



## Highlights This Month

### **How China Uses Shipping for Surveillance and Control**

Article, *Foreign Policy*

Elaine Dezenski and David Rader | 20 September 2023

An excellent and pithy read about how Beijing's global maritime operations double as intelligence-gathering outposts.

[Read the Article Here ...](#)

### **Maritime Reserves: Grasping the Opportunity**

Journal Article, *RUSI*

Sir Julian Brazier and Christopher Hockley | 07 September 2023

Sir Julian Brazier, former MP and government minister, and RAdm Christopher Hockley, examine whether and how the Maritime Reserves can bring extra fighting power at an affordable cost to the Royal Navy.

[Read the Article Here ...](#)

### **Command and Control: Question Time**

Podcast, *Command and Control*

Vice Admiral Andy Burns, Major General Zac Stenning and Andrew Graham | 6 September 2023

Vice Admiral Andy Burns, Major General Zac Stenning and Andrew Graham answer questions from the audience on command and control live at the DSEi event in London. Topics answered include: What will C2 look like in the future? How will ML and AI impact decision-making? Will C2 survive in its current form? What does the

role of commander look like in the future? And do we train and educate our future commanders well enough?

[Listen to the Podcast Here ...](#)

## **Is Myanmar Building a Spy Base on Great Coco Island?**

Journal Article, *Chatham House*

John Pollock and Damien Symon | 31 March 2023

Myanmar's Coco Islands in the Bay of Bengal have long been the subject of geopolitical intrigue and controversy among analysts, journalists, and policymakers across South Asia. The most common allegation is that since the early 1990s, Myanmar has allowed a Chinese signals intelligence facility on the archipelago. Little evidence exists for such a facility, bar a heavily weathered radar station, however, new satellite imagery shows mysterious construction on an archipelago close to a strategic Indian navy outpost.

[Read the Article Here ...](#)

## **The Safety and Security of the U.S. Maritime Environment**

Video, *RAND*

Karishma Mehta and Abbie Tingstad | Summer 2023

The safety and security of the United States is directly tied to the safety and security of its maritime environment. This perspective video explores opportunities and threats in this space, which are constantly evolving because of changes in economics, geopolitics, society, demography, and other factors.

[Watch the Video Here ...](#)

## **Iran's Dangerous Jousting in International Waters**

Journal Article, *Politico*

Elisabeth Braw | 21 August 2023

After Iranian forces tried to seize a pair of merchant vessels, only to be deterred by nearby U.S. Navy ships back in July, Elisabeth Braw asks how much can be done without triggering armed confrontation.

[Read the Article Here ...](#)

## Navies Get Their Feet Wet with UUVs

Article, *IJSS*

Jonathan Bentham | 11 September 2023

Navies around the globe – from the Black Sea to the Gulf, to the Indo-Pacific, to the United States – are embracing uninhabited maritime vehicles across a diverse mission set. While UUVs appear to be completely different entities from their traditional ship counterparts, Jonathan Bentham explains how they are increasingly being used alongside each other.

[Read the Article Here ...](#)

## Smart Balancers Kill Many Birds with Few Stones: Sino-Russian Security Cooperation in the Maritime Domain

Journal Article, *Naval War College Review*

Maximilian Ernst and Tongfi Kim | Spring 2023

Minimizing the costs and risks of balancing is crucial for a coalition facing stronger opponents—such as China and Russia facing the United States and its partners. This fascinating analysis explains the motives of Sino-Russian security cooperation within the context of a full spectrum of balancing strategies in international relations and the relatively lower risk of escalation in the maritime domain.

[Read the Article Here ...](#)

## Events and Notices

### Capital Ships and D-Day

Dr Tim Benbow  
17 October 2023  
13:00 - 14:00 GMT  
MS Teams

The RNSSC are delighted to host Tim, Reader in Strategic Studies at King's

### Read or Listened to Something that Merits Inclusion in this Digest?

Please send, with a summary, to the RNSSC mailbox ([NavyStratPol-RNSSC@mod.gov.uk](mailto:NavyStratPol-RNSSC@mod.gov.uk)).

College London, for the **October Lunchtime Lecture**. Please find the link on the RNSSC's SharePoint.

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