



THE KEY TO THE PRAGUE SUMMIT



AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE

New Challenges and New Threats

Key Information

Key Definitions

- **From Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty** – “The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all, and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognised by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually, and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area.”
- **AWACS** – From 9 October 2001 to 16 May 2002, aircraft belonging to NATO’s Airborne Early Warning (NAEW) Force patrolled American skies helping to protect the United States from further terrorist attacks. The Force includes a NATO-owned and operated fleet of E-3A AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) aircraft distinguished by the 30 foot diameter “rotodome” mounted on top of the fuselage, housing surveillance and radar equipment.
- **WMD** – The term Weapons of Mass Destruction refers to nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. In 1994, recognising that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international security, NATO Heads of State and Government directed the Alliance to intensify and expand its efforts against proliferation and to consider how to reinforce ongoing prevention efforts, how to reduce the proliferation threat and how to protect against it. The Alliance Policy Framework on Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction issued in June 1994 states that the principal goal of the Alliance in relation to WMD is to prevent proliferation from occurring or, should it occur, to reverse it through diplomatic means.
- **WMD Initiative** – launched at the Washington Summit in April 1999 to address the risks posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. The initiative is designed to promote understanding of WMD issues, to develop ways of responding to them and to improve intelligence and information-sharing.

Key Facts

- Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty was invoked for the first time in the fifty year history of the Alliance on 12 September 2001, following the 11 September terrorist attacks against the United States. On 4 October 2001, in response to requests by the United States, NATO allies agreed to take several measures to expand the options available to them in the campaign against terrorism. These include enhancing intelligence sharing, granting blanket over-flight rights and access to ports

and airfields, providing assistance to states threatened as a result of their support for coalition efforts, and deploying NATO naval forces to the eastern Mediterranean to monitor merchant shipping and Airborne Early Warning aircraft to patrol U.S. airspace.

- The operation involving the deployment of elements of NATO's Standing Naval Forces to the Eastern Mediterranean is called *Active Endeavour*. The operation began on 26 October 2001 comprising vessels from Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States and is tasked with patrolling the Eastern Mediterranean and monitoring merchant shipping. NATO's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean (STANAVFORMED) currently forms the core of this operation.
- The operation involving the deployment of NATO AWACS aircraft to the United States to guard American airspace and help protect U.S. territory was called Operation *Eagle Assist*. From 9 October 2001 until the completion of the operation on 16 May 2002, approximately 830 crew members from 13 NATO countries flew nearly 4 300 hours and over 360 operational sorties.
- A considerable number of NATO forces are involved in two concurrent anti-terrorist operations: *Enduring Freedom*, an ongoing U.S.-led military operation in Afghanistan; and the **International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)**, a UN-mandated multinational force deployed in and around Kabul to help stabilise the country and create the conditions for self-sustaining peace.
- 14 NATO allies are directly involved in Operation *Enduring Freedom*, providing special forces units to work with U.S. special forces as well as planes and ships for surveillance, interdiction and interception operations. European countries play a major part in these operations, providing more than half of the forces on the ground in Afghanistan.
- The ISAF is a multinational force of 4 500 soldiers, the bulk of which are provided by NATO allies. Initially under UK command, the force has been under Turkish command since July 2002. Examples of national contributions include airlift capability provided by Belgium, a field hospital provided by the Czech Republic, a medical team from Portugal and engineering and logistical support provided by Poland.
- Several NATO partner countries are participating in Operation *Enduring Freedom* and the ISAF. Examples include basing and over-flight rights provided by NATO's partners in the Caucasus and Central Asia; infantry, military police, nuclear, biological and chemical protection, and transportation assets from Romania; engineering support from Russia and Slovakia; and an intelligence unit deployed to ISAF headquarters from Sweden. NATO cooperation with partner countries over the past decade and the practical experience gained from partner participation in Balkan peacekeeping operations has contributed to the effectiveness of these operations.
- The attacks of 11 September served as a catalyst for the opening of a new chapter in **NATO-Russia relations** and the establishment in May 2002 of the new

NATO-Russia Council, bringing together the 19 NATO allies and Russia to identify and pursue opportunities for joint action as equal partners. The struggle against terrorism, crisis management and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are key areas of NATO-Russia cooperation.

- A WMD Centre set up in May 2000 at NATO Headquarters to coordinate Alliance activities in the field of **WMD proliferation** and to support defence efforts to improve the preparedness of NATO to respond to the risks of WMD and their means of delivery. The work of the Centre is being reinforced in the wake of the 11 September attacks.

Key Dates

2001

- **11 September** – NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson and the North Atlantic Council condemn the terrorist attacks on the United States and express solidarity with the American people.
- **12 September** – The North Atlantic Council invokes Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.
- **12 September** – NATO's 27 partner countries, meeting in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, condemn the attacks, offer their support to the U.S. and pledge to undertake all efforts to combat terrorism.
- **13 September** – The NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council, meeting in extraordinary session, issues a statement calling on the entire international community to unite in the struggle against terrorism.
- **14 September** – The NATO-Ukraine Commission issues a statement appealing to the entire international community to undertake all measures to combat the scourge of terrorism.
- **20 September** – U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage briefs the North Atlantic Council on U.S. responses to the 11 September attacks, including steps to create a broad anti-terrorism coalition.
- **24 September** – Responses to the attacks are discussed at a joint meeting of the North Atlantic Council and the European Union's Political and Security Committee. There is widespread agreement on the importance of close consultations and cooperation between the Alliance and the European Union in the fight against terrorism.
- **2 October** – In the light of information provided by U.S. State Department Coordinator for Counter-terrorism, Francis Taylor, the Secretary General of NATO announces, on behalf of the North Atlantic Council, that it has been determined that the attacks were directed from abroad and that the invocation of Article 5 has been confirmed.

- **3 October** – NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin to consult on ways to combat terrorism.
- **4 October** – In response to requests by the United States, NATO allies agree to take several measures to expand the options available to them in the campaign against terrorism. These include enhanced intelligence sharing, granting blanket over-flight rights and access to ports and airfields, providing assistance to states threatened as a result of their support for coalition efforts, and deploying NATO naval forces to the eastern Mediterranean and Airborne Early Warning aircraft to patrol U.S. airspace.
- **8 October** – United States and United Kingdom ambassadors brief the North Atlantic Council on military operations initiated against the Al-Qaida terrorist network and the Taliban regime. The Council affirms its support for these actions.
- **9 October** – NATO deploys five AWACS aircraft to the United States in support of Article 5.
- **12 October** – The NATO Secretary General briefs European Union defence ministers on steps taken by NATO in response to U.S. requests and recommendations by the NATO military authorities.
- **17 October** – Deployment of NATO's Standing Naval Forces to monitor merchant shipping in the eastern Mediterranean.
- **23 October** – The North Atlantic Council and the Political and Security Committee of the European Union discuss measures being taken by each organisation to fight terrorism.
- **23 October** – At a special meeting of the North Atlantic Council, NATO's seven Mediterranean Dialogue partners are briefed on the Alliance's response to the 11 September attacks.
- **20-21 November** – The response to the terrorist attacks is discussed by Chiefs of Staff meeting in the NATO Military Committee and in the framework of the NATO-Ukraine Commission, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council.
- **13 November** – The North Atlantic Council tasks NATO military authorities to prepare contingency plans for humanitarian operations in and around Afghanistan.
- **5 December** – Afghan factions meeting in Bonn sign an agreement defining provisional arrangements pending the re-establishment of permanent state institutions in Afghanistan and arrangements for a provisional government under interim Prime Minister Hamid Karzai.
- **6-7 December** – NATO foreign ministers issue a Statement on NATO's Response to Terrorism and endorse the development of measures to strengthen NATO's capacities as well as its engagement with its partner countries in the fight against terrorism. Further ministerial meetings of the NATO-Ukraine Commission, the EAPC and the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council continue the process of consultations and cooperation in combating terrorism.

- **18 December** – NATO defence ministers agree to pursue the necessary restructuring and modernisation processes to ensure Alliance forces are capable of responding to new challenges and new threats.
- **20 December** – The UN Security Council authorises the establishment for 6 months of an International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, under United Kingdom command.

2002

- **16 January** – Two additional AWACS aircraft are deployed to the United States to guard American airspace and help protect U.S. territory.
- **14-15 May** – Ministerial meetings of the North Atlantic Council, the EAPC, the NATO-Ukraine Commission and the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council and NATO-EU foreign ministers in Reykjavik discuss practical cooperative measures in the fight against terrorism and new security threats.
- **28 May** – At the first meeting of the newly established NATO-Russia Council, in Rome, the struggle against terrorism features prominently in the list of areas identified for future cooperation.
- **6-7 June** – Defence ministers meeting in the North Atlantic Council, the new NATO-Russia Council, the NATO-Ukraine Commission and the EAPC pursue consultations and examine options in the fight against terrorism.
- **13 June** – Harmid Karzai is elected as Head of the Afghan Transitional Authority.
- **20 June** – Turkey takes over from the United Kingdom the command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.
- **11 September** – Commemorative ceremonies and tributes to the victims of the 11 September 2001 attacks on the United States take place worldwide. Statements made at the commemorative ceremony at NATO Headquarters reflect the significance of the measures taken by the Alliance following the attacks and the Alliance's continuing role in the fight against terrorism.

Key Documents

- The North Atlantic Treaty signed in Washington D.C. on 4 April 1949.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/treaty.htm
- The Alliance's Strategic Concept adopted at the Washington Summit on 23 April 1999.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm
- Statement by the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, 12 September 2001.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-123e.htm
- Statement by the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council, 13 September 2001.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p010913e.htm

- Statement by the NATO-Ukraine Commission, 14 September 2001.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-126e.htm
- NATO's Response to Terrorism, 6 December 2001.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-159e.htm
- Combating Terrorism: Adapting the Alliance's Defence Capabilities, 18 December 2001.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-173e.htm
- Statement on NATO-Russia Cooperation in Combating Terrorism, 28 January 2002.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/2002/p020128e.htm
- NATO Research and Technology Organisation - Report on Combating Terrorism, 5-7 February 2002.
www.rta.nato.int/Ctworkshop.htm

Key Issues

- Development of a military concept for defence against terrorism as the basis for the development of more detailed policies and doctrines; adaptation of structures and capabilities to meet the threat posed by terrorism.
- Proposed measures to increase the Alliance's capabilities, including specific counter-terrorism capabilities, will be set out in a capabilities action plan to be submitted to Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit.
- Proposed measures to enhance the Alliance's ability to defend its forces and civilian populations and territory against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons, including a comprehensive package of WMD-defence capability initiatives, to be presented to Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit.
- Preparation of a Civil Emergency Planning Action Plan, consisting of mechanisms and capabilities that may be needed to manage the consequences of possible terrorist attacks, including attacks involving the use of weapons of mass destruction.
- Completion of a Partnership Action Plan, setting out how NATO member and partner countries can act together against terrorism. The plan is expected to provide a framework for cooperation against terrorism, to define the roles of partners in this field and to outline possible instruments for fighting terrorism and managing its consequences.
- Continuation of efforts underway within the Alliance to better protect against and prepare for a possible disruption of NATO and critical national infrastructure assets, including information and communications systems.

More Information

- The Scourge of Terrorism
www.nato.int/terrorism/Index.htm
(Statements relating to terrorism issued by the North Atlantic Council, the EAPC, the NATO-Ukraine Commission, NATO and Russia, the Secretary General of NATO and other relevant documents. Statements and speeches made at the commemorative ceremony held at NATO Headquarters on 11 September 2002).
- NATO Fact Sheet: 11 September - One year on - NATO's Contribution to the Fight against Terrorism.
<http://www.nato.int/terrorism/factsheet.htm>
- NATO and other allied contributions to the war against terrorism are listed on the web site of the United States Mission to NATO.
<http://www.nato.int/usa/allies.htm>

Key Quotations

“The security of the Alliance remains subject to a wide variety of military and non-military risks which are multi-directional and often difficult to predict.”

From the Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 20.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“The proliferation of NBC weapons and their means of delivery remains a matter of serious concern [...] major challenges with respect to proliferation remain [...] and can pose a direct military threat to the allies’ populations, territory, and forces.”

From the Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 22.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“Any armed attack on the territory of the allies, from whatever direction, would be covered by Articles 5 and 6 of the Washington Treaty. However [...] Alliance security interests can be affected by other risks of a wider nature, including acts of terrorism, sabotage and organised crime, and by the disruption of the flow of vital resources.”

From the Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 24.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“The North Atlantic Council met tonight to express its solidarity with the United States of America at this moment of great tragedy and mourning [...] The NATO nations unanimously condemn these barbaric acts committed against a NATO member state. The mindless slaughter of so many innocent civilians is an unacceptable act of violence without precedent in the modern era. It underscores the urgency of intensifying the battle against terrorism [...] All allies stand united in their determination to combat this scourge.”

From the Statement by the North Atlantic Council, 11 September 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-122e.htm

“The Council agreed that if it is determined that this attack was directed from abroad against the United States, it shall be regarded as an action covered by Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, which states that an armed attack against one or more of the Allies in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all.”

From the Statement by the North Atlantic Council, 12 September 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-124e.htm

“We, the member nations of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, gathered today to express our solidarity with the people of the United States of America following yesterday’s tragic events. These brutal and senseless atrocities have caused suffering on a massive scale. Our deepest sympathies go to the victims and their families.”

“We are appalled by these barbaric acts and condemn them unconditionally. These acts were an attack on our common values. We will not allow these values to be compromised by those who follow the path of violence. We pledge to undertake all efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism. We stand united in our belief that the ideals of partnership and cooperation will prevail.”

From the Statement by the members of the EAPC, 12 September 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-123e.htm

“The NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council [...] expressed its anger and indignation at the barbaric acts committed against the people of the United States of America. [...] The horrific scale of the attacks of 11 September is without precedent in modern history. [...] NATO and Russia call on the entire international community to unite in the struggle against terrorism. NATO and Russia will intensify their cooperation under the Founding Act to defeat this scourge.”

From the Statement by the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council, 13 September 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p010913e.htm

“NATO and Ukraine condemn in the strongest possible terms these atrocities, and stand united in their commitment to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice and punished. In the spirit of its distinctive partnership with NATO, Ukraine stands ready to contribute fully to this effort”.

From the Statement by the NATO-Ukraine Commission, 14 September 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-126e.htm

“At the start of the 21st century we live in a new, closely interrelated world, in which unprecedented new threats and challenges demand increasingly united responses.”

Rome Summit Declaration, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b020528e.htm

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“I condemn in the strongest possible terms the senseless attacks which have just been perpetrated against the United States of America. My sympathies go to the American people, the victims and their families. These barbaric acts constitute intolerable aggression against democracy and underline the need for the international community and the members of the Alliance to unite their forces in fighting the scourge of terrorism.”

Statement by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 11 September 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-121e.htm

“The terrorists who attacked the United States on September 11 aimed at one nation but wounded an entire world. Rarely, if ever, has the world been as united as it was on that terrible day [...] As the United States decides what actions it will take in defence of its citizens, and as the world comes to terms with the full implications of this calamity, the unity of September 11 will be invoked, and it will be tested.”

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, 21 September 2001.

http://www.un.org/News/oss/sg/stories/sg_terrorism.htm

“It is hard to imagine how the tragedy of 11 September could have been worse. Yet, the truth is that a single attack involving a nuclear or biological weapon could have killed millions. While the world was unable to prevent the 11 September attacks, there is much we can do to help prevent future terrorist acts carried out with weapons of mass destruction.”

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, 1 October 2001.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2001/sgsm7977.doc.htm>

“This has never happened before, that NATO has come to help defend our country, but it happened in this time of need and for that we are grateful.”

U.S. President George W Bush, 10 October 2001.

www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/10/20011010-6.html

“Far from becoming obsolete in the post-Cold War world, recent events show NATO’s importance to our mutual security in the 21st century.”

U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, 18 December 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/update/2001/1217/e1218a.htm

“Terrorism does not have a religion, does not have a geography, it cannot be defined on cultural lines and cannot have any justification.”

Ismail Cem, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, 12 February 2002.

<http://www.mfa.gov.tr>

“By invoking Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, NATO gave a warning to terrorists that they had crossed an unacceptable threshold. We must now back up that warning by ensuring that our forces have the evident capability to strike at these terrorists and their sponsors. And we must stop those who are proliferating the weapons of mass destruction that pose the most serious risk.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 10 April 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020410a.htm

“On international terrorism, I make a plea: don’t let the passage of time dim our memory of 11 September. The terrorists may be on the run in Afghanistan, but the threat remains.”

UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528k.htm

“Indeed, the best way to combat terrorism is and will remain the defence and promotion of the values of democracy, free speech, free press and free association.”

Prime Minister of Belgium Guy Verhofstadt, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s02058o.htm

“The very first good news for the American people came from this Headquarters, from NATO, early in the morning of September 12, the news that the NATO allies had invoked Article 5 of the Washington Treaty for the first time in Alliance history [...] Do not underestimate the importance of that first great act of solidarity and alliance for the American people.

[...] Europe was truly instrumental in Afghanistan and remains truly indispensable in the global fight against terrorism.”

U.S. Ambassador to NATO Nicholas Burns, 11 September 2002

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020911c.htm

“September 11 was [...] also a clear signal that we must make fundamental changes in the way we look at security, and the way we preserve it. On that fateful day, the hijackers took two normal instruments of everyday life – the box-cutter and the passenger plane – and created a missile. They thought the unthinkable, and succeeded in their terrible mission. We, too, must think in new, creative ways, if we are to preserve our security against new and unpredictable threats. And the Alliance has already made a strong start.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 11 September 2002.

<http://www.nato.int/docu/update/2002/09-september/e0904a.htm>

Backgrounder

In December 2001, NATO foreign ministers agreed to draw up, in time for the Prague Summit, a package of measures aimed at strengthening the Alliance's capabilities and its engagement with its partner countries in meeting the challenges of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

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11 September 2001

The terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 against the United States, resulted in thousands of deaths both on the ground and among the passengers and crews of hijacked civilian airliners used in the attacks. Citizens of many nationalities lost their lives. A shocked world responded by declaring solidarity with the people of the United States and taking practical steps to come to its assistance.

Article 5

On 12 September, the NATO allies took an historic and unprecedented decision to invoke Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. The political significance of this agreement resides in the fact that Article 5 of the Treaty involves a commitment by each of the allies to consider an attack on one or more of them in Europe or North America as an attack against them all. As a consequence of this decision, the 11 September attacks on the United States are considered as an attack on all members of the Alliance.

“Article 5 operations”.

At the request of the United States, the NATO allies agreed to take eight specific measures, both individually and collectively, to implement Article 5. For the first time in NATO's fifty-year history, Alliance assets were deployed in support of “Article 5 operations”. Aircraft belonging to NATO's Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) were sent to assist the United States in patrolling American airspace. From mid-October 2001 to mid-May 2002, in an operation known as *Eagle Assist*, 830 crew members from 13 NATO countries flew nearly 4 300 hours and over 360 operational sorties. The operation was terminated by the North Atlantic Council on the basis of material upgrades to the U.S. air defence posture, enhanced cooperation between civil and military authorities, and following a U.S. evaluation of homeland security requirements.

Operation *Active Endeavour*

On 26 October 2001, an Alliance naval force was dispatched to the eastern Mediterranean. Under this continuing maritime operation, known as Operation *Active Endeavour*, elements of NATO's Standing Naval Forces patrol the eastern Mediterranean and monitor merchant shipping. To date, more than 16 000 ships have been monitored, and those that raised suspicion have been signalled, shadowed and documented. Currently, NATO's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean (STANAVFORMED) forms the core of the operation; it comprises vessels from 8 countries – Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States – and is under UK command.

Anti-terrorist operations

NATO-led forces in the Balkans have acted against terrorist groups with links to the Al-Qaida network and are continuing to contribute to the wider campaign against terrorism.

A considerable number of NATO forces have subsequently been involved in two concurrent anti-terrorist operations: *Enduring Freedom*, an ongoing U.S.-led military operation in Afghanistan; and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a UN-mandated multinational force deployed in and around Kabul to help stabilise the country and create the conditions for self-sustaining peace. Their success depends critically on the participating NATO forces, and their training and experience by working together effectively within NATO, as well as with partner countries.

Fourteen NATO allies are directly involved in operation *Enduring Freedom*, for example by providing special forces teams to work with U.S. special forces or planes and ships for surveillance, interdiction and interception operations. European countries play a major part and currently provide more than half of the forces on the ground in Afghanistan.

The ISAF is a multinational force of 4 500, the bulk of which are provided by NATO allies. Initially under UK command, the force has been under Turkish command since July 2002. Examples of national contributions include airlift capability provided by Belgium, a field hospital provided by the Czech Republic, a medical team from Portugal and engineering and logistical support provided by Poland.

Both Operation *Enduring Freedom* and ISAF continue to benefit from the efforts made by NATO over the past decade to engage its partner countries and from the practical experience of partner participation in Balkan peacekeeping. Examples include crucial basing and over-flight rights provided by NATO's partners in the Caucasus and Central Asia; infantry, military police, NBC protection and transportation assets from Romania; essential engineering support from Russia and Slovakia; and an intelligence unit deployed to ISAF headquarters from Sweden.

Other measures

Other measures taken by NATO member countries, in response to requests by the United States, include enhanced sharing of intelligence and cooperation in the intelligence field, providing assistance to allies or other countries under threat from international terrorism or at risk of becoming so as a result of their role in combating international terrorism; providing increased security for United States' facilities and those of NATO and other allies on their territory; backfilling selected allied assets in NATO's area of responsibility in order to compensate for the redeployment of forces required to support operations against terrorism; and providing access for the United States and other allies to ports and airfields on their territory, for operations against terrorism.

Consultations and exchange of information

In parallel with these measures, and within NATO, consultations and exchange of information on combating the threat posed by terrorism have been intensified. The Alliance has also increased its efforts to promote cooperation to counter threats posed by the use of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and to bolster its defence capabilities. It is working on proposals to develop critical defences against such weapons, reinforcing the role of the NATO WMD Centre, and enhancing its ability to provide support to national authorities for the protection of civilian populations against the effects of any terrorist attack, in cooperation with partner countries. It is also exploring the scope for enhanced cooperation with the European Union in this field. In June 2002, NATO defence ministers endorsed a comprehensive package of WMD-defence capabilities initiatives to be presented at the Prague Summit.

Partner countries

In the aftermath of 11 September, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council (PJC), the NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC) and countries participating in NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue all joined NATO in condemning the attacks and offering their support to the United States. NATO continues to make extensive use of these mechanisms to consult with its partner countries about further steps.

The struggle against terrorism also served as a catalyst for the opening of a new chapter in NATO-Russia relations and the establishment, in May 2002, of the NATO-Russia Council, bringing together the 19 NATO allies and Russia in a new forum where they could identify and pursue opportunities for joint action as equal partners. The new Council identified the struggle against terrorism, crisis management and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as key areas of cooperation.

The Alliance has emphasised that terrorism is a threat to all societies and to universal human values and that the campaign against it is not a fight against Islam or the innocent people of any particular region or country. The 11 September attacks were strongly condemned by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference as contrary to the teaching of all religions. The Organisation has emphasised its support for international efforts to bring the perpetrators of the attacks to justice.

Ongoing efforts

NATO allies agree that a comprehensive effort comprising political, economic, diplomatic and military actions, as well as law enforcement measures, will be needed to combat terrorism. This will involve a long-term, multifaceted approach involving all allies individually, both as members of the Alliance and as members of the United Nations (UN), the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union (EU).

The NATO allies have demonstrated their solidarity with the United States supporting, and in several cases, taking part in United States-led military operations against terrorist targets in Afghanistan. These operations have directly benefited from the interoperability of forces, training and experience gained through NATO.

The military operations led by the United States resulted in the ousting of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, its replacement by an administration committed to peace and to rebuilding the country, and the disabling of large parts of the extensive Al-Qaida network in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Such action is considered by the NATO allies to be fully justified under international law, including Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, which safeguards the inherent right of its members to individual or collective self-defence. United Nations Security Council resolutions, characterising the 11 September attacks as a threat to international peace and security, also support measures taken by the United States in self-defence.

The Alliance recognises that the situation on the ground in Afghanistan remains volatile and that extreme vigilance is needed in view of the continuing potential for Taliban and Al-Qaida elements and forces sympathetic to them to use violence. Alliance member countries are supporting international efforts aimed at the stabilisation and reconstruction of Afghanistan following the ousting of the Taliban regime and have called for a continued international commitment to the country to ensure that it can never again become a safe haven for terrorists.

Individual allies are continuing to contribute to humanitarian relief efforts, in particular through the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), created on the basis of a United Nations mandate as a multinational security force to assist the Afghan administration in the stabilisation and reconstruction process. A total of nineteen countries, including NATO and partner countries, are contributing to the force.

New initiatives

In December 2001, NATO foreign and defence ministers discussed measures aimed at strengthening the Alliance's capabilities and its engagement with its partner countries in meeting the challenge of terrorism and ways of adapting the military capabilities of NATO member countries to meet new threats. NATO foreign ministers, meeting in May 2002, stated that they would continue to strengthen national and collective capacities to protect their populations, territory and forces from any armed attack, including terrorist attacks, directed from abroad.

While NATO's contribution to the fight against terrorism has already been significant, efforts are underway to better equip the Alliance and to allow it to play its full part in

what will inevitably be a long-term effort. Measures to be adopted at the Prague Summit are likely to include a comprehensive package of measures that will underline NATO's preparedness and ability to take on the full spectrum of security challenges before it, including terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

In addition to strengthening capabilities for defence against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks, such measures will seek to bring about improvements in secure command communications and information; to improve interoperability of deployed forces and key aspects of combat effectiveness; and to improve capabilities for the rapid deployment and sustainment of combat forces.

Measures to be adopted in specific areas of activity include the following:

- **A Military Concept** for defence against terrorism, underlining the Alliance's readiness to act against terrorist attacks, or the threat of such attacks, directed from abroad against the populations, territory, infrastructure and forces of member countries; to provide assistance to national authorities in dealing with the consequences of terrorist attacks; to support operations by the EU or other international organisations or coalitions involving allies; and to deploy forces as and where required to carry out such missions.
- **A Capabilities Improvement** action plan, setting out specific counter-terrorism capabilities and including firm national commitments to acquire them. This effort will be part of NATO's overall capabilities effort, and will also benefit EU efforts on its "Headline Goal".
- **Improved defence against weapons of mass destruction**, as part of the broader capabilities effort, focusing on defence against biological and chemical weapons. Five concrete initiatives are underway, including a deployable nuclear, chemical and biological (NBC) analytical laboratory; an NBC event response team; a virtual centre of excellence for NBC weapons defence; a NATO biological and chemical defence stockpile; and a disease surveillance system.
- **Consequence Management:** A Civil Emergency Planning action plan is expected to set out mechanisms and capabilities that may be used to manage the consequences of possible terrorist attacks, including those with weapons of mass destruction.
- **Partnership Action Plan:** A Partnership Action Plan on terrorism is expected to provide a framework document for NATO-partner cooperation on terrorism, defining partnership roles as well as instruments for fighting terrorism and managing its consequences.
- **Cyber defence:** Efforts are also underway within the Alliance to better protect against and otherwise prepare for a possible disruption of NATO and national critical infrastructure assets, including information and communications systems.



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