

2020 Application Packet

2020 Clara Barton International Humanitarian Law Competition

*Sponsored by the American Red Cross
International Humanitarian Law*

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Clara Barton Competition is open to students currently pursuing Juris Doctor (J.D.), Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.), or Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees at law schools in North, Central, and South America, as well as students attending U.S. military academies. **The competition will take place March 13 – 15, 2020 at the American Red Cross's National Headquarters in Washington, DC.** Lodging for student team members from teams traveling from outside the DC area will be provided by the American Red Cross for the length of the competition. All interested teams are required to submit:

Team Composition: Teams are composed of exactly three members. No person who has competed in a previous year is allowed to compete again. A team may elect to designate one alternate team member who can join the team if a member becomes unavailable before the event. Teams should notify the Competition Committee of any changes to team composition as soon as possible prior to the Competition. See [competition rules](#) for greater detail.

Application to Compete: All teams must submit a complete application packet prior to the application deadline to be considered. The application questions must be completed by at least one member of the team. Applications will be evaluated based on the criteria stated in the [competition rules](#).

Statement of Interest: The statement of interest is an opportunity to share why the team wishes to compete in the Clara Barton Competition. Your team's statement must not exceed two (2) pages, double spaced, size twelve (12) Times New Roman font, with one (1) inch margins. The statement of interest will be considered along with the evaluation questions in determining which applications are accepted.

Evaluation Questions: Each team must analyze a hypothetical legal scenario contained in the background documents included in the application package and answer the two evaluation questions. The team's answers should be submitted as a separate document, with the answer to each question not exceeding 1,000 words, excluding endnotes. The answers should be double spaced, size twelve (12) Times New Roman font, with one (1) inch margins. The answers should not contain any information identifying the team's school. If endnotes are used, citations should be prepared in accordance with *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citations* (20th Edition).

Application and Participation Fees: A \$50 (\$51.50 if paying by credit card) non-refundable application fee is required for all applying teams. If a team is unable to pay this fee, it must submit the hardship waiver request (found in this application package) with their application documents explaining its good faith request for waiver of the fee. Teams that are accepted to participate in the competition will be required to submit an additional \$950 (\$978.50 if paying by credit card) participation fee. Both fees may be paid by check or credit card. If paid by credit card, a 3% convenience fee must be included to partially cover the cost charged by the credit card processing company.

All application materials must be submitted to the Competition Committee at clarabartonihlcompetition@gmail.com by **5:00pm EST on Monday, November 4, 2019.**

If a team wishes to pay the application fee by credit card, please notify us at clarabartonihlcompetition@gmail.com and a payment invoice will be sent to you via Square. You may then pay on their secure website using the instructions contained in the invoice.

For those wishing to pay by check, please make the check payable to the “American Red Cross” with memo/note reading “SAF – IHL”. Mail your check along with a memo on institutional letterhead stating that the check is for the 2020 Clara Barton IHL Competition Application to:

The American Red Cross
Attn: Randall Bagwell, SAF – IHL Team
430 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Participation Invitations will be distributed to accepted teams by Monday, December 2, 2019.

Please consult the Competition Rules for additional details.

By submitting this application package, all applicants certify that the information provided in this application package and any supporting documentation is complete and correct to the best of each applicant’s knowledge and belief. Each applicant agrees to provide updated information if answers to any of the application questions should change between now and the beginning of the Competition.

REGISTRATION FORMS

ACADEMIC INSTITUTION

Name of Institution: _____

Address: _____

Program (J.D.; LL.B.; LL.M.; Military): _____

FACULTY ADVISORS, COACHES OR SPONSORS

Name: _____

Position: _____

Relation to Team: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Relation to Team: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Relation to Team: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

PARTICIPANT ONE

Personal Information

Name: _____ Nickname (if preferred) _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date (Month/Year): _____

Education

Name of Academic Institution,

Degree,

Graduation (Month/Year)

Graduate School (if applicable): _____

Law School (LL.M. Applicants Only): _____

Academic Experience

Please list all courses in international law and other relevant areas you are currently enrolled in or have previously taken:

1. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

2. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

3. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

4. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

5. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

Competition Experience

Please list all prior competition participation:

1. _____
Semester, Year, Competition (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)
2. _____
Semester, Year, Competition (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)
3. _____
Semester, Year, Competition (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)

Please list all awards and recognition you have received in previous advocacy competitions:

1. _____
Award, Semester, & Year (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)
2. _____
Award, Semester, & Year (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)
3. _____
Award, Semester, & Year (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)

PARTICIPANT TWO

Personal Information

Name: _____ Nickname (if preferred) _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date (Month/Year): _____

Education

Name of Academic Institution, Degree, Graduation (Month/Year)

Graduate School (if applicable): _____

Law School (LL.M. Applicants Only): _____

Academic Experience

Please list all courses in international law and other relevant areas you are currently enrolled in or have previously taken:

1. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

2. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

3. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

4. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

5. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

Competition Experience

Please list all prior competition participation:

1. _____
Semester, Year, Competition (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)
2. _____
Semester, Year, Competition (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)
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2. _____
Award, Semester, & Year (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)
3. _____
Award, Semester, & Year (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)

PARTICIPANT THREE

Personal Information

Name: _____ Nickname (if preferred) _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date (Month/Year): _____

Education

Name of Academic Institution, Degree, Graduation (Month/Year)

Graduate School (if applicable): _____

Law School (LL.M. Applicants Only): _____

Academic Experience

Please list all courses in international law and other relevant areas you are currently enrolled in or have previously taken:

1. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

2. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

3. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

4. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

5. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

Competition Experience

Please list all prior competition participation:

1. _____
Semester, Year, Competition (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)
2. _____
Semester, Year, Competition (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)
3. _____
Semester, Year, Competition (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)

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1. _____
Award, Semester, & Year (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)
2. _____
Award, Semester, & Year (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)
3. _____
Award, Semester, & Year (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)

ALTERNATE

Personal Information

Name: _____ Nickname (if preferred) _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date (Month/Year): _____

Education

Name of Academic Institution, Degree, Graduation (Month/Year)

Graduate School (if applicable): _____

Law School (LL.M. Applicants Only): _____

Academic Experience

Please list all courses in international law and other relevant areas you are currently enrolled in or have previously taken:

1. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

2. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

3. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

4. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

5. _____
Course Title, Semester, & Year

Competition Experience

Please list all prior competition participation:

1. _____
Semester, Year, Competition (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)
2. _____
Semester, Year, Competition (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)
3. _____
Semester, Year, Competition (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)

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1. _____
Award, Semester, & Year (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)
2. _____
Award, Semester, & Year (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)
3. _____
Award, Semester, & Year (Moot Court; Mock Trial; ADR; etc.)

HARDSHIP WAIVER REQUEST

The Competition Committee does not want cost issues to preclude a team from participating in the Competition. If a team is unable to pay this fee, the team may submit a request for a hardship waiver. The request for waiver must be submitted with the application documents and contain an explanation for the team's good faith request for waiver of the fee.

Name of applicants:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name of institution: _____

Date of request: _____

Reason for requesting waiver of application fee:

Signature of Faculty Sponsor: _____
(Print Name)

_____ (signature)
*I have reviewed the request for waiver and support the request
based on the reasons stated above.*

By submitting this hardship waiver, all applicants certify that the information provided in this application and any supporting documentation is complete and correct to the best of each applicant's knowledge and belief. Each applicant agrees to provide updated information if answers to any of the application questions change between the date of submission and the beginning of the Competition.

Statement of Interest

The statement of interest is an opportunity to share why the team wishes to compete in the Clara Barton IHL Competition. Your team's statement must not exceed two (2) pages, double spaced, size twelve (12) Times New Roman font, with one (1) inch margins.

Question 1

To: Southland Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Law Division, Public International Law Team

Re: “Operation Joyride” in the Aston Province

***** Top Secret*****

Greetings,

The Minister of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has just learned some troubling news regarding the situation in the Aston Province. In response to Northumbria placing “drug” checkpoints within our borders, the Minister of Defense approved a provocation measure known as “Operation Joyride.” Under this plan members of the Southlandian Armed Forces driving in WE-NAV convoys will “bash,” or break through barriers and ignore requests to stop and be searched, Northumbrian “drug” checkpoints. Operation Joyride has been in effect for several months now, and there have been no injuries or deaths caused by the checkpoint bashing.

During the general cabinet meeting last week, the MoFA learned about Operation Joyride for the first time. In addition to being extremely annoyed that the Minister of Defense (Mod) did not consult Foreign Affairs before commencing the operation, the MoFA has some reservations about the operation’s legality. She will be meeting with both the MoD and the Prime Minister at the end of the day, and she would like you to prepare a memo answering the following question:

- Is Operation Joyride a prohibited use of force under International Law?

As this will be a relatively short meeting, please keep your response brief no more than 1,000 words (excluding end notes) Remember, clear and concise communication is the key.

Sincerely,

Director of International Law Division, Southland Ministry of Foreign Affairs

CIA World Fact Book

Regional History

The States of the Northumbria and Southland are two industrializing nations that share a common history. From the period of 1675—1950 both States were part of one large colonial possession called Uniteria. However, during the decolonization movement beginning in the 1950s Uniterian citizens broke down into two major factions along ethnic and cultural lines. Competing ideologies led to increasing tensions, which ultimately turned into a civil war. This period of violence lasted from 1952—1964. Forced migration caused by sectarian strife eventually led to an inevitable geographic separation of the two ethnic groups. This allowed for the formation of two states separated by the Aston mountain range as a natural border.

Tensions remain high between the two states to this day, and the Aston mountain region remains disputed territory. The population local to Aston does not belong to either ethnic group and has always felt independent of both states. There is a popular but passive independence movement among the mountain region's population. Law enforcement in the area is conducted largely by the Astonian Police force, rather than either the Northumbrians or Southlandian national police.

Border incidents are generally dealt with through diplomatic means, but occasionally result in brief periods of violence between Northumbria and Southland.

Northumbria



Background: Northumbria is a regional power with ambitions of becoming a global player. Northumbria is the northern half of a former colonial territory known as Uniteria. The 1950 separation of Northumbria and Southland was never satisfactorily resolved and during its early years, Northumbria invested heavily in its armed forces and maintained that a strong military presence would allow the State to retake the Aston Region and become the regional hegemon.

After several armed conflicts in (1960, 1972, and 2002) over the Aston Region, the borders have remained in dispute and tensions are still high. Due to the government's policy of prioritizing military strength there was a lack of investment in its domestic economy and infrastructure Northumbria quickly fell behind its rival to the south. Beginning in early 2010 the newly elected government switched course, and began providing national free education through secondary school, large government infrastructure projects and government backed low interest loans for developing domestic business. This has impacted Northumbria's military. While it is large, it is composed of quickly trained conscripts. Due to restricted funding, it is technologically behind Southland's.

The current president of Northumbria is Robert Bags, a former General in the Northumbrian Military Intelligence Branch. Although he is a political moderate, politicians in higher office will not advance in government without support of the Northumbrian Armed Forces. Therefore, he always includes the Northumbrian Armed Forces in any national decision he makes. He campaigned on the continuation of the government backed loans, the expansion of Northumbrian technological manufacturing sector, and securing Northumbrian control over the Aston Province. Bags must carefully balance Northumbria's developing economy and the demands of its military.

Geography: Northumbria lies on the northern half of the continent. Its southern border is formed by the Aston Mountain Range, with the Shimmering Sea to the east and the Azure Ocean to the west.

Northumbria is a large State that can be divided into three geographic zones. The largest is flat fertile plains that make up a majority of the State. To the east there is heavily forested territory with mountainous steppes that form the eastern edge of Northumbria. Finally, in south there is high desert scrub land that transitions into the Aston Mountain Range that forms the southern border.

Natural Resources: Arable land, hardwood lumber, moderate natural gas reserves, and poor-quality coal, iron ore, copper, cobalt, and manganese.

Population Center: New North (Capital), 7.7 million people. The government's focus on economic development has led the formerly rural population to begin moving to cities for economic opportunity.

Political Structure: Northumbria is nominally a representative democratic republic with a bicameral legislative congress, an executive branch led by a president, and a judicial branch. The current president is Robert Bags.

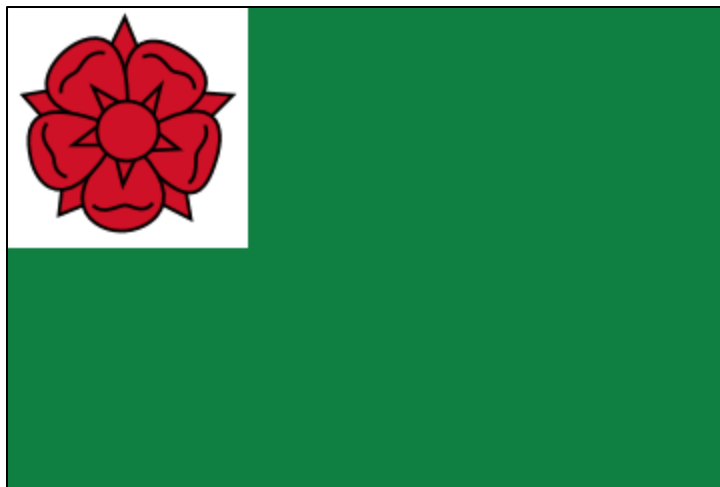
Demographics: While there are three ethnicities on the continent, Northumbria is an ethnically homogenous State. It is primarily (95%) composed of the Norton people. In the south of Northumbria there is a minority (5%) of Astonian people that live on the Northumbrian side of the Aston Region. Northumbria recognizes all Astonians as Northumbrian citizens. However, Astonians primarily identify by their Astonian background.

Northumbria remains primarily rural with 70% of the total population living in agricultural communities. However; this is rapidly changing, backed by low interest government loans and new infrastructure small to medium size business are creating significant job opportunities in the cities around Northumbria. Many Northumbrians are leaving their agricultural jobs and seeking more stable, higher wage positions in urban areas.

Economy: The Northumbrian economy is at crossroads. Until very recently Northumbria has been primarily an agricultural State bolstered by dairy and lumber exports. Due to the government's education policies of free primary and secondary education, a young, moderately educated population stimulates the economy through cheap labor. Additionally, the government's creation of low interest government backed loans has allowed domestic business to thrive.

This boom has been particularly pronounced in the tech-manufacturing sector. The confluence of cheap skilled labor and financial investment is supporting a rapid tech industry expansion. In addition, domestic supplies of cobalt and manganese mean that the manufacturing businesses do not have to pay larger fees to import the raw materials necessary to manufacture the final products. However, this growth is not entirely stable, and Northumbria's deposits of easily reached ore are rapidly depleting, leading to anticipation of higher production prices. The fear of increased costs is leading Northumbria to risk destabilizing the fragile peace with Southland to explore the Aston Mountain Range for rare earth metals. Many Northumbrian economists fear that if the tech sector has sluggish growth, it will have aftershocks throughout the Northumbrian economy.

Southland



Background: Southland consists of the southern portion of the former colonial territory of Uniteria. Large scale violence took place after the separation of Uniteria into Northumbria and Southland and the neighboring States have fought three armed conflicts since their separation. The majority of the fighting was caused by territorial disputes over the Aston Region. Since the last armed conflict ended in 2002 Southland and Northumbria have reached an uneasy stalemate.

Southland is the strongest economic power on the continent. While its exports used to be primarily in manufacturing and aquaculture, years of strong government investment in private business led to a revolution in the marketplace in the early 1980s. The Southlandian tech sector is currently the largest in the region, boasting both software development and hardware manufacturing. The tech sector continues to grow, though its progress remains fragile and it is vulnerable to shocks in the marketplace. Southland has a moderately sized military, but the force is rigorously trained, and technologically well-equipped. At the close of the 2002-armed conflict, the Southlandian parliament decided to refocus its military spending in favor of a smaller more technologically advanced force. While Southland does face pressure from its aggressive neighbor, a rapidly growing economy, a young well-educated population, and its strategic location have all contributed to making Southland a growing global power.

The current Prime Minister of Southland is Katie Langford. She won her party's leadership on a platform of free trade and tight border security. Langford has maintained that an aggressive policy towards Northumbria will check their interests and preserve the still fragile Southlandian economy. Langford must balance the threats of Northumbrian expansion, the State's fragile but quick economic growth, and the ambitions of the Astonians to achieve true independence.

Geography: Southland is composed of the southern portion of the continent and is territorially smaller than its neighbor to the north. The Aston Mountain range forms its northern border with the Shimmering Sea located to the east, and the Azure Ocean forming its western border.

Southland can be broken down into four geographic regions. First is the Aston Region composed of the Aston Mountain Range. This geographic zone forms the northern border between Southland and Northumbria, it is an arid alpine environment that is largely impassable by vehicle. The only way into the Aston Region is on highway 1, a joint venture between Northumbria and Southland that is sole connecting road between the two States. The second geographic zone is the dense softwood forests in the eastern portion of Southland that grows right up to the base of the Aston Mountains. The third geographic region is arable grassland that forms Southland's main peninsula. Finally, the fourth geographic region is the numerous islands that are claimed by Southland. These islands have a tropical climate and sustain a small tourist economy.

Natural Resources: Arable land, softwood lumber, large fisheries, rare earth metals, iron ore, chromite, natural gas, diamonds

Population Center: Roseport (Capital City) 9.5 million people. The Southlandian people are heavily urbanized, with a majority of the work and development occurring within its cities.

Political structure: Parliamentary republic, with a legislative house of commons led by an executive Prime Minister, and judiciary.

Demographics: While there are three ethnicities on the continent, Southland is largely an ethnically homogenous State. It is primarily (90%) composed of the Sooter people. In the north of Southland there is a minority (10%) of Astonian people that live in the Southlandian portions

of the Aston Region. While they are nominally Southlandian citizens, they primarily identify by their Astonian background.

The Southlandian population is highly urbanized, with around 73% of the population living in urban centers throughout the country. The remaining 27% live in mid-size communities that are focused on fishing. Concerns about increased costs of living and brain drain from rural areas have become areas of focus for the Southlandian government.

Economy: The Southlandian economy is highly diversified. It exports softwood lumber, aquaculture, and minerals/ore globally. Due to early government investment, a robust manufacturing business sector arose, and beginning in the 1980s there was a significant rise in the manufacturing sector when the Aston Mountain Range was opened for mineral exploration and development.

Southland also benefits from having a highly educated population, with nearly universal graduation from secondary school. Close to 65% of the population has some form of post-secondary degree or certification. This has meant that Southland has had a steady supply of skilled labor in conjunction with a well-trained cadre of white-collar workers. There has been a slowdown in the manufacturing sector of late, as labor costs have continued to rise with demands of the educated workforce. There have been concerns that the manufacturing sector in Southland will dry up completely leading to large scale layoffs of mid-tier workers and blue-collar workers. However, the technology manufacturing boom has brought some relief. Southland is actively designing and building both hardware and software around the country. Some economists are worried that Southland has overinvested in the technology manufacturing sector.

Aston Region



Background: The Astonian people have lived in their namesake region since before the colonial period of Uniteria. While they enjoyed some autonomy under the colonial government, the region was still considered to be part of the larger colonial territory. During the separation period

the Astonians pressed for Uniteria to be divided into three States, but since their population was much smaller than the other two ethnicities and both larger states had economic interests in the region, the area remained in dispute. The Aston Region was claimed by both States and remains in dispute. Astonians continue to maintain that they are neither Northumbrian nor Southlandian.

While talk of independence and autonomy are popular discussions, and widely favored among Astonians, there has been no call for open rebellion. In recent months, there have been talks amongst the majority party, and the Astonian party in parliament about the possibility of an Astonian Parliament that would control the domestic governing of the Aston Region while the Southlandian Parliament handles the national level issues.

Geography: The Aston Region is a mountainous territory that forms the border between Northumbria and Southland. To the north is Northumbria and to the south is Southland. Northumbrian territory also surrounds the Aston Region to the east and west of the mountain ranges.

The Aston Mountain Range is a series of mountains that stretches from the shores of the Shimmering Sea to the shores of the Azure Ocean. Its environment is arid Alpine with numerous low-level shrubs but very few trees. The land is arable, and the Aston people primarily farm through using terraced plots of land that are irrigated through snow melt.

Natural Resources: Sand, iron ore, rare earth metals, chromite, limestone, saltpeter

Population Centers: Waldorf (Provincial Capital), 750,000. Waldorf is the largest and only city in the Aston Region, many Astonians remain in the country side in small to medium sized agricultural towns.

Political Structure: Astonian Party in the Southlandian House of Commons.

Demographics: Astonians are the only full-time residents of the Aston Region. While there are other ethnicities in the area for work or military purposes, the region is 99% Astonian.

The Astonians are 84% rural, most living on small family farms or goat ranches throughout the region. The urban population is exclusively located in Waldorf, which functions as the economic and cultural hub for the region. Many Astonians will move to Waldorf to attend university and spend a few years in the city and then return to their home villages later in life. The Astonians maintain that they are Astonian and not “Astonian-Southlandian” or “Astonian-Northumbrian”.

Economy: The primary economic activities in the Aston Region are mining and farming/ranching. The Astonian Region produces a majority of the ore and mineral raw materials for the Southlandian economy. The Astonians are also noted for their variety of sweet wine, and grapes which are considered a delicacy throughout the world.

The Astonian population is highly educated, with around 80% of the population achieving a secondary school education and 64% receiving some form of post-secondary education. However; this high education rate has not led to widespread economic opportunity,

due to lack of economic investment in the area there are few skilled labor or white-collar jobs. This has led to large scale protest and general dissatisfaction from Estonian university students.

International Treaties and their Signatories

Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts	
GC I-IV	Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field. Geneva, 1949. Convention (II) for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea. Geneva, 1949. Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. Geneva (1949). Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Geneva, 1949.
AP I	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts. Geneva, 1977.
AP II	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts. 1977.
AP III	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem. Geneva, 2005.
CRC & Opt. Prot.	Convention on the Rights of the Child. New York, 1989. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. New York, 2000.

International Organizations	
UN Charter	Charter of the United Nations, San Francisco, 1945.
ICC Statute	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Rome, 1998.

Protection of Cultural Property	
Hague Cv.	Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Den Haag, 1954.
Hague Prot.	Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, Den Haag, 1954.
Hague Prot.	Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, Den Haag, 1999.

Misc.	
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. New York, 1966.
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, 1966.
CAT & Opt. Prot.	Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984. Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 2002.
Treaty Law	Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969.
Gen. Conv.	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948.

Weapons Conventions	
Gas. Prot.	Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and Warfare. Geneva, 1925.
BWC	Conv. On the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. 1972.
CCW Prot. I Prot. II Prot. III Prot. IV Prot. Iia Prot. V	Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects. Geneva, 1980. Protocol on non-detectable Fragments (I). Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and Other Devices (I). Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (III). Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons. Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996. Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War. 2003.
CWC	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. Paris 1993.
AP Mine	Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. Oslo, 1997.
Cluster	Convention on Cluster Munitions. 2008.

	Northumbria	Southland
GC I-IV	Ratified	Ratified
AP I	Ratified	Ratified
AP II	Signed	Ratified
AP III		
CRC		Ratified
Opt. Prot.		Ratified
UN Charter	Ratified	Ratified
ICC Statute	Ratified	Ratified
Hague Cv.	Ratified	Ratified
Hague Prot.		Ratified
Hague Prot.	Ratified	Ratified
ICCPR	Ratified	Ratified
ICESCR	Ratified	Ratified
CAT	Signed	Ratified
CAT Opt. Prot.		Ratified
Treaty Law	Ratified	Ratified
Gen. Conv.	Ratified	Ratified
Gas. Prot.		
BWC		
CCW	Ratified	Ratified
Prot. I	Ratified	Ratified
Prot. II	Ratified	Ratified
Prot. III	Ratified	Ratified
Prot. IV	Ratified	Ratified
Prot. Iia		Ratified
Prot. V		Ratified
CWC	Ratified	Ratified
AP Mine		
Cluster		Ratified

Associated News

Valuable Metal Ore Discovery in Aston Region Exacerbates Existing Tension

By Leslie Kents

September 29, 2019



Martin, Aston Region - The international spotlight has recently been placed upon the mountainous Aston Region between Northumbria and Southland. This attention is driven by the discovery of a valuable metal ore called coltan, which was discovered by geological surveyors last year. Coltan ore mining is lucrative due to extractable elements such as niobium and tantalum, which are used to manufacture capacitors and batteries in portable electronics, cars, and medical equipment.

With the global tech industry driving the need for coltan mining, the Aston Region's coltan resources also serve as ethical alternatives to controversial coltan mining practices in other areas of the world. Most notably, the ongoing coltan mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been criticized for financing serious domestic conflicts. For that reason, the Aston Region's coltan discovery may herald the end of war-financing coltan activities in the DRC.

The discovery of coltan ore has also ignited existing tenuous geopolitical relationships -- particularly between Northumbria and Southland. These neighboring countries, lying adjacent to the Aston Region, have both attempted to strengthen their claims to the Aston Region in an effort to profit from the coltan reserves.

The States of the Northumbria and Southland have a tense history. Until 1950, both States were part of one large colonial possession called Uniteria. During the decolonization movement in the 1950s, Uniterian citizens divided into two major ethnic factions, which eventually fought each other in a civil war from 1952 until 1964. During the conflict the two ethnic groups grew increasingly geographically separated. This allowed for the formation of two separate states separated by the Aston Mountain Range as a natural border. Even now, tensions remain high between the two states and the Aston mountain region remains disputed territory.

“The population local to Aston does not belong to either ethnic group and has always felt independent of both states,” says Lu Cartwright, Professor of Cultural Geography at Pennbrook University. “Amongst the Aston region’s population, a popular but passive independence movement has emerged. Astonians want a chance to build on their own, using the resources native to their land.”

Northumbrian News

Anna Notchick

Oct. 21, 2019



Northumbrian drug check point along the Aston Region border

New North, Northumbria – Each afternoon, Phillip Depaut, a Northumbrian drug checkpoint personnel, approaches his station with anxiety; he and his colleagues ready themselves for another violent arrival of Southland convoys.

In the recent weeks, Southland military vehicles have been recklessly blasting through Northumbrian drug prevention checkpoints, destroying the lowered gates and nearby booths that are used to conduct the quick checks. Shards of broken fiberglass and wood from past gate arms litter the area surrounding current checkpoints. These frequent and organized illegal operations are conducted by Southland vehicles at high speeds; on multiple occasions, these Southlandian operations have jeopardized the lives of Northumbrian checkpoint staff and military members

The Northumbria Drug Enforcement Office has said that it implemented these checkpoints at the border between Southland and Northumbria to deter Astonian drug traffickers from leaving the Astonian province to enter Northumbria with illegal drugs. The DEO has also commented that the placement of these checkpoints also benefits Southlandian interests; increased Northumbrian military presence and law enforcement around the checkpoints prevent or reduce drug trafficking in the shared Aston Region.

On Monday, Northumbrian DEO Director, Eric James, commented, “We’ve done everything to peacefully prevent Southland from continually destroying our checkpoints. We’ve warned them that if this violent behavior continues, a more dire repercussion than warnings and negotiations will have to be executed.” James declined to comment further on what those repercussions would be.

This story will be updated as more news arrives.



WE-NAV

Wheeled Expeditionary Navigating Armored Vehicle

Cutting-edge Windowless Armed Vehicle Technology For The Modern Age:

The Wheeled Expeditionary Navigating Armored Vehicles (or WE-NAVs) incorporates cutting edge technology, which allows the vehicles to be controlled by crew members without peering through windows like standard vehicles by using GPS and computer navigation. WE-NAVs are routinely updated with software patches on a regular basis to ensure that the computer interface is free of glitches. The windowless feature improves vehicle mobility and crew survivability.

Back-up Navigation Method: Advanced Defense, Inc. addressed concerns regarding the dependency on a completely virtual navigation method by equipping the WE-NAVs with a backup feature, which includes a set of periscopes. Should the computer systems become disabled, the vehicles can be manually controlled by a human operator, who may gain visibility by utilizing a set of periscopes.

Both the computer interface and back-up periscopal systems require extensive training.

ADVANCED DEFENSE, INC.

Bringing reliability to the Military

www.AdvancedDefense.com



Cindy Sharpe  @csharpe • Oct 15, 2019

@technews With 30 yrs in military product development experience, I can say that mastering periscopal navigation takes extensive training. While periscopes have been used for many years, its use for maneuvering a moving vehicle, traveling at high speeds requires crew-wide training. This is worrisome given Southland military have not been trained in periscopal navigation.



Tech News  @technews • Oct 15, 2019

In a recent 200 million USD agreement between Southland & Advance Defense, Inc., Southland's armed forces obtained a new fleet of WE-NAVs. WE-NAVs are windowless & utilize computer navigation. Newly added, a back-up manual periscope navigation method can be used when computers glitch.
tnews.ns/MCE4MbB



1.1k



18k



34k



ASTON TIMES

October 5, 2019

Aston Law Enforcement Grow Disgruntled with Northumbrian Checkpoints in the Aston Region

BY CLEMENS UNDERWOOD



ASTON TIMES, CHRIS HANCOCK

Waldorf, Aston Region - Aston's Chief of Police, Edward Jones, expressed scathing disapproval regarding Northumbrian Checkpoints located in the Aston Region during a press conference yesterday. While Northumbrian armed forces argue that the checkpoints within the Aston Region are aimed to prevent drug trafficking, there has been no evidence to support the claim regarding a drug problem in any part of the Aston Province.

“We are infuriated that our province's borders are being infringed upon, yet again, by larger States who attempt to bully us into submission. This time, it is Northumbria's claim of drug trafficking that masks their newest attempt to push their

military operations into our land. As we have stated prior, we won't allow uninvited military presence, especially if the payment we receive for allowing others into our home is international slander.”

The Astonian Office of Drugs and Crime maintains that no report given to Northumbria contained information leading to a conclusion of increased drug use or drug trafficking within the region. As the annual report is made open to public records, Jones invites anyone, Astonian or Northumbrian, to review all records on drug use and drug trafficking to see that there is no fact-based reason for these checkpoints to be implemented.

This is not the first time that the Aston Region has faced bigger fish coming into their proverbially small pond. Astonians remain unwavering in their belief that Aston's law enforcement officials can protect them from foreign control like the Northumbrian military.

Updates on the consequences of these new controversial checkpoints to come.

TO: Southland Command MILITARY LAW CORPS	DATE: 10.05.20219
FROM: GEN. JOSEPH MCHUGH	TIME: 1700 LOCAL
LOCATION: Roseport, Southland	

SITUATION REPORT

SECRET - PRIORITY - FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

At approximately 06:00 on September 29, Northumbria's new military checkpoints have become active along the border between Northumbria and the Aston Region. These checkpoints also extend into the Aston Region, which we recognize to be within our territory. Due to Northumbria's belief that the Aston Region falls within its territory, it considers the Aston Region checkpoints to be within its authority to implement.

Northumbria has stated that they have implemented these checkpoints as a way to regulate drug trafficking originating or passing through the Aston Region. In reports requested from the Astonian Office of Drugs and Crime, Southland has not found any indication of a significant drug trafficking pattern into or out of the Aston Region. Southlandian intelligence suggests that Northumbria's decision to place check points in the Aston Region is another attempt to assert territorial claim over the Aston Region.

In response to Northumbria's checkpoints, Southland has initiated Operation Joyride, authorizing convoys to conduct limited provocation measures in and around these newly established checkpoints. Wheeled Expeditionary Navigating Armored Vehicles (WE-NAVs) are authorized to disregard the Northumbrian checkpoints they encounter. During regular patrol in the Aston Region, convoys are instructed to disobey Northumbrian barriers and barricades and to not stop at the checkpoints. Thus, the convoys will not be searched at checkpoints.

Further, convoys will not stop for Northumbrian law enforcement authorities in surrounding areas near the checkpoints, as Northumbrian law enforcement has no jurisdiction.

Operation Joyride is not an attack on Northumbrian soldiers and is to be carried out carefully and without injury. Southlandian convoys must take precautions to avoid unnecessary casualties or injuries to Southlandian soldiers or Northumbrian checkpoint operators.

Northumbrian News Weekly

October 1, 2019

Drug Trafficking Clouds Northumbria's Development

by Marsha Darian

New North, Northumbria –

The ongoing tension at the border between Northumbria and Southland has been simmering for years, breeding a quieter, less noticeable problem: drug trafficking. Northumbrian Drug Enforcement Office (DEO) reports an increase in drug activities in Northumbria. The DEO has taken what some see as a political stance and has pinned suspicions on rumors of increased drug smuggling over Northumbria's southern border.

Recent reports from the Northumbrian Drug Enforcement Office suggest that there have been increased amounts of drug smuggling across the border in recent years. Rumors have circulated regarding small groups of armed Astonians that travel at night, carrying heroin and methamphetamine across the border into Northumbria. The DEO or other sources cannot confirm these rumors.

With preexisting border and cultural tensions with Southland, Northumbrian military leaders have developed a new plan to stop the suspected trafficking -- setting up check points.

"Northumbria's shared border with Southland has become ground zero in the country's effort to bar the growing number of illicit drugs manufactured in the Aston Region," said a Northumbrian senior military official.

"We have established three new military checkpoints in the Aston Region, through which all vehicles and persons must pass in order to step foot into our country. If Astonian people would like to benefit from our booming economy, they must leave the illegalities of drugs and trafficking in their homeland." This military official did not want to be quoted by name due to the sensitivity of the topic.

The goal of the checkpoint is to stop every vehicle that comes through in order to, if necessary, search the vehicles to ensure that no drugs are being smuggled into Northumbria. The Northumbrian checkpoints will also serve as twenty-four-hour lookout points manned by Northumbrian national police in order to catch any individuals or small bands of Astonians trying to smuggle drugs into Northumbria on foot during the night.

While traffickers have made use of the economic development in Northumbria, officials and citizens alike are hopeful that the new checkpoints will deter, if not completely stop, the alleged influx of Astonian drugs into the country.

Question 2

To: Office of the Prime Minister's General Counsel

Re: *Jubilee* disaster

Good Day,

Welcome to the Office of the Prime Minister's General Counsel and congratulations on your appointment as legal advisor. I look forward to working with you. It has been several days since the SNS *Roseport* collided with the cruise ship SS *Jubilee* in the Shimmering Sea. We are treating this incident as an armed attack by Northumbria against Southland. The Prime Minister is ready to make a robust response, and as your first assignment you have been tasked to draft a memo (no more than 1,000 words excluding end notes) answering the following the questions:

1. The Prime Minister is interested in the legality of the following actions against Northumbria in response to this attack:
 - a. Economic Sanctions
 - b. A cyber-attack against their telecommunication network
 - c. A kinetic attack against Northumbrian supply routes leading into the Aston Province.
2. Under what circumstances may we engage in each response? What steps must we take for these actions to be legal under international law?

The Prime Minister is very busy, so your opinion on the matter will need to be brief. Please keep your writing concise and to the point. Welcome again to the team, we're excited to have you join us!

Best Regards,

General Counsel, Office of the Prime Minister's General Counsel

Southlandian Sun

18 November 2019

A Southland Naval military vessel collided with a Southlandian Cruise Line ship, SS Jubilee, this Saturday, November 16th, 2019, in the Shimmering Sea. Thus far, 275 total deaths have been accounted for with many civilians wounded; 25 sailors and 250 civilians, predominantly Southlandian families on vacation, were amongst the dead.

At the time of the crash, tweets posted to social media relay the panic of cruise ship passengers as the captain announced to the passengers aboard, "Passengers, brace yourself for impact. All crew members to their stations." Shortly after, the port side of the cruise ship was struck by the naval vessel SNS Roseport.

The twelve-deck Cruise Ship immediately began taking on water as the Southlandian Cruiser naval ship rammed full speed into the side of the boat, killing many on impact. Other passengers drowned as the ship sank.

Southland's Director of Naval Navigational Systems and Operations, Victor Alexander, spoke briefly with our team:

"Our navigational systems are tested routinely, and what we've found was that a virus somehow made its way into our ship and disrupted our radars, electronic charting information systems, and our radar plotting aid. By the time we realized what had happened and realized it was a system disruption, it was too late."

In an emotional charge, Alexander stated that whoever sent the virus to attack the integrity of the ship's navigational and radar systems would fully be prosecuted by the law. Suspecting a foreign cyber-attack, Alexander also stated that he would speak to the Chief of Naval Staff, the Fleet Commander, the Ministry of Defense, and the Prime Minister's office on the appropriate next steps.

Outside of the extensive casualties from the collision, both the Jubilee cruise ship and the Roseport naval war ship are destroyed. The loss of revenue from the destruction of one of Southland's premier cruise ships is deafening; Head of Finance at Southlandian Cruise Lines, Luna Eglin, stated, "the financial gap that is left after this collision is devastating, but we are hoping that it will not spell the end of Southlandian Cruise Lines."

Amidst the grief and confusion, speculation suggests that similar navigational disruption happened recently with high-tech military vehicles at a contested Northumbrian checkpoint. The Navy is working closely with all other military branches as well as the Minister of Defense in order to confirm whether the naval attack was related.

TO: NORTHUMBRIAN BORDER FORCES	DATE: 11.01.2019
FROM: GEN. SAMANTHA LINA	TIME: 1600 LOCAL
LOCATION: NEW NORTH, NORTHUMBRIA	

SITUATION REPORT

SECRET - PRIORITY - FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

After Northumbria's new military checkpoints became active, Southland began directly violating the checkpoints after 10 October 2019. These actions include the Southland Wheeled Expeditionary Navigating Armored Vehicle (WE-NAV) convoys crossing the checkpoints without stopping or abiding by any direction. On occasion, convoy crews have collided with barriers or barricades in their path. Thus far, there have not been any injuries to Northumbrian or Southlandian armed forces or civilians.

In response to these provocations, Northumbria has planned a limited cyber-attack to disable Southlandian vehicles in the Aston region from continuing these cross-checkpoint operations. Northumbrian intelligence analysts have developed a virus, named "DestroyRide.exe," that interferes with how the Southlandian WE-NAV navigation systems interpret GPS data.

DestroyRide.exe will be embedded in a scheduled software patch that runs on all vehicular GPS systems. Northumbria intelligence project that the cyber-attack will only affect vehicles in the Aston region. Northumbria's Army Cyber Unit has assured us that the cyber-attack will not affect any civilian vehicles or other Southlandian military assets if uploaded correctly. Once the virus has been downloaded the vehicle navigation systems will be disabled by the DestroyRide.exe. The Southland armed forces are untrained in using back-up periscope manual driving systems on the WE-NAVs and, thus, we expect that armed forces will not proceed with further operations.



Sarah Mao  @smao498 • November 16, 2019

On cruise. Captain made announcement that there's going to be a crash!!!!



32k



1.2k



15k



Rebecca Twitter  @rebbatweets888 • November 16, 2019

Captain's announcement: "Passengers, brace yourself for impact. All crew members to their stations." What is going on?



1.3k



3.7k



514



Ricky Reeves  @reevesr04 • November 16, 2019

The ship has been hit by something . . . people being thrown everywhere. Tell my dad and wife I love them.



3.2k



9.2k



74k



Elaine Youlfe  @momz • November 16, 2019

on cruiseship jubilee. trying to find my family in crash. message me if you find a a 5 yr old boy named charlie youlfe or woman named lucy fillenzi.



4.9k



12k



59k

