

## Second of two workshops held on NATO maritime strategies and operations.



Photo credits: **Anne Runhaar, ISPK**

In Laboe, Germany on March 13 and 14, the Center for Military History and Social Sciences of the German Armed Forces (ZMSBw), represented by **Commander Dr Christian Jentsch** and the Institute for Security Policy, Kiel University (ISPK), represented by **Dr. Sebastian Bruns**, held the second of two workshops examining “NATO’s Maritime Strategies and Naval Operations since 1985.” The workshops are an interdisciplinary - political science/military history - approach identifying maritime trends and watershed events on the naval side of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The first workshop, focused on maritime strategy, was held in Wilhelmshaven in November 2023.

This second two-day workshop, focused on NATO’s Naval Operations since 1985, was held adjacent to the Laboe Naval Memorial, a monument originally dedicated to German sailors lost in WWI and rededicated in 1954 as a memorial to all those lost at sea. The memorial also hosts U-995, one of the last surviving WWII Uboats and which featured in the making of the 1981 movie “Das Boot.” <https://deutscher-marinebund.de/>



After an “Einlaufbier” (a ceremony of toasting to successfully coming into port) hosted by the German Navy League (Deutscher Marinebund) the evening of March 12, the workshop launched on March 13 with a presentation on “Reflections of Intimidation and Maritime Strategy” presented by **Dr. Geoffrey Till** OBE FKC, Emeritus Professor of Maritime Studies in the Defence Studies Department of King’s College London and former Knox Chair for Naval History and Strategy at the Naval War College. German Marine Association naval historian **Dr. Jann-Markus Witt** then led the group through a detailed tour of the Laboe Naval Memorial.



Jann-Markus Witt giving a tour of the Navy Memorial in Laboe, with CDR Christian Jentzsch looking on

The next session looked at American naval operations as “shapers,” with independent researcher **Tom Duffy** presenting on “US Naval Operations in the Persian Gulf 1987-88: An Effective Use of Force?” **Dr. Stan Weeks** of SAIC recounting “Perceptions of Former Soviet Naval Elites on the US/NATO Maritime Strategy,” and **Jack Matlak** of the University of Regensburg discussing “With friends like these: the United States in Exercises in European Waters.” As was the case with the Wilhelmshaven workshop, this and subsequent sessions featured robust debate among the participants and presenters were encouraged to incorporate points raised in the discussions in the final versions of their papers.

The last session of the day examined the overall challenge of maritime security, with **Dr. Jeremy Stöhs**, a non-resident fellow of ISPK presenting “Competitive-Collaborative-Confused: Diverging Naval Paradigms in the 1990s and 2000s” and **Tom Duffy** drawing from his time as the inaugural 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet POLAD to discuss “Multilateral Naval Operations: Counter-piracy off the coast of Somalia.”

March 14 resumed with a session on post-Cold War case studies, with independent researcher **Dr. Heiko Herold** examining “Operation ALLIED FORCE at 25: German warships in the Kosovo War,” **Dr. Dominique Guillemin** of the French Service Historique de la Defense describing “A Turn to NATO’s Joint Naval Offensive Operations: The French Navy in Operation ALLIED FORCE,

1999” and **Dr. John Sherwood** of the US Naval History and Heritage Command analyzing “UNIFIED PROTECTOR: NATO’s First Full-Spectrum Maritime Operation.”

The workshop concluded with a session examining the triangle of operations, concepts, and policy, with former NATO head of Net Assessment **Diego Ruiz Palmer** recounting the history of NATO’s CONMAROPS and Commander **Dr. Christian Jentsch** discussing “The Long Duree: German Naval Operations in NATO.”

Following the workshop **Dr. Jann-Markus Witt** arranged for a detailed tour of U995.



Lee Willet, Geoff Till, Anselm van der Peet inspecting U-995

On the evening of March 14, ISPK hosted its 2024 Seapower Fireside Chat with Professor Geoffrey Till, in which he drew from his latest book "How to Grow a Navy: the Development of Maritime Power." The presentation and follow-on reception were particularly meaningful for all of Professor Till's former students in the audience.

A selection of the papers will be published as an edited volume as part of ISPK's Seapower Series (NOMOS: Baden-Baden). The two events will also inform a jointly authored essay by the workshop conveners. Further workshops - one on NATO's Southern flank navies, another one of former Warsaw Pact and neutral navies joining the alliance since 1990 - are currently under consideration and pending funding.

Read-Out: Thomas Duffy.