



## **DRAFT - Updated 13 Nov 2019**

The MSC proceedings are intended to foster dialogue addressing maritime affairs in the Pacific region and around the world. What follows is a description of the topics to be discussed, along with short thematic descriptions designed to spur discussion amongst our panelists and delegates.

*The sea has long been the basis of prosperity and security. A stable and secure ocean commons has been the foundation of the massive expansion of trade, communications, and wealth across the world. This expansion has seen a significant accumulation of seapower in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, a progression that has been accompanied by new challenges brought about by strategic, political, environmental, and technological change. Change is expected, but not predictable. It is therefore critical for lawmakers, naval planners, academics, and industry operators to reflect on the past, assess the present, and think critically about the future in terms of the evolution and application of seapower. Are maritime stakeholders prepared to anticipate, adapt and respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by an increasingly dynamic maritime environment?*

### **MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER (ARRIVALS AND INTRODUCTIONS)**

#### **All day - Conference Delegates Arrive in Victoria**

- See Joining Instructions for conference registration desk timings

### **TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER (PROCEEDINGS, DAY 1)**

#### **0800 – 1500 - Royal Canadian Navy Familiarization Event** – Daysail on board RCN *Halifax*-class frigate

- Meet outside conference hotel for bus transport to Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt
- Special MSC speaker sessions to be held on board frigate

#### **1830 – 2030 - Welcome Reception** – Government House of British Columbia

- Meet outside conference hotel for bus transport to Government House

### **WEDNESDAY, 21 OCTOBER (PROCEEDINGS, DAY 2)**

#### **0715 – 0755 - Continental Breakfast** – Fairmont Empress Hotel

#### **0800 – 0805 – Opening Remarks**

- Navy League of Canada

#### **0805 – 0835 - Keynote Address**

- Vice-Admiral Art McDonald, Commander Royal Canadian Navy (invited)

#### **0835 – 1035 - PANEL - Challenges to the Strategic Commons**

- State of Rules and Norms
- The Challenge of Climate Change
- Trade Tensions and Global Decoupling: Strategic and Maritime Considerations

*The relative stability of the post-Cold War era has given way to increased strategic competition and global uncertainty. The legal and normative regimes that were once foundations of global stability are now seen by some as unfair checks on national ambitions, while further collective actions to forestall catastrophe – both between states, and between humans and our increasingly fragile natural environment – are threatened and undermined by similar impulses. How do these trends impact the maritime commons and its need for collaborative solutions, and how can we envision a cooperative future amidst growing mistrust? Will globalism give way to factionalism and nationalism, and how would a more divided international community deal with issues of worldwide significance?*

#### **1035 – 1105 - COFFEE BREAK**

**WEDNESDAY, 21 OCTOBER (PROCEEDINGS, DAY 1) CONTINUED**

**1105 – 1235 - PANEL - Great Power Competition and the Spaces Between**

- Prospects and Implications of Sino-Russian Cooperation
- Future Paths in US Indo-Asia-Pacific Diplomacy
- The Role of Middle Powers

*Perceptions of power dominate international politics, and the 21<sup>st</sup> century has featured intense scrutiny of these global balances. The United States – as the lone superpower for much of the modern era – is faced with intensifying challenges to its strategic, economic, and political dominance. Growing cooperation between nations opposed to Washington’s global leadership could accelerate these trends, while the United States itself wrestles with how to adapt to its changing role in the world. Can Beijing and Moscow work together to offer a counterweight to US influence? Meanwhile, how can the “middle powers” navigate the emerging multipolar order while pursuing and securing their own interests?*

**1245 – 1405 - Lunch at the Union Club of British Columbia**

**Luncheon Address: TBA**

**1415 – 1455 - PRESENTATION – What If?: Envisioning Probable Confrontation Escalation**

**1500 – 1700 – PANEL – New Old Theatres: Renewed Strategic Focus on the Pacific Islands**

- The Pacific Islands in National Maritime Strategies
- The Pursuit of Political Influence
- A Regional perspective on Geopolitics in the Pacific Islands

*A new theatre for Great Power competition is re-emerging in the Pacific Islands. Once the scene of the largest naval conflict in human history, competing nations are placing renewed emphasis on the political, geographic, and natural resource advantages of the vast Pacific archipelagos. This growing strategic interest is also prompting the re-evaluation of operations for regional maritime forces, including in terms of patrol, logistics, and amphibious capabilities. What is driving this interest, and how might these islands and nations feature in future maritime considerations? How do islanders view these developments, and how can they ensure that their sovereignty is protected?*

**1540 – 1610 - COFFEE BREAK**

**1800 – 2100 - Conference Banquet Dinner at the Union Club of British Columbia**

**Banquet Address**

- Comd INDOPACOM/US 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet (TBI)

**THURSDAY, 22 OCTOBER (PROCEEDINGS, DAY 3)**

**0715 – 0755 - Continental Breakfast – Fairmont Empress Hotel**

**0800 – 0900 - PRESENTATION – Maritime Cooperation in Critical Areas**

**0905 – 1035 - PANEL - Innovation and Meeting the Maritime Challenge**

- “Right-sizing” Navies: Determining and Meeting Maritime Requirements
- Automation: Pluses and Pitfalls
- What Can AI Do For You?

*As the list of national tasks given to maritime services expands, ironically, the means to accomplish them is shrinking. Warships and personnel costs are not getting cheaper, and innovative solutions are required to meet ongoing and new challenges. Planning future fleets to address future challenges is a task laden with both risk and opportunity; while untested concepts could prove ineffective, they also provide an opportunity to reassess established practices. To that end, how do modern navies approach the opportunities for change presented by large-scale recapitalization projects? What technologies – like artificial intelligence or increased automation – may inform these decisions or otherwise impact how established capabilities might be employed in the maritime realm?*

#### **1035 – 1105 - COFFEE BREAK**

#### **1105 – 1235 - PANEL - Where Do We Go? Past Predictions, Future Trajectories**

- The Growth of Submarine Fleets in the Indo-Asia-Pacific
- Aircraft Carrier Programs in the Indo-Asia-Pacific
- Professionals Talk Logistics: Support Ships in the Indo-Asia-Pacific

*We cannot escape the cliché of discussing hindsight in the year 2020. But re-examining past predictions for the course of world events can yield valuable and unexpected insights. Of particular interest is the ways in which global navies have met expectations in the intervening years, including in terms of developing critical combat and support capabilities. How have navies approached the development of these platforms and skillsets, and how might these proficiencies – or deficiencies – impact future operations?*

#### **1245 – 1405 - Lunch at the Union Club of British Columbia**

**Luncheon Address: TBA**

#### **1415 – 1455 - Presentation: The Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ship: New Platform, New Operations**

- Royal Canadian Navy representative TBI

*The Harry DeWolf-class Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ship will expand the Royal Canadian Navy's ability to operate in the high Arctic. The ships represent the introduction of a new capability, as well as a new set of ideas about how to operate in this challenging region. How will the RCN integrate these vessels and address the challenges of operating this new capability, and how will these ships help to expand RCN operations elsewhere?*

#### **1500 – 1700 - ROUNDTABLE - The Future of Pacific Seapower**

- An interactive roundtable featuring MSC20 participants
- **Moderator:** Dr. James Boutilier, Special Advisor (ret), Maritime Forces Pacific, Royal Canadian Navy

#### **1540 – 1610 - COFFEE BREAK**

#### **1700 – 1715 - Closing Remarks**

- Dr. James Boutilier, Special Advisor (ret), Maritime Forces Pacific, Royal Canadian Navy

**– ADJOURN –**