



**NAME:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

**DATE OF CREATION:** 1949

**MEMBER COUNTRIES:**

Albania	Czech Republic	Greece	Lithuania	Portugal	Turkey
Belgium	Denmark	Hungary	Luxembourg	Romania	United Kingdom
Bulgaria	Estonia	Iceland	Netherlands	Slovakia	United States
Canada	France	Italy	Norway	Slovenia	
Croatia	Germany	Latvia	Poland	Spain	

**FUNDAMENTAL ROLE:**

To safeguard the freedom and security of its member countries by political and military means.

**SECRETARY GENERAL:** Jens Stoltenberg

**NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL:** the top political decision-making body within NATO.

**ONGOING MILITARY OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS:**

- Resolute Support Mission, Afghanistan
- Kosovo Force (KFOR)
- Operation Active Endeavour in the Mediterranean
- Operation Ocean Shield in the Gulf of Aden and off the Horn of Africa
- Assistance to the African Union
- Military HQ in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*
- Civil emergency operations, as requested

**MILITARY FORCES:**

NATO has very few permanent forces of its own. Once members agree, by consensus, to engage in an operation, they contribute forces on a voluntary basis.

NATO has an integrated military command structure, allowing the Alliance to implement political decisions that have military implications.

**PARTNERSHIPS:**

- Partnership for Peace: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Georgia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
- Mediterranean Dialogue: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia
- Istanbul Cooperation Initiative: Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates
- Global partners: Afghanistan, Australia, Iraq, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea
- Other international organisations: principally United Nations, European Union, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Partner countries do not have the same decision-making authority as member countries.

\* Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.