



VISION COMJUNTA, A VIEW TO 2050 FROM THE ESGC'S MILITARY STRATEGY AND SENIOR LEADERSHIP COURSE

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In the year 2021, the ESGC's Advanced Course in Military Strategy and Senior Management had to solve a long-term military strategy problem that in the situation was posed as a requirement of the National Strategy that demanded answers about the future, so it had to immerse itself in strategic uncertainty for its resolution. Here is the problem:

The Strategic Planning area was asked to propose actions to optimise the strategic situation for the period 2030 - 2050 in the Antarctic and South Atlantic area, based on three problems detected by the national strategy, which foresees at least three working hypotheses. The aspects to be resolved in the case of Argentina are as follows:

- > Characteristics of the future conflict
- > Scenarios - Strategic environment.
- > Use of the "proxy" concept for the confrontation in the South Atlantic (positions and actors involved).
- > Capabilities required of the Argentine Military Instrument (IMA) for the cases:
- > Neutrality
- > Strategic confluence with one of the two powers, Eastern or Western.
- > Proposed general requirements

for other branches of government.

A summary of the conclusions of the work were as follows:

SCENARIOS

Overview of the 2050 environment

Global technological innovation will constitute the main form of competition between actors and future conflicts in 2050, affecting the nature of military applications and influencing military and national strategy. Globally, technological innovators will be inclined to engage in science and technology; revolutionary creations may occur largely outside the state sector and, even more so, because of fortuitous adaptations and combinations of existing technology and state-of-the-art industrial processes.

The cognitive domain will be the space of military rivalry in 2050, more important than the other domains (land, sea, air, cyber and space). Warfare in this cognitive domain will mobilise a wide and different range of military strategies, tools and techniques, and the legal and jurisdictional structures of state competition will be put to the test.

From the statistics analysed in recent decades, conflicts between the armed forces of states have been decreasing; internal or civil wars are more involved. In contrast to what happened during the Cold

War, the world context is one of multipolar competition between the main global powers such as the US, China and Russia.

The environment would present ambiguous characteristics, such as the absence of ideologies and geographically differentiated blocs like the divisions seen in the last century. It would also be highly globalised, containing multi-directional alliance systems, with deterrence and multi-layered defence functions. The technological and economic divide will have a high likelihood of becoming geostrategic divisions.

In this sense, the revision of the **Antarctic Treaty** system in 2048 would have an impact on Argentina's national interests. In addition to this, the strategic-military chessboard of the **South Atlantic** scenario would take on greater prominence due to its geostrategic position and associated natural resources.

Argentina's probable scenario

In the study of possible scenarios for Argentina in 2050, the following variables and indicators were considered, which, for the sake of brevity, are not developed in this article:

- > Types of conflicts.
- > Strategic conduct of defence.
- > Evolution of defence investment.
- > Projected military capabilities.

In terms of technological progress in recent years, there has been exponential growth, with Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Data Mining at the forefront.

> Impact of advancing technology.

From the analysis and integration of these drivers, we can see a trend towards an environment that is perceived as **unfavourable** for Argentina. If this tendency and possible future scenarios continue, the Military Instrument would not be capable, both in terms of resources and in the strategic management of defence, of facing the possible new challenges to come in the second half of the 21st century.

The work was approached for an environment in the year 2050 in the geographical area comprising Patagonia, Argentina's jurisdictional waters and continental shelf, the Antarctic sector claimed by Argentina, and the archipelagos and jurisdictional waters of the Southwest Atlantic under sovereignty dispute with the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

PRELIMINARY STRATEGIC CONCEPT

The strategic challenge facing the national defence system implies adopting new tasks and roles. In this sense, the IMA will have to be deterrent and potentially effective, possessing anticipation, prevention, strategic communication, resilience and innovation. Such a military force must be "necessarily and unavoidably" based on joint action, also of a combined nature, of an

effective type; be capable of inter-agency action; be multidisciplinary, multi-layered and sustainable over time; capable of facing the risks and threats to come in an uncertain and continuously evolving strategic scenario, to sustain the nation's vital interests.

The key to the development of the future design should be based on effectiveness, sustainability and adaptability based on a balance between the employment concept, the structure and its financing.

In short, the IMA should primarily rely on rapid response organisations and main defence forces. These should be networked, adaptable, modular, highly specialised and technified, with a high degree of effectiveness in carrying out decisive actions, encompassed in a deterrent context and with an adequate doctrine, with a comprehensive and multidisciplinary capacity to operate in cyberspace, prioritising the use of units with capabilities to obtain strategic effects on high-value targets. The purpose of these forces will be the maximum possible control of sovereign spaces and surveillance of areas of interest.

INTEROPERABILITY CRITERIA

Initial interoperability criteria

The preparatory criteria leading to the achievement of the

preliminary strategic concept should include:

- > The full development of joint, interagency and combined doctrine.
- > The compatibility of command, control and information systems at the joint and combined level.
- > Common equipment.
- > Standardisation as an inescapable process of development of concepts, doctrines, procedures and designs.
- > Joint, inter-agency and combined training.
- > The formation and consolidation of Rapid Deployment Forces.
- > Compatibility and the ability to function within the same security and defence system.

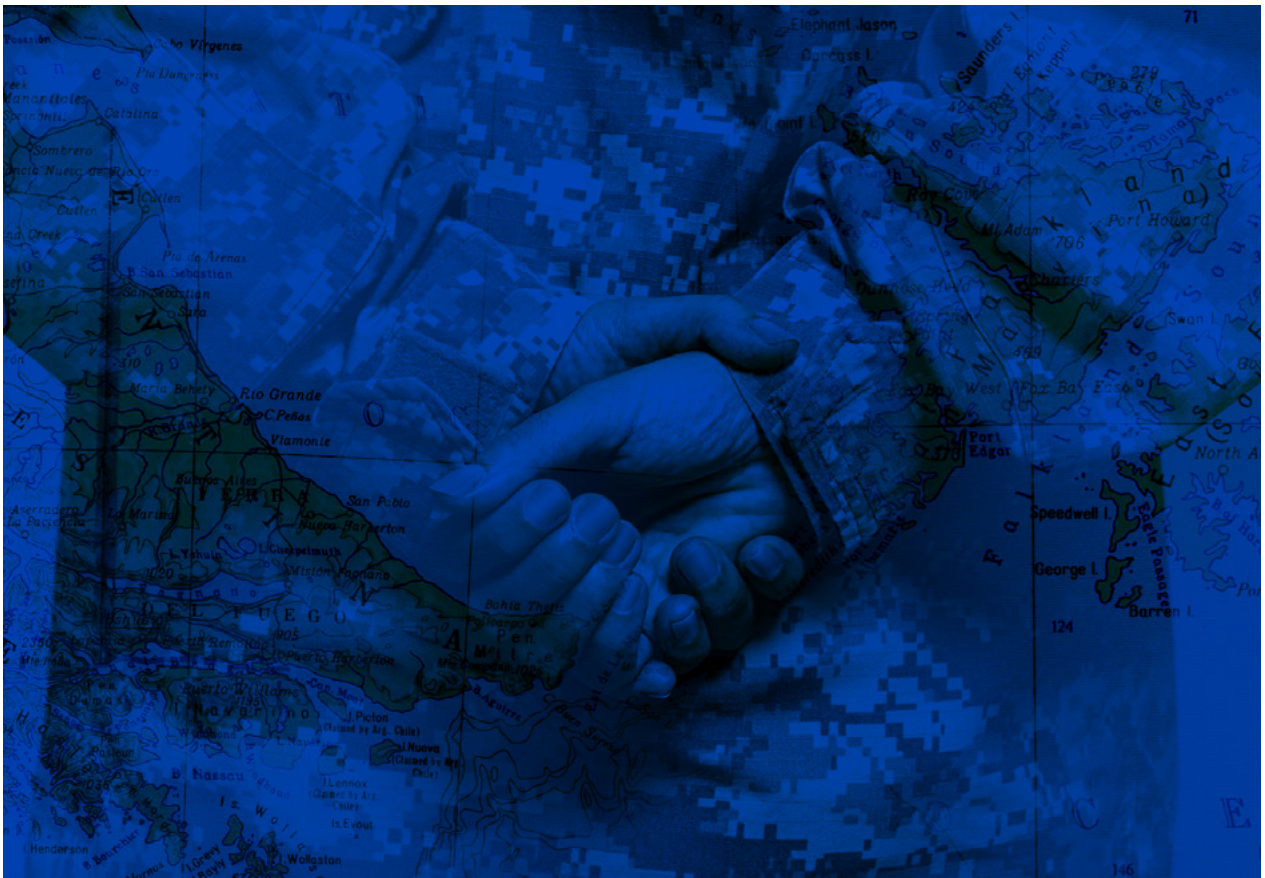
Advanced interoperability criteria

Those that should be addressed at a more developed stage include:

- > Inter-agency organisational structures.
- > National and regional R&D&I (Research, Development and Innovation) projects.
- > Integration and complementarity in regional defence organisations.
- > The compatible legal framework for an integrated defence system.

JOINT CAPABILITIES TO BE ATTAINED

Among the existing capability areas, substantive consideration should be given to the concepts of effectiveness, sustainability and



adaptability, prioritising inter-agency, cyberspace, intelligence, surveillance and control and critical infrastructure protection issues.

The development of these capabilities may be carried out on its own or in combination with other actors, prioritising the regional framework, with the aim of achieving greater interoperability and moving towards the most modern concepts of "standardisation". Complementarily, in a secondary effort, the rest of the capabilities must be developed, which cannot be overlooked or separated from those mentioned above, to achieve a defence system that allows for flexibility in the face of events of a volatile strategic nature that may arise.

To this purpose, a programme to review and update specific,

joint, interagency and combined doctrine should be produced within the national defence system, and the aim should be to master cyberspace, without clinging to current means and incorporating employment concepts that prioritise first-rate technologies.

It is also necessary to implement a system for acquiring and sustaining IMA resources that are in line with procurement times, considering increasingly accelerated technological and military environments. All of this needs to be accompanied by a system of high levels of technical and professional training of a theoretical but fundamentally practical nature for planning joint and combined operations.

CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS

The Argentine Republic needs an

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agreement between the political forces on security and defence for the environment described above, which is foreseen for the year 2050. Both the international situation and the current state of our defence make it necessary and urgent to devise broad guidelines for the design of a modern and efficient defence policy, integrated into the functioning of democratic and republican institutions.

The 2050 scenario requires updating the existing legal architecture. Reforms will be needed in legislation and its implementation, in institutional and organisational forms, in the distribution of competencies among the various actors, in working methods and in institutional culture. The scenario that lies ahead presents trends that are not seen as favourable for the area of national defence. The prioritisation of the IMA's capabilities, the updating of the strategic management of defence, and the support of appropriate budgetary guidelines will help to minimise the risks to be faced.

Some initial proposals

- > Create a heterogeneous and multidisciplinary centre dedicated to the development and study of doctrine for the 2050 scenario.
- > Promote actions to raise awareness in society of defence issues in the national territory with an inter-agency and geostrategic vision in the face of the aforementioned scenario.
- > Linking the functions and tasks of other government agencies, both provincial, national and others, which have an impact on the national agenda.
- > To take advantage of the human resources of a "potential reserve" in order to strengthen the concept of inter-agency work, but fundamentally to approach the

different issues from different perspectives.

- > Prioritise training systems that use state-of-the-art virtual, augmented and mixed reality technologies.
- > Establish multidisciplinary working groups to analyse and find solutions to encourage the recruitment and retention of new personnel in the Armed Forces.

Some complementary studies

The studies carried out included the approach of different topics that were useful for the analysis and interpretation of the Future Scenarios. In this sense, the work focused on possible particular scenarios for Argentina in the South Atlantic by 2050, with 4 geographical areas of interest that have not been included in this brief article:

- 1. Argentine jurisdictional waters and continental shelf.

- 2. Antarctic sector claimed by Argentina.
- 3. Archipelagos and jurisdictional waters of the Southwest Atlantic in sovereignty dispute with Great Britain.
- 4. Patagonia.

Each of the scenarios was analysed through two options, where the first was the situation of maintaining the current conditions (continuity) and the second was tending to achieve a more convenient/favourable/desirable situation. Although not all of the approaches taken will be addressed, a summary of the analysis of risks and threats to the geographical scenario "Jurisdictional waters and Argentine continental shelf" is included as an example.

RISK AND THREAT ANALYSIS

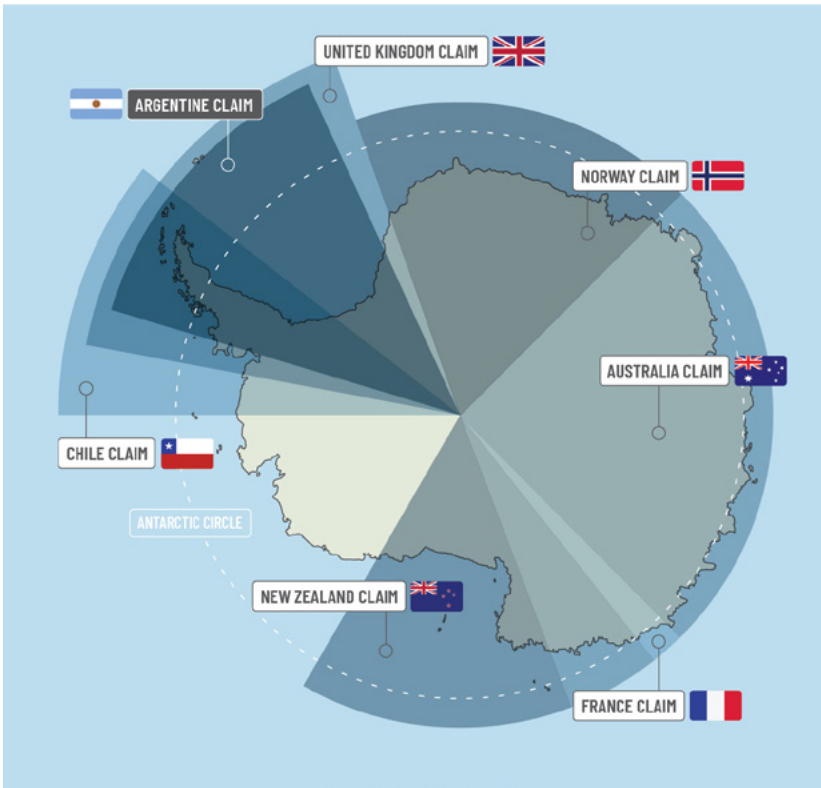
Case Effective exercise of maritime control in the jurisdictional zone.

Risk	Threat	Probability	Impacto
Loss of maritime control	Uncontrolled economic activity	B	B
	Indirect actions of non-state actors	G	B
Environmental catastrophe	Anthropogenic causes	G	G
	Natural causes	G	G
Variables/drivers	Capacities	Actions	
IM-interagency	Surveillance/control	Procurement of sensors, AI, VNTs, platforms, satellite information	
Economic	-		
Political/diplomatic	Maintaining the framework		
R&D&i	Development of domestic industry	AI research, space cargo launch, satellite communication	
Informational	Information operations	Influencing people's opinion	

References: G=good B=Bad H=high

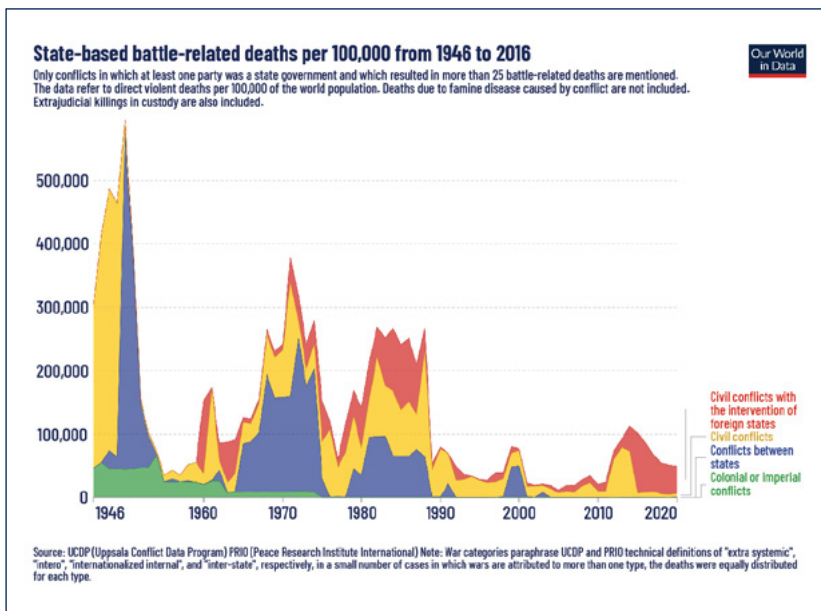
Geographical scenario Antarctic sector claimed by Argentina

FIGURE 1. MAP SHOWING THE ZONES CLAIMED BY EACH OF THE COUNTRIES THAT SUBMITTED THE RELEVANT COMPLAINT



Source: Global Terrorism Database (2015)

GRAPH TABLE 1. CONTAINS THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CONFLICTS FROM 1945 TO 2016



Source: https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/deaths-in-state-based-conflicts?country=Africa-Europe-Americas-OWID_WRL-Middle+East-Asia+%26+Oceania

Geographical scenario: disputed archipelagos and jurisdictional waters of the Southwest Atlantic

In extreme synthesis, the Southwest Atlantic has three fundamental strategic advantages: it is a communications area, a source of hydrocarbon, mineral and fish wealth, and provides access to Antarctica. (see figure 2 on page 50).

Future Conflict Studies

According to the statistical study in Table 1, there has been a trend towards a decrease in inter-state conflicts and an increase in intra-state conflicts (civilian conflicts involving foreign state actors). On the other hand, the projection of defence investment through FONDEF (National Defence Fund) has the advantage of facilitating the extension of the useful life of current means and the procurement of other means deemed necessary, but these must be adapted on a more significant scale and consider the characteristics of possible conflicts to be addressed in the future. Without FONDEF, the situation would worsen/deteriorate more rapidly.

The exercise allowed in a framework of academic freedom to work and discuss concepts related to the military strategic level in the long term, the following participated as advisors: BM (R) Alejandro Moresi, GD (R) Gustavo Motta and CL (R) Gustavo Trama; the task was carried out by the members of the Military Strategy and Senior Management course of the Armed Forces Joint War College (ESGCFFAA): TC Reynolds (USA), CR Walker (BR), and CL (R) Gustavo Trama, and the following members of the Military Strategy and Senior Management course of the Joint War College of the Armed Forces (ESGCFFAA): TC Reynolds (USA), CR Walker (BR) and CL (R) Gustavo Trama. UU.), CR Walker (BR), CR Cabral (BR), CR Bou Kater (BR), CM Pons, CN Bianchi, CN Berterreix, CN Gonzalez, TC Albarracín. ■

FIGURE 2 . MAP SHOWING ARGENTINA'S TERRITORIAL AND MARITIME CLAIMS

