

## The Politics of Special Forces Podcast Show Notes

### Episode 3

#### Summary

In this episode we have a thought-provoking discussion on the central question of the series. Drawing on historical lessons from past periods of great power competition and the role of SOF therein, we start by asking our guests to examine what might be new about this current competitive environment. We then ask them to explore what new or reemphasized roles might be needed for SOF employment to be optimized today within the Canadian context.

#### About the Guests

Dr. Gaëlle Rivard Piché is a strategic analyst for Defence Research and Development Canada – Centre for Operational Research Analysis. She is currently working with the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command in Ottawa. She completed her Ph.D. in International Affairs at Carleton University in 2017. Dr. Rivard Piché is the co-author of *The Newport Manual on Arctic Security*, to be published by the Naval Institute Press in 2021. She previously contributed to edited volumes on Canadian foreign policy and Latin American politics, authored policy reports on the legacy of post-conflict interventions, and published her doctoral research in scientific journals, including *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, *International Journal*, and *Études internationales*.

Dr Bernd Horn, OMM, MSM, CD, PhD is a former infantry officer who has held key command and staff appointments in the Canadian Armed Forces, including Deputy Commander of Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM), Commanding Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment and Officer Commanding 3 Commando, the Canadian Airborne Regiment. He is currently the CANSOFCOM Command Historian, an appointment he fills as a civilian. Dr. Horn is also an adjunct professor of history at the Royal Military College of Canada and a senior fellow at the Joint Special Operations University in Tampa. He has authored, co-authored, edited or co-edited over 45 books and innumerable monographs, chapters, articles on military history, Special Operations Forces, leadership and military affairs.

#### Further Reading

*Beyond the Horizon: A Strategy for Canada's Special Operations Forces in an Evolving Security Environment* Ottawa: Department of National Defence 2020, 18

Horn, Bernd, J. Paul de B. Taillon, and David Last, eds. *Force of Choice: Perspectives on Special Operations* (Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2004).

Last, David and Bernd Horn, eds. *Choice of Force: Special Operations for Canada* (Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005).

Rivard-Piché, Gaëlle. *Assessing the Impact of Orthodox Security Sector Reform in El Salvador*  
Center for Security Governance (September 2016)

Audio credits

From Storyblocks (<https://www.storyblocks.com/>) and the song is called “A Taste of Victory” by  
Valentina Gribanova. Produced with Apple’s GarageBand by the hosts.