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Focusing New Zealand's approach to maritime domain security

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts
in
Defence and Security Studies

at Massey University, New Zealand.

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2014

Abstract

Although New Zealand is a nation with a maritime setting, it does not have a clearly-focused approach to maritime domain security. Instead, the country's approach to maritime security has developed in an *ad hoc* manner; the result of legacy issues and an apparent lack of understanding of strategic maritime imperatives. New Zealand has laid claim to a significant portion of the maritime region within which it is located. However, this thesis argues that there are compelling reasons why New Zealand's approach to maritime domain security needs to be refocused. There is thus a need to refocus away from the arguably short-term interests that are currently viewed as the priority, towards a more strategic approach that seeks to protect New Zealand's less tangible – but more important – long-term interests. Drawing heavily on the Australian experience as a comparison model, this thesis contends that the architecture and structure of New Zealand's maritime security 'sector' must be reviewed and that New Zealand should develop a more holistic approach to its future maritime security needs; for example incorporating traditional security agencies as well as other relevant non-security focused players in the maritime domain – both government and non-government. Furthermore, this comprehensive approach should be supported by the creation of an overarching maritime strategy, reflecting New Zealand's long-term strategic interests and encompassing a joint, whole-of-government, whole-of-nation (i.e. encompassing non-government entities) approach. The creation of an overarching maritime strategy, coupled with a holistic approach – focused on long-term strategic interests – would significantly enhance New Zealand's maritime domain security into the future.

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Glossary

A-4 Skyhawks	RNZAF decommissioned combat aircraft
ADF	Australian Defence Force
AIS	Automatic Identification System
AMIS	Australian Maritime Identification System
ANZUS	Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty
AP-3C Orion	Australian maritime patrol aircraft
ASW	Anti-submarine warfare
BPC	Border Protection Command
CCAMLR	Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
GDP	Gross domestic product
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IUU fishing	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
HQJFNZ	NZDF's Joint Force Headquarters
JOPC	Joint Offshore Protection Command (predecessor to BPC)
MAOT	NZDF term for multiagency operations and tasks
LOSC	Law of the Sea Conventions (or UNCLOS I, UNCLOS II, and UNCLOS III collectively)
NIWA	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
NMCC	National Maritime Coordination Centre
NZDF	New Zealand Defence Force
Operation MAWSONI	New Zealand Government surveillance support to CCAMLR
Operation RELEX	Australian operational response to irregular migration in 2001
P-3K2 Orion	RNZAF upgraded maritime patrol aircraft
Pacific Island Dependencies	Tokelau, Niue and the Cook Islands
Project Protector	RNZN procurement project undertaken during the 2000s
PST	People Smuggling Taskforce (Australian Government committee)
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
RAN	Royal Australian Navy
RNZAF	Royal New Zealand Air Force
RNZN	Royal New Zealand Navy
Ross Dependency	New Zealand's territorial claim in Antarctica
SAR	Search and rescue
SIEV	Suspected Illegal Entry Vessels
SOLAS	International Maritime Organization's Safety of Life at Sea Convention
UAV	Unmanned aerial vehicles or drones
UNCLOS I	First United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (concluded 1958)

UNCLOS II	Second United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (inconclusive 1960)
UNCLOS III	Third United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (came into force 1994)
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System (fisheries)