

MARITIME SECURITY CHALLENGES



Pacific Seapower: Strategic Competition in the Indo-Asia-Pacific

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Hosted by the Navy League of Canada
in association with The Royal Canadian Navy
and the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center
for Security Studies



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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?

SUNDAY, 13 NOVEMBER (ARRIVALS AND INTRODUCTIONS)

All day - Conference Delegates Arrive in Victoria

- See Joining Instructions for conference registration desk timings

MONDAY, 14 NOVEMBER (PROCEEDINGS, DAY 1)

0800 – 1500 - Royal Canadian Navy Familiarization Event – Daysail on RCN vessel (pending ship availability)

- Meet outside conference hotel for bus transport to Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt

1830 – 2030 - Welcome Reception

- Meet outside conference hotel for bus transport to Government House, the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER (PROCEEDINGS, DAY 2)

0715 – 0755 - Continental Breakfast – Fairmont Empress Hotel

0800 – 0805 – Opening Remarks

- Representative, Navy League of Canada

0805 – 0835 - Keynote Address

- Vice-Admiral Angus TOPSHEE, Commander Royal Canadian Navy

0835 – 1035 - PANEL - Challenges to the Strategic Commons

- **State of Rules and Norms** - Dr. NGUYEN Hung Son, Director, Center for East Sea / South China Sea Studies, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

- **The Challenge of Climate Change** – Rear Admiral (USN ret) David TITLEY

- **Trade Tensions and Global Decoupling: Strategic and Maritime Considerations** – Speaker TBC

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



TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER (PROCEEDINGS, DAY 2) CONTINUED

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

- Prospects and Implications of Sino-Russian Cooperation - Dr. Michael PETERSEN, US Naval War College
- Future Paths in US Indo-Asia-Pacific Diplomacy - Speaker TBD
- The Role of Middle Powers - Commodore Peter LEAVY, Commandant, Australian Defence Force Academy

Perceptions of power dominate international politics, and the 21st 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: State of Affairs in the South China Sea

- Mr. Greg POLING, Director, Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, Center for Strategic and International Studies (TBC)

1415 – 1615 – PANEL – New Old Theatres: Renewed Strategic Focus on the Pacific Islands

- The Pacific Islands in National Maritime Strategies - Rear Admiral David PROCTOR, Chief of Navy, Royal New Zealand Navy (TBC)
- The Pursuit of Political Influence - Dr. Tarcisius KABUTAULAKA, Associate Professor, University of Hawaii Manoa (TBC)
- A Regional perspective on Geopolitics in the Pacific Islands - Ms. Darshana BARUAH, Associate Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

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

- Admiral Sir Ben KEY, First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, United Kingdom (TBC)

WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER (PROCEEDINGS, DAY 3)

0715 – 0755 - Continental Breakfast – Fairmont Empress Hotel

0800 – 0900 - PRESENTATION – Geopolitics, Security, and the Shipping Industry

- Dr. Sal MERCOGLIANO, Associate Professor of History, Campbell University



WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER (PROCEEDINGS, DAY 3) CONTINUED

0905 – 1035 - PANEL - Innovation to Meet Maritime Challenges

- **The Return of Marine Mines** - Mr. Tim CHOI, PhD Candidate, University of Calgary
- **What Can AI Do for You?** – Capt (USN ret) George GALDORISI, US Naval Information Warfare Command
- **Autonomous Systems and Future Naval Operations** – Speaker TBC

Navies have always been reliant on complex technologies. Innovation and the ability to integrate new technologies effectively can provide a tactical or strategic edge, and increase the efficiency of platforms, logistics, and support infrastructure. How have navies approached the development of new systems and skillsets, and how might these proficiencies – or deficiencies – impact future operations? What technologies – like artificial intelligence or automation – might impact, complement, or outright replace established capabilities, and how might they be employed in the maritime realm?

1035 – 1105 - COFFEE BREAK

1105 – 1235 - PANEL - Building the Fleets of Tomorrow

- **Canada's Shipbuilding Campaign** - Dr. David Perry, Vice President and Senior Analyst, Canadian Global Affairs Institute
- **The Growth of Submarine Fleets in the Indo-Asia-Pacific** Dr. Collin KOH Swee Lean, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (TBC)
- **Naval Shipbuilding in Northeast Asia** – Speaker TBC

As the list of national tasks given to maritime services expands, the fleets built to address them are 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?

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

Luncheon Address: Indo-Pacific Fisheries and Interstate Tensions

- **Dr. Daniel PAULY**, Sea Around Us, Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries & Department of Zoology
University of British Columbia

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

- Cdr Cory Gleason, Commander HMCS *Harry DeWolf*, Royal Canadian Navy (TBC)

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 MSC22 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

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