



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION
NATO MARITIME INTERDICTION OPERATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE
NMIOTC
SOUDA BAY
73200 CHANIA
HELLAS



3000 NSC-57/NU 142

TO: See distribution

SUBJECT: **8th NMIOTC ANNUAL CONFERENCE-Food for Thought Paper**

DATE: 20 November 2017

REFERENCE: 3000 NSC-71/ser: NU32, dated 9 March 2017 (Calling Letter)

1. The 8th NMIOTC Annual Conference took place at NMIOTC premises in Souda Bay, Crete GRC, from the 6 to 8 June 2017, with the theme:

“The development of maritime security operations as the instrument to cope with the current security challenges and to counter the evolving threats at sea”

2. The conference focused on providing opportunities to deepen and discuss issues related to the development of maritime security operations and to present proposals and solutions for the complicated security challenges and the evolving threats at sea.

3. One hundred and sixteen (116) participants had the opportunity to share perceptions and listen to provocative ideas and innovative thinking regarding maritime operational engagement; thirty (30) speakers from NATO and non-NATO organizations, including military, academia and maritime industry analyzed the issues and come to substantial considerations.

4. In general, the speeches and presentations demonstrated how the development of maritime security operations could be used as an instrument to confront emerging security threats in the maritime environment and challenged the audience with fruitful and productive discussions. Given their growing importance to the Alliance, these subjects form the basis of the attached Food for Thought Paper (FFT) (Enclosure 1).

5. Important key messages reflected in this FFT paper were triggered by the dialogue and comments of the distinguished participants, taking into account the latest developments in the technological field as well as political evolutions around the globe, pertinent to the subject. NMIOTC considers that this paper may contribute to the

development of operational and tactical products and tools as well as to introduce innovation in training as a key stone of the Alliance Maritime Strategy reflecting POL-MIL guidance.

6. NATO is as essential as ever. At this pivotal time, the Alliance is strong and continues to adapt. This was the core of NATO's Summit in Brussels in late May 2017. NATO's framework for the South focuses on improving the Alliance's regional understanding and situational awareness, its capabilities for expeditionary operations, and its ability to project stability in its neighborhood. Under this concept, the outcome of this conference may contribute to the implementation of the Alliance Maritime Strategy focusing in projecting stability.

7. The structure of the conference was designed to encourage presentations and follow-up discussions on the speakers' theses, in which they conveyed their ideas, concepts, proposals and issues that formed the basis of this food for thought paper. The thematic areas focused on, but not limited to, the Operational, Commercial and Legal Perspectives, covered the subject and intrigued the audience with fruitful and challenging discussions. The strong interest, active participation and discussions during the conference indicated that the conference was well received and gave the participants the opportunity to network, exchange views and share perceptions. NMIOTC commits to expanding this engagement at the 2018 conference.

8. Regarding social events, NMIOTC organized and hosted an icebreaker and a dinner. Both events proved to be exceptional opportunities for further professional engagement, personal interaction and networking and provided the participants a taste of the Mediterranean cuisine and the culture of Crete.

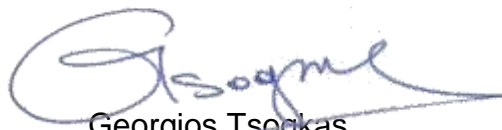
9. The FFT paper, all conference presentations, as well as supplementary material, have been posted to the NMIOTC website (<http://www.nmiotc.nato.int/>) for further reference.

10. Next year's conference will be held from 5 to 7 June 2018. The NMIOTC Transformation and Training Support directorate has already initiated communications with a broad audience of potential participants in order to elevate the NMIOTC 2018 Annual Conference to an even higher level of performance.

11. For further information or clarifications please contact NMIOTC POCs:

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Georgios Tsogkas

Commodore GRC(N)

Commandant NMIOTC

ENCLOSURES:

- 1: 8th NMIOTC Annual Conference - Food for Thought Paper.
- 2: Annual Conference Agenda.

8th NMIOTC Annual Conference

FOOD FOR THOUGHT PAPER

“The development of maritime security operations as the instrument to cope with the current security challenges and to counter the evolving threats at sea”

1. GENERAL

a. If NATO’s neighbors are more stable, NATO is more secure. Since 2014, the Alliance has faced greater challenges than ever before. Adaptation is the key element that has enabled the Alliance to keep up with the challenges that surround its borders. The increasingly complex and dynamic strategic environment creates political instability, affecting equally the South and the East, with the subsequent influx of refugees and migrants have escalated the problem. Someone could rightly argue that challenges come by all (360°) directions. Regional maritime security challenges and social order specifically in the eastern Mediterranean, relating in particular to the significant increase of migrants coming to Europe due to the insecurity and instability in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region.

b. Adaptive terrorism and other associated security challenges, add to the creation of an unstable environment. The world continues to face a serious threat from terrorism – a global threat that knows no borders, nationality, nor religion. It is a tool most used by the weakest contender to put pressure over a more powerful opponent, for example, to force western powers to cease their efforts aiming at ensuring the continuation of application of democratic principles and values and the rule of law in the western countries. In the wake of the 22nd March 2016 terrorist attacks in Brussels, the North Atlantic Council responded decisively: *“We are resolute in our determination to prevent and defeat terrorism. We will do this by standing together, as open societies and as democracies.”* Human trafficking is an additional effect of the war without limits in the Levant and MENA. It is a tool for asymmetric wars and used in the struggle for power, particularly in the Mediterranean Sea, and is facilitated by the presence of three virtual bridges that link the South to the North, Africa to Europe: Spain, Italy and Greece.

c. The volatility of energy supplies and costs can have far-reaching security implications. Natural resources, including those in the Mediterranean Sea, are highly coveted due to economic difficulties of MENA states. These economic difficulties, combined with the high profitability and volatility of energy trade are the main cause of the “maritimization” of conflicts. In this context, NATO is working to raise its collective awareness in the issue and develop competence in supporting the protection of critical energy infrastructure.

d. NATO’s framework for the South focuses on improving the Alliance’s regional understanding and situational awareness, its capabilities for expeditionary operations and its ability to project stability in its neighborhood. To this direction, the development of the Regional Hub for the South will enhance intelligence sharing and strengthen networks between NATO and other international organizations, especially with the European Union, as well as Partner Nations and relevant national stakeholders. These efforts will contribute to enhancing the Alliance’s role in fighting terrorism.

e. NATO’s commitment to projection of stability and implementation of initiatives in the wake of the Warsaw and Brussels Summits call for enhanced cooperation. This was reiterated by Allies and security providing partners at the NATO-EU Joint Declaration from Warsaw Summit. Operation Sea Guardian and EU Operation Sophia highlighted the partner capacity building requirements and opportunities.

2. CONFERENCE TOPICS

The Conference focused on the following four main topics covering military, commercial and legal perspectives:

- a. Security challenges of the Alliances Southern Flank and in Mediterranean in particular.
- b. Opportunity of cooperation between NATO, EU, UN and other International Organizations for the common interest of a more secure maritime environment.
- c. Strategic Direction South, with particular focus on partners’ engagement and cooperation.
- d. The development of maritime security operations and the implementation of the outcome of the NATO Warsaw Summit as depicted in the public communiqué.

3. OUTCOMES

a. Common Understanding

Common understanding is a challenge in and of itself. We must understand the continuously changing environment. Economic implications that drive political evolutions and influence Nations' posture must be identified in order to be countered in a timely manner. For example, rare elements resources have the potential to become a new field of future conflicts and disputes. The constantly changing world leads to geopolitical instability, affecting individual countries and NATO as an Alliance. The biggest take away is that the situation is evolving and we have to be proactive and agile in order to remain equipped for unpleasant surprises.

b. Asymmetric and Hybrid Threats

We look upon new threats, which in fact are much older than someone may think. For example, migration and human trafficking, and weapons smuggling have been part of civilization for millennia. Terrorism, likewise, is an old system that echoes through the ages. In order to counter these threats, nations have to be united and implement common tactics, standards, and interoperability. Interoperability, however, needs to be implemented first in our mindsets. Bureaucratic mechanisms reduce operational effectiveness, therefore we need to renew our procedures and strive for continuous improvement. Innovation will not appear organically. We need to constantly push forward in order to be successful. No country can act individually; on the contrary, partnerships are essential. To this end, the exchange of knowledge and sharing of information will be a significant yet essential challenge. As history has indicated, everyone requires information but few are willing to share it. We need to understand that security is something that affects us all, and only under a common umbrella and following a comprehensive approach we can face the enemy collectively and effectively thus be able to tackle the increasing asymmetric and hybrid threats. After all, this is the goal of Collective Defense.

c. Security

What is the meaning of Security? What is the concept of Security? We speak about security only when we lose it. We care about security only when we feel insecure. Economic development and security are inextricably intertwined. This might be a solution to the instability in regions with poor or non-existent economies. In the case of Africa which plays a significant role to the European Security, its economy continues to develop as the use of the oceans is incorporated into its economic structures. Security in Africa,

however, has always been dominated by interstate and civil armed conflicts. Little attention had been paid to maritime threats and the protection of the maritime environment until the end of the cold war era, when a shift from traditional security to human security occurred. When African nations recognized the significance of the maritime environment on economic development, a rapid escalation of piracy on its East Coast appeared. The insecurity of the African Coasts continues to create challenges for shipping routes which eventually influence the maritime security of Europe. Economic development along with Defense Capacity Building may drive people away from illegal activities such as terrorism and piracy, which would promote stability on this continent. As a result, Europe and the rest of the Western World will be affected positively.

d. NATO – EU cooperation

Europe has suffered through numerous internal and external conflicts and wars during the past centuries. Now Europe is creating its own future. Working closely with its Allies and Partners shapes this future based on solid principles and norms. Most of the European countries are members of both NATO and the EU. Strong connection and common deliverables are more essential than ever. Having these things in mind, it is easy to understand that the transatlantic link has to be strengthened. The NATO-EU Joint Declaration from Warsaw Summit came to verify not only the substantial relations between the two organizations at the highest level, but also the commitment from both sides to address emerging challenges together and enhance their strategic cooperation at all fields.

e. Direction “South”

2017 has been a milestone year for the Alliance, with focus on adaptation and projecting stability to a 360° direction and initiating major and important procedures such as creating the Hub for the South and adapting a new NCS. Increased cooperation with regional Partners in the Mediterranean as well as full implementation of the Hub for the South will increase the capacity to identify threats and improve maritime situational awareness of the southern flank of the Alliance. When the Hub is fully operational, it will substantially contribute to countering transnational threats.

f. Maritime environment

All governments are aware that the available resources on land alone, are insufficient to ensure the survival of their nations. This is why the maritime domain is experiencing both increased interest and challenges. This is a trend that is destined to be a constant issue in the future.

The maritime environment is characterized by complexity and diversity. The oceans are an increasingly accessible environment for transnational criminal and terrorist activities. Disruption of international maritime transportation and distribution networks would undermine equally the industrial production and the flow of energy, significantly impacting in our security and at the welfare of our populations.

The Warsaw Summit last year reinforced the importance of maritime issues. NATO is attempting to use different elements of the Allies' maritime strategy and take measures that will allow for more flexible maritime forces, efficient maritime operation, and proper resources to cooperate with partners such as the UN, the EU and other relevant organizations. The maritime strategy is now at very high level of priority in the NATO agenda. There is a common understanding among the Allies that the maritime security is essential to complement the three pillars of the strategic concept: collective defence, crisis management and cooperative security.

4. NMIOTC SUPPORT TO MARITIME SECURITY

NMIOTC is committed to support both SACT and MARCOM in advancing the transformational efforts and training in the Maritime Environment. The Center will continue to provide enhanced operational training, supporting current operations and missions and act as the maritime advocate to MARCOM and to SACT regarding the MSO tasks, MIO in particular, including interdiction at range, which is considered as the enabler to all the others.

Engagement with the hub for the South: NMIOTC has become a HUB in the South itself. The nexus that has been created including 84 NATO and Partners of all frameworks, IOs, NGOs, as well as NNE and the connectivity that has been established among all, enables NMIOTC to continue providing quality training for the benefit of the International Maritime Security Community. NMIOTC seeks and anticipates to play its important role on the Alliance's engagement to the South as it is the most Southern NETF/NATO Entity of the Alliance.

Protection of Critical Infrastructure: The availability of energy, including supply disruptions or volatile energy prices, can have far-reaching security implications. While the European Union diversifies its energy suppliers, its dependence on gas from new exploitation in the Eastern Mediterranean will grow. Instability in the region could present NATO and the EU with security challenges, which require enhanced early warning and response capabilities. In this context, NMIOTC is working to raise its awareness in this

area and develop its competence in supporting the protection of critical energy infrastructure by providing pertinent to the issue training.

Cyber Domain: Cyber threats and attacks are becoming more and more common, sophisticated, and damaging. These attacks can shut down infrastructure, undermine democratic systems, and affect military operations. In view of this changing security environment, cyber defence has become a key priority. Although it was not tackled (due to the topic of the 8th Annual Conference) in depth, it has to be highlighted that cyber introduces implication in the security of the maritime environment. It has evolved from a technical enabler to an operational domain in which NMIOTC, through its engagement (courses and conferences) anticipates to assist in this comprehensive effort of the Alliance in solid cooperation with others involved.

The 8th NMIOTC Annual Conference is considered to be successful in terms of motivating of the maritime community that participated, understanding the changing world, promoting of ideas, and sharing perceptions. Evolutions around the globe prove to affect us all no matter the distance. The need for establishing a sense of security and stability, therefore, appears to be more vital than ever.

ENCLOSURE 2 TO:
 NMIOTC NOTE: NU142
 NSC-57/20 Nov 2017

NMIOTC ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA AND TIMELINE

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
6 June 17		
0830-0930	Registration – in processing – GROUP PHOTO	
0930-1000	Welcome Address	Commodore Georgios Tsogkas GRC N (NMIOTC Commandant)
	Opening Address	Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis GRC N (Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff)
1000-1100	Keynote Speakers	Mr. Timo Koster (Director Defence Policy Capabilities NATO HQ)
		Rear Admiral Mitko Alexandrov Petev BGR N (Commander of Bulgarian Navy)
		Vice Admiral Alexandru Mîrșu ROU N (Chief Of The Romanian Naval Forces Staff)
		Rear Admiral (LH) Luc-Marie Lefebvre FRA N (Deputy Ops Commander for EUNAVFOR MED Op. Sophia)
1100-1130	Coffee Break – Networking	
1130-1200	a. NMIOTC Brief	a. Cpt Corrado Campana ITA N
	b. Annual Conference Admin Brief	b. Lt Kostas Papanastasis GRC N
1200-1330	SESSION 1 Moderator: Dr. James Bergeron (NATO MARCOM POLAD)	
	a. The role of Submarines in Maritime Security Operations, Focus in Mediterranean.	a. Mr. Angelopoulos (Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems)
	b. EU – NATO Maritime Missions and Operations in the Mediterranean: Examining Issues on Strategic Objectives, Coordination (and, Duplication!)	b. Prof. Ioannis Ant. Rayies (Hellenic Military Academy-Senior Research Fellow, KEMEA)
	c. The importance of flexible platforms for	c. Captain, USA. N (Ret.) Edward H.

	unique and special missions such as ISR and partner engagement / theatre security cooperation.	Lundquist (IABC Fellow)
1330–1430	Lunch Break – Networking	
1430-1600	<p>SESSION 2</p> <p>Moderator: Dr.Andreas Kintis- Hellenic Republic ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>a. A New Tool for the Geopolitical Assessment of REE projects</p> <p>b. The geological events wich are responsible for creating large hydrocarbon deposits in the eastern Mediterranean basin.</p> <p>c. Maritime Security And Innovation: A New Approach To Tackle The Security Challenges In Eastern Mediterranean</p>	<p>a. Prof. Sotirios Kamenopoulos (TUC)</p> <p>b. Prof. Tony Foskolos (Geological Survey of Canada)</p> <p>c. Prof. Nikitas Nikitakos (Aegean University)</p>
	END OF FIRST DAY	
1930-2130	Ice Breaking Event	

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
7 June 16		
0900-1030	Keynote Speakers	<p>Vice Admiral Nicolaos Tsounis HN (Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff)</p> <p>Vice Admiral (ret) Ferdinando Sanfelice di Monteforte ITA N</p> <p>Mr. Mihai Carp (Deputy Head of Section, Operations Division of International Staff, NATO HQ)</p> <p>Rear Admiral (LH) Giuseppe Berutti Bergotto ITA N (Commander of Italian 2nd Naval Division)</p>
1030-1100 Coffee Break - Networking		
1100-1230	<p>SESSION 3 Moderator: Prof. Henri Fouche (Stellenbosch University)</p> <p>a. Responding to the New Maritime Challenges of the Mediterranean</p> <p>b. The Global Response to Maritime Illicit Activities Coordinated by INTERPOL</p> <p>c. A Comprehensive Approach For NATO Strategic Direction – South</p>	<p>a. Dr. James Bergeron (NATO MARCOM POLAD)</p> <p>b. Mr. Alfred Mc Geachy (INTERPOL)</p> <p>c. Mr. Chris Kremidas (US EUCOM)</p>
1230-1400 Lunch Break - Networking		
1400-1530	<p>SESSION 4 Moderator: Dr Kalliopi Chainoglou (University of Macedonia)</p> <p>a. The southern african maritime security link to the north: the 2016 lomé charter - quo vadis?</p> <p>b. African maritime security and the lomé charter: an african dream or continental nightmare?</p> <p>c. Maritime Security off Africe: The 2016 Lome Charter as catalyst for safer seas.</p>	<p>a. Mark Blaine, SIGLA, Stellenbosch University</p> <p>b. Col Pieter Brits SIGLA, Dr Michelle Nel, SIGLA, Stellenbosch University.</p> <p>c. Prof. Henri Fouche, SIGLA, Stellenbosch University.</p>
END OF SECOND DAY		
2000-2230	Official Dinner	

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
8 June 16		
0900-1000	Keynote Speakers	<p>Dr Jamie Shea (NATO HQ) Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emergent Security Challenges (VTC)</p> <p>Rear Admiral Anthony J. Vogt US CG (Director of Governmental & Public Affairs U.S. Coast Guard)</p> <p>Rear Admiral (ret) Giovanni Gumiero ITA N</p>
1000-1030 Coffee Break - Networking		
1030-1200	<p>SESSION 5 Moderator: Mr Chris Kremidas (United States European Command)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Improving maritime situational awareness: establishing a “maritime safety and security network”. b. NATO Amphibious Concepts c. Opportunity for cooperation between NATO, EU, UN and other International Organizations for the common interest of a more secure maritime environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dr. Dimitrios Dalaklis (WMU) b. LtCol Lisa A. Deitle Western Europe Regional Planner G-5, MARFOREURAF c. Mr. Peter Dirk (EDA)
1200-1330 Lunch Break - Networking		
1330-1500	<p>SESSION 6 Moderator: Prof. Nikitas Nikitakos (Aegean University)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Use of Simulation in Collective Training for Maritime Interdiction Operations b. Seaport program c. Efficiency, Business Continuity & Future Foresight in Hybrid Challenges. NATO’s Southern & Middle - East Flank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mr. James Rapp (CAE Elektronik GmbH) b. Lt Nathan Cooley USA N (Office of Naval Intelligence) c. Prof. Marios Efthimiopoulos (American University in the Emirates)
1500-1530 Coffee Break - Networking		
1530-1600	Wrap up – Closing Remarks	Vice Admiral (ret) Ferdinando Sanfelice di Monteforte ITA N