Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia Dispatches

9 January 2026

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: And the year is off with a bang! The US actions in Venezuela are fresh and there is a lot of discussion about it. Here are a couple takes:

- A US one, FPRI: https://fpriinsights.substack.com/p/fpri-experts-react-regime-change
- An Australian one, Geopolitical Dispatches: https://www.geopoliticaldispatch.com/p/americas-first-94e

More interesting is the 2026 Global Risk Report released by the Eurasia Group, "…warning that **no country would be more "profoundly affected" by a political upheaval in the U.S. than Canada**." The report characterizes the next year as a tipping point, a time of great geopolitical uncertainty. No surprises there but their red herrings are food for thought and Canada rates one of only four country addendums with specific implications. One implication worth further thought is that Canada's focus on Europe in its efforts to diversify its trade and defence relationships is challenged by its 3 most important European partners (UK, France, and Germany) being "…weak, divided, and focused on short-term survival."

But it is not all about the US: the New York Times' outlook for 2026 looks farther afield: https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/06/world/looking-ahead-2026-ukraine-middle-east-china.html

The next issue will be **23 January 2026**.

Quick links:

Events
Publications
@RUSI_NS on X
Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia on Facebook
Other Sources
Odds and sods
SAC Notes

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:

January - Arctic Security Discussion Group, RA Park, 1800 hrs 30 January 2026, in-person and virtual.

February - VAdm Miller (Retd) First Gulf War, in-person + virtual, RA Park.
- **New timing** ACOA end February, likely virtual.

March - NORAD Modernization Update, virtual.

April - RCMP or CBSA update, in-person, likely their location.

May - Col Tarra Willis, Comd 12 Wing, Future of Maritime Air, hybrid, in-person + virtual, Shearwater Aviation Museum.

June - Mr Harvey Vardy, Director Intervention Response Atlantic, virtual, 17th June.
- Summer Meet and Greet, RA Park, 25 June 2026.

Other Events:

New 15 January, Thursday: Dalhousie's Marine and Environmental Law Institute presents its 17th Annual Douglas M Johnston Lecture with guest speaker **Elisa Morgera**, a Professor of International Law and Sustainability at Durham University (UK) and a Professor of International and EU Environmental Law at the University of Eastern Finland. Her talk will be on "Lived Experience and Climate Justice: Reframing

Priorities". This lecture begins at 7pm in the Schulich School of Law in room 105 and a pre-reception will be held at 5pm in the Atrium. This is an in-person event only.

New **16 January,** Friday: CSIS Defense and Security Department and the US Naval Institute present a Maritime Security Dialogue event featuring Vice Admiral Brendan McLane, Commander, Naval Surface Forces Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Vice Adm. McLane will sit down with Rear Admiral Raymond A. Spicer, USN (Ret.), chief executive officer and publisher, U.S. Naval Institute, to discuss the future of the Navy's surface warfare efforts. Livestream at 1600hrs AST at https://www.csis.org/events/status-force-vadm-brendan-mclane

New **24 February,** Tuesday: Vanguard presents ShipTech Forum 2026, The National Arts Centre. 1 Elgin Street, Ottawa. Not able to attend in person - all speaker sessions will be live streamed, to facilitate virtual attendance.

New **4-5 March,** Wednesday and Thursday: CDA Institute presents the Ottawa Conference, Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel, Ottawa. Save the date, details to follow.

New **30 April,** Thursday: Maritime Defence and Security Symposium and BOA Gala, the Halifax Hotel, Halifax, co-hosted by NAC and the Canadian Maritime Security Network. The symposium theme is "Canada in Alliance & Conflict: The Will of a Nation." A reception will be held the evening of 29 April ahead of the symposium and the NAC will host the National BOA Gala on 30 April at the same venue. Details to follow but mark your calendars and hold that date!

Wargaming Events:

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

27 April, Monday: Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Evaluating Wargaming as a Methodology." 7-8:30 pm ADT. Online. To register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/evaluating-wargaming-as-a-methodology-tickets-1543292442239

Publications

26 November 2025, RUSI(NS) and the Royal Military Colleges of Canada Alumni Association Atlantic Branch Citadel Group hosted the staff from the NATO Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) located here in Halifax. RUSI(NS) members may request a copy of the presentations by emailing RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

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

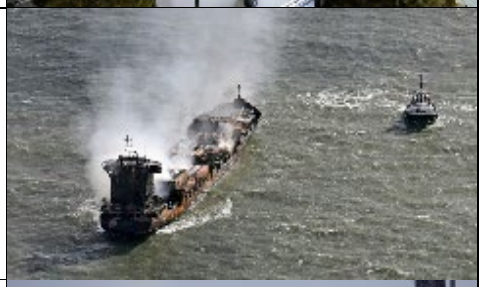
bi-weekly: Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association On Watch

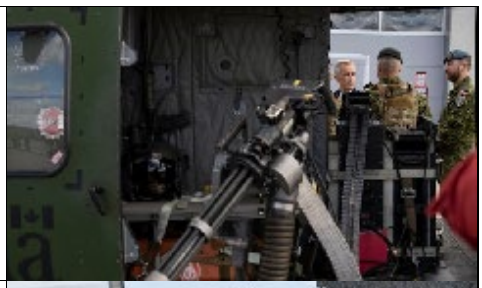
monthly:
Canadian Gunner News
Edmonton United Services Institute President's Enews
Military Institute of Windsor Communiqué
Naval Reserve Association of Canada Mess Deck ConneXions
Royal Alberta United Services Institute Dispatches
Royal Canadian Logistics Service The Logistician
Royal Canadian Naval 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).

Globalnews.ca @globalnews 4 Jan posted: A new 'cold' war? Canada looks to bolster Arctic security, sovereignty (https://globalnews.ca/news/11584830/a-new-cold-war-canada-looks-to-bolster-arctic-security-sovereignty/) RUSI(NS) quoted: Start by procuring & deploying @RoyalCanNavy 'Arctic Mobile Bases' (support ships, air & landing capable with stores, fuel, medical & other capabilities) to #Arctic, pending (costly, long time) development of permanent infrastructure	
CIGI @CIGIonline 4 Jan posted: Opinion: Canada Should Craft Its Own National-Security Policy by Wesley Wark (@wesleywark1), first published by @globeandmail (https://www.cigionline.org/articles/canada-should-craft-its-own-national-security-policy/) RUSI(NS) quoted: Yes, and be prepared to re-craft it frequently.	
CSIS @CSIS 26 Dec posted 26 Dec: What would happen if China initiated a blockade of Taiwan in the coming years? To understand the military challenges in countering a blockade, CSIS ran 26 wargames using a wide variety of scenarios: (Lights Out? Wargaming a Chinese Blockade of Taiwan https://www.csis.org/analysis/lights-out-wargaming-chinese-blockade-taiwan) RUSI(NS) quoted: This is timely. #wargaming	
"Navy ponders concept of Canadian-built🇨🇦 amphibious landing ship for Arctic operations" https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/navy-canada-arctic-defence-landing-ship-9.7027777 Multi-role, more than landing, ice-breaking support ships for @RoyalCanNavy would help address lack of maritime infrastructure in #Arctic	
National Post @nationalpost 24 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: 271 days: How long it can take to sign up for the military in Canada https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/canada-military-recruiting	

Murray Brewster @Murray_Brewster 23 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Military planners look at permanent bases in Latvia as Canada weighs sustainment of NATO deployment #cdnpoli #Latvia #NATO (Military considers permanent bases in Latvia as part of Canada's NATO commitment https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-latvia-nato-troops-bases-9.7025794)	
Trident News @Trident_News 19 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: A new RCN initiative is transforming how ships prepare for medical emergencies at sea, and HMCS St. John's is helping to determine its feasibility. Select vessels now sail with a supply of packed red blood cells in their sick bays. Read more - https://tridentnewspaper.com/hmcs-st-johns-tests-rcns-on-board-blood-supply-program/ *Comment from contributor:* For the planned invasion of Japan in 1945-46, the US had multiple cargo ships dedicated to carrying blood products. An underappreciated logistics challenge.	
David Pugliese @davidpugliese 20 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: What counts as Canadian? New procurement policy targets 'origin loophole'. The latest from my Ottawa Citizen colleague @bendandrews https://ottawacitizen.com/public-service/buy-canadian-procurement-origin-loophole via @ottawacitizen	
The War Zone @thewarzonewire 18 Dec posted and RUSI(NS) reposted: Exclusive 👀: Canadian NORAD Commander's View On Future F-35 Fighter Force. Royal Canadian Air Force Maj. Gen. Chris McKenna offers his exclusive insights into what F-35As will bring to his commands. Story: https://www.twz.com/air/canadian-norad-commanders-view-on-future-f-35-fighter-force	
CFB BFC Halifax @CFB_BFCHalifax 18 Jan posted: This week, Naval Large Tug Canso arrived home in #Halifax for the first time. ⚓ The third new NLT built to replace the @royalcannavy's Glen-class tugs, and the first on the East Coast. #WelcomeHomeCanso RUSI(NS) quoted: CANSO will undergo trails prior to being accepted in January, then will become a Canadian Forces Auxiliary Vessel (CFAV), have @NationalDefence civilian master & crew, likely be typed as a YTB (yard tug, large) & assigned a pennant number.	

Funny Defence Cat-Man @NoahGairn 16 Dec posted (https://x.com/NoahGairn/status/2000961200319013312): Canadian and Icelandic Coast Guards sign agreement to increase cooperation https://open.substack.com/pub/noahscornerofrandomstuff/p/canadian-and-icelandic-coast-guards
RUSI(NS) quoted: "Areas of potential collaboration (between @CoastGuardCAN & Iceland Coast Guard) include:... information sharing, including remote sensing and maritime domain awareness". Good defence & security actions https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-coast-guard/news/2025/12/canadian-and-icelandic-coast-guards-sign-agreement-to-increase-cooperation.html
(Canadian and Icelandic Coast Guards sign agreement to increase cooperation)

"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 Royal Navy's future Large Uncrewed Surface Vessels and the cultural obstacles to autonomy
https://www.navylookout.com/the-royal-navys-future-large-uncrewed-surface-vessels-and-the-cultural-obstacles-to-autonomy/

"Integrating these vessels requires a new doctrine that is honest about the limitations of autonomy and clear about human responsibilities. It requires a personnel strategy that values the remote operator as much as the seagoing officer and sailor. Most importantly, it requires a cultural shift that views the USV not as a threat to naval tradition but as the only way to preserve the Navy's relevance in the 21st century."

Obstacles to the introduction of new technology into navies aren't necessarily technical. And not necessarily singular to the Royal Navy, given the universal nature of 'going down to the sea in ships.' The Royal Canadian Navy would do well to consider the matters raised in this article.

Why Are All Modern Fighter Jets "Multirole" Aircraft?
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/why-are-all-modern-fighter-jets-multirole-aircraft-hk-121325

"Multirole fighters have strategic upside because of their cost efficiency, flexibility, survivability, and export appeal. The downside of course is that these aircraft are jacks of all trades, rarely the best at any one category."

Considerations during Canada's procurement of new fighter aircraft.

Glad to see the article use 'multirole' rather than 'multi-mission' as too often the latter is used by writers when the former is the correct term. It is a tenant of military doctrine that units undertake only one mission at a time. Mission is time and place specific. Role relates to intended employment, function.

From Termium, the Government of Canada's terminology data bank:

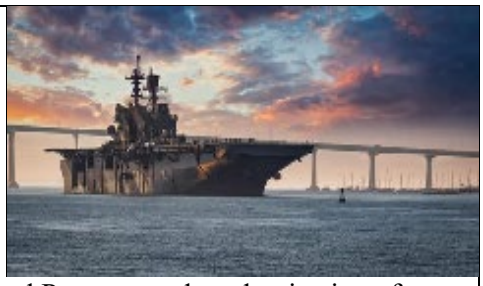
Mission - The statement of a task, with its purpose, assigned to a commander.
- One or more aircraft ordered to accomplish one particular task.
Role - The function of an organization or a person in a particular situation.

Pentagon To Contract Fleet Of Seaplanes For The Pacific
https://www.twz.com/news-features/pentagon-to-contract-fleet-of-seaplanes-for-the-pacific

"The CL-415 Super Scooper is a less capable, but proven solution, though it is primarily used for firefighting today. On one hand, this is a positive as contractor operators of the type already exist. On the other hand, these aircraft are in high demand for their primary role."

The CL-415, and the updated version DHC-515, are Canadian built. Is there an opportunity to sell these aircraft as amphibious logistics aircraft ('flying boats') to the US? Certainly a greater number of the aircraft in use would assist with availability of parts, maintainers and repair facilities.

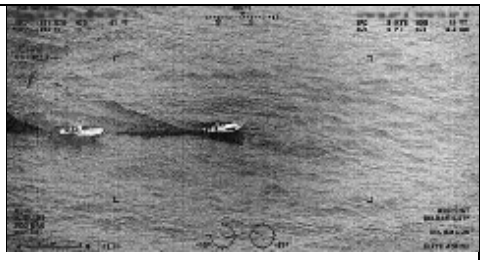
What the New National Security Strategy Means for Naval Forces
https://www.csis.org/analysis/what-new-national-security-strategy-means-naval-forces



"The new National Security Strategy elevates sea power in quiet ways. It calls for control of sea lanes in the Western Hemisphere, denial of aggression across the First Island Chain, protection of global choke points from Hormuz to the Red Sea and Panama, and modernization of undersea, nuclear, and missile defense capabilities. The Navy and Marine Corps now must turn those broad directions into real ships, formations, and concepts that can operate at home and abroad."

Would a new Canadian national security strategy be as guiding for the Royal Canadian Navy?

Coast Guard's role in Caribbean before DOD began airstrikes on boats
https://thewarhorse.org/coast-guard-caribbean-airstrike-drug-boats/



"Because it's not a law enforcement agency, Navy sailors cannot board another vessel at sea."

This may be too simplistic a statement. There are situations and conditions that navy sailors (and other military) can board civil vessels, either with or without accompanying law enforcement officers. Certainly there was a time after 9/11 when RCN boarding parties were the 'main armament' employed during operations in South West Asia.

Training, wargaming and exercising sailors in boarding operations are essential activities to ensure that the capability remains current, and that everyone, commanders, staff and operators, are knowledgeable of the laws under which they are operating.

New USN Frigate will be Based on National Security Cutter, First FF(X) to be Built at Ingalls
https://news.usni.org/2025/12/19/secnav-new-frigate-will-be-based-on-national-security-cutter-first-ffx-to-be-built-at-ingalls

"One of the few changes the Navy intends to make to the NSC design is to construct a platform above the open boat deck for containerized mission packages, the officials said. For example, the Army and Lockheed Martin developed the MK-70 Typhon vertical launch system within the dimensions of a 40-foot shipping container. The Navy is developing more containerized packages that can be swapped from ship to ship."

"The initial FF(X) hull will be largely unmodified from the systems found on the NSC..."

Containerization of weapons and other 'mission packages' could simplify modification of acquired designs to provide more capability. Might this be an approach Canada would consider?

Later 'flights' could involve re-design to integrate systems on a permanent basis. We will likely see this approach with the River-class destroyers, too.

Navy Turns to Proven Cutter Design for New Frigate Class
https://gcaptain.com/navy-turns-to-proven-cutter-design-for-new-frigate-class/

"The Navy plans to use a lead yard and competitive follow-on strategy for multi-yard construction to expand production capacity across the maritime industrial base. Shipyards will be evaluated on a single metric: delivering combat power to the fleet as quickly as possible."

Rhetorical questions:

Does Canadian maritime defence industrial planning consider multi-yard construction, at least for when there is a major conflict? Will such mobilization-related considerations be part of the impending Defence Industrial Strategy (really, policy)? Might 'multi-yard' include yards of allies? Is Canada prepared to accept components, units, modules, etc., from foreign sources including the US. Is the USA prepared to accept components from a full range of allies including Canada?

Is there a listing of what constitutes the Canadian maritime industrial base? That might be a challenge to list - when is an equipment 'maritime' and when might it be dual use?

Comments from a mariner colleague: The questions are headed in the right direction. All means must be considered and used to speed up delivery of basic hulls. War strategy and technology is changing fast. Guns and bullets are still in play while the hull must also support position jamming technology, drones and lasers. Nothing stays the same for more than a few months. Speed of construction, deployment and redeployment has to be measured in days and minutes. War is now at nanoseconds speed.

Comments from a shipbuilding colleague: Interesting article and it certainly is a cost effective and expeditious way to add capacity and needed sea power. While I agree with the proven design approach and build in multiple yards, I don't agree with the lead/follow yard strategy. This typically adds friction, risk and cost since there has to be 100% transparency and trust between the yards and this is difficult to achieve and can be terribly counterproductive when issues around cost and schedule begin to appear, as they usually do.

A better approach is what we well learned during the Second World War with multiple shipyards and fabricators (I believe up to twelve different yards in Canada alone) building over 100 Flower-class corvettes. The Government of Canada provided the design to the yards, acting as prime, then letting the individual yards build to their specs, with minimum oversight. There was a war on and levels of bureaucratic control were neither affordable nor practical.
We repeated this, on a smaller scale, in the mid-1980s when we built 17 ice-classed vessels in nine different yards. Again, Canada provided the designs and let the yards get on with building to meet performance specification requirements, with minimal oversight. Almost all the ships built during that period are still in operation today – a testament to both the design, the Canadian yards and workers ability to produce good ships in short order.
In order to achieve rapid production results in Canada we need to learn from the past and trust that our marine industry can deliver when they are given the opportunity and commercial conditions to succeed!

ASV Viper Receives Transport Canada Certification
https://leewaymarine.ca/news/asv-viper-receives-transport-canada-certification

"...ASV Viper has received Transport Canada certification, officially authorizing autonomous surface vessel operations in Canadian waters."

That's Halifax in the background of the news release photo. Will Transport Canada certification of Viper facilitate the process for later autonomous surface vehicles?

Other Sources

#3D printing
Printing aides at the point of need
https://canadianarmytoday.com/printing-aides-at-the-point-of-need/

The Additive Manufacturing Mirage in Defense
https://warontherocks.com/2025/12/the-additive-manufacturing-mirage-in-defense/

#airpower
The Evolution of Airpower
https://www.csis.org/analysis/chapter-10-evolution-airpower

#Arctic
China's Push to Master the Arctic Opens an Alarming Shortcut to U.S.
https://www.wsj.com/world/china-arctic-military-submarines-b4e988b9?st=UkZe9i&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink

#Canadian Armed Forces
This Week in Defence (very tiny edition) (12/29/25): GLAAM, Blackhawks, multiple Q&A, Hanwha Lobbying, more River-class changes?
https://noahscornerofrandomstuff.substack.com/p/this-week-in-defence-very-tiny-edition

Let's Talk with Noah (12/29/25): GLAAM again, The future of AI in Naval Platforms, Tudor Replacement, Hanwha & Munitions, will the U.S. Navy grow reliant on Canada?
https://noahscornerofrandomstuff.substack.com/p/lets-talk-with-noah-122925-glaam

#Canada Border Services Agency
CBSA in Atlantic Canada: Highlights from 2025
https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2025/12/cbsa-in-atlantic-canada-highlights-from-2025.html

CBSA is strengthening the border: 2025 results and accomplishments
https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2025/12/cbsa-is-strengthening-the-border-2025-results-and-accomplishments.html

#Canadian Coast Guard
Forging a Northern Shield: Canada and Iceland Formalize a New Era of Coast Guard Cooperation
https://vanguardcanada.com/forging-a-northern-shield-canada-and-iceland-formalize-a-new-era-of-coast-guard-cooperation/

#China
Annual Report to Congress: Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China 2025 (a.k.a. China Military Power Report)
https://media.defense.gov/2025/Dec/23/2003849070/-1/-1/1/ANNUAL-REPORT-TO-CONGRESS-MILITARY-AND-SECURITY-DEVELOPMENTS-INVOLVING-THE-PEOPLES-REPUBLIC-OF-CHINA-2025.PDF
(U.S. Department of Defense/War Annual Reports to Congress on China's Military Power—2000 to 2025
https://www.andrewerickson.com/2025/12/u-s-department-of-defense-war-annual-reports-to-congress-on-chinas-military-power-2000-to-2025-download-complete-set-read-highlights-here/)

#defence policy
Putting the Industrial Base on a Wartime Footing
https://www.csis.org/analysis/putting-industrial-base-wartime-footing
"A wartime footing is defined as "the condition of being prepared to undertake or maintain war," with the goal of being prepared to fight and win a war, or to deter one from starting."

#defence procurement
Canada's new Defence Investment Agency
https://www.iiss.org/publications/strategic-comments/2025/11/canadas-new-defence-investment-agency/

#Denmark #intelligence #Arctic
Merry Christmas, Kingdom of Denmark
https://wesleywark.substack.com/p/merry-christmas-kingdom-of-denmark
The US recognized Danish sovereignty over all of Greenland on 4 August, 1916.

#drones #economic warfare
The Drone Supply Chain War: Identifying the Chokepoints to Making a Drone
https://www.csis.org/analysis/drone-supply-chain-war-identifying-chokepoints-making-drone

#drones #Indo-Pacific
Taiwan Eyes 1,600 Unmanned Attack Vessels Under $39.8B Defense Plan
https://thedefensepost.com/2025/12/29/taiwan-attack-unmanned-vessels/amp/
Comment from contributor: Now, that's mass. Small and not greatly fast, but there's the numbers. Could Canadian industry produce numbers like this? Quickly?

#drones #naval warfare
U.S. Navy in Middle East Employs Attack Drone at Sea for First Time
https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/display-news/Article/4363707/us-navy-in-middle-east-employs-attack-drone-at-sea-for-first-time/
Comment from contributor: Acronym Alert! LUCAS = Low-cost Unmanned Combat Attack System. One can suspect we'll see these from RCN ships in the not-too-distant future.

#drones #Russia-Ukraine War
Ukraine Now Using Drone Boats To Attack Russian Riverine Targets
https://www.twz.com/sea/ukraine-now-using-drone-boats-to-attack-russian-riverine-targets
Comment from contributor: This adds to the complexity of but doesn't really change riverine and coastal warfare. Might the RCN and Canadian Army collaborate in the development of USV for operations in these domains?

#drones #Russia-Ukraine War #land warfare
Ukrainian ground robot takes over trench duty, holds line for 45 days straight
https://euromaidanpress.com/2025/12/23/ukrainian-ground-robot-takes-over-trench-duty-holds-line-for-45-days-straight-video/#google_vignette

#economic warfare #Russia-Ukraine War #intelligence
The CIA Has Been Helping Ukraine Target Russian Oil
https://www.wesodonnell.com/p/the-cia-has-been-helping-ukraine

#Indo-Pacific
How China plans to land the world's largest army on Taiwan
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2026/01/03/how-china-plans-to-land-the-worlds-largest-army-on-taiwan/

#information operations
Division begets division in the age of algorithmic classification
https://thebulletin.org/premium/2025-12/division-begets-division-in-the-age-of-algorithmic-classification/

#intelligence #United Kingdom
Maintaining the UK's Intelligence Edge in the Grey Zone
https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/maintaining-uks-intelligence-edge-grey-zone

#international relations
Can the US Avoid the Sallust Snare?
https://nationalinterest.org/feature/can-the-us-avoid-the-sallust-snare
The "Sallust Snare," a theory proposed by ancient Roman historian Sallust, posits that the

removal of a common enemy leads to a decline in moral values and a breakdown in social order.
Comment from contributor: Interesting that this article is written in these times.

A Russian Military Blogger Just Insulted China's Navy. Why Does It Matter?
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/russian-military-blogger-just-insulted-chinas-navy-why-matter-bw-121125
Comment from contributor: An example of social media serving (?) as statements of international relations. Is sometimes too much being read into what people say?

#land warfare
Why Mechanized Warfare Will Still Be Decisive in the Next Land War
https://warontherocks.com/2026/01/why-mechanized-warfare-will-still-be-decisive-in-the-next-land-war/
A force development and procurement article.

#maritime security
'Scrapped' Tanker Rises From the Dead: Inside Venezuela's Expanding Zombie Fleet
https://gcaptain.com/scrapped-tanker-rises-from-the-dead-inside-venezuelas-expanding-zombie-fleet/
"The tanker identifying itself as Freesia I is likely to be a zombie vessel, meaning it is in fact another tanker assuming the identity of a dismantled ship."
Comment from contributor: That's a different meaning for the codeword 'zombie' some of us learned in our anti-air warfare days.

Protecting Subsea Cables: Detect to Deter, Sue to Secure
https://www.csis.org/analysis/protecting-subsea-cables-detect-deter-sue-secure

#NATO
The Atlantic Alliance: Diverging Interests, Converging Policies
https://www.iiss.org/online-analysis/survival-online/2025/12/the-atlantic-alliance-diverging-interests-converging-policies/
"Diverging defence priorities, coupled with European rearmament, are reducing the free-rider problem that has long strained the relationship between the United States and **European** NATO."
Comment from contributor: Canada doesn't get a mention...

NATO Lacks Resilience To Fight A Long War, Naval Chief Warns
https://gcaptain.com/nato-lacks-resilience-to-fight-a-long-war-naval-chief-warns/

#reading
AirWarBooks
https://balloonstodrones.com/2017/07/18/air-war-books-dr-michael-molkentin/

Royal Australian Navy Chief of Navy Reading List
https://www.navy.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-12/Chief-of-Navy-Reading-List-Christmas-2025.pdf

#Royal Canadian Air Force #defence procurement
Yes, We're Getting New Helicopters (But Not What You Think)
https://noahscornerofrandomstuff.substack.com/p/yes-were-getting-new-helicopters

#Royal Canadian Navy #Arctic
CBC has finally learnt about the Polar-class Amphibious Assault Ships, so now we get to talk about them
https://noahscornerofrandomstuff.substack.com/p/cbc-has-finally-learnt-about-the
Comment from contributor: The terms Amphibious Assault Ship and Amphibious Landing Ships should be avoided. They hark to battles like Iwo Jima and Normandy, and people will compare with US, Russian, Chinese, etc., amphibious forces and what they do (power projection). Amphibiosity (UK term), whether assaults against hostile shores or raids, is not something to which the RCN should aspire (though it did have landing forces in the Second World War). Sealift and ship-shore capabilities, yes.

#Russia-Ukraine War #land warfare
Russia Parked Its Tanks In 2025—And Gained 30% More Ground
https://www.trenchart.us/p/russia-parked-its-tanks-in-2025and

#security
Make Europe Great Again' and more from a longer version of the National Security Strategy
https://www.defenseone.com/policy/2025/12/make-europe-great-again-and-more-longer-version-national-security-strategy/410038/
"But the unpublished version also proposes new vehicles for leadership on the world stage and a different way to put its thumb on the scales of Europe's future—through its cultural values."
Comment from contributor: 'Culture wars.' Canada needs to understand what is its culture and where and why it differs from the US. Then be prepared to defend it.

#security #strategy
What the New US National Security Strategy Really Signals for Europe
https://icds.ee/en/what-the-new-us-national-security-strategy-really-signals-for-europe/
"A Moment for Strategic Clarity - The NSS brings several trends to convergence: a softer US characterisation of Russia, a preference for rapid stabilisation in Ukraine, and unprecedented expectations of European self-reliance. None are entirely new, but together they accelerate a transition into a more fragmented international order—one in which Europe must redefine its role rather than defend its habits."
Canada, too, must redefine its role.

#shipbuilding
Ontario Shipyards shows off new look at Vigilance 100
https://noahscornerofrandomstuff.substack.com/p/ontario-shipyards-shows-off-new-look

#strategy
On Efficacy: A Beginner's Guide to Strategic Theory
https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/article/on-efficacy-a-beginners-guide-to-strategic-theory/

#wargaming

Decline of Operational Art: The Story of A Strategic China Wargame
https://warontherocks.com/2025/12/decline-of-operational-art-story-of-a-strategic-china-wargame/

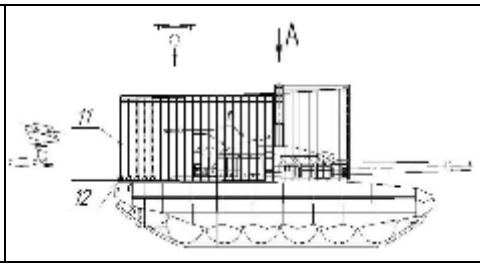
#wargaming #artificial intelligence
Game On: US Air Force Looks to Use AI to Speed Wargame Planning
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/game-on-us-air-force-looks-use-ai-speed-wargame-planning-ps-121225

Odds and sods…

Follow what's new at the *Torch,* a resource on past, current, and future defence-related topics: https://cfc-ca.libguides.com/c.php?g=709488&p=5154025

#armour #Russia-Ukraine War

The Russians Are Finally Developing Drone-Proof Tanks That Can Fire Their Guns
https://www.trenchart.us/p/the-russians-are-finally-developing



#armour #Russia-Ukraine War

Behold The Dandelion Tank
https://www.trenchart.us/p/behold-the-dandelion-tank

!!

Cope Cage? Cope Box?

Yep, The Russians Are Welding Shipping Containers Onto Tanks Now
https://www.trenchart.us/p/yep-the-russians-are-welding-shipping

"It's silly ... but shipping container armor should actually work"

Tankies need to talk to the loggies.

Later: Russian Marines Welded Shipping Containers Onto Their Tanks. It Didn't Help—And An Entire Russian Battalion Burned.
https://www.trenchart.us/p/russian-marines-welded-shipping-containers

UGV #drones

Ukraine develops the Bambetel ground drone with a range of 20 km and dual control https://www.msn.com/en-ie/money/technology/ukraine-develops-the-bambetel-ground-drone-with-a-range-of-20-km-and-dual-control/ar-AA1TbFfT

These things are getting range!

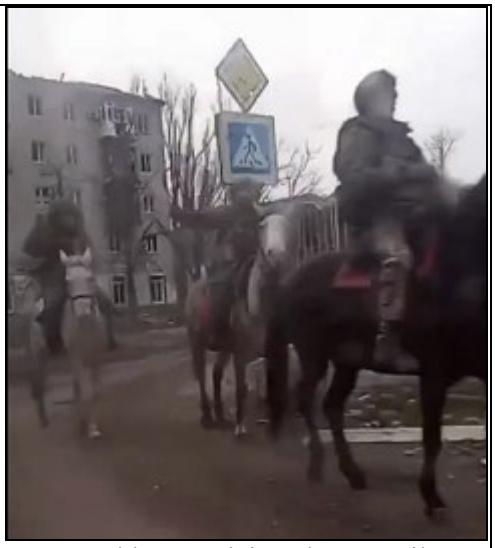
#Russia-Ukraine War #land warfare #engineering

As Rivers Swallow More Russian Vehicles, The Russians Are Deploying DIY Bridgelayers https://www.trenchart.us/p/as-rivers-swallow-more-russian-vehicles.

Russia's Turtle Tank Bridgelayer Is Proof The Russian Army Can Learn And Adapt video at https://www.trenchart.us/p/russias-turtle-tank-bridgelayer-is

Franken, but gotta give them credit for adaptation.

Cavalry



Polymarket Intel @PolymarketIntel 28 Dec posted (video https://x.com/PolymarketIntel/status/2005334083459850435): Russia is increasingly turning to horses for troop movement and assaults. Will a Russian military figure defend "Russian cavalry" as a smart adaptation in Ukraine?
Polymarket Intel @PolymarketIntel @PolymarketIntel 28 Dec posted (video https://x.com/PolymarketIntel/status/2004613750075408611): WILD FOOTAGE ● Russian troops charged Ukrainian lines on horseback in snowy Donetsk, only to be stopped by precision drone strikes, horses left unharmed.

Meanwhile, in Canada: No, Virginia, you cannot have a cavalry brigade for Christmas.

Cossacks are Back!

Polymarket Intel @PolymarketIntel 22 Dec posted (video https://x.com/PolymarketIntel/status/2003079714286850049): Ukraine's 92nd Separate Assault Brigade released video showing Russian troops attempting attacks on horseback. Hard to watch Horses in such situation.

Ukrainian Drones Just Defeated A Russian Horse Cavalry Charge https://www.trenchart.us/p/ukrainian-drones-just-defeated-a

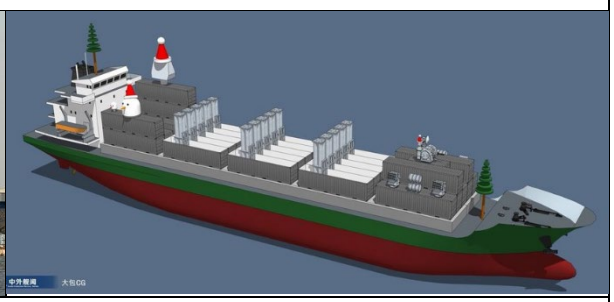
Chinese "Arsenal" (?) Ship

Container Ship Turned Missile Battery Spotted in China https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2025/12/container-ship-turned-missile-battery-spotted-in-china/

PLA Military Updates @PLA_MilitaryUpd 25 Dec posted: An unknown Chinese container ship has been caught carrying Multiple AESA Radars, CIWS and VLS Missile cells. Location of photo unknown, likely Dalian Shipyard, where the Type 004 is building. Latest stats we have: 1x 1130 CIWS, 60x VLS, 4x Decoy launchers

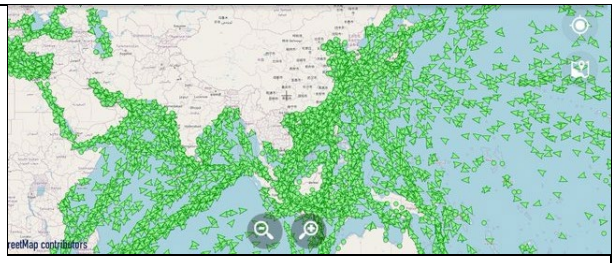
China Has Turned a Small Container Feeder Into an Arsenal Ship https://maritime-executive.com/article/china-has-turned-a-small-container-feeder-into-an-arsenal-ship

Comment: If put into serial production, this could change the calculus of correlation of forces.



The Great Translation Movement @TGTM_Official 26 Dec posted: When the bullet start flying China is going to cry foul. The Q-ship, military vessel disguised as civilian one is going to cost China all its post war economy. They are equipped with Radars, CIWS and VLS among other military grade system. This one was spotted near the dock that build the recent Chinese aircraft carriers. All ships now will be targeted on suspicion that they are military ship in disguise. Chinese always think that they are smart but actually, this kind of plan almost always backfires.

Sal Mercogliano (WGOW Shipping) @mercoglianos replied: This is why this comment is non-sensical. Tracking just the cargo ships around Asia is nearly impossible



China Develops World's Oldest Warship
https://cdrsalamander.substack.com/p/china-develops-worlds-oldest-warship

There have been a number of posts calling the Chinese ship an auxiliary cruiser or a Q-ship. Neither are recognized NATO ship types. Historically:

An auxiliary cruiser is a converted merchant ship, often a fast liner or freighter, armed with guns and torpedoes to act as a hidden warship, primarily for commerce raiding (attacking enemy trade) or convoy escort, using disguises like fake funnels and flags to ambush targets.

A Q-ship is a vessel disguised as a harmless merchant ship, with hidden guns and crew, designed to lure a surfaced enemy submarine into attacking, only to reveal its weaponry and sink the submarine.

So 'auxiliary cruiser' can apply. What type desgnator it would get is still a question.

RUSI(NS) has recently been increasing its relationship with GAC:

Join Canada as the Lead Nation at the International Defence Industry Exhibition (MSPO 2026) in Poland

Canada's Trade Commissioner Service is inviting defence and security companies to apply to participate in the International Defence Industry Exhibition (MSPO), taking place September 8–11, 2026, in Kielce, Poland, with Canadian delegate-specific programming beginning on September 7, 2026.

MSPO is Europe's third-largest defence and security trade show and the flagship defence event in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). As Lead Nation for 2026, Canada will offer participating companies enhanced visibility and a high-profile platform to showcase their technologies and solutions in the Polish and broader CEE and NATO markets.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- Showcase your technologies and solutions at one of Europe's most important defence trade shows
- Connect with Polish buyers and partners and engage with the broader CEE and NATO defence ecosystem
- Benefit from Canada's Lead Nation profile and coordinated national presence
- Participate in market briefings and targeted networking

- Be considered for B2B/G meetings with Polish buyers and partners (for eligible companies)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

To be considered for Canada's MSPO 2026 program, your application must clearly demonstrate that your company:

- has between 1 and 500 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees
- operates in the defence or security sector
- is export-ready with demonstrated potential in Poland and the broader CEE region
- has a commercialized product or service
- targets the region as part of their international business plan
- allocates resources toward international growth
- meets the eligibility criteria to qualify as a client of the Trade Commissioner Service (TCS)

Industry leaders

To be considered as an industry leader, including large companies and industry leaders, for Canada's MSPO 2026 program, your application must clearly demonstrate that your organization:

- operates in the defence or security sector
- has a demonstrated interest in Poland or the CEE defence markets
- contributes to commercial, industrial or strategic objectives for Canada
- brings visibility, expertise or sector leadership that strengthens the Canadian presence at MSPO
- meets the eligibility criteria to qualify as a client of the Trade Commissioner Service (TCS)

EXHIBITING OPPORTUNITIES

If selected as an SME, you may have the opportunity to exhibit within the Canada Pavilion at no participation fee, including:

- A dedicated kiosk-style exhibition space to showcase company technologies and solutions
- Visibility under Canada's Lead Nation presence
- Inclusion in the Canadian exhibitor directory
- Access to business programming (market briefings and networking)
- Eligibility for B2B/G meetings with Polish buyers and partners *(subject to matching and availability)*

As an industry leader, including large companies and industry associations, you may secure custom booth space directly with Targi Kielce, while benefiting from Canada's Lead Nation presence, including:

- Positioning alongside the Canada Pavilion within Canada's national footprint, including a cost-covered hanging Canada brand over your custom pavilion
- Inclusion in the Canadian exhibitor directory
- Access to business programming (market briefings and networking)
- Eligibility for B2B/G meetings with Polish buyers and partners *(subject to matching and availability)*

You are responsible for their own booth build, design, and exhibition costs. To secure booth space, your organization will be directed to Targi Kielce's Become an exhibitor page.
Completing the application is still required for inclusion in Canada's MSPO business programming and coordination.

TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS AND EXPENSES

Participants are responsible for arranging and covering their own travel and accommodation, including airfare, lodging, and any meals not provided in the program. Programming and travel details will be shared with confirmed participants as they become available.

A limited number of block-booked rooms will be available to those who are receiving B2B/G meetings and/or have exhibition space, on a first-come, first-serve basis. Details to come.

SAVE THE DATE – INFORMATION SESSION

The Trade Commissioner Service will host a virtual information session for interested companies in January 2026 to provide an overview of MSPO and the application process.

Date and registration details to follow.

APPLY NOW

All applications will be reviewed based on eligibility and suitability for MSPO 2026. Please ensure your responses are complete and detailed, as selections will be based solely on the information provided. Due to limited space, incomplete applications may not be considered.

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION TODAY!

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Questions?

Please visit the event page or contact us at: MSPO2026.TSG@international.gc.ca

Trade Commissioner Service | Service des délégués commerciaux

SAC Notes

O Canada

The Canadian Government took a break. Key initiatives did not occur such as the Defence Industrial Strategy (DSI) which was supposed to be announced by 15 December 2025. As of the time of writing, it still is not released.

Canada is continuing to work on recruiting initiatives to simplify the process of recruiting which takes on average 271 days before a person is enrolled. Over the past three years, somewhere between 200 and 350K people expressed some interest in joining the military but only more than 13K were actually enrolled. One must wonder how we made it past the Second World War where over 1M troops were enrolled. There seems to be a lack of urgency and understanding the problem.

Training also requires a rethink. How can we process thousands of new recruits quickly and effectively? We have done it before, but it would require disassembling the empires created by the existing training program.

In a tail wagging the dog, when personnel take their release, they should be able to join the supplementary holding list (SHL). If one does join it will affect one's relationship with Veterans Affairs Canada. As one probably knows that most military service will end up requiring the services of VAC at some point. It precludes joining the supplementary or primary reserve. It is a small wonder our SHL has virtually no one in it. I have since discovered that people on release do not even get informed of the option. Most injuries/medical problems would not stop someone from serving in some form, however apparently a bureaucracy can. We need these folks as instructors, administration, security, small arms instructors etc. This needs to be reviewed. We have spent millions on their training, and we still can use their skills in an emergency.

Still, it is interesting that although there is some indication that there is a lack of understanding of the current situation. The primary role of the military is to provide deterrence and if that fails, lethal response if necessary. Recent ads for the armed forces are still oriented towards women, people of colour and so on, while, working on these demographics is essential for the long-term health of the CAF, there is a need to bring an "all hands-on deck" to the process. Whether we are talking about continental defence, the Arctic theatre, eastern Europe and the Pacific rim, it is also clear that the numbers within the CAF are totally inadequate to deal with the future. One or more of these scenarios can occur at the same time and we would have difficulties maintaining even one of these efforts. Urgent action is needed now and new solutions created to rapidly

build up the CAF within the year. We will have no time once the situation deteriorates. Here is a video produced by The Royal Canadian Regiment Association called "Canadian Army Modernization Part 1" found at link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEEXD_rzCVE. The second You Tube video titled "Canadian Army Modernization Part 2" found at link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_1sK-oo4h0 What I like about it is that it provides a look at modernization from senior regular force infantry regiment, officers and warrant officers of the regiment and in their role for the association. There is little doubt that modernization and warfare fall on the "poor bloody infantry." It is a voice worth listening to at this point. In a point of transparency, the writer was a member of The Royal Canadian Regiment and remains a member of the association as well. Hearing from the "rock face" is important.

Australia

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/editors-picks-for-2025-how-australia-could-build-a-northern-wall-of-drones/?
This article is interesting. The Aus Air Force could consider the creation of a drone air defence wall.

United States

If one were to go back in time and try to explain the current situation with the US, one would likely be laughed out of the room. On the evening of 4 January, the US President gave a press briefing on Air Force 1 where he basically threatened Venezuela, Cuba, Columbia, Mexico and Greenland/Denmark in a matter of minutes. Given that the US struck Venezuela two nights before, the threat seemed all too possible.

6 January 2026 is the fifth anniversary of Trump's insurrection on 6 January 2021. The plaque to commemorate the event celebrating the actions of Capitol Hill police has not been placed in the Capitol building. The Trump administration through the Speaker of the House has prevented its placement. The 6 January Insurrection was and is one of the vilest attacks on US democratic values and will be an historical stain in US history. The only fear is that the second Trump Administration will find new levels of corruption that will make the insurrection look like a child's picnic.

The only people who can do anything about this problem are the Republican members of Congress and the Supreme Court. It is hard to believe that the former party of common sense has fallen to a cult. The situation requires true leadership and there is concern this will not be available.

Moldova

There are a couple points on Moldova. First, they have achieved a new level of capability in dealing with Russia overall. Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe and is under the leadership of President Maia Sandu. The You Tube interview called her "The leader Putin failed to break." The Maia Sandu Interview 31 December 2025 is found at link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRnZUTGo1MI

On another positive note, the break away republic of Transnistria (not recognized by any

country) is now starting to discuss the possibility of reunification with the remainder of Moldova. They have assistance from the EU, the US and other bilateral agreements to help with this task.

This became a real issue after Russia cut natural gas imports to the only electrical plant in Moldova (found in Transnistria.). Since that time, Moldova and its EU partners have found new sources of gas thus eliminating one of Russia's biggest levers. It is still early days yet but there are positive steps. Russia still maintains a small garrison in Transnistria of between 1.2 to 1.5K. There are a further 6K militia available to the breakaway republic.

Georgia

New Year's Day marked the 400 days of demonstrations against the Georgia Dream Party. The Georgia Dream Party is largely seen as illegitimate due to election irregularities which resulted in the party "winning" with 54% of the popular vote. Outside observers also noted these irregularities. The Georgia Dream Party is also seen as pro-Russian and anti-EU. Last year the party ceased negotiations with the EU over accession until 2028.

Although security services have generally been supportive of the government, it does appear to be a balancing act as at times, security forces have been less active.
Georgia has allowed Russian heavy transports to over fly Georgia to reach Tehran. It is thought that Russian aircraft are providing anti-riot gear and equipment to help the Iranian theocratic regime. It appears to be continuing operation, more to follow in the Iran-Israel Conflict section.

Belarus

Belarus is being increasingly used to support Russian resupply efforts to Iran. This includes using Belarus airports to load equipment for transport to Iran. This allows plausible deniability to Russia and Iran and Georgia for these flights. Iran is desperate, the regime has not had to deal with so many issues at one time, nor is Russia and Belarus able to provide the support the Iranian regime needs. One can expect this type of activity to continue; however, it may be too little too late for Iran this time.

Belarus has allegedly deployed the Oreshnik missiles into combat positions. The missiles are employed by Belarus military units, but the control of the warheads remains Russian. By providing nuclear warheads, Russia also gets to "use" Belarus facilities for logistics and security. It also means a Russian garrison of considerable size. The Oreshnik missiles are complemented by Belarus SU 25s with a nuclear capability.

Russia will use the nuclear weapons to lever Belarus into greater support of Russian efforts in Ukraine. Whether this means using Belarus security forces in combat is another step. So far, the Lukashenko regime has balanced its support for Russia with self-preservation. Expect this to continue for the near term. This will change as the war continues.

Iran-Israel Conflict

Iran is in a state of internal conflict. There have been ten days of major demonstrations as of 7 January 2026. Depending on one's sources, several cities are now in the hands of people supporting the demonstrators, something that has not occurred in past periods of unrest. There are also unverified reports of police units switching sides as well as the capture of IRGC facilities, but these are still early days of this event.

Iran is still badly damaged from both the Israeli attacks and the follow-on attacks by the US which heavily damaged the Iranian nuclear program. Iran's support of its proxies including Hezbollah in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Gaza and Yemen and surprisingly, their money laundering in Venezuela, military adventurism and major national programs. Although the world has focused on the Israeli efforts in Gaza, it is very clear that Israel has been forced to fight a multi-front action against Iran. Gaza is just the stick to beat Israel within the information warfare space. Most of the anti-Israel material is supporting anti-Semitism. This conflict is not over, but it appears that there will be severe challenges for all participants in the near future.

On a more comical note, the Iranian regime has designated the Royal Canadian Navy as a terrorist organization. Local retired sailors have been adding "former terrorist" to their signature blocks thus showing their overall "concern" over such a designation.

Russia-Ukraine War

The Russia Ukraine war continues, but circumstances are changing. Ukraine has received constant help and assistance from its supporting countries. It has also built up its own arms industries successfully and has developed its own weapons systems especially in regard to unmanned, AI driven projects.

The two countries now trade volleys of unmanned systems against each other infrastructure daily. The war came to Moscow at Christmas with over 600K houses losing their heat and electricity. Ukrainian attacks are constant but usually aimed at military related targets such as refineries, plastic manufacturing, battery plants, airfields, arms depots, transport hubs, bridges.

Russia has ramped up production of drones, but production of more sophisticated equipment continues to drop. Tank production has dropped drastically from 120 tanks per month to around 35 per month. Fighter, fighter bombers and bombers are also seeing drops in production with SU 35 down to 12 -14 aircraft per year, SU 34s 10 to 12 aircraft per year and bombers less than one a year. Most aircraft types being used are no longer in production and even minor damage can result in the aircraft being out of service for a prolonged period.

Russia targets continue to be related to terror strikes against civilian infrastructure and is of limited use overall and seems to have caused Ukrainian resistance to continue and even increase despite losses.

The real problem is now the economies of both countries, both have been heavily damaged by the war but Ukraine has friends who are willing to fund their resistance. Russia is by itself essentially except for North Korea. China, India don't wish to anger the US and have therefore followed US initiatives and sanctions. Iran is in flames as a result of their own problems.

Russian citizens have seen the US conduct a major operation against a pro-Russian government in Venezuela which took two and half hours and see that Russia's three-day special military operation is now entering its fourth year. Inflation, unemployment, bank failures, printing money without having sufficient backing, industrial failures, lack of choice and the effects of sanctions on ordinary Russians make it quite clear that the war is not going well. Russia is broken financially.

China

China has reacted to the US operation in Venezuela as one may expect, by condemning the attack. This being said, it may also be looking at how quickly and effectively the operation took place. They may also believe that anything that keeps the US out of the South and Western Pacific is also a good thing. This will provide an opportunity for China to examine the event in relation to a Chinese operation against Taiwan. This will be an ongoing issue.

There are many commentators within the media and academia that have suggested that the Peoples' Republic of China will make every effort to place Taiwan in such a situation that the leadership must negotiate reunification on the terms of the PRC. 2027 marks the 100th anniversary of the PLA, a truly auspicious event from the view of the Communist Chinese Party.

According to AI Co-Pilot it will also be the year of 21st National Congress of the CCP which will also include Xi seeking a fourth term. Xi is well past his normal retirement, and this will confirm in many peoples' minds that he intends to remain until the bitter end.

2027 also is the deadline for improvements and modernization of the PLA. Xi has made this possible during his tenure by downsizing the ground forces below 50% of the PLA in favour of an increased size of the navy, downsizing older aircraft and over modernization of the PLAAF and improvement in strategic missile forces. He was also instrumental in forming various joint force commands more along the lines of the American and other Western forces.

The current downside is that under Xi's third term, there has been a major purge of general and flag officers. Most of these personnel were appointed by Xi. The most recent victim of the purge is PLAAF general, Chang Dingqiu who died of a heart attack while undergoing interrogation. The air force was the last service that was affected. For a country that may conduct a major, technically difficult attack on a well-prepared and equipped enemy this is a bad sign. Taiwan has up to 7M potential reservists. PRC success is not guaranteed. Xi may end his term with a real bang.

The unknown ally: Operational Stress Injury Social Support (OSISS)
https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2025/03/unknown-ally-osiss.html