



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia
Dispatches
16 September 2022

The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia provides a forum for the study, promotion and debate of defence, security and safety issues.

Message from the Governor General on the proclamation of the accession of His Majesty King Charles III

Governor General of Canada @GGCanada 10 September 2022: The new King of Canada has been proclaimed. You can read #GGSimon’s full message on the proclamation of the accession of His Majesty King Charles III by visiting: <http://ow.ly/X3hE50KG7u5>




In Nova Scotia, The Accession Proclamation was issued under the Great Seal of the Province and announced the accession of the new Sovereign, King Charles III, King of Canada. A message from the Governor General was also read, which formally announced the passing of Her Late Majesty.



“As we look to the future, I am honoured to represent the Crown in Canada and to proclaim the accession of His Majesty King Charles III— King of Canada. [...] Long may he reign.”

- Mary Simon
 Governor General of Canada

On Thursday, the world lost an extraordinary leader, whose commitment to the country, the Realm and the Commonwealth was absolute. So much will be said in the days ahead about the meaning of her historic reign.

I, however, have lost a grandmother. And while I will grieve her loss, I also feel incredibly grateful. I have had the benefit of The Queen’s wisdom and reassurance into my fifth decade.

My wife has had twenty years of her guidance and support. My three children have got to spend holidays with her and create memories that will last their whole lives.

She was by my side at my happiest moments. And she was by my side during the saddest days of my life.

I knew this day would come, but it will be some time before the reality of life without Grannie will truly feel real.

I thank her for the kindness she showed my family and me. And I thank her on behalf of my generation for providing an example of service and dignity in public life that was from a different age, but always relevant to us all.

My grandmother famously said that grief was the price we pay for love. All of the sadness we will feel in the coming weeks will be testament to the love we felt for our extraordinary Queen.

I will honour her memory by supporting my father, The King, in every way I can.



As members of the Canadian Armed Forces mourn the passing of our Commander-in-Chief, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, we are also compelled to reflect on her remarkable legacy of devotion to duty and selfless service.

For the entirety of her historic reign, Her Majesty The Queen embodied our highest ideals of integrity, resolve, and grace.

Her Majesty had a longstanding relationship with the Canadian Armed Forces, holding a number of honorary appointments, including serving as Colonel-in-Chief of several Canadian military units, regiments, and branches.

She has supported the Canadian Armed Forces in times of peace and in times of war. And from her own service as a truck driver and mechanic during the Second World War through her 70 years on the throne she set a standard of character, humility, and loyalty to which everyone who wears the uniform can aspire.

On behalf of every member of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Canadian Armed Forces Chief Warrant Officer and I offer our deepest condolences to the members of the Royal Family.

General Wayne Eyre
Chief of the Defence Staff

Canada.ca/Defence Canada

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 25 September 2022

There will be no *Dispatches* 25 September due to a lack of an editor.

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.

20 September, Tuesday – Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies webinar “Russia and the Security of the Black Sea Region.” 1400-1530 BST. Online. To register: <https://rusi.org/events/open-to-all/russia-and-security-black-sea-region>

21 September, Wednesday – Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies webinar “Securing the Indo-Pacific: Re-setting the Security Agenda.” 1430-1530 BST. To register: <https://rusi.org/events/open-to-all/securing-indo-pacific-re-setting-security-agenda>

4 October, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Naval War College: Educational Wargaming." 6-8:30pm EDT. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/naval-war-college-educational-wargaming-tickets-354893725687>

New: 19 October, Wednesday - Distinguished Speakers Joe McGuinty and Ghislain Saulnier, Canada Border Services Agency, speaking on "CBSA's perspective on Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking." 1300-1500. Via Zoom. To register, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com by close-of-business Sunday, 16 October. As the subject line for your registration email, put: RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speakers 19 October 2022 Registration. In addition to your name, please provide whether you are RUSI(NS), otherwise indicate your organization (association, company or unit).

27 October, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Back to the Future: The 1980s Global War Games as a Campaign of Learning." 1800-2000 EDT. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/back-to-the-future-the-1980s-global-war-games-as-a-campaign-of-learning-tickets-358240826957>

Publications:

Publications without links are available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

New: RUSI(NS) Comments *Mental Health Reform in National Security in North America: Building on Recent Progress* by Jay Heisler, 14 September 2022
<https://rusi-ns.ca/mental-health-reform/>

RUSI(NS) Information Note *Naming and Dedication of Canadian Coast Guard Ships*, 23 August 2022
<https://rusi-ns.ca/naming-dedication-canadian-coast-guard-ships/>

Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 31 August 2022
<https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current>

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

Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XL, Number 8, September 2022

Nautical Professional Education Society of Canada Newsletter *Seatimes*, August 2022

Naval Association of Canada *Starshell*, Summer 2022, Issue 95

Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, August 2022
<https://www.rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/146-rausi-dispatches-august-2022>

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




New: Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 14, Issue 4, 12 September 2022

Veterans Affairs Canada *Salute!* September 2022

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/news-media/salute/2022-08>

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>CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 7 Sep tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: "If events on the battlefield force Putin to choose between a humiliating loss, and escalating the level of destruction, up to and including tactical nuclear weapon strikes on Ukrainian targets, I'm giving five to one odds he chooses the latter." (No Reason Canada Can't Have More Constructive Role in the World https://cdainstitute.ca/graham-allison-no-reason-canada-cant-have-more-constructive-role-in-the-world/)</p>	
<p>Royal Canadian Navy @RoyalCanNavy Sep 7 tweeted: Sailing as part of #SNMCMG1, #HMCS Summerside and #HMCS Kingston recently participated in exercises to improve force integration and cohesion with our Allies and partners 🚢🚢🚢 #WeTheNavy #WeAreNATO We are #StrongerTogether @CFOperations Brian Santarpia @BrianSantarpia Sep 8 retweeted: Sea mines are a low cost, high impact threat to safe navigation and</p>	
<p>freedom of the seas. SUM and KIN are increasing interoperability and our readiness to meet this threat with their deployment to NATO. twitter.com/royalcannavy/s... RUSI(NS) retweeted: .@RoyalCanNavy has mine-countermeasures capability in its Kingston-class ships, Fleet Diving Units & staffs ashore, all parts of #BalancedNavy. Mines are a threat, easily deployable by any actor. Even threat of mines can affect CAN🇨🇦ports, commerce <i>See also:</i> Mines are the neglected workhorses of naval strategy https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2022/08/31/mines-are-the-neglected-workhorses-of-naval-strategy <i>and:</i> Mine Scare In The Black Sea https://turkishnavy.net/</p>	

WaterfrontMdaHfx @HfxMda 12 Sep tweeted: (Rescue) HRFE Fire Boat 1 responded to a boat in distress in the harbour earlier. The boat and crew were safely brought to shore

RUSI(NS) retweeted: There was a recent time when @RoyalCanNavy harbour security boat or @NationalDefence fireboat would have carried out such rescues. Good to see @HfxFire fire boat KJIPUTUK (Mi'kmaw "great harbour") serving in protection of life on #Halifax harbour



RUSI(NS) Comments by Jay Heisler "Mental Health Reform in National Security in North America: Building on Recent Progress" <https://rusi-ns.ca/mental-health-reform/>



RUSI(NS) Presentations "Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles – Canadian and US Programs" <https://rusi-ns.ca/rpas/> @RCAF_ARC Remotely Piloted Aircraft System #RPAS project developing very capable multi-role aircraft ('without eyeballs in the cockpit') for CAN🇨🇦 defence & security at home/abroad



Decoy Warfare

H I Sutton @CovertShores 10 Sep tweeted:

BREAKING Here-> <http://hisutton.com/Russia-Kerch-Bridge-Decoys-Gone.html> #Russia has removed 2

radar decoy barges ('cope barges') deployed to protect Kerch Bridge. Unclear a) why they removed them b) why they put them there in the first place #OSINT #UkraineRussianWar



Decoys are not to be lightly employed but integrated into greater information and deception plans.

Information Operations

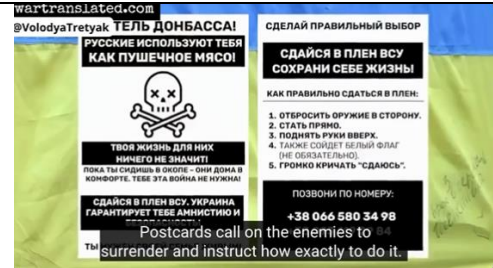
STRATCOMCOE @STRATCOMCOE 12 Sep tweeted: "Every Ukrainian being an information warrior for Ukraine is something that Russia has not accounted for, and as an authoritarian system where everything has to be controlled - probably doesn't even understand that as a concept."

@janis_sarts for @DFRLab: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDkBaOwhsFQ>

Information Operations

Volodymyr Tretyak @VolodyaTretyak 11 Sep: Interesting video about how #UkrainianArmedForces fire leaflet shells during #ukrainecounteroffensive:

<https://twitter.com/VolodyaTretyak/status/1569023183856222213>



Interesting to consider that the Ukrainians, to date demonstrating a mastery of strategic information operations on the internet and elsewhere (UN, TV, etc.), see value at this time in a very tactical, localized for of information/psychological operations.

Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia:

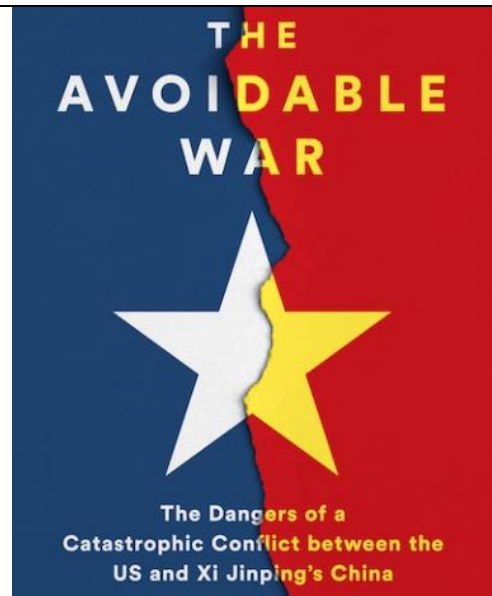
RUSI(NS) postings may also be viewed by clicking on the Facebook icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something posted or commented, email RUSI(NS) by noon Thursday.

Is War Between the U.S. and China Avoidable?

https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/is-war-between-the-u-s-and-china-avoidable

Chinese President Xi's core priorities: "staying in power; maintaining and securing national unity; growing the Chinese economy; environmental sustainability; modernizing the military; managing China's neighboring states; securing China's maritime periphery in East Asia and the west Pacific; securing China's western continental periphery; increasing Chinese leverage across the developing world; and rewriting the global rules-based order."

The assessment of a non-Chinese, but if correct, even near-correct, it helps understand and strategize against the state



Are autonomous ships and vehicles 'unmanned' or 'uncrewed'?

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/unmanned/2022/09/08/are-autonomous-ships-and-vehicles-unmanned-or-uncrewed/>

This is a question that the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and other Canadian authorities are working. Note the project title "Remotely Piloted Aircraft System" to provide a medium-altitude, long-endurance (okay, regrettably the acronym is MALE) Class III (over 600 kilograms) RPAS for the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and CAF.



The RPAS project will provide a very capable system on a par with the RCAF Aurora patrol aircraft but without a crew onboard. See:

<http://dgpaapp.forces.gc.ca/en/defence-capabilities-blueprint/project-details.asp?id=977>

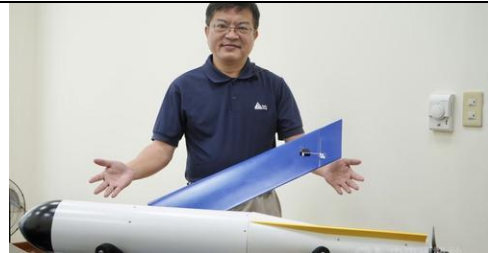
and

<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/services/procurement/remotely-piloted-aircraft-system.html>

Asymmetrical warfare focus has Taiwan drone companies upping the ante

<https://focustaiwan.tw/sci-tech/202209100016>

"Taiwan should adopt the "porcupine" strategy by complementing its missile defense network with (relatively cheap, massed) unmanned combat aerial vehicles."



The Canadian military, defence industries and drone industries should collaborate in what is proving to be a significant development of warfare. Canada may not need a porcupine strategy (aside: that is something worth studying as a means to stabilize relations between conflicting states) but the country does need to be prepared to participate in this form of fighting. Can arrangements be planned, as part of a Canadian mobilization, to mass produce drones in Canada?

Three different US Navy aircraft control unmanned MQ-25 for various ops

<https://www.navaltoday.com/2022/09/08/three-different-us-navy-aircraft-control-unmanned-mq-25-for-various-ops/>

"Boeing has digitally demonstrated (controlling MQ-25 aerial refueling drones from) Northrop Grumman's E-2D Advanced Hawkeye command and control aircraft, Boeing's P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft and Boeing's F/A-18 Block III Super Hornet fighter jet."



Hmm, will the Royal Canadian Air Force ultimately be able to control its Remotely Piloted Aircraft System from CP140 Aurora patrol aircraft?

Keep an eye on developments with (and the initialism of) the "manned-unmanned teaming (MUM-T)" concept.

US Air Force warns of aging fighters, poor purchasing efforts

<https://www.defensenews.com/air/2022/09/12/us-air-force-warns-of-aging-fighters-poor-purchasing-efforts/>

Reading this article leads one to wonder what sort of airpower structure discussions occur in the Royal Canadian Air Force, Canadian Armed Forces and government. Other than the number of aircraft to be procured under the Future Fighter Capability project, does the Canadian public really understand the numbers of the various aircraft types in the RCAF and how those numbers relate to defence policy and strategy (both internal and what finally goes public after what the government is willing to pay is factored in)?



Ukraine war: A successful surprise attack - but danger still looms

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-62879363>

"Ukraine is sending a signal to the world that it really believes it can win this war. It's already using these gains to appeal for more western weapons. And the offensive comes at a critical time - just before winter when it'll be harder to fight and the will of the west will be tested. The war is far from over. But Ukraine is once again showing the world its ability to surprise and overcome the odds."



Surprise, deception, signaling (strategic information operations). Some of the tools of warfighting (actually, non-warfighting, too). Just some. Ukraine has demonstrated that it has others. Effective integration is a hallmark of a capable military.

Canada's military will overhaul its recruitment process, general says

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canadas-military-will-overhaul-its-recruitment-process-general-says>



"...look at contracting activities that don't need military personnel to complete..."

"...reduce staffing processes and cease activities and tasks that do not directly contribute to the growth of the CAF, operations and modernization."

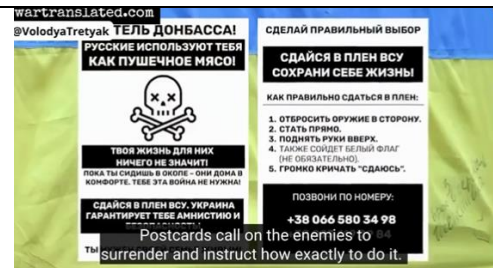
"...top-notch military instructors were critical to improving retention and culture."

Yes, focus on warfighting (that's the raison d'etre for the military) and focus on what make a military good at warfighting - people. Anything else is a luxury of organizations with too many people and too much money.

Information Operations

Volodymyr Tretyak @VolodyaTretyak 11 Sep: Interesting video about how #UkrainianArmedForces fire leaflet shells during #ukrainecounteroffensive:

<https://twitter.com/VolodyaTretyak/status/1569023183856222113>



Interesting to consider that the Ukrainians, to date demonstrating a mastery of strategic information operations on the internet and elsewhere (UN, TV, etc.), see value at this time in a very tactical, localized for of information/psychological operations.

On Trolls and Nuclear Signaling: Strategic Stability in the Age of Memes

<https://mwi.usma.edu/on-trolls-and-nuclear-signaling-strategic-stability-in-the-age-of-memes/>

"This emerging structure of strategic messaging resembles what Venkatesh Rao calls "The Internet of Beefs"

(<https://www.ribbonfarm.com/2020/01/16/the-internet-of-beefs/>). There now exists a hierarchy of rhetorical combatants online who compete with each other for status as influencers."

The cacophony of differing aims of those who post (and not just nuclear related). Be aware, be very aware.



Technical issues behind delays affecting Canada's new search and rescue planes

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/technical-issues-behind-delays-affecting-canadas-new-search-and-rescue-planes>

"A number of the issues affecting the planes are linked to modifications made to the fixed-wing search and rescue (FWSAR) planes for specific Canadian requirements. "To satisfy the Canadian FWSAR requirement, Airbus chose to develop and integrate new capabilities," said National Defence spokesman Dan Le Bouthillier. "In the process of the development effort, unforeseen technical issues have been identified that are taking time to resolve.""

Whether aircraft, ships, vehicles or software, when the basic design starts getting modified to meet specific national requirements, the result is easily increase in time, cost and risk.

The alternative is to buy 'off-the-shelf' but that means procuring equipment that may not be able to do what you want. So, requirements analysis and specification ('weigh offs') becomes a critical part of the procurement process.



Other Sources:

#Arctic

The Arctic Cooperation programmes are delighted to announce the publication of the paper: Lessons Learnt - Regional Policy

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2022/09/09-09-2022-the-arctic-cooperation-programmes-are-delighted-to-announce-the-publication-of-the-paper-lessons-learnt

Arctic Multilateralism and the Consequences of the Ukrainian Conflict

<https://ras-nsa.ca/arctic-multilateralism-and-the-consequences-of-the-ukrainian-conflict/>

#China

Gray Dragons: Assessing China's Senior Military Leadership

<https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/3156126/gray-dragons-assessing-chinas-senior-military-leadership/>

#defence procurement

Get to Know the Middle Tier of Awesome...Er, Acquisition

[https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2022/09/get-know-middle-tier-awesomeer-acquisition/377017/Lessons-for-Canada?](https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2022/09/get-know-middle-tier-awesomeer-acquisition/377017/Lessons-for-Canada?hpid=hp-top-news-story%3Adefence%3Adefenceone.com)

#drones

Swarm Of 40 Drones Over Fort Irwin An Ominous Sign Of What's To Come

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/swarm-of-40-drones-over-fort-irwin-an-ominous-sign-of-whats-to-come>

#NATO

NATO's new Strategic Concept: our blueprint for navigating a more dangerous and competitive world

<https://www.atlcom.nl/artikel-atlantisch-perspectief/natos-new-strategic-concept-our-blueprint-for-navigating-a-more-dangerous-and-competitive-world/>

#policing

Police implementation of the Charter of Rights

<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/september-2022/police-training-charter-breaches/>

#Russia-Ukraine War

An examination whether Russia has ceded the initiative to Ukraine

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1568116583100481539.html>

T-62s for Russian reserve units in Ukraine

<https://wavellroom.com/2022/08/03/t-62-tanks/>

Ukrainian operations in the northeast penetrate Russian defences

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1568838599705243648.html>

The most dangerous days of Russia's war in Ukraine lie ahead

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/the-most-dangerous-days-of-russias-war-in-ukraine-lie-ahead/>

#space

RUSI(NS) is planning a speaker on space for early 2023.

GAO Calls for Better Use of Commercial Satellite Imagery in the National Security Space

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/intelligence/gao-calls-for-better-use-of-commercial-satellite-imagery-in-the-national-security-space/>

#legal

New legal 'manual' on peacetime military space activities could aid norms drive

<https://breakingdefense.com/2022/09/new-legal-manual-on-peacetime-military-space-activities-could-aid-norms-drive/>

Note: McGill Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflict in Space (MILAMOS)

<https://mcgillmanual.ca/#/hom>

RUSI(NS) hopes to have a speaker on the 3 Canadian Space Division next spring.

#strategy #Indo-Pacific #environment

SEA-Merica 2040: Leveraging Climate Change to Win Friends and Influence the South China Sea

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2022/9/9/sea-merica-2040-leveraging-climate-change-to-win-friends-and-influence-the-south-china-sea>

#warfare

Have We Forgotten the Rehearsal?

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/NCO-Journal/Archives/2022/September/Have-We-Forgotten-the-Rehearsal/>

Other:

Military Strategy Magazine - Volume 8 Issue 2

<https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/>

contents:

Clausewitz's 'Warlike Element' and the War in Ukraine

On Efficacy: A Beginner's Guide to Strategic Theory

A Renewed Nuclear Strategy for NATO

Erich Ludendorff: Successful Tactician, Failed Strategist

A Tale of Two Caesars: Contemporary Lessons from Divergent Caesarian Strategies

The Case for Deception in Operational Success

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O Canada

The future HMS *Glasgow*, the first of the British Type 26 frigates will be floated out in the near future. The other two ships in Batch 1 already have their steel being cut. The contract for the five Batch 2 ships will also be let shortly. Keep in mind the British are also producing the Type 31 with a class completion date in 2028. The Australians also have just started cutting steel on their Hunter-class, the first of nine frigates based on the Type 26 but adjusted for Australian requirements. Canada just received its third AOPS project ship, HMCS *Max Bernays*, which although a large ship and very capable for constabulary duties, is virtually unarmed and based on a civilian design and therefore not for combat use. Canada has yet to even agree to a basic design for our version of the Type 26. Canada's current frigate fleet is around thirty years of age, well past their best before date. The crews and fleet maintenance facilities will do their best but it will be increasingly difficult to maintain them let alone use them in a fight. It is a constant reminder under the current situation that the world has changed but there has been little sign that Parliament has been aware of this circumstance.

Belarus

The Lukashenko regime continues to walk a tight rope between Moscow and Kyiv. It is clear that Lukashenko considers siding with either one in a more forceful way would be detrimental to his continuing rule. The Belarussian military is undergoing a major exercise near the Ukrainian border. The premise is that Belarussian troops are expelling an incursion by a foreign power on Belarussian soil. Some pundits seemed to think this would be cover for a Belarussian attack into Ukraine's rear areas but given the situation, it seems unlikely that Lukashenko would even contemplate such an

action, especially given that his forces and security leadership have apparently told him that they would not comply. He is totally dependent on their "goodwill" for his regime's survival. The exercise was scheduled to end on 14 September 2022.

Europe

The European Union has been unsettled with President Putin's threatened closure of the Nord Stream 1 that provided gas to northern Europe. Major countries have taken action this summer to find new sources to bolster their reserves of gas and oil. Germany has even decided to maintain two nuclear power plants instead of closing all eight nuclear plants. Not all European countries are so lucky, especially ones that do not belong to the EU such as Moldova, one of the poorest nations in Europe. Europe has been able to keep a relatively united front to date, but a long cold winter may cause dissatisfaction amongst member states and non-aligned states. It is likely to cause large scale unrest this winter.

Azerbaijan-Armenia War

While the conflict continues in Ukraine, an older war continues to rumble to Russia's south. Although Russia had somewhere around 1800 "peacekeepers" in the region, the two countries have used the distraction to fight. Exact casualties are unknown but this conflict could rapidly become a major problem. There have been casualties with Armenia stating that 49 soldiers have been killed; Azeri casualties are unknown. This is an unfinished conflict and not a desirable event under the present circumstances. Russia does not necessarily have the ability to effectively intervene at the moment.

Russia-Ukraine War

It was without doubt a big surprise action especially for Russia. Ukraine evidently used the future attack on Kherson as a major disinformation campaign, and they succeeded beyond expectations by recapturing more than 6000 kms of formerly occupied territory in the Kharkiv and Kherson oblasts. It is without doubt an amazing play by Ukraine. This main campaign has taken a little over a week as of this writing to recover areas that took Russia months. Russian casualties have been terrible with a more confirmed number for fatalities at just over 48k. How do we know this? The department of finance asked in writing for billions of roubles to pay the estates of 48750 dead from this operation. They also requested more to take into account future losses. Ukraine estimates Russian fatal losses at 53,950 as of mid-week. It is interesting that Ukraine's estimate of losses is more accurate than previously thought. As of 14 September, Russian losses in total is about 215k killed, wounded, prisoner or missing. The exact figures for Russian prisoners held by Ukraine is up in the air, but one figure from two days ago suggested that there were at least 7k.

Russia is admitting their defeat in Kharkiv oblast, but it is interesting that in admitting defeat they are trying to deflect the blame away from President Putin and onto military leadership, according to ISW Reporting of 13 September 2022. The ISW note also went on to say that "the Kremlin admission of defeat in Kharkiv shows that Putin is willing and able to recognize and even accept a Russian defeat at least in some circumstances and focus on deflecting blame from himself." It appears that the fate of some military personnel may be in question as a result. The admission is thought to be an attempt to mitigate criticism within right wing media especially as they have now become more vocal. The Kremlin spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, stated that the tolerance for criticism is very limited. Still, opposition does seem to be growing, in the right wing media and others. Most opposition figures are in jail, exiled or awaiting trials, but the right wing was supposed to be pro-Putin and pro-war.. Their increasing opposition will be disturbing for the Kremlin.

Russia's attempts to recruit new soldiers has been largely unsuccessful and thus far the Kremlin has also been very hesitant to call for a general mobilization of forces as Ukraine has already done. President Putin has made every attempt to avoid this decision, using prisoners and offering huge payouts by Russian standards or a large estate to the survivors. Equipment losses have been horrendous and now during the recent retreat Russia has become one of the largest donors of equipment to Ukraine. While most of this information is open source there seems to be sufficient cause to be fairly comfortable with the findings and comments of even some of the most amateur sources. Social media has been widely seen and it is difficult to police; there are simply too many people with cameras of some sort especially with the ubiquitous cell phones.

It is unlikely under the present circumstances that Russia will be able to reform new military units in sufficient time to make a difference. It is also clear that Russian losses are not fully appreciated by the general public. What does Russia have left? First and foremost is the nuclear weapons arsenal, some 5900+ weapons as well as a biological warfare program and probably some chemical weapons. It has the necessary delivery systems including long and medium range bombers, ballistic missile submarines, intercontinental and medium range missiles. The air force, although badly managed, is still available in large numbers. The Kremlin ordered fighters to the area of Moscow within the past two days. The navy is largely intact and available, including one aircraft carrier, two battle cruisers, two cruisers, around 15 destroyers and a similar number of frigates along with a large number of auxiliaries. They also have around 60 submarines; most are nuclear and most fire cruise missiles including the conventional ones of the Lada- and Kilo-classes. The army is supposed to have somewhere around a million reservists of varying capabilities and qualities - numbers will help. As we used to say during the Cold War, numbers have their own quality. It is still true. The bottom line is, Russia has options and that must be considered.

Russia's economy is the longer term issue. Depending on what source one uses, the Russian economy will shrink. B how much is a question, but somewhere between 6 and 10% is likely given the information available. Russia has managed to keep up appearances using cash reserves and money from the sale of oil and gas. Many countries view the war as a European issue. Most countries need the oil and gas just to survive and thus are willing to break with the US on sanctions. Countries such as China, India, Indonesia, North Korea and a number of smaller countries are eager to get cut rate oil. Some are already are under sanctions themselves but most are simply poor or will use the situation to get cheap oil.

Speaking of oil, there have been a fairly significant number of unexplained or rather poorly explained deaths of key figures including most recently Ivan Pechorin on 9 September 2022 in a boating accident. Apparently no one saw him go over. He joins a list of about a half dozen recent deaths of prominent figures in Russian enterprises. As one commentator on Times Radio said, the oligarchs are not the power, they just seek to be around the power. Still, apparently it is dangerous to be an oligarch.

As the last note on Russia and the war, Vladimir Putin's favourite person will meet him in Uzbekistan in the near future before the Communist Chinese Party's (CCP) 20th Congress. The Congress is scheduled to start on 16 October 2022 and last until the end of the month. The leaders want to develop a position to oppose the US and the West.

China

China continues its policy of Covid lockdowns with an estimate of 126m people being affected in some of the biggest and most essential manufacturing areas. This continues to weigh heavily on the economy not only in China but all countries that need China's supply chain. It also means that a large number of Chinese workers are now out of work or are very limited in what they can do. This includes

a good size portion of the transportation industry. The Covid lock downs have created a new industry, that of a Covid tester, now estimated to be around 1.2m people required to maintain and operate the testing "industry." It has become almost what we might refer to a self-licking ice cream in that it will be very hard to eliminate it as it will live a life of its own. This has been mentioned by many other commentators but it is a problem as it will be looking for problems or create the image of a problem without any real issue. China has used this testing regime as a way of collecting information and to control crowds and as a way to blunt possible demonstrations, as we have seen this past month and a half in Henan Province. The CCP likes stability, it will do most anything to achieve it including misusing a testing system, medical system, legal system, penal system, the financial system, the economy and anything else to achieve its goal of stability. It should be mentioned that stability actually means the survival of the CCP.

Stability is threatened at the moment. The economy is not in good shape. The property development side was essentially a very large "Ponzi scheme" that is currently crumbling, brought on by the pressures of the pandemic and good old corruption brought to a new level under Xi and his anti-corruption campaign. Xi has added to this burden by insisting on his Zero Covid policy, lock downs and testing regime which all cause disruption in the economy. Xi has also cracked down on the tech giants, arresting several key CEOs and imprisoning them until they "admit" their failings. Mother nature has also thrown a wrench into the situation with either major droughts in the north or major floods in the south destroying large areas of agricultural land along with crops. Xi sees reunification with Taiwan as an essential as part of creating a whole China ensuring world greatness. He has expended vast funds to create a modern military of sufficient size to take Taiwan by force if necessary. He too is looking forward to his meeting with his "friend" Putin.

Xi is expected to be confirmed as president for an unprecedented third five-year term at the 20th Party Congress. He is expected to lay out his plans for China's future and more importantly appoint new people into key posts. This includes the military. It is expected that Xi will insist on replacing current commanders with those more closely aligned with Xi's thinking in regard to defence overall and especially Taiwan. Having commanders who will support his ideas are upper most in his mind. It is expected that if conditions are right Xi will invade Taiwan, so having professional military leaders will be essential, especially ones who potentially are able to say, "This is not a good idea at this time." As with all authoritarian leaders, they are always correct and as we have seen in Russia, that is not always true. If I were a Chinese military leader, I might be asking to see if the Russian equipment used to reverse engineer most of my equipment was a good idea. The place to find out equipment is not really effective is not in the middle of a shooting war. Russian losses for a bad cause will appall even the Chinese. It will be even more so if Vladimir Putin also "falls off a boat" in the near future.

The ongoing issues with the Chinese economy continues as one of its largest conglomerates has asked for bankruptcy protection. Fosun has received a critical report from Western investment agencies asking its investors to closely examine their exposure to Fosun. As a conglomerate it has a wide net of companies and businesses at various levels. The investment bank suggested that here is no specific organizational structure and it is difficult to determine one's exposure. As with most Chinese businesses their operating procedures and accounting methods are somewhat less than transparent. If Fosun were to crash the after effects could be quite surprising and have second and third order of effects far beyond what is immediately obvious. China is supposed to become more open and transparent but their actual operating procedures will always call into question their business practices. One point to be made: international investors will be the first to suffer and will have little recourse to receive compensation because of corrupt business practices supported by a corrupt legal system. Keep in mind, we already have a massive melt down of the Chinese property development sector.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Over the last 24 hours, Ukrainian forces have continued to make significant gains in the Kharkiv region. Russia has likely withdrawn units from the area, but fighting continues around the strategically important cities of Kupiansk and Izium.
- On 07 September 2022, President Putin said that only 60,000 tonnes of the grain exported from Ukraine since August had been sent to developing countries, and that the majority had been delivered to EU states.
- Putin's claim is not true. According to UN figures, around 30% has been supplied to low and middle-income countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.
- Russia is pursuing a deliberate misinformation strategy as it seeks to deflect blame for food insecurity issues, discredit Ukraine and minimise opposition to its invasion.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

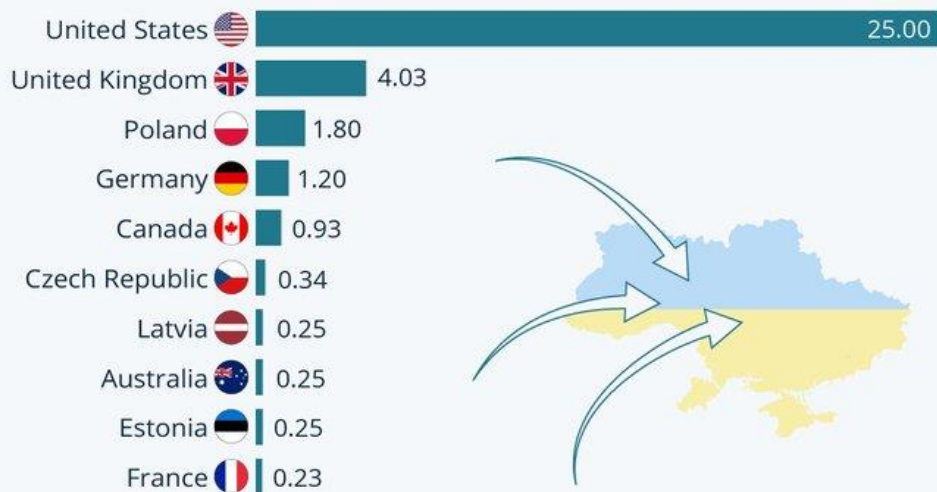
- Elements of the Russian forces withdrawn from Kharkiv Oblast over the last week were from the 1st Guards Tank Army (1 GTA), which are subordinate to the Western Military District (WEMD). 1 GTA suffered heavy casualties in the initial phase of the invasion and had not been fully reconstituted prior to the Ukrainian counter-offensive in Kharkiv.
- 1 GTA had been one of the most prestigious of Russia's armies, allocated for the defence of Moscow, and intended to lead counter-attacks in the case of a war with NATO.
- With 1 GTA and other WEMD formations severely degraded, Russia's conventional force designed to counter NATO is severely weakened. It will likely take years for Russia to rebuild this capability.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Ukrainian forces continue to consolidate their control of newly liberated areas of Kharkiv Oblast. Russian forces have largely withdrawn from the area west of the Oskil River.
- The way in which Russian forces have withdrawn in the last week has varied. Some units retreated in relatively good order and under control, while others fled in apparent panic.
- High-value equipment abandoned by retreating Russian forces included capabilities essential to enable Russia's artillery-centric style of warfare. Amongst these are at least one ZOOBARK counter-battery radar and at least one IV14 artillery command and control vehicle. Such abandonment highlights the disorganised retreat of some Russian units and likely localised breakdowns in command and control.

Where Military Aid to Ukraine Comes From

Countries committing the most military aid to Ukraine from Jan 24 to Aug 03, 2022* (in billion U.S. dollars)



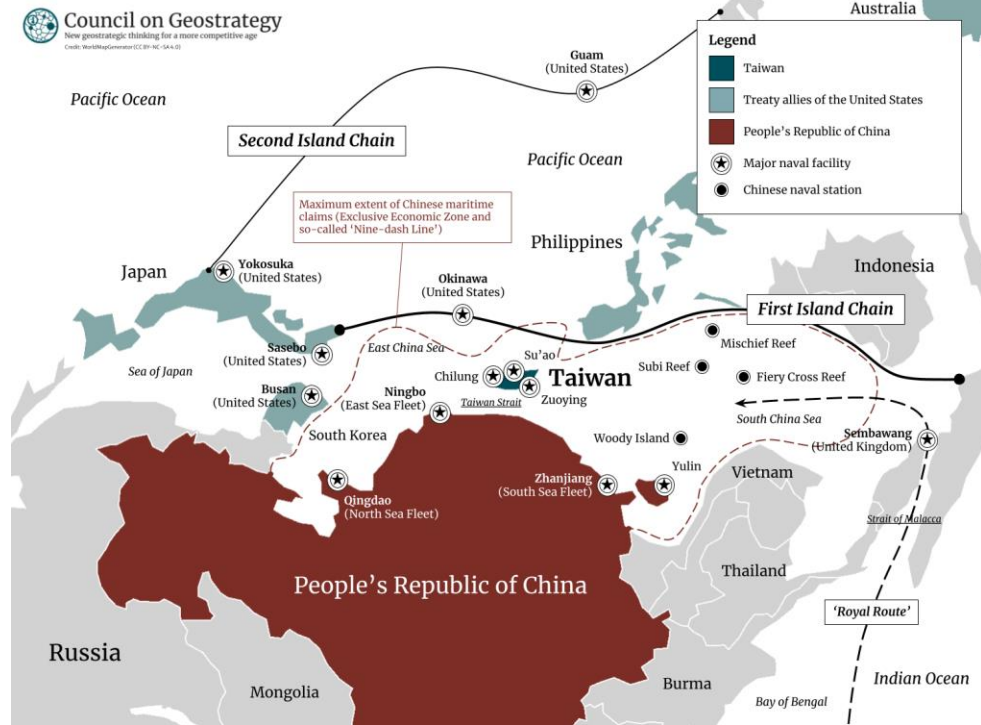
*May include other military aid (protective equipment).

Currencies converted using July averages

Source: IfW Kiel



Interesting to get a different perspective:



Nova Scotia Legislature @NSLeg 9 Sep: Province House is illuminated in royal blue in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

