

## **Fifteen years on: Reflections on The Kursk Submarine Rescue Failure**

**Anette Mikes**

The *Kursk*, a Russian nuclear-powered submarine sank in the relatively shallow waters of the Barents Sea in August 2000, during a naval exercise. Numerous survivors were reported to be awaiting rescue, and within a week, an international rescue party gathered at the scene, which had seemingly possessed all that was needed for a successful rescue. Yet they failed to save anybody. Drawing on the recollections and daily situational reports of Commodore David Russell, who headed the Royal Navy's rescue mission, and on Robert Moore's (2002) award-winning book *A Time to Die: The Kursk Disaster*, the talk explores how and why this failure—a multiparty coordination failure—occurred.

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