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QUICK GUIDE TO KEY NATO ACRONYMS AND EXPRESSIONS

NATO

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Set up by the Washington Treaty of April 1949 as a system of Western collective defence and now celebrating its 50th anniversary. Three new members acceded to the organisation on March 12 this year, bringing to 19 the total number of member countries. Since the beginning of the 1990s, the NATO Allies have made big force reductions and adapted the Alliance's military command structure to carry out new future roles and missions of crisis management, peacekeeping and peace support. They are cooperating actively with non-NATO countries in Europe through Partnership for Peace. The NATO-Russia Founding Act signed in May 1997 has opened up a new relationship of cooperation with the Russian Federation. In July 1997, NATO signed a Charter establishing a Distinctive Partnership with Ukraine.

NAC

North Atlantic Council.

Comprised of representatives of the Alliance's member countries this is the organisation's highest decision-making body. It meets regularly in Brussels at the level of Ambassadors, at least twice a year at the level of Foreign and Defence Ministers and occasionally – as in Washington – in summit session at the level of Heads of State and Government.

Strategic Concept.

The Strategic Concept is the authoritative statement of the Alliance's objectives and provides the highest level guidance on the political and military means to be used in achieving them. It is intended for two audiences: on the one hand, Allied and other publics, for whom it sets out the rationale for the Alliance and its activities; and, on the other, the NATO Military Authorities, for whom it provides direction for developing military capabilities and preparing for possible operations. The original Strategic Concept was issued in 1991. A new version is being prepared for approval in Washington.

In addition to taking account of political and military developments since 1991, the updated Strategic Concept will, as directed by Heads of State and Government at their meeting in Madrid, confirm the fundamental importance of collective defence and of the transatlantic link.

CFE

Conventional Forces in Europe treaty.

Major arms control treaty and cornerstone of European security. More than 58,000 pieces of military equipment have been destroyed in Europe since it was signed in 1990 by the NATO Allies and members of the then Warsaw Treaty Organisation. On 30 March 1999, agreement was reached between Russia and NATO and other European states on all major issues, opening the way for the adaptation of the CFE Treaty in time for the Summit of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Istanbul, November 1999.

ESDI

European Security and Defence Identity.

The aim of developing ESDI within the Alliance is to enable all European Allies to make a more coherent and effective contribution to NATO as an expression of their shared responsibilities and to reinforce the transatlantic partnership while at the same time enabling them to act together in a European context. It is an essential part of the adaptation of Alliance structures.

WEU

Western European Union.

Originally established by the 1948 Treaty of Brussels. Now numbers 10 member countries, all of which are also members of NATO. The WEU also has Associate Member countries (non-EU members of NATO) and Associate Partners (non-EU and non-NATO countries). The WEU was reactivated in 1984 with the aim of developing a common European defence identity and strengthening the Alliance's European pillar.

PfP

Partnership for Peace.

Set up in January 1994, PfP offers the Alliance's Partners, which number 25, the opportunity of taking part with NATO in security cooperation programmes tailored to their individual requirements. These include activities such as military exercises and civil emergency operations. The programme has been enhanced to give Partners greater say in planning and directing future programmes.

PARP

PfP Planning and Review Process.

Established in November 1994, as a separate activity within the Partnership for Peace programme, for those Partner countries wishing to participate. It aims to encourage transparency in defence planning and to develop the interoperability of Partner country forces with those of NATO countries, by developing and reviewing mutually agreed planning targets. Seventeen Partner countries are currently participating.

EAPC

The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council.

Set up in May 1997, the EAPC provides an overarching framework for an expanded political dimension to PfP and for closer practical cooperation. It brings together representatives of the NATO Allies and Partners – 44 countries in all. A Summit session of EAPC Heads of State and Government is scheduled to be held in Washington on April 25, the day after the NATO Summit.

NATO-RUSSIA PJC

Permanent Joint Council.

The body which directs the new relationship between NATO and Russia as established in the Founding Act signed on May 27, 1997. The PJC, bringing together ambassadors from the Allies and Russia, meets regularly at NATO and also meets at the level of Foreign Ministers at least twice a year. The PJC provides a venue for consultation, cooperation and consensus-building in discussions of political and security matters, such as how to handle the crisis in Kosovo. It has proved to be a useful forum for maintaining a dialogue through bad political weather as well as good.

NATO-Ukraine Commission.

Body established under the terms of the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine. The Commission meets at least twice a year to review progress in the development of the relationship between NATO and Ukraine. A Summit session of Heads of State and Government from the Allied members and Ukraine will be held in Washington after the NATO Summit.

SACEUR AND SACLANT

The Supreme Allied Commander Europe and The Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic.

The two major commanders responsible for the Alliance's integrated military structure.

SHAPE

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

Located near Mons, Belgium, this is the headquarters of Allied Command Europe.

OSCE

Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Formerly known as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the OSCE was initially a political process which set out fundamental principles governing the conduct of international affairs to ease tension and build confidence among states. Now formally an organisation with 55 members including all Europe, and Canada and the United States. It oversaw organisation of elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina and organised the international verification mission in Kosovo, which monitored compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions on the crisis, until the verifiers were withdrawn after negotiations aimed at a political settlement failed in mid-March 1999.

SFOR AND IFOR

The NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR) has been deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina since December 1996 as part of efforts to underpin the Dayton Peace Agreement in the former Yugoslavia. It replaced the **Implementation Force (IFOR)** which was responsible for military aspects of the peace agreement being fulfilled. More than 35 NATO and non-NATO countries have contributed forces to SFOR whose strength totals more than 30,000.

KVM

Kosovo Verification Mission.

Unarmed verifiers organised by the OSCE and deployed in Kosovo from the end of 1998 to monitor compliance by Serbian forces and armed Kosovar elements with U.N. Security Council resolutions relating to the crisis. The mission was withdrawn following the failure of negotiations to reach a political settlement in mid-March 1999.

Extraction Force.

A NATO force of some 2000 troops was stationed in the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia¹ in anticipation of the need to act as an Extraction Force for the OSCE Verification Mission, should the situation require. The Mission was withdrawn without incident in mid-March 1999, following the breakdown of negotiations to reach a political settlement of the conflict. The Extraction Force was placed under the operational control of the Commander of the Allied Command Europe (ACE) Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) at the start of NATO's air campaign at the end of March. Subsequently, together with other NATO forces assigned to the area, it was redirected to assist in humanitarian operations as a consequence of the escalating refugee crisis in the region, pending redeployment as part of an implementation force, following a political settlement.

KFOR.

NATO-led multinational force proposed by the Alliance for deployment in Kosovo to implement the military aspects of a political settlement of the conflict. An advance enabling force, for KFOR was stationed in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ in anticipation of the conclusion of a settlement. These troops were placed under the operational control of the Commander of the Allied Command Europe (ACE) Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) at the start of NATO's air campaign at the end of March. They were subsequently reassigned to humanitarian tasks in response to the escalating refugee crisis in the region.

¹ Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.