



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



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SUBJECT: 17th NMIOTC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026 – CALLING LETTER

DATE: 5 March 2026

1. The NMIOTC has the pleasure to announce its 17th Annual Conference, which will take place in its premises, Souda Bay, Crete, Greece, from **Wednesday 3rd to Thursday 4th of June 2026**.

2. The theme of the conference will be: **“Blue Resilience 360°: Securing Maritime Infrastructure in the Era of Multi-Domain Operations”**.

3. **Aim:** the Annual Conference aspires to serve as a dedicated platform for constructive discussion and the exchange of perspectives concerning the evolving threats and challenges facing the maritime domain, with particular emphasis on the protection of critical maritime infrastructure. The deliberations will address, among other topics, the integration of all operational domains to enhance situational awareness, the role of industry as a key partner in strengthening resilience, as well as alliance and national policy perspectives. The Conference will also explore emerging technologies that support the safeguarding of maritime critical infrastructure and reinforce our collective deterrence posture in an era increasingly shaped by multi-domain operations.

4. **Panels:** The conference is organized around the following provisional panels, with final content to be determined based on the papers selected:

a. **Panel 1. The New Maritime Operating Environment - Critical Infrastructure in a Contested Domain.** Setting the strategic context: geopolitical rivalries, grey-zone tactics, and the evolving definition of maritime security.

b. **Panel 2. Seabed to Space - Multi-Domain Awareness and the Protection of the Blue Network.** Exploring integration of maritime, cyber, and space-based systems to enable continuous awareness and coordinated response.

c. **Panel 3. Industry as a Security Partner - Building Resilient Maritime Ecosystems.** Focusing on the private sector’s role in resilience, redundancy, and recovery for energy, telecom, and logistics infrastructures.

d. **Panel 4. Hybrid Threats Beneath and Beyond the Waves.** Examining covert operations, sabotage, and the challenge of attribution and deterrence in the maritime grey zone.

e. **Panel 5. Blue Resilience and Strategic Autonomy - NATO and Partner Nations' Policy Outlook.** Debating alliance and national strategies for collective defence and resilience of critical maritime assets by 2030.

f. **Panel 6. Innovation at Sea - Emerging Technologies for Maritime Protection and Deterrence.** Highlighting advancements in unmanned systems, AI, quantum sensing, and cyber-secure communication for maritime defence.

5. **Modalities of participation:** The 17th Annual conference will be an “in person” event for both speakers and attendees. The conference will be conducted in the English language without interpreters.

6. **Call for papers:** Potential speakers or individuals interested in participating in the panels should inform NMIOTC and submit an abstract of their presentation by **22 April 2026**. A short Curriculum Vitae and a brief overview of the organization, institution or company that they represent is also required. The abstract should be no longer than 250 words and clearly indicate the provisional title, the authors and a synthesis of the content of the presentation. Subsequent to the Conference, speakers will have the opportunity to submit an article to be considered for publication in the NMIOTC's annual Journal. Provisional acceptance of papers will be made on the basis of the abstract and final acceptance will be given after consideration of the draft papers.

7. **Specific dates:**

- Abstract to be submitted by 22 April 2026
- Authors advised of acceptance by 30 April 2026
- Final Presentations to be submitted by 15 May 2026

8. **Schedule:** The Conference will take place over a two-day period, from Wednesday, 3 June, to Thursday, 4 June 2026. It is advised to consider Tuesday, 2 June (or earlier) and Friday, 5 June (or later) as travel days. The provisional schedule of the Conference along with more detailed information will be issued in due course and will be regularly updated on the NMIOTC's web page at: <https://nmiotc.nato.int/nmiotc-annual-conferences/>. The Official Dinner will be held on the evening of Wednesday, 3 June.

9. **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 panel topics. The audience will be comprised of military and civilian personnel involved with or interested in the Conference theme.

10. 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, Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Academia, and the broader Maritime Community

of Interest. Please feel free to disseminate this invitation / calling letter to everyone that you deem relevant and interested to either attend or contribute to the Conference as speakers.

11. **Conference fee:** The Conference fee is **180€** for each attendee and covers Conference and administrative expenses, transportation from the hotels to the Centre and back, lunches in NMIOTC premises and a hosted dinner (official reception). For moderators and panellists, the conference fee is waived. The possible methods of payment are as follows:

A. BEFORE THE EVENT	INFORMATION	REMARKS
1. 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 , cc mitsoulie@nmiotc.nato.int
2. Debit/Credit Card payment	Upon notification from the participant, the direct link for credit/debit card payment will be sent to the email address designated.	Participants should send an email to: papadakisst@nmiotc.nato.int with a copy to: mitsoulie@nmiotc.nato.int in order 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.

12. **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**”.

13. **Attire:** The attire for the Conference will be Summer Service Uniform for the military personnel and business casual (jacket & tie) for civilian attendees. The attire for the hosted dinner will be smart casual.

14. **Registration:** Participants are requested to register for their participation in the NMIOTC event portal, <https://nmiotc.nato.int> or by 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 **17th 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, 22 May 2026.**

15. **Lodging and Transportation:** Although attendees are responsible for the arrangement of their own accommodation and transportation from/to Chania International Airport the NMIOTC can provide assistance if requested. A list of recommended hotels can be found in Enclosure 2. Transportation to/from the NMIOTC premises and specified pick-up points in the city of Chania will be provided during the Conference days. Detailed **Joining Instructions** will be issued in due course.

16. **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.

17. **Social program:** The 17th Annual Conference hosted dinner will be held on the evening of the **3rd of June.**

18. **Spouses program:** Subject to participation, a guided sightseeing tour, together with opportunities for shopping and leisure in the wider area of Chania Prefecture, will be organized for accompanying spouses during business hours, on **Thursday, 4 June.** Accompanying spouses are also cordially invited to attend the hosted dinner scheduled for the evening of **Wednesday, 3 June.** To assist with planning arrangements, an early indication of participation in both the spouses’ program and the hosted dinner is necessary. Should your spouse wish to participate in either or both events, please inform the Points of Contact (PoCs) listed below. An additional fee of €45 per event will apply for accompanying spouses (€90 in total for participation in both events). Payment may be made using the same methods outlined in paragraph 11, regarding the conference fee.

19. **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. The Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs website (mfa.gr) provides relevant visa information requirements. NMIOTC will provide a Visa Support Letter, if requested.

20. **Remarks:** More detailed and updated information will be always available at the Centre’s website: <https://nmiotc.nato.int/nmiotc-annual-conferences/> and at your registration account.

21. **Points of Contact:**

For further information or clarifications, please contact:

Director Training Support
Cpt Giuseppe Catapano ITA (N), OF-5
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Tel +30 28210 85713
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Email: vlachosv@nmiotc.nato.int

Admin and registration POC:
Master Sergeant Ioanna STAMATAKI GRC (LG), OR-6,
Staff Officer, Section head of Students' Admin Affairs
Tel +30 28210 85710
Email: studentadmin@nmiotc.nato.int

22. It would be our great honour and pleasure to welcome you to Greece and to the beautiful, historic city of Chania for the occasion of our 17th NMIOTC Annual Conference.

Commodore Pavlos Angelopoulos GRC(N)
Commandant NMIOTC



ENCLOSURES:

1. 17th NMIOTC Annual Conference Provisional Schedule of Events
2. List of Recommended Hotels in Chania

17th NMIOTC Annual Conference Provisional Schedule of Events

1. The detailed Agenda of the Conference is under development.
2. Schedule of Events
 - a. Tue, 2 Jun 26: Travel Day
 - b. Wed, 3 Jun 26: In-processing
Opening Session
Conference Day 1
Hosted Dinner
 - c. Thu, 4 Jun 26: Conference Day 2
Spouses Program
 - d. Fri, 5 Jun 26: Travel Day

List of Recommended Hotels in Chania

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 and including breakfast and internet connection is as follows:

- a. THE CHANIA 5* hotel www.thechaniahotel.com (Booking via email: reservations@thechaniahotel.com with reference to NMIOTC). Tel. (+30) 28210 90002.
- b. HILTON Garden Inn 5* (Booking via email: reservations@hgichania.com and Dionysis.makastaridis@hilton.com with reference to NMIOTC).
- c. AKALI 4* hotel www.akali-hotel.gr (promotional code "NMIOTC" via hotel's online booking platform or booking via email: info@akali-hotel.gr with reference to NMIOTC). Tel. (+30) 28210 92872.
- d. KYDON 4* hotel www.kydon-hotel.com (promotional code "NMIOTC" via hotel's online booking platform) E-mail: info@kydon-hotel.gr Tel. (+30) 28210 52280.
- e. SAMARIA 4* hotel www.samariahotel.gr (promotional code "NMIOTC" via hotel's online booking platform). E-mail: reservations@samariahotel.gr, tel. (+30) 28210 38600.
- f. ARKADI 3* hotel www.arkadi-hotel.gr (promotional code "NMIOTC" via hotel's online booking platform), E-mail: info@arkadi-hotel.gr Tel. (+30) 28210 90181.
- g. KRITI 3* hotel www.kriti-hotel.gr (promotional code "NMIOTC26" via hotel's online booking platform or booking via email: info@kriti-hotel.gr with reference to NMIOTC). Tel. (+30) 28210 51881.
- h. PORTO VENEZIANO 3* hotel www.portoveneziano.gr. (Booking via email: hotel@portoveneziano.gr with reference to NMIOTC), tel. (+30) 28210 27100.