

Title: Anatomy of a Catastrophe: How Russia Decided to Start a War in Ukraine
Speakers: Dr. Nicholas J. Myers
Date: 7 December 2022
Time: 1200-1315
Where: Hybrid LOO, C-138 & via Zoom
POC: Dr. Nicholas J. Myers

Synopsis:

This presentation summarizes Dr. Myers' doctoral dissertation research on how the Russian government's strategic decision-making process works in Putin's fourth term and what ideas and assessments drove it to decide to use military force in Ukraine but somehow call it not a war. It then explains how the Russian military trained in recent years, what it expected in early 2022, and how it found itself in a war they had not adequately planned for and now cannot win. Lastly, it will offer some appraisal of how Russian military analysis failed to correctly anticipate that the Russia would fail in its task to militarily subdue Ukraine.

Bio:

Nicholas J. Myers is a postdoctoral fellow in the Strategy and Policy Department of the U.S. Naval War College. He received his Ph.D. and master's degrees from the University of Glasgow, where he researched the intersection of Russian foreign and military policies and war studies respectively. He received a B.S.F.S from Georgetown University. He designed and oversaw the execution of wargames on NATO's eastern flank and the Indo-Pacific for the Potomac Foundation and continues to develop wargames with the Glasgow Wargaming Initiative. He serves as a senior fellow for the Strategy and Future think tank in Warsaw on the security dynamics of Central Europe.