CAN

CARDS AGAINST NATO

Nolan Noble, Dmitry Gorenburg, Jeremy Sepinsky, Jeff Chilton, Patrick Feng, Mike Petersen, Paul Schwartz, Andrew Olson, Chris Steinitz, Simca Cramer, and Margaret Holmes

Abstract

Consider this cost-imposition game your comedic crash course in geopolitical shenanigans: How might Russia create headaches for NATO, and how might NATO alleviate them? Think of this game as the appetizer to the main course of real-world discussions—just with a lot more laughs and fewer diplomatic incidents.

This document contains the best opinion of CNA at the time of issue. The views, opinions, and findings contained in this report should not be construed as representing the official position of the Department of the Navy.

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A. Approved for public release: distribution unlimited.

Cover image: Image generated by ChatGPT, based on the prompt, "Can you draw an image of war in Europe? This should be for the back for a poker sized card for a board game. Can we make this a wide view? Can we also add the NATO flag to the left half of it?, wide aspect ratio," April 11, 2025.

Approved by: **August 2025**

Dr. Christopher K. Ma, Research Program

Director Gaming and Integration Program

Operational Warfighting Division

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CAN Card Decks

There are three card decks to CAN: world events, cost imposition, and NATO response.

World Event Cards

This is an example of one of the Word Event cards. The contents of the card (from the list below) is displayed in the center, while the unique identifier is at the bottom right.

Front: Back:

The following is a list of contents of each card in the World Events deck along with its unique identifier, in brackets.

- Secret NATO plans accidentally shared with journalist in a Signal group chat [WCH001]
- Everyone finally remembers that RU is not USSR and kicks RU off UN Security Council [WCH002]
- Putin falls out a Kremlin window…onto some bullets [WCH003]
- RU TV broadcasts hacked to play only the new Snow White movie 24h/d [WCH004]
- Russian minister of foreign affairs has really bad shaving accident and cuts off his entire head [WCH005]
- Putin diagnosed with tertiary syphilis [WCH006]

- Last working Russian T-90 towed away by a Ukrainian farmer in a John Deere tractor [WCH007]
- Putin awakes with horse's head in his bed [WCH008]
- Russia and China conclude formal alliance [WDG038]
- Russia annexes Belarus [WDG039]
- Rare earths shortage forces US to suspend production of cruise missiles [WDG040]
- Moldova forcibly annexes Transnistria [WDG041]
- Serbia joins NATO [WDG042]
- Poland and Germany announce joint nuclear weapons development program [WDG043]
- US buys Greenland from Denmark [WDG044]
- Putin dies, replaced by prime minister [WDG045]
- Serbia/Kosovo war breaks out, Russia sends troops to help Serbia [WDG046]
- "Rosgvardia takes control of Svalbard
- <i>to protect local Russian population</i> [WDG047]"
- Russia and Germany reopen Nordstream [WDG048]
- Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea establish formal alliance [WDG049]
- Russia and OPEC states announce sharp cuts to oil production [WDG050]
- Turkey closes Bosphorus to all shipping [WGM022]
- Turkey leaves NATO [WGM023]
- US leaves NATO [WJC024]
- Russia is broken into ~20 smaller republics [WJC025]
- Russia is increasingly isolated economically & politically from the world [WJC026]
- Russia fully controls Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts [WJC027]
- Russia fully controls Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson oblasts [WJC028]
- Ukraine becomes vassal state of Russia [WJC029]
- Russia secures promise that NATO will never allow Ukraine to join [WJC030]
- NATO expands to include Ukraine [WJC031]
- NATO shrinks back to Cold War-era size [WJC032]
- The G8 is restored by readmitting Russia [WJC033]
- RU reinvigorates CSTO and takes BG, HR, EE, FI, SK, and SI from the EU [WJC034]
- Russia announces Putin CARES for Africa (RU's attempt at USAID) [WJC035]
- Russia conducts gray zone operation in Central Europe [WMC036]
- NATO planners are scrambling to deal with sudden Russian troop movements near the Baltic states [WMC037]

- Moscow stretches NATO resources through endless mind-numbing, pointless provocations [WMC038]
- China and Russia just signed a secret agreement to jointly use cyberweapons against NATO [WMC039]
- Hungary and Slovakia ask for revisions to NATO doctrine to remove anti-Russia focus [WMC040]
- A NATO military exercise was completely derailed by bad weather [WMC041]
- To spread confusion in NATO decision-making, Russia just launched a disinformation attack [WMC042]
- To escalate tensions while avoiding direct conflict, Russia just announced a major military exercise in Belarus [WMC043]
- An EU leader is secretly being blackmailed over financial improprieties [WMC044]
- Russia just cut off Europe's access to its natural gas [WMC045]
- Mass migration to Europe from MENA due to drought and political instability [WMC046]
- Russia successfully framed NATO for an outbreak of a new virus [WMC047]
- A critical NATO supply chain disruption was caused by China restricting exports of rare earths [WMC048]
- The Kremlin is celebrating after NATO wasted $10 billion on a non-functional satellite system [WMC049]
- A disinformation campaign just convinced half of Europe that NATO is developing chemical weapons [WMC050]

Cost Imposition Cards

This is an example of one of the Cost Imposition cards. The contents of the card (from the list below) is displayed in the center, while the unique identifier is at the bottom right.

Front: Back:

The following is a list of contents of each card in the Cost Imposition deck along with its unique identifier, in brackets.

- NATO/US TikTok influencers secretly paid to produce pro-Russia content [CJC001]
- Covert social media campaign in NATO countries to sow distrust of vaccines, exacerbating pandemic [CJC002]
- RU government secretly funds the new "Burgers 'И' Borscht" restaurant chain in Eastern Europe to spread RU culture [CJC003]
- Covertly establish RU Nazis in Estonia. Note presence of Nazis. Express desire to de-Nazify. Invade Narva, Estonia [CJC004]
- Invite prominent NATO politicians for talks in Russia, host them at fancy hotels, offer "entertainment," gain kompromat [CJC005]
- Send leaked US/NATO classified docs to DOD/NATO public-facing emails Self-inflicted DoS attack while systems cleaned [CJC006]
- Tampnet-/South, NO-UK, and Havfrue/AEC-2 undersea cables to Norway mysteriously cut [CJC007]
- Eastern Light Sweden-Finland 1/2, BCS North, and Baltic Sea Submarine undersea cables to Finland <i>mysteriously</i> cut [CJC008]
- GPS signals across NATO countries experience <i>mysterious</i> intermittent jamming/spoofing [CJC009]
- Eutelsat and SES satellites experience sustained jamming [CJC010]

- Russia begins investing heavily in Moroccan ports, turning them into smart ports [CJC011]
- <i>Mysterious</i> defenestration of Russian lawmakers sympathetic to peace with NATO [CJC012]
- Russia announces plans to annex Moldova and Georgia [CJC013]
- Russia begins expanding Kotelny Island base, asserts additional Arctic claims [CJC014]
- Russia completely cuts off all supplies of fossil and nuclear fuels to NATO [CJC015]
- Russian tanker runs aground off UK coast, spills oil [CDG016]
- Cyberattacks on power grid in Poland [CDG017]
- Contamination of water supply in Finland [CDG018]
- Funding <i>anti-war</i> protests across Europe [CMC019]
- A suspiciously convenient pipeline explosion [CMC020]
- Shipping containers full of counterfeit NATO equipment [CMC021]
- A flood of deepfake videos [CMC022]
- Launching a military exercise right next to NATO borders [CMC023]
- Bribing key European politicians [CMC024]
- Advertising a <i>secure</i> VPN on the Subway, the Metro, the Tube, the U-Bahn, and the Paris Metro. [CMC025]
- Fake news that convinces Germany to unilaterally withdraw from NATO [CMC026]
- A naval blockade disguised as 'maritime safety operations' [CMC027]
- Deploying Wagner mercenaries to a NATO ally's capital [CMC028]
- Hacking into NATO's logistics systems [CMC029]
- A sudden military deployment to Kaliningrad [CMC030]
- Buying off media outlets to push NATO-skeptic narratives [CMC031]
- A Belarusian border "crisis" [CMC032]
- Convincing Turkey to veto an important NATO decision [CMC033]
- Releasing kompromat on a key NATO leader [CMC034]
- A <i>mysterious</i> power outage affecting NATO HQ [CMC035]
- Leaking NATO war plans to the press [CMC036]
- A NATO ally pulling a Brexit-style exit referendum [CMC037]
- Manufacturing an internal crisis in a NATO country [CMC038]
- A spoonful of Novichok makes the tea go down [CCH039]
- Surprise NLAW! [CCH040]
- Surprise defenestration! [CCH041]
- Feint at Suwalki Gap, & attack elsewhere [CGM042]

- Spray and Pray Misinformation Campaign [CGM043]
- Russia Oil and Gas Sales [CGM044]
- <i>Clandestine/SOF</i> Energy Warfare [CGM045]
- Publicly announced Energy Warfare [CGM046]
- Armored Thunder Run [CGM047]
- Cyber Attack on Critical Infrastructure [CGM048]
- Snap Military Exercises [CGM049]
- Paratroopers [CGM050]
- Reduce Energy Exports [CGM051]
- Joint Military Exercises with PRC [CGM052]
- AIS Jamming [CGM053]
- Social Media campaign aimed at Russian minorities [CGM054]
- Cyber Attack on Financial Targets [CGM055]
- Target Minority groups to incite unrest/attacks [CGM056]
- Cyber Espionage [CGM057]
- CBRN Warfare [CGM058]
- Kidnapping [CGM059]
- Little Green Men Operation [CGM060]
- Sabotage Power Plant/Power Grid [CGM061]
- Raid "Civilian"/Dual Use Shipping [CGM062]
- Poison Political Leader [CGM063]
- Bot Farms on Deregulated Media (FB/Twitter) [CGM064]
- Pro-Russia Media [CGM065]
- "Belarus" Invades Baltic Country [CGM066]
- Strikes on NATO [CGM067]
- Protests against NATO (by ethnic Russians) [CGM068]
- Invade a single NATO country [CGM069]
- Declare People's Republics [CGM070]
- Harassment of NATO naval forces in North Sea [CGM071]
- Election Interference [CGM072]
- Fan flames of the Armenian Genocide [CGM073]
- Surface Ship LRS [CGM074]
- Fighter Intercepts near Russian Airspace [CGM075]
- Bomber Flights into NATO airspace [CGM076]
- Sever Undersea Communications Cables [CGM077]
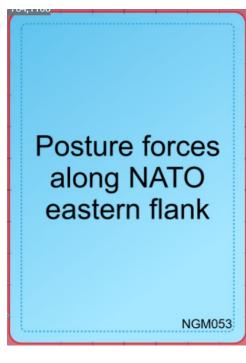- Probing NATO territory to draw forces elsewhere [CGM078]

- *Alexander Nevsky* to Los Angeles [CGM079]
- Leading diplomatic cables [CGM080]
- Arms sales to NATO antagonists [CGM081]
- Shouldering [CGM082]
- Sabotage NATO port infrastructure [CGM083]
- Russia-PRC technology sharing agreement [CGM084]
- Drone Swarms [CGM085]
- Wagner let loose on Africa [CGM086]
- UN General Assembly Motion [CGM087]
- Mining [CGM088]
- Send *migrants* across border into Finland [CDG089]
- Fund Euroskeptic parties in European elections [CDG090]
- Promote anti-migrant sentiment through YouTube videos [CDG091]
- Coup attempt in Montenegro [CDG092]
- Russian media campaign against Euronazis [CDG093]
- Russia cuts off energy supplies to Eastern Europe [CDG094]
- Harassment of NATO ships by Russian military aircraft [CDG095]
- Fiberoptic cables severed in Baltic Sea [CDG096]
- Multiple simultaneous incidents of fiberoptic cables being severed [CDG097]
- Norwegian undersea natural gas pipeline sabotaged [CDG098]
- Compromising video of senior German politician aired [CDG099]
- Change declaratory nuclear policy [CDG100]
- Deploy nuclear weapons to Belarus [CDG101]
- Deploy *Severodvinsk* (RU SSGN) to US East coast [CDG102]
- Telemundo broadcasts (*in Spanish!*) in Central America encouraging migrants to go to US [CDG103]
- Serbia attacks Kosovo with Russian assistance [CDG104]
- Instigate fighting between Serbs and Bosnians in BiH [CDG105]
- Occupy Svalbard [CDG106]
- Occupy Gotland [CDG107]
- Establish air base in Indonesia [CPS108]
- Conduct ASAT test [CPS109]
- Trilateleral Russia China Iran naval exercise [CPS110]
- Deploy Tu-95s to Cuba [CPS111]
- Joint Russia-China air patrols [CPS112]
- Russian arms sales to North Korea [CPS113]

- Establish naval base in Libya [CPS114]
- Deploy surface action group to Indian Ocean [CPS115]
- SARMAT test over South Pole [CPS116]
- Jam Finnish communications [CPS117]
- Novichuk poisoning in Europe [CPS118]
- Su-35 sale to Iran [CPS119]
- Ransomware attack on US bank [CPS120]
- Detain EU business officials in Russia [CPS121]
- Joint Russia-Africa summit [CPS122]
- Overthrow of pro-West government in Moldova [CPS123]
- Stoke pro-Russian demonstrations in Latvia [CPS124]
- Cut off gas sales to a NATO country [CPS125]
- Attack Ukraine grain shipments [CPS126]
- Sale of air defenses to Turkey [CPS127]
- Joint SSGN project with China [CPS128]
- Launch precision missile strikes on NATO supply lines in Eastern Europe [CMC129]
- Deploy advanced anti-aircraft systems in Kaliningrad [CMC130]
- Conduct covert operations to sabotage NATO military communications [CMC131]
- Increase frequency of military patrols near NATO airspace to test response times [CMC132]
- Issue public statement about Russia's right to self defense [CMC133]
- Send NATO a basket of peaceful Russian delicacies with a note about avoiding war [CMC134]
- Intensify Radio Sputnik broadcasts through the US and NATO, but not Canada [CGM135]
- A card with no text but an image of a mushroom cloud [CGM136]
- A card with no text but an image a mushroom cloud [CGM137]

NATO Response Cards

This is an example of one of the NATO Response cards. The contents of the card (from the list below) is displayed in the center, while the unique identifier is at the bottom right.

Front: Back:

The following is a list of contents of each card in the NATO Response deck along with its unique identifier, in brackets.

- Covert sea-launched, weaponized UAS target <i>Dvorets Putina</i> in Krasnodar Krai [NJC001]
- NATO campaigns to have Russia expelled from the WTO [NJC002]
- Fly drones over RU installations, then encourage UAP rumors to waste time/resources [NJC003]
- Russia forced to pay reparations to Ukraine [NJC004]
- EU makes a better deal than the US for Ukraine's mineral rights [NJC005]
- NATO provides economic assistance to Balkans to counter Russian influence [NJC006]
- Unknown cyber actors repeatedly target Gazprom and Lukoil facilities in Balkans [NJC007]
- New <i>Voice of NATO</i> radio service broadcasts into Russia [NJC008]
- Unmarked NATO forces, masquerading as "armed pro-Ukrainian individuals" take over Crimea [NJC009]
- NATO establishes no-fly zone over Ukraine [NJC010]
- Terminate NATO Russia Founding Act [NJC011]
- Increase spectrum of NATO's nuclear capabilities [NJC012]

- Increase infrastructure across Europe that can host the Alliance's nuclear posture [NJC013]
- Establish strong military presence on NATO's eastern border [NJC014]
- Conduct large-scale exercises in the east [NJC015]
- Establish NATO Arctic Command and associated Joint Task Force [NJC016]
- Escalate economic sanctions against Russia [NJC017]
- Close NATO countries to Russian tourism [NJC018]
- Total seizure of all Russian citizen assets in NATO with funds funneled to Ukraine [NJC019]
- Sustained GPS/GLONASS jamming over wide swath of Russia [NJC020]
- A strongly worded condemnation from the EU [NMC021]
- Deploying an additional four tanks to reassure Eastern Europe [NMC022]
- A last-minute Article 4 meeting that accomplishes...nothing [NMC023]
- Sanctions that mildly inconvenience Russian oligarchs [NMC024]
- A multinational cyber task force that takes six months to form [NMC025]
- A 2AM emergency summit followed by a vague press release [NMC026]
- France unilaterally negotiating a peace deal [NMC027]
- The US threatening military action but not actually doing anything [NMC028]
- Sweden and Finland quietly sending weapons, again [NMC029]
- NATO finally agreeing to spend more on defense...in ten years [NMC030]
- A new Combined Joint Task Force with no actual forces assigned [NMC031]
- Germany reluctantly agreeing to send two Leopard tanks [NMC032]
- An overclassified report confirming what everyone already knew [NMC033]
- A NATO disinformation campaign that no one believes [NMC034]
- A hastily planned multinational exercise near Russia's border [NMC035]
- A surprise B-52 flyover to 'send a message' [NMC036]
- A NATO TikTok account trying to explain deterrence [NMC037]
- Activating Article 5, but only in a very specific and limited way [NMC038]
- A heroic but doomed last stand by the Baltic states [NMC039]
- US Congress delaying aid over an unrelated political dispute [NMC040]
- The UK sending one Royal Marine to train local forces [NMC041]
- The CIA funding an opposition group that immediately backfires [NMC042]
- A 200-page NATO strategic document that no one actually reads [NMC043]
- A new NATO headquarters building instead of actual military forces [NMC044]
- NATO distributes adorable plush NAFO dolls across Russia [NCH045]

- NATO produces insulting Zudyashchiy and Tsarapayushchiy cartoon series to shape opinion of RU [NCH046]
- Covertly distribute rabid animal carcasses on Putin's hunting grounds Hilarity ensues [NCH047]
- Fund NGOs [NGM048]
- Offer Rival States Security [NGM049]
- Mining [NGM050]
- Take down tele-communications [NGM051]
- Send a Carrier Strike Group [NGM052]
- Posture forces along NATO eastern flank [NGM053]
- Ukraine & Georgia join NATO [NGM054]
- Quick Response Force [NGM055]
- Intelligence Sharing among NATO members [NGM056]
- Military Exercises in Eastern Europe [NGM057]
- Submarine convoy raids [NGM058]
- ABO near Strategic Asset [NGM059]
- A Strongly Worded Letter [NGM060]
- Sanctions against individual Russian officials and oligarchs [NGM061]
- Armes nucléaires Françaises [NGM062]
- Global Strike [NGM063]
- Pictures of NATO Forces Operating Together [NGM064]
- Social Media Campaign [NGM065]
- Increase Energy Exports from US [NGM066]
- Arms Sales to "Near Abroad" Countries [NGM067]
- Sanctions on Russia [NGM068]
- ARG Marine Expeditionary Unit [NGM069]
- A card with no text with an image of a computer network [NGM070]
- NATO Exercise near Russian Border [NGM071]
- SOF Sabotage [NGM072]
- Sanctions on Energy Sector [NGM073]
- Offshore oil and gas drilling on NATO/allied territory [NGM074]
- Data Sharing across NATO [NGM075]
- Convoy Raid [NGM076]
- Support Separatist Movements [NGM077]
- Multinational Troops on Rotation [NGM078]
- Sanctions on Oligarchs [NGM079]

- Winter War 20 [NGM080]
- Arms Sales to Balkans [NGM081]
- Army BCT Deployed to Europe [NGM082]
- NATO members promise to increase defense spending to 21% of GDP [NDG083]
- France announces nuclear umbrella for Poland [NDG084]
- Poland announces plan to develop own nuclear weapons [NDG085]
- Denmark closes Danish straits to Russian military vessels [NDG086]
- NATO blockade of Gulf of Finland [NDG087]
- Lithuania ends Russian train convoys to Kaliningrad [NDG088]
- EU forms new defense industry alliance [NPS089]
- US deploys THAAD to Sweden [NPS090]
- US secondary sanctions on Russian oil buyers [NPS091]
- US high altitude spy drone flights over Russia [NPS092]
- US deploys CSG to high north [NPS093]
- NATO occupies Moldova [NPS094]
- NATO blockades Russian shipping in Eastern Mediterranean [NPS095]
- US/EU ramp up artillery production 2X [NPS096]
- Deploy 5,000 troops to Poland within 72 hours [NMC097]
- Conduct multi-national air-naval exercise in the Black Sea [NMC098]
- Establish a permanent NATO base in Estonia [NMC099]
- Conduct cyberattacks on Russian C2 networks [NMC100]
- Arm Ukraine with long-range missile systems [NMC101]
- Deploy carrier strike group to the Norwegian Sea [NMC102]
- Revise NATO charter to explicitly allow Article 5 activation for hybrid attacks [NMC103]
- Publicly expose Russian cover operations in Europe [NMC104]
- Conduct covert sabotage on Russian supply chains [NMC105]
- Rotate additional US forces through Romania and Bulgaria [NMC106]
- Increase ISR flights near Kaliningrad [NMC107]
- Double the budget for NATO's strategic communications [NMC108]
- Expand naval operations in the eastern Mediterranean [NMC109]
- Fund civil defense training in frontline states [NMC110]
- Express deep concern in a strongly worded communique [NMC111]
- Form a task force to review possible future response options [NMC112]
- Issue a joint statement emphasizing European shared values [NMC113]
- Schedule an emergency meeting [NMC114]

- Deploy a study team [NMC115]
- Unveil a NATO-themed art installation in Brussels [NMC116]
- Launch an #EstoniaStrong hashtag campaign [NMC117]
- Hold a candlelight vigil for transatlantic unity [NMC118]
- Authorize anti-drone systems deployment across Baltic airspace [NMC119]
- Intercept and board a Russian vessel violating NATO waters [NMC120]
- Establish a no-fly zone over contested areas in Ukraine [NMC121]
- Conduct live-fire exercises within 50km of the Russian border [NMC122]
- Sign a mutual defense treaty with Moldova [NMC123]
- Increase NATO presence near the Suwalki Gap [NMC124]
- Provide cybersecurity grants to vulnerable Eastern member states [NMC125]
- Announce readiness drills for allied rapid deployment forces [NMC126]
- NATO Secretary General publishes op-ed reaffirming NATO's commitment to peace and stability [NMC127]
- Commission a strategic review of the commission review strategy [NMC128]
- Form an internal advisory group on strategic ambiguity [NMC129]
- Form a committee to develop a 10-year roadmap for future crisis response activities [NMC130]
- Host a NATO-Russia poetry slam [NMC131]
- Rename NATO's Brussels cafeteria menu items to sound more assertive [NMC132]
- Announce a Europe-wide Russian threat awareness week [NMC133]
- Change the NATO logo to look more intimidating [NMC134]
- Deploy EW assets to jam Russian communications in border zones [NMC135]
- Invite Russian officials to a trust-building escape room experience [NMC136]
- A card with no text with an image representing a cyber operation [NGM137]

CAN Box & Instructions

Editable text follows the images to show how the box will be printed

Box Design Outside

Note: Anything shaded in red will not be printed.

Inside

Note: Anything shaded in red will not be printed.

How to play

Select a Card Tsar
The inaugural *Card Tsar* is the person who was most recently the closest to Russia.

Select prompt
Card Tsar selects a prompt. It could be a world event, a cost imposition, or even a NATO response card. You're the *Card Tsar*, you pick.

Counterplay
(Optional rule)
After a card wins, *Card Tsar* selects that card as the prompt and deals from the corresponding deck for players to select responses.

Fine print
Consider this game your comedic crash course in geopolitical shenanigans: how might Russia create headaches for NATO, and how might NATO alleviate them? Think of this game as the appetizer to the main course of real-world discussions—just with a lot more laughs and fewer diplomatic incidents.

Democracy
All players vote on the best card. The card with the most votes wins, and the *Card Tsar* breaks all ties.

CNA games
For more games developed by CNA's gaming team, please visit cna.org or email inquiries@cna.org

Read & Deal
Card Tsar reads selected prompt aloud and deals all other players at least 5 cards from another deck. Use the cost imposition (red) deck for world events (brown) or NATO response (blue). Use the NATO response (blue) deck for cost imposition (red) prompts.

Players submit
Players select one of their cards and submit it face down to the *Card Tsar*.

Reveal
Card Tsar reads aloud each of the cards submitted by players, also reading the original prompt aloud. Ad-libbing encouraged.

"Vote"
Card Tsar selects & follows Democracy or Autocracy. Give winning card to its selector. Its selector gets to keep this card face-up. They may use it at any point _____ or keep it for scoring.

Defenestrate
Card Tsar is defenestrated by the person to their right (in the game only), who then becomes the new *Card Tsar*. All hail *Card Tsar*! Start new round.

Autocracy
Card Tsar declares the best card.

Game End
Game ends when *Card Tsar* says it ends. Count all players' face-up cards. Player with most wins.

The Kremlin's Favorite
(Optional rule)
Card Tsar adds a random face-down card along with the players submissions, increasing the chance no one wins this round.

Disclaimer
The views, irreverence, and silliness expressed in this game are those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Department of the Navy, the Department of Defense, the US government, or CNA, or our parents.

NATO

15

Box Outside Back Right flap

Left flap text

CAN doesn't stand for anything. It's just CAN.

Box Outside Back Left flap

Right flap text

CAN was collaboratively designed at CNA by the Gaming and Integration Team (GAM), which includes Nolan Noble, Jeremy Sepinsky, Patrick Feng, Andrew Olson, Chris Steinitz, & Simca Cramer. GAM also regularly includes Chris Ma, Sebastian Bae, Charles Cartier, Margaret Holmes, Kate Lea, Tess Martin, Tristian Martinez, Justin Peachey, & Michelle Strayer (but they didn't contribute to this design). GAM also regularly doesn't include Jeff Chilton, Dmitry Gorenburg, Mike Petersen, & Paul Schwartz (but they did contribute to this design).

Box Outside Back bottom tuck

Description

a cost-imposition game

brought to you by the non-profit whose acronym is always autocorrected into a type-o epitomizing our can-do spirit

Title

How to play

How to play

Card Tsar

Title

Select a Card Tsar

Step

The inaugural <i>Card Tsar</i> is the person who was most recently the closest to Russia.

Prompt select

Title

Select prompt

Step

<i>Card Tsar</i> selects a prompt. It could be a world event, a cost imposition, or even a NATO response card. You're the <i>Card Tsar</i>, you pick.

Read_Deal

Title

Read & Deal

Step

<i>Card Tsar</i> reads selected prompt aloud and deals all other players at least 5 cards from another deck. Use the cost imposition (red) deck for world events (brown) or NATO response (blue). Use the NATO response (blue) deck for cost imposition (red) prompts.

Submit

Title

Players submit

Step

<i>Players</i> select one of their cards and submit it face down to the <i>Card Tsar</i>.

Reveal

Title

Reveal

Step

<i>Card Tsar</i> reads aloud each of the cards submitted by players, also reading the original prompt aloud. Ad-libbing encouraged.

Vote

Title

"Vote"

Step

<i>Card Tsar</i> selects and uses a method to determine a winning card. Give winning card to its selector. Its selector gets to keep this card face-up. They may keep it   or use it at any point.

Democracy

Title

Democracy

Step

All players vote on the best card. The card with the most votes wins, and the <i>Card Tsar</i> breaks all ties.

Autocracy

Title

Autocracy

Step

<i>Card Tsar</i> declares the best card.

Defenestrate

Title

Defenestrate

Step

<i>Card Tsar</i> is defenestrated by the person to their right (in the game only) and becomes the new <i>Card Tsar</i>. All hail <i>Card Tsar</i>!

Start new round.

Game End

Title

Game End

Step

Game ends when <i>Card Tsar</i> says it ends.

Count all players face-up cards. The player with most wins.

Counterplay

Title

Counterplay

Step

<i>(Optional rule)</i>

After a card wins, <i>Card Tsar</i> selects that card as the prompt and deals from the corresponding deck for players to select responses.

The Kremlin's Favorite

Title

The Kremlin's Favorite

Step

<i>(Optional rule)</i>

<i>Card Tsar</i> adds a random face down card along with the players submissions, increasing the chance no one wins this round.

Fine print

Title

Fine print

Details

This game is designed in jest as an entertaining way to consider a real-world problem set: How might Russia impose costs on NATO, and what NATO might do about it. Players should consider this game a jumping off point and have those real (less silly) conversations that this game sparks.

Consider this game your comedic crash course in geopolitical shenanigans: How might Russia create headaches for NATO, and how might NATO alleviate them? Think of this game as the appetizer to the main course of real-world discussions—just with a lot more laughs and fewer diplomatic incidents.

Disclaimer

Title

Disclaimer

Statement

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GAM games

Title

CNA games

Statement

For more games developed by CNA's gaming team, please visit cna.org or email inquiries@cna.org

This report was written by CNA's Operational Warfighting Division (OPS).

OPS focuses on ensuring that US military forces are able to compete and win against the nation's most capable adversaries. The major functional components of OPS work include activities associated with generating and then employing the force. Force generation addresses how forces and commands are organized, trained, scheduled, and deployed. Force employment encompasses concepts for how capabilities are arrayed, protected, and sustained at the operational level in peacetime and conflict, in all domains, against different types of adversaries, and under varied geographic and environmental conditions.

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