



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Dispatches

1 April 2022

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 weekly 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 Canadian Department of National Defence or other government department, the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia.

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).

Dispatches

Sanchez King has volunteered to edit the 8, 15 and 22 April editions of *Dispatches*. He will need material to include in the editions. RUSI(NS) members, really anyone receiving our bulletin, is asked to contribute content, preferably with value-added comments, that can be posted to our social media or directly into *Dispatches*. Please email them to RUSINSDispatches@gmail.com.

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.

5 April, Tuesday – Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Strategic Wargaming - The US Army War College Approach." 7:00–9:00 pm ADT. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/strategic-wargaming-the-us-army-war-college-approach-tickets-187766283007>.

New: 8 April, Friday - Department of National Defence Mobilizing Insights in Defence and Security program and Queen's University Network for Strategic Analysis webinar "Ready, Engaged and Informed: Canada and the Role of Intelligence in Addressing Emerging Threats and Challenges." 0845-1715 EDT. Hybrid event (with Zoom). See: <https://ras-nsa.ca/event/ready-engaged-and-informed/> and <https://cfc-ca.libguides.com/c.php?g=709488&p=5097594&preview=8d01d4c58cd1fa4b02bc759f34e935be>

Emended: 25 May, Wednesday – RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker Colonel (retired) John Boileau on "No. 2 Construction Battalion: A Short History & an Apology." 1300-1500. Halifax Armouries. Note

that it is understood the Government of Canada will issue an apology, summer 2022. This will be our first in-person event since we changed to virtual events because of the pandemic. Registration not required. Pre-event reading: No. 2 Construction Battalion: The Operational History <http://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/vol16/no3/page51-eng.asp>

Emended: 27 April, Wednesday – the RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speakers event on cyber resiliency has been deferred until later in 2022.

New: 22 June, Wednesday – **save the date**. RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker TBA.

Publications:

Except where otherwise indicated, publications are available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

RUSI(NS) Presentation “Surveillance of Sea Surface Activities in Atlantic Canada” by Jan-Andrej Skopalik, 16 Mar 22, https://rusi-ns.ca/national_aerial_surveillance_program/

RUSI(NS) Information Note “RCN Ship Pennant Numbers,” 10 March 2022 https://rusi-ns.ca/pennant_numbers/

RUSI(NS) Information Note “Ship-to-Shore Connector Barges,” 28 February 2022, <https://rusi-ns.ca/ship-to-shore-connector/>

RUSI(NS) Presentation “RCAF Strategy: Air and Space in Formation” by Colonel Meghan Setter, 16 February 2022, <https://rusi-ns.ca/rcaf-strategy/>

RUSI(NS) Comments "Can We Stop a Rogue Vessel in the Arctic?" by Pierre Leblanc, 4 February 2022, <https://rusi-ns.ca/rogue-vessel-arctic>

RUSI(NS) Presentations “Arctic Maritime Security: US Coast Guard and Canadian Navy Operations” by Captain Al McCabe USCG and Commander Corey Gleason RCN, 29 January 2022, https://rusi-ns.ca/arctic_maritime_security/

RUSI(NS) Paper “We Have No Air Defence For Our Army – Why?” by Murray Lee, 23 January 2022, <https://rusi-ns.ca/air-defence/>

Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 16 March edition <https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current>

New: Company of Master Mariners of Canada Maritimes Division *Foghorn*, April 2022

Edmonton United Services Institute President’s *Enews*, February 2022

New: Military Institute of Windsor Communiqué, Volume XL, Number 4, April 2022

Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, March 2022 <https://www.rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/109-rausi-dispatches-march-2022>

Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch *Scuttlebutt*, March 2022

Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver and Vancouver Artillery Association Members *News*, 1 March 2022

Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island *Newsletter*, Volume 54, 1st Quarter 2022.

New: Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 11, Issue 4, 28 March 2022

Vancouver Artillery Association and Royal United Services Institute Vancouver Members News Mar 15, 2022

Veterans Affairs Canada *Salute!*, March 2022

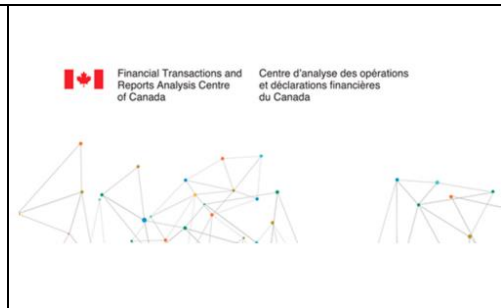
<https://letstalkveterans.ca/1newsletters>

New: "Russia's Invasion of Ukraine - Effects on Arctic Regional Governance and Suggestions for Messaging" by Whitney Lackenbauer, Troy Bouffard, and Ryan Dean, March 2022
Available on request to RUSI(NS).

Tweeted by @RUSI_NS:

RUSI(NS) tweets may also be viewed by clicking on the Twitter icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something tweeted or retweeted, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

JMDavis @JessMarinDavis 24 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: FINTRAC has released a new bulletin on Russian sanctions evasion, and ML techniques associated with that (to assist detection). Corporate structures, shell corporations, and cryptocurrencies all feature prominently in their guidance. #SanctionsRussia (Special Bulletin on Russia-linked money laundering related to sanctions evasion <https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/intel/bulletins/r1ml-eng.pdf>)

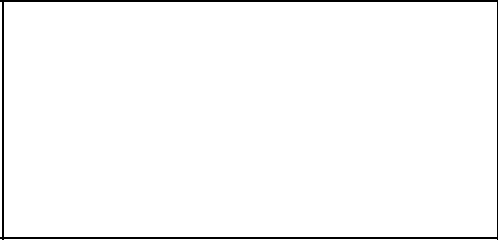





Tom Birchall @trbirchall 25 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: I've been following the war in Ukraine and I wonder. sanctions & the economic war. First it was Oil & gas, then gold reserves - all affecting ruble. My question is: who is looking at the diamond exchange? Solid value, untraceable, and very portable?



IAMSPonline @IAMSPonline 26 Mar tweeted: It is time to reconsider the development of Resolute Bay <https://buff.ly/3iG8E5D> #Arctic #Canada <https://www.hilltimes.com/2022/03/25/it-is-time-to-reconsider-the-development-of-resolute-bay/351777> (It is time to reconsider the development of Resolute Bay) RUSI(NS) retweeted: Development of transportation infrastructures (air, sea, land) in 🇨🇦 #Arctic should be



<p>integrated whole-of-government multi-use approach with engagement of local people</p> <p><i>Also:</i> Increased military presence in the North could provide much-needed infrastructure to the region: MPs, experts https://www.hilltimes.com/2022/03/21/increased-military-presence-in-the-north-could-provide-much-needed-infrastructure-to-the-region-mps-experts/350803</p>	
<p>David Pugliese @davidpugliese 24 mar tweeted: My latest article.....Canada could face trouble buying specialized steel for new \$7-billion icebreakers https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canada-could-face-trouble-buying-specialized-steel-for-new-7-billion-icebreakers via @ottawacitizen</p> <p>RUSI(NS) retweeted: Different steel for different ships (especially for submarines). CAN🇨🇦 National Shipbuilding Strategy #NSS should be ensuring that steel industry benefits, in addition to other supplies/marine industries. What is state of CAN steel industry as part of national defence/security?</p>	
<p>Jeff Collins @jeffreycollins 25 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: New from me this AM: "A defence budget increase will need a policy rethink" @IRPP @CAGlobalAffairs (https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/defence-budget-increase-change-procurement/)</p>	
<p>RUSI @RUSI_org 29 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: On taking photographs of fallen soldiers in #Ukraine 'private citizens, media professionals, armed forces and state actors should consider the purpose of their posts to ensure they do not cause further harm or break any national or international laws', writes @Conflict_arch.</p> <p>(Digital Dignity in Death: Are the Geneva Conventions Fit for Purpose in the Age of Social Media?) https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/digital-dignity-death-are-geneva-conventions-fit-purpose-age-social-media</p>	

Lt Gov NS @LtGovNS 30 mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: A new commemorative medal has been created to mark the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne. The award program will honour contributions and achievements made by residents. To learn more please visit <https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20220330003>

(Commemorative Medal Created for Queen's Platinum Jubilee)



The Naval Association of Canada @navalassn 29 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: In the current strategic environment, the shelf lives of national defence policies are being compressed. Read Ross Fetterly's thoughts on Preparing Defence in Canada Against a More Dangerous Future. @CAGlobalAffairs (https://www.cgai.ca/preparing_defence_in_canada_against_a_more_dangerous_future)



Oana Lungescu @NATOpress 31 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Launching his annual report - SecGen @jensstoltenberg confirms that 2021 was the 7th consecutive year of rising defence spending across European Allies & Canada.

- +3.1% in real terms
- a total of +270 billion US dollars since 2014

i (NATO Secretary General launches his Annual Report for 2021 https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_194034.htm)

Report: The Secretary General's Annual Report 2021 (https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions_193590.htm)



Patrick Muncaster @PatrikMuncaster 25 Mar tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Clashing doctrines; changing armor / projectile equation; will power: <https://theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/03/american-volunteer-foreign-fighters-ukraine-russia-war/627604/> #cdnpoli #cdnmil #cdnntatsec #cdngeopoliticalstrategy #cdndefencebdget (Ukraine's Three-to-One Advantage)



Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia:

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.

Russian Tankers Going Dark Raises Flags on Sanctions Evasion

<https://gcaptain.com/russian-tankers-going-dark-raises.../>

"Russian tankers carrying oil chemicals and products are increasingly concealing their movements, a phenomenon that some maritime experts warn could signal attempts to evade unprecedented sanctions prompted by the invasion of Ukraine."



There's a sort of trade war ongoing. The Canadian Marine Security Operations Centres could be busy.

When an OSINTer was queried whether that community was tracking Russian tankers, the reply pointed at and commended @TankerTrackers on Twitter.

Liberals launch negotiations to buy F-35 fighter jets

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/f-35-negotiations-1.6399978>

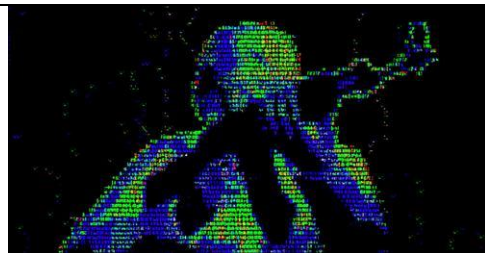
Canada is planning to buy 88 new fighter jets to replace its aging CF-18s



Why You Haven't Heard About the Secret Cyberwar in Ukraine

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/18/opinion/cyberwar-ukraine-russia.html>

"The contours of digital conflict are slowly emerging from the shadows, as digitally upgraded intelligence operations at the edge of war: espionage, sabotage, covert action and counterintelligence, full of deception and disinformation."



No sign shipping is willing to take up Russia's safe corridor offering

<https://splash247.com/no-sign-shipping-is-willing-to-take-up-russias-safe-corridor-offering/>

"An issue that has made so called blue corridors difficult to realise in recent days has been the amount of mines laid in positions around the Black Sea, most densely in front of Ukraine's largest port, Odessa."



And if a ship in a 'blue corridor' strikes a mine (or otherwise suffers a catastrophic explosion), the Russians assuredly would blame the Ukrainians. The corridor would have to close. So it is to the Russians' advantage for a merchant ship to attempt the corridor and take a hit.

Ukraine Starts Using Facial Recognition To Identify Dead Russians And Tell Their Relatives

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2022/03/23/ukraine-starts-using-facial-recognition-to-identify-dead-russians-and-tell-their-relatives/?sh=237426c92898>

"Whatever the morals at play, the use of facial recognition in this war is remarkable in its use as a tool in the propaganda war."



Ukraine's Cultural Heritage Is Desperate for Help

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/03/25/ukraine-cultural-heritage-russia-war-unesco-united-states/>

Russian President Vladimir Putin is attempting to eliminate the cultural objects that frame Ukraine's national narrative.

Culture wars. Hmm, there may be a need for new Monuments Men (and Women).



Will Russia Create New "People's Republics" in Ukraine?

<https://warontherocks.com/2022/03/will-russia-create-new-peoples-republics-in-ukraine/>

Note the cope cages, improvised slats to counter anti-armour missiles.



Is North America's Arctic vulnerable to Russia?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-60837944>



Ukraine war: Russia blocks ships carrying grain exports

<https://www.dw.com/en/ukraine-war-russia-blocks-ships-carrying-grain-exports/a-61165985>

"Russia blames the stoppage on the high risk of mines, which it said had been laid by the Ukrainian Navy."



The threat of mines, whether valid or not and no matter how many, is sufficient to affect the movement of ships. Double advantageous when blame can be (attempted to be) put on the other side.

Unfortunately it looks like Africa is going to pay in decreased grain imports for Russia's aggression. Highlights the integration of food security and defence. It's not just Ukraine that it

going to need relief as the war progresses and comes to some sort of an end. Hmm, a need for a more world-spanning post-war re-construction?

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Additionally: The Russia-Ukraine war is causing wheat shortages. Here's why Canada can't really help <https://nationalpost.com/news/world/russia-ukraine-war-global-wheat-market-canada>

Ukraine Could Resume Wheat Exports Depending on Next Crop

<https://gcaptain.com/ukraine-wheat-exports-could-resume/>

Good to read that Ukraine is considering alternative routes to export grain. But, yes, the bottleneck may be the Ukrainian railway. Rail cannot move as much as shipping. And rail is vulnerable to being cut, whether by regular attack or special operations.

There are many interesting economic aspects to the Ukraine-Russia war.

National Environmental Emergencies Centre

"Officers at the NEEC Notification Desk and Emergency Operations Centre are available 24/7 to receive, triage and respond to reports of pollution. Using a science-based approach, we ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to mitigate impacts from environmental emergencies."



The NEEC was noted at the March 2022 Distinguished Speaker event "Surveillance of Sea Surface Activities in Atlantic Canada" (https://rusi-ns.ca/national_aerial_surveillance_program/). The NEEC was unknown to some at the event, and is described at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-emergencies-program/national-centre.html>.

The Naval Response to the War in Ukraine

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-naval-response-to-putins-war-odessa-russia-ukraine-warships-warplanes-war-airlift-naval-battle-11648130721>

Yes, NATO could do with a refreshed maritime strategy that focuses on the flanking seas and considers trade warfare more (including its impacts on energy and food security).



A humanitarian sealift is fraught with danger and may only be practical with control of the sea. NATO doesn't have that. Certainly not what with the threat of mines.

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Comment: For those interested in NATO's maritime strategy, see "Alliance Maritime Strategy" (https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_75615.htm). It is dated (18 March 2011) and due for review. The war got in the way. The war is certainly going to affect the resulting re-write.

Fixed-wing demonstration turns into real-life search-and-rescue mission

<https://skiesmag.com/news/sar-demonstration-turns-real-life-search-and-rescue-mission/>

"... uses artificial intelligence and computer vision in an on-board processor to search each frame in the imagery feed from an EO/IR sensor to detect moving targets as small as a human head in the water."



Some very capable sensors being integrated into aircraft smaller than the military maritime patrol where one is used to seeing such capabilities.

Transport Canada has done similar with the Dash-7 and Dash-8 of its National Aerial Surveillance Program aircraft; see: "Surveillance of Sea Surface Activities in Atlantic Canada" (https://rusi-ns.ca/national_aerial_surveillance_program/).

The Army Is Not Ready to Win Without Fighting

<https://mwi.usma.edu/the-army-is-not-ready-to-win-without-fighting/>

"As the war in Ukraine is reaffirming, war, which is as much about people as politics, is above all a contest of wills."



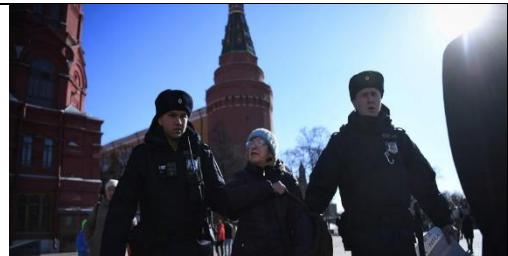
"To help move to a better American way of war and peace, the Army must see itself within a whole-of-nation framework in strategic competition, build global and regional networks with allies and interorganizational partners, and integrate moral as well as material maneuver forces—or else it may risk losing without fighting."

US, but others should consider the lessons.

How Strategic Messaging Can Help Turn Putin Around

<https://www.defenseone.com/.../how-strategic.../363592/>

"There are few centers of opposition in Russia that frighten Putin. The loss of confidence in him by ordinary Russians may prove the most powerful and information is the way to arouse their opposition."



It is debatable whether strategic messaging, part of strategic communications, could have effect fast enough on the Ukraine-Russia war. That doesn't mean it shouldn't be attempted. Anyways, there is an ongoing global public information war, and all states, Canada included, should be undertaking a strategic communications campaign.

Canada Needs to Make NORAD Modernization a Priority

<https://www.cigionline.org/.../canada-needs-to-make.../>

"We propose that Canada work in partnership with the United States to modernize NORAD, aligning its contributions with key strategic niches in which it has a leading strategic capability, and with niches that would enable Canada to also address other national priorities, including key industrial and Arctic development, and sovereignty."

"... Canada should play to its national industrial strengths in areas such as autonomous space-based and subsea surveillance, while also contributing in areas that could address national and Northern socio-economic and sovereignty needs, such as dual-use Northern communications and transportation infrastructure, all the while safeguarding national sovereignty and the IP needed to support these investments in Canada by Canadians."



Other Sources:

#culture #gender

A recent exchange of emails with Dr Maya Eichler, Associate Professor, Political Studies and Women's Studies, Mount Saint Vincent University, led to the following list:

Exploring sex, gender and intersectionality in the health and well-being of military members, Veterans, and their families

<https://jmvfh.utpjournals.press/toc/jmvfh/7/s1>

Administrative tribunals and equity: Military sexual assault survivors at the Veterans Review and Appeal Board

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/capa.12410>

Canada's problematic military culture warrants an oversight agency

<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/march-2021/canadas-problematic-military-culture-warrants-an-oversight-agency/>

Only a fundamental culture change will address military sexual misconduct

<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/february-2021/only-a-fundamental-culture-change-will-address-military-sexual-misconduct/>

Gender and the Canadian Armed Forces

<https://journals.msvu.ca/index.php/atlantiss/issue/view/364>

Gender in Veteran reintegration and transition: a scoping review

<https://jmvfh.utpjournals.press/doi/pdf/10.3138/jmvfh.2017-0004>

#Arctic

Long-delayed naval facility in the High Arctic now postponed to 2023

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-long-delayed-naval-facility-in-the-high-arctic-now-postponed-to-2023/>

New UK Defence Arctic Strategy Announced

<https://www.joint-forces.com/uk-news/52366-new-uk-defence-arctic-strategy-announced>

Report to Congress on Changes in the Arctic

<https://news.usni.org/2022/03/30/report-to-congress-on-changes-in-the-arctic-13>

Framing Arctic Security - NAADSN Members' Opening Comments to the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence

<https://www.naadsn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/QuickImpact-FramingArcticSecurity-WG-RH-PWL-SL-AO-ERD-31mar2022.pdf>

#defence policy

If Ukraine can overhaul its military in eight years, what's stopping Canada?

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/chris-selley-if-ukraine-can-overhaul-its-military-in-eight-years-whats-stopping-canada>

#Future Fighter Capability Project

Day two after the F35 decision. Articles are mostly supportive in tone. Some question why it took so long to arrive at the same conclusions that were reached in 2010 and 2014 (certainly a valid observation).

[Why Canada picked F-35 for its next fighter, and why now](#)

[Richard Shimooka: Politics delayed F-35 choice by over a decade, leaving Canada worse off](#)

[Canada moves closer to delivering 88 advanced fighter jets for the Royal Canadian Air Force as it begins negotiations with the top-ranked bidder, the United States government and Lockheed Martin, for the F-35](#)

[Liberals launch negotiations to buy F-35 fighter jets](#)

[Government communications strategy designed two years ago to justify F-35 purchase](#)

The Harper-Trudeau F-35 dogfight: From fiasco to debacle, and back to fiasco

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/editorials/article-the-harper-trudeau-f-35-dogfight-from-fiasco-to-debacle-and-back-to/>

#Canadian Armed Forces

Spotlight on culture change initiatives for military personnel

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2022/03/spotlight-culture-change-initiatives-military-personnel.html>

#drones

MQ-9S Over Sirte: Unmanned Airpower for Urban Combat

<https://mwi.usma.edu/mq-9s-over-sirte-unmanned-airpower-for-urban-combat/>

Strength in Numbers: Russia and the Future of Drone Swarms

<https://mwi.usma.edu/strength-in-numbers-russia-and-the-future-of-drone-swarms/>

Gliders with Ears: A New Tool in China's Quest for Undersea Security

<https://cimsec.org/gliders-with-ears-a-new-tool-in-chinas-quest-for-undersea-security/>

#airpower

Balloons to Drones Research Resources – Recent Articles and Books (March 2022)

<https://balloonstodrones.com/2022/03/31/researchresources-recent-articles-and-books-march-2022/>

#land warfare

A Bridge Too Far: The Decline of Conventional Parachuting – Part 1

<https://wavellroom.com/2019/02/26/a-bridge-too-far-the-decline-of-conventional-parachuting-part-1/>

Slaughter, manoeuvre, infantry and psychology

<https://wavellroom.com/2018/09/25/slaughter-manoevre-infantry-and-psychology/>

The Universal Infantry Battalion

<https://wavellroom.com/2019/08/29/the-universal-battalion-possible-future-infantry-unit-structures/>

#intelligence

UN Intelligence in the Balkans

<https://wavellroom.com/2021/05/26/un-intelligence-in-bosnia-unprofor-balkans-peacekeeping/>

#marine security

Special Marine Security Notification – No. 2022-002 Canadian Sanctions Related to Russia

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine/special-marine-security-notification-no-2022-002>

#information operations

How to Explain the Failure of Russia's Information Operations in Ukraine?

<https://www.cigionline.org/articles/how-to-explain-the-failure-of-russias-information-operations-in-ukraine/>

Wagging the Dog: The Ten Commandments of Propaganda

<https://news.clearancejobs.com/2022/03/22/wagging-the-dog-the-ten-commandments-of-propaganda/>

Real news site or Russian propaganda?

<https://share.america.gov/real-news-site-or-russian-propaganda/>

#research & development

In the battle against IEDs, new detect capabilities

<https://canadianarmytoday.com/in-the-battle-against-ieds-new-detect-capabilities/>

Note Threat Mitigation Group.

#leadership

“There’s something wrong with our bloody leaders...”

https://wavellroom.com/2020/03/24/theres-something-wrong-with-our-bloody-leaders/?utm_content=buffer8a465&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

#weapons

The Case for a New Military Caliber

<https://wavellroom.com/2017/09/08/the-case-for-a-new-military-caliber/>

#counterinsurgency warfare

Don’t Underestimate the Bear—Russia is One of the World’s Most Effective Modern Counterinsurgents

<https://mwi.usma.edu/dont-underestimate-the-bear-russia-is-one-of-the-worlds-most-effective-modern-counterinsurgents/>

#cyber ops

The Value of the Specialist

<https://wavellroom.com/2018/02/16/the-value-of-the-specialist/>

How to Avoid Tripping over Russia’s Ransomware Threat

<https://mwi.usma.edu/how-to-avoid-tripping-over-russias-ransomware-threat/>

#Ukraine-Russia War

Russia and Ukraine: The Fallen Will Require New Cemeteries

<https://rusi.org/news-and-comment/video-commentary/russia-and-ukraine-fallen-will-require-new-cemeteries>

#law

Ukraine: Legal questions swirl for Canadian volunteers

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/legal-questions-abound-for-canadians-volunteering-to-fight-in-ukraine-1.5833817>

Report to Congress on Law of War and the Invasion of Ukraine

<https://news.usni.org/2022/03/25/report-to-congress-on-law-of-war-and-the-invasion-of-ukraine>

#Ukraine-Russia War #navigation warfare

Ukrainian Hackers Take Aim at Russian Artillery, Navigation Signals

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2022/03/ukrainian-hackers-take-aim-russian-artillery-navigation-signals/363854/>

#Ukraine-Russia War #information operations

Putin Is Turning Grieving Mothers Into Propaganda

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/03/31/russian-fatalities-ukraine-propaganda-grieving-mothers/>

The Russian military began to have problems with funding

<https://gur.gov.ua/content/u-viiskovykh-rf-pochalys-problemy-z-finansuvanniam.html>

Analysis of Russian airpower deployment in Ukraine

<https://hushkit.net/2022/03/22/analysis-of-russian-airpower-deployment-in-ukraine-by-guy-plopsy/>

Russia's Naval Blockade

<https://cimsec.org/sea-control-331-russias-naval-blockade-with-dr-alexander-lott/>

See links to:

Russia's Blockade in the Sea of Asov: A Call for Relief Shipments for Mariupol

The Estonian Straits (International Straits of the World)

Implications of Hybrid Warfare for the Order of the Oceans

San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea

IMO Council decisions on Black Sea and Sea of Azov situation

Montreux Convention

Maritime Grounds In Ukraine: Interview With An Odesa-Based Maritime Lawyer

<https://www.marineinsight.com/shipping-news/maritime-grounds-in-ukraine-interview-with-an-odesa-based-maritime-lawyer/>

Transferring Polish MiG-29s to Ukraine: why is it easier said than done?

<https://balloonstodrones.com/2022/03/30/commentary-transferring-polish-mig-29s-to-ukraine-why-is-it-easier-said-than-done/>

Russian Aggression and Disinformation in Ukraine

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/russian-aggression-and-disinformation-in-ukraine/>

Why Russian troops are using tree branches for camouflage in Ukraine

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/03/30/russia-camouflage-ukraine/>

Why Russia's military is bogged down by logistics in Ukraine

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/03/30/russia-military-logistics-supply-chain/>

Another good BTG description.

The railroads map is useful when considering Russian efforts.

Russia's Military Was Great Until It Wasn't

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/03/russia-ukraine-invasion-military-predictions/629418/>

Russia's military losses in Ukraine continue to mount. Here's a look at why the death toll is so high

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/russian-losses-cause-result-impact-1.6400495>

F-15 Eagle Driver On What It Is Like Flying Against Ukraine's Fighter Pilots

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/44965/u-s-f-15-pilot-on-what-it-is-like-fighting-against-ukraines-fighter-pilots>

All You Need To Know About The Starstreak Missiles Now In The Hands Of Ukrainian Troops

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/44950/starstreak-missile-now-in-ukraine-what-you-need-to-know>

Inside Ukraine's Psyops on Russian and Belarusian Soldiers

<https://newlinesmag.com/reportage/inside-ukraines-psyops-on-russian-and-belarusian-soldiers/>

Russia Losing 22 Battalion Tactical Groups: Is BTG a myth, or is it truly effective in combat?

<https://defence24.com/armed-forces/land-forces/russia-losing-22-battalion-tactical-groups-is-btg-a-myth-or-is-it-truly-effective-in-combat-analysis>

BTGs, OoB, and Crowd Sourced BDA in Ukraine (#199)

<https://www.thefivecoatconsultinggroup.com/the-coronavirus-crisis/perspective-ukraine>

Russia's Limit of Advance - Analysis of Russian Ground Force Deployment Capabilities and Limitations

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2563.html

#wargaming #strategy

The Games We Play: Understanding Strategic Culture Through Games

<https://mwi.usma.edu/the-games-we-play-understanding-strategic-culture-through-games/>

Hmm, what would be an assessment of Canadian games and strategic culture?...

On Wargaming

<https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/newport-papers/43/>

The cutting edge of military gaming

<https://www.expeditionarycenter.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2561237/the-cutting-edge-of-military-gaming/>

Other:

Canadian Army Today Spring 2022

<https://canadianarmytoday.com/spring-2022/>

contents:

A question of culture and ethos

Reserve readiness standards

The (Not so) secret to procurement

UR22: New enemy, new challenges

What's replacing the C7

Time for a new tank killer

Arctic pivot: No snow, no problem

Countering the drones

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O Canada

The Canadian government has tentatively chosen the F-35 Lightning II as our new fighter aircraft over the Swedish Gryphen J39. While it is good that the new fighter is selected there are many issues that are not resolved by the decision, such as do we have a fighter that can do all the jobs required? The

answer is still possibly but also possibly not. Canada has no ground attack or close air support capability and risking a stealth fighter in this mission is not a terribly bright idea. While this may be a good fit for the air force, it leaves much to be desired for the army and navy. Can one air frame do all the missions - the answer is no. The Australians have recognized this and maintain several fleets of aircraft including F-18 E/F/G for the attack and electronic warfare role and attack helicopters for close air support role. They also have the F-35 for air superiority and stealth attack. Can we truthfully say as a nation that we have given the best solution to our service members? The answer is clearly no. Canada has relied on the Air Force to meet Army and Navy air requirements and they have produced air fleets that are fine for the air force but are of limited use for the Army and Navy. The Australians with a smaller population have retained both an Army Air Corps and a Fleet Air Arm to ensure the air requirements of these two services are considered.

In bringing the new fighter up as our first topic it brings up a more serious issue. An issue that we have discussed within RUSI(NS) for some time as the world situation continued to deteriorate since 2014. Do we have a defence policy that is adequate for the today's situation? Should the "Strong Secure Engaged" be re-examined considering world changes? While not expecting the government to be mind readers or fortune tellers, there have been many issues that were sufficiently concerning that there warrants a more critical look be made of defence policy but also at all the other policies that provide the basis for a reasonable, thoughtful defence policy. This would include a security policy and foreign policy that make sense and are inter-twined, so they support each part of national policy. Key questions such as what are Canada's actual national interests? Without something as basic as this one piece nothing else makes sense. Currently, most policies appear to be written simplistically and this needs to stop. Words do count and so the pontification does mean something, but the words would count more if they were backed up by more. This has been true of successive governments.

Speaking of more immediate needs, one hopes to hear of the immediate purchase of anti-armour and air defence systems for our troops in Europe but also for the 3400 troops on standby as an urgent operational requirement like we used to get in Afghanistan. Troops would receive equipment directly off production lines within weeks. It is possible as we have seen it done in relatively recent times. There is no excuse whatsoever for not doing so immediately. One would also mention the niche capability idea. It is simply a way of telling troops you will not have a vital piece of kit when you need it. It is a bad idea. Outfit the troops like they are going to war, not a church social.

Ukrainian refugees are coming and there needs to be considerable progress on programs to support them soon. It is also of considerable interest how much effort is being done to get them here when our Afghan allies were left behind due to government inaction - still less than 1 k arrived and a mere faction were those who worked with us. It is damning statement that we have failed them ...again.

On a more positive note, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are sending investigators to assist the International Criminal Court in their efforts to investigate war crimes in the Ukraine conflict. It is a start to get some measure of justice for a country that has been so brutally and unnecessarily attacked.

Belarus

Belarus is a second casualty to the Ukraine-Russia war authored by Vladimir Putin. It is occupied by the Russian Army to the tune of 30k Russian soldiers, despite the reservations of its own army and people. Alexander Lukashenko still 'leads' the country officially but unofficially he has become a vassal of Russia. He managed to stay in power mainly because of support both physical and financial courtesy of Russia and Russia alone. Belarus has tried several times to get the army moving in support of the Russian invasion, all to no avail. Apparently, it has caused resignations of key personnel creating the embarrassing problem of having no battalion tactical groups ready to deploy into Ukraine

to reinforce the Russian effort in the north-west. There was apparently some missile fire from inside Belarus by Belarussian military forces but little else. It seems unlikely that Belarussian forces will be actively engaged in this Russian effort against Ukraine soon. Belarus security forces are small but were active enough to deal with most of the unrest after the 2019 elections. But their loyalty is an absolute must for Lukashenko to remain in power. Having the army being difficult is not a good sign for the life of the Lukashenko regime in the long term. The question is, will the Putin regime act to remove him and place their own forces in control before a Belarussian regime change happens through the citizens of Belarus?

On the positive side, the Belarussian cyber-partisans have made their actions known. They announced that they had hacked and essentially dismantled the computer system used by the national rail system. They were somewhat endearing as they admitted that it took very little effort as the Belarussian government has never upgraded its operating system which was still based on Windows XP - last undated and patches were 2009. The benefit is that the system is back to paper and pencil for passengers and cargo. Many trains of Russian equipment apparently went to places other than where they were supposed to be. The question then becomes what does this do to Russian forces in the north-west and their logistics? The answer is not good especially looking at the disposition as well as actions of the Ukrainians. Imagine 30k Russian troops surrounded without logistics support and little chance of receiving any substantial support in the near term and what such a situation would do for support of the war within Russia.

As mentioned in last week's note, a large and increasing number of Belarussians are joining the Ukrainian forces, while some media have said how brave they are knowing that the Lukashenko regime will arrest them when they return. There is another and an increasingly more likely scenario: what happens to the Lukashenko regime when they return? Nothing good, one suspects. Time will tell.

Russia

The war between Russia and Ukraine has been going on for 35 days as of Wednesday when this was written, having started on 24 February. In this time, there are now suggestions even from Russian sources that fatalities are close to or may have exceeded the total fatalities of the Afghan War which lasted from 1979 until 1989. Somewhere around 20 to 25 battalion tactical groups have been made operationally unemployable. Some organizations such as the 331 Air Assault Regiment are suggested to have been eliminated with most of the troops killed or captured including its commander. Material losses have also been heavy even by the most conservative estimates and Russia now finds itself an absolute pariah in the world, all due apparently the whims of one man, Vladimir Putin. Prior to the start of this action, one was hard pressed to find any good reasons for even getting into anything more than strong negotiations between the two countries and former friends until 2014 and the Russian seizure of Crimea and parts of the Donbass region. Putin's hard demands were without merit or even consideration. NATO as one example has never forced any country to join the alliance, not one. Countries did join the alliance because of a fear of Russia and its intentions especially when Russia referred to spheres of influence, a nineteenth century idea whereby strong countries dictated the actions of essentially client states, usually geographically connected. If one asked a Latvian or Pole when their country was liberated after the Second World War, it would not be 1945 but rather with the fall of the Soviet Union. Putin's Russia remained and remains mired in old thinking and hence the current war for this reason amongst others.

A second tranche of peace talks are now being undertaken in Istanbul, Turkey. They are said to be productive thus far with Russia announcing the downsizing of efforts near Kyiv and Chernihiv in Ukraine's north. Some Russian units appear to be returning to Russia. It however remains to be seen what this means as Russian air attacks, missile and rocket fire seem to continue without let up. There is

fear that Russia is merely taking units away from less successful attacks to reinforce actions against areas that will give Russia greater chances of success such as Mariupol where the defenders from the Azov Regiment and the Ukrainian marines are still fighting. Unfortunately, somewhere around 160k civilians are still trapped by Russian forces. The Azov Regiment is a particular target as it was this unit that was made up of right-wing adherents in 2014. This regiment was taken into the Ukrainian Army and its nature changed to better reflect Ukrainian values. It does seem to have an almost irresistible draw for Russian forces at present because of its name.

It is suspected by Western sources that peace talks are just a way of providing a breathing space for Russian forces to readjust despite words from the Russian regime it is sincere. There are also sources that have stated that Putin has been less than happy about the campaign and the nature of the negotiations. There is also some speculation that he personally is not interested in the talks but rather how he can achieve a decisive victory over Ukraine. This is not verifiable and should be considered interesting, but it needs more information.

On a more positive note, this week Ukraine released a list of 620 Russian FSB agents giving their names, addresses, salaries and such things as email addresses, habits, likes and dislikes, apparently through a thriving Ukrainian campaign of hacking. While this is an interesting story it is open source and not verified. It is a good story though.

The Centre for Economic Recovery has estimated the cost to Russia per day of the war is more than \$20B USD. Russia's economy cannot sustain this much longer. At this rate, Putin will have spent over 1T USD by day 50 of the war or more than half of Russia's normal GDP, and will start exceeding the entire annual GDP by day 85. This does not consider the longer-term effects of sanctions by the West. As a result of the current situation, Russian inflation is already around 30 % and a CNN International guest analyst stated that the Russian inflation rate would reach 50% and possibly more by the end of the current calendar year. Food shortages are already occurring throughout Russia and it is very likely they will get much worse as sanctions continue to bite. How much will Russian citizens accept given that some have had an opportunity to travel and purchase luxury goods? Will they accept being pariahs?

If one is looking for a view of what most Russians think, I can recommend from an interesting source the YouTube site '1420' which asks questions of people on the streets of Moscow. If nothing else, it reminds us that there are real Russian citizens who have their own views. It is good to remember that there are people impacted by sanctions who have little ability to change things at present and that the citizens of Russia are not the enemy. Keep in mind that the Russian National Guard is larger than the Army and their main aim is to keep the regime in power. It answers to Putin. They are prominent in dealing with demonstrations and are essentially thugs. There are National Guard units in Ukraine and there are several videos of their efforts or lack thereof. When fired upon and when dealing with actual soldiers, the term panic comes to mind. There is hope yet.

China

China is in an interesting place. It wishes to support Russia yet at the same time do no irreparable harm to US and European relations as their markets are far too important in comparison to Russia's anemic economy and market. China still has a strong interest in securing a relatively safe source of gas and oil. They receive about 13% of their requirements from Russia at present through the 'Spirit of Siberia' pipeline. A second pipeline is supposed to come on-line in 2025. China may also take advantage of Russia's diminished state to force a much better deal for Russian resources. It should be noted that India has not adopted sanctions as well for the very same reason. Both countries are quite willing to help Russia for a price or a long-term good deal for Russian resources.

China has been very publicly supporting Russia in the media, especially Chinese military media, stating essentially that the US was responsible for the current actions and that the Americans are actually trying to force the extension of the war for their own purposes. At the same time, Chinese diplomats are seeking information in Washington about the nature and meaning of the current series of sanctions. The reasoning could be to find loopholes to help Russia or to see where China can legitimately make a case to Russia why they cannot provide particular support. The Communist Chinese Party (CCP) and in particular the Xi faction are concerned that the February pact with Russia does not come back to hurt Xi's chances at a third term as president which is scheduled for this year.

On another issue, an increasing number of Chinese citizens are now openly criticizing the CCP's Zero Covid approach especially as the world is opening. CCP authorities have maintained their way is best but this is increasingly not being accepted by the citizenry of China. The rise of the Omicron variant with its high infection rate is proving exceptionally hard to contain. It has already torn through Hong Kong and has reached several major cities in mainland China including Shanghai. This has led to massive lockdowns using all the usual draconian methods used to lock down cities at the great expense to the citizens of those cities. Shanghai's own government tried to stop the lockdown, but it is assumed that their attitude was wrong by the central government and the entire population of nearly 25m people are expected to be completely locked down by the end of this week. It can and will affect China's exports and thus the entire world economy.

On another issue, the Solomon Islands have entered a defence and security Memorandum of Understanding with China which would see Chinese instructors and equipment being used by the Solomon Island's police service. It also allows for a Chinese military and naval presence in the Islands. This has drawn criticism from Australia and New Zealand amongst others. The president of the Solomon Islands, President Sogavare, is noted for his anti-Australian outlook. When he regained power, he switched the Solomon Islands recognition of Taiwan to that of the People's Republic of China (PRC). This move caused rioting in the capital of Honoria which caused the government to seek Australian help to calm the situation. Given the president's personal animosity to Australia, this ongoing move to the PRC and a security agreement was almost a given. China is more than likely to use debt diplomacy as well. The Solomon Islands were the home of Japan's mightiest naval base outside of Japan main islands during the Second World War. It was heavily bombed yet by-passed during the Solomon campaign.

On a last note on China, they have been observing the war with Ukraine with concern. Until this time, Russia was noted as the traditional senior partner between the two countries. The sad effort of Russia with all its personnel and equipment must be clear to China. Russia like China and North Korea all have huge, wonderful parades of service members and equipment and it is a marvel to watch on the internet. Russia's Victory Day Parade in Red Square is something to behold. What is also wonderful to behold is how this parade army does in actual combat against Western trained soldiers who get out of vehicles and do the hard slogging that is an infantry-based army. Better yet, watching the Ukrainians coordinate several types of attack all at the same time using all the resources they have in a generally concerted manner is warming. China's CCP loves parades and their armed forces have never faced a real foe in some time; it should be a bit disconcerting for them to watch.

Commemorative Medal Created for Queen's Platinum Jubilee

<https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20220330003>

Lt.-Gov. Arthur J. LeBlanc announced the establishment of the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Nova Scotia) today, March 30.

The medal program marks the unprecedented 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne in 1952 and honours significant contributions and achievements by Nova Scotians



"The Queen has exemplified the true meaning of public service. The Platinum Jubilee Medal program is a welcome opportunity to celebrate outstanding Nova Scotians who, like Her Majesty, have dedicated themselves to service, community and country, particularly during the pandemic," said Lt-Gov. LeBlanc.

Five thousand medals will be awarded across the province through February 5, 2023.

"Nova Scotians make a difference in their communities every day through countless acts of public service, kindness and volunteerism. Honouring the Queen's historic legacy in this way provides an opportunity to meaningfully recognize those contributions, mark our many cultural ties to the monarchy and celebrate the call to service that is a hallmark of our way of life in Nova Scotia," said Premier Tim Houston.

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs' Protocol and Honours Secretariat, in partnership with the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, will administer the program.

The formal nomination process begins May 1.

Information about the medal program and nomination criteria is available at: <https://novascotia.ca/jubileemedal>

Quick Facts:

- the inaugural presentation ceremony is planned for June 2 to coincide with Commonwealth-wide celebrations that day
- the medal program is modelled on the highly successful Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Medal, which saw 3,800 Nova Scotians recognized in 2012

Members of RUSI(NS) will recall this matter being raised in Home Dispatches March 2022.

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Further: Alberta and Saskatchewan have just announced their own Platinum Jubilee medal

US Army University Press Book

Great Power Competition - The Changing Landscape of Global Geopolitics

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/combat-studies-institute/csi-books/great-power-competition-the-changing-landscape-of-global-geopolitics.pdf?linkId=158619470>

Battalion Tactical Group

tom @tom_bullock_ 30 Mar tweeted: quite a useful graphic - typical composition of a Russian battalion tactical group (BTG)

Here's an example, a battalion tactical group, which would establish the front with 700 to 900 soldiers and an array of different types of vehicles.

It is one of many types of formations used by the Russian army, according to retired Lt. Col. Alex Vashinin, whose career with U.S. and NATO forces included building logistical models.

