



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches

29 November 2024

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 periodic 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).

Editor's Notes: Please note that the next issue will be **13 December**, which will also be the only issue in December.

Quotes of note:

“After 39 years of career as a combat arms officer and risking my life in many operations around the world I can’t believe that in 2024 we still have to justify the contribution of women ... in the service of their country.”

- Chief of Defence Staff, General Jennie Carignan

“While it may be the military who wins battles, it's the economies that win wars...Business leaders in Europe and America need to realise that the commercial decisions they make have strategic consequences for the security of their nation.”

- NATO Military Committee Chief, Dutch Admiral Rob Bauer

RUSI(NS) Postal Address

Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia
c/o BOR CFB Halifax
PO Box 99000, Station Forces
Halifax, NS, B3K 5X5

Some mail has been in danger of delay or loss because of being incorrectly addressed (e.g., to RA Park Officers' Mess.)

Quick links:

[Events](#)

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[@RUSI NS on X](#)

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Dispatches

Publication of *Dispatches* may be irregular and less frequent pending a stable of editors.

Your *Dispatches* needs your contributions!

You are encouraged to assist the volunteer editor by emailing articles and other contributions to rusinsdispatches@gmail.com. Articles with a Canadian nexus, explicit or implicit (i.e., Canada is not mentioned in a cyber ops article but it is an area to which we should be paying attention) are good, articles with your value-added comments (why we should read the article and think about it) are better. It would be particularly helpful if you could volunteer to contribute in your areas of interest and experience. We need a team of contributors to ensure a balance in our production.

Contributions to RUSI(NS) social media

You are also encouraged to send material to be posted to the RUSI(NS) X and Facebook accounts to rusinsdispatches@gmail.com. Preferably, send the material ready to post. We are still looking for a volunteer(s) to be editor(s) for these accounts in order to keep them active.

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.

RUSI (NS) Events:

5 December 2024, Christmas Meet and Greet, RA Park.

29 January 2025, Robert Taylor, Bardex, Ship building and Dockyard Infrastructure.

Other Events:

New 3 December, Tuesday – Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association Hybrid Luncheon with BGen Scott MacGregor. 1130-1300 Eastern. In-person and online. BGen MacGregor will be speaking on the new Cyber Command

that will consolidate the CAF's cyber capabilities into a single unified and dedicated entity, enhancing the military's readiness to tackle threats in the cyber domain. To register (click on Get Tickets to register for Virtual - note cost): <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/afcea-hybrid-december-luncheon-brig-gen-scott-macgregor-tickets-1082340231769>

4 December, Wednesday – Royal Canadian Artillery Association “Coast to Coast Toast”. A virtual social event that includes an operational brief from the CO of the Multinational Artillery Battalion Group from OP Reassurance. 20-2300hrs AST. Online. To register: <https://rcaa.member365.com/public/event/details/e7dd0ff96fd118197aa60424fd04101d731b3b30/1>

New 10 December, Tuesday - Office of the Procurement Ombud (OPO) virtual town hall "Come to meet the Office of the Procurement Ombud." 2-3 pm AST. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/come-to-meet-the-office-of-the-procurement-ombud-tickets-1022593654147>

11 December, Wednesday – Rand's Policy Lab presentation “AI and the Future of Work.” 13-1400hrs AST. Online. To register: <https://www.rand.org/events/2024/12/ai-and-the-future-of-work/register.html>

Wargaming Events:

Georgetown University Wargaming Society long-range schedule: <https://www.guwargaming.org/guwsevents>

17 December, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Understanding Educational Wargaming in the Military Sector." 7-8:30pm AST. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/understanding-educational-wargaming-in-the-military-sector-tickets-1054234095559>

4 March, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Professional Wargaming in France." 1-2:30 pm AST. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/professional-wargaming-in-france-tickets-1060419526349>

18 March, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Tactical Wargame Design." 7-8:30 pm ADT. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tactical-wargame-design-tickets-1052472612917>

8 April, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Spyships, Satellites, and SAMs" 7-8:30pm ADT. Online. "A summary of 3 games run in Canada in 2024" by **RUSI(NS) member Dave Redpath**. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spyships-satellites-and-sams-tickets-1060415745039>

16 September 2025, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Naval Wargaming and Quantitative History." 1-2:30 pm ADT. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/naval-wargaming-and-quantitative-history-tickets-1052463264957>

Publications

New RUSI(NS) Comments "Arctic security report deems Yukon relatively 'safe, secure and prepared'" by Cate Belbin, 24 November 2024, https://rusi-ns.ca/yukon_security/

New RUSI(NS) Comments "NATO Interoperability When Targeting Indispensable Objects" by Cate Belbin, 24 November 2024, <https://rusi-ns.ca/nato-interoperability-when-targeting-indispensable-objects/>

New RUSI(NS) Comments "Thoughts on New Vessels for the Royal Canadian Navy" by David Swan, 20 November 2024, https://rusi-ns.ca/rcn_new_vessels/

RUSI(NS) Presentation "How 'drones' are changing 21st Century warfare, aviation, and society" by Dr Ian MacVicar, 18 September 2024, https://rusi-ns.ca/drones_changing_warfare/

RUSI(NS) Comments "Geopolitics and Police Intelligence: The Case Study of Disinformation" by Nathan Romas and Jay Heisler, 28 October 2024, <https://rusi-ns.ca/geopolitics-and-police-intelligence-the-case-study-of-disinformation/>

RUSI(NS) Comments "Arctic Seabed Warfare Against Data Cables" by Cate Belbin, 25 September 2024, https://rusi-ns.ca/arctic_seabed_warfare/

RUSI(NS) Comments "Veteran Charities Operate in Lebanon Evacuation" by Jay Heisler, 24 August 2024, <https://rusi-ns.ca/lebanon-evacuation/>

RUSI(NS) Information Note "Warship Orthography", 17 July 2024, <https://rusi-ns.ca/warship-orthography/>

The following publications are received by RUSI(S) from other associations. The latest edition, where not otherwise indicated, may be requested by emailing RUSI(NS). To readers of Dispatches from other associations, sharing of your publications is appreciated.

weekly:

Naval Association of Canada

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) Defence Update

Vancouver Artillery Association and Royal United Services Institute Vancouver Members News

bi-weekly: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association On Watch

monthly:

Canadian Gunner News

Edmonton United Services Institute President's Enews

Military Institute of Windsor Communiqué
Naval Reserve Association of Canada Mess Deck ConneXions
Royal Alberta United Services Institute Dispatches
Royal Canadian Logistics Service The Logician
Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch Scuttlebutt
Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island Newsletter
Veterans Affairs Canada Salute!

quarterly:

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) Quarterly Newsletter

@RUSI_NS on X

@RUSI_NS posts may be viewed by clicking on the icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>.
To have something posted or reposted, email RUSI(NS).

National Defence @NationalDefence 28 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Yesterday, the first of several commercial flights delivered about 200 pallets of winter gear for Ukrainian soldiers. Boxes included sleeping bags, thermals, boots, and socks. These items will help save the lives of soldiers on the front line.



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 28 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Canada has already acquired man-portable surface-to-air missiles for the Latvia mission...now Canadian military trying to fast-track delivery of air defence systems to troops in Latvia <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canadian-military-air-defence-system-latvia> via @ottawacitizen



Royal Canadian Air Force @RCAF_ARC 28 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: RCAF and SkyAlyne instructors visited the Pilatus Aircraft company in Switzerland from Sept to Oct learning about Canada's future advanced training plane, the PC-21. 19 aircraft are being procured to provide training to prospective pilots under Future Aircrew Training program.



Canadian Armed Forces @CanadianForces 28 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Gen Jennie Carignan, the Chief of the Defence Staff, and Robyn Hynes, Interim Ombud, are pleased to announce an exciting new collaboration between the Office of the DND/CAF Ombudsman and the Canadian Armed Forces. <https://canada.ca/en/ombudsman-national-defence-forces/news/2024/11/joint-statement-from-the-chief-of-the-defence-staff-and-office-of-the-national-defence-and-canadian-armed-forces-ombud.html>



CDN Defence Academy/L'Académie cdn de la défense @CDACanadaACD 27 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: #WargameWednesday | This @WarOnTheRocks article highlights the importance of creating both academic and hands-on tracks to develop future wargaming experts. 😊 How do you think the #CAF can better cultivate wargaming talent? (Building a Pipeline of Wargaming Talent: A Two-Track Solution <https://warontherocks.com/2018/11/building-a-pipeline-of-wargaming-talent-a-two-track-solution/>)



Public Services and Procurement Canada @PSPC_SPAC 25 Nov posted: Today we're announcing a strategic partnership with L3Harris MAS, to work with the Joint Strike Fighter Program's Joint Program Office, to fulfill Canada's requirements for an airframe depot. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2024/11/government-of-canada-announces-strategic-partner-for-its-cf-35a-fighter-jet-airframe-maintenance-depot.html>



(Government of Canada announces strategic partner for its CF-35A fighter jet airframe maintenance depot)
RUSI(NS) quoted: .@RCAF_ARC has typed a/c to be acquired under Future Fighter Capability Project as CF-35A <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2024/11/government-of-canada-announces-strategic-partner-for-its-cf-35a-fighter-jet-airframe-maintenance-depot.html> Looking forward to announcement of a/c name <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/procurement/fighter-jets/future-fighter-capability-project.html>

Comment: The RCAF advise that they have started using CF35A in official and public communications. As for naming the a/c, there is no information at this time.

Royal Canadian Air Force @RCAF_ARC 25 Nov posted: The CC-295 Kingfisher completed the rescue phase of Operational Test & Evaluation, successfully proving #SAR capabilities in challenging conditions. On track for Initial Operational Capability in early 2025, it will be a critical asset for Canada's SAR operations.
RUSI(NS) reposted: Initial Operational Capability IOC = "first attainment of minimum ability to effectively employ a new or improved capability, and for which adequate infrastructure, training, staffing, and support are in place, both for the new capability and for the organization employing it."



Privy Council Office @PrivyCouncilCA 25 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Today the Privy Council Office published a mandate letter for the Deputy Clerk and National Security and Intelligence Advisor (NSIA) on key priorities under Canada's national security objectives. <https://canada.ca/en/privy-council/news/2024/11/privy-council-office-publishes-mandate-letter-for-national-security-and-intelligence-advisor.html>



(Mandate Letter of the National Security and Intelligence Advisor <https://www.canada.ca/en/privy-council/corporate/clerk/role/mandate-letter-national-security-intelligence-advisor.html>)

Good to read: "Further to the Defence Policy Update, lead efforts to deliver a renewed National Security Strategy in 2025."

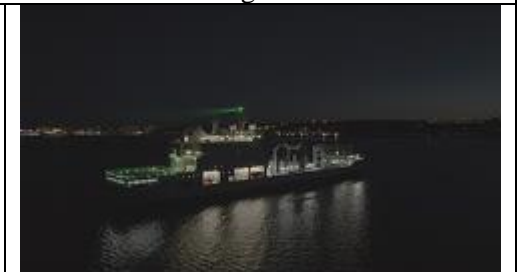
Visegrád 24 @visegrad24 20 Nov posted: A Danish Navy vessel boarded the Chinese cargo vessel Yi Ping after it was discovered it had destroyed 2 undersea telecom cables in the Baltic Sea. Denmark exercised the right under Art. X of the Submarine Cables Convention. It's been done only once before, by the USA in 1959



RUSI(NS) quoted: H/T @navalassn: "Undersea Cables" <https://www.navalassoc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/BN-cables-1.pdf> CAN🇨🇦 needs be prepared (equipped, planned, trained, wargamed, exercised - by all depts/agencies) for seabottom/seabed operations with attn to "Convention for the Protection of Submarine Telegraph Cables" <https://www.noaa.gov/general-counsel/gc-international-section/submarine-cables-international-framework>

Will Denmark Expose Chinese-Russian Sabotage in the Baltic?
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/11/20/will-denmark-expose-chinese-russian-sabotage-in-the-baltic/>

MV ASTERIX, leased to @RoyalCanNavy as replenishment oiler, equipped with MARSS NiDAR X Compact counter-#UAS #drone threat detection & alert system (radars, CURRENT electro-optical infrared system, radio frequency monitoring) & @CurrentCorp laser dazzler <https://aresdifesa.it/marss-partnership-with-current-breaking-new-ground/>



National Defence @NationalDefence 22 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: The Honourable Bill Blair has announced that Canada's donation of a National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS) has arrived in Ukraine. This ground-based air defence system will help Ukraine defend itself against destructive air attacks.



1/2 <https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2024/11/canadas-donation-of-new-air-defence-system-arrives-in-ukraine.html>

(Canada's donation of new air defence system arrives in Ukraine)

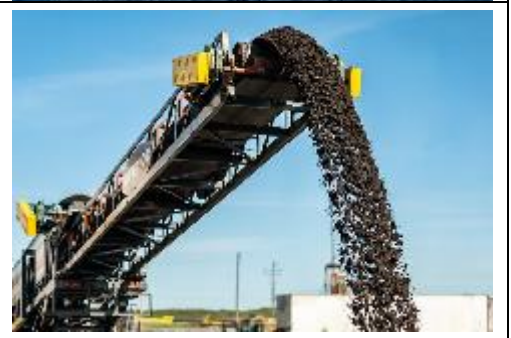
"First MQ-9B #drones for Canada🇨🇦 enter production" <https://defence-blog.com/first-mq-9b-drones-for-canada-enter-production/> First 2 Remotely Piloted Aircraft System #RPAS project aircraft for @RCAF_ARC have entered production - testing 2026, deliveries 2028



Adam Lajeunesse @adam_lajeunesse 7 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: The Canadian Maritime Security Network (CMSN) is up and running. Check out our new site and follow us for updates and new research. <http://cmsn.ca>



Arctic Gateway Group @Arctic_Gateway 19 Nov posted: Today, Manitoba's Speech from the Throne highlighted a strong message of support for Arctic Gateway and the future we're working towards: "This summer, for the first time, Manitoba minerals were shipped out of the Port of Churchill. We will continue this partnership with the federal government, investing in Canada's only deep-water arctic port. These investments are critical to protecting arctic sovereignty." We look forward to continuing the development of our assets, strengthening the Arctic Trade Corridor and supporting Canada's arctic sovereignty. #ArcticTradeCorridor #ArcticSovereignty #Manitoba #Canada #PrairiesCan #CriticalMinerals #HudsonBayRailway #ChurchillPort

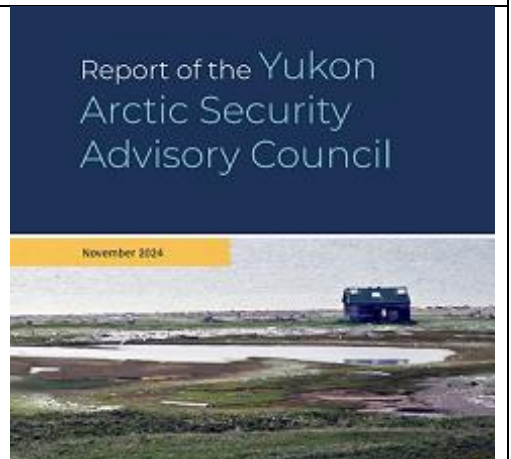


RUS(NS) quoted: Northern/#Arctic deep-water port like Churchill MB is important for defence & security of CAN🇨🇦. Movement of major logistics through Churchill in support of military operations/disaster response should be planned/wargamed/exercised by all parties

First-of-its-kind research facility opens in Manitoba's Arctic
Useful co-location: <https://globalnews.ca/news/10717271/churchill-marine-observatory-opens/>

Long-awaited research lab opens in Churchill to study oil spills and more
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-long-awaited-research-lab-opens-in-churchill-to-study-oil-spills-and/>

"#Arctic security report deems Yukon relatively 'safe, secure and prepared'" <https://www.yukon-news.com/news/arctic-security-report-deems-yukon-relatively-safe-secure-and-prepared-7655267> "Report of the Yukon Arctic Security Advisory Council" <https://yukon.ca/en/arctic-security-advisory-council-report>



Dave Mazur @WestCoastCmdre 14 Nov posted: Last week HMCS MAX BERNAYS embarked the SUB Rescue Gear and supported the Submarine Medical course. From on water recovery, to embarking in MAX, triage, critical care, and decompression treatment , it was a great opportunity to teach domestic and international practitioners.

RUSI(NS) quoted: Harry DeWolf-class #Arctic & Offshore Patrol Vessels demonstrate their flexibility & multi-role utility in #submarine search & rescue #SAR exercise. Now @RoyalCanNavy has 6 more ships usable for #SUBSAR equipment loadout/ops. What other roles can #AOPV undertake?



Homeland Security @DHSgov 13 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: NEW: Officials representing the Governments of the United States, @Canada, and @FinGovernment today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to begin working together to develop world-class Arctic and polar icebreakers through the exchange of knowledge, information, and resources in each of our countries. Read more: <http://dhs.gov/news/2024/11/13/united-states-canada-and-finland-sign-mou-build-arctic-and-polar-icebreakers>



(United States, Canada, and Finland Sign MOU to Build Arctic and Polar Icebreakers)

Canadian Joint Operations Command @CJOC_COIC 12 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: In Canada, Search and Rescue (SAR) is a collaborative effort involving numerous partners. The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) has the responsibility for aeronautical and, along with the Canadian Coast Guard maritime SAR response Coordination.



NAADSN_RDSNAA @NAADSN_RDSNAA 14 Nov posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: We're not saying that we have your reading list planned out for you this evening and weekend... but you clearly must read @STRATCOMCOE's latest study by @ArcticTroy, @WhitneyLackenb1, @BuchananLiz, @adam_lajeunesse, @MarcLanteigne7, and @sergeysukhankin. <https://stratcomcoe.org/publications/arctic-narratives-and-political-values-arctic-states-china-nato-and-the-eu/313>



(Arctic Narratives and Political Values: Arctic States, China, NATO, and the EU)

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

RUSI(NS) postings may also be viewed by clicking on the Facebook icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something posted or commented, email RUSI(NS) by noon Thursday.

The case for a British task force in the Black Sea
<https://www.britainworld.org.uk/p/the-memorandum-21-2024>

It seems that politics (not antagonizing Türkiye) trumps law (the Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits).

Certainly, the Black Sea is going to have to figure more prominently in NATO naval operations planning in the future.

Top NATO official calls on business leaders to prepare for 'wartime scenario'
<https://www.reuters.com/world/top-nato-official-calls-business-leaders-prepare-wartime-scenario-2024-11-25/>

"A top NATO military official on Monday urged businesses to be prepared for a wartime scenario and adjust their production and distribution lines accordingly..."

This doesn't just apply to Europe, it applies to Canada, too.

OSINTdefender @sentdefender 25 posted: The Chair of NATO's Military Committee, Admiral Rob Bauer, warned Business Leaders to prepare for a "Wartime Scenario" by bringing production lines back home instead of relying on countries like China or Russia. He cautioned that Global Instability could leave Businesses vulnerable to Foreign Government actions, such as Blackmail or Sabotage, especially in the event of war. Rob Bauer stated, "Businesses need to be prepared for a Wartime Scenario and adjust their production and distribution lines accordingly. Because while it may be the Military that wins Battles, it's the Economies that win Wars."

He stole my line! "Battalions win battles, wallets win wars."

In ratcheting up nuclear threat, Putin bets U.S. will soon waver on Ukraine
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-russia-putin-nuclear-threat-trump-ukraine/>

It is Russia's hope that the US will waver, but Europe is rearming as quickly as possible. They already contribute more than the US now, more than 60%.

Two pro-Russian Western leaders, Orbán and Fico, are in electoral difficulty and may not survive the next election. Moldova re-elected their pro-Western government, and Georgia's pro-Russian government is beset by demonstrations. The separatist government of Abkhazia has resigned and demonstrations against Russia continue. China has reiterated against nuclear weapons threats and use and is not happy. Iran has been badly hit by the last two Israeli attacks, basically destroying their air defence system.

The loss of US support will be unfortunate but not the end. Ukraine is building new factories and will be producing large quantities of modern equipment from missiles to drones to tanks, and rebuilding their infrastructure. Europeans have generally accepted the placing of their troops inside Ukraine for training



and maintenance. Ukraine's outlook is better, but not ideal. Russia's economy is failing. The sanctions are working. China has refused to provide substantive support, Iran and North Korea (DPRK) can only provide rather primitive equipment and ammunition and DPRK lately has produced troops although at what cost? Not one of the countries supporting Russia is in a healthy economic condition. Will they support Russia at their own expense? They are quite transactional and not particularly loyal.

In the longer term, Europe understands the Ukraine issue is not strictly Ukraine's problem; it is a European problem, needing a European solution. The superior economy, large combined militaries, rearmament and larger manpower resources will make the difference in the longer term.

Even in the US, support for Ukraine is bipartisan. A major change in that view will be difficult even for Trump.

NATO's Allied Command Transformation Develops Audacious Wargaming Capability

<https://www.act.nato.int/article/nato-act-develops-audacious-wargaming-capability/>

"Audacious Wargaming Capability presents scenario-based models and provides a safe-to-fail environment for decision makers to explore threats and practice decision-making, explore risks, and evaluate options for actions to support NATO's Deterrence and Defence posture." "Through Audacious Wargaming, NATO continues to evolve a strategic mind-set that goes beyond risk and crisis management."



The Impact of a Taiwan Strait Crisis on European Defence
<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/whitehall-reports/impact-taiwan-strait-crisis-european-defence>

No mention of Canada, despite us being a Pacific state. On other hand, in the event of a conflict we may find ourselves relegated to the NE Pacific with the role of escorting shipping.



Navantia begins to embark AIP equipment on the S-83 submarine
<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2024/11/navantia-begins-to-embark-aip-equipment-on-the-s-83-submarine/>

"Navantia shipyard ... has begun to embark on the S-83 submarine the equipment that makes up the innovative Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system..."



Hmm, does that make the Spanish submarine a better contender for the Canadian Patrol Submarine Project. AIP can be useful for under-ice operations (though there is a lot more to being able to operate under-ice than just AIP).

US to begin providing anti-personnel mines to Ukraine
<https://www.defenseone.com/policy/2024/11/us-begin-providing-anti-personnel-mines-ukraine/401177/>

The US is not a signatory of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-



personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, a.k.a. the Ottawa Convention.

The prohibition failed to address the causes of why landmines are useful.

Facing Trump 2.0, Canada Should Innovate, Diversify and Fortify

<https://www.cigionline.org/articles/facing-trump-20-canada-should-innovate-diversify-and-fortify/>

"The pressure for Canada to innovate, diversify and fortify its military, in its own national interest, will ultimately help us cope with geopolitical shifts that were already under way long before the current US election cycle. The country must finally begin to behave like a fully sovereign middle power with precious assets of its own to protect, rather than like an understudy."



France taps defense-industry retirees to keep arms flowing during war

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2024/11/13/france-taps-defense-industry-retirees-to-keep-arms-flowing-during-war/>

"France is tapping retired defense-industry workers to create what it calls a 'defense industrial reserve,' a pool of experienced labor that can help ramp up production of weapons and armament in times of need."



Hmm, Canada could do with a defense industrial reserve. Industrial resilience!

HMCS Regina Completes Joint Littoral Targeting Exercise 2024

<https://www.canada.ca/en/navy/corporate/navy-news/our-navy-today/volume-7-issue-8.html>

"The first Harpoon missile fired by Regina did not function as expected and impacted the ocean before reaching the target."



Comment from a RUSI(NS) member: Why in the world would we advertise to our potential recruits and our adversaries that a main weapon system failed? I am uncertain of the value of advertising that!

Further: Feedback from the RCN notes that the matter was already quite widely known, having been previously reported on by media outlets in Canada and the U.S. At this point, it could be said the Navy is being transparent with internal audiences by including this in the Navy newsletter.

The Maritime Convoys of 2027: Supporting Taiwan in Contested Seas

<https://cimsec.org/the-maritime-convoys-of-2027-supporting-taiwan-in-contested-seas/>

"...it is crucial that the lessons learned (from strait transits in contested seas such as the Red Sea) reach the fleet and are adapted to the more complex scenarios that could apply to escort missions in the Western Pacific."



"Protecting shipping will become a major operational requirement during a 2027 conflict, yet modern U.S. naval doctrine and training places little emphasis on this critical mission."

Protecting shipping was the main role of the Royal Canadian Navy in the Second World War. Certainly doctrine remains from that experience and the decades after, maybe now aged and needing revision. Members of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) were trained in 'naval control of shipping' until

some years ago - how many of them and how much of the training material remains is questionable. And there are lessons and insights in the history studies. But it is likely that naval staff have not met with merchant mariners to discuss convoy operations, nor trained, wargamed or exercised modern convoy operations in recent years.

In the event of a conflict with China over Taiwan in which multiple states are drawn in as allies or partners (Canada, after all, is a Pacific state), Canadian forces, especially the RCN, are likely to be employed in the protection of shipping, though likely in the eastern Pacific. Not the same 'contested seas' (chokepoints) as the Red Sea, but lessons from such modern situations must be studied.

Considering Global War: A Strategy for Countering Revisionist Powers

<https://cimsec.org/considering-global-war-a-strategy-for-countering-revisionist-powers/>

"The most urgent effort the US should be undertaking is revitalizing its leadership role and strengthening alliances and relationships globally."



This article is not really one about naval/maritime strategy (though there are a lot of aspects of those two in the article's words what with the attention to Taiwan) but about grand strategy. And considering the potential extent of a conflict, it's 'global grand strategy.'

Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy (which is really a policy) needs to pay a lot of attention to 'strengthening alliances and relationships' (a challenge when at times Canada is not even seen as a Pacific state). Canada's foreign policy, when/if articulated properly as a government product (document rather than speech), needs to pay a lot of attention to 'strengthening alliances and relationships.'

"This US-led effort must out-compete the PRC for any future global leadership role and win the narrative that will define the global order."

Interesting that strategic communications/information operations is seen as significant in global grand strategy. Not surprising. Another word is diplomacy.

I Blame the Navy's Strategic Woes on the Chiefs of Naval Operations

<https://warontherocks.com/2024/11/i-blame-the-navys-strategic-woes-on-the-chiefs-of-naval-operations/>

"Continuity of the Navy's strategic approach is required."

Putting aside the debate as to whether it is 'strategic approach' (seems to be the preferred US term) or strategic doctrine (UK traditional term), and remembering the US penchant to use strategy as a means to seek and allocate resources (funding), there is sometime to be said of the advantages of continuity over time between military leaders and between governments. Military services are big and diverse organizations, with many cultures, and challenges in getting the word out to everyone. Takes time and effort. A service should not be subject to 'too many conning orders.'



Does everyone understand the strategic doctrine, and can use it? How does a service educate (inculcate) its members, and how are a country's politicians, media and general public informed about the strategic doctrine?

Strategy is contextual, varying with time and place, and with the factors of strategy (aim, means, ways). Strategic doctrine varies much slower.

The article author's forthcoming book "Cold Iron: The Demise of Navy Strategy Development and Force Planning" could be interesting reading.

Comment from a colleague: It's an interesting article and comparatively close to the trials that the Royal Canadian Navy has faced for years. Jointness is not an end in itself. Perhaps I have read too many books on strategy, from Clausewitz, Mahan, Corbett, etc., to Paret's "Modern Makers of Strategy" and its thoughts. What always seems to be missed is that the government has told the military force to do something and, at least in the RCN's case, there is a consistent failure to provide a well-thought out plan on how to execute that policy. Indeed, in the RCN's case there has never been a strategy. Jointness, whilst important, is simply part of the ways to an end state - how the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) is going to get to where the government wants it to get to. In reality, the CAF, being a unified force, is for all intents and purposes joint! The failure is that since there are three environments there is a failure to ensure collaborative efforts to ensure that all can act as one force. More now than ever in this era of Great Power competition a military strategy is important. For the RCN, a maritime strategy is even more important now given the state of the navy. How are they going to contribute to an effective fighting force? Can they even be part of a coalition in anything other than providing defence to behind-the-front-lines logistic lines? There has to be some serious thought given to this and how they could possibly build a strategy given the current state of the RCN. Importantly, exposure of issues need to be laid bare to the government, from personnel to material.

Other Sources

#A2R

(US) Army Reserve needs skilled soldiers to support major combat

<https://www.defensenews.com/land/2024/10/15/army-reserve-needs-skilled-soldiers-to-support-major-combat/>

Lessons for Canada?

Does the Military Need Social Media Influencers?

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/11/26/does-military-need-social-media-influencers.html>

#AI

War and Peace in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/war-and-peace-age-artificial-intelligence>

Note that Henry Kissinger is one of the authors.

Collaborative AI Governance: A policy roadmap for Canada and the UK

<https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/collaborative-ai-governance-policy-roadmap-canada-and-uk>

Exploring AI Governance: Short reports on key issues

<https://www.rand.org/well-being/justice-policy/projects/artificial-intelligence-governance.html>

#airpower #force design #warfare

The US Air Force is redesigning itself

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/the-us-air-force-is-redesigning-itself/>

Arctic

China-Russia relations in the Arctic: What are the northern limits of their partnership?

<https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PEA2823-1.html>

How America Lost the Arctic

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/how-america-lost-arctic-213682>

Canada isn't mentioned in the article...

#Arctic #shipbuilding

Shallow-Draught Icebreakers Present Unique Design Challenges

<https://akerarctic.fi/en/arctic-passion/shallow-draught-icebreakers-present-unique-design-challenges/>

#Canadian Armed Forces #A2R

What Canada's chief of defence staff says keeps her up at night

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10885532/canada-military-needs-defence-staff-carignan/>

#Canada-US relations

Is it time for Canada to rethink its reliance on the US for security? (~30 min listen)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZ3cy1XaUUE>

#China #gray zone warfare

Chinese bulk carrier top suspect in latest European cable outage

<https://splash247.com/chinese-bulk-carrier-top-suspect-in-latest-european-cable-outage/>

Chinese vessel suspected in cable incident remains stopped with Danish Navy alongside

<https://gcaptain.com/chinese-vessel-suspected-in-cable-incident-remains-stopped-with-danish-navy-alongside/>

Chinese ship captained by Russian Officer seized by Danish Navy...

<https://www.newsx.com/world/chinese-ship-captained-by-russian-officer-seized-by-danish-navy-for/>

...and now surrounded by NATO warships

<https://www.marineinsight.com/shipping-news/chinese-ship-crew-intentionally-dragged-anchor-damaged-2-undersea-cables-in-baltic-sea/>

#command

The Art of Giving Orders (1913)

<https://tacticalnotebook.substack.com/p/the-art-of-giving-orders-1913>

#defence budgets #capabilities

[UK] Government making sensible cuts as Defence needs to do fewer things, but better

<https://www.forcesnews.com/services/navy/sitrep-government-making-sensible-cuts-defence-needs-do-fewer-things-better>

Comment: Australian defence has made hard choices. The UK is, too. What about Canada? Actions show intent. The initial fiscal pruning efforts at the CAF/DND, starting in FY 24/25, saw mostly 'ice cube shaving' rather than targeted and/or prioritized cuts. It is easier to make everyone pay than take definitive, and consequential, decisions on funding one area, organization, or capability but not another. Concurrent with pressure to demonstrate spending closer to 2% GDP (hence

big procurement announcements), the first cuts were from the standard pots of ‘discretionary’ spending: travel budgets and contracting. Pennies in scale to the overall defence budget yet with outsized impacts. As an example, consider Professional Military Education (PME). Travel cuts mean PME is a ‘nice to have’ when in-person attendance is required in part or in full or travel is built in for experiential learning. Staffing capacity shortfalls saw the use of contractors to shore up gaps for PME execution. Members can’t attend, schools can’t run courses. Why does this matter? The CAF is trying to modernize and evolve its culture at a time of significant personnel shortages. Members are being pulled up to the next rank with minimum experience to sustain the critical middle echelons. What is one way to compensate for lack of experience? More learning opportunities. When faced with personnel shortages, and operational and strategic challenges, the CAF needs to invest more, not less, in its people. And that means beyond equipment and occupational training. It means time and money on their individual development, instilling the knowledge and institutional stewardship into these cohorts that is needed to move the CAF forward. Doing fewer things better would help in realizing this type of investment. Narrow scope to deepen expertise and professionalism. There is a cost, and risk, in doing so but more of the same and expecting different results also has a cost. To make choices like these, Canada needs a national security strategy that clearly articulates desired outcomes, not shopping lists masquerading as defence policy. See the @RUSI_NS X entry for 25 Nov re: the NSIA and its mandate letter, including a National Security Strategy in 2025. Wonder if that survives a new government. See a counterpoint to this argument at #fleet design. (Also, speaking of choices, see #Canada-US relations.)

#defence industry

Security & Prosperity - The Economic Case for a Defence Industrial Base Strategy
<https://www.thebusinesscouncil.ca/report/security-and-prosperity/>

Article about the report:

Business lobby urges Canada to aim for 3 per cent defence spending

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-business-lobby-urges-canada-to-aim-for-3-per-cent-defence-spending/>

#defence policy

POLL: About three-quarters back higher defence spending, accept tradeoffs

<https://www.barrietoday.com/local-news/poll-about-three-quarters-back-higher-defence-spending-accept-tradeoffs-9851275>

Good to see the cross-referencing as reported in this article. Provides better insight into what the polling result means.

#disinformation

How Ukraine fights Russian disinformation: Beehive vs mammoth

<https://www.hybridcoe.fi/publications/hybrid-coe-research-report-11-how-ukraine-fights-russian-disinformation-beehive-vs-mammoth/>

#drones

Why Drones Have Not Revolutionized War: The Enduring Hider-Finder Competition in Air Warfare

<https://direct.mit.edu/isec/article/46/4/130/111172/Why-Drones-Have-Not-Revolutionized-War-The>

Will the Drone Always Get Through? Offensive Myths and Defensive Realities
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09636412.2022.2153734>

#drones #Russia-Ukrain War

Why Ukraine is Establishing Unmanned Forces Across Its Defense Sector and What the United States Can Learn from It

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/why-ukraine-establishing-unmanned-forces>

Watch A Ukrainian Uncrewed Aerial Mothership Launch Kamikaze Drones

<https://www.twz.com/air/watch-a-ukrainian-uncrewed-aerial-mothership-launch-kamikaze-drones>

#fleet design

We've eviscerated a vital Navy capability for savings smaller than a rounding error

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/11/24/royal-navy-amphibious-ships-defence-cuts-uk-forces/>

A good article for putting the recent UK decision to downsize the RN into a strategic context. I think we in Canada can expect the Kingston-class patrol vessels not to be put into reserve when they are paid off (which could be announced in the coming months).

#foreign policy

Canada's foreign policy needs a radical reset. Here are the three things a new government should focus on first

<https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/canadas-foreign-policy-needs-a-radical-reset-here-are-the-three-things-a-new-government-should-focus-on-first-david-mulroney-in-the-hub/>

#Indo-Pacific

INDOPACOM is replacing a pile of partner-nation networks with just one

<https://www.defenseone.com/defense-systems/2024/11/indopacom-replacing-pile-partner-nation-networks-just-one/401129/>

"This INDOPACOM Mission Network, or IMN, is meant to replace the current unwieldy situation with a single seamless and secure platform that provides a common operating picture, file transfer, voice and chat tools."

The capability to communicate amongst allies is essential in combined operations. Good to see that Canada is listed as part of the IMN.

China's Gray-Zone Offensive Against Taiwan Is Backfiring

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/china/chinas-gray-zone-offensive-against-taiwan-backfiring>

#information warfare

Humour in online information warfare: Case study on Russia's war on Ukraine

<https://www.hybridcoe.fi/publications/hybrid-coe-working-paper-26-humour-in-online-information-warfare-case-study-on-russias-war-on-ukraine/>

#legal

Is Nuclear Deterrence Ethical and Legal?

<https://samf.substack.com/p/is-nuclear-deterrence-ethical-and?triedRedirect=true>

Joint Operations in the Legal Environment: A Framework for Legal Competition, Expanded Maneuver, and Deterrence

<https://lieber.westpoint.edu/joint-operations-legal-environment-framework-legal-competition-expanded-maneuver-deterrence/>

Law as a warfare environment.

Vessels of War

<https://lieber.westpoint.edu/vessels-of-war/>

The San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea, more recently the Newport Manual on the Law of Naval Warfare, with their definitions of warships have long served to argue with media and others about what is a warship. NATO APP-20 Standard Ship Designator System is useful to argue combatants and auxiliaries. The points in this article lead to a rethink (e.g., a merchant ship acting as an arsenal ship for the launching of missiles).

#legal #NATO

NATO Interoperability When Targeting Indispensable Objects

<https://lieber.westpoint.edu/nato-interoperability-when-targeting-indispensable-objects>

#maritime security

UN report sounds alarm on global maritime security gaps

<https://gcaptain.com/un-report-sounds-alarm-on-global-maritime-security-gaps/>

“UNIDIR identifies 20 critical challenges poised to shape the maritime security agenda. These range from cybersecurity risks and the proliferation of low-cost uncrewed systems to the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss.”

#reading #airpower

Top 10 Air Power History Books of this Generation

<https://balloonstodrones.com/2024/11/19/researchnote-taop-10-air-power-history-books-of-this-generation/>

#recruiting (internal)

Rewarding service with purpose: The new Canadian Joint Operations Command Headquarters

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2024/11/rewarding-service-with-purpose-new-canadian-joint-operations-command-headquarters.html>

#recruitment #retention

To improve recruiting, make medical standards match retention ones

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2024/11/improve-recruiting-make-medical-standards-match-retention-ones/401240/>

Comment: A US perspective but the same conditions exist in Canada: the medical standards at intake are higher than those to stay. There is a cry heard often today against decreasing standards (not just medical, but across the board) as it somehow lessens the quality of CAF members. It rarely is that simple. First, why is the standard what it is? What assumptions lead to that standard? What are the risks and opportunities to changing the standards – not an emotional ‘it has always been this

way' but a holistic, bias-aware assessment? A General Officer from CMP, stated in the last year that the standards aren't being lowered but the different lived experiences of people at entry are being considered. The end state remains the same but the pathway to get there may be individualized. Does this take more resources and greater system change – yes. Change is not a zero-cost nor a zero-risk game and these cannot be the assumed constraints when seeking options.

#Russia #economic warfare

Arms Manufacturing in Russia in January–September 2024 Demonstrates No Growth

<https://jamestown.org/program/arms-manufacturing-in-russia-in-january-september-2024-demonstrates-no-growth/>

#Russia-Ukraine war

Language barriers and inexperience may hamper North Korean troops on Russia's battlefield

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/language-barriers-inexperience-may-hamper-north-korean-troops-russias-rcna177756>

“Though the North Korean troops are unlikely to make much difference in Putin's overall strategy in the Ukraine war, they could help him prolong it.”

Making the most of Ukraine's freedom to strike Russia

<https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/making-most-ukraines-freedom-strike-russia>

“The Ukrainian military... has a variety of branches that are each inclined to pursue creative and often in themselves effective ends, but rarely at a decisive scale. This creativity is one of the Ukrainian military's great strengths. But when it comes to deep strike, the lack of discipline in target selection often leads to a diffusion of effect such that the operational damage inflicted is less than the sum of the objects damaged or destroyed.”

#Russia-Ukraine War #NATO #doctrine

Russia's War in Ukraine - Emerging Insights for UK and NATO Joint Doctrine

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA3400-1.html

and related article:

The tactics are sound. Production is the problem for NATO allies in a long war, study finds.

<https://www.stripes.com/theaters/europe/2024-11-20/nato-russia-ukraine-weapons-15910210.html>

#shipbuilding

Well worth the wait? Discussing the inconsistencies and focusing on delivering the most lethal Hunter Class frigate

<https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/naval/15099-too-big-to-fail-or-well-worth-the-wait-focusing-on-delivering-the-most-lethal-hunter-class-frigate>

Lessons herein for public messaging about the River-class Destroyer project? E.g., explaining the design's missile count, how the destroyers fit into a 'balanced' RCN with other types of vessels, how the destroyers fit Canada's naval strategy?

#strategic threats

The cost of inaction in Yemen: “The Houthis now pose a strategic threat with global implications... ‘managing escalation’ actually encourages escalation and protracts conflicts...”

<https://understandingwar.org/backgrounders/cost-inaction-yemen>

#strategy

American Defense Planning in the Shadow of Protracted War

<https://warontherocks.com/2024/11/american-defense-planning-in-the-shadow-of-protracted-war/>

This is an article about rethinking strategy but much too about the need to ensure a strong defence-industrial base for a (the likely) protracted conflict. Is Canada ready to so ensure?

#Ukraine

Overcoming the challenges of building a future force for Ukraine.

<https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/overcoming-challenges-building-future-force-ukraine>

Comment: A good discussion on the need for strategic non-nuclear deterrence options as part of the long-term security planning required for after the war’s end. Lacking resources or the threat of high costs seems to do little to keep Russia (Putin) from attacking but deterrence by denial, the low likelihood of achieving success, may work. This means sufficient/significant defensive capabilities and partnerships. Is Europe ready for what that means? <https://ecfr.eu/publication/the-meaning-of-sovereignty-ukrainian-and-european-views-of-russias-war-on-ukraine/#top>

#warfare

On the Precipice of a New Era of Warfare? Reflections on Military Revolutions, Past and Future

<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/on-the-precipice-of-a-new-era-of-warfare-reflections-on-military-revolutions-past-and-future/>

#wargaming

How to integrate wargaming into professional military education

<https://paxsims.wordpress.com/2024/10/04/how-to-integrate-wargaming-into-professional-military-education/>

#wargaming #land warfare

The Role of Wargaming in Urban Operations Training

<https://www.canada.ca/en/army/services/canadian-army-journal/articles/2024/21-1-lyle-wargaming-in-urban-ops-training.html>

Odds and sods...

Australian Naval Institute *Australian Naval Review* 2024 - Issue 1

https://navalinstitute.com.au/wp-content/uploads/ANI-Review-2024_Issue1_WEB.pdf

contents:

Storm Centre: AUKUS’s Past and Future

The Influence of Sea Power on Australia's Security
AUKUS and the PRC: Assessing Maritime Strengths and Weaknesses
(description at thread: https://x.com/peter_dutton/status/1857097155590099300)
An Evolution or a Revolution in Naval Warfare: USVs in the Black Sea
Anti-Submarine Warfare and the Cold War: Lessons from Crisis and Conflict
The Art of Admiralty, Maritime Strategy, and the Island Nations: Britain, Australia and Japan
Greening the Quad: Shipping for a Sustainable Future
Future Tense: AUKUS's Security Transformation
HMAS Shropshire and the Philippines Campaign
Training: The Lever to Increase Capability Efficiently
The RAN in a Competitive Strategic Environment: the 2023 Defence Strategic Review
and Chinese Maritime Hybrid Tactics
'Austral Entente': a Southern Seas Arrangement

Former RCMP and CAF members

VAC Let's Talk Veterans: Transition services consultation



Every year, there are approximately 7,800 Canadian Armed Forces members that transition from the military and on average 790 Royal Canadian Mounted Police members discharged. For each member or their family, the experience is different. A successful and positive transition/discharge process depends on many factors which relate to overall well-being, including having timely access to support that meet the members and families' needs during the process.

This consultation is an important step for Veterans Affairs Canada to gain additional insight into the Veterans', the former RCMP members' and their families' perspectives on their completed transition/discharge process. The data collected will be used to help us find barriers and supports needed to ensure the transition/discharge process is a successful one for

everyone. This data will be used to inform ongoing work towards seamless transition to life after service.

We thank you for your time and look forward to your response.

Open until 31 December 2024 at <https://letstalkveterans.ca/transition-services>

St. Barbara's Day 4 December

Happy St. Barbara's Day, Gunners (which included more than just army artillery)!

RCAA-AARC @RCAA_AARC 15 Nov posted: The Coast to Coast Toast in celebration of St. Barbara's Day - The RCA Association invites you to register for a virtual social event on 4 December at 7pm ET. Le Toast d'un océan à l'autre pour célébrer la Ste Barbe - le 4 décembre à 19h HE. Register <http://rca-arc.org>



Join Us on LinkedIn: Elevate Your RCAF Experience!

To all members of the RCAF team, colleagues and friends,

Exciting news – the Royal Canadian Air Force is now live on [LinkedIn!](#)

This marks another step in our journey to stay connected, informed, and engaged with one another, and is the fulfilment of an important enabler to advancing the information exchange efforts presented in the [RCAF Communications Framework](#).

As important members of our team and the extended RCAF family, we invite you to follow our LinkedIn page. Here, you'll discover a dynamic space where we'll share updates, insights, and opportunities that shape our organization. Your Air Force is on a transformational journey that will significantly change how we are equipped, operate and train in preparation for future challenges.

Why follow us?

Stay Informed: Get news, events, and developments straight from the source.

Career Opportunities: Explore new horizons and career paths within the RCAF.

Insider Insights: Gain valuable insights into our operations and strategies.

Community Engagement: Connect with colleagues, share experiences, and foster meaningful connections.

Following us is simple:

Scan this QR code:



and/or

1. Create or log in to your LinkedIn account.
2. Search for "Royal Canadian Air Force" in the search bar.
3. Click the "Follow" button on our page.

Your dedication and contributions are the driving force behind our success. Together, let's harness the power of LinkedIn to elevate our RCAF experience and forge stronger connections with Canadians, friends, partners, allies and each other.

We are also active on X, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube so give us a follow on these platforms too.

Thank you for your continued commitment. We can't wait to see you on LinkedIn!

Sic Itur ad Astra,

LGen Eric Kenny
Commander
Royal Canadian Air Force



Boarding up of the RCN and RCAF NCR messes

The Royal Canadian Air Force Mess at 158 Gloucester Street and the Royal Canadian Navy Mess, HMCS Bytown, at 78 Lisgar Street will be boarded up beginning 16 December until their divestment. Both facilities have been closed from use and submitted for divestment. For safety and security purposes, they are required to be boarded up.

If you believe there are contents to be removed from either building, **please contact** Captain(N) Graham, Lieutenant Colonel Piotrowski or Major Janssen **to arrange removal prior to December 6, 2024**. Any other questions can be addressed to Major McIntyre.

SAC Notes

O Canada

It appears Canada's lack of action on defence, and security issues is coming to roost. The current government was warned during the first Trump administration, the Biden administration and now, the incoming Trump administration what the US would like the Canadian Government to do...quickly. The current government was more interested in their own project and bribing Canadians with their own money. This has not gone over well.

Two Senators, James Risch Republican of Idaho and Jeanne Shaheen, Democrat from New Hampshire and both former Governors both stated that Canada merely has to step up more quickly than the currently planned 2032 to reach the NATO standard. There is little choice as to the way ahead.

Our Prime Minister tried unsuccessfully to state that he had taken significant steps to meet the NATO 2% goal. Unfortunately, no one believed him and his lack of action or concern for all things regarding security, defence and public safety was well apparent. Canada is going to suffer over the next few years especially regarding our economy and foreign policy.

Australia

Some material from our Australian correspondent.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/seven-things-for-britains-aucus-review-to-fix/>
AUKUS needs some changes to be effective.

<https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/sign-up-for-aiia-updates/>

I have just signed up for this. You may find it useful as well. Please note this is a sign up for a very valuable source of information.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/security-cooperation-steps-up-with-japanese-f-35-access-to-australia/>

After 80 years it is apparent that Japan and Australia have become strategic friends. The attached article reveals that Japan will begin the training of F35 crews in the northern part of Australia. There has been Japanese army training in the north in recent years, so the expansion is logical. The Chinese will not be amused!
Special Note: China is alarmed at a growing level of cooperation between even former enemies such as Australia and Japan but also South Korea and Japan, the US and Vietnam. China counts on being able to deal one on one with vastly weaker countries and therefore have their way. The situation has changed greatly within the past five years. Smaller nations are well aware that they can have back up if required. The Trump administration will take advantage of this new series of facts to create conditions for a favourable US position economically.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/reservists-should-be-integrated-with-regular-forces-not-separate/>

The issue of reserve force structure is of some debate down under.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/world-war-3-russia-europe-b2651284.html>

The drums of war are beating in Europe.

Special note: The Australians are much more in touch than their Canadian counterparts. The proposed peace agreement between Ukraine and Russia will merely freeze the situation but allow Russia to rearm; it is another case for “peace in our time.” Neville Chamberlain was fully aware of the reality of the situation but knew Britain was in no condition for a fight in 1938. It was an awful decision but one that was necessary from his point of view. The war is not over and will likely reignite in the not-too-distant future, A peace deal is not in Ukraine or Europe’s best interest.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2024/11/20/ukrainian-bombers-fire-10-bunker-busting-storm-shadow-cruise-missiles-at-russian-commanders/>

Storm Shadow is at work.

Special Note: SCALP and Storm Shadow have been authorized for use inside Russia. Ukraine has made excellent use of these weapons almost immediately. ATACMS has also been authorized against specific targets.

United States

Although the Biden administration is still in place, it is clear the Trump administration is making itself felt around the globe. Canada and Mexico have already been targeted by the new administration for a 25% tariff against all goods crossing the border. In both cases, this will affect the auto industry negatively. It appears that the Trump administration does not have friends, merely other countries that can be useful on a case-by-case basis. It will be an interesting time.

Israel-Iran War

Israel was attacked and is continuing to be attacked by at least seven different entities. Last week the International Criminal Court charged both Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defence Minister Gallant with war crimes. Despite the issue of the various illegal combatant forces using their local populations as human shields. Essentially, the crime is defending the Israeli population from vile attacks. With this logic, one can likely expect President Zelenskiy to be charged soon as well while the attackers go free. Our Prime Minister embarrassed all Canadians by his support of this very one-sided approach. The ICC is not credible.

Moldova

Moldova is fresh off the re-election of a pro-Western President, Maia Sandu. Despite the election win for the presidency, the referendum on the EU was almost too close. Transnistria still is a concern as a separatist entity as is Gagauzia, a pro-Russian part of the country. Russian disinformation campaigns and acts of corruption allegedly by Ilan Shor, head of the Shor Party. He is a convicted felon found guilty of defrauding the central bank of nearly \$1 B USD. Russia has made no secret that Moldova is a target for future efforts to recreate the Russian empire.

Moldova is therefore a key area of interest. Russia's interest or lack thereof will be a strong indicator of future events.

Ukraine has stopped all Russian gas flowing through Ukraine. This stops Transnistria from also getting its subsidized gas. Moldova has been a big user of Russian gas as well but has sought alternative sources from Europe. Russia has offered to use alternate routes including the possibility of using a new Turkish line running through Bulgaria and Romania. The current contract is due to expire at the end of December 2024.

Moldova has signed a security agreement with Britain this week according to Reuters. Britain will provide over 2 M British Pounds for cyber-security and more than 5 M to assist Moldova in keeping over 50 k Ukrainian refugees. France and Romania as well as the EU also have security agreements which help Moldova resist Russian aggression.

Belarus

Belarus opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya was in Canada this week to attend the Halifax International Security Conference and has since traveled to several places in Canada giving interviews and talks about conditions in Belarus. She also gave an interview with the CBC's Nil Koksall on "As it Happens." There is a follow up article by Sheena Goodyear at

link: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappen/sviatlana-tsikhanouskaya-in-canada-1.7392773s>

Her main message is that the Western democracies cannot negotiate with dictators as the dictators have no intention of honouring the agreement but will use the opportunity to rebuild for further actions. Historically, this was a common approach.

In Belarus, recently, there has been a new crackdown with more than 1600 people being arrested for relatively minor infractions against the regime. The regime seems to be preparing the ground for the next "election." The last election took place in 2020, which was largely considered fraudulent and corrupt. It did result in massive demonstrations which for a short period appeared to be working until Russia provided back up to Belarus security forces. 2025 will see another election; its results are already considered complete long before the charade of democracy. Many Western countries do not accept the 2020 results including Canada.

Georgia

The government party, Georgian Dream has found itself facing huge demonstrations throughout the country. They have been accused of rigging the last election by the opposition. Georgian Dream is considered pro-Russian and does not have the support of the general public. The President, Salome Zourbichvili, does not support the government and the demonstrations are continuing. The party is funded by an oligarch, Bedzina Ivanishvili, who made his money in Russia. He is generally thought to be the main figure behind the pro-Russian stance of the Georgian Dream party. It is thought that he favoured a more balanced approach

with Moscow at the same time pursuing opportunities to join both the EU and NATO. From the general public's point of view, he is a Russian. It is expected that demonstrations will continue, the majority do not wish to return to Georgia being a vassal state of Russia.

Abkhazia's separatist government fell after they attempted to place pro-Russian legislation in place which the locals view as an attempt to create conditions for Russian full control of the breakaway republic. The fall of the government is a problem for Russia as it is where the new base for the Black Sea Fleet is located. Having a hostile population surrounding their new base is a major complication. Russia will have to do something to sort the matter out. A second front in Georgia and Abkhazia is not wanted. Still, they cannot allow an insurrection as it may be a catalyst for further separatist outbreaks across Russia.

The Ukraine-Russia War

The war continues as a slow slog through towns and villages and increasingly impassable fields as the weather changes to a winter pattern. Casualties are high on both sides. The biggest change is that both sides are moving to the skies with ever increasing numbers of ballistic and cruise missiles and drones to inflict damage deep into each other's rear areas. Ukraine has just received permission to use longer range missiles inside Russia and were quick to take advantage of the new capability.

The target set for the two countries varies with Russia aiming at deep infrastructure and power production facilities. Ukraine has been preparing for having the ability to strike well inside Russia with more than 200 identified targets within range. These include ammunition depots, air fields, transportation hubs, oil storage facilities, oil refineries, troop training facilities, naval targets, factories producing material for Russia's war effort etc. This is likely the main form of combat for the foreseeable future as the ground becomes largely impassable.

Russia is in trouble. It has been unable to produce sufficient troops to replace its casualties. It has made a deal with the North Korean regime of Kim Jong-Un for equipment, troops and ammunition. Still Russia is suffering horrific troop losses, with one estimate of Russian forces losing seven times their Ukrainian counterparts. Russia is also unable to replace the large number of armoured vehicles and has virtually emptied all thirteen major depots around the country and the problem of production of new vehicles is slow due to the lack of access to the necessary chips and other equipment needed for modern combat vehicles.

Ukraine certainly has a manpower problem; its casualties are high as well. They have been able to survive and, in some cases, push back at the local level. The incursion into Kursk has been successful in drawing off Russian forces and now North Korean troops. North Korea is a bit of a wild card as estimates of their participation run from 11 k to as high as 100 k although not all at once. This new source of troops has not been decisive at this point. The real question is whether Russia will introduce new mobilization orders. This is a move that will not go over well with the population especially as the citizens of Russia are now seeing

Ukrainian attacks well inside Russia. They are increasingly aware that the war is not going well. Is the elite aware of the potential for the threat of regime change?

Some leaders in the West are hoping for a ceasefire which will leave Russia largely in possession of Ukrainian territory. This would be a “peace in our time moment.” It will reward the Russian regime for its intransigence. As mentioned in the Belarus note, dictators cannot be negotiated with, they are by nature, deceptive. They have their own agenda, and it is not one that will benefit democracies. There should be no ceasefire, and sanctions should be increased and further restrictions placed on Russia and its supporters. There should be no doubt of the desired outcome and survival of the Putin regime should not be guaranteed.

Russia’s economy continues to deteriorate with inflation and a limit to how much more the interest rate can be raised. The central bank of Russia has a very tiny space to do any further adjustments. Today, the Ruble hit its lowest point to date, 109 Rubles to the US dollar, a far cry from the 62 Rubles to the dollar at the start of the war. Three refineries have had to close as they are no longer economically viable. Russia’s refinery capacity continues to fail due to poor maintenance, sanctions and damage from Ukrainian missiles and drones. It will only get worse as the war continues.

China

China’s economy is continuing to deteriorate. This does not mean it is about to collapse, but it is affecting foreign investment and employment throughout the country. The country has seen the collapse of the property development sector which has had a “knock on effect” on local government’s which have lost their main source of income from the sale of land.

The economy has also been rocked by Communist Chinese Party policies that ‘attacked’ the private sector. They did so, to ensure the private sector did not become a second pole of influence in competition with the Party. Jack Ma became a target after he directly criticized the CCP financial regulatory organization. Retaliation was swift as Jack Ma disappeared for several months. Other actions followed, such as new regulations on the private education sector, the tech sector, auto and solar sectors. These were areas that new university graduates generally used to start their careers. Unemployment skyrocketed in this demographic.

China’s predicament is that by attacking these areas and placing more controls effectively on national security regulations, it has also badly damaged its own economy in the view of investors. The CCP has stated these regulations are to provide stability to the market and provide protection to investors and foreign companies. This view is not shared by that group, and they are removing their money as foreign investment now flows out of the country and foreign companies close their factories.

Two issues are now coming forward. Mass killings by disgruntled citizens including using a vehicle as a weapon killing 35 and injuring nearly a hundred folks as well as several knife attacks. These have entered the net and have grown a wide audience even if authorities have cracked down on such postings. The authorities

have done their best to contain the issue and are often successful in containing the event to a specific province while removing the information. This apparently has been somewhat less than successful, and the words of these events are circulating.

The second is the decoupling of the West from China. Although China has tried to make their system better for foreign firms, it is clear that sanction fears are growing. The incoming Trump administration has every intention of imposing further tariffs on China and firms using China as a base of operations for production. Fears of these tariffs are also seeing companies leave China to set up new production facilities in countries that are less of a problem including Vietnam and India as examples.

Chinese authorities have one of the most effective censoring systems anywhere in the world, yet even now there are gaps to their ability to control this information. It is not a perfect system despite its pervasiveness.

China is in a difficult place at present. There are an increasing number of media reports that Xi Jinping has had his ability to control the working of the party questioned. No one since Mao has had the same levers of power given to him. Questions about the necessity of this total power in the party are now being questioned. The CCP is not monolithic and there are factions based mainly on “clan” that control various parts of the country including sectors such as agriculture, the AI, solar, geographic or financial sectors or a combination. Is Xi in trouble? Certainly, his anti-corruption campaign has eliminated rivals but now that Xi appointments are now being arrested for their transgressions as well also makes him vulnerable to the same corruption charges potentially.

So, what now? Most authoritarians in trouble can find an outside “enemy” such as say Taiwan to occupy the interest of the masses. This requires timing and a generally favourable view of the leader’s motives. Will it work for Xi? It may be too late and Xi’s opportunity to find an outside enemy may have passed and rival factions may be gaining a more favourable footing. It is hard to verify this situation, but recent events seem to show that Xi has less ability to affect the situation, including the military and security forces. China has issues that are still under the facade of normal life but there are undercurrents. How serious these under currents are, is another question.