



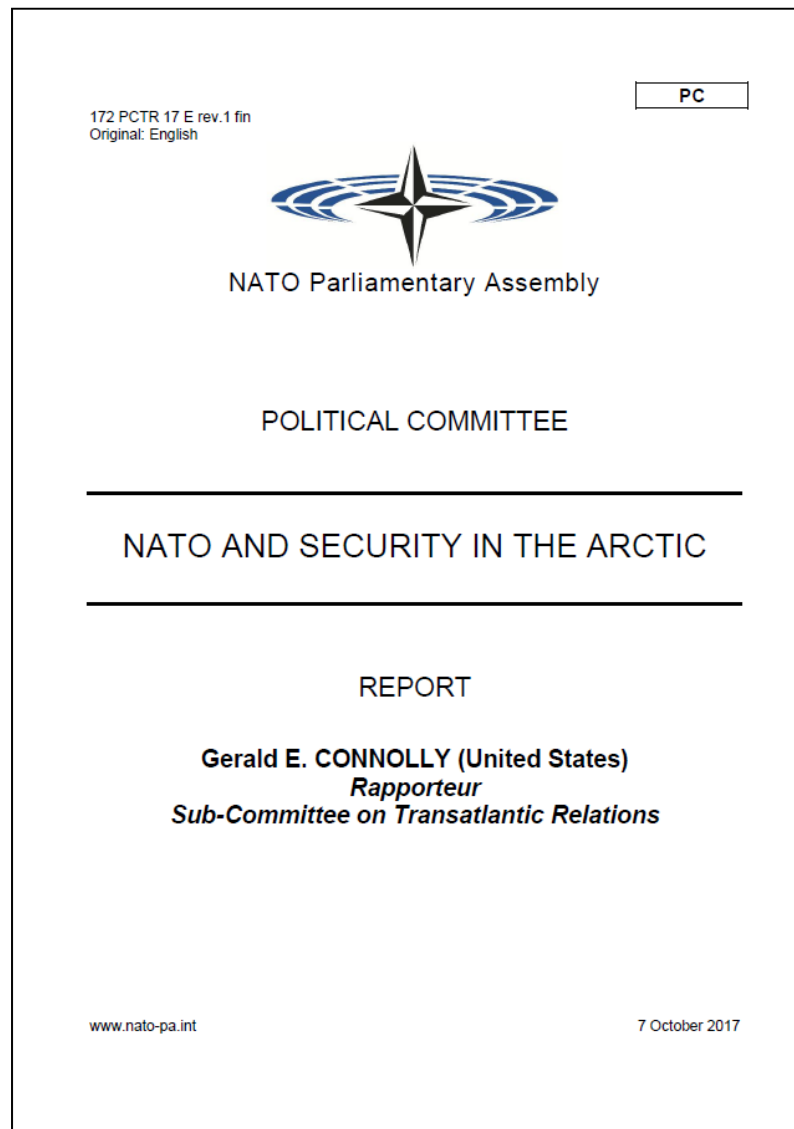
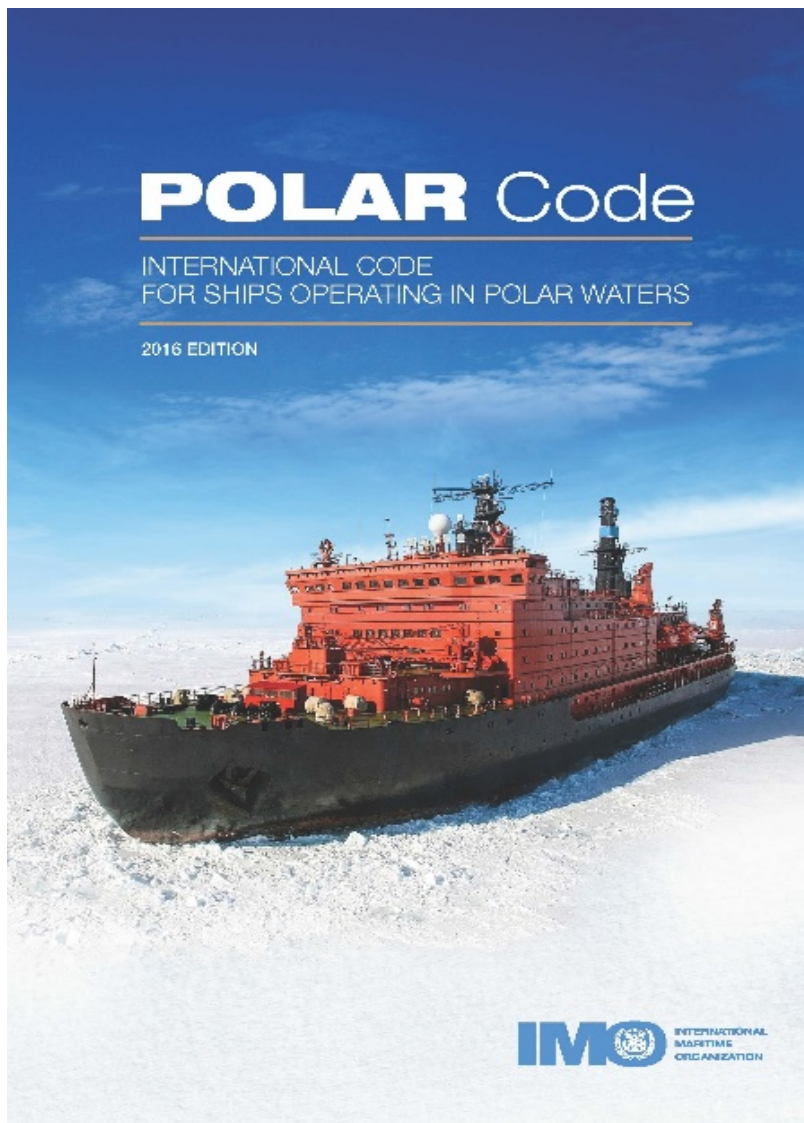
# THE 15<sup>th</sup> NATO OPERATIONS RESEARCH & ANALYSIS (OR&A) CONFERENCE

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## *“A Possible Multi-Criteria Analysis of NATO’s Strategic Interest in the Arctic Zone”*

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# AIM

*To describe one outstanding scientific tool, the Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) that might help the Alliance political decision-makers and military strategists to rethink the NATO's role and mission in the Northern neighbourhood, in order to realise the Deterrence and Defence of the Euro-Atlantic Area (DDA) 360°*

## AGENDA

- The Standardised Process of MCA
- The Arctic Zone's Climate and Economic Importance
- Security Threats and Challenges in the Arctic
- NATO's Strategic Interest and Possible Future Involvement in the Arctic
- Conclusions

# THE STANDARDISED FIVE-STEP PROCESS OF MCA

- **Step 1** – Determining the Geopolitical problem
- **Step 2** – Defining the objectives and the criteria (C) to evaluate their achievements
- **Step 3** – Establishing and describing the options/alternatives (A)
- **Step 4** – Collection of data information necessary to establish and measure indicators (R) of criteria, as well as obtaining the appropriate weights (P) for the established criteria

$$C = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n\}$$

$$A = \{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m\}$$

$$R = \{r_{ij}, 1 \leq i \leq m; 1 \leq j \leq n\}$$

where “the  $r_{ij}$  element represents the consequence for the criterion  $C_j$  resulting from the choice of the alternative  $A_i$  ( $r_{ij}$  can be numbers, but they can also be expressed by binary values (yes/no) or through qualitative terms (color, taste, etc.)”

$$P = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\}$$

where “each criterion  $C_j$  ( $1 \leq j \leq n$ ) is associated with the weight  $p_j$  (established by the decision maker in a subjectively manner or by a special technique)”

# THE STANDARDISED FIVE-STEP PROCESS OF MCA (cont.)

- Step 5 – Achieving the Performance Matrix of solving the Geopolitical problem

<i>The Performance Matrix</i>				
<i>Decisional Alternatives (Options)</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>			
	$p_1$	$p_2$	...	$p_n$
	$C_1$	$C_2$	...	$C_n$
$A_1$	$r_{11}$	$r_{12}$	...	$r_{1n}$
$A_2$	$r_{21}$	$r_{22}$	...	$r_{2n}$
...	...	...	...	...
$A_m$	$r_{m1}$	$r_{m2}$	...	$r_{mn}$

# THE ARCTIC ZONE'S CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

- 1/6 of the Earth's land mass
- 4 mil. people and 30 ethnic groups in 8 states (5 Allies, 3 the EU)
- The Earth cooling system, together with Antarctica
- Changing the fresh-salted seawater balance could influence oceans' currents
- Thawing glaciers and ice-melting could destroy the delicate network of Arctic ecosystems and open up new waterways (NW and NE Passes)
- New economic opportunities – fishing, maritime transport, tourism, energy exploitation, resources extraction



**The Greenland ice sheet – the second largest ice body in the world – is deteriorating due to global warming and continues to melt faster than predicted**



**The Yamal liquefied natural gas initiative – located on the Yamal Peninsula, 600 km north of the Arctic Circle, in Western Siberia – is spearheaded by Russia and supported by Chinese and French interests**

# SECURITY THREATS AND CHALLENGES IN THE ARCTIC

## Russia's Arctic expansion

Six military bases which are either brand new/upgrades of existing or abandoned facilities are at the heart of Russia's Arctic expansion, with plans to set up a third Arctic Brigade as well as a coastal defence division.

### BASES

- New ● Missiles ● Military ● Airfield to be modernised



## Russian nuclear ice-breaker fleet base

Based in Murmansk

### CURRENT



### ON ORDER/BEING BUILT



\*One diesel-powered, two ice-class corvettes with cruise missiles

Source: Reuters

Staff, 27/01/2017



## China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) moves into the Arctic



# NATO'S STRATEGIC INTEREST AND POSSIBLE FUTURE INVOLVEMENT IN THE ARCTIC

- **The Geopolitical Problem** - the legitimacy of establishing a military presence in the Arctic and taking responsibility for enhancing regional security at the request of the Arctic Council and some of its Member States
- **Strategic Objectives:**
  - reaching a political consensus on Arctic security issues, by setting up an Arctic Working Group
  - strengthening the field of prevention, by increasing the collection of information, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR)
  - ensuring joint and effective action, by studying the possibility of setting up an Arctic JFC and carrying out Trident Juncture's type of exercises in the region
  - maintaining stability in the region, through a dialogue with the Russian Federation within the NATO-Russia Council



# NATO'S STRATEGIC INTEREST AND POSSIBLE FUTURE INVOLVEMENT IN THE ARCTIC (cont.)

- **Quantitative and Qualitative Criteria (C):**

- C.1. The degree of involvement of allied ISR and rescue-rescue (SAR) capabilities covering the Arctic area*
- C.2. The level of presence and preparedness of the forces of the riparian Member States in the region*
- C.3. The number of allied command-control elements (C2) involved*
- C.4. Achieving consensus at Allies' level*
- C.5. The degree of mitigation/prevention of potential crises and conflicts in the Arctic, until Article 5 of the Washington Treaty is invoked*
- C.6. The degree of support given by the politico-diplomatic power to the military*

- **Options (A) available to NATO:**

- A.1. To continue the current political-diplomatic involvement of the Alliance, in accordance with Article 4 of the Washington Treaty and ensure indirect military support to coastal Member States, by increasing the number of ISR and SAR capabilities in areas close to the Arctic region*
- A.2. To elaborate a concrete Allied Strategy for the Arctic on counteracting Russian military expansion and Chinese involvement in the region*
- A.3. To increase the Alliance military presence in the Arctic Zone to deter and defend the Euro-Atlantic area against any threats, including those from the North*

# NATO'S STRATEGIC INTEREST AND POSSIBLE FUTURE INVOLVEMENT IN THE ARCTIC (cont.)

- The Performance Matrix or solving the NATO's Geopolitical Problem:

<i>The Performance Matrix</i>							
<i>Decisional Alternatives (Options)</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>						<i>Total</i>
	x 1	x 1	x 2	x 3	x 3	x 2	
	<i>C.1.</i>	<i>C.2.</i>	<i>C.3.</i>	<i>C.4.</i>	<i>C.5.</i>	<i>C.6.</i>	
<i>A.1.</i> To continue the current political-diplomatic involvement and indirect military support	3	2	2	9	3	6	25
<i>A.2.</i> To develop a NATO Strategy for the Arctic	1	3	4	6	6	4	24
<i>A.3.</i> To increase the Alliance military presence in the Arctic Zone	2	1	6	3	9	2	23

# CONCLUSIONS

- The complex and unpredictable changes in the security environment of the Arctic **repositioned the area in the spheres of interest of the Alliance** and **raised its interest to include it in its Geopolitics**
- **Russia and China have increased their involvement and presence**, both economically and militarily, with the aim to control the most important chock-points and manipulate indigenous people to work for them
- The inclusion of the Five-Steps Multi-Criteria Analysis standardised process has **the expected effect of assessing how NATO should materialise its interests** in such a sensitive region of the globe and not to analyse decisions made at the level of the regional organisation in this respect
- The MCA result of the main strategic interests of the Alliance towards the Arctic area **reveals the best possible option to be followed for the regional Geopolitics**, if consensus is achieved

# Thank you!



# Any questions?