We Have Been Attacked

by Phil Rasmussen

According to the NATO treaty, to which the US belongs, Article 5 states that if any NATO signatory country is attacked that all countries within NATO will collectively come to the defense of the one attacked. (https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_110496.htm)

Biden, the Secretary of Defense, and members of NATO have ALL stated that Article 5 is essentially a "call to arms." And yet, the NATO countries are essentially sitting on their butts out of fear that Putin will use nuclear, chemical, and/or biological weapons with regard to Ukraine.

However all of the NATO countries have stated that "if a Russian weapon lands in a NATO country," that such an event may trigger Article 5. Such statements are, IMHO, nothing but verbal diarrhea. To understand this opinion we need to look at what constitutes war.

Regardless of reason, Putin's buildup of Russian military forces along Ukraine's border did not constitute war. All the buildup did was to threaten and intimidate. It wasn't until the first Russian weapon crossed Ukraine's border that war began. It is very important to note that whatever the weapon is, if it is intentionally released to enter another country's air space or land that war has been declared. It does not matter if that weapon is a missile, tank, or truck with soldiers in it, the intent, followed by action is what counts.

Historically we know that weapons of war included traditional, physical weapons such as rifles, grenades, artillery, mortars, tanks, armored vehicles, aircraft, and missiles. We also know that non-physical weapons such as chemical and biological weapons have been and are also parts of the arsenals of war.

Since the beginning of time, economic sanctions have also been used as weapons of war. Sieges in ancient times were used to deny food and water. Currently other aspects of a country's economy are used to lay siege to that country.

However, of great importance, Putin has overtly "legitimized" using a new weapon of war for the first time – cyberwarfare. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Russia has been using cyberwarfare to dismantle Ukraine's digital infrastructure. The digital infrastructure of any country involves all that country's industry and communications capability.

In early March, the NY Post stated that "Russia appears to have officially declared cyberwar on the US..." There is concrete evidence that Russia has been attacking US and NATO countries' digital infrastructure since 2007. And yet, the US and NATO have not fully recognized this as a "new face of war"

(<u>https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/nato-cyberwar-russia-and-must-expand-article-5-include-cyberwarfare-or-risk-losing-and</u>).

We can arguably state that no one wants war but if we are to remain free, maintain our freedom and rights, we MUST fight against tyrants such as Putin. The free world must get into his face and back him down. We must do this now, otherwise, like Hitler, Putin will be emboldened to continue his campaign to swallow up free democratic states.

The US and NATO must get off their butts and realize that we are already at war with Russia. And it is not just Russia but also China, Iran, and North Korea.

Is Your Freedom Worth Fighting For?