**THE COMMAND AND STAFF SCHOOL**
**DEFENCE & STRATEGIC STUDIES MODULE**
**SRD 02 – STRATEGIC CULTURE**

1. **Subject:** SRD Strategic Culture

2. **Programmed for:** SRD 0930hrs Wednesday 01 Oct at MU.

3. **Aim:** To give course members an understanding of the concept of 'Strategic Culture' and to explore the degree to which the concept may be useful in explaining strategic behaviour in the real world.

4. **Study assignment:** All course members will read the following paper (link):

   - Patrick Hinton (2020) Strategic Culture, The RUSI Journal, 165:4, 80-87, DOI: 10.1080/03071847.2020.1816736
   - RAND Report – Understanding Russian Strategic Culture & Low Yield Nuclear Threat


5. **Further reading** – for reference and follow up for essays if desired:

   - Prof Dmitry Adamsky, 'The Russian way of deterrence: strategic culture, coercion and war' recorded lecture January 2024.

   - Jack L Snyder, 'The Soviet Strategic Culture: Implications for Limited Nuclear Options', R-2154-AF, RAND Corporation, September 1977.

   - Colin S Gray, 'Strategic Culture as Context: The First Generation of Theory Strikes Back', Review of International Studies (Vol. 21, No. 1, 1999).

   - Alastair Iain Johnston, 'Thinking About Strategic Culture', International Security (Vol. 19, No. 4, 1995), pp. 32–64.

   - Edward Lock, 'Refining Strategic Culture: Return of the Second Generation', Review of International Studies (Vol. 36, No. 3, 2010).

   - Denys Yurchenko, Russian Strategic and the War in Ukraine, (Foreign Policy Institute, July 2024)


6. **Questions:** for the Syndicate leader to consider, to help guide the discussion:

   - To what extent is Strategic Culture useful in explaining strategic behaviour in the real world?

   - What are the strengths and limitations of the concept of 'Strategic Culture'

   - Does an understanding of Russian 'Strategic Culture' provide a useful tool to help us understand decision making in Moscow?

7. **Syndicate Leaders**

   Syndicate 1: Comdt O'Reilly
   Syndicate 2: Comdt McIntyre


8. **Point of Contact:** Comdt Simon Keenan