



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 7 July 2023

The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia provides a forum for the study, promotion and debate of defence, security and safety issues.

Dispatches is a weekly collection of news of interest, including posts to social media by the Institute. Links to articles are checked at the time they are put into *Dispatches* but may be unavailable at a later date or in some countries other than Canada.

Everyone is encouraged to submit links and other content to be included in *Dispatches*. Submissions and feedback are welcome anytime. Email to RUSINSDispatches@gmail.com. Comments to articles can be from members or non-members of RUSI(NS). Any comment in *Dispatches* is the sole opinion of the author and does not necessarily represent the views of the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia, the Department of National Defence or other government department, the Canadian Armed Forces, or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or other agency.

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

Events:

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

18 July, Tuesday - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker LCol Hope Carr, 5th Canadian Division HQ, speaking on "Op PRESENCE: Civil-Military Capacity Building for UN Peace Operations." 1300-1500. Cambridge Military Library, Royal Artillery Park. Registration is not required. Note that this is a Tuesday and not our usual third Wednesday of the month.

RUSI(NS) Events August

There is no event planned for RUSI(NS) for August. Our first event in September, a Distinguished Speaker presentation in-person at the Royal Artillery Park Mess, is planned for Wednesday, 20 September.

Publications:

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

Emended: RUSI(NS) Information Note "Armoured Fighting Vehicles," 2 July 2023, <https://rusi-ns.ca/armoured-fighting-vehicles/> (additional vehicle types addressed)

RUSI(NS) History & Heritage Paper “Canadian Corvettes in the Second World War – A General History” by Dr Richard Gimblett, 24 June 2023, <https://rusi-ns.ca/canadian-corvettes-in-the-second-world-war/>

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/

New: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 5 July 2023
<https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current>

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

New: Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XLI, Number 7, July-August 2023

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

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

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.

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.

<p>Canadian Armed Forces @CanadianForces 30 Jun tweeted: #ExVITALARCHER23 united 1400 participants across the U.S. and Canada in a bilateral counterterrorism and counter weapons of mass destruction exercise that bolstered partnerships and fortified both nations against multi-domain threats. 🇨🇦🇺🇸 Learn more: https://canada.ca/fr/ministere-defense-nationale/feuille-derable/defense/2023/06/exercice-vital-archer-2023.html (Exercise Vital Archer 2023) RUSI(NS) retweeted: Good to see participation of civil vessel as target for exercise. More realistic than using naval ship</p>	
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NATO ACT @NATO_ACT 30 Jun tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Wargaming serves as a valuable arena for evaluating theoretical concepts and plans in warfare development before implementing them in actual operations with men and women in uniform. Learn about the Wargaming Initiative for #NATO'23: <https://act.nato.int/article/nato-wargaming-initiative-2023-concludes/> #WeAreNATO (NATO's Wargaming Initiative 2023 Concludes, with Expert Participation from Academia, Industry, and Additional Stakeholders throughout the Alliance)



Anita Anand @AnitaAnandMP 29 Jun tweeted: Today, I announced that Canada is deploying HMCS Shawinigan and HMCS Summerside on @NATO operations. This deployment demonstrates Canada's commitment to NATO's continuous at-sea presence, and the @RoyalCanNavy's leadership in strengthening security throughout European waters. RUSI(NS) retweeted: .@RoyalCanNavy Kingston-class #HMCSShawinigan & #HMCSSummerside to deploy to Europe in Standing @NATO Mine Countermeasures Group 1 @SNMCMG1. Diving teams & mine countermeasure underwater vehicles #UUV #drones embarked. Mine warfare is still necessary capability for #RCNavy



Seaspan @Seaspan 28 Jun tweeted: Is it a ground-breaking if there isn't a golden shovel? Seaspan has begun construction on a new Land-Based Test Site that will integrate & test vital ship communications, navigation, and other electronic equipment prior to being installed on vessels. (Seaspan breaks ground on new land-based testing facility as part of driving improvements in shipbuilding <https://www.seaspan.com/press-release/seaspan-breaks-ground-on-new-land-based-testing-facility-as-part-of-driving-improvements-in-shipbuilding/>)



National Shipbuilding Strategy #NSS results in more than just ships. Leads to improved building yards, increased/experienced workers & specialized facilities ashore (land-based test & training - 'ship-in-a-box'). Those are what national policies are meant to achieve



RUSI @RUSI_org 5 Jul tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: 'Though the volume and nature of OSINT certainly poses questions for modern-day intelligence agencies, it would be wrong to see its presence as throwing into doubt the latter's importance' writes @Sandbagger_01 in the latest #RUSICommentary. (The Death of Secret Intelligence? Think Again <https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/death-secret-intelligence-think-again>)



Veterans Affairs CA @VeteransENG_CA 5 Jul tweeted: #OTD in 1916, No. 2 Construction Battalion was formed in Pictou, Nova Scotia. It was the largest Black military unit in Canadian history, remembered for its service to Canada during the First World War.
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/people-and-stories/black-canadians> #CanadaRemembers
 (Black Canadians in uniform — a proud tradition)
 RUSI(NS) Presentation "No. 2 Construction Battalion: A Short History & an Apology" <https://rusi-ns.ca/no-2-construction-battalion/>



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 5 Jul tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: My latest article...Canadian special forces pilots warn they are being held back by inferior equipment and the obsolete Griffon helicopter
<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canadian-special-forces-pilots-warn-they-are-being-held-back-by-inferior-equipment-and-the-obsolete-griffon-helicopter> via @ottawacitizen



CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 5 Jul tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Bercuson raises concerns about Canada's limited contributions to NATO and suggests that Canada has been doing the minimum required to maintain its relationship with the alliance.
 (Canada and NATO: Doing the Bare Minimum?)
<https://cdainstitute.ca/canada-and-nato-doing-the-bare-minimum/>



"Remote Threat Detection: @DRDC_RDDC tests the limits of sensors on drones in @NATO trial"
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2023/06/remote-threat-detection-drdc-tests-limits-sensors-drones-nato-trial.html> #Drones
 #UAV with specialized military search-specific sensors to keep @CanadianForces safe



Macdonald-Laurier Institute @MLInstitute 29 Jun tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: "#Canada should certainly be a substantial voice on such files as Ukraine, NATO and the Indo-Pacific, but... we will always be a middle power in those areas," writes @ExnerPiro. "The #Arctic, however, is one policy area where we are meant to lead."



“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.

Royal Canadian Air Force @RCAF_ARC tweeted 29 Jun: Canadian 🇨🇦 and French 🇫🇷 Space Operations Centres faced off against a common adversary during a custom-designed, tabletop wargame hosted in Canada. This is the third iteration of the wargame 7 Space Operations Squadron and the Canadian Joint Warfare Centre have delivered to its space allies.

https://twitter.com/RCAF_ARC/status/1674435044444610560



Always a good idea to game as part of developing capabilities and courses of action.

Presentation to RUSI(NS) 23 June 2021: "Canadian Joint Warfare Centre – Wargaming" (<https://rusi-ns.ca/wargaming/>).

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

‘This capability didn’t exist 30 days ago’: How military exercises can drive software development

<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/06/this-capability-didnt-exist-30-days-ago-how-military-exercises-can-drive-software-development/>

"Time to break the fourth wall..."



Had to look that up: "The phenomenon of breaking the fourth wall is well known in the world of theater and cinematography. The breaking of the so-called ‘fourth wall’ is typically brought about by one of the protagonists in the movie suddenly turning toward the camera and addressing the viewing audience, thus breaking the illusion that we’re witnessing a real-life event." More at: "Breaking The Fourth Wall In Software" (<https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/breaking-the-fourth-wall-in-software-d08a25df34b7/>).

Why do so many African nations want UN troops out?

<https://www.dw.com/en/why-do-so-many-african-nations-want-un-peacekeepers-to-leave/a-66068581>

"UN peacekeeping missions in Africa are struggling to restore peace and stability to the nations in which they operate."



Do Canadians need to re-think how we participate in United Nations peacekeeping missions? Let's look beyond the historical lustre of the term (another Vimy?) and ensure that what our forces are trying to achieve is achievable, and any limits placed on the forces does not unduly limit that achievability.

Mapping Everything, Everywhere at Once: Examining New Advances in PLA Battlefield Reconnaissance Capabilities

<https://jamestown.org/program/mapping-everything-everywhere-at-once-examining-new-advances-in-pla-battlefield-reconnaissance-capabilities/>



"...accurate geospatial information is a lynchpin factor enabling modern joint operations..."

That point is well known by the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), indeed, all militaries. The CAF's geospatial/mapping/charting capabilities may be underappreciated by those who do not use them, but for any soldier who almost got lost or any sailor who has near gone aground, their importance is well evident. So, too, is sharing information with and between government security and safety departments, really all organizations.

Maybe the Canadian Forces Intelligence Command, part of the Canadian Forces Intelligence Command, could do will some more publicity.

Learning to live in a logistician's world – strategic logistics and the future of military resilience

<https://logisticsinwar.com/2023/06/30/learning-to-live-in-a-logisticians-world-strategic-logistics-and-the-future-of-military-resilience/>



"If we view supply-chains as part of a logistics framework around how militaries overcome the dual tyrannies of time and space, positioning that which is needed where and when, we can see how important supply-chains – if not logistics more broadly – really is."

Hopefully there is considerable study ongoing into Canadian defence and security supply-chains. It is essential those chains be strong.

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The second part to the above is at:

Making the Military Prepared and Resilient – Logistics, Supply-Chains and Problems Within

<https://logisticsinwar.com/2023/07/04/6186/>

Defence spending: sustaining the effort in the long-term

<https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2023/07/03/defence-spending-sustaining-the-effort-in-the-long-term/index.html>



"...substantial increases underway today allow Allies to pursue three related and equally important objectives."

"First, the least visible but nonetheless critical effort is to reconstitute forces at the right level of readiness and military effectiveness."

"Second, Allies are addressing capability shortfalls in domains that had been neglected during more than 20 years of focus on crisis management and counter-insurgency engagements..."

"Third, increased defence spending allows Allies to better prepare for the future."

Hopefully Canada's upcoming Defence Policy Update will commit to more spending and achievement of these objectives.

Nuclear sub visits Faroe Islands amid underwater tensions with Russia

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2023/06/29/sub-makes-visit-to-faroe-islands-amid-underwater-tensions-with-russia/>

"...stopping at new ports means expanding options available in case of a future emergency."

One wonders what Nuclear Vessel Visit Safety Program (NVVSP) the Faroe Islands has (maybe Danish?). Is the Canadian NVVSP, based on Order-in-Council direction, flexible enough to allow for nuclear-powered vessel visits to Canadian Northern ports in emergencies?

The apparent expanded program of visits by US nuclear-powered submarines is an interesting development in diplomatic signalling.



Renewing social contract between Canadians and armed forces this Canada Day

<https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/opinion-renewing-social-contract-between-canadians-and-armed-forces-this-canada-day>

"Our Canadian Armed Forces need to know they are loved and appreciated by Canada."

Good to see an honorary colonel writing this. They are in a position of knowledge and freedom to write what so often those in the system are restrained from stating. You may not like a government's decisions about development and employment of the military, but don't hold that against the women and men who have volunteered to risk their lives for Canada.



Mexican Navy Captures Large Semisub With 3.5 Tonnes of Cocaine

<https://maritime-executive.com/article/mexican-navy-captures-extra-large-semisub-with-3-5-tonnes-of-cocaine>

The Mexican Navy intercepted a semisubmersible vessel laden with 3.5 tonnes of cocaine, apparently after the vessel was spotted by a patrol aircraft. One wonders whether there was some cueing before that led to the aircraft patrolling the area. Ships with helicopters were part of the interception. These are waters in which Canadian naval vessels, often Kingston-class patrol ships, operate, and targets for which they are searching. This interception is again a lesson in the value of air-sea teams. The replacements for the Kingston-class, the Royal Canadian Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel project, need to be able to collaborate with aircraft (meaning communications, radar, situation display systems), and should (almost certainly will) routinely operate uncrewed aerial vehicles (drones).



NATO defence-spending target will cost Canada dearly

<https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/fuss-nato-defence-spending-target-will-cost-canada-dearly>

"When it comes to meeting our international obligations for military spending, poor management of federal finances and suspect prioritization of spending have put Canada between a rock and a hard place."



Other Sources:

#Arctic

How Russia permanently lost the Arctic to NATO

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/07/03/russia-nato-arctic/>

#China

PLA Airborne Capabilities and Paratrooper Doctrine for Taiwan

<https://jamestown.org/program/pla-airborne-capabilities-and-paratrooper-doctrine-for-taiwan/>

#Indo-Pacific #strategy

To Prevent a War Over Taiwan, a Bolder Strategy Is Needed

<https://time.com/6290300/prevent-a-war-over-taiwan-us-needs-bolder-strategy/>

#China

China's Imperialist Foreign Policy

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2023/06/chinas-imperialist-foreign-policy/>

Short version, 'auto-generated' from a news service (!):

Character of China's imperial foreign policy: Report

<https://theprint.in/world/character-of-chinas-imperial-foreign-policy-report/1650245/>

#legal

Understanding International Waters: Boundaries, Jurisdiction And Legal Implications

<https://www.marineinsight.com/maritime-law/understanding-international-waters-boundaries-jurisdiction-and-legal-implications/>

Know the 'brown data' environment.

#logistics

Mobilization

podcast: <https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/podcasts/23slirp-4/>

#maritime security #IUU

Fishy Business: Where Illegal Fishing Converges with Other Crimes

podcast: <https://rusi.org/podcasts/environmental-security/episode-4-fishy-business-where-illegal-fishing-converges-other-crimes>

#NATO #medical

NATO Centres of Excellence – Military Medicine

<https://www.act.nato.int/article/nato-coes-military-medicine/>

#naval warfare #drones

Countering the threat from autonomous underwater vehicles

<https://www.navylookout.com/countering-the-threat-from-autonomous-underwater-vehicles/>

#Royal Canadian Air Force

The Freeze: Everything you want to know about the DEO Pilot Hiring Freeze

podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/the-pilot-project-podcast/id1654810141?i=1000619238494>

#Russia-Ukraine War

Reading the Tea Leaves on the End of the War in Ukraine

books: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/27/books/review/russia-ukraine-war-new-books.html>

Is U.S. Military Gear Too Complex and Expensive?

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/us-military-gear-too-complex-and-expensive-206587>

Battles may be won by the bigger battalions. Wars are won by the bigger budgets.

From a tweet: "Canada has a beer budget but the need to punch above its weight in foreseeable conflicts in the Pacific. We could learn a lot from the Ukraine conflict in terms of equipment design and provisioning"

Moscow Scrambling to Solve Manpower Shortages—Without Another Mobilization

<https://jamestown.org/program/moscow-scrambling-to-solve-manpower-shortages-without-another-mobilization/>

Thinking About Post-War Ukraine

<https://tnsr.org/2023/06/thinking-about-post-war-ukraine/>

Russia's War in Ukraine: Myths and Lessons

https://kaitseministeerium.ee/sites/default/files/myths_and_lessons_0.pdf

Against the Odds: Lessons from the Ukrainian Resistance Movement

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/against-odds-lessons-ukrainian-resistance-movement>

Ukrainian offensives and the 'operational system'

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1676753981333467136.html>

Some thoughts on attacks on Russian ammunition dumps and depots

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1676586485808611328.html>

#strategy

#China

Strategy and the Chinese Civil War

<https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/article/strategy-and-the-chinese-civil-war/>

"The center of gravity was not people or territory, but the political power that grew out of Mao's guns."

#Russia

Lost Tradition: Reviewing Strategiya

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2023/6/28/lost-tradition-reviewing-strategiya>

#wargaming

Building a new generation of wargame professionals with intention: From Avalon Hill to Oregon Trail and beyond

<https://paxsims.wordpress.com/2023/06/30/building-a-new-generation-of-wargame-professionals-with-intention-from-avalon-hill-to-oregon-trail-and-beyond/>

Wargaming Education and Design

podcast: <https://thestrategybridge.libsyn.com/wargaming-education-and-design-with-sebastian-bae>

Other:

Veterans Affairs Canada and the Canadian Military Memorials Database

(Ed: below is an email 28 June 2023 from VAC.)

Thank you for contributing to the Canadian Military Memorials Database. The database would not be what it is today without the memorials and updates you have submitted. Your time and effort to ensure the database includes as many memorials as possible is greatly appreciated!

Veterans Affairs Canada is committed to honouring the service and sacrifice of all who have served. To do so, we must continually evaluate and evolve our programming, including content on our website. With this in mind, we will soon be starting a multi-year project to improve how our commemorative databases support the needs of Canadians. While we complete this important work, we are suspending new submissions and updates to the Canadian Military Memorials Database as of 30 June 2023. We will continue to work on previously submitted material.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me (memorials-memoriaux@veterans.gc.ca). We look forward to working with you in the future when our memorials database is ready to once again, receive new submissions and updates.

Arctic Sealift

Martin Leduc @dieselduckster 2 Jul tweeted: Canadian flagged MV Marcellin A. Desgagnés has been christened in Quebec City. With its 143m, 17kDWT and 3 cranes of 80MT and 250MT, bound for arctic sealift capacity.

Hopefully defence and other planners are looking into including such ships for Arctic sealift operations, even if contingency plans.



Badge – Porte Quebec

If anyone has or knows about a cast badge of HMCS Port Québec that can be made available to the Naval Museum of Halifax, please contact RUSI(NS).



#intelligence

This article arose again, a year old critique of the Defence Intelligence daily posts which RUSI(NS) has been including routinely in Dispatches:

Ukraine: The Daily Intelligence Event

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/ukraine-daily-intelligence-event>

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O Canada

Canada Day has come and passed, one hopes that everyone at least reflected upon why Canadians are blessed no matter what their background. There is a lot to be proud of in our history despite arguments to the opposite. History is history, it is what it is and there is little if anything the current group of citizens can do that make sense. One can take the time to discuss the good and bad of a particular incident or person and ensure future generations have a more nuanced approach to the subject and this is a good thing for our future. It is hoped everyone enjoyed the day with family and friends.

This week the Canadian Communications Security Establishment (CSE) gave yet another warning about the ongoing massive level of cyber-incidents that occur every day. They expressed concern that although government is subject to CSE regulations, many Crown corporations are not and are responsible for their own cyber-security, apparently honored in the breach. Crown corporations are connected often directly to government data systems. Allowing them to "opt out" leaves government systems vulnerable as the Crown corporation may or may not have adequate security processes in place to meet the requirements of CSE warnings. It should be noted that CSE has been advocating for Crown corporations to follow CSE regulations for over ten years with little effort by successive governments to correct the problem. Private sector organizations are not covered at all and this year has seen multiple governments, companies, organizations hit by cyber-attacks exposing millions of Canadians' private information. A national security policy for the 21st century is required to cover not only government but also to provide better guidelines and support for all Canadians. It is long overdue. CSE has to be given the personnel, equipment and resources to protect the country; just enough is not enough.

It was announced that Canada will send fifteen tanks to the contingent in Latvia. This is less than a doctrinal Canadian tank squadron which is nineteen tanks consisting of four troops of four tanks each and a headquarters of two tanks plus a tank equipped with a dozer blade. Usually a squadron has its own echelon of considerable size which provides administration, fuel, food, water and ammunition as well as maintenance personnel and equipment including an armour recovery vehicle. An infantry heavy battlegroup does not have the necessary resources to deal with tanks because of their greater

administrative and support requirements therefore it is hoped this all is provided as well. One other concern is whether the necessary engineering support is also going to be provided including armour engineer vehicles (AEV), armour vehicle laying bridge (AVLB) and their supporting ARV and support elements. The Ukrainians have had several occasions to destroy their own vehicles because of a lack of engineer support when key bridges and fords were taken or destroyed. Still a marked improvement over our initial contributions, but anti-armour and air defence are still badly needed plus the support they will need as well. All these are capabilities that we used to have and exercise left fallow by chronic under-funding and lack of resources.

On another positive note, His Majesty's Canadian Ships *Shawinigan* and *Summerside* will join NATO mine warfare forces in the Baltic as part of Op REASSURANCE with NATO Maritime Mine Warfare Group 1. They are not frigates and are ill-armed even for self-defence but still they show the flag.

Australia

The article “Australian Defence Forces and the US Army to Test HIMARS in Western Australia” dated 30 June 2023 by the staff of the *Australian Defence Magazine* can be found at: <https://www.australiandefence.com.au/news/adf-and-us-army-to-test-himars-in-wa>. The article shows the level of cooperation and initiative on defence matters in Australia in stark contrast to Canada's current efforts.

While the RAN and Army were practicing amphibious operations near Townsville, the RAAF were putting their new F-35A aircraft through operational training exercises in the same region of Australia this month (June) for the first time. There is no doubt that the Australian Defence Forces are focussed on honing operational skills.

There is also reasonably good support for the future course plotted for the RAN.

Similarly, noticeable is the desire of Australia to counter the influx of Chinese political and military influences in the South Pacific Island region. This is a catch-up game for the Australian Government. The stakes are high in this game and Australia is coming from behind.

Otherwise, the economy seems to be in reasonable shape with inflationary pressures being the principal concern.

There is an interesting You Tube video titled “HMA Ships *Adelaide* and *Choules* depart for Exercise Sea Explorer” at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsl-e7gQbxE>. A far cry from our capabilities despite most of the world's population being less than 100 kms in land from the coast.

United States

The United States Supreme Court (SCOTUS) has made a large number of decisions recently which overturned decades of legal precedence including *Roe versus Wade* and which has caused major disruption to the people of the US. The Trump-era appointment of three very conservative judges seems to have made a horrific change from advancing individual rights to one in which individual rights are taken away in spite of the overall position of US citizens on such matters of abortion and civil rights. In doing so, SCOTUS has lost the confidence of the majority of the people who now view SCOTUS as being politically motivated in their recent decisions. At this point all three branches of government are subject to deep suspicions of their nature and conduct. It has not been helped by ethical lapses by two of the Justices who have neglected to mention perks supplied by conservative backers which constituted hundreds of thousands of dollars in activities provided by these backers. Their

actions and the lack of action by the Chief Justice have not helped this issue. Many now consider SCOTUS to be irreparably damaged and in need of some form of reformation and renewal.

NATO

Jens Stoltenberg has accepted his fate and will remain on as the civilian head of NATO as Secretary General for one more year until at least Ursula von der Leyen, former German Defence Minister and current head of the EU, Ben Wallace, current British Defence Minister, and current Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen are suggested possible candidates to replace him.

Hungary's leader has chosen to continue to act as a "cat's paw" of President Putin. He has rejected further EU contributions for the defence of Ukraine. He has also rejected Sweden's ascension to NATO membership allegedly based on the issues raised by Turkiye.

Turkiye also continues to play games and interfere with the sovereignty of another nation by inflicting Turkiye's own anti-human rights agenda onto Sweden's support of freedom of speech, which is an internal matter. Erdogan insists that Sweden enact legislation that would curtail rights to protest and express one's point of view in relation to the Koran.

Not NATO countries or members of the EU have decided to join the European air defence project as a result of Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine and ongoing disinformation and destabilization efforts throughout Europe.

Moldova

Despite Moldova's and the EU's efforts to increase security, Russia continues to try to infiltrate this country. This past week a former member of the Wagner Group was stopped and refused entry to Moldova by security personnel. He opened fire with a weapon taken from a border officer, killing the officer and an airport security person. The assailant was taken to a hospital after his arrest where he succumbed to his wounds.

The EU and others have continued to assist Moldova in developing new capabilities in regard to security, however, there is much to be done with limited resources. Moldova needs more assistance in order to achieve some measure of confidence in its security against a ruthless enemy bent on the overthrow of the pro-Western government. Ursula von der Leyen stated that Ukraine and Moldova must be more rapidly taken into the EU to prevent further Russian efforts to undermine their security and consequently the security of Europe.

Georgia

The current Georgian government has started flights from Russia and has tried to implement new policies that are more in line with Russia than the EU despite overwhelming support from the population for closer ties with the EU. The situation continues to fester with large demonstrations taking place across the country. This week Ukraine sent the Georgian Ambassador home for consultations based on the current government's pro-Russian actions. Unrest will likely continue in Georgia for the foreseeable future.

Belarus

The situation in Belarus is interesting to say the least. It has become the sanctuary of the Wagner Group which only a week and half ago staged a de facto coup attempt against the Putin regime. It was

announced at the time that the self-appointed President of Belarus acted as a mediator between the Wagner Group head Yevgeny Prigozhin and the Putin government. Although this seemed to defuse the situation, it became clear that all is not forgiven as Russian forces attempt to disarm Wagner troops overseas. Given Wagner's widespread commitments this will be difficult to do and poses a risk to Russia as well if a disarming and arrest goes wrong in a client country.

Yevgeny Prigozhin has started his anti-Shoigu-Gerasimov rants again. Other top Wagner personnel who did not leave Russia have been arrested including some Russian military personnel with strong ties to Wagner such as General Colonel Sorovikin. The fallout from the coup plus Lukashenko's support for Prigozhin will not go unnoticed by the Kremlin. The coup and Prigozhin and Lukashenko's roles are just the beginning of a larger conflict within the Russian establishment. Keep in mind Putin, Lukashenko and Prigozhin have been 'friends' for at least two decades. Prigozhin apparently acted as Putin's go between government and organized crime in Saint Petersburg when he was Deputy Mayor. It has been suggested by several authors that this is where Putin started to accumulate his alleged wealth by one means or another. This relationship is the cement that has worked well for all three. The breakdown means something else and it may mean a more violent crackdown as there is nothing like a strong friendship being betrayed. The fallout from the coup is not over and the fallout may occur in Belarus.

Nuclear weapons are said to have arrived in Belarus as was mentioned in a previous note. The US intelligence community suggests that they have not been transferred at all. The air crew were trained, the storage facilities built, but have the weapons actually moved as yet? Lukashenko has also made some very bizarre comments suggesting that any country willing to support Russia would likely get nuclear weapons. It may have given the Kremlin some concern as his comments have become stranger. Time as always will tell.

On a sadder note, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya received an anonymous note stating that her husband and former presidential candidate was dead. He has been sentenced to 19 years in prison and has not been heard from in some time. Belarus has a history of leaving political prisoners in limbo or killing them as a means to keep opposition members in check. Several other resistance leaders are also missing.

Israel

Israel conducted a large scale incursion by ground and air forces into the city of Jenin this week with more than 1000 troops involved. The operation was mounted after a series of attacks on settler communities although the main reason for the violence is illegal settlements. More than 120 were arrested and Israeli authorities suggested that they eliminated two operations centres, several weapons stock piles and broke up several cells of "terrorists." This is likely to escalate in some form and spread over both Gaza and the West Bank. So far most Arab countries have not taken action against Israel; preferring a strong Israeli ally against Iran.

Russia-Ukraine War

The war continues as it has from 2014 when the Wagner group's "little green men" provided plausible deniability to the Putin regime with disinformation coming from Yevgeny Prigozhin's troll farms. Nine years later the war continues, this time with Ukraine fighting with limited support against the world's alleged second most powerful armed forces. The war is now one of attrition which is pounding both countries populations. Neither will "win" this war even if there is a so called victor, and the fallout from this conflict will last for generations. The West for increasingly poor reasoning has been "nickel and diming" Ukraine and providing increasingly sophisticated weaponry over a long period of time. Fighters are the latest issue with much unnecessary 'hand wringing' over the provision of modern

fighter aircraft. Air power is still vital for a victory of some form, but the West has made the price much steeper for Ukraine than was needed to be.

The war is now one of attrition mainly using artillery and technologically advanced ammunition of increasingly longer range. The West has imposed massive and largely successful sanctions against Russia and has also warned off most of Russia's potential supporters. Some countries including India, Bangladesh and China were more than willing to take cheap Russian oil for cash. Some pariah states like North Korea and Iran have supplied Russia with war materials. Largely the rest of the world remained on the side of Ukraine or remained neutral. Strategically Russia has lost, its losses in many forms are irreplaceable such as good will of some Western countries and Africa, badly affected by the damage to agriculture in the world's bread basket. Yet Russia continues to adopt the will of one man in a blind effort to regain the illusion of Russian glory. This too has failed.

Ukraine is now officially in its counter-attack phase. It has conducted hundreds of low level attacks across the front in an attempt to find Russian weak points. It has largely succeeded with small but not insignificant gains on the ground using well coordinated all-arms efforts non-stop, often eliminating Russian efforts that took months to achieve, and where Ukraine has succeeded within days. Russian troops are badly led, trained and supported and this has not really changed although Russian troops have been able to offer a better defence rather than attack. Still, Russian casualties are severe as they run out of ammunition. This is a direct result of long range precision missile attacks against rear ammunition depots and key transportation hubs that would normally be at a safe distance. However, new missile and artillery systems have made depots mere targets. This has prevented Russian troops from using their larger numbers of artillery systems to stop Ukrainian attacks. This will not change as Russian logistics has not materially changed to reflect the new reality. They have insufficient ground transport to make Russian forces viable in the longer term.

Main areas of conflict at present are around the Lyman Kremmina front, Bakhmut where Ukraine has made major headway north and south of the city, along the Zaporizhia front north of the old reservoir and lastly in Kherson on the east bank of the Dnipro River by the Antonovski bridge. Details in all cases are sketchy however most contributors have been able to source Russian material from people filming near the front lines. It seems even from a Russian perspective the war is not going well, but the Russians have more resources at least in the near and medium term. Longer term, factors are sanctions, demographics and general discontent over the course of the war especially as casualties continue to rise in an increasingly unsuccessful war. In the long term, the coup attempt, declining economy and demographics will permanently cripple Russia.

China

China is a brutal authoritarian regime that has conducted and continues to conduct cultural genocide of its minorities. It has territorial disputes with virtually all its neighbours including Russia. Its unlimited friendship is no deterrent to China's imperial aspirations even to friends. It is an adversary not a friend. It continues to lie even about basic information such as its actual population, its economy, its level of debt, and its capabilities in many areas. Just because China announces an achievement does not mean it is remotely true. China currently is authorizing two coal-fired plants per week all the while bragging about its "green initiative." It lies because it is unable to tell the truth as they actually hide their legitimate information. China is not a friend.

South Asian press have alleged that China has a secret 3T USD slush fund to help the country through their current economic crisis caused by a drop in exports and a loss of confidence in the internal market. Possible but unverified but again there was also no denial as well. How does one hide 3T USD while the country is sinking because of poor policy?

The authorities in Hong Kong have charged members of the former pro-democracy movement who now reside overseas, offering a reward of over 10 k CAD for their capture and return. Authorities are suggesting that they return voluntarily to get a lesser sentence. It does make one wonder about the Chinese police stations and their actual role, but these are mainland Chinese police stations representing the police forces of Fujian Province and a small number of other provinces, not Hong Kong, however, can they be used for Chinese agents who have a specific mission to intimidate either these pro-democracy agents or other former Chinese citizens as we have seen in Canada with Chinese Canadians. We have also seen how the Communist Chinese Party (CCP) has infiltrated Canadian politics as we have seen two Canadian senators and one MP take the position of the CCP by suggesting that the foreign agent registry is anti-Chinese and therefore racist. Being anti-Communist Chinese Party is not racist at all, it is anti-CCP. One can support Chinese citizens who are suffering under the dead hand of the CCP. The CCP has used many methods to gain influencers. The CCP constantly has worked to gain influence and the ability to adjust Canadian government thinking towards their point of view.

The Peoples' Liberation Army is a creature of the CCP, not of the nation. It has been used for good in domestic humanitarian operations during floods, fire and earthquakes, yet has also been used during civil unrest with dire consequences, most recently during demonstrations on bank failures in several provinces. Interestingly enough, it is also a major part of the Chinese economy as the military controls elements of industry and development. This allows for considerable latitude for corruption and graft. In his efforts to "weed out" corruption, Xi has placed his own people in charge of areas that were originally held by corrupt officers who were charged and are prosecuted through show trials. Corruption is part of the military method of operating. It is this part of PLA standard operating procedures that calls into question their actual combat capabilities. As one has seen with Russian troops, corruption erodes trust in the institution. The CCP loves military parades but large ultra-coordinated major parades are no indicators of operational success. As we have seen with Russia large impressive displays do not mean competence at the main role of any military: deterrence and lethality. China makes many announcements but there is little actual proof that for instance they can actually hit a moving ship with of the D-17 and D-26 missiles. As we have seen in the Russia-Ukraine war few Russian systems have operated as announced and many 'impossible-to-hit' hyper-sonic missiles have been shot down. China has a large, untried, badly managed military that seems to be largely corrupt and poorly led. Most successful "drills" seem to be by rote not competence. China could find out that a more operationally inclined smaller military is more than capable of causing great harm to a large, clumsy force. China continues to behave badly to its neighbours, it may find out the hard way that this is not always a sound idea.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- In a June 2023 report, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) assessed that Russia's military spending budget for 2023 is around 6.6 trillion rubles (USD \$85.8bn). This equates to about 4.4 per cent of Russian GDP compared with 3.6 per cent in 2021, before the invasion of Ukraine.
- Russia's true military expenditure remains uncertain due to a lack of transparency, including the use of classified budget lines, which account for approximately 22 per cent of the Russian Government's total budget.
- Although only part of the defence budget is spent on the war in Ukraine, the increase in spending highlights the cost of Russia's activity in Ukraine. In addition, Russia almost certainly faces extra direct budgetary defence costs due to the war, including security expenses in the occupied regions and defensive measures in regions bordering Ukraine.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Since around 23 June 2023, Ukrainian forces have almost certainly restarted deploying personnel to the east bank of the Dnipro River in Kherson Oblast, near the ruined Antonovskiy Bridge.
- Fighting intensified on the east bank from 27 June 2023. The defending Russian force includes elements of Russia's 7th Guards Air Assault Division, part of the Dnipro Group of Forces (DGF).
- In recent weeks, Russia has highly likely reallocated elements of DGF defending the bank of the Dnipro to reinforce the Zaporizhzhia sector. Combat around the bridge head is almost certainly complicated by the flooding, destruction and residual mud from the collapse of the Kakhovka Dam on 06 June 2023.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russia has cancelled the 2023 iteration of MAKS, its premier international air show. Scheduled every other year, MAKS takes place near Moscow and showcases Russia's civil and military aerospace sectors and has become key to securing export customers.
- The show has probably been cancelled largely due to genuine security concerns, following recent uncrewed aerial vehicle attacks inside Russia. Organisers were highly likely also aware of the potential for reputational damage if fewer international delegations attended.
- The war has been exceptionally challenging for Russia's aerospace community. The sector is struggling under international sanctions; highly trained specialists are being encouraged to serve as infantry in the Roscosmos space agency's own militia. Meanwhile, Commander in Chief of the Aerospace Forces, General Sergei Surovikin, has not been seen in public since the abortive mutiny by Wagner Group, for whom he served as point of contact with the Russian Ministry of Defence.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 29 June 2023, Ukrainian authorities reported that, under emergency legislation, 139,000 citizens have been evacuated from the combat zones in the Ukrainian controlled areas of the Donetsk, Kharkiv and Kherson regions since July 2022.
- This is just one part of Ukraine's ongoing broader crisis of displacement. The UN estimates 6.3 million Ukrainians remain refugees, and over five million internally displaced.
- With a pre-war population of 44 million, a quarter of Ukrainians remain forced from their homes as a result of Russia's invasion.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- In recent weeks, Russia has prioritised and refined tactics aimed at slowing Ukrainian armoured counter-offensive operations in southern Ukraine.
- The core of this approach has been Russia's very heavy use of anti-tank mines. In some areas the density of its minefields indicate that it has likely used many more mines than laid down in its military doctrine. Having slowed the Ukrainian advance, Russia has then attempted to strike Ukrainian armoured vehicles with one-way attack uncrewed aerial vehicles, attack helicopters and artillery.
- Although Russia has achieved some success with this approach in the early stages of Ukraine's counter-offensive, its forces continue to suffer from key weaknesses, especially overstretched units and a shortage of artillery munitions.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- General Sergei Surovikin, Commander-in-Chief Russian Aerospace Forces and deputy commander of Russian forces in Ukraine, has not been seen in public since the 23-24 June 2023 Wagner Group mutiny. Meanwhile, Deputy Defence Minister Colonel General Yunus-bek Yevkurov was notably absent from a televised appearance by the Ministry of Defence's leadership on 03 July 2023.
- Reports of Surovikin's arrest cannot be confirmed, but authorities will likely be suspicious of his long association with Wagner dating back to his service in Syria from 2017. Similarly, Yevkurov was filmed talking to Wagner owner Yevgeny Prigozhin during the group's uncontested take-over of Rostov-on-Don.
- Although largely known in the West by his brutal reputation, Surovikin is one of the more respected senior officers within the Russian military; any official sanction against him is likely to be divisive. The suspicion that has potentially fallen on senior serving officers highlights how Prigozhin's abortive insurrection has worsened existing fault lines within Russia's national security community.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Military formations drawn from across Russia are currently bearing the brunt of Ukraine's counter offensive.
- In Zaporizhzhia Oblast, the 58th Combined Arms Army is defending heavily entrenched lines; normally it secures Russia's volatile Caucasus region. Around Velyka Novosilka, the 5th Combined Arms Army and Naval Infantry hold the front; they are routinely based 7,000km away as a balance to Chinese power.
- Around Bakhmut, the defence is now largely formed around airborne regiments normally stationed in western Russia, who normally act as an elite rapid reaction force in case of tensions with NATO. The way Russia is accepting risks across Eurasia highlights how the war has dislocated Russia's established national strategy.

Territorial Waters & Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) Of The World

<https://brilliantmaps.com/territorial-waters/> (for large map)

Ya gotta know what water you're in.



Yes, Canada still does convoys (albeit the escorts are Coast Guard, not Navy).



CCGS *Pierre Radisson* with convoy of four Desgagnes ships in Hudson Strait for Arctic Sealift 2023.

Oryx @oryxspioenkop 30 Jun tweeted: This is the actual reason I'm retiring from Oryx this October. I have absolutely no idea what to call Russia's Frankenstein vehicles anymore.



Oryx was a, if not the, leading compiler and reporter of vehicle losses during the Russia-Ukraine war. He will be sorely missed.

He does make a point, though, about battlefield adaptation, whether it is useful or not. Such franken-tanks and other vehicles must be great challenges to keep armed and maintained.

Special Kherson Cat @bayraktar_1love 30 Jun tweeted: Ukrainian ground drones:
1st one is for remote mining. 2nd one is a kamikaze drone.



Ground combat is getting even more complicated.