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NATO AND IRAQ





■ KEY INFORMATION

NATO does not have a direct role in the international stabilisation force in Iraq. So far, it has been providing support to Poland, on the explicit request of this country. It is supporting Polish troops, which are leading a multinational division in Iraq's central province, with force generation, secure communications, logistics, movement coordination, intelligence and logistics expertise.

In addition to its support to Poland, NATO responded to a request made by Turkey, in February 2003, for defensive assistance from the Alliance in the event of a threat to its population or territory resulting from armed conflict in neighbouring Iraq.

After intense debate within NATO, Operation *Display Deterrence* was launched (20 February-30 April) under the overall command of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SHAPE) and run by NATO's regional headquarters Southern Europe (AFSOUTH). NATO activated its integrated air defence system in Turkey, provided four AWACS aircraft, three Dutch ground-based air defence PATRIOT batteries, as well as equipment and material for the protection from the effects of chemical and biological attack. NATO was also prepared to augment Turkey's air defence assets if necessary.

This initiative was originally part of a package of six measures proposed by the United States in the event that the Alliance chose to become more involved in the possible military campaign against Iraq.

■ CHRONOLOGY

2003 3 September: Poland assumes command of the Multinational Division (MND) Central South in Iraq.

30 June: SHAPE organises a Force Review conference to finalise the plans for NATO support to Poland and its planned role in Iraq.

3 June: NATO approves support for Poland in Iraq.

21 May: NATO agrees to provide support to Poland in its planned role in the international stabilisation force in Iraq.

16 April: NATO agrees to conclude Operation *Display Deterrence*, which is formally terminated by Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Johnson, on 30 April.

March: The United States launch Operation *Iraqi Freedom*, with the support of the United Kingdom.

20 February: Operation *Display Deterrence*, in Turkey, is activated.

19 February: NATO's Defence Planning Committee authorises the deployment of surveillance aircraft and missile defences to Turkey.

16 February: NATO's Defence Planning Committee decides that NATO military authorities should provide military advice on the feasibility, implications and timelines of defensive measures to assist Turkey.

10 February: Turkey formally invokes Article 4 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

2002 21-22 November: NATO Heads of State and Government pledge their full support for the efforts of the UN to ensure full and immediate compliance by Iraq with UN Security Council Resolution 1441.



■ OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS AND BACKGROUND READING

*Go to the electronic version of the press kit for clickable links
(www.nato.int/istanbul2004/presskit.htm)*

Press release giving details on NATO support to Poland,
3 September 2003

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2003/p03-093e.htm>

Decision sheet of the Defence Planning Committee on support
to Turkey within the Framework of Article 4 of the Washington
Treaty, 16 February 2003

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2003/p030216e.htm>

Prague Summit statement on Iraq, 21 November 2002

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2002/p02-133e.htm>

Speeches by Jaap de Hoop Scheffer in which he mentions the
possibility of NATO taking on a greater role in Iraq

- At the National Defense University, Washington,
29 January 2004,

<http://www.nato.int/docu/speech/2004/s040129a.htm>

- At the Diplomatic Academy Warsaw, 4 March 2004

<http://www.nato.int/docu/speech/2004/s040304a.htm>

About NATO and Iraq. Issue page giving news items, official
documents and speeches on NATO's support to Poland and
Turkey

<http://www.nato.int/issues/iraq/index.html>

Operation *Display Deterrence* (20 February - 16 April 2003), NATO's defensive assistance to Turkey. This module gives an overview of support provided by NATO

<http://www.nato.int/issues/turkey/index.html>

AFSOUTH, Operation *Display Deterrence*

<http://www.afsouth.nato.int/operations/NATOTurkey/DisplayDeterrence.htm>

Consultations on measures to protect Turkey

<http://www.nato.int/docu/update/2003/02-february/e0210a.htm>

Operation *Iraqi Freedom* - The United States Army

<http://www.army.mil/operations/oif/>

