



Partnership
in Action

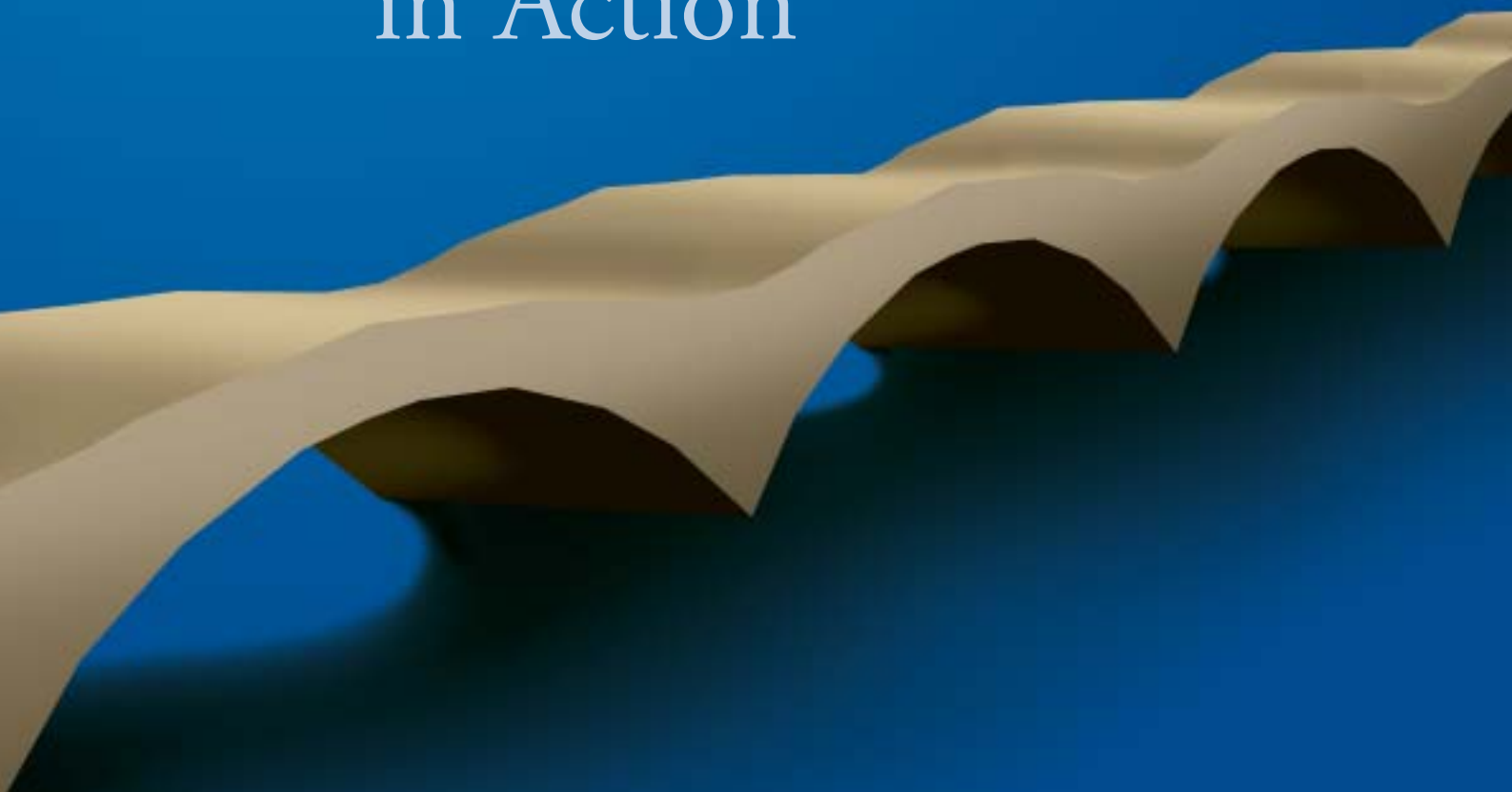




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Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.



The birth and development of the Partnership idea

November 1989 saw the fall of the Berlin Wall, signalling the end of the Cold War. The breathless pace of change in Central and Eastern Europe left NATO faced with a new and very different set of security challenges. Political change on the unprecedented scale of the past few years opened up tremendous possibilities but would inevitably involve new uncertainties and the potential for instability.

What could be done to seize the opportunity to set European security affairs on a new, more positive path after the confrontations of the Cold War? What steps could be taken to restore normality to relations among all the countries of Europe, East and West? What help could be given to the states of Central and Eastern Europe and of the former Soviet Union to consolidate their newly found independence and to realise their ambitions to participate fully as democratic countries, both regionally and in the wider world, in addressing multinational security concerns?

Allied leaders responded at their summit meeting in London, in July 1990, by extending a hand of friendship across the old East-West divide and proposing a new cooperative relationship with all the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The scene was set for the establishment, in December 1991, of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) as a forum which would bring together NATO and its new Partner countries to discuss issues of common concern.

In 1994, the cooperative process that had been initiated took a quantum leap forward with the launching of the Partnership for Peace (PfP), a major programme of practical bilateral cooperation between NATO and individual Partner countries. And, in 1997, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council – or EAPC – was created, to replace the NACC and to build on its achievements.

This sea-change in attitudes was enshrined in a new strategic concept for the Alliance, issued in November 1991, which adopted a broader approach to security. The opportunities for achieving Alliance objectives through political means were greater than ever before. While the defence dimension remained indispensable, more prominence could now be given to economic, social and environmental issues as a means of promoting stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic area as a whole.

Dialogue and cooperation would be essential parts of the approach required to manage the diversity of challenges facing the Alliance. With the Cold War over, the key goals were now to reduce the risk of conflict arising out of misunderstanding or design and to better manage crises affecting the security of the Allies; to increase mutual understanding and confidence among all European states and to expand the opportunities for genuine partnership in dealing with common security problems.



› The fall of the Berlin Wall opens opportunities for partnership and cooperation

In the past ten years, remarkable progress has been made towards realising these goals. There have been major set-backs and difficulties, perhaps unavoidable given the complex process of political, economic and social change taking place in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Further complications arose out of the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and the risk of instability spreading further afield. Nevertheless, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the Partnership for Peace have developed their own dynamic, as successive steps have been taken by NATO and its Partner countries to extend security cooperation, building on the partnership arrangements they have created.

The political essence of partnership and cooperation at the multinational level consists of regular consultations and contacts on practical cooperation activities designed to build transparency and confi-



› Croatia signs the PFP Framework Document in May 2000

MILESTONES IN THE FIRST 10 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION

- 1991 First meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council
- 1994 Launching of the Partnership for Peace
Partner missions to NATO are established
A Partnership Coordination Cell is established at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE)
- 1995 Partner countries participate in a NATO-led force created to implement the Bosnian peace agreement
An International Coordination Centre is established at SHAPE
- 1997 First meeting of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council at Sintra, Portugal
The operational role of PfP is strengthened
- 1998 Creation of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre and Disaster Response Unit
- 1999 Dialogue and cooperation are included in the Alliance's Strategic Concept as parts of its fundamental security tasks
At the Washington Summit it is agreed to further enhance PfP and strengthen its operational role

dence throughout the Euro-Atlantic area. At the bilateral level it calls for the development of a practical working relationship between individual Partner countries and NATO, tailored to their particular situations and requirements.

The partnership process involves building bridges of communication and understanding between all the countries involved, many of which are former adversaries as members of opposing alliances, or have been at loggerheads over long-standing regional, territorial, political, ethnic or religious disputes. Joint activities aimed at finding common solutions to common security challenges have enabled important strides to be made in overcoming past prejudices and in establishing a clear vision of the mutual benefits to be gained from cooperation.

Today, 27 Partners use the EAPC to consult regularly with the 19 Allies on issues encompassing all aspects of security and all regions of the Euro-Atlantic area. Military forces from NATO member and Partner countries frequently exercise and interact together. In addition, some 9,000 soldiers from Partner countries, including about 4,000 Russians, serve alongside Alliance counterparts in the NATO-led peacekeeping operations in the Balkans. No one would have predicted this dramatic evolution in the Euro-Atlantic strategic environment ten years ago.

It would be impossible to do justice, in a single publication, to the full breadth and range of activities in which EAPC countries are working together. They cover not only the highly visible and well-reported joint peace-support operations in the Balkans but also significant, lower-key activities such as cooperation in the field of arms control verification, logistics, air defence,

the civil-military coordination of airspace management, education and training, and information programmes.

The emphasis throughout is on issues which are of genuine, practical relevance to Partner countries, where benefits can be seen to impact positively on reform, on the development of democratic structures and on Partner country participation in multinational cooperation as members of the wider international community.

This brochure examines five spheres of activity – security dialogue and cooperation, peacekeeping, defence reform, civil emergency planning and cooperation in the areas of science and the environment – considering how each of them contributes to security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area and giving examples of how partnership works in practice. A perspective on future cooperation, based on the EAPC Action Plan for 2000-2002, is offered in the final section.

SOLIDARITY AGAINST TERRORISM

An extraordinary meeting of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council was held on 12 September 2001 at NATO headquarters, where flags were flying at half-mast in the wake of the hijacking of passenger planes and terrorist attacks that had caused massive loss of life in the United States the previous day.

All countries gathered expressed their solidarity with the people of the United States and their deepest sympathies for the victims and their families, as well as their outrage at these brutal and senseless atrocities.

“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.”



Partners and Allies unanimously condemn the attacks



Security dialogue and cooperation

Aimed at promoting transparency and generating mutual confidence, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council brings together 27 Partner countries and the 19 NATO member countries in a forum for regular dialogue and consultation on security issues. Regular meetings are held at the level of ambassadors, foreign and defence ministers, and chiefs of defence, as well as at summit level, providing the political and military framework for partnership activities. Every member country has a voice at EAPC meetings and any subject can be tabled. A two-year EAPC Action Plan provides for longer-term consultation and cooperation on a range of political and security-related matters. Ad hoc working groups focus on areas of particular interest. Countries involve themselves in those initiatives in which they have a direct interest, providing the flexibility that is central to the EAPC's success.

While the EAPC is a multilateral forum, it also serves as the political framework for the individual bilateral relationships developed between NATO and countries participating in the Partnership for Peace. This programme of practical cooperation aims to promote transparency in national defence planning and military budgeting and the democratic control of national armed forces, as well as to develop the capacity for joint action between forces from Partner countries and those of NATO member countries. Individual programmes of cooperation are drawn up from an extensive menu of activities – the PFP Work Programme – according to each country's specific interests and needs. Within the Partnership for Peace, the Allies are committed to consult bilaterally with any Partner country that perceives a direct threat to its territorial integrity, political independence or security.



PROMOTING REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION

Regional security cooperation makes sense. By encouraging transparency and coordination, it builds mutual confidence between countries and contributes to wider peace and security. NATO, which brought together several former adversaries and evolved into history's most cohesive alliance, is living proof of the effectiveness of this approach. When the Cold War ended, the NATO Allies were therefore keen to pursue partnership and cooperation more widely within the Euro-Atlantic area. The structures created to facilitate multinational cooperation, namely the EAPC and the Partnership for Peace programme, have also provided a framework within which to promote and support cooperation between Partner countries at the regional and subregional level.

In the Balkans, for example, recent conflicts and instability have posed a direct challenge to the security interests of NATO members as well as to wider European peace and stability. In addition to the NATO-led Balkan peacekeeping operations, efforts have therefore been made to stimulate and support practical cooperation between countries in the region. An Ad Hoc Working Group on Regional Cooperation in Southeastern Europe, set up under the auspices of the EAPC, has contributed to the development of a package of activities in support of NATO's South East Europe Initiative, launched at the 1999 Washington Summit to promote long-term regional security and stability in the region. These include the creation of a South East Europe Security Cooperation Steering Group (SEEGROUP). Another achievement has been the negotiation of the South East Europe Common

Assessment Paper on Regional Security Challenges and Opportunities (SEECAP). This sets out common perceptions of security challenges among the signatory nations, which include the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as outlining opportunities for mutual cooperation.

In the Caucasus, other organisations play a leading role in promoting security cooperation. However, an EAPC Ad Hoc Working Group on Prospects for Regional Cooperation in the area is encouraging practical cooperation, through seminars and workshops in the areas of defence economics, civil emergency planning, science and the environment. Work may in future be expanded to seek common solutions to other common challenges such as international terrorism, controlling the spread of weapons of mass destruction and small arms and light weapons, as well as crisis management and mine action.



ACTION AGAINST MINES AND SMALL ARMS

The dangers arising from the spread of cheap and indiscriminate weapons of war have become the focus of growing international concern. Easy to acquire and easy to use, small arms help fuel and prolong armed conflicts, as has been repeatedly demonstrated in the Balkans. All too frequently, the targets and the victims of the increase in violence are civilians. Of the four million war-related deaths during the 1990s, 90 per cent were civilians and 80 per cent of those were women and children. It is estimated that there are over half a billion small arms and light weapons in the world – enough for one in every 12 people. They are implicated in over 1,000 deaths every day. In the case of anti-personnel mines, estimates put the total number buried in the ground worldwide at 100 million. On average a landmine explodes every 22 minutes, killing or maiming 26,000 people every year.

Multilateral initiatives have been launched at the global, regional and local levels to tackle the spread of small arms and to address the need for humanitarian mine action. NATO and Partner countries seek to complement these efforts by bringing the Partnership's politico-military expertise to bear on these challenges in the Euro-Atlantic area.



The EAPC has set up an Ad Hoc Working Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons to provide a forum for exchanging information on how best to control the transfer of such weapons, for example, through national export controls and enforcement mechanisms. A new chapter has also been added to the PfP Work Programme to promote training in stockpile management and secure storage, disposal and destruction of surplus stocks, as well as weapons collection and destruction during peacekeeping operations. In addition, tailored assistance is being provided to individual nations on request.

The landmine issue is being addressed in the EAPC Ad Hoc Working Group on Global Humanitarian Mine Action as well as through the PfP Work Programme. Seminars and workshops have focused on specific aspects of the problem and a PfP Trust Fund has been created to support the destruction of anti-personnel landmines (see box). Recently, its scope has been extended to cover the destruction of surplus munitions and small arms and light weapons.

Moreover, while it is the United Nations Mine Action Services that have the leading responsibility for humanitarian de-mining in the field, NATO and Partner troops deployed in the Balkan peacekeeping operations regularly assist civilian organisations in these humanitarian de-mining efforts.

THE PFP TRUST FUND

The Ottawa Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and their destruction focused world attention on mine action. One result was the creation of a new chapter in the PfP Work Programme on Global Humanitarian Mine Action and the development of specific PfP activities, including the creation of a PfP Trust Fund to provide financial support for the safe destruction of anti-personnel landmines.

While the original focus was aimed at supporting implementation of the Ottawa Convention, it was agreed to extend the scope of the PfP Trust Fund to include the destruction of munitions and small arms and light weapons. A first project in Albania was set up in September 2000 to channel funds from donor

nations to support the destruction of 1.6 million anti-personnel mines. The NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency is the executing agency for this project, undertaking technical feasibility studies and coordinating project work. With this technical and financial support, Albania is able to meet its obligations under the Ottawa Convention.

A second project, in Moldova, plans to destroy mines and munitions, including some 250 cubic metres of corrosive rocket fuel, which is leaking into the water supply. A feasibility study has taken place for a third project in Ukraine to destroy part of more than 6 million mines stockpiled during the Soviet era.



Partners in peacekeeping

Partner countries have played a critical role in NATO-led peacekeeping operations ever since the Alliance's initial deployment in the Balkans in December 1995. Approximately 10 per cent of troops participating in the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina and 18 per cent of troops making up the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in Albania, Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* have been contributed by Partner countries and other non-NATO countries from both inside and outside Europe. This reflects growing solidarity and cohesion in the international community with regard to managing crises and preventing the spread of instability.

One of the key aims of the Partnership for Peace is to develop Partner country forces that are able to work together with NATO forces in peacekeeping activities. The participation of Partner countries in the NATO-led forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo has enabled Partner forces to gain practical experience of working together with NATO forces to restore stability to the Balkan area and has helped ease the burden of these missions on members of the Alliance. The benefits to all sides of this long-term and ongoing practical cooperation are self-evident.



WORKING TOGETHER

Work undertaken in the context of PfP, through bilateral programmes and military exercises involving forces from NATO and Partner countries, is helping Partner countries to develop forces with the capacity to participate in peacekeeping activities alongside NATO forces. Increasingly, their military forces have been able to adapt to the Alliance's operational norms to help ensure effectiveness in the field and are adopting procedures and systems compatible with those used by NATO. A Partnership Coordination Cell, established at SHAPE in 1994, helps coordinate PfP training and exercises.

Russia provides the largest non-NATO contingent to both SFOR and KFOR. The terms of Russian participation in these missions are set out in agreements with Russia. A Russian general, based at SHAPE, serves as a Deputy to the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (SACEUR), responsible for

advising SACEUR on all matters concerning the Russian contingent in SFOR. He is also the representative of the Russian Ministry of Defence for Russian KFOR matters.

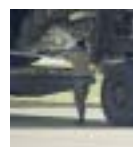
The participation of other Partners and non-NATO countries in the SFOR and KFOR peace-support operations is facilitated by the International Coordination Centre established at SHAPE in October 1995 to provide briefing and planning facilities for all non-NATO troop-contributing countries. Individual participation by the various states is subject to a financial and technical agreement worked out between each troop-contributing country and NATO, once proposed contributions to such operations have been assessed. Each Partner country assumes responsibility for the deployment of its contingents and for providing the support needed to enable them to function effectively. In some cases, support is also made available on a bilateral basis by a NATO member country.



Many countries are joining forces to participate in peacekeeping activities. Sometimes, units from non-NATO countries are integrated with the forces of a NATO country. In other cases, individual countries have chosen to form joint battalions such as the BALTBAT, which involves Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and the Polish-Ukrainian peacekeeping battalion. Plans were initiated in 2001 for the creation of a Czech-Slovak unit, which may be deployed to Kosovo in 2002. Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Romania and Turkey agreed in 1998 to form the Southeast European Brigade (SEEBRIG), which started exercising in 1999 but has not yet been deployed.

In the course of more than half a decade, soldiers from a large number of Partner countries have

become accustomed to working alongside their NATO counterparts, learning how the Alliance operates in complex and difficult circumstances. This, more than any other single factor, has been critical in improving relations and building confidence and understanding between military forces, which until the end of the Cold War, formed hostile alliances confronting each other across a divided continent.



MOBILISING INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Although most non-NATO countries that contribute troops to the NATO-led peacekeeping operations belong to the Partnership for Peace programme and come from Europe, several troop-contributors are from other continents and some have no formal relationship with the Alliance.

THE POLISH-UKRAINIAN PEACEKEEPING BATTALION

One of the by-products of international cooperation in the context of NATO-led peace-support operations is the degree of bilateral or trilateral cooperation that takes place between individual countries.

A prime example of this is the joint Polish-Ukrainian battalion in KFOR. The battalion forms part of the Multinational Brigade East in the US sector of Kosovo, which borders both the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Serbia. Commanded by a Polish officer with a Ukrainian deputy, the battalion has about 800 soldiers, of whom around 500 are Poles and approximately

300 are Ukrainians. It also includes a Lithuanian contingent of about 30 soldiers.

Poland and Ukraine share a difficult history and in the years immediately following the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, their political leaders made building better relations between their countries a priority. Military cooperation has been a key aspect of this *rapprochement*. The joint peacekeeping battalion was created in the mid-1990s. It is made up entirely of professional soldiers and has a joint staff, with base camps situated on each side of the Polish-Ukrainian border.

Argentina contributes peacekeepers to both SFOR and KFOR and the United Arab Emirates contributes a large contingent to KFOR. Jordan and Morocco, which participate in NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue, contribute peacekeepers to SFOR and KFOR. Egypt and Malaysia have contributed peacekeepers to SFOR and to its predecessor, the Implementation Force (IFOR). Other manifestations of international cooperation in this context include Australian and New Zealand soldiers seconded by their countries to serve as peacekeepers in the Balkans as part of exchange programmes with the United Kingdom.

The motivation for participating in these forces varies. For many, the overriding objective is to contribute to stability and to prevent the spread of conflict further afield. For some, including those which are participating in NATO's Membership Action Plan and have aspirations to become members of the Alliance, participation offers an opportunity to learn how NATO operates and to use their experience in helping to undertake national military reforms. Others are keen to play their part as independent sovereign countries with a responsibility towards regional and international peace and towards the protection of minorities within multi-ethnic societies.

A combination of these factors has resulted in unprecedented cooperation to implement the accords bringing conflict to an end in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Kosovo. It has also helped to provide the secure environment which is essential for international organisations involved in humanitarian aid and in the rebuilding process to be able to function effectively and meet longer-term objectives of building a durable basis for future stability and economic development.



› On patrol in Kosovo

Map Euro-A Partners






NATO countries

- 1  BELGIUM
- 2  CANADA
- 3  CZECH REPUBLIC
- 4  DENMARK
- 5  FRANCE
- 6  GERMANY
- 7  GREECE

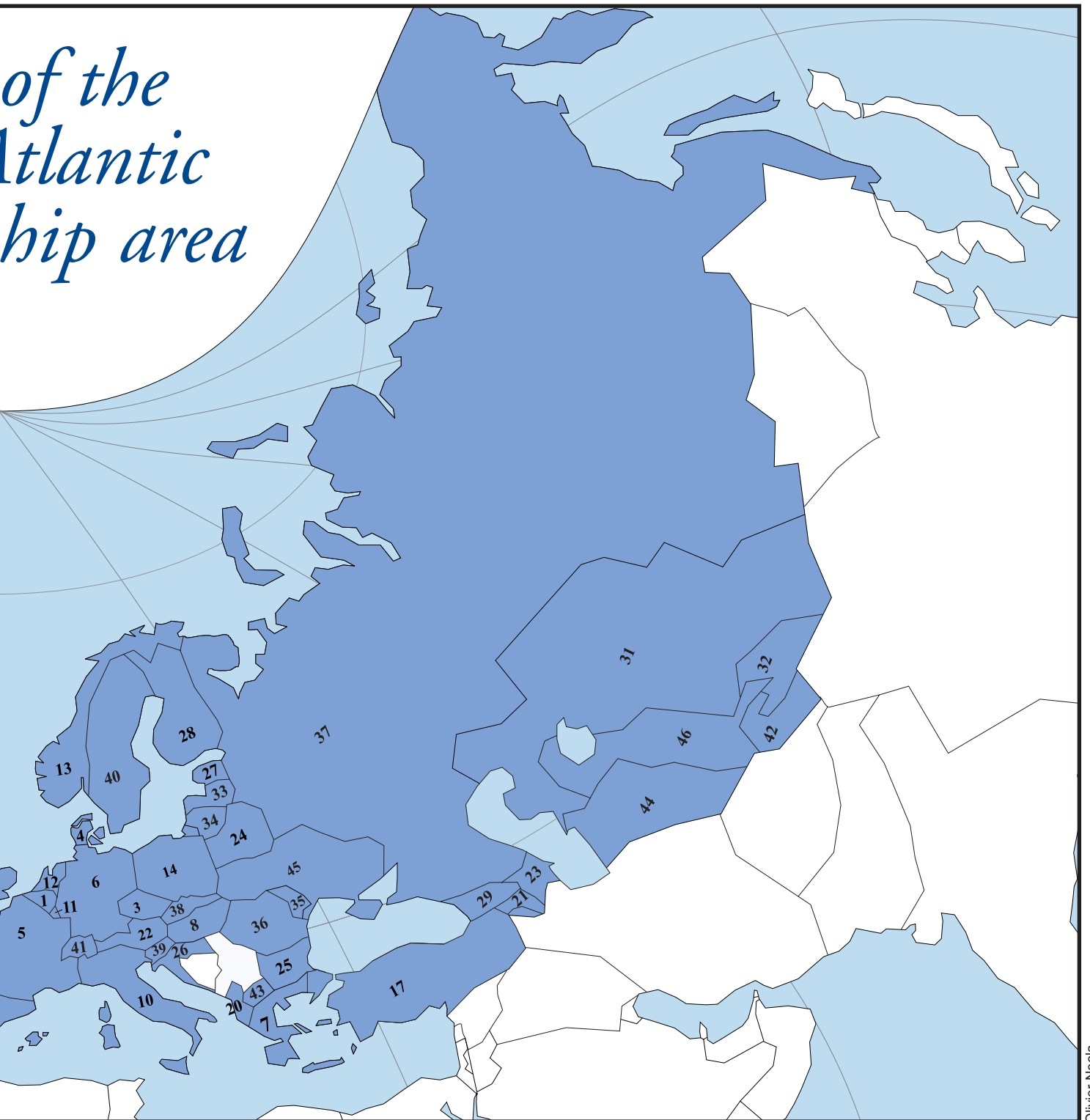
- 8  HUNGARY
- 9  ICELAND
- 10  ITALY
- 11  LUXEMBOURG
- 12  NETHERLANDS
- 13  NORWAY
- 14  POLAND
- 15  PORTUGAL

- 16  SPAIN
- 17  TURKEY
- 18  UNITED KINGDOM
- 19  UNITED STATES

Partner countries

- 20  ALBANIA
- 21  ARMENIA
- 22  AUSTRIA

of the Atlantic ship area



Olivier Neola

- | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|------------|----|--|------------------|----|--|---|
| 23 | | AZERBAIJAN | 31 | | KAZAKHSTAN | 39 | | SLOVENIA |
| 24 | | BELARUS | 32 | | KYRGHYZ REPUBLIC | 40 | | SWEDEN |
| 25 | | BULGARIA | 33 | | LATVIA | 41 | | SWITZERLAND |
| 26 | | CROATIA | 34 | | LITHUANIA | 42 | | TAJIKISTAN |
| 27 | | ESTONIA | 35 | | MOLDOVA | 43 | | THE FORMER YUGOSLAV
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA* |
| 28 | | FINLAND | 36 | | ROMANIA | 44 | | TURKMENISTAN |
| 29 | | GEORGIA | 37 | | RUSSIA | 45 | | UKRAINE |
| 30 | | IRELAND | 38 | | SLOVAKIA | 46 | | UZBEKISTAN |



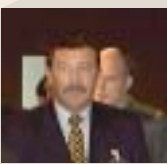
Defence in transition

With the end of the Cold War, many looked forward to a peace dividend resulting from reduced defence expenditures. However, both NATO and Partner countries were soon facing new security challenges. Combined with the need to adapt their armed forces to the changed security environment, these would inevitably have economic consequences.

The new independent states and central and eastern European countries were confronted with the daunting task of restructuring and retraining military forces which had formed part of a heavily militarised environment and were no longer affordable or appropriate in the context of democratic change. Moreover, in transforming their armed forces, a key priority was to bring about changes which would enable them to contribute to crisis

management and peacekeeping operations in the interests of the stability and security of the whole of Europe. At the same time, former military personnel had to be reintegrated into civilian structures. Both factors have significant economic implications.

Carrying out defence reforms is neither cheap nor easy. One of the most important contributions of the Partnership for Peace has therefore been the mechanism it has provided for sharing experience and exchanging information on best practice in this field. Bilateral programmes with individual Partner countries have enabled NATO countries to play a central part in providing assistance in tackling the extensive conceptual and practical problems of defence reform which Partner countries have had to face.



DEFENCE REFORM IN UKRAINE

When Ukraine declared independence in 1991, it inherited parts of the military structure and armed forces of the former Soviet Union. The country has since been faced with the task of transforming its Cold War inheritance into a smaller, modern and more efficient force, capable of meeting the new security needs of the country, as well as supporting Ukraine's chosen role as an active participant in European affairs and as a contributor to European stability and security.

Through increasing contacts and cooperation with NATO, Ukraine has been able to draw extensively on advice and practical assistance. After the signing of the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership between

NATO and Ukraine in 1997, cooperation was intensified and joint bodies were created to consult on the future development of Ukraine's armed forces. A NATO Liaison Office was also established in Kyiv in April 1999 to support these defence reform efforts.

NATO-Ukraine consultations cover a range of issues, including the transition from conscript to volunteer forces, resource management, budgeting and civil-military relations. Security-related round-table discussions are also held with Ukrainian parliamentarians and other officials. Moreover, a wide range of PfP activities and military exercises taking place in Ukraine and elsewhere are giving Ukrainian military personnel hands-on experience of working with the forces of NATO countries.

Training and education are important elements of this transformation. Together with counterparts from other Partner countries, senior Ukrainian officers participate in courses at the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy, and the NATO (SHAPE) School at Oberammergau, Germany. Contacts with these two educational establishments have also been instrumental in helping to set up a new multinational faculty at the Ukrainian Defence Academy. In addition, with NATO support, retraining programmes are being organised for former or soon-to-be discharged Ukrainian officers to ease their transition to civilian life.



MANAGING MUNITIONS IN ALBANIA

Anarchy engulfed Albania in early 1997, when thousands of frustrated citizens took to the streets, having lost their life's savings in the collapse of pyramid investment schemes. There was widespread rioting and looting. As law and order broke down, many military installations were abandoned. Hordes of looters seized an estimated 600,000 weapons and approximately 20,000 tonnes of ammunition disappeared. Explosions occurred in many storage depots.

Once order was restored, over 150,000 weapons were recovered but the availability of so much unexploded ammunition exacerbated the already serious problem caused by stocks of obsolete and unstable ordnance and inadequate facilities for storage and disposal. Albania had neither the means nor the technical expertise to deal with this crisis – initial attempts to clear the worst hot spots led to more than 50 casualties. The country turned to NATO and the Partnership for Peace for help.

A NATO-led team including ammunition specialists from both NATO and Partner countries arrived in Albania in late 1997 to assess the scale of the problem. They found that throughout the country over 180 hectares of land were contaminated with unexploded ordnance.

As a practical way forward and in the spirit of PfP, it was agreed that the best solution was to help Albania to help itself. In 1998, intensive, hands-on

High-level consultations take place at the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence



courses were set up for Albanian officers to provide them with technical skills and know-how in ammunition management and explosive ordnance disposal procedures. An important component of the scheme was to teach these officers to train others in the same techniques.

Newly qualified Albanian ammunition experts were able to start clearing sites of unexploded ordnance during 1999. By the end of the following year, 260 tonnes of ammunition had been cleared, freeing up 45 hectares of land for productive use. The same expertise was also called upon during the Kosovo crisis to deal with unexploded ordnance fired by Serbian forces along the Kosovo-Albanian border.

As a signatory to the Ottawa Convention prohibiting the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines, Albania faced another enormous challenge: the destruction of a stockpile of 1.6 million landmines within four years. International assistance was on hand and a project was launched, making use of reverse engineering techniques to dismantle landmines, separate and destroy dangerous components, recover remaining parts and recycle them as scrap. A PfP Trust Fund was specifically established to channel financial assistance from donor nations to fund this project.



TACKLING THE SOCIAL COSTS OF DOWNSIZING IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

An innovative, NATO-sponsored programme, set up in the framework of the EU-sponsored Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, is helping recently and soon-to-be discharged military personnel in Bulgaria and Romania to find new employment in civilian life. The Stability Pact has enabled NATO and the World Bank to come together in an unusual partnership to help tackle the social costs of downsizing.

Teams of experts from several NATO countries were dispatched to Bulgaria and Romania, in early 2000, to help design individual programmes for each country. Based on the findings of these missions, and further monitoring undertaken by NATO, the World Bank agreed to provide the necessary loans.

A total of some 40,000 military personnel will benefit from opportunities to learn new skills which will teach them, for example, how to look for and apply for jobs in the market economy or how to start a small enterprise or a business franchise. Trainees are put in touch with employers and have access to databases on job opportunities. In some cases, legal advice and administrative support are also made available.

Bulgaria did not receive a World Bank loan but appealed instead for donor-financing. The Netherlands, Norway and the Open Society Institute – a charitable foundation established by philanthropist George Soros – contributed approximately US\$ 500,000 to launch the initiative. The United Kingdom donated computers to the non-governmental organisation that has been subcontracted by the Bulgarian defence ministry to administer the programme. Four regional centres have been set up to facilitate the transition to civilian life of former military personnel.

Romania borrowed US\$ 500,000 from the World Bank in March 2001 to get its programme off the ground and is negotiating a further loan of US\$ 3 million. The scheme is administered by the Romanian defence ministry but involves several other government departments and agencies. Teams of counsellors visit

military bases to advise soon-to-be discharged military personnel on their options in civilian life and to help them cope with the trauma of redundancy.

Both Albania and Croatia have expressed interest in launching similar initiatives and expert teams met to discuss Croatian proposals in March 2001.

› Stockpiles of anti-personnel mines and surplus munitions are destroyed in Albania





Coordinating responses to civil emergencies

Disasters, man-made or natural, do not recognise international borders. The Chernobyl accident in 1986 was a sobering reminder of this fact. Its effects were felt in much of Europe, both east and west, though the impact and negative consequences were greatest in the former Soviet Union. Many western nations responded with offers of medical assistance but, at that time, there was no question of NATO involvement. Even if political constraints had not intervened, there were no mechanisms in place to coordinate measures taken by NATO members to bring emergency relief to victims of a nuclear catastrophe in a non-NATO country.

This situation has changed fundamentally since the end of the Cold War. Significant progress has been made in cooperation with regard to disaster preparedness and disaster response. Cooperation in this area, referred to in NATO as Civil Emergency Planning, now makes up the largest non-military component of Partnership for Peace activities. A Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) created in 1998, in response to a Russian initiative, has helped coordinate international responses to floods in Ukraine and earthquakes in Greece and Turkey, as well as contributing to humanitarian relief operations in the Balkans.



MANAGING AND PREVENTING FLOODS IN UKRAINE

When heavy rainfalls and melting snow led to severe floods in twelve regions of western Ukraine in March 2001, the government turned to NATO for help. Flood waters had risen to unprecedented levels, claiming lives, forcing people from their homes and destroying buildings.

The EADRCC was active from the outset. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs was consulted on action to be taken and urgent requests for assistance were sent to contact points in NATO and Partner country capitals. Twenty EAPC nations responded.

The priority was to send high-capacity pumps to the region to reduce pressure on protective dams, as well as smaller pumps to evacuate water from the basements of flooded buildings and wells. Hungary, the Netherlands, the Slovak Republic and Switzerland

sent teams to work with local relief personnel. Funds were channelled through the Red Cross and, within a month, almost 3,000 tonnes of emergency supplies had been transported to the area. The EADRCC disseminated regular updates on the assistance provided and on continuing assistance requirements, helping to focus on priorities and avoid duplication.

Western Ukraine has experienced 13 major floods during the last century. In 1995, NATO countries were involved in channelling assistance when the town of Kharkiv was flooded. A few years later, in November 1998, 11 EAPC countries responded to the EADRCC's call for assistance when the most devastating flooding to hit the Tisza river basin in recent years affected over 400,000 people in 120 small towns and villages and submerged 100,000 hectares of agricultural land.

The damage caused by repeated floods, landslides and mudflows is cumulative and the population in the Carpathian region is increasingly at risk from its effects. PfP exercises and projects are therefore



› Flood-relief efforts in Ukraine

seeking to help Ukraine to undertake more effective preparation for such emergencies and to better manage their consequences. Transcarpathia 2000 – a flood-simulation exercise involving 11 EAPC countries, held in western Ukraine in September 2000 – practised procedures and tested capabilities, such as conducting air reconnaissance, evacuating victims and deploying water purification equipment. A joint Ukraine-NATO pilot project was launched in 2001, involving neighbouring countries, to develop an effective flood warning and response system for the Tisza river catchment area.



COORDINATING HELP FOR KOSOVAR REFUGEES

International concern over the emerging humanitarian crisis in and around Kosovo mounted during 1998. By year end, open conflict between Serbian military and police forces and Kosovar Albanian forces had left over 1,500 ethnic Albanians dead and forced 400,000 from their homes.

The EADRCC became involved immediately upon its creation in early June 1998, when the UNHCR asked for help to transport 165 tonnes of urgently needed relief items to refugees in Albania. Over the next few months, as the crisis evolved, an effective basis for cooperation between the EADRCC and UNHCR was established. EADRCC personnel also made several trips to the region to develop a better understanding of the situation. This groundwork made it possible for the EADRCC to intensify and broaden its involvement in the relief effort, when the crisis escalated in spring 1999 with the launch of Allied air strikes and the forced expulsion of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians by Serbian forces.

The Centre served as a focal point for information sharing among EAPC countries and helped coordinate responses to requests for assistance. Relief items such as medical supplies and equipment, shoes and clothing, telecommunications equipment and tents for over 20,000 people were dispatched. The EADRCC also channelled aid to the region from non-Partner countries such as Israel, which provided a fully staffed and equipped field hospital, and the United Arab Emirates, which helped repair Kukes airfield in north-eastern Albania.

Aircraft, helicopters, cargo-handling teams and logistical advice were provided to help with the transport and distribution of aid. The EADRCC played a significant role in the coordination of priority humanitarian flights by bringing together key actors in the air-traffic management field to develop appropriate procedures and by arranging for air-traffic experts to be assigned to the UN Air Coordination Cell.

A EURO-ATLANTIC DISASTER-RESPONSE CAPABILITY

The decision to develop a Euro-Atlantic disaster-response capability was taken by NATO countries in May 1998. A Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre was set up at NATO headquarters the following month. Arrangements were also made for a Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Unit (EADRU), made up of a mix of national elements, to be established when required and dispatched to emergency locations.

The EADRCC coordinates responses to disasters in the EAPC area and acts as a focal point for information sharing among EAPC countries. It also works closely with the relevant UN agencies which play a leading role in responding to international disasters; namely the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and other organisations. A permanent UN-OCHA liaison officer serves in the EADRCC's offices.

Standing operating procedures to help ensure rapid responses in times of emergency have been developed by the EADRCC. Countries are encouraged to develop bilateral or multilateral arrangements to address issues such as visa regulations, border crossing arrangements, transit agreements, customs clearance and status of personnel. Such measures will speed the deployment of relief items and teams to an actual disaster location and avoid bureaucratic delays.

Further information: www.eadrcc.org

The EADRCC also acted in addition as an interlocutor with other NATO and non-NATO bodies, on behalf of the two countries most affected by the refugee crisis, Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, by articulating and explaining specific concerns. One such issue, as the crisis intensified, was the urgent need to establish mechanisms that would act as a humanitarian safety valve by allowing evacuation of refugees to third countries.



The EADRCC helped get urgently needed relief items to Kosovar refugees



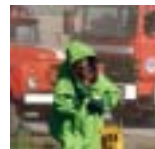
Bringing scientists together for progress and peace

NATO has two distinct programmes that bring together scientists and experts from NATO and Partner countries on a regular basis to work on problems of common interest. The NATO Science Programme offers grants for collaboration in civil science between scientists in Partner countries and NATO countries, as well as for infrastructure and research and development in Partner countries. NATO's Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society deals with problems of the environment and society by bringing together national agencies to collaborate on pilot studies in these areas. The two programmes are differently organised and separate funding arrangements apply to each of them. However, both are designed to enhance the opportunities for cooperation between NATO and Partner countries in addressing problems of common concern.

The Science Programme contributes to overall peace and security by creating enduring links between researchers in Partner and NATO countries, by stimulating the cooperation that is essential to progress in science, and by helping to sustain the scientific community in Partner countries. In 2001, over 10,000 scientists from NATO and Partner countries collaborated with each other through joint research or participation in workshops and study institutes, and through NATO science fellowships. Russian scientist, Professor Zhores Alferov, co-director of a NATO Science for Peace-sponsored research project on light-emitting electronic devices, was co-recipient of the Nobel prize for Physics in 2000.



› Measuring radioactivity



RADIOACTIVITY STUDIES

Over 450 nuclear blasts were carried out at the nuclear testing site in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, before its closure in 1991. The environmental damage and the consequent danger posed to the local population, fauna and flora went largely unmonitored during the 1990s. Today, however, a NATO-sponsored project involving scientists from Kazakhstan and the United Kingdom and an Irish university is enabling contamination levels to be measured across 600 square kilometres of the site.

The selected area of study has repeatedly been exposed to high levels of radiation. It was in the plume of a 1953 ground-level, hydrogen-bomb explosion and lies close to both the Degelen mountains, where over two hundred nuclear tests were carried out,

and to another test site, Balapan, where over a hundred nuclear explosions took place in vertical underground shafts. The area was also the site of experiments using nuclear explosives to create canals and divert rivers.

Three key studies are underway. First, contamination levels are being measured to help identify land that is immediately fit for human settlement, land that needs clean-up work and land that should be placed permanently off limits to humans. Second, the wider environmental consequences of the canal-creation and river-diversion experiments are being investigated. Third, plutonium levels are being examined in people and water near the site, as is the potential for contamination of surrounding areas by airborne plutonium.

The results of these studies will help determine how to tackle the challenge of cleaning up the whole of the Semipalatinsk site, which covers 22,000 square kilometres.



CONNECTING SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITIES

Scientists need easy access to information to keep up with the latest developments and research. Moreover, the absence of a monopoly on information is often said to be a prerequisite for democracy and civil society to flourish. However, not all scientific and academic communities have yet been able to benefit from the arrival of the information age or to exploit the potential of the internet. To help remedy this situation, NATO has provided a



› Access to information

number of research and educational institutions in Partner countries with computer equipment.

Educational and academic institutions in the east of Russia have long been deprived of affordable and reliable internet access. The lack of coordination in the academic community meant that institutions were buying internet connectivity from local commercial internet providers individually. An added complication and expense was the fact that, because there was no internet exchange point, all communications – even between two sites in the same city – had to be sent via Moscow, thousands of kilometres away.

Academics at Vladivostok State University of Economics – supported by their local and federal authorities – joined forces with counterparts at California State University to tackle this problem. Their aim was to create a regional networking infrastructure in the Vladivostok region and to link it both with the Russian net and, via satellite, with the network in the United States. They applied to NATO and many other institutions for support.

A NATO grant enabled work to get underway. The network should be up and running by mid-2002, bringing to an end the information isolation of the Vladivostok region. Consideration is being given to expanding the network to academic communities in the adjacent eastern Russian regions of Kamchatka, Yakutia and Magadan.

Similar projects have been supported by NATO in Ukraine and Moldova. And plans for the Silk Road project, a major initiative to help improve the internet connectivity of scientific communities in eight countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia, were initiated in 2001.



CURING THE BLACK SEA'S ILLS

The Black Sea is one of the most polluted expanses of water in the world. Because it is nearly landlocked and the ventilation of the deep waters is poor, decades of heavy pollution have led to severe environmental damage. Many marine species are endangered and some are on the

edge of extinction, threatening to further destabilise the Black Sea's ecosystem. Another key concern is the health and well-being of people living along the coastline, which is densely populated with a permanent population of 16 million and four million tourists visiting during the summer.

The countries around the Black Sea – Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine – have each been collecting data in an effort to address the problem individually. In 1999, a four-year project was launched to improve coordination among the countries concerned. It is sponsored by NATO and other international organisations, including the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme.

The data collected from 26,000 sites throughout the Black Sea is standardised and then used as a basis for modelling and prediction. The aim is to help prepare response scenarios for natural and man-made disasters that could impact on the Black Sea's fragile ecosystem. The collation of data is also facilitating the coordination of relevant policies among the Black Sea countries. With a view to conserving fish stocks, for example, proposals have been made to set ceilings on catches of various fish and restrictions on the minimum size of fish caught.



› Pollution in the Black Sea



Partnership and cooperation in the year 2001 and beyond

The EAPC Action Plan for 2000-2002 offers a perspective of the further development of active partnership and cooperation based on short-term and longer-term planning.

In the short term, consultations on current political and security-related issues and practical cooperation activities will be intensively pursued, together with consultations on specific subject areas. Topics listed in the plan cover a wide range of issues, all of which pose distinct challenges to Partner countries. They include: crisis management and regional matters; arms control and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; defence issues including planning, budgeting, policy and strategy; the security impacts of economic developments; civil emergencies and disaster preparedness; armaments cooperation; nuclear safety; environmental issues; civil-military coordination of air-traffic management and control; scientific cooperation; and peace-support operations. In the wake of the terrorist attacks on the United States in September 2001, particular attention will be given to measures to combat international terrorism.

The long-term programme examines many of these topics in greater depth, focusing on concrete measures to deal with them and specific challenges to be faced in many of these areas. Consultation and cooperation on political and security-related issues and on regional matters, for example, will give special emphasis to South East Europe and the Caucasus. Other parts of the programme address the challenge posed by the spread of small arms and light weapons and the need for global humanitarian mine action. Issues such as the transition from conscript to professional armies, the management of former military sites, and the restructuring of defence industries, are also important elements of cooperation over the longer term.

In all these spheres, emphasis is given to realistic, practical support for cooperative measures, drawing on the know-how and experience already gained. Partnership and cooperation have already accomplished a great deal, bringing direct benefits to citizens of NATO member and Partner countries alike, in critical areas such as those described in this brochure. Building on its achievements in the first ten years and tackling future challenges will be the key to the further success of Partnership in Action.



Building bridges: Partnership at work



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FURTHER INFORMATION SOURCES

Readers interested in following developments in this field and in discovering more about the programmes described in this brochure are invited to search the NATO web site, which offers a comprehensive choice of documentation and comment including primary sources, reference materials, analysis and opinion, audio files and images.

www.nato.int