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WEIGHING THE OPTIONS: CASE STUDIES IN NAVAL INTEROPERABILITY AND CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

AN EMPIRICAL STUDY INTO THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF INTEROPERABILITY FROM THE MARITIME PERSPECTIVE

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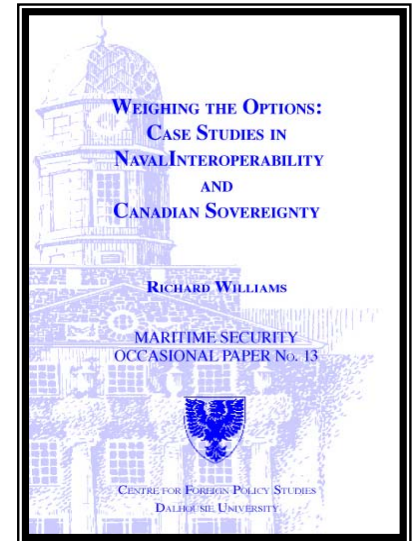
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In the wake of the recent American-led campaign in Iraq, old questions about Canada's military relationship with the United States have taken on a new relevance, or to be more accurate, a new visibility. Now, as security questions once again dominate foreign policy debates in North America, there is a renewed focus on the age-old dilemma of Canada-U.S. defence relations: how to satisfy American security concerns while retaining an independent voice in world affairs. *Weighing the Options: Case Studies in Naval Interoperability and Canadian Sovereignty* addresses this sensitive issue through the maritime perspective in a rigorously empirical style, challenging critics on what has come to be accepted as conventional wisdom.

Focussing on recent events, particularly the terrorist attacks of September 11th 2001 and the ensuing reorganization of the American defence establishment, *Weighing the Options: Case Studies in Naval Interoperability and Canadian Sovereignty* draws attention to the newest entry in the North American security lexicon: *interoperability*. Largely because of its ambiguous meaning and ill-defined connection to larger questions of military integration and defence policy, the Canadian Force's pursuit of interoperability with the U.S. military has consistently come under fire as yet another threat to the touchstone of Canadian sovereignty. Challenging the emotionalised and rhetorical assertions made by critics and political pundits alike, Williams addresses each of the charges against interoperability empirically, and persuasively shows them to have very little foundation in fact. This study provides much needed objectivity on this most important issue, and through the use of detailed case studies in maritime operations, demonstrates that engagement and interoperability represent a Canadian strength.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Mr. Richard L. Williams was born in Ft. McMurray, Alberta in 1979 and moved with his family to Saudi Arabia three months later. He quickly gained worldly experience living for the next fifteen years in the Middle East before returning to Canada to attend school on Vancouver Island. After graduating with his B.A. in international relations from Mt. Allison University, Richard moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia to complete a Master's degree in Political Science, again specialising in international affairs. This monograph is a revised version of Richard's M.A. thesis which won him such distinction and the first CFPS honorarium for best thesis and contribution to defence studies.



TO ORDER, CONTACT:

Centre for Foreign Policy Studies
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3H 2V3
Phone – (902) 494-3769
centre@dal.ca

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