



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Dispatches

13 May 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.

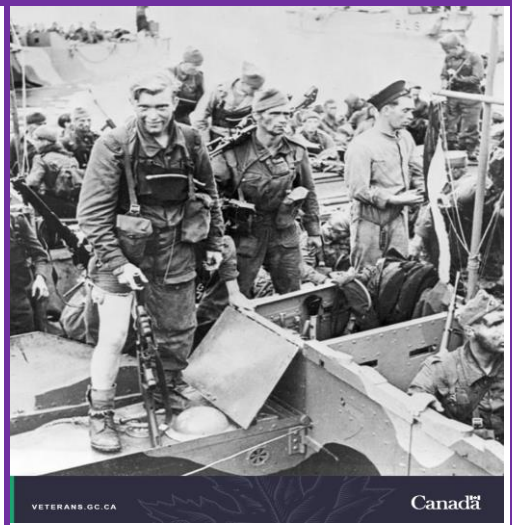
Everyone is encouraged to submit links and other content to be included in *Dispatches*. Submissions and feedback are welcome anytime. Email to RUSINSDispatches@gmail.com. Comments to articles can be from members or non-members of RUSI(NS). Any comment in *Dispatches* is the sole opinion of the author 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).

Dieppe

Veterans Affairs CA on Twitter

https://twitter.com/VeteransENG_CA/status/1522607284962181121: "This year marks the 80th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid. We are searching for Dieppe Veterans willing to tell their stories for Canadians, both at-home and abroad. If you know someone who is interested, send us a DM by May 15th. #CanadaRemembers #DieppeRaid



Study on veterans transitioning in Atlantic Canada

Mount Saint Vincent and Queen's Universities have an ongoing research study led by Dr Eichler, Canada Research Chair in Social Innovation and Community Engagement, MSVU, that is focussed on better understanding the experiences of CAF veterans who are transitioning from military to civilian life in Atlantic Canada. They are seeking veterans, 19+ years of age, who released/retired from military service in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland and Labrador in 2018 or after. If interested, see poster at end of *Dispatches*.

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.

New: 24 May, Tuesday - Royal Alberta United Services Institute hosts Moysal Sana presenting "With the Push of a Button - Can Cyber Threat Cause Armed Conflict or Nuclear War?" 1900 Mountain time. Via Zoom. To register: <https://rausi.ca/info-events/rmcscd/518-with-the-push-of-a-button>. See poster at end of *Dispatches*.

25 May, Wednesday – RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker Colonel (retired) John Boileau on “No. 2 Construction Battalion: A Short History & an Apology.” 1300-1500. Via Zoom. Registration is required. To register, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com by close-of-business Sun, 22 May. As the subject line for your registration email, put: RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker 25 May 2022 Registration. Participation is limited and later registrants may have to be put on a waiting list. If after registering your availability changes and you are no longer able to attend, please advise RUSI(NS) as soon as possible so your spot can be re-assigned. Note that it is understood the Government of Canada will issue an apology, summer 2022.

Pre-event reading: No. 2 Construction Battalion: The Operational History
<http://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/vol16/no3/page51-eng.asp>

New: 16 June, Thursday - Naval Association of Canada conference "Submarines: Canada's Strategic Requirement." 0900-1500 EDT. Via GoToMeeting. "To examine the strategic factors influencing a future Canadian submarine procurement project." To register: <https://nac-o.wildapricot.org/event-4820587>

22 June, Wednesday – RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker TBA.

Publications:

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

Emended: RUSI(NS) Information Note “Ship-to-Shore Connector Barges,” 10 May 2022, <https://rusi-ns.ca/ship-to-shore-connector>

New: RUSI(NS) Comments "The Rise and Fall of Military Strategic Communications at National Defence 2015-2021: A Cautionary Tale for Canada and NATO, and a Roadmap for Reform" by Brett Boudreau, 9 May 2022
https://rusi-ns.ca/military_strategic_communications/

RUSI(NS) Comments "What should an enlarged Canadian navy look like?" by Ken Hansen, 6 April 2022
<https://rusi-ns.ca/enlarged-canadian-navy/>

RUSI(NS) Presentation “Surveillance of Sea Surface Activities in Atlantic Canada” by Jan-Andrej Skopalik, 16 March 2022
https://rusi-ns.ca/national_aerial_surveillance_program/

New: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 11 May 2022
<https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current>

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

Edmonton United Services Institute *President's Enews*, April 2022

Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XL, Number 5, May 2022

Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, May 2022
<https://rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/120-rausi-dispatches-may-2022>

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

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

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 12, Issue 1, 2 May 2022

United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island *Newsletter* Vol 30 No 04, April 2022

Vancouver Artillery Association and Royal United Services Institute Vancouver *Members News* 15 March 2022

Veterans Affairs Canada *Salute!* May 2022
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/news-media/salute>

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.

<p>David Pugliese @davidpugliese 2 May tweeted: Canadian military eyes new ground-based air defence system at a cost of \$1 billion https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canadian-military-eyes-new-ground-based-air-defence-system-at-a-cost-of-1-billion via @ottawacitizen RUSI(NS) retweeted: RUSI(NS) Paper "We Have No Air Defence For Our Army – Why?" https://rusi-ns.ca/air-defence/</p>	
<p>CSIS Canada @csiscanada 6 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: In 2021, key national security threats facing Canada all accelerated and evolved. While threats of espionage and foreign interference are not new, CSIS observed these threats increase in scale, scope and complexity. Read in the CSIS 2021 Public Report: https://www.canada.ca/en/security-intelligence-service/corporate/publications/csis-2021-public-report.html (CSIS Public Report 2021)</p>	

RCAF Operations @RCAFOperations 7 May tweeted: The CMERT brings medical professionals to the casualty via @RCAF_ARC helicopter, with significant defensive firepower that generally features a “flying resuscitation room” in a CH-147F Chinook escorted by up to two CH-146 Griffons for defence. #RCAF

RUSI(NS) retweeted: CAN🇨🇦 Medical Emergency Response Team (CMERT), part of @CanadianForces Forward Aeromedical Evacuation (Fwd AE) scalable, mobile capability "provides advanced pre-hospital care incl damage control resuscitation involving blood & advanced airway management" <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2020/02/the-future-healthcare-deployed-forces.html>



RCMP @rcmpgrcpolice 6 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: The RCMP is honoured to accept the request from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to serve in a ceremonial role in #PlatinumJubilee Celebration UK festivities at Windsor Castle from May 12 to 15. This is a truly great privilege and we look forward to the celebrations.



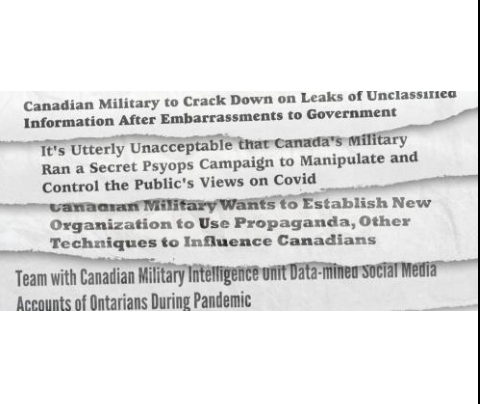
Public Safety Canada @Safety_Canada 8 May tweeted: The #GoC has approved a Request For Federal Assistance for @CanadianForces Rangers to evacuate First Nation communities impacted by spring #flooding along James Bay and Hudson Bay, including Kashechewan and Fort Albany. RUSI(NS) retweeted: How many Operation LENTUS will there be for 2022? Is @CanadianForces sufficiently robust for so many domestics ops? #OpLENTUS = @CanadianForces assistance to province(s) in response to natural disaster(s) <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-lentus.html>



Canadian Armed Forces Operations @CFOperations 11 May tweeted: The Canadian Armed Forces led humanitarian assistance and disaster relief planning in the Caribbean region as part of Exercise #TRADEWINDS22. RUSI(NS) retweeted: Exercise #TRADEWINDS - train to: stop organized crime & other threats that affect people across borders, humanitarian assistance & disaster relief #HADR, respond quickly to all events, strengthen partnerships including civil-military <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/list.html>



Brett Boudreau @WHMTE May 3 tweeted: New report by @CAGlobalAffairs tells the story of a 5+ year DND initiative labelled by leaders as "incompatible" with govt policy, and lacking "appropriate authorities & oversight." [://www.cgai.ca/the_rise_and_fall_of_military_strategic_communications_at_national_defence_2015_2021](http://www.cgai.ca/the_rise_and_fall_of_military_strategic_communications_at_national_defence_2015_2021)
 RUSI(NS) retweeted: RUSI(NS) Comments by report author Brett Boudreau @WHMTE on "The Rise and Fall of Military Strategic Communications at National Defence 2015-2021: A Cautionary Tale for Canada and NATO, and a Roadmap for Reform" https://rusi-ns.ca/military_strategic_communications/



Canadian Armed Forces @CanadianForces 4 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: We're working with international partners to detect, correct, and call out the Kremlin's state-sponsored disinformation about Ukraine. Read the latest facts. Learn more about Canada's efforts to counter disinformation: https://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_developpement-enjeux_developpement/response_conflict-reponse_conflits/crisis-crisis/ukraine-disinfo-desinfo.aspx?lang=eng (Canada's efforts to counter disinformation - Russian invasion of Ukraine)

RUSSIA CLAIMS	THE FACTS
Russia routinely claims its air assets have successfully targeted dozens of Ukrainian command posts, fighting positions, and supply depots near the frontlines in the battle for the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russia's air force has failed to establish air supremacy over Ukraine. Ukrainian forces continue to effectively engage Russian aircraft along the frontline with ground-based air defence systems. The contested airspace environment has forced Russia to rely on a dwindling stock of expensive long-range missiles to attack Ukrainian targets rather than further risk its air assets.

UKRAINE / RUSSIA UPDATE | 2022-05-04

National Defence / Défense nationale

RCMP Newfoundland and Labrador @RCMPNL 6 May tweeted (<https://twitter.com/RCMPNL/status/1522539859646291969>): #RCMPNL Superintendent Pat Cahill, assisted by Sergeant David Emberley, laid a wreath at the commemoration of the Battle of the Atlantic, honoring those who fought and died in the longest battle of WWII. #WeRememberThem PHOTO credit: Joe Gibbons, The Telegram
Let's not forget that many RCMP served in the fighting services during the Second World War, e.g., RCMP of the Marine Service joined the RCN.
From RCMP Musical Ride and Heritage Branch: RCNR A/LCdr Kenneth William Newman Hall (RCMP Marine Section) was awarded the Croix du Guerre for his actions on 6 June 1944 as captain of the Bangor-class minesweeper HMCS Cowichan. The minesweeper flotilla was clearing mines from the approaches to Omaha Beach. Cowichan cleared the largest number of mines that day of the ships in the flotilla.



Information Operations (Humour Variety)

Paul McLeary @paulmcleary 3 May tweeted: The Russians are shelling mannequins...and missing

Video:

<https://twitter.com/paulmcleary/status/1521595280138846216>

The tweet did spark a thread about the effectiveness of artillery. Doesn't have to hit to hurt.



Drones, by any other name

Justin Bronk @Justin_Br0nk 9 May tweeted: Plea to defence journos + analysts: stop talking 'drones'.

'Drone' could be a \$25 toy or a \$100m+ stealth, long-range combat aircraft the size of an airliner.

UAS = Small 'coptors

RPAS = Remotely piloted UAVs (MQ-9, TB-2)

UCAV = Survivable, highly automated (RQ-180/X-47B/GJ-11)

Yes, but considering the extant of colloquial use of the word 'drone' and its utility, particularly when a writer needs a short, simple term for all the equipment (not just air, but surface, sub-surface and ground), one can expect that 'drones' will remain in widespread use by journalists and many others.



Jeffrey H. Michaels @jmichael424 1 May tweeted

<https://twitter.com/jmichael424/status/1520879451692752898>):

As a US intel analyst in the mid-2000s responsible for drafting and editing morning briefings, and more recently as an official sitting in on NATO morning briefings, I'd like to offer a few observations on the UK DI Ukraine updates 1/

Read the fascinating tweet thread, or read the unroll at: <https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1520879451692752898.html>.



UPDATE ON UKRAINE
11 May 2022

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Fighting continues at Zmiinyi Island, also known as Snake Island, with Russia repeatedly trying to reinforce its exposed garrison located there.
- Ukraine has successfully struck Russian air defences and resupply vessels with Bayraktar drones. Russia's resupply vessels have minimum protection in the western Black Sea, following the Russian Navy's retreat to Crimea after the loss of the Moskva.
- Russia's current efforts to augment its forces on Zmiinyi Island offer Ukraine more opportunities to engage Russian troops and attrit materiel. If Russia consolidates its position on Zmiinyi Island with strategic air defence and coastal defence cruise missiles, they could dominate the north-western Black Sea.

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.

U.S. Intelligence Is Helping Ukraine Kill Russian Generals, Officials Say

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/04/us/politics/russia-generals-killed-ukraine.html>

Intelligence, a useful form of military aid. Which means for countries like Canada we have to have a strong enough intelligence capability in the first instance in order to be able to consider providing intelligence as aid to a friendly country needing it.



Port Snarls Point to Worsening Global Supply Chain, Royal Bank of Canada Says

<https://gcaptain.com/port-snarls-point-to-worsening-global-supply-chain-royal-bank-of-canada-says/>

Maritime trade ties the world together. A regional conflict like the Ukraine-Russia war can have global impact. Naval planners and operators need to have a good understanding of maritime trade, including ports (besides, there are logistic matters to learn there).



Sanctions tighten screws on Russia's Sovcomflot as ship insurers cut cover

<https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/sanctions-tighten-screws-on-russias-sovcomflot-as-ship-insurers-cut-cover/>

"Russia's maritime sector is seeing the wind down of multiple services, including ship certification by leading foreign providers – vital for accessing ports and securing insurance – shipping companies pulling out and ship engine makers suspending training on their equipment after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine."



The power of marine insurance. "Financial warfare" at sea.

Hmm, might Western companies acquire the Sovcomflot oil and gas tankers? Could be useful in our hands these days...

Ukraine Formally Closes Captured Ports Of Mariupol, Berdiansk, and Skadovsk

<https://gcaptain.com/ukraine-closes-ports-mariupol-berdiansk-skadovsk/>

"All Ukrainian seaports have suspended their activity as a result of the Russian invasion in late February. Russian forces captured some ports and blockaded others."



Formal closure recognizes the reality of captured and blockaded ports (though there appears to be no official declaration of blockade, so maybe that term should not be used). Would a Russian declaration later of the ports re-opening be recognized by the international community?

"Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Monday Ukraine could lose tens of millions of tonnes of grain due to Russia's control of Black Sea shipping, triggering a food crisis that will affect Europe, Asia, and Africa."

So, the countries that are going to starve because of the war are going to be those that have the least to say about it, or to contribute towards its resolution. It will be interesting to see to see how the flow of grain trade responds to the loss of Black Sea routes.

2PPCLI preparing for Latvia deployment

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2022/05/04/2ppcli-preparing-for-latvia-deployment.html>

Rotation or reinforcement? Likely the former. Canada needs to be ready to do the latter.

Pre-deployment (pre-operation) training. The basis of success (and returning home alive). The Russians certainly don't seem to have appreciated that lesson prior to invading Ukraine.



Cruise industry working group seeks to adopt Seahaven, the world's largest inflatable lifeboat

<https://shipmanagementinternational.com/cruise-industry-working-group-seeks-to-adopt-seahaven-the-worlds-largest-inflatable-lifeboat/>

Seahaven, a 1,060-person capacity, self-propelled inflatable lifeboat. With a 16.3m by 3.6m stowage footprint. Not something to throw out of the back of a search and rescue aircraft. Or maybe something like a CC130 Hercules could launch something that size. Large loads, even armoured vehicles, have been successfully air-launched.



Military dealing with gap in search-and-rescue services due to new procurement delay

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/search-and-rescue-gaps-british-columbia-1.6441658>

"While the redeployment of two of the four Hercules aircraft currently in Winnipeg will help address the resulting gap until the Kingfishers are ready, Meinzinger acknowledged the move will impact the squadron's other tasks."

Hmm, any possibility of leasing Hercules or other tactical transports to augment the CC130 fleet pending the CC295 Kingfisher aircraft being ready ('ready' equals initial operating capability?)?



Royal Navy sends two ships to join Red Sea international task force

<https://www.navyrecognition.com/index.php/naval-news/naval-news-archive/2022/may/11713-royal-navy-sends-two-ships-to-join-red-sea-international-task-force.html>

"The task force is the fourth international naval group – numbered 150 through 153 – dedicated to security at sea from the Suez Canal to the Western Seaboard of the Indian sub-continent, from the shores of Iraq to those of Seychelles, in all more than three million square miles of ocean, tackling issues as complex and challenging as terrorism, piracy, smuggling."



The author of the article is a little confusing in use of organization terms.

A task force is defined as:

1. A temporary grouping of units, under one commander, formed for the purpose of carrying out a specific operation or mission.
2. Semi-permanent organization of units, under one commander, formed for the purpose of carrying out a continuing specific task.
3. A component of a fleet organized by the commander of a task fleet or higher authority for the accomplishment of a specific task or tasks. (AAP-6R)

A task group is defined as a component of a naval task force organized by the commander of a task force or higher authority. (JCS 1-02)

Task groups are subordinate to task forces (admittedly, the author wrote naval group and not task group).

Task Forces 150 to 153 are independent task forces reporting to Combined (meaning international) Maritime Forces, a geographic (static) commander (see: <https://combinedmaritimeforces.com/>). (Note that the 150 series of task force numbers are assigned by the US, which indicates something about the relationships.)

"CTF 150's mission is to disrupt criminal and terrorist organisations and their mandated related illicit activities by restricting their freedom of manoeuvre in the maritime domain." That is, maritime security operations outside the Arabian Gulf. (<https://combinedmaritimeforces.com/ctf-150-maritime-security/>)

"CTF 151's mission is to deter, disrupt and suppress piracy and armed robbery at sea and to engage with regional and other partners to strengthen relevant capabilities in order to protect global maritime

commerce and secure freedom of navigation." That is, counter-piracy.
(<https://combinedmaritimeforces.com/ctf-151-counter-piracy/>)

"CTF 152 operates inside the Arabian Gulf where it coordinates Theatre Security Cooperation (TSC) activities with regional partners, conducts Maritime Security Operations (MSO), and remains prepared to respond to any crisis involving illicit non-state actors which may develop." That is, maritime security operations inside the Arabian Gulf. (<https://combinedmaritimeforces.com/ctf-152-gulf-security-cooperation/>)

"CTF 153's mission is to focus on international maritime security and capacity building efforts in the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandeb and Gulf of Aden." That is, Red Sea maritime security.
(<https://combinedmaritimeforces.com/ctf-153-red-sea-maritime-security/>)

Canada is part of Combined Task Force 150 and at times provides the commander and command staff. See: "Combined Task Force 150" (<https://rusi-ns.ca/combined-task-force-150/>).

For Russia and the West, Ukraine War Is a Study in Supply

<https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2022/05/russia-and-west-ukraine-war-study-supply/366602/>

Praise for US logistics supporting Ukraine in their war against the Russian invasion. Hmm, where is reporting on Canadian logistics? One can be confident that Canadian logisticians are working hard and succeeding, but there doesn't seem to be much news about them.

The logistics lessons from this war will be fascinating. Hopefully the lessons are being captured and applied now - it could be a long war.



Turning Point in Support to Ukraine

<https://defence.frontline.online/article/2022/1/18988-Turning-Point-in-Support-to-Ukraine>

"Whatever the outcome, the U.S. will not let Ukraine lose, and we will likely be going back to the Cold War days when U.S. and Canadian forces were deployed permanently in Europe as part of NATO. The Soviet bear has morphed into a Russian bear."

Assessment from a retired Canadian Armed Forces Lieutenant-General.



The 'news' is what public relations people don't want you to know

<https://www.thespec.com/opinion/columnists/2022/05/07/paul-berton-hamilton-police-public-relations.html>

This, of course, is a journalist's eye view. It is not entirely without merit, but it reflects a very one sided view of



communications specialists. Breton further avoids the point that so often (usually) reporters get the facts wrong. Once published/printed/broadcast, it is next to impossible to get the record straight. So the prime focus of those of us in the public affairs (PA) trade is to make sure the facts get out and are reported fairly and correctly the first time.

There is a myth, which Breton does nothing to correct, that we as PA practitioners want to obfuscate the truth and hide the 'real facts' from the eye of the public. That is a sweeping stereotype which I can attest is untrue.

What has happened, particularly since the Harper government, has been increasing command and control by political forces in ministers' offices of all media related communication. Everything from the Globe and Mail to a minor social media post must be treated as an adversarial inquest designed to bring down the government. Any and all responses to any and all enquiries need to be filtered through a massive chain ending in the ministers' offices. This not only eliminates the timely news value of even the most innocuous bit of information but imposes a lot of non value-added partisan messaging.

A couple of years ago responding to a media question I had a dialogue with Murray Brewster who was griping about the time it took to get a response to a fairly simple question. What should have been an immediate turn around took more than a week because first of all who the question came from and all the layers of vetting and bureaucracy and pondering by the minister's office. It was a simple question about a process, not the Spanish Inquisition. Rather than just listening to Murray's rant and responding the way I was supposed to with carefully crafted apologies, I actually said "Look, Murray. I don't like this anymore than you do but I am not the one who can change this. You and your fellow journalists can. You have been the ones allowing this to happen and not pushing back against those politicians and bureaucrats who think that it is an earth shattering calamity if a 't' is not crossed or an 'i' not dotted." I said that he could vent on me all he wants, but unlike me he actually could confront any Cabinet Minister or even the Prime Minister to demand a stop to choking off the information flow from government to the media and once again allow or even require key experts in government to communicate freely and factually with the media. We had actually a good discussion on this 'off the record' and he understood and in fact agreed with all my points. However, to this day, the system is unchanged. He chose just to let it slide. I guess it is just easiest to gripe and like Breton write pieces which absolve any blame on the part of the media.

Public affairs and communications practitioners will continue to be vilified by opinionists like Breton, and we have no platform through which to counter back. Because that is what we do. We take "PR bullets" for the team.

Decisive week for Finland, Sweden as NATO decisions loom

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220510-decisive-week-for-finland-sweden-as-nato-decisions-loom>

"The Nordic nations have been rattled by Moscow's war against its pro-Western neighbour, which has bolstered domestic support for joining the military alliance -- and the security that membership would provide."



The RAN's future frigates – we are where we are

<https://navalinstitute.com.au/the-rans-future-frigates-we-are-where-we-are/>

The Royal Australian Navy's Hunter-class frigates are based on the UK Type 26, the same design on which the Canadian Surface Combatant (CSC) project ships are based. The article's author decries the focus of the Hunter-class on anti-submarine warfare rather than general purpose (GP - ASW, surface warfare, air defence, maybe land attack). With what can be determined from public knowledge of the CSC project, those ships will be GP. Certainly they have the size (with concomitant power, cooling, etc.) to accommodate a variety of sensors and weapons for different warfare areas. Though the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) has a history and a reputation with ASW, what with the nature of modern naval operations in peace and conflict, and Canada's naval strategy (to the extent it is public), it is sensible that the RCN's future surface fleet be built as GP warships.



Ottawa weighing ballistic missile defence as part of North American defence upgrades

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/ottawa-weighing-ballistic-missile-defence-as-part-of-north-american-defence-upgrades-1.5896519>

If Canada will not take a major stance in defence overseas, at least it can defend its own continent. A measure of the 'weight' of a state is how much it is willing to commit its people and treasure to the defence of itself and close allies. A state that is considered lightweight by others will find its wants and needs disregarded when it comes time for economic, trade and other significant decisions by those other states.



Canada Directs Military to Take More Assertive Stance in Cyberspace

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/other/canada-directs-military-to-take-more-assertive-stance-in-cyberspace/ar-AAxAr51>

An interesting view. The article starts out by confusing electronic warfare with cyber warfare - they are related but different. Canada has maintained a fairly decent capability in electronic warfare for decades. The electronic warfare capability is found in Navy, Army and Air Force units and within organizations which covers radar, radio, microwaves and anything that produce a frequency or over the air or in space. This would include technology that would carry the internet or secure nets in the field. Cyber warfare goes after the content of the internet including the code that makes it work or not.

The article on the whole is not bad otherwise and it is encouraging that Minister Anand is taking the issue as seriously as she is. This being said (written), cyber warfare has been going on for over two decades and this seems like a conversion on the road to Damascus...finally. One hopes that the Minister will provide the resources necessary to equip the military for such a task. The other issue is that a nexus be created amongst the various stake holders to prevent fratricide and friction. This is too important to 'screw up.'



Concerns grow over 2 abandoned military ships that sank in the Columbia River

<https://kcby.com/news/local/concerns-continue-surrounding-2-abandoned-military-ships-in-the-columbia-river-portland-oregon-vancouver-interstate-bridge>

"... the saga of the ships started with good intentions: one man's plan to restore the military vessels so the public could enjoy them."



The Oregon Department of State Lands, when asked why the issue wasn't addressed years ago, said it wasn't for lack of trying but that there wasn't enough money to begin with.

There certainly appears to be a need for robust monitoring and forecasting of potential abandoned vessel cases. Canada has the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act (see: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/programs/funding-programs/abandoned-boats-program/about-wrecked-abandoned-hazardous-vessels-act>). The Canadian Coast Guard reports: "We're developing a national inventory of problem vessels to tell us how many there are across Canada's coasts and shorelines. We'll continuously update the inventory and support it with risk assessments to identify and guide future actions on high-risk vessels." (<https://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/awah-ienad/program-programme-eng.html>) So it does appear that Canadian authorities are looking out for problems with abandoned vessels before they arise.

Canada has experienced similar cases where someone's intention to turn a naval ship into a museum or display ship has floundered (sometimes literally). Maintaining a ship is not cheap. Disposing of a ship (at least, a government ship) is not cheap. What has to be remembered by readers is that a warship appropriately disposed of to a member of the public is then the responsibility of that person. Not the Navy's problem.

Bidding opens on logistics trucks

<https://canadianarmytoday.com/bidding-opens-on-logistics-trucks/>

"The (Canadian Armed Forces) (Logistics Vehicle Modernization) LVM project will acquire up to 542 heavy trucks and as many as 1,113 light trucks to replace the Heavy Engineer Support Vehicle (HESV), Heavy Logistics Vehicle Wheeled (HLVW), and Light Support Vehicle Wheeled (LSVW) ..."



Trucks are an often underappreciated capability of armies and other services. Historically, one can argue they won wars. Certainly the Russians are showing during the Ukraine-Russia War that, with Russian Battalion Tactical Groups apparently under-resourced with trucks (their own and from supporting units; see: Feeding the Bear: A Closer Look at Russian Army Logistics and the Fait Accompli <https://warontherocks.com/2021/11/feeding-the-bear-a-closer-look-at-russian-army-logistics/>), the number of trucks is a good indicator for the endurance of a unit.

"Amateurs talk tactics, professionals discuss logistics." Amateurs count tanks, professionals count trucks.

Canada boosting NATO military role as alliance eyes major strategic shift over Russia

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8830483/canada-boosting-nato-military-role-russia-atrocities/>

"... Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a press conference on Thursday afternoon that saw Trudeau announce one Canadian general officer and up to six staff officers will be heading to Latvia to support and contribute to the leadership of the NATO's Multinational Division North."

Canada providing leadership and staff capability is okay (it helped in Ukraine), but to really show a commitment to boosting NATO more investment is needed in increasing the size of the Canadian Armed Forces, people and equipment, and deployment them forward (global engagement).



Other Sources:

#Arctic

The New Arctic Geopolitics

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/new-arctic-geopolitics>

The Delineation of Militarisation in Antarctica

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2017/1/31/the-delineation-of-militarisation-in-antarctica>

This article re-surfaced. Applicable to the Arctic?

#China

How China Is Rewriting the Norms of Human Rights

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/how-china-rewriting-norms-human-rights>

Acronym alert! Normfare = "the strategic promotion of favored interpretations of international norms for political ends."

#drones

Report on (US) Navy Large Unmanned Surface and Undersea Vehicles

<https://news.usni.org/2022/05/11/report-on-navy-large-unmanned-surface-and-undersea-vehicles-8>

#doctrine

Democratising Doctrine – Firing on the Wrong Lane

<https://wavellroom.com/2022/02/09/democratising-doctrine-response/>

#information operations

Data as a Weapon: Psychological Operations in the Age of Irregular Information Threats

<https://mwi.usma.edu/data-as-a-weapon-psychological-operations-in-the-age-of-irregular-information-threats/>

#land warfare

Technology Nexus

<https://canadianarmytoday.com/technology-nexus/>

What, no grease pencils anymore?!

#NATO

Allies to approve Finland, Sweden NATO bid, offer security, diplomats say

<https://nationalpost.com/pmnn/news-pmn/allies-to-approve-finland-sweden-nato-bid-offer-security-diplomats-say>

#naval warfare

Distributed Maritime Operations – Becoming Hard-to-Find

<https://cimsec.org/distributed-maritime-operations-hard-to-find/>

#policing

Law enforcement use of facial-recognition technology must be limited: Privacy Commissioner of Canada

<https://www.canadianlawyermag.com/practice-areas/privacy-and-data/law-enforcement-use-of-facial-recognition-technology-must-be-limited-privacy-commissioner-of-canada/366432>

#sealift

Adam Smith Would Have Supported the Jones Act

<https://cimsec.org/adam-smith-would-have-supported-the-jones-act/>

#security

Protecting National Security in Partnership with all Canadians

<https://www.canada.ca/en/security-intelligence-service/news/2022/05/remarks-by-director-david-vigneault-to-the-university-of-british-columbia.html>

#Ukraine-Russia War

Warship Moskva was Blind to Ukrainian Missile Attack, Analysis Shows

<https://news.usni.org/2022/05/05/warship-moskva-was-blind-to-ukrainian-missile-attack-analysis-shows>

U.S. Intelligence Is Helping Ukraine Kill Russian Generals, Officials Say

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/04/us/politics/russia-generals-killed-ukraine.html>

Intelligence, a useful form of military aid.

An Airfield Too Far: Failures at Market Garden and Antonov Airfield

<https://mwi.usma.edu/an-airfield-too-far-failures-at-market-garden-and-antonov-airfield/>

Fact check: How to spot a fake military success story in Russia-Ukraine war

<https://www.dw.com/en/fact-check-how-to-spot-a-fake-military-success-story-in-russia-ukraine-war/a-61453500>

Victory Day Was Just a Day: Trying to Penetrate Russia's Thinking

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/victory-day-was-just-day-trying-penetrate-russias-thinking>

Putin's Bad Math: The Root of Russian Miscalculation in Ukraine

<https://mwi.usma.edu/putins-bad-math-the-root-of-russian-miscalculation-in-ukraine/>

Ukraine War – New Marine Insurance Report Studies Impact Of Russian Aggressions On Shipping
<https://gcaptain.com/marine-insurance-report-ukraine-war-on-shipping/>

How the Russian Navy is Losing Dominance: The Curse of Snake Island
<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/05/how-the-russian-navy-is-losing-dominance-the-curse-of-snake-island/>

Beijing’s Ukrainian Battle Lab
<https://warontherocks.com/2022/05/beijings-ukrainian-battle-lab/>

Russia-Ukraine War: The Next Front Will Be Conflict on the Black Sea
<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2022-05-06/russia-ukraine-war-the-next-front-will-be-conflict-on-the-black-sea>
Note the author, Admiral Stavridis, USN (ret'd)

Intelligence and the War in Ukraine
<https://warontherocks.com/2022/05/intelligence-and-the-war-in-ukraine-part-1/>

How The Russian Navy Is Losing Dominance: The Curse Of Snake Island
<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/05/how-the-russian-navy-is-losing-dominance-the-curse-of-snake-island/>

Getting to Know the Russian Battalion Tactical Group
<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/getting-know-russian-battalion-tactical-group>

#airpower

The Overlooked Reason Russia’s Invasion Is Floundering
<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/05/russian-military-air-force-failure-ukraine/629803/>

#information operations

Russia actually isn’t as good at information warfare as everyone thought
<https://taskandpurpose.com/analysis/russia-propaganda-war-ukraine/>

Trent Telenko @TrentTelenko 7 May tweeted: It is too early for a real "lessons learned," but this latest Russian invasion of Ukraine has shown a lot of things which impact the modeling & design of post-WW2 mechanized combat wargames, thread:
<https://twitter.com/TrentTelenko/status/1523023368223666181>

The three things that have jumped out for me are the following:

1. The complete lack of mechanized logistics in the Russian Army
2. The horrible vulnerability of Russian tanks and infantry fighting vehicles compared to equivalent Western vehicles
3. The arrival of small drones in the artillery spotting role as armored vehicle killers



#warfare

A View from the Trenches on the Debate Wracking The Marine Corps

<https://warontherocks.com/2022/05/a-view-from-the-trenches-on-the-debate-wracking-the-marine-corps/>

"Look in the trenches. The character of war has changed. We will either adapt or perish."

Other:

Russian Vehicles (tanks have their turrets on)

Hovhannes on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/JughaFedayi/status/1523363583287042049>):

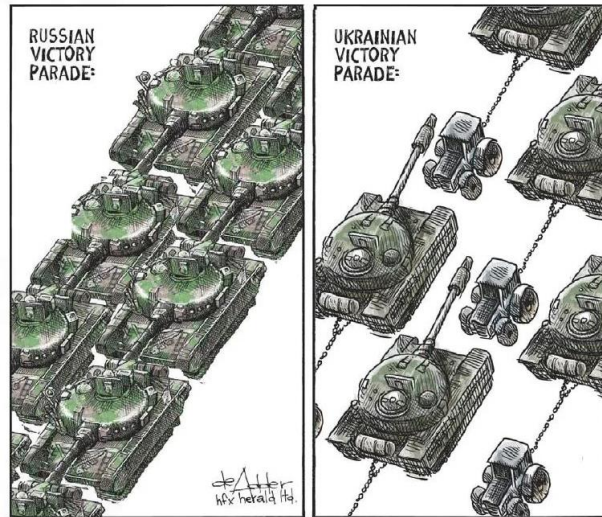
"@UAWeapons Some helpful guides in identifying Russian armor, very useful for beginners. T-72/T-80 units seen as well. Feel free to share. Also on our telegram if it won't load:

<https://t.co/4oxHP93oeM> <https://t.co/rRWsc7xocv>"



hey! hummmm on Twitter: "We should use "Rusky scrap metal armor, and turret toss competition" guide too...."

For our readers not in the Halifax area, from our local award-winning newspaper cartoonist:



MICHAEL de ADDER
Chronicle Herald 10 May 2022

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O Canada

The Minister of Defence, Anita Anand, has stated that Ottawa is reconsidering joining the ballistic missile defence plan as part of overall modernization of NORAD. Canada had rejected this program before using the excuse that it would increase the arms race. The inclusion in the ballistic missile defence program is long overdue. It is simply taking into account the actual threats to the North American continent which are no longer just aircraft. This program will enable us to identify ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, bombers, drones and possibly hyper-sonic weapons. This is increasingly important as North Korea has shown an ability to launch ballistic missiles from submarines and long-range ballistic missiles with an intercontinental range. Minister Anand needs to do more than muse about it, she has to bring not only her caucus but also other parties alongside to support this proposal. Canada's security cannot be left to 'hope' but rather with a thoughtful realistic outlook on the actual threat – and there is a very real threat from Russia, North Korea and China. Being in the room where at least our voice might be heard is vitally important not only as an ally but also to protect our sovereignty. The Canadian people have to be told what the price is for not participating.

On another issue, Canada's name came up in recent US Senate hearings. Senator Dan Sullivan of Alaska denounced Canada as a defence 'freeloader' this week. Canada signed a general agreement within NATO to spend 2% of our GDP on defence. Canada currently spends about 1.36 % of our GDP and there is no real increase in sight at present nor is there even a plan to achieve this figure that does not waste money. No one wants the money to be wasted or just spent frivolously. Since the mid-1990s, Canada took a 'peace dividend.' The armed forces were downsized from 87k to 60k in personnel. Major programs were left to die or were so delayed as to almost become meaningless, e.g, the decision on the Sea King replacement or the new fighter program. This continued through the early 2000s when normal bread and butter capabilities were closed out, such as ground based air defence, long range anti-armour, elimination of infantry combat support companies (sadly missed during Afghanistan) and so on. An increase to 2% would see us on a gradual trajectory to be back to a basic capability, and we still haven't sorted out 40-year-old fighter planes nor 30-year-old ships suffering from all the normal issues of aging equipment not designed for such a long-time use. The ongoing lack of concern and action by successive governments have placed Canadian citizens, who happen to be sailors, soldiers and aviators, at risk even to do training. There needs to be a shift in thinking on defence and security issues as has had happened in Australia, Britain, Germany and many others. Defence and security are not something for politicians to play with, it is the very life and security of Canadian citizens and threats to our sovereignty.

The Chief Commissioner of the RCMP, Brenda Leckie, has apparently stated to the committee examining the use of the Emergency Act, written by Perrin Beatty during the Mulroney Government in the late 1980s, that implementation of the act was not requested by the RCMP. This means that it was implemented by politicians. Perrin Beatty himself has stated that this was not the intention of the legislation but rather it was for real emergencies such as major multi-province humanitarian issues, war and other major disruptive events. While annoying, and it was according to friends in Ottawa, it was not an emergency that this legislation was designed for when planned. One neighbour who is heavily involved in various types of emergencies and their resolution stated that there were easier ways to deal with the problem, such as getting civilian contractors from outside Ontario to remove the trucks, but they were not tried. Whether this inquiry will get to the real problem is questionable as politics of the highest order is involved. It is disturbing.

Sri Lanka

This is not a country that is well known to most Canadians. It was a former British colony called Ceylon. Those familiar with Royal Canadian Air Force history will also remember that Squadron Leader Leonard Birchall, later Air Commodore (Brigadier General in CAF speak) was instrumental in saving the British Fleet from being caught off guard by Imperial Japanese carrier forces on 4 April 1942. The Japanese hit an essentially empty port filled with anti-aircraft fire. In warning the British forces, Squadron Leader Birchall, part of RCAF 413 squadron, was shot down but not before the warning was sent. Birchall was the senior prisoner of war and displayed bravery and legendary leadership during the period of captivity. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his outstanding performance, amongst his long list of other awards. He is noted as the “Savior of Ceylon.” 413 squadron still exists and is stationed in Greenwood, NS, as a Search and Rescue Transport Squadron.

So why Sri Lanka as opposed to a short history lesson on the RCAF exploits and squadrons? Sri Lanka is in flames this past week to the extent that the government has fallen and apparently, ministers were killed - several lost their homes to rioting and general violence. The government was generally held responsible for the poor financial outlook of the country. One of the biggest issues seemed to be a vast amount of spending requiring extensive borrowing on unnecessary projects. The government was aided and encouraged to borrow (at “reasonable” rates) by China and its infamous debt trap diplomacy that China is famous for in the world as part of their Belt and Road initiative. The government was also seen as corrupt and there are accusations of kickbacks and other activities that have essentially led to wide-spread collapse. This has not escaped the notice of India. It is likely that India will have to pick up the pieces in some fashion, potentially with the efforts perhaps of Indian forces whether police or military to sort out the violence. This will likely cause another friction point between the two nuclear states. This problem is not going to be a quick fix and could get worse before it gets better. Expect India to exploit the situation if they can at China’s expense.

China

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is having some issues both externally and internally, with Sri Lanka just being one of the issues. The biggest issue seems to be internal and the factions that make up the CCP leadership. The CCP is estimated to have between 83 to 95m members, or somewhere between 7 and 8% of the overall Chinese population. They occupy all positions from company teams and villages to the chairman of the party. Its main pre-occupation seems to be the survival of the CCP and if it helps the country that is a bonus. The CCP’s main efforts seem to be stability and security (mainly theirs) and to allow the country to progress economically. They have had considerable success for about 50 to 60 % of the population. They recently announced that they conquered poverty for all, however, it was noted that changing one’s definition of poverty does not mean this is actually true; it is simply announced as true. This is a recurring theme in CCP announcements. This year we have seen outside commentators question China’s financial figures and their census figures, both seemed to be “doctored” to ensure the figures matched or exceeded the forecasts of the CCP. Covid has not been kind to either figure coupled with the horrific population control policies of the CCP. One US population researcher has stated that he thought the actual Chinese population has already started to collapse, suggesting that the actual population is down to a little over 1.2b citizens - coupled with a rapidly aging population, it does not bode well for China’s future. This is just one estimate but the basics are likely correct.

There apparently is a rumour that Xi Jinping will abdicate this fall(see Lei’s Real Talk titled “Rumors of Xi Stepping Down” on You Tube). This was thought to be as a result of China’s Covid strategy which may have killed more because of other medical issues rather than Covid, and the apparently

failing economy. While Xi seems to be somewhat a sinister figure as he grabs more and more power, abdication is unlikely as Xi has eliminated most of the opposition's key folks leaving Xi to take an unprecedented third term as President. Xi retains power over the military and the criminal justice system through the CCP anti-corruption committee. Xi is able to eliminate rivals with minimal effort.

There are "flies in the ointment" especially as it relates to recent lockdowns which have been increasingly widespread affecting somewhere between 350 and 400m citizens in dozens of major cities. There are increasingly violent demonstrations throughout those areas affected, many of which have been filmed and smuggled out of China (see You Tube). It has also seen an increasing number of foreign businesses leave the country for other areas of the world with less stringent rules regarding the disease. One estimate places the loss of ex-patriots and foreigners at over 50% of the pre-Covid numbers. There is little doubt that the economy is being crippled. What was interesting was Xi's lack of interest in the economy. According to one reputable commentator, it is because Xi's faction doesn't run the economy but rather it is generally organized by a rival faction. An economic failure falls on the other faction, not Xi's. It is somewhat doubtful this is completely true but it would explain why there is a lack of effort on the economy. On a separate but related note, the chief of WHO, Tedros Ghebreyesus, has reportedly stated this week that the zero-Covid policy is unsustainable in the long term. Xi has said otherwise in a national broadcast of about five minutes in length. There is little doubt that Xi will not change this policy within the foreseeable future. On a special note, the comments by Director-General of WHO have been censored on major Chinese platforms as of Wednesday.

The Liaoning Carrier Battle Group is sailing to the East of Taiwan and is conducting numerous flying operations. It is testing the ability of the Chinese fleet to block potential reinforcement to Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion. China has not renounced the use of force against Taiwan. The ability of China to block reinforcement or support from the West would be vital for success of that operation. China has also ramped up incursions into Taiwan's Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) this past week as well. Xi has often mused that he wants to be the one who "reunites" the country. Xi may not be paying much attention to the war between Russia and Ukraine as one might like to see especially with Russia's ongoing series of failures on the battlefield. Still, Beijing and the CCP may look forward to a weakened Russia who now has to pay homage to Beijing, not Moscow. Might the CCP leadership consider an invasion of Siberia with all its resources instead? There would be massive advantages to do so for the CCP. Is President Putin looking at the right enemy, possibly not?

Ukraine-Russia War

A Victory Day in Russia on 9 May 2022 was actually a tame affair in comparison to how it could have gone. Most of Putin's comments were complimentary to the veterans of all nations that contributed to the victory over the Nazis. He actually mentioned the US and Ukraine as well. There was of course the expected commentary against NATO and their ongoing support of the neo-Nazis and "Banderites" in Ukraine. What was missing was a threat to the West about further support to Ukraine, second, a declaration of war on Ukraine, and of course a massive call up of conscripts and reservists (reservists are former conscripts that are way out of date on their skills). All of these pieces were missing; whether this is a good sign or not is another question. Despite Putin's best attempts at eliminating the opposition press, he failed. During the ceremony anti-war commentary and sayings were found on Russian media outlets. Graffiti artists were busy throughout many cities showing both their skills and their disapproval of Putin's war. There was a very distinct effort to associate the war with Putin as opposed to other factors. The regime has eliminated all independent press or has arrested reporters and journalists throughout the country, but when all is said and done, he failed. The number of VPNs uptake in Russia has been in the millions, allowing more Russians to see the actual media feeds on the war. This is not a good sign for the longer term and will affect the credibility of the regime; whether

this is enough for regime change is another question. One issue that will affect the number of conscripts is that approximately 4m Russians have left the country since February. Most of these folks are young, educated or are military age. It is unlikely they will return home in the near term, also not good in the longer term.

There are sources that state that conscription notices are being sent out, but it is also near the time when normal conscription takes place. Time will tell if it is a secretly larger call up. Six recruitment offices have been firebombed so far, some even filmed and posted on You Tube. Molotov cocktails were the weapon of choice for this task.

Ukraine is now receiving more and more Western systems and weapons which are now showing up on the battlefield including specialized ammunition such as the MLRS and HIMAR systems with ammunition capable of ranges up to 500 kms apparently. Did you know that Moscow and the Kremlin are well within that range? Russia's efforts in the Donbass and near Kherson have generally been slow to non-existent. Ukraine apparently has been able to push Russian forces out of artillery range of Kharkiv and are pushing towards the Russian border. Russian forces can leave still by re-entering Russia so they can survive but it also puts a large number of rail facilities vital for the Russian re-supply efforts well within Ukrainian artillery and rocket range which would completely disable any Russian moves.

Mariupol is still partially held by the remnants of the 36 Marine Brigade and elements of the Azov Regiment and other units. The figures of Ukrainian troops are estimated from 2 to 10k in the area. These troops are still holding out, preventing a real Russian occupation. Their efforts ruined Victory Day celebrations from Mariupol even though state media representatives and media stars were present. There were apparently 34 air strikes Wednesday including by heavy bombers.

Russia is estimated to have placed 75% of all available ground and airborne forces into this effort. At the start there were more than 120 battalion tactical groups (BTG). The latest estimates is that they can field about 97 in current operations. 22 BTG are in danger of being cut off near Kharkiv or at least driven out of that area around that city. Ukrainian efforts seem to be taking small well-coordinated bites. Unlike the Russians the Ukrainians are using infantry well to protect their tanks and artillery observers in an all arms effort. It has been astounding to see many Russian efforts being just tanks including single tanks moving forward by themselves without infantry support. The result has been apparently the destruction of tank and crew. The bottom line is that Ukraine seems to be succeeding in pushing Russia out. Russian efforts have been poor, but the Russian Army is famous for pulling the "rabbit out of the hat" and one might be careful in assuming that Ukraine will prevail. Both sides have taken horrendous casualties and continue to do so. The war on civilians and infrastructure is taking a toll on Ukraine's ability to keep the country afloat. One wonders if in the next phase as Ukraine gets closer to the Russian border whether Russian facilities in towns and cities will feel the rain of Ukrainian shells and rockets. Time will tell.



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Are you a Canadian Armed Forces Veteran who released or retired from military service in Atlantic Canada?

We are seeking participants for a research study to better understand the experiences of CAF Veterans who are transitioning from military to civilian life in Atlantic Canada. Specifically, we are seeking Veterans, 19+ years of age, who released/retired from military service in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland and Labrador in 2018 or after.

Participation involves a telephone interview focusing on the participant's post-release experiences that may be unique to Atlantic Canada, including any:

- challenges and opportunities,
- regionally-specific factors impacting health and well-being
- available supports throughout the process

If you are interested in participating or you would like more information, please contact the study research manager, Kimberley Smith-Evans, at kimberley.smith.evans@msvu.ca or 902-457-6572

This study has been granted ethical clearance by the Mount Saint Vincent University Research Ethics Board (File #: 2021-220).