

NAC NA Response to CBC Story by Murray Brewster Posted Feb 11, 2020 4:00 AM ET

Canada's submarine fleet spent 'zero days' at sea last year: government documents

Response by Norm Jolin: Date 27 Feb 2020

“The Liberal government's 2017 Defence Policy “*Strong, Secure, Engaged*” commits to keeping the submarines operational until the mid-2030s and to ensure the submarines will meet this commitment, without any future operational restrictions, it has been necessary to baseline the long-term maintenance plans, which resulted in the fleet being unavailable for a protracted period of time. While the optics are not good (and it is clearly not optimal), it is important to note that it is not uncommon with other submarine operating nations, particularly those nations extending the service lives of their submarine fleets. Submarines are much more akin to aircraft than surface ships, and long-term fleet-wide maintenance decisions are necessarily difficult and often lengthy in execution. Of note, all other submarine operating nations concentrate their submarine fleets in common geographic areas for maintenance and support infrastructure to endeavour to have one in four always available for operations – they are not always successful. To remind, Germany recently had all six submarines unavailable for a protracted period of time. Canada being the only nation that operates four submarines between two coasts (separated by thousands of kilometers) is in an inherently more difficult situation, which in turn contributes to delays in submarine availability.”
Norman Jolin, Associate Consultant, CFN Consultants, and NAC member”

Another link of interest is found in “Save the Royal Navy” website (<https://www.savetheroyalnavy.org/the-future-of-royal-navy-attack-submarines/>) that shows the difficulty the RN is currently facing in getting submarines to sea.