Case for Caribbean Boat Strikes Makes No Sense
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/paul-pillar/the-legal-case-for-caribbean-boat-strikes-makes-no-sense
*Comment from contributor:* There doesn't appear to have been any public distancing of Canada from these actions.
*Comments between colleagues, one legal:* This idea has been on and off for some time. I am not sure what the added economic value will be to justify the cost. I wonder whether it is simply a prestige project. The article did mention high volume through the Bospherous but I wouldn't have thought traffic is that restricted. There may be strategic and political reasons which we outsiders may not appreciate. It may very much be 'signalling.' Given it would be a major infrastructure work over many years, it could generate a lot of jobs. Might help the government get re-elected.

Türkiye Plans Canal That Could Undermine Montreux Convention
https://jamestown.org/turkiye-plans-canal-that-could-undermine-montreux-convention/
The canal wouldn't be built fast enough to affect the Russia-Ukraine War. But even the proposal of it now has ramifications on international relations.

#maritime security #Indo-Pacific
United Kingdom and Indonesia commit to maritime capability partnership
Https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/geopolitics-and-policy/17260-united-kingdom-and-indonesia-commit-to-maritime-capability-partnership
*From a colleague from the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies New South Wales, Australia:* This once again shows that Indonesia is emerging as a major maritime nation. With a population ten times that of Australia and a more agnostic international outlook this initiative by UK, backed by internationally respected company Babcock, is a significant development, of which Australia should take note in

both a strategic sense of management of Indonesia's maritime domain and in the likely expansion of shipbuilding to produce large numbers of modest-sized ocean-going ships that can serve multiple roles.

#Royal Canadian Air Force
It depends - Fighters come in different shades of grey
https://philippelagasse.substack.com/p/it-depends

#Royal Canadian Air Force #defence procurement
Filling the Fighter Gap: Türkiye Turns to the Eurofighter After the F-35 Fallout
https://balloonstodrones.com/2025/11/25/commentary-filling-the-fighter-gap-turkiyeturns-to-the-eurofighter-after-the-f-35-fallout/
One wonders whether Türkiye's 'de-selection' provides context if Canada reduces its F-35 (CF-35A) buy. And Türkiye is not the only country's aircraft buy affected by current international relations , see WRT Columbia:
Did Trump's War on Drugs Shoot Down an Arms Deal in South America?
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/did-trumps-war-on-drugs-shoot-down-arms-deal-south-america-ps-112425

#Royal Canadian Air Force #search and rescue
International Maritime Organization Certificates of Commendation
https://www.imo.org/en/mediacentre/pressbriefings/pages/2026-imo-bravery-award-recipients.aspx
Bravo, 103 Squadron, Gander.

#Royal Canadian Navy #shipbuilding
TKMS CEO Oliver Burkhard speaks on CPSP
https://noahscornerofrandomstuff.substack.com/p/tkms-ceo-oliver-burkhard-speaks-on

Is CPSP causing diplomatic issues? Maybe.
https://noahscornerofrandomstuff.substack.com/p/is-cpsp-causing-diplomatic-issues

#Russia-Ukraine War
Trump's Ukraine Plan is a Path to World War III
disquieting reading: https://www.wesodonnell.com/p/trumps-ukraine-plan-is-a-path-to

Moscow's need for leverage in peace talks
https://mcusercontent.com/28b6673fcc2022a1dd557acae/files/f66ccc82-08e5-7be7-c298-6495a71a43c5/PDF_Strategic_Snapshot___Russia_039_s_Need_for_Leverage_in_Peace_Talks.pdf

#seapower
The folly of turning our backs to the sea
https://thecritic.co.uk/issues/november-2025/the-folly-of-turning-our-backs-to-the-sea/
*Comment from contributor:* A political opinion piece, UK at that, but interesting for its Mahanian perspective of shipbuilding/governance/people/industry. It doesn't use the term 'sea blindness' but that is what it is about. Canada suffers, too.

#strategy #airpower #drones
https://secretaryrofdefenserock.substack.com/p/strategic-drone-bombing-what-can

"Strategic drone bombing refers not merely to the use of unmanned aerial vehicles to strike targets, but to the use of those systems in pursuit of strategic-level objectives: the paralysis of an enemy's war economy, the disruption of its logistical networks, the degradation of its national energy base, or the coercion of its civilian and political will."

#strategy #NATO
Alliance Maritime Strategy
https://www.nato.int/en/about-us/official-texts-and-resources/official-texts/2025/10/29/alliance-maritime-strategy

#Transport Canada
Canada's role at the International Maritime Organization
https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/canada-s-international-maritime-presence/canada-s-role-international-maritime-organization

#USChinaRelations #TaiwanUSRelations #XiJinping
Taiwan Debates Defense Budget Increase as US Warns of Rising China Threat (~25 listen)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3XyPpiVBDY&t

#warfare
Assessing "Cognitive Warfare"
https://smallwarsjournal.com/2025/11/14/assessing-cognitive-warfare/
"In Cognitive Warfare, the message is the munition, and the target is the mind of either specific individuals (e.g., elites, influencers, policymakers) or the collective population of a democratic state. Distorting what these individuals think is a precursor to how they think, and thus how they behave."

#warfare #Russia-Ukraine War
Future Wars Will Look Like Ukraine
https://www.trenchart.us/p/future-wars-will-look-like-ukraine

#warfare #Russia-Ukraine War #drones
Before, There Was 'Shell Shock.' Now Soldiers In Trenches Suffer From Drone-Induced 'FPV Syndrome.'
https://www.trenchart.us/p/before-there-was-shell-shock-now

#wargaming
Wargaming at HMCS Venture: Enhancing Naval Officer Training
https://paxsims.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/cn2025-brannigan-hmcs-venture.pdf

How wargaming can help us prepare for modern crises
https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/2025/11/22/how-wargaming-can-help-us-prepare-for-modern-crises/

#weapons
The false promise of new technology: the British Army and the (new) calibre debate
https://wavellroom.com/2025/06/11/the-false-promise-of-new-technology-the-new-ammunition-calibre-debate/

*Comment from contributor:* Lessons for Canada. The point about ensuring rifles are simple to use by newly recruited/mobilized soldiers is well taken.

From Relic to Relevance: Why Obsolete Weapons Still Win Modern Wars
https://mwi.westpoint.edu/from-relic-to-relevance-why-obsolete-weapons-still-win-modern-wars/
*Comment from contributor:* Some good analysis here.

## Odds and sods…

Follow what's new at the *Torch,* a resource on past, current, and future defence-related topics: https://cfc-ca.libguides.com/c.php?g=709488&p=5154025

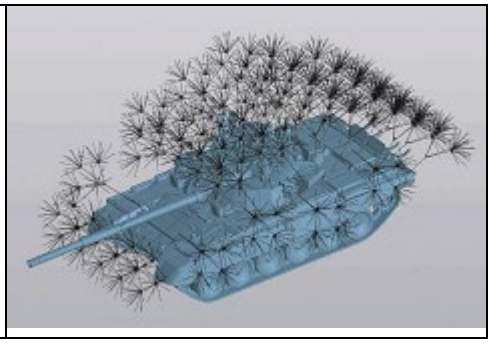
**Balloon Wars**

Lithuanian National Crisis Management Center (NKMC) Head Vilmantas Vitkauskas reported on November 24 that the Vilnius International Airport temporarily suspended operations twice on November 24 due to an unspecified number of balloons flying towards the airport from Belarusian airspace. Vitkauskas stated that authorities detected over 40 balloons over Lithuanian airspace and about 30 Belarusian balloons in Latvian airspace overnight on November 23 to November 24. The Lithuanian Border Service previously closed land border crossings with Belarus on the evening of October 26 due to repeated aerial incursions into Lithuanian airspace, but reopened the border after midnight on November 20 (Institute for the Study of War https://understandingwar.org/research/russia-ukraine/russian-offensive-campaign-assessment-november-24-2025/).

*More:* Record balloon alerts in Lithuania as problem spreads to Latvia
https://tvpworld.com/90182651/record-belarus-balloon-threat-in-lithuania-latvia-affected-too

Is Canada ready for 'balloon wars?'

**Introducing the "Dandelion Tank"**



Russia's Next Drone-Beating Tech: The Dandelion Tank
https://www.trenchart.us/p/russias-next-drone-beating-tech-the

Hard to tell whether this is innovation or desperation or what?...

**Right to Repair**

There have been on number of articles and posts about this matter the last months. Should this be an element of Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy?

Quartermaster Bloomfield on Contract Maintenance (19 Nov 25)
https://cdrsalamander.substack.com/p/quartermaster-bloomfield-on-contract

MOSA Redux: Modular Acquisition is New Again (13 Nov 25)
https://cimsec.org/mosa-redux-modular-acquisition-is-new-again/
had to check MOSA = Modular Open Systems Approach

US senator challenges defense industry on right-to-repair opposition as funding talks continue (10 Nov 25)
https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-senator-challenges-defense-industry-right-to-repair-opposition-funding-talks-2025-11-10/

Army and Navy want the 'right to repair' their own equipment (11 Jul 25)
https://taskandpurpose.com/news/army-navy-right-to-repair/
Responsibility for an equipment does not equal monopoly.
An issue with training sailors is that they can then be poached by companies.

US Navy backs right to repair after $13B carrier crew left half-fed by contractor-locked ovens (11 Jul 25)
https://www.theregister.com/2025/06/11/us_navy_repair/

The Right to Repair Is Vital to National Security and Sovereignty (13 May 25)
https://www.cigionline.org/articles/the-right-to-repair-is-vital-to-national-security-and-sovereignty/
Canadian; case study is available at cost at:
The Right to Repair in Canada: Advantages and Pitfalls (17 March 2025)
https://balsilliecases.ca/case-study/the-right-to-repair-in-canada-advantages-and-pitfalls/

**Hovercraft**

The Army Acquired Its Own Hovercraft In The 1980s. It Didn't Go Well.
https://www.twz.com/42472/the-army-acquired-its-own-hovercraft-in-the-1980s-it-didnt-go-well

This is an article about the US Army experimenting with what are really air cushion lighters. The interesting point is that the craft were based on a Canadian design, the Bell Voyageur, a commercial hovercraft built by Bell Aerospace Canada. Could Canadian industry do this again?

**Australia and Economic Cold War** – Drifting into the New Paradigm

https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/australia-and-economic-cold-war-drifting-into-the-new-paradigm/

*Dr Heather Smith PSM FAIIA is the National President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. This is an excerpt of her speech to the 17 November 2025 AIIA Gala Dinner.*

'... we need to be hedging by planning for greater strategic autonomy, as distinct from strategic independence.

Let me be clear, this does not mean turning away from the US. But it does mean inoculating ourselves by taking out a more comprehensive insurance policy than in the past, meaning more self-reliance, more defence spending and sovereign defence capability, and more hedging of our interests through new coalitions and partnerships, whilst continuing to support regional partnerships.

As I have said in this forum previously, what we do at home to build our resilience and competitiveness should be just as important as how we plan for the defence of our nation. We must get our economic house in order, and quickly. If we don't, we significantly limit our strategic flexibility.'

---

Christopher Skinner CAPT RAN (rtd)
Board Member, Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies NSW

**Study for Recently Released CAF Veterans**

[A couple of PDF documents came with this email. If you are interested in participating, you can request these documents by emailing RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.]

We are reaching out from the MacDonald Franklin OSI Research Centre, together with our partners at Phoenix Australia and the University of Melbourne, to share a new research opportunity for Veterans. We are hoping to connect with those who may be eligible, and we would also appreciate your help spreading the word.

We are looking for Canadian Veterans who released from the CAF within the last 5 years.

You, or someone you know, may meet these criteria and be interested in taking part.

This study is testing a short mobile activity that works a bit like a simple phone game. It is called "attention training," and it involves looking at faces on the screen and tapping a dot when it appears. The goal is to understand how easy it is to use and whether it may alleviate stress.

What participation involves:

- Up to 10 very short sessions over 3 weeks (each session takes about 4 minutes).
- A 2-minute survey after each session.
- A final short survey at the end about your experience

Everything is done privately on your own mobile phone, at a time that works for you.

More details are included in the attached flyer [see note above], along with a short video

that walks through the study. *Click here to watch the video*. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuxaCqxCkOY)

As a thank you for participating, we provide compensation for your time.

If you or another Veteran you know might be interested, you can:

- Reply directly to the email below, or
- Forward this message to anyone who may qualify

Thank you for taking a moment to read this and for helping us share this opportunity with the Veteran community.

Thank you,
Vanessa Soares, MD
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Lawson Research Institute
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## SAC Notes

O Canada

The Liberal Government passed its very first budget; surviving three non-confidence votes in Parliament. Although, it was passed with a very thin margin. One Conservative member crossed the floor to the Government side and one Conservative resigned allegedly for family reasons. The main reason for opposition was the planning for a huge deficit, estimated to be nearly $100B CAD. It was a defence friendly budget. The devil will be in the details.

There are many stories on various large scale procurement programs including the new fighter aircraft, new patrol submarines, the Canadian Multi-Mission Corvette, acquisition of HIMARS, ground-based air defence systems, drones of all types etc, which is good to see. Many provincial governments, companies, political parties are all adding their requirements for a slice of the pie. What is missing is the answer to the question we have asked for years: What are our national interests? How do they affect our key policies including security, foreign affairs, defence, public safety as some areas? From these points what do the Canadian people want their security, defence and public safety organizations to be able to do? This is before we really purchase anything.

While RUSI NS is delighted to see these areas at least mentioned, we also wish to see a good logical program to support these acquisitions. It requires thought and it must last longer than the next election cycle. Multi-party cooperation is necessary for this to work.

In the past two weeks, our Prime Minister has shown true statesmanship in a number of venues including the recent G20 meeting in South Africa and conferences regarding any peace agreement in the Russia-Ukraine war. What was different this time is that our leadership was in fact leading. Canada was considered a key leader during the event espousing the need for a “rules based economic systems,” multilateralism and

cooperation on key issues such as climate change. His efforts were effective in explaining Canada's position and a possible way ahead. The international press was effusive in their praise. This is so much better than our former Prime Minister's choice of socks. It is still early days, but it was a good start.

Australia

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/old-words-new-realities-what-the-australia-indonesia-security-treaty-means/?
This treaty seems to be a vehicle for conducting conversation between national governments rather than a conclusive security pact

https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/14-november-2025-the-week-in-australian-foreign-affairs/
The attached article summarizes the current focus of Australia on its relations with nearby countries.

https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/14-november-2025-the-week-in-australian-foreign-affairs/
It is interesting to note the attention given to Indonesia in the forwarded article.

https://www.australiandefence.com.au/news/sponsored/preparing-australia-s-defence-forces-for-a-new-kind-of-adversary?
Some comments for droning on.

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/australias-northern-air-bases-building-resilience-slowly/
An update on defence bases in North Australia

https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/14-november-2025-the-week-in-australian-foreign-affairs/
It is interesting to note the attention given to Indonesia in the forwarded article.

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/northern-airbase-turns-infrastructure-into-deterrence/
Air defence in North Australia is just as important as northern air defence is in Canada. Note: Both Canada and Australia have large areas that have limited populations and infrastructure. Both countries have potentially hostile countries to their North. In the case of Canada, certain elements within the Russian Federation have made a case to make claims that would include areas based on Canada's understanding of our Exclusive Economic Zones. With climate change, there will be further attempts to reduce Canada's sovereignty in the North.

United States

It is a new day and one could write a book each and every day about the current US Administration's actions, some positive, some that may be considered criminal. Who would have expected a 40-day shutdown of government to avoid the release of the Epstein files, allegedly. How does one even begin to understand the extraterritorial killing of people who normally fish for a living on small coastal vessels incapable of reaching the US shores. This is all without due process.

The 28-point peace plan for the Russia-Ukraine war turned out to be a product of a Russian document passed through Google translate. It would have constituted a surrender document if Ukraine were to agree. Fortunately, both Ukraine, the EU, the UK and many other countries found it unacceptable and produced an alternate plan. What is clear, from the non-US point of view, is that the US envoy, Steve Witkoff, is too cozy with Russia and has taken a Russian point of view. He has yet to visit Ukraine at all. One might question his qualification.

The term that best describes the actions of the US government is chaotic, perhaps mercurial. The US has lost the leadership of the liberal democracies and more importantly the loss of trust of many if not all its allies. As pointed out before and by many other commentators, trust is hard to achieve and quick to lose. Even if a more benign administration is elected, it will take decades to repair the damage done. There is a huge price to pay, not only in the US but across the globe particularly if an aggressive, malign authoritarian power takes a firmer grip on world affairs. The liberal democracies will have to step up and sitting on the sidelines will not be sufficient.

Moldova

Moldovan and Romanian border officers intercepted a large arms shipment of Russian weapons on 21 November 2025. It included anti-armour weapons known as Kornet and MANPADs known as Verba both are modern weapons systems. They were being smuggled in a truck of a small Moldovan company. The owner denied any knowledge of the smuggling and said a friend asked to have the shipment through his company. The delivery was allegedly to Israel. The matter is still under investigation. It does show the increasing security cooperation between Romania and Moldova.

Romania and Poland are monitoring Moldovan air space in view of the number of Russian drones entering the air space beyond Ukraine, according to France 24 on 21 November 2025. Russia is still trying to destabilize the area.

As Moldova and Ukraine work towards EU membership, it is increasingly clear that Russia is continuing to conduct low level operations to destabilize both countries and their neighbours. This destabilization effort is expected to further ramp up as Russia's own conditions continue to deteriorate internally.

Georgia

On 25 November 2025, Secretary General Mark Rutte commented on Georgia's application to join NATO. He responded by saying NATO is fully aware of the currents flowing through Georgia at present. He also stated that the Alliance was "very concerned" about the situation and conveyed that point to the Government as reported in Georgia Today on 25 November 2025.

The Georgia Dream Party has been less than active about NATO membership. Its actions against political enemies have been harsh and arbitrary; something not lost on international observers. Russia has maintained a strong disinformation campaign in Georgia and other countries in the area such as Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Georgia Dream Party has consistently blamed NATO for the lack of progress. At the same time,

the leadership of the party are fully aware that their pro-Russian stance is highly unpopular. Georgia's politics is tainted by the Georgia Dream Party's move that caused their parliament to consist of a single party, something not lost on the Alliance.

Georgia is also a canary in the coal mine. It has a pro-Russian Government which is not popular with the majority of the population. There were complaints about corruption during the last election. There is a difference from Moldova. Russia no longer has the capacity to assist to the extent required to keep the population in check, nor are Georgian security forces sympathetic to the opposition. Georgia will tell the story of the continuing deterioration of the Russian Federation. Time will tell an interesting tale.

Belarus

Belarus released 31 Ukrainian detainees this week in accordance with an agreement with the Trump regime. It is expected that the Belarus authorities will likely arrest a similar number shortly thus providing the appearance of doing something when no real change is occurring.

Lithuania has opened two border crossings with Belarus. They had been closed due to both Russia and Belarus using refugees as a weapon to destabilize that Baltic state. It is likely that Russia and Belarus will restart these actions shortly.

Israel-Iran

Although most of the time the most recent war is only being considered in relation to the Israel-Gaza conflict, only more recently to Lebanon and Hezbollah. Iran has smuggled in approximately $1B USD into Lebanon to help Hezbollah rebuild. Lebanon has failed to disarm the remnants of Hezbollah's military wing. Israel is blamed for Hamas retaking parts of Gaza and failing to disarm. Hamas is continuing to attack Israeli patrols and the world blames Israel for the results of Hamas actions. The true culprit is Iran through its proxies, yet the world turns a blind eye to the actions of the Iranian regime.

There is a celebration of Iranian developer of missile technology, Hassan Tehrani Moqaddam, known as the 'father of Iran's missile program' including development of Hezbollah's first missile unit in Lebanon. Killed in 2011, his headstone reads that he wanted to destroy Israel. The link to the Press TV article is: https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2025/11/12/758681/remembering-father-iran-missile-program-who-wanted-destroy-israel.

Iran suffers an extreme water shortage caused by an ongoing drought but more importantly, neglect and incompetence by the regime. Tehran is expected to reach "Zero day" this month. It can and will affect more than 15 m people. The significance of this has not been lost upon the general population and can and will lead to unrest.
In the Middle East, an anonymous website suspected of Iranian links has published a "hit list" of dozens of senior Israeli professors and scientists, doxxing their personal details and offering up to $100,000 for their murder. (Ynet) Provided through Geopolitics edited by Joseph Bruce Varner.

Russia-Ukraine Conflict

The war continues unabated. It has become almost a set pattern with Russia expending vast resources to gain small amounts of ground with occasional counterattacks by Ukraine often knocking them back, erasing months of efforts in a single day. What has changed are the increasingly larger attacks on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure, recently attacks by 500+ weapons is not uncommon. Recent attacks have been mainly aimed at Kyiv.

Ukraine continues to be more deliberate in their targeting hitting key infrastructure. Every target appears to be selected for their effect on Russia's ability to conduct the war. Most of Ukraine's actions directly attack the economy and industrial base with great effect. The best example is the ongoing targeted destruction of Russia's oil and gas industry which has been degraded 20 to 40%. Damage is difficult to repair due to sanctions. Most Russian facilities were built with Western equipment. This equipment is under sanctions and therefore unavailable. One suspects that Russia will jerry rig facilities but longer term, it will require extensive repairs and replacement for the industry to regain its viability.

Recently, Ukraine has attacked key power transfer stations and power plants. Most notably the Shatura power plant. The Shaturskaya State District Power Plant, one of the largest and oldest power stations feeding the Moscow region 1500 MW capacity, was struck several times by Ukrainian drones. It caused a loss of power to over 500 k people. This power plant is only 140 kms from Moscow. It was a warning to the Kremlin that they are also vulnerable.

As mentioned in previous notes, the war is fairly static. Russia is slowly making advances at tremendous cost in manpower and equipment. Ukraine is hitting back, destroying key industrial facilities, transport and weapons and component manufacturing. International sanctions are biting hard and Russia is unable to find ways to effectively get around them in any consequential way. At present, Russia is losing strategically with limited friends, bank failures, inflation, demographic issues, industrial failures and the effects of long-term corruption.

It is now clear that Russia is not really interested in a long-term peace. The regime continues to push forward more troops and as much equipment as possible. The economy is tanking, inflation is killing citizens from purchasing key goods such as food items, Large industries including industries involved in war production cannot get loans and are forced to close at least part time. There is no flow of capital and printing money is not working well. Russia is being forced to sell off part of their large gold reserves estimated to be 2.3k tons up to nearly 200 tons sold to date.

The question is will Russia win on the battlefield, or will Ukraine win the economics of the war? One point is very clear, Vladimir Putin has no intention of ending the war and that any compromise or peace agreement will be short lived, is it time to actually support Ukraine in a more substantive way or is territorial sovereignty a thing of the past? Time will tell.

China

The Communist Chinese Party (CCP) is in a precarious position at present. It is faced with a devastated property development sector with little likelihood of a remedy. It has

been accused of over production and selling goods at a level that makes most everyone else unable to compete, It also has been discovered that the CCP has substantially subsidized this overproduction. The electric vehicle production has been subsidized to the tune of nearly300 B USD thus produces a product that undercuts other competitors. Lastly, China's debt load from all levels of government has grown substantially with little hope or effort to pay it off. This is particularly true of provincial and autonomous city level. It is such a problem that no one is quite sure what is the actual level of debt.

In relation to this debt, many small rural banks have been forcibly merged with larger banks thus consolidating accounts in banks with bigger pockets. Unfortunately, even these banks are inadequate to deal with this level of debt. Many banks are now largely close to insolvency. This has directly affected the health and well-being of largely the new middle class.

The middle class has also paid substantial amounts to send their children to college and university. In recent years, the graduating class has had difficulties finding work within their fields of study. With the slow down in the economy as well this has led to an official unemployment rate of 17% of those 15 to 24 years of age. Unofficially, the unemployment rate appears to be substantially higher. China and the CCP have a long memory regarding students, especially as students in the late 1980s, caused considerable disruption in Beijing which later resulted in Tiananmen Square. "Idle" students were largely blamed for the event. The exact number of people killed in the fallout from these protests is high, one estimate was over 10 k killed by the Peoples' Liberation Army. It is not something that the Party wants to repeat under poor economic conditions.

China is opening a new Embassy in London closer to the British parliament. At the same time British intelligence and security services are warning against foreign interference particularly of the Chinese. It is a problem that Canada also has, but neither country has taken the necessary actions to curtail the issues. The British Government has chosen to "open channels" and examine actual risks and where possible mitigate the potential harm by Chinese agents operating out of the Embassy.

China is attempting to reset conditions with potential trading partners but to occupy the current population with a "new" issue that absorbs the interest of the Chinese population. In this case, the "new" target is Japan.

The Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is new and the very first woman to be elected as the Japanese Prime Minister in October 2025. Initially she appeared to be starting better relations with President Xi of China. On 7 November 2025, she made a speech to the Japanese Diet. In her speech she stated that if Taiwan were to be attacked by China- it would be considered "a situation threatening Japan's survival." China has not accepted this speech charitably and rose to go so far as to threaten to behead a Japanese diplomat. The situation is escalating almost daily.

Leaders seldom talk about Taiwan and conflict in the same sentence. Most avoid the issue so as not to incur Chinese wrath. This being said, the CCP has never controlled Taiwan. Taiwan was taken over post the Second World War by the nationalist government of the Republic of China. Although initially an authoritarian regime, the government of Taiwan has become a successful liberal democracy. The negotiators from the Republic of China maintain that the "one China Policy" agreed to did not specify

which China. The CCP has used bluster, threats, bribery and other nefarious means to create the illusion that they are the one China.

I suspect that despite the hopes of the CCP, it is likely that an attack on Taiwan would not be a good idea and that any hostile action by China will likely bring considerable forces to bear against mainland China. It is also true that Taiwan also has better trained large numbers of reserves. Taiwan would pose an existential threat to the CCP whether they realize it or not. The CCP is in trouble, it is long in the tooth and corrupt. It is not a healthy position for them at present.

The unknown ally: Operational Stress Injury Social Support (OSISS)
https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2025/03/unknown-ally-osiss.html

# Back by Popular Demand…

# Christmas Sale

of

# Fine Books & Prints

at the

## Cambridge Military Library

1575 Queen Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia on

Friday, 5 December 2025, and

Saturday, 6 December 2025, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM

**A Collection of duplicate and surplus books from the CML Collection, including:**

- **Military history**
- **Political Science**
- **Biography**
- **General interest**
- **Reference**

***All book sale proceeds to go to the CML Book Fund***

*HRH Prince George, Duke of Cambridge, 1819-1904*

**A Collection of historic and modern prints from a recent Bequest, including:**

- **Battle Scenes**
- **Uniforms**
- **Portraits**
- **Landscapes**
- **Buildings**

***All print sale proceeds to go to the Army Museum, Halifax Citadel***