

FOREWORD

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The Centre for Foreign Policy Studies at Dalhousie University and the Canadian Forces Maritime Warfare Centre, Halifax, hosted the 2002 Sea Power Conference on “Intervention and Engagement: A Maritime Perspective” from 7-9 June 2002. From a maritime perspective, the issues of expeditionary operations, military intervention and engagement are all clear demonstrations of the inherent attributes of maritime forces (including maritime air)—from mobility and flexibility on the one hand to their utility as agents to further international cooperation on the other.

The aims of the conference were to gain an appreciation for the evolving nature of the maritime dimensions of expeditionary operations, military intervention and engagement, and to examine the implications to Canada, particularly in view of the imperatives of homeland security and the defence of North America. This latter issue is pertinent to the defence community as the Department of National Defence works towards determining its strategy, doctrine, capabilities and force structure for the future, as evidenced by such documents as *Shaping the Future of Canadian Defence: A Strategy for 2020* and *Leadmark: The Navy’s Strategy for 2020*.

To achieve the aims of the conference, a number of objectives were identified. Overall, very good progress was made towards achieving the objectives which were to gain an understanding of:

- the conceptual basis and political, legal, and moral dimensions of expeditionary operations and intervention;
- various perspectives on expeditionary operations and intervention (international, regional and national);
- the rationale for intervention;
- the constraints against intervention;
- the Canadian political, military-strategic and operational dimensions of expeditionary operations and intervention;
- the Canadian strategic and operational approach to joint/combined

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- operations;
- expeditionary operations and intervention within the context of the overriding imperatives for homeland security and the defence of North America;
- the implications of interoperability/integration with other naval forces, especially with the US Navy;
- the maritime strategy, doctrine, capabilities and force structure Canada requires to conduct expeditionary operations within the context of the military-diplomatic-constabulary triangle of roles for the Canadian Navy as a medium-power navy. (See *Leadmark: The Navy's Strategy for 2020*, p. 99.);
- maritime engagement as a means of developing international cooperation;
- maritime engagement as an instrument of Canadian foreign and security policy, and within the context of the military-diplomatic-constabulary triangle of roles for the Canadian Navy as a medium-power navy; and
- maritime engagement as an integral element of homeland security in a globalized world.

The 2002 conference brought together academics, policy-makers, military and naval personnel (serving and retired), and students to examine the issues of expeditionary operations, military intervention and engagement from a range of perspectives—from the conceptual and political levels, to the military-strategic and operational level. Throughout the conference, these security issues were juxtaposed against the imperatives of ‘homeland security’ which were brought home in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks on the United States. This latter issue will be the focus for next year’s conference (20-22 June 2003), which will be focussed on “Continental Security and Canada-US Relations: Maritime Perspectives, Challenges and Opportunities”.

There were a total of 132 conference participants, which included Senator Michael Forrestall (Vice-Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence) and Senator Joseph Day (Member of the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence), as well as the 12 middle management participants from the International Ocean’s Institute summer program on “Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management” who attended the afternoon sessions on 8 June. In all, 17 countries, including Canada, were represented.

The conference was a success from many vantage points. It covered a wide range of topical issues that pertain to maritime intervention and

engagement, with the presentations leading to much discussion. Overall, the participants were overwhelming in their praise for both the substance and quality of the presentations and discussion, as well as for the administration. Although there was considerable progress towards achieving the very ambitious aims and objectives of the conference, perhaps the real value lay in the discussions, both in plenary and in the corridors. Aside from the value to the participants, this record of conference proceedings will add to the general body of knowledge on intervention and engagement, both from a general security perspective and from a maritime perspective.

It was heartening to see from the presentations and discussions that although there are many significant challenges facing the Department of National Defence, both the department and the Canadian Forces are making concerted efforts to understand the future, and to work together—from the policy side to the three services—to develop the best defence capabilities for use by the Canadian government. For Canada's navy, in particular, the conference validated much that is in *Leadmark* which was published in June 2001.

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