



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 14 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.

New: 28 July, Friday - North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network speaker Adam P MacDonald, "A Royal Canadian Navy that is a Blue-Water navy and Arctic-capable: How to be/come both." 1300 Eastern. Via Zoom. To register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVF8cnCCgveShpGeey_vQAOVfWcjkSnz0diAXtFvdbh0AmBw/viewform

New: 16 August, Wednesday - Brookings Institution speaker Dr Michael O'Hanlon, "Military History for the Modern Strategist." 1830 EST. Livestream: <https://www.armywarcollege.edu/live/>. See poster at end of *Dispatches*.

Save the date: 20 September, Wednesday - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker TBA. 1300-1500. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess (!!). MTF.

There is no RUSI(NS) event planned for August

Publications:

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

New: RUSI(NS) Comments "Canada's Special Forces #Helicopters are Obsolete for the Role They are Tasked to Carry Out" by RUSI(NS) SAC, 10 Jul 23, https://rusi-ns.ca/sof_griffon/

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

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/

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

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

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




New: Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 19, Issue 5, 10 July 2023

New: Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Quarterly Newsletter*, Volume 22, Issue 2, June 2023

New: Veterans Affairs Canada *Salute!*, July 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>"Canada 🇨🇦, @NATO Face Serious #Submarine Warfare Challenges" https://www.canadiandefencereview.com/news/canada-nato-face-serious-submarine-warfare-challenges @RoyalCanNavy needs 12 submarines: 4/coast to ensure 1 at sea/coast. Undersea capabilities to defend energy pipelines, communications cables</p>	
<p>"An #Arctic mass rescue is daunting, but Canada 🇨🇦 is preparing" https://calgaryherald.com/opinion/columnists/opinion-an-arctic-mass-rescue-is-daunting-but-canada-is-preparing Arctic with austere environment, limited local resources & infrastructure, fewer vessels, & substantial distances makes mass rescue ops difficult. Plan, equip, train, exercise (often) <i>For the scenarios described in the piece, MAJMAR (major marine disaster) applies instead of MAJAID (major air disaster). Though the points well apply to both.</i></p>	
<p>Canadian Armed Forces @CanadianForces 8 Jul tweeted: Today, we continued to honour the legacy of No. 2 Construction Battalion, the only all-black formation in Canadian military history, during a parade in Pictou, Nova Scotia. https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2023/07/canadian-armed-forces-honour-the-no-2-construction-battalion.html (Canadian Armed Forces Honour the No. 2 Construction Battalion) RUSI(NS) retweeted: RUSI(NS) Presentation "No. 2 Construction Battalion: A Short History & an Apology" https://rusi-ns.ca/no-2-construction-battalion/ <i>Further:</i> Statement from the Minister of National Defence on the anniversary of the apology to descendants of No. 2 Construction Battalion members https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2023/07/statement-from-the-minister-of-national-defence-on-the-anniversary-of-the-apology-to-descendants-of-no-2-construction-battalion-members.html</p>	

Transport Canada @Transport_gc 7 Jul tweeted: Meet Jan Skopalik 🖐️ He's an Expert Technologist with the #NASPCrew in #Moncton. From high in the sky, Jan monitors Canadian waters and analyzes data collected on patrol flights. #OurTC #WhatTCDoes
https://twitter.com/Transport_gc/status/1677346746152697858 video)
 RUSI(NS) retweeted: Jan Skopalik @Transport_gc was RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker March 2022 "Surveillance of Sea Surface Activities in Atlantic Canada" https://rusi-ns.ca/national_aerial_surveillance_program/ National Aerial Surveillance Program #NASP



Maple Leaf Navy @mapleleafnavy 8 Jul tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: 35% of CAF members report not having necessary equipment: audit <https://tnc.news/2023/07/04/caf-members-audit/> via @truenorthcentre



RUSI(NS) Comments "Canada's Special Forces #Helicopters are Obsolete for the Role They are Tasked to Carry Out" https://rusi-ns.ca/sof_griffon/ #CANSOFCOM needs a helicopter designed for their role/missions @RCAF_ARC @CanadianForces



NAADSN_RDSNAA @NAADSN_RDSNAA 9 Jul tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: "What is important — and what the AOPS are there for — is probably better described as control or stewardship than sovereignty." says @adam_lajeunesse (On thin ice: Who "owns" the Arctic? <https://canadiangeographic.ca/articles/on-thin-ice-who-owns-the-arctic/>)



Macdonald-Laurier Institute @MLInstitute 5 Jul tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: "Canada often claims a northern and/or #Arctic heritage... But it sends limited forces to their large-scale exercises," writes Snr Fellow Rob Huebert. "Canada has ignored the security efforts of our Nordic allies... Nordic security is our security." (Canada needs to take a page from the Nordic book on security <https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/canada-needs-to-take-a-page-from-the-nordic-book-on-security-rob-huebert-in-the-calgary-herald/>)



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

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Value of cybercrime equivalent to the third largest global economy

<https://betanews.com/2023/07/06/value-of-cybercrime-equivalent-to-the-third-largest-global-economy/>

"...if cybercrime was a country it would be the third largest global economy, valued at \$10.5 trillion by 2025."

Note that Canada is number three on the 'Top 10 countries by cybercrime density' list. Canadians are too nice - we need to be better at cybersecurity.



New submarine for Northern Fleet will be named "Mariupol"

<https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2023/07/new-submarine-northern-fleet-will-be-named-mariupol>

"Russia is about to start the building of six improved Kilo-class submarines for Arctic waters. They will all get their names from occupied Ukrainian cities."



Warship names are political (see: "Naming and Renaming Canadian Warships" <https://rusi-ns.ca/naming-renaming-canadian-warships/>). Still, it is quite the (arrogant?) message to name warships after occupied cities, the occupation of which is debatably in question.

Aside: The names of the Canadian Surface Combatant project ships are due to be announced by the Canadian government in the not-too-distant future. The names can be expected to be political, as they are decided at the highest government levels, but the choices will be more a message to Canadians than to other countries.

Premiers say they're concerned — and confused — about Ottawa's plans for the future of the RCMP

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/premiers-rcmp-contract-vacancies-1.6904975>

"They (the federal government) do seem to send a mixed message about whether they're committed to maintaining contract policing..."



RUSI(NS) Comments "RCMP Policing" (https://rusi-ns.ca/rcmp_policing/).

IMB Warns of a Resurgence in Gulf of Guinea Piracy

<https://www.icc-ccs.org/index.php/1333-imb-raises-concern-on-resurgence-of-maritime-piracy-and-armed-robbery-in-gulf-of-guinea-in-2023-mid-year-report>

Appears that when Canada and the Royal Canadian Navy deploy ships to that region, they will have to be armed better than the Kingston-class that have deployed to date. Maybe a mixed task group? Will the Kingston-class replacements from the Offshore Patrol Vessel project be better armed than some heavy machine guns?



Other Sources:

#Arctic

A growing rivalry in the Arctic? Talk about a cold war.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/07/06/arctic-cold-war-rivalry/>

Many points in the article could apply to Canada.

Report to Congress on Changes in the Arctic

<https://news.usni.org/2023/07/07/report-to-congress-on-changes-in-the-arctic-14>

Overcoming remoteness: Innovations to Support Economic Development, Critical Minerals, and Security in the Arctic

https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/20230706_Overcoming-remoteness-Exner-Pirot_PAPER-v2.pdf

Note the part about airships.

#artificial intelligence

Virtual Manipulation Brief 2023/1: Generative AI and its Implications for Social Media Analysis

<https://stratcomcoe.org/publications/virtual-manipulation-brief-20231-generative-ai-and-its-implications-for-social-media-analysis/287>

#defence construction #Canadian Surface Combatant project

Ottawa declines Hartlen Point residents' appeal for renewed environmental impact assessment of DND site

<https://www.thecoast.ca/news-opinion/ottawa-declines-hartlen-point-residents-appeal-for-renewed-environmental-impact-assessment-of-dnd-site-31128875>

#defence policy

Will Canada attend NATO's Vilnius summit offering cuts or cash?

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-will-canada-attend-natos-vilnius-summit-offering-cuts-or-cash/>

The Cove's Defence Strategic Review Report Digest

<https://cove.army.gov.au/article/coves-defence-strategic-review-report-digest>

Keep the key themes of Australia's DSR in mind when Canada's Defence Policy Update is published.

America Is Running Out of Ammo

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/american-munitions-shortage-ukraine-joe-biden-pentagon-defense-military-congress-4e6d6576>

(Has Canada enough ammunition to run out of?...) There have been a lot of articles of late about ammunition and other stockpiles. Good - are people waking up to the point that war is about economics?

#futurecasting

Future Weapons Technology of 2040

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/journals/nco-journal/archives/2023/july/future-weapons-technology-of-2040/>

#Indo-Pacific

Britain and narrative projection in the Indo-Pacific

<https://www.geostrategy.org.uk/britains-world/britain-and-narrative-projection-in-the-indo-pacific/>

What is Canada's 'narrative projection' as part of its Indo-Pacific strategy?

#information operations

Maligned Influence and Interference in Canada

https://www.cgai.ca/maligned_influence_and_interference_in_canada

#intelligence #NATO

NATO Centres of Excellence – Human Intelligence

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

#maritime policy

Vilnius' Implications for Alliance Naval Power

<https://centerformaritimestrategy.org/publications/vilnius-implications-for-alliance-naval-power/>

Acronym Alert! CUI = critical undersea infrastructure.

#NATO

Wall Street Journal right to say Justin Trudeau belongs at NATO's kid's table

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/politics/lilley-wall-street-journal-right-to-say-justin-trudeau-belongs-at-nato-s-kid-s-table/ar-AA1dPbfz>

Hopefully this opinion piece does not (much) reflect official thinking in NATO capitals...

#reading

War Books: The Art of the Decision

<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/war-books-the-art-of-the-decision/>

War Books: Finding Treasures on Dusty Shelves, Part 1

<https://mwi.usma.edu/war-books-finding-treasures-on-dusty-shelves-part-1/>

War Books: Finding Treasures on Dusty Shelves, Part 2

<https://mwi.usma.edu/war-books-finding-treasures-on-dusty-shelves-part-2/>

Duke of Wellington Medal for Military History 2023: Shortlist Announced

<https://rusi.org/news-and-comment/rusi-news/duke-wellington-medal-military-history-2023-shortlist-announced>

Interesting to note what the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies in the UK has selected.

#Russia-Ukraine War

Going Asymmetric: How Ukraine is Keeping Russia at Bay in the Black Sea

<https://centerformaritimestrategy.org/publications/going-asymmetric-how-ukraine-is-keeping-russia-at-bay-in-the-black-sea/>

Russia's Military Expenditure During Its War Against Ukraine

<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2023/sipri-insights-peace-and-security/russias-military-expenditure-during-its-war-against-ukraine>

Lean on the Barrage: The Role of Artillery in Ukraine's Counteroffensive

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/lean-barrage-role-artillery-ukraines-counteroffensive>

Note the point about gun barrel manufacture. Canada?

New Technology Sees Through Russian Attempt To Hide Ships From Ukraine

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2023/07/new-technology-sees-through-russian-attempt-to-hide-ships-from-ukraine/>

"The artificial intelligence ship detection algorithms ... can clearly differentiate different classes of ship even with the camouflage applied."

Ukraine-Russia War Raises US Army Concern for Vulnerable Command Posts

<https://www.businessinsider.com/ukraine-attacks-on-russia-us-army-command-post-vulnerability-2023-7>

#artillery

Is Russia losing the artillery fight?

<http://www.dupuyinstitute.org/blog/2023/07/13/is-russia-losing-the-artillery-fight/>

#cyber operations

Russia's War in Ukraine: Examining the Success of Ukrainian Cyber Defences

<https://www.iiss.org/research-paper/2023/03/russias-war-in-ukraine-examining-the-success-of-ukrainian-cyber-defences>

#drones

Ground vehicles are the new frontier in Ukraine's drone war

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ground-vehicles-are-new-frontier-ukraines-drone-war-2023-07-13/>

#security #intelligence

CBSA hosts the first Five Eyes Export Enforcement Forum in Ottawa

<https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2023/06/cbsa-hosts-the-first-five-eyes-export-enforcement-forum-in-ottawa.html>

'Five Eyes' is not just a defence intelligence arrangement.

#strategy

The OODA Loop and the Half-Beat

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2020/3/17/the-ooda-loop-and-the-half-beat>

Strategy, War, and the Relevance of Carl von Clausewitz

<https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/article/strategy-war-and-the-relevance-of-carl-von-clausewitz/>

#warfare

Russian Cultural Special Operation | Offensive

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/russian-cultural-special-operation-offensive/>

#wargaming

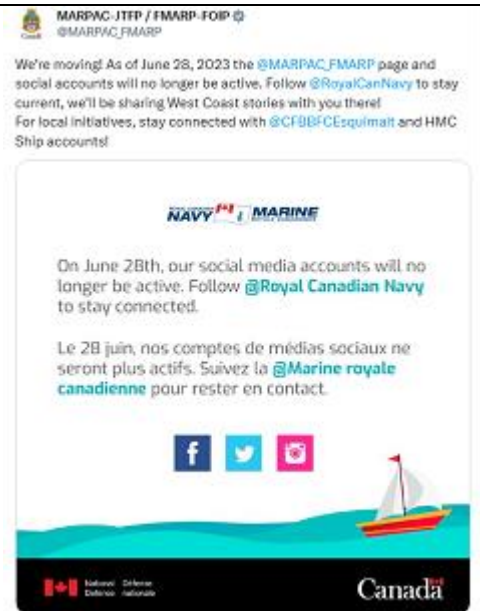
Put Educational Wargaming in the Hands of the Warfighter

<https://warontherocks.com/2023/07/put-educational-wargaming-in-the-hands-of-the-warfighter/>

Other:

CAF/DND Twitter Accounts

Those of us on Twitter are aware of the challenges of figuring out who to follow amongst all the CAF and related accounts (especially when some are moribund), and what information to expect from which. DND/CAF staff are aware of that. Apparently some reviews are underway and we can expect to see some changes as per the example from MARPAC to the right.



Researcher asking for help

From the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria:

We wanted to share with you an important project currently underway by Dr Andrew Kilsby and Dr Daryl Moran, who are preparing a formal history of RAAF aircrew in RAF squadrons in the Burma Theatre 1942-1945. They are reaching out to the community to gather personal stories and images from descendants of aircrew, which have not been published before, to potentially include in this history. They are particularly interested in stories that could be informed by photographs, personal memoirs, letters, log books, and more.

The working title of this extensive history is *Resolute: Australian Aircrew in the Burma Theatre 1942-1945*. The history will be focused on the Australian contribution in the air war in Burma, India, Ceylon, and where applicable, China. Australians served in the theatre right through the war, in all areas of the theatre, and in all types of operations/aircraft. It will contain nominal rolls, POWs (Rangoon, not Thai-Burma railway), awards and decorations, casualty lists, and more. The history will be chronological in application of the air war, from strategic to tactical for context, but focus on and highlight individual stories of Australian aircrew within the operational environments and conditions, with different RAF squadrons in the theatre.

Dr Kilsby and Dr Moran have conducted extensive research and writing has already begun, but they hope to find more "hidden" stories from the South East Asia Command still held in families to be found and collated.

If you or anyone you know has a connection to former Burma aircrew or their families, please reach out to Dr Kilsby directly by email or phone. The contact information is listed below.

Thank you for your help in preserving and sharing the important stories of Australian aircrew in the Burma Theatre during World War II.

Dr Andrew Kilsby dr.kilsby@connect-history.com 0408 342 795

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 1 July 2023, the Russian Navy established a new Azov Naval District, headquartered in the occupied Ukrainian port city of Mariupol.
- Subordinate to the Black Sea Fleet (BSF), the district will reportedly command eight warships including three modern, Karakurt class corvettes which can launch SS-N-30A Kalibr cruise missiles.
- The Azov Sea is a vital maritime area for Russia because it links its inland waterways to international maritime routes. In the context of the war, it also offers an alternative military resupply option should Russia's over-land routes to southern Ukraine be disrupted.
- The Azov Naval District will likely focus on supporting logistical and counter-partisan tasks, freeing up the main BSF to concentrate on long range strike operations and projecting maritime power further abroad.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- After a lull during June 2023, over the last seven days Bakhmut has again been the site of some of the most intense fighting along the front.
- Ukrainian forces have made steady gains to both the north and south of the Russian-held town. Russian defenders are highly likely struggling with poor morale, a mix of disparate units and a limited ability to find and strike Ukrainian artillery.
- The Russian leadership almost certainly see it as politically unacceptable to concede Bakhmut, which has a symbolic weight as one of the few Russian gains in the last 12 months. However, there are highly likely few additional reserves to commit to the sector.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russian state-approved media has responded to the 24 June 2023 Wagner Group mutiny in three phases. Outlets were almost certainly initially surprised by the mutiny and were not prepared; Russian TV maintained its usual schedule.
- After the insurrection was defused, Russian state outlets sought to 'correct' claims that security forces had been passive. Narratives promoted the idea that President Vladimir Putin had triumphed by thwarting the insurrection, while avoiding bloodshed, and sought to unite the country behind the president.
- Nearly a week later, the state started to play down the significance of Wagner owner Yevgeny Prigozhin and the mutiny, while tarnishing his character. Wagner Telegram channels have largely gone silent, almost certainly due to state intervention. By contrast, Putin has undertaken unusually prominent public engagements, almost certainly aiming to project strength.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russia is almost certainly struggling with a crisis of combat medical provision, after suffering an average of around 400 casualties a day for 17 months.
- The influx of military casualties has likely undermined the normal provision of some Russian civilian medical services, especially in border regions near Ukraine. It is likely that many dedicated military hospitals are being reserved for officer casualties.
- As claimed by the head of the Kalashnikov company's combat medicine training division, it is likely that up to 50 per cent of Russian combat fatalities could have been prevented with proper first aid. Very slow casualty evacuation, combined with the inappropriate use of the crude in-service Russian combat tourniquet, is reportedly a leading cause of preventable fatalities and amputations.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Moscow's municipal authorities are highly likely threatening to withdraw contracts from construction firms if they fail to hit quotas for providing 'volunteers' to serve in Ukraine. One company has reportedly been set a target of 30 volunteers by the end of August 2023.
- The move will likely primarily affect ethnic minorities from poorer regions of Russia such as Dagestan and central Asian states, who make up the majority of Moscow's construction workers.
- This measure is highly likely at least tacitly endorsed by Moscow mayor Sergey Sobyenin. It continues his track record of trying to minimise the impact of the conflict on better-off Muscovites, while still being seen to support the war effort.



RUSSIA'S CLAIM:

On July 6, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' spokesperson claimed that weapons supplied by the West to Ukraine are being used by protesters in France.

BASED ON CANADIAN FORCES INTELLIGENCE COMMAND ANALYSIS:

- There is no evidence that weapons supplied to Ukraine have been used in France. This widely-debunked disinformation originated from a pro-Russian Telegram channel that used a picture from a 2012 sniper competition.
- Russia is leveraging public fears about insufficient weapons control in Ukraine to try and frame the Ukrainian government as an untrustworthy recipient of lethal aid.
- These statements are part of a broader, persistent Russian disinformation campaign that attempts to decrease Western support for lethal aid to Ukraine.



INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 10 July 2023, Russian Chief of the General Staff General Valery Gerasimov made his first TV appearance since the abortive Wagner mutiny of 24 June 2023.
- Gerasimov was seen being briefed by video link by Russian Aerospace Forces Chief of Staff Colonel-General Viktor Afzalov. Afzalov has been in post for at least four years, but this is probably his first public appearance with Gerasimov.
- Afzalov is deputy to Commander-in-Chief Russian Aerospace Forces, General Sergei Surovikin. Afzalov's increased public profile, while Surovikin's whereabouts remains unclear, adds further weight to the hypothesis that Surovikin has been sidelined following the mutiny.

GENERAL OF THE ARMY OMAR NELSON BRADLEY MEMORIAL LECTURE



MILITARY HISTORY FOR THE MODERN STRATEGIST

AMERICA'S MAJOR WARS SINCE 1861

WED, AUGUST 16, 6:30 P.M. EST
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT THE USAHEC
ONLINE LIVE STREAM AVAILABLE
WWW.ARMYWARCOLLEGE.EDU/LIVE



DR. MICHAEL E. O'HANLON
THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION