



## Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 23 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).

# Happy Holidays!

From all of us in the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia, to our colleagues in the Institute, the men and women who provide defence, security and safety to Canadians and Canada, and to all our followers and readers.

Lobster trap Christmas tree at Sambro, Nova Scotia.



### Holiday Message from our Patron

Lt Gov NS @LtGovNS 21 Dec tweeted (video: <https://twitter.com/LtGovNS/status/1605618463824920577>): His Honour the Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc and Mrs. Patsy LeBlanc would like to thank each person who has contributed to the province over the past year. This work has strengthened our communities and brings meaning to our lives each day. #NovaScotia #Halifax



## 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) - indicate whether you are RUSI(NS) or, if not, of what department/ agency, unit, association or company you are a member.

Advance reading:

Canadian Coast Guard Conducts BVLOS Trials of UAS in Oklahoma with Martin UAV and Kongsberg Geospatial

[https://www.prweb.com/releases/canadian\\_coast\\_guard\\_conducts\\_bvlos\\_trials\\_of\\_uas\\_in\\_oklahoma\\_with\\_martin\\_uav\\_and\\_kongsberg\\_geospatial/prweb18114583.htm](https://www.prweb.com/releases/canadian_coast_guard_conducts_bvlos_trials_of_uas_in_oklahoma_with_martin_uav_and_kongsberg_geospatial/prweb18114583.htm)

**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/)

**New:** Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 21 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 XLI, Number 1, January 2023

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.

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 15, Issue 8, 12 December 2022

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)

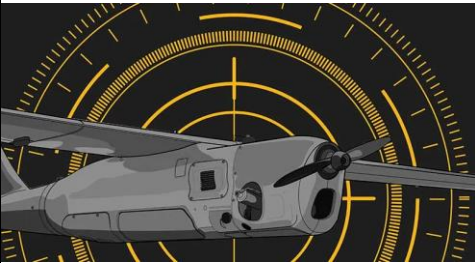


United Services Institute of Nanaimo and North Island *Newsletter*, Vol 30, No 12, December 2022.

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](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

<p>RUSI @RUSI_org Dec 15 tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: @ A new investigation from @OSIA_RUSI and RUSI's Military Sciences team, in collaboration with @Reuters and @istories_media, examines the supply chains that have continued to move Western components into #Russia since the February 24 invasion of #Ukraine. (The Orlan Complex: Tracking the Supply Chains of Russia's Most Successful UAV <a href="https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/special-resources/orlan-complex-tracking-supply-chains-russias-most-successful-uav">https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/special-resources/orlan-complex-tracking-supply-chains-russias-most-successful-uav</a>)</p>	
<p>RUSI @RUSI_org 19 Dec tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: A recent RUSI Special Report by Lieutenant General Mykhaylo Zabrodskyi, Oleksandr V Danylyuk, @Jack_Watling and Nick Reynolds sheds light on Ukraine's strengths and vulnerabilities, and the need for further Western support. Read the full report below! (Preliminary Lessons in Conventional Warfighting from Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: February–July 2022 <a href="https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/special-resources/preliminary-lessons-conventional-warfighting-russias-invasion-ukraine-february-july-2022">https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/special-resources/preliminary-lessons-conventional-warfighting-russias-invasion-ukraine-february-july-2022</a>)</p>	
<p>Davie @chantierdavie Dec 19 tweeted: The @MV_Asterix has set sail! We are proud of our team for completing the maintenance work ahead of schedule and within budget. Another successful achievement to close out the year 2022! #NavalMaintenanceCentre RUSI(NS) retweeted: 'Balanced' navy &amp; support to @RoyalCanNavy as globally-deployable fleet enhanced with return of @MV_Asterix to active service. Welcome back! More replenishment oilers #AOR would provide CANCA&amp;</p>	

#RCNavy greater options for undertaking missions in peace, competition & conflict

See RUSI(NS) Info Note: "Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment"

<https://rusi-ns.ca/auxiliary-oiler-replenishment/>

"What is one of the weakest links of our worldwide 'sea control'? It is our at sea replenishment forces." ADM Hayward, retired CNO, to ADM Rickover, 9 March 1971

"@NationalDefence gets OK to spend \$7 billion on 16 F-35 fighter jets" <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/defence-department-gets-ok-to-spend-7-billion-on-16-f-35-fighter-jets-cp-sources-1.6202528> Initial 16 aircraft, spare parts, weapons & various startup costs associated with obtaining new jets such as building new facilities for @RCAF\_ARC



NAADSN\_RDSNAA @NAADSN\_RDSNAA 20 Dec tweeted: 2022 In May @NAADSN\_RDSNAA Co-lead @WillWJGreaves and Network Coordinator Peter Kikkert testified before the House of Commons Standing Committee on National Defence. Their opening remarks and links to testimonies by NAADSN experts can be found here:

<https://naadsn.ca/quick-impact/>

RUSI(NS) retweeted: There needs be debate/determination of scale, scope, purpose&function of @CanadianForces involvement in domestic operations. Avoid mission creep!  
H/T Adam P MacDonald

The logo for NAADSN QUICK IMPACT. It features a blue background with a white geometric pattern of lines and dots. The text "QUICK IMPACT" is in white, and "NAADSN" is in red. Below it, "North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network" is written in small text, along with the website "naadsn.ca".

MAY 9, 2022

### The CAF and Domestic Operations

NAADSN Members' Opening Comments to the House of Commons Standing Committee on National Defence

Wilfrid Greaves and Peter Kikkert

This Quick Impact shares the opening statements given by two members of the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network (NAADSN) to the House of Commons Standing Committee on National Defence on Monday, 9 May 2022. The committee is investigating the challenges associated with the increasing number of domestic operational deployments undertaken by the Canadian Armed Forces. Please note that the official minutes of the sessions are available on the [committee's website](#).

Wilfrid Greaves, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria

Good afternoon, I am honoured to be here and I thank you for inviting me to discuss these important issues related to climate change, security, and the non-combat role of the Canadian Armed Forces.

I am privileged to be speaking with you from the traditional territories of the Lekwungen speaking peoples on southern Vancouver Island where I am fortunate to live and work.

Climate change is the greatest medium- and long-term threat to security in Canada. While this is not a novel assessment, it is a point of increasingly urgent consensus among security scholars and experts. The climate security nexus, as it is often called, has been expressed in numerous reports and assessments, and is reflected in the growth of new institutions and programs focused specifically on this topic, including the new NATO Centre for Excellence on Climate and Security currently under development.

### Inter-department Holidays collaboration!

Royal Canadian Air Force @RCAF\_ARC 21 Dec tweeted (video:[https://twitter.com/RCAF\\_ARC/status/1605638640616542225](https://twitter.com/RCAF_ARC/status/1605638640616542225)): No sleigh? No problem! Earlier this month, an RCAF CC-130 Hercules aircraft made the journey from 8 Wing in Trenton, ON to Northern communities in Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories and Nunavut to deliver 23,000 toys to children in over 30 communities. The Toys for the North program is an RCMP-led initiative that started in 2010 and has delivered more than \$1 million worth of toys with 4,000 children, on average, receiving a toy each year!



RUSI(NS) retweeted: Great inter-department collaboration! "Toys for the North: Spreading joy to remote northern regions of Canada since 2010" <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2022/toys-the-north-spreading-joy-remote-northern-regions-canada-2010> @RCMP & "Toys for the North" <https://canadiantoyassociation.ca/cta/about-us/Initiatives/toys-for-the-north/cta/about-us/initiatives/toys-for-the-north.aspx>

David Pugliese @davidpugliese 21 Dec tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Analysis: Canada's price tag for F-35 jets raising questions <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/analysis-canadas-price-tag-for-f-35-jets-raising-questions> via @ottawacitizen



### Holidays in the Field

Veterans Affairs CA @VeteransENG\_CA tweeted ([https://mobile.twitter.com/veteranseng\\_ca/status/1604887600879308810](https://mobile.twitter.com/veteranseng_ca/status/1604887600879308810)): As the holidays approach, we salute those serving far from home. Many of them still find ways to celebrate the season; decorating their camps, enjoying special meals together and giving toys and gifts to children in need. @CanadianForces #CanadaRemembers



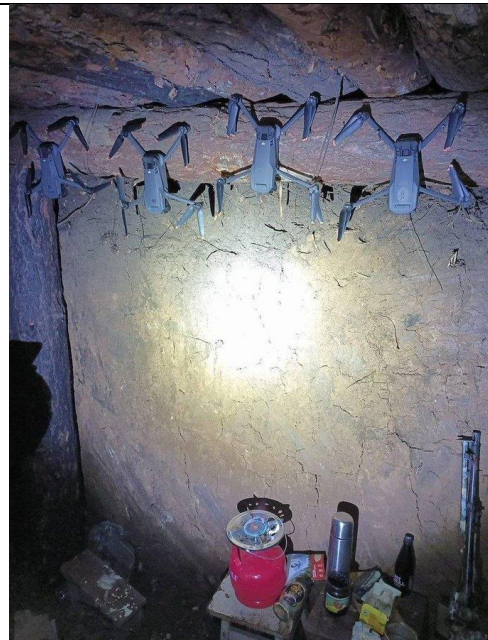
This tweet looked suspect (Photo fail? Would not be the first time.) because of the caps the troops are wearing. John Boileau clarified the matter with: "These are Van Doos (R22eR) in Korea. I was issued a (winter) cap like this when I joined in 1962, but I can't remember ever wearing it."

VAC provided:

Santa Claus shakes hands with his companions in Korea. December 19, 1952, North Korea.  
Photo: Royal 22e Régiment Museum / Canada. Department of National Defence / Ph5-172-168

### Humour as Information Operations

Defense of Ukraine @DefenceU 18 Dec tweeted: Ukrainian combat bats are preparing for night hunting.



**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.

**What happens when you turn drones over to troops?**

<https://canadianarmytoday.com/what-happens-when-you-turn-drones-over-to-troops/>

"What he (from Suffield Research Centre) wasn't prepared for was 'the degree to which the UAS were used.'"

Allowing troops the freedom to adapt and innovate is a powerful way to add capability to a military. And any security or safety organization. Need to ensure a working culture and climate that encourages that.



**2022 Public Opinion Poll: Canadians' Attitudes Towards Marine Shipping**

[https://clearseas.org/en/research\\_project/2022-public-opinion-poll-canadians-attitudes-towards-marine-shipping/](https://clearseas.org/en/research_project/2022-public-opinion-poll-canadians-attitudes-towards-marine-shipping/)

"Marine shipping plays an important role in delivering Canadians the goods they use in their everyday life.

More than **70 per cent** (<https://clearseas.org/en/marine-shipping-and-you/>) of the goods Canadians use daily are brought to Canada by ship."



Even much of the goods from and to the United States moves by ship. Canadians tend to think of Canada as a continental states. It isn't. It's a maritime state. The movement of goods to and from Canada from all over the world is important to us. We need to be conscious of that, think maritime, pay attention to our maritime resources (Navy, Coast Guard, Transport Canada, shipping sector, etc.). Strong defence and security of the seas ensure the safe and prosperous Canada.

**Improvisation in War**

Ukraine Weapons Tracker @UAWeapons 18 Dec tweeted (<https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1604564041975975937>): #Ukraine: The first video of a new Ukrainian improvised infantry fighting vehicle in action. With a closer look at the vehicle we can now tell how it was made- a BMD-2 turret was installed on a chassis of a PRP-3/4 artillery observation vehicle, originally armed only with a PKT.

Improvisation is a useful capability in warfare. Can the CAF and Canadian industry undertake it? Hmm, that would be something good to try out in peace.



**Canada will wrap fighter jet contract in ‘very short term,’ says minister**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9353949/canada-future-fighter-jet-procurement-anita-anand/>

"Canada is set to finalize a contract to replace its aging fleet of CF-18 fighter jets in the ‘very short term’..."



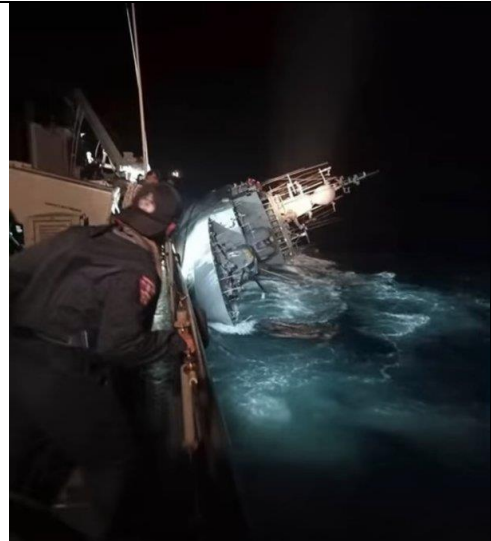
The contract to replace the Royal Canadian Air Force CF188 Hornet fleet may be finalized soon, and maybe delivery won't be too far in the future as the likely winner, the F-35 Lightning II, is on production, but there's more than just buying the aircraft in order to take on the capability. Infrastructure has to be built or modified, spares procured, training systems developed or acquired and, most importantly, ground crew and pilots trained (and apparently there is a shortage of pilots in the RCAF). So it will be a while yet to Initial Operating Capability and Final Operating Capability (have those been forecast?).

**Thai Royal Navy Vessel HTMS Sukhothai Sinks**

<https://theatlasnews.co/breakingnews/2022/12/18/thai-royal-navy-vessel-htms-sukhothai-sinks/>

Royal Thai Navy SUKHOTHAI, a corvette, sank after encountering strong waves.

The case is a reminder that corvettes are regional patrol and escort vessels, not as sea-capable as frigates, destroyers and larger combatants. Those Canadians who advocate for a corvette navy need to review history. Royal Canadian Navy corvettes of the Second World War were developed into more sea-capable frigates, and the corvettes quickly disposed of after the war. Let's be clear - advocates of corvettes are really, whether they know it or not, advocating for regional, insular Canadian naval and foreign policies. That's a different discussion.



That all said, anyone who has gone to sea and faced the fury of the water grieves for the lost Thai sailors.

**Other Sources:**

**#icebreakers**

Of a titan, winds and power: Transnational development of the icebreaker, 1890-1954

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/08438714211062493>

*What with the impending build for the Canadian Coast Guard.*

**#Indo-Pacific**

The Global Economic Disruptions from a Taiwan Conflict

<https://rhg.com/research/taiwan-economic-disruptions/>

## **#information operations**

Musk Has Reduced Twitter's Ability to Spot Foreign Disinformation, a Former Data Scientist Says  
<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2022/12/musk-has-reduced-twitters-ability-spot-foreign-disinformation-former-data-scientist-says/381185/>

## **#intelligence**

A Wireless Intelligence Community 'On The Horizon,' Official Says  
<https://www.defenseone.com/defense-systems/2022/12/wireless-intelligence-community-horizon-official-says/381041/>

Improving the Intelligence Community's Leveraging of the Full Science and Technology Ecosystem  
<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26544/improving-the-intelligence-communitys-leveraging-of-the-full-science-and-technology-ecosystem>

## **#reading**

Center for International Maritime Security Holiday Reading List 2022  
<https://cimsec.org/the-cimsec-holiday-reading-list-2022/>

Commandant Canadian Forces College Best Reads for 2022  
<https://cfc.overdrive.com/library/professional-reading/collection/1402945>

## **#Russia**

The Fall of Russia  
<https://www.institutmontaigne.org/en/analysis/fall-russia>

## **#Russia-Ukraine War**

Inside Ukraine's Desperate Fight Against Drones With MiG-29 Pilot "Juice"  
<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/inside-ukraines-desperate-fight-against-drones-with-mig-29-pilot-juice>

Ukrainian Teams Hunt Russian Drones With Laser Rifles, Gun Trucks, Apps  
<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/ukrainian-teams-hunt-russian-drones-with-laser-rifles-gun-trucks-apps>

Russia's New Theory of Victory  
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/ukraine/russias-new-theory-victory>  
*Mick Ryan is always worth reading.*

Russia Has Built Vast Defenses Across Ukraine. Will They Hold?  
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/12/14/world/europe/russian-trench-fortifications-in-ukraine.html>

Silicon Lifeline: Western Electronics at the Heart of Russia's War Machine  
<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/special-resources/silicon-lifeline-western-electronics-heart-russias-war-machine>



Russian military analyst discusses the impact and scale of the Western military aid in the war against Russia

<https://wartranslated.com/russian-military-analyst-discusses-the-impact-and-scale-of-the-western-military-aid-in-the-war-against-russia/>

Outplayed By Ukraine: What Is Next For Russia's Navy In The Black Sea?

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/12/outplayed-by-ukraine-what-is-next-for-russias-navy-in-the-black-sea/>

Putin's War: The Inside Story of a Catastrophe

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/12/16/world/europe/russia-putin-war-failures-ukraine.html>

Ukraine Needs Better Defense Against Russian Drone, Cruise Missile Attacks

<https://news.usni.org/2022/12/21/ukraine-needs-better-defense-against-russian-drone-cruise-missile-attacks>

### **#cyber operations**

Russia's Wartime Cyber Operations in Ukraine: Military Impacts, Influences, and Implications

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/12/16/russia-s-wartime-cyber-operations-in-ukraine-military-impacts-influences-and-implications-pub-88657>

### **#drones**

Surrender to a Drone? Ukraine Is Urging Russian Soldiers to Do Just That.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/20/world/europe/russian-soldier-drone-surrenders.html>

### **#lessons**

Thread on lessons and the Russia-Ukraine War

<https://twitter.com/WarInTheFuture/status/1604633049047502848>

*ThreadReaderApp has been slowed, so need read the thread on Twitter.*

*Links, many already posted by RUSI(NS), to:*

Six Months, Twenty-three Lessons: What the world has learned from Russia's war in Ukraine

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/six-months-twenty-three-lessons-what-the-world-has-learned-from-russias-war-in-ukraine/>

How Ukraine is winning in the adaptation battle against Russia

<https://engelsbergideas.com/essays/how-ukraine-is-winning-in-the-adaptation-battle-against-russia/>

Preliminary Lessons in Conventional Warfighting from Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: February–July 2022

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/special-resources/preliminary-lessons-conventional-warfighting-russias-invasion-ukraine-february-july-2022>

US Army secretary: 5 lessons from the Ukraine conflict

<https://breakingdefense.com/2022/06/us-army-secretary-5-lessons-from-the-ukraine-conflict/>

Airpower after Ukraine: The future of air warfare

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/programs/scowcroft-center-for-strategy-and-security/forward-defense/airpower-after-ukraine/>

Cyberwar in Ukraine: What You See Is Not What's Really There

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/cyberwar-ukraine-what-you-see-not-whats-really-there>

Defending Ukraine: Early Lessons from the Cyber War

<https://blogs.microsoft.com/on-the-issues/2022/06/22/defending-ukraine-early-lessons-from-the-cyber-war/>

How open-source intelligence has shaped the Russia-Ukraine war

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-open-source-intelligence-has-shaped-the-russia-ukraine-war>

NAFO and Winning the Information War: Lessons Learned from Ukraine

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/nafo-and-winning-information-war-lessons-learned-ukraine>

Dangerous Changes: When Military Innovation Harms Combat Effectiveness

<https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/dangerous-changes-when-military-innovation-harms-combat-effectiveness>

## #warfare

An Army at Sea: Why the New FM 3-0's Emphasis on Maritime Operations is So Important

<https://mwi.usma.edu/an-army-at-sea-why-the-new-fm-3-0s-emphasis-on-maritime-operations-is-so-important/>

## Other:

### Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal Awards

Lt Gov NS on Twitter 16 Dec 22 (<https://twitter.com/LtGovNS/status/1603761038368743424>): "The Honorary Aides-de-Camp to the Lieutenant Governor were awarded with the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal at Gov House yesterday afternoon. The medals were presented in recognition of significant voluntary service to the Crown. Event

Photos: <https://t.co/zEPH0FG9uy> <https://t.co/HyW5lxKuL8>"

Lookin' good in the photo are RUSI(NS) members Don Moser, our President; Blair Bannerman, Secretary; Deepak Prasad, Treasurer; Peter Dawson, Canadian Army representative to our Board; and Andrew Dunford.



## Notice of Opportunities for Military Grievances External Review Committee

The Military Grievances External Review Committee (MGERC) is looking for a Chairperson and a full-time Vice-Chairperson.

As an independent administrative tribunal that has adopted modern, green, high-functioning and agile business processes while having fully transitioned to a digital workplace that is entirely mobile, the Committee reviews all military grievances referred to it by the Chief of the Defence Staff.

The Chairperson serves as the Chief Executive Officer and is responsible for leading the organization's corporate strategy, plans and priorities, in consideration of the Committee's challenges and opportunities. As the leader for military grievance review and for the organization, the Chairperson is to continue to encourage collaboration, using technology in smarter ways, and fostering a culture of flexibility and well-being.

The Vice-Chairperson is responsible for exercising any of the powers, duties or functions, as delegated by the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson is responsible for supporting the Chairperson in their duties.

We are looking for leaders who are experienced in managing an adjudicative tribunal or a non-adjudicative tribunal, or an equivalent, and who are able to communicate the vision and engage employees in organizational priorities to steer the MGERC into the future. If you have these skills then we encourage you to apply by following the instructions from the links below.

### [Chairperson Opportunity](https://pcogic.njoyn.com/cl3/xweb/xweb.asp?CLID=52106&page=jobdetails&JobID=J1122-1463&lang=1)

(<https://pcogic.njoyn.com/cl3/xweb/xweb.asp?CLID=52106&page=jobdetails&JobID=J1122-1463&lang=1>)

### [Vice-Chairperson Opportunity](https://pcogic.njoyn.com/cl3/xweb/XWeb.asp?NTKN=c&clid=52106&Page=JobDetails&Jobid=J1122-1464&BRID=192350&lang=1)

(<https://pcogic.njoyn.com/cl3/xweb/XWeb.asp?NTKN=c&clid=52106&Page=JobDetails&Jobid=J1122-1464&BRID=192350&lang=1>)

Directorate of Outreach and Speechwriting, Public Affairs Group, DND

## War Art

Defense of Ukraine @DefenceU 15 Dec tweeted: "Innerfields", an art collective from Berlin, created a mural in their hometown titled "Absent" dedicated to Ukrainian women who lost their loved ones in the war.

📷: urban\_streetart\_berlin

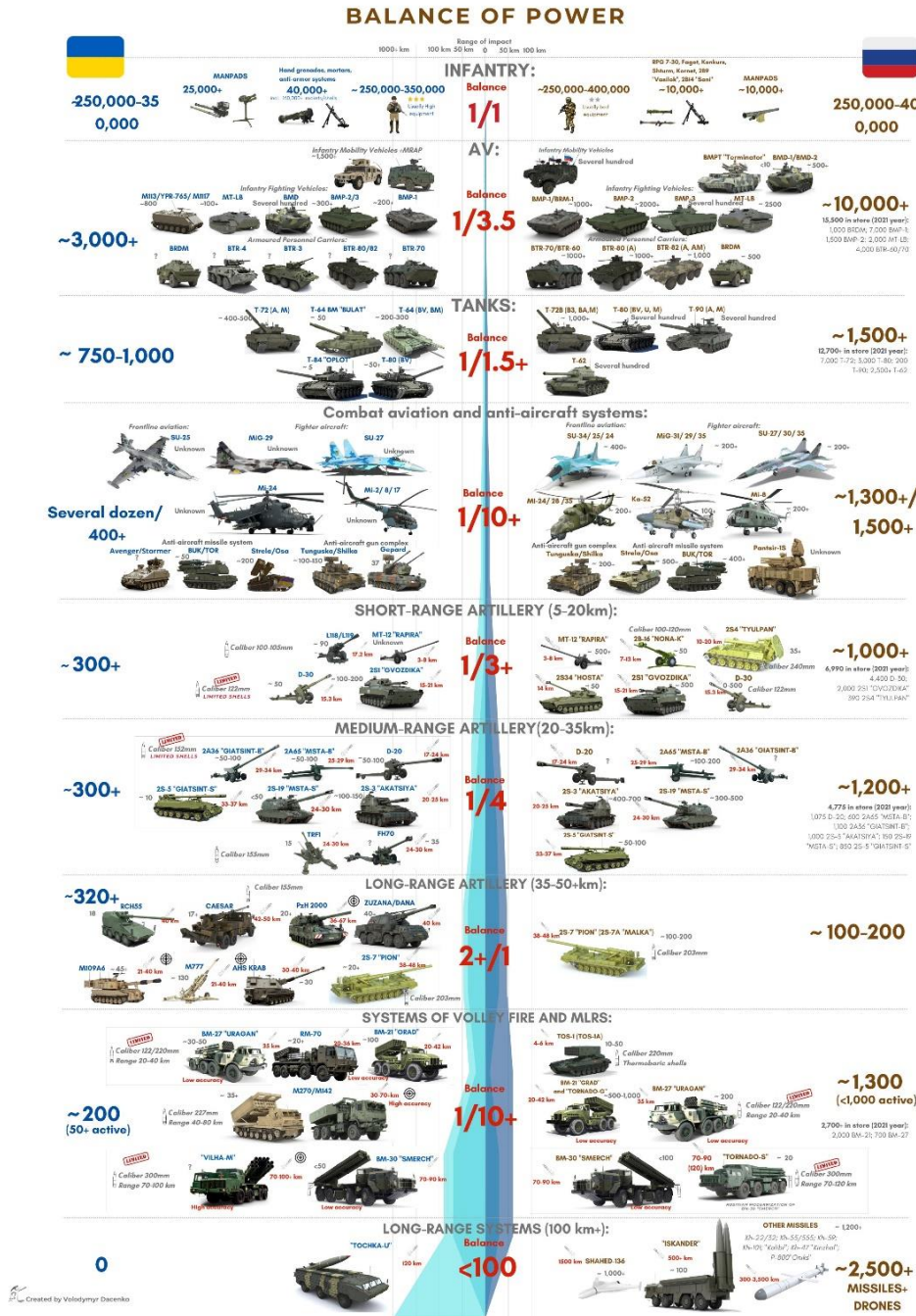
*Art and war have been intertwined since ever. A field of information operations.*



# #Russia-Ukraine War Balance of Power

Volodymyr Dacenko @Volodymyr\_D\_ tweeted ([https://twitter.com/Volodymyr\\_D\\_/status/1605199916519018497](https://twitter.com/Volodymyr_D_/status/1605199916519018497)): Balance of power. This is a comparison of the available military power of Ukraine and Russia (according to open data) 1/17 #UkraineRussiaWar #RussiaInvadedUkraine #ATACMSForUkraine #OSINT

Interesting posters in the tweet thread. The one below is much larger than depicted.



## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- As shown by imagery, in recent weeks, Russian forces have continued to expend considerable effort to construct extensive defensive positions along the front line. They have likely prioritised the northern sector around the town of Svatove.
- The Russian constructions follow traditional military plans for entrenchment, largely unchanged since the Second World War. Such constructions are likely to be vulnerable to modern, precision indirect strikes.
- The construction of major defensive lines is further illustration of Russia's reversion to positional warfare that has been largely abandoned by most modern Western militaries in recent decades.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- In recent days, there has been an uptick in Russia's campaign of long-range strikes against Ukraine's critical national infrastructure.
- The waves of strikes have largely consisted of air and maritime launched cruise missiles, but have almost certainly also included Iranian-provided uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs) being launched from Russia's Krasnodar region.
- Previously these UAVs had been primarily launched from locations within occupied Crimea. The change of launch site is likely due to Russian concerns about the vulnerability of Crimea, while it is also convenient for resupply from the weapons' likely arrival point in Russia, at Astrakhan.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 14 December 2022, the Russian Ministry of Defence announced the establishment of two 'front line creative brigades' tasked with raising the morale of troops deployed on the 'special military operation'. Russian media reports that the ranks will include opera singers, actors and circus performers. This follows a recent campaign by the Russian MoD to encourage the public to donate musical instruments to deployed soldiers.
- Military music and organised entertainment for deployed troops have a long history in many militaries but in Russia they are strongly intertwined with the Soviet-era concept of ideological political education.
- Fragile morale almost certainly continues to be a significant vulnerability across much of the Russian force. However, soldiers' concerns primarily focus on very high casualty rates, poor leadership, pay problems, lack of equipment and ammunition, and lack of clarity about the war's objectives. The creative brigades' efforts are unlikely to substantively alleviate these concerns.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russian military proxy group Wagner continues to take a major role in attritional combat around the Donetsk Oblast town of Bakhmut. In recent months, it has developed offensive tactics to make use of the large number of poorly trained convicts it has recruited.
- Individual fighters are likely issued a smart phone or tablet which shows the individual's designated axis of advance and assault objective superimposed on commercial satellite imagery. At platoon level and above, commanders likely remain in cover and give orders over radios, informed by video feeds from small uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs).
- Individuals and sections are ordered to proceed on the preplanned route, often with fire-support, but less often alongside armoured vehicles. Wagner operatives who deviate from their designated assault routes without authorisation are likely being threatened with summary execution.
- These brutal tactics aim to conserve Wagner's rare assets of experienced commanders and armoured vehicles, at the expense of the more readily available convict-recruits, which the organisation assesses as expendable.

We get cards.







And emails of greetings...

*The Stakeholder Engagement Office of Eastern Canada (National Defence) would like to take advantage of the upcoming holiday season to thank you for this wonderful year!*

*Enjoy the festivities and time with your loved ones.*

*Happy holidays and best wishes for 2023!*

*Marie-Anne Jutras*

*Manager, Stakeholder Engagement Office - Eastern Canada*

And then there are not-cards...



Canadian Army tweeted: "Hope this fits in the mess"