



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 4 August 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.

There is no RUSI(NS) event planned for August

New: 12 August, Tuesday - "Why You Should Be Megagaming." 1-3 pm ADT. Online. For more info and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/why-you-should-be-megagaming-tickets-632140458127>.

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*.

New: 16 August, Wednesday - Special Seminar with Larry Cameron about OSINT, the dark web and crypto for a defense and law enforcement audience. 3-5 pm. CoWork Halifax, 6156 Quinpool Road (ask at the front desk). Reservations are required as seating is limited. To register, email Jay Heisler jayoscarheisler@gmail.com.

New: 5 September, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Ender's Legacy: Digital Wargames in Professional Military Education." 5-7 pm ADT. Online. For more info and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/enders-legacy-digital-wargames-in-professional-military-education-tickets-632470725967>.

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

New: 3 October, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Cardboard Meets Bits, Designing a WWII Tactical Leadership RPG." 7-9 pm ADT. Online. "The game strives to give players a tactically credible, emotionally authentic, and historically respectful experience of leading a US infantry company." For more info and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cardboard-meets-bits-designing-a-wwii-tactical-leadership-crpg-tickets-631859688337>.

New: 17 October, Tuesday - "Re-Fighting History The War in the East, Boardgames, and Histories of WWII." 7-9 pm ADT. Online. For more info and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/re-fighting-history-the-war-in-the-east-boardgames-and-histories-of-wwii-tickets-684218986407>.

Recommended reading for our October Distinguished Speaker event:

Canada's Future Submarine Capability

<https://cdainstitute.ca/canadas-future-submarine-capability/>

New: 12 December, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "The Tyranny of Binaries: how wargame rules build narratives." 7-9 pm AST. Online. For more info and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-tyranny-of-binaries-how-wargame-rules-build-narratives-tickets-633057882167>.

Publications:

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

New: RUSI(NS) Paper "Kingston-class Ships – Less than meets the eye" by SWD Swan, 1 August 2023, <https://rusi-ns.ca/kingston-class/>

RUSI(NS) Comments "Naval Doctrine and Strategy," 25 July 2023, https://rusi-ns.ca/naval_doctrine_strategy/

RUSI(NS) Information Note "Brigade and Brigade Group," 15 July 2023, https://rusi-ns.ca/brigade_brigade_group/

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/

New: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 2 August 2023 <https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current>

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

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

New: Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, August 2023
<https://rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/208-rausi-dispatches-august-2023>

New: Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch *Scuttlebutt*, August 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 8, 31 July 2023

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

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

@RUSI NS on X:

@RUSI_NS posts may also be viewed by clicking on the icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something posted or reposted, email RUSI(NS).

David Pugliese @davidpugliese 28 Jul tweeted: My latest article...Anita Anand ousted as Defence Minister because proposed policy update too costly, say sources
<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/anita-anand-ousted-as-defence-minister-because-proposed-policy-update-too-costly-say-sources> via @ottawacitizen
RUSI(NS) retweeted: This makes for interesting context for whenever the CAN🇨🇦 Defence Policy Update #DPU is made public.



David (Duke) Snider @icenav57 29 Jul tweeted: Deep sea port finally opens in Iqaluit
(After decades of plans and studies, Iqaluit's deep sea port finally opens
<https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/after-decades-of-plans-and-studies-icaluits-deep-sea-port-finally-opens/>)
Developing robust transportation/logistics infrastructure in CAN🇨🇦 North/#Arctic is good for our defence/security/safety there & sign of our sovereignty



Macdonald-Laurier Institute @MLInstitute 31 Jul tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: "This is the latest symptom in #Canada's years-long atrophy of #Arctic policy," writes @ExnerPiro. "We were once leaders in the space... But this #leadership turned out to be a 20th-century phenomenon." (The Arctic is where Canada should be leading, not turning out the lights
<https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/the-arctic-is-where-canada-should-be-leading-not-turning-out-the-lights-heather-exner-pirot-in-the-national-post/>)



Communications Security Establishment (CSE) @cse_cst 28 Jul tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Cyber threat actors use misinformation, disinformation and malinformation to try and influence the decisions of Canadians. Read about how threat actors use social media to publish misleading or inaccurate information. <https://cyber.gc.ca/en/guidance/national-cyber-threat-assessment-2023-2024#a10>
 (National Cyber Threat Assessment 2023-2024)



CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 1 Aug tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Michael Ignatieff discusses The War in Ukraine & global security implications, NATO commitment, Canadian defence Spending, & Military Recruitment. He emphasizes the need for strong defence and inclusivity in the CAF. (What Does Canada Need to Face Today's Security Challenges?
<https://cdainstitute.ca/what-does-canada-need-to-face-todays-security-challenges/>)



CIGI @CIGIonline Jul 28 tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Announced Wednesday, a new cabinet committee on #nationalecurity & intelligence will be created. As @mdentandt & @shull_aaron write, the first focus of the committee should be to revamp & update Canada's outdated national security strategy. Read more: (Canada Needs a National Security Council — but the Devil's in the Details
<https://www.cigionline.org/articles/canada-needs-a-national-security-council-but-the-devils-in-the-details/>)
related: Reimagining a Canadian National Security Strategy
<https://www.cigionline.org/publications/reimagining-a-canadian-national-security-strategy/>



GA-ASI @GenAtomics_ASI 21 Jun tweeted: Tensions in the Arctic are rising along with global temperatures. Competing powers, global trade, and illegal fishing and shipping are increasing the need for cost-effective and reliable airborne surveillance. #MQ9B SkyGuardian is the solution. (Arctic Security: How GA-ASI Is Closing the Gap With MQ-9B
<https://www.ga-asi.com/arctic-mq-9b/>)



RUSI(NS) presentation "Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles – Canadian and US Programs" <https://rusi-ns.ca/rpas/>

@RCAF_ARC remotely piloted aircraft system #RPAS project will likely result in #MQ9B aerial #drone operating for defence, security & safety of CAN #Arctic

Cool tech, electric-powered #drone rigid-hull inflatable boat (RHIB or RIB, depending on your service)
<https://www.nsboats.com/post/it-s-thinking-new-high-tech-drives-a-covey-island-vessel-no-humans-needed> Might @RoyalCanNavy consider converting & trialing some of their ships' RHIB? @NSBoatbuilders (It's Thinking: New High Tech drives a Covey Island vessel, no humans needed)



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

RUSI(NS) posts may also be viewed by clicking on the icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something posted or commented, email RUSI(NS).

The Coast Guard Must Use Unmanned Aerial Systems and AI in Search and Rescue

<https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2023/july/coast-guard-must-use-unmanned-aerial-systems-and-ai-search-and>

"In 2022, a team of Coast Guard Academy students developed and tested a pilot course on Coast Guard Wargaming, simulating SAR, disaster response, fisheries management, and drug and migrant interdiction."

It would be interesting to read a post-course report about the use of wargaming for simulating search and rescue, etc. Might the Canadian Coast Guard (or other agency, what with the extent of issues the wargame covered) be able to obtain a copy?



'Historically low water' in the Mackenzie River forces northern cargo on 4,000 km detour

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/mackenzie-river-low-water-1.6251603>

"Low water on the Mackenzie River is forcing major changes to how the annual resupply of fuel and cargo reaches some northern communities this summer"; cargo will be shipped overland and "fuel destined for northern communities will take an even longer route around Alaska."



Canada needs more robust fuel movement and storage infrastructure in our North. Maybe more ice-capable tankers and bunker barges? Inability of provide fuel is not just a quality of life issue but has serious defence and security ramifications.

Defence Readiness

A reporter recently asked RUSI(NS) how has Canadian commitments to Ukraine affected Canada's defence readiness. That's a huge subject. How does one measure defence readiness? Number of people, tanks, ships and aircraft? Training and exercising? Logistics? There can be (has been) everything from simple dashboards to book-length questionnaires to attempt to measure readiness. A lot of the answers are not visible to the general public (security) and, probably, many politicians don't know how to get the answers (answers they should have, as they too should be asking the question). Really, only the general and flag officers have/should have the answers, resulting from staff analyses. It is reasonable to expect that the true answers will only be given to politicians in classified sessions, but it is not unreasonable that the public, media and politicians ask the senior officers how they determine the answers in the first place. Some are apparent: aircraft sortie rates, ship sea time, artillery ammunition stocks. There are many more ways to assess readiness.



Those of us on the outside can only guess. One can guess, what with the very public shortfalls of numbers of people in the Forces, and the not-so-public and therefore suspect amount of funding going to parts and consumables, that defence readiness is not good. Ukraine is exacerbating a situation that has been building for many more years than before that current war started (whether one defines start as 2022 or 2014 or earlier).

Blockade

British Defense Ministry Warns of Potential Naval Blockade in Black Sea

<https://news.usni.org/2023/07/26/british-defense-ministry-warns-of-potential-naval-blockade-in-black-sea>



ISW @TheStudyofWar Jul 28, 2023 tweeted: #Russian naval posturing in the #BlackSea likely aims to impose a de facto blockade on #Ukrainian ports without committing the Black Sea Fleet to the enforcement of a naval blockade. <http://isw.pub/UkrWar072823>

These and other articles use the word blockade when reporting about recent Russian activities in the Black Sea. The word must be used with care. The *San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea* (<https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/article/other/57jmsu.htm>), long considered an authoritative collation of such law, discusses requirements for a blockade to be considered effective, but does not provide a definition. The more recent *Newport Manual on the Law of Naval Warfare* (<https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/ils/vol1101/iss1/1/>) does offer a definition: "A blockade is a belligerent operation intended to prevent vessel traffic from all States from entering or leaving specified coastal areas that are under the sovereignty, occupation, or control of an enemy. Such areas may include ports and harbors, the entire coastline, or parts of it." Both sources note that a blockade has to be notified. Has the Russian Federation made such a notification? Until it does, use of the word should be in the context of 'potential' or similar caveat.

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From the Study of War report: Russian naval posturing in the Black Sea likely aims to impose a de facto blockade on Ukrainian ports without committing the Black Sea Fleet to the enforcement of a naval blockade. Ukrainian Southern Operational Command Spokesperson Captain First Rank Nataliya Humenyuk reported on July 28 that Ukrainian officials have intercepted radio transmissions of Russian forces warning civilian ships in the Black Sea against heading to Ukrainian ports. A Russian milblogger amplified an audio recording purportedly of a Russian warship telling a civilian vessel in the Black Sea that Russian forces would consider the vessel involved in the conflict in Ukraine as a military cargo ship if it sailed towards a Ukrainian port. Russian sources also claimed that Russian authorities announced a nighttime navigation ban for all small vessels near the Kerch Strait due to concerns about Ukrainian naval drones. The Black Sea Fleet conducted exercises on July 27 wherein naval warships launched a missile at a target ship in the Black Sea. The Russian Foreign Ministry (MFA) recently attempted to soften the Russian Ministry of Defense's (MoD) July 19 announcement about viewing civilian ships in the Black Sea as legitimate military targets by claiming that the announcement meant that Russian forces would inspect ships. The Russian MoD itself has not clarified what actions its announcement will allow the Russian military to take and even the Russian MFA's interpretation would require Russian forces to board and possibly seize foreign civilian vessels. The Russian naval posturing in the Black Sea is likely intentionally ambiguous to generate widespread concern about possible detention by the Russian navy or outright strikes on civilian vessels. The Kremlin likely aims for this posturing to have a chilling effect on maritime activity so that Russian naval assets do not need to enforce an actual blockade of Ukrainian ports. A naval blockade is only mandatory for neutral entities to follow under international law if a belligerent declares the existence of the blockade, and Russia has yet to do so.

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Further, #legal: Russia In The Black Sea. The Law Of Armed Conflict At Sea Needs Due Consideration Alongside UNCLOS.

<https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/news/russia-black-sea-law-armed-conflict-sea-needs-due-consideration-alongside-unclos>

Canada doesn't want to, nor can it, reach two per cent

<https://cdainstitute.ca/canada-doesnt-want-to-nor-can-it-reach-two-per-cent/>

"Canada does not have a strategy. It basically has policies that are adapted to political circumstances."



Trudeau is striking a new National Security Council, but what will it do?

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/trudeau-is-striking-a-new-national-security-council-but-what-will-it-do-1.6496688>

"Asked for more information about why the cabinet-level council was needed, and what exactly the National Security



Council's role will be—in contrast to existing government entities who work in this space—the prime minister was scant on details, but pledged more will be revealed once it's struck."

Reads like establishing the Council was more a quick political display (signaling) in response to the foreign interference situation rather than planned in-depth. 'Shoot, aim...'

MKE unveils Uça air launched smart underwater mine

<https://www.navyrecognition.com/index.php/naval-news/naval-news-archive/2023/july/13393-idef-2023-mke-unveils-uca-air-launched-smart-underwater-mine.html>



"Its (the Uça 'strategic guided ammunition') purpose is to convert MK-84 general-purpose bombs into sophisticated naval mines through the integration of a guidance kit and an intelligent target detection and mine firing unit."

This ups the mine threat a couple levels. A mine, probably readily available what with being a conversion from the relatively abundant and cheap Mk-84 general purpose bomb, that can be laid by air from 70 kilometres distance. The Royal Canadian Navy needs the resources (ships, drones, divers, staff) to be able to counter this threat, albeit more likely in forward operating areas and allied ports (but hey, we've got to get overseas to do anything).

AI-enabled social media tool 'promising' new tech for Army: Officials

<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/07/ai-enabled-social-media-tool-promising-new-tech-for-army-officials/>



"The Army over the past several years has been trying to figure out what exactly information advantage (<https://breakingdefense.com/2020/09/army-wrestles-with-information-advantage/>) will look like for its commanders and is developing a doctrine to define the concept. Broadly, there are five pillars: enabling decision-making, protecting friendly information, informing and educating domestic audiences, influencing international audiences and conducting information warfare..."

"Social media would presumably play a role in at least three of those categories."

Interesting to note how domestic and foreign audiences are bundled in the thinking.

Note Canada's participation in the Cyber Quest experiments. Good. The Chief of Defence Staff declared over 25 years ago that the Canadian Armed Forces must be prepared to operate in the cyber domain. There is still a huge amount to learn and develop, and doing this in conjunction with our allies is the right way to go. Even if we differ on implementation (which, as in NATO, allies do now).

Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic

<https://www.diana.nato.int/challenges.html>

"The DIANA (NATO Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic) challenge programme starts with a competitive call for proposals targeting three strategic focus areas: energy resilience, secure information sharing, and sensing and surveillance."



A Canadian Case of Defence Spending Fatigue?

<https://www.policymagazine.ca/a-canadian-case-of-defence-spending-fatigue/>

"We should not be too surprised, however, if defence spending stays below 2% of GDP for the rest of this decade. In that context, any minister of National Defence will have their work cut out for them. A lot of new equipment will be entering into service soon, but the demand for still more money will be intense, as will allied pressure on Canada. The political will to keep increasing military spending, though, may be waning."



One of these things is not like the others

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/one-of-these-things-is-not-like-the-others/>

"Russian state-affiliated disinformation outlets try to 'borrow' credibility by impersonating legitimate media and government institutions. It is a deceitful information manipulation tactic to spread pro-Kremlin disinformation narratives."



Be careful from where you source.

Air Force gas stations in the sky are aging, with replacements hamstrung and a capacity crunch looming

<https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/military/2023/07/25/air-force-gas-stations-in-the-sky-are-aging-with-replacements-hamstrung-and-a-capacity-crunch-looming/>

This article aligns very nicely with the CC330 Husky strategic tanker transport capability procurement announced recently. Smart people in National Defence Headquarters – and there are – would be reading into this a future opportunity to make a welcome high-value niche contribution to NORAD and US combatant commands. The USAF doubtless is without peer in the aerial refuelling capability, but that's also a function that the RCAF has long maintained and executed, both for its own as well as for a variety of allied fighter aircraft types over the years (with the CC137 Boeings, CC150 Polaris and CC-30H Hercules). And where Boeing's KC-46 Pegasus tanker uses the flying boom refueling method, the versatility (and commercial success) of



Airbus' A330 MRTT platform is assisted by both a refueling boom but also a drogue-and-probe capability (*Ed: see poster at end of Dispatches*). As our government correctly stated, only the A330 MRTT platform was proven and available to meet the RCAF's refueling capability requirement. An odd instance of where the CAF/DND, and more especially the transport project directors in the Air Staff and the project managers within the Defence Material Group, really got it right. Success is possible.

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Further: USAF walks back tanker forecast: 'We don't know what our strategy is'

<https://www.defenseone.com/policy/2023/08/usaf-walks-back-tanker-prediction-we-dont-know-what-our-strategy/389006/>

Other Sources:

#artificial intelligence

Real Harms, Not Doomsday Robots, Should Be the Focus of AI Regulation

<https://www.cigionline.org/articles/real-harms-not-doomsday-robots-should-be-the-focus-of-ai-regulation/>

#artillery

US Army readies new artillery strategy spurred by war in Ukraine

<https://www.defensenews.com/land/2023/08/01/us-army-readies-new-artillery-strategy-spurred-by-war-in-ukraine/>

#China #airpower

The PLA Reconceptualizes Control of the Air

<https://jamestown.org/program/the-pla-reconceptualizes-control-of-the-air/>

"...control of the air will transform from [being something sought for] all times over all areas to the pursuit of air superiority for key tasks at key times and over key areas."

#defence construction

DCC ramps up projects to support expanding defence mandate

<https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/projects/2023/08/dcc-ramps-up-projects-to-support-expanding-defence-mandate>

#defence planning

US, but could be insightful IVO impending Canadian Defence Policy Update.

Are You Ready For This? Properly Defining Joint Readiness

<https://cimsec.org/are-you-ready-for-this-properly-defining-joint-readiness/>

How Defense Department Planning Horizons Can Better Avoid Strategic Surprise

<https://cimsec.org/how-defense-department-planning-horizons-can-better-avoid-strategic-surprise/>

Future Visions and Planned Obsolescence: Implementing 30-year Horizons in Defense Planning

<https://cimsec.org/future-visions-and-planned-obsolescence-implementing-30-year-horizons-in-defense-planning/>

#drones

Drones and the Close Battle

<https://wavellroom.com/2023/08/02/drones-and-the-close-battle/>

#financial security

Democracies Remain Blind to the Threat from Illicit Finance

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/democracies-remain-blind-threat-illicit-finance>

#Indo-Pacific

Energy Is Taiwan's Achilles' Heel

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/07/31/energy-taiwan-semiconductor-chips-china-tsmc/>

#wargaming

Taiwan Wargame Simulations Could Exacerbate U.S. Strategic Miscalculation

<https://uscnpm.org/2022/08/19/taiwan-wargame-simulations-could-exacerbate-us-strategic-miscalculation/>

#information operations

Deepfakes and Deception: A Framework for the Ethical and Legal Use of Machine-Manipulated Media

<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/deepfakes-and-deception-a-framework-for-the-ethical-and-legal-use-of-machine-manipulated-media/>

Reaching the Tipping Point: Lessons from Combining Kinetic and Information Operations

<https://irregularwarfare.org/articles/reaching-the-tipping-point-lessons-from-combining-kinetic-and-information-operations/>

#intelligence

How the US is using open-source intel to track Russia's war in Ukraine

<https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2023/07/open-source-intelligence-has-been-crucial-tracking-irans-drone-supply-russia/388929/>

#marine security #Indo-Pacific

Illegal Fishing in Southeast Asia: Scope, Dimensions, Impacts, and Multilateral Response

<https://jamestown.org/program/illegal-fishing-in-southeast-asia-scope-dimensions-impacts-and-multilateral-response/>

#NATO

NATO's interests in a stable Indo-Pacific

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/natos-interests-in-a-stable-indo-pacific/>

#Russia #warfare

Disrupting Moscow's Invasion Playbook: Lessons from Prague to Kyiv

<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/disrupting-moscows-invasion-playbook-lessons-from-prague-to-kyiv/>

#Russia-Ukraine War

How to End a War: Some Historical Lessons for Ukraine

<https://www.iiss.org/online-analysis/survival-online/2023/07/how-to-end-a-war-some-historical-lessons-for-ukraine/>

How Ukraine's virtually non-existent navy sank Russia's flagship

<https://www.economist.com/interactive/1843/2023/07/27/how-ukraines-virtually-non-existent-navy-sank-russias-flagship>

A Sobering Analysis Of Ukraine's Counteroffensive From The Front

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/a-sobering-analysis-of-ukraines-counteroffensive-from-the-front>

Ukrainian Resistance Adapts to Key Role in Counteroffensive

<https://jamestown.org/program/ukrainian-resistance-adapts-to-key-role-in-counteroffensive/>

Russia Using 'Disinformation' To Exaggerate Small Military Gains, Says UK

https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/russia-using-disinformation-to-exaggerate-small-military-gains-says-uk_uk_64bcc2eae4b053a70091ed54

Ukraine's navy is no match for Russia, but it has made waves in the Black Sea by using unconventional warfare

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-29/naval-warfare-black-sea-battle-ukraine-russia-invasion-/102643312>

Behind the Demise of the Black Sea Grain Deal

<https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/behind-the-demise-of-the-black-sea-grain-deal/>

Ukraine: Prepare for a Longer War and Be Cautious in Pushing for Major Offensives

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/ukraine-prepare-longer-war-and-be-cautious-pushing-major-offensives>

The Lasting Strategic Impact Of the War in the Ukraine

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/lasting-strategic-impact-war-ukraine>

Ukraine war: Russian troops 'likely struggling with battle fatigue and attrition'

<https://www.forces.net/ukraine/russian-troops-are-struggling-under-weight-ukrainian-offensive>

The State of the Ukrainian 2023 Campaign

<https://mickryan.substack.com/p/the-state-of-the-ukrainian-2023-campaign>

Ukraine's latest weapons in its war with Russia: 3D-printed bombs

innovation!: <https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2023/08/01/ukraines-latest-weapons-in-its-war-with-russia-3d-printed-bombs>

#artillery #logistics

Ukraine's Varied Artillery Creates Logistical, Maintenance Problems

<https://www.businessinsider.com/ukraine-artillery-arsenal-creates-logistical-maintenance-problems-2023-7>

#cyber operations

Cyber Operations during the Russo-Ukrainian War

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/cyber-operations-during-russo-ukrainian-war>

#economic warfare

Fake Signals and American Insurance: How a Dark Fleet Moves Russian Oil

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/05/30/world/asia/russia-oil-ships-sanctions.html>

#space

Why America Needs a Space Force

video: <https://youtu.be/dCCIT1HXI0>

#warfare

Power Grids and Plumbing: The Link Between Irregular Warfare and National Critical Functions

<https://irregularwarfare.org/articles/power-grids-and-plumbing-the-link-between-irregular-warfare-and-national-critical-functions/>

Hiding in plain sight: Warfare in the electromagnetic spectrum

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/opinion/2023/08/01/hiding-in-plain-sight-warfare-in-the-electromagnetic-spectrum/>

Inflection Point: How to Reverse the Erosion of U.S. and Allied Military Power and Influence

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA2555-1.html

#drones

Is Remote Warfare Moral

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2023/8/2/reviewing-is-remote-warfare-moral>


#weapons

The military's latest handgun might not be safe

<https://www.wearethemighty.com/tactical/p320-militarys-latest-handgun-might-not-be-safe/>

Other:

MESSAGE
from the Minister of National Defence



July 27, 2023

Dear colleagues,

I am honoured to be appointed as your new Minister of National Defence. I have dedicated my career to keeping Canadians safe, and I welcome the opportunity to work with all of you in this new role.

This institution has a proud history – and I believe that it will have a proud future. During two world wars, in Korea, in Afghanistan, and on dozens of other international operations, our military has fought for peace, democracy, and human rights. During forest fires, floods, and a global pandemic, the Canadian Armed Forces have also stepped up to keep their neighbours safe. Whatever the challenge, you have always answered call of service – and I will do everything in my power to support you.

As Minister, I believe that we must always stand up for our most important values. As Russia’s illegal and unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine threatens the international rules that keep us all safe, Canada will continue to stand in solidarity with Ukraine. Canadian Armed Forces members have already trained over 37,000 members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine under Operation UNIFIER – and we are working closely with our NATO Allies to reinforce our deterrence and defence posture on the Alliance’s eastern flank, where many of you are currently deployed. To promote a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, we are also increasing our presence in that region, through our recently released Indo-Pacific Strategy.

I am also keenly focused on building a military that is ready to take on tomorrow’s challenges. I look forward to working with many of you to implement Canada’s NORAD Modernization Plan, to deliver new equipment for the Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Navy, and Royal Canadian Air Force, and to release Canada’s Defence Policy Update in the coming months. In addition, we must and will take new, innovative measures to recruit and retain even more talented Canadians in this institution.

Finally, I pledge to continue the work undertaken by Minister Anand to transform military culture, and to ensure that all of our people in uniform feel protected, respected, and empowered to serve. We will continue to implement the recommendations made by former Supreme Court Justice, Louise Arbour, and to support the work of External Monitor, Jocelyne Therrien. This is my top priority, and failure is not an option.

Let me conclude by thanking my colleague and friend, the Honourable Anita Anand, for her outstanding contributions and dedication as Canada’s Minister of National Defence. I wish her well in her new role.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to working closely with Deputy Minister, Bill Matthews, Chief of the Defence Staff, General Wayne Eyre, and with all of you, to modernize this institution, establish meaningful culture change, and keep Canadians safe in a changing world.

Thank you all for your service to Canada.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Bill Blair
Minister of National Defence

Message from the Minister of National Defence to CSE employees

Dear CSE,

It is an honour to be sworn in as your new Minister of National Defence and have the opportunity to work so closely with the Communications Security Establishment.

I have been fortunate enough, throughout my career, to see first-hand the calibre of work, and the dedication to the mission shown by everyone who works at CSE. I know you work tirelessly to protect this country and all Canadians, often quietly and without public recognition.

You, more than anyone else, are familiar with the challenges we face, from Russia’s illegal and unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine, to ongoing cyber threats to Canadian critical infrastructure, and much

more. It is my firm belief that we must always stand up for our most important values. As such, I am dedicated to supporting CSE as it continues to play a key role in in keeping Canada and Canadians safe.

As these threats grow, and as CSE responds by growing its capacity to address these threats, I look forward to supporting your efforts to recruit Canada's best and brightest. Equally, I understand the importance of diversity and inclusion to the success of your institution, and how critical it is that a diversity of voices and perspectives be brought to the table as CSE fulfills its mandate.

I'd be remiss to not sincerely thank my predecessor and friend, the Honourable Anita Anand, who has always spoken very highly of CSE. I wish her well in her new role, and pledge to continue to build on what she has achieved with you during her tenure.

In the weeks and months ahead, I look forward to getting to know CSE better, especially its people. As an organization, you have distinguished yourself as a vital part of the Canadian security landscape and earned a strong reputation among our allies. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and hope to connect with many of you as possible.

Thank you for your service and dedication to Canada.

Sincerely,
The Honourable Bill Blair, P.C., C.O.M., M.P.

Consultation on Supports for Veteran Families and Caregivers

In late 2022, we asked you about VAC supports for Veteran families and caregivers. Thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation. The results are now in.

Your feedback helped us better understand how our supports are helping Veteran families and caregivers, and learn where future opportunities may exist.

Check out the consultation recap and stay informed by joining our community on Let's Talk Veterans (<https://letstalkveterans.ca/>).

Veterans Affairs Canada

Air University Press Publications
<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/AUPress/Publications/>

7	U.S. Arctic Strategic Evolution Allies and partners advance regional capabilities.	36	Arctic Search and Rescue Enhanced operational capabilities save lives in extreme weather.
10	Russian Militarization Ukraine invasion is part of a long-term trend for Putin's Russia.	41	Joint Task Force North Regional collaboration leads to greater security.
12	China's Ambition Russia's war on Ukraine stalls PRC's Arctic momentum.	44	Denmark's Defense Role The kingdom is a key player in global deterrence.
16	Ted Stevens Center Institute strengthens Arctic investment as a soft-power complement.	48	Western Alignment Greenland is an increasingly important ally of the U.S., NATO.
19	State-Of-The-Art Warplane The F-35 delivers unmatched global deterrence.	52	Leadership Role Norway directs Nordic defense cooperation in the Arctic.
24	Special Operations Forces They play a key role in securing North America's Arctic.	56	Finland and the Arctic NATO membership is a step toward Nordic security.
28	Operation Noble Defender Allies defend North America from Arctic avenues of approach.	60	Joint Expeditionary Force Coalition of like-minded nations deters adversaries in the Arctic.
32	Operation Polar Dagger Special Operations Forces rapidly deploy in the Arctic.	64	United Front In an era of strategic competition, allies need concerted Arctic messaging.

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

General

I have often heard in my time the comment "May you live in interesting times" usually with the add on, interesting as in the old Chinese curse. One fears at present that we actually are. We have had a pandemic, war, drought, famine, mass migration for a multitude of reasons, all of these have had a major impact on a majority of the world's population in some form. More than 100m are refugees or

internally displaced persons around the world, the most since the Second World War. It appears this will not get better in the foreseeable future as water sources become scarcer not only from over use of water supplies but also because of contamination of water sources with China being one of the biggest culprits through ill-considered central planning. While most governments seem to be taking these changes situations into account, ours continues not to account for the changing situation. The world is increasingly nationalistic and countries are continuing to protect themselves as best they can. In the West, NATO, the US, UK and the EU are a bulwark of stability while changing their views on the changing situation. Nationalism is not a bad word, taking care of the health and well-being of a country's citizens should always be a priority national interest, even though one still cooperates and works with friends and allies.

Australia

<https://www.australiandefence.com.au/news/news/western-australia-hosts-land-based-long-ranged-missile-exercise>.

Comment: Coastal artillery is back!?

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/aucus-pillar-two-advancing-capabilities-united-states-united-kingdom-and-australia>

Comment: The attached discussion focuses on the second part of the AUKUS agreement. The sharing of technical and scientific military information is probably as important, if not more important, than the purchase of particular aircraft and its weapons.

I think this is where Canada has to get its act together and get into the technology development and implementation. Weapons and sensors integration are more important than a particular airframe. The F-35 will not be the only future airplane and some allied nations will want to port advanced technologies to their own aircraft.

From the referenced article it is clear that there is a market for the technology.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/reading-between-the-lines-at-ausmin-2023-preparedness-is-key/>

Comment: There have been significant Aus-US discussions about near term defence issues and solutions in the past few days. The US are being granted the right to use Aus airbase facilities as well as land based ground force sites. I think the reality of a potential armed conflict with China has settled into the minds of political leaders in Australia.

Canadians must start preparing for the potential of conflict in the western Pacific region and the potential for a wider conflict arising in Europe.

O Canada

It is break time for Parliament but there now seems to be the feeling that an election may occur in the not too distant future depending on the approach taken by the New Democratic Party. The NDP have a deal with the current government to prop them up until 2025. At the same time, the NDP's policies regarding a number of areas such as a dental plan have been somehow delayed or cut back from the NDP's original goals by the government. Current polls, if they can be believed, are that overall Canadians are increasingly fed up with inflation, stories of corruption, lies, and fabrications found since the last election.

The foreign interference file remains a huge open sore without positive corrective action. No public inquiry has been announced despite the ability of the Prime Minister to call one immediately, also a

serious problem for all those who are concerned with Canadian security issues. The lack of action tells a story, but it isn't a good one.

Canada did announce the purchase of nine A330 for the Royal Canadian Air Force. The nine aircraft will have both drogue and boom air to air refueling capacity thus allowing the RCAF to refuel many types of allied aircraft as well as our own aircraft whether the CF188 Hornet or the incoming F-35 fleet. One aircraft will be painted to provide an official aircraft for the Governor General and senior elected officials for formal visits. This is a major increase in our overall capacity to support allies.

Moldova

On 27 July 2023 Moldova ordered 45 Russian diplomats to leave Moldova by 15 August 2023. This action was taken because of Russia's support of anti-government activities such as demonstrations and infiltration of Russian "agents provocateur" within Moldova since the Ukraine invasion. The new numbers of Russian diplomats reflect the same number of Moldovan diplomats in Moscow presently.

On a related Canadian note, China has 178 "diplomats" in Canada versus only 50 Canadian diplomats in China. Given that China's actions such as economic activities including restrictions on the canola crop and beef, the placement of illegal police stations, intimidation of Chinese Canadians, foreign interference in our elections are more than ample actions for a more forceful approach against China, maybe we not look to Moldova's actions as an example?

The US has delivered another military assistance package to Moldova effective 1 August 2023. This program has been in place for 31 years but has been enhanced due to the actions of Russia and its practices seen in Ukraine. More than 123m USD has been provided by this program.

Belarus

Belarus has provided Wagner forces with a way to safely reconstitute outside of Russia. Wagner troops have been used to train Belarus troops recently in modern and updated tactics. Unfortunately, it appears that Wagner troops are being used for display as well by providing opportunities for disinformation regarding the Suwalki Gap. Belarus and the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad are separated by this gap. Suggestions have been made that a small number of Wagner troops could be inserted into the gap to create mayhem at the same time give plausible deniability to Russia or an excuse for intervention. Generally speaking, this should fail and it should be made very clear that Wagner troops are Russian and they and Russia will be dealt with accordingly by NATO. Still, a very real ticklish problem.

Africa

There are 54 countries in Africa. Most are creations in some fashion of colonial powers which divided tribes and other native groupings which have caused no end of issues to these new countries. China and Russia are the latest of larger more developed countries willing to exploit the African continent, often their efforts have led to "debt diplomacy." They have provided extravagant projects that can be either exploited or taken over by the exploiting political actor.

In the latest version of this issue, a military coup occurred in Niger. France the colonial power tried to gain access to the recently deposed President, however, there were major demonstrations in favour of the coup leadership fully supported by Russia. Russian flags were more numerous than Niger national flags. It became the 14th country using Wagner capabilities to assist with the new regime. The Economist in its 1st July issue identified thirteen other countries including the Central African

Republic, Sudan, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Cameroon, Madagascar, Burkina Faso Congo, Equatorial Guinea, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Kenya. Most connections are political and allow Russia to have influence as well as plausible deniability.

For the West, Africa is a place where some bridge building and repair is required. As has allegedly been said by Churchill (amongst others) democracy is the very worst form of government in the world except for the all the rest. The ability of the citizens of the state to control their own destiny through democratic action has to be worth the fight. China's form of "democracy" with its one party rubberstamp authoritarianism is not a fate for any country in a permanent form. It actually is failing China, we cannot let it become a source of failure for Africa as well. This will take more effort than in past and more listening than dictating.

Russia-Ukraine War

The war continues as an ongoing nightmare for Ukrainians but now also for the Russians as Moscow is under fire from Ukraine for the last four days. Other Russian cities have also come under fire from an increasing number of Ukrainian-made weapons. Ukraine has been restricted in the use of Western weapons against Russia proper despite Russia's ongoing spate of missile attacks against civilian targets in multiple cities. President Zelenski has suggested that this will be increasing and that war will come to Russia as well and it is increasingly clear that Ukraine can and will carry out attacks whenever possible. Russia did retaliate and still has much better weapons to strike Ukrainian cities. One commentator on DW, the German media outlet, stated that he believes the "battle of the cities" was likely similar to the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s.

The newest wrinkle is the use of food as a weapon. Russia pulled out of the grain shipment deal and has stated that any ship going to a Ukrainian port will be considered a possible carrier of military equipment. Ukraine has stated something similar about ships travelling to Russian ports. So far no ships have been hit. The real issue is whether insurance companies will continue to provide coverage to ships in the areas of the Black Sea. It is interesting that insurance is being used as a weapon as well with this tit for tat approach by both countries. The real losers are the African states which lose access to two of the largest food producers in the world if it were to continue for any length of time. Russia is using food and the offer of returning to the program if sanctions and other measures are removed. This is unlikely to occur.

Ukraine has been able to stop all Russian assaults in the north, despite estimates that state the Russian forces are around 120k. Ukraine has had some success in driving the Russians back in some area on the Svatova-Kremmina front. Ukraine has made advances north and south of Bakhmut and is in position to potentially encircle up to 50k Russian soldiers in the Bakhmut area. The south has also seen small local successes for Ukraine. The biggest effort is the destruction of logistics lines from Crimea and the elimination of local ammunition points. Ukraine is hitting military logistics especially choke points along vital roads and rail lines. This will eventually cause longer term issues for Russian forces. The old comment amateurs talk tactics, professionals study logistics. Russia hasn't sorted that idea out as yet.

Longer term, Russia's economy continues to deteriorate although not as fast as hoped but sanctions are working. Second, Russians are continuing to lose faith in the war with one poll suggesting that 74% of Russians do not in fact support the special military operation. Third, Russia's overall corruption has crippled the replacement of Russian equipment coupled with much greater losses than they are able to handle. The longer the war takes the less effective Russian forces will be. Russia has upped the conscription to age 30 from 27 years of age and made allowances for volunteers up to 60 years of age; not a good sign for troop replacement either for a country with a major demographic problem. Russia

has used the meat grinder tactic too many times in its past and continues this tactic as if it was the Soviet Union. It will not work and the longer term effects on the population will be profound.

China

The 1st of August 2023 was the 96th anniversary of the founding of the Peoples' Liberation Army, an oxymoron if there ever was. It is an apparatus of the Chinese Communist Party built for struggles against internal opposition more than external forces. As Mao stated "All power comes from the barrel of a gun." Thus celebration of this organization seems obscene.

As a start, Wu Guohua, LGen and Deputy Commander of the Strategic Rocket Forces of the PLA died by suicide by hanging. He is believed to be responsible for a leak of key Strategic Rocket Force info to US intelligence agencies through his son studying in the US. The Strategic Rocket Force is a key command and has control over most nuclear weapons. The Rocket Force was an initiative of President Xi when he created a system of commands similar to the US concept. It was a way to remove the service heads from interfering with key operational decisions. These service chiefs were selected and appointed by Zheng Chemin, his main political rival. This security breach directly cast Xi's efforts and supporters in poor light. He has initiated a purge across the military. In his first years he sacked more than 100 generals during his early period of his term as party chairman. Technical bureaucracy, not military background, mainly education background, is ill suited for command. The purge is ongoing.

As part of this purge, Li Yuchao, former commander PLA Rocket Force and Xu Zhongbo, former Commissar PLA Rocket Force, have been removed as have several of their predecessors. It is thought that these men would take the responsibility for this breach especially as the general most likely to have actually contributed to this breach is now dead by his own hand. The commander and Commissar are implicated in the overall scandal; their removal gives the appearance of action.

The new commander is Wang Houbin who was appointed from the Navy. His main attribute is apparent loyalty to Xi and obedience. Commentators have not been kind in their assessments of this man. The new Commissar is Xu Xiheng, who has been a commissar in air force appointments. He is a newly appointed member of the CCP Central Committee. It is notable that neither man is from the Strategic Rocket Force. They were taken from other organizations including from the Navy, an organization that is not considered part of the pro-Xi faction. These men have no experience in the area of the Rocket Forces. Commentators have suggested that the main role of these men is to conduct an internal review and remove personnel who are less than completely loyal. Several general officers of the Rocket Forces have been removed at this stage.

It is thought that financial corruption, espionage, anti-war defections, etc., are likely the cause all of these troubles. As many as ten general officers have been removed but this is ongoing. Former commanders and commissars have been arrested.

China is undergoing extensive flooding in key agricultural areas. It is likely food shortages are possible and prices are already rising as a result. The loss of crops is one issue, but Chinese environmental practices often means the agricultural land becomes contaminated with various pesticides, oil products and other material caused by the runoff. In the longer term some of these areas will no longer be available for production.

As a final thought, it is now estimated that China's GDP actually dropped by 5% vice gaining that amount. This is hard to verify as the official figures are known to be problematic at best. Foreign investors are not.



RUSSIA'S CLAIM:

On July 24, Vladimir Putin stated that the Black Sea Grain Initiative has been shamelessly used solely for the enrichment of large U.S. and European businesses that exported and resold grain from Ukraine.

BASED ON CANADIAN FORCES INTELLIGENCE COMMAND ANALYSIS:

- The purpose of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) was to help stabilize food prices and prevent a food crisis by returning Ukrainian grain to the global market.
- Since the introduction of the BSGI, global food prices have eased from historic highs in 2022 following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Developing nations have received 57% of exports shipped through the BSGI, while European nations have received 39% and the U.S. none. Furthermore, 725,000 tons of grain have gone to the United Nations World Food Programme, feeding 3.3 million people for one year.



INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- The Russia-Africa Conference convened in St Petersburg on 27 July 2023, with 17 African heads of state attending, down from 43 at the last iteration. The event took place ten days after Russia withdrew from the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI).
- The BSGI had allowed the export of 30 million tonnes of Ukrainian grain to Africa, providing essential food supply to states including Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Sudan. As well as the direct disruption of supplies, Russia's blockade of Ukraine is also causing grain prices to rise.
- The impact of the war in Ukraine will almost certainly compound food insecurity across Africa for at least the next two years.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Over the last 48 hours there has been an uptick of fighting in two sectors in southern Ukraine.
- South of Orikhiv, fighting is focused near the village of Robotyne, in the area of responsibility for Russia's 58th Combined Arms Army.
- Eighty kilometres to the east, Ukrainian forces defeated elements of Russian airborne forces' (VDV) 247th Guards Air Assault Regiment to capture the village of Staromaiorske.
- Meanwhile, in the north, other VDV units continue offensive operations in the Serebriansk Forest west of Kremina but have achieved little ground.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Since mid-July 2023, at least several thousand Wagner troops have likely established themselves at a military camp at Tsel, in central Belarus. Imagery shows that since mid-July 2023, hundreds of vehicles have arrived at the previously mostly empty facility.
- Separate reports suggest most of the visible vehicles are trucks and minibuses with few armoured combat vehicles. It remains unclear what has happened to the heavy equipment Wagner used in Ukraine; there is a realistic possibility that it was forced to return these to the Russian military.
- Wagner's ability to secure heavy equipment and enablers such as air transport will be key factors in its future combat effectiveness.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- The Russian authorities are prioritising amending legislation to allow more men to be rapidly drafted into the military. In mid-July 2023, the State Duma increased the maximum age of liability for conscription from 27 to 30, while retaining the current lower limit at 18. While conscripts are not currently deployed in Ukraine, extra draftees free-up professional and mobilised soldiers from other duties inside Russia.
- On 24 July 2023, President Putin signed a bill which will gradually increase the upper age limit for those liable for call up as reservists, with senior officers can now be mobilised up to 70. Reservists made up the Autumn 2022 'partial mobilisation' and could provide a more immediate boost to the number available to fight in Ukraine.
- The increased chance of being compelled to fight, drone attacks on Moscow, exceptional level of domestic repression, and the recent Wagner mutiny combine to highlight the Russian state's failure to insulate the population from the war.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- In southern Ukraine, intense fighting continues to be focused in two sectors. South of Orikhiv, the focus of Ukrainian assaults have been against Russia's 58th Combined Arms Army (58 CAA). 58 CAA is highly likely struggling with battle fatigue and attrition in forward deployed regiments which have been in intense combat for over eight weeks.
- Further east, south of Velyka Novosilka, the defending Russian force is drawn from both the Eastern and Southern military districts, likely creating problems of co-ordination. Elements of the 5th Combined Army are likely to be under particular pressure, and probably also feel that they are long overdue for a rotation out of the front-line.
- Across the south, common problems for Russian commanders are highly likely to include shortage of artillery ammunition, a lack of reserves and problems securing the flanks of units in the defence.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Over the last two months, Russia has likely started forming up major new formations to add depth to its ground forces. These include the 25th Combined Arms Army.
- Since its invasion of Ukraine, Russia has mainly deployed mobilised reservists to backfill established formations, or as part of territorial defence infantry regiments: it has rarely established new, all-arms organisations such as combined arms armies which are designed to be a self-sufficient force. An exception to this was the 3rd Army Corps created in summer 2022, which has generally performed poorly.
- Russia will likely deploy any new formation as a reserve force in Ukraine. However, in the longer term, Russia aspires to strengthen its forces facing NATO. Without a major new wave of mandatory mobilisation, Russia is unlikely to find enough new troops to resource even one new army.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Undergrowth regrowing across the battlefields of southern Ukraine is likely one factor contributing to the generally slow progress of combat in the area.
- The predominately arable land in the combat zone has now been left fallow for 18 months, with the return of weeds and shrubs accelerating under the warm, damp summer conditions. The extra cover helps camouflage Russian defensive positions and makes defensive mine fields harder to clear.
- Although undergrowth can also provide cover for small stealthy infantry assaults, the net effect has been to make it harder for either side to make advances.

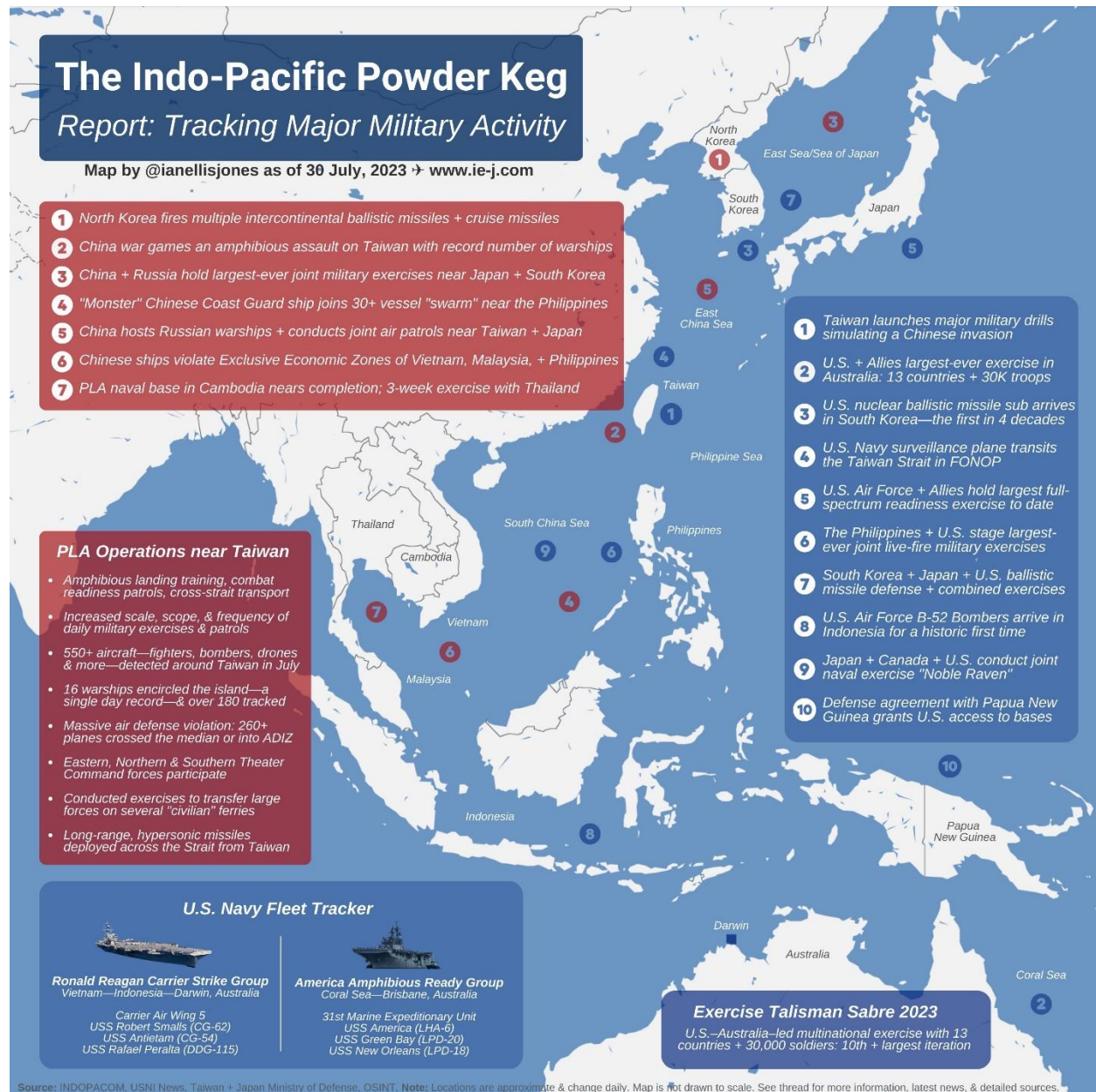
Northern Ports



Cool (concerning?) Map

Indo-Pacific News - Geo-Politics & Defense News @IndoPac_Info 30 Jul tweeted: A great map from @ianellisjones with the geo-political & military events in the #IndoPacific powder keg during July.

- China war games amphibious assault on Taiwan
- Taiwan war games Chinese invasion
- U.S. + Allies host "Olympics of war games"
- China + Russia largest joint military exercises
- North Korea fires ballistic missiles



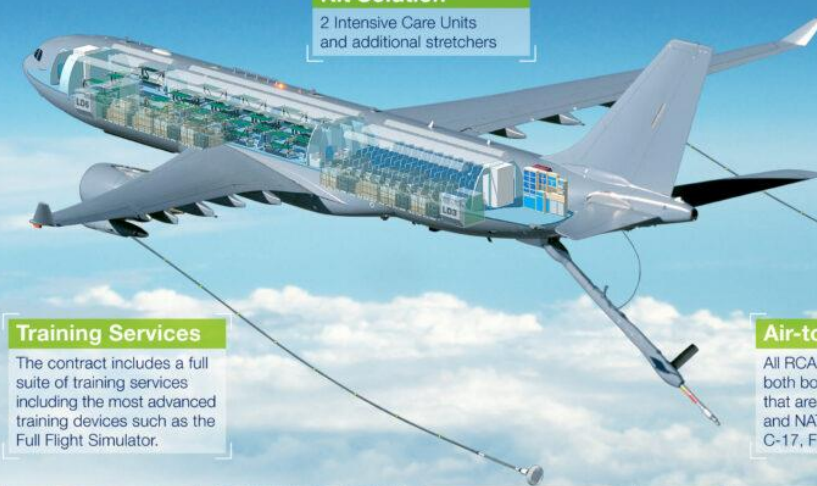
Contract for the Strategic Tanker Transport Capability Project Granted – New Fleet of Nine Aircraft on the Way

<https://vanguardcanada.com/contract-for-the-strategic-tanker-transport-capability-project-granted-new-fleet-of-nine-aircraft-on-the-way/>

DEFENCE AND SPACE

A330 MRTT for Canada

Canada has awarded Airbus Defence and Space with a contract for 4 new A330 Multi Role Tanker Transport aircraft (MRTT) and for the conversion of 5 used A330-200s.



Airbus MEDEVAC Kit Solution
2 Intensive Care Units and additional stretchers

NORAD and NATO operations
The A330 MRTT fleet replaces the CC-150 Polaris aircraft enhancing the Royal Canadian Air Force capabilities to support North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and NATO operations.

First Delivery
The first Canadian A330 MRTT is scheduled to enter into conversion in mid 2025. The aircraft will be delivered to the Royal Canadian Air Force in 2027.

Training Services
The contract includes a full suite of training services including the most advanced training devices such as the Full Flight Simulator.

Air-to-air Refuelling
All RCAF's A330 MRTTs are equipped with both boom and hose-and-drogue systems that are able to refuel all Canadian, NORAD and NATO receivers such as CF-188, F-35, C-17, F-16, Typhoons and many more.



AIRBUS

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