



# CHACR TAKE AWAY NEWSLETTER

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## INTRODUCTION

This is the weekly CHACR Take Away newsletter, which we will issue regularly from now on. In these newsletters, you will find links to latest products by the CHACR, but also links to key reports and studies by external experts and institutions which we think you should pay attention to. The aim is to continue advancing the mandate of the CHACR to enhance the British Army's conceptual component of fighting power. **The views expressed or studies shared in this document in no way represent the official views of the British Army, Ministry of Defence or any components thereof, but only those of its authors and are shared to stimulate thinking and discussions.**

## LATEST FROM THE CHACR

The CHACR continues to fulfil its mission with multiple activities and initiatives in support of the army while in re-mote working conditions. Alliide Naylor published a **commentary** on how [Russian disinformation](#) targets the former Soviet bloc Around World War Two anniversaries. This supports the wider analysis on the legacy of the Second World War, which will be published as a book later in the year.

Despite the current restrictions, the CHACR is entering the phase of the "new normal". Dr. Matthias Strohn supported the first **battlefield study** since the beginning of the lock-down and took a group to the Hastings to study "1066 and all that".

We are pleased to announce our next **CHACR Webinar** - 'Changing International Security Context, a Conversation with Samantha Job (Director, Defence and Security, FCO) on 17 July 2020, 12.00-13.00. For more information see the Global Analysis page of this newsletter.

Check out our website or follow us on Twitter @CHACR\_Camberley to keep up to date with our outputs.

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

With the Integrated Review re-emerging onto the top of Whitehall agendas, Force Development has become a renewed focus of interest well beyond the over-burdened desks of staff officers in Army HQ. So it's timely just to observe that there is often a tendency in armies to default to thinking about kit, equipment, numbers and orbats (and, at a pinch, concepts and doctrine) when thinking about FD. Fighting power has three components - the moral, the physical and the conceptual. And there are plenty of references that remind us how important the intangible elements of combat power really are - Napoleon its oft quoted as saying 'the moral is to the physical as three is to one', for example. And, we keep telling ourselves, armies are different from navies and air forces because the other services man equipment, whereas armies equip their men and women. If those two truisms are true (and they wouldn't be truisms if they weren't, would they), then it would serve us well to spend as much time thinking about the moral and conceptual components when we talk FD as the physical one. As we pore over numbers and orbats, and apply sums and the counting of beans to our desired outcomes we would do well to put as much effort into some of the more intangibles. Of course, the Army is thinking as hard about *how* it will fight as it is about *with what* (and how many) it will fight. But it is beholden to everyone, not just those intimately involved in the Whitehall nitty-gritty of the discussion, to think hard about the on-going development of the moral and conceptual components. We are told that the Army must reflect the society from which it is drawn - with respect, I disagree. Society so admires the Army precisely because it does not see its own reflection in the Army - it sees something, morally, rather better than its own reflection. So, the Army must ask itself, continuously, as society evolves, how it must be the same as that society and how it must be different. What does it take to get those 'ordinary people to do extraordinary things'? That's not achieved by being morally ordinary, that's for sure. At the same time, CGS has made it clear that he believes that winning and losing in war is as much about being out-thought as it is about being out-fought. So, FD is also about developing thinking and thinkers. And that's not just about writing doctrine - after all we keep telling ourselves that British doctrine is so good because it tells us how to think, not what to think. So that means that we need to be good at thinking in all sorts of ways, both predictable and unpredictable. In short, FD is front and centre of the agenda in the Centre right now, but, in all of its aspects, physical, moral and conceptual, it should be at the heart of every soldier's agenda, all the time.

**Maj Gen (Ret) Dr Andrew Sharpe**

GLOBAL ANALYSIS

Notes from Global Analysis stream, lead by Dr Ziya Meral

SCIENCE OF ANALYSIS

The products and events of the CHACR’s Global Analysis Programme are always accessible and seek to inform both those who are deeply informed and those who are seeking to deepen their understanding on an issue or development impacting current operating environment. There is, however, a serious amount of thinking done by experts who contribute to our work and substantial theoretical assumptions and methods lead them to make informed claims. [This article provides](#) a helpful breakdown of social scientific methods and principles that underwrite global analysis programme and its outputs. What separates opinion from analysis is in fact the science (method and reflexivity) that lies at its core.

NEXT GAP WEBINAR

Following the success of our first webinar couple of weeks ago that featured a discussion with Angus Lapsley, DG Strategy and International MoD, next week we will host a new webinar on 17 July with Samantha Job, Director Defence and Security International at the FCO. The discussion will explore ‘changing international security context’, giving Samantha Job a chance to make some preliminary remarks, followed by a discussion with Dr Meral on the questions that you will be able to raise. Do reach out to the CHACR to register a place in what promises to be a fascinating discussion with a senior FCO diplomat with decades of work on key issues impacting security and defence.

LOCUSTS



Desert Locusts are swarming across East Africa.

Image: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

2020 would not have been complete without the next sign of apocalypse. Ongoing locust outbreak is adding another worrying crisis on top of COVID-19 in some of the poorest corners of the world. The IRC noted that some 5 million people might be facing starvation in East Africa due to the largest locust outbreak in 70 years. [This report by the World Economic Forum](#), source of the image on the left, provides a worrying overall picture. The outbreak is affecting Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Sudan. Forecasts show that at worst case 50 to 70% and best case 20 to 30% cereal harvest might be lost.

THINGS TO KEEP ON YOUR RADAR SCREENS

• ‘Arab Spring’

This Arab Digest [podcast with Lina Khatib](#) argues that Arab spring is a revolution in process, not a failure.

• Iran

A series of explosions in Iran, with authorities [acknowledging damage to Natanz nuclear site](#)

• India-China

Some signs of de-escalation, as [Chinese troops pull back](#) 2km from site of Galwan Valley clashes

• Economic Warfare

An [interesting article by Lt Col Mike Smith](#) on methods, limitations and outcomes of economic warfare in today’s world

• Saudi Arabia

A report on [rise and tragic fall](#) of Saudi Arabia’s Mohammed bin Nayef.

• Dark Money

A [report that demonstrates how Dubai](#) has emerged as a major global hub for money laundering and illicit financial transaction.

## FORCE DEVELOPMENT

Notes from Force Development stream, lead by Dr Louise Tumchewics

### SECURITY COOPERATION

Since the implementation of the Foreign Assistance Act in 1961, the United States Department of State has spearheaded security assistance initiatives, in cooperation with other US government agencies. Given the required expertise, however, it is the US military that provides the majority of security assistance programmes, working with foreign partners to improve or reform their security sectors. These activities have presented certain challenges over the years, including the building relationships between military generalists and foreign development specialists, and creating training programmes that are appropriate to a partner nation's capabilities, rather than American-style training or equipment programmes or security framework. [Here](#), the author presents recommendations for USAFRICOM's security sector activities, worth reflecting on as the British Army conducts similar missions in the Middle East and Africa.

### SMART CITIES

It is estimated that in the next ten years, 70% of the world's population will live in urban areas. In wealthier, more developed cities, municipal governments are increasingly using data and information systems, such as sensors, cameras and autonomous vehicles to assist in the provision of key services: garbage collection, water supply, fire services, policing and ambulance services. These '[Smart City](#)' systems make daily administration of vast urban spaces easier and more efficient, but, as the author of this articles describes, also present potential challenges and advantages to military forces across the physical and virtual domains. It will be vital for military planners to understand and identify potential access points in adversary's infrastructure management systems. Additionally, we must consider the security of domestic systems, as few municipal IT systems are impenetrable, and our own Smart city systems could be vulnerable to exploitation by an adversary, putting large urban populations at potential risk.

### SHOW & TELL OR PME?

Efforts to expand professional military education from traditional classroom teaching has introduced experiential learning, science fiction, online and tabletop wargaming to PME curricula. The author of this article proposes incorporating artifactual critical literacy to PME classrooms as a modality for developing critical analysis and deep learning skills. [Artifactual critical](#) analysis is not merely a superficial show-and-tell exercise, or an opportunity to trade personal anecdotes. Instead, students must describe and examine an artifact, and engage with the changing social, cultural and geopolitical contexts of their artifacts. A series of reflective prompts from an instructor or group leader can guide the group from personal recollections to a deeper discussion of the events and outcomes of military operations, and the leadership and ethical challenges involved. Artifacts can thus be used to enhance communication skills, promote understanding, and build critical thinking abilities



## HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

Notes from Historical Analysis stream, lead by Dr Matthias Strohn

### BATTLEFIELD STUDIES NEWS

Battlefield Studies remain an important educational tool for the Army. Analysing past battles and campaigns sharpens the trained eye for the challenges that armies face today and will face tomorrow. During the on-going crisis, new ways had to be found to ensure that this useful tool did not remain in the tool-box unused. Dr Strohn participated in a virtual battlefield tour of the North African campaign – an interesting concept that did, naturally, not provide the same insights that can be gained by standing on the ground, but which, nevertheless, contributed to the development of the conceptual component. It was particularly rewarding that Dr Strohn could lead his first battlefield study this week. The current restrictions meant that the originally envisaged study to Normandy could not take place, so, instead, the battle of Hastings became the object of study – with some clear links to Normandy, albeit borrowed from Medieval history, not 1944. Naturally, the tactics and weapons are different today, but the nature of war and conflict has not changed, so that even a battle that took place 1,000 years ago offers insights for the 21<sup>st</sup> century Army. One of the advantages is that the battlefield is easily accessible and that the study can be conducted in one day. If you are interested in running a battlefield study -whether to Hastings or any other place- please do get in touch.



### A HAUNTING PAST

History continues to shape and influence the present and the future, and a good understanding of history is a prerequisite for understanding not only ourselves, but also other nations and armies. This is the case globally, but it applies in particular to Germany, which still lives under the shadow of its Nazi past. Recently, this past has dominated the discussions within the German Bundeswehr due to the allegation that Nazi cells had been formed in the German special forces. This has, amongst other things, led to the disbanding of one company of special forces. This is a heated debate in Germany and one that will decide the future of the Bundeswehr and potentially its ability to function as an armed force. A quick overview of the recent developments can be found in this [video](#). For an in-depth discussion of Germany and the legacy of the Second World War, watch [the CHACR Lecture on the go](#) by our own Dr Matthias Strohn.



### THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On 7 July 2005, terrorist attacks were carried out in London. Terrorists bombs were detonated in three crowded London subways on London's Underground system and one bus during peak rush hour travel in a synchronized attack by suicide bombers thought to be members of al-Qaeda, killing 52 people including the bombers and injuring another 700. This meant that the attacks were the deadliest terrorist incident in Britain since the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 near Lockerbie, Scotland, and the deadliest attack on England since the Second World War, as well as the country's first Islamist suicide attack.



## CHACR TEAM RECOMMENDS

### **Dan Kaszeta, *Toxic: A History of Nerve Agents, from Nazi Germany to Putin's Russia***

The use of Novichok nerve agent in the Salisbury attack in 2018 has reminded us all once again how deadly chemical warfare means can be and how they survive to be used today despite all the arms control efforts to contain their production and use. In this brand-new book, Dan Kaszeta traces the history of this dark capability from Nazi laboratories all the way to their use against the UK in 2018. Dan has decades of experience in protection against chemical and biological weapons and served with the US Army, the White House Military Office and the US Secret Service, so he combines both scholarly research with hands-on experience (not literally, we hope!) in this space.

### **The Battle of Waterloo**

With last month's anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo receding and the 'Quatorze Juillet' fast approaching it seems appropriate to recommend a book (or two!) on the subject. There are plenty to choose from. There are few, however, other than contemporaneous memoirs, that have been written from the French perspective. So here are a couple of offerings that allow the British reader to see the battle from the other side of the valley, so to speak. For those who like plenty of pictures the coffee-table book *Waterloo* by Commandant Henry Lachouque (originally published in 1972 a year after his death) is a lavish work that provides a clear and well-illustrated guide (with over 350 prints and maps in colour and black-and-white). For those who prefer a little more thoughtful analysis the fascinating study *Waterloo (The French Perspective)* by Lt Col Andrew Field is a must. Both books are written by army officers, and thus offer a soldier's understanding combined with scholarly research and, for the British reader, an alternative to the often one-sided view of the great battle.

### **J.R.R. Tolkien, *Beowulf***

This text remains one of the classics of the English language. In fact, it is the most important (and complete) text in Old English that survived from the days of the Anglo-Saxon period in Britain. You do not need to read the Old English original, as fun as this could be, but you can use this modern translation by J.R.R. Tolkien. Not only does the book give a fascinating insight into a period long gone, it also describes some of the unchanging features of the nature of war. And, for the fans of the Lord of Rings and the Hobbit, you will find some familiar creatures in *Beowulf*. Tolkien was, after all, an Oxford don in Old English and a leading authority on *Beowulf*.

### **Rutger Bregman, *Humankind***

In the 18th century French philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau wrote that, contrary to prevailing beliefs, humans were inherently good at heart, and it was the construct of civilisation that was to blame for our ills. Rousseau's work contrasted with the writings of other philosophers, such as Thomas Hobbes, who maintained a more dismal outlook on humanity. Writing three centuries after the Enlightenment, historian Rutger Bregman's *Humankind* shares Rousseau's suggestion instead that people are generally good, and the human instincts to trust, cooperate and care are rooted in the evolution of mankind. According to Bregman, the inherent good in all of us has aided the survival of our species. Focussing on the worst aspects of humanity merely reinforces these traits and our consciousness of them. Drawing on historical events, and human behavioural studies, *Humankind* demonstrates the pervasiveness and power of human kindness, providing an uplifting reappraisal of human history.

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## ABOUT THE CHACR

You can learn more about the CHACR at [www.chacr.org.uk](http://www.chacr.org.uk)

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