Abstract

This work investigates how the Belgian Defense can make use of an MRV, a logistics support vessel, in a specific form. Defense can certainly benefit from an MRV, specifically designed according to its needs. This is supported by the current use of logistical support elements and the Navy's future vision.

Taking this future vision into account, an MRV must mainly focus on logistics transport, support of other vessels and multifunctional deployment. These capabilities are the primary capabilities for an MRV. Support of other vessels includes the very important element of its role as a fuel replenishment ship. Asymmetrical warfare and the possibility of providing training are defined as secondary capabilities.

Comparing MRVs from other nations shows the usefulness of using a merchant hull. This method allows for the construction of a relatively inexpensive ship, with already knowledge of how the structure/ hull will react in certain circumstances. However, it also becomes clear that insufficient prior investigation can lead to inheritance of existing defects or limitations of the original hull. After a comparison between a ferry hull and the hull of a container ship, it is established that a container ship provides the best basis for a converted Belgian MRV.