Statecraft Simulation Group
Economic Competition Game
(Alpha Test)
Nov 7, 2025

Preparation

Hypothesis

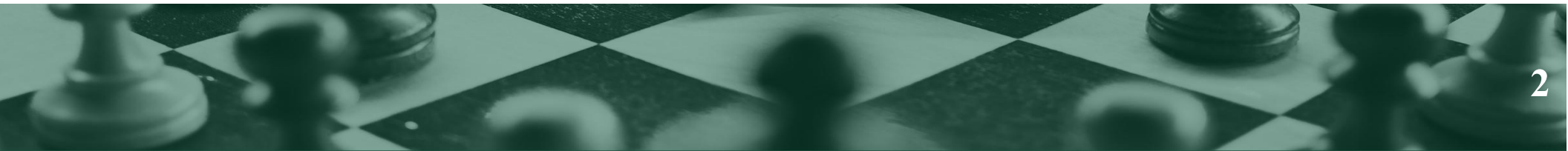
If the U.S. government maintains the current approach to the US-PRC strategic competition, **then the U.S. will lose the competition.**

Problem Statement

The U.S. has allowed "soft" power tools to weaken since the end of the Cold War. The U.S. is engaged in a long-term strategic competition with the People's Republic of China. The PRC aims to replace the U.S. as the leading global power. If successful, **the PRC will reshape the global world order in a way that is unacceptable.**

Purpose

The purpose of the simulation is to explore and evaluate alternative approaches to U.S. statecraft in managing sustained strategic competition with the PRC.



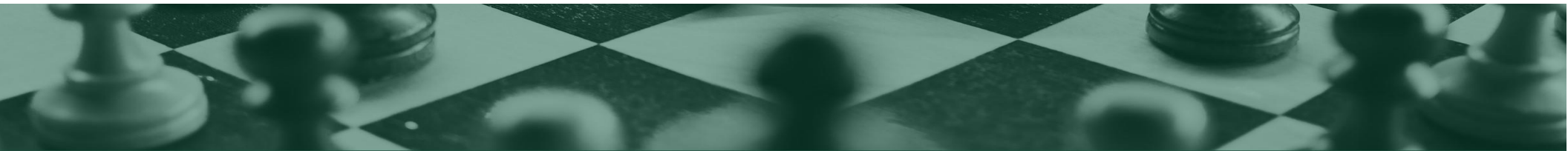
Objectives

Primary Objective

- **Evaluate the effectiveness of nonmilitary instruments of statecraft, including but not limited to sanctions, investment restrictions, economic incentives, information campaigns, and diplomatic initiatives, in shaping state behavior and international outcomes.**

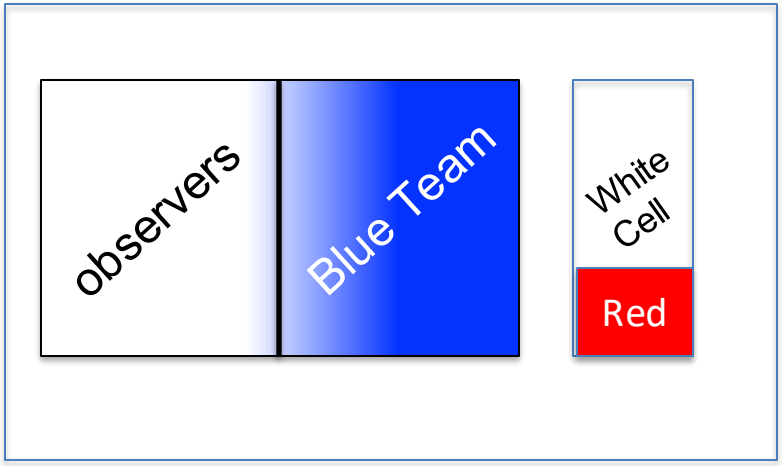
Secondary Objectives

- **Assess U.S. and partner vulnerabilities and interdependencies within the current architecture of international competition,** emphasizing economic exposure and industrial capacity alongside political alignment and informational contestation.
- **Test mechanisms of U.S. whole-of-nation and allied coordination, focusing on how the United States, European allies, Indo-Pacific partners, and the industrial base** can act in concert to strengthen collective resilience and strategic coherence.
- **Identify key inflection points** where national and allied actions may reinforce or undermine the stability of the existing US global alliances structure.
- **Produce actionable insights and policy recommendations** to inform U.S. and partner strategies for sustaining long-term advantage within a competitive global environment.



Game Day Flow

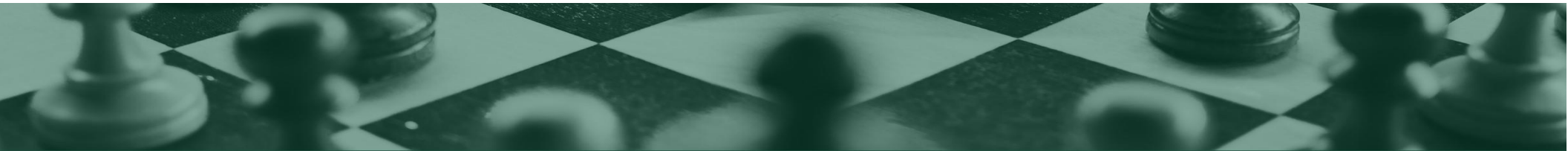
0830	0900	0930	1100	1200	1330	1430	1530	1630
•Arrival	•Plenary	•Move 1 start	•End move 1 •2nd plenary	•Move 2 start	•Move 2 end •3rd plenary	•Move 3 start	•End of move 3 •Finaly plenary	•Day end



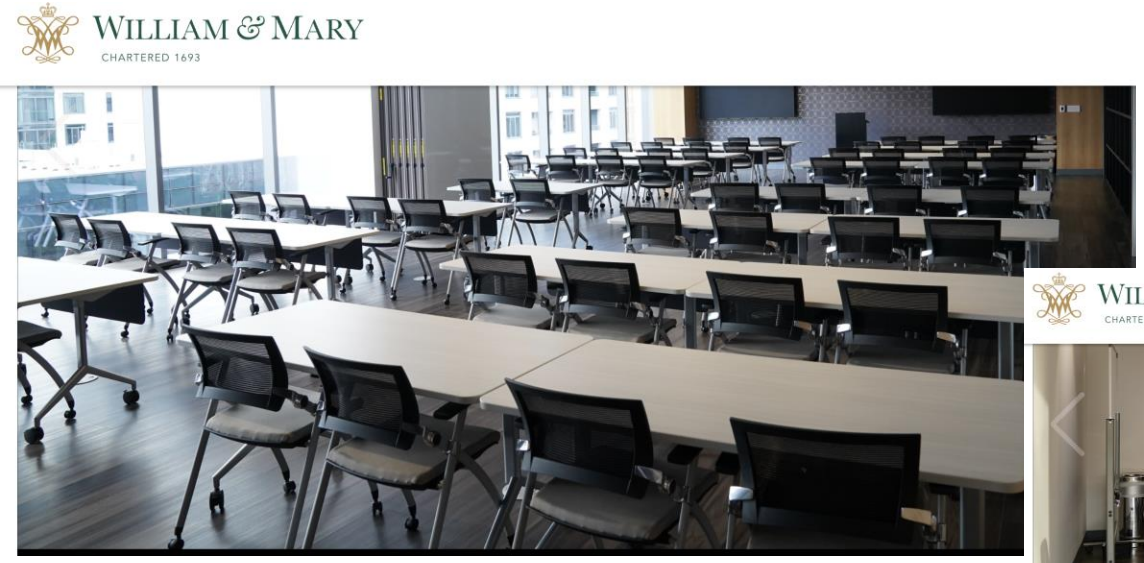
W&M DC Center (7th floor)

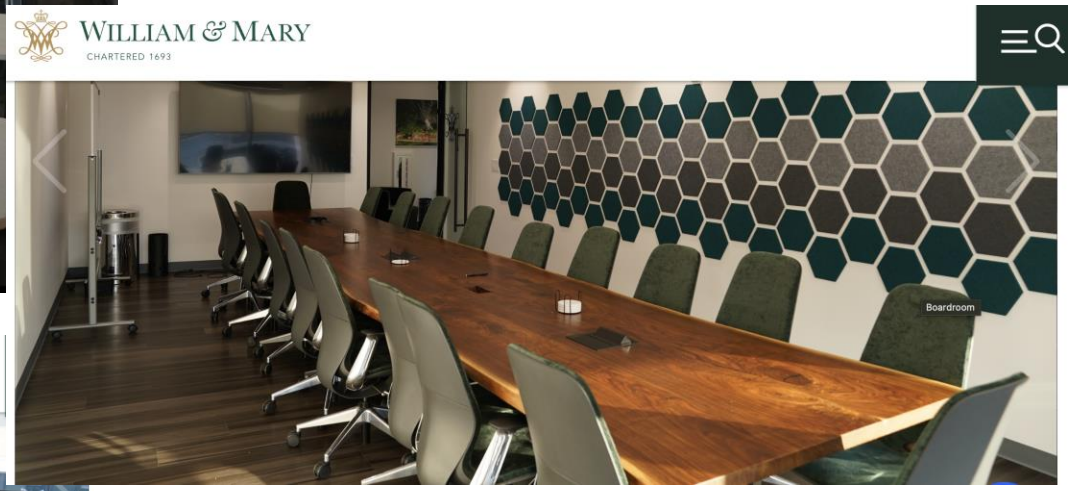
W&M DC Center (3rd floor)

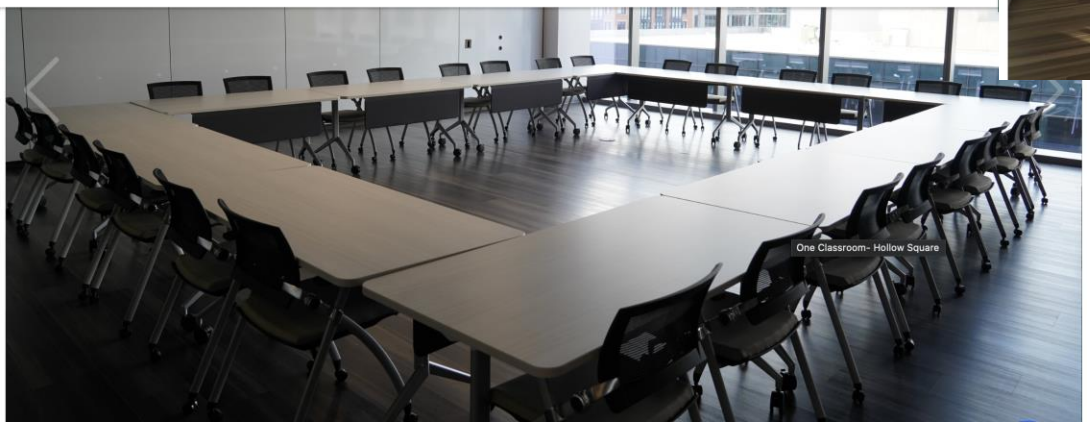
W&M DC Center 100-person Plenary room (2nd Floor)



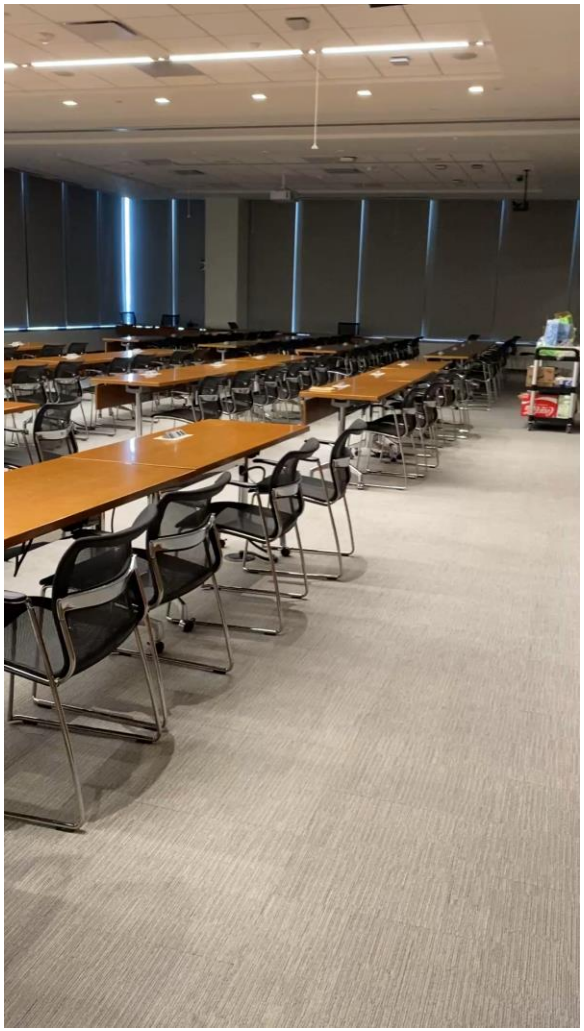
DC Center (7th Floor)



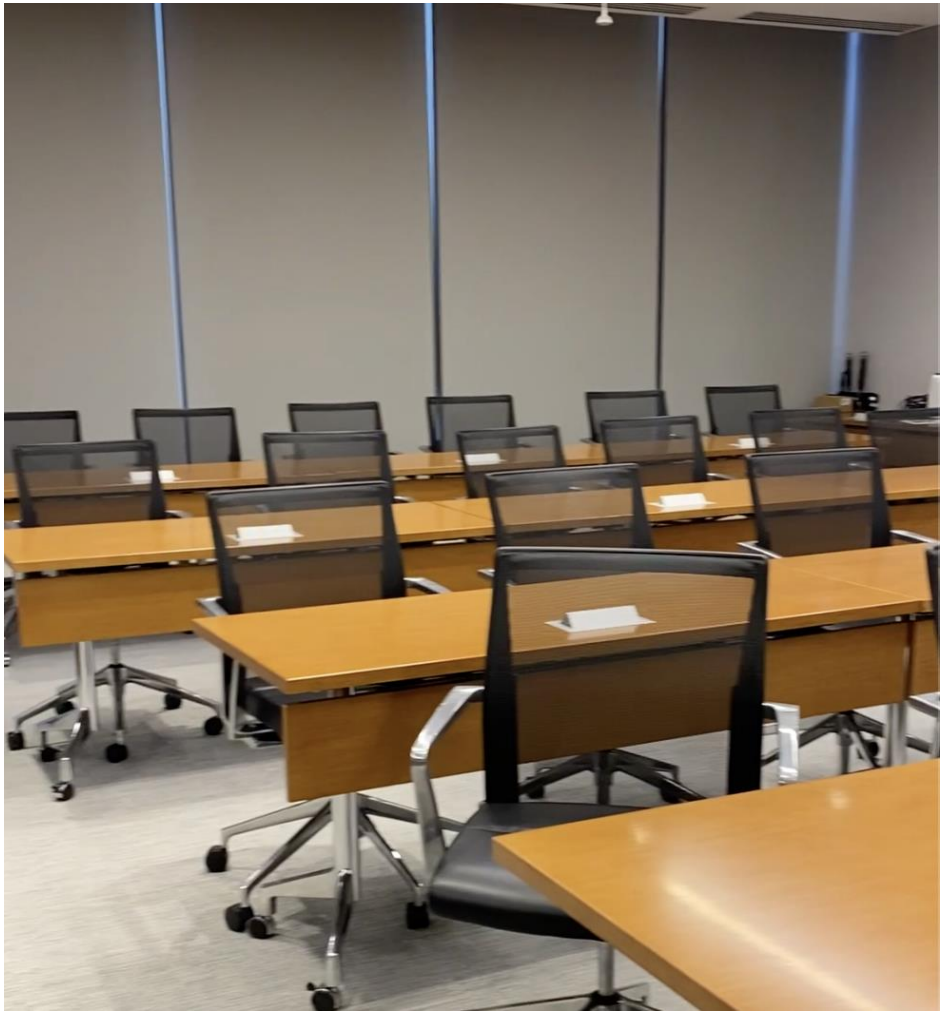




DC Center (2nd Floor)



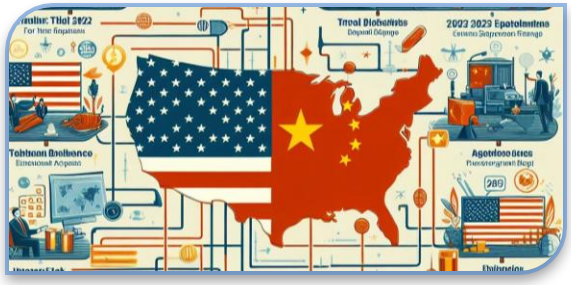
DC Center (3rd Floor)



The Game
Move Structure

- 0900 — •Plenary
- 0930 — •Move 1 start
- 1100 — •End move 1 •LUNCH/Insights
- 1200 — •Move 2 start
- 1330 — •Move 2 end •BREAK/Insights
- 1430 — •Move 3 start
- 1530 — •End of move 3 •Finaly plenary
- 1630 — •Day end

Move 1



Move 2

Move 3

EPOCH 1 (2028-2030)

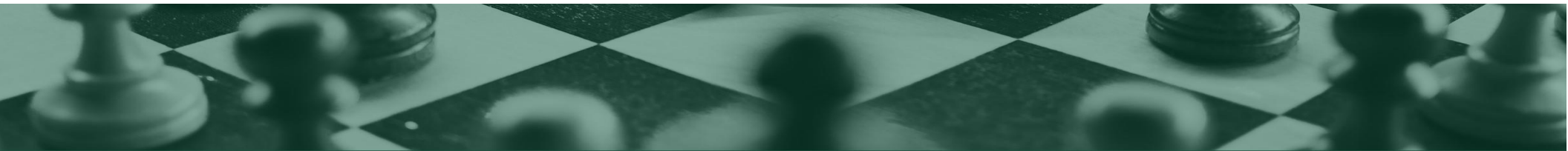
- BLU E GOVT DIVIDED
- ACTIONS + Decisions = Outcomes

EPOCH 2 (2030-2032)

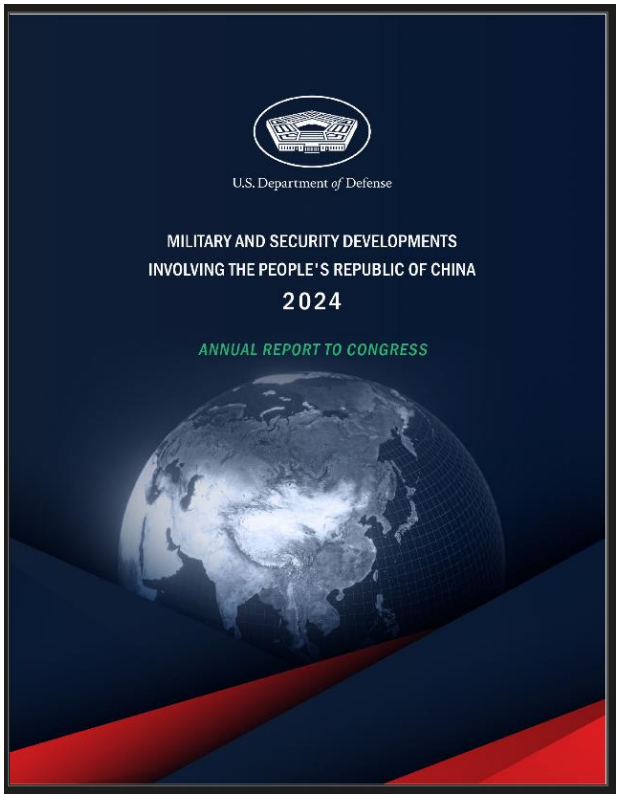
- PRC Economic Escalation
- ACTIONS + Decisions = Outcomes

EPOCH 3 (2032-2034)

- PRC Blockades Taiwan
- Potential Decisions & Outcomes



Key Dates



Key Dates

2027 – Military Integration
2035 – Military Modernization
2049 – Great Rejuvenation
world-class military force

Priority Industries in China's 15th Five-Year Plan

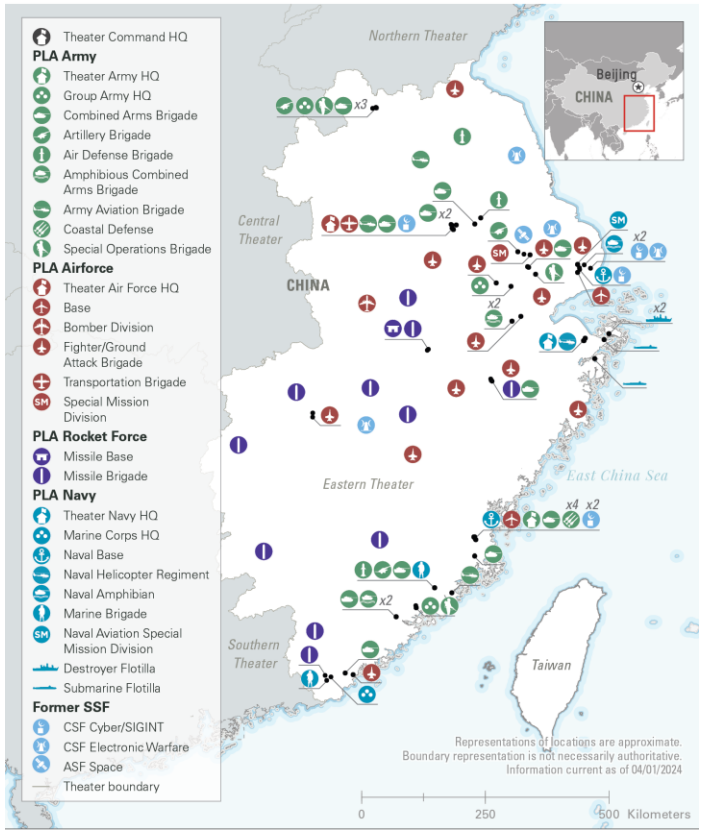
Beijing wants to raise traditional industries' "competitiveness in the global division of labor," expand emerging industries, promote future industries as new growth drivers, and "adopt extraordinary measures" to achieve "decisive breakthroughs" in key core technologies. AI gets its own section, as it will "empower all industries in an all-round way."

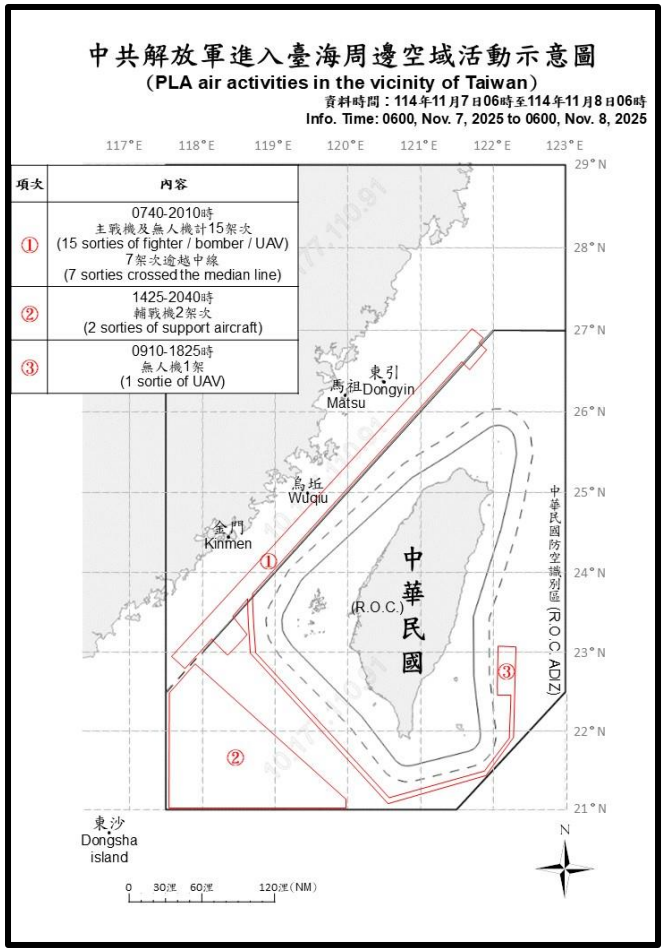
Traditional Industries	Emerging Industries	Future Industries	Key Core Technologies for Decisive Breakthroughs
Mining	New Energy	Quantum Technology	Integrated Circuits
Metallurgy	New Materials	Biomanufacturing	Industrial Machine Tools
Chemicals	Aerospace	Hydrogen Energy	High-End Instruments
Light Industry	Low-Altitude Economy	Nuclear Fusion Energy	Foundational Software
Textiles		Brain-Computer Interfaces	Advanced Materials
Machinery		Embodied Intelligence	Biomanufacturing
Shipping		6G Mobile Communications	
Construction			

As suggested in the "Proposals" issued by the Communist Party's Fourth Plenum in October 2025.

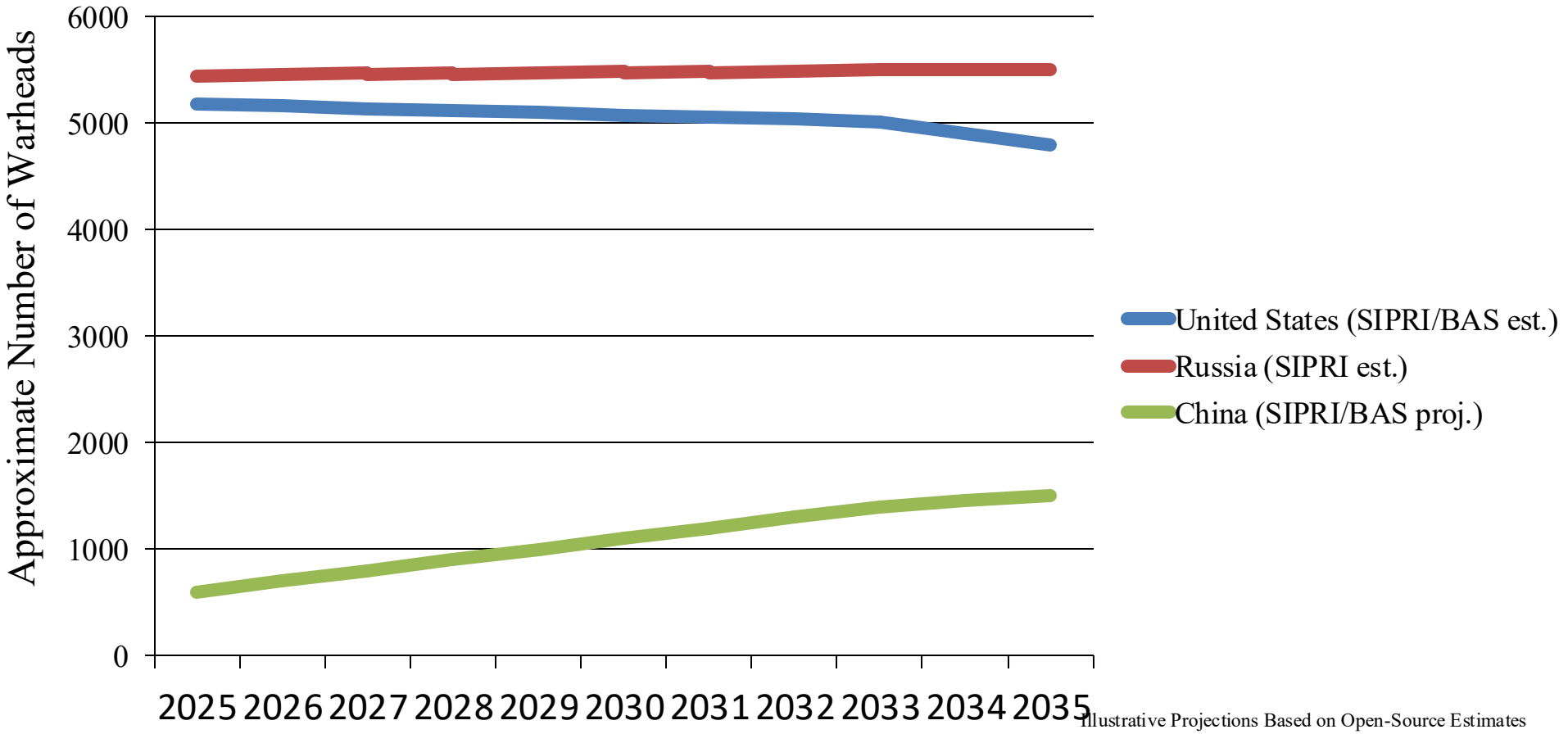
Table: ASPI Center for China Analysis • Created with Datawrapper

Eastern & Southern Military Commands





Projected Nuclear Stockpiles (2025–2035):
U.S., Russia, and China

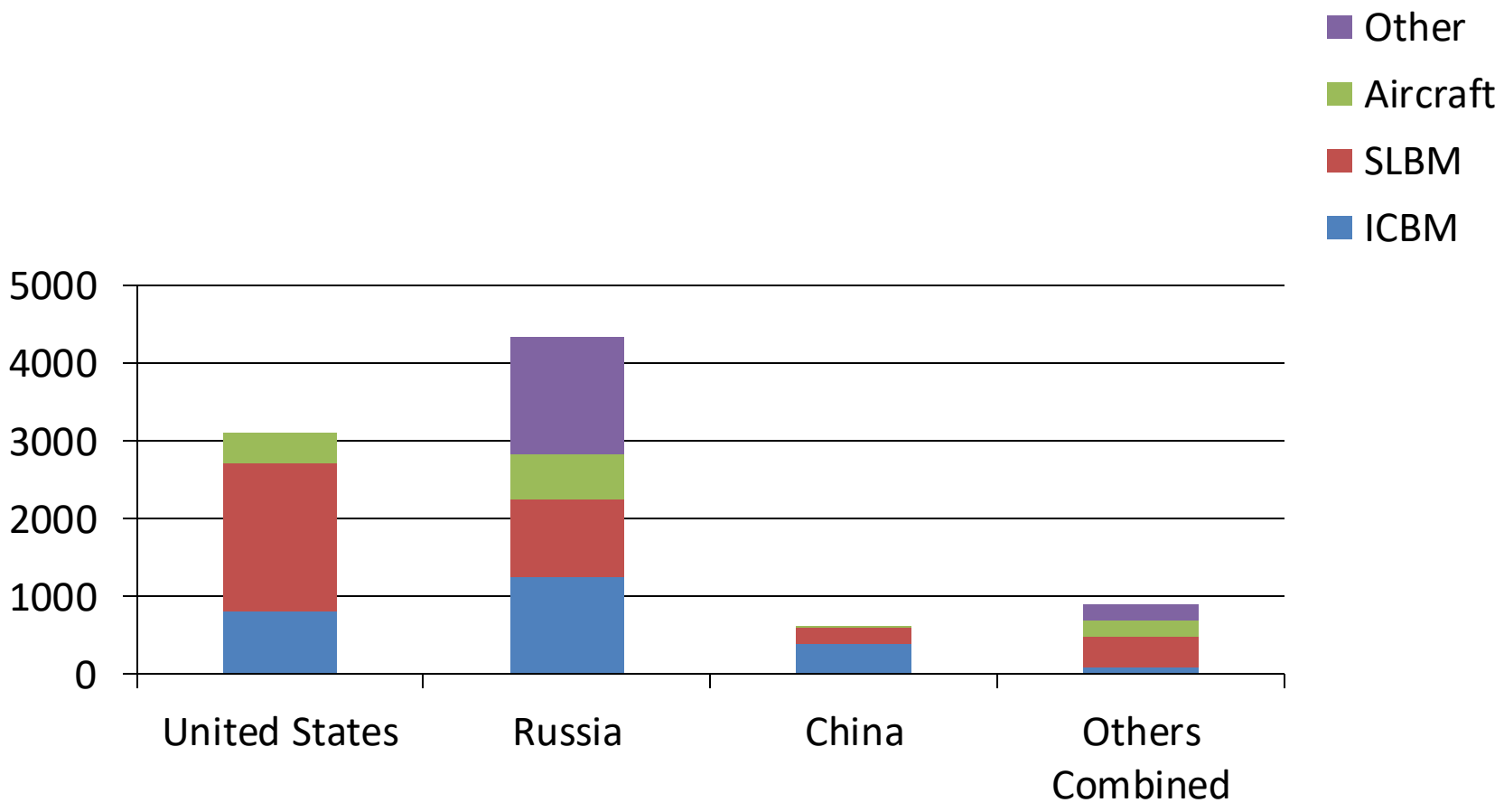


Illustrative Projections Based on Open-Source Estimates

Projection values based on SIPRI Yearbook 2025 and Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (March 2025); illustrative classroom estimates only.

Sources: SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute), The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, and open-source analyses of China's nuclear modernization (2024–2025).

Estimated Nuclear Warheads:
US/Russia/PRC vs R.O.W. (2025)

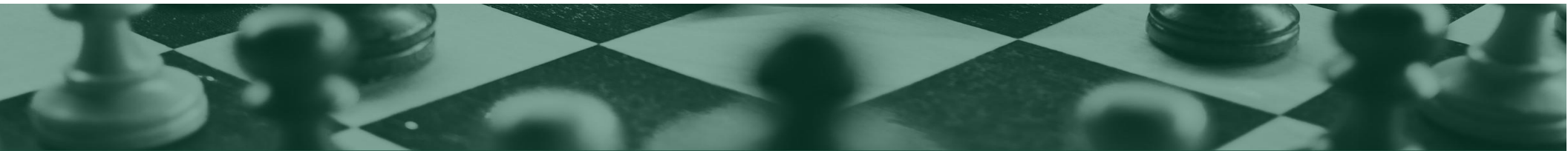


Note: 'Others Combined' includes France, United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, Israel, and North Korea.

Numerical Data Table:

Nuclear Warheads by Category (2025)

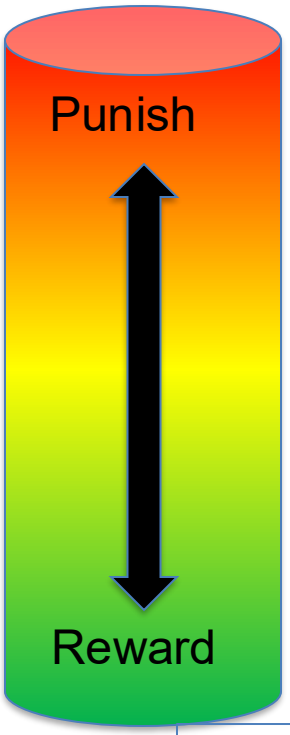
Country/Group	ICBM	SLBM	Aircraft	Other
United States	800	1920	400	0
Russia	1254	992	586	1500
China	400	200	20	0
Others Combined	90	385	210	215



Opening Narrative

Econ Toolkit

BLUE Team

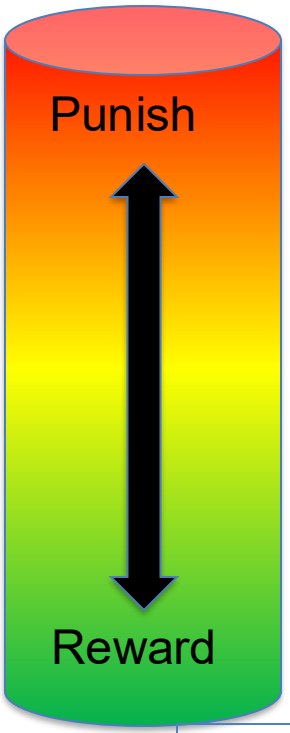


ACTOR (Country/ Corporation/ Other)	Sector	Supply Chain (Which Link?)	ACTION	Desired Effect

1. BLUE team populates this template using materials provided by SSG.
2. SSG develops decision support toolkit (lookup tables, VerbAI digital twin, and/or AI ICEBREAKER–like tool)
3. SSG design develops materials from SSG research data base.

Econ Toolkit

BLUE Team

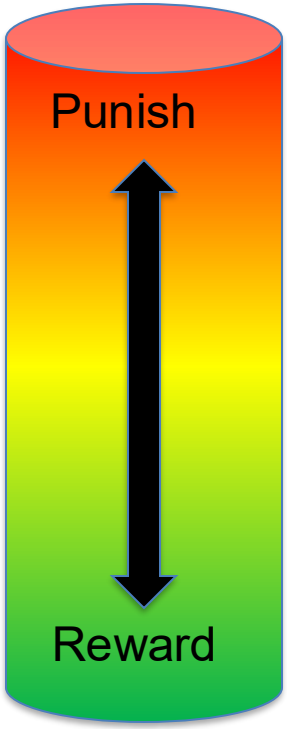


ACTOR (Country/ Corporation/ Other)	Sector	Supply Chain (Which Link?)	ACTION	Desired Effect	"Power" used / "Power" remaining
Indonesia 1. PT Vale Indonesia TbK 2. PT Aneka Tambang TbK	Telecomms	Critical Minerals	Secondary Sanctions	Disrupt flow of minerals from POO to refinement (PRC)	20% / 80%

1. BLUE team populates this template using materials provided by SSG.
2. SSG develops decision support toolkit (lookup tables, VerbAI digital twin, and/or AI ICEBREAKER–like tool)
3. SSG design develops materials from SSG research data base.

Econ Toolkit

BLUE Team (WHITE CELL)



ACTOR (Country/ Corporation/ Other)	Sector	Supply Chain (Which Link?)	ACTION	Adjudicated Effect (Degradation & Timeline)	"Power" used / "Power" remaining

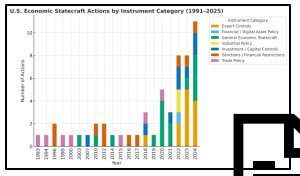
1. Lookup tables?
2. VerbAI – digital twin?
3. AI determination?

1. Lookup tables?
2. VerbAI – digital twin?
3. AI determination?

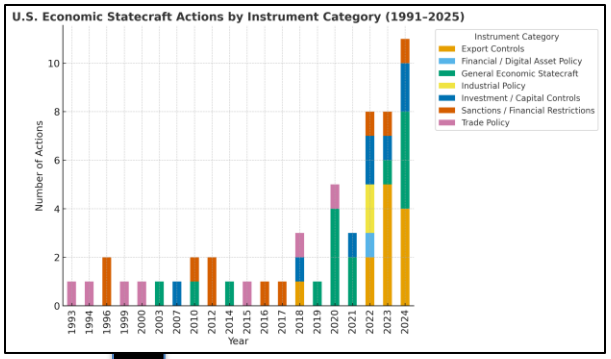
ACTOR (Country/ Corporation/ Other)	Sector	Supply Chain (Which Link?)	ACTION	Desired Effect
			SANCTIONs	

WHITE inputs
BLUE ACTION(s)
to economic toolkit

- Sanctions / Financial Restrictions
- Export Controls
- Investment / Capital Controls
- Trade Policy
- Financial / Digital Asset Policy
- General Economic Statecraft / Cross-Cutting Tools
- Industrial Policy
- Infrastructure & Workforce Development / Supply-Chain Resilience



ECONOMIC DATA SETS



Assessment
Update Game State
Update Narrative
Population Sentiment

AI OUTPUT Provides WHITE CELL response (OUTCOME)

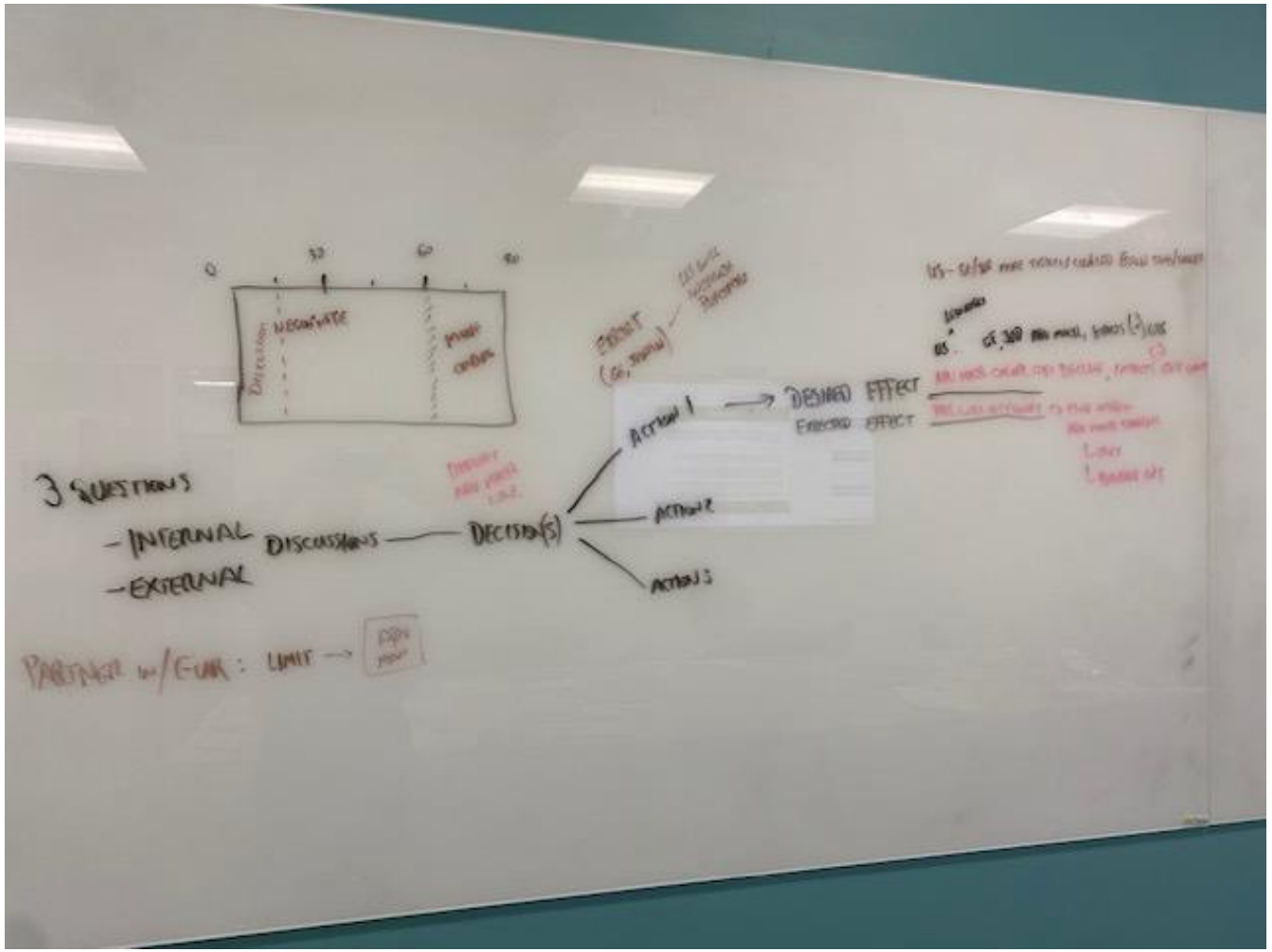
ICEBREAKER AI Tool

VerbaAI

Data INPUT to AI tools

As a result of the ALPHA TEST we created a BLUE MOVE FLOW

Added this chart 11.8.25

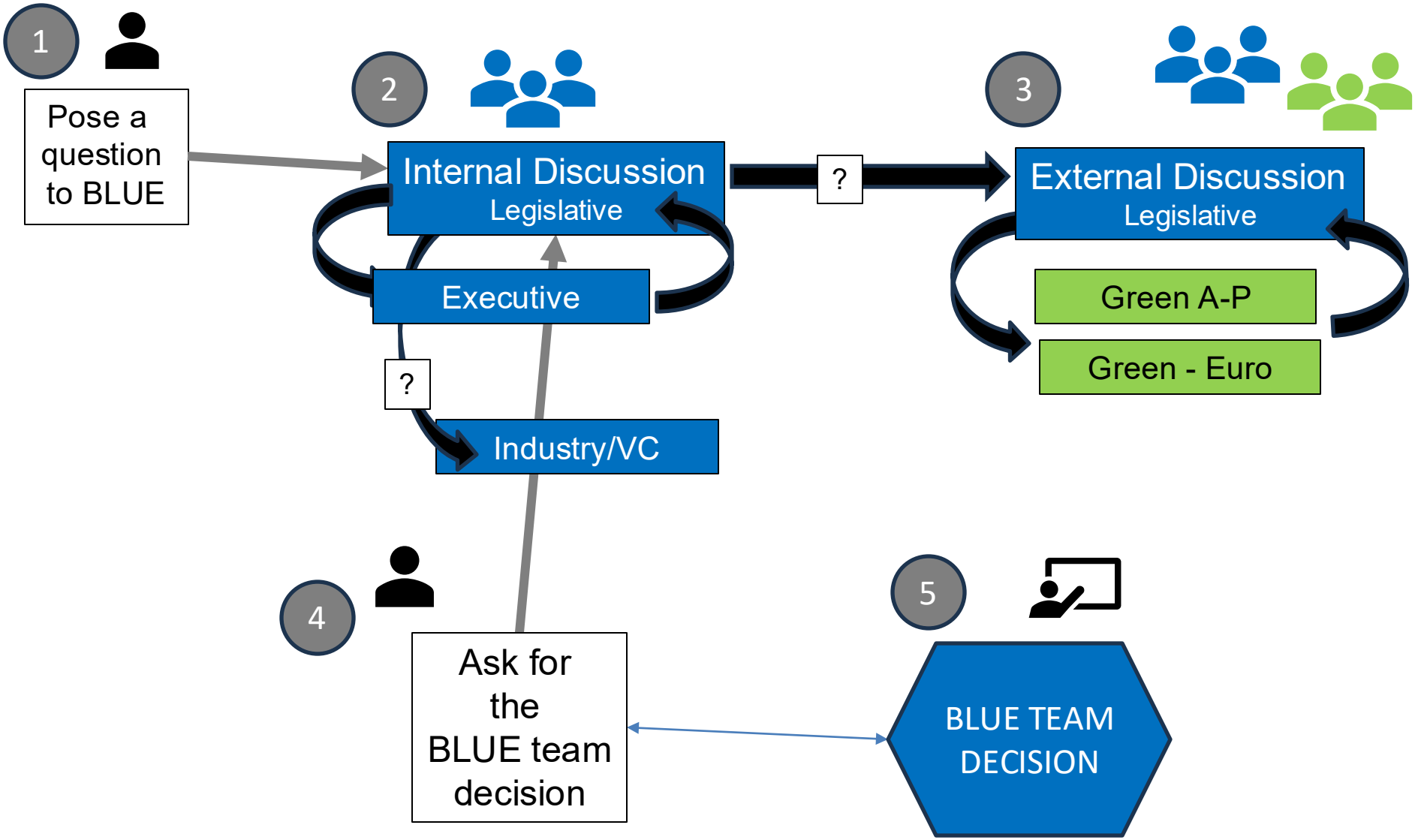


White Board results from ALPHA Test

Added this chart 11.8.25

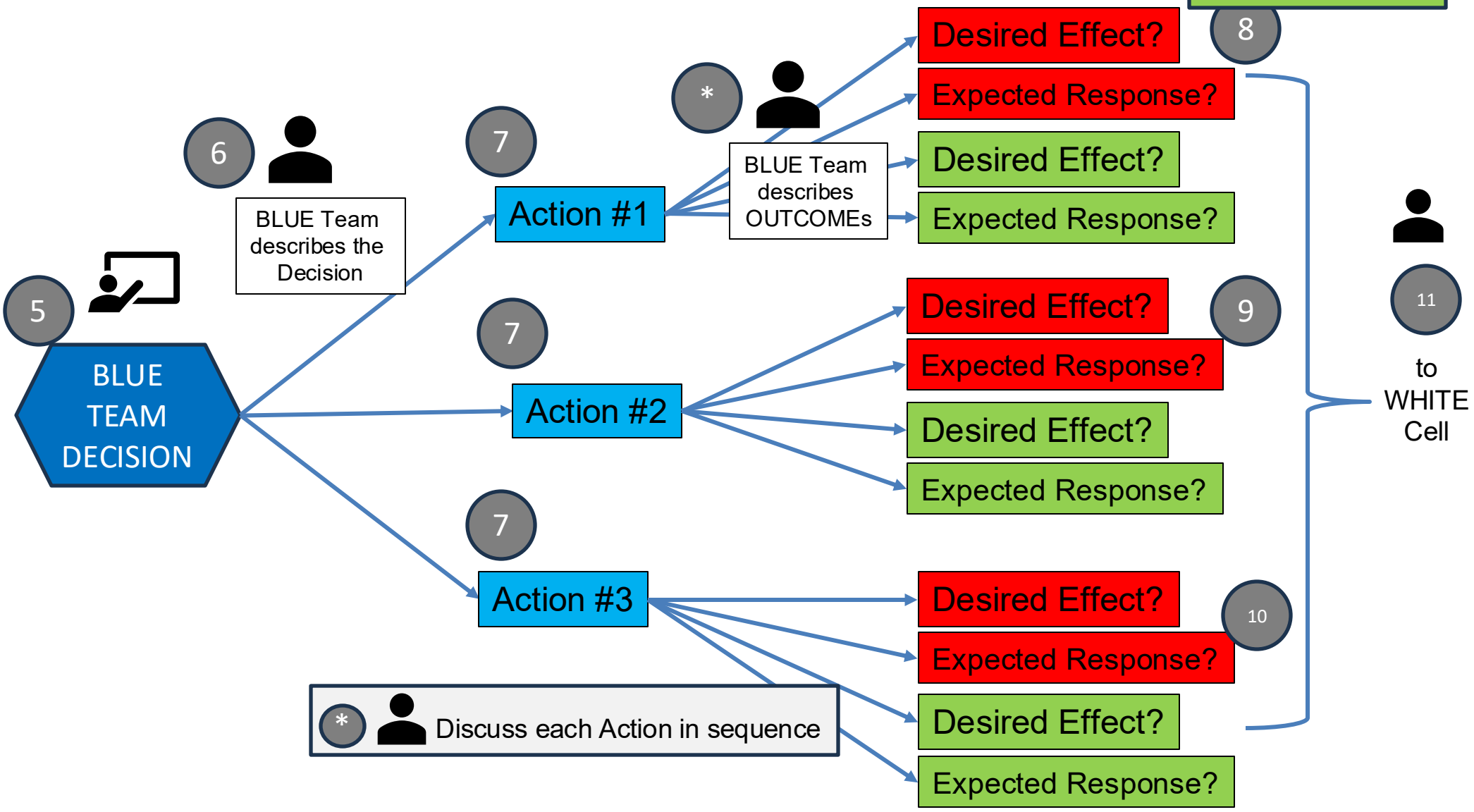
BLUE MOVE
(Part 1)

Updated this flow chart 11.9.25



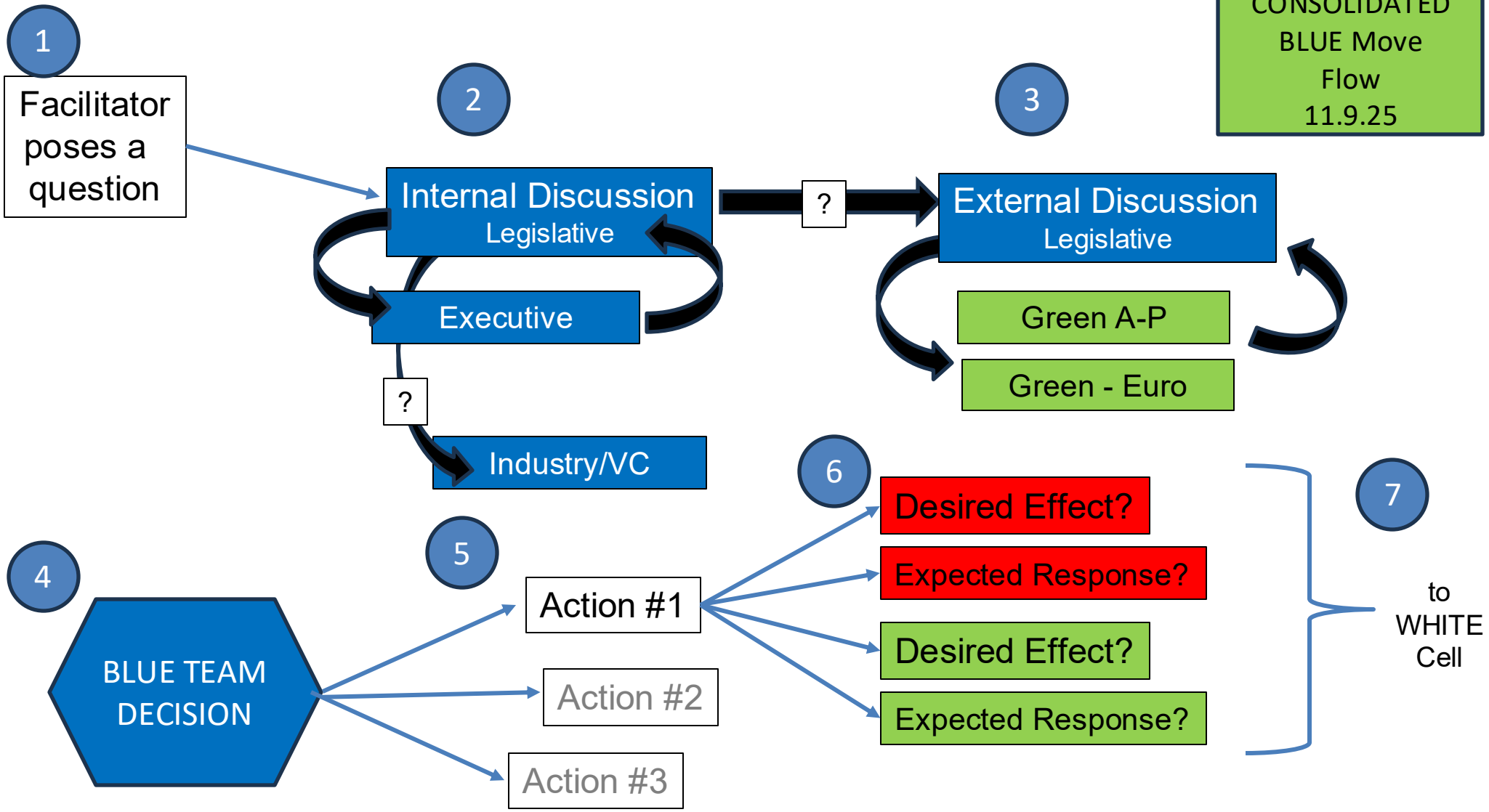
BLUE MOVE
(Part 2)

Updated this flow chart 11.9.25



BLUE MOVE
(CONSOLIDATED)

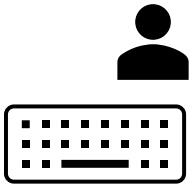
Updated this flow chart to reflect CONSOLIDATED BLUE Move Flow 11.9.25



BLUE MOVE
(White Cell Flow)

1

Pose a question to BLUE



Notetaker

Asist w/ Visualization
Communicate with Board Room

Add remaining flow to this chart 11.9.25

GREEN MOVE FLOW

GREEN Team (BLUE Interaction)

Updated this flow chart 11.9.25

1

Pose 3 questions to GREEN

1. How are you positioned?
2. What changes with BLUE?
3. What changes with RED?

Green A-P: AUS, JPN, ROK

Green – Europe: EU, GER, UK

2

Each nation provides answers

3

BLUE Team

BLUE consults GREEN

or

Legislative ?

Executive ?

Industry/VC ?

Green A-P: AUS, JPN, ROK

Green – Europe: EU, GER, UK

4

BLUE & Individual GREEN reach new positions

5

Input To WHITE Cell

GREEN Team (RED Interaction)

Updated this flow chart 11.9.25

1

Pose 3 questions to GREEN

1. How are you positioned?
2. What changes with BLUE?
3. What changes with RED?

Green A-P

AUS JPN ROK

Green – Europe

EU GER UK

2

Each nation provides answers

3

RED consults GREEN

RED Team PRC

RED Team Russia

Green A-P

AUS JPN ROK

Green – Europe

EU GER UK

4

RED & Individual GREEN reach new positions

5

GREEN Input To WHITE Cell

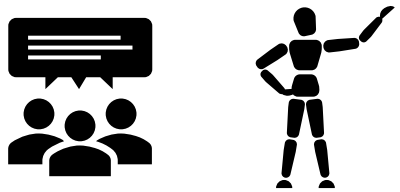
GREEN MOVE
(White Cell Flow)

1

Pose 3 question s to GREEN

Notetaker

Asist w/ Visualization
Communicate with Board Room



Add remaining flow to this chart 11.9.25

RED MOVE FLOW

RED Team (GREEN Team Interaction)

Updated this flow chart 11.9.25

1

Pose 3 questions to RED

RED Team PRC

RED Team Russia

2

Each nation provides answers

1. How are you positioned?
2. What changes with BLUE?
3. What changes with RED?

3

RED consults GREEN

RED Team PRC

RED Team Russia

Green A-P

AUS JPN ROK

Green – Europe

EU GER UK

4

Each RED & Individual GREEN reach new positions

5

RED Input To WHITE Cell

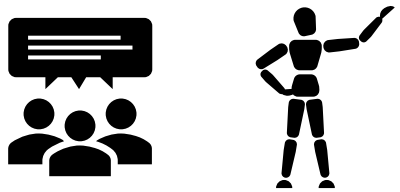
RED MOVE
(White Cell Flow)

1

Pose a question to RED

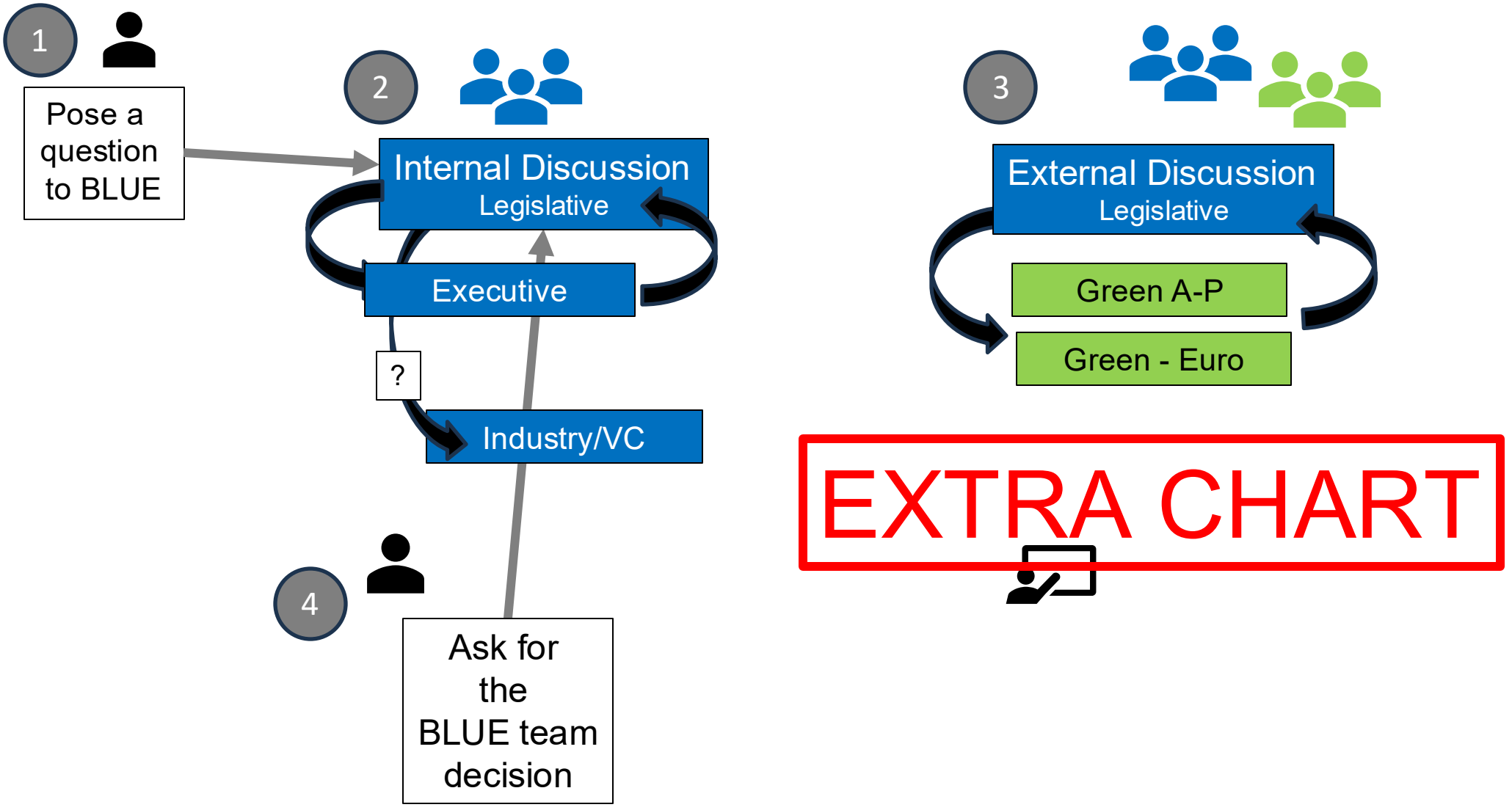
Notetaker

Asist w/ Visualization
Communicate with Board Room



Add remaining flow to this chart 11.9.25

GREEN Team
Move Flow



GREEN Team

BLUE Team

Legislative

Executive

Industry/VC

Industry/VC

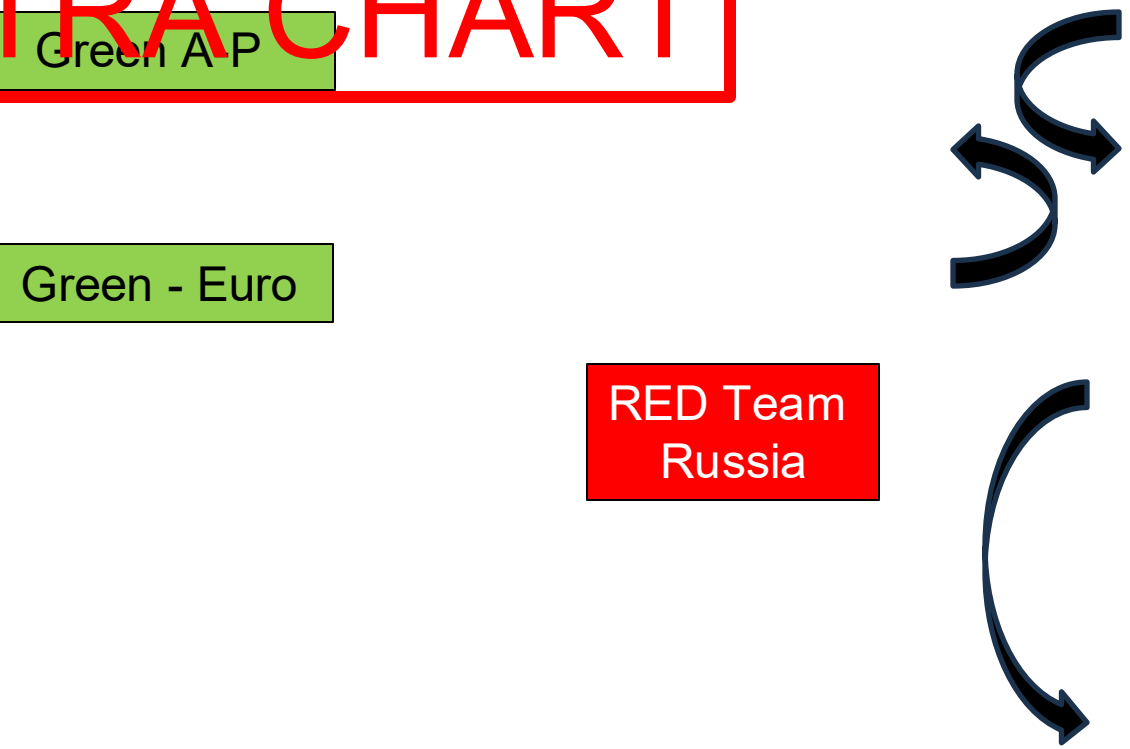
RED Team PRC

EXTRA CHART

Green A-P

Green - Euro

RED Team Russia



GREEN Team

1

Pose 3 questions to GREEN

1. How are you positioned?
2. What changes with BLUE?
3. What changes with RED?

Green A-P

AUS JPN ROK

Green – Europe

EU GER UK

2

Each nation provides answers

?

?

?

BLUE Team

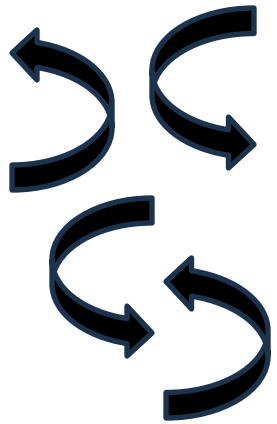
Legislative

Executive

Industry/VC

3

Each nation provides answers



Industry/VC

End of new charts added since ALPHA Test

Added 11.9.25

Wargame Execution

- **Game Format**
  - Realistic simulation?
  - Conducive to topic exploration?
- **Game Flow**
  - Pacing/Timing?
  - Logical?
- **Team Composition**
  - Roles & Responsibilities?
- **Decision Support**
  - Information?
  - Tools?
- **Suggestions for Future Game…**

Observations
(1 of 2)

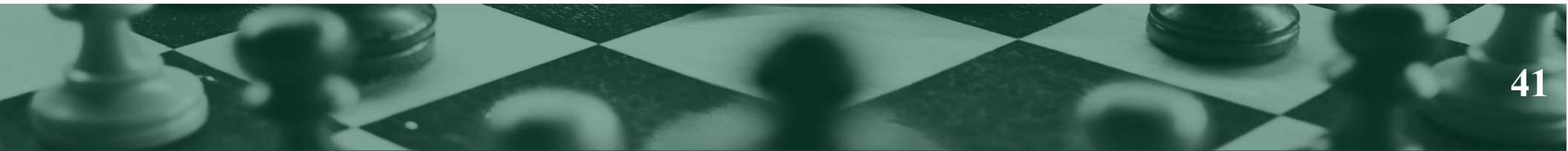
- **Strategy effectiveness**
  - **ACTIONS/Moves (COA) effectiveness**
  - **Competitor Responses**
  - **Partner Responses**
- **Surprises**
- **Future Adjustments**

Observations
(2 of 2)

- Competitor Strategy
- Competitor COAs
  - Your Responses
  - Surprises
- Future Adjustments

Reflection & Takeaways

- **What is the most important decision your team made today?**
- **What observations or insights did you take away from the game about the continuing strategic competition between the U.S. and Russia?**
- **What is the most important thing you learned about the Arctic region today?**
- **How will you incorporate lessons learned into your research paper?**



Questions?