

# **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF MILITARY INTERVENTIONS**



**NDC SEMINAR**

**NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE**

**12 JULY 2017**

## NDC SEMINAR 2017

### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF MILITARY INTERVENTIONS

#### Session – I

**Chair: Dr Alexander Evans, OBE**

**British Deputy High Commissioner to India**

S N	Topic	Speaker	Time
1.	Opening Remarks	<i>AVM A Subramaniam</i>	0900 h – 0910 h
2.	Opening Remarks by Chair	<i>Dr Alexander Evans</i>	0910 h – 0920 h
3.	Strategic Consequences of the Falkland Intervention	<i>Cmde Puruvir Das Capt Simon Bateman</i>	0920 h – 0945 h
4.	US Intervention in Nicaragua: A Big Mistake	<i>Ms Rakhee Gupta Cmde AP Kulkarni</i>	0945 h – 1010 h
5.	Securing an Uneasy Peace in the Balkans	<i>Brig Vipul Shinghal Col James Allen</i>	1010 h – 1035 h
6.	<i>Group Photograph (Venue: Front Lawn)</i>		1035 h – 1045 h
<b>TEA BREAK</b>			1045 h – 1115 h
7.	Russian Assertiveness : Crisis in Ukraine & Crimea	<i>Air Cmde Ashutosh Lal Dr Mahesh Dixit</i>	1120 h – 1145 h
8.	<b>Q &amp; A Session - I</b>		1145 h – 1245 h
9.	Closing Remarks by Chair	<i>Dr Alexander Evans</i>	1245 h – 1300 h
<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>			1300 h – 1345 h

#### Session – II

**Chair: Dr Rajesh Rajagopalan**

**School of International Studies, JNU**

S N	Topic	Speaker	Time
10.	Opening Remarks by Chair	<i>Dr Rajesh Rajagopalan</i>	1350 h – 1400 h
11.	Red on Red: The Sino-Vietnam War	<i>Brig Rashim Bali Brig Gen Datuk Jamaludin Bin Jambi</i>	1400 h – 1425 h
12.	Indian Intervention in the Sri Lankan civil War	<i>Brig SK Vidyarthi Gp Capt RS Wickremeratne</i>	1425 h – 1450 h
13.	Israel's Hybrid Interventions In Lebanon & Gaza	<i>Air Cmde Tejinder Singh Brig VT Mathew</i>	1450 h – 1515 h
<b>TEA BREAK</b>			1515 h – 1545 h
14.	Some Military Interventions In Post Colonial Africa	<i>Brig Virendra Vats Brig Leopold Eric Kyanda</i>	1545 h – 1610 h
15.	<b>Q &amp; A Session - II</b>		1610 h – 1655 h
16.	Closing Remarks by Chair	<i>Dr Rajesh Rajagopalan</i>	1655 h – 1705 h
17.	Summing up by Commandant	<i>Lt Gen YVK Mohan</i>	1705 h – 1715 h

**NDC SEMINAR – 12 JUL 2017**  
**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF MILITARY INTERVENTIONS**  
**ABSTRACTS & BIO DATA OF PARTICIPANTS**

**SESSION – I**

**STRATEGIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE FALKLAND INTERVENTION**

**Cmde Puruvir Das, NM and Capt Simon Bateman, Royal Australian Navy**

It could be argued that the reclamation of the Falkland Islands by the British was simply a battle fought following an attempt by one state to invade another's country. However, there were complex factors which result in the Falklands campaign lying well within the definition of a 'military intervention'. Hence, whilst Argentina may not have been invading actual British soil on 02 April 1982, it was invading a British colony.

An analysis of the Falklands Campaign shows divergences between the grand and military strategies of both countries. The predominantly maritime strategy of the British had a clearly articulated aim of recovering the islands, whilst the 'limited war' campaign waged by Argentina was structured in the vain hope that the British would return to the negotiating table. A total misreading of the geo political strategic environment in conjunction with its own inherent weaknesses, in political, economic and military terms, led Argentina to make the biggest strategic blunder in its history.

The Falkland campaign provided Great Britain an excellent opportunity to prove to the world and its own domestic constituents that its comprehensive national power and strength were not waning. The synergy between the political and military leadership was exemplary. Simply put, the decision to go to war was basically a question of principle and credibility.

What geo-political lessons should India draw out of this campaign? Can a 'land grab' type of military action by our western or northern neighbour produce similar outcomes? What signal of intent do we need to articulate that establish our 'red lines' clearly?

**Bio-Data Of Participants**

**Cmde Puruvir Das** Cmde Puruvir Das was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 1989. An ND and Ops specialist he is a post graduate from King's College London and is presently attending the 57th NDC.

**Captain Simon Bateman** Captain Simon Bateman joined the Royal Australian Navy in March 1982. Initially qualifying as a Seaman Officer he specialised as a Pilot in 1989. He completed the Australian Command and Staff Course in Canberra in 2004 and is currently a student on the 57th NDC.

## **US INTERVENTION IN NICARAGUA – A BIG MISTAKE**

### **Cmde AP Kulkarni & Ms Rakhee Gupta, IAS**

The Sandinista Front for National Liberation, (FSLN) founded in the 1960s, gained support in Nicaragua and anyone suspected of giving support to its struggle against the Somoza Government was captured, tortured and killed. There were various ways in which the US intervened in Nicaragua and that caused strained relations between the two countries. The US practically controlled all the economic and political activities in Nicaragua in pursuit of their own national interests.

In 1979, the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) officially overthrew the country's leadership, thus ending the previous Somoza dynasty. Within a month of Reagan's taking over as President of US, counter-revolutionary forces commenced training in Florida and were crossing the border from camps in Honduras into Nicaragua. The US supported the Contras mainly due to fears from the Cold War, Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia. US policy of destabilization of Nicaragua evoked strong reaction from countries worldwide. The Contra War almost destroyed Nicaragua with vital institutions and the primarily agrarian economy suffering hugely.

The Nicaraguan intervention by the United States seemed unable to grasp that even the greatest power, with the best of intentions, lacks the ultimate capability to change the fundamental nature of internal politics in other countries.

### **Bio-Data Of Participants**

**Ms Rakhee Gupta** Ms Rakhee Gupta is an IAS officer from the 1997 batch of the Punjab Cadre who has held various positions in the central as well as the state government. She has also served as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of home and Deputy commissioner of Faridkot district in Punjab.

**Cmde A P Kulkarni** Cmde A P Kulkarni was commissioned in Indian Navy in Aug 1987 and served on board conventional and nuclear submarines including INS Chakra as commissioning Engineer Officer.

## **SECURING AN UNEASY PEACE IN THE BALKANS**

**Brig Vipul Shinghal and Col James Allen, US Army**

The US led NATO military intervention took place twice in the Balkans – Bosnia in 1995 and in Kosovo in 1999. The Bosnian and Kosovo conflicts were a result of the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia, which consisted of a number of ‘federal’ republics held together in a loose coalition under the iron hand of Tito. His death in 1980 triggered the collapse of the ‘country’, with each ethnic group - Serbs, Albanians and Croats - trying to garner maximum territories for themselves and create independent nations. Both times the interventions were carried out as a humanitarian action to stop the ethnic cleansing and genocide being carried out by the Serbs under the leadership of Slobodan Milosevic.

Though the interventions, which were carried out by aerial bombing, were successful in temporarily stopping the repression of the ethnic population – they have also been widely criticised for being motivated by economic interests and to give credibility to NATO whose relevance was waning after the cold war and not really for ‘humanitarian’ reasons. Further, as the military ‘invasion’ across a sovereign country’s borders was launched without UN approval it also opens the debate whether the action was illegitimate or was it justified as the world has a moral obligation to prevent the violent subjugation of citizens by its own government. We will examine the short and long-term consequences of this contentious intervention.

### **Bio-Data Of Participants**

**Brig Vipul Shinghal** Brig Vipul Shinghal is an armoured corps officer commissioned in December 1988. The officer has wide ranging command and staff experience and commanded an Independent Armoured Brigade in the Desert Sector.

**Colonel James Allen** Col James Allen is a United States Army infantry officer, commissioned in May 1994. He has served on United Nations or NATO operations in the Balkans four times: as a platoon leader in Bosnia in 1996, as a Support Platoon Leader in Macedonia in 1998, as a brigade battle captain in Bosnia in 1999, and as a rifle company commander in Kosovo in 2001.

## **RUSSIAN ASSERTIVENESS: CRISIS IN UKRAINE & CRIMEA**

**Air Cmde Ashutosh Lal, VM & Dr Mahesh Dixit, IPS**

Reeling under the collapse of the USSR, for almost two decades, Russia suffered an economic and military setback apart from the huge dent in its self esteem. However, the creeping NATO/EU expansion eastwards evoked its strategic fears, played on its need to be recognized as a world power and forced Russia to come out boldly and emphatically to defend its national interests in its 'near abroad' territories, specifically Ukraine.

Its use of the military strategy; the 'Hybrid War', witnessed military action that overarched economic isolation, energy coercion and an intense 'information' campaign. The Crimean 'accession', through a politico-military swift strategic action stymied the West. The Russian action redefined some of the fundamentals of the post-cold war Unipolar World Order and drew limits to the Western, particularly US influence in world affairs.

For Russia, it ended an era of quiet capitulation to the Western interventions in its near abroad and gave it confidence to act beyond its neighborhood, even in other theaters.

### **Bio-Data Of Participants**

**Air Cmde Ashutosh Lal** Air Cmde Ashutosh Lal is a helicopter pilot commissioned in June 1987. He is a Qualified Flying Instructor and a Test Pilot. He has served at the Embassy of India in Kiev Ukraine as the Air Attache from 2011 to 2014.

**Dr Mahesh Dixit** Dr Mahesh Dixit IPM, PPM is a 1993 batch IPS officer. He has served in various capacities as a police officer in AP and in J&K and the North East apart from a stint at the Embassy of India in Moscow.

## **SESSION II**

### **'RED ON RED'- THE SINO VIETNAM WAR**

**Brig Rashim Bali, SM,VSM & Brig Gen DJB Jambi, Malaysian Army**

At 5 a.m. on 17 February 1979, thirty PLA division-size forces breached the Vietnamese territory from China's Yunnan and Guangxi provinces. Beijing justified that this "self-defensive counter-attack" was necessitated due to a series of Vietnamese initiatives which had seriously damaged Sino- Vietnamese relations and extant strategic equilibrium in Asia. Implicit in these justifications was also the Chinese resolve to resist the Soviet interference in South East Asia.

Chinese intervention did achieve the stated objective of discrediting the USSR as the bastion of the communist world. The Soviets failed to come to the assistance of the Vietnamese despite a treaty obligation. China also marginalised Vietnam in the South East Asian region and tactically, at the end of the intervention, continued to occupy some territorial enclaves. However, on the other hand, Vietnam forced a terribly bruised PLA to withdraw without making any major territorial or material gains. China also failed in securing the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia. Can it therefore be concluded that this was one war that nobody won?

This Paper is an attempt to study the Sino-Vietnamese War of 1979, which was a violent manifestation of a complex matrix of casus belli, which turned two staunch communist allies into arch rivals and fierce adversaries. A bitter historical baggage, competing geopolitical interests, border skirmishes and refugee crisis, all acted as catalysts for this war.

#### **Bio-Data Of Participants**

**Brig R Bali** Brig R Bali was commissioned in the Sikh Light Infantry Regiment, Indian Army in Dec 88. The officer commanded a Rashtriya Rifles battalion in Jammu & Kashmir, and a brigade in Super High Altitude Area in the Eastern Sector. He has attended the Army Staff Course at France, and been a Directing Staff at College of Defence Management.

**Brigadier General Datuk Jamaluddin bin Jambi** Brigadier General Datuk Jamaluddin bin Jambi was commissioned into the Malaysian Army (SF) in 11 April 1981. He has attended the US Marine Staff College, Quantico (1996) and Armed Forces Defense College (2005). He has commanded a Malaysian Infantry Brigade and also served as MILOB in Western Sahara, IMT-9 Mindanao, Philippine and UNIFIL Lebanon.

## **INDIAN INTERVENTION IN THE SRI LANKAN CIVIL WAR**

### **Brig SK Vidyarthi & Gp Capt RS Wickremeratane, Sri Lankan Air Force**

In the 1980s, the Tamil crisis had peaked in Sri Lanka and its concomitant effect threatened India with far reaching ramifications on the geopolitics of the region. The ethnic crisis between the Tamil and the Sinhala population had its roots in events prior to independence of Sri Lanka and this perceived repression eventually led the country into a state of civil war. The Tamils who were largely settled in the North and East of Sri Lanka were pitched against the Sri Lankan Government (Sinhala), initially protesting for equality and basic rights. This endeavour met with little or no success leading to increased frustration on part of the repressed Tamils. The continued difference in the world views of the stakeholders laid the foundation for an armed struggle against the Government which eventually graduated to a civil war between the establishment and the Tamils who were now fighting for a separate Tamil State or an Eelam. After almost two decades of confrontation between the state and the insurgents, the Indian Government took upon itself to mediate between the two parties. This attempt at arbitration swiftly led to military intervention and thus what started as an attempt at peace keeping rapidly deteriorated into a brutal counter terrorism operation. The presentation today covers the Indian involvement in the Sri Lankan Tamil Crisis, genesis, implications and hindsight wisdom.

#### **Bio-Data of Participants**

**Brig SK Vidyarthi** Brig SK Vidyarthi is an officer from the Corps of Engineers. The officer had a tenure in 1988 in Sri Lanka as part of IPKF. He has tenanted various command and staff assignments including Brigade Major, Colonel General Staff of a Mountain Division and command of a Mountain Brigade on LAC.

**Group Captain Sampath Wickremeratne** Group Captain Sampath Wickremeratne RWP (Two Bar), RSP (Two Bar), USP, MSc (Strat Studies), QFI is a fighter pilot and has Commanded two fighter squadrons and has been the Base Commander of an Air Base. He has 27 years of service and has been awarded with bravery medals on six occasions during Counter Terrorism Air Operations.



## **ISRAEL'S HYBRID INTERVENTIONS IN LEBANON AND GAZA**

### **Air Cmde Tejinder Singh, VM & Brig VT Mathew**

The Zionist (Israelis) and Palestinian Arabs are embroiled in a territorial dispute since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The conflict involves complex ethno-national equations with Israel on one side and the Arab states on the other. The region has seen a series of conventional wars, civil wars, uprisings (Intifadas), terrorist attacks and humanitarian crises resulting in heavy human suffering. The seven-day war of 1967 established Israel's supremacy as a military power in the region – a reality which could not be altered by the Yom-Kippur war of 1973 despite limited success by the Arabs to be divided into two states-one Jewish and the other Arab. The PLO got international relevance as the voice of the Palestinian people, and their tactics comprised of guerrilla attacks, assassinations and bomb blasts. They continued to operate from various Arab countries in the region, notably Syria and Lebanon, leading to Israeli occupation of South Lebanon. Hezbollah is an organization that gained acceptance and political power in Lebanon because of their fight against Israeli occupation. Israel has carried out several military interventions in Lebanon as well as Gaza and West Bank in order to control terrorist attacks and keep themselves secure. However, the strategic consequences of these interventions have been mixed. While deterrence was achieved in the short term it has fuelled terrorism in the region and eroded Israel's moral edge as a consequence. The paper discusses the causes, effects and impact of recent Israeli military interventions in Lebanon, West Bank and Gaza.

### **Bio-Data Of Participants**

**Air Cmde Tejinder Singh** Air Cmde Tejinder Singh was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF in Jun 1987 and has over 4000 hrs of flying experience. He has commanded a Fighter Squadron, Radar Station and a major Fighter Base.

**Brig VT Mathew** Brig VT Mathew was commissioned into the MADRAS regiment in 1988. He has served in all counter insurgency operations in the country and has also served in UN Missions in the Congo and Sudan. He has commanded a battalion along the line of control and a Sector in the North East.

## **MILITARY INTERVENTIONS IN POST COLONIAL AFRICA**

### **Brig Virendra Vats SM, VSM & Brig Leopold Kyanda, Ugandan Army**

For many outsiders, “Africa” evokes images of a continent in crisis, riddled with war and corruption, imploding from disease and starvation. Lack of understanding often leads outsiders to blame African people for their plight—they are presumed to be intolerant of ethnic and religious differences and unwilling or unable to govern themselves.

These simplistic misconceptions are not only inaccurate, but they are also dangerous because they mask the complex causes of contemporary crises, such as those in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Libya, and Sudan, and diminish the chances of resolving them.

When the historical roots are examined, it is clear that much of Africa’s current predicaments of poverty, corruption, and violent conflicts are not solely the result of African decisions, but are also the consequence of foreign intrusion into African affairs. Many of today’s challenges are the outcome of colonial political and economic practices, Cold War alliances, and attempts by outsiders to influence African political and economic systems during the decolonization and post-independence periods. Although local issues sparked numerous recent disputes, external political and military interventions altered their dynamics and rendered them more lethal.

We examine in brief the military interventions in Democratic Republic of Congo( DRC) and Liberia in order to bring out important lessons for the future.

### **Bio-Data Of Participants**

**Brig Virendra Vats** Brig Virendra Vats is an infantry officer commissioned in December 1988. The officer has had two tenures in the UN peacekeeping operations including command of an Indian Brigade Group in DRC.

**Brig Leopold Eric Kyanda** Brig Leopold Eric Kyanda is from the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF). He has undertaken training in various prestigious international military establishments as well at Harvard University. The important appointments held by him include those of Chief of Personnel & Administration and Chief of Staff Land Forces.