



Centre for Historical Analysis and Conflict Research

"Enhancing the conceptual component of fighting power"

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

Director's Notes:

Maj Gen (Retd) Dr Andrew Sharpe

NATO sits at the heart of UK Defence Strategy, yet for those in NATO appointments there is a feeling of peripheral, rather than central, involvement. The CHACR, this month, helped to go some way to rebalancing this situation. But it also explored a range of more nebulous ideas, such as: "what does winning mean in the 21st century?" Importantly, our activities, no matter how varied, depend heavily upon the Army's engagement if they are to have real effect. So thank you for staying engaged...and there are still a few places left for the 5th December GAP conference.

Recent Events

It has been a busy few weeks, with CHACR delivering four events. In almost as many weeks

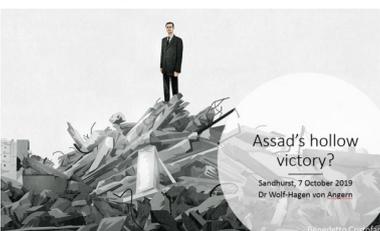


NATO Today: Panel 1

The first was a hugely successful Study Day considering 'NATO Today: Challenges & Opportunities' with 400 attendees ranging from Trooper to General where you heard the UK and NATO views of the current Challenges and Opportunities it faces before turning to the panel's views of the Security Challenges NATO Faces and NATO's Internal Challenges & Opportunities. Thank you to our attendees for engaging with the day, and for the considered and challenging questions you posed to the panellists.

For those who could not attend, we will be publishing an issue of Ares & Athena based on this Study Day and recordings of the opening remarks by DSACEUR and panel initial statements are on our AKX Page.

Our next event was another study day considering 'Non-Western Views of Winning' through three studies; the Indonesian *Konfrontasi*, Iran's Conceptions of Victory, and Assad's Syria. The day highlighted the problems with viewing the world through an entirely 'western' lens, explored some of the



Assad's Hollow Victory?

other views of 'Winning' that are being encountered, and the importance of understanding what success for your opponent is (or could be) - for some, denying us (or our allies) success is close enough to winning and, in 'constant competition', is staying ahead of your competitors 'success' enough?



Iranian Views

Upcoming Events

Lectures

We Need to Talk About Turkey

Fri 15 Nov 1030-1200

Hannah Lucinda Smith

Akehurst Hall, RMAS

Conferences

GAP 2019 Conference

Thu 5 Dec 0900-1630

Churchill Hall, RMAS

Register for all CHACR events at:

[ArmyStrat-CHACR-](mailto:ArmyStrat-CHACR-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk)

0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

To be added to our mailing list and keep up to date with all things CHACR please email: ArmyStrat-CHACR-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

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"The nation that makes a great distinction between its scholars and its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting done by fools" Att. Thucydides

Activities Update

Once again, thank you to the audience for engaging with the day and taking best advantage of the Q&A to explore this important topic further.

For those who could not attend, we will be publishing articles from each of the speakers; starting with Dr Tuck's, in BAR 176.

The third event was a lecture from Professor Wendy Pullan (University of Cambridge Centre for Urban Conflicts Research) looking at 'Changing Conflicts, Changing Cities: Destruction, Reconstruction & Heritage'.

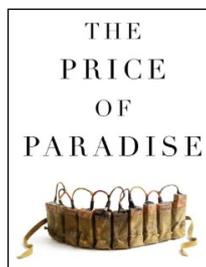


This was a fascinating presentation, a consideration of the impact and influence of cities on war, and vice versa, from an architectural view rather than a military one.

We all recognise that destruction is a by-product of conflict in an Urban environment but Prof Pullan highlighted the fact that there is a rise in 'Urbicide' - the deliberate targeting and destruction of cities as a feature of conflict, seemingly aimed to exacerbate the conflict,

rather than 'win' the war. And that 'Heritage and Reconstruction are part of conflict and war and may be used as weapons; they are not symptoms or incidental phenomena.'

The final event was a lecture from Iain Overton based on his book 'The Price of Paradise: How the Suicide Bomber Shaped the Modern Age'. It was an excellent presentation, with some sobering casualty statistics and many interesting points to consider. Notably, suicide bombing and smart weapons could be argued to be two sides of the same ugly and lethal coin—both able to precisely deliver lethality, a matter of high tech vs low tech means of delivery. And that there are many complex paths to creating a suicide bomber; there need to be many complex counters to them.



CHACR 'Out and About'

The CHACR fellows continue to be busy—in increasingly exotic locations.

Dr Tumchewics was at the 74th UN General Assembly, where she was part of a panel discussion considering "The Age of the Suicide Bomber" - Suicide Bombing is the second leading cause of death for civilians after Small Arms & Light Weapons deaths.



Also on the panel was Iain Overton, (author of 'The Price of Paradise: How the Suicide Bomber Shaped the Modern Age') who spoke at CHACR on 31 Oct.

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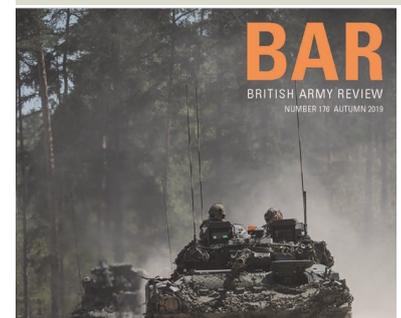
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Ares & Athena



The latest edition of *Ares & Athena*; Issue 15 'China: Friend, Foe or Neither?' and all previous issues of 'Ares & Athena' are available on the [CHACR website](http://www.chacr.org.uk) and [AKX](http://www.akx.org.uk).

British Army Review



The latest edition of the BAR (No 176) is out now on the [Army website](http://www.army.gov.uk)

This edition of the BAR has at its core the theme of 'Victory and what victory means for the 21st Century British Army.'

The next edition of the BAR will consider 'Competing in Constant Competition'.

Back issues of the BAR are available on the [AKX](http://www.akx.org.uk)

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Dr Strohn has presented on MARKET GARDEN to the RTR, lectured on Churchill's Legacy at the In and Out Club, presented to the German Economic Council, and travelled to Ghana to brief the Army Chief Of Staff at the General Headquarters of the Ghanaian Army in Accra. Amongst all this, he also found time (and some good weather) to support the German Military Delegation's Staff Ride considering Op DYNAMO (Dunkirk), the Battle of Britain and Op SEALION. (German plans for invading Great Britain)



In the near future, Dr Strohn will be recording the German audio commentary for the new exhibition at the Hartenstein Museum in Arnhem, the centre-piece of the commemoration of the battle of Arnhem (Sir Anthony Beevor and Ad van Liempt will also be recording audio commentaries).

Dr Meral continues to be busy, but, with slightly less exotic travel this past month - presenting to numerous HQs and Units (his current record is four presentations, each on a different topic, to four different organisations (1 Arty Bde, JOTAC, RCDS and RU-SI) in two days) and he continues to embrace 'jointery' - his briefings at CTCRM are becoming



JOTAC



At CTCRM

a bit of a regular feature. A common theme throughout all this (other than a lot of miles travelled) has been highly engaged audiences.

Diary Markers: Upcoming CHACR Events

Fri 15 Nov. Hannah Lucinda Smith will present **'We Need to Talk About Turkey'** 1030-1200 in Akehurst Hall, RMAS. Developments in North East Syria once again highlighted the importance of a thorough understanding of today's Turkey, its politics and foreign policy. From the purchase of Russian missiles to transitioning into a presidential system with minimum checks and balances, to unilateral military operations in Syria, Turkey is truly on an uncharted path. Join us for a talk by Hannah Lucinda Smith (Turkey-based correspondent for the Times, who has released an already acclaimed book "The Battle for the Soul of Turkey: Erdogan Rising"), followed by a Q&A and discussion session. **Only a few places remain**

Thu 5 Dec. CHACR's Global Analysis Programme 2019 Conference.

Building on the success of the 2018 conference, this will be another hugely interesting and thought provoking day exploring the complexities of world in which the Army operates.

The day's programme includes a wide range of thought-leading speakers and will explore the following themes; 'Trans-Atlantic Security & Defence Relations', 'Points of Contention' (Russia, China, Iran and the Eastern Mediterranean), 'Information & Misinformation' and will close with reflections on what this all this means for the future.



CHACR's Global Analysis Programme continues to commission 'In Depth' briefings. Issue 17 'Making Sense of the Protests in Egypt' by Dr Hisham Hellyer and Issue 18 'Shifting Great Power Positions in Syria' by Guney Yildiz are the two most recent In-Depth Briefings.

Dr Meral continues to talk on JCSC courses, engage with operational units and lectures to a host of other organisations.

All briefings are available [here](#).

Are you signed up?

If you wish to receive the monthly 'GAP Snapshots' email and 'In Depth briefings', register with Dr Meral at:

Sehmus.ZiyaMeral100@mod.uk

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