

FOREWORD

This first edition of the *NATO-RUSSIA Glossary of Contemporary Political and Military Terms* is a result of the policy of cooperation initiated by the *Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Russian Federation*. Its publication was deemed useful for better mutual understanding which would facilitate NATO-Russia consultation and cooperation, such as the conduct of joint exercises and peace support operations etc. The selection of entries (over one thousand) is based on significance and frequency of use. The terminology database of this Glossary will be updated and expanded in subsequent editions.

The Glossary is the first publication of its type. It attempts to blend the Russian military encyclopaedic approach and the standardization practice of Allied publications. The terms and definitions included reflect recent changes in military theory and practice in both Russia and NATO. Specialist terms understood only by a narrow circle of experts have been avoided. The Glossary has been designed expressly for practical purposes and will be of interest to the general reader. In line with these aims, it is understood that this does not commit NATO or Russia in any binding way.

The Glossary includes political and military terms and definitions dealing with international, regional and national security issues, military aspects of international law, the development of military capability, military art, and technical and conceptual military terminology relating to peace support operations. Entries pertaining to international law contain a number of definitions based on international conventions ratified by Russia and NATO member nations.

NATO entries are based, wherever possible, on authoritative documents in the field of NATO doctrine and terminology (the Washington Treaty, the Alliance's Strategic Concept, ministerial communiqués) as well as such standard NATO publications as the *NATO Glossary of Terms and Definitions (English and French) (AAP-6)* *NATO Handbook* etc. Russian entries are based on *The Concept of National Security of the Russian Federation*, *The Military Doctrine of the Russian Federation*, *The Military Encyclopaedia*, *Guidelines for the Planning and Conduct of Peace Support Operations in the CIS*, *Dictionary of Geopolitics and National Security*, etc. Documents of recognized international organizations have also been used for entries dealing with certain specific domains.

This edition cannot pretend to encompass the totality of related terminology currently employed in the Russian Federation and NATO. Nevertheless, the members of the Joint Editorial Working Group hope that the Glossary will contribute to improved understanding between Russia and NATO in political and military fields.

This Glossary is the result of the combined efforts of experts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, the Institute of Military History of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, NATO International Staff, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe and the Comité interarmées de terminologie militaire of the Ministry of Defence of the French Republic. It has also benefited from the advice and assistance of the Conflict Studies Research Centre at the Royal Military Academy (UK) and the Foreign Military Studies Office at Fort Leavenworth (US).

Signed by : The NATO-Russia Joint Editorial Working Group