



THE KEY TO THE PRAGUE SUMMIT



AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE

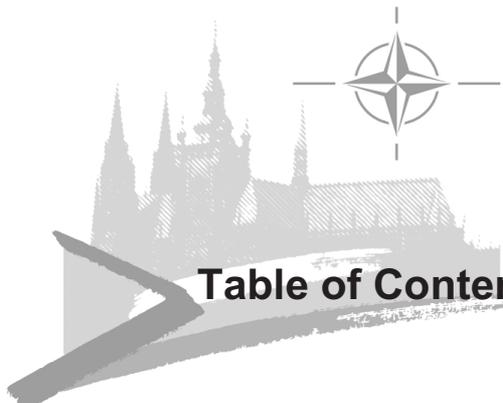


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Note : References to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in this document are marked with an asterisk () referring to the following footnote :*

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

New Challenges and New Threats

Key Information

Key Definitions

- **From Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty** – “The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all, and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognised by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually, and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area.”
- **AWACS** – From 9 October 2001 to 16 May 2002, aircraft belonging to NATO’s Airborne Early Warning (NAEW) Force patrolled American skies helping to protect the United States from further terrorist attacks. The Force includes a NATO-owned and operated fleet of E-3A AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) aircraft distinguished by the 30 foot diameter “rotodome” mounted on top of the fuselage, housing surveillance and radar equipment.
- **WMD** – The term Weapons of Mass Destruction refers to nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. In 1994, recognising that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international security, NATO Heads of State and Government directed the Alliance to intensify and expand its efforts against proliferation and to consider how to reinforce ongoing prevention efforts, how to reduce the proliferation threat and how to protect against it. The Alliance Policy Framework on Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction issued in June 1994 states that the principal goal of the Alliance in relation to WMD is to prevent proliferation from occurring or, should it occur, to reverse it through diplomatic means.
- **WMD Initiative** – launched at the Washington Summit in April 1999 to address the risks posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. The initiative is designed to promote understanding of WMD issues, to develop ways of responding to them and to improve intelligence and information-sharing.

Key Facts

- Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty was invoked for the first time in the fifty year history of the Alliance on 12 September 2001, following the 11 September terrorist attacks against the United States. On 4 October 2001, in response to requests by the United States, NATO allies agreed to take several measures to expand the options available to them in the campaign against terrorism. These include enhancing intelligence sharing, granting blanket over-flight rights and access to ports

and airfields, providing assistance to states threatened as a result of their support for coalition efforts, and deploying NATO naval forces to the eastern Mediterranean to monitor merchant shipping and Airborne Early Warning aircraft to patrol U.S. airspace.

- The operation involving the deployment of elements of NATO's Standing Naval Forces to the Eastern Mediterranean is called *Active Endeavour*. The operation began on 26 October 2001 comprising vessels from Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States and is tasked with patrolling the Eastern Mediterranean and monitoring merchant shipping. NATO's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean (STANAVFORMED) currently forms the core of this operation.
- The operation involving the deployment of NATO AWACS aircraft to the United States to guard American airspace and help protect U.S. territory was called Operation *Eagle Assist*. From 9 October 2001 until the completion of the operation on 16 May 2002, approximately 830 crew members from 13 NATO countries flew nearly 4 300 hours and over 360 operational sorties.
- A considerable number of NATO forces are involved in two concurrent anti-terrorist operations: *Enduring Freedom*, an ongoing U.S.-led military operation in Afghanistan; and the **International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)**, a UN-mandated multinational force deployed in and around Kabul to help stabilise the country and create the conditions for self-sustaining peace.
- 14 NATO allies are directly involved in Operation *Enduring Freedom*, providing special forces units to work with U.S. special forces as well as planes and ships for surveillance, interdiction and interception operations. European countries play a major part in these operations, providing more than half of the forces on the ground in Afghanistan.
- The ISAF is a multinational force of 4 500 soldiers, the bulk of which are provided by NATO allies. Initially under UK command, the force has been under Turkish command since July 2002. Examples of national contributions include airlift capability provided by Belgium, a field hospital provided by the Czech Republic, a medical team from Portugal and engineering and logistical support provided by Poland.
- Several NATO partner countries are participating in Operation *Enduring Freedom* and the ISAF. Examples include basing and over-flight rights provided by NATO's partners in the Caucasus and Central Asia; infantry, military police, nuclear, biological and chemical protection, and transportation assets from Romania; engineering support from Russia and Slovakia; and an intelligence unit deployed to ISAF headquarters from Sweden. NATO cooperation with partner countries over the past decade and the practical experience gained from partner participation in Balkan peacekeeping operations has contributed to the effectiveness of these operations.
- The attacks of 11 September served as a catalyst for the opening of a new chapter in **NATO-Russia relations** and the establishment in May 2002 of the new

NATO-Russia Council, bringing together the 19 NATO allies and Russia to identify and pursue opportunities for joint action as equal partners. The struggle against terrorism, crisis management and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are key areas of NATO-Russia cooperation.

- A WMD Centre set up in May 2000 at NATO Headquarters to coordinate Alliance activities in the field of **WMD proliferation** and to support defence efforts to improve the preparedness of NATO to respond to the risks of WMD and their means of delivery. The work of the Centre is being reinforced in the wake of the 11 September attacks.

Key Dates

2001

- **11 September** – NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson and the North Atlantic Council condemn the terrorist attacks on the United States and express solidarity with the American people.
- **12 September** – The North Atlantic Council invokes Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.
- **12 September** – NATO's 27 partner countries, meeting in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, condemn the attacks, offer their support to the U.S. and pledge to undertake all efforts to combat terrorism.
- **13 September** – The NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council, meeting in extraordinary session, issues a statement calling on the entire international community to unite in the struggle against terrorism.
- **14 September** – The NATO-Ukraine Commission issues a statement appealing to the entire international community to undertake all measures to combat the scourge of terrorism.
- **20 September** – U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage briefs the North Atlantic Council on U.S. responses to the 11 September attacks, including steps to create a broad anti-terrorism coalition.
- **24 September** – Responses to the attacks are discussed at a joint meeting of the North Atlantic Council and the European Union's Political and Security Committee. There is widespread agreement on the importance of close consultations and cooperation between the Alliance and the European Union in the fight against terrorism.
- **2 October** – In the light of information provided by U.S. State Department Coordinator for Counter-terrorism, Francis Taylor, the Secretary General of NATO announces, on behalf of the North Atlantic Council, that it has been determined that the attacks were directed from abroad and that the invocation of Article 5 has been confirmed.

- **3 October** – NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin to consult on ways to combat terrorism.
- **4 October** – In response to requests by the United States, NATO allies agree to take several measures to expand the options available to them in the campaign against terrorism. These include enhanced intelligence sharing, granting blanket over-flight rights and access to ports and airfields, providing assistance to states threatened as a result of their support for coalition efforts, and deploying NATO naval forces to the eastern Mediterranean and Airborne Early Warning aircraft to patrol U.S. airspace.
- **8 October** – United States and United Kingdom ambassadors brief the North Atlantic Council on military operations initiated against the Al-Qaida terrorist network and the Taliban regime. The Council affirms its support for these actions.
- **9 October** – NATO deploys five AWACS aircraft to the United States in support of Article 5.
- **12 October** – The NATO Secretary General briefs European Union defence ministers on steps taken by NATO in response to U.S. requests and recommendations by the NATO military authorities.
- **17 October** – Deployment of NATO's Standing Naval Forces to monitor merchant shipping in the eastern Mediterranean.
- **23 October** – The North Atlantic Council and the Political and Security Committee of the European Union discuss measures being taken by each organisation to fight terrorism.
- **23 October** – At a special meeting of the North Atlantic Council, NATO's seven Mediterranean Dialogue partners are briefed on the Alliance's response to the 11 September attacks.
- **20-21 November** – The response to the terrorist attacks is discussed by Chiefs of Staff meeting in the NATO Military Committee and in the framework of the NATO-Ukraine Commission, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council.
- **13 November** – The North Atlantic Council tasks NATO military authorities to prepare contingency plans for humanitarian operations in and around Afghanistan.
- **5 December** – Afghan factions meeting in Bonn sign an agreement defining provisional arrangements pending the re-establishment of permanent state institutions in Afghanistan and arrangements for a provisional government under interim Prime Minister Hamid Karzai.
- **6-7 December** – NATO foreign ministers issue a Statement on NATO's Response to Terrorism and endorse the development of measures to strengthen NATO's capacities as well as its engagement with its partner countries in the fight against terrorism. Further ministerial meetings of the NATO-Ukraine Commission, the EAPC and the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council continue the process of consultations and cooperation in combating terrorism.

- **18 December** – NATO defence ministers agree to pursue the necessary restructuring and modernisation processes to ensure Alliance forces are capable of responding to new challenges and new threats.
- **20 December** – The UN Security Council authorises the establishment for 6 months of an International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, under United Kingdom command.

2002

- **16 January** – Two additional AWACS aircraft are deployed to the United States to guard American airspace and help protect U.S. territory.
- **14-15 May** – Ministerial meetings of the North Atlantic Council, the EAPC, the NATO-Ukraine Commission and the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council and NATO-EU foreign ministers in Reykjavik discuss practical cooperative measures in the fight against terrorism and new security threats.
- **28 May** – At the first meeting of the newly established NATO-Russia Council, in Rome, the struggle against terrorism features prominently in the list of areas identified for future cooperation.
- **6-7 June** – Defence ministers meeting in the North Atlantic Council, the new NATO-Russia Council, the NATO-Ukraine Commission and the EAPC pursue consultations and examine options in the fight against terrorism.
- **13 June** – Harmid Karzai is elected as Head of the Afghan Transitional Authority.
- **20 June** – Turkey takes over from the United Kingdom the command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.
- **11 September** – Commemorative ceremonies and tributes to the victims of the 11 September 2001 attacks on the United States take place worldwide. Statements made at the commemorative ceremony at NATO Headquarters reflect the significance of the measures taken by the Alliance following the attacks and the Alliance's continuing role in the fight against terrorism.

Key Documents

- The North Atlantic Treaty signed in Washington D.C. on 4 April 1949.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/treaty.htm
- The Alliance's Strategic Concept adopted at the Washington Summit on 23 April 1999.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm
- Statement by the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, 12 September 2001.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-123e.htm
- Statement by the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council, 13 September 2001.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p010913e.htm

- Statement by the NATO-Ukraine Commission, 14 September 2001.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-126e.htm
- NATO's Response to Terrorism, 6 December 2001.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-159e.htm
- Combating Terrorism: Adapting the Alliance's Defence Capabilities, 18 December 2001.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-173e.htm
- Statement on NATO-Russia Cooperation in Combating Terrorism, 28 January 2002.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/2002/p020128e.htm
- NATO Research and Technology Organisation - Report on Combating Terrorism, 5-7 February 2002.
www.rta.nato.int/Ctworkshop.htm

Key Issues

- Development of a military concept for defence against terrorism as the basis for the development of more detailed policies and doctrines; adaptation of structures and capabilities to meet the threat posed by terrorism.
- Proposed measures to increase the Alliance's capabilities, including specific counter-terrorism capabilities, will be set out in a capabilities action plan to be submitted to Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit.
- Proposed measures to enhance the Alliance's ability to defend its forces and civilian populations and territory against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons, including a comprehensive package of WMD-defence capability initiatives, to be presented to Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit.
- Preparation of a Civil Emergency Planning Action Plan, consisting of mechanisms and capabilities that may be needed to manage the consequences of possible terrorist attacks, including attacks involving the use of weapons of mass destruction.
- Completion of a Partnership Action Plan, setting out how NATO member and partner countries can act together against terrorism. The plan is expected to provide a framework for cooperation against terrorism, to define the roles of partners in this field and to outline possible instruments for fighting terrorism and managing its consequences.
- Continuation of efforts underway within the Alliance to better protect against and prepare for a possible disruption of NATO and critical national infrastructure assets, including information and communications systems.

More Information

- The Scourge of Terrorism
www.nato.int/terrorism/Index.htm
(Statements relating to terrorism issued by the North Atlantic Council, the EAPC, the NATO-Ukraine Commission, NATO and Russia, the Secretary General of NATO and other relevant documents. Statements and speeches made at the commemorative ceremony held at NATO Headquarters on 11 September 2002).
- NATO Fact Sheet: 11 September - One year on - NATO's Contribution to the Fight against Terrorism.
<http://www.nato.int/terrorism/factsheet.htm>
- NATO and other allied contributions to the war against terrorism are listed on the web site of the United States Mission to NATO.
<http://www.nato.int/usa/allies.htm>

Key Quotations

“The security of the Alliance remains subject to a wide variety of military and non-military risks which are multi-directional and often difficult to predict.”

From the Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 20.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“The proliferation of NBC weapons and their means of delivery remains a matter of serious concern [...] major challenges with respect to proliferation remain [...] and can pose a direct military threat to the allies’ populations, territory, and forces.”

From the Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 22.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“Any armed attack on the territory of the allies, from whatever direction, would be covered by Articles 5 and 6 of the Washington Treaty. However [...] Alliance security interests can be affected by other risks of a wider nature, including acts of terrorism, sabotage and organised crime, and by the disruption of the flow of vital resources.”

From the Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 24.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“The North Atlantic Council met tonight to express its solidarity with the United States of America at this moment of great tragedy and mourning [...] The NATO nations unanimously condemn these barbaric acts committed against a NATO member state. The mindless slaughter of so many innocent civilians is an unacceptable act of violence without precedent in the modern era. It underscores the urgency of intensifying the battle against terrorism [...] All allies stand united in their determination to combat this scourge.”

From the Statement by the North Atlantic Council, 11 September 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-122e.htm

“The Council agreed that if it is determined that this attack was directed from abroad against the United States, it shall be regarded as an action covered by Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, which states that an armed attack against one or more of the Allies in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all.”

From the Statement by the North Atlantic Council, 12 September 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-124e.htm

“We, the member nations of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, gathered today to express our solidarity with the people of the United States of America following yesterday’s tragic events. These brutal and senseless atrocities have caused suffering on a massive scale. Our deepest sympathies go to the victims and their families.”

“We are appalled by these barbaric acts and condemn them unconditionally. These acts were an attack on our common values. We will not allow these values to be compromised by those who follow the path of violence. We pledge to undertake all efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism. We stand united in our belief that the ideals of partnership and cooperation will prevail.”

From the Statement by the members of the EAPC, 12 September 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-123e.htm

“The NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council [...] expressed its anger and indignation at the barbaric acts committed against the people of the United States of America. [...] The horrific scale of the attacks of 11 September is without precedent in modern history. [...] NATO and Russia call on the entire international community to unite in the struggle against terrorism. NATO and Russia will intensify their cooperation under the Founding Act to defeat this scourge.”

From the Statement by the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council, 13 September 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p010913e.htm

“NATO and Ukraine condemn in the strongest possible terms these atrocities, and stand united in their commitment to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice and punished. In the spirit of its distinctive partnership with NATO, Ukraine stands ready to contribute fully to this effort”.

From the Statement by the NATO-Ukraine Commission, 14 September 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-126e.htm

“At the start of the 21st century we live in a new, closely interrelated world, in which unprecedented new threats and challenges demand increasingly united responses.”

Rome Summit Declaration, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b020528e.htm

* * *

“I condemn in the strongest possible terms the senseless attacks which have just been perpetrated against the United States of America. My sympathies go to the American people, the victims and their families. These barbaric acts constitute intolerable aggression against democracy and underline the need for the international community and the members of the Alliance to unite their forces in fighting the scourge of terrorism.”

Statement by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 11 September 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-121e.htm

“The terrorists who attacked the United States on September 11 aimed at one nation but wounded an entire world. Rarely, if ever, has the world been as united as it was on that terrible day [...] As the United States decides what actions it will take in defence of its citizens, and as the world comes to terms with the full implications of this calamity, the unity of September 11 will be invoked, and it will be tested.”

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, 21 September 2001.

http://www.un.org/News/oss/sg/stories/sg_terrorism.htm

“It is hard to imagine how the tragedy of 11 September could have been worse. Yet, the truth is that a single attack involving a nuclear or biological weapon could have killed millions. While the world was unable to prevent the 11 September attacks, there is much we can do to help prevent future terrorist acts carried out with weapons of mass destruction.”

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, 1 October 2001.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2001/sgsm7977.doc.htm>

“This has never happened before, that NATO has come to help defend our country, but it happened in this time of need and for that we are grateful.”

U.S. President George W Bush, 10 October 2001.

www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/10/20011010-6.html

“Far from becoming obsolete in the post-Cold War world, recent events show NATO’s importance to our mutual security in the 21st century.”

U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, 18 December 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/update/2001/1217/e1218a.htm

“Terrorism does not have a religion, does not have a geography, it cannot be defined on cultural lines and cannot have any justification.”

Ismail Cem, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, 12 February 2002.

<http://www.mfa.gov.tr>

“By invoking Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, NATO gave a warning to terrorists that they had crossed an unacceptable threshold. We must now back up that warning by ensuring that our forces have the evident capability to strike at these terrorists and their sponsors. And we must stop those who are proliferating the weapons of mass destruction that pose the most serious risk.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 10 April 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020410a.htm

“On international terrorism, I make a plea: don’t let the passage of time dim our memory of 11 September. The terrorists may be on the run in Afghanistan, but the threat remains.”

UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528k.htm

“Indeed, the best way to combat terrorism is and will remain the defence and promotion of the values of democracy, free speech, free press and free association.”

Prime Minister of Belgium Guy Verhofstadt, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s02058o.htm

“The very first good news for the American people came from this Headquarters, from NATO, early in the morning of September 12, the news that the NATO allies had invoked Article 5 of the Washington Treaty for the first time in Alliance history [...] Do not underestimate the importance of that first great act of solidarity and alliance for the American people.

[...] Europe was truly instrumental in Afghanistan and remains truly indispensable in the global fight against terrorism.”

U.S. Ambassador to NATO Nicholas Burns, 11 September 2002

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020911c.htm

“September 11 was [...] also a clear signal that we must make fundamental changes in the way we look at security, and the way we preserve it. On that fateful day, the hijackers took two normal instruments of everyday life – the box-cutter and the passenger plane – and created a missile. They thought the unthinkable, and succeeded in their terrible mission. We, too, must think in new, creative ways, if we are to preserve our security against new and unpredictable threats. And the Alliance has already made a strong start.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 11 September 2002.

<http://www.nato.int/docu/update/2002/09-september/e0904a.htm>

Backgrounder

In December 2001, NATO foreign ministers agreed to draw up, in time for the Prague Summit, a package of measures aimed at strengthening the Alliance's capabilities and its engagement with its partner countries in meeting the challenges of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

* * *

11 September 2001

The terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 against the United States, resulted in thousands of deaths both on the ground and among the passengers and crews of hijacked civilian airliners used in the attacks. Citizens of many nationalities lost their lives. A shocked world responded by declaring solidarity with the people of the United States and taking practical steps to come to its assistance.

Article 5

On 12 September, the NATO allies took an historic and unprecedented decision to invoke Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. The political significance of this agreement resides in the fact that Article 5 of the Treaty involves a commitment by each of the allies to consider an attack on one or more of them in Europe or North America as an attack against them all. As a consequence of this decision, the 11 September attacks on the United States are considered as an attack on all members of the Alliance.

“Article 5 operations”.

At the request of the United States, the NATO allies agreed to take eight specific measures, both individually and collectively, to implement Article 5. For the first time in NATO's fifty-year history, Alliance assets were deployed in support of “Article 5 operations”. Aircraft belonging to NATO's Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) were sent to assist the United States in patrolling American airspace. From mid-October 2001 to mid-May 2002, in an operation known as *Eagle Assist*, 830 crew members from 13 NATO countries flew nearly 4 300 hours and over 360 operational sorties. The operation was terminated by the North Atlantic Council on the basis of material upgrades to the U.S. air defence posture, enhanced cooperation between civil and military authorities, and following a U.S. evaluation of homeland security requirements.

Operation *Active Endeavour*

On 26 October 2001, an Alliance naval force was dispatched to the eastern Mediterranean. Under this continuing maritime operation, known as Operation *Active Endeavour*, elements of NATO's Standing Naval Forces patrol the eastern Mediterranean and monitor merchant shipping. To date, more than 16 000 ships have been monitored, and those that raised suspicion have been signalled, shadowed and documented. Currently, NATO's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean (STANAVFORMED) forms the core of the operation; it comprises vessels from 8 countries – Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States – and is under UK command.

Anti-terrorist operations

NATO-led forces in the Balkans have acted against terrorist groups with links to the Al-Qaida network and are continuing to contribute to the wider campaign against terrorism.

A considerable number of NATO forces have subsequently been involved in two concurrent anti-terrorist operations: *Enduring Freedom*, an ongoing U.S.-led military operation in Afghanistan; and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a UN-mandated multinational force deployed in and around Kabul to help stabilise the country and create the conditions for self-sustaining peace. Their success depends critically on the participating NATO forces, and their training and experience by working together effectively within NATO, as well as with partner countries.

Fourteen NATO allies are directly involved in operation *Enduring Freedom*, for example by providing special forces teams to work with U.S. special forces or planes and ships for surveillance, interdiction and interception operations. European countries play a major part and currently provide more than half of the forces on the ground in Afghanistan.

The ISAF is a multinational force of 4 500, the bulk of which are provided by NATO allies. Initially under UK command, the force has been under Turkish command since July 2002. Examples of national contributions include airlift capability provided by Belgium, a field hospital provided by the Czech Republic, a medical team from Portugal and engineering and logistical support provided by Poland.

Both Operation *Enduring Freedom* and ISAF continue to benefit from the efforts made by NATO over the past decade to engage its partner countries and from the practical experience of partner participation in Balkan peacekeeping. Examples include crucial basing and over-flight rights provided by NATO's partners in the Caucasus and Central Asia; infantry, military police, NBC protection and transportation assets from Romania; essential engineering support from Russia and Slovakia; and an intelligence unit deployed to ISAF headquarters from Sweden.

Other measures

Other measures taken by NATO member countries, in response to requests by the United States, include enhanced sharing of intelligence and cooperation in the intelligence field, providing assistance to allies or other countries under threat from international terrorism or at risk of becoming so as a result of their role in combating international terrorism; providing increased security for United States' facilities and those of NATO and other allies on their territory; backfilling selected allied assets in NATO's area of responsibility in order to compensate for the redeployment of forces required to support operations against terrorism; and providing access for the United States and other allies to ports and airfields on their territory, for operations against terrorism.

Consultations and exchange of information

In parallel with these measures, and within NATO, consultations and exchange of information on combating the threat posed by terrorism have been intensified. The Alliance has also increased its efforts to promote cooperation to counter threats posed by the use of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and to bolster its defence capabilities. It is working on proposals to develop critical defences against such weapons, reinforcing the role of the NATO WMD Centre, and enhancing its ability to provide support to national authorities for the protection of civilian populations against the effects of any terrorist attack, in cooperation with partner countries. It is also exploring the scope for enhanced cooperation with the European Union in this field. In June 2002, NATO defence ministers endorsed a comprehensive package of WMD-defence capabilities initiatives to be presented at the Prague Summit.

Partner countries

In the aftermath of 11 September, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council (PJC), the NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC) and countries participating in NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue all joined NATO in condemning the attacks and offering their support to the United States. NATO continues to make extensive use of these mechanisms to consult with its partner countries about further steps.

The struggle against terrorism also served as a catalyst for the opening of a new chapter in NATO-Russia relations and the establishment, in May 2002, of the NATO-Russia Council, bringing together the 19 NATO allies and Russia in a new forum where they could identify and pursue opportunities for joint action as equal partners. The new Council identified the struggle against terrorism, crisis management and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as key areas of cooperation.

The Alliance has emphasised that terrorism is a threat to all societies and to universal human values and that the campaign against it is not a fight against Islam or the innocent people of any particular region or country. The 11 September attacks were strongly condemned by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference as contrary to the teaching of all religions. The Organisation has emphasised its support for international efforts to bring the perpetrators of the attacks to justice.

Ongoing efforts

NATO allies agree that a comprehensive effort comprising political, economic, diplomatic and military actions, as well as law enforcement measures, will be needed to combat terrorism. This will involve a long-term, multifaceted approach involving all allies individually, both as members of the Alliance and as members of the United Nations (UN), the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union (EU).

The NATO allies have demonstrated their solidarity with the United States supporting, and in several cases, taking part in United States-led military operations against terrorist targets in Afghanistan. These operations have directly benefited from the interoperability of forces, training and experience gained through NATO.

The military operations led by the United States resulted in the ousting of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, its replacement by an administration committed to peace and to rebuilding the country, and the disabling of large parts of the extensive Al-Qaida network in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Such action is considered by the NATO allies to be fully justified under international law, including Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, which safeguards the inherent right of its members to individual or collective self-defence. United Nations Security Council resolutions, characterising the 11 September attacks as a threat to international peace and security, also support measures taken by the United States in self-defence.

The Alliance recognises that the situation on the ground in Afghanistan remains volatile and that extreme vigilance is needed in view of the continuing potential for Taliban and Al-Qaida elements and forces sympathetic to them to use violence. Alliance member countries are supporting international efforts aimed at the stabilisation and reconstruction of Afghanistan following the ousting of the Taliban regime and have called for a continued international commitment to the country to ensure that it can never again become a safe haven for terrorists.

Individual allies are continuing to contribute to humanitarian relief efforts, in particular through the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), created on the basis of a United Nations mandate as a multinational security force to assist the Afghan administration in the stabilisation and reconstruction process. A total of nineteen countries, including NATO and partner countries, are contributing to the force.

New initiatives

In December 2001, NATO foreign and defence ministers discussed measures aimed at strengthening the Alliance's capabilities and its engagement with its partner countries in meeting the challenge of terrorism and ways of adapting the military capabilities of NATO member countries to meet new threats. NATO foreign ministers, meeting in May 2002, stated that they would continue to strengthen national and collective capacities to protect their populations, territory and forces from any armed attack, including terrorist attacks, directed from abroad.

While NATO's contribution to the fight against terrorism has already been significant, efforts are underway to better equip the Alliance and to allow it to play its full part in

what will inevitably be a long-term effort. Measures to be adopted at the Prague Summit are likely to include a comprehensive package of measures that will underline NATO's preparedness and ability to take on the full spectrum of security challenges before it, including terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

In addition to strengthening capabilities for defence against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks, such measures will seek to bring about improvements in secure command communications and information; to improve interoperability of deployed forces and key aspects of combat effectiveness; and to improve capabilities for the rapid deployment and sustainment of combat forces.

Measures to be adopted in specific areas of activity include the following:

- **A Military Concept** for defence against terrorism, underlining the Alliance's readiness to act against terrorist attacks, or the threat of such attacks, directed from abroad against the populations, territory, infrastructure and forces of member countries; to provide assistance to national authorities in dealing with the consequences of terrorist attacks; to support operations by the EU or other international organisations or coalitions involving allies; and to deploy forces as and where required to carry out such missions.
- **A Capabilities Improvement** action plan, setting out specific counter-terrorism capabilities and including firm national commitments to acquire them. This effort will be part of NATO's overall capabilities effort, and will also benefit EU efforts on its "Headline Goal".
- **Improved defence against weapons of mass destruction**, as part of the broader capabilities effort, focusing on defence against biological and chemical weapons. Five concrete initiatives are underway, including a deployable nuclear, chemical and biological (NBC) analytical laboratory; an NBC event response team; a virtual centre of excellence for NBC weapons defence; a NATO biological and chemical defence stockpile; and a disease surveillance system.
- **Consequence Management:** A Civil Emergency Planning action plan is expected to set out mechanisms and capabilities that may be used to manage the consequences of possible terrorist attacks, including those with weapons of mass destruction.
- **Partnership Action Plan:** A Partnership Action Plan on terrorism is expected to provide a framework document for NATO-partner cooperation on terrorism, defining partnership roles as well as instruments for fighting terrorism and managing its consequences.
- **Cyber defence:** Efforts are also underway within the Alliance to better protect against and otherwise prepare for a possible disruption of NATO and national critical infrastructure assets, including information and communications systems.

Operational Capabilities

Key Information

Key Definitions

- **DCI** (Defence Capabilities Initiative) – launched in 1999 to improve NATO defence and military capabilities to meet current and future security challenges and guarantee the effectiveness of future multinational operations.
- **The Alliance's Strategic Concept** – published in 1991, revised and reissued in 1999. This is the authoritative statement of NATO's purpose, objectives and tasks and the political and military means to be used in achieving them.

Key Facts

- DCI target areas: mobility and deployability, sustainability, survivability and effectiveness and interoperability of command, control and information systems.
- DCI objectives have aimed to strengthen European defence capabilities and to contribute to the development of the European Security and Defence Identity.
- Further measures to improve operational capabilities will be adopted at the Prague Summit in November 2002, when Heads of State and Government will launch a new initiative, concentrating on capabilities essential to the full range of Alliance missions including capabilities for defence against terrorism.

Key Dates

- **25 April 1999** – The Defence Capabilities Initiative is launched at the Washington Summit.
- **6 June 2002** – Defence ministers announce measures to bring about improvements in operational capabilities to be adopted at the Prague Summit.

Key Documents

- The Alliance's Strategic Concept, 24 April 1999.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm
- Statement on the Defence Capabilities Initiative by NATO Heads of State and Government, 25 April 1999.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99s069e.htm
- Statement on Defence Capabilities by NATO defence ministers, 6 June 2002.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/2002/p02-074e.htm

Key Issues

- Proposals to be submitted for approval by Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit will focus on a new capabilities initiative, concentrating on a small number of capabilities essential to the full range of Alliance missions. The proposals will be based on firm national commitments with specific target dates. The initiative will also help to strengthen capabilities for defence against terrorism.
- Recommendations will address defence against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks; strategic lift and modern strike capabilities; secure command communications and information superiority, interoperability of deployed forces and key aspects of combat effectiveness; and rapid deployment and sustainment of combat forces.

More Information

- NATO's Defence Capabilities Initiative, April 1999.
www.nato.int/docu/facts/2000/nato-dci.htm
- *The Pursuit of Enhanced Defence Capabilities* – address by Robert Bell, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Support, 24 January 2002.
www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020124b.htm
- “NATO's Future” – speech by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 3 February 2002.
www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020203a.htm
- “*Keeping NATO's Military Edge Intact in the 21st Century*” – address by General Joseph Ralston, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, 3 October 2002.
www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s021003d.htm
- “*The World in 2015 - Predicting the Unpredictable*” – speech by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 14 October 2002.
www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s021014a.htm

Key Quotations

“The maintenance of an adequate military capability and clear preparedness to act collectively in the common defence remain central to the Alliance’s security objectives. Such a capability, together with political solidarity, remains at the core of the Alliance’s ability to prevent any attempt at coercion or intimidation, and to guarantee that military aggression directed against the Alliance can never be perceived as an option with any prospect of success.”

From the Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 28.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“The objective of this initiative is to improve defence capabilities to ensure the effectiveness of future multinational operations across the full spectrum of Alliance missions in the present and foreseeable security environment with a special focus on improving interoperability among Alliance forces, and where applicable also between Alliance and Partner forces.”

From the Statement on the Defence Capabilities Initiative, April 1999, Paragraph 1.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99s069e.htm

“In identifying the most important areas for improvement, and with a special focus on interoperability, the work has concentrated on the deployability and mobility of Alliance forces, on their sustainability and logistics, their survivability and effective engagement capability, and on command and control and information systems.”

From the Statement on the Defence Capabilities Initiative, April, 1999, Paragraph 5.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99s069e.htm

“We are committed to providing NATO with the capabilities to carry out the full range of its missions [...].

The range of actions which NATO will be able to take in the future in response to terrorism and other challenges will depend on the success of our efforts to modernize the Alliance’s military capabilities.

[...] We noted the progress made in implementing the Defence Capabilities Initiative, launched at the Washington Summit, and agreed that a greater and more focused effort is now necessary. We therefore directed the Council in Permanent Session to prepare recommendations for a new capabilities initiative, taking into account military advice and national proposals. This should focus on a small number of capabilities essential to the full range of Alliance missions.

[...] The new initiative should be based on firm national commitments, with specific target dates, that our countries will make [...]. The initiative should lead to increased multinational cooperation and role sharing, including, where appropriate, through

commonly owned and operated systems. It should achieve mutual reinforcement and full transparency with the related activities of the European Capability Action Plan [...]”.

From the Statement on Capabilities by the North Atlantic Council in Defence Ministers Session, 6 June 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/2002/p02-074e.htm

* * *

“Capabilities, capabilities, capabilities.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, on NATO priorities, 20 July 2000.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2000/s000720a.htm

“Europeans can surely expect a tougher U.S. stance on transatlantic burden sharing. America’s allies should not fear this reaction in Washington. It is in all our interests to maximise individual and collective military capabilities.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 10 October 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s011010b.htm

“What specifically will such a transformation mean? Smaller but highly mobile, robust and technologically advanced armed forces, highly specialised and capable of immediate co-operation on various missions.”

President Havel of the Czech Republic, 19 May 2002.

www.hrad.cz/president/Havel/speeches/2002/1905_uk.html

“Defence capabilities have become the key to so many elements of the transatlantic agenda: from achieving success in NATO operations, to giving weight to the European pillar, to balancing transatlantic burdens more fairly, to meeting new threats.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 23 September 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020923a.htm

“The true measure of military effectiveness must be our ability to provide the full range of options to our political authorities [...] and to deliver on those options, whether the task is defending the Alliance borders or providing humanitarian aid out of area.”

General Joseph Ralston, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, 3 October 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s021003d.htm

Backgrounder

At the meeting of the North Atlantic Council on 6 June 2002, defence ministers issued a Statement on Capabilities in which they directed the Council in Permanent Session to prepare recommendations for a new capabilities initiative, taking into account military advice and national proposals, to be submitted to Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit. They directed that the initiative should focus on a small number of capabilities essential to the full range of Alliance missions and should be based on firm national commitments, with specific target dates.

* * *

The 1999 Defence Capabilities Initiative

At the Washington Summit in April 1999, NATO Heads of State and Government launched a Defence Capabilities Initiative designed to bring about improvements in the capabilities needed to ensure the effectiveness of future multinational operations across the full spectrum of Alliance missions, with a special focus on improving interoperability.

The statement accompanying this announcement emphasised that in accordance with its Strategic Concept, NATO must continue to maintain capabilities to deal with large-scale aggression against one or more of its members, although the probability of this occurring in the foreseeable future is low. Warning times for the possible emergence of such a threat are likely to remain long. Potential threats to Alliance security are more likely to result from regional conflicts, ethnic strife or other crises beyond Alliance territory, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Future Alliance military operations are likely to be smaller in scale than those which were the basis for Alliance planning during the Cold War and may also be longer in duration, extending multinational cooperation to lower levels and taking place concurrently with other Alliance operations. In many cases, such operations will include force contributions from partner countries and possibly from other non-NATO countries. Operations may need to be undertaken with little or no access to NATO infrastructure.

These developments will make new demands on the capabilities required of Alliance forces, in particular in the field of interoperability. However, many allies have limited capabilities for the rapid deployment of forces outside national territory, or for sustaining operations and protecting forces far from home bases. Against this background, the 1999 Defence Capabilities Initiative focused on interoperability, deployability and mobility, sustainability and logistics, survivability and effective engagement capability, and command and control and information systems.

New initiatives

While the Defence Capabilities Initiative has contributed to improvements in Alliance capabilities, progress has been uneven. The 11 September 2001 attacks on the United States increased both the urgency and the importance of further improvements. Accordingly, further measures will be adopted at the Prague Summit in November 2002, when Heads of State and Government will launch a new initiative. This is likely to concentrate on a small number of capabilities essential to the full range of Alliance missions and to strengthen capabilities for defence against terrorism.

The areas on which the initiative will concentrate, identified by NATO defence ministers in their statement of 6 June 2002, include the following:

- defence against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks;
- secure command communications and information superiority;
- improvements in interoperability of deployed forces and key aspects of combat effectiveness;
- rapid deployment and sustainment of combat forces.

The June statement on defence capabilities recognised that the ability of the Alliance to fulfil the full range of its missions would depend largely on the ability of member countries to increase substantially the proportion of their combat and support forces available for deployment on operations beyond home territory or where there is no substantial host nation support. Moreover, despite progress made in implementing the Defence Capabilities Initiative launched at the Washington Summit, a greater and more focused effort was needed. The new initiative should be realistic and achievable and be based on firm national commitments.

The statement identified several needs, including new methods to identify and implement cost-efficient solutions to defence capability shortfalls; and measures to reduce fragmentation of effort, to encourage appropriate pooling of military capabilities, to increase role specialisation, and to promote cooperative acquisition of equipment and common and multinational funding.

Following the informal meeting of defence ministers in Warsaw on 24 September 2002, NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson stated that the commitments on capabilities to be made at Prague would provide individual national pledges to meet agreed shortcomings over a clear timetable, focusing on the areas identified above.

While the focus of the new initiative will be much sharper and will involve individual commitments by NATO member countries to the specific capability improvements that they will contribute, either alone or with other allies, it will seek attainable targets. Its aim is very simple: to deliver the urgently needed capability improvements that the Alliance needs to carry out its missions.

The statement also announced further steps to enhance NATO's ability to defend its forces against chemical, biological and radiological weapons by endorsing a comprehensive package of WMD-defence capability initiatives.

A NATO Response Force

In parallel with the Alliance's drive to generate the operational capabilities it requires to fulfil its tasks, discussions are taking place on the best means of organising NATO forces in a manner that will optimise the Alliance's ability to respond to new challenges and threats. At the 24 September meeting of defence ministers in Warsaw, United States Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld proposed the creation of a NATO Response Force, able to deploy rapidly wherever needed and to conduct integrated joint operations to deal with small-scale contingencies or larger, higher intensity conflicts. The proposal envisages a joint force, drawing on a rotational pool of combat forces, headquarters and support elements that could rapidly be tailored to individual missions, and on the capabilities identified in the commitments to be made at Prague. Initial reactions to the proposal have been generally positive and further discussions are taking place in this context.

A military concept for defence against terrorism

In June 2002, defence ministers also reviewed the progress made on the development of a military concept for defence against terrorism, designed to guide the development of more detailed policies and doctrines. This might require the further adaptation of Alliance structures and capabilities to meet the threat posed by terrorism. The Concept will be incorporated into the package of measures to increase the Alliance's effectiveness against terrorism to be submitted to Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit.

In addition, defence ministers stated that despite earlier measures to adapt NATO's force structure to meet the demands of the post-Cold War security environment, there is an ongoing need both to adapt to new challenges, in particular to those posed by terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and to ensure NATO member countries have the structures and deployable forces capable of responding to new threats.

The command structure

A review of NATO's command arrangements is being undertaken as a further input into preparations for the Prague Summit, with the intention of establishing clear guidance and a firm timeframe for completion, so that decisions on command arrangements can be taken in 2003. The review encompasses crisis-related operational requirements, as well as peace-time requirements, both for the NATO command structure and the integrated force structure.

The Enlargement Process

Key Information

Key Definitions

- **Membership Action Plan (MAP)** – programme designed to help aspiring countries meet NATO standards and prepare for possible future membership.
- **NATO's Open Door Policy** – In accordance with Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty, the door to NATO membership remains open to other European countries that are ready and willing to undertake the commitments and obligations of membership and whose membership contributes to security in the Euro-Atlantic area.

Key Facts

- NATO was founded by 12 countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- There are currently 19 member countries of the Alliance, namely Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- There are currently ten partner countries participating in the MAP: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*).
- Participation in the MAP does not prejudice any decision by the Alliance on future membership.

Key Dates

- **18 February 1952** – Accession of Greece and Turkey.
- **6 May 1955** – Accession of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- **30 May 1982** – Accession of Spain.
- **28 September 1995** – Publication of Study on NATO enlargement.
- **12 March 1999** – Accession of Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.
- **24 April 1999** – Launching of the Membership Action Plan.

Key Documents

- The North Atlantic Treaty, 4 April 1949.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/treaty.htm
- Study on NATO Enlargement, 3 September 1995.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/enl-9501.htm
- “An Alliance for the 21st Century” (Washington Summit Communiqué), 24 April 1999.
www.nato.int/docu/comm/1999/9904-wsh/9904-wsh.htm
- Membership Action Plan, 24 April 1999.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-066e.htm

Key Issues

- Decisions on the next round of enlargement to be taken by NATO Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit.
- Factors associated with enlargement, including NATO’s internal preparations for the accession of new members, will be reviewed by NATO Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit.

More Information

- The Membership Action Plan
www.nato.int/docu/facts/2000/nato-map.htm
- NATO’s Open Door Policy
www.nato.int/docu/facts/2000/opendoor.htm
- The Accession of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland
www.nato.int/docu/facts/2000/access.htm

Key Quotations

“The Parties may, by unanimous agreement, invite any other European state in a position to further the principles of this treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area to accede to this treaty. [...]”

From Article 10 of The North Atlantic Treaty, 4 April 1949.

www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/treaty.htm

“This process is not directed against any country. Enlargement is aimed at extending stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic area.”

From the NATO Study on Enlargement, September 1995.

www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/enl-9501.htm

“The Alliance [...] expects to extend further invitations in coming years to nations willing and able to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership, and as NATO determines that the inclusion of these nations would serve the overall political and strategic interests of the Alliance, strengthen its effectiveness and cohesion, and enhance overall European security and stability.”

“NATO has established a programme of activities to assist aspiring countries in their preparations for possible future membership in the context of its wider relationship with them. No European democratic country whose admission would fulfill the objectives of the Treaty will be excluded from consideration.”

From the Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 39.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

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“The Prague Summit in November of next year will unequivocally move the enlargement process forward, to the very real benefit of the Alliance.”

“The Alliance offers a constant incentive for aspiring members to get their house in order, helps to erase dividing lines, and foster Euro-Atlantic integration.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 7 September 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s010907a.htm

“The admission of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to NATO and the opening of this possibility to other countries has been the greatest and most visible demonstration of the transformation of the Alliance [...]”.

Czech President Václav Havel, in *NATO Review*, Spring 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/review/2002/issue1/contents.html

“The expansion of NATO will also extend the security on this continent, especially for nations that knew little peace or security in the last century. We have moved cautiously in this direction. Now we must act decisively.”

U.S. President George Bush, 23 May 2002.

www.nato.int/usa/president/a20020523s.htm

Backgrounder

At their Summit Meeting in Madrid in July 1997, NATO Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that NATO remains open to new members under Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty. They stated that the Alliance would continue to welcome new members in a position to further the principles of the Treaty and contribute to security in the Euro-Atlantic area and expected to extend further invitations in coming years to countries willing and able to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership.

At the Washington Summit in April 1999, they directed NATO foreign ministers to keep the enlargement process, including the implementation of the Membership Action Plan (MAP), under continual review and announced that they would evaluate the process at their next Summit meeting which would be held no later than 2002.

In May 2002, the foreign ministers directed the Council in Permanent Session to prepare a comprehensive report on the relevant factors associated with decisions on enlargement for consideration by Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit.

* * *

For more than half a century, the North Atlantic Alliance has contributed significantly to the preservation of peace and stability on the territory of its member countries. Europe as a whole has also benefited. The enlargement of the Alliance is aimed at extending the zone of security and stability to other European countries, thereby strengthening peace and stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic area. The process of enlargement does not threaten any country.

The juridical basis for NATO's enlargement resides in Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 which states: "The Parties may, by unanimous agreement, invite any other European state in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area to accede to this Treaty [...]".

Since the signature of the Treaty, seven countries have joined the initial 12 signatories. NATO leaders have pledged that the Alliance will continue to welcome new members in a position to further the principles of the Treaty and contribute to peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic area. They have also launched a Membership Action Plan (MAP), specifically designed to provide advice and feedback to countries aspiring to join the Alliance.

The following countries currently participate in the MAP:

Albania - Bulgaria - Croatia - Estonia - Latvia - Lithuania - Romania - Slovakia - Slovenia - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*).

It is expected that invitations will be extended at Prague to a number of aspirant countries and that further invitations will be extended in coming years to other countries

willing and able to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership. Such invitations will be extended when NATO member countries consider that the inclusion of these countries would serve the overall political and strategic interests of the Alliance and would enhance overall Euro-Atlantic security and stability.

Origins of the current enlargement process

In the period immediately following the end of the Cold War, the newly independent states of Central and Eastern Europe attached the highest priority to resolving the question of their future security. Although the image of the Alliance created during the Cold War had been highly negative, based primarily on misperceptions and fear, opinions began to change as access to information increased and the institution of democracy took hold. Within a few years, President Havel of Czechoslovakia and other leaders had established membership of NATO as the principal foreign policy goal of their countries.

In July 1990 NATO extended the “hand of friendship” to its former adversaries in Central and Eastern Europe and initiated a process of dialogue and cooperation. It created a joint forum for multilateral consultation and cooperation in the form of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC), later to be replaced by the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), and launched the “Partnership for Peace” (PfP) to provide a framework for bilateral cooperation with each country on an individual basis.

Within a short space of time, all the countries involved had responded positively to these initiatives and had begun participating actively in programmes of practical cooperation. Several countries also identified membership of the Alliance as a major foreign policy goal and began to seek support for their future accession to the North Atlantic Treaty. In 1994, the Alliance recognised the need for a considered response, framed in terms of its overall objectives and long-term intentions for extending cooperation further afield and laying the basis for peace and stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic area.

At the January 1994 Brussels Summit, NATO leaders stated that they “*expect and would welcome NATO expansion that would reach to democratic states to our East.*” They reaffirmed that the Alliance was open to membership of other European states in a position to further the principles of the Washington Treaty and to contribute to security in the North Atlantic area.

Practical steps were taken to move the process forward in a manner that would ensure that Alliance goals and policies would not be compromised and that would also reassure Russia and other countries that the process would pose no threat to them. The Alliance needed to demonstrate that, on the contrary, extending the sphere of stability in the Euro-Atlantic area would enhance their own security and would be in their interests.

Accordingly, in 1995, the Alliance undertook a Study on NATO’s Enlargement to examine the “why and how” of future admissions into the Alliance. The results of the Study were shared with interested partner countries and made public. With regard to the “why” of NATO enlargement, the Study concluded that, with the end of the Cold War and the disappearance of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, there was both a

need for and a unique opportunity to build improved security in the whole of the Euro-Atlantic area, without recreating dividing lines.

The Study further concluded that enlargement of the Alliance would contribute to enhanced stability and security for all countries in the Euro-Atlantic area by encouraging and supporting democratic reforms, including the establishment of civilian and democratic control over military forces; fostering patterns and habits of cooperation, consultation and consensus-building characteristic of relations among members of the Alliance; and promoting good-neighbourly relations. It would increase transparency in defence planning and military budgets, thereby reinforcing confidence among states, and would reinforce the overall tendency toward closer integration and cooperation in Europe. The Study also concluded that enlargement would strengthen the Alliance's ability to contribute to European and international security.

With regard to the "how" of enlargement, the Study confirmed that any future extension of the Alliance's membership would be through accession of new member states to the North Atlantic Treaty in accordance with its Article 10. Once admitted, new members would enjoy all the rights and assume all obligations of membership. They would need to accept and conform with the principles, policies and procedures adopted by all members of the Alliance at the time they joined. The willingness and ability to meet such commitments would be a critical factor in any decision taken by the Alliance to invite a country to join.

Other conditions were stipulated, including the need for candidate countries to settle ethnic disputes or external territorial disputes by peaceful means before they could become members. The ability of candidate countries to contribute militarily to collective defence and to peacekeeping operations would also be a factor. Ultimately, the Study concluded allies would decide by consensus whether to invite additional countries to join, basing their decision on their judgement at the time as to whether the membership of a specific country would contribute to security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area or not.

Concurrently, within the same timeframe as the deliberations on enlargement, other factors served to reinforce the goals identified by the Study. In particular, the participation of aspirant and other partner countries in the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) and subsequent Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina provided a concrete demonstration of the benefits of the Partnership for Peace and the effectiveness of closer cooperation and integration with countries outside the existing membership of the Alliance.

At the Madrid Summit in July 1997, following a careful and comprehensive process of deliberation and of intensified, individual dialogue with interested partner countries, Allied Heads of State and Government invited the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to begin accession talks with NATO. Accession Protocols were signed in December 1997 and were duly ratified by all 16 NATO countries according to their respective national procedures and by the new members. The three countries formally acceded to the Treaty in March 1999.

The Membership Action Plan (MAP)

The Membership Action Plan was launched in April 1999 to assist other countries that wish to join the Alliance in their preparations by providing advice, assistance and practical support on all aspects of NATO membership.

The Plan has helped aspirant countries to focus their preparations on meeting the goals and priorities set out and has provided a range of activities designed to strengthen each country's candidacy. It gives substance to NATO's commitment to keep its door open. However, participation in the MAP does not guarantee future membership, nor does the Plan consist simply of a checklist for aspiring countries to fulfil. Decisions to invite aspirants to start accession talks will be taken on the basis of consensus among NATO member countries and on a case-by-case basis.

The MAP does not replace the Partnership for Peace programme. Full participation in the latter, and in its associated Planning and Review Process (PARP), is also considered essential since it allows aspirant countries to develop interoperability with NATO forces and to prepare their force structures and capabilities for possible future membership. The PARP provides a basis for identifying and evaluating forces and capabilities which might be made available for multinational training, exercises and operations in conjunction with Alliance forces.

Like the Partnership for Peace, the MAP is guided by the principle of self-differentiation. Aspirant countries are free to choose the elements of the MAP best suited to their own national priorities and circumstances. All aspirants submit an Annual National Programme on preparations for possible membership, covering political, economic, defence, military, resource, security and legal issues. They set their own objectives, targets and work schedules and update these annually.

NATO follows the progress made by each aspirant and provides advice. Meetings of the North Atlantic Council with each of the aspirants take place on a regular basis to discuss progress as well as meetings and workshops with NATO civilian and military experts in various fields to discuss the entire spectrum of issues relevant to membership. An annual consolidated progress report on activities under the MAP is presented to NATO foreign and defence ministers at their regular spring meetings each year.

Aspirant countries are expected to achieve certain goals in the political and economic fields. In addition to settling international, ethnic or external territorial disputes by peaceful means, these include demonstrating a commitment to the rule of law and human rights; establishing democratic control of armed forces; and promoting stability and well-being through economic liberty, social justice and environmental responsibility.

Discussion of defence, military and resource issues focuses on the ability of the country to contribute to collective defence and to the Alliance's new missions and on the need for any aspirant country to commit sufficient resources to defence to allow them to meet the commitments that future membership would bring.

In May 2002, NATO foreign ministers received a consolidated report on progress in the framework of the MAP and encouraged all aspirants to intensify their efforts both in the lead up to the Prague Summit and in the years ahead. They emphasised that after the Prague Summit, the MAP would continue to serve both aspirants and those countries invited to begin accession talks with the Alliance.

Partnership and Cooperation

Key Information

Key Definitions

- **Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC)** – a multilateral forum where NATO member and partner countries meet on a regular basis to discuss political and security-related issues, including regional issues, arms control, international terrorism, peacekeeping, defence economic issues, civil emergency planning and scientific and environmental issues.
- **Partnership for Peace (PfP)** – a major programme of practical cooperation between NATO and individual partner countries to develop cooperative military relations, enhance interoperability, facilitate transparency in national defence planning and budgeting and ensure democratic control of defence forces, and develop – over the longer term – forces that are better able to operate with those of the members of the Alliance.
- **North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC)** – predecessor of the EAPC – set up in 1991 to encourage dialogue and cooperation between NATO and non-NATO countries in Central and Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union.

Key Facts

- The EAPC currently has 46 members¹, comprising 19 NATO member countries and 27 partner countries, each of which participates in the Partnership for Peace.
- The EAPC provides the overarching political framework for the Partnership for Peace. It meets periodically at the level of ambassadors and foreign and defence ministers, and from time to time at the level of Heads of State and Government.
- All EAPC partner countries have missions at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. Most NATO committees and working groups also convene in EAPC/PfP formats.
- Since 1994, the political consultation element of the Partnership for Peace has been strengthened, facilitating greater involvement of partners in PfP-related decision-making and planning. Its operational role has also been developed.

¹ Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Key Dates

- **20 December 1991** – Inaugural meeting of the NACC with the participation of NATO countries and 9 Central and Eastern European Countries.
- **10 January 1994** – Launching of the Partnership for Peace. Publishing of the PfP Invitation and Framework Documents.
- **30 May 1997** – Concluding meeting of the NACC and inaugural meeting of the EAPC.
- **12 September 2001** – The EAPC condemns unconditionally the terrorist attacks on the United States and expresses solidarity with the American people.

Key Documents

- PfP Invitation and Framework Documents, 10 January 1994.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b940110b.htm
- Basic Document of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, 30 May 1997.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b970530a.htm
- Madrid Declaration on Euro-Atlantic Security and Cooperation, 8 July 1997.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/1997/p97-081e.htm
- “An Alliance for the 21st Century” – Washington Summit Communiqué, 24 April 1999.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-064e.htm
- Towards a Partnership for the 21st Century: The Enhanced and More Operational Partnership, Political Military Steering Committee of the PfP, 15 June 1999.
www.nato.int/pfp/docu/d990615g.htm

Key Issues

- The Prague Summit will examine concrete proposals for further developing the PfP and EAPC and intensifying cooperation in order to better serve allies and partners in addressing new security challenges, including terrorism.

More Information

- Birth and Development of the EAPC Idea – comprehensive web module on the EAPC.
www.nato.int/pfp/eapc.htm
- Partnership for Peace – comprehensive web module on the PfP.
www.nato.int/pfp/pfp.htm

Key Quotations

“We have today launched an immediate and practical programme that will transform the relationship between NATO and participating states. This new programme goes beyond dialogue and cooperation to forge a real partnership – a Partnership for Peace. We therefore invite the other states participating in the NACC and other CSCE countries able and willing to contribute to this programme, to join with us in this partnership. Active participation in the Partnership for Peace will play an important role in the evolutionary process of the expansion of NATO.”

From the Partnership for Peace Invitation Document, 10 January 1994.

www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/b940110a.htm

“This Partnership is established as an expression of a joint conviction that stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic area can be achieved only through cooperation and common action. Protection and promotion of fundamental freedoms and human rights, and safeguarding of freedom, justice, and peace through democracy are shared values fundamental to the Partnership.”

Partnership for Peace Framework Document, 10 January 1994, Paragraph 2.

www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/b940110b.htm

“The member countries of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and participating countries of the Partnership for Peace [...] have decided to establish a Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. In doing so, they reaffirm their joint commitment to strengthen and extend peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area, on the basis of the shared values and principles which underlie their cooperation, notably those set out in the Framework Document of the Partnership for Peace.”

From the Basic Document of the EAPC, Paragraph 1, 30 May 1997.

www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/b970530a.htm

“The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, as the successor to NACC, will provide the overarching framework for consultations among its members on a broad range of political and security-related issues, as part of a process that will develop through practice. PfP in its enhanced form will be a clearly identifiable element within this flexible framework. Its basic elements will remain valid. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council will build upon the existing framework of NATO’s outreach activities preserving their advantages to promote cooperation in a transparent way. The expanded political dimension of consultation and cooperation which the Council will offer will allow Partners, if they wish, to develop a direct political relationship individually or in smaller groups with the Alliance. In addition, the Council will provide the framework to afford Partner countries, to the maximum extent possible, increased decision-making opportunities relating to activities in which they participate.”

From the Basic Document of the EAPC, 30 May 1997, Paragraph 3.

www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/b970530a.htm

“We welcome and endorse the decision [...] to enhance the Partnership for Peace by strengthening the political consultation element, increasing the role partners play in PfP decision-making and planning, and by making PfP more operational.”

From the Madrid Declaration, 8 July 1997, Paragraph 10.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1997/p97-081e.htm

“Through its active pursuit of partnership, cooperation, and dialogue, the Alliance is a positive force in promoting security and stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic area. Through outreach and openness, the Alliance seeks to preserve peace, support and promote democracy, contribute to prosperity and progress, and foster genuine partnership with and among all democratic Euro-Atlantic countries. This aims at enhancing the security of all, excludes nobody, and helps to overcome divisions and disagreements that could lead to instability and conflict.”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 33.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) will remain the overarching framework for all aspects of NATO’s cooperation with its Partners. It offers an expanded political dimension for both consultation and cooperation. EAPC consultations build increased transparency and confidence among its members on security issues, contribute to conflict prevention and crisis management, and develop practical cooperation activities [...]”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 34.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“The Partnership for Peace is the principal mechanism for forging practical security links between the Alliance and its Partners and for enhancing interoperability between Partners and NATO. Through detailed programmes that reflect individual Partners’ capacities and interests, allies and Partners work towards transparency in national defence planning and budgeting; democratic control of defence forces; preparedness for civil disasters and other emergencies; and the development of the ability to work together, including in NATO-led PfP operations.”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 35.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

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“The EAPC provides for interoperability and substantial Partner contributions to all forms of Multinational Peace Support Operations.”

Bjorn Von Sydow, Minister of Defence of Sweden, 7 June 2000.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2000/s000609m.htm

“Today, in four years after the establishment of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, it has become evident that this structure is one of the most successful international innovations of the end of the 20th century in the field of international security.”

Anatoliy Zlenko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, 30 May 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s010530n.htm

“The unique feature distinguishing EAPC from other organisations is its operational nature.”

Girts Valdis Kristovskis, Minister of Defence of Latvia, 7 June 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2000/s020607d.htm

Backgrounder

In May 2002, NATO foreign ministers looked forward to a new, more substantive relationship with partner countries and to intensifying cooperation in responding to new security challenges, including terrorism. They tasked the Council in Permanent Session to continue reviewing the Alliance's partnerships, with a view to presenting Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit with concrete proposals for further developing the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and Partnership for Peace (PfP) in order to better serve allies and partners in addressing the challenges of the 21st century.

* * *

The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council was set up in 1997 to succeed the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC). It brings together the 19 allies and 27 partners¹ in a forum providing for regular consultation and cooperation. It meets at the level of ambassadors and foreign and defence ministers and periodically at Summit level. The EAPC provides a multilateral political framework for the bilateral, individual partnership programmes established between NATO and countries participating in the Partnership for Peace.

EAPC activities complement Partnership for Peace programmes. They are based on a two-year action plan which focuses on consultation and cooperation on political and security-related matters, including regional issues, arms control, international terrorism, peacekeeping, defence economic issues, civil emergency planning, and scientific and environmental issues.

In 1999, the EAPC played a valuable role as a forum for consultation on the crisis in Kosovo. A series of extraordinary meetings was held to keep partners informed of the status of NATO planning and preparations for possible military options in Kosovo and to exchange views on developments during and following the conflict.

An important achievement of the EAPC has been the establishment of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) at NATO headquarters, following a proposal by the Russian Federation. The Centre was inaugurated in June 1998 as the focal point for coordinating disaster relief efforts of the 46 Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council countries in case of natural or technological disasters. Soon after its inauguration, the Centre became actively involved in the coordination of flood-relief work in western Ukraine. In 1999, the Centre was called upon to support the UN High Commissioner for Refugees by coordinating humanitarian assistance from NATO and partner countries in response to the escalating refugee crisis in Albania and neighbouring countries.

¹ Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

EAPC Ambassadors met on 12 September 2001 following the terrorist attacks against the United States and issued a statement expressing solidarity with the people of the United States, condemning unconditionally the barbaric terrorist attacks and pledging to undertake all efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism.

Other EAPC activities include measures to foster practical regional security cooperation through topical seminars such as those held in Georgia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Uzbekistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. Areas for further practical initiatives can be expected to include global humanitarian action against mines, action to reduce accumulations of small arms and light weapons, and the international fight against terrorism.

The Partnership for Peace

The Partnership for Peace (PfP) is a major initiative introduced by NATO in January 1994, aimed at enhancing stability and security throughout Europe. The Partnership for Peace Invitation was addressed to all states participating in the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) and other states participating in the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (later to become the OSCE) able and willing to contribute to the programme.

The invitation has since been accepted by a total of 30 countries. The 1999 accession to the Alliance of the three former PfP countries – the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland – brings the current number of PfP participants to 27. The activities which each partner undertakes are based on jointly elaborated Individual Partnership Programmes (IPP).

The PfP programme focuses on defence-related cooperation but goes beyond dialogue and cooperation to forge a real partnership between each partner country and NATO. It has become an important and permanent feature of the European security architecture. It is helping to expand and intensify political and military cooperation throughout the Euro-Atlantic area, to increase stability and strengthen security relationships based on the practical cooperation and commitment to democratic principles which underpin the Alliance. In accordance with the PfP Framework Document issued by Heads of State and Government at the same time as the PfP Invitation Document, NATO undertakes to consult with any active partner if that partner perceives a direct threat to its territorial integrity, political independence, or security.

All members of PfP are also members of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) which provides the overall framework for cooperation between NATO and its partner countries. However, the Partnership for Peace retains its own separate identity and maintains its own basic elements and procedures. It is founded on the basis of a bilateral relationship between NATO and each one of the PfP countries.

The PfP Framework Document includes specific undertakings to be made by each participant. They are as follows:

- to facilitate transparency in national defence planning and budgeting processes;
- to ensure democratic control of defence forces;

- to maintain the capability and readiness to contribute to operations under the authority of the United Nations and/or the responsibility of the OSCE;
- to develop cooperative military relations with NATO, for the purpose of joint planning, training and exercises, in order to strengthen the ability of PfP participants to undertake missions in the field of peacekeeping, search and rescue, humanitarian operations, and others as may subsequently be agreed; and
- to develop, over the longer term, forces that are better able to operate with those of the members of the North Atlantic Alliance.

The Framework Document also states that active participation in the Partnership for Peace will play an important role in the evolutionary process of including new members in NATO. The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland were active participants in PfP prior to joining NATO. Aspirant countries participating in the Membership Action Plan are also active PfP participants.

The PfP Framework Document commits NATO to developing with partner countries a planning and review process (PARP), designed to provide a basis for identifying and evaluating forces and capabilities which might be made available for multinational training, exercises and operations in conjunction with Alliance forces.

The PARP has contributed significantly to the close cooperation of partner countries in the NATO-led peace operations in the former Yugoslavia. In addition, the PARP is helping to strengthen the political consultation element in PfP and to provide for greater partner involvement in PfP decision-making and planning. The PARP is also a crucial element in helping aspirant countries to prepare for membership of the Alliance.

In 1997, at their Madrid Summit, NATO countries agreed on enhancements to the PfP based on key principles such as inclusiveness and self-differentiation, with a view to developing closer and further-reaching cooperative ties with partner countries. These enhancements were designed in particular to:

- strengthen the political consultation element in PfP;
- provide for greater involvement of partners in PfP decision-making and planning; and
- develop a more operational role for PfP.

Decisions taken at the 1999 Washington Summit, including the approval of a Political-Military Framework for NATO-led PfP Operations (PMF) and the launching of an Operational Capabilities Concept (OCC), gave further impetus to the PfP process. Both measures were aimed at strengthening the operational role of the partnership.

The Operational Capabilities Concept has been developed to improve the ability of Alliance and partner forces to operate together in future NATO-led operations. It establishes a link between normal cooperation in the context of the Partnership for Peace and the NATO force generation process which is activated in a crisis.

With the adoption of the Alliance's new Strategic Concept at the Washington Summit, the Partnership was recognised as one of the Alliance's fundamental security tasks and acknowledged, along with crisis management, as a vital part of the enhancement of security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.

Subsequent enhancements to PfP include measures to improve training and education efforts, through a PfP Training and Education Enhancement Programme (TEEP), designed to contribute to improvements in interoperability, to promote greater cooperation and dialogue among the wider defence and security communities in NATO and partner countries and to optimise the use of human and other resources.

PfP is making a substantial contribution to NATO's South East Europe Initiative (SEEI), serving as a model for the development of cooperation activities at the regional level. A South East Europe Common Assessment Paper on Regional Security Challenges and Opportunities (SEECAP) has been negotiated among countries of the region to set out their common perceptions of security risks, with a view to promoting an agenda for cooperative actions to deal with regional challenges. A South East Europe Security Cooperation Steering Group (SEEGROUP) has also been established to strengthen practical cooperation.

In the wake of the 11 September attacks, the North Atlantic Council decided that Partnership for Peace mechanisms and requirements should be reviewed in order to maximise their potential in the context of the fight against terrorism. This decision was subsequently endorsed by the EAPC. The ongoing PfP review focuses on how Partnership should be adapted to meet future requirements, including development of the Partnership's ability to respond effectively to terrorism-related security concerns of allies and partners and to support NATO's own efforts in this regard. The resulting adaptation of the Partnership for Peace programme is likely to be an integral and important part of the decisions taken at the Prague Summit. A Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism is also being developed.

NATO and Russia

Key Information

Key Definitions

- **Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security** – a basic document on NATO-Russia relations signed in 1997.
- **Permanent Joint Council (PJC)** – forum established in 1997 under the Founding Act for regular consultation between NATO and Russia on security issues of common concern. The PJC was succeeded by the NATO-Russia Council in May 2002.
- **NATO-Russia Council (NRC)** – Established at the NATO-Russia Summit in Rome in May 2002 as a mechanism for consultation, consensus-building, cooperation, joint decision and joint action between the NATO member states and Russia on a wide spectrum of security issues, including terrorism, crisis management, non-proliferation, conventional and nuclear arms control and confidence-building measures, theatre missile defence, search and rescue at sea, military-to-military cooperation and defence reform, civil emergencies, and new threats and challenges.

Key Facts

- As signatories of the Founding Act, NATO allies and Russia have been working together since 1997 to strengthen security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.
- The 11 September terrorist attacks against the United States injected new impetus into the NATO-Russia relationship and led to recognition of the need for greater cooperation in dealing with new challenges and threats.
- The NATO-Russia Council serves as the principal structure and venue for advancing the relationship between NATO and Russia. It has replaced the Permanent Joint Council. In the framework of the NRC, NATO member states and Russia work as equal partners in areas of common interest. The NRC is chaired by the Secretary General of NATO.
- Meetings of the NATO-Russia Council are held at the level of foreign and defence ministers twice yearly and at summit level as appropriate. Meetings of the Council at the level of ambassadors take place at least monthly. Under the auspices of the NRC, military representatives and Chiefs of Staff also meet.

Key Dates

- **22 June 1994** – Beginning of Russia's participation in the Partnership for Peace (PfP).
- **13 January 1996** – Deployment of Russian troops in the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **22 March 1996** – NATO and Russia sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Civil Emergency Planning.
- **27 May 1997** – Signature of the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between NATO and the Russian Federation. Establishment of the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council.
- **28 May 1998** – NATO and Russia sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.
- **20 February 2001** – Inauguration of the NATO Information Office in Moscow.
- **13 September 2001** – The Permanent Joint Council condemns the terrorist attacks on the United States.
- **3 October 2001** – President Vladimir Putin and NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson meet in Brussels to discuss ways to enhance NATO-Russia cooperation in the wake of the 11 September terrorist attacks on the United States.
- **21-23 November 2001** – NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson visits Moscow to explore possibilities for a new level of partnership between Russia and NATO.
- **6 December 2001** – NATO foreign ministers task the North Atlantic Council in Permanent Session to develop ways to build on the Founding Act with a view to creating a new NATO-Russia Council.
- **7 December 2001** – The Permanent Joint Council, meeting at the level of foreign ministers, tasks ambassadors to explore and develop new and effective mechanisms for consultation, cooperation, joint decision and coordinated or joint action.
- **14 May 2002** – Foreign ministers of NATO member states and Russia approve a document on the creation of the NATO-Russia Council and submit it for adoption and signature by Heads of State and Government.
- **27 May 2002** – Opening of NATO's Military Liaison office in Moscow.
- **28 May 2002** – Heads of State and Government of NATO member countries and the Russian Federation sign the Rome Declaration on "NATO-Russia Relations: A New Quality", formally establishing the new NATO-Russia Council.
- **6 June** – Defence ministers of NATO member states and Russia hold their first meeting in the framework of the new NATO-Russia Council.
- **20 September 2002** – The NATO-Russia Council agrees on political aspects of a generic concept for future NATO-Russia peacekeeping operations.
- **24 September 2002** – Informal meeting of NRC defence ministers in Warsaw.

Key Documents

- Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security, 27 May 1997.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/fndact-a.htm
- “NATO-Russia Relations: A New Quality” – Rome Declaration by Heads of State and Government of NATO Member States and the Russian Federation, 28 May 2002.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b020528e.htm
- Statement by the NATO-Russia Council at the level of Defence Ministers, 6 June 2002.
www.nato.int/docu/comm/2002/0206-hq-0206-hq.htm

Key Issues

- Implementation of the Rome Declaration of 28 May 2002. Intensification of cooperation in areas of common concern, including the development of joint assessments of the terrorist threat to the Euro-Atlantic area.

More Information

- NATO-Russia – comprehensive web module on NATO-Russia relations.
www.nato.int/pfp/nato-rus.htm

Key Quotations

“NATO and Russia base their relations on a shared commitment to the following principles:

Development, on the basis of transparency, of a strong, stable, enduring and equal partnership and of cooperation to strengthen security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area;

Acknowledgement of the vital role that democracy, political pluralism, the rule of law, and respect for human rights and civil liberties and the development of free market economies play in the development of common prosperity and comprehensive security;

Refraining from the threat or use of force against each other as well as against any other state, its sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence in any manner inconsistent with the United Nations Charter and with the Declaration of Principles Guiding Relations Between Participating States contained in the Helsinki Final Act;

Respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all states and their inherent right to choose the means to ensure their own security, the inviolability of borders and peoples’ right of self-determination as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE documents;

Mutual transparency in creating and implementing defence policy and military doctrines;

Prevention of conflicts and settlement of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with UN and OSCE principles;

Support, on a case-by-case basis, of peacekeeping operations carried out under the authority of the UN Security Council or the responsibility of the OSCE.”

From the NATO-Russia Founding Act, May 1997.

www.nato.int/docu/basic/txt/fndact-a.htm

“Russia plays a unique role in Euro-Atlantic security. Within the framework of the NATO-Russia Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security, NATO and Russia have committed themselves to developing their relations on the basis of common interest, reciprocity and transparency to achieve a lasting and inclusive peace in the Euro-Atlantic area based on the principles of democracy and cooperative security. NATO and Russia have agreed to give concrete substance to their shared commitment to build a stable, peaceful and undivided Europe. A strong, stable and enduring partnership between NATO and Russia is essential to achieve lasting stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 36.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“At the start of the 21st century we live in a new, closely interrelated world, in which unprecedented new threats and challenges demand increasingly united responses. Consequently, we, the member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Russian Federation are today opening a new page in our relations, aimed at enhancing our ability to work together in areas of common interest and to stand together against common threats and risks to our security.”

“The NATO-Russia Council, replacing the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council, will focus on all areas of mutual interest identified in Section III of the Founding Act, including the provision to add other areas by mutual agreement. The work programmes for 2002 agreed in December 2001 for the PJC and its subordinate bodies will continue to be implemented under the auspices and rules of the NATO-Russia Council. NATO member states and Russia will continue to intensify their cooperation in areas including the struggle against terrorism, crisis management, non-proliferation, arms control and confidence-building measures, theatre missile defence, search and rescue at sea, military-to-military cooperation, and civil emergencies.”

From the Rome Summit Declaration by Heads of State and Government of NATO Member States and the Russian Federation, May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b020528e.htm

* * *

“NATO is prepared to change the quality of its relationship with Russia, and Russia is ready for this.”

President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, 3 October 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/update/2001/1001/e1003a.htm

“What I have found extraordinary and encouraging is the way not just Russia but our NATO partners have embraced the idea of this new relationship in a way again that would have been frankly unthinkable a few years ago.”

UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, 22 December 2001.

www.number10.gov.uk/output/page4163.asp

“We can very clearly see a common threat, a common enemy for perhaps the first time in 60 years – Intensified NATO-Russia cooperation is a central pillar of the global struggle against terrorism.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 4 February 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/update/2002/02-february/e0204a.htm

“I would like to tell women and men in all our countries that what we are achieving here today will guarantee a more peaceful and secure future for them. We are stronger than before, we have done away with the differences between us, done away with the nightmare of two nuclear arsenals facing one another.”

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy, 28 May 2002.

<http://www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/0205-rome/0205-rome.htm>

“I would like to pay a particular tribute to President Vladimir Putin for his vision and courage in breaking the bonds of old policies and all politics.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020580.htm.

“The NATO-Russia Council offers Russia a path toward forming an alliance with the Alliance. It offers all our nations a way to strengthen our common security, and it offers the world a prospect of a more hopeful century.”

U.S. President George W. Bush, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528e.htm

“NATO and Russia will emphasise what unites them, not what separates them.”

Prime Minister of Belgium, Guy Verhofstadt, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528o.htm.

“The (NATO-Russia) Council will be a success story as long as its existence is filled with substance and mutual trust.

[...] Joined by responsibility and determination to co-operate – NATO and Russia at one table, on equal footing, in the interest of Europe and the world.”

President Aleksander Kwaśniewski of Poland, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528i.htm

“Our generation had intensively experienced the tensions and fears of the Cold War. The collapse of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent development removed these fears. Today we are embarking on a new journey of mutual trust, by completely breaking all walls of suspicion in our memories.”

President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528j.htm.

“ [...] uniting Europe in freedom, democracy and security is our common endeavour. Making the NATO-Russia Council work is in our common interest.”

José Manuel Durão Barroso, Prime Minister of Portugal, 28 May 2002 .

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528x.htm

“Today, we are holding our very first meeting at twenty. We hope that our relations with NATO will continue to expand. And our difficult work, which is important to us all, will be built not only on mutual respect, but also on the committed search for new common ground. Only thus can the logic of common interests be transformed into the logic of joint action. And I believe that this is one of the main tasks of the NATO-Russia Council.”

Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, Rome, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528u.htm

“ With the signing of the Founding Act almost exactly five years ago, NATO and the Russian Federation drew the necessary conclusions from the dramatic transformation of the strategic environment after the disappearance of the Iron Curtain and the end of the East-West confrontation. The Founding Act will remain the bedrock of our relations. [...]”

Today, we are going one step further and opening a new chapter in relations between NATO and Russia.”

Gerhard Schröder, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Rome, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528v.htm

Backgrounder

On 28 May 2002, Heads of State and Government of NATO member states and Russia adopted and signed the Rome Declaration, creating the NATO-Russia Council (NRC), a mechanism for consultation, consensus-building, cooperation, joint decision, and joint action on a wide range of security issues in the Euro-Atlantic region. Spurred by the events of 11 September 2001, this decision demonstrates a shared resolve to work closely together as equal partners in areas of common interest and to stand together against common threats and risks to security.

* * *

Building bridges with Russia

Since the end of the Cold War, NATO has attributed particular importance to developing cooperation with Russia, whose involvement is critical for any comprehensive system of European security. A founding member of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in 1991, Russia joined the Partnership for Peace in 1994 and developed a programme of practical cooperation in specific fields. The basis for the development of a stronger, durable partnership between NATO and Russia was provided by the 1997 Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security, which expressed a joint commitment to build a lasting and inclusive peace in the Euro-Atlantic area.

Under the Founding Act, the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council was created as a forum for regular consultation on security issues of common concern. Its aim was to build mutual confidence and help overcome misperceptions, through dialogue and the development of a substantial programme of security and defence-related cooperation.

A Russian Mission to NATO was established on 18 March 1998 to facilitate communications and cooperation. On 20 February 2001, a NATO Information Office was inaugurated in Moscow to improve public knowledge and understanding of the Alliance in Russia. A NATO Military Liaison Mission was also established in Moscow, on 27 May 2002, to improve transparency and develop practical military cooperation between NATO military authorities and Russia's Ministry of Defence.

One of the most successful areas of cooperation has been the joint commitment to promoting peace and stability in the Balkans. Russian and NATO soldiers have worked together effectively since 1996, both within the Implementation Force (IFOR) and in the subsequent Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to support the international community's efforts to build lasting security and stability in the region. Uninterrupted cooperation between NATO and Russia in this crucial field, despite political differences over NATO's 1999 decision to take military action in order to end the conflict in Kosovo, reflects shared goals and joint political responsibility for the implementation of the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords.

Similarly, NATO and Russian forces have jointly contributed to the work of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) established in 1999, following the military campaign undertaken by

NATO to end the violence, ethnic cleansing, and repression of the Albanian minority in Kosovo. Russia played a vital diplomatic role in securing an end to the Kosovo conflict. Its participation in KFOR was the subject of an agreement with NATO signed in Helsinki, following the conclusion of the Military Technical Agreement signed by NATO and Yugoslav military commanders on 9 June 1999 and UN Security Council Resolution 1244 of 12 June, establishing the basis for an international security presence in Kosovo. Russia contributes the largest non-NATO contingent to both SFOR and KFOR.

An extensive programme of cooperation has also led to significant achievements in other spheres. Examples are given below.

Defence-related cooperation

As a result of NATO-Russia cooperation in defence reform, an information, consultation and training centre was established in Moscow on 3 July 2002 to help resettle recently and soon-to-be discharged Russian military personnel. A joint NATO-Russia conference on defence reform was held on 10 October 2002 at the NATO Defense College in Rome.

Civil emergency planning and disaster relief

A Memorandum of Understanding on Civil Emergency Planning and Disaster Preparedness between NATO and the Russian Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies and the Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters was signed on 20 March 1996. Its aim is to develop a capacity for joint action in response to civil emergencies, such as earthquakes and floods, and coordinate detection and prevention of disasters before they occur.

Russia actively participates in NATO-led civil emergency planning activities under the Partnership for Peace and has hosted a number of major exercises, seminars and workshops. In 1997, the Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee, which advises the North Atlantic Council on civil emergency and disaster relief matters, became the first NATO committee to meet in Moscow. In 1997, a joint pilot project was launched on using satellite technology in disaster management.

A Russian proposal led to the creation in 1998 of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, to help to coordinate assistance among partner countries in response to civil emergencies. The Centre played a key role during the Kosovo refugee crisis.

From 25-27 September 2002, NATO and Russia held their first joint crisis-response field exercise in Noginsk, 70 kilometres outside Moscow. Exercise *Bogorodsk 2002* simulated a terrorist attack on a chemical production facility, involving mass casualties, contamination, collapsed structures, evacuation and a request for international assistance by the Russian Federation.

Search and rescue at sea

The tragic sinking of the Russian nuclear submarine, *Kursk*, on 12 August 2000, led to agreement in December 2000 on a NATO-Russia work programme on search and rescue at sea. Major strides have been made since then in promoting cooperation, transparency and confidence in this area.

Scientific and environmental cooperation

Since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between NATO and the Russian Ministry for Science and Technology on 28 May 1998, an extensive programme of cooperation has been developed in the scientific and environmental fields. Under the direction of a Committee on Joint Scientific and Technological Cooperation, the programme focuses on three specific areas of particular interest to Russia, namely plasma physics, plant biotechnology and the forecasting and prevention of natural and industrial catastrophes.

The NATO Science Programme has awarded over 1000 grants to Russian scientists. NATO science fellowships and grants support the training of scientists and researchers as well as collaboration between scientists from Russia and NATO countries on specific research projects.

Combating new security threats

Russia and NATO consult regularly on new security challenges, including terrorist threats, the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and the spread of ballistic missile technology. In the wake of 11 September, cooperation in these areas has intensified.

NATO and Russia have launched a series of cooperative efforts aimed at combating the terrorist threat, including a regular exchange of views between terrorism experts. A high-level conference on "The Military Role in Combating Terrorism", co-sponsored by NATO and the Russian defence ministry, brought together civilian and military experts at the NATO Defense College in Rome on 4 February 2002. A follow-up conference is planned for December 2002.

Anti-terrorism cooperation has also extended to scientific research. A workshop on "Social and Psychological Consequences of Chemical, Biological and Radiological Terrorism" took place in March 2002.

On the basis of the Rome Declaration of 28 May 2002, NATO and Russia have decided to intensify their cooperation further in this area, including through the development of joint assessments of the terrorist threat to the Euro-Atlantic area.

The road to the Rome Summit and the creation of the NATO-Russia Council

The events of 11 September 2001 were a stark reminder of the need for comprehensive and coordinated action to respond to common threats. In a joint statement after an extraordinary session of the Permanent Joint Council (PJC) on 12 September, NATO and Russia called on “the entire international community to unite in the struggle against terrorism”.

On 3 October 2001, Russian President Vladimir Putin and NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson met in Brussels to discuss possibilities for deepening NATO-Russia cooperation. Further high-level contacts paved the way for the initiative, announced by foreign ministers at the meeting of the PJC on 7 December 2001 in Brussels, to give new impetus and substance to the NATO-Russia partnership by creating a new council to identify and pursue opportunities for joint action.

At the meeting of the PJC in Reykjavik on 14 May 2002, foreign ministers approved a joint declaration on “NATO-Russia Relations: A New Quality”, which was adopted and signed by Heads of State and Government and the Secretary General of NATO at the NATO-Russia Summit meeting in Rome on 28 May 2002. Building on the goals and principles of the 1997 Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security, the Rome Declaration establishes the NATO-Russia Council as a mechanism for consultation, consensus-building, cooperation, joint decision and joint action on a wide spectrum of Euro-Atlantic security issues of common interest.

The NRC works on the principle of consensus and on the basis of continuous political dialogue on security issues designed to identify emerging problems at an early stage and to determine common approaches and, where appropriate, the conduct of joint actions. Meetings are held at least monthly at the level of ambassadors and military representatives; twice yearly at the level of foreign and defence ministers and chiefs of staff; and occasionally at summit level.

Both the former NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council (PJC) and the NATO-Russia Council that replaces it were established on the basis of the Founding Act. As distinct from the PJC, which facilitated consultation and exchange of information between NATO and Russia, the NRC provides a more effective and flexible mechanism for joint analysis, joint decisions and joint actions, operating on the principle of consensus.

The work of the NATO-Russia Council focuses on all areas of mutual interest identified in the Founding Act and seeks to intensify cooperation in a number of key areas. These include the struggle against terrorism, crisis management, non-proliferation, arms control and confidence-building measures, theatre missile defence, search and rescue at sea, military-to-military cooperation and civil emergencies. Further areas of cooperation will be identified.

Substantive progress has been made in implementing the goals of the NATO-Russia Council. Meetings of NRC defence ministers were held on 6 June and 25 September 2002. NRC ambassadors have also met and have agreed on the creation of four new working groups in the areas of terrorism, proliferation, theatre missile defence, and airspace management. The Working Group on Peacekeeping established under the PJC has also been carried over into the NRC framework. In other areas in which NATO and Russia have agreed to develop specific action plans, a number of meetings of experts have been arranged.

NATO and Ukraine

Key Information

Key Definitions

- **NATO-Ukraine Charter on a Distinctive Partnership** – a basic document signed in 1997 establishing the partnership between NATO and Ukraine, which asserts NATO's support for Ukrainian sovereignty and independence, its territorial integrity, democratic development, economic prosperity and status as a non-nuclear state.
- **NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC)** – a forum established in accordance with the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership for discussion of issues of common interest and ways of further developing NATO-Ukraine cooperation.

Key Facts

- NATO and Ukraine cooperate on a broad range of issues, including the campaign against terrorism, political cooperation on regional security issues, civil emergency planning and disaster preparedness, Ukrainian defence reform, peacekeeping and science and technology. Cooperation in these fields has enhanced Ukraine's security and regional stability.
- A NATO Information and Documentation Centre was set up in Kyiv in May 1997 to distribute NATO-related information and to explain NATO's post-Cold War role and the benefits of the Distinctive Partnership to the Ukrainian public.
- A NATO Liaison Office was established in Kyiv in April 1999 to facilitate Ukraine's participation in the Partnership for Peace and to support Ukrainian efforts in the area of defence reform.
- In the wake of 11 September 2001, Ukraine opened its airspace to allied aircraft involved in the anti-terrorist campaign in Afghanistan and made its military transport aircraft available for the deployment of allied troops.

Key Dates

- **8 February 1994** – Beginning of Ukrainian participation in the Partnership for Peace.
- **7 May 1997** – NATO Information and Documentation Centre opens in Kyiv.
- **9 July 1997** – NATO and Ukraine sign the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership.
- **16 December 1997** – NATO and Ukraine sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Civil Emergency Planning and Disaster Preparedness.

- **23 April 1999** – NATO Liaison Office opens in Kyiv.
- **11 October 1999** – NATO and Ukraine sign an agreement to provide civilian training for retired Ukrainian army officers.
- **14 September 2001** – The NATO-Ukraine Commission condemns the acts of terrorism committed against the United States.
- **15 May 2002** – The NATO-Ukraine Commission, meeting at the level of foreign ministers, agrees to take the Distinctive Partnership to a qualitatively new level, including intensified consultations and cooperation on political, economic and defence issues.
- **7 June 2002** – NATO and Ukraine defence ministers pay tribute to the strategic importance of the Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine and underline their common desire to develop their relationship to a qualitatively new level.
- **9 July 2002** – NATO and Ukraine sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Host Nation Support regarding the use of Ukrainian military assets and capabilities for NATO exercises and operations.

Key Documents

- NATO-Ukraine Charter on a Distinctive Partnership.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/ukrchrt.htm

Key Issues

- NATO and Ukraine are working to deepen and expand their partnership and create a strong framework for cooperation. This will include intensified consultations and cooperation on political, economic and defence issues, with a view to raising the relationship to a qualitatively new level.

More Information

- NATO-Ukraine Relations – comprehensive web module on NATO-Ukraine relations.
www.nato.int/pfp/nato-ukr.htm

Key Quotations

“We attach great importance to tomorrow’s signing of the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine. The NATO-Ukraine Charter will move NATO-Ukraine cooperation on to a more substantive level, offer new potential for strengthening our relationship, and enhance security in the region more widely. We are convinced that Ukraine’s independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty are a key factor for ensuring stability in Europe. We continue to support the reform process in Ukraine as it develops as a democratic nation with a market economy.

We want to build on steps taken to date in developing a strong and enduring relationship between NATO and Ukraine. We welcome the practical cooperation achieved with the Alliance through Ukraine’s participation with IFOR and SFOR, as well as the recent opening of the NATO Office in Kyiv, as important contributions in this regard. We look forward to the early and active implementation of this charter.”

From the Madrid Declaration, 8 July 1997.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1997/p97-081e.htm

“The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and its member States and Ukraine [...] are committed, on the basis of this Charter, to further broaden and strengthen their cooperation and to develop a distinctive and effective partnership, which will promote further stability and common democratic values in Central and Eastern Europe.”

From the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, 9 July 1997.

www.nato.int/docu/basicxtxt/ukrchrt.htm

“Ukraine occupies a special place in the Euro-Atlantic security environment and is an important and valuable partner in promoting stability and common democratic values. NATO is committed to further strengthening its distinctive partnership with Ukraine on the basis of the NATO-Ukraine Charter, including political consultations on issues of common concern and a broad range of practical cooperation activities. The Alliance continues to support Ukrainian sovereignty and independence, territorial integrity, democratic development, economic prosperity and its status as a non-nuclear weapons state as key factors of stability and security in Central and Eastern Europe and in Europe as a whole.”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 37.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

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“The Alliance acknowledges that Ukraine has an important and even unique place in the European security order. An independent democratic and stable Ukraine is one of the key factors of stability and security in Europe. Its geographical position gives it a major role and responsibility.”

NATO Secretary General Javier Solana, 7 May 1997.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/1997/s970507a.htm

“Ukraine has played a singular role in Eurasia’s past; its ties with NATO can help play a singular role in Europe’s future.”

U.S. Secretary of State, Madeline Albright, 25 May 2000.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2000/s000525i.htm

“Its size and pivotal strategic role make Ukraine a key to ensuring Europe’s long term stability. That is why NATO has consistently sought to assist Ukraine, as it charts its way into the future.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 5 July 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s10705a.htm

“NATO’s modified task, together with its next phase of enlargement and the new format of relations with Russia create, in our view, a favourable atmosphere for advancing our cooperation.”

Anatoliy Zlenko, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, 15 May 2002.

<http://www.nato.int/docu/comm/2002/0205-icl/0205-icl.htm>

“A sovereign Ukraine is a strategic player in forming Europe’s security landscape [...] Our partnership rests on two very basic premises:

First: the process of building indivisible security in Europe cannot be complete without the full inclusion and participation of Ukraine;

Second: a strong commitment to joint values, the values of the Euro-Atlantic community, and a strong commitment to defend these values when they are challenged.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 15 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020515t.htm

Backgrounder

Allied and Ukrainian foreign ministers meeting in Reykjavik on 15 May 2002 underlined their desire to take the NATO-Ukraine relationship to a qualitatively new level by intensifying consultations and cooperation on political, economic and defence issues. They tasked the NATO-Ukraine Commission at ambassadorial level to explore and develop new mechanisms and modalities for a deepened and broader relationship, building on the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, with a view to defining the basis for a reinforced relationship.

* * *

Since the signing of the 1997 Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, cooperation between NATO and Ukraine, in political, military, economic, scientific, civil emergency and other fields, has been a significant factor in consolidating overall regional stability and security. It has also reinforced Ukraine's standing as a key player in the Euro-Atlantic area. The Charter reflects Ukraine's declared strategy of increasing its integration in European and transatlantic structures and is the basis for NATO and Ukraine consultations in areas of Euro-Atlantic security and stability such as conflict prevention, crisis management, peace support and humanitarian operations.

Ukraine established cooperative relations with NATO immediately after its declaration of independence in 1991. It became an active participant in the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (now the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council) and, in 1994, became the first country of the Commonwealth of Independent States to join the Partnership for Peace (PfP). While Ukraine continues to play an active role within PfP, the signing of the Charter signified a new beginning for NATO-Ukraine cooperation and reflected NATO's recognition of the importance of the strategic role of the NATO-Ukraine relationship.

The North Atlantic Council meets periodically with Ukraine at ministerial and ambassadorial levels in a forum established by the Charter called the NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC). The role of the NUC is to assess implementation of the Charter and to discuss ways to improve or further develop cooperation. The NATO Military Committee also meets regularly with Ukraine at Chiefs of Staff and Military Representatives levels.

The NATO-Ukraine relationship allows for political consultations on security issues of common concern, including cooperation in defence reform, defence industry restructuring, downsizing and conversion, training and assistance to improve Ukraine's interoperability with NATO, the retraining of retired military officers for civilian jobs, training for active-duty officers and scientific and environmental questions.

A NATO Information and Documentation Centre was established in Kyiv in 1997 to facilitate wider access to information on NATO and, in particular, on NATO's post-Cold War role and on the benefits to Ukraine of the Distinctive Partnership. In 1999, NATO also opened a Liaison Office in Kyiv to facilitate Ukraine's participation in the Partnership for Peace and to support Ukrainian efforts in the area of defence reform.

Peacekeeping

Ukraine has contributed significantly to NATO peacekeeping activities in the Balkans, and in 1996 deployed an infantry battalion of 550 soldiers to work alongside NATO member and partner countries in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the framework of the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR). Ukraine later contributed a mechanised infantry battalion to the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) and made available a helicopter squadron.

Ukraine also made significant contributions to international peacekeeping activities by providing forces for the NATO-led force in Kosovo (KFOR) and by contributing a mechanised company and helicopter squadron. In July 2000, the newly-created Polish-Ukrainian battalion was deployed to the region and continues to make a significant contribution to the NATO-led peacekeeping operation in Kosovo.

Defence reform and military cooperation

NATO-Ukraine cooperation has helped to identify and develop areas in which further adjustments and reforms are required to enable Ukraine to consolidate its role in Euro-Atlantic security structures. A NATO-Ukraine Joint Working Group on Defence Reform has been established to assist in this process by developing realistic, affordable planning targets and timelines based on Ukrainian requirements. Using the PfP Planning and Review Process, this approach allows the clear identification of priorities linked to financial resources.

Activities of the Joint Working Group also include managing the consequences of defence reform, for example by developing a civilian cadre for the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence and on-the-job training for Ukrainian personnel in NATO capitals. As a contribution to the restructuring of Ukrainian Armed Forces, NATO has organised retraining programmes for military officers, including language instruction and courses on the management of defence planning, human resources, and defence conversion.

Another key aspect of defence-reform cooperation is the identification of surplus munitions and weapons for safe destruction. The creation of a PfP Trust Fund in July 2002 is facilitating the destruction of 400 000 anti-personnel land mines.

Combating new threats to security, including terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, is another major challenge confronting the NATO-Ukraine partnership. Ukraine became the first partner country to declare its support for NATO's invocation of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty in response to the terrorist attacks of 11 September and subsequently opened its airspace to allied aircraft involved in the anti-terrorist campaign in Afghanistan. Ukrainian airlift capabilities also played a crucial role in transporting allied troops involved in the anti-terrorist operations in Afghanistan.

In July 2002, NATO and Ukraine signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Host Nation Support, which will facilitate further military cooperation between NATO and Ukraine.

Disaster relief

Cooperation in the field of civil emergency planning is an area in which extensive cooperation has taken place between NATO and Ukraine. The disastrous flooding in Kharkiv in 1995 highlighted the need to strength cooperation in this sphere. In response to a request from the government of Ukraine, NATO countries immediately sent personnel and resources to the affected area.

Consultations on the substance and extent of cooperation in the field of civil emergency planning has since become a regular feature of Ukraine's cooperation programmes with NATO. In 1997, a Memorandum of Understanding on Civil Emergency Planning and Disaster Preparedness was signed, establishing this as a major area of cooperation between NATO and Ukraine.

NATO and Ukraine have focused their cooperation on the practical dimensions of civil emergency planning through joint planning and exercises, enabling Ukraine to test its resources and apply the expertise gained from past experiences with flooding and with the management of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe. The overall objective is to strengthen regional self-sufficiency in managing civil crises.

In November 1998, cooperation in this field was again put to the test when heavy rains led to extensive flooding in the Tisa river basin in western Ukraine. NATO and partner countries provided immediate and effective assistance to the flood-stricken area.

Two years later, a major multinational exercise, *Transcarpathia 2000*, was held in Uzhgorod, in western Ukraine, a region which has experienced significant flooding in recent years. Several aspects of disaster relief were tested during the exercise, including reconnaissance, search and rescue, water purification, and dealing with toxic chemicals.

Science and the environment

Ukrainian participation in cooperative programmes under the auspices of the NATO Science Programme began in 1991. Since then, over 500 grants have been awarded to Ukrainian scientists.

Computer networking grants have also helped to improve the level and quality of communications in Ukraine, providing a number of scientific and educational institutions with access to the internet and creating the basic network infrastructure for enhanced research and education in the country. A NATO-Ukraine Working Group on Scientific Cooperation has been set up to identify new ways to intensify cooperation and to foster increased participation in the programme.

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Meetings of the NATO-Ukraine Commission at ministerial and ambassadorial level have continued to focus on practical cooperation in specific areas and to review progress. In May 2002, the Commission decided to explore ways of developing a deepened and broadened relationship between NATO and Ukraine.

The NATO-EU Strategic Partnership

Key Information

Key Definitions

- **European Security and Defence Identity (ESDI)** – embraces measures taken by NATO since 1996 to strengthen the European pillar of the Alliance.
- **Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)** – policy enshrined in the Maastricht Treaty of 1992 adding a foreign policy dimension to cooperation within the European Union (EU).
- **European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)** – an integral part of CFSP.
- **Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF)** – a military planning concept adopted by NATO in 1994 designed to improve operational flexibility and mobility for NATO's new missions. The concept provides for separable but not separate deployable headquarters that could also be used for European-led operations and is the conceptual basis for future operations involving NATO and other non-NATO countries.

Key Facts

- At the Helsinki Council meeting in December 1999, the EU established a “Headline Goal” aimed at developing by 2003 military capabilities to permit crisis management operations, drawing on NATO assets, in circumstances where NATO itself is not involved. The Headline Goal seeks to develop the capability to deploy and sustain for at least one year a military force of up to 60 000 troops for the so-called “Petersberg tasks” (humanitarian and rescue tasks, peacekeeping tasks, and tasks of combat forces, including peacemaking).
- Both NATO and the EU are acting to improve “operational capabilities”. NATO launched a Defence Capabilities Initiative at the Washington Summit in 1999 and will launch a new initiative at the Prague Summit focusing on essential capabilities needed to accomplish the full range of its missions. The EU has developed a European Capability Action Plan. Actions taken under these initiatives will be mutually reinforcing and transparent.

Key Dates

- **7 February 1992** – Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty) reflects EU agreement on the development of a Common Foreign and Security Policy “including the eventual framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence”. The agreement referred to the Western European Union (WEU)

as an integral part of the development of the European Union and requested the WEU to elaborate and implement decisions and actions of the European Union with defence implications.

- **19 June 1992** – The WEU member states adopt guidelines for the future development of the WEU, including the “Petersberg missions”, consisting of humanitarian and rescue tasks, peacekeeping tasks, and tasks of combat forces in crisis management including peacemaking.
- **11 January 1994** – NATO Heads of State and Government agree to make collective assets of the Alliance available on the basis of consultations in the North Atlantic Council, for WEU operations undertaken by the European allies in pursuit of their Common Foreign and Security Policy.
- **3 June 1996** – In Berlin, NATO foreign ministers agree that the European Security and Defence Identity should be built within NATO as an essential part of the internal adaptation of the Alliance.
- **17 June 1997** – The EU incorporates the Petersberg missions into the Amsterdam Treaty, affirms the role of the WEU as an integral part of the development of the European Union and envisages the possible future integration of the WEU into the EU.
- **3-4 December 1998** – At the British-French Summit at St. Malo, France and the United Kingdom agree that the European Union “must have the capacity for autonomous action, backed up by credible military forces, the means to decide to use them, and a readiness to do so, in order to respond to international crises.”
- **11 December 1999** – EU member states establish the “Headline Goal” for EU military capabilities and creates political and military structures including a Political and Security Committee, a Military Committee and a Military Staff. The crisis management role of the WEU is transferred to the EU. The WEU retains residual tasks.
- **19 September 2000** – The North Atlantic Council and the interim Political and Security Committee of the European Union meet for the first time to take stock of progress in EU-NATO relations.
- **21 November 2000** – Defence ministers of the European Union pledge substantial forces to provide military capabilities to meet the EU “Headline Goal”.
- **7 December 2000** – At the Nice Summit, EU member states agree on measures to strengthen European policies on security and defence and establish arrangements for consultation and cooperation between NATO and the EU.
- **30 May 2001** – First formal NATO-EU meeting at the level of foreign ministers takes place in Budapest.
- **19 November 2001** – Creation of the European Capability Action Plan (ECAP).

Key Documents

- Ministerial Communiqué, Berlin, 3 June 1996.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/1996/p96-063e.htm
- Joint Declaration issued at the British-French Summit, St. Malo, France, 3-4 December 1998.
www.iss-eu.org/chailot/chai47e.html
- Washington Summit Communiqué, 24 April 1999.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-064e.htm
- EU Headline Goal – Helsinki European Council: Presidency Conclusions, Brussels, 11 December 1999.
<http://ue.eu.int/newsroom>
- Statement on Capabilities by NATO Defence Ministers, 6 June 2002.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/2002/p02-074e.htm

Key Issues

- The principal issues involved in the further development of NATO-EU relations with respect to crisis management, referred to as the “Berlin Plus” package are the identification of a range of European command options; presumption of availability to the EU of pre-identified NATO assets and capabilities; the adaptation of Alliance defence planning; EU-assured access to NATO assets and capabilities; and NATO-EU consultations in times of crisis. The Alliance is working towards progress on all aspects of the NATO-EU relationship including the need to find solutions satisfactory to all allies on the issue of participation in EU-led operations by non-EU European allies.

More Information

- NATO-EU Relations – background and analysis of the development of ESDI and ESDP.
www.nato.int/docu/handbook/2001/hb0403.htm
- EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).
<http://europa.eu.int/index>
- Presidency Conclusions of the European Council 1999-2002.
<http://europa.eu.int/council/off/conclu/index.htm>

Key Quotations

“NATO is committed to a strong and dynamic partnership between Europe and North America in support of the values and interest they share. The security of Europe and that of North America are indivisible. Thus the Alliance’s commitment to the indispensable transatlantic link and the collective defence of its members is fundamental to its credibility and to the security of the Euro-Atlantic area.”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 27.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“The Alliance, which is the foundation of the collective defence of its members and through which common security objectives will be pursued wherever possible, remains committed to a balanced and dynamic transatlantic partnership. The European Allies have taken decisions to enable them to assume greater responsibilities in the security and defence field in order to enhance the peace and stability of the Euro-Atlantic area and thus the security of all allies. On the basis of decisions taken by the Alliance, in Berlin in 1996 and subsequently, the European Security and Defence Identity will continue to be developed within NATO.

This process will require close cooperation between NATO, the WEU and, if and when appropriate, the European Union. It will enable all European allies to make a more coherent and effective contribution to the missions and activities of the Alliance as an expression of our shared responsibilities; it will reinforce the transatlantic partnership; and it will assist the European allies to act by themselves as required through the readiness of the Alliance, on a case-by-case basis and by consensus, to make its assets and capabilities available for operations in which the Alliance is not engaged militarily under the political control and strategic direction either of the WEU or as otherwise agreed, taking into account the full participation of all European allies if they were so to choose.”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 30.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“NATO embodies the vital partnership between Europe and North America. We welcome the further impetus that has been given to the strengthening of European defence capabilities to enable the European allies to act more effectively together, thus reinforcing the transatlantic partnership.”

Washington Declaration, 23 April 1999, Paragraph 6.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-063e.htm

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“The EU has the clout to force European nations to put their money where their mouths are. NATO has been pressing for more European defence spending for years, with little result. It is good to have the EU on our side. [...] For the foreseeable future, Europe’s strategic “independence” is simply not feasible. Not many people may say that, but everybody knows it. Only NATO has the assets and capabilities that are necessary for larger-scale operations.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 4 April 2000.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2000/s000404a.htm

“Duplication is in the interest of neither NATO nor the EU. On the contrary, complementarity between our two organisations must be the rule to create the right synergies.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 29 January 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s010129a.htm

“Without North America [...] Europe cannot find the equilibrium it needs to complete its grand project of unity.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 29 March 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s010329a.htm

“The emergence of a European Union fully taking its place on the international scene is now an historical fact of life. It is also a factor of greater stability. Yet at the same time the transatlantic bond remains essential, for it is the bedrock of the allies’ collective defence. In this context, a European defence capability is both a necessity for Europeans and an asset for NATO”.

President Jacques Chirac of France, 13 June 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s010613c.htm

“The ESDP is emphatically not NATO’s replacement. However effective Europe becomes as a regional or global actor, we cannot expect to make a real difference without regular, close and systematic co-operation with the U.S.

“ [...] NATO is the principal instrument for sustaining the means for European military collaboration with the U.S.”

UK Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, 8 May 2002.

www.fco.gov.uk/news/newspage/speeches

“NATO [...] stands on two feet – one European and one American. Given the advances in European integration the Alliance must say very clearly how it proposes to resolve the issue – whether to come down on one foot or the other or both.”

President Havel of the Czech Republic, 19 May 2002.

www.hrad.cz/president/Havel/speeches/2002/1905_uk.html

Backgrounder

In May 2002, NATO foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to achieving a close, transparent and coherent NATO-EU relationship. They stated that the events of 11 September 2001 had underlined the importance of enhanced cooperation between the two organisations on questions of common interest relating to security, defence, and crisis management, in order to meet crises with the most appropriate military response and to ensure effective crisis management. They expressed their determination to make progress on all the various aspects of the relationship, noting the need to find solutions satisfactory to all allies on the issue of participation by non-EU European allies.

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The European Security and Defence Identity

The Alliance's commitment to reinforcing its European pillar is based on the development of an effective European Security and Defence Identity (ESDI) within NATO which could respond to European requirements and, at the same time, contribute to Alliance security. By assuming greater responsibility for their own security, the European member countries seek to create a stronger and more balanced transatlantic relationship, thus strengthening the Alliance as a whole.

The process leading to the development of a European Security and Defence Identity has taken place progressively over a period of approximately ten years.

By the early 1990s, it became apparent that the time had come for a rebalancing of the relationship between Europe and North America and that steps needed to be taken by the European member countries to assume greater responsibility for their common security and defence. European countries embarked upon a process designed to provide a genuine European military capability without duplicating unnecessarily the command structures, planning staffs and military assets and capabilities already available within NATO, while simultaneously strengthening their contribution to the Alliance's missions and activities. Such an approach was seen as responding both to the European Community's goal of developing a Common Foreign and Security Policy and to the need for a more balanced partnership between the North American and European member countries of the Alliance.

The process of developing the European Security and Defence Identity within NATO is an integral part of the adaptation of NATO's political and military structures. At the same time, it is an important contributing factor to the development of European defence capabilities. Both these processes have been carried forward on the basis of the European Union's Treaties of Maastricht in 1992, Amsterdam in 1997 and Nice in 2000, and decisions taken by the Alliance at successive Summit meetings held in Brussels in 1994, Madrid in 1997 and Washington in 1999.

The Treaty of Maastricht included an agreement by the leaders of the European Union to develop a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) *"including the eventual*

framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence”. This agreement referred to the Western European Union (WEU) as an integral part of the development of the European Union created by the Treaty of Maastricht and requested the WEU to elaborate and implement decisions and actions of the European Union which had defence implications. Following the meeting of the European Union, WEU member states also met in Maastricht and agreed on the need for a genuine European security and defence identity and a greater European responsibility in defence matters.

In January 1994, NATO Heads of State and Government welcomed the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty and the decisions taken by the European Union on security and defence as a means of strengthening the European pillar of the Alliance and allowing the European members of NATO to make a more coherent contribution to Euro-Atlantic security. They reaffirmed that the Alliance remains the essential forum for consultation among its members and for agreement on policies relating to the security and defence commitments made by allies under the North Atlantic Treaty. They also welcomed the close and growing cooperation between NATO and the Western European Union. They further announced their readiness to make collective NATO assets of the Alliance available, on the basis of consultations in the North Atlantic Council, for WEU operations undertaken by the European allies in pursuit of their Common Foreign and Security Policy.

NATO Heads of State and Government also directed the North Atlantic Council to examine how the Alliance’s political and military structures might be developed and adapted in order to conduct the Alliance’s missions, including peacekeeping operations, more efficiently and flexibly and to reflect the emerging European Security and Defence Identity.

As part of this process, the concept of Combined Joint Task Forces (CJTFs) was developed. The CJTF concept is aimed at providing more flexible and mobile forces able to respond to the new demands of all Alliance missions, as well as facilitating the use of NATO assets for operations undertaken by the European Union.

Meetings of NATO foreign and defence ministers in Berlin and Brussels, in June 1996, reaffirmed support for building the European Security and Defence Identity within NATO in order to enable all European allies to make a more coherent and effective contribution to the missions and activities of the Alliance. It would also allow them to act independently while simultaneously reinforcing the transatlantic partnership. Detailed decisions taken by defence ministers in Berlin laid the foundations for future work in this area.

At the Summit Meeting in Madrid in July 1997, NATO Heads of State and Government welcomed the major steps taken with regard to the creation of the ESDI within the Alliance. The North Atlantic Council in Permanent Session was requested to complete its work in this sphere expeditiously, in cooperation with the WEU. By the time of the Summit meeting in Washington in April 1999, that work was essentially completed.

During the course of the next year, significant further developments took place in this context. Most notable among these was the decision by EU and WEU governments that responsibility for the future development of a European security and defence policy and corresponding structures would be assumed by the EU itself. By the end of 2000, the roles and tasks previously assigned to the WEU had thus been transferred

to the EU and arrangements made for handling residual WEU responsibilities in the framework of a much-reduced WEU structure and small secretariat.

At their meeting in Washington in April 1999, Heads of State and Government had set in train work on the further development of the European Security and Defence Identity within the Alliance. Discussions were initiated to address a number of specific aspects, namely:

- means of ensuring the development of effective mutual consultation, cooperation and transparency between the European Union and the Alliance, based on the mechanisms that had been established between NATO and the WEU;
- the participation of non-EU European allies; and
- Practical arrangements for EU access to NATO planning capabilities and NATO's assets and capabilities.

The principles which have formed the basis for further work on the ESDI, set out at the Washington Summit and at subsequent meetings, are as follows:

- The Alliance acknowledges the resolve of the European Union to have the capacity for autonomous action so that it can take decisions and approve military action where the Alliance as a whole is not engaged.
- In taking this process forward, NATO and the EU must ensure the development of effective mutual consultation, cooperation and transparency, building on the mechanisms developed for cooperation between NATO and the WEU.
- Alliance leaders applaud the determination of both EU members and other European allies to take the necessary steps to strengthen their defence capabilities, especially for new missions, avoiding unnecessary duplication.
- They attach the utmost importance to ensuring the fullest possible involvement of non-EU European allies in EU-led crisis response operations, building on consultation arrangements developed within the WEU. Canada's interest in participating in such operations under appropriate modalities is also recognised.
- They are determined that the decisions taken in Berlin in 1996, including the concept of using separable but not separate NATO assets and capabilities for EU-led operations, should be further developed.

The “Berlin plus” arrangements

Based on these principles, these arrangements (referred to as “Berlin plus”), which will respect the requirements of NATO operations and the coherence of its command structure, include issues such as:

- the provision of assured EU access to NATO planning capabilities able to contribute to military planning for EU-led operations;
- the presumption of availability to the EU of pre-identified NATO capabilities and common assets for use in EU-led operations;
- the identification of a range of European command options for EU-led operations and further developing the role of the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, in order for him to assume fully and effectively his European responsibilities; and
- the further adaptation of NATO's defence planning system to incorporate more comprehensively the availability of forces for EU-led operations.

The origins of NATO-EU relations

Arrangements made for cooperation between NATO and the WEU from 1991 to 2000 laid the groundwork for the subsequent development of the strategic partnership between NATO and the European Union. New impetus for the development of this relationship was provided by the British-French Summit at St. Malo, in December 1998. France and the United Kingdom agreed that the European Union “must have the capacity for autonomous action, backed up by credible military forces, the means to decide to use them, and a readiness to do so, in order to respond to international crises”. They issued a Joint Statement outlining their determination to enable the European Union to give concrete expression to these objectives. This decision opened the way for the adoption of practical measures within the European Union to put it into effect.

In the new climate that prevailed after the St. Malo meeting, further progress could be made. Following the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty on 1 May 1999, the European Council met in Cologne in June 1999 and agreed to give the EU itself the means and capabilities needed for the implementation of a common European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). The role previously undertaken by the WEU was progressively assumed by the European Union.

In the intervening period, NATO continued to work with the WEU to complete and implement arrangements to facilitate cooperation between the two organisations in the event of a WEU-led crisis management operation making use of NATO assets and capabilities. Further work was undertaken to refine arrangements for the use of such assets and for information-sharing. Joint testing and evaluation of procedures were undertaken. A joint NATO-WEU crisis management exercise was held in February 2000.

With the transfer of responsibilities from the WEU to the EU, the relationship between NATO and the EU took on a new dimension, reflected in developments within both organisations.

The Helsinki meeting of the Council of the European Union held in December 1999 established a “Headline Goal” for EU member states in terms of their military capabilities for crisis management operations. The objective of the “Headline Goal” is to enable the EU, by the year 2003, to deploy and sustain for at least one year, military forces of up to 60 000 troops to undertake the full range of the so-called “Petersberg tasks” set out in the Amsterdam Treaty of 1997. These consist of humanitarian and rescue tasks; peacekeeping tasks; and tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peacemaking. Their role will be to undertake military operations led by the EU in response to international crises, in circumstances where NATO as a whole is not engaged militarily.

In addition, the EU decided to create permanent political and military structures, including a Political and Security Committee, a Military Committee and a Military Staff, to ensure the necessary political guidance and strategic direction for such operations. The EU also decided to develop arrangements for full consultation, cooperation and transparency with NATO and to ensure the necessary dialogue, consultation and cooperation with European NATO members which are not members of the EU, on issues related to European security and defence policy and crisis management.

Developments since 1999

The dialogue between the Alliance and the European Union has steadily intensified in accordance with the decisions taken at Washington and thereafter, and in the light of developments within the EU. Meetings of the European Council in Nice and of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels in December 2000 registered further progress. Alliance foreign ministers stated that they shared the goal endorsed by EU member states for a genuine partnership in crisis management between NATO and the EU. Both organisations agreed that consultations and cooperation would be developed between them on questions of common interest relating to security and effective defence and crisis management, so that crises can be met with the most appropriate military response.

In July 2000, NATO and the EU Council Secretariat established an interim security agreement between the two organisations governing the exchange of classified information and both organisations are working towards the conclusion of a permanent NATO-EU security agreement.

In the second half of 2000, Alliance experts began contributing military and technical advice to the work of EU experts on the establishment of a catalogue of forces and capabilities for the EU “Headline Goal”, in preparation of the EU’s Capabilities Commitment Conference held in November 2000.

An exchange of letters took place in January 2001, between the Secretary General of NATO and the Swedish Presidency of the EU, providing for joint meetings at ambassadorial and ministerial levels. Since February 2001, regular meetings of the EU Political and Security Committee and the North Atlantic Council take place. Both organisations are committed to stepping up consultations in times of crisis. The first formal joint meeting of NATO and EU foreign ministers took place in Budapest in May 2001 in the margins of the ministerial meeting of the North Atlantic Council.

Joint NATO-EU Ad Hoc Working Groups have been meeting since mid-2000 to discuss issues such as procedures for the exchange of classified information and intelligence; modalities for EU access to Alliance assets and capabilities; capability goals (including issues relating to the Alliance’s defence planning system); and permanent consultation arrangements.

In the second half of 2000, Alliance experts began contributing military and technical advice to the work of EU experts on the establishment of a catalogue of forces and capabilities for the EU “Headline Goal”, in preparation for the EU’s Capabilities Commitment Conference held in November 2000.

Within NATO, work on the principal issues facing the further development of ESDI has continued during 2001 and 2002, in particular the identification of a range of European command options; the presumption of availability of pre-identified assets and capabilities; the adaptation of Alliance defence planning; and NATO-EU consultations in times of crisis.

Cooperation between NATO and the European Union has been developed in a number of fields and specifically in relation to the campaign against terrorism. Direct contacts have increased and, in the wake of the terrorist attacks of 11 September, the Secretary General of NATO participated in the deliberations of the EU General Affairs

Council held on 12 September to analyse the international situation following the attacks. Cooperation between the two organisations has also contributed to the security situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*), where NATO is providing security for EU and OSCE monitors of the peace plan. Regular contacts have taken place between the two organisations as well as the OSCE to maximise international support for political reforms in the country and the maintenance of the political process. A joint delegation consisting of the NATO Secretary General, the EU High Representative, the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE and the Supreme Allied Commander Europe visited Skopje on 18 October 2001 for discussions with President Trajkovski and other political leaders.

Discussions of the situation in the Western Balkans have become a regular feature of meetings of the North Atlantic Council and the Political and Security Committee of the EU. Foreign Ministers of NATO and the EU also met in Brussels on 6 December 2001 to review cooperation across the board, and underlined their continued engagement in strengthening the peace process in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*) as well as elsewhere in the Western Balkans. Further contacts between the NATO Secretary General and the EU High Representative have continued to contribute to cooperation and, in May 2002, Foreign Ministers of both organisations met again in Reykjavik reaffirming their commitment to achieve a close and transparent relationship.

The situation in southern Serbia has also been the subject of consultations and cooperation, following the need for international intervention in 2001 to defuse the risk of civil conflict in the area and to help to broker a cease-fire. Closer proximity between the Serb and Federal Yugoslav governments and European institutions continues to manifest itself and has been reflected, for example, in the interest shown by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in participation in the Partnership for Peace programme. The strengthening of the political process, for example through the successful conduct of municipal elections in southern Serbia in July 2002, has continued to be a priority concern of both NATO and the EU, each of which has acted to defuse setbacks when these have occurred.

The Mediterranean Dialogue

Key Information

Key Definitions

- **Mediterranean Dialogue** – initiative introduced by NATO in 1994 aimed at creating good relations and better mutual understanding and confidence throughout the Mediterranean, promoting regional security and stability and correcting misperceptions of NATO's policies and goals.
- **Mediterranean Cooperation Group** – established in July 1997 to assume overall responsibility for the Mediterranean Dialogue.

Key Facts

- **Participating countries** – Algeria - Egypt - Israel - Jordan - Mauritania - Morocco - Tunisia.
- **Activities** – The Dialogue provides for political discussions and develops an annual programme for practical cooperation with participating countries focusing on security and defence-related areas, information, civil emergency planning and science.

Key Dates

- **1 December 1994** – NATO foreign ministers declare their readiness “to establish contacts, on a case-by-case basis, between the Alliance and Mediterranean non-member countries with a view to contributing to the strengthening of regional stability”.
- **8 February 1995** – The North Atlantic Council initiates a direct dialogue with Mediterranean non-member countries. Invitations are extended to Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Israel and Mauritania to participate.
- **5 December 1995** – Jordan joins the Mediterranean Dialogue.
- **15 January 1996** – Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan visits NATO for discussions with Secretary General Solana in the context of the Alliance's Mediterranean Dialogue.
- **8 July 1997** – The Mediterranean Cooperation Group is established.
- **24-26 February 1999** – NATO Ambassadors and representatives of the Mediterranean Dialogue Countries meet jointly for the first time in Valencia.
- **14 March 2000** – Algeria joins the Mediterranean Dialogue.
- **12 April 2000** – Visit to NATO by King Abdullah II of Jordan.

- **20 December 2001** – Visit to NATO by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of the People's Republic of Algeria.

Key Documents

- Final Communiqué, North Atlantic Council, 1 December 1994.
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/1994/p94-116e.htm>
- Mediterranean Dialogue Work Programme 2002.
www.nato.int/med-dial/2002/mdwp-2002.pdf

Key Issues

- In May 2002, NATO foreign ministers announced their decision to upgrade the political and practical dimensions of the Mediterranean Dialogue, *inter alia* through consultations with Mediterranean partners on security matters of common concern, including terrorism-related issues, with the aim of strengthening and giving fresh impetus to the Dialogue by the time of the Prague Summit.

More Information

- The Mediterranean Dialogue – a comprehensive web module on the Dialogue and Mediterranean security issues.
www.nato.int/med-dia/home.htm

Key Quotations

“We reaffirm the importance we attach to developments around the Mediterranean. At our meeting in Athens we encouraged all efforts for dialogue and cooperation which aim at strengthening stability in this region. In this context, we welcome the recent positive steps in the Middle East peace process, which will help remove the obstacles to a more constructive relationship between the countries of the region as a whole. The NATO Summit in January reiterated the conviction that security in Europe is greatly affected by security in the Mediterranean. As agreed at our meeting in Istanbul, we have examined proposed measures to promote dialogue and are ready to establish contacts, on a case-by-case basis, between the Alliance and Mediterranean non-member countries with a view to contributing to the strengthening of regional stability. To this end, we direct the Council in Permanent Session to continue to review the situation, to develop the details of the proposed dialogue and to initiate appropriate preliminary contacts.”

North Atlantic Council Communiqué, 1 December 1994.

www.nato.int/docu/comm/49-95/c941201a.htm

“The Mediterranean region merits great attention since security in the whole of Europe is closely linked with security and stability in the Mediterranean. [...] We endorse the measures agreed by NATO foreign ministers in Sintra on the widening of the scope and enhancement of the Dialogue and on the basis of their recommendation, have decided today to establish under the authority of the North Atlantic Council a new Committee, The Mediterranean Cooperation Group, which will have the overall responsibility for the Mediterranean Dialogue.”

From the Madrid Declaration by NATO Heads of State and Government, July 1997, Paragraph 13.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1997/p97-081e.htm

“The Mediterranean is an area of special interest to the Alliance. Security in Europe is closely linked to security and stability in the Mediterranean. NATO’s Mediterranean Dialogue process is an integral part of NATO’s cooperative approach to security. It provides a framework for confidence building, promotes transparency and cooperation in the region, and reinforces and is reinforced by other international efforts. The Alliance is committed to developing progressively the political, civil, and military aspects of the Dialogue with the aim of achieving closer cooperation with, and more active involvement by, countries that are partners in this Dialogue.”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 38.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“We applaud the unambiguous stand taken by our Mediterranean Dialogue partners, which have unreservedly condemned these attacks. We reaffirm our willingness to provide assistance, individually or collectively, as appropriate and according to our capabilities, to allies and other states which are or may be subject to increased terrorist threats as a result of their support for the campaign against terrorism”.

NATO Foreign Ministers statement on terrorism, 6 December 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-159e.htm

* * *

“The Mediterranean Initiative [...] reflects the Alliance’s view that security in Europe is indivisible, and that NATO can play a constructive part in enhancing security and stability more widely in Europe and its neighbouring regions through programmes of outreach, cooperation and partnership”.

NATO Secretary General Javier Solana, 10 November 1997.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/1997/s971110a.htm

“As NATO’s policy of engagement and partnership was bringing Europe together, we wanted to send a strong signal to our neighbours: you are part of the whole – we do not want the Mediterranean to become a new divide.

[...] After September 11, NATO and its Mediterranean neighbours can no longer afford to neglect each other. Instead we must redouble our efforts to move closer together – to become real partners in facing real, common challenges, such as terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 29 April 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020429a.htm

Backgrounder

In May 2002, NATO foreign ministers announced their decision to upgrade the political and practical dimensions of the Alliance's Mediterranean Dialogue with the aim of giving fresh impetus to the Dialogue by the time of the Prague Summit. They made reference in particular to consultations with Mediterranean partners on security matters of common concern, including terrorism-related issues.

* * *

Origins of the Mediterranean Dialogue

The Mediterranean Dialogue is an integral part of the Alliance's cooperative approach to security. It is based on the recognition that security in Europe is closely linked with security and stability in the Mediterranean and that the Mediterranean dimension is an important component of Europe's security structures. The aim of the Dialogue is to contribute to security and stability in the Mediterranean, to achieve a better mutual understanding, and to correct misperceptions about NATO among Mediterranean Dialogue countries.

The Dialogue has its origins in the Brussels Summit Declaration of January 1994. NATO Heads of State and Government referred to positive developments in the Middle East Peace Process as "opening the way to consider measures to promote dialogue, understanding and confidence-building between the countries in the region" and encouraged "all efforts conducive to strengthening regional stability".

At their meeting in December 1994, NATO foreign ministers declared their readiness "to establish contacts, on a case-by-case basis, between the Alliance and Mediterranean non-member countries with a view to contributing to the strengthening of regional stability". To this end, they directed the Council in Permanent Session "to continue to review the situation, to develop the details of the proposed dialogue and to initiate appropriate preliminary contacts". This resulted, in February 1995, in invitations to Egypt, Israel, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia to participate in a dialogue with NATO. Subsequently, invitations were extended to Jordan in November 1995 and to Algeria in February 2000.

The 1997 Madrid Summit added a new and more dynamic direction to the Dialogue by establishing a Mediterranean Cooperation Group (MCG) in which all NATO member states are represented. This is the steering body for all questions related to the Dialogue and its further development.

At the Washington Summit in April 1999, Alliance leaders decided to enhance both the political and practical dimensions of the Dialogue. This created further opportunities to strengthen cooperation in areas where NATO can bring added value, particularly in the military field, and in other areas where Dialogue countries have expressed interest.

The Dialogue has both a political and a practical dimension involving participation in specific NATO activities. The political dialogue involves regular bilateral political dis-

cussions between the North Atlantic Council and the ambassador of each Mediterranean partner country, under the chairmanship of NATO's Secretary General. These meetings provide an opportunity to share views on the security situation in the Mediterranean region, as well as to discuss the current status and future development of the Dialogue itself. Multilateral meetings between the North Atlantic Council and the seven Mediterranean partners are also held to provide briefings on NATO's activities and to exchange views on topical events, usually after each NATO Ministerial or Summit meeting, or when exceptional circumstances arise. One such meeting took place, for example, in October 2001, to inform Mediterranean partners about NATO's response to the 11 September terrorist attacks against the United States, including the decision to invoke Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

Practical cooperation

The practical dimension of the Dialogue involves activities in areas such as civil emergency planning, science and information, as well as a military programme. This includes invitations to Dialogue countries to observe and participate in military exercises, attend courses and seminars at NATO schools, and visit NATO military bodies. The military programme also includes in-country training activities by NATO expert teams and port visits to Mediterranean Dialogue countries by NATO's Standing Naval Forces.

The practical dimension of the Mediterranean Dialogue has expanded significantly since it was launched and now covers most activities in which other NATO partner countries participate. In 2001, NATO offered the seven Mediterranean Dialogue countries the possibility of signing an agreement on the protection of information in order to facilitate the exchange of classified information required to participate in certain activities. Several countries have taken up this offer and others are expected to do so in the future.

The development of the Dialogue has been based upon five principles:

- The Dialogue is progressive in terms of participation and substance. This flexibility allows the number of Dialogue partners to grow and the content of the Dialogue to evolve over time.
- It is primarily bilateral in structure. However, it also allows for multilateral meetings to take place on a regular basis.
- The Dialogue is non-discriminatory. All Mediterranean partners are offered the same basis for cooperation activities and discussion with NATO. Dialogue countries are free to choose the extent and intensity of their participation.
- It is designed to complement and reinforce other international efforts to establish and enhance cooperation with Mediterranean countries. These include the European Union's "Barcelona Process" and initiatives by other institutions such as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).
- In principle, activities within the Dialogue normally take place on a self-funding basis. Financial assistance in support of participation by Mediterranean partners in the Dialogue may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Decisions were taken by NATO foreign ministers in May 2002 to seek to strengthen consultations with Mediterranean partners on security matters of common concern, including terrorism, with a view to upgrading the political and practical dimensions of the Dialogue in the lead up to the Prague Summit.

NATO's Commitment to the Balkans

Key Information

Key Definitions

- **Implementation Force (IFOR)** – NATO-led force deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina at the end of 1995 in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1031, with a one-year mandate to help ensure compliance with the military provisions of the Dayton Peace Accords of 14 December 1995.
- **Stabilisation Force (SFOR)** – successor to IFOR, deployed since December 1996.
- **Kosovo Force (KFOR)** – deployed in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244 of 10 June 1999 calling for an effective international civil and security presence in Kosovo. Resolution 1244 establishes Kosovo as an entity under interim international administration, requests the UN Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative to oversee the implementation of the international civil presence, and authorises member states and relevant international organisations to establish the international security presence. KFOR works alongside the UN Mission to Kosovo (UNMIK) and other international and non-governmental agencies to lay the basis for security, stability and reconstruction.

Key Facts

- The security provided by **IFOR** and **SFOR** since 1995 has resulted in the return of large numbers of refugees and displaced persons uprooted by the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. IFOR and SFOR have in addition provided support for implementation of civilian aspects of the Dayton Peace Agreement and have contributed substantially to progress made since in fields such as defence reform; the restructuring and reduction of armed forces; weapons collection; arrest and detainment of persons indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY); assistance for minority returns; humanitarian assistance to people affected by flooding and mudslides; control of airspace, public security, de-mining; and supervision of the electoral process.
- Security provided by **KFOR** has enabled some 1.3 million people from inside Kosovo and abroad to return to their homes and villages. Work undertaken by KFOR and in cooperation with other organisations has contributed substantially to reconstruction and de-mining; security and public order; security of ethnic minorities; protection of patrimonial sites; border security; interdiction of cross-border smuggling; implementation of a weapons, ammunition and explosives amnesty; weapons destruction; the establishment of civil institutions; the maintenance of law and order; the reconstruction of the judicial and penal system; and supervision of the electoral process.

- Operation *Essential Harvest* was launched following the request of President Trajkovski in August 2001 for NATO assistance in demilitarising the National Liberation Army and disarming ethnic Albanian groups operating in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*). This operation resulted in the collection of some 3 875 weapons and 397 600 other items, including mines and explosives.
- Operation *Amber Fox* was launched in September 2001, in response to a further request by President Trajkovski for a follow-on force to provide protection for international monitors from the European Union and the OSCE overseeing the implementation of the peace plan. The mandate of the mission, which involves some 1 000 troops provided by NATO member countries, has been extended to 26 October 2002.

Key Dates

- **July 1992** – NATO ships begin monitoring operations in the Adriatic in support of UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 713 and 757 imposing an arms embargo and sanctions in the former Yugoslavia.
- **October 1992** – Aircraft belonging to NATO's Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) begin monitoring operations in support of UNSCR 781 imposing a no-fly zone over Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **November 1992** – NATO and the WEU begin enforcement operations of the sanctions and embargo imposed under UNSCR 787.
- **April 1993** – NATO aircraft begin Operation *Deny Flight* in support of UNSCR 816, establishing a no-fly zone over Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **February 1994** – In response to a request by the UN Secretary-General, the North Atlantic Council authorises air strikes to end the strangulation of Sarajevo. Four warplanes violating the no-fly zone over Bosnia and Herzegovina are shot down by NATO aircraft in the first military engagement to be undertaken by the Alliance. Further air strikes against forces in infringement of UN Security Council Resolutions take place subsequently to protect UN forces.
- **May 1995** – 370 UN peacekeepers are taken hostage by Bosnian Serb forces and used as human shields at potential targets in a bid to prevent further air strikes.
- **July 1995** – The UN designated Safe Areas of Srebrenica and Zepa are overrun by Bosnian Serb Forces.
- **August 1995** – Following continued attacks by Bosnian Serb forces on Sarajevo, NATO commences air strikes against Serb military targets, supported by the UN Rapid Reaction Force.
- **September 1995** – Air strikes are discontinued.
- **October 1995** – Renewed attacks on UN forces and NATO aircraft result in further air strikes.

- **14 December 1995** – President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, President Alya Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia sign the General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP - agreed in Dayton, Ohio on 14 December) in Paris.
- **16 December 1995** – Beginning of the deployment of the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) in accordance with UNSCR 1031, transferring authority for military operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina from UNPROFOR to NATO and mandating IFOR to implement the military aspects of the peace agreement.
- **20 December 1996** – NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina is replaced by SFOR (Stabilisation Force).
- **28 May 1998** – NATO foreign ministers agree that the Alliance should seek to contribute to a peaceful resolution of the Kosovo crisis and promote stability and security in neighbouring countries.
- **13 October 1998** – Following a deterioration of the situation in Kosovo, the North Atlantic Council authorises activation orders for air strikes in support of diplomatic efforts to persuade the Milosevic regime to withdraw its forces, cooperate in bringing an end to the violence and facilitate the return of refugees. The OSCE establishes a Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) and NATO establishes an aerial surveillance mission in support of UNSCR 1199 imposing conditions for a cease-fire and leading to limitations on Serbian and Kosovar-Albanian forces and operations.
- **30 January 1999** – Following further violence and acts of provocation, in support of efforts by the 6 nation Contact Group to bring both sides to a negotiated settlement under international mediation, the North Atlantic Council authorise the use of air strikes if required and sends warnings to both sides of the conflict.
- **February 1999** – Negotiations in Rambouillet followed by further negotiations in Paris from 15-18 March fail to secure agreement from the representatives of the Milosevic regime to end the conflict.
- **20 March 1999** – The OSCE Verification Mission is obstructed by Serbian forces and forced to withdraw. U.S. diplomatic efforts fail to persuade President Milosevic to stop attacks on the Kosovar Albanians.
- **23 March-10 June 1999** – 78-day NATO air campaign against Serb forces engaged in ethnic cleansing in Kosovo (Operation *Allied Force*) culminates in the withdrawal of Serb forces and a Military Technical agreement between NATO and Yugoslav commanders.
- **12 June 1999** – First elements of KFOR enter Kosovo in accordance with UNSCR 1244 establishing an international civil and security presence.
- **20 June 1999** – Withdrawal of Serb forces from Kosovo.
- **22 August 2001** – In response to a request by President Trajkovski of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*) for assistance in demilitarising the National Liberation Army (NLA) and disarming ethnic Albanian groups operating on the territory of his country, NATO launches Operation *Essential Harvest* to collect and destroy all weapons voluntarily handed in by NLA personnel.

- **27 September 2001** - NATO launches Operation *Amber Fox* in response to the request by President Trajkovski for a follow-on force to provide additional protection for international monitors from the European Union and the OSCE overseeing the implementation of the peace plan.

Key Documents

- The General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (GFAP), 14 December 1995.
www.nato.int/sfor/basic/gfap.htm
- United Nations Security Council Resolutions and other documents relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to Kosovo.
<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/home.shtml>

Key Issues

- The North Atlantic Council has directed NATO's Military Authorities periodically to restructure and reduce the size of the Stabilisation Force. By the beginning of 2001, it had been reduced from its original 31 000 troops to approximately 19 000, drawn from 17 NATO member countries and 15 non-NATO countries, including a Russian contingent. At their Spring 2002 meeting, Alliance defence ministers announced decisions reached after consultation with non-NATO contributing partners, on the furthering restructuring of SFOR and accompanying force reductions. Reaffirming NATO's commitment to security and stability in the Balkans, they pointed to improvements achieved in the security environment in the region, permitting the reduction of SFOR to a level of 12 000 troops by the end of 2002.
- KFOR initially comprised some 50 000 personnel provided by all 19 NATO members and 19 non-NATO countries under unified command and control. By the beginning of 2002, KFOR comprised about 39 000 troops. In Spring 2002, improvements achieved in the security environment in the region enabled Alliance defence ministers to announce the restructuring of KFOR and accompanying force reductions resulting in a future force level of 32 000 troops, with further reductions planned for 2003.

More Information

- The Alliance's Operational Role in Peacekeeping.
www.nato.int/docu/handbook/2001/index.htm#CH5
- IFOR Website.
www.nato.int/ifor/htm
- SFOR Website.
www.nato.int/sfor/index.htm
- KFOR Website.
www.nato.int/kosovo/kosovo.htm
- Operations *Essential Harvest* and *Amber Fox*.
www.nato.int/fyrom/home/htm

Key Quotations

“Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia agree to fully respect the sovereign equality of one another and to settle disputes by peaceful means.

The parties agree to cooperate fully with all entities, including those authorised by the United Nations Security Council, in implementing the peace settlement and investigating and prosecuting war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law.

The parties agree to fully respect and promote fulfilment, of the commitments made in the various Annexes, and they obligate themselves to respect human rights and the rights of refugees and displaced persons.”

From the Dayton Peace Accords, 30 November 1995.

www.nato.int/sfor/basic/gfap.htm

“In pursuit of its policy of preserving peace, preventing war, and enhancing security and stability and as set out in the fundamental security tasks, NATO will seek, in cooperation with other organisations, to prevent conflict, or, should a crisis arise, to contribute to its effective management, consistent with international law, including through the possibility of conducting non-Article 5 crisis response operations. The Alliance’s preparedness to carry out such operations supports the broader objective of reinforcing and extending stability and often involves the participation of NATO’s Partners.

NATO recalls its offer, made in Brussels in 1994, to support on a case-by-case basis in accordance with its own procedures, peacekeeping and other operations under the authority of the UN Security Council or the responsibility of the OSCE, including by making available Alliance resources and expertise. In this context NATO recalls its subsequent decisions with respect to crisis response operations in the Balkans. Taking into account the necessity for Alliance solidarity and cohesion, participation in any such operation or mission will remain subject to decisions of member states in accordance with national constitutions.”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 31.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

* * *

“Political agreement is not enough: the Balkans are littered with agreements that are signed but not implemented. To make an agreement work, to bring stability to Kosovo, an international force is an indispensable element. Only NATO is equipped to lead it.”

UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, 10 March 1999.

www.number-10.gov.uk/output/page914.asp

“We will not, and we cannot accept a situation where people are brutalised behind national boundaries. For at the end of the twentieth century, one thing is clear. A United Nations that will not stand up for human rights is a United Nations that cannot stand up for itself.”

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, 7 April 1999.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/1999/19990407.sgsm6949.html>

“We are an Alliance. Have we got an enemy? I think yes. [...] Our enemy is extreme nationalism, religious fundamentalism, racism, xenophobia, ethnic cleansing. That is why we are active in Kosovo [...] That is why we must succeed in Kosovo, fully guaranteeing the rights of the Kosovar people.”

Antonio Guterres, Prime Minister of Portugal, 23 April 1999.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/1999/s990423s.htm

“What NATO began, and what KFOR continues, was not only the right thing to do; it was the only thing to do.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 4 April 2000.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2000/s000404a.htm

“That is why this conflict did, and indeed still, matters to our interests. Kosovo is a small place, but it sits at a very strategic point – between Europe, Asia and the Middle East, at the meeting place of Islam and Christianity.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 6 April 2000.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2000/s000406a.htm

“Democratisation in the Balkans could not have started without NATO.”

Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary, speaking in Budapest, Hungary, 29 May 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s010529b.htm

“We chose engagement over indifference.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 5 July 2001, (speaking of NATO involvement in Bosnia and Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*)).

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s010705a.htm

“They have reinforced the logic of keeping peace in the Balkans, because stable, multi-ethnic states are our best insurance against terrorism emerging in the first place.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 10 October 2001 (referring to the events of 11 September).

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s011010b.htm

Backgrounder

In a statement on the Balkans issued on 6 June 2002, NATO defence ministers affirmed that they remained committed to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all countries in the Balkans and, in cooperation with partners and other international organisations, to the pursuit of a peaceful, democratic and stable region. The continued presence of the NATO-led forces in the region demonstrates NATO's firm support for the rule of law, democratic institutions, basic human rights, return of refugees, tolerance, reconciliation and the peaceful resolution of disputes, and its determination to oppose all violence, whether ethnically, politically, or criminally motivated.

* * *

The political basis for the Alliance's role in the Balkans was established at the North Atlantic Council meeting in Oslo, in June 1992. NATO foreign ministers announced their readiness to support, on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with their own procedures, peacekeeping activities under the responsibility of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) (subsequently renamed the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe or OSCE). This included making available Alliance resources and expertise for peacekeeping operations.

In December 1992, the Alliance stated that it was also ready to support peacekeeping operations under the authority of the United Nations Security Council, which has the primary responsibility for international peace and security. Reviewing peacekeeping and sanctions or embargo enforcement measures already being undertaken by NATO countries, individually and as an Alliance, to support the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions relating to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, NATO foreign ministers indicated that the Alliance was ready to respond positively to further initiatives that the UN Secretary-General might take in seeking Alliance assistance in this field.

Monitoring and enforcement operations

Between 1992 and 1995, the Alliance took several key decisions which led to operations to monitor, and subsequently enforce, a UN embargo and sanctions in the Adriatic and to monitor and then to enforce the UN no-fly zone over Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Alliance also provided close air support to the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and authorised air strikes to relieve the strangulation of Sarajevo and other threatened areas denominated by the UN as Safe Areas.

Decisive action by the Alliance in support of the UN, together with a determined diplomatic effort, broke the siege of Sarajevo, led to a genuine cease-fire and made a negotiated solution to the conflict possible in autumn 1995.

The NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR)

Under the terms of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, commonly referred to as the Dayton Peace Accords (DPA), signed on 14 December 1995, a NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) was established for one year to fulfil the military aspects of the agreement. The Force was activated on 16 December and transfer of authority from the Commander of UN forces to the Commander of IFOR took place four days later, bringing all NATO and non-NATO forces participating in the operation under IFOR command.

By 19 January 1996, the parties to the Agreement had withdrawn their forces from the zone of separation on either side of the agreed cease-fire line and by 3 February, all forces had been withdrawn from the areas to be transferred under the terms of the Agreement. The transfer of territory between the entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina was completed by 19 March and a new zone of separation established. By the end of June, the cantonment of heavy weapons and demobilisation of forces required by the Agreement had also been completed. After more than four years of conflict and in the repeated failure of international initiatives to end it, a basis for the future peace and security of Bosnia and Herzegovina had been established within less than six months.

IFOR contributed substantially to the creation of a secure environment conducive to civil and political reconstruction. It also provided support for civilian tasks, working closely with the Office of the High Representative (OHR), the International Police Task Force (IPTF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and many others, including more than 400 non-governmental organisations active in the area.

IFOR also assisted the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in preparing, supervising and monitoring the first free elections in September 1996 and, following these elections, supported the Office of the High Representative in assisting the entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in building new common institutions.

IFOR military engineers repaired and reopened roads and bridges and played a vital role in the de-mining and repair of railroads and the opening up of airports to civilian traffic, in restoring gas, water and electricity supplies, in rebuilding schools and hospitals, and in restoring key telecommunication installations.

From IFOR to SFOR

In November and December 1996, a two-year consolidation plan was established in Paris and elaborated in London under the auspices of the Peace Implementation Council established under the Dayton Peace Accords. On the basis of this plan and of the Alliance's own study of security options, NATO foreign and defence ministers concluded that a reduced military presence was needed to provide the stability necessary for consolidating peace in the area. They agreed that NATO should organise a Stabilisation Force (SFOR), which was subsequently activated on 20 December 1996 – the day on which IFOR's mandate expired.

The NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR)

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1088 of 12 December 1996, the Stabilisation Force became the legal successor to IFOR, its primary task being to contribute to the development of the secure environment necessary for the consolidation of peace.

In December 1997, NATO foreign and defence ministers took a number of additional decisions in relation to the implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords. Recognising the fragility of the peace, despite positive achievements in several fields, they reiterated NATO's commitment to the establishment of a single, democratic and multi-ethnic state. Acting on the consensus emerging in the Peace Implementation Council and elsewhere on the need for a military presence to continue beyond the expiry of SFOR's mandate, they requested NATO's military authorities to outline available options.

On 20 February 1998, the North Atlantic Council issued a statement announcing that, subject to the necessary UN mandate, NATO would be prepared to organise and lead a multinational force in Bosnia and Herzegovina following the end of SFOR's mandate in June 1998.

The new force would retain the name "SFOR" and would operate on a similar basis, in order to deter renewed hostilities and to help to create the conditions needed for the implementation of the civil aspects of the Dayton Peace Accords. At the same time the Council projected a transitional strategy, involving progressive reductions of force levels as the transfer of responsibilities to the competent common institutions, civil authorities and international bodies became feasible.

As the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has become more stable, NATO military authorities have been directed by the North Atlantic Council periodically to restructure and reduce the size of the Stabilisation Force. By the beginning of 2002, it had been reduced from its original 31 000 troops to approximately 19 000, drawn from 17 NATO member countries and 15 non-NATO countries, including a Russian contingent.

At their Spring 2002 meeting, Alliance defence ministers announced decisions reached after consultation with non-NATO contributing partners, on the restructuring of SFOR and on accompanying force reductions. Reaffirming NATO's commitment to security and stability in the Balkans, they pointed to improvements achieved in the security environment in the region, permitting the further reduction of SFOR to a level of 12 000 troops by the end of 2002.

All non-NATO countries which participated in IFOR have also participated in SFOR, namely Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic¹, Estonia, Finland, Hungary¹, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland¹, Romania, Russia, Sweden and Ukraine - all of which are Partnership for Peace countries – as well as Egypt, Jordan, Malaysia and Morocco – which participate in NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue. Argentina, Ireland, Slovakia and Slovenia also subsequently participated in SFOR.

¹ The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland became members of NATO, 12 March 1999.

By mid-May 2002, the following non-NATO countries were participating in SFOR: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden – all of which are Partnership for Peace countries – as well as Argentina, Australia, New Zealand and Morocco.

Examples of SFOR tasks and achievements

Civilian aspects of the Dayton Peace Accords

Support for implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton Peace Accords is provided by local forces and by SFOR's Civil-Military Task Force (CMTF), consisting of approximately 350 military personnel able to call on civilian skills in some twenty functional areas including law, economics and finance, agriculture, industry, commerce and business, structural engineering, transportation, utilities, housing, social services such as education and public health, cultural affairs, government, management and political science.

SFOR continues to provide day-to-day assistance for minority returns and support for the UNHCR in providing humanitarian aid. In cooperation with the local authorities and armed forces, SFOR has also assisted people affected by the floods and mudslides in the northern and south-eastern parts of the country in June and July 2001, through the provision of tents, food, water, flood relief, bridge and road repair and engineering assistance to local authorities; provided transport for food parcels from Croatia, during the autumn of 2001; and undertaken reconstruction projects financed by participating countries. In January 2002, SFOR conducted humanitarian re-supply missions in the vicinity of Srebrenica, delivering food to villages isolated by adverse winter weather conditions.

Security cooperation activities

In July 1996, the North Atlantic Council tasked the NATO military authorities with developing and conducting confidence building courses for selected military personnel from Bosnia and Herzegovina at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany, with the aim of fostering dialogue, reconciliation and mutual understanding between the entities. In December 1997, a series of further actions in this context, labelled Security Cooperation Activities, was also initiated.

Throughout 2002, the Security Cooperation Programme has focused increasingly on defence related matters such as the restructuring of armed forces and the development of common defence and security policies and preparing the country for integration into Euro-Atlantic security structures.

One of the common institutions set up by the Dayton Peace Accords, and supported by NATO, is the Standing Committee on Military Matters (SCMM), responsible for coordinating the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Composed of representatives of the three constituent ethnic groups within the country, the SCMM is a key factor in creating a national defence identity at the state level.

Reductions of the Entity Armed Forces (EAF)

Trust and cooperation between the armed forces of the different entities within the country have improved. Their numbers were reduced from an estimated 430 000 troops in 1995 to 34 000 by 2001. The level nevertheless remains too high both in relation to any external threat and in relation to the national budget and is not sustainable. SFOR is working with national

military commanders in order to restructure the armed forces in a manner that is affordable and meets the country's security requirements.

The Joint Military Commission (JMC), at its meeting in January 2002, introduced plans for force reductions to be achieved by 2005. The reductions are now expected to be completed by mid-2003. A Common Defence Policy (CDP) was approved on 11 May 2001, with the emphasis on commonality, cooperation and coordination, while building on a commitment to satisfy the requirements for participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace programme.

Weapon collection (Operation *Essential Harvest*)

A nation-wide programme, initiated in 1998, Operation *Essential Harvest* was successful in helping the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina rid itself of many firearms, munitions and explosive devices. It offered a complete amnesty to anyone who handed in munitions or weapons at centralised collection points, or provided information regarding their whereabouts. By the end of 2001, large numbers of arms, mines, hand grenades and rounds of ammunition had been collected, significantly reducing the threat to the local population.

Operation *Essential Harvest* has been extended indefinitely. In view of the risks involved in this operation and accidents that have occurred, SFOR is providing training to local forces in the handling of unexploded ordnance.

War crimes

SFOR has continued to support the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), providing security and logistic support for ICTY investigative teams and surveillance and ground patrolling of alleged mass gravesites. The North Atlantic Council has authorised SFOR to detain and transfer to the ICTY persons indicted for war crimes when SFOR personnel come into contact with them while carrying out their duties. Since 1996, NATO forces have detained and transferred to the jurisdiction of the ICTY in The Hague some 40 people indicted for war crimes.

Upper airspace control

Under the Dayton Peace Agreement, SFOR is responsible for regulating the airspace over Bosnia and Herzegovina by fostering a stable, safe and secure airspace environment that can eventually be returned to civilian control. Progressive steps have been taken towards normalisation and the gradual transfer of control to the Department of Civil Aviation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Refugees and displaced persons

From November 1995 to the end of 2001, security provided by SFOR resulted in the return of 820 000 refugees and displaced persons uprooted by the conflict. The continuation of this trend reflects the improved security conditions and implementation of property laws.

Public security

SFOR Multinational Specialised Units (MSU) contribute to the fight against crime and corruption, which remain major threats to security. SFOR also continues to work closely with the UN International Police Task Force (IPTF), providing assistance with surveillance, communica-

tions, transportation and security, and with the United Nations Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMBIH) on training local police anti-riot units.

In February 2002, the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) accepted a European Union offer to provide an EU police mission from 1 January 2003, when the IPTF mandate expires. Non-EU European NATO members states that are candidates for accession to the EU and other non-EU OSCE members have been invited to make contributions to the force.

De-mining

The conflict left behind up to one million mines throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and many unmarked minefields. Between 1996 and early 2002, there were approximately 1 350 mine victims, approximately 300 of which were children. Since November 1995, 120 000 mines have been removed and 26 million square metres have been cleared. It has been estimated that the total mine threat cannot be eliminated until 2010.

SFOR participated in the de-mining of roads and has set up training initiatives. Its main responsibility now involves the supervision of de-mining activities. On 12 February 2002, state-level legislation paved the way for the administration, management and control of de-mining activities by the national Ministry of Civil Affairs.

NATO's role in relation to the conflict in Kosovo

The origins of the recent conflict in Kosovo date back to 1989 when President Milosevic removed the autonomy of the province within the former Yugoslavia bringing it under the direct control of Belgrade. Tensions simmered for several years and in 1998, open conflict between Serbian military and police forces and Kosovar Albanians broke out, resulting in the deaths of over 1 500 Kosovar Albanians and the expulsion of 400 000 people from their homes.

The international community became gravely concerned about the escalating conflict, its humanitarian consequences, the risk of it spreading to other countries, President Milosevic's disregard for diplomatic efforts aimed at peacefully resolving the crisis and the destabilising role of Kosovar Albanian militants.

On 13 October 1998, following a deterioration of the situation, the NATO Council authorised Activation Orders for NATO air strikes, in support of diplomatic efforts to make the Milosevic regime withdraw forces from Kosovo, cooperate in bringing an end to the violence and facilitate the return of refugees to their homes. Following further diplomatic initiatives, President Milosevic agreed to comply and the air strikes were called off.

Further measures were taken in support of UN Security Council Resolutions calling for an end to the conflict, including the establishment of a Kosovo Verification Mission by the OSCE and an aerial surveillance mission by NATO, as well as a NATO military task force to assist in the evacuation of members of the Verification Mission in the event of further conflict.

The situation in Kosovo flared up again at the beginning of 1999, following a number of acts of provocation on both sides and the use of excessive force by the Serbian Army and Special Police. Renewed international efforts to give new political impetus

to finding a peaceful solution to the conflict resulted in the convening of negotiations between the parties to the conflict in London and Paris under international mediation.

The negotiations failed and in March 1999, Serbian military and police forces stepped up the intensity of their operations against the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, moving extra troops and tanks into the region, in a clear breach of agreements reached. Tens of thousands of people began to flee their homes in the face of this systematic offensive.

On 20 March, the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission was withdrawn from the region when obstruction from Serbian forces prevented it from fulfilling its task. Further diplomatic efforts were made to persuade President Milosevic to stop attacks on the Kosovar Albanians or face imminent NATO air strikes. Milosevic refused to comply and, on 23 March, NATO air strikes against Serb forces began.

NATO's objectives, set out in a statement issued by Heads of State and Government on 23 April 1999, were to bring about a verifiable stop to all military action and the immediate ending of violence and repression; the withdrawal from Kosovo of military, police and paramilitary forces; the stationing in Kosovo of an international military presence; the unconditional and safe return of all refugees and displaced persons and unhindered access to them by humanitarian aid organisations; and the establishment of a political agreement for Kosovo in conformity with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Following diplomatic efforts by Russia and the European Union on 3 June, a Military Technical Agreement was concluded between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on 9 June. On the following day, after confirmation that the withdrawal of Yugoslav forces from Kosovo had begun, NATO announced the suspension of the air campaign.

On 10 June, UN Security Council Resolution 1244 welcomed the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's acceptance of the principles for a political solution, including an immediate end to violence and a rapid withdrawal of its military, police and paramilitary forces and the deployment of an effective international civil and security presence, with substantial NATO participation.

The NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR)

The first elements of KFOR entered Kosovo on 12 June 1999. By 20 June, the withdrawal of Serbian forces was complete. Throughout the crisis, NATO forces were at the forefront of humanitarian efforts to relieve the suffering of the refugees forced to flee Kosovo by the Serbian campaign of ethnic cleansing. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*) NATO troops built refugee camps, refugee reception centres and emergency feeding stations and moved hundreds of tons of humanitarian aid to those in need.

In Albania, NATO deployed substantial forces to provide similar forms of assistance and helped the UNHCR with the coordination of humanitarian aid flights to enable the evacuation of refugees to safety in other countries, including many NATO countries. These flights were supplemented by aircraft supplied by member countries. The Euro-

Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) established at NATO in June 1998 also played an important role in the coordination of support to UNHCR relief operations.

KFOR initially comprised some 50 000 personnel from all 19 NATO member countries and from 19 non-NATO countries (among them 16 Partner countries, including a Russian contingent) under unified command and control. By the beginning of 2002, KFOR comprised about 39 000 troops. In Spring 2002, improvements achieved in the security environment in the region enabled Alliance defence ministers to announce the restructuring of SFOR and KFOR and accompanying force reductions resulting in a future force level of 32 000 troops, with further reductions planned for 2003.

Support for neighbouring countries

As a result of the conflict in Kosovo, the countries of the region faced major humanitarian, political, and economic problems. In parallel with the deployment of KFOR, Alliance efforts therefore focused on providing immediate practical assistance in dealing with the refugee crisis by reassigning NATO forces in the region to humanitarian tasks.

Assistance included the provision of emergency accommodation and building of refugee camps and assisting humanitarian aid organisations by providing transport and other forms of help including the distribution of food and aid. NATO countries provided financial and other support to Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*) and gave reassurances that they would respond to any challenges to their security by the government in Belgrade.

KFOR tasks have included assistance in connection with the return or relocation of displaced persons and refugees; reconstruction and de-mining; medical assistance; security and public order; security of ethnic minorities; protection of patrimonial sites; border security; interdiction of cross-border weapons smuggling; implementation of a Kosovo-wide weapons, ammunition and explosives amnesty programme; weapons destruction; and support for the establishment of civilian institutions, law and order, the judicial and penal system, the electoral process and other aspects of the political, economic and social life of the province. Examples are given below.

Nineteen non-NATO countries currently participate in KFOR operations, contributing to the accomplishment of KFOR's mission and gaining practical experience of operating with NATO forces. They are: Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and Ukraine.

Examples of KFOR tasks and achievements

Refugees

Positive progress has been made with regard to returns of refugees and displaced persons. Approximately 1 300 000 people from inside Kosovo and abroad, have been able to return to their homes and villages.

In May 2000, a Joint Committee on Returns (JCR) was established to explore ways and means for the safe and sustainable return of Kosovar Serbs. KFOR, the United Nations Mission to Kosovo (UNMIK), and other international organisations have helped to coordinate and support resettlement activities and to limit the potential for ethnic violence. KFOR forces have increased their presence in minority enclaves to provide more security in the wake of localised violence against Kosovo Serbs and other minorities.

In August 2001, the JCR implemented the first organised return of Kosovo Serbs to the Osajane Valley. Accompanied by significant KFOR support, the return was incident free, and UNHCR plans to build on this success for its 2002 return programme.

Reconstruction and de-mining

By April 2002, about 34 060 houses had been reconstructed. Some 1 430 more are under reconstruction. Activity has also focused on repair and renovation of the electrical power system, restoration of roads and railroads and the reparation of bridges. There has been a significant reduction in accidents involving unexploded ordinance, including mines and cluster bombs, due to the work being undertaken by civilian de-mining companies working under contract to the United Nations Mine Action Centre (UNMAC) and KFOR. As of December 2001, 4.7 million square metres of land had been cleared. Experts have also inspected and cleared 1 200 schools and 16 000 houses and public buildings. Some 2 300 landmines as well as some 1 200 unexploded devices have been removed.

Medical assistance

Medical assistance has been another major sphere of activity for KFOR, with over 50 000 civilian patients receiving treatment annually.

Currency

In January 2002, the security provided by KFOR, the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and the Kosovo Police Service facilitated the conversion of Kosovo's currency from the Deutschmark to the Euro.

Security and public order

One of the highest priorities for KFOR is improving security for ethnic minorities. Each Multi-national Brigade allocates on average 400 of its personnel to tasks related to the protection of minority (mainly Serb) populations in Kosovo. This includes guarding individual homes and villages, transporting people to schools and shops and patrolling and monitoring checkpoints.

Significant KFOR forces are also assigned to the protection of some 145 patrimonial sites throughout Kosovo, on a 24-hour-a-day basis. Some sites have been handed over to UNMIK police in a pilot project aimed at eventually handing over responsibility for the protection of all such sites.

KFOR is constantly engaged in border security tasks, using a combination of foot, vehicle and helicopter patrols as well as providing aerial surveillance. Elements from 15 KFOR battalions, totalling about 1 000 soldiers, are involved in this task. Border monitoring activities were significantly enhanced in response to the crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*), with a particular focus on interdicting the flow of fighters, weapons and other supplies.

In June 2001 KFOR began an operation (*Operation Eagle*) along Kosovo's border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*) and Albania, designed to interdict weapons smuggling. By the end of April 2002, many thousands of weapons, mines, grenades and rounds of ammunition had been seized for subsequent destruction within Kosovo.

From mid-March to mid-April 2002, a Kosovo-wide weapons, ammunition and explosives amnesty programme was conducted, allowing individuals to turn in weapons to KFOR without fear of repercussions. Significant numbers of weapons, mines and rounds of ammunitions were handed over and destroyed.

Civil implementation

In October 2000, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) played an important role in the planning of municipal elections, including voter registration, under security arrangements provided by KFOR, in coordination with UNMIK, to protect freedom of movement in the area.

The elections were conducted without major incident. In November 2001, KFOR troops contributed to the successful conduct of the elections for a new Assembly by continuing to provide a secure environment for the local population as well as logistical support, in close coordination with the OSCE and the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Law and order

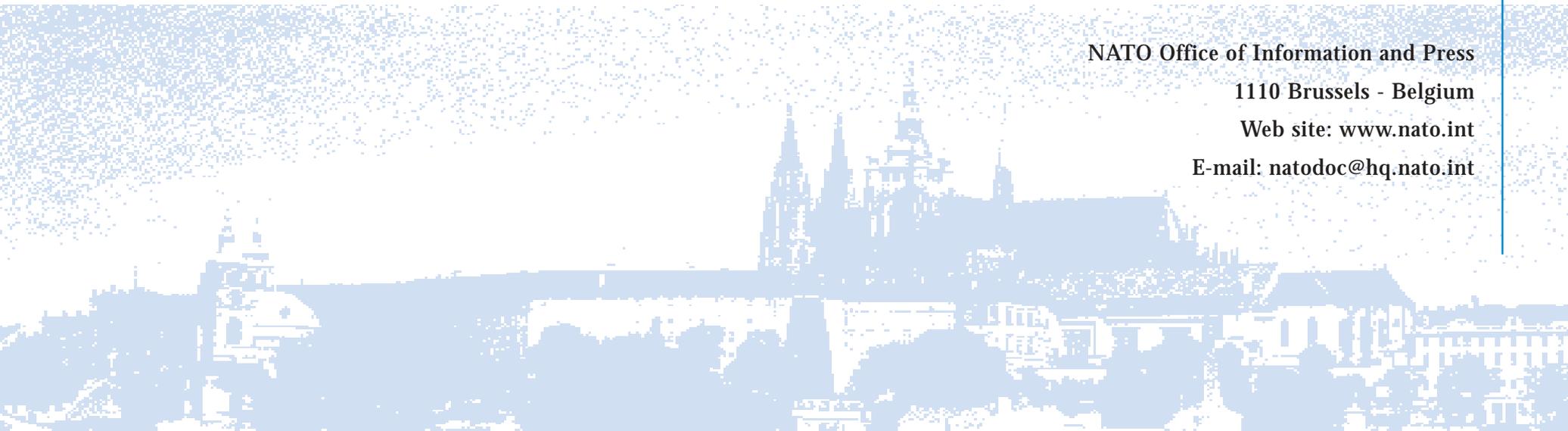
An important part of KFOR resources continues to be engaged in patrolling and manning checkpoints and protecting patrimonial sites, as part of the process of restoring law and order.

KFOR, acting in support of UNMIK, remains a crucial asset in the fight against organised crime and smuggling and supports UNMIK-led operations to deny extremist armed groups or criminal elements the use of operational and logistic bases in Kosovo.

NATO's Role in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*)

In August 2001, the North Atlantic Council responded to the request of President Trajkovski of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*), for NATO assistance in demilitarising the National Liberation Army (NLA) and disarming the ethnic Albanian groups operating on the territory of his country. The Council authorised a 30-day mission code-named *Operation Essential Harvest* to collect and destroy all weapons voluntarily handed in by NLA personnel. The operation involved some 3 500 NATO troops and their logistical support, and successfully collected some 3 875 weapons and 397 600 other items, including mines and explosives.

In September, President Trajkovski requested a follow-on force in order to provide protection for international monitors from the European Union and the OSCE overseeing the implementation of the peace plan in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*). Known as *Operation Fox*, this mission involves some 700 troops provided by NATO member countries, reinforcing some 300 troops already based in the country. It started on 27 September 2001 with a three-month mandate and has subsequently been extended.



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