**(U) Background**

(U) The countries of LINDSAY, TORRIKE, ARNLAND, and BOTHNIAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (BDR) are the nations that form the Skolkan Cooperation Organization (SCO). Arnland is occupied by a Torrikan peacekeeping force after the collapse of government. SCO conflict with NATO is the result of a decade of failed diplomacy and military posturing. All three nations possess sophisticated diplomatic, information, military and economic strategies, as well as a cohesive, cooperative campaign plan that has tested NATO?s ability to react to Article IV and Article V situations. SCO?s objective is to re-establish the historically Scandinavian controlled Hanseatic League and other geographic regions of the Skolkan Empire, which would give them greater economic influence over continental Europe, along with multi-port access to the Baltic Sea.

**(U) The Skolkan Cooperation Organization (SCO)**

(U) The SCO is an intergovernmental mutual security organization which was founded in 1990 by the leaders of Torrike, Lindsey and Bothnia. In 2001, Arnland joined the organization. The organization also formed the basis for the formation of the Skolkan Economic Community (SEC) and the SCO Interbank to promote mutual economic interests of SCO member states.

**(U) Bothnia-Estonian Tensions**

(U) Since 2001, the island of Hiiumaa formed the source of conflict between Bothnia and Estonia. Hiiumaa (Estonian pronunciation: [?hi?um??]; German & Bothnian: Dag?; Danish: Dag?; Finnish: Hiidenmaa) is the second largest island (989 km?) in Estonia. It is in the Baltic Sea, north of the island of Saaremaa, part of the West Estonian archipelago. Bothnia claims the island as a historical part of Bothnia and the islands inhabitants are largely of Bothnian decent. In 2011, residents of Hiiumaa began a political push for autonomy that was rejected by the President and Parliament of Estonia. Organizations in Bothnia supported the autonomy and the BDR often condemned Estonia's actions as human rights violations and against the will of the people of Hiiumaa. Bothnian rhetoric also cited the right of Bothnia to protect Bothnians everywhere.

**(U) August to September 2017**

(U) In August 2017, ethnic Bothnians on Hiiumaa launch another campaign to gain autonomy; however the Hiiumaa Action Committee, an affiliate of Novus Ordo Mundi (NOM) escalated historically peaceful demonstrations to violence. The violence resulted in the deaths among Estonian security forces and non-violent demonstrators. Bothnian leaders decried the lack of security for ethnic Bothnians and stated that if Estonia cannot protect ethnic Bothnians, Bothnia would be obligated to take action. Bothnia sent observers to Hiiumaa to "ensure the proper conduct of Estonian Security Forces in regards to the human rights of ethnic Bothnians." In the same period, Bothnia began offering Bothnian citizenship and issuing passports to ethnic Bothnians on Hiimuaa. In September, Bothnia held a major amphibious exercise on the Torrikean island of Gotland.

**(U) October 2017 to January 2018**

(U) Bothnian Naval Forces hold multiple naval exercises in the Baltic Sea. Several times Bothnian ships pass Hiimuaa crossing into the territorial waters of Estonia. Estonia requested a meeting of the North Atlantic Council under Article IV. NATO releases a statement warning the Bothnians to respect the territorial waters of its member states. Bothnia denies crossing into Estonia's territorial waters.

**(U) February 2018**

(U) On February 3, Bothnia conducts another large-scale amphibious exercise on the Torrikean island of Gotland. Violent clashes continue to occur on Hiiumaa. Bothnia leaders declare that their patience is limited with the Estonian governments inability to protect Bothnian citizens.

**(U) March 2018**

(U) After a short refit period, the same Bothnian Defense Force units conduct a third amphibious exercise on Gotland on 03 March 2018. On 18 March 2018, a series of cyberattacks disrupt the banking, transportation, and ministry of defense systems in Estonia. The unknowns immediately claim responsibility and demand that Estonia "free the oppressed Bothnians on Hiiumaa." On 22 March 2018, the United States and Estonia issue a joint report which claims that the cyber attacks were sponsored by Bothnia. Estonia calls for a meeting of the North Atlantic Council under Article IV. Bothnia denies the accusations and states that it is ready to defend its people and interests. The Bothnian Ministry of Defense announces a fourth set of amphibious exercises to take place at the end of March. On 25 March, the NAC invokes Article V in the defense of Estonia citing the ongoing threats of Bothnia, while Bothnia calls the declaration reactionary. Torrike calls for calm and offers to host discussions to reduce the current tensions between Estonia and Bothnia. NATO begins to move elements of the VJTF to Estonia on 26 March 2018.

**(U) Bothnia Invades**

(U) On 28 March 2018, Bothnia invaded Estonia. On 18 April 2018, Bothnia controls all of Estonia and has established defensive positions on the Latvian border. On 20 April, Bothnia invaded Latvia and in less than a week controls the country. With only a short pause, Bothnian continue to attack south into Lithuania. On 01 May 2018, Bothnia occupies all of Lithuania except for the area immediately north of the Suwalki gap. Bothnian forces construct defensive positions and Bothnia calls for peace talks to resolve the "problem with the Baltics."

**(U) Diplomatic Pause**

(U) On 05 May 2018, diplomatic discussions began in the capital of Torrike, Tyr. The talks are long and unproductive and last through much of the summer. In this time, Bothnia condemns the "crimes against humanity" committed by the leadership of the Baltic states against Bothnian citizens and the build-up of NATO forces in Poland against the Bothnia's "Baltic Peacekeeping Forces." Talks break down several times in reaction to NATO troop movements. Polish and Bothnian forces skirmish along the front lines throughout the summer, but no decisive action is taken on either side. Bothnia declares each skirmish a sign of Polish aggression. Torrike once again calls for calm while condemning the aggression of Poland against Bothnia. The talks break down in early September over a loss of NATO confidence in the neutrality of Torrike in the talks. Tolima offers to host peace talks in late September.

**(U) Torrikean Military Exercises**

(U) On 15 September 2018, Torrike begins a series of large scale amphibious assaults in southern Torrike on the island of Bornholm only 100 km from the Polish and German coasts. In spite of the assurances from Torrike, NATO forces reposition to bolster the coastal defenses in Germany and Polish disrupting reinforcement efforts in northeastern Poland.

**(U) Bothnia invades Poland**

(U) On the night of September 25, 2018, Bothnian forces attacked into the Suwalki gap and make a major drive toward Warsaw. NATO forces slowed the Bothnian offensive and held the offensive north of Warsaw. Bothnian forces continued to push south through eastern Poland.

**(U) Bothnia shows intentions to open a Black Sea front.**

(U) On 30 September 2018, Ukraine announced a treaty with the Skolkan Cooperation Organization which allowed freedom of movement for BDF forces through the Ukraine. Bothnian forces began moving through Ukraine southward. On 15OCT, Bothnia's 2OSC began preparations to move through the Ukraine to occupy positions in Moldova to conduct security operations with its Moldovan-based forces. NATO was unprepared for the development and troop movements. Romanian and Bulgarian governments immediately began working towards returning their forces from Poland. NATO prioritized this movement and began mobilizing forces to bolster the defenses of the Black Sea region. NATO estimates that 2OSC will be in positions to attack Romania NET 01NOV2018.