



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 10 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. The mess will be open after the ceremony. There is food laid on and everyone is welcome.

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 17, 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.

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/

New: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 8 November 2023 <https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current>

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

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>

New: Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, November 2023
<https://www.rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/225-rausi-dispatches-november-2023>

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

Royal Canadian Logistics Service Newsletter *The Logistician* September 2023
<https://sway.office.com/pA4cFB1V3YMF4WNl>

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

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* 7 Nov 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).

Canadian Army @CanadianArmy 2 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Armour meets ambulance 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 2 Field Ambulance received the first delivery of the ambulance variant of the new Armoured Combat Support Vehicles. These vehicles will enhance the safety and effectiveness of our medics on the battlefield.



Vanguard @VanguardMag 3 Nov posted: Read the latest issue of the Vanguard Newsletter:
✓ #Canadiansubmarine endurance w/ Norman Jolin
✓ Keel Laying ceremony with @Seaspan
✓ Safeguarding Canada's Borders w/ @BabcockCanada
✓ Diving Deeper w/ Christopher Earl and Seaspan
#DeepBlueForum



RUSI(NS) quoted: "Why is Endurance Important for a Canadian Submarine?" <https://vanguardcanada.com/why-is-endurance-important-for-a-canadian-submarine/>
 Considerations for @RoyalCanNavy Canadian Patrol Submarine Project #CPSP Victoria-class #submarine replacements - globally deployable #BlueWaterNavy
 Also: "Submarines – Playing a Critical Role in Safeguarding Canada's Borders" <https://vanguardcanada.com/submarines-playing-a-critical-role-in-safeguarding-canadas-borders/>



Canadian Army @CanadianArmy 3 Nov posted: Can we call this a Gunboat? The CA Trials and Evaluation Unit (CATEU) trialed mounting a machine gun to an assault boat. This capability would provide assault boat occupants force protection during combat operations.
 RUSI(NS) quoted: Mission of @CanadianArmy🇨🇦 Trials & Evaluation Unit: Provide specialized expertise and unique trial support capabilities for the Canadian Army through the conduct of objective" trials and evaluation in order to ensure Canadian soldiers are lethal and agile"
[https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/army-internet/docs/en/cadtc/CATEU_EN.pdf](https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/army-armee/migration/assets/army_internet/docs/en/cadtc/CATEU_EN.pdf)



"Forging the future of the Canadian Coast Guard fleet"
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/corporate/stories/canadian-coast-guard.html>
 Public Services and Procurement Canada @PSPC_SPAC story of Canadian Coast Guard @CoastGuardCAN🇨🇦 Bay-class high-endurance search & rescue #SAR lifeboats



Veterans Affairs CA @VeteransENG_CA 3 Oct posed and RUSI(NS) reposted: A new French term for female Veterans will be used at VAC, replacing "femme vétéran" with "vétérane." This change is in line with VAC's efforts to advance inclusivity, and this #WomensHistoryMonth we will keep listening & learning about the contributions of this important group.



"#NATO warships obliterate sea mines"
<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/nato-warships-obliterate-sea-mines/> @RoyalCanNavy Kingston-class ships participated in Historic Ordnance Disposal Operations #HODOPS. "These remnants of past wars are still posing a real threat and danger to merchant traffic and shipping" #ExcellenceAtSea



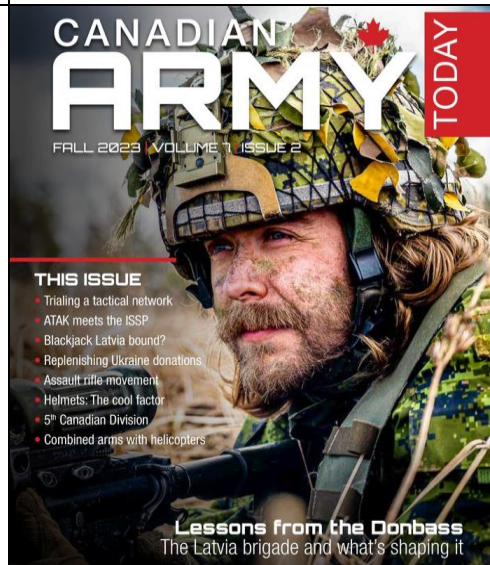
BGen / Bgén Stéphane Masson @5Div_Comd_5Div 6 Nov posted (video at: <https://twitter.com/CanadianArmy/status/1720818684430835763>) and RUSI(NS) reposted: The Medium Range Radar and the LAV Airspace Coordination Centre provide the @CanadianArmy capabilities to coord allied land/sea/air fires & share intelligence among air/ground sensors – contributing to an allied multi-domain detection system that supports joint defeat measures.



NAADSN_RDSNAA @NAADSN_RDSNAA 6 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: 📄 Latest Quick Impact out from @WhitneyLackenb1 on #Climate #Security and the Arctic: Canadian Reflections <https://naadsn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/23Nov1-Lackenbauer-Quick-Impact.pdf>



Canadian Army Today@CdnArmyToday 6 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: The digital edition of the Fall 2023 issue is live. And as the cover line says, it's all (almost) about scaling the battle group to the combat strength of a brigade. <https://publications.canadianarmytoday.com/v7i2/#p=1>



For contents, see "Other" below.

CDR @CDRmagazine 7 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Speaking at #CAS2023, LGen Kenny said “I’m very concerned right now about our ability to do our job effectively against the current threats.” Read more: <https://www.canadiandefencereview.com/news/air-force-commander-says-rcaf-not-ready-for-conflict> (Air Force Commander Says RCAF Not Ready for Conflict)



NATO ACT @NATO_ACT 8 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted:

✓Digital Transformation

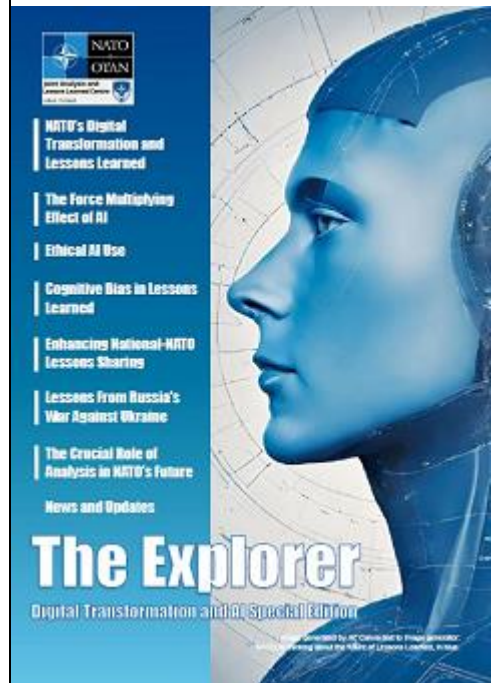
✓AI

✓Applications of the Lessons Learned process

The Explorer, @NATOJALLC’s annual publication, showcases #NATO’s commitment to embracing technological advancements responsibly & maintain a competitive advantage: <https://act.nato.int/article/the-explorer-2023/> #WeAreNATO

Annual publication by NATO’s *Joint Analysis Lessons Learned Centre*. Contents:

- A Brave New World—NATO’s Digital Transformation & Lessons Learned
- The Force Multiplying Effect of AI
- Ensuring Ethical AI in NATO’s Digital Transformation
- Cognitive Bias in LL Analysis
- JALLC Innovation
- Lessons Learned Updates
- NLLC24 Back to Basics -Two Decades of the NATO LL Conference
- Enhancing National-NATO Lessons Sharing
- Outreach and Engagement
- JALLC Analysis Updates
- NATO’s Future Challenges and Adaptations - The Crucial Role of Analysis
- Memoirs of a JATT Member
- Dynamic Learning - The JALLC’s Contribution to Exercise DYNAMIC MESSENGER



NATO ACT @NATO_ACT 7 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: The @NATO Warfighting Capstone Concept is the first concept of its kind, offering an agreed 20y vision for #NATO military adaptation. It describes the future security environment & sets out a path for NATO to shape it and maintain military edge: <https://act.nato.int/our-work/nato-warfighting-capstone-concept/> #WeAreNATO (The NATO Warfighting Capstone Concept <https://www.act.nato.int/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/NWCC-Glossy-18-MAY.pdf>)



CSIS Canada @csiscanada 8 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: “We have seen and blocked attempts by the PRC to acquire locations nearest the sensitive strategic assets of the country where we knew that the ultimate purpose was for spying operations.”

“We have seen and blocked attempts by the PRC to acquire locations nearest the sensitive strategic assets of the country where we knew that the ultimate purpose was for spying operations.”

CSIS/SCRS

Canada

"Submarines: Canada's underwater prospects foundering" <https://legionmagazine.com/submarines-canadas-underwater-prospects-foundering/> @RoyalCanNavy Victoria-class boats are old. CAN🇨🇦 should buy 12 #subs now, preferably design already in-service another navy. Best defence as sea, deterrent to potential aggressors



“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).

Australian strategic planning would benefit from net assessments

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/australian-strategic-planning-would-benefit-from-net-assessments/>

"The potential contribution of net assessments to the development of Australian strategy is equally vast."

It would be interesting to discover if anyone in Canadian

Armed Forces (CAF) lines is taking an approach to net assessments. Both the US and Australia effectively face very different threats – the US focusing on many fronts, NATO, Indo-Asia-Pacific (IAP), Middle East, etc., whilst Australia arguably is largely focused on the IAP. Canada is languishing in terms of defense capability and has traditionally focussed on continental defense (CANUS) and NATO and until now has had a minor focus, defense related, on the IAP. For Canada a net assessment would likely be a more difficult problem as the Government of Canada (GoC) would have to prioritize concerns from a security perspective. Likely the CAF would have to look through the lens of being a "coalition partner" more than anything, so stating the real problem would be a two-front effort - NATO and IAP, at least for now, perhaps wider, though one cannot be sure that GoC policy would encourage that approach. One would have to prioritize between actual defence requirements and humanitarian assistance/disaster response concerns.

There have been instances where CAF officers and others within DND have equated Canada to Australia. Indeed, a comparison between the two defence institutions could not be more different, both in terms of capability building and real threat assessment. Canada is not within the footprint of the Red Dragon as they are. Their position within the IAP is fundamentally different from ours as is the real threat they face. Thus, the idea of a net assessment makes sense as does strategic thought. In forums



with Australian and US policy and defence officials it is evident that their opinion of Canada comparing ourselves to Australia in defence terms is not favorable.

Not long ago, 2017-1018, Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) staff were involved in generating a Strategic Map - in effect a package of documents crowned with an RCN strategy that provided the linkage to GoC policy (Strong, Secure, Engaged – SSE) to operations. Unfortunately, at the time, the view taken by higher authority that that approach would be moving ahead of GoC direction and thus the effort was effectively dismissed.

The recent release of the CAF Pan Domain Force Concept could be argued to be a means to again open the door to this approach, indeed even crack the door on the idea of net assessment. However, the Pan Domain document broadly speaking is more a rehash of multi-domain operations, something that is not new and has been written about, principally, by numerous US think tanks as well as the US Department of Defense and indeed NATO. Interestingly there is reference made to a Joint Strategic Staff Strategy Map which would be most interesting to see.

The idea of a net assessment organization for Canada makes sense (then again strategic thought, analysis and writing makes sense too, and yet...). However, the CAF is still struggling to climb out of the proverbial hole that Capability Based Planning established. Changing focus, capability to threat, in a large organization is time consuming and therefore narrowing down the problem (focus) will be key to how the CAF reconstitutes both from a personnel perspective and an equipment perspective. What is not clear is how to manage expectations specifically with respect to the RCN, seven years out from the Canadian Surface Combatant project being delivered.

Regardless of the lack of strategic thinking efforts, the RCN is currently not able to meet the operational requirements as demanded in SSE - two task groups - indeed based on recent maintenance and personnel issues the RCN would likely struggle to produce one task effective task group, maybe.

The very real problem for the RCN in the near term is how do we manage what we currently have in an era of diminishing force structure (personnel) and ships that require more and more maintenance? Increasing issues with ships equipment – beyond weapons and sensor systems, and the resulting prolonged deep maintenance times in dry dock are often delaying ships returning to service or shortening actual operational time due to maintenance requirements. This is problematic in terms of strategy formulation - how to mitigate issues related to force rust out (30-year-old platforms) and the impact to any strategy (ways and means). Importantly, we are now at the stage of really having to consider attrition in terms of platforms; how to meet GoC requirements when ships must be taken out of service unexpectedly? Case in point: the commitment that the RCN would provide three frigates in the IAP; there may be three ships, but likely not frigates!

EU mulls intelligence-gathering obligations for search and rescue operation

<https://www.statewatch.org/news/2023/november/eu-mulls-intelligence-gathering-obligations-for-search-and-rescue-operations/>

"Draft European Commission proposals would impose intelligence-gathering requirements on any ships that engage in search and rescue (SAR) operations at sea, in the name of 'addressing the needs of those onboard as well as facilitating a smooth disembarkation and first reception'."



Such proposals would need to be well analyzed and debated, even 'wargamed', before proceeding. Could have an extremely deleterious effect on the readiness of ships to engage in search and rescue. Surely intelligence-gathering (correct term but for peace-of-mind many would want a different term) could be conducted at point of landing.

The Royal Canadian Navy must be Equipped for Real-World Pacific Scenarios

<https://cimsec.org/the-royal-canadian-navy-must-be-equipped-for-real-world-pacific-scenarios/>

"Worse still, not having sufficient fleet capability to confront the contingencies faced by Pacific allies will leave Canada severely marginalized, with implications for its interests in the Arctic, commerce, and even Canada's strategic autonomy."



NATO needs a plan for military and nonmilitary instruments of power to work together

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/nato-needs-a-plan-for-military-and-nonmilitary-instruments-of-power-to-work-together/>

"To adapt to these changes, NATO is developing a multi-domain operations (MDO) warfighting concept. But for this concept to be successful, it must include a plan to manage military operations' increasing reliance on and interaction with nonmilitary instruments of power."

Yes, confrontation and conflict are not strictly the purview of the military these days.



The MQ-9B Sea Guardian and the revolution in anti-submarine warfare

<https://wavellroom.com/2023/11/03/the-mq-9b-sea-guardian-and-the-revolution-in-anti-submarine-warfare/>

Putting aside the hyperbole of "Once fully operational, the MQ-9B will end the submarine's dominance in naval warfare", the article is an interesting read.

Will the aircraft the Royal Canadian Air Force will procure through the Remotely Piloted Aircraft System project (<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/procurement/remotely-piloted-aircraft-system.html>) have a capability to search for submarines?



The United States Navy: Quo Vadis?

<https://opencanada.org/the-united-states-navy-quo-vadis/>

"And yet, an examination of recent developments suggests a disturbing sense of irresolution and uncertainty about the way forward in US naval circles. The same might be said of Canada, and for both Washington and Ottawa, the stakes are particularly high."

- - -

Comment: Some will recall the author, James Boutilier, from his time as a policy advisor in MARPAC. Note the sub-title: "Decisions in Washington always have important consequences for Canada".



National defence and the Royal Australian Navy

Whilst the three articles were written for Australia, they have multiple points for consideration in Canada and are all well worth reading. Note the author: "David Shackleton is a retired vice admiral and former chief of the Royal Australian Navy."

"Part 1 of this series examined how the RAN could contribute to Australia's new strategy of deterrence by denial as expressed through the 2023 defence strategic review (DSR).

Part 2 analysed the RAN's primary tasks to execute that strategy. (Part 3) addresses the primary force structure the RAN needs to accomplish those tasks."



National defence and the RAN (part 1): achieving deterrence by denial

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/national-defence-and-the-ran-part-1-achieving-deterrence-by-denial/>

National defence and the RAN (part 2): tasking for deterrence by denial

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/national-defence-and-the-ran-part-2-tasking-for-deterrence-by-denial/>

National defence and the RAN (part 3): structuring the fleet for deterrence by denial

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/national-defence-and-the-ran-part-3-structuring-the-fleet-for-deterrence-by-denial/>

Comments from a RUSI(NS) colleague:

1. Canada is not going to be able to deter any one single country. We will always be a maritime force focused on coalition operations from the Combined Defence Plan with the US and NORAD requirements (yes, there is a maritime nexus beyond simply sharing of maritime warning information).
2. Canada is spread thin in terms of diplomatic effort - NATO, EU, Middle East and the Indo-Asia-Pacific - and of course our own maritime sovereignty covering three ocean estates. This requires sophistication in how "Canada" builds those relationships, diplomatic and military (we cannot afford to continue to be viewed as being vocal without meeting bilateral requirements in terms of defense, NATO and NORAD, to a degree).
3. Warships can be present with persistence, provided the seaborne resupply system can cope. Canada, despite the build program, is struggling to provide a cogent naval force. The current fleet is old and maintenance intensive. Importantly, given current recruiting and attrition numbers, the RCN is failing -

currently 66% of positions are filled - but that number drops significantly in terms of crewing ships when the unfit sea moniker is applied to the current force structure.

4. An important component of naval activities in shaping allied perceptions is that the RCN is viewed as a highly professional fighting force that is well-equipped for sustained combat operations if necessary. See Para 3! Moreover, for the most part Canada no longer has long range anti-air platforms, its minute patrol submarine fleet is failing, minor warships are as maintenance intensive as the Frigates and are also due for replacement.

5. Canada must also demonstrate its willingness to look after its own sovereignty, especially in its vast maritime estate. Maritime patrol in the Canadian context must be top of mind regardless of whatever else is happening (defense of the homeland first and foremost). What Canada does not have is an adequately designed coastal patrol ship. The Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessels are large, ill equipped both in terms of sensors and weapons, and above all relatively slow. Moreover, the hull design was a compromise between Arctic ice operations and patrolling the coasts. Employing larger warships like frigates is cost prohibitive when small fast patrol boats would be a more cost-effective option. The addition of more maritime patrol aircraft (rotary and fixed wing) would also provide increased surveillance.

6. Technological advances and developments in long-range precision weapons mean surface combatants and submarines can play a wider role. However, this also means that littoral operations become more difficult. Consider the Falklands. Weapons of today can be launched from land-based sites and reach out well beyond what the current "littoral" construct is. Warships are unlikely to work into the littoral until such time as air and land forces have established a near-permissive environment. It is more likely that subsurface units and aerial, surface, and sub-surface uncrewed vehicles are the operators within the inshore of the littoral rather than major platforms. This is a change in paradigm and will continue to affect the mindset of naval warfare simply due to the nature of weapon technological progression.

7. Communications, networked sensing and targeting will all be critical to success. Likely, as tech evolves, the inclusion of artificial intelligence into these networks must be considered at multiple levels. Hypersonic weapons, quantum computing - modifying sensor capability, and communications security will all be factors that can both be employed but also must be defeated. These concepts (some of which are now operational) require sophisticated, resilient, high-capacity communications networks - again a change in paradigm that will present difficult doctrinal and technical challenges.

I think the following is the most important point of all and it certainly applies to Canada more now than ever: "Our navy exists to fight at sea if we must, with as good a chance of winning as we are willing to afford. Owning a navy that is consistently capable of winning is difficult, complex, and expensive. An unfaltering national commitment is required. It demands consistent investment in equipment and its upkeep, constant training and renewal, assessment and evaluation of performance, research and development, experimentation and sometimes taking risks with untried technologies in search of a capability edge, perhaps asymmetric. Most of all, a navy requires a motivated, skilled, and dedicated national workforce comprising uniformed, public service and blue- and white-collar private sector people." The Canadian Armed Forces must ensure Canadians want to be part of that endeavour.

For an appreciation of 'deterrence by denial' versus 'deterrence by punishment', see RAND paper: "Understanding Deterrence" (<https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PE295.html>).

Army Equipment Fielding Centre completes the mission before the mission

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/army/2023/10/army-equipment-fielding-centre-mission.html>

The Army Equipment Fielding Centre, an underappreciated but essential capability for an expeditionary army.



CAF Hosts International Exercise ARDENT DEFENDER

<https://www.canadiandefencereview.com/news/caf-hosts-international-exercise-ardent-defender>

"A member of a Canadian Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team operates a bomb disposal robot to be used in the controlled detonation of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) during Exercise ARDENT DEFENDER."

Robots have long been in use by the Canadian Armed Forces and police services for unexploded ordnance (UXO) disposal. There are reports out of Ukraine that the Russians are heavily seeding areas they have to concede with booby-traps and other explosive devices. And considering the amount of tube and missile artillery used, there must be a large amount of failed rounds littering the landscape. There would be utility in an expansion of the Canadian Armed Forces' holding of bomb disposal robots, and in the training of Canadian teams to train and assist the Ukrainians in reclaiming and making safe their territory.



Other Sources:

#Arctic

Report on the Arctic Capabilities of the U.S. Armed Forces

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1638-1.html

Canadian Armed Forces

Chief of defence staff says military must switch gears in increasingly chaotic world

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/chief-of-defence-staff-says-military-must-switch-gears-in-increasingly-chaotic-world-1.6618819>

Obscene Waste of Taxpayers' Money

<https://frontline.online/defence/featured/13909-Obscene-Waste-of-Taxpayers%E2%80%99-Money->

#information operations

Human Subjects Protection in the Era of Deepfakes

<https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/human-subjects-protection-in-the-era-of-deepfakes>

The Case for Deception in Operational Success

<https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/article/the-case-for-deception-in-operational-success/>

#legal

The Law Is Clear — Hamas Must Pay for Its Atrocity

<https://cepa.org/article/the-law-is-clear-hamas-must-pay-for-its-atrocity/>

Opinion: I'm an expert in urban warfare. Israel is upholding the laws of war

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/07/opinions/israel-hamas-gaza-not-war-crimes-spencer/index.html>

#national shipbuilding strategy

Lessons from Britain's National Shipbuilding Strategy

<https://www.geostrategy.org.uk/britains-world/lessons-from-britains-national-shipbuilding-strategy/>

"One of the biggest problems faced by the shipbuilding industrial base in any nation is the lack of a robust long-term demand signal."

#public affairs

Manipulating the message: Public relations consultants outnumber journalists 14 - 1 in Canada

<https://www.newcanadianmedia.ca/manipulating-the-message-public-relations-consultants-outnumber-journalists-14-1-in-canada/>

"...the number of active reporters in Canada by 2021 has shrunk to about 11,000 from about 13,000 in 1991. In this 20-year period, the number of public relations consultants has increased from about 24,000, to about 160,000 – a ratio of 14 – 1 vis-à-vis publicists and reporters..."

Which leads to reduced education:

Loyalist College suspends journalism programs indefinitely

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10074596/loyalist-college-suspends-journalism-programs/>

which leads to...

#reading

War Books: The Operational Level of War

<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/war-books-the-operational-level-of-war/>

#Russia

Battle Reading the Russian Pacific Fleet 2023-2030

<https://www.navy.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/Battle%20Reading%20the%20Russian%20Pacific%20Fleet%202023-2030.pdf>

#Russia-Ukraine War

On understanding the naval war

<https://thelookoutn.substack.com/p/on-understanding-the-naval-war>

#warfare

We are witnessing the future of war on the battlefields of Ukraine

<https://thehub.ca/2023-11-03/richard-shimooka-we-are-witnessing-the-future-of-war-on-the-battlefields-of-ukraine/>

#submarines #Royal Canadian Navy

Hanwha Ocean to join Canadian patrol submarine project

<https://www.kedglobal.com/aerospace-defense/newsView/ked202311060004>

The teams are forming for the Canadian Patrol Submarine Project.

#war

The (UN)Changing Character of War

<https://www.thekcis.org/conference/kcis-2023/executive-summary>

Executive Summary of the Kingston Consortium on International Security Annual Conference 2023

#warfare

Siege Mentality: A Tale of Two Wus

<https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2020/11/10/siege-mentality-a-tale-of-two-wus>

#artificial intelligence

Fighting for Seconds: Warfare at the Speed of Artificial Intelligence

<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/fighting-for-seconds-warfare-at-the-speed-of-artificial-intelligence/>

Other:

Canadian Defence Academy *The Torch*: What's New This Week? 7-13 November

<https://cfc-ca.libguides.com/c.php?g=709488&p=5224119>

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(US) Army University Press *Military Review* November-December 2023

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/English-Edition-Archives/November-December-2023/>

contents:

Winning before the War: A Case for Consolidation of Gains

The Tank Is Dead ... Long Live the Tank: The Persistent Value of Armored Combined Arms Teams in the 21st Century

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Convergence and Emission Control: Tension and Reconciliation

Concepts for Security Force Assistance Brigade Company Task Forces in Large-Scale Combat Operations

At the Point of Friction: The Role of the Modern Command Sergeant Major in Today's Army

Chinese Operational Art: The Primacy of the Human Dimension

Selective Service: Before the All-Volunteer Force

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Responses to Gender Bias and Discrimination among Women Officers

Sleep and Performance: Why the Army Must Change Its Sleepless Culture

By All Means Available: Memoirs of a Life in Intelligence, Special Operations, and Strategy

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

General

There is a lot happening around the world and as one can guess it is not easy to keep up on everything, everywhere. Last week, I decided not to comment on the issue of the situation in the Middle East. I spent two years of my life there on UN duty and vowed at the end of my second long tour that I would never do another UN tour. The reason was wide spread corruption especially amongst civilian staff but others as well which quite frankly was brushed under the carpet. There is a very good reason why Israel does not like the UN and from my personal perspective they have every reason to be leery of anything the UN says or do. This is even before one gets to the whole issue of the Palestinians and why the Arab world will not permit them to become citizens.

The other issue is the absolute flow of disinformation being provided by both sides but especially by the Palestinian side. I was present when we caught an ambulance in Gaza transporting a large quantity of small arms ammunition, so it happens. It happens and therefore I can accept the idea an ambulance was bombed by the Israelis because it was carrying XYZ material because it is possibly true. The role of Russia, Iran and perhaps China is also a concern but the exact nature is not quite as clear as it should be. Did Wagner private military company provide training to Hamas? There is video of training that suggests this may be the case. Can this be trusted? Is it truly likely that Russia might do this, quite likely but... Iranian weaponry and ammunition have been widely found throughout Gaza as well. The bottom line is that the Axis of Evil, Russia, China, Iran and North Korea, all seem to have reason to cause unrest to stretch US and Western resources. There are literally too many wheels turning all at once with wheels inside wheels and these badly need clarification before anything sensible or even close to that ideal become clear.

Western media has amplified some of this disinformation. One example is the CBC reporting on casualties in Gaza. The reports take the Hamas figures at face value without caveats such as these are not verified by independent sources. As we have seen with Hamas authorities, they are not afraid to use a tragic self-inflicted incident to their own purpose as we saw with the alleged Israeli bombing of the hospital which later turned out to be an unsuccessful launch of Islamic Jihad rocket vice an Israeli

bomb. The incident was claimed to be over 500 dead, later found to be much smaller and again unverified. It is a mess to sort out. I have therefore decided to avoid the issue as a detailed area for the SAC notes.

O Canada

The political campaign to dump the choice of the P-8 Poseidon is ramping up. Bombardier is offering a version of the Global 6500 as the possible replacement for the CP140 Aurora. They allege that they can produce an aircraft with nearly the same capability under the Boeing going price. This is despite that this marvel is not even on the design boards as yet and this fictional aircraft is expected to be completely developed and have similar characteristics and capability to the P-8 and cost less and operate less expensively than the P-8. Keep in mind the entire development cost would be borne by Canada. Support for this effort is now coming from the premiers of Ontario and Quebec, the provinces with most of the aviation industry in Canada. Note that I am skeptical that this will succeed and be on time on target - one only has to look at other Bombardier promises and products to be more than a little concerned about this issue. One hopes that the current government sticks to the original decision and acquires the P-8 as opposed to creating yet another orphan fleet as we have with the CH148 Cyclone. Too often Canadian military procurement has been a political football and has been at the expense of the members of the CAF, sometimes at the cost of their lives.

There have been pro-Palestinian demonstrations across the country. Most are quite legitimate but many are using anti-Semitic language such as shouting "Palestine from the Jordan to the Sea" which suggests that Israel would be destroyed. Hamas has the destruction of Israel as part of its founding document. Hamas is a recognized as a terrorist organization by Canada and most Western nations. Scrutiny of organizations supporting the Palestinians has to be carefully and legally examined for support for the terrorist organization known as Hamas. The actions of Hamas speak for themselves. They are a national security threat and should be dealt with as such.

The Prime Minister has publicly stated in a scrum with reporters Wednesday in Parliament that anti-Semitism and Islamophobia have to stop. In both cases the number of incidents are continuing to rise with little sign of abatement. It does not augur well for the long term. The divisive politics of our current situation seems to be settling in for the longer term. It reinforces Canadian's "navel gazing" rather than examining Canada's international responsibilities requiring greater action such as a modern security policy, foreign policy and defence policy in a world context. It was noted by Minister Bill Blair today (Wednesday, 8 November 2023) in an interview that the National Defence Review would have to be revisited due to continuing downward trend for world peace and cooperation today.

In the meantime, Canadian politicians of all stripes are carefully examining their navel rather than dealing with an increasingly difficult security situation both at home and abroad. Canada is no longer fireproof internationally. The country is now considered to be a "freeloader" and a detriment to NATO. Yet our politicians fail to understand the role of the CAF is to help provide deterrence and if deterrence fails a lethal response along with our allies and is not as a place for social experiments. At present it is doubtful that the CAF is capable of conducting and maintaining our commitments and little if anything is being done to correct the problem. One example is the recruiting system itself, rebuilt in the 1990s when few recruits were necessary. Actual requirement fell to under 5k as a normal figure as opposed to the early 1990s when 14 to 20k per year were considered normal intakes. The recruiting offices are usually hidden in an out-of-the-way spot, usually only one per city. Its online services continue to be opaque and unnecessarily convoluted. Medical issues tend to put people off as well when even minor allergies can be used to prevent someone including skilled tradesmen from entering the service. This part has to be delegated to regional surgeons for decisions. The current system can literally take years

to get a recruit out the other end of recruiting system alone let alone a trained service member. It is not a useful system, it needs to go.

Speaking of unnecessarily complicated systems, one of the most interesting challenges of our service is our "reserve system." There is the Regular Force which is fairly cut and dried comparatively speaking. They are not part of the Reserve. We also have the Primary Reserve consisting of class A (part time, one night a week, and one weekend a month on average), class B, reservists filling fulltime positions in a local area and class C reservists who are filling holes in Regular Force requirements on operations and training usually overseas. There is also the Cadet Instructor Cadre made up of volunteers supporting local cadet organizations, and then there is the Supplementary Holding List made up of personnel of both the Regular And Reserve Forces who are taking their release but have volunteered if necessary to return to duty at a time of emergency. This last one is seldom used. When I have talked with foreign officers about this, they are amazed that Canada lets personnel leave completely after service as we have done courtesy of Treasury Board Rules. This alone would give some capacity to quickly replace needed classifications if necessary as we need presently. This might be examined if there is a way forward to meet national requirements in our present state in relatively short period. Rules can be changed and create an actual reserve based on trained but recently released personnel as well as retaining the current Primary Reserve system but going to just a two class system of full time and part time reserve service vice three class system and make it less administratively burdensome. Just a thought while the world is burning.

United States

The US has two aircraft carriers in the Middle east, the Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group in the Mediterranean and the Eisenhower group heading towards the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean area. Originally both carriers were to be in the Med but Houthi forces have fired long range missiles towards Israel with one hitting near Elat on the Gulf of Aqaba. USS *Carny* spent nearly nine hours shooting down drones and missiles trying to hit Israel. The Houthis have "declared war" on Israel and are firing various weapons. The Israelis have sent one of their corvettes into the area to provide defence to southern Israel. Israel also has a submarine near Iran that is capable of firing land attack missiles. It is believed that this vessel may be nuclear armed. The current high tempo of carrier deployments does have a price in future readiness; something not lost on Western adversaries. It is likely the Axis of Evil will continue to conduct near-conflict operations as a means to diminish US capabilities in the longer term. The US has increased air and ground forces in the Middle East to compensate.

Moldova

The pro-Western party did well in local elections and have made some gains on the 6 November 2023 election, however they failed to take the mayoralty race for the capital city. More than 12000 positions were involved in the elections including for mayor and councillor positions around the country. The President's party took slightly more than 40% of the popular vote. It should be noted that Russia attempted to bring more than 5m USD into Moldova to affect the elections - this was stopped by security forces. Russia is continuing to interfere with elections in Moldova and other former Warsaw Pact countries. They have had some success in Hungary with Victor Orban who has taken a pro-Russian position and has even had a direct meeting with Vladimir Putin. Hungary is also the last country to not take action to ratify Sweden's accession to NATO.

The European Commission has formally recommended that accession talks for joining the EU begin with Ukraine and Moldova in the near future.

Belarus

Belarus continues to try to harass citizens who fled the country by using passports requirements and threats against relatives to bring them home thus allowing the regime to arrest them. This week also saw the imprisonment of Ales Bialiatski, a former Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, in solitary confinement. He is currently sentenced to ten years imprisonment despite his long term illness.

The International Criminal Court was presented evidence by Pavel Latushka, a former Cultural Minister, that the self-declared President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, is implicated in the removal of Ukrainian children from Ukraine. He delivered this evidence on 7 November 2023. No decision has been reached in this instance however there are a large number of ongoing investigations into the removal of children. President Putin has been indicted along with Maria Lvova-Belova, Russia's Commissioner for Children's Rights over the deportation of Ukrainian children.

Russia- Ukraine War

The War continues as a war of attrition with major losses on both sides.

Russia is facing an election. Unlike previous elections, President Putin and others not necessarily completely on his side are aware that the president is in a weaker position. He still controls who can run or not but he is vulnerable and his decisions are being watched. He still controls the security forces, but keep in mind that over 100k of police and Rosgardia have "left" in the past year and a bit. A major unpopular decision such as another mobilization might be the tipping point for the regime. Ukraine maintains that over 307k Russian soldiers have been killed and using a 3-to-1 means that they believe that 1.2m have been made casualties of some sort either killed, wounded, missing or captured. This is apparently in line with some non-government Russian sources but it is not verified one way or another. It should be remembered that it only took 15k fatalities to end the Afghanistan war. This conflict is well beyond that record. So why isn't it having the same effect now? Essentially, the Russian people still believe that the Ukraine is part of historical Russia...that it should be part of a new Russian empire and therefore their tolerance for losses is fairly high. Secondly, the war has been fought on the backs of the autonomous regions, not the big cities in the European section of the country. Third, Russia still sees itself as part of Europe and in the eyes of the current leadership Russia should be the leading country despite its anemic economy. Fourth, the economy although weakened has not collapsed although depending on the most recent sources some issues are starting to hurt. Young men going to war has also allowed the workforce to remain employed as more are needed to produce equipment and products for the war. Russian citizens haven't really suffered as yet relatively speaking. This being said a major unpopular move by the president at this stage though may not go over well. If one listens to Russian You Tube interviews with common Russians, there is now a change in comments that indicates that they are increasingly aware that there is a problem. Is it enough for civil action? Probably not at this time, but time will tell.

Ukraine has a similar if slightly different problem. General Zaluzhny gave an interview to the Economist and provided an article that is apparently available on the Economist website on how he sees the war and what he thinks will be required for Ukraine's success. The term "stalemate" was used in the article on the interview and formal use of the term "war of attrition." Zaluzhny quite rightly points out that both sides can see what the other is doing because of drone and other technologies, and he is correct. Operations are therefore much harder to carry out. This has raised issues within Ukraine between the Chief of Defence and the President's office. President Zelenskiy stated there was no stalemate and he is also accused of firing Zaluzhny's second-in-command without the knowledge of the defence chief. If true, it means a team that has had success is breaking apart to a degree and that would be unfortunate. This being said, Zaluzhny has not taken a negative point of view. He understands that

any success will depend on gaining technical superiority and the ability of one side to quickly incorporate it into a wider system that utilizes all the technology together in a organized fashion. Ukraine has crossed the Dnipro in the south successfully and is consolidating their hold in southern Kherson. Russia had been forced to remove forces from here for other sites and operations of higher priority leaving the south relatively unmanned and prepared. It appears to be increasingly successful but time will tell.

President Zelenskiy has stated there will be no presidential election during the current war. This will not be good for morale or the view of the international community supporting this war effort.

Ukraine has had another success and has demonstrated another new technology by badly damaging a new Russian warship under construction near the Kerch Bridge. The ship, called the *Askold*, a missile firing vessel of corvette size, appears to be sufficiently damaged so as to call it beyond economical repair. It demonstrates a new capability to reach that range. It effectively places all of Crimea within range of Ukrainian weapons systems. This also means that Russia's main line of logistics is now under fire from the Kerch Straits to the front. This can and will have a negative effect on Russia's ability to supply their forces in the long term.

Russia has been able to ramp up its missile production despite sanctions. It is estimated to have between 800 and 1000 missiles available for a campaign against Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Russia continues to develop new capabilities in spite of sanctions, however the rate of production is still fairly slow.

China

China's economic and financial issues are continuing. In reading and listening to more recent analysis of the general trend of China's economy there appears to be two factions within the Chinese Communist Party at opposite points of view. One was the reformist movement which saw opening up and regularizing regulations in line with accepted practices which would encourage foreign investment and private enterprise, and the other the traditionalists which tend to favour greater Party control and thus keep central planning and control of the economy even if it meant slower or in fact non-growth. China's growth target is officially 5% for this year; it is unlikely to actually achieve this but one suspects that the usual CCP move will ensure official figures confirm the successful achievement of this goal. Foreign investment is drying up with more than 160b USD leaving the country last year. It is the largest foreign investment retreat from China since 1998. Exports continue to fall as foreign countries remain concerned with China's actions under Xi as opposed to the gradual opening up by Deng and his successors.

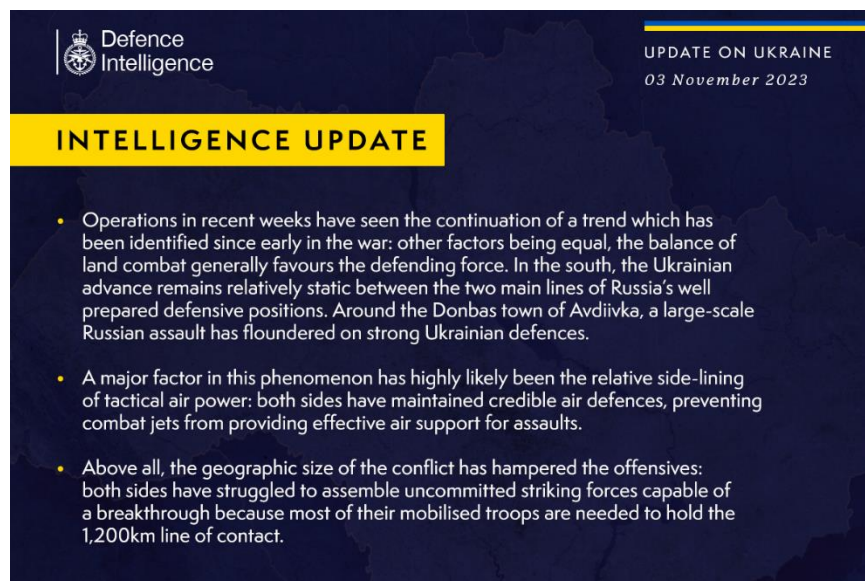
Li Keqiang was the leading proponent of reform and opening up. It was his vision of the future and his actions to achieve this became also the reason for his ultimate failure. He saw that opening up was the way ahead creating overall prosperity for the Chinese people and consequently for the Party as well but it required that the markets eventually made the determination of the economy without the actions of the Party itself except for rare occasions such as a national emergency. The markets would determine the function of government in relation with society and the market in other words creating a balance between government, market and society. The main aim was to prolong the survival of the CCP by giving some of the wealth to society. From the traditionalist or conservative view having wealth of any sort in the hands of the people might give rise to new ideas that may be against the interests of the Party. Li did not see the traditional way as a successful and looked at three progressive initiatives: marketizing the interest rates, marketizing the exchange rate and gradual move toward a full currency exchange flexibility. It involved devolving authority towards the free market system with limited Party control. Xi and the conservatives stopped these initiatives fairly early and diminished Li's overall

power and responsibility, firmly handing these responsibilities to Xi and consequently stopping reform measures. With Li's diminished stature within the Party, despite his position his retirement at the end of Xi's second term was expected. Li's death at age 68 was unexpected as he had no previous heart issues. It is not unusual however, the rumours that it was an organized hit. Despite these rumours; it is unlikely to create any lasting opposition or action.

The three largest property development companies are now the next best thing to being bankrupt. This includes Country Garden, Evergrande and now Vanke this past week. The same article stated that the nearly half of the top 50 property development companies are now in receivership. As property development is a major component of the Chinese economy, especially at the provincial and autonomous region and city level, this will have a profound impact across the nation. Once again, unrest is likely but because there is no specific opposition it is unlikely to cause a long term issue. It does explain why the security service budget is larger than that of the Peoples' Liberation Army.

China continues to bully its neighbours and most recently the Philippines as it relates to the Philippine ship the *Sierra Madre*, a Second World War landing ship tank. This long-grounded vessel is an affront to China and its power and is a symbol of the ongoing fight by the Philippines Republic to keep what the international courts have stated is their territorial waters. China of course disputes this in favour of its largely debunked claim to virtually the entire South China Sea. The US stated that it will honour the Defence Agreement with the Philippines and so the potential for a future flash point is there.

Wednesday, China sent 18 nuclear capable bombers into the Taiwanese air defence recognition zone (ADIZ) as part of their ongoing action to increase pressure on the Taiwanese people. China has been asked to create conditions for a peaceful reunification, however, it seems well beyond China's and the CCP's capacity to use their imagination of what this might look like especially given that the CCP failed to honour the agreement regarding Hong Kong. Pressure that they are currently using will not result in reunification but hardening of Taiwanese resolve. A forceful reunification will not work and likely cause a major international conflict. The question is will Xi try a major attack with the view of a forced unification by 2027 or not?



The slide features the Defence Intelligence logo in the top left corner, which includes a crown icon and the text 'Defence Intelligence'. In the top right corner, it reads 'UPDATE ON UKRAINE' and '03 November 2023'. A prominent yellow banner across the middle contains the text 'INTELLIGENCE UPDATE'. Below this, three bullet points provide an analysis of the conflict in Ukraine, discussing the balance of land combat, tactical air power, and the impact of the geographic size of the conflict on offensives.

Defence Intelligence

UPDATE ON UKRAINE
03 November 2023

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Operations in recent weeks have seen the continuation of a trend which has been identified since early in the war: other factors being equal, the balance of land combat generally favours the defending force. In the south, the Ukrainian advance remains relatively static between the two main lines of Russia's well prepared defensive positions. Around the Donbas town of Avdiivka, a large-scale Russian assault has floundered on strong Ukrainian defences.
- A major factor in this phenomenon has highly likely been the relative side-lining of tactical air power: both sides have maintained credible air defences, preventing combat jets from providing effective air support for assaults.
- Above all, the geographic size of the conflict has hampered the offensives: both sides have struggled to assemble uncommitted striking forces capable of a breakthrough because most of their mobilised troops are needed to hold the 1,200km line of contact.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Over the past three weeks, Russia has likely lost around 200 armoured vehicles during its assaults on the Donbas town of Avdiivka. This is likely due to a combination of relative effectiveness of Ukraine's modern hand-held anti-armour weapons, mines, uncrewed aerial vehicle-dropped munitions, and precision artillery systems.
- In response, Russian forces have highly likely switched to conducting dismounted infantry-based assaults in this sector. Ukrainian forces faced similar tactical challenges as the attacking force over the summer.
- Like previous Russian offensives, the Avdiivka assaults have often been characterised by advances across open ground, leading to high losses. It is plausible that Russia has suffered several thousand personnel casualties around the town since the start of October 2023. Russia's leadership continues to demonstrate a willingness to accept heavy personnel losses for marginal territorial gains.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- As winter approaches, eyewitness accounts from deployed Russian troops in Ukraine suggests that the soldier's age-old battle against the elements remains a major preoccupation for Russia's army.
- On 1 November 2023, recently returned Russian soldiers speaking at the Ogakov Readings military affairs conference in Moscow described being "wet from head to toe" for weeks on end on the front line. One soldier highlighted that the risk of fire alerting Ukrainian forces meant that they "couldn't even boil a mug of tea". They highlighted living and eating "monotonous" food in pervasive mud.
- Maintaining a decent level of personal comfort and sound administration in defensive positions is challenging for any army. However, open-source evidence suggests a generally very poor level on enforcement of basic field administration amongst Russian forces. This is likely partially caused by a deficit in motivated junior commanders as well as variable logistical support.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Inflation rose to 6 per cent in Russia in September 2023, up from 5.3 per cent in August 2023. This was driven by rises in consumer prices such as food and fuel. Higher inflation is almost certain to increase the costs of funding Russia's war in Ukraine.
- The Central Bank of Russia (CBR) responded by increasing the base interest rate by 2 percentage points, to a new base rate of 15 per cent. These are the highest rates since May 2022. It is highly likely the CBR will maintain high interest rates through 2024. This is highly likely to increase borrowing costs for Russian consumers and is likely to also impact the Russian government's debt servicing costs.
- Due to increasing demand, partially due to large increases in defence spending, along with continued pressures of a tightening labour market, the Russian economy is likely at risk of overheating. This is highly likely to ensure inflation in Russia in 2024 remains above the target rate of 4 per cent. Continued high inflation is likely to erode real terms government spending, particularly in areas such as social care with below-inflation spending rises. This further illustrates the reorientation of Russia's economy to fuel the war above all else.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- As reported by Ukrainian and Russian sources, on 4 November 2023, a newly built Russian naval corvette was almost certainly damaged after being struck while alongside at the Zaliv shipyard in Kerch, occupied Crimea.
- The KARAKURST-class Askold, launched in 2021, had not been commissioned into the Russian Navy. The incident is farther to the east in Crimea than most previous Ukrainian-claimed long-range strikes.
- Ukraine's capability to hit Crimean shipbuilding infrastructure will likely cause Russia to consider relocating farther from the front line, delaying the delivery of new vessels.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Seventeen months after the first incidents were reported, sabotage of Russian railways by anti-war activists continues to represent a significant challenge for the Russian authorities. Research by independent Russian media outlet Mediazona suggests that, as of October 2023, 76 cases of railway sabotage had reached court since the invasion. At least 137 people, with the vast majority aged under 24, had been prosecuted.
- Since early 2023, notices have been stencilled on key pieces of railway infrastructure pointing out that, under the Russian Criminal Code, sabotage can be punished with up to life imprisonment. Russia's military logistics, including supplying the war in Ukraine, remain reliant on the country's 33,000km of railway line.
- With virtually all methods of overt dissent banned in Russia, sabotage continues to appeal to a minority of young people as a method of protest against the 'Special Military Operation'.

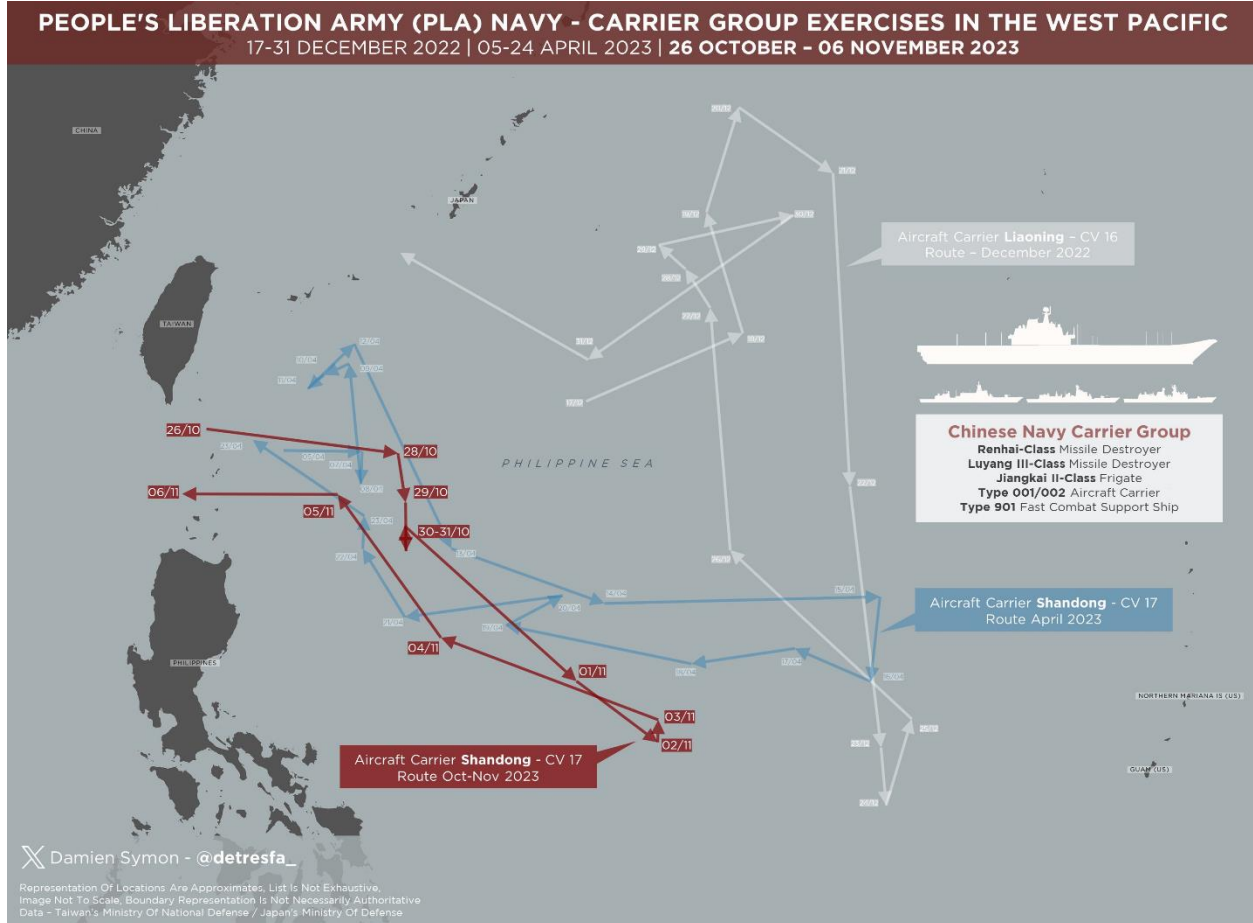
INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Following last week's reported losses of several Russian SA-21 long range Surface to Air Missile (SAM) systems, new analysis suggests that to maintain coverage over Ukraine, Russia will highly likely need to reallocate SAMs which are routinely protecting distant parts of Russia.
- Russia's premier long range SAMs, such as SA-21, are capable of engaging targets at ranges of up to 400km. Positioned at strategically important locations, as well as along Russia's borders, removing systems would almost certainly weaken Russia's air defence posture on its peripheries.
- The reallocation of strategic air defence assets would further demonstrate how the Ukraine conflict continues to overextend Russia's military and strains its ability to retain baseline defences across its vast area.

Situation Graphics

Your *Dispatches* editor encourages use of good chart/map graphics, with appropriate use of ship/aircraft/vehicle silhouettes, as a means of depicting situations, especially to the general public.

Damien Symon @detresfa_ 6 Nov posted (https://twitter.com/detresfa_/status/1721501338478203079): Recently #China's aircraft carrier Shandong ran exercises in the West Pacific east of Taiwan & Philippines, here's a basic plot showing its route along with previous PLA carrier exercise undertaken in Dec 2022/April 2023



And:

Ian Ellis @ianellisjones 6 Nov posted: (<https://twitter.com/ianellisjones/status/1721660330743374081>)

: @New details on Chinese naval exercises near Taiwan:

- 570 sorties flown from carrier-based aircraft (420 fighter jets & 150 helos)

- 10 warships operated with the carrier strike group, 5 more than initially reported—16 ships total
~ 700 nautical miles from Guam

Updated map:



The future of ship design

Royal Canadian Navy @RoyalCanNavy 3 Nov posted: We asked #AI to design an ultra futuristic fleet for the Royal Canadian Navy in the year 2300! What do you think?

Comment: The three diagrams look like a submarine, frigate and corvette. Messaging in support of the future fleet design?



RUSI(NS) Seasonal Meet & Greet

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 17, 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)