**DSS PRESENTATION**

**Presentation Title**

*Integrating the Military Instrument to Enhance Social Resilience.*

Group should assess the utility and limitations of the military as an instrument of national power in addressing non traditional security threats in concert with other instruments available to states.

Draw on case studies to illustrate both successful and problematic applications.

Consider political, logistical, ethical and strategic factors.

**Questions component parts:**

* Military instrument of national power
* Other instruments of national power
* Societal resilience
* Non traditional security threats
* Political, logistical, ethical, strategic factors
* Applicable case study

**Military instrument** refers to the means by which states (or comparable actors) employ organized, coercive force — or threaten its use — to achieve political objectives.

* It is one of the “instruments of national power” (alongside diplomacy, economics, information, etc.).
* The military instrument includes not only combat operations but all relevant capabilities (armed forces, logistics, doctrine, strategy, force posture, readiness) that enable the state to use or threaten force in a way that influences behaviour.
* **Clausewitz**, *On War* — famously argues that war is “a continuation of politics by other means.” This helps frame the military instrument as subordinate to political objectives.
* Strategy texts / doctrine treat the military instrument in terms of “means to policy ends.” For example, “Strategy defined: the process that converts military power into policy effect.” Jordan, D. *et al.* (2016) ‘Strategy defined’, in *Understanding Modern Warfare*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 39–60.

**Instruments of national power** is a tool or means by which a state (government) can pursue its strategic or national objectives. These are levers states can use to influence others (other states or non-state actors), to protect their security, promote their interests, or to shape international environments.

* They can be “hard” (coercive) or “soft” (influential, non-coercive). [SAGE Knowledge+1](https://sk.sagepub.com/ency/edvol/embed/nationalsecurity/chpt/national-power-determinants?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* They are not merely sources of power (resources, geography, etc.), but how states *use* those to act. [1Library+1](https://1library.net/article/elements-national-power-opposing-force-doctrinal-framework-strategy.qvlovp1y?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* Common framework: DIME Diplomatic, Informational, Military, Economic

**Societal resilience** can absorb shocks from disasters, emergencies, crises, recover such that the community returns to normal function quickly, and ideally continues on a growth or positive adaptation path. [PubMed Central+1](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9010723/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

* Social cohesion, trust, networks: These are often foundational. Trust in institutions, bonds among citizens, social norms are repeatedly found to be critical. [PubMed Central+2CIMIC COE+2](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9010723/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* Preparedness / readiness: Awareness of risks, planning, having capacity/resources ready to be deployed. [PubMed Central+2websites.fraunhofer.de+2](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9010723/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Non traditional security threats**

1. Climate & Environmental Insecurity
   1. Sea-level rise, extreme weather, and ecosystem collapse act as “threat multipliers.”
   2. *Policy lever:* Invest in climate adaptation infrastructure; strengthen disaster preparedness.
2. Pandemics & Health Security
   1. Infectious disease outbreaks disrupt economies and governance.
   2. *Policy lever:* Build robust health systems and early warning capacities.
3. Cybersecurity & Digital Dependence
   1. Attacks on finance, energy, or government disrupt vital functions.
   2. *Policy lever:* Harden critical systems; foster public–private cyber defense partnerships.
4. Food & Water Security
   1. Supply chain shocks, scarcity, and transboundary disputes drive instability.
   2. *Policy lever:* Diversify imports, invest in sustainable agriculture, negotiate water agreements.
5. Migration & Displacement
   1. Sudden inflows strain infrastructure, social cohesion, and policy capacity.
   2. *Policy lever:* Develop humanitarian response frameworks and regional burden-sharing.
6. Energy Security & Infrastructure Fragility
   1. Supply interruptions or targeted attacks undermine economic stability.
   2. *Policy lever:* Diversify energy sources; protect critical infrastructure.
7. Transnational Crime & Illicit Economies
   1. Trafficking and shadow finance weaken governance and fuel instability.
   2. *Policy lever:* Enhance law enforcement cooperation and financial transparency.
8. Disinformation & Hybrid Threats
   1. Information operations erode trust in institutions and polarize society.
   2. *Policy lever:* Strengthen media literacy and counter-disinformation units.

**Applicable case study:** **Non traditional security threats for Ireland specifically**

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| RANK | THREAT | LIKELIHOOD | IMPACT | EVIDENCE | LEAD AGENCY | TOP 3 RESILIENCE MEASURES |
| 1 | Climate change — extreme weather, coastal & inland flooding | High | High | Ireland’s National Climate Change Risk Assessment and EPA work identify coastal flooding, storm surges, inland flooding and compound events as already significant and rising risks that can disrupt infrastructure, communities and services. ([climateireland.ie](https://www.climateireland.ie/media/epa-2020/monitoring-amp-assessment/climate-change/climate-ireland/EPA_NCCRA_Main-Report_Published_June_2025.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com) | Dept. of the Environment (with OPW, Met Éireann, EPA | 1) Fast-track local coastal adaptation (defences + managed retreat planning);  2) Integrate climate hazard maps into planning/insurance; 3) Upgrade flood early-warning and local emergency response capacity |
| 2 | Energy & critical infrastructure security (gas dependence, generation shortfalls, outages) | Medium - high | High | Ireland remains substantially dependent on natural gas for electricity (large share of generation) and experienced storm-related power outages; EU reviews and IEA note gas security vulnerabilities across member states. Disruption → economic shock and cascading infrastructure failure. ([IEA)](https://www.iea.org/reports/ireland-2024/executive-summary?utm_source=chatgpt.com) | Dept. of Environment / Dept. of the Taoiseach (energy policy) with ESB/SEAI | 1) Accelerate diversification (storage, interconnectors, renewables + flexible backup);  2) Harden grid and distributed resilience (community back-ups);  3) Regular stress-testing of supply scenarios and emergency fuel plans |
| 3 | Cybersecurity & hybrid information operations (including election-period influence | High | High | NCSC/Irish reporting shows hundreds–thousands of cyber reports annually and medium risk of foreign information manipulation around elections; government has progressed NIS2 transposition and election threat guidance. Cyber incidents and disinformation can degrade services and democratic trust. ([RTE.ie)](https://www.rte.ie/news/business/2024/1105/1479075-cyber-security-reports/?utm_source=chatgpt.com) | National Cyber Security Centre (Dept. of Defence) with Dept. of An Taoiseach / Minister for Justice | 1) Expand incident reporting/response & public-private tabletop exercises; 2) Fund national media/digital literacy and rapid counter-messaging capability;  3) Mandate critical-system cyber hardening & supply-chain audits. |
| 4 | Public health threats — pandemics, emerging pathogens & health system strain | Medium | High | COVID-19 exposed system weaknesses; recent Irish Health Protection Strategy and reviews prioritize preparedness, surveillance and early detection as critical to prevent major societal/economic disruption. ([HPSC](https://www.hpsc.ie/hpstrategy/HSE%20Health%20Protection%20Strategy%20Year%20One%20Implementation%20Report_12.10.2023.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com) | Department of Health / HSE with HPSC & ECDC coordination | 1) Sustain surge capacity (testing, labs, workforce reserve);  2) Strengthen integrated surveillance (zoonotic & AMR monitoring);  3) Maintain stockpiles & rapid vaccine/therapeutics procurement frameworks. |
| 5 | Food security & supply-chain shocks (agriculture vulnerabilities, trade shocks | Medium | Medium - high | Ireland’s agri sector is important economically; EU mechanisms (EFSCM) and national analyses show exposure to trade disruption, input price shocks and extreme weather affecting production and imports. | Dept. of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (with Dept. of Transport / trade | 1) Diversify supply routes and strategic stockholding for critical inputs;  2) Boost resilient domestic production (sustainable practices, storage); 3) Engage EU-level contingency mechanisms (EFSCM) and cross-border logistics agreements |
| 6 | Transnational organised crime & illicit finance (incl. virtual-asset-enabled TF | Medium | Medium | Irish risk assessments highlight terrorist-financing/virtual currency threats and ongoing organised crime (trafficking, money laundering) undermining governance and finances. ([amlcompliance.ie](https://www.amlcompliance.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Terrorist-Financing-Risk-Assessment.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com) | Dept. of Justice / Garda Síochána with Dept. of Finance (FIU | 1) Tighten VASP/crypto AML supervision and cross-border law enforcement cooperation;  2) Strengthen financial transparency (beneficial-ownership registers) and AML resourcing;  3) Target supply chains (ports/logistics) with intelligence-led policing |

**Speaker 1**

Breakdown of question component parts to include the theory, definitions

* Military instrument of national power
* Other instruments of national power
* Societal resilience
* Non traditional security threats

**Speaker 2**

Introduce the case study – Ireland

* What non traditional security threats are Ireland facing presented in the format of a risk matrix
* How the combination of the Irish Defence Forces in concert with other instruments available to the Irish state are required to address these threats, a whole of government approach

**Speaker 3**

* The utility and limitations of the Defence Forces to address identified threats 1-6 from the risk matrix
* The utility and limitations of other instruments of national power to address identified threats 1-6 from the risk matrix
* Likely successful and problematic application of the military instrument for each risk
* Take consideration of additional political, logistical, ethical, strategic factors for each risk