



# International Society of Military Sciences



Annual Conference 2023, 6-8 November  
Hosted by the Royal Danish Defence College  
Copenhagen, Denmark

DRAFT Minutes of Joint Meeting  
ISMS Council and Working Group Chairs  
1600-1800, Monday 6 November, Frederiksberg Palace

## Attended by:

President: Professor Niels Bo Poulsen, Royal Danish Defence College, [nipo@fak.dk](mailto:nipo@fak.dk)  
Past President: represented by Colonel Delfim Zambujo das Dores, Military University Institute of Portugal, [revistacienciasmilitares@ium.pt](mailto:revistacienciasmilitares@ium.pt)  
Future President: Professor Kjell Engelbrekt, Swedish Defence University, [kjell.engelbrekt@fhs.se](mailto:kjell.engelbrekt@fhs.se)  
Secretary: David Last, Royal Military College of Canada, [david.last@rmc-cmr.ca](mailto:david.last@rmc-cmr.ca)  
Conference Committee: Major Claudia Læssøe Pedersen, Jesper Sahl Nielsen, Lin Jürs, Cecilie Bergmann,

## Council Members

Canada – Jenn Scott for Pierre Jolicoeur  
Denmark – Niels Bo Poulsen  
Austria – Markus Gauster  
Sweden – Kjell Engelbrekt  
Poland – Ryszard Szpyra  
Netherlands – absent  
Finland – absent  
Norway – Anders Sookermany  
Baltic Defence College – absent  
Portugal – Delfim Zambujo das Dore's

## Working Group Chairs and co-chairs

1. Troels Burchall Henningson (Acting), Jonas Gejl Kaas
2. Art Johanson, Søren Nørby
3. Walter Taylor, Andreas Graae
4. Petrus Olsthoorn, Anders Klitmøller
5. Iben Yde (Acting)
6. Mikkel Storm Jensen (Acting), Assistant WG6?
7. Thomas Brønd (Acting)
8. Markus Gauster, Anne Obling
9. Delfim Zambujo das Dores, Thomas Crosbie
10. Dirk Heinzmann, Kenneth Øhlenschläger Buhl  
Ibn Bjornsson

## Observers

François Vrey, Professor Emeritus, Stellenbosch University, South Africa - observer  
Lieutenant-Colonel Andreas Rüdüsüli, Military Academy, Switzerland – observer  
Colonel Steven Thaga - Botswana Defence Forces – observer

1. **Call to order** – President

The President called the meeting to order at 1640. Four people attended virtually.

2. **Confirm Agenda** – President

3. **Introductions**

The observers were introduced with the note that the Council will have to consider the implications of a decision to enlarge or not to enlarge the organization and how best to collaborate with new participating institutions to achieve the society's mandate to be a hub and platform for mutual improvement through collaboration.

4. **Conference format and technical support** – Conference Chair

The conference has been structured for in-person contributions. There is no support for online presentations or virtual presence. Individuals may plan to communicate with colleagues not present, but this should not interrupt the flow of the conference.

Each room has a computer connected to a screen and a USB that can be used to connect.

There are ten rooms available. Schedule updates will be provided on the digital boards in the conference centre. Rooms for the business meetings will be announced tomorrow morning.

Time management will be critical to keep the conference running smoothly. There have been many changes to the schedule. The conference committee strongly recommends that working group chairs keep to the published schedule to allow audience members to find the papers they want to hear.

Please respect the times for breaks and meals because the social aspect of the conference is particularly important.

In addition to a working group chair and local associate chair for each room, there are eight personnel available to help with any technical problems that arise.

The wifi connection for the conference is:

**CPH Conference  
dgibyenwifi**

5. **Business meetings** – Secretary, Program

Rooms will be announced later for business meetings. There may be some consolidation of the meetings.

6. **Partner Institutions and Observers** – President

The President welcomed the observers from Botswana, South Africa, and Switzerland. The Council will discuss in the closing meeting the best way to incorporate cooperation with new partners or possible chapters or sister arrangements. We have a category for partner institutions because there have been overtures from countries that are unsuitable for the Council but wish to maintain a visible link to the Society. The category also serves for countries not in a position to host the conference but otherwise meet the size and democracy standards. Currently, the partner institutions are:

- Royal Military Academy of Belgium, left Council in 2016, may return
- University of Namibia School of Military Science has obtained assistance with program evaluation and accreditation and has cooperated on Zoom workshops about student success centres, academic leadership, and running conferences
- Turkish National Defence University, Attaturk Institute of Strategic Studies requested membership during restructuring.

- Mongolian National Defence University, Joined in 2022 and has participated in online conferences and workshops. MNDU is a point of contact for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Research Institute (<https://en.iss.gov.mn/?cat=21>)
- General Jonas Zemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania. Lithuania is represented on the Council by the Baltic Defence College, so its status is a partner institution.

The US, UK, France and Germany have all sent individual participants in varying numbers over the years. China has sent uniformed delegations from the PLA Academy of Military Sciences since 2018 including eight to this conference. They could not attend the icebreaker because it was held in a military facility. Although the ISMS conference is an unclassified event more care is required in hosting the conference in a complex security environment.

7. **Working Group Chair**, Co-Chair announcements, questions, reports:

**WG1 War Studies** (Acting Chair) Troels Burchall Henningsen, Jonas Gejl Kaas

Marzena Zakowska chairs WG1 since 2018, and is lead editor on a book project, *Modern War and Grey Zones: Design for Small Countries*, which will be published by Routledge in 2024. This is the pilot for a book series to make WG insights available to defence education institutions.

**WG2 Military History**, Art Johanson, Søren Nørby

WG2 shares some synergy with the successful annual Baltic Military History Conference.

**WG3 Military Technology**, Walter Taylor, Andreas Graae

The Chair would like to increase the hard-science content of WG3, noting that 9/10 WG are focused on social science. It was suggested that Defence Research Agencies, military medicine, AI and other topics should be actively solicited. Anders Sookermy raised the philosophical question about the nature of military sciences. Working groups may suggest a change of description to Council.

**WG4 Leadership, Command and Basic Competences**, Olavi Jänes, Iben Yde

Art Johanson agreed to help cover for WG4 chair as his colleague Olavi Jänes is ill and unable to travel.

**WG5 Military Law and Ethics**, Petrus Hendrikus Johannes Olsthoorn, Anders Klitmøller

Petrus Olsthoorn suggested that working groups might be grouped by theme, and emphasizing the theme could give rise to more input and paper proposals. For example, combining technology, leadership, and education with law and ethics in a single panel might generate a lot of discussion. It was noted that this has been done in other conferences and can result in very lively panels. The theme for this conference was alliances.

**WG6 Security and Defence Policy**, Laurenz Fürst, Mikkel Storm Jensen

Laurenz Fürst remains on UN duty in Mozambique. Mikkel Storm Jensen served as co-chair. Council should solicit nominations for an alternate or interim chair for WG6.

**WG7 Armed Forces and Society**, Rene Moelker, Thomas Brønd

Rene Moelker was unable to attend for personal reasons. Thomas Brønd served as acting Chair.

**WG8 Defence Management and Economics**, Robert Beeres, Markus Gauster, Anne Obling

Robert Beeres is no longer a co-chair of WG8. He is sincerely thanked for his service.

**WG9 Military Education**, Delfim Zambujo das Dores, Thomas Crosbie

Delfim Dores reflected on wide-ranging and useful discussions in Lisbon in 2022. Military academies are looking for input on policies related to ChatGPT and other policy issues. The Portuguese Military University Institute and three associated military academies are undergoing institutional review by the national accreditation agency.

**WG10 Strategy**, Dirk Heinzmann, Kenneth Øhlenschläger Buhl

Dirk Heinzmann has one more year in Vienna. This would be a good point to plan a succession for the WG chair.

At the closing joint meeting, Dirk will propose changes to expand the scope of two working groups:

Motion: to expand WG10 from strategy to strategy and operational art

Motion: to expand WG9 from military education to military education and training

## **8. Any other business (1759)**

Close to 200 participants, 110 abstracts

Until 1845, welcome to meet the

## **9. Next meetings - President**

ISMS Joint Meeting, WG Chairs and Council, 1615-1745 Wednesday 8 November – at the conference venue,

Council Meeting, 0900-1100, Thursday 9 November, Svanemøllens Kaserne, Ryvangs Allé1, 2100 København Ø -

## **10. Adjournment**