

Challenges in Renewing Maritime Capabilities: Viet Nam

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Presentation to

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Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies

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Viet Nam People's Navy

- Historical Evolution (61 years)
 - Seashore Defense Bureau (1955)
 - Department of the Navy (1959)
 - Naval Command (1964)
- Viet Nam Coast Guard (1998)
 - Under Ministry of National Defense
- Viet Nam Fisheries Surveillance Force (2013)
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Viet Nam People's Navy

- Since 2010 development of five forces
 1. Surface ships
 2. Submarines
 3. Artillery and land-based missiles
 4. Naval Air Force
 5. Marine infantry, naval sappers, and island defense forces

Naval Fleet

- 5 Kilo submarines
- 4 Gepard Frigates
- 6 Molniya Corvettes
- 4 Tartantul-1 Corvettes
- 5 Petya Corvettes
- 1 BPS-500 FAC
- 8 Svetlyak Patrol Craft
- Patrol Boats
 - 2-4 TT-400TP
 - 8 Osa
 - 5 Turya
- Minesweepers (8)
 - Sonya, Yurka, Yevgenya
- Amphibious Warfare (5)
 - LST, Polnochny
- Transport/Logistics (11)

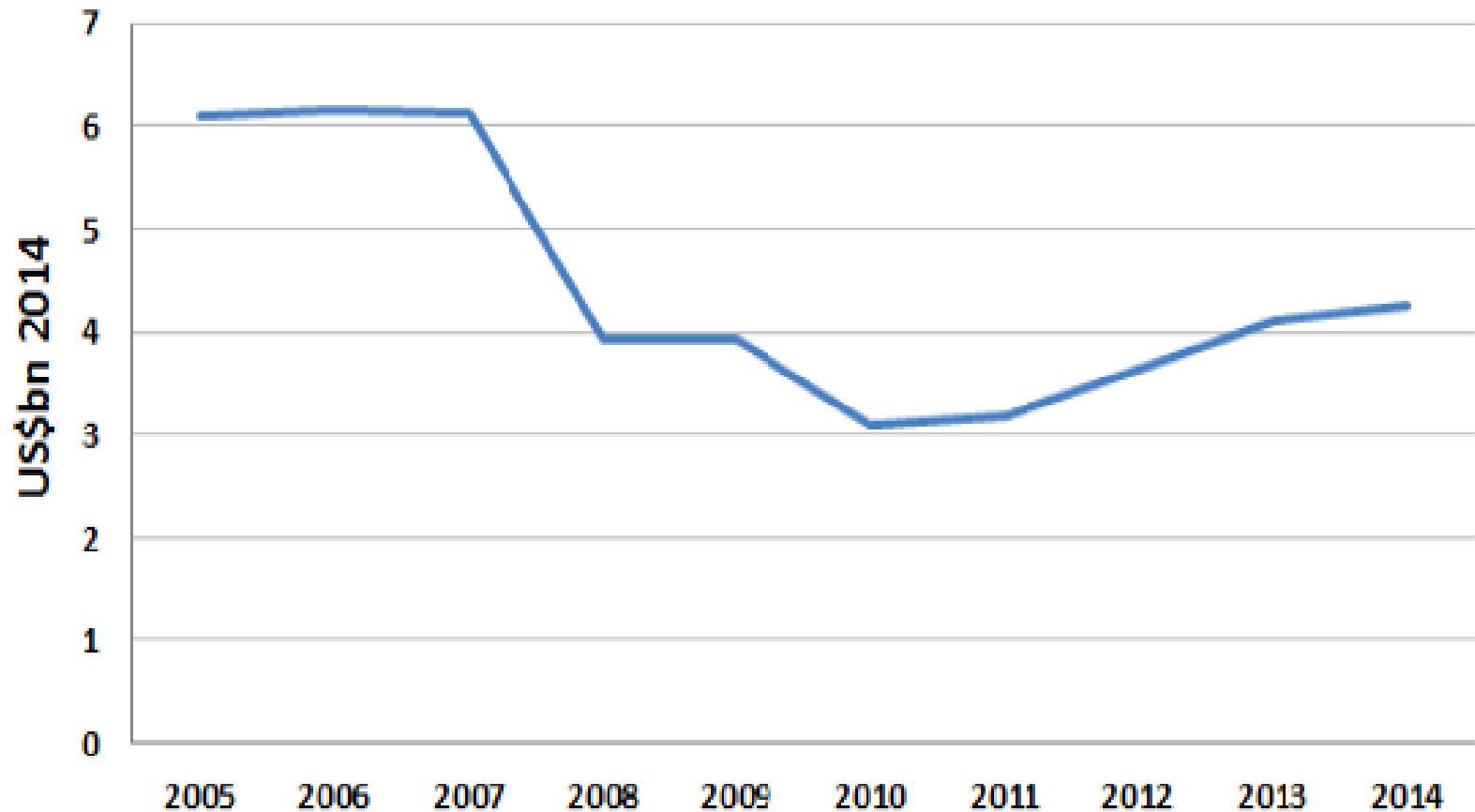
General Question 1

- a. What are the general challenges maritime agencies face in modernizing?

- a. Are modernizing efforts complementary to wider maritime strategies and does this help?

Challenges of Modernization

Defence budget



Challenges of Modernization

- Inter-service balance
 - Army, Air Defense-Air Force, Navy, Border Guard
- Legacy issues
 - Maintenance and Repair
- Logistics support for new acquisitions
- Procurement
 - Dependency of Russia
- Technology integration and networking (RMA)

Challenges of Modernization

- Developing national defense industry
 - Technology transfer/co-production
- Developing Maritime Strategy
- Developing Maritime Doctrine
 - Under consideration
- Joint Services integration and exercises
- Interaction with other navies - exercises

Modernization and Maritime Strategies



Vietnam's Maritime Strategy to 2020 (2007)

- First comprehensive maritime strategy
- Integrate coast with EEZ and continental shelf
 - 53-55% GDP
 - 55-60% of exports

Training (Russian or English?)



Training for Submariners

- 1st class of 60 Vietnamese completed 6-month basic submarine course at INS *Satavahana*
- Most training was in classrooms
 - understand the structure of the submarine and familiarize navigators, engineers, communicators about the onboard systems
- Very little practical experience on submarine
- Need advanced undersea warfare

General Question 2

- To what extent does public awareness of maritime issues help or hinder maritime modernization?
- Rise of anti-China nationalism
 - Reviving Vietnam's maritime past
 - Claims to sovereignty Hoang Sa & Truong Sa
- Focus on East Sea
- Land Army and war veterans

Questions on Vietnam

1. What are the challenges of integrating a total new capability (Kilo-class submarines)?
2. How effective would the Vietnam Peoples' Navy actually be in deploying this new capability?

Submarine Capabilities

- Sea patrol
- Reconnaissance
- Intelligence
- Maritime Domain Awareness
- Deterrence
- Anti-surface warfare
- Anti-shipping
- Anti-submarine warfare
- Special Forces
- Support expeditionary operations
- Sea control
- Anti-blockade

Integrating Kilo Submarines

“The Vietnamese are trying to do something very quickly that no navy in recent times has managed successfully on such a scale from such a limited base... The new boats may have significant numbers of Russians on board for years to come.”

– James Goldrick, “Vietnam’s Submarine Fleet,” *United States Naval Institute Proceedings*, 139(9), September 2013 (Rear Admiral, AO, CSC, RANR)

Effectiveness of New Capabilities

- Vietnam's subs can "deliver lethal blows with either torpedoes or anti-ship cruise missiles"
- Two major weaknesses: lack of major experience in operating complex weapons systems and surveillance, targeting and battle management
- most promising strategy versus China - have sufficient forces for deterrence, while simultaneously pursuing diplomacy to resolve disputes
 - Lyle Goldstein , U.S. Navy War College

‘Mutually Assured Destruction’

- If armed conflict broke out with China, Vietnam would give priority to targeting Chinese flagged merchant shipping and oil container ships operating in the southern extremity of the South China Sea. The aim of this strategy is not to defeat China but to inflict sufficient damage and psychological uncertainty to cause Lloyd’s insurance rates to skyrocket and for foreign investors to panic and take flight.
 - Vietnamese civilian strategist

Challenges in Renewing Maritime Capabilities: The Case of Vietnam

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