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Dr. James Boutilier is the Special Advisor (Policy) at Canada's Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters in Esquimalt, British Columbia. His particular area of responsibility relates to naval initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr. Boutilier was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and attended Dalhousie University (BA History: 1960), McMaster University (MA History: 1962), and the University of London (PhD History: 1969). Dr. Boutilier served in the Royal Canadian Navy Reserve from 1956 to 1964 as a navigating officer, and in the same capacity in the Royal Navy Reserve from 1964 to 1969.

Dr. Boutilier taught at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, from 1969 to 1971 before taking up an appointment at Royal Roads Military College in Victoria, British Columbia. He spent twenty-four years on staff at the RRMC serving as department head and Dean of Arts. He was instrumental in establishing the military and strategic studies degree program at the college and taught courses on naval history, contemporary Asia, the history of the Pacific, and strategic issues. During that time he was an adjunct professor of Pacific Studies at the University of Victoria and the Chair of the South Pacific Peoples Foundation of Canada.

Dr. Boutilier's field of expertise is Asia-Pacific defence and security. He published RCN in Retrospect in 1982 and has written extensively on maritime and security concerns. He lectures nationally and internationally on political, economic, and security developments in the Asia-Pacific region. Dr. Boutilier is a member of the Canadian Consortium on Asia-Pacific Security and serves on the Canadian board for the Council on Security Cooperation in Asia-Pacific.