



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 3 November 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*. **RSVP by November 3, 2023.**

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: 8 November, Wednesday - Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies and the University of Manitoba Centre for Defence and Security Studies webinar "Canada's Sanctions in the

World." 1100 Halifax time. To register: https://rusi-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MLK9RgLaQYC8hPuGNhK3EQ#/registration.

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>

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>.

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/

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

New: Edmonton United Services Institute President's *Enews*, November 2023

New: Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XLI, Number 10, November 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>

New: Royal Canadian Artillery Association *The Canadian Gunner News* 26 October 2023

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

New: Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch *Scuttlebutt*, November 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 5, 30 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* 31 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).

KjipuktukShippingNews @HfxShippingNews 24 Oct posted: CFAV Haro under way in Quebec. Launched a year ago, it has yet to be delivered to the navy.
(photos: <https://tugster.wordpress.com/2023/10/14/cfav-haro/>)
RUSI(NS) quoted: Supply of components delay delivery of Naval Large Tug project tugs being built by @Groupe_Ocean for @NationalDefence <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/app-acq/amd-dp/mer-sea/sncn-nss/naval-largegros-eng.html> Typed as Yard Tug Big #YTB, first 2 to be shipped to @CFBBFCEsqumalt early 2024
<http://dgpaapp.forces.gc.ca/en/defence-capabilities-blueprint/project-details.asp?id=952>
No pennant number visible yet.



"Recording: The Royal Canadian Air Force's Future Role in NORAD and NATO" <https://www.rusi.org/research-event-recordings/recording-royal-canadian-air-forces-future-role-norad-and-nato> @RCAF_ARC #RCAF @NORADCommand @NATO Joint @RUSI_org/North American Arctic Defence & Security Network @NAADSN_RDSNAA event on CF188 Hornet Fighter Force & CAN🇨🇦 place in #NATO & #NORAD



"Canada's CF-18 fighter jet force 'in crisis,' new study funded by DND says" <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-dnd-canada-fighter-jet-crisis/> Delayed procurement of equipment has adverse effect on @CanadianForces morale. New kit=increased confidence in own survivability, mission accomplishment & government/public support



Royal Canadian Navy @RoyalCanNavy 30 Oct posted: We had a BLAST💣 minehunting with our friends in the North Sea! Check out what it was like for #HMCS Summerside and #HMCS Shawinigan to be in the middle of the action: <https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/rcn/2023/10/hmcs-shawinigan-and-summerside-join-nato-minehunting-exercise-in-north-sea.html> #OpReassurance #WeAreNATO (HMCS Shawinigan and Summerside join NATO Minehunting exercise in North Sea) RUSI(NS) quoted: .@RoyalCanNavy has mine-countermeasures #MCM capability in its Kingston-class patrol vessels, divers & uncrewed underwater vehicles #drones. What with mine threat in European, East Asian & other waters, need to retain/develop capability further including add MCM-capable Kingston-class replacements



RCMP @rcmpgrcpolice 30 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Did you know? The RCMP is enhancing uniforms to include faith-based headdresses, including the dastar and patka to meet the needs of our diverse organization <https://rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/change-the-rcmp/support-modern-policing/improve-rcmp-uniform-and-equipment> (Improve RCMP uniform and equipment)




Transport Canada @Transport_gc 31 Oct posted: Today, Minister Rodriguez and @PSPC_SPAC Minister Duclos announced a contract being awarded to support year-round marine oil spill surveillance in Canada's North. Learn more: <https://canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2023/10/the-government-of-canada-announces-increased-marine-pollution-surveillance-in-canadas-north.html>
 #OceansProtectionPlan #NASPcrew
 (The Government of Canada announces increased marine pollution surveillance in Canada's North)
 RUSI(NS) quoted: Construction of new National Aerial Surveillance Program #NASP aircraft hangar in Iqaluit, Nunavut, good infrastructure development in CAN 🇨🇦
 #Arctic/North & extension of surveillance in region
 #OceansProtectionPlan





David Pugliese @davidpugliese 2 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: My latest article on the PBO's total cost estimates for the F-35 acquisition/life cycle...F-35 fighter jet to cost Canada \$74 billion, says PBO
<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/f-35-fighter-jet-to-cost-canada-74-billion-says-pbo> via @ottawacitizen



CDN Defence Academy/L'Académie cdn de la défense @CDACanadaACD 2 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted:  Misinformation Is Warfare by @BostonJoan (@TIME) "In times of war, truth needs an advocate."
Some good advice here.



NATO ACT @NATO_ACT 1 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: #Ukraine's  Lessons Learned Portal, shaped by real battlefield experiences, is a vital resource for growth & knowledge sharing. @NATOJALLC played an important role in its development alongside @DefenceU & @Boryviter. 
<https://act.nato.int/article/strengthening-defence-nato-support-ukraine-lessons-learned/> #WeAreNATO
 (Strengthening Defences: NATO's Support to Ukraine's Lessons Learned Efforts)



RUSI @RUSI_org 30 Oct posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Our latest publication by Major Patrick Hinton examines developments in the military experimentation with uncrewed ground systems (UGS) and the role which human support will continue to play in enabling UGS. Learn more by reading the full report below!

(Uncrewed Ground Systems: Organisational and Tactical Realities for Integration

<https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/occasional-papers/uncrewed-ground-systems-organisational-and-tactical-realities-integration>)



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

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Canada’s military investments surge as geopolitical tensions grow

<https://www.airforce-technology.com/news/canadas-military-investments-surge-as-geopolitical-tensions-grow/>

"In response to mounting global uncertainties and rising geopolitical tensions, Canada’s Armed Forces are poised to receive financial boosts for modernisation and expansion."



Optimistic forecast. Wait for the reality of the Defence Policy Update and the government's next budget.

Let’s get behind an Australian merchant navy

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/lets-get-behind-an-australian-merchant-navy/>

What would be the results of an analysis of the availability of merchant navy resources (people, ships, ports, support equipment, building and repair yards) to Canada for employment to move people and material (economic, humanitarian, military) in the event of contingencies and conflict? Is there such an analysis and what if anything is public?

Comment from a reader: The ILOC (Integrated Lines of Communications) agreement was made in the late 1970s to help address this. In the case of a European war, we had the ports and the Americans had the ships. I suspect that not much has changed since then.

(For more on ILOC, see: <https://www.canada.ca/en/news/archive/2008/04/canada-united-states-renew-defence-transportation-treaty.html>.)



The Army needs to invest in psychological operations, not cut them

<https://www.militarytimes.com/opinion/2023/11/01/the-army-needs-to-invest-in-psychological-operations-not-cut-them/>

"MISO (military information support operations) is designed to develop and convey messages and devise actions to influence select foreign groups and promote themes to change those groups' attitudes and behaviors."

Considering the modern operating environment and especially connectivity enjoyed by so many, the Canadian Armed Forces would be wise to invest to strong a strong psychological operations. Note its focus on foreign groups.



Other Sources:

#Arctic

The Arctic Continental Shelf and Canada: What Political Risks?

<https://ras-nsa.ca/the-arctic-continental-shelf-and-canada-what-political-risks/>

Nato's Military Leader: "We Must Be Prepared for Military Conflicts Arising in the Arctic"

<https://www.highnorthnews.com/en/natos-military-leader-we-must-be-prepared-military-conflicts-arising-arctic>

#artificial intelligence

AI Is Already at War

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/ai-already-war-flournoy>

Can AI be trusted in warfare?

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ai-artificial-intelligence-warfare-pentagon/>

#China

Paper Tiger or Pacing Threat?

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/paper-tiger-or-pacing-threat>

Latin America and the Caribbean – this is our region!

#defence policy

As a fading power, Canada needs action to keep up in a dangerous world

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-sapped-of-both-hard-and-soft-power-canada-needs-action-to-keep-up-in-a/>

#defence procurement

Bombardier accuses Canada of favoring Boeing Poseidon over local solution

<https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/bombardier-boeing-poseidon-canada>

#drones

First Details Of Hamas' New Submarine Drone Weapon

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2023/11/first-details-of-hamas-new-submarine-drone-weapon/>

#foreign policy

India tensions underscore Canada's strategic deficiency in the Indo-Pacific

<https://cdainstitute.ca/india-tensions-underscore-canadas-strategic-deficiency-in-the-indo-pacific/>

#India #China #air power

Threat Assessment and Modernisation Challenges

<https://www.sps-aviation.com/story/?id=3372&h=Threat-Assessment-and-Modernisation-Challenges>

#land warfare

Fires in the Fourth Industrial Revolution

<https://researchcentre.army.gov.au/library/land-power-forum/fires-fourth-industrial-revolution>

#information operations

Army's Approach to Accelerated Preparedness

<https://researchcentre.army.gov.au/library/land-power-forum/armys-approach-accelerated-preparedness>

#maritime security

Russia, a Chinese cargo ship and the sabotage of subsea cables in the Baltic Sea

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/russia-a-chinese-cargo-ship-and-the-sabotage-of-subsea-cables-in-the-baltic-sea/>

#NATO

A New Era of Collective Defence

https://www.jwc.nato.int/application/files/5416/9805/0084/ROB_Bauer_CMC.pdf

#reading #information operations

War Books: Russia's Information Warfare

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

#Russia-Ukraine War

Russian relocating base from Crimea 'priceless' for Ukraine

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/russian-relocating-base-from-crimea-priceless-for-ukraine/>

"Let's not forget that, historically, maritime preponderance has been a decisive factor in winning long wars."

Ukraine's risky bet pays off with ships streaming to ports

Trade warfare: <https://theedgemalaysia.com/node/686734>

Military Support for Ukraine – A Necessary Coherence Around Three Dimensions: Discourse, Material Donations, and Industrial Production

<https://ras-nsa.ca/military-support-for-ukraine-a-necessary-coherence-around-three-dimensions-discourse-material-donations-and-industrial-production/>

A victory in Ukraine will require a maneuver division

<https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/2023/10/31/a-victory-in-ukraine-will-require-a-maneuver-division/>

What are the takeaways from Ukraine's fight in the Black Sea?

<https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/2023/10/30/what-are-the-takeaways-from-ukraines-fight-in-the-black-sea/>

Pentagon's 'FrankenSAM' program cobbles together air defense weapons for Ukraine

<https://apnews.com/article/ukraine-russia-war-military-missiles-16c344bdba2e0695a2286a55d9614ff4>

Highlights the utility of letting people adapt and innovate. Of not getting straightjacketed ("hmm, let's use AAM as SAM"). And of keeping equipment (albeit warehousing or otherwise retaining has its costs).

Seizing the Initiative in Ukraine: Waging War in a Defense Dominant World

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/seizing-initiative-ukraine-waging-war-defense-dominant-world>

Modern Positional Warfare And How To Win In It

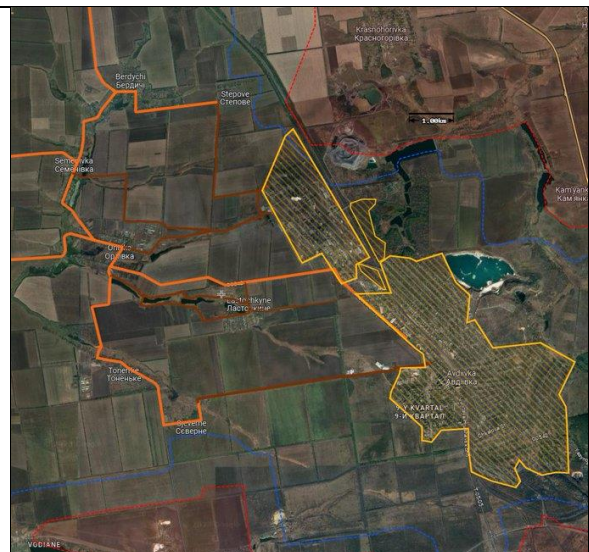
https://infographics.economist.com/2023/ExternalContent/ZALUZHNYI_FULL_VERSION.pdf

By Valerii Zaluzhnyi, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine.

Logistics in Ukraine

Interesting posting threat about main and secondary supply routes of a particular battle in Ukraine. Can appreciate why some attacks are made as they are.

https://twitter.com/J_JHelin/status/1717932692153462993



#space

New Joint Force space doctrine clarifies Space Command's 'offensive', 'defensive' ops

<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/10/exclusive-new-joint-force-space-doctrine-clarifies-space-commands-offensive-defensive-ops/>

#warfare #legal

Law as Force in Hybrid Warfare

<https://irregularwarfare.org/articles/law-as-force-in-hybrid-warfare/>

#wargaming

A Rio-listic view of PRC Professional Wargaming

<https://www.armchairdragoons.com/articles/analysis/rioprcwargaming/>

Learning Warfare from the Laboratory — China’s Progression in Wargaming and Opposing Force Training

<https://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/Learning%20Warfare%20from%20the%20Laboratory%20ISW%20September%202021%20Report.pdf>

Tracing the Chinese wargame knowledge and application within strategic thinking frameworks

<https://www.portaldeperiodicos.marinha.mil.br/index.php/revistadaegn/article/view/4961>

Enhanced DoD Wargaming According to GAO and Relevance to Hobby Wargaming

<https://www.armchairdragoons.com/articles/analysis/gao2dodwargaming/>


Wargames for training future managers

<https://management-datascience.org/articles/14547/>

The Wargame Developments Handbook 3rd Edn (Amend. 1)

<https://wargamedevelopments.org/about/>

Other:



Thank you for your assistance during Operation Lentus

Dear members of the Canadian Armed Forces,

We want to express our profound appreciation for the exceptional work you have done in response to this year’s unprecedented forest fire season. Your unwavering dedication to our mission and the well-being of those in distress embodies the true essence of service and resilience.

This year’s support to Operation Lentus spanned 131 consecutive days across 6 provinces and territories, and involved the deployment of 2,135 members, despite resource demands and incessant challenges. You clearly demonstrated that protecting Canadians here at home is our main effort. You have once again showcased an incredible readiness to respond rapidly and effectively. Your unwavering support to communities affected by forest fires across Canada was nothing short of remarkable.

Your ability to seamlessly collaborate with different levels of government and various organizations involved in fighting forest fires exemplifies the spirit of unity that defines us as a nation. Together, we demonstrated that when Canadians need us the most, we stand together as one, committed to safeguarding our great nation and its people.

Whether you were on the front lines, providing logistical support, or working tirelessly behind the scenes, each one of you played a vital role in keeping Canadians safe. Your dedication has not gone unnoticed. Your tireless efforts and unwavering dedication brought solace and relief to those who were most vulnerable. Your work was not just commendable; it served as a source of inspiration amidst challenging circumstances.

As we move forward, let us remember the lessons learned during Operation Lentus and continue to ensure that we remain ready to fulfill our mission. Together, we will face whatever challenges the future may bring, with the same unwavering commitment and dedication that you have demonstrated during this operation.

Once again, we want to express our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. You are the embodiment of what it means to be a Canadian Armed Forces member, and we are honored to lead such an exceptional team. As the world becomes more dangerous, Canadians will continue, increasingly so, to call upon your service. Thank you for what you do.

General Wayne Eyre
Chief of the Defence Staff

Chief Warrant Officer Bob McCann
Canadian Armed Forces Chief Warrant Officer

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O Canada

Canada's government has been hamstrung by the growing number of issues that continue to have life, from the unsuccessful trials of senior officers of the CAF to the SNC Lavalin affair, ethics violations, inflation, the housing crisis, immigration, the resignation of the Speaker of the House over the applause offered to Mr Hunka a former soldier of the Waffen SS in Ukraine, and many others. There is one glaring problem. Most seem to be a lack of planning at a national level. RUSI(NS) and the SAC have continually called for updates or even a start to critical policy areas from our normal perspective including security, foreign policy and defence policy. The problem is much greater than just those three areas such as how does one lose track of a million people from various immigration, refugee and other programs? The worry is that any potential government including the current one should take some time to determine some of the "self-propelled" areas that can be left for a short period under capable civil servants and sit down and think about the national interests and plan action that essentially all parties can support the basic ideas nationally. Any group has to look at how Canada can move forward and progress. No one party has such an understanding or plan it seems. This has to change.

The article "Joly's 'Pragmatic Diplomacy' is just another Liberal Foreign Policy Fantasy" (<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/john-ivison-joly-pragmatic-diplomacy-liberal-fantasy>) by John Ivison in the National Post 31 October 2023 is a case in point. Canada has never been neutral, we are and so far continue to be part of the liberal, democratic Western world. Several governments have tried over time to become an "honest broker." It did work well under Louis St Laurent, Diefenbaker and Lester B Pearson as they endeavored to navigate the Cold War which was sometimes very hot such as Korea and Viet Nam and of course the Wars of the Middle east where Prime Minister Pearson gained his fame as the developer of United Nations peacekeeping operations in Egypt in 1956. Today, we deplore the

conditions and fighting in Gaza but seem to forget that Hamas started this action with little concern for their own people, not to mention their absolute savagery against unarmed civilians or the fact that their 'constitution' calls for the eradication of Israel and its people. This is not something that is subject to discussion. Another area is in dealing with major powers such as China and India. There are some issues that cannot be ignored and consistency is vital as well as being consistent with the principles of Western democracy; being half hearted or inconsistent works against us. Some actions and activities are just simply wrong and must be dealt with as such. Canadian representatives have to understand this aspect, it is not subject to negotiations.

David Pugliese has written an article on the P-8 saga and the opportunity for Canadian industry to participate in a greater way rather than accept the sole source contract as devised by former Minister of Defence Anita Anand. While RUSI(NS) generally supports procurement from Canadian resources where and when practical, it is not a universal point of view. The replacement of the CP-140 Aurora is vital and has to be in a timely fashion from an already developed and functioning aircraft. Mr Pugliese, the defence reporter for the Ottawa Citizen, has virtually championed a Bombardier-General Dynamics argument to open the CP-140 replacement to further competition which would include this team plus Kawasaki's Japan's latest aircraft for the Japanese Self-Defence Forces. The article published on 25 October 2023 implies that this is a missed opportunity. We disagree: the P-8 is a fully developed aircraft that is in series production and used by four of the Five Eyes countries. Canada remains the only non-user. Even New Zealand has procured this as their P-3 Orion replacement. The problems that are mentioned with the P-8 are being worked upon, reliability of a well proven air frame are minor in comparison to the development of a military grade aircraft from a purely civilian airframe from a company with little recent experience in military aircraft development.

The P-8 was developed by Boeing based on the 737-800 airframe. It was first contracted by the US Navy after competition from BAE in June of 2004. Since that time it has seen modernization and changes to the instrument package but the basics remain the same. The US has spent the money for the initial development and modifications as they have arisen. The US model has a flight crew and mission element of approximately nine folks. This number increases depending on the mission. Long duration missions usually increase the flight crew to three pilots and the mission crew to the size required. Long range missions can be accomplished because the aircraft is capable of in-flight refueling from a tanker equipped with a boom refueling station. Canada's new CC-330 tanker fleet will evidently have the capacity of both drogue refueling points similar to our Polaris tankers and a boom station. The new F-35 also require refueling from a boom, but the CF-188 Hornet and other aircraft including the F-35B and F-35C both refuel by way of a drogue. Where Canada can have some say is on the mission stations. Canada is known for its ability to create and adapt internal mission equipment and sensors as we have done with the CP-140 Aurora fleet. The P-8 is also able to use a wide variety of weapons as well and this is well established. The P-8 could be purchased off the shelf unlike the Bombardier project which has to be developed from scratch. Canada does not have that much time to waste as the current fleet will be nearing the same age as the Sea King in the near future and they have been modified and refitted numerous times. If Bombardier is successful in their efforts, it means a delay in delivery of yet another orphan air fleet. Overseas, the P-8 is used by a large number of our allies including the US, UK, Australia, New Zealand, India, Norway, Germany, and South Korea. It also means that most of the locations future Canadian P-8 can be deployed will also have allied maintenance and supply facilities nearby, something that will not be available to the Bombardier, which will likely be relegated to facilities in Canada alone. An earlier article pointed out that the P-8 has had spare parts issues however this problem is well known and is being corrected. The Bombardier project while interesting has none of the advantages of this well-established aircraft and considerable deficits. Where it may be useful is a replacement for the Tracker, an aircraft retired but never replaced. The duties once provided by that aircraft are now flown by a civilian contractor, PAL. They are not combat aircraft but the Bombardier could fill that function if developed and be saleable as a mid-range

patrol aircraft for coastal defence and to have sufficient airframes to meet Canada's vast oceanic area of responsibility, something that has limited capacity to do so now. As the last comment, sixteen aircraft is insufficient to meet one ocean requirement let alone three oceans and some thought should be given to that problem. Wishful thinking a legislation will not stop an authoritarian regime, the ability to poke holes in ships or aircraft and stop missiles and drones is. This requires a multi-domain response.

United States

The US military has placed forces to meet local challenges in the Middle East, shown by the shooting down of Houthi drones and missiles being fired against Israel. It has also placed four carrier strike groups in locations near flash points and potential flash points. These were described in the last synopsis. The US Navy has 11 full-sized carriers and also has a number of landing ship, helicopter dock, which can operate as light carriers using Marine F-35B to back the large carriers if necessary. Still, prolonged use at this rate does inflict a price in maintenance and readiness. The UK has two large carriers and the French one conventional carrier and three landing ship, helicopter, the Italians currently have two multirole carriers, Spain has one multirole carrier as does Turkiye so there are other capabilities available if necessary. The current situation around the world places an exceptional strain on finite resources and there will be a price for this effort in the longer term.

Moldova

Maia Sandu, President of Moldova, was criticized by Maria Zakarova, Russian Presidential spokesperson, as being a poor leader this week at a Kremlin news conference. President Sandu has made every effort to cut Russian influence activities including closing Russian TV outlets and broadcasts as well as arresting Russian agents-provocateurs in Moldova including stopping the pro-Russian Shor Party from participating in Moldovan elections.

President Sandu charged Russia with trying to bribe Moldovan citizens today stating that over 5m USD has been passed through criminal gangs to attempt to bribe Moldovan voters. Moldovan elections usually saw the Russians bribing election candidates but this has apparently been a poor investment in recent elections so Russian agents are attempting a more direct approach. Local elections for mayors and local candidates will occur on 5 November 2023. Russia's preferred party, the Shor Party, is banned at present.

Belarus

These comments are from notes published in Meduza, a Russian outlawed news outlet operating in Riga, Latvia, with over 9m readers. It was declared a "foreign agent" in 2021 and the staff fled Russia. They still have sources within Russia.

Most Russian forces have now left Belarus except those responsible for nuclear weapons security and liaison staff. Normally Russia has replaced these forces by rotation.

Three members of the rock band Tor were sentenced to long years in jail by Belarus courts. The leader, Dzmitry Halavach, was sentenced to nine years, and of the other members, Yauhen Burlo was sentenced to eight years and Andrey Yaremchyk to 7.5 years. They were arrested in October 2022. The band became a symbol of Belarus resistance during the demonstrations of 2020. Belarus has continued to try to force dissidents home by various methods with some success including kidnapping. It is the continued randomness of these activities and arrests of dissidents that has caused uneasiness amongst the persons who fled the Lukashenko regime.

Russia-Ukraine War

The war continues. The Ukrainian Chief of Defence Staff, General Valery Zaluzhny, has stated that the war has become positional with both sides becoming stuporous and unable to land a decisive blow. It is a war of attrition whether one likes it or not. This favours Russia in the long run as they have a larger economy and a population three times the size of Ukraine. Ukraine, however, has the current technical advantage and has made excellent work in breaching Russian defensive positions and destroying Russian equipment and facilities at long range. He also stated that it will be a maximum combination of new and old technologies, newly devised tactics and well trained manpower to overcome the Russians in a timely way in a nine page article produced for the Economist. Time is not on Ukraine's side and the Russians are fully aware of this as well. One can expect to see Russians trying to start negotiations, not really to create conditions for actual peace but rather to slow the issue down to allow them to re-equip with material from North Korea, China and Iran as well as attempt to retain their current holdings.

The biggest issue is continued Western support especially in light of the recent Israel-Gaza conflict and the increasing belligerent actions of China in the South China Sea and other places. One can also see Russia conducting grey area operations, attempting to use well-meaning pro-peace advocates in target countries and other elements such as criminals gangs and pro-Russian organizations perhaps supported by the other supporting partners' own organizations and media to portray the war as a lost cause. It will still be war, just not using specific kinetic means but using all the other tools short of conflict. It is something the West is unable to do effectively and therefore a weakness capable of being exploited. This means more cyber-attacks, more "accidents" such as a Chinese ship losing an anchor and, whoops, destroying a pipeline between NATO countries.

Still, Ukraine continues to gain ground slowly. The most interesting as noted before is the move of the Black Sea fleet to safer harbours such as Feodosia and Novorossiysk and a new proposed port in Abkhazia in occupied Georgian territory. Thus the threat to Georgia becomes a consideration for Western leaders.

Another action by Russia is the withdrawal of Russia from the nuclear test ban treaty this week, now officially signed by Vladimir Putin. It is unlikely that Russia will conduct a nuclear test but the threat and capability are there in peoples' minds. It is not kinetic but the threat is implied and it may be real or a further bluff. What happens if they do conduct a nuclear test? What will be the Western reaction? One has to think from Putin's point of view, the West will fold or at least divide amongst those who are frightened by the incident or not. It is the proverbial big game of chicken. Russia will likely lean on the support of its partners as well to ramp up the pressure. One will see.

China

The former Chinese Premier was celebrated today in Beijing. Li Keqiang was 68 when he allegedly died of heart failure. He was one of the few actual economists in the Chinese government who nearly became the top leader in place of Xi. He was not always a supporter of Xi especially in financial and economic matters. In his final days in office before retirement he actually contradicted Xi's position in regard to his policies whether towards private enterprise, Covid 19 shutdowns, position on foreign owned companies, etc. This week's ceremony was attended by the leadership of the Communist Chinese Party. The security forces were out in force and kept tight control over those wishing to show respect. Chinese citizens have often used large gatherings to demonstrate, often violently. This was not the case this time. Li was considered by many to be more accommodating than Xi and was likely better trained and had a better understanding of the West as well. He will be missed.

A Dagens.ca article by Henrik Rother reported on the 10th Beijing Xiangshan Forum which was attended by low level delegations from the US and Canada. The key speaker from China was Zhang Youxia, who invited all parties to join the Global Security Initiative in order to achieve "Common Security, and lasting peace" which was the theme of the forum. The General also cautioned some (the West) from adopting a "Cold War Mentality." This initiative would almost certainly lock in some key Chinese ambitions rather than foster peaceful relations. China is forever harping about Western sanctions especially on technology and sovereignty especially as it pertains to the island of Taiwan and uneven trade issues such as the use of the US dollar in most world trade transactions. More than 90 countries attended this event.

While this is an interesting comment by the General it is also almost comical in that China is making major incursions into territory that is the sovereign territory of other nations such as the Philippines in the South China Sea or Ladakh on the Indian-Chinese frontier. China is the foremost problem in South East Asia. The Global Security Initiative is mainly to stop key Western powers from assisting smaller countries from China predations. Taiwan is fully accepted by most countries as part of China, what is not agreed to is what China that was. The Peoples' Republic of China believes that they are the one chosen. The Republic of China disagrees so there is no agreement as such. What is very clear is that the West and others do not accept that China can take Taiwan by force.

Taiwan had its busiest day thus far with Chinese incursions with 43 aircraft and seven ships crossing the accepted lines of control in the Taiwan Straits. China's ongoing incursions are away of normalizing their unacceptable behavior by turning it into "normal" actions.

On a similar but opposite note, USS *Rafael Peralta* and HMCS *Ottawa* transited the Taiwan Straits on 1 November 2023. For the US it is a freedom of the seas issue, for Canada it is simply a transit of a sea passage.

CDR Volume 29 Issue 5, page 84 DEFSEC Trade Show and Conference Report

<http://www.canadiandefencereview.com/>

By RUSI(NS) member Jay Heisler

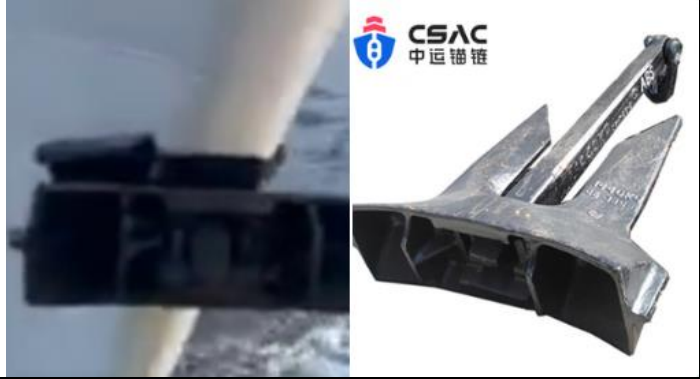
Inadvertent Interpretation/Misinformation

Be careful of too-quick analyses...

Zach Ota @zach_ota 22 Oct posted: When your China Coast Guard vessel is outfitted for bumper boats, you're probably not upholding the rule of law.



Timothy Choi @TimDocChoi replied: Its "convenient" location aside, it's a stowed anchor.



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)

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- The Russian Airforce's Long Range Aviation fleet (LRA) of heavy bombers has not conducted air launched cruise missile strikes into Ukraine for over a month, one of the longest gaps in such strikes since the conflict began.
- While Russia is still able to utilise other strike capabilities, the LRA had been the primary method for conducting stand-off precision strikes. Russia almost certainly needed to reduce the frequency of its strikes to replenish its diminishing stockpile of AS-23a KODIAK cruise missiles.
- Russia will likely use any recently produced inventory LRA munitions to strike Ukrainian energy infrastructure over the winter. Russia will highly likely continue to supplement any such campaign with Iranian-designed one-way attack uncrewed aerial vehicle attacks.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Over the last week, heavy but inconclusive fighting has continued around the Donetsk Oblast town of Avdiivka, where Russia initiated a major offensive effort in mid-October 2023.
- Russia has probably committed elements of up to eight brigades to the sector. These elements have likely suffered some of Russia's highest casualty rates of 2023 so far.
- Russian nationalist 'mil bloggers' have been harshly critical of the military's tactics in the operation. The nature of the operation suggests that Russia's core military-political challenge remains the same as it has throughout most of the war. Political leaders demand more territory to be seized but the military cannot generate effective operational level offensive action.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- In mid-October 2023, Russia's Ministry of Education and Science reportedly instructed universities to avoid open discussion of any "negative political, economic and social trends" in Russia during academic activities.
- This constitutes a further restriction of the information space in wartime Russia, making it more difficult to openly discuss policy issues. In the longer term, this will likely further the trend of Russian policy-making taking place in an echo-chamber of politically acceptable, pro-Kremlin perspectives.
- It is highly likely that the Kremlin wishes to further suppress negative perspectives on the 'special military operation' in the run up to President Vladimir Putin's anticipated bid for re-election in March 2024.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- A Russian state-backed private military company (PMC) is specifically attempting to recruit women into combat roles in Ukraine for the first time. Recent social media adverts have appealed for female recruits to join Borz Battalion, a part of Russian PMC Redut, to work as snipers and uncrewed aerial vehicle operators. Redut is likely directly sponsored by the Russian Main Directorate of Intelligence.
- In March 2023, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said that 1,100 women were deployed in Ukraine, which would equate to only around 0.3 per cent of its force. As Redut's advert points out, they currently serve in mostly medical support and food service roles.
- It remains unclear whether official Russian defence forces will seek to follow suit and open more combat roles to women. Women have rarely taken front line fighting roles within pro-Russian forces during the current conflict; however, there was a strong tradition of female snipers and other combat troops in Soviet forces during the Second World War.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- As reported by Russian state-backed media, the deputy commander of Russian forces in Ukraine, Colonel General Mikhail Teplinsky, has likely personally taken over command of Russia's Dnipro Grouping of Forces. He replaces Colonel General Oleg Makaevich. The force is responsible for the occupied areas of Kherson Oblast, including the eastern bank of the Dnipro River.
- Fighting has intensified in this area in recent weeks as Ukrainian forces have contested Russian control of the river's eastern bank. Teplinsky is likely held in high regard by the Russian General Staff and has experience commanding operations in the area: he was the officer on the ground in charge of Russia's relatively successful withdrawal from west of the Dnipro in November 2022.
- It is almost certain that repelling Ukrainian attacks across the Dnipro and holding territory in occupied Kherson Oblast remains a high priority objective for Russian forces in Ukraine. Teplinsky's appointment is likely an indication of increased pressure on Russian forces defending the area.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

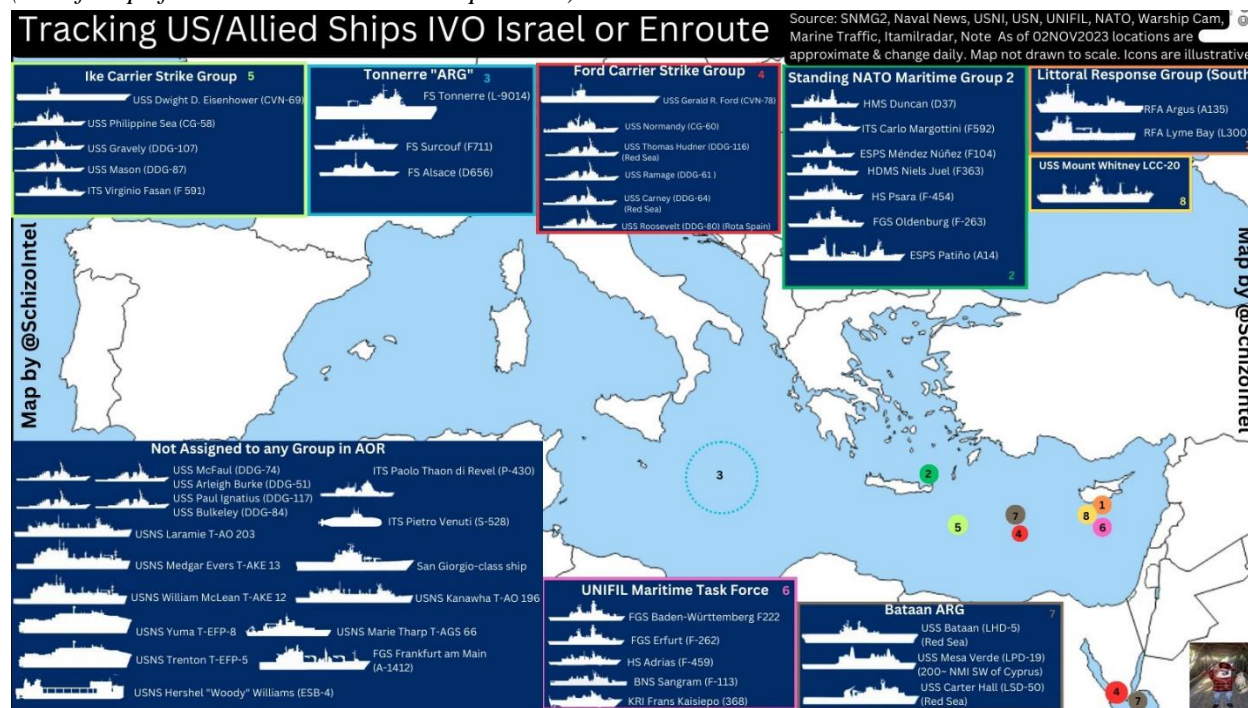
- Russia's Lancet small one-way-attack uncrewed aerial systems (OWA UAVs) have highly likely been one of the most effective new capabilities Russia has fielded in Ukraine over the last 12 months. It is designed to be piloted over enemy territory, waiting until a target is identified, before diving towards it and detonating.
- Lancets are manufactured by the ZALA Aero Group. ZALA also make the small, unarmed Orlan 10 UAV which Russia often deploys alongside Lancet to spot targets. Ukraine has also experienced success with small OWA UAVs.
- Russia deploys Lancets to attack priority targets and they have become increasingly prominent in the key counter-battery fight, striking enemy artillery. Traditionally, Russia has used small UAVs mainly for reconnaissance. With its attack capability, Lancet has been a step change in how Russia uses this category of weapons.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russia has likely lost at least four long range Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) launchers to Ukrainian strikes over the last week. On 26 October 2023, Russian media reported that three Russian SA-21 launchers had been destroyed in the Luhansk region. Ukrainian sources reported additional Russian air defence losses in Crimea.
- Russia has long prioritised ample, high-tech, long range SAM systems as a key component of its military strategy.
- The recent losses highlight that Russia's Integrated Air Defence System continues to struggle against modern precision strike weapons and will highly likely increase the already significant strain on remaining systems and operators. There is a realistic possibility that as Russia replaces the destroyed systems in Ukraine it will weaken its air defences in other operational areas.

Sea Power in Use

Intelschizo @Schizointel posted (updated: <https://twitter.com/schizointel/status/1718744079528268170> and then again 2 Nov): Updated Map of US Navy and Allies in the Mediterranean and Red Sea. (list of ships follows – no Canadian ships listed)

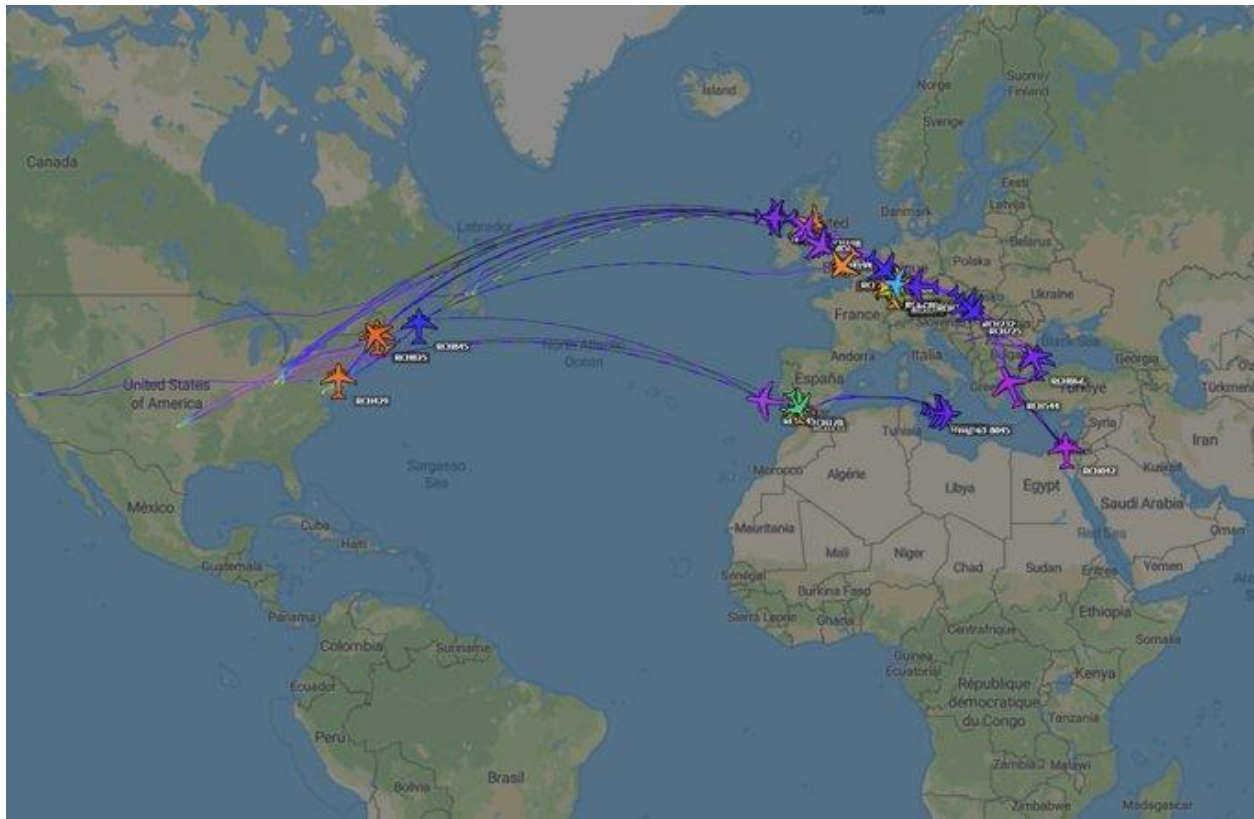


Sal Mercogliano (WGOW Shipping) 🚢🚚🚛🚚🚚🚚 @mercoglianos quoted: US logistical developments in the Med.

1. The main fuel/supply point is Augusta, Italy with Souda Bay, Crete as a secondary.
2. 2 oilers & 2 store/ammo ships are now in place to support 2 carrier strike groups.
3. Stena Polaris is staged at Souda as a consolidation tanker.

Air Power in Use

Aerospace Intelligence @space_osint 29 Oct posted: This Sunday morning's USAF airlift to and from the Middle East and European hubs: twenty-nine C-17 aircraft, three C-5Ms and six KC-135s. This is just an illustration of the scale of the air bridge. It excludes non-USAF flights and probably includes some unrelated flights.



NORAD Radar Map

'Advance reading' for the talk by Distinguished Speaker COL Willis, 16 Nov:

