



Jan M. van Tol

Senior Fellow

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Jan van Tol served over 28 years as a naval officer. Assigned to several different kinds of warships, he was successively captain of a minesweeper, a destroyer, and a large-deck amphibious assault ship. The latter two ships were based overseas as part of the Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDFN) Japan. While on sea duty, he deployed extensively throughout the Mediterranean Sea, the Western Pacific, and Southeast Asia, and made several deployments to the Persian Gulf. His command was a major participant in post-tsunami relief efforts off Sumatra, Indonesia January–February 2005.

In his shore assignments, Mr. van Tol was employed in multiple strategic planning positions, including at the Naval War College (NWC), the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel (CNOEP), and the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Office of Net Assessment (OSDNA).

CURRENT POSITION

After retiring from the Navy, Mr. van Tol joined CSBA as a senior fellow in March 2007, specializing in long-range strategic planning, naval issues, military innovation, and wargaming. Upon arriving at CSBA, he wrote an assessment on leading technology trends affecting DoD. Subsequently he designed and conducted numerous well-received war games exploring diverse future warfare challenges. These have included exercises and workshops examining issues of attack and defense of undersea energy infrastructure, the future of undersea warfare, operational implications of warfare in a mature precision-guided weapons regime (MPGWR) combat environment, protracted warfare, future naval warfare, as well as several crisis planning exercises done for the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Most notably, he was responsible for multiple games that examined diverse facets of major conventional warfare against a high-end, near-peer competitor employing a robust anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) operational approach. These focused on military operations and campaigns in a large maritime theater and culminated in publication of *AirSea Battle: A Point-of-Departure Operational Concept*, of which he was the principal author.

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mr. van Tol's first strategic planning assignment was in 1989–1990 at NWC's Center for Naval Warfare Studies, where he wrote on industrial mobilization, naval arms control, and sea-based nuclear weapons issues. He next served as an analyst and military assistant in OSDNA from 1993 to 1996, a period during which that office was heavily focused on an emerging information-technology-based Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) and the related topic of military innovation. Among other writings, he published a well-received two-part comparative case study, *Military Innovation and Carrier Aviation*, that examined the interplay of operational, organizational, and technological factors that resulted in the differing development of aircraft carriers in the U.S. and British navies. He was deeply involved in the design and conduct of numerous wargames, co-sponsored by organizations including the Navy, the Air Force, the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) that examined

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Long-Range Strategic Planning
Naval Warfare
Military Innovation
Wargaming

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operational and organizational implications of the postulated RMA for future warfare. He was also a senior participant in analytic studies on Dominant Battlefield Awareness, which examined the warfighting implications of much higher levels of information being available to commanders, and on Anti-Navies, which examined problems that increased anti-access and area-denial capabilities might pose for future naval forces.

From 1999 to mid-2001, Mr. van Tol was assigned to the Navy staff supporting the CNOEP (NOOK), part of the CNO's personal staff. While there, he wrote the Department of the Navy's 2000 posture statement, reviewed CNO congressional testimony, and helped prepare the CNO's Status of the Navy briefing for senior incoming DoD leaders. He was also staff director for CNOEP task forces on Pacific strategy, interoperability, and Navy energy issues.

In August 2001, Mr. van Tol returned to OSDNA as Mr. Andrew Marshall's senior military assistant, serving in that capacity until mid-2003. While there, he was deeply involved in assessing the strategic implications of the September 11 attacks by al Qaeda and the subsequent U.S. responses, and wrote an influential analysis examining options for U.S. strategy in Asia. He led delegations to India and Taiwan in support of their efforts to establish their own net assessment offices. He was also a key contributor to the 2002 OSDNA Summer Study on "Recent Findings in the Biosciences: Implications for DoD."

Mr. van Tol was selected by the Chief of Naval Operations and accepted by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) to be the Navy Fellow at the CFR for the 2005–2006 academic year. However, in the event, he was asked to join Vice-President Cheney's national security staff, serving in the Office of the Vice-President as a senior advisor. While there, he focused principally on strategic issues concerning the wider war against radical Islam, Iran's nuclear weapons program, and Northeast Asia.

EDUCATION

B.A. in Philosophy and Logic

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

M.S. in Operations Research

Naval Postgraduate School

Graduated (with distinction) College of Naval Command and Staff

Naval War College
