



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 16 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. 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).

The Christmas truce of 1914

In December 1914, something incredible happened on the Western Front of the First World War. In the midst of brutal fighting, Christmas spirit came to the front lines.

After more than four months of brutal trench warfare, soldiers were dreading being away from their families during the holidays.

Then, on December 24, soldiers from both sides put down their weapons and stepped out of their trenches. They met in no man's land and exchanged gifts, took photographs and some even played impromptu games of soccer.

For a short time, there was peace.

More than 100 years later, the story of the Christmas truce lives on in our hearts and memories.

Happy holidays!

(VAC Salut! December 2022)



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.

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. More to follow.

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/tZUocOqqz4tHt3qKTnDOFkLW8UDra0gxU8W>

Publications:

Publications without links are available on request to 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/

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

New: Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XLI, Number 1, January 2023

New: Naval Association of Canada recording “From the Quarterdeck: the current state of the Navy” by VAdm Topshee, Commander Royal Canadian Navy, 5 December 2022
<https://youtu.be/IWUBjaA2Cyk>

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 8, 12 December 2022

New: Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Quarterly Newsletter*, Volume 21, Issue 4, December 2022

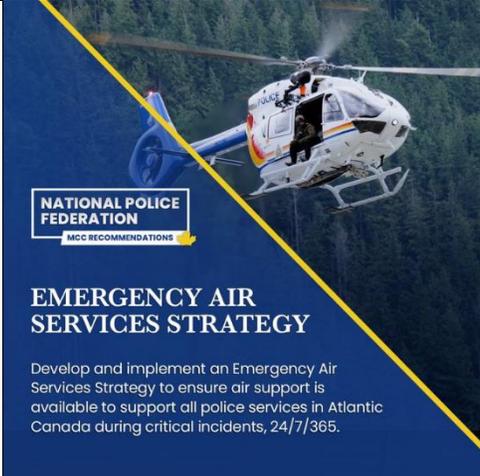
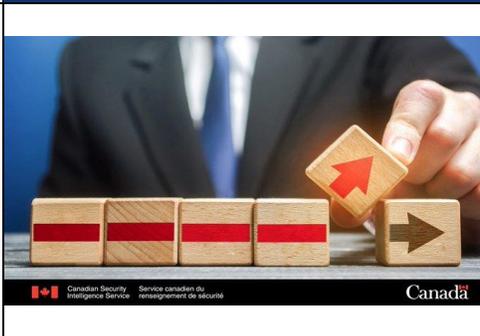
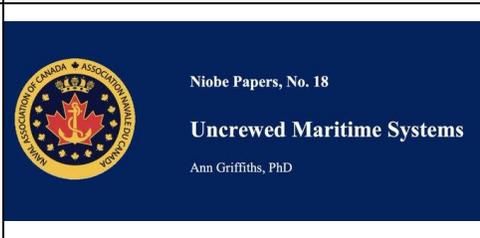
St. Francis Xavier University Mulroney Institute of Government *Canadian Naval Review* Volume 18, Number 2 (2022)

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

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.

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| <p>National Police Federation in Nova Scotia @OurNSRCMP 3 Dec tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Our highly trained and specialized RCMP Members need access to appropriate air support that is available to all police services in Atlantic Canada every day of the year. Review the NPF's Emergency Air Services Strategy recommendations at: https://ournsrcmp.ca/mcc/airsupport/ #MCC (An Emergency Air Support Strategy for the Atlantic)</p> |  |
| <p>CSIS Canada @csiscanada Dec 13 tweeted: In the fast-paced, ever-evolving world in which we live, CSIS is ready to quickly shift its focus based on the circumstances. That is why we constantly review our priorities to ensure they reflect the current threat environment. Read about our work: https://www.canada.ca/en/security-intelligence-service/corporate/publications/csis-2021-public-report.html RUSI(NS) retweeted: Canadian Security Intelligence Service Public Report 2021. "Threats to Canada's National Security" a worthwhile read</p> |  |
| <p>The Naval Association of Canada @navalasn 8 Dec tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Our Naval Affairs Program publishes Niobe Papers periodically. Dr. Ann Griffiths explores Uncrewed Maritime Systems in the 18th of the series. @RoyalCanNavy @CoastGuardCAN https://www.navalassoc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Griffiths-Uncrewed-19.pdf</p> |  |
| <p>Canadian Armed Forces @CanadianForces Dec 8 tweeted: Members of #CANSOFCOM and the @CanadianArmy have recently completed a rotation of #OpNABERIUS, a long-term operation that is part of a coordinated effort with @CanadaFP to combat violent extremist organizations in the Sahel. https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-naberius.html (Operation NABERIUS) RUSI(NS) retweeted: Operation NABERIUS #OpNABERIUS=@CanadianForces training of Forces armées nigériennes to build Nigerien military&security forces capacity & counter violent extremist organizations in Sahel.</p> |  |

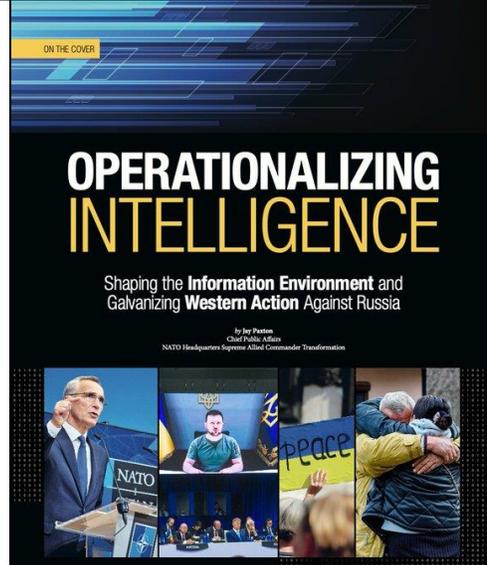
Funded by Global Affairs Canada 🇨🇦 @GAC_Corporate Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Program

NATO ACT @NATO_ACT 14 Dec tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: "Strategic openness, as well as truthful & accurate information flow are lessons to be harnessed if the West, #NATO in particular, is to operate the information environment" states @JayPaxton_, Chief Public Affairs @NATO_ACT in this article:

https://jwc.nato.int/download_file/view/2076/277

#WeAreNATO

(Operationalizing Intelligence - Shaping the Information Environment and Galvanizing Western Action Against Russia)



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 14 Dec tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Defence Minister Anand considering multi-billion dollar purchase of U.S. built surveillance aircraft <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/defence-minister-anand-considering-multi-billion-dollar-purchase-of-u-s-built-surveillance-aircraft> via @ottawacitizen



Governor General of Canada @GGCanada Dec 9 tweeted: Distinctive to each regiment, the guidon is a symbol of identity, history, duty and sacrifice. Today, #GGSimon presented a new guidon, now emblazoned with the Afghanistan Battle Honour, to the Royal Canadian Dragoons at Garrison Petawawa. @CanadianForces 🇨🇦 RUSI(NS) retweeted: Gallery of @CanadianForces Guidons, colours and standards <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/defence/caf/military-identity-system/guidons-colours-standards-gallery/gallery-guidons-colours-standards-army.html> "The guidons, colours and standards are distinctive symbols or emblems used to visually identify a military organization and foster the pride and continuity necessary for operational effectiveness."



CTV News Calgary @CTVCalgary 8 Dec tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: The Canadian Armed Forces says it has received hundreds of applications from permanent residents interested in joining the military, but getting those prospective recruits into uniform could take up to two years. (Military received 2,400 applications from permanent residents in November
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/military-received-2-400-applications-from-permanent-residents-in-november-1.6185789>)

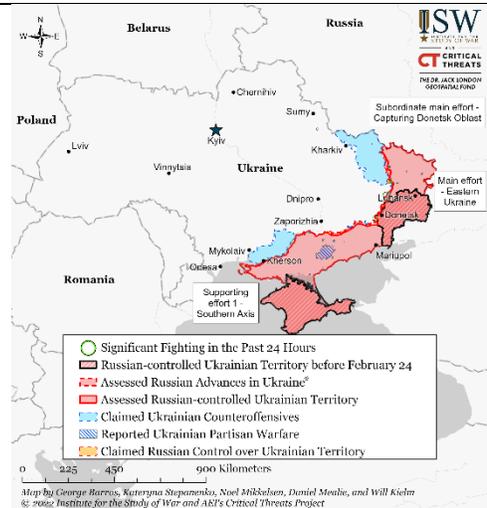


DND/CAF Ombudsman @DNDCF_Ombudsman 15 Dec tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: We are proud of what we achieved in 2021–2022, and look forward to another successful year ahead. Our annual report summarizes the impact of our efforts. Find it at
<https://canada.ca/en/ombudsman-national-defence-forces/reports-news-statistics/annual-reports-statistics/2021-2022-annual-report.html>



Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, December 9

ISW @TheStudyofWar 9 Dec tweeted: An independent open-source investigation by BBC’s Russia service and independent Russia outlet Mediazona offered a series of observations on the nature of losses suffered by Russian troops in Ukraine, some of which run contrary to previous ISW assessments.
<https://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/russian-offensive-campaign-assessment-december-9>



Humour as a weapon

Defense of Ukraine @DefenceU Dec 12 tweeted: Cannon fodder grinder



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.

MV ASTERIX: An Unexpected Shipbuilding Success Story

<http://espritdecorps.ca/feature/mv-asterix-an-unexpected-shipbuilding-success-story>

"Davie and Federal Fleet Services ... officials point out ASTERIX can be used in combat as the vessel has been outfitted with similar navigation and other systems that will eventually be installed on a new future fleet of Canadian warships. In addition, the company has acquired insurance coverage for the vessel to operate in high risk and war risk areas, Davie noted in a previous statement on its website."



Any vessel can be used in a combat, high risk or war risk area (what are the definitions of those?), whether it is worth the risk is the question. ASTERIX is not a combatant, it is an auxiliary. But that is just a designation and doesn't preclude employment where there is conflict. Smartly, ASTERIX has been configured for if not fitted with the systems to help defend the vessel if necessary.

Who will win in Ukraine? It could hinge on which side can secure enough artillery ammunition

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/will-russia-or-ukraine-run-out-of-ammo-first-rcna61539>

"The vast amount of weapons and ammunition expended in Ukraine has prompted Pentagon leaders to re-examine America's contingency plans and stockpiles in the case of future conflicts..."



What are Canadian stockpiles? What are plans, government and industry, to scale up and increase ammunition production? Can it be done in Canada? If not, what needs to be done to ensure security of sourcing ammunition for the Canadian military? Have plans at least been gamed or exercised?

RCMP scraps tech contract worth \$550K with firm tied to China after outcry

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9335471/rcmp-china-contract-sinclair-norsat-hytera/>

"The RCMP says it is suspending a radio communications contract with an Ontario-based company that has ties to China amid concerns of foreign interference."



Good to read that Sinclair Technologies contracts are being investigated.

Should never have got to this point...

Congress supersedes munitions production with emergency authorities

<https://www.defensenews.com/congress/budget/2022/12/13/congress-supersedes-munitions-production-with-emergency-authorities/>



Do Canadian laws and regulations allow for emergency production of munition? That needs to be checked, and the process made evident to munitions users, industry and all Canadians.

Only Russia’s decisive loss on the battlefield will end the Ukraine war

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/only-russias-decisive-loss-on-the-battlefield-will-end-the-ukraine-war/>



War termination is a field that military and civil leaders alike need to study, plan for, game and exercise. Particularly with allies.

NATO holding armoured-gun competition in Latvia to test abilities of tank units

<https://www.nsnews.com/national-news/nato-holding-armoured-gun-competition-in-latvia-to-test-abilities-of-tank-units-6122529>



"Although tanks have shown their limits in the war in Ukraine, they remain the centrepiece of the battlefield..."

Tanks are part of a balanced army. Just have to figure out what the balance is. Much driven by the geo-strategic situation of the state.

China’s War Against Taiwan Has Already Started

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/12/taiwan-china-disinformation-propaganda-russian-influence/672453/>



"The tactics that the Taiwanese are developing to fight Chinese cognitive warfare, economic pressure, and political manipulation will eventually be needed in other countries too."

"By shoring up democracy, by smoothing polarization, by bringing more people into an active engagement with public life, all of them hope to convince China that an invasion is too costly and risky."

Chinese cognitive warfare ("not just propaganda but an attempt to create a mindset of surrender") and tactics to fight it need to be a field of study by military and civil leaders. Of study, and the counter-measures of practice.

Other Sources:

#Arctic

Is US ready for more Arctic shipping?

<https://www.freightwaves.com/news/is-us-ready-for-more-arctic-shipping>

Breaking the Ice: The Military and Arctic Populations

<https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/articles/breaking-the-ice/>

#strategy

U.S. Maritime Strategy in the Arctic - Past, Present, and Future

<https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=8290&context=nwc-review>

#Canadian Armed Forces

Minister Anand updates Parliament on reforms to address sexual harassment and misconduct in the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2022/12/minister-anand-updates-parliament-on-reforms-to-address-sexual-harassment-and-misconduct-in-the-department-of-national-defence-and-the-canadian-arm.html>

Update on Madame Arbour's Independent External Comprehensive Review Final Report and Culture Change Reforms in the Department of National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces to Address Sexual Harassment and Misconduct

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2022/12/update-on-madame-arbours-independent-external-comprehensive-review-final-report-and-culture-change-reforms-in-the-department-of-national-defence-an.html>

Anand begins process for cultural reform

<https://frontline.online/defence/featured/11744>

Time to reset colleges to military academies?

<https://frontline.online/defence/featured/11759-Time-to-reset-colleges-to-military-academies>

Louise Arbour accuses military of foot-dragging, blasts progress on misconduct reform

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/louise-arbour-accuses-military-of-foot-dragging-blasts-progress-on-misconduct-reform-1.6192269>

#drones

A Comparative Study of Non-State Violent Drone use in the Middle East

<https://icct.nl/publication/comparative-study-non-state-violent-drone-use-in-middle-east/>

#Indo-Pacific

Why care about Taiwan, besides its chip tech?

<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/47>

#information operations

Kremlin ABC: Adapt Focus. Blame Others. Cancel Events.

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/kremlin-abc-adapt-focus-blame-others-cancel-events/>

#intelligence

Rise of Open-Source Intelligence Tests U.S. Spies

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/rise-of-open-source-intelligence-tests-u-s-spies-11670710806>

#legal #information technology #Russia-Ukraine War

Disentangling The Digital Battlefield: How the Internet Has Changed War

<https://warontherocks.com/2022/12/disentangling-the-digital-battlefield-how-the-internet-has-changed-war/>

#reading

What books are US Army leaders reading?

<https://www.defensenews.com/outlook/2022/12/05/what-books-are-us-army-leaders-reading/>

A Year in #Reviewing

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2022/12/12/a-year-in-reviewing>

#Russia

Russia Studies Program

<https://www.cna.org/centers-and-divisions/cna/sppp/russia-studies>

#Russia-Ukraine War

Many of Ukraine's Western Weapons Await Repairs Far From the Front Line

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/many-of-ukraines-western-weapons-await-repairs-far-from-the-front-line-11670667085>

Logistics!

Adaptation in the Russia-Ukraine War

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1601780205235843073.html>

Armour

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1596180935711465472.html>

War of attrition: Russia's stubborn fight for Ukraine's Bakhmut

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20221209-war-of-attrition-russia-s-stubborn-fight-for-ukraine-s-bakhmut>

Russia's war on Ukraine: a view from the Czech Republic

insightful: <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/russias-war-on-ukraine-a-view-from-the-czech-republic/>

He will drown "Moscow": unknown details. How the Ukrainian "Neptun" destroyed the flagship of the Russian fleet

[https://www.pravda-com-ua.translate.google.com/rus/articles/2022/12/13/7380452/? x tr sl=auto& x tr tl=en& x tr hl=en-US& x tr pto=wapp](https://www.pravda-com.ua.translate.google.com/rus/articles/2022/12/13/7380452/? x tr sl=auto& x tr tl=en& x tr hl=en-US& x tr pto=wapp)

#economic warfare

Sanctions Batter Russia As The Kremlin Attempts To Overcome Them

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/06122022-sanctions-batter-russia-as-the-kremlin-attempts-to-overcome-them-oped/>

#Russia-Ukraine War #casualties

Defense of Ukraine @DefenceU 14 Dec tweeted: "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men."

General George S. Patton

Total combat losses of the enemy from Feb 24 to Dec 14:

Also:

Casualty Estimates for the Russo-Ukrainian War 14 December 2022

<http://www.dupuyinstitute.org/blog/2022/12/14/casualty-estimates-for-the-russo-ukrainian-war/>



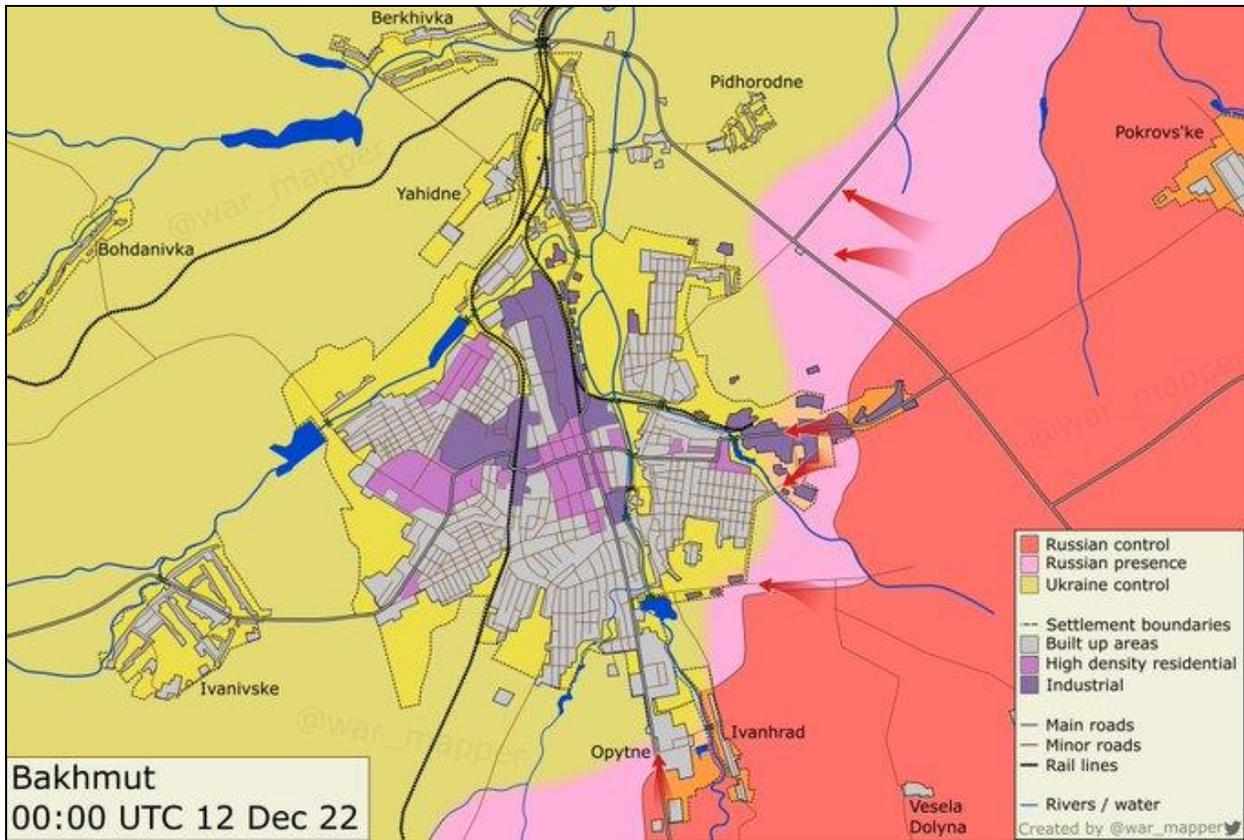
War Mapping

War Mapper @War_Mapper 12 Dec tweeted: A close-up look at the situation on the ground around the frontline city of Bakhmut as of the 12th of December.

https://twitter.com/War_Mapper/status/1602367642135891968

Mick Ryan, AM @WarintheFuture 12 dec retweeted: Throughout the war in #Ukraine, @War_Mapper has provided outstanding regular updates on developments in the war. Here is the latest, focussed on the situation in the Battle of #Bakhmut.

See next page:



Belarus

TankDiary @TankDiary 13 Dec tweeted: Belarus is checking its troops for combat readiness - Made this back in March but I still think the conclusion is the same, I don't see Belarus adding its own troops to the war now if it didn't do it back then

From CDA Institute 13 Dec 22:

“Belarus has four to seven Battalion Tactical Groups (BTG) between Brest and Gomel to fix Ukrainian troops in the North and prevent them from reinforcing forces fighting to the south. At least 12,000 Russian troops are also stationed in Belarus as part of a "regional grouping" of forces. Russia has continued to send reinforcements to Belarus.

Russia transferred MiG fighter aircraft from Ryazan to Belarus today as Belarus announced combat readiness drills in tandem with this redeployment.”

WHAT CAN BELARUS BRING?

MANOEUVRE FORCES

6TH GUARDS MECHANISED BRIGADE

- 2 TANK BATTALIONS, T-72B (30 TANKS EACH),
- 4 MECHANISED BATTALIONS, BMP-1/2 (40 IFVS EACH)

11TH GUARDS MECHANISED BRIGADE

- 2 TANK BATTALIONS, T-72B (30 TANKS EACH),
- 3 MECHANISED BATTALIONS, BMP-1/2 (40 IFVS EACH)

19TH GUARDS MECHANISED BRIGADE

- 2 TANK BATTALIONS, T-72B (30 TANKS EACH),
- 4 MECHANISED BATTALIONS, BMP-1/2 (40 IFVS EACH)

120TH MECHANISED BRIGADE

- 2 TANK BATTALIONS, T-72B + 2 COMPANIES OF T-72B3 (30 TANKS EACH),
- 3 MECHANISED BATTALIONS, BMP-1/2 (40 IFVS EACH)

38TH GUARDS AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE

- 2 BATTALIONS, BTR-80 (40 APCS EACH)

103RD GUARDS AIRBORNE BRIGADE

- 3 BATTALIONS, BTR-70/80 (40 APCS EACH)

SUMMARY

ON PAPER, BELARUS COULD FIELD AROUND 13,000 TROOPS. HOWEVER, IT IS LIKELY THAT, WITHOUT PREPARATION AND MOBILISATION, UNITS ARE OPERATING AT HALF STRENGTH. WITH LITTLE NOTICE IT IS LIKELY BELARUS MAY ONLY BE ABLE TO FIELD AROUND 6,500 TROOPS.



@tankdiary

#Royal Canadian Navy #Arctic

Arctic Commercial Activity and Canada's Navy with VAdm Angus Topshee

podcast: https://www.cgai.ca/arctic_commercial_activity_and_canadas_navy_with_vadm_angus_topshee

#strategy #Russia-Ukraine War

War in Ukraine: Strategically What Would Corbett Have Said?

<https://blog.naval-review.com/blog/war-in-ukraine-strategically-what-would-corbett-have-said/>

#urban warfare #FIBUA

Better Urban Training

<https://wavellroom.com/2022/03/10/better-urban-combat-training/>

#veterans

A new Table of Disabilities

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/health-support/physical-health-and-wellness/compensation-illness-injury/disability-benefits/benefits-determined/table-of-disabilities/update>

Veterans Ombud Annual Report 2021–2022

https://www.ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca/en/annual/2021-2022_english

Other:



13 December 2022

The following content could evoke a range of responses. Should you or someone you know have been affected by an incident of sexual misconduct, there are [resources available](#) to support current and former Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members and National Defence public service employees. The [Sexual Misconduct Response Centre \(SMRC\)](#) provides 24/7 confidential support by telephone at 1-844-750-1648 and by email at DND.SMRC-CIIS.MDN@forces.gc.ca. A trained counsellor will take the call, listen, discuss the kind of resources best suited to the individual's needs, and help with any next steps. The SMRC is independent from the CAF chain of command and counsellors do not have a duty to report.

Team,

Since the May 2022 release of the [Independent External Comprehensive Review \(IECR\) report](#), the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces (DND/CAF) have worked hard to develop a solid pathway towards implementing the report's recommendations for addressing sexual misconduct in the CAF.

When the IECR report was released, [17 recommendations were immediately accepted](#). Now, our Minister of National Defence (MND), the Honourable Anita Anand, **decided that none of Madame Arbour's recommendations will be rejected. She has directed DND/CAF officials to move**

forward on implementing the 48 IECR recommendations and that options for implementation be fleshed out.

The MND has now provided an update to Parliament by tabling a report demonstrating the progress made to date.

Who is overseeing the recommendations?

The MND recently announced the [appointment of Madame Jocelyne Therrien as the External Monitor](#). This position oversees the DND/CAF's efforts to implement the recommendations made within the IECR report.

We are taking a holistic approach by looking at all recommendations from external reviews, including the Report of the Third Independent Review of the *National Defence Act* (the Fish Report), the Advisory Panel on Racism and Discrimination, the CAF/DND Sexual Misconduct and LGBT Purge class actions, and Parliamentary committee reports, and grouping them by common thematic issues that will be linked to desired outcomes. We believe this will better serve our Defence Team. This work is coordinated by the External Comprehensive Reviews Implementation Committee co-chaired by the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff and the Judge Advocate General. The committee's secretariat will oversee the prioritization, direction and coordination of all recommendations.

What is being done about the grievance process?

We are making improvements to the military grievance process and conflict resolution services in order to provide the resources and support to those who need it. These improvements will help resolve issues at lower levels better, as well as making the process and services as effective as possible.

Where are we at with the transfer of cases to the civilian system?

We are continuing to examine how to implement [recommendation #5](#) to remove criminal code sexual offences from the jurisdiction of the CAF and transfer cases to civilian authorities. In the meantime, [the interim recommendation](#) to refer and transfer sexual assault and other criminal offences of a sexual nature under the *Criminal Code* to the civilian justice system remains in effect.

The Military Police continue to work with civilian police agencies and refer allegations of a sexual nature, while putting the needs of the affected person at the centre of the report process and investigation.

What's next for the SMRC?

The SMRC continues to expand its services and programs to better support currently serving and former members of the CAF and DND public service employees who are affected by sexual misconduct. For example, over the past year the SMRC has expanded its [Response and Support Coordination \(RSC\) Program](#). A dedicated coordinator is assigned to each individual who joins the program. Services are tailored to each individual's needs and circumstances, and can include case coordination, advocacy, accompaniment, assistance with workplace arrangements and other forms of practical assistance.

Further, the SMRC launched a Call for Applications for its new [Community Support for Sexual Misconduct Survivors Grant Program](#). This program will fund projects led by not-for-profit Canadian, community-based organizations with the ability and expertise to support people affected by sexual misconduct in the wider Defence community.

Additionally, work is underway to change the name of SMRC to align better with the SMRC's scope as a support and resource centre.

What is changing about training and education?

We are currently re-designing basic training with the intent to launch a streamlined, eight-week course focused on building inclusive teams, professional values, resilience, and core military skill, beginning in 2023.

As fully invested stakeholders, the Canadian Defence Academy and the military colleges are contributing to the recommendation for an external review of the colleges by providing analysis and solutions where and as appropriate.

The development of a conduct and culture training and education framework is also in progress. This framework will enhance education and awareness programs related to conduct and culture.

How are we addressing recruitment-related issues?

We are preparing a Recruitment Modernization Implementation initiative which streamlines the Basic Military Qualification. Additionally, we are streamlining how we communicate with potential and new recruits using digital methods and mediums.

We are also assessing the Medical Triage Process in order to conduct medical screenings of recruits faster and more efficiently, as well as making improvements to the testing required of recruits.

In addition, a specific Recruiting Specialty Course is being introduced to recruiters with three-to-six months on-the-job training to achieve certification, helping improve professional competence.

Where can you learn more?

You can read the update to Parliament tabled by the MND that will be available at [Independent External Comprehensive Review](#) on Canada.ca.

Even though the focus of the IECR report is on the CAF, we have a strong desire to make positive changes throughout the Defence Team which will require everyone's effort.

Ensuring that we are protecting the safety and security of our Defence Team members means that you can continue to ensure the safety and security of our country.

To each and every Defence Team member, thank you for your input, your shared experiences, and your own personal efforts. With your support, we will deliver meaningful reforms that will strengthen, grow and improve our institution.

Bill Matthews
Deputy Minister of National Defence

General Wayne Eyre
Chief of the Defence Staff

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O Canada

The biggest issue facing our Parliament appears to be Bill C-21, a bill that potentially criminalizes legal gun owners, yet still does not provide a solution to the real problem: illegal guns smuggled from the US. It has sucked up more time than it ever deserved when there are far more pressing issues such as the Auditor General finding that tens of billions of dollars were essentially wasted on various unsuccessful government programs during the pandemic, or the fact there is a very nasty war ongoing in Europe which could quickly overflow into a world shaking event, or more practical issues of how to deal with the current government's program to bring 500k immigrants into Canada per year but we have a major housing crisis already - there seems to be a disconnect. We need immigration without a doubt, and we need many new folks to meet our labour needs for the future. At the same time they need to be housed safely in decent housing. The country seems to be incapable of doing two issues at once.

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) have just put out a new commercial which displays a relatively good overview of many possible occupations. However, there was a disturbing trend in the commercial. First, it talked about the individual needs such as becoming a diver or getting free education as opposed to being part of a team supporting the nation's goals. Second, there seemed to be a reluctance to show weapons firing and the need to operate as a team to achieve a combat mission. One got the distinct impression that we do not discuss the very real role of the CAF and that is to provide deterrence and, if necessary, a lethal response with our allies against our nation's adversaries. The commercial didn't even mention allies at all. Most importantly, the very real need to understand that one is in the service of one's country and not the other way around. It seemed like false advertising. Admittedly, for those not fully committed, that "unlimited liability" issue is not for the faint of heart. Part of the problem is the fallout from the pandemic and that has affected everyone.

Recruiting was always a huge issue, coupled with a very high employment rate in the country. The system has many bottlenecks in it which creates a huge level of dissatisfaction for possible candidates, coupled with heavy competition from the business world. Even minor issues can take months to sort out in the CAF, issues which are not even considered in the world outside the CAF. The system tends to be more about the system than recruiting. A very real look at other countries such as the US, Australia or Britain might be in order especially as it relates to medical issues. It was interesting that a young Canadian was turned down by their own country for pilot training yet went to Britain and the Royal Air Force and became a pilot and plane captain for a Chinook helicopter. They went on to win the Distinguished Flying Cross during the Afghanistan conflict. Another example is that relatively minor allergies can remove someone from the process when there are ways and means to deal with an often highly unlikely problem. The other issue is what if certain demographics simply do not want to join because of their cultural background? How does one deal with years of family background where the armed forces were an enemy of the citizenry? Yes, this has to be solved but at the same time the country needs somewhere around 17k more troops. Strangely, when I first joined Canada routinely trained between 14 and 20k per year, yet we seem to stumble doing the meager numbers we have now. The other issue is who wants to join a second-rate organization? The CAF is a very model of ancient tech with aging aircraft, ships, armour vehicles and a government fully willing to send soldiers to hostile places without the proper kit such as attack helicopters for the United Nations mission in Mali or most recently the ill-equipped battle group in Latvia missing basic anti-armour weapons, no heavy armour, and no ground-based air defence systems. No effort has been made to get immediate operational requirements sorted out. Is it really a wonder that people do not wish to join. It is set up for disaster now.

This week the Minister of Defence announced the plan to sort out the CAF in relation to sexual assault. It is good to get this out of the way effectively and quickly. As someone who has daughters in the service, it is not an abstract requirement. Yet at the same time, one has to wonder if we can get back to the very real and necessary main role of the CAF: deterrence of adversaries in conjunction with our allies and a lethal response by well-equipped and trained forces capable of operating on a modern battlefield. Now, it is doubtful that the CAF is able to do little more than show the flag and that not very effectively at the moment. We live in a very dangerous time and the current government isn't reacting in a manner that seems to understand this. It should be disturbing for all citizens.

The United States

This week saw two other countries deal with insurrections. Peru and Germany both resulted in numerous arrests almost instantaneously unlike the US. In Peru, the President was impeached and arrested all in one day. In Germany a right wing, pro-monarchy group allegedly under the leadership of Heinrich the XIII was quickly enjoying the "comforts" of a German jail and awaiting further investigation.

The US continues to supply Ukraine with large amounts of equipment and overall support this week. It also saw the European Union (EU) add an additional 18b Euros for redevelopment of the Ukraine post-war. One new initiative is the provision of Patriot missile systems to Ukraine. Ukrainian troops will be trained in Poland and then a system will be deployed into the Ukraine. This is a major step in eliminating gap areas. The US is also pouring large numbers of troops and large amounts of equipment and resources into Europe. Russia has only a limited time to achieve any goal. Ukraine's available army is now larger and better equipped. If Russia does something using special weapons, it is suspected that NATO may take greater action. The US is obviously willing to invest in the safety of Europe. Russia has no such guarantees.

Iran

Iran is entering its fourth month of protests. The regime under Ali Khamenei seems to jump from bad decision to another, further inflaming the population. Most of Iran's youth did not see the extremes of the Shah's government. They do have access through various means to how the outside world operates and conducts its business. The regime and its supporters have "robbed" the nation, and its corruption is plain for the population to see, especially coupled with a severe crackdown on women's rights. The regime seems to be willing to double down on bad decisions. Currently, according to "free" Iranian sources, more than 18k people have been arrested and remain in custody. More than 500 have been killed by security forces and many have simply gone missing. Most recently, Iranian "courts" have tried and found people guilty of crimes which resulted in the sentence of death. According to the same sources, 13 have been sentenced to death so far, with two persons already executed. One was only 13 days from his arrest to his hanging in public. Unfortunately, rather than calm the situation, it has caused an increase in demonstrations. At present, the demonstrators continue to organize mainly through social media and other processes but there is still no new leadership to coordinate a national effort. Despite this, some members of the Iranian Parliament are now showing increased concerns about the long-term effect within the country and the longevity of the regime especially given the poor health of Ali Khamenei. If he were to pass away, the subsequent in-fighting between various factions may weaken the regime sufficiently for a major change. At the moment this is unlikely to occur, but time will tell.

Russia-Ukraine War

The war has changed in these past two weeks. Certainly, it has changed because of the arrival of colder weather, but the nature of the war has changed to one with peer or near-peer weaponry and some may state that Ukraine now has a massive superiority over Russia in weapons technology but also in their ability to re-supply their ammunition. Russia has consistently used its most potent missile systems against Ukrainian civilian infrastructure, especially power stations and the necessary systems to deliver power to homes, businesses and industry. Russia also has maintained its hold on the nuclear power station in Zaporizhyya and its six nuclear plants. Ukraine has managed to innovate well, using older drones, identified as the TU-141, to attack air bases within Russia over 600 kms away and is likely to be able to hit Moscow. It is very likely that foreign global positioning system technology was used using commercial satellites to assist targeting. It may well be possible for Ukraine to attack the Kremlin itself if they chose to do so, but they haven't. Ukraine has consistently hit military targets including ammunition depots, supply depots, maintenance facilities, airfields, key transportation infrastructure and headquarters. All of which are military targets by anyone's estimation. The war has at least temporarily resorted to strike and counterstrike. This is especially noticeable with Belarus, Belarus has been used by Russia to carry out attacks on Ukraine including the initial attack in February, Ukraine has not targeted Belarussian infrastructure.

The war is at a bit of a standstill as both sides wait until the temperature drops so that the ground freezes and becomes passable to heavier armoured vehicles. Russia has reinforced its units with conscripts and newly mobilized troops and therefore seems to believe that massive attacks on a small position will eventually cause conditions for a breakthrough. This has resulted in high casualties for the Russians but a price that they seem willing to pay. Ukraine has resorted to infantry attacks well supported by artillery and encircling Russian positions with a view to forcing the Russians out of their positions rather than being surrounded and killed. Although minor gains are being made by both sides, they are more to keep soldiers well-honed by conducting reconnaissance in force on Russian lines in preparation for the winter effort. Ukraine is well-equipped to fight in the cold and has had significant training provided by NATO forces in winter warfare and they have received more modern equipment. Russia's efforts in this area appear to be less than adequate. Ukraine has also taken measures to ensure timely evacuation of wounded soldiers to better medical facilities thus ensuring a higher level of survivability of wounded soldiers and the very real possibility of these troops returning to their units or perform less strenuous duties. Russia has shown an almost 19th century attitude towards their own soldiers. There are now hundreds of video hours of Russian troops deserting wounded casualties in attempts to evade the same fate, in many cases to succumb to non-life threatening injuries due to a lack of attention. Russian forces have proven that they are generally brutal, incompetent and at least in some cases conducted themselves as war criminals.

The Netherlands has volunteered this week to host an International Criminal Court Tribunal on Russian war crimes. Russia is not a signatory to the agreement on the ICC, but a majority of countries have supported this effort to gain justice for Ukraine against Russian war crimes.

In the medium term, one can expect that both Russia and Ukraine will continue to use long range systems to hit targets within each other's territory in a manner they are currently acting. Russia is certain to hit Ukrainian power infrastructure and Ukraine continuing to hit targets of opportunity using a higher level of precision. Both sides will continue to hold fast to their current positions. Expect both sides to conduct major offensive operations once the ground freezes. This next stage will be all about logistics and the ability of the country to sustain large numbers of troops in the field on both offensive and defensive operations. It is likely that Ukraine will do a better job but mass and a willingness to accept casualties can also be a major factor in the longer term if the troops are motivated. There is strong doubt whether this description fits Russian forces at the moment.

India-China

Aranachal Pradesh has been subject to a territorial dispute between India and China for decades. China as per normal has stated that the entire area of Arunachal Pradesh has been Chinese forever, an idea strongly disputed by India. The latest incident occurred on 9 December with 20 Indian soldiers being injured. Chinese casualties are unknown. The article in the *Telegraph* also stated that these incidents occur two or three times a month but are downplayed by both sides. The border is poorly marked and is patrolled by both sides with herdsmen of both countries often crossing over the artificial boundary also known as the Line of Actual Control. China claimed in *Xinhua* on 10 December that the situation was stable. Once again China continues to grasp at other countries' territory making lie to their non-interference claims. China has disputes with virtually all its neighbours at present.

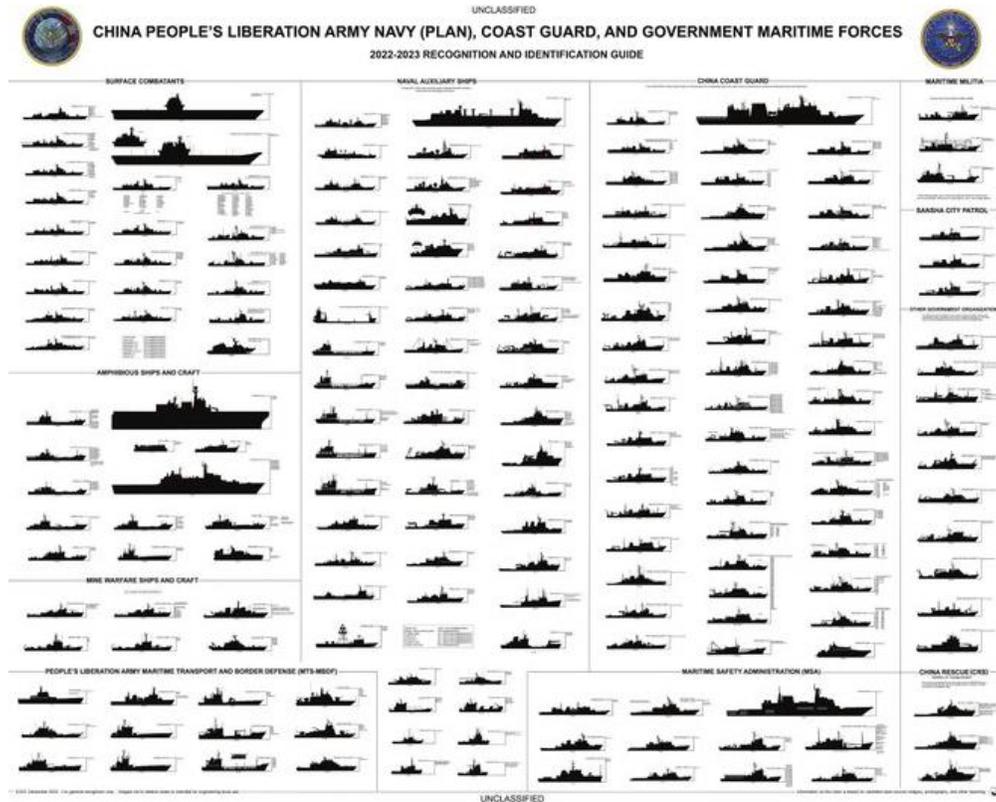
China

China is going to demonstrate for the world how re-opening after a pandemic is not done by going from its extrema policy of Zero Covid to almost full opening right before winter. China's population is not vaccinated with an effective vaccine, only Chinese versions generally viewed as being less than 50% effective against newer variants. China has refused to use modern Western MRNA vaccines as it would look badly on the Chinese authorities. Less than 40% of Chinese citizens over 80 have received the vaccine of any sort. The upper age category is the one that is most likely to die from the effects of the disease. One Chinese think tank estimated that 840m people may get the disease over a very short period of time, overwhelming the Chinese medical system. Time will tell if this becomes the "swan song" of the Chinese Communist Regime.

Admittedly, China's economy is hitting a new level of concern with a massive decline in property development, the collapse of a series of banks, a softening of the economy coupled with the effects of cracking down on major tech firms as well as losing its much-coveted reputation to be able to deliver goods to the world market in a timely fashion. Foreign investment generally left during the past two years, but somewhat surprisingly certain financial investment firms are now calling for companies to reinvest in the country despite its human rights violations and culturally genocidal actions. Some of this is based on China's bailout package for property developers who are being rescued in spite of their dismal performance and heavy debt. Most of this money will go to more infrastructure which is not planned well. The new spending by the Chinese government at the national level is seen by some as throwing good money after bad. Whether this works out well is an entirely different question.

President Xi visited the Gulf States for trade talks and other discussions. It was decided that China will be able to use the yuan for oil purchases from the Gulf States. A similar agreement will also be made for use of the Russian ruble.

A Japanese think tank has suggested that the US tech sanctions against China will not stop Chinese growth and research into both artificial intelligence and super computers. Both of these efforts are viewed with considerable suspicion by Western countries as they suspect China will use this technology to gain military advantage. Time will tell if this is true.



INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- For the first time in three weeks, there have been reports of attacks by Iranian-provided one-way attack (OWA) uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs). These events remain to be verified, but it is likely that Russia exhausted its previous stock of several hundred Shahed-131s and 136s and has now received a resupply.
- On 06 December 2022, the Ukrainian General Staff reported shooting down 17 UAVs, including 14 Shahed-136s. On 07 December 2022, Ukrainian officials reported the use of Iranian-provided OWA UAVs targeting Zaporizhzhia and Dnipro oblasts.
- The last previously reported shooting down of Iranian Shahed-136s in Ukraine was on 17 November 2022. If verified, it is likely that Russia has recommenced attacks with newly delivered OWA UAV systems.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Iran has become one of Russia's top military backers since Russia invaded Ukraine.
- Iran's support to the Russian military is likely to grow in the coming months: Russia is attempting to obtain more weapons, including hundreds of ballistic missiles. In return Russia is highly likely offering Iran an unprecedented level of military and technical support that is transforming their defence relationship.
- Russia has highly likely expended a large proportion of its stock of its own SS-26 Iskander short range ballistic missiles, which carry a 500kg warhead up to 500km. If Russia succeeds in bringing a large number of Iranian ballistic missiles into service, it will likely use them to continue and expand its campaign of strikes against Ukraine's critical national infrastructure.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 8 December 2022, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov rearticulated the main goals of the 'special military operation'. He said that one of Russia's main objectives was the 'protection' of residents of the Donbas and south-eastern Ukraine but claimed there was still much work to be done regarding 'liberation' of those territories.
- Peskov's comments suggest that Russia's current minimum political objectives of the war remain unchanged. Russia is likely still aiming to extend control over all of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson Oblasts. Russian military planners likely still aim to prioritise advancing deeper into Donetsk Oblast.
- However, Russia's strategy is currently unlikely to achieve its objectives: it is highly unlikely that the Russian military is currently able to generate an effective striking force capable of retaking these areas. Russian ground forces are unlikely to make operationally significant advances within the next several months.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 12 December 2022, the Kremlin confirmed that President Vladimir Putin will not hold his traditional end-of-year press conference. This will be the first time in 10 years that Putin has not held the annual event, while the usual public phone-in also did not take place this year.
- The press conference has become a significant fixture in Putin's calendar of public engagement and has frequently been used as an opportunity to demonstrate the supposed integrity of Putin.
- Although questions are almost certainly usually vetted in advance, the cancellation is likely due to increasing concerns about the prevalence of anti-war feeling in Russia. Kremlin officials are almost certainly extremely sensitive about the possibility that any event attended by Putin could be hijacked by unsanctioned discussion about the 'special military operation'.



RUSSIA'S CLAIM:

Leaders of Russia's Chechen forces claim that the Russian military has been systematically advancing with offensive actions along the entire front line in Ukraine.

BASED ON CANADIAN FORCES INTELLIGENCE COMMAND ANALYSIS:

- No significant changes in territorial control have been observed in the past several weeks since Russian forces completed their retreat from the north bank of the Dnipro River in Ukraine's Kherson region.
- Russian forces have demonstrated a limited ability to adapt throughout the conflict, and they continue to employ a high-casualty approach of repeatedly attacking prepared Ukrainian defenses hoping to make gains.
- Russia very likely lacks the personnel, materiel, and command and control acumen that would be needed to achieve a significant breakthrough against the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the coming weeks.



INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 06 December 2022, Igor Girkin, a well-known Russian nationalist and former military intelligence officer, claimed he had spent two months embedded with a Donetsk People's Republic battalion on the front line. He said his recent experiences had revealed a 'crisis of strategic planning' in Russia's Ukraine operation.
- Since his deployment, Girkin has also derided the Russian military's current emphasis upon constructing extensive, positional defensive works, questioning their utility in modern warfare. His comments highlight the fraught debate about the conduct of the war which continues within Russia's security community.
- Rumours circulating on social media within the last 48 hours suggesting that Russian Chief of the General Staff General Valery Gerasimov could have been fired cannot be verified. However, factional tensions likely extend to the top of Russia's military hierarchy.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 13 December 2022, Belarus carried out a snap combat readiness inspection of its forces. The exercises are reportedly taking place in the north-west of the country, away from the Ukrainian border. In addition, Russia has recently deployed extra units of mobilised reservists to Belarus.
- Belarus played a key enabling role in Russia's assault towards Kyiv from 24 February 2022. However, the exercising Belarusian troops and Russian units are currently unlikely to constitute a force capable of conducting a successful new assault into northern Ukraine.

We get cards

