



**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION
NATO MARITIME INTERDICTION OPERATIONAL
TRAINING CENTRE
NMIOTC
SOUDA BAY
GREECE**



5000 NSC-74/ser: NU: 68

TO: See Distribution

SUBJECT: **16th NMIOTC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 - JOINING INSTRUCTIONS**

DATE: 7 May 2025

REFERENCE: a. NMIOTC 3000 NSC-74/ser.: NU 127, dated 29 Oct 2024
(15th Anniversary NMIOTC Annual Conference 2024 – Initial Calling Notice)
b. NMIOTC 3000 NSC-74/ser: NU 26, dated 24 Feb 2025
(15th Anniversary NMIOTC Annual Conference 2024 – Calling Letter)

1. Introduction. As per references, NMIOTC has announced its 16th Annual Conference 2024, which is going to take place at the premises of the Centre, in Souda Bay, Crete – Greece on **Wednesday 4th** and **Thursday 5th of June 2025**.

2. Theme. “Steering into the Future: The Impact of Climate Change on Maritime Security”.

3. Aim of the event. The upcoming conference aims to navigate participants, through current and future implications of climate change on maritime security. Gaining a deeper understanding of the climate change security challenges will support the identification of strategies, policies and innovative solutions in the maritime domain. It also seeks to further cultivate a common understanding and promote future collaboration across various stakeholders in the development of mitigation and adaptation initiatives. The conference will be held under the **“Chatham House Rule”**.

4. Participants. Registration is open to all interested participants. Speakers from Military Organizations, Law Enforcement Agencies, EU Institutions, Bodies and Agencies, UN, International Organizations, Academia, Judiciary and Ministerial Authorities, Private Sector and Defence Industry can present their views on the topics, while the audience will be comprised of military and civilian personnel involved with or interested in the theme. We anticipate participation from NATO HQs and entities, NATO and Partner Nations, EU Institutions, Bodies and Agencies, International Organizations, Governmental Authorities, Non – Governmental Organizations and Institutes, and the broader Maritime Community of Interest, as well. The ideally diverse audience should represent Academia, Armed Forces, Law Enforcement and Maritime agencies/ experts, and representatives from Ministries of Defence, Interior and Foreign Affairs, specialized magistrates and officials from the relevant organizations. Please feel free to disseminate this invitation / calling letter to persons that you deem relevant and interested to either attend or contribute to topic from their point of view as potential speakers.

5. Administrative Details. Administrative requirements, arrangements and information are provided in enclosure 1.

6. Agenda. The Conference's draft Agenda is depicted in enclosure 2.

7. Remarks. Additional details and information will be updated regularly on the NMIOTC web page [NMIOTC Conferences | NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre](#).

8. Points of Contact. For further information or clarifications, please contact:

Lead Conference Planner:
Cdr Gianluca FINAMORE ITA (N), OF-4
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Email: studentadmin@nmiotc.nato.int

9. We extend our sincere gratitude in advance for your support of the 16th NMIOTC Annual Conference. We look forward to a stimulating and productive event and to welcoming you to Greece, specifically to the picturesque and historic city of Chania.

Periklis Piyis
Commodore GRC (N)
Commandant NMIOTC

ENCLOSURES:

1. Administrative Details
2. Draft Agenda

Administrative Details 16th NMIOTC Annual Conference

1. **Schedule.** The conference will be held over two days, from Wednesday 4th to Thursday 5th of June 2024. It is advised to consider Tuesday 3rd of June (or earlier) and Friday 6th of June (or later) as travel days.
2. **Registration.** Participants are requested to sign up to NMIOTC event portal in website <https://nmiotc.nato.int> or using directly the link <https://nmiotc.classter.com/Actions/Registration>. A signup confirmation message will be received to the email provided during the sign up process, along with the respective credentials. Login to <https://nmiotc.classter.com> and register to the **16th Annual Conference** by using the "Application Management" function at the top left corner of the portal main page. **Registration status can be verified within the portal.** If you encounter any problem during registration process, please contact studentadmin@nmiotc.nato.int or NMIOTC PoCs, mentioned below. Registration should be submitted **NLT Friday 23rd May 2025**.
3. **Accommodation.** Participants are responsible to arrange their own accommodation as there is no accommodation facilities on the Centre's premises. NMIOTC can provide guidance / assistance, if requested. Hotels near Chania city centre are highly recommended for transportation purposes. The list of recommended hotels in Chania offering special prices (**for participants who book directly with each hotel by e-mail, using the code "NMIOTC"**) and including breakfast and internet connection, is as follows:
 - a. **THE CHANIA** 5* hotel <https://www.thechaniahotel.com/>, E-mail: reservations@thechaniahotel.com, Tel: (+30) 28210 90002. The hotel offers a discount of 20% for car rental at www.letsdrive.gr
 - b. **AKALI** 4* hotel www.akali-hotel.gr. (promotional code "NMIOTC" via hotel's online booking platform) E-mail: info@akali-hotel.gr Tel: (+30) 28210 92872.
 - c. **KYDON** 4* hotel <https://kydonhotel.com/en> (promotional code "NMIOTC" via hotel's online booking platform) E-mail: info@kydonhotel.com, Tel.: (+30) 28210 52280.
 - d. **SAMARIA** 4* hotel www.samariahhotel.gr (promotional code "NMIOTC" via hotel's online booking platform) E-mail: reservations@samariahhotel.gr, Tel.: (+30) 28210 38600.
 - e. **ARKADI** 3* hotel www.arkadi-hotel.gr, E-mail: reservations@arkadi-hotel.gr, Tel: (+30) 28210 90181. The hotel offers a discount of 20% for car rental at www.letsdrive.gr
 - f. **KRITI** 3* hotel, www.kriti-hotel.gr, E-mail: info@kriti-hotel.gr, Tel. (+30) 28210 51881.

g. [PORTO VENEZIANO](http://www.portoveneziano.gr) 3* hotel www.portoveneziano.gr, E-mail: hotel@portoveneziano.gr, Tel: (+30) 28210 27100

4. Transportation.

a. Participants are responsible for their own transportation from/to the Airport during arrival and departure day. Participants should plan to fly to Chania International Airport (airport code: CHQ). NMIOTC will provide transportation from specific **pick up points** in Chania city centre to NMIOTC's premises and vice-versa on a daily basis throughout the event. Pick-up points are as follows:

Pick up points	Place	Time
1st pick-up point	<u>AKALI Hotel</u>	07:30
2nd pick-up point	<u>SAMARIA Hotel</u>	07:35
3rd pick-up point	<u>KYDON Hotel</u>	07:40
4th pick up point	<u>KRITI Hotel</u>	07:45

NOTE. Participants staying in **ARKADI** and **PORTO VENEZIANO** Hotels are kindly requested to use the SAMARIA and KRITI bus stops, respectively.

Fifty-seat buses (civilian type), marked with the label **NMIOTC** on the windshield, will pass by the pick-up points at the scheduled time.

b. Transportation means from **Chania Airport** to **Chania city** centre are available as follows:

(1) Bus: The bus stop is outside the terminal and the ticket costs 2,50€, For further information and detailed timetables check <https://www.e-ktel.com/en>

(2) Taxi from the airport directly to Chania city center, 24 hours/day, 35,00€ (approx).

Participants, who intend to rent a car, should make a booking with the preferred car rental agency by e-mail, referring to NMIOTC. Participants using their own transportation means, are advised to be at NMIOTC daily **no later than 08:15** (plan for a 30 minute drive from the city centre). The destination in Google maps is "NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre" or "NMIOTC Main Gate". NMIOTC main building is 2,5 km from the main gate.

5. Attire. The attire for the Conference will be Summer Service Uniform or Business Casual (jacket & tie) for the military personnel and business casual for the civilians. In addition, the attire for the hosted dinner will be smart casual.

6. Classification. The conference has no classification marking and all contents will be releasable to public. The conference will be held under the "**Chatham House Rule**"

7. Conference fee. The Conference fee is **180€** for each attendee, which covers Conference and administrative expenses, transportation from the hotels to the Centre and back, lunches in NMIOTC premises and a hosted dinner. For moderators and panellists the conference will be free of charge. The possible methods of payment are reported in the following table:

A.BEFORE THE EVENT	INFORMATION	REMARKS
1. By Bank Deposit	NMIOTC BANK ACCOUNT: NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE, 494/540010-48 SWIFT BIC: ETHN GRAA IBAN: GR3801104940000049454001048	Bank deposits should be completed not later than <u>2 working days before the start date of the event</u> . Bank charges are not covered by NMIOTC. The receipt should be sent by email to papadakisst@nmiotc.nato.int , michaleasi@nmiotc.nato.int , cc lafkasm@nmiotc.nato.int
2. By Debit/Credit Card	Upon notification from the participant, the direct link for credit/debit card payment will be sent to the email address designated by the participant.	Participants should send an email to papadakisst@nmiotc.nato.int and michaleasi@nmiotc.nato.int , with a copy to lafkasm@nmiotc.nato.int , to receive the link for credit/debit card payment.
B. FIRST DAY OF THE EVENT	INFORMATION	REMARKS
3. By Debit/Credit card	A valid credit/debit card should be presented on the first day of the event.	The fee is always paid in euros [the credit/debit card may provide the option to pay in another currency (other than euro) and therefore the 'euro' currency option must be chosen].
4. By Cash	If the preferred method of payment is cash, participants are advised to have the exact amount of the fee to avoid delays during the on-site registration process.	The fee is always paid in euros.

In any case, an appropriate proof of payment will be given to all participants.

8. Social program. The 16th annual conference hosted diner will be held at a traditional local restaurant in Chania, on the evening of the **4th of June**.

9. Spouses program. Depending on participation, a guided sightseeing tour, shopping, and leisure time in the wider area of Chania prefecture will be organized for the spouses on Wednesday, June 5th, during business hours. Moreover, spouses are encouraged and welcome to join us for the hosted dinner, which will take place on the 4 th of June. To assist us with planning, we kindly request an early indication of participation in both the Spouses tour and the dinner. If your spouse intends to participate in one or both events, please inform the Points of Contact Unclassified / Releasable for Internet transmission 5 Unclassified / Releasable for Internet transmission (PoCs) mentioned below. An additional fee of €45 per event for spouses will be required (totalling €90 for both events), should they decide to participate in the Spouses Program. This fee can be paid using the methods described in paragraph 11 above for the conference fee.

10. Visa Requirements. Participants or their national authorities are responsible for visa arrangements. Participants are advised to contact the proper diplomatic authorities for up to date information, well in advance. It is the individual's responsibility to obtain his/her visa and to have the proper travel and medical documentation. Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs website (www.mfa.gr) provides relevant visa information requirements. NMIOTC will provide a Visa Support Letter, if requested.

11. Security Instructions. The Conference has No Classification Marking. However, NMIOTC applies security regulations according to NATO standards. For security reasons, everyone attending needs to register online in the classter: <https://nmiotc.classter.com/Actions/Registration>, in order to have access to NMIOTC's facilities and the conference.

12. Badging process. A welcome package that includes security badge and all the necessary information will be delivered to the participants upon their arrival to NMIOTC, during the in processing. The badge shall be carried and visible throughout the conference. There is an access control to enter [Marathi Gate](#) and NMIOTC building. You will be required to carry your passport or your national identification card during your check in the first day of the conference.

13. Medical service. First aid and emergency medical support is offered by NMIOTC paramedic and local Naval Hospital. However, for all other situations, medical expenses must be paid by the individuals or their insurance agencies. All participants are strongly advised to have appropriate medical insurance.

14. Greece travel measures. The current protocol can be found in the official website <https://travel.gov.gr/#/>

Draft Agenda 16th NMIOTC Annual Conference

“Steering into the Future: The Impact of Climate Change on Maritime Security”

Day 1 Wednesday 4 June 2025		
TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
08:15 - 09:00	Registration – Welcome Coffee	
09:00 - 09:10	Opening Admin / Security Brief	Cdr Gianluca FINAMORE, ITA (N) Training Support Director, NMIOTC
09:10 - 09:20	NMIOTC Welcome Address	Cdre Periklis PIYIS, GRC(N) NMIOTC Commandant
09:20 - 09:30	Host Nation Senior Representative Welcome address	Hellenic Navy / Defense General Staff representative (TBD)
09:30 - 10:10	Keynote Speakers’ session (15-20 minutes max for each)	Professor James BERGERON Political Advisor to the Commander, NATO Allied Maritime Command, Honorary Professor of Strategic Studies, University of Plymouth, Dr Harry T. CONWAY Chair, Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), International Maritime Organization (IMO) & Alternate Permanent Representative Liberia Permanent Mission to IMO
10:10 - 10:20	Group Photo	
10:20 - 10:50	Coffee Break	

10:50 - 12:10	SESSION 1: Climate Change as a Threat Multiplier for Maritime Security and Future Operations	Moderator: Dr Dionysia (Denia) KOLOKOTSA Professor, Technical University of Crete
	The Future Strikes Back: Climate Change, Future Operations, and the Role of Long-Term Strategic Analysis	Dr. Gergely NEMETH Defence Innovation Research Institute of Hungary, CEO
	From Seabed to Space: Maritime Security Threats in a Climate-Challenged and contested environment	Capt. Panagiotis TRIPONTIKAS ACOS N2, Allied Maritime Command
	Opportunities, challenges, and next steps: further operationalizing NATO's Climate Change and Security Action Plan	Mr. Paul RUSHTON Team Lead, Climate and Energy Security Section Innovation, NATO HQ
	Climate Change in the High North - Consequences for Defence and Security	Bjørn Olav KNUTSEN Chief Researcher at the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI) and Associate Professor at the Nord University Bodø Marius Nyquist PEDERSEN Researcher at Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI)
12:10 - 13:00	Lunch break	
13:00 - 14:20	SESSION 2: Geopolitical perspective on Climate change	Moderator: Dr. Kostas IFANTIS Professor of International Relations Dept. of International, European and Area Studies Panteion University of Social and Political Studies
	Consider NATO's Climate 'Raison d'agir'. Security Resilience & Business Continuity. The Global, Regional Geostrategic Framework of Security due to Climate Change	Dr. Marios-Panagiotis EFTHYMIPOULOS Associate Professor in International Security and Strategy Faculty
	Bridging Regions: Geopolitical Shifts and the Interconnection between the Mediterranean, Arctic, and Europe	Rear Admiral (LH) Daniil TRICĂ, Rou (N) Romanian Navy HQ

	A strategic competition narrative frame to understand MoD's strategies driven by climate change in the Arctic	Ms Puck VAN DEN BRINK , Researcher and consultant Public Safety and Security at Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)
	Shaping the alliance's approach in the maritime domain from a holistic security and governance perspective	Major General (Rtd) Philippe BOUTINAUD, FRA (A) Senior Security and Strategy Advisor to the Director of DCAF, Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
14:20 - 14:50	Coffee break	
14:50 - 16:10	SESSION 3: Climate change and maritime security – regional and national policies	Moderator: Capt. Panagiotis TRIPONTIKAS ACOS N2, Allied Maritime Command
	Greek "Green" Armed Forces: The Transition to Climate Neutrality <i>Environmental - Energy and Climate Change Adaptation Policy (EECCAP), Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation Roadmap</i>	Captain Stergios PAPARIZOS (HAF) , Hellenic Ministry of Defence, General Directorate of Finance, Planning and support, Department of Infrastructure and Environmental Protection
	The UK RN approach to identifying, assessing and managing climate related risks and impacts on strategy, operations and assets	Ms. Lisa HAMMOCK UK Navy Head of Climate Change and Sustainability
	Climate Change and Maritime security, the Italian Navy perspective	Captain Francesco LOIERO, ITA (N) Italian Navy General Staff
	Climate Change and Maritime Security: Conflict Catalysts in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Guinea?	Dr. Francois VREÿ Professor Emeritus (Military Science) Stellenbosch University Dr. Michelle NEL Senior Lecturer-Mercantile and Public Law (Mil), Stellenbosch University Captain (ret) Mark BLAINE, ZAF (N) Maritime Security Practitioner / Researcher, Stellenbosch University
20:00	Social Event at local restaurant in Chania Old City	

Day 2 Thursday 5 June 2025		
TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
08:15 – 09:00	Coffee - Networking	
09:00 -09:20	Keynote Speakers' session	Dr Alison WESTON Senior Coordinator for Maritime Security in the Security and Defence Policy Directorate of the European External Action Service (EEAS)
09:20 – 10:40	SESSION 4: Social, Economic and civil future implications	Moderator: Capt. (ret) Mark BLAINE, ZAF (N)
	Climate change and migration	Ms. Ourania STAVROPOULOU Permanent Secretary, Hellenic Ministry for Migration and Asylum
	Climate Change, Illicit Trade, and Terrorism: Unpacking the latest Threats and Challenges to Maritime Security	Dr Christina SCHORI LIANG Head of Counterterrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy in Geneva, Switzerland (GCSP)
	Climate change, maritime crimes and anti-money laundering legislation	Dr. Iliana Christodoulou VAROTSI Senior Legal Consultant & Maritime Industry Lead Trainer
	The Impact of Climate Change on Maritime Security – A Human Factors Perspective	Dr. Nikolaos VENTIKOS Associate Professor Laboratory for Maritime Transport National Technical University of Athens, Greece
10:40 – 11:10	Coffee Break	
11:10 – 12:30	SESSION 5: Maritime Infrastructure protection and adaptation.	Moderator: Dr. George NIKOLAKAKOS NATO Centre Maritime for Research and Experimentation (CMRE)
	The impact of Climate Change on the Safety of Maritime Facilities	Lieutenant General Michael KLOUVAS GRC(A) Construction Management and Natural Disaster Response Command
	Preparing for climate impact: Adapting military activities (Latest Report Update)	Ms. Yagmur TORUL YUREK SHAPE Support Directorate / JENG – energy security, environmental protection, infrastructure

	Strengthening Climate Resilience in European Ports: The Role of EU Legal Frameworks in Adapting to Climate Change	Dr. Ioanna KOUFAKI Policy Officer, European Commission (DG ENEST) Lecturer in Environmental Law, University of Athens
	Protecting Undersea Critical Infrastructure from climate change effects: Capabilities and limitations	Dr. Iosif PROGOULAKIS Professor, Department of Shipping, Trade and Transport, University of the Aegean
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 – 14:50	SESSION 6: Climate change innovations and risk mitigation	Moderator: Dr. Nikitas NIKITAKOS Professor, Department of Shipping, Trade and Transport, University of the Aegean
	Pathways through Permafrost: Balancing Arctic Shipping, Ocean Technology, and Environmental Stewardship	Dr. Dimitrios DALAKLIS Professor, (Safety & Security), World Maritime University (WMU)
	Naval Group Eco design approach	Mrs. Gaëlle ROUSSEAU Naval Group
	Analysis and Identification of Maritime Domain Climate Change Risks and Corresponding Adaptation Strategies	Dr. George NIKOLAKAKOS NATO Centre Maritime for Research and Experimentation (CMRE)
	Understanding Hydro climatic Change to Anticipate Tomorrow: From Observations to Adaptation in the Mediterranean.	Dr. Aristeidis KOUTROULIS Professor, Technical University of Crete
1450 - 1510	Final Wrap up	Dr Dinos KERIGAN-KYROU Emerging Security Challenges Working Group
1510 - 1530	NMIOTC Farewell Address	Cdre Periklis PIYIS, GRC(N) NMIOTC Commandant

