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# INTRODUCTION

This publication presents the ongoing developments in the maritime environment and shows how they will impact the future submarine operating environment. The changes are triggered both by intensive and commercial activities around the maritime domain and by the dynamic and rapidly developing nature of war at sea. It is critical for NATO nations and their leaders to consider these factors while analyzing the future role of submarines and determining the operational needs that role will fill. In doing so, NATO nations and their allies will be better prepared to face the consequences of present developments and to maintain an edge in an environment shaped by them.

## SCOPE

The scope of this publication shall include, but not be limited to, changes in the maritime environment that alter future the submarine operating environment. It is important to consider both critical worldwide developments and specific regional changes with ranges limited to certain areas or seas in this discussion. This book also highlights some aspects of the security environment and discusses factors that may have an impact on conducting naval operations in the future.

## **TARGET**

The main audience of the aforementioned publication shall be the submarine community and political and military personnel in the chain of command over the submarines in the NATO nations. A broader audience shall embrace academics, and personnel in various institutions, think tanks and NGOs dealing with maritime and international security. The most extensive range of readers shall include maritime as well as defense and security auditorium. Ultimately, this publication may be an important input to the debate concerning future operational environment and may be an interesting lecture in terms of the ongoing changes in the submarine operating environment.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The research analyses accompanying this publication were conducted using scientific research methods. Among them the leading ones were: analysis of literature content, descriptive and comparative method, inductive and deductive inference, media observation method and statistical data synthesis method. The author used research methods and techniques identified primarily in the disciplines of political science, international security and in the field of the art of war, mainly concerning maritime operations. For the most part, analyses were conducted in a systemic and comparative manner, taking into account global (mega) trends and possible political and military factors affecting future submarine operating environment.

## **DISCLAIMER**

The views and predictions contained in this publication belong to the author and do not represent the views of any agency, institution, or government.