



**CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
FOR
OPERATIONS IN CONFINED AND SHALLOW WATERS
DIRECTOR
STOCKTON CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW
CHAIR
UNIVERSITY OF BASEL, FACULTY OF LAW
PROFESSOR**

COE CSW: Schweriner Straße 31, D 24106 Kiel, Germany
Phone: +49 431 71745 1000, FAX: +49 431 71745 6099
E-Mail: legalconference@coecsw.org, website: www.coecsw.org



Our Ref.: NU/CSW/2300/LEGAD/22MAY2023
TO: See Distribution
SUBJECT: **Conference on Operational Maritime Law 2023**
DATE: 30 MAY 2023
ENCLOSURE: Conference Agenda (Draft)

1. **Introduction:** We hope you can join us for the 9th Annual Conference on Operational Maritime Law (COML). Following the success of our previous conferences, the Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters - in co-sponsorship with the Stockton Center for International Law at the U.S. Naval War College, the University of Basel, and in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Navy and the Office of the Judge Advocate General, Canada - is delighted to gather **military operators, legal experts, members of civil society, and scholars** together in **Victoria, BC, Canada** from **11-14 September 2023**.

2. **Conference Theme:** “From Interest to Aggression. From Aggression to Armed Conflict”

3. **Aim:** The Conference on Operational Maritime Law 2023 is designed to facilitate an exchange of knowledge and experiences between naval practitioners and legal experts, to enhance the efficacy of military operations at sea. Through lively discussion and hands-on training, we will examine relevant legal challenges facing the maritime law community and navies across multiple topic areas. This year we have increased our Conference Training Program to provide additional learning opportunities for legal advisors and operators to improve their competence through numerous tabletop exercises, case studies, and fictional vignettes.

The Conference follows a typical Track-2 level. The Chatham House Rule will apply.

4. **Schedule:** The conference will last from Monday, 11th September 2023, through Thursday, 14th September 2023 (late afternoon closing).

5. **Location:** Victoria, BC, Canada, Chief Petty Officers Mess, 1575 Lyall St.

6. **Participation:** We address legal experts and operators from all services of NATO Members and Partner Nations, EU, and Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) states. We also welcome academic, international organisations, industry, and NGO attendees. You are encouraged to pass this invitation on to anyone who may have an interest in attending.

7. **Topics:**

a. Presentations and discussions will include the following topics:

- **The Arctic - Lawfare and Political Influence of World Powers**
- **Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Challenges**
- **The Newport Manual on the Law of Naval Warfare**
- **Two Capstone Trainings:
What-if Cases on Taiwan
Fictional Scenarios (Vignettes)**
- **Seafarers and Merchant Shipping in Times of Crisis and Conflict**

b. Please see included attachments for a detailed day-by-day breakdown of the agenda.

8. **Accommodation, Transportation, and Expenses:**

a. The conference fee is 150 CAN\$. The fee includes coffee and business lunches during the conference (TUE-THU). The conference fee has to be payed cash (in CAN\$) during in-processing on the first day of the conference.
There are no more additional costs for the participants by attending the side-events.

b. Hotels and Accommodation

The conference venue is located on a CAN military facility outside the city centre. A daily shuttle bus will pick up/ drop off participants in front of the **Hotel Grand Pacific**. It is recommended to book this hotel. Military accommodations are available on a limited, first-come, first-served basis. If you are interested in reserving one of these rooms at a subsidized rate, please get in touch with the event manager (listed below).

Local hotels include:

- (1) Hotel Grand Pacific; 463 Belleville St, Victoria
Use the code "SEP23CONF" when booking before 11 August 2023 to receive a special nightly rate.
- (2) Victoria Marriott Inner Harbour; 728 Humboldt St, Victoria
- (3) Days Inn by Wyndham Victoria On The Harbour, 427 Belleville Street, Victoria

c. Transportation to and from scheduled social events will be provided from the recommended hotel (1). The departure times will be mentioned in the agenda.

9. **Visa:** Participants from countries that require a visa to enter Canada must take the appropriate action to obtain an entry visa through their national channels. Military personnel may be required to process an official "Request for Visit" through their national channels. For civilians, the respective national immigration requirements apply.

10. **Classification:** Unclassified, Releasable to Public.

11. **Registration:** All participants are requested to submit their registration application no later than **20 August 2023**. It is recommended to begin the online registration process as soon as possible by requesting your login at the event page on our website using the following direct link: <https://www.coecsw.org/our-events/com123/>. Please have a scanned copy of your passport or military ID ready to upload for your registration.

12. **Dress Code:**

- a. Icebreaker: Smart Casual (no jeans, no tie)
- b. Conference: **MIL-** Daily Working Uniform (office), **CIV-** Business Attire
- c. BBQ: Smart Casual (no jeans, no tie)

13. **Points of Contact: For additional information or clarification, please contact:**

Content:

Dr. Jörg Schildknecht, DEU N CIV (A-5)
COE CSW Legal Advisor
Com: +49 431 71745 6400/ 6401
Email NATO UNCLAS: legalconference@coecsw.org

Organisation:

CDR (OF-4) DEU N Dietmar Kober
COE CSW Event Manager
Com +49 431 71745 6302
Email NATO UNCLAS: legalconference@coecsw.org

Financial Administration:

Ms Jana Reimer, DEU N CIV (A-2)
COE CSW Financial Control
Com: +49 431 71745 6501
Email NATO UNCLAS: j.reimer@coecsw.org

Travel:

Mr. Robert Korittke, DEU N CIV (B-5)
COE CSW Financial Control
Com: +49 431 71745 6511
Email NATO UNCLAS: r.korittke@coecsw.org

We thank you in advance for your interest in and support of this event. We look forward to welcoming you in Victoria!



Sascha Helge RACKWITZ
Rear Admiral, DEU NAVY

Director



James KRASKA
Professor, Stockton Center for International
Law
Chair



Anna Petrig
Professor
University of Basel, Faculty of Law
Basel, Switzerland

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ENCLOSURE: 1. Draft Conference Agenda

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