

**Kiel International Seapower Symposium 2023**  
**The German Navy, its allies & the *Zeitenwende* in international affairs**

**Thursday, 15 June 2023, 08:00-18:00**

*Agenda, 12 June 2023*

The **Kiel International Seapower Symposium** returns, and this year's iteration (**KISS23**) coincides with the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of German navies! On 14 June 1848, the Frankfurt Parliament laid the foundation for the first democratically organized (although short-lived) German fleet centered on two key objectives: national defense and the security of maritime trade. In the 2020s, these naval missions remain core tasks for the *Deutsche Marine*, its allies and partners. As a European power with a medium-sized navy, Germany is emblematic of some of the ongoing fundamental changes in global naval affairs. These include navigating the nexus between high-end and low-intensity missions, shrinking fleets and force modernization, a diffuse and increasingly violent multipolar world, and serving as a bridging function between smaller and larger navies. Leveraging Cold War and post-Cold War experiences, finding the delicate balance between ambitions and economics, and implementing power in alliances are additional issues to consider.

As though these international responsibilities were not already heavy enough to bear, Germany also needs to contend, simultaneously, with two more immediate national concerns: The ongoing Foreign Office effort to draw up a National Security Strategy worthy of its name, the 'Zeitenwende' – or sea change – announced in February 2022 in the wake of Russia's all-out war against Ukraine and European security order; and, a significant force regeneration effort through the 2020s.

At KISS23, we will address some of these challenges using the traditional format of a one-day summit of experts from academia, policy, the military, and NGOs. The event, built around ISP K's ongoing research on NATO maritime strategies and naval operations, offers academic perspectives, military expertise and your chance to be part of Europe's dedicated seapower forum.

Welcome to Kiel, welcome to #KISS23!

**Thursday, 15 June 2023, 08:00-18:00**

“Romantik Hotel Kieler Kaufmann”, Niemannsweg 102, D-24105 Kiel, Germany

Uniform of the Day/Business Attire

**Registration** **08:00 – 09:00**

**Opening Remarks & Welcome** **09:00 – 09:15**

**Thomas Birringer**, Deputy Head of the Division Analysis and Consulting of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. (KAS)

**Johannes Peters**, Head of Center for Maritime Strategy & Security (CMSS) at the Institute for Security Policy Kiel University (ISPK) and Conference Chairman

**Panel I/Keynote:**

**175 Years and Counting: Charting the Course for the GER Navy and its Allies** **09:15 - 09:45**

**Rear Admiral (DEU N) Sascha Helge Rackwitz**, Commander Flotilla 1 and Director NATO COE CSW, Kiel

**Chair: Dr. Alix Valenti**, freelance naval expert, Bologna

**Coffee Break & Networking Opportunity** **09:45 – 10:15**

**Panel II: The Economics of Seapower – Punching your weight, or above** **10:15 – 11:45**

*Seapower and the economies go hand in hand: In peace, crisis and war, navies play an important role for prosperity, social peace, international cooperation, and national and systemic/allied survival. At the same time, navies are capital-intensive institutions. Against the backdrop of Zeitenwende, where will that money come from and are there innovative ideas to pay for ships and sailors?*

**Prof. Dr. Sven Biscop**, Egmont Institute, Brussels

**Paula Alvarez-Couceiro**, Foresight analyst – Strategy at Navantia, Madrid

**Rear Admiral (DEU N) Tobias Abry**, Division Head Military Policy and Operations Federal Ministry of Defence, Berlin

**Chair: Dr. Alix Valenti**, freelance naval expert, Bologna

**Lunch (Buffet)** **11:45 – 13:00**

**Panel III: Naval Strategy for Medium-Size Navies** **13:00 – 14:30**

*Most navies in the Western world would be classified as medium-size navies. What are some of the demands that these forces have to content with? How are national aims linked to NATO and EU strategies? What does this mean for US naval strategy?*

**Paul Chamberlain**, The Australian National University, Canberra

**Lt. CDR (GER N) Dr. Moritz Brake**, researcher German Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies (GIDS), Hamburg

**Dr. Ryan Wadle**, Associate Professor, US Naval War College, Newport, USA

**Chair: Dr. Alix Valenti**, freelance naval expert, Bologna

**Coffee Break & Networking Opportunity** **14:30 – 15:00**

**Panel IV: “All in” on uncrewed?** **15:00 – 16:30**

*It is important to test the use and operation of unmanned systems with experimental projects and to gain experience. In this way, navies can finally start the risk-minimized procurement in the quantities desired. What are some of the ethical, technological, strategic, operational and political implications and issues? How many humans does it take to make Zeitenwende a reality?*

**Dr. Heiko Borchert**, Borchert Consulting & Research AG

**Dr. Sidharth Kaushal**, The Royal United Service Institute (RUSI), London

**Justin Burke**, Visiting Scholar at The Lowy Institute and Non-Resident Fellow at ISPK, Sydney

**Chair: Dr. Alix Valenti**, freelance naval expert, Bologna

**Quo vadis, Deutsche Marine? Capstone documents for the Zeitenwende** **16:30 – 17:15**

**CAPT (DEU N) Christoph Mecke**, Branch Head Plans & Policy, German Navy Headquarters

**Chair: Dr. Alix Valenti**, freelance naval expert, Bologna

Followed by closing of the conference

**Einlaufbier** **17:15 – 18:30**

*In the finest German naval tradition, coming into port, or “Einlaufen”, offers the chance for a cold beer. Stay for some fellowship and a well-deserved beverage after the conference!*

**Speakers’ Dinner (by personal invitation only)** **20:00 – 23:00**

Dinner speaker: **Prof. Jim Bergeron**, Political Advisor, NATO Maritime Command

Side Event/Academic Workshop:

## “Needs and Opportunities in German Naval History and Recent Strategy”

**Friday, 16 June 2023, 09:00 – 13:00**

Niemannsweg 78, D-24105 Kiel, Germany

Business Casual

### **Welcome & Opening Remarks** **09:00 – 09:15**

**Dr. Sebastian Bruns**, Senior Researcher, Institute for Security Policy Kiel University and former McCain-Fulbright Distinguished Visiting Professor, US Naval Academy

### **Panel I: NATO’s Maritime Strategy and Naval Operations since 1985** **09:15 – 10:45**

Presentation of research cooperation, Center for Military History and Social Sciences of the German Armed Forces (ZMSBW, Potsdam) and Institute for Security Policy Kiel University (ISPK):

**CDR (GER N) Dr. Christian Jentzsch**, Potsdam & **Dr. Sebastian Bruns**, Kiel

Commentators:

**Dr. Jeremy Stöhs**, Non-Resident Fellow, ISPK, Graz

**Prof. Jim Bergeron**, Political Advisor, NATO MARCOM, Northwood

**Lt. CDR (GER N) Dr. Moritz Brake**, Senior Fellow, Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies (CASSIS), Bonn

Chair: **Dr. Sarandis “Randy” Papadopoulos**, Naval Historian and Analyst, U.S. Department of Defense

### **Coffee Break** **10:45 – 11:15**

### **Panel II: Teaching German Naval History in Professional Military Education & University** **11:15 – 12:45**

Roundtable: Practitioners share insights into how to research, teach and disseminate recent German naval history and military strategy

**Dr. Keith Bird**, independent naval historian, Pawleys Island, S.C. (USA)

**Dr. Marcus Faulkner**, King’s College, London

Commentator: Prof. Dr. Jan Asmussen, University of Kiel

Chair: **Dr. Sarandis “Randy” Papadopoulos**, DoD

### **Group Photo (on site)** **12:45 – 13:00**

### **Buffet Lunch, followed by departure of participants** **13:00 – 14:00**