



## Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches

10 January 2025

*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](mailto: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:* Happy New Year! Welcome back to *Dispatches*. This year already promises to be as unpredictable as the last, although not for lack of trying to decipher what comes next – take a look at one or several of the look aheads provided in the [Other Sources](#) section.

Many thanks to all the contributors to this newsletter. ***This is important.*** The current national security environment needs many perspectives and voices to analyze and understand all the nuances and complexities in such circumstances. Bringing to bear the experience and knowledge that our members wield and sharing it means we contribute to the knowledge pool – not just of our members but also policymakers, practitioners, and, most importantly, Canadians. The lament of lack of a national security culture in Canada starts to be answered by the sharing of information and the telling of a story: our story and why these happenings affect Canada. We live day-to-day far beyond just where we plant our feet, whether we realize or desire it.

The next issue will be **24 January 2025**.

### Quick links:

[Events](#)

[Publications](#)

[@RUSI\\_NS on X](#)

[Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia on Facebook](#)

[Other Sources](#)

[Odds and sods](#)

[SAC Notes](#)

### **Your *Dispatches* needs your contributions!**

You are encouraged to assist the volunteer editor by emailing articles and other contributions to [rusinsdispatches@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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:**

**29 January 2025**, Wednesday: Robert Taylor, Bardex, will present on drydocks and vertical shiplifts. Marine infrastructure, especially drydocks including mobile drydocks, are strategic assets for Canada in peace and conflict for the building, maintenance and repair of government and civil ships. Robert Taylor will speak to developments in ship handling technologies and how these technologies and how these technologies are being used around the world to address the need for expanding vessel launch and retrieval capabilities across the maritime industry and how the Irving Shiplift system fits in this broader context. The presentation will be conducted simultaneously in-person and online (via Zoom) at 1300hrs AST. The in-person part will be at the RA Park Officers' Mess.

Registration is required. To register, email RUSI(NS) by close-of-business Sun, 26 Jan. As subject line for your registration email, put: RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker 29 January 2025 Registration. Please indicate whether you plan to attend in-person or online. If necessary (e.g., due to bad weather) it is not possible to hold the in-person part, then the event will be online only. People who register to attend in-person will be provided Zoom joining instructions so they can attend online if they wish.

**New 25 March**, Tuesday: AGM. Please see the Save the Date poster at the end of the newsletter.



To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/naval-wargaming-and-quantitative-history-tickets-1052463264957>

## Publications

RUSI(NS) Paper "Common Law, Civic Law, Martial Law and Military Law" by Tim Dunne, 8 December 2024, [https://rusi-ns.ca/common\\_civic\\_martial\\_military\\_law/](https://rusi-ns.ca/common_civic_martial_military_law/)

RUSI(NS) Paper "China and the Maritime Shipping Industry", 7 December 2024, [https://rusi-ns.ca/chinese\\_maritime\\_shipping/](https://rusi-ns.ca/chinese_maritime_shipping/)

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/](https://rusi-ns.ca/yukon_security/)

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/>

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/](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/](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/](https://rusi-ns.ca/arctic_seabed_warfare/)

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).

Zack Stentz @MuseZack 9 Jan posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Because Quebec and Southern California's fire seasons are reversed, the two places struck an innovative deal where LA County leases two big air tankers with pilots & crews from Quebec every fall. They're in the skies above LA now, fighting our fires. Merci, Quebec!



National Defence @NationalDefence 9 Jan posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Last month, approximately 1,300 CRV-7 rocket warheads arrived in Poland via CC-177 Globemaster, continuing Canada's support for Ukraine. We're working with Allies to provide Ukraine with the critical military aid it needs. <https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/campaigns/canadian-military-support-to-ukraine.html> (Canadian donations and military support to Ukraine)



National Defence @NationalDefence 9 Jan posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Today, at the 25th Ukraine Defense Contact Group meeting, the Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence, announced \$440 million in military assistance to Ukraine needed to resist Russian aggression. <https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2025/01/defence-minister-bill-blair-commits-440-million-in-military-assistance-to-ukraine.html> (Defence Minister Bill Blair commits \$440 million in military assistance to Ukraine)



"Canada's Army Is Slowly Rotting Away" <https://www.19fortyfive.com/2025/01/canadas-army-is-slowly-rotting-away/> "...restore the 🇨🇦 Canadian Army to a position of relevance and credibility in an increasingly volatile world."

*Further:* Canada's crumbling Armed Forces

<https://caliber.az/en/post/canada-s-crumbling-armed-forces>





"Canada's Military Is Slowly Falling Apart" <https://www.19fortyfive.com/2025/01/canadas-military-is-slowly-falling-apart/> "Canada🇨🇦 must recognize that in a world marked by geopolitical competition, its role in #NATO is vital to preserving both national and regional security."



CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 10 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: 🇨🇦 Is Canada's military falling behind? In his latest Op-Ed, Col (Ret'd) Charles Davies urges bold action in response to Canada's defence crisis: increase defence investments beyond NATO's 20% benchmark and overhaul procurement processes. ➡ Read now: <https://cdainstitute.ca/it-is-past-time-for-canada-to-get-itself-out-of-the-defence-rust-out-trap/>  
(It is Past Time for Canada to get itself out of the Defence Rust-Out Trap)



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 3 Jan posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Ottawa to spend \$400K to scrap Canadian Coast Guard ship destroyed by vandals six years ago <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/canada/ottawa-to-spend-400k-to-scrap-vandalized-coast-guard-ship> via @ottawacitizen



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 2 Jan posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: My latest article....Why a combat badge was mysteriously cancelled by the Canadian military <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/combat-badge-cancelled-canadian-military> via @ottawacitizen



C2C Journal @c2cjournal 6 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Decades of neglect have left the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) depleted and demoralized. Canada must urgently rebuild the CAF. A strong, combat-ready military isn't just a priority, it's the bedrock of national security and of our standing in a volatile world. / 🇨🇦  
Read the full story:



<https://c2cjournal.ca/2024/12/unfit-for-duty-it-is-time-to-rebuild-the-canadian-armed-forces/>  
(Unfit for Duty: It is Time to Rebuild the Canadian Armed Forces)

And: Unfit for Duty, Part II – What the Canadian Armed Forces Needs to Rebuild  
<https://tnc.news/2025/01/04/unfit-for-duty-part-2-caf-rebuild/>

Royal Canadian Navy @RoyalCanNavy 30 Dec posted (video <https://x.com/RoyalCanNavy/status/1873729930066006029>) and RUSI(NS) reposted: A few highlights from 2024. What a year! 1,115 Days sailed 🚢 60 Ports visited 🌍 20 Countries visited 🌐 12 Ships deployed 🚢 6 Operations 🚢 Bravo Zulu to all our sailors and staff who contributed to the success of our Navy in 2024! 😊  
👏 #WeTheNavy #HelpLeadFight



Defence Research and Development Canada @DRDC\_RDDC 30 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Advancing technology to listen underwater with maritime acoustic sensors is one way that DRDC enhances situational awareness on Canada's approaches, including in the Arctic, for #NORADmod. <https://canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2024/08/investment-in-real-time-data-propels-marine-research.html> #ArcticScience #DefenceScience (Investment in real-time data propels marine research)



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 14 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: British departure means uncertain future for Alberta's massive Suffield military base  
<https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/british-departure-means-uncertain-future-for-alberta-s-massive-suffield-military-base-1.7145922>



"Government of Canada  announces its plan to strengthen border security and our immigration system" <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2024/12/government-of-canada-announces-its-plan-to-strengthen-border-security-and-our-immigration-system.html>

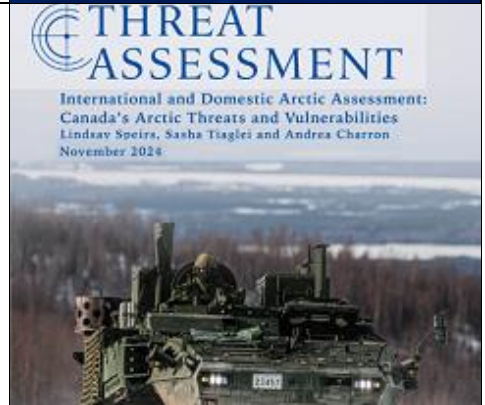




NATO Joint Warfare Centre @NATO\_JWC 18 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: We are delighted to present Issue #40 of The Three Swords magazine, @NATO\_JWC's warfare development journal, packed with in-depth articles focusing on the complex security & tech landscape of the future. Read about @NATO\_ACT's Strategic Foresight Analysis, innovations in @NATO C2, STEADFAST exercises, #Arctic information threats, #nuclear deterrence & fight against #GenderBasedViolence. Check out our latest issue → <https://jwc.nato.int/article/three-swords-dec-2024/> #WeAreNATO



CDA Institute @CDAInstitute 26 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: ■ International and Domestic Arctic Assessment: Canada's Arctic Threats and Vulnerabilities (Nov 2024). This publication explored the challenges posed by climate change, geopolitical tensions, and infrastructure gaps in Canada's Arctic region. → Read: <https://cdainstitute.ca/en-international-and-domestic-arctic-assessment-canadas-arctic-threats-and-vulnerabilities/>



Patrick Muncaster @PatrikMuncaster 21 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Canada's Maritime Security Strategic Framework of 2020 sets out an interdepartmental approach to achieve comprehensive security in our maritime domain. <https://tc.canada.ca/en/binder/13-canada-s-maritime-security-strategic-framework-2020> #cdnpoli #cdnecon #cdnnatsec (Canada's Maritime Security Strategic Framework 2020)



"Countering China's Maritime Narrative: The Role of Journalism in Gray Zone Conflict" by RUSI(NS) member Jay Heisler @heislerjay Media & relationships with allies





Chris Cavas @CavasShips 19 Dec posted: Hanwha Ocean has closed on its \$100 mil acquisition of Philadelphia Shipyard, aka PhillyShip. Major move for the Korean shipbuilder, acquiring the facility formerly known as Aker Philadelphia Shipyard and before that part of the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard <https://hanwhaphillyshipyard.com/hanwha-closes-philly-shipyard-acquisition/>



(Hanwha Closes \$100 Million Philly Shipyard Acquisition)

RUSI(NS) quoted: Might having Hanwha Philly Shipyard @PhillyShipyard as a shipyard in North America strengthen a bid by Hanwha for @RoyalCanNavy CAN🇨🇦 Patrol Submarine Project? #Submarines may be build overseas but #CPSP looking to maintain boats at home

David Pugliese @davidpugliese 18 Dec posted and RUI(NS) reposted: DND warns availability of Canadian military equipment is dropping. A lack of money and staff as well as aging equipment were the cause of the problems outlined in a new report. <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/dnd-warning-canadian-military-equipment-dropping> via @ottawacitizen



Juha Vehmaskoski @juhawe posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: "This article will discuss how we can understand the notion of intelligence disclosure, why states sometimes choose to disclose secret intelligence, and what the potential implications of intelligence disclosures may be." #intelligence #NationalSecurity

(Intelligence disclosure as a strategic messaging tool"

<https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2024/12/16/intelligence-disclosure-as-a-strategic-messaging-tool/index.html>)



Gabriele Molinelli @Gabriel64869839 17 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Canadian crews preparing for P-8 POSEIDON at RAF Lossiemouth, training with 42 (Torpedo Bomber) Sqn (the P-8 Operational Conversion Unit) and then flying in 120 and 201 Sqns. Under Trinity House agreements, expect much the same for Germany.

H/T @UKDefJournal "RAF Lossiemouth hosts Canadian

aircrew for training" <https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/raf-lossiemouth-hosts-canadian-aircrew-for-training/> @RCAF\_ARC



David Pugliese @davidpugliese 16 Dec posted: Canadian military plans to boost ranks to 86,000 personnel: briefing document. The document noted that in the past, military personnel have not been considered a core capability. <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canadian-military-to-boost-ranks> via @ottawacitizen

RUSI(NS) quoted: Capable military is appropriate balance of people, activities&equipment. @CanadianForces will need more capital acquisition, CAN🇨🇦 policies (defence, foreign, regional) to match personnel increase (force development).

Opportunity to design military for forthcoming years/situations



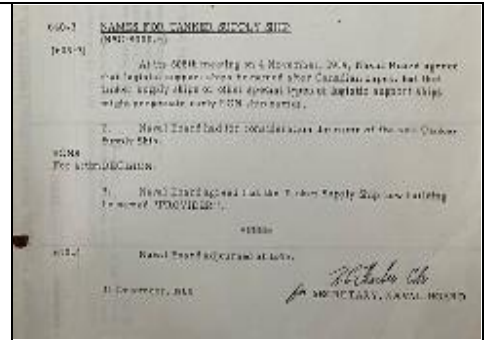
640th Meeting @RoyalCanNavy Naval Board 21Dec60, Names for Tanker Supply Ship set precedent for naming replenishment oilers after previous AOR. #RCNavy has long history, doesn't need new names, needs new ships @steffanwatkins @NoahGairn @Matt18241 @m\_Janelle @perfidiousleaf

RUSI\_NS replied: Current NAVORD 1325-4 Ship's Standard Identification System and Naming Procedures holds. Further:

Naming and Renaming Canadian Warships

<https://rusi-ns.ca/naming-renaming-canadian-warships/>

Warship Naming Ceremonies <https://rusi-ns.ca/warship-naming-ceremonies/>



### “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.

Chinese ship ‘severs undersea cables around Taiwan’  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2025/01/05/chinese-ship-severs-undersea-cables-around-taiwan/>

Severing undersea cables is technically easy, with the added advantage for the 'black hats' that it is plausibly deniable.



The severing of an undersea cable, whether by a Chinese, Russian or other vessel, would be an interesting scenario to plan, wargame, train and exercise a response. Canadian and partner response resources from the civil sector should be included. Considering the importance of seabed/undersea infrastructure (communications, energy), Canada needs to ensure it is ready to handle such 'sabotage.'

Gulf of Guinea navies turn to drones for surveillance  
<https://www.defenceweb.co.za/featured/gulf-of-guinea-navies-turn-to-drones-for-surveillance/>

"In its Article 19, the convention (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) does not guarantee 'innocent passage' for vessels that

'launch, land or take on board' a military device in the territorial sea of a state. From a legal point of view, it becomes difficult to classify drones in a category that can benefit from the right of innocent passage, although the provisions are not explicit on this fact."



Something to bear in mind.

*From a RCAF colleague:* Spitballing as a mission planner, I wonder if tethered drones acting as enhanced sensors for ships can be considered innocent passage. Really, using sensors is prohibited in most diplomatic overflight clearances and launching aircraft is not innocent passage so launching and recovering UAS, even when only used as enhanced ship sensors, would probably necessitate specific diplomatic clearance. Of course, geographic location, stakeholders and mission parameters would all have an impact on the final

requirements. There may be a case to use them as safety systems.

Russian tanker tugged to shore for Baltic Sea sabotage was 'loaded with spy equipment'  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2024/12/28/nato-baltic-sea-undersea-power-cable-estlink-spy-russia-war/>



From a Master Mariner: The thing which springs to mind is the fact that with large numbers of 'flags of convenience' [or 'open registries' as they like to style themselves, i.e., not having any requirements for the vessel's owner(s) to be a citizen of the flag state] have long been a hiding place for sub-SOLAS (International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea) standard 'end-of-life' vessels. What we are seeing here is the 'weaponization' of flags of convenience in order to mask Russian/Chinese/Iranian operations against the West.

In my experience, many FoC vessels have high standards and are so registered purely to avoid taxation on earnings and to be able to hire low-wage Third World crews. Capitalism always wants the lowest possible prices for services delivered!

The 'black hats' can easily say "Mr. President, if you can see your way to allow us to register our ships with your flag, and not ask any embarrassing questions, we would be happy to build you a magnificent new port bearing your name." Hence the magnificent Chinese-owned port at the southern tip of Sri Lanka!

The fact is, the 'black hats' have all the high cards in this poker game. The West has the 2, 3 and 4 cards.

IMHO, effective action would require the West to say "We have the right to stop and inspect ANY and ALL merchant vessels transiting our national waters." Even were such a resolve miraculously to appear, enforcing this would require mobilisation of the entire Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Coast Guard and Transport Canada, which would be educationally/politically impossible with the current government.

Thales leading SEACURE seabed defence project  
<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/thales-leading-seacure-seabed-defence-project/>



SEACURE "...focuses on developing autonomous systems to safeguard critical maritime infrastructure."

Good to see a project for "Seabed Warfare operations." Hopefully Canada has or will stand up similar projects soon.



Automated fueling-at-sea test completed for unmanned surface vehicle program  
<https://www.darpa.mil/news/2024/nomars-success>

The US has successfully demonstrated one uncrewed surface vehicle (USV - drone) refueling another USV whilst the two were underway. Once this capability is fully developed, it will have tremendous potential for the operation of USV over long distances (e.g., the Pacific) and long duration (e.g., a cloud of USV carrying our submarine search in the North Atlantic). This will considerably enhance USV operations either independently or in conjunction with crewed ships as part of a task group.



It is Past Time for Canada to get itself out of the Defence Rust-Out Trap  
<https://cdainstitute.ca/it-is-past-time-for-canada-to-get-itself-out-of-the-defence-rust-out-trap/>

"Certainly, the government could do much to reduce acquisition program costs and get more defence capability for taxpayers' money if it were to better discipline its own political decision-making about investments – and eliminate the chronic delays inherent in its complex defence procurement business architecture – but correcting the budget imbalance is the central element of any real solution."

NATO's target of 2% of GDP is getting most of the public attention. Spending 20% of the defence budget on major equipment acquisitions, to prevent 'rust out', gets less. What capabilities NATO would like Canada to provide, and to what Canada has committed (ships, brigades, air squadrons) seems to get no attention at all.



Meet Fanzhou 8, China's Massive New Heavy-Lift Submersible  
<https://gcaptain.com/meet-fanzhou-8-chinas-massive-new-heavy-lift-submersible/>

"...a maximum carrying capacity of 58,405.4 metric tons..."

The potential utility of this semi-submersible heavy lift ship, a.k.a. deck ship, is fascinating. It could be very useful for retrieving damaged warships from combat areas back to where they could be repaired. Maybe the repairs could be done whilst the damaged ship is being carried aboard FANZHOU 8. Is having, or having access, to such a vessel a sign of a blue-water (at, least, aspiring) navy, that is, one with far-distance, long-endurance operating capabilities? Does Canada have access to such a vessel (Canadian flagged or by an ally/partner)?

One definition of deck ship is: a ship specially intended to carry cargo exclusively on the deck.





What Use a Navy

<https://www.navalreview.ca/2024/12/what-use-a-navy/>

"Recent equipment decisions ... have been announced without a strategy that integrates the air and sea components of an overall strategy."

When talking about a country's major capital equipment procurements and disposals, it is arguable that one is talking about policy and not strategy. Does Canada's defence policy update "Our North, Strong and Free: A Renewed Vision for Canada's Defence" (<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/north-strong-free-2024.html>) provide an integrated perspective of how sea and air power would be employed?

From the paper "Canadian Naval Future: A Necessary Long-Term Planning Framework" attached to the Naval Review post: "But the naval capability mix problem will not be resolved without first reversing the politically directed demise of the national shipbuilding industry." Has the politically directed rise of the national shipbuilding industry resulted in conditions to ensure a sufficient naval capability mix now and in the future, considering current global situations and potential futures?

In looking at the Navy's roles as laid out in the 1994 Defence White Paper and reflected in the "Canadian Naval Future" paper, it is interesting to reflect on the continuity of the roles of the Canadian military, and consequent Navy roles, at times implicit, over the decades, even if "Our North, Strong and Free" (which labels them as core missions) has grown the number to eight.



'The long arc of Australian defence strategy'  
<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/editors-picks-for-2024-the-long-arc-of-australian-defence-strategy/>

"In the absence of being able to conjure instantly into being an expanded force, there are measures that we could take immediately which would allow us to make best use of operational warning time (such warning time is measured not in years, but in months)." (Followed by a list.)

There are thoughts and measures here for Canada to consider. Our situation isn't all that different.

*Comment:* Putting aside the argument as to whether it is strategy or policy that is being discussed.



Footage appears online of alleged civilian drone landing on HMAS Canberra  
<https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/air/15272-footage-appears-online-of-alleged-civilian-drone-landing-on-hmas-canberra>

*Comment from a Master Mariner:* I often see drones operating around the various ships under



my command. The first time I recall seeing a drone close up it was hovering forward of the bridge as we transited the American Narrows on the Seaway. At first I thought it was a large bug until someone remarked that it was a drone.

Just last month a drone was orbiting us while we negotiated the Bluewater Bridge at Sarnia downbound.

We have crew that operate drones off the ship to take video of the ship and surrounding areas, etc. You don't have to look too far to find drone footage of Canadian ships working the lakes and Seaway.

Frankly I don't know if drones are on Transport Canada's radar or not with respect to maritime security. Drone use is wide open. Anybody can get a drone license. It will all come crashing down eventually the first time a weaponized drone is used against a domestic vessel in a terror act, e.g., landing on the deck of a products carrier in, say, one of the locks on the Welland Canal and igniting at best a fire or worse (explosions damaging locks, etc.). Imagine what effect that would have on the Canadian and USA economies.

Did the U.S. Defense of Israel from Missile Attacks Meaningfully Deplete Its Interceptor Inventory?

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/did-us-defense-israel-missile-attacks-meaningfully-deplete-its-interceptor-inventory>



"While the concern about munitions production is a long-overdue correction to prior underinvestment, not every use of air and missile defense interceptors requires an immediate restocking of inventories."

A point for consideration: analyses of actions (combat) should not be limited to battle-damage assessments and counts of remaining ammunition, but what the actions mean on the availability of munitions all the way back to the factories and what they mean for factory production.

And actions need to be analyzed in a broad sense. During a conflict will there be a few major actions (Backfire bomber regiments coming south through the GIUK gap scenario) or lots of/continuous minor actions (Red Sea scenario)? What are the effects on inventory management?

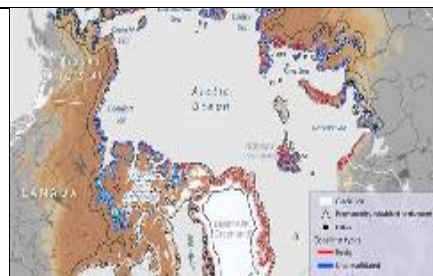
Most coastline Arctic infrastructure faces instability by 2100

<https://maritimemag.com/en/most-coastline-arctic-infrastructure-faces-instability-by-2100/>

"A new study

<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2024EF005013>

has produced the first map of all coastal communities and infrastructure across the Arctic, showing the vulnerability of the built environment to threats from climate change."



Infrastructure development is touted as a (the?) major means of ensuring Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic. Climate change is going to make development a challenge, as newly built ports, airfields, railroads, etc., are going to have to be built with climate change in mind.

UK military unprepared for 'conflict of any scale', warns ex-defence official  
<https://www.ft.com/content/8251f12b-0296-47f0-a774-3b7c99b9e53d>



This piece recently re-surfaced as a X post (<https://x.com/helenwarrell/status/1807693282928906689>) with the words "A rare, honest assessment of the state of UK defence from a senior official" and "Britain cannot defend its homelands properly & is unprepared for conflict of any scale". It is concerning that so many leading allies may not be strong enough and ready, given the state of the world. Can Canada really depend on someone else? We should be contributing, striving for our fair share (appears like 2% GDP is not good enough) sooner than later. And senior Canadian officials should be speaking truth to power and the public.

Industrial defence of the realms  
<https://www.iiss.org/online-analysis/military-balance/2024/12/industrial-defence-of-the-realms/>



"Germany and the United Kingdom are intent on bolstering their respective defence-industrial bases to meet a more worrisome security environment."

Considering the state of the world, and the lead time to ensure our resiliency and capability, Canada needs to bolster its defence industry base. What is Canada's defence industry policy? There is some content in the new defence policy "Our North, Strong and Free: A Renewed Vision for Canada's Defence" (<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/policies-standards/our-north-strong-free-renewed-vision-canada-defence.html>). Is it enough? What are the detailed plans, actions and reports that are to follow the policy?

Bipartisan SHIPS Act Aims to Revitalize U.S. Maritime Industry, Counter China's Dominance  
<https://gcaptain.com/bipartisan-ships-act-aims-to-revitalize-u-s-maritime-industry-counter-chinas-dominance/>



Recognition that a strong civil shipbuilding sector is the foundation of strong naval shipbuilding, and ultimately of seapower and a state's prosperity and international relations position.

Key provisions:  
National Maritime Strategy  
Fleet Expansion  
Boost Competitiveness  
Shipyards Investments  
Next-Generation Innovation  
Workforce Development

New SHIPS Act Legislation Aims to Revamp U.S. Shipbuilding Industry  
<https://news.usni.org/2024/12/19/new-ships-act-legislation-aims-to-revamp-u-s-shipbuilding-industry> Bipartisan SHIPS Act Aims to Revitalize U.S. Maritime Industry, Counter China's Dominance  
<https://gcaptain.com/bipartisan-ships-act-aims-to-revitalize-u-s-maritime-industry-counter-chinas-dominance/>

## Other Sources

#Arctic

Potential French-Canadian Collaboration in the Face of New Security and Climate Threats in the Canadian Arctic

<https://ras-nsa.ca/potential-french-canadian-collaboration-in-the-face-of-new-security-and-climate-threats-in-the-canadian-arctic/>

*From a CCG colleague:* The French have been consistent participants in Op NANOOK for several years now. They send divers to conduct under-ice training in the winter sessions.

U.S. Department of Defense Sounds Alarm Bells About China's Growing Presence in Arctic

<https://gcaptain.com/u-s-department-of-defense-sounds-alarm-bells-about-chinas-growing-presence-in-arctic/>

#artificial intelligence

Bias in Military Artificial Intelligence

<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2024/sipri-background-papers/bias-military-artificial-intelligence>

How China is advancing in AI despite US Chip Restrictions

<https://time.com/7204164/china-ai-advances-chips/>

#Canadian Armed Forces

The Future of the Armed Forces?

<https://dndcaf101.substack.com/p/the-future-of-the-armed-forces-part>

#Canada Border Services Agency

2024 Year in review: CBSA protecting Canadians and supporting our economy

<https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2024/12/2024-year-in-review-cbsa-protecting-canadians-and-supporting-our-economy.html>

2024 Year in review for Atlantic Canada: CBSA seizes 270 weapons and firearms and intercepts 132 stolen vehicles

<https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2024/12/2024-year-in-review-for-atlantic-canada-cbsa-seizes-270-weapons-and-firearms-and-intercepts-132-stolen-vehicles.html>

Ending flagpoling for work and study permits at the border

<https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2024/12/ending-flagpoling-for-work-and-study-permits-at-the-border.html>

*For those who don't know:* "Flagpoling occurs when foreign nationals who hold temporary resident status in Canada, leave Canada and, after a visit to the United States or St. Pierre and Miquelon, re-enter to access immigration services at a port of entry."



#China

What the Pentagon's New Report on Chinese Military Power Reveals About Capabilities, Context, and Consequences

<https://warontherocks.com/2024/12/what-the-pentagons-new-report-on-chinese-military-power-reveals-about-capabilities-context-and-consequences/>

Chinese Naval Developments in 2024 - Part 1: Major Programs

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2025/01/chinese-naval-developments-2024-in-review-part-1-major-programs/>

Shadow Force, A Look Inside the PLA Navy Reserve

<https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/cmsi-maritime-reports/43/>

#China #economic warfare

Five Ways To Counter China's Economic Might

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/five-ways-counter-china's-economic-might-214108>

- 1) Playing Offense, Not Just Defense
- 2) A Collective Approach
- 3) A Comprehensive Approach
- 4) Do Not Rule Out Trade
- 5) Sound Economic Policy

"One of China's strengths is its long-term strategic thinking. To deal with the People's Republic and its overbearing economic power, the West will also have to think in a similar far-sighted fashion."

#China #warfare

Pentagon's annual China-power report notes nuclear, influence threats—but also corruption

<https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2024/12/pentagons-annual-china-power-report-notes-nuclear-influence-threats-also-corruption/401779/>

"Beijing's military doctrine is evolving as well, the report said, noting the quest for "intelligentized warfare," a concept that integrates artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and big data across all domains of combat. If that sounds similar to the Pentagon's goal of a highly interconnected battlespace where data from drones, satellites and elsewhere speeds up operations, particularly through automation, it is."  
*Also: China Expanding Pacific Operations, Taiwan Invasion 'Not Possible' by 2027, Say DoD Officials*

<https://news.usni.org/2024/12/19/china-expanding-pacific-operations-taiwan-invasion-not-possible-by-2027-say-dod-officials>

#defence industry

Trade in the Borderlands

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5f9d6656884d44a9a223cb9b1a9832e2>

Not the usual defence and security content that RUSI(NS) shares, but topical, in detail which people should appreciate, and puts defence industry into context.

#defence policy

Canada's 2025 defence outlook

<https://philippelagasse.substack.com/p/canadas-2025-defence-outlook>

Varghese review will undermine think tank independence

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/varghese-review-will-undermine-think-tank-independence/>

This is a very concerning read. Hopefully no Canadian government would seek to inhibit a 'think tank's' (that's a broad, undefined term) independence with such measures.

Canada's Military Could Soon Make an Epic Comeback

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2024/12/canadas-military-could-soon-make-an-epic-comeback/>

#defence policy update

Standing Committee on National Defence, Evidence, 28 November 2024

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/documentviewer/en/44-1/NDDN/meeting-128/evidence>

Some interesting nuggets once you get past the 'poli-speak.'

#defence procurement

Updating Augustine's Law: Fighter Aircraft Cost Growth in the Age of AI and Autonomy

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/updating-augustines-law-fighter-aircraft-cost-growth-age-ai-and-autonomy>

Augustine's Law: "In the year 2054, the entire defense budget will purchase just one aircraft. The aircraft will have to be shared by the Air Force and Navy [three and a half] days each per week except for leap year, when it will be made available to the Marines for the extra day."

#drones

Department of Defense Strategy for Countering Unmanned Systems

<https://www.hsdl.org/c/abstract/?docid=893967>

Collaborative Platforms and Contested MALE UAVs

<https://www.iiss.org/research-paper/2024/12/collaborative-platforms-and-contested-male-uavs/>

Giant military manta ray drone passes first ocean test

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2024/05/giant-military-manta-ray-drone-passes-first-ocean-test/396244/>

Could the US Navy fleet of the mid-21<sup>st</sup> century include large uncrewed vehicles?

<https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PEA2854-1.html>

How to Transform the Army for Drone Warfare

<https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/articles/transform-for-drones/>

Some good points here.

#economic warfare

RUSI Maritime Sanctions Taskforce: First Meeting Report

<https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/conference-reports/rusi-maritime-sanctions-taskforce-first-meeting-report>

#futurecasting

The Incredible, World-Altering 'Black Swan' Events That Could Upend Life in 2025  
<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2025/01/03/15-unpredictable-scenarios-for-2025-00196309>

Considerations for when planning or developing exercise scenarios.

#Indo-Pacific

To Deter China, Taiwan Needs to Expand Its 'Porcupine' Capabilities

<https://defenseopinion.com/to-deter-china-taiwan-needs-to-expand-its-porcupine-capabilities/798/>

#information operations

The Age of Decentralized Information Warfare is Here

<https://irregularwarfare.org/articles/the-age-of-decentralized-information-warfare-is-here/>

How to Challenge China's Military Deception Tactics

<https://irregularwarfare.org/articles/how-to-challenge-chinas-military-deception-tactics/>

There's No Dodge Button for Disinformation

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/06/18/video-games-online-disinformation-united-states-state-department/>

EU Strategic Communications to Support Sanctions Against Russia

<https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/occasional-papers/eu-strategic-communications-support-sanctions-against-russia>

#innovation

Naval History's Hidden Lesson: The Dangers of Rushed Innovation

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/naval-history-s-hidden-lesson-dangers-rushed-innovation-213106>

#intelligence

How Gamers Eclipsed Spies as an Intelligence Threat

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/04/15/ukraine-leak-intelligence-discord-espionage-gamers-internet-online/>

Dated but interesting.

Collection of Finding Aids for Records on Foreign Intelligence in Canada 1945-2000

<https://www.csids.ca/collection-of-finding-aids-for-records-on-foreign-intelligence-in-canada-1945-2000>

Fascinating site, and more than just 'foreign intelligence.' Now, how to access some of the documents themselves?

#land warfare

To Fight or Not To Fight

<https://www.lineofdeparture.army.mil/Journals/Armor/Fall-2023-Edition/To-Fight-or-Not-To-Fight/>

#legal

Year Ahead – Gearing Up for Possible Naval Conflict

<https://lieber.westpoint.edu/gearing-up-possible-naval-conflict/>

Searching for a Practical Legal Test for the End of Non-International Armed Conflicts

<https://lieber.westpoint.edu/searching-practical-legal-test-end-non-international-armed-conflicts/>

Maritime Law In Focus As Protecting Subsea

<https://www.marinelink.com/news/maritime-law-focus-protecting-subsea-520650>

#maritime security

The New Frontier for Drone Warfare Is Deep Underwater

<https://www.wsj.com/tech/underwater-sea-drones-ghost-shark-manta-ray-7e22e140>

Canada needs to develop a capability to operate deep underwater. Our crewed submarines don't provide that.

Cables, Pipelines, and Consequences

<https://cdrsalamander.substack.com/p/cables-pipelines-and-consequences>

The writer 'invents' the expression "Under Sea Lines of Communication" (USLOC). Not a bad idea to try and put language to this new (again) area of operations, though unfortunately the initialism also/already means US Library of Congress...

Protecting trade in contested waters

<https://www.britainworld.org.uk/p/the-memorandum-26-2024>

Agree - planning, training and exercising between navies and shipping companies: "Finally, joint exercises, training, and coordinating resources between navies and shipping companies would enable a more coordinated response. By involving commercial stakeholders in the planning stage, there can be greater understanding of each other's needs and challenges."

What does a fake flag certificate look like? Lloyd's List shows you

<https://www.loydslist.com/LL1151874/What-does-a-fake-flag-certificate-look-like-Lloyds-List-shows-you>

The Great Cotonou joins the Grimaldi fleet and inaugurates the China-West Africa service

<https://en.portnews.ru/news/371905/>

*Master Marine comment:* The basic design of these vessels could easily be adapted to military helicopter and drone support vessel as well as oiler and support vessel.

Russian ship under US sanctions sinks after engine room blast

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c627n83ezlwo>

*Ursa Major* was carrying two large cranes, purportedly to Vladivostok. One wonders whether the ship's sinking (blast in the engine room) was a clandestine action, part of attacking Russia's maritime transportation and trade network.



#media operations

The plagiarism problem in journalism

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/the-plagiarism-problem-in-journalism/>

"At its core, journalism is built on trust and integrity. We hold ourselves to high standards when it comes to accuracy, so why not the same for fairness? If someone else's reporting forms the basis of your story, pretending otherwise isn't just misleading — it's plagiarism."

#professional military education

Ferdinand Foch and the Applicatory Method

<https://tacticalnotebook.substack.com/p/ferdinand-foch-and-the-applicatory>

#reading

The Command Sergeant Major of U.S. Army Special Operations

Command Recommends these 5 books for your Christmas Stocking

<https://fromthegreennotebook.com/2024/12/21/the-command-sergeant-major-of-u-s-army-special-operations-command-recommends-these-5-books-for-your-christmas-stocking/>

#Royal Canadian Forces

Canada's Victoria-Class Submarine Nightmare Has 'Sailed Into Port'

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2025/01/canadas-victoria-class-submarine-nightmare-has-sailed-into-port/>

#Russia-Ukraine War

The Russia-Ukraine War: A Study in Analytic Failure

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/russia-ukraine-war-study-analytic-failure>

#Russia-Ukraine War #China

How China is adopting battlefield lessons from Ukraine

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2024/12/how-china-adopting-battlefield-lessons-ukraine/401694/>

#Russia-Ukraine War #drones

Ukraine Unleashes All-Robot Attack On Russian Forces

<https://evrimagaci.org/tpg/ukraine-unleashes-allrobot-attack-on-russian-forces-110217>

"Ukrainian military has made headlines once again with the deployment of revolutionary robotic warfare, marking what is believed to be the first all-robot, combined-arms unmanned attack against Russian forces."

Ukraine Claims Its Drone Boat Shot Down A Russian Mi-8 Helicopter With A Surface-To-Air Missile

<https://www.twz.com/sea/ukraine-claims-its-drone-boat-shot-down-a-russian-mi-8-helicopter-with-a-surface-to-air-missile>

Ukraine's cheap sensors are helping troops fight off waves of Russian drones

<https://www.defenseone.com/defense-systems/2024/07/ukraines-cheap-sensors-are-helping-troops-fight-waves-russian-drones/398204/>

Sky Fortress - "a network of almost 10,000 acoustic sensors scattered around the

country that locate Russian drones and send targeting information to soldiers in the field who gun them down."

Hmm, will the artillery branch be re-introducing sound-locating/ranging units?...

#Russia-Ukraine War #drones #navigation warfare

In Ukraine, a US firm tests a promising tool against GPS jammers: cell phones

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2024/09/group-ukraine-testing-newest-weapon-against-gps-jammers-cell-phones/399952/>

#security

Canadian Security Intelligence Service Release of 2023 Public Report

<https://www.canada.ca/en/security-intelligence-service/news/2024/05/release-of-2023-public-report.html>

IISS Conflict Trends Map 2024

<https://www.iiss.org/publications/armed-conflict-survey/2024/iiss-conflict-trends-map/>

A Taxonomy of Hybrid Threats

<https://css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/pdfs/CSSAnalyse352-EN.pdf>

#shipbuilding

The Hidden Threat to National Security Is Not Enough Workers

FYI: [https://www.wsj.com/economy/the-hidden-threat-to-national-security-is-not-enough-workers-1dc7abe1?st=dRxSK5&reflink=desktopwebshare\\_permalink](https://www.wsj.com/economy/the-hidden-threat-to-national-security-is-not-enough-workers-1dc7abe1?st=dRxSK5&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink)

Probably the same could be said in Canada. Fortunately there has been an effort to grow the workforce. How much of that was explicitly a National Shipbuilding Strategy objective? Now, let's ensure that those people aren't lost (again) by a gap in the shipbuilding. Canada needs a continuous shipbuilding program (and, considering the global situation, maybe now a ramped-up one).

*Comments from a Master Mariner:* Even with an increased capability to build ships, really only naval in Canada, who will operate them? Canada's navy and commercial shipping are both facing employment issues. I read recently where an Amazon driver could make close to \$200K in the USA. Same or more than commercial ship captains. Not sure if that is a proven statistic, but if it is, then the industry is in big trouble.

#strategy

Articles about Carl von Clausewitz

<https://tacticalnotebook.substack.com/p/articles-about-carl-von-clausewitz>

Is Strategy Just a Theory of Victory? Notes on an Annoying Buzzword

<https://dispatch.bazaarofwar.com/p/is-strategy-just-a-theory-of-victory?>

"The measure of strategic ability is not just the brilliance of the plan, but the ability to adapt to the unexpected. Older writers were correct: it is better to think of strategy as an action, not an idea."

The term "theory of victory" is not common, coincidentally it showed in another article RUSI(NS) received: "Does it Matter if You Call it a Wargame? Actually, yes." (<https://cimsec.org/does-it-matter-if-you-call-it-a-wargame-actually-yes/>). Seems to equate to 'concept of operations.'

#war

Uppsala Conflict Data Program

<https://ucdp.uu.se/exploratory>

Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED)

<https://acleddata.com/>

#warfare

The Hon Kathleen Hicks (US Deputy Secretary of Defense) on the Future Character of War

Note transcript: <https://rusi.org/research-event-recordings/recording-hon-kathleen-hicks-future-character-war>

Turning Victory Into Success - Military Operations After the Campaign

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/combats-studies-institute/csi-books/TurningVictoryIntoSuccess.pdf>

#warfare #artificial intelligence

War, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of Conflict

<https://gjia.georgetown.edu/2024/07/12/war-artificial-intelligence-and-the-future-of-conflict/>

#wargaming

Does it Matter if You Call it a Wargame? Actually, yes.

<https://cimsec.org/does-it-matter-if-you-call-it-a-wargame-actually-yes/>

"Defense analytic wargaming's purpose is to assist in the development of good strategy."

Tactical Decision Game Scenario #4 Attack on Narrow Pass – Canuck Style

<https://www.canada.ca/en/army/services/canadian-army-journal/articles/2024/tdg4-attack-on-narrow-pass.html>

## Odds and sods...

Happy New Year!

*Because it's a great photo:* LGen Michael Wright, CCA/CAC @Army\_Comd\_Armeec 1 Jan posted: Happy New Year to the #CanadianArmy team. Let's get back to work with a renewed fighting spirit so we can continue protecting Canadians and building the Army of tomorrow.



### **Canadian Forces Decoration**

FYI, new CD with King Charles III will be available mid-January.

**UK Army Centre for Historical Analysis and Conflict Research *Digest* #39**

<https://chacr.org.uk/2024/12/19/chacr-digest-39/>



## Gender Advisors

Canadian military deployed “gender advisors” to Ukraine, Haiti

<https://tnc.news/2024/12/19/canadian-military-deployed-gender-advisors-ukraine/>

“A Gender Advisor is a full-time position, usually a military position, and a Gender Focal Point is a part-time position; these exist to support Commanders in the application of GBA+ and gender perspectives in both the institutional and operational realms. Gender Focal Points are positioned throughout CAF. In-theatre, there is a minimum of one GFP on all named missions”



## River-class Destroyer Project

EOREHTILC HAON @NoahGairn 22 Dec posted (<https://x.com/NoahGairn/status/1870855139042766940>)

: The future River-class will be equipped with two Lionfish 30, probably one of the most underrated additions.



## Minelaying

Think Defence @thinkdefence 28 Dec posted (video <https://x.com/thinkdefence/status/1872945776667635869>): This brief video clip demonstrates the CUBE containerised minelayer. Fantastic innovation

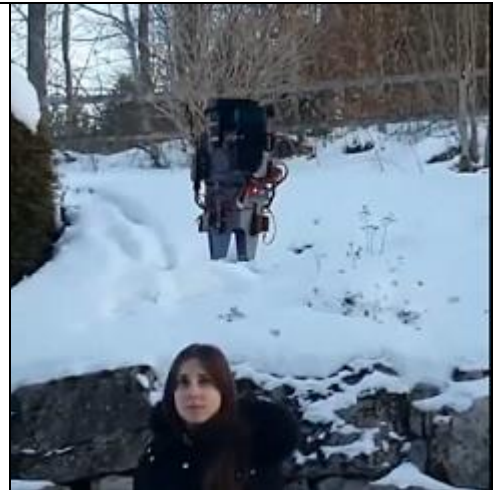
How difficult would it be for Canada to get back into the minelaying business if the new corvettes (replacements for the Kingston-class vessels) were configured to carry containers? And if civil vessels were sourced and trialled as minelayers?



## Single Ducted Fan Thrust Vectoring Drone

Brian Roemmele @BrianRoemmele 21 Dec posted (video <https://x.com/BrianRoemmele/status/1870583682169454929>): A single ducted fan thrust vectoring drone. Most folks look for propellers, they are not expecting this. Wait till you see the car sized ones...

*Ed: This is beginning to look very Star War-ish...*



## Drone Operations

Special Kherson Cat 🐱🇺🇦 @bayraktar\_1love posted (video [https://x.com/bayraktar\\_1love/status/1871175847002112424](https://x.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1871175847002112424)): A Ukrainian ground drone under Russian fire is on its way to rescue its fallen colleague, a heavy bomber drone. [https://t.me/WarArchive\\_ua/23921](https://t.me/WarArchive_ua/23921)

*Comment: A future of warfare: ground drone recovering a downed air drone...*



## Drone Counter-Measures

Anti-Drone Weapon With 24 Barrels Firing Buckshot-Like Rounds Emerges On Russian Buggies <https://www.twz.com/land/anti-drone-weapon-with-24-barrels-firing-buckshot-like-rounds-emerges-on-russian-buggies>



Whatever you think of it, the Russians are being innovative...

## Drone Counter-Measures

Ministry of Defence GB @DefenceHQ 23 Dec posted (video

<https://x.com/DefenceHQ/status/1871170195227603077>)

: The @BritishArmy has successfully trialed a new radio frequency directed energy weapon (RFDEW) capable of destroying swarms of drones. RFDEWs can neutralise targets up to 1km away at an estimated cost of 10p per shot. Read more

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-soldiers-successfully-test-drone-killer-radiowave-weapon-for-first-time>

(British soldiers successfully test drone killer radiowave weapon for first time)

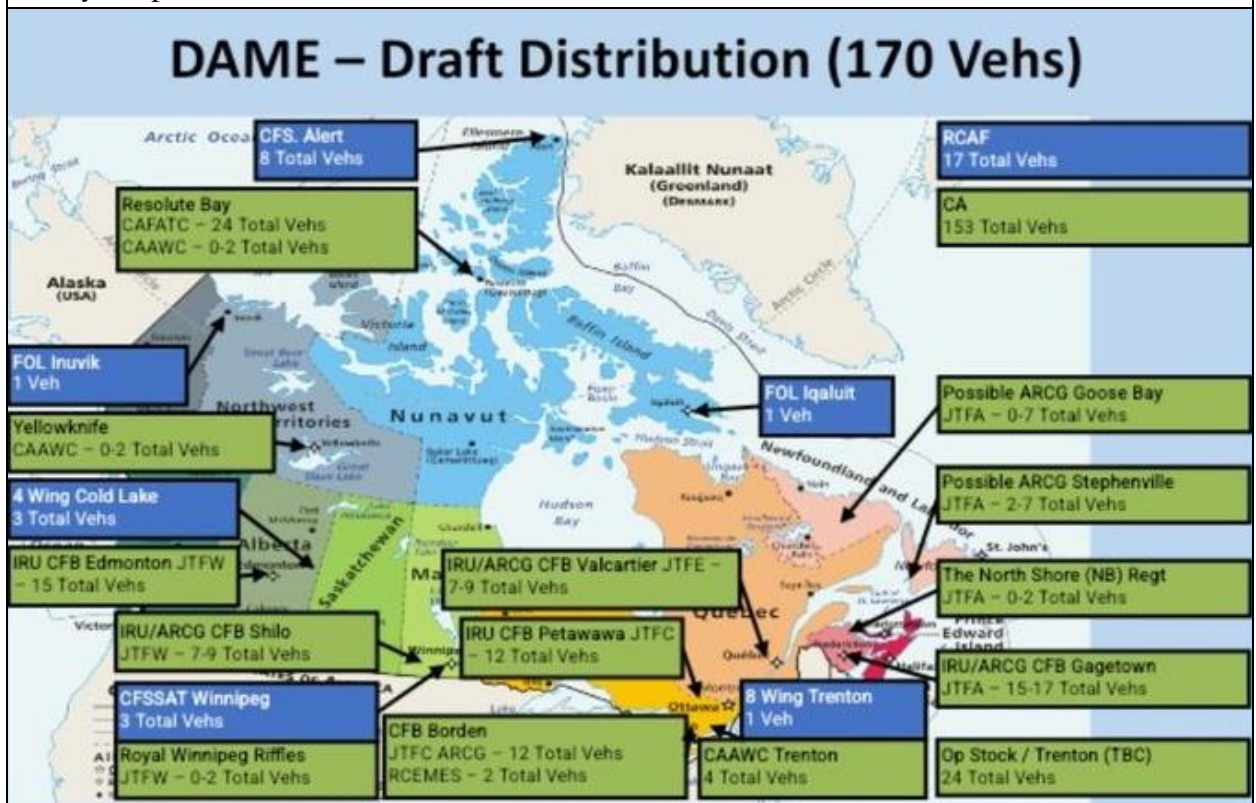


## Domestic Arctic Mobility Enhancement

The Defense Post @DefensePost 27 Dec posted: BAE Systems to manufacture 44 additional Beowulf Cold Weather All-Terrain Vehicles for US Army  
 EOREHTILC HAON @NoahGairn quoted: The BsV10 is the main contender for the Domestic Arctic Mobility Enhancement project. The project is currently in the RFI stage, which will close later in 2025, hopefully. Up to 170 vehicles will be procured in four variants:  
 • Carrier • Command Post • Cargo • Ambulance - I am sad, though, that they've left out a Mobile Repair Variant (though it is left as a future hypothetical)

Project info at: <https://apps.forces.gc.ca/en/defence-capabilities-blueprint/project-details.asp?id=938>

A point that struck me is how the RFI image depicts army units as part of Joint Task Forces (force employer) of Canadian Joint Operations Command rather than brigades and divisions of the Canadian Army (force generator). May seem minor but clarity of command and control is always important.



## Canadian Coast Guard Hovercraft

Canadian Coast Guard @CoastGuardCAN 30 Dec posted  
 (video <https://x.com/CoastGuardCAN/status/1873806586008727894>): Which of our videos was YOUR favorite this year? This video featuring the CCGS Moytel, one of our hovercrafts, won top honours with over 2,000,000 views!! 🏆🎉 2025 is just around the corner, and we're gearing up to wow you all over again!



EOREHTILC HAON @NoahGairn quoted: Beautiful. The CCG will receive four new



hovercraft from Griffon Hoverworks in the coming years to replace the current fleet.

*Comment 1:* Appears there is no Canadian hovercraft manufacturer (Griffon is UK) to match CCG requirements.

*Comment 2:* Only North American manufacturer that would come close is Textron Systems in the US. It is very much a niche industry like nuclear submarines. Textron and Griffon have been direct competitors in the US military marketplace.

*Comment 3:* Could a hovercraft be built in Canada? Sure, if a competent aluminum shipbuilder obtained the licenced plans and technical data.

The structure of a commercial hovercraft is little more than a lightweight aluminum barge, powered by marine diesel engines driving ducted fans for lift and propulsion and fitted with standard marine electronics ... it's not that complicated, albeit the specialized skirt would likely have to be sub-contracted to an existing hovercraft specialist.

Hike Metal Products constructed CCG Ships *Siyay* and *Sipu Muin* (AP1-88/400 model) in 1998 under licence to GKN Westland, based on a variant of the AP1-88/100 passenger craft. A slightly smaller version of that modification, CCGS *Waban-Aki* (AP1-88/200 model), had previously been built in the UK by British Hovercraft Corp (BHC) in 1987. Subsequent units, CCG Ships *Penac* (a refurbished AP1-88/100), *Moytel* and *Mamilossa* (both AP1-88/400), were built in the UK by Hoverwork.

At this time, Griffon Hoverwork UK and Textron USA are really the only two serious players in this field, worldwide. It seems unlikely that either manufacturer would choose to licence the designs to the CCG, nor would that approach offer any significant advantage for Canada except the ability to build domestically, at higher risk of complications and flaws.

A couple of years ago CCG Commissioner Mario Pelletier, asked about the next generation of CCG hovercraft, made assurances that they would still qualify for NSS funding despite being built overseas. The CCG subsequently issued a sole-source contract for Griffon Hoverwork to conduct a design study, which presumably will lead to a construction contract for two new craft to replace the 1998 craft and eventually two more to replace the 2008 and 2013 craft.

*Comment 4 (from a PSPC source):* Hovercraft are part of NSS Pillar 2. A Request for Information (RFI) was completed in 2022 for the CCG Air Cushion Vehicles and some responses were received. After analysis, it was decided to proceed through an Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) with an international company as no one in Canada was able to meet the CCG design requirements. A contract was signed with Griffon Hoverwork Ltd almost a year ago now. The sustainment of the vessels will likely be in country. Information is available at <https://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/icebreaking-deglacage/air-cushion-coussins-air-eng.html>

*Comment 5 (from a CCG source):* Hovercraft could be considered a specialty vessel but we do identify hovercraft in their own category of air cushion vessel. The specialty vessels would special purpose like the small buoy tenders.



## HMCS Vancouver 2024

### Two Operations, One Purpose

In 2024, HMCS Vancouver played a pivotal role in both Operation HORIZON and Operation NEON. During Operation HORIZON, the ship completed a missile rearmament in Australia, marking a first for the Royal Canadian Navy outside of Canada and the United States. HMCS Vancouver also conducted monitoring activities during Operation NEON to monitor UN sanctions against North Korea, demonstrating Canada's commitment to international security. These missions highlight the ship's versatility and the dedication of its crew to promoting peace, monitoring stability, and security in the Indo-Pacific region.



**184**  
DAYS AWAY

**40,000+**  
NAUTICAL MILES TRAVELLED

**240+** PERSONNEL

VISITED **5**  
COUNTRIES

CONDUCTED **14**  
REPLENISHMENTS AT SEA



PARTICIPATED IN **6** EXERCISES:  
**RIMPAC, PACIFIC VANGUARD, KAEDEX,  
KAKADU, SAMA SAMA, KEEN SWORD**

SUPPORTED BY **1**  
CH-148 CYCLONE  
COMPLETING **116** FLIGHTS  
WITH OVER **300** FLIGHT HOURS



Canada.ca/Defence

Canada

## Operation CARIBBE 2024

Operation CARIBBE is Canada's contribution to U.S.-led enhanced counter-narcotics operations in the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Pacific Ocean

Total seized on Op CARIBBE in 2024:

**2,710kg**

of contraband and illicit substances

**510kg seized**



HMCS *Margaret Brooke*

Away from home port, conducting training and supporting Op CARIBBE from January 12 to March 9 and from April 18 to June 23.

**800kg seized**



HMCS *Summerside*

Away from home port, conducting training and supporting Op CARIBBE from May 6 to July 19.

**1,400kg seized**



HMCS *Edmonton* and HMCS *Yellowknife*

Away from home port, conducting training and supporting Op CARIBBE from August 12 to September 25.

Canada.ca/Defence

Canada

### Leader Development Reading List from Joe Byerly

<https://fromthegreennotebook.com/>

This is a site that was passed on to me years ago and ever since have subscribed to the monthly reading list. He also does a year recap, which follows:

Since 2017, I've been compiling an annual reading list of the books I've finished each year. As the year winds down, I take time to reflect on what I've learned. For me, reading isn't about getting smarter—it's about living better. Books have helped me gain a deeper understanding of the world around us and, more importantly, a clearer understanding of myself.

Thank you for taking the time to open these emails each month and for learning alongside me.

## Lesson 1: Staying the course is easy, quitting is hard.

If you've been following this newsletter or listening to the podcast, you'll know that I retired a few months ago from the Army after a 20-year career. This transition, along with several of the books I've read this year, has driven home one of life's hidden truths: staying the course often feels much easier than walking away.

But why is that?

Most of what we do in life becomes part of our identity, and identities are incredibly resilient. I was reminded of this while reading *The Nolan Variations* by Tom Shone, which explores the creative mind of Christopher Nolan. In *Inception*, Leonardo DiCaprio's character Cobb asks, "What's the most resilient parasite? Bacteria? A virus? An intestinal worm?" His answer: "An idea. Resilient. Highly contagious. Once an idea has taken hold of the brain it's almost impossible to eradicate."

Our identities function the same way—once they take hold, they're almost impossible to release. Walking away is like prying loose a death grip on what feels safe. Think back to when we were kids learning to swim—how hard was it to let go of the edge of the pool? That same fear and hesitation follow us into adulthood, keeping us clinging to what's familiar, even when it no longer serves us.

We do this with careers, habits, relationships, and even wars.

As William and Susan Bridges wrote in *Transitions*, "We have to let go of the old thing before we can pick up the new one—not just outwardly but inwardly, where we keep our connections to people and places that act as definitions of who we are."

And maybe that's the key. The things we struggle to quit aren't just things—they're extensions of who we are. As Annie Duke explains in *Quit*, "When your identity is what you do, then what you do becomes hard to quit, because it means quitting who you are."

Letting go, then, isn't just about change—it's about redefining ourselves. And that's never easy.

If the struggle to let go is rooted in the fact that what we need to release is part of our identity, then how the hell do we do it?

## Lesson 2: We need quiet time to work through stuff —because it needs our attention.

We need to carve out time for quiet reflection. It's the only way to deliberately process our thoughts and intentionally rewrite the internal scripts that keep us tethered to things deeply tied to our identity.

I keep returning to this message of quiet reflection because the need for it keeps resurfacing in my own life. It's hard!! You and I are surrounded by noise and distractions.

Over time, the constant bombardment of noise starts to feel like normal life. As

Joseph McCormack writes in *Quiet Works*, “Once you get used to the constant bombardment of noise, it just looks and feels like normal life...with the endless sources of information and constant connectivity, the reach of noise is seemingly endless from morning to night, wherever we go.”

The problem is, when we’re distracted by the noise, we can’t focus on what’s going on inside us. Instead, we drift through life in default mode.

Chase Jarvis highlights this in his book *Never Play It Safe*: “When it comes to living a life by design rather than default, we have to step out of the technological fray in order to carve our way through the algorithmic land mines, face ourselves, and figure out what we really want.”

This is where taking control of our attention matters. When we’re deliberate with our attention, we can drown out the noise and think—think deeply. Dr. Amishi Jha explains in *Peak Mind*, “Attention simultaneously highlights what’s important and dims distractions so we can think deeply, problem-solve, plan, prioritize, and innovate.”

For me, quiet reflection has become a daily ritual, and carving out this time has made all the difference.

I use the word ritual instead of habit because rituals bring something deeper to our lives. As Dr. Michael Norton writes in *The Ritual Effect*, “Good habits automate us, helping us get things done. Rituals animate us, enhancing and enchanting our lives with something more.”

For instance, my morning ritual of drinking Alpha coffee, reading, writing, and reflecting has helped me navigate this transition much better than if I had continued running at 100 mph.

By focusing my attention, and quieting the world around me, I was able to focus on the present instead of being stuck in the past –which is an important step in letting go.

### Lesson 3: Make the Past “Past Tense”.

When Jack Carr retired from the Navy in 2016, he left that career behind to embark on a new and equally daunting journey: becoming a thriller writer. In the past eight years, he’s written eight bestselling books, three of which have reached number one on the New York Times bestseller list. In the opening pages of his first novel, he wrote, “Serving my country as a Navy SEAL was something I did. Past tense. I’ve turned in my M4 and sniper rifle for a laptop and a library as I fulfill my lifelong dream of writing novels.”

Many of the authors I read this year have done something similar. Terry Hayes left Hollywood behind to become a novelist. Chase Jarvis dropped out of college and rose to prominence as one of the world’s top industrial photographers. Ryan Holiday left a marketing career to become a modern-day philosopher, selling over five million books to date.

I've also spoken with former Army leaders who are now high school coaches, executives, and entrepreneurs, teachers who are now salespeople, and stay-at-home moms who are now teachers.

Our identities are never fixed. As Steven Pressfield reminds us in [\*The War of Art\*](#), "Never forget: This very moment, we can change our lives. There never was a moment, and never will be, when we are without the power to alter our destiny."

When we let go of an identity we've held onto, we must truly leave it in the past and move forward. We have to make the past, past tense.

Thank you all for following my reading journey in 2024. I wish you and your families nothing but the best as we head into 2025.

## 2024 in Books

[January](#) (Click on each month to read the email from that month with description of each book)

[Thinking in Bets: Making Smarter Decisions When You Don't Have All the Facts](#) by Annie Duke

[Quit: The Power of Knowing When to Walk Away](#) by Annie Duke

[Interviewology: The New Science of Interviewing](#) by Anna Papalia

### [February](#)

[The Year of The Locust: A Thriller](#) by Terry Hayes

[Burn the Boats: Toss Plan B Overboard and Unleash Your Full Potential](#) by Matt Higgins

[Peak Mind: Find Your Focus, Own Your Attention, Invest 12 Minutes a Day](#) by Amishi P. Jha, PhD

### [March](#)

[The Lincoln Highway: A Novel](#) by Amor Towles

[Marcus Aurelius: The Stoic Emperor](#) by Donald J. Robertson

[Same As Ever: A Guide to What Never Changes](#) by Morgan Housel

### [April](#)

[The Ritual Effect: From Habit to Ritual, Harness the Surprising Power of Everyday Actions](#) by Michael Norton

[The Making of a Leader: The Formative Years of George C. Marshall](#) by Josiah Bunting III

[Hellenistic Lives by Plutarch: A New Translation](#) by Robin Waterfield

### [May](#)

[Story Dash](#) by David Hutchens



**The Terminal List** by Jack Carr

**True Believer**

**Savage Son**

**The Devil's Hand**

**In the Blood**

**The War of Art: Break Through the Blocks and Win Your Inner Creative Battles** by Steven Pressfield

**June**

**A Complaint Free World: How to Stop Complaining and Start Enjoying the Life You Always Wanted** by Will Bowen

**The Right Thing, Right Now: Good Values. Good Character. Good Deeds.** by Ryan Holiday

**The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and the Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War** by Erik Larson

**July**

**Ask: Tap into the Hidden Wisdom of the People Around You for Unexpected Breakthroughs in Leadership and Life** by Jeff Wetzler

**The Comfort Crisis: Embrace Discomfort to Reclaim Your Wild, Happy, Healthy Self** by Michael Easter

**The Lessons of History** by Will and Ariel Durant

**August**

**Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes (40th Anniversary Edition)** by William Bridges, PhD

**The Compound Effect** by Darren Hardy

**Tough Rugged Bastards: A Memoir of a Life in Marine Special Operations** by John A. Dailey

**September**

**Targeted Beirut: The 1983 Marine Barracks Bombing and the Untold Origin Story of the War on Terror** by Jack Carr

**The Mac and Cheese Millionaire: Building a Better Business by Thinking Outside the Box** by Erin Wade

**Working** by Robert A. Caro

**October**

**Blood, Mud, and Oil Paint: The Remarkable Year That Made Winston Churchill** by J. Furman Daniel

**Never Play It Safe: A Practical Guide to Freedom, Creativity, and a Life You Love** by Chase Jarvis

**Reflections on Captivity: A Tapestry of Stories by a Vietnam POW** by Porter Alexander Halyburton

**November**

**Leadership and Self-Deception, Fourth Edition: The Secret to Transforming Relationships and Unleashing Results** by The Arbinger Institute

**Fighting For Your Marriage: Positive Steps for Preventing Divorce and Building Lasting Love** by Markman, Stanley, Rohades, and Levine.

**How To Think Like Socrates: Ancient Philosophy as a Way of Life in the Modern World** by Donald J. Robertson

**Military Culture Shift: The Impact of War, Money and Generational Perspective on Morale, Retention, and Leadership** by Corie Weathers

## SAC Notes

### O Canada

The Canadian Government is essentially frozen by the failure of the current Government to release unredacted documents on the Sustainable Development Technology Canada program. It is also known as the “Green Slush Fund” with alleged activity that included Conflict of Interest, Ineligible Projects approved, overstated environmental benefits, mismanagement and scandals, and the loss of public confidence. The speaker of the House agreed with the opposition that the government was in contempt of Parliament and must provide the requested documents to the opposition. It is not a good situation given the potential economic threats from the incoming Trump administration.

The Prime Minister resigned this week, sort of, as he doesn't actually step down until a new leader is selected by the party. He had lost the confidence of a majority of his own members of Parliament. Three major regional caucuses have asked for his resignation for the benefit of the party. This included the Ontario, Atlantic and Quebec parts of the party. This also adds to the look of national instability along with a very weak economic outlook. Whether he admits it or not, the policies of the government are perceived to be a major drag on the economy, but many policies were anti-democratic and poorly crafted. The effect on the Canadian public was largely negative. His resignation speech was self-serving and blamed everyone but his own actions. Overall, Canada does not appear to be in good shape for the future.

### Australia

Some articles from our Australian correspondent.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/editors-picks-for-2024-geopolitics-influence-and-crime-in-the-pacific-islands/>?

Organized crime in the Pacific Islands is a growing problem.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/varghese-review-will-undermine-think-tank-independence/>?

The independence of us thinkers is being jeopardized.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/editors-picks-for-2024-submarine-agency-chief-australias-ssns-will-be-bigger-better-faster/>

This is an important update on the AUKUS program.

Special note: Chinese disinformation has ramped up on this program. It is clear that China views the program as a major threat to their designs in the Pacific. It is expected that this disinformation campaign will increase as the effects of the program become clearer.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/innovation-for-security-why-australia-needs-its-own-darpa/>

The New Year is starting to bring forward some new thinking and perhaps some independent idea generation down under.

#### United States

On 6 January 2025, Vice President Kamala Harris certified the US election results. She became the third Vice-President to certify that they lost the election. CBC stated that Richard Nixon and Al Gore were the other two who had that unfortunate honour.

On 9 January 2025, President elect Trump will be sentenced as a convicted felon for election fraud in the state of New York. It is generally conceded that although the President can pardon himself for Federal crimes, they cannot do so for state crimes. He will be the first President sworn in as a convicted felon. It is likely that he will not receive any sentence that will result in incarceration. As a convicted felon, he will be unable to enter certain countries due to their laws, although one suspects most countries will make an exception.

The Trump Administration will be sworn in on 20 January 2025 and the Senate will start the approval process of the proposed cabinet. It will make an interesting four years.

#### Moldova

On 1 January 2025, Ukraine did not renew the passage of Russian gas through Ukrainian pipelines to Hungary, Slovakia and the separatist pro-Russian area of Transnistria. All three entities have maintained strong ties to Russia. Transnistria is the hardest hit; it is small and is almost totally dependent on Russian gas. Moldovan government sources state that they will essentially run out by the end of January. Russia does have alternate ways to provide gas but refuses to do it through Turkish pipelines. This is more expensive for the customer. It is thought the main reason is to create disruption within Moldova which is due for Parliamentary elections this year.

Moldova has stated that it would not mind if Ukraine provided alternate fuel such as coal to mitigate against Russian hybrid warfare.

Russia will continue to cause disruption especially in Moldova. They will also use Hungarian leader Victor Orban and Slovakia leader Robert Fico to create chaos in Europe. The US imposed sanctions upon certain Hungarian personalities for corruption while in office. The EU has also stopped billions in supplements to Hungary as well.

#### Belarus

The Lukashenko regime has been conducting an outstanding balancing act. They have avoided going to actual war but running almost to the line which would have led to war with Ukraine. This week, various media reported on a statement by President Zelensky, that Alexander Lukashenko apologized to him for missiles coming across the Belarus-

Ukraine border. This was later denied by Belarus authorities. Given past activities and events is it plausible? The answer strangely is 'yes.' Does it mean that Lukashenko is now concerned that Russia is actually losing? Maybe, certainly the Russian economy is failing, including elements of the arms industry. Time will tell.

#### Georgia

The Georgian opposition is continuing to conduct growing demonstrations across the country. These demonstrations are continuing into their sixth week with little chance of abatement.

Belarus ran into the same issue in 2020 and had to request Russian assistance to support their security forces. It worked and the Lukashenko regime survived. The situation has changed as Russia is fully involved in a war with Ukraine and resources are somewhat limited. Could Russia provide support? Possibly using Rosgardia or Russia's national guard equivalent, FSB and police forces which are used mainly for internal security. Would these forces be greeted by a friendly population, the answer is no.

Georgia and Russia fought a short but vicious war in 2008, even Georgian security forces may find this a step too far. The Georgia situation will likely escalate in the next two weeks. The fire departments refused to provide water for riot control dumping water rather than providing it to security forces. As said before; time will tell.

The breakaway Abkhazia is still undergoing disruption and Russia has not been able to respond in a manner that will guarantee survival of its "puppet leadership" there. Abkhazia is the proposed location of a new Russian naval base that would provide a safer harbour for the Black Sea fleet. They have a lot to lose if they do not sort it out.

#### Russia Ukraine War

The war continues unabated. Russia has made headway in the east and in the Kursk oblast. It has continued to pummel Ukrainian civilian targets with missiles and drones. Ukraine on the other hand has spent its missiles and drones on military and strategic targets. Russia's oil and gas sector has been hit by both missile and drone strikes but also by Ukraine not renewing the agreement for Russian gas to be transported through Ukrainian pipeline systems.

Ukraine has also conducted three offensive operations in the Kursk oblast to the great surprise of the Russians. As a result, Russian forces were caught off-guard and therefore Ukraine has thrown Russian forces into a certain degree of chaos. These operations were conducted at the platoon and company level and therefore the results will be mainly tactical in nature but with strategic effect. It has forced Russia to replace current leadership in Kursk with a new commander. This is not the action of a successful campaign.

The international community is now taking action against the "shadow fleet" that has been transporting Russian oil. It is also in light of actions by several vessels to cut cables between key areas in the Baltic. China has replicated this action North of Taiwan. In all cases so far, ships dragged their anchor for a significant distance severing a number of cables on each occasion. There is thought that this could be part of a larger overall campaign to test theories and practices for a future conflict. It seems limited in nature so far, but a major campaign would paralyze world trade and communications.

Ukraine also conducted sea drone attacks which targeted Russian helicopters. It was successful with two Russian helicopters eliminated and one possibly damaged. The drones were equipped with a modified MANPADS system. Ukraine also has utilized drones to



augment their artillery, expending First Person View (FPV) drones as ammunition to great success. Drones are a key piece of equipment/ammunition for both sides. The technology involved is constantly evolving as measures and countermeasures vie for supremacy even if for a couple weeks. The evolution of drone warfare is one of the true revolutions of this war. Even on the ground drones actually have conducted offensive operations using tracked drones equipped with heavy machine guns and grenade launchers to eliminate Russian positions.

The Russian economy continues its downward spiral. This week has seen the first bankruptcies of Russian arms manufacturers despite the need. Sanctions have continued to bite hard and more recent sanctions have yet to have an effect. Ukrainian attacks on strategic targets such as manufacturers of military equipment, key air naval and land transport, oil and gas infrastructure plus ongoing actions to prevent use of the “shadow fleet” of approximately 660+ tankers around the globe have had a major impact on Russia’s ongoing ability to fight the war. This type of operation is having some success even in China which yesterday banned “shadow fleet” ships from docking in Chinese ports to avoid US sanctions. Militarily, Ukraine is either holding its own or even losing but ultimately these other types of activity will destroy Russia’s ability to sustain the war.

The real story in this post-holiday period is the Trump administration declaration that they will end the war in a single day. There are European leaders that are now taking a view that Ukraine should essentially be ready to give up territory and hopes. The latest was President Macron of France. The bottom line is this, if Russia is allowed to keep any portion of Ukraine post war. It will constitute a major defeat for the liberal democracies. It will have another impact that Russian success will encourage other authoritarian regimes to assume that the democracies will always back down. The outcome will always be in doubt. The liberal democracies of the world need to be more effective and clearly understand that backing down from an authoritarian regime is ultimately risking their own demise. Having someone else fight your battles is a losing proposition.

#### China

China is an authoritarian regime that is conducting culturally genocidal acts and conducting unjustified acts against various religious groups. It is in low level conflict over the territory of most if not all its neighbours. Its reporting of demographic financial and economic data has been at best suspect. It is incapable of practicing a credible justice system that is fair and transparent. It is an imperialistic power. It is not a friend of any nation but practices transactional relations so long as it specifically benefits China. It is not a reliable partner and certainly not a country worthy of investment. It is not a friendly country. This has been mentioned many times in the notes, but it always bears repeating occasionally.

Canada has had a “love affair” with the Peoples’ Republic of China based on myths and illusions of China centered on the wishful thinking of the leadership and business supporters of the Liberal Party of Canada. This was based on the perception that China offered an almost unlimited market for Canadian goods and services. In his book “Claws of the Panda,” Jonathan Manthorpe explores the actions of successive governments and the unfortunate effect of certain Canadian companies that reinforced that belief. The continuation of this belief despite ample evidence of Chinese interference in our political process should give us every reason to remove their influence. The Chinese embassy in Ottawa has grown to 178 personnel give or take. The Canadian embassy in Beijing is only fifty plus their movements are highly restricted. The question is why is the Chinese embassy so large given their level of interference in our political life? It is food for thought.

China is an imperial power. China has seized part of Bhutan recently and set up “Chinese villages” in a part of Bhutan that China agreed was Bhutan. China has also attempted to set

up bases and settlements along the Line of Actual Control between China and India. They have just sent a major coast guard vessel into Philippine waters and essentially have ignored requests to leave. There have been major incursions into Japanese, Korean, Indonesian and Malaysian waters as well. China has refused to accept the ruling of the International Court and has maintained and attempted to enforce Chinese control over the South China Sea.

In a new year's speech Xi stated that the reunification of Taiwan with the mainland is inevitable. Every opportunity is taken to threaten Taiwan, most recently with up to 125 aircraft in a single day last week. China has been attempting to normalize large numbers of aircraft and warships near Taiwan as part of an influence operation that could be quickly upgraded to an assault against the island. Western countries have been slow to move to counter this very obvious action. One is reminded of Czechoslovakia in 1938, will the West sacrifice a liberal democracy once again to a ruthless authoritarian regime. Is it time to revisit the agreed "one China policy?" Taiwan is a friend and it has much to offer the West in preparation for a major confrontation with mainland China. Is it time to rethink our position?

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **2025 RUSI(NS) AGM 20 March 2025**

This is an early warning order for all Royal United Services Institute (Nova Scotia) members to let you know that the 2025 Annual General Meeting will take place at 1900 on Thursday, 20 March, 2025. The meeting will be held online using *Zoom*.

Supporting documents, including the agenda and financial statements, will be made available to members in advance of the meeting, along with instructions for joining the online meeting.

Please mark your calendars for this important meeting in the RUSI(NS) calendar.

Capt(N) Stuart Andrews RCN (Ret)  
Secretary

**Operational Stress Injury Social Support (OSISS), 1-800-883-6094, [www.osiss.ca](http://www.osiss.ca)**

Serving CAF Members, Veterans and their Families since 2001

The role of the Family & Peer Support Coordinator is to provide outreach, inform, and connect families and friends whose loved ones (members & veterans) are living with Operational Stress Injuries (OSIs); which can include but are not limited to; stress, anxiety, depression, addictions, as well as post traumatic stress injury (PTSI).

The OSISS program provides an opportunity for individuals to learn to deal with the effects of OSIs on their lives, and to develop healthy coping strategies. We come together to find support and understanding of a common reality. Through our strength and hope we can move forward on our journeys.

Family members supporting a loved one with an OSI can receive information and resources by calling the Family Peer Support Coordinator in their region, members / veterans can contact the Peer Support Coordinator.

**Confidentiality** is an integral key to the success of the program.

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