

# **Maritime Crisis Wargame**

## **Player Briefing**

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## Scenario

### **I. Overview/Background**

Our State is a regional power with a prosperous and diversified economy, an advanced military, and robust nuclear capabilities. Our State is primarily a maritime nation, with the majority of the population residing along its northern coast. Our state also controls the southern half of Gray Island, while the northern half of the island is controlled by Other State. Gray Island is a large, heavily populated, resource-rich island (fisheries, oil, strategic ports) with deep historical significance to both Our State and Other State.

Our State has been engaged in a protracted rivalry with Other State over the status of Gray Island, as both states claim sovereignty over the entire island. Multiple heated conflicts have been fought over the island, although none have proven decisive. Both states have accused the other of committing atrocities during these conflicts. Nonetheless, the island remains evenly split between Our State and Other State with a non-recognized demilitarized zone separating the primarily Our State-populated zone and the primarily Other State-populated zone. This demilitarized zone on the island became de facto after the last major military conflict between Our State and Other State 20 years ago, which resulted in significant casualties on both sides and an uneasy cease-fire.

The tension between Our State and Other State extends beyond just Grey Island and includes a fierce economic and diplomatic rivalry, including disputes about fisheries and unrestricted access to ports. Tensions occasionally spill over into maritime skirmishes, vessel seizures, and even sabotage within ports.

### **II. Crisis**

Our State and Other State have generally symmetric conventional military and nuclear forces which has helped keep major conflict between the states at bay for the last twenty years. However, recently Other State announced their intention to reunite Gray Island. In concert, Other State has

ordered the standup of reserve forces on their mainland and on Gray Island and appears to be mobilizing for an invasion of Our State's part of the island. There are already reports of skirmishes along the demilitarized zone and potential acts of sabotage including special operations attacks and cyber attacks on critical infrastructure within Gray Island.

Additionally, intelligence indicates that Other State may be pre-positioning intermediate range nuclear missiles on Gray Island controlled territory. This is particularly of worry because it means Our State will not have time to activate its nuclear forces to ensure second strike survivability. Intelligence also indicates that Other State's nuclear forces are currently on alert, with nuclear-armed submarines at sea (currently unlocated) and nuclear-armed bombers in patrols above Other State.

**Crisis Day 1:** After months of heightened rhetoric from Other State about Gray Island, Other State's head of state announced in a speech broadcasted across Other State that they intended to reunite Gray Island. In the speech, Other State's head of state declared, "We have waited too long to reunite with our brethren in our ancestral lands of Gray Island. Our State may have believed that they could deter us from taking back what is rightfully ours with their nuclear weapons, but no longer. The nuclear balance is about to shift and Our State will no longer be able to blackmail us into submission." The announcement came on the heels of a major regime coup within Other State in which Other State's head of state defeated a rival usurper and cemented control over elite powers in the country.

**Crisis Day 5:** Media reports suggest that Other State has activated its reserve forces on mainland, calling up all able-bodied personnel between the ages of 18-50 to "join the victorious fight to win back Gray Island." Accordingly, training bases are brimming with new recruits and there seems to be a steady stream of new equipment coming in and out of mobilization bases in Our State. Imagery also suggests that Other State has begun mobilization of its amphibious forces,

with the potential of launching an invasion of Gray Island within the next weekend.

**Crisis Day 6:** Reports suggest that Other State military forces along the Our State-Other State border on Gray Island have initiated a series of skirmishes. It's unclear whether this is meant to provoke Our State forces to escalate or whether it is setting the stage for a larger offensive within the week. There are also unsubstantiated reports of Other State special operations sabotage operations and cyber attacks against Gray Island infrastructure in territory held by Our State. Communications to and from Our State and Gray Island are increasingly difficult with periodic outages. Finally, transportation infrastructure (including airports, railways, and ports) are all reporting information technology issues with limited ability to access operating systems. There are also malfunctions within signaling systems and air traffic control which may potentially be the result of a cyber attack.

**Crisis Day 7:** Intelligence suggests Other State may be pre-positioning a mobile nuclear missile capability on their portion of Gray Island. This would potentially negate Our State's early warning and change the balance of nuclear capability between Our State and Other State. In addition, Other State has released the following statement:

“In defense of our brothers and sisters in Gray Island, we have acted decisively. We have acted to protect our citizens from the violence and brutality of the Our State government. Our claim is just and our sovereignty absolute. Any action by Our State against the Gray Region will be treated as an attack against our very capital. We will use any means to protect our territory and our sovereignty, including the nuclear option. We will no longer be blackmailed by Our State's nuclear threats. It is a new day for Gray Island and a new day for Other State.”

## **Executive Briefing**

The Our State National Security Council has prepared a series of briefings and reports to provide background on the Our State-Other State conflict to the Executive. Additionally, the National Security Council has presented information on Our State's strategic (nuclear) capabilities. The following information is a summary of those key points from the briefing materials.

- I. The Our State-Other State Border Waters
    - i. Gray Sea separates Our State and Other State
    - ii. Both Our State and Other State use these waters for international trade and fishing; there is no agreement between the countries about control and sovereignty within the Gray Sea
  - b. Gray Island sits in Gray Sea, equidistant from both Our State and Other State
    - i. Gray Island is defacto split evenly between Our State and Other State with a demilitarized zone directly in the middle of the territory
  - c. Tensions between Our State and Other State have always been high.
    - i. A number of cross-border clashes on Gray Island have marred the past
    - ii. Recent years have seen relative stability, until now
  - d. Both Our State and Other State maintain substantial forces along the border on Gray Island (see Order of Battle (OOB))
    - i. In addition, both Our State and Other State have rapid reserve forces stationed on their mainland
    - ii. It takes these forces 24-48 hours to mobilize and move to the Gray Island
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- II. Strategic Nuclear Balance
    - a. Both Our State and Other State have similar strategic capabilities with limited tactical nuclear weapon inventory
      - i. Tactical nuclear weapons via bomber aircraft
      - ii. Medium and Intermediate range ballistic missiles via submarine and mobile launchers

- b. Both Our State and Other State are nuclear powers with a full nuclear triad
  - i. Nuclear armed strategic bombers
  - ii. Nuclear armed ballistic missile submarines
  - iii. Land-based nuclear launch infrastructure (mobile)
- c. Both Our State and Other State have second strike capabilities
- d. Centralized command, control, and communication of firing authority



## Intelligence Briefing

The Our State National Intelligence Council (NIC) has prepared a series of briefing addressing the Other State invasion of the Gray Island and assessing Other State intentions. Additionally, the National Cyberspace Agency has prepared a series of briefings on their capabilities. The following information is a summary of those intelligence products.

- I. Other State has the following objectives:
  - a. Prevent and resist any existential threats to the Other State government to preserve government stability
  - b. Prevent and resist seizure of Other State territory to maintain territorial integrity
  - c. Maintain control of the Gray Island
  - d. Minimize harm to Other State economy, reputation, and military
- II. The crisis in the Gray Island was premeditated by Other State
  - a. There seems to be a strong domestic push for reunification which is driving the Head of State to create “rally around the flag” effects
- III. Public information is not flowing consistently from Gray Island to Our State
  - a. The Other State military is forbidding foreign journalists access to the region
  - b. The Other State military has also detained journalists already within Gray Island
- IV. Other State believes that it can resist a limited military intervention by Our State in the Gray Island and is willing to dedicate substantial military forces to retaking the Gray Island
- V. Other State is willing to engage in conventional military operations against Our State forces in Our State territory in retaliation for potential intrusions into the Gray Island

- VI. Other State has deployed special operations forces (SOF) along, and potentially across, the Our State border on Gray Island and is actively conducting sabotage operations
- /II. Other State is willing to use nuclear weapons against Our State if Other State conventional military forces are at risk of being defeated by Our State conventional forces. Other State is intent on changing the nuclear balance between the two states and intelligence suggests they are placing a mobile launch site on Gray Island, hoping to hold Our State hostage to nuclear threats.

### ***National Cyberspace Agency***

- I. Our State's intelligence cyberspace capabilities are housed in the National Cyberspace Agency (NCA), which is part of the intelligence community
  - a. Manage espionage cyberspace operations, either independently or in coordination with other government and state entities
  - b. Manage dedicated defensive cyberspace operations
- II. For an overview of the of targets and effects that cyberspace operations can generate, see the Order of Battle (OOB)
- III. The NCA has evidence that Other State is conducting cyber attacks against Gray Region infrastructure and is potentially seeking new exploits against Our State command and control and intelligence apparatus.

## **Military Situation Report**

The Our State General Staff has prepared a situation report to update Our State leadership on Other State military activities in the Gray Island and in the Gray Sea. Additional reports on relative military capabilities is also prepared. The following information is a summarization of those military briefing products. The Order of Battle also provides succinct information on mobilization (see pages 18 and 20).

- I. Other State Operations in the Gray Island (GI)
  - a. Other State infiltrated SOF into GI to conduct sabotage operations and target Our State security forces
  - b. Other State has activated all of its forces on the island and is deploying expeditionary forces to the island
  
- II. Other State Operations in Gray Sea
  - a. Other State carrier group, destroyer squadrons, and attack submarines are currently at sea
  - b. Other State has put two (2) strike wings and one (2) bomber wing on alert  
Expeditionary Forces currently en-route to Gray Island
  
- III. Balance of Forces
  - a. Both Our State and Other State have developed military forces to fight the other and have followed similar development and procurement pathways
  - b. Strategic and tactical nuclear forces are partially generated; possible to launch attack within 6-12 hours
  - c. Our State and Other State forces are evenly matched, there is military parity
    - i. Platforms have similar technical specifications
    - ii. Force numbers are roughly equivalent
    - iii. The quality of training and preparation is similar



## **Diplomatic Briefing**

The diplomatic corps is working diligently with our allies and international institutions to advocate on behalf of Our State. The Office of the Minister of State has prepared a series of briefs and reports on the diplomatic aspects of the Gray Region crisis. The following information is a summary of those briefing products.

- I. Update regarding embassy and consulates
  - a. Our State diplomatic missions in Other State have destroyed all sensitive materials ahead of any raids
  - b. Similarly, Other State diplomatic missions in Our State are anticipating raids by destroying sensitive material
  - c. Other State has not expelled any Our State diplomats or staff, viewing their actions as legitimate and see no reason to expel our diplomats unless we oppose their actions in the Gray Region
  
- II. There is uncertainty regarding the crisis
  - a. Other State acted quickly and decisively. The international community does not yet have a clear understanding of what is transpiring the Gray Island
  - b. The United Nations Security Council, of which both Our State and Other State are members, will hold an emergency meeting
  
- III. Other State is working to set the narrative
  - a. Other State is framing their actions as humanitarian
  - b. Other State is claiming that their invasion was welcome by the local population and was peaceful
  
- IV. The international community is waiting for more information before taking action
  - a. The United Nations and Our State allies are working to gather more information about the events of the last 24 hours for more clarity
  - b. The information communications issues in the Gray Island is making collection difficult; Other State controlled communications is the only source of information being released

## Economic Briefing

The Our State Council of Economic Advisors in conjunction with the Office of the Economic Advisor convened to draft a series of crisis economic reports and briefings to provide insights into the economic dimensions of the Gray Island Crisis. The following information is a summary of those reports.

- I. The Our State economy has taken a substantial hit, with market loses across the national indexes averaging 7.5%
  - a. Uncertainty and the threat of war are the largest drivers of the drop
  - b. There is also concern economic activity in Gray Island may halt, home to a major shipping port and many resources
  - c. A stronger market reaction will reflect continued or escalated hostilities
- II. The Other State economy, however, has taken a more substantial hit, with market loses across the national indexes averaging 11.5%
  - a. This reflects uncertainty over Other State's "aggressor status"
  - b. A stronger market reaction will reflect continued or escalated hostilities
- III. Markets are behaving erratically and will likely drop further as the extent of the crisis, and the potential military dynamics, become clear
  - a. The Other State economy was not prepared for this action, despite instigating the conflict
  - b. Markets are waiting to know if this a Our State-Other State "tiff" or all-out war
- IV. Both Other State and Our State are export economies, exporting both goods and services, and vulnerable to further disruption
  - a. Markets are sensitive to the vulnerabilities of their economies
  - b. Both states face rapid domestic instability with greater, continued economic downturns
- V. Significant cyber threat to Our State's critical infrastructure, including energy, water, finance, and transportation

VI. Markets may recover if the situation is resolved quickly

## State Profiles

### *Our State*

#### **Geography**

- Mid-sized state
  - Maritime nation, primarily coastline with shallow interior
  - Interior is primarily flat agricultural lands and forests
  - Extensive mountain ranges secure the land borders
  - Gray Island located 1875 km off the coast of Our State
    - Equidistant between Our State and Other State
    - Territory evenly divided between Our State and Other State
- Population
  - Roughly 70 million
  - Approximately 70% lives within 100km of the coast
    - 35% of the total population in major coastal urban areas
  - Gray Island is a heavily populated part of Our State
    - About 10% of the population of Our State
- Resources
  - Abundance of basic minerals, such as iron and copper, strong agriculture, and abundant lumber
  - Poor in rare earth minerals and other resources necessary for high tech manufacturing

#### **Diplomatic**

- Leader in global intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)
  - UN Security Council Member (non-permanent)
- Member of major economic IGOs
  - World Bank/International Monetary Fund
  - World Trade Organization
- Founding member of regional IGO
- Strong, well-funded diplomatic corps
  - Strong diplomatic presence in most countries
  - Strong diplomatic mission in Other State



## **Intelligence**

- Our State's cyber capabilities are housed in the intelligence community
  - Cyber efforts are coordinated with other government entities (defense, state, etc.)
  - Standalone and integrated offensive cyber capability
    - Can be utilized in conjunction with or independently of military operations
    - Integrated into military operations
    - Ability to engage in counter-value targeting (civilian critical infrastructure)
  - Integrated defensive cyber capability
    - Cyber defensive operations are routine
    - Integrated into military operations
    - Ability to support and protect select civilian networks

## **Economy**

- Advanced industrial state
  - GDP: \$15 trillion USD (top 5 globally)
  - Stable 3.5% growth rate
- Diversified economy: Mix of manufacturing and service sector
- High-tech and IP intensive manufacturing
  - Large, diversified tech sector
  - Strong financial sector (a top global financial center)
- Trade Dependent
  - Exports account for 30% of GDP
  - Imports components and materials for manufacturing
  - Relies heavily on maritime trade

## **Military**

- Advanced military force utilizing cutting edge technology and backed by strategic nuclear capabilities
- Air Force
  - 5<sup>th</sup> generation stealth fighters (top-of-the-line)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> generation stealth bombers
  - 5<sup>th</sup> generation ground attack aircraft
- Navy
  - Multiple nuclear powered aircraft carriers
    - 5<sup>th</sup> generation stealth fighter carrier air wings
  - Large multirole destroyer fleet
  - Submarine force, nuclear powered submarines, including submarines with cruise missile strike capabilities
  - Multiple amphibious assault ships, helicopter carriers
- Army
  - Highly trained and well equipped infantry force
  - Large multirole light armor strike force
  - Modernized armored forces
  - Well-developed Special Operations Force (SOF) capability
- Strategic (Nuclear)
  - Full nuclear triad
    - Nuclear powered ballistic submarines
    - Dedicated stealth strategic bomber wing
    - Land-based strategic ballistic missile capability
      - Fixed infrastructure, no mobile component
  - Nuclear Command, Control, and Communication (NC3) is digital, reliant on both hardline and satellite systems
  - Retains air-based tactical nuclear capabilities

## **Space**

- Domestic space program and domestically operated satellite that provide a range of civilian and defense services
  - Domestically operated GPS
  - Satellite communications
  - Military Command, Control, and Communications (C3)

## State Profiles

### *Other State*

#### **Geography**

- Mid-sized state
  - Open interior with large forests and agriculturally rich plains region along western border
  - Capital located in eastern region, far from Our State-Other State border
    - The capital is the most population dense city in Other State
- Resources
  - Abundance of basic minerals, such as iron and copper, strong agriculture, and abundant lumber
  - Poor in rare earth minerals and other resources necessary for high tech manufacturing
- Borders
  - Western border: open terrain, shared with Our State
  - Southern border: coastal, shared maritime border with Our State
  - East/Northern borders: mountainous and difficult to pass, shared with neutral third-party states

#### **Diplomatic**

- Leader in global intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)
  - UN Security Council Member (non-permanent)
- Member of major economic IGOs
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  - World Trade Organization
- Strong, well-funded diplomatic corps
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## **Economy**

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- Trade Dependent
  - Exports account for 30% of GDP
  - Imports components and materials for manufacturing
  - Relies heavily on maritime trade

## **Military**

- Advanced military force utilizing cutting edge technology and backed by strategic nuclear capabilities
- Air Force
  - 5<sup>th</sup> generation stealth fighters (top-of-the-line)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> generation stealth bombers
  - 5<sup>th</sup> generation ground attack aircraft
- Navy
  - Nuclear powered aircraft carrier
    - 5<sup>th</sup> generation stealth fighter carrier air wings
  - Large multirole destroyer fleet
  - Submarine force, nuclear powered submarines, including submarines with cruise missile strike capabilities
  - Multiple amphibious assault ships, helicopter carriers
- Army
  - Highly trained, and well equipped infantry force
  - Large multirole light armor strike force
  - Modernized armored forces
  - Well-developed Special Operations Force (SOF) capability
- Strategic (Nuclear)
  - Full nuclear triad
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    - Land-based strategic ballistic missile capability
      - Mobile launchers
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  - Retains air-based tactical nuclear capabilities

## **Space**

- Domestic space program and domestically operated satellite that provide a range of civilian and defense services
  - Domestically operated GPS
  - Satellite communications
  - Military Command, Control, and Communications (C3)

