

Summit Guide 2009

For the first time ever, a NATO summit was jointly hosted by two member countries and by two - France and Germany – whose close partnership during the course of NATO's history symbolizes a vision of a Europe whole and free.

Against the backdrop of NATO's 60th anniversary, NATO leaders focused on the broader and more strategic issues that face the Organization. And while reaffirming their commitment to the fundamental principles that define the Alliance, they looked to the future and considered the place of NATO within Euro-Atlantic security with a view to preparing a new Strategic Concept.

Because of its limited duration, the summit concentrated on a restricted number of issues, which will have a profound and durable impact on NATO: the progress of NATO's strategy for Afghanistan and the results of the strategy review undertaken by the new US Administration, relations with Russia, France's closer involvement in the Alliance and its impact on NATO-EU relations, and finally initiating work on a new strategic concept for the Alliance.

NATO is involved in a wide spectrum of other issues, which are covered in the "[A to Z](#)".

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- NATO's relations with Russia

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NATO summit meetings



NATO summit meetings provide periodic opportunities for Heads of State and Government of member countries to evaluate and provide strategic direction for Alliance activities.

These are not regular meetings, but rather important junctures in the Alliance's decision-making process.

Summits have been used to introduce new policy, invite new members into the Alliance, launch major new initiatives and build partnerships with non-NATO countries.

From the founding of NATO in 1949 until today there have been twenty-two NATO summits. The last summit meeting to date was held in Bucharest, Romania, in April 2008. The next one will take place on 3-4 April in Strasbourg-Kehl and will also mark the Alliance's 60th anniversary.

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Summit meeting agendas

NATO summit meetings are effectively meetings of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) - the Alliance's principal political decision-making body - at its highest level, that of Heads of State and Government.

Due to the political significance of summit meetings, agenda items typically address issues of overarching political or strategic importance. Items can relate to the internal functioning of the Alliance as well as NATO's relations with external partners.

Major decisions

Many of NATO's summit meetings can be considered as milestones in the evolution of the Alliance. For instance, the first post-Cold War summit was held in London, 1990, and outlined proposals for developing relations with Central and Eastern European countries. A year later, in Rome, NATO Heads of State and Government published a new Strategic Concept that reflected the new security environment. This document was issued as a public document for the first time ever. At the same summit, NATO established the North Atlantic Cooperation

Council – a forum that officially brought together NATO and partner countries from Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.

The 1997 Madrid and Paris Summits invited the first countries of the former Warsaw Pact – Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland – to join NATO, and established partnerships between NATO and Russia and Ukraine, while the 2002 Prague Summit saw major commitments to improving NATO's capabilities and transformed the military command structure.

These are just a few of the many decisions that have been taken over the decades (a full summary of all NATO summit meetings can be found under "Previous summit meetings").

Implementation of summit decisions

Typically, the decisions taken at a summit meeting are issued in declarations and communiqués. These are public documents that explain the Alliance's decisions and reaffirm Allies' support for aspects of NATO policies.

The decisions are then translated into action by the relevant actors, according to the area of competency and responsibility: the NAC's subordinate committees and NATO's command structure, which cover the whole range of NATO functions and activities.

Timing and location

Timing

Summits are convened upon approval by the NAC at the level of Permanent Representatives (or Ambassadors) or foreign and defense ministers. They are usually called on an ad hoc basis, as required by the evolving political and security situation.

From the founding of NATO until the end of the Cold War – over forty years – there were ten summit meetings. From 1990, their frequency increased considerably in order to address the changes brought on by the new security challenges. In total, twenty-two summit meetings have taken place between 1949 and 2008.

Location

NATO summit meetings are held in one of the member countries, including Belgium, at NATO HQ. Members will volunteer to host a summit meeting and, after evaluating all offers, the NAC makes the final decision concerning the location.

In recent years, summit locations have held some thematic significance. For example, the Washington Summit of 1999 commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in that city. Istanbul – which hosted a summit meeting in 2004 – connects Europe and Asia and is where the Alliance launched the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative. This initiative is intended to foster linkages between NATO and the broader Middle East.

Previous summit meetings

The first time that Heads of State and Government from NATO countries met was at the actual signing ceremony of the North Atlantic Treaty on 4 April 1949, but this was not a summit meeting. The first summit meeting was held six years later, in Paris in 1957, and subsequent summits occurred at key junctures in the history of the Alliance.

Paris, 16-19 December 1957

Reaffirmation of the principle purposes and unity of the Atlantic Alliance; Improvements in the coordination and organization of NATO forces and in political consultation arrangements; Recognition of the need for closer economic ties and for cooperation in the spirit of Article 2 of the Treaty, designed to eliminate conflict in international policies and encourage economic collaboration (Report of the Committee of the Three on Non-Military Cooperation in NATO, the so-called report of the Three Wise Men).

Brussels, 26 June 1974

Signature of the Declaration on Atlantic Relations adopted by NATO foreign ministers in Ottawa on 19 June, confirming the dedication of member countries of the Alliance to the aims and ideals of the Treaty in the 25th anniversary of its signature; Consultations on East-West relations in preparation for US-USSR summit talks on strategic nuclear arms limitations.

Brussels, 29-30 May 1975

Affirmation of the fundamental importance of the Alliance and of Allied cohesion in the face of international economic pressures following the 1974 oil crisis; Support for successful conclusion of negotiations in the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) (to result in 1975, in the signing of the Helsinki Final Act).

London, 10-11 May 1977

Initiation of study on long-term trends in East-West relations and of a long-term defence programme (LTDP) aimed at improving the defensive capability of NATO member countries.

Washington D.C., 30-31 May 1978

Review of interim results of long-term initiatives taken at the 1977 London Summit; Confirmation of the validity of the Alliance's complementary aims of maintaining security while pursuing East-West détente; Adoption of 3% target for growth in defence expenditures.

Bonn, 10 June 1982

Accession of Spain; Adoption of the Bonn Declaration setting out a six-point Programme for Peace in Freedom; Publication of a statement of Alliance's goals and policies on Arms Control and Disarmament and a statement on Integrated NATO Defence.

Brussels, 21 November 1985

Special meeting of the North Atlantic Council for consultations with President Reagan on the positive outcome of the US-USSR Geneva Summit on arms control and other areas of cooperation.

Brussels, 2-3 March 1988

Reaffirmation of the purpose and principles of the Alliance (reference to the Harmel Report on the Future Tasks of the Alliance published in 1967) and of its objectives for East-West relations; Adoption of a blue print for strengthening stability in the whole of Europe through conventional arms control negotiations.

Brussels, 29-30 May 1989

Declaration commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Alliance setting out Alliance policies and security objectives for the 1990s aimed at maintaining Alliance defence, introducing new arms control initiatives, strengthening political consultation, improving East-West cooperation and meeting global challenges; Adoption of a comprehensive Concept of Arms Control and Disarmament.

Brussels, 4 December 1989

Against the background of fundamental changes in Central and Eastern Europe and the prospect of the end of the division of Europe, US President Bush consults with Alliance leaders following his summit meeting with President Gorbachev in Malta. While the NATO summit meeting is taking place, Warsaw Pact leaders denounce the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia and repudiate the Brezhnev Doctrine of limited sovereignty.

London, 5-6 July 1990

Publication of the London Declaration on a Transformed North Atlantic Alliance, outlining proposals for developing cooperation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe across a wide spectrum of political and military activities including the establishment of regular diplomatic liaison with NATO.

Rome, 7-8 November 1991

Publication of several key documents: the Alliance's new Strategic Concept, of the Rome Declaration on Peace and Cooperation and of statements on developments in the Soviet Union and the situation in Yugoslavia.

Brussels, 10-11 January 1994

Launching of the Partnership for Peace (PfP) initiative; All North Atlantic Cooperation Council partner countries and members of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) are invited to participate; Publication of the Partnership for Peace Framework Document; Endorsement of the concept of Combined Joint Task Forces (CJTFs) and other measures to develop the European Security and Defence Identity; Reaffirmation of Alliance readiness to carry out air strikes in support of UN objectives in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Paris, 27 May 1997

Signing of the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between the Russian Federation and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The Founding Act states that NATO and Russia are no longer adversaries and establishes the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council.

Madrid, 8-9 July 1997

Invitations to the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to begin accession talks; Reaffirmation of NATO's Open Door Policy; Recognition of achievement and commitments represented by the NATO Russia-Founding Act; Signature of the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine; First meeting of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council at summit level that replaces the North Atlantic Cooperation Council; An enhanced Partnership for Peace; Updating of the 1991 Strategic Concept and adoption of a new defence posture; Reform of the NATO military command structure; Special Declaration on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Washington D.C., 23-24 April 1999

Commemoration of NATO's 50th Anniversary; Allies reiterate their determination to put an end to the repressive actions by President Milosevic against the local ethnic Albanian population in Kosovo; The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland participate in their first summit meeting; Adoption of the Membership Action Plan; Publication of a revised Strategic Concept; Enhancement of the European

Security and Defence Identity within NATO; Launch of the Defence Capabilities Initiative; Strengthening of Partnership for Peace and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, as well as the Mediterranean Dialogue; Launch of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Initiative.

Rome, 28 May 2002

NATO Allies and the Russian Federation create the NATO-Russia Council, where they meet as equal partners, bringing a new quality to NATO-Russia relations. The NATO-Russia Council replaces the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council.

Prague, 21-22 November 2002

Invitation of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to begin accession talks; Reaffirmation of NATO's Open Door Policy; Adoption of a series of measures to improve military capabilities (The Prague Capabilities Commitment, the NATO Response Force and the streamlining of the military command structure); Adoption of a Military Concept for Defence against Terrorism; Decision to support NATO member countries in Afghanistan; Endorsement of a package of initiatives to forge new relationships with partners.

Istanbul, 28-29 June 2004

Participation of seven new members to the event (Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia); Expansion of NATO's operation in Afghanistan by continuing the establishment of Provincial Reconstruction Teams throughout the country; Agreement to assist the Iraqi Interim Government with the training of its security forces; Maintaining support for stability in the Balkans; Decision to change NATO's defence-planning and force-generation processes, while strengthening contributions to the fight against terrorism, including WMD aspects; Strengthening cooperation with partners and launch of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative with countries from the broader Middle East region.

Brussels, 22 February 2005

Leaders reaffirm their support for building stability in the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq, and commit to strengthening the partnership between NATO and the European Union.

Riga, 28-29 November 2006

Review of progress in Afghanistan in light of the expansion of ISAF to the entire country and call for broader international engagement; Confirmation that the Alliance is prepared to play its part in implementing the security provisions of a settlement on the status of Kosovo; Measures adopted to further improve NATO's military capabilities; NATO Response Force declared operational;

Comprehensive Political Guidance published. Initiatives adopted to deepen and extend relations with partners; Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia invited to join Partnership for Peace.

Bucharest, 2-4 April 2008

At Bucharest, Allied leaders review the evolution of NATO's main commitments: operations (Afghanistan and Kosovo); enlargement and the invitation of Albania and Croatia to start the accession process (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* will also be invited as soon as ongoing negotiations over its name have led to an agreement); the continued development of military capabilities to meet.

Organizing and holding these events

NATO summit meetings are centred on the activities of the NAC. As with all meetings of the NAC, the Secretary General chairs the meetings and plays an important role in coordination and deliberations, as well as acting as the principal spokesman of the Alliance.

As with meetings at the levels of Permanent Representatives and ministers, the work of the NAC is prepared by subordinate committees with responsibility for specific areas of policy. Much of this work involves the Senior Political Committee (SPC), consisting of Deputy Permanent Representatives, sometimes "reinforced" by national experts. In such cases it is known as the SPC(R). This committee has particular responsibility for issuing declarations and communiqués, including those published after a summit.

Other aspects of political work may be handled by the regular Political Committee, which is composed of Political Counsellors or Advisers from national delegations. Depending on the topic under discussion, the respective senior committee with responsibility for the subject assumes the leading role in preparing Council meetings and following up Council decisions.

Support to the Council is provided by the Secretary of the Council, who is also Director of the ministerial and summit meeting Task Forces. The Secretary of the Council ensures that NAC mandates are executed and its decisions recorded and circulated. A small Council Secretariat ensures the bureaucratic and logistical aspects of the Council's work, while committee secretaries within the Divisions of the International Staff support the work of committees reporting to the NAC.

Participation

NATO summit meetings normally involve member countries only. However, on occasion, and provided Allies agree, meetings can be convened in other formats although there is no formal obligation to hold such assemblies.

They include, for instance, meetings of Allied defence or foreign ministers, Heads of State and Government of countries belonging to the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, or conventions of the NATO-Russia Council or the NATO-Ukraine Commission. They can also include leaders from ISAF troop-contributing countries, as was the case at the Bucharest Summit. External stakeholders can also be involved. For instance President Karzai, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, EU Commission President Barroso, EU High Representative Solana, World Bank Managing Director Ms Okonjo-Iweala, and Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Sasae were also invited to attend the meeting in Bucharest.

Events

- [List of all summit meetings](#)

NATO operations and missions



NATO is an active and leading contributor to peace and security on the international stage. Through its crisis management operations, the Alliance demonstrates both its willingness to act as a positive force for change and its capacity to meet the security challenges of the 21st century.

Since its first military intervention in 1995, NATO has been engaged in an increasingly diverse array of operations. Today, roughly 70 000 military personnel are engaged in NATO missions around the world, successfully managing complex ground, air and naval operations in all types of environment. These forces are currently operating in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Iraq, the Mediterranean and Somalia.

- [Current operations and missions](#)
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- [From 1949 to 1995](#)

Current operations and missions

Since its first intervention in the Balkans in 1995, the tempo and diversity of NATO operations have only increased. NATO has since been engaged in missions that cover the full spectrum of crisis management operations – from combat and peacekeeping, to training and logistics support, to surveillance and humanitarian relief. Today, they are operating in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Iraq, the Mediterranean and Somalia.

NATO in Afghanistan

NATO's operation in Afghanistan constitutes the Alliance's most significant undertaking to date. Established by UN mandate in 2001, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) has been under NATO leadership since August 2003.

ISAF comprises some 55,000 troops from over 40 different countries deployed throughout Afghanistan. Its mission is to extend the authority of the Afghan central government in order to create an environment conducive to the functioning of democratic institutions and the establishment of the rule of law.

A major component of this mission is the establishment of professional Afghan National Security Forces that would enable Afghans to assume more and more responsibility for the security of their country. Much progress has already been

made. From a non-existent force in 2003, the Afghan army currently comprises over 70,000 soldiers, and has begun taking the lead in most operations.

In addition to conducting security operations and building up the Afghan army and police, ISAF is also directly involved in facilitating the development and reconstruction of Afghanistan through 26 Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) which are engaged in identifying reconstruction needs and supporting humanitarian assistance activities throughout the country.

NATO in Kosovo

While Afghanistan remains NATO's primary operational theatre, the Alliance has not faltered on its other commitments, particularly in the Balkans. Today, roughly 15,000 Allied troops operate in the Balkans as part of NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR).

Having first entered Kosovo in June 1999 to end widespread violence and halt the humanitarian disaster, KFOR troops continue to maintain a strong presence throughout the territory, preserving the peace that was imposed by NATO nearly a decade earlier.

Following Kosovo's declaration of independence in February 2008, NATO agreed it would continue to maintain its presence on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 1244. In June 2008, the Alliance decided to take on responsibility for supervising the dissolution of the Kosovo Protection Corps and to help create a professional and multiethnic Kosovo Security Force.

NATO and Iraq

Between the Balkans and Afghanistan lies Iraq, where NATO has been conducting a relatively small but important support operation.

At the Istanbul Summit in June 2004, the Allies rose above their differences and agreed to be part of the international effort to help Iraq establish effective and accountable security forces. The outcome was the creation of the NATO Training Mission in Iraq (NTM-I).

The NTM-I delivers its training, advice and mentoring support in a number of different settings. All NATO member countries are contributing to the training effort either in or outside of Iraq, through financial contributions or donations of equipment.

Monitoring the Mediterranean Sea

NATO operations are not limited only to zones of conflict. In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, NATO immediately began to take measures to expand the options available to counter the threat of international

terrorism. With the launching of the maritime surveillance operation Active Endeavour in October 2001, NATO added a new dimension to the global fight against terrorism.

Led by NATO naval forces, Operation Active Endeavour is focused on detecting and deterring terrorist activity in the Mediterranean. The scope of this operation was later expanded to include the escort of Allied civilian and commercial vessels through the Strait of Gibraltar.

The operation has proved to be an effective tool both in safeguarding a strategic maritime region and in countering terrorism on and from the high seas. Moreover, the experience and partnerships developed through Operation Active Endeavour have considerably enhanced NATO's capabilities in this increasingly vital aspect of operations.

Supporting the African Union

Well beyond the Euro-Atlantic region, the Alliance continues to support the African Union (AU) in its peacekeeping missions on the African continent.

Since June 2007, NATO has assisted the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) by providing airlift support for AU peacekeepers. This support was authorized until February 2009 and the Alliance is ready to consider any new requests from the AU. NATO also continues to work with the AU in identifying further areas where NATO could support the African Standby Force.

NATO's support to AMISOM coincided with a similar support operation to the AU peacekeeping mission in Sudan (AMIS). From June 2005 to December 2007, NATO provided air transport for some 37,000 AMIS personnel, as well as trained and mentored over 250 AMIS officials. While NATO's support to this mission ended when AMIS was succeeded by the UN-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), the Alliance immediately expressed its readiness to consider any request for support to the new peacekeeping mission.

NATO's continuing support to the AU is a testament to the Alliance's commitment to building partnerships and supporting peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts beyond the Euro-Atlantic region.

Counter-piracy off the Horn of Africa

In March 2009, NATO launched Operation Allied Protector, a counter-piracy operation, to improve the safety of commercial maritime routes and international navigation off the Horn of Africa. The force is conducting surveillance tasks and providing protection to deter and suppress piracy and armed robbery, which are threatening sea lines of communication and economic interests.

Terminated operations and missions

Counter-piracy in the Gulf of Aden

From October to December 2008, NATO launched Operation Allied Provider, which involved counter-piracy activities off the coast of Somalia. Responding to a request from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, NATO naval forces provided escorts to UN World Food Programme (WFP) vessels transiting through the dangerous waters in the Gulf of Aden, where growing piracy has threatened to undermine international humanitarian efforts in Africa.

Concurrently, in response to an urgent request from the African Union, these same NATO naval forces escorted a vessel chartered by the AU carrying equipment for the Burundi contingent deployed to AMISOM.

Pakistan earthquake relief operation

Just before the onset of the harsh Himalayan winter, a devastating earthquake hit Pakistan on 8 October 2005, killing an estimated 80 000 people and leaving up to three million without food or shelter.

On 11 October, in response to a request from Pakistan, NATO launched an operation to assist in the urgent relief effort. The Alliance airlifted close to 3,500 tons of supplies and deployed engineers, medical units and specialist equipment to assist in relief operations. This was one of NATO's largest humanitarian relief operations, which came to an end on 1 February 2006.

The Alliance has provided assistance to other countries hit by natural disasters over time, including Turkey, Ukraine and Portugal.

NATO in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Between 1995 and 2004, NATO led a peace support force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, helping to maintain a secure environment and facilitating the country's reconstruction in the wake of the 1992-1995 war.

In light of the improved security situation, NATO brought its peace support operation to a conclusion in December 2004 and the European Union deployed a new force called Operation Althea. This has taken on the main peace stabilization role previously undertaken by NATO under the Dayton Peace Agreement. NATO has maintained a military headquarters in the country to carry out a number of specific tasks related, in particular, to assisting the government in reforming its defence structures.

NATO in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹

Responding to a request from the Macedonian government, NATO implemented three successive operations there from August 2001 to March 2003.

First, Operation Essential Harvest disarmed ethnic Albanian groups operating on Macedonia's territory.

The follow-on Operation Amber Fox provided protection for international monitors overseeing the implementation of the peace plan.

Finally, Operation Allied Harmony was launched in December 2002 to provide advisory elements to assist the government in ensuring stability throughout Macedonian territory.

These operations in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ demonstrated the strong inter-institutional cooperation between NATO, the EU and the OSCE.

From 1949 to 1995

During the Cold War

When NATO was established in 1949, one of its fundamental roles was to act as a powerful deterrent against military aggression – a *raison d'être* that remained unchanged for nearly 50 years.

In this role, NATO's success was reflected in the fact that, throughout the entire period of the Cold War, NATO forces were not involved in a single military engagement. For much of the latter half of the 20th century, NATO remained vigilant and prepared.

After the Cold War

With the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s came great changes to the international security environment. The Alliance witnessed the emergence of new threats and the resurgence of old but familiar ones.

With these changing conditions came new responsibilities. From being an exclusively defensive alliance for nearly half a century, NATO began to assume an increasingly proactive role within the International Community. This role presented many challenges. The first test for NATO came in 1995, as the crisis in the Balkans reached a tipping point.

NATO's first military operation

After diplomatic efforts failed to end the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH), the International Community called upon the Alliance to act, and NATO was prepared to respond.

In August 1995, NATO launched Operation Deliberate Force to compel an end to Serb-led violence in BiH. This successful air campaign paved the way to the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords in December 1995.

To support the implementation of this peace agreement, NATO immediately deployed a UN-mandated Implementation Force (IFOR) comprising some 60,000 troops. This operation was followed in December 1996 with the deployment of a 32,000-strong Stabilization Force (SFOR), which maintained a secure environment in BiH until the mandate was handed over to a European Union (EU) force in December 2004.

These first three successful peace-support operations demonstrated NATO's readiness to act decisively when called upon by the International Community. What followed was a period of unprecedented operational activity for the Alliance.

1. Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

PDF Library

- [Map of NATO operations and missions \(pdf, 99.58 KB\)](#)

NATO's role in Afghanistan



NATO's main role in Afghanistan is to assist the Afghan Government in exercising and extending its authority and influence across the country, paving the way for reconstruction and effective governance. It does this predominately through its UN-mandated International Security Assistance Force.

Since NATO took command of ISAF in 2003, the Alliance has gradually expanded the reach of its mission, originally limited to Kabul, to cover Afghanistan's whole territory. The number of ISAF troops has grown accordingly from the initial 5,000 to around 50,000 troops coming from 41 countries, including all 26 NATO members.



- [ISAF missions](#)
- [ISAF Mandate](#)
- [The evolution of ISAF](#)

ISAF missions

ISAF is a key component of the international community's engagement in Afghanistan, assisting the Afghan authorities in providing security and stability and creating the conditions for reconstruction and development.

Security

In accordance with all the relevant Security Council Resolutions, ISAF's main role is to assist the Afghan government in the establishment of a secure and stable environment. To this end, ISAF forces are conducting security and stability operations throughout the country together with the Afghan National Security Forces and are directly involved in the development of the Afghan National Army through mentoring, training and equipping.

- **Conducting security and stability operations**

ISAF is conducting security and stability operations across Afghanistan, in conjunction with the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). A large and increasing proportion of these operations are ANSF-led.

- **Supporting the Afghan National Army**



In addition, ISAF is helping to bring the Afghan National Army (ANA) up to operating capability in support of the United States which is sponsoring the overall ANA training and equipping programme through its Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan (CSTC-A).

In concrete terms, ISAF is leading a number of [Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams \(OMLTs\)](#) which are embedded in ANA Battalions (Kandaks), Brigades, & Corps HQs, to support training and deploy on operations in an advisory role. OMLTs join ANA units after the latter have received initial training at the Afghan-led Kabul Military Training Centre (KMTTC).

OMLTs also play a key liaison role between ANA units and nearby ISAF forces, coordinating the planning of operations and ensuring that the ANA units receive enabling support. ISAF personnel deploy for periods of at least 6 months in order to build enduring relationships with the ANA and maximise the mentoring effect.

In addition to training and mentoring the ANA, NATO-ISAF nations provide donations to help equip the Afghan army. Equipment donations include individual equipment such as small arms, ammunition, and uniform items as well as larger equipment to include tanks and helicopters.

Under the NATO Equipment Donation Programme, Allied Command Operations (ACO), with its headquarters in Mons Belgium, coordinates equipment donations on behalf of ISAF contributing nations. The determination of requirements and the validation process is further coordinated with the United States.

An ANA Trust Fund has also been established to cover the transportation and installation costs of the equipment donations, the purchase of equipment, the purchase of services for engineering and construction projects, and in/out-of-country training.

- **Supporting the Afghan National Police**

Providing support to the Afghan National Police (ANP) within means and capabilities is one of ISAF's key supporting tasks. In this sphere, ISAF works in coordination with and in support of the United States as well as the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL) which was launched in June 2007.

The Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan (CSTC-A) officially assumes the lead role in terms of police training on behalf of the US Government in the reformation of the ANP,

ISAF assists the ANP, primarily at the tactical level, with military support to operations, advice, shared information and informal mentoring and guidance. Local support involves both niche training of non-police specific skills provided by ISAF units, and indirect support, mentoring, and joint patrolling. Much of this assistance is delivered through the medium of security committees and coordination centres.

The Afghan Compact, a five-year plan between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) and the international community, established a framework for security sector reform and included the overall goals for and objectives for the ANP. This agreement established the original goal to develop a 62,000 professional police service committed to the rule of law. This was later modified by the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and subsequent decisions made by the Government of Afghanistan which set the new goal at 82,000 police officers.

- **Disarming illegally armed groups (DIAG)**

ISAF is collecting illegal weapons, ordnance and ammunitions from armed groups and individual persons. Weapons are then catalogued and safely destroyed so they no longer represent a threat to the local population, Afghan National Security Forces or ISAF personnel.

- **Facilitating ammunition depots managements**

NATO administrates a Trust Fund Project aimed at enhancing physical security at the ANA ammunitions depots and at supporting the development of the ANA's ammunition stockpile management capabilities. The project has been agreed by the Afghan government, ISAF contributing nations (including three lead nations, namely Belgium, Canada and Luxemburg) and NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) in 2008.

- **Providing post-operation assistance**

An ISAF Post-Operations Humanitarian Relief Fund (POHRF) has been established since 2006 to provide quick humanitarian assistance in the immediate aftermath of significant ISAF military operations. Assistance includes the provision of food, shelter and medicines as well as the repair of buildings or key infrastructure. Such assistance is provided on a short-term basis and responsibility is handed over to civilian actors as soon as circumstances permit.

The fund, established under the auspices of the Commander of ISAF, consists entirely of voluntary donations from ISAF troop-contributing nations.

The North Atlantic Council is regularly updated on its use through NATO's Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan.

Reconstruction and development



Through its [Provincial Reconstruction Teams \(PRTs\)](#), ISAF is supporting reconstruction and development (R&D) in Afghanistan, securing areas in which reconstruction work is conducted by other national and international actors.

Where appropriate, and in close cooperation and coordination with GIROA and UNAMA representatives on the ground, ISAF is also providing practical support for R&D efforts, as well as support for humanitarian assistance efforts conducted by Afghan government organizations, international organizations, and NGOs.

- **Providing security to permit reconstruction**

Provincial Reconstruction Teams are at the leading edge of the Alliance's commitment to R&D efforts in Afghanistan.

They consist of teams of civilian and military personnel working together to help extend the authority of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) throughout the country by providing area security and supporting the R&D activities of Afghan, international, national and non-governmental actors in the provinces.

In addition to provide area security, PRTS also use their diplomatic and economic capabilities in supporting security sector reform, encouraging good governance and enabling reconstruction and development.

While PRTs' civilian components lead on political, economic, humanitarian and social aspects of PRTs' work, in support of the GIROA's national development priorities, military components focus on increasing security and stability in the area and building security sector capacity. PRTs' military components are also in charge of directing assistance to the civilian elements, in particular at the levels of transport, medical assistance and engineering.

Overall, various kinds of projects are underway, facilitated by the NATO-ISAF PRTs: schools are being rebuilt with the mentoring or assistance of ISAF engineers, allowing children to resume their education; irrigation ditches, pipelines, reservoirs and wells are being constructed to bring water to the local population and farmers; infrastructure is being repaired and/or built to facilitate mobility and communication; and local people are provided with greater access to medical assistance.

Currently, there are 26 PRTs operating throughout the country. Some consist of military forces and civilian personnel from a single nation; others are multinational with contributions from several different countries. They are all led by individual ISAF nations. However, their military components come under the ISAF command and are coordinated by the relevant Regional Command.

- **Humanitarian Assistance**

Upon request, ISAF PRTs are assisting the Afghan government and international actors with humanitarian relief. In particular, ISAF soldiers have launched several relief missions, distributing medication, food and winter supplies to help villagers cope with severe weather conditions in different parts of the country.

Governance

ISAF, through its Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), is helping the Afghan Authorities strengthen the institutions required to fully establish good governance and rule of law and to promote human rights. PRTs' principal mission in this respect consists of building capacity, supporting the growth of governance structures and promoting an environment within which governance can improve.

Counter-narcotics



In May 2003, the Afghan government adopted a National Drug Control Strategy aimed at reducing the production of illicit drugs by 70 per cent by 2007 and at eliminating all productions by 2012. A Counter-Narcotics Directorate is embedded in the Interior Ministry and a fully-fledged counter-narcotics minister is presently one of the central actors of the Afghan Government.

Afghan capabilities in fighting narcotics and properly implementing its Drug Control Strategy however remain largely dependent on international assistance. Against this background, supporting the Afghan government counter-narcotics programmes is an ISAF key supporting task.

Accordingly, when requested by the Afghan Government, ISAF supports counter narcotics efforts by sharing information, conducting an efficient public information campaign, and providing in-extremis support to the Afghan National Security Forces' counter-narcotics operations.

ISAF also assists the training of Afghan National Security Forces in counter-narcotics related activities and provides logistic support, when requested, for the delivery of alternative livelihood programmes.

As reflected in recent assessments by the United Nations and NATO's own military commanders, there is also a growing nexus between the narcotics industry and the insurgency in some parts of the country. As a result, the Afghan Government formally requested that NATO-ISAF provide greater support in counter-narcotics efforts which Allies agreed to do at the NATO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Budapest on 10 October 2008.

This enhanced support by ISAF includes the destruction of processing facilities and action against narcotic producers if there is a clearly established link with the insurgency. Such action by ISAF forces can be taken only upon request of the Afghan Government and with the consent of the national authorities of the forces involved.

ISAF Mandate

ISAF has been deployed since 2001 under the authority of the UN Security Council (UNSC) which authorised the establishment of the force to assist the Afghan government "in the maintenance of security in Kabul and its surrounding areas, so that the Afghan Interim Authority as well as the personnel of the United Nations can operate in a secure environment."

ISAF is a coalition of the willing - not a UN force properly speaking - which has a peace-enforcement mandate under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

Nine UN Security Council Resolutions relate to ISAF, namely: [1386](#), [1413](#), [1444](#), [1510](#), [1563](#), [1623](#), [1707](#), [1776](#) and [1833](#) (on 23 September 2008). A detailed Military Technical Agreement agreed between the ISAF Commander and the Afghan Transitional Authority in January 2002 provides additional guidance for ISAF operations.

NATO took command of ISAF in August 2003 upon request of the UN and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and soon after, the UN gave ISAF a mandate to expand outside of Kabul.

The evolution of ISAF

Origin of ISAF

ISAF was created in accordance with the [Bonn Conference](#) in December 2001. Afghan opposition leaders attending the conference began the process of reconstructing their country by setting up a new government structure, namely the Afghan Transitional Authority. The concept of a UN-mandated international force to assist the newly established Afghan Transitional Authority was also launched at this occasion to create a secure environment in and around Kabul and support the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

These agreements paved the way for the creation of a three-way partnership between the Afghan Transitional Authority, the [United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan \(UNAMA\)](#) and ISAF.

NATO takes on ISAF command

On 11 August 2003 NATO assumed leadership of the ISAF operation, turning the six-month national rotations to an end. The Alliance became responsible for the command, coordination and planning of the force, including the provision of a force commander and headquarters on the ground in Afghanistan.

This new leadership overcame the problem of a continual search to find new nations to lead the mission and the difficulties of setting up a new headquarters every six months in a complex environment. A continuing NATO headquarters also enables small countries, less likely to take over leadership responsibility, to play a strong role within a multinational headquarters.

Expansion of ISAF's presence in Afghanistan

ISAF's mandate was initially limited to providing security in and around Kabul. In October 2003, the United Nations extended ISAF's mandate to cover the whole of Afghanistan ([UNSCR 1510](#)), paving the way for an expansion of the mission across the country.

- **Stage 1: to the north**

In December 2003, the North Atlantic Council authorised the Supreme Allied Commander, General James Jones, to initiate the expansion of ISAF by taking over command of the German-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Kunduz. The other eight PRTs operating in Afghanistan in 2003 remained under the command of Operation Enduring Freedom, the continuing US-led military operation in Afghanistan.

On 31 December 2003, the military component of the Kunduz PRT was placed under ISAF command as a pilot project and first step in the expansion of the mission.

Six months later, on 28 June 2004, at the Summit meeting of the NATO Heads of State and Government in Istanbul, NATO announced that it would establish four other provincial reconstruction teams in the north of the country: in Mazar-e-Sharif, Meymana, Feyzabad and Baghlan.

This process was completed on 1 October 2004, marking the completion of the first phase of ISAF's expansion. ISAF's area of operations then covered some 3,600 square kilometres in the north and the mission was able to influence security in nine Northern provinces of the country.

- **Stage 2: to the west**

On 10 February 2005, NATO announced that ISAF would be further expanded, into the west of Afghanistan.

This process began on 31 May 2006, when ISAF took on command of two additional PRTs, in the provinces of Herat and Farah and of a Forward Support Base (a logistic base) in Herat.

At the beginning of September, two further ISAF-led PRTs in the west became operational, one in Chaghcharan, capital of Ghor province, and one in Qala-e-Naw, capital of Baghdis province, completing ISAF's expansion into the west.

The extended ISAF mission led a total of nine PRTs, in the north and the west, providing security assistance in 50% of Afghanistan's territory. The Alliance continued to make preparations to further expand ISAF, to the south of the country.

In September 2005, the Alliance also temporarily deployed 2,000 additional troops to Afghanistan to support the 18 September provincial and parliamentary elections.

- **Stage 3: to the south**

On 8 December 2005, meeting at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, the Allied Foreign Ministers endorsed a plan that paved the way for an expanded ISAF role and presence in Afghanistan.

The first element of this plan was the expansion of ISAF to the south in 2006, also known as Stage 3.

This was implemented on 31 July 2006, when ISAF assumed command of the southern region of Afghanistan from US-led Coalition forces, expanding its area of operations to cover an additional six provinces – Day Kundi, Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz, Uruzgan and Zabul – and taking on command of four additional PRTs.

The expanded ISAF led a total of 13 PRTs in the north, west and south, covering some three-quarters of Afghanistan's territory.

The number of ISAF forces in the country also increased significantly, from about 10,000 prior to the expansion to about 20,000 after.

- **Stage 4: ISAF expands to the east, takes responsibility for entire country**

On 5 October 2006, ISAF implemented the final stage of its expansion, by taking on command of the international military forces in eastern Afghanistan from the US-led Coalition.

In addition to expanding the Alliance's area of operations, the revised operational plan also paved the way for a greater ISAF role in the country. This includes the deployment of ISAF OMLTs to Afghan National Army units at various levels of command.

PDF Library

- June 2008 - NATO
NATO Briefing : Helping secure Afghanistan's future ([.PDF/1885Kb](#))
- 13 Feb. 2009 - ISAF Troops ([Placemats](#))

NATO's role in Kosovo



NATO has been leading a peace support operation in Kosovo since June 1999 in support of wider international efforts to build peace and stability in the area.

Today, over 14 000 troops from the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) are still deployed in Kosovo to help maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all citizens, irrespective of their ethnic

origin.

Following the declaration of independence on 17 February 2008, the Alliance reaffirmed that KFOR shall remain in Kosovo on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 1244, unless the United Nations Security Council decides otherwise. In June 2008, NATO agreed to take on new tasks in Kosovo to support the development of professional, democratic and multi-ethnic security structures,

Throughout Kosovo, NATO and KFOR will continue to work with the authorities and, bearing in mind its operational mandate, KFOR will cooperate with and assist the UN, the EU, in particular EULEX, the EU Rule of Law mission in Kosovo, and other international actors, as appropriate, to support the development of a stable, democratic, multi-ethnic and peaceful Kosovo.

- [KFOR's objectives](#)
- [KFOR's tasks](#)
- [Command and structure of KFOR](#)
- [The evolution of NATO's role in Kosovo](#)

KFOR's objectives

KFOR deployed in the wake of a 78-day air campaign. This air campaign was launched by the Alliance in March 1999 to halt and reverse the humanitarian catastrophe that was then unfolding.

KFOR derives its mandate from UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1244 of 10 June 1999 and the Military-Technical Agreement (MTA) between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbia. KFOR is operated under Chapter VII of the UN Charter and, as such, is a peace enforcement operation, which is more generally referred to as a peace support operation

Initially, KFOR's mandate was to:

- deter renewed hostility and threats against Kosovo by Yugoslav and Serb forces;

- establish a secure environment and ensure public safety and order;
- demilitarize the Kosovo Liberation Army;
- support the international humanitarian effort;
- coordinate with and support the international civil presence.

KFOR's presence has been crucial in maintaining safety and security for all individuals and communities in Kosovo. Today, KFOR continues to contribute towards maintaining a safe and secure environment in Kosovo for the benefit of all citizens.

KFOR's tasks

Initial tasks

KFOR tasks have included assistance with the return or relocation of displaced persons and refugees; reconstruction and demining; medical assistance; security and public order; security of ethnic minorities; protection of patrimonial sites; border security; interdiction of cross-border weapons smuggling; implementation of a Kosovo-wide weapons, ammunition and explosives amnesty programme; weapons destruction; and support for the establishment of civilian institutions, law and order, the judicial and penal system, the electoral process and other aspects of the political, economic and social life of the province.

Special attention continues to be paid to the protection of minorities. This includes regular patrols near minority enclaves, check points, escorts for minority groups, protection of heritage sites such as monasteries, and donations including food, clothes and school supplies.

New tasks

On 12 June 2008, NATO agreed to start implementing its new tasks in Kosovo, i.e assist in the standing down of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) and in the establishment of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), as well as the civilian structure to oversee the KSF. These tasks are implemented in close coordination and consultation with the relevant local and international authorities.

Stand-down of the KPC

The KPC was conceived as a transitional post-conflict arrangement, under the responsibility of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Its mandate was to provide disaster response services, perform search and rescue, provide a capacity for humanitarian assistance in isolated areas, assist de-mining and contribute to rebuilding infrastructure and communities.

Dissolution of the KPC is taking place in parallel with the creation of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) to ensure that key capabilities continue to be available for emergency situations.

The KPC ceased its operational activities on 20 January 2009 and will be formally dissolved on 14 June 2009.

Those KPC members not recruited into the KSF will be resettled, reintegrated or retired with dignity. A resettlement programme funded by a NATO Trust Fund is being implemented by a local partner Non-Governmental Organisation (APPK) under the supervision of the UN Development Program (UNDP).

Stand-up of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF)

NATO is responsible for supervising and supporting the stand-up and training of a multi-ethnic, professional and civilian controlled KSF. The Kosovo-wide recruitment campaign for the KSF started on 21 January 2009 . Reaching out to Kosovo's minority communities and encouraging them to apply for the KSF remains a priority.

The KSF shall be a lightly armed force and possess no heavy weapons, such as tanks, heavy artillery or offensive air capability.

The KSF shall have primary responsibility for security tasks that are not appropriate for the police such as emergency response, explosive ordnance disposal and civil protection. It may also participate in crisis response operations, including peace support operations.

This professional, all-volunteer force will be trained according to NATO standards and placed under civilian-led, democratic control. To date, the recruitment process has reached out across society and was carried out in two official languages: Albanian and Serbian. In the end, the KSF will comprise no more than 2 500 active personnel and 800 reservists. Training activities and courses started on 2 February 2009. The aim is for it to reach initial.

Establish a civilian-led body to supervise the KSF

NATO assists the authorities of Kosovo in establishing a ministry for the Kosovo Security Force. Primary responsibility for this task rests with NATO HQ in Brussels; KFOR is tasked to support the NATO Advisory Team that has been established in Pristina.

The ministry for the KSF will be a civilian-led organization that will exercise civilian control over the KSF. The minister for the KSF, through his ministry, will exercise day-to-day responsibility for the KSF.

Command and structure of KFOR

KFOR completed its transition from four Multinational Brigades (MNB East, MNB Center, MNB Northeast, MNB Southwest) to five Multinational Task Forces (MNTF) in June 2006:

- Multinational Task Force (MNTF) Centre based in Lipljan;
- MNTF North based in Novo Selo;
- MNTF South based in Prizren;
- MNTF West based in Pec;
- MNTF East based in Urosevac.

KFOR's transition process was aimed at improving the effectiveness of the forces and their ability to operate flexibly throughout Kosovo without restriction. In addition, it placed more emphasis on intelligence-led operations, with MNTFs working closely with both the local police and the local population to gather information.

The MNTF come under a single chain of command, under the authority of Commander KFOR (COMKFOR). COMKFOR reports to the Commander of Joint Force Command Naples (COM JFCN), Italy.

The evolution of NATO's role in Kosovo

KFOR deploys

UN Security Council Resolution 1244 was adopted on 10 June 1999 and on 12 June, the first elements of the NATO-led Kosovo Force, or KFOR, entered Kosovo. By 20 June, the withdrawal of Serbian forces was complete.

KFOR was initially composed of some 50 000 men and women from NATO member countries, Partner countries and non-NATO countries under unified command and control. By early 2002, KFOR was reduced to around 39 000 troops. The improved security environment enabled NATO to reduce KFOR troop levels to 26 000 by June 2003 and to 17 500 by the end of 2003.

Renewed violence

A setback in progress towards a stable, multi-ethnic and democratic Kosovo occurred in March 2004, when renewed violence broke out between Albanians and Serbs. At that time, KFOR troops were under attack. An additional 2500 soldiers were rapidly deployed to reinforce the existing KFOR strength.

At the 2004 Istanbul Summit, NATO leaders condemned the renewed ethnic violence and reaffirmed NATO's commitment to a secure, stable and multi-ethnic Kosovo.

The Kosovo status talks

After 14 months of UN-led negotiations, the Special Envoy for Kosovo, Martti Ahtisaari, presented his Comprehensive Proposal for a Kosovo Status Settlement to the UN Secretary General in March 2007. Whilst Pristina endorsed the Ahtisaari Proposal, Belgrade categorically rejected it.

On 1 August 2007, in the absence of any UN Security Council decision on Kosovo's future status, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon launched an extended period of engagement with the parties, led this time by an EU, Russia, US Troika under the auspices of the Contact Group. By the end of the Troika's mandate on 10 December 2007, the negotiating parties failed to reach any agreement on Kosovo's status.

Throughout the negotiations, NATO supported the efforts of Martti Ahtisaari and, subsequently, those of the Troika to settle Kosovo's status; KFOR helped maintain safety and stability on the ground allowing the negotiations to proceed without disruption.

In December 2007 NATO Foreign Ministers agreed that KFOR would remain in Kosovo on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 1244, unless the Security Council decides otherwise. They also renewed their commitment to maintain KFOR's national force contributions, including reserves, at current levels and with no new caveats.

At the Bucharest Summit in April 2008, NATO heads of state and government agreed that NATO and KFOR will continue to work with the authorities. They also agreed that, bearing in mind its operational mandate, KFOR will cooperate with and assist the United Nations, the European Union and other international actors, as appropriate, to support the development of a stable, democratic, multi-ethnic and peaceful Kosovo. They also stressed that NATO stands ready to play its part in the implementation of future security arrangements.

At their meeting on 2-3 December 2008, NATO Foreign Ministers reaffirmed that the robust, UN-mandated NATO-led KFOR presence will remain in Kosovo on the basis of UNSC resolution 1244. They stressed that the prompt deployment of the European Union's Rule and Law mission (EULEX) throughout all Kosovo is an urgent priority, and in this context noted the adoption by the UN Security Council of a statement of its presidency in support of the reconfiguration of UNMIK. They reaffirmed that NATO will continue to work towards the standing down of the Kosovo Protection Corps and the establishment of the Kosovo Security Force on the basis of NATO's voluntary trust funds.

Official texts

- 10 Jun. 1999 - UNMIK
UN Resolution 1244 ([PDF/24Kb](#))

PDF Library

- KFOR contributing nations and troop numbers (as on 12 June 2008)
[PDF/892KB](#)
- Feb 2005 - NATO
NATO Briefing: Bringing peace and stability to the Balkans ([PDF/1057Kb](#))

NATO enlargement



NATO's door remains open to any European country in a position to undertake the commitments and obligations of membership, and contribute to security in the Euro-Atlantic area. Since 1949, NATO's membership has increased from 12 to 28 countries through six rounds of enlargement. Albania and Croatia which were invited to join NATO at the Bucharest Summit in April 2008, formally became members upon completion of the accession process on 1 April 2009.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ has, like Albania and Croatia, been participating in the Membership Action Plan (MAP) for a number of years to prepare for possible membership. At Bucharest, Allied leaders agreed to invite the country to become a member as soon as a mutually acceptable solution to the issue over the country's name has been reached with Greece.

A number of other important decisions concerning enlargement were taken at Bucharest. Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro were invited to start Intensified Dialogues on their membership aspirations and related reforms. Allied leaders also agreed that Georgia and Ukraine – which were already engaged in an Intensified Dialogue with NATO – will become members in future.

NATO's "open door policy" is based on Article 10 of its founding treaty. Any decision to invite a country to join the Alliance is taken by the North Atlantic Council, NATO's principal decision-making body, on the basis of consensus among all Allies. No third country has a say in such deliberations.

NATO's ongoing enlargement process poses no threat to any country. It is aimed at promoting stability and cooperation, at building a Europe whole and free, united in peace, democracy and common values.

- [Support for aspirant countries](#)
- [1995 Study on Enlargement](#)
- [Accession process](#)
- [Evolution of NATO's "open door policy"](#)

Support for aspirant countries

Countries that have declared an interest in joining the Alliance are initially invited to engage in an Intensified Dialogue with NATO about their membership aspirations and related reforms.

Aspirant countries may then be invited to participate in the Membership Action Plan to prepare for potential membership and demonstrate their ability to meet

the obligations and commitments of possible future membership. In principle, participation in the MAP does not guarantee future membership, but it constitutes the key preparation mechanism.

Countries aspiring to join NATO have to demonstrate that they are in a position to further the principles of the 1949 Washington Treaty and contribute to security in the Euro-Atlantic area. They are also expected to meet certain political, economic and military criteria, which are laid out in the 1995 Study on NATO Enlargement.

1995 Study on Enlargement

In 1995, the Alliance published the results of a Study on NATO Enlargement that considered the merits of admitting new members and how they should be brought in.

It concluded that the end of the Cold War provided a unique opportunity to build improved security in the entire Euro-Atlantic area and that NATO enlargement would contribute to enhanced stability and security for all.

The Study further concluded that enlargement would contribute to enhanced stability and security for all countries in the Euro-Atlantic area by encouraging and supporting democratic reforms, including the establishment of civilian and democratic control over military forces; fostering patterns and habits of cooperation, consultation and consensus-building characteristic of relations among members of the Alliance; and promoting good-neighbourly relations.

It would increase transparency in defence planning and military budgets, thereby reinforcing confidence among states, and would reinforce the overall tendency toward closer integration and cooperation in Europe. The Study also concluded that enlargement would strengthen the Alliance's ability to contribute to European and international security and strengthen and broaden the transatlantic partnership.

According to the Study, countries seeking NATO membership would have to be able to demonstrate that they have fulfilled certain requirements. These include:

- a functioning democratic political system based on a market economy;
- the fair treatment of minority populations;
- a commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflicts;
- the ability and willingness to make a military contribution NATO operations; and
- a commitment to democratic civil-military relations and institutional structures.

Once admitted, new members would enjoy all the rights and assume all the obligations of membership. This would include acceptance at the time that they join of all the principles, policies and procedures previously adopted by Alliance members.

Accession process

Once the Allies have decided to invite a country to become a member of NATO, they officially invite the country to begin accession talks with the Alliance. This is the first step in the accession process on the way to formal membership.

The major steps in the process are:

1. Accession talks with a NATO team

These talks take place at NATO headquarters in Brussels and bring together teams of NATO experts and representatives of the individual invitees. Their aim is to obtain formal confirmation from the invitees of their willingness and ability to meet the political, legal and military obligations and commitments of NATO membership, as laid out in the Washington Treaty and in the Study on NATO Enlargement.

The talks take place in two sessions with each invitee. In the first session, political and defence or military issues are discussed, essentially providing the opportunity to establish that the preconditions for membership have been met. The second session is more technical and includes discussion of resources, security, and legal issues as well as the contribution of each new member country to NATO's common budget. This is determined on a proportional basis, according to the size of their economies in relation to those of other Alliance member countries.

Invitees are also required to implement measures to ensure the protection of NATO classified information, and prepare their security and intelligence services to work with the NATO Office of Security.

The end product of these discussions is a timetable to be submitted by each invitee for the completion of necessary reforms, which may continue even after these countries have become NATO members.

2. Invitees send letters of intent to NATO, along with timetables for completion of reforms

In the second step of the accession process, each invitee country provides confirmation of its acceptance of the obligations and commitments of membership in the form of a letter of intent from each foreign minister addressed to the NATO Secretary General. Together with this letter they also formally submit their individual reform timetables.

3. Accession protocols are signed by NATO countries

NATO then prepares Accession Protocols to the Washington Treaty for each invitee. These protocols are in effect amendments or additions to the Treaty, which once signed and ratified by Allies, become an integral part of the Treaty itself and permit the invited countries to become parties to the Treaty.

4. Accession protocols are ratified by NATO countries

The governments of NATO member states ratify the protocols, according to their national requirements and procedures. The ratification procedure varies from country to country. For example, the United States requires a two-thirds majority to pass the required legislation in the Senate. Elsewhere, for example in the United Kingdom, no formal parliamentary vote is required.

5. The Secretary General invites the potential new members to accede to the North Atlantic Treaty

Once all NATO member countries notify the Government of the United States of America, the depository of the Washington Treaty, of their acceptance of the protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty on the accession of the potential new members, the Secretary General invites the new countries to accede to the Treaty.

6. Invitees accede to the North Atlantic Treaty in accordance with their national procedures

7. Upon depositing their instruments of accession with the US State Department, invitees formally become NATO members

Evolution of NATO's "open door policy"

NATO's "open door policy" is based upon Article 10 of the Washington Treaty, which states that membership is open to any "European State in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area".

The enlargement of the Alliance is an ongoing and dynamic process. Since the Alliance was created in 1949, its membership has grown from the 12 founding members to today's 26 members through five rounds of enlargement in 1952, 1955, 1982, 1999 and 2004.

The first three rounds of enlargement – which brought in Greece and Turkey (1952), West Germany (1955) and Spain (1982) – took place during the Cold War, when strategic considerations were at the forefront of decision-making.

The fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989, signalled the end of the Cold War and was followed by the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and the break up of the

Soviet Union, ending the division of Europe. The reunification of Germany in October 1990 brought the territory of the former East Germany into the Alliance. The new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe were eager to guarantee their freedom by becoming integrated into Euro-Atlantic institutions.

NATO enlargement was the subject of lively debate in the early 1990s. Many political analysts were unsure of the benefits that enlargement would bring. Some were concerned about the possible impact on Alliance cohesion and solidarity, as well as on relations with other states, notably Russia. It is in this context that the Alliance carried out a Study on NATO Enlargement in 1995 (see above).

Post-Cold War enlargement

Based on the findings of the Study on Enlargement, The Alliance invited the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to begin accession talks at the Alliance's Madrid Summit in 1997. These three countries became the first former members of the Warsaw Pact to join NATO in 1999.

At the 1999 Washington Summit, the Membership Action Plan was launched to help other aspirant countries prepare for possible membership.

Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia and Slovenia were invited to begin accession talks at the Alliance's Prague Summit in 2002 and joined NATO in 2004. All seven countries had participated in the MAP.

Bucharest Summit decisions

At the Bucharest Summit in April 2008, Allied leaders took a number of steps related to the future enlargement of the Alliance.

Several decisions concerned countries in the Western Balkans. The Allies see the closer integration of Western Balkan countries into Euro-Atlantic institutions as essential to ensuring long-term self-sustaining stability in this region, where NATO has been heavily engaged in peace-support operations since the mid 1990s.

- Albania and Croatia were invited to start accession talks to join the Alliance and joined NATO in April 2009.
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* was assured that it will also be invited to join the Alliance as soon as a solution to the issue of the country's name has been reached with Greece.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro were invited to start Intensified Dialogues on their membership aspirations and related reforms.

Allied leaders also agreed at Bucharest that Georgia and Ukraine, which were already engaged in Intensified Dialogues with NATO, will one day become members. In December 2008, Allied foreign ministers decided to enhance

opportunities for assisting the two countries in efforts to meet membership requirements by making use of the framework of the existing NATO-Ukraine Commission and NATO-Georgia Commission – without prejudice to further decisions which may be taken about their applications to join the MAP.

Timeline of key milestones

4 April 1949	Signature of the North Atlantic Treaty by 12 founding members: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States. Article 10 of the treaty provides basis NATO's "open door policy".
18 February 1952	Accession of Greece and Turkey.
6 May 1955	Accession of the Federal Republic of Germany.
30 May 1982	Spain joins the Alliance (and the integrated military structure in 1998).
October 1990	With the reunification of Germany, the new German Länder in the East become part of NATO.
January 1994	At the Brussels Summit, Allied leaders reaffirm that NATO remains open to the membership of other European countries.
28 September 1995	Publication of NATO Study on Enlargement.
8-9 July 1997	At the Madrid Summit, three Partner countries – the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland – are invited to start accession talks.
12 March 1999	Accession of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, bringing the Alliance to 19 members.
23-25 April 1999	Launch of the Membership Action Plan (MAP) at the Washington Summit. (Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia join the MAP.)
14 May 2002	NATO foreign ministers officially announce the participation of Croatia in the MAP at their meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland.
May 2002	President Leonid Kuchma announces Ukraine's goal of eventual NATO membership.
21-22 November 2002	At the Prague Summit, seven Partner countries – Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia – are invited to start accession talks.

26 March 2003	Signing ceremony of the Accession Protocols of the seven invitees.
29 March 2004	Accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
21 April 2005	Launch of the Intensified Dialogue on Ukraine's aspirations to NATO membership and related reforms, at an informal meeting of foreign ministers in Vilnius, Lithuania.
21 September 2006	NATO foreign ministers in New York announce the decision to offer an Intensified Dialogue to Georgia.
28-29 November 2006	At the Riga Summit, Allied leaders state that invitations will be extended to MAP countries that fulfil certain conditions.
2-4 April 2008	At the Bucharest Summit, Allied leaders invite Albania and Croatia to start accession talks; assure the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* that it will be invited once a solution to the issue of the country's name has been reached with Greece; invite Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro to start Intensified Dialogues; and agree that Georgia and Ukraine will become members in future.
9 July 2008	Accession protocols for Albania and Croatia are signed.
1 April 2009	Accession of Albania and Croatia

1. Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

Official texts

- 3 Apr. 2008 - NATO
[Bucharest Summit Declaration](#)
(para. 2, 18, 21-22)
- 29 Nov. 2006 - NATO
[Riga Summit Declaration](#)
- 4 Apr 1949 - NATO
[Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty](#)

Multimedia

- 30 July 2008 - NATO
"NATO as the Euro-Atlantic integrator", lecture by Jamie Shea
Video [NATO TV Channel](#) 
(from the NATO [Summer School lectures](#) with Jamie Shea)

PDF Library

- Apr 2004 - NATO
Enhancing security and extending stability through NATO enlargement
([.PDF/371Kb](#))

Membership Action Plan (MAP)



The Membership Action Plan (MAP) is a NATO programme of advice, assistance and practical support tailored to the individual needs of countries wishing to join the Alliance. Participation in the MAP does not prejudice any decision by the Alliance on future membership.

At present, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ is the only country participating in the MAP.

Countries participating in the MAP submit individual annual national programmes on their preparations for possible future membership. These cover political, economic, defence, resource, security and legal aspects.

The MAP process provides a focused and candid feedback mechanism on aspirant countries' progress on their programmes. This includes both political and technical advice, as well as annual meetings between all NATO members and individual aspirants at the level of the North Atlantic Council to assess progress. A key element is the defence planning approach for aspirants, which includes elaboration and review of agreed planning targets.

Throughout the year, meetings and workshops with NATO civilian and military experts in various fields allow for discussion of the entire spectrum of issues relevant to membership. An annual consolidated progress report on activities under the MAP is presented to NATO foreign and defence ministers at their regular spring meetings each year.

The MAP was launched in April 1999 at the Alliance's Washington Summit to help countries aspiring to NATO membership in their preparations. The process drew heavily on the experience gained during the accession process of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, which had joined NATO in the Alliance's first post-Cold War round of enlargement in 1999.

Participation in the MAP

Participation in the MAP has helped prepare the seven countries that joined NATO in the second post-Cold War round of enlargement in 2004 (Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) as well as Albania and Croatia, which joined in April 2009.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ continues to participate in the MAP – Allied leaders have agreed to invite the country to become a member as soon as a mutually acceptable solution to the issue over the country's name has been reached with Greece.

1. Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

NATO's relations with Albania



NATO and Albania cooperate in a range of areas, with a particular emphasis on defence and security sector reform, as well as support for wider democratic and institutional reform. In April 2008, Albania was invited to start accession talks to become a member of the Alliance. The accession protocols were signed on 9 July 2008.

Albania officially became a NATO member on 1 April 2009.

During the period leading up to accession, NATO had been involving Albania in Alliance activities to the greatest extent possible, and continued to provide support and assistance, including through the Membership Action Plan.

Beyond the focus on reform, another important area of cooperation is the country's support for NATO-led operations. Albania is currently contributing to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan 2003. In the past, the country contributed to the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina; it also supported Allied peacekeeping operations in Kosovo by hosting a logistics support command, which became a regional military headquarters, NATO HQ Tirana, in 2002.

- [Framework for cooperation](#)
- [Key areas of cooperation](#)
- [Evolution of relations](#)

Framework for cooperation

Prior to its membership of the Alliance, Albania's cooperation with NATO took place in the framework of the Membership Action Plan. In the MAP framework, Albania set out its reform plans and timelines in its Annual National Programme (ANP). Key areas included political, military and security-sector reforms. Important priorities were efforts to meet democratic standards, support for reducing corruption and fighting organized crime, judicial reform, improving public administration and promoting good-neighbourly relations. NATO Allies provided feedback on the envisaged reforms and evaluated their implementation.

Until the Bucharest Summit, where Albania was invited to join NATO, NATO teams visited Albania to draft a progress report on the implementation of the ANP, including possible recommendations for further action. These were agreed by Allies and then discussed by the North Atlantic Council with representatives from Albania at a high-level meeting at the end of the cycle. More specific and technical reforms in the defence area were discussed and assessed in parallel in the context of the Partnership for Peace Planning and Review Process (PARP), through which the country has accepted planning targets, or Partnership Goals,

in a wide variety of defence capability areas. Following the invitation issued at the Bucharest Summit, work with Albania in the defence reform/defence planning areas has been gradually switched to the modalities which apply to Allies.

Albania also cooperates with NATO and Partner countries in a wide range of other areas through the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC). It tailors its participation in the PfP programme through an annual Individual Partnership Programme, selecting those activities that will help achieve the goals it has set in the Annual National Programme.

Key areas of cooperation

Security cooperation

Albania played an important role in supporting Allied efforts in 1999 to end the humanitarian tragedy in Kosovo and secure the peace after the air campaign. The country allowed the Allies to establish a logistics support command centre in Tirana to help sustain peacekeeping operations in Kosovo. In 2002, NATO established a regional military headquarters in Tirana (NATO HQ Tirana), which was incorporated into the structures of the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR). Albania also provided support to the Allies for the stabilization operations in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ from 2001 to 2003.

Albanian forces have joined Allied forces operating in Afghanistan. The country currently contributes some 135 military personnel to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) as part of the Turkish and Italian contingents. Four medical personnel were also sent as part of a combined medical team from all three MAP countries; they joined ISAF in August 2005 and are serving under a Czech contingent.

Albanian forces have also worked alongside those of NATO nations in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. An Albanian contingent joined in 1996 and the country continues its contribution to the European Union's Operation Althea today. Operation Althea replaced the NATO-led SFOR force in November 2007. Preparations are ongoing for an Albanian contribution to Operation Active Endeavour, NATO's maritime counter-terrorist operation in the Mediterranean.

Albania has identified a number of units available for operations, training and exercises with NATO, under the umbrella of PfP. These include an infantry company that remains on high readiness, a commando company, including Special Forces elements, and medical support, engineer and military-police platoons. Albania has also hosted and participated in a range of PfP exercises and activities.

Albania contributes to the fight against terrorism through its participation in the Partnership Action Plan on Terrorism. This includes sharing intelligence and analysis with NATO, enhancing national counter-terrorist capabilities and improving border security.

Defence and security sector reform

NATO is supportive of the wide-ranging and ongoing democratic and institutional reform process underway in Albania, which is outlined in its Annual National Programme. Specifically in the area of defence and security sector reform, NATO and individual Allies have considerable expertise that Albania can draw upon. NATO HQ Tirana is a key forum for bilateral consultations and advice on the implementation of Albania's security and defence reforms.

A key priority for Albania is to ensure the maintenance of democratic control of the armed forces. Albania's subscription to the objectives of the Partnership Action Plan on Defence Institution Building supports these efforts, by promoting effective judicial oversight, offering appropriate command arrangements and wider consultations.

Albania's participation in the PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP) since 1999 has helped develop the ability of its forces to work with NATO. PARP is a core element of cooperation under the Membership Action Plan. The PARP provides a framework through which Albania can work with the Allies on achieving force interoperability with NATO. Consultations on the modernization of military civilian communications systems, surveillance systems, maritime units, logistics and other areas are ongoing.

Albania joined the Operational Capabilities Concept (OCC) in 2005. The OCC is a mechanism through which units available for PfP operations can be evaluated and better integrated with NATO forces to increase operational effectiveness.

Civil emergency planning

Albania is enhancing its national civil emergency and disaster-management capabilities in cooperation with NATO, and through participation in activities organized by the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC). The country also participates in the work of the Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee.

Science and environment

Under the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme, Albania has received grant awards for over 20 projects for scientific and environmental collaboration. Many activities are aimed at supporting Albania's reform and interoperability efforts.

Projects include collaborative studies on strengthening and promoting religious coexistence and tolerance, studies on overcoming the difficulties of secure networking, and the creation of computer emergency response teams.

Public diplomacy

During the MAP process, public diplomacy work focused on increasing public awareness of how NATO works, promoting understanding of the rights and obligations which membership brings, and encouraging realistic perceptions of the organisation. Public diplomacy activities also aim to develop and maintain links with civil society actors and to facilitate security-related activities and programmes in the country. NATO's Public Diplomacy Division plays a key role in this area as do individual Allies and Partner countries.

Groups of opinion leaders from the country are regularly invited to visit NATO Headquarters and the Supreme Headquarters of Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE). Albania has hosted seminars and conferences. A "NATO week" involving roundtable university discussions and conferences was held in 2007.

Evolution of relations

NATO-Albania relations date back to 1992, when Albania joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (later renamed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council in 1997). Relations expanded when Albania joined the Partnership for Peace in 1994. Albania played an important role in supporting Allied efforts to end the humanitarian tragedy in Kosovo and secure the peace after the air campaign. Bilateral cooperation has developed progressively in light of the country's membership aspirations and its participation in the Membership Action Plan since April 1999. Political and public support for accession to NATO has always been very high (supported by well over 95 per cent of the population). In April 2008, Albania was invited to start accession talks with the Alliance. NATO Allies signed protocols on Albania's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty on 9 July 2008 and the ratification process is ongoing. It is expected that the process will be completed in time for the Strasburg-Kehl Summit, so that Albania can join it as a full member of the Alliance.

NATO HQ Tirana, which was established in 2002 to contribute to the command and control of KFOR, also provides advice, assistance and support to the Albanian government in its defence reforms efforts.

Key milestones

1992

Albania joins the newly created North Atlantic Cooperation Council, renamed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council in 1997

1994	Albania joins the Partnership for Peace (PfP).
1996	Albanian forces join the NATO-led SFOR peacekeeping force in Bosnia and Herzegovina
1999	NATO establishes a logistical base in Tirana to support Allied operations in Kosovo.
2000	Albania hosts the PfP exercise “Adventure Express” in April and “Cooperative Dragon” in June.
2001	Albania hosts the initial phase of the PfP exercise “Adventure Express 01” in April and May.
2002	NATO HQ Tirana is established to assist Albania in the implementation of its defence capability reforms as well as to contribute to the command and control of KFOR.
2003	Albanian forces deploy in support of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.
2005	Albania joins the Operational Capabilities Concept.
	A combined medical team of the three MAP countries joins NATO-led forces in Afghanistan in August.
	Albania hosts the PfP exercise “Cooperative Engagement 05” in September.
2007	Albania hosts a meeting of the Euro-Atlantic Policy Advisory Group of the EAPC in May.
	Albania hosts the PfP exercises “Cooperative Longbow 07” and “Cooperative Lancer 07”.
2008	In April 2008, Albania is invited to start accession talks with the Alliance.
	NATO Allies sign protocols on Albania’s accession to the North Atlantic Treaty on 9 July 2008.
2009	1 April 2009, Albania becomes a full member of the Alliance.

Official texts

- 3 Apr. 2008 - NATO
[Bucharest Summit Declaration](#)
(para. 2, 19, 21-22)

Opinion

- 19 Oct 2007 - NATO
[Joint press conference by NATO Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and President of the Republic of Albania, Mr. Bamir Topi](#)
- 6 Jul 2006 - NATO
[Speech by NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer at the Albanian parliament](#)

NATO's relations with Croatia



NATO and Croatia actively cooperate in a range of areas, with a particular emphasis on defence and security sector reform, as well as support for wider democratic and institutional reform. In April 2008, Croatia was invited to start accession talks to become a member of the Alliance. The accession protocols were signed on 9 July 2008. Croatia officially became a NATO member on 1 April

2009.

During the period leading up to accession, NATO had been involving Croatia in Alliance activities to the greatest extent possible, and continued to provide support and assistance, including through the Membership Action Plan.

Beyond the key focus on reform, another important area of cooperation is the country's support for NATO-led operations. Croatia has contributed to the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR), both directly and indirectly. It has also been contributing to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan since 2003.

- [Framework for cooperation](#)
- [Key areas of cooperation](#)
- [Evolution of relations](#)

Framework for cooperation

Prior to its membership of the Alliance, Croatia's cooperation with NATO took place in the framework of the Membership Action Plan. In the MAP framework, Croatia set out its reform plans and timelines in its Annual National Programme (ANP). Key areas included political, military and security-sector reforms. Important priorities were efforts to meet democratic standards, support for reducing corruption and fighting organized crime, judicial reform, improving public administration, promoting good-neighbourly relations and ensuring sufficient levels of public support for joining NATO. NATO Allies provided feedback on the envisaged reforms and evaluated their implementation.

Until the Bucharest Summit, where Croatia was invited to join NATO, NATO teams visited Croatia to draft a progress report on the implementation of the ANP, including possible recommendations for further action. These were agreed by Allies and then discussed by the North Atlantic Council with representatives from Croatia at a high-level meeting at the end of the cycle. More specific and technical reforms in the defence area were discussed in parallel in the context of the Partnership for Peace Planning and Review Process (PARP), through which the country has accepted planning targets, or Partnership Goals, in a wide

variety of defence capability areas. Following the invitation issued at the Bucharest Summit, work with Croatia in the defence reform/defence planning areas has been gradually switched to the modalities which apply to Allies.

Croatia also cooperates with NATO and Partner countries in a wide range of other areas through the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC). It tailors its participation in the PfP programme through an annual Individual Partnership Programme, selecting those activities that will help achieve the goals it has set in the Annual National Programme.

Key areas of cooperation

Security cooperation

Croatian forces have joined those of the NATO Allies in operations in Kosovo and Afghanistan. Approximately 300 Croatian soldiers, diplomats and military police officers currently work within the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) across three different regions of Afghanistan. Croatia is in the process of significantly increasing its contribution to ISAF and will make up to 300 troops available for ISAF deployment. In addition, in 2006, a Croatian Mobile Liaison Observation Team deployed as part of the Lithuanian Provincial Reconstruction Team, in Ghor province. A combined medical team, with specialists from all three MAP countries, joined ISAF in August 2005.

Croatia continues to provide logistical support to NATO-led operations in Kosovo. Sea and airports have been made available as well as various military facilities, overflight rights and the use of the national air traffic control service. Plans are underway for a Croatian donation of weapons and military equipment to the Iraqi Armed Forces through NATO's Training Mission in Iraq. In the framework of the same mission, Croatia has also offered to provide training in Croatia for Iraqi security forces.

The country continues to host and participate in a range of PfP exercises and activities. It has identified a number of units for cooperation with NATO under the umbrella of PfP for operations, training and exercises. Croatia is working to establish its International Military Operations Centre as an official regional PfP training centre.

the fight against terrorism takes place in the framework of the Partnership Action Plan on Terrorism (PAP-T). This includes sharing intelligence and analysis with NATO, enhancing national counter-terrorist capabilities and improving border security.

Defence and security sector reform

NATO is supportive of the wide-ranging and ongoing institutional and judicial reform process underway in Croatia, which is outlined in its Annual National Programme..

Croatia's participation in the PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP) since 2000 has helped develop the ability of its forces to work with NATO. PARP is a core element of Croatia's Membership Action Plan.

Based on the results of the Strategic Defence Review, and in consultation with the Allies, Croatia adopted a Long-Term Development Plan for the restructuring of its Armed Forces. The emphasis is on creating professional, mobile, deployable and financially viable forces that are interoperable with the forces of Allies. Croatia and NATO are also cooperating on improving the capabilities of the Croatian coastguard and other naval assets, border policing activities, military training, military education and English language training

The country joined the Operational Capabilities Concept (OCC) in 2005. The OCC is a mechanism through which units available for PfP operations can be evaluated, and better integrated with NATO forces to increase operational effectiveness.

Civil emergency planning

Croatia is enhancing its national civil emergency and disaster-management capabilities in cooperation with NATO and through participation in activities organized by the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC). Croatia also participates in the work of the Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee.

Croatia was one of the first countries to respond to a request from Slovakia, sent through the EADRCC in April 2006, to provide relief from the consequences of flooding by sending material and financial assistance.

In May 2007, Croatia hosted and co-organized the consequence-management exercise IDASSA 2007, together with the EADRCC. The exercise aimed at improving cooperation and coordination between NATO and Partner countries.

Science and environment

Under the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme, Croatia has received grant awards for over 50 collaborative projects. Projects include advanced research workshops on information security, and studies into harbour pollution assessment and management, counter-terrorism and crisis management.

Public diplomacy

During the MAP process, public diplomacy work focused on increasing public awareness of how NATO works and promoting understanding of the rights and obligations which membership brings. Public diplomacy activities also aim to develop and maintain links with civil society actors and to facilitate security-related activities and programmes in the country. NATO's Public Diplomacy Division plays a key role in this area as do individual Allies and Partner countries.

Groups of opinion leaders from Croatia are regularly invited to visit NATO Headquarters and the Supreme Headquarters of Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE). Ambassadors from NATO member countries and NATO officials have travelled to Croatia to speak at public events. Croatia has also hosted seminars and conferences. NATO has opened a depository library within the political science faculty at the University of Zagreb to improve access to relevant documentation and information.

Evolution of relations

NATO-Croatia relations date back to 1994, when senior Croatian diplomats publicly declared Croatia's interest in joining the Partnership for Peace (PfP). Relations continued to expand, and Croatia joined the PfP and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) in May 2000. Bilateral cooperation has developed progressively in light of the country's membership aspirations and its participation in the Membership Action Plan since 2002. In April 2008, Croatia was invited to start accession talks with the Alliance. NATO Allies signed protocols on Croatia's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty on 9 July 2008 and Croatia became a full member of the Alliance on 1 April 2009.

Key milestones

1994	Senior Croatian diplomats publicly express an interest in joining the Partnership for Peace.
1999	Croatia allows the use of its airspace for operation Allied Force and provides logistical support to KFOR.
2000	Croatia joins the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and the Partnership for Peace (PfP).
	Croatia joins the PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP).
2001	Croatia develops its first Individual Partnership Plan (IPP).
2002	Croatia accepts an invitation to join the Membership Action Plan (MAP).
	Croatia hands in its first Annual National Programme in the

	framework of the MAP.
	Croatia hosts a PfP civil emergency planning and relief exercise.
2003	Croatian forces contribute to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.
	Croatia hosts the PfP exercise “Cooperative Engagement 2003”.
2004	Croatia hosts a number of PfP disaster-management seminars.
2005	Croatia participates in its first PfP crisis-management exercise.
	A combined medical team of the three MAP countries joins NATO-led forces in Afghanistan in August.
	Croatia hosts a PfP seminar on littoral warfare and a conference on movement and transportation.
2006	Croatia hosts a disaster-management training project for south-eastern Europe.
	Croatia hosts a meeting of the Euro-Atlantic Policy Advisory Group of the EAPC in May.
2007	The Croatian parliament endorses a proposal to increase the country’s contribution to ISAF.
	Croatia hosts the disaster-response exercise “IDASSA 2007” in May.
	Croatia hosts the PfP maritime exercise “Noble Midas 2007” from end September to mid October.
2008	In April 2008, Croatia is invited to start accession talks with the Alliance.
	NATO Allies sign protocols on Croatia’s accession to the North Atlantic Treaty on 9 July 2008.
2009	1 April 2009, Croatia adheres to the Alliance.

NATO's relations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹



NATO and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ actively cooperate in a range of areas, with a particular emphasis on defence and security sector reform, as well as support for wider democratic and institutional reform. The country joined the Membership Action Plan (MAP) in 1999 and aspires to join the Alliance.

The MAP is a practical manifestation of NATO's "open door" policy. It is a framework through which the Allies provide advice, assistance and practical support to aspiring countries to help them prepare for NATO membership.

Beyond the key focus on reform, another important area of cooperation is the country's support for NATO-led operations. For many years, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ has been providing valuable host nation support to troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) transiting the country. The country also contributes to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.

At the April 2008 Bucharest Summit, Allies recognized the hard work and commitment demonstrated by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ to NATO values and Alliance operations. They agreed that an invitation to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ will be extended as soon as a mutually acceptable solution to the issue over the country's name has been reached with Greece.

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- [Evolution of relations](#)

Framework for cooperation

In the MAP framework, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ sets out its reform plans and timelines in its Annual National Programme (ANP). Key areas include political, military and security-sector reforms. Important priorities are efforts to meet democratic standards and ensure free and fair elections, as well as support for reducing corruption and fighting organized crime, judicial reform, improving public administration and promoting good-neighbourly relations. NATO Allies provide feedback on the envisaged reforms and evaluate their implementation.

NATO teams visit the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ to draft a progress report on the implementation of the ANP, including possible recommendations for further action. These are agreed by Allies and then discussed by the North Atlantic Council with representatives from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ at a high-level meeting at the end of the cycle. More specific and technical reforms in the defence area are discussed and assessed in parallel in the context of the Partnership for Peace Planning and Review Process (PARP), which sets planning targets, or Partnership Goals, in a wide variety of defence capability areas.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ also cooperates with NATO and Partner countries in a wide range of other areas through the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC). It tailors its participation in PfP through an annual Individual Partnership Programme, selecting those activities that will help achieve the goals it has set in the Annual National Programme.

Key areas of cooperation

Security cooperation

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ was a key partner in supporting NATO-led stabilization operations in Kosovo in 1999. NATO forces were deployed to the country to halt the spread of the conflict as well as to provide logistical support to the Kosovo Force (KFOR). The Allies also provided humanitarian assistance as refugees from Kosovo fled into the country. The country continues to provide valuable host nation support to KFOR troops transiting its territory.

NATO came to the assistance of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, when violence between ethnic Albanian insurgents and security forces broke out in the west of the country in February 2001. The insurgents had taken control of a number of towns near the border with Kosovo, bringing the country to the brink of a civil war. NATO facilitated the negotiation of a ceasefire in June of that same year, which paved the way for a political settlement – the Ohrid Framework Agreement – in August 2001. In support of the settlement, NATO deployed a task force, “Essential Harvest”, to collect weapons handed over by the insurgents, as they prepared to disband. The NATO-led international monitoring mission continued to operate in support of the implementation of the Ohrid Agreement until 31 March 2003, when the European Union assumed the lead.

A key objective of NATO’s cooperation with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ is to develop the ability of the country’s armed forces to work alongside Allied forces in peace-support and crisis management operations.

The country first contributed to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, in August 2002. A further combined medical team, formed by the

three MAP countries, was deployed in support of ISAF in August 2005. The country is in the process of significantly increasing its contribution to ISAF.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ has substantially increased the forces it is prepared to make available to support NATO-led PfP operations. Units include a medium infantry battalion group, a specialist mountain/alpine section, a counter-terrorism team, a long-range reconnaissance company, military police units and other forces. The country also continues to host and participate in a range of PfP exercises and activities.

Cooperation in the fight against terrorism takes place in the framework of the Partnership Action Plan on Terrorism. This includes sharing intelligence and analysis with NATO, enhancing national counter-terrorist capabilities and improving border security. In consultation with the Allies, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ has taken steps to establish competent bodies and services to deal with contemporary forms of terrorism.

Defence and security sector reform

NATO is supportive of the wide-ranging and ongoing reform process underway in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹. In the areas of defence and security sector reform, NATO and individual Allies have considerable expertise that the country can draw upon. In consultation with the Allies, the country continues to implement a wide range of reforms in line with its Strategic Defence Review.

The Allies have assisted in the development of a transformation plan for the country's armed forces. The plan includes detailed programmes covering logistics, personnel, equipment, training, and a timetable for the restructuring of key military units. Other key objectives include improving ethnic minority representation in civil/military defence structures and judicial and police reform.

The country's participation in the PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP) since 1999 has helped develop the ability of its forces to work with NATO, and also facilitated defence reform. PARP is a core element of the MAP. NATO Headquarters Skopje, established in 2003, also plays a role in assisting the implementation of the defence reform plans, specifically by means of its NATO Advisory Team, which is located within the country's defence ministry.

The country joined the Operational Capabilities Concept (OCC) in 2005. The OCC is a mechanism through which units available for PfP operations can be evaluated and better integrated with NATO forces to increase operational effectiveness.

Civil emergency planning

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ is enhancing its national civil emergency and disaster-management capabilities in cooperation with NATO and through participation in activities organized by the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre. The country also participates in the work of the Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee.

In consultation with NATO, a national crisis-management system has been established to ensure that the structures in place serve effectively and efficiently in the case of a national crisis.

Science and environment

Under the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ has received grant awards for over 40 collaborative projects. Projects include advanced research workshops on information security, and studies into crisis management and counter-terrorism activity.

Public information

Given that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ aims to join NATO in the near future, it is important to increase public awareness of how NATO works and the rights and obligations which membership brings. Public diplomacy activities also aim to develop and maintain links with civil society actors and to facilitate security-related activities and programmes in the country. NATO's Public Diplomacy Division plays a key role in this area as do individual Allies and Partner countries.

Groups of opinion leaders from the country are regularly invited to visit NATO Headquarters and the Supreme Headquarters of Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE). The country has hosted seminars and conferences. It has also established a regional Public Relations Training Centre, which trains personnel from other Partner countries. In addition, the country hosted an EAPC Security Forum in 2007.

Evolution of relations

Relations between NATO and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ date back to 1995, when the country joined the Partnership for Peace (PfP), which was followed by membership of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) in 1997.

Relations were strengthened during the Kosovo crisis in 1999, when the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ was a key partner in supporting NATO operations, and Allied forces were deployed to the country to halt the spread of the conflict and to provide humanitarian assistance for refugees from Kosovo.

The same year, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ joined the Membership Action Plan.

In 2001, relations further intensified, with NATO along with the EU coming to the assistance of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, when violence between ethnic Albanian insurgents and security forces broke out in the west of the country in February 2001. Having facilitated the negotiation of a cease-fire which led to a peace agreement, NATO – at the government’s request -- deployed a task force to collect weapons from the insurgents and support the implementation of the agreement. This mission was handed over to the European Union in March 2003, but NATO maintained a headquarters in the in the capital Skopje to assist the country with its defence reforms.

Key milestones

1995	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ¹ joins the Partnership for Peace.
1996	The country hosts its first PfP training exercise, "Rescuer".
1999	The country plays a key role in supporting NATO operations in Kosovo, and the Allies provide assistance to ease the humanitarian crisis as refugees from Kosovo flood into the country.
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ¹ joins NATO's Membership Action Plan (MAP) and the PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP).
2001	Violence flares up in the west of the country. NATO plays a key role in facilitating negotiations on a cease-fire reached in June. NATO Allies deploy a task force to collect arms from former combatants and support the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement.
2002	The country deploys personnel in support of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.
2003	The NATO-led peace-monitoring mission in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ¹ is handed over to the European Union.
2005	A combined medical team of the three MAP countries joins NATO-led forces in Afghanistan in August.
2007	The country hosts the EAPC Security Forum in Ohrid.
2008	In April 2008, Allies agree that the former Yugoslav Republic of

Macedonia¹ will be invited to start accession talks as soon as a mutually acceptable solution to the issue over the country's name has been reached with Greece.

1. Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

Official texts

- 3 Apr. 2008 - NATO
[Bucharest Summit Declaration](#)
(para. 20)

Opinions

- 5 Oct 2007 - NATO
[Joint press point with NATO Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and the President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Branko Crvenkovski](#)
- 29 Jun 2007
[Opening remarks by the Prime Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Nikola Gruevski at the EAPC Security Forum, Ohrid](#)

NATO's relations with Ukraine



Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko addressing the Council on 22 February 2005

The formal basis for NATO-Ukraine relations is the 1997 Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, which established the NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC). An Intensified

Dialogue on Ukraine's membership aspirations and related reforms was launched in 2005.

At the Bucharest Summit in April 2008, Allied leaders agreed that in future Ukraine “will become a NATO member” but, ultimately, it is up to the Ukrainian people and their elected leaders to determine the country’s future path with NATO.

In December 2008, NATO foreign ministers welcomed progress made by Ukraine towards meeting membership requirements, but concluded that the country still had work to do. They agreed to enhance opportunities for assisting Ukraine in its efforts to meet membership requirements, making use of the existing framework of the NATO-Ukraine Commission. This includes the development of a new Annual National Programme and the reinforcement of the NATO information and liaison offices in Ukraine.

Over the years, a pattern of dialogue and cooperation between NATO and Ukraine has become well-established in a wide range of areas. In particular, Ukraine has proved to be an important contributor to Euro-Atlantic security in the framework of NATO-led operations.

Another important aspect of relations is the support given by NATO and individual Allies for Ukraine’s ongoing reform efforts, particularly in the defence and security sectors. These reforms are vital for the country’s democratic development and the realisation of its goal to become more integrated with Euro-Atlantic structures.

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Framework for cooperation

The 1997 Charter for a Distinctive Partnership remains the basic foundation underpinning NATO-Ukraine relations. Since it was signed, several initiatives have been taken to help Ukraine work towards its stated goals of closer integration with Euro-Atlantic structures, including membership of the Alliance.

These include the 2002 NATO-Ukraine Action Plan, which is supported by Annual Target Plans, and the Intensified Dialogue, launched in 2005 (see below).

The NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC) directs cooperative activities and provides a forum for consultation between the Allies and Ukraine on security issues of common concern. (See also related web page on the NUC)

Joint working groups have been set up under the auspices of the NUC, to take work forward in specific areas. Of particular importance are the Political Committee in NUC format, which takes the leading role in developing the NATO-Ukraine Annual Target Plans and preparing high-level meetings of the NUC; and the Joint Working Group on Defence Reform, which facilitates consultation and practical cooperation in the priority area of defence and security sector reform.

Two NATO offices in Kyiv support cooperation on the ground in key areas. The NATO Information and Documentation Centre, established in 1997, supports efforts to inform the public about NATO's activities and the benefits of NATO-Ukraine cooperation. The NATO Liaison Office, established in 1999, facilitates Ukraine's participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace programme and support its reform efforts, by liaising with the Ministry of Defence and other Ukrainian agencies.

NATO-Ukraine Action Plan

Building on the 1997 Charter, a NATO-Ukraine Action Plan was adopted by Ukrainian and Allied foreign ministers in November 2002. It identifies a set of long-term strategic objectives designed to bring Ukraine closer to its Euro-Atlantic integration goals and provides a framework for ongoing and future NATO-Ukraine cooperation.

The Action Plan sets out specific goals and objectives, covering political and economic issues; information issues; security, defence and military issues; information protection and security; and legal issues.

The responsibility for implementation falls primarily on Ukraine, which is being urged to take the reform process forward vigorously in order to strengthen democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the market economy. Helping Ukraine achieve a far-reaching transformation of the defence and security sectors is a key priority of NATO-Ukraine cooperation.

To support the implementation of the Action Plan's objectives, Annual Target Plans are agreed in which Ukraine sets its own targets in terms of the activities it wishes to pursue both internally and in cooperation with NATO. These Annual Target plans are developed jointly by Ukraine and NATO and approved at the highest level, with the Ukrainian President being the final authority to approve the plan. Once approved, these plans are made public and published on the NATO and Ukraine web sites.

Officials meet twice a year to assess progress, and NATO prepares an annual report on implementation. This process of fixing benchmarks and assessing progress annually serves as the backbone for NATO-Ukraine cooperation.

NATO-Ukraine Intensified Dialogue

An Intensified Dialogue on Ukraine's membership aspirations and related reforms was launched by Ukrainian and Allied foreign ministers in April 2005. This was a clear signal that NATO Allies support Ukraine's integration aspirations and that they are committed to providing assistance and advice.

Under the Intensified Dialogue, structured expert discussions are underway which give Ukrainian officials the opportunity to learn more about what would be expected from Ukraine as a potential member of the Alliance. These discussions also allow NATO officials to examine in greater detail Ukrainian reform policy and capabilities.

In parallel with the Intensified Dialogue, a package of short-term actions was launched, designed to enhance NATO-Ukraine cooperation in key reform areas: strengthening democratic institutions, enhancing political dialogue, intensifying defence and security sector reform, improving public information, and managing the social and economic consequences of reform.

Both the Intensified Dialogue and the package of short-term measures complement and reinforce existing cooperation in the framework of the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan.

Key areas of NATO-Ukraine cooperation

Consultations and cooperation between NATO and Ukraine cover a wide range of areas identified in the 1997 Charter and the 2002 Action Plan. These include peace-support operations, defence and security sector reform, military-to-military cooperation, armaments, civil emergency planning, science and environment, and public information.

Peace-support operations

Ukraine has a proven track record of actively contributing to Euro-Atlantic security by deploying troops to work together with peacekeepers from NATO and Partner countries. Currently it is the only Partner country contributing actively to the four main ongoing NATO-led operations and missions.

Ukraine contributed an infantry battalion, a mechanised infantry battalion and a helicopter squadron to the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Deployments to the NATO-led operation in Kosovo have included a helicopter squadron as well as some 300 peacekeepers, who continue to serve in the US-led sector as part of the joint Polish-Ukrainian battalion.

The country is further contributing to international stability and the fight against terrorism by providing over-flight clearance for forces deployed in Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, or as part of the coalition forces under the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom. A transit agreement for the supply of ISAF is currently being negotiated. Ukrainian medical personnel have supported the Lithuanian-led Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan since 2007.

Ukraine has, since March 2005, also contributed officers to the NATO Training Mission in Iraq.

Moreover, the Allies have welcomed Ukraine's offer to support Operation Active Endeavour, NATO's maritime operation in the Mediterranean aimed at helping deter, disrupt and protect against terrorism. Ukraine has contributed naval assets to the operation four times since 2007.

Defence and security sector reform

Cooperation with Ukraine in the area of defence and security sector reform is more extensive than with any other of NATO's Partner countries. It has been crucial to the ongoing transformation of Ukraine's security posture and remains an essential part of its democratic transition.

Ukraine has sought NATO's support in efforts to transform its Cold War legacy of massive conscript forces into smaller, professional and more mobile armed forces, able to meet the country's security needs and to contribute actively to stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic area and beyond. Another overarching objective of NATO-Ukraine cooperation in this area is to strengthen democratic and civilian control of Ukraine's armed forces and security institutions.

A Joint Working Group on Defence Reform (JWGDR), established in 1998, directs cooperation in the area of defence and security sector reform. (See also related web page on the JWGDR)

Ukraine's drive to reform its defence and security sector also benefits from participation in the Partnership for Peace (PfP). In particular, the PfP Planning and Review Process enables joint goals to be developed for shaping force structures and capabilities to help develop Ukraine's forces to be better able to work with NATO forces.

- Road map for reform

A key area of cooperation under the JWGDR has been to help Ukraine draw up a road map for defence reform. In 2003, NATO staff and individual Allies advised and assisted Ukraine in the conduct of a defence review. This helped Ukraine define the direction of its defence reforms up to 2015.

Today, NATO and the Allies are supporting the implementation of this defence review and are also advising Ukraine on the conduct of a comprehensive national security sector review, which goes beyond the Ministry of Defence and the armed forces to address all structures and policies related the security of the state.

Support is also being given for the demilitarization of Ukraine's security sector, including through cooperation with the troops of the Ministry of the Interior and with the Ministry of Emergencies.

- Capacity building and civil control

Of fundamental importance for Ukraine's development as a democratic country and its progress towards further Euro-Atlantic integration is the strengthening of civil control over security and defence structures, including the intelligence sector, and improving the capacities of these structures.

As part of wider cooperation in this area, a number of specific initiatives have been taken in recent years:

- a professional development programme for civilians working in Ukraine's defence and security institutions was launched in October 2005;
- a NATO-Ukraine Working Group on Civil and Democratic Control of the Intelligence Sector was established in 2006;
- a Partnership Network for Civil Society Expertise Development was launched in 2006 to promote the sharing of experience on the role of civil society in defence and security affairs among civil society groups and security practitioners in NATO member countries and Ukraine.

- Retraining and resettling former military personnel

Various initiatives are underway to help Ukraine retrain and resettle former military personnel made redundant as a result of the progressive downsizing of the Ukrainian armed forces and plans to move towards an all-volunteer service by 2011.

Expert help is being given to help Ukraine develop a comprehensive resettlement programme.

A NATO-funded retraining programme is providing linguistic and specialised professional courses for some 200 former military personnel per year.

A project for the retraining and resettlement of 600 redundant military personnel at a centre in Khmelnytskyi, western Ukraine, is being supported through a PfP Trust Fund. The Centre is the single largest provider of such assistance to retiring military personnel in Ukraine.

- Destroying stockpiles of weapons and munitions

Individual Allies are also supporting the destruction of Ukraine's stockpiles of anti-personnel mines, munitions and small arms and light weapons through PfP Trust Fund projects.

The first project involved the safe destruction of 400,000 landmines at a chemical plant in Donetsk, over a 15-month period in 2002-2003. It was the first step in destroying Ukraine's stockpile of almost seven million anti-personnel mines.

A second project to destroy 133,000 tons of conventional munitions, 1.5 million small arms and 1000 man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) was launched in 2005. With projected costs of some €25 million, the project is to be carried out over an estimated twelve years. It is the largest demilitarisation project of its kind ever to be undertaken, and will permanently increase Ukraine's capacity to destroy surplus munitions.

- Economic aspects of defence

Dialogue and exchanges of experience with experts also take place with Ukraine on the economic aspects of defence. Issues covered include security aspects of economic development and economic matters related to Euro-Atlantic integration, as well as topics specifically related to defence economics such as defence budgets, the management of defence resources and restructuring in the defence sector. Courses are also organised for Ukrainian staff, covering the whole budgetary process from financial planning to financial control.

Military-to-military cooperation

Helping Ukraine implement its defence reform objectives is also a key focus of military-to-military cooperation, complementing the work carried out under the JWGDR with military expertise.

Another important objective is to develop interoperability through a wide range of PfP activities and military exercises, sometimes hosted by Ukraine, which allow military personnel to train for peace-support operations and gain hands-on experience of working with forces from NATO countries and other partners.

Senior Ukrainian officers also regularly participate in courses at the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy, and the NATO School at Oberammergau, Germany. Contacts with these establishments have been instrumental in setting up a new multinational faculty at the Ukrainian Defence Academy.

The military side has also taken the lead in developing a legal framework to enable NATO and Ukraine to further develop operational cooperation:

- a PfP Status of Forces Agreement facilitates participation in PfP military exercises by exempting participants from passport and visa regulations

- and immigration inspection on entering or leaving the territory of the country hosting the event (entered into force in May 2000);
- a Host Nation Support agreement addresses issues related to the provision of civil and military assistance to Allied forces located on, or in transit through, Ukrainian territory in peacetime, crisis or war (ratified in March 2004);
 - a Strategic Airlift agreement enables Ukraine to make a substantial contribution to NATO's capability to move outsized cargo by leasing Antonov aircraft to Allied armed forces – an arrangement which also brings economic benefits to Ukraine (ratified in October 2006).

Armaments

Technical cooperation between Ukraine and NATO in the field of armaments focuses on enhancing interoperability between defence systems to facilitate Ukrainian contributions to joint peace support operations.

Cooperation in this area started when Ukraine joined the PfP programme and began participating in an increasing number of the armaments groups which meet under the auspices of the Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD) – a NATO senior body which identifies opportunities for cooperation between nations in defence equipment procurement processes, focusing in particular on technical standards.

A Joint Working Group on Armaments, which met for the first time in March 2004, is supporting the further development of cooperation in this area.

Civil emergency planning

NATO and Ukraine have developed practical cooperation on civil emergency planning and disaster-preparedness, since the signing of a memorandum of understanding in 1997.

Ukraine's western regions are prone to heavy flooding and NATO countries and other partners have provided assistance after severe floods in 1995, 1998 and 2001. A key focus of cooperation has therefore been to help Ukraine to prepare better for such emergencies and to manage their consequences more effectively.

PfP exercises also help develop plans and effective disaster-response capabilities to deal with other natural emergencies such as avalanches and earthquakes, or man-made accidents or terrorist attacks involving toxic spills or chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear agents – Ukraine hosted one such exercise in 2005

Science and environment

Ukraine's participation in NATO science programmes began in 1991 and intensified following an exchange of letters on cooperation in the area of science and the environment in 1999. Over the years, Ukraine has been second only to Russia in terms of NATO grants for scientific collaboration.

In addition to applying science to defence against terrorism and new threats, Ukraine's priority areas for cooperation include information technologies, cell biology and biotechnology, new materials, the rational use of natural resources and cooperation focused on defence-related environmental problems.

NATO has also sponsored several projects to provide basic infrastructure for computer networking among Ukrainian research communities and to facilitate their access to the internet. Although the focus of past collaboration has been in the area of physical sciences, project proposals are now also being considered which deal with security issues from a social science perspective.

A Joint Working Group on Scientific and Environmental Cooperation is supporting the further development of cooperation in this area.

Public information

It is important for the Ukrainian administration to inform the Ukrainian people about its ambitious reform programme, and explain how its Euro-Atlantic integration course, including possible NATO membership, are in the country's interest. Many people in Ukraine still lack information regarding the role, activities and goals of the Alliance, and outdated Cold War stereotypes remain strong in the minds of some.

The Allies have offered, as part of the short-term actions agreed at Vilnius in April 2005, to cooperate with the Ukrainian authorities in raising awareness about what NATO is today, and in better explaining the NATO-Ukraine relationship.

Evolution of relations

NATO-Ukraine relations were formally launched in 1991, when Ukraine joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (succeeded by the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council in 1997), immediately upon achieving independence with the break-up of the Soviet Union.

A few years later, in 1994, Ukraine became the first of the Commonwealth of Independent States to join the Partnership for Peace. The country soon demonstrated its commitment to contribute to Euro-Atlantic security in its support for the NATO-led peacekeeping operations in the Balkans during the 1990s.

The 1997 Charter on a Distinctive Partnership recognised the importance of an independent, stable and democratic Ukraine to European stability. The Charter

set out principles and arrangements for the further development of NATO-Ukraine relations and identified areas for consultation and cooperation, establishing the NATO-Ukraine Commission to take work forward.

Steps were taken to deepen and broaden the NATO-Ukraine relationship with the adoption of the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan in November 2002, which supports Ukraine's reform efforts on the road towards Euro-Atlantic integration.

In the wake of the "Orange Revolution, newly elected President Viktor Yushchenko was invited to a summit meeting at NATO Headquarters in February 2005. NATO leaders expressed support for the new President's ambitious reform plans for Ukraine and agreed to sharpen and refocus NATO-Ukraine cooperation in line with the new government's priorities.

Two months later, at the NUC meeting of foreign ministers in Vilnius, Lithuania, in April 2005, the Allies and Ukraine launched an Intensified Dialogue on Ukraine's aspirations to NATO membership. They also announced a package of short-term actions designed to enhance NATO-Ukraine cooperation in key reform areas.

At the Bucharest Summit in April 2008, Allied leaders agreed that Ukraine will become a NATO member in future.

Key milestones

1991	Ukraine joins the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (later renamed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council).
1994	Ukraine joins the Partnership for Peace (PfP).
1996	Ukrainian soldiers deploy as part of the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
1997	The NATO Information and Documentation Centre opens in Kyiv.
	In July, at a summit meeting in Madrid, Spain, the Allies and Ukraine formally sign the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, establishing the NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC)
	Ukraine establishes a diplomatic mission to NATO.
1998	The NATO-Ukraine Joint Working Group on Defence Reform is established.
1999	The NATO Liaison Office opens in Kyiv.
	The Polish-Ukrainian battalion deploys as part of the NATO-led

	peacekeeping force in Kosovo.
2000	In May, the Ukrainian parliament ratifies the PfP Status of Forces Agreement.
	In September, Ukraine hosts a multinational disaster-response exercise, Trans-Carpathia 2000.
2002	In May, President Leonid Kuchma announces Ukraine's goal of eventual NATO membership. At a NUC meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, foreign ministers underline their desire to take their relationship forward to a qualitatively new level.
	In July, a PfP Trust Fund project for the safe destruction of 400 000 landmines is inaugurated in Donetsk.
	The NATO-Ukraine Action Plan is adopted at a NUC meeting of foreign ministers in November in Prague, the Czech Republic.
2004	In March, the Ukrainian parliament ratifies an agreement with NATO on Host Nation Support.
	Ukraine signs an agreement with NATO on Strategic Airlift.
	In the autumn, the Allies closely follow political developments surrounding the presidential elections in Ukraine and the "Orange Revolution". They stress the importance of respect for free and fair elections and postpone a NUC ministerial-level meeting scheduled for December.
2005	In February, the Allies invite newly-elected President Viktor Yushchenko to a summit meeting at NATO Headquarters. They express support for his ambitious reform plans and agree to refocus NATO-Ukraine cooperation in line with the new government's priorities.
	A PfP Trust Fund project is launched with Ukraine to destroy 133 000 tons of conventional munitions, 1.5 million small arms and 1000 man-portable air defence systems over an estimated 12 years.
	In April, at the NUC meeting of foreign ministers in Vilnius, Lithuania, the Allies and Ukraine launch an Intensified Dialogue on Ukraine's aspirations to NATO membership and a package of short-term actions to strengthen support for key reforms.
	An exchange of letters between NATO and Ukraine agrees

	procedures to prepare the way for Ukraine's support Operation Active Endeavour.
	In September, a series of staff-level expert discussions is initiated under the Intensified Dialogue.
	In October, Ukraine hosts a multinational disaster-response exercise, Joint Assistance 2005.
	In October, the North Atlantic Council visits Kyiv to discuss the Intensified Dialogue with Ukraine's foreign and defence ministers.
2006	In February, a Resettlement and Retraining Centre is inaugurated in Khmelnytskyi.
	In March, NATO's Secretary General welcomes the conduct of free and fair parliamentary elections as contributing to the consolidation of democracy in Ukraine.
	In September, during a visit to NATO, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich reassures Allies of Ukraine's commitment to ongoing cooperation with NATO but says the Ukrainian people are not yet ready to consider possible NATO membership.
	In October, the Ukrainian parliament ratifies the agreement on Strategic Airlift.
2007	The first Ukrainian ship, the frigate URS Ternopil, deploys in support of Operation Active Endeavour (June), followed by the corvette URS Lutsk (autumn)
	Ukraine sends medical personnel to support a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan.
	10th anniversary of the NATO-Ukraine Distinctive Partnership.
2008	At the Bucharest Summit in April, Allied leaders agree that Ukraine will become a NATO member in future.
	Ukraine deploys two vessels in support of Operation Active Endeavour: the frigate URS Sagaidachnyi (summer) and URS Ternopil (November).
	In December, NATO foreign ministers agree to enhance opportunities for assisting Ukraine in its efforts to meet membership requirements, making use of the existing framework of the NATO-

Ukraine Commission.

NATO's relations with Georgia



NATO and Georgia actively cooperate on democratic, institutional, and defence reforms, with the aim of preparing Georgia for eventual membership in the Alliance, as agreed by Allied leaders in Bucharest in April 2008.

In September 2008, NATO and Georgia established the NATO-Georgia Commission (NGC) to oversee NATO assistance to Georgia following the recent conflict with Russia and to oversee the process begun in Bucharest. In December 2008, Allied foreign ministers agreed that Georgia should develop an Annual National Programme under the auspices of the NGC.

Another important area of cooperation is the Georgia's support for NATO-led operations. Georgia is actively contributing to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, and also supports Operation Active Endeavour, NATO's anti-terrorist operation in the Mediterranean Sea.

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Response to the Georgian crisis

At an emergency meeting of the North Atlantic Council on 19 August 2008, Allied foreign ministers called for a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict based on respect for Georgia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Allied foreign ministers deplored the use of force in the conflict, which is inconsistent with the commitments to the peaceful resolution of conflicts that both Georgia and Russia have made under the Partnership for Peace as well as other international agreements. They expressed particular concern over Russia's disproportionate military action which is incompatible with Russia's peacekeeping role in the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Allies also called on Russia to take immediate action to withdraw its troops from the areas it must leave under the terms of the six-point agreement brokered by the European Union

The Allies agreed to support Georgia, upon its request, in a number of areas. These include assessing the damage to civil infrastructure and the state of the ministry of defence and armed forces; supporting the re-establishment of the air traffic system; and advising on cyber defence issues.

On 27 August 2008, the North Atlantic Council condemned the decision by the Russian Federation to extend recognition to the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions of Georgia, and called on Russia to reverse its decision.

Framework for cooperation

The NATO-Georgia Commission (NGC) provides the framework for cooperation between NATO and Georgia. Created in September 2008, the NGC serves as a forum for both political consultations and practical cooperation to help Georgia achieve its goal of membership in NATO. Existing cooperation programmes, such as the Intensified Dialogue on Georgia's membership aspirations and the Planning and Review Process (PARP), continue to take place within the context of the NGC.

In December 2009, NATO foreign ministers decided to further enhance the NGC through the development of an Annual National Programme (ANP), as well as the establishment of a NATO Liaison Office in Tbilisi. The ANP, which will be finalised in spring 2009, will replace the Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP), which has guided NATO-Georgia cooperation since 2004.

Key areas of cooperation under the ANP will include political, military and security-sector reforms. NATO agrees to support Georgia in these reforms by providing focused, country-specific advice tailored towards its reform goals. Current priorities for Georgia include transforming its public and private sectors in order to promote democracy, good governance, the rule of law and sustainable social and economic development, as well as reforming the security sector, in particular revision of Georgia's national security plans following the August 2008 conflict.

Georgia also cooperates with NATO and other Partner countries in a wide range of other areas through the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC).

Georgia tailors its participation in the PfP programme through an annual Individual Partnership Programme, selecting those activities that will help achieve the goals set in the ANP.

Key areas of cooperation

Security cooperation

Thanks to regular participation in PfP training and exercises, Georgia has been able to contribute actively to Euro-Atlantic security by supporting NATO-led peace-support operations. Georgian troops worked alongside NATO troops in the peacekeeping operation in Kosovo from 1999-2008, providing a company-sized

unit as part of the German brigade there and an infantry platoon within a Turkish battalion task force.

A platoon-sized unit served alongside a British battalion in ISAF, helping to secure the environment to allow the conduct of the presidential elections in Afghanistan in 2004. Georgia continues to provide important support in allowing supplies needed for the ISAF troops in Afghanistan to transit through its territory, under an agreement signed with NATO in March 2005. Georgia currently provides medical personnel to assist ISAF within the Lithuanian Provincial Reconstruction Team, and discussions are ongoing about further contributions Georgia may make to the ISAF mission.

Georgia has declared one light infantry battalion available, on case by case basis, for PfP operations. It has also made logistics facilities and a mountain training site available for PfP activities.

Georgia contributes to the fight against terrorism through its participation in the Partnership Action Plan on Terrorism (PAP-T). This includes sharing intelligence and analysis with NATO, enhancing national counter-terrorist capabilities and improving border security. Georgia participates in NATO's Operation Active Endeavour, an anti-terrorist operation in the Mediterranean Sea, primarily through intelligence exchange.

Defence and security sector reform

NATO is supportive of the wide-ranging democratic and institutional reform process underway in Georgia, which is outlined in its ANP. Particularly in the area of defence and security sector reform, NATO and individual Allies have considerable expertise upon which Georgia can draw.

A key priority for Georgia is to ensure democratic control of the armed forces. A civilian defence minister has been appointed, who is now served by a civilian-staffed Ministry of Defence. In addition, the parliament's Defence and Security Committee also plays a role in monitoring defence activities. Georgia's participation in the Partnership Action Plan on Defence Institution Building (PAP-DIB) is reinforcing these efforts, such as by promoting effective judicial oversight and appropriate defence command and control arrangements through a range of measurable objectives within the ANP.

Georgia's participation in the PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP) since 1999 has helped develop the ability of its forces to work with NATO and is also providing planning targets that are key to security reform objectives in several areas. NATO support has, for example, helped Georgia build deployable units according to NATO standards and interoperable with Allied forces. Georgia's defence reform objectives within the PARP have facilitated improved financial management in the Ministry of Defence, assisted in reforming the intelligence

structure of the armed forces and ensured that a credible Strategic Defence Review was conducted.

NATO and Georgia cooperate on the conversion and management of military sites and other areas. Moreover, through a NATO/PfP Trust Fund amounting to €1 million, individual Allies and Partners have supported a project in Georgia aimed at demilitarizing over 500 ground-to-air defence and other missiles. In September 2008, implementation started on the destruction of further stockpiles of rockets and missiles under a second Trust Fund project.

Civil emergency planning

Georgia is enhancing its national civil emergency and disaster-management capabilities in cooperation with NATO and through participation in activities organized by the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC).

The EADRCC helped coordinate the delivery of hundreds of tons of relief items to Georgia in the wake of the August 2008 conflict. It also coordinated assistance to Georgia in 2005, when the country experienced some of the worst flooding in its history, and in 2006, when forest fires broke out in southern Georgia.

Science and environment

Under the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme, Georgia has received grant awards for over 40 projects for scientific and environmental collaboration. Many activities are aimed at aiding Georgia's reform and interoperability efforts, such as research and technology in air defence systems and data standardization, and reducing the environmental impact of military activities and munitions disposal.

Other projects include collaboration on improving trans-boundary water quality and a range of security-related studies including effective counter-terrorism and maritime security and network technology. Georgia also participates in the Virtual Silk Highway project, which aims to improve internet access through a satellite-based network.

Public information

Increasing the public awareness of NATO and its relations with Georgia is also a key area of cooperation. Since 2002, in cooperation with local non-governmental organizations and state authorities, NATO has been organizing numerous activities to this end, including seminars, conferences and workshops. "NATO Weeks" and summer schools are organized on an annual basis to reach out to youth audiences.

Groups of opinion leaders from Georgia are regularly invited to visit NATO Headquarters and the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) for briefings about the Alliance, and NATO officials regularly travel to Georgia to speak at public events.

NATO's Public Diplomacy Division has also supported the creation of a National Information Centre on NATO, which has become the focal point for dissemination of information.

Evolution of relations

NATO-Georgia relations date back to 1992, when Georgia joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (later renamed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council in 1997), upon gaining independence with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Cooperation deepened and broadened after Georgia joined the Partnership for Peace programme in 1994 and the PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP) in 1999.

After the "Rose Revolution" in 2003, the focus on supporting Georgia's domestic reform process intensified, in particular through the development of the Georgia's first IPAP with NATO in 2004. Georgia was granted an Intensified Dialogue on membership aspirations in September 2006. At their Summit in Bucharest in April 2008, NATO leaders agreed that Georgia would become a member of the Alliance.

In September 2008, NATO and Georgia inaugurated the NATO-Georgia Commission (NGC), which now oversees all aspects of the NATO-Georgia relationship. In December 2008, Allied foreign ministers agreed to the development of an Annual National Programme (ANP) under the NGC. Future decisions on Georgia's eventual membership in NATO will be based on Georgia's performance in implementing key reforms laid out in the ANP.

Key milestones

1992	Georgia joins the newly created North Atlantic Cooperation Council, renamed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council in 1997.
1994	Georgia joins the Partnership for Peace (PfP), a programme aimed at increasing security and defence cooperation between NATO and individual Partner countries.
1995	Georgia signs the PfP Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between the NATO and Partner countries
1997	Georgian Parliament ratifies the SOFA agreement

1999	Georgia joins the PfP Planning and Review Process
	Georgia starts contributing peacekeepers to the Kosovo Force (KFOR).
2001	Georgia hosts a multinational PfP military training exercise “Cooperative Partner 2001”
2002	Georgia is connected to the Virtual Silk Highway.
	Georgia hosts a multinational PfP military training exercise “Cooperative Best Effort 2002”.
	Georgia declares its aspirations to NATO membership and its intention to develop an Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) with NATO
2003	A NATO/PfP Trust Fund project is launched with Georgia to support the demilitarization of ground-to-air defence missiles
	Georgia participates in ISAF’s election security force in Afghanistan.
	At the Istanbul Summit, Allied leaders place special focus on the Caucasus – a special NATO representative and a liaison officer are assigned to the region.
2005	Georgia becomes the first country to agree an IPAP with NATO. NATO and Georgia sign a transit agreement allowing the Alliance and other ISAF troop-contributing nations to send supplies for their forces in Afghanistan through Georgia.
	Georgia opens an information centre on NATO with the support of NATO’s Public Diplomacy Division.
2006	NATO offers an Intensified Dialogue to Georgia.
2007	Georgia hosts a NATO/PfP air exercise, “Cooperative Archer 2007”.
2008	At their Summit in Bucharest, NATO leaders agree Georgia will become a member of NATO.
	In August, the Allies express deep concern over the armed conflict between Georgia and Russia, calling for a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict based on respect for Georgia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. They agree to support Georgia’s recovery in a number of areas and also propose

the establishment of a NATO-Georgia Commission (NGC) to supervise the process set at hand at the Bucharest Summit and to oversee the implementation of support measures.

In September, the North Atlantic Council pays a two-day visit to Georgia. The Framework Document establishing the NATO-Georgia Commission is signed and the inaugural meeting takes place in Tbilisi. In December, Allied foreign ministers agree to the development of an Annual National Programme (ANP) under the auspices of the NGC.

Official texts

- 3 Dec. 2008 - NATO
[Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting of the NATO-Georgia Commission - Chairman's Statement](#)
- 15 Sep. 2008 - NATO
[NATO-Georgia joint press statement](#)
- 15 Sep. 2008 - NATO
[Framework document on the establishment of the NATO-Georgia Commission](#)
- 19 Aug. 2008 - NATO
[Statement by the North Atlantic Council at the level of Foreign Ministers](#)
- 3 Apr. 2008 - NATO
[Bucharest Summit Declaration \(para. 23\)](#)
- 29 Nov. 2006 - NATO
[Riga Summit Declaration](#)

NATO's relations with Contact Countries



In addition to its formal partnerships¹, NATO cooperates with a range of countries which are not part of these structures. Often referred to as “other partners across the globe” or “Contact Countries”, they share similar strategic concerns and key Alliance values. Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand are all examples in case.

These countries have expressed an interest in deepening relations with NATO, or simply wish to be informed of NATO's agenda. Some are troop contributors to NATO-led operations or contribute to these operations in other ways. Others simply seek to cooperate with NATO in areas of common interest. Over recent years, NATO has developed bilateral relations with each of these countries.

Significant steps were taken at the 2006 Riga Summit to increase the operational relevance of NATO's cooperation with both its formal Partners and other partners across the globe. These steps were reinforced by decisions at the 2008 Bucharest Summit, which defined a set of objectives for these relationships and created avenues for enhanced political dialogue.

Annual work programmes have been developed with interested partner countries. Activities range from joint exercises and joint operations, through to language training and advice, and information exchange.

Individual Contact Countries choose in which areas they wish to be engaged with NATO, and the extent of this cooperation. Any inclusion of Contact Countries in Alliance activities requires approval of the North Atlantic Council, NATO's principal decision-making body, except in certain cases. Cooperation with Contact Countries should be mutually beneficial and reciprocal.

- [Support for NATO-led operations](#)
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Support for NATO-led operations

Contributions from partners across the globe to NATO-led operations have been significant and advantageous to international peace and security.

In the Balkans, Argentinean and Chilean forces have worked alongside NATO Allies in ensuring security in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Kosovo, Argentina has

helped NATO personnel in providing medical and social assistance to the local population and cooperated on peace agreement implementation since 1999.

In Afghanistan, a number of other Contact Countries such as Australia and New Zealand work alongside the Allies as part of the International Security Assistance Force. Other countries, like Japan, support ISAF efforts of stabilization in Afghanistan without being involved militarily by funding various development projects and dispatching liaison officers.

The participation of partners in NATO-led peace support operations is guided by the Political-Military Framework, which has been developed for NATO-led Partnership for Peace operations. This states that the involvement of contributing states in planning and force generation processes takes place through the International Coordination Centre at Supreme Allied Headquarters Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium, and, where appropriate, through temporary liaison arrangements with the strategic commands.

Typically, forces from these countries are incorporated into operations on the same basis as forces from NATO members and Partners. This implies that they are involved in the decision-making process through their association to the work of committees, the posting of liaison officers in the operational headquarters or to SHAPE. They often operate under the direct command of the Operational Commander through multinational divisional headquarters.

Evolution of relations

NATO has been cooperating with countries which are not formal partner countries since the 1990s. For example, a political dialogue with Japan began in 1990, and Argentina and Chile contributed forces to NATO's missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, these cooperation were taking place on an ad hoc basis.

NATO's involvement in areas outside of its traditional region – including Afghanistan and Darfur - has increased the need and the opportunities for enhanced interaction with these other partners across the globe. Similarly, the convergence of strategic priorities between Allies and certain partners, such as countering terrorism, has led these countries to seek greater cooperation with NATO.

The Allies established a set of general guidelines on relations with Contact Countries in 1998. The guidelines do not allow for a formal institutionalisation of relations, but reflect the Allies' desire to increase cooperation. Following extensive debate, the term Contact Countries was agreed by the Allies in 2004; more recently, the term "other partners across the globe" is also being used.

At the 2006 Riga Summit, NATO pledged to increase the operational relevance of relations with interested Contact Countries. In particular, steps were taken to

strengthen NATO's ability to work with current and potential contributors to NATO operations which share NATO's interests and values. This decision marked a policy shift for the Alliance, allowing Contact Countries to have access, in principle, to any of the activities offered under NATO's structured partnerships.

Decisions taken at the 2008 Bucharest Summit defined NATO's objectives for its relationships with partners across the globe. These include support for operations, security cooperation, and enhanced common understanding to advance shared security interests and democratic values. To this end, various avenues were created to enhance political dialogue: meetings of the North Atlantic Council with ministers of the countries concerned, high level talks, and meetings with ambassadors. In addition, annual work programmes (referred to as Individual Tailored Cooperation Packages of Activities) were further developed.

1. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, the Partnership for Peace, the Mediterranean Dialogue and the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative.

Official texts

- 3 Apr. 2008 - NATO
[Bucharest Summit Declaration](#)
(para. 35)
- 29/11/2006 - NATO
[Riga Summit Declaration](#)

NATO's relations with Russia



The 26 Allies and Russia work together as equal partners in the NATO-Russia Council (NRC), which was established in 2002. The NRC provides a framework for consultation on current security issues and practical cooperation in a wide range of areas of common interest. Its agenda builds on the basis for bilateral cooperation that was set out in the 1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act.

Following Russia's disproportionate military action in Georgia in early August 2008, the Alliance suspended formal meetings of the NRC and cooperation in some areas, while it considered the implications of Russia's actions for the NATO-Russia relationship. Cooperation continued in key areas of common interest, such as counter-narcotics and the fight against terrorism.

In December 2008, NATO foreign ministers agreed to pursue a phased and measured approach to re-engagement with Russia. At a meeting in March 2009, they decided to resume formal meetings of the NRC, including at ministerial level, as soon as possible after NATO's Summit in April. Ministers agreed to use the NRC as a forum for dialogue with Russia on all issues – where they agree and disagree – with a view towards resolving problems and building practical cooperation.

In this regard, Russia's recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states, its intention to build a new military base in Abkhazia, and its suspended implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) are seen as areas of particular concern to the Allies. Ministers will urge Russia to meet its commitments with respect to Georgia.

While political differences remain on some high-level issues, the driving force behind the NRC's pragmatic spirit of cooperation is the realization that NATO and Russia share strategic priorities and face common challenges.

- [Framework for cooperation](#)
- [Key areas of cooperation](#)
- [Evolution of relations](#)

Framework for cooperation

Cooperation between Russia and NATO member states is directed by the NRC and developed through various subordinate working groups and committees. Every year, NRC member countries agree on an annual work programme.

Key areas of cooperation include the fight against terrorism, defence reform, military-to-military cooperation, counter-narcotics training of Afghan and Central Asian personnel, theatre missile defence, crisis management, non-proliferation, airspace management, civil emergency planning, scientific cooperation and environmental security.

The Allies and Russia also regularly exchange views on current security issues in the Euro-Atlantic area, creating thereby a standing mechanism for consultation on larger political issues.

To facilitate cooperation, Russia has established a diplomatic mission to NATO and Russian Military Branch Offices have been set up at NATO's two top military command headquarters. In Moscow, a NATO Information Office seeks to explain NATO and promote the benefits of the NATO-Russia partnership, and a Military Liaison Mission is helping improve transparency and coordination on the military side.

Key areas of cooperation

Current security issues

The NRC has provided a forum for the development of a continuous political dialogue on current security issues, which has expanded steadily to include frank and constructive exchanges on topical and sometimes controversial issues. Discussions have been held on subjects such as the situation in the Balkans, Afghanistan, Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Central Asia, the Middle East and Iraq, as well as exchanges on issues such as NATO's transformation, energy security, missile defence and the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty.

In some instances, political dialogue has resulted in joint positions – on border control in the Balkans (February 2003), on defence reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina (July 2003) and on the presidential elections in Ukraine (December 2004).

Dialogue has also generated some ideas for practical cooperation, such as the decision to launch in December 2005 of an NRC pilot project for counter-narcotics training of Afghan and Central Asian personnel (see below).

Combating terrorism

Cooperation in the struggle against terrorism has taken the form of regular exchanges of information, in-depth consultation, joint threat assessments, civil emergency planning for terrorist attacks, high-level dialogue on the role of the military in combating terrorism and on the lessons learned from recent terrorist attacks, and scientific and technical cooperation. NATO Allies and Russia also cooperate in areas related to terrorism such as border control, non proliferation, airspace management, and nuclear safety.

In December 2004, NRC foreign ministers approved a comprehensive NRC Action Plan on Terrorism, aimed at improving overall coordination and strategic direction of NRC cooperation in this area.

Moreover, since December 2004, joint pre-deployment training has been underway to prepare Russian ships to support Operation Active Endeavour (OAE), NATO's maritime counter-terrorist operation in the Mediterranean. The first ship to deploy was the frigate RFS Pitliviy in September 2006 and a second vessel, the RFS Ladniy, deployed a year later in September 2007.

Counter-narcotics training of Afghan and Central Asian personnel

The NRC pilot project for counter-narcotics training of Afghan and Central Asian personnel was launched by NRC foreign ministers in December 2005 to help address the threats posed by the trafficking in Afghan narcotics. It seeks to build local capacity and to promote regional networking and cooperation by sharing the combined expertise of NRC member states with mid-level officers from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The project is being implemented in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Russia and Turkey have hosted training courses for Afghan and Central Asian personnel at specialized centres of excellence, and mobile courses are being conducted in each of the six participating countries. In summer 2007, the NRC welcomed Finland's willingness to contribute to the initiative. By spring 2009, more than 750 officers had been trained under the NRC project.

Land-transit in support of ISAF

In April 2008, the Russian Federation offered to facilitate the land transit of non-military equipment for ISAF contributors across Russian territory in support of the NATO-led, UN-mandated International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. Negotiations for similar arrangements with the other transit states are under way. When these are concluded, transit in support of ISAF can be effectuated.

Non-proliferation

Dialogue on a growing range of issues related to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction has developed under the NRC. Concrete recommendations have been made to strengthen existing non-proliferation arrangements.

A number of in-depth discussions and expert seminars have been held to explore opportunities for practical cooperation in the protection against nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. Informal talks at a seminar in Florence, Italy, in September 2007, focused on ballistic missile proliferation and nuclear terrorism,

generating ideas which are being followed up by more formal discussion in the NRC framework.

Arms control

The NRC has also provided a forum for frank discussions on issues related to conventional arms control, such as the CFE Treaty, the Open Skies Treaty and confidence-and-security-building measures.

A key priority for all NRC countries is to work towards the ratification of the Adapted Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe. The Allies have expressed concern over Russia's unilateral "suspension" of its participation in the treaty in December 2007. While differences remain on this issue, it is important to note that the Allies remain committed to ratifying the Adapted Treaty. Discussions are ongoing with Russia, both in the framework of the NRC and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe on how to make this possible.

Nuclear weapons issues

In the nuclear field, experts have developed a glossary of terms and definitions and organized exchanges on nuclear doctrines and strategy.

Experts and representatives from Russia and NATO member countries have also observed four nuclear-weapon-accident-response field exercises in Russia in 2004, the United Kingdom in 2005, the United States in 2006, and France in 2007. Inviting experts to attend such exercises increases transparency, develops common understanding of nuclear-weapon-accident-response procedures, and builds full confidence that the nuclear weapon states of NATO (France, the United Kingdom and United States) and Russia are fully capable to respond effectively to any emergency involving nuclear weapons.

Theatre missile defence

Cooperation in the area of theatre missile defence is addressing the unprecedented danger posed to deployed forces by the increasing availability of ever more accurate ballistic missiles. A study was launched in 2003 to assess the possible levels of interoperability among the theatre missile defence systems of NATO Allies and Russia.

Three command post exercises have been held – the first in the United States in March 2004, the second in the Netherlands in March 2005, and the third in Russia in October 2006. A computer assisted exercise took place in Germany in January 2008. Together with the interoperability study, these exercises are intended to provide the basis for future improvements to interoperability and to develop mechanisms and procedures for joint operations in the area of theatre missile defence.

Cooperative Airspace Initiative

Significant progress has been made on the Cooperative Airspace Initiative (CAI). The CAI information exchange function is focusing primarily on the aspects of the fight against terrorism. The system is also providing air traffic transparency and early notification of suspicious air activities. This facilitates transparency, predictability and interoperability in airspace management.

Based on a feasibility study completed in 2005, detailed system requirements and a project plan were agreed for the system that will enable the reciprocal exchange of air traffic data between centres in NATO countries and in Russia. Implementation started in 2006. The system is now usable for training and preparation for the final operational testing to reach the final operational capability by March 2010. In parallel, work is progressing on developing a concept of operations, coordination procedures, criteria for information exchange and legal arrangements.

A total of around 5 millions euros have been invested in the CAI project. Nations that have contributed financially include Canada, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Russia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The CAI system consists of a Coordination Centre and three local Coordination Units in Russia and in NATO member countries. The sites stretch from the far north of Europe in Bodø, Norway, and Murmansk, Russia, down to Ankara, Turkey, and Rostov-on-Don, Russia.



Military-to-military cooperation

Since the NRC was established, military liaison arrangements have been enhanced, at the Allied Commands for Operations and for Transformation, as well as in Moscow.

A key objective of military-to-military cooperation is to improve the ability of NATO and Russian forces to work together in preparation for possible future joint military operations. A programme has been set up to develop interoperability, in which training and exercises are an important component. The “Political-Military Guidance Towards Enhanced Interoperability Between Forces of Russia and NATO Nations”, which was approved by NRC defence ministers in June 2005, has added further impetus to these efforts.

Another key document is the Partnership for Peace Status of Forces Agreement, which Russia signed in 2004 and the Russian parliament ratified in May 2007. It will facilitate further military-to-military and other practical cooperation, in particular the deployment of forces participating in joint operations and exercises. It will also facilitate Russian logistical support to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. Following the August 2008 conflict with Georgia, military cooperation activities in the NRC were suspended.

Submarine-crew search and rescue

Work in the area of submarine-crew search and rescue at sea has intensified, since the signing of a framework agreement on cooperation in this area in February 2003, and has contributed to a real-life rescue.

In June 2005, Russia took part in NATO’s largest-ever search-and-rescue exercise, Sorbet Royal. The experience and networks developed during the exercise contributed to the success of an actual rescue operation in August 2005 off the coast of Russian Kamchatka peninsula. In 2008, participated in an even more ambitious exercise, Bold Monarch.

Crisis management

NATO and Russia have a long history of cooperation in crisis management. In fact, between 1996 and 2003, Russia was the largest non-NATO troop contributor to NATO-led peacekeeping operations. Close cooperation in the Balkans has been critical in improving relations and building trust between the Russian and Allied militaries.

Since 2002, the NRC has taken steps to prepare for possible future cooperation in this area, notably through the approval in September 2002 of “Political Aspects for a Generic Concept for Joint NATO-Russia Peacekeeping Operations”. This paper explores common approaches, establishes a framework for consultation, planning and decision-making during an emerging crisis, and defines issues

related to joint training and exercises. These were tested in a procedural exercise, conducted in three phases between May 2003 and September 2004.

Defence reform and cooperation

Initiatives launched in the area of defence reform focus on the evolution of the military, management of human and financial resources, reform of defence industries, managing the consequences of defence reform, and defence-related aspects of combating terrorism.

One key project which demonstrates the practical benefits of NRC cooperation in this area is the NATO-Russia Resettlement Centre, which is facilitating the integration of former Russian military personnel into civilian life. Set up in Moscow in July 2002, its operations have since been expanded into the regions. Its activities now include not only the provision of information regarding job-search and resettlement, but also professional courses for trainees, job-placement services, and English-language and management courses for small and medium-sized enterprises. By the end of 2008, around 2820 former military personnel from the Russian armed forces had been retrained. Over 80 per cent of them had found civilian employment as a result of the retraining or the help of the Centre's job placement unit, which directly placed a total of about 1400 former servicemen over the period December 2004 to December 2008.

Another key initiative is the development of the "Political-Military Guidance Towards Enhanced Interoperability Between Forces of Russia and NATO Nations". It was approved by NRC defence ministers in June 2005 and is aimed at facilitating the preparation of NATO and Russian forces for possible joint operations.

A broad-based "Study on NATO-Russia Defence Industrial and Research and Technological Cooperation", launched in January 2005, is expected to have a positive impact on future cooperation in this area

Two fellowships for Russian scholars have been set up at the NATO Defense College in Rome to promote research on defence reform. Moreover, the NRC is subsidising defence reform courses for Russian officers at the USA and Canada Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Logistics

Logistics form the backbone of any military operation and in today's security environment, the need for more mobile forces and multinational operations calls for improved coordination and the pooling of resources, wherever possible. Various initiatives are pursuing logistic cooperation on both the civilian and the military side.

Meetings and seminars have focused on establishing a sound foundation of mutual understanding in the field of logistics by promoting information sharing in areas such as logistic policies, doctrine, structures and lessons learned.

Opportunities for practical cooperation are being explored in areas such as air transport and air-to-air refuelling. A PfP Status of Forces Agreement was ratified by the Russian parliament in May 2007.

Civil emergencies

NATO and Russia have been cooperating since 1996 to develop a capacity for joint action in response to civil emergencies, such as earthquakes and floods, and to coordinate detection and prevention of disasters before they occur. Moreover, it was a Russian proposal that led to the establishment in 1998 of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre, which coordinates responses to disasters among all countries of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (the 26 NATO members and 24 Partner countries).

Under the NRC, a key focus of cooperation in this area has been to develop capabilities to manage the consequences of terrorist attacks. Two disaster-response exercises held in Russia (in Bogorodsk in 2002, and Kaliningrad in 2004) and another in Montelibretti, Italy, in 2006, have resulted in concrete recommendations for consequence management. Another table-top consequence-management exercise will be hosted by Norway in 2010.

Russian-Hungarian initiative for the establishment of a rapid deployment capability was launched in 2003 to enhance NRC countries' capability to protect civilian populations from natural and man-made disasters, as well as from terrorist acts involving the use of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents.

New threats and challenges

Scientific and technological cooperation between NATO and Russia dates back to 1998. Over the years, NATO's science programmes, which foster collaboration and research between scientists in NATO and Partner countries, have awarded more grants to scientists from Russia than any other country.

Under the NRC Science for Peace and Security Committee, promising work is taking place on confronting new threats and challenges through scientific and environmental cooperation. Key areas include explosives detection, protection from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents, cyber security, psychosocial consequences of terrorism, transport security, defence-related environmental issues, environmental security and eco-terrorism, and the forecast and prevention of catastrophes.

Raising public awareness of the NRC

An NRC web site (www.nato-russia-council.info) was launched in June 2007 to increase public awareness of NRC activities. All NRC nations have stated their commitment to explaining the merits of NATO-Russia cooperation to the public.

Evolution of NATO-Russia Relations

NATO-Russia relations formally began in 1991, when Russia joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (renamed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council in 1997), a forum created to foster transparency and dialogue with the countries after the end of the Cold War. Russia joined the Partnership for Peace in 1994, paving the way for more practical cooperation and, in 1996, Russia deployed a major contingent to the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The 1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security provided the formal basis for NATO-Russia relations and led to the development of a bilateral programme of consultation and cooperation under the Permanent Joint Council (PJC). However, lingering Cold War prejudices prevented the PJC from achieving its potential. Differences over the Kosovo air campaign also impacted on relations. However, Russia played a notable diplomatic role in resolving the Kosovo crisis and deployed peacekeepers to support the Kosovo Force in June 1999. From 1999, NATO-Russia relations began to improve significantly.

In 2002, the relationship was given new impetus and substance with the establishment of the NATO-Russia Council. The decision to establish the NRC was taken in the wake of the September 2001 terrorist attacks, which reinforced the need for coordinated action to respond to common threats. It demonstrated the shared resolve of NATO member states and Russia to work more closely together towards the common goal of building a lasting and inclusive peace in the Euro-Atlantic Area – a goal which was first expressed in the 1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act.

Following Russia's disproportionate military action in Georgia in early August 2008, the Alliance suspended formal meetings of the NRC and cooperation in some areas, while it considered the implications of Russia's actions for the NATO-Russia relationship. A decision to resume formal meetings and practical cooperation was taken in March 2009.

Key milestones

1991

Formal relations between NATO and Russia begin when Russia joins the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (later renamed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council), which was created as a forum for consultation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe following the end of the Cold War; the Soviet Union actually

	dissolved during the inaugural meeting of this body
1994	Russia joins the Partnership for Peace (PfP).
1996	Russian soldiers deploy as part of the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
	Memorandum of understanding on civil emergency cooperation is signed.
1997	At a summit in Paris, Russian and Allied leaders sign the NATO-Russia Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security and establish the Permanent Joint Council (PJC)
1998	Russia establishes a diplomatic mission to NATO.
	Memorandum of understanding on scientific and technological cooperation is signed.
1999	Russia suspends participation in the PJC for a few months because of NATO's Kosovo air campaign.
	Russian peacekeepers deploy as part of the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Kosovo.
2000	Vladimir Putin becomes President of Russia and says he will work to rebuild relations with NATO in a "spirit of pragmatism".
	Broader cooperation in the PJC resumes, following a meeting of NATO and Russian foreign ministers in Florence.
	The nuclear submarine <i>Kursk</i> sinks, highlighting the need for cooperation between NATO and Russia.
2001	The NATO Information Office opens in Moscow.
	President Putin is the first world leader to call the US President after the September 11 terrorist attacks. The attacks underscore the need for concerted international action to address terrorism and other new security threats. Russia opens its airspace to the international coalition's campaign in Afghanistan and shares relevant intelligence.
2002	First high-level conference on the role of the military in combating terrorism is held in Rome.
	NATO opens a Military Liaison Mission in Moscow.

	At a summit in Rome, Russian and Allied leaders sign a declaration on “NATO-Russia Relations: A New Quality” and establish the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) to replace the PJC.
	A joint NATO-Russia Resettlement Centre opens to help discharged Russian military personnel return to civilian life.
	Russia hosts a multinational disaster-response exercise in Noginsk.
	Second high-level conference on the role of the military in combating terrorism is held in Moscow
2003	NATO and Russia sign an agreement on submarine-crew rescue.
	An NRC meeting is held in Moscow for the first time.
	Russian troops withdraw from the NATO-led peacekeeping forces in the Balkans.
2004	The NATO Secretary General tries out a new hotline to the Russian defence minister
	The first NRC theatre missile defence command post exercise takes place in Colorado Springs, United States.
	Agreements establish Russian military liaison offices to NATO’s strategic command headquarters
	Russia hosts a multinational disaster-response exercise in Kaliningrad.
	At an NRC meeting of foreign ministers in Istanbul, Russia offers to contribute a ship to NATO’s maritime counter-terrorist operation in the Mediterranean.
	Observers from NRC countries are invited to observe a Russian nuclear-weapons-accident-response field exercise near Murmansk.
	The first NATO interoperability courses are held in Moscow military academies.
	In the wake of several terrorist attacks in Russia, NRC foreign ministers approve a comprehensive NRC Action Plan on Terrorism.
	NATO and Russia exchange letters, agreeing procedures to prepare the way for Russia’s support for Operation Active Endeavour,

	NATO's maritime counter-terrorist operation in the Mediterranean.
	NRC foreign ministers issue a common statement concerning the conduct of the Ukrainian presidential elections.
2005	The second NRC theatre missile defence command post exercise takes place in the Netherlands.
	Russia signs the PfP Status of Forces Agreement.
	NRC defence ministers endorse a "Political-Military Guidance" aimed at developing, over time, interoperability between Russian and Allied forces at the strategic, operational and tactical command levels.
	Russia takes part in a major NATO search-and-rescue-at sea exercise, Sorbet Royal.
	A UK team helps rescue Russian sailors trapped in a submarine off the Kamchatka shore.
	Observers from NRC countries are invited to observe a UK nuclear-weapons-response field exercise in Edinburgh.
	Russian teachers and instructors from the General Staff Academy give the first interoperability courses at the NATO School in Oberammergau.
	The NRC launches a pilot project on counter-narcotics training for Afghan and Central Asian personnel.
2006	NRC foreign ministers meeting in Sofia agree a set of priorities and recommendations to guide the NRC's future work.
	Observers from NRC countries are invited to observe a US nuclear-weapons-response field exercise in Wyoming.
	The third NRC theatre missile defence command post exercise takes place in Moscow.
	An NRC civil emergency exercise takes place in Montelibretti, Italy.
	The first Russian frigate deploys to the Mediterranean to support Operation Active Endeavour.
2007	Observers from NRC countries are invited to observe a French

	nuclear-weapons-response field exercise.
	Russian parliament ratifies the PfP Status of Forces Agreement
	10th anniversary of the Founding Act and 5th anniversary of the NRC
	A second Russian frigate deploys in active support of Operation Active Endeavour.
2008	A computer-assisted exercise takes place in Germany under the NRC theatre missile defence project.
	<p>Russia offers transit to ISAF contributors in support of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) operation in Afghanistan.</p> <p>Russia takes part in a major NATO search-and-rescue-at sea exercise, Bold Monarch.</p> <p>Following Russia's disproportionate military action in Georgia in early August 2008, formal meetings of the NRC and cooperation in some areas are suspended. Cooperation continues in key areas of common interest, such as counter-narcotics and the fight against terrorism..</p> <p>NATO foreign ministers, meeting in December, agree to pursue a phased and measured approach to re-engagement with Russia.</p>
2009	NATO foreign ministers, meeting in March, decide to resume formal meetings and practical cooperation under the NRC.

Comprehensive Political Guidance



The Comprehensive Political Guidance is a major policy document that sets out the framework and priorities for all Alliance capability issues, planning disciplines and intelligence for the next 10 to 15 years.

It analyses the probable future security environment, but acknowledges the possibility of unpredictable events.

Against that analysis, it sets out the kinds of operations the Alliance must be able to perform in light of the Alliance's Strategic Concept and the kinds of capabilities the Alliance will need.

- [An evolving strategic context](#)
- [Providing the means to implement the objectives](#)
- [Adoption of the Comprehensive Political Guidance](#)

An evolving strategic context

The threats, risks and challenges now faced by the Allies are very different from those of the Cold War. NATO no longer perceives large-scale conventional military threats to Alliance territory. Instead, today's security threats include instability, ethnic and religious-based rivalries, competition for natural resources, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, failed states, genocide, mass migration, organized crime, cyber attacks and terrorism.

The challenge is to cope with an ever-increasing set of demands and with new types of operations. That is why Allies are committed to pursuing the transformation of their forces: current and future operations will continue to require agile and interoperable, well-trained and well-led military forces – forces that are modern, deployable, sustainable and available to undertake demanding operations far from home bases. This also places a premium on close coordination and cooperation among international organizations and of particular importance to NATO is its relationship with the United Nations and the European Union.

Providing the means to implement the objectives

Capability requirements

The Comprehensive Political Guidance (CPG) sets out the kinds of operations the Alliance must be able to perform in the future and, as a logical consequence of that vision, the kinds of capabilities the Alliance will need. It defines NATO's

top priorities among those requirements, starting with expeditionary forces and the capability to deploy and sustain them. These capability requirements are expressed broadly. How specifically these capabilities will be filled is left open, since that is for members to determine both individually and collectively through NATO's defence planning process.

The defence planning process

As such, the defence planning process is also under review to guarantee that NATO has effective military capabilities for defence and deterrence, as well as to fulfill the full range of its missions.

The defence planning process comprises a number of planning disciplines including armaments, civil emergency planning, consultation, command and control, logistics, and resource, nuclear and force planning. Subordinate documents, such as Ministerial Guidance, provide more detailed, quantitative and qualitative guidance. Usually provided every four years, Ministerial Guidance establishes the Alliance level of ambition in military terms and provides further strategic level politico-military direction for relevant planning disciplines. This provides the basis for specific requirements to be set by the NATO force planning system for those member countries engaged in collective force planning. The system then later assesses their ability to meet these planning targets through a biennial defence review process.

Building on the CPG, new Ministerial Guidance was agreed in June 2006. It seeks to provide NATO with the ability to conduct a greater number of smaller-scale operations, while retaining its ability to carry out larger operations. In addition, future planning targets will embrace the further transformation of the Alliance and will continue to seek to improve NATO's capabilities to pursue the sort of expeditionary operations in which it is currently engaged.

The CPG Management Mechanism

The implementation of the CPG, both within the Alliance proper and by the Allies themselves is crucial. Ultimately, implementation should lead to the development of more usable capabilities for future operations and missions, thereby ensuring that the Alliance remains effective, credible and relevant in the 21st century. To this end, in February 2006, a CPG Management Mechanism was established.

Two aspects of the implementation of the CPG are being pursued: monitoring and evaluating the actual fulfillment of the required capabilities; and improving NATO's processes for identifying, developing and delivering the required capabilities.

Adoption of the Comprehensive Political Guidance

The CPG was agreed on 21 December 2005 by the 26 NATO member countries. It was endorsed by NATO Defence Ministers at their June 2006 meeting at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, and – at the highest political level – by NATO Heads of State and Government at the November 2006 Riga Summit.

Official texts

- 3 Apr. 2008 - NATO
[Bucharest Summit Declaration](#)
(para. 44)
- 29 Nov. 2006 - NATO
[Comprehensive Political Guidance, endorsed by NATO Heads of State and Government on 29 November 2006](#)
- 29/11/2006 - NATO
[Riga Summit Declaration](#)

Improving NATO's capabilities



NATO has been engaged in a continuous and systematic transformation for many years to ensure that it has the capabilities, policies and structures required in the changing international security environment and to preempt future challenges. With Allied forces engaged in operations and missions across several continents, the Alliance also needs to ensure that Allied armed forces remain modern, deployable and sustainable.

The Comprehensive Political Guidance (CPG) provides an analysis of the strategic environment and a framework for all Alliance capability issues, planning discipline and intelligence for the next 10 to 15 years. It sets out the kinds of operations the Alliance must be able to perform and the kind of capabilities it will need.

It considers terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction as likely to be the principal threats to the Alliance over this period.

- [Meeting immediate and potential challenges](#)
- [The development of capabilities over time](#)
- [The bodies involved in decision making](#)

Meeting immediate and potential challenges



To meet immediate and potential challenges, NATO continues to work on a broad and multifaceted set of activities: from long-term, broad strategic thinking down to practical planning involving military and civilian structural adjustments, personnel issues, equipment procurement and the development of new technologies.

It is taking a series of measures to:

- optimize operational capabilities, including through the NATO Response Force and the improvement of air and sealift capabilities;
- protect troops on the ground, for example, through information superiority and the Alliance Ground Surveillance system;
- review existing processes and structures to increase efficiency, including through reform of the defence planning process and streamlining of the military command structure;
- complement military efforts with civil emergency planning and consequence management initiatives;

- develop capabilities in new areas, such as cyber defence, missile defence and energy security.

NATO has also been focusing on means to fight terrorism and address the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

The multifaceted nature of terrorism is such that NATO has engaged in a number of initiatives – political, operational, conceptual, military and technological – to address this issue.

A primary aim of the Alliance is to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or, should proliferation occur, to reverse it through diplomatic means. The Allies have taken a comprehensive set of practical initiatives to defend their populations, territory and forces against potential WMD threats.

Meeting immediate requirements

The range of operations and missions undertaken by the Alliance has highlighted a number of areas in which NATO requires new or improved capabilities.

The NATO Response Force

The NATO Response Force (NRF) is a joint, multinational force designed to respond rapidly to emerging crises across the full spectrum of Alliance missions, ranging from disaster relief or peacekeeping to high-intensity war-fighting. Made up of land, air, maritime and special forces components, it can commence deployment with as little as five days' notice and sustain itself on operations for 30 days, or longer if re-supplied.

Improving air- and sealift capabilities

Strategic air- and sealift capabilities are vital to ensure NATO countries can deploy their forces and equipment quickly to wherever they are needed. NATO member countries have pooled their resources to acquire special aircraft and ships that will give the Alliance the capability to transport troops, equipment and supplies across the globe.

Improving information superiority

Information superiority aims to ensure that information and situational awareness are more quickly available to member countries than to potential adversaries. By sharing information, data and intelligence reliably, securely and without delay during NATO-led operations, information superiority helps member countries achieve their desired ends with smaller forces.

At the Riga Summit in November 2006, Allied leaders agreed to support efforts to achieve information superiority. Key to these efforts is the implementation of a NATO Network-Enabled Capability, which aims to make all operational elements, from the strategic down to tactical levels, interoperable. The Alliance is also working to improve its maritime situational awareness and establish the airborne Alliance Ground Surveillance system.

Alliance Ground Surveillance

The Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) system is a key element of the Alliance's transformation and an essential enabling capability for the NATO Response Force (NRF) and other forces. The AGS will be an airborne, stand-off ground surveillance system that can detect and track vehicles, such as tanks, trucks or helicopters, moving on or near the ground, in all weather conditions.

Reviewing NATO's defence planning process

A key aim of NATO's defence planning process is to help member countries generate forces that can reach further and faster, yet still take on the full range of missions. Work is underway on NATO's defence planning process to make the process more flexible and comprehensive.

Streamlining the military command structure

NATO has streamlined its military command arrangements to provide a leaner, more efficient, effective and deployable command structure. The restructuring, launched in 2002, was based on agreed minimum military requirements for the Alliance's command arrangements. It has resulted in a significant reduction in headquarters and Combined Air Operations Centres. More importantly, it reflects a fundamental shift in Alliance thinking.

In addition, a review of the peacetime establishment of the command structure is ongoing with the aim of examining the missions, roles and tasks of peacetime staffing of the structure in its present geographical distribution.

Civil emergency planning

The aim of Alliance civil emergency planning is to collect, analyze and share information on national planning activity to ensure the most effective use of civil resources for use during emergency situations, in accordance with Alliance objectives.

Close civil-military cooperation is key to ensuring the correct mix of capabilities in support of civil populations. NATO facilitates such cooperation through a range of civilian instruments and capabilities developed in the framework of its civil emergency planning activities.

Coordinated civil-military planning is becoming especially important in the context of NATO's military support to stabilization and reconstruction in theatres of operations. Experience has shown that in many cases, peace can only be sustained through coordinated stabilization and reconstruction efforts. Support for such efforts is often an essential part of a mission, even while combat operations are still under way. In coordination with other international efforts, NATO is addressing the need to support stabilization and reconstruction in all phases of a crisis, starting with planning. Through NATO civil emergency planning instruments, military planners can also draw on civilian expertise, in areas such as critical infrastructure, transport, food, water, agriculture, communications, health and industry.

Countering potential threats

The Allies are also working to address potential challenges that may develop over the long term.

Missile defence

In response to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, including missiles of all ranges, NATO is pursuing projects aimed at protecting Alliance forces, territory and populations against missile threats.

Cyber defence

NATO is developing new measures to enhance the protection of its communication and information systems against attempts at disruption through attacks or illegal access. The Alliance is also prepared, on request, to assist allies in the event of grave cyber attacks against their national systems. These efforts form practical aspects of a new NATO policy on cyber defence.

Energy security

The disruption of the flow of vital resources could affect Alliance security interests. In a declaration at the Riga Summit in November 2006, Allied leaders confirmed their support for a coordinated, international effort to assess risks to energy infrastructure and to promote energy infrastructure security.

The development of capabilities over time

Since 1999, NATO Allies have made firm commitments and taken a range of initiatives to strengthen capabilities in key areas.

The Defence Capabilities Initiative

Launched at the Washington Summit in April 1999, DCI identified a number of areas where improvements in Alliance capabilities were required. These areas fell into five major categories:

- Deployability and mobility: getting forces to the crisis quickly;
- Effective engagement: improving forces' cutting edge capacity;
- Consultation, command and control: giving forces maximum awareness and control;
- Survivability: protecting forces;
- Sustainability and logistics: supporting forces in the field.

The DCI contributed to improvements in Alliance capabilities in quite a number of important areas. However, countries were not required to report individually on progress achieved and therefore advancement under the DCI was uneven.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Initiative

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Initiative was launched, at the same time as DCI, to address the risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by intensifying consultations on disarmament and non-proliferation issues. A WMD Centre was set up in May 2000 to coordinate activities in this field.

The Prague Capabilities Commitment

At their meeting in June 2002, NATO defence ministers agreed to refocus their efforts and decided that a new initiative should be based on firm country-specific commitments. This initiative would also be economically realistic, should encourage greater multinational cooperation and must be conducted in coordination with the European Union. At the 2002 Prague Summit, this initiative was formally endorsed and launched under the name of the Prague Capabilities Commitment (PCC).

The PCC was part of a three-pronged approach to improving defence capabilities, the two others were the creation of the NATO Response Force and the streamlining of the military command structure. Allies also adopted a Military Concept for Defence against Terrorism and initiated a new Missile Defence Feasibility Study.

Under the PCC, member countries made firm political commitments to improve capabilities in more than 400 specific areas, covering the following eight fields:

- chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence;
- intelligence, surveillance and target acquisition;
- air-to-ground surveillance;
- deployable and secure command, control and communications;
- combat effectiveness, including precision-guided munitions and suppression of enemy air defences;
- strategic air and sea lift;
- air-to-air refueling;
- deployable combat support and combat service support units.

Progress in each of the areas identified above was reviewed on a regular basis. In certain areas such as strategic sealift, strategic airlift and air-to-air refueling, NATO countries pooled their resources and multinational consortia with lead-nations were formed. In other areas, NATO members agreed to improve their capabilities individually.

The PCC was coordinated with the European Union's efforts to improve its capabilities. A NATO-EU Capability Group was set up for this purpose under the so-called "Berlin Plus" arrangements and simple methods of ensuring that the two processes complemented each other were used, for instance, by having the same countries take the lead on the same capabilities in both organizations.

Further development of capabilities

At the Istanbul Summit in June 2004, NATO leaders endorsed further measures to improve the Alliance's ability to take on operations whenever and wherever necessary. These included changes to the defence planning and force generation processes, and "usability" targets aimed at increasing the proportion of member countries' forces that can be deployed and sustained in NATO-led operations.

It was agreed that the usability goals for ground forces was of 40 per cent deployability and eight per cent sustainability. This effectively meant that 40 per cent of ground forces can be deployed and eight per cent supported in overseas missions at any one time.

A set of practical measures to strengthen the Alliance's contribution to the fight against terrorism and efforts to improve intelligence-sharing were also agreed.

The Comprehensive Political Guidance (CPG) was adopted in 2006 and at the Riga Summit in November of the same year, leaders inaugurated new initiatives. Among these were efforts to increase NATO's information superiority in operational theatres and the endorsement of a Special Forces Initiative to increase the ability of special operations forces from member countries to train and operate together.

The bodies involved in decision-making

Efforts to improve NATO capabilities touch on a wide range of activities. As such, many different committees are involved in decision making for their specific areas of expertise. These include:

- the Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD), the senior NATO committee responsible for Alliance armaments co-operation, material standardization and defence procurement;
- The Senior NATO Logistics Conference (SNLC), which advises the North Atlantic Council, the Defence Planning Committee and the Military Committee on consumer logistics matters;
- The Executive Working Group (EWG) is made up of defence counsellors from NATO delegations and advises the North Atlantic Council on defence matters concerning member countries;
- the NATO Defence Review Committee, responsible for streamlining the Alliance's defence planning process to assist in the transformation of NATO's military capabilities;
- the Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee (SCEPC), the principal body in the area of civil emergency planning;
- the Military Committee, the senior military authority in NATO under the overall authority of the North Atlantic Council and the Defence Planning Committee;
- Allied Command Transformation (ACT), responsible for the transformation of NATO's military capabilities;
- the NATO Consultation, Command and Control Board (NC3B); and
- the Senior Resource Board, which focuses on the management of military common-funded resources.

Official texts

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[Riga Summit Declaration](#)
- 21 Nov. 2002 - Prague, CZ
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- 25 Apr. 1999 - Washington
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Missile defence



By early 2010 NATO will have an initial capability to protect Alliance forces against missile threats and is examining options for protecting territory and populations. This is in response to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, including missiles of all ranges.

The Alliance is united on its missile defence approach and wants to ensure the indivisibility of NATO security, so that all countries would be protected from any potential missile threats.

- [Components of the policy](#)
- [Mechanisms](#)
- [Evolution](#)

Components of the policy

The Alliance is conducting three missile defence related activities:

The Active Layered Theatre Ballistic Missile Defence System (ALTBMD) capability

By early 2010 the Alliance will have an interim capability to protect to protect troops in a specific area against short- and medium-range ballistic missiles (up to 3000 kilometres).

The end system will consist of a multi-layered system of systems, comprising low and high-altitude defences (also called lower and upper layer defences), including battle management, communications, command and control (BMC3I), early warning sensors, radar, and various interceptors. NATO member countries will provide the sensors and weapon systems, while NATO will develop the BMC3I segment and facilitate the integration of all these elements.

At present, The NATO Active Layered Theatre Ballistic Missile Defence Programme Office (ALTBMD PO) supported by a System Engineering and Integration contractor consortium, Team SAIC, has developed and successfully tested the specifications for the command and control interface between NATO and national systems, using an Integration Test Bed at the NATO Consultation, Command and Control (NC3A) facilities in The Hague. The testing – including with US, Dutch and French systems and facilities - validated that the specifications are sound and that the NATO procurement of the necessary command and control capabilities can move forward. As the Programme Office has been requested to field an ALTBMD Capability earlier than planned in

support of NATO's Operational Commands, an interim capability will be fielded in two phases, the first of which is scheduled to be delivered early in 2010.

In addition to delivering the interim capability, the theatre missile defence work has provided technical support to policy discussions of broader missile defence questions about the protection of NATO territory and population centers.

Missile Defence for the protection of NATO territory

A Missile Defence Feasibility Study was launched after the 2002 Prague Summit to examine options for protecting Alliance forces, territory and populations against the full range of missile threats. The study was executed by a transatlantic multinational industry team in cooperation with the NATO Consultation, Command and Control Agency (NC3A). It concluded that missile defence is technically feasible within the limits and assumptions of the study. The results were approved by NATO's Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD) in April 2006 and have provided a technical basis for ongoing political and military discussions regarding the desirability of a NATO missile defence system.

In this context, the Alliance has also considered – at the 2008 Bucharest Summit – the technical details, and political and military implications of the proposed elements of the US missile defence system in Europe. Allied leaders recognized that the planned deployment of European-based US missile defence assets would help protect many Allies, and agreed that this capability should be an integral part of any future NATO-wide missile defence architecture.

Options for a comprehensive missile defence architecture to extend coverage to all Allied territory and populations not otherwise covered by the US system have been developed and will be reviewed at the upcoming Alliance Summit.

At the Bucharest Summit, the Allies encouraged Russia to take advantage of US proposals for cooperation on missile defence. They also stated their readiness to explore the potential for linking US, NATO and Russian missile defence systems at an appropriate time.

Theatre Missile Defence cooperation with Russia

Under the auspices of the NATO-Russia Council, a study was launched in 2003 to assess possible levels of interoperability among theatre missile defence systems of NATO Allies and Russia.

Together with the interoperability study, several computer assisted exercises have been held to provide the basis for future improvements to interoperability and to develop mechanisms and procedures for joint operations in the area of theatre missile defence.

Over three million euros have already been committed to the study and exercise programme.

Mechanisms

The Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD) is the senior NATO committee which acts as the tasking authority for the theatre missile defence programme. The ALTBMD Programme Management Organization, which comprises a Steering Committee and a Programme Office hosted by the NATO C3 Agency, directs the programme and reports to the CNAD.

The focal point for consultation on full-scale missile defence is the Reinforced Executive Working Group. The CNAD is responsible for conducting technical studies and reporting the outcome to the Group.

The NRC Ad hoc Working Group on TMD is the steering body for NATO-Russia cooperation on theatre missile defence.

Evolution

Two key policy documents provide the framework for NATO's activities in the area of missile defence: NATO's 1999 Strategic Concept and the Comprehensive Political Guidance which was endorsed by Allied leaders at the Riga Summit in November 2006.

The Strategic Concept recognizes the need for missile defence to counter nuclear, biological and chemical threats. It states: "The Alliance's defence posture against the risks and potential threats of the proliferation of NBC weapons and their means of delivery must continue to be improved, including through work on missile defence. The aim in doing so will be to further reduce operational vulnerabilities of NATO military forces while maintaining their flexibility and effectiveness despite the presence, threat or use of NBC weapons."

The Comprehensive Political Guidance sets out the priorities for all Alliance capability issues, planning disciplines and intelligence for the next 10 to 15 years. The CPG also provides an overview of the strategic environment within the same timeframe and identifies the spread of weapons of mass destruction as one of the principal threats to the Alliance.

Key milestones

Theatre Missile Defence (TMD)

May 2001

NATO launches two parallel feasibility studies for a future Alliance TMD system.

June 2004	At the Istanbul Summit, Allied leaders direct that work on theatre ballistic missile defence be taken forward expeditiously.
March 2005	The Alliance approves the establishment of a Programme Management Organization under the auspices of the Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD)
September 2006	The Alliance awards the first major contract for the development of a test bed for the system.
February 2008	The test bed is opened and declared fully operational nine months ahead of schedule.
Throughout 2008	The system design for the NATO command and control component of the theatre missile defence system is verified through testing with national systems and facilities via the integrated test bed; this paves the way for the procurement of the capability.

Full-scale missile defence

November 2002	At the Prague Summit, Allied leaders direct that a Missile Defence Feasibility Study be launched to examine options for protecting Alliance forces, territory and populations against the full range of missile threats.
April 2006	The study concludes that missile defence is technically feasible within the limits and assumptions of the study. The results are approved by NATO's Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD).
2007	An update of a 2004 Alliance assessment of missile threat developments is completed.
April 2008	At the Bucharest Summit in April 2008, Allied leaders agreed that the planned deployment of European-based US missile defence assets should be an integral part of any future NATO-wide missile defence architecture. They called for options for a comprehensive missile defence architecture to extend coverage to all Allied territory not otherwise covered by the US system to be prepared in time NATO's next Summit in 2009.
December 2008	Options for extending missile defence coverage to all Allied territory not otherwise covered by the US system are delivered to NATO's

Conference for National Armaments Directors, in preparation for the discussions at the next Summit.

NRC TMD project

2003	A study is launched under the NRC to assess possible levels of interoperability among TMD systems of NATO Allies and Russia.
March 2004	An NRC TMD command post exercise is held in the United States.
March 2005	An NRC TMD command post exercise is held in the Netherlands.
October 2006	An NRC TMD command post exercise is held in Russia.
January 2008	An NRC TMD computer assisted exercise takes place in Germany.

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[Istanbul Summit Declaration](#)
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Video interview with NATO's Assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment, Peter Flory
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[Strengthening NATO's missile defence](#)

Multimedia

- [High resolution photos](#) of Patriot missiles 

Arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in NATO



NATO has a long-standing commitment to an active policy in arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. The Alliance continues to pursue its security objectives through these policies, while at the same time ensuring that its collective defence obligations are met and the full range of its missions fulfilled.

Allies participate actively in international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements. NATO itself does not belong to any treaty as an entity but it continues to encourage its members, partners and other countries to implement their international obligations fully.

NATO's policies in these fields cover consultation and practical cooperation in a wide range of areas. These include conventional arms control; nuclear policy issues; promoting mine action and combating the spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW), munitions and man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS); preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction and developing capabilities to protect against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats.

Arms control and disarmament are key elements of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture. Over the past two decades, Allies have significantly contributed to more stable international relations at lower levels of military forces and armaments, through effective and verifiable arms control agreements.

At the Bucharest Summit in 2008, Allied leaders took note of a report on raising NATO's profile in the fields of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. As part of a broader response to security issues, they agreed that NATO should continue to contribute to international efforts in these fields and keep these issues under active review.

- [Definitions](#)
- [The ways in which NATO members effectively participate](#)
- [The evolution of NATO's contribution to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation](#)
- [NATO bodies dealing with these issues](#)

Definitions

While often used together, the terms arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation do not mean the same thing. In fact, experts usually consider them to reflect associated, but different areas in the same discipline or subject.

Arms control

Arms control is the broadest of the three terms and generally refers to mutually agreed-upon restraints or controls (usually between states) on the research, manufacture, or the levels of and/or locales of deployment of troops and weapons systems.

Disarmament

Disarmament, often inaccurately used as a synonym for arms control, refers to the act of eliminating or abolishing weapons (particularly offensive arms) either unilaterally (in the hope that one's example will be followed) or reciprocally.

Non-proliferation

For the Alliance, non-proliferation refers to all efforts to prevent proliferation from occurring, or should it occur, to reverse it by diplomatic, political, economic or other means than the use of military force. Non-proliferation usually applies to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), which the Alliance defines as weapons that are "capable of a high order of destruction and of being used in such a manner as to destroy people, infrastructure or other resources on a large scale."

WMD Proliferation

Attempts made by state or non-state actors to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery or related material without prejudice to the rights and obligations of the States Parties to the following agreements: the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (CWC) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological), and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC).

The ways in which NATO effectively participates

NATO contributes to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in many ways: through its policies, its activities and through its member countries.

Conventional forces

Allies have reduced their conventional forces significantly from Cold War levels. They remain committed to the regime of the Conventional Forces in Europe

(CFE) Treaty, as a cornerstone of Euro-Atlantic security and are deeply concerned by Russia's unilateral "suspension" of its obligations under the CFE regime. Discussions are ongoing with Russia, both in the framework of the NATO-Russia Council and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on how to work towards ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty.

Nuclear forces

The nuclear weapons assigned to NATO have been reduced by over 90 percent since the end of the Cold War. NATO nuclear weapon states have also reduced their nuclear arsenals and ceased production of highly-enriched uranium or plutonium for nuclear weapons. All Allies are parties to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and view it as an essential foundation for international peace and security.

Armed forces

Through its cooperation framework with non-member countries, the Alliance supports defence and security sector reform, emphasizing civilian control of the military, accountability, and restructuring of military forces to lower, affordable and usable levels.

Small arms and light weapons (SALW), and mine action

Allies are working with non-member countries and other international organizations to support the full implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspects.

NATO also supports mine action activities. All NATO member countries, with the exception of the United States, are party to the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, often referred to as the Ottawa Convention.

Initially NATO PfP/Trust Fund projects dealt primarily with the safe destruction of anti-personnel mines, with priority given to parties of the Ottawa Convention. NATO's PfP Trust Fund Policy was initiated in 2000, with that goal in mind: to assist countries in fulfilling their Ottawa Convention obligations to dispose of national stockpiles anti-personnel landmines.

As these obligations began to be fulfilled, the policy was expanded to include efforts to implement the UN Programme of Action on SALW. More recently, the Trust Policy has also been expanded to include projects dealing with reintegration issues associated with former combatants.

NATO/PfP Trust Funds may be initiated by a NATO member or partner country to tackle specific, practical issues linked to any of these areas, particularly those areas associated with security sector reform. They are funded voluntarily by

contributions from individual NATO Allies, Partner countries, and non-governmental organizations with common interests.

Weapons of mass destruction (WMD)

The Alliance continues to strongly support various arms control and non-proliferation regimes to prevent the spread and use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) as well as their means of delivery. NATO stepped up its activities in this area in 1999 with the launch of the WMD Initiative and the establishment of a WMD Centre at NATO Headquarters the following year. NATO Allies have also taken a comprehensive set of practical initiatives to defend their populations, territory and forces against potential WMD threats. As part of NATO outreach to partners across the globe, the North Atlantic Alliance's Seminar on WMD Proliferation Issues is the only annual conference, sponsored by an international organization, dealing with all types and aspects of weapons of mass destruction.

The evolution of NATO's contribution to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation

Active policies in arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation have been an inseparable part of NATO's contribution to security and stability since the Harmel Report of 1967.

The Harmel Report

This report formed the basis for NATO's security policy. It outlined two objectives: maintaining a sufficient military capacity to act as an effective and credible deterrent against aggression and other forms of pressure while seeking to improve the East-West relations. The Alliance's objectives in arms control have been tied to the achievement of both aims. It is therefore important that defence and arms control policies remain in harmony and are mutually reinforcing.

The Comprehensive Concept of Arms Control and Disarmament

In May 1989, NATO adopted a Comprehensive Concept of Arms Control and Disarmament, which allowed the Alliance to move forward in the sphere of arms control. It addressed the role of arms control in East-West relations, the principles of Alliance security and a number of guiding principles and objectives governing Allied policy in the nuclear, conventional and chemical fields of arms control.

It clearly set out the interrelationships between arms control and defence policies and established the overall conceptual framework within which the Alliance sought progress in each area of its arms control agenda.

The Alliance's Strategic Concept

More recently, NATO's continued adherence to this policy was reaffirmed in the Alliance's Strategic Concept in 1999:

“The Allies seek to enhance security and stability at the lowest possible level of forces consistent with the Alliance's ability to provide for collective defence and to fulfill the full range of its missions. The Alliance will continue to ensure that – as an important part of its broad approach to security – defence and arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation objectives remain in harmony.”

Summit declarations

This commitment was reiterated by Allied leaders in declarations made at the summit meetings held in Washington (1999), Istanbul (2004), Riga (2006) and Bucharest (2008).

The subject of arms control is also embedded in the 1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act and in the declaration made by Allied and Russian leaders at the 2002 Rome Summit, which set up the NATO-Russia Council.

NATO bodies dealing with these issues

A number of NATO bodies oversee different aspects of Alliance activities in the fields of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. Overall political guidance is provided by the North Atlantic Council, NATO's highest political decision-making body. More detailed oversight of activities and policy in specific areas is provided by a number of bodies, including the High Level Task Force (HLTF) on Conventional Arms Control, the Nuclear Planning Group High Level Group (NPG/HLG), the Senior Defence Group on Proliferation (DGP) and the Senior Politico-Military Group on Proliferation (SGP).

Within NATO's cooperative frameworks, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (in particular, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Mine Action) and the NATO-Russia Council (in particular, the Arms Control Experts Group, the NRC Ad Hoc Working Group on Proliferation Issues and the NRC Group of Nuclear Experts) have central roles.

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NATO and Euro-Atlantic security



The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is a 28-member alliance of North American and European democracies seeking to ensure their joint security through political and military cooperation.

The Alliance's fundamental purpose is to provide collective defence for its members. At the same time, since the end of the Cold War, NATO has been adapting its structures and policies to help provide increased security to Europe as a whole, as well as a stable and peaceful framework for consultation between Allies and neighbouring countries. The Alliance not only aims to ensure the defence of its members, but more broadly tries to reinforce and contribute to peace and stability in and beyond the Euro-Atlantic area.

NATO has therefore engaged in a much broader range of activities that are designed to promote political dialogue and cooperation, and confront proactively the security challenges, which could, or already do, affect the safety or the interests of its member states and their populations. This means that it has been deepening and extending its partnerships, modernizing its forces and conducting crisis response operations beyond the North Atlantic area. Effectively, it is accelerating its transformation to develop new political relationships and stronger operational capabilities to respond to an increasingly globalized and more challenging world.

- [Transformation as a permanent feature](#)
- [Fundamental principles](#)

Transformation as a permanent feature

In the course of over half a century of existence, both the Alliance and the wider world have developed in ways that NATO's founders could not have envisaged.

NATO has been constantly reviewing its tasks and objectives in view of the evolution of the strategic environment. Transformation is a permanent feature of the Organization. At the Strasbourg-Kehl Summit, NATO leaders plan to endorse the "Declaration on Alliance Security" to ensure the continued adaptation of the Alliance.

Adapting to new challenges

NATO provides a unique forum for discussion and cooperation on defence and security issues in the sense that it not only brings together two continents – Europe and North America - but it also conducts multinational initiatives and offers coordinated action in many different areas.

Its activities have evolved over time.

With the end of the Cold War, NATO started to address a broader spectrum of security challenges than in the past. New forms of political and military cooperation were required to preserve peace and stability in Europe and prevent the escalation of regional tensions. NATO engaged in partnerships with former adversaries and committed itself to its first crisis management operations as early as 1995. The 9/11 terrorist attacks brought the threat of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction to the fore. NATO needed to protect its populations both at home and abroad. It therefore underwent major internal reforms to adapt military structures and capabilities to equip members for new tasks, such as leading the UN-mandated International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.

Fundamental principles

However, while the nature of the threats faced by member states and the way in which NATO deals with them are changing, the basic tenets of cooperation within the Alliance remain true to the principles of the Washington Treaty: collective defence, the peaceful resolution of disputes and NATO's defensive nature. These still characterize the Organization.

In addition, NATO remains an essential transatlantic forum for consultation, which aims to defend and promote common values founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law, and continues to take decisions by consensus – a decision making process that can be considered as one of the keys to the Alliance's durability.

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A Comprehensive Approach



Meeting today's security challenges requires a wide spectrum of civil and military instruments. This calls for regular coordination, consultation and interaction among all actors involved. NATO has developed a set of pragmatic proposals aimed at promoting such a

Comprehensive Approach to crisis management by the International Community.

At the Bucharest Summit in April 2008, Allied leaders endorsed an Action Plan for the development and implementation of NATO's contribution to a Comprehensive Approach.

Since then, NATO has been seeking to improve its own crisis-management instruments and to strengthen its ability to work with partner countries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and local authorities.

Experience in Afghanistan and the Balkans has demonstrated the importance of contributing to the International Community's Comprehensive Approach for the success of operations, which are increasingly of an integrated civilian-military character. NATO is therefore trying to build closer partnerships with other international organizations that have experience and skills in areas such as institution building, development, governance, judiciary and police.

Increasingly, NATO's partner countries and other troop-contributing nations help share the burden of NATO-led operations. In recognition of the valuable resources and skills that these non-NATO countries contribute, NATO is involving them more in the planning and conduct of operations.

The need to promote a Comprehensive Approach applies not only to operations but more broadly to many of NATO's efforts to deal with 21st century security challenges, such as fighting terrorism, improving energy security, preventing proliferation of weapons and dangerous materials, protecting against cyber attacks and confronting the threat of piracy.

Five key areas of work

The development and implementation of NATO's contribution to a Comprehensive Approach will be a long-term effort, which will be kept under review. As work progresses, the Alliance intends to improve its ability to work and coordinate more closely with its partners and other international actors in crisis management.

NATO is developing pragmatic proposals which seek to make improvements in five key areas of work:

Planning and conduct of operations

NATO takes full account of all military and non-military aspects of a NATO engagement, and is working to improve practical cooperation at all levels with all relevant organizations and actors in the planning and conduct of operations. NATO's ongoing work in the area of Operations Planning promotes a sense of common purpose and resolve, the clear definition of strategies and objectives before launching an operation, as well as enhanced planning to support nations' contributions to operations. Effects on the local population and on reconstruction and development are being factored into military planning.

Lessons learned, training, education and exercises

Proposals have been developed to make greater use of NATO training, education and exercise opportunities by offering joint training of civilian and military personnel. This promotes the sharing of lessons learned and also helps build trust and confidence between NATO, its partners and other international and local actors, which has encouraged better coordination.

Enhancing cooperation with external actors

Achieving lasting mutual understanding, trust, confidence and respect among the relevant organizations and actors will make their respective efforts more effective. Therefore, NATO is actively pursuing extensive civil-military interaction with other relevant organizations and actors on a regular basis, as appropriate, while respecting the autonomy of decision-making of each organization.

Public messaging

To be effective, a Comprehensive Approach must be complemented by sustained and coherent public messages. NATO's information campaigns should be substantiated by systematic and updated information, documenting progress in relevant areas. It is important to ensure that the information strategies of the main actors should complement and not contradict each other, which could be facilitated by direct contacts between those responsible for public information.

Stabilization and reconstruction

NATO is seeking to improve its military support to stabilization and reconstruction in all phases of a conflict. This will involve exploiting the full range of existing and planned Alliance capabilities relevant to this broad activity. It will also require better coordination of NATO's military efforts in this field with those of its partners and other international and non-governmental organizations, which are the primary providers of essential civilian means to stabilization and reconstruction.

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NATO's relations with the United Nations



NATO and the United Nations (UN) share a commitment to maintaining international peace and security. The two organizations have been cooperating in this area since the early 1990s.

Over the years, cooperation has broadened to include consultations between NATO and UN specialised bodies on issues such as crisis management, civil-military cooperation, combating human trafficking, mine action, civil emergency planning, women and peace and security, arms control and non-proliferation, and the fight against terrorism.

In September 2008, the UN and NATO established a framework for expanded consultation and cooperation between the two organizations. This will help both organizations to address threats and challenges more effectively.

Close cooperation between NATO and the UN and its agencies is an important element in the development of an international “Comprehensive Approach” to crisis management and operations.

The UN is at the core of the framework of international organizations within which the Alliance operates, a principle that is enshrined in NATO's founding treaty.

UN Security Council resolutions have provided the mandate for NATO's operations in the Balkans and in Afghanistan, and the framework for NATO's training mission in Iraq.

NATO has also provided support to UN-sponsored operations, including logistical assistance to the African Union's UN-endorsed peacekeeping operations in Darfur, Sudan, and in Somalia; support for UN disaster-relief operations in Pakistan, following the massive earthquake in 2005; and escorting merchant ships carrying World Food Programme humanitarian supplies off the coast of Somalia.

- [Framework for cooperation](#)
- [Evolution of cooperation in the field](#)
- [The North Atlantic Treaty and the UN Charter](#)

Framework for NATO-UN cooperation

NATO's Secretary General reports regularly to the UN Secretary General on progress in NATO-led operations and on other key decisions of the North Atlantic

Council in the area of crisis management and in the fight against terrorism. In recent years, staff-level meetings and high-level visits have become more frequent. The UN is frequently invited to attend NATO ministerial meetings.

In September 2008, building on the experience of over a decade of working together, the Secretaries General of the two organizations agreed to establish a framework for expanded consultation and cooperation. This will include regular exchanges and dialogue at senior and working levels on political and operational issues. Increasing cooperation will significantly contribute to addressing the threats and challenges that the international community faces.

Within this framework, cooperation will be further developed between NATO and the UN on issues of common interest, including in communication and information-sharing; capacity-building, training and exercises; lessons learned, planning and support for contingencies; and operational coordination and support. Cooperation will continue to develop in a practical fashion, taking into account each organization's specific mandate, expertise, procedures and capabilities.

Staff-level meetings also take place with other UN organizations, such as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), and NATO experts participate in events organized by other UN bodies.

NATO also contributes actively to the work of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (UN CTC) – established in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1373 in the aftermath of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States – and participates in special meetings of the Committee bringing together international, regional and sub-regional organizations involved in this process. NATO and the UN conduct reciprocal briefings on progress in the area of counter-terrorism, in their respective committees. NATO is also committed to supporting the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Evolution of NATO-UN cooperation in the field

Working relations between the United Nations and the Alliance were limited during the Cold War. This changed in 1992, against the background of growing conflict in the western Balkans, where their respective roles in crisis management led to an intensification of practical cooperation between the two organizations in the field.

Bringing peace to the former Yugoslavia

In July 1992, NATO ships belonging to the Alliance's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean, assisted by NATO Maritime Patrol Aircraft, began monitoring operations in the Adriatic in support of a UN arms embargo against all republics of the former Yugoslavia. A few months later, in November 1992, NATO and the

Western European Union (WEU) began enforcement operations in support of UN Security Council resolutions aimed at preventing the escalation of the conflict.

The readiness of the Alliance to support peacekeeping operations under the authority of the UN Security Council was formally stated by NATO foreign ministers in December 1992. A number of measures were subsequently taken, including joint maritime operations under the authority of the NATO and WEU Councils; NATO air operations; close air support for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR); air strikes to protect UN "Safe Areas"; and contingency planning for other options which the United Nations might take.

Following the signature of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Dayton Agreement) on 14 December 1995, NATO was given a mandate by the United Nations, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 1031, to implement the military aspects of the peace agreement. NATO's first peacekeeping operation, the Implementation Force (IFOR) began operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina to fulfill this mandate in December 1995. One year later, it was replaced by a NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR). Throughout their mandates both multinational forces worked closely with other international organizations and humanitarian agencies on the ground, including UN agencies such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN International Police Task Force (IPTF).

From the onset of the conflict in Kosovo in 1998 and throughout the crisis, close contacts were maintained between the UN Secretary General and NATO's Secretary General. Actions were taken by the Alliance in support of UN Security Council resolutions both during and after the conflict. The Kosovo Force (KFOR) was deployed on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 of 12 June 1999 to provide an international security presence as the prerequisite for peace and reconstruction of Kosovo. Throughout its deployment, KFOR has worked closely with the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

In 2000 and 2001, NATO and the United Nations also cooperated successfully in containing major ethnic discord in southern Serbia and preventing a full-blown civil war in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹.

Afghanistan

Cooperation between NATO and the UN is playing a key role in Afghanistan. The Alliance formally took over the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a UN-mandated force, in August 2003. Originally tasked with helping provide security in and around Kabul, ISAF has subsequently been authorized by a series of UN Security Council resolutions to expand its presence into other regions of the country to extend the authority of the central government and to facilitate development and reconstruction.

NATO and ISAF work closely with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and other international actors that are supporting governance, reconstruction and development. The close cooperation takes place in various settings, in Afghanistan as well as in UN and NATO capitals. It includes co-membership of the Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) overseeing the implementation of the internationally endorsed Afghanistan Compact, co-chairmanship together with the Afghan Government of the Executive Steering Committee for Provincial Reconstruction Teams, and other joint Afghan-International Community bodies.

The practical close work also covers cooperation between UNAMA, ISAF and the NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Kabul on civil-military issues such as operational planning. Beyond Kabul city, close civil-military cooperation between UNAMA and ISAF is also being pursued in those provinces where both ISAF and UNAMA are present. This practical work is now being developed comprehensively in the context of UNAMA's Integrated Approach to selected prioritized Afghan districts.

Iraq

Under the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 1546 and at the request of the Iraqi Interim Government, NATO is providing assistance in training and equipping Iraqi security forces.

Supporting African Union missions

In June 2005, following a request from the African Union and in close coordination with the United Nations and the European Union, NATO agreed to support the African Union's Mission in Sudan (AMIS), which is trying to end the continuing violence in the Darfur region. NATO assisted by airlifting peacekeepers from African troop-contributing countries to the region and also helped train AU troops in how to run a multinational military headquarters and how to manage intelligence.

Following a request from the African Union in 2007, NATO accepted to assist the African Union mission in Somalia (AMISOM) by providing airlift support to AU member states willing to deploy on this mission. NATO is also providing expertise in the area of air movement coordination and military manpower management.

Deterring piracy

In October 2008, NATO agreed to a request from the UN Secretary General to deploy ships off the coast off Somalia to deter piracy and escort merchant ships carrying World Food Programme cargo.

The North Atlantic Treaty and the UN Charter

The Charter of the United Nations, signed in San Francisco on 26 June 1945 by fifty nations, provides the legal basis for the creation of NATO and acknowledges the overall responsibility of the UN Security Council for international peace and security.

The preamble to NATO's North Atlantic Treaty signed in Washington on 4 April 1949 makes it clear that the UN Charter is the framework within which the Alliance operates. In its opening phrases, the signatories of the Treaty reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter.

In Article 1 they also undertake to settle international disputes by peaceful means and to refrain from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the UN Charter.

Article 5 of the Treaty makes explicit reference to Article 51 of the UN Charter in asserting the right of the Allies to take, individually or collectively, such action as they deem necessary for their self-defence. Moreover, it commits the member countries to terminating any armed attack and all measures taken as a result, when the UN Security Council has itself taken the measures necessary to restore and maintain international peace and security.

Further reference to the UN Charter can be found in Article 7 of the North Atlantic Treaty. It states that the Treaty does not affect and shall not be interpreted as affecting in any way the rights and obligations of Allies under the Charter, and reaffirms the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

And finally, in Article 12, a clause was included in the Treaty providing for it to be reviewed after ten years, if any of the Parties to it so requested. It stipulated that the review would take place in the light of new developments affecting peace and security in the North Atlantic area, including the development of universal and regional arrangements under the UN Charter.

1. Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

Opinions

- Autumn 2007 - NATO Review
[Enhancing NATO's cooperation with international organizations](#) by David S. Yost
- 22 Aug 2006 - NATO
[Remarks](#) by the NATO Secretary General at the 7th high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organisations in New York

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- 04 Apr 1949 - NATO
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NATO's relations with the European Union



NATO and the European Union are working together to prevent and resolve crises and armed conflicts in Europe and beyond. The two organizations share common strategic interests and cooperate in a spirit of complementarity and partnership.

Beyond cooperation in the field, other key priorities for cooperation are to ensure that our capability development efforts are mutually reinforcing, as well as to combat terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

NATO attributes great importance to its relationship with the European Union. A strong European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) can only benefit NATO and foster a more equitable transatlantic security partnership.

Close cooperation between NATO and the European Union is an important element in the development of an international “Comprehensive Approach” to crisis management and operations, which requires the effective application of both military and civilian means.

NATO seeks a strong NATO-EU partnership not only on the ground, where both organizations have deployed assets such as in Kosovo and Afghanistan, but also in their strategic dialogue at the political headquarters level in Brussels. It is important to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort, to ensure transparency and to respect the autonomy of the two organizations.

Institutionalized relations between NATO and the European Union were launched in 2001, building on steps taken during the 1990s to promote greater European responsibility in defence matters. The political principles underlying the relationship were set out in the December 2002 NATO-EU Declaration on ESDP.

With the enlargement of both organizations in 2004 followed by the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union in 2007, NATO and the European Union now have 21 member countries in common¹.

- [Framework for cooperation](#)
- [Cooperation in the field](#)
- [Other areas of cooperation](#)
- [Participation](#)
- [Evolution of NATO-EU relations](#)

Framework for cooperation

NATO and EU officials meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of common interest. Meetings take place at different levels including at the level of foreign ministers, ambassadors, military representatives and defence advisors. There are regular staff contacts between NATO's International Staff and International Military Staff, and the European Union's Council Secretariat and Military Staff as well as the European Defence Agency.

Permanent military liaison arrangements have been established to facilitate cooperation at the operational level. A NATO Permanent Liaison Team has been operating at the EU Military Staff since November 2005 and an EU Cell was set up at SHAPE (NATO's strategic command for operations in Mons, Belgium) in March 2006.

An exchange of letters between the NATO Secretary General and the EU Presidency in January 2001 defined the scope of cooperation and modalities of consultation on security issues between the two organizations. Cooperation accelerated with the signing of the NATO-EU Declaration on ESDP in December 2002 and the agreement, in March 2003, of the framework for cooperation.

NATO-EU Declaration on ESDP

The NATO-EU Declaration on ESDP, agreed on 16 December 2002, reaffirmed the EU assured access to NATO's planning capabilities for its own military operations and reiterated the political principles of the strategic partnership: effective mutual consultation; equality and due regard for the decision-making autonomy of the European Union and NATO; respect for the interests of EU and NATO members states; respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations; and coherent, transparent and mutually reinforcing development of the military capability requirements common to the two organizations.

The "Berlin-Plus" arrangements

As part of the framework for cooperation adopted on 17 March 2003, the so-called "Berlin-Plus" arrangements provide the basis for NATO-EU cooperation in crisis management by allowing the European Union to have access to NATO's collective assets and capabilities for EU-led operations, including command arrangements and assistance in operational planning. In effect, they allow the Alliance to support EU-led operations in which NATO as a whole is not engaged.

Cooperation in the field

The Balkans

In July 2003, the European Union and NATO published a "Concerted Approach for the Western Balkans". Jointly drafted, it outlines core areas of cooperation and emphasises the common vision and determination both organizations share to bring stability to the region.

- *The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia²*
On 31 March 2003, the EU-led Operation Concordia took over the responsibilities of the NATO-led mission, Operation Allied Harmony, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia *. This mission, which ended in December 2003, was the first “Berlin Plus” operation in which NATO assets were made available to the European Union.
- *Bosnia and Herzegovina*
Building on the results of Concordia and following the conclusion of the NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Union deployed a new mission called Operation Althea on 2 December 2004. The EU force (EUFOR) operates under the “Berlin-Plus” arrangements, drawing on NATO planning expertise and on other Alliance’s assets and capabilities. The NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe is the Commander of Operation Althea. There is also an EU Operation Headquarters (OHQ) located at SHAPE.
- *Kosovo*
NATO has been leading a peacekeeping force in Kosovo (KFOR) since 1999. The European Union has contributed civil assets to the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) for years and agreed to take over the police component of the UN Mission. The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), which deployed in December 2008, is the largest civilian mission ever launched under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). The central aim is to assist and support the Kosovo authorities in the rule of law area, specifically in the police, judiciary and customs areas. EULEX works closely with KFOR in the field. NATO and EU experts worked in the same team to support the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Martti Ahtisaari, in negotiations on the future status of the province of Kosovo.

Cooperation in other regions

- *Afghanistan*
NATO and the European Union are playing key roles in bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan, within the international community’s broader efforts to implement a comprehensive approach in their efforts to assist the country. The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force helps create a stable and secure environment in which the Afghan government as well as other international actors can build democratic institutions, extend the rule of law and reconstruct the country. NATO welcomed the EU’s launch of an ESDP Rule of Law mission (EUPOL) in June 2007. The European Union has also initiated a programme for justice reform and is helping to fund civilian projects in NATO- run Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) that are led by an EU member country.

- *Darfur*
Both NATO and the EU supported the African Union's mission in Darfur, Sudan, in particular with regard to airlift rotations.
- *Piracy*
Since September 2008, NATO and EU naval forces are deployed side by side, with other actors, off the coast of Somalia for anti-piracy missions.

Other areas of cooperation

Capabilities

Together with operations, capability development is an area where cooperation is essential and where there is potential for further growth. The NATO-EU Capability Group was established in May 2003 to ensure the coherence and mutual reinforcement of NATO and EU capability development efforts. This applies to initiatives such as the EU Battle Groups, developed within the "Headline Goal" for 2010, and the NATO Response Force, and efforts in both organizations to improve the availability of helicopters for operations.

Following the creation, in July 2004, of the European Defence Agency (EDA) to coordinate work within the European Union on the development of defence capabilities, armaments cooperation, acquisition and research, EDA experts contribute to the work of the Capability Group.

Terrorism and WMD proliferation

Both NATO and the European Union are committed to combat terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They have exchanged information on their activities in the field of protection of civilian populations against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) attacks. The two organizations also cooperate in the field of civil emergency planning by exchanging inventories of measures taken in this area.

Participation

Since the enlargement of NATO and the European Union in 2004 and the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union in 2007, the organizations have 21 member countries in common¹.

Canada, Iceland, Norway, Turkey, and the United States, which are members of NATO but not of the EU, participate in all NATO-EU meetings. So do Austria, Finland, Ireland, Sweden, and since 2008, Malta, which are members of the EU and of NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme.

However, Cyprus which is not a PfP member and does not have a security agreement with NATO on the exchange of classified documents, cannot

participate in official NATO-EU meetings. This is a consequence of decisions taken by NATO and the EU in December 2002 – before the 2004 rounds of enlargement – when NATO had 19 members and the EU 15. Informal meetings including Cyprus take place occasionally at different levels (foreign ministers, ambassadors and military delegates).

Evolution of NATO-EU relations

In the 1990s, there was a growing realization of the need for European countries to assume greater responsibility for their common security. In parallel, NATO recognized the need to develop a “European Security and Defence Identity” within the organization that would be both an integral part of the adaptation of NATO’s political and military structures and an important contributing factor to the development of European defence capabilities.

This led to the development of arrangements between NATO and Western European Union (WEU), which, at that time, was acting for the European Union in the area of security and defence (1992 Maastricht Treaty). These arrangements laid the groundwork for the subsequent development of the NATO-EU strategic partnership, after the WEU’s crisis-management role was transferred to the European Union in 1999.

In January 2001, an exchange of letters between the NATO Secretary General and the EU Presidency formalized the start of direct relations between NATO and the EU. Since then, considerable progress has been made in developing the NATO-EU strategic partnership, though its full potential is yet to be realized.

Key milestones:

Feb 1992	The EU adopts the Maastricht Treaty, which envisages an intergovernmental Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the eventual framing of a common defence policy (ESDP), with the WEU as the EU's defence component.
	Close cooperation established between NATO and the WEU.
June 1992	In Oslo, NATO foreign ministers support the objective of developing the WEU as a means of strengthening the European pillar of the Alliance and as the defence component of the EU, that would also cover the “Petersberg tasks” (humanitarian search and rescue tasks, peace-keeping tasks, crisis management tasks including peaceenforcment, and environmental protection).

Jan 1994	Allied leaders agree to make collective assets of the Alliance available, on the basis of consultations in the North Atlantic Council, for WEU operations undertaken by the European allies in pursuit of their Common Foreign and Security Policy. NATO endorses the concept of Combined Joint Task Forces, which provides for "separable but not separate" deployable headquarters that could be used for European-led operations and is the conceptual basis for future operations involving NATO and other non-NATO countries.
June 1996	In Berlin, NATO foreign ministers agree for the first time to build up an ESDI within NATO, with the aim of rebalancing roles and responsibilities between Europe and North America. An essential part of this initiative was to improve European capabilities. They also decide to make Alliance assets available for WEU-led crisis management operations. These decisions lead to the introduction of the term "Berlin-Plus".
Dec 1998	At a summit in St Malo, France and the United Kingdom make a joint statement affirming the EU's determination to establish a European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).
April 1999	At the Washington Summit, Heads of State and Government decide to develop the "Berlin-Plus" arrangements.
June 1999	European Council meeting in Cologne decides "to give the European Union the necessary means and capabilities to assume its responsibilities regarding a common European policy on security and defence".
Dec 1999	At the Helsinki Council meeting, EU members establish military "headline goals" to allow the EU, by 2003, to deploy up to 60 000 troops for 'Petersberg tasks'. EU members also create political and military structures including a Political and Security Committee, a Military Committee and a Military Staff. The crisis management role of the WEU is transferred to the EU. The WEU retains residual tasks.
Sep 2000	The North Atlantic Council and the interim Political and Security Committee of the European Union meet for the first time to take stock of progress in NATO-EU relations.
Dec 2000	Signature of the EU's Treaty of Nice containing amendments reflecting the operative developments of the

	ESDP as an independent EU policy (entry into force February 2003).
Jan 2001	Beginning of institutionalised relations between NATO and the EU with the establishment of joint meetings, including at the level of foreign ministers and ambassadors. Exchange of letters between the NATO Secretary General and the EU Presidency on the scope of cooperation and modalities for consultation.
May 2001	First formal NATO-EU meeting at the level of foreign ministers in Budapest. The NATO Secretary General and the EU Presidency issue a joint statement on the Western Balkans.
Nov 2002	At the Prague Summit, NATO members declare their readiness to give the EU access to NATO assets and capabilities for operations in which the Alliance is not engaged militarily.
Dec 2002	EU-NATO Declaration on ESDP.
Mar 2003	Agreement on the framework for cooperation. Entry into force of a NATO-EU security of information agreement. Transition from the NATO-led operation 'Allied Harmony' to the EU-led Operation 'Concordia' in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*
May 2003	First meeting of the NATO-EU capability group.
July 2003	Development of a common strategy for the Western Balkans.
Nov 2003	First joint NATO-EU crisis-management exercise..
Feb 2004	France, Germany and the United Kingdom launch the idea of EU rapid reaction units composed of joint battle groups.
Dec 2004	Beginning of the EU-led Operation Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Sep 2005	Transatlantic (NATO-EU) informal ministerial dinner (New York).
Oct 2005	Agreement on Military Permanent Arrangements establishing a NATO Liaison Team at EUMS and an EU cell

	at SHAPE.
Dec 2009	Transatlantic (NATO-EU) informal ministerial dinner (Brussels)
Nov 2005	NATO Permanent Liaison Team set up at the EU Military Staff.
Mar 2006	EU Cell set up at SHAPE.
Apr 2006	Transatlantic (NATO-EU) informal ministerial dinner (Sofia)
Sep 2006	Transatlantic (NATO-EU) informal ministerial dinner (New York)
Jan 2007	Transatlantic (NATO-EU) informal ministerial dinner (Brussels)
Apr 2007	Transatlantic (NATO-EU) informal ministerial dinner (Oslo)
Sep 2007	Transatlantic (NATO-EU) informal ministerial dinner (New York)
Dec 2007	Transatlantic (NATO-EU) informal ministerial dinner (Brussels)
Sep 2008	Transatlantic (NATO-EU) informal ministerial dinner (New York)
Dec 2008	Transatlantic (NATO-EU) informal ministerial dinner (Brussels)
Jan 2009	NAC agreement to schedule a joint NATO-EU crisis management exercise (CMX/CME) in 2010
Mar 2009	Transatlantic (NATO-EU) informal ministerial dinner (Brussels)

1. 26 NATO member countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

27 EU member countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic,

Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom.

2. Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

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[Bucharest Summit Declaration](#)
- 29 Nov. 2006 - NATO
[Riga Summit Declaration](#)
- 29 Jul. 2003 - NATO
[NATO-EU Concerted Approach for the Western Balkans](#)
- 24 Mar 2003 - EU
[Council Decision on the release of information under the NATO-EU Security of Information Agreement](#)
- 16 Dec. 2002 - NATO
[EU-NATO Declaration on ESDP \(European Security and Defence Policy\)](#)
- 24 Apr. 1999 - NATO
[An Alliance for the 21st century, Washington Summit communiqué, outlining the Berlin-Plus arrangements](#)

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- 7 July 2008 - NATO
[Speech by NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer at the High-level seminar on relations between the EU and NATO](#)
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[See science - think security](#) by European Commissioner for Science & Research, Janez Potocnik
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- 06 Nov. 2006 - NATO
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NATO's relations with the OSCE



NATO and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) are working together to build security and promote stability in the Euro-Atlantic area. The two organizations cooperate at both the political and the operational level in areas such as conflict prevention, crisis management and addressing new security threats.

At a political level, NATO and the OSCE consult each other on regional security issues. Each has also separately developed initiatives aimed at countries in the Mediterranean region.

At the operational level, cooperation in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation has been particularly active in the Western Balkans.

The two organizations complement each other's efforts on the ground. NATO initiatives to support defence reform, including arms control, mine clearance and the destruction of stockpiles of arms and munitions, dovetail with OSCE efforts aimed at preventing conflict and restoring stability after conflict.

As well as coordinating initiatives on the ground, the NATO and the OSCE regularly exchange views and information on key security-related thematic issues, such as border security, disarmament, arms control (in particular, controlling the spread of small arms and light weapons), energy security and terrorism.

The two organizations also collaborate on environmental issues that are a threat to security, stability and peace through the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)¹.

Close cooperation between NATO and the OSCE is an important element in the development of an international "Comprehensive Approach" to crisis management, which requires the effective application of both military and civilian means. The decision – taken by the OSCE at its November 2007 ministerial meeting in Madrid – to engage in Afghanistan, opens a new field for cooperation between the two organizations as part of a comprehensive approach among international actors.

- [Framework for political dialogue](#)
- [Cooperation in the Balkans](#)

Framework for political dialogue

Political relations between NATO and the OSCE are governed today by the "Platform for Co-operative Security", which was launched by the OSCE in 1999 at the Istanbul Summit. Via the Platform, the OSCE called upon the international organizations whose members adhere to its principles and commitments, to reinforce their cooperation and to draw upon the resources of the international community in order to restore democracy, prosperity and stability in Europe and beyond.

Since the Platform was adopted, experts from both NATO and the OSCE have met regularly to discuss operational and political issues of common interest in the areas of conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction operations.

Dialogue also takes place at a higher political level. The Secretary General of NATO is occasionally invited to speak before the OSCE Permanent Council. The OSCE Secretary General has addressed the EAPC Ambassadors for two consecutive years, 2007 and 2008. NATO regularly participates in the annual meetings of the OSCE Ministerial Council as an observer. The North Atlantic Council also invites the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to some of its meetings

In recent years, dialogue has expanded to include terrorism and other new security threats, which today constitute a priority area for each of the two Organisations. The OSCE's "Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century", adopted in December 2003, recalls the need – in a constantly changing security environment – to interact with other organisations and institutions taking advantage of the assets and strengths of each.

Following the Prague Summit in 2002 – when Allies expressed their desire to exploit the complementarity of international efforts aimed at reinforcing stability in the Mediterranean region – NATO and the OSCE began developing closer contacts regarding their respective dialogues with countries in the region.

Cooperation in the Balkans

Practical cooperation between the OSCE and NATO is best exemplified by the complementary missions undertaken by both organizations in the Balkans.

Within the framework of operations conducted in the Balkans region, representatives from both organisations in the field have met regularly to share information and discuss various aspects of their co-operation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 1996, further to the Dayton Agreements and the adoption of Resolution 1031 of the United Nations Security Council in December 1995, NATO and the OSCE developed a joint action programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The NATO-led

Implementation Force (IFOR) and its successor the Stabilization Force (SFOR) have provided vital support for implementation of the civilian aspects of the Peace Agreements.

NATO assisted the OSCE in its work in the area of arms control and confidence and security-building measures in the country. By providing security for OSCE personnel and humanitarian assistance, NATO has, inter alia, contributed to the proper conduct of elections under OSCE auspices.

Kosovo

Between January 1998 and March 1999, the OSCE mounted a Kosovo Verification Mission to monitor compliance on the ground with the Holbrooke-Milosevic cease-fire agreement. NATO conducted a parallel aerial surveillance mission. Following a deterioration in security conditions, the Verification Mission was forced to withdraw in March 1999.

Since the adoption of Resolution 1244 of the United Nations Security Council in June 1999, a new OSCE Mission to Kosovo was established as part of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). It is tasked, among other things, with supervising the progress of democratization, the creation of institutions, and the protection of human rights. The OSCE Mission to Kosovo, the largest of the OSCE's missions, has been maintaining close relations with KFOR, which has a mandate from the United Nations to guarantee a safe environment for the work of the international community.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia²

NATO has also had close cooperation with the OSCE in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 1. Although the safety and security of international monitors remain primarily the responsibility of the host country, a NATO task force was set up in September 2001 in order to provide additional security. (The European Union officially took over this operation, renamed Concordia, from March 2003 until the mission ended in December 2003.)

Border security

NATO and the OSCE also cooperated in the management and securing of borders in the Western Balkans. At a high-level conference held in Ohrid in May 2003, five Balkan countries endorsed a Common Platform developed by the European Union, NATO, the OSCE and the Stability Pact aimed at enhancing border security in the region. Each organization supported those players, involved in the areas within its jurisdiction.

1. The NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme is associated with the ENVSEC, which brings together the OSCE, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme.

2. Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

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- Autumn 2003 - NATO review
Building effective partnerships, by Chris Bennett

Member countries



At present, NATO has 28 members. Albania and Croatia were the countries that joined the Alliance most recently, in April 2009.

In 1949, there were 12 founding members of the Alliance. Provision for enlargement is given by Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which states that membership is open to any “European State in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area”.

- [Alphabetical list of NATO member countries](#)
- [About member countries and their accession](#)

About member countries and their accession

The founding members

On 4 April 1949, the foreign ministers from 12 countries signed the North Atlantic Treaty at the Departmental Auditorium in Washington D.C.: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Within the following five months of the signing ceremony, the Treaty was ratified by the parliaments of the interested countries, sealing their membership.

The 12 signatories

Some of the foreign ministers who signed the Treaty were heavily involved in NATO's work at a later stage in their careers:

- Belgium: M. Paul-Henri Spaak (NATO Secretary General, 1957-1961);
- Canada: Mr. Lester B. Pearson (negotiated the Treaty and was one of the “Three Wise Men” who drafted the report on non-military cooperation in NATO, published in 1956 in the wake of the Suez crisis);
- Denmark: Mr. Gustav Rasmussen;
- France: M. Robert Schuman (architect of the European institutions, who also initiated the idea of a European Defence Community);
- Iceland: Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson;
- Italy: Count Carlo Sforza;
- Luxembourg: M. Joseph Bech;
- the Netherlands: Dr. D.U. Stikker (NATO Secretary General, 1961-1964);
- Norway: Mr. Halvard M. Lange (one of the “Three Wise Men” who drafted the report on non-military cooperation in NATO);
- Portugal: Dr. Jose Caerio da Matta;

- the United Kingdom: Mr. Ernest Bevin (main drive behind the creation of NATO and as Foreign Secretary from 1945 to 1951, he attended the first formative meetings of the North Atlantic Council);
- the United States: Mr. Dean Acheson (as US Secretary of State from 1949 to 1953, he attended and chaired meetings of the North Atlantic Council).

Flexibility of NATO membership

On signing the Treaty, countries voluntarily commit themselves to participating in the political consultations and military activities of the Organization. Although each and every signatory to the North Atlantic Treaty is subject to the obligations of the Treaty, there remains a certain degree of flexibility which allows members to choose how they participate. The memberships of Iceland and France, for instance, illustrate this point.

- **Iceland**

When Iceland signed the Treaty in 1949, it did not have – and still does not have – armed forces. There is no legal impediment to forming them, but Iceland has chosen not to have any. However, Iceland has a Coast Guard, national police forces, an air defence system and a voluntary expeditionary peacekeeping force. Since 1951, Iceland also benefits from a long-standing bilateral defence agreement with the United States. In 2006, US forces were withdrawn but the defence agreement remains valid. Since 2008, air policing has been conducted on a periodic basis by NATO Allies.

Today, Iceland with its population of 320 000 is represented on all of NATO's principal committees; it pays toward NATO's military budget, civilian budget and the NATO Security and Investment Programme. Since 2006, it has also assumed the responsibility of a host and user nation to NATO infrastructure based in Iceland. Iceland also contributes civilian peacekeepers to NATO-led operations. It regularly hosts NATO exercises and events, and is taking a more active role in NATO deliberations and planning.

- **France**

In 1966, President Charles De Gaulle decided to withdraw France from NATO's integrated military structure. This reflected the desire for greater military independence, particularly vis-à-vis the United States, and the refusal to integrate France's nuclear deterrent or accept any form of control over its armed forces.

In practical terms, while France still fully participated in the political instances of the Organization, it was no longer represented on certain committees, for instance, the Defence Planning Committee and the Nuclear Planning Group. This decision also led to the removal of French forces from NATO commands

and foreign forces from French territory. The stationing of foreign weapons, including nuclear weapons, was also banned. NATO's political headquarters (based in Paris since 1952), as well as the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe or SHAPE (in Rocquencourt since 1951) moved to Belgium.

Despite France's withdrawal from NATO's integrated military structure, two technical agreements were signed with the Alliance, setting out procedures in the event of soviet aggression. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, France has regularly contributed troops to NATO's military operations, making it one of the largest troop-contributing states. It is also NATO's fourth biggest contributor to the military budget.

Since the early 1990s, France has been distancing itself from the 1966 decision with, for instance, its participation at the meetings of defence ministers since 1994 (Seville) and the presence of French officers in ACO and ACT structures since 2003.

The accession of Greece and Turkey

Three years after the signing of the Washington Treaty, on 18 February 1952, Greece and Turkey joined NATO. This enabled NATO to reinforce its "southern flank".

At a time when there was a fear of communist expansion throughout Europe and other parts of the world (soviet support of the North Korean invasion of South Korea in 1950), extending security to south-eastern Europe was strategically important. Not only did NATO membership curb communist influence in Greece – a country recovering from civil war - but it also relieved Turkey from soviet pressure for access to key strategic maritime routes.

The accession of Germany

Germany became a NATO member on 6 May 1955. This was the result of several years of deliberations among western leaders and Germany, whose population opposed any form of rearmament.

Following the end of the Second World War, ways of integrating Germany into West European defence structures was a priority. When the European Defence Community failed, Germany joined the Western Union, which became the Western European Union as soon as it had adhered to the organization. This, together with the termination of its status as an occupied country, was a stepping stone to becoming a member of NATO.

The Federal Republic of Germany officially joined the Western Union on 23 October 1954 and its status as an occupied country came to an end when the Bonn-Paris conventions came into effect on 5 May 1955. The next day, it became NATO's 15th member country.

With the reunification of Germany on 3 October 1990, the länders of the former German Democratic Republic joined the Federal Republic of Germany in its membership of NATO.

The accession of Spain

Despite considerable public opposition, Spain joined the Alliance on 30 May 1982, but refrained from participating in the integrated military structure. This position was reaffirmed in a referendum held in 1986.

Spain fully participated in the political instances of the Organization. With regard to the military aspects, it was present as an observer on the Nuclear Planning Group; reserved its position on participation in the integrated communication system; maintained Spanish forces under Spanish command and did not accept to have troops deployed outside of Spain for long periods of time. Nevertheless, Spanish forces would still be able to operate with other NATO forces in an emergency.

Spain's reservations gradually diminished and at the nomination of Dr Javier Solana as NATO's first Spanish Secretary General (1995-1999), the Spanish Parliament endorsed the country's participation in the integrated military command structure (1996).

The first wave of post-Cold War enlargement

The fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact after the end of the Cold War opened up the possibility of further NATO enlargement. Some of the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe were eager to become integrated into Euro-Atlantic institutions.

In 1995, the Alliance carried out and published the results of a Study on NATO Enlargement that considered the merits of admitting new members and how they should be brought in. It concluded that the end of the Cold War provided a unique opportunity to build improved security in the entire Euro-Atlantic area and that NATO enlargement would contribute to enhanced stability and security for all.

The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland were invited to begin accession talks at the Alliance's Madrid Summit in 1997 and on 12 March 1999 they became the first former members of the Warsaw Pact to join NATO.

The second wave of post-Cold War enlargement

Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia and Slovenia were invited to begin accession talks at the Alliance's Prague Summit in 2002. On 29 March 2004, they officially became members of the Alliance, making this the largest wave of enlargement in NATO history.

The accession of Albania and Croatia

In July 2008, Albania and Croatia signed Accession Protocols. They became official members of the Alliance on 1 April 2009.

Information on Defence Expenditures

Each December, information on defence expenditures is published.

They are based on a common definition of defence expenditures. In view of the differences between this and national definitions, the figures may diverge from those which are quoted by national authorities or given in national budgets.

What does this mean in practice?

The figures represent payments actually made or to be made during the course of the fiscal year. For countries providing military assistance, this is included in the expenditures figures. For countries receiving assistance, figures do not include the value of items received. Expenditures for research and development are included in equipment expenditures and pensions paid to retirees in personnel expenditures.

How did this policy evolve?

NATO had published the defence expenditures of its member countries since 1963. From 2004, the nations in the NATO-Russia Council agreed to produce such figures at 27.

How is this policy implemented?

Each year, updated tables with nations' defence expenditures are published on the NATO Web site.

Figures for NATO nations from 1963 to 1995 (PDF format)  ~200 to ~800Kb

1963	1964	1965	1967	1969	1970
1971	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	

Figures from 1996 to 2003 (PDF and Excel format)

1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
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2002	2003				
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Figures for the countries of the NATO-Russia Council (individual NATO countries and Russia) from 2004 (PDF format)

2004	2005	2006	2007
2008			

Troop contributions



When a NATO operation or mission is deemed necessary, NATO member countries and partner countries volunteer personnel, equipment, and resources for the mission. These national contributions operate under the aegis of the Alliance.

An Alliance of 26 sovereign countries, NATO itself does not possess military forces per se. While personnel serving in a NATO operation are often referred to collectively as “NATO forces”, they are actually multinational forces composed of individuals, formations and equipment drawn from NATO member countries and, in some cases, partner countries or other troop contributing nations.

The procedure for staffing an operation or mission is often referred to as “force generation”. This procedure ensures that Alliance operations or missions have the manpower and materials required to achieve set objectives.

- [Work in practice](#)
- [Central NATO bodies](#)
- [History](#)

Work in practice



The final decision on whether to contribute troops and equipment to a NATO-led operation or mission is taken by national capitals, who communicate continuously with NATO through their permanent diplomatic missions, national military representation, or partnership liaison teams.

Force generation

When a NATO operation or mission is deemed necessary, NATO’s military authorities draft a concept of operations – referred to as a CONOPS – which outlines the troop and equipment requirements necessary to meet the operations’ or mission’s objectives. Upon approval of the concept of operations and the release of a “Force Activation Directive” by the North Atlantic Council, Allied Command Operations, led by the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, initiates the force generation and activation process.

In general, the force generation process follows a standard procedure. For a given operation or mission, a list of personnel and equipment requirements (the Combined Joint Statement of Requirements), is produced by Allied Command

Operations and sent to NATO member countries and, in some cases, partner countries.

National offers to provide personnel are addressed during conferences attended by representatives from NATO and partner countries. These conferences take place on an ad hoc basis as required. For example, a force generation conference will take place prior to the start of a new operation or mission, or if there are significant changes in an ongoing operation. In addition to these conferences, an annual conference is held for all operations and missions, the Global Force Generation Conference.

Contributions by individual countries, both NATO members and partners, are subject to their overall national capacity, taking into account prior commitments, force size, structure, and activity level. Every contribution, whether big or small, is valuable and contributes to the success of the operation or mission.

In many cases, NATO or partner countries will commit complete or formed units to operations or missions. A country may volunteer to send a complete battle group, which – in the case of ground forces – could include infantry personnel, an armoured reconnaissance element, an artillery battery to provide fire support, and service support personnel.

Countries that provide leadership for an entire operation or mission, or take responsibility for central elements, are identified as “lead.” For example, the lead country for a given operation or mission might provide the command element and a significant part of the forces, and will also be responsible for filling the remainder of the force required.

Although NATO as an Alliance does own and maintain some specialized equipment, such as the AWACS aircraft and strategic communications equipment, troop-contributing countries generally commit the equipment necessary to support their personnel in pursuit of operational objectives.

Caveats

It is during the force generation process that caveats are stated. While national contributions to NATO operations are expected to operate under the Alliance’s chain of command, the provision of forces by NATO and partner countries is sometimes conditional on factors such as geography, logistics, time, rules of engagement, or command status. Known as “caveats,” these conditions can restrict NATO commanders by limiting their flexibility to respond to situations on the ground. For this reason, the Alliance seeks national contributions with as few caveats as possible.

Provincial Reconstruction Teams

Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), such as those established in Afghanistan under the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, constitute an exception to the normal force generation process. In contrast to traditional military operations, PRTs are interdisciplinary. That is, they are comprised of development workers, military forces, diplomats and civilian police, who work to extend the authority of the central Afghan government in remote areas, and to facilitate development and reconstruction.

Because of the unique combination of personnel, NATO is involved in generating forces for the military component of a PRT, while it is the responsibility of the contributing country to staff the civilian components. As a result, PRTs are a hybrid of personnel who fall under either NATO or national chains of command.

Coordinating troop contributions for non-NATO operations

Over the years, the Alliance has developed significant expertise in coordinating troop contributions for multinational operations. In the past, it has offered this expertise in support of non-NATO operations.

Under the Berlin Plus agreement, the Alliance cooperates closely with the European Union (EU) in the resourcing of selected operations. When requested by the EU, NATO's Deputy SACEUR and his staff provide support in coordinating member countries' troop contributions. For example, the Deputy SACEUR was identified as operational commander for Operation Althea, the EU-led operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and was responsible for force generation.

NATO also provided force generation support to Germany and the Netherlands, during their leadership of the UN-mandated International Security Assistance Force in 2003 in Afghanistan, prior to its conversion into a NATO-led operation.

Central NATO bodies

Allied Command Operations, commanded by the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), is responsible for executing all Alliance operations and missions. The Deputy SACEUR and his staff coordinate troop contributions.

In determining troop contributions, Allied Command Operations engages with the Military Committee, the North Atlantic Council, and individual countries, all of which have critical roles to play in bringing Alliance operations and missions to reality.

History

For much of NATO's history, the Alliance's primary operational commitment was focused on the former border between the East and West Germany.

For over 40 years, NATO strategists spoke of medium and long-term “force plans” rather than “force generation” for specific operations. This was because during that time, the Alliance maintained static, “conventional” forces in former West Germany, poised for an attack from the former Soviet Union.

Beginning in 1986, conventional forces were reduced and, following the end of the Cold War, bases of individual NATO countries in Germany were largely dismantled or converted to other use, although some remain functional to this day.

NATO’s first major land expeditionary operation took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a result of the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords. The NATO force generation process, which is still in use today, was developed during the NATO-led operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and later in Kosovo.

Transforming to meet operational needs

While the core procedures for contributing troops and equipment remain valid, the process has been refined in tandem with NATO’s transformation. At their May 2002 meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, NATO foreign ministers decided that: "To carry out the full range of its missions, NATO must be able to field forces that can move quickly to wherever they are needed, sustain operations over distance and time, and achieve their objectives."

NATO’s engagement in Afghanistan in 2003 posed a number of new problems for force generation. It soon became apparent that the nature of the mission was different from previous tasks – greater flexibility was needed in types and numbers of forces from rotation to rotation and from area to area. In addition, with many countries moving to smaller, more highly trained and highly equipped forces, it became unrealistic to expect large standing commitments from individual countries.

The procedure for staffing an operation or mission was made more responsive to operational requirements. Communication between NATO commanders and member/partner countries has been improved, allowing potential troop-contributing countries to be better informed about evolving operational requirements.

The first Global Force Generation Conference was held in November 2003 – prior to this, force generation meetings had been called on an ad hoc basis as required. During this annual conference, troop and resource requirements for all NATO-led operations and missions are addressed at the same time. While ad hoc meetings are still necessary to address immediate needs, rolling numerous meetings into one facilitates improved coordination between and within troop contributing countries and NATO military authorities.

Lastly, NATO military planners are taking a longer view of force generation. While developments in operations, as well as political developments within troop contributing countries, prohibit definitive troop and material commitments far into the future, NATO military planners are looking beyond immediate needs, which allows both the Alliance and troop-contributing countries to better plan their resources.

Commitment to operations and missions



NATO nations contribute forces and capacities in several operations and to standby forces under NATO and other auspices. The following table provides details related to individual national commitments.

Content is provided by NATO countries on a voluntary basis.

Name	National website	Info valid as of	
Belgium		13 Mar. 2009	PDF/19Kb
Bulgaria		26 Mar. 2009	PDF/9Kb
Canada		1 Apr. 2009	PDF/13.5Kb
Croatia		2 Apr. 2009	PDF/1.1Mb
Czech Republic		8 Apr. 2009	PDF/20Kb
Denmark		2 Apr. 2009	PDF/47Kb
Estonia		14 Mar. 2008	PDF/70Kb
France		14 Mar. 2008	PDF/2800Kb
Germany		2 Apr. 2009	PDF/12Kb
Greece		30 Mar. 2009	PDF/94Kb
Hungary		31 Mar. 2009	PDF/57Kb
Iceland		12 Mar. 2009	PDF/19Kb
Italy		14 Mar. 2008	PDF/90Kb
Latvia		14 Mar. 2008	PDF/100Kb

Lithuania		9 Mar. 2009	PDF/14Kb
Luxembourg		14 Mar. 2008	PDF/96Kb
Netherlands		11 Apr. 2008	PDF/19Kb
Norway		14 Mar. 2008	PDF/95Kb
Poland		6 Mar. 2009	PDF/15,5Kb
Portugal		14 Mar. 2008	PDF/104Kb
Romania		1 Apr. 2009	PDF/13Kb
Slovak Republic		7 Apr. 2009	PDF/16.5Kb
Slovenia		14 Mar. 2008	PDF/97Kb
Spain		2 Apr. 2009	PDF/25Kb
Turkey		14 Mar. 2008	PDF/100Kb
United Kingdom		2 Apr. 2009	PDF/16Kb
United States		14 Mar. 2008	PDF/100Kb

Allied Command Operations



Allied Command Operations (ACO) is one of NATO's two strategic military commands. Located at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), near Mons, Belgium, it is responsible for all Alliance operations wherever it may be required.

Working mechanism

The command structure is based on functionality rather than geography. There are three tiers of command: strategic, operational, and the tactical or component level.

At the strategic level, Allied Command Operations is commanded by Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR). SACEUR is dual-hatted as the commander of the US European Command, which shares many of the same geographical responsibilities.

The operational level consists of two standing joint force commands (JFCs): one in Brunssum, the Netherlands, and one in Naples, Italy, both of which can conduct operations from their static locations or provide a land-based Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) headquarters. There is also a robust but more limited standing joint headquarters in Lisbon, Portugal, from which a deployable sea-based CJTF headquarters capability can be drawn.

The component or tactical level consists of six Joint Force Component Commands (JFCCs), which provide service-specific – land, maritime or air – expertise and support to the operational level. [Link to organigram](#)

Evolution

The Supreme Allied Headquarters (SHAPE) was established on 2 April 1951 in Rocquencourt, France, as part of an effort to establish an integrated and effective NATO military force.

In 1967, after France's withdrawal from NATO's integrated military structure, SHAPE was relocated to Casteau, Mons, Belgium.

The London Declaration of July 1990 was a decisive turning point in the history of the Alliance and led to the adoption of the new Alliance Strategic Concept in November 1991, reflecting a broader approach to security. This in turn led to NATO's Long Term Study to examine the Integrated Military Structure and put forward proposals for change to the Alliance's Force Structures, Command Structures and Common Infrastructure.

In essence, the Cold War command structure was reduced from 78 headquarters to 20 with two overarching Strategic Commanders (SC), one for the Atlantic, and one for Europe, with three Regional Commanders under the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic (SACLANT) and two under the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (SACEUR).

During the 2002 Prague Summit, NATO's military command structure was again reorganized with a focus on becoming leaner and more efficient. The former Allied Command Europe (ACE) became the Allied Command for Operations (ACO). The Supreme Allied Commander Europe and his staff at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) situated in Mons, Belgium, were henceforth responsible for all Alliance operations, including those previously undertaken by SACLANT.

The command structure beneath SHAPE was also significantly streamlined, with a reduction in the number of headquarters from 32 Command Centres down to 9.

PDF Library

- Apr. 2007 - NATO Briefing on NATO Military Structure ([.PDF/1600Kb](#))
- May 2004 - IMS Structure of Allied Command Operations ([PDF/54kb](#))

Allied Command Transformation (ACT)



Allied Command Transformation (ACT) is leading at the strategic command level the transformation of NATO's military structure, forces, capabilities and doctrine. It is enhancing training, particularly of commanders and staffs, conducting experiments to assess new concepts, and promoting interoperability throughout the Alliance.

Working mechanism

Headquarters, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (HQ SACT), located in Norfolk, Virginia, is the physical headquarters of NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT), and houses the command structure of ACT.

HQ SACT directs ACT's various subordinate commands including the Joint Warfare Centre in Norway), the Joint Forces Training Centre in Poland, the NATO Undersea Research Centre in Italy, the Joint Analysis and Lessons Learned Centre in Greece, various NATO schools and Centres of Excellence.

There are direct linkages between ACT, NATO schools and agencies, as well as the US Joint Forces Command, with which ACT Headquarters is co-located and with which it shares its double-hatted commander. This gives it a link into US transformation initiatives and fosters a two-way street between the United States and Europe.

Evolution

Allied Command Transformation was initially formed as Allied Command Atlantic (ACLANT) at Norfolk, Virginia, in 1952.

During the 2002 Prague Summit, NATO's military command structure was reorganized with a focus on becoming leaner and more efficient. One Strategic Command was focused on NATO's operations--Allied Command Operations (ACO/SHAPE) -- and the other on transforming NATO--Allied Command Transformation (ACT).

HQ SACT is the only NATO command in North America and the only permanent NATO headquarters outside of Europe.

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Apr. 2007 - NATO
Briefing on NATO Military Structure
([.PDF/1600Kb](#))

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Structure of Allied Command Transformation ([PDF/54kb](#))