

NATO Response Force

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In order to carry out its full range of missions, NATO must be able to deploy forces rapidly to wherever they are required in order

to achieve its objectives, upon decision by the North Atlantic Council (NAC) and to sustain operations over distance and time, including in potential NBC environments.

Effective military forces, an integral part of the Alliance's overall political strategy, are vital to safeguarding the freedom and security of its peoples and contributing to peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic region.

For this reason, during the Prague Summit held in November 2002, the Alliance's Heads of State and Government agreed to create a NATO Response Force (NRF).

The NRF will consist of a technologically advanced, flexible, deployable, interoperable and sustainable force including land; sea and air elements ready to move quickly to wherever needed, as decided by the NAC.

The NRF will also be a catalyst for converging and promoting technological and doctrinal improvements in the Alliance's military capabilities.

The Force will achieve its initial operational capability as soon as possible, but no later than October 2004 and the full operational capability no later than October 2006.

The idea of creating such a Force originated from a proposal by the US Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, which was submitted to NATO last September.

The ability to deploy on short notice, backed by the political resolve of NATO countries, could act as a substantial deterrent and assist in the early resolution of developing crises, precluding the need for subsequent deployment of larger forces at a later stage of an unresolved situation.

The NATO Response Force will be limited in size, capable of performing various missions on its own and participating with other forces in the full range of NATO

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A challenge for the Alliance

operations.

Missions that could be assigned to NRF include:

- Consequence Management (including a NBC scenario)
- Crisis Response Operations (as the initial force) including Peace Enforcement
- Embargo Operations
- Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO)

The Regional Commands in their future organization will exercise command of the NRF, normally through a deployed HQ.

In order to share the burden of such a Force the units assigned to the NRF will rotate among NATO countries.

As far as the Land Component Command is concerned, rotation will be among the High Readiness Forces (Land) HQs.

HRFs(L) will be responsible for training their troops for NRF and, where required, they will deploy as land or component command.

NRF will be composed of air, land and maritime components and specialist functions from NATO countries.

The Air component will have air-to-air and air-to-ground engagement capabilities, tactical and strategic capabilities, air-to-air and airborne early warning assets.

The Land component will include (light and heavy) forces, Combat Support and Combat Service Support units.

The Maritime component will include carriers with their escorts and amphibious forces.

The NATO Response Force training will be conducted in accordance with NATO standard agreements in order to assure maximum interoperability and combat effectiveness.

The Command and Control relation during the conduct of an operation will be Operational Command to the appropriate NATO Commander. Transfer of Authority (TOA) will occur before deployment has commenced.

Logistic support will be adequate for an extended period of time and include capabilities for deploying and redeploying the Force.

In the near future, NATO Response Force will become one of the most challenging projects involving the Alliance.



Italian soldiers is embarking on CH47 helicopter.



NRDC-IT on the web

NRDC-IT is on the WEB!



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Joking aside, a web site is a tremendous interface with the outside world and can also be a powerful working tool. It enables us to "show our flag," marks our presence and makes our work more understandable to the people.

Therefore, if you are interested in our history, activities and events just go to www.nato.int/nrdc-it and enjoy surfing our brand new web site.

