



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 23 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. 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.

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Home Dispatches

The summer 2023 edition of our internal quarterly, *Home Dispatches*, will be published after our late June tour event. That tour, originally scheduled for 28 June, has had to be moved to 5 July, so the summer edition of *Home Dispatches* will follow accordingly. If you have content for *Home Dispatches*, please email to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

Events:

To list an event in *Dispatches*, email RUSI(NS) by noon Thursday. RUSI(NS) events are by invitation. If you are interested in attending and have not been invited, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com. RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice. Email RUSI(NS) if there is a question of an event occurring.

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>

Amended: 5 July, Wednesday – Tour of Dr William D Finn Centre for Forensic Medicine, headquarters of the Nova Scotia Medical Examiner Service, **rescheduled from 28 June**. ‘Exigencies of the service’ (editor’s words). 1300-1500. Registration is required. To register, email 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.

RUSI(NS) Comments " Sudan Evacuation Shows Way Forward for Humanitarian Intervention by Jay Heisler, 4 June 2023, 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/

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/>

New: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 21 June 2023
<https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current>

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

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

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

New: Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies – Australia Journal *United Service* Volume 74, Number 2, June 2023
<https://www.rusi.com.au/Publications.php#Journal>

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

New: Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 19, Issue 2, 19 June 2023

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

@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.

IISS News @IISS_org 19 Jun tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: IISS's #MilitaryBalance Editor, Robert Wall, highlights what may be the biggest reassessment of defence-industrial needs since the post-Cold War moment in 1993. Read his analysis.
(Defence production: is just-in-time just too late?)



<https://www.iiss.org/online-analysis/military-balance/2023/06/defence-production-is-just-in-time-just-too-late/>

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

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Defence Minister Anita Anand meets with NATO Allies and announces deployment of Canadian Army Tank Squadron to Latvia

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2023/06/defence-minister-anita-anand-meets-with-nato-allies-and-announces-deployment-of-canadian-army-tank-squadron-to-latvia.html>



"Minister Anand announced that Canada intends to deploy a Canadian Army Tank Squadron of 15 Leopard 2 tanks to Latvia, along with supporting personnel and equipment."

Doctrinally a Canadian tank (armour) squadron was 19 tanks: four troops of four, with two tanks (Officer Commanding OC and Battle Captain BC) and a bulldozer-equipped tank in the headquarters. It is not evident whether the "supporting personnel and equipment" includes an armoured recovery vehicle (ARV) and an armoured engineer troop with armoured engineering vehicles, armoured vehicle-launched bridges and another ARV. Another report mentions 50 vehicles in the deployment.

Fifteen tanks implies three troops of four plus the squadron headquarters of three. Besides being contrary to doctrine, it precludes the 'half squadron concept': two troops, one each under the OC and BC, and each assigned different tasks. Armoured corps doctrine permits this, but for very limited, time-specific tasks, as the support echelon is not equipped to support two half squadrons for an extended period of time over extended distances.

One wonders whether 15 tanks is all Canada can reasonably deploy at this time. When it comes to deployment on operations, doctrine is often the first thing to go out the door.

Other NATO members do not have this organization. The British adopted 14 tanks as their modern model which is more in line with NATO. Several countries use a 10-tank company structure with three three-tank platoons and a command tank as company headquarters.

"...Canada pledged to work with Latvia and NATO Allies to generate and stage forces in order to surge the eFP Battle Group Latvia to a combat capable brigade."

It is interesting that Canada is supposed to be the lead on a brigade over there. That would suggest a regiment of tanks of three-four squadrons. One would guess the other squadrons are coming from partner nations.

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Interesting, the 2004 depiction by Scully:
https://www.williamscully.ca/gallery2/main.php/v/Canadian-Forces/canadian_tank_squadron.jpg.html



Australia Axes Lease for New Russian Embassy, Citing National Security

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9770358/australia-russia-embassy/>

Russia accuses Australia of 'Russophobic hysteria' for blocking second embassy on security grounds

<https://apnews.com/article/russia-embassy-australia-d653abcf34859b75c882cb291e6e5a83>



These two articles show the difference between a serious nation with a firm grip on their situational awareness as opposed to Canada's delusional national view. The world is going to a more nationalist view, states protecting their citizens and the security of the country. It is interesting that Australia simply threw out Russian diplomats who were in fact intelligence operatives.

One might consider doing something similar to Chinese embassy staff in Canada, such as limiting staff to fifty diplomats in total, the same as Canada in China. We also might consider the illegal police stations as undeclared foreign agents and have them deported and prevented from ever returning, or arresting them. The necessary legislation has to be put in place to ensure Canadian ability to arrest, detain try and imprison undeclared human assets engaged in hostile acts including blackmail, threats to Canadian citizens, influence activities, misinformation and other actions of a hostile power. This should receive all-party support to serve and protect our country.

We also need to provide our intelligence and security services the necessary resources to do this task along with appropriate knowledgeable oversight. Our current actions are an embarrassment.

Cruising to Nome: The first U.S. deep water port for the Arctic to host cruise ships, military

<https://www.timesunion.com/living/article/cruising-to-nome-the-first-u-s-deep-water-port-18158326.php>

“The way you have a presence in the Arctic is to be able to have military assets and the infrastructure that supports these assets,” Sullivan (US Senator, Alaska) said.”



Canada needs a dual-use (civil and military) deep-water port in the North, preferably connected by land to the south. Churchill, Manitoba?

Canada urgently needs a FEMA-like emergency management agency

<https://theconversation.com/canada-urgently-needs-a-fema-like-emergency-management-agency-207400>



Other Sources:

#armour

Into the Greasy Grass—The Importance of the Tank in War Today and in the Future
2016 article, but obviously tanks are getting a rethink: <https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2016/5/24/into-the-greasy-grassthe-importance-of-the-tank-in-war-today-and-in-the-future>

The Army's M10 Booker is a tank. Prove us wrong.
<https://www.militarytimes.com/off-duty/military-culture/2023/06/21/the-armys-m10-booker-is-a-tank-prove-us-wrong/>

What you call something, whether tank or ship or whatever, is an indication of how you intend to employ it (doctrine). How you actually end up using it is another matter.

#China

China's Military Is Nowhere Near as Strong as the CCP Wants You to Think
<https://www.newsweek.com/chinas-military-nowhere-near-strong-ccp-wants-you-think-opinion-1807244>

The Long Arm of the Law(less): The PRC's Overseas Police Stations
<https://jamestown.org/program/the-long-arm-of-the-lawless-the-prcs-overseas-police-stations/>

#defence policy

National defence strategy will need to clarify Australia's approach to deterrence
<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/national-defence-strategy-will-need-to-clarify-australias-approach-to-deterrence/>

In context of Canada's upcoming Defence Policy Review.

#media operations

U.S. Navy Increases Procurement of Naval Weapons
<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2023/06/u-s-navy-increases-procurement-of-naval-weapons/>
Interesting, the detail to the CHINFO reply to a public inquiry. There needs to be detail like this in Canadian replies.

#Russia-Ukraine War

History Points to the Most Probable Conclusion in Ukraine: Scorched Earth or Regime Change

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2023/6/16/history-points-to-the-most-probable-conclusion-in-ukraine-scorched-earth-or-regime-change>

The Russian Way of War in Ukraine: A Military Approach Nine Decades in the Making

<https://mwi.usma.edu/the-russian-way-of-war-in-ukraine-a-military-approach-nine-decades-in-the-making/>

David Fells Goliath, Then There'll be Talks: How Ukraine Can Win

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/david-fells-goliath-then-therell-be-talks-how-ukraine-can-win>

Tactical Lessons: The Battle at Orikhiv

<https://wavellroom.com/2023/06/14/tactical-lessons-ukraine-battle-at-orikhiv-7-8-june/>

Pyramid Builders. Billions spent on useless defense fortifications

<https://theins.ru/en/politics/262600>

Moscow Reorganizing Russian Military for Offensive War and to Protect Putin Regime

<https://jamestown.org/program/moscow-reorganizing-russian-military-for-offensive-war-and-to-protect-putin-regime/>

#armour

Russia's antique tanks are finding a second life as VBIEDs

<https://taskandpurpose.com/news/ukraine-russia-tanks-vbied/>

#cyber operations

Cyberattack wave in Ukraine linked to Russia's GRU, Microsoft says

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/cyber/2023/06/14/cyberattack-wave-in-ukraine-linked-to-russias-gru-microsoft-says/>

#drones

Russian UGV

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1670560732302409728.html>

Dumb and cheap: When facing electronic warfare in Ukraine, small drones' quantity is quality

<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/06/14/dumb-and-cheap-when-facing-electronic-warfare-in-ukraine-small-drones-quantity-is-quality/>

#economic warfare

Does Economic Deterrence Work? Understanding the West's Assumptions About Keeping Russia in Check

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2023/6/15/does-economic-deterrence-work-understanding-the-west-s-assumptions-about-keeping-russia-in-check>

A Western sanctions counteroffensive to match Ukraine's military counteroffensive
<https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/a-western-sanctions-counteroffensive-to-match-ukraines-military-counteroffensive-benjamin-l-schmitt-for-inside-policy/>

#strategy

Don't Depend on Miracles to Win a War

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2023/06/dont-depend-on-miracles-to-win-a-war/>

#wargaming

The Games the Marine Corps Plays

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/opinions/2023/06/16/games-marine-corps-plays.html>

Considerations for any wargaming (recall the Japanese Navy, pre-Pearl Harbour strike). Note the author's credentials.

Other:

Gray Rhino

Euan MacDonald @Euan_MacDonald 17 Jun tweeted: A Black Swan of their own making? Reports that cholera is sickening Russian forces in Kherson Oblast and Crimea - probably spread by filthy flood water from the Kakhovka dam break. An army's worst enemy of old - disease - may have now entered the fray.

(Russian units in Kherson Oblast and Crimea, stricken in cholera outbreak, 'losing combat effectiveness')

<https://english.nv.ua/nation/russian-units-in-kherson-oblast-and-crimea-stricken-in-cholera-outbreak-losing-combat-effectivene-50332646.html>



Not so much a black swan as a gray rhino. Slowly evolving and predictable threat.

Of Submersibles and Submarines

Lots of reporting about the submersible *Titan* this week, tragically lost. Went looking for a definition of submersible, as distinct from submarine. Found:

Underwater Vehicles, Systems and Hyperbaric Facilities - Rules for Building and Classing

https://ww2.eagle.org/content/dam/eagle/rules-and-guides/current/special_service/7_rulesforbuildingandclassingunderwatervehiclessystemsandhyperbaricfacilities_2021/uwvs-rules-jan21.pdf

Submersible - A self-propelled craft capable of carrying personnel and/or passengers while operating underwater, submerging, surfacing and remaining afloat. Internal pressure is normally maintained at or near one atmosphere.

On that basis, submarines (which really is short for 'submarine boats') seem to be a subset of submersibles. Not evident how it's treated in French, at least one article used sous-marine ("OceanGate refusait que son sous-marin soit inspecté et certifié" <https://ici.radio->

canada.ca/nouvelle/1989934/oceangate-sous-marin-recherche-certification-titanic) but that could just be media (mis)usage.

Christopher E Richardson @DivebumChef 19 Jun tweeted (<https://twitter.com/DivebumChef/status/1670870166794534933>): OK, I am very familiar with both US and ABS regs regarding certification of submersibles for private an commercial tourist use (Thanks Paul, RIP). Not Canadian, so i went looking and can't find any. <https://tc.canada.ca/en>

One wonders: does Transport Canada have regulations for submersibles?

A good article about the legalities, with Professor Sal Mercogliano (he's worth following), is at: Why Was OceanGate's Titan Submarine So Unregulated?

<https://www.curbed.com/2023/06/oceangate-titan-submarine-unregulated-tourism.html>

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

Australia

Two USAF B-52H arrived in Indonesia after flying from a base in Guam. The US has been taking opportunities to work with potential partners in South east Asia as part of their counter to Chinese activities and claims within the South China Sea area. The story is at: <https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/b-52-bombers-arrive-in-indonesia-for-the-first-time>.

The Australians conducted a Defence Strategic Review recently and is currently seeking to carry out many of the recommendations of the review as quickly as possible. The review notes that China's military build-up is now the largest and most ambitious of any country since the end of the Second World War, a direct quote from an article. The article is in stark contrast to the Canadian "effort" if it can be called that at all. The article is at: <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/building-integrated-air-and-missile-defence-for-australia/>.

This article is a view of a recent Australian Army exercise of its CRBN defence including decontamination. One wonders if Canada could do the same anymore. The article is at: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2023-06-21/army-reaches-new-milestone>.

As a general comment, one can see that Australia has a firm grip on the reality of its situation, a grip that Canada has not been able to do. Canada is wrapped up in "administrivia" as opposed to providing the resources for deterrence and lethality for our forces. It is a sad commentary as to a lack of situational awareness by the government. The world has become more dangerous and Canada is not in any ways prepared. I would blame the current government but this has been true since the late 1960s.

O Canada

Canada ran four by-elections this past week. The Government had set up special oversight measures to ensure election integrity. None of these ridings were expected to have any interference as they did not have the importance of a national election and the composition of the population did not have the same characteristics that it would make it worth-while. The ridings involved were won by the party that originally held the seat. The only issue was that the Conservatives in Oxford riding parachuted a candidate into the race from outside overriding the wishes of the local party. The incumbent was so indignant that he openly supported the Liberal candidate. What wasn't mentioned that the local choice to replace the incumbent with his own daughter...who says that nepotism is dead?

The latest from the lost submersible is that noises were detected by a Canadian Aurora aircraft that was part of the search. Good work by the crew of this aircraft. Whether it will be enough is another question as time for air to run out is growing very short.

A judge in Ontario reviewing the Canadian Border Service Agency's (CBSA) rejection of permanent residence (PR) to a Chinese national overturned the rejection as the agency did not provide suitable actual proof of the applicant's participation in the Peoples' Republic of China's intelligence service despite him admitting to a large part of the his service. Rather than judge the judge, it should be a call to the Government that CBSA needs a properly trained intelligence service to ensure more and clearer detail is available before rejecting an applicant. Immigration, Citizenship and Refugee Canada (ICRC) stated that they have screening in place that is adequate. It should be noted that many of these screening agents are foreign nationals. CBSA has have no intelligence staff nor really any adequate way to make that determination particularly when it comes to applicants from countries with less than transparent records such as China. CBSA is Canada's first line of defence, they need better tools to deal with applicants for PR. It is CBSA that should have the final say on whether someone enters the country, not ICRC. I have seen their work before in other circumstances, it is not inspiring.

Canada's actual Gross National Product per capita has taken a severe tumble as it is now below the pre-pandemic level of just over \$56k per capita in 2019 to now just over \$52k. It is increasing this year but it is still expected to be below the 2019 figures. Canada keeps adding more immigrants and refugees but has insufficient housing for our working poor or newcomers. Many parts of our country lack sufficient numbers of trades people to meet the overall housing demands yet apparently Canada is on track for a similar number of people entering the country this year. Canada needs people without any doubt, but it needs a good solid, planned program of building and maintaining accessible and affordable housing. Something that seems to be missing at present, and this is a cause for concern for everyone. New data from Statistics Canada suggest that the economy is not doing well according to a National Post article on this subject published on 20 June 2023 called "First Reading: Canadian Economic Productivity is in Freefall."

Canada has had some recent difficulties with the perception of the Asia Infrastructure Development Bank, as the senior Canadian, Bob Pickard stated that the Communist Chinese Party ran a parallel structure that actually seemed to provide the actual operating structure underneath the facade of a multi-lateral, apolitical and transparent international bank. Mr Pickard stated on CBC that what he thought he was supposed to do was very much at odds with the actual operation of the bank. Often decisions were made by this internal operating system of CCP operatives. Canada has ceased its operations with the AIDB until a proper review can be conducted.

On a more positive note Canada will finally send tanks to our battle group in Latvia. A total of fifteen tanks will be sent. Although they are calling it a squadron, it will be short one whole troop of tanks. Canada has always used four troops of four tanks plus a headquarters element of two command tanks and one dozer tank. It would also include a sizeable support element of maintenance, supply for ammunition and fuel, and support vehicles to carry more material. There was no word on an armoured recovery vehicle or armoured engineer support with armoured vehicles laying bridge (AVLB) also known as a bridge layer and armoured engineer vehicles (AEV) which they will need for operations. Without those resources they could well be stuck.

United States

After a successful trip to Beijing by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, it was unfortunate that President Biden called Xi a "dictator" at a California fundraiser on Tuesday night, thus potentially derailing recent efforts to bring a more stable relationship between China and the US. The fallout from

these remarks are yet to be felt. Overall, both countries viewed the Secretary of State's visit a success with both countries willing to work on key issues. Secretary Blinken's initial proposed visit was postponed ,caused by the intrusion of a Chinese surveillance balloon in February 2023, later shot down by the USAF. China stated that they also viewed the visit a success but almost immediately stated its "demands" such as lifting of sanctions against Chinese tech and other critical points - these will not be considered at this time mainly due to Chinese actions.

The Chinese reaction to President Biden's comments from the foreign ministry spokesperson, Mao Ning Wednesday from The Hill article "China Rips Biden Description of Xi as Dictator, as 'extremely absurd and irresponsible'" published on 21 June 2023 by Julia Mueller, as follows: *"Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning later said Biden's comments "go totally against facts and seriously violate diplomatic protocol, and severely infringe on China's political dignity." "It is a blatant political provocation. China expresses strong dissatisfaction and opposition. ... The U.S. remarks are extremely absurd and irresponsible."*

A US Department of Defense audit of the prices of equipment used for Ukraine found that a higher figure was used for equipment replacement, this resulting in a re-evaluation to lower figures for the cost. It means that Ukraine has a further \$6.2B USD extra to play with that has already been approved for their use.

Moldova

The Moldovan courts have issued an order for the dissolution of the Shor Party effective immediately. Ilen Shor was convicted in absentia for embezzlement of nearly \$1B USD from Moldovan banks. Mr Shor is currently living in Israel. Moldova has asked for his extradition to Moldova. Israel has refused the request.

In an interview with Moldova's current Foreign Minister, Nicu Popescu, he stated that Moldova is not worried about Russian actions at present as Ukraine is providing a good defence. He also stated that he is also receiving significant assistance from Romania and the European Union in helping Moldova for potential actions by Russia. The reporter asked whether Moldova would receive EU and NATO membership. The Minister stated that although Moldova's constitution states that Moldova is neutral, he maintained a good working relationship with both organizations. Changes to the constitution may come in future to allow for membership in both organizations but this will be decided by the Moldovan people.

Belarus

Reuters Wednesday reported that Belarus is conducting ten days of major exercises. The main focus is the practicing of mobilization of reservists into the armed forces, including how state organizations function to make this possible. The Belarus Ministry of Defence stated this was not a preparation for an attack against Ukraine. It was emphasized that Belarus would only attack if it was the subject of a first aggressive action by another party. One suspects that ordering any attack on Ukraine would end the current self-appointed regime.

Belarus has apparently acquired all the necessary tactical nuclear weapons originally scheduled to be transferred in July 2023. Russia, however, maintains control over these weapons at all times.

Russia Ukraine War

The war continues at a rate of violence not previously seen, with both sides conducting offensive operations in various parts of the front. Ukraine seems to have had more success at this point, relying on small well-coordinated attacks. Russia has continued to attack along the north part of the line, especially around Kremmina towards the formerly held town of Kupyansk. The Russians have had some success, taking small areas of little importance. These attacks seem to be an attempt to force Ukraine to expend forces to meet this challenge; in this regard they seem pointless and ineffective. Russian attacks are characterized by infantry with a small number of tanks, usually a platoon size. These attacks seem too small to be effective. The bottom line is that Ukraine seems to be carrying out reconnaissance by force rather than wholesale attacks especially around Bakhmut and Orikhiv in the east and south respectively. The situation changes so fast that it is impractical for me to keep up in the fine detail. I would suggest the Institute for the Study of War as being a good source of an updated map of the situation. Keep in mind both sides are keeping officially quiet although various bloggers do their bit to spread information of various quality.

One piece of information is clear, Ukraine has not released their 9th and 10th Corps for action although portions may have been used. The two corps have twelve brigade size formations plus what would be considered corps troops. It is thought that Ukraine will not use them until they decide that the situation on the ground and in the air are significantly suitable to launch a full scale attack. The other concern is how Russia will be manning their lines of defence as many formations have absorbed horrific losses with limited ability to refit and reinforce as was shown with Russia's 155th Naval Infantry Brigade. Time is always a factor. Ukraine will have to determine whether to use the assault troops or save them for a rainy day and add to that number of well trained and equipped troops. Russia needs to replace its losses with trained manpower, something they have very little of. Conscription and forced recruitment is the only answer. It would help their cause if they had some success. Russian soldiers have seen very little success to date.

Ukraine will get its F-16 aircraft from various nations and support from Lockheed-Martin. The exact numbers of F-16 available and which will be delivered are unknown at this point. Ukraine has also requested Australia give them their newly retired F-18 A and B. Apparently up to 41 are flyable with some work. Ukraine has received 45 Soviet-era fighters so far this year including 18 SU-25 ground attack aircraft and 27 MiG-29. Aviation will be absolutely vital for the next stage of operations.

Tanks and other armoured vehicles are being provided to Ukraine in a small but steady stream thus providing vital equipment needed for success.

Although not part of the war as a participant, NATO nations (except Canada) are rethinking years of meager funding of defence. Things such as a layered air defence system coordinated with unmanned systems and aircraft are vital as are tanks, artillery and infantry fighting vehicles of various types. Most importantly is how are these systems are to be maintained and supported. Few countries have maintained that capacity. It needs to be rebuilt.

During the US Secretary of State's visit China stated that it will not supply weapons to Moscow, a relief to Ukraine but a piece of bad news for Russia.

China

China considered the Blinken visit a success and stated they were looking forward to improved relations with the US. China has been missing its major market in the US because of tensions, however, as mentioned President Biden did call President Xi a dictator at a California fund raiser. The

fallout from that event has yet to really take shape except for the comments of the Foreign Office spokesperson Mao Ning mentioned above.

In order to split the European Union away from the US and other Western countries, China has sent its new Premier, Li Qiang, to Germany, France and Norway on a "charm offensive" to help China's narrative as a peacemaker and to rebuild ties with the continent. He was preceded by Wang Yi, China's top diplomat, who made every attempt to convince key leadership to cooperate in a meaningful way with China. However, the new Envoy to the EU, Fu Cong, stated it would be unfair for Europe to link the war in Ukraine with China-EU relations. One might consider that although Europe would like to have better relations with China, it will not be at any price and certainly not at EU expense. Despite these efforts, it seems unlikely that China will achieve any of its aims with these visits. Circumstances in Europe and the attitude of Europeans to China would have to change.

A fourth Chinese province has entered into the Chinese government equivalent of receivership. Four provinces are currently undergoing supervision for their financial situation including Guizhou, Guangxi, Inner Mongolia and Yunan. It is estimated that up to eight more could be in a similar state in the relatively near future. China's economy is not in good shape overall and soon someone will consider who was responsible. One suspects President Xi is going to have trouble sleeping.

China continues to develop the idea that the BRIC states can dethrone the US dollar as the key reserve currency. At present more than 20 countries have expressed their support. Most have agreed as it allows bill payments in their own currency. This is fraught with difficulties and will take considerable work especially as most of these countries have their own difficulties at present.

China's own economy is not expected to meet its growth targets this year. Even Western investment firms are less than glowing or optimistic about Chinese growth which is already officially 5%, a much lower growth figure than normally expected. The reason is China's actual economic structure is dependent on land sales and subsequent development at the provincial autonomous city level. This has been failing for years and finally exploded with the fall of the large property management companies set up as almost a Ponzi scheme. This is no longer a viable method of operating and major structural changes are required to fix the basic model used for decades.

China's unemployment of new university graduates now exceeds 20% with little hope of changing the situation in the near term. CCP incompetence attacked the driving force of employment, private enterprise in education and tech. The CCP has placed more control on these industries, virtually eliminating the private education forms and preventing new start-ups from getting bank loans, amongst other issues and challenges. Students have been a source of concern for China's stability as they were the driving force behind Tiananmen Square in 1989. The CCP has always been leery of too much education in the wrong circumstances.

As a final note, nearly half the country's population receive under \$360 per month as pay, so much for ending poverty. Saying one has eliminated poverty is not the same as actually achieving this admirable goal.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- General-Major Sergei Goryachev was almost certainly killed in a strike on a command post on or around 12 June 2023, in southern Ukraine.
- Goryachev was the chief of staff of 35th Combined Arms Army (35 CAA). With 35 CAA's nominated commander, General-Lieutenant Alexandr Sanchik, reported to be filling a gap in a higher HQ, there is a realistic possibility that Goryachev was the acting army commander at the time of his death.
- Goryachev is the first Russian general confirmed killed in Ukraine since the start of 2023.
- It continues a war record which has been both difficult and controversial for 35th CAA: in March 2022 elements of the army were present during the massacre of civilians in Bucha, and in June 2022 the force was largely wiped out near Iziurm.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Since the start of Ukrainian counter-offensive operations in southern Ukraine, Russia has re-enforced its attack helicopter force in the region.
- Imagery shows that over 20 extra Russian helicopters deployed to Berdyansk Airport, approximately 100km behind the front line.
- In the constant contest between aviation measures and counter-measures, it is likely that Russia has gained a temporary advantage in southern Ukraine, especially with attack helicopters employing longer-range missiles against ground targets.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- In recent days, heavy fighting has continued, with the most intense combat focused in Zaporizhzhia Oblast, western Donetsk Oblast, and around Bakhmut.
- In all these areas, Ukraine continues to pursue offensive operations and has made small advances.
- In the south, Russian forces often conduct relatively effective defensive operations. Both sides are suffering high casualties, with Russian losses likely the highest since the peak of the battle for Bakhmut in March.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Over the last ten days, Russia has highly likely started relocating elements of its Dnipro Group of Forces (DGF) from the eastern bank of the Dnipro River to reinforce the Zaporizhzhia and Bakhmut sectors.
- This potentially involves several thousand troops from the 49th Army, including its 34th Separate Motorised Brigade, as well as Airborne Forces (VDV) and Naval Infantry units.
- The DGF redeployment likely reflects Russia's perception that a major Ukrainian attack across the Dnipro is now less likely following the collapse of Kakhovka Dam and the resulting flooding.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 19 June 2023, Wagner Group owner Yevgeny Prigozhin said that he was expecting a reply from the Russian MoD regarding a 'contract' of his own drafting which he had delivered to the ministry three days before.
- This follows the MoD's own ultimatum to Wagner and other 'volunteer formations' to sign contracts with the MoD by 01 July 2023. Although the content of Prigozhin's document has not been made public, the act of him delivering it raises the stakes, and is highly likely another deliberate effort to undermine the authority of the official military authorities.
- Prigozhin's tone towards the MoD has become unambiguously confrontational. The MoD almost certainly sees this as deeply unfortunate at a time when it is grappling with Ukraine's counter-offensive.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Intense fighting continues in sectors of southern Ukraine. However, over recent weeks, Russia has continued to expend significant effort building defensive lines deep in rear areas, especially on the approaches to occupied Crimea.
- This includes an extensive zone of defences of 9 km in length, 3.5 km north of the town Armyansk, on the narrow bridge of land connecting Crimea to the Kherson region.
- These elaborate defences highlight the Russian command's assessment that Ukrainian forces are capable of directly assaulting Crimea.
- Russia continues to see maintaining control of the peninsula as a top political priority.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 20 June 2023, Russia's Duma voted to create a parliamentary committee to investigate alleged crimes committed by the Ukrainian government against juveniles in the Donbas since 2014.
- The Duma is almost certainly responding to the international condemnation of Russia's deportation of children from occupied Ukraine since its full-scale invasion.
- The move is highly likely both a form of 'lawfare' and contributes to Russian information operations, weaponising legislation by attempting to muddy the narrative around its own egregious action. Messaging around children's rights is likely an important communications theme for the Kremlin because alleged child deportations formed the basis of the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant against President Putin issued in March 2023.

Want to understand the reasons for why arrows on campaign maps are in certain directions? Check the logistics infrastructure.

Special Kherson Cat @bayraktar_1love 18 Jun tweeted: This morning, there was a strike on a fairly large Russian ammunition depot in Rykove, Kherson region. Distance to the front ~110 km. Rykovo is located on the railroad between Crimea and Melitopol and is therefore an important logistical hub for Russians. https://t.me/vanek_nikolaev/15506

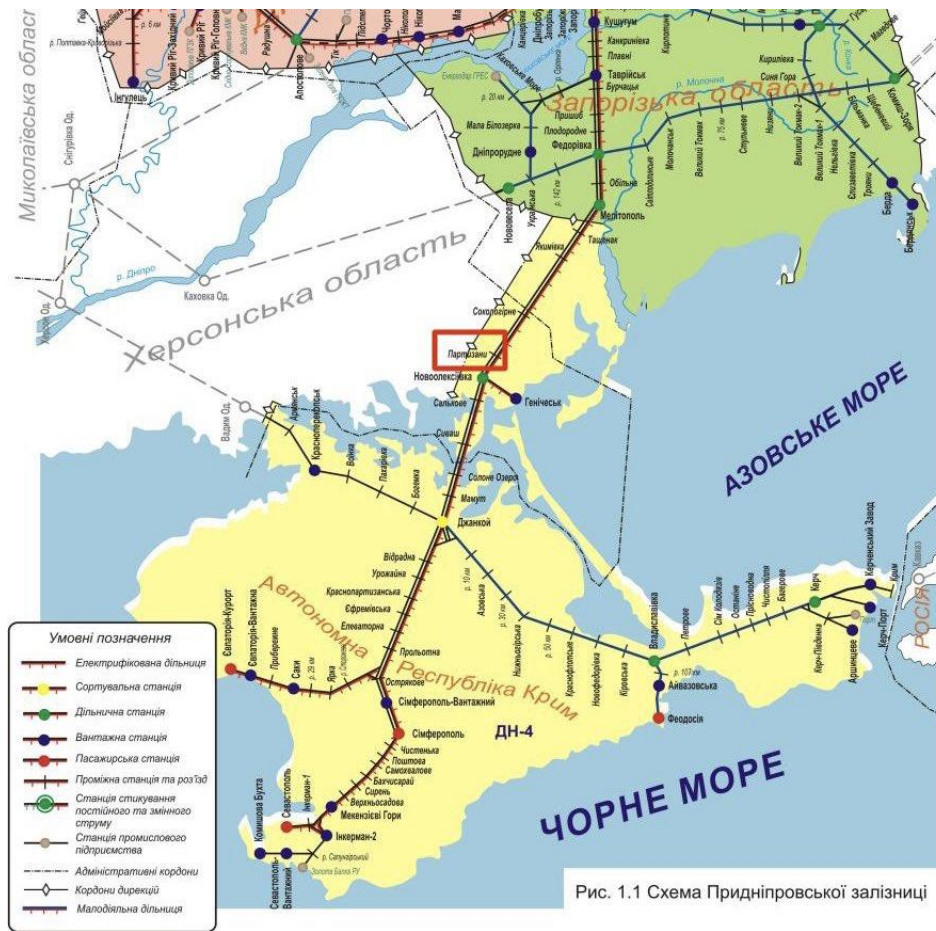


Рис. 1.1 Схема Придніпровської залізниці