



## Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 9 June 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](mailto:RUSINSDispatches@gmail.com). Comments to articles can be from members or non-members of RUSI(NS). Any comment in *Dispatches* is the sole opinion of the author and does not necessarily represent the views of the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia, the Department of National Defence or other government department, the Canadian Armed Forces, or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or other agency.

If you wish to receive *Dispatches* at a different address (i.e., not your work address), please inform RUSI(NS). Past editions of *Dispatches* may be requested by contacting RUSI(NS).

### Stress Resources

The Nova Scotia fires have been stressful to many, and those fire aren't over by a long shot. In the response and the recovery phases, there is a need to take care of the mental health of people, first responders and others. Information is circulating through various channels.

Operational Stress Resources for First Responders

Operational Stress Injury Clinic is available for RCMP, CAF and their families.

<https://mha.nshealth.ca/en/services/nova-scotia-operational-stress-injury-osi-clinic>

For other first responders with benefits seeking private supports:

<https://psychologytoday.com/ca>

For first responders without access to benefits or private supports:

<https://mha.nshealth.ca/en>

DND staff also advised of: <https://ns.211.ca/>, 'Help Starts Here.'

### Home Dispatches

The summer 2023 edition of our internal quarterly, *Home Dispatches*, will be published after our late June tour event. If you have content for *Home Dispatches*, please email to [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com). RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice. Email RUSI(NS) if there is a question of an event occurring.

**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>

**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>

**22 June**, Thursday - Royal Alberta United Service Institute presentation "War and Warfare in Ukraine." 1900 Mountain/2200 Atlantic. Via Zoom. To register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcudOyqqT4jG9J0-tCHOGRnfSbdFbpYitgv#/registration>

**New: 22 June**, Thursday - Royal Alberta United Services Institute presentation "War and Warfare in Ukraine" with MGen Chip Chapman, CB (ret'd). 1900 Mountain. Via Zoom. To register: <https://www.rausi.ca/info-events/rmcsd/579-war-and-warfare-in-ukraine>

**New: 22 June**, Thursday - CDA Institute webinar "The Future of Domestic Operations: Rethinking the Role of the CAF in Emergency Response." 1000 EST. To register: <https://cdainstitute.ca/events/the-future-of-domestic-operations-rethinking-the-role-of-the-caf-in-emergency-response/>

**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>

**Emended: 28 June**, Wednesday – Tour of Dr William D Finn Centre for Forensic Medicine, headquarters of the Nova Scotia Medical Examiner Service. 1300-1500. Registration is required. To register, email [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com) by close-of-business-hours 27 June. **The limit to the number of people who will be able to take the tour has been reached.** Further registrants will be put on a waiting list, and if there are enough, another tour will be scheduled.

## **Publications:**

Publications without links are available on request to [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

**New:** RUSI(NS) Comments " Sudan Evacuation Shows Way Forward for Humanitarian Intervention by Jay Heisler, 4 June 2023, [https://rusi-ns.ca/sudan\\_evacuation/](https://rusi-ns.ca/sudan_evacuation/)

RUSI(NS) Comments "Reform Needed in Intelligence Recruiting Process" by Jay Heisler, 28 May 2023, [https://rusi-ns.ca/intelligence\\_recruiting/](https://rusi-ns.ca/intelligence_recruiting/)

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/](https://rusi-ns.ca/asterix_and_hadr_missions/)

**New:** Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 7 June 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>  
*Note that listed is the RUSI(NS) Info Note "Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment."*

**New:** Edmonton United Services Institute President’s *Enews*, June 2023

Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XLI, Number 6, June 2023

**New:** Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, June 2023  
<https://www.rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/202-rausi-dispatches-june-2023>

Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch *Scuttlebutt*, June 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 8, 5 June 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](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

Halifax Fire News @HRMFireNews 2 Jun tweeted: Oh, yes, I missed that in my rundown. DND Fire has two brush trucks assigned which have off road capability, water on board, a bumper monitor, and pump and roll capability, among other things. I gather they've been quite helpful.  
RUSI(NS) retweeted: .@NationalDefence firefighters & equipment assisting #Halifax #HRM respond to #HfxFires. Neighbours helping neighbours  
*Further:* Some additional information re: DND's Brush Trucks:  
- 1200 gallons of water on board  
- Pump and roll capability  
- Compressed foam system.  
- 2 x 200 foot booster reels.  
It's a monster and has saved countless houses since Sunday because of its quick deploy ability and ability to get into back



<p>yards and knock down impinging fires. The 4x4 capability means it can access places other trucks can't go</p>	
<p>The Naval Association of Canada @navalassn 2 Jun tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Unless urgent action is taken, Canada risks being the only G7 nation without a vital submarine capability, and the loss to our national security will be immeasurable. The Defence Policy Update must make a firm commitment to preserve it. (Submarines: A Strategic Requirement in a Dangerous World <a href="https://www.cgai.ca/submarines_a_strategic_requirement_in_a_dangerous_world">https://www.cgai.ca/submarines_a_strategic_requirement_in_a_dangerous_world</a>)</p>	
<p>3CdnDiv/3DivCA @3CdnDiv3DivCA 2 Jun tweeted: Fire trucks Fort Chipewyan. At the request of Alberta Wildfire, fire trucks from across the province are being transported via CC-130J Hercules Aircraft to Fort Chipewyan to assist with wildfire response efforts. #OpLENTUS. photo: MCpl Moon RUSI(NS) retweeted: Flexibility of #airpower. @RCAF_ARC airlift transporting civil fire equipment to where needed. @CanadianForces good at logistics, other support activities. Hopefully, &amp; appears to be, there is much planning, training, exercising to make such military-civil collaboration easy</p>	
<p>Halifax Fire News @HRMFireNews 2 Jun tweeted: Not sure if this has been reported elsewhere, but in a letter from the Premier to the Prime Minister, Nova Scotia has formally requested the following resources from the Federal Government. RUSI(NS) retweeted: Preferably, 'Request for Assistance' (RFA) from a province to federal gov't identifies 'effects' (desired outcomes) rather than specific resources. Then federal depts/agencies determine the 'how to' which may be means/ways that province did not consider @HRMFireNews @CFOperations <i>More extracts of the RFA available on request to RUSI(NS).</i></p>	<p>As such, I am formally requesting the following assistance from the Federal Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While we know the military does not have wildland firefighters, we are seeking military firefighters when the fire reaches the sustained attack stage.</li> <li>• Ignition specialist personnel and ignition equipment.</li> <li>• Firefighting foam.</li> <li>• Assistance in securing a base camp that can house 250 firefighters as well as an incident command post infrastructure to support all on the ground.</li> <li>• 5,000 lengths of 1 1/2 inch 100 ft. length quick connect coupling hose.</li> <li>• Nomex or equivalent wildland firefighting clothing (200 outfits – shirt &amp; pant).</li> <li>• Twelve 4x4 trucks.</li> <li>• Four helicopters (intermediate or above) certified to drop water.</li> <li>• 50% cost share on modular housing for those who have lost homes due to the fires.</li> <li>• Commitment of advanced payment through the Disaster Financial Assistance Agreement administered by Public Safety Canada. Provinces must typically meet a threshold of spending before the DFAA will kick in. For Nova Scotia, that threshold is \$3,721,740, with the Federal portion of the cost recovery increasing percentage wise as provincial expenditures increase. We are seeking the same consideration that was recently provided to Alberta to receive advanced access to DFAA before we cross that threshold, if necessary, and a guarantee of up to \$50 million through the DFAA before the Provincial expenditures are realized. These funds will be used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Emergency provision of essential community services;</li> <li>○ Security measures including the removal of valuable assets and hazardous materials from a threatened area; ○ Repairs to public buildings and related equipment;</li> <li>○ Repairs to public infrastructure such as roads and bridges;</li> <li>○ Removal of damaged structures constituting a threat to public safety;</li> <li>○ Restoration, replacement or repairs to an individual's dwelling (principal residence only);</li> <li>○ Restoration, replacement or repairs to essential personal furnishings, appliances and clothing;</li> <li>○ Restoration of small businesses and farmsteads including buildings and equipment; and</li> <li>○ Costs of damage inspection, appraisal and clean up.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Commitment to match any Red Cross donations.</li> </ul>
<p>Bridger Aerospace @BridgerAero 1 Jun tweeted: The largest #wildfires ever recorded in Nova Scotia are forcing thousands to #evacuate. Bridger Aerospace has deployed all six Super Scoopers and a Pilatus PC-12 to assist the teams already in place. #firefighter #wildfire #novascotia #canada #aerialfirefighting #fire RUSI(NS) retweeted: Is there an inventory of water bombers (dedicated &amp; convertible) in CAN 🇨🇦? Is there co-ordination system other than province-to-province to re-allocate aircraft? What fed dept/agency a/c can be converted? #aerialfirefighting #NSfires @Transports_gc @NationalDefence @Safety_Canada</p>	

5th Canadian Division @5CdnDiv\_5DivCA 3 Jun tweeted: Our hearts go out to Nova Scotians in this time of crisis. ❤️ First responders have been battling these fires from the very start and they've told us that they could use our help. (1/2) RUSI(NS) retweeted: Tho @CanadianForces pers may not end up on front line fighting #Hfxfires (wildfire fighting is special qualification), they can bring many capabilities to assist. 'General duties' + logistics (transport, feeding), communications, mapping, etc. Does CAN need more engr regiments?



Seaspan @Seaspan 1 Jun tweeted: Seaspan Shipyards has cut steel on a 'Prototype block' setting a course for building the flagship vessel of the @CoastGuardCAN's icebreaking fleet - the first heavy Polar Icebreaker built in Canada 🇨🇦 in 60+ years. News release 📄🔗

<https://www.seaspan.com/press-release/seaspan-shipyards-has-cut-steel-on-a-prototype-block-setting-a-course-for-building-the-first-polar-icebreaker-in-canada-in-more-than-60-years/>

(Seaspan Shipyards has cut steel on a 'Prototype block' setting a course for building the first Polar Icebreaker in Canada in more than 60 years)

*Note info about ship in news release.*



Canadian Armed Forces Operations @CFOperations 3 Jun tweeted: #RESULTS An @RCAF\_ARC CP140 aircraft was in Kadena 🇷🇺 to support the implementation of UNSC sanctions imposed against North Korea as part of #OpNEON. Here are the numbers: @CanEmbJapan

RUSI(NS) retweeted: #OpNEON = CAN🇨🇦 contribution to multinational effort to support @UN Security Council sanctions against North Korea

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-neon.html> Flexibility of #airPower



*Full size poster in the Other section below.*

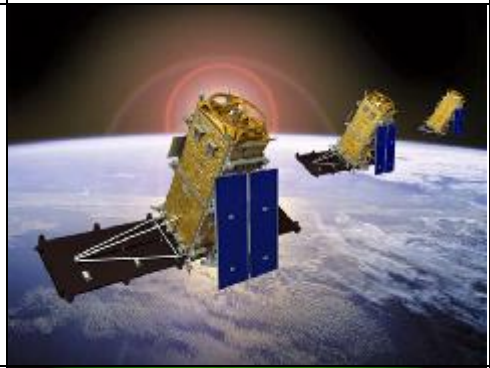
Operation HORIZON #OpHORIZON will involve annual deployment of an additional warship to Indo-Pacific region, increased CAN participation in international exercises & strengthened relationships with regional partners through increased security cooperation. Will increase opportunities to work side-by-side with allies & partners & empower CAN to play even more active role in contributing to regional security

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2023/06/defence-minister-anita-anand->



[announces-revamped-indo-pacific-military-mission-and-strengthens-canadas-defence-relationships-in-the-region.html](#)

David Pugliese @davidpugliese 4 Jun tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Fast-track military space projects and have PM head new council for space priorities, industry group says <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/fast-track-military-space-projects-and-have-pm-head-new-council-for-space-priorities-industry-group-says> via @ottawacitizen



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 5 Jun tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: F-35 program continues to experience delays, cost growth, and late deliveries, US auditor finds. (GAO Report on F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Cost Growth, Engine Modernization <https://news.usni.org/2023/06/02/gao-report-on-f-35-joint-strike-fighter-cost-growth-engine-modernization>)



Canadian Armed Forces Operations @CFOperations 3 Jun tweeted: #HMCSMontreal, with @USNavy destroyer USS Chung-Hoon, conducted a routine transit through the Taiwan Strait. 🇺🇸 and 🇨🇦 and partners operate for peace and security in the region. @INDOPACOM @US7thFleet RUSI(NS) retweeted: CAN🇨🇦 conducts 'routine transits.' 'Freedom of Navigation Operations' (FONOPS) is US practice; not @RoyalCanNavy doctrine/ops. Similar intent - recognition of legal status of waters whether int'l, exclusive economic, etc. Regrettably, message needs repeating. @CanadianForces



Public Services and Procurement Canada @PSPC\_SPAC 2 Jun tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: The #NationalShipbuildingStrategy is helping to rebuild our domestic marine industry while creating good, sustainable jobs in Canada. Learn more about the work undertaken in the past year. thread: <https://tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/app-acq/amd-dp/mer-sea/sncn-nss/rapport-report-2022-eng.html>



Minehunter "Croix du Sud Neutralizes Several Historic Mines in the English Channel" <https://seawaves.com/2023/06/01/croix-du-sud-neutralizes-several-historic-mines-in-the-english-channel/> There is need for mine warfare capability in modern navies to counter mines new and old. @RoyalCanNavy needs retain robust mine clearing resources as Kingston-class ships are replaced



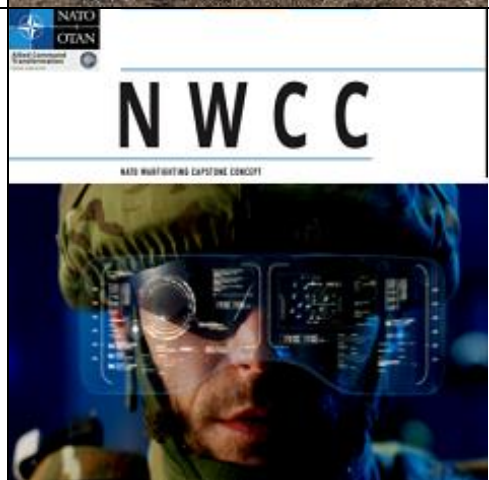
Fisheries and Oceans @FishOceansCAN 5 Jun tweeted (video): 1/2 It's International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (#IUU) Fishing. All around the world, vessels are illegally pulling up thousands of tonnes of fish, contributing to declining fish stocks and marine habitat destruction. 2/2 Find out what we're doing to #FightIUUFishing: <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2023/06/canada-is-a-world-leader-in-the-fight-against-illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-fishing.html> (Canada is a world leader in the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing)  
 RUSI(NS) retweeted: Impact of illegal, unreported & unregulated fishing is recognized by Commander @RoyalCanNavy  
<https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2023/may/international-commanders-respond> #IUU fishing is more than environmental & economic threat, is used by adversarial states for geo-political/expansionist purposes. CAN🇨🇦 needs treat accordingly



DRDC-RDDC @DRDC\_RDDC 5 Jun tweeted: Valcartier Research Centre is launching 60 weather balloons carrying monitoring devices. These devices send atmospheric information back to earth, helping us determine the effects of high-powered lasers on the atmosphere. #DefenceScience  
 RUSI(NS) retweeted: Good alerting on @DRDC\_RDDC part. Avoid public confusion/panic (or air defence response). Might publicly-trackable transponders help? (Background music: "99 Red Balloons")  
 @CFOperations @RCAF\_ARC @RCAFoperations



NATO ACT @NATO\_ACT 6 Jun tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: The NATO Warfighting Capstone Concept, #NATO's Military North Star, will help ensure Alliance's enduring strategic success. It provides a long-term vision for NATO's military transformation & sets the path to turn that vision into reality.  
<https://act.nato.int/our-work/nato-warfighting-capstone-concept/> #WeAreNATO  
 (The NATO Warfighting Capstone Concept)



Canadian Army @CanadianArmy 6 Jun tweeted: Some things never change. Inflatable replicas of vehicles were seen on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE. Dating back to the SWW, inflatable decoys have been used to confuse enemy air observers flying above.

RUSI(NS) retweeted: Still opportunity on battlefields for some basic deception techniques. Could use some R&D to advance & validate technology for today's drone & sensor heavy conditions (@DRDC\_RDDC). Good to see @CanadianArmy exercising battlefield deception *Hmm, the inflatable is desert coloured, and looks to be a Russian tank...*



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 7 Jun tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: My latest article...Canadian special forces to lease new surveillance planes, but details shrouded in secrecy <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canadian-special-forces-to-lease-new-surveillance-planes-but-details-shrouded-in-secrecy> via @ottawacitizen



### **“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](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com).

### **Friends, Partners, but Not Allies**

<https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2023/may/friends-partners-not-allies>

"In partnership with the Quad (Australia, Japan, India, and the United States), President Joseph R. Biden's administration has committed to supporting efforts to counter illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing."



Increasingly, navies have been engaging in countering illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. IUU fishing is more than an environmental and economic threat - it is being used by adversarial states as part of international bullying, and is disruptive to regional stability and prosperity. Effective counters require collaboration with other countries, organizations and government departments. The Commander, Royal Canadian Navy, has made a statement about IUU fishing (<https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2023/may/international-commanders-respond>). What is the official position of Canada and relevant marine departments?



### **Future fleet being shaped by today's sailors**

<https://tridentnewspaper.com/future-fleet-being-shaped-by-todays-sailors/>

"The RCN (Royal Canadian Navy) is adopting the United States Navy's CIC (Command Information Centre) to replace the more commonly used Operations Room, to be more inclusive to all the activities and personnel who will operate in CSC's (Canadian Surface Combatant) CIC."



### **Canada to set up cyber security certification for defence contractors – minister**

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-canada-to-work-with-us-to-set-up-cyber-security-certification-for/>

"Canada will work with the United States to draft a cyber security certification framework for defence contractors that will be identical for both countries as incidents of malicious hacking increase..."



### **BBC ships to Canada**

<http://shipfax.blogspot.com/2023/06/bbc-ships-to-canada.html>

"The SIVUMUT is a multi-purpose, heavy lift, heavy load ship of 9618 gt, 12,747 dwt, fitted with two 150 tonne SWL cranes that can lift up to 300 tonnes in tandem. It has a container capacity of 665 TEU (528 at 14 tonnes) and has 50 reefer plugs. It carries its own spreaders for oversize loads."



"Generally ships of the fleet carry their own lighterage barges and tugs for offloading in shallow draft or unserved ports."

This would make a great ship for sealift operations in austere locations (later wave of an amphibious landing operations?). Hopefully staff in the Canadian Armed Forces and Transport Canada are tracking such vessels, and planning in collaboration with owners for how they may be taken up from trade and employed. Try one with the Royal Canadian Navy's new self-propelled barges (acquired for the building Protecteur-class replenishment oilers).

### **Canada marks Clean Air Day with worst air quality in the world as wildfires rage**

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2023/06/07/wildfire-smoke-blankets-ontario-quebec-air-quality-plummets-affects-activities.html>

"The federal government is focused on battling the fires for now, but Trudeau acknowledged Wednesday his government is discussing the idea of creating some kind of national disaster response agency."



Is that a condemnation of Public Safety Canada? Was their mandate too narrow, or they took it too narrowly?

"CAF (Canadian Armed Forces) documents show that the operation (Operation LENTUS, CAF assistance to provinces in response to natural disasters) was triggered 21 times between 2018 and 2022, not including 118 requests for help from the military in 2020 to respond to COVID-19. Chief of the Defence Staff Gen. Wayne Eyre has warned that the high demand on his troops for disaster assistance is straining the military's overall capacity."

The CAF is so often the go-to force for what should be safety operations. Canada needs to build a balanced capability, where all levels of government can prepare, respond and recover, using their own resources, from disasters.

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Also: Wildfires: Feds look at options for disaster response agency

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/canada-marks-clean-air-day-with-worst-air-quality-in-the-world-as-feds-consider-disaster-response-agency-1.6431378>

### **Nations Collaborate to Prevent North Korea from Evading UN Sanctions**

<https://www.state.gov/dipnote-u-s-department-of-state-official-blog/nations-collaborate-to-prevent-north-korea-from-evading-un-sanctions/>



Operation Neon is Canada's contribution to multinational effort to support the United Nations Security Council sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Canada is a member of the Pacific Security Maritime Exchange (PSMX), an information-sharing initiative with Australia, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States, with the aim to combat the DPRK's violations of UN Security Council-imposed sanctions

"A key component of the PSMX is its Enforcement Coordination Cell (which monitors) monitor the DPRK's illicit activities at sea and in the air, and to coordinate activities to track and disrupt those illicit actions.

The PSMX prevents the DPRK from skirting UN sanctions by:

1. Identifying smuggling ships. The PSMX partners identify, track, and report on dozens of vessels involved in the illicit smuggling of oil, leading to many of these vessels ultimately getting scrapped.
2. Raising the cost of sanctions evasions. Identifying smuggling ships raises the cost for the DPRK to undermine UN sanctions, forcing the DPRK to attempt to create ever more intricate smuggling networks, usually involving multiple vessels, to transfer just one load of oil.
3. Disrupting black market networks. By identifying illicit maritime activity, the PSMX helps disband entire networks of people and entities helping the DPRK violate UN sanctions."

## Hanwha Ocean Unveils Combat XLUUV

<https://www.navalnews.com/event-news/madex-2023/2023/06/hanwha-ocean-unveils-combat-xluuv/>

"The Combat XLUUV (extra large uncrewed underwater vehicle) design unveiled today by Hanwha Ocean ... is a big deal as it features two torpedo tubes."

Underwater warfare is getting more and more challenging...



## Ottawa looking at options for a national disaster response agency as wildfires rage

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/national-disaster-response-agency-1.6868209>

"Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was asked about creating a national disaster response agency during a news conference. He said Canada needs to be able to adapt to increasingly severe weather. "We continue to discuss and look at new mechanisms and new ways of doing that," he said. A senior government source told The Canadian Press that discussions on a new approach are already well underway and include analyzing the merits of creating a Canadian version of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the United States. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has coordinated the response to disasters in U.S. for decades."



## Other Sources:

### #airpower #defence policy

Defence strategic review comes up short on airpower

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/defence-strategic-review-comes-up-short-on-airpower/>

*To be borne in mind as Canada awaits release of its Defence Policy Update.*

### #Arctic

Navigating Breakup: Security Realities of Freezing Politics and Thawing Landscapes in the Arctic

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/navigating-breakup-security-realities-freezing-politics-and-thawing-landscapes-arctic>

*Note the chapter "Implications of climate change for military operations in the Arctic."*

Caribou Meat and Moon Signs: Inuit Lessons for Soldiers in the Arctic

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/04/world/canada/canada-military-arctic-climate.html>

Arctic shipping routes open for the season

<https://akerarctic.fi/en/arctic-passion/arctic-shipping-routes-open-for-the-season/>

### #China

Why China is a national security threat to Australia

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/why-china-is-a-national-security-threat-to-australia/>

*We need a succinct "Why China is a national security threat to Canada."*

*"Unquestioning respect" = imperial dominance.*

China military watch

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/china-military-watch-13/>

China's New Conscription Rules Reveal Concerns

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2023/06/chinas-new-conscription-regulations-reveal-what-worries-pla/387292/>

*Can you say 'A2R?'*

**#Russia**

The Art of Tasseography: China–Russia Relations as Viewed from China

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/art-tasseography-china-russia-relations-viewed-china>

**#cyber operations**

The (US) National Cybersecurity Strategy: Breaking a 50-Year Losing Streak

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/national-cybersecurity-strategy-breaking-50-year-losing-streak>

**#defence procurement #cyber operations**

Government of Canada helping defence industry protect itself from cyber security threats

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2023/05/government-of-canada-helping-defence-industry-protect-itself-from-cyber-security-threats.html>

**#economic warfare**

The Unintended Consequences of Economic Sanctions

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/unintended-consequences-economic-sanctions>

**#firefighting “terminology**

Wildfire terminology can be confusing. Here's a cheat sheet of words you might hear

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/wildfire-term-cheat-sheet-1.6863877>

**#Indo-Pacific**

China Says It Doesn't Want Conflict. Its Actions at Sea Suggest Otherwise

<https://time.com/6285005/china-us-taiwan-sea-territory-dispute/>

**#intelligence**

With rise of AI-generated images, distinguishing real from fake is about to get a lot harder

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/photoshop-ai-generated-images-1.6859130>

*Kinda wonder how intelligence community will cope with imagery analysis (IMINT).*

*Hmm, appears there'll be no need for Combat Camera and Imagery Techs - just IT staff and AI...*

**#artificial intelligence**

What ChatGPT Can and Can't Do for Intelligence

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/what-chatgpt-can-and-cant-do-intelligence>

## **#logistics**

Logistics Contractors and strategic logistics advantage in US military operations

<https://logisticsinwar.com/2023/06/04/logistics-contractors-and-strategic-logistics-advantage-in-us-military-operations/>

## **#media operations**

A new national news media policy could save Canadian journalism

[https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/20230605\\_National-news-policy-Menziesvan-Finckenstein\\_PAPER-v3.pdf](https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/20230605_National-news-policy-Menziesvan-Finckenstein_PAPER-v3.pdf)

## **#NATO**

### **#Arctic**

NATO, partners promote rules-based Arctic, free and open sea lines of communication

<https://ipdefenseforum.com/2023/06/nato-partners-promote-rules-based-arctic-free-and-open-sea-lines-of-communication/>

### **#cyber operations**

NATO and strategic competition in cyberspace

<https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2023/06/06/nato-and-strategic-competition-in-cyberspace/index.html>

## **#Royal Canadian Navy**

Royal Canadian Navy Research

[https://www.navalmarinearchive.com/research/rcn\\_index.html](https://www.navalmarinearchive.com/research/rcn_index.html)

*Note:* Guide to Sources for Research into the Royal Canadian Navy

[https://www.navalmarinearchive.com/research/navies/rcn\\_source\\_guide.html](https://www.navalmarinearchive.com/research/navies/rcn_source_guide.html)

## **#Russia-Ukraine War**

Strategic Echoes: Operation Unthinkable, Nuclear Weapons, and Ukraine

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2023/6/2/strategic-echoes-operation-unthinkable-nuclear-weapons-and-ukraine>

Time to End Russia's Black Sea Piracy

<https://cepa.org/article/time-to-end-russias-black-sea-piracy/>

Ukraine Launches Sabotage Operations on Occupied Territories and Inside Russia

<https://jamestown.org/program/ukraine-launches-sabotage-operations-on-occupied-territories-and-inside-russia/>

Russia-Ukraine Tensions Rise as Ports are Shelled and Ships Blocked

<https://maritime-executive.com/article/russia-ukraine-tensions-rise-as-ports-are-shelled-and-ships-blocked>

What is the long-term strategy for Ukraine's Air Force?

<https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/commentary/2023/06/06/what-is-the-long-term-strategy-for-ukraines-air-force/>

Russia Blows Up Farm Equipment, Claims They're Leopard Tanks

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/russia-blows-up-farm-equipment-claims-theyre-leopard-tanks>

*Looks like some vehicle recognition training is in order. Or maybe the Russians are getting back at all the farmers who towed Russian tanks into captivity...*

### **#armour**

As Tank Losses Top 2,000, Russia Is Deploying T-72s From 1974

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2023/06/01/as-tank-losses-top-2000-russia-is-deploying-museum-grade-t-72s-from-1974/>

### **#cyber operations**

All Quiet on the Cyber Front? Explaining Russia's Limited Cyber Effects

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/all-quiet-cyber-front-explaining-russias-limited-cyber-effects>

### **#drones**

Russia's Use of Uncrewed Systems in Ukraine

<https://www.cna.org/reports/2023/05/russias-use-of-drones-in-ukraine>

### **#information operations**

Kremlin's Tide of Disinformation Can't Wash Away the Truth

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/kremlins-tide-of-disinformation-cant-wash-away-the-truth/>

### **#warfare**

Operational Art Reborn - Part One

<https://wavellroom.com/2023/06/07/operational-art-reborn-part-one/>

### **#security**

Inquiry or not, foreign interference in Canada's elections is part of a new Cold War that we cannot hide from

<https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/inquiry-or-not-foreign-interference-in-canadas-elections-is-part-of-a-new-cold-war-that-we-cannot-hide-from-brian-lee-crowley-in-the-globe-and-mail/>

### **#space #cyber operations**

The Gray Rhino in space: US must update military requirements for satellite cyber defense

<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/06/the-gray-rhino-in-space-us-must-update-military-requirements-for-satellite-cyber-defense/>

*A 'gray rhino' is a highly probable, high impact yet neglected threat; kin to both the elephant in the room and the improbable and unforeseeable black swan.*

### **#wargaming**

How Gettysburg Inspired Modern War Gaming

<https://www.historynet.com/how-gettysburg-inspired-modern-war-gaming/>

*I have some of the classics. Hmm, could RUSI(NS) get into wargaming?*

**Other:**

**Recording/Monitoring of Calls Consultation**

Veterans Affairs Canada  
6 June 2023

We need your input about the option of having calls with your Case Manager or Veteran Service Agent recorded or monitored for better service and record keeping.

Visit Let's Talk Veterans (<https://letstalkveterans.ca/recording-monitoring-of-calls>) before **June 19, 2023** to provide your feedback.

Thank you!

**Ocean Patrol Vessel Project**

Last week RUSI(NS) tweeted about Vard's pitch for the Kingston-class replacement: @VardMarineInc Unveils New 'Vigilance' OPV Design" <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2023/05/ward-unveils-new-vigilance-opv-design/> #Vard pitches replacement for aging @RoyalCanNavy Kingston-class mine warfare/patrol vessels. #RCNavy needs regional multi-role vessels (type as corvettes?) as mid-capability for balanced #BlueWaterNavy



Two more news releases, from partners of the Vigilance-class team (that's an industry name, not a name used by the DND or RCN) have been published:

Fincantieri Part of the Vigilance Team in Canada

<https://www.fincantieri.com/en/media/press-releases/2023/fincantieri-part-of-the-vigilance-team-in-canada/>

and

Heddle Shipyards and Team Vigilance launch offshore patrol vessel

<https://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/manufacturing/heddle-shipyards-and-team-vigilance-launch-offshore-patrol-vessel-292120/>

What the project will be called officially is not certain. Possibly Ocean Patrol Vessel (sic, singular). Note that Ocean Patrol Vessel is not defined in NATO Standard App-20 Standard Ship Designator System (at least, not in the Edition A Version 3 May 2016 held by this writer). Another ship type designation (corvette? FS) would be necessary.

## RCAF Ball Cap

Colonel Richard Jollette @JolletteRichard 31 May tweeted: Ready for tomorrow when the @RCAF\_ARC Ball Cap becomes an authorized headdress. Go to @CANEX to get yours today! // Prêt pour demain quand la casquette @RCAF\_ARC deviendra un couvre-chef autorisé. Rendez-vous à @CANEX pour obtenir la vôtre dès aujourd'hui!



## Canadian Drone-tracking Equipment

*These are two Russian-language articles, although of the same report. Interesting, so they have been included in Dispatches.*

The Russian military seized the secret equipment of the Armed Forces of Ukraine for direction finding drone operators

“According to Alexander Khodakovsky, deputy head of the main department of the Russian National Guard in the Donetsk People's Republic, the Russian military seized secret enemy equipment for direction finding [identifying the location of an object by examining electromagnetic waves from several receivers] of drone operators. According to him, the seized equipment was manufactured in Canada. It has high tactical and technical characteristics and, therefore, is of interest to intelligence officers and specialists in the field of drone control. The deputy head of the department also drew attention to the fact that such equipment of the Armed Forces of Ukraine was used systematically. According to Khodakovsky, the Russian military has long begun use remote antennas and controlling drones from behind cover.”

Battalion commander Khodakovsky: "Seized Canadian equipment is alarming"

“The Russian military seized Canadian equipment in the special military operation zone. This equipment is "alarming," according to Aleksandr Khodakovsky, commander of the 'Vostok' battalion [a Russian military group operating in the Donbas region]. According to Khodakovsky, this equipment is used to track drone operators, as well as determine the coordinates of drones. "Similar equipment has been systematically used [by us] before, but the sample we received is several times better than anything we know," Khodakovsky stressed.”

**Canadian Defence Academy** *The Torch*: What's New This Week? 6-12 June  
<https://cfc-ca.libguides.com/c.php?g=709488&p=5224119>



## Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

### O Canada

Foreign influence issues continue to take oxygen from governance in Ottawa as the saga of Chinese influence continues to appear to be a slow moving train wreck. Most governments would not have this issue as more than one Chinese diplomat would have been thrown out of the country immediately. Diplomats are not citizens and although covered by the Treaty of Vienna, it also requires them to show some level of respect to the country in which they serve. This is clearly not the case with China under the Communist Chinese Party (CCP). The CCP uses the United Front Works department to conduct essentially influence operations within a target country. Countries are selected as targets due to their perceived vulnerability to this type of influence. Canada under numerous governments has proven to be vulnerable. Our intelligence organizations have repeatedly warned successive governments, apparently since Brian Mulroney, of ongoing CCP efforts against the Canadian system, with scant effort to correct the issue by our political leadership. We have not done well.

Canadians need to understand that nationally there are issues and areas that are absolutely essential for the wellbeing of the nation. These are national interests, but aside from some Canadian think tanks, there does not appear to be an accepted Government of Canada list of national interests. One cannot develop security policy, foreign policy or defence policy without this basic understanding and acceptance of these interests. This is not a political issue, it is a national issue as key as the constitution, yet we fail to even achieve this basic set of ideas. It shows why our policies are often disconnected from one another, when each policy should be supporting each of the other policies. We seem to be incoherent and rudderless. We cannot help ourselves nor our allies as a result.

There are about 178 Chinese diplomats in Canada versus about 50 Canadian diplomats in China. China under the CCP has proven to be untrustworthy and has actively undermined our system of governance. Should Canada respond by removing "excess" Chinese diplomats, say cutting their embassy and consular staffs to 50 as well? The high number of Chinese diplomats is only two less than the Chinese mission in the US. Why is it so large and why has it been permitted in the first place especially now that we know they have misused these positions? It is worth some thought.

Canadian equipment issues continue especially after an article by CBC on Canadian soldiers buying helmets and other equipment with their own money. It became even more embarrassing when Danish troops were equipped with more modern Canadian-made equipment including weapons with new and better sights. Canada's procurement process continues to be inadequate. If Canadian troops had to fight now they would do so without a lot of key equipment as mentioned in the CBC article by Murray Brewster on 5 June 2023 (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canadian-soldiers-latvia-equipment-helmets-1.6864290>). This government has had eight years to sort this out with little progress as equipment and personnel become more scarce due to age and apathy. Canada needs to do better, sooner rather than later.

Bombardier's last minute bid to provide a surveillance aircraft to replace the CP-140 Aurora with the Global 6500 is a political football for something that shouldn't be allowed. Bombardier has no history of developing sophisticated anti-submarine aircraft. The Global 6500 has been used for very specific purposes by different militaries but not for this purpose. Bombardier does not have the time nor the knowledge to do this effectively or in a timely fashion. At best Canada would be left again with another orphan fleet of inadequate aircraft. The P-8 Poseidon is used by eight different NATO countries and is a well-proven aircraft. Getting it serviced is also relatively easy as our key allies have the same airframe. This is not something Bombardier can provide. This is a non-starter and they should be told as much.

## **Australia**

Follows is an article that describes the real resource challenges that face Australia with the AUKUS program. I don't think the general populace appreciates the significance of this: <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/the-demands-of-aukus/>.

Another view by the Guardian on AUKUS published on 29 May 2023: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/may/30/aukus-expensive-and-not-easy-to-replicate-australian-officials-told-foreign-diplomats>

Another link to the AUKUS discussion courtesy of Bian Wentzell, our member in Australia: <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/aukus-three-partners-two-pillars-one-problem>

From Brian: The article describes the challenges facing Australia as it focuses its defence requirements north of 26 degrees south. Sitting here in Perth, which is nearly 32 degrees south, the immense distance to send Fremantle-based naval units, nearby army, and air force units north is little different from our own challenges in the Arctic.

Reliance on the American forces has significant risk in any serious conflict with China or another country on this side of the world. The Chinese would keep the Americans busy trying to protect their own Pacific bases and resources.

Maintenance of foreign relations has never been more important "down under."  
<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/turning-the-defence-review-into-action-will-require-a-major-mobilisation/>

Australia has taken a more robust approach to its defence posture including procurement. One may argue specific programs but generally all parties are supportive of the general intent in contrast to Canada. Australia and Canada are similar in many ways, yet Australia is becoming more capable to defend itself in conjunction with allies. Canada is a confused mess in this regard despite having an extremely hostile neighbour which has shown every indication of having geographic designs on our parts of our Exclusive Economic Zone in the north. Canada is no longer isolated by the oceans.

## **United States**

The debt ceiling increase was passed through the House and Senate and signed by the President thus avoiding default. The increase to the debt ceiling was generally bi-partisan, however, there were members from both parties who actively voted against the necessary legislation. A default on the debt would have had world-wide implications. It has stirred major dissent within radical Republican ranks which may cause Speaker McCarthy to lose his position as speaker of the House.

## **Moldova**

There was a recent summit in Moldova covering security and financial issues. A new mission has been approved which will continue to help Moldova fight the effects of Russian interference. It will join an existing police mission covering six areas including human trafficking and smuggling, drug smuggling, violent extremism and cyber-crime. The mission will continue to assist Moldova in moving away from any dependence on Russian energy supplies on a long term basis. It will also assist Moldova from Russia's malign influence activities in normal life. Moldova has been officially granted candidate status for ascension into the European Union. A reasonable site on this issue can be found

at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/may/28/eu-steps-up-support-moldova-leaders-due-attend-summit>.

## **Belarus**

The number of Russian troops in Belarus is smaller than in past with slightly over 1k being stationed there. One reason would be to protect Russian nuclear weapons currently planned for the use of Belarus in time of war. Russians have tended to downsize in favour of having more troops inside Russia to defend against recent attacks by Free Russian forces of various titles. Belarus is in a precarious situation as the regime is not popular and Russia is pre-occupied with the increasingly quagmire-like campaign in Ukraine and now Russia. Survival of the Lukashenko regime is not a given as the situation continues to deteriorate in Ukraine but also within Belarus as sanctions take their toll.

Lukashenko is aware of this and has sought to bring the regime closer into "Union State of Belarus and Russia" although not too closely - he has continued to walk a tight rope between Russia and Ukraine seeking to avoid active combat. Lukashenko also tried to "advertise" the benefits of this union and stated that any country that would join the union would be able to get nuclear weapons. It shows that Lukashenko is not working with a full deck at present. One suspects that anti-Lukashenko forces are waiting for the right moment. However, security forces would have to renounce their support for the regime for this to effectively occur.

Belarus lost the election to the United Nations Security Council this week on 6 June 2023. The new countries selected are Algeria, Guyana, Sierras Leone, South Korea and Slovenia. There was an election between Belarus and Slovenia but Belarus was soundly defeated.

## **Russia-Ukraine War**

The war continues with Russia adopting a defensive posture and the Ukrainians conducting small offensive operations in the east and the south. The north appears to be relatively quiet on both sides. The biggest event is the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka dam held by Russian forces. Video shows several explosion coming from inside the hydro-electric plant. Although Russia has accused Ukrainian saboteurs of doing the deed it is very clear that no small demolition party could carry sufficient explosives to conduct such an operation without being seen by Russian forces nor the time to do the deed. Russia's excuse requires incompetence on Russian forces in the area or super human capacity of Ukrainians. The main victims may in fact be animals and Russian defenders as well as Ukrainian forces on the islands in the Dnipro. So as one DW reporters stated, "I am 90% certain this was done by Russia." The fallout will be considerable but there are no current casualty figures available except for the three hundred animals at a zoo on the Russian occupied side. Will it stop a Ukrainian advance? Likely not but it will have a negative effect on Russian first and second line defences for the next week or so on the eastern bank. Sad, but in line with previous attitudes to humans, animals and ecology including their own. Serious consideration has to be given to charges for these crimes post-war. These actions are unacceptable for an allegedly civilized country.

Russian tactical nuclear weapons are well forward, in one case almost too well forward and nearly taken by Free Russian forces near Belgorod in their first incursion. Belarus now has its own tactical nuclear weapons as well with trained pilots and crews to deliver such weapons. Russia was forced to move quickly to empty the depot, but it should concern Russia's leadership that anti-Putin forces nearly captured these weapons. Nuclear weapons can also be a hazard to those owning them as security is less than usual especially if the enemy has proven to be resourceful and adaptable.

Russia and China are developing joint patrols in the North Pacific as part of their deepening relations. It further cements the idea that China is not a peacemaker but rather the senior partner to a country engaged in an illegal war. The ability of China to be taken seriously is not credible.

There are many stories and incidents being reported at present regarding the current state of this conflict. What is true is casualties are high on both sides and are likely to get much worse in the much announced Ukrainian offensive. There are almost too many stories to verify properly, use of older video is rampant, so clarity and verification are badly needed. The Institute for the Study of War and the British open source intelligence reports seem to be good value from that perspective even if there are delays that take time. It does seem to provide a better picture overall but even then, even they get it wrong, usually in minor details. It is for this reason, this part of the note will be cut short.

## **China**

China is an authoritarian state under Xi Jinping. He and the CCP do not represent the will nor the interests of Chinese citizens. The CCP has not eliminated poverty, it still exists. Saying it is defeated does not make it so. His and the CCP's main effort is the continued survival of the CCP. In this regard, security or rather as it is euphemistically called, stability maintenance, is one of the biggest budget item at the national level. Key dates such a 4 June requires extensive security efforts incurring major wasted effort from an economic point of view, a cost with no real value. The security budget exceeds the budget of the military but with even less utility. The CCP has needed more security recently because of the Covid lock-downs, bank failures and subsequent demonstrations, disastrous policies at the provincial level that have taken away monetary resources from key funds such as medical services, and youth unemployment which remains stubbornly high all of which is now causing increasing levels of unrest across the country. The expense is not likely to recede.

There are increasing concerns about China's actual debt now known to be three times the GDP of the country. It may be much higher due to hidden loans at various levels of governance. China's national government has survived by printing money for stimulus actions. This can only carry on for so long. Another issue is how corruption takes the benefits of their stimulus programs. Most of the money is used by banks not for loans but to pay for older loans that cannot be repaid otherwise. Then there is straight old corruption where money is skimmed off the top. Most of the key individuals running these banks are members of the CCP and usually members of key CCP leadership including Xi Jinping's own family. China's economy is based on nearly 50% being state-owned enterprises, and nearly 40% on private enterprise, most of these are both owned by "princelings" of the CCP. Most Chinese citizens recognize his efforts to eliminate corruption as a method to eliminate opposition within the party. This will not change ...yet.

China and the US met at the Shangri-La Conference held in Singapore this past weekend. Chinese Defence Minister, General Li Shangfu, decided against meeting Lloyd Austin, the US Secretary of Defence, despite being at the same meeting. The US has been trying to start discussions on confidence building measures and lines of communications to prevent potential accidental incidents which may result in conflict. Thus far China has simply made demands of the US including removal of sanctions against General Li. The US has refused to do so at this point. Further discussions however did occur at lower leadership levels which both countries stated as being very useful. Despite allegedly wanting a better relationship with the US, China has not taken any opportunity to improve relations at an operational level. The US and allies including Canada continue to conduct operations over and in international waters, self-declared as Chinese waters by the CCP government based on the mythical 9-dash line. The CCP continues to be its own worst enemy.

Speaking of another sore point, created by the statement of the last G7 Conference in Hiroshima, there is a better understanding of what the term de-risking is instead of de-coupling. Jake Sullivan, the United States National Security Advisor to President Biden, stated on the Fareed Zakaria program on CNN that de-risking has three parts: first, develop secure and resilient supply chains for critical goods such as solar power equipment; second, protect critical advanced technology from adversaries especially material with dual-purpose capability; and third, invest in developing national industrial capacity for critical material. It does not mean the elimination of relations or where possible a relationship with China to deal with specific mutual concerns such as climate change. It was good to get a better understanding of what is really a complex concept.

# Op NEON – end of air operations

Operation NEON is Canada's contribution to a coordinated multinational effort to support the implementation of United Nations Security Council sanctions imposed against North Korea.

<b>Aircraft employed:</b> <b>CP-140 Aurora</b>	<b>CP-140 Detachment:</b> <b>40 personnel</b>
<b>Number of sorties / Number of hours flown:</b> <b>16 / 130</b>	<b>Number of vessels of interest / ship-to-ship transfers observed:</b> <b>19 / 3</b>

Canada

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- From the morning of 01 June, partisan groups attacked Russia's Belgorod region for the second time in ten days. In a complex battlefield situation, what appeared to be uncrewed aerial vehicles also struck Belgorod city (35km inside Russia), while the authorities evacuated civilians from the border town of Shebikino following Ukrainian shelling.
- The Russia military and interior forces have likely seen quicker success in containing this raid than the previous one. However, according to the Russia MOD's own press release, it has resorted to deploying the full range of military firepower on its own territory, including attack helicopters, and the TOS-1A heavy thermobaric rocket launcher.
- Russian commanders now face an acute dilemma of whether to strength defences in Russia's border regions or reinforce their lines in occupied Ukraine.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russia has continued to redeploy regular units to the Bakhmut sector, as Wagner Group assault detachment complete their withdrawal to rear areas.
- Russian VDV (airborne forces) have assumed an increasingly important role in Bakhmut: elements of the 76th and 106th divisions and two additional separate VDV brigades are now deployed to the sector.
- The VDV is much degraded from its pre-invasion 'elite' status. However, Russian commanders have likely attempted to maintain some of these still relatively capable units as an uncommitted reserve. Because they have instead been forced to deploy them to hold the front line in Bakhmut, the whole Russian force is likely to be less flexible in reacting to operational challenges.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Some local Russian security officials are likely interpreting Russia's draconian wartime legislation to mean that public display of blue and yellow items is outlawed because it might evidence discreet support for Ukraine.
- On 09 May 2023, a care home worker was reportedly arrested after wearing a blue and yellow jacket to work. In recent days, Russian National Guard troops arrested a 22 year old man in Volkhov near St Petersburg for displaying which was eventually determined to be the blue and yellow flag of Russia's own Aerospace Forces.
- The clampdown highlights uncertainty within a paranoid Russian officialdom of what is and is deemed permissible within an increasingly totalitarian system. Criticism of the arrests has come from an unexpected quarter: the ultra-nationalist, pro-war Liberal Democratic party. The party's own branding features yellow on a blue background.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Over the course of May 2023, Russia launched over 300 Iranian Shahed series one way attack uncrewed aerial vehicles (OWA-UAVs) against Ukraine: its most intense use of this weapon system to date.
- Russia is probably launching so many OWA-UAVs in an attempt to force Ukraine to fire stocks of valuable, advanced air defence missiles.
- Russia is unlikely to have been notably successful: Ukraine has neutralised at least 90% of the incoming OWA-UAVs mostly using its older and cheaper air defence weapons and with electronic jamming. Russia has also likely been attempting to locate and strike Ukrainian forces well behind the front line. However, Russia remains very ineffective at hitting such dynamic targets at range because of its poor targeting processes.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Over the last 48 hours there has been a substantial increase in fighting along numerous sectors of the front, including those which have been relatively quiet for several months.
- Concurrently, the feud between Wagner Group and the Russian MoD has reached an unprecedented level. For the first time, Wagner owner Yevgeny Prigozhin has claimed that the army has employed deliberate, lethal force against Wagner units. Following an altercation, Wagner has likely detained a Russian army brigade commander.
- Most of Wagner's forces have now been withdrawn from Bakhmut. With Russia short of reserve units, the degree to which Wagner remains responsive to the MoD will be a key factor in the conflict over the coming weeks.

## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- The Russian-controlled Kakhovka dam partially failed just before 0300hrs local time on 06 June 2023. By 1200hrs, the entire eastern portion of the dam and much of the hydro and utilities infrastructure was swept away. The water level in the Kakhovka Reservoir was at a record high before the collapse, resulting in a particularly high volume of water inundating the area downstream.
- Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which sits 120km away from the dam, is highly unlikely to face immediate additional safety issues as a result of the dropping water levels in the reservoir.
- The dam's structure is likely to deteriorate further over the next few days, causing additional flooding.



## INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Amidst a highly complex operational picture, heavy fighting continues along multiple sectors of the front. In most areas Ukraine holds the initiative.
- Russian forces are likely still being ordered to return to the offensive as soon as possible: Chechen units have led an unsuccessful attempt to take the town of Marivka, near Donetsk city, where the front line has changed little since 2015.
- Through 07 June 2023, flood levels continued to rise in the lower Dnipro, following the collapse of the Kakhovka Dam, but will likely start to recede during 08 June 2023. Shelling has complicated some attempts to evacuate displaced civilians from inundated areas.

*More inflatables from Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE  
(No, these are not new-buys to replace Leopards sent to Ukraine...).*

