



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 27 October 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).

Remembrance Day

RUSI(NS) members are welcome to parade at the Royal Artillery Park Remembrance Day Ceremony 11 November 2023. Fall in time is 1040.

Inspector Don Moser, President RUSI(NS), and Inspector (ret.) Dan Tanner, Immediate Past-President, will lay a wreath on behalf of the members of RUSI(NS) at the Royal Artillery Park Remembrance Day Ceremony.

RUSI(NS) members are encouraged to attend a Remembrance Day ceremony in their neighbourhood.



RUSI(NS) Seasonal Meet & Greet

Saturday, 2 December. See the invitation at the end of *Dispatches*.

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.

New: 28 October, Saturday - Women's Wargaming Network presentation "Advantages and Disadvantages of Wargaming." Online. 2:00-3:30 pm EST. To register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSceH6OoI6D_zBFOkzM9HVF_ZcxYuybfeg4SAPV1VCLg-0LhdQ/viewform

2 November, Thursday - panel presentation "National Security During Natural Disasters in Atlantic Canada." See box at end of *Dispatches*.

New: 3 November, Friday - Center for Strategic and International Studies discussion "Canada's Role in Global Maritime Security" with Vice-Admiral Topshee, Commander Royal Canadian Navy. 11:00-11:45 EDT. Online. To register: <https://www.csis.org/events/canadas-role-global-maritime-security>

14 November, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Read Threat Rising - US Marine Corps Educational Wargames." 7-9 pm AST. Online. For more info and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/read-threat-rising-us-marine-corps-educational-wargames-tickets-698764231627>

Amended: 16 November, Thursday – two Distinguished Speakers:
Colonel Danielle Willis, USAF, Vice Director, NORAD Operations, "A Globally Integrated Approach to North American Homeland Defense." 1300-1430.
Lieutenant-General Joe Paul, Commander Canadian Army, speaking about the situation in Ukraine as well as Canadian Army operations and modernization efforts, including the contributions of the Canadian Army Reserve Force. 1500-1630. RUSI(NS) member John Boileau wrote this bio of LGen Paul for the Canadian Encyclopedia: <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/jocelyn-joe-paul>
Both at Cambridge Military Library. Note this is a Thursday, not our usual Wednesday. **Registration is required**; email RUSI(NS).

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>.

New: 23 January, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Wargaming's Influence on U.S. Navy Tactical Doctrine, 1906-1941." 7-9 pm AST. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wargamings-influence-on-us-navy-tactical-doctrine-1906-1941-tickets-6397270999>

The topic of the January 2024 Distinguished Speaker (more on that to follow), Dr Jonathan Fowler, Saint Mary's University, is "The Historical Archaeology of Halifax's Earliest Defences." This recent CBC article makes good pre-event reading: Cemetery that tells of Halifax's naval history hides in plain sight <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/cemetery-naval-history-halifax-1.6901190>

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/

New: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 25 October 2023
<https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current>

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

Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XLI, Number 9, October 2023

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

Naval Association of Canada Ottawa Branch September 2023 Speaker's Evening recording "Canadian Sea Power in the Wake of Changing Geopolitics" with Dr Rob Huebert
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfPImxlyZqg>

Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, October 2023
<https://rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/212-rausi-dispatches-october-2023>

Royal Canadian Artillery Association *The Canadian Gunner News* 28 September 2023

Royal Canadian Logistics Service Newsletter *The Logician* September 2023
<https://sway.office.com/pA4cFB1V3YMF4WNI>

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

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, 3rd Quarter 2023

New: Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 21, Issue 4, 23 October 2023





Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Quarterly Newsletter*, Volume 22, Issue 3, September/October 2023

New: Vancouver Artillery Association and Royal United Services Institute Vancouver *Members News* 24 Oct 2023

Veterans Affairs Canada *Salute!*, October 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>RCAF Operations @RCAFOperations 21 Oct posed: A @RCAF_ARC CH-148 Cyclone helicopter prepares for take-off from Motor Vessel ASTERIX earlier this month, while the vessel is deployed with the @RoyalNavyCan in the Pacific. #RCAF #RCN</p> <p>RUSI(NS) quoted; #MVAsterix, leased to @RoyalCanNavy as replenishment oiler, has significant operational capability in ability to support @RCAF_ARC multi-role maritime helicopters. Part of being a globally-deployable, long-endurance #BlueWaterNavy. #ExcellenceAtSea</p>	
<p>RUSI(NS) member Jay Heisler's article in @DCExaminer "Israel war: When disinformation replaced propaganda" https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/israel-war-when-disinformation-replaced-propaganda</p>	
<p>Foreign Policy CAN @CanadaFP 23 Oct posted: Rapid Response Mechanism Canada detects Spamouflage campaign targeting Members of Parliament. Read the statement here: (Rapid Response Mechanism Canada detects Spamouflage campaign targeting Members of Parliament https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/10/rapid-response-mechanism-canada-detects-spamouflage-campaign-targeting-members-of-parliament.html)</p> <p>RUSI(NS) quoted: Spamouflage = "...a tactic that uses networks of new or hijacked social media accounts to post and amplify propaganda messages across multiple platforms."</p>	
<p>.@RCAF_ARC Remotely Piloted Aircraft System project acquisition of MQ-9 Reaper pushed back https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/mq-9-reaper-drone-canadian-forces-1.7005625 Not surprising considering need of modifying #drones, despite being already in service, to operate in CAN🇨🇦 #Arctic. Acquiring some now to op off CAN coasts good idea (Air force will have to wait even longer to get armed drones, defence department says)</p> <p><i>Comment from a knowledgeable source: the headline is misleading; some of the article's information is accurate.</i></p>	

ASPI @ASPI_org 23 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: CCP using information operations to harass Canadian politicians | @AlbertYZhang | <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/ccp-using-information-operations-to-harass-canadian-politicians/>

Australian perspective.



ASPI @ASPI_org 23 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Covert CCP social media accounts bolster China's united front work in Canada | @AlbertYZhang | <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/covert-ccp-social-media-accounts-bolster-chinas-united-front-work-in-canada/>

Australian perspective.



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 24 Oct posted: Surveillance aircraft Canada wants to purchase in \$8 billion deal facing problems with parts and reliability - report by U.S. auditors provides details <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/surveillance-aircraft-canada-wants-to-purchase-in-8-billion-deal-facing-problems-with-parts-and-reliability> via @ottawacitizen

RUSI(NS) quoted: Problems with parts not unexpected in large & complex defence equipment acquisitions. For P-8 Poseidon patrol aircraft there are many countries flying & involved in resolving. Considering current world situation, better to procure P-8 soon than another a/c not yet in service



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 26 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: My latest article....Russia and China at war with Canada says Gen. Wayne Eyre. Canadian Forces considers China and Russia the country's main threats – climate change barely acknowledged in new document <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/russia-and-china-at-war-with-canada-says-gen-wayne-eyre> via @ottawacitizen

The article quotes the Pan-Domain Force Employment Concept. DND has subsequently passed the word:

"You may be aware that yesterday, the Pan Domain Force Employment Concept (PFEC) was released internally to the CAF through a CANFORGEN. Please note this document hasn't yet been released to the public and/or to media. The PFEC lays out how the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) must adapt to deal with challenges posed by our adversaries - both above and below the threshold of conflict. Along with other key CAF and DND documents, the PFEC will serve as a foundation for the CAF's adaptation, shaping the way we employ our forces and resources. Its purpose is to inform and shape our



collective mindset, readying ourselves to compete, contest, confront, and - when we need to - combat Canada's adversaries."

“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).

Russian cruise missiles have US Air Force scouting for thousands of acres of land

<https://www.defenseone.com/defense-systems/2023/10/air-force-scouting-thousands-acres-build-radars-spot-cruise-missiles/391403/>



"The 'initial architecture' calls for the U.S. to buy four long-range radars and for Canada to buy two..."

"...Canada is looking at land in southern Ontario for its radars..."

Appears to be Defence's Arctic Over the Horizon Radar project (<http://dgpapp.forces.gc.ca/en/defence-capabilities-blueprint/project-details.asp?id=1941>).

Pentagon's first industrial base strategy meant to 'catalyze generational change'

<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/10/pentagons-first-industrial-base-strategy-meant-to-catalyze-generational-change/>



The US appreciates that building a strong defence includes building a strong defence industry.

Corporate staff should be included in defence force design and development, including staff talks, planning and wargaming.

Nuclear-Powered Cargo Ship is a Suspect in Baltic Pipeline Breach

<https://maritime-executive.com/article/russian-nuclear-powered-ship-is-a-suspect-in-baltic-pipeline-breach>



"A Chinese container ship and a nuclear-powered cargo ship have attracted investigators' attention after damage to a subsea gas pipeline in the Baltic."

Hmm, imagine the challenges of being a boarding party officer in charge of boarding a nuclear-powered ship. That would be an interesting twist for Royal Canadian Navy and Canadian Coast Guard boarding training.

Navy destroyer shot down missiles, drones over nine hours

<https://taskandpurpose.com/news/navy-yemen-uss-carney-drones-cruise-missiles/>

"On Wednesday, the USS Carney, an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, opened fire on four cruise missiles and 15 airborne drones for nine hours..."



Demonstrates the utility of having destroyers and cruisers with 'deep magazines' (lots of missiles).

This was a non-war engagement. Now, solve the challenges of re-arming warships with missiles, at sea and alongside far from home bases.

Service Chiefs from US Navy, Royal Navy, and US Marine Corps Sign Revised Strategic Charter, Strengthening the Special Relationship

<https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/Press-Releases/display-pressreleases/Article/3561589/service-chiefs-from-us-navy-royal-navy-and-us-marine-corps-sign-revised-strateg/>



"The charter, known as 'Delivering Combined Seapower' or DCS, is a bilateral tri-service strategic approach plan that supports cooperation, collaboration, and integration among U.S. and U.K. maritime services."

Kinda wonder whether Canada and the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) has such a charter for cooperation, collaboration, and integration with the US and UK maritime services. Or, because the RCN has always taken working with allies as its basic approach, it just happens anyways and there is no need for an over-arching charter.

China is Fighting the Third Opium War with Fish

<https://cimsec.org/china-is-fighting-the-third-opium-war-with-fish/>

The article calls for a whole-of-government, really, whole-of-society view of buying goods from adversarial states, in this case, fish from China. Defence is no longer the purview of the military alone. Conflict is a matter of the biggest wallets, not the biggest battalions. Canada needs to look at all procurement from adversarial states and if there is any hint of it being used for the other's military or other purposes contrary to our security and values, then to cease that procurement.



The Department of National Defence, Canadian Armed Forces and Fisheries and Oceans Canada collaborate for defence, security and probably other (environmental, economic) purpose. There needs to be more public reporting about that collaboration.

Australia's nuclear-powered submarines will be worth the wait—and the cost

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/australias-nuclear-powered-submarines-will-be-worth-the-wait-and-the-cost/>

"Our (Australia) military capabilities on the surface or on land can potentially be targeted but SSNs (nuclear-powered submarines) cannot. That's why the government sees their essential deterrent value. We have no equivalent."



Canada is looking to replace its Victoria-class submarines. The replacements will almost certainly not be nuclear-powered but the characteristic of 'cannot be targeted' (even if possibly over-stated) applies to conventionally-powered subs, too. That deterrence value is a strategic/operational factor - one can argue related to but different than stealthiness, an operational/tactical factor. Canada needs to appreciate submarines for their strategic deterrent value and ensure the Royal Canadian Navy has sufficient and capable submarines as part of its 'balanced' (appropriate mix of ships for the geo-strategic situation) navy.

Other Sources:

#Arctic

NATO Admiral Says Growing China-Russia Ties Raise Risk in Arctic

<https://gcaptain.com/nato-admiral-says-growing-china-russia-ties-raise-risk-in-arctic/>

#chaplaincy

Chaplain General Direction on Chaplain's Spiritual Reflection in Public Settings

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/benefits-military/health-support/chaplain/chaplain-general-direction-on-chaplain-spiritual-reflection-in-public-settings.html>

Since it made the news.

#China

Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China

<https://media.defense.gov/2023/Oct/19/2003323409/-1/-1/1/2023-Military-And-Security-Developments-Involving-The-Peoples-Republic-Of-China.PDF>

Interesting comments about the report: <https://twitter.com/tshugart3/status/1716259376183361842> and: <https://twitter.com/tshugart3/status/1716465378635751757>

Report to Congress on Chinese Naval Modernization

<https://news.usni.org/2023/10/20/report-to-congress-on-chinese-naval-modernization-19>

#defence policy

Canada's military feels the pinch

https://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/budget-cuts-hit-canada-s-military-that-is-already-stretched-thin/article_73453f20-cb1c-509d-b0a4-d425f35f3537.html

#drones

Unmanned Medevac: Drones Over the Battlefield

<https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/articles/unmanned-medevac/>

#NATO

NATO to adopt first-ever counter-drone doctrine for member nations

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/unmanned/2023/10/20/nato-to-adopt-first-ever-counter-drone-doctrine-for-member-nations/>

#legal #maritime security

The sticky case of Indonesia, a seized Iranian oil tanker, and legal jurisdiction

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/sticky-case-indonesia-seized-iranian-oil-tanker-legal-jurisdiction>

#policing

Stationary Cameras vs. Body-Worn Cameras in a Local Jail

<https://www.cna.org/reports/2023/10/stationary-cameras-vs-body-worn-cameras-in-a-local-jail>

#reading #drones

Drone Warfare

<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/war-books-drone-warfare/>

#Russia-Ukraine War

We must ditch the 'stalemate' metaphor in Ukraine's war

<https://www.ft.com/content/5791ec24-3aa0-4a98-a89f-f955c3abcde5>

Interactive Map: Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/36a7f6a6f5a9448496de641cf64bd375>

Ukraine Must Prepare for a Hard Winter

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/ukraine-must-prepare-hard-winter>

Russia's War in Ukraine: Ballistic and Cruise Trajectories

<https://www.iiss.org/research-paper/2023/10/russias-war-in-ukraine-ballistic-and-cruise-trajectories/>

How can support for Ukraine be maintained?

<https://www.geostrategy.org.uk/britains-world/how-can-support-for-ukraine-be-maintained/>

#Russia-Ukraine War #Information Operations

In a 25 Oct post by Anton Gerashchenko @Gerashchenko_en (https://twitter.com/Gerashchenko_en/status/1717254523423482144), he wrote: 🇺🇦: Ukrainian Armed Forces attack a Russian flag on the top of the spoil heap in the north of Avdiivka with drones.



Says something when the Ukrainians, masters of information operations during this war, see value in expending a one-way attack drone to destroy a Russian flag purportedly showing ground taken.

#security

Where is the National Security Council when you need it?

https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/canada-has-new-security-body-tailor-made-to-discuss-perilous-world-events-so-why-isn/article_717f5070-d09f-591e-9081-6d06520f8463.html

#space #NATO

Protecting our critical satellite infrastructure: the importance of space-based infrastructure to humanity and its status within NATO

<https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2023/10/24/protecting-our-critical-satellite-infrastructure-the-importance-of-space-based-infrastructure-to-humanity-and-its-status-within-nato/index.html>

#strategy

Interpreting Sun Tzu: The Art of Failure?

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2021/7/13/interpreting-sun-tzu-the-art-of-failure>

Other:

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O Canada

Canada's debt servicing charges have hit 250B CAD this year. Interest rates are likely to rise and this will grow. To put this in perspective the entire Canadian defence budget is around 27B CAD. The ability and flexibility of Canada to react to major disruptions has therefore become more limited. A major shock to the system will likely not result in a positive outcome as anyone with a stock portfolio will tell you presently. Deficit spending, however, is continuing.

Two corruption cases have hit the 24-hour news cycle in the form of a revived SNC Lavelin affair and the more recent Arrive Can situation involving 54M CAD in spending on a poorly working app. What is concerning is that although the RCMP conducted criminal investigations, the Commissioner of the RCMP stated they did not get cooperation from the government in providing documents to the investigations. Nothing is proven one way or the other, however, it does seem to leave a lingering appearance of less than honest activities. As one of our esteemed colleagues have often stated, bad news is better addressed up front. Bad news never gets better with time and leaks will occur and one's ability to control or even adjust the narrative will be lost.

The nastiness with India continues after the Prime Minister's accusations about an extra-judicial slaying of a Canadian citizen by "agents" of India. In real terms Canada has received little support, and most countries have taken a hands-off approach to this issue. The world press have not been kind. The Chinese interference has not gone away either but our government's reaction has been troubling at best, especially as Canadians have been "kidnapped" by Chinese agents in Canada, there is use of threats against the relatives of Canadian citizens allegedly wanted for crimes in China, most without proof that would be recognized by a Canadian court, nor has Canada taken decisive action for the four Canadian citizens sentenced to death by Chinese courts, nor have we curtailed the size of China's outrageously large diplomatic mission which is only two smaller than that of the US. It makes one wonder.

Another black eye issue for Canada was the standing ovation given to a 98 year old veteran, Yaroslav Hunka, of the Waffen SS Galicia Division. Most saw this as a true blight on Canada. While this is understood as a major error, little has been said about why Ukrainians did support in large measure the Nazi regime. In the period immediately prior to the Second World War, "Uncle Joe Stalin" had killed somewhere around two to eight million Ukrainians, both in the starvation of 1932 to 1934 and subsequent purges of Ukrainian nationalists of all stripes in a ruthless attempt to stamp out Ukrainian nationalism. The Czarist Empire, followed by the Soviets followed by the Russian Federation all have done their level best to keep Ukrainian nationalism in check. Today's war is simply a historical continuation. Stalin was an ally of convenience, he cooperated with the Nazis against Poland, attacked Finland, purged thousands, yet he seems to have gotten comparatively good press even now. Yet, although there has been no active and serious research into how many Soviet citizens were actually killed or imprisoned by Stalin, it is highly likely his regime killed more Russians than the Nazis. Stalin was a monster to most Soviet citizens. He was allowed to get away with it in the West as well as "Uncle Joe" was our friend - he wasn't. We seem to have forgotten that true European liberation only occurred in 1992 with the collapse of the Soviet regime. Those who perpetrated these horrors have never been brought to justice. Even now the Putin regime is resurrecting the image of Stalin to near sainthood. The bottom line is that Mr Hunka is no saint, he did not deserve a standing ovation or anything close to it, but he was fighting another evil regime that had killed millions, except that regime got away with it as they were our "allies" and got essentially a free pass on mass murder. A recommended reading on this issue is Anne Applebaum's book "Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine" Anchor Press 2017. It has an outstanding bibliography for further research. The Nazis were not the only monsters, but they paid the price for their actions - the Soviets did not.

Australia

The Australian Senate is conducting inquiries into the role of the Australian Federal Police in training and liaison with the Chinese police. It turns out that Canada has the same problem as Canadian police have assisted Chinese police in capturing "fugitives" for China. Often these folks have been returned to China "voluntarily." Relatives in China and in Canada have been threatened by Chinese police, often without Canadian police present. Australia appears to be doing the right thing, Canada, not so much.

These are from our Australia correspondent:

<https://maritime-executive.com/editorials/op-ed-how-many-nuclear-submarines-would-be-worth-buying-for-australia>

There are more concerns about AUKUS. Numbers and rate of construction are at issue.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-19/contaminated-water-supplies-hit-australian-war-ships/102994906>

Not good news for the RAN. Quality control seems to have been a problem in the ships potable water system.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-19/albaneses-uneasy-week-voice-uncertainty-crisis-gaza-israel/102993868>

The current national government has got itself in trouble with the "voice" fiasco and now the Middle East is raising its ugly head yet again in Australia.

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/japans-railgun-performs-first-test-firing-at-sea>

An interesting development by the Japanese. Japan is on the cutting edge of many technologies.

<https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2023-10-19/marines-bid-farewell-darwin>

This was a fairly long deployment for the USMC on the ground in Australia.

<https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2023-10-20/defence-data-underpins-new-underwater-map>

Mapping was always a close hold in earlier times, particularly of hydrographic material. Canada even hired Russian ships and crews to conduct work in our Arctic which actually could be used against us.

This last point is in regard to ship building issues in Australia but as it relates to Canadian efforts. As you know, construction of warships is a complex process that requires a great level of expertise and competence throughout the complete process from the development of the military requirement through the design, build and commissioning of new warships. The Australian federal government is deep in such process now and Canada is getting into it. Hopefully, Canada can learn from the Aussie experiences as the ships required are similar in general aspects. My great concern is whether Canada has enough "corporate" and "bureaucratic" experience to avoid the pitfalls that usually impact the stop and start features of major government procurements. The RCN needs new warships in this decade, and more in the next decade. Time waits for no person or government and we live in a dangerous world.

United States

The United States has surged five US carrier groups to problem areas, including the Ford Carrier Strike Group to the Med, because of the Israel-Hamas conflict; the Eisenhower Group to the Middle East in reaction to actions by Iran, Yemen and groups within Iraq and Syria, and the George Washington Group is off the Virginia coast. The Ronald Reagan Group is in the Western Pacific off the Philippines and the Carl Vinson Group is en route as well. Essentially half the available carriers that are not in maintenance or training. It does not include two Amphibious Response Groups, one in the Indian ocean and one in the Pacific. Of the 290 US warships available 90 are deployed and 64 are en route - this is a major effort.

Moldova

Moldova continues to fight Russia's information war by blocking twenty-two Russian media sites that continue to spread the "lies of the aggressor state" about the Ukraine-Russia conflict. The action was taken to prevent further influence campaign by Russia not only against Ukraine but also Moldova itself.

According to Ukrainska Pravda on 25 October 2023, the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, has suggested to the membership that representatives from Ukraine and Moldova be invited as observers to the European Parliament as an initial step. They would be appointed by their own countries and could participate in activities except for actual voting. This would be a change from past practices as states had to have ascended to the EU. The new practice would allow these countries to have some representation and contribute in a meaningful way as preparation for the day they actually join. This is a new proposal and has not been approved by the EU Parliament. An interesting concept but there will be opposition from pro-Russian leadership in Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Belarus

A strange quiet has fallen over Belarus, most media accounts involve relatively minor industrial activities such as a proposal to build and maintain aircraft within the Union construct. China has also allowed Belarus to join their project for a new Moon base as well. The Lukashenko regime is still

walking a tight rope between Russia and Ukraine and at the moment appears to be having some success in keeping out of the actual fighting. Belarus security forces are too small to participate without Russian support and the Lukashenko regime is all too well aware of the faltering Russian efforts.

Russia-Ukraine War

The war continues. Both Russia and Ukraine are attempting offensive actions depending on location. The main Russian efforts appear to be in the north along the Kupiansk, Svatova Kremmina line with little major success. The second location is Adviiika where Russian forces estimated to be a multiple brigade size attack made some headway. In the Adiiivka area the assaults were largely rebuffed by Ukrainian forces with extremely heavy losses by some estimates nearly 200 armoured vehicles and nearly 10k troops killed or wounded. The armour assaults were largely failures but were followed by infantry attacks with limited support which actually had more success in taking ground, but again these attacks were met with heavy resistance by the Ukrainians which resulted in a large number of casualties and with limited success. Russia has restarted its long range attacks by drones and missiles with the drone component being the largest part of the attack. Ukrainian air defences however have improved both in numbers and in lethality. The real question is: how easily is it for Russia to ramp up its attack given issues of manufacturing of more sophisticated systems?

Ukraine has not been idle either with gains being made near Robotyne cracking the last line of the initial defences. Ukrainian forces are continuing to widen the area of this penetration; preferring to secure the flanks before any further push to the south. Ukraine has also been forced to use some of its forces to prevent a Russian breakthrough at Adviiika, so far successfully. The biggest event was the double crossing the Dnipro in the Kherson oblast by Ukrainian special forces and marines. Thus far the incursions have been made by small parties of troops but they have had some success and seem to be staying on the east bank of the Dnipro and they have been able to take several small towns. Russia apparently has sent elements of the 58th Army to counter this move. Bakhmut has been fairly stable but with minor gains by Ukraine from the south towards the city of Bakhmut itself.

Overall, Ukraine has used its superiority in the use of drone technology to great effect and it continues to knock out major pieces of equipment but also to destroy headquarters, supply, transport and maintenance facilities throughout the area using its HIMARS and M-270 to reach far into the Russian rear area. This past two weeks saw the first use of ATACMS, a longer ranged missile system fired from HIMARS or the M-270. Their first attack was on airfields at Berdyans'k and Luhansk destroying or damaging 21 Russian helicopters, thus providing the worst day of losses for the Russian air force in this war. Ukraine has also kept up incursions by drones and free Russian forces into Russia itself on a regular basis. Although most attacks are intercepted, it does provide conditions that lead normal Russian citizens to realize that the war is ongoing. Ukraine has also succeeded in having major units of the Black Sea fleet move to ports in Russia due to the danger posed by Ukrainian sea and air drones and longer ranged missiles, a true achievement for a country without major combatants.

On another note, Russia will hold a general election on 17 March 2024. Although President Putin remains "popular" there are growing signs that not all is well. Russian citizens are finding life a little more difficult as they are more heavily taxed and with prices going up on basic goods and services. Putin has continued to increase the defence budget at the expense of social services. Most services are already non-existent in outlying oblasts. It has also become more apparent that it is the autonomous regions who now suffer more casualties per capita than say St Petersburg or Moscow, also has experienced more disruptions. What can one expect from this election? Putin will soon put his name forth as the presidential candidate. There will be no real opposition leader and the election's outcome should be no surprise but if no one shows up and votes and the numbers are clearly down, one might see more open unrest. The real sign is whether the security forces remain firmly behind the president.

It will eventually hit one of the security force leaders that things are not going well and perhaps may take action on their own especially as the army is somewhat busy.

China

China conducted more than 80 incursions into Taiwan's Air Defence Identification Zone. There were also several incursions by Peoples' Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) across the median line in the Taiwan straits. While this is a serious number it is actually fewer than the peak of over 100. The big issue is that this has become a norm. It is now normal for the PLAAF and PLAN to now cross these lines and this was a "victory" of sorts for China. It is part of China's hybrid concept under the Three Wars Concept, actually taking advantage up to and sometimes crossing into limited kinetic warfare to achieve an aim, in this case normalization of these cross lines previously avoided. This type of action is likely to continue and even become more serious in nature.

The Philippines also have been subject to Chinese coercion this week. On Sunday, 22 October 2023, Chinese Coast Guard vessels purposely collided with a Philippine supply boat and later the escort near Second Thomas Shoal. The shoal is claimed by China but it has been recognized as Philippine territory by the International Court. The Philippines have grounded a Second World War Landing Ship Tank (LST) off Second Thomas Shoal but it is slowly breaking up. It hosts a small Marine garrison, however, their station needs considerable work and repair to make it viable, hence the supply boat of construction material. China has attempted to stop this effort. China has continued to run rough shod over other claims in the South China Sea despite their claim being clearly rejected. China continues to declare its sovereignty in the Chinese sense of the word; the ability of a country to essentially do as it wishes without worrying about the actions or declarations by what it views as inferior states. Unfortunately for them, the US has declared its support of their traditional ally, the Philippines. This type of activity is likely to continue.

The Communist Chinese Party (CCP) has finally expelled the former Foreign Minister Qin Gang and Defence Minister Li Shangfu officially from their positions. Both are accused of less than good behavior. Qin Gang for fathering a child with a mistress in the US as Ambassador. Li is still under investigation while head of the logistics branch/command of the PLA. Corruption is the issue. The precise nature is not really known but it is suspected of being connected to the Strategic Rocket Force which is undergoing a major purge of senior officers. The CCP under Xi is currently purging sections of the PLA and has previously conducted purges within the Navy. They have also quietly removed five of the seven members of the Central Military Commission (CMC). Keep in mind Xi is the Chair of the CMC. This is not over.

The CCP loves stability, it is the main effort for the CCP's survival. They are not doing well at this at present. Unemployment and under employment is at an all-time high in modern terms at 35%. Young university graduates were not able to gain employment either and their unemployment rate is now 21% another all-time high. This has the potential to be destabilizing by itself but the collapse of the property development sector is the second major hit as two of the biggest property management companies, Ever Grande and Country Garden, have essentially failed. Top executives from Ever Grande are now in custody. This is just the tip of a very nasty situation as the property management sector is one third of the official Chinese economy, providing much needed income to provinces and autonomous regions. As many as twelve of these entities are expected to require some form of oversight in the next twelve months according to South Asian press sources. What is more concerning is that this also uncovers the unofficial economy which appears to most economists as a huge Ponzi scheme. China is not a place to invest. There are many other issues caused mainly because of CCP policies and actions.

Israel-Hamas Conflict

This is day 19 of this conflict. Israel has been hit by the most serious attack since the Yom Kipper War of 1973 with more than 1300 dead and 224 confirmed as kidnapped. The current Government of Israel has vowed to eliminate Hamas and has conducted a major air campaign over the period. Over the past several days they have also conducted ground incursions with the view of gaining "ground truth" in preparation for future operations. The main effort is yet to occur.

Hamas has continually stolen from the Palestinian people since it took over Gaza in a coup. Much of the concrete provided by donor states has been instrumental in the construction of the concrete bunker and tunnel system. Hamas has continually used the population as human shields, often putting infrastructure, firing points and fighting positions beside schools and other civilian facilities. When these are targeted and civilian casualties occur, they are quick to blame the Israelis. It is effective as an information war technique. It is a war crime that they continue effectively.

Hamas has proven to be masters of information warfare and has generally been successful in causing wide spread demonstrations in countries around the world. Media outlets in Canada and the US and others even don't allow the use of the word terrorists to describe Hamas despite Hamas being recognized as a terrorist organization by their governments. Overall, Hamas fighters have shown to be rather poorly trained and ill-disciplined, tactics at the basic level seem to be rudimentary in most cases. They do have a hard core of Russian and Iranian-trained leaders that have developed a well-designed initial attack but they lacked follow up and contingency planning, resulting in as many as 1700 Hamas fatalities within Israel before their withdrawal. They are very limited in their ability to effect the battlefield. The initiative has now fallen to the Israelis.

In some respects, a ground assault is not desirable in real terms. Fighting in urban areas with a well-entrenched and prepared enemy is always difficult at best. It requires extensive training and proper equipment to conduct and even then it will cause significant casualties. Israel has conducted limited ground attacks to gather information, but the main assault is still yet to commence. Unless there is some convincing argument by Israel's allies, a ground assault is going to occur likely within seven days.



CANADIAN FORCES INTELLIGENCE COMMAND
COMMANDEMENT DU RENSEIGNEMENT DES FORCES CANADIENNES

RUSSIA'S CLAIM:	BASED ON CANADIAN FORCES INTELLIGENCE COMMAND ANALYSIS:
On October 17, 2023, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu stated that Russian air defence systems are the best in the world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ On the same day, Berdyansk airbase, which houses Russian helicopters that support Russia's illegal war in Ukraine, was struck by Ukrainian missiles.➤ Russia typically deploys air defence systems to protect these locations.➤ This was the latest Ukrainian strike in its ongoing campaign against Russian airfields that enable its activities in Ukraine.

UKRAINE / RUSSIA UPDATE // 2023-10-19

National Defence / Défense nationale

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 17 October 2023, several Russian helicopters and air defence equipment were likely struck at Berdyansk and Luhansk airfields. Although the extent of damage is currently unconfirmed, it is likely nine Russian military helicopters at Berdyansk and five at Luhansk were destroyed, with Ukraine claiming to have used the US-provided long-range army tactical missiles (ATACMS) for the first time.
- Given that Russian fixed wing close air support to date has been extremely poor, Russian defensive lines have become increasingly reliant on rotary wing support in the face of the Ukrainian offensive. Berdyansk was being used as a primary Forward Operating Base on the southern axis providing both logistics and offensive/defensive capabilities. If confirmed, it is highly likely these losses will have an impact on Russia's ability both to defend and conduct further offensive activity on this axis. Given the current strain on Russian military production, the confirmed loss of any air frames will be difficult to replace in the short to medium term.
- This loss will also likely create additional pressure on Russia's pilots and air frames, already almost certainly suffering combat exhaustion and maintenance issues due to the unanticipated protracted campaign. There is a realistic possibility this strike will compel Russia to once again relocate its operating bases and command and control nodes farther from the front lines, increasing the burden on logistics chains.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 18 October 2023 Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that Russia will begin conducting fighter patrols in the eastern Black Sea using the MiG-31I interceptor aircraft armed with Kh-47M2 KINZHAL (DAGGER) air-launched ballistic missiles.
- His justification referred to the recent uplift in the US' maritime presence in the eastern Mediterranean, with the intent of holding these vessels at risk using a weapon system with a published range of up to 2000km. This announcement is in line with typical Russian rhetoric aimed at its domestic audience, calling the West aggressors whilst framing Russian activity as necessary for protection of the state.
- The specific mention of the KINZHAL missile and its capabilities by Putin was almost certainly for strategic messaging purposes, to demonstrate that Russia remains able to produce and operate newly developed weapons, despite the ongoing Ukrainian conflict.
- The KINZHAL effectively remains in operational testing, with its performance in Ukraine to date being poor. It remains highly capable on paper, able to fly at hypersonic speeds and evade modern air defence systems, although there almost certainly needs to be significant improvement in how Russia uses it to achieve this potential.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Recent Russian assaults in Avdiivka have contributed to a 90% increase in Russian casualties recorded by the Ukrainian MoD.
- Since February 2022, Russia has significantly increased its force footprint on the ground in Ukraine by intensifying recruitment using financial incentives and the partial mobilisation conducted in Autumn 2022. This increase of personnel is the major factor behind Russia's ability to both defend held territory and conduct costly assaults.
- It is likely that Russia has suffered 150,000-190,000 permanent casualties (killed and permanently wounded) since the conflict began, with the total figure including temporarily wounded (recovered and due to return to the battlefield in some capacity) in the region of 240,000-290,000. This does not include Wagner Group or their prisoner battalions who fought in Bakhmut.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russian government spending is becoming increasingly focused on the costs of its war on Ukraine. The state's proposed 2024 budget envisages an approximate 68% increase in planned defence spending compared to that allotted for 2023 – this puts defence spending for 2024 at around 6% of GDP. In contrast, education and healthcare spending will be frozen at the 2023 allocation, which amounts to a real term spending cut due to inflation.
- More spending will need to be allocated to fund payments and healthcare costs for the mounting numbers of wounded soldiers and the families of those killed in the conflict. More than half of those soldiers wounded severely enough to require longer term medical care have lost limbs, with one in five requiring upper limb amputations, Deputy Labour Minister Alexei Vovchenko stated on 17 October 2023. These injured soldiers will almost certainly require lifelong healthcare.
- Consistently heightened military spending will highly likely contribute to inflationary pressures within Russia. Furthermore, continued increases in military spending would force the Russian government to make difficult decisions about how to fund the war, likely increasing financial pressures on Russian businesses. However, any substantial future reduction in military expenditure would likely remove an increasingly central driver of Russian economic activity in the face of sanctions.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russia largely continues to rely on specially designated 'Shtorm-Z' units for local offensive operations in Ukraine. These company-sized groups were likely first fielded in 2022. There is a realistic possibility that Russia originally envisioned them as relatively elite organisations which could seize the tactical initiative.
- However, since at least spring 2023, Shtorm-Z have effectively become penal battalions, manned with convicts and regular troops on disciplinary charges. Multiple accounts suggest the units are given the lowest priority for logistical and medical support, while repeatedly being ordered to attack.
- Russian troops have often conducted an effective defence. However, the existence of Shtorm-Z highlights the extreme difficulty Russia has in generating combat infantry capable of conducting effective offensive operations.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

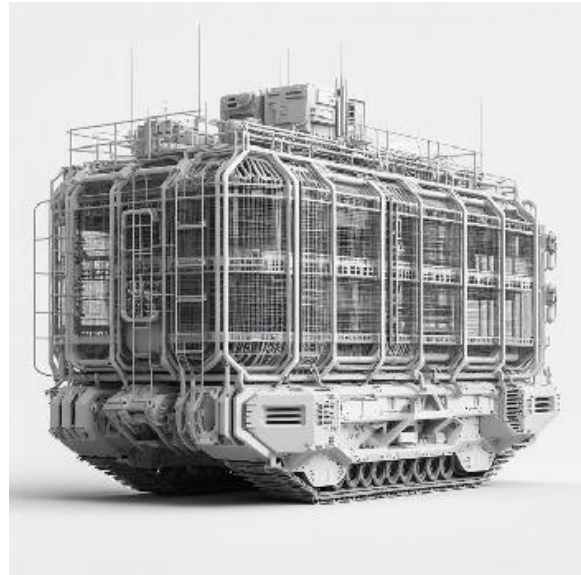
- Over the last week fighting has intensified around the banks of the lower reaches of the Dnipro River. Ukraine has given higher priority to operations in this sector, building up small bridgeheads on the east bank it has controlled since the summer.
- Russia has likely been alert to the possibility of attacks across the river since it withdrew its forces from the western bank 12 months ago. The area is under the control of the newly established 18th Combined Arms Army, after some of the units previously in the area were diverted to the Orikhiv axis to the east.
- As in most sectors, a decisive factor is almost certainly the combatants' ability to bring accurate, intense artillery fire to bear. Initial indication suggests that Russia has maintained a significant artillery capability within range of the river.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Despite Russia's official rejection of recent reports, it is almost certain that North Korean munitions have now reached ammunition depots in western Russia. These depots support Russian military operations in Ukraine.
- If North Korea sustains the recent scale and pace of military-related shipments (more than 1,000 containers over the last several weeks), it will be on course to become one of Russia's most significant foreign arms suppliers, alongside Iran and Belarus.
- It is currently unclear what Russia has agreed to provide North Korea in return. It is unlikely the full package has been finalised; it was highly likely one of the primary discussion topics during recent senior level Russian visits to North Korea. It will likely include a mixture of financial compensation, other economic support, the provision of military technology, and cooperation on other high technology areas, such as space.

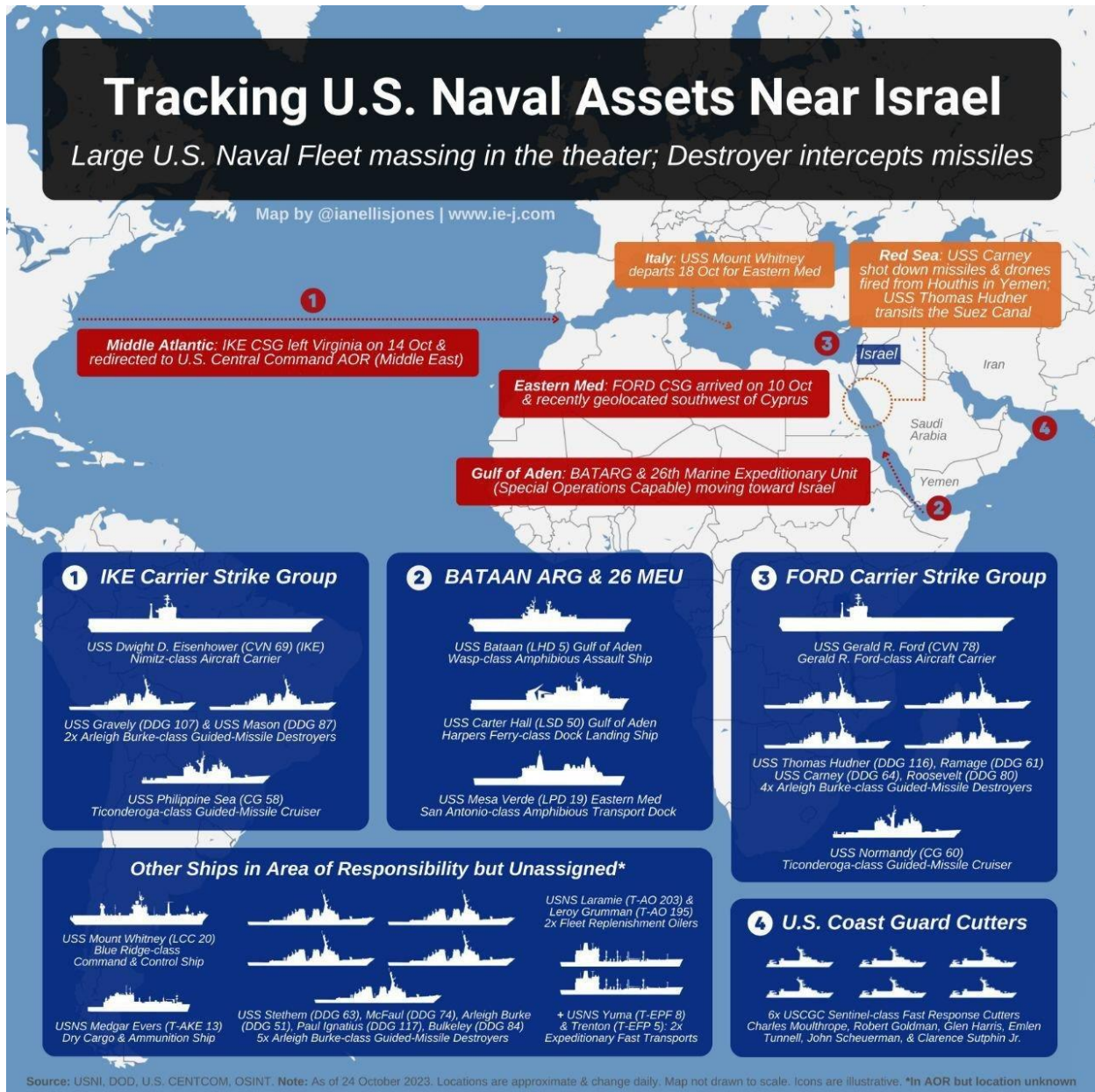
Drone Counter-measures

Tweeters (X-ers?) having fun about cope cages. Hmm, may actually be something serious there...



Sea Power

Canadian Armed Forces, mostly RCAF, engagement in the Israel-Hama war has been much confined, at least publicly, to support of the ‘assisted departures’ by Global Affairs Canada. Some initial lessons (observations, really) about the conflict have been reported and have been included in *Dispatches*. Outside of that, and remarked by one RUSI(NS) contact, has been the demonstration of advantages of sea power as evident in the movement of naval forces of the US and others (e.g., UK) into the area. There does not appear to have been anything public about Canadian naval forces moving in response to the war. That would be as a result of government direction (or non-direction) but may also reflect the availability of Canadian naval forces to undertake operations in the eastern Mediterranean.



National Security During Natural Disasters in Atlantic Canada

Jay Heisler, RUSI(NS) member, extends an invitation to a panel presentation by Canadian hurricane celebrity Jim Abraham and anti-human trafficking trainer Larry Cameron. The presentation will be held Thursday, **2 November**, from 5 to 6:30 pm at CoWork Halifax, 6156 Quinpool Road, Halifax.

Join Jim Abraham and Larry Cameron to discuss national security matters during national disasters, ranging from emergency management to anti-human trafficking and including an overview of both hurricane response and anti-human trafficking in general. The event will be a one hour discussion, with half an hour for questions. Moderator will be Jay Heisler.

As seating is limited, **please email** Jay at jayoscarheisler@gmail.com if you want to attend.

Presenter bios:

Jim Abraham has spent over 45 years involved in weather, water and climate. He was President of the Canadian Meteorological & Oceanographic Society (CMOS) from 2021 to 2023. He is well known nationally and internationally, and is frequently invited as an expert speaker by a variety of organizations and the media. As President of ClimAction Services Inc., he and colleagues assist municipalities, including African NS and Indigenous communities, to understand and adapt to climate change and extreme weather. Jim started his career with Environment Canada at CFB Greenwood, then transferred to Whitehorse and on to Montreal where he learned to work in French. Subsequently, Jim managed a wide variety of weather, water, and environmental operational and research programs, including meteorological research and the observing program for all of Canada including the Arctic. His most proud accomplishment was starting the Canadian hurricane forecast and research program. He was lead investigator for several reconnaissance flights into hurricanes threatening Canada...and he survived. Jim was awarded the Patterson Medal for Meteorology in 2003, the Queens Jubilee Medal in 2013, and a Fellowship of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society in 2017.

Larry Cameron has 20+ years experience in the technology and cyber security industries. He is currently with Project Sentinel and is an OSINT Investigator / Team Lead for the Blockchain Forensic Team at the National Child Protection Task Force (NCPTF). He is a trainer for Interpol, trainer for all 5400 agencies making up the 61 Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task forces, a Computer Forensics and Cloud Security Professor at St Lawrence College and Head of Cyber Security for the Cyber Rights Organization out of The Hague. He works with local, state, federal and international Law Enforcement, along with military organizations on Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation investigations.

RUSI(NS) Christmas/Holiday Reception

RUSI(NS) Members:

You're Invited to the RUSI(NS) Christmas Reception.

Join us for an afternoon of festive cheer and camaraderie at the RUSI(NS) Christmas Reception!

Date: December 2, 2023 Time: 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Venue: Halifax Citadel Hill - Army Museum
5425 Sackville St, Halifax, NS

Parking: Parking available in the west ditch, first come, first served.

Event Highlights:

- Holiday Refreshments (Cash Bar Available)
- Light Fare (Provided)
- Networking with Fellow Members
- Seasonal Celebrations
- Fundraiser for the Army Museum

Admission:

- RUSI(NS) Members: Free Entry
- Guests: \$25 (Includes one-year Membership)

Please RSVP by November 3, 2023.

Once you RSVP, we will provide further details. Please do not send any money in advance.

We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with you and supporting the Army Museum!

Warm regards,
RUSI(NS)