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Canadian Ballistic Missile Defence From the Sea: Interoperability and Sea-Based BMD (PDF)

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Christopher R. Bullock
Centre for Military and Strategic Studies
University of Calgary

**Recipient of the 2003 CDFAI Graduate Student Paper Competition
Directed Topic 2nd Place**

BIOGRAPHY

Christopher R. Bullock is a graduate student in Military and Strategic Studies at the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies, University of Calgary. He is a contributing co-editor of *Perspective On War* (2001) and has published in the *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*. Bullock has presented his work on Canadian defence and Chinese security issues at several international conferences and currently sits on the board of directors for the *Canadian Consortium on Asia-Pacific Security* (CANCAPS).

ABSTRACT

The current debate over missile defences in North America is focused on the defence of national territory and the technological feasibility of proposed ballistic missile defence systems. The evolutionary shift of Canadian defence policy towards an expeditionary strategy, however, indicates a requirement for some level of BMD capability to protect deployed troops and the relatively unprotected logistic, administration and civilian population centres. Adversaries will likely use these politically charged weapons to bypass superior frontline conventional forces to strike the more vulnerable rear areas. This article proposes that the Canadian Navy offers the most cost-effective and flexible approach to BMD. Sea-based BMD benefits from the same characteristics that warships bring to their other functions, notably their flexibility, versatility, and strategic mobility. Underlining the entire debate is the requirement for interoperability with the US Navy in the fielding an integrated defence against these asymmetrical weapons.

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