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ACTION

AGAINST TERRORISM



## ■ KEY INFORMATION

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Since the invocation of Article 5 of the Washington Treaty on 12 September 2001, NATO member countries have continued to show a strong determination to play their part in the fight against terrorism following the attacks against the United States on 11 September 2001. The Alliance has conducted a number of operations and launched several initiatives to this effect.

### NATO OPERATIONS

- Command of the **International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)** in Afghanistan since August 2003, directed by the Regional Headquarters Northern Europe (AFNORTH) in Brunssum, the Netherlands. Initially, NATO gave support to the United Kingdom, Turkey, Germany and the Netherlands, who led ISAF from January 2002 until August 2003.
- Launching of **Operation Active Endeavour** on 6 October 2001 to conduct surveillance in the Eastern Mediterranean. Elements of NATO's Standing Naval Forces patrol the area, monitor merchant shipping, and since March 2003, escort civilian shipping through the Straits of Gibraltar and board suspicious vessels. Since March 2004, its area of operations has been expanded to the whole Mediterranean and the support of EAPC/PfP partners and Mediterranean Dialogue countries and other selected countries enlisted. Further changes are under consideration. The operation is

directed from Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe (NAVSOUTH) in Naples, Italy.

- **NATO peacekeeping forces in the Balkans** are acting against terrorist groups with links to the *Al-Qaida* network regularly. They focus on the illegal movement of people, arms and drugs, and work with regional authorities on border security issues.
- Conduct of ***Eagle Assist*** from mid-October 2001 to mid-May 2002. This operation consisted in protecting the US homeland from further terrorist attacks with NATO Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft. 830 crew members from 13 NATO member countries flew approximately 4 300 hours over 360 operational sorties.
- Assistance in the **security operation for the upcoming Olympic Games** in Athens, Greece, on the request of the host country.

On the request of the United States, NATO also provided **initial support** for coalition operations against the Taliban and *Al-Qaida* in October 2001 and agreed on a package of eight measures, which included:

- 1) greater intelligence-sharing;
- 2) assistance to states threatened as a result of their support for coalition efforts;
- 3) increased security for facilities of the US and other Allies on their territory;
- 4) back-filling of selected Allied assets needed to support anti-terrorist operations;
- 5) blanket over-flight rights;
- 6) access to ports and airfields;
- 7) deployment of NATO naval forces to the eastern Mediterranean;

- 8) deployment of Airborne Early Warning aircraft to patrol US airspace.

## THE PRAGUE PACKAGE

At the Prague Summit, 21-22 November 2002, NATO Heads of State and Government adopted a **Prague package** to adapt NATO to the challenge of terrorism. This package comprised:

- a new military concept for defence against terrorism. This concept underlines 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 NATO 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. These activities will be supported by measures to further improve intelligence-sharing among Allies;
- the adoption of a Partnership Action Plan on Terrorism (PAP-T) - in which NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue partners can now also participate on a case-by-case basis. The plan provides a framework for NATO-Partner cooperation on terrorism, defining partnership roles as well as instruments to fight terrorism and manage its consequences;
- the adoption of measures in the field of weapons of mass destruction: NATO has five concrete initiatives underway: a deployable nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) analytical laboratory; an NBC event response team; a virtual centre of excellence for NBC weapons

defence, providing electronic linkage of schools that do work on NBC weapons; a NATO biological and chemical defence stockpile, which assesses what members hold in the way of vaccines, chemical protection gear etc; and a disease surveillance system;

- the protection of civilian populations: members and partners are working together to improve civil preparedness against and manage the consequences of possible terrorist attacks with chemical, biological and radiological agents;
- missile defence: see chapter on "Capabilities";
- cyber-defence: efforts are underway to improve the protection against and otherwise prepare for a possible disruption of NATO and national infrastructure assets, including information and communication systems;
- cooperation with other international organisations: NATO is eager to deepen its relations with the EU, the UN, the OSCE, EUROCONTROL, the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the International Air Transport Association so that information is shared and action taken more effectively in the common fight against terrorism.

In addition, the creation of the NATO Response Force, the streamlining of the military command structure and the launching of the Prague Capabilities Commitment (see chapter on "Capabilities") introduce changes for NATO to be better prepared for new challenges, including terrorism.

## OTHER INITIATIVES

At their meeting on 2 April 2004, NATO foreign ministers decided to prepare an **enhanced package of measures against terrorism** in time for the Istanbul Summit. Among the measures suggested are: improved intelligence sharing, enhanced response to national requests for NATO support, further developing Operation *Active Endeavour*, and reinforcing cooperation with partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries, as well as with other international organisations.

Following 11 September, NATO created a temporary Terrorist Threat Cell, which has become permanent since end 2003. It is now called the **Terrorist Threat Intelligence Unit** and analyses general terrorist threats, as well as those that are more specifically aimed at NATO.

In addition, the attacks on the US gave a significant boost to the NATO-Russia relationship. Combating terrorism has been identified as a key priority by **NATO and Russia**. It was one of the main drivers behind the creation of the NATO-Russia Council in May 2002 where the development of joint terrorist threat assessments and the analysis of the proliferation of risks and possible counter-measures have been identified as possible areas of cooperation.

**The Conference on National Armaments Directors** (the CNAD - NATO's most senior armaments forum) and the Armaments Community are making a strong contribution to the improvement of the Alliance's defence posture against the threat of terrorism and are considering this issue as a high priority. The CNAD is focusing on the identification of equipment and technology to assist in this effort. The Main Armaments Groups pay particular attention to work in the following fields:

- Nuclear-Biological-Chemical (NBC) defence in support of the wider issue of the defence against weapons of mass destruction and their delivery means. Efficient results have also been obtained with the creation of a NBC Battalion which cooperates actively with its European counterpart. Work is also ongoing on the individual and collective protection of soldiers with emerging technologies;
- protection of wide body aircraft against man-pads; protection of rotary wings (helicopter rotary blades) for aircraft from ground threats; protection of harbours and vessels; improvised explosive devices (covers all types of 'home-made' bombs); detection of mines;
- the Network-Centric/ Network Enabled Capability is also a specific field for which efforts are being reinforced (Network-Centric describes the linking together of information systems);
- in the field of intelligence sharing, work is being coordinated with the Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation System (BICES) Agency.

All these activities are developed to reply to the military requirements and commitments of the Alliance. They receive support from the Research and Technology Agency, which aims to find long and short-term solutions in emerging technologies, and from the industrial community which is looking for cooperative and affordable projects.

Finally, the armaments projects or programmes are a valuable contribution to defence against terrorism for both military and civilian use. This aspect is perceived as a strong basis to reinforce NATO cooperation with the European Union.





## **RECENT SUMMIT AND MINISTERIAL DECISIONS**

- Brussels, 2 April 2004: NATO foreign ministers decide to prepare for the Istanbul Summit an enhanced package of measures to fight terrorism
- Prague Summit, 21-22 November 2002: Adoption of the Prague package
- Meeting of foreign ministers in Reykjavik, 14-15 May 2002: NATO declares it will operate when and where necessary to fight terrorism.



## ■ CHRONOLOGY

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**2004 5 April:** Third high-level NATO-Russia conference on combating terrorism, Norfolk, Virginia.

**2 April:** NATO foreign ministers decide to prepare an enhanced package on terrorism in time for the Istanbul Summit.

**16 March:** NATO decides to expand Operation *Active Endeavour* to the whole Mediterranean and enlist the support of EAPC/PfP partners and Mediterranean Dialogue countries and other selected countries.

**11 March:** Violent terrorist attacks are perpetrated against Spain.

**2003 11 August:** NATO takes command of ISAF in Afghanistan.

**2002 9 December:** Second high-level NATO-Russia conference on combating terrorism, Moscow.

**21-22 November:** Prague Summit initiatives.

**17 October:** NATO approves a request from Germany and the Netherlands for NATO support in helping them to prepare to take over command of the ISAF mission early 2003.

**14-15 May:** At Reykjavik, NATO foreign ministers decide that the Alliance will conduct operations when and where necessary, as decided by the North Atlantic Council, to fight terrorism.

**4 February:** First high-level NATO-Russia conference on combating terrorism, Rome.

**2001 26 October:** Launching of Operation *Active Endeavour*.

**9 October:** Launching of *Eagle Assist*.



**4 October:** On the request of the US, NATO adopts eight measures to expand options available in the campaign against terrorism.

**12 September:** NATO invokes Article 5 for the first time in its history; all NATO's Partners in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council condemn the attacks.

**11 September:** The *Al-Qaida* terrorist network perpetrates large-scale attacks against the United States.



## ■ OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS AND BACKGROUND READING

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*Go to the electronic version of the press kit for clickable links*  
[\(www.nato.int/istanbul2004/presskit.htm\)](http://www.nato.int/istanbul2004/presskit.htm)

Declaration on terrorism by NATO foreign ministers, 2 April 2004  
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2004/p04-057e.htm>

NATO's military concept against terrorism, endorsed at the  
Prague Summit on 21 November 2002  
<http://www.nato.int/ims/docu/terrorism.htm>

Partnership Action Plan against terrorism, adopted at the Prague  
Summit  
<http://www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b021122e.htm>

NATO foreign ministers in Reykjavik declare that to fight terror-  
ism, NATO will act whenever and wherever necessary  
(paragraph 5), 14-15 May 2002  
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2002/p02-059e.htm>

The eight measures adopted by NATO on the request of the  
United States, 4 October 2001  
<http://www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s011004b.htm>

About NATO and terrorism. Issue page giving access to key  
documents on the subject  
<http://www.nato.int/terrorism/index.htm>

A chronology of NATO's response to 11 September  
<http://www.nato.int/terrorism/chronology.htm>



About NATO in Afghanistan. Issue page containing key information on the theme

<http://www.nato.int/issues/afghanistan/index.htm>

Video interview with Ted Whiteside, Head of NATO's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Centre, 22 May 2003

<http://www.nato.int/multi/video/2003/v030522/v030522a.htm>



## ■ A FEW FACTS AND FIGURES

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*The figures below are valid as at 23 June 2004.*

### **ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR WITH AN OVERALL STRENGTH OF 2 900 PERSONNEL**

#### **A. Contributing NATO countries (9)**

Denmark  
Germany  
Greece  
Italy  
Portugal

Spain  
Turkey  
United Kingdom  
United States

#### **B. Contributing non-NATO countries**

None

