



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 12 May 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).

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.

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>

17 May, Wednesday - Queen's University Centre for International and Defence Policy speaker Colonel Ryan Jurkowski "Communicating Strategically: The Need for the Canadian Armed Forces to Adapt to Today's Information Environment." Noon-1 pm EDT. Via Zoom. To register: <https://www.queensu.ca/cidp/events/idp-speaker-series/communicating-strategically-need-canadian-armed-forces-adapt-todays>

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>

Postponed: 22 June - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker Brigadier-General Masson, Commander 5th Canadian Division. **This event has been tentatively rescheduled for September. MTF.**

Publications:

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

RUSI(NS) Paper "Chantier Davie Canada Inc – Post-2011 Activity – Construction, Conversion, Refit and Repair" by Captain Anthony Potts, 2 May 2023, https://rusi-ns.ca/chantier_davie/

RUSI(NS) Presentation "The Nova Scotia RCMP – Forward into 2023 and beyond" by ACmmr Dennis Daley, 1 May 2023, <https://rusi-ns.ca/nova-scotia-rcmp/>

RUSI(NS) Information Note "MV *Asterix* and HADR Missions", 26 April 2023
https://rusi-ns.ca/asterix_and_hadr_missions/

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

New: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 10 May 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

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

Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XLI, Number 5, May 2023

Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, May 2023
<https://www.rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/197-rausi-dispatches-may-2023>

Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch *Scuttlebutt*, May 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.

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 18, Issue 3, 1 May 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.

Canadian Army @CanadianArmy 6 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: “The Canadian Army celebrates the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, King of Canada. It was an honour to have our soldiers at Westminster Abbey in London as part of the ceremony, and to mark this historic occasion here in Canada.”



Paul Maddison@PaulMaddison7 Tweeted 6 May and RUSI(NS) retweeted:
"Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy is a communications strategy to hide weakness at home and abroad and the lack of a national commitment to international security in a region of vital economic interest."



Alex Vicefield @avicefield 5 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: “Mission accomplished. After 229 hours and 1910nm sailed on lookout, patrol and RAS ops, Asterix has been released from Op Savanna in Sudan. Worked with US, French, UK and Spanish navies and were designated the At Sea Command Platform for US Task Force Red Sea (CTG 55.2)”



Canadian Crown 🇨🇦 @Canadian_Crown 6 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Today, the Canadian Government unveiled a new heraldic Canadian Crown replacing the traditional St. Edward’s Crown used on Canada’s coat of arms, police & military badges. The design replaces religious symbols (crosses & fleur-de-lis) with maple leaves & a snowflake.
#cdnpoli



Public Safety Canada @Safety_Canada 11 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: (1/2) Today, Minister Blair announced the release of the National Risk Profile Report, Canada's first strategic, national-level disaster risk assessment.



Coronation Gun Salute

The Army in London on Twitter 6 May 23: "At the moment the Crown was placed on the Head of The King in Westminster Abbey, The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery fired a six Gun Salvo on Horse Guards Parade. God Save The King!

@BritishArmy @RoyalFamily @DefenceHQ @DCMS @theroyalparks

<https://twitter.com/ArmyInLondon/status/1654822281250471938>"



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

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New multi-role combat vessels to act as force multiplier for S'pore navy

<https://www.straitstimes.com/.../new-multi-role-combat...>

Canada needs multi-role combatant vessels for regional operations. Such mid-capability vessels are part of a 'balanced navy', would replace the Royal Canadian Navy's aging Kingston-class patrol vessels and would complement the Canadian Surface Combatant project ships (which themselves are to replace the Halifax-class frigates). These regional vessels would need to be designed to meet Canadian requirements (e.g., seakeeping in the North Atlantic) but certainly a capability to operate air, surface and underwater uncrewed vehicles (drones) would allow them to undertake a variety of roles in conflict, competition and peace.



NATO Confirms Risk of Russian Attack on Subsea Infrastructure

<https://maritime-executive.com/.../nato-confirms-risk-of...>

"...Russia is using research vessels and covert 'spy ship' trawlers to survey subsea cables and pipelines..."

Canada needs a subsea/seabed operations capability to monitor its sea bottom pipelines and cables, to watch for adversary ships operating in their vicinity, and if necessary to intervene. Probably whole-of-government and in conjunction with the civil sector planning, equipping and exercising. What intelligence and operations centres are tracking adversary ships near our subsea infrastructure? What civil and government marine department ships could be converted to be employed in defence of subsea infrastructure? To what extent are underwater and sea bottom uncrewed vehicles being considered?



Military woes leave Canada at risk

<https://www.thestar.com/.../military-woes-leave-canada-at...>

"The harsh reality is that Canada's military is not prepared to meet the challenges of a changing world, leaving Canadians and the nation's interests at risk. It will take money and political will to fix it."



Rheinmetall pitches unmanned mothership full of tiny attack drones

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/battlefield-tech/2023/05/04/rheinmetall-pitches-unmanned-mothership-full-of-tiny-attack-drones/>

"...a drone envisioned to carry up to eight loitering munitions and release them close to their targets."

For some time there has been writing about envisioning ships and crewed aircraft as 'trucks' which carry payloads to the operating area. So to look at an uncrewed aircraft as a carrier (not a mothership - different concept and outmoded word with that term) of loitering munitions/one-way attack drones (better term than 'kamikaze' drones) is not revolutionary. Successful development could, though, make for some big changes when (which appears more likely than 'if') such vehicles show up on the battlefield, if nothing else extending the depth of fires considerably and changing the nature of security well behind front lines.



'Major role' of Halifax recognized in Battle of Atlantic

<https://www.cbc.ca/.../battle-of-the-atlantic-ceremony...>

"People gathered in honour of the more than 2,000 navy sailors and more than 1,500 merchant mariners who died during the six-year campaign (1939-45) against German and Italian naval forces. About 100 uniformed members from the navy, air force, army and cadets marched to the sailors' memorial as part of the ceremony."

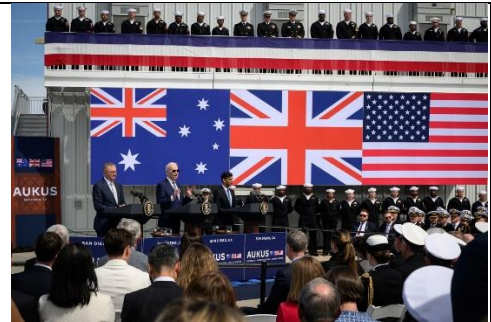


Canada seeks entry into AUKUS alliance to help keep China in check

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/.../article-canada-eyes.../?>

"The Canadian government is seeking to join the non-nuclear component of AUKUS, a security pact between Australia, Britain and the United States that was struck to counter China's rising military might in the Indo-Pacific region, according to two government sources."

"Canada's reason for wanting to join now is not to acquire nuclear-powered submarines, like Australia, but rather to participate in the second pillar of the AUKUS agreement, the two sources, both senior government officials, said. This non-nuclear part of AUKUS provides for information-sharing and close co-operation on accelerating development of cutting-edge technologies, including undersea defence capabilities, artificial intelligence, quantum technology and hypersonic warfare."



About two thirds of Canadians support increasing defence spending to reach NATO target: Nanos

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/.../about-two-thirds-of-canadians...>

"Most Canadians support increasing defence spending to reach the two per cent target for NATO allies, according to a national survey conducted by Nanos for CTV News."

In 2021, Canada spent around 1.4 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) on national defence, falling short NATO's two per cent target. The country has not achieved this defence spending target since the 1980s."

Are these results just a blip or representative of a trend? It is argued that until Canadians demonstrate an interest in increased Defence spending, Governments are reluctant to invest in Defence.



PREPARING CANADA FOR A NEW GENERATION OF SECURITY CHALLENGES

<https://warontherocks.com/.../preparing-canada-for-a-new.../>

"Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau privately told NATO officials that Canada will never meet NATO's defense-spending target of 2 percent of GDP. While this made headlines in Canada and abroad, it surprised few in Canadian foreign policy and defense circles."



"To further its commitment to NATO and contribute to allied deterrence, Canada should focus its national security efforts on key force-multiplying areas of priority in which it already possesses comparative advantages, which require minimal additional hardware, and where it can build significant capacity in a short time period. Ottawa should consider developing more capable cyber capabilities, building special forces, and ensuring energy security. "

NATO Secretary General engages industry on critical undersea infrastructure

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_214322.htm

"For NATO, protecting critical undersea infrastructure is essential to our security and defence because it is key to protecting the security and prosperity of our societies," said the Secretary General. "Undersea cables carry an estimated 10 trillion dollars in transfers every day, two thirds of the world's oil and gas is either extracted at sea or transported by sea, and around 95 % of global data flows are transmitted through undersea cables..."



It will be interesting to see what NATO efforts result and doctrine develops from increased alliance attention to sea bottom/seabed operations. What will Canada (not necessarily from the Royal Canadian Navy and Canadian Armed Forces) contribute? Great area for scientific collaboration by whole-of-government in conjunction with the civilian sector.

Canadian Membership in AUKUS - A Time for Action

<https://asiapacificdefencereporter.com/csis-viewpoint.../>

"The glacial pace at which Canada appears to be adapting to the realities of modern great power competition has left it far behind the curve, with consequences for both Ottawa's reputation among its allies, and its ability to protect Canadian territory, sovereignty, and contribute to global peace and stability.



While Canada is a member of storied and long-standing security partnerships, it has been loath to step up as a member of these alliances. Even Canada's new Indo-Pacific Strategy is decidedly light on substance. The document commits to greater participation in joint exercises and training and the deployment of just one extra vessel for patrols in the region, adding up to a modest investment of less than \$500 million over five years."

Other Sources:

#Canadian Coast Guard

Rescue specialist

<https://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/careers-carrieres/rescue-special-sauvetage-eng.html>

#defence policy #United Kingdom

Rethinking British Military Policy

<https://wavellroom.com/2023/05/05/rethinking-british-military-policy/>

#drones

US Military Now Has Voice-Controlled Bug Drones

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2023/05/us-military-now-has-voice-controlled-bug-drones/386213/>

#Indo-Pacific #drones

Chinese UAVs encircle Taiwan

<https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/chinese-uavs-encircle-taiwan>

#information operations

Misunderstanding Misinformation

<https://issues.org/misunderstanding-misinformation-wardle/>

Report to Congress on Deep Fakes and National Security

<https://news.usni.org/2023/05/05/report-to-congress-on-deep-fakes-and-national-security>

#intelligence

A Guide to Measurement and Signature Intelligence (MASINT)

<https://greydynamics.com/a-guide-to-measurement-and-signature-intelligence-masint/>

CSIS Public Report 2022

<https://www.canada.ca/en/security-intelligence-service/corporate/publications/csis-public-report-2022.html>

#land warfare

Unstructured Comments on “The Relationship of Battle Damage to Unit Combat Performance”

<http://www.dupuyinstitute.org/blog/2023/05/10/unstructured-comments-on-the-relationship-of-battle-damage-to-unit-combat-performance/>

#naval warfare

World Map Showing Only Shipping Routes

<https://moverdb.com/map-showing-only-shipping-routes/>

These sea routes are part of a navy's equivalent of an army's 'brown' (terrain) information.

#Russia-Ukraine War

The nine new brigades for the spring offensive – organization | Mystics & Statistics

<http://www.dupuyinstitute.org/blog/2023/05/08/the-nine-new-brigades-for-the-spring-offensive-organization/>

Count of Opposing Forces

<http://www.dupuyinstitute.org/blog/2023/05/09/count-of-opposing-forces/>

#armour

Russian Tank With ‘Cope Cage’ Covered in Explosive Reactive Armor Emerges

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/russian-tank-debuts-cope-cage-covered-in-explosive-reactive-armor>

#Training

The Opposing Forces in JWC-directed Exercises: The Realistic Challenge: JWC - NATO

<https://www.jwc.nato.int/newsroom/warfare-development-focus/opposing-forces-realistic-challenge>

#warfare

A Guide to False Flag Operations

<https://greydynamics.com/a-guide-to-false-flag-operations/>

#wargaming

The Craft of Wargaming

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2021/3/1/reviewing-the-craft-of-wargaming>

Enhanced DoD Wargaming According to GAO and Relevance to Hobby Wargaming

<https://www.armchairdragoons.com/articles/analysis/gao2dodwargaming/>

Other:

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O Canada

The whole country is now watching and listening in disbelief over foreign interference of China in particular. China is not the only foreign power doing so either, the list would also include Russia and Iran as well, but it is certainly not a complete list. The motives of most foreign interference is relatively benign. All countries watch and try to set conditions for a positive relationship with the host country. Knowing key influencers is a vital part of that practice. China, Russia and Iran are authoritarian regimes noted for gross human rights abuses and are therefore a greater threat as their views of the world are warped and tainted by their own particularly poisonous regimes.

Canada has finally woken up to the Chinese threat. Keep in mind, the Government currently in power may have been elected as a result of election interference. Only once a full unbiased review is

conducted will we have a clear understanding of the exact effect of Chinese interference. One has to be in awe and not in a good way over how Ministers including the PM have tried to brush this off. It shows Canada doesn't understand its "national interests," nor how to go about providing basic security and defence to its citizens. Canada's foreign policy needs to reflect our national interests and right now, one might suspect that this Government and its predecessors have had very little understanding. The current Government has its own program, and one has to believe that they are so focused on this that they simply misread the situation on a daily basis. Canada needs members of Parliament who can think as well as frivolously spend taxpayers' money to essentially buy votes.

Bill C 11, The Online Streaming Act has passed in the House of Commons. It allows for the CRTC to have some regulatory role governing internet businesses such as Netflix, Meta etc. It has been viewed as a potential way for future Governments to censor by even former members of the CRTC. It is extremely light on details and the Senate added 26 different amendments which required it to go back to the House for review and approval of these amendments. It has received Royal Assent and is therefore will become law despite its flaws. Most critics are concerned that it is poorly conceived and written and key issues such as what constitutes "Canadian Content" are less than clear. Its ability to be manipulated is concerning. Will we now be told what we can see or do on the net by an anonymous Government appointed bureaucracy? It isn't clear; it is clear that this law needs to be heavily scrutinized and watched by citizens and action taken to rescind it if necessary, as it goes to the very heart of free speech in Canada.

On a rare positive note, it appears that Canada may join at least some aspects of AUKUS. It also appears we were never invited, and it is also clear that the PM never knew what was in AUKUS in the first place as RUSI NS stated at the time. Apparently, at least the Defence Minister has tried to do well in her portfolio despite the current Government leadership. AUKUS makes sense in every aspect. A nuclear submarine would meet our Arctic challenge for defence, but we may be better served by purchasing an Air Independent conventionally powered submarine such as the "Taigei class" currently under production in Japan for the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force. Two are currently afloat with three under construction or on order. They use lithium Ion batteries for their power source. It has the size and capability needed for our three oceans, yet without the stigma of nuclear fuel. Mind you the nuclear submarine is vastly more capable in almost every aspect. Trade offs have to be made to keep expenditures in check.

Canada's evacuation in Sudan was late in arriving and very light on delivery. I have to agree with Scott Taylor about the very useful role of MV Asterisk which provided services to a large number of allied countries. It was a reminder of how the Navy used to operate based on its vast array of capabilities. Two Joint Support Ships (JSS) are not enough. Four would be better, perhaps based on Asterisk and her as yet unbuilt sister ship Obelisk. Having two replenishment ships on each coast makes more sense and guarantees a minimum of one ship being readily available for foreign service as well as meeting local training requirements.

One last note on Canada, there are those who want a referendum on the monarchy. While one may understand the desire, Canada has a poison pill within the 1982 Constitution. It would require the opening of our Constitution in order for a change of that magnitude. As we have seen with previous attempts such as the Charlottetown Accord under PM Brian Mulroney. The opening of the Constitution would provide an opportunity for a number of provinces to press their own points of view. Quebec and Alberta would be major players in this regard. Opening the Constitution would be a major risk of violence as tensions rise. It is a bad idea. A Constitutional Monarchy is one of the most effective methods of Government, removing the Head of State from petty politics. Republics are a mess as a rule.

United States

The single biggest issue at present it is the deadlock between Congress and the Administration over the debt ceiling. The President and congressional leaders of the House and Senate met last night (Tuesday) without a solution. Both sides have stated that default is not going to happen and a solution will be found before the tentative deadline of 1 June 2023. An American default would send shock waves around the world's economy and likely would cause a cascade effect in other economies.

The BRICS are working hard on de-dollarization with some success. Most of the world's economy uses the US dollar as the reserve currency. The move would allow for countries to use their own or an agreed to currency as a method of payment through systems like SWIFT, thus avoiding using the dollar. It allows Russia to pay for material while under sanctions. This is not a tried and true method of operation, and the rules are being made on the fly. It could very well be a debt trap for weak economies. Its success is not guaranteed.

On a happy note, the civil court case brought against the former President Donald J Trump has ended with Trump being assessed a 5 M USD penalty. Trump's disposition was bizarre at best, proving how unfit he is for any position of responsibility.

Moldova

Why Moldova? Moldova is the second poorest country in Europe. It has a large pro-Russian population and a break away region in the form of Transnistria. A Russian success in this country would have major ramifications on Ukraine and its efforts therefore keeping an "eye" open on the situation makes sense as a result.

The EU parliament has approved a further 145 M Euros for economic support. The EU is making every effort to assist Moldova while trying to keep its government functioning effectively.

President Maia Sandu will be making a visit to Ottawa, on 11 and 12 May 2023. Discussions will be on support to Ukraine and refugees as well as getting support for domestic reforms, anti-corruption efforts and support for further economic integration with the EU. Canada is also negotiating a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement with Moldova. Strangely there are about 20 k Moldovan immigrants in Canada at present.

Turkiye

Turkiye will hold general elections on 14 May 2023. The opposition presidential leader, Kamal Kilicdaroglu, has a lead at present, but all bets are off on the outcome. There is a lot of speculation on whether Erdogan will handover power peacefully or will he "fix" the election somehow. It could go badly. 14 May will be interesting. It is also Israel's 75th birthday.

Belarus

President Lukashenko left Moscow hurriedly after becoming ill at the 9 May 2023 celebration parade of the Great Patriotic War. He also stated that his intelligence service forecast widespread Ukrainian terrorist acts on 9 May 2023. These did not occur. A weakened dictator does not normally last too long, could one see regime change in Belarus?

Russia-Ukraine War

The war continues as one of attrition. Russia seems to have reached the end of their "offensive" which never really developed. The attacks that did develop seemed uncoordinated and ineffective for the most part. Russia's efforts were stymied by in-fighting between private military companies (PMCs), regular ground troops and airborne forces. Russian attacks never seemed to come together in a coordinated fashion unlike the Ukrainian efforts which show all the signs of understanding an all arms approach to warfare. This past two weeks have seen the first glimmerings of a Ukrainian offensive spirit with counterattacks in the Bakhmut area. Ukraine has been able to remove most of the threat from the North and South of the city, potentially being in position to cut-off large portions of Russian troops left behind in defensive positions but unable now to get food, water and ammunition. If Ukraine persists it would end the siege of Bakhmut completely and become a major Russian loss.

Speaking of Russian PMCs, a new one, based on the security forces of Gazprom, collapsed, and ran from Ukrainian attacks near Bakhmut. The name of this new PMC is "Torch." It does show the uncoordinated actions and planning of the Russian effort. It maybe worse than initially thought as one watches the comments of the head of the Wagner Group which squarely places the blame on the general staff of the Russian armed forces. It shows the ongoing dysfunctionality of the Russian effort. It is not a recipe for success. There will be considerable blame to go around.

Russia has been unable to gain anything in the past week either in the North or in the South despite increasing efforts by rocket, missile, and air forces. The air attacks were also uncoordinated. Missile drone and rocket attacks did some minor damage mainly to civilian sites. No major military sites were damaged or destroyed.

Russia celebration of the victory in the Great patriotic War was a bit of a bust. The public was kept away from Red Square. The troops were provided by military schools and not regular soldiers. The parade was slightly less than 45 minutes of which the roll past lasted ten minutes with only one lonely T 34 tank and a single ballistic system. It seemed a pauper's event. Putin however used the event to castigate the West in front his small number of "allies" and the veterans. It was not a show of strength. In the UN even China and India voted against Russia placing the blame for the war clearly on Russia. Clearly not a good week for Russia.

China

China under the Communist Chinese Party (CCP) is an authoritarian regime that is continuing to conduct culturally genocidal actions against its minorities. The main motivation of the CCP is its own survival and not the well-being of its citizens. It represents itself and not the people. It has no rule of law as anyone would understand it. It continues to decree new laws that place foreign companies as second class citizens as we have seen this week as foreign consulting firms were raided by security forces on newly developed counter-intelligence laws. Foreign firms that invest in China do so at their own risk. One point is very clear, they have no control over their assets in China and will get no redress if there are problems.

Reading about a number of Canadian firms hoping to gain market share in China; it was appalling. After the Second World War, the UN was formed in hopes of preventing genocidal acts by malign regimes yet, in the 21st century we have Canadian companies eagerly supporting such a regime. It should stop and penalties imposed on companies doing business in China. Profit over genocide is not a good look.

The single biggest issue in Canada-China relations is of course the foreign interference allegations largely confirmed by CSIS. As we saw this week, China already had its target ready, Canada's

deliberations meant nothing to the Communist Chinese Party (CCP) yet time was wasted on a limited deliberations on the Chinese retaliation. China retaliated in a matter of hours. Canada has to do the same when China does unacceptable actions. Our intelligence agencies are limited in their resources, but they are able to determine actual major threats. They should be believed, and action taken based on their verified information. Canadian security is not a political issue and politicians need to take our countries security seriously against a malign actor.

The EU has sanctioned seven Chinese companies for supplying Russia's war effort. The Chinese Foreign Ministry immediately attacked the announcement stating that they will take retaliatory action. The EU stated that it will stand firm and will take subsequent action if required. This will not go well.

China's economy is an opaque mess. Most official financial figures are fictitious at best and therefore most Western countries are working on "best guesses" at the state of the Chinese economy. There is commentary in media closer to China that are actually showing a decline in their GDP of around 1 to 2%. There is also very serious concern around various policies which have led to over production of infrastructure projects, thus creating a situation where there are costs but little capability to maintain or sell the new structures. One estimate suggested that the number of housing units built without tenants, or even the hope of tenants, numbers in the millions. These are located in areas with limited population, business, and industry. In the last two weeks, saw the first Chinese Province enter into receivership with an inability to support itself. The Province of Guizhou has this dubious honour but other Provinces in similar situations, with sources suggesting up to ten Provinces and autonomous area in a similar state.

Most of the problem appears to be the need to show growth as laid out by the central government. This has led to massive levels of debt at Provincial Government. Chinese estimates suggest that this local government debt now stands at 14 T USD. It also suggests that this might be much larger due to China's opaque financial picture. The central government also plays into this overall problem as key initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative also have failed as many projects were over built and poor countries are unable to pay. China's economy is not clearly understood, one suspects even by the central government. China appears increasingly to be a slow moving train wreck waiting to finally stop.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- A recent uptick in Russian rail accidents in areas bordering Ukraine, attributed to sabotage committed by unknown actors, has almost certainly caused short-term localised disruption to Russian military rail movements.
- Although its Railway Troop Brigades are capable of restoring lines quickly, these incidents will increase pressure on Russia's internal security forces, who will highly likely remain unable to fully protect Russia's vast and vulnerable rail networks from attack.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Six Russian regions, occupied Crimea, and 21 cities have cancelled their 09 May Victory Day parades citing security concerns. Victory Day commemorates the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany. Moscow's Victory Day celebration is likely to go ahead but on a smaller scale. Russian President Vladimir Putin's reception following the parade (last held in 2019) will not go ahead.
- The traditional March of the Immortal Regiment, where family members display photographs of deceased veterans of the Second World War, associated with Victory Day, has also been cancelled. This follows the recent cancellation of the Russian-hosted International Army Games.
- The timing of the UAV strike on the Kremlin a few days before Victory Day shows Russia's increasing vulnerability to such attacks and has almost certainly raised the threat perception of the Russian leadership over the Victory Day events. The potential for protests and discontent over the Ukraine war are also likely to have influenced the calculus of the Russian leadership.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russia is almost certainly facing its worst labour shortage in decades. The Russian Central Bank surveyed 14,000 employers and found that the number of available employees was at its lowest level since 1998.
- Over the last three years, Russia's population has reportedly decreased by two million more people than expected due to the impacts of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine. Russia saw up to 1.3 million people leave the country in 2022, including many younger and well-educated people in high-value industries. The Russian Ministry of Communications said that about 10% (100,000) of the IT workforce left the country in 2022 and did not return.
- Mobilisation, historically high emigration, and an ageing and shrinking population is limiting the labour supply.
- This will likely lead to a reduction in the potential growth of the Russian economy and risks stoking inflation.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russian military recruiters have been targeting central Asian migrant workers in Russia to serve in Ukraine. Recruiters have visited mosques and immigration offices to recruit. At immigration offices, staff who speak Tajik and Uzbek routinely attempt to recruit migrants.
- Radio Free Europe reported recruiters offering sign-up bonuses of USD \$2,390 and salaries of up to USD \$4,160 a month. Migrants have also been offered a fast-track Russian citizenship path of six months to one year, instead of the usual five years.
- The high monthly salary and sign-up bonuses will entice some migrant workers to sign up. These recruits are likely sent to the Ukrainian frontlines where the casualty rate is extremely high.
- Recruiting migrants is part of the Russian Ministry of Defence's attempts to fulfil its target of 400,000 volunteers to fight in Ukraine. The authorities are almost certainly seeking to delay any new overt mandatory mobilisation for as long as possible to minimise domestic dissent.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 28 April 2023, the head of the self-declared Donetsk People's Republic, announced that regional water supplies were dangerously low. Water scarcity has been a growing issue for Russian-occupied Donetsk since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.
- The Siversky-Donets canal which supplies the region remains largely under Ukrainian control but has been frequently contested along its long route. Russian forces have likely been seeking to secure the canal to reduce water scarcity within Donetsk.
- The Siversky-Donets canal traverses through the town of Chasiv Yar, approximately 6km to the west of Bakhmut. Russia's heavy use of indirect artillery to support the capture of Bakhmut and surrounding territory has likely inflicted collateral damage to the canal and other regional water infrastructure, undermining Russia's efforts to remedy the lack of water that its invasion originally created. To compensate for its lack of success in capturing and retaining the canal, Russia is likely constructing a water pipeline to mitigate the water shortage within Donetsk City. However, this is highly unlikely to fully compensate for the occupied regions' reduced access to water.

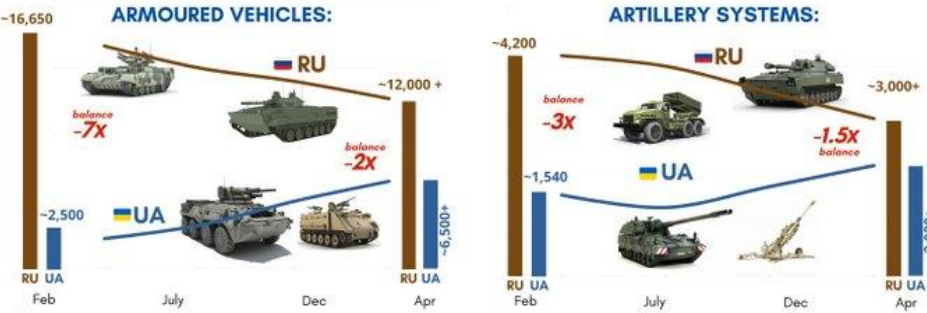
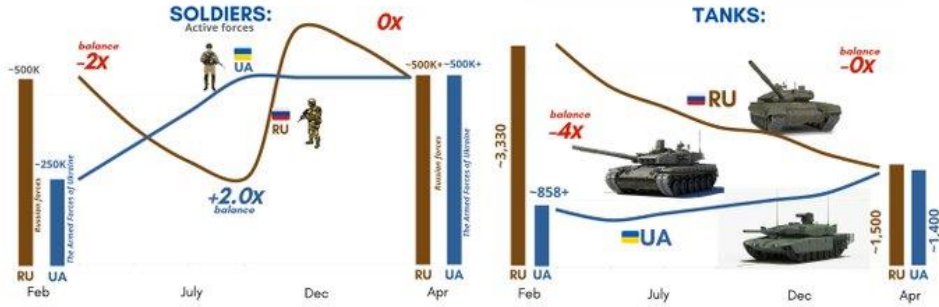
INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 09 May 2023, the make-up of Russia's annual Victory Day Parade in Red Square highlighted the materiel and strategic communications challenges the military is facing 15 months into the war in Ukraine.
- Over 8,000 personnel reportedly took part in the parade, but the majority were auxiliary, paramilitary forces, and cadets from military training establishments. The only personnel from deployable formations of regular forces were contingents of Railway Troops and military police.
- A vintage T-34 from a ceremonial unit was the sole tank on parade. Despite heavy losses in Ukraine, Russia could have fielded more armoured vehicles. The authorities likely refrained from doing so because they want to avoid domestic criticism about prioritising parades over combat operations.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Since the start of 2023, the Russian Ministry of Defence (MoD) has ramped up a scheme to recruit Russian prisoners to fight in Ukraine. It is likely that up to 10,000 convicts signed up in April 2023 alone.
- From summer 2022, prisoners were the key pool of recruits for the Wagner Group private military company's expansive operations in Ukraine. However, the group highly likely lost access to the Russian penal system in February 2023 when its public feud with the MoD was escalating.
- The MoD's prisoner recruitment campaign is part of a broader, intense effort by the Russian military to bolster its numbers, while attempting to avoid implementing new mandatory mobilisation, which would be very unpopular with the Russian public.

DYNAMICS OF THE BALANCE OF POWER IN WAR



Data: Data on active troops at the beginning of the invasion - The Military Balance; Data on the number and losses of UA - US secret documents, Rivkin's statement; Data on the number and losses of RU - US secret documents, Rivkin's statement; Losses and replacements of Wagner - BBC; Losses and replacements of LDPR - BBC.

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