



## **THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STRATEGIC THEORY**

# **A VIEW ON GOOD ORDER AT SEA: SOUTH AFRICAN NAVY**



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**19 September 2013**



## **SCOPE**

- **An UNCLOS Introduction**
- **Theoretical / Strategic Considerations**
- **Practical Considerations**



But first ...





## **AN UNCLOS INTRODUCTION**

**“Recognising the desirability of establishing through this Convention ...a legal order for the seas and oceans which will facilitate international communication, and will promote the peaceful uses of the seas and oceans, ... the study, protection and preservation of the marine environment.**

...

**Believing that the codification and progressive development of the law of the seas achieved in this Convention will contribute to the strengthening of peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations ...”**

***(Preamble to UNCLOS, 1982)***





## **THEORETICAL / STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS**

- **Strategic theory / issues – fairly constant, timeless, irrespective of cultural or geo-political differences**
- **The oceans – “the great highway” (Mahan)**
- **The sea has always been, will always be, the great equaliser, unforgiving, to be treated with the utmost respect – deceptively simple environment**
- **Indian Ocean – playing a central role in the future of 21<sup>st</sup> Century balance-of-power theories (Kaplan) – inter-connectivity of the sea / East African coast**
- **Lessons of history – “those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it” (Santayana) – Barbary Coast and Somalia**





## **THEORETICAL / STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS (cont)**

- **Concept of “good order at sea” – definition?**
- **Three important multilateral African forums where maritime security and associated challenges for the region, continent discussed**
  - *Standing Maritime Committee of SADC (1995 onwards)*
  - *Sea Power for Africa Symposium (2005 onwards)*
  - *Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (2008 onwards)*



## **PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- Firstly, **education** – of utmost importance – of the sea, of maritime policies, of conventions, of legalities – for all participants, at all levels – possibly time to consider compulsory courses in maritime education?
- Secondly, **levels of interoperability** – one of the great strengths in deploying naval assets is the relative ease of navies to do this – important policy signals of international co-operation, good intent and trust
- Thirdly, **sustained presence at sea** – form of “sea denial” to criminals – concept of “thousand-ship navy” (Adm Mike Mullen)



**To be continued ...**











**20 August 2013, off Richards Bay, South Africa**

