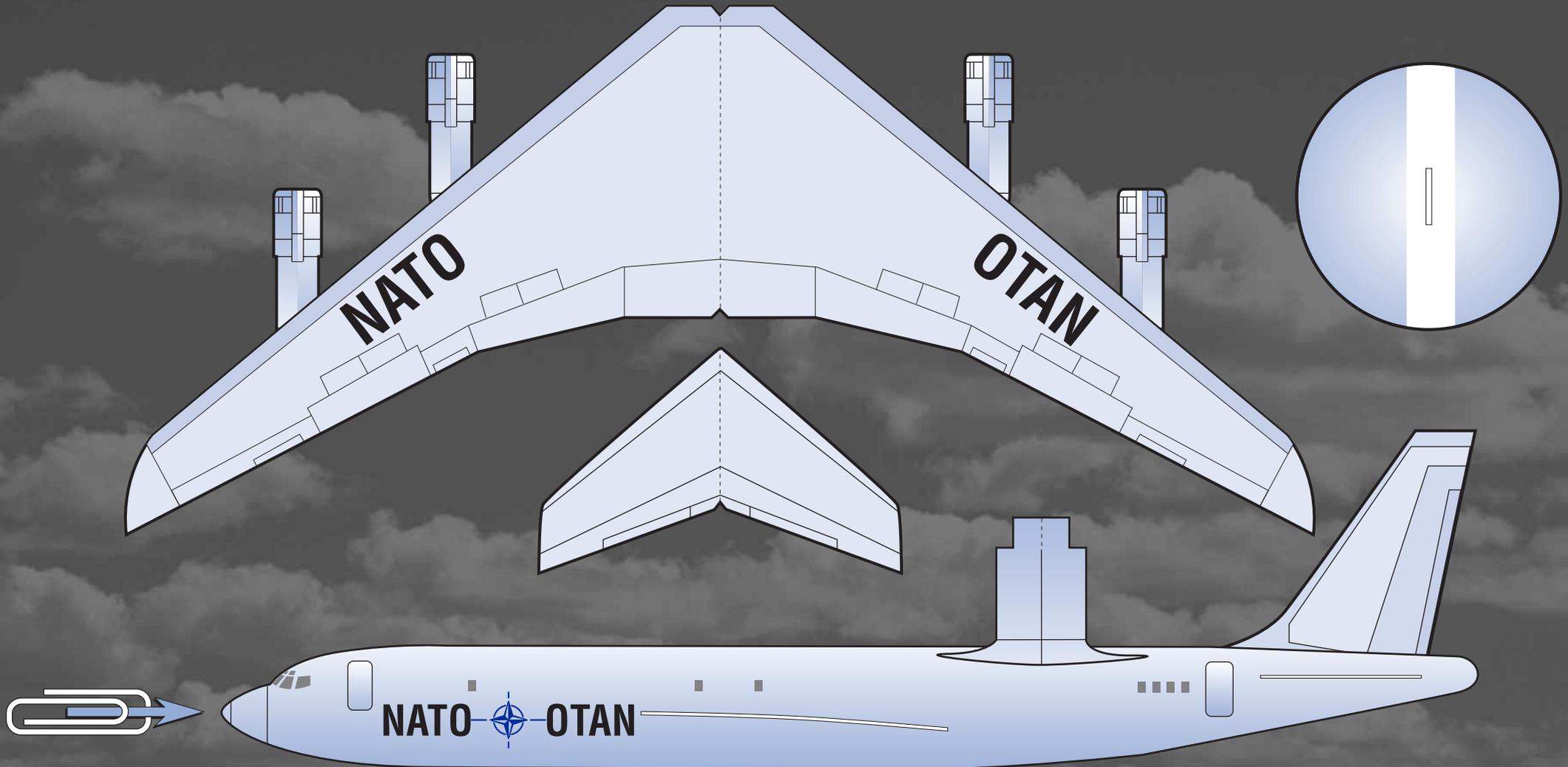




# CUTOUT • NATO AWACS • FLYING MODEL



In 1978, NATO nations embarked on the largest common funded programme undertaken by the Alliance by providing 18 E-3A Airborne Early Warning Aircraft (AWACS) and associated ground radar stations. By 1986, all 18 aircraft were in service under the control of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe on behalf of all three major NATO commanders.

AWACS provide air surveillance and early warning capability by transmitting data to command and control centres on land, sea or in the air. They are equipped with sophisticated radar and Electronic Support Measurement systems which can detect aircraft at great distances over large expanses of territory. One E-3A flying at 30,000 feet/9,150m has over 312,000km<sup>2</sup> in its field of view. Three E-3As in overlapping orbits can provide complete coverage of Central Europe.

*Length* : 46.68m - 152ft. 11in.  
*Wingspan* : 44.45m - 145ft. 9in.  
*Operational Speed* : More than 800 kmph - 500mph  
*Engines* : Four TF-33 Pratt and Witney 100A turbofan engines  
*Crew* : 17, depending on the mission