



## Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 9 December 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](mailto:RUSINSDispatches@gmail.com). Comments to articles can be from members or non-members of RUSI(NS). Any comment in *Dispatches* is the sole opinion of the author and does not necessarily represent the views of the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia, the Department of National Defence or other government department, the Canadian Armed Forces, or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or other agency.

If you wish to receive *Dispatches* at a different address (i.e., not your work address), please inform RUSI(NS). Past editions of *Dispatches* may be requested by contacting RUSI(NS).

### **Home Dispatches**

Submissions are now being received for the December 2022 edition of *Home Dispatches*. Email submissions and comments to [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

### **RUSI(NS) Security Affairs Committee**

The RUSI(NS) SAC meets at Celtic Corner pub, Dartmouth, for lunch every second Friday, followed by a meeting on Zoom at 1400 Atlantic. The next meeting is Friday, 16 December. If you are interested in attending either, please email [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com). For the Zoom meeting, a link will be emailed to you.

### **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](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com). RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice. Email RUSI(NS) if there is a question of an event occurring.

**emended: 18 January**, Wednesday – RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker Scott Hatcher, Canadian Coast Guard, speaking on “Canadian Coast Guard Autonomous Systems and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Program.” 1300-1500 Atlantic. Via Zoom. To register, email [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com) by close-of-business Sunday, 15 January. As the subject line for your registration email, put: RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker 18 January 2023 Registration. In addition to your name, please provide whether you are RUSI(NS), otherwise indicate your organization (association, company or unit).

**New:** 20 January, Friday - Royal Alberta United Services Institute Lunch & Learn "Canada's Naval Reserve: Past, Present, and Future." 1200 MT. Via Zoom (in addition to live). To register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUocOqpqz4tHt3qKTnDOFkLW8UDra0gxU8W>

### **Publications:**

Publications without links are available on request to [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

RUSI(NS) Comments "Royal Canadian Navy Public Affairs Engagement Opportunities ...for Ships" by Steffan Watkins, 26 October 2022, [https://rusi-ns.ca/pa\\_engagement/](https://rusi-ns.ca/pa_engagement/)

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

**New:** Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 7 December 2022  
<https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current>

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

Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XL, Number 11, December 2022

**New:** Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, December 2022  
<https://www.rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/175-rausi-december-2022-dispatches>

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

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>

Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island *Newsletter*, Volume 54, 4th Quarter 2022.

**New:** Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 15, Issue 7, 5 December 2022

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Quarterly Newsletter*, Volume 21, Issue 3, September 2022

St. Francis Xavier University Mulroney Institute of Government *Canadian Naval Review* Volume 18, Number 2 (2022)

United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island *Newsletter*, Vol 30, No 12, December 2022.

**New:** Veterans Affairs Canada *Salute!* December 2022  
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/news-media/salute/2022-12>

**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](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

Esprit de Corps Magazine @edc\_magazine 2 Dec tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Over the next two years announcements are expected to be made on signed contracts for new fighter jets, refueling aircraft and drones.  
(RCAF in the midst of major equipment acquisition drive <http://espritdecorps.ca/feature/rcaf-in-the-midst-of-major-equipment-acquisition-drive>)



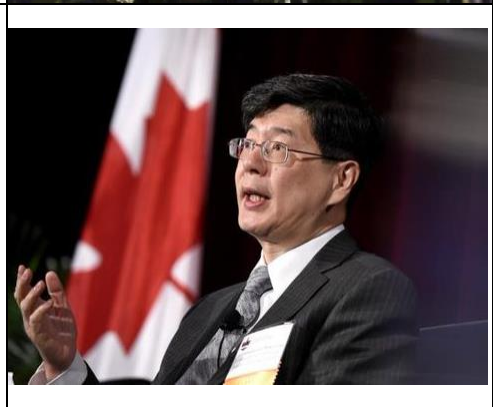
Skies Magazine @SkiesMag Dec 2 tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Skies recently sat down with LGen Kenny, the commander of the @RCAF\_ARC, to discuss a variety of topics including acquisition projects, the personnel shortage, and the Air Force 2035 strategy. Read the interview here: <https://skiesmag.com/.../aligning-air-force-2035.../> #aviationdaily #AvGeek



The Globe and Mail @globeandmail 2 Dec tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: The Canadian Armed Forces are heading for a Titanic collapse  
(<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-canada-military-shortage-crisis/>)



CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 2 Dec tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: "The government of Canada has formally insisted that the Chinese government, including the ambassador and his embassy, take account for any activities within Canada that fall outside of the Vienna Convention."  
(Ottawa seeking talks with China's ambassador over alleged secret police stations  
<https://globalnews.ca/news/9319921/canada-china-police-stations-ambassador/>)  
also: Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations  
[https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/9\\_1\\_1961.pdf](https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/9_1_1961.pdf)



Hybrid CoE @HybridCoE 29 Nov tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Foreign information manipulation and interference #FIMI presents a growing political and security challenge. The latest publication from us and @STRATCOMCOE outlines how a common defence framework against them could look like.  
<https://hybridcoe.fi/publications/hybrid-coe-research-report-7-foreign-information-manipulation-and-interference-defence-standards-test-for-rapid-adoption-of-the-common-language-and-framework-disarm/>  
 (Foreign information manipulation and interference defence standards: Test for rapid adoption of the common language and framework 'DISARM')



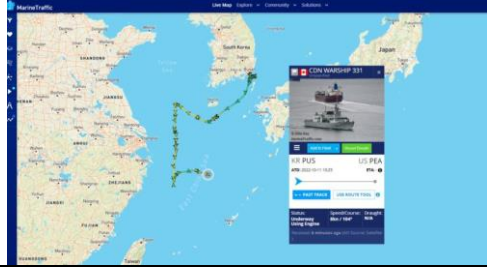
Canadian Armed Forces @CanadianForces 5 Dec tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: It's official! MND Anand has announced that permanent residents (PR) are welcome to apply to join the #CAF. If you're currently a PR, we look forward to working with you to help you find the right career with us and serve the country.  
<https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2022/12/minister-of-national-defence-announces-that-permanent-residents-are-welcome-to-apply-now-to-join-the-canadian-armed-forces.html>  
 (Minister of National Defence announces that permanent residents are welcome to apply now to join the Canadian Armed Forces)



Kraken Robotics @KrakenRobotics 7 Dec tweeted: Kraken Awarded \$50+ Million Navy Contract for Royal Canadian Navy Minehunting Program  
<https://krakenrobotics.com/kraken-awarded-50-million-navy-contract-for-royal-canadian-navy-minehunting-program/>  
 (Kraken Awarded \$50+ Million Navy Contract for Royal Canadian Navy Minehunting Program)  
 RUSI(NS) retweeted: .@RoyalCanNavy to receive 2 Remote (naval) Mine-hunting & Disposal Systems, 1/coast fleet, of 2 classes: Light Weight & Operator Portable Autonomous Underwater Vehicles #AUV  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2022/12/minister-anand-announces-remote-mine-hunting-and-disposal-system-contract-award-to-increase-safety-for-royal-canadian-navy-ships-and-crews.html>  
 Considerable enhancement of #RCNavy mine warfare capability



Steffan Watkins @steffanwatkins Dec 1 tweeted: I wrote something for @RUSI\_NS with RCN PAOs on my mind, but it fits any PAO. Before making public statements, know what's already available through open sources.  
Royal Canadian Navy Public Affairs Engagement Opportunities – for Ships (2022-10-29)  
([https://rusi-ns.ca/pa\\_engagement/](https://rusi-ns.ca/pa_engagement/))



**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.

**Has Canada’s China policy reset failed to launch?:  
Charles Burton in the Toronto Star**

<https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/has-canadas-china-policy-reset-failed-to-launch-charles-burton-in-the-toronto-star/>

"Instead of a sober appraisal about Beijing’s bluntly authoritarian disposition on the global stage, and its candid intention to arbitrarily rule the world order, what we have instead is a grossly underfunded compromise statement that suggests Canada will not be making any fundamental changes in our approach to China.



While the new (Canadian Indo-Pacific) strategy will be seen by some as a starting point, in the months ahead we can expect Japan, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Australia, the UK, Europe and the U.S. to continue imploring Canada to get our act together, and start getting China right."

**Nothing Left To Fight With: A New Paper Calls Out  
America’s Shrinking Air Force And Likelihood It Can’t  
Win Against China**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/erictegler/2022/09/18/nothing-left-to-fight-with-a-new-paper-calls-out-americas-shrinking-air-force-and-the-likelihood-it-cant-win-against-china/>



"...the USAF 'now lacks the capacity to fight a peer conflict, deter elsewhere, and defend the homeland as required by the National Defense Strategy.'"

"...the decline in relative spending on the Air Force, the decreasing number and increasing age of its tactical aircraft fleet and the prospects it faces if funding for modernization and new aircraft is not made available."

And the situation in Canada?

## There is no panacea, competition with China occurs in peace and war

<https://breakingdefense.com/2022/11/there-is-no-panacea-competition-with-china-occurs-in-peace-and-war/>

"...the winner in this race will not necessarily be who can out-scale the other the fastest but who can sustain a comprehensive, full-spectrum contest of diplomatic, informational, military, economic, financial, intelligence, and law enforcement capabilities over the long-term."

There is an ongoing, aggressive competition, one could almost use the term 'war,' between the great powers. The lesser powers (Canada) need to make their efforts whole-of-government, really, whole-of-country, in order not to get run over as the elephants dance.



## Indo-Pacific strategy adds more pressures to navy amid ship, sailor shortages

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9310761/indo-pacific-strategy-navy/>

"One of the hallmarks of the new plan (Indo-Pacific strategy) is for the Canadian Armed Forces to maintain a semi-permanent naval footprint while laying the groundwork for closer military co-operation and collaboration with traditional and non-traditional allies in the region."



Deployment of three plus frigates to the region (taken to be much the south west Pacific) instead of the one or two that have deploying there the last few years will put a great strain on the twelve-frigate Royal Canadian Navy (RCN). The Navy is short of sailors and even when Kingston-class mine operations/patrol vessels take on deployments (west Africa, Europe) and Harry DeWolf-class large patrol vessels start deploying internationally (likely regions where those ships' capabilities are useful), keeping up a presence of three frigates will mean that about half the navy will be busy with that mission (Operation PROJECTION <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-projection.html>). Canada needs its fifteen Canadian Surface Combatant project frigates. Plus a robust patrol force, the Harry DeWolf-class and capable Kingston-class replacements.

And, apparently not addressed in the Indo-Pacific strategy, logistics to support the frequent presence of Canadian frigates in the region. Base arrangements with allies? A Canadian naval logistics hub? Another oiler, additional to ASTERIX? The last allows strategic flexibility.

## A Year of Colliding Consequences – The Global Catastrophic Risks Report 2022

<https://globalchallenges.org/a-year-of-colliding-consequences-the-global-catastrophic-risks-report-2022/>

"Ukraine war, nuclear risk, climate change, Covid intersect (converge) to create unprecedented 'polycrisis'."

New term alert!



### Army plans ‘dramatic’ ammo production boost as Ukraine drains stocks

<https://www.defensenews.com/pentagon/2022/12/05/army-plans-dramatic-ammo-production-boost-as-ukraine-drains-stocks/>

"...the U.S. Army is seeking a “dramatic” ramp up in monthly production of 155mm artillery shells over the next three years..."



How much could the Canadian defence industrial base ramp up production of munitions in the event of a conflict?

Oh, there is one...

### Canada to send more warships to Taiwan Strait as China claims ‘sovereign rights’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/canada-warships-sovereign-rights-china-taiwan-b2239915.html>

"Ottawa will continue to 'enforce international rule-based order' when it comes to the nearly 200km stretch of water that separates Taiwan from mainland China, she (Foreign Minister Joly) said.



Ms Joly...added: 'And that’s why also we had a frigate going through the Taiwan Strait this summer, along with the Americans, [and] we’re looking to have more frigates going through it.'"

There's Chinese 'lawfare' - misrepresenting laws to bully other states - in play here. Good for Canada to be clear it doesn't heed a disruptive power.

Aside: Canada does not do freedom of navigation operations (FONOPS) - that's US doctrine. Canada simply sails where and how international law allows.

### The Future of American Warfare Is Unfolding in Ukraine

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/11/us-military-intervention-afghanistan-ukraine-war/672265/>

"The war in Ukraine proves that the U.S. can provide more effective strategic aid than any other country in the world — without necessarily having to rely on sending its own troops."



Canada, too, has learnt that sending equipment, ammunition, clothing, training, etc., can be more effective to assist friendly states in conflict. We are more than a convening power - we are a supporting power.

**Federal government awarded RCMP contract to firm with ties to China**

<https://www.cbc.ca/amp/1.6676065>

*later:* **Government will review RCMP contract awarded to China-linked company**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/rcmp-contract-government-review-1.6677136>



**Dark fleet and tanker sector reputation risk**

<https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/opinions-analysis/dark-fleet-and-tanker-sector-reputation-risk>

There's economic action ('economic war' if you will) going on as part of the Russia-Ukraine War. A new 'Tanker War.' Is Canada able and willing to undertake the seek and seize operations, whether of the ships or of the supporting people, physical infrastructure and finances, to ensure that these dark fleet tanker activities don't contribute to prolonging the war on Russia's behalf (and behalf of disruptive states supporting Russia)?



**The Strange Missed Opportunities In The USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) Deployment**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/craighooper/2022/12/02/the-strange-missed-opportunities-in-the-uss-gerald-r-ford-cvn-78-deployment/?sh=3b7b02e16b26>

"The missed opportunities by the Navy's failure to commit to the moment are staggering. From Halifax, the vessel could have easily made a quick detour to the north, making a ceremonial cross into the Arctic Circle. And rather than meet the Chief of the Royal Canadian Navy, V Adm Angus Topshee, aboard the USS Ford in late October, Admiral Gilday's staff somehow figured it would be better to introduce the two a week later, in Japan. This prudent exercise in preemptive avoidance was a mistake."

An odd take on things. Despite a good amount of public messaging from official sources about meetings of the Commander Royal Canadian Navy (CRCN) with foreign senior leaders ('key leadership engagement', senior leadership diplomacy - there are books about that) at the time of FORD's port visit to Halifax and afterwards, the reporter made this assessment of 'missed opportunity.' A check with the CRCN's staff could have provided the evidence to demonstrate otherwise.

Showing off ships involves a lot of port visits. Retention is not assisted by keeping ships at sea just to prove how long you can keep a ship at sea (there was a time when such records were prized!).





## **Other Sources:**

### **#China**

China Naval Modernization: Implications for U.S. Navy Capabilities—Background and Issues for Congress 1 December 2022

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RL/RL33153>

Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China DoD Report 2022

<https://www.defense.gov/CMPR/>

### **#cyber operations**

Private-Sector Cyber Defense in Armed Conflict

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/private-sector-cyber-defense-armed-conflict>

### **#intelligence**

Canada struggles with curbing foreign interference: ‘Often we cannot do anything’

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9315653/canada-struggle-foreign-interference/>

### **#land warfare**

Mountain Warfare and Cold Weather Operations Leader's Book

<https://api.army.mil/e2/c/downloads/2021/06/28/7cb663ad/20-14.pdf>

### **#maritime security**

‘Dark activities’ of Russian-linked oil tankers have doubled, analysis shows

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/06/dark-activities-of-russian-linked-oil-tankers-has-doubled-analysis-shows>

### **#intelligence**

Intelligence Gathering and Espionage in the Exclusive Economic Zone: Peaceful or Not?

<https://brill.com/display/book/edcoll/9789004380271/BP000078.xml?language=en>

### **#NATO**

NATO 2022 Strategic Concept

<https://www.nato.int/strategic-concept/>

### **#Royal Canadian Air Force #defence procurement**

RCAF in the Midst of Major Equipment Acquisition Drive

<http://espritdecorps.ca/feature/rcaf-in-the-midst-of-major-equipment-acquisition-drive>

### **#Russia**

The 2022 Maritime Doctrine of the Russian Federation: Mobilization, Maritime Law, and Socio-Economic Warfare

<https://cimsec.org/the-2022-maritime-doctrine-of-the-russian-federation-mobilization-maritime-law-and-socio-economic-warfare/>

## **#Russia-Ukraine War**

### **#culture**

Europeans Have Weapons but Aren't Warriors

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/12/04/europeans-have-weapons-but-arent-warriors>

### **#cyber #NATO**

The Benefits and Risks of Extending Weapons Deliveries to the Cyber Domain

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/benefits-and-risks-extending-weapons-deliveries-cyber-domain>

### **#space**

'Life no longer as we know it': war in space would have devastating effects, military experts say

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/nov/29/life-no-longer-as-we-know-it-war-in-space-would-have-immediate-effects-expert-says>

*RUSI(NS) will host a speaker on the 3 Space Division, February 2023.*

### **#United States**

Navy Force Structure and Shipbuilding Plans: Background and Issues for Congress

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RL/RL32665>

### **#veterans**

Backlog Battles at VAC

<http://espritdecorps.ca/commentary/backlog-battles-at-vac>

### **#wargaming**

The Prussian "Kriegsspiel"

<https://cosimg.github.io/2019/11/03/prussian-kriegsspiel.html>

### **Other:**

**US Army University Press *Military Review* November-December 2022**

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/English-Edition-Archives/November-December-2022/>

contents:

Embracing the Need for Command Climate Change

Cultivating a Coaching Culture

Perception Is Reality: Redefining Capacity to Influence

Haunted by Clausewitz's Ghost: Moral Forces in the Collapse of the Afghan Military

Teach as They Fight: Why Preparing Students for America's Future Operational Environment Requires

Studying Britain's Military Past

Four-Dimensional Planning at the Speed of Relevance: Artificial-Intelligence-Enabled Military Decision-Making Process

Enhancing Situational Understanding through Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Tactical Headquarters

Mission Essential: Digital Interoperability during Multi-National Joint All-Domain Operations

Modernizing Tactical Military Microgrids to Keep Pace with the Electrification of Warfare

Conceptualizing Information Advantage: Using Boyd's OODA Loop

A Balancing Game of Janus: Turkish Armed Forces' Border Security Measures

Russian Logistics and Forward Urban Defense in the Baltic States

To Risk It All: Nine Conflicts and the Crucible of Decision

## Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

### O Canada

Tuesday, MGen Dany Fortin was found not guilty by Quebec courts. The allegation against him involved a sexual assault that was 34 years old and while the judge believed such an event occurred, he was not convinced that MGen Fortin was the person responsible. The real question is what the government is going to do. It was clear at the time that the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence and Minister of Health banded together to have MGen Fortin removed from his position without a proper process. MGen Fortin is 54 years of age and his reputation is damaged despite his not guilty verdict. How will they deal with an innocent man?

Bill 21, a new ban on firearms, has been problematic. The government added more weapons to the list of banned weapons, however, they did it without proper discussion with other parties and simply used the addition by way of a simple amendment. The backlash against the legislation was rapid. The government has promised that it is not after shotguns and rifles that are legitimate hunting weapons. The Prime Minister has stated that this list will be reviewed. The biggest criticism is that it does not target the actual cause of weapons crimes which are usually gang related. The bill targets legitimate hunters and collectors and not the criminal elements who are smuggling weapons across the US-Canadian border. This is likely to cause issues for the foreseeable future.

Security issues regarding the Chinese and Iranian operatives reinforce the need for Canada to develop legislation to deal with foreign agents of influence. The operatives' actions may include provision of money for people willing to support the foreign power's position. It may include action against people who are opposed to the foreign powers' positions, it may include activities to support protest organizations to damage key industries or businesses. Foreign influence apparently did take place in the 2019 election. Even the Prime Minister admits that this occurred. The PM has suggested that this had no negative effect on the election, however, such an admission does pose a problem for every citizen. A foreign power did try to influence our election and we did very little if anything to stop it. It means there are eleven ridings that may have had people elected or not elected because of this influence. It means our electoral process now has a level of doubt in its outcome. This is likely to become a more serious issue in the future. An investigation is required and preventative legislation must be developed to prevent even the appearance of foreign influence.

A part of foreign influence is apparently the number of identified Peoples' Republic police stations. now back to the original five with three in Toronto and at least one in Vancouver and one more in an unidentified location. It appears these illegal police stations are used to maintain surveillance of the Chinese diaspora to identify opposition leadership, especially from Hong Kong, to identify alleged criminals and to persuade them to return to Chinese justice, and of course to provide services to the Chinese diaspora. All of this has been done without the approval of the Canadian government. The RCMP are now investigating. It appears that these are co-located with major centres with large populations of Canadian Chinese. One might also expect to find perhaps a station in geographically important locations such as Montreal or Halifax. One of the more benign sounding organizations within the United Front is the Confucius Institutes that teach mandarin Chinese. These are found in schools and universities throughout Canada. They also provide a platform for Chinese influence operations. China has also used book deals and contributions to charitable foundations as a way to gain a favourable view of China. These are non-kinetic attacks, all with the view of acquiring influence. These are not benign acts, they are deliberate with the view to gain political influence or for information gathering. It can and will continue non-kinetic attacks against Canada through influence operations, financial warfare and lawfare operations within our own courts. China is not a friend. Our Indo-Pacific policy must be more robust and forthright in our dealing with China.

One last point in our comments on Canada's rather naïve actions as a country. Wednesday, it was announced that a Canadian firm was awarded a major contract on communications security. Unfortunately, the firm has major connections to the Chinese. Despite all the Chinese actions on espionage and non-kinetic attacks, we still have people who are unconscious when it comes to security issues. This is not an OK situation, it is an excellent way to lose the confidence of our allies if they haven't lost confidence already due to our lack of effort or thought. China and companies with Chinese connections cannot be permitted to bid on security contracts, ever. They can and will take advantage of the situation therefore they cannot be given opportunities of this nature.

### **The United States**

The US has five carrier battle groups at sea at present. It means that the US is surging its naval forces along with allied forces including Britain, France and Italy which also have created carrier battle groups. Essentially the US is working almost a one-to-one ratio of carriers at sea to those in port. How long this can be maintained is a major question. The other countries only have one active carrier available, although Italy is working on a second carrier. This is likely unsustainable in the long run.

The US mid-terms finally have ended after Senator Raphael Warnock won re-election in Georgia. This leaves a standing of 51 Democrats elected and 49 Republicans in the Senate. The House has flipped to the Republicans with 222 Republicans versus 213 Democrats, giving a nine-vote margin in favour of the Republicans. It is a relatively small margin and may cause issues when the vote for the Speaker of the House is called. Kevin McCarthy was expected to win this position, however, he has run into significant opposition within his own party with five or six members refusing to vote for him. The reasons are many but most of these opposition come from the more radical side of the party, better known as the Trump base. There is now some question whether he will in fact be elected on 3 January 2023. Time will tell but he may have to sell his soul to achieve his goal.

There was an attack on two North Carolina electrical sub-stations this past week. The damage is still under repair. At this point it is considered a domestic terrorism event and is still under investigation.

Trump's main company was found guilty of 17 separate charges. It is not expected to cause bankruptcy for the corporation, however, a criminal investigation has been restarted against the Trump family. This conviction of the company coupled with Donald Trump's bizarre statement on social media to forget the Constitution has caused major angst in the Republican Party. It is also clear that his endorsement has become a major hurdle for Republican candidates. Does this mean that Trump's political career is over? The answer is apparently no as the Trump base seems almost impervious to any of Trump's personal actions. Trump is 78 and will be 80 when 2024 comes along, so at what point does Trump's re-election become untenable?

### **Iran**

Demonstrations are continuing throughout most of Iran's major cities despite dire threats from authorities. Currently the country is in the third day of a general strike without an apparent end date. More than 400 people have so far been killed, which also includes somewhere around 60 security force personnel, and more than 18000 are currently arrested and being held for their protests. Five more protesters have been sentenced to death, however, they were convicted of killing a Basij militia man during demonstrations. The "courts" have been very summary in their work and the chances of a fair hearing are somewhat less than possible. This is on track to be the longest anti-government demonstration in some time and the calls for the removal of the regime and Ali Khamenei to resign have been getting more pronounced. It has kept the regime busy and unable to operate effectively in its

other areas of concern such as Syria, Lebanon and Yemen. Will the regime fall? It is unlikely as there is no specific leadership for the demonstrations nor is there a government in waiting that could quickly take the reins of power. It is likely if the regime does fall that the demonstrators may separate into hostile elements and send the country into a period of chaos.

### **Belarus**

The Belarus government continues to avoid going to war against Ukraine. As mentioned before, over 90% of the country are firmly against any participation. Acts of sabotage are continuing unabated, especially along transportation routes and rail systems. It is highly likely that Ukrainian forces know exactly where Russian forces are located and their condition. Currently, the figure considered most reliable seems to put Russian forces in Belarus at 10k. Belarus bases have been used to fire missiles, rockets, and drones. One point is increasingly clear, Lukashenko will not go to war with Ukraine unless there is absolutely no choice. It is likely that Belarussian troops may simply turn their weapons on Russian troops. Lukashenko is likely to avoid such an act at all costs. However, with the death of his foreign minister under mysterious circumstances, he may try to find a way to save his own life and that of his family. He has few if any friends in the world except Vladimir Putin. Not an especially good situation. I hope he has an escape plan for his family...but to where?

### **Russia-Ukraine War**

There have been no major advances by either side in the past week on the frontlines. Ukraine is shaping the battlefield in the north around Svatova and Kremmina and the south around Kherson and Zaporizhye. Russia is continuing a series of frontal attacks in the town of Bakhmut and surrounding areas which have caused enormous casualties to Russian forces with little to show for it. Ukrainians have stated that even if Bakhmut falls it will be of limited value as all routes can be quickly covered with existing forces. The battles have become an artillery "slug fest" causing casualties and damage with little gain. The main reason is that most of the battlefield is not frozen yet and heavier vehicles tend to bog down in the mud, so going is slow and therefore the heavier vehicles make excellent slow-moving targets on roads.

The big story continues to be the air war. Neither Russia nor Ukraine has gained air superiority even for short periods. Both nations have changed the nature and characteristics of their longer-range attacks. Russia continues to use naval and air resources for their air campaign against Ukraine's power grid. Ukrainian air defences are now stopping nearly 86% of all of Russia's attacks and this is likely to get better as newer air defence systems are provided in sufficient numbers to knock out Russian missiles rockets and drones. This Monday past, Russia launched 72 missiles according to a reliable source of which 72 were destroyed before hitting their targets. The number of missiles might have been higher if Ukraine had not attacked two Russian bomber bases with long range drones. Ukraine apparently used a former Soviet designed reconnaissance drone called the Tu-141. The old drone was apparently modified with newer navigation equipment and possibly a newer engine allowing the drone to have a range around 1000 km. Two airbases were attacked on Sunday: Engels-2 air base near Saratov, the home of both Tu-95 (20) and Tu-160 (14), Dyagiliva air base near Ryazan housing Tu-22M bombers and heavy Il-76 tanker aircraft. These two attacks are estimated to have destroyed or damaged somewhere between two and seven aircraft. One Tu-95 and one Tu-22M were obviously damaged as shown in verified pictures. Blast damage can reach further but the aircraft may look intact. The attack force at Engels was only 14 aircraft mainly Tu-95. Even a damaged aircraft may be out of commission for a prolonged time due to sanctions. All three bomber types are out of production although the Tu-160 maybe being built in its original factory in Kazakhstan. The rate of production is believed to be very low and based on four old air frames that were never used. The main delay is the production of the engines which is also very slow with one estimate saying only one or two engines per

year. The bottom-line is the loss or damage to any of these aircraft is likely to remove the aircraft for the remainder of the war because the parts are no longer made and substitutes cannot be found overseas because of sanctions. Ukraine conducted two attacks early Wednesday, destroying two fuel depots, one at Kursk airfield slightly over 100 kms away and at Byansk. Both were still on fire at the time of writing. The biggest story is that Ukraine can now hit virtually all of European Russia including Moscow. It will be a major shock to the Russian people.

The war continues to remain relatively popular but recent polls by the Levada Institute now indicate that a substantial portion want the war to end. The latest poll suggested around 53%. Milbloggers and television hosts of popular news talk shows are increasingly and vocally condemning the war on air including directly commenting about President Putin. Most, however, are attacking the general officers running the war as opposed to Putin himself, although this too seems to be changing with his personal popularity dipping in comparison to his normal high 70 to low 80 percentile.

This war was truly needless. It made no sense at all even with Putin's justification which seemed to be based on an alternate reality. Russia has done mortal damage to itself. It took a friendly nation and turned it into an enemy which is unlikely to stop and has proven to be willing and able to make sacrifices, learn from mistakes and improvise both tactics and equipment, all the while taking in large quantities of new modern equipment. Russia has very little left to resort to except its nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. It is no longer able to win conventionally even with increasing numbers. This coming year will force a decision on Russia. It will no longer be state able to improve the prospects of its people and its economy will be worse than many third world countries. Putin has taken a large resource-filled country and made it a world pariah. He now has a legacy that will likely stand the test of time as a truly reviled leader.

## **China**

China seems to be allowing some lifting of Covid restrictions caused in part by ongoing demonstrations throughout the country. The restrictions although moderated are still capable of being ramped up quickly. There is realization that the temporary hospitals have proven to be less than sanitary and may even be a source for further infection including Covid and allow for other diseases to take hold. China's excess deaths is very high. People were restricted from getting proper care for heart, diabetes, cancers, pneumonia. etc., which are far more prevalent cause of deaths. China is currently seeing increases in the number of Covid infections now exceeding 30k a day. China is woefully unprotected and these numbers are likely to rise significantly. China still has refused to accept Western vaccines, relying on its ineffective Chinese versions. The Covid situation is likely to become much worse before it gets better.

Apple is moving a large portion of its iPhone production out of China to other countries such as India and Vietnam. Last week saw the demonstration by Foxconn employees followed by the brutal attack by police clad in protective gear. China is an authoritarian state, it relies on brute force as the first and last resort. Chinese authorities also have used the social credit system coupled with face recognition to identify key protesters. Once identified the police than track the individual to their home and arrest them as opposed to doing so at the demonstrations and thus causing more violence.

China's economy continues to slip especially in the property development sector but also banking. The Communist Chinese Party has "dumped" nearly two trillion dollars into the economy mainly on infrastructure. This infrastructure is not needed and adds to an already desperate situation. Economists within South-East Asia are pessimistic about China's actions which may lead to a further deterioration of the economy. The new Standing Committee and Politburo are unlikely to change Xi's course and make better choices in investments. The new folks are less likely than ever to speak truth to power and

China's situation will deteriorate further in at least the near term. China's crash will have world-effecting consequences. Will they recover from this action in the longer term depends on whether they remove the Communist Chinese Party.



CANADIAN FORCES INTELLIGENCE COMMAND  
COMMANDEMENT DU RENSEIGNEMENT DES FORCES CANADIENNES

#### RUSSIA'S CLAIM:

Officials in occupied areas of Ukraine claim that Russian and proxy forces are close to completing an "operational encirclement" of the Ukrainian-held town of Bakhmut.

#### BASED ON CANADIAN FORCES INTELLIGENCE COMMAND ANALYSIS:

- The Bakhmut area is one of the few locations where Russian forces are still attempting offensive operations. Russia has gained little ground despite funnelling significant resources to the area in recent months.
- Moscow has repeatedly overstated the importance of its recent marginal gains. Ukrainian forces continue to defend the town, and supply lines remain open.
- Beyond Ukraine's defenses, the poor quality of Russian forces and adverse seasonal conditions will further limit the short-term prospects for a significant Russian breakthrough in the area.

UKRAINE / RUSSIA UPDATE // 2022-12-01



National  
Defence  
Défense  
nationale

Defence  
Intelligence

UPDATE ON UKRAINE  
02 December 2022

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russia's withdrawal from the west bank of the Dnipro River last month has provided the Ukrainian Armed Forces with opportunities to strike additional Russian logistics nodes and lines of communication.
- This threat has highly likely prompted Russian logisticians to relocate supply nodes, including rail transfer points, further south and east. Russian logistics units will need to conduct extra labour-intensive loading and unloading from rail to road transport. Road moves will subsequently still be vulnerable to Ukrainian artillery as they move on to supply Russian forward defensive positions.
- Russia's shortage of munitions (exacerbated by these logistics challenges) is likely one of the main factors currently limiting Russia's potential to restart effective, large scale offensive ground operations.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russian forces continue to invest a large element of their overall military effort and firepower along an approximately 15km long sector of entrenched front line around the Donetsk Oblast town of Bakhmut.
- Russia's plan is likely to encircle the town with tactical advances to the north and south. In recent days, Russia has highly likely made small advances on the southern axis of this assault, where it is seeking to consolidate limited bridgeheads to the west of the boggy ground around the minor Bakhmutka River.
- Russia has prioritised Bakhmut as its main offensive effort since early August 2022. The capture of the town would have limited operational value although it would potentially allow Russia to threaten the larger urban areas of Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. However, the campaign has been disproportionately costly relative to these possible gains. There is a realistic possibility that Bakhmut's capture has become primarily a symbolic, political objective for Russia.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Recent polling suggests that Russian public support for the 'special military operation' is falling significantly.
- An independent Russian media outlet has claimed access to data collected by Russia's Federal Protective Service for internal use. The data indicated 55% of Russians favour peace talks with Ukraine, with only 25% claiming to support continuing the conflict. These results are consistent with a separate October 2022 survey where 57% of respondents reported being in favour of talks. In April 2022, around 80% of Russians claimed to support the operation.
- Despite the Russian authorities' efforts to enforce pervasive control of the information environment, the conflict has become increasingly tangible for many Russians since the September 2022 'partial mobilisation'. With Russia unlikely to achieve major battlefield successes in the next several months, maintaining even tacit approval of the war amongst the population is likely to be increasingly difficult for the Kremlin.



## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- In recent months, the number of sorties conducted by Russian tactical combat aircraft over Ukraine has reduced significantly. Russian aircraft now probably conducts tens of missions per day, compared to a high of up to 300 per day in March 2022.
- Russia has now lost over 60 fixed-wing aircraft in the conflict, likely including an additional Su-24M FENCER fighter-bomber and a Su-25 FROGFOOT ground attack aircraft last week.
- The decrease in sorties is likely a result of continued high threat from Ukrainian air defences, limitations on the flying hours available to Russian aircraft, and worsening weather. With Russia's ground attack tactics largely reliant on visual identification and unguided munitions, the Russian air force will likely continue a low rate of ground attack operations through the poor winter weather.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 05 December 2022, multiple open sources reported explosions at Engels Airbase, in Russia's Saratov Oblast, and at Dyagilyaev airfield near Ryazan, south-east of Moscow. Two Tu-95 BEAR heavy bombers were reportedly damaged at Engels and three people were killed when a fuel tank exploded at Dyagilyaev.
- The causes of the explosions have not been confirmed. However, if Russia assesses the incidents were deliberate attacks, it will probably consider them as some of the most strategically significant failures of force protection since its invasion of Ukraine. The sites are much deeper inside Russia than previous similar explosions: Engels is over 600km from Ukrainian-controlled territory.
- Engels is the main operating base of Russia's Long Range Aviation (LRA) within western Russia and is home to more than 30 heavy bombers. These aircraft contribute to Russia's nuclear deterrent and have also frequently been used to launch conventional cruise missiles at Ukraine. The LRA is likely to respond by temporarily moving bombers to dispersal airfields. The Russian chain of command will probably seek to identify and impose severe sanctions on Russian officers deemed responsible for allowing the incident.



#### RUSSIA'S CLAIM:

Russia's Ministry of Defence claims that the most recent wave of air strikes launched against Ukraine on December 5 hit all designated targets and achieved all of its objectives in terms of disrupting Ukrainian military operations.

#### BASED ON CANADIAN FORCES INTELLIGENCE COMMAND ANALYSIS:

- As it has been the case during previous Russian air strikes, Ukrainian air defence successfully intercepted a significant proportion of the missiles fired at locations throughout Ukraine.
- Despite the damage inflicted on Ukraine's critical infrastructure in recent months, the Ukrainian armed forces are sustaining their logistics support and frontline combat operations.



## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russia has recently started extending defensive positions along its international border with Ukraine, and deep inside its Belgorod region. On 6 December 2022, the governor of Belgorod announced he was establishing local 'self-defence units'. Trench digging has been reported in Belgorod since at least April 2022, but the new constructions are probably more elaborate systems, designed to rebuff mechanised assault.
- There is a realistic possibility that the Russian authorities are promoting defensive preparations within internationally recognised Russian territory to burnish patriotic feeling. However, it probably illustrates some Russia decision-makers' genuine (but false) belief that there is a credible threat of invasion by Ukrainian forces.
- Paucity in strategic assessment is one of the critical weaknesses in the central Russian government architecture: as highlighted by Russia's original decision to invade Ukraine. Impartial official analysis is almost certainly frequently undermined by a tendency toward group-think and politically expedient conclusions.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Elements of Russia's 1st Guards Tank Army (1 GTA) are likely deployed along the defensive line near the Luhansk Oblast town of Svatove.
- The supposedly elite 1 GTA took heavy casualties earlier in the war, including during the retreat from Kharkiv Oblast in September 2022. It has now likely been partially reinforced with mobilised reservists, although remaining well below its authorised strength of over 25,000 personnel.
- Russia has now completed almost continuous trench systems along the 60km between Svatove and the Russian border. Despite the length of these works, however, the depth of the defences remains unclear. The effectiveness of 1 GTA and other formations' defensive operations will largely depend upon the extent of mutually supporting, fall-back positions.