



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 21 April 2023

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).

Dispatches Editor, Social Media Volunteers

We may have a volunteer each to edit and publish the *Dispatches* 12 and 26 May editions whilst the current (temporary) editor is away, but we **still need someone for 19 May**. If you can help out in any way, please email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com. You can also help by emailing content, preferably with one or more value-added comments, to RUSINSDispatches@gmail.com.

Further and as importantly, volunteers are needed to post to our Twitter and Facebook accounts, which posts are then included in *Dispatches*. Again, if you can help out in any way, please email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

Defence Policy Review

The Department of National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces have opened public consultations to all Canadians on the defence policy review. The review (a.k.a. Defence Policy Update – DPU) has been a topic of discussion in the RUSI(NS) Security Affairs Committee (SAC) for many months. It appears that comments from individuals rather than organizations is the approach being taken for the review, though there is an opportunity to list the organization of choice in a submission. Members of RUSI(NS) and other readers of *Dispatches* are encouraged to make a submission. See the text box at the beginning of the Other section to the 10 March edition of *Dispatches*. Note the **closing date of 30 April 2023**.

It is easier to write answers to the review's questions on a separate document rather than filling in the boxes on the review webpage (<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/policies-standards/canada-defence-policy/we-want-to-hear-from-you.html>). The SAC has copied the questions onto a document and can provide that to anyone to assist with their submission. Email RUSI(NS) for a copy.

RUSI(NS) Security Affairs Committee

The SAC meets every second Friday at Celtic Corner Pub, Dartmouth, for a working lunch (1100-1230), followed by a Zoom session (1400-1500) for those who can't make the lunch. Anyone interested in discussing defence, security and safety affairs is welcome to participate, you don't have to be a member of the SAC, not even of RUSI(NS) participate. For more info, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

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.

RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker May 2023

There have been some recent changes to availability of the planned speaker and Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess for May. What with those plus lack of availability of a planner, our May event has been cancelled. **Note our 22 June Distinguished Speaker.**

25 April, Tuesday - Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies (UK) webinar "Cyber Operations in Ukraine: A Conversation with Victor Zhora." 1400-1500 BST. To register: <https://rusi.org/events/open-to-all/cyber-operations-ukraine-conversation-victor-zhora>

26 April, Wednesday - Queen's University Centre for International and Defence Policy speaker series event featuring LTC Wendy Tokach, "Arctic Security In a Time of Geopolitical Insecurities." Noon-1 pm Eastern. Online. To register: <https://www.queensu.ca/cidp/events/idp-speaker-series/arctic-security-time-geopolitical-insecurities-ltc-wendy-tokach>

New: 2 May, Tuesday - Royal Canadian Navy Strategic Outreach Canadian Leaders at Sea Alumni Virtual Speaker Event for the Battle of the Atlantic 78th Commemoration. 1900-2100 EST (2000-2200 AST). On MS Teams. RSVP LCdr Chris Elliott, RCN Strategic Outreach Officer chris.elliott@forces.gc.ca. See info box at end of *Dispatches*.

5 May, Friday - presentation "The Battle of the Atlantic: Gauntlet to Victory." 1330-1530. Naval Museum of Halifax, Stadacona, CFB Halifax. RSVP to navalmuseumhalifax@forces.gc.ca. See poster at end of *Dispatches*.

6 May, Saturday - presentation "The Battle of the Atlantic: Gauntlet to Victory." 1330-1530. Cambridge Military Library, Royal Artillery Park, CFB Halifax. RSVP to wgard@eastlink.ca. See poster at end of *Dispatches*.

6 May, Saturday - Maritimes Division of the Master Mariners of Canada Battle of the Atlantic Ceremony. 1100. Small Craft Gallery, Maritime Museum of The Atlantic, 1675 Lower Water St, Halifax, NS.

9 May, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Scenario Design, or How I ruined my perfect wargame with a sloppy scenario." 1900-2100 ADT. Via Zoom. To register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/scenario-design-or-how-i-ruined-my-perfect-wargame-with-a-sloppy-scenario-tickets-581291246767>

16 May, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "The Politics of Play: Wargaming with the US Military." Noon-1400 EST. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-politics-of-play-wargaming-with-the-us-military-tickets-415461174557>

13 June, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Influence Wargaming Handbook." 1200-1400 EDT. Online To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/influence-wargaming-handbook-tickets-524664865737>

emended: 22 June (moved from 24 May) - **RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker** Brigadier-General Masson, Commander 5th Canadian Division. 1300-1500. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess. MTF.

Publications:

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

RUSI(NS) Comments "Mental Health of Police, Military and Security" by Jay Heisler, 4 April 2023
https://rusi-ns.ca/mental_health/

RUSI(NS) History & Heritage Note "Naming Tanks in the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps" by John Boileau, 13 March February 2023,
https://rusi-ns.ca/naming_tanks/

RUSI(NS) Presentation "Canadian Armed Forces/Department of National Defence Space" by BGen Mike Adamson, 15 February 2023,
<https://rusi-ns.ca/caf-dnd-space/>

Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 12 April 2023
<https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current>

Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association Technical Information webpage
<https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/technical-information>

Company of Master Mariners of Canada Maritimes Division *Foghorn*, March 2023

New: Edmonton United Services Institute President's *Enews*, April 2023

Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XLI, Number 4, April 2023

Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, April 2023
<https://www.rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/193-rausi-dispatches-april-2023>

Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch *Scuttlebutt*, April 2023

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 for Defence and Security Studies – Australia *Journal*, Volume 74, Number 1, March 2023

Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island *Newsletter*, Volume 55, 2nd Quarter 2023.

New: Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 18, Issue 1, 17 April 2023





Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Quarterly Newsletter*, Volume 21, Issue 1, March 2023

Veterans Affairs Canada *Salute!* April 2023

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/news-media/salute/2023-04>

@RUSI NS on Twitter:

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

<p>"A significant boost to security: Inside Canada's plans to replace its submarines" https://thehub.ca/2023-04-14/richard-shimooka-a-significant-boost-to-security-inside-canadas-plans-to-replace-its-submarines/ // #Subs ultimate deterrent to potential adversaries. Challenging to build, maintain - CAN🇨🇦 needs progress new boats/vehicles (incl uncrewed) now to ensure retain capable people</p>	
<p>CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 14 Apr tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: "All of these projects are currently behind schedule and over budget..." Effective policy direction must prioritize governance, project management, and risk management. A more comprehensive approach is needed to address challenges faced by NSS. @ochoiniere (Defense Policy Update: Why Governance Matters https://cdainstitute.ca/defense-policy-update-why-governance-matters/)</p>	
<p>"Dozens of political and military luminaries call on Ottawa to stop backsliding on national defence" https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/national-defence-trudeau-nato-1.6811632 ""There is no more important responsibility for the federal government than protecting Canadians🇨🇦 against all threats..." @NationalDefence #cdnpoli</p>	
<p>The Naval Association of Canada @navalassn 17 Apr tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Retired Naval Captain Norm Jolin provides a primer on Submarine Operations in the latest edition of Starshell magazine. https://navalassoc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Starshell-March-2023-LR.pdf #Submarines @RoyalCanNavy</p>	

CDNShipbuilders @CDNShipbuilders 17 Apr tweeted: Had the pleasure of visiting @vanmaritime yesterday to see the displays and tour the famous St Roch. Well worth a visit next time that you are in Vancouver! Definitely on @RLitwiller's radar we are sure... #cdnships #maritime #heritage #arctic RUSI(NS) retweeted: RCMP Patrol Vessel St. Roch Commemorative, Alderney Landing, Dartmouth, #Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia. By the RUSI(NS) Ship St. Roch Commemorative Association <https://rusi-ns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/St-Roch-Book2.pdf> @RCMPNS @rcmpgrcpolice @vanmaritime



"Contributions To Ukraine: Is Canada Punching Below Its Weight?" <https://natoassociation.ca/strongcontributions-to-ukraine-is-canada-punching-below-its-weight-strong/> A look at CAN financial, humanitarian & military assistance to UKR @NationalDefence @NATO #NATO #cdnpoli



Transport Canada @Transport_gc 18 Apr tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: #MarineSafety in Canada is stronger than ever before through initiatives like the Enhanced Maritime Situational Awareness system. Co-developed with Indigenous communities, it uses satellites to provide mariners with important info in near real time: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/corporate-services/transport-canada-serving-canadians/going-digital-protect-canada-s-waterways-communities> (Going digital to protect Canada's waterways and communities)



Lee Berthiaume @leeberthiaume 20 Apr tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Military procurement chief wants defence firms to stop overpromising, underdelivering <https://thepeterboroughexaminer.com/ts/politics/federal/2023/04/19/military-procurement-chief-wants-defence-firms-to-stop-overpromising-underdelivering.html> #cdnpoli #canmiltwitter



The Arctic Institute @ArcticInstitute 11 Apr tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: This week's #article: "2022 Russian Maritime Doctrine: Implications for NATO & the Future of Great Power Competition in the #Arctic" by Gonzalo Vázquez is online now! 🌐 Link to the full article ↪️ <https://www.thearcticinstitute.org/2022-russian-maritime-doctrine-implications-nato-future-great-power-competition-arctic/>



CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 12 Apr tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: CDA Deputy Director, Joe Varner highlights the growing concerns over a potential conflict with #China and the need for the U.S. to ensure its military readiness in the face of supply chain vulnerabilities and a growing "firepower gap."
(The Chinese dragon may spout fire but is not ten feet tall yet <https://www.9dashline.com/article/the-chinese-dragon-may-spout-fire-but-is-not-ten-feet-tall-yet>)



FINTRAC_Canada @FINTRAC_Canada 11 Apr tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Learn more on #ProjectAnton and the importance of cross-border cooperation in combatting #IllegalWildlifeTrade in @worldbordersec latest issue of Border Security Report.
(<https://www.border-security-report.com/march-april-2023-border-security-report-has-arrived/>)



Franken-Tank

Clash Report @clashreport tweeted 16 Apr: Mutant Ukrainian armored vehicle based on T-64 tank without a turret, but with a machine gun and Kontakt-1 ERA spotted near Bakhmut.

Gotta give the Ukrainians credit, a reasonable adaptation of old armour (if the power plant can be kept going). Hmm, thinking of the Canadian Army's Kangaroo 'APC.'



More Mutant Armour

Rob Lee @RALee85 14 Apr tweeted: Russian 25mm 2M-3M naval gun emplaced on a Russian ATS-59G artillery tractor.
https://vk.com/milinfoive?w=wall-123538639_3569920

Someone retweeted (tankies and historians will get the allusion): Strong Sd. Kfz. 7-1 vibes.

(Hmm, what opportunities for adaptation are there within the CAF?)



“Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia” on Facebook:

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 RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

Allied Command Transformation Engages in Audacious Wargaming Activities to Refine the Alliance’s Military Instrument of Power

<https://act.nato.int/articles/allied-command-transformation-engages-audacious-wargaming-activities-refine-alliances-military-instrument-power>

"Recent wargaming efforts have focused on the completion and publication of the NATO Wargaming Handbook as well as the development of a wargaming network with Nations and academia."



The article "**Evaluating the National Cyber Force’s ‘Responsible Cyber Power in Practice’**" (<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/evaluating-national-cyber-forces-responsible-cyber-power-practice>) by the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies is a good read.



The UK and the US "envision applying cyber capabilities to more proactively frustrate and disrupt adversaries’ attempts to leverage cyberspace to achieve their national objectives." This is a practical and realistic approach to cyber.

As for the "International Legal Framework of the NCF's Cyber Operations," this remains unaddressed by the international legal community. Stated another way, there is no international framework for justifying 'offensive' cyber operations. As long as nations achieve their objectives for a relatively small investment, it will be very difficult to combat state-on-state cyber conflict.

David Swan, Director, Centre for Strategic Cyberspace and International Studies

(The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia and the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, United Kingdom, are not formally related.)

Taiwan prepares for economic blockade by China

<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4863762>

Economic warfare, including blockades and interdiction of trade, has long been a major part of naval warfare. When so often force-on-force dominates studies and practice, are modern commanders and staffs getting enough training in economic warfare? Is it being sufficiently wargamed, exercised at sea? How would Canada respond to a blockade of a country, ally or otherwise friendly? Blockade is, after all, a whole-of-government problem, with hopefully a whole-of-government response, not just a matter for naval forces.



South Korea's DSME To Design Arsenal Ship For ROK Navy

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2023/04/south-koreas-dsme-to-design-arsenal-ship-for-rok-navy/>

"... Joint Firepower Ship, which is relatively vulnerable to enemy attacks, difficult to defend, and easily detectable by the enemy compared to submarines."



Yes, it is desirable for a navy to get more missiles to sea (missile count, 'depth of magazine', is becoming almost the measure of a navy's and individual ship's strength). However, how that is done should depend on a state's geo-strategic situation. Arsenal ships may be appropriate for South Korea. For Canada, other platforms (large destroyers, long-range submarines, maybe even converted civil vessels) and, maybe better yet, logistics capabilities to re-arm our forward vessels, would probably be better approaches.

Budgeting for Australia's nuclear-powered submarines

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/budgeting-for-australias-nuclear-powered-submarines/>

"Defence is not the only sector requiring more federal funding, with ever-increasing demands for social spending, industry support and infrastructure. The time to be raising taxes to strengthen the budget is before a crisis strikes—preferably now."



Let's see an analytical article "Budgeting for Canada's diesel-powered submarines." The conclusion probably wouldn't differ...

Policing

Moves nationwide to replace the RCMP with new provincial or municipal police departments, or to expand nearby municipal departments like is suggested in Amherst, NS, are opportunities for policing reform but also potential severe challenges. The benefit to mental health reform of a unified national police service is that training improvements can be centralized, but if policing is broken into a million smaller departments there is the inherent issue that each will have to be persuaded to institute reforms individually and one at a time. So I would suggest now is the time for the RCMP to build better mental health policies into its HR strategy, and build more humane policing of the mentally ill into its training. This would keep the RCMP more relevant and less replaceable as it shows signs of progress, and would also force any police department that replaces the RCMP in bits and pieces to start from the get-go with similar policies. Now is the time to bring in such changes!



Trudeau told NATO that Canada will never meet spending goal, Discord leak shows

<https://wapo.st/3LdNZES>

"The (leaked Pentagon assessment) document, which has not been previously reported on, says “enduring” defense shortfalls led the Canadian Armed Forces to assess in February that it “could not conduct a major operation while simultaneously maintaining its NATO battle group leadership [in Latvia] and aid to Ukraine” — and that the situation was not “likely” to change without a shift in public opinion."



'Nuff said!

Other Sources:

#Arctic #Russ-a-Ukraine War

The consequences of the war in Ukraine in the Arctic

<https://ras-nsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Report-on-the-consequences-of-the-war-in-Ukraine-in-the-Arctic.pdf>

#drones

RFP - Underwater Remote Vehicle

<https://canadabuys.canada.ca/en/tender-opportunities/tender-notice/ws3686650783-doc3916214044>

“...to complete regular underwater inspections on HMC ships, submarines, ranges and other underwater equipment.” *Engineering drones, operations drones, logistics drones...RCN is going to need to grow multiple drone organizations. In collaboration with other marine services?*

Report to Congress on Navy Large Unmanned Surface and Undersea Vehicles

<https://news.usni.org/2023/04/19/report-to-congress-on-navy-large-unmanned-surface-and-undersea-vehicles-5>

#China #naval warfare

Blue Water Command: The Evolution of Authority on Chinese Warships

<https://www.navy.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/Blue%20Water%20Command%20-%20The%20Evolution%20of%20Authority%20on%20Chinese%20Warships.pdf>

#cyber operations #reading

War Books: Cyber and Influence for Nonexperts

<https://mwi.usma.edu/war-books-cyber-and-influence-for-nonexperts/>

#Indo-Pacific

China Eyes Commercial Ships in a Move to Intimidate Taiwan

Available on request to RUSI(NS).

How much of a threat does Russia's Pacific fleet pose to the US?

And to Canada? <https://taskandpurpose.com/news/russia-pacific-fleet-challenge-united-states/>

Why is a large area of ocean northeast of Taiwan closed?

<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4864776>

“‘There can never be too much deception in war,’ means precisely this.” ... “to achieve victory we must as far as possible make the enemy blind and deaf by sealing his eyes and ears and drive his commanders to distraction by creating confusion in their minds.”

#land warfare #Russia-Ukraine War

Obstacle Clearance Under Fire

<https://tacticalnotebook.substack.com/p/obstacle-clearance-under-fire>

#NATO

Russian Invasion of Ukraine Revolutionizes NATO Military Strategy

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/17/world/europe/nato-russia-ukraine-war.html>

#naval warfare

Fighting DMO, Pt. 7: The Future of the Aircraft Carrier in Distributed Warfighting

<https://cimsec.org/fighting-dmo-pt-7-the-future-of-the-aircraft-carrier-in-distributed-warfighting/>

Earlier parts are listed here.

#Royal Canadian Navy

#Canadian Surface Combatant Project

Public Update: Land-Based Testing Facility

<http://tridentnewspaper.com/lbtf/>

#submarines

Royal Canadian Navy Begins Long Process to Replace Victoria-Class Subs

<http://espritdecorps.ca/feature/royal-canadian-navy-begins-long-process-to-replace-victoria-class-subs>

#Russia

The Russian General Staff: Understanding the Military's Decisionmaking Role in a "Besieged Fortress"

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1233-7.html

#Russia-Ukraine War

The Landing at Azovske

Know your maps!: <https://tacticalnotebook.substack.com/p/the-landing-at-azovske>

Some recent articles on forthcoming offensives in Ukraine

<https://twitter.com/WarintheFuture/status/1647414738765381632>

Russia Pounds Ukrainian Positions With TOS-1 ‘Solntsepyok’ Flamethrowers That Were Seen Installed With Cage Armor

<https://eurasianimes.com/russia-pounds-ukrainian-positions-with-tos-1-solntsepyok-flamethrowers/>

Russian learning and adaption throughout the war

<https://en.rattibha.com/thread/1647834258747322368>

Parking Meter for Stranded Russian Plane Hits \$330,000 and Keeps Going

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/russian-plane-stranded-canada-parking-fees-89d18eac>

Anyone one to buy a used strategic airlifter?

A consideration of economic/sanction warfare – after you have got it, what do you do with it?

[Article available from RUSI(NS) on request.]

Ukraine's Strategy of Attrition

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00396338.2023.2193092>

What to Expect From Ukraine's Counter-Offensive

<https://time.com/6273156/ukraine-counter-offensive-russia/>

#armour

Destination Of Russian T-90 Tank Left At Truck Stop Comes Into Focus

technical intelligence: <https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/destination-of-russian-t-90-tank-left-at-truck-stop-comes-into-focus>

More on TECHINT at: Understanding the Enemy: The Enduring Value of Technical and Forensic Exploitation

<https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Publications/Article/577571/understanding-the-enemy-the-enduring-value-of-technical-and-forensic-exploitation/>

And not unexpectedly...

Pentagon Gives Statement On Russian T-90 Tank Left At Truck Stop

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/pentagon-gives-statement-on-russian-t-90-tank-left-at-truck-stop>

Antique T-54 Series Tank Appears With Russian Forces In Ukraine

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/antique-t-54-series-tank-appears-with-russian-forces-in-ukraine>

Too bad Canada didn't keep its Centurions.

#information operations

A hopeless mix of misleading narratives and plain old fakes

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/a-hopeless-mix-of-misleading-narratives-and-plain-old-fakes/>

#seapower

In Search of an Australian Maritime School of Thought

https://www.navy.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/In%20Search%20of%20an%20Australian%20Maritime%20School%20of%20Thought_0.pdf

#security

This Agency's Declassification Work Could Be a Model for Others

<https://www.govexec.com/oversight/2023/04/agencys-declassification-work-could-be-model-others/385151/>

#space

Space Threat Assessment 2023

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/space-threat-assessment-2023>

Other:

Book - **Advanced Land Warfare - Tactics and Operations**

<https://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/academic/pdf/openaccess/9780192857422.pdf>

Sections (each section can have several monographs):

Approaching Land Warfare in the Twenty-first Century

The Future of Manoeuvre Warfare

Commanding Contemporary and Future Land Operations: What Role for Mission Command?

Combat Logistics in the Twenty-first Century: Enabling the Mobility, Endurance, and Sustainment of NATO Land in a Future Major Conflict

The Command of Land Forces

Tactical Tenets: Checklists or Toolboxes

Urban Warfare: Challenges of Military Operations on 8. Emerging Technologies: From Concept to Capability

Interoperability Challenges in an Era of Systemic Competition

The Moral Component of Fighting: Bringing Society

Military Health Services Supporting the Land

The Operational Cultures of American Ground Forces

People's Liberation Army Operations and Tactics in the Land Domain: Informationized to Intelligitized Warfare

A Strategy of Limited Actions: Russia's Ground-Based Forces in Syria

The Role of Israel's Ground Forces in Israel's Wars

Tactics and Trade-Offs: The Evolution of Manoeuvre in the British Army

Caught between a Rock and a Hard Place: The French Army, Expeditionary Warfare, and the Return of Strategic Competition

Trends in the Land Warfare Capability of Poland and the Visegrád States, 1991–2021

Towards a Versatile Edge: Developing Land Forces for Future Conflict

The Military Learning Library

<http://the-military-learning-library.343.s1.nabble.com/>

Change of an Icon of Canadian History

Railway operations may not be a focus for other than logisticians (meaning a lot more of us should be interested) and train fans, but staff from Canadian Pacific were authors for the RUSI(NS) History & Heritage Note "Canadian Pacific Railway's 'Support Our Troops' Locomotives" (<https://rusi-ns.ca/locomotives/>), so when a merger of CP with Kansas City Southern was announced 14 Apr 23, with concomitant change of logo/badge, it caught the eye of one of your co-editors. Staff of now-CPKC were queried about this change of Canadian history, and a comment was made that the extent of change can be assessed in the new logo/badge as compared to the old. Fittingly, the merger announcement was marked with a 'final spike ceremony.'

More at: "CPKC unveils new logo on first day as a merged system" (<https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/cpkc-unveils-new-logo-on-first-day-as-a-merged-system/>)



2023 Royal Canadian Logistics Service Bursary Program

On behalf of the Royal Canadian Logistics Service (RCLS), it is with great pleasure that Colonel Kent Judiesch, the RCLS Integrator/Advisor, and Chief Petty Officer First Class Nadia Lizotte, formally announce the commencement of the 2023 Bursary Award program.

This year's Royal Canadian Logistics Service Bursary program will award six bursaries, of \$1,000.00 each. Five of the bursaries are funded through the RCLS Fund, with the sixth sponsored by the generous support of the Royal Canadian Logistics Service Association.

Applicant selection is based on several factors, including but not limited to Academic performance. Therefore, all eligible dependents are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility criteria for the Bursary program is as follows:

1. Members must have a minimum of 2 years continuous service as a Logistician with either the Reg F or PRes F and be an active member of the RCLS Fund;
2. Applicants must be in or have completed their final year of secondary schooling and are preparing to attend or are currently attending an institute of higher learning;
3. Only candidates undertaking studies up to and including university undergraduate programs who have not previously received a bursary may apply. Students undertaking a Graduate program or who are accepted as part of any CAF subsidized program are not eligible.

The RCLS bursary application form, essay requirements, and all other required documentation for submission is available on the RCLS website under **Fund** and then **Bursary Program and Application**. The application is also attached here for your convenience.

Complete applications are due no later than close of business on **9 June 2023**. The RCLS reserves the right to authenticate all information pertaining to the application prior to rendering any decision.

Please visit the [RCLS intranet site](#) for more information. (*Editor: may not be available by clicking.*)

Programme de bourses du Service royal de la logistique du Canada 2023

Au nom du Service royal de la logistique du Canada (SRLC), c'est avec grand plaisir que l'intégrateur / conseiller du SRLC, le colonel Kent Judiesch, et le premier maître de 1re classe Nadia Lizotte annoncent officiellement le lancement du programme de bourses 2023.

Cette année, le programme de bourses du SRLC accordera six bourses de 1 000 \$ chacune. Cinq bourses sont subventionnées par le Fonds du SRLC et la sixième est généreusement offerte par l'Association du RCLS.

Outre le rendement scolaire, la sélection des candidats tient compte de plusieurs facteurs. Les personnes à charge admissibles sont donc encouragées à présenter leur candidature.

Les critères d'admissibilité sont les suivants:

1. Les militaires doivent compter au moins 2 années de service continu en tant que logisticien au sein de la F rég ou de la F P rés et être un membre actif du fonds du SRLC;
2. Les candidats doivent avoir terminé ou être en train de terminer leur dernière année d'études secondaires et fréquenter ou se préparer à fréquenter un établissement d'enseignement post-secondaire;
3. Les candidats qui entreprennent des études post-secondaires, y compris des études menant à un diplôme de premier cycle universitaire, et qui n'ont pas déjà obtenu une bourse, sont admissibles au programme. Les personnes qui poursuivent des études universitaires de 2e ou de 3e cycle, qui ont déjà reçu une bourse, ou qui ont été admises dans un programme subventionné par les FAC ne sont pas admissibles au programme de bourses du SRLC.

Le formulaire de demande de bourse du SRLC, les exigences relatives à la rédaction du texte de présentation et tous les autres documents requis pour présenter une demande se trouvent sur le site du SRLC dans la section **Fonds**, sous la rubrique **Programme de bourses et application**.

Les demandes dûment remplies doivent être soumises au plus tard à la fermeture des bureaux le **9 juin 2023**. Le SRLC se réserve le droit de vérifier toute information relative à la demande avant de rendre une décision.

Veillez visiter le [site intranet du SRLC](#) pour obtenir plus d'information. (*Éditeur : peut ne pas être disponible en cliquant sur.*)

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O Canada

This week saw the Prime Minister being sent a letter by 65 prominent Canadians asking that the government take defence and security seriously. These people are from across the political spectrum and amongst the most knowledgeable in the country on defence and security matters domestically and internationally. Yet the PM dismissed them as being people with a political agenda and preference. It says a lot about the government's attention to security issues as also seen with non-action in election interference. There are now four Parliamentary committees looking into political interference. Time is still wasting time to the bottom of the issue and ensuring Canadians can be confident in our system and the government's willingness to tackle the problem especially as it is becoming clearer who is the main beneficiary. It is also becoming increasingly clear that there is an uncomfortable connection between this political interference and the Trudeau Foundation formed with taxpayers' money to the tune of \$125m CAD. Even if everything is actually above board the matter needs to be cleared up not with closed sessions and committees but with cleansing light of a public inquiry for everyone's sake. The answer against a public inquiry is we cannot release intelligence but that is not true if it is in the best interests of the country. It has been done many times before as the greater good was more important. This does not mean wholesale release but there are ways and means of doing so without fully compromising security. It does mean taking a, acceptable, considered risk, but in this case it is now vital to the health of the country.

On a lighter note, CBC has been labelled as a government funded media on Twitter. I listen to CBC daily myself, I am not sure I am totally onboard with the label but CBC has not done itself any favours nor were they assisted when an old comment from the soon to be PM at the time said CBC should be scared as the government supplied their funding or words to that effect. It is not a good look. This

being said, CBC plays a vital role in local programming which is not duplicated by the other stations and this will be a great loss. Hopefully, a compromise can be reached.

United States

The destroyer USS *Milius* did a freedom of navigation operation in the South China Sea, coming within 12 miles of the Spratly Islands and specifically Mischief Reef where China has created an artificial island that has been militarized. The US continues to insist that features that are below water at high tide naturally are not features for the intent of territorial claims. China has a vast program that compromises this definition. This allows China to claim, illegally, large areas of the South China Sea. China is in direct conflict on this matter with at least six countries (Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Taiwan and Indonesia). The US provides the "muscle" to prevent China from bullying these countries if forced to deal with China on their own.

Moldova

Russia continues to attempt to interfere in Moldova's elections. This week the Russian Governor of Tartistan, Rustam Minnikhanov, was refused entry along with a delegation of Russians who arrived in Moldova to support a pro-Russian candidate in the semi-autonomous region of Gagauzia. Recent documents and information indicate that Russia has a long term plan to eventually gain control over Moldova. The current Moldovan government is pro-Europe and is against the Russian attack on Ukraine and also on Russian efforts to destabilize the situation inside the country. Moldova continues to have even greater relations with European countries and with NATO. It has applied for membership in both organizations. Pro-Russian elements have tried to prevent greater integration. Russia is less than happy over this perceived insult. Moldova has added insult on to Russia's injury by also summoning the Russian Ambassador and asking for the removal of a Russian diplomat because of his actions at the airport during the incident with the Tartistan Governor. The Ambassador was also bluntly told that Russia should not interfere in Moldova.

Exercises with NATO forces have recently concluded. In the past two weeks, pro-Russian foreigners were stopped from entering the country thus preventing further disruptions.

Belarus

Belarus pilots have completed Russian training for the launching of tactical nuclear weapons. Approximately ten Su-25 ground attack aircraft have been allegedly modified to conduct nuclear missions. Russia will maintain control over all nuclear weapons. Storage sites for larger strategic weapons are also being prepared at various Belarus sites, however, this work is ongoing and the actual weapons may not actually be in place until "needed." Belarus had been nuclear armed after the fall of the Soviet Union. Ukraine and Kazakhstan were nuclear armed as well but were convinced to give up the weapons once they became independent. Russia has stated that it was the British offering of depleted uranium shells for the Challenger 2 tanks that have caused this reaction. This is a bogus argument as the depleted uranium shells are not nuclear weapons nor can they be modified to do so.

The Belarus tennis player Aryna Sabalenka, winner of the recent Australian Open, has stated that she wished that the war would be over. She has been subject to hate speech and actions. She does not control her president's actions and speech but understands peoples' frustration. She is another type of victim of Putin's illegal war.

Belarus continues to do a balancing act trying to stay out of the war yet do just enough to stay out of Putin's "bad books." The room for such an act seem to be less and less possible as Putin's demands

ramp up. As of 19 April, the Belarus upper house approved a new technical agreement between Belarus and the Russian Federation which is in place until 2025. The agreement provides an opportunity to develop new systems for possible foreign sales. It further cements the relationship between Russia and Belarus, some would say compromises Belarus autonomy and sovereignty. The question is will Belarus lose its independence? The answer is probably yes.

Russia-Ukraine War

Russia cancelled the Immortals' Day celebrations throughout Russia because of security threats. The Immortals' Day has been celebrated annually since the end of the Second World War/Great Patriotic War. Relatives were encouraged to bring pictures of their deceased veterans/soldiers from the war. In recent years, the soldiers killed in action from other wars also were celebrated. One wonders if the other part of this decision was that the relatives of recently deceased soldiers from the Russia-Ukraine War – sorry, special military operation - might bring a very real security problem. People would start to really understand the full cost of the current conflict.

Vladimir Kara-Murza , a major figure in the anti-Putin opposition, received a 25 year. He has been an ongoing "thorn in Putin's side" in his efforts to condemn the war. Putin's security forces tried twice to poison him to no effect. Mr Kara-Murza could have fled but chose to stay and fight the Putin regime. In reaction to his sentence, he stated that he was proud and that the harsh sentence means he was doing something right. He has British and Russian citizenship and could have avoided this fate by leaving. He chose not to do so but to fight within Russia itself as the deputy chair of Open Russia, set up by Mikhail Khodorkovsky, a former oligarch sentenced to ten years in prison essentially for criticizing Putin. Mr Khodorkovsky had most of his assets stolen by the Putin regime. He set up Open Russia in an effort to support pro-democratic forces. Alexei Navalny has been charged again for a staged incident in prison. He is currently charged with more than 30 separate charges while he was in prison. Most pundits agree that most of these charges are bogus. The Putin regime doesn't even try to hide their deeds in dealing with pro-democratic leaders.

The war continues unabated but there is increasing evidence that the Putin regime is less than optimistic about the success of the latest series of operations. Most offensives are stopped or at least slowed down considerably. This week saw the return of regular troops to the Bakhmut region in place or alongside Wagner forces. Initially these forces made strong headway at a considerable loss of life in infantry attacks. In order to conduct these operations, forces were stripped away from other locations. In the past 24 hours, Ukraine made a series of counter-attacks which eliminated all the recent gains in a very short time plus compromising other defensive areas especially in the north of Bakhmut.

Another indicator is the creation of large defensive works including a large anti-tank ditch across parts of occupied Kherson and Zaporizhia oblasts. There are a large number of defensive works created across Crimea as well. These new defensive positions have been built mainly by civilian workers vice military engineer units. Some civilian based material such as the concrete "dragons teeth" have been horribly compromised to the point of useless. The pictures of the anti-tank ditch look rudimentary and easily breached by a decent engineer or pioneer organization. Russia was noted for their defensive positions in the Second World War, but their glory in the defence looks weak.

The last point is that Russia is employing a new digital mobilization process. This system takes material on each individual from across the web and includes government information. In order to maintain good standing one has to update information, especially contact information. Individuals will have to report to mobilization centres when informed with limited ability to delay. If one does not obey the summons, then their digital footprint will be restricted including the ability to go to school, work, get married or divorced, buy food, pay taxes, etc. In short, one's life can be completely and

easily compromised. While one might consider this overkill, Ukraine has developed a similar system as volunteers become scarce. This is a strange new world.

China

China concluded three days of military and naval exercises (drill, really - exercise is not applicable as the Chinese and Russians do drills, rote regimes; initiative is seldom practiced) around Taiwan and near Guam in reaction to Tsai in-wen's meeting with Kevin McCarthy while the Taiwanese President was flying through the States after a series of visits to Taiwan's remaining allies. The US has shown that they will continue to support Taiwan's defence along with other allies. The US also committed to further weapons deliveries in the near future in the face of increasing Chinese Communist Party (CCP) threats to invade and take the island by force. Most Western countries view that any attempt to take Taiwan by force will result in action against the CCP. China on the other hand has stated that other nations should stop interfering in Chinese internal matters. Despite this announcement, in real terms, the CCP reaction was much less than post the Nancy Pelosi visit a little over a year ago.

This exercise saw the deployment of two carrier battle groups based on the *Liaoning* and the *Shandong* stationed and operating near Guam and Taiwan respectively. Both locations are key to China's during any future operation against Taiwan. Both carriers rely on a ski-jump take off but an arrester wire landing as most aircraft are navalized versions of land based aircraft such as the J-15. Both carrier groups flew, for them, an extensive number of mission. China has not been able to display the necessary competence to fly large complex missions off their carriers. *Shandong* achieved 120 sorties over the three day period, more or less like a single afternoon for a US carrier group. While China having carriers at all is impressive and they are continuing to evolve, their carriers are not a match for the US or some of the European countries.

The Peoples' Liberation Army Air Force also flew multiple missions during the exercise with a large variation of aircraft types and with over 230 sorties being carried out from land bases. While China's efforts showed a willingness to utilize the characteristics of their varied aircraft to achieve the aim, it also showed an unwillingness to fight at night. Most operations ended at 1600 hrs. This capability or lack thereof will be critical. The US and allies all operate at night to attack as defences are compromised by low light and alertness. It also speaks to the training shortfalls of Chinese pilots and aircrew. These exercises displayed China's potential weaknesses rather than strength. Many of the exercise tend to be more drill than actual preparation for combat.

China's military has undergone a number of reorganizations in the past few years. One of the most important is the concept of joint commands where a single commander controls all personnel no matter what their actual service. The three main services thus become force generators and the commands the force employers. This mimics the similar type of organization found in Western militaries but is new to the Chinese. What is different is that the Chinese have a commissar system that in fact actually controls the commander whether service or command on behalf of the Party. In the Russian system, the commander was always senior; in the Chinese system it is the commissar who outranks the commander. There is no doubt that the Party controls the actions and operations of the armed forces. One wonders as to the effectiveness of this system.

The PLA in general has taken on a large amount of new equipment. The introduction of equipment has been mainly the flashy sort as seen with the Russians. It isn't the tanks and the like that are key, it is the simple truck for logistics. New equipment without the necessary logistics, maintenance, training and facilities are a liability and not a force multiplier. The Chinese have generally used the Russians as a template for their structure and establishment. There must be some rethinking required as the Russian system has failed miserably during the Russia-Ukraine war.

China has another issue which is the outright corruption of the PLA which is inter-twined with industry. One of Xi's key initiatives since his elevation to Party Chairman has been to purge the Party and therefore the armed forces of corruption which is seen as rampant. This purge is not complete nor is corruption. Xi's efforts are mainly a way to place Xi loyalists in key positions, it is also not expected to improve the overall efficiency of the PLA.

China may think they are close to being ready for the invasion of Taiwan, but most indicators seem to show otherwise. Large numbers do not guarantee victory. CCP leadership is ill-equipped to understand this as their system relies on faulty, often fictional, information. The real issue is they have little real understanding of the problem nor the effects of widespread corruption within the military. As Putin is finding out, the successful reports are not worth the ink and paper they were written on. The result will likely be defeat.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russia has re-energised its assault on the Donetsk Oblast town of Bakhmut as forces of the Russian MoD and Wagner Group have improved co-operation. The Ukrainian defence still holds the western districts of the town but has been subjected to particularly intense Russian artillery fire over the previous 48 hours.
- Wagner assault groups continue to conduct the main advance through the centre of town, while Russian airborne forces (VDV) have relieved some Wagner units securing the northern and southern flanks of the operation.
- Ukrainian forces face significant resupply issues but have made orderly withdrawals from the positions they have been forced to concede.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 11 April 2023, the Russian State Duma adopted a law establishing a unified registry of individuals eligible for military service. The key implication of the measure is that in future, the authorities will be able to serve call-up papers electronically, rather than by letter, removing one obstacle which has previously allowed some to dodge the draft.
- With individuals' call-up data now digitally linked to other state-provided online services, it is likely that the authorities will punish draft-dodgers by automatically limiting employment rights and restricting foreign travel.
- The measures are reported to be coming into force later in the year; they do not specifically indicate any major new wave of enforced mobilisation. Russia is, for now, prioritising a drive to recruit extra volunteer troops. However, the measure is highly likely part of a longer-term approach to provide personnel as Russia anticipates a lengthy conflict in Ukraine.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- General Colonel Mikhail Teplinsky, commander of Russia's corps of airborne troops, the VDV, has highly likely returned to a major role in Ukraine. He was previously dismissed from the theatre in January 2023.
- Teplinsky is likely one of the few senior Russian generals widely respected by the rank-and-file. His recent turbulent career suggests intense tensions between factions within the Russian General Staff about Russia's military approach in Ukraine.
- It is unlikely Teplinsky's remit will be limited to VDV units, but he is highly likely to promote the corps' traditional role as an elite force. In recent days, the VDV have resumed a key mission in the battle for Bakhmut, and likely undertaken novel integration with TOS-1A thermobaric rocket launchers in the Kremina sector.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Mine-related civilian casualties continue to be reported daily in Ukraine. The most affected areas are Kherson and Kharkiv oblasts: areas Russia has previously occupied.
- With the arrival of spring, and more people involved in agricultural activities, the risk of civilian mine incidents will increase.
- Over 750 mine related casualties among civilians have been reported since the start of the invasion - one in eight has involved a child. It will likely take at least a decade to clear Ukraine of mines.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Heavy fighting has continued along the Donbas front line. However, there is a realistic possibility that Russia has reduced troop numbers and is decreasing offensive action around Donetsk city, most likely to divert resources towards the Bakhmut sector.
- In Bakhmut, Russian MoD and Wagner Group forces continue to make creeping advances. The front line in the town centre largely follows the main railway line. Ukraine is generally holding Russia's envelopment from the south along the line of Korsunskovo Street, the old main road west out of town.
- For both sides, the exact sequencing of any major drawdown of their units around Bakhmut has become a critical question, with Ukraine wanting to free-up an offensive force while Russia likely aspires to regenerate an operational reserve.

CLaS Alumni Virtual Event - Battle of the Atlantic

You are cordially invited to attend a CLaS Alumni Virtual Speaker Event for the Battle of the Atlantic 78th Commemoration on 2 May 23 @ 1900-2100 EST.

The event will take place on MS Teams. Use the link below to join, select join from browser, and login as a guest.

Please RSVP at your earliest convenience and direct all questions to LCdr Chris Elliott, RCN Strategic Outreach Officer chris.elliott@forces.gc.ca

Topic: Battle of the Atlantic 78th Anniversary

Date/Time: 2 May 23 @ 1900-2100 EST

Schedule of Events:

- 1900: Introduction – LCdr Elliott
- 1910: Birth of a Navy – Mr. Gordon Laco
- 1930: Journey of a Sailor – Dr. Ann Griffiths
- 1950: HMCS *Trentonian* – Mr. Roger Litwiller
- 2010: BOA Memorial / Wall of Honour project – Capt(N) Batte / Jeff Topping
- 2030: Q&A – facilitated by LCdr Elliott
- 2050: Closing Remarks – LCdr Elliott

https://teams.microsoft.com/dl/launcher/launcher.html?url=%2F%20%23%2F1%2Fmeetup-join%2F19%3Ameeting_OTdjMmZlZWQtdMDY5YS00NDgzLWE0ZTQtYTk4MDNhZmQ4MTg2%40thread.v2%2F0%3Fcontext%3D%257b%2522Tid%2522%253a%2522325b4494-1587-40d5-bb31-8b660b7f1038%2522%252c%2522Oid%2522%253a%2522b05dcd92-3a45-4948-b981-76cbe5e4278c%2522%257d%26anon%3Dtrue&type=meetup-join&deeplinkId=36262a1e-61df-4b2f-b863-632d0e9426e6&directDI=true&msLaunch=true&enableMobilePage=true&suppressPrompt=true

Or call in (audio only)

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