

# Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 30 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.

*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 <u>RUSINSDispatches@gmail.com</u>. 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).

#### **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 <u>RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</u>. RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice – email RUSI(NS) if there is a question of an event occurring.

New: 1 October, Saturday - Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association Conference "Emergent-cies: Politics Today and Tomorrow." Note Session 1B "Conflicts, Contentious and Contested Claims: Trends in Global Security" with Adam McDonald [former RUSI(NS) member], "The Maritime Domain of the Russian-Ukrainian War: Implications and Lessons for Canada and the Royal Canadian Navy." 10:30-11:00 am. Loyola Room 273, Dalhousie University. See: https://atlanticprovspolsciassociation.com/conference-2022/conference-program/.

**3 October**, Monday - Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies Adversarial Studies seminar "Threat Based Planning: An Optimal Framework for Optimising Against Adversaries." 1300-1400 BST. To register: <a href="https://www.rusi.org/events/open-to-all/threat-based-planning-optimal-framework-optimising-against-adversaries">https://www.rusi.org/events/open-to-all/threat-based-planning-optimal-framework-optimising-against-adversaries</a>

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

**New: 5 October**, Wednesday - Center for Strategic and International Studies "#NAFO and Winning the Information War: Lessons Learned from Ukraine." 12:00-1:00 ET. Online. See: <a href="https://www.csis.org/events/nafo-and-winning-information-war-lessons-learned-ukraine">https://www.csis.org/events/nafo-and-winning-information-war-lessons-learned-ukraine</a>

**New: 10 October**, Monday - - Georgetown University Wargaming Society "Panel: Military Exercises and Wargaming in Professional Military Education." 12–2 pm EDT. Online. To register: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/panel-military-exercises-and-wargaming-in-professional-military-education-tickets-421701098337">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/panel-military-exercises-and-wargaming-in-professional-military-education-tickets-421701098337</a>

**New: 18 October**, Tuesday - Royal Alberta United Services Institute speaker Dr Sean Maloney "Strategic Nuclear Forces in the Russia–Ukraine Conflict." 1900 hrs MT. Via Zoom. Free. To register: https://www.rausi.ca/info-events/rmcsd/551-strategic-nuclear-forces-in-the-russia-ukraine-conflict

19 October, Wednesday – RUSI(NS) 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: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/back-to-the-future-the-1980s-global-war-games-as-a-campaign-of-learning-tickets-358240826957">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/back-to-the-future-the-1980s-global-war-games-as-a-campaign-of-learning-tickets-358240826957</a>

#### **Publications:**

Publications without links are available on request to <a href="RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com">RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com</a>.

New: RUSI(NS) Presentations by Lieutenant-Colonel Julien Letarte, RCAF, and Major Drew Larned, USAF, *Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles – Canadian and US Programs*, 14 September 2022 <a href="https://rusi-ns.ca/rpas/">https://rusi-ns.ca/rpas/</a>

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

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/

New: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 28 September 2022 <a href="https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current">https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current</a>

New: Edmonton United Services Institute *President's Enews*, October 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 <a href="https://www.rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/146-rausi-dispatches-august-2022">https://www.rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/146-rausi-dispatches-august-2022</a>

Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch Scuttlebutt, September 2022

**New:** Royal Canadian Navy *Your Navy Today* - Volume 5 Issue 7 https://www.canada.ca/en/navy/corporate/navy-news/your-navy-today/volume-5-issue-7.html

**New:** Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 14, Issue 5, 19 September 2022

**New:** Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 14, Issue 6, 26 September 2022

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Quarterly Newsletter*, Volume 21, Issue 2, June 2022

Veterans Affairs Canada *Salute!* September 2022 <a href="https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/news-media/salute/2022-08">https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/news-media/salute/2022-08</a>

### Tweeted by @RUSI\_NS:

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

Ukraine Weapons Tracker @UAWeapons 15 Sep tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: #Ukraine: One of the first times that we have seen a Canadian Roshel Senator APC in use with the AFU- in this case, the Kraken Special Unit. Note the MT-LB with ZU-23-2 23mm autocannon also.



TheDorchesterReview @DorchesterRev Sep 16 tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Our intrepid editor propounds the need for a National Reserve Strategy to rebuild civil society, social capital, youth engagement, and the CAF Reserves, published by @CAGlobalAffairs

https://cgai.ca/rebuilding\_the\_reserve\_force#Top

"It is noteworthy that resilience to carry on the fight applies directly to the tragedy unfolding in Ukraine. A slow-grinding Russian advance has forced Ukraine to dig deeper for resilience in order to hold and regain ground, building strategic depth and rebuilding reserves by serving conscription papers to men in church and on the beach.22 How much easier it would be for Ukraine in this terrible crisis to train a sufficient number of civilians up to proper combat standards to carry on the fight today, if more men had already received part-time training with an eye to having in place true military reserves and serious societal resilience. It is a hard lesson and should have been easily anticipated."



5thCanadianDivision @5CdnDiv 5DivCA 24 Set tweeted: Following Hurricane Fiona, our #5DivSoldiers are preparing to respond to the province's request for assistance. The #MightyMaroonMachine trains throughout the year to be able to quickly and effectively respond to those in need. We are here to serve our country and our communities Commandant 5Div Commander @5Div Comd 5Div 24 Sep and RUSI(NS) retweeted: The reports and images of the devastation throughout Atlantic Canada have been tragic. We are making every effort to arrive in areas of need as soon as possible!



"Changes to naming protocol for RCN ships, units following Her Majesty's passing" https://www.canada.ca/en/departmentnational-defence/maple-leaf/rcn/2022/09/changes-to-namingprotocol-for-rcn-ships-units-following-her-majestyspassing.html "...all commissioned RCN vessels are now known as His Majesty's Canadian Ships and Submarines." NDHQ has advised that HMCS does not mean His Majesty's Canadian Submarine.

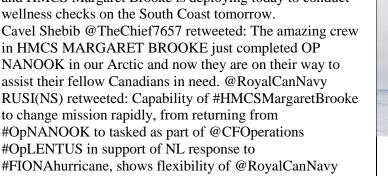


Anita Anand @AnitaAnandMP 26 Sep tweeted:

to change mission rapidly, from returning from

units/surface/kingston-class.html

Newfoundland and Labrador: We are activating resources and personnel to provide immediate on-the-ground support to local authorities. @CanadianForces are ready to begin tasks, and HMCS Margaret Brooke is deploying today to conduct wellness checks on the South Coast tomorrow. Cavel Shebib @TheChief7657 retweeted: The amazing crew in HMCS MARGARET BROOKE just completed OP NANOOK in our Arctic and now they are on their way to





#OpNANOOK to tasked as part of @CFOperations **#OpLENTUS** in support of NL response to #FIONAhurricane, shows flexibility of @RoyalCanNavy #seapower COM SNMCMG1 @COM SNMCMG1 28 Sep tweeted: •

REMUS Autonomous Underwater Vehicle team is hard at work as HMCS Kingston and HMCS Summeside of @RoyalCanNavy are currently off the coast of Portugal with #SNMCMG1 participating in #NATO exercise DYNAMIC MESSENGER 22. #WeAreNATO #StrongerTogether RUSI(NS) retweeted: .@RoyalCanNavy #KingstonClass ships are typed as MM = mine warfare vessel, general. Mine countermeasures are their main role, are capable of others such as patrol. Use of uncrewed/autonomous underwater vehicles #UUV much enhances their MW capability https://www.canada.ca/en/navy/corporate/fleet-



Canadian Army @CanadianArmy 25 Sep tweeted: The **Soldier Readiness Policy** – **Reserve** (SRP-R) full implementation is just around the corner. We invite you to consult the SRP-R Fact Sheet.

https://www.canada.ca/en/army/corporate/reserve/soldier-readiness-policy.html



# **Operation Tasiujarjuag**

Canadian Coast Guard @CoastGuardCAN 26 Sep tweeted: News from the #Arctic: We recently had Operation Tasiujarjuaq; this #EnvironmentalResponse exercise simulated the response to a major spill in the Iqaluit Harbour, Nunavut, where our crews demonstrated their capacity and preparedness to respond to pollution.

RUSI(NS) is checking why the CCG calls this an operation.



# Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia:

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

# US, Taiwan Formalize MQ-9B UAV Deal Worth Over \$500M

https://www.govconwire.com/2022/09/taiwan-signs-deal-to-buy-mq-9b-uavs-from-us-for-more-than-500m/

The MQ-9B is the aircraft likely to be selected for the Royal Canadian Air Force's Remotely Piloted Aircraft System



(RPAS) project. Though in Canada's case the proposal is call SkyGuardian rather than SeaGuardian for Taiwan. There are probably differences in the two nations' requirements and therefore the solutions proposed and their names, Taiwan being an island whilst Canada's project is much focused on Artic/Northern surveillance (though surveillance of Canada's maritime approaches and whilst deployed overseas are also envisioned). Still, there is likely opportunity for a 'Guardian' users group with lessons, maybe spares logistics, shared.

RUSI(NS) was recently briefed on Canadian and US RPAS. See: Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles – Canadian and US Programs <a href="https://rusi-ns.ca/rpas/">https://rusi-ns.ca/rpas/</a>.

Project sites:

Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) Project

http://dgpaapp.forces.gc.ca/en/defence-capabilities-blueprint/project-details.asp?id=977 Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS)

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

# Accession of King Charles III may mean new royal crests for RCMP, CAF

https://nationalpost.com/news/acension-of-king-charles-iii-may-mean-new-royal-crests-for-rcmp-caf

Fortunately for the Royal Canadian Navy, ship badges are crested with a naval crown, not a St Edward's crown nor a

Tudor crown. But ship flagstaffs are topped with the St Edward's crown. It's questionable whether it's worth changing all that metal.

See: Royal Canadian Navy Ship's Badge <a href="https://rusi-ns.ca/royal-canadian-navy-ships-badge/">https://rusi-ns.ca/royal-canadian-navy-ships-badge/</a>

# Ukraine presses Canada to send more weapons as its forces push east

https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/ukraine-russia-weapons-1.6589322

"The government of Ukrainian President Volodomyr Zelenskyy is asking Canada for more armoured vehicles — specifically the latest version of the light armoured vehicle known as the LAV VI."



"Canada set aside \$500 million in the recent budget for weapons shipments to Ukraine. That money has now been spent."

# Opinion: NATO needs to play a bigger role in the Arctic. And Canada needs to let it

https://www.coldlakesun.com/opinion/opinion-nato-needs-to-play-a-bigger-role-in-the-arctic-and-canada-needs-to-let-it

"NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg made a visit to Canada last month in what must be seen as an effort to prod us into taking our Arctic security more seriously. What has changed since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, and how should Canada respond?"



# **Hurricane Fiona Response**

Gagetown based members of the 5th Canadian Division responding to the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona. A welcome sight for many Nova Scotians.



# Canada boosts capacity of key supply hub for weapons to Ukraine

https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-weapons-supply-lines-expanded-1.6594582

"Defence Minister Anita Anand says Canada is boosting its capacity at a key transportation hub in Scotland, so weapons and other supplies can more easily be shipped to Ukraine and other countries in eastern Europe."



"Canada has promised to deliver 39 armoured troop carriers, and Anand said she'd be meeting with industry partners in Canada to talk about the issue of supply."

### Canadian military facing a recruitment crisis

https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/military-sounds-alarm-over-recruiting-problems-as-canadians-steer-clear-1.6083496



# Chinese Launch Assault Craft from Civilian Car Ferries in Mass Amphibious Invasion Drill, Satellite Photos Show

https://news.usni.org/2022/09/28/chinese-launch-assault-craft-from-civilian-car-ferries-in-mass-amphibious-invasion-drill-satellite-photos-show

"The Chinese military held a major exercise to prove how the

People's Liberation Army Navy could use large civilian ferries to launch a massive amphibious invasion of Taiwan."

The seapower of a state for defence and security is not measured solely by the number of 'grey hulls.' Civil vessels requisitioned into service, ships-taken-up-from-trade (STUFT), vessels and craft of opportunity (VOOP/COOP) and among the means to augment a state's navy and maritime efforts in times of crisis and conflict. Indeed, considering the cost and time it takes these days to build modern warships, some arrangements may be essential for Canada and other states to ensure the necessary seapower. What arrangements (planning, relationship building, exercising) has Canada made in order to ensure civil maritime power can be made available?

Oh, and yes, tracking China's ferries is assuredly an intelligence effort, and their locations and movements an indicator of possible Chinese action.

# More problems emerge with new Canadian military machine-guns

https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/more-problems-emerge-with-new-canadian-military-machine-guns

"The contract for the new guns was awarded to Colt Canada without competition under a federal government program to



support Canada's ability to produce military small arms domestically. Colt Canada has been deemed the country's Small Arms Strategic Source and Centre of Excellence by the federal government."

We need to get the Canadian domestic arms producing industry and process right.

# **Other Sources:**

### #cyber operations

'Patriotic Hacking' Is No Exception

https://www.lawfareblog.com/patriotic-hacking-no-exception

#### #Indo-Pacific

China Could Decide Now Is the Time for War with America *From naval strategist Dr James Holmes:* 

 $\underline{https://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2022/09/26/china\_could\_decide\_now\_is\_the\_time\_for\_war\_with\_america\_855520.html$ 

#### #information operations

#### #security

Russia's Disinformation Cannot Hide its Responsibility for the Global Food Crisis

https://www.state.gov/disarming-disinformation/russias-disinformation-cannot-hide-its-responsibility-for-the-global-food-crisis/

Real news site or Russian propaganda?

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

Exploring the Utility of Memes for U.S. Government Influence Campaigns <a href="https://www.cna.org/archive/CNA\_Files/pdf/drm-2018-u-017433-final.pdf">https://www.cna.org/archive/CNA\_Files/pdf/drm-2018-u-017433-final.pdf</a>

#### #irregular migration

Ontario, Quebec still keeping migrant-detention contract with CBSA

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/immigration-prison-migrant-newcomer-cbsa-contract-1.6597152

### #leadership

The Paradoxical Trinity of Leadership

https://mwi.usma.edu/the-paradoxical-trinity-of-leadership/

#### #maritime security

EU fight on illegal fishing must move from paper to online

https://euobserver.com/green-economy/156142

RUSI(NS) will highlight IUU (illegal, unreported and unregulated) fishing as a maritime security issue, leading to out November Distinguished Speaker on the National Fisheries Intelligence Service.

#### #professional military education

Our duty to pursue self-development as military professionals

 $\underline{https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2022/06/self-development-military-professionals.html}$ 

# #Russia-Ukraine War

Education, not hardware, made the Ukrainian military dangerous

https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-education-not-hardware-is-what-made-the-ukrainian-military-dangerous/

Statement by the North Atlantic Council on the so-called "referenda" in parts of Ukraine <a href="https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official\_texts\_207558.htm">https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official\_texts\_207558.htm</a>

Russian mobilization is an attempt to use mass

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1574137972621975554.html

The tweet thread at <a href="https://twitter.com/BA\_Friedman/status/1574137972621975554">https://twitter.com/BA\_Friedman/status/1574137972621975554</a> is worth reading.

#### Ukrainian Air Force

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1572572221574639618.html

#### Nord Stream Leaks Underline Gray-Zone Risks

https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2022/09/nord-stream-leaks-underline-gray-zone-risks/377701/ Leads to an interesting question: who is responsible for Canadian underseas pipeline security and response?

#### Russian conscription

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1574946905376686081.html

What are the victory conditions to conclude a war & what are the necessary actions in its immediate aftermath?

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1574546029533270016.html

The Russia-Ukraine war will not end soon but post-war planning must start now https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-09-27/russia-ukraine-post-war-planning/101473304

An analysis of Putin's speech 21 September

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1572568398969868288.html

Ukrainian campaign planning

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1571563669783474177

Assessing military capabilities

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1560719779647725568.html

The Russian economy will 'die by winter' because of the 'catastrophic consequences' of the military mobilization, a top Russian economist warns

https://fortune.com/2022/09/26/russian-economy-die-by-winter-says-economist-vladislav-inozemtsev-putin-mobilization/

The economics of war.

#### Understanding Russia's Mobilisation

https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/understanding-russias-mobilisation

War and peace: imagining a way from one to the other in Ukraine

https://thebulletin.org/2022/09/war-and-peace-imagining-a-way-from-one-to-the-other-in-ukraine/

#### #drones

Russian drones

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1575204769009803264.html

Loitering Munitions (not drones)

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1574414714469335046.html

#### #information operations

Burning Bridges, Breaking Contracts

https://euvsdisinfo.eu/burning-bridges-breaking-contracts/

#### **#wargaming**

What war games tell us about a possible Russian invasion of Ukraine

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/02/23/war-games-tell-us-possible-russian-invasion-ukraine/



# #strategy

Sabotage any Strategy

https://www.strategynotes.co/p/sabotage-any-strategy

Applicable in so many other ways.

### Other:

# King Charles III Royal Cypher

King Charles's new royal monogram revealed

https://news.sky.com/story/king-charless-new-royal-cypher-revealed-12705725

King Charles unveils new personal royal cypher - with a nod to grandfather George VI

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2022/09/26/king-charles-unveils-new-personal-royal-cypher-adorn-postboxes/

He chose the Tudor crown rather than the St Edward's crown worn by Queen Elizabeth II.

Tudor crown (mast top?) at Naval Museum of Halifax.





# Commander Royal Canadian Navy Challenge Coin

Commander RCN announces winner of coin design contest

https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/rcn/2022/09/commander-rcn-announces-winner-of-coin-design-contest.html





### Canadian Army Journal Volume 19.3

 $\frac{https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/army-armee/migration/assets/army\_internet/docs/en/canadian-army-journal/caj-19-3-en.pdf$ 

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Lieutenant-Colonel (ret'd) Dave Banks

108 BOOK REVIEWS

# **Casually Identification Program**

Recall that Dr Lockyer, DND Directorate of History and Heritage, spoke to RUSI(NS) and guests in October 2021 about the program (<a href="https://rusi-ns.ca/casualty\_identificaton\_program/">https://rusi-ns.ca/casualty\_identificaton\_program/</a>). Her link is: <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history-heritage/get-answers-military-history-questions.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history-heritage/get-answers-military-history-questions.html</a>



# Dr Sarah Lockyer @S\_Lockyer · 28 September 2022

We need your help again. We received so much good help & information the last time we asked, but we have hit dead ends in our research. Reach out to the Casualty Identification Program at this link & by choosing "Casualty ID" as the Subject.

https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/militaryhistory/history-heritage/get-answers-military-history-questions.html

# 0

# Canadian Armed Forces @ @CanadianForces · 7h

Relatives of 10 of 16 Canadian Army soldiers who went missing in action more than 70 years ago in Korea have now been identified. We're still looking for the families of the other six soldiers. You may be able to help. canada.ca/en/department-...

# MISSING IN KOREA



Donald Frederick Bradshaw Bracebridge, ON



Private Robert Gendron



Donald Perkins Hastings North Vancouver, BC



Private John Paul Keating



Private Joseph Edward Kilpatrick Moreos OC



Gordon William Morrison Walker Monteus, QC

ALT iada.ca/Defence

Canadä

# **Security Affairs Committee Synopsis**

#### O Canada

It was good to see quick action by the provincial premiers after the hurricane/post-tropical storm in getting federal assistance. It was also gratifying to see how quickly the Canadian Armed Forces were able to get on the ground as well. This being said, this storm was the largest to reach Canadian soil on record with many individual records set. The four Atlantic provinces have made large strides in becoming self-sufficient in many aspects in dealing with major emergencies and unlike several past incidents, there didn't seem to be a reluctance to ask for extra help, at least it appeared so from the outside of the emergency measures folks and that is as it should be and interviews with people affected showed their gratitude of rapid and effective action from all levels of government.

Now for the downside: cell service and the provision of electrical power was once again, charitably, abysmal if not worse than previous experiences. Given that these are essentially no-fail services, they consistently fail. There doesn't seem to be any consequences for these consistent failures either. It seems that we need further action to make these providers more accountable for their actions especially if they are a monopoly as is Nova Scotia Power. Many excuses but no performance.

#### The Russia-Ukraine War

The war is well into its eighth month and has taken on the aspects of attritional warfare after a recent successful offensive by Ukraine in the Kharkiv Oblast. Ukraine is keeping up with further yet more limited offensives around the small city of Lyman (approximately 2 to 3k troops) and around Russian occupied Kherson region (up to 25k troops). I n both cases, Ukraine is attempting to encircle large numbers of Russian forces which could lead to a major defeat of Russian forces in both locations. They have had considerable success although they appear to be taking small incremental steps, safeguarding the lives of their soldiers rather than a quick but bloody victory. Ukraine has shown a great ability to learn and adapt their forces to a Western way of fighting with Ukrainian characteristics. They have managed to understand and execute all arms tactics using fires and manoeuvre, supported by extensive logistics to achieve mission success. I have yet to see a video where Ukrainians do advances with a single arm such as armour. Rather, Ukrainians fight with all the pieces available to achieve the ends as well as moving Western provided equipment forward with suitable speed and use it effectively. They also seem to understand the concept that fires have to be concentrated, not the troops and equipment that do the firing. Professionally it is a pleasure to see their success.

I have served with Russian troops on UN missions; I liked them. They were down to earth and knowledgeable in theory. It seems a true tragedy that such soldiers are wasted in a callous manner. They also were relatively disciplined, and it is concerning that basic oversight of troops is not being followed. It seems that they have regressed to a more primitive state in many ways. War crimes are a symptom of a failed and failing army but under the current regime, rampant corruption has permeated through the whole structure at a level well beyond our experience. We knew corruption was bad but this display in Ukraine shows that the entire organization is bad from top to bottom. It cannot succeed and will crumble. Putin and his

regime have absolutely nothing left except its nuclear weapons. Everything else seems almost Potemkin-like from its airborne forces, navy, missile forces, air force and national guard. Virtually nothing is working well and is a façade.

The original "contract" army has been expended. Russia is now calling upon reserves, another Potemkin outfit, allegedly 25m strong, yet most have not been in uniform in some time. Some being called up have no training at all, and reports are that some have received one day's training and are being sent to Ukraine. The initial call up is for 300k although some have speculated that more than a million will actually be called up, both trained and untrained. Current reports estimate that more than 250k men of military age have left the country in the past week. The FSB had already concluded that close to 4m Russians were already gone immediately after 24 February, also mainly the young. More interestingly, demonstrations against mobilization have broken out across the country, led by young women and mothers of servicemen. In Dagestan, women surrounded the police to prevent them from taking young men. In Yakutsk in the far east, the head of recruiting was shot by a young man angry that a friend was being mobilised. As of Sunday past more than 17 recruiting offices were fire bombed as well. President Putin has missed meetings and is alleged to be staying at an estate out of the capital after his mobilization decision and his nuclear threats to the West. There is concern that Russia's nuclear arsenal has not been properly maintained and its condition is somewhat less than good. It may even be more danger to its owner. Needless to say, all is not good in the Russian Federation. How does this end?

This week saw criticism from normally pro-Russian countries including India, Turkey, China and Kyrgyzstan, essentially asking President Putin to withdraw. Even the self-appointed president of Belarus has made less than comfortable remarks to Putin while face-to-face. Keep in mind, even a short while ago no one would have had the temerity to openly suggest such an action to Putin. He has lost face and his image as a strong and decisive leader. Russian history is not kind to dictators and czars who fail, but if anyone can pull this off, it might be Putin although he will still be wounded. Any attempt by him to retain power will require extreme brutality to his own people.

The economy is dying, yes. As President Orban stated, Russia is receiving funds from the sale of oil and gas, I believe he used the figure \$158B in sales of oil and gas, stating that Russia shouldn't gain while Europe suffers. What he doesn't add is that Russia has lost more than 1200 foreign businesses and there have been shutdowns of Russian industry as well because of sanctions putting nearly 6m Russians out of work. Orban is somewhat less than honest in his dealings with Putin and Russia. The EU would be better off removing his country from their ranks until they clean up their act. Authoritarianism must be stopped earlier rather than later.

#### China

The military of the Communist Chinese Party is huge by anyone's standards with 2m active members, what we would call the regular armed forces. Just under half are members of the army, as China concentrates on services that are technologically more advanced. It is hampered by three main weaknesses: corruption, CCP factional wars and the double system of command and political officers. China has changed the dynamic from the model they used

which was the Soviet model whereby the commander outranked the political commissar. China has changed this around such that the commissar outranks the commander.

As we have seen with the current war between Ukraine and Russia, corruption can take the heart and soul out of any armed forces. Many slipshod products have entered service to the expense of the soldiers of the Russian Federation. The PLA has been able to enter into independent commercial ventures under the Zheng Chemin regime. It has allowed for the unchecked growth of overall corruption when awarding contracts as an example.