



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches

1 November 2024

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: Please note that the next issue will be **15 November**.

Quick links:

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Dispatches

Publication of *Dispatches* may be irregular and less frequent pending a stable of editors.

Your *Dispatches* needs your contributions!

You are encouraged to assist the volunteer editor by emailing articles and other contributions to rusinsdispatches@gmail.com. Articles with a Canadian nexus, explicit or implicit (i.e., Canada is not mentioned in a cyber ops article but it is an area to which we should be paying attention) are good, articles with your value-added comments (why we should read the article and think about it) are better. It would be particularly helpful if you could volunteer to contribute in your areas of interest and experience. We need a team of contributors to ensure a balance in our production.

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:

6 November 2024, Remembrance Dinner, 1830 for 1900hrs, RA Park. There are only 64 spaces for this event, so please give it your immediate attention. Instructions for dress and payment are included in the poster at the end of the newsletter.

11 November 2024, Remembrance Day Ceremony, RA Park.

18 November 2024, tentatively CAF Ombudsman, details TBC.

21 November 2024, CIC/NATO Assn of Canada/RUSI NS Collaboration, VIP Guest TBC.

22-24 November 2024, Halifax International Security Conference.

27 November 2024, LCol Lessvesque, Army PA, in-person discussion group.

5 December 2024, Christmas Meet and Greet, RA Park.

27 January 2025, Robert Taylor, Bardex, Ship building and Dockyard Infrastructure.

Other Events:

New 10 November, Sunday, "Our Veterans, Their Stories." The Stadacona Band of the RCN hosts its Veteran's Week Concert, 1400hrs at Spatz Theatre. This event is free and open to all. See poster at the end of the newsletter.

14 November, Vanguard Deep Blue Forum. To be held at the National Arts Centre. If you're not able to attend in person, all speaker sessions will be live streamed, to permit virtual attendance. All serving military personnel and public servants can register for free. <http://vanguardcanada.com/deepBlue2024>

Wargaming Events:

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

New 17 December, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Understanding Educational Wargaming in the Military Sector." 7-8:30pm AST. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/understanding-educational-wargaming-in-the-military-sector-tickets-1054234095559>

New 4 March, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Professional Wargaming in France." 1-2:30 pm AST. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/professional-wargaming-in-france-tickets-1060419526349>

New 18 March, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Tactical Wargame Design." 7-8:30 pm ADT. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tactical-wargame-design-tickets-1052472612917>

New 8 April, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Spyships, Satellites, and SAMs" 7-8:30pm ADT. Online. "A summary of 3 games run in Canada in 2024" by **RUSI(NS) member Dave Redpath**. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spyships-satellites-and-sams-tickets-1060415745039>

New 16 September 2025, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Naval Wargaming and Quantitative History." 1-2:30 pm ADT. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/naval-wargaming-and-quantitative-history-tickets-1052463264957>

Publications

New: RUSI(NS) Comments "Geopolitics and Police Intelligence: The Case Study of Disinformation" by Nathan Romas and Jay Heisler, 28 October 2024, <https://rusi-ns.ca/geopolitics-and-police-intelligence-the-case-study-of-disinformation/>

RUSI(NS) Comments "Arctic Seabed Warfare Against Data Cables" by Cate Belbin, 25 September 2024, https://rusi-ns.ca/arctic_seabed_warfare/

RUSI(NS) Comments "Veteran Charities Operate in Lebanon Evacuation" by Jay Heisler, 24 August 2024, <https://rusi-ns.ca/lebanon-evacuation/>

RUSI(NS) Information Note "Warship Orthography", 17 July 2024, <https://rusi-ns.ca/warship-orthography/>

RUSI(NS) Comments "Anti-Human Trafficking" by Jay Heisler, 19 July 2024, <https://rusi-ns.ca/anti-human-trafficking/>

Two articles from RUSI(NS) member John Boileau in the Legion Magazine:

The Greatest Landing

<https://legionmagazine.com/the-greatest-landing/>

Security system

<https://legionmagazine.com/security-system/>

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).

NATO Association of Canada @NATOCanada 31 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Jakob Nicolas argues that military spending can support climate efforts, as climate and security threats are interconnected challenges that benefit from robust military infrastructure. 📖 Read it here: <https://www.natoassociation.ca/dont-forget-a-well-funded-military-is-not-a-liability-in-the-fight-against-climate-change-its-a-powerful-asset/>
(A Well-Funded Military is not a Liability in the Fight Against Climate Change. It's a Powerful Asset)

NATO Association of Canada @NATOCanada 31 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: - Navigating a Global Crisis: Climate Change and NATO. A NATO Association of Canada's climate change publication (Winter 2023) containing contributions by leading experts. Download a pdf of the publication on our website: <https://www.natoassociation.ca/navigating-a-global-crisis-climate-change-and-nato/>



A Well-Funded Military is not a Liability in the Fight Against Climate Change. It's a Powerful Asset

Jakob Nicolas

NATO ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR L'OTAN



NATO ASSOCIATION OF CANADA Winter 2023
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR L'OTAN

**Navigating a Global Crisis:
Climate Change and NATO**



CADSI @CadsCanada 31 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Read the PBO's full report on the \$\$ implications of meeting the @NATO spending target here: <https://pbo-dpb.ca/en/publications/RP-2425-020-S--fiscal-implications-meeting-nato-military-spending-target--repercussions-financieres-atteinte-cible-dependes-militaires-fixee-otan> @CanComCorp @BizCouncilofCan @DavePerryCGAI @jamesbezan (The Fiscal Implications of Meeting the NATO Military Spending Target)



Communications Security Establishment Canada @cse_cst 30 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Today, our @cybercentre_ca released its National Cyber Threat Assessment 2025-2026. 🍁 Get the highlights → <https://canada.ca/en/communications-security/news/2024/10/canadian-centre-for-cyber-security-releases-national-cyber-threat-assessment-2025-2026.html> (Canadian Centre for Cyber Security releases National Cyber Threat Assessment 2025-2026) Read the report → <https://cyber.gc.ca/en/guidance/national-cyber-threat-assessment-2025-2026> (National Cyber Threat Assessment 2025-2026)



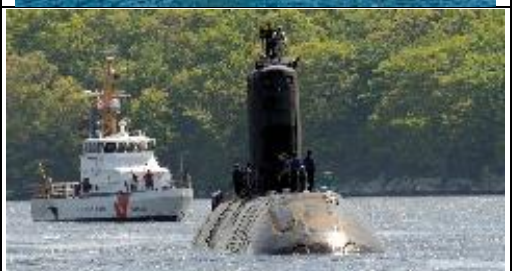
NATO Association of Canada @NATOCanada 30 Oct posted: With climate change reshaping the Arctic, Canada's need for under-ice capable submarines is urgent. Jake Rooke's report highlights why modernizing the Royal Canadian Navy's fleet is crucial to protect national security and meet Canada's commitments in a shifting global landscape RUSI(NS) quoted "Special Report: Under the Ice and Into the Future, Strengthening Canada's Submarine Capabilities" <https://natoassociation.ca/under-the-ice-and-into-the-future-strengthening-canadas-submarine-capabilities/> #submarines #Arctic @RoyalCanNavy Canadian Patrol Submarine Project #CPSP <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2024/09/government-of-canada-announces-progress-on-the-canadian-patrol-submarine-procurement.html>



National Interest @TheNatInterest 28 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: The race for the Arctic is heating up. (Canada's Submarine Nightmare Begins in the Arctic <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/canada%E2%80%99s-submarine-nightmare-begins-arctic-213387>)



Dr Elizabeth Buchanan @BuchananLiz Oct 23 posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Canada's New Submarine Project and the Geopolitical Stakes of the Arctic and Indo-Pacific (<https://www.asiapacific.ca/publication/canadas-new-submarine-project-and-geopolitical-stakes-arctic>) "While Canada's immediate focus on conventional submarines is pragmatic for addressing current threats, the long-term goal should include building the advanced skills and capabilities needed to eventually adopt more sophisticated submarine technologies, including



nuclear-powered submarines."

Comment: The author underestimates the challenges it would be for Canada to build nuclear-powered submarines.

National Interest @TheNatlInterest 26 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Canada's continued underinvestment leaves its NATO obligations unmet, write Wilson Beaver and Elizabeth Tarr.—

(NATO Has a Canada Problem

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/nato-has-canada-problem-213314>)

Comment: The author is not wrong. Indeed given the current pull back of money from DND - which is affecting everything from infrastructure to TD to all the other stuff we do on a daily basis - one has to wonder how in fact we will actually meet the 2% target if at all.



Legion Magazine @Legion_Magazine 26 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Vision quest

On the state of Canada's military and the recent defence policy update

(<https://legionmagazine.com/vision-quest/>)



CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 25 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: 🇨🇦 NEW Force Development Report: The Future of Land Warfare and the Canadian Army. This report outlines strategies to improve the Canadian Army's readiness for land warfare and situates current capabilities in the context of future conflicts. Read

online: <https://cdainstitute.ca/the-future-of-land-warfare-and-the-canadian-army>



3CdnDiv/3DivCA @3CdnDiv3DivCA 24 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: "The new Light Tactical Vehicle will enhance mobility for light infantry elements, offering a compelling combination of passenger capacity and off-road prowess"

(First thoughts on Army's new LTV

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/news/regional-news/western-sentinel/2024/10/first-thoughts-on-armys-new-ltv.html>)



RUSI(NS) @RUSI_NS Oct 16 posted: "What's new in Canada's upgraded Leopard 2A6MC2 Main Battle Tank?" <https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/army-news-2024/whats-new-in-canadas-upgraded-leopard-2a6mc2-main-battle-tank> CAN🇨🇦 #armour

RUSI(NS) quoted:

Original CAN🇨🇦 announcement @CanadianArmy Leopard #tanks upgrade: "Government of Canada announces contract award for maintenance of Leopard 2 tank"

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2024/09/government-of-canada-announces-contract-award-for-maintenance-of-leopard-2-tanks0.html> Does @CanadianForces have

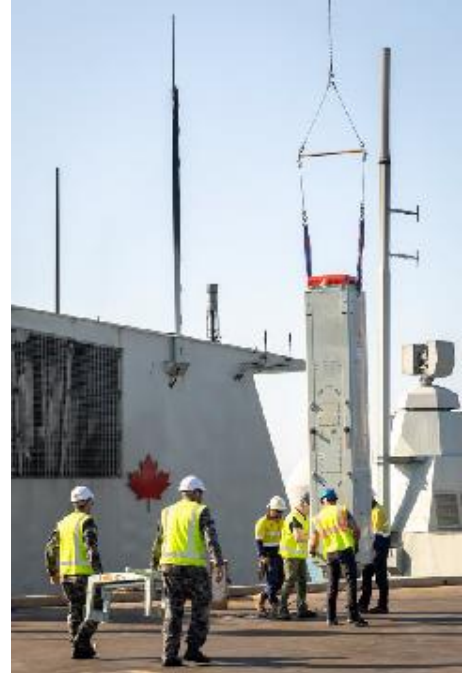


enough main battle tanks? How envision deploy/employ? National strategy?

Canadian Joint Operations Command @CJOC_COIC 19 Oct posted: "We are better together." Check out this article from the Royal Australian Navy about the recent 3-navy rearmament that took place in Australia!

<https://navynewspaper.defence.gov.au/navy-news/october-10-2024/flipbook/2/>

RUSI(NS) quoted: In times of quasi-conflict, capability of @RoyalCanNavy warships to re-arm in Western Pacific is important. In full conflict, CAN🇨🇦 strategy more likely to see @CanadianForces employed in Eastern Pacific for defence of approaches to N America & of shipping of military material/trade



CTV News @CTVNews 14 Oct posted: 3 in 4 Canadians show support for defence spending on new submarines, Nanos survey shows

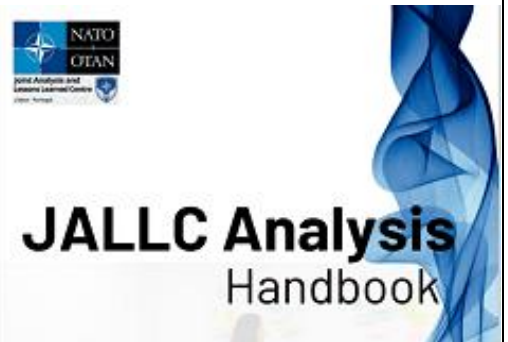
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/3-in-4-canadians-show-support-for-defence-spending-on-new-submarines-nanos-survey-shows-1.7070856>

RUSI(NS) quoted: #Submarines serve in peace & conflict to deter potential adversaries & to detect intrusion into CAN🇨🇦 waters. Very effective at those. Also train anti-submarine forces. CAN public increasingly appreciating subs as strategic assets, part of effective/balanced @RoyalCanNavy?



NATO ACT @NATO_ACT 17 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: The new @NATOJALLC Analysis Handbook is now live! This important tool will elevate @NATO-wide analysis and empower Allies to harness the past and prepare for the future more effectively. Explore it today and stay informed! 📖 <https://jallc.nato.int/articles/title-jallc-publishes-all-new-jallc-analysis-handbook> #WeAreNATO (The JALLC Publishes All New JALLC Analysis Handbook)

JALLC = NATO Joint Analysis and Lessons Learned Centre Analysis



“Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia” on Facebook:

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When naval capability is minimal, it’s also brittle
<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/when-naval-capability-is-minimal-it-can-disappear-entirely-in-an-accident/>

"Regional tensions are rising and our naval forces are likely to be at the forefront of any confrontation. The ability to prevail in such a conflict depends not just on major warships and submarines but also on the enabling capabilities that underpin maritime operations: replenishment, hydrography, mine warfare and other niche but vital domains."



A broadly applicable statement. Is there sufficient investment in Canadian naval replenishment and mine warfare capabilities? The answer(s) to that depends on Canada's naval/maritime strategy (which is?), itself dependent on Canada's foreign policy (again, which is?).

Other Sources

#arctic

The Arctic, a geographical region beset by geopolitical tensions with Russia.

<https://ras-nsa.ca/the-arctic-a-geographical-region-beset-by-geopolitical-tensions-with-russia/>

Comment: The recommendations are largely ones already heard lately, although opening CAF bases to NATO countries for collective protection is interesting.

#artificial intelligence

The Department of National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces Artificial Intelligence Strategy

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/dnd-mdn/documents/reports/ai-ia/dndcaf-ai-strategy.pdf>

White House issues AI guidelines for national-security agencies.

<https://www.defenseone.com/policy/2024/10/white-house-signs-national-security-memo-ai/400512/>

#Canadian Armed Forces

Fighting Spirit: The Profession of Arms in Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/fighting-spirit.html>

#command

Overcoming Handbrake Hierarchies

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/overcoming-handbrake-hierarchies>

This RUSI(NS) contributor worked in a CAF school where the Commandant's direction was that he was the only one to say no to support requests. Worked great!

(Aside: Odd, the author's organization: "People Directorate". <sigh> Are the business managers dominating organization arrangements?)

#cybercrime

UN cyber pact would help autocrats crush dissent, US lawmakers warn.

<https://www.defenseone.com/policy/2024/10/un-cybercrime-convention-will-legitimize-authoritarian-nations-cyber-behavior-senators-warn/400642/>

Comment: The real issue with UN agreement seems to be its potential to give foreign adversaries a greater voice. Russia has desired such an agreement since 2017.

#defence policy

Defence spending needs to double to meet NATO target by 2032: PBO

<https://www.ipolitics.ca/news/defence-spending-needs-to-double-to-meet-nato-target-by-2032-pbo>

#drones

Protecting the Force from Uncrewed Aerial Systems

<https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/occasional-papers/protecting-force-uncrewed-aerial-systems>

#economics #national security

Commodities as weapons: How Russia's natural resources are fuelling its imperialistic aggression against the West

<https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/commodities-as-weapons-how-russias-natural-resources-are-fuelling-its-imperialistic-aggression-against-the-west/>

#future casting

Global Catastrophic Risk Assessment

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA2981-1.html

#legal

Strait Talk: Time to Exercise Navigational Freedoms in the Taiwan Strait Beyond Mere Transit?

<https://lieber.westpoint.edu/strait-talk-time-exercise-navigational-freedoms-taiwan-strait-beyond-mere-transit/>

#international relations

Canada-U.S. Defence Relations in a Turbulent Time

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/canada-us-defence-relations-turbulent-time>

#marine security

UK cracks down on illicit 'shadow fleet' transporting Russian oil globally

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-cracks-down-on-illicit-shadow-fleet-transporting-russian-oil-globally>

#marine security

A Three-Step Plan for Stopping Putin's 'Shadow' Oil Tankers

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2024-10-16/a-three-step-plan-for-stopping-putin-s-shadow-oil-tankers>

Note the author.

#NATO

NATO armies built on Korean War-era military principles, Zaluzhnyi says

<https://kyivindependent.com/global-security-wont-hold-on-korean-war-principles-in-future-zaluzhnyi-says/>

NATO's strategy for digital transformation

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_229985.htm

Alliance forces shift from expeditionary ops to defence

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/alliance-forces-shift-from-expeditionary-ops-to-defence/>

#NATO #innovation

NATO and Emerging Technologies —The Alliance's Shifting Approach to Military Innovation

<https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=8417&context=nwc-review>

#naval warfare

AUKUS experiment shows how allies with autonomy will speed up naval operations.

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2024/10/new-aukus-experiment-shows-how-allies-autonomy-will-speed-naval-operations/400513/>

#preparedness

Canada knows how to prepare for the next pandemic, but will we follow our own advice?

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-canada-knows-how-to-prepare-for-the-next-pandemic-but-will-we-follow/>

#professional development

Professional Development for Steak-eaters (not just Snake-eaters)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/army/services/line-sight/articles/2024/10/professional-development-for-steak-eaters-not-just-snake-eaters.html>

#research and development

Canadian Edge: Unlocking the Potential of Dual-Use Technologies

<https://coveocean.com/news/canadian-edge-unlocking-the-potential-of-dual-use-technologies/>

Note COVE's involvement with NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator of the North Atlantic (DIANA).

#Russia

Inequality kills: on Russian combat ineffectiveness in Ukraine and beyond

<https://www.ndc.nato.int/news/news.php?icode=1971>

#Russia #North Korea

A Russia-North Korea alliance in the works? Don't be so sure.

<https://www.rand.org/pubs/commentary/2024/10/a-russia-north-korea-alliance-in-the-works-dont-be.html>

#Russia-Ukraine War #drones

Ukraine Leads World in Drone Innovation and Production

<https://jamestown.org/program/ukraine-leads-world-in-drone-innovation-and-production/>

Ukrainian Drone War Shakes Up Russian Society

<https://jamestown.org/program/ukrainian-drone-war-shakes-up-russian-society/>

US-made jam-resistant drones helped Ukrainians cut through Russia EW

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2024/10/us-made-jam-resistant-drones-are-helping-ukrainians-cut-through-russia-ew/400735/>

#Russia-Ukraine War #land warfare

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/English-Edition-Archives/SO-24/SO-24-First-World-War-Doctrine/>

#space

Why should Britain invest in military spacepower?

<https://www.geostrategy.org.uk/research/why-should-britain-invest-in-military-space-power/>

#space #cyber operations #Russia-Ukraine War

Hacking the Cosmos: Cyber operations against the space sector - A case study from the war in Ukraine

<https://css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/pdfs/cyber-reports-2024-10-hacking-the-cosmos.pdf>

#strategy

What is 'Strategic'? The Who, What, When, Where, and Why of Strategy

<https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/article/what-is-strategic-the-who-what-when-where-and-why-of-strategy/>

"Strategic means many things. But its primary purpose is to serve as an adjective that illuminates those matters that are truly the most important issues strategists must deal with."

Victory as a Strategic Objective: An Ambiguous and Counter-Productive Concept for High Command

https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/mdn-dnd/D12-8-17-2-eng.pdf

By then-Brigadier-General Carignan; and In Defence of Victory: A Reply to Brigadier-General Carignan's "Victory as a Strategic Objective"

<https://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/vol18/no3/page37-eng.asp>

#strategy #defence procurement

Is 'Good Enough' Good Enough for the Pentagon?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/williamhartung/2024/10/22/is-good-enough-good-enough-for-the-pentagon/>

This is a defence procurement and a strategy article, with lessons for Canada

#strategy #naval warfare

Tonight is Trafalgar Night. How would Nelson fight the naval battle in the Red Sea today?

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/10/21/us-royal-navy-traffic-anniversary-red-sea-houthi-battle/>

This is not pure maritime/naval strategy but there are enough high-level points to the article that it is worth a read with that in mind.

Comment from a senior RCN: This is a brilliant article (I'm possibly biased as a big fan of Nelson) and I absolutely agree with him about USS *Carney*. The value of well-trained ships companies who understand their mission and are prepared to fight is a strategic enabler.

#terminology

A Short History of the U.S. Army's Dictionary

<https://www.hardingproject.com/p/a-short-history-of-the-us-armys-dictionary>

#war

The Operational Level Of War Does Not Exist

<https://www.tjomo.com/article/the-operational-level-of-war-does-not-exist/>

#wargaming

Kriegspiel on the Eve of War

<https://tacticalnotebook.substack.com/p/kriegspiel-on-the-eve-of-war>

#warfare

Know Your Enemy

<https://www.tjomo.com/article/know-your-enemy/>

"In modern warfare a commander must know much more than the strength and armament of his enemy."

Odds and sods...

Important Notice: Disability Pensions for Veterans awarded between 2003 and 2023

<https://veteranspensionsettlement.kpmg.ca/>

2025 Women's Forum Questionnaire from VAC

We are pleased to share that the 2025 Women's Forum will take place on March 6 & 7, 2025, with time and location to be announced in the coming months. We are seeking topic suggestions from women who have served or are currently serving in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Your input is valuable in shaping an event that reflects your experiences and addresses the issues that matter most to you.

[Have your say here](#)

Questionnaire open until 8 November 2024.

Ukrainian Analytical Digest No. 008 September 2024

The War of Maps? Spatial (Mis)Representations of the Russo-Ukrainian War in the Digital Context

<https://css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/pdfs/ukrainiananalyticaldigest008.pdf>

contents:

Maps beyond Icons: Semiotic Analysis of Maps of Ukraine During the Russo-Ukrainian War

Mapping Trauma and Belonging: Cartographic Imagery in Visual Popular Art of the Russo-Ukrainian War

From Above and From Below: Challenging Flat Representations of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine in the International Context

How to Normalize the Occupation: Russian Authoritarianism and Maps

Red Arrow/Error: A Map Designed to Justify the Russian Invasion of Ukraine Takes on a Life of Its Own in Media and Memes

Comment: Map wars! An underappreciated form of public conflict (underappreciated except to those who are paying attention to China and its efforts to redraw the maps on most of its borders).

Remembrance Day

RUSI(NS) members are welcome to parade at the Royal Artillery Park Remembrance Day Ceremony 11 November 2023. Fall in time is 1040. The mess will be open after the ceremony. There is food laid on and everyone is welcome.

Our VP, Maj John McLearn CA (ret'd), will lay a wreath on behalf of RUSI(NS).

RUSI(NS) members are encouraged to attend a Remembrance Day ceremony in their neighbourhood.





HMCS MONTRÉAL
COMPLETES OP HORIZON

His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Montréal returns after a six-month deployment on Op HORIZON, supporting Canada's commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

247 SHIP'S COMPANY
136 DAYS AT SEA
3 OPERATIONS
8 COUNTRIES OPERATED
40.5K NAUTICAL MILES SAILED
8 EXERCISES

SUEZ+ PANAMA
MAJOR CANALS TRANSITED

CIRCUMNAVIGATED THE GLOBE

CH-148 CYCLONE HELICOPTER
STRIDER
130 SORTIES
354 FLYING HOURS

 National Defence / Défense nationale

 **ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY**  **MARINE ROYALE CANADIENNE**

 **Canada**

SAC Notes

O Canada

Canada has a real issue that actually goes to how we view ourselves as a country in the world. No Canadian government has ever specified what our national interests are. This affects every policy that we develop, and this means our policies do not support the other, they are uncoordinated and a comprehensive approach to the world is virtually impossible. It explains elementary security, patch work foreign policy and a defence policy based on a laundry list which is our “part of ship” but it even affects other policies that are not our normal mandate such as environmental policy, tax policy and so on. It is a major defect that needs to be addressed.

The foreign interference inquiry has been truly incredible, especially the lack of concern by the current government to legitimate threats. It is especially galling that the Prime Minister was fully informed by Canadian intelligence services that the elections were being interfered with by China. More so that the Prime Minister was aware that the Trudeau foundation also received a donation from a Chinese

businessman with pro-Beijing leanings. The party that apparently was the main recipient of Chinese interference was the Liberal party. It makes one wonder why the issue was delayed and delayed.

The inquiry under Justice Hogue has done much better than expected and is trying to find ways to ensure these influences are dealt with appropriately. There is a need for those guilty of knowingly accepting this support should be identified. This being said, Justice Hogue is doing her best to ensure her mandate is covered.

On another issue, there are many defence programs announced such as the new fighter aircraft, the National Shipbuilding program, the submarine program, our NATO support to Latvia, NORAD renewal, Arctic Defence, recruiting and training problems. Most of these programs may not be adequate nor on time. Many are created as a poison pill for a future government as the bills will come due. Is this realistic? Likely not.

Australia

Some articles from our Australian correspondent.

<https://www.skynews.com.au/world-news/global-affairs/all-crew-members-rescued-after-new-zealand-navy-ship-runs-aground-off-samoa-coast-catches-fire-and-sinks/news-story/9951cd8698ae3ebb1126d1e6ccb40f18>

Not good news for the New Zealand Navy.

<https://www.australiandefence.com.au/news/news/asc-selects-orbis-as-first-us-aukus-capability-partner>

The quest for nuclear knowledge continues down under.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/when-naval-capability-is-minimal-it-can-disappear-entirely-in-an-accident/>

The attached is a clear statement of the consequence of the loss of a critical resource by the RNZN and the risk of a similar loss to the RAN, either by accident or other attrition, mine warfare and ocean research being the RAN situation.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/after-75-years-of-the-peoples-republic-of-china-the-party-is-truly-the-sovereign/>

This article discusses the sovereignty of the Chinese Communist Party in that country.

<https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/understanding-russias-military-strategy-the-pitfalls-of-western-ethnocentrism/>

Some useful insights in the attached article.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-17/report-suggests-australia-dump-aukus-nuclear-submarine-plans/104486868>

There may be alternative options for Australia to purchase SSN's.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2024/10/australia-launches-planning-for-multi-billion-dollar-aukus-dry-dock-expanded-naval-base/>

New details on the West Aus naval base expansion. The security of USN information will be an ongoing issue and access to the repair facility technology and that of the SSN's will be an issue. This facility is not in Cuba, but the level of security will be even greater.

Editor's Note: There is a move in the US Congress to stop the sale of Virginia class submarines to Australia and keep all production to the US Navy. They would retain eight US nuclear submarines in Australia. This is a major political problem. The US elections are critical and the outcome will have an impact on all agreements.

<https://www.australiandefence.com.au/news/news/government-announces-henderson-consolidation>

More details on the West Aus defence precinct. This will rival, if not exceed, other naval facilities in the country.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/australias-defence-is-lost-in-a-fog-of-strategic-failure-and-a-lack-of-imagination/>

The lack of foresight and imagination is not limited to Canada.

<https://psnews.com.au/momentous-deal-sealed-between-wa-and-federal-governments-over-defence-precinct-at-henderson/147029/>

This is a story in today's press about the new naval precinct for the greater Perth region.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/northern-defence-is-getting-more-talk-than-action/>

The forwarded article should resonate well with Canadians. Hopefully, the Aussies will reinforce their northern forces and not follow the Canadian example.

<https://www.australiandefence.com.au/news/news/defence-announces-sm-6-sm-2iic-order>

More inventory for air defence

Not a lot that is new down under at the moment. The focus on the west coast is the long term development of the naval precinct in the Fremantle- Garden Island area to support the SSN program.

Australia Correspondent Note: Between the North and now the West coast, Australia will have its hands full. It will be an expensive proposition just to do the basic infrastructure in Fremantle and Darwin.

Editor's Note: Manning all of the new organizational structures, equipment and new types of units will also be a huge bill. Can the Australian economy really take this on while being so dependent on China for the health of the economy

United States

The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken has made his 11th trip to the Middle East in the past week in an effort to convince Israel not to escalate the situation, however the US has always supported Israel's right to defend itself and continues to provide support.

This week, within a week of the US election, the tone is becoming more bizarre. It is strange that the world's most important democracy is playing with ideas that are directly opposite of the ideals of the US Constitution. Our friends to the South have a big decision to make. The US elections will be held on 5 November 2024. The outcome will shape the world order for the good or possibly the bad. The US electorate holds the fate of the world in its hands.

Moldova

The Presidential election and referendum on joining the EU were held on 20 October 2024. The referendum was narrowly won by pro-EU voters with just over 50% of the vote. Although Maia Sandu won 42% of the popular vote, well above her next rival, former Prosecutor-general, Alexandru Stoianoglo. Stoianoglo is considered pro-Russian and is head of the Socialist party of Moldova.

Mr Soianoglo has recently stated that he is pro-Ukrainian and pro-EU as well. Maia Sandu has questioned his commitment to a pro-European Moldova. A successful Presidential candidate needs to get more than 50% of the vote to be re-elected president. The run-off elections are scheduled for 3 November 2024. The election may be close.

The election was marred by a very active campaign of disinformation by Russian and pro-Russian groups within Moldova. Criminal organizations were used in a very blatant vote buying campaign as well as intimidation and disinformation activities. Moldovan Federal authorities have arrested members of the vote buying ring. A vote for pro-Russian candidates was \$84 USD.

Georgia

It appears that the Georgian Dream Party has narrowly won over opposition parties with over 50% of the vote as it stands today. The elections were held on Saturday, 26 October. Georgian Dream is generally considered a pro-Russian party. It is mainly funded by a Georgian oligarch, Bidzina Ivanishvili, who made his money in Russia.

The election was again marred by Russian interference and disinformation. The opposition was splintered and could not get together to provide a united front therefore the vote was also badly split allowing Georgian dream to achieve electoral victory. In recent interviews with EU based reporters, the Prime Minister indicated that the party was pro-European, and that the country would make every attempt to gain EU membership.

Georgia fought a war with Russia in 2006 in which two areas of Georgia were seized by Russian forces, Abkhazia and South Ossetia now claimed as part of the Russian Federation according to the Russian Federation. Time will tell whether this new pro-EU approach is real, most suspect not. Russia has not done well in its fight against Ukraine; it is possible that even pro-Russian forces in former Soviet Republics are now understanding the full implications of a Russian failure on the battlefield.

Belarus

In a somewhat bizarre BBC interview with Alexander Lukashenko on 24 October 2024. He denied the arrival of North Korean troops as “rubbish.” He stated that Putin would not ask for foreign troops as that would be an escalation of the conflict. He also denied participation of Belarus in the initial invasion of Ukraine despite the attack by Russian troops from Belarus soil. His answer was he did not discuss the issue with Putin before, during or after the event.

Even more strangely, he said that Belarus would resist a potential attempt to annex Belarus. He was hoping to improve relations with the EU and others in the Western world.

As mentioned in past notes, Lukashenko has played a very careful balancing act between an aggressive Russia and keeping his own nation out of actual combat. He continues to do so with some success even now. How long will Putin allow this to continue as Russia’s economy and war effort continue to deteriorate?

Israel-Iran War

Israel retaliated for the Iranian ballistic missile attack this week. The targets were air defence units and missile production facilities including fuel mixing units. It appears the Israelis have followed the results of discussions with the US. They did not attack nuclear facilities nor petrochemical industries. Iran has vowed retaliation but the tone was subdued.

The war against Iran’s proxies is ongoing in Gaza and Southern Lebanon. Hamas and Hezbollah have been badly hurt with many of the key leadership being eliminated. What is clear, the UN organizations responsible for ensuring peace and development have largely failed. In both areas Iranian proxies were able to build massive fortifications across the region including tunnels under frontiers. Some of these facilities were built within a few feet of UN positions and bases. In the case of Hamas, they were drawing power directly from the UNRWA HQ’s building. The UN has lost credibility with Israel. The Israeli Knesset has passed two pieces of legislation to ensure UNRWA can no longer operate within Israel or areas under Israeli control.

This legislation has not gone over well with key Israeli allies including Canada and the US who have asked Israel to refrain from such an action. UNRWA is badly tainted with its twisted relationship with a genocidal organization that is Hamas including having employees participate in the 7 October attack and confining Israeli hostages. UNRWA is a problem and must be re-organized at least. It is not impartial.

The same applies to ineffective UN peacekeeping missions that cannot accomplish their actual designed missions. UNIFIL is an excellent example of this failure as major tunnels and fortifications were found immediately outside their bases. It is ineffective.

Hezbollah has elected Naim Kassem as the leader after the death of Hassan

Nasrallah. Kesseem had been Nasrallah's deputy for three decades; he vowed to continue Nasrallah's policies until the end, according to news sources.

The Russia-Ukraine War

The war continues as a brutal war of attrition for both sides. Russia's manpower and equipment losses are amongst the heaviest levels since the start of the conflict. Russia continues to make small gains across the front and in Kursk. Ukraine has been able to exploit Russian mistakes in local counterattacks as well. Still Russia appears to have a tactical advantage at present.

Ukraine is continuing its long-range attacks using locally produced drones. Ukraine has also developed a longer-range ballistic missile system which should be available in the not-too-distant future as well.

Russia is expected to conduct a series of major drone and missile attacks targeting energy production in the very near future as part of their design to use the winter cold to demoralize Ukrainian citizens. It is expected that this will take place once colder weather sets in and Ukrainians have also been affected by new defeats on the battlefield including in Kursk and Pokrovsk. Russia currently holds more than 67 k square kilometres of Ukraine composing just over 18% of its total land mass. This month saw the largest land gains since 2022, approximately 447 square kilometres since early September 2024.

Ukraine is continuing to conduct a strategic attack against key Russian industries involved in the war effort using long-range indigenously developed weapons, special forces and partisans to hit Russia in the deep rear. At a more tactical level, ammunition dumps, transportation hubs, headquarters, airfields, ports, supply depots, key bridges using tactical weapons usually inside Russian occupied

Ukraine.

Ukraine is awaiting new equipment including more fighters. This week saw the graduation of 200+ pilots from basic flying schools and the commitment to receive more F 16s before the end of this year. France has also committed to providing recently retired Mirage 2000 fighter bombers as well. Ukraine's two newly built corvettes are undergoing work up training in Turkiye New armour vehicles are now arriving, including the first of the Canadian built and provided Combat support light armour vehicles and in this case ambulances. The bottom line is that Russia has gone through most of its usable inventory of available vehicles including artillery, tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, armour personnel carriers and logistics vehicles. Russian industry cannot keep up with losses and production continues to be low.

The question being asked now, is the Russian economy able to continue? Inflation is high. The central bank has raised interest rates to 21% and it is estimated to rise to 24% by next spring. The rouble has lost value against the resurgent US dollar, now trading at more than 100 roubles for a single dollar. Oligarchs such as the head of Rostec now question whether Russian business will survive. Low profit margins coupled with high interest rates make it unlikely most businesses will survive.

The war is now a race for time, can Russia achieve its goals at the present rate of progress; the answer appears to be 'no.' Can Ukraine receive new equipment promised by allies in time. The answer is a definite 'maybe.' Neither side is willing to bend at present. There is one real change and that is the desire to ensure Ukraine gets a 'win' but whether that is a question of whose definition, the allies or Ukraine and Russia's regime.

The key development is the arrival of North Korean troops. Allegedly more than 12k are undergoing training in Russia, and some may have arrived in the Kursk area. Whether these troops will be anything more than sacrificial lambs is the real question. These troops appear to be at the top of the North Korean Army. Their training and their equipment is better than most of their Army but they have little experience in combat. A large number of North Koreans have already deserted and are being well received by the Ukrainians.

China

It needs reminding that China is not a friend. It is an adversary. It is governed by an authoritarian, imperialistic and culturally genocidal regime. It is not democratic nor capable of supporting its own population. It lies, it cooks the books, it uses debt diplomacy to gain influence internationally. It has one goal, the survival of the Communist Chinese Party (CCP); everything else is secondary. It explains its actions.

China's economy is failing due to the actions of the "Core Leader" Xi Jinping. He has reversed China's growth, moving towards state owned enterprises at the expense of the private sector. Why? The private sector would be independent of the government. Key private entrepreneurs who spoke out such as Jack ma and others were detained and forced to drop their ownership in their companies. Independent wealth created something worse, people and organizations that were independent of the party. The CCP took action closing down many private sectors that provided employment such as private education companies noted for employing educated students.

Private enterprise has been the main driver of employment in China. It was mainly responsible for the development of an educated middle class and financial growth within families. Wealth was in the hands of people other than the party and that meant more people were no longer dependent on the party itself. Previous leaders such as Zhang Chemin, Hu Jintao allowed this to occur grudgingly acknowledging that this provided progress for the country. Xi appears to have taken a very different approach and the economy has suffered ever since. There is little to look forward to in the near term. Will opposition grow to Xi's incompetence? The answer is yes, but not right away.

India and China are at odds over China's incursion into Bhutan where China has apparently colonized parts of Bhutan with up to 22 villages contrary to prior agreements and treaties. It is likely this effort will result in further actions eventually. Both India and China have increased military garrisons in the area. This has the potential for further friction between two major powers.

China has continued its imperial designs on the South China Sea as well, especially against the Philippines but Malaysia and Vietnam as well. The Philippines and the US have reminded China of the mutual defence pact, making a US-China confrontation possible. This doesn't even cover the flash point of Taiwan which this week has announced a further \$2 B USD defence package from the US. China is less than happy.

It should be mentioned that India has launched its fourth ballistic missile submarine this month. An India-China confrontation would not be good.

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