

Critical Commentary

Dear Editors of JMSS,

I have just read the article [The Evolving Arctic Operating Environment: Implications for Defence](#) in the most recent issue of JMSS.

I was very surprised that its conclusions are the very opposite of what Rear Admiral David W. Titley, Oceanographer, Navigator of the U.S. Navy and director of its Task Force Climate Change, predicts: <http://youtu.be/7udNMqRmqV8>

The author of your article, Donald A. Neill, simply dismisses climate models and insists that observations are the only form of evidence. Unfortunately it is hardly possible to observe the future in advance. Donald Neill rightly points out that earth's climate is a *non-linear*, complex system, just to then use *linear* statistical techniques to present his claim that "*average temperatures are declining, and the present cooling trend could last decades*" (p.34). Actually it is a very feature of non-linear systems that linear extrapolation from past observations cannot predict the future.

Not surprisingly, Donald A. Neill refers continuously to sources disrespecting the IPCC, such as:

- The blog "[An Honest Climate Debate](#)"
- The blog "[Watts up with that](#)"
- The Journal "[Energy & Environment](#)"

In addition, several footnote links are not working, making it impossible to verify his claims.

I don't think that JMSS should be turned into yet another battleground on climate change, but I do think that Canadian Forces deserve the best possible advice. Unfortunately, the article by Donald A. Neill does not live up to that standard.

Regards

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