



Historical Perspectives on International Cooperation at Sea

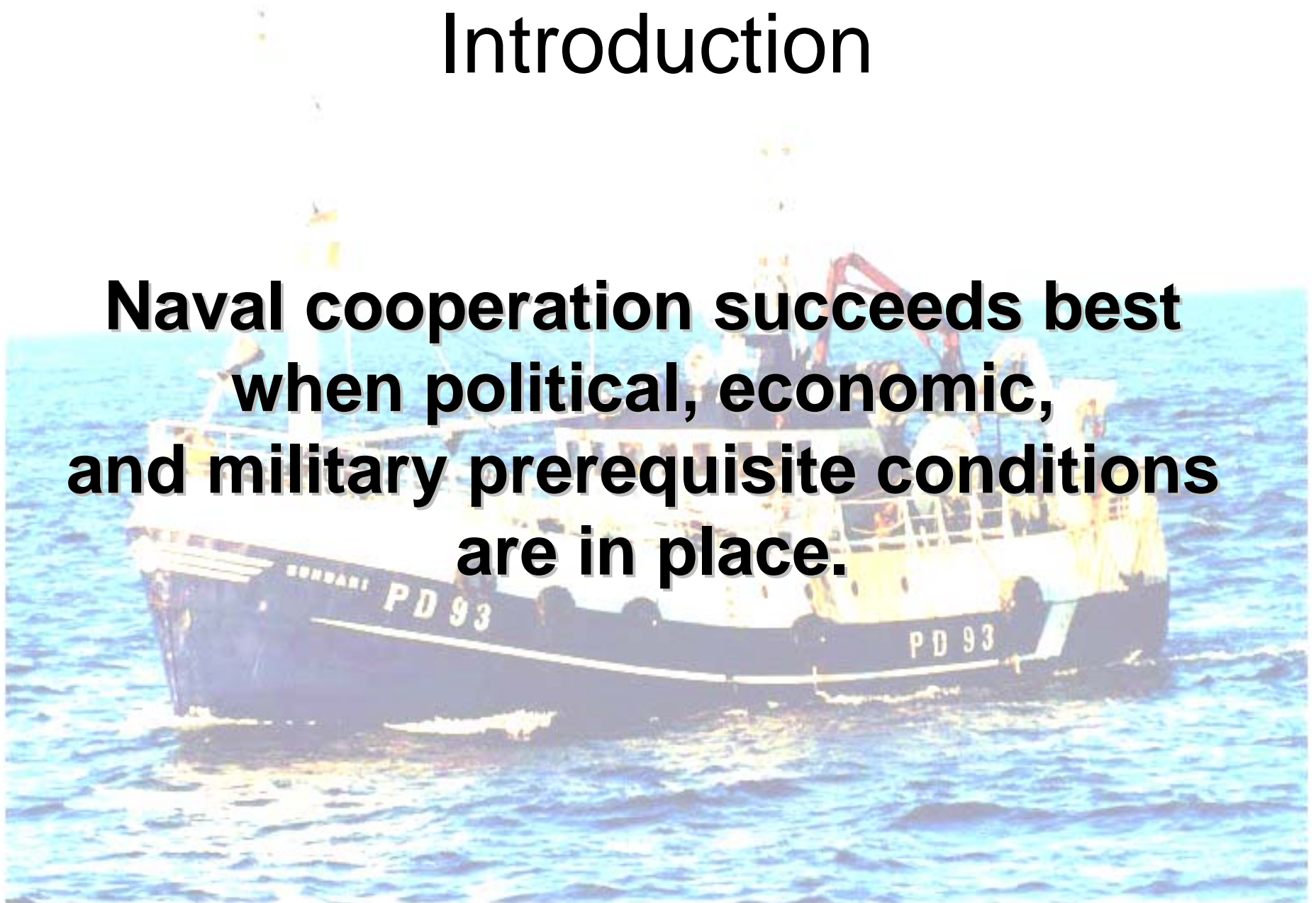
**International Maritime Security
Symposium**

September 12, 2006

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Introduction

Naval cooperation succeeds best when political, economic, and military prerequisite conditions are in place.



Europe, America, and the Barbary Pirates, 1786-1801

Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli employed piracy and slavery to obtain tribute from nations trading in the Mediterranean.

By the late 18th century, most European powers had bilateral tribute agreements with each Barbary state.

Thomas Jefferson, opposed to the paying of tribute, tried to organize international naval cooperation to suppress the piracy.

The concept failed, because of the prevailing theory of mercantilism, the conflict between Britain and France, diplomatic bilateralism, and the disparity between American and European perspectives on the threat.



The Spanish Civil War

1936-39

- European nations attempted to cooperate in the suppression of attacks on merchant shipping by both Nationalists and Republicans with limited success.
- German and Italian support of the Nationalists, along with Soviet support of the Republicans, severely disrupted efforts at cooperation.
- In the end, the burden of protecting merchant shipping fell to the British and French with some assistance from the Italians.
- What success the Europeans enjoyed in protecting shipping came less from cooperation and more from the bilateral commitments of the British and French, along with the aggression of both the fascist and Soviet powers against their Spanish adversaries.

WWII in the Pacific

- **The British Pacific Fleet, fighting as a component of the US Third and Fifth Fleets, faced serious challenges.**
 - Ships designed for relatively confined waters around England.
 - Fleet was not accustomed to the staggering distances involved in Pacific operations; not trained or equipped for resupply at sea.
- **However, the Royal Navy's carriers, designed to withstand land bombardment from German aircraft, were much more durable than their American counterparts, especially against kamikaze attacks during the Okinawa campaign.**
- **Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser adopted American codes and accepted liaison teams on each ship to facilitate interoperability.**
- **The British contribution had great diplomatic and political import both during and after the war.**



History

BLACKSEAFOR

- Signed in 2001, Blackseafor member states include Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, and Georgia.
- The goal of Blackseafor is to create a multinational task group that cooperates to provide search and rescue, cleaning mines, protecting the environment, and promoting good will among member states.
- “Only in the last decade of the twentieth century however, when the atmosphere of the cold war, suspicion and mistrust has receded, have the countries of the Black Sea area been able to undertake bold steps in that direction. They could come together and decide how, in the age of the globalization of economies, valuable assets in their possession, such as geographical proximity, common history, cultural bonds and the interdependence of their national economies could be efficiently employed for mutual benefit and prosperity.”
- Weaknesses include the temporary nature and small scale of committed forces and a bureaucratic and slow decision-making apparatus.
- Latest exercise, August, 2006, led by Russia and included counter-terrorism tasks.



Operation Active Endeavor

- Initiated in October, 2001 under the command of NAVSOUTH in Naples, OAE is designed to counter terrorism in the Mediterranean.



- OAE employs rotation of NATO's Standing Naval Forces for prolonged operations.
- In five years, OAE has achieved vastly improved maritime domain awareness and demonstrated the resolve and capability of NATO.
- OAE's success derives from the hard work and dedication of its members, as well as from the political, economic, and military factors that framed the agreement.

Military Challenges

- Command and control organization is usually the central issue
 - Depends on training and technology
 - Can intrude on national sovereignty
 - Requires cultural sensitivity, patience, and flexibility
- Resources
 - High-tech navies are generally small and often under-funded
 - High-tech navies optimize to fight other high-tech navies or support conventional joint warfare in the littorals, vice patrolling SLOCs
 - Lack of adequate resources manifests in few ships, sub-standard maintenance, and/or reduced operations

Conclusion

- Naval cooperation succeeds best when political, economic, and military prerequisite conditions are in place.
 - Political prerequisites
 - Peaceful competition or cooperation among member states
 - Common perspectives on the common threat (note: common threat not sufficient)
 - Legal framework of multilateral agreements, courts
 - Economic prerequisites
 - Common perspective on economic theory; must transcend zero-sum game
 - Common belief that all gain from cooperation, in both absolute and relative terms
 - Sufficient resources
 - Military prerequisites
 - Interoperability + integration where interoperability is not feasible
 - Intelligence sharing
 - Command and control organization