



Naval Association of Canada Association navale du Canada

REPORT BY DIRECTOR - NAVAL AFFAIRS (DNA) TO THE NAC AGM ON THE NAC NAVAL AFFAIRS PROGRAMME

11 June 2021

The following is an update to activities addressed in my last report to the Board of Directors dated 20 December 2020.

Naval Affairs Media Activities:

Naval Affairs produced two responses to articles in the media in the fall of 2020. The first dealt with the utility and cost of the Arctic Offshore Patrol Vessels and the second was a rebuttal of the methodology used by the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) in estimating the cost of the Joint Support Ship Project.

Over the winter Naval Affairs produced two significant papers which were both well received by NAC supporters and the RCN. The first, titled “The National Shipbuilding Strategy and the Canadian Surface Combatant” was a lead in to the second, which was a “Response to the PBO Report on the Canadian Surface Combatant”. After our second paper was released, the media became consumed with the allegations of sexual misconduct in the CAF. There were several articles in the press about the overall costs of the CSC project which got some attention, but it was decided that there would be no value in writing a rebuttal to his wild and unsubstantiated assertions. Tim Choi of the University of Calgary was contacted to determine if he had the capacity and interest in writing something to support NAC’s position. He expressed interest and wrote a piece for the Hill Times but regrettably it was not published.

National Website:

A new eye-catching and interactive home page on the National Website was rolled out in May. It provides better access to content and links to social media sites. The following Briefing Notes have been written and posted on the website since June 2020:

- BN #30 HADR
- BN #31 Ship Maintenance
- BN #32 Ship Modernization
- BN #33 Naval Tactical Ops Groups
- BN #34 Cyber Security and the RCN
- BN #35 Addressing Sexual Misconduct in the CAF
- BN #36 Interoperability
- BN #37 Naval Task Groups

- BN #38 Defence Alliances
- BN #39 Support/Logistics
- BN #40 Naval Architecture

All of these BNs (except BN #40) have also been featured on the website of *Canadian Naval Review* (and CNR has tweeted about them as well).

As well, to keep up with changes, existing BNs have been regularly updated. In the past year, the following Briefing Notes have been updated:

- BN #2 Maritime Security Threats
- BN #4 What Does the RCN Do?
- BN #5 Canada's Submarines
- BN #6 NSS
- BN #7 Shipbuilding in Canada
- BN #8 Naval Procurement
- BN #9 CSC
- BN #10 RCN Assets and Platforms
- BN #12 RCN Capabilities
- BN #13 Halifax-class Frigates
- BN #14 AOPS
- BN #15 RCN in the Arctic
- BN #21 Maritime Air Capabilities
- BN #26 JSS
- BN #29 Counter-narcotic Operations

Niobe Papers Series:

The following Niobe Papers were produced in the past year:

- Ann Griffiths, "Pandemics at Sea"
- Nicole Robichaud, "Eliminating the RCN's Mine Countermeasures Vulnerabilities"
- Paul Chamberlain, "The Royal Canadian Navy and Naval Diplomacy"

Children's Books

The second children's book was written in summer 2020 and published in fall 2020. It is called *An Undersea Adventure*, and is about a submarine. (Given that stores/museums have been closed, and social gatherings have been minimal, sales have been somewhat muted.)

The third children's book is currently in production. A first draft of the story has been written and the illustrator is working on initial sketches. This book is about a helicopter based onboard a frigate. (Name of the book is yet to be determined.)

Social Media Initiatives:

Use of social media to promote NAC NA activities has proven very successful. Facebook. NAC has a Facebook page that was commissioned several years ago. Former BoD member Barry Walker is assisting DNA in getting control of and managing the webpage. LinkedIn. NAC has a LinkedIn site which was set up in early 2019 by AMP as part of their offer to help with marketing initiatives. We now have control and are making use of it. Twitter. DNA has engaged Ottawa Branch member Mr. Roger Litwiller to operate as NAC's Twitter Lead and promote NAC articles and activities via Twitter as he does for the RCN and Canadian Coast Guard. Barry Walker is also very active on Twitter. Instagram. Under consideration as another social media tool to be used to support NA activities.

Starshell:

Three new editions were produced over the past year. The editor continues to produce quality work and the editions are very readable. The intent is to ensure that content of future STARSHELL editions gets discussed across the NA Team and new direction or changes be approved by the Director Naval Affairs and the Executive Director.

National Speakers' Program:

The Ottawa Branch has assisted National over the course of the pandemic by hosting Speaker's Evenings throughout the past year, using its GoToMeetings virtual platform, and opened registration for these events to all NAC branches. Courtesy invitations were also offered to members of the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia (RUSI-NS). Guest speakers presented on a wide range of topics during the past year. Below is a summary table of the program calendar followed by a synopsis of the presentations.

	Month	Speaker	Topic	Attendance
a)	June 2020	Cmdre Chris Robinson, DGNFD	The RCN Capital Program	85
b)	July 2020	Cmdre Josée Kurtz	Command of Standing NATO Maritime Group 2	70
c)	September 2020	Dr Adam Lajeunesse & Timothy Choi	Here Be Dragons – Chinese Submarine Operations in the Arctic	66
d)	October 2020	Bill Conconi & David Soule	An Evening with the NAC National Executive	44
e)	November 2020	RAdm Chris Sutherland	RCN Human Resources	80
f)	December 2020	Cmdre Dave Patchell, DGNSP	RCN Strategic HR Plan	74

g)	January 2021	Capt(N) Todd Bonnar	NATO Combined & Joint Operations from the Sea Centre of Excellence	73
h)	February 2021	Mr. Jamie Turcotte Thales Canada	The AJISS Contract	68
i)	March 2021	Cdr Sean Murray USCG	USCG Operations	63
J)	April 2021	Mr. James Davies Chantier Davie	The Chantier Davie Strategic Journey	79
k)	May 2021	Karen McCrimmon, Chair of NDDN	A conversation with the Chair, Standing Paliamentary Committee on National Defence	

June – “The RCN’s Capital Equipment Priorities and Projects” – Commodore Chris Robinson, Director General Naval Force Development, provided a very detailed and informative brief on the RCN’s major ship acquisition programs and other activities in Directorate of Naval Requirements. Real Admiral Casper Donovan also contributed to the discussion.

July – “The Experience of Commanding NATO's Standing Maritime Group 2” – Commodore Josée Kurtz served as Commander Standing Maritime Group 2 from June to December 2019. This was the first NATO Command held by a Canadian since 2006 and included taskings on Op Reassurance and other NATO confidence building measures in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. The Commodore spoke of the challenges she had to overcome during her tenure as Commander, including the short notice for the appointment and having to shift to a new flagship in mid-stream, and how she was received as the first woman to hold a NATO Command position. She gave the audience a true sense of the reality the operational environment these days.

September – “Here Be Dragons” – Dr Adam Lajeunesse, Irving Shipbuilding Chair in Canadian Arctic Marine Security Policy and an Assistant Professor at the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government, and Timothy Choi, doctoral candidate at the University of Calgary's Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies, discussed their perspectives on Chinese Submarine Operations in the Arctic.

October – “An Evening with the NAC National Executive” – NAC National President Bill Conconi and Executive Director Dave Soule gave us an overview of national activities and plans for fundraising to support operations and membership. Associated Marketing Professionals (AMP) who National contracted recently, gave us their thoughts on how they intend to market NAC to potential corporate partners.

November – “RCN Personnel Campaign Plan” – Deputy Commander RCN, RAdm Chris Sutherland gave an interesting overview of the RCN's on-going Human Resources Campaign in

which the Navy's work force is to be re-balanced in line with strategic human resources priorities and the demands of the future fleet after 2025. Recruitment is adequate, but basic training is being inhibited by Covid 19, resulting in a shortage in mid-level ranks. Elements the personnel campaign include: the initiation of a culture change and welcoming of diversity in all ranks; the use of advanced technology to reduce and enhance training time; and a "One Navy" approach to meld the Naval Reserves effectively into the overall picture.

December – "RCN HR. Transitioning to the Future Fleet" – Cmdre David Patchell, RCN's Director-General Naval Strategic Readiness, began his presentation with a futuristic vignette which caught everyone's imagination. He then provided an excellent overview of the RCN's plans to deal with current and future human resources challenges as the RCN prepares to transition to the future fleet where new and emerging technologies will drive new occupation specifications and crew sizes. Cmdre Patchell also spoke on the current situation in recruiting new sailors and the impact of the COVID pandemic in terms of slowing down training. RAdm Casper Donovan, Director General Future Ship Capabilities (DGFSC) assisted during the Q and A session.

January – "NATO Combined and Joint Operations from the Sea Centre of Excellence" – Capt(N) Todd Bonnar, RCN, (CJOS COE), based in Norfolk, VA, described the role of the centre in enhancing NATO's maritime capabilities to respond to future threats. The CJOS is think tank recognized by NATO as one of its 26 Centres of Excellence, with a mission is to "transform Allied maritime potential into reality". Its wide-ranging mandate includes analyzing what the fight of tomorrow will look like, and to make practical proposals for how the Allies should be prepared to respond in the way of concepts and doctrine in an environment of rapidly evolving technology. The present-day focus is the analysis of Russian capabilities, activities and intentions, as a way to enhance deterrence.

February – "The AOPS/JSS In-Service Support Contract" – Mr. Jamie Turcotte, Vice-President Services for Thales Canada, provided a broad overview on this topic, as his company is responsible for the implementation and execution of the contract. Even though the AOPS and JSS ship classes are quite different and may be widely dispersed between coasts, for both classes Thales will be responsible for all training updates, refit, repair and other maintenance. To this end, Mr. Turcotte observed that what can be called a paradigm shift is being pursued in order to establish a new "relational governance model" establishing three Integrated program teams (IPTs) – East, Central and West. The contract's start-up phase, the first AOPS, HMCS Harry DeWolf, is already undergoing support from the model.

March – "United States Coast Guard Capabilities and Missions" – US embassy's Cdr Sean Murray, the USCG liaison to the RCMP and the US manager of the Integrated Cross-Border Maritime Law Enforcement Operations program. He explained that after the 9-11 attacks, the USCG was shifted from the Department of Defence to the Department of Homeland Security, and now has a much greater law enforcement mandate beyond the traditional search and rescue and other lifesaving. This includes pollution control, drug interdiction, illegal migrant interdiction, aids to navigation and commercial marine inspections. The force has also been directly involved in every US military conflict, and an objective is to "prevail in competition", in

areas like the South China Sea. Also in attendance and contributing to the discussion was Capt Louis C. Parks, Jr., the USCG Attaché in the embassy.

April – “The Davie Strategic Journey: Generation 2040” – Mr. James Davies, CEO and President of Chantier Davie Shipbuilding, supported by RAdm (ret’d) Gilles Couturier, RCN, CEO Federal Fleet Services outlined where they have been, where they are now and where they are going. Mr. Davies stated the shipyard, the largest in Canada, has rejuvenated itself and has created a wide range of supply partners and is ready to develop and construct cutting-edge vessels for the Navy, the Coast Guard and other federal fleets. As an example of the effective collaboration between the yard and the Navy, Davie has delivered and today, through its subsidiary Federal Fleet Services, supports the MV Asterix (the largest vessel ever delivered to Canada) as the Navy’s sole replenishment ship until the delivery of the Joint Support Ship. The yard has the intention of becoming a centre of excellence for Arctic-capable vessels and technology. The Arctic focus will form part of what the yard calls a “maritime cluster”, bringing together in Canada most aspects of maritime vessel design, construction and support, with a view to capitalizing on the world market and eventual export orders, modelled perhaps on the present-day maritime success of Norway.

May – “A conversation with the Chair of the Standing Committee on National Defence” – In an informal discussion, and with a focus on leadership and her experience in the CAF as well as her role as Committee Chair, LCol (ret’d) Karen McCrimmon, OMM,CD, MP, shared her perspective on a wide range of topics, including what the Committee is doing to ensure that both DND and the CAF are prepared to adapt to a rapidly changing threat environment, and how it is monitoring the introduction of new capabilities as defined in government policy. She also addressed how access to mental health services for members of the CAF can be enhanced, streamlined and facilitated to ensure that services are appropriate to the needs, and the impact of sexual misconduct on operational effectiveness.

The Speaker’s Program has been quite successful and is expected to continue to be delivered virtually for the foreseeable future, until public health restrictions are lifted. Once in-person events are permitted, we will look at the possibility of using a hybrid format with some attending in person and other virtually by leveraging technology so that out-of-town members may continue to participate. Suggestions for future speakers are always welcome and can be directed to the undersigned.

Fall Conference:

Planning continues for a NAC Naval Affairs Conference in Halifax, 18-21 Oct. The conference is starting to take shape in terms of list of possible participants, subject matter and format. The conference will focus on how Canada can prepare for and deal collectively with maritime security in the North and discuss the concept of operations of the RCN’s new AOPS.

2022 National Conference/AGM:

The idea of a Conference in the same timeframe as a spring BOA Dinner (28 April) has been reconsidered. A conference in the spring at the time of the BOA Weekend would not be optimal

in terms of availability of RCN personnel to attend and conflicts with other RCN activities (e.g. Naval Board). Subsequently Nora contacted the Marriott and they have agreed to extend credit until 31 Dec 2022. This will allow for more deliberate planning of an Ottawa hosted conference on Submarine Replacement in the fall of 2022.

NAC Sponsorship Program:

Associated Marketing Professionals (AMP) continues in its efforts to raise sponsorship funds to offset the cost of Naval Affairs operations. Minimal progress has been made over the past three months. Total sales are now at \$57,500, \$40 K of which is from BAE. We are still waiting on their payment. AMP recently started a new campaign, but prospects do not look promising. Companies are reporting that they are opting to wait until the next BOA Gala Dinner. The expectation is that we will be terminating the relationship with AMP later in June or early July.

Other business:

Admirals' Medal:

The RCN has asked NAC to take over responsibility for the medal. This would involve management of what is left of the funds in the foundation originally established by the Admirals' sons, taking ownership of the 5 or 6 medals that have been struck, and the nomination and award of the medal on an annual basis. The National Executive met 29 April to discuss how to proceed and assuming responsibility was secretorially approved by the National Board. The intent is to strike a small committee to manage the nomination process and address how to ensure that the activity is self-funding. Former Command Historian Rich Gimblett, who has managed this file in the past for the RCN has volunteered to be NAC's OPI. He has conducted a turnover with the RCN and will receive the paper historical files once COVID restrictions are lifted. The transfer of funds related to the foundation is expected to be completed by 15 June 2021. There are awards to be made for 2018 and 2019 and Ottawa Branch will be able to nominate Peter Ward who helped rescue HAIDA from the scrapyards, as the 2020 recipient. This was the plan in 2019, which unfortunately fell through the cracks when the BOA Dinner planning was terminated in 2020.

Passing of Prince Philip – Honorary Patron of NOAC/NAC:

It is recommended that a small committee should meet to discuss potential candidates for new Patron. The following are suggested as possible candidates – Prince Edward, Marc Garneau.

(O.S.B.)

Tim Addison
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Naval Association of Canada