



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 25 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).

Dispatches 1 September 2023

There will be no 1 September edition of *Dispatches* in the absence of the current (temporary, anyways) editor.

Home Dispatches September 2023

Submissions for the upcoming edition of our internal quarterly newsletter are solicited. If you have something, please email to RUSINSDispatches@gmail.com.

Events:

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>.

New: 7 September, Thursday - Royal United Services Institute and Pew Charitable Trusts webinar "Future IUU Fishing Trends in a Warming World: A Global Horizon Scan." 9-10 am EST. To register: <https://web.cvent.com/event/a16234e0-c943-49d0-8962-85415551b600/summary>

Halifax International Fleet Week

A message from the HIFW organisers.

Halifax International Fleet Week is a highly anticipated event taking place September 7-10 2023, in Halifax, Canada. The event is a partnership between the civilian community of Halifax and the Canadian Armed Forces, specifically, the Royal Canadian Navy.

We are excited to host over 1200 sailors from four U.S. Navy Ships, along with a British Frigate, and aircraft from the French Air and Space Force and the German Air Force.

The four day event promises a wide array of activities, including:

- Free ship tours and interactive demonstrations (Friday / Saturday)
- Free access to Museums for CAF members, their families, and visiting sailors
- Stadacona Band Concerts on the Waterfront
- The British Royal Navy Rugby team will play the Atlantic Selects on Saturday afternoon at the renowned Wanderers Grounds
- A parade of ships on Sunday

More details and the complete program can be found at this link: <https://www.hfxfleetweek.ca/>

Halifax International Fleet Week is linked to Exercise CUTLASS FURY, a bi-annual exercise with NATO allies that takes place in the Atlantic off the coast of Halifax, starting on September 11, 2023. As Halifax is set to become the future home of the NATO hub DIANA (Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic), this connection will underscore the close relationship between Canada and NATO allies, amplifying the event's international significance.

Halifax International Fleet Week will be an iconic event, bringing people from around the world to experience the beauty and hospitality of Halifax while showcasing Canada's proud maritime heritage. We aim to create an unforgettable experience for sailors, visitors, and residents while strengthening Halifax's role as a hub of defence and maritime innovation. Through our efforts, we aim to inspire young Canadians to consider a career in the Canadian Armed Forces and help address the Force's major recruitment challenge.

See poster at end of Dispatches.

20 September, Wednesday - **RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker** BGen Masson, Comd 5 Cdn Div, presenting "Our troops are ready." 1300-1500. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess. Advance reading: "Fifth Canadian Division: 'Our troops are ready'" <https://canadianarmytoday.com/fifth-canadian-division-our-troops-are-ready/>

20 September, Wednesday - 2023 U.S. Naval Institute presentation "Competition or Confrontation? The Urgent Realities for the U.S. Navy When Facing China's PLAN." 2 pm EDT. Live stream on US Naval Institute YouTube.Channel. More info and to register: <https://www.usni.org/events/competition-or-confrontation>.

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>.

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>.

18 October, Wednesday - RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker from the RCN, speaking about the Navy, particularly submarines. 1400-1600. Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess. MTF.

Recommended reading:

Canada's Future Submarine Capability

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

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.

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/>

Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 16 August 2023
<https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current>

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

New: Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XLI, Number 8, September 2023

Nautical Professional Education Society of Canada *Seatimes*, August 2023.

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

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

New: Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies New South Wales *Newsletter*, Issue No.87 August 2023




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





New: Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 20, Issue 3, 21 August 2023

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

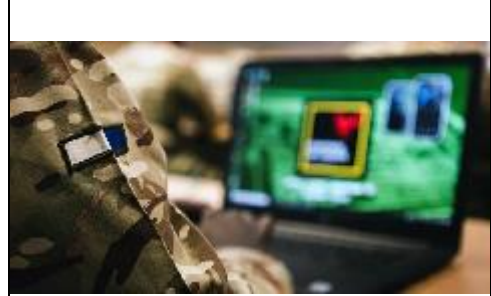
@RUSI NS on X:

@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).

<p>Fisheries and Oceans @FishOceansCAN Jul 24 posted: Our fishery officers are beginning an important mission in the high seas as Operation North Pacific Guard casts off from Victoria. This mission's goal is to combat #IUUFishing in the North Pacific, including illegally caught Pacific Salmon. This is the first time that Canada will be leading the mission. Learn more: https://canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2023/07/canada-leads-first-high-seas-mission-to-fight-illegal-fishing-in-the-north-pacific0.html</p> <p>RUSI(NS) reposted: Illegal, Unreported & Unregulated #IUUFishing is environmental, economic, security threat, can be defence/international relations issue</p> <p>https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/high-seas-patrol-led-by-canadians-launches-to-deter-illegal-fishing-7319897</p> <p>Good to see @CoastGuardCAN supplement fleet with leased ATLANTIC CONDER (marked as Fisheries Inspection)</p>	
<p>NATO ACT @NATO_ACT 19 Aug posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Hybrid threats blend military, non-military, covert, overt tactics - like disinformation, cyberattacks, economical pressure deployment of irregular armed groups & more. #NATO counters hybrid warfare, defending against all threats. More: https://nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_156338.htm</p> <p>#WeAreNATO (Countering hybrid threats)</p>	
<p>JTF North / FOI Nord @JTFN_FOIN 19 Aug posted: #CAF remains engaged in #OpLENTUS. We continue to support #NWT with @CanadianArmy fire suppression work and @RCAF_ARC air support. Here at JTFN, we continue to support with planning, personnel and resources.</p> <p>RUSI(NS) reposted; #OpLENTUS = @CanadianForces assistance to province(s) in response to natural disaster(s)</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-</p>	

<p>operations/operation-lentus.html Joint Task Force North JTFN = 1 of 6 regional joint TF of CAN 🇨🇦 Joint Operations Command responsible for conducting #CAF continental operations https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/conduct/regional-task-force/north.html</p>	
<p>Considering utility of @RCAF_ARC #CC138 light transport/search&rescue #SAR aircraft for domestic emergency response operations such as ongoing wildfires, it is time to expedite supplementing (ultimately replacing) a/c with new procurement https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/purchase-of-new-planes-to-replace-50-year-twin-otter-military-aircraft-now-on-hold (Purchase of new planes to replace 50-year Twin Otter military aircraft now on hold) <i>Some older blog posts from a colleague:</i> Twin Otters for Twin Otters – Buying ‘New’ makes financial sense ... so does adding similar Guardian 400 surveillance aircraft to the mix https://defencemuse.wordpress.com/2017/06/09/twin-otters-for-twin-otters-buying-new-makes-financial-sense-so-does-adding-similar-guardian-400-surveillance-aircraft-to-the-mix/ Twin Option for the Twin Otters: Simple Solutions are often the Best https://defencemuse.wordpress.com/2017/06/09/twin-option-for-the-twin-otters-simple-solutions-are-often-the-best/</p>	 
<p>This photo is going to show up a lot in articles & presentations about @RoyalCanNavy operating in CAN 🇨🇦 #Arctic/North https://www.rcinet.ca/regard-sur-arctique/2023/08/21/un-navire-de-la-marine-royale-canadienne-croise-un-tres-gros-iceberg-dans-le-nord/ "Royal Canadian Navy ship encounters very large iceberg in the North" 📷:Brendan Gamache/@CanadianForces</p>	
<p>JTF North / FOI Nord @JTFN_FOIN 22 Aug posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Want to see more CAF Imagery from our #OpLENTUS in #NWT? Check out the @CFCombatCamFC Flickr site! https://www.flickr.com/photos/cfcombatcamera/</p>	

RUSI @RUSI_org 23 Aug posted and RUSI(NS) reposted:
How are states and non-state actors using cyberspace below the threshold of war to further their strategic objectives?
@LouMarieHSD dives further into this question in the latest #RUSICommentary.
(On the Promises and Consequences of the Intelligence Contest in Cyberspace
<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/promises-and-consequences-intelligence-contest-cyberspace>)



3rd of 4 powered barges recently delivered for @RoyalCanNavy by Ship-to-Shore Connector project
<https://rusi-ns.ca/ship-to-shore-connector/> Useful capability to embark Joint Support Ship project Protecteur-class oilers, maybe #Arctic&Offshore Patrol Vessels 📷:Christopher Robinson @CanadianForces



“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).

MoD must act to tackle impact of climate crisis on UK forces, MPs say

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/aug/18/mod-must-act-to-tackle-impact-of-climate-crisis-on-uk-forces-mps-say>

"The armed forces, defence acquisition and the defence estate – both at home and abroad – will ... need to adapt to respond to the impacts of climate change over the coming decades, with consequences for geostrategy, defence readiness, resilience and the effective delivery of military effect..."

Applies to Canada, too.



Partnership or Protectorate?: The State of the Canada-U.S. Defence Relationship

<https://cdainstitute.ca/partner-or-protectorate-the-state-of-the-canada-u-s-defence-relationship/>

"...the U.S is likely to say, “Call us when you have some money on the table because otherwise, we don’t want to hear what you think.” We really don’t, because you have an opinion, but no contribution to make, or not enough of one."



In the international arena, to be listened to costs.

Ukraine equips its Unmanned Surface Vehicles with Shmel M flamethrowers

<https://navyrecognition.com/index.php/naval-news/naval-news-archive/2023/august/13482-ukraine-equips-its-unmanned-surface-vehicles-with-shmel-m-flamethrowers.html>

The Shmel M "flamethrower" is not such a weapon as normally understood. "Despite the literal translation referring to the weapon as a flamethrower, it is classified as a thermobaric weapon." (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RPO-A_Shmel). This sort of misunderstanding is not uncommon when translating Russian weapon terminology - Soviet/Russian 'mortar' units actually fired rockets.



Lessons are being learned and applied to uncrewed surface vehicle (USV - drone) design and employment. A large explosive charge is necessary to damage or sink a large vessel. The USV needs to be electronically and physically robust to withstand countermeasures. Those developing countermeasures, including tactical, need to keep these lessons and changes to USV in mind.

Japan, Canada Strength Security Cooperation with Eye on China, North Korea, Taiwan Strait

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/defense-security/20230821-130986/>

"Besides the maritime domain, Tokyo and Ottawa are also expected to deepen cooperation in the newer domains of cyber and space."



The Canadian Indo-Pacific Strategy, certainly our declarations for the Indo-Pacific, is getting noticed

If Canada is to operate in the western Pacific, we need allies other than the US who can support us logistically including access to bases (resupply, repair).

Canadian Royal Navy Spending Is Disappointing

<https://gcaptain.com/canadian-royal-navy-spending-is-disappointing/>

The author of the editorial recommends Canada acquire nuclear-powered submarines to operate in the Arctic. Whilst there is merit to his recommendation, as a retired US Navy admiral he is well aware of the cost of such a program, a cost that Canada could hardly bear as it tries (should be trying) to build up its military. He probably is aware, too, of the social and political consciousness about anything nuclear in Canada (though we do have nuclear power plants, and there is talk of introducing small power reactors). The real takeaway from the admiral's words is that Canada needs to do a better job at developing its forces to operate in and defend the Arctic. That may include air-independent submarines and uncrewed underwater vehicles (drones). A stronger submarine force for the Royal Canadian Navy is certainly a requirement these days.



Government proposals on war powers strike the right balance

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/government-proposals-on-war-powers-strike-the-right-balance/>

"Last week, the government reaffirmed that the executive decides when Australia goes to war."

Much the same in Canada. A declaration of war "is an exercise of the royal prerogative on the constitutional advice of the ministers of the Crown in Cabinet and does not require the direct approval of the Parliament of Canada, though such can be sought by the government." Meaning pretty much that of the Prime Minister decides. See: "Canada's 'royal prerogative' allows it to wage war without parliamentary approval"

(<https://theconversation.com/canadas-royal-prerogative-allows-it-to-wage-war-without-parliamentary-approval-192310>).

- - -

See also: Parliamentarizing war: explaining legislative votes on Canadian military deployments

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/00471178231151904>



Rebooting Australia's defence industry policy: establishing the principles

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/rebooting-australias-defence-industry-policy-establishing-the-principles/>

Some good considerations for Canada.



Extended Reality Promises Great Potential — and Risk

<https://www.cigionline.org/articles/extended-reality-promises-great-potential-and-risk/>

"XR is an umbrella term that covers a variety of tech — from virtual reality worlds in which a user can direct three-dimensional digital avatars, to augmented reality services that blend digital and physical worlds."



If AI (artificial intelligence), AR (augmented reality) and VR (virtual reality) are thought to have so much potential for greatly changing how defence activities are undertaken, how much greater potential is there for XR (extended reality)?

Acronym Alert! Add XR to the pantheon.

Russia May Sink Blockships to Protect Kerch Strait Bridge

<https://maritime-executive.com/article/russia-may-sink-blockships-to-protect-kerch-strait-bridge>

"To protect against further attacks by sea, Russia plans to sink a string of six ferries as blockships in the Kerch Strait, then link up barriers between them, according to Ukraine's military intelligence service..."



Ferries can be useful vessels when in service or as ad-hoc transports for landing operations. Using them as blockships seems a bit extreme. Would not some old bulk carriers or some other merchant ship serve better? Better yet, could not the Russians have built some concrete caissons? (Hmm, they may not have studied the logistics efforts to support the Operation OVERLORD landings in Normandy in June 1944.)

Other Sources:

#armour

The Tank is Dead: Long Live the Tank

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/journals/military-review/online-exclusive/2023-ole/the-tank-is-dead/>

#China

War with China

<https://www.iiss.org/online-analysis/survival-online/2023/08/war-with-china/>

#climate change

Climate Change and National Security Implications for the Military

book: <https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/combat-studies-institute/csi-books/Command/ClimateChg-Palazzo.pdf>

#defence policy

Forward Presence for Deterrence - Implications for the Australian Army

https://researchcentre.army.gov.au/sites/default/files/op_15_-_forward_presence_for_deterrence.pdf

#drones

Indian Air Force 'Bets Big' On Swarm Drone Technology To Overwhelm, Outfox Enemy Defense Systems

<https://www.eurasiantimes.com/the-era-of-swarm-drones-is-here-the-indian-air-force/>

The US Army is rushing to rearm its electronic warriors after watching Russia and Ukraine jam each other's drones

https://www.businessinsider.in/international/news/the-us-army-is-rushing-to-rearm-its-electronic-warriors-after-watching-russia-and-ukraine-jam-each-others-drones/amp_articleshow/102754596.cms

Ukraine war – Drones are changing the conflict

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/ukraine-war-drones-are-changing-the-conflict/>

Come Back Alive Foundation receives 15 more Shark UAVs

<https://mil.in.ua/en/news/come-back-alive-foundation-receives-15-more-shark-uavs/>

Suicide UAVs In Action: Taiwan's Chien Hsiang Kamikaze Drones Make A Rare Appearance In New Video

<https://www.eurasiantimes.com/ukraine-conflict-spurs-taiwans-interest-in-kamikaze-drones/>

US To Acquire J-20 Stealth Fighter-Sized Target Drone To Replicate 5th-Gen Threats From Russia & China

<https://www.eurasiantimes.com/us-to-acquire-j-20-stealth-fighter-sized-target-drone-to/>

New Chinese research examines how to get drones to target without GPS

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2023/08/new-chinese-research-examines-how-get-drones-target-without-gps/389604/>

#China

Rare Look At Taiwan's Chien Hsiang Kamikaze Drone In Action

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/rare-look-at-taiwans-chien-hsiang-kamikaze-drone-in-action>

Cardboard #Drones

Corvo Precision Payload Delivery System

<https://corvouas.com.au/>

"A cheap and flat-packed drone made out of cardboard that can be assembled quickly and easily.."

Who says effective solutions have to be hi-tech?...

Video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RokgR2FLUJA>



#command

Decentralize and Conquer: Brown Pushes for More Autonomy in New Doctrine Publication

<https://www.airandspaceforces.com/air-force-doctrine-brown-decentralize/>

and Air Force Doctrine Publication 1-1 Mission Command

https://www.doctrine.af.mil/Portals/61/documents/AFDP_1-1/AFDP%201-1%20Mission%20Command.pdf

#intelligence #wargaming

Embrace the Nerd: Dungeons & Dragons and Military Intelligence

<https://warontherocks.com/2023/08/embrace-the-nerd-dungeons-dragons-and-military-intelligence/>

#maritime security

Critical maritime infrastructure protection: What's the trouble?

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X23003056>

Enhancing the Resilience of Undersea Cables in the Indo-Pacific

<https://www.rsis.edu.sg/rsis-publication/rsis/enhancing-the-resilience-of-undersea-cables-in-the-indo-pacific/>

#maritime safety

The Titan Submersible Disaster Was Years in the Making, New Details Reveal

<https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2023/08/titan-submersible-implosion-warnings>

#maritime strategy

Over troubled waters: The EU's Maritime Security Strategy

<https://www.geostrategy.org.uk/britains-world/over-troubled-waters-the-eus-maritime-security-strategy/>

#National Shipbuilding Strategy

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1692359077702021612.html>

#NATO

Resilience, civil preparedness and Article 3

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_132722.htm

#naval warfare

Fleet design and trade warfare

<https://twitter.com/redunley/status/1692321986238939381>

Too Soon to Call: Betting against Warship Retirement

<https://centerformaritimestrategy.org/publications/too-soon-to-call-betting-against-warship-retirement/>

#reading

War Books: The Lessons of Vietnam

<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/war-books-the-lessons-of-vietnam/>

#Royal Canadian Navy #defence policy #submarines

Canada Should Invest in Nuclear Submarines

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2023-08-17/canada-should-invest-in-nuclear-submarines>

#Russia-Ukraine War

Russia's War on Ukraine's Grain and Global Food Supply, in Five Myths

<https://www.state.gov/russias-war-on-ukraines-grain-and-global-food-supply-in-five-myths/>

Ukraine in maps: Tracking the war with Russia

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60506682>

Russia Unveils 'Electronic Defense System' To Defend Its Tanks From Ukraine's 'Deadly' FPV Drones

<https://www.eurasiantimes.com/russias-electronic-defense-system-aims-to-defend-its-tanks/>

Russia building 'thousands of Iranian-design drones' in secret base

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/08/17/russia-building-iranian-style-attack-drones-shahed-ukraine/>

The Russian Defense Ministry Showed How Russians Use Chinese Multicopter Converted Into A Flying Mortar

https://en.defence-ua.com/industries/the_russian_defense_ministry_showed_how_russians_use_chinese_multicopter_converted_into_a_flying_mortar-7613.html

Poland brings first charges over sale of Ukrainian industrial grain for human consumption

<https://notesfrompoland.com/2023/08/17/poland-brings-first-charges-over-sale-of-ukrainian-industrial-grain-for-human-consumption/>

The Collapsing Soviet Army Left Behind Dozens Of IMR-2 Engineering Vehicles. The Ukrainian Army Eagerly Snatched Them Up.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/the-collapsing-soviet-army-left-behind-dozens-of-imr-2-engineering-vehicles-the-ukrainian-army-eagerly-snatched-them-up/ar-AA1fkmCG>

Top Ukraine War Lessons From USAF's Commander In Europe

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/top-ukraine-war-lessons-from-usafs-commander-in-europe>

Ukraine: Lessons for Leaders

<https://tacticalnotebook.substack.com/p/ukraine-lessons-for-leaders>

#economic warfare

The Caspian Sea Is a Sanctions-Busting Paradise

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/08/14/russia-iran-caspian-sea-sanctions-busting-paradise/>

The 'dark fleet' of tankers shipping Russian oil in the shadows

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/aug/19/the-dark-fleet-of-tankers-shipping-russian-oil-in-the-shadows>

The Collapsing Soviet Army Left Behind Dozens Of IMR-2 Engineering Vehicles. The Ukrainian Army Eagerly Snatched Them Up.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/the-collapsing-soviet-army-left-behind-dozens-of-imr-2-engineering-vehicles-the-ukrainian-army-eagerly-snatched-them-up/ar-AA1fkmCG>



#strategy

The Occam's Razor of Strategic Theory: The Relevance of Clausewitz for Political Conduct

<https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/article/the-occams-razor-of-strategic-theory-the-relevance-of-clausewitz-for-political-conduct/>

Enunciating Strategy: How to Talk about Strategy Effectively

<https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/article/enunciating-strategy-how-to-talk-about-strategy-effectively/>

#war

In Afghanistan, we lost control of our own war

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-in-afghanistan-we-lost-control-of-our-own-war/>

Success in conflict depends so much on the support and strength of society, whether the state is democratic or autocratic or something between.

#warfare #NATO

Cognitive Warfare: Beyond Military Information Support Operations

<https://www.act.nato.int/article/cognitive-warfare-beyond-military-information-support-operations/>

#wargaming

Academic Distain for Wargaming

<http://wargamingco.blogspot.com/2023/08/academic-distain-for-wargaming.html>

Wargaming for Peace in Asia

<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/wargaming-for-peace-in-asia/>

Getting the Story Right about Wargaming

<https://warontherocks.com/2019/11/getting-the-story-right-about-wargaming/>

Other:

Wargame - Every Round Counts

<https://www.guwargaming.org/microgames>

"*Every Round Counts* is a simple and fun game meant to illustrate the basic principles of logistics to large audiences. The game consists of a core ruleset with a number of optional rules to change the level of complexity. Additionally, while the game is intended for professional military education, there are several rules to use outside the classroom that give the game its name and ensure players stay "hydrated" while playing."

Micro-games can be useful.



RUSSIA'S CLAIM:

Several Russian leaders have recently stated that Poland has secret intentions to annex large areas of western Ukraine.

BASED ON CANADIAN FORCES INTELLIGENCE COMMAND ANALYSIS:

- These statements are part of a disinformation narrative attempting to drive a wedge between the two countries and complicate the delivery of Western support to Ukraine.
- Poland has been one of Ukraine's staunchest supporters since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. Further, a significant proportion of Western aid to Ukraine transits through Poland.



INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 15 August 2023, First Deputy Head of the Russian Presidential Administration Sergey Kiriyenko travelled to Donetsk in Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine to visit schools and check their integration into the Russian education system.
- In Zaporizhzhia Oblast, the occupation administration received instructions from Russia regarding the introduction of new standards for the accreditation of educational institutions. Journalists from Russia are also being employed in media outlets in the occupied regions.
- A new textbook on the history of Russia will be issued to schools in the occupied regions of Ukraine and throughout the Russian Federation from 1 September 2023. The book praises the so-called special military operation and describes Ukraine as an ultra-terrorist state.
- Russia's aim is to create a pro-Kremlin information space in the occupied regions in order to erode Ukrainian national identity.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Over the last week, most of the front line has remained static. However, in the south, Ukrainian forces have continued their advance along the course of the Mokri Yaly river, securing the village of Urozhaine in the face of stiff Russian resistance.
- In the north, Russian forces have continued probing attacks in the Kupiansk area but achieved no significant advances.
- Across the front, both sides confront a similar challenge: attempting to defeat well-entrenched forces while having limited uncommitted forces to open new assaults.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- The leadership of Russia's Aerospace Forces (VKS) is highly likely under intense pressure to improve air defences over western Russia. In recent months, the range of threats penetrating well inside Russia has increased. Strikes deep inside Russia are strategically important because President Putin almost certainly invaded Ukraine on the assumption that it would have little direct effect on Russians.
- Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles are regularly hitting Moscow. In addition, there have also been increasing reports of SA-5 GAMMON missiles striking Russia. This Soviet-era 7.5 tonne, 11-metre long weapon is retired from its air defence role in Ukraine's inventory. However, it is now apparently being employed as a ground attack ballistic missile.
- Pressure is likely to particularly fall on VKS Chief of Staff, Colonel-General Viktor Afzalov; VKS Commander-in-Chief General Sergei Surovikin remains absent, suspected to have been detained in relation to the June 2023 Wagner Group mutiny.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russia is expanding its military structures in the face of wartime realities. One new formation is highly likely – the 18th Combined Arms Army (18 CAA).
- The formation is likely to be an amalgamation and uplift of other units currently operating in Kherson Oblast, including 22nd Army Corps, the force which usually constitutes Russia's garrison in occupied Crimea.
- 18 CAA is likely to consist mostly of mobilised personnel and to focus on defensive security operations in the south of Ukraine. Russia likely aims to free up more experienced units to fight on key axes. There is a realistic possibility that this has led to the recent re-deployment of airborne forces from Kherson to the heavily contested Orikhiv sector.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 19 August 2023, a Tu-22M3 BACKFIRE medium bomber of Russia's Long Range Aviation (LRA) was highly likely destroyed at Soltsy-2 Airbase in Novgorod Oblast, 650 km away from Ukraine's border. The Russian Defence Ministry said that a copter-style uncrewed aerial vehicle (UAV) was responsible for the attack.
- If true, this adds weight to the assessment that some UAV attacks against Russian military targets are being launched from inside Russian territory. Copter UAVs are unlikely to have the range to reach Soltsy-2 from outside Russia.
- Russia has frequently used BACKFIRE bombers to launch the notoriously inaccurate AS-4 KITCHEN heavy anti-ship missiles against Ukraine. Early in the war, they also carried out the intense bombardment of Mariupol using unguided bombs. This is at least the third successful attack on LRA airfields, again raising questions about Russia's ability to protect strategic locations deep inside the country.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- As of mid-August 2023, Russian forces were continuing to employ pontoon bridges at Chonhar and Henichesk crossing points on the border between southern Ukraine and occupied Crimea. Both permanent bridges sustained damage from Ukrainian precision strikes in early August 2023.
- The pontoon bridges are unlikely to be able to fully sustain the flow of heavy vehicles carrying ammunition and weaponry to the front.
- The resulting bottlenecks mean Russian forces are partially reliant on a long diversion via Armiansk, northern Crimea. This is adding further friction to Russia's logistics network in the south.

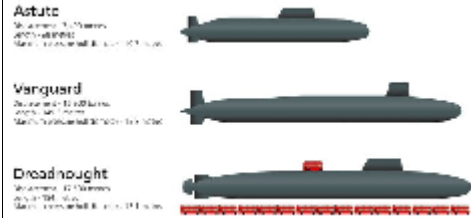
INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 19 August 2023, President Vladimir Putin made a rare visit to Southern Military District HQ at Rostov-on-Don, approximately 160km from the front line.
- The HQ hosts the staff running the war in Ukraine.
- Putin held a meeting with senior officers, including Chief of the General Staff General Valery Gerasimov who continues to command the operation in Ukraine.
- Wagner Group briefly seized the HQ in June 2023. Putin highly likely wishes to project his authority and to portray the senior military command as functioning as usual.

Messaging

Navy Lookout @NavyLookout 18 Aug 23 posted (<https://twitter.com/NavyLookout/status/1692480661397831757>): What we have all been waiting for... Dreadnought class SSBN defined in double-decker bus equivalent units (15 DDBE) or Olympic-sized swimming pool equivalent units (3 OSSPE)
Via @SDA_mod

Some wag promptly posted in response about there being an office in Defence responsible for determining DDBE and OSSPE for public information purposes.



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The poster features a grid of images: a white naval ship, a band in uniform, a rugby match, and a ship in a harbor. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.