



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches 17 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).

RUSI(NS) Seasonal Meet & Greet

Saturday, 2 December. See the invitation at the end of *Dispatches*. **RSVP by November 17, 2023.**

Remembrance Day

Inspector Don Moser, RCMP and President of RUSI(NS), and his daughter Abigail laid a wreath on behalf of RUSI(NS) at the Remembrance Day ceremony at Royal Artillery Park.



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: 22 November, Wednesday - Department of War Studies at King's College London seminar "Military Campaigns: Information Operations and Joint Commands." 12:30 - 2:00 pm. Online. To register: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/schoolofsecuritystudies/1048401>

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>

New: 22 February 2024, Thursday - Royal Alberta United Services Institute presentation "Beyond Greed: How Corruption Threatens Global Security" with journalist and political advisor Sarah Chayes. 6-7 pm MST (9-10 pm AST). Online. For more info and to register: <https://rausi.ca/info-events/rmcscd/622-beyond-greed-how-corruption-threatens-global-security>

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*, 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>

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/pA4cFB1V3YMF4WNI>

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


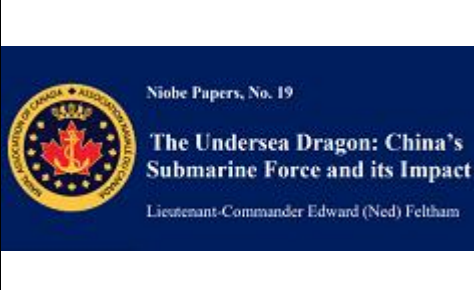

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Quarterly Newsletter*, Volume 22, Issue 3, September/October 2023

New: Vancouver Artillery Association and Royal United Services Institute Vancouver *Members News* 14 Nov 2023

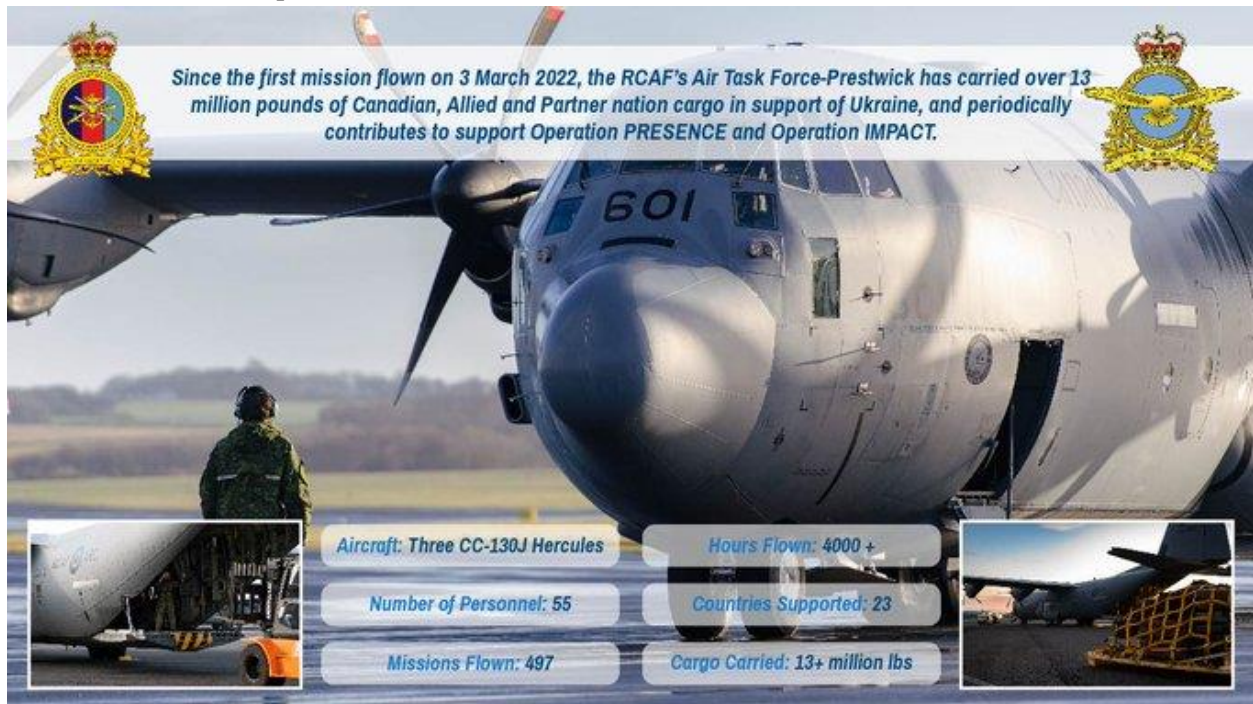
Veterans Affairs Canada *Salute!*, October 2023, <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/news-media/salute>

@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).

<p>NAADSN_RDSNAA @NAADSN_RDSNAA 13 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: "Our navy has engaged with the Japanese, Americans and South Koreans, so we have the ability to send one, maybe two frigates along with a submarine," says Rob Huebert regarding the Canadian Navy in the Western Pacific (Canadian Navy Makes Waves in Western Pacific https://www.voanews.com/a/canadian-navy-makes-waves-in-western-pacific/7348192.html)</p>	
<p>The Naval Association of Canada @navalassn posted 9 Nov and RUSI(NS) reposted; The latest in the series of Niobe papers is now available. LCdr Ned Feltham examines the modernization of China's submarine force and the roles that each class of submarine is expected to play. (The Undersea Dragon: China's Submarine Force and its Impact https://www.navalassoc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Feltham-PLAN-submarines.pdf)</p>	
<p>"Bombardier, the Canadian Multi-Mission Aircraft and the Real Scandal" https://www.navalreview.ca/2023/11/bombardier-the-cmma-and-the-real-scandal/ Proven versus pitch. Does CAN🇨🇦 want an aircraft on time/budget, or risk another procurement fiasco?</p>	

RCAF Operations @RCAFOperations 14 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: *Update* The #RCAF Air Task Force -Prestwick ✈️ has now delivered over 13 million pounds of Canadian, Allied and Partner nation cargo in support of #Ukraine, while periodically supporting #OpPRESENCE and #OpIMPACT. @RCAF_ARC @CFOperations



“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).

Italy Deploys Fleet Oiler to Serve as Floating Hospital off Gaza

<https://maritime-executive.com/article/italy-deploys-fleet-oiler-to-serve-as-floating-hospital-off-gaza>

The Italian fleet oiler VULCANO "...is also equipped as a Role 2LM medical unit - a NATO designation for a forward receiving facility that can stabilize trauma patients."



ASTERIX is a civilian owned and crewed ship leased to the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) as a replenishment oiler (AOR). It is currently deployed in South East Asia supporting RCN frigates and allied ships. With only one such ship, Canada did not have the option of deploying it to the eastern Mediterranean to serve as a hospital ship (really, humanitarian assistance or medical aid ship, as there are requirements, markings and the like, for a ship legally to be considered a hospital ship). Although capable, ASTERIX has not been given a NATO Role designation (see: <http://www.nato.int/docu/logi-en/1997/lo-1610.htm>). As part of an order that defines the ship's mission and tasks, it is assigned to provide at-sea refueling support as well as additional AOR-based capabilities. Amongst those capabilities is a series of tasks in addition to traditional liquid and solid transfers of an AOR which

includes the provision of Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (HADR), using the ship's hospital facilities and extra accommodation areas.

See: "MV Asterix and HADR Missions" (https://rusi-ns.ca/asterix_and_hadr_missions/), and: "Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment" (<https://rusi-ns.ca/auxiliary-oiler-replenishment/>).

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From the NATO doc: Role 2 support is normally provided at larger unit level, usually of Brigade or larger size, though it may be provided farther forward, depending upon the operational requirements. In general, it will be prepared to provide evacuation from Role/Echelon 1 facilities, triage and resuscitation, treatment and holding of patients until they can be returned to duty or evacuated, and emergency dental treatment.

U.S. Navy Needs to Build Back its Sea Mine Capability

<https://defenseopinion.com/u-s-navy-needs-to-build-back-its-sea-mine-capability/475/>

The Royal Canadian Navy has a small mine countermeasures capability in its Kingston-class ships, fleet diving units and sea bottom surveillance equipment. Apparently the Navy does not have a mine laying capability despite the utility of that for defensive mining (and as a 'target' for mine countermeasures training). One wonders whether developments in the US could allow the Royal Canadian Air Force to modify transport and patrol aircraft into aerial mine layers. The Kingston-class replacements, to be built by the Ocean Patrol Vessel (OPV - sic, singular) project, may carry a modular system one of which configurations can lay mines (see: The Cube System <https://shdefence.com/the-cube/> and "SH Defence Unveils First Modular Minelaying System" <https://www.navalnews.com/event-news/dsei-2023/2023/09/sh-defence-unveils-first-modular-minelaying-system/>). If so, that configuration should be procured by Canada. Mines are a potent and underappreciated capability.



Another company has proposed a Mine Rail Deployment System (MRDS) that "is platform-agnostic and can be containerised" (see: "Rheinmetall Shows New Mine Rail Deployment System" <https://www.navalnews.com/event-news/indo-pacific-2023/2023/11/rheinmetall-shows-smart-sea-mine-delivery-system-aimed-at-ran/>). That system should be investigated for its potential to be employed by civil 'ships taken up from trade' (STUFT, a.k.a. vessels/craft of opportunity VOOP/COOP) in times of crisis and conflict. Considering the cost and time it takes to build warships these days, STUFT are going to be essential for augmenting the navy at short notice.

Defence policy update: Industry demand for clarity has Blair back at drawing board

<https://www.wingsmagazine.com/defence-policy-update-industry-demand-for-clarity-has-blair-back-at-drawing-board/>

In addition to the give and take between military requirements and government willingness to fund, there needs to be a give and take between government and industry, between the wants and the possibles. The more industry is involved in understanding government and military vision ('intent' to use a good command term), involved in , planning, wargaming and other activities of forecasting, the more the teamwork. For, yes, it is a team.



For some background on defence policy statements, see:

Library of Parliament "Canada's Defence Policy Statements: Change and Continuity"
<https://hillnotes.ca/2022/09/22/canadas-defence-policy-statements-change-and-continuity/>

It's all about Latvia

<https://canadianarmytoday.com/its-all-about-latvia/>

"Faced with an understrength force, gaps in critical capability, and allies with their own national priorities, the Army Commander has adopted an approach to brigade building that draws on the Army's history — in the Balkans and elsewhere — to develop a flexible force with advanced capability that can be projected into Eastern Europe."



Dispersed command: A field experiment proves a command post can be decentralized and mobile, yet digitally connected

<https://canadianarmytoday.com/dispersed-command-a-field-experiment-proves-a-command-post-can-be-decentralized-and-mobile-yet-digitally-connected/>



Getting better use of equipment and connectivity is good, but better yet is a command system that because of the commonality, trust and teamwork between commanders, allows for elements to operate effectively together without a whole lot of communications.

Gibbs And Cox Unveil Australian Light Frigate

<https://www.navalnews.com/event-news/indo-pacific-2023/2023/11/gibbs-and-cox-unveil-australian-light-frigate/>

"Light frigate" is not defined in NATO APP-20 Standard Ship Designator System. There is, however, the designator FFL that applies to 'small frigate' and 'corvette.' The NATO definition of FFL (below) is very general. Current and proposed corvettes range from a few hundred short of 1000 tonnes up to 3000 plus tonnes and are armed for local patrol up to considerable firepower. The Gibbs and Cox proposal is 3500 tonnes and is designed for strike operations, carrying 32 vertical launch system cells and 24 missile canisters. So besides being an appropriate project pitch title, 'light frigate' is an appropriate ship type designation. If the regional multi-role vessels of the Royal Canadian Navy Kingston-class ship replacement project, currently titled the Ocean Patrol Vessel (sic, singular) project, are designated as corvettes, that would fit, though it would be best if their designation is FS.



From APP-20:

FF - FRIGATE, GENERAL - GENERAL DESIGNATOR FOR FRIGATE. A SURFACE COMBATANT IN SIZE RANGE OF ABOUT 75-150 METRES. GENERALLY HAS LIGHTER SURFACE ARMAMENT THAN DD
FFL - FRIGATE, SMALL OR CORVETTE - AS FOR FRIGATE, GENERAL (FF) BUT SMALLER. CLASSIFICATION DETERMINED BY ARMAMENT OR CAPABILITY
FS - CORVETTE - SMALL ESCORT IN SIZE RANGE 60 TO 100 METRES

See: "Types of Royal Canadian Navy Combatant Warships" (<https://rusi-ns.ca/types-of-rcn-combatant-warships/>).

Good use of graphics, concept drawings and model pictures in the Naval News article, probably reflective of Gibbs and Cox marketing efforts.

Hanwha Ocean Signed MOU with Four Canadian Firms for Patrol Submarine Project

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2023/11/hanwha-ocean-signed-mou-with-four-canadian-firms-for-patrol-submarine-project/>



"Given RCN's preference over more capable and powerful submarines that can be put into service with minimal modifications and meet RCN's requirements for interoperability, Canada is virtually left with two options – the South Korean Dosan-Ahn Changho class or the Japanese Taigei."

Given the current conflict and confrontational situations in the world, and the history of Canadian defence procurement, it is preferable that an in-service submarine design be selected for the Canadian Patrol Submarine Project. If that means that the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) has to adopt foreign weapon systems in order to expedite taking the boats into service, that too is preferable (communications and crypto is another matter - it has long been a strength of the RCN that it puts a focus on communications interoperability).

Canada needs sufficient submarines for its three oceans, for both regional defence and long-distance operations. That likely means twelve boats.

Other Sources:

#Arctic

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

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

Media release: U.S. Armed Forces Capabilities in Arctic Region Pose National Security Risks, Need Strengthening

<https://www.rand.org/news/press/2023/11/01.html>

#artificial intelligence

The geopolitics of artificial intelligence.

<https://www.geopoliticaldispatch.com/p/the-geopolitics-of-artificial-intelligence>

We need hard laws on military use of AI — and soon

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/opinion/2023/11/13/we-need-hard-laws-on-military-use-of-ai-and-soon/>

#Canadian Armed Forces

Our freedoms are under threat. We need a military that can protect them

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/our-freedoms-are-under-threat-we-need-a-military-that-can-protect-them>

Lower military ranks punished for inappropriate social media activity

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canadian-forces-dealing-with-perception-lower-ranks-punished-more-for-inappropriate-social-media-activity-documents>

A Force Structure Model of Canada's Military: Costs and Personnel

<https://www.pbo-dpb.ca/en/publications/RP-2324-010-S--force-structure-model-canada-military-costs-personnel--un-modele-structure-forces-armee-canadienne-couts-personnel>

#China

How China commands its 'people's army'

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/how-china-commands-its-peoples-army/>

#security

Weak China as a Threat to World Security

<https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/weak-china-as-a-threat-to-world-security/>

"Wickedness comes from weakness."

#command

Mission Command

https://issuu.com/chacr_camberley/docs/idb-67-mission_command

#foreign policy

Whether to launch a foreign policy review

Thoughtful thread: <https://twitter.com/rolandparis/status/1723092400963203434>

Foreign policy goes hand-in-hand with defence and security policies. They all need to be current and relevant.

The post brought forward up a 2019 but still relevant article:

With tectonic international shifts, our foreign affairs strategy shouldn't be an afterthought

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-with-tectonic-international-shifts-our-foreign-affairs-strategy/>

#Indo-Pacific

Taiwan's Most Pressing Challenge is Strangulation, Not Invasion

<https://warontherocks.com/2023/11/taiwans-most-pressing-challenge-is-strangulation-not-invasion/>

"To win one hundred victories in one hundred battles is not the acme of skill. To subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skill." Sun Tzu

#information operations

Six books you didn't know were propaganda

<https://www.economist.com/the-economist-reads/2023/11/03/six-books-you-didnt-know-were-propaganda>

You may not be interested in the book list, but the introductory paragraph to the article is worth reading.

Further, the Government of Canada definition: "Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view."

Beyond the Headlines: the Russian 'Firehose of Falsehood'

Dated but relevant: <https://www.rand.org/pubs/articles/2016/beyond-the-headlines-rands-christopher-paul-discusses.html>

#intelligence #strategy

Intelligence and Strategy: Relationship in Transformation

<https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/article/intelligence-and-strategy-relationship-in-transformation/>

Interesting, the timing of this 2018 monograph being brought forward this week. Note the author's credentials.

#maritime security

On the dark side of Flags of Convenience

<https://maritimemag.com/en/on-our-forum-on-the-dark-side-of-flags-of-convenience/>

Access, control of sea essential to Australia's security and prosperity: Chief of Navy

<https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/naval/13101-access-control-of-sea-essential-to-australia-s-security-and-prosperity-chief-of-navy>

Or: Access, control of sea essential to Canada's security and prosperity

#naval warfare #drones

Designing Maritime Campaigns with Unmanned Systems: Overcoming the Innovation Paradox

<https://cimsec.org/designing-maritime-campaigns-with-unmanned-systems-overcoming-the-innovation-paradox/>

#professional military education

Military Education and Training

<https://tacticalnotebook.substack.com/p/military-education-and-training>

#Royal Canadian Air Force

RCAF's LGen Eric Kenny on the challenging transition to gain operational advantage

<https://skiesmag.com/features/rcaf-eric-kenny-challenging-transition-gain-operational-advantage/>

#Russia

Moscow Re-Organizes Russian Armed Forces

<https://jamestown.org/program/moscow-re-organizes-russian-armed-forces-part-two/>

#Russia-Ukraine War

Russia's Military Restructuring and Expansion Hindered by the Ukraine War

<https://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/russia%E2%80%99s-military-restructuring-and-expansion-hindered-ukraine-war>

Military training efforts for Ukraine hit major milestones even as attention shifts to Gaza

<https://apnews.com/article/ukraine-russia-war-france-military-f70fb490a8e4fd5ea472e3d81de7a176>

UK sees 'incredible acceleration' in military capabilities from Ukraine war

<https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2023/11/uk-gains-incredible-acceleration-military-capabilities-ukraine-war/392005/>

If the West Cuts Aid to Ukraine, Russia Will Win. If the West Leans in, Ukraine Can Win.

<https://understandingwar.org/backgrounder/if-west-cuts-aid-ukraine-russia-will-win-if-west-leans-ukraine-can-win>

Co-Opting Clausewitz: Using On War to Explain Success and Failure in the War in Ukraine

<https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/article/co-opting-clausewitz-using-on-war-to-explain-success-and-failure-in-the-war-in-ukraine/>

A Brief Summary of the Battle of the Black Sea

<https://news.usni.org/2023/11/15/a-brief-summary-of-the-battle-of-the-black-sea>

#economic warfare

Kyiv unveils new ship insurance scheme

<https://splash247.com/kyiv-unveils-new-ship-insurance-scheme/>

This is actually a warfighting measure.

#strategy

#China

The Strategy of the Mind: Maoism and Culture War in the West

<https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/article/the-strategy-of-the-mind-maoism-and-culture-war-in-the-west/>

"Key to the idea of **culture war** is the understanding that the space to be conquered to gain and retain power is not necessarily the physical battlefield but the intangible sphere of the mind."

#Russia-Ukraine War

A Tale of Two Caesars: Contemporary Lessons from Divergent Caesarian Strategies

<https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/article/a-tale-of-two-caesars-contemporary-lessons-from-divergent-caesarian-strategies/>

#sea power #Australia

Australian Maritime Strategic Thought 2013-2023

<https://www.navy.gov.au/media-room/publications/austalian-maritime-strategic-thought-2013-2023>

#veterans

Canadian overseas memorials granted World Heritage status

<https://www.canada.ca/en/veterans-affairs-canada/news/2023/09/canadian-overseas-memorials-granted-world-heritage-status.html>

Some RUSI(NS) members of longer standing may remember Mike Kelly's highlighting the need to recognize veterans memorials in Halifax. Progress has been made since then.

#warfare

Vive L'Evolution: The next chapter in campaigning

<https://chacr.org.uk/2023/09/13/campaigning/>

#strategy

The Persistence of America's Way of Battle

<https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/article/the-persistence-of-americas-way-of-battle/>

"This is a very important read, and while it's about the US Armed Forces, it is highly relevant to various militaries around the world. Simply put, doctrine must be updated to emphasize not just winning battles, but how to convert battlefield outcomes into policy successes..."

#wargaming

New Book- Advanced Matrix Games for Professional Wargaming

<http://wargamingco.blogspot.com/2023/10/new-book-advanced-matrix-games-for.html>

Ukraine 2023: Fort Leavenworth's Tactical Game of the Ukraine War

<http://wargamingco.blogspot.com/2023/09/ukraine-2023-fort-leavenworths-tactical.html>

#NATO

Party Animals – gamers unite at the NATO Gaming Tournament in Warsaw, 09-Nov.-2023

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_219942.htm

Other:

Canadian Defence Academy *The Torch* curation 14-20 November

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

Counter-Gray Zone Tactic

The power of media operations.

Ray Powell on X

(<https://twitter.com/GordianKnotRay/status/1724116492248322337>):

“The #Philippines' innovative transparency tactic in handling its dispute with #China in the West Philippine Sea represents a significant development in maritime security and international relations. By leveraging media exposure and international partnerships, the Philippines aims to draw attention to China's alleged coercion and harassment in the disputed waters. The country's resilience and commitment to upholding its sovereignty amidst external pressures reflect



the broader dynamics of power and influence in the Asia-Pacific region. As the situation in the West Philippine Sea continues to evolve, the Philippines' approach serves as a noteworthy case study in navigating territorial disputes and security challenges in contested maritime domains.”

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

General

In 2013 Daniel Goldhagen wrote a book called "The Devil that Never Dies" on the rise of antisemitism in the 21st century. Antisemitism is as old as the rise of Judaism itself. It is allowed to flourish even within organizations such as the United Nations and academia that were intended to stop activity. In Arab countries and many other areas it lives on in its original twisted form. Even ideas that sound relatively benign such as being pro-Palestinian can often have a layer of antisemitism at its heart. Jews have been blamed throughout history for many of the world's ills and they have borne the brunt of being the other for many a despot. Many Jews have died over the centuries based on the ancient lies and so it continues today. There is only one Jewish state, it is a democracy, perhaps a bit flawed but still a democracy in an area of the world where that concept is very foreign. Yet the vitriol being flung at Israel after a deplorable sneak attack is unparalleled. They just had nearly 10k people killed or wounded in a horrific attack in a single day. For Canada it would mean more than 40k as an equivalent. The Israelis are as angry with themselves as anyone else and they will do some soul searching once it is over. As a senior operations officer on a particular UN mission, I often was told information by the Israelis. I didn't necessarily like the information but it was always correct and generally truthful. It was never the same with their counterparts.

If Hamas survives it will be a victory for them as merely surviving is enough for their ideology. It is for this reason that a ceasefire is not in anyone's best interest including Palestinians. Hamas has relished in the losses of Palestinian civilians as they will use this as part of their propaganda and at present as a human shield. Removal of Hamas from any levers of power is absolutely necessary. Without this, the war will continue without stop. Israel can only lose once and we have seen what their enemies will do if they weaken. They will slaughter everyone they can as they have done since the founding of Israel. See the story of the Etzion Block in 1948. Israel has no other choice but to continue their actions in Gaza.

We now have CBC taking Hamas' "official" casualty figures without any caveats such as these figures have not been verified by independent sources. The UN is complicit in supporting the Hamas administration through UNRWA and other UN agencies. Very early on in my own experience as an officer on UN duty I saw how the UN swept issues under the rug rather than confront them at the time. It is for that reason most UN agencies are not trusted by the Israelis and cannot be trusted now as they are part of the problem.

There are many horrifying situations around the world which we seldom hear about in the West. The Democratic Republic of Congo since 1960 after gaining independence has lost somewhere around 6m people to ongoing fighting. Yemen, Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia continue to be a mess and the list is virtually endless. Recent coups against elected governments in the Sahel region sponsored in part by Russia and its private military companies also need more examination. Pakistan and Afghanistan are now fighting daily. China and its bullying of the Philippines and ridiculous claims of virtually all its neighbours is mentioned but barely in Western press and is almost unknown in the Canadian press.

Canada is poorly served by its press. What little independent press that is left is usually navel gazing about the latest socks the PM is wearing. (OK it is better than that). Is it a wonder that Canadians are poorly informed? No it isn't.

O Canada

Canada lacks an understanding of its national interests, it has little or no understanding of security policies or even what security means, no foreign policy worthy of the name and no defence policy that operates in our current world. While I would blame the current government, many governments since the late 1950s have contributed to this abysmal mess. It needs clear-eyed thought. In an interview with CBC reporter Hannah Thibedeau on Remembrance Day 2023, General Eyre expressed concern over the condition of the Canadian Armed Forces by stating that "Canada's military history is a study in unpreparedness." General Eyre is highly aware of Canada's lack of capability and lack of urgency in facing major military threats.

Our Prime Minister is attending the Asia- Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC), however, the biggest story is the meeting between Joe Biden and President Xi immediately before the actual "headline" act. APEC consists of 21 countries but China and the US are by far the most important and influential. A calming of relations between these two powers will have a major impact globally. It is hoped that this will smooth the way for global growth and cooperation. It is also hoped that our PM will foster how Canada can be a safe and secure provider of products in an increasingly polarized world.

On 9 November 2023 Defence Minister Bill Blair stated that the Defence Policy Review will be once again delayed because of the changing world situation. This is especially important as the Department of National Defence took the single biggest cut in government spending. This is especially rich given that the government has given away the equivalent of the entire defence budget to Volkswagen and Stellantis for battery plants. This government pledged once again to meet the NATO goal of 2% of the gross domestic product to defence just a short while ago. It barely made 1.3% this year before the cuts. Given the sorry state of the Armed Forces the lack of effort is appalling.

There is a place for the Global 6500 business jet and that is the "Tracker" replacement program. It doesn't actually exist but an aircraft of that size capable of surveillance, anti-submarine and anti-surface ship for coastal work would be a great assistance and allow the meager 16 P-8 to be used for long range work in the mid-Atlantic rather than near-shore work. Bombardier should be the ones paying the development costs and not the Canadian government. Once they have a proven product that they have developed on their own, then perhaps the "Tracker" replacement program might be the way to go. Replace a long range, mid-air refueling-capable, proven product such as the P-8 in a timely fashion is not feasible. Stop the nonsense and get on with the purchase of the P-8.

Foreign interference is still not being investigated in a timely manner. China's activities around the world are increasing whether by debt diplomacy, bullying, disinformation, lawlessness, economic conflict or coercion and many other means other than a kinetic war. China is conducting grey area operations including in Canada. This was developed from the "Three Wars Concept" first proposed in 1997 and accepted as military doctrine by the Central Military Commission in 2003. One only has to read Jonathan Manthorpe's "Claws of the Panda" to understand the problem Canada currently has with China. Foreign interference is more than just China alone, but China is just the most malign.

Interestingly, the United Kingdom has issued a warning statement for British citizens visiting Canada because of our inaction on the pro-Hamas/Palestinian activities amongst others. How badly we have fallen, not only unreliable but a hazard to our allies.

Our freedom requires constant defending. It is all too easy to accept the surrender of aspects of our freedom for a suggested common good but it comes at a cost. As George Orwell stated, "will the man on the street ever feel that freedom of the mind is as important and as much in need of being defended as his daily bread?" Bills C-11 and C-18 are excellent examples of attacks on our freedom. China providing money to over 80% of the Chinese language media is another example of the same. China is not our friend, it is an adversary that wishes us ill.

United States

At one point last week, there were eight aircraft carriers at sea out of the eleven in service. This is an unsustainable level of operation for the US Navy. Extending the life of the existing Nimitz-class and improved Nimitz-class is now being considered in order to maintain the current level of operational capacity. Keep in mind that the Ford-class ships, the future USS *John F. Kennedy*, the future USS *Enterprise* and the future USS *Doris Miller* are all under construction as well though they are somewhat behind schedule. There seems to be some will to keep US carrier fleets relatively capable of robust action for the foreseeable future.

The US is still mainly behind Israel, however there is growing recognition that the prolonged Israeli attack on Gaza is hurting US interests in the Middle East. The US is now asking Israel for some leniency in providing goods and services to the Palestinian occupants of Gaza. The unverified numbers of casualties is being used as a weapon against Israel. It has gained world-wide sympathy for the Palestinians affected by the current attack. Israel has refused a ceasefire at present as they view any ceasefire will be used by Hamas to adjust their defences for a post-ceasefire battle. This will result in higher Israeli casualties and little benefit to Israel and likely lead to unnecessary casualties.

Moldova

Moldova has joined with the European Union in the EU's four most recent sanctions packages. This includes Russian diamonds this time. This is in keeping with Moldova's interest in joining the EU.

On 15 November 2023 Romania expressed an interest in providing liquid natural gas to Moldova. Romania and Moldova are ethnically related and have explored the idea of joining together. so this is not unexpected. It is likely that this support will continue for the foreseeable future.

Belarus

Officially the Belarus economy grew by 3.8% according to the Minister of Economy in a Tass Russia news article. This is somewhat curious as Belarus suffers from sanctions as well along with its Union State partner, Russia. Russia has seen a further actual decline in its economy so it is very likely that this is a fabrication expected of a corrupt regime.

Although most Russian forces have withdrawn except for those troops guarding Russian nuclear weapons, it is unlikely that there will be any substantial activity in support of the war from the direction of Belarus. Alexander Lukashenko continues to walk a tight rope to remain in power. His forces have made it quite clear that they will not enter the war against Ukraine. It is also clear that Belarus forces would be incapable of stopping an attack from either Russia or Ukraine if it occurred. It should also be clear that both sides of the war are relatively content to have the status quo. Lukashenko knows full well that any move on his part that is contrary to the opinion of the security forces will be his last move. He is not likely to do anything that will cause his removal.

Note: These two countries are bell weathers to the situation between Russia and Ukraine. The fact is that most of the time there is little to really discuss. This is a good thing. It is a level of stability in real respects. Major developments in these countries usually means one side or the other has made a move or counter-move. In either case, there will be reaction from either the West such as increased speed of EU membership as we have recently seen or the election of pro-Moscow politicians within Moldova as we have seen in recent elections at the municipal and regional level. Both sides are engaged in a non-kinetic battle for the souls of these countries and this cannot be ignored.

Russia Ukraine War

Ukraine's losses are assessed as follows by Washington: 70k killed in action and 120k wounded in action by all causes. As mentioned last synopsis, Russian losses are unofficially at 300k killed and more than 900k wounded in action. There is no assessment of the number of prisoners of war held by either side. The Russian population is three and half times Ukraine's population and therefore they are able to absorb a much higher casualty rate. Ukraine has compensated by fully mobilizing and ensuring better overall training than is being provided by Russia. It seems to be working in Ukraine's favour as Russia continues to conduct "meat attacks" by unsupported infantry along the current front line with little or no solid gains. Russian requests for budget increases also showed a request for more than 300k for service estates thus seeming to prove Ukrainian figures on Russian losses. It is not verifiable at this time though.

On 17 March 2024 Russia will be holding Presidential elections. Even as recent as late this week Vladimir Putin was ensuring his victory by extending voting to areas under martial law, better known as occupied Ukraine, and putting further restrictions on the media's coverage of the election campaign. This being said, it is interesting that this is being done blatantly. It appears that he is fully aware that he is no longer fire-proof as he once was. High casualty figures coupled with a declining economy is taking its toll on his personal popularity. What is interesting is that he has not called for another partial or full mobilization in part because that it would cause a wave of anti-Putin demonstrations. It is increasingly clear he is no longer immune to the views of the population. Will he lose? The answer is no. Will he see increasing unrest and sabotage? The answer is increasingly yes.

Social services and other government services are being cut in order to fund the war. Up to 40% of the Russian annual budget is now focused on defence. Industries are also being directed into how they may serve the country's war effort as well, meaning consumer goods will be harder to get. The Russian ruble continues to decline despite efforts to prop it up by Russia's central bank. Inflation is running higher as well so the life of the average Russian citizen continues to deteriorate. The other interesting issue is the increasing reluctance of the autonomous regions to send yet more troops to Ukraine. Certain areas such as Dagestan have actually entered into low level violence rather than submit more of their young men to the front. This is actually suspected of gaining momentum as other areas consider similar ideas.

Putin's Russia left the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and also withdrew from an agreement with Japan that provided Japanese support for the disposal of Russian nuclear weapons. These changes may be yet more psychological pressure on the West but it is more than likely to cause global concern. The agreement with Japan was to decommission Russian nuclear weapons rather than Russia dumping them into the sea as they had done previously. Russia has the largest number of nuclear warheads, somewhere in the vicinity of 5900 weapons. They are currently refitting at least some number of them for modern strike capabilities. One point that we have learned from this war is that Russian logistics and maintenance are poor. The question is then how many of these weapons are viable and how quickly can they be put back into serviceable condition? In a similar vein, Russia launched two Bulava missiles which failed to meet their goals. The Bulava missile has had a chequered record of success.

Keep in mind this is the primary weapon of the Borei and Borei A-class ballistic missile submarines. This is likely a sign of their actual preparedness, which is low. Still pushing the issue is still tantamount to playing Russian roulette, not a good idea to play with nukes.

The war is stalemated in the north along the Kupyansk-Svatova-Kremmina line with few if any gains for either side despite vastly larger Russian numbers. The Russians have renewed attacks at Bakhmut and Avdiivka with some success but nothing that is of major concern at this point. Russian losses however have been severe in men and equipment. Ukraine has not made headway near Robotyne and Verbove. The south is a different story as Ukrainian troops mainly from their marine corps have made a crossing of the Dnipro River. They have been successful in bringing over light armour vehicles and have brought a major Russian logistics route under fire along a large portion of the main route for their logistics for troops further north. Russians have limited numbers of troops in the area in favour of other areas such as Bakhmut. There are no indications as yet that large numbers of troops are moving toward the south. One can expect Ukraine to continue to expand the bridgehead with the view to create a permanent crossing site so that heavier vehicles can cross. Russia is potentially vulnerable in this area. Success here would open up Crimea to a major ground attack.

China

As mentioned President Xi is meeting with President Biden prior to the start of the APEC forum. There are great hopes on both sides for a calming of rhetoric and other actions between the two countries.

The Chinese economy is under great pressure at present with a large portion collapsing in what is essentially a giant Ponzi scheme in property development used by local governments to raise money for local government coffers. The exact numbers have not been verified but property development makes up over 30% of the Chinese economy. It affects everyone and therefore is a potential threat to the survival of the Communist Chinese Party (CCP). As mentioned last week at present more than half of the top 50 property development companies are now at or near default positions. The CCP is continuing to move towards more control over their economy, it seems to be in part a return to the concept of central control of longer-term planning. This entailed cracking down on private enterprises throughout the country. This has caused most foreign investors to take their money out of the country. The CCP has changed its national security act which makes doing business in China more risky both for investments but also to local representatives of foreign investment companies. This has caused foreign investment to be the lowest in years, apparently since 1998. The other piece is that Chinese investors have also chosen to remove their money to foreign locations, usually in nearby countries in order to escape the mayhem of the current Chinese system. The Chinese economy continues to decline.

China continues to make trouble for all its neighbours especially in the South China Sea area. The Philippines have taken the most abuse in recent times especially at Second Thomas Shoal. This shoal is well within the internationally recognized Philippine territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone. China also continues to develop facilities near the Line of Actual Control between India and China at a much faster pace than India. These facilities provide China with an advantage when low level conflict as seen in the Ladakh Valley a year and a half ago. This past week China sent a naval task force which included surface vessels and at least one conventional submarine into the Indian Ocean as a way to further annoy India. China is also providing Pakistan with new warships and aircraft, also contrary to the interests of India.

China continues to expand "their" base in Cambodia in keeping with China's attempts to expand their global reach into the Indian Ocean and into the African continent. This is likely to continue and will likely expand into the Atlantic through African and potentially South American countries.

Defence Intelligence

UPDATE ON UKRAINE
10 November 2023

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 8 November 2023, a civilian Liberian flagged cargo ship, likely the Kmax Ruler, was struck by a Russian anti-radar missile at Pivdennyi port, Odesa, Ukraine. Ukrainian officials stated that this was likely a KH-31 (AS-17 KRYPTON) air launched missile.
- A harbour pilot was killed, and three crew members and a port worker injured. Ukraine's Infrastructure Minister said the ship was loading freight iron ore destined for Russia's strategic ally, China.
- The AS-17 was likely being used to target Ukrainian military radars in the area. It is a realistic possibility the air launched AS-17 missile in the absence of a live military radar signature, locked onto the civilian ship's radar. If so, this would demonstrate poor weapons employment tactics on behalf of the Russian pilot.

Defence Intelligence

UPDATE ON UKRAINE
11 November 2023

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russia's State Archive Agency has published a collection of documents "On the historical unity of the Russians and Ukrainians". It opens with Russian President Vladimir Putin's July 2021 article on the subject, immediately followed by his address on the situation in Ukraine given on 21 February 2022, the eve of the invasion. The book features 242 documents ranging from the 11th century to the 20th century, which are used to justify the Kremlin's current policy and support the claim that foreign subversion turned Ukraine into "anti-Russia". The documents are accompanied by Putin's interpretative comments.
- Last week former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev ostensibly wrote an article on the history of Russo-Polish relations. He accused Poland of conducting an aggressive revisionist "Russophobic" policy, warning this could lead to the destruction of Polish statehood and threatening that Russia and Belarus are able to provide an adequate military response if necessary.
- The weaponisation of history by the Russian leadership is intensifying, aimed at inculcating anti-westernism in the minds of the Russian population and intimidating its immediate western neighbours.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- As of late October 2023, large elements of the Wagner Group private military company had likely been assimilated into the command structure of Russia's National Guard (Rosgvardiya) and resumed active recruitment. This Wagner arm under Rosgvardiya is likely led by Pavel Prigozhin, son of the late Wagner owner Yevgeny Prigozhin. Other groups of Wagner fighters have highly likely joined another Russian PMC, Redut, which according to a Radio Free Europe investigation now has 7,000 personnel in total.
- On 1 November 2023, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov stated that Wagner Group medics had joined Chechen Akhmat special forces. Previously, on 25 October 2023, Kadyrov had stated that 170 former Wagner fighters had already joined Akhmat.
- The Russian state is now exercising more direct control of Wagner Group activities and former personnel following the mutiny in July 2023 and subsequent death of Wagner's leadership in August 2023.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- In September 2023, independent Russian media outlet Vertska reported that up to 15% of Russian soldiers in Ukraine were using drugs, including amphetamines and cannabis, and that they were easy to obtain even on the frontline.
- These reports are credible and follow numerous reports since the invasion of a high rate of disciplinary incidents, crimes and deaths related to alcohol abuse amongst the Russian force.
- Russian commanders likely frequently punish drug and alcohol abusers by posting them to Storm-Z assault detachments, which have effectively become penal units. One of the core drivers of poor Russian discipline and substance abuse likely remains the continued lack of opportunity for combat troops to rotate away from the front line.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Russia has announced it will increase production of its 152mm Krasnopol-M2 laser-guided artillery munitions and improve the round's poor weather performance. Russian artillery has already achieved success with Krasnopol, often using it to accurately target individual Ukrainian vehicles. Russia's defence industry has been failing to make enough conventional munitions. The planned increase in Krasnopol manufacturing is likely an attempt to use production capacity more efficiently.
- Russia utilises uncrewed aerial vehicles to designate targets for Krasnopol, by shining a laser beam at the target. However, low cloud has been the key limiting factor in the round's performance because its laser detector does not have time to spot the laser energy and manoeuvre for striking.
- Russian industry will likely attempt to improve Krasnopol's flight performance and reduce the round's laser detection time. As winter weather closes in, it is likely that Russia's access to improved precision munitions will be one of the key factors in its operational performance in Ukraine.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- On 09 November 2023, the Kremlin announced that President Putin will hold his traditional combined press conference and public phone-in before the end of the year. In 2022, the event was cancelled, probably because Russia had suffered high-profile military set-backs in Ukraine over the preceding weeks.
- Kremlin planners will almost certainly see the event as an important waypoint in Putin's anticipated campaign to secure a fifth term in office in the March 2024 presidential elections. He is likely to announce his candidacy before the end of 2023.
- On 10 November 2023, Putin visited the Southern Military District headquarters in Rostov on Don, meeting Chief of the General Staff General Valery Gerasimov and Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu. This is Putin's second visit to the headquarters in four weeks: likely an uptick in his continued efforts to paint himself as the 'patriotic' candidate ahead of the election campaign.

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Over the last week, Russian forces have continued attacks towards outlying villages of the contested town of Avdiivka, Donetsk Oblast. Russia is almost certainly attempting a pincer movement to encircle the town. Avdiivka has been fought over for nearly a decade and holds political importance to Russia given its proximity to Donetsk city.
- Recent advances have likely brought Russian forces close to the Ukrainian-held Avdiivka Coke and Chemical Plant, a sprawling industrial complex which produces coke and a variety of chemicals, occupies a key tactical position to the north of the town. The plant dominates the main road into Avdiivka and, if Russian forces were to secure it, resupplying the town would become increasingly difficult for Ukraine.
- However, the industrial facility provides Ukraine with a localised defensive advantage and Russian forces will probably suffer significant personnel losses if they attempt to assault the facility.

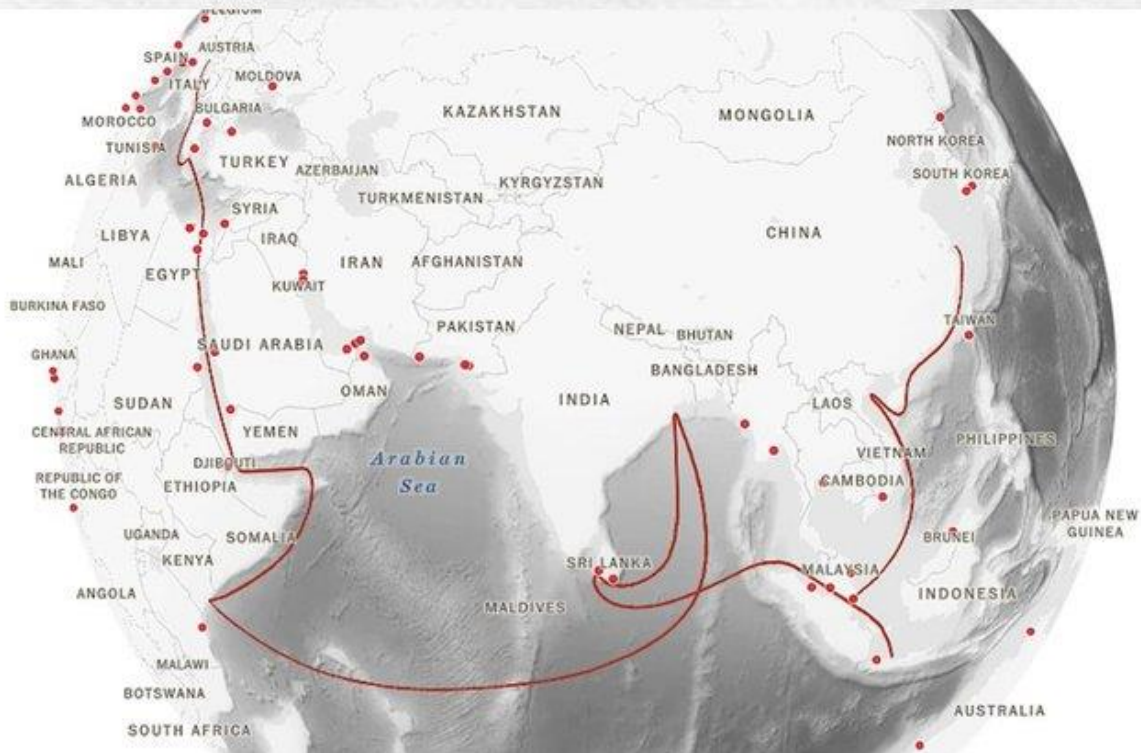
'Port Warfare'

China is playing a global game of maritime Go. Except it's not a game, it's a form of economic warfare.

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

China has acquired a global network of strategically vital ports

Beijing's investments along some of the world's key waterways have significant military implications



Long comments at Indo-Pacific News - Geo-Politics & Defense News @IndoPac_Info 8 Nov 23 post (https://twitter.com/IndoPac_Info/status/1722135722436833521).

Ship Casualty Count

Intelschizo @Schizointel 10 Nov posted: I'll try to make a more accurate chart of Russia's order of battle for the Black Sea Fleet at the start of the Russo-Ukraine War and I'll do red and yellow X's to denote ships that are damaged or destroyed. I know I'm missing a couple below but we're getting close to the Black Sea Fleet getting demoted to a Flotilla

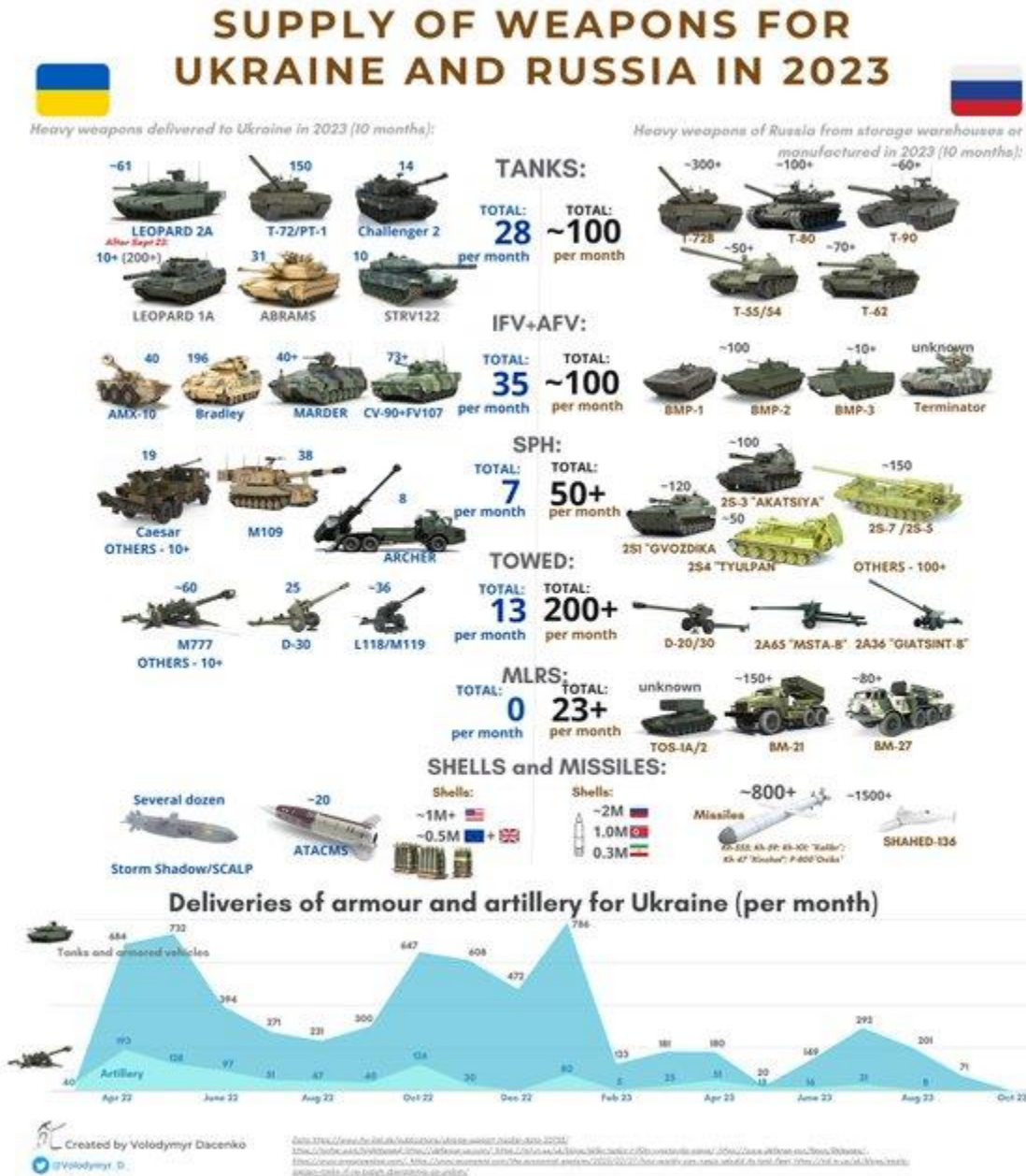


In response to to which X algorithms brought forward: Torger @Torger78 posted (<https://twitter.com/Schizointel/status/1723020399053537518>): Here at last is an updated infographic on the Black Sea Fleet.



Russia-Ukraine War and Supply of Weapons

Volodymyr Dacenko @Volodymyr_D_13 Nov posted: Struggle for resources. When Ukrainians say that we need more weapons, the West often thinks that it is a sign of ingratitude. In fact, Ukrainians are grateful, but there is another side - how many weapons your enemy supplies to the front. This thread will explore this topic 1/ (https://twitter.com/Volodymyr_D_/status/1724037799832113235) (Editor: good thread to read)



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)