



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 26 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.

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>

New 14-15 June, Wednesday-Thursday – Centre for Strategic and International Studies US-Indo-Pacific Conference. The two-day hybrid Conference will focus on the U.S. relationship with ASEAN and the Quad, including the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, as well as a discussion about the role of American industry in the region. The Conference will feature keynote remarks by senior U.S. officials and 4 panels of speakers focused on trade, decarbonization, critical supply chains, and political/security matters. Online. Further information and to register: <https://www.csis.org/events/us-indo-pacific-conference-2023>

26-27 June, Monday – Tuesday – RUSI Land Warfare Conference 2023, "Mobilising Today to Secure Tomorrow." 09:00 - 17:00 BST. Church House, London | Online. To register: <https://rusi.org/events/martial-power-conferences/rusi-land-warfare-conference-2023>

New 28 June, Wednesday – Tour of Dr William D Finn Centre for Forensic Medicine, headquarters of the Nova Scotia Medical Examiner Service. The Dr William D Finn Centre for Forensic Medicine is at 51 Garland Avenue, Burnside, Dartmouth. Our host will be Dr Matt Bowes, Chief Medical Examiner and member of RUSI(NS). Matt was instrumental in the design of the facility, ensuring that it well serves grieving families and staff, with a significant operational capability in reserve. 1300-500hrs. Registration

is required. To register, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com by close-of-business-hours 27 June. There is a limit to the number of people who will be able to take the tour.

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/

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>

Edmonton United Services Institute President's Enews, April 2023

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

New Naval Association News, Edition 514, 19 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 of Vancouver Island Newsletter, Volume 55, 2nd Quarter 2023.

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) Defence Update, Volume 18, Issue 5, 15 May 2023

Veterans Affairs Canada Salute! 5 May 2023, <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/news-media/salute/2023-05>

@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.

RUSI @RUSI_org 19 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted:
🚩 New RUSI Special Resource “Meatgrinder: Russian Tactics in the Second Year of Its Invasion of Ukraine” by @Jack_Watling and Nick Reynolds is out now!



Brett Boudreau @WHMTE 19 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted:
'Home-grown disinformation' a growing threat to Canadian Armed Forces: report - National | <http://Globalnews.ca>



NATO ACT @NATO_ACT 19 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted:
#Wargaming helps to identify the best solutions in warfare development.
@NATO_ACT co-hosted an online wargame, gathering experts to explore the integration of gender perspective in wargaming & to promote women's participation in this field:
<https://act.nato.int/articles/better-understanding-importance-gender-perspectives-wargaming>
#WeAreNATO



OSINTtechnical @Osinttechnical 21 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted:
Canadian supplied GCS-200 unmanned multipurpose EOD rotary mine flail in Ukrainian service



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 23 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted:
The RCAF is dealing with significant challenges bringing in new recruits and retaining its existing staff-RCAF leaders told to use reservists to operate new fleet of drones.
<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/use-reservists-to-operate-new-fleet-of-drones-rcaf-leaders-told> via @ottawacitizen



CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 23 May tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted:

Johnston's report concludes that more efforts are needed to counter foreign interference, leaked materials were misconstrued in media reports, there are shortcomings in intelligence communication, and his findings should be reviewed by oversight bodies.



“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 RUSI(NS) by noon Thursday.

Princess Anne offers praise as Canada's oldest military regiment marks anniversary

<https://www.cp24.com/.../princess-anne-offers-praise-as...>

"A visiting member of the Royal Family heaped praise on Canada's oldest continually serving cavalry regiment on Saturday, saying its storied military accomplishments date back to before it formally had a country to call its own."

"In its current incarnation, Princess Anne said the 8th Hussars have continued to build on its early reputation and has contributed to major Canadian combat missions. Those included serving in both world wars as well as the conflict in Bosnia and Afghanistan, among others."



Zelenskyy and Trudeau meet face-to-face at G7 in Japan

<https://www.cbc.ca/.../japan-g7-summit-zelenskyy-trudeau...>

"I want to thank you, your government, also Canadian people for supporting us,' Ukraine president says"

"The latest federal budget contained no additional cash for military aid for Ukraine, beyond what has already been spent. Trudeau did not rule out further donations of military hardware on Sunday. He also did not rule contributing — in some manner — to an allied program involving the British and Americans that would see Ukrainian pilots trained in F-16s. The Canadian military does not fly that type of warplane but it could potentially offer instruction to brand new military pilots, those just learning to get their wings."



Other Sources:

#Arctic

Arctic Harmony Is Falling Apart

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/05/15/russia-china-arctic-cooperation-svalbard/>

#artificial intelligence

Using ChatGPT

<https://wavelroom.com/2023/05/19/using-chatgpt/>

With AI Evolving at Lightning Speed, It's Time to Take Stock

https://www.cigionline.org/articles/with-ai-evolving-at-lightning-speed-its-time-to-take-stock/?utm_source=cigi_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ai-is-transforming-business-what-about-government

AI-Guided Weapons Must Be Curbed by Global Rules — and Soon

https://www.cigionline.org/articles/ai-guided-weapons-must-be-curbed-by-global-rules-and-soon/?utm_source=cigi_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ai-guided-weapons-must-be-curbed-by-global-rules-and-soon

#China #naval warfare

Chinese Undersea Warfare: Development, Capabilities, Trends

<https://www.andrewerickson.com/2023/05/quick-look-summary-cmsis-11-13-april-2023-conference-chinese-undersea-warfare-development-capabilities-trends/>

#coastal defence

Ottawa to spend \$2.5 billion on small vessels as it replaces aging Coast Guard fleet

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/ottawa-to-spend-2-5-billion-on-small-vessels-as-it-replaces-aging-coast-guard-fleet/ar-AA1bHlbf?ocid=windirect&cvid=e89a23e6edc744b7a14742d606854153&ei=8>

#Cybersecurity #Outer Space

Essay series

https://www.cigionline.org/publications/essay-series/?utm_source=cigi_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ai-guided-weapons-must-be-curbed-by-global-rules-and-soon

#defence policy

'A Brave & Courageous Decision' - Thoughts on the Imminent UK Defence 'Refresh'

<https://thinpinstripedline.blogspot.com/2023/05/a-brave-courageous-decision-thoughts-on.html>

#Department of National Defence

As NATO allies grow impatient, Canada may be quietly planning major increase in defence spending

<https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/as-nato-allies-grow-impatient-canada-may-be-quietly-planning-major-increase-in-defence-spending-richard-shimooka-in-the-hub/>

Canadian Surface Combatant Land-Based Testing Facility Public Update May 15, 2023

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

#drones #airpower

A collaborative response to US aircraft and aircrew shortfalls

<https://www.iiss.org/online-analysis/military-balance/2023/05/a-collaborative-response-to-us-aircraft-and-aircrew-shortfalls/>

#Indro-Pacific #drones

China could use drones to affect upcoming Taiwan election

<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4899563>

#information operations #NATO

The power of information to build resilience in a volatile world

<https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2023/05/24/the-power-of-information-to-build-resilience-in-a-volatile-world/>

#intelligence

Australia's intelligence community must adapt to stay ahead of the game

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/australias-intelligence-community-must-adapt-to-stay-ahead-of-the-game/>

#national security

Foreign interference: Johnston recommends public hearings

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/no-public-inquiry-into-foreign-interference-trudeau-backs-johnston-s-public-hearings-plan-1.6409048>

#Russia-Ukraine War

Analysis of Land Army Maintenance Techniques in the War in Ukraine

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/English-Edition-Archives/May-June-2023/Land-Army-Maintenance-Techniques/>

Bakhmut and the Battle of Moscow

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/bakhmut-and-the-battle-of-moscow-putin-wagner-defeat-elites-ukraine-war-b6daed72>

How the Ukraine war became a spectator sport

<https://unherd.com/2023/05/how-war-became-a-spectator-sport/>

Leadership at all levels of the Ukrainian government and military

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1660788055274557441.html>

Learning the Ukrainian Way of War

<https://engelsbergideas.com/notebook/learning-the-ukrainian-way-of-war/>

Meatgrinder: Russian Tactics in the Second Year of Its Invasion of Ukraine

<https://static.rusi.org/403-SR-Russian-Tactics-web-final.pdf>

Russian airpower in Ukraine - Nuisance or Menace?

<https://wavellroom.com/2023/05/24/russian-airpower-ukraine-nuisance-menace/>

#policing

New top Mountie pledges 'change and growth' at RCMP as he assumes command

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/new-top-mountie-pledges-change-and-growth-at-rcmp-as-he-assumes-command/ar-AA1bHsFm?ocid=windirect&cvid=8ee6a73af5194f29b3fe4cd9bee7296f&ei=21>

#Russia #warfare

The Russian Army rethinks defence doctrine

<https://wavellroom.com/2023/05/22/the-russian-army-rethinks-defence-doctrine/>

#strategy

Revitalizing Strategic Analysis for a New Era of Competition

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/revitalizing-strategic-analysis-new-era-competition>

#warfare

A technological revolution is underway in warfighting

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1660636131690463233.html>

#wargaming

Is It a Wargame? It Doesn't Matter: Rigorous Wargames Versus Effective Wargaming

<https://warontherocks.com/2021/02/is-it-a-wargame-it-doesnt-matter-rigorous-wargames-versus-effective-wargaming/>

Wargaming and Crisis Simulation Initiative

<https://www.hoover.org/research-teams/wargaming-and-crisis-simulation-initiative>

Wargaming Education and Design With Sebastian Bae

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-podcast>

What's a Wargame? A Historical Review

<https://www.armchairdragoons.com/articles/columns/wargamehistoricaldefinitions/>

Other:

Canadian Defence and Security Network

Looking for an off-Twitter way to engage in Canadian Security & Defence conversations? Join topics within CSDN Slack channels:

- [Security](#)
- [Operations](#)
- [Military Personnel](#)
- [Civilian - Military Relations](#)
- [Global Health](#)
- [Emergencies and Domestic Ops](#)
- [Global Supply Chain Vulnerabilities](#)
- [NATO & Climate Security](#)

NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence Library

<https://www.ccdcoe.org/library/publications/>

Canadian Defence Academy, The Torch: What's new this week?

<https://cfc-ca.libguides.com/c.php?g=709488&p=5224119>

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O Canada

The single biggest issue facing Canada is the aspect of foreign interference and influence in Canadian elections. The former Governor General, David Johnston released a First Report on the issue yesterday. The report is available online and does little to stop the growing concern about Canadian elections. The commentary by the opposition parties and the press has not been positive to say the least. The former Governor General may be correct in his assessment but given his history with the Trudeau family and the Trudeau foundation, the appearance is less than good, and the opposition can and will use it against the Prime Minister. Johnston himself has pointed out, there are a number of people who might have been as good or a better choice to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

China has therefore succeeded in conducting an effective influence activity against Canada as laid out in their "Three Wars Concept." It has used our own systems against us, using an increasingly divided country to achieve their aim. The Chinese Government has 170+ "diplomats" in Canada at present. Canada has 50 in China, only two fewer than the US. One way for Canada to act is to remove the threat by suggesting to the Chinese Government that they will only require 50 diplomats in future and give them time to adjust downwards. Another option is to further limit Chinese investment in Canadian commercial products and companies. Firms should be "encouraged" to slowly withdraw from the Chinese market in favour of friend shoring their activities. There are only a couple areas of potential cooperation, climate change being the main one. Academic exchanges should be curtailed due to the Chinese efforts to acquire intellectual property. Canada must recognize that China is a malign actor and not a trustworthy partner.

Our Prime Minister insulted Italy's Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, about her government's stand on LGBTQ+ matters. Meloni responded by stating that PM Trudeau is a 'victim of fake news.' He is once again the subject of memes showing his lack of diplomatic skills and worse in the Italian press. The PM has caused a rift with an ally over his own agenda at a time when unity is necessary to deal with the current world situation and the ongoing economic and financial crisis.

Canadian household debt now exceeds the Gross Domestic Product of the country by 7%, with mortgages being around three quarters of this debt. A disturbing figure especially if the markets crash or take a downturn. Many Canadians are now living pay cheque to pay cheque courtesy of higher housing prices. Higher interest rates are almost inevitable now as inflation increases return.

A member of the Newfoundland House of Assembly has requested that the Bloc Quebecois change their maps to reflect that Labrador is part of Newfoundland. While this seems somewhat laughable, there have been conflicts fought over similar issues. And those wishing to open the Constitution fail to understand that there are certain elements within Canadian society that have their own agenda. If the Constitution is opened, those and other problems that are currently dormant could come to the forefront with an opportunity for some to take advantage of the situation. The 1982 Constitution was never accepted by Quebec. The seeds of our destruction are there and it would not take much for this to become a major problem.

On the plus side, Maritime Launch Services has recently signed a contract with a European company for a multi-mission agreement on a rideshare and dedicated payload basis. The contract is listed as being potentially worth over \$1B. The first flight is expected to occur in 2024 according to a Spaceq article by Marc Boucher on 24 May 2023.

United States

The US continues to be under the threat of a default unless the debt ceiling is raised shortly. It appears 1 June 2023 is the day when the US Government will cease to function. President Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy have had some progressive steps and both men are talking positively about a possible solution. Both agreed that a default is not an option.

The US Supreme Court continues to be an area of increasing concern due to its right-wing bias. It continues to take away rights of individuals in regard to reproductive and female health care. It was subject to intense scrutiny because of the actions of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and his wife who received numerous "gifts" from US billionaire Harlan Crow. The Supreme Court is an independent judicial arm of the US Government. The Chief Justice, John Roberts, has rightly turned down requests by Congress to testify about certain matters such as the actions of Clarence Thomas. Congress has requested that the Supreme Court develop an open understanding of ethical conduct that would be followed by the Supreme Court. Justice Roberts has refused to allow Congress to interfere with the Supreme Court as it is a separate independent arm of Government. He also stated that he would hold Justices to a high standard of conduct but would not consent to a code of ethical conduct. This will be an ongoing issue that may have long term effects on the US.

The newest US Aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford, will conduct a port visit to Oslo, the Norwegian capital and carry on to a Nordic nations exercise above the Arctic circle. The Russians have condemned the visit as not necessary and a provocation. They also stated that there is no need or problem in the Arctic that necessitates the Ford's presence. However, this is good a good reminder for Russia that US and allied forces are there, and any threat will be dealt with accordingly.

Moldova

Moldovans rallied by the tens of thousands to support the national government of Maia Sandu. The opposition Shor Party were only able to bring a couple thousand out and allegedly some of those stated they were paid to attend. The idea of being closer to Europe is well received by over 60 % of the country, yet last week a pro-Russian Government was elected in a Gauguazia regional government election. No pro-European Union candidates ran in that election.

The biggest problem for the Government is the economy, which is now considered the poorest in Europe. Its per capita income is slightly over \$4K versus a European average of \$33K. Most Moldovans see themselves better off with Europe rather than Russia. The country has received assistance from the EU which has helped them eliminate the need for Russian energy in the form of oil and gas. The Moldovan Government is making efforts to improve the lot of its citizens and hopes to gain EU membership by 2030. Moldovan politics continues to evolve. It is aware that its actual survival depends on the success of Ukraine.

Belarus

The chief of Ukrainian Military intelligence gave an interview that alleged that there was a program to keep Belarus out of the war. Direct connection was made with Alexander Lukashenko. MGen Kyrilo Budanov stated that they have kept Lukashenko informed of Ukrainian actions in order to help Lukashenko from becoming involved with the war on Russia's terms. There is no specific confirmation of this, but Belarus is not fighting in Ukraine even now despite taking on Russian nuclear weapons.

In a statement made to RIA Novosti, a Russian news media outlet, the Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated that Russia would "free" Belarus if Lukashenko were to be overthrown. However, if

Russia did the overthrowing, wouldn't Belarus be considered occupied? Would Belarus soldiers resist such actions?

It seems certain that a number of Belarus citizens would actively conduct partisan operations against an occupying force. This is already evident by their actions during the Ukraine war, including cyber attacks against infrastructure, sabotage against transport and logistics hubs, attacks on Russian aircraft and espionage on behalf of Ukraine. Russia may find any liberation operations more than a little problematic in the longer term.

Georgia

The pro-Russian government of Georgia, Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili, stated that Georgia has complied with sanctions on Russia. He reminded people that no one imposed sanctions during Georgia's war with Russia in 2008. Russia ended up with 20% of Georgian territory under Russian control including Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Russia has created two bases in occupied Georgian territory.

Georgia has just re-opened air routes for Georgia Air. It will fly seven times a week to Moscow. The current President, Salome Zourabichvili, has condemned the initiative to restart the flights to Russia and asked that Georgians boycott the airline. The founder of Georgian Airways, Tamaz Gaiashvili, retaliated by banning the President from the airline until she "apologizes" to the Georgian people. Flights resumed on 19 May 2023 despite large protests against any improvement of relations with Russia while Russia occupies Georgian territory and attacks Ukraine.

The current Government is increasingly at odds with the population which seeks closer ties with the EU and the US. The US has protested Georgia's relaxation of ties with Russia. Georgia's trade with Russia has increased one and half times and is considered vital to the economic health of the nation, according to the article by AP on 19 May 2023.

Russia-Ukraine War

Last week we mentioned the number of Russian Private Military Companies (PMCs). This link below provides more details on some of these companies:

<https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-other-mercenary-companies-ukraine/32424520.html>.

The war continues to be one of attrition, with Russian troops occupying about 99% of Bakhmut. The Ukrainians are still holding one per cent of the largely devastated city. Losses on both sides are considered horrendous. Russia has largely stopped most of its offensive actions at present as Ukrainian forces continue to destroy command and control sites, troop concentrations, logistics sites and key transportation hubs in the rear. Ukraine's ability to hit these sites has improved using their own drones and the British contribution of "Storm Shadow" cruise missiles. They have been careful not to hit sites inside Russia using Western provided ammunition, using their own systems instead for this task.

The Institute for the Study of War has stated that Russia does not have the necessary combat capacity for further offensive actions at this time. Most Russian formations are spent and in need of refitting and reinforcements. Along the entire 650+ km front, Russian forces are generally adopting a defensive posture including around Bakhmut. Ukrainian forces have been able to conduct small offensive actions to the North and South of Bakhmut with some success, but these actions are halted for now. There was some thought that Ukraine might encircle Bakhmut thus trapping a major part of the Russian army and Wagner forces. This does not seem to be the case at present.

President Zelenski truly did a round-the-world tour, including being at the G7 and being at the Middle East Qatar Conference of Arab states amongst others. The single biggest accomplishment was the creation of the new group of countries that will provide fighters, specifically F-16 Fighting Falcons; help train Ukrainian pilots; and provide maintenance staff for the new equipment and aircraft. Russia, and more specifically Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy head of the security council of the Russian Federation, has condemned this act stating that the West providing Ukraine with Western fighters may trigger nuclear Armageddon.

Russia's general goals for this war are to overthrow the rules-based global order created by the US and the West in place since post Second World War, to prevent unilateral action by the West, and to unite like-minded countries in a front against the West. It is a big task and will require the extensive influence of Russia's main supporter China. The Russian Prime Minister, Mikhail Mishustin, is in Beijing to cement the no limits relationship with China. Both countries condemned the G7 declaration which stated that both countries are a threat to world peace and stability. Nicolai Patrushev has been part of the visit to China, calling upon his Chinese counter-art within the Politburo. This week also saw China stopping a G20 statement condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Russia is expected to up energy exports to China by 40% thus completing its move to become a vassal state of China.

One last comment on Russia and its receipt of some support in the West from Hungary. Victor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary, stated at the Qatar forum that Ukraine will never be able to defeat Russia. He was in favour of a negotiated settlement. Victor Orban has been a thorn in the side of NATO and the EU for his lack of support for EU objectives and the West in general. He has been condemned by the EU on numerous occasions for his stance in regard to governance within Hungary and the Russian invasion. Sweden is currently at odds with his lack of support for their membership in NATO, an example of his obstructionism. Sweden has been very vocal in condemning Hungary's own actions against immigrants and the loss of democracy within Hungary itself.

China

China under the Communist Chinese Party (CCP) is an authoritarian state that has and continues to conduct activity that has been condemned by other countries as cultural genocide. This includes Canada. It appears to have a fluid sense of the rule of law. Recent changes to investment and security laws leave much to be desired and can be used as a cudgel to beat companies into submission, including foreign companies.

It was therefore interesting to hear the newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to the US, Mr Xie Feng, state that China seeks to improve relations by developing "mutual respect, peaceful co-existence and win-win" during his time in Washington. Mr Xie Feng is considered a US-China relations expert and has served in the US before. It is thought he will seek out new opportunities to meet Americans around the country to build relations at the individual level. He will have his work cut out for him.

As a starter, the Chinese CCP Government has decided to ban the products of Micron due to security concerns. It is generally accepted that Chinese manufacturing needs these chips as they have limited capacity to replace them with a Chinese manufactured product. This puts many Chinese companies in a difficult position with limited ability to replace the chips for relatively common products like cell phones. This can and will cause issues in an already difficult economic situation. It will not help China's efforts to continue as the 'factory to the world'.

China is already hurting due to earlier sanctions. The Dutch Foreign Minister, Wopke Hoekstra, was visiting China at China's invitation, to discuss the Dutch ban on providing chip technology to China with his Chinese counterpart, Qin Gang. The discussion did not go well as the Dutch are intent in

following Western direction regarding provision of this key technology to China. The Chinese CCP government have been trying a "charm offensive" with European countries as a way to split them from the US position on China. In this case, they were not successful. The Dutch Foreign Minister stated quite clearly that it was a point of national security and turned down the request.

On other issues, it was reported by Reuters that Chinese-based hackers attacked Kenyan Government websites. Kenya is trying to sort out its burgeoning debt load that is mainly created by the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The attacks prevented Kenya from coordinating a better response to the situation. This was a year's long series of attacks that compromised Kenyan data and its ability to communicate effectively in selected key areas. Principally the attacks were centred around the debt restructuring on BRI initiatives in the Foreign and Finance Ministries as well as the office of the President. The article also states that other African countries have also been similarly attacked over a period of years. China is using this as a way of protecting against actions of Governments to lessen China's hold.



CANADIAN FORCES INTELLIGENCE COMMAND
COMMANDEMENT DU RENSEIGNEMENT DES FORCES CANADIENNES

RUSSIA'S CLAIM:

On May 19, a senior Russian official stated that the destruction of depleted uranium ammunition supplied by the West to Ukraine has led to the appearance of a radioactive cloud heading toward Western Europe.

BASED ON CANADIAN FORCES INTELLIGENCE COMMAND ANALYSIS:

- There is no radioactive cloud or any unusual radiological activity in Ukraine. Environmental radioactivity across Europe is monitored by various levels of European governments and by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.
- Russia is leveraging a lack of common public knowledge regarding depleted uranium tank ammunition in an attempt to create undue concern and uncertainty in the Western public.
- Russian statements are part of an established Russian disinformation campaign that attempts to decrease support for Western aid to Ukraine. Russia will continue stating false information to support this campaign.

UKRAINE / RUSSIA UPDATE // 2023-05-24



National
Defence
Défense
nationale

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- In the last four days, Russia has highly likely redeployed up to several battalions to reinforce the Bakhmut sector.
- This follows Ukrainian tactical gains on the flanks of the contested Donetsk Oblast town through mid-May and publicly aired doubts about the commitment of Wagner Group forces to continue fighting in the sector.
- With Russia likely maintaining relatively few uncommitted combat units in Ukraine, the redeployment represents a notable commitment by the Russian command.
- Russia's leadership likely continue to see capturing Bakhmut as the key immediate war aim which would allow them to claim some degree of success in the conflict.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Since early May 2023, Russia has restarted frequent long-range missile strikes deep into Ukraine. They are likely primarily aimed at degrading Ukrainian air defences.
- Innovating on earlier waves of deep strikes, Russia has started more frequently integrating unarmed, surveillance uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs) into operations. These have included Russian-produced SuperCam UAVs which are relatively cheap and have sufficient range to fly over the cruise missiles' targets.
- Russia has highly likely adopted this tactic in an attempt to obtain more timely battle damage assessment and improve its targeting cycle. The Russian military's slow and inefficient targeting process has been a major weakness in its performance in Ukraine. However, slow surveillance UAVs are highly vulnerable to Ukrainian air defences.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russia is highly likely creating a new 'elite' attack aviation group code-named 'Shtorm' to operate over Ukraine. The unit is likely to consist of at least one squadron of Su-24 FENCER and Su-34 FULLBACK fighter-bombers, and a squadron of attack helicopters.
- The mix of aircraft types suggests the group will have a primary role of ground attack missions. Credible Russian media reports suggest that the Russian MoD aims to attract highly skilled and motivated pilots by offering large pay incentives and opening recruitment to retired aviators.
- The creation of the group highlights how Russia assesses its regular air force squadrons have severely underperformed in their core function of conducting airstrikes on Ukrainian lines.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Credible research by independent Russian journalists suggests that between January and May 2023, Russian military courts dealt with 1,053 cases of personnel going absent without leave (AWOL) – more than during the whole of 2022.
- Russia's military has struggled to enforce discipline in its ranks throughout its operations in Ukraine, but its issues have highly likely worsened following the forced mobilisation of reservists since October 2022.
- Court data suggests that most of those found guilty of going AWOL are now punished with suspended sentences, meaning they can be redeployed to the 'special military operation'. Russia's efforts to improve discipline have focused on making examples of defaulters, and promoting patriotic zeal, rather than addressing the root causes of soldiers' disillusionment.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Analysis by Geollect indicates that since 14 May 2023, commercial vessels' Automatic Identification System (AIS) data has been remotely spoofed to create the impression of a 65km long Russian pro-war Z symbol on the Black Sea, visible on open source tracking software.
- AIS is used to track vessels, including to ensure their safety. Tracks making up the image suggested vessel speeds of up to 102 knots (188 km/h), further suggesting they were fake.
- Pro-Russian actors likely conducted the spoofing as an information operation, potentially in an attempt to bolster Russian morale ahead of an anticipated Ukrainian counter offensive.
- The spoofing of AIS increases the risk of maritime accidents. Despite Russian virtual information operations in the Black Sea, its physical navy remains vulnerable: the Ivan Khurs intelligence gathering vessel was likely attacked on 24 May 2023.