



Royal Higher Institute for Defence



Military Force Projection at Risk?
The question of Anti-Access/Area Denial
21 November 2019, 17:00 – 18:30

Mr Frank BEKKERS, Director of the Comprehensive Security Programme – The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS)
Dr Alessandro MARRONE, Head of the Defence Programme – Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

Dear Madam, Sir,

We have the pleasure to inform you that the **Centre for Security and Defence Studies** of the Royal Higher Institute for Defence is organising an evening conference on **Thursday 21 November 2019**.

The notion of anti-access/area denial (A2AD) refers to a set of capabilities operating in many domains (air, land, sea, space, cyber, electronic) with the sole aim of inflicting maximum attrition on the opposing forces' combat assets in the whole spectrum of strategic action. This notion appeared in 2003 in the US strategic debate and rapidly came to the top priorities of NATO members' embassies and general staffs. On a strictly conceptual level, A2AD brings little innovation, as armed forces have always deployed assets meant to protect themselves or to restrict opposing forces' freedom of movement. The strong comeback of A2AD is the result of recent strategies adopted and brand-new assets implemented by some actors (such as Russia and China) with a view to paralyse Western armed forces' expeditionary operations. Several elements suggest that we are witnessing the end of the force projection era: the large spread of some armaments such as anti-ship missiles, mines or surface-to-air systems – the implementation of which does not fall anymore within the monopoly of states –, or else the evolution of the capabilities peculiar to A2AD – the networking of various sensors and effectors with improved performances indeed tends to seriously restrict armed forces' freedom of manoeuvre.

In order to discuss this issue, we have the honour of welcoming two subject matter experts. Mr Frank Bekkers, director of the Comprehensive Security Programme within The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS), will address the geopolitical dimension of A2AD. Dr Alessandro Marrone from the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) will then discuss the strategic and operational implications of A2AD for NATO.

This conference will take place on **Thursday 21 November 2019 at 17:00 hours** in the conference centre of the Campus Renaissance (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8, 1000 Brussels**). The lecture will be given in **English** with **simultaneous translation** into **Dutch** and **French**. Parking is available on the Cinquantenaire esplanade in front of the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History. We are looking forward to welcoming you and kindly ask you to confirm your participation by registering online on the RHID's website: www.rhid.be. **Pre-registration is mandatory to access the premises and must reach us not later than Tuesday 19 November 2019.**

(Signed)

Filip BORREMANS, MSc Eng
Air Force Colonel GS
Director-general
Royal Higher Institute for Defence

Programme:

16:30 : Registration
17:00 : Conference and Q & A
18:30-19:30 : Reception