**THE MINISTER OF STATE**

Player Briefing

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# Scenario

1. **Overview/Background**

Our State is a regional military and economic power with a prosperous and diversified economy, an advanced military, and robust nuclear capability. However, Our State shares its long land and maritime border with its bellicose neighbor, Other State. Other State is also a regional power and peer competitor of Our State, with a substantial military backed by strategic nuclear capabilities.

The relationship between these two states is strained due to ongoing border disputes. In particular, the Gray Region has been a source of conflict. This coastal region sits on the southernmost point of the shared land border and is home to a major trade port. The Gray Region is technically part of Our State but has a large Other State population (nearly 50% of the region) and there is strong separatist movement.

There have been significant flare-ups in the Gray Region resulting in Our State-Other State skirmishes. In a bid to reduce tensions, the Gray Region was established as an autonomous region with minimal Our State military presence. This gesture has done little to assuage tensions in the area and the relationship with Other State continues to be fraught. Both Our State and Other State maintain substantial military forces along the Our State-Other State border. Despite the simmering hostility, brisk trade between the two states continues and both states maintain a sizable diplomatic mission in each other’s country.

1. **Crisis**

The Gray Region is approaching the 20th anniversary of being granted autonomy. This anniversary always enflames the tensions between the Our State and Other State populations in the region. Regional Our State authorities have taken efforts to prepare but have insisted on limiting involvement from the central government.

**Crisis Day 1, 20:00:** Despite security efforts, a scheduled evening protest against regional Our State authorities escalated into a riot in which two local security personnel and three Other State protestors died. Other State activists claim they were fired upon: “They attacked us, not because what we were doing, but because of who we are! We cannot let this cannot stand, who will protect us?” Local authorities claim it was self-defense after armed protestors opened fire upon them.

**Crisis Day 1, 23:00:** Within hours of the unrest, Gray Region television and radio broadcasts ceased and at **midnight (00:00)** internet and phone access to region was also lost. Limited reports coming out of the region claims that personnel in unmarked uniforms with military-grade equipment have stormed Gray Region telecommunications hubs.

**Crisis Day 2, 02:00:** Reports suggest that Other State military forces along the Our State-Other State border have begun to mobilize and the Other State Navy assets are being put to sea. There are conflicting reports of Other State soldiers storming Gray Region administrative buildings.

**Crisis Day 2, 05:00:** The Other State Office of the Executive releases an official message:

“In defense of our brothers and sisters in Gray Region, we have acted decisively. We have acted to protect our citizens from the violence and brutality of the Our State government. Those who took our citizens’ lives with impunity. The Gray Region is now under Other State rule.

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. It is a new day for Gray Region 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.

1. The Our State-Other State Border Region
	1. The border runs from the mountainous north through the flat central plains to the ocean in the south. The border has few distinguishing physical features:
		1. The central plains are often called the Border Region.
		2. Our State and Other State also share a maritime border.
	2. The Gray Region sits on the coast between Our State and Other State. It is part of Our State.
	3. Tensions between Our State and Other State have always been high.
		1. A number of cross-border clashes have marred the past
		2. Recent years have seen relative stability, until now
	4. Both Our State and Other State maintain substantial forces along the border (see Order of Battle (OOB))
		1. In addition both Our State and Other State have reserve forces stationed away from the Border Region
		2. It takes these forces 24-48 hours to mobilize and move to the Border Region
2. Strategic Nuclear Balance
	1. Both Our State and Other State have similar strategic capabilities with limited tactical nuclear weapon inventory
		1. Tactical nuclear weapons via bomber and fighter aircraft
		2. Tactical nuclear weapons via submarine
	2. Both Our State and Other State are nuclear powers with a full nuclear triad
		1. Nuclear armed strategic bombers
		2. Nuclear armed ballistic missile submarines
		3. Land-based nuclear launch infrastructure (fixed, non-mobile)
	3. Both Our State and Other State have second strike capabilities
	4. 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 Region 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.

1. Other State has the following objectives:
	1. Prevent and resist any existential threats to the Other State government to preserve government stability
	2. Prevent and resist seizure of Other State territory to maintain territorial integrity
	3. Maintain control of the Gray Region
	4. Minimize harm to Other State economy, reputation, and military
2. The crisis in the Gray Region was premeditated by Other State, which instigated the protests and subsequent riots in the Gray Region
	1. The violence was intentional and provided justification for sufficient domestic political cover to seize the territory
3. Public information is still not flowing in or out of the Gray Region
	1. The Other State military is forbidding foreign journalists access to the region
	2. The Other State military has also detained journalists already Gray Region
4. Other State believes that it can resist a limited military intervention by Our State in the Gray Region and is willing to dedicate substantial military forces to holding, or if necessary, retaking the Gray Region
5. 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 Region
6. Other State has deployed special operations forces (SOF) along, and potentially across, the Our State border
7. 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

***National Cyberspace Agency***

1. Our State’s cyberspace capabilities are housed in the National Cyberspace Agency (NCA), which is part of the intelligence community
	1. Manage offensive and espionage cyberspace operations, either independently or in coordination with other government and state entities
	2. Manage dedicated defensive cyberspace operations
2. For an overview of the of targets and effects that cyberspace operations can generate, see the Order of Battle (OOB)
	1. NCA is limited in the number of operations it can run simultaneously

# 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 Region (GR) and Our State-Other State Border Region (BR). 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).

1. Other State Operations in the Gray Region (GR)
	1. Other State infiltrated SOF into GR to seize telecommunications infrastructure and target Our State security forces
	2. All Our State security forces in GR have been neutralized
	3. Other State has moved one (1) armored brigade and one (1) defense artillery brigade into the region and are deploying integrated air defense systems
2. Other State Operations on the Our State-Other State Border Region (BR)
	1. Other State has mobilized two (2) infantry brigades, one (1) armored brigade, and two (2) defense artillery brigades to the border region
	2. Other State has put two (2) strike wings and one (1) bomber wing on alert
	3. Other State has mobilized two (2) light armored strike brigades from the reserve, but has not moved them to BR
	4. Although mobilized, no Other State military forces currently maneuvering to cross the border
		1. A border crossing and invasion could be executed in < 6 hours
	5. There is evidence that SOF assets have been mobilized in the BR
		1. It is uncertain if they have crossed the border into Our State
3. Our State Operation on BR
	1. Based on existing contingency plans, Our State border forces rapidly mobilized in response to Other State activity
		1. Mobilized two (2) infantry brigades, one (1) armored brigade, and two (2) defense artillery brigades
		2. Two (2) strike wings put on alert
4. Balance of Forces
	1. Both Our State and Other State have developed military forces to fight the other and have followed similar development and procurement pathways
	2. Strategic and tactical nuclear forces are partially generated; possible to launch attack within 6-12 hours
	3. Our State and Other State forces are evenly matched, there is military parity
		1. Platforms have similar technical specifications
		2. Force numbers are roughly equivalent
		3. 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.

1. Update regarding embassy and consulates
	1. Our State diplomatic missions in Other State have destroyed all sensitive materials ahead of any raids
	2. Similarly, Other State diplomatic missions in Our State are anticipating raids by destroying sensitive material
	3. 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
2. There is uncertainty regarding the crisis
	1. Other State acted quickly and decisively. The international community does not yet have a clear understanding of what transpired in the Gray Region
	2. The United Nations Security Council, of which both Our State and Other State are members, will hold an emergency meeting
3. Other State is working to set the narrative
	1. Other State is framing their actions as humanitarian – the prevention of ethnic cleansing of their people from the Gray Region
	2. Other State is claiming that their invasion was welcome by the local population and was peaceful
4. The international community is waiting for more information before taking action
	1. The United Nations and Our State allies are working to gather more information about the events of the last 24 hours for more clarity
	2. The information blackout in the Gray Region 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 Region Crisis. The following information is a summary of those reports.

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

# State Profiles*Our State*

**Geography**

* Mid-sized state
	+ - Open interior with large forests and agriculturally rich plains region along eastern border
		- Capital located in western region, far from Our State-Other State border
			* The capital is the most population dense city in 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
	+ Borders
		- Eastern border: open terrain, shared with Other State
		- Southern border: coastal, shared maritime border with Other State
		- West/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 a large collective-defense organization (CDO)
	+ 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
		- GPD: $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 finical center)
	+ Trade Dependent
		- Exports account for 15% 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
		- 5th generation stealth fighters (top-of-the-line)
		- 4th generation stealth bombers
		- 5th generation ground attack aircraft
	+ Navy
		- Multiple nuclear powered aircraft carriers
			* 5th 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**

* + Domestics 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
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	+ Borders
		- Western border: open terrain, shared with Our State
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			* Integrated into military operations
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		- Integrated defensive cyber capability
			* Cyber defensive operations are routine
			* Integrated into military operations
			* Ability to support and protect select civilian networks

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		- 4th generation stealth bombers
		- 5th generation ground attack aircraft
	+ Navy
		- Multiple nuclear powered aircraft carriers
			* 5th 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**

* + Domestics 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)

# Our State Order of Battle (OOB)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Border Region** | **In Reserve**(24-48 hours from Border Region) |
| **Army** | **Mobilized****Infantry Combat Brigade (2)**- Centered on infantry & infantry support**Armored Comate Brigade (1)**- Centered on heavy armor (tanks)**Defense Artillery Brigade (2)**- Includes Air Defense Systems- Includes conventional **On Stand-By****Armored Comate Brigade (1)**- Centered on heavy armor (tanks)**Light Armored Strike Brigade (1)**- Centered on rapid maneuver **Defense Artillery Brigade (1)**- Includes Air Defense Systems- Includes conventional **Special Operations Forces (SOF)** | **On Stand-By****Infantry Combat Brigade (1)**- Centered on infantry & infantry support**Armored Comate Brigade (1)**- Centered on heavy armor (tanks)**Light Armored Strike Brigade (3)**- Centered on rapid maneuver **Defense Artillery Brigade (1)**- Includes Air Defense Systems- Includes conventional |
|  | **Deployed in Theater** | **Docked**(48-72 hour deployment time) |
| **Navy** | **Carrier Strike Groups (1)**- Includes Carrier Air Wing- Includes escorts and support ships**Destroyer Squadrons (3)**- Guided missile destroyers- Anti-submarine warfare capable**Amphibious Squadron (1)**- Includes Helicopter Strike Squadron- Includes mariner expeditionary unit**Submarine Squadrons (nuclear) (1)**- Nuclear powered, attack submarines (SSN)**Submarine Squadrons (nuclear) (1)**- Nuclear powered, cruise missile submarines (SSGN) | **Carrier Strike Groups (1)**- Includes Carrier Air Wing- Includes escorts and support ships **Destroyer Squadrons (1)**- Guided missile destroyers- Anti-submarine warfare capable**Amphibious Squadron (1)**- Includes Helicopter Strike Squadron- Includes mariner expeditionary unit**Submarine Squadrons (nuclear) (1)**- Nuclear powered, attack submarines (SSN)**Submarine Squadrons (nuclear) (1)**- Nuclear powered, cruise missile submarines (SSGN) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Based Domestically** |
| **Air** | **On Alert****Strike Wing (2)**- Includes air-to-air- Includes air-to-ground/ground support | **On Stand-By****Strike Wing (2)**- Includes air-to-air- Includes air-to-ground/ground support**Bomber Wing (3)**- Does NOT include strategic capabilities |
|  | **Available** |
| **Nuclear** | **At Sea****Submarine Squadrons (nuclear) (3)**- Nuclear powered, nuclear ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) | **On Stand-By****Strategic Bomber Wing (2)**- Include strategic capabilities **Nuclear Launch Sites (12)****-** Hardened |
| **Cyber** | **Cyber Protection Teams (15)****Cyber Attack Teams (20)**- Capable of engaging in standalone cyber operations- Capable of coordinating cyber operations with offensive operation |
|  | **Types of Accesses** | **Types of Effect** |
|  | Civilian InfrastructureCivilian Dual-use InfrastructureConventional Military (Army)Conventional Military (Navy)Conventional Military (Air Force)Other State Cyber CapabilitiesOther State Space CapabilitiesOther State Intelligence ApparatusOther State Government | Degrade (slow down effectiveness)Manipulate (insert incorrect data)Destroy FunctionalityPhysical Destruction |

# Other State Order of Battle (OOB)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Border Region** | **In Reserve**(24-48 hours from Border Region) |
| **Army** | **Mobilized****Infantry Combat Brigade (2)**- Centered on infantry & infantry support**Armored Comate Brigade (1)**- Centered on heavy armor (tanks)**Defense Artillery Brigade (2)**- Includes Air Defense Systems- Includes conventional **Special Operations Forces (SOF)****Mobilized in Gray Region****Armored Comate Brigade (1)**- Centered on heavy armor (tanks)**Defense Artillery Brigade (1)**- Includes Air Defense Systems- Includes conventional **Special Operations Forces (SOF)****On Stand-By****Light Armored Strike Brigade (1)**- Centered on rapid maneuver | **Mobilized****Light Armored Strike Brigade (2)**- Centered on rapid maneuver**On Stand-By****Infantry Combat Brigade (1)**- Centered on infantry & infantry support**Armored Comate Brigade (1)**- Centered on heavy armor (tanks)**Light Armored Strike Brigade (1)**- Centered on rapid maneuver **Defense Artillery Brigade (1)**- Includes Air Defense Systems- Includes conventional |
|  | **Deployed in Theater** | **Docked**(48-72 hour deployment time) |
| **Navy** | **Carrier Strike Groups (1)**- Includes Carrier Air Wing- Includes escorts and support ships **Destroyer Squadrons (3)**- Guided missile destroyers- Anti-submarine warfare capable**Amphibious Squadron (1)**- Includes Helicopter Strike Squadron- Includes mariner expeditionary unit**Submarine Squadrons (nuclear) (1)**- Nuclear powered, attack submarines (SSN)**Submarine Squadrons (nuclear) (1)**- Nuclear powered, cruise missile submarines (SSGN) | **Carrier Strike Groups (1)**- Includes Carrier Air Wing- Includes escorts and support ships**Destroyer Squadrons (1)**- Guided missile destroyers- Anti-submarine warfare capable**Amphibious Squadron (1)**- Includes Helicopter Strike Squadron- Includes mariner expeditionary unit**Submarine Squadrons (nuclear) (1)**- Nuclear powered, attack submarines (SSN)**Submarine Squadrons (nuclear) (1)**- Nuclear powered, cruise missile submarines (SSGN) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Based Domestically** |
| **Air** | **On Alert****Strike Wing (2)**- Includes air-to-air- Includes air-to-ground/ground support | **On Stand-By****Strike Wing (2)**- Includes air-to-air- Includes air-to-ground/ground support**Bomber Wing (3)**- Does NOT include strategic capabilities |
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| **Cyber** | **Cyber Protection Teams (15)****Cyber Attack Teams (20)**- Capable of engaging in standalone cyber operations- Capable of coordinating cyber operations with offensive operation |
|  | **Types of Accesses** | **Types of Effect** |
|  | Civilian InfrastructureCivilian Dual-use InfrastructureConventional Military (Army)Conventional Military (Navy)Conventional Military (Air Force)Other State Cyber CapabilitiesOther State Space CapabilitiesOther State Intelligence ApparatusOther State Government | Degrade (slow down effectiveness)Manipulate (insert incorrect data)Destroy FunctionalityPhysical Destruction |

